



Antarctica – Discovery and Learning Voyage

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

6 January 2024 – 16 January, 2025

On board *m/v Plancius*



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



Captain Artur Iakovlev (Russia)

and his international crew of 50 sailors

Chief Officer:	Elizar Kadaria	[Ukraine]
Second Officer:	Martin Hansson	[Sweden]
Third Officer:	Giovanie Simene	[Philippines]
Hotel Manager:	Albert Don	[Netherlands]
Ass. Hotel Manager:	Niels Schipper	[Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Sous Chef:	Sachin Naiks	[India]
Ships doctor:	Joost Moerman	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Adam Burke	[Great Britain]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Steffi Liller	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Tiphane May	[Falkland Islands]
Expedition Guide:	Marco Rosso	[Italy]
Expedition Guide:	Martin Astee	[Great Britain]
Expedition Guide:	Szymon Niezabitowski	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	Natalia Maksimishina	[Russia]
Expedition Guide:	Susanne Polap	[Germany]
Kayak Leader:	Nicholas Cunliffe	[Great Britain]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Monday 6th January, Ushuaia, Embarkation Day

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

Wind: 10kt • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +8°C



It's finally here! The day we start our epic journey south. In the late afternoon we make our way to the port to board our good ship, Plancius. We have travelled far to Ushuaia at the bottom of the world for this amazing opportunity. As we make our way up the gangway our expedition team and crew are waiting to welcome us.

The day was cloudy and warm and the winds gentle and the sea calm. We checked in with hotel team and were shown to our cabins, our new homes for the next 11 days. Our luggage was already waiting for us. It's all so exciting! We explored the ship while everyone else arrived. Once all aboard it was time for us to attend some important mandatory briefings. This included an abandon ship drill where we dressed in our emergency gear and attended our lifeboat. Once we had completed this it was time to return to the lounge to relax with a glass of bubbly whilst Captain Artur introduced himself and toasted the voyage.

Afterwards our hotel manager introduced the ship to us followed by our Expedition Leader Adam who then introduced the expedition team. Everyone on board made us feel welcome. We spent some time socializing with our new friends in the bar whilst we waited.

After all the introductions it was time for the last activity of the day which was dinner. We headed down to the restaurant for the first time and enjoyed a wonderful meal with views of the Beagle Channel outside. We can't wait to see what tomorrow brings!



Day 2 – Tuesday 7th January, At sea towards Antarctica

08h00 GPS Position: 58°05.2'S / 066°19.1'W

Wind: 25kt • Sea: Rough • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +6°C

The first night of sleep was quite an experience—waves crashing, new beds, and a sense of adventure. We quickly got accustomed to it. We were woken up by Adam, and after a delicious breakfast, the morning was dedicated to mandatory briefings we needed to attend before setting foot on Antarctica. Adam made the sessions engaging and easy to follow, and it was fascinating to learn why these rules are so crucial. For example, the avian flu has had a significant impact on wildlife in the Southern Ocean.

Adam also explained how the Zodiac boats operate—essential for taking us from the ship to this pristine environment. We couldn't help but feel excited about the upcoming experience.

Lunch, once again prepared by the hotel team, was fantastic. The afternoon was filled with lectures. Marco gave us an excellent introduction to Antarctica, setting the stage for the adventure ahead, while Steffi shared insights into the lifestyle of seabirds that populate the area, reminding us that penguins, too, are seabirds.

Though some of us weren't feeling our best, we understood that it's all part of the journey. This place is incredibly remote, and we knew we had a lot to learn. We ended the day content, and after a tasty dinner, most of us headed to bed early—whether from travel fatigue, seasickness medication, or simply resting up for the exciting days ahead in Antarctica.



Day 3 – Wednesday 8th January, Second day through Drake Passage

08h00 GPS Position: 61°32.8'S / 062°27.2'W

Wind: 16kt • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +3°C



Overnight the seas had calmed down and most of us had a very comfortable night's sleep. Adam woke us at 07:45 with news that we had made good progress overnight and were now well on our way to our destination.

Whilst the seas were calmer, so was the weather, there was very little wind and some light fog making visibility difficult.

After breakfast we didn't have long to wait before the muckboots were handed out by the expedition team. We were called to the boot room deck by deck and given our trusty boots for the days ahead.

Shortly after, we were then invited to the lounge for a biosecurity check. All our outer clothing, boots and bags were checked for any soil or seeds, in fact anything that could cause any harm to the environment that we were soon to be exploring.

Meanwhile, there were a few birds flying around the ship, White chinned Petrel, Black browed Albatross and Giant Petrels.

It was then time for another delicious lunch from the galley team. Many of us commented that we were surprised how good the food was! Just after lunch two fin whales were spotted close to the starboard side of the ship. A wonderful sight to see these magnificent animals close up.

