



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Antarctica

18th October – 7th November 2024



M/V Plancius

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

Captain Evgeny Levakov

and his international crew

Chief Officer: **Viki Virtanen**
2nd Officer: **Giovanie Simene**
3rd Officer: **Solina Duguay**

Chief Engineer: **Sebastian Alexandru**

Hotel Manager: **Oleksandr Lyebedyev**
Assist. Hotel Manager: **Bogdan Manievski**
Head Chef: **Bawa Gaurav**

Ships Doctor: **Zoe Allen**

Expedition Leader: **Ali Liddle**
Assist. Expedition Leader: **Allan White**
Expedition Guides: **William Kennedy**
Chloe Power
Steffi Liller
Esther Josten
Gabi Kolodko
Yves Adams

Day 1 – 18th October

Puerto Madryn, Argentina - Embarkation Day

15:00 GPS Position: 42° 46' 9.1N/ 65° 02' 18.64" E

Weather: Clear, Air Temp: 21°C, Sea Temp: 15°C



Today is the day! It is finally time for us to embark upon our epic adventure! In the late afternoon we arrived at our ship, Plancius, our new home for the next twenty days. It had been a long journey for most of us, so we were glad of the warm welcome provided by the Staff. The day was cloudless, warm and a good omen for the three weeks ahead of us.

Puerto Madryn was good to us, some of us spending a few days exploring the area, birdwatching or simply enjoying the last opportunity for a warm embrace from the sun before the frigid weather ahead of us.

We all made it in good time onto the dock, after a warm goodbye from the local army personnel and the sweet dogs we set foot on Plancius where we slowly departed under a gorgeous setting sun.

We had to go through the mandatory emergency drill before being treated to some snacks and a customer glass of bubble after meeting our captain and the expedition team for a toast to a successful voyage.



The evening was spent meeting our co travelers, new room mates and crew members with whom we will form a new happy family throughout the trip.

Day 2 – 19th October

At Sea towards The Falkland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 45°18.0'N / 063°30.8'E

Weather: Clear, **Air Temp:** 17°C, **Sea Temp:** 13°C



After a first well-deserved sleep on board Plancius we got spoiled with very calm waters and a beautiful sunrise. The early birdwatchers and photographers managed to spot a long list of pelagic birds and several whale species along with the odd South American sea lions. The numerous Sei whales and their blows as far as the eye could see made us long and dream for many more whale sightings further along the trip.

Numbers of binoculars and cameras started to line up more and more as we enjoy a flat sea, a warm South-Atlantic Sea breeze while we started losing sight of the Argentinian coastline.

The long sleepers got to be woken up by our EL's first wake-up call on the ship's announcement system, informing everyone breakfast was being served!

In the morning, in the observation lounge, Ali enlightened us all about her 15 year long stay in the Falklands, showing how life on these remote islands is, and why we should pay a visit there.

Later that morning, Yves told us all about the basics of photography, and how to set your camera for this trip. Of course, it didn't take long before more Sei whales turned up during Yves' lecture, we all took this opportunity to go outside for a short break with a show.





The warm sun and mild breeze outside made it very comfortable out on deck, while more bird species were added to the list, especially numbers of albatrosses, Cape petrels, prions,... started to rise, making it clear we were getting further and further from land.

After our first lunch -oh boy what a choice at the buffet!- our marine biologist Chloe gave a beautiful presentation about the whale species we had seen so far and other

species we still hope to expect and see.

Time flew by on this amazing sunny day and new connections were being made throughout the day, curious about all our new shipmates on this adventure.

Unfortunately, a regrettable emergency on board forced us to change course and head for Comodoro Rivadavia, an Argentinian coastal city, for a small detour on our way to the Falkland Islands.

Will introduced us to the unique political situation of the Falkland's and gave us a better understanding on the history and problems these remote islands have known in the past.

In the restaurant we enjoyed our served dinner prepared by the amazing kitchen staff, before we had the opportunity to witness a beautiful sunset, sailing towards the west for the night. A lot of sun and calm sea on our first expedition day!



Day 3 – 20th October

Comodoro Rivadavia, at sea towards the Falkland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 45°86.7'S / 067°50.0'E

Weather: Sunny, **Air Temp:** 18°C, **Sea Temp:** 15°C



We awoke to beautiful sunny weather and calm seas as Plancius made her way towards the Argentine coast. Our unscheduled next port of call would be the coastal city of Comodoro Rivadavia, which hosted the most available and closest medical facilities for the emergency situation on board. This small detour allowed opportunities for more wildlife spotting and to get a glimpse of a part

of Argentina that most of us had never laid eyes upon. After successfully transferring our guest from the ship to shore with the assistance of Plancius staff and local Argentine authorities, we headed back on course.

The birdwatchers were out in full force, however due to the calm conditions, there were not many albatrosses around as these birds love gliding with the wind. Some more cetaceans were spotted nevertheless, including Peale's dolphins, more sei whales and a few southern right whales.

Another delicious lunch was served, and then we met with Ali in the main lounge to hear about our updated plans for the next few days. Chloe then gave us a talk about seals of the Southern Ocean which gave us lots of information about the species we may encounter on our trip and a bit about their biology and behavior. She explained the main difference between 'true' and 'eared' seals.



After some tea and cake, we were joined by Allan who gave us a very interesting talk about life in

the Falkland Islands. As a fifth generation Falkland Islander, Allan has an immense passion for his island home. He spoke fondly of the time him and his wife lived on the remote West Point Island where they became masters of all trades- plumbers, electricians, butchers

and more, as their remote living situation meant you had to learn to fix things yourself. We learnt about the Falkland Island local produce such as diddle dee jam and the signature '365' dish- a plate of mutton for every day of the year. Hearing about all these stories made us all the more excited for our visit in the days ahead.

Ali gave us a quick briefing of our next days plans, followed by a short recap by Gabi and Steffi about albatrosses in the literature and southern right whales respectively.

Dinner was served, and dessert interrupted by a pod of playful Peale's dolphins alongside the Plancius in the gorgeous South Atlantic sunset.



Day 4 – 21st October

At sea towards the Falkland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 48°44.4'S / 063°15.5'E

Weather: Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 13°C, **Sea Temp:** 6°C

Our third day at sea dawned with light winds and a moderate sea that gave Plancius a gentle motion as she continued to make good progress towards the Falkland Islands. Expedition Leader Ali did a wake-up call at 07:45, which was followed by another delicious buffet breakfast at 08:00. Many of us had been up and about for quite some time, especially the keen birdwatchers who had occupied the bow since first light.

The first lecture of the morning was by our illustrious leader Ali who gave a fantastic presentation on penguins. All the species we hoped to see during the voyage were well covered, with fantastic images to help us gain a good appreciation for these charismatic creatures ahead of our first encounter with them. Later in the morning, the expedition team gave a mini lecture medley, covering a variety of fascinating subjects.



In the latter part of the morning Plancius started to move around more than we had been used to so far in the voyage. We had been blessed with fantastic conditions since leaving Puerto Madryn, but now the 'Roaring Forties' were about to show their true colours. A change of direction and an increase in wind speed had been forecasted for the afternoon, so it came as no surprise. A small queue formed outside the hospital as guests

went in search of seasick medication, and there were some empty seats in the restaurant during lunch.

Conditions slowly deteriorated as the afternoon wore on, and the decision was made to bring forward the issuing of Muck boots before the worst of the weather arrived. Deck by deck guests were called to the boot room on deck 3 to collect their new best friends. The Muck boots would be needed for every landing on the voyage, except Stanley, the Falklands capital. With that job done, many retired for some horizontal time in their bunk.

At 16:30 Falkland Islander Allan gave an overview of the war that took place in the Islands in 1982. This nasty conflict may have been brief with only 74 days of Argentine occupation, but it cost the lives of almost a thousand service personnel between the two sides. It was interesting to be reminded about the massive Task Force that Britain dispatched to re-take the Falklands, and how British forces successfully conducted the operation.



By early evening the sea state was such that the outer decks had to be closed. Plancius was now taking water over the bow and rolling quite heavily. But she was riding the rough seas very well. At 18:15 Expedition Leader Ali asked us to meet her in the Observation Lounge for a briefing on the next day's activities in the Falklands, and a mandatory Zodiac safety briefing. It was a pleasant surprise to see that most guests could make it to the briefing. Perhaps it was the excitement of landing in the Falklands tomorrow.

The day ended with another amazing plated dinner, prepared and served by the World's greatest ship-based Hotel Department. Despite some of them also feeling the effects of the rough weather, service was conducted with the usual cheerful manner that we had come to enjoy. For the majority of us, it was not a late night. Plancius slowly rocked us to sleep as the Falklands drew ever closer.

Day 5 – 22nd October

New island, Falkland Island

12:00 GPS Position: 51°43.1'N / 061°18.0'E

Weather: Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 12°C, **Sea Temp:** 7°C

Land ahoy! From first light there was land visible on the horizon ahead and off our port side. At last, we were making our final approach to the Falkland Islands. New Island, our destination for the day, grew larger and larger ahead of the ship, and by the time Ali did the wake-up call, it was visible out of every window and porthole on the starboard side. There was great excitement at the prospect of finally setting foot in these remote and magical islands.



New Island is located in the far west of the Falklands archipelago, with the next land to the west being Argentina, less than 400 miles (644km) away. Traditionally the island was a sheep farm where one or two families lived a very remote lifestyle that was dominated by hard work. In the early 1900's a whaling station was established there, but it was not a great success due to a lack of whales in the region, and the station was dismantled so the materials could be used to build a station on South Georgia.

Today New Island is a nature reserve, owned by locally based Falklands Conservation. Their wardens - Tim and Jenni - were there to meet us as we went ashore. The landing was on a small sandy beach in a sheltered corner of the bay near the settlement. Beached near our landing site was the wreck of Protector III, a former British minesweeper that was used as a work boat by a former owner of New Island.



We hiked up a lush, green valley where countless Upland geese were seen with large clutches of small goslings. Birders were delighted to see so many of the normally elusive Ruddy-headed geese, and the spectacular Long-tailed meadowlark with its bright red breast. On the other side of the island, at the Settlement Rookery, the most spectacular sight awaited us. This was home for a large, mixed colony of Black-browed albatrosses, Rockhopper penguins and Imperial shags. The sight and sound was quite breath-taking, with a dramatic backdrop of sea cliffs. Many of the albatrosses were sitting on eggs,

while the Rockhoppers were still at the copulation stage. The Imperial shags were busy gathering up nest building material.



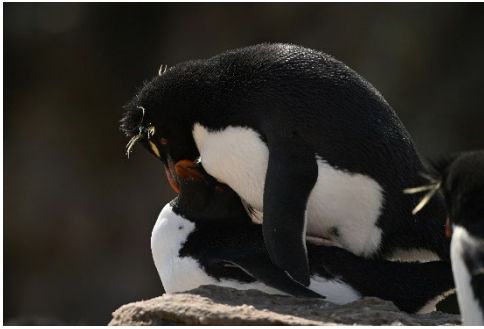
As we enjoyed this remarkable place, an extra ripple of excitement slowly spread through our group. Warden Tim had spotted a lone Macaroni penguin some way down the cliff among the myriad of Rockhoppers. We soon learnt why this was such a special sighting.... Macaronis are extremely rare in the Falklands. The estimate is that no more than a hundred Macaronis form the Falklands population. They are a sub-antarctic species that prefers a

colder environment, so South Georgia is their true stronghold where there numbers run in to millions. This Macaroni was not lost. It belongs in the Falklands. More than likely it will mate with a Rockhopper and produce some hybrid offspring.

Heading back towards the landing site, some of us took time to walk up to a ridge where the reward was a fantastic view. Near the landing site was a small museum where a few souvenirs could be bought. Many were delighted to see that a pair of Blackish cinclodes - locally known as Tussac birds - were nesting in a cavity in one of the museum's outer walls. We bid farewell to Tim and Jenni, and took the Zodiacs back to Plancius. During lunch the ship re-positioned a short distance to the north, and anchored in North Harbour where a very different New Island experience awaited us.



It was very windy in North Harbour, but it didn't stop us. The Zodiacs whisked us to shore for another landing on a sandy beach. Again, warden Tim was there to meet us. We hiked inland and

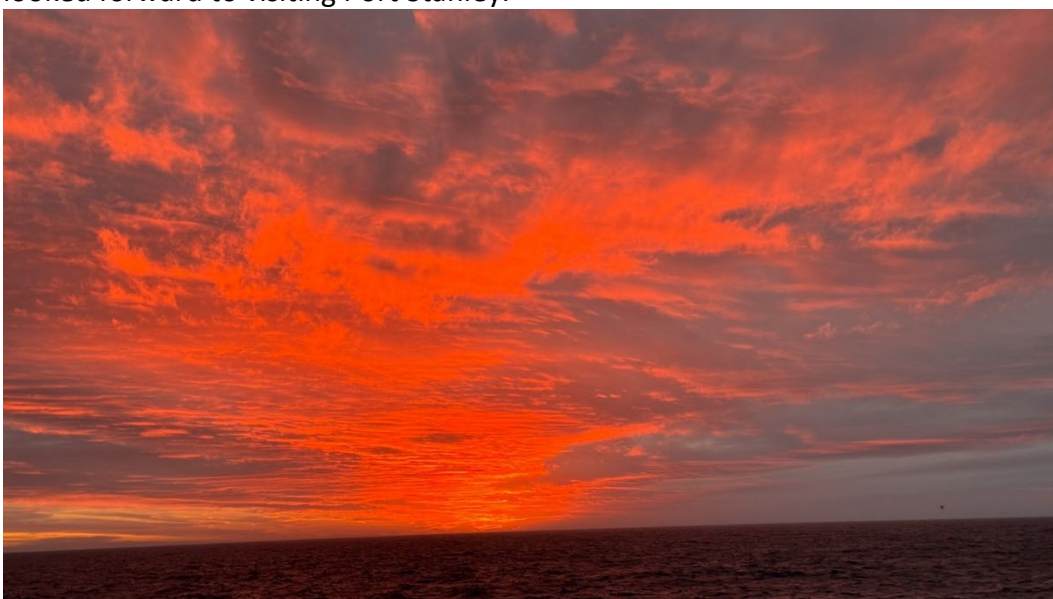


up to a small saddle where we were greeted by our first Gentoo penguins of the voyage. In the valley beyond there were many more groups of Gentoos, which were mostly incubating eggs. Nearby was a small field station with a curious name - The Virgin Hotel - built by a former owner of New Island who had a fun sense of humour. From the first group of Gentoos, there were two options. One route took us down to a stunning sand beach where the Gentoos were coming out of the sea. And the other route went to a cliff

edge where we could spend more time with Black-browed albatrosses and Rockhopper penguins. There was lots of time, and everyone got to hike between all locations.

It had been a bright afternoon, but late in the day it clouded over and became cold. Even a few drops of rain were felt, but thankfully they didn't come to anything. We all made our way back to the landing site to catch a Zodiac ride back to Plancius. By 17:15, we had all bid farewell to lovely New Island and Plancius prepared to sail for the Falklands capital Stanley. After Ali's evening briefing, she gave a fantastic overview of Albatross conservation in the Falklands, and explained how the local fishing industry had worked together to develop fishing procedures that reduced albatross mortality to almost zero. It was a true success story!

As the daylight started to fade, we were treated to a fantastic sunset. This coincided with our transit through a very narrow passage called 'The Woolly Gut'. A "wooly" being a katabatic wind in Falklands slang. Passing through the narrow waterway we had the mainland of West Falkland on the starboard side, and West Point Island on the port side. The latter is where our Assistant Expedition Leader Allan had live for almost 5 years with his wife and dog. And so ends a fantastic day in the Falklands. Now we looked forward to visiting Port Stanley.



Day 6 – 23rd October

Stanley, Falkland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 51°42.1'S / 057°51.4'E

Weather: Clear, **Air Temp:** 13°C, **Sea Temp:** 7°C



Second day in the Falklands! Today began with Ali's friendly wake-up call as we arrived at Port Stanley. Gathered on deck, we watched the captain expertly navigate "the Narrows", as the name suggests a quite narrow strait leading into the harbor, finally anchoring off the coast. Excitement buzzed among us as we prepared to explore the capital of the Falkland Islands. As we neared the jetty in our zodiacs, we were welcomed by a resident sea lion lounging on the pier, who lifted his head to give each arriving boat

a slow, curious glance.

While we embarked, Hunter, the biosecurity dog, hopped aboard to inspect the vessel and ensure we were clear to continue our journey to South Georgia. Hunter is a seasoned eight-year-old pup who traveled from the Netherlands aboard a military plane to serve the South Georgia Heritage Trust and Government. His keen nose has been helping preserve these islands by keeping invasive species at bay.



