

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

Ushuaia - Ushuaia

5th December - 17th December, 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.



Captain Ernesto Barria

and his international crew of 57 sailors

Staff Captain: Jan Dobrogowski
Chief Officer: Sven Holzhausen
Second Officer: Igor Nazarov
Third Officer: Anar Babaiev

Hotel Manager: Jeroen William Barnes

Head Chef: Ralf Barthel

Sous Chef: Donald Rivas Cielo

Ships doctor: Anne-Mieke Theunissen

Expedition Leader: George Kennedy
Ass. Expedition Leader: Charlotte Taplin

Ass. Expedition Leader: Jerry Zhao Mountain Leader: Jonathan Baird Mountain Guide: **David McKinley** Mountain Guide: **Owain Jones** Mountain Guide: David Rudkin Nick Cunliffe Kayak Leader: Kayak Guide: Alexis Bellezze Expedition Guide: Aitana Vazquez **Expedition Guide: Andy Perkins Expedition Guide:** Rose Li Hong **Expedition Guide:** Jess Owen

Expedition Guide:

Meike Sjoer

Expedition Guide: Zoy Li

Camping Guide: Alexander Romanovskiy
Camping Guide: Saskia van der Meij
Camping Guide: Valeria Sainz Hererra



WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 - Thursday 5th December, Ushuaia, Embarkation Day

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

Wind: SW2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Cloudy • Air temperature: +4°C

Having traveled from all over the world and explored some of the sights of Ushuaia, we were very excited to walk along the port and see *Hondius* for the first time. We boarded the ship and began familiarizing ourselves with what would be our home for the next thirteen days. We first had to complete a mandatory safety briefing and drill before we could set sail into the Beagle Channel. We were then invited into the lounge for the Captains Cocktails with drinks and snacks. Here is where we met Captain Ernesto, Hotel Manager William, Expedition Leader George, and the expedition team who would be guiding us on our adventures in Antarctica. We then headed down to the dining room for a buffet dinner. The light was beautiful as we sailed along the Beagle Channel, and after dinner, many of us began looking for wildlife and enjoying the views outside. Many got an early night after many hours or even days of travelling, whilst others socialised in the bar, getting to know the people we would be sharing this new experience with. We ventured to our new cabins with excitement for the days ahead.





Day 2 - Friday 6th December, Drake Passage - At sea sailing towards Antarctica

08h00 GPS Position: 56°51.90'S / 065°53.8'W

Wind: NW1 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Partial Cloud • Air temperature: +1°C



Today was the first full day at sea on the Drake Passage! We had some waves during the night which gave us our first experience of the famous Drake Passage! Although some people were seasick, the majority slowly got used to the ships movement. The morning started with the first "good morning, good morning, good morning" wake up call from Expedition Leader

George, after which breakfast was served.

At 09: 15 AM, George and Gerry presented the Zodiac and IAATO briefings, We started to feel Antartica closer!!

At 11:00 AM, the mountaineer team gave us the mandatory briefings.





At 12:00 PM, The famous boots! Now, we are almost ready for the action!

Then, the delicious lunch was served between 12.30 and 13.30 PM.



At 14:00 We all attended the kayaking briefing.

At 15:30, We had the camping briefing. After that we knew everything we needed to in order to enjoy the great activities that lay ahead of us!

Juan and Keith held their presentation about polar photography in the observation lounge at 17:00 PM.



George invited us to see the beautiful birds flying around *Hondius* from the outside decks. An announcement was made and we got the opportunity to see grey headed albatross, blackbrowed albatross and, usually more difficult to find, a beautiful Magellanic diving petrel.

The day ended with a brief recap of the day

from George who told us the plans for tomorrow. Lucia gave us some hints and tips for how to spot and identify birds, and the mountain guides demonstrated how to avoid and safely operate around crevasses.

Afterwards, a plated dinner was served in the dining room. We had completed one sea day on the Drake Passage and were ready for one more, sailing ever closer to our goal of reaching Antarctica.



Day 3 – Saturday 7th December, Drake Passage – At sea sailing towards Antarctica

08h00 GPS Position: 61°32.7'S / 064°58.4'W

Wind: NW4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partial Cloud • Air temperature: +1°C



Our second full day at sea began with another buffet breakfast. We were so lucky to experience another smooth day of sailing in the Drake Passage, a Drake Lake rather than an infamous Drake Shake!

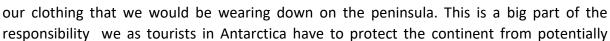
Today was a another busy day preparing for our activities in Antarctica. We began by signing up to the mountaineering, camping, and kayaking opportunities with the guides in the lecture room. We were called in by our color groups but excitingly,

we were interrupted by a group of feeding humpback whales. We watched in awe at the huge

mammals surfacing, lunge feeding, and even breaching.

Once the sign up session was completed we listened to Lucia's lecture all about Penguins, which really got us excited for the days ahead. She told us about their evolutionary history, their anatomy and adaptions, and their breeding behaviours.

After lunch, we gathered in the lounge to begin the task of thoroughly cleaning all of



harmful invasive species, pests, or diseases.



Once all the cleaning was done, the hotel department treated us to some ice cream in the longe. Aitana then gave us a fascinating talk about sea ice, ice bergs, and glacial ice.

Inbetween our lectures and sign up activities, we took the chance to watch for wildlife on the bridge and outside. We saw lots of beautiful cape petrels, southern fulmars, and light-mantled albatross.

In the daily recap, we learnt more about the Antarctic Convergence, the humpback whales we had seen in the morning, and about how to put on and walk with snow shoes. We were also excited to hear about the plans for the following day, which would be packed with action.



Day 4 - Sunday 8th December - Peterman Island and Hovgaard

08h00 GPS Position: 65°05.8'S / 064°07.1'W

Wind: Varied 3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +5°C

After two days braving the infamous Drake Passage, we finally arrived at the Antarctic Peninsula, Petermann greeted by Island in the morning. The weather, true to the region's reputation, presented serious а challenge: thick fog and iceladen waters operations difficult from the start.



The plan was for a split landing and Zodiac cruise, but the treacherous conditions had other ideas. Shuttling to the landing site proved so demanding that the Zodiac cruise was scrapped altogether. The first two colour groups that went ashore were able to see gentoo penguins and Adelie penguins on their nests and moving around the site. It was also our first chance to



see snowy sheathbills and brown skuas. As some Zodiacs were waiting to come ashore, they spotted a leopard seal which was patrolling the ice flows and ice bergs, and remarkably, they saw it make a kill, catching an unsuspecting penguin.

As the second group prepared to land, shifting

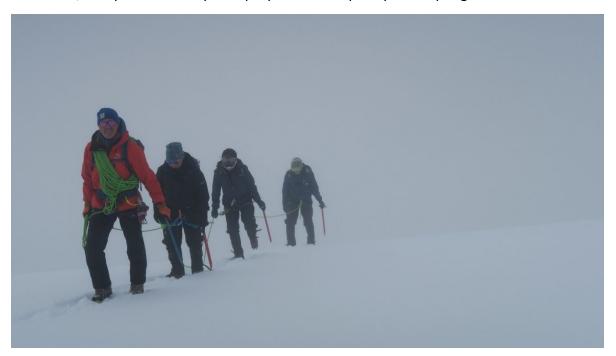
ice and safety concerns forced us to cancel the operation entirely.

By the afternoon, conditions improved just enough to allow a Zodiac cruise around the spectacular Hovgaard Island. Here, Antarctica revealed its full majesty: massive, sculpted icebergs framed by dramatic skies, creating a scene that felt almost otherworldly. We spotted a few crabeater seals lounging on the ice and a scattering of penguins adding their charm to the mix. Some boats had a fantastic encounter with a humpback whale.

While the day tested our patience and adaptability, it also offered a reminder of Antarctica's untamed beauty and unpredictable spirit.



Mountaineering: Petermann Island sits one nautical mile southwest of Hovgaard Island, both lying in the Wilhelm Archipelago. Our mountaineers ascended to the high point of the island enveloped in an ethereal sea mist. A completely surreal sense of separation from the world around us, except for the busy and purposeful cacophony of the penguin colonies!



Hovgard is located close to the Lemaire Channel, southwest of Booth Island in the Wilhelm Archipelago. A great journey up the long spine of this narrow 3.5-mile-long Island. On this day we experienced very poor visibility known as 'whiteout' conditions. Progress in the enveloping mist was only possible with great caution! Our mountain guides navigated the best line of ascent with each team maintaining safe roped up distances in case of hidden crevasses!





Sunday 8th December, camping night at Dorian Bay / Wiencke Island

23h00 GPS Position: 64°47.4'S / 063°30.0'W

Wind: NNE2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air temperature: 0°C

We were so excited to be the first group to go camping in this serene environment. The Zodiacs drove close along a big ice wall to get us into the sheltered Dorian Bay. After using the cut-out snow stairs to get us up the banks of the bay, we found ourselves a spot to start digging our pits. Meanwhile, a few penguins decided to check us out from our landing site. Within a few hours, the clouds covering the surrounding mountains started to lift and revealed their peaks. The penguins on the headland across the bay 'chatted' us to sleep, while the sky



coloured pink for a moment. Around 02:00 we were even briefly greeted by a humpback whale. We had perfect conditions. There we were, all alone, overwhelmed by the silence of this amazing continent. A frosty night which would forever be in our memories.



Day 5 - Monday 9th December - Port Lockroy, Jougla, and Andvord Bay

08h00 GPS Position: 64°43.7'S / 063°30.8'W

Wind: E5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partial cloud • Air temperature: +5°C

The day began with a breathtaking view as the group woke up to the icy splendor of Antarctica. The vessel was surrounded by sailing ships, with the historic Port Lockroy visible in the distance. The excitement of starting the day with such a sight was palpable among the travelers. After a hearty breakfast, preparations were made for the day's adventures.





The first destination was Goudier Island, home to Port Lockroy, a former British research base now serving as a museum and the famous "Penguin Post Office."

Upon landing, we were greeted by the fascinating juxtaposition of human history and thriving wildlife. We explored the museum, which offered a glimpse into the life and work of researchers who once operated in this remote environment. The souvenir shop provided a chance to take home mementos of this unique journey, even sending postcards to friends and family from there!



Surrounding the historic buildings were lots of gentoo penguins, their nesting sites adding a lively and endearing charm to the icy landscape. The travelers marveled at the penguins' antics, taking care to respect the wildlife as they observed the creatures up close.