At 3pm Martin gave us a very interesting presentation, Photography tips for the week ahead, as two Antarctic Prions flew repeatedly around the ship. By this time the fog had lifted and visibility was improving rapidly. More birds like Cape Petrels, White chinned Petrels and Black bellied Storm Petrels flew close to Plancius giving some of us good views.

At 5pm Tiphane gave a fascinating lecture on whales. This was followed shortly by recap when Adam gave us the exciting plans for the next day. Our first day in Antarctica!

After another wonderful meal we were free to go, some retired to the bar/lounge but most of us went back to our rooms to get some rest before our busy day tomorrow, our first sighting of Antarctica!



Day 4 – Thursday 9th January, Orne Islands & Damoy Point

08h00 GPS Position: 64°40.0'S / 062°40.0'W

Wind: 3kt • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +2°C



The day began with an exciting surprise before the wake-up call. The expedition team called all of us when we were still in our beds to get to the outside decks because a beautiful pod of orca were moving through the Gerlache strait. The sighting was incredible – seeing these apex predators in the wild was an unforgettable start of our visit to Antarctica and it happened already on our first day at the continent.

After breakfast, we headed out for our first landing of the day at Orne Islands. The weather was cloudy, but the sea was calm, making the zodiac ride smooth. Once we reached the island, we stepped onto the rocky shore and were immediately surrounded by a large colony of gentoo and chinstrap penguins. They were everywhere! Some waddling across the rocks, diving into the icy waters and others sitting on the nests giving warmth to newly hatched chicks. We spent time watching them interact, their comical movements never failed to entertain. The landscape was dramatic, with towering mountains and glaciers in the background, making for a great setting to explore.

After lunch, we made our way to Dorian Bay for the afternoon landing. On the way we sailed through Neumayer Channel and the weather was just spectacular. Clouds dispersed and we could feel the warmth of the sun on our faces. The bay was quieter and more remote, with stunning views of glaciers and snow-covered peaks. We spotted



another group of gentoo penguins here, along with seals resting on the ice. The landing was a bit more challenging with some icy patches, but our guides helped us navigate the terrain.

We took time to explore the area and soak in the surrounding views. The glacier at the head of the bay was impressive, and we could hear the occasional rumble as parts of it calved into the water. The wildlife was beautiful, but overall atmosphere was peaceful and untouched. After a few hours on land. We boarded the Zodiac and returned to the ship as it was time for our daily recap and with a day full of activities we couldn't wait to eat dinner which was served at 7pm by our lovely chef Khabir and his galley team, marking the end of another remarkable day at the continent.



Kayaking

9 January AM

Orne Islands

Our team of kayakers began their first day of Antarctic adventure at the Orne Islands, a small group of rocky islets, at the north end of Rongé Island, in the Gerlache Strait at the northwest end of the Antarctic Peninsula. We launched in light winds and calm seas on the east side of the islands and circumnavigated the main island before exploring a group of grounded icebergs along the glaciated coastline of Rongé Island.

Our first encounter with the Antarctic environment brought observations of Orne Islands' Gentoo Penguin colonies, and an appreciation of the fascinating ice formations calved from tidewater glaciers.

9 January PM

Damoy Point / Dorian Bay

Our first afternoon continued at Dorian Bay, in light winds and sunshine. A short paddle past coastal ice cliffs took us into the shallow waters of the bay, from where we navigated through shallow waters towards Casablanca Island. Scores of Gentoo penguins lined the shore, watching with curiosity as we paddled alongside the low rocky shore.

Our journey culminated in our arrival at Damoy Point, marking the entrance to Port Lockroy where a small sailing boat completed its final approach to this sheltered anchorage. We headed back towards Plancius, our route framed by the magnificent peaks of Anvers Island.

Day 5 – Friday 10th January, Port Lockroy & Port Charcot

08h00 GPS Position: 64°49.31'S / 063°29.4'W

Wind: 10kt • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +3°C



The day started with a good morning wakeup call from our expedition leader, Adam. During breakfast, we had the chance to admire the stunning views of our landing site at Goudier Island. The island hosts a small team from the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT), who manages a museum, post office, and shop. Originally established as another BAS station ("Base A") in 1946 during Operation Tabarin, it is now preserved as a historic site by the UKAHT, with the main building, Bransfield House,

serving as the museum and a shop. After breakfast, we attended an engaging presentation by the UKAHT staff managing the site, who shared the fascinating history of Port Lockroy.

Despite the rainy weather, we eagerly made our way ashore to explore. The rain didn't dampen our spirits as we spent time visiting the impressive museum, browsing the shop, and sending postcards to loved ones back home.

We were back onboard MV *Plancius* for lunch. After food we were passing the Lemaire Channel which is a narrow strait located off the coast of Antarctica, separating the Kyiv Peninsula on the mainland's Graham Land from Booth Island. Often referred to as the "Kodak Gap" due to its breathtaking scenery, it stands out as one of the most popular tourist spots in Antarctica. The channel, stretching 11 kilometers (6.8 miles) in length, is framed by towering cliffs and filled with drifting icebergs. At its narrowest point, it measures just 600 meters (2,000 feet) across, creating a dramatic and unforgettable passage.



