



Snow Hill Island – In Search of Emperor Penguins

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

20 - 30 November, 2024

On board *m/v Ortelius*



M/V *Ortelius* was built in 1989 in Gdynia, Poland as a special-purpose research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science. She was originally named “*Marina Svetaeva*” after a well-known Russian poet. The vessel was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions in 2011, re-flagged in The Netherlands, and re-named *Ortelius*. She was extensively re-fitted in 2019 and complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety of Life At Sea). M/V *Ortelius* is 90.95 m long, 17.2 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.4 m. She has ice class UL1 (Equivalent to 1A), 10.5 knots average cruising speed and propulsion is 6 ZL 40/48 SULZER. *Ortelius* is named after the Dutch cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (Theatre of the World) in 1570. Her home port is Vlissingen.



Captain Per Andersson [Sweden]

and his international crew of 54...

Chief Officer:	Nicolās Dámeto Ordinas	[Spain]
Second Officer:	Ward Dekkers	[Netherlands]
Third Officer:	Archer Cultura	[Philippines]
Helicopter Landing Officer:	Martin Hansson	[Sweden]
Chief Engineer:	Floris Oskam	[Netherlands]
Second Engineer:	Ionut Daraban	[Romania]
Hotel Manager:	Volodymyr Cherednychenko	[Ukraine]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	Karolina Guziejko	[Poland]
Head Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Sous Chef:	Sergei Sklyarov	[Ukraine]
Bosun:	Philip Malang	[Philippines]
Bartender:	Glaiza Loterina	[Philippines]
Ship's doctor:	Ninette van Es	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Sara Jenner	[United Kingdom]
Assistant Expedition Leader:	Pippa Low	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Jess Owen	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Wei Deng	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Dr. Gary Miller	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Bill Smith	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Jens Binderup	[Denmark]
Expedition Guide:	Allan White	[Falkland Islands]
Mountain Guide:	Philip Poole	[United Kingdom]
Snorkelling Guide:	Tanja Bayer	[Germany]
Snorkelling Guide:	Luce Moussiere	[France]
Chief Helicopter Pilot (Tango):	Julio Arce	[Argentina]
Helicopter Pilot (Sierra):	Marcelo Lira Contreras	[Chile]
Helicopter Pilot (Quebec):	Marcelo Yáñez	[Chile]
Chief Helicopter Engineer:	Mario Solano	[Chile]
Helicopter Engineer:	Fernando Silva Soto	[Chile]
Helicopter Engineer:	Jose "Cazely" Mansilla	[Chile]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Wednesday 20 November, Ushuaia, embarkation day.

08:00 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S / 068°17.8'W

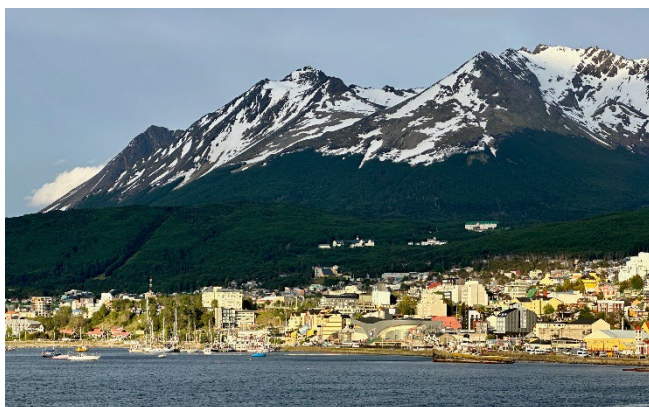
Wind: W force 2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +12°C



The day had finally come! It was time to board the good ship *Ortelius* for our Antarctic expedition to search for emperor penguins! It was a warm day in Ushuaia and the surrounding scenery of snow-encrusted mountains was spectacular. A few early arrivals wandered around the dock waiting for embarkation time. They could see a helicopter sitting on *Ortelius*' flight deck, one of three that would be sailing with us. The one on deck was callsign CC-CHQ, otherwise known as 'Quebec'. Two more helicopters, LV-CUT -

'Tango' and LV-CUS – 'Sierra' were tucked up in the adjacent hangar with the blades removed. The crew and Expedition Team had loaded our luggage onboard and delivered it to our cabins earlier in the day. All that remained was for us to take a few photos of *Ortelius*, our home for the next ten days, before heading up the gangway.

We were warmly welcomed by the crew and Expedition Team who assisted us in finding our cabins. We had some time to explore the ship, get our bearings and grab a coffee in the bar. Everyone was on board by 14:45. Then, it was time to gather in the lecture room for the mandatory ship safety briefing. Once complete, we could sail, and we wanted to get going as soon as possible. We met Expedition Leader Sara Jenner, and heard from Safety Officer Martin Hansson, who gave a practical demonstration on how to put on our emergency life jackets. Next it was time for an abandon ship drill. We went to our cabins and upon hearing the general alarm, got our lifejackets, and went to our muster station in the bar. From there we were guided to our lifeboats, so we knew where to go in case of a real emergency.



As we made our way out to the lifeboats, Captain Per pulled *Ortelius* away from the dock and got us under way. We departed Ushuaia at precisely 15:10. A wave of excitement ran through the ship as everyone realised that our long-awaited and much-anticipated voyage had finally begun. With the drill completed, many of us lingered on the outer decks to enjoy the glorious scenery of the Beagle Channel as *Ortelius* was brought up to full speed. At 16:20 Captain Per invited

us to join him in the bar for champagne and canapés, to raise a glass and toast the voyage ahead. This was followed by an introduction to shipboard services by Hotel Manager Volodymyr, and an overview of our expedition by our illustrious leader Sara. Before this concluded we met the Expedition Team.

With briefing formalities concluded, it was time for our first evening meal, with a delicious buffet selection prepared by Head Chef Ivan and his galley team, served by the ever-friendly dining room staff. After dinner we were called back to the bar so that two more mandatory briefings could be delivered. Because 100% attendance is required, these briefings were done while *Ortelius* was still in the sheltered waters of the Beagle Channel. Expedition Leader Sara first briefed us on the Antarctic Visitor Guidelines, as laid down by IAATO – the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators – of which Oceanwide is a founding member. And then Sara gave us the Zodiac Safety Briefing. How lucky we were to have both Zodiacs and helicopters at our disposal on this exciting voyage. During the briefings, a pilot boat came alongside, and the Ushuaia harbour pilot was disembarked.

After a long and exciting day, it was time for bed and some well-earned rest. What would tomorrow bring? As the sun dipped below the horizon, the first bit of “ocean motion” was felt. It was very gentle, but it reminded everyone that we were leaving the sheltered waters of the Beagle Channel and heading out into the mighty Southern Ocean. The infamous Drake Passage lay ahead. We hoped (some prayed) that it would be kind.



Day 2 – Thursday 21 November, At sea, Drake Passage.

08:00 GPS Position: 57°14.7'S / 065°13.4'W

Wind: N force 5 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Light overcast • Air temperature: +5.7°C

“Good morning, good morning, good morning”. Sara announced over the PA system this morning - our first full day of the voyage. I’m sure we’ll have many more encounters with the Sara alarm clock over the next 10 days. Yesterday was an excellent start to the voyage with a few important briefings and a very pleasant run down the Beagle channel. Overnight, we continued making good speed. The day began with excellent conditions on the Drake Lake. Despite the mild conditions, we still had a few passengers feeling less than healthy with the rocking of the ship. On the early morning bridge watch, it became clear that we were in for a



wonderful day of birds around the ship. We had a giant southern royal albatross from the very beginning, along with light-mantled and black-browed albatrosses. Squadrons of cape petrels and southern fulmars were circling the ship all day as well. Whales were scarce with only two observations of very distant blows in the morning.

Gary began the lecture series with “Ice is Nice”. He told us all about the ice covering the continent and how it all began as snowfall over millions of years. We talked about icebergs, bergy bits and growlers. Then

onto the formation of sea ice and how it dominates life in Antarctica - and even creates much of the currents that drive the whole ocean's circulation. As the morning progressed, we had Jess bring us up to speed with all the cetaceans that we may see on our trip. She's clearly an expert in that field as she ran down the characteristics of the species and how we can identify them if we spot them on our voyage. Lots of good information over the morning.

Lunch was a bit of a turning point. Once we had our lunch, we were back in business mode. We all had to take part in the great 'gumboot giveaway'. Everyone, in turn (deck-by-deck) came down to the lecture room and tried on one two three, or more pairs in order to find the best fit of muck boot to use for the voyage. Muck boots are a great choice for Antarctic trips. With their neoprene tops and well-insulated feet, they are comfy, warm and dry for almost everything we do from the ship. It took us a while to get boots fitted for everyone, but once we did that, it was time for more serious business. We all gathered in the bar for our mandatory briefing on helicopter operations. Tomorrow we will go through a complete simulated helicopter operation, but today we had a video and briefing on safety around the machines and what the procedures on the ship and at the landing site will be like. We went away, we hope, as experts.

