



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

10-29 December 2024

On board *M/V Ortelius*



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



Captain Per Andersson [Sweden]

and his international crew of 52

Chief Officer:	Nicolās Dámeto Ordinas	[Spain]
Second Officer:	Ward Dekkers	[Netherlands]
Third Officer:	Archer Cultura	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Floris Oskam	[Netherlands]
Second Engineer:	Jhunwel Yuzon	[Philippines]
Hotel Manager:	Volodymyr Cherednychenko	[Ukraine]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	Karolina Guziejko	[Poland]
Head Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Sous Chef:	Sergei Sklyarov	[Ukraine]
Bosun:	Philip Malang	[Philippines]
Bartender:	Glaiza Loterina	[Philippines]
Ship's doctor:	Edwin Van Leeuwen	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Sara Jenner	[United Kingdom]
Assistant Expedition Leader:	Chris Long	[New Zealand]
Expedition Guide:	Simon Davies	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide:	Hana Spickova	[Czech Republic]
Expedition Guide:	Koen Jongerling	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Bill Smith	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide:	Jens Binderup	[Denmark]
Expedition Guide:	Joyce Mulder	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Julian Robinson	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide (until Stanley):	Allan White	[Falkland Islands]
Expedition Guide / Translator:	Yu Kan Cheng	[China]
Expedition Guide / Translator:	Shan Zhou	[China]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Tuesday 10 December, Ushuaia, Embarkation Day.

16:00 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S / 068°17.8'W

Wind: SW force 5 • Sea: n/a • Weather: Part Cloudy • Air temperature: +9°C

The day had finally come! It was time to leave Ushuaia and board the good ship *Ortelius* for our epic expedition. The crew and expedition team had loaded our luggage onboard and delivered it to our cabins earlier in the day. All that remained was for us to take a few photos of *Ortelius*, our home for the next ten days, before heading up the gangway.



We were warmly welcomed by the crew and expedition team who assisted us in finding our cabins. We had some time to explore the ship, get our bearings and grab a coffee in the bar, then it was time to gather in the lecture room for the mandatory ship safety briefing where we met Expedition Leader Sara Jenner, and heard from the Safety Officer, who gave a practical demonstration on how to put on our emergency life jackets.

We underwent the abandon ship drill, putting-on our lifejackets and heading outside to be shown to the lifeboats, where we realised that we had already cast-off from the pier and our journey was underway! Following the drill, we assembled in the bar where Captain Per welcomed us with champagne and canapés, Hotel Manager Volodymyr talked about the shipboard services, and Sara gave an overview of the voyage and introduced the expedition team.

It was soon time for our first evening meal, with a delicious buffet selection prepared by Head Chef Ivan and his galley team, served by the friendly dining room staff. After dinner we were called back to the bar so that two more mandatory briefings could be delivered in the sheltered waters of the Beagle Channel. Sara first briefed us on the Antarctic Visitor Guidelines, as laid down by IAATO – the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators – of which Oceanwide is a founding member, and this was then followed by the Zodiac safety briefing.



With the formalities out of the way, many of us went onto the outside decks to enjoy what remained of the Beagle channel, marvelling at the spectacular mountains on either side in the evening light, scanning the waters for seabirds such as the Black-Browed Albatross, whales and dolphins. A brief sighting of a Sei whale was the evening highlight.

Day 2 – Wednesday 11 December, At sea towards the Falkland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 53°32.2'S / 063°29.6'W

Wind: NNW force 7 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +7°C



A good number of very keen passengers were up and about very early on the first morning of our expedition, many of which were very excited to experience the abundance of wildlife which abounds in this Southern Ocean. They were certainly not disappointed, as right from the start the ship was escorted on its way by spectacular Giant Petrels and Black-browed Albatrosses cruising past the ship as if we were standing still whilst they seldom even flapped.

Each new bird was greeted by shouts and the clicking of cameras as we soaked in the unforgettable scenes. Soon though, it was time for our first ship's breakfast which was closely followed by Simon giving a presentation on the bird species we hoped to encounter on our first landing in The Falklands on the next day. As soon as it was over he urged everyone in the bar to head out and experience some of the seabirds following the ship first-hand.

Mid-morning saw the first shouts of whale blows seen from the bridge and with the very understanding and skilled bridge team we slowed the boat and were treated to some brilliantly close Humpback Whales – one of which did a full breach in front of the admiring crowd. Next on the agenda was stowaway Allan's talk on actually living in the Falklands, not just in the main city of Stanley but out on some of the more remote islands of the archipelago. Almost inevitably, Allan was interrupted before the end of his talk by shouts from the bridge of more whale-blows ahead, but no one really minded, least of all Allan!



After lunch, the expedition team handed out muck boots to all the passengers, an essential bit of kit for the weeks ahead of us and back to scanning the ocean for more wildlife. Sara's afternoon talk was slightly delayed as more whales were sighted ahead of the ship. This was more special though: after some good views and some questioning glances and mouthed comments 'is it?... It definitely is!' between the guides on the bridge, the announcement went out that there was a Blue Whale in front of the ship! Some quick manoeuvring by the officers soon gave everyone some good views of this incredibly rare sighting – it was obviously a good area as there were also some Fin and Humpback Whales present as well as some wonderful birds including Southern Royal Albatross.

Sara then got us back on track with her presentation on photography tips and tricks for the voyage, an activity that the vast majority of passengers and staff will indulge in during the trip – so definitely worth the time to listen. A breathless first day at sea was followed up by more fine dining in the evening (sea days are supposed to be relaxing!), allowing everyone to reflect on some wonderful sights and experiences and look ahead to our first activities tomorrow, despite the ‘far from ideal’ wind predictions!

Day 3 – Thursday 12 December, New Island, Falkland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 57°43.8'S / 061°17.1'W

Wind: NNW force 8 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +10°C

Good morning everybody! We have arrived at the Falkland Islands, and more specifically New Island, one of the islands that would give us the best opportunity to land the Zodiacs in the strong forecasted wind. Allan, our local guide has made an excellent choice as the conditions are marginal but doable.



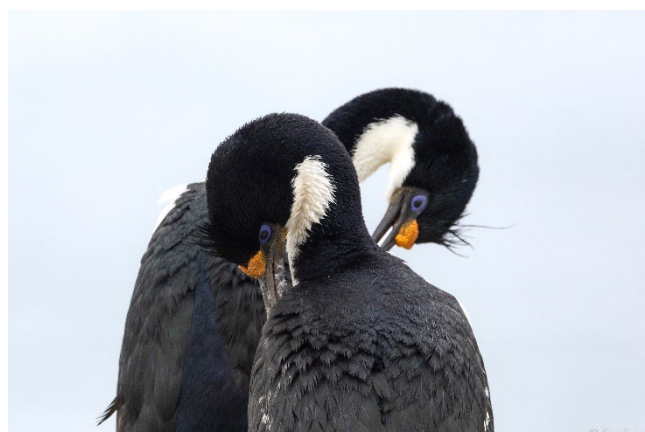
After a quick breakfast the expedition team was soon ready on the shore to receive the first passengers. With the strong wind it was an adventure just walking down the gangway and getting into the Zodiacs. At the shore the conditions were very good; we arrived next to an abandoned ship that did not look particularly seaworthy anymore. We were received by some lovely people that are managing New Island on part of the Strange family and the Falkland conservation fund. The house at the coast is the museum where there are many artifacts of the whaling era. There was also a shop that had beautiful art by local artists.



The hike towards the other side of the island took about 15 minutes walking over a sand trail. On the way we saw many birds, the most common being geese, Upland Geese inland and Kelp Geese closer to the coastline. The Long-tailed Meadowlark and the Dark Faced Ground Tyrant were flying around, and a rare sighting for the island – an Eastern Kingbird – a treat for the birders onboard.



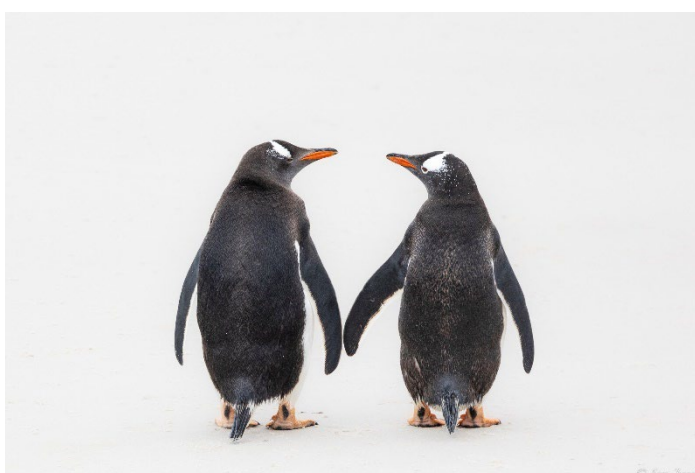
Arriving at the other end of the island we got to see cliffs that were filled with birds. Hundreds of Black-browed Albatross and thousands of Rockhopper Penguins, a real spectacle to see



and to hear. The albatross were sitting on their cylindrical mounds made of mud, which were also being used by some of the penguins, however most of the penguins had made nests on the ground out of grass and feathers. There was a small trail following the high tussock grass towards the edge of the cliff which albatross used as a landing and take-off track. Just standing there seeing all the birds go about was an incredible and unforgettable experience.

The wind had picked-up further and was gusting 50 knots (90km/h) as the Zodiacs headed back to the ship, making it a wet ride for some. It was still not sure if the afternoon activity would go as these conditions were far from ideal.

Arriving at the second landing site after lunch, a short distance up the coast of New Island, it looked like the wind had dropped a little; the expedition team went on shore and decided that it would be safe to go ahead. Once we had waded ashore, with some getting wet feet in the shallow water, we had a hike that was a bit longer than the morning. There was not much of a track as few ships come here. We passed a pond with a



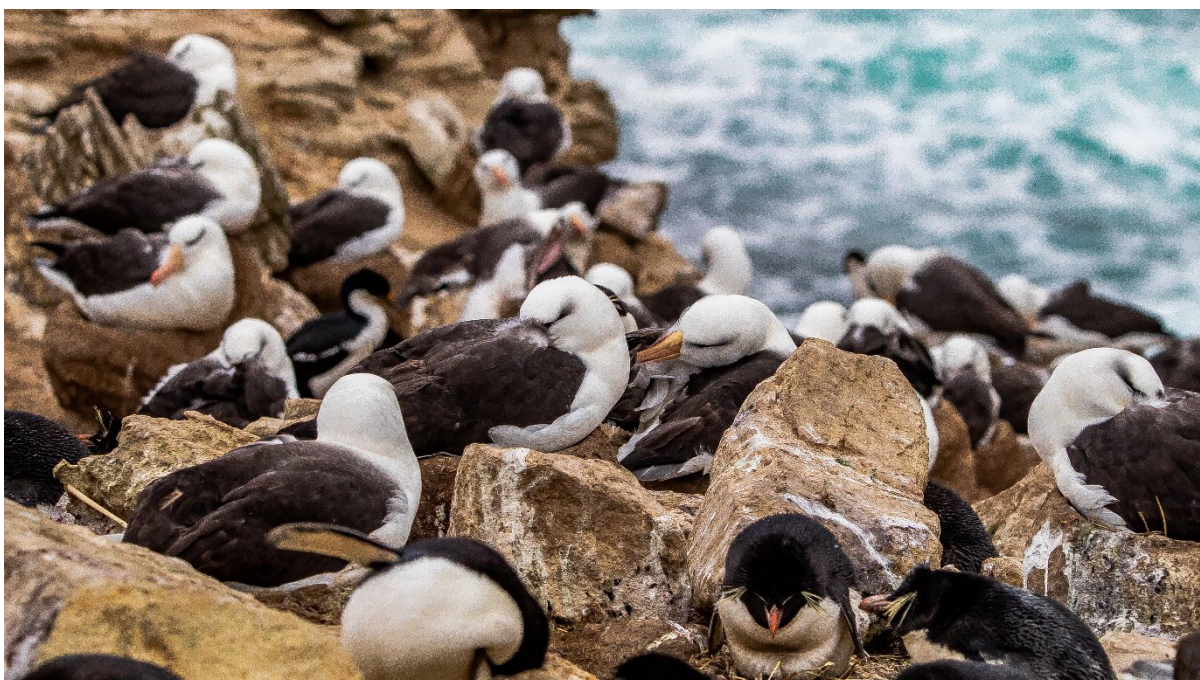


couple of hundred geese feeding, and many other birds flying around. After 15 min walking there was a group of Gentoo Penguins nesting with already large chicks. Along the track we had to take care not to step in the burrows made by nesting prions. Shortly after the Gentoo Penguin rookery we had a choice of going to the beach or to the cliffs.