Once ashore, our group split up to explore Port Stanley's offerings. Some of us dove into the town's rich history, strolling along the memorial to the Falklands War, marveling at remnants of the conflict, and visiting iconic landmarks like Christ Church Cathedral. This unique building, the southernmost Anglican cathedral in the world, boasts a famous arch made of blue whale jawbones—a striking reminder of the region's maritime heritage. Nearby, Saint Mary's Church and the Falkland Islands Museum, brimming with artifacts and exhibits, offered deeper insights into the local

culture and history.

Meanwhile, the bird enthusiasts in our group caught a taxi and headed to Gypsy Cove for a closer

look at the region's avian wonders. Awaiting them were the banded plovers, the rufous-chested dotterel, and the distinctive Magellanic snipe, each a testament to the Falklands' incredible biodiversity. Fun fact: the rufous-chested dotterel is known for its striking rusty-colored breast and migrates here seasonally, while the Magellanic snipe is prized among birders for its elusive nature and rapid, darting flight. The sighting of these birds added excitement for those keen on spotting rare species.



Elsewhere, the recent opening of a world-famous distillery caught the attention of several of us. The Falkland Islands Distillery is celebrated for its unique botanical gins, which use local kelp in their recipes, adding a distinctly coastal flavor. The clinking of gin bottles echoed in our return to the ship, a new memento of the Falklands to savor.

After a hearty lunch on board, we set off toward South Georgia, with an afternoon at sea awaiting us. Swells and winds soon rocked *MV Plancius*, creating a lively ride. This didn't deter the hardiest among us, who braved the bow to watch soaring seabirds such as the black-browed albatross and giant petrels. Eventually, as waves grew stronger, the bridge team gently encouraged us indoors.

Our Expedition Leader Ali invited us to the lounge, where she captivated us with stories of her time on Sea Lion Island, a remote Falklands outpost, as the world shifted during the onset of COVID-19. Her tales painted a vivid picture of life isolated on the island, sharing both challenges and the beauty of her experiences.

Dinner brought a tranquil end to our day, with many of us gazing at the horizon and savoring the sunset's reflection on the crashing waves. We celebrated a fellow traveler, Ashley's, birthday with a cheerful rendition of "Happy Birthday" and later gathered in the lounge, editing photos, updating species lists, and sharing laughter over a few games before winding down for the night.

Our journey south continues, and with each day, the vastness and beauty of these



remote islands leave us more entranced.



Day 7 – 24th October

At Sea towards South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 52°25.2'N / 050°46.7'E

Weather: Overcast, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 5°C



On this first day of our crossing to South Georgia the sea was agitated due to the aftermath of the storm ahead of us. The heavy swell lifted and rolled us from side to side but the movement was quite pleasant as we enjoyed a hearty breakfast for the calm day ahead.

Shortly after breakfast, Steffi gave us an inspiring talk about the birds we have encountered so far. From the tiny Storm Petrel to the wondering albatross, these

birds are the masters of their environment, using the power of the wind to displace themselves and without which they are not able to take off due to their weight!



Later in the morning, after a slice of well-deserved cake and a breath of fresh air, Ali, gave us an introduction to the rich fauna and flora of South Georgia. Having lived there for a year, she served us an assortment of tales and stories, from the whaling period to the efforts to annihilate the rat population and the South Georgia reindeer.

Lunch as always was a treat and to digest Esther invited us to a talk about the Boss himself, Sir Ernest Shackleton part 1. Soon we hope to be able to pay our respects in

person and have a toast to his memory.

Today was not only indoor activities but also outdoor! The bird show today was in town, and several new species were added to our ever-growing bird list. Among others a group of Atlantic petrels made an unexpected appearance as they usually forage more north. Later came along the beautiful Sooty Albatross with its soft plumage and half moon eye shadow. Today was a bird day we will all remember with delight!



In the evening was time for us to familiarize ourselves with South Georgia and the rules to follow when visiting its shores.

Tomorrow another day at sea to look forward to, before the Gift of South Georgia presents itself.

Day 8 – 25th October

At Sea Toward South Georgia

12:00 GPS Position: 53°10.7'N / 043°34.2'E

Weather: Foggy, **Air Temp:** 6°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C

While most of us were still asleep, the staff did a sweep on the outer decks to check if any birds had landed on the ship at night. We are getting closer to the islands of South-Georgia, and we have to

travel with closed curtains now during the dark hours. Luckily no bird had crashed, so we could start scouting with our binoculars on the rather rainy and wind-calm ocean today. The conditions meant there was not so much action around, and creeping in fog later that morning eventually blocked most of our view.



But that couldn't turn down our joy, because we had our mandatory biosecurity check coming up today! After our mandatory introduction and South-Georgia biosecurity briefing, the guides took out the vacuum cleaners and brushes. Everyone did a great job cleaning their gear before being checked by the guides in the lounge, so cleaning went smooth!

After our lunch break, Esther continued her Sir Ernest Shackleton presentation, and presented her part 2 story, covering the incredible journey from Antarctica to South-Georgia.

In the meantime the weather improved and the fog cleared up. That meant the birdwatchers could scan far away again. Some good species were seen on this sea-day, with good numbers of

Schlegelsturmvogel, some Grey-headed and Light Mantled albatrosses, our first close-up Snowy petrels, and some rare Great-winged petrels and a Kerguelen petrel. Several Humpback whales were also spotted from the lounge.

Two big tabular icebergs showed up on the radar so we decided to go and have a closer look with the ship and cruise in between them.

We are getting closer to South-Georgia fast now, and should see land tomorrow. Time to prepare for our visits and go over them during today's recap! Ali and Steffi concluded with showing how big the wingspan really is of our seabirds, going from the 40 cm of a Wilson's petrel, to the incredible 3m50 of a Wandering albatross.



With all the built up excitement to see South-Georgia finally, we ended this sea-day with a lovely dinner at the restaurant.



Day 9 – 26th October

Fortuna Bay

12:00 GPS Position: 54°07.4'S / 036°48.6'W

Weather: Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C

After our long days at sea, the view of snowcapped mountains was the sight we had all been patiently waiting for. Finally, we see land! Finally, we were in South Georgia.

Our first stop, Salisbury Plain. Salisbury Plain is home to as many as 60,000 breeding pairs of king penguins. Unfortunately, there was a bit too much swell on the beach to safely land the zodiacs- this is the reality of expedition cruising, and why we always have a Plan B, C, D (and sometimes Z). The Plancius hung by the coastline for a good half an hour or so, which gave us the chance to observe the countless wildlife from afar.

We could hear the call of the king penguins, the roars of the southern male elephant seals, and the cries of the newborn pups. With each gust of wind, wafts of penguin poop circulated our nostrils, and we definitely understood how smelly these dense areas of wildlife can be. Out on deck, some of us even had the pleasure of some snowy sheathbills landing on our heads! They were such cheeky

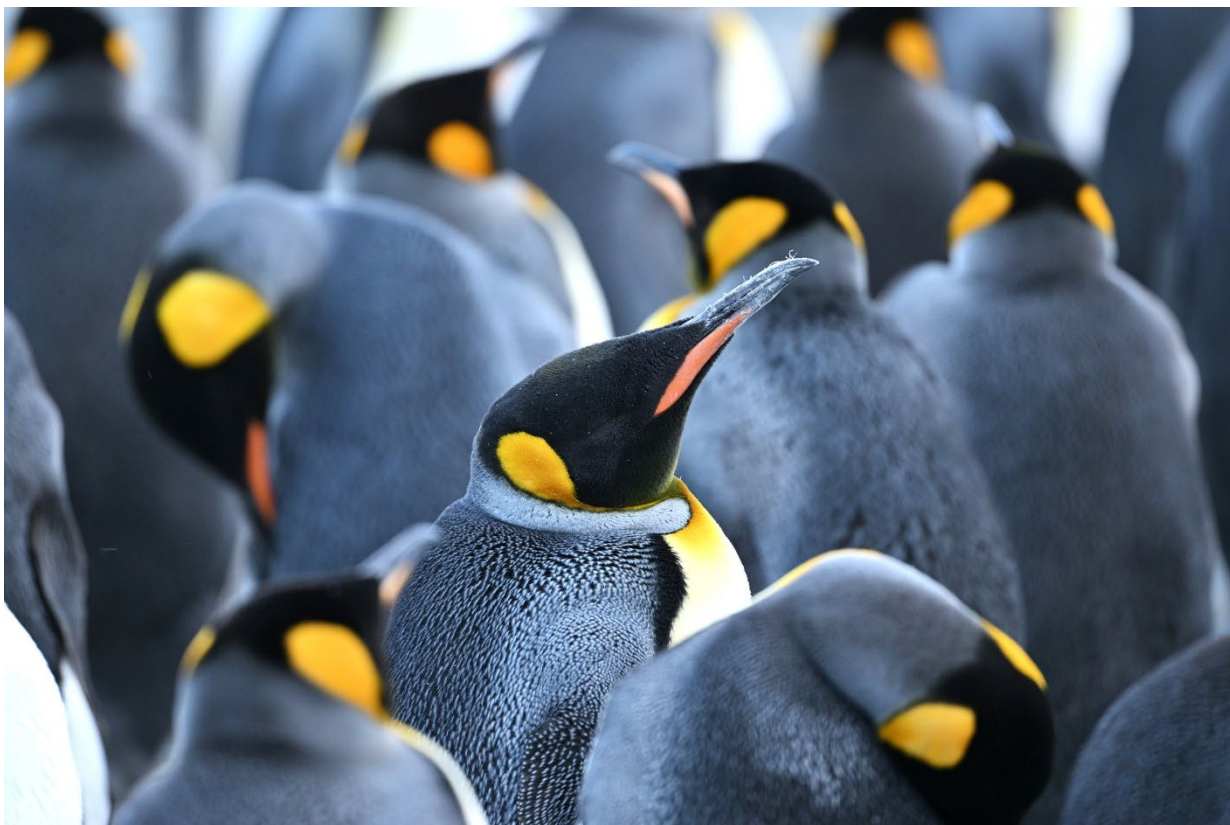
birds, and very curious by nature. Our hats and jackets though would need a thorough biosecurity clean!



We had an early lunch, and then onto Plan B! Fortuna Bay, just around the corner, would offer a lot more protection from the swell, so we would try our chances of a landing there.

Luck was on our side and ashore we went! Upon arrival, we were greeted by king penguins and juvenile Antarctic fur seals playing in the shallows. They were so cute! Farther up the beach were the humungous elephant seal bulls, with their giant

proboscis nose that resembles a trunk (hence their namesake). Also present were the freshly-fattened-up male Antarctic fur seals, patiently waiting for the females to arrive so they can start mating. The highlight of this landing however would be the walk to the large king penguin colony up in the valley, comprising approximately 125000 breeding pairs.



There was a sheer number of chicks too, their thick down of fluffy brown feathers almost camouflage in the terrain. King penguin colonies are occupied year-round, as they have an unusually long breeding and moulting period. They come ashore to moult before breeding, which takes about 30 days where they lose all their last season's feathers and grow a nice new coat of waterproof plumage. The legend that penguin's mate for life becomes debunked here. King penguins have

about an 80% divorce rate, if one partner arrives at a different time to the other, they are not likely to wait, and instead find a new partner for that breeding season. They are however, described as 'serial monogamists', meaning they keep the same partner for a breeding cycle. They lay one egg between November and April, and like their emperor cousins, king penguins do not build a nest but incubate the eggs on their feet. Incubation lasts about 54 days, and it takes over a year for the chicks to fully fledge. This means that including the pre-moult period, the breeding cycle lasts 13–16 months! So, there is always a mixture of penguins to see: funny-looking moulters, brown and fluffy chicks, and crisp-coloured adults!

After an incredible few hours watching the innumerable amount of wildlife, back to the ship we went and off to a well-earned dinner. We had our first taste of South Georgia, and we couldn't wait for more tomorrow!

Day 10 – 27th October

Hercules Bay, Stromness and Grytviken

12:00 GPS Position: 54°16.0'S / 036°71.16'W

Weather: Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 5°C, **Sea Temp:** 2°C



After a quiet night at anchor in Fortuna Bay, *Plancius* got under way nice and early for our next destination. Ali woke us up at 5:30 just as the ship was entering Hercules Bay, a small cove with spectacular scenery, named after a whale catcher, that once sought shelter there. The plan was to do a pre-breakfast Zodiac cruise to see what wildlife we could find. Outside the sky was clear and the sea was calm, with the scenery looking spectacular in the early morning light.

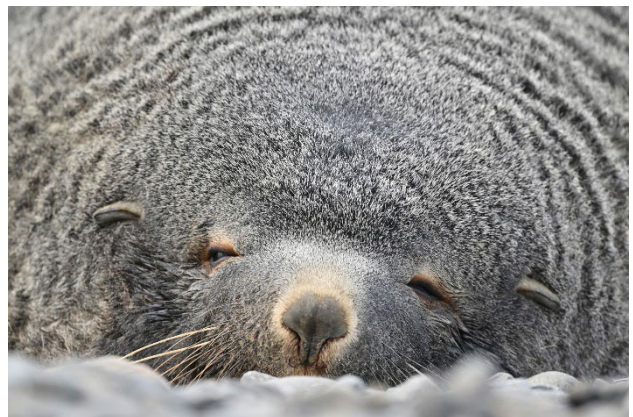
We began boarding the Zodiacs at 06:00 and started our cruise on the sunny side of the bay. The first thing that caught our attention was the fascinating geology in the cliffs, where fantastic folding patterns were illuminated by the rising sun. Near the entrance of the bay a lone Chinstrap penguin was found on some rocks. Later a few more were found further in the bay. This was a very nice find, because the number of Chinstraps that breed on South Georgia is extremely small, with only a single colony at the south end of the island at Cooper Bay. The Chinstraps that breed on South Georgia are the most northerly in the World.



While cruising Hercules Bay in glorious conditions, the wildlife entertained us endlessly. Antarctic Fur Seals frolicked in the shallows, Antarctic Terns passed overhead, and South Georgia Shags prepared their nests for the coming breeding season. On a small beach at the head of the bay a waterfall trickled down to a beach where a harem of Southern Elephant Seals basked in the sun. A few King, Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins shared the beach with them.

There were a couple of fantastic wildlife highlights. A few Macaroni Penguins were spotted high up in the Tussac Grass, the first returnees of the season. Many more would come. Finding them was followed by a stunning overhead display by several Light-Mantled Sooty Albatrosses. It was a perfect way to conclude the Zodiac cruise. As we headed back to the ship the guides pointed out that we had seen all four of South Georgia's breeding penguins. Thank you Hercules Bay!

During breakfast *Plancius* re-positioned a short distance around to Stromness Bay, where three whaling stations once operated - Husvik, Leith and Stromness. We anchored off the latter, which in later years with whaling in decline, became a ship repair and maintenance station. The Zodiacs took us ashore for a beach landing a safe distance from the collapsing station.



Many of us took the opportunity to hike up the valley following a river bed to the Shackleton Waterfall, made famous when the great many himself along with Frank Worsley and Tom Crean were forced to descend that ravine after their epic crossing of South Georgia in 1916. On the way to the waterfall there was the opportunity to hike up a small hill and view some Gentoo Penguins which were incubating eggs. The views from the hill were stunning. Those who didn't hike inland

were entertained on the beach by a large harem of Southern Elephant Seals and snorting male Antarctic Fur Seals.



Our afternoon destination was Grytviken (Pot Cove) Whaling Station, established in 1904 by Norwegian Captain Carl Anton Larsen as the first Antarctic shore-based whaling station. With the South Georgia Government administrative and scientific base around the bay at King Edward Point, one might say that this is the capital of South Georgia. Here the Government Officers came onboard to conduct a bio-security inspection and effect clearance procedures. Happily we passed with flying colours. It was another 100% pass for *Plancius*.

The Zodiacs whisked us ashore to a landing directly below the Whaler's Cemetery where Sir Ernest Shackleton is buried. After paying tribute to "The Boss", we walked around the shore and through the Whaling Station to find the Museum, Gift Shop, Post Office and Church. The Post Office in particular was a popular stop as postcards were mailed to destinations all over the World. Endemic South Georgia Pintails were by far the most numerous birds around Grytviken, which were a very rare sight in the days before rat eradication. The Zodiac transfer back to the ship was from a small beach near the Museum, alongside two whale catchers named *Albatross* and *Diaz*.

Plancius remained in the quiet anchorage at Grytviken because dinner tonight was a BBQ on deck. We were joined by 10 of the staff from ashore, who were particularly excited about having some

salad. Those who dressed warmly and stayed out on deck enjoyed one of the best BBQ views in the World. But the cool air was too much for many, who preferred the comfort of the restaurant.



And so ended a long and exciting day in South Georgia. A day on which we had the privilege of visiting the final resting place of perhaps the greatest explorer and leader of men that ever lived - Sir Ernest Shackleton.