That pretty well finished the day. At the daily recap, Sara showed us that the weather would continue to be mild for the rest of our crossing and that we expect to be able to complete a landing in Deception Island before dinner tomorrow. Great news! We're really getting down to the nitty gritty now. After the business part of the briefing & recap, Sara gave us a great demonstration about just how large the birds around the ship really are. The smallest little Wilson's storm petrel with a wingspan of just 40 cm (16 inches) to the massive wandering albatross at a whopping 3.5 meters (12 feet)! Gary gave us a short lesson on how seabirds use variations in windspeed for dynamic soaring, and Bill exalted us to look, see, think and do!

After dinner there was a lovely sunset developing as we noted a few whales nearby and everyone continued to photograph the remarkable parade of albatrosses around the ship. Sometime around dinner we entered the biological realm of Antarctica when we crossed the Antarctic Convergence, as the water and air temperature began to drop quickly. That put us in



Antarctic waters. But about the time everyone was heading for bed, we also crossed the 60° South latitude and officially entered the politically recognized border of Antarctica. So, we are here. Hopefully everyone went to bed dreaming of penguins and seals and whales, and the marvelous adventures we look forward to in the coming days. All in all, it had been a truly fantastic day in the Drake Passage – a day when seabirds completely stole the show!

Day 3 – Friday 22 November, At sea, Drake Passage & Deception Island.

08:00 GPS Position: 61°50.4'S / 062°26.5'W

Wind: N force 6 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 0°C

Our second morning in the Drake Passage started with quite a large, lazy swell that was being generated by a 'purple monster' weather system just over the horizon to the west of us. The weather with us was very good, with a moderate northerly wind pushing us along. We all slept quite well thanks to the gentle rolling of *Ortelius* as she made excellent progress through the long Drake Passage swells towards Antarctica.

After breakfast Sara gave a lecture about her favorite subject.... penguins. It was fascinating to see how these incredible birds can survive in the harsh environment of Antarctica, for which they have evolved perfectly. One species does everything very differently to the rest and breeds on sea ice! These are the elusive emperor penguins, which are very much the focal point of our exciting voyage. Therefore, we had to prepare ourselves for going to see these



beautiful creatures, which weather and sea-ice permitting, would be in the next few days or so. So as soon as Sara's lecture finished, the remainder of the morning was taken up with two very important activities.

In our newly formed Activity Groups, we were called on a rotating basis to the lecture room for biosecurity checks, and to the bar for a dry run through the helicopter operation procedures. For the

biosecurity checks, expedition staff inspected all our bags and outer layers, including gloves, hats, and boots. They all had to be perfectly clean. Yesterday we were encouraged to collect paperclips from reception, which are the ideal tool for cleaning the narrow grooves on the soles of the boots and any velcro on our equipment.

The dry run for the helicopters was what might otherwise be called "a full dress rehearsal". Firstly, we had to wear and carry everything that we would when the time came to do it for real. We learned where we had to go for the check-in (the bar) and what preparations are required before flying. This included de-activating the automatic inflation devices on our life jackets. Lastly, we were issued with ear defenders and then guided out to the helideck by Expedition Staff. For the first time we had the chance to get in the helicopters.



There is not much space, but it was great fun, and the engineers were happy to oblige with

taking photos. We tried the 4-seater helicopter sitting on the helideck, then we went inside the hangar to try one of the 5-seater helicopters. These activities finished just in time for lunch.



Meanwhile, the first iceberg was spotted. It was a large one which Captain Per passed close by. From then on, as we closed in on the South Shetland Islands, more and more ice came into view. Lots of black-browed and light-mantled albatrosses were flying around the ship for much of the day, but we lost them as the South Shetlands came into view. But the ever-delightful cape petrels stayed with us. This was their home! The temperature fell, the wind freshened, and it started to rain. Typical weather for the South Shetland Islands.

After lunch we had an early briefing and recap, during which Sarah gave us the plans for tomorrow. Deception Island came into view, and as we approached the entrance to the famous caldera, we were encouraged to be out on deck for the exciting navigational experience of sailing through Neptune's Bellows. Once safely inside, we turned to starboard, and *Ortelius* anchored in Whalers Bay. Then we headed out for our first landing in Antarctica, and everybody was excited. From the ship we could see the remains of the Whaling Station and British base, and soon we were in Zodiacs for a choppy ride to shore. Along the beach there was steam rising, reminding us that we were inside the caldera of an active volcano!



On shore we had plenty of time to explore the ruins and have a good walk, which was very welcome after almost two days at sea. In one direction we could go to an old aircraft hangar where expedition guide Jens explained the history. In the other direction and much further down the beach we were able to walk to



Neptune's Window, a large gap in the caldera wall where the cliff has fallen away. Here expedition guide Bill was on hand to make sure we were safe on the cliff edge, which in some places is very loose and dangerously undercut. The view from this unique vantage point was fantastic! Here and there along the beach, there were gentoo penguins, which everyone was very excited to see. There was even greater excitement when a solitary chinstrap penguin and a young elephant seal were found on the black volcanic beach.

The polar underwater explorers (snorkelers) went for a check snorkel from the beach. Penguins were going in and out around them and they saw some shells in the clear water. After the check they went ashore and joined everybody else along the beach. Before the landing ended, there was the opportunity for a 'Polar Plunge' for anyone who was keen. About 17 people decided to go for it, dressed in bathing suits of all descriptions. Hearty congratulations to everyone who braved the frigid Antarctic water. The Zodiacs whisked us back to the ship for hot showers and a visit to the bar, which was filled with excitable chatter after our first landing in Antarctica. Captain Per guided *Ortelius* out through Neptune's Bellows and set a course for our next destination.



Day 4 – Saturday 23 November, Penguin Island & Turret Point.

08:00 GPS Position: 62°05.5'S / 057°54.3'W

Wind: N force 3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +0.7°C



Another day... another day of high Oceanwide Expedition expectations! After breakfast the Zodiacs were deployed for the transfer to Penguin Island, dominated by a beautiful volcanic caldera named Deacon Peak. The sea was calm with just a gentle swell which made landing on the beach easy, although several people found the boulder strewn shoreline difficult. Expedition Guide Allan marched off ahead to position marker poles along the route

up to the rim of the volcano. Penguin expert Gary and other expedition guides marked out a shorter, less demanding route leading to a chinstrap penguin colony along the shore. This was a hive of activity with courtship and copulation in full flow.

Soon the landscape was dotted with gaily clad figures. The path up the slopes of the steep sided caldera zig-zagged upwards to the narrow ridge line. All who reached the top had the exciting opportunity to circumnavigate this stunning hill. Cameras clicked and we savoured the views in all directions as we completed the 1.5 km circuit of the volcanic rim. From the highest point of 170m (558 ft) there were spectacular views to the north over the heavily glaciated landscape of King George Island, the largest of the South Shetland Islands. Looking inwardly



and down into the crater, there was the extraordinary sight of what looked like a baby volcano sitting within the main volcano. Deacon Peak was last thought to have been active about 300 years ago. Another, much smaller crater - Petrel Crater - was clearly visible lower down on the east side of the island. This is thought to have last erupted in or around 1905.

The sea remained calm with no wind, and in complete contrast to the previous day, the temperature was relatively mild. For those who ventured up Deacon Peak, the guttural belches of elephant seals and screeching calls of chinstrap penguins could be heard far away. These were highly unusual conditions for the South Shetlands, which are usually a wild and windy place.... as we experienced the previous day at Deception Island. This was an interesting landing enjoyed by all, with great options for wildlife viewing, hiking and stunning views.

Ortelius remained at her anchorage, and in the afternoon, we wrapped up warmly for a Zodiac cruise along the coastline of King George Island, between the rocky outcrops of Three Sisters Point and Turret Point. Weather and visibility had changed dramatically from the morning. It was much colder, thick mist descended over the sea and heavy snow began falling. Breaking waves surged suddenly and



dramatically in places as the swell cascaded across the reefs running parallel to the shoreline. During the cruise nice views were had of elephant seals, giant petrels - including two of the rare white morph kind - and a beautiful blue iceberg. As we returned to the ship, the Zodiacs and passengers were covered in snow ...everyone exhibiting happy smiles...it had been a true Antarctic adventure.



