



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

Antarctica – Beyond the Polar Circle – Wilkins Ice Shelf

13th March – 28th March 2024

M/V Hondius



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

Captain Remmert-Jan Koster

and his international crew

Staff Captain:	Miia Holma	Finland
Chief Officer:	Matei Mocanu	Romania
2nd Officer:	Nino Cizmic	Croatia
3rd Officer:	Solina Duguay	Canada
Chief Engineer:	Guntis Dizbite	Estonia
Hotel Manager:	William Barnes	The Netherlands
Assist. Hotel Manager:	Aleks Lyebedyev	Ukraine
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	Germany
Ships Doctor:	Ruth Gussenhoven	The Netherlands
Expedition Leader:	Pippa Low	United Kingdom
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Alexander Romanovskiy	Russia
Assist. Expedition Leader:	Chloe Marechal	France
Expedition Guide:	Rose Hong	China
Expedition Guide:	Elizabeth Robinson	United States
Expedition Guide:	Ursula Tscherter	Switzerland
Expedition Guide:	Pelin Asfuroglu	Chile
Expedition Guide:	Marijke de Boer	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Adam Burke	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Meike Sjoer	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Annelou Hulsker	The Netherlands
Expedition Guide:	Andrew Crowder	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Martin Anstee	United Kingdom
Expedition Guide:	Georgina Strange	Falkland Islands
Expedition Guide:	Gabriela Kolodko	Poland
Lead Kayak Guide:	Erin Bastian	United Kingdom
Kayak Guide:	Seda Tunca	Turkey

Day 1 – Wednesday 13th of March 2024

Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

GPS 16:00 Position: 54° 48.63 'S / 068° 17.9'W

Wind: NNW 3 **Sea State:** Rippled **Weather:** Partly Cloudy **Air Temp:** +9°C **Sea Temp:** +11°C

It's time to head SOUTH! Deep south. After at least a day full of travelling for most of us, or a rest day and exploring Ushuaia, we embarked on our new home for the coming weeks – *Hondius*!



But first things first. As we went up the gangway and met our trip companions, staff and crew it was almost time to wave goodbye to Ushuaia. A bit of ship orientation, luggage allocation and first drinks at the bar we were almost ready to go out through the Beagle Channel.

But first things first. And safety always comes first on an expedition. It is crucial to know what to do in an emergency situation, and seeing everyone in their orange life jackets (Netherlands' national color) was an interesting view as well!

Pippa introduced herself as our Expedition Leader. She explained what to expect in our voyage, from daily recaps and briefings and what an expedition cruise actually is. She explained to us how weather might influence trips like this one, and that wind is crucial for safety.

The Captain, Remmert-Jan Koster, came down from the bridge to introduce himself and commence the journey. With a glass of champagne or a non-alcoholic equivalent we raised our glasses to a successful trip.

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

As we finally pushed off the dock we were a little distracted with a double rainbow that showed up as a sign this journey will for sure be one to remember!



Day 2 – Thursday 14th of March 2024

At Sea - Drake Passage

GPS 12:00 Position: 57° 24.9 'S / 065° 37.8'W

Wind: W 4 Sea State: Slight Weather: Partly Cloudy Air Temp: +5°C Sea Temp: +8,5°C



As we sailed across the Drake Passage, notorious for its tumultuous waters, we were greeted by an unexpected calmness. The waves were gentle, measuring no more than 2 meters in height. Among them were the black-browed albatrosses and the majestic southern royal albatross, with wingspans spanning up to 3.5 meters!

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In the morning, Martin delivered an engaging lecture on the diverse birdlife of the Drake Passage, helping us discern between prions, petrels, and albatrosses. Equipped with this knowledge, we now appreciate the diversity of bird species surrounding us.

Following Martin's lecture, it was time to retrieve our muck boots from the ship's door, essential equipment for our upcoming land excursions.

In the afternoon, Sasha provided an informative overview of Antarctica's geography with his lecture, while Marijke talked about whale identification, sharing fascinating insights into the various species inhabiting these frigid waters.



© Marijke de Boer

As the day ended, we gathered in the lounge for our first recap. Pippa briefed us on tomorrow's plan and weather before providing an explanation of the Antarctic Convergence. Following her, Pelin discussed superstitions at sea, and Rose provided insights into the geographical names of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Day 3 – Friday 15th of March 2024

At Sea - Drake Passage

GPS 12:00 Position: 62° 02.2 'S / 064° 00.8'W

Wind: NNE 2 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Calm **Air Temp:** +0°C **Sea Temp:** +5°C

Our second day at sea! Luckily for us, the sea was still relatively quiet. Our day started with the mandatory zodiac and IAATO briefing from our Expedition leader Pippa. She told us all about the proper outer gear, Afterwards, Andrew gave a lecture about albatrosses.

Everybody was intrigued by these giants that spend almost all of their lives on sea. We were lucky enough to see a few black browed albatrosses today, just like some other bird's species, like the grey-headed albatrosses, the southern fulmars and even some chinstraps porpoising!

Just after the lecture, it started snowing outside. We had quite a few blows in the morning, fin whales and southern bottlenose whales, and this continued just after Andrew finished the questions, with a pair of fin whales alongside the side.



© Marijke de Boer

After a lovely lunch, we had the biosecurity. This meant checking and cleaning very thoroughly all the items and outerwear which would come into contact with the ground ashore. All seeds and loose material were removed with our hoovers and our very loyal paperclips, which are incredible multipurpose tools!

Again, we were surprised by some whale blows of fin whales and even our first icebergs sightings! Seeing the first icebergs, and even a fur seal which popped up out of the water, we were definitely coming closer to Antarctica.

At 16:30, our onboard historian Pelin told us more about the Gerlache and Belgica Expedition. These expeditions began the era known as the heroic age of Antarctic Exploration.

During recap, Pippa told us more about tomorrow, which would be our first day and landing in Antarctica! Annelou talked a bit about the geology of the Drake Passage, and what is happening under the water. Marijke showed us some of her pictures of the fin whales that we saw today, and Ursula shared insights about surfacing behaviour and how these big mammals breathe.



Day 4 – Saturday 16th of March 2024

At Sea and Fish Islands and Prospect Point

GPS 12:00 Position: 54° 51.8 'S / 068° 01.9'W

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

After two days sailing through the Drake Passage, which was neither a lake nor a shake but rather a journey through gentle waves, we reached Antarctica. We spent most of the early morning hours standing on deck or at the windows to take in our first sight of the white continent.



At very slow speed the officers attentively navigated the Hondius through a narrow passage within uncharted waters passing majestic icebergs of various shapes, sizes, and colours. Their beauty was taking our breath away. In between we listened to Annelou connecting Antarctica with Mars followed by Georgina introducing us to the various penguin species living on the Antarctic Peninsula.

After lunch life on the ship got busy. Dressed in red jackets, lifejackets, hats and gloves, the guides headed downstairs to launch and prepare the boats for our very first zodiac cruise. Then the long-awaited call sounded over the speaker system: *"Dear guests. Please make your way to the shell door on deck 3."* Although stepping into the zodiac was very easy as the water was as calm as a mirror, we all followed the routine taught the day before: Both hands free, sailors grip, 1, 2, 3 steps and immediate sitting. Each driver also took the time to explain all relevant safety aspects. If there had been any nervousness among us at all it disappeared quickly as we slowly drove into the most amazing landscape, we had ever seen.

And then our exploration around the Fish Islands consisting of several small rocky islands named after fish like Salmon, Mackerel, Trout. About 4000 pairs of Adeli penguins breed here during the summer months. Many of which we had the pleasure to watch quite up close.

Ice was omnipresent with artistically sculptured icebergs of various sizes, floating growlers, and transparent ice of very old age. Alert we all looked out for wildlife either on land and ice or in the air and water.

Soon we discovered our first marine mammal. The deeply sleeping Leopard seal did not show any reaction at all to our approach. The Weddell seal nearby however lifted its head following us with its dark big eyes.

Throughout the cruise each and every one of us built up a different personal story of observations, emotions, and



excitement. The latter increased dramatically when an Antarctic minke whale curiously approached a zodiac, passing alongside and underneath to take a closer look at this floating object. The interaction lasted so that other boats could enjoy the close encounter with this rather elusive but absolutely beautiful whale species.



Then it was time to head over to Prospect Point where Pippa and Annalou awaited us at the beach. On higher ground we could make out a dozen pillars made of concrete, the last remains of Base J from the British Antarctic Survey. The building was only occupied from 1957 – 59 and removed in 2004. Close by some scientific equipment indicated that studies are still carried out with modern and remote instruments.

Excited we swung our legs, feet towards the water, over the pontoon

to touch Antarctica for the very first time and to walk on beautiful rocks of past geological times. Our geologist Annelou's face expressed beautifully how happy she was to be here. Many times, the Antarctic flag was raised and photographed to capture this unique moment.

Eventually all zodiacs headed back to the ship. On time for a short break before Pippa presented tomorrow's plan followed by several informative recaps and another and nutritious and tasty diner.

Our first day in Antarctica surely was memorable triggering our urge for more.

KAYAK DIARY!

