



**OCEANWIDE**  
30 YEARS OF EXPEDITIONS

## **Antarctica – Polar Circle – Whale Watching**

**21<sup>st</sup> of March – 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2024**



### **M/V Plancius**

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

# Captain Evgeny Levakov

## And his international crew

Chief Officer: **Viki Virtanen**  
2nd Officer: **Martin Hansson**  
3rd Officer: **Eline Schuurman**

Chief Engineer: **Jerry Olsson**

Hotel Manager: **Ingrid Van der Loo**  
Assist. Hotel Manager: **Alfredo Bonifaz Mateo**  
Head Chef: **Yvan Yuriychuk**

Ships Doctor: **Nick Brinkman**

Expedition Leader: **Claudio Ghiglione**

Assist. Expedition Leader: **Steffi Liller**

Expedition Guides: **Carina Ketterer**  
**Koen Hoekemeijer**  
**Marco Rosso**  
**Matthias Kopp**  
**Michael Green**  
**Valeria Sainz Herrera**  
**Tanja Bayer**  
**Richard Gannon**  
**Andres Garcia Diaz**  
**Wilmar Salazar**

## Day 1 – 21<sup>st</sup> March

### Ushuaia – Embarkation Day

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

Wind: SW-6 Sea State: Slight Weather: Partly Cloudy Air Temp: 8°C, Sea Temp: 10°C

It was a windy autumn day in Ushuaia with some sunshine, and cold temperatures. Last time to do some outdoor gear shopping and a last cup of coffee on solid grounds.



At 4 P.M. we were welcome to board our gracious ship M/V Plancius. She was the only blue vessel in port today, but the coolest. The expedition team gave us a warm welcome and so did the entire hotel team. Assistant Hotel Manager

Alfredo checked us in and we were guided to our cabins by the friendly members of the crew.

At 5:15 P.M. our expedition leader Claudio welcomed us in the lounge where he gave us more information about the mandatory safety drill and abandon ship procedure. After being shown a safety video, the second officer Martin provided us with more information before starting the drill. When the alarm signals had sounded, we made our way back to the lounge together with our large life jackets. We put on our life jackets and then awaited further instructions.

Then the abandon ship command was given, and we all made our way to the deck where the life boats are located.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> officer gave us more information about the life boat procedure and after that there was time to have a look inside one of the life boats. Not very comfortable or spacious, but of course necessary in case of emergency.



And then the moment was there; the mooring lines were pulled in and we were leaving Ushuaia Port. Our expedition had officially started! We enjoyed the wind in our faces and stunning landscapes from the outer decks while Ushuaia slowly became smaller and smaller.

At 6:30 P.M. we were invited to join the expedition team and the captain in the lounge for a toast with some delicious prosecco and tasty snacks. We received more information about how things work on the ship and how the expedition is planned. During the expedition we depended a lot on the weather conditions and Claudio explained that we often have multiple plans in case our Plan A cannot be done. That sounds like a proper expedition which excited us even more!

After a long day it was time to have dinner. Today chef Ivan and his team prepared a delicious buffet menu. We met our fellow passengers in the dining room which was buzzing with chatter and laughter. A perfect way to start the expedition.

The first few hours of the evening the ship was still very stable, but around midnight we started to sail into the Drake and it started rolling. Good night!



## Day 2 – 22<sup>nd</sup> March

### At Sea – Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 57° 04.7'S / 65° 19.9'W

Wind: W-5 Sea State: Moderate Weather: Overcast Air Temp: 7°C, Sea Temp: 7°C

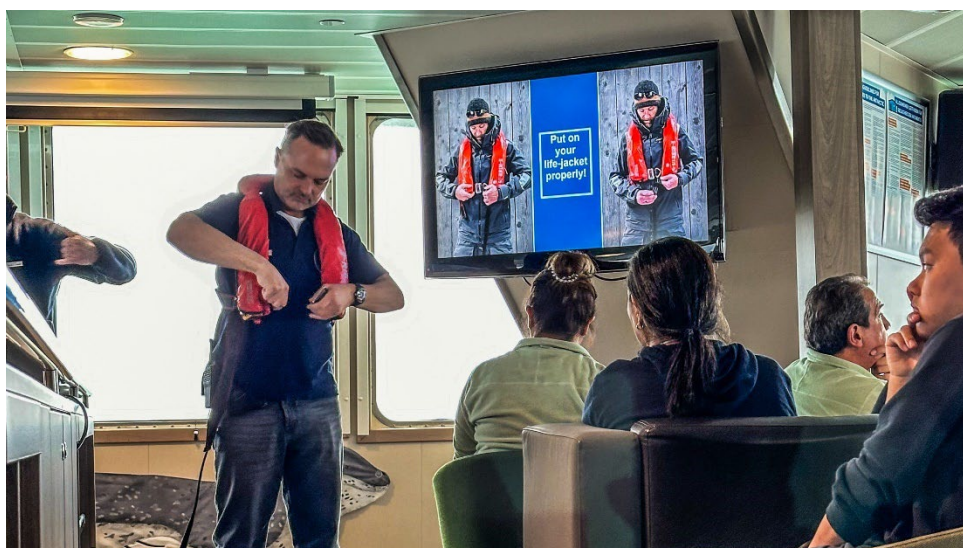
Today was the first full day at sea on the notorious Drake Passage! The night was a bit wavy with 3 to 4-metre waves which lasted until the morning. We got ourselves a little *Drake Shake*. Although some people were seasick, the majority slowly seemed to get used to the waves. The morning started with a delicious breakfast (for those who had an appetite :) ) that was served between 8 and 9 AM.



At 10 am, Marco presented a lecture in the observation lounge with the self-explanatory title “Introduction about Antarctica”. It was an opportunity to get more information about our remote and unique destination, Antarctica. Marco was very passionate and at times quite funny when he spoke about the geography, wildlife, and history of *the White Continent*. During the lecture our excitement

grew, and we couldn’t wait to see it all with our own eyes.

Lunch was served and then it was time for the mandatory briefings. Safety is our main priority and as such we were informed on do’s and don’ts related to our zodiac operations. IAATO is the organization of Antarctic Tour Operators and together the members have established rules and



regulations for visitors to Antarctica. We only want to leave footsteps and take memories, whereas at the same time we want to observe, but not disturb the wild animals that we can meet during our expedition.

In recent years the avian flu has become a real threat, and this also means a mandatory biosecurity cleaning and no more kneeling or laying down. We don't want to bring any alien species to Antarctica, nor do we want to spread potential diseases.

The rest of our day at sea was spent playing games, or even reading some books from the nice collection in the library.

The day ended with a brief recap of the day, and a small presentation about "The Drake Passage" by Stefi, Koen explained "The Antarctic Convergence", and Carina told us the ship and sea terms or *slang* we used onboard M/V Plancius.

