



**Antarctica-Basecamp-free camping, kayaking,  
snowshoe/hiking, photo workshop, mountaineering**

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

1<sup>st</sup> November – 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

On board *m/v Hondius*



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



and his international crew of 49 sailors

Staff Captain:	Matai Mocanu
Chief Officer:	Nicolas Ordinas
Second Officer:	Igor Nazarov
Third Officer:	Aleksandrs Spiridonovs
Hotel Manager:	Jeroen William Barnes
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel
Sous Chef:	Vasiliki Stefou
Ships doctor:	Sjoerd van der Knokke
Expedition Leader:	Chris Long
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Chloe Marechal
Ass, Expedition Leader:	Jerry Zhao
Mountain Leader:	Edward Bekker
Mountain Guide:	Andy Perkins
Mountain Guide:	Martijn Schell
Mountain Guide:	Gilbert Crettaz
Kayak Leader:	Molly Ledford
Kayak Guide:	Kelly Pearson
Expedition Guide:	Aitana Vazquez
Expedition Guide:	Alexander Romanovskiy
Expedition Guide:	Rose Li Hong
Expedition Guide:	Charlotte Taplin
Expedition Guide:	Juan Berenstein
Expedition Guide:	Keith Lepor
Expedition Guide:	Lucia Romero
Expedition Guide:	Magnus Danbolt
Expedition Guide:	Meike Sjoer
Camping Guide:	Anthonie Luteijn
Camping Guide:	Saskia van der Meij
Camping Guide:	Valeria Sainz Herrera

**WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!**

## Day 1 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November, Ushuaia, Embarkation Day

08h00 GPS Position: 54°48,5S / 068°18.10'W

Wind: SW7 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: +8°C

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Today we finally embarked on M/V *Hondius* in the world's Southernmost city: Ushuaia, Argentina. The day started beautiful and sunny, and we were ready for an adventure. At 1600, as we began to embark, the wind started to pick up, and it became frigid, but our excitement took over. As we got on the ship, we were shown to our cabins, and

shortly afterward, at 1700, we were called to the lounge for a ship's safety drill. We were shown a safety video and had to don our bright orange lifejackets, which we were then taken out to the lifeboats. After the safety drill, it was time for the Captain's cocktail; the Expedition Team handed us prosecco and delicious canapes while we were introduced to the trip by the Expedition Leader, Chris. We met the rest of the team, all 22 of them! We had a delicious buffet following the IAATO briefing; we were exhausted, but it was good to finish the briefing before the notorious Drake Passage!



## Day 2 – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, Drake Passage - At sea sailing towards Antarctica

08h00 GPS Position: 56°47.7'S / 064°50.8'W

Wind: W7 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: +7°C

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Today marked our second and last day crossing the Drake Passage, and conditions were improving. The waves had calmed significantly, which was a welcome relief for most of us. Many were able to shake off the seasickness, and we all felt a bit more

energized. After breakfast, we gathered in the lecture room for the activity sign-up session. The leaders called us by our assigned animal groups, with the Krill group being called first. Krill is one of Antarctica's most important—and beautiful—species, forming the backbone of the ecosystem here. As a filter species, krill is one of the least impactful creatures in the animal kingdom. With no prey, krill might be one of the friendliest critters on Earth—right up there with the water bear!

Later in the morning, we were called deck-by-deck to collect our rubber boots, ensuring everyone was properly outfitted for our time ashore.

We had our mandatory IAATO Biosecurity check in the Observation Lounge in the afternoon. This is a crucial step to ensure no foreign contaminants are introduced into the fragile Antarctic environment. The biosecurity check ensures everything is clean and free of seeds, dirt, or other materials that could harm the pristine environment. Once our gear was approved, Lucia gave an engaging presentation on the penguins we might encounter on our journey. It was a fascinating preview of the wildlife we'll be seeing, and it made us all the more excited to step onto the icy shores. The day wrapped up with a Daily Recap session, where the Expedition Team reviewed the day's activities and shared plans for tomorrow.



## Day 3 – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, Drake Passage – At sea sailing towards Antarctica

08h00 GPS Position: 61°04.7'S / 060°38.7'W

Wind: N3 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 0°C

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Today marks our second day at sea as we continue our crossing of the infamous Drake Passage. Thankfully, the waves were much calmer than yesterday, providing a smoother ride and relief for everyone onboard. This change in weather was a welcome and refreshing shift. The morning started with a hearty breakfast, followed by an exciting sign-up session for the various activities offered during our Basecamp expedition. We had the opportunity to sign up for

mountaineering, kayaking, and camping, all of which are thrilling and we eagerly anticipate. The thought of experiencing Antarctica up close through these adventures is incredibly exciting!

After signing up, we were issued our rubber boots—essential gear for our time on land. These boots are crucial for keeping our feet dry and protected as we explore the icy terrain and embark on land. In the afternoon, we participated in a biosecurity check. We were reminded of the importance of preventing the introduction of invasive species to the pristine environment of Antarctica. Each of us carefully inspected our gear to ensure it met the stringent standards required to maintain the ecological integrity of this untouched region. It was a small but crucial task that brought home the significance of our expedition's environmental responsibility.



Later, we gathered for a fascinating lecture by Lucia, who shared her expertise on the various penguin species found in Antarctica. We learned about their unique adaptations to the extreme cold and the different behaviors that help them thrive in one of the harshest environments on Earth. Lucia's passion for the region and its wildlife was contagious, and it left us all excited for the upcoming opportunity to see these remarkable creatures in their natural habitat.

As the afternoon drew to a close, we had our daily recap and briefing session. Expedition leader Chris took to the floor to share the details for tomorrow's itinerary—

our first day in Antarctica! We can expect to land on the continent for the first time, with a mix of exploration and adventure awaiting us.

To end the day, we had our first glimpse of Antarctica itself! As we sailed past the South Shetland Islands, we passed through the English Strait between Robert and Greenwich Islands. The sight of the icy peaks on the horizon was a surreal moment, a reminder that we were on the verge of experiencing something truly extraordinary. We are all filled with anticipation for the coming days. We step onto the Antarctic Peninsula tomorrow, and the adventure begins.

## Day 4 – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November - Foyn Harbour and Orne Harbour

08h00 GPS Position: 64°31.6'S / 061°54.5'W

Wind: SSW5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -4°C

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After a bumpy ride across the Drake Passage, we have reached the Antarctica Peninsula. We are finally here! We are so ready to start our expedition. We woke up to a foggy and snowy morning. The plan was to do a zodiac cruise around the wreck of the Governor, a Norwegian oil factory with a tragic history. Since there was a lot of ice around *Hondius*, the expedition team checked the conditions before our first activity.

As suspected, the wreck was surrounded by 1m thick ice, and it was not accessible. Instead, the expedition team took us on a Zodiac cruise between the ice and as a first encounter with the harsh conditions of Antarctica. The temperature was around -7 degrees, with snow. We learned how to get in the Zodiac from



*Hondius* and how to dress properly to keep ourselves dry and warm.

And guess what? We had our very first emperor penguin sighting! He was happily swimming around us. The Expedition Team took us to our first landing in Antarctica in the afternoon! Half of the passengers went to Orne Harbour and used their snowshoes for the first time to



climb the hill, while the other half went on a zodiac cruise. On our zodiac cruise, we visited a Gentoo Penguin colony, and we also saw a few Blue eye shags. Seeing the penguins jumping from the rock to the water and trying to get out of the water and onto the rocks was fun! They are good jumpers!



First kayak session of the trip. Our original plan was to paddle at Foyen Harbour; however, due to early season pack ice, getting into the bay or near the Governor wreckage was impossible. So, alas, we found another venue just northeast of Nansen Island. The misty morning soon turned to snow with low visibility but plenty of ice and sublime scenery to enjoy. The group set out to an immediate welcome of porpoising gentoos just meters from the zodiac. Being the first kayak trip of the expedition, we gingerly got into our snow-covered kayaks. We began our journey meandering through drifting brash ice, occasionally negotiating soup-like pancake ice good for working off the chill in the air.



We sat in total silence for a moment and absorbed our surroundings in the cold mist dwarfed by white giants. There was not too much wildlife this time, but it was a memorable experience, with blue smiles all around.

For the mountaineers, the day began with  $-8^{\circ}\text{C}$  temperatures and heavy snow, forcing us to abandon our plans to land at Foyen Harbour due to thick ice. We went ahead with a Zodiac cruise, navigating through rough seas and snow, before reaching Cuverville Island, where the ice made landing impossible. In the afternoon, we tackled a technical mountaineering route on Spigot Peak, climbing through wind and snow with crampons and reaching a rocky ledge that offered stunning views of



the surrounding glaciers. Despite the challenging conditions, we were rewarded with a sense of accomplishment and the awe-inspiring beauty of the Antarctic landscape.

## Day 5 – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Neko Harbour and Danco Island

08h00 GPS Position: 64°50.8'S / 062°32.4'W

Wind: W5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Snow/Overcast • Air temperature: -5°C

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We awoke to a clear Antarctic morning, with soft sunlight illuminating the glaciers with flat calm weather and plenty of ice around. After breakfast, we layered up and prepared for our landing at the beautiful Neko Harbour.

Disembarking onto the rocky shore, we were immediately greeted by the lively sounds and sights of a bustling Gentoo

penguin colony. Hundreds of penguins surrounded us, busily waddling about, engaging in their business. A short hike up the hill surprised us with one of the best views of the voyage so far. There, we also had the chance of an unforgettable Zodiac cruise surrounded by penguins in the icy waters around Neko Harbour. The serenity of floating among towering icebergs was indescribable.

We returned the ship for lunch. In the afternoon, we originally planned to visit Brown Station, but the captain found our path blocked by thick ice—a stark reminder of the ever-shifting Antarctic environment. After a quick reassessment, the Expedition Team decided to head toward Danco Island, hoping to make a landing. However, upon reaching Danco, we found the beaches covered in ice, making a shore landing impossible.