Our first time kayaking in Antarctica! We have spotted some Adelie penguins on ice. We saw a leopard seal on the iceberg, sleeping peacefully. Then two leopard seals showed up and got curious about kayakers and started playing around.

We got back to the zodiacs and enjoyed watching them messing around, capsizing kayaks from the comfort of our zodiac. Paddled around the Southern coast of Perch Island and to Prospect Point.



Day 5 – Sunday 17th of March 2024

Detaille Island and the Gullet

GPS 12:00 Position: 66° 51.6 'S / 066° 48.1'W

Wind: NE 3 **Sea State:** Rippled **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** -1°C **Sea Temp:** +2,5°C

At 4:00 AM during the night we crossed the Polar Circle! As this was in the middle of the night, no call was made, but some enthusiasts were up anyway to witness this moment, although it was very dark outside. For us who went up later, the day started with snow and a bit of fog, not full visibility but certainly Antarctic weather.



Our morning started at 8:00, as we headed off to Detaille Island. Today was a split landing split cruise, which meant we swapped halfway onshore. Detaille Island is known for its historic site, namely Base W. Base W was established in 1957 and only operational for 3 years, and at the third year they had to evacuate the station personal on very short notice before the ice came in. Pelin, our historian, told us more while we were having a look inside the hut. 8-10 people lived here at the time, and the hut was established for

meteorological, geographical, and geological surveys. Everything looked quite intact still! Most of the paperwork, geological maps, books, and newspapers were still around. The canned food and clothes appeared untouched, which showed the hurry they were in when they left.



Continuing after the hut, we went up the hill for a small hike. Near the hut the dogs were kept in a smaller hut. From the ridge, we could see the Hondius barely because of the snow, although there was no wind. We had a beautiful lookout to several big icebergs which were stranded near the island. Up to the end, a lot of Adelie penguins could be seen.

For the zodiac cruise, most of us circumnavigated the island. Several fur seals and even more Adelie penguins were seen! The water was flat calm, very nice conditions to see the wildlife in.

During the afternoon, we ships cruised to the stunning channel that is known as the Gullet. We had to be there before it got dark, as daylight is needed to navigate this small channel. It lies between the southern edge of Hansen Island and Adelaide Island and is known for its dramatic scenery. Unfortunately, it was quite foggy.



Here, we enjoyed the 'Crossing the Polar Circle' ceremony out on the bow, which included kissing the fish and getting a stamp. Not only that, but on this snowy day there was some hot chocolate (with rum!) available as well.

Some of us grabbed this chance to get a picture of the unique frame. As most people gathered outside, a small party started, which ended with a group dance.

As if this wasn't enough for today, Marijke spotted a group of orcas at the end of the Gullet! There were two humpbacks with them as well, and there was quite some activity along them.

There were around 5 killer whales and most of us went outside with our binoculars to get a chance to see these amazing marine mammals! Recap was delayed because of this, and we all gathered at 8:15 to hear the plans for tomorrow.



As visibility was almost fully clear again, the lights were beautiful outside and we had a chance to see Rothera base, the base where Adam could call home for several years. It was fantastic to end the day again with a beautiful sunset.

KAYAK DIARY!

We have circumnavigated the Detaille Island! We have enjoyed the company of many Adelie penguins in the water and on the shore.

We have spotted crabeater seals and Weddell seals.



Day 6 – Monday 18th of March 2024

Stonington Island and Red Rock Ridge

GPS 12:00 Position: 68° 10.95 'S / 067° 01.2'W

Wind: NNE 1 Sea State: Calm 3/10 ice Weather: Cloudy Air Temp: +1°C Sea Temp: +2,9°C



Today was yet another fantastic day onboard MV Hondius. We arrived in the early morning at Stonington Island for our first activity of the day, a zodiac cruise and landing. The island is named after Stonington, Connecticut, the home port for the sloop *Hero*, in which Captain Nathaniel Palmer sighted the Antarctic continent in 1820. The island is in the Eastern part of Marguerite Bay, to the northeast of Neny Island and off the West coast of Graham Land.

Towering overhead are the 800-meter peaks of the Roman Four Promontory mountains beautifully intertwined with glaciers, specifically Northeast glacier that would provide numerous calvings and thundering booms echoing across the bay throughout our time there.

The morning greeted us with a breath-taking sunrise that looked like a watercolour painting. A swirl of warm red and orange colours plastered the sky in a welcoming way. The ship was surrounded by pieces of ice, big and small, providing the perfect foreground and background for some amazing photography.

The zodiac cruise zigged and zagged through the ice finding different species of seals and Adelie penguins on the rocky outcroppings. While some guests were in zodiacs, others were on land exploring Stonington Island and the historic buildings. This island houses both British and American historic buildings from the 1930s and 1940s and now are managed by the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust since 2014. Back in the day, the buildings were home of the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition and British scientific research such as geology, meteorology, and biology.

Stonington Island offers breath taking views and a wonderful chance to get ashore and envision what it would be like to overwinter in Antarctica. However, it also means much more than that! Stonington Island is the location where Edith 'Jackie' Ronne overwintered in 1947-1948, making her the first woman to overwinter in Antarctica. She was the wife of Finn Ronne who worked at the base and the Ronne Ice Shelf is named in honour of her.



Next on the agenda for the afternoon was a zodiac cruise at the stunning site, Red Rock Ridge. This location is a large promontory formed between Rymill Bay and Neny Fjord in Marguerite Bay with towering cliffs ranging from 50-200 million years old. This cruise features three different species of pinnipeds: fur seals, Weddel seals and crabeater seals.

However, potentially the most exciting part of the cruise was the Adelie penguins.

Having no better way to explain what we encountered, our zodiacs found themselves in the middle of a penguin party!

A few hundred penguins lied the rocky outcroppings going about their daily business and another impressive number were swimming in the water.

They were extremely curious about our zodiacs and playing what felt like “King of the Hill” on the nearby pieces of ice. We could have stayed for hours but unfortunately, it was time to head back to the ship so we could continue our journey south to our next destination!



KAYAK DIARY!

We have paddled from the west side of Stonington Island to the East along the South coast of the island.

Beautiful glacier views. Adelie penguins swimming next to our kayaks or sometimes watching us from ashore, crabeater seals popped up curiously occasionally, a Weddell seal was watching us secretly in the water.



We enjoyed witnessing a big glacial calving creating huge waves from a safe distance. We also watched a peaceful leopard seal having a siesta and another one doing a big jump onto an iceberg.



In the afternoon we have paddled around Bar Island and then to the Red Rock headland.

We were surrounded by numerous Adelie penguins swimming all around our kayaks curiously.

We watched sleepy Weddell seals, bluff fighting fur seals as we paddled around some turquoise colour icebergs.

Day 7 – Tuesday 19th of March 2024

Lazarev Bay

GPS 12:00 Position: 69° 25.0 'S / 072° 15.5'W

Wind: S 1 **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** -3°C **Sea Temp:** +1,6°C



"Into the unknown!" – That was our motto since yesterday evening. Never before had any Oceanwide Expeditions vessel ventured so far south. And it was just the beginning of our journey through uncharted waters towards the Wilkins Ice Shelf.

The morning proved exceptionally calm, even more so than the day before. A smooth, mirror-like surface of water and hundreds, if not thousands, of icebergs – such was the backdrop through which the Hondius advanced into Lazarev Bay.

Incidentally, the bay was named after Mikhail Lazarev, the great Russian navigator, who along with Faddey Bellingshausen in the distant year of 1820 became the first in history to set eyes on the shores of the mysterious white continent – Antarctica.

Operating in expedition mode, we had only a rough plan for today. In the morning, Georgina was supposed to give us a lecture on the intricacies of wildlife photography, but just as the projector and microphone were turned on, and we gathered in the observation lounge to listen to her speeches, suddenly through the speakers came the voice of Pippa, our expedition leader, delivering wonderful news – we had managed to spot an Emperor penguin!



We rushed out onto the open decks and pressed ourselves against the windows to catch a glimpse of this rare bird. However, the sight that met our eyes was rather tragicomic. Indeed, there sat the emperor penguin on the iceberg, there was no doubt about it. The unfortunate creature, facing away from us, awkwardly clung to the nearly vertical ice wall and was afraid to move, lest it slip into the water.

At first, we were surprised by the penguin's behavior, but soon the explanation became evident as a massive leopard seal appeared before us, circling the iceberg, and repeatedly attempting to leap out of the water to grab the penguin with its teeth. Clicking its jaws and terrifying the already frightened penguin even more, the leopard seal persisted, making new attempts to attack.



The Hondius paused for a moment, then resumed its course, and we left the penguin alone to face its fate. One can only hope that the vile reptile-looking predator left empty-handed.

Georgina never managed to start her lecture because as we continued, we spotted more and more Emperor penguins, either in the water or on icebergs. Cheers erupted, shutters clicked, and our binocular-equipped eyes eagerly followed these majestic creatures.

After lunch, it was decided to take advantage of the wonderful opportunity for a Zodiac cruise. The boats were lowered into the water, and we, settling into them, set off to explore Lazarev Bay.