To follow up our Penguin Island landing with the chinstraps, our highly experienced wildlife researcher Gary delivered an 'all you need to know' recap on these charismatic birds. This was followed by Bill delivering a detailed educational presentation explaining the history, construction and operation of *Ortelius*. Guests

appreciated how he used his creative sense of humour to illustrate interesting points. He managed to cover an astonishingly wide range of nautical facts in the recap slot, finishing exactly on time for dinner at 19:00.

Evening entertainment in the packed bar started with Gary our penguin expert introducing the animated movie "Happy Feet" on which he had been the penguin advisor. It was fascinating to hear Gary explain the complex electronic techniques used in the making of the movie. Expedition Staff dispensed large cups of popcorn as everyone enjoyed the hilarious antics of Memphis, Norma Jean, Mumble and his girlfriend Gloria.

It had been another superb Oceanwide Expeditions day, with rising anticipation of more to come once we enter the Weddell Sea!

Day 5 – Sunday 24 November, Antarctic Sound & Brown Bluff.

08:00 GPS Position: 63°23.1'S / 056°58.8'W

Wind: SSW force 7 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -3.4°C

What a morning!!! The "early birds" enjoyed calm seas and little wind as we approached the notoriously icy waters of Antarctic Sound. But later, we experienced 50+ knots of wind and rough sea conditions when Sara's wake-up call invited us out for a pre-breakfast look at Hope Bay and Argentina's Esperanza Station. After



breakfast, Pippa gave an interesting lecture about pinnipeds – all the seals that we have – and might encounter down here! Despite the strong winds, the decision was made to take a closer



look at Brown Bluff, a well-known but very exposed landing site in Antarctic Sound, which is rarely visited due to either weather, sea or ice conditions. This is a continental landing with lots of wildlife, so it was a very attractive possibility for us. As the wind direction had shifted to southerly, we were sheltered by the towering cliffs that give Brown Bluff its name, and the staff scouting party quickly reported very favorable conditions on the beach. Lunch was pushed back to 13:00, and for the remainder of the morning we enjoyed quality time with the local gentoo and adelia penguin colonies. There was lots of activity - stealing pebbles, nest building, courtship, copulation, disputes and conflict, along with the usual to-ing and fro-ing from the water. Not only the wildlife was fascinating – the majestic landscape, icebergs, dark clouds in the distance and sunny spells on the glaciers made the experience a very special and very rare one. Our little miracle of the day!

After a well-deserved lunch, Allan gave his interesting historic lecture about the Nordenskjöld Expedition in 1901-1903, sharing the details of all the hardships the crew went through, being divided into three

groups - after their ship, *Antarctic* was crushed by the ice and sank - and not really knowing where each other were! Wintering in Antarctica 120 years ago was not for the faint hearted, but despite all their hardships, the expedition ended well – they had their miracles as well – though on a very different level!!

Later in the afternoon our bridge officers “parked” *Ortelius* very nicely in denser ice, where there was no wind, milder temperatures and light snowfall. This was our entrance to the Weddell Sea, and what better way to celebrate than with hot chocolate laced with rum and topped with cream, served on the bow. It was so idyllic!

As we reversed out of the ice (no pushing was needed) and continued south towards Snow Hill Island, Ward Dekkers, our Second Officer gave a very



interesting lecture about all the navigational and safety equipment that we see every day on the bridge. This brilliant presentation was delivered in a professional and very humorous way. We had the opportunity to play the 'roles' of waves, icebergs and ships, as Ward explained how radar works. Ward concluded his talk with a friendly but important reminder; Don't touch the buttons on the bridge!



At recap we received the final information about the helicopter operations that we hoped to make use of tomorrow, and Sara showed us a weather forecast that looked very promising indeed. To decide in which order the activity groups would go, a fair and democratic method was used. Group 4 was pulled out of one pot as the starting group, and from another pot 'ascending' was pulled out as the rotational order. To end a fantastic day, after dinner Captain

Per "parked" *Ortelius* in front of a big iceberg covered with Antarctic shags that appeared to be roosting for the night. It was a spectacular scene from the bow, with a backdrop of Seymour Island and Argentina's Marambio Station clearly visible on the highest plateau, and the setting sun slowly dropping behind the distant form of Snow Hill Island. Days rarely get better than this! We retired to the comfort of our bunks wondering what tomorrow might bring.

Day 6 – Monday 25 November, Snow Hill Island.

08:00 GPS Position: 64°30.3'S / 056°52.5'W

Wind: N force 4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: -2.7°C

Well, this morning started a wee bit earlier than usual. Our wake-up call came at 07:00 and we were told that we would be starting helicopter operations around 08:30. Our excitement quickly turned to frustration and a very big concern. Despite a test run at 04:00, the pumping system for refuelling the helicopters refused to operate. Of course, we could not operate without being able to refuel, so everything ground to a halt. We waited, and we waited, and we waited as the anxiety rose. Finally, around 09:00 - about 2 hours after we were supposed to start, the engine room guys managed to replace the pump and a faulty gasket. Now it was all systems GO. The day had started clear and bright, but high cloud now sat over Snow Hill.



Sara, Pippa, Jens and Phillip set out to scout the area and find a place for us to land at the Snow Hill Emperor Penguin colony. Word came back shortly after that they were successful. One more helicopter with expedition staff and equipment flew out to prepare the site, before starting with activity group 4. One after another, flights departed for Snow Hill. Everything worked very efficiently all day. There was some cloud cover, but the light was bright and our

enthusiasm for where we were and what we witnessed kept us from feeling the cold too much, despite the chill wind blowing most of the day.



And what a day we all had. We saw many penguins coming and going from the sea. Some walked while others laid on their bellies to toboggan across the ice. They are so fat, and their legs are so short, that their knees don't get in the way of the walking action when they are on their bellies and tobogganing. What a wonderful way to traverse long distances of ice! So many chicks without too many parents. There were about 300 chicks at that portion of the colony and only about

100 adults. Given that every chick has two parents, it was clear that most parents were out at sea gathering food to bring back to the chicks. The chicks varied in size.

Mostly the chicks would have hatched around the first week of August in the dead of winter. That makes them between 3.5 and 4.5 months old. All of them were big enough that they did not need to be brooded by the parents. That's a great advantage; no messing around, just come home, find your chick, give it what's in your belly and go back to sea to get more. On the other hand, the chicks are curious and wander extensively - sometimes even as far as another distant neighbourhood. Now the returning parent needs to wander all over the place calling to find their chick. Meanwhile, some adults did not have chicks, so they spend their time socializing with each other, or just taking a break. Alas, our allocated 90 minutes on the ice flew by and, before we knew it, we had to take our leave and return to the ship.



But the fun wasn't over yet. With *Ortelius* parked neatly in fast ice, it was perfect for a little walk around the ship. Once the Expedition team had given the area a safety check, everyone who wanted to take a walk on the sea ice was called down the gangway. The photo opportunities were fantastic, including one 'towing the ship' through the ice. We were visited by two emperor penguins who curiously wandered over to check out the unusual 'penguins' all gathered around a weird looking iceberg (*Ortelius*). What a fantastic day. As we finished the evening, the decision was made to stay in position and hope for a second opportunity to take the helicopters back to the emperors tomorrow. The weather forecast was very good. So, we all went to bed dreaming of our emperor penguin encounters from the day, and with high hopes of more tomorrow.



Day 7 – Tuesday 26 November, Snow Hill Island.

08:00 GPS Position: 64°30.3'S / 056°52.5'W

Wind: SW force 4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: -3.7°C

Our second day at Snow Hill Island brought another extraordinary experience with the emperor penguin colony, reaffirming why this location is such a highlight of any Antarctic journey. The day unfolded seamlessly, from the helicopter ride and sea ice landing to the magical moments spent with these iconic creatures.



The expedition began early in the morning with ideal weather conditions that allowed us to operate the helicopters efficiently. Our skilled pilots once again provided smooth transfers to the landing site on the ice, one kilometre from the colony. From the moment we arrived, the excitement was palpable. The sight of these remarkable birds set against the pristine white landscape was nothing short of breathtaking.



We could hear the penguin chicks from a distance, while approaching the colony. These fluffy bundles of grey down were as endearing as ever, toddling around their parents or wandering off with their little friends. It's hard not to smile when watching them. Their clumsy movements and curious nature make them utterly captivating. Everyone was especially delighted by the chicks' occasional attempts to waddle closer to our group, showing an innocent curiosity that mirrors their parents' boldness.

Speaking of the adult emperors, their behavior was equally fascinating. Many of them displayed an impressive lack of fear, walking confidently toward us and inspecting our group with what seemed to be genuine curiosity. It is moments like these - when wildlife initiates the encounter - that make Antarctic expeditions so special. It was a classic case of "who is watching who?" Seeing these majestic birds up close, listening to their distinctive calls and observing their social interactions provided endless opportunities for awe-inspiring connection. The Emperor penguins touched the hearts of all of us!