Undeterred, we got ready for Zodiac exploration, embracing the dramatic Antarctic weather that had set in—snow, wind, and a touch of mystery as visibility danced in and out. Our guides navigated through a maze of ice floes, from small chunks to towering, sculpted and gigantic bergs. During the daily recap the Expedition Leader Chris explained the plans for tomorrow. Today was a day of pure exploration, and we're ready to see what surprises tomorrow holds!



Wow! What a corker for the kayakers! We woke up to towering white peaks of mountains riddled with rippling glaciers spilling into the sea.

This was the second paddle of the trip for us and what a morning it was. Avoiding the great many glacial faces, we took our exploration to the middle of the bay where we paddled between drifting ice to icebergs, and we were awed at their magnificence. As we left open waters we journeyed our way through the maze of brash ice. Nerves clung to some of us, but as we floated through the morning the nerves faded, and our confidence grew in smiles. We enjoyed a moment's silence surrounded by ice giants, a landscape still but forever moving.



The morning started with stormy, chilly weather as we set out for basic mountaineering at Neko Harbour. The conditions were tough, with fierce winds and frigid temperatures, but we pressed on. On the descent, we encountered a longitudinal crevasse, adding an extra layer of challenge as the snow cover was thin and unstable. To navigate safely, we kept the rope

tight, no loops, and moved in a long rope team formation. By the afternoon, we had hoped to land at Brown Station, but the weather was too harsh, so we diverted to Danco Island instead. The winds were fierce, making communication difficult, but we carried on with basic mountaineering to reach the summit. The climb was tough, but the reward was a spectacular view, and despite the obstacles, the sense of accomplishment was palpable as we stood atop the peak.

## Day 6 – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Jougla Point and Neumayer Channel

08h00 GPS Position: 64°49.4'S / 063°31.1'N

Wind: W7 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -5°C



We arrived at Jougla Point early in this morning. We disembarked the Zodiac onto the sea ice, a rare opportunity in the Antarctic! The first sight that greeted us was a large colony of gentoo penguins scattered across the area, going about their morning routines. The calls of the penguins and the occasional flap of wings from a nearby cormorant colony filled the crisp air.

Our team set up the equipment near the landing area. Jougla Point offered stunning views of the surrounding snow-covered peaks and the open waters of the bay. The point's geology, a mix of rock and ice, provides a unique setting that draws wildlife and explorers.

Jougla Point is a hotspot for Antarctic wildlife, and we were lucky to observe several species. The gentoo penguins were particularly active, some waddling towards the sea while others tended to their nests. We also spotted several blue-eyed shags, their dark plumage standing out against the snow. A few Weddell seals were resting on the sea ice, completely unfazed by our presence.



As the sun peeked through the clouds, we captured photographs of the landscape, documenting Jougla Point's rugged beauty. The contrast of the dark, jagged rocks against the pure white snow creates an unforgettable scene. After packing up, we returned to our boat, leaving Jougla Point behind as the penguins carried on in the background.

We entered the Neumayer Channel after lunch, this narrow passage is flanked by towering, snow-covered peaks on both sides, rising dramatically from the water. The channel itself is calmer than outside, with smaller wavelets flanking us and reflecting the sun off the mountains and glaciers surrounding us. As we approached the exit of the Neumayer Channel, the landscape opened, revealing the vast, open sea ahead. Looking back, the narrow passage seemed like a gateway, framed by the mountains, and filled with icy sculptures. We finished the day with a recap and another fantastic dinner from Ralf and the team.



We set out for technical mountaineering on Jabet Peak, landing on the Port Lockroy side at Jougla Point. The wind was strong, and the swell made the landing a bit tricky, but we managed fine. We changed into mountaineering boots on shore. Once ready, we built a stable platform, and from there, we proceeded with the climb, staying in crampons the entire trip, leaving the snowshoes behind. The weather started overcast, but by the time we reached the pass, the sun had broken through, though the wind remained strong. It was a fantastic day—everyone made it to the highest point safely, and the group was in high spirits, thrilled by the experience and the stunning views.

#### **Camping 06NOV – False Island / Fournier Bay**

**Wind: NE-1**

**Temperature: -5**

**64°29.6 S 62°54.3 W**





Would it finally happen? That was the question everybody was asking themselves, who signed up to go camping tonight. Unfortunately, the weather had not been in our favor for the last nights. Looking outside now, with the sun shedding its final rays for the day over the white covered mountains around us. It was the perfect night for camping. Everybody got super excited when one of the camping guides entered the dining room to quickly grab something. “Are we going out??!!” was the question that rose in all eyes. “We are checking

the place out and we will let you know asap”, the answer was. Not much later the announcement came. Camping was on! And what a sight it was!

We all had prepared ourselves and went down to deck 3 to grab a camping kit and board the Zodiacs that were waiting for us to bring us ashore. Saskia welcomed us and sent us up the hill to Valeria and Anthonie, who gave us further instructions and helped us to where and how to dig our ‘palace’. Still overwhelmed by the idea that it was really happening and that we were there, out in the snow. Different types of ‘bedrooms’ were built. From shallow pits to half igloos.

It was a perfect evening when we settled in for the night. On that hillside, overlooking Fournier Bay, on the northeast side of Anvers Island. The light was beautiful. It was one of the most tranquil places to camp in Antarctica.

At 03:45 we were woken up by the guides and were greeted by a pink and orange sunrise. Most of us had a good night. Some slept less but still had an amazing once in a lifetime experience out here. Around 04:30 the Zodiacs appeared again to bring us back to the ship. Bringing the gear up to deck 8, to be hung to dry and enjoying a pastry and some juice in the lounge before taking a short nap on board again.

It was a wonderful evening and experience!

## Day 7 – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November – Melchior Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 64°28.4’S / 062°54.4’W

Wind: SW2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +5°C

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In the pre-dawn hours, everything was shrouded in an eerie, deathly silence. At four in the morning, life on the ship’s lower decks began to stir. A crane on the aft of the fourth deck came to life. The crew deftly hooked a Zodiac and lowered it overboard. Two guides jumped in, and with a faint hum, the crane lowered the Zodiac onto the water. Three more Zodiacs followed shortly after.



On the coast, silent and shivering campers, like apparitions, waited for their ride. Once loaded into the Zodiacs, they set off for the ship in silence. They still had a few hours to warm up and get ready for a long, adventure-filled day!

Morning gradually took its hold. The shy sun, before bathing the surroundings in its dazzling light, first painted the peaks of the snow-white mountains with a golden hue. Then, gaining confidence, it rose from the horizon, chasing away the remnants of the night. Day had arrived. Chris Long, our Expedition Leader, standing on the bridge, pressed the intercom button at exactly 6:45 AM, wishing everyone a good morning. He casually mentioned that today's activities would be exciting, even if things had not gone according to the initial plan. But then again, that is what an expedition is all about—plans are subject to change. After breakfast, a Zodiac cruise was scheduled. The weather was perfect—sunshine, no wind, icebergs everywhere—a true spectacle. We gathered near the Zodiac boarding area, bundled in every warm piece of clothing we had, and began boarding in small groups of ten to explore the surroundings.



Our guides expertly navigated the Zodiacs among the small icebergs, while we gazed in awe at this strange, unfamiliar frozen world. It was a landscape of endless shades of blue, covered in pristine white snow. Sometimes, groups of penguins darted past us, swimming in one direction. We kept a respectful distance, not wanting to disturb them. The sharp-eyed among us spotted tiny orange creatures in the water—the famous Antarctic krill. The luckier ones caught glimpses of the sleek dorsal fin of a minke whale darting among the ice floes. And the most fortunate even managed to witness a humpback whale. It flapped its tail a few times and swam off, leaving us with unforgettable memories.

Time flew by, and soon it was time to return to the ship, where lunch awaited. A brief break did everyone good, allowing those who were chilled to the bone to warm up with hot chocolate and a hearty meal. Meanwhile, the *Hondius* had approached the Melchior Islands closely. After lunch, we planned to explore the area again by Zodiac,



except for the mountaineers among us. They landed on one of the islands, strapped on snowshoes, and set off to conquer the peak. The rest of us resumed our Zodiac adventure, scanning the surroundings once more.

Somewhere in the distance, a humpback whale's tail surfaced again, and we paused, entranced by this magnificent creature. The whale surfaced periodically, sending fountains of spray into the air before diving back down, flaunting its fluke.

We navigated through narrow channels between the islands. Here and there, we spotted gentoo penguins and Antarctic shags. One of the channels was locked in ice, where several Weddell seals had sprawled out. Some were dozing, while others periodically lifted their heads, eyeing us with skeptical curiosity. We didn't linger, respecting their space, and continued. Before we knew it, it was time to head back to the ship. After the daily recap by Chris, the microphone was handed to William, our hotel manager, who announced that tonight's dinner would not be in the usual restaurant but out on the open deck. It was BBQ night. We bundled up again and stepped out onto the deck, where benches had already been set up. Music played, and the chefs and officers grilled meat over an open flame, while waiters cheerfully poured complimentary mulled wine into our cups. This unfolded against the breathtaking backdrop of Antarctic nature. After dinner, when the tables were cleared, we, filled with joy and excitement, danced the night away. While some of us swayed to the rhythm of the music, others were preparing for a more serious endeavor: camping. The Zodiacs were launched again, and the shell door opened once more. Campers, wrapped in warm clothing and lugging large bags filled with camping gear, boarded the boats and ventured into the icy unknown. The sun touched the horizon and soon disappeared, casting a final golden glow on the mountain peaks. The air temperature dropped rapidly, but the brave campers were undeterred. Until tomorrow, friends!





On a beautiful morning south of the Melchior Islands, the group kayaked through glassy waters, surrounded by towering glaciers and soft morning light. As they journeyed through the Schollaert Channel, they navigated crackling brash ice and moved in unison, embracing the quiet serenity of the landscape. Upon reaching Kappa Island, the group was greeted by a minke whale breaching close to

their kayaks, sparking a renewed sense of adventure. They explored the icy coastline, weaving between massive icebergs, and paused for a moment of silence on the open water. As they returned to the Zodiac, the sudden roar of an iceberg calving reminded them of nature's power and the need for constant awareness in such a wild, unpredictable environment.