Day 11 – 28th October

Godthul and St Andrews Bay

12:00 GPS Position: 54°28.15'S / 036°50.8'W

Weather: Cloudy, Air Temp: 6°C, Sea Temp: 0°C



Our third day on South Georgia began with Ali and Steffi's gentle wake-up call, easing us into the morning after a lively barbecue. But the Plancius had other plans—its swaying soon convinced us to adapt.



With St. Andrew's Bay too turbulent for a safe landing, we turned toward the sheltered waters of Godthul. This "Good Hollow," named by Norwegian whalers, provided a natural refuge, making it a valuable spot during South Georgia's whaling days. Though no permanent stations existed here, Godthul served as a depot, with bones still scattered along the beach as reminders of that era.

Just as we adjusted our course, an unexpected thrill awaited: Orcas! Our first sighting of killer whales couldn't have been more captivating. A large male, a female, and their calf surfaced and played near the boat, allowing us ample time to admire them. Captain expertly maneuvered the vessel, giving us an optimal view of these magnificent creatures.

Arriving at Godthul, we were met by rugged slopes of tussock grass and fur seals scattered along the hillsides. Most of us scrambled up to reach viewpoints, catching glimpses of gentoo penguin colonies nestled on the slopes. Some ventured further, hiking to a peak that rewarded us with sweeping views of the bay.

Adding to the experience was a South Georgia pipit—the island’s only native songbird and a conservation success story. This resilient bird was once nearly extinct due to invasive rats, but thanks to recent conservation efforts, it now thrives, treating us to a lively performance as if we were the only audience it needed.

In the afternoon, with favorable weather, we headed back to St. Andrew’s Bay. Our persistence paid



off, and though we had to wade through the surf, those who braved the chilly waters were rewarded with an awe-inspiring sight: thousands of king penguins in a cacophony of calls, and enormous elephant seals sprawled along the shore, preparing for the breeding season. The sheer scale of life here was overwhelming—a vivid reminder of nature’s power to reclaim and thrive.

Reflecting back on board the Plancius, we felt grateful for the unexpected moments that make exploring South Georgia unforgettable.

Day 12 – 29th October

Gold Harbour, Cooper Bay and Drygalski Fjord

12:00 GPS Position: 54°37.4’S / 035°56.6’W

Weather: Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 4°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C



When the weather is fair in South Georgia, you get up as early as you can and make the most of it because fair weather on South Georgia rarely lasts. For the past days we have indeed been blessed with unusually good weather, hardly any wind, and gentle swell and not a drop of rain was felt.

The dreaded wakeup call shakes us from our dreams at the ripe and early time of 5 am. We had arrived at Gold Harbour and made our way on deck to find the world covered in a shroud of fog. However, as we made our way in the bay this shroud vanished to give way to the intimate and secluded Gold Harbour. Our expedition team set off on the zodiacs after the anchor had been dropped and a few moments later we were called out to board the zodiacs and set foot for the last time on South Georgia.

It is hard for me to find the words to describe the day we had at Gold Harbour and I am sure you



will find it hard too when telling the stories to your family and friends back home. The beach was thronged with seals of all sizes. The males battled for territory and females were busy avoiding the fighting giants and taking care of their newly born little ones. The smallest were only a few days old; one could notice from the dark fluff that covers their bodies. Others, a bit older, hauled on the beach waiting patiently for the return of their mothers were cuddling and curious to see us weird humans invading their beach.



The penguins, in the thousands, as always waiting for something we do not know about. Standing in the river, patrolling the beach making sure everything is in order. Their young, in their fluffy brown coats, running around, playing with the seals and simply being babies were a delight to witness.

An Elephant seal again kept us ashore a bit longer by blocking the way to the landing site but Yves made himself as scary as possible and could move the

big boy to the side without disturbing his peace.

Later that morning , after a well deserved breakfast, we took the zodiacs out for a cruise at Cooper bay. The swell was in full force and its power impressive. We cruised along the shoreline to a small chinstrap penguin colony. Later we made our way around the rocky outcrop to a field of kelp where an inquisitive young leopard seal inspected our zodiacs and the passengers, probably his first human interaction. We kept on going along the shoreline towards some Macaroni penguins, one giving some us quite a show as he dived into the water from quite a height.



Later that day after lunch we did a ship cruise through the breath taking Drygalski fjord. The 14km long fjord offers amazing geological features and a great glacier waited for us at its end. We rested there for some time and enjoyed a warm drink on deck six provided by Bobby.

It was now time for us to bid farewell to the magical shores of South Georgia, brave the ocean and make our way to Antarctica our final destination before heading back towards Argentina.

Day 13 – 30th October

At Sea towards Elephant Island

12:00 GPS Position: 56°46.1'S / 041°22.5'W

Weather: Foggy, **Air Temp:** 2°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

After the intense South-Georgia days, most of us had a long sleep on this first sea-day again, direction Antarctica! It had been snowing quite a bit in the early morning, so decks were all covered with a white carpet. Our expedition crew were hard at work clearing the decks for us to enjoy the outdoors.

The early birdwatchers spotted a Southern bottlenose whale, and several Chinstrap penguins along with Antarctic prions.

Today's lectures were programmed, and we started with Steffi talking about Krill and the importance of it in the Antarctic ecosystem.

Meanwhile icebergs are stealing the show outside. Their size dwarfing our ship as they slide by in their destructive beauty.

Next on the lecture line-up was Will, with his Antarctic Geopolitics presentation, bringing us through the history of Antarctica, its exploration and its complex geopolitical situation.

After our lunch Chloe showed us everything about sea ice, since we will encounter this a lot during our visit to the frozen continent!

Our expedition leader Ali showed us the plans for the next day during her recap, and auctioneers Will and Esther then entertained us with the South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction in the lounge. The effort was tremendous and over two thousand pounds were raised to save the baby seals of South Georgia!

In the meantime, the amount of icebergs around the ship increased and during our dinner we got spoiled with great views of big tabular icebergs, big waves and dozens of Cape Petrels passing by close to our windows. Antarctica is another day closer!



Day 14 – 31st October

At Sea Towards Elephant Island

12:00 GPS Position: 58°13.9'S / 048°08.6'W

Weather: Partly Cloudy, **Air Temp:** 1°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

Today would be another sea day and judging by the amount of us at breakfast that morning, many of us finally had our sea legs. The Plancius gently rolled through the swell, and many of us settled back into sea time- enjoying our books, processing our photos, playing chess and chatting over hot cups of tea and coffee.



We joined Allan in the main lounge for a talk on the history of whaling, and we learnt all about the sheer numbers of whales caught and how many species almost became extinct. It was a sad and brutal history, but luckily with the help of conservation efforts and new environmental policies, populations are slowly recovering.

Another delicious lunch was served, and we are always impressed by the restaurant teams' ability to provide

so much variety.

Gabi gave us an interesting talk about Edith Jackie Ronne, an American explorer and the first woman in the world to be a working member of an Antarctic expedition. Jackie was the expedition's official communications expert, media liaison and historian. We learnt that Jackie's passion and thirst for Antarctica saw her revisit the continent another fifteen times during her lifetime, and the Ronne–Filchner Ice Shelf in the Weddell Sea would later be named after her.

In the evening, we had our usual briefing and recap up in the lounge, where the staff went all out for Halloween. Esther as a frostbitten polar explorer, Yves as a skeleton, Chloe as a mermaid and the funniest of all, Gabi as Alex our hotel manager! At the end of the recap, we heard a low deep voice bellowing up the stairs into the main lounge, it was Ali, but dressed as an old salty whaler! We were all taken back to the early 1900s as she shared a handwritten poem about whaling in South Georgia,

featuring the morbid and haunting past of both the whalemens and the giant creatures themselves. It was a very Antarctic ode to Halloween.

The staff in the restaurant went above and beyond. The dining room was covered in Halloween decorations, and the buffet consisted of 'bloody fingers', 'eyeball pasta' and chocolate graveyards and strawberry brains for dessert. It was a real treat to experience 'real world' celebrations whilst being so isolated. After our delicious feast, we were off to bed for another full day of activities ahead no doubt.



Day 15 – 1st November

Elephant island

12:00 GPS Position: 61°08.4'S / 055°07.6'W

Weather: Foggy, **Air Temp:** 0°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

Conditions overnight had improved considerably, and Ali's wake-up call delivered the good news that *Plancius* was once again making good speed towards Elephant Island. We were, of course, running behind schedule due to the bad weather of preceding days. Outside the sun shone through a thin veil of cloud, and the Southern Ocean looked much more friendly. Icebergs were a more frequent sighting, telling us that we were at last closing in on Antarctica.

After breakfast we were called deck by deck to the Observation Lounge with all our outer layers for another round of bio-security checks by the expedition team. This was to ensure that we were not transporting anything from South Georgia to Antarctica. Because of the excellent standards set by

the entire group at South Georgia, most people presented spotless equipment which made the whole process quite painless and very quick.



At 11:00 expedition guide Will Kennedy gave a fantastic presentation on Tom Crean, one of the giants of the Heroic Age of Antarctic exploration. Tom served on three major expeditions. He went south twice with Scott on the *Discovery* and *Terra Nova* expeditions, and once with Shackleton on the *Endurance* expedition. This modest, unassuming hero from rural Ireland is a true unsung hero, and Will told the story of his remarkable life with great passion and enthusiasm. It was clear after Will's lecture that he had inspired several people

to think about making a pilgrimage to Tom Crean's home village of Annascaul in Ireland, where his pub - The South Pole Inn - is still trading.

We enjoyed another delicious lunch courtesy of Head Chef Bawa Gaurav and his team. Then a little bit of downtime allowed some of us to indulge in a seaborne siesta. The birders were happy to have the foredeck open again and were able to enjoy fantastic views of birds like Cape Petrels, Southern Fulmars, Black-browed Albatrosses, Giant Petrels and, to everyone's delight, a Light-mantled Sooty Albatross.



At 15:00 the lecture program continued with simultaneous presentations. For English speaking guests, Steffi gave a fascinating lecture about wildlife adaptations in the Observation Lounge. And for German speaking guests, Esther talked about the epic race to the South Pole in the Dining Room. Soon after the the lectures ended, a ripple of excitement went through the ship as Elephant Island started to show itself through the low cloud.

We dropped anchor off Point Wild just after 17:00. Expedition Leader Ali had a Zodiac launched and a gangway prepared so she could get on the water and assess conditions. At first it didn't look great, but as *Plancius* swung on her anchor to the wind, conditions at the gangway improved considerably. Soon it was announced that we would be heading out for a Zodiac cruise around Point Wild.

The excursion proved to be an incredibly exciting experience. The expedition team maneuvered the Zodiacs as close as possible to the shore, all the time keeping one eye on the swells and looking out for submerged rocks. It was all about getting as good a view as possible of the spot where Sir Ernest Shackleton's shipwrecked crew of the *Endurance* spent 4½ months through the winter of 1916. Their tiny shelter was nothing more than rough stone walls with two up-turned lifeboats on top for a roof. Theirs is one of the most epic survival stories of all time.



The only thing that marks that desolate spot is a bust of Captain Luis Pardo, the brave master mariner who rescued the 22 castaways with the Chilean Navy cutter *Yelcho*. A healthy population of Chinstrap penguins now occupy Point Wild, reminding us that many of their kind were killed to keep Shackleton's men alive. On the way back to the ship, the Zodiacs swung by the glacier immediately to the west of Point Wild. A recent calving had put a lot of brash ice in the bay, which the Zodiac drivers took great delight in driving through at slow speed.

As soon as we were back onboard and all the Zodiacs had been recovered, *Plancius* got under way and headed south towards the South Shetland Islands. As we sailed away from Elephant Island, the clouds parted giving us a brief glimpse of the spectacular snow-capped mountains.



Day 16 – 2nd November

Penguin Island and, Three Sisters Point

12:00 GPS Position: 62°05.6'S / 057°54.4'W

Weather: Foggy, **Air Temp:** 2°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C



Day sixteen brought us to the enchanting Penguin Island, nestled in the South Shetland Islands. This place truly lives up to its name, with a colony of quirky chinstrap penguins bustling about, their mud-streaked bodies adding to the island's rugged charm as they energetically started building their nests. Penguin Island is a volcanic isle, its landscape shaped by centuries of eruptions that left behind a fascinating mix of jagged rock formations and black sand beaches. The volcano itself, Deacon Peak, stands at the island's center, an inactive stratovolcano that last erupted thousands of years ago. Hiking up to the rim of the crater offered us sweeping, fog-draped views of this frozen and untamed terrain—a true taste of Antarctica's raw beauty.

For those who took the crater trail, the views were breathtaking. From the summit, we could gaze over the island's unique blend of volcanic and icy landscapes. The black sands and snow provide a stunning contrast, with the icy blue of the surrounding waters stretching out into the horizon. To the south, we could even glimpse the tip of King George Island, our next destination.

Back down by the shore, we were treated to a memorable sight - a Weddell seal, slowly swimming along the shoreline. These seals are remarkable for their ability to live in some of the most extreme



conditions on Earth, using their strong jaws to carve breathing holes in the ice.

But perhaps the day's highlight was the encounter with two leopard seals resting on a floating ice chunk near our landing site. Known as Amphitrite in many languages—a nod to the wife of Poseidon and the queen of the oceans—the leopard seal is one of Antarctica's apex predators. They are sleek, formidable hunters, using their agility to hunt penguins and other seals. This particular pair was particularly special, as one was still quite young, likely just a year old.

Later, we headed to King George Island, the largest of the South Shetland Islands, where we were greeted by a handful of early-arriving adeliie penguins on the rocky coast of Three Sisters Point. King George Island, with its mix of rocky outcrops, glaciers, and human activity, is a hub of international research stations, a place where the wild and the scientific meet. The adeliies, bold and curious, seemed unperturbed by our presence, giving us an up-close look at their lively personalities. Cruising along Turret Point, we even saw petrels scavenging on a carcass, a stark reminder of the circle of life in these remote regions.

Our zodiac cruise that afternoon was truly a thrill, despite the snowy, blustery weather. We began with a distant glimpse of a humpback whale surfacing on the horizon, a massive silhouette against the white landscape, before making a second stop to visit our “chill” leopard seals. The wind whipped through the zodiacs, and snow clung to our gear, but the journey was more than worth it for the sights we saw along the way.

After an exhilarating two-hour zodiac adventure, we returned to the ship, covered in snow and windswept but full of awe. Alex and Bobbi greeted us with warm smiles and an extra special treat: steaming hot chocolate with a little kick to help us thaw out. It was the perfect end to an unforgettable Antarctic day.

Day 17 – 3rd November

Antarctic sound, Bransfield Strait and Halfmoon Island

12:00 GPS Position: 62°78.8'S / 058°05.5'W

Weather: Clear, **Air Temp:** -4°C, **Sea Temp:** 0°C



“Good morning everyone, ice ahead, get out of bed and enjoy the show!”, were the words of excitement we woke to on this true expedition day.

The thick ice grumbling around the ship as it found its way through the intricate frozen maze offered a sight never thought possible. We powered through as far as we could for the better part of two hours until it was clear that there was no way we would make it to Antarctic sound without risking getting ice locked and spend a few awkward days like Shackleton and his men have a century ago.

With a heavy heart, the Captain along with Ali made the responsible decision to turn around and head towards the South Shetlands where it's untouched Antarctic landscape was guaranteed to us.



During the crossing that would last until mid afternoon, Will entertained us with the life of exploring pioneer Fridtjof Nansen. The Norwegian legend father of polar exploration and the captain of the FRAM.



After a rocky crossing through the Bransfield straight we arrived to we finally made it to our destination, Halfmoon Island.

The landscape was ethereal, the light wind and the fluffy snowflakes creating a winter wonderland. The penguins themselves were scattered all over the area along with many seals and their cubs along the shoreline.

There we walked for some time as our expedition team created a long loop over the better part of the island.

The most daring among us took the opportunity today to do the so-called 'polar plunge' – a jump into the ice-cold Antarctic water. Some of us even stayed for several minutes, but for most of us a few seconds of hardening was enough before we ran proudly and shivering back to the beach.

On leaving the island, the fog cleared and Camara station could be seen. This Argentine base, used sporadically by the navy but a reminder of the geopolitical challenges the Antarctic faces, Camara being one of the many scientific bases that are scattered around the continent.

A day well spent in Antarctica once again, tomorrow will be our last day on the edge of the world, and the heart grows heavier every minute from the thought of leaving.

Day 18 – 4th November

Yankee Harbour and Deception Island

12:00 GPS Position: 62°32.0'S / 059°47.0'W

Weather: Foggy, Air Temp: 1°C, Sea Temp: 0°C



Our last day on Antarctica had finally come, for the last time on the frozen continent did we get woken up by Ali, excited for an adventurous day ahead!

