



Falklands – South Georgia – Antarctic Peninsula

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

6 December – 25 December, 2024

On board *m/v Plancius*



M/v *Plancius* was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was named “Hr. Ms. *Tydeman*”. The vessel was completely rebuilt as a passenger vessel in 2009 and complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea). M/v *Plancius* is 89 m long, 14.5 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5 m, ice class 1D, 10,5 knots average cruising speed and has 3 Diesel- Electric engines.



Captain Artur Iakovlev (Russia)

and his international crew of 48 sailors

Chief Officer:	Elizar Kadaria	[Ukraine]
Second Officer:	Don Buren	[Netherlands]
Third Officer:	Giovanie Simene	[Philipines]
Hotel Manager:	Alex Lyebyedyev	[Ukraine]
Head Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Sous Chef:	Oleksii Shvets	[Ukraine]
Ships doctor:	Geerte Beesems	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Adam Burke	[Great Britain]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Steffi Liller	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Chloe Power	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	William Kennedy	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Koen Hoekemeijer	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Keechy Akkerman	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Svatava Spevackova	[Czech R.]
Expedition Guide:	Katlyn Taylor	[Netherlands]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Friday 6th December, Ushuaia, Embarkation day

08h00 GPS Position: 58°80.2'S / 068°30.3'W

Wind: N1 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Rainy • Air temperature: +2°C



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

ahead of us.

Ushuaia was good to us, some of us spending a few days exploring the area, birdwatching or simply enjoying the last opportunity for the comforting embrace of civilisation before the frigid weather ahead of us.

Boarding was smooth as we trickled in one by one into our new home. Finding our rooms fresh and tidy. Gathered later in the lounge we were introduced to our expedition team and the first officer.

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



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

Day 2 – Saturday 7th December, At sea towards the Falkland Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 53°53.7'S / 063°58.7'W

Wind: N5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: +4°C



Our first day on our new home, *Plancius*, began with a wake-up call from our Expedition Leader, Adam. The little blue ship gently rocked in the waves, with seabirds following us along the way. Breakfast was well-attended, which suggests most people are feeling fine and not too

many are suffering from seasickness.

In the morning, we had to go through several mandatory briefings. The IAATO (International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators) provided guidelines on how to behave when visiting Antarctica. The rules for the Falklands and South Georgia are similar, so it was a good introduction to understanding how to respectfully move on land. We also got a brief overview of biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction of alien species into new areas, and to help combat avian flu, which continues to impact wildlife populations—not just birds.

Later, Adam gave us more details on Zodiac operations, so we would be well-prepared for our first outing in the Falklands. After a short rest and a delicious lunch, we were fitted with our boots—the preferred footwear for the trip—followed by an engaging lecture on seabirds by Steffi.

Sea days aren't too bad; in fact, we could get used to this. The sun came out in the afternoon, and many of us enjoyed the outer decks before gathering for a briefing about the upcoming day.



We're excited—Falkland Islands, here we come! Expedition guide Will gave us a brief history of the islands, and Steffi provided more insight into seabird dynamic soaring.

We're looking forward to our first adventure day on the western islands of the Falklands, savoring dinner while eagerly anticipating what the next day will bring.

Day 3 – Sunday 8th December, West Point Island and Saunders Island, Falkland Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 51°35.2'S / 060°69.7'E

Wind: NE3 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +7°C



For those that were up early this morning, Plancius was escorted by dolphins as we approached the Falkland Islands. Commerson's dolphins surfed along the sides of the vessel as the sun rose on misty seas. As we got closer to shore, we also had Peale's dolphins join the ship and scattered whales were sighted.



Our route to West Point took us through the Woolly Gut. A narrow passage with Black-browed albatross and magellanic penguins on the shores and in the water.

We rounded the last corner of the passage and the settlement of West Point appeared with two small sail boats anchored just off the beach. Thijs and Kiki were at the pier to greet us as we arrived and offered rides to the bird colonies in their

Land Rovers. Many of the ducks and geese had ducklings or goslings with them. The gorse created bright pops of yellow on the slopes of the island.



A nice leg stretch over the hill to the far side of the island took us to a mixed colony of Black-browed albatross and Southern rockhopper penguins nestled in tussac grass. Albatross circled closely over our heads with a quick *whoosh* as they passed. The Southern rockhoppers had tiny chicks tucked underneath their parents. After we had our time at the colony it was time for tea and cake at the house. The table was full of

delicious treats prepared by the island caretakers.

The rain picked up as we left West Point and headed back to Plancius for lunch. Luckily conditions cleared just as we arrived at Saunders Island. Gentoo penguins greeted us on a white sandy beach. The caretakers of the island and their adorable dogs met us ashore and enjoyed the sunny afternoon with us. While exploring the island we had the ability to see 4 species penguins: gentoo penguins, king penguins, Southern rockhopper penguins, and magellanic penguins. Many of the gentoo penguins had two successful chicks tucked in their nests. The magellanic



penguins were coming and going from their burrows on the slope as sheep were grazing nearby – a peak Falkland Islands image. The black-browed albatross colonies were spread out on the slopes on the far side of the island and we had such nice weather that we could walk to them all and have a visit.

During dinner, our course took us outside the islands to the north. We came upon a group of 10+ sei whales close to Plancius that were socializing and spending a lot of time at the surface. The evening light was beautiful catching their blows as they came up. The sunset was gorgeous – golden light catching the islands and shimmering on the calm sea. Throughout the rest of the evening we passed more and more sei whales including a group of over 20 individuals at last light. A perfect ending to a great day in the West Falklands.



Day 4 – Monday 9th December, Stanley, Falkland Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 51°69.3'S / 057°86.2'W

Wind: SE6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +12°C

Our day began with Adam's friendly wake-up call as we made our way into Port Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. Gathered on deck, we watched as the Plancius navigated her way through "the Narrows", a narrow strait leading into Stanley Harbour. We arrived at the jetty via zodiacs in the abnormally calm conditions and were greeted by a few hauled out South American sea lions. We later learnt that these sea lions were harbour 'locals' and even give birth to their pups on the jetty later in the season.



Once ashore, our group split up to explore Port Stanley's attractions. Our bird enthusiasts headed out on some locally guided tours to spot some of the shorebirds and other local wildlife. They were lucky enough to spot the finch, banded plover, the rufous-chested dotterel, and the unique Magellanic snipe, and other species they were eager to tick off their Falkland Islands list.

Meanwhile, the rest of us immersed ourselves in the town's history (and souvenir stores!). We strolled along the foreshore, admiring the quaint British inspired architecture, the iconic local land rovers driving by, and the shipwrecks that dotted the coast. We visited numerous monuments such as the 'Whalebone Arch', which was constructed in 1933 from the jawbones of two blue whales to honor the centenary of continuous British administration in the Falkland Islands. We also viewed the Christ Church Cathedral, which is the southernmost Anglican cathedral in the world; the Saint Mary's Church, and the Falklands War memorial. We gained a deeper insight into not only the famous war, but local culture and history at the Falkland Islands Museum, which hosted an impressive display of artifacts and exhibits.



And of course, a few pennies were spent in the local string of shops. Many bags were full of the famous locally distilled Falkland Island gin, handmade woollen garments (and balls of wool for the avid knitters!), numerous penguin souvenirs and of course the local diddle dee jam. The poor zodiacs were much heavier on our way back to the ship!

After a delicious lunch on board, we set sail for our ~ 2.5-day journey to South Georgia. The weather and swell were surprisingly calm, which gave plenty of us the opportunity to enjoy the outside decks and observe the black browed albatross soaring above, and hourglass dolphins swimming below.

We later joined Koen in the main lounge where he gave us an insightful and informative talk on photography. He enthusiastically told us all his tips and tricks for our upcoming encounters with wildlife and dramatic scenery.



We then had our daily briefing and recap, which told us all about our plans for the next day, followed by some interesting fun facts about giant kelp by Chloe, sei whales by Katlyn and the Antarctic Convergence by Steffi. After dinner, some of us retired out on deck where we ended our evening with another sighting of hourglass dolphins porpoising across the horizon at sunset. We couldn't believe our luck with this beautiful calm sea state.

Day 5 – Tuesday 10th December, At sea towards South Georgia

08h00 GPS Position: 52°28.2'S / 050°20.5'W

Wind: NW5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +10°C



We were gently awakened by Adam's pleasant morning call and weather update.

After breakfast, we made our way to the observation lounge for our morning activities. There, accompanied by a film narrated by David Attenborough and featuring breathtaking wildlife scenes from South Georgia, we learned about the importance of protecting its pristine ecosystem. We also discussed the guidelines for our upcoming landings, ensuring we would follow the expected behaviors to help preserve the environment.

Next, we focused on the practical application of these guidelines with a biosecurity check. We brought all our outdoor gear for inspection by the expedition team. Cleaning any equipment, where necessary, is crucial to prevent the introduction of alien species, which could have catastrophic consequences for the unique, endemic wildlife and the broader ecosystem.



After a delicious lunch, our AEL Steffi announced that the bridge team would be releasing an Argo Float, adding another special moment to our time aboard the M/V Plancius. Argo is an international program that uses free-drifting profiling floats to collect data from the ocean. These floats move with the currents, traveling between the surface and a mid-water level, measuring

temperature and salinity in the upper 2,000 meters. Most of their life is spent below the surface, and the program works in tandem with the Jason Earth-observing satellites that track ocean surface shape.



Katlyn then gave us an overview of the different types of whales. We learned that there are two main categories of these fascinating marine mammals: baleen whales, which use keratin-based baleen plates (often referred to as "whalebone") in their mouths to filter planktonic creatures from the water, and toothed whales, a group that includes species like beaked whales and sperm whales, as well as

dolphins, porpoises, and all other whales that have teeth instead of baleen.

Afterwards, Koen's lecture guided us through penguin species of Antarctica, such as Gentoo, Adélie, Chinstrap, King, Emperor, Macaroni and Southern Rockhopper penguins.

Daily recap with Adam set the light on plans for tomorrow.

Around 8:30 PM we crossed the Antarctic Convergence. The Antarctic Convergence, also known as the Antarctic Polar Front, is a marine belt that surrounds Antarctica and shifts in latitude with the seasons. It is the boundary where the cold, northward-flowing Antarctic waters meet the relatively warmer waters of the sub-Antarctic. The denser Antarctic waters typically sink beneath the warmer sub-Antarctic waters, creating areas of mixing and upwelling. These processes lead to a region of exceptionally high marine productivity, particularly supporting abundant populations of Antarctic krill.

Day 6 – Wednesday 11th December, At sea towards South Georgia

08h00 GPS Position: 53°16.8'S / 043°12.6'W

Wind: NW4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Cloudy • Air temperature: +5°C

Good morning, good morning, good morning!

Today we woke up surrounded by fog, reducing the visibility, but creating a very scenic atmosphere. It was noticeably a bit colder out on the decks, now that we were fully in the Antarctic Convergence zone, also increasing our chances of spotting wildlife! In the morning there was already a pod of Pilot whales swimming past the ship!



After indulging in our amazing breakfast, we headed to the lounge to learn all about seals from Chloe. We learned that there are two types of seals, or pinnipeds (literally translated as 'finfoot'), in the southern hemisphere, eared seals and earless seals or true seals. Eared seals include sea lions and fur seals, and they can walk funnily on their fins. Earless seals rely on their blubber for warmth and include Elephant seals, Weddel seals, Leopard seals, Ross seals and

Crabeater seals.

The second morning activity was a documentary about Shackleton's magnificent battle for survival. Really amazing how he managed to stay optimistic and lift the spirits of his fellow sailors, no matter how dire the situation. First on the sea ice, then rowing to Elephant Island, then sailing for 17 days in a safety boat to South Georgia, and THEN crossing the glaciated inland of South Georgia with barely any equipment to find the whaling station and eventually rescue everyone else who was on board the ship. Truly living by his own quote: 'Through endurance we conquer'.





In the afternoon Koen was teaching us the best ways to take photographs of wildlife in the lounge. Whilst he was presenting, we immediately got to practice our skills with Humpback whales right next to the ship! There were also Antarctic fur seals, Antarctic prion, shags, and many other birds. The Antarctic Convergence was definitely living up to its name with all that

wildlife!

We then passed Shag Rocks, six small islets 240km west of South Georgia and 1000km away from the Falklands, so truly isolated. It may look like there is white snow on the tops of them, as they are covered in guano from shags, prions and wandering albatross. Unfortunately, we were unable to see these mystical rocks because of the sea fog, so we had to imagine them.