In the morning, we landed at Dalman Bay on Anvers Island under perfect conditions—no wind and clear skies, ideal for basic mountaineering. The group was fit, and we adjusted our pick-up point after spotting two Weddell seals on the previous landing, moving to the other side. In the afternoon, we headed to Melchior Island for a shorter, more relaxed climb, perfect for the slower members of the group. The weather remained stunning with Grand Beau conditions, making for a beautiful and successful trip all around.



## **Camping 07 NOV Melchior Islands**

**Wind: N 1**

**Temperature: -3 C**

**64 18.6 S 063.02.6 W**

After the amazing Barbecue, 60 happy campers spent the night in a million-star Hotel! We slept with the sky as our roof. Melchior Islands will be our camping site for the night. We arrived at our landing site, wondering how we would be sleeping on this amazing continent in a Bivi bag. Anthonie, Saskia and Valeria were waiting for us in our “home” for the night. We first started digging some snow pits to have some shelter in case of winds. After that we put our Bivi bag, mattress, and sleeping bag in our pits and made

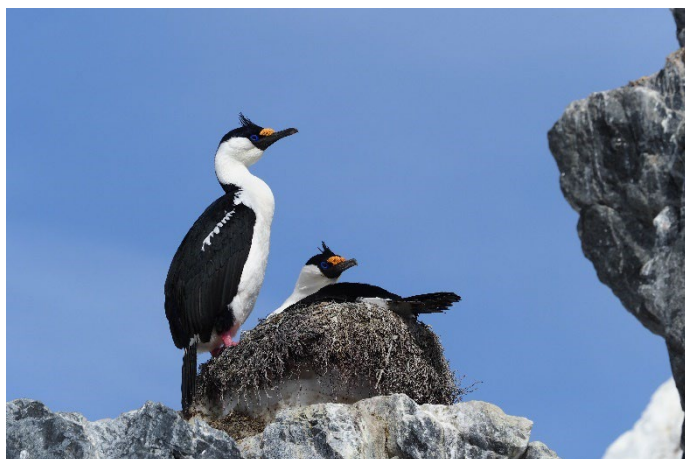
our beds. The sunset (midnight) was amazing! Beautiful colors appeared on the horizon. Some laughing and a lot of pictures after, we fall asleep one by one, and the campers began to fall silent. In the middle of the night a curious group of penguins came to briefly say hi. This experience became more special every minute. At 3:45 in the morning the wakeup call was different, we woke up with an incredibly special pink sunrise and we started to cover all the pits that we made during the night. Yes! We must maintain this amazing place pristine. Our Zodiacs started to arrive at the landing site, between smiles and sleepy faces we wrapped our gear and returned to the ship. Hot drinks and delicious pastries were waiting for us onboard *Hondius*. This night we will remember forever for life.

## Day 8 – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Melchior Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 64°30.1'S, 062°51.4'W

Wind: NW1 • Sea: Ice • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -1°C

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The staff took us out again this morning Zodiac cruising in the Melchior Islands. There were hanging glaciers, 100 shades of blue Fur Seals popping their head out of the water, Weddell seals sleeping on the fast ice. We were also lucky enough to encounter two humpback whales - wow!! After an awesome morning on the water we headed back to *Hondius* and to our big surprise we had an

utterly unique sighting of a pod of southern bottlenose whales close to the ship.

With rosy-red faces from this morning's activities we looked forward to yet another mouthwatering lunch, but got totally sidetracked as prca's were spotted at the aft of *Hondius*! We walked quickly to the bow to have a good look at these beautiful mammals traveling through the Gerlache strait. Today was the day to finally visit Cuverville island, three times lucky they say, and where the biggest concentration of gentoo penguins on the Antarctic peninsula is.



The joy of being here was just standing and looking at the colony and taking in the life of the penguins, explained by the Expeditions Guides. For those of us taking the time, we could see how the couples were bowing for each other, making circles, grooming and even copulating and giving each other a bow after. In a few weeks' time they will lay their two eggs as soon as the snow is gone.

Eventually, we needed to head back to the mothership for our daily recap. Chris our EL, kept us excited with the plans for the next day. We learned about the only non-seabird of Antarctica the snowy sheathbill. We also learned the story of the waterbear that lives in Antarctica - most of us did not know about until Chloe shared details of this fascinating creature. This evening, chef Ralf and his galley team made another unique dinner buffet for us with a colorful variety of food and desserts. Meanwhile, outside, the sky was slowly turning into pastel colors as Chris made the call the campers waited for: Camping is on. Today's stories were being shared in the bar over a drink. What better way to end this day in Antarctica.



On their penultimate day of kayaking, the group returned to the calmer waters of the Melchior Islands and paddled toward the shoreline, spotting mountaineers climbing a peak in the distance. As they continued, they suddenly saw a pod of southern bottlenose whales heading their way, their powerful blows sending clouds of spray into the air. The kayakers paused in awe, waiting for the whales to get closer, and Ray

captured stunning photos of the rare sight. Later, the Chinese group finally had their chance to paddle, heading to Cuverville Island, where they were surrounded by gentoo penguins. The group marveled at the penguins' playful antics, and after a memorable photo, they returned to the *Hondius*, excited to share their stories of an unforgettable day.

At 04:15, Edward picked up the campers from Melchior Island before we returned to Dallman Bay for a morning landing. The weather was perfect—clear skies and no wind—making it an ideal day for mountaineering. On both landings, we spotted a Weddell Seal resting on the ice, so we adjusted our pick-up to a new spot in the middle of the bay. After a brief challenge with the big swell and needing a second attempt with Magnus at the helm, we successfully landed and set off for the climb. With good snow cover and a beautiful Grand Beau, the conditions were fantastic. In the afternoon, we headed to Cuverville Island with a small group of seven guests. The summit was easy to reach with no crevasses to navigate, and after a quick ascent and descent in snowshoes—a little steep in places—everyone enjoyed the stunning views and the smooth climb.



## Camping 08NOV – False Island / Fournier Bay

Wind: W-3

Temperature: -5

64°29.6 S 62°54.3 W

Originally the second group to go camping, but now because of cancellations due to weather we were the last group of campers to be taken out. During the day the guides checked out a spot, but due to ice clotting around the landing site, we moved north again and got to camp on False Island in Fournier Bay.



Arriving at the site, we had penguins greeting us on the rock just in front of us. A perimeter was set, in which we could find ourselves a space to dig our 'bedroom', while we heard the penguins talking to each other. That alone was something no one had ever experienced. Everybody went to bed with a smile and woke up happy too. Bright and early with a wonderful experience to look back on.

## Day 9 – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Ketley Point and Orne Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 64°40.8'S, 062°49.0'W

Wind: W3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -1°C

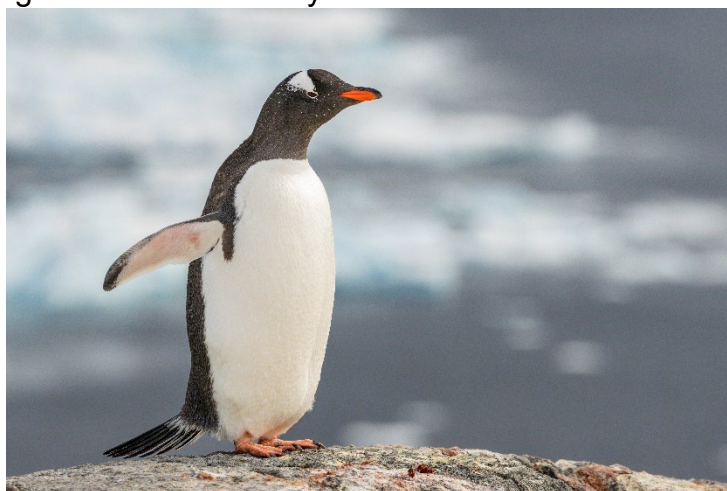
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The day began well before dawn with chilly, crisp air at 4:00 AM as we made our way to pick up the last group of campers who had been spending the night ashore. The campers, huddled in their warm layers, were ready to leave behind their temporary shelters in the pristine wilderness of Antarctica. After a smooth pickup, we made our way back to the ship, the

silence of the moment only broken by the hum of the Zodiac's engine as the first light of day began to creep over the horizon.

By 8:00 AM, we were anchored off Ketley Point, our first official landing of the day. This spot is known for its dramatic landscapes, and it did not disappoint. After disembarking, we made our way up a small ridge for panoramic views of the bay. The scene before us was like something out of a dream—crystal-clear waters dotted with colossal icebergs, their turquoise and white hues glowing in the soft morning light. After a short walk, we boarded the Zodiacs once again for a cruise through the bay. As we glided across the water, we spotted a group of Gentoo Penguins waddling along the shore, their black-and-white bodies contrasting beautifully against the snow. Their comical movements as they hopped in and out of the water never failed to bring smiles to everyone's faces.



After a light lunch, we set course for Orne Islands, home to one of the most delightful penguin colonies in the region. The islands were alive with activity as thousands of Chinstraps waddled about, feeding, preening, and interacting with one another. Once ashore, we had a chance to explore the area and observe these charismatic birds up close. The chinstraps, with their sharp black line under their chins, were a joy to watch as they moved about with their signature clumsiness. Many of them seemed unfazed by our presence, allowing for some fantastic photo opportunities.

In the afternoon, we climbed aboard the Zodiacs once more to cruise around the island's waters. The scenery was simply spectacular, with jagged cliffs rising steeply from the ocean and small ice floes drifting lazily by. The water shimmered in shades of deep blue and green, creating an almost mystical atmosphere. Our final treat of the day was a breathtaking sunset, with the sun dipping below the horizon, bathing the icy shore in a warm, orange light. The silhouettes of the distant glaciers and towering mountains were illuminated against the fading sky. It was the perfect end to a day filled with adventure, wildlife, and unparalleled beauty.



On their final day, the group paddled to Ketley Point on the west side of Range Island, where they were surrounded by porpoising gentoo penguins and a sunbathing fur seal. They navigated around the snowy shoreline to an iceberg graveyard, pausing for a moment of silence as the sound of breaking ice echoed across the landscape. Later, they ventured to the Orne Islands, battling strong offshore winds before finding shelter on the calmer north side,

where they spotted sleeping Weddell seals and busy penguins. After exploring the area and capturing memories, they made their way back to the *Hondius*, completing their incredible Antarctic kayaking adventure.