The adventure continued with a short journey to Jougla Point, just around the corner from Goudier Island but offering a completely



different perspective, with a marvelous view of the Seven Sisters mountain. This location featured even more gentoo penguins, many wandering among the visitors with their characteristic waddle. The group was thrilled to spot some chinstrap penguins, rare visitors to the area, adding an exciting highlight to their excursion.

The contrasting landscapes and wildlife at each site left a lasting Goudier impression. Island's historical significance blended seamlessly with the natural beauty of Jougla Point, providing a day of discovery and awe.

After returning to the ship, we enjoyed a sumptuous lunch and prepared for the next destination: Damoy



Point. However, as we approached, the wind began gusting at over 40 knots. For safety reasons, the expedition leader decided to abort the plan. Undeterred, the expedition team quickly pivoted to a new destination, Andvord Bay.

On the way to Andvord Bay, we were treated to an extraordinary surprise: several feeding humpback whales appeared around the ship, putting on a true spectacle. Cameras clicked,



and excitement buzzed as the majestic creatures breached and dove in the icy waters.

A couple of hours later, Hondius arrived at a calm and sheltered bay. Here, we embarked on an incredible Zodiac cruise. The serene waters were dotted with ice formations, and the surrounding views were stunning.



Penguins could be seen on the ice floes, and more whales graced the travelers with their presence, creating unforgettable moments.

But that was not it! During the cruise we saw a Zodiac with an Oceanwide flag: it was a bar boat! The hotel department had prepared for us a treat serving hot apple cider with Drambuie as we went alongside them.



Returning to the ship in the evening, we gathered at the expedition lounge for the daily recap, where we reflected on the day's adventures and learned the plans about tomorrow. The evening concluded with a delicious dinner in the dining room, marking the end of another extraordinary day Antarctica. There was a shared sense of wonder and gratitude for the

experiences of the day. The unique combination of history, wildlife, and stunning Antarctic scenery made for an unforgettable chapter in their expedition.

We had anticipated camping overnight on the Antarctic ice, but the weather had other plans. Heavy snowfall and poor visibility made conditions tricky, and despite the expedition team's efforts to proceed, they ultimately decided to cancel the operation for safety reasons. Instead, the group spent a warm and cozy night aboard the ship, enjoying a chance to rest and recharge for the adventures ahead. Also, there was an incredible sight that made up for the lack of camping, which was a group of feeding humpback whales along with hundreds of birds very close to our vessel. Everyone looked forward to better weather and more exploration opportunities in the days to come.



Mountaineering: We climbed to a fantastic col high on Jabet Peak in the Comer Range, Wiencke Island, in the Palmer Archipelago. The col stands proud and clearly visible overlooking Port Lockroy, Damoy Point and Dorian Bay. The view from up high is magnificent.



Day 6 - Tuesday 10th December - Danco Island and Orne Island

08h00 GPS Position: 64°43.8'S / 062°56.8W

Wind: N5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +2°C

The dulcet tones of Expedition Leader George woke us at 0715 and we found ourselves stationed just a few hundred meters east of Danco Island in the Errera Channel. This island is named after a member of the Belgian Antarctic Expedition in 1898, Emile Danco, who died during the voyage, and is one of the team's favourite venues.

A short Zodiac ride took half of us ashore while the rest of us cruised along the coast. Gentoo penguins strutted their stuff just meters away from our landing spot, and we were able to observe busy (and smelly!) rookeries positioned at various points up the snowy slope. These incredible birds nest on rocky outcrops up to 200m above sea level, and access their selected spots with penguin highways. We took care not to disturb their movements up and down these highways. Penguins have priority!



Meanwhile, the Zodiac cruisers spotted a humpback whale between *Hondius* and the shore as well as observing the spectacular mountain and ocean scenery that makes this area of the peninsula so special. Many boats were entertained by penguins jumping on and off the icebergs and Lucia even managed to catch a krill to show everyone.

The weather, which had been warm and foggy with light snow gradually transitioned to clearer, colder and windier conditions. If you don't like the weather in polar regions, just wait half an hour.

The mountaineers enjoyed a rising counterclockwise ascent to the islands high point. On the summit they marvelled at the 360 full circle view afforded to them by a break in the persistent cloud and mist that accompanied our ascent.





A short transit north over lunch took us to the Orne Islands just north of George's Point on Rongé Island. We managed to get half the ship onto shore to see the penguins there, but mother nature had other

ideas. The swell around the ship, already significant as we embarked for the Zodiac ride to the Island, picked up and up. The decision was made to cease all operations, both site visits and Zodiac cruises, on safety grounds. Everyone was transferred efficiently back to *Hondius*, though there were quite a few splashes. It's easy to understand why full waterproofs are required for zodiac operations.



Mother Nature saved the best till the late afternoon though. As we were sailing south to our prospective camping site for the evening in Paradise Harbour, we spotted killer whales off the starboard bow. We were treated to a rare display as these apex predator marine mammals cruised around us and dived under and around the ship for a good thirty minutes.

Another varied and amazing day of expedition antics in Antarctica.



Day 7 - Wednesday 11th December - Neko Harbour and Orne Harbour

08h00 GPS Position: 64°57.7'S / 062°32.9'W

Wind: NW3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +3°C

The morning broadcast began at 6:45 AM, with the gentle voice of Expedition Leader George echoing through the ship's announcement system, waking up every passenger in their cabins. A new day had begun, and with it, another Antarctic adventure was about to unfold. Eagerly, we made our way to breakfast.



Breakfast was served from 7:00 to 8:00 AM, and after enjoying a delicious meal, everyone began preparing for the day's activities. The early risers, those who had signed up for the morning mountaineering, gathered at 7:30 AM to get ready for the landing.

The mountaineers were the first to disembark at Neko Harbour, followed by the morning's landing activities and Zodiac cruises. Today, the weather at Neko Harbour was particularly good, and the kayaking activity also went

smoothly. The kayakers had a wonderful time, enjoying the calm waters. Meanwhile, whales appeared near the landing site, allowing everyone to enjoy not only the wildlife on land but also the majestic whales in the water.



The mounteering team enjoyed good snow shoe conditions and good visability

After the morning activities, lunch was served from 12:30 to 1:30 PM. As everyone happily enjoyed their meal, the ship set sail toward the afternoon activity location, Orne Harbour.

The afternoon activities started at 3:00 PM, and included landing, cruising, and kayaking. The afternoon landing took us once again to the Antarctic continent. We put on our snowshoes and hiked up to the highest point, where we were rewarded with breathtaking views of the Antarctic landscape: glaciers stretching as far as the eye could see, and the habitat of chinstrap penguins. However, as large brash ice began drifting toward the landing site, we were forced to conclude the activities early to avoid being trapped by the ice. Although the abrupt end to the activities was disappointing, it gave us



a deeper appreciation of the ever-changing nature of Antarctica's weather. Passengers also enjoyed navigating back through the thick brash ice, it was a fun adventure to get back to the ship.

At 6:15 PM, the expedition leader George gathered everyone in the observation lounge on deck 5 for



a review of the day activities and a briefing on the plans for the following day. The team also shared some fascinating insights about Antarctica.

After a brief rest, dinner was served in the form of a buffet. It was a perfect opportunity for everyone to relax, enjoy some delicious food, and share stories about the day's adventures. As the day drew to a close and everyone drifted

into a restful sleep, we looked forward to tomorrow, which promised another exciting day of exploration and discovery.





Wednesday 11th December, camping night at Leith Cove / Paradise Bay

23h00 GPS Position: 64°51.4'S / 062°53.6'W

Wind: NNE3/4 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +2°C

We had to be a little patient before we could 'dig' into our camping adventure. The weather hadn't been in our favour, but the camping team and the bridge managed to finally get us to this beautiful camping spot. We arrived at our own little, private island surrounded by glaciers and overlooking Paradise Bay. The name lived up to its expectations. Even more so when two humpback whales accompanied us while we were dropped off by the Zodiacs. After walking the steep path uphill, we were rewarded with a stunning 360-degree view over the whole area. Due to some wind we all dug comfortable deep 'bedrooms' within the perimeter that was set by the camping team. Some of us kept digging to create true 'villas'. During the whole evening/night the humpback whales kept feeding in the vicinity of the island. When the wind died down you could hear them breath from where we were. Incredible! When were all lying in our pit, the perfect silence was broken a few times by the thundering sound of breaking ice in the glacier behind us. The idea of being here and able to camp was hard to grasp. It really felt like paradise. This was pure Antarctica!





Day 8 - Thursday 12th December - Foyn Harbour and Portal Point

08h00 GPS Position: 64°32.1'S, 062°11.6'W

Wind: Varied 1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Snow • Air temperature: +0°C

This morning, Foyn Harbour greeted us with an atmospheric white world, a scene so pure it felt like stepping into a snow globe. It was the perfect start for our morning operations at the glaciated archipelago in the northwest of Nansen Island, nestled in the serene Wilhelmina Bay. The landscape, blanketed in snow, was everything you would imagine Antarctica to be—breathtaking, raw, and impossibly beautiful.



We kicked off our exploration with a Zodiac cruise to the wreck of the Governoren, a remnant of whaling history. The rusting hulk of this Norwegian factory ship, once the pride of its day, ran aground here after a disastrous party. After a successful whaling season, a careless flame and a ship loaded with whale oil didn't mix well, leading to the untimely demise of the Governoren. The story of this wreck felt like a forgotten chapter of maritime adventure, standing silent among the vast, icy expanse.

The day was calm, no wind, just thick snowflakes drifting down to the water's surface, which slowly formed into pancake ice. The world around us was black and white—snow-covered rocks and Antarctic shags nesting on them, their dark feathers blending seamlessly with nature's monochrome palette. It was a photographer's dream, a postcard-perfect moment from every angle.

As we scouted for more wildlife, the fun kept rolling in. We spotted four Adelie penguins perched on a rock, looking like little black-and-white sentinels in the snowy landscape. Antarctic terns and young Antarctic shags floated gracefully by, adding to the wildlife parade. The moment was magical, and as we gathered our Zodiacs together, something even more unexpected happened—an impromptu

snowball fight broke out! With snow accumulating on the Zodiacs, we even built a snow doll, creating a scene of pure joy and laughter. Soon enough, the entire group was involved, including the guides, who had no qualms about letting their inner children out to play. It was a wonderful, spontaneous reminder of the childlike wonder that travel can bring.