Navigating around immense icebergs and occasionally pushing through brash ice, we admired the whimsical forms of ice and the numerous seals dozing on the ice floes. Some of the pinnipeds showed mutual interest and raised their heads, trying to get a better look at us. Mostly they were Crabeater seals, but among them, Weddell and leopard seals were also spotted.



One could endlessly traverse the cold waters, journeying through this magnificent iceberg garden, but after 2.5 hours, despite the absence of wind, we began to feel slightly chilled, so returning to the ship became a rather welcomed event.

The daily recap and dinner were not far behind, and soon the night descended so deeply that it was no longer possible to distinguish the icebergs, the ocean, or anything else. By this time, the Hondius had already left Lazarev Bay and was heading further south.

KAYAK DIARY!

We have paddled along the Northeast shores of Rothschild Island. We paddled along the building size icebergs, all in different shades and blues. We have spotted tens of crabeaters seals on icebergs and four Weddell seals sleeping on the ice. Some of us also spotted emperor penguin twice in the water.

Day 8 – Wednesday 20th of March 2024

Around Lataday Island

GPS 12:00 Position: 70° 47.2 'S / 077° 05.5'W

Wind: W 3 **Sea State:** Ice 4/10 **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** -3°C **Sea Temp:** +1,2°C

We awake to the sound Hondius passing through ice. Heading to the nearest window we can see we are surrounded by a beautiful concentration of sea ice, interspersed by massive icebergs. We are still heading south and as we slow down; we can appreciate this unique landscape.

Sea ice with its topping of fresh snow gives us a real feel for Antarctica, we are now on a real adventure, a real expedition. The ice here is king this landscape stretches as far as we can see.

The morning gives us an insight into Photography and how to get the best out of your camera with Georgina. We are then given a witty and informative lecture about the incredible world of plankton and an understanding of our keystone species Krill by Chloe.



The morning was interrupted by calls of majestic Emperor penguins resting on the sea ice as we slowly pass. Snow petrels continue to follow the ship, these beautiful birds keeping us company as we creep ever more south.



Crabeater seals lazily hang around on the ice, sometimes in groups they play around the ice edge, viewing them from the ship we can see them swimming gracefully just under the surface of the water, the juxtaposition of the way they move on land becomes apparent as watch them go by.

Once again, we are left with Ice, today is punctuated with this view, ice, ice, and more ice. It is spectacular to see, amazing to be a part of this environment, far away from any other humans, in a hostile yet beautiful

wilderness, cocooned safely aboard the Hondius.

After a hearty Lunch, the ever-changing vista a backdrop for us eating, we round the island of Lataday. The ice fades away behind us and we press on into clear waters, icebergs sit in spender in the distance, the white and blue luminous upon the grey backdrop.

The horn sounds as the ship roles over the 71st degree of Latitude to applause and excitement, we press on towards our destination.

Ursula educates us on the seals we have seen over the course of the trip, so to best understand what it is we are seeing in this precious environment.



Adam then tells us what it is like living in Antarctica throughout the year, from 24 hours of daylight to 24 hours of night.

At 71degrees 19minutes we start to turn to the northeast into the bay around the south of Lataday, towards our goal of the Wilkins Ice shelf. The light is spectacular, and the ice continues to be the main event of the day.

We brave the cold and head out onto the deck for an Antarctic BBQ, with the music turned up and the party in full swing we spot a group of 10 Emperor penguins. The music stops, the ship slows down, and we welcome this calm to view these wonderful birds.



The party continues indoors as the ship heads further towards the Wilkins ice shelf.

Day 9 – Thursday 21st of March 2024

Wilkins Ice Shelf

GPS 12:00 Position: 71° 02.5 'S / 073° 35.9'W

Wind: E 4 **Sea State:** Ice 3/10 **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** -6°C **Sea Temp:** +1°C

We woke this morning to another fact-filled wakeup call from Pippa along with the most spectacular sunrise over Alexander Island.

The skies were dark when we woke with the first chink of orange on the horizon. For some of us it was accompanied by ten or so Crabeater Seals swimming next to the ship, no doubt curious as to what this strange swimming beast called Hondius was in their home.



As time went by the sky turned beautiful colours of mauve, red and orange. The bright sunlight bouncing off The Wilkins Ice shelf onto the underside of the light cloud cover. We were also graced with the presence of a few Snow Petrels, these snow-white birds with contrasting jet-black eye, bill and legs were flying around the ship giving us a fantastic display as they too caught the orange glow from the sunrise giving the appearance of the phoenix rising from the ashes, the very epitome of The Firebird.



It certainly was the most beautiful way to start the day.

As we moved further towards The Wilkins Ice Shelf it loomed into view, rising majestically out of the water, a huge wall of ice, thirty meters high, stretching as far as the eye could see from left to right. We travelled slowly towards it for we were now in uncharted waters, the bridge team keeping a close eye on the sea depth as we crept closer. Eventually we stopped within about 800 meters of the shelf. Large pieces of the shelf had removed themselves and were now huge tabular icebergs, free to float wherever the currents and the wind took them. We all gathered on the bow for a celebration of achieving one of our main goals of the trip. Of course, a group photo was taken on the bow of us all in front of the Ice Shelf. We were certainly the most southerly ship on the planet! What a spectacular morning we had experienced!



After sailing alongside the shelf for a while it was time to head back away, as we did so we said goodbye to The Wilkins Ice Shelf and headed off to see what else we could find, we saw one or two Minke whales, Crabeater Seals (in one place alone we counted 49) and a few birds, Snow Petrels, South Polar Skuas and a few Emperor Penguins.

Lunchtime was yet another culinary feast followed by more ice and wildlife watching. We headed towards Alexander Island in search of Emperor Penguins and a suitable place to get off the ship. It was decided that we should wrap up warm and go for a zodiac cruise. Unfortunately, at the very moment the first zodiac was being lowered the wind got up and steadily increased. A combination of high winds, lots of sea ice and cold temperatures equals danger so it was decided to abandon the attempt in favor of safety, we were also a long way from any help!

Instead, it was time to celebrate our furthest south position, 71 degrees 23.784 minutes south, by way of hot chocolate and rum on the bow. Another party was quickly arranged, and everyone got into the spirit very quickly as we celebrated another successful day in Antarctica.

As the afternoon ended it was time for a warm-up, recap and then dinner, another lovely menu created by the very talented galley team.

After dinner it was time to relax, to reflect on a great day, a day that none of us would repeat in the same way and to look at our photos. For others it was time for popcorn and a showing of the film Happy feet.

What a way to end a fantastic day!

Day 10 – Friday 22nd of March 2024

At Sea towards Marguerite Bay

GPS 12:00 Position: 69° 18.2 'S / 076° 51.8'W

Wind: N 4 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Overcast **Air Temp:** -1°C **Sea Temp:** +2,4°C



Today started off with a bang as we were greeted by massive waves from the Bellinghousen Sea, which washed away our beloved Hondius snowman from the bow.

Talk about a dramatic wake-up call!

Breakfast was a bit sparse as some folks couldn't stomach the ship's movements and opted to stay snug in their bunks. But for those of us with sea legs, we shuffled our way to the lounge for Elizabeth's lecture.

Elizabeth regaled us with tales of the charismatic ocean traveler, the humpback whale. Did you know they're the fifth largest whale? And the way they communicate, their social structures, and their epic migrations to Antarctica are just mind-blowing. Apparently, they chow down on a whopping 83% of their yearly calories during their Antarctic pit stop – kind of like how we're devouring meals onboard nonstop! And get this: they munch on 1.5 tons of krill a day, which is like us chomping down 17 cookies every minute for a full 24 hours. Talk about a hearty appetite!



With winds gusting at a wild 35 knots, the outside decks were off-limits for the morning, but that didn't stop the fulmars from swooping alongside the ship. With fewer folks around, Annelou seized the opportunity to share her insights on ice cores and the ancient stories they hold.

As the sun broke through the clouds, two light-mantled albatrosses swooped by, joining the fulmars and Cape petrels already keeping us company.



In the lounge, Head Chef Ralf Barthel spilled the beans on the secrets behind his mouthwatering meals. Can you believe they make 10,035 meals in just 15 days for the 150 adventurers and 73 crew aboard the Hondius? That's 7000 eggs (2pp per day), 700 liters of milk, and 150 kg of dry rice!

Pelin wrapped up the lecture series with an enthralling tale of Australian explorer Hubert Wilkins, who braved the icy unknowns of Antarctica back in 1928, even discovering an ice shelf and naming it after himself.

With the ship plowing through strong winds and waves splashing over the decks, it was a thrilling end to an adventure-packed day aboard the MS Hondius. And you know what? Despite the rough seas, it was a beautiful day.