At the large white sandy beach, we saw where all the Gentoos come out of the water – a great sight with so many gentoos together in seemingly

warm summer conditions compared to the ones seen in the Antarctic peninsula.

At the cliffs, there was another Black-browed albatross colony also shared with Rockhopper Penguins and Imperial Shags. A few of these albatross already had a chick hatched which they were feeding. Some were just trying to reconnect again after not having seen other for a long time giving a beautiful dance-like display, clacking their beaks against each other; an amazing sight to see. The trail even went a bit further following some small red poles where Tim, one of the reserve's caretakers, was standing. He showed where the Rockhopper penguins get out of the water and climb the cliffs to get to their nesting site. Sometimes you wonder if they would prefer to fly instead of only swim and hop over rocks.



During recap Sara explained what we could expect for our landing in Stanley the following day. We also got some information from Joyce about the Blue Whale that we had seen the day before, and Simon told us more about the Rockhopper Penguin. A spectacular day on the Falkland Islands and very lucky that we have such a motivated team with the captain and the expedition team to make it all possible.



Day 4 – Friday 13 December, Stanley, Falkland Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 51°41.3'S / 057°51.2'W

Wind: NE force 4 • Sea: n/a • Weather: Part Cloudy • Air temperature: +12°C



After the adventures of yesterday in difficult weather, it was a great feeling to wake-up and find a clear blue sky, to feel the heat of warm sunshine and experience very little wind. Ortelius motored gently through the narrows and in towards Stanley Harbour the gaily coloured town scattered along the hillside of the portside

shore. The vessel was anchored just a short distance from the dockside small boat landing pontoons.

First a leisurely breakfast and, different from our other landings which were 'wet', splashing ashore in our muck-boots, we were told that we could wear whatever we wanted for the 'city walks'.



How exciting! Zodiacs whisked us into the pontoons, one of which was covered with dozing Sea lions, some draped with their tails hanging over the edge. A birder group hired a taxi and went off down the coast, others prioritised a visit to the nearby Falklands Gin factory to sample production and purchase bottles of the enticing liquid. For those of us content to just amble leisurely through the tiny city the excellent museum, coffee shops, cathedral and super-store were popular destinations.

The varied architecture of the town was a stimulating point of interest for many photographers.



The gaily coloured profiled metal roofed wooded buildings were the focus of many photos. The landing site was ideal as it was close to the busy Falkland Islands Tourist Office / shop and most of the attractions were situated on the long street beside the shore.

A steady Zodiac return-to-ship shuttle service operated for passengers from 11 am to 1 pm.

The ship then heaved up its massive anchor and in brilliant sunshine, motored out of the narrows into the open sea bound for South Georgia, 768 miles distant. We encountered dolphins as we cruised along the coast, and they delighted our enthusiastic photographers by riding the bow waves and cavorting close to the ship.

At recap in the early evening Hana delivered an interesting presentation on some of the 348 plants of the Falklands, 171 of which were native species. One of the most memorable

and useful to the islanders was the Balsam Bog plant which was described as antimicrobial, an antioxidant, a laxative and antispasmodic. Joyce then explained the Ted Cheeseman conceived 'Happy Whale' project where passengers could use their whale photographs to participate in 'people science' research.

Another exciting Oceanwide Adventure Expedition day, roll on tomorrow!



Day 5 – Saturday 14 December, At sea

12:00 GPS Position: 52°32.6'S / 050°28.0'W

Wind: ENE force 4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +4°C

This was another sea day with the option of sleeping in a bit – but the few early birds had the luck of seeing a few Hourglass Dolphins passing close to the ship. Those of us who woke up a bit later at Sara's soft voiced wake up call, looking out the portholes or windows, saw a foggy morning – but still with a nice calm sea.

The first lecture was given by Koen on the evolution of penguins – from the pre-historic giants of 2 meters and 150kg to the 1.5kg/30cm Little Blue Penguin. It was interesting to hear the many facts of the evolution, how all the (presently 18) different species live in the southern hemisphere, with the exception of the Galapagos Penguin, and how all rely on cold or cool water in order to find their food source of either krill or small fish. It was also astonishing to hear that the Emperor Penguin can dive down to more than 500 meters and incubate their egg through the harshest winter storms on the ice shelves of Antarctica!





Whilst the ever-optimistic bird watchers bravely kept a lookout for birds at the bow in the reduced visibility, many of us enjoyed a cup of coffee or tea in the lounge, waiting for the next lecture. Joyce stepped on the scene to tell us more of the whales and dolphins that we might see, or already have seen in the Southern Ocean. There were lots of interesting details and facts on migration routes, feeding behavior, songs, size and weight – and maybe most importantly – how

we recognize the different species when we see them in the ocean.

It was also the day where we stepped up on cleaning all our outer layers, bags and life vests, ready for the inspection by the British officers when we reach South Georgia: a lot of vacuum cleaning of jackets and bags, washing and using paper clips on our boots were done, before we could hear the next lecture.

Our second officer Ward held a humorous, but also very interesting lecture of all the instruments, radars, navigational systems, lights and buttons found on the bridge – and let our poor cadet Stan be the scapegoat in all the pictures of what NOT to do on the ship.

After a delicious dinner, we were treated with popcorn in the lounge and saw the recent released movie “Endurance”, the epic journey of Shackleton and his men to Antarctica – and the discovery of Endurance on the seafloor, 3000 meters below the surface. What a wonderful historic way to end our day on our way to South Georgia.



Day 6 – Sunday 15 December, At sea and Shag Rocks

12:00 GPS Position: 53°29.5'S / 042°31.3'W

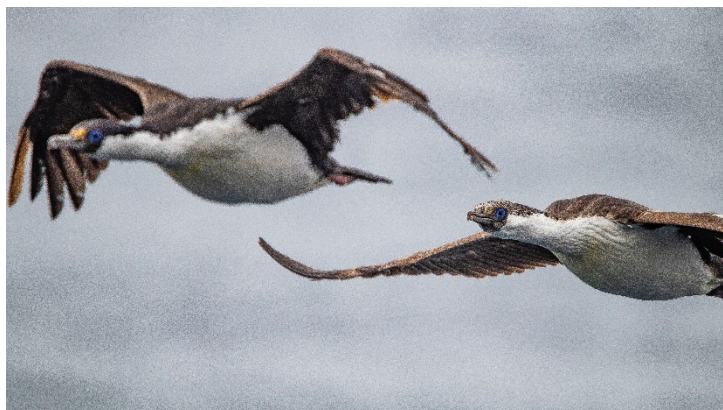
Wind: SW force 4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +4°C

One more day at sea ahead of us: Sara woke us up after a pleasant night on a calm sea at comfortable time of day at 07:45. After breakfast we assembled in the bar to listen to Jens' introduction and history of South Georgia.



With the calm and foggy conditions, wildlife sightings were sparse throughout the morning, and we could fully focus on mandatory strict biosecurity preparations and checks. After spending hours and hours of the previous day removing every single grain of fine sand from beaches of Falkland Islands, our outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods and walking sticks were thoroughly inspected by the expedition team. Each item was inspected, every pocket was vacuum cleaned, every piece of possible contamination was removed. We all took the biosecurity seriously and did a great job protecting the unique environment of South Georgia from spreading bird flu and introducing any possible invasive species or contamination. After signing a self-declaration form, we are ready for an inspection by South Georgia's officers that would come on board the following day prior to our planned landings.

At midday, the clocks went forward one hour as we entered another time zone. Shortly after delicious



buffet lunch, our ship approached Shag Rocks, a group of six islets located about 150 miles west of the mainland of South Georgia. They are home to thousands of nesting Imperial Cormorants, plus petrels, prions and penguins. Our amazing and extremely skilled captain Per brought as close as possible to Shag Rocks. Many of us went to the bridge and outer decks to watch its steep cliffs with their nesting birds.



The waters around Shag Rocks are fantastic for spotting whales during the austral summer. Humpback Whales and seals were sighted from the bridge throughout the whole afternoon.

Later in the afternoon, Bill invited us to look behind the scenes of M/V Ortelius. He showed and explained us how a polar expedition vessel operates, took us on a virtual tour to the ship's kitchen, galley, laundry, engine room and workshops, and talked about the daily life of our lovely and smiley crew on board.

During our daily recaps, Sara first presented plans for the following days, Simon talked about the majestic Wandering Albatross, followed by our artist Bill who talked about Paintings of the Sea.

Day 7 – Monday 16 December, Grytviken and Jason Harbour

12:00 GPS Position: 54°16.5'S / 036°30.6'W

Wind: NW force 7 • Sea: n/a • Weather: Cloudy • Air temperature: +6°C

After many changes of plans and some scrutiny of the weather forecasts we arrived at the old whaling station and BAS research station of Grytviken early in the morning. The visibility had been tantalising to say the least, giving the early risers their first glimpses of the South Georgia coastline, before once again becoming shrouded in fog, but as we arrived in the bay the views were spectacular. High rocky mountains overlooked the buildings that house all the





inhabitants of South Georgia and the crowded beaches full of very active Fur Seals and King Penguins.



The government officers and inspectors came aboard the ship after breakfast to start their biosecurity checks of the vessel along with the passengers and staff; this was the moment we had all trained for and although it did some time we all passed the inspection with 100% and we began disembarkation.

We were then soon marvelling at the amazing sights, sounds, and smells of this fascinating place; a site that has seen so much death and destruction over its lifetime with its brutal whaling and sealing history, but now is being reclaimed by the abundant wildlife that South Georgia is rightly famous for. Straight from the off we were greeted by many boisterous Fur Seals surrounding all the buildings and beaches, along with Elephant Seals and some moulting King Penguins. We didn't know where to look – at our first sights of all this amazing wildlife – or at the historical monuments around every corner. We all tried to do both with trips to





Ernest Shackleton's grave site and to the museum/post-office interspersed with watching the adventures of the days-old Fur Seal pups – sensory overload alert! We had several hours ashore but it wasn't enough and all too soon we headed back to the ship for lunch and repositioning for our afternoon destination.



We headed north up the coast a short way, experiencing gusts of 70 knots of wind which led to many doubts being cast over the feasibility of an afternoon landing. However, they proved to be unfounded as once we reached the shelter of Jason Harbour it was a stunning afternoon for operations. Half of us went ashore early whilst the other half listened to Julian explaining the dynamic geological history of the island before then heading ashore.

Once ashore we had to run the gauntlet of the Fur Seals packed on the beaches; these were predominantly young males, full of testosterone and posturing, all growl and no bite, albeit still pretty scary when they mock charge at you. The females with new pups were perhaps more serious but no danger really and most people got used to their antics soon enough. Once the seals were dealt with, a big proportion of the passengers were intent on seeing the endemic South Georgia Pipit and marched all the way to the end of the trail, only to be told that there was one



showing very well back on the beach! Another quick march back down the hill and they were soon enjoying great views of this fascinating, geographically isolated species.

Another intriguing sight in the now glorious afternoon sunshine were some South Georgia Pintails (the other endemic species to these island) gleefully tucking into some fresh seal afterbirth – a great example of an adaptation to survive in this harsh environment, as they are the only meat-eating Duck species in the world.