Afterwards, a plated dinner was served in the dining room with tiramisu as dessert, a classic! The first day at sea on the Drake Passage has been completed, one more to go!

## Day 3 – 23<sup>rd</sup> of March

### At Sea – Drake Passage

**12:00 GPS Position:** 61° 11.3'S / 62° 55.9'W

**Wind:** W-5, **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** 2°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C

Good morning!

The program for today is filled with a lot of preparation for our visit to Antarctica. As our second day at sea starts with the first "good morning, good morning," wake up call from our expedition leader Claudio, we are already mid-way to Antarctica across the Drake Passage. Fortunately for most of us, Neptune is merciful as the Drake is relatively calm.



After breakfast it was time to go to deck 3 to collect our rubber boots in the *Boot Room*. These boots are warm and waterproof, and we'll use them during all our landings.

And then it was really time to start our so-called *vacuum party*, biosecurity cleaning! This cleaning surely isn't the most fun part of the

expedition, but is mandatory and on the upside, it is not a bad thing cleaning all your outer layers every once in a while.

We brought our Muckboots, jackets, trousers, backpacks and all the gear we plan to use onshore in Antarctica. The expedition team was there to help and to check everything was done according to IAATO standards.

Lunch was served and afterwards the divers had their mandatory dive briefing.



In the meantime, the outer decks had been opened and many of us took the opportunity to get some fresh air. We spotted large sea birds such as Albatrosses and Giant Petrels. Some of us were lucky to spot dolphins and later some fin whales!

It was nice being outside and seeing more wildlife. It was also a good opportunity

to integrate and mingle with other guests and our expedition team.

In the afternoon, Steffi invited us for a lecture about whales during which she described many interesting and surprising facts about the largest animals of our planet.

We knew we were heading in the right direction as we spotted our first icebergs from the bridge at 16:50. We already started to feel Antarctica!

Later in the afternoon we all gather again in the lounge for a daily recap. Claudio presented the plans for tomorrow – our first day on the white continent. We couldn't wait for the next morning to arrive! Time to have dinner and sleep! Good night everyone!

## Day 4 – 24<sup>th</sup> March

### Wilhelmina Bay – Neko Harbour

**12:00 GPS Position:** 64° 38.8'S / 62° 06.7'W

**Wind:** SW-3 **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Snow **Air Temp:** -1°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C

We started our day early, filled with anticipation and excitement as we embarked on our first zodiac cruise in the icy waters of Wilhelmina Bay. The crisp Antarctic air and the serene beauty of the surroundings set the stage for an unforgettable experience.

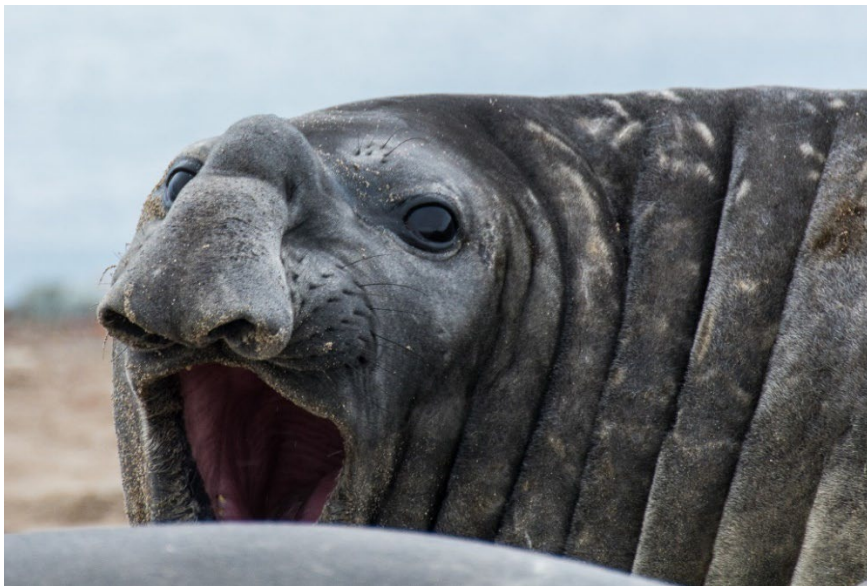




We slowly navigated through the icy maze, and before long, we were surrounded by towering icebergs glistening in the morning sunlight. The silence was broken by the distant spouts of water, signaling the presence of humpback whales. As we approached closer, the sight of these magnificent creatures took our breath

away. The hum of their songs reverberated through the air, creating a magical atmosphere. We watched in awe as they gracefully glided through the icy waters, occasionally breaching and splashing playfully.

After a mesmerizing morning, we headed towards Neko Harbour for our first continental landing!! The anticipation was palpable as we set foot on the Antarctic soil, a momentous occasion for each one of us.



Our first encounter was with a colony of Gentoo penguins, their comical antics and curious stares providing endless entertainment. We marveled at their agility as they tobogganed down snowy slopes and went about their daily activities.

The sight of elephant seals lounging lazily on the rocky shoreline added to the scene, their massive size a stark contrast to the agile penguins. We observed them from a respectful distance, marveling at their sheer power and tranquility.

The highlight of the afternoon was witnessing glacier calving in the background. The rumble of ice breaking free from the glacier echoed across the bay, a reminder of the dynamic and ever-changing nature of Antarctica's landscapes.



As we soaked in the sights and sounds of Neko Harbour, surrounded by towering mountains and pristine wilderness, we couldn't help but feel a profound sense of wonder and gratitude for being able to experience this remote and fragile ecosystem firsthand.

Overall, our first day in Antarctica exceeded all expectations, leaving us eagerly anticipating the adventures that awaited us in the days to come.

## Day 5 – 25<sup>th</sup> March

### Lemaire Channel – Pleneau – Petermann Island

**12:00 GPS Position:** 65° 07.0'S / 64° 02.3'W

**Wind:** Light Air **Sea State:** Calm, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** -1°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C



The soft light of a fresh morning in the Antarctic continent woke us up today. We moved out to the outer decks and found ourselves surrounded by the jagged peaks of Cape Renard guarding the Northeastern entrance of the Lemaire channel. The sea was calm, and we could see icebergs and bergy bits reflected on the water, whilst on the horizon clouds started to get their pinkish and orangish coloration.

M/V Plancius gracefully glided over the water entering the legendary channel which has been baptized “Kodak Gap” due to its excessive photogenic beauty. The Lemaire channel is a narrow 500-600m wide channel between the Kyiv Peninsula on the east and Booth island on the west. It was first discovered although not surveyed by Edward Dallman in 1873-74, and subsequently explored and named by the Belgian explorer Adrien de Gerlache on board of the *Belgica* in 1897-99.