In the morning, we landed at Ketley Point with Martijn and Gilbert guiding a group of eight guests for basic mountaineering. Guiding was tricky on the mountain so for safety reasons the mountain guides decided to return. The weather was overcast, and the conditions were challenging. In the afternoon, we moved on to Georges Point for a much more successful trip. Edward and Andy guided a smaller group of five guests, and the weather was perfect—clear skies and a well-filled glacier made for ideal climbing conditions. It turned out to be a perfect last trip, with the group enjoying a smooth and rewarding climb, ending the day on a high note.





## Day 10 – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Whalers Bay and Half Moon Island

08h00 GPS Position: 62°55.4' N, 060°20.1'W

Wind: SW2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Sunny • Air temperature: +11°C

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© Keith Lepor

The first adventurers of the day ascended to deck eight at 5:50am to witness the spectacle of entry into Neptune Bellows. Here we were met by a snow squall and fog which masked the caldera's narrow approach of only 230 meters. What makes the approach even more precarious is Ravn Rock which lies 2.5 meters below the water midway between the steep cliffs.

Whaler's Bay, Deception Island was first utilized as a whaling station by the Norwegians from 1911 until its closing in 1931 because of the slump in whale oil prices. In 1944 a British base was established by the Royal Navy utilizing three of the abandoned whaling station buildings. In 1945 the base was handed to the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, predecessor of the British Antarctic Survey and commenced its role as a scientific research station.



© Keith Lepor

Much of the abandoned base remains



© Keith Lepor

for visitors to explore as we did today. The calm waters of the bay were perceptible by all including the Gentoo penguins strolling about the shore and the cape petrels, kelp gulls and skuas patrolling the skies. Neptune's Window was about a thirty-minute walk from our Zodiac landing zone and had a spectacular view of both the ocean and caldera. We got to jump on the Zodiac to explore the other side of the

bellows. At the end we all braved the icy waters of the South Atlantic and earned our right as official Polar Plungers!

In the afternoon, after a three-hour voyage up the Antarctic Peninsula, we landed at Half Moon Bay, a South Shetland Islands. With beautiful blue skies and full sun, this stop was nothing short of spectacular. This island was teeming with life including chinstrap penguins frolicking at our landing zone and south polar skuas, Arctic terns, petrels, sheathbills and imperial shags flying about. Thankfully *Hondius* was but minutes away by Zodiac. This visit completed our adventure on the Peninsula and we will now head back to Ushuaia across the Drake Passage.

### Day 11 – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November – At sea Drake Passage

08h00 GPS Position: 60°20.5' S, 062°30.1'W

Wind: W1 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Fog • Air temperature: -2°C

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At 9:15 AM, Magnus delivered a captivating lecture on whales, exploring their behaviors and habitats, and deepening our understanding of these magnificent marine creatures.

The next activity commenced at 10:45 AM, led by Juan, who

provided an informative session for photography enthusiasts on enhancing and editing their photos. His tips inspired us to better process and showcase our travel photographs, igniting our creative spirits. At noon, we began collecting our rubber boots in preparation for the next voyage.

The afternoon festivities continued. At 1:45 PM, Chole presented a lecture on plankton, explaining the significance and diversity of these tiny organisms within the ecosystem, which enriched our understanding of marine ecology. We really love her passion! Then, at 4:15 PM, Meike enlightened us about the majestic Albatross, sharing insights into its habits and migration patterns, leaving us in awe of nature's wonders. As evening approached, at 6:15 PM, the expedition leader Chris outlined the itinerary for the following day, ensuring everyone was well-informed about the upcoming activities. The expedition team members also shared knowledge from the journey, deepening our understanding of this incredible experience.



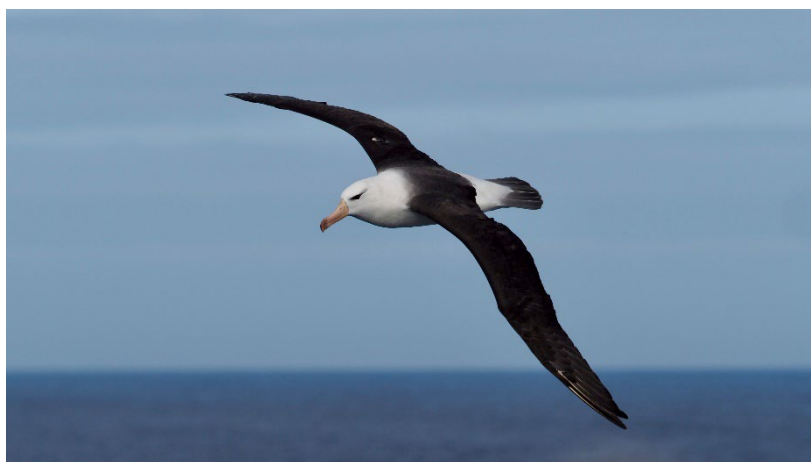
Dinner was served at 7:00 PM, where we indulged in a plated dinner, savoring a variety of delectable dishes. After our meal, we participated in an engaging quiz hosted by the expedition team in the observation lounge on the fifth floor. This lively event fostered camaraderie and encouraged enthusiastic participation among all attendees. The day's events were rich and varied, enhancing our knowledge while fostering deeper friendships among us. We concluded this fulfilling day perfectly, filled with countless wonderful memories.

## Day 12 – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November – At sea towards Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 56°13.0' S, 063°38.8'W

Wind: W6/7 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 0°C

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Again, we woke up to a gentle Drake Passage and went for breakfast at 0800. By the time we finished, the captain managed to sail *Hondius* as close as 3 miles to the rocks of Cape Horn. Fog was, unfortunately, blocking our view, but in a few cases, we could see some outlines of the coastline and waves crashing.



Cape Horn is the southernmost headland of the Chilean archipelago, Tierra del Fuego, located on tiny Hornos Island. It is the northern boundary of the Drake Passage. Cape Horn was identified by sailors and first rounded in 1616 by the Dutchmen Willem Schouten and Jacob Le Maire, who named it Kaap Hoorn after the city of Hoorn in the Netherlands. The waters around Cape Horn, where the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans meet, are particularly hazardous, because of fierce winds, large waves, extreme currents, and icebergs. At 0915 Charlotte enthusiastically shared her knowledge and some amazing images about all her blubbery friends, the seals. Shortly after, Sasha took the stage to tell us his personal story, how he ended up working and living in Antarctica. The smooth waves made it easy for us, to be on the outside decks once more, and enjoy the seabirds, like the black-browed albatross and even some dusky dolphins that followed the ship. Late afternoon, most of us gathered to listen to Valeria and her story about Argentinian mate. In between, there was enough time to pay our bills, chill in the lounge and reminisce about the amazing memories we made the last 12 days of this incredible voyage.

We joined the captain and the Expedition Team at 1800 in the Observation Lounge for Captain's cocktails, plans of disembarkation and the premiere of our voyage slideshow compiled by Juan. Seeing and experiencing it all over again, was an incredible end to our trip. Lastly, we had another delicious dinner. Just before dessert, all the crew from the dining room, kitchen, bar, housekeeping, laundry and reception were introduced by the Hotel manager. A wonderful way to thank them and say goodbye to this amazing crew.

### Day 13 – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November - Arrival back into Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 54°48,5S / 068°18.10'W

Wind: SW1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +6°C

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Today is the day we disembark our dear *Hondius*, we heard the final 'Good morning, good morning, good morning' from our Expedition Leader Chris. We were sad to say goodbye to all the crew and Expedition Staff onboard, but we are so happy for such an incredible voyage, we will be sure to be back for next time! 😊



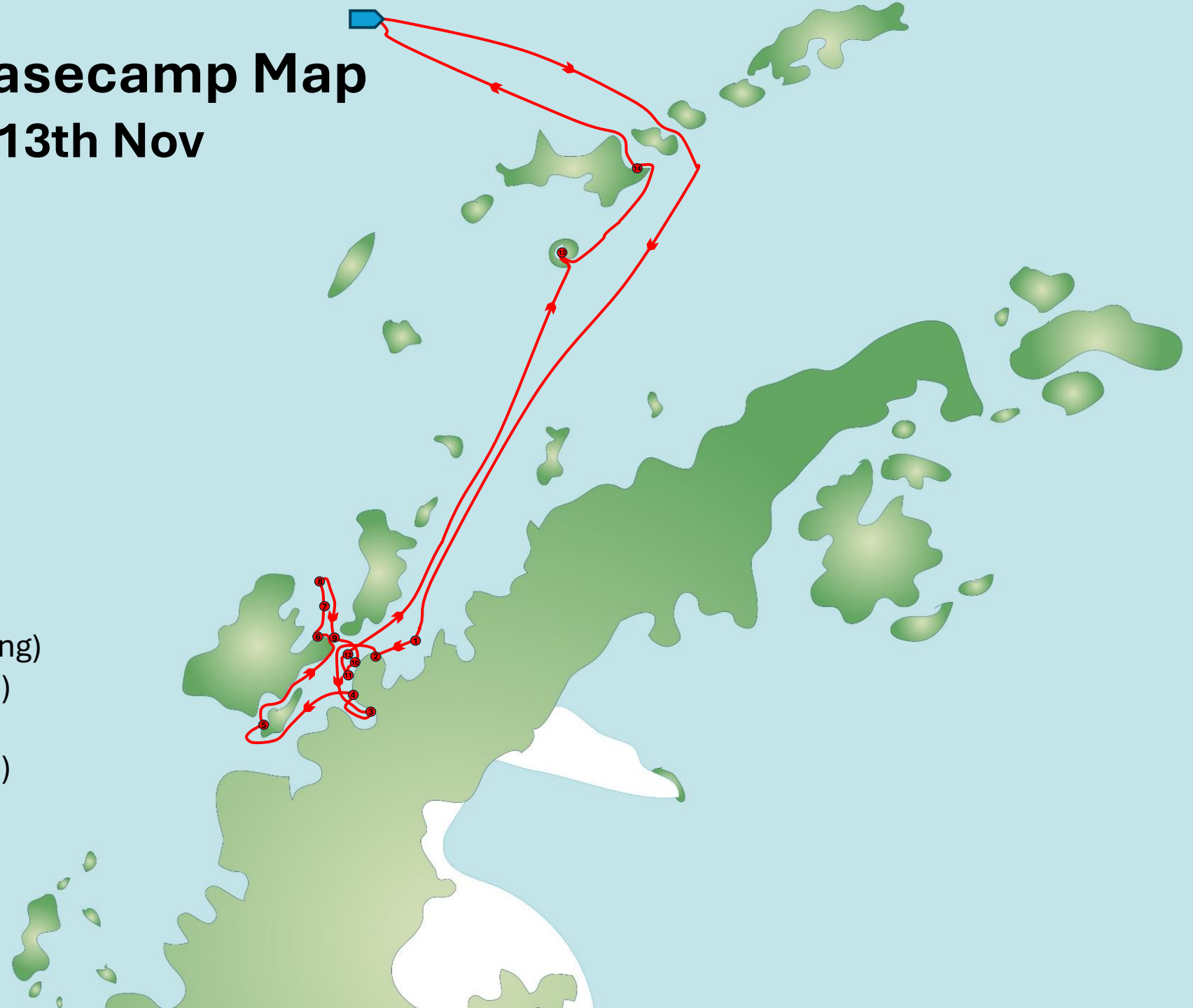
**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1,855 nm**  
**Southernmost position: 64°51.6'S, 063°38.8'W**