Day 11 – Saturday 23rd of March 2024

Marguerite Bay and Horseshoe Island

GPS 12:00 Position: 67° 48.2 'S / 067° 18.4'W

Wind: NE 4 **Sea State:** Smooth **Weather:** Partly Cloudy **Air Temp:** -2°C **Sea Temp:** +2,7°C

After yesterday's rough seas that made significant number of us very seasick, we all were relieved to wake up to smoother waters. As a reward for surviving a tough day, the new day also gifted us a wonderful sunrise. Rays of red, pink, and orange colors were reflecting on the mountains around us while we slowly sailed towards our morning destination, Horseshoe Island. This medium size island of Marguerite Bay takes its name due to its resemblance of a horseshoe and it is home of a historical hut (Base Y) of British Antarctic Survey. (BAS)



Around 10 am, we geared up and got ready to explore outside. We were aiming to do a split landing and zodiac cruise in Sally Cove, on the northern part of the island. Orange group went first ashore to visit the historical hut and stretch their legs after several days at the ship.

Even though we had seen three other historical huts on our voyage, it still was extremely interesting to visit Base Y. The BAS personnel who lived in this hut with their sled dogs from late fifties until mid-sixties conducted many important geographical research and surveying work.

The hut seemed quite a cozy space to live in with breathtaking views of the mountains of Pourquoi Pas Island in the background. It almost felt like they had never left. In the communication room we could read the notes they left for each other. Some of the food was untouched, perfectly preserved. It was like walking into someone's house when he was not at home and wonder when he would return.

All around the island strange rocks with emerald color veins attracted our attention. Annelou, our Earth Science specialist explained to us that what we were looking at is malachite, a rarely found copper carbonate mineral.



Meanwhile Orange Group was exploring the island, Blue Group enjoyed a lovely zodiac cruise around the bay. Even though Sally Cove does not have any penguin colony, there still was many interesting wildlife to observe. Cruisers could enjoy the sights of many adult male fur seals, a Weddell Seal, several Blue-Eyed Shags and Skuas.

The shallow waters of the cove also hosted many large, grounded icebergs that offered impressive photo opportunities to photography lovers. After everyone completed their landing and zodiac cruise, we headed back to Hondius to enjoy our delicious lunch prepared by our galley team.

Afternoon plans had a slight change. Since the weather looked better than what we expected, our Expedition Leader Pippa and the bridge team decided to take us to the Gullet, this time to navigate narrow

tickle channel from South to North. To be able to enjoy the long crossing fully, the Expedition team had decided to move recap to early afternoon.

As always, our guides talked about various interesting subjects. Pelin told us the story of the Furry Explorers of Antarctica, Martin explained how penguins do see while Chloe talked about the wonderful world of the lichens. And of course, Sasha answered our many questions from the question box.

Around 5 pm, we went out to the outer decks fully dressed to enjoy our sailing. We were slowly approaching the Gullet. The scenery around us was very impressive. Fast moving clouds created a dramatic impact on the high mountains. It was mesmerizing to see the huge walls of the glaciers that met the sea. We were out and about enjoying the traverse up until 7pm.

From time to time, we escaped indoors to warm ourselves up with cup of tea then we ran out again. We were very grateful to have the chance to navigate this famous channel not once but twice. And this time we were rewarded with great views.



Around 8pm we were invited to dinner. Once more, Chef Ralf and his team put together a delicious buffet dinner for us. Another unforgettable day in paradise ended with a screening of a movie, Happy Feet 2. We highly recommend it!

KAYAK DIARY!

We paddled along Sally Cove in the Northwest of Horseshoe Island. As we paddled, we have spotted bluff fighting fur seals, peacefully sleeping fur seals. One lonely Adelie penguin, then further we found a beach full of Adelie penguins and crabeater seal on the rocks. As we paddled closer to the hut and the landing area, we watched a Weddell seal taking a nap. We enjoyed seeing the historic hut from the water.

Day 12 – Sunday 24th of March 2024

Damoy Point and around Port Lockroy

GPS 12:00 Position: 64° 53.3 'S / 064° 13.2'W

Wind: E 7 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Snow **Air Temp:** 0°C **Sea Temp:** +3,3°C

Guests onboard woke up to a bit of strong weather this morning adding a little excitement to the day! The wind was gusting around 25 knots, piercing through two-meter swell and in the middle of a snowy winter wonderland!

After another delicious breakfast from Hondius' galley team, our lecture program started off with a presentation about Charcot and his expeditions on the western side of the Antarctica Peninsula.

Jean- Baptiste Charcot, also known as the 'polar gentleman', was one of the early explorers of the region we would be exploring today. A heroic achievement from his first expedition included contribution to the geographical mapping of Antarctica by mapping over 1,000 kilometres of coastline. His second expedition from 1908-1910, on the ship *Le Pourquoi-Pas*, Charcot started in the South Shetland Islands and continued south towards Marguerite Bay and the Lemaire Channel area.

It is very extraordinary that we are currently sailing through and exploring the very place that Charcot explored and mapped in the early 1900s!

The next lecture for the morning was presented by Chloe where she passionately provided information about life underwater. She spoke about species like Antarctic cod, Patagonia toothfish, ice fish, and potentially most exciting would be the sea spiders. It has just been discovered that sea spiders have a unique method for oxygen transport in which they use their legs!

Chloe also shared a few stories about what it is like to scuba dive in Antarctica, an activity that Oceanwide provides on some of the trips. She explained how when diving next to an iceberg it changes your buoyancy due to the freshwater concentration increase and the beauty of listening to the icebergs crackle while underwater.



Chloe's lecture increased guests' appreciation for the smaller species in the water and the thing that accounts for 70% of the earth's surface.

After lunch the weather was finally in our favor and we could push further north to our afternoon location, Damoy Point. We would do a split landing and zodiac cruise with our focus on finding gentoo penguin colonies!

The cruise went to check out Port Lockroy and see the famous Penguin Post Office through the UK Heritage Trust.

On shore, we had a proper leg stretch and explored the freshly covered snowy landing site to see both gentoo penguins and another historical hut. Damoy Hut was established by the British Antarctic Survey in November 1975 with its primary purpose to be a transit station for staff and gear to the further south BAS location of Rothera Research Station.

When Rothera could not be accessed by ship due to sea ice, Damoy was the backup. It was last occupied in 1993 and provides a great example of what it would feel like to overwinter in Antarctica.



After a true Antarctica landing experience, it was time to head back onboard and continue north through the night.

KAYAK DIARY!



We started paddling in Dorian Bay to the west along Damoy Point and crossed to Goudier Island and back where we started.

We enjoyed watching gentoo penguins from our kayaks, we also watched them porpoising next to our kayaks. We have spotted two Weddell seals.

Day 13 – Monday 25th of March 2024

Portal Point and Charlotte Bay

GPS 12:00 Position: 64° 29.2 'S / 061° 45.0'W

Wind: W 4 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Partly Cloudy **Air Temp:** +1°C **Sea Temp:** +2,2°C

Today, Hondius woke up early and the morning was beautiful with soft light that reflected off the different icebergs you could see within the bay.

After breakfast, a visit to Portal Point was scheduled. Portal Point was used by the British in the 1950s as a base for survey works into the interior of the Antarctic Peninsula. There, dog sledge teams were able to make their way onto the slope.

At Portal Point, the expedition members were split in two groups for landing and Zodiac cruise, halfway through the morning the groups were swapped. The Point is a scenic Antarctic continental landing where we all had a chance to walk up the snow dome for a view over the iceberg littered bay.



People had a nice time playing in the snow or just sitting and enjoying the beautiful view of the bay. There was a Weddell Seal welcoming us near the landing site. On the other side of the neck, there were fur seals, mostly resting.

From the top of Portal Point, we had breathtaking views and saw groups of Humpback Whales who were in cooperative feeding modes. Their powerful blows could be heard from large distances and simply made us all speechless.



From the zodiacs, there were many beautiful encounters with the Humpback Whales: They were seen lunge feeding but also socializing in small groups. They also readily and curiously approached us and were spy hopping, fluking, pectoral fin waving around the zodiacs.

There were also huge swarms of krill visible, and it soon became evident that the Humpback Whales sometimes needed to rest right beside the zodiacs before moving

off again for short feeding stints. They were eating as much krill as they could to prepare themselves for their long migration north to their tropical breeding grounds. Many of us took photographs of their flukes which will help us to learn more about the migration route of these beautiful peninsula whales.

Part of the zodiac cruise also took us to a Chinstrap Penguin colony. The 'penguin highways' were visible from far away followed by the typical smell of a penguin colony. We then saw them hopping on the rocks and being actively involved in climbing slowly to the top of the colony.



We also spotted the first Snowy Sheathbill – a small white bird (in Dutch known as South Pole Chicken) which thrives in penguin colonies and feed on anything they can gather, including penguin poo.

After a delicious lunch the weather continued to be sunny with blue skies. Hondius started to transit through the Bransfield Strait towards the Drake. It was time to batten the hatches for our crossing to Ushuaia. Before heading into the Drake Passage, we were accompanied by yet more Humpback Whales, but we also started seeing distant taller blows of large baleen whales.

The day finished with our customary recap and briefing, and another delicious meal from the wonderful team in the galley! After dinner we all sat down in the Lecture room and watched Erin's lecture about her crossing of the Atlantic Ocean in a rowing boat.

KAYAK DIARY!

Amazing day kayaking with humpback whales. We witnessed them feeding on krill right next to our kayaks. We also have spotted lots of fur seals. We were surrounded by amazing views of giant icebergs as we paddled.