Julian repeated his lecture for the early group, and once we were all back on board, we sat down for a late dinner, which was followed by an after-dinner recap giving all time to ask questions and allow the first action-packed South Georgia day to sink in – an awesome start!



Hana Špičková

Day 8 – Tuesday 17 December, St. Andrews Bay, Ocean Harbour, Stromness, Leith, Husvik, Hercules Bay

12:00 GPS Position: 54°26.2'S / 036°10.3'W

Wind: SW force 5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +1°C

A real expedition day as the daily program had promised. We started our day waking up in Godthul Bay where the surrounding mountains had a beautiful and pristine look with a layer of fresh overnight snow. Here our plan was to do a landing, however before breakfast Sara had gone out to scout and had decided to cancel the landing due to the huge amount of wildlife on the beaches and within the tussock grass.



So, a change of plan - it was decided to try for St Andrews Bay as the weather was rather benign so far. After a couple of hours, we arrived at 09:30 at the wide exposed bay, where we could see and hear one of the largest King Penguin colonies from the bow – an impressive sight to see from a distance. We experienced wind gusts of 50 knots at that time and with snow starting to fall, Sara decided to wait until noon when conditions could possibly improve. As our trusted “Windy” website is not always as trustworthy around South Georgia it soon became clear that we would not be able to do a landing or Zodiac cruise here; a sad truth but onwards and upwards to the next destination.



After lunch we cruised over open water passing by whales and icebergs. Fur seals and penguins were jumping around in all directions. The wind gusts west just as strong further away from land so most of the time we were hanging in an 8-to-10-degree incline to starboard. An interesting experience to see what the wind can do to our ship and great to see how easily Ortelius handled the conditions. Getting closer to Stromness Bay the winds got much stronger. The gusts were easy to spot from a distance and how they were creeping up to us. The birds were enjoying the conditions with many flying around the ship during the approach.



The reason for entering Stromness Bay is that there are old whaling stations built in all three fjord systems: Stromness, Leith and Husvik. We started at Stromness, the site where Shackleton and his team came through before their expedition to the South Pole, and where he and two of his men arrived after having crossed the island from King Haakon Bay. With Captain Per expertly positioning the ship just 200m from the station, we could see the house of the station's administrator, which the British Antarctic Survey is trying to restore and preserve. The other buildings are slowly falling apart, to be expected 60 years after abandoning the site following the ban on whaling.

The next whaling station was called Leith, the larger of the three in this bay. Approaching the station, we could see many buildings including the school, hospital and housing for the hundreds of men that would have lived here during the high season. Fur Seals and Elephant Seals were laying all over the place. Nature is reclaiming such an area that has been a slaughter site for so many animals; luckily nature holds no grudges. It did start to snow heavily for a while, which was our sign to keep on going. The last station was Husvik, the most southern and inland station. While getting closer, the wind started picking up making for a tricky navigation. As the station was beyond a few smaller islands we didn't get too close but both entering and leaving this fjord gave us beautiful views of the surrounding mountains, making the diversion worthwhile.

For the day's final ship's cruise, we navigated into Hercules Bay, with a Macaroni Penguins colony. We entered the small bay with our ship to try to get as close as possible to the penguins. For many this was not quite close enough as they could only be seen through binoculars and few photos were taken. Due to strong gusts Captain Per was also determined to leave the bay

after a short while. Looking for Macaroni Penguins in the water proved also not as easy, so for the few people outside we had to do with the pretty colours of the sunset and call it a night.

It has been a dynamic day with many beautiful moments. Hopefully tomorrow the weather will let us leave the ship and stretch our legs on land.

Day 9 – Wednesday 18 December, Fortuna Bay and Hercules Bay

12:00 GPS Position: 54°08.9'S / 036°48.2'W

Wind: SE force 4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +5°C



Our luck with regards to the weather changed today. Everyone was delighted to find that we were anchored off Fortuna Bay in ideal conditions for a landing. The location was superb – a sweeping arc of dramatic mountains covered with a light dusting of fresh snow, the contours on the rock-strewn hillside clearly defined by the contrasting tones, white through to black, with every shade of grey in-between.

Sara, Bill and Simon set off in the first Zodiac launched, to inspect the shoreline to find a gap on the beach relatively free of fur seals to establish the safest place to land. They then walked inland and marked out a red pole-lined route to the massive colony. The shuttle then delivered everyone to the shore and the serious photography began. The choice was overwhelming – bull seals sitting along the shoreline with their





harems surrounded by playful pups. King Penguins galore played ‘follow the leader’ as they waddled down to the sea to then hesitate as they played a game of ‘after you’ before plunging into the sea.



As the landing was scheduled to last three hours, it was a leisurely affair. We ambled about savouring the experience, this is what we had travelled such a huge distance for! Everywhere we looked we viewed stunning mountain scenery. It was easy walking as we were on a grass covered glacial plain dotted with unbelievable hordes of penguin and seals – this was the South Georgia we had expected. Thankfully the weather and pleasant temperature held all morning, so there was no rush to get back to the ship.

After a late lunch and responding to an improvement in the weather, Ortelius motored back to Hercules Bay where we deployed all Zodiacs for an inshore cruise. This enabled us to get much closer to the Macaroni Penguins than we experienced during the ship cruise in totally marginal weather the previous day. It had been superb navigation by Captain Per in atrocious circumstances

but obviously with Ortelius being such a large expedition ship with deep draft, this had its limits. We were then lucky to have this opportunity to return in Zodiacs and cruise much closer, at times only a few metres from the Macaroni Penguins on the cliffs. It was an unforgettable aquatic based photo session.



The day was summed up by Bill during recap, with his presentation of 50 photographs of smiling mouths taken during the landing. A powerful visual way of communicating the sheer joy of our Oceanwide Experience.

Day 10 – Thursday 19 December, St Andrews Bay and Drygalski Fjord

12:00 GPS Position: 54°52.1'S / 035°54.6'W

Wind: W force 11 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +5°C

There was no sleeping-in this morning! Sara's wakeup call at 05:00 indicated that we were able to spend the predicted short weather window for a Zodiac cruise at the beaches of St. Andrews Bay! So, in light winds but challenging swells, we managed to get in the Zodiacs at 05:30 and start a cruise among the hundreds of thousands of King Penguins, Fur Seals and Elephant Seals. With dramatic steep and snow-covered mountains and massive glaciers in the background, and with lots of curious Giant Petrels



around our Zodiacs, we gently glided along the rocks and beaches, seeing, hearing and smelling all the animals.



Later we had planned to cruise up the spectacular 20km long Drygalski Fjord. We passed-by Cooper Island, witnessing many Humpback Whales close to the grounded iceberg. As we rounded the corner and entered Drygalski Fjord we were hit with hurricane force winds, funnelling freely between the mountains near the southern tip of the island and sending curtains of spray over the ship and onto the windows of the bridge where many of us had gathered to witness to full fury of the sea. Those keeping half an eye on the wind speed display noticed it topping out at 95 knots! With a navigation up the fjord, Captain Per turned the ship around – with the ship listing steeply as the full force of the wind struck the starboard side of the ship – and headed out to sea to begin the long crossing towards Antarctica.



During the storm, Jens managed to give a lecture, telling the story of the “Race to the South Pole”, ending in victory for Amundsen and defeat – and death – for Scott and his men.



Increasing movement of our ship indicated that we were entering open ocean again, and those who had not retreated to their cabins and were still on the bridge noticed that winds increased even further for a time, going off the scale for a while as we passed to the south of the island. The scale on the bridge maxes out at 99 knots! Tomorrow, we hope for calmer seas and a view of the majestic iceberg A23a!

Day 11 – Friday 20 December, At Sea, Iceberg A23a

12:00 GPS Position: 57°22.0'S / 039°54.4'W

Wind: SSW force 5 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 0°C

What a stormy night! As we made our way slowly towards the west and further away from the storm, the sea got calmer and calmer. After breakfast, Joyce gave a talk about life in the deep seas.

At about 10:30, Ortelius was approaching the spectacular iceberg “A23a”. A23a is the largest iceberg in the world with an area of about 3900 km². The iceberg calved from Flichner/Ronne Ice shelf in 1986 and was stuck on the seabed for many years, but then it started moving in 2020. It has been moving from the northern tip of Antarctic peninsula towards



the Southern Ocean. In April 2024, the iceberg was captured by the Antarctic Circumpolar current and is expected to follow the current towards South Georgia. The iceberg is so large that we were sailing along its majestic walls and caves for more than four hours! During those hours, we witnessed small calvings of its 40m tall walls, we observed Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins swimming around, and seals that had mysteriously found their way all the way to the top of the giant tabular iceberg! Appropriately the afternoon's lecture was about icebergs and sea ice, given by Chris.



After daily recaps and delicious dinner, it was time for a “bar” quiz! We teamed up and tested not only the gained knowledge we learnt during the lectures, but also some fun facts about our crew and expedition team and tried to recognize them on their photos from childhood. The lucky winning team received a nice bottle of wine as a prize!

Day 12 – Saturday 21 December, At Sea, Sea ice

12:00 GPS Position: 59°22.6'S / 048°09.8'W

Wind: SE force 5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -1°C

With the clocks moving back an hour, we doubly enjoyed the extra time in bed this morning as the seas were wonderfully calm and whilst it was overcast, it was bright, and visibility was excellent.

The early risers were soon watching a more Antarctic selection of birds around the ship with Southern Fulmars and Cape Petrels the dominant species, both common Antarctic breeders whilst little groups of Chinstrap penguins were a regular sight in the water and on icebergs.





The bow was busy through the morning with folks embracing the calm weather, no doubt lured out there by the frequent calls from the bridge of whale blows sighted ahead. We had good views of both Humpback and Fin Whales through the morning and were entertained by penguins balancing on the most unlikely of small icebergs, bobbing up and down in the swell.

The morning's lecture came from Hana who described how research is carried out below the ice in Antarctica, but the day's highlight came late morning (no offense to Hana!) when we were slowly edging through a thick band of floating sea ice surrounded by dancing Black-bellied Storm Petrels and angel-like Snow Petrels. We had just seen some showy Humpbacks when another whale was called out ahead of the ship, and it wasn't too long before it was identified as a Blue Whale! The behemoth got steadily closer and closer giving us fantastic views and then, even better, there were two – one much smaller than the other – a mother and calf! An amazingly rare encounter and for once, the crowded bow of the ship was hushed in silence, in awe of these amazing creatures.



After lunch, Shan and Yu Kan provided some valuable lessons in Mandarin up in the bar, both some conversation starters and some more tailored words that will help with what we see on the trip. Then it was back out on the decks for a while to enjoy some more of the still very calm Antarctic waters and wildlife flying over it or swimming around in it before Sara delivered her presentation on the threats that the marine environment faces in this modern world – a subject dear to everyone who works in, lives in, and visits the fantastic Southern Ocean.

The evening's entertainment was a blast, with the incomparable Bill Smith hosting a lively and fun charity auction to raise funds for the invaluable projects that the South Georgia Heritage Trust undertakes. The event was a smash hit with a vast array of items going under the hammer

including chances to drive the ship and visit the engine room, unique artwork from Bill and others and some one-of-a-kind souvenirs from the Heritage Trust shop.

A wonderful and action-packed sea-day (which are supposed to be relaxing!) with amazing wildlife sightings and glitzy evening shenanigans, blurring the lines between cruise and expedition!

Day 13 – Sunday 22 December, Elephant Island and Bridgeman Island

12:00 GPS Position: 61°04.1'S / 054°36.8'W

Wind: NW force 3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -2°C



Early this morning we arrived at Elephant Island. The sea condition looked calm and there was not much wind, exactly as the weather forecast had predicted. During the wake-up call there was a large calving from the nearby glacier, an impressive sight and a reminder of the dangers of getting too close to the glaciers. The calm conditions allowed a Zodiac cruise around the famous Wild Point where Shackleton and his men stayed after their long journey in the longboats. Only a few of the staff have ever been able to do this due to the usually rough seas, so this was a real adventure.