Once back on board the ship, the day's adventure wasn't quite over. We reversed out of our parking space in the ice, and in the evening, Captain Per brought *Ortelius* to a halt next to a beautiful tabular iceberg. We gathered on the top deck for a special Antarctic barbecue. Against a backdrop of the beautiful, layered ice-cliff of the frozen monster, and with a light breeze in the air, the aroma of grilled food wafted across the decks. It was a joyous and celebratory atmosphere, with hearty laughter and shared stories of the day's highlights echoing through the crisp Antarctic air. And then the dancing started. This outdoor celebration was the perfect way to round off two incredible days at Snow Hill Island.

"I now belong to an elite group of humans, for I have walked among emperors".
- Quote by anonymous Oceanwide guide.

Day 8 – Wednesday 27 November, South Shetland Islands.

08:00 GPS Position: 62°22.8'S / 058°33.3'W

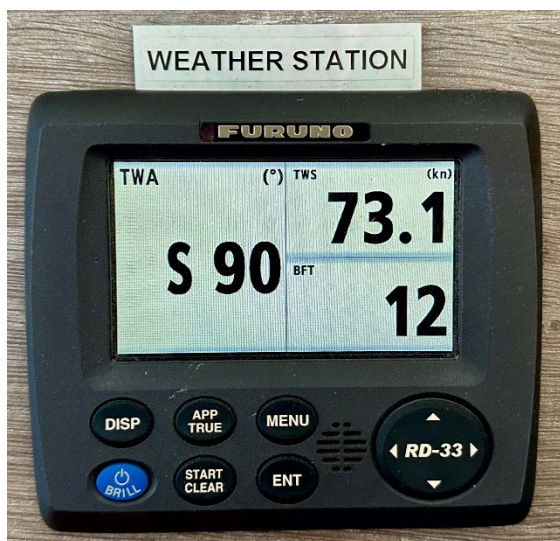
Wind: W force 9/10 • Sea: Moderate-Rough • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +1.2°C

After the excitement of Snow Hill Island, *Ortelius* made good progress through the night and we woke up in a stormy Bransfield Strait, with 50 - 60 knots of wind and considerable swell. It was a bit of a shock to the system after the motionless days and nights we had enjoyed since arriving in Antarctica. We were heading back towards the wild and windy South Shetland Islands. After breakfast Gary gave an informative lecture on the life cycle of emperor penguins. He explained, amongst other things, why the females lay their eggs just before the onset of winter, and why the males incubate the egg and tiny chick through the long Antarctic winter, facing the harshest conditions on Earth.

Today was always going to be a sad day, as we had to say goodbye to our wonderful helicopter pilots and engineers. *Ortelius* made her way into a very windy Maxwell Bay at the west end of King George Island, while the aircrew prepared everything for departure. This area is home to several Antarctic bases, including a large Chilean station called Base Presidente Eduardo Frei (just known as 'Frei'). The station has a large airstrip which provides a regular airlink with Chile. Our air crew were keen to get going as they all had flights to catch and loved ones to see at home. Their



helicopters would remain at the station for upcoming assignments. At 10.15 Quebec took off, followed by Sierra and then Tango. We waved them a fond farewell. The entire DAP Helicopters team were instrumental in making the emperor penguin colony accessible to us, and their dedication, professionalism and good humour were very quickly missed.



Before departing Maxwell Bay, we had some good sightings of a humpback whale, which eventually graced us with a tail fluke (and a *poop*) before disappearing into deeper water. The wind was still very strong, and we were keen to try and find some shelter for one last activity before heading out into the Drake Passage. Sara and Captain Per opted for Half Moon Island, some 4½ hours away. The forecast suggested it would also be windy there, but it was the only possibility within reach that might work. The course was set, and we all headed off to lunch.

The afternoon saw Tanja giving an inspiring talk about her 2017 experience at Cape Washington in the Ross Sea, working as a doctor and diving supervisor for a film crew making a documentary about emperor penguins. Tanja's lecture was beautifully illustrated with all her own pictures and delivered with a delightful mix of passion and humour.

At 16:00 we arrived at Half Moon Island, home to Argentina's Cámara Station (summer only), and a small colony of chinstrap penguins. Unfortunately, the sheltered conditions we hoped for were not present. Instead, we found ferocious winds coming off neighboring Livingstone Island which produced gusts regularly in excess of 70 knots, and almost reaching 80 knots at times. It was obvious that any kind of Zodiac operation was out of the question, even when the wind appeared to steady in the mid 50 knots. So, reluctantly, we turned around and departed for Nelson Strait, our gateway to the Drake Passage.



The evening recap was opened by Jens with an explanation on how polar winds form, and then Bill showed a short and impressive video of what it can be like in heavy weather on the bow of the *Ortelius*. A day of strong winds, and sad farewells ended with the animated movie 'Happy Feet 2' in the bar, which was accompanied by popcorn.

Day 9 – Thursday 28 November, At sea, Drake Passage.

08:00 GPS Position: 60°19.9'S / 062°16.4'W

Wind: W force 9 • Sea: Moderate/Rough • Weather: Overcast/Fog • Air temperature: 0.6°C

The morning started as usual, with a wake-up call from Expedition Leader Sara. *Ortelius* was proceeding north at full speed with a rolling motion which had given most of us a good night's sleep. After breakfast, guests were called one deck at a time to the lecture room to return muck boots, helicopter landing cards, Zodiac life vests and any rental gear. With that task done, some headed for the bridge to check out what wildlife was accompanying us. There was surprisingly little - just the occasional southern fulmar and cape petrel. The lack of albatrosses was a surprise for the expedition staff on bridge watch. A few distant whale blows were seen during the morning, but the long range and rough sea state made identification very difficult.

There were several very interesting lectures throughout the day. Phillip was first up with an exciting talk entitled "A Snowmobile Journey down the Antarctic Peninsula". This was all about a field trip he made during the summer of 1988-89 while working with the British Antarctic Survey. Then later in the morning there was a fantastic lecture by Wei about "Underwater Photography". Following another great lunch, there was time to relax and reflect on the extraordinary experiences of this voyage. Some slept, some sorted through photographs, some chatted with new friends. At 16:15 Pippa gave a talk in the bar entitled 'From Resources to Research – History of the exploitation of Whales'. Then daily recap and dinner followed, but the day wasn't over yet. After dinner we were invited to join Expedition Guide Jess in the bar for a special Antarctic quiz full of questions about our voyage. Teams of 4-6 people were formed, and the fun began. What a great way to round off the day!



Day 10 – Friday 29 November, At sea, Drake Passage & Cape Horn.

08:00 GPS Position: 56°52.7'S / 066°21.3'W

Wind: W force 10 • Sea: Very rough • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +6.1°C

We woke up to find that *Ortelius* had made good progress north through the night but had unfortunately run into rougher conditions generated by a "purple monster" that was approaching from the Pacific. The trademark "good morning, good morning, good morning" announcement from Sara informed us that the outside air temperature had risen considerably from 24 hours prior, confirming that we had re-crossed the Antarctic Convergence and returned to a more temperate region. The wind was at around 40 knots, with 3 - 4 metres of swell.

After breakfast we started to deal with some of those pre-disembarkation tasks, such as settling our shipboard accounts. The public spaces were rather quiet as the weather worsened. By 09:00 we had wind that was steady at just over 60 knots, and the swell had increased to 5

metres. This was now a force 10 storm. Cape Horn was still some 50+ nautical miles away, so it would be well after lunch before we got there with our reduced speed. At 09:15 Gary invited us to the bar for his lecture entitled "Overwinter life on an Australian Antarctic Station". This was the story of Gary's personal experience when he worked at Australia's Mawson Station in 2008. Then at 11:30 expedition guide Bill Smith gave a very interesting and thought-provoking lecture entitled 'Paintings of the Sea - The Meaning of the Sea in Paintings'.



As *Ortelius* closed in on Cape Horn, some of us took the opportunity to start packing. Others remained horizontal. Those who ventured up to the bridge were mesmerised by the big waves breaking over the bow, sending massive plumes of spray into the air. It was lovely to see that we were not alone on this stormy ocean. *Ortelius* was in company with the usual bird life for

the region - petrels, prions, shearwaters, and of course a variety of albatrosses. Any albatross gliding over the Southern Ocean is a sight to behold, but the masterful and elegant wandering albatross with its enormous 3.5 metre wingspan left everyone completely awestruck. These 'marathon birds' are completely at home riding the wild winds of the deep south. The stronger it blows, the happier they seem to be. The love and respect for these incredible birds is hard to put into words, especially when we consider the mariner's legend that every albatross carries the soul of a sailor lost at sea. It is truly the bird of good omen for all who work upon the oceans of the World. These sentiments are nicely captured in the immortal words of English poet Samuel Taylor-Coleridge (1772-1834), from his epic work 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'...