Back onboard, we were treated to a

delightful lunch prepared by Chef Ralf and his incredible galley team. Afterward, we ventured to Portal Point for our afternoon landing. The continental landing and a Zodiac cruise along the northeast part of the Recius Peninsula turned into a snow-covered playground. For the first time on the trip, we were



encouraged to sit, slide, and roll in the snow. Expedition Leader George and the mountaineers had created the ultimate snow slope, complete with steps and a rope to help us climb back up. We slid down the hill on our backs, heads, and even flipped through the snow like seals. It was one of those moments that you can only fully appreciate in the moment—laughter echoed across the snowy landscape, it could probably be heard on the ship's bridge!



We even made a snow cave, with the mountaineering team explaining its use—essentially, a vital shelter in the icy wilderness. Some of us took a nice walk along the expedition team's tracks, which offered views of the massive icebergs floating lazily around the landing site. Each step felt like we were walking through a dream, with the entire world around us glistening in shades of white.

The fun continued back on board with our daily recap hosted by George, with Hotel Manager William sharing

the evening's plans. We were in for a treat—a BBQ on the outer decks, complete with complimentary drinks. We indulged in delicious food, took in the fresh air, and danced under the open sky, all while surrounded by the most unreal views you could imagine. But just as the party was in full swing, nature stole the show. A pod of humpback whales was engaged in bubble net feeding right beside the ship! Their massive tails broke the surface, sending up splashes and showing off their acrobatic moves. The birds gathered above, eagerly waiting to feast on the krill that the whales were driving to the surface.



We were SO mesmerized by the spectacle of these feeding whales that we stopped dancing and rushed to the bow of the ship, where it felt like we were front-row spectators at wildlife documentary. The continued show throughout the

evening, and it hit us—this wasn't just a trip. This was living in our own nature film, where the stars of the show were the very animals we had come so far to see.

What a day—a perfect mix of adventure, fun, exploration, and a deep connection with nature. It's a memory we'll carry with us for a lifetime.



Day 9 - Friday 13th December - Charlotte Bay and Palaver Point

08h00 GPS Position: 64°23.5'S, 061°45.6'W

Wind: NE4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Snow • Air temperature: +1°C

The Antarctic weather refused to show mercy, and the morning of our last day on the Antarctic Peninsula greeted us with gusty winds, rain mixed with snow, and low stratified clouds hovering over the *Hondius*. The ship held its position in Charlotte Bay without dropping anchor. Our plans included a Zodiac cruise to try and spot some local wildlife. Honestly, it was quite a challenge to muster the courage to dress up and venture out into the biting wind and wet snow flung at us, all to explore the surroundings on a Zodiac. But after all, it was our last day on the Peninsula, so off we went!

Catching sea spray, we cruised along the coastline and through narrow straits between tiny islands. We also had to manoeuvre around grounded icebergs that seemed to be waiting either to break apart and shower us with chunks of ice or, more entertainingly, to float away on the next tide, continuing their aimless drift. Chinstrap penguins, as if nothing were out of the ordinary, busily darted back and forth, climbing the steep slopes of a small island where their colony perched at the top.



Only as we were heading back did we spot a spout from a humpback whale. Shortly afterward, it gave a tail flick and dived into the depths. But we knew that if we waited a few minutes, it would resurface—and sure enough, it didn't disappoint. After watching it for a while, we resumed our journey and returned to the Hondius, where lunch was already being served.

After lunch, the weather began to improve slightly. The snow stopped, and tiny patches of blue sky started peeking through breaks in the clouds. Our next destination was Palaver Point, which required us to cross the Gerlache Strait.



Palaver Point turned out to be a picturesque spot, reminiscent of Neko Harbour. Chinstrap penguins had claimed several snow-free patches of the slopes and were already incubating eggs. We had barely landed when a heavy snowstorm rolled in. Visibility dropped to just a few dozen meters, and even the penguins' calls became muffled, barely reaching us. So much for a pleasant stroll! But the snow ended as abruptly as it began. The weather improved rapidly, and soon a brilliant blue sky stretched above us. That bright, shiny object up there—what's it called again? It took us a moment, but eventually, we remembered: "the sun."

Mountaineers tackled the nearest peak, penguins chattered cheerfully, and we simply strolled across the snow, taking in the stunning views.



Those of us who started with a Zodiac cruise returned to shore in complete awe—they had been lucky enough to watch humpback whales. Those of us who began by exploring the shore and were waiting for our turn on the Zodiacs could hardly contain our excitement, anticipating something spectacular. And we weren't disappointed: the whales hadn't gone anywhere. On the contrary, they were feeding in one spot, giving us unforgettable moments to witness.

Returning to the ship, we took one last (for this voyage) look at the shores of the Antarctic Peninsula. Tomorrow, it's the South Shetland Islands. Let's see what they have in store for us.

Mountaineering: The Mountaineers ascent at Portal Point passed between two shallow sea bays before ascending wide glacial slopes to attain the higher reaches of the peninsula. The significant presence of exposed crevasses (treacherously blanketed and therefore hidden by fresh snow) forced us to turn back. Having the confidence and sensibility to retreat in the face of unacceptable risk is an essential skill of mountaineering.





Blue skies and huge vistas as we ascended to the high point of Palaver Point on Two Hummock Island. Located in the Palmer Archipelago to the west of the Antarctic Peninsula mainland. Our climbing teams enjoyed a rare break in the challenging weather with dry conditions and even some sunshine! A great finish to our expeditionary mountaineering and glacial trekking programmes.





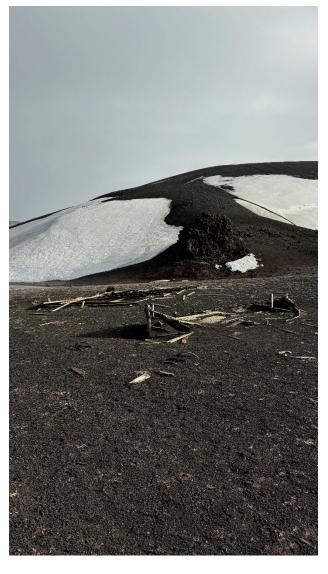
Day 10 - Saturday 14th December - Whalers Bay and Half Moon Island

08h00 GPS Position: 62°58.9 S, 060°33.6'W

Wind: NNW6 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +1°C

We gathered on *Hondius's* multiple decks to take in the spectacle of the entry into Neptune Bellows. Here we were met by the caldera's narrow width 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. We had no concerns given the expertise of our Captain.

Whaler's Bay, Deception Island was first utilized as a whaling station by the Norwegians from 1911 until its closing in 1931 as a consequence 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. The primary activities were the operation of an air facility to support other British bases on the Peninsula as well as undertaking meteorology.



Much of the abandoned base remains 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. The area is known to have crabeater, leopard, fur, elephant, and Weddell seals hauling out. We admired some young southern elephant seals that were molting on the beach. A number of blue-eye shags flew over the area and chinstrap penguins are also known to inhabit the caldera along with the snowy sheathbill. There was also the option to walk up to the viewpoint called Neptune's Window.

Whilst some passengers were landing, the others took an exciting Zodiac cruise along the cliffs to see the nesting birds and out into Neptune's Bellows to see the view of Neptune's Window from the other side.



Finally, the intrepid passengers of *Hondius* braved the icy waters of the South Atlantic with a Polar plunge and earned their rite of passage, frolicking, in the company of penguins, despite the cold wind.



In the afternoon, after a three hour voyage up the Antarctic Peninsula we landed at Half Moon Island, one of the South Shetland Islands. With beautiful vistas, this stop was nothing short of spectacular. This island was teaming with life including chinstrap penguins at our landing zone and south polar skuas, Arctic terns, petrels, sheathbills and imperial shags flying about. At one point it was possible to see all three species of the Antarctic brushtail penguins, chinstraps, gentoos, and Adelies.

As we walked between the various vistas, one more spectacular than the next, we were hampered in our eastern direction chinstrap by penguins. These penguins were traveling between the ocean where they were foraging and their respective colonies atop the rocky and snow-covered highlands. Around the cove from the landing site, the Argentine Antarctic summer station Camara could be clearly seen albeit snowed in from the winter.



Day 11 - Sunday 15th December - At sea Drake Passage

08h00 GPS Position: 60°15.1' S, 062°09.1'W

Wind: NNW5 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Partial Cloud • Air temperature: +2°C

Many of us enjoyed sleeping in late this morning after a packed itinery in Antarctica over the last few days. We rested our achey muscles having camped, kayaked, and hiked around the peninsula and began to relax on the first of our two sea days that would take us back to Ushuaia.

Meike kicked off the first of the days lectures by talking about the incredible albatross species we can see on the Drake Passage. She told us about their rugged lives at sea and she also spoke about the threat of long line fishing that is having a devastating effect on albatross numbers. Straight after the lecture we had the opportunity to then head outside and observe photograph the very species we had just learnt about. We could see blackbrowed albatross. grey-headed albatross, and light-mantled albatross soaring around the vessel.



It was then time to return our beloved muck boots that had kept our feet warm and dry throughout the trip. The Expedition Team spent an hour thoroughly cleaning all the boots ready for the next passengers.

After lunch we gathered in the lounge again to listen to a fascinating talk by Sasha, who spoke

about his career in Svalbard in the famous ghost town of Pyramiden.

Our final lecture of the day was given by Saskia who amazed us with the story of the Gerlache Belgica Expedition to Antarctica.

We then went for another plated dinner where we chatted about the new things we had learnt. Talk about disembarkation and onward travel plans started to creep in, but we still had one full day in the Drake Passage to look forward to. After dinner Juan revealed the results of the photo competition, and we took part in the *Hondius* Pub Quiz!





Day 12 - Monday 16th December - At sea towards Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 56°37.3' S, 066°25.0'W

Wind: N4 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +5°C

Today was our final full day of the voyage. We began packing our bags and paying our bills at reception, winding down ready for disembarkation.

Charlotte gave us a detailed lecture first thing in the morning all about the different feeding techniques of baleen and toothed whales.

Then Aitana gave a talk all about her specialism oceanography, where she explained how all the ocean currents are linked together and have a profound impact on our lives and weather systems. At the same time, Jerry gave a lecture for the Mandarin speakers onboard about Roald Amundsen's successful expedition to the South Pole.

After our final buffet lunch we had an unique opportunity to sail past Cape Horn, the most Southern tip of South America. Sailing around this coast is very treacherous and many sailors have lost their lives in these waters. We could see through our binoculars the light house and

the beautiful albatross sculture on top of the hill.

In the afternoon we joined George in the lounge for his lecture about geopolitics. Simutaneously Rose gave a talk to the Mandarin speakers in the lecture room about the geography of Antarctica.