After crossing the Lemaire we were invited to breakfast and immediately after the zodiacs were launched, so down the gangway we ran. Girard Bay and the Penola Strait, located at the southern entrance of the Lemaire were steaming with whale blows. Their sound echoing all around the place due to the incredible absence of wind and peacefulness of the area.



The humpbacks this morning were incredibly active; in groups of three or four, some busy feeding on the surface, some others curious and spy hopping around our boats, and some were swimming quickly and taking deep dives while showing us their beautiful flukes.



Around the eastern shore of Pleneau island, clumsy and inexperienced juvenile Gentoo penguins were practicing their skills in the water. The shallow areas around this low rocky island made for ideal conditions for Leopard Seals hunting. As we moved closer to this area, we started encountering these

inquisitive and agile phocids. Leopard seals can reach 3.2-3.5 meters in length and up to 500 kilograms; their massive jaws and powerful fore flippers make them one of the top predators in Antarctic.

It was a privilege to observe and witness a true wildlife encounter with these species. Several attempts to catch a penguin were made by one of these seals, before the poor individual was finally caught and pulled around for quite some time. In the meantime, Kelp Gulls, Brown Skuas

and Wilson Storm petrels had gathered to feast on the carcass left behind by the seal. It was nature at its purest and crudest this morning.

Back on board we warmed up our bodies and limbs after an intense and cold morning. Lunch was quickly served while the ship was repositioned in front of Petermann Island, our site for the afternoon landing.

Petermann Island is located on the West side of Penola Strait, South of Hovgaard. Another island discovered by Eduard Dallman in 1874, which was named after a famous German cartographer. It's a low-lying island mostly composed of intrusive granodioritic rocks, which became important for the second Antarctic French Expedition led by Jean Baptiste Charcot in 1908-10.

Our landing site was Port Circumcision, the place used by Charcot to moor his ship *Pourquoi-Pas* and overwinter in 1909. We had to pay attention to roam around the rocky and slippery shoreline, before getting on the fresh snow to enjoy an incredible sunny afternoon on the White continent. Gentoos were waddling everywhere, the youngsters running after their parents whereas several adult ones had to be patient as they were molting their feathers.



Molting penguins are not waterproof and therefore they can't go out to sea to feed. Usually we leave these penguins in peace as they are hungry and probably not in the best of moods ;).

The views of the landscapes were simply breathtaking, and we couldn't have asked a better day for our second landing amongst these funny creatures. Basking in the sun we enjoyed a nice stroll around the southern tip of the island and before we even realized it, it was time to go back on board. In the evening we would start our long voyage south with the intention of reaching the Antarctic Polar Circle the next day. Little did we know that soon we would be the southernmost ship on the planet.

What a great trip so far!



## Day 6 – 26<sup>th</sup> March

### Polar Circle – Liard Island – Detaille Island

**12:00 GPS Position:** 66° 49.1'S / 67° 11.1'W

**Wind:** E-4 **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 0°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C



During the night M/V Plancius sailed south and in the morning we reached our special latitude. Our Expedition Leader Claudio woke us up, telling us that we are about to cross the Antarctic Polar Circle soon.

It was a beautiful morning, behind the mountain chain of the Antarctic Peninsula the sun started to rise and the clouds coloured beautifully red.

It was magical and we celebrated the moment of the crossing S 66°33' with the

ships horn and many pictures of the GPS devices, but also photos of us in a lovely made Polar Circle Crossing frame in the bar.

During breakfast we continued sailing south. Our expedition team organised an additional activity because of the good sailing progress during the night. We were going to zodiac cruise on the east coast of Liard Island. A new place for the team so it had "Expedition" written all over.

Well-dressed we explored the area, full of massive icebergs, but also seals and whales. Most of us had close encounters with Humpback whales which were actively feeding in the area. They showed us their huge tails regularly offering us perfect photo moments.

Then a nice and warm surprise; our lovely hotel team with Ingrid showed up, offering us a warm apple juice, which was great. What was even better was the whiskey they added giving us a warm and relaxed feeling.

After a successful cruise we sailed with in the direction of the next planned destination, Detaille Island. The conditions could not be better, with flat calm sea, no wind, blue skies, and abundant sunshine. All over the place there were massive icebergs and whales.



After having a good rest, we started our afternoon activity, which was at that time a landing and a zodiac cruise. We landed in a sheltered bay, on solid rocks. Detaille Island was covered with



nice powder snow which is always fun to walk in. Flagged paths led us to the historical hut, but also to higher viewpoints on the island. The historical hut belonged to a British scientific base build in 1956, however it closed already in 1959 due to the difficulty of accessing the base. The landscape itself looked like a brochure for selling trips to Antarctica, blue sky and water, icebergs and huge mountains and glaciers.

During the zodiac cruise we visited the last individuals of a big Adelie penguin rookery, also a Chinstrap Penguin was spotted. Especially those Adelie penguins belong to the high southern latitudes, and it was great seeing them. Soon they will leave this area as the sea will freeze and then they are deprived from their food source. As such these penguins move to the ice edge where they still have access to the ocean.

We circumnavigated the island and found a few Crabeater and Fur Seals on ice flows, but also on land. Our experienced zodiac drivers brought us quite close to these lovely animals, but without disturbing them. Looking back from the ship, Detaille Island is small, but at the same time great in terms of wildlife and history. After the day, full of activities south of the Antarctic Polar Circle, we sailed north in the Crystal Sound again. The Southern Cross was visible while the full moon slowly rose from behind the snowy mountains.





## Day 7 – 27<sup>th</sup> March

### Fish Islands – Lemaire Channel - BBQ

**12:00 GPS Position:** 65° 55.6'S / 65° 25.4'W

**Wind:** SE-2 **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** -4°C, **Sea Temp:** -1°C



We were so fortunate to have yet another beautiful sunrise over the Antarctic Peninsula. M/V Plancius glided past bergy bits and big ice floes of sea ice. Outside a crispy -4 °C welcomed us as when we went to the outside decks to witness the soft light of the morning. Good progress had been made during the night, completing the navigation of Crystal sound from

South to North and part of the Mudge passage which we were about to finish during our approach to the site of the morning operation.

The Fish Islands are an archipelago of seven glaciated small-size islands located at the northern entrance of the Holtedahl Bay off the West coast of Graham land. The area was discovered and surveyed during the British Graham Land Expedition (BGLE) of 1934-37 led by the Australian explorer John Rymill. Considered to be one of the last expeditions of the Heroic Age of Antarctic exploration, it is particularly important since it was the first expedition to use an aircraft for aerial surveys of the Peninsula. Thanks to this new technology used in the White continent the BGLE finally put a definitive end to speculations about whether it was a channel or a passage connecting the West side of the Peninsula with the Weddell Sea.

We immediately felt the cold temperatures once we sat down on the rubber pontoons of the zodiacs. Nonetheless the breathtaking landscapes which surrounded us made us forget the cold for a little bit. Approaching the biggest of the island, Flounder, we observed playful Adelie penguins hopping out and in the water.