At length did cross an Albatross, through the fog it came.
As if it had been a Christian soul, we hailed it in God's name.

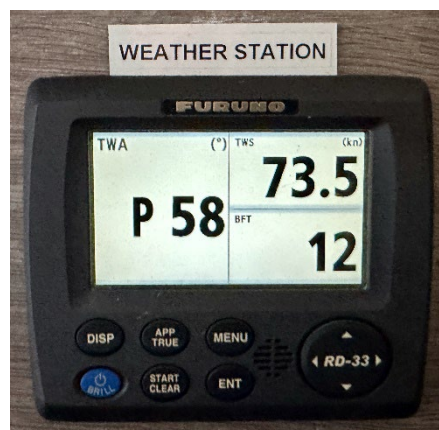
Just after lunch Cape Horn appeared through the haze at the 1 o'clock position ahead of the ship. Rather appropriately, the wind increased even more as we closed in on 'The Horn', and the wind speed indicator on the Bridge was soon showing gusts more than 70 knots. The Second Officer took a call from the Chilean Navy Station at Cape Horn by VHF



radio, and we were granted permission to approach to within 3 nautical miles of the infamous landmark. By 14:30 we were as close as we could go, and *Ortelius* made a slow turn to starboard on to an easterly heading. Some braved the strong winds and spray to venture out on deck to admire and photograph the mighty Cape Horn.

Expedition Staff tried to point out the large albatross monument that overlooks the waters off Cape Horn. At the base of the monument there is a large plaque with the following words by Chilean writer Sara Vial.....

*I am the albatross that waits for you at the end of the World.
I am the forgotten souls of dead sailors
who passed Cape Horn from all the oceans of the Earth.
But they did not die in the furious waves.
Today they fly on my wings towards eternity,
in the last trough of the Antarctic winds.*



Our storm off Cape Horn was now a force 12 on the Beaufort Scale. It felt good to turn and go with it. *Ortelius* continued towards the more sheltered waters of the Beagle Channel, as preparations for disembarkation quietly progressed below decks. The ship had a much easier motion on this course. At 16:15 we were invited to join Sara in the bar for an excellent lecture entitled "Marine Threats". This drew a sizeable and enthusiastic crowd who were keen to hear Sara talk about a subject that is very close to her heart.

At 18:15 we gathered in the bar for a farewell drink with Captain Per, and a toast to a very successful expedition. This was followed by a viewing of the expedition slideshow produced by Expedition Guide Jess Owen. This exciting reminder of a memorable journey was later available for all to save to mobile devices, USB sticks and SD cards, once we had enjoyed our final dinner onboard *Ortelius*. And what a great final dinner it was! Before dessert was served, Hotel Manager Volodymyr introduced his wonderful, hard-working team. The day closed with the welcome sensation of a motionless deck beneath our feet, as the land on both sides of the Beagle Channel closed in around us. Many went out on deck after dinner to take in the dramatic scenery. Anyone who took a late stroll around the decks before bed would have seen the Argentinian pilot boat come alongside and deliver the pilot that would guide us up the Beagle Channel to Ushuaia. There was an air of excitement around the ship. The voyage was almost over, and soon we would embark on the next leg of our individual adventures.

Day 11 – Saturday 30 November, Ushuaia, disembarkation day.

08:00 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S / 068°17.8'W

Wind: W force 1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Cloudy • Air temperature: +7.5°C

We docked in Ushuaia at 02:40, but most of us were oblivious to anything happening. *Ortelius* had successfully completed her second Antarctic voyage for the 2024/25 season! We woke up to a cloudy, calm, clear morning in Ushuaia, with the surrounding mountains reflected in the



still harbour. The crew and Expedition Team handled all the luggage and placed it on the dock, while we enjoyed one last buffet breakfast. At 08:30 it was time for disembarkation. The voyage was over, and it was time to go our separate ways. Fond farewells were exchanged on the

dock, as our band of intrepid adventurers dispersed and began the long journey home. For some, it was just the beginning of the next chapter in our own personal travel story.

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1,754 nautical miles.

Southernmost position: 64°30'.33.3" S / 057°26'.07.2" W (Snow Hill colony).

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Per Andersson, Expedition Leader Sara Jenner, Hotel Manager Volodymyr Cherednychenko and all the crew and staff of *M/V Ortelius*, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.



Your Oceanwide Expeditions Team.

L-R: Wei, Jens, Phillip, Dr. Ninette, Gary, Jess, Luce, Pippa, Sara, Tanja, Bill, Allan.



Thank you from your DAP Helicopters team.

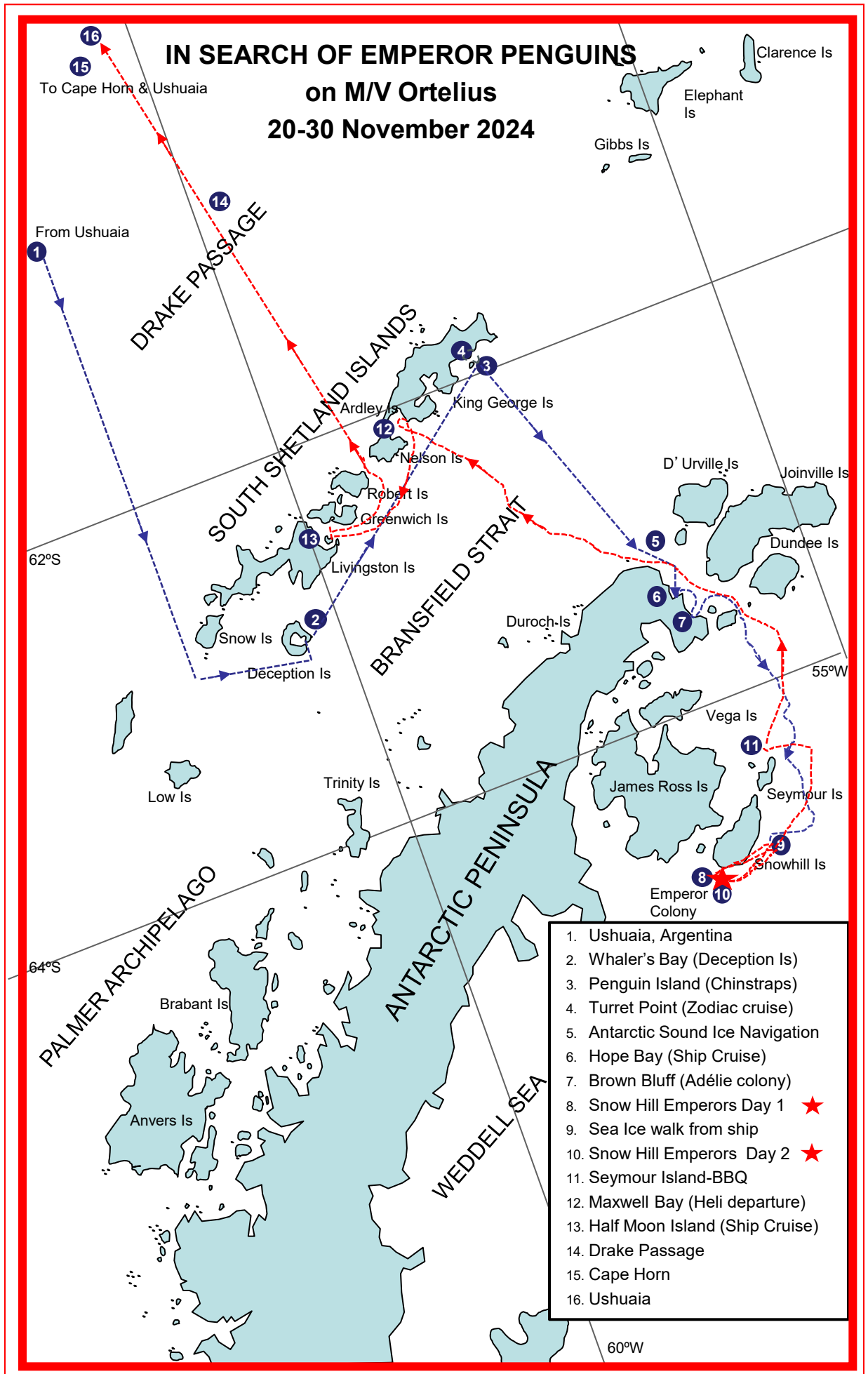
L-R: Marcelo (Pilot - Quebec), Cazely (Engineer), Julio (Chief Pilot - Tango),
Mario (Chief Engineer), Marcelo (Pilot - Sierra), Fernando (Engineer).