The night was spent in the safe inlet of Yankee harbour. We woke up to a true Antarctic scenery, light wind, fog and snow falling like a Christmas morning.

We jumped into the zodiacs shortly after breakfast for a longish ride to our landing site. The drivers had their GPS out to navigate in the fog and were cautious to sway their way between the blocks of ice that littered the frozen waters.



On our arrival the snowfall doubled in intensity, and we were allowed to walk along the point to a colony of penguins nestled on the gentle slopes inside the bay. It is a wonder how those creatures can withstand such a brutal environment; how can their small bodies generate enough heat to survive the frigid temperatures. The landing was an experience, on the way back the wind had gained in intensity and propelled the snow flakes upon us like hail. We made it back to the landing site and boarded the zodiacs to get

back to the Ship.

On our way we were surprised by a large group of feeding gentoo penguins. Numbering in the hundreds, they were swimming and feeding around the boats. It is in these moments we are remembered that they are birds as they get spooked by the slightest movement unlike on land and they all simultaneously dive underwater and flee the threat.



As we set sail for Deception Island, we encountered a group of Orca feeling as we approached the “Narrows”, this tight mouth that marks the entrance of Deception island.

This island was called so as it deceived sailors, thinking it was a closed mountain, but it hides a comfortable and safe caldera, perfect for sailors in need of rest before making south to Antarctica after battling the Drake Passage.

As we made our way on land, we noticed the absence of animals. Wondering if the volcano would erupt that day. Upon arrival, we were struck by the contrast the snow makes on the black volcanic sand. We walked on the snow-covered land and put on snow shoes! A bit tricky to figure out but once one is all set, they make walking in snow as easy as if walking in our bare feet.

We walked for some time, on this barren island, up a volcano where the views were simply stunning.

It was time to get back on board and enjoy our last zodiac ride, in bumpy conditions, with waves and wind.

Day 19 – 5th November

Drake Passage Towards Ushuaia

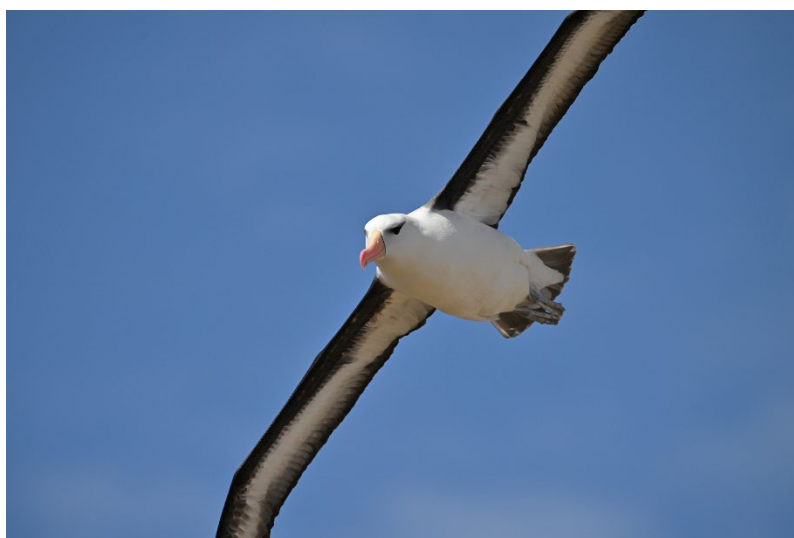
12:00 GPS Position: 60°41.8'S / 063°43.4'W

Weather: Sunny, **Air Temp:** 2°C, **Sea Temp:** 1°C

We awoke by the gentle roll of the Drake Passage. This notorious body of water between Antarctica and South America is colloquially known as the 'Drake Shake', or the 'Drake Lake', depending on your luck with swell and wind. Fortunately for us, we were experiencing quite a mild crossing, so we were somewhere in between a lake and shake. Gabi gave us a very fitting lecture in the main lounge about the passage's namesake itself, Sir Francis Drake. We learnt that although he was an avid sailor and explorer, some viewed him as an evil pirate due to his infamous raids on other vessels and settlements.

We used these last remaining sea days to share and process photos, share contacts and reflect on our journey through the Southern Ocean. A bittersweet feeling was felt in the lounge's atmosphere, we were excited to get home and see our loved ones, but the Plancius really started to feel like home too. There were already murmurs among us of booking future trips.

We then joined Will in the main lounge for a talk on the history of Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian polar explorer who was the first to reach the South Pole on December 14th, 1911. We learnt that Amundsen was an extremely tenacious man and pragmatic man, and from his experience in the Arctic and knowledge passed down from Nansen, he learnt to use furs, drive dogs and build igloos to survive in the harsh conditions. This kind of



preparation and organisation was key to Amundsen's success on reaching the pole and back safely. And unlike most polar explorers during their expeditions, Amundsen's team gained weight during the expedition!

After lunch, Chloe then gave us an interesting talk about her time on some of the Antarctic research stations. She travelled to New Zealand's Scott Base and USA's McMurdo Station down in the Ross Sea in 2018 and learnt all the quirky and fascinating things about life on station. We also learnt all about 'Antarctic Gateway Cities', being Hobart (Australia), Christchurch (New Zealand), Cape Town (South Africa), Ushuaia (Argentina) and Punta Arenas (Chile). These cities are viewed as gateways to the Antarctic not only due to their geographic location to the south, but host a range of Antarctic related infrastructure and services such as: travel logistics and support, scientific facilities, tourism ports, government establishments, and research and policy organizations. Chloe told us all about her role

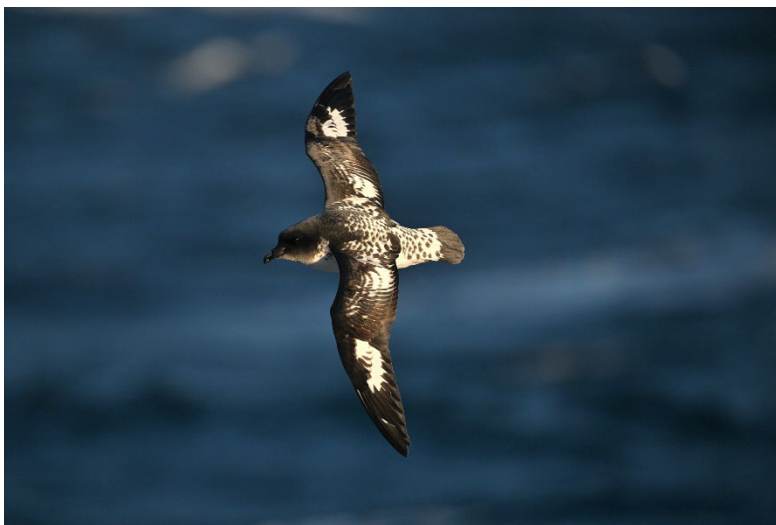
as the Hobart representative on the Antarctic Cities Youth Expedition back in 2020, and how she has since been advocating for more Antarctic education and outreach for youth.

The sun broke through the clouds, and despite the decks being closed majority of the day due to the wind, we managed to get out on the aft and up on the bridge wings for some fresh air and spotted numerous whale blows in the distance.

In the evening, we had our usual briefing and recap up in the lounge, where Arie (our lovely guest from the Netherlands who won the auction item of being the expedition team's

assistant) was awarded his certificate of internship for all his wonderful duties. We celebrated our final recap with funny penguin videos and a 'Guess the Bird' game that tested our knowledge and imagination.

After dinner, some of us met in the library for some music, sharing around the guitar and singing along to some ballads. The atmosphere was warm and lively, and we began to realise that these trips aren't memorable just because of the destination and the wildlife, but because of the people too.



Day 20 – 6th November

Drake Passage Towards Ushuaia

12:00 GPS Position: 56°25.9'S / 065°46.7'W

Weather: Sunny, **Air Temp:** 10°C, **Sea Temp:** 5°C

We awoke to another superb day in Drake Passage. Outside the sun was shining, the winds were light, and the sea state was uncharacteristically good for the region. This was the 'Drake Lake' that many of us had prayed for! *Plancius* was making excellent progress northwards, escorted by an airborne parade of albatrosses, petrels and prions. The pre-breakfast wake-up call was a bit different this morning. The sound of Swiss cow bells rang out around the ship, as the top bidder for the wakeup call at the South Georgia charity auction, enjoyed his big moment. We all loved it.

At 09:30 Assistant Expedition Leader Allan gave a lecture entitled 'Sled Dogs; Unsung Heroes of Antarctic Exploration'. After a short overview of how dogs were used by expeditions of the heroic age, Allan then talked about the 5 decades that huskies were present in Antarctica, supporting the survey and scientific work carried out by many different nations. Thousands of huskies gave their lives so that we humans could explore and understand Antarctica. When the last dogs departed in 1994, they left behind the spirits of thousands of huskies that were born, lived, explored and died on the frozen continent.

At 11:00 Expedition Leader Ali gave an enlightening lecture about 'Ice Maidens' - Women in Antarctica. She began by telling us the stories of some of the wives that were left behind during the heroic age. The likes of Kathleen Scott and Emily Shackleton were pillars of strength, supporting their famous husbands in their ventures. We were all surprised by the appalling attitude towards women being in Antarctica in the early days. Bases were exclusively male until the late 1960's, when women slowly started to break into the Antarctic community. Even then, some countries were very slow to allow women on their bases. Today, many bases have women, and it's not at all uncommon to find a woman in the role of base commander.

When lunch was announced by Hotel Manager Alex, some reflected on the fact that it would be our final lunch on *Plancius*. Head Chef Bawa and his team had done a wonderful job keeping us all fed, and we would miss their culinary skills. As lunch was coming to an end, Ali announced that Cape Horn lay some 42 nautical miles off our port side, and that it was visible.....just.

The final afternoon on board was taken at a very easy pace. Many took the chance to make a start with packing, while others enjoyed the chance to be out on deck, which so often isn't possible when near Cape Horn. The birds maintained their ceaseless watch, which had rewarded them with a rare Kerguelen Petrel during our Drake Passage crossing. As we closed in on land, the wind increased to over 30 knots and a bit more motion was felt in the ship. This was the approaching "purple monster" that was forecasted to hit the Drake Passage overnight. Our Captain wanted to get us in to the shelter of the Beagle Channel before it reached full strength.

At 15:00 Expedition Guide Steffi gave an interesting lecture about 'Gas Ballooning'. Steffi is a professional balloon pilot who represents Austria in competitions at the highest level and is the reigning World Champion. Her passion for this unique and highly technical sport was very much evident during her outstanding presentation.

Next on the agenda was the return of our beloved Muck Boots. They had been our constant companions on every single excursion during the voyage. Some of us felt a little sadness when handing them back to the expedition team. At 18:15 we were invited to the lounge for a farewell drink with Captain Levakov and the expedition team. Farewells and thanks were expressed in equal measure, as we toasted the voyage we were about to complete. The grand finale was a showing of the expedition slideshow, a first-class digital diary of our voyage compiled by Expedition Guide Gabi. And then it was off to the restaurant for the delicious farewell dinner, during which Hotel Manager Alex introduced his awesome team.

Plancius arrived at the Beagle Channel Pilot Station around 19:00 and took on two Argentine harbor pilots for the 4½ hours transit to Ushuaia. We docked just before midnight, for a quiet final night's sleep on our floating home-from-home.

Day 21 – 7th November

Ushuaia

12:00 GPS Position: 54°80.0'S / 068°30.0'W

Weather: Overcast, **Air Temp:** 12°C, **Sea Temp:** 8°C

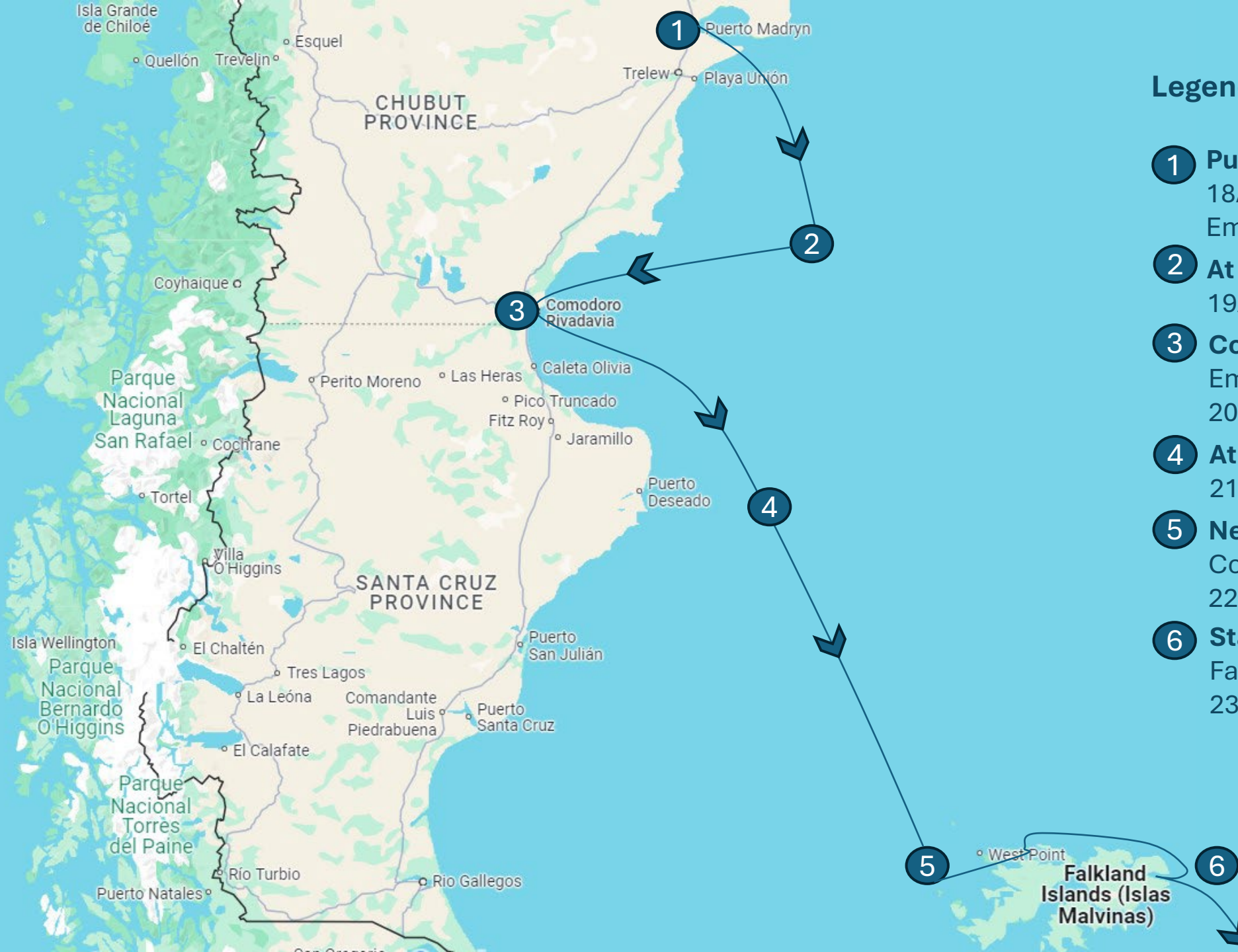
We arrived in Ushuaia, Argentina and it was time to say our goodbyes and a last chance to exchange contact details. We had our final breakfast aboard Plancius then gathered the last of our things and headed for the gangway. We said goodbye to the whole team onboard and the new friends we had made. Some of us were off to explore some of the town's treasures while others were flying straight home, looking back as we left to take a final look at the Plancius, remembering good times and perhaps planning for more in the future.



Thank you all for joining us on this voyage to The Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total distance sailed: 3,746.7 nautical miles
Farthest South: 63°02.0'S / 057°05.9'W

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Evgeny Levakov, Expedition Leader Ali Liddle, Hotel Manager Aleksandr Lyebyedyev and all the crew and staff of M/V Plancius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!