Later in the afternoon Alexis gave us a talk all about the indigenous communities of



Argentina, which was followed by a fun workshop about the popular drink Mate where we all had the opportunity to try it. It was a perfect lecture to watch as we could see the coast of Argentina as we approached the entrance to the Beagle Channel.

We gathered for a special recap in the evening where we toasted to the end of an unforgettable voyage with Captain Ernesto. We celebrated our journey by watching a slideshow of our experience put together by Keith. We then dinned for one final time before enjoying a drink in the bar.



Day 13 - Tuesday 17th December - Arrival back into Ushuaia

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

Wind: W2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +8°C

George woke us up for the final time and we headed to breakfast. During breakfast our luggage was taken down to the pier. We said a fond farewell to the crew and expediton team and our new friends and began making our way either home or onto other adventures. We experienced all the possible weathers that the white continent could have thrown at us over thirteen days. We encountered a huge variety of wildlife that survives and thrives in Antarctica including seals, whales, flying seabirds, the endearing penguins, and even plankton. We walked, we camped, we kayaked, we climbed, we cruised, and we sailed in one of the earth's remotest, coldest, and stunning locations.

"It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living." David Attenbourgh.



Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1,783 nm Southernmost position: 65°10.59'S, 064°7.18'W (Petermann Island)

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



Oceanwide Expeditions HDS 24-24 Kayak Trip Log

08.12.24 AM Hovgaard Island

Our Antarctic kayaking adventures began in unforgettable style, with a magical cetacean encounter. Minutes after launching into the glassy waters of Hovgaard Island's east coast, we discovered a sleeping humpback whale only a short distance from our flotilla of kayaks. We approached with care, stopping a respectful distance from this magnificent animal, its distinct profile rising and falling on the surface of the sea with each exchange of breath. Our team, still growing used to their unfamiliar craft, watched in awed silence.

Paddling on, we ventured deeper into the bay towards Booth Island, cruising through fields of brash ice and shaping a course among larger icebergs, all sculpted into fantastical shapes and features. We paused to observe a resting crabeater seal, hauled out on a low flat-topped berg. We followed a return course towards *Hondius*, alongside an undulating coastline of steep ice cliffs and stranded bergs. We finally returned to the warmth of our mother ship, marveling at our special encounter



with this wild Antarctic landscape.

09.12.24 PM Andvord Bay

Seeking shelter from the stormy waters of the Gerlache Strait, we sailed to Andvord Bay, where towering 3000ft peaks of Beneden Head provided almost complete shelter from the northeast winds. We launched alongside a low rocky outcrop dotted with curious gentoo penguins, a haven between the terminal faces of a pair of impressive tidewater glaciers.

We headed northwest alongside this magnificent Antarctic skyline, towards the huge, jagged ramparts of an unnamed rock spire. A cluster of Antarctic shags passed us by, powerful wingbeats propelling them deeper into Neko Harbour. A Wilson's storm petrel fluttered among our kayaks, its delicate form belying the perfect Polar adaptations of this hardy Antarctic resident.

An approaching Zodiac brought the cheery company of Will and Victoria, offering a hot spicy apple mix, with an optional shot of rum for our intrepid kayakers. Fortified and warmed, we arced out into the bay among a drifting flotilla of intriguingly eroded icebergs. Evening was falling in Ardvord Bay as we returned to *Hondius*, after an unforgettable journey among grand Antarctic coastal landscapes.



10.12.24 AM Danco Island

Our third morning brought grey skies and light NE winds as we lay alongside the lee of Danco Island's west shore. Conditions were ideal for kayak exploration in this dramatic corner of the Errera Channel, between the steep glacial mountains of Rongé Island and the Arctowski Peninsula. We launched near a smooth ice cliff where our mountaineers swung ice picks and crampons under the watchful gaze of nesting gentoo penguins.

We headed towards the north tip of the island, threading a route between stranded icebergs and low glacially smoothed rock outcrops. Groups of penguins porpoised alongside our kayaks, the crystal Antarctic waters revealing their remarkable underwater 'flying' skills. We shaped a course offshore into deeper water, where we savored a real sense of solitude beyond the protection of Danco's larger passing icebergs. We marveled in the magnificent amphitheater of Errera's tumbling glaciers and soaring peaks, finally heading back to our launch point and - finally - the shell door. Delighted with our experiences, we reflected on our kayaking adventures in the warmth of the observation lounge.



11.12.24

Neko Harbour AM

Our arrival in Neko Harbour brought squally north winds that hinted at possible shelter deeper into the bay - we launched beneath the protecting headland next Neko's landing beach, where we checked conditions and committed to a coastal journey towards the Moser Glacier at the head of Ardvord Bay. A short distance along the shore, we encountered a humpback whale that passed us at only fifty meters distance, swimming slowly as it recovered from its latest dive. We sat in amazes wonder as the sound of our visitor's exhalations reverberated off the nearby ice cliffs.

Continuing southeast, we passed a remarkable terminal glacier face where the corrosive effects of the ocean had sculpted deeply eroded ice caves and 'sea stacks', a frozen scene of immense beauty. A final headland brought us to a dense floating carpet of brash ice that filled the bay at the junction of two powerful mainland tidewater glaciers. We rested in silence for a few minutes, overwhelmed by the majesty of this isolated corner of the Antarctic Peninsula. A long Zodiac shuttle brought us back to *Hondius*, just in time for our vessel to depart for new adventures!



11.12.24 PM Orne Harbour

Orne Harbour greeted us in blustery weather, clouds building over the mountainous ridges of Cape Anna on the north side of the bay. Our kayak session this afternoon promised challenge and adventure for our enthusiastic team of paddlers. Our Zodiacs cruised across Orne's breezy waters to reach a sheltered spot on the north side of the bay, where we launched our kayaks close to a low rocky headland dotted with gentoo penguins and Antarctic shags.

We followed a slaloming course across the inner bay, dancing among dense carpets of brash ice, growlers and bergy bits. As we drew closer to the south side of the bay, an increasing wind descended from the peaks above Orne Harbour, reminding us of the powerful forces that dictate plans and possibilities in this wild environment. We paddled steadily back to the north side of the bay for respite from the elements and a much-needed rest. We ventured north in search of shelter, alongside a steeply angled headland of tumbling ice cliffs. Exposed again to wind and waves at the entrance to Orne's north bay, we paused a while to sense the cold gusty wind as our kayaks bobbed and weaved in the lively conditions.

Mindful of the developing weather, we retreated back to Orne's inner bay for shelter and security, with hands chilled from our sustained efforts, and faces glowing from the adventure of the experience.



12.12.24 AM Foyn Harbour

Snow fell from a grey sky, with low clouds almost reaching to the ocean as *Hondius* lay near the east shore of Enterprise Island. Foyn Harbour - our morning kayaking goal - lay hidden in the mist beyond our vision. Undaunted, we carefully navigated our Zodiacs to a sheltered bay at the mouth of the Governoren Inlet. Safely afloat in our kayaks, we paddled deeper into the inlet to explore this remarkable historic shipwrecked whaling vessel, now a seasonal home to nesting Antarctic terns and hauled-out Weddell seals along its adjacent icy shoreline. As snowflakes built impressive drifts on our kayak decks, we quietly reflected on this engineered testament to commerce and trade, now gradually disappearing into the Antarctic landscape.

Moving on, we headed north alongside the island's east coast towards its northern point. A beautiful journey through icy bays and island passages brought us to a more exposed corner where wind and waves combined to create more challenging conditions. We arced offshore beyond a low rock outcrop, revealing in the ocean's energy beneath our hulls, before returning to the security of Foyn Harbour's protected waters. We steadily returned to our launch point, our hats, gloves and jackets cloaked in clumps of damp snow. Ready to return, a final Zodiac navigation test brought us safely back to well-earned hot showers and cappuccinos.



12.12.24 PM Portal Point

At the mouth of Wilhelmina Bay we discovered a wonderful coastal environment on the edge of the Gerlache Strait, and a fine kayaking adventure. From our launch point, we rounded the south corner of Portal Point, our kayaks rising and falling in a gentle ocean swell as a light northerly wind assisted our progress. In calm conditions, we paddled happily through patches of grease ice, our kayaks slithering a sinuous course through the bay.

Abruptly, a pair of humpback whales surfaced a couple of hundred meters offshore, misty spouts revealing their resting place on the ocean surface. We paddled a little closer to observe these impressive animals, delighted at our moment of serendipity as we shared a resting place with these gentle giants of the deep.

Our onward course took us back to the mainland shore, where we followed a series of ice cliffs towards a trio of grounded icebergs. Deep water channels allowed safe passage between icy monoliths, our kayaks dwarfed by the scale of these fantastic glacial carvings. A ready paddle took us back around Portal Point, where we enjoyed a final coastal exploration in more lively wind and waves. In all, an excellent Antarctic kayak adventure!



13.12.24 AM Charlotte Bay

Our final kayak session tackled snow, wind and waves in the boisterous waters of Charlotte Bay. Our hardy adventurers travelled by Zodiac through rising and falling swells to reach a more protected bay where we carefully switched to our kayaks. Our sense of isolation increased as we headed south alongside the icy shoreline, slaloming among grounded bergs and following a snaking course through a tempting playground of growlers and bergy bits.

We paused a while at the mouth of a small enclosed bay fringed with steep ice walls. Sheltered from the wind, we enjoyed the reward of solitude and sense of place that a little effort and commitment had provided. Hidden from *Hondius*, with no sign of a Zodiac, we felt entirely alone in the Antarctic wilderness. Leaving our protected cove, we headed out beyond the iceberg barrier to encounter wind and waves once more. In more challenging conditions, we finally climbed back into our Zodiacs for a cold bumpy ride back to our ship - well worth the price for such an excellent sea kayaking morning.