IN SEARCH OF EMPEROR PENGUINS

on M/V Ortelius

20-30 November 2024



Ortelius: Weddell Sea Emperors 20-30 November 2024

		November													
BIRDS	Latin name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>					X	X	X							
King Penguin	<i>A. patagonicus</i>														
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	X			X	X									
Adelie Penguin	<i>P. adelaie</i>				X	X	X	X							
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>P. antarctica</i>			X	X										
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>														
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>														
Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocoe</i>														
Snowy Wandering Albatro	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		X								X				
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>D. epomophora</i>		X												
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>D. sanfordi</i>														
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophrys</i>	X	X	X							X				
Grey-headed Albatross	<i>T. chrysostoma</i>		X	X							X				
Light-mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>			X						X	X				
Cape/Pintado Petrel	<i>Capense capense</i>		X	X	X					X	X				
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>								X						
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>					X	X	X							
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialoides</i>	X	X	X						X					
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>														
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>M. giganteus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>		X	X						X	X				
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>														
Slender-billed Prion	<i>P. belcheri</i>									X	X				
Antarctic Prion	<i>P. desolata</i>			X						X	X				
White-headed Petrel	<i>Pterodroma lessoni</i>														
Mottled Petrel	<i>P. inexpectata</i>														
Soft-plumaged Petrel (dar	<i>P. mollis</i>														
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	X									X				
White-chinned Petrel	<i>P. aequinoctialis</i>		X								X				
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		X	X	X	X									
Fuegian Storm-petrel	<i>O. chilensis</i>										X				
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>														
Grey-backed Storm-petrel	<i>Garrodia nereis</i>														
Common Diving-petrel	<i>Pelacanoides urinatrix</i>														
Magellanic Diving-petrel	<i>Pelancanoides magellani</i>	X													
Imperial Cormorant	<i>Phalacrorax atriceps</i>	X									X				
Antarctic Shag	<i>P. bransfieldensis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X						
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>	X									X				
Subantarctic skua	<i>C. antarctica</i>			X	X	X			X						
South Polar Skua	<i>C. maccormicki</i>					X	X	X							
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>														
Kelp Gull	<i>L. dominicanus</i>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X				
Antarctic Tern	<i>S. vittata</i>		X		X	X	X		X						
South American Tern	<i>S. hirundinacea</i>	X													
Arctic Tern	<i>S. paradisaea</i>								X						
Pale-faced Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>				X	X									
Flying Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres patachonicus</i>	X													

MAMMALS	Latin name	November													
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>														
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>								1	2					
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>								2	3					
Sei Whale	<i>B. borealis</i>														
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>B. bonaerensis</i>														
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>														
Antarctic Killer (type A)	<i>Orcinus species</i>														
Antarctic Killer (type B)	<i>Orcinus species</i>														
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>														
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	X													
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>														
Dolphins	<i>Unidentified Species</i>														
Arnoux's Beaked Whale	<i>Berardius arnuxii</i>														
Beaked Whale-	<i>Cuvier's or Grey's</i>														
South American Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus australis</i>														
Antarctic Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>			X	X										
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonina</i>				X										
Crabeater Seal	<i>Lobodon carcinophaga</i>						X	X							
Weddell Seal	<i>Leptonychotes weddellii</i>			X	X	X	X	X							
Leopard Seal	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>														
		Depart Ushuaia	Drake Passage	Drake-Whalers Bay-Deception Is	Penguin Is.-Turret Pt.	Hope Bay-Brownbluff-Ant. Sound	Snow Hill Is-Emperor Colony	Snow Hill Is-Emperor Colony	King George Is-Halfmoon Is-Drake	Drake Passage	Drake Passage-Cape Horn	Beagle Channel-Ushuaia			

Sara Jenner – Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

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

Pippa Low – Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

Jess Owen – Expedition Guide



Jess is from the South East of England and lives on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. Since graduating from a degree in Wildlife and Media, Jess has been working in environmental research and education roles with wildlife conservation charities in the UK, with a focus on marine mammals and birds. Jess is a passionate science communicator, wildlife guide, and nature enthusiast. She has delivered lectures, workshops, tours, school lessons, and training courses to a wide variety of audiences on subjects such as birds, insects, marine mammals, marine and terrestrial conservation,

citizen science, and gardening for wildlife. She is particularly passionate about citizen science and helping inspire people to become connected to their local wildlife and active in its conservation.

Jess now specialises in whales, dolphins, and porpoises, having worked as a marine mammal surveyor and whale watching guide since 2015. This work has taken her to the Bay of Biscay, the West Coast of Scotland, the Southern Ocean, the Falkland Islands, and the Antarctic Peninsula and she is very excited to be returning to the Arctic this season.

When she is not out at sea, Jess spends her time gardening, reading, making films, snorkelling, and bird watching, and loves to spend time with her nieces and nephew.

Wei Deng – Expedition staff



Wei Deng was born and raised in Guangzhou, China. She graduated from the University of Bonn with a master degree in Economics. During her studies in Germany, she backpacked in Europe a lot and has been hooked on travel ever since.

Wei's passion for nature and outdoor adventure urged her to quit her consultant job in 2011. She loves diving and taking pictures. This got her to become an underwater photographer. She has been leading diving trips all over the world since 2012. Her underwater photos are featured in magazines and newspapers in China

and the US. She has over 1800 logged dives under her belt, is also a PADI dive master.

In 2017 she started to work in Antarctica as an expedition guide. Polar region instantaneously became her favorite place besides underwater world. She now works all over the world on various expedition ships and is particularly passionate about everything in the ocean. Wei's previous travel, dive and work experiences have taken her to all 7 continents, over 60 countries. She is adventurous and always eager to increase everyone's understanding of the natural environment, especially, to promote marine conservation.

Gary Miller – Expedition Guide



Gary's love of the polar regions began over 40 years ago when he studied polar bears in Canada for his MA in Zoology. He started by following an academic career as a scientist studying wildlife. During that time he also worked on bowhead whales and gray whales in Alaska and Mexico and then a 3-year study of desert bighorn sheep in Arizona for his PhD in Behavioral Ecology in 1986. After that his life took a dramatic turn to the south when he began research on Antarctic penguins and skuas. He immediately fell in love with the Antarctic and has continued to work there for his career. Starting with 6

summers of research on Ross Island, deep in the Ross Sea, he has logged 10 summers and one winter at research stations studying South Polar Skuas, Adelie, Gentoo, Chinstrap, Royal, King, and Emperor penguins. Gary has tremendous experience with Emperors having spent an entire winter studying the emperor penguins at Auster colony in East Antarctica.

For the past 30 years, Gary has split his time between research expeditions and ship-based tours to the polar regions. He enjoys sharing his knowledge, enthusiasm and experience with passengers from all over the world. In his many years he has circumnavigated Antarctica, visited a wide range of penguin colonies in different parts of Antarctica, and has managed to visit 10 different Emperor penguin colonies. Gary is one of the most experienced naturalist/guides working today.

Bill Smith – Expedition Guide



“Super Bill” as described by his colleagues and clients, is a fun-loving outdoor pursuits enthusiast, cartoonist and former Head of Art and Design Education at Ellon Academy Aberdeenshire.

Bill joined Oceanwide Expeditions as a guide when Plancius was built and over the last few years has become addicted to the Polar Regions.

He has 58 years’ experience of Art and Design Education and Design for Industry. Plus 58 years leading and instructing a range of outdoor pursuits.

Bill delights in producing humorous cartoon logs of each trip and operates as an Artist / Designer / Illustrator / Cartoonist

Aside from his artistic commitments Bill is qualified instructor in a range of Royal Yachting Association disciplines including sailing, windsurfing and powerboating. He is also a British Canoe Union Open Canoe Instructor and British Caving Association Local Cave leader. He is a safety expert in these fields.

During the winter at home Bill is a National Patroller for the British Association of Ski Patrollers and in addition is a member of Member of the Federation Internationale de Patrolles De Ski.

As Bill lives in the North-west of Scotland he is President of Lochinver Highland Games Committee and former Chieftain Assynt Highland Games.

Bill is an Honorary Member Assynt Crofters Trust and recently awarded Honorary Lifetime Guardian of Island of South Georgia.

Jens Binderup – Expedition Guide



Born on a farm in central Denmark, later working as an air traffic controller in Copenhagen for many years, now living near the coastline on the countryside south of the capital.