This species of Brush-tailed penguins are the southernmost breeders of the peninsula and can be found this far south due to their quick breeding cycle compared to the Gentoos we had seen further north.

The islands and rocks were surrounded by beautiful ice floes of old sea ice which had *survived* the summer melting season and had been blown off North by the wind patterns of the previous week. Splendid Blue-eyed Shags were cleaning and draining their feathers on one of the rocks that dotted the bay; adults were easily distinguished by juvenile thanks to the eye-catching two yellow caruncles located on top of the bill.

A further exploration towards and around Perch Island allowed us to navigate through newly formed sea ice, winter is really around the corner. In the distance we spotted a big ice floe with about fifteen to eighteen Crabeater seals lying on it. Slowly we moved the floes away and we approached these beautiful and restful animals. Yet another memorable encounter in the icy waters of the Seventh continent.



With our feet frozen we concluded the cruise with an incredible encounter of a Leopard seal attempting to catch a six-month old Crabeater seal which miraculously seemed to escape the surprise hunt.

Zodiacs were lifted, lunch was served, and the ship started sailing North passing the Maskeline channel and entering the Grandier passage on the way to the Argentine islands. The afternoon was filled up with Koen's lecture about "Wildlife Photography", followed by ice cream and an early recap where we learned about the plans for the next day, Sea ice formation and dynamics and citizen science project such as "Happy Whale" and "Penguin Watch".



To end another fantastic day a surprise BBQ dinner was laid out for us on the aft of the ship, whilst we found shelter in Deloncle Bay after having crossed once again the incredible Lemaire channel filled up with magical views and whale encounters.

## Day 8 – 28<sup>th</sup> March

### Foyn Harbour – Portal Point

**13:00 GPS Position:** 64° 32.6'S / 61° 56.9'W

**Wind:** N-1 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** -1°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C

In the early morning we arrived at Wilhelmina Bay with Enterprise Island and Foyn Harbour. We again had a very beautiful sunrise, with colourful clouds and stunning orange light on the mountains on the west side of the Gerlache Strait. After a good breakfast we entered the zodiac and started to explore the area. A lot of Humpback whales were around in the bay and all of us had close encounters. Also a Southern Right Whale was spotted which was very special because they are rarely seen in Antarctica.

At Foyn Harbour a wreck of the Norwegian whaling vessel *Governoren* is located, and we had a close look during our zodiac cruise. The *Governoren* was run on ground on purpose to save the life of the 85 crew members. In January 1915, which was the end of the whaling season for that ship, the crew celebrated this day before leaving home, but during the party the ship caught fire which spread rapidly. The ship is still in its original sinking place and on low tide through one of the holes in the steel you can see the harpoon shells that were leftover at the end of the whaling season.



It was interesting to visit that place. We also spotted a leopard seal on ice and a couple of fur seals were playing on the snow-covered rocks. Compared to the zodiac cruise a day before it was *warm* and pleasant, and it felt we had to return to our gracious ship much too early. It was a great morning though!



After lunch and a good break, the expedition team invited us to join them for the next activity. Portal Point is part of the Antarctic Peninsula and we planned to do a landing here. The landing was delayed though as two humpback whales decided to greet us while they were swimming and spy hopping next to

the ship before taking a rest. After that unique encounter, half of us went ashore, whereas the other started with a zodiac cruise exploring the area and seeing Chinstrap penguins on a nearby island.

On land we went up a small hill where a nice loop was marked with great viewpoints in all directions. The landscape was simply fantastic, with massive icebergs in the bay east of Portal Point and in the background ice covered mountains. After the earlier heavy snowfall, the sky opened up and the sun came out giving us a little bit of warmth.

During the zodiac cruise we found Fur seals and Chinstrap penguins. The seals were numerous on small islands out in the Gerlache Strait and the penguins called a steep and rocky island home. It was fun to observe them arriving and departing from the island by jumping out and into the water!

Another great day!



## Day 9 – 29<sup>th</sup> March

### Deception Island – Whalers Bay – Half Moon Island

**12:00 GPS Position:** 62° 55.5'S / 60° 22.7'W

**Wind:** SE-4 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** -1°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°

The wakeup call this morning was quite early compared to the other days. But we had a big program ahead of us. We were heading into an active volcano – Deception Island in the South Shetland Islands. The entrance is very narrow, and you can only sail in on the east side of Neptune’s Bellows (name of the entrance) into the caldera, which has the name Port Foster after the geologist who explored this area.



Our destination for this morning was Whaler’s Bay. A place where the Norwegians were processing whales to produce oil to sell it in Europe. After the whaling station closed British researcher established their own station here. They encountered a

volcanic eruption twice in the 50’s and had to be rescued from their meticulous situation. After the last eruption in 1970 the station closed permanently, and the site became an open-air museum. Remains of the former whaling station and research building such as the airplane hangar are still there and offer an insight into history.

Today there are two active summer research stations. One from Argentina and the other is a Spanish station. The Spanish continuously measure seismological activity monitoring potential new eruptions. Should this happen whilst we are visiting Deception Island, a safety plan is ready in case we must evacuate quickly.

After sailing through the Neptune’s Bellows we made a right turn to our destination. From the ship it was a short zodiac shuttle to the black sandy shoreline. It is a nice stretch, and we could either start with the whaling station and a look at the hangar or walk the other way into the direction of Neptune’s Window. The beach was full of fur seals which tried to mark their territory and every now and then they came quite close to us. But with clapping hands and making ourselves tall they realized they better back off ;). It was a lovely walk in the fresh snow along the coast and uphill.

After the walk it was time for the famous Polar Plunge. The very brave amongst us did it, others took photos and videos. The best way to do it is to run in and get it over with and many of us did exactly that. Out of the water it didn't feel that cold, but it was still hard to put on our clothes again. Quickly we were shuttled back to the ship where a warm shower awaited, and the coffee machine was ready to dispense a hot drink.



For the afternoon the plans depended on the weather, but then Claudio announced good news, another landing! We went to Half Moon Island, our last landing of the expedition. The transfer from Deception to Half Moon takes about 4 hours so a good amount of time to relax or maybe take a nap.

When we arrived, the wind was still very weak, but we had quite a lot of swell at the beach and the gangway. This landing would be our final zodiac operations exam as the swell made the landing challenging and we needed to act swiftly. However, we all passed with honors and then Claudio briefed us at the beach.



At Half Moon Island we could walk around again, enjoying the last moments to be out and see the last penguins and seals before we had to say goodbye to beautiful Antarctica.

To go back to the ship, we faced another challenging and adventurous zodiac boarding procedure. Big waves were crashing behind and into the

zodiacs, which were held in position by 4 guides. Once in position we were urged to jump in and slide into position. Quite the adventure and a lot of fun.