Antarctica Basecamp

5th Dec - 17th Dec, 2024

M/V Hondius

- 1. Petermann Island
- 2. Hovgaard Island (Zodiac Cruise)
- 3. Damoy Point (Camping)
- 4. Port Lockroy/ Jougla Point
- 5. Andvord Bay (Zodiac Cruise)
- 6. Danco Island
- 7. Neko Harbour
- 8. Orne Harbour
- 9. Paradise Harbour (Camping)
- 10. Foyn Harbour (Zodiac Cruise)
- 11. Portal Point
- 12. Charlotte Bay (Zodiac Cruise)
- 13. Palaver Point
- 14. Whalers Bay
- 15. Half Moon Island



Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region

English	Latin	German	French	Dutch	中文	5-Dec	6-Dec	7-Dec	8-Dec	9-Dec	10-Dec	11-Dec	12-Dec	13-Dec	14-Dec	15-Dec	16-Dec	17-Dec
Adélie Penguin	Pygoscelis adeliae	Adéliepinguin	Manchot Adélie	Adélie-pinguïn	阿德利企鹅				х			х	х					
Gentoo Penguin	Pygoscelis papua papua	Eselspinguin	Manchot Papou	Ezelspinguïn	金图企鹅/巴布亚企鹅	i I				х	х	х	x	х	х			
Chinstrap Penguin	Pygoscelis antarctica	Kehlstreifpinguin (Zügelpinguir	Manchot à jugulaire	Kinbandpinguïn	帽带企鹅			x	х		х			х	х			
Magellanic Penguin	Spheniscus magellanicus	Magellanpinguin	Manchot de Magellan	Magelhaenpinguïn	麦哲伦企鹅	х												
Southern Royal Albatross	Diomedea epomophora	Königsalbatros	Albatros royal du Sud	Zuidelijke koningsalbatros	南部皇家信天翁													
Black-browed Albatross	Diomedea melanophris	Schwarzbrauenalbatros	Albatros à sourcils noirs	Wenkbrauwalbatros	黑眉信天翁	х	х									х	х	х
Grey-Headed Albatross	Diomedea chrysostoma	Graukopfalbatros	Albatros à tête grise	Grijskopalbatros	灰 头信天翁		х									х		
Light-Mantled Albatross	Phoebetria palpebrata	Graumantel-Rußalbatros	Albatros fuligineux	Roetkopalbatros	灰背信天翁		х	x								x		
Southern Giant-Petrel	Macronectes giganteus	Südlicher Riesensturmvogel	Pétrel géant	Zuidelijke reuzenstormvogel	南部巨鹱	х	х				х			х		х		
Southern Fulmar	Fulmarus glacialoides	Silberssturmvogel	Fulmar argenté	Zuidelijke stormvogel	南部暴风鹱		х	х		х	х	х	х	х	х			
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	Daption capensis	Kapsturmvogel	Damier du Cap	Kaapse duif	花斑鹱/海角鹱		х	x		x			х		х			
Antarctic Petrel	Thalassoica antarctica	Weißflügelsturmvogel	Pétrel Antarctique	Antarctische stormvogel	南极鹱		x											
Snow Petrel	Pagodroma nivea	Schneesturmvogel	Pétrel des neiges	Sneeuwstormvogel	雪鹱													
Blue Petrel	Halobaena caerulea	Blausturmvogel	Pétrel bleu	Blauwe stormvogel	蓝鹱		x											
White-chinned Petrel	Procellaria aequinoctialis	Weißkinnsturmvogel	Puffin à menton blanc	Witkinstormvogel; Witkeelstormvo	白颊风鹱													
Soft-Plumaged Petrel	Pterodroma mollis	Weichfedersturmvogel	Pétrel Soyeux	Donsstormvogel	柔羽圆尾鹱											х		
Sooty Shearwater	Puffinus griseus	Dunkelsturmtaucher	Puffin fuligineux	Grauwe pijlstormvogel	灰鹱												х	
Antarctic Prion	Pachyptila desolata	Taubensturmvogel	Prion de la désolation	Antarctische prion	鸽锯鹱		х											
Fairy Prion	Pachyptila turtur	Feensturmvogel	Le Prion colombe	Duifprion	仙锯鹱		×											
Slender-billed Prion	Pachyptila belcheri	Belcher-Sturmvogel	Le Prion de Belcher	Dunbekprion	细嘴锯鹱		х											
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Oceanites oceanicus	Buntfußsturmschwalbe	Océanite de Wilson	Wilson stormvogeltje	黄蹼洋海燕		х		х		х	х	х	х				
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	Fregetta tropica	Schwarzbauchmeerläufer	Océanite à ventre noir	Zwartbuikstormvogeltje	黑腹洋海燕													
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	Pelecanoides magellani	Magellan-Lummensturmvogel	Puffinure de Magellan	Magelhaen Alkstormvogeltje	麦哲伦鹈燕		x											
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	Phalacrocorax atriceps	Blauaugenscharbe	Cormoran impérial	Keizeraalscholver; Blauwoogaalsch	蓝眼鸬鹚	х											x	x
Antarctic Shag	Phalacrocorax	Antarktikscharbe	Cormoran (impérial)		南极鸬鹚													
	bransfieldensis		antarctique	Keizeraalscholver; Blauwoogaalsch	d													
Snowy (Pale-faced) Sheatbill	Chionis alba	Weißgesicht- Scheidenschnabel	Chionis – Bec en fourreau	Poolkip	白面鞘嘴鸥				х	x	х		х	х	х			
Chilean Skua	Catharacta chilensis	Chileskua	Labbe du Chili	Chileense skua	智利贼鸥				x		х	х		х			x	
South Polar Skua	Catharacta maccormicki	Südpolarskua	Labbe de Mac Cormick	Zuidpooljager	南极贼鸥									х				
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	Catharacta lonnbergi	Braune Skua (Subantarktikskua)	Labbe brun	Subantarctische Grote Jager	棕贼鸥				х	х	х	x	х	х	x			
Dolphin Gull	Larus scoresbii	Blutschnabelmöwe	Goéland de Scoresby	Dolfijnmeeuw	豚鸥	х												x
Kelp Gull	Larus dominicanus	Dominikanermöwe	Goéland dominicain	Kelpmeeuw	黑背鸥				х	х	х	х	х	х	х		х	x
South American Tern	Sterna hirundinacea	Falklandseeschwalbe	Sterne hirundinacée	Zuid-Amerikaanse visdief	南美燕鸥	×											x	x
Antarctic Tern	Sterna vittata	Antarktisseeschwalbe	Sterne couronnée	Zuidpoolstern	南极燕鸥				х	x	х	х	х	х	х			
, with other term	Sterria Vittata	, mean respective manage	oterne couronnee		113 100 1112													
Marine mammals		Meeressäuger	Mammifères Marin	Zeezoogdieren	海洋哺乳 动物	5-Dec	6-Dec	7-Dec	8-Dec	9-Dec	10-Dec	11-Dec	12-Dec	13-Dec	14-Dec	15-Dec	16-Dec	17-Dec
Antarctic Minke Whale	Balaenoptera bonaerensis	Zwergwal	Petit Rorqual antarctique	Antarctische Dwergvinvis	南极小须鲸					х								
Humpback Whale	Megaptera novaeangliae	Buckelwal	Mégaptère (Baleine à bosse)	Bultrug	座头鲸		x		х	x	x	x	х	х				
Sei Whale	Balaenoptera borealis	Seiwal	Rorgual boréal	Zuidelijke Noordse Vinvis	塞鲸	х												
Killer Whale	Orcinus orca	Schwertwal	Orque (épaulard)	Orka; Zwaardwalvis	虎鲸						х							
Leopard Seal	Hydrurga leptonyx	Seeleopard	Léopard de mer	Zeeluipaard	豹海豹				х									
Crabeater Seal	Lobodon carcinophagus	Krabbenfresserrobbe	Phoque crabier	Krabbeneter	食蟹海豹				х	х								
Weddell Seal	Leptonychotes weddelli	Weddellrobbe	Phoque de Weddell	Weddell-zeehond	威德尔海豹							х		х				=
Southern Elephant Seal	Mirounga leonin	Südlicher Seeelefant	Eléphant de mer austral	Zuidelijke Zeeolifant	南象海豹										х			=
Antarctic Fur Seal	Arctocephalus gazella	Antarktischer Seebär	Otarie à fourrure des	,	南极海狗													
			Kerguelen	Antarctische Pelsrob										х				

George Kennedy – Expedition Leader



George is an Australian social scientist specialising in polar geopolitics. He completed a Masters of International **Development Practice at Monash** University in 2016 and a Graduate Diploma in Antarctic Governance at the Australian Institute for Marine and Antarctic Science in 2021. Since completing his studies, George has worked within the policy office of the Australian Antarctic Division, collaborating with other Antarctic Treaty Parties to develop sustainable tourism policy, as well as representing Oceanwide at the IAATO general meetings.

Alongside polar geopolitics, George has worked as an ALS paramedic for over a decade, and is now in the final stages of completing his Doctorate of Medicine at Deakin University where he hopes to specialise in Remote Medicine.

George has a passion for travel, boats, and motorcycles. Over a three-year period, he rode a motorcycle from Patagonia to Mexico, exploring Latin America on two wheels. It was during his time in Patagonia that his passion for the Polar Regions developed, working closely with conservation organisations in Tierra del Fuego and visiting Antarctica for the first time in 2017. George has been guiding in Antarctica and the Arctic since 2019, sharing stories of its incredible wildlife, landscapes and, of course, its unique politics!

Charlotte Taplin – Asst. Exp. Leader



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/Divernaster 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.

Jerry Zhao – Asst. Exp. Leader



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.

Jonny Baird – Mountain Leader



Jonny started climbing and skiing where he grew up on the West coast of Scotland. He is now based in the French Alps, close to the Chamonix Valley, and has been living and working there as an IFMGA Mountain Guide since 2005.

In winter, Jonny guides on skis locally in France and in neighbouring Italy and Switzerland with usually one or two trips each year taking clients further afield. This has included ski mountaineering trips to Arctic Norway, Greenland, Lofoten Islands, and the Troll peninsula in Iceland.

In November 2017 Jonny worked as amountaineering guide from Ortelius in the Antarctic Peninsula, he then returned to the Antarctic Peninsula in January 2019 and November 2019 again as a mountaineering guide.

During the summer Jonny takes clients mountaineering and climbing, drawing on his vast experience of climbing in the last 30 years. He has had a vast variety of work over the years including television, film and photography safety work in the mountains. Jonny has travelled, climbed and skied all over the world over the years, visiting all the continents.

Jonny is a member of the BMG British Mountain Guides where he was a committee member for a number of years, he is also a member of the SNGM Syndicat National Guides De Montagne.

David McKinley – Mountain Guide



Dave McKinley is an IFMGA Climbing and Ski Guide with 25 years of professional experience.

He lives in the small town of Twizel, just south of Aoraki/Mt Cook with his wife, 3 kids (when they're home) and 4 dogs and spends much of the year sharing adventures in the NZ Southern Alps with guests. Either mountaineering or Heliskiing/touring.