A keen interest in wildlife has been a lifelong companion, and the majority of travelling through the years has been to all 7 continents, where animal life- and behaviour was the main focus.

Whether it was swimming with the orcas in northern Norway, dogsledding in Finland, experiencing the abundance of wildlife in southern Africa or enjoying the magnificence of landscapes and animal

life in the Arctic and Antarctica.

Jens is a sociable and talkative person, loving to share all the experiences with our guests – and his enthusiasm has made him guiding friends and colleagues on several occasions.

He also possesses a deep interest in the polar expeditions – both to the Arctic and Antarctic – made by the brave men a hundred years ago, exploring the last frontiers by ships, planes, airships and dogsleds.

When not travelling, spare time is used enjoying the massive migration of birds of prey near his home, mountain biking, trekking in the Scandinavian wilderness and flying gliders together with all the predatory birds.

Fulfilling a lifelong dream of being an expedition guide, Jens is looking forward to his first season in the Antarctic with passion and enthusiasm, sharing the magnificent experiences that await all on an expedition cruise.

Allan White - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Philip Poole – Mountain Guide



Philip is an IFMGA Mountain Guide and has enjoyed extensive polar experience both in the Antarctic and Arctic.

His first career highlight was working for the British Antarctic Survey as a field guide for 2 seasons: one supporting geological surveys on James Ross Island on the north of the Peninsula and the other ice core drilling on the Dyer Plateau and then hot water drilling on King George VI Sound ice shelf. He completed a very memorable 1000km snowmobile journey between these two sites with his scientist, down the Antarctic Peninsula.

More recently, Philip completed 17 seasons working in East Greenland running ski touring and mountaineering expeditions to some of the remotest parts of the continent. He led several first ascents and 3 successful expeditions to the 3 highest mountains in the Arctic: Gunnbjørn Fjeld, Cone and Dome. Clients enjoyed not only the mountaineering achievements but also the shared experience of close living in tents on the glaciers.

For 9 years he was Head Snowmobile Guide for a company in East Greenland leading a team of drivers on multi-day journeys, over sea ice and glaciers, to transport client expeditions to their locations. He was also involved in running polar training courses and led an early (possibly the first) North - South Liverpool Land traverse on ski.

Philip has also worked for 3 winter seasons in Hokkaido, northern Japan, running back country ski programmes, in what some consider to be, the best powder skiing in the world.

When not in the mountains, he works for a multi-national management training company, where he advises on safety and trains and assesses staff for outdoor qualifications. He lives in the Lake District, where he enjoys a wide range of outdoor activities, including climbing, caving, kayaking and canyoning.

Tanja Bayer – Snorkelling Guide



Tanja is at home in Oberursel, which is near Frankfurt / Main in Germany. She has been diving since 1990 and has more than 4200 dives. In Oberursel she is running her own Diving Center 'TaWo Diving' since 1996.

As a Master Instructor and Course Director she teaches Diving and also trains Diving Instructors.

Her 'second' profession is being a Doctor in General Practice, Accident & Emergency and Diving Medicine.

She has been working as a ships doctor since 2009 in Antarctica and since 2015 also in the Arctic with Oceanwide Expeditions.

As a dive guide and diving expedition Leader she takes divers all around the world. Asked for her favourite dive sites, she mentions 'Planeau Bay' in Antarctica. Cold water diving is really something special and challenging.

You have to be experienced and always aware of hypothermia. But it is a great feeling to touch an iceberg or to see all these colorful animals surviving in this harsh regions.

Luce Moussiere - Snorkelling Guide



She knew how to swim before she could walk. Luce is a young French scuba diving instructor, swimming instructor and hiking guide. She left France after a degree of Neuro-Linguistic Programming with the ambition to bring the most extraordinary experiences accessible to anyone.

She lived in Asia, and Australia where when she wasn't teaching recreational courses, she enrolled in multiple marine life conservation projects and coral reef restoration, working together with the Great Barrier Reef marine parks authority. She supervised explorations

to survey remote untouched coral reef systems where she could then guide experienced divers to educate over climate change impacts. She led special trips on private yacht to encounter big marine life, such as bull sharks, tiger sharks, minke and humpback whales.

After 5 years in tropical waters, she then specialized in cold water environment, where she lives now in Iceland. She trained to adapt and work through Icelandic winters, with little to no daylight, and temperatures reaching -30 degrees Celsius (-22F). She is now diving or snorkelling in between the clear water of Silfra, fissure in between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates.

She specialized in technical decompression diving, ice, cold, deep, night, wreck, and enriched air diving, and is always keen to add to her career more skills, to be able to dive and guide through the most challenging environments.

She also is an on-call guide when Icelandic volcanos erupt, hunting the best routes through volcanic lands to safely bring hikers to witness these events. When she is not working, you will find Luce hiking on fjords, glaciers, exploring ice caves, free diving in arctic kelp forests: enjoying this huge playground the raw Icelandic land can be.

Ninette van Es – Ship's doctor



Ninette was born in the southern part of the Netherlands and undertook her medical training at the University of Utrecht. After completing medical school and 6 clinical years of residency in the Department of Surgery at the University of Utrecht and Amsterdam she served as a surgeon in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the Academic Medical Centre in Amsterdam.

Feeling the need to widen her horizons further she changed her specialization towards a general practitioner. Also interested in travelling she was excited when an opportunity came up while she was finishing her studies to travel as a ship's physician to the South Pole in 2011. Since then, she has been bitten by the polar bug and has returned each summer and winter to the polar regions. More recently she has had a permanent job in two different GP practices which enables Ninette to combine her time with opportunities to travel to faraway places with, often as a ship physician.

Currently she is chairman of a Medical Committee to improve medical treatment on board of the expedition ships and besides this is a member of the Dutch Medical Nautical Society. When time permits, she enjoys reading, running, traveling, and skating.



Snow Hill - In search of Emperor Penguins Welcome on Board!

Date: 20 November 2024

Day 1 Ushuaia

Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check you have received all your luggage! Tea/coffee is available in the Bar located on Deck 6.

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 15:00+/- Ship safety briefing, in the **Lecture Room on Deck 3**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**. After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket. All guests will go to their **MUSTER STATION** which the **Bar on Deck 6**.
- 16:30+/- Please join the Expedition Team and Captain in the **Bar on Deck 6** for a celebratory toast to the forthcoming voyage. This will be followed by a welcome briefing by the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days.
- 18:00 Buffet dinner in the **Restaurant on Deck 4**.
- 19:30 Please join Sara, the Expedition Leader, in the **Bar on Deck 6** for the **Mandatory IAATO and Zodiac Briefing** and to hear more about plans for the forthcoming days. Attendance will be checked.

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

"All things considered there are only two kinds of men in the world; those that stay at home and those that do not, the latter are more interesting." - Rudyard Kipling



Snow Hill - In search of Emperor Penguins

Date: 21 November 2024

Day 2 Drake Passage

07:45 Wake up call.

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

Please remember to sign up at reception for an activity group before going to breakfast, the lists will be removed at 09:30.

09:30 Gary welcomes you to join him in the Bar for his presentation titled 'Ice is Nice'.

11:30 Jess invites you to the Bar for a presentation introducing the Cetaceans of Antarctica.

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

13:30 You will be called deck by deck down to the Lecture Room on Deck 3 to collect your Muck Boots, please bring your thick socks so you can try them for size.

14:15 Please can the Snorkelers meet Tanya and Luce in the Lecture Room for the **Mandatory Snorkelling briefing**.

16:15 Please join Sara in the Bar for the **MANDATORY Helicopter Briefing**. Attendance will be checked.

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

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

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

*"One must never be in haste to end a day; there are too few of them in a lifetime". -
Sir Francis Drake*



Snow Hill - In search of Emperor Penguins

Date: 22 November 2024

Day 3 Deception Island

07:45 Wake up call.

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

09:15 Sara welcomes you to the Bar for a lecture about Penguins.

During the morning you will be called to the Bar by your activity group number for the **MANDATORY Helicopter Drill**. We will gather you in groups of either 4 or 5 people and escorted to the Heli deck. Please wear your Muck boots, waterproof clothing, life jackets, and bags and bring your helicopter key card and signed helicopter declaration form. We will start with Group 1 and work upwards (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9). Simultaneously, we will also be calling activity groups for the **MANDATORY IATTO Biosecurity** in the Lecture Room, we will start with Group 5 and work upwards (5,6,7,8,9,1,2,3,4). When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica for the Expedition Staff to check. Please ensure everything is clean before proceeding to the Lecture room and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have approved by the Expedition Team. **PLEASE LISTEN TO ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ONLY ATTEND EACH ACTIVITY WHEN YOUR GROUP IS CALLED.**

13:00-14:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

14:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.