Legend

- 1 Puerto Madryn**
18/10/2024
Embarkation Day
- 2 At sea**
19/10/2024
- 3 Comodoro Rivadavia**
Emergency evacuation
20/10/2024
- 4 At sea**
21/10/2024
- 5 New Island, the Falklands**
Coffin's Harbour & North Harbour
22/10/2024
- 6 Stanley, capital of the Falkland Islands**
23/10/2024



5 **New Island**, the Falklands
Coffin's Harbour & North Harbour
22/10/2024

6 **Stanley**, capital of the
Falkland Islands
23/10/2024

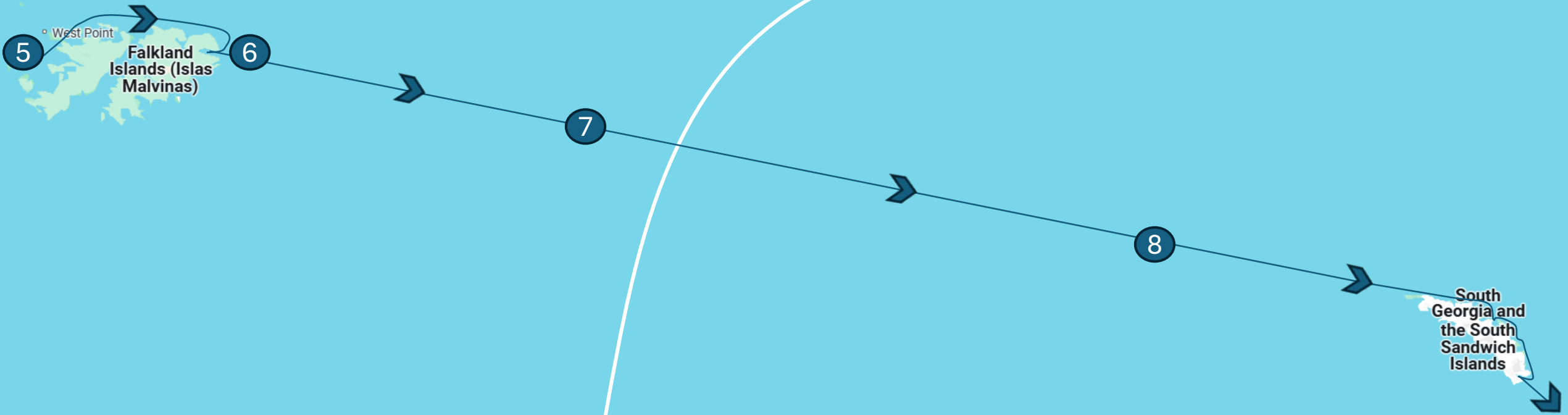
5 New Island, the Falklands
Coffin's Harbour & North Harbour
22/10/2024

6 Stanley, capital of the
Falkland Islands
23/10/2024

7 At sea
24/10/2024

8 At sea
Passing the Antarctic Convergence
25/10/2024

Antarctic Convergence



- 
- 9 **Salisbury Plain**
Ship's cruise 26/10/2024
- 10 **Fortuna Bay**
Afternoon landing 26/10/2024
- 11 **Hercules Bay**
Early morning zodiac cruise 27/10/2024
- 12 **Stromness**
Morning landing 27/10/2024
- 13 **Grytviken**
Landing & barbeque 27/10/2024
- 14 **Godthul**
Morning landing 28/10/2024
- 15 **St. Andrew's Bay**
Afternoon landing 28/10/2024
- 16 **Gold Harbour**
Early morning landing 29/10/2024
- 17 **Cooper Bay**
Zodiac cruise 29/10/2024
- 18 **Drygalski Fjord**
Ship's cruise with hot drinks 29/10/2024

Bird Island
Station

Prince Olav
Harbour

Stromness

Grytviken

South
Georgia and
the South
Sandwich
Islands

Godthul
Ocean
Harbour

18

17

16

15

14

13

12

11

10

9

South
Georgia and
the South
Sandwich
Islands

19

At sea

30/10/2024

20

Halloween at sea

31/10/2024

21

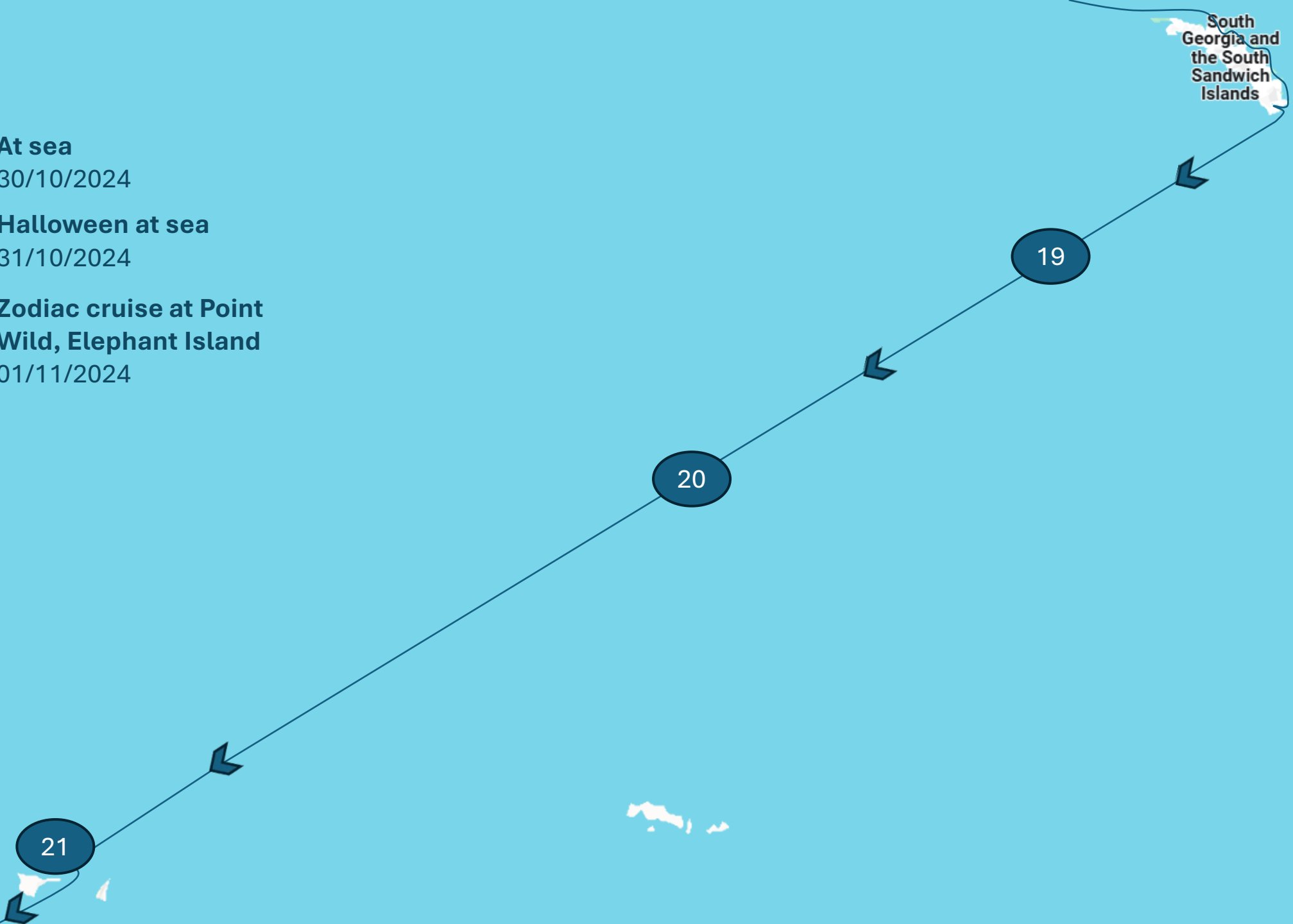
**Zodiac cruise at Point
Wild, Elephant Island**

01/11/2024

19

20

21



21

Elephant
Island

21

**Zodiac cruise at Point
Wild, Elephant Island**

01/11/2024

22

**Landing at Penguin Island
and zodiac cruise at Turret
Point & Three Sisters
Point, King George Island**
02/11/2024

22

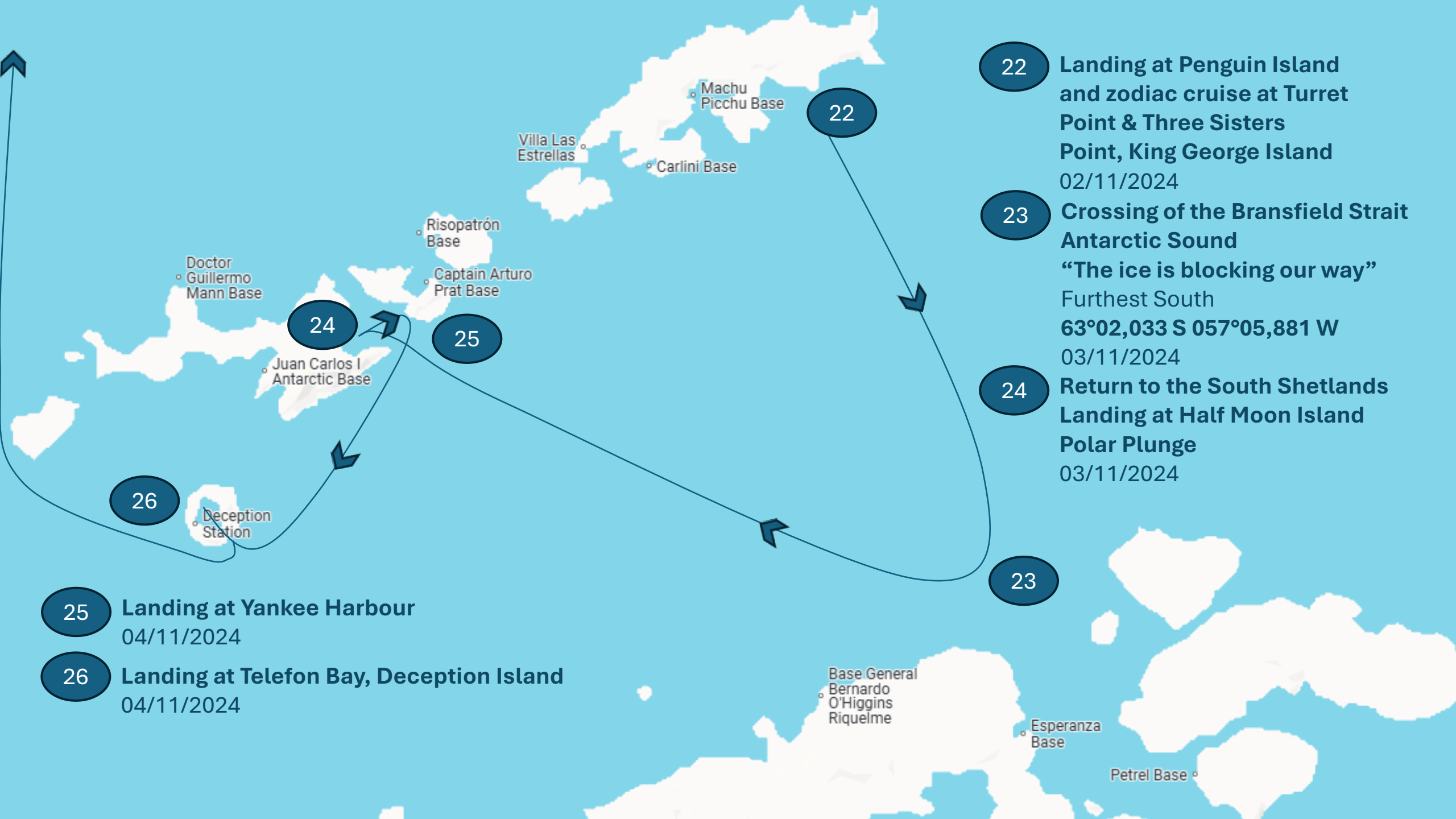
King George
Island

° Machu
Picchu Base

° Carlini Base

Villa Las
Estrellas

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS





30

29

28

27

26

26

Landing at Telefon Bay, Deception Island
04/11/2024

27

At sea on the Drake Passage
05-06/11/2024

28

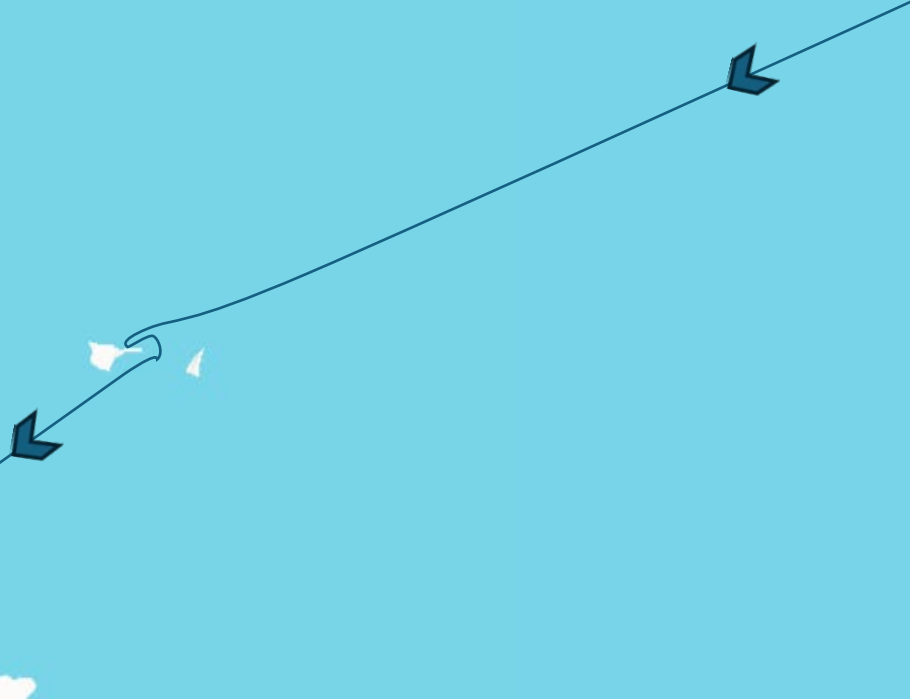
Drake Passage & Cape Hoorn
06/11/2024

29

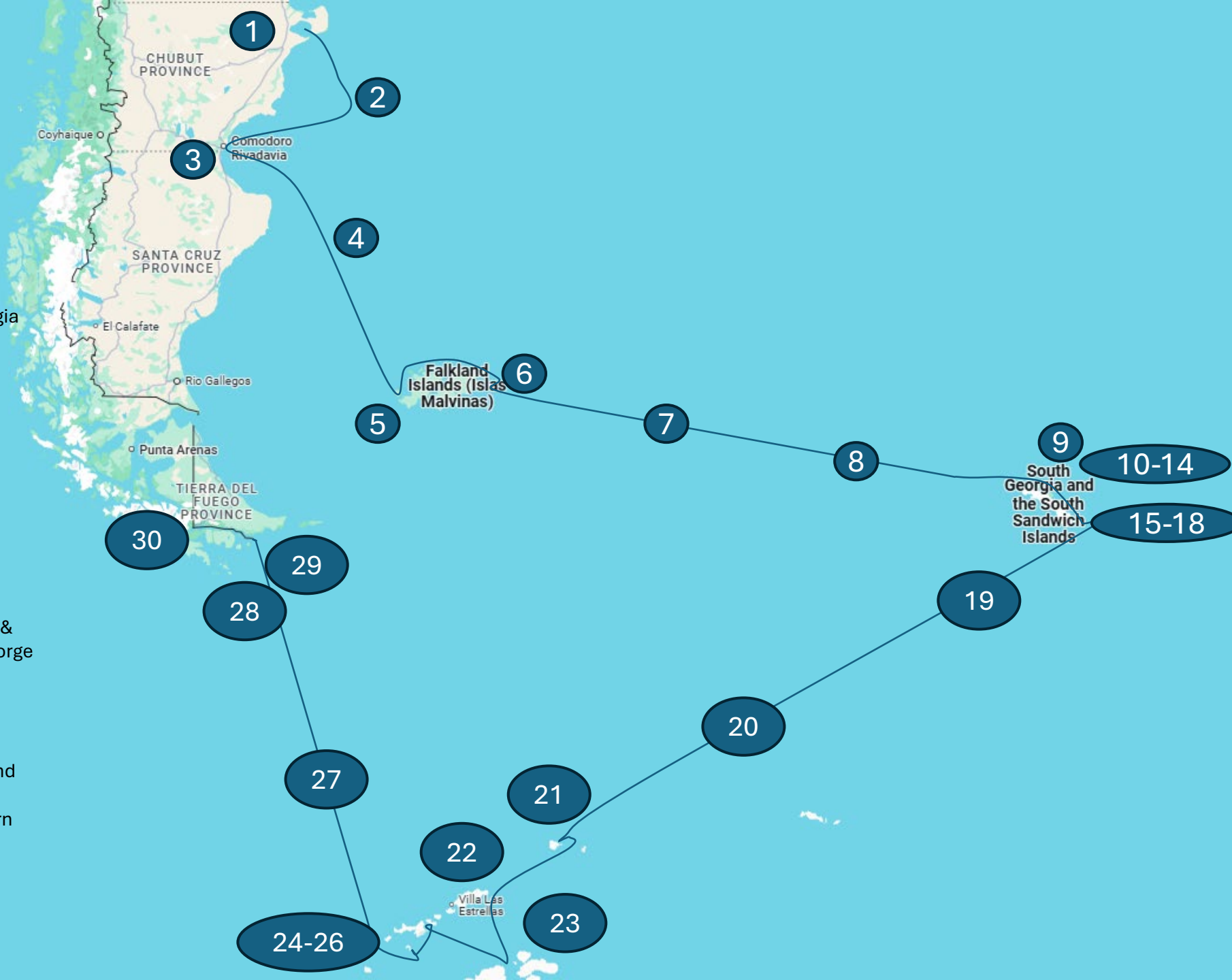
Beagle Channel
06/11/2024

30

Ushuaia
06-07/11/2024



1. Puerto Madryn
2. At sea
3. Comodoro Rivadavia
4. At Sea
5. New Island, Falklands
6. Stanley
7. At sea
8. Antarctic Convergence
9. Salisbury Plain, South Georgia
10. Fortuna Bay
11. Hercules Bay
12. Stromness
13. Grytviken
14. Godthul
15. St. Andrew's Bay
16. Gold Harbour
17. Cooper Bay
18. Drygalski Fjord
19. At sea
20. At sea
21. Point Wild, Elephant Island
22. Penguin Island, Turret Point & Three Sisters Point, King George Island, South Shetlands
23. Antarctic Sound
24. Half Moon Island
25. Yankee Harbour
26. Telefon Bay, Deception Island
27. Drake Passage
28. Drake Passage & Cape Hoorn
29. Beagle Channel
30. Ushuaia