Day 14 – Tuesday 26th of March 2024

Back at the Drake Passage

GPS 12:00 Position: 60° 05.5 'S / 063° 37.2'W

Wind: NNW 5 **Sea State:** Slight **Weather:** Cloudy **Air Temp:** +3°C **Sea Temp:** +4,5°C

The dawn's first light accompanied by the morning broadcast gradually awakened everyone. Today marked the first day of the return journey to Ushuaia. It was time to return the boots, rented equipment, and waterproof orange backpacks in preparation for the next cruise. Expedition Team spread out to fill their duties and guests engaged in all sorts of activities, cards included.



The first lecture commenced at 10:00am presented by Ursula, who captivated the audience with her insights into the diverse Feeding Strategies of whales in the ocean, leaving a lasting impression on all.

Our expedition leader Pippa invited us to her lecture "From Whaling to Research" delving into the origins of the relationship between human interaction with whales, starting with the early whaling era through to

current research.

After lunch as the ship began crossing the Drake Passage, Gabi present her lecture "Becoming Sir Francis Drake" digging deep into the story of the man after whom the tumultuous waters are named.

The hotel department provided exquisite snacks for everyone to enjoy a moment of relaxation and before we knew it, it was time for Adam to share his experiences and talk about "Supporting Antarctic Science". As an experienced British Antarctic Survey employee, his deep insights into the varied facets of Antarctica and the challenges faced by different nations in establishing and maintaining research stations in the region captivated the audience.

At one of the last recaps Ursula then introduced the "Happy Whale Citizen Science Project", providing an opportunity for participants to upload photos of whale tails to contribute to whale research. Meika followed with a historical knowledge sharing session, recounting the touching story of "The Last Dutch Whaler," leaving a profound impact on the audience. Finally, Rose answered the last questions from the question box.

Just before dinner's end, Sasha's voice came over the broadcast, ready to share his legendary life story, from the ghost towns of the Arctic to the Antarctic, and his work at Russian research stations, entertaining us with his lively and humorous tales.



Day 15 – Wednesday 27th of March 2024

Drake Passage

GPS 12:00 Position: 55° 35.0 'S / 066° 04.7'W

Wind: W 7 **Sea State:** Moderate **Weather:** Partly Cloudy **Air Temp:** +5°C **Sea Temp:** +8,9°C

We woke to a bright, sunny morning but with winds blowing at storm force 10 and a great deal of rock & rolling. By now, many of us had our sea legs, so breakfast was well attended. The decks were closed initially but as we came into the shelter of Cape Horn, the swell subsided and we were able to get out and



enjoy the seabirds that were following the ship. We were now coming onto the continental shelf of South America and the associated upwelling of nutrients and food are what attract these birds to this area.

Numerous Wandering Albatross, of many ages and associated plumage states, were the highlight but a single Southern Royal Albatross was also photographed. Sooty Shearwaters were starting to appear alongside small fleet of Southern Giant Petrels. Inside, Pelin gave her talk in the lecture

room on 'Greenhouse to Icehouse', which included a summary of the Antarctic Treaty. Andrew followed later in the morning with his personal take of the added value that can be extracted from our very own photographs of wildlife.

Before lunch the coast of Tierra del Fuego was in sight and after, we got the call to settle our on-board bills (*how much did I spend!?!).* Meike presented on the 'Impact of Marine Plastic on Birds' and Elizabeth had the honour to close our entire lecture programme with her great insight into wildlife conservation. How much we have learnt along the way!



By the late afternoon we were into the Beagle Channel, greeted by Dusky Dolphin and Sei Whales. We then changed for our final evening activities; this started by joining the Captain to toast the success of our voyage, followed by thanking Pippa and her fantastic team for all their hard work.

We then sat back to enjoy the incredible slide show prepared by Georgina.

Excited by reliving the memories of our trip, we went down for our final dinner and a chance to extend more thanks to all the other departments on the ship, who had made our expedition an experience we will cherish forever.

Day 16 – Thursday 28th of March 2024

Ushuaia

GPS 06:00 Position: 54° 51.8 'S / 068° 01.9'W

Wind: N 2 **Sea State:** Calm **Weather:** Partly Cloudy **Air Temp:** +3°C **Sea Temp:** +10,1°C

After an awkwardly still night in port in Ushuaia we wake up one final time to the voice of Pippa. Bags packed, breakfast served, time for a very emotional moment! Time to say farewell and till the next time.

Over the last two weeks we have seen some incredibly remote and wild places and the creatures that defy the odds and called them home. We have learnt inspiring new things about the polar environment and our precious oceans, and we have memories that will live forever in our minds. And most of all, we have gotten to know each other pretty well and made some connections that will last a lifetime.

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 3059,4 Nautical Miles

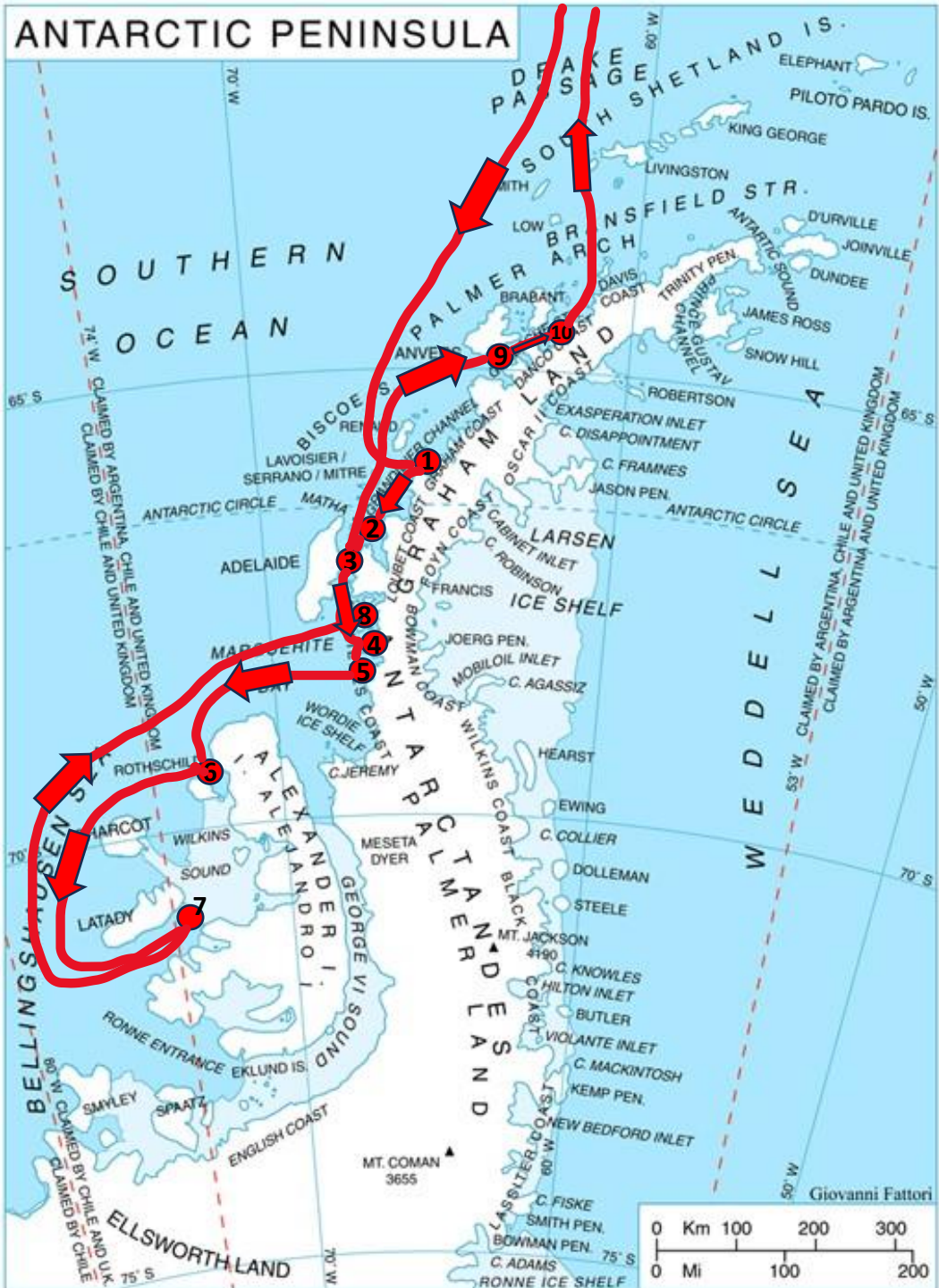
Furthest point south: 71° 23.0072'S 074°30.1135'W



On behalf of everyone on board we thank You for travelling with us and hope to see You again somewhere around the globe!