We anchor at Port Charcot under a grey but peaceful sky. From the ship, we are shuttled ashore to a rocky beach, where the adventure begins. A steep, snowy ramp leads us upwards, offering breathtaking views of the untouched Antarctic wilderness. Along the way, we visit several gentoo penguin colonies, their cheerful calls filling the crisp air as they waddle between nests scattered across the icy terrain.

Our hike takes us to the iconic cross that stands atop Port Charcot, surrounded by sweeping vistas of sparkling glaciers and tranquil waters dotted with floating icebergs. The raw beauty of the Antarctic landscape, with its quiet stillness and dramatic contrasts, leaves a lasting impression.

After a fulfilling visit, we are shuttled back to *Plancius*, where a delicious dinner, lovingly prepared by our chef Kabir, awaits us—a perfect way to end an incredible day in this remote and awe-inspiring corner of the world.



Kayaking

10 January AM

Port Lockroy

A cold grey morning was enlivened by our kayak exploration of Port Lockroy, completing a tour of the bay perimeter from Goudier Island. Within the bay we observed a resting Leopard Seal on a flat ice floe, and a Weddell Seal hauled out on the low shoreline. The assembled vertebrae of an old whale carcass provided a reminder of a once-flourishing industry that once threatened the future of these remarkable giants of the ocean.

We sheltered beneath impressive ice cliffs at the head of the bay, before paddling downwind through patches of brash ice to Gaudier Island. We landed here to explore the renovated historic buildings of the British Antarctic Survey 'Base A', its museum and shop. We tiptoed past scores of nesting Gentoo Penguins that found shelter in the protecting lee of the old research station.

Day 6 – Saturday 11th January, Pleneau Island and Petermann Island

08h00 GPS Position: 65°10.1'S / 064°04.3'W

Wind: 6kt • Sea: Low • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +4°C

Today's Antarctic expedition was filled with breathtaking sights and unforgettable wildlife encounters. Adam's "good morning, good morning, good morning" wake-up call was at 7:15, in time for those wanting a bit more sleep to get ready for another delicious breakfast. At 9am we embarked on the zodiacs for a scenic cruise



around Pleneau Island, where the landscape was dominated by massive, sculpted icebergs in varying shades of blue and white. Especially with the overcast sky the blue seemed more vibrant. This place was discovered by the 4th French Antarctic Expeditions of 1903-1905 run by Jean-Baptiste Charcot and named after Paul Pleneau the photographer from this expedition.



While we were cruising through the maze, we found around a corner a crabeater seal sleeping on the ice. He was covered in scars from a past encounter with a predator which might be a leopard seal or an orca. A little bit further north-west we found four more

crabeater seal laying around lazy and recovering from their krill hunting. We also enjoyed the thrilling experience of whale watching in Girard bay close to the south entrance of the Lemaire channel. Despite the clouds, we were fortunate to avoid any precipitation, allowing us to fully appreciate the majesty of our surroundings.

In the afternoon, we made our way to Petermann Island, where we went ashore for a hike. The weather had improved, with the overcast skies gave way to periods of beautiful weather, though a light wind persisted. We landed next to an Argentinian refuge hut where a juvenile Elephant seal and nesting gentoo penguins welcomed us. The gentoos were enjoying a bath in the melted snow pool while we passed



them to hike towards colonies of Adelie penguins and Antarctic shags. The penguins were particularly active, some waddling around while others were busy tending to their nests, providing plenty of opportunities for us to observe their fascinating behaviours. The Antarctic shags were equally captivating, with their striking plumage standing out against the stark

landscape. The combination of stunning wildlife, incredible scenery, and improved weather made for a truly memorable day in one of the most remote and awe-inspiring places on Earth.



As evening arrived, we cruised through the stunning Lemaire Channel, a passage lined with towering cliffs and glaciers that seemed to glow in the soft light. On deck 3, we gathered for a special BBQ, sheltered from the wind but still offering magnificent views of the surrounding wilderness. The meal featured hot wine, juicy steaks, and a salad buffet, creating a warm and

festive atmosphere. To top off the evening, we danced to the rhythm of the macarena, laughing and celebrating the day's adventures. The combination of delicious food, lively dancing, and the incredible scenery made for a perfect end to an unforgettable day in Antarctica.



Kayaking

11 January AM

Pleneau Island

After an amazing afternoon cruise through the Lemaire Channel and a stormy afternoon hike at Port Charcot, our third morning began in lighter winds at Pleneau Island. Seeking shelter from the NE breeze, we explored a maze of shallow channels between low glacially smoothed

rocks at the south end of the island. Here we discovered a pair of female Elephant Seals that watched us intently as we drifted past their rocky haul-out. We continued towards the north end of Pleneau, past a pair of resting Weddell Seals, and a lively colony of Gentoo Penguins that clustered on steep rocky slabs with their Antarctic Shag neighbours.