Dave has worked and climbed in NZ, Europe, Alaska, Nepal, Tibet and South America including ascents of Everest, Lhotse, Manaslu, Denali (which with his

last name of McKinley originates his nickname of "Narly") and Aconcagua amongst many others. He is passionate about sharing his experience and joy in exploring the more remote parts of our world with people and, having a previous life as a chef, he has a belief that guiding is a part of the "hospitality" industry at its heart. Dave has also been involved in the Search and Rescue aspect of the outdoors environment, and in particular with the use and deployment of dogs in Avalanche and wilderness/Open Area searching. Dave is a guide with a strong skill-set and an even stronger desire to enable and assist others to engage and learn from our natural and wild spaces.

Owain Jones - Mountain Guide



Owain is a fully certified IFMGA Mountain Guide and full member of the British Association of Mountain Guides.

Owain started climbing and mountaineering with his father at the age of nine and the passion continues to this day. He has led several mountaineering expeditions and glacial treks in the Indian and Nepalese Himalaya. On ski he has led remote first ascents in East Greenland.

His experience as a mountain guide in the European Alps, on foot and ski, spans many seasons and includes more

than fifty successful summits of Mont Blanc with his clients.

Rock climbing and ice climbing are his foremost passions, and he has made several first ascents across these disciplines in the United Kingdom. Owain takes great pride in helping others fully experience the mountain environment; not just leading but using every available opportunity to share his knowledge and top tips!

In addition to his work as a Mountain Guide, Owain is a professionally qualified youth worker and safety consultant for outdoor educational activities with young people in the United Kingdom.

Dave Rudkin – Moutain guide



Dave is an avid, lifelong enthusiast of climbing, alpinism, and skiing. He loves nothing more than questing into the unknown, whether that's on remote expeditions around the globe exploring the mountains in his back garden of Snowdonia. He's travelled the world and experienced some of the best climbing and skiing there is, and is still thirsty for more. Dave has spent the last 30 years having adventures, with trips and expeditions to Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Greenland, Alaska, USA, Canada, New Australia. Zealand. and He's also explored the mountains of Europe extensively. in particular France.

Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Norway, and Spain. He especially loves climbing on the sea cliffs of the British Isles, the granite big-walls of Yosemite and Arctic Greenland, and skiing fresh powder snow from summit to sea in Arctic Norway.

Dave's interest has grown deeply in the polar and mountain environment: the flora and fauna, and the geography and geology.

Dave is as psyched about guiding and teaching as he is about doing it himself, and he loves seeing people challenged, achieving their goals, visiting places they might not ordinarily go to, and having fun in wild places.

Dave has guided and instructed since completing his first qualification in the late 90's, and is now involved in the delivery of training of new Mountain Guides and Instructors.

He is qualified as a IFMGA Mountain and Ski Guide as well as a Summer and Winter Mountaineering Instructor (WMCI).

Nick Cunliffe- Kayak Leader



Nick is a professional sea kayak guide in North Wales, United Kingdom. He has been paddling for about 30 years and owes many rewarding experiences to his involvement in sea kayaking. This is Nick's second Antarctic season with Oceanwide Expeditions - he is excited to share his developing knowledge of this remarkable coastal environment. Nick's background in sea kayaking spans 30 years and includes many expedition sea kayaking experiences: Arctic Norway Lofoten islands outer coast:

Å to Svolvaer Chilean Patagonia Chonos archipelago / San Rafael glacier

British Columbia Mainland coast / Vancouver Island W coast SE Alaska Sitka to Glacier Bay / Admiralty Island Nick has also led many sea kayaking expeditions in Scotland's Outer Hebrides. Personal highlights include the Barra island group, St Kilda archipelago, and the isle of Skye. In addition to wilderness sea kayaking, Nick loves to explore mountain environments, as a skier and climber in the European Alps. Closer to home, Wales' Snowdonia peaks remain a personal favourite playground. Nick loves to share the experience of exploring wilderness places, and encountering coastal & marine life in its natural environments. He places great value on the rewards that such encounters can offer - the Antarctic Peninsula provides these experiences in abundance. Nick looks forward to sharing unforgettable Antarctic experiences with his Oceanwide Expeditions guests.

Alexis Bellezze – Kayak Guide



Alexis Bellezze was born in San Luis, Argentina in 1973. He spent his childhood in the center of the country, in a rural area, then moved to the city of Mendoza close to the Central Andes and studied in the Army High School where he fell in love with the mountains and the outdoors. Then moved to Cordoba where he spent 3 years in the Air Force Academy. After that he moved to Italy where he worked and finished paragliding course, then returned to Argentina to finish his studies as a Veterinarian. In 2006, he Residency in the ICU Service of the Large Animal Hospital of the Royal

"Dick" Veterinary College in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 2006 and 2008 he did an internship as a veterinarian surgeon at Milano, Italy. Then he moved to Villa La Angostura, an isolated village in the middle of the Patagonian Lake District where he works as a veterinarian surgeon and runs a kayak company in the Nahuel Huapi National Park.

Since 2018 he has been working as a Polar Kayak Guide and Expedition Guide. He has guided in the Antarctic Peninsula many times, reaching the Antarctic Polar Circle, Svalbard, circumnavigated Spitzbergen, East coast of Greenland and many rivers and lakes in Patagonia. During the last years he travelled the south and north of Chile and Argentina as a Wilderness First Responder instructor working in different environments like the jungle, the Patagonian mountain range, the windy Patagonian estepa and the desert of Atacama. Since 2014 Alexis is the owner and Director of endurance kayak & mountain expeditions based in Patagonia Argentina, offering multiple days kayak trips in this pristine area.

Alexis is divorced, has 3 children and lives in Patagonia Argentina. He likes to cook for them with fire in the wilderness and go camping when is possible.

He speaks fluently Spanish, Italian and English.

Aitana Forcén-Vázquez – Exp. Guide



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.

Andy Perkins – Expedition Guide



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.

Rose Li Hong - Expedition Guide



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

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

She has many talents such as dancing, drawing, skiing, hosting, and loves

creating new activities. Her two academic passions are history and geology.

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

Jess Owen - Expedition Guide



Jess is from England and has recently been living 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 quide, nature enthusiast. She has delivered 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 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, South Georgia, Svalbard, Greenland, and the Antarctic Peninsula. She is very excited to be returning to work with Oceanwide Expeditions for another season in the polar regions.

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

Juan Berenstein – Expedition Guide



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.

Axel Brandeman – Expedition Guide



Axel was born and raised in Ushuaia Tierra del Fuego, having been born in a such special region.

Axel was always in touch with outdoors activities and wildlife.

On he's free time, he likes to skateboard, snowboard and wakeboard.

He has a closed relation with antarctica and expedition cruising since been a child, having visited Antarctica three times before reaching penguin size.

Since then he became a zodiac driver, activity logistics and naturalist.

Keith Lepor – Expedition Guide



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, Middle East. Southwest the 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.

Lucia Romero - Expedition Guide



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

Born and raised in Puerto Madryn, a small town of Argentinian Patagonia coast, 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.

She loves sharing her passion for exploration, learning, discovering, conservation and wildlife.

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

Yvonne Lin - Translator



Born in Taiwan in 1978, Yvonne moved to Melbourne, Australia, with her family in 1990. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Optometry and a Bachelor of Science with Honors in Pharmacology, and pursued a PhD in Vision Sciences, specializing in myopia research, from the University of Melbourne. Fluent in both Mandarin and English, she has worked in Taiwan and Australia as clinical instructor, optometrist, and lens expert in a renowned optical lens company.

An adventurous spirit with a deep curiosity for the world, Yvonne enjoys local cuisine and beer while immersing herself in different cultures. Since 2009, she has spent more than six months traveling each year, visiting over 150 countries, primarily through solo overland backpacking. Her overland journeys include the Silk Road, South America, East Africa and West Africa. Her adventures have also taken her to great heights and into the depths of the ocean. Yvonne has scaled peaks such as Kilimanjaro (5895m), Chachani (6057m), Stok Kangri (6153m), and has ascended to the base camps of some of the world's highest mountains, including Everest (Cho

La Pass 5643m), K2 (Gondogoro Pass 5585m), Kanchenjunga (5143m), Manaslu (Larkya La Pass 5106m), and Broad Peak (4900m). Additionally, she is a certified Rescue Diver, exploring diverse marine life worldwide. Her experiences in both the mountains and the ocean reflect her passion for adventure and discovery.

Driven by her interest in polar regions, Yvonne has undertaken four expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctica, where she has witnessed breathtaking beauty of these remote landscapes. She is eager to share her travel discoveries and her love for the wonders of the polar regions, inspiring others to explore and appreciate the unique environments our planet has to offer.

中文

1978年出生于台湾,Yvonne于1990年随家人移居澳大利亚墨尔本。她毕业于墨尔本大学,获得验光学学士学位和药理学荣誉理学学士学位,并攻读了视光科学博士学位,专攻近视研究。她精通中文和英文,曾在台湾和澳大利亚担任临床讲师、验光师以及知名镜片品牌的讲师。

Yvonne是一个充满冒险精神且对世界充满好奇的人,同时也热爱享受各地美食啤酒及体验当地风俗民情。 从2009年起,她每年旅行超过六个月,以背包独旅的方式探访了150多个国家。她喜欢长途的陆路旅行,足迹遍及丝绸之路、南美洲、东非和西非。她的冒险旅行还包括了极具挑战的高山徒步与水肺潜水。 Yvonne曾攻顶过吉力马扎罗山(5895公尺)、查查尼山(6057公尺)、斯托克康格里山(6153公尺)和科托帕希火山(5897公尺),也参加过世界上几座八千高峰的基地营健行,如珠穆朗玛峰(Chola垭口,5643公尺)、K2峰(Gondogoro垭口,5585公尺)、干城章嘉峰(5143公尺)、马纳斯鲁峰(Larkya la垭口,5106公尺)以及布洛德峰(4900公尺)。此外,为了探索世界各地的丰富海洋生物,她还考取了救援潜水员执照。她在山脉与海洋中的丰富经历,充分展现了她对冒险与探索世界的热情。

因为对极地的兴趣,Yvonne进行了四次北极和南极探险,她亲眼见到了极地中令人叹为观止的美景,使她更热衷于分享自己在旅行中的发现和对极地奇观的热爱,激励他人去探索并珍惜我们星球上这些独特而珍贵的自然宝藏。

Meike Sjoer - Expedition Guide



Meike Sjoer, a dedicated birder, nature enthusiast, and polar expedition guide, has spent her life immersed in the beauty of the natural world. Growing up in the heart of the Dutch forest, Meike developed a profound love for nature from a young age, a passion that would shape her extraordinary journey as a birder and wildlife explorer. She holds a Master of Arts from the University of Utrecht. During her studies Meike discovered a natural inclination towards sharing her wildlife experiences with others.