Antarctic Peninsula



1. Prospect Point (Continent Landing)
2. Detaille Island
3. Antarctic Circle (Ceremony)
4. Stonington Island
5. Red Rock Ridge
6. Lazarev Bay
7. Wilkins Ice Shelf
8. Horseshoe Island
9. Damoy Point
10. Portal Point (Continent Landing)

HDS30 - Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region

English	Latin	13-mrt	14-mrt	15-mrt	16-mrt	17-mrt	18-mrt	19-mrt	20-mrt	21-mrt	22-mrt	23-mrt	24-mrt	25-mrt	26-mrt	27-mrt	28-mrt
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>							X	X	X							
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>																
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X		X					
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>												X	X			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>			X										X	X		
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>																
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>																X
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		X	X													X
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>																
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		X														X
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	X	X	X													X
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>		X	X										X			X
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>		X								X	X			X		
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>																
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>			X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X				
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>		X								X				X		
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>							X	X		X						
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>					X		X	X	X		X					
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>			X											X	X	
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		X												X	X	
Soft-Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>		X	X											X		
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		X	X													X
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>																X
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>		X	X													
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>															X	
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>Fregetta tropica</i>		X	X													X
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>																X
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>			X													
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>																X
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	X															X
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			
Snowy (Pale-faced) Sheatbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>												X	X			
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>	X															
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X		X					
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta lonnbergi</i>			X	X	X		X				X	X				X
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	X															X
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	X			X	X	X					X	X	X			
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	X															X
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X			
Kerguelen Petrel	<i>Aphrodroma brevirostis</i>		X												X		

Pippa Low – Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

Alexander Romanovskiy - Assistant Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

Chloé Maréchal – Assistant Expedition Leader



Chloé is a dedicated diver with an insatiable passion for marine life and exploration. Armed with a European master's degree in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, she's on a mission to share her expertise and promote the conservation of the marine environment. But here's the twist—while everyone else is busy oohing and aahing over flashy dolphins and majestic whales, Chloé's heart belongs to the unsung heroes of the ocean—the often underrated world of plankton and the mysteries of unseen microbes. She's here to show that even the tiniest organisms can have big personalities!

In April 2013, Chloé's dedication and skills were recognized when she was chosen as the prestigious 2013-14 European Rolex Our World Underwater Scholar. This remarkable opportunity allowed her to work alongside renowned leaders in the fields of marine science and diving industry, providing her with diverse experiences and invaluable insights. During this transformative year, her first encounter with Antarctica left an indelible mark, igniting a lifelong passion for polar exploration.

Chloé isn't just a science nerd with a thing for plankton. She's an adventurous soul with an insatiable curiosity. She's dived across all continents, lived in 20 countries, and now sails on her 12-meter aluminum boat. Together with her partner she has recently crossed the challenging waters of the North Sea.

Currently, Chloé calls northern Norway her home, residing just above the polar circle. When not guiding, she explores underwater wonders, uncovers forgotten wrecks, and maps uncharted underwater caves. Her passion for the ocean, sailing, and work with Oceanwide Expeditions fuel her relentless pursuit of adventure.

Rose Li Hong - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

Elizabeth Robinson – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

Ursula Tschenter - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

Pelin Asfuroglu – Expedition Guide



Pelin was born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Marijke Nita de Boer - Expedition Guide



Marijke grew up in the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany. In the early-90s, she worked over a number of summers as a field biologist specialising in sea turtle conservation in Greece. This was a magnificent experience and formed the inspiration for switching her Academic career towards Marine Biology.

She is fascinated by cetaceans, and has worked with Minke whales, Killer whales, Blue whales, Belugas, Bottlenose whales in the Arctic Labrador Sea, Risso's dolphins and Sperm whales. She has also participated in various ocean-crossing surveys, namely the Davis Strait, Indian Ocean, South China Sea, Southern Ocean and Antarctica. These surveys formed the core foundation of her detailed in-depth experience with marine mammals.

She completed a MSc in Marine Ecology (University of Utrecht) and a PhD (Marine Mammal Ecology) at the University of Wageningen focusing on the abundance and distribution of cetaceans using (low-cost) seagoing vessels ('Platforms of Opportunity'). Nowadays her research focuses on marine fauna within the Wider Caribbean Region, West Africa and Cornwall (UK). Marijke has produced a wide selection of scientific publications.

Whilst she very much enjoys the academic side of her career, her first love is sharing her knowledge in the field. She has worked as a wildlife guide during multiple oceanic expeditions and is happy to 'escape the office'. She currently lives in the Netherlands and England and speaks Dutch, English and German. The ocean is very special to her – 'after more than 20 years of sailing the seven seas, it never fails to educate, surprise and enthral me'.

Adam Burke – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Meike Sjoer - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annelou Hulsker – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Andrew Crowder – Expedition Guide



Andrew is an experienced naturalist with a life long history of observation, study and sheer enjoyment of wildlife. His interest in natural history started as a young boy watching birds and they remain his first passion. Focusing mainly on Western Palearctic species, he has travelled extensively and accrued a wealth of knowledge. As part of that journey of discovery, he has also developed self-taught skills in

wildlife photography.

Andrew has always been drawn to the sea and is a CMAS Class 2/BSAC qualified Advanced Scuba Diver; he has had the privilege of experiencing incredible marine life which few others get to see. Time spent exploring the underwater world helped spawn his other main interest: cetaceans. Andrew has over twenty years of experience with these amazing animals, undertaking scientific surveys and guiding on cruise ships in UK, European and Polar waters.

Andrew recognises the powerful emotional reaction in humans when they have amazing wildlife encounters. He uses his knowledge and enthusiasm to help more people share such inspirational experiences and thereby promote the conservation of our precious natural world.

Martin Anstee - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

Georgina Strange - Expedition Guide



Georgina is a professional nature photographer and general wildlife enthusiast from the Falkland Islands. Her rather unique upbringing on a very small and remote island nature reserve has instilled a deep passion for wild places, and you'll most likely find her out on a cliff edge in a storm, revelling in the gales of wind that frequent the Falklands!

Georgina studied in England for sixth-form college, followed by an adventure to Australia for her university degree in Photography.

After managing her family's conservation trust on New Island in the Falklands for many years, regularly working with the many visiting expedition ships shoreside, Georgina swapped a land-based life for an ocean-based one and started as expedition photographer to South Georgia and the Antarctic in 2017, and to the Arctic in 2019, often switching roles to work as the on-board ornithologist to share her love of the winged creatures of the world, too!

During her off-ship season, Georgina runs her own wildlife photography tours at home to fulfil her passion for making captivating images of nature. Whenever possible, she most enjoys balancing out the time spent guiding in cold and windy places for quality time in the hotter and sunnier climes of the world!

Georgina's photography has made it to Outdoor Photographer of the Year, Bird Photographer of the Year, Wild Art Photographer and the finals of the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year, as well as several well-known nature photography magazines and smaller competitions. Always happy to share knowledge and techniques, maybe you will go home with some competition-worthy images of your special trip, too!

Gabi Kolodko - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

Erin Bastian – Lead Kayak Guide



Erin is a UKCC level 3 Sea Kayak Coach and BCU 5* sea kayak leader.

Erin is a passionate sea kayaker with over 15 years experience leading expeditions around the world, from the icy fjords of Patagonia, Greenland, and Arctic Norway, to the warm waters of the Mediterranean, circumnavigating the islands of Sardinia, Corsica, and Menorca. In 2019 Erin crossed the Aegean sea by kayak, planning a route which linked 17 Greek islands and making 16 significant open water crossings.

Erin's keen sense for adventure and love for the ocean inspired her to row across the Atlantic ocean in 2021. Making the 3000 mile crossing from La Gomera to Antigua, as part of a team of 4 women, in 40 days.

Erin finds herself drawn to the colder waters of the poles, where exploring by kayak allows her to enjoy the incredible wildlife, navigate between enormous icebergs and watch glaciers calve into the ocean. Erin has a real love for introducing others to the sport of kayaking with its freedom to explore and ability to get people closer to nature.

Seda Tunca - Kayak Guide



Seda was born in Istanbul. She has always been curious about different cultures and wildlife since her childhood.

This curiosity led her to start her overseas adventures with studying abroad in Spain and Malta. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Tourism Management. She has been working as an outdoor educator and sea kayak guide around the world for 10 years now.

She guided trips in South Africa, Namibia, Antarctica, Chile, Kenya, Australia, Hong Kong, Iceland, Svalbard, UK, Malaysia, Thailand and Turkiye. She has worked as an Outdoor Educator at UWC, helping young people to build a connection with nature.

When Seda is not guiding, she can be found in her permaculture garden where she is turning a degraded land into a little food forest and an oasis for wildlife.

Seda is also a mixed media artist. She reflects her experiences onto canvas with her paints during or after trips.

Seda is very excited to share her passion for the outdoors with Oceanwide guests.

Ruth Gussenhoven – Ships Doctor



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

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

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

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

WELCOME ABOARD!

Luggage will be delivered to your cabin. Please make check to make sure you have received all your luggage. If you have any extra luggage in your cabin – please notify a crew member.

**** 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 accommodated on Deck 3 (Cabins 301-337) will go to MUSTER STATION A which is the Restaurant on Deck 4

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

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

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

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

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

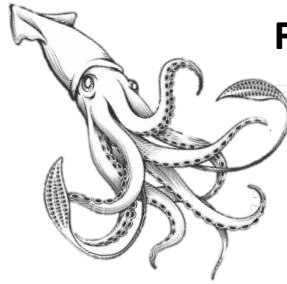
Take your seasickness medication before we head out into open sea- the doctor will be available in the lounge after dinner to assist.