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barria, Expedition Leader Chris Long, Hotel Manager Jeroen William Barnes and all the crew and staff of M/V *Hondius*, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.

# Antarctica- Basecamp Map

## M/V Hondius 1-13th Nov

- 1.Foyn Harbour (ZC)
- 2.Orne Harbour
- 3.Neko Harbour
- 4.Danco Island
- 5.Jougla Point
- 6.Punta Andrews (Camping)
- 7.Schollaert Channel (ZC)
- 8.Melchior Islands
- 9.Schollaert Channel (ZC)
- 10.Cuviville Island
- 11.Ketley Point
- 12.Orne Islands
- 13.Whalers Bay
- 14.Half Moon Island





### ***Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region***

[illegible]

Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Arctic tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>													
<b>Marine mammals</b>		1-nov	2-nov	3-nov	4-nov	5-nov	6-nov	7-nov	8-nov	9-nov	10-nov	11-nov	12-nov	13-nov
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>			x										
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	x					x	x	x	x	x	x		
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>													
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>											x		
Southern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>								x					
Long Finned Pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>													
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>								x					
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>												x	
Weddell Seal	<i>Leptonychotes weddelli</i>					x	x	x	x	x	x			
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonina</i>													
Antarctic Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>		x		x			x		x				
Krill	<i>Euphausia superba</i>			x		x	x					x		
Salp	<i>Salpa Thompsoni</i>											x		
Phytoplankton	<i>Corelhron criophilum</i>									x				

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# Chris Long – Expedition Leader

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Chris grew up as a part of New Zealand's remotest family two long days hike from the nearest road at a place called Gorge River, on the South Islands West Coast, New Zealand.

His family lives as self-sufficiently as possible in a small cabin surrounded by the jungled rainforest, the rough rugged coastline, and an emerald green river. Most of their food came from a huge vegetable garden or was fished from the ocean. This wild untouched natural corner of New Zealand was Chris's home for the first 17 years of his life, until, one day, he set out to explore

what the rest of the world had to offer.

Since leaving Gorge River Chris has set out to see, explore and experience as much of the globe as possible. This constant search for adventure has seen him travel to over 60 countries on all seven continents. Along this journey, he spent two full summer seasons living and working as a field trainer at Scott Base, a New Zealand research station in Antarctica, as well as multiple voyages to the Ross Sea and East Antarctica.

Chris is also no stranger to the arctic. He once sailed the notorious northwest passage across the top of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska and spent much of the covid pandemic living with 150 husky dogs in Tromso, northern Norway, enduring two long cold dark arctic winters training for long distance dog races.

Since recently returning to New Zealand, he has published an autobiography and is training for his commercial fixed-wing pilot's license.



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# Chloé Maréchal – Assistant Expedition Leader

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Chloé is a passionate diver fascinated by marine life and exploration. She earned a European master degree in Marine biodiversity and conservation and loves to share her expertise for the marine environment. In April 2013, she was selected as the 2013-14 European Rolex our world underwater scholar. She spent a year working side by side with current leaders in underwater fields, getting very different experiences in marine science and in the diving industry. Diving and science are not her only passion; she enjoys exploring new countries and discovering new cultures. She has been diving on all continents

and living in more than 20 countries.

Chloe now lives in northern Norway just above the polar circle. When she is not onboard, she can be found underwater: observing the ocean's inhabitants, searching for forgotten wrecks or mapping and exploring undiscovered underwater cave passages.

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# Jerry Zhao – Assistant Expedition Leader

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Jerry has been in love with nature and wildlife and traveling all his life. Soon after completed his degree in Business Administration at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Jerry began a career in the travel industry. Jerry first started as an international travel consultant and tour leader and led exclusive small high-end groups throughout Europe.

He then became partner in an international traveling consulting firm and focused on route planning and employee training.

As he searched for more adventure, He collected skills and knowledge while he traveled around to world. Finally, his step stopped at Polar regions, and joined Oceanwide Expeditions as Expeditions Guides, He has guided expeditions to the North Pole, Svalbard, Greenland, Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia many times.

Along the way as he spent more time in polar regions, learns more about polar regions, he is more interested in polar regions. He has self-studied the geography, wildlife and history of the Polar regions. He is beginning to learn wildlife photography.

When he is not in polar regions, he likes to spend his time in the forest, dessert, and plains in Northwestern part of China. He loves nature, wildlife, and he loves to share all that he knows to everyone who comes across.

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# Edward Bekker – Mountain Leader

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Edward Bekker (Rotterdam, 1961) grew up in the south of the Netherlands, but from an early age his favorite place was in the mountains. His dream came true when he was admitted to mountain guide training at the Technical University in Munich and since 1987, he has been a 'state-certified mountain and ski guide'; So he was definitely one of the first UIAGM/IVBV certified mountain guides from a non-Alpine country!

Since then he has been out and about in the mountains every day. For more than 15 years, Edward has specialized in freeride ski guiding, ski touring and

heli skiing in the arctic areas of Iceland, Norway, Svalbard, Sweden and Greenland, the Swiss Alps and Canada.

He participated in worldwide expeditions to the Himalayas, the Andes of South America, Antarctica, and Alaska. Twice he was Expedition Leader on a UIAA International Expedition for high performance young climbers, exploring remote locations in Pakistan and China and opening many new routes in rock and ice.

Edward lives with his family in western Switzerland in the small Valais Mountain village of Finhaut-Emosson, which is strategically located between the Mont Blanc massif and the Valais four-thousanders, where he and his partner run their own mountain school and mountain lodge.

Edward is always curious to meet new people and bring them to the mountains in a safe and enjoyable way. In addition to English, German, French and Dutch, he also speaks a Limburg dialect and also understands a little Italian, Spanish, Swedish and Norwegian.



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# Andy Perkins – Mountain Guide

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Andy Perkins is an IFMGA mountain guide living in Chamonix at the foot of Mont Blanc, western Europe's highest mountain. He has been climbing and skiing since he was a teenager and has worked as a qualified mountain guide for over twenty years.

His "normal" work is as a guide in the European Alps. In the summer he guides climbing and mountaineering clients from all over the world. In winter he works with off piste skiers in and around lift-served ski resorts and by using ski touring equipment to access more remote spots. It's in that capacity

that he discovered the magical combination of mountains and ocean, initially through ski sail trips in Arctic Norway. He has pursued that fabulous formula with trips to Iceland and Greenland over recent years.

Here are three highlights from his mountain experience:

- 17 days on Cerro Kishtwar's north face in the Indian Himalaya . Intensity of experience is his goal in personal climbing, and this one had it in spades.
- 2 rescues on Denali, the second of which earned him the Denali Pro Award and an Award for Bravery from the US Department of the Interior.
- Skiing in Arctic Norway with his wife Lise, 60 years after his dad was pioneering there in the 1950's. Mountains run in the family!

He speaks fluent English and French and basic German and Italian.

His aim as a guide is to share his love of the wild places of the world and to maximise his clients' potential - to exceed their expectations of what they're capable of. This often means taking on new skills as well as sharpening existing ones. The big grins when someone finally "gets it", whether skiing or climbing, makes his job as a guide a real joy.

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# Martijn Schell – Mountain guide

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Martijn has always had a strong desire for adventure. He discovered mountaineering as a teenager, and kept going into the mountains as often as he could during his studies in Amsterdam.

He started freeriding in the mid-nineties, and learned skiing in Chamonix on straight and narrow skis. After his first two expeditions to the Chola Shan in China and Shivling in the Garhwal Himalayas, it became obvious to him that he wanted to be a mountain guide. He became then, thanks to his talent and determination, the fourth

Dutch UIAGM mountain guide in 2005. He has been living for two decades in the Southern Alps with his wife Saskia, and is a member of the Association of French Mountain Guides.

Martijn is very good at sharing his knowledge and experience, as he works very often as a trainer for professionals. In the Netherlands, he is considered as an authority in his field. His enthusiasm is endless, and that makes every trip with him a very unique experience.

In his spare time, Martijn keeps looking for adventure. His reading of the mythical “Sesto Grado” by Reinhold Messner brought him to the Dolomites very often. His complete traverse of the Alps from Vienne to Nice on skis and his kayak expedition in Canada are some of his best memories. Since ten years, Martijn guided several journeys in the Arctic. The enchanting light always makes him desire to return to this special place on planet earth.