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

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

Yet, it is in the polar regions of Antarctica and the Arctic that Meike finds her greatest fulfilment. Here, surrounded by icy vastness and majestic wildlife, she is happiest creating outdoor experiences that challenge individuals to connect with their inner selves and develop a profound respect for the planet we call home. Meike is thrilled to be your guide on this trip and looking forward to sharing her passion and knowledge for wildlife with you.

Zoy Li - Translator



Originally from China and major in tourism management with bachelor's degree.

Worked for a high-end tailor-made travel agency in China which focused on operating groups to polar region since 2014. There she had several job functions: travel consultant, product planning, sales-support, tour operation & tour leader, and got many chances to lead groups to Arctic, Europe, Central America, Galapagos, South America till Antarctic. In 2019, she started to join the expedition cruises, worked as Interpreter & Expedition guide on board, and had experienced a multiple of wildlife expeditions in various remote areas in this world, and so fascinated by every element from nature, she has great passion on sharing the most breathtaking scenes with every distinguished passenger for the polar region.

中文

来自中国湖南,本科学历,旅游管理专业;

从 2014 年开始,在中国的一家高端定制旅行社工作,主要负责极地地区的团队运营。在那里,她身兼数职:旅游顾问、产品规划、销售支持、出团操作和出行领队;曾带领团队前往北极、欧洲、中美洲加拉帕戈斯群岛、南美洲和南极;

2018年转邮轮行业,在船上担任歌诗达邮轮亚洲航线的旅游经理;从2019年开始转探险邮轮,在船上担任翻译和探险向导。多次参与野生动物探险活动的经历,足迹遍布世界各个偏远地区,逐渐增强了她对大自然各种元素的迷恋,尤其热衷于极地,每年就像动物迁徙一样夏季回到北极,南半球的夏季回到南极。

Alexander Romanovskiy – Exp. Guide



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 studying years 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!

Saskia van der Meij – Exp. guide



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 natureoriented 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.

Valeria Sainz Herrera – Exp. guide



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 naturals 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.



Antarctica Basecamp Thursday 5th December 2024 Embarkation - Ushuaia

WELCOME ABOARD!

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

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

Lifeboat Drill

All guests accommodated on Deck 3 (Cabins 301-337) will go to MUSTER STATION A, located in the Restaurant on Deck 4

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

- ±1800 **Departure** from **Ushuaia**.
 - The bridge will be closed during these operations.
- 1830 Expedition Introduction & Captain's Welcome Please join us in The Observation Lounge (deck 5) for the Captain's toast, a welcome to your new home from the Hotel Manager and an introduction to your Expedition Team.
- 1930 **Buffet dinner** is served in the **Dining Room** (deck 4)

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

Quote of the day
"Adventure is just a romantic name for trouble" – Roald Amundsen



0745

Wakeup call - Good Morning!

Antarctica Basecamp Friday 6th December 2024 At Sea to Antarctica

0800-0900	Breakfast is served in the Dining Room (deck 4).
0915	Zodiac & IAATO Briefing - Please join us in the Observation Lounge for our mandatory zodiac and IAATO briefings.
1100	Mountaineering briefing – Please join Jonny, Owain, Gnarly and Dave in the Observation Lounge (deck 5) for a mountaineering introduction and briefing. If you plan to go mountaineering during our voyage this briefing is mandatory. If you have brought mountaineering boots – please bring one of your boots to this briefing.
1200	Muck Boots - We will call you by colour group to collect your Muck boots from the boot room on deck 3 . <i>Please bring thick socks to make sure you have the perfect fit!</i> Please listen for announcements.
1230-1330	Lunch will be served in the Dining Room (deck 4).
1400	Kayaking briefing — Please join Nick and Alexis in the Observation Lounge (deck 5) for a kayak introduction and briefing. <u>If you plan on kayaking during our voyage, this briefing is mandatory.</u>
1530	Camping Briefing – Campers please meet Saskia, Valeria and Sasha in the Observation Lounge (deck 5) for your camping briefing. <u>If you plan</u> to go camping during our voyage, this briefing is mandatory.
1700	Photography – Please meet Juan and Keith in the Observation Lounge (deck 5) for your Introductory lecture on polar photography.
1815	Recap – Please join the Expedition team in the Observation Lounge (deck 5) for our first daily recap and briefing.
1900	Dinner is served in the dining room (deck 4) – <i>Tonight's dinner will be</i> plated – please make your way to the dining room promptly.

Ït is in our nature to explore, to reach out into the unknown. The only true failure would be not to explore at all"- Ernest Shackelton



Antarctica Basecamp Saturday 7th December 2024 At Sea to Antarctica

0745	Wakeup Call – Good Morning :)
0800	Breakfast is served in the dining room (deck 4).
0915	Activities sign up - We will <u>call you by colour group</u> to the Lecture Room, (deck 5) to sign up for the activities you plan to do in Antarctica. These include Mountaineering, Kayaking and Camping. If you wish to Mountaineer, please sign up for this activity first. You can then sign up for kayaking and camping afterwards. <i>Please listen for announcements</i> .
1130	Antarctic Penguins - Please join Lucia in the Lounge (deck 5) for her lecture exploring the penguins of the Southern ocean.
1230	Lunch is served in the dining room (deck 4).
1400	Biosecurity: We will <u>call you by colour groups</u> to the lounge on deck 5 to complete our biosecurity cleaning – please bring all your outerwear, backpacks, footwear, and tripods/walking sticks to be cleaned and/or checked. <i>Please listen for announcements</i> .
1630	General Ice information - Please join Aitana in the lounge (deck 5) to learn about the Sea Ice in Antarctica.
1800	Recap – Please join the Expedition Team in the lounge (deck 5) for our daily recap and briefing.
1900	Dinner is served in the dining room (deck 4) – <i>Tonight's dinner will be</i> plated – please make your way to the dining room promptly.
2030+/-	For those mountaineering and kayaking tomorrow morning , please meet Nick and Johnny after dinner in the shell doors on Deck 3 for your kit

"I thought, dear, that you would rather have a live ass than a dead lion."
Sir Ernest Shackleton to his wife Emily, after deciding to turn back 97 miles from the Pole.



Antarctica Basecamp Sunday 8th December 2024 Petermann Island & Hovgaard Bay

Sunset 22.38, Sunrise 01.42

Wake up call. Good morning, and welcome to Antarctica.

0700-0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

This morning, we aim to land and zodiac cruise at Petermann Island, famous for its Adelie Penguins. First, the GREEN and RED groups will go to shore, whilst the YELLOW and BLUE groups will zodiac cruise. We will then swap halfway through the morning so that everyone can enjoy both activities.

0745	Mountaineers - Please come (ready to go) to the zodiac boarding area.
0800	The GREEN and RED - Please come to the zodiac boarding area on Deck 3
	for a landing at Petermann Island
0815	Kayakers - Please come to the zodiac boarding area.
0830	The YELLOW and BLUE - Please come to the zodiac boarding area on
	Deck 3 for a Zodiac cruise around Petermann Island.
1200-1300	Lunch will be served in the dining room.

LZOO-1300 Lunch will be served in the diffing room.

This afternoon we hope to zodiac cruise south of the Lemaire Channel, exploring a stunning 'iceberg graveyard' along Hovgaard's coast. Please come dressed and prepared for an extended zodiac cruise in the ice.

1330	Mountaineers - Please come (ready to go) to the zodiac boarding area.
1400	The YELLOW and BLUE - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a
	Zodiac cruise.
1415	The GREEN and RED - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a
	Zodiac cruise.
1415	Kayakers - Please come to the zodiac boarding area.

Following our afternoon activities we hope to transit the spectacular Lemaire Channel, considered by many as Antarctica's most photogenic passage. Please enjoy the towering glaciers and wildlife as we transit through this narrow passage aboard

1830	Recap – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily recap.
1900	Buffet dinner - is served in the dining room. Bon Appetit!
2030	Tomorrows kayakers and Mountaineers - Please come to the zodiac
	boarding area to receive your gear if you are in the morning groups.
2115 +/-	Campers - Please come to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 so we can
	take you ashore for the night.



Antarctica Basecamp Monday 9th December 2024 Port Lockroy, Jougla Point & Dorian Bay Sunset 23:37 Sunrise 2:36

Wake up call. Good morning, and welcome to Antarctica.

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

Our morning well begin with a presentation from the UKAHT in the lounge. We then hope to offer a landing at both Port Lockroy Post Office and a zodiac cruise at Jougla Point, where we hope to see nesting Gentoo Penguins and Cormorants. Given the limited space at Port Lockroy, only one colour group will visit at a time. The remaining group will enjoy the cruise, before rotating through to the Post Office. Then we do it all again with the second two colour groups in the second half of the morning. Please follow your guides instructions. All purchases are card only

0830	Mountaineers - Please come (ready to go) to the zodiac boarding area.
0830	Please join the UKAHT in the Observation Lounge for a presentation about
	their work at Port Lockroy.
0900	The GREEN and BLUE - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a
	landing at Port Lockroy and Jougla Point.
0915	The YELLOW and RED - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a
	landing at Port Lockroy and Jougla Point.

1230-1330 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

In the afternoon we hope to land and cruise at Dorian Bay, home to Damoy Hut, a former British Antarctic Service 'airport'. Here we will enjoy gentoo penguins, an extended walk and a visit inside Damoy Hut.

1400 1430	Mountaineers - Please come (ready to go) to the zodiac boarding area. The YELLOW and RED - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Damoy Point.
1445	The GREEN and BLUE - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise around Damoy Point.
1445	Kayakers - Please come to the zodiac boarding area.
1815	Please join the expedition team for daily recap in the observation lounge.
1900	Buffet dinner - is served in the dining room. Bon Appetit!
2030	Tomorrows kayakers - Please come to the zodiac boarding area to receive your kayaking gear for tomorrow
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Antarctica Basecamp Tuesday 10th December 2024 Danco Island & Orne Harbour

Sunrise:0230 Sunset 2338

Wake up call. Good morning, and welcome to Antarctica.

0700-0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

This morning we hope to land and zodiac cruise at Danco, a small island in the Errera channel surrounded by icebergs and home to several gentoo penguin rookeries. The YELLOW and BLUE will go to shore while the group GREEN and RED will zodiac cruise first. We will then swap halfway through the morning.

0730	Mountaineers - Please come (ready to go) to the zodiac boarding area .
0800	The YELLOW and BLUE - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a
	landing at Danco Island
0815	Kayakers - Please come to the zodiac boarding area.
0830	The and RED and GREEN - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for
	a Zodiac cruise in the Errera Channel, surrounding Danco Island.