We all got very excited during the recap, hearing about our first landing and zodiac cruise on South Georgia! Will told us all about the history of the islands, and we learned how to behave around the plentiful wildlife! :)



Day 7 – Thursday 12th December, Right Whale Bay and Salisbury Plain

08h00 GPS Position: 53°98.5'S / 037°59.8'W

Wind: W6 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +2°C

Good morning, M/V Plancius and welcome to South Georgia! After a very smooth and speedy crossing from the Falkland Islands we had arrived at one of the most beautiful, scenic and wildlife dense islands on the planet.

This morning the expedition team had planned our first landing at Right Whale Bay. The bay is named after the Southern Right Whales that visited here in abundant numbers before the start of industrial whaling during which they were hunted to the brink of extinction.



Southern Right whales are slowly recovering, and seeing them in these waters is still rare. However, upon approaching our anchoring position we could see the beaches being full of other wildlife. Without binoculars we could see elephant seals, fur seals and thousands and thousands of penguins. The

sun had come out and the wind was almost nonexistent. All the ingredients were present for a perfect first landing.

We landed on the beach and were greeted by surprised and curious looking King Penguins. The penguins have no fear for us and keeping our distances was quite challenging with these beautiful penguins approaching us closely. The expedition team had tried setting out a nice extensive route, but due to the density



of wildlife they were limited in where they could go. What a luxury problem to have; too much wildlife!

We enjoyed seeing the penguins, hearing their chicks whistle, seeing hundreds of new born fur seal pups and we practiced our “standing your ground” skills with the somewhat agitated fur seals. Less aggressive were the incredible cute elephant seal weaners. These young animals were curled up close to one another while letting out burps and sneezes regularly. However,

in spite of their “inappropriate” behavior these young seals are the cutest especially when they open their big brown shiny eyes and look at you. Love is in the air ;)!

Time flew by and many of us didn’t want to leave this amazing place, but it was time to have lunch and relocate for our next activity.

For the afternoon a zodiac cruise at Salisbury Plain was planned. This place is the home of approximately 60,000 breeding pairs of King Penguins and it showed. From afar we could see the densely populated plains and with the sun still shining abundantly the landscapes looked surreal and we couldn’t wait to board the zodiacs to have a closer look.



We cruised along the shoreline while enjoying the stretched plains, the wild animals and the stunning snowy mountain backdrops. A bit further ahead we entered a little sheltered lagune where the guides parked the zodiacs on the beach for a close look at the King Penguins gathered there. With the sun being lower on the horizon, the light got a bit softer and we all clicked away not getting enough of this fantastic wildlife.



We had worked up quite appetite so after recap we enjoyed a delicious dinner. Afterwards we enjoyed the evening sceneries from the decks, we looked at our photos or we decided to go to sleep. It had been a wonderful day. Good night everyone!

Day 8 – Friday 13th December, Husvik and Grytviken

08h00 GPS Position: 54°17.9'S / 036°71.2'W

Wind: W6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air temperature: +4°C

As far as Friday 13th go we have seen worse. We woke up to stunning sunshine as we sailed our way in Husvik harbour. The Scenery was simply breathtaking, the aggressive mountains gave way to lush plains teeming with a healthy population of seals and penguins. The rundown whaling station with its many buildings contrasted with its vibrant ocre color resonating the tragedies that occurred within this bay where thousands upon thousands of whales were processed during the whaling era of South Georgia.



As we ate our breakfast our expedition team assessed the conditions on land. The Katabatic winds were fierce this day. Katabatic are violent gusts of wind surging from the icy plateau of south Georgia when it's cold air meets the warmer ocean air creating pressure and intense winds. Landing wasn't an option so we decided to take our zodiacs out for a cruise around the harbour and brave the strong winds.

Husvik offered close interaction with it's fur seal population and many rivers, creeks and beaches.

In the afternoon we made our way to the most famous and oldest whaling station, Grytviken.



Created in 1904 by Norwegian Explorer and sailor Carl Anton Larsen it was in operation until the 1960'. In Grytviken bay lies the only human settlement at King Edward Point, a handful of scientists, builders, engineers in charge of running the instalations along with the museum and post office.

Upon landing at Grytviken we were guided in

the direction of the cemetery where lies the one and only Boss, Sir Ernest Shackleton, the legendary Irishman who died of a heartattack in his bed on his ship as it lay in the bay upon which he now looks over.

After a quick toast with the boss and his right hand man Frank Wid who lied next to him, we



made our way through the fur seals into the heart of the whaling station. The path brought us through the slaughtering quai where the giant whales were pulled onto land and cut to pieces.

Further on was the beautiful Norwegian church built in 1913 where Shackleton's funeral was held in 1922. We rang the bells for good luck and left a work for the fallen sea farers that came here before us.



The museum offered a fascinating exhibition on the early whaling days of South Georgia and its wildlife population along with the scientific work undertaken through the decades.

Next to the museum lie the Carr collection, which included a replica of the mythical James Caird, the wee boat used by Shackleton and his men

to sail from Elephant Island to South Georgia braving currents and life-threatening seas.

Our visit was a real pleasure, even if we were forced to leave early due to the fierce weather raging now with winds that would blow one off his feet.

We regained the safety of Plancius and carried on our way.



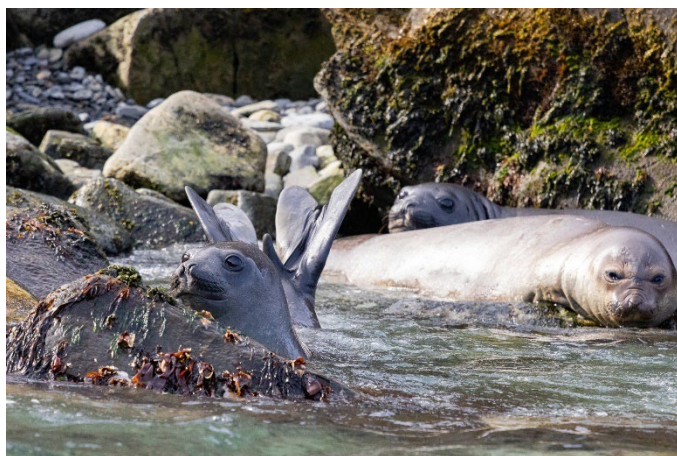
Day 9 – Saturday 14th December, St. Andrews Bay and Godthul

08h00 GPS Position: 30°14.6'S / 085°69.4'W

Wind: E2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +7°C



This morning, we all woke up to perfect conditions. We had been anchored at St. Andrew since late morning. This beautiful bay is home to the largest king penguin colony in South Georgia, with 250,000 breeding pairs calling this place home.



Soon after, the Expedition Team went ashore, and we followed. The boats dropped us off at one end of the beach, and we began our hike toward the colony. There was a bit of adventure involved, as we had to cross two riverbeds. Adam and his team gave us helpful tips on how to navigate them and assisted where needed. Most of us stayed dry. The final stretch was easy and enjoyable, with wildlife all around. Penguins wandered nearby, and the freshwater areas were filled with fluffy

chicks and moulting penguins. Among them, we saw some fur seals and elephant seals making interesting noises from every opening of their bodies. How cute!

Along the way, some skuas had made their nests, but we received good advice on how to avoid the young skuas and enjoyed watching them start their journey in life.



At the end of our short hike, we reached a hill overlooking the colony. The sounds were incredible—chicks whistling while their parents called out to them, and pairs engaging in courtship as they prepared for the new breeding cycle. And yes, we smelled them too, but it wasn't as bad as we expected. What an experience—absolutely

mind-blowing.

Slowly, we made our way back. The river was rising in the meantime, but it was no problem. Our Expedition Team guided us safely across, and a bit of water in the boots didn't hurt anyone. What a morning! South Georgia truly doesn't get any better than this.

During lunch, we set off on a two-hour trip back north. Our afternoon destination was Godthul, an incredibly beautiful, sheltered bay surrounded by towering mountains. Once again, the conditions were perfect.



We had the opportunity to choose from three different activities: a long hike, a medium walk around the bay, or a Zodiac tour. The long hikers set off first, aiming to climb the hill above the bay, known as Edda Hill. Adam and Will expertly guided them to the summit.



The first part of the hike was challenging, as we navigated through tall tussac grass. Along the way, we spotted fur seals napping, none too pleased with the wake-up call. But we confidently made our way through the dense South Georgia jungle. Once we reached the top, the visibility was perfect, and the views of South Georgia's stunning coastline were simply breathtaking.

The medium hikers followed shortly after, with the goal of reaching the plateau above the sea. This area is home to many birds, and we were able to observe gentoo penguin colonies with chicks that were already quite large. South Georgia pintails wandered near the water pools, and our birding group was especially excited to spot the South Georgia pipit, the only songbird on the island, performing its display flight above the tussac grass. What a morning!



Meanwhile, some of us enjoyed a perfect Zodiac ride across the bay with Chloe and Katlyn.

But the day wasn't over yet. The Hotel Team had prepared a BBQ for us on the outdoor decks. With this incredible scenery, we couldn't have asked for a better setting. The food was delicious, the mood was lively, and as the tables were cleared, the dance floor opened with DJ Prince. We danced under the setting sun, which dipped behind the

mountains, painting the sky with pink hues and casting a soft glow on the blue icebergs.

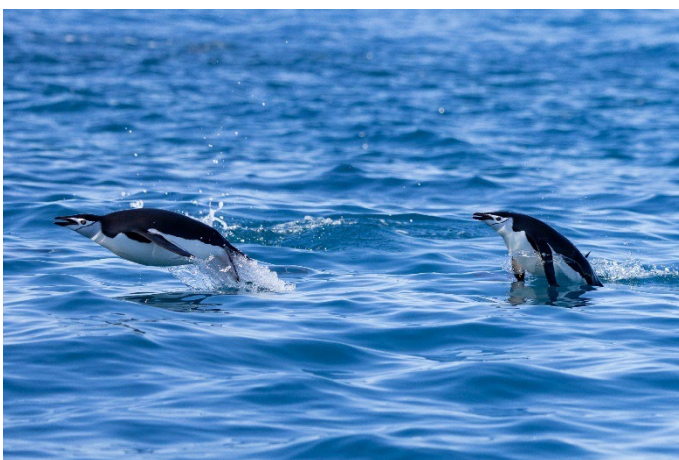
Day 10 – Sunday 15th December, Gold Harbour and Cooper Bay

08h00 GPS Position: 54°62.6'S / 037°59.8'W

Wind: NE 2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air temperature: +6°C



This morning as Plancius approached Gold Harbor, we were met with a beach *full* of king penguins. The expedition team had quite a challenge finding a safe path through all the wildlife and decided to split our landing into two groups to give the wildlife their space. The first group came ashore, and the gray skies began to clear to blue while we were enjoying the beach and glacial stream full of molting penguins and elephant seals. A few gentoo penguins were seen on the beach and weaving their way through the king penguins on their way to their colony in the tussock grass near the glacier.



Halfway through the landing the first group of zodiac cruisers came to shore and the first landing group went out for a cruise. The zodiac cruises observed adorable elephant seals, recently weaned, learning how to swim and investigate the zodiacs. These pups were left on shore by their moms about 4-6 weeks ago and are now exploring the water for the first time. The entirety of the king penguin colony could also be

appreciated from the zodiac as they cruised down the beach. Some zodiacs also had a look at

the glacial lagoon and the waterfalls running out from under the signature hanging glacier at the site.

During lunch the ship repositioned south to our final operational site of the South Georgia portion of our trip: Cooper Bay. As we got close, more and more icebergs appeared on the horizon. When we made our final turn to approach our anchorage, we passed a group of 10-15 humpback whales feeding with groups of penguins swimming around.



It was a nice sunny afternoon for our zodiac cruise and the wind was quite calm in Cooper Bay. We saw *four* species of penguins! A small beach on the south end of the bay had gentoo, chinstrap, king, and macaroni penguins resting on it. We saw many of them swimming in the water as well. It was a good challenge for the photographers to try and capture the penguins as they were porpoising out of the water. On the northern end of the bay

was a colony of a penguin species on quite a few wish lists – the macaroni penguin. The colony is in tussac grass - a steep climb up a cliff from the beach. The zodiacs could pull into small channels and view the penguins resting on the rocks before entering the sea or before making their steep climb up to their nests.





As the zodiac cruises were wrapping up the clouds began to cover the sky again. Lenticular clouds formed over the mountain peaks. Plancius heaved anchor and sailed around Cooper Island and turned Southwest. She weaved between massive icebergs as the wind picked up. Seabirds soared around the ship and near the edges of the icebergs we passed. A few more humpback whales were scattered around the area,

but soon our visibility dropped to less than 200 meters as a rain squall passed by.