Species list: Breeding birds and common marine mammals of the Falklands			18 Oct	19 Oct	20 Oct	21 Oct	22 Oct	23 Oct
English	Latin	Deutsch						
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	Königspinguin						
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	Eselspinguin					X	X
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	Magellan-Pinguin			X		X	X
Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>	Felsenpinguin					X	
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	Goldschopfpinguin					X	
White-tufted Grebe	<i>Rollandia rolland rolland</i>	Rolland-Taucher						X
Silvery Grebe	<i>Podiceps occipitalis</i>	Inkataucher						
Great Grebe	<i>Podiceps major</i>	Magellantaucher	X					
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	Schwarzbrauenalbatross		X		X	X	X
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wandalbatross				X		
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Königsalbatros						
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	Nördlicher Königsalbatros						
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Südlicher Riesensturmvogel	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	Feensturmvogel						
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>	Belcher-Sturmvogel		X	X	X	X	X
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	Weißkinnsturmvogel		X	X	X	X	X
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	Dunkelsturmtaucher		X		X		X
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>	Großer Sturmtaucher		X				
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Buntfußsturmschwalbe		X	X	X		
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>	Graurücken-Sturmschwalbe						X
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>	Lummensturmvogel						
Magellanic Diving Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>	Magellanischer Tauchsturmvogel		X	X			
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialoides</i>	Suedlicher Sturmtaucher				X		
Snowy Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>	Weißgesicht-Scheidenschnabel				X		
Rock Shag	<i>Leucocarbo magellanicus</i>	Rock-Shag					X	X
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	Blauaugenscharbe			X		X	X
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax falklandicus</i>	Nachtreiher					X	
Black-necked Swan	<i>Cygnus melanochoryphus</i>	Schwarzhalsschwan						
Coscoroba Swan	<i>Coscoroba coscoroba</i>	Coscorobaschwan						

Upland Goose	<i>Chloephaga picta</i>	Magellangans					X	X
Kelp Goose	<i>Chloephaga hybrida</i>	Tanggans					X	X
Ruddy-headed Goose	<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>	Rotkopfgans					X	
Flying Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres patachonicus</i>	Langflügel-Dampfschiffente						
Falkland Flightless Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres brachypterus</i>	Falkland-Dampfschiffente					X	X
Crested Duck	<i>Lophonetta specularioides</i>	Schopfente					X	X
Chiloe Wigion	<i>Anas sibilatrix</i>	Chilepfeifente					X	
Speckled Teal	<i>Anas flavirostris</i>	Chile-Krickente						
Yellow-billed pintail	<i>Anas georgica spinicauda</i>	Spitzschwanzente						
Silver Teal	<i>Anas versicolor fretensis</i>	Silberente						
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	Zimtente						
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Truthahngeier					X	X
Red-backed Hawk/Variable Hawk	<i>Buteo polysoma</i>	Rotrückenbussard					X	
Striated Caracara	<i>Phalcoboenus australis</i>	Falklandkarakara					X	
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>	Schopfkarakara						
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus cassini</i>	Wanderfalke						
Magellanic Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus leucopodus</i>	Feuerland-Austernfischer					X	
Blackish Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ater</i>	Südamerikanischer Austernfischer						
Two-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius falklandicus</i>	Falkland-Regenpfeifer						X
Rufous-chested Dotterel	<i>Charadrius modestus</i>	Rotbrust-Regenpfeifer						X
Magellanic Snipe	<i>Gallinago paraguaiiae magellanica</i>	Falkland-Bekassine						X
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>	Subantarktiskua					X	
Chilean Skua	<i>Stercorarius chilensis</i>	Chileskua			X			
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe			X			
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	Blutschnabelmöwe					X	X
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Dominikanermöwe	X		X	X	X	X
Brown-hooded Gull	<i>Larus maculipennis</i>	Patagonienmöwe	X					
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundacea</i>	Falklandseeschwalbe	X	X	X			
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe			X			
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba tuidara</i>	Schleiereule						
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus sanfordi</i>	Sumpfohreule						
Blackish Cinclodes (Tussack Bird)	<i>Cinclodes antarcticus antarcticus</i>	Einfarb-Uferwippen					X	
Dark-faced ground- tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola m. macloviana</i>	Maskentyrann					X	X

Falkland Pipit	<i>Anthus correndera grayi</i>	Falklandpieper						
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Hausesperling	X					
Falkland Grass Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis falklandica</i>	Seggenzaunkönig						X
Cobb's Wren	<i>Troglodytes cobbi</i>	Hauszaunkönig						
Black-throated Finch/ Canary-winged Finch	<i>Melanodera melanodera melanodera</i>	Schwarzkehl-Ammerfink						X
Chilean Swallow	<i>Tachycinata leucopyga</i>	Chile-Baumschwalbe			X			
Falkland Thrush	<i>Turdus falklandii falklandii</i>	Magellandrossel					X	
Black-chinned Siskin	<i>Carduelis barbata</i>	Bartzeisig					X	
Long-tailed Meadow Lark	<i>Sturnella loyca falklandica</i>	Langschwanz-Soldatenstärling					X	X
Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	Ohrentaube			X			
Marine mammals								
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>	Zwergwal						
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal		X				
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal						
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal						
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal		X			X	X
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	Suedlicher Glattwal	X	X		X		
Southern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>	Südlicher Entenwal						
Straptoothed Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon layardii</i>	Layard-Wal						
Long Finned Pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Grindwal						
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal						
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>	Stundenglasdelfin			X			
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	Peale-Delfin	X		X	X	X	
Commerson's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>	Commerson-Delfin						X
Southern Sea Lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>	Mähnenrobbe	X		X	X	X	X
South American Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus australis</i>	Südamerikanischer Seebär						

Species list: Breeding & Common Birds/Marine Mammals of South Georgia

Birds			24 Oct	25 Oct	26 Oct	27 Oct	28 Oct	29 Oct	30 Oct
English	Latin	Detusch							
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wanderalbatross						X	
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	Schwarzbrauenalbatross	X		X		X	X	X
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>	Graukopfalbatross	X	X			X	X	X
Light Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	Rußalbatross	X	X	X	X		X	
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	Königspinguin	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>	Eselspinguin				X	X	X	
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>	Kehlstreifpinguin				X		X	X
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	Goldschopfpinguin				X		X	
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	Noerdlicher Riesensturmvogel			X	X			
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Südlicher Riesensturmvogel	X		X	X	X	X	x
Cape Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>	Kapsturmvogel	X			X	X	X	x
South Georgia Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax georgianus</i>	Südgeorgienscharbe			X	X	X	X	
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>	Lummensturmvogel							
South Georgia Diving Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides georgicus</i>	Breitschnabel-Sturmvogel							
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>	Schneesturmvogel		X		X		X	X
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>	Suedlicher Sturmtaucher	X						X
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>	Blausturmvogel	X	X					x
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	Weißkinnsturmvogel		X		X	X	X	
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	Taubensturmvogel		X					X
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	Feensturmvogel		X					
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Buntfußsturmschwalbe		X				X	X
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>	Schwarzbauchmeerläufer	X	X					
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>	Graurücken-Sturmschwalbe							
Snowy Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>	Weißgesicht-Scheidenschnabel			X	X	X	X	
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>	Subantarktiskua				X	X	X	
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>	Antipodenseeschwalbe			X	X	X	X	
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Dominikanermöwe			X	X	X	X	
South Georgia Pipit	<i>Anthus antarcticus</i>	Riesenpieper				X	X	X	
South Georgia Pintail	<i>Anas georgica</i>	Südgeorgien-Spitzschwanzente			X	X	X	X	

[illegible]

Species list: Breeding & Common Birds/Marine Mammals of Antarctica and the Drake Passage

Species list: Breeding birds			31 Oct	1 Nov	2 Nov	3 Nov	4 Nov	5 Nov	6 Nov
English	Latin	Deutsch							
Adelie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>	Adeliepinguin			X	X	X		
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>	Eselspinguin			X	X	X		
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>	Zuegelpinguin	X	X	X	X	X		
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	Goldschopfpinguin							
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	Magellan Pinguin							
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wanderalbatross							X
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Südlicher Koenigsalbatros							X
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	Schwarzbrauenalbatross	X	X					X
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>	Graukopfalbatross							X
Light Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	Graumantelrußalbatross	X	X					X
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Südlicher Riesensturmvogel	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	Noerdlicher Riesensturmvogel							
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	Weißkinnsturmvogel							
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>	Silbersturmvogel	X	X	X	X		X	X
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>	Kapsturmvogel	X	X	X	X		X	X
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>	Weißflügelsturmvogel	X			X		X	
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>	Blausturmvogel	X	X				X	X
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>	Schneesturmvogel	X		X	X			
Soft-plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	Weichfedersturmvogel							
Kerguelen Petrel	<i>Aphrodroma brevirostris</i>	Kerguelen-Sturmvogel						X	X
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Buntfußsturmschwalbe			X	X			
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>	Schwarzbauchmeerläufer							
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>	Lummensturmvogel							
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	Taubensturmvogel	X	X				X	
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>	Antarktikscharbe		X	X	X	X		
Snowy Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>	Weißgesicht-Scheidenschnabel	X	X	X	X			
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Dominikanermöwe		X	X	X	X		
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>	Antipodenseeschwalbe		X	X	X	X		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe					X		
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundacea</i>	Suedamerikanische Seeschwalbe							

Ali Liddle – Expedition Leader



Originally from the UK, Ali spent 15 years living in the Falkland Islands where she worked as a Primary school teacher both teaching out in 'camp' and at the school in Stanley. Latterly, she was employed as Education Officer for Falklands Conservation and shared her time between classroom teaching and conservation. In 1997, she spent 9 months living on South Georgia where she ran the Post Office and took every opportunity to hike, ski and explore the surrounding peaks and coastline. She has published three books to date: *Plants of the Falkland Islands* and two art and craft books for children using penguins and albatross as the inspiration. Ali is a keen runner, having completed three marathons in the Falkland Islands and two in the UK, and she also enjoys cycling, hiking and camping. Ali has been working on Antarctic and Arctic expedition cruises with Oceanwide for more years than she cares to remember and works on all of the Oceanwide vessels at some point during the year. She has recently relocated from Northumberland to the Isle of Skye where she is renovating a cottage and enjoying the hiking opportunities of the island. Her particular interest is

natural history and the wildlife, and she enjoys sharing her knowledge of and passion for the polar regions.

Deutsch

Ali kommt ursprünglich aus Großbritannien und hat 15 Jahre lang auf den Falklandinseln gelebt. Dort arbeitete sie als Grundschullehrerin im sogenannten "Camp" wie auch in der Schule von Stanley. Später war sie zuständig für den Bereich Bildung des Umweltamtes und teilte ihre Zeit zwischen Klassenzimmer und Naturschutz. 1997 verbrachte sie neun Monate in Südgeorgien, wo sie das Postamt betrieb. Gleichzeitig nutzte sie jede Gelegenheit, um zu wandern, Ski zu laufen und die umliegenden Gipfel und Küstenlinien zu erkunden. Sie hat drei Bücher veröffentlicht: *Pflanzen der Falklandinseln* und zwei Kunst- und Handwerksbücher für Kinder, die von Pinguinen und Albatrossen inspiriert sind. Sie ist eine leidenschaftliche Läuferin und hat bereits drei Marathons auf den Falklandinseln und zwei in Großbritannien absolviert. Außerdem fährt sie gerne Rad und liebt das Wandern und Zelten.

Ali arbeitet bereits seit vielen Jahren auf allen Schiffen der Oceanwide-Flotte, sowohl in der Antarktis wie auch der Arktis. Sie ist vor kurzem von Northumberland in England auf die Isle of Skye in Schottland gezogen, wo sie zur Zeit eine alte Kate renoviert. In ihrer Freizeit genießt sie die unglaublichen Wandermöglichkeiten der Insel.

Ihr besonderes Interesse gilt der Natur und der Tierwelt: dieses Wissen und ihre Leidenschaft für die Polarregionen teilt sie gerne mit Euch.

Allan White – Asst. Exp. Leader



Allan was born and raised in the Falkland Islands. He's a fifth generation Islander, and a descendant of one of the original British colonists in 1840. His higher education was completed in England, after which he embarked on a military career.

He joined the British Army aged 17. After serving in West Germany for two years during the Cold War period, he completed deployments in Northern Ireland, Cyprus as a United Nations peace-keeper, and with British Forces South Atlantic Islands. He left the Army to settle back in the Falklands.

While working as a Port Agent, Allan worked with the late Lars-Eric Lindblad, the inspirational pioneer of the small ship expedition cruising concept. He encouraged Allan to become a Zodiac driver and go to sea for a year. Twentyeight years later, he's still at it. His voyages have taken him all over the world, with particular focus on the Polar regions. His travel experience ranges from 90° North to 76° South.

In the Falklands, Allan and his wife owned and operated their own tourist lodge for over a decade. More recently they managed a privately owned island, where they were the sole residents for almost 5 years, with thousands of albatrosses, penguins and seals for neighbours.

Allan is an experienced guide and Zodiac driver, with a keen interest in natural history and polar exploration. He lives in the Falklands capital Stanley, with his wife Jacqui and their Labrador Bosun.

Deutsch

Allan wurde auf den Falklandinseln geboren und ist dort aufgewachsen. Er ist ein Nachfahre in fünfter Generation eines der ursprünglichen britischen Kolonisten von 1840. Seine höhere Bildung absolvierte er in England, bevor er eine Militärlaufbahn einschlug.

Mit 17 Jahren trat er in die britische Armee ein. Nach einem zweijährigen Einsatz in Westdeutschland während des Kalten Krieges folgten Stationierungen in Nordirland, auf Zypern als UN-Friedenswächter und bei den britischen Streitkräften auf den Südlichen Atlantikinseln. Nach seiner Militärzeit ließ er sich wieder auf den Falklandinseln nieder.

Als Hafenagent arbeitete Allan mit dem inzwischen verstorbenen Lars-Eric Lindblad zusammen, dem inspirierenden Pionier des kleinen Expeditionskreuzfahrtschiffs. Dieser ermutigte Allan, Zodiac-Fahrer zu werden und für ein Jahr zur See zu fahren. Achtundzwanzig Jahre später ist er immer noch dabei. Seine Reisen haben ihn in die ganze Welt geführt, mit besonderem Schwerpunkt auf die Polarregionen. Seine Erfahrungen reichen von 90° Nord bis 76° Süd.

Auf den Falklandinseln betrieben Allan und seine Frau über ein Jahrzehnt lang ihre eigene Touristenlodge. In jüngerer Zeit verwalteten sie eine privat besessene Insel, auf der sie fast 5 Jahre lang die einzigen Bewohner waren, mit Tausenden von Albatrossen, Pinguinen und Robben als Nachbarn.

Allan ist ein erfahrener Reiseleiter und Zodiac-Fahrer mit großem Interesse an Naturgeschichte und Polarforschung. Er lebt in der Hauptstadt der Falklandinseln, Stanley, mit seiner Frau Jacqui und ihrem Labrador Bosun.

William Kennedy – Expedition Guide



William was brought up in the west coast of France in an Irish household. From a very young age he travelled to visit relatives on the emerald isle and the bug for discovering other cultures and lifestyles caught him.

Curiosity brought him all over Europe, working as a farmer in Iceland, building cabins in the Pyrenees, bartending in Scotland, carpentering in Norway and becoming a kitchen chef in Sweden. While living yet another adventure on the remote archipelago of Svalbard, he discovered the polar world and its famous adventurers.