1200-1300 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

This afternoon we hope to offer a landing and zodiac cruise at Orne Island – a landing with beautiful Antarctic scenery, and home to around 1000 Chinstrap Penguins. The YELLOW and RED will go to shore first while the groups GREEN and BLUE will zodiac cruise. We will then swap halfway through the afternoon.

1315 1400	Mountaineers - Please come (ready to go) to the zodiac boarding area. The YELLOW and RED - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Orne Island.
1430	The GREEN and BLUE - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a Zodiac cruise around Orne Island.
1415	Kayakers - Please come to the zodiac boarding area.
1815	Recap – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily recap.
1900	Buffet dinner - is served in the dining room. Bon Appetit!

"Need to put footprint of courage into stirrup of patience." – Ernest Shackelton



Antarctica Basecamp Wednesday 11th December 2024 Neko Harbour & Orne Harbour

Sunrise: 0225 Sunset: 2345

Wake up call. Good morning, and welcome to Antarctica.

0700-0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

This morning, we hope to offer a landing and zodiac cruise at Neko Harbour, a continental landing surrounded by towering glaciers, panoramic Antarctic views and home to Gentoo penguins. Like yesterday, half will land first, whilst the others will zodiac cruise first. We will then swap halfway through the morning.

0730	Mountaineers - Please come (ready to go) to the zodiac boarding area.
0800	The RED and BLUE - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Neko Harbour.
0815	Kayakers - Please come to the zodiac boarding area
0815	The YELLOW and GREEN Please come to the zodiac boarding area for
	a zodiac cruise in the bay surrounding Neko Harbour.
1230	Lunch will be served in the dining room.

This afternoon we hope to land at Orne Harbour, a continental landing and home to a colony of beautiful Chinstrap Penguins. We also hope to offer a zodiac cruise in Orne Harbour. Like this morning, half will land first, whilst the others will zodiac cruise. We will then swap halfway through the afternoon.

1500	The YELLOW and BLUE - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Orne Harbour.
1515	Kayakers - Please come to the zodiac boarding area.
1530	The GREEN and - RED Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise around Orne Harbour.
1815	Please join the expedition team in the observation lounge for daily recap
1900	Buffet dinner - is served in the dining room. Bon Appetit!
2030	Tomorrows kayakers - Please come to the zodiac boarding area to receive your kayaking gear for tomorrow

"Penguins are extraordinarily like children, these little people of the Antarctic world, either like children, or like old men, full of their own importance and late for dinner, in their black tail-coats and white shirt-fronts and rather portal withal" – Aspley Cherry-Garrard, British Explorer



Antarctica Basecamp Thursday 12th December 2024 Wilhemina Bay & Portal Point

Sunrise: 0230 Sunset:2334

Wake up call. Good morning, and welcome to Antarctica.

0800-0900 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

This morning, we hope to offer a full ships zodiac cruise at Wilhemina Bay, a beautiful bay on the Danco Coast, surrounded by glaciers and ice capped mountains. The RED and YELLOW groups will board the zodiacs first, followed by the BLUE and GREEN groups.

1000	The RED and YELLOW groups- Please come to the zodiac boarding area for
	a zodiac cruise in Wilhemina Bay.
1000	Kayakers - Please come to the zodiac boarding area.
1015	The BLUE and GREEN groups - Please come to the zodiac boarding
	area for a zodiac cruise in Wilhemina Bay.

1300-1400 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

This afternoon we hope to offer a landing and zodiac cruise at Portal Point – a continental landing with spectacular views out towards peninsula. The BLUE and RED will go to shore first while the groups GREEN and YELLOW will zodiac cruise.

We will then swan halfway through the afternoon.

	we will then swap halfway through the afternoon.
1445	Mountaineers - Please come (ready to go) to the zodiac boarding area
1515	The BLUE and RED groups - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Portal Point.
1530	Kayakers - Please come to the zodiac boarding area.
1530	The GREEN and YELLOW groups - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Portal Point.
1830 1900	Recap – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily recap. Dress warmly for an Antarctic dinner.

"Need to put footprint of courage into stirrup of patience." – Ernest Shackelton



1900

Antarctica Basecamp Friday 13th December 2024 Charlotte Bay & Palava Point

Sunrise:0235 Sunset:2329

0645 0700	Wake up call. Good morning, and welcome to Antarctica. Breakfast is served in the dining room (mountaineers please eat first)	
This morning we hope to offer zodiac cruise at Charlotte Bay — The bay was discovered by Adrien de Gerlache during the 1897-99 Belgian Antarctic Expedition and named after Charlotte Dumeiz, the fiancée of captain on the expedition.		
0730~	Mountaineers - Please come (dressed & ready) to the forward zodiac boarding area.	
0800	Kayakers - Please come to the forward zodiac boarding area.	
0830	The YELLOW and BLUE - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise in Charlotte Bay.	
0845	The GREEN and RED - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a Zodiac cruise in Charlotte Bay.	
1200	Lunch will be served in the dining room.	
This Afternoon we hope to offer a landing and zodiac cruise at Palava Point — a rocky outcrop on Two Hummock Island, home to several Chinstrap Penguins rookeries. The YELLOW and RED groups will land first, whilst the GREEN and BLUE groups will zodiac cruise first. Halfway through the morning we will swap on the beach, meaning everyone will enjoy both a landing and cruise.		
1330	Mountaineers - Please come to the zodiac boarding area ready to receive your gear.	
1430	The YELLOW and RED - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Palava Point.	
1445	The GREEN and BLUE - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Palava Point.	
1815	Please join the expedition team for daily recap in the observation lounge on deck 5 .	

Plated dinner - is served in the dining room. Bon Appetit!



Antarctica Basecamp Saturday 14th December 2024 Whales Bay & Half Moon Island

Sunset: 2252 Sunrise: 0257

This morning, we aim to sail through Neptune's Bellows into Deception Island, an active volcano. Please join us on the outer decks at ~0630 to enjoy this impressive navigation through the caldera's only opening...

Wake up call.

1400

06:30-07:30 Breakfast is served in the dining room.

This morning, we hope to offer a landing at Whalers Bay, within the volcano's caldera. Here we will enjoy a walk along the beach up to a beautiful viewpoint 'Neptune's window'. Watch as the steam from the volcano oozes beneath your feet. The BLUE and RED will go to shore whilst the GREEN and YELLOW groups zodiac cruising. We will then swap halfway through the morning.

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.

landing
for

Deception Island documentary (Lecture Room)

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. The GREEN and YELLOW will go to shore whilst the BLUE and RED groups zodiac cruising. We will then swap halfway through the afternoon.

1530	The GREEN and YELLOW - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Half Moon Island.
1545	The BLUE and RED - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a Zodiac cruise around Half Moon Island.
1830	Recap – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily recap.
1900	Plated dinner - is served in the dining room. Bon Appetit!
2045	Please Join Juan in the lecture room for his Photo Editing Workshop.



Antarctica Basecamp Sunday 15th December 2024 At sea to Ushuaia

Sunrise: 0235 Sunset: 2134

No wakeup call – Have a lovely morning!

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

0915-1015 **Photo competition** – Did you take some amazing images during our trip? Enter your best shot into our photo competition! Please join **Juan and Keith** in the **library** near the coffee machine to submit your best images.

Pictures will be displayed all day in the lounge throughout the afternoon where you will be able to vote for your favourite pictures.

1030	Please join Meike in the Observation Lounge for a lecture on ' The secret life of Albatross' .
1200	Muck Boot & Rental Gear Collection – We will call you by deck to return your muck boots and any rental gear to the shell doors on deck 3.
1230	Lunch will be served in the dining room.
1400	Please join Sasha in the Observation Lounge for a lecture on 'how I got to Antarctica'.
1615	Please join Saskia in the Observation Lounge for a lecture on the Gerlache Belgica Expedition .
1800 1900	Recap - Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily recap. Dinner will be served in the dining room .

2045 **Photo competition** - Please join **Juan and Keith** in the **lounge** to reveal the competition winners. This will be followed by a pub quiz by William and Victoria!

Please 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.



0800

1815

南极大本营 2024年12月16日,星期一

At sea to Ushuaia
Sunrise: 0332

Sunset: 2110

No wakeup call – Enjoy your morning!

After breakfast you will receive your bill in your cabin. We will call you by deck to make

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

payments at reception - Please listen for announcements. 0930 Please join Charlotte in the **Observation Lounge** for a lecture on the Feeding Techniques of Whales. 1100 Aitana invites you for her lecture 'Does Planet Earth have a heart' in the **Observation Lounge.** 1100 Please join Jerry in the **Lecture Room** for his lecture about **Amundsen** and Scott and the Race to the South Pole in Mandarin only. 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**. 1400 George invites you to his lecture on Geopolitics in the Observation Lounge. 1400 Rose invites you to learn about **Antarctic Geology** in **Mandarin only** in the lecture room. Alexis invites you to the **Observation Lounge** for his lecture on the 1600 Yamanas indigenous people of Tierra Del Fuego.

1900 **Farewell dinner** will be served in the **dining room.**

Southern Ocean and a slideshow of our expedition.

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

Farewell Toast & Trip Slideshow - Please join the Captain and the Expedition Team in the lounge for a toast to our voyage through the



Antarctica Basecamp Tuesday 17th December 2024 Disembarkation - Ushuaia

0715 Wakeup call – Good Morning!

0730-0830 **Breakfast** will be served in the dining room.

Please place your large/check-in luggage outside your cabin no later than <u>0730</u>.

During breakfast we will collect your luggage and deposit it on the pier where it will be your responsibility to identify and collect each item.

0830-0900 **Disembarkation – Please listen for announcements.** We will inform you once we have been cleared by local authorities. Once clearance has been completed, we will invite you to the gangway to disembark Hondius.

Upon disembarkation, please identify and collect your luggage from the pier and:

- 1. Take it with you into Ushuaia and walk into town.
- 2. Put it on the airport bus and get on the bus.
- 3. Put it in the luggage truck, you can pick up at the luggage depot before 14:00.
- 4. If you have arranged your own transport please take your luggage

On behalf of all at Oceanwide Expeditions and all aboard Hondius we thank you for a truly incredible expedition. Safe travels home.

Why then do we feel this strange attraction for these Polar regions, a feeling so powerful and lasting, that when we return home we forget the mental and physical hardship, and want nothing more than to return to them?" – Jean-Baptiste Charcot, French Explorer