As the evening drew to a close, we said goodbye to South Georgia and steamed onward to the Scotia Sea.



Day 11 – Monday 16th December, Heading south

08h00 GPS Position: 56°21.3'S / 040°08.4'W

Wind: NW6 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +3°C



Our day began with Adam's friendly wake-up call as we sailed farther south. We expected to spend the next 2-4 days at sea before arriving in Antarctica, due to the wind and swell conditions. Our luck with good weather hadn't exactly run out, but we were facing more 'normal' Southern Ocean conditions now. For some of us, it meant retreating to our cabins and catching up on some rest (and to relieve our sea sickness). For others, it meant being out on the bridge wings spotting albatross and whales, chilling in the main lounge playing card games, chatting over cups of tea, knitting with our new Falklands yarn, or listening to lectures by the expedition team.



First up on the lecture program was Steffi who told us all about the importance of krill in the Antarctic ecosystem. We learnt that just about every animal in the Antarctic food chain, ranging from the huge baleen whales, to seals, fish, penguins and many other seabirds, are all directly or indirectly dependent on the availability of krill. We also learnt

that there were currently a few commercial krill fishing vessels in the area, harvesting krill for

human consumption and supplements. This concerned many of us and urged us to consider future actions to help protect this important keystone species.

Next up we watched the first episode of a three- part documentary called 'Shackleton Death or Glory' which followed a team from UK that reenacted the famous Shackleton Rescue of 1916. It was incredible to see just how challenging the conditions and journey still are today.



After a delicious lunch, the Plancius veered towards a famous object on the move- the world's largest iceberg, A23A. This iceberg measures approximately 4,000 square kilometers and is twice the size of Greater London!! It calved off from Antarctica's Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf in 1986, became lodged on the seafloor of the Weddell Sea for over 30 years, before beginning its slow journey north in 2020. But just a few months ago, it got sidetracked and became trapped in

a spinning ocean vortex near the South Orkney Islands. Now, A23a is on the move again and we were so lucky to get a close up view of her!

We then had a very fitting lecture by Keechy, all about ice. We learnt that icebergs originate

from glaciers and ice shelves, and that when they break apart, they can become classified into a variety of names such as bergy bits and growlers based on their size. This type of ice is different to sea ice,



which forms in the ocean itself. We learnt that brash ice is a mix between the two, an accumulation of floating ice made up of fragments no more than 2 m across, and is most often wreckage of both glacial and sea ice. We never knew how complex ice could be!



Tonight instead of our usual daily briefing and recap, was the South Georgia Auction. This would include items supplied by the South Georgia Heritage Trust ranging from penguin memorabilia to the famous Endurance whisky, plus a few special items provided by the Oceanwide team. Will from the expedition team was our charismatic auctioneer, sharing incredible details and often elaborate backstories to help up the bids. The main lounge was buzzing

with laughter, and Will managed to auction off every item with glee. All proceeds go towards maintaining and conserving South Georgia heritage buildings, eradication programs and wildlife conservation.

After yet another scrumptious dinner, we enjoyed the evenings buzz from yet another magical day in the Southern Ocean.

It was also a special day for our fantastic group from Bangladesh who celebrated Victory day!



Day 12 – Tuesday 17th December, At sea towards Elephant Island

08h00 GPS Position: 57°40.5'S / 045°25.2'W

Wind: SW6 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Cloudy • Air temperature: 0°C



Good morning, good morning, came the cheery tones of Adam waking us up. We had a cruisy morning ahead of us, with some enjoying the sleep in and rest, while others already out on deck enjoying the birdlife and odd whale blow in the distance.

After breakfast, the second episode of the 'Shackleton Death or Glory' documentary was shown in the main lounge. It was so incredible to see these modern men reenact this epic journey, and how they even wore the traditional clothing Shackleton and his men did all those years before.



By mid-morning, it was time to do our mandatory biosecurity checks again. As we had come from South Georgia where there is a lot of vegetation and penguin and seal poop, it was important to check that our clothing had not collected any seeds, and our boots were nice and clean. We managed to complete this process much quicker than our last checks as we had become quite the

experts in making sure our Velcro's were clean and our boots scrubbed well!

After a delicious lunch, we joined Katlyn in the main lounge for a talk about humpback

whales. We learnt that these whales travel remarkable distances and have one of the longest migrations in the animal kingdom. Their migrations are broken into two seasons, feeding and mating, but both hemisphere populations rarely cross the

equator. Northern hemisphere humpback whales spend their winter breeding in warmer southern waters near places like Hawaii and Mexico, and then travel farther north to places like Norway and Alaska to feed. Southern hemisphere humpback whales however, spend their winter breeding in warmer northern waters near places like Tonga and Brazil and then travel south to the circumpolar waters of Antarctica to feed.



We then were joined by Will who gave us an interesting talk about Tom Crean, a famous Irish seaman and Antarctic explorer. Crean was a member of three major Antarctic expeditions during the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration, including Robert Falcon Scott's 1901–

1904 Discovery Expedition, Scott's 1911–1913 Terra Nova Expedition, and Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition. He was one of the six men chosen by Shackleton to sail in the small 22.5-foot wooden boat, the James Caird, 800 nautical miles (1,500 km) from Elephant Island to South Georgia Island to seek aid for the stranded party.

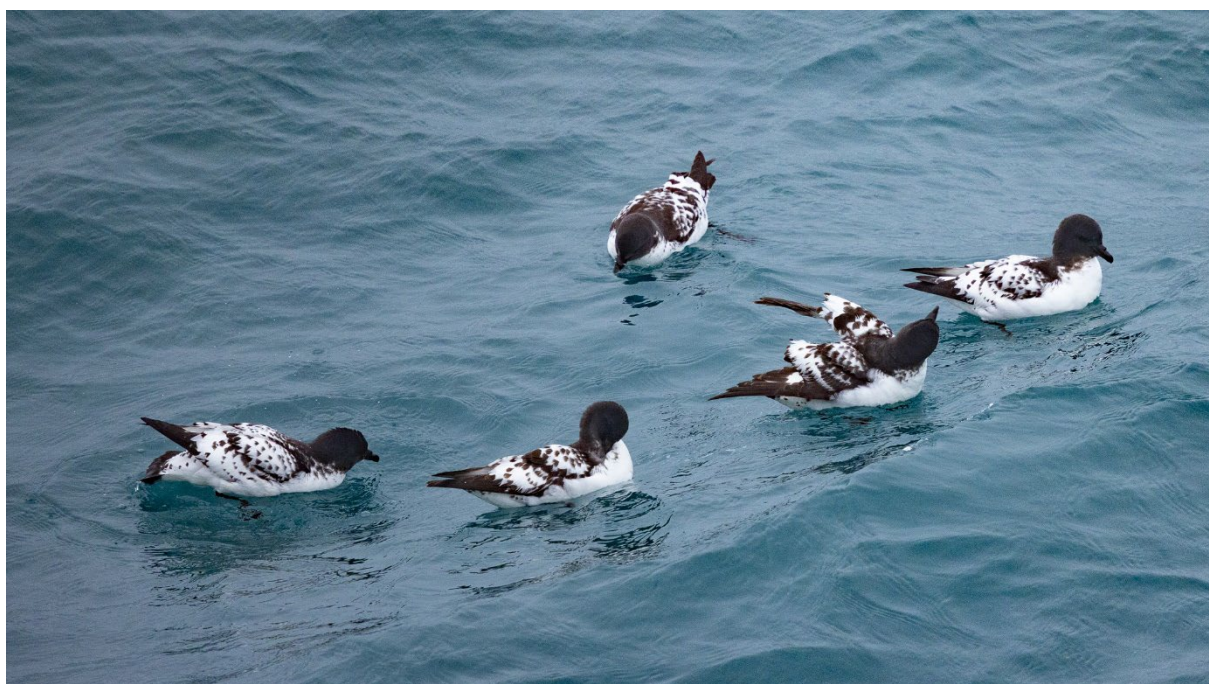
After our usual daily recap and briefing, off to dinner it was for yet another scrumptious meal. We had another magical day full of sea gazing, sharing stories and no doubt looking at the thousands of photos we have been taking!



Day 13 – Wednesday 18th December, Elephant Island and at sea towards Antarctica

08h00 GPS Position: 59°48.1'S / 0351°57.2'W

Wind: NE6 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Snow • Air temperature: 0°C



Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! We woke up with white decks and snow falling all around us! Whilst admiring the snow, we listened to Chloe's lecture about sea-ice ecosystems after breakfast. We learned all about how microscopically small phytoplankton (algae) that live in the ice, are incredibly important for any life in Antarctica. They are grazed on by zooplankton (microscopic organisms) and krill that are in turn being eaten by our beloved seals, penguin and whales.



The snow tempted many of us to go out on the decks and get some fresh air after the lecture. Some interesting snow sculptures were built, in the shape of an Elephant seal, a Humpback whale, a penguin, a Snowy albatross and a big snowman! Playing in the snow came to an end and we got to warm up with the third part of Shackleton: Death or Glory. This episode we watched the team brave the mountains and glaciers of South Georgia and cross the island.

As we were inching closer to Antarctica, Svata explained that it is a high-risk environment for hyperthermia. Therefore, she gave a lecture on how to prevent it, how to recognize it, and how to help someone suffering from it. She told us to 'layer up' like Peter Freuchen, a legendary Danish Arctic adventurer. We continued the theme of adventurers with a lecture by Will on the life of Amundsen, the famous Norwegian explorer first to set foot on the South Pole. The adventurer had brilliant quotes, such as 'Victory awaits him who has everything in order – luck, people call it', or the very romantic 'adventure is just bad planning'.

Then the moment had arrived, we were nearing Elephant Island! We saw the island in true Antarctic conditions, covered in fog and with big waves breaking against the rocks. It gave us

a good idea of how difficult it must have been like for Shackleton's team to spend 4.5 months



on the island, with no certainty anybody would come to rescue them! That is true endurance!

After a brilliant day at sea we headed to bed, excited to see the Antarctic peninsula the next day! Good night!

Day 14 – Thursday 19th December, At sea towards Antarctica and Lindblad Cove

08h00 GPS Position: 62°36.9'S / 057°34.2'W

Wind: SW5 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Rain • Air temperature: +1°C

Good morning everyone! Yesterday we couldn't leave the ship to zodiac cruise Elephant Island due to the big swells, but today our chances of getting off the ship were significantly better. With a little bit of luck, we would be able to reach a site called Mikkelsen Harbour and do a landing after dinner. However, when while sailing along the stunningly beautiful coastline of the Antarctic peninsula, we received a call from another expedition ship informing us there was still a lot of ice in the area which would slow down our navigation. No need to be disappointed though, when on expedition with Oceanwide you can rely on the expedition leader for having a plan B on the table and if needed a plan C and so on.

Instead of continuing our heading, it was decided that we would do a zodiac cruise right here, right now. Excellent! We were close to Lindblad Cove and the scenery was simply breathtaking. With the wind dropping we found ourselves surrounded by icebergs, penguins on icebergs and brash ice. Our guides explained to



us the differences between the types of ice and where brash ice originates from. We also heard the ice making a *crackling* sound which is compressed air escaping the ice while it's melting.



We cruised each in our own direction and calls on the radio could be heard about penguins on ice. Penguins on ice is probably the first thing that comes to mind when thinking of Antarctica so we quickly made our way to take photos of these cute little creatures on several ice flows and icebergs. Today we were lucky once more as we found

three different species of penguins, the Gentoo, the Chinstrap and the Adelie penguin. We would not visit an Adelie colony during our remaining days so seeing them on the ice was simply lovely.



After about 2 ½ hours we wanted to head back to the ship, but the ice had closed in quite a bit so getting out with the zodiacs proved to be challenging. However, the guides showed us how it's done and while we enjoyed driving

through this unfamiliar *terrain*, we enjoyed every minute of the navigation. Our guide assured us that zodiacs are sturdier when it comes to ice compared to the Titanic and they were right, soon we were out safe and in more open waters.

On the way back to Plancius a whale was spotted, but unfortunately it was travelling and getting a closer look proved to be challenging. In the end it didn't matter, after 4 days on the ship it was super nice to spend time out on the zodiacs and we enjoyed every minute.

After recap and dinner, we retired to our cabins as tomorrow would be a full expedition day with a continental landing and a zodiac cruise planned.

Sleep well!