The north tip of the island brought impressive views towards Port Charcot across its enormous 'iceberg graveyard'. We tackled wind and waves for a few hundred metres until we found shelter behind a series of impressively large, grounded icebergs. Following a natural slalom course between these icy obstacles, we completed our satisfying circuit of Pleneau Island. Returning to our Zodiac, we headed home to Plancius at the end of a great kayaking adventure.

11 January PM

Petermann Island

The weather continued to improve, with sunshine and light winds at Petermann Island, our most southerly point on this excellent Discovery & Learning voyage and a home to a colony of Adelie Penguins. We began at the east coast launch point, heading north to a narrow inlet in the cliffs where Charcot's 1908 expedition overwintered in the Pourquoi Pas. We ventured offshore a little to gain a view of two Crabeater Seals on the lower shelf of an enormous, stranded iceberg that dominated the view north towards the Lemaire Channel.

We reached the north corner of the island, paddling between yet more grounded icebergs as our kayaks rose and fell in the gentle west swell from the vast Southern Ocean to our left. Returning to more sheltered waters, we completed the east coast of Petermann Island to arrive at our most southerly point in the expedition week. We sat quietly for a while, marveling at the distant Antarctic horizon. We finally returned to our Plancius home at the end of another excellent kayaking adventure.

Day 7 – Sunday 12th January, Paradise Harbour & Orne Harbour

08h00 GPS Position: 64°84.9'S / 062°92.3'W

Wind: 6kt • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 0°C

While M/V Plancius graciously sailed into the glassy waters of Paradise Harbour accessing the bay from the west through the Bryde channel; Expedition Leader Adam had to anticipate the wake-up call. A pod of 10-15 orcas had been sighted by the attentive eyes of the bridge team.

Quickly dressed up we rushed to the outer decks to find ourselves surrounded by a stunning scenery of glaciated mountains. Right in front of the bow we recognized the huge and tall fin of the orca male, patrolling the areas in which the rest of the females and their calves were about to transit. In the distance a few humpback whales were feeding, and the atmosphere was so serene. What a great start!!



Breakfast was served while *Plancius* repositioned deeper into the bay. Soon we were out on the zodiacs for another incredible morning through brash ice, skirting our way near beautiful carved bergy bits and icebergs. Flukes and tidal lines were so clear on the icebergs, and the glimmering light of the day gifted us with intense turquoise tinges on some of the deeper cracks of the glaciers.



Some of us transited in front of Brown station, one of the many research facilities managed by Argentina in the peninsula region. Gentoo penguins welcomed us near the buildings while the flamboyant Argentine flag symbolize that the south American country had claimed this area even before the Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959.

Past the station an impressive cliff with Mesozoic layers and foldings, a home for a noisy colony of Antarctic Shags was located, where parents were already taking care of their chicks. Near them some Cape Petrels nesting in the most remoted crags on the wall. Icy rivers flowing down the mainland peninsula, calving into the waters of Paradise Harbour. Weddell and crabeater seals resting on ice floes, whereas feeding humpback whales were cruising around. Some of us were lucky enough to get a close encounter with these cetaceans which at this moment of the season started to reach the productive waters that surround the peninsula for feeding.



At the end of the zodiac cruise, we were shuttled to shore for our first continental landing of the trip. Punta Vidt is a small and shallow promontory, often a place where Weddell seals haul out. For us it was also the stage of the polar plunge; welcomed with great spirit and with good numbers by most of us who decided to dip their feet and heads into the frigid waters of the seventh continent.

During lunch time M/V Plancius sailed once again through the Gerlache strait on her way to Orne Harbour. A visible landmark, Spigot peak, marked the entrance of this heart-shaped embayment that opens towards the southeast of the Arctowsky Peninsula. For all of us it meant a second landing on the mainland, and a fantastic hike up to the saddle which overlooked the incredible scenery. From the top of Orne Harbour the entire central part of the Gerlache strait was visible. The views stretched as far as Anvers island towards the west and Brabant island to the Northeast. A perfect sunny day to remember, especially when a noisy rookery of Chinstrap penguins welcomed us at the top. Their chicks already more than a week old were well taken care of and fed by the hard-working parents which were able to climb to the colony from the opposite side. What a place to be born!!



Eventually the operations were wrapped up and once again we were safely shuttled back to the ship ready to listen for the plans of the next days and the recaps carried out by our fantastic expedition team.



Kayaking

12 January AM

Paradise Bay

The aptly named Paradise Bay was the venue for an amazing morning of kayaking in this beautiful bay surrounded by steep glacial mountains. From the Argentinian research base at Brown Station, we passed under steep rocky cliffs where Antarctic Shags fed hungry chicks in their remarkably constructed nests. On into Skontorp Bay, we entered a world of brash ice and growlers amid larger bergs calved from this chaotic glacier that tumbled into the ocean from steep mountain flanks.