- 0745 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 1000 **Birds of the Drake Passage** – Please join Martin in the **lounge** for his lecture on the winged wonders of the Drake Passage.
- 1145 **Muck Boots** - We will call you by colour group to collect your Muck boots from the boot room on **deck 3**. *Please listen for announcements.*
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 1400 **Kayaking briefing** – Those who have prebooked kayaking - please join Erin and Seda in the **lecture room** (deck 5) for a kayak introduction and briefing. If you are kayaking, this briefing is mandatory. You can find the list of those confirmed on the kayaking activity at reception. If you are on the waitlist – you should also attend this briefing in case of any cancellations.
- 1500 **Geographical introduction of Antarctica** – Please join Sasha in the **lounge** (deck 5) for his lecture introducing Antarctic Geography.
- 1630 **How to identify the Whales of Antarctica** – Please join Marijke in the **lounge** (deck 5) to learn how to spot and identify the ocean giants of Antarctica.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our first daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4) – *Tonight's dinner will be plated – please make your way to the dining room promptly.*



Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle
Wilkins's ice shelf
Friday 15th March 2024
At Sea to Antarctica



- 0745 **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 0915 The Expedition Team invites you the **Lounge** (Deck 5) for the **MANDATORY IAATO and Zodiac** briefing. Attendance will be checked.
- 1130 **Albatross, Albatross** - Please join **Andrew** in the **lounge** (deck 5) for his lecture exploring the natural history and identification of the flying giants.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 1400 **Biosecurity:** We will call you by deck, to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) to complete our biosecurity cleaning – please bring all your outerwear, backpacks, tripods and walking sticks to be cleaned and/or checked. ***Please listen for announcements.***
- 1630 **Pioneers of Antarctic explorations: De Gerlache and the Belgica expedition** - Please join **Pelin** in the **lounge** (deck 5) to hear the fascinating story that began the era known as the heroic age of Antarctic exploration.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition Team in **the lounge** (deck 5) for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4) – *dinner will be plated, please make your way to the dining room promptly. Bon Appetite!*

“My soul is full of longing
for the secret of the sea,
and the heart of the great ocean
sends a thrilling pulse through me.”
— **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**



Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle
Wilkins ice shelf
Saturday 16th March 2024
First sights of Antarctica
Prospect point & Fish islands

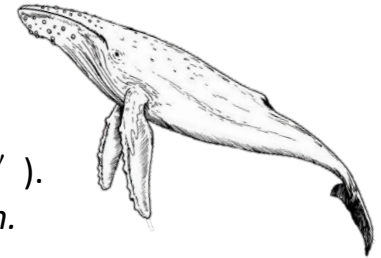


- 0745 **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0930 **Antarctica as a comparison to Mars & outer space** - Please join **Annelou** in the **lounge** for a very informative lecture to learn why antarctica is so important to learn more about Mars.
- 1030 **Kayakers** – Please meet **Erin** and **Seda** at the zodiac boarding area to pick up your kayaking gear.
- 1100 **A penguin's world** - Please join **Georgina** in the **lounge** to learn about the penguins of the Antarctic Peninsula.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room**.

This afternoon we hope to take you on a Zodiac cruise around the Fish Islands. This group of islands, named after fish (Flounder, Mackerel, Salmon, and Trout), are host to Adelie penguins and might give us a chance to view different species of seals. We also hope to offer a short continental landing at Prospect Point if ice conditions allow.

- 1500 **Orange group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise around the Fish islands. *Please wait for announcements.*
- 1515 **Blue group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise around the Fish islands. *Please wait for announcements.*
- 1530 **Kayaking group A** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area dressed and ready to go kayaking.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition Team in **the lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** – *dinner will be plated, please make your way to the dining room promptly. Bon Appetite!*

“Antarctica has 90 percent of the world’s ice, and God help us if it melts, whales will be swimming in the streets of New York.” — Jacques-Yves Cousteau



- +/-0400 We will be crossing the **Polar Circle** (66° 33' 39").
We will celebrate our circle crossing this afternoon.
- 0645 **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning!
- 0700 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

In the morning we hope to land at Detaille island. Though there is a small rookery of Adélie penguins living on the island, the main attraction is the abandoned British station: Base W. The base was occupied between 1956 and 1959, after which it was hurriedly evacuated when its supply ship became blocked by ice. The personnel had to leave across the pack ice, abandoning most of their gear.

- 0800 **Blue Group** - please come to the zodiac boarding area for a **landing** at Detaille island.
- 0815 **Orange Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a **zodiac cruise** at Detaille Island.
- GROUPS WILL SWAP AT THE BEACH.**
BOTH GROUPS WILL LAND AND ZODIAC CRUISE.
- 0830 **Kayaking Group B** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room**.

In the afternoon we hope to ship cruise the stunning channel known as the Gullet which runs between the southern edge of Hansen Island and Adelaide Island. It offers dramatic scenery and the chance of iconic wildlife.



ANTARCTIC CIRCLE CEREMONY!



We would also like to use the opportunity of the ship cruise to celebrate the crossing of the Polar Circle at the bow of Hondius. Please listen for announcements for this celebration.

- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition Team in **the lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** – *dinner will be plated, please make your way to the dining room promptly. Bon Appetite!*

0645 **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning!

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



In the morning we hope to land at Stonington island in Marguerite Bay. It holds significant human history as one of the southernmost historic sites on the peninsula. It hosted two winter expeditions: East Base by the US Antarctic Service in 1939 and "Base E" by the British in the 1940s. Both sites feature protected buildings and artifacts.

*We also hope to offer a **polar plunge** at Stonington for those brave enough! This will take place for everyone at the end of the second landing. Please wear your swimming gear under your outdoor clothing. We will bring the towels (please do not bring the towels from your cabin).*

0800 **Orange Group** – Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Stonington Island.

0815 **Blue Group** – Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise around Stonington Island.

GROUPS WILL SWAP AT THE BEACH. BOTH GROUPS WILL LAND AND ZODIAC CRUISE.

0830 **Kayakers group A** – Please come to the zodiac boarding area dressed and ready for kayaking.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room**.

In the afternoon we hope to zodiac cruise Red Rock Ridge, a prominent reddish-colored headland towering at 690 meters, sticking out from the Western coast of Graham Land. We hope to see Adelie penguins and different types of seals.

1415 **Blue Group** – Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Red Rock Ridge.

1430 **Orange Group** – Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Red Rock Ridge.

1445 **Kayakers group B** – Please come to the zodiac boarding area.

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

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** – *Bon Appetite!*

- "I fear the worst!"

- "I fear the worst too, Bill, because fearing the best is a complete waste of time."

Bill and Will the krill, Happy Feet 2.

0745 **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning!
0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.



Today is a true Expedition Day!

In the morning we will continue our journey southward. We welcome you to join us on the bridge and outside on decks to observe wildlife and admire the Antarctic scenery.

0930 Already know how to press shutter button on your camera? Make one more step forward in learning the art of **photography** with **Georgina** in the **lounge**.

1100 It's never too late to expand your knowledge! Don't miss your chance to learn more about pinnipeds with **Ursula** in the **lounge** on her **lecture** about seals of Antarctica.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room**.

In the afternoon we hope to reach Lazarev Bay, located in the eastern part of Antarctica. It has been named after the Russian explorer Mikhail Lazarev. Here we hope to be able to view the Northern tip of Alexander Island, and Rothschild Island – we will also be on the lookout for a range of wildlife. If possible, we would hope to do an activity off the ship, but this will depend on conditions and our time of arrival.

Our arrival time at Lazarev Bay will depend on ice conditions and our progress during the night. We will keep you updated throughout the afternoon.

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

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** – *Bon Appetite!*

*“Victory awaits him who has everything in order - luck, people call it”
— Roald Amundsen*



Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle


Wilkins ice shelf

Wednesday 20th March 2024

Towards Wilkins ice shelf



Today we make our way towards Wilkins Ice Shelf – we will be spending the day on the ship; sailing past icebergs and spotting for wildlife throughout the day.

- 0745 **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0915 Already know how to press shutter button on your camera? Make one more step forward in learning the art of photography with Georgina in the lounge.
- 1100 Go with the flow and drift to the main lounge to be amazed by the details of **Drifting Life Of The Southern Ocean** (plankton) **Chloe**. 
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room**.
- 1500 Don't be silly, be sealy instead and join **Ursula** in the main lounge for the lecture about pinnipeds of the Antarctic Peninsula.
- 1630 The Heroic age of Antarctica goes on! Join **Adam** and know the details of his experience **surviving** living at the Rothera station.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition Team in **the lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** – *Bon Appetite!*

“Some will tell you that you are mad, and nearly all will say, 'What is the use?' For we are a nation of shopkeepers, and no shopkeeper will look at research which will not promise him a financial return within a year. And so, you will sledge nearly alone, but those with whom you sledge will not be shopkeepers: that is worth a good deal. If you march your Winter Journeys, you will have your reward, so long as all you want is a penguin's egg.” - Apsley Cherry-Garrard

0645 **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning!