With the mist threatening to close in, there was no time to waste, and straight after breakfast we boarded the Zodiacs. We started the cruise by following the coastline of an outer island where many Chinstrap Penguins were nesting. Getting closer to smaller peninsula where Shackleton and his men stayed, we found many more nesting

Chinstrap Penguins and some Elephant Seals laying around. Skuas were also nesting nearby and circled around the penguins looking for an egg to steal. At the lower end of the peninsula, we could see the bust of Piloto Pardo. Pardo was the Chilean captain that had sailed down with Shackleton on the final rescue mission after Shackleton's crew had spent four and a half months on the isolated island. It was hard to believe that the men could have survived in such harsh conditions for so long.



During the morning it was announced that somebody had found a Leopard Seal swimming around some small icebergs. Most of us had the chance to see the large seal swim around, however he did stay quite shy and didn't show much of himself. To end the cruise some of the Zodiacs entered the brash ice for a moment of silence. To hear the ice crackle and pop around you with penguin noises in the background is a special moment to cherish.





After getting back on the ship we made our way towards the South Shetland Islands. On our way we were surprised by an incredible amount of wildlife in a large feeding frenzy. There were Humpback Whales lunge feeding with thousands of birds in the water including Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins, Black browed Albatrosses, Southern Giant Petrels and as many Cape Petrels as the eye could see. An incredible wildlife encounter. A Humpback even breached immediately behind the ship. It was extremely difficult to leave the decks and head to lunch due to the number of animals that were still around us. After lunch there were still many whales around, but this time they were more Fin Whales, some of which came very close by our ship.



In the afternoon Captain Per was so kind to answer everybody's questions; another moment showing what a kind and honest gentleman he is. After having heard some of his answers we can understand where he got all his wisdom from – a funny moment with some great questions

asked. Later in the afternoon our expedition leader Sara gave her lecture about Woman in Antarctica later in the afternoon. A lecture that describes well that behind every expedition there is a woman that has an important role to play to make it successful. In the early years it was seen as bad luck to have woman onboard ships which made the presence of woman limited. This changed during the 1900s, which made for some great success stories and adventures.

Having enjoyed a delicious dinner, Ortelius passed close by Bridgeman Island in the hope of seeing birds on the island. The island is a volcano that was erupting as recently as 200 years ago. No birds were seen nesting on the island; however, penguins were spotted in a nearby iceberg, and some of these were Adelie penguins! We were not expecting to see many Adeilies during our travels through the Antarctic peninsula; fortunately, the captain



was on the bridge and we made a turn towards the iceberg. Getting closer it was becoming more obvious that we were going to see all three brush tailed penguins on the iceberg together. To see the Adelie, Chinstrap and Gentoo together on a giant iceberg was an incredible lucky and beautiful experience. It certainly seemed that we have been very lucky during our trip with wildlife encounters. Let's keep it up!

Day 14 – Monday 23 December, Half Moon Island and Yankee Harbour

12:00 GPS Position: 62°35.3'S / 059°53.7'W

Wind: W force 4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -1°C

We arrived at our next landing spot with high expectations as our guides said it was a beautiful location. It was not a disappointment – when Ortelius sailed into bay, the huge mountains of





Livingstone Island formed a dramatic snow-covered backdrop to the rugged foreground of the island. On the distant shoreline opposite, enormous glaciers cascaded down from huge ridges enveloped in cloud and mist, the walls of ice crevassed and indented as they met the sea.

When we landed, a relatively short walk to the left led us past massive outcrops of

lichen-covered rock. The cliffs were covered in this delicate skin of merging orange, yellow, brown, green, grey and blue. The colours were beautiful. Overhead conditions today were dull, but we knew that had we arrived in sunlight it would have been spectacular. Our plastic-pole marked path led us to our target: a Chinstrap Penguin colony scattered across the summit of one of the outcrops. Penguins were sitting on closely packed quite large nests of small stones fused together and 'decorated' with guano. There was much adjusting of these structures and adding of a few more stones as they carefully tended their eggs.



A steady stream of Chinstraps provided entertainment and photo opportunities as they hopped and slithered back down the snow and stone covered hillside to swim in the sea. On the right of the landing another marked route ran out a couple of kms to the other end of the island. The highlights of this route were two large dozing young Elephant Seals and, at the very end of the walk, a cluster of much photographed Weddell Seals.





During lunch Ortelius repositioned a short distance down the coast to Yankee Harbour, formerly used by whalers. A convenient arc of raised sediment encloses a safe small boat anchorage with the usual backdrop of dramatic mountains. Our Zodiac ride in was lengthy and a bit wet, but well worth it as we discovered the new location was dotted with clusters of nesting Gentoo Penguins, and to the delight of the photographers and bird enthusiasts, a lone Adelie Penguin waddled down the shore and back up again, which caused much excitement.



Everyone was back on board for the usual recap of the day and information from Sara as to the next day's plan. It had been another great Oceanwide Expedition experience, an endless variety of stimulation.

Day 15 – Tuesday 24 December, Palaver Point and Foyn Harbour

12:00 GPS Position: 64°09.4'S / 061°47.2'W

Wind: NNW force 5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Fog • Air temperature: +1°C

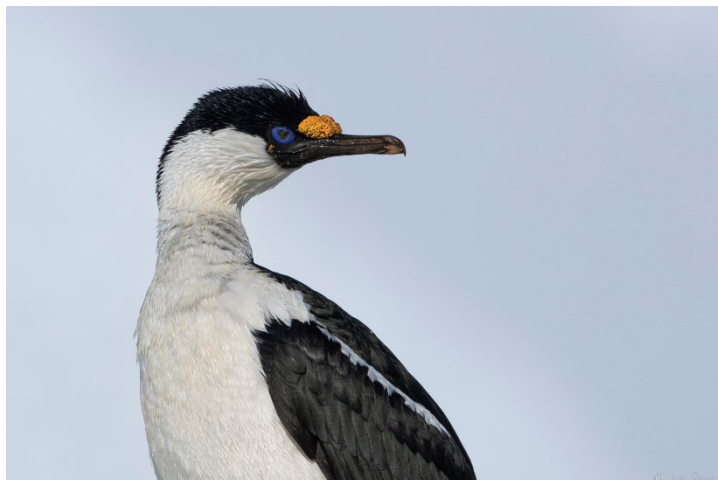


Today was the day when we experienced the true Antarctic weather, waking up to a misty morning, 20 knots of wind, 0 degrees centigrade and wet snow! As the “blue group” went ashore at Palaver Point, the wind speed increased and the precipitation became heavier, so it was really a true Antarctic experience to climb the hill to see the Chinstrap Penguin colonies. To them it was just an ordinary day on the island – no Christmas spirit – just the usual disputes and stealing pebbles

from the neighbours at the nesting sites. However, a few Christmas hats were seen among the staff, just to remind us that it was Christmas Eve. It was still a lovely experience – with our backs to the wind – to see how life is in the colony of these ever-active little penguins – fighting their way uphill in the deep wet snow or sliding down to the ocean on their bellies.

While blue group had their head start, Julian gave an interesting lecture of the meteorites found in Antarctica – and why the continent is such a good place to look for them on the blue ice. No one was to be cheated on the lecture, so when everyone from the first group was back, so was Julian, ready to give us the lecture again. A scientific way of ‘treasure hunting’ in Antarctica!

But the real treasure – or Christmas gift – was to be given us in the afternoon!



Despite a forecast for increasing winds in the afternoon, the winds did the opposite, slowly decreasing, making the Christmas snowfall a lot more idyllic. Foyn Harbor – named after the Norwegian designer of the first explosive harpoon gun – was the place for our afternoon Zodiac Cruise. Foyn Harbor is also the final resting place for a massive whaling factory ship, the *Guvernøren*. At the end of the whaling season in January 1915, the 89 men onboard were celebrating a long summers hard and dangerous work flensing whales and boiling the blubber into the sought after whale



oil. As the celebration party was influenced by considerable amounts of alcohol, someone eventually tripped, knocked over an oil lamp and set the whole ship, able to carry 22,000 gallons of whale oil, on fire. Nobody lost their lives, but the rusty wreck is a grim reminder of the whaling era! Fortunately, that era is long gone, and hundreds of Humpback Whales are in the area. Our Christmas gift was the amazing opportunity to see lots of humpbacks really close for more than an hour – bubble net feeding and fluking time after time around our Zodiacs while the snow gently fell. To many of us, Christmas gifts don't come better than that – what a wonderful and memorable afternoon and day!



Hana Špičková

Day 16 – Wednesday 25 December, Stony Point, Flanders Bay, and Christmas BBQ

12:00 GPS Position: 64°54.4'S / 062°56.5'W

Wind: E force 4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +1°C

Christmas Day, and what an expedition day! We were woken up earlier than expected by Sara announcing that we had reached the Lemaire Channel, but unfortunately we would not be able to pass through as planned due to the amount of ice at the far end of the channel. Sara invited us to at least see the entrance to the spectacular channel.



It was certainly worth waking up early! Blue sky, sunlit mountain tops appearing above from majestic glaciers, blue icebergs, and humpback whales now and then. What a start to the morning!



As we could not reach our plan A destination on the Lemaire channel, we went for plan B, Stony Point in Paradise Bay. It was a beautiful sunny day, and we did our first landing on the Antarctic peninsula! We were welcomed by two Weddell seals and three Gentoos Penguins. Right above the beach, there was a rounded snowy hill. Its top is one of a few locations where it is allowed to sit, make snow angels, and play snowball fights! And this was not the only fun – Paradise Bay was also a place where we did our polar plunge – with many of us running into ice cold water directly from the Antarctic continent!





The day was stunning with sunshine and no wind, and we wanted to enjoy every single minute of it. Our captain took us to the afternoon destination of Flanders Bay while we were enjoying a delicious buffet lunch. The sea was like a mirror. We boarded Zodiacs and went for an epic Zodiac cruise with Humpback Whales, Minke Whales and Gentoo Penguins. When we switched off boat engines, whales approached us so close that we could feel water droplets from their flukes splashing. We enjoyed the moment of silence with only the sound of the whale blows, an unforgettable experience!

After a full day of sun, the weather slowly began to close-in. At the end of the Zodiac cruise, our guides had to navigate to the ship using their GPSs as wet snow started to fall and fog enveloped Flanders Bay.



After the daily recap, it was time to celebrate the white Christmas in a proper Antarctic style!



Our crew prepared a barbeque on the helideck. We dressed back to our waterproof gear and enjoyed dinner and drinks watching glaciers and whales as the snow fell all around. The Christmas celebration continued with a party and dancing inside the heli hangar until late night!

What an amazing day full of adventures!

Day 17 – Thursday 26 December, Gerlache Strait and Ketley Point

12:00 GPS Position: 64°42.2'S / 062°44.7'W

Wind: S force 5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +1°C

Our second Christmas day started very well when Sara woke us up with the news that there were Orcas nearby, a species everybody was still eager to see. Our captain quickly positioned the ship so that the Orcas were only a couple of hundred metres from the bow, a difficult task as their swimming patterns are fast and unpredictable. We were able to view them up close for some time, before sailing to our morning destination with a happy heart.



As the afternoon weather forecast wasn't very good Sara had made a call to do a morning activity before the wind picked-up. We arrived at a place called Ketley Point; there was too much swell on the rocks for a landing, so we went instead for a Zodiac cruise.

The cruise started out at the Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguin rookeries; there were also many Snowy Sheathbills flying about and skuas looking for a fresh egg to steal. We followed the coastline watching the penguins go in and out of the water, living their busy lives in one of the most extreme places in the world. We saw Shags with chicks, some young moulting Elephant Seals lying on the coastline and a Weddell Seal that swam closely to some of the Zodiacs. A single Adelie Penguin resting on the shore kept the birders in the group happy. Around the corner of the point there was a beautiful iceberg with caves, a double tunnel in the ice made for a great photo looking through at a Zodiac on the other side. Finally,



we got to see a Weddell Seal lying in front of a glacier wall before making our way back along the coastline to the ship.