In glassy waters we observed a feeding Humpback Whale that use bubble-net tactics to drive its krill prey to the surface. For many magical minutes, this might cetacean gently lunged and fed, dived and surfaced - all within a few short metres of our kayaks, as glacial ice towers crashed into the bay. Amazed at our good fortune, we finally tore ourselves away to continue our journey.

Our morning ended with a continental landing where we placed our feet on Antarctic ground and, for some, a celebratory polar plunge into the frigid waters of Paradise Harbour. Home to the ship, we marveled at our incredible morning of adventure.

12 January PM

Orne Harbour

Our afternoon brought yet more amazing kayaking experiences at the magnificent Orne Harbour. We launched beneath the towering cliffs of Spigot Peak, under rock ledges dotted with groups of Chinstrap Penguins. We headed deeper into the bay, arcing towards its north side through dense carpets of brash ice. We pushed deeper in, pausing in a safe area to observe the mighty glacial river, to reflect on this incredible environment, and to share some group photographs.

We continued north into a secluded bay, sheltered from the breeze and hidden from Plancius. Here in this isolated corner of the Antarctic Peninsula, we drifted alone for a few minutes, sensing the power of our dramatic and austere surroundings. A final paddle back to the ship completed an excellent day of Antarctic kayaking.

Day 8 – Monday 13th January, Melchior Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 64°19.2'S / 062°58.1'W

Wind: 10kt • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +4°C

Our final day in Antarctica began on a high note. Adam woke us up to a clear blue sky, light winds, and a breathtaking view of Anvers and Brabant Islands as we made our way toward the Melchior Islands—our destination for the morning's activity. At 9:00, we set out with our expedition team to explore the archipelago. The islands are named after letters of the Greek alphabet, so we visited Alpha, Beta, and Gamma, while also keeping an eye out for Lambda.



The Melchior Station, which was operational from 1947 to 1962 for year-round meteorological studies by the Argentinians, now feels a bit outdated. The station is only open during the summer months, and today, no one was there. Still, we were excited to explore the area in search of wildlife.

The Zodiacs spread out across the archipelago, where we marvelled at the stunning rock formations, glaciated peaks, steep ice walls, and winding channels in between. The landscape was truly captivating. Along the way, we spotted Weddell seals resting on the ice, crabeater seals lounging nearby, and even some fur seals arriving after leaving their breeding grounds on the subantarctic islands—playful little creatures.

We were also lucky enough to see whales, including a mother and calf of humpback whales, swimming gracefully in the bay. The sun was shining, and we all revelled in the spectacular scenery, surrounded by blue and white glaciers.



Sadly, all good things must come to an end. After three hours of exploration, we returned to the ship, where the bridge team was already lifting the anchor to head back into the Drake Passage. We couldn't help but feel a bit emotional, as we anticipated the rough waters ahead. But perhaps our sea legs had improved over the course of the journey.



Before lunch, we took a quick shower in preparation for the upcoming "Drake Shake." The afternoon was relatively quiet, with many of us taking a well-earned rest. Meanwhile, Szymon taught us more about orcas—indeed, we had seen them four times during our trip, which was quite impressive.

In the evening, we gathered for the recap session. We were curious about what the weather would bring as we looked forward to hearing more stories from the

staff. After another fantastic dinner, we retired to our cabins, reflecting on the incredible week we'd just experienced. It was hard to believe it was all coming to an end.

What an unforgettable journey!



Kayaking

13 January AM

Melchior Islands

Our final morning in Antarctica arrived among the magical Melchior Islands between Anvers and Brabant Islands. Light winds and sunshine promised excellent kayaking conditions - our expectations were surpassed in this superb paddling environment. From our anchorage lagoon we exited a narrow channel onto the west coast of Kappa Island, where we discovered an intricate series of channels beneath steep rock walls and small grounded icebergs. A pair of Antarctic Fur Seals gazed down at us from their rocky haul-out platform, a magnificent sighting of our fifth seal species on this amazing expedition.

We continued north east towards the was toast of Delta Island where, with amazing good fortune, we found ourselves in the company of a pair of Humpback Whales that dived and surfaced in the waters of the sound. A perfectly timed moment in our final kayaking adventure, we took a final few minutes to embrace the impossible beauty of our Antarctic world before, finally and reluctantly, returning to Plancius to begin our homeward journey.

Day 9 – Tuesday 14th January, At sea to Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 61°45.8'S / 065°83.0'W

Wind: 23kt • Sea: Rough • Weather: Cloudy • Air temperature: +4°C



We started the day, unusually, with a wakeup call from Albert informing us that the restaurant was open for breakfast. Adam had kindly given us a lay in!

Despite the rolling seas and pitching ship the galley team had served up yet another fantastic feast for breakfast.

Outside the weather was overcast and windy, the wind hitting us straight on the bow, for some of us it made for some

uncomfortable sailing. We had to wait for later in the afternoon for the sun to shine.