He since then has been sailing the Arctic and Antarctic waters, blending his passion for history, storytelling, and travel by shining the light on unsung polar heroes, events and adventures.

When not on the ships he lives in Malmö, Sweden where he found a place to call home. Hiking and sailing are his main past times along with playing rugby and ice hockey, depending on the season.

Deutsch

William wuchs an der Westküste Frankreichs in einem irischen Haushalt auf. Schon in jungen Jahren reiste er häufig, um Verwandte auf der grünen Insel zu besuchen, und entwickelte dabei eine Leidenschaft für das Entdecken anderer Kulturen und Lebensweisen.

Seine Neugierde führte ihn durch ganz Europa, wo er in verschiedenen Berufen arbeitete: als Landwirt in Island, beim Hüttenbau in den Pyrenäen, als Barkeeper in Schottland, als Zimmermann in Norwegen und als Küchenchef in Schweden. Während eines weiteren Abenteuers im abgelegenen Archipel von Spitzbergen (Svalbard) entdeckte er die Polarwelt und ihre berühmten Entdecker.

Seitdem segelt er durch die arktischen und antarktischen Gewässer und verbindet seine Leidenschaft für Geschichte, das Geschichtenerzählen und das Reisen, indem er unbekannte Polarhelden, Ereignisse und Abenteuer ins Rampenlicht stellt.

Wenn er nicht auf den Schiffen unterwegs ist, lebt William in Malmö, Schweden, wo er ein Zuhause gefunden hat. Zu seinen Hobbys gehören Wandern und Segeln, sowie das Spielen von Rugby und Eishockey, je nach Jahreszeit.

Chloe Power – Expedition guide



Chloe is a marine scientist turned high school science teacher and thinks of science as just 'measurable magic'.

Chloe believes that enthusiasm and passion are key qualities in communicating science, which can hopefully make it more enjoyable and digestible for conservation efforts.

Her background is undergrad studies in marine biology at Southern Cross University in the Northern Rivers region of NSW Australia - where she focused on intertidal zones and mollusc ecology. She then completed a master's in marine and Antarctic science at the University of Tasmania in Hobart where she studied plankton communities and the effects of sea ice on Antarctic food webs.

Chloe travelled down to Antarctica in 2018 with Antarctica New Zealand where her obsession for the ice began, and she well and truly caught the 'polar bug'. She has guided in the Kimberley region of north-western

Australia, the Antarctic Peninsula, the Subantarctic Islands and the Ross Sea.

Chloe also delves into a bit of social science, with a focus on connections between the Antarctic Gateway Cities and in her role as the Hobart representative for the 'Antarctic Youth Coalition' which aims to inspire and educate youth on Antarctic related matters.

When Chloe is not telling off teenagers on how to use a Bunsen burner correctly, you'll find her in the ocean - surfing, diving, or fossicking through the intertidal zone for ocean treasures. She can't wait to explore this incredible part of the world with you.

Deutsch

Chloe ist eine Meereswissenschaftlerin, die zur Naturwissenschaftslehrerin an einer Highschool wurde, und sie betrachtet Wissenschaft als „messbare Magie“.

Chloe ist überzeugt, dass Begeisterung und Leidenschaft entscheidende Eigenschaften sind, um Wissenschaft zu vermitteln, in der Hoffnung, dass sie dadurch zugänglicher und unterhaltsamer wird – besonders im Hinblick auf Naturschutzbemühungen.

Ihr akademischer Hintergrund umfasst ein Bachelorstudium in Meeresbiologie an der Southern Cross University in der Northern Rivers Region von NSW, Australien, wo sie sich auf Gezeitenzonen und die Ökologie von Weichtieren spezialisierte. Anschließend erwarb sie einen Master in Meeres- und Antarktiswissenschaften an der University of Tasmania in Hobart, wo sie Planktongemeinschaften und die Auswirkungen von Meereis auf antarktische Nahrungsnetze erforschte.

2018 reiste Chloe mit *Antarctica New Zealand* in die Antarktis, wo ihre Faszination für die Polarregionen begann, und sie bekam endgültig das „Polarvirus“. Sie hat in der Kimberley-Region im Nordwesten Australiens, auf der Antarktischen Halbinsel, den subantarktischen Inseln und im Rossmeer als Reiseleiterin gearbeitet.

Chloe beschäftigt sich auch mit Sozialwissenschaften, insbesondere mit den Verbindungen der *Antarctic Gateway Cities*. In ihrer Rolle als Hobart-Vertreterin für die „Antarctic Youth Coalition“ setzt sie sich dafür ein, junge Menschen für antarktische Themen zu inspirieren und zu bilden.

Wenn sie nicht gerade Teenagern erklärt, wie man einen Bunsenbrenner richtig benutzt, ist sie im Ozean zu finden – beim Surfen, Tauchen oder beim Stöbern nach Meeresfunden in der Gezeitenzone. Sie freut sich darauf, diese unglaubliche Region der Welt mit dir zu erkunden.

Stefanie Liller – Expedition guide



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

A large part of her career was spent as a coach. It was always very important to her to make her own skills available to people curious and interested, and to look after their safety and lasting enjoyment in the sport. Starting in 2011 she managed several indoor skydiving facilities in Germany and Austria. In addition to her professional career, Stefanie is an avid world-traveler by foot or public transport. While exploring various landscapes and communities on all seven continents,

she enjoys sharing her experiences and unique moments with others. Since 2017 Stefanie has been working as an independent coach in skydiving and indoor skydiving and guide/ lecturer on several vessels in remote areas. Stefanie has chosen Vienna, Austria as her home base, and lives there in between trips.

Deutsch

Steffi wurde in Offenbach/Main 1978 geboren. Nach erfolgreicher Ausbildung zur Biologielaborantin am Paul-Ehrlich-Institut in Langen absolvierte sie das Studium der Biologie und Meteorologie in Darmstadt und Freiburg. Neben dem Studium und ihrer Liebe zur Natur entwickelte sie darüber hinaus eine weitere, sportliche Leidenschaft und zwar fürs Fallschirmspringen, das im Laufe der Zeit vom Hobby auch zum beruflichen Lebensmittelpunkt wurde. Stefanie Liller arbeitete auf Fallschirmsprungplätzen und Indoor-Skydiving-Anlagen in ganz Mitteleuropa und erfreute sich besonders daran, anderen Menschen ihre Faszination für diesen Sport näherbringen zu können. So verbrachte sie einen Großteil ihrer Karriere als Coach und legte stets besonderen Wert darauf ihre eigene Leidenschaft, Neugierigen und Interessierten zugänglich zu machen. Ab 2011 war sie im Management verschiedener Indoor-Skydiving-Anlagen in Deutschland und Österreich tätig. Neben dem beruflichen Werdegang war und ist Stefanie Liller stets begeisterte Weltreisende geblieben. Auf allen sieben Kontinenten erkundete sie Landschaften und Gebiete, meistens zu Fuß oder mit den öffentlichen Verkehrsmitteln, und erfreut sich daran, ihre Erfahrungen und einzigartigen Momente mit Interessierten zu teilen. Seit 2017 arbeitet sie selbstständig als Coach auf Sprungplätzen und Indoor Skydiving Anlagen, sowie Lektor und Guide auf verschiedenen Schiffen in abgeschiedenen Regionen. Als Wahlheimat und Basis zwischen den Trips ist sie in Wien ansässig.

Esther Josten – Expedition Guide



The place she calls home is a small village in a western German hillside area called Eifel. It's surrounded by extinct volcanoes, vast forests and steep valleys. From this base she started exploring the world and found her great passion in the travel industry and outdoor life.

She studied International Tourism Management in the Netherlands, lived in France, Spain, and New Zealand for a while. She worked as tour leader, hiking guide, skipper, and expedition guide for almost 10 years now. When she's not guiding in the Polar regions, she spends most of her time building up a small business for outdoor experiences and tailor-made tours in the fjords of southern Norway and works as freelancer in several other fields.

What she loves about her job is not only getting out into nature and being in touch with the elements, but also the meaningful connections with people from all corners of the world. Besides all the natural wonders our planet offers, she is fascinated by its' history, cultures and languages.

She strongly believes that – if managed well – tourism can be a catalyst for positive change. Travelling can inspire, educate, trigger thought and discussion, and expand our horizons. Esther loves sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge with others and specializes in storytelling, history, and tourism management.

Deutsch

Esthers Heimat ist ein kleines Dorf im Westen Deutschlands, in der Mittelgebirgsregion Eifel. Die Landschaft dort ist geprägt von erloschenen Vulkanen, weiten Wäldern und tiefen Tälern. Von dort aus begann sie, die Welt zu entdecken und fand dabei ihre Leidenschaft für die Reise- & Outdoor-Branche.

Sie studierte Internationales Tourismus Management in den Niederlanden und lebte eine Weile in Frankreich, Spanien und Neuseeland. Seit fast 10 Jahren arbeitet sie als Reiseleiter, Wander- und Bootsführer und Expeditions-Guide. Wenn sie nicht in den Polarregionen unterwegs ist, verbringt sie die meiste Zeit damit, ihre eigene Firma für Outdoor-Erlebnisse und maßgeschneiderte Touren in der Fjordlandschaft Südnorwegens aufzubauen und arbeitet als Freiberufler in verschiedenen Bereichen.

Was sie an ihrem Beruf liebt, ist nicht nur die Nähe zur Natur und den Elementen, sondern auch die wunderbaren Begegnungen mit Menschen aus aller Welt. Neben all den natürlichen Wundern, die unser Planet zu bieten hat, ist sie fasziniert von dessen Geschichte, Kulturen und Sprachen.

Sie ist davon überzeugt, dass Tourismus ein Katalysator positiver Veränderung sein kann, solange er richtig organisiert wird. Das Reisen kann inspirieren, lehren, Gedanken und Diskussionen anregen und unseren Horizont erweitern. Esther liebt es, ihren Enthusiasmus und ihr Wissen mit anderen zu teilen und hat sich auf das Geschichtenerzählen, Geschichte und Tourismus-Management spezialisiert.

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 Czarna*, 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 alumnus 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.

Deutsch

Schon bevor sie zehn Jahre alt war, wurde Gabi der unberührten Wildnis von Alaska, Kanada und Lapland ausgesetzt, was in ihr eine tief verwurzelte Leidenschaft für kalte Klimazonen und die freie Natur weckte. Seitdem widmet sie jeden Sommer dem Segeln, ein Höhepunkt ihrer Reise war 2012, als sie an Bord der *Zawisza Czarna* das Baltische Meer von Polen nach Skandinavien und zurück überquerte. Die historische 42-Meter-Langstreckenfähre wurde ursprünglich 1952 gebaut.

Ihre Faszination für Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte hat sie dazu gebracht, sich eingehend mit der Vergangenheit und Gegenwart der Antarktis zu beschäftigen. Dabei erforscht sie archäologische Ausgrabungen, die Geheimnisse früher Expeditionen und moderne Errungenschaften sowie die Erhaltung des Kontinents.

Gabis Begeisterung für die Kälte geht über das Reisen hinaus; sie ist eine engagierte Praktizierende der Wim Hof Methode und nimmt das ganze Jahr über an Eisbädern, dem „Walrusing“ und der Kryotherapie teil. Ein prägendes Erlebnis hatte sie 1993 auf der kanadischen Arktisinsel Herschel Island, wo sie einer Herde Moschusochsen begegnete, wodurch sich ihre Vorliebe für dieses majestätische Tier der Arktis festigte. In der Antarktis ist ihre Entscheidung noch nicht gefallen, aber die jungen Kaiserpinguine stehen ganz oben auf der Liste.

Als Absolventin der Nature Outdoors Leadership School ist sie eine zertifizierte Ersthelferin in Wildnisgebieten und ein angesehenes Mitglied der Polar Tourism Guide Association.

Gabis Weg, geprägt von einer tiefen Verbundenheit zur arktischen Wildnis und einem lebenslangen Streben nach Abenteuer, macht sie zu einer leidenschaftlichen Verfechterin für den Erhalt der Natur. Durch diese Perspektive möchte sie anderen die Schönheit und Herausforderungen der Polarregionen näherbringen und ein tieferes Bewusstsein für diese außergewöhnlichen Landschaften schaffen.

Yves Adams - Expedition guide



Yves is a celebrated wildlife and landscape photographer from Belgium, with a passion for the cold environments and the polar regions.

Guiding international photography tours has brought him to all corners of the planet, from Alaska to Japan, from Galapagos to Greenland, and to just about every country in Europe.

Fascinated by polar wildlife, Yves has been leading expeditions to Svalbard and Antarctica during the last 16 years and adores rubber boat excursions to observe pristine landscapes and stunning wildlife together with his passengers.

Besides being passionate for nature, Yves has a big heart for people. He teaches with great patience and enthusiasm and is happy to help at any time, whatever the question.

When in Belgium, Yves works as a freelance photographer for governments and NGO's.

Having won several prizes with his images and being published in many magazines such as National Geographic, he is more than happy to share what he knows and lift your photography to the next level.

Deutsch

Yves ist ein gefeierter Tier- und Landschaftsfotograf aus Belgien, der eine besondere Leidenschaft für kalte Umgebungen und die Polarregionen hat.

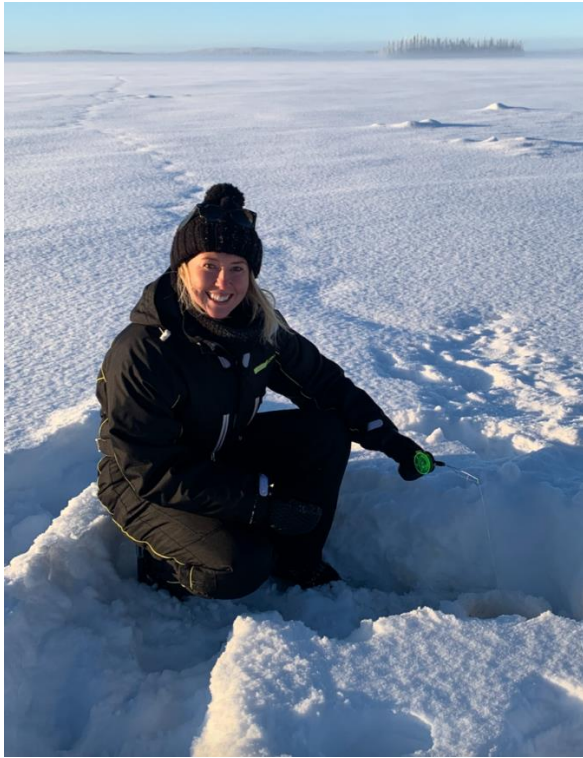
Als Leiter internationaler Fototouren hat er die entlegensten Winkel des Planeten bereist, von Alaska bis Japan, von den Galapagosinseln bis Grönland und nahezu jedes Land in Europa.

Fasziniert von der Tierwelt der Polarregionen, führt Yves seit 16 Jahren Expeditionen nach Svalbard und in die Antarktis. Er liebt es, bei Ausflügen mit Schlauchbooten unberührte Landschaften und beeindruckende Wildtiere gemeinsam mit seinen Gästen zu beobachten.

Neben seiner Leidenschaft für die Natur hat Yves auch ein großes Herz für Menschen. Er unterrichtet mit viel Geduld und Begeisterung und steht immer gerne zur Verfügung, um Fragen zu beantworten. In Belgien arbeitet Yves als freiberuflicher Fotograf für Regierungen und Nichtregierungsorganisationen.

Mit seinen preisgekrönten Bildern, die in zahlreichen Zeitschriften wie National Geographic veröffentlicht wurden, teilt er gerne sein Wissen und hilft, deine Fotografie auf die nächste Stufe zu heben.

Zoë Allen – Ship Doctor



Zoë grew up in a small coastal town in Cornwall, England.

She trained to become a general practitioner doctor in London. Zoë currently works in both emergency medicine and general practice whilst in the UK but you will often find her overseas partaking in expedition medicine, humanitarian medicine or generally exploring overseas.

She holds additional qualifications in paediatric medicine, tropical medicine and reproductive and sexual health. Additionally, Zoë is trained in minor surgery skills.

She has worked in various humanitarian settings such as in rural Zambia and Madagascar.

Zoë is an avid outdoor lover and has previously worked as an expedition doctor on Mount Kilimanjaro.

In her spare time she enjoys hiking, skiing, rock climbing and salsa dancing.

Deutsch

Zoë wuchs in einer kleinen Küstenstadt in Cornwall, England, auf.

Sie absolvierte ihre Ausbildung zur Ärztin für Allgemeinmedizin in London. Zoë arbeitet derzeit in England in der Notfallmedizin und als Allgemeinmedizinerin, ist aber auch in Übersee unterwegs, wo sie Expeditionsmedizinerin und humanitäre Arbeit betreibt, während sie ferne Länder erkundet.