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# Gilbert Crettaz – Mountain Guide

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Originally from Evolène, Gilbert has been living in Verbier, in the heart of the Valais Alps, for 25 years. The son of a guide, Gilbert felt the call of the great outdoors from an early age, with a particular attraction to the mountains. At 22, after obtaining his diploma from the École Hôtelière de Lausanne, he dedicated himself entirely to mountain sports. At 26, he became an IFMGA mountain guide, as well as a ski and snowboard instructor and a tandem paragliding pilot.

Throughout his 27-year career, he has had the privilege of guiding clients across the globe. Calm and appreciative of the richness of human connections, Gilbert continually finds renewed motivation, making each mountain experience a unique and enriching adventure



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# Molly Ledford – Kayak Leader

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Molly Ledford was born and raised in sunny South Carolina, USA, and, after a long journey of the seasonal guide lifestyle, she now calls the glaciated fjords of Seward, Alaska her home.

Before her career in polar tourism, she worked as a guide in many corners of the world, including Hawaii as a whale watch guide, New Zealand as a glacier guide, and Norway as a sea kayak guide.

Molly is certified with the British Canoeing Union as a Sea Kayak Leader and in Wilderness Medicine as a

Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician. Molly obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Performance and, while she only briefly pursued a professional singing career, she can often be heard singing to herself around the ship or in her kayak.

Happiest when learning and growing, Molly's favourite part about guiding in the polar regions is the opportunity to help herself, her colleagues, and her guests to push themselves out of their comfort zones in order to gain confidence to tackle the challenges of life, on and off the ship. While her favourite way to experience the polar regions is from the cockpit of a kayak, she isn't picky- she also enjoys snowshoeing, camping, and polar plunging.

When not working on ships, Molly loves to experience other cultures and has travelled to over 30 countries. From a Yoga Teacher Training in Costa Rica to a Vipassana Meditation Course in India, to many multi-day kayaking, hiking, and packrafting expeditions, she loves the clarity and personal growth that an immersive experience can bring. When at home in Alaska, Molly can be found enjoying whitewater packrafting in the summer and skiing at her local ski hill in the winter months.

A motto that Molly lives by is, "Every day is a school day." She looks forward to the lessons that each day will bring.

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# Kelly Pearson – Kayak Guide

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Kelly grew up in the South East of England, home of the Norfolk Broads. After completing her BA Hons Degree in Contemporary Fine Art in Newcastle she worked as an Artist Assistant for Sir Antony Gormley for several years. One day walking along Tyne green she discovered the local kayak club and from there her journey to paddle across the world began.

Kelly is kayak instructor based in North Wales in the UK. Her source to sea adventures began almost 10 years ago when she discovered her passion for whitewater kayaking which naturally led

her to the sea. Whilst travelling she spent time exploring the waters of the Gulf Islands, the remote rivers on Vancouver Island, expedition kayaking and raft guiding across British Columbia. She later spent time working and playing as a kayak instructor on the South Island of New Zealand. After several years travelling overseas, kayaking on multi day expeditions in Canada, USA and New Zealand, she relocated to North Wales to pursue her ambition to share her passion with others as a kayak coach. When not guiding she loves to spend time paddling in tide races off the Anglesey Coast and exploring the abundant wildlife, kayaking the local whitewater rivers and running in the Eryri mountains and when there is time practicing her passion for Art.

Kelly's advice to those wanting to travel is "Be open and talk to people, never stop learning and say yes to everything, you never know where you will end up"

The most memorable experience for Kelly working in the polar regions so far was the first time she saw a polar bear in Svalbard and the overwhelming sense of privilege that overcame her. It is the same sentiment she enjoys to see in guests having these experiences for the very first time. Through the means of kayaking she hopes to share her passion to inspire and inform others about the importance of protecting these important places.

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# Aitana Forcén-Vázquez - ExpeditionGuide

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Aitana is a passionate oceanographer and adventurer, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role as a polar guide. Originally from Spain, she spent 12 years in New Zealand, where she earned her PhD in Physical Oceanography— focusing on unravelling the mysteries of how the ocean moves.

Her expertise extends to large-scale currents, waves, ice and water mass formation, and climate, with an unwavering enthusiasm for discussing these topics. Aitana's conversations can seamlessly

transition from the intricacies of oceanography to her love for endurance sports and the art of knitting.

With a strong background in ocean-going fieldwork, Aitana served as the Principal Investigator for the Ross Sea Outflow Experiment, a groundbreaking initiative examining the export of cold water from the Ross Sea. She made history as one of the most junior-ever physical scientists to assume the role of voyage leader on the R V Tangaroa, New Zealand's esteemed research vessel, during an oceanographic voyage to the Southern Ocean.

Aitana's career has been as diverse as the marine environments she has explored. From driving a weather boat for two editions of the America's Cup as a meteorological technician to transitioning into the private sector, where she provided vital marine forecasts for port operations and Defence exercises. In these roles she has been a key player in ensuring the safety and efficiency of maritime operations. When adventure allows it, Aitana shares her knowledge with university students as an associate lecturer, fostering the next generation of marine scientists.

In her free time, Aitana is an avid open water swimmer, a dedicated communicator and content creator, and a seeker of unconventional road trips off the beaten path.



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# Alexander Romanovskiy - Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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# Rose Li Hong - Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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# Charlotte Taplin – Expedition Guide

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

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



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# Juan Berenstein – Expedition Guide

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Juan is a professional photographer and drone pilot born in Ushuaia, Argentina and is a Zodiac driver, expedition and photography guide.

He is a young and highly motivated person, who loves enjoying the outdoors and being in the mountains. His hobbies are hiking, FPV drone flying and photography.

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

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

Juan has been working in the polar regions for several years now, including Antarctica, South Georgia, Falkland Islands, Svalbard, Greenland, and the Great Lakes in North America.

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# Keith Lepor – Expedition Guide

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Keith is an adventure travel photographer focused on capturing imagery and telling stories from the world's most amazing places. Earlier this year he traveled to Mongolia to photograph snow leopards and Kazakh eagle hunters in the Altai Mountains and cross part of the Gobi Desert by camel. Keith previously worked as a freelance photojournalist focused on war-torn and 'complex countries' throughout Africa, the Middle East, Southwest and Southeast Asia. He has also embedded with Special Operations Forces from around the world

For many years Keith worked as an information/communications specialist. He has much experience traveling off the grid and capturing 'atmospherics' or moods, sentiments, and perceptions from local populations. He has considerable research, writing and analytical experience as a published author, columnist and strategic analyst. His book, with a Foreword by Mikhail Gorbachev, *After the Cold War* (University of Texas Press, 1997) helped articulate debate on the future of US Foreign Policy. He also worked as a political risk analyst in Hong Kong and has an evolving interest in the strategic competition in the Polar regions between the United States, People's Republic of China and Russian Federation.

Keith has experience training foreign national journalists in investigative reporting, photography, and photojournalism. Keith's academic background includes undergraduate work in Soviet Studies and petroleum economics at Harvard University; Middle East politics/history, Sinology and 'international politics of business' at Boston University; and graduate work in Middle East Studies at the American University in Cairo as well as post graduate work on international terrorism, country risk analysis and political economy at St. Antony's College, Oxford University.

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## Lucia Romero - Expedition Guide

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

Born and raised in Puerto Madryn, a beach town of Argentinian Patagonia, she grew up surrounded by marine wildlife and outdoor lifestyle. This led her to choose her career, with a bachelor degree in hospitality and tourism and becoming a professional tour guide and kayak guide, mainly working with southern right whale watching and around Magellan

penguin rookeries.

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

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# Magnus Danbolt – Expedition Guide

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Magnus works as a marine biologist in Sweden, focusing on porpoises in the Baltic Sea and marine protected areas in Kalmar County. He is also a captain and works with the English Foundation Marine Conservation Research. The research and expeditions focus on marine mammals and acoustics, for example, how whales are affected by noise from ships.

His work has taken him to many places around the world, all the way from the tropics to the polar regions. He has surveyed penguins in the Sub-Antarctic, Monk seals in Africa and has been

researching blue whales in the seas surrounding Iceland and Greenland. While the research projects have focused on cetaceans and acoustics the fascination for the polar regions got him hooked and since 2017 Magnus has work as an expedition guide.



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# Meike Sjoer – Expedition Guide

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

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

For the past 26 years, she has devoted her talents as a television director for the Dutch National Television. In this role, she dedicated herself to directing programs that involved stories of nature, wildlife, and environmental conservation. Meike's talent for filming and editing led her to directing the renowned Dutch National Wildlife television program *Vroege Vogels* for the past 15 years. Beyond her television work, Meike is a certified nature guide for the Dutch Institute for Nature and Education.

When she is not sailing across polar waters, she takes great pleasure in guiding birding and wildlife tours within the second largest National Park of the Netherlands.

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

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

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

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# Anthonie Luteijn – Expedition guide

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Anthonie is a passionate surfer and a life-long ocean lover. He loves to travel and discover different places around the world. He enjoys the cultural and nature diversities of different countries, and he likes to meet and connect with the people he meets along the way.

Anthonie grew up, right on the beach, in the southwestern coastal province of The Netherlands, called Zeeland. For his studies, he moved to Delft where he completed his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and his master's degree in Hydraulic Engineering at the Technical University of Delft. He has a coastal specialisation, which embraces a great interest in oceanography. During this study program, he took part in several projects around the world and conducted research on an artificial fish migration river in the Netherlands.

In the summer months, Antonie enjoys sharing his passion for the oceans as a surf coach. He sees the ocean as a diverse and unique place which feels like home. Out at sea on the ship he enjoys sharing this passion with everyone on board.

One of the projects he has done was on the plastic waste problem in Indonesia. By creating a real-world, coupled economic-environmental model, focusing on one of the plastic polluted rivers.

He is very much looking forward working as an expedition guide on board with Oceanwide this season. The polar regions are incredibly unique places in the world to visit. And Antonie thinks it is a privilege for everyone to take these life-long memories home and to share the experiences with family and friends!

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# Saskia van der Meij – Expedition guide

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Saskia is an enthusiastic girl born in The Netherlands. With a huge national park in her backyard, she felt at a young age how great it is to be active in & part of nature.