Shortly after breakfast Martin gave us a thought-provoking lecture on the role of photography in conservation, there were some interesting stories about Giant Petrels, Humpback whales and Barnacle geese. All from identification from photographs.

Following that lecture Suzie then gave a lecture on the fascinating life of Krill, these tiny animals that live in their millions in the oceans. Particularly moving was the story of Alan the Krill who ultimately was lost to a drainage system.....

After a morning of lectures, it was already time for lunch, the ship was still moving a little but virtually all of us managed to make it to the dining room for our penultimate lunch on board our beautiful little ship.

The wind was still blowing but a few of us intrepid souls made it out on deck to take in the fresh, clean air that we had spent the last week breathing in.

For those that didn't venture out a film was played in the lounge with a popcorn accompaniment, the film was the highly educational, Happy Feet. A tale of a happy go lucky Emperor penguin.

Whilst the film was playing the sun started to shine and a group of Antarctic Prions flew around the ship!

There was an extra-long recap today with subjects such as the swim dynamics of penguins to the superstitions of mariners and finishing off with a study into the poop of penguins. Recap finished just in time for dinner and another fantastic meal created by our wonderful galley team.

There ended our first day sailing home in the Drake Passage.



Day 10 – Wednesday 15th January, Drake Passage

08h00 GPS Position: 56°68.7'S / 066°82.7'W

Wind: 20kt • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +6°C

Today there was no wake-up call. We enjoyed a lay in before Hotel Manager Albert called us up for breakfast. The ship is still moving quite a lot but there is promise of calm waters in the afternoon as we get closer to South America.

Our expedition leader Adam kicked off our lectures for the day with his presentation on his experience working for BAS (British Antarctic Survey) as a boating officer and base commander including overwintering in Antarctica. It was so interesting to see how people survive in Antarctica all year around!

After a short break we then gathered in the lounge again for a presentation from Natalia about the Belgica, an amazing expedition to Antarctica in the late 1800's lead by Adrien De Gerlache including the famous Roald Amundsen. It was fascinating!

Once again, Khabir's team made us a delicious lunch, after which we had a bit of a break from activities. In the afternoon we all got cozy together in the lounge to watch the animation film Happy Feet, featuring our favourite Antarctic animals, penguins, orca's and seals! Popcorn made the experience feel even more cinematic.

In the afternoon we were finally started to feel the shelter of Cape Horn. The waves started to die down and we were allowed out on the deck again. The sun began to shine and some of us went out to take some fresh air. Black Browed Albatross glided past as the dim shadows of land started to appear in front of us.



We then attended the third lecture for the day which was given by Szymon on the effects of climate change. We learned a lot about how our world is changing. After a short break it was time for the last presentation of the day. An introduction to Cape Horn by Nick followed by a documentary. After the documentary it was time for our last event of the day before dinner.



The Captain's farewell, with a glass of bubbles and some kind words from the captain marked the end of our adventure together. Marco presented us with his slideshow of the trip which brought many memories back and we spent the rest of the evening enjoying our remaining time with our newfound friends before we were called for dinner.

Day 11 – Thursday 16th January, Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 54°51.2'S / 068°05.7'W

Wind: 13kt • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +8°C

We finally arrived in Ushuaia early this morning and it was time to say our goodbyes. We had our final breakfast aboard Plancius then gathered the last of our things and headed for the gangway. We said farewell to the whole team onboard and the new friends we had made. Some of us were off to explore Ushuaia while others were flying straight home, looking back as we left to take a final look at the Plancius, remembering good times and perhaps planning for more in the future.

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1540 nm
Southernmost position: 65°17.7'S / 064°13.5'W