After lunch we entered the wild and windy Gerlache Strait where we would ship's cruise looking for wildlife, however the large waves made it difficult pick out any whale blows through the spray. We passed through the narrow passage between Brabant Island and Lecointe Island, an intense but beautiful experience with blue sky and heavily glaciated mountains surrounding us. Once we had finally found some protection from the wind, hot chocolate

with rum was served on the open deck. With the glaciers hovering over us, and calvings entertaining us, this was a great way to say goodbye to the Antarctic peninsula.



In evening we had our recap where Sara revealed the weather conditions expected for the Drake Passage – a “Drake shake” not a “Drake lake”, but fortunately nothing as bad as it can get at times! Sara also had an extended recap about the Orcas that we had seen, and we got to learn more about the power of wind from Jens. After dinner we got the chance to see the movie made by Koen from our trip in South Georgia - a generous gesture from Debbie to share her auction prize with us.

Day 18 – Friday 27 December, At Sea – Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 61°11.4'S / 064°22.6'W

Wind: NW force 8 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +2°C

After a night where the increased swell caused a few folks to hide away from the world, we awoke to seas that were slowly becoming calmer with the promise of a very pleasant and relaxing day at sea.

There was some slight consternation early morning as the proud owner (purchased at the South Georgia Heritage Trust auction) of a wake-up call exercised these rights and welcomed the new day at 5:30am – birders are well known for their comedy genius status!



The morning was very relaxed and gentle with the sun peering out from behind the clouds on occasion and the gently rolling ship creating a peaceful atmosphere. It was quiet for wildlife with a few Fin Whale blows in the distance and some beautiful Light-mantled Albatross cruising serenely past. Entertainment was provided by Simon's lecture on the Birds of the Drake Passage with special, bonus feature of some Snowy Sheathbill facts, Bill's lecture about Painting's of the Sea, illustrating the full range of emotions the many different moods of the

ocean can inspire and a close sail-past of MV Ortelius's sister ship, MV Plancius heading back south for another expedition.



The afternoon carried on in the same vein, gentle seas, some bright sunshine and very relaxed vibes. Mid-afternoon saw Chris talk about his time working on Antarctica research bases – a different perspective of the great white continent whilst a dedicated bunch remained stalwart on the bridge, eyes glued to anything flying over the waves, nine out of ten times it was a Blue Petrel but that didn't dampen their enthusiasm.

Perhaps the day's highlight (or not, depending on your point of view!) came at the familiar daily recap as after the usual plans, weather and facts came an ABBA based musical interlude created by some of the passengers, immortalizing the trip and the staff, especially Captain Per and Expedition Leader Sara.

Day 19 –Saturday 28 December, At sea, Drake Passage & Cape Horn

12:00 GPS Position: 56°50.1'S / 066°12.0'W

Wind: W force 10 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +7°C 12:00 GPS

After a rough night with over 4m high waves, the dining room was emptier than usual for breakfast. The waves did not ease up during the morning, but the birders were putting-in their shift on the bridge and were rewarded with some increased activity including fleeting sightings of Wandering Albatross through the spray.

Koen gave a lecture about the exploration of Antarctica up to





the 1900s: Antarctica was said by James Cook to not exist; however, it was discovered 49 years later when it was discovered by Edward Bransfield and Fabian von Bellingshausen.

It was a quiet lounge in the afternoon as many chose to ride out the waves and catch-up on lost sleep in their cabins. Later in the afternoon Sara gave presentation of some of the other Oceanwide voyages planned for the Arctic and Antarctic and showed when the best time of year is to see the various species in the polar regions.

Just before 6pm, we passed close by Cape Horn, where Sara told us about the small dwelling perched on the cliff which doubles as the military lookout and the famous sculpture on the cliff-edge with the poem below inscribed next to it, in memory of the many mariners who lost their lives trying to round this unforgiving stretch of coast:



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

Then it was time for Captains Cocktails in the bar, and the showing of the slideshow, put together painstakingly by Joyce, a fantastic final dinner and then time to reflect on a wonderful expedition.

Day 20 – Sunday 29 December, Ushuaia, disembarkation day.

08:00 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S / 068°17.9'W

Wind: N force 2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Sunny • Air temperature: +9°C

We arrived in Ushuaia early morning, with many folks up and about to see us dock in beautiful sunny and unusually warm conditions. It was a stunning morning, with the surrounding mountains bathed in the early morning sunshine reflected in the still harbour.

The crew and Expedition Team handled all the luggage and placed it on the pier, while we enjoyed one last buffet breakfast. At 08:30 it was time to leave the ship, the voyage over, and time to go our separate ways. Fond farewells were exchanged on the dock, as our band of intrepid adventurers dispersed and began the long journey home. For some of us, it was just the beginning of the next chapter in our own personal travel story.

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 3618 nautical miles.

Southernmost position: 65°02.0'S 063°52.8'W (Lemaire Channel).

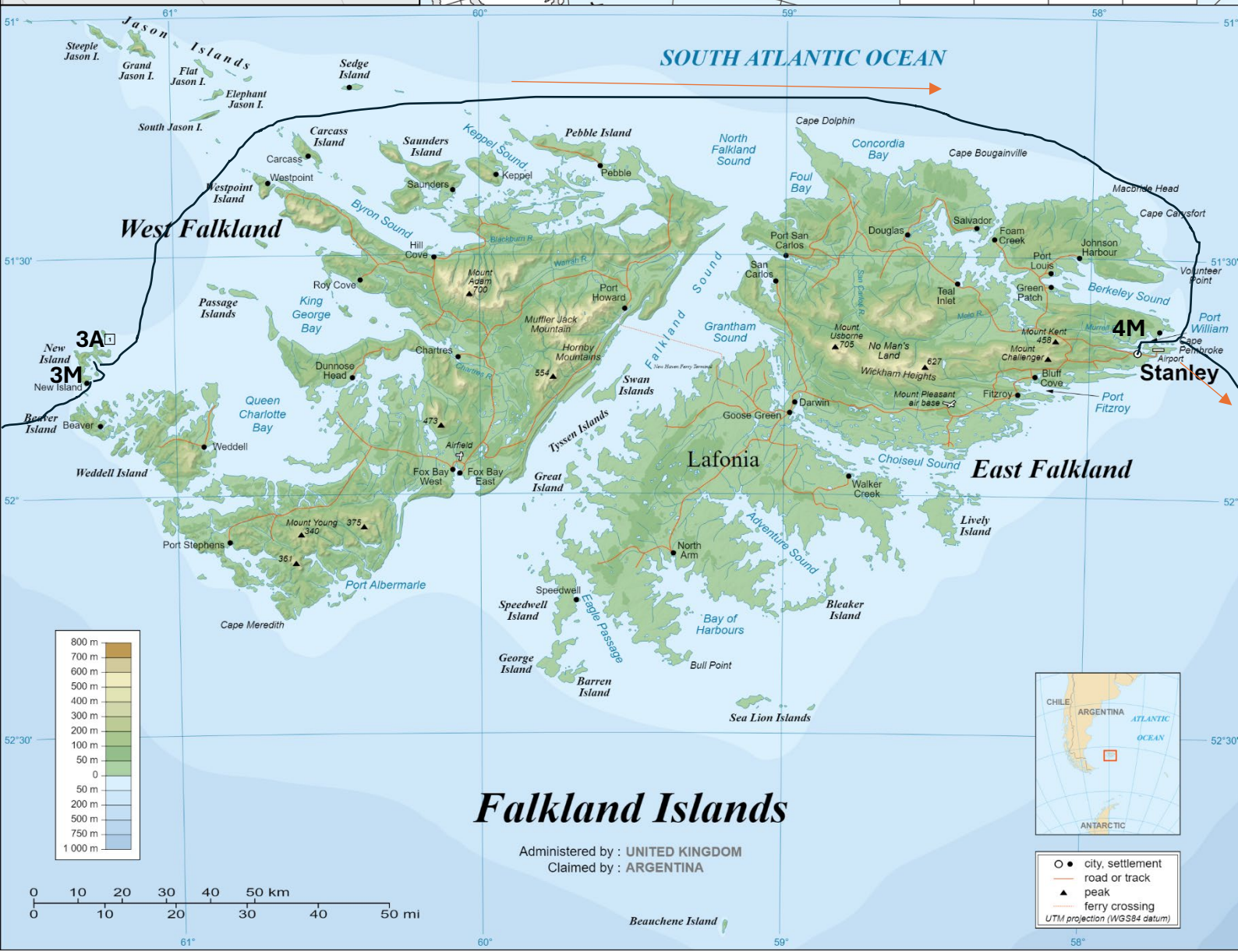
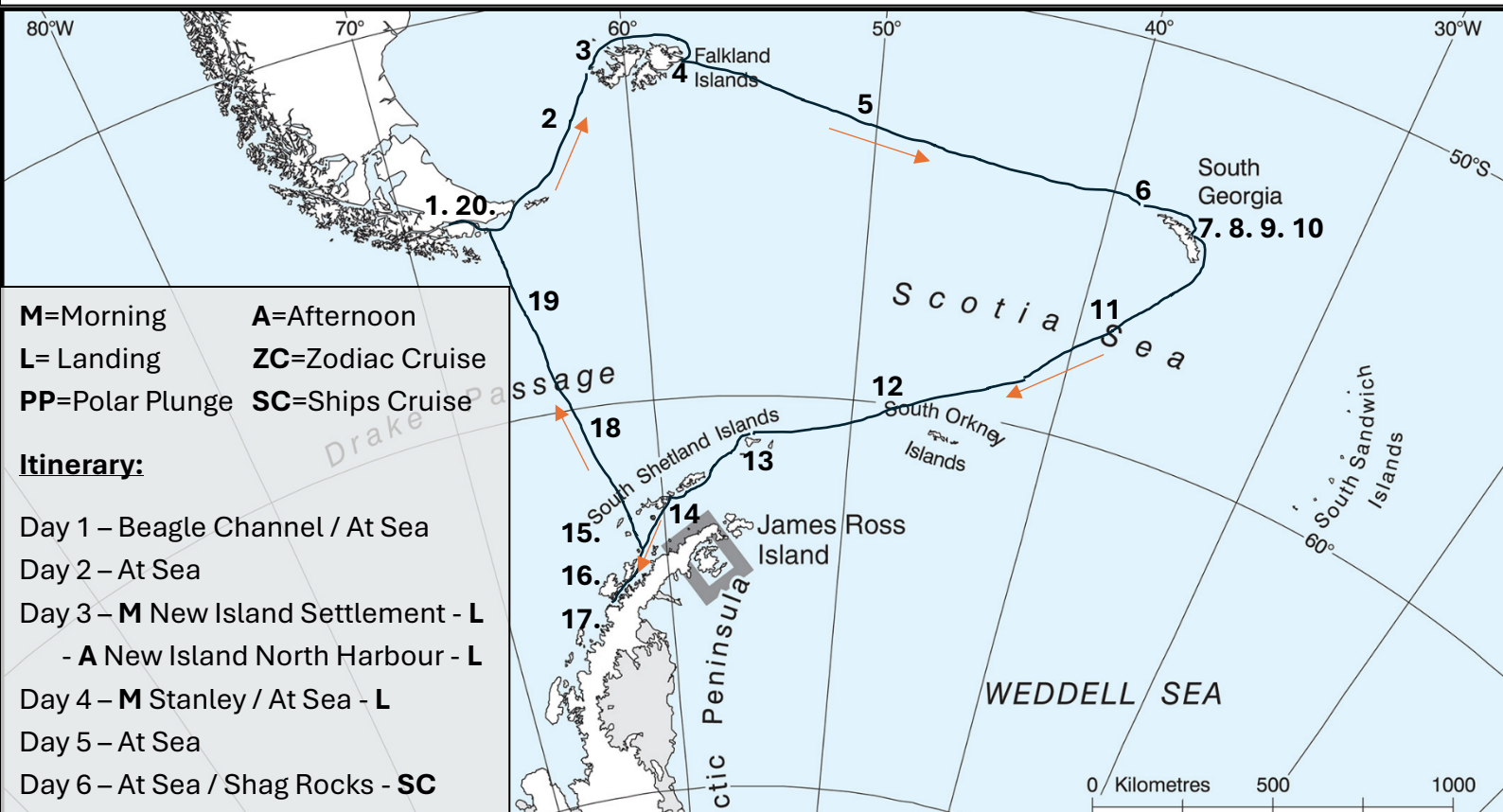
On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Per Andersson, Expedition Leader Sara Jenner, Hotel Manager Volodymyr Cherednychenko and all the crew and staff of *M/V Ortelius*, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.