Day 15 – Friday 20th December, Portal Point and Foyn Harbour

08h00 GPS Position: 64°29.5'S / 061°45.3'W

Wind: E5 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +4°C

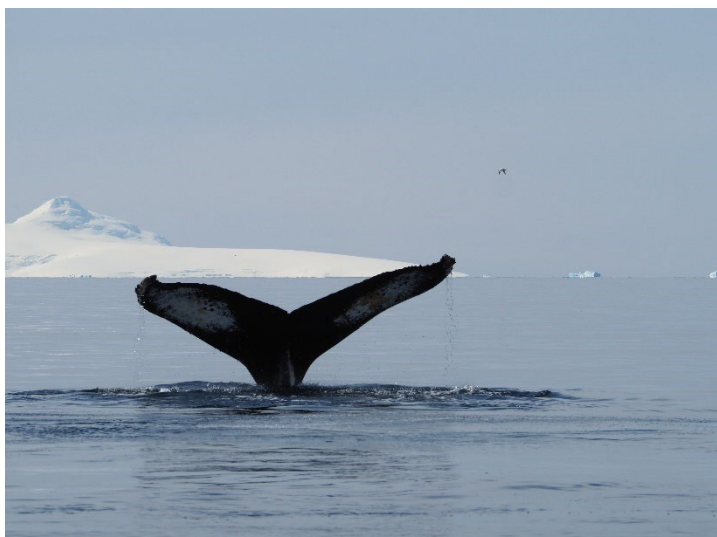
Who would have known when waking up this morning that today would become one of the most extraordinary days of our lives. The stars aligning to offer one of the world's grandest experiences.

Waking up yet another time to the voice of Adam, gently bringing us back to our living dream aboard Plancius, we woke to a pristine Antarctic day. The sky is cloudless, the sun is shining, high in the sky, promising some red faces!



Our first stop for the day is Portal point, a continental landing! After a bumpy and humid zodiac ride we set foot for the first time on the seventh continent. To greet us as always is Adam and the usual suspects, the penguins. Portal point was a small and intimate area that offered a gentle walk up a slope on a tidy peninsula that overlooked the beautiful bay and its hundreds of giant icebergs drifting along pushed by the gentle breeze.

Among the icebergs whales were feeding and in the bay where the fast ice was tightly knitted to itself several weddell seals were hauled out taking in the sun reminding us to enjoy the simple pleasures of life and being grateful for the present moment.



Later, after a hearty lunch and a short cruise we arrived at Foyen Harbour. Foyen Harbour is a spectacle, a vast bay with countless glaciers sliding in its transparent blue waters. Our plan for the afternoon was an extended zodiac cruise where we will visit the "Governor", a ship wrecked in a cove after a drunken sailor knocked down a petrol lamp while dancing on a table! Close by were a large group of Antarctic terns and their little ones, all nestled on a rock formation under a

chilian navigational mark, remind us of the geopolitical rivalry in the region.

As we made our way further in the Bay we noticed a large amount of whales divided in several little groups. They seemed to be all feeding on the rich supplies of krill the Antarctic waters offer. As we approached we sensed that this was going to be a special moment for all of us as even the guides started getting very excited and told us how unusual this was.



As we made our way forward the whales did not disappoint and started surrounding our boats offering a fantastic display of their hunting skills. Using their bubble and working in teams to catch as much krill as possible. This interaction with these curious whales is something that shouldn't be taken for granted, the gentle giants gifted us with this special moment and we take with us unforgettable memories.

In the evening we made our way into a scenic corner of Antarctica where we were invited on the top deck after dinner to drink a



warm apple juice with Whiskey altogether. And when we thought this day couldn't get any better, as the sun started settling at its lowest point during the southern summer we came upon the rarest living creature of Antarctica, a solitary young Emperor penguin. This encounter was the cherry on the cake for what has been for us and for the whole crew the most exceptional day an expedition can offer.

Day 16 – Saturday 21st December, Cierva Cove and Palaver Point

08h00 GPS Position: 64°08.5'S / 060°55.4'W

Wind: LT Air • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +3°C



The day began much earlier than expected. At 1:35 AM, Adam called, "Orcas, we have Orcas!" Some of us seized the opportunity, while the majority stayed in bed or slept through the call. The Orcas were moving in front of the ship—there were some great sightings, though only one or two were confirmed by most.

Later, after a good night's sleep, the usual wake-up call came, followed by Alex's breakfast announcement. We were at Cierva Cove, a bay on the Antarctic continent, with plans for a Zodiac cruise. The scenery was breathtaking, with the bay filled with ice, and many whales had already been spotted from the ship. Just 15 minutes into the cruise, we heard Koen's voice: "We have Orcas!" So we tried to follow them. Although we managed to get some good sightings, the



Orcas were moving fast into the bay, and the icy waters made it difficult to keep up. With so

many boats around, some of us decided to simply enjoy the views we had and take in the rest of the morning's incredible wildlife.



The bay was teeming with life—Penguins (both Gentoo and Chinstrap) were everywhere, and whales were "logging" almost everywhere in the bay, some feeding slowly. Many of us also got the chance to see a leopard seal on the ice. What an extraordinary creature—so strong and graceful, it almost seemed from another world.

Karma treated us well. Many of the boats that hadn't seen the Orcas up close were rewarded with a leopard seal hunting near

the Argentinian station. We didn't witness a successful hunt, but it was still fascinating to watch.

The "Primavera" Argentinian Station overlooks the bay. It operated year-round from 1977 to

1982, but since then, it has only been open in summer, focusing on research related to birds in the surrounding protected areas, limnology, and the development of mosses and lichens over time.



It was a fantastic morning. As usual, we returned to the ship later than planned, but there was just so much to see outside.



After lunch, we set sail for Two Hummock Island, where we landed at Palaver Point. Following another great meal and a short rest, the Expedition team took us ashore to explore a rocky hill on the island. The slope of the hill is home to Chinstrap penguins, as well as many skuas preying on eggs and chicks. We had excellent sightings of these predator birds, and we admired the mosses growing between

the leftover snow. The views over the bay and surrounding glaciers were absolutely stunning. Antarctica feels so vast, and we are so small. During the landing, we had the chance to hike up some elevation and take in the scenery, even from a bird's-eye view.

Another remarkable day in Antarctica. What a journey—truly the trip of a lifetime, and it's not over yet. Adam shared the plans for tomorrow, and we're looking forward to another full day on the South Shetland Islands. We can't wait to explore more!



Day 17 – Sunday 22nd December, Telefon Bay and Elephant Point

08h00 GPS Position: 62°35.5'S / 60°33.5'W

Wind: LT Air • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +2°C



This morning wakeup call came earlier than our usual routine. But it was well worth the early call to watch Plancius navigate through Neptune's Bellows – a narrow passage in Deception Island. The gap between the cliffs and shoreline seems quite wide on first impression, but half the opening is too shallow for the ship to use safely. Cape petrels were gliding around, and chinstrap penguins were swimming around the ship as we entered Port Foster and had views of Whaler's Bay as we sailed to the back of the caldera.



The expedition team set up a nice route over part of the volcanic craters at Telefon Bay for our morning landing. Walking on the volcanic gravel and taking in the views gives you a feeling of walking on another planet. The snow highlighted the features of the caldera and added to the beauty and novelty of the landscape. There isn't much wildlife on the inside of Deception Island, but

there was a Weddell seal resting on the beach throughout the landing. After a few hours ashore it was time for a morning Antarctic swim! The expedition team had brought towels to the beach for those that wanted to take part in the Polar Plunge. Some plungers had penguin accessories for their swim which added to the fun!

In the late morning, we again successfully navigated out through Neptune's Bellows and



headed to open water to cruise to Livingston Island for our afternoon landing. Humpback whales and chinstrap penguins were swimming around the ship throughout our navigation. After lunch the ship was positioned near Elephant Point at Livingston Island.



We came ashore for our final landing at Elephant Point. Most of the snow has melted at this point of the season and this was the most greenery we have seen on shore since South Georgia. Piles of molting elephant seals were all over the island. The air would fill with their vocalizations as they argued over sleeping arrangements in their wallows. Gentoo penguins were nesting in several places on the island, and they had freshly hatched

chicks. Those that were patient could catch a glimpse at the little ones when their parents would stand up briefly. There were nesting seabirds on the rocky outcrops near the landing site including kelp gulls and Southern giant petrels.

It was a bit emotional to leave the beach one last time. This has been an incredible voyage and our last day in the South Shetland Islands was no exception. We heaved the anchor one last time and began steaming for the Drake Passage and beginning of our journey home.

Day 18 – Monday 23rd December, Drake Passage towards Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 60°42.9'S / 63°10.3'W

Wind: N6 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +3°C



Our morning wakeup call perhaps didn't wake some of us. Today was a day to sleep in if we'd like, through the Drake Passage we sailed, with these next two days at sea ahead of us. It was a time to catch up on rest, enjoy some fresh air out on deck, or sort through the thousands of photos we'd taken over the last few weeks. New friendships were blossoming, contacts exchanged, and memories made. We were all really feeling the buzz of just how incredible this trip had been so far. But it wasn't even over! Today would show us that even on days at sea, you never know what to expect...

We started our morning off with a talk about climate change aptly named 'Ice Ice Maybe' by Keechy. We learnt all about melting glaciers, temperature rises and what effect these will have not only on the Southern Ocean and Antarctica, but for the rest of the planet in the future. Antarctica is like Earth's built in air conditioner; the gigantic white ice sheet that covers the continent deflects a huge amount of the sun's rays back into the atmosphere (called the albedo effect). This plays a very important role in regulating our global climate.



Before Katyn's mid-morning lecture on whales, we got rudely interrupted by none other than a huge pod of orcas!! We (carefully) raced outside to see at least 20 orcas cruising through the swell, with at least three large males and a few mum and calf pairs. We even spotted one orca with a chunk of its

dorsal fin missing! Any photos of this would for sure be going straight into Happy Whale- a citizen science program that matches whale fins, flukes and body marks from all around the world. These orcas were most likely Type A, an ecotype that is typically found in offshore open waters.

We seriously couldn't believe our luck with orca encounters this trip!! Katyn's lecture then proceeded after the orcas cruised away from the Plancius, and she gave us a little recap on their behaviour, different ecotypes found in Antarctica (Type A, B1, B2, C and D) and where they are likely to be found. We then learnt all about whales being ecosystem engineers, specifically about just how important their poop is for phytoplankton production!

After lunch, Steffi gave us a very interesting talk about her time competing in what is known as the 'oldest race in aviation', the Gordon Bennett Gasballoon Race. Steffi and her teammate flew across Europe, and even over open ocean for days in a gas balloon, using things like bags of sand to control the balloon's altitude. We learnt so much about this niche sport, and just how passionate Steffi is about the comradery and team spirit that comes with it.



To finish off the lecture program for the day, Chloe gave us an entertaining talk about her time on Antarctic research stations. Chloe first visited Antarctica as a university student down on New Zealand's research station, Scott Base in the Ross sea. She also got to visit USA's McMurdo Station which is the largest Antarctic research station on the continent, housing over 1,200 people in the summer season. A few years later, she went down on another expedition to promote Antarctic education and outreach for Hobart's youth, where she visited numerous research stations including Chile, Russia and Korea down on King George Island. It was interesting to hear her stories and how these experiences provided the opportunity for her to become an expedition guide today.

After dinner, some of us joined Will in the library for a little jam session on the guitar. Slowly by slowly, the audience started singing along, and it was a cozy little evening of smiles, laughter and some very dulcet tones! For those who may have slept in this morning, made up for it by the main lounge not clearing until well past midnight!

Day 19 – Tuesday 24th December, Drake Passage towards Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 56°32.4'S / 65°01.6'W

Wind: NW6 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +7°C

"Naaaaaaaaaaaaants ingonyamaaaaaaaaaaaaaa bagiiiiiiiiiiiithi baba..."

The wake up call had a Disney ring to it as the Lion King song woke us from our slumbers bringing us back to warm family movie nights.

Doug, the leader of our beloved birders won the bidding contest during the auction a few days ago to make his own wake up call. After the music came a delightful poem written by Doug himself and it went something like this...

"'Twas 3 days after solstice, when all 'round the mother boat,

Not a fur seal was stirring, to sound like a goat;

The sick bags were hung round the cabins with flair, just in case the Drake crossing wasn't too fair;

The travelers were nestled all snug in their bunks,

While images danced in their minds of goofy Elephant seal trunks,

The dreams stretched back through a three week recap,

And images arose of lovely memories still intact,

Of the time on the deck there arose such a clatter,

We sprang from the lounge to see what was the matter.