Sie verfügt über zusätzliche Qualifikationen in Kinder- und Tropenmedizin sowie reproduktive und sexuelle Gesundheit. Außerdem ist Zoë in kleineren chirurgischen Eingriffen ausgebildet.

Sie hat in verschiedenen humanitären Einrichtungen gearbeitet, z. B. im ländlichen Sambia und in Madagaskar.

Zoë ist eine begeisterte Naturliebhaberin und hat bereits als Expeditionsärztin auf dem Kilimandscharo gearbeitet.

In ihrer Freizeit geht sie gerne wandern, Ski fahren, klettern und tanzt Salsa.



The Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Friday 18th October 2024
Embarkation – Puerto Madryn

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

*** * 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 the **mandatory** safety briefing and lifeboat drill. All passengers must attend this meeting. This will be followed by a Lifeboat Drill.
- 1845 **Captain's Welcome & Expedition Introduction** – Please join us in **Lounge** (deck 5) for an introduction to your ship from Hotel Manager Alex. This will be followed by Captain's Cocktail, a chance to meet Captain Evgeny Levakov and then to meet your expedition team and our Expedition Leader Ali Liddle, who will give you an introduction to the trip.
- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** which is on Deck 3 behind the Reception.

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.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to the Falkland Islands

Saturday 19th October

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **The Falkland Islands.** Your Expedition Leader, Ali lived in the Falklands for 15 years so please join her in the Lounge for a presentation about the islands.
- 1100 **Photography.** You will be taking lots of photographs during this voyage so if you would like to know more about taking the best photos then please join Yves in the Lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1530 **Whales.** We hope to see some whales during this trip so if you would like to learn more about the species, we might see please join Chloe in the Lounge.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the Reception desk. Enjoy your meal.

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



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to the Falkland Islands

Sunday 20th October 2024

Our plans for today will depend on our situation on board when we arrive at Commodore Rivadavia

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1100 **Island Life.** Allan is a Falkland Islander who spent many years on a remote island called West Point. If you would like to hear more about his time on this island then please join him in the Lounge
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Seals.** There are numerous species of seals living in the southern ocean region and we hope to see many of them during our voyage. If you would like to learn more about these marine mammals then please join Chloe in the Lounge.
- 1700 **Boots.** At this time, we would like to give out the rubber boots that you need for your trip. We will do this by deck so please listen for announcements. The Boot Room is on Deck 3.
- 1815 **Recap and Mandatory Zodiac briefing.** Ali will give you the mandatory briefing about our zodiac operations. All passengers must attend and you will hear of our plans for tomorrow in the Falkland Islands.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3. Enjoy your meal.

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

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to the Falkland Islands

Monday 21st October 2024

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Penguins.** We hope to see many species of penguins during our voyage so if you would like to learn more about these iconic birds then please join Ali in the Lounge. This will be translated by Steffi.
- 1100 **Mini lecture medley.** Staff will give 4 short 10 minute presentations covering a range of subjects!
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **The Falklands War.** In 1982 Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands which resulted in a war on these remote islands. Please join Allan in the Lounge to hear more about the conflict.
- 1630 **Boots.** At this time, we would like to give out the rubber boots that you need for your trip. We will do this by deck so please listen for announcements. The Boot Room is on Deck 3.
- 1815 **Recap and Mandatory Zodiac briefing.** Ali will give you the mandatory briefing about our zodiac operations. All passengers must attend and you will hear of our plans for tomorrow in the Falkland Islands.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3. Enjoy your meal.

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



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica New Island

Tuesday 22nd October 2023

- 0700 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
Enjoy the approach to New Island!
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- ~0830 **New Island Settlement.** This morning we hope to take you ashore at the settlement landing at New Island. At the landing site there is a small museum where you can buy locally made souvenirs. Cards payment, Cash in £, Euro and \$.
From here you can walk up the hill to the Black browed albatross colony where you will also see Rockhopper penguins. The walk is around 1km. The scenery is beautiful on the way. We also hope to be able to walk around to the settlement to where there is a Gentoo penguin colony.
- 1200 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- ~1330 **New Island North.** In the afternoon we hope to land at North Harbour where there are large colonies of Gentoo penguins and Magellanic penguins. We hope to be able to walk over to the northern sand beach where the Gentoo penguins come ashore. This is a 1.5 km walk from the landing site.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for the re-cap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

0700 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

At this time we will be making our final approach towards Stanley Harbour. Keep a look out for dolphins and enjoy the navigation through The Narrows.

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

0830 **Stanley.** We hope to be able to take you ashore in Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. We will land at the jetty which is close to the centre of town. Maps and other information leaflets are available in the Jetty Centre.

Enjoy a visit to the museum and a walk along the sea front where you will find the shops and Post Office.

Local currency is Pounds Sterling but you can use Euros and Dollars in most shops. Debit and Credit cards are also accepted.

WiFi internet cards can be bought at the Jetty Centre and used at WiFi hotspots in town.

1300 **Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

1530 **Island Isolation! Escaping Covid.** Ali spent much of the covid pandemic on Sea Lion Island, one of the remote islands in the Falklands. Please join her in the Lounge to hear some stories of island life.

1830 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for the re-cap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 **Dinner** is available in the Dining Room.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to the South Georgia

Thursday 24th October 2024

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Seabirds.** We have seen many species of seabirds already from the albatross to the small storm petrels. If you would like to hear more about these ocean wanderers then please join Steffi in the Lounge.
- 1100 **Introduction to South Georgia.** Please join Ali in the Lounge for an introduction to the island of South Georgia, including aspects of history, the economy and the wildlife.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Sir Ernest Shackleton. Part 1.** The story of Shackleton and the Endurance is almost a legend but there was more to the man than just this expedition. Please join Esther in the Lounge for part one of his story.
- 1630 **Documentary.** We will screen a wildlife documentary in the lounge.
- 1815 **Re-cap and Plans.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to the South Georgia

Friday 25th October 2024

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **South Georgia Briefing and Bio-security.** These are mandatory briefings that everyone must attend.
- 1030 **Bio-security.** Cleaning sessions in the Lounge. We will call you by deck to clean your outer gear – jackets, over trousers, back packs and camera bags. You will need to sign a declaration form after you have done your cleaning. Many thanks.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA – depending on our progress with Bio-security
- Sir Ernest Shackleton. Part 2.** Please join Esther in the Lounge for part 2 of her presentation about the life and expeditions of Sir Ernest Shackleton.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck. Enjoy your meal.

This is our plan for the day but please be prepared for the fact that this might change!

In the morning, we will be sailing along the coast of South Georgia so enjoy the views from deck as we approach the Bay of Isles

- 0730 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0900 **Salisbury Plain.** This morning, we hope to take you ashore at Salisbury Plain where there is a large King penguin colony with 60,000 breeding pairs of penguins. On shore, please follow the red poles as these will take you to the colony via the best route. Remember your distance to wildlife and enjoy your time on shore!
- 1300 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Prince Olav Harbour.** This afternoon we plan to take you out in the zodiacs for a cruise of Prince Olav Harbour. We will take the boats into a small lagoon where there is often lots of elephant seals and fur seals. We will also cruise past the old whaling station. We will be out in the boats for 2 hours or more so please dress warmly.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck. Enjoy your meal.

Before landing, please check your boots, backpacks and any Velcro to make sure they are clean.

On return to the ship please make sure your boots are clean and all your gear has been checked.

- 0515 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali. Pastries and juice will be available in the Lounge.
- ~0600 **Hercules Bay.** This morning we hope to be able to take you out on a zodiac cruise in Hercules Bay where we hope to see the Macaroni penguins that nest on the steep cliffs above the bay. We sometimes see them on the rocks along the shore. Please dress warmly.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0900 **Stromness.** We hope to be able to take you ashore near the whaling station of Stromness. Here we will find Fur seals on the beach as well as some penguins and Elephant seals. We hope to be able to offer a walk up the valley to Shackleton's waterfall. Please keep your distance from wildlife and follow the marker poles on shore.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **Grytviken.** This afternoon, after we have cleared customs we will take you ashore at Grytviken. You can visit the South Georgia Museum where there is a small shop and there is a Post Office is behind the museum. The shop and Post Office only take card payments. You can also visit the church at the back of the whaling station.
Tours of the whaling station will also be offered by the staff at the museum. Timing will be arranged.
We can visit the cemetery where you will find the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton.
- 1900 **Special Dinner** is served on Deck. Dress warmly and enjoy your meal!

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

St Andrews Bay and Godthul
Monday 28th October 2024

- 0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0800 **St Andrew's Bay.** This morning, we hope to take you on ashore at St Andrew's Bay where we will find the largest King penguin colony on South Georgia with around 500,000 breeding pairs of penguins. We will flag a route to the river crossing point and from here to a viewpoint over the colony. Please keep your 5m distance from all wildlife as you walk along the beach and grassy areas beyond.
- 1245 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **Godthul.** This is known as 'Good Cove' and we hope to take you ashore here for a walk up to the Gentoo penguin colonies up beyond the tussac grass. It is quite steep at the beginning of the walk and you will need to follow the red poles as these show the easiest way up. From here you can walk to Lake Aviemore and to the higher penguin colonies.
We will also offer a long hike which will take you to the summit of Edda Hill which is 302 m high and offers great views of the coast beyond
Long hikers please come to the gangway first.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Gold Harbour and Cooper Bay

Tuesday 29th October 2024

- 0530 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
Pastries, juice and fruit will be available in the Lounge.
- 0615 **Gold Harbour.** We hope to take you ashore at Gold Harbour where there is a big king penguin colony and there will be lots of elephant seals on the beach. It is not a big beach so please walk slowly and keep your 5m distance from the wildlife.
- 0830 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- TBA **Cooper Bay.** We hope to be able to take you out on a zodiac cruise at Cooper Bay where there is a Chinstrap penguin colony and hopefully some Macaroni penguins near their colony. The scenery is also very beautiful. Dress warmly.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **Drygalski Fjord.** For our final activity on South Georgia we will ship cruise into Drygalski Fjord which is a beautiful fjord with a glacier at the end. Enjoy the navigation.
- 1815 **Re-cap and Plans.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Krill.** Krill forms the basis of the Antarctic food chain providing food for penguins, seals and whales. If you would like to learn more about these little pink critters, then please join Steffi in the Lounge.
- 1100 **Antarctic Geopolitics.** No single nation owns Antarctica, which makes the politics of this continent unique. To find out more about the Antarctic Treaty and the nations signed up to it, please join Will in the Lounge
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Sea Ice.** We are heading towards the frozen continent where sea ice plays a vital role in the environment and for the wildlife that lives beneath it. Please join Chloe in the Lounge to hear more about the frozen seas.
- 1800 **South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction.** SGHT is a charitable organisation and for them to continue their environmental and cultural conservation projects on South Georgia we will hold a charity auction on board. The items are all from the South Georgia museum and are not available to buy in the shop. There will also be some mystery items! Please join your auctioneer, Will in the Lounge.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

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



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to Antarctica

Thursday 31st October 2024

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **IAATO Briefing.** As we head towards Antarctica we enter a new region where tourism is regulated by the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators. Please join Ali in the Lounge for a mandatory briefing.
- 1000 **Bio-Security checks.** Although we got 100% in our bio-security inspection in South Georgia we now need to check our outer gear before we go to Antarctica. Please bring your outer gear and backpacks to the Lounge once again for the staff to check and then you will need to sign the IAATO self-declaration form. We will call you by deck.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Antarctic Whaling.** We visited Grytviken whaling station on South Georgia where 175,000 whales were processed during the whaling era. If you would like to learn more then please join Allan in the Lounge.
- 1630 **Jackie Ronne.** Jackie was a remarkable woman who first visited Antarctica in 1947. She continued to visit until she was 82 years old. If you would like to hear her story, then please join Gabi in the Lounge.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for the re-cap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

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

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Bio-Security checks.** Although we got 100% in our bio-security inspection in South Georgia we now need to check our outer gear before we go to Antarctica. Please bring your outer gear and backpacks to the Lounge once again for the staff to check and then you will need to sign the IAATO self-declaration form. We will call you by deck.
- 1100 **Tom Crean.** We have heard the stories of Sir Ernest Shackleton, but his men were also an important part of his story. If you would like to learn about the big Irishman, Tom Crean then please join Will in the Lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Adaptations.** In order to survive the freezing temperatures of Antarctica, species have evolved and adapted in many ways. If you would like to learn more about their adaptations then please join Steffi in the Lounge.

During the afternoon we should be approaching Elephant Island. Please listen for announcements regarding our programme and activities.

- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

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



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Penguin Island and Turret Point

Saturday 2nd November 2024

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- TBA** **Penguin Island.** We hope to be able to take you ashore on a small island in the South Shetland Islands called Penguin Island. It is a volcanic island and is home to Chinstrap and Adelie penguins. We will guide you to the penguin colonies and also on a walk around the rim of a volcanic crater. Please follow the poles to avoid the nesting Giant petrels and any vegetation.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA** **Turret Point/Three Sisters Point.** During the afternoon we hope to be able to take you ashore at Turret Point on King George Island where, once again there are colonies of Chinstrap and Adelie penguins. Please follow the marked route to the penguins avoiding vegetation and nesting birds. We hope to be able to offer a walk towards a glacier for some views overlooking the bay and glacier.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

Expedition Day in Antarctic Sound and the ice.

It is really difficult to make a plan for the day as we do not know how far we will be able to navigate into Antarctic Sound due to the ice but we will have a day exploring and have a day to remember!

0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.



1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Yankee Harbour and Deception Island

Monday 4th November 2024

- 0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0800 **Yankee Harbour.** This morning, we hope to be able to take you ashore at Yankee Harbour where there is a colony of Gentoo penguins and very often we find Weddell seals, fur seals and elephant seals on shore. Please follow the marker poles to the colony. Enjoy a walk along the gravel sea spit with views of the glacier.
- 1200 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **Deception Island.** For our last landing we will enter the volcanic caldera of Deception Island which has a dramatic narrow entrance known as Neptune Bellows. We hope to land in the inner part of the caldera at a place called Telefon Bay where we will offer a walk up to a volcanic crater for views over the rim and island beyond.
- 1830 Re-cap and Briefing. Our plans for tomorrow and some stories from staff.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Drake Passage

Tuesday 5th November 2024

There will be no wake up call this morning but Alex will wake you for breakfast!!

- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Sir Francis Drake.** As we sail north in the infamous Drake Passage, please join Gabi in the Lounge to hear more about the man who this stretch of ocean is named after.
- 1100 **Roald Amundsen.** We have heard some stories about the Norwegian explorer, Roald Amundsen during our voyage but if you would like to hear more about the man and his expeditions then please join Will in the Lounge. This will be translated into German.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Life on Antarctic Research Stations.** Chloe has been privileged to spend some time on one of the Antarctic Research stations where life is very different to anywhere on earth. Please join her in the Lounge to hear more.
- 1630 A wildlife documentary will be screened in the Lounge.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Plans.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for our re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

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



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica Drake Passage

Wednesday 6th November 2024

- 0745 A very special wake up call for you this morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Sled Dogs in Antarctica.** We have heard stories of the dogs used by the polar explorers in Antarctica, but they were also used in more recent times by scientific researchers. If you would like to hear more then please join Allan in the Lounge.
- 1100 **Ice Maidens.** If you would like to hear stories of women in Antarctica and about the women behind the men that explored here in the early 20th Century, then please join Ali in the Lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Gas Ballooning.** Steffi has mostly been at sea level during this voyage but away from Plancius she can be found high above the earth competing in gas balloon competitions. Please join her in the Lounge to hear more about her adventures.
- 1630 **Boots.** At this time we will collect your rubber boots. We will call you by deck to bring them to the boot room. If you borrowed a dry bag then please return it at this time. Thank you
- 1815 **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join the Expedition team and Captain Levakov in the Lounge to toast our voyage to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica.
- 1900 **Farewell Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

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



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica Ushuaia

Thursday 7th November 2024

0700 Your final wake up call from Ali! Good Morning everyone, Good Morning!

Before breakfast at 0730 please could you put your large check in luggage outside your cabin so that we can get it onto the pier for you. If you are taking a bus from the ship straight to the airport, please make sure your luggage has a **BLUE label on it.**

All other luggage will go in the truck to be stored at the Luggage building – see map. You must collect it before 1400.

If you have other arrangements to stay in Ushuaia you can take your luggage and walk to the port entrance where you will find a taxi.

Keep your hand luggage in your cabin or take it to the Lounge.

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

0830/0900 It is time to leave the Little Blue Ship, Plancius. Please make sure you have all your belongings with you and that you have taken your key card holder back to Reception.

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