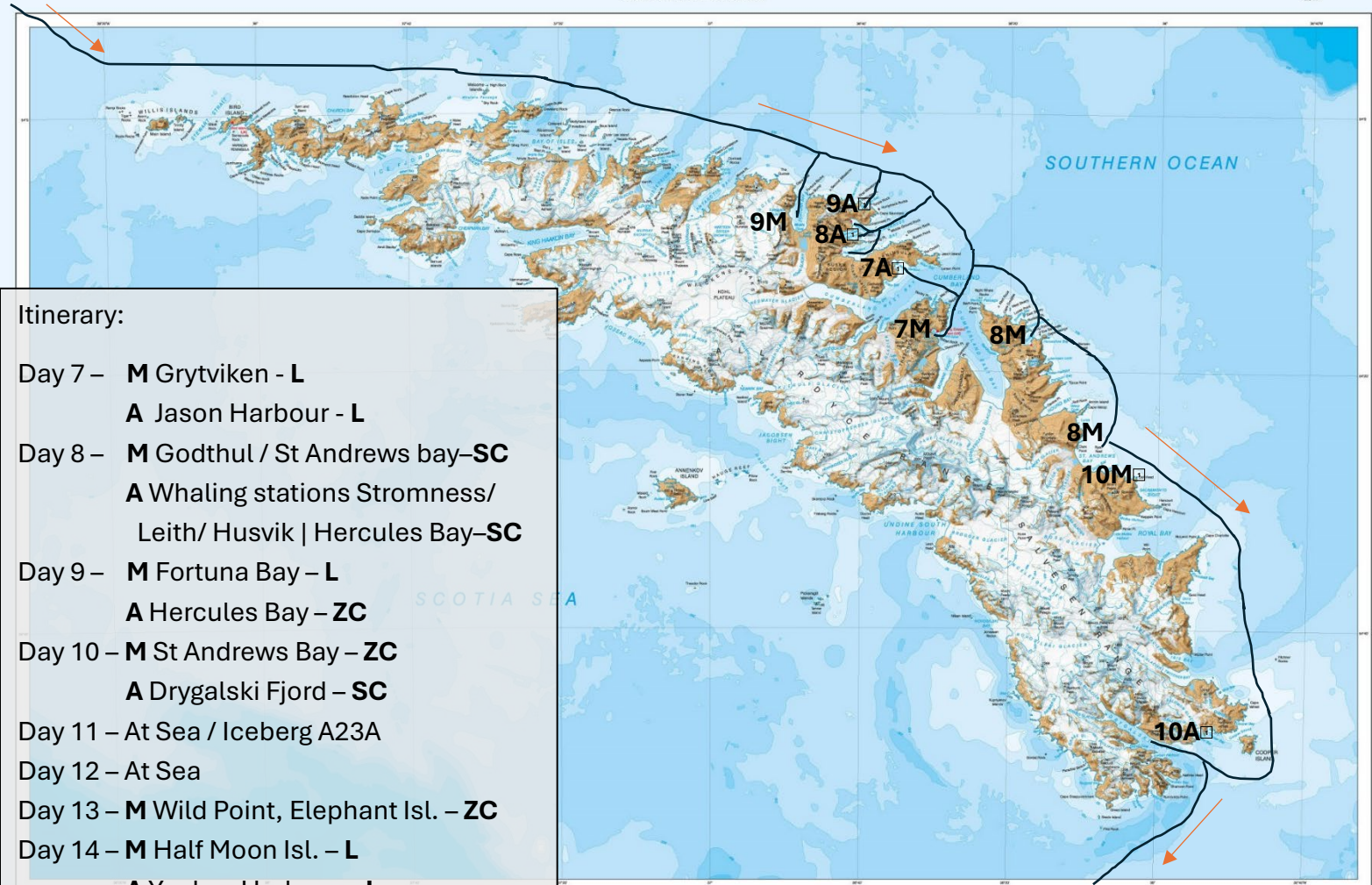
Your Oceanwide Expeditions Team



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica.

An Oceanwide Voyage – 10 | 29 of Dec





Day 15 – **M** Palaver Point, Hummock Isl. – **L**
A Foyen Harbour – **ZC**

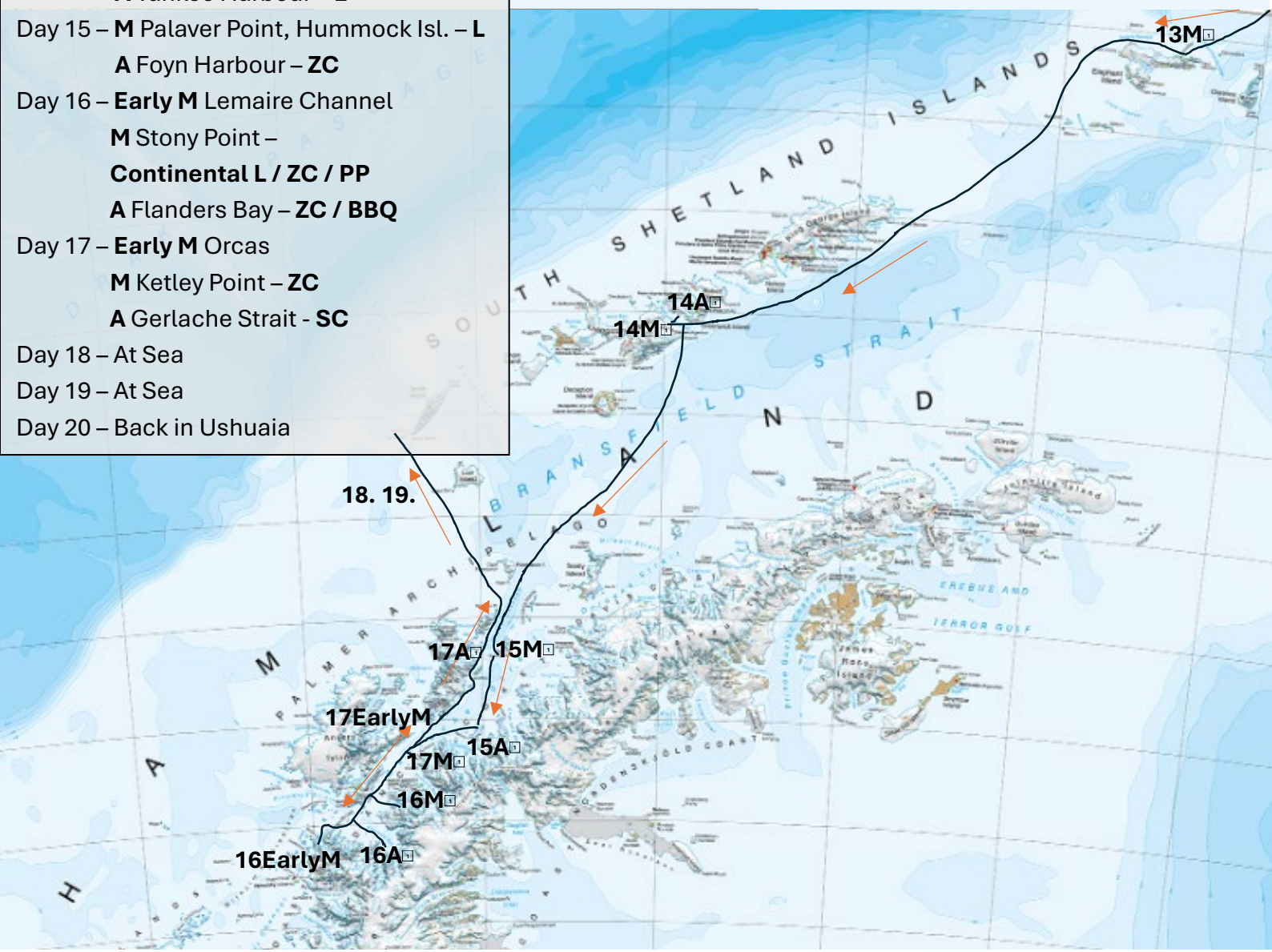
Day 16 – **Early M** Lemaire Channel
M Stony Point –
Continental L / ZC / PP
A Flanders Bay – **ZC / BBQ**

Day 17 – **Early M** Orcas
M Ketley Point – **ZC**
A Gerlache Strait – **SC**

Day 18 – At Sea

Day 19 – At Sea

Day 20 – Back in Ushuaia



Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region including Falkland Islands and South Georgia

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Per Andersson- Captain



Embarking on my maritime odyssey in 1985 as a Deckhand aboard the St Karso, navigating the Baltic Sea, laid the groundwork for a lifelong commitment to the maritime realm. Transitioning to oil tankers navigating the formidable waters of the UK, I attained an Officers license by 1988, underscoring a burgeoning dedication to maritime proficiency. Ascending to the role of Chief Officer, I commanded diverse commercial vessels across the Baltic and North Sea, each voyage contributing to the refinement of my navigational expertise.

In 1995, the realization of a captaincy position aboard a cargo vessel marked a zenith in my career, but an enduring affinity for unexplored regions of the world led me to an expedition ship bound for the high Arctic. The historic passage through the White Sea Canal in 2009, as the lone western passenger ship to achieve such a feat, epitomized the intersection of my navigational acumen and adventurous spirit. Assuming the role of Captain with Oceanwide Expeditions in 2021, I orchestrate expeditions through the Arctic and Antarctic aboard the M/V Ortelius, perpetuating a legacy marked by exploration, leadership, and environmental stewardship

Sara Jenner – Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

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

Chris Long – Asst. Exp. Leader



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

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

what the rest of the world had to offer.

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

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

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

Simon Davies – Expedition Guide



Simon is a life-long birder and naturalist and after achieving a Masters degree in Ecology focusing on seabirds he has undertaken a broad range of wildlife related contracts around the world.

His career has predominantly been focused on birds (with the only notable 'blip' coming during a year researching Meerkats in South Africa) during which his focus has ranged from research to conservation to guiding and much in between. Most recently he has been working in Scotland and Sweden studying both breeding birds and migratory species through

ringing/banding, a wide range of surveys and other tracking methods.

He is an experienced guide, having led bird and wildlife tours in Australia and many tours, walks and talks in his native UK, enthusiastic about sharing the wide range of seabirds in the colonies he loves.

Among the recent studies he has participated in has included putting geolocators on Black Guillemots in Scotland to find out where they are foraging, fixing satellite transmitters on migratory wading birds in Australia to track their movements as they move up and down the East Asia flyway and affixing geolocators on Great Reed Warblers in Sweden to work out migratory routes.

A large part of his recent work has also been training others in bird ringing/banding and surveying, hopefully inspiring others to a career in research or conservation.

The vast majority of his spare time is also spent birding and wildlife watching and he has undertaken many trips around the world including Australia, Europe, India, Venezuela and the USA, always chasing the next bird!

Hana Spickova – Expedition Guide



Hana is a chemist who is working the last two years at the University Centre on Svalbard. She comes originally from the Czech Republic and has spent the last 11 years in Norway.