*Away to the windows we flew like a flash,
Tore open the blinds to see the waves crash,*

*The sun reflected off the deck's new-fallen snow,
Gave the sparkle of life to the bow deck below,
When, what to our wondering eyes should appear,
But some skillfully made snow animals, but not one reindeer,*

*Built by our Zodiac drivers, of form able and slick, who could maneuver with Humpback and
Orca so quick;*

*As leaders devoted to our expedition game,
the birds, seals, and whales called them by name;*

*Now Svatava, now Chloe, now Koen, and William!
ON Keechy, ON Katlyn, on Steffi and Adam!
On sea days with fog where we could see no birds fly,
They lectured and lifted our minds to the sky,*

*Alex forgot to scan his card in,
While Raquel had the birders tight with their gin,
Khabir and the staff kept the food and jokes flowing,
Now who knows where our waistlines are going*

*We hit the open ocean, and South Georgia loomed,
Mountainous island wonderland under full moon,
King Penguin slap fights stretching to the horizons,
While offshore flew all those dynamic Prions,*

*Our repose at Grytviken saw the weather turn,
Wind picked up and the bay began to churn,
Our skillful expedition staff quite well could react,*

So back to the ship in our trusty zodiacs,

*Plan A was to go to the South Orkney Isles,
But ice locked it up, so Plan B was on trial,
Then news, A23a could soon be before us,
Plan B was scrapped, we had our Plan-C us*

Then hey! Antarctica Ho!

*Now on the continent we walked to and fro,
Bobi dressed in his penguin fur head to toe,
Served drinks on the deck with picturesque ice floes,
The idyllic evening with snowy mountain reflections,
Finishing at the sea ice with a lazy Emperor Penguin,*

*Farewell land of ice, but first a deception,
A caldera of water gave us cold reception,
With all our good fortune, and karma at play,
The captain did say, don't worry we will pay,
So the waves began mounding,
It was time to take a Drake Passage pounding*

*As we near the end of our trip for the ages,
And our rhymes runneth over and so do our pages,
We still travel, one more day of birds dynamically soaring,
Happy landings and flights, and to all...a*

Good Morning!

Good Morning, Good Morning!



After a wonderful awakening the day could only be good. The sea tried it's best to ruin our good mood by throwing 50knots wind gusts and five meter waves. Some of us nested in our cabins wating for a respite scheduled to arrive later that day.

This morning was dedicated to get to know what our expedition team does when off the ship. Koen started by

telling us about his job as a whale guide in both Iceland and Tonga. He showed us some amazing footage of his underwater encounters with humpback whales and Orcas.

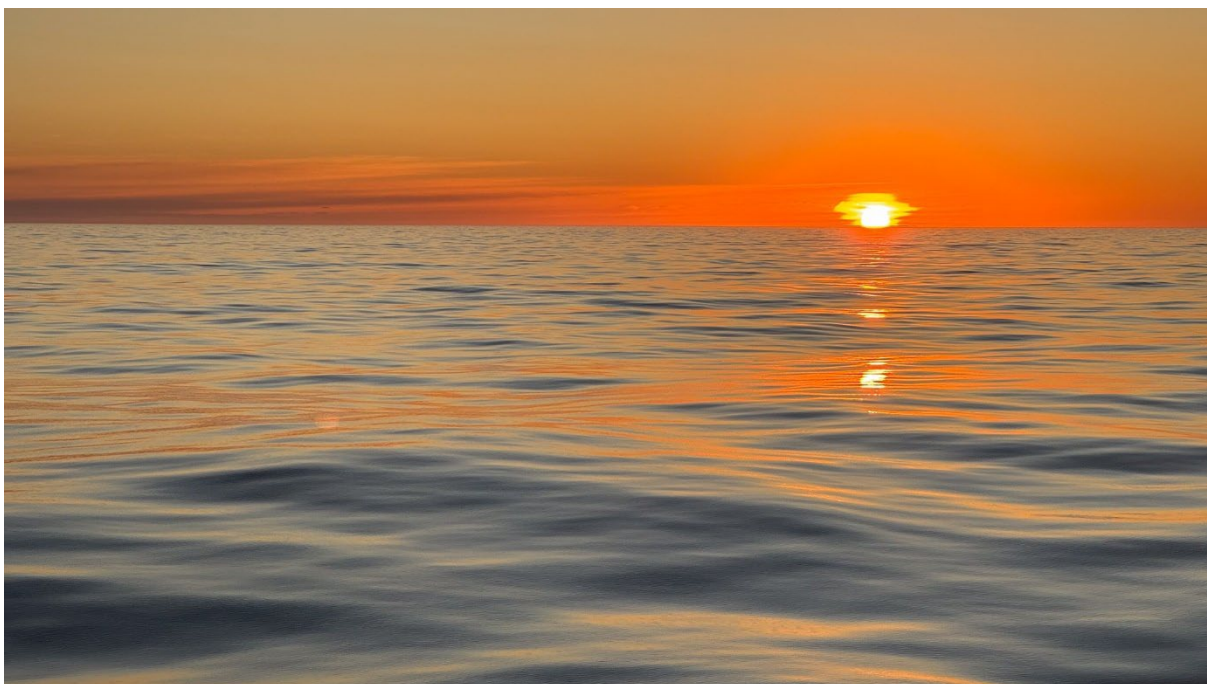
Later Adam continued and introduced us to how life is on South Georgia and on an Antarctic research station. Great to get first hand insight on life in these remote areas and how one ends up doing such a thing!

A documentary was showed later that day about the ancient mariners braving the treacherous waters of Cape Horn.

The wind gods decided we had suffered enough and gave us a rest in the afternoon for the Q and A organised in the lounge where an Officer, the Chef and an Engineer answeres all our question about how the ship is run.

In the evening we met with the Captain who thanked us for a wonderful trip and wished us all the best on future travels. Glasses were raied and a loud "*Cheers*" resonated in the lounge.

Our last evening was spent sharing stories of our voyage and exchanging phone numbers, a trip where strangers from allover the world became family for a few weeks.



Day 20 – Wednesday 25th December, Drake Passage towards Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 55°80.2'S / 60°30.3'W

Wind: N2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +15°C

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

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 3357nm

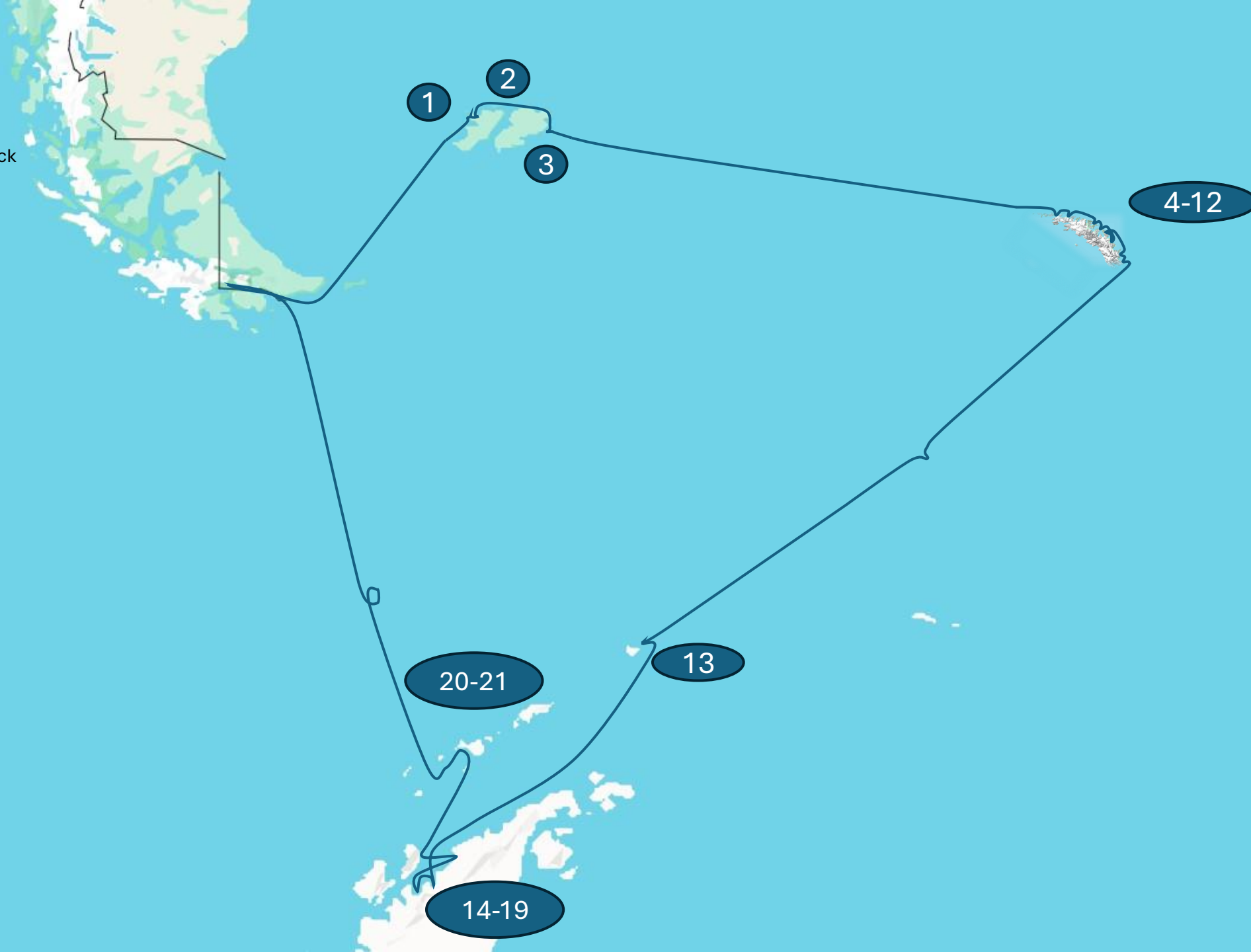
Southermost position: 64°41.1'S, 062°10.3'E

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Artur, Expedition Adam Burke, Hotel Manager Alex and all the crew and staff of M/V Plancius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.

1. West Point Island
2. Saunders Island – The Neck
3. Stanley
Sea Day
Sea Day
4. Right Whale Bay
5. Salisbury Plain
6. Husvik
7. Stromness and Leith
8. Grytviken
9. St. Andrew's Bay
10. Godthul
11. Gold Harbour
12. Cooper Bay
Sea Day – A23A Iceberg
Sea Day
Sea Day
13. Elephant Island
14. Charcot Bay
15. Portal Point
16. Foyen Harbour
17. Wilhelmina Bay
18. Cierva Cove
19. Palaver Point
20. Deception Island
21. Elephant Point
Sea Day – Orca's
Sea Day
Beagle Channel
Ushuaia

Total Distance Travelled:

- 3357 nM
- 6217.16 km
- 3863.17 miles





1 West Point
Landing 08/12/2024

2 Saunders Island
Landing 08/12/2024

3 Stanley, Capital of the Falkland Islands
Landing 09/12/2024

Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)

- 
- 4 Right Whale Bay**
Morning Landing 12/12/2024
 - 5 Salisbury Plain**
Zodiac Cruise 12/12/2024
 - 6 Husvik**
Zodiac Cruise 13/12/2024
 - 7 Stromness and Leith**
Ship Cruise 13/12/2024
 - 8 Grytviken**
Afternoon Landing 13/12/2024
 - 9 St. Andrew's Bay**
Morning Landing 14/12/2024
 - 10 Godthul**
Afternoon Landing 14/12/2024
 - 11 Gold Harbour**
Morning Split Landing/Zodiac Cruise 15/12/2024
 - 12 Cooper Bay**
Afternoon Zodiac Cruise 15/12/2024

10 **Point Wild, Elephant Island**
Ships Cruise 18/12/2024



- 10** **Charcot Bay**
Zodiac Cruise
19/12/2024
- 17** **Deception Island**
Early Morning Landing
22/12/2024
- 18** **Elephant Point**
Landing
22/12/2024