The staff on shore were soaking wet and so were some of us. But they did a great job in keeping us safe. The zodiacs picked up a lot of water as well and they looked like small inflatable swimming pools that kids enjoy in the summer ;). A great and perfect ending to our last landing.

Time to get dry and warm and say our final goodbyes to this amazing continent.

## Day 10 – 30<sup>th</sup> March

### At Sea – Drake Passage

**13:00 GPS Position:** 59° 45.3'S / 62° 14.7'W

**Wind:** WSW-6, **Sea State:** Moderate, **Weather:** Overcast, **Air Temp:** 0°C, **Sea Temp:** 3°

Good morning dear guests onboard M/V Plancius! Not too bad of a morning as the movement of the ship wasn't too extreme. The weather forecast looked worse so it's safe to say our first day on the Drake is better than expected. Fingers crossed for tomorrow.

Today we got to sleep in a bit as Claudio didn't wake us up so it was Ingrid who woke us up when she announced breakfast. After breakfast a varied program of lectures was planned with time for napping scheduled as well.

At 09:30 Carina kicked off the day with a presentation about penguins. Ever since Carina became a polar guide she has been in awe with penguins, and she shared her penguin passion with us during her interesting lecture. The part where she talked about the micro sleeps of penguins was very fascinating in particular.

After Carina it was Andres' turn to talk about the diseases of the seas. Not your usual sea sickness, but diseases the early explores had to face such as scurvy. Scurvy is a disease caused by a significant lack of vitamin C in your diet. The sailors tried many remedies against scurvy such as drinking lots of alcohol, but eventually they discovered that eating fruit was the real cure and remedy.



Michael Green talked about the history of whaling. We saw many of these amazing creatures during our expedition and it is great seeing them when you realise, we almost hunted them to full extinction. Micheal's lecture was powerful and made us think. He also addressed krill fishing which could now be seen as new era of whaling as huge fishing vessels are literally taking the krill away from the whales with

large drift nets as they fish in areas where whales are feeding. When the whales and many of the other marine mammals that depend on krill for survival no longer have food the effects on their future survival will be catastrophic. Last night when we left the South Shetland Islands we actually saw two of these large krill fishing boats in the area confirming what is happening in these pristine regions.



Recap closed the lecture program and dinner soon followed. Thank you for a relatively calm day at the Drake, fingers crossed that tomorrow will be the same.

P.s. Today we also discovered several stowaways on the ship. Free loading passengers that clearly needed a ride to South America ;). The Snowy Sheathbills are known to use vessels to go to other places and these 4 little stowaways found a nice spot on our lifeboats.



## Day 11 – 31<sup>st</sup> March

### At Sea – Drake Passage

**13:00 GPS Position:** 55° 58.9'S / 65° 38.3'W

**Wind:** WSW-7 **Sea State:** Rough **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** 6°C **Sea Temp:** 6°C

Happy Easter everyone! Good morning and welcome to the second day on the Drake. Today we could feel a little bit more movement compared to yesterday and the waves were bigger and topped off with white heads. It was only fair to officially conclude that we were experiencing a *Drake Shake*.

This morning the Easter Bunny featured in the dining room which was decorated Easter style and with many coloured eggs and Easter bread. What a lovely surprise!

Today a variety of lectures was scheduled and the first one this morning was a very special one. It had nothing to do with nature, wildlife or Antarctica. No, this morning Valeria talked about the tradition of the Argentinian Mate Tea. She shared background information, and at the same time she gave us tips and tricks to make the best Mate.

Many of us enjoyed the views of Antarctica from above the surface, but we also had a number of divers on board. Tanja, one of our dive guides, talked about the history of diving in Antarctica. After that she also shared incredible images of the Antarctic underwater world which is colourful and unique. The water might be cold, but there's a lot of life down there.

With all this ship's movement, our bodies are working hard to keep the balance. But after lunch this hard work needed to be rewarded with some nap time until the next lecture.

Michael Green is an avid and excellent photographer himself. He has an interest in historical photography and legendary photographers as well. As such he talked about one of the heroic photographers of its time. Michael shed a light on the life and work of Herbert Ponting, a well know and legendary exploration photographer.

By the end of Michael's lecture, the ship had found shelter from the South American continent and the movement gradually decreased. A perfect moment to bring back our rubber boots. We have started to love these boots as they kept our feet dry and warm during the expedition, but unfortunately, we really had to return them ;).

And then it was time for the official festivities. We were nice and sheltered in the Beagle Channel when the champagne flutes were being topped once more. Our fantastic captain came down from the bridge to make a final toast and to wish everyone a safe onward journey. An incredible adventure was about to end, but our minds and memory cards were filled with beautiful images and the time to start processing everything had arrived. What a wonderful trip it has been.

Dinner was fantastic as usual, and the dining room was buzzing with excitement. After our main course it was time to thank the entire hotel department. Hotel Manager Ingrid introduced each team member, and they were treated with loud cheering and applause. Many of the crew work behind the scenes and it was nice to see them in the spotlight to receive the appreciation they deserve. This was the last trip of the season and many of the crew are flying home to enjoy a well-deserved break after sometimes more than 6 months onboard.

Then the lights of Ushuaia slowly came into sight. But luckily, we had one more night on the ship that gave us so many unforgettable moments. Good night one last time!

## Day 12 – 1<sup>st</sup> April

### Ushuaia – Disembarkation Day

**09:00 GPS Position:** 54° 55.6'S / 67° 25.4'W

**Wind:** W-3 **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Pt. Cloudy **Air Temp:** 7°C **Sea Temp:** 10°C

After more than two days on the Drake Passage, the inevitable moment had unfortunately arrived. Today we arrived back in Ushuaia, and it was time to say goodbye to our gracious M/V Plancius and its crew and staff. We felt happy and excited about our wonderful expedition, yet at the same time we felt sad that it was really ending.

Of course, Oceanwide wouldn't let us disembark without a last breakfast. Here and there contact details were exchanged and promises to meet each other in the future were made. These expeditions often lead to new friendships, and it is wonderful to see how everyone connected.