Her love for nature and outdoor life brought her first to Tromsø in Northern Norway where she did her master degree while working as a northern light guide, photographer, dog sledding guide and dog handler. She likes to spend her free time in the mountains skiing, hiking, kayaking and diving. She spent two years traveling to Asia, Africa, South America and Patagonia. She worked as

a volunteer in rescue stations for wild animals in Bolivia and Peru and as a humanitarian helper in Iraq, Rwanda and Ethiopia. After finishing her studies, she has been working as an analytical chemist in Norway. Her curiosity and enthusiasm for outdoor life brought her all the way to Svalbard where she enjoys ski touring, dog sledding and exploring new places on a snowmobile. She speaks Czech, English and Norwegian.

Koen Jongerling - Expedition Guide



Having grown up in the Netherlands Koen always knew he wanted to live in a more rugged landscape than the rather flat lowlands that surrounded him. That is why after finishing his outdoor education in 2011, he chose to move to Patagonia, Chile to find the mountains he was longing for.

Combining his love for nature and the desire to learn more, he started guiding expeditions through the mountain ranges of Patagonia. Travelling back and forth to Europe for additional mountain courses - every time feeling more at home in the rough conditions of Patagonia. In 2017 he started his own guide company, introducing travelers to the beauty of Southern Chile.

Living in Puerto Natales he came to love the cold and extreme weather and after years of working in one of the most southern mountain ranges in the world, he could not stop looking further south to the great white continent, Antarctica.

Bill Smith – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jens Binderup – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

life in the Arctic and Antarctica.

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

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

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

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

Joyce Mulder – Expedition Guide



Joyce is a passionate guide with an interest for exploring and understanding the marine life in polar regions. Her journey began in 2018 as a whale-watching guide in the Azores, where she developed a deep appreciation for marine life. After this, she studied the Arctic snowfall variability at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, laying the foundation for her future career in Polar research.

Continuing her academic pursuits, Joyce studied Arctic biology at the University Centre in Svalbard in 2019, acquiring insights into the valuable ecosystems of the far north. With a bachelor's degree in Coastal and Marine Management, she followed a master's program in the same field in Ísafjörður, Iceland, making it her home from 2021 to 2023.

Her academic journey also brought her to the Norwegian town of Tromsø, where she studied fish migrations, further honing her expertise in marine biology. For her master thesis, she joined a research vessel in Greenland, where she studied the benthic communities by mapping the seabed in previously unexplored regions in both 2022 and 2023.

Now, Joyce brings her knowledge and interest for marine wildlife to Oceanwide Expeditions as an expedition guide. Through her role, she shares her expertise and fosters a deeper appreciation for the polar regions.

Julian Robinson – Expedition Guide



Originally from the SE of England, Julian has lived in Aberdeen, Scotland, since 2000.

He is a geologist and since studying geology for a BSc at Durham University and researching Structural geology at for a PhD at Cardiff University, Julian went on to have a successful career in oil and gas exploration and development. He worked on a variety of projects with exposure to many different geological settings across the world. At his current stage of life, he saw a great opportunity to combine geology with his lifelong passion for the outdoors

and began guiding with Oceanwide in 2024.

He is at home in the mountains of Scotland and enjoys several pursuits such as hiking, orienteering, climbing, biking and ski touring, although it is paragliding that he is most passionate about: he has visited many parts of the world seeking out some of the most interesting places to fly such as the Karakoram of Pakistan. It is, however, the rare crisp days soaring above the Scottish Highlands that he enjoys more than anywhere else. He also flies competitions and has represented his country several times in World and European championships.

Allan White - Expedition Guide



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

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

While working as a Port Agent in the Falklands, Allan worked with the late Lars-Eric Lindblad, the inspirational pioneer of small ship expedition cruising. He encouraged Allan to become a Zodiac driver and go to sea for a year. Thirty years later, he's still at it. His voyages have taken him all over the world, with particular focus on the Polar regions. His travel experience ranges from 90° North to 78° South.

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

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

Yukan Cheng - Translator



Yu Kan, pronounced as “You Can” means creating value in the universe” in Chinese. This belief shapes her perspective that life is about finding meaning, instilling in her a positive attitude that you can achieve anything in life. Yu Kan was born and raised in Hong Kong, a city famous for its towering skyscrapers. But actually, Hong Kong also has stunning coastal and mountain landscapes.

After earning her degree in accounting and working in an office, Yu Kan realized her passion for nature and adventure surpassed her interest in an office job.

Seeing people’s joy and growth has brought her more fulfillment than working with numbers. Therefore, she transitioned to the outdoor education industry, where she spent 10 years providing experiential learning in an outdoor setting for children aged 8-18. Witnessing the growth and development of these children has been her most significant achievement.

Fluent in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English, Yu Kan has had the opportunity to work and live in various countries, including China, Malaysia, Australia, the UK, and New Zealand. Her travels across different continents have made her comfortable and deeply interested in exploring diverse cultures.

In 2024, Yu Kan joined Oceanwide Expeditions, and she is excited to offer a unique and memorable experience to all passengers.

Shan Zhou – Translator



Shan is an environmental educator from China, born and raised in Lu'an Anhui . She has deep passion for exploring different cultures and landscapes, and she has had the opportunity to travel extensively to various parts of the world by herself.

Since 2021, she has worked on conservation projects in Northeast Tiger and Leopard National Park and Giant panda National Park such as restoration of giant panda habitats, wildlife monitoring and environmental education .

With a diverse background, Shan has served as an outdoor leader in Giant Panda National Park in Sichuan. Also, she has worked on the Great Barrier Reef Cruise in Cairns, Australia, gaining extensive sailing experience.

Her academic achievements include both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Ecotourism and sustainable tourism, underscoring her deep-rooted knowledge and expertise in the industry.

In her spare time, she loves exploring nature through climbing, hiking, diving and capturing the beauty of the natural world with her camera . Driven by her curiosity and wanderlust, Shan continues to seek out new experiences and destinations, embodying a true spirit of adventure in both her personal and professional life.

Edwin van Leeuwen – Doctor



Edwin van Leeuwen is general practitioner in the city of Almere, Netherlands. Since 2012 he regularly joins expedition cruises with Oceanwide Expeditions and enjoys to be helpful in more or less primitive circumstances.

After registration in 1997 he worked as a locum in more than 80 practices in the Netherlands.

The free-lance work made it possible for him to travel a lot and lead him amongst other places to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro in 1999 and around the Annapurna Circuit in Nepal in 2000.

In 2003 he took up his own GP practice in Almere where he works with two associates in a beautiful award-winning building. The last 14 years he took up training young GP's. Coaching them is something he enjoys very much to do. The city of Almere is a very new and fast-growing city in the Netherlands which was built in a polder.

When one of his patients asked him to join Oceanwide Expedition as a doctor this combined his two passions: working as a doctor and traveling to remote rough corners of the world.

He lives in the city of Naarden, is married and has three children. Leisure activities he loves to do are riding his HD motorcycle, cycling, photography and being outdoors.

His motto in life: "Just because my path is different doesn't mean I'm lost."



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Welcome aboard!

Date: 10th December 2024

Day 1: Ushuaia - Embarkation

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

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 17:00+/- Ship safety briefing, in the **Lecture Room on Deck 3**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**. After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket. All guests will go to their **MUSTER STATION** which the **Bar on Deck 6**.
- 18:00+/- Please join the Expedition Team and Captain in the **Bar on Deck 6** for a celebratory toast to the forthcoming voyage. This will be followed by a welcome briefing by the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days.
- 19:00 Buffet dinner in the **Restaurant on Deck 4**.
- 20:15 Please join Sara, the Expedition Leader, in the **Bar on Deck 6** for the **Mandatory IAATO and Zodiac Briefing** and to hear more about plans for the forthcoming days. Attendance will be checked.

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

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 11 December 2024

Day 2: At Sea, heading towards the Falkland Islands.

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Simon welcomes you to his lecture about Birds of the Falkland Islands in the Bar.
- 11:30 Please join Allan in the Bar for a presentation about Island Life in the Falklands.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:30 You will be called deck by deck down to the Lecture Room on Deck 3 to collect your Muck Boots, please bring your thick socks so you can try them for size.
- 16:15 Sara invites you to the Bar for a presentation about Photography in the Polar Regions.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap, this is a daily event where we go through what we have seen during the day and plans for tomorrow.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 12 December 2024

Day 3: New Island

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

08:00-08:30 We invite you to the gangway for a landing at New Island, Settlement.

The walk from the settlement to the rookery is about 0.6 miles (1km) each way, this is where you will find nesting Black-browed albatross, Rockhopper penguins and King Cormorants. Within the Settlement there is a small shop where you can buy a small assortment of gifts (Dollars, Euros, Sterling, and credit cards are accepted). You can also visit the Barnard Memorial Museum, for which the entrance fee is included in your visit.

Please ensure you are dressed in full waterproofs, Mucks boots and that your lifejacket is correctly fastened before coming to the gangway. Remember to use the Virkon solution provided to clean your boots, tripods, monopods etc before you leave the ship and on your return.

Please note there will be biosecurity spot checks before disembarkation by the expedition team so please ensure you have cleaned your clothing and equipment well beforehand as this will delay embarkation.

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

14:00+/- We invite you to the gangway for a landing at North Harbour. The circular walk to the various penguin and bird colonies is about 2.5 miles (4km).

Gentle reminder – Avian Influenza is a critical threat to wildlife in the Falklands. Please do not kneel/lie down/sit or put anything on the ground. Please keep a 5-metre distance from any wildlife.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

"The greatest adventure of all is life itself" - Bertrand Piccard.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 13 December 2024

Day 4: Stanley

We encourage you to be on the outside decks to enjoy our final approach towards Stanley Harbour, as we navigate through The Narrows.

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:00+/- We hope to take you ashore in Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. Exact timings will be dependent on our progress over night, so please listen to announcements.

We will land at the jetty which is close to the centre of town. Maps and other information leaflets are available in the Tourist Centre, which is very close to the jetty. The admission price to the museum is included in your visit, just show your room card key at the entrance. The local currency is Pounds Sterling, but you can use Euros and Dollars in most shops. Debit and Credit cards are also widely accepted. Please remember, **no food to be taken ashore**, you may be inspected by a government officer on disembarkation.

We will run Zodiacs back to the ship from the jetty, starting at 11:00. **The last Zodiac will leave at 13:00 - PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE.**

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

16:15 **MANDATORY** South Georgia and Biosecurity Briefing in the Bar. Attendance will be checked, please be on time.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

"It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves" - Edmund Hillary



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 14 December 2024

Day 5: Scotia Sea

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Koen invites you to the Bar for his lecture titled 'A brief History of Penguins'.
- 11:30 Joyce welcomes you to the Bar for her presentation about Whales and Dolphins of the Southern Ocean.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 16:30 Second Officer, Ward Dekkers welcomes you to join him in the Bar for a presentation about Bridge operations and navigation on board the M/V Ortelius.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

Please take time during the day to start bio securing your outer clothing, Muck boots and bags in preparation for visiting South Georgia. Brushes, cloth rags and paper clips are available at reception to borrow, please return them as soon as you have finished with them.

- 20:30 We will be doing a screening of the latest Shackleton Movie, 'Endurance', with popcorn!

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 15 December 2024

Day 6: Approaching South Georgia

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:15 Please join Jens for a short Introduction to South Georgia in the Bar.

10:00+/- We will call you deck by deck for the **MANDATORY South Georgia Biosecurity**. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods, etc. that you plan to use in South Georgia for the expedition staff to check. Please make sure everything is clean before proceeding to the Bar and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have approved by the Expedition Team.

PLEASE NOTE - At midday the clocks will go forward 1 hour.

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

Around lunch time we hope to approach Shag Rocks, a group of six islets located about 150 miles (250km) west of the mainland of South Georgia. They are home to thousands of nesting imperial cormorants, plus petrels, prions and penguins. The waters around them can also be fantastic for spotting whales during the austral summer.