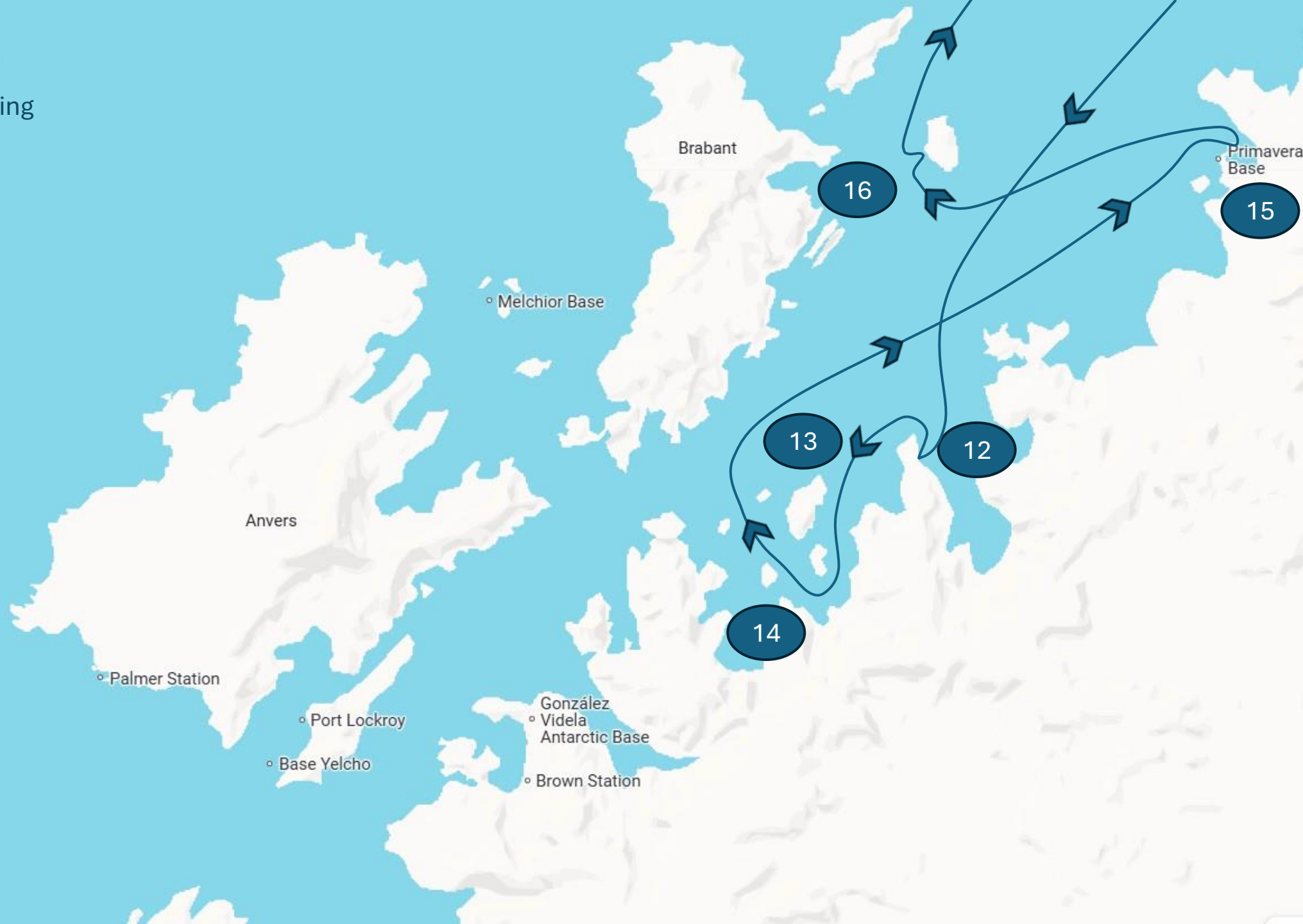
12 **Portal Point**
Continental Landing
20/12/2024

13 **Foyen Harbour**
Zodiac Cruise
20/12/2024

14 **Wilhelmina Bay**
Ships Cruise
20/12/2024

15 **Cierva Cove**
Zodiac Cruise
21/12/2024

16 **Palavar Point**
Landing
21/12/2024



Species list: Breeding birds and common marine mammals of the Falklands			6. Dec	7. Dec	8. Dec	9. Dec	10. Dec
English	Latin	Deutsch					
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	Königspinguin			x		
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	Eselspinguin	x		x	x	
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	Magellan-Pinguin	x	x	x	x	
Southern Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>	Felsenpinguin		x	x	x	
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	Goldschopfpinguin					
Grey-headed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche chrystoma</i>			x			
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	Schwarzbrauenalbatross		x	x	x	x
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wanderalbatross					x
Light-mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>					x	x
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Königsalbatros		x		x	x
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	Nördlicher Königsalbatros					
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	Nördlicher Riesensturmvogel		x			x
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Südlicher Riesensturmvogel	x	x	x	x	x
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	Feensturmvogel					
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>	Belcher-Sturmvogel					x
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	Weißkinnsturmvogel		x	x	x	x
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	Dunkelsturmtaucher		x	x	x	x
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>	Großer Sturmtaucher		x		x	x
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Buntfußsturmschwalbe		x	x	x	x
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>	Graurücken-Sturmschwalbe				x	
Black-bellied Storm Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>					x	x
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>	Lummensturmvogel					
Magellanic Diving Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>	Magellanischer Tauchsturmvogel	x	x			
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Süedlicher Sturmtaucher	x	x			
Snowy Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>	Weißgesicht-Scheidenschnabel					
Rock Shag	<i>Leucocarbo magellanicus</i>	Rock-Shag			x	x	
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	Blauaugenscharbe	x		x	x	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax falklandicus</i>	Nachtreiher				x	
Black-necked Swan	<i>Cygnus melanochoyphus</i>	Schwarzhalsschwan					

Coscoroba Swan	<i>Coscoroba coscoroba</i>	Coscorobaschwan					
Upland Goose	<i>Chloephaga picta</i>	Magellangans			x	x	
Kelp Goose	<i>Chloephaga hybrida</i>	Tanggans			x	x	
Ruddy-headed Goose	<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>	Rotkopfgans			x		
Flying Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres patachonicus</i>	Langflügel-Dampfschiffente					
Falkland Flightless Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres brachypterus</i>	Falkland-Dampfschiffente			x	x	
Crested Duck	<i>Lophonetta specularioides</i>	Schopfente			x	x	
Chiloe Wigion	<i>Anas sibilatrix</i>	Chilepfeifente					
Speckled Teal	<i>Anas flavirostris</i>	Chile-Krickente					
Yellow-billed pintail	<i>Anas georgica spinicauda</i>	Spitzschwanzente					
Silver Teal	<i>Anas versicolor fretensis</i>	Silberente				x	
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	Zimtente					
White-tufted Grebe	<i>Rollandia rolland rolland</i>	Rolland-Taucher				x	
Silvery Grebe	<i>Podiceps occipitalis</i>	Inkataucher					
Great Grebe	<i>Podiceps major</i>	Magellantaucher					
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Truthahngeier			x	x	
Red-backed Hawk/Variable Hawk	<i>Buteo polysoma</i>	Rotrückenbussard			x	x	
Striated Caracara	<i>Phalcoboenus australis</i>	Falklandkarakara			x	x	
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>	Schopfkarakara			x		
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus cassini</i>	Wanderfalke					
Magellanic Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus leucopodus</i>	Feuerland-Austernfischer			x	x	
Blackish Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ater</i>	Südamerikanischer Austernfischer			x	x	
Two-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius falklandicus</i>	Falkland-Regenpfeifer				x	
Rufous-chested Dotterel	<i>Charadrius modestus</i>	Rotbrust-Regenpfeifer				x	
Magellanic Snipe	<i>Gallinago paraguaiiae magellanica</i>	Falkland-Bekassine				x	
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>	Subantarktiskua		x	x	x	x
Chilean Skua	<i>Stercorarius chilensis</i>	Chileskua					
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Falkenraubmöwe					
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	Blutschnabelmöwe	x		x	x	
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Dominikanermöwe	x		x	x	
Brown-hooded Gull	<i>Larus maculipennis</i>	Patagonienmöwe			x		
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundacea</i>	Falklandseeschwalbe	x		x	x	
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe					

Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba tuidara</i>	Schleiereule					
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus sanfordi</i>	Sumpfohreule					
Blackish Cinclodes (Tussack Bird)	<i>Cinclodes antarcticus antarcticus</i>	Einfarb-Uferwipper			x		
Dark-faced ground- tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola m. macloviana</i>	Maskentyrann			x	x	
Falkland Pipit	<i>Anthus correndera grayi</i>	Falklandpieper			x	x	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Hausesperling				x	
Falkland Grass Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis falklandica</i>	Seggenzaunkönig			x	x	
Cobb's Wren	<i>Troglodytes cobbi</i>	Hauszaunkönig					
Black-throated Finch/ Canary-winged Finch	<i>Melanodera melanodera melanodera</i>	Schwarzkehl-Ammerfink			x	x	
Chilean Swallow	<i>Tachycinata leucopyga</i>	Chile-Baumschwalbe					
Falkland Thrush	<i>Turdus falklandii falklandii</i>	Magellandrossel			x	x	
Black-chinned Siskin	<i>Carduelis barbata</i>	Bartzeisig			x	x	
Long-tailed Meadow Lark	<i>Sturnella loyca falklandica</i>	Langschwanz-Soldatenstärling			x	x	
Eared Dove	<i>Zenaida auriculata</i>	Ohrentaube					
Marine mammals							
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>	Zwergwal					
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal			x	x	
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal					
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal		x		x	
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal	x	x	x	x	x
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	Suedlicher Glattwal					
Southern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>	Südlicher Entenwal					
Straptoothed Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon layardii</i>	Layard-Wal					
Long Finned Pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Grindwal					
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal					
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>	Stundenglasdelfin		x		x	
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	Peale-Delfin			x		
Commerson's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>	Commerson-Delfin			x		
Southern Sea Lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>	Mähnenrobbe	x	x	x	x	
South American Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus australis</i>	Südamerikanischer Seebär			x		
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonina</i>				x		

Extra Sightings							
Correndera Pipit	<i>Anthus correndera</i>			x	x		
Spectacled Porpoise	<i>Phocoena dioptrica</i>					x	
Goose-beaked (Cuvier's) Whale	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>						x
Antarctic Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>						x

Birds		11 Dec	12 Dec	13 Dec	14 Dec	15 Dec	16 Dec	17 Dec
English	Latin							
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	x	x				x	x
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>		x				x	x
Light Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	x	x	x		x	x	x
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	x						
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>							
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	x	x	x	x	x		
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>		x	x	x	x		
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>		x			x		x
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>		x	x	x	x		
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>		x	x		x	x	x
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>		x	x	x	x		
Cape Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>		x	x		x	x	x
Soft-plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	x						
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>					x	x	
South Georgia Diving Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides georgicus</i>					x	x	
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>			x		x		
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>							x
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>		x			x	x	x
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Slender / Thin-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>			x		x	x	
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>					x		
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>	x		x		x	x	x
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>							
Kerguelen Petrel	<i>Aphrodroma brevirostris</i>						x	
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>							
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>		x	x	x	x		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>							
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>		x	x	x	x		x
South Polar Skua	<i>Stercorarius chilensis</i>							

[illegible]

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

Species list: Breeding birds			18 Dec	19 Dec	20 Dec	21 Dec	22 Dec	23 Dec	24 Dec
English	Latin	Deutsch							
Adelie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>	Adeliepinguin		x					
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>	Eselspinguin		x	x	x	x		
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>	Zuegelpinguin	x	x	x	x	x		
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	Goldschopfpinguin							x
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	Magellan Pinguin							
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wanderalbatross							
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	Noerdlicher Koenigsalbatros							x
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Südlicher Koenigsalbatros							x
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	Schwarzbrauenalbatross	x	x				x	x
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>	Graukopfalbatross						x	
Light Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	Graumantelrußalbatross	x					x	
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Südlicher Riesensturmvogel		x	x	x	x	x	x
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	Noerdlicher Riesensturmvogel		x	x			x	x
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	Weißkinnsturmvogel		x				x	x
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>	Silbersturmvogel	x	x	x	x			
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>	Kapsturmvogel	x	x	x	x	x		
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>	Weißflügelsturmvogel		x		x			
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>	Blausturmvogel						x	
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>	Schneesturmvogel							
Soft-plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	Weichfedersturmvogel						x	
Kerguelen Petrel	<i>Aphrodroma brevirostris</i>	Kerguelen-Sturmvogel							
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Buntfußsturmschwalbe		x	x	x	x	x	x
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>	Schwarzbauchmeerläufer						x	
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>	Lummensturmvogel							
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	Taubensturmvogel	x					x	
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>	Antarktikscharbe	x	x	x	x	x		
Snowy Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>	Weißgesicht-Scheidenschnabel				x	x		
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Dominikanermöwe		x	x	x	x		
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>	Antipodenseeschwalbe	x	x	x	x	x		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Küstenseeschwalbe							

South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundacea</i>	Suedamerikanische Seeschwalbe							
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>	Antarktiskua		x	x				
Brown Skua	<i>Catharacta lonnbergi</i>	Sub-Antarktischer Skua		x	x	x	x		x

Marine mammals			18 Dec	19 Dec	20 Dec	21 Dec	22 Dec	23 Dec	24 Dec
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>	Südlicher Zwergwal							
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Buckelwal		x	x	x	x		
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blauwal							
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Finnwal						x	
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Seiwal							
Killer Whale (Orca)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Schwertwal				x		x	
Southern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>	Südlicher Entenwal							
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>	Stundenglasdelfin							
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	Peale-Delfin							
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>	Schwarzdelfin							x
Commerson's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>	Commerson-Delfin							
Crabeater Seal	<i>Lobodon carcinophaga</i>	Krabbenfresser							
Weddell Seal	<i>Leptonychotes weddellii</i>	Weddell Robbe			x		x		
Leopard Seal	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>	Leoparden Robbe				x			
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonina</i>	Südlicher See-Elefant		x	x		x		
Southern Sea Lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>	Suedlicher Seeloewe							
Antarctic Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>	Antarktischer Seebaer							

Extra Sightings									
English	Latin	Deutsch							
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>				x				
Slender/Thin-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>								x
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>								x
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>								x

Adam Burke – Expedition Leader



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

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

After spending five years teaching white water safety & rescue and boat handling techniques to the fire brigade, he moved

on to providing marine science support in Antarctica. He has spent over five years living between the Antarctic continent and the island of South Georgia, including overwintering twice.