Multiple-day hikes in the Andes or the Himalayas, kayaking around remote islands in Canada or camping on mountain tops overlooking Alaska's glaciers.

Saskia has a background in tourism and hospitality. For almost twenty years she was a product manager for a nature-oriented tour operator. She travelled to develop interesting products in Alaska, Canada, Argentina, Chili, Southern Africa, Australia and New Zealand. In that time, while co-guiding a trip in Iceland, she knew she wanted to be a nature guide.

In 2019 she worked for three months in Namibia as an assistant hotel manager in two different private game lodges. Two fantastic years followed while spending her time in North Norway, Spitsbergen and the Baltic Sea as a hotel manager on a three mast Barque (Tallship).

But her heart told her to go guiding. She spent almost every season in Spitsbergen and became an expedition guide on several ships. She called Antarctica home for three months last winter/summer. As a camping guide she took guests out for a night on this amazing continent.

She has a wide interest and understanding, from animals and landscapes to ice and history with its interesting explorer stories.

Hospitality lies in her core and her ongoing 'sunshine' is what guests remember Saskia by. She welcomes you on board and likes to share her knowledge and enthusiasm for these breathtaking destinations.

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# Valeria Sainz Herrera – Exp. guide

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Valeria Sainz Herrera is an Argentine photographer. She grew up in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina. Throughout the years she has found that one of her greatest passions is to travel to the wildest and remotest places around the world. So, traveling as much as she could, she found in the photography, a profession that gives her the freedom to know and live in different locations.

Nowadays she spends her life between “the poles”, working as a guide for Oceanwide Expeditions, and during the rest of the year you could find her in a beautiful island names Ilhabela in Brazil,

working in tourism area.

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

She is also particularly interested in the history of the expeditions that discovered and mapped some of the places we are about to visit. This gives her the chance to share fascinating stories on board.

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



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# Sjoerd van der Knokke – Ship's doctor

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Sjoerd grew up in a small village just below Rotterdam in the Netherlands. After highschool he decided to study Chemistry in Amsterdam. But soon he found out that he rather worked with people than with chemicals. He quit chemistry and started Medical studies at the Radboud university in Nijmegen.

After his Medical studies he has worked in the Intensive Care and the Emergency department, before specializing in General Practice. He is currently working as a doctor for the Dutch military.

Sjoerd is also a freelance photographer. In 2019 he decided to start professional photography training. In his work he focuses on portrait and studio photography, but he also loves nature and wildlife photography.

Besides his work as a doctor and a photographer. He has a passion for travelling and diving. His favorite parts of the world are Central Asia and Africa. However, when he went on his honeymoon to Antarctica he fell in love with this beautiful continent and directly knew he needed to go back. "The feeling you get when you see the first iceberg is an unforgettable experience."

As the father of a young family it is a bit harder for him to be away for longer periods of time, but being surrounded by the stunning Arctic and Antarctic scenery compensates it all.



# Basecamp Antarctica

## Welcome aboard!

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

Day 1: Ushuaia - Embarkation

Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check you have received all your luggage! Tea/coffee is available in the **Observation Lounge** located on **Deck 5**.

**Due to the possible unforeseen circumstances, this program could change  
Please listen for announcements**

17:15+/- Please join the Expedition Leader and Chief Officer for the ship safety briefing, in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**.

After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket. All guests accommodated on Deck 3 (Cabins 301-337) will go to **MUSTER STATION A** which is the **Restaurant on Deck 4**. All guests accommodated on decks 4, 6, and 7 will go to **MUSTER STATION B** which is the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**.

18:00+/- We would like to invite you to **Captains Cocktails** in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. The Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader will do a welcome briefing, to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days. You will also meet your Expedition Team.

19:00 Buffet dinner will be served in the **Restaurant on Deck 4**.

20:15 The Expedition Team welcomes you to the **Observation Lounge** on deck 5 for the **MANDATORY IAATO and Zodiac Briefing**. Attendance will be checked.

Please note that tonight we will be sailing into the open sea. Take your seasickness medication before you really feel the movements of the vessel, the doctor will be available in the bar after dinner to assist with such matters. Make sure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed. Walk slowly on the ship, always use one hand for yourself and one for the ship and beware of your fingers because of doors slamming!



# Basecamp Antarctica

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

Day 2: At sea - Drakes Passage

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

*Please check the activity groups assigned to you on the wall at reception. If you would like to change group, please ask for Chloe.*

09:15 Please join **Kelly** and **Molly** in the **Observation Lounge** for the **Mandatory Kayak Briefing**.

10:30 Please join Edward and the mountaineering team in the **Observation Lounge** for the **Mandatory Mountaineering Briefing**.

*Throughout the day, please take a moment to **clean all clothing and equipment** you plan to take ashore. Tomorrow, we will conduct our mandatory IAATO Biosecurity check, so it's essential that your gear is cleaned beforehand. Pay special attention to the mesh on backpacks, pockets, and Velcro. Brushes and paperclips will be available for borrowing at reception. If you have any questions, feel free to ask a member of the expedition staff.*

12:30-13:30 **Buffet lunch** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.

14:00 Please join Saskia, Valerie and Anthonie for the **Mandatory Camping Briefing** in the **Observation Lounge** on deck 5

16:00 Juan invites you to the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5** for his **Photography Workshop**. Learn how to take your polar photography skills to a whole new level!

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for **Daily Recap**, this is a daily event where we go through what we have seen during the day and plans for tomorrow.

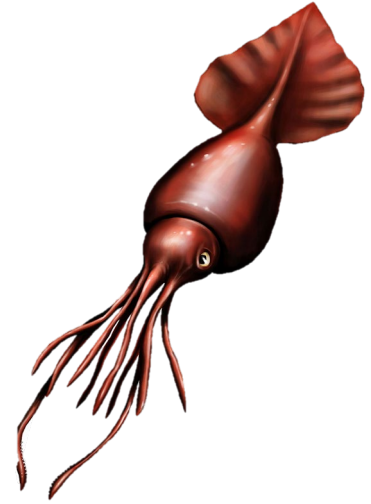
19:00 **Plated dinner** will be served in the **Dining room** on deck 4.

*While on the ship, please walk at a slow pace and avoid rushing. Always keep at least one hand on the ship for stability. Make sure to close all doors securely and keep your fingers clear of the door frames.*

*"A sure cure for seasickness is to sit under a tree." - Spike Milligan.*



# Basecamp Antarctica



Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024

Day 3: Approaching Antarctica – Drakes Passage

07:45 Wake-up call! Good Morning! ☺

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

*Throughout the day, please take a moment to **clean all clothing and equipment** you plan to take ashore. In the afternoon, we will conduct our mandatory IAATO Biosecurity check, so it's essential that your gear is cleaned beforehand. Pay special attention to the mesh on backpacks, pockets, and Velcro. Brushes and paperclips will be available for borrowing at reception. If you have any questions, feel free to ask a member of the expedition staff.*

09:15 Please join the activity group leaders in the **Lecture Room** on deck 5 for our **Activity Sign up**, you will be called by Animals Group. **Please listen to announcements.**

11:45 The Expedition team will hand out your **rubber boots**. **You will be called deck-by-deck starting from deck 7** to the boot room on deck 3. Bring your thick socks to find the best-sized boots for you! **Please listen to announcements.**

12:30-13:30 **Buffet lunch** will be served in the **Dining room** on Deck 4.

13:45+/- During the afternoon we will call you deck by deck for the **mandatory IAATO Biosecurity check in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica for the Expedition Staff to check. Please ensure your equipment is clean **BEFORE** proceeding to the deck 3 and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have been approved by the Expedition Team.

16:00 **Lucia** invites you to **the Observation Lounge** for a presentation on **the penguins** we may encounter during our journey.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for **Daily Recap**.

19:00 **Plated dinner** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.

*“By endurance we conquer.” - Ernest Shackleton:*





# Basecamp Antarctica

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

Day 4: Foyn Harbour & Cuverville Island

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

*In the morning, we hope to take you to Foyn harbour for a zodiac cruise. One of the most unusual attractions, is the shipwreck of the Norwegian factory ship, Guvernøren. In 1915 the captain intentionally ran the ship aground to save his crew (and whale oil) after a fire broke out on board.*

0730 **Mountaineers** - Please go to breakfast as soon as it opens and come (dressed & ready to go) to the **Zodiac Boarding area on deck 3 at 0730**

08:00 The **Gentoo penguins** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

08:30 The **Antarctic krill** and the **Humpback whales** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

08:15 **Kayaker group A** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the of the **zodiac boarding area**.

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

*This afternoon we hope to offer a landing and zodiac cruise at Cuverville Island – one of the largest Gentoo Penguin colonies on the Peninsula.*

***The first groups will come to shore, the second groups will cruise and, we will swap halfway through the morning. Both groups will land and cruise.***

14:30 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.

15:15 The **Gentoo penguins** and the **Humpback whales** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a landing at Cuverville Island.

15:30 The **Antarctic krill** and **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) for a zodiac cruise at Cuverville Island.

15:15 **Kayaker group B** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the of the **zodiac boarding area**.

19:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for daily recap and plans.

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

TBA **Campers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**, we will take you ashore for the night. *Please listen for announcements.*

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



# Basecamp Antarctica



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

Day 5: Neko Harbour and Paradise Bay

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

*This morning, we hope to land and cruise at Neko Harbour, where we can enjoy beautiful glaciers, ice and Gentoo Penguin colonies. The first groups will go to shore, the next groups will zodiac cruise – we will swap halfway through the morning.*

07:30+/- **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area to get ready.**

08:15+/- The **Antarctic krill** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Neko Harbour.

08:30+/- The **Humpback whales** and the **Gentoo penguins** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around at Neko Harbour.

08:30+/- **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **zodiac boarding area**).

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

*This afternoon, we hope to land and cruise at Brown Station, a continental landing and home to an Argentinian base (currently unoccupied). The first groups will go to shore, the next groups will zodiac cruise – we will swap halfway through the morning.*

13:45+/- **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area.**

14:15+/- The **Antarctic krill** and the **Humpback whales** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around at Brown station.

14:30+/- The **Weddell seals** and the **Gentoo penguins** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Brown station.