Then it was time to say our goodbyes. Not a very fast process as there was a lot of hugging and laughter. Saying goodbye is never easy especially when the expedition has been so spectacular. For sure we hope to meet again in the future and who knows, maybe onboard this gracious ship again. Have a safe onward journey and until next time! Thank you for your enthusiasm and support, but most of all for joining us on this adventurous Antarctica, Polar Circle and Whale Watching voyage. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

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



**Farthest South: 67°50.318'S / 67°10.838'W**  
**Total distance sailed: 1901 Nautical Miles**

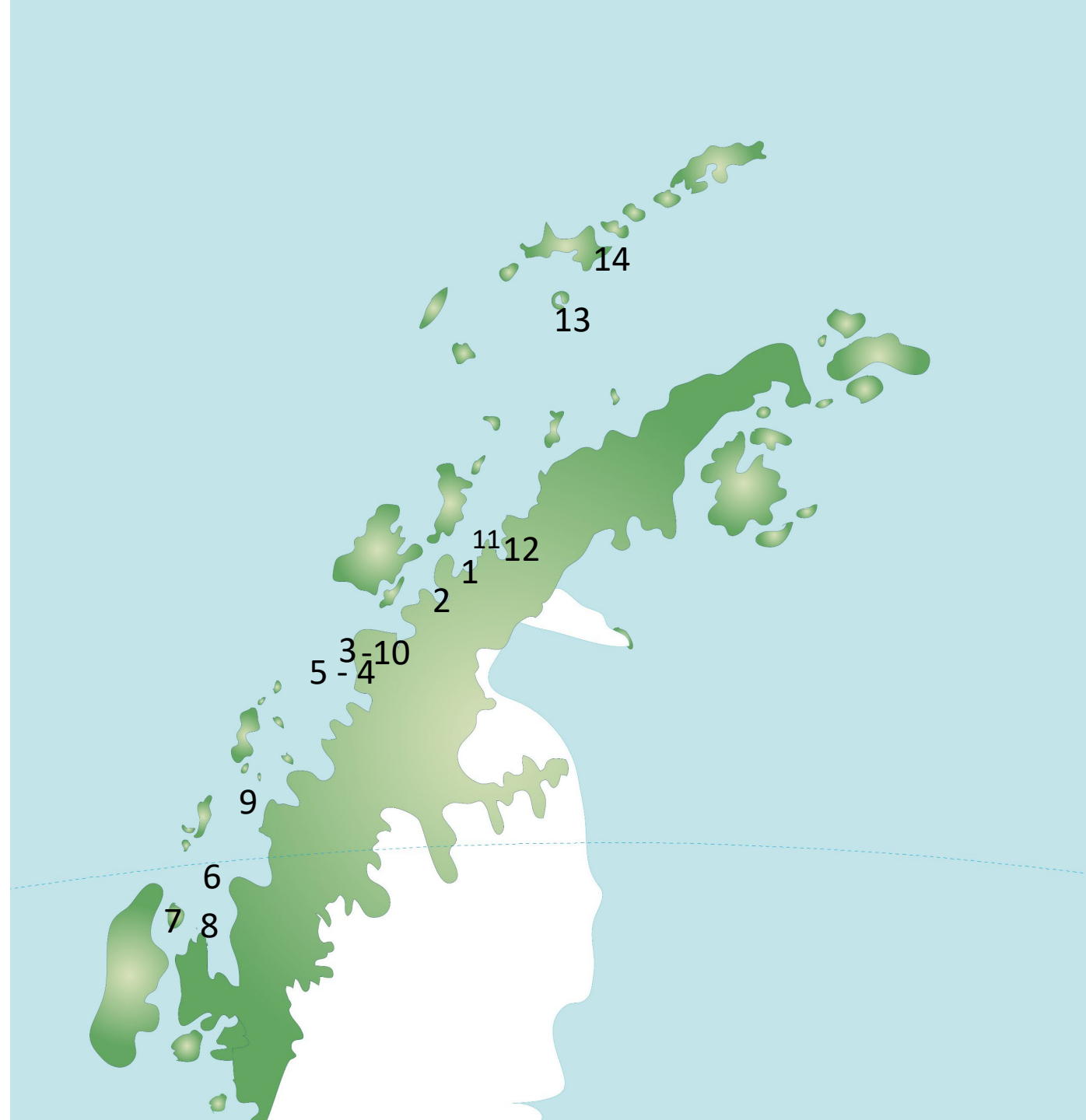


# Antarctic Peninsula – Polar Circle –

## Whale Watching

21/03/24 – 01/04/24

- -: 21/03 Ushuaia – Embarkation
- -: 30-31/03 Drake Passage - At Sea
- 1: 24/03 **Whilemina Bay** - Zodiac Cruise
- 2: **Neko Harbour** – Continental Landing
- 3: 25/03 **Lemaire Channel** - Ship Cruising + Whale Watching
- 4: **Pleneau Island** - Zodiac Cruise
- 5: **Petermann Island** - Landing
- 6: 26/03 **Crystal Sound** - Antarctic Circle Crossing
- 7: **Liard Island** – Zodiac Cruise
- 8: **Detaille Island** - Split Landing
- 9: 27/03 **Fish Islands** - Zodiac Cruise
- 10: **Sailing North: Lemaire Channel + BBQ**
- 11: 28/03 **Foyn Harbour** – Zodiac Cruise
- 12: **Portal Point** - Split Landing
- 13: 29/03 **Whalers Bay, Deception Island** – Landing+ Polar Plunge.
- 14: **Half Moon Island** – Last Landing.
- -: 30-31/03 Drake Passage - At Sea
- -: 01/04 Ushuaia - Disembarkation



## Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region

English	Latin	21-Mar	22-Mar	23-Mar	24-Mar	25-Mar	26-Mar	27-Mar	28-Mar	29-Mar	30-Mar	31-Mar	1-Apr
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>												
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>												
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X				
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>			X	X				X	X			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>					X			X				
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>												
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>												
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>										X	X	
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>												
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>												
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>		X									X	
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>		X								X	X	
Light-Mantled Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>		X										
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	X										X	X
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		X			X	X	X			X		
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>		X							X	X	X	
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>												
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>												
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>		X								X	X	
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>										X	X	
Soft-Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>												
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>												
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>												
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>											X	
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>												
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>		X										
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>												
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>												
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>		X									X	
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>												
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>												
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>												
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>												
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>			X		X	X	X	X	X			
Snowy (Pale-faced) Sheatbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>			X						X	X		





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# Claudio Ghiglione – Expedition Leader

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

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

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

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

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

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# Stefanie Liller – Assistant Expedition Leader

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

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

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# Carina Ketterer – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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



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# Koen Hoekemeijer – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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# Marco Rosso - Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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# Matthias Kopp – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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## Michael Green – Dive Team Leader

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

He is qualified as an instructor with BSAC and PADI. Plus, certified to operate Drager Dolphin and Buddy Inspiration rebreather. He has worked for Oceanwide since coming aboard as a guest for the Last eight years. He enjoys spending time

giving our guests a safe but enjoyable experience in the Polar Regions.

His biggest tip for you is slow down.

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



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# Valeria Sainz Herrera- Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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# Tanja Bayer – Dive Guide

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Tanja is from Germany. There she works as a GP and also specialized in orthopedic surgery and diving medicine.

Her first job in remote areas was 1989 in Western Australia. She worked for 3 months for the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Port Headland. She loved the work outside the clinic, like she says: Bushmedicine.