16:30+/- We will sail into Deception Island; we encourage you to be on the outside decks to enjoy this remarkable navigation. The caldera has a narrow entrance, just 230 metres (755 feet) wide, called Neptune's Bellows. Navigating a ship through the bellows can be very tricky, adding to the hazard is Ravn Rock, which lies 2.5 metres (8.2 feet) below the water in the middle of the channel. Remains of a shipwreck, a Norwegian whale catcher that hit Ravn Rock in 1957, can still be seen in the passage.

We hope to take you ashore at Whalers Bay and to take the snorkelers snorkelling, please listen to announcements for timings. We plan to offer a **polar plunge** at the end of the activity, please wear your swimwear underneath your expedition clothing, we will provide the towels.

20:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

"When your feet get cold cover your head" Inuit Proverb



Weddell Sea - In Search of Emperor Penguins

Date: 23 November 2024

Day 4: Penguin Island and Turret Point

06:45 Wake-up call.

07:00-08:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

This morning, we hope to land at Penguin Island, a stratovolcano home to Chinstrap and Adelie Penguins, Giant Petrels and possibly several seal species. We hope to go for a walk to the Chinstrap Penguin colony and for those that are keen to the crater ridge at Deacon Peak (around 170m elevation).

08:15+/- We hope to start disembarking you for a landing at Penguin Island.

Please do not come to the gangway till you are called. Remember to wear full waterproof clothing and your Muck boots, have your life jacket properly fitted, swipe out with your cabin key card and dip your boots, walking sticks and tripods into the Virkon solution provided before disembarking.

12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

This afternoon we hope to take you for a zodiac cruise around Penguin Island and the adjacent Turret Point. We hope to visit the Adelie Penguin colony and look out for other marine life and ice.

14:00+/- We hope to start disembarkation for our afternoon Zodiac cruise.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

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

20:30 There will be a screening of the animated musical 'Happy Feet 1' in the Bar.

"An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered. An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered." - G. K. Chesterton



Snow Hill - In Search of Emperor Penguins

Date: 24 November 2024

Day 5 Antarctic Sound

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:15 Pippa invites you to the Bar for a lecture about Seals of the Southern Ocean.

11:15 Join Allan in the Bar for a lecture titled 'The Swedish Antarctic Expedition; 1901-03 The Greatest Escape'.

An Expedition Day in Antarctic Sound.

All activities will be dependent on weather and ice conditions so please listen to announcements.

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

16:15 Our second officer, Ward Dekkers, would like to invite you to the Bar for a presentation about bridge operations and systems onboard the M/V Ortelius.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

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

"A journey is a person in itself, no two are alike. And all plans, safeguards, policies and coercion are fruitless. We find after years of struggle that we do not take a trip, a trip takes us." - John Steinbeck



Weddell Sea - In Search of Emperor Penguins

Date: 25 November 2024

Day 6: Snow Hill

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

We hope to take you ashore at Snow Hill Island, please listen to announcements for exact timings. As you appreciate, helicopter operations take a significant time, so please be patient.

As and when your group is called, please proceed to the Bar, ensuring you have your numbered helicopter card with you and clearly visible. Please dress warmly, in waterproof clothing and with your Muck boots. On arrival in the bar, we will deactivate both canisters in your lifejacket.

Your allocated time at the colony will be dependent on weather conditions and the flight time from the ship to the landing site.

We will be starting with Group 4 and continue in the following order (5,6,7,8,9,12 and 3).

At the landing site, one person from each flight will be assigned a landing card, which will state what time your flight group need to be back at the landing site for their return flight to the ship. **PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE.**

When you return to the ship, please ensure you are swiped back in, and your canisters are reactivated in your lifejacket by a member of staff.

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

18:30 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

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

(ALL TIMINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

"It must be remembered that the men whose desires lead them to the untrodden paths of the world have generally marked individuality." - Sir Ernest Shackleton



Weddell Sea - In Search of Emperor Penguins

Date: 26 November 2024

Day 7: Snow Hill

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

We hope to take you ashore at Snow Hill Island, please listen to announcements for exact timings. As you appreciate, helicopter operations take a significant time, so please be patient.

As and when your group is called, please proceed to the Bar, ensuring you have your numbered helicopter card with you and clearly visible. Please dress warmly, in waterproof clothing and with your Muck boots. On arrival in the bar, we will deactivate both canisters in your lifejacket.

Your allocated time at the colony will be dependent on weather conditions and the flight time from the ship to the landing site.

We will be starting with Group 3 and continue in the following order (2,1,9,8,7,6,5 and 4).

At the landing site, one person from each flight will be assigned a landing card, which will state what time your flight group need to be back at the landing site for their return flight to the ship. **PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE.**

When you return to the ship, please ensure you are swiped back in, and your canisters are reactivated in your lifejacket by a member of staff.

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

17:30 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

18:00 Dinner will be served outside, please dress warmly.

(ALL TIMINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it." - Robert Swan OBE



Weddell Sea - In Search of Emperor Penguins

Date: 27 November 2024

Day 8: Heading North towards the Shetland Islands

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:15 Gary invites you to the Bar for his lecture about Emperor Penguins.

11:15 Please join Jens in the Bar for a lecture titled 'South- Shackleton'.

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

If the weather allows, we would love to be able to offer an off-ship activity in the afternoon, but this will be very much dependent on the weather.

Please listen to announcements for updates after lunch.

16:15 Tanya invites you to the Bar for a presentation about her experience of camping at Cape Washington – an Emperor Penguin colony.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

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

20:15 There will be a screening of Happy Feet Part 2 in the Bar

"Anything more wonderful than the polar night does not exist. It is a dream-like sight. It is a light poem of all the finest and most delicate tones of the soul." -Fridtjof Nansen



Weddell Sea - In Search of Emperor Penguins

Date: 28 November 2024

Day 9: Drake Passage

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:00 We will call you to the Lecture Room to return your Muck boots, Zodiac life jackets and helicopter cards, please listen for announcements.
- 09:30 Phillip invites you to join him in the Bar for a presentation about his snowmobile journey down the Antarctic Peninsula.
- 11:30 Wei welcomes you to the bar for her presentation about Underwater Photography.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 16:15 Pippa invites you to the bar for her presentation titled 'From Resources to Research – History of the exploitation of Whales'.
- 18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap! There will be some important information given about disembarkation, settling accounts etc. therefore, we encourage at least one person from each group to attend.
- 19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 20:30 Join Jess in the Bar for a pub style quiz about our voyage.

PLEASE NOTE: Upon arrival in Ushuaia, we will provide free busses to the airport for morning flights only, at 09:00 a.m. Please get from Reception a **Blue** luggage tag if you would like this service. For the Guests with afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the drop-off center (1210 Av. Maipu), and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00 hrs. No luggage tag is required for this service, you just need to indicate your luggage at the pier and ensure the stewadors load it into the truck. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please wait till the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to go, no luggage tag is required for this.

"You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore"
- Christoph Columbus



Weddell Sea - In Search of Emperor Penguins

Date: 29 November 2024

Day 10: 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 Please join Gary in the Bar for his lecture about Overwinter life on an Australian Antarctic Station.

11:30 We invite you to join Bill in the Bar for a presentation titled 'Paintings of the Sea - The meaning of the sea in Paintings'.

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

After lunch we hope to pass by Cape Horn so encourage you out on deck for a better observation of this historic natural landmark.

16:15 Sara would like you to join her in the Bar for her presentation about Marine Threats.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for Captain's Farewell Cocktails and a viewing of the slideshow.

A copy of the voyage slideshow will be available for collection from the Bar after dinner, please bring a USB or similar, or we can help airdrop it to Apple devices.

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

"An Antarctic expedition is the worst way to have the best time of your life." - Apsley Cherry-Garrard



Weddell Sea - In Search of Emperor Penguins

Date: 30 November 2024

Day 11: Ushuaia

07:15 Wake-up call.

Please ensure your luggage is outside your room before 07:15am

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

PLEASE NOTE: Upon arrival in Ushuaia, we will provide free busses to the airport for morning flights only, at 09:00 a.m. Please get from Reception a **Blue** luggage tag if you would like this service. For the Guests with afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the drop-off center (1210 Av. Maipu), and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00 hrs. No luggage tag is required for this service, you just need to indicate your luggage at the pier and ensure the stewadors load it into the truck. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please wait till the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to go, no luggage tag is required for this.

08:30+/- We invite all guests to disembark.

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

"It's when you are safe at home that you're having an adventure. When you're having an adventure, you wish you were safe at home." - Thorton Wilder