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

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

Stefanie Liller – Asst. Exp. Leader



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

A large part of her career was spent as a coach. It was always very important to her to make her own skills available to people curious and interested, and to look after their safety and lasting enjoyment in the sport. Starting in 2011 she managed several indoor skydiving facilities in Germany and Austria. In addition to her professional career, Stefanie is an avid world-traveller by foot or public transport. While exploring various landscapes and communities on all seven continents, she enjoys sharing her experiences and unique moments with others. Since 2017 Stefanie has been working as an independent coach in skydiving and indoor skydiving and guide or lector on several vessels in remote areas. Stefanie has chosen Vienna, Austria as her home base, and lives there in between trips.

Chloe Power – Expedition Guide



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

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

Her background is undergrad studies in marine biology at Southern Cross University in the Northern Rivers region of NSW Australia - where she focused on intertidal zones and mollusc ecology. She then completed a master's in

marine and Antarctic science at the University of Tasmania in Hobart where she studied plankton communities and the effects of sea ice on Antarctic food webs.

Chloe travelled down to Antarctica in 2018 with Antarctica New Zealand where her obsession for the ice began, and she well and truly caught the ‘polar bug’. She has guided in the Kimberley region of north-western Australia, the Antarctic Peninsula, the Subantarctic Islands and the Ross Sea.

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

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

William Kennedy – Expedition Guide



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

Curiosity brought him all over Europe, working as a farmer in Iceland, building cabins in the Pyrenees, bartending in Scotland, carpentering in Norway and becoming a kitchen chef in Sweden.

While living yet another adventure on the remote archipelago of Svalbard, he discovered the polar world and its famous adventurers.

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

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

Koen Hoekemeijer – Exp. Guide



Koen Hoekemeijer was born in 1974 in The Netherlands. When it comes to nature and wildlife Koen was quite a late bloomer as he had always been more into nightlife and sunny beaches. But that all changed when he discovered his passion for wildlife and photography in 2009 in Costa Rica. It was during this trip that Koen saw his first humpback whales and he fell in love with them instantly. Not only did it make him eager to see more and different types of whales in locations all over the world, but he also wanted to learn to take better photos of these amazing creatures. And with the love for whales

and photography, came a broader passion for all sorts of wildlife.

Since that memorable vacation in 2009, Koen has been travelling the planet to see and photograph the world's most beautiful places. Usually from boats, jeeps or simply face down in the mud, but since 2016 also underwater. Snorkeling in the presence of whales and orcas is bringing Koen pure happiness.

Among his favourite animals are whales, orcas, penguins, tigers and jaguars. But in between safaris, he also likes to do street photography and capture life and portraits of people all over the world.

Koen believes that travelling does not only enrich your life, it also makes you more humble, more appreciative and it provides new levels of perspective and understanding. Koen has won the prestigious WWF Frans Lanting Photo contest, and in 2020 he won the Ellen Fitzgibbon Memorial Photography competition. It's Koen's dream to one day have a Vizsla dog and own a small cabin somewhere in northern Norway surrounded by snow and trees ;).

Keechy Akkerman – Exp. Guide



Growing up in a big city (The Hague, The Netherlands) the outdoors has always fascinated Keechy, especially the Polar Regions. She has travelled to Norway repeatedly; for holiday, to work on a sheep farm, and to conduct research on the island Jan Mayen. During her studies in Biology and Geology her passion led her to follow several courses at the University Centre in Svalbard, and she fell in love with the area.

For Keechy's final internship with TNO (The Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research) in 2015, she had the amazing opportunity to participate in a scientific expedition (SEES) to Edgeøya, located in the southeast of the Svalbard archipelago. The aim of the expedition was to study the impact of anthropogenic activity in one of the most remote and pristine areas on earth, thereby highlighting the relevance of Arctic research in the context of current transitions. This expedition was in collaboration with Oceanwide Expeditions and after talking to the guides, she became very enthusiastic to work as a Polar Tour guide as well.

In 2016 Keechy moved to the UK to take on a PhD on lake ecosystems in Greenland. Her fieldwork allowed her to complete the Arctic Circle Trail in Greenland, a 10-day hike from the ice sheet to the coast. She spends most of her weekends exploring all the national parks the UK has to offer, in the form of hiking, camping, climbing, paddling and winter mountaineering. After her PhD she decided to change career paths and start sharing her love for nature and outdoor activities (with the younger generation) as an outdoor instructor for Outward Bound and as an Expedition Guide for Oceanwide Expeditions!

Svatava Spěváčková – Exp.Guide



From a young age, Svataava was inspired by the stories of travel and mountain climbing told by her parents and grandparents. On many of her birthdays, she received an ice cream cake shaped like a mountain.

This clearly had a lasting impact on her. For as long as she can remember, she has had a passion for cold temperatures and all kinds of adventures.

At just 8 years old, she began cross-country skiing competitively, a pursuit she continued for 10 years. It was during this time that her lifelong love for the

outdoors and sports was born.

When she was 15, Svataava set out to hike across Sarek National Park in Sweden, known as "Europe's last wilderness."

It was during this journey that Svataava became enchanted by the beauty of wild, untamed landscapes.

Since 2018, Svataava has worked as a mountain guide and has spent two winter seasons as a musher, dog-sledding beyond the Arctic Circle in Scandinavia. She also undertook several ski expeditions in the region.

As a trained paramedic, she completed the Polar Medicine Course in Northern Norway and continues to expand her skillset in challenging environments.

These experiences have led her even further north, to the high Arctic, where she has worked with the Czech Arctic Research Station in Svalbard in recent years.

Katlyn Taylor – Expedition Guide



Katlyn is an Expedition Guide originally from the Pacific Northwest of the United States. She grew up learning tidepool animals on the Oregon Coast.

She comes from a background as a captain and guide on whale watching boats all over the US. She has worked in both the North Atlantic and North Pacific for over 9 years. In 2023 she shifted her career to expedition guiding and has worked in Antarctica and Alaska. She has guided trips in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and Southeast Alaska throughout the past summer.

Her passions are facilitating experiences with wildlife, educating people about the marine life they encounter, and inspiring conservation actions among her guests. She loves the community that can be built around citizen science projects in these remote places in the world. Staying curious about the natural world and spending time outside looking for wildlife are two of her favorite things to do each trip.

She received bachelors' degrees from Oregon State University in Marine Biology and International Studies. She's a Junior Fellow with the Safina Center of Stonybrook University. Her biggest passion and love are marine mammals, especially whales. She co-hosts a show called The Whalenerd's Podcast, a science communication project about whales and other ocean related topics.

Geerte Beesems – Ships doctor



Geerte is an emergency physician from Rotterdam in the Netherlands. She grew up in a rural part in the south of the country and went to study in Groningen. Besides her degree in Medicine, she also completed a bachelor in Life, Science and Technology majoring in biomedical sciences. During her study she got the opportunity to do part of her research in the USA. She combined this with traveling for an extended period of time, and this started her love for adventurous traveling all over the world.

After finishing medschool she went on to work as a registrar in the ED in Rotterdam, this sparked her interest in the field of emergency medicine. The possibility of working as an emergency physician all over the world made her decide to pursue this career. She went on to work on the island of Aruba for over a year, then COVID hit. This caused her to return to the Netherlands to work in the ICU department in a hospital in The Hague. Then she started her residency in emergency medicine, which she now recently completed and has started working as an emergency physician.

Over the years she has faced multiple (medical) challenges, i.e. flooding of a hospital, fire in a hospital, a ransomware attack during shift, and also COVID was challenging on a small island with just 1 hospital. This is when she loves her job the most. Being flexible and creative in finding solutions in before unthinkable situations. Colleagues told her about being a ship doctor for Oceanwide Expeditions and this had been on her mind for years. Waiting to finish residency to be able to take the time off from work. This time is now and she can't be more excited to be your ship doctor.

She is here to help with all your medical issues and is looking forward to meeting you.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica Ushuaia

Embarkation

Friday 6th December 2024

- 1600 **Welcome on board!** Your luggage should be in your cabin when you arrive. Please check carefully if you are missing any luggage and if there is luggage in your cabin that does not belong to you then please let one of the staff know. Please feel free to explore the ship.
Tea and coffee are available in the Lounge on Deck 5.
- >1700 **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Instruction** in the Lounge. **ALL PASSENGERS** are required to participate in this very important instruction.
- 1800 Departure from the pier.
- 1845 Please join us in the Lounge for an **introduction to the ship** from your Hotel Manager Alex.
This will be followed by **Captain's Cocktails**, a chance to meet your Captain, Artur Iakovlev and then you will meet with your Expedition Leader Adam Burke. He will explain the plans for the coming days, and it will be a chance to meet with your Expedition Team.
- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk.
Enjoy your meal.

Tonight we will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Please make sure that all your valuables (cameras, computers, etc.) are properly stowed in your cabin to avoid accidents. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to the Falkland Islands
Saturday 7th December 2024

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **IAATO, Biosecurity and Zodiac Briefing.** This morning, we have some obligatory briefings before we visit the places we would like to see throughout the trip. Please join Adam in the lounge for the **mandatory briefing** on deck 5.
- If you need to clean your outdoor gear and remove seeds or mud, we will have a vacuum cleaner stationed in the library on deck 5.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 **Boots.** At this time, we would like to give out the rubber boots that you need for your trip. We will do this by deck so please listen for announcements. The Boot Room is on Deck 3.
- 1600 **Seabirds.** If you would like to learn more about the iconic birds wandering the oceans, join Steffi in the lounge on deck 5.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

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Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Westpoint and Saunders Islands
Sunday 8th December 2024

0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.

Wooley Gut, a narrow channel between West Point Island and West Falkland Island.

0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

~0800 **Westpoint Island.** This morning, we hope to take you ashore on Westpoint Island. The first landing will be at the settlement with houses that are over 150 years old. The bay is plentiful in wildlife offering many different bird species. A 2,2 km walk across the island brings you to Devils Nose where you will find a colony of Black-browed albatross and southern rockhopper penguins.

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

~1400 **Saunders Island.** This afternoon we hope to be able to land at 'The Neck'. Here there are Gentoo, Magellanic, King and Rockhopper Penguins as well as Black Browed Albatross, Imperial Shag and maybe some dolphins playing in the waves. You can walk along the side of the hill to visit the Rockhopper penguins and a small Black Browed albatross colony. Please follow the markers.

1830 Please meet **Adam** in the lounge for the plans for next day.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

On shore please remember your 5 metre distance from wildlife and move slowly and quietly by the wildlife colonies. Due to Avian flu we are not allowed to sit, kneel or lie down on shore. Please respect the guidance from the staff who are here to ensure you have a great visit but are also here to protect the wildlife.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica Stanley

Monday 9th December 2024

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 **Stanley.** We hope to be able to take you ashore in Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. We will land at the jetty which is close to the centre of town. Maps and other information leaflets are available in the Jetty Centre.
Enjoy a visit to the museum and a walk along the sea front where you will find the shops.
Local currency is Pounds Sterling but you can use Euros and Dollars in most shops. Debit and Credit cards are also accepted.
WiFi internet cards can be bought at the Jetty Centre and used at WiFi hotspots in town.
- 1300 **Lunch** is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1530 **Photography.** You will take many pictures throughout this trip. If you would like to learn more about the technic of photography, join Koen in the lounge on deck 5.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for the re-cap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room.