In 2009 she travelled for the first time to the antarctic peninsula. She was asked to write an article about diving in Antarctica for a German diving magazine and just 2 weeks later she

was there and she got the polar bug and figured out how she could manage to spend as much time as possible in Antarctica. She applied as a ships doctor and started 2010 on different vessels.

2015 she became bipolar and started to work for Oceanwide Expeditions. Now she spends 12-14 weeks a year in the polar regions. This year even more!

She loves water, oceans, ice, waves and everything that lives in it.

In Germany she also runs a diving school since nearly 20 years and takes groups on dive trips all around the world. On Ortelius and Plancius she also worked as a dive guide earlier in this Arctic season.

If some time is left, she teaches diving centers and ship crews in her special course: First aid in remote areas. Teaching and safety checks during a cruise and helping to prevent accidents, so they just do not happen!

This is my wish and of course a fantastic trip and experience you will never forget!

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# Richard Gannon – Dive Guide

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Richard (Rick) started out as a lifeguard at 16 and then following family tradition he joined the military as a Royal Engineer. Rick was a long-range communications specialist and diver, operating in many places and environments. His first military dive being under the ice in Norway. Being a diving instructor in both the military and recreational diving enhanced his military career. Rick worked offshore in the North Sea as a commercial diver and then as a Marine Mammal Observer and Passive Acoustic Monitoring in the seismic industry.

Rick's love of the outdoors has seen him sky-diving, skiing, sailing and mountaineering but his main focus is running. As a long-distance runner he has competed many races including 3 deserts marathons. In particular the Gobi Desert being the first Englishman to win and setting a new record for the multiday event. Rick's next event is the London marathon next month.

Rick currently works at the University of Plymouth as a Commercial Diving Instructor and is the lead for the diving systems used at the Marine Station. He also teaches on the scientific diving module taking the lead on photography and videography. As a diving supervisor Rick is involved with scientific surveys and projects.

Rick's experience and dedication to teaching and instructing is focused on keeping the divers safe but helping to expand their experience and knowledge.

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# Andres Garcia Diaz – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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



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# Wilmar Salazar – Dive Guide

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Wilmar started diving in 2013 in Costa Brava, Spain and he haven't stopped ever since. He learned from the best divers in the world and worked in top diving spots in Spain, Thailand, Indonesia, and Iceland, becoming a professional diver and mastering the art of dive guiding.

His passion and respect for the ocean have shaped the motto of safe and sustainable diving that he has been passing into all his customers: from experienced to first-time divers worldwide. Wilmar ensures utmost respect for nature and wildlife in his

dives, while making his clients feel protected.

Wilmar actively engages in marine conservation initiatives and community outreach programs, promoting the importance of ocean conservation. Wilmar consistently demonstrates his commitment to preserving the underwater world for future generations.

For the past years he has specialized in polar regions, acquiring strong resistance to extreme weather and cold environments. He was certified as an ice diving instructor and tectonic diving instructor in Iceland, upgrading his diving skills and expanding his diving guiding experiences to all world territories.

He has joined Oceanwide Expeditions to discover this wonder that is the Antarctic region and can't be more excited to be part of this family. Welcome to join Wilmar's yoga master class under the ice-cold water!

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# Nick Brinkman – Ships Doctor

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Nick Brinkman was born in the Netherlands and lives in Rotterdam with his wife and two daughters. He has been working as a doctor for 12 years in various countries, including the Netherlands, Australia, Uganda, China and South-Africa.

During his training he has worked on the emergency department and ICU. He is currently based in the Hague and Leiden, the Netherlands as a consultant plastic,- reconstructive- and handsurgeon. His main focus is on complex reconstructions after trauma and oncologic surgery. Besides his

clinical work he is involved in teaching of students, residents and general practitioners.

For as long as he can remember he has had a passion to explore the world. His adventurous nature has led him to all corners of the world, often combining his two passions: being a doctor and travelling. Besides his work he participates in Crossfit and endurance sports such as cycling and running. Currently he is training for an Iron Man 70,3.

His work, not seldomly under harsh conditions, requires competences such as creativity, flexibility and being stress resistant. These competences are very useful as the main one responsible providing medical care on board of a ship cruising through remote areas. As a ship doctor he hopes to contribute to a safe and wonderful journey for both passengers and crew on board.



**Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale watching**  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2024**  
**Embarkation - Ushuaia**

**WELCOME ABOARD!**

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

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

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

**Lifeboat Drill**

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale watching**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2024**  
**Drake Passage**

*Depending on the sea and weather conditions the programme might change. Please listen to the announcements*

There will be no wake up call this morning. We will call you for breakfast.

- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 1000      We will offer a lecture with an **Introduction about Antarctica**. Join **Marco** in the lounge to learn more about the place we will visit.
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 1500      During the afternoon we will do the **mandatory Zodiac & IAATO Briefing** in the lounge on deck 5. These Briefings are mandatory to be able to join the activities in Antarctica.
- 1830      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our first daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **The Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3). The dinner will be plated. Please arrive in time.

*We will sail in open sea and the ship may move – please secure your belongings and be careful when moving around the ship.  
Take your seasickness medication before we head out into open sea- the doctor will be available in the lounge after dinner to assist.*





Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale Watching  
Saturday 23rd of March 2024  
Drake Passage

- 0745      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 0915      We will hand out your **rubber boots** at deck 3 forward. These boots you will use in Antarctica during this trip. We will call you by deck.  
Please listen to the announcements.
- AFTER      We will meet in the lounge to fulfil our **Biosecurity declaration** before we go on land. We will call you by decks. Please bring all your outer gear, boots, your backpacks and tripods.  
Please listen to the announcements.
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 1400      If you could not attend the mandatory **Zodiac & IAATO Briefing**, please join our Expedition Leader Claudio in the library **for a repetition**.
- 1530      **All divers** – please meet the **Diving Team** in the **restaurant** for your mandatory briefing.
- 1530      We hope to see many **whales** on this trip. **Steffi** will give you an introduction about the charismatic animals. Join her in the lounge.
- 1830      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **The Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3). The dinner will be plated. Please arrive in time.

*We will sail in open sea and the ship may move – please secure your belongings and be careful when moving around the ship.  
Take your seasickness medication before we head out into open sea- the doctor will be available in the lounge after dinner to assist.*



**Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale watching**  
**Sunday the 24 of March 2024**  
**Wilhelmina Bay & Neko Harbour**

Sunrise: 0721    Sunset: 1906

0715        **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!

0730        **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).

0830        This morning we hope to explore **Wilhelmina Bay** with you. We will offer a **Zodiac cruise** and search for marine wildlife. The glaciated mountains around the bay are stunning. Dress warmly.

Please listen to the announcements for detailed timings.

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

1530        This afternoon we to get you on Antarctica. We would like to take you **ashore** at **Neko Harbour**. A small Peninsula that a gentoo penguin colony calls home. Besides penguins it also offers great Antarctic scenery.