14:30+/- **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready) to go to the **zodiac boarding area.**

19:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for daily recap.

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

2115+/- **Campers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**, we will take you ashore for the night. *Please listen for announcements*

*"Penguin meat tastes excellent." - Roald Amundsen*



# Basecamp Antarctica

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

Day 6: Jugla point And Damoy Point

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

*This morning we hope to offer a landing and a zodiac cruise around Jougla & Goudier islands. Here we hope to see nesting Gentoo Penguins & Imperial Cormorants. Goudier Island is home to Port Lockroy – the Southernmost Post Office. The Post Office at Port Lockroy is currently closed.*

0730 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.

0800 The **Humpback whales** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Jugla Point.

08:15 The **Antarctic krill** and the **Gentoo penguins** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around at Jugla Point.

08:15 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **zodiac boarding area**).

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

*In the afternoon we hope to land and cruise at Damoy point. Here we hope to enjoy gentoo penguins, a long walk and stunning Antarctic scenery.*

14:30 The **Gentoo penguins** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Damoy Point

14:45 The **Humpback whales** and the **Antarctic krill** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around at Damoy Point

14:45 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready) to go to the **zodiac boarding area**.

18:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for daily recap.

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

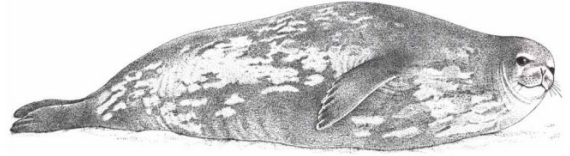
21:15+/- **Campers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**, we will take you ashore for the night. *Please listen for announcements*



## Basecamp Antarctica

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

Day 7: Melchior Island and Lapeyrère Bay



06:45 Wake-up call.

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

*The Melchior Islands consist of numerous low, ice-covered islands. In 1909, Charcot named what he thought was the largest island in the eastern part of the group "Île Melchior," in honor of Vice Admiral Jules Melchior of the French Navy. However, subsequent surveys revealed that Charcot's Île Melchior was two separate islands, which are now known as Eta Island and Omega Island.*

07:30 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.

08:00 The **Gentoo penguins** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Melchior island.

08:15 The **Humpback whales** and the **Antarctic krill** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around at Melchior Island.

08:15 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **zodiac boarding area**).

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

*In the afternoon, we plan to take a zodiac cruise around Lapeyrère Bay, which stretches 7 nautical miles (13 km) long and 2 nautical miles (4 km) wide. Located north of Gourdon Peninsula, the bay cuts into the northeast coast of Anvers Island in the Palmer Archipelago, Antarctica. The bay's head is fed by the Iliad Glacier.*

13:45 The **Humpback whales** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise in Lapeyrère Bay.

14:00 The **Antarctic krill** and the **Gentoo penguins** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise in Lapeyrère Bay.

14:00 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready) to go to the **zodiac boarding area**.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for daily recap.

19:30 **Antarctic Dinner** will be served on deck 5 aft. Dress warmly! 😊

21:15+/- **Campers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**, we will take you ashore for the night. *Please listen for announcements.*





# Basecamp Antarctica

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

Day 8: Cuverville and Orne Island

06:45 Wake-up call. Good morning Good morning!

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

*In the Morning we hope to land at Cuverville Island. Here we hope to see the gentoo penguins, take a walk, do some photography and observe the stunning Antarctic scenery.*

0745 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.

0830 The **Antarctic krill** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Cuverville Island.

0845 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **zodiac boarding area**).

0945 The **Humpback whales** and the **Gentoo penguins** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Cuverville Island.

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

*In the afternoon we aim to land at George's Point & Orne Islands – we hope to see Gentoo & Chinstrap Penguins as well as lots of huge icebergs.*

1315 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.

1400 The **Humpback whales** and the **Gentoo penguins** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Orne Islands.

1530 The **Antarctic krill** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Orne Islands.

1415 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready) to go to the **zodiac boarding area**.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for daily recap.

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

21:15+/- **Campers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**, we will take you ashore for the night. *Please listen for announcements*



# Basecamp Antarctica

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

Day 9: Ketley Point and Orne Island

06:45 Wake-up call. Good morning Good morning!

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

*In the Morning we hope to land at Ketley Point. Here we hope to see the gentoo penguins, take a walk, do some photography and observe the stunning Antarctic scenery.*

0730 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.

0815 The and the **Humpback whales** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Ketley Point.

0830 The **Antarctic krill** and the **Gentoo penguins** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around Ketley Point.

0830 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **zodiac boarding area**).

1200-1300 **Buffet** lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

*In the afternoon we aim to land at Orne Islands – we hope to see Gentoo & Chinstrap Penguins as well as lots of huge icebergs.*

1345 The **Humpback whales** and the **Antarctic krill** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Orne Islands.

1400 The **Gentoo penguins** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise around Orne Islands.

1400 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready) to go to the **zodiac boarding area**.

1745 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for daily recap.

1830 **Plated dinner** will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.



# Basecamp Antarctica



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

Whalers Bay And Half Moon Island

06:00 Wake-up call. Good morning Good morning!

*At 0600, we will sail into Deception Island; we encourage you to be on the outside decks around 0600 to enjoy this remarkable navigation. The caldera has a narrow entrance, just 230 metres (755 feet) wide, called Neptune's Bellows. Navigating a ship through the bellows can be very tricky, adding to the hazard is Ravn Rock, which lies 2.5 metres (8.2 feet) below the water in the middle of the channel. Remains of a shipwreck, a Norwegian whale catcher that hit Ravn Rock in 1957, can still be seen in the passage.*

06:30-07:30 **Buffet breakfast** will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

*In the Morning we hope to land and cruise in Whalers Bay. Deception Island. This island is the caldera of an active volcano and previously held one of the largest whaling stations.*

*At the end of the morning, we'll be offering a **Polar Plunge** for those feeling brave! Please wear your swimsuit underneath your expedition's waterproof gear. Towels will be provided, so do not bring the towel from your cabin along.*

0730 The **Antarctic krill** and the **Gentoo penguins** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Deception Island.

0745 The **Humpback whales** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Deception Island.

*Please note that halfway through the morning the zodiac cruisers will go ashore, and the landing passengers will go cruise. Everyone has the chance to do all activities.*

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

*In the afternoon we aim to land on Half Moon island, one of the South Shetland Islands. It is the site of Argentine research station Cámara Base. During our landings on Half Moon Island, we might see chinstrap penguins, and other Antarctic wildlife.*

1515 The **Humpback whales** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Halfmoon Island

1615 The **Antarctic krill** and the **Gentoo penguins** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Halfmoon Island.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for daily recap.

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

*Tonight we will be headed back out into the Drakes Passage. Please take a moment before dinner to make sure your cabins are secure before the ship starts to roll. Please be careful moving about especially in stair wells. Please always have **one hand free for the ship at all times** when moving about.*



# Basecamp Antarctica

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

Day 11: At sea - Drake Passage.

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:15 Magnus invites you to the **Observation Lounge** for his lecture about Whales.

10:45 Juan welcomes you to the **Lecture Room** for his photography workshop and tell you about to edit your pictures.

12:00 The Expedition team would like to collect the Muck boots and Rental equipment from Ushuaia from you on deck 3, please take a moment to clean your boots before you return them to us.

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

16:15 Meike welcomes you to the **Observation Lounge** for her lecture about **Amazing life of Albatross**

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for **Daily Recap**. There will be some important information given by the Hotel Manager about disembarkation, settling accounts etc. therefore, we encourage at least one person from each group to attend.

19:00 **Plated** Dinner will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

*"The quality I look for most is optimism: especially optimism in the face of reverses and apparent defeat. Optimism is true moral courage". – Sir Ernest Shackleton*





# Basecamp Antarctica

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

Day 12: At sea - Approaching South America.

07:45 Wake-up call.

08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

*After breakfast you will be able to settle your accounts at reception, please ensure your account is settled before 17:00 at the latest.*

09:15 Charlotte invites you to the **Observation Lounge** for her lecture about **All about Seals**

10:45 Sasha invites you to the **Observation Lounge** for his lecture about **How to get to Antarctica**. This will include special mention about Sasha's famous "**fur underpants**"

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

16:15 Valeria invites you to the **Observation Lounge** for her Workshop **All about Argentinian MATE**.

18:00 Please join the captain and the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for **Captain's cocktails**, plans for disembarkation and the premiere of our voyage slideshow compiled by Juan.

*A copy of the voyage slideshow will be available on the computers in the lecture room **after dinner**, please bring a USB or similar, or we can airdrop it to Apple devices.*

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** Upon arrival in Ushuaia, please wait in lounge until the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to disembark. We will provide a free bus to the airport for **morning flights** only, at 08:30-09:00 a.m. **Please identify your luggage on the pier** and put it on the **bus** if you would like this service. For the Guests with **afternoon flights**, we will transfer your luggage to the **drop-off center**, and you will need to pick up your luggage **before 14:00 hrs**. Please identify your luggage on the pier and put it into the **luggage truck** if you wish to do this. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please identify your luggage on the pier and take it with you.



# Basecamp Antarctica

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

Day 13: Ushuaia.

07:15 Wake-up call.

**Please ensure your luggage is outside your room by 7:30 before going to breakfast.**

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** Upon arrival in Ushuaia, please wait in lounge until the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to disembark. We will provide a free bus to the airport for **morning flights** only, at 08:30-09:00 a.m. **Please identify your luggage on the pier and put it on the bus** if you would like this service. For the Guests with **afternoon flights**, we will transfer your luggage to the **drop-off center**, and you will need to pick up your luggage **before 14:00 hrs**. Please identify your luggage on the pier and put it into the **luggage truck** if you wish to do this. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please identify your luggage on the pier and take it with you.

08:45+/- We invite those guests going straight to the airport to disembark. Please identify your luggage on the pier and ensure it is placed in the bus with you going to the airport.

09:00+/- We invite all other guests to disembark. You can either choose to take your luggage with you into town or you can place it in the luggage truck which will take it to a storage facility in Ushuaia.

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