We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Please make sure that all your valuables (cameras, computers, etc.) are properly stowed in your cabin to avoid accidents. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to South Georgia
Tuesday 10th December 2024

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **South Georgia Briefing and Biosecurity.**
This morning we will have the briefing for our visit to South Georgia followed by our biosecurity procedure.
After the briefing, we will call you by deck to bring all your outer gear, boots, tripods and walking poles you plan to use during your time of the trip. We will inspect them with you and take care we are not bringing any invasive species or diseases to the places we would like to visit.
- 1230 **Lunch** is available in the Dining Room.
- 1400 In case we have not finished biosecurity, we will continue with the remaining decks. We will announce it.
- 1530 **Whales.** There are numerous species of whales living in the Southern Ocean region and we hope to see many of them during our voyage. If you would like to learn more about these marine mammals, then please join Kathlyn in the Lounge.
- 1700 **Penguins.** We could see already many penguin species on the Falkland Islands. Koen will talk about these seabirds, please join him in the lounge.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Please make sure that all your valuables (cameras, computers, etc.) are properly stowed in your cabin to avoid accidents. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to South Georgia
Wednesday 11th December 2024

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Seals.** We will see different species of seals of the Southern Ocean. Chloe will talk more about these marine mammals, please join her in the lounge
- 1100 **Shackleton movie.** The story of Shackletons Imperial Trans-Antarctic expedition went not accordingly the original plan. We will screen a movie about this incredible story of survival in the lounge.
- 1200 **Lunch** is available in the Dining Room. **At this time, we will move the clock forward to 1300 adjusting to the time zone of South Georgia.**
- 1500 You will take many photos of animals throughout the trip. Join our lecture about “10 tips for wildlife photography” by Koen in the lounge.
- tba We will pass **Shag Rocks**, 6 small islets west of the coast of South Georgia. These rocks are home to a high number of South Georgia Shags and some other seabirds, but also marine wildlife is often plentiful.
If conditions allow enjoy the visit on the outer decks.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow, our first day on South Georgia.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

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Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Right Whale Bay and Salisbury Plain

Thursday 12th December 2024

0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.

0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

+/-0800 **Right Whale Bay.** This morning, we hope to take you ashore at Right Whale Bay where there is a colony of King penguins – 25,000 as well as Elephant seals and Fur seals. Please follow the marker poles to the colony and remember your distance from wildlife.

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

+/-1500 **Salisbury Plain.** This afternoon we will take you out for a Zodiac Cruise at Salisbury Plain. This place is home for 70.000 breeding pairs of king penguins and we hope to see many also swimming in the water. The beaches will be full of Wildlife. Please dress warmly.

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow, our first day on South Georgia.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck. Enjoy your meal.

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

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

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Husvik and Grytviken

Friday 13th December 2024

- 0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0800 **Husvik.** This morning, we plan to do a Zodiac Cruise at Husvik. This is an abandoned whalingstation that started to operate in 1907. You will get the chance to see the remains of the station and wildlife on the beaches and in the water around the station.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- +/-1400 **Grytviken.** Today we plan to visit Grytviken.
First, we get some information of the *South Georgia Antarctic Heritage Trust* on board the ship. After, we will drop you at the cemetery to have a toast of Whiskey with the Boss Shackleton and from there you can walk towards the former whalingstation, visit the museum and the post office. There is a small tour around the whalingstation at 3:30 PM starting at the museum.
The museum and the postoffice will accept creditcards. (No AMEX)
Around the area you will find a high number of wildlife, please always keep your distance of 5m and please stay on the path.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

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

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

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

St. Andrews Bay and Godthul
Saturday 14th December 2024

0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.

0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0800 **St. Andrews Bay.** We plan to land on St. Andrews Bay which is home to the largest King penguin colony on South Georgia. Please follow the poles towards the colony and enjoy the wildlife along the beach and at the colony.

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

Godthul. We try to land in Godthul. We will hike up through Tussac gras up to some gentoo colonies. The views are really nice. The area is great for South Georgia Pipits and Pintails.

You have 3 options to join us:

- 1) A landing: walking up to the first plateau to see gentoo penguins and more birdlife along the vegetation. The views are amazing. The first part is a bit steep with big steps and gets easier after a few hundred meters.
- 2) A long hike to Edda Hill. If you would like to join this one, please be at the gangway first, we will take long hikers out first.
- 3) If you feel, you would not like to go up the hill. You can join for a Zodiac cruise around the bay. Please come to the gangway last.
There is no possibility to walk along the shoreline.

1815 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 A special **Dinner** is served. Listen to the announcements and dress warmly.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Gold Harbour and Cooper Bay

Sunday 15th December 2024

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 **Gold Harbour.** We like to bring you ashore at Gold Harbour. It is home of a smaller King penguin colony, elephantseals, furseals. The scenery is stunning.
- 1200 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1330 **Cooper Bay.** Our last activity in South Georgia will be a Zodiac cruise at the southern tip of South Georgia. We hope to show you Macaroni and Chinstrap penguins, as well as the other incredible wildlife on South Georgia.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for the re-cap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

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

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to Antarctica

Monday 16th December 2024

The lecture programme may be dependent on the sea conditions. Please listen for any announcements.

There will be no wake up call, but you will get called for breakfast.

- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Krill.** Antarctic Krill is one of the most important species in the Antarctic Foodchain. If you would like to learn more about it, please join Steffi in the lounge.
- 1100 **Shackleton Death or Glory.** 2013 a Team from UK reenacted the Shackleton Rescue of 1916. It is serie of 3 epsiodes showing this incredible journey.
We will stream Episode 1, join us in the lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1530 **Ice Ice Baby.** We are heading south towards the glaciated continent of Antarctica. Join Keechy in the lounge to learn more about the types of ice we experience there.
- 1800 **South Georgia Auction.** We collected some surprise objects in South Georgia. We will auction them with some other interesting items. All income of the auction will be in the benefit of the South Georgia Heritage Trust.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

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

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to Antarctica
Tuesday 17th December 2024

We will change clocks tonight. We will switch at 2 AM to 1 AM.

- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Shackleton Death or Glory.** We show the second episode of the documentary.
- 1030 **Bio-Security checks.** Although we got 100% in our bio-security inspection in South Georgia we now need to check our outer gear before we go to Antarctica. Please bring your outer gear and backpacks to the Lounge once again for the staff to check and then you will need to sign the IAATO self-declaration form. We will call you by deck.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1330-1430 *If you purchased items on the auction meet Steffi in the lounge for payments*
- 1500 **A Year in the life of a Humpback Whale.** We saw already many Humpback Whales and hope to see more of them. Katlyn will tell you more about these intelligent whales. Please join her in the lounge
- 1630 **Tom Crean.** Tom Crean played an important role in many expeditions in the heroic age. If you would like to learn more about this interesting Irish man, join Will in the lounge
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

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Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to Antarctica

Wednesday 18th December 2024

- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Sea Ice Ecology.** Sea Ice is an important ecosystem for many species down here. Meet Chloe in the lounge to learn more about the processes and the importance of sea ice for the animal down south.
- 1100 **Shackleton Death or Glory.** We show the third and final episode of the documentary.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Hypothermia.** We will spend a lot of time in cold environment, if you would like to learn more about the risks and treatments in cold areas join Svata in the lounge.
- 1630 **Amundsen.** Amundsen is probably one of the most famous explorer of the Heroic age. If you would like to learn more about his life and character, please join Will in the lounge.
- 1800 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1830 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.
- TBA We hope to be at Point Wild in the evening. When conditions allow, we would like to take you on a Zodiac Cruise.
Please listen to the announcements!

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

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Heading further south

Thursday 19th December 2024

- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Polar Adaptations.** The living conditions for the animals in the polar regions are challenging. If you would like to learn more about the adaptation to this environment, join Steffi in the lounge.
- 1100 **Burrito Wrap.** Svata and Geerte will prepare little workshops for you. You can learn how to wrap a person and refresh your knowledge in CPR. Sign in for this and listen to the announcements.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Antarctic Geopolitics.** We heard already much about rules and regulations south of 60 degrees. If you would like learn more about it, join Will in the lounge.
- 1600 **Expedition Afternoon.** Depending on the conditions we hope to take you out.

Stay flexible and listen to the announcements.

- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Portal Point & Foyn Harbour

Friday 20th December 2024

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 **Portal Point.** This morning we will arrive in Charlotte Bay and try to land at Portal Point which is part of the Antarctic continent. Please join us on shore. The view over the bay with icebergs and surrounding glaciers is stunning.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1400 **Foyn Harbour.** In the afternoon we want to take you out for a Zodiac Cruise around Enterprise Island. In a little bay called Foyn Harbour, we will see the shipwreck of the Guvernøren. The ship was used during the whalingtime and was set aground. Dress warmly and join us on a Zodiac Cruise.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Buffet Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.
- 2000 **Wilhelmina Bay. Shipcruise.** We will explore Wilhelmina Bay on board of Plancius. It is a beautiful Bay surrounded by many glaciers and it is a good place to observe whales.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Cierva Cove and Palaver Point

Saturday 21st December 2024

- 0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0800 **Cierva Cove.** This morning we would like to take you out in Zodiac to explore the region of Cierva Cove. There we also can see the Argentinian Station Primavera. The bay is home to Chinstrap and Gentoo penguins and we also hope to find seal and whales. Dress warm and join us for the cruise.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- +/-1415 **Palaver Point.** In the afternoon we would like to visit Palaver Point which is located on Two Hummock Island. The scenery is stunning and some chinstraps penguins also call this place home.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Buffet Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Deception Island & Elephant Point

Sunday 22nd December 2024

- 0600 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0600 We will pass the Neptunes Bellow and enter the Caldera of Deception Island. Enjoy the amazing views on the outer decks.
- 0630 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0715 **Telefon Bay.** This morning we will enter the caldera of Deception Island and visit Telefon Bay. The landscape will differ much from what we saw before. The volcanic landscape is stunning.
We will take you for a walk to a viewpoint and at the end of the landing you will get the chance to make a **polar plunge**. You will bring the courage. We will bring the towels.
- 1200 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1330 **Elephant Point.** Our last landing will be on Livingston Island and give us a chance to see hopefully some elephant seals, some penguins and nesting seabirds. Join us for our last landing before we head back to Ushuaia.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

In the evening we will begin to head out into the Drake Passage. Please make sure all your belongings are secure and if you need any seasickness medication then please see the doctor at lunch time.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Drake Passage

Monday 23rd December 2024

There will be no wake up call this morning, but Aleks will wake you for breakfast anyway!

- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Ice Ice Maybe.** Join Keechy in the lounge for some thought about ice and our climate. What showed the past, what do we see in the present and hear more about an outlook into the future.
- 1100 **Whales and their role as ecosystem engineers.** The whales we saw throughout the trip play an important role in the ecosystem, learn more about it and join Katlyn in the lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1530 **Oldest Race in Aviation.** We shared together many adventures in the past days. Join Steffi for a talk about her adventure participating in the Oldest Race in Aviation, the Gordon Bennett Gasballoon Race.
- 1700 **Life on Antarctic Research Stations.** Chloe has been privileged to spend some time on one of the Antarctic Research stations where life is very different to anywhere on earth. Please join her in the Lounge to hear more.
- 1830 **Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for the re-cap of the day and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

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Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica Drake Passage

Tuesday 24th December 2024

MERRY X-MAS

- 0745 **Special Wake up call this morning!!**
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Whale Guiding in Iceland and Tonga.** Koen worked as a whale guide in Iceland and Tonga. Join him in the lounge for some stories.
- 1100 **Life on South Georgia and Antarctic Research Station.** Adam has a spent quite some time in the regions that we just visited. Join him in the lounge to learn more about this special time in his life.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Around Cape Hoorn.** We will stream a great documentation about old sailors crossing Cape Hoorn in earlier days.
- 1630 **Q&A Session with the Crew of Plancius.** We will give you the chance to ask questions to our Bridge Team, Engine Department, Galley Team. Join us in the lounge to get the answer you were looking for the entire trip.
- TBA **Boots!** It is time to return your boots Please make sure they are clean, and you have taken any personal liners out. If you borrowed a red bag, please return it at this time. We will call you by deck.
- 1800 **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join the Expedition team and Captain Artur Iakovlev in the Lounge to toast our successful voyage.
- 1900 **Farewell Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal!

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica Ushuaia

Wednesday 25th December 2024



MERRY X-MAS

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

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

If you do not fly out in the morning, you can leave your luggage in the luggage storage until 14:00.

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

Please identify your luggage on the pier and make sure it goes to the airport bus, the luggage storage or you take it with you!!!!

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

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

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

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