Please listen to the announcements for detailed timings.

1830        **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap and briefing.

1900        **The Dinner buffet** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).



**Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale watching**  
**Monday the 25th of March 2024**  
**Pleneau Island & Peterman Island**

Sunrise: 0733    Sunset: 1910

- 0700      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0730      We will pass the **Lemaire Channel** this morning. The passage is impressive with high ice-covered mountains on both sides.
- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 0900      We would like to take you out for a **Zodiac Cruise** in search for wildlife and icy scenery around Pleneau Island. Dress warmly!
- Please listen to the announcements for detailed timings.
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 1430      In the afternoon we would like to visit **Peterman Island**. A small island that offers great scenery, penguins and seals.
- Please listen to the announcements for detailed timings.
- 1830      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **The Dinner buffet** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).



**Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale watching**  
**Tuesday the 26th of March 2024**  
**Sailing towards the Polar Circle & Detaille Island**

Sunrise: 0733    Sunset: 1908

- 0730      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- AM        This morning we are heading further **South to reach the Antarctic Polar Circle**. The views in Crystal Sound are stunning. Enjoy some time on the outer deck and watch the beauty of the Antarctic Peninsula.
- Please listen to the announcements for detailed timings.
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- TBA        In the afternoon, we plan to reach our furthest South position and would like to visit **Detaille Island**. We will find a historic hut of the British Antarctic Survey. It feels like a travel in time. The place is quite small. The first boats will land, and the others will have a Zodiac Cruise, after half of the time we will swap, everybody will do everything.
- Please listen to the announcements for detailed timings.
- 1830      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **The Dinner buffet** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).





**Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale watching**  
**Wednesday the 27th of March 2024**  
**Fish Island & Heading North**

Sunrise: 0746    Sunset: 1903

- 0715      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0730      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 0830      This morning we are planning to make a **Zodiac Cruise at Fish Island**.  
The scenery is icy, and the wildlife hopefully grate. Join us in the Zodiacs  
to explore and dress warmly.
- Please listen to the announcements for detailed timings.
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- PM              We are using the afternoon to travel back North. If conditions allow the  
views over the Peninsula are stunning. Join us on the outer decks while  
passing icebergs and wildlife.
- Depending on the conditions we might offer a lecture.*  
*If weather is amazing, we enjoy Antarctica.*
- 1830      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our  
daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **The Dinner** will be special tonight, dress warmly.



**Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale watching**  
**Thursday the 28th of March 2024**  
**Foyn Harbour & Portal Point**

Sunrise: 0733    Sunset: 1852

- 0745      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 0900      This morning we are planning to make a **Zodiac Cruise at Foyn Harbour**. We will find an **old shipwreck** of the whaling time and hope to be able to show you a lot more wildlife. Join us and explore the area. Dress warmly.
- Please listen to the announcements for detailed timings.
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 1430      This will be **our last landing on the Antarctic continent**. The landing offers great views of Charlotte Bay and often we find many seals. We do this again as a split landing, so you get the chance to do a landing and a Zodiac Cruise in the hope of finding more whales.
- Please listen to the announcements for detailed timings.
- 1830      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **The Dinner buffet** is served in the dining room.



**Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale watching**  
**Friday the 29th of March 2024**  
**Deception Island**

Sunrise: 0729    Sunset: 1844

- 0645      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0700      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 0730      We will enter the **caldera of Deception Island** through the Neptune's Bellows. Do not miss this!
- 0815      We hope to bring you ashore in Whalers Bay. Here was an old whaling station located and we find many remains. Enjoy the unique landscape and the history of this incredible place.  
At 10:00 we offer you the possibility to take an Antarctic Bath and do your polar plunge. You bring the courage, we bring the towels.

Please listen to the announcements for detailed timings.

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

*Our activities in the afternoon depend on the conditions in the afternoon and the conditions for the Drake Passage.*

Please listen to the announcements!

- 1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **The Dinner** is served in the dining room. It will be plated, please arrive in time.

*We will sail into open sea this evening and the ship may move – please secure your belongings and be careful when moving around the ship.  
Take your seasickness medication before we head out into open sea.*



**Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale watching**  
**Saturday the 30th of March 2024**  
**Drake Passage, heading North**

There will be no **Wakeup call** – you will be called for breakfast.

- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 0930      We all saw many **penguins**. Carina will talk about the little seabirds that we all like so much. Join **Carina** in the lounge if you wanna learn more.
- 1100      Plancius and the Crew is taking good care of all of us. The old explorer had not always so much luck. If you wanna learn more of **the diseases of the sea** join **Andres** in the lounge.
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 1530      We enjoyed the opportunity to be able to observe whales in their natural habitat. In the past, whales have been hunted almost until extinction. **Michael** will tell your more about the **time of whaling**, please join him in the lounge.
- 1830      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **The Dinner** is served in the dining room. It will be plated, please arrive in time.

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





**Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale watching  
Sunday the 31st of March 2024  
Drake Passage, heading North**

There will be no **Wakeup call** – you will be called for breakfast.

- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 0930      We are getting closer to the continent of South America. If you wanna be a real gaucho and you wanna learn about the tradition of the **Mate Tea**, join **Valeria** in the lounge.
- 1100      **Diving** was part of our activities on this trip. **Tanja** will tell us more about the history of Diving in Antarctica, the material they use and shows us some of the things they have seen.
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 3).
- 1530      There has been great photographers during the Heroic Age of Exploration. **Michael** will give you **an introduction about Herbert Ponting**, probably one of the most known of this time. Join him in the lounge.
- 1630      We collect your rubber boots. We will call you by deck, please listen to announcements.
- 1815      **Captain's Cocktails**. Please join the Expedition team and Captain Evgeny in the Lounge to toast our voyage to Antarctica and have our last re-cap.
- 1900      The **Dinner** will be served in the dining room. It will be plated, please arrive on time.

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



**Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale watching  
Monday the 1st of April 2024  
Ushuaia - Disembarkation**

*This is not an Aprils Fool, today you have to leave the little Plancius 😊*

- 0700      **Wake-up call** from your Expedition Leader Claudio!
- Before breakfast at 0730 please could you **put your large check in luggage outside your cabin** so that we can get it onto the pier for you. Please place hand luggage on the floor or table so housekeeping can begin stripping the beds.
  - At the pier after disembarking, please identify your luggage and indicate accordingly where do you want it: storage building, bus to the airport or private arrangements. Luggage at the storage building must be collected before 1400.
  - Keep your hand luggage in your cabin or take it to the Lounge.
- 0730      **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830-0900      It is time to leave M/V Plancius. Please make sure you have all your belongings with you and that you have taken your key card holder back to Reception you may keep the card as a souvenir of your voyage.

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