16:15 Bill invites you to the Bar for a presentation about M/V Ortelius – a look behind the scenes of how a polar expedition vessel works.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

As we enter the South Georgia special protection area, we must minimise the light pollution to prevent birds striking the ship. **PLEASE PUT ALL THE BLINDS IN YOUR CABINS DOWN BEFORE DINNER!**

"The most beautiful thing in the world is, of course, the world itself" – Wallace Stevens



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 16 December 2024

Day 7: Grytviken and Jason Harbour.

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

On arrival we have to clear customs with the Government Officer, during this time there will be a short presentation in the lounge by the South Georgia Heritage Team about their recent work and the rat eradication project, this is weather dependant.

Before going ashore, we will be individually inspected at the shell doors. This can be a timely process so please be patient, we will call the **Red** group first, followed by the **Blue**. We hope to land you near the two shipwrecks in front of the museum, you can then visit the church, museum, post office, and gallery. Before, entering any of these buildings, you must walk through the Virkon solution provided at the entrance and again when you leave.

IMPORTANT:

- Do not enter any of the old whaling buildings.
- You can only use credit or debit cards.
- Please do not take tripods or monopods ashore.
- If you would like to make a toast to Sir Ernest Shackleton, please be at the cemetery either at 11:00 or 12:00.

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

15:45 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group for a landing at Jason Harbour.

15:45 We would like to invite the **RED** group to the Bar for a presentation about the Geology of South Georgia by Julian.

16:45 We would like to invite the **RED** group for a landing at Jason Harbour.

19:00 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group to the Bar for a presentation about the Geology of South Georgia by Julian.

21:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

PLEASE PUT THE BLINDS DOWN IN YOUR CABINS BEFORE DINNER! DECK 3 & 4 PORTHOLES MUST REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL WE LEAVE SOUTH GEORGIA!

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

"Human effort is not futile, but man fights against the giant force of nature in a spirit of humility." - Sir Ernest Shackleton



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 17 December 2024

Day 8: An Expedition Day in South Georgia.

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:15 We would like to invite the **RED** group for a landing.
08:15 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group to the Bar for a presentation titled 'The Race to the South Pole' by Jens.
- 09:30 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group for a landing.
11:30 We would like to invite the **RED** group to the Bar for a presentation titled 'Race to the South Pole' by Jens.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

A True Expedition Day.

Our plans for the afternoon will depend on what we achieve in the morning and the current weather.

All timings are subject to change, please listen to announcements or visit the bridge if you want the latest updates. The Expedition Team and Bridge Officers are always happy to answer any questions you might have.

- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

PLEASE PUT THE BLINDS DOWN IN YOUR CABINS BEFORE DINNER! DECK 3 & 4 PORTHOLES MUST REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL WE LEAVE SOUTH GEORGIA

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

Visually and emotionally, the island of South Georgia overwhelms. At first glance, it resembles the far south Atlantic branch of Dr Doolittle's fantastic zoo: a profusion of captivating animals that quickly transforms even the most discriminating observer into a raving anthropomorphic. - Ron Naveen



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 18 December 2024

Day 9: Fortuna Bay

- 07:00 Wake-up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:30 We invite the **Blue** group to the gangway for a landing at Fortuna.
- 09:30 We invite the **Red** group to the gangway for a landing at Fortuna.
- 13:00-14:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

An Expedition Afternoon.

Our plans for the afternoon will be entirely dependent on weather.

All timings are subject to change, please listen to announcements or visit the bridge if you want the latest updates. The Expedition Team and Bridge Officers are always happy to answer any questions you might have.

- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

PLEASE PUT THE BLINDS DOWN IN YOUR CABINS BEFORE DINNER! DECK 3 & 4 PORTHOLES MUST REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL WE LEAVE SOUTH GEORGIA

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

"King weather is the tyrant of these latitudes, and he rules South Georgia with ruthless despotism." - Frank Hurley



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 19 December 2024

Day 10: St Andrews Bay and Drygalski Fjord

- 05:00 Wake-up call. (There will be pastries, and juice served in the Bar).
- 05:45 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group for a Zodiac cruise of St Andrews.
- 06:00 We would like to invite the **RED** group for a Zodiac cruise of St Andrews.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 We will show a short video about the South Georgia Rat Eradication Project.
- 10:30 Please join Jens in the Bar for a lecture about the heroic Race to the South Pole, Scott versus Amundsen.
- We will ship cruise into Drygalski Fjord, this bay is 1 mile (1.6 km) wide which recedes north-westwards 7 miles (11 km). It was charted by the Second German Antarctic Expedition, 1911–12, under Wilhelm Filchner, and named for Professor Erich von Drygalski, the leader of the First German Antarctica Expedition, 1901–03.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 13:30+ We will call you deck by deck for the **MANDATORY** IAATO Biosecurity, in preparation for our activities in Antarctica. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods, etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica for the expedition staff to check. Please make sure everything is clean before proceeding to the Bar and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have approved by the Expedition Team.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

"People do not decide to be extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things." - Sir Edmund Hillary



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 20 December 2024

Day 11: Iceberg A23a

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Please join Joyce in the Bar for a lecture titled 'Antarctica Below: exploring the wonders of the deep ocean floor'.
- 11:30 Chris welcomes you to a lecture titled 'An Introduction to Sea Ice and Icebergs'.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- During the afternoon we hope to pass by the enormous A23a iceberg. A23a is a large tabular iceberg which calved from the Filchner–Ronne Ice Shelf in 1986. It was then stuck on the seabed for many years but then started moving in 2020. Its area is about 3,900 square kilometres (1,500 sq. mi), with dimensions of 40x32 nautical miles.
- 16:15 Koen welcomes you to the Bar for a lecture about the Antarctic Treaty.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

Please note the clocks will go back 1 hour tonight.

"The ice and the long moonlit polar nights, with all their yearning, seemed like a far-off dream from another world, a dream that has come and passed away. But what would life be without dreams?" - Fridtjof Nansen



DAILY PROGRAM

Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 21 December 2024

Day 12: Heading towards Antarctica

Please note the clocks will have gone back 1 hour overnight.

- 07:45+/- Wake- up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Please join Hana in the Bar for a lecture titled 'How to observe the ocean below a 400m thick ice shelf in Antarctica.'
- 11:30 Shan and Yukan invite you to the Bar for an Introductory Mandarin Lesson - in which you will learn a few basic words and phrases.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 16:00 Sara welcomes you to the Bar for a lecture about Marine Threats.
- 18:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 18:30 Plated Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 20:00 **HAPPY HOUR IN THE BAR!** 
- 20:30 South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction in the Bar. We will be auctioning off a selection of unique items and experiences, please donate generously.

"We have probed the earth, excavated it, burned it, ripped things from it, buried things in it. That does not fit my definition of a good tenant. If we were here on a month-to-month basis, we would have been evicted long ago."

- Rose Elizabeth Bird



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 22 December 2024

Day 13: Elephant Island, Point Wild

07:15 Wake - up call.

07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

Around breakfast time we hope to arrive at Point Wild, Elephant Island. It was named for Frank Wild, leader of the party from Shackleton's shipwrecked expedition which camped and managed to survive on the point for four and a half months until they were rescued on 30 August 1916.

If the swell and wind conditions allow, we hope to offer a short Zodiac cruise after breakfast to get a closer look at this historic site, in particular the bust of Captain Luis Alberto Pardo, who was the commander of the Chilean Navy cutter Yelcho who rescued the 22 men from the island.

11:30 Bill invites you to the Bar for his presentation about Whaling in the Southern Ocean.

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

13:45 Captain Per invites you to the Bar for a question-and-answer session, if you have any questions for him, please place them in the question box before lunch.

16:15 Sara invites you to the Bar for a lecture about Women in Antarctica.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

"Half the fascination an Antarctic expedition possesses is to be found in the sharpness of the contrasts experienced during its course, for it appears to be true that a hell one day is liable to make a heaven the next." - Raymond Priestley.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 23 December 2024

Day 14: Half Moon Island and Yankee Harbour

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:15+/- We would like to invite the **BLUE** group for a landing at Half Moon Island.
- 08:15 We would like to invite the **RED** group to the Bar for a short presentation about the Ecological Importance of Sea Ice by Koen.
- 09:15+/- We would like to invite the **RED** group for a landing at Half Moon Island.
- 11:45 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group to the Bar for a short presentation about the Ecological Importance of Sea Ice by Koen.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00+/- We would like to invite the **RED** group for a landing at Yankee Harbour.
- 15:00+/- We would like to invite **BLUE** group for a landing at Yankee Harbour.
- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

"I have often had the impression that, to penguins, man is just another penguin – different, less predictable, occasionally violent, but tolerable company when he sits still and minds his own business." - Bernard Stonehouse



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 24 December 2024

Day 15: Palaver Point and Charlotte Bay.

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

08:15 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group for a landing at Palaver Point.

08:15 We would like to invite the **RED** group to the Bar for a short presentation about Antarctic Meteorites by Julian.

09:15 We would like to invite the **RED** group for a landing at Palaver Point.

11:45 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group to the Bar for a short presentation about Antarctic Meteorites by Julian.

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

As we navigate down the Gerlache Strait we encourage you out on deck as this is the main highway for humpback whales and orcas.

If the wind and weather allows, we hope to be able to offer a Zodiac cruise in the vicinity of Charlotte Bay. Please listen to announcements for timings.

Please note: For those guests who wish to have a shorter cruise (less than 1 hours) please board the last Zodiacs. It is very important you dress warmly, in all your layers (hats, gloves, scarfs, thick socks and waterproofs), we expect temperatures to be significantly cooler than previous days as we are now in Antarctica.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

"For speed and efficiency of travel, give me Amundsen, for scientific discovery, give me Scott, but when all hope is lost get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton."
- Sir Edmund Hillary



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica



Merry Christmas!



Date: 25 December 2024

Day 16: Lemaire Channel and Petermann Island.

06:30 Wake-up call.

We will start our transit down the Lemaire Channel straight after wakeup call, so we advise you to be up a little sooner. The Lemaire Channel was nicknamed Kodak Gap, as it is considered one of the most photographic parts of the Antarctic Peninsula.

07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

09:00+/- We invite the **RED** group ashore for a landing at Petermann Island.

09:15+/- We invite the **BLUE** group ashore for a landing at Petermann Island.

09:30+/- For those who do not want to come ashore and would prefer to do a Zodiac cruise, please come to the gangway.

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

After lunch we will transit the Lemaire Channel once more and encourage you to join the Expedition team on the outside decks.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

19:00 A special festive dinner will be served.

"When your feet are cold, cover your head." - Inuit proverb



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 26 December 2024

Day 17: Expedition Day in the Gerlache Strait.

07:15 Wake-up call.

07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

An Expedition Day in the Gerlache Strait.

All activities will be subject to weather and wildlife sightings so please listen to announcements. If you have any questions, please find a member of the expedition team on the bridge.

12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served.

18:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

18:30 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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

"We must always remember with gratitude and admiration the first sailors who steered their vessels through storms and mists and increased our knowledge of the lands of ice in the South." - Roald Amundsen



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 27 December 2024

Day 18: Drake Passage

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:00 We will call you to the Lecture Room to return your Muck boots and hire rental clothing, please listen for announcements.
- 09:30 Please join Simon in the Bar for a lecture about 'Birds of the Drake'.
- 11:30 Bill invites you to a lecture titled 'Paintings of the Sea -The meaning of the sea in artwork.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 16:15 Chris invites you to the Bar for his lecture about living in Antarctica – his time working at Scott Base.
- 18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap! There will be some important information given about disembarkation, settling accounts etc. therefore, we encourage at least one person from each group to attend.
- 19:00 Plated dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

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

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 28 December 2024

Day 19: Approaching South America

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

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

09:15 Please join Koen in the Bar for his presentation about the Exploration of Antarctica until 1900.

11:30 Sara welcomes you to the bar for a presentation about Oceanwides' other Destinations.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 29 December 2024

Day 20: Ushuaia

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

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

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

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

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

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