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

This morning we hope to reach the Southern edge of Wilkins Ice Shelf. The morning activities will be dependent on ice conditions in the area. Please standby for announcements.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room**.

This afternoon we will make our way back North, back towards Marguerite Bay. We will likely pass through more pack ice and will be on the lookout for more wildlife along the way.

1500 **Pelin** invites you in the **lounge** for a talk about an unsung hero of the great age of polar exploration: **George Huber Wilkins**.

1630 **Elizabeth** invites you in the **lounge** for a lecture about her favourite gentle giant: **The Humpback Whale**.

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

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** – *Bon Appetite!*



-“Welcome to my Ice Shelf!”

- *George Hubert Wilkins (probably)*

0745 **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning!

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



From now on we sail North, but don't be upset, we still have activities planned. Today nevertheless we only navigate back towards Marguerite Bay. We will likely pass through more pack ice and will be on the lookout for more wildlife along the way. We will be travelling in open sea and the ship will likely move more – please be careful and keep one hand for the ship.

0930 **Elizabeth** invites you in the **lounge** for a lecture about her favourite gentle giant: **The Humpback Whale**.

1130 **Ice Core Drilling to Reveal the Past**. Please join Annelou in the **lecture room** and listen to her lecture about the science behind the ice.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room**.



1500 Please join **Chef Ralf** in the lounge for his talk on life in the **Hondius kitchen**.

1630 Don't miss a chance to take a dive into the cold waters of the Southern Ocean not leaving the **lounge**. Join **Chloe** for a lecture about **Diving in High Latitudes**.

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

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** – *Bon Appetite!*



"We have made our mark on the world, but we have really done nothing that the trees and creeping plants, ice and erosion, cannot remove in a fairly short time."

— John Steinbeck, *The Log from the Sea of Cortez*





Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle
Wilkins ice shelf
Saturday 23rd March 2024
Bongrain Point & Horseshoe Island



0745 **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning!

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

In the morning we hope to land at Horseshoe Island. Measuring 12 km (7.5 miles) long and 6 km (3.7 miles) wide, Horseshoe Island is named for the peaks that give the island its shape. It was discovered and named by the Graham Land Expedition crew that, led by Australian navigator John Rymill, charted Horseshoe Island and other nearby areas in 1936–37.

+/- 1000 **Orange Group** – Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Horseshoe Island.

+/-1015 **Blue Group** – Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise near Horseshoe Island.

+/-1030 **Kayakers group B** – Please come to the zodiac boarding area dressed and ready for kayaking.

+/-1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room**.

Late afternoon we hope to attempt to navigate through The Gullet once again, this time South to North. Please listen to announcements and be ready to spend some time on the open decks to enjoy the stunning views of one of the most picturesque places of the Antarctic peninsula.

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

1930 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** – *Bon Appetite!*

*“Better a live donkey than a dead lion.”
— Shackleton (1874–1922), after failing to reach the south pole by 100 km.*



Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle
Wilkins ice shelf
Sunday 24th March 2024
Port Charcot & Lemaire Channel



- 0745 **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

This morning we will be sailing North. Our aim is to arrive at Damoy Point by early afternoon.

- 0930 **Rose** welcomes you in the **lounge** for her lecture about the Commandant Charcot. *Pouquoi pas?* This renowned French polar explorer made significant contributions to Antarctic exploration in the early 20th century, including establishing the first permanent research station in the region.

- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room**.

In the afternoon we hope to land and cruise at Damoy Point; a rocky headland on the west coast of Wiencke Island, near the northern entrance to the natural harbor at Port Lockroy. It was discovered and mapped by the French Antarctic expedition of 1903 led by Charcot. Here, we hope to visit our first Gentoo Penguin colony and a historic hut.

- +/-1500 **Blue Group** – Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Damoy Point.
- +/-1515 **Orange Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Damoy Point.
- +/-1530 **Kayakers group A** – Please come to the zodiac boarding area dressed and ready for kayaking.
- 1900 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition Team in **the lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** – *Bon Appetite!*

“Lichens are fungi that have discovered agriculture.”
- Lichenologist Trevor Goward



Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle
Wilkins ice shelf
Sunday 24th March 2024
Port Charcot & Lemaire Channel




0745 **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning!

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

This morning we will be sailing North. Our aim is to arrive at Port Charcot by early afternoon. However, please be aware that our plans are subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions. We may adjust our schedule and landing location accordingly.

Please listens for announcements.

0930  **Rose** welcomes you in the **lounge** for her lecture about the Commandant Charcot. *Pouquoi pas?* This renowned French polar explorer made significant contributions to Antarctic exploration in the early 20th century, including establishing the first permanent research station in the region.

+/-1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room**.

In the afternoon, we hope to land in Port Charcot, a small bay at the north end of Booth Island. It was first mapped in 1904 when the French Antarctic expedition led by Jean-Baptiste Charcot over-wintered here. We hope to see our first Gentoo Penguins!

+/-1330 **Blue Group** – Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a Landing at Port Charcot.

+/-1515 **Orange Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a Landing at Port Charcot.

In the evening we hope to ship cruise the iconic Lemaire channel! Nicknamed "Kodak Gap"; the iceberg-filled passage, is 11 km (6.8 mi) long and just 600 metres (2,000 ft) wide at its narrowest point.

1900 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition Team in **the lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

1930 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** – *Bon Appetite!*

*"Lichens are fungi that have discovered agriculture."
- Lichenologist Trevor Goward*



Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle
Wilkins ice shelf
Monday 25th March 2024
Portal Point – Farewell, Antarctica



0715 **Wakeup Call** – Good Morning!

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

In the morning, we hope to do a landing and a Zodiac cruise at Portal point, on the west coast of Graham Land. There are no penguin colonies because of the abundant snow cover, however Portal Point is a continental landing with beautiful views over Charlotte Bay. We hope to encounter Chinstrap Penguins and other Antarctic wildlife during the zodiac cruise.

0830 **Orange Group** – Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Portal Point.

0845 **Blue Goup** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Portal Point.

0900 **Kayaking Group B** – Please come to the zodiac boarding dressed and ready for kayaking.

**GROUPS WILL SWAP AT THE BEACH.
BOTH GROUPS WILL LAND AND ZODIAC CRUISE.**

+/-1230 **Lunch** is served in the **dining room**.

In the afternoon, we will make our way through the Gerlache strait and head North, leaving Antarctica. Please enjoy these last sights.

Later in the evening we will sail into the open sea– 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 lunch to assist.

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

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** – *Bon Appetite!*

*"Penguin meat tastes excellent."
— Roald Amundsen (1872–1928)*

No wakeup call – Enjoy your morning!

Today we will make our way North in the Drake Passage. We do not expect very rough conditions, however, please take care when moving around the ship.

Keep at least one hand for the ship.

- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0915 **Muck Boot, Red Bags & Rental Gear Collection** – We will call you by deck to return your muck boots, red dry bags and any rental gear to the **shell doors on deck 3**. Please listen for announcements.
- 1000 **Feeding Ecology** – Please join Ursula in the **lounge** for her presentation on cetacean feeding strategies.
- 1130 **From Whaling to Research**– Please join Pippa in the **lounge** for her lecture on the history of human interaction with whales; starting with the early whaling era through to current research.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1500 **Becoming Sir Frances Drake** – Please join Gabi in the **Lounge** for her presentation on the history and story of the ocean passages' namesake.
- 1630 **Supporting Antarctic Science** – Please join Adam in the **Lounge** to hear more about his time working for British Antarctic Survey.
- 1815 **Briefing & Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily briefing and recap.
- 1900 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

Trip log. *If you would like to receive the trip log (written each day by the guides), as well as the trip map, and species list – please sign up on the starboard most computer in the lecture room – here you can put your email address to receive the trip log. Additionally – if you would like to share any photographs – please use the lecture room computers.*

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

No wakeup call – Enjoy your morning!



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

0915 **Pelin** invites you in the **lounge** for her lecture : **Greenhouse to ice house**. You will learn about the surprising history about the Antarctic continent. **Antarctic Treaty System** – At the end of her lecture **Pelin** will tell you about the governance of Antarctica.

1115 Please join **Andrew** in the **lounge** for a talk about **The Importance of Wildlife Photography**. You will learn how pictures YOU take can contribute to expand scientific knowledge.

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

During the afternoon we hope to enter the Beagle Channel. We will be keeping an eye out for wildlife and enjoying the views of the Beagle Channel by day!

1500 This afternoon, meet **Meike** in the **lounge** where she will discuss about **The Impact of Marine Plastic on Birds**.

1630 In her lecture named '**Endangered**' **Elizabeth** will introduce you to wildlife conservation.

1800 **Farewell Toast & Trip Slideshow** - Please join the captain and the expedition team in the **lounge** for a toast to our voyage through the Southern Ocean and a slideshow of our expedition.

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

"I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be."

— Douglas Adams, The Long Dark Tea-Time of the Soul