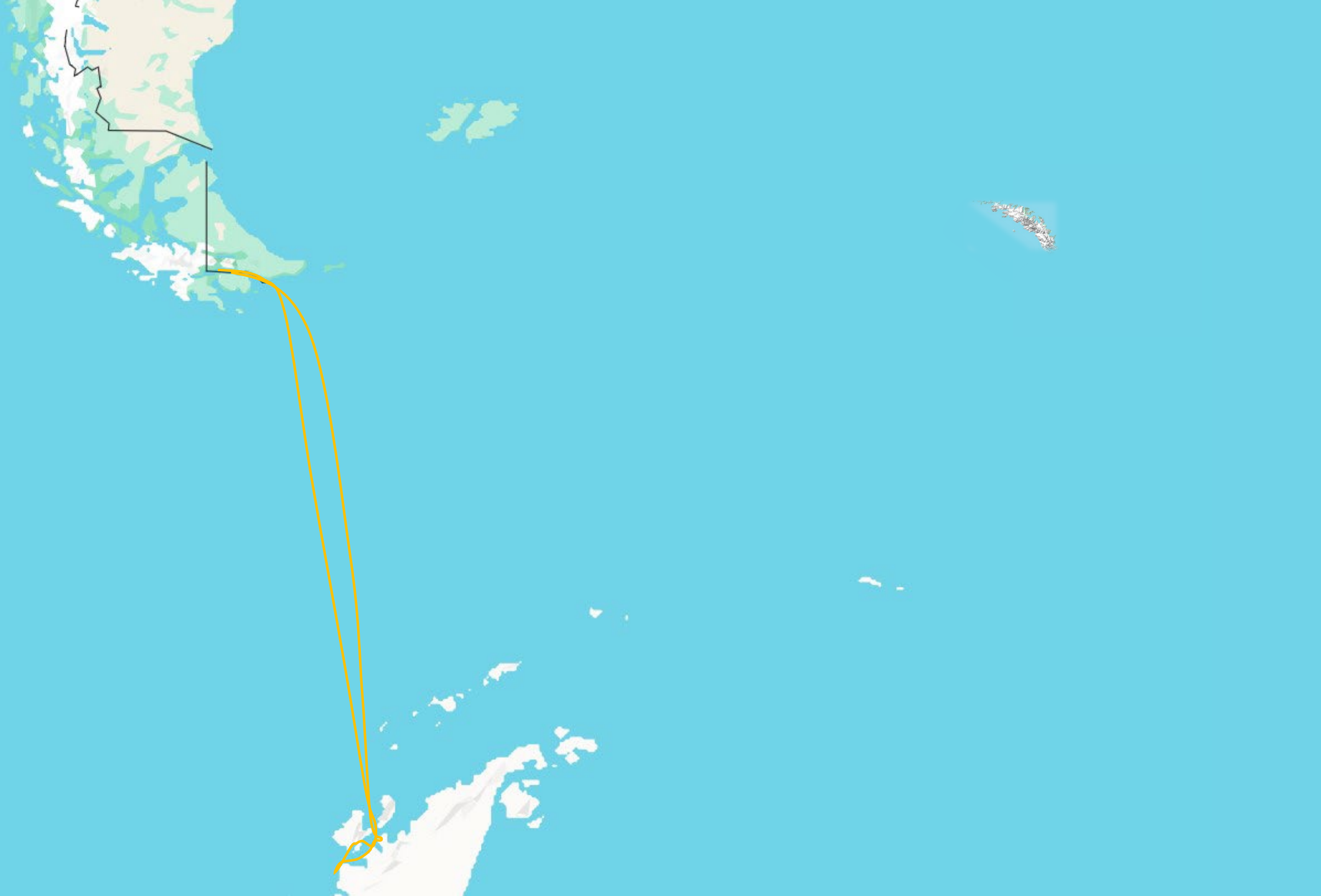
On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, the Captain, Crew and Expedition staff would like to thank you for pleasant times, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.



1. Orne Islands
2. Damoy Point
3. Port Lockroy
4. Port Charcot
5. Pleanau Island
6. Petermann Island
7. Paradise harbour
8. Orne Harbour
9. Melchior Islands

Total Distance Travelled:

- 1540 nM
- 2852 km
- 1772 miles





1 **Orne Islands**
Landing
09/01/2025

2 **Damoy Point**
Landing
09/01/2025

3 **Port Lockroy**
Landing
10/01/2025

4 **Port Charcot**
Landing
10/01/2025

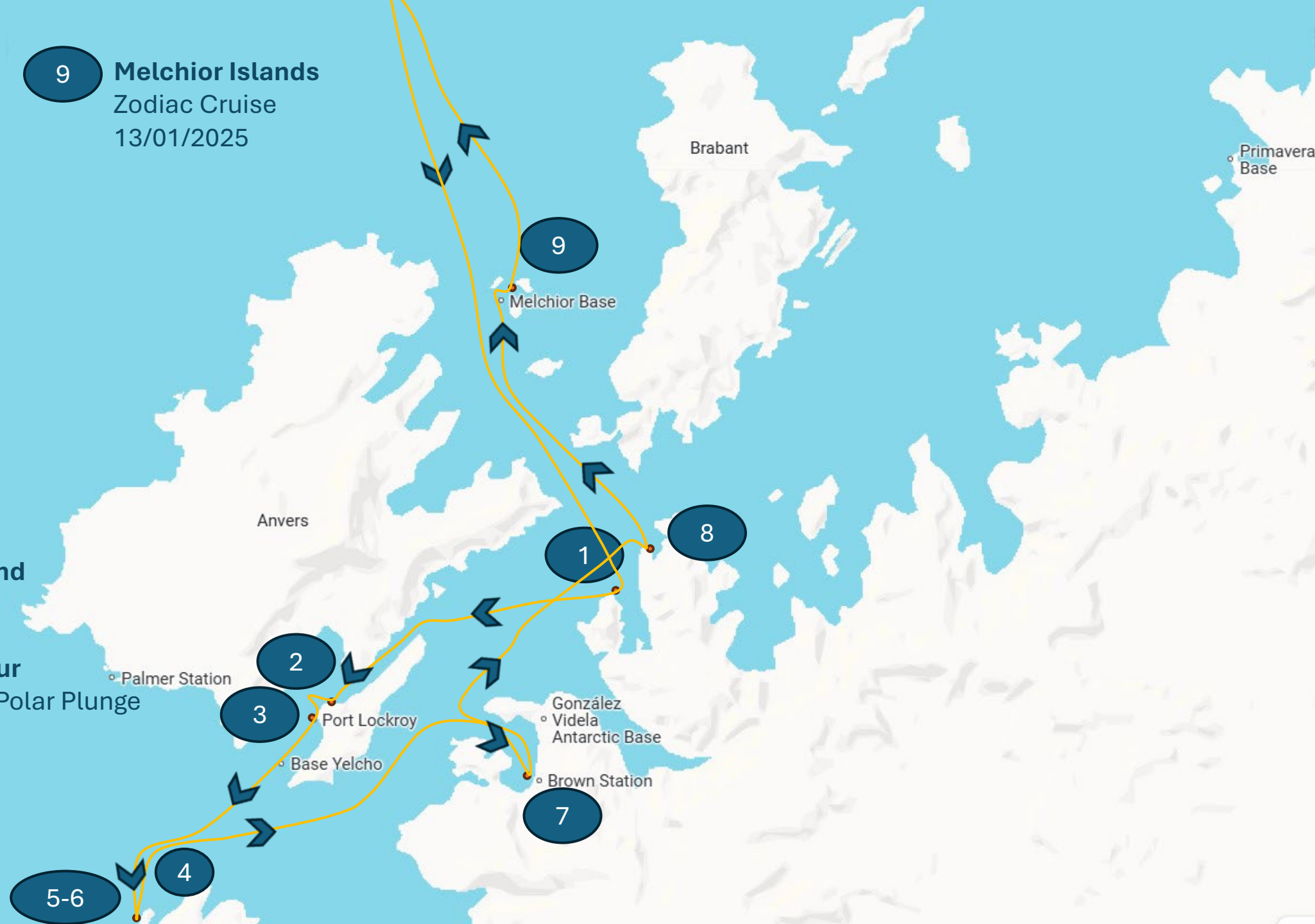
5 **Pleaneu Island**
Zodiac Cruise
11/01/2025

6 **Petermann Island**
Landing
11/01/2025

7 **Paradise Harbour**
Zodiac Cruise + Polar Plunge
12/01/2025

8 **Orne Harbour**
Landing
12/01/2025

9 **Melchior Islands**
Zodiac Cruise
13/01/2025



Species list: Breeding birds of Antarctica												
English	Scientific	6-Jan	7-Jan	8-Jan	9-Jan	10-Jan	11-Jan	12-Jan	13-Jan	14-Jan	15-Jan	16-Jan
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>											
Adelie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>						X					
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>				X	X	X	X	X			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>				X	X			X			
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	X										
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>											
Antarctic Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>								X			
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>			X				X	X			
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>										X	
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>		X						X	X	X	
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>											
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		X								X	
Light Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>								X			
Blue Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		X	X					X			
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachytila belcheri</i>											
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachytila desolata</i>			X						X		
Kerguelen Petrel	<i>Aphrodroma brevirostris</i>											
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>											
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>						X					
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X				
Fuegian Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites chilensis</i>											
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>			X					X			
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardena grisea</i>			X							X	
Imperial Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>											
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				X	X	X	X	X			
Pale-faced Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>				X			X				
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	X										
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	X			X	X		X	X			
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>				X	X		X	X			
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	X										
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>				X			X	X			
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X			
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>											
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>										X	
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	X	X	X			X				X	

[illegible]

Adam Burke – Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

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

Stefanie Liller – Asst. Exp. Leader



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

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

Tiphanie May - Expedition Guide



Tiphanie is an 8th generation Falkland Islander living in Stanley. She was raised on a small group of islands called Speedwell Island Group, owned and worked by her parents as a sheep farm and family crab business.

Tiph was raised surrounded by Falkland's wildlife with her family island boasting rookeries of Magellanic penguins, Gentoo penguins as well as several other breeding birds. The islands also include haul outs of South American sealions and elephant seals. Surrounded by all this wildlife it was of no surprise that she found nature

fascinating. From the penguin couple that lived under her house to the wonderful variety of creatures found in the crab pots, marine life was a theme. This led to her to travel to the UK at 16 to study to be a marine biologist.

Tiph spent 6 years in the UK studying to get her BSc (HONS) Marine Biology and MSc in Marine Biology. Using her holidays to volunteer in the Falklands for various conservation projects to gain experience. Upon completing her studies, she joined the Government Fisheries Department, spending 200 days per year at sea monitoring seabird activity and collecting research material. The sea has been a big part of her life, from a young age she worked to haul crab pots with her father's boat. Later she went on to work for an experimental sustainable fish farm which allowed her to get her RYA qualifications in Power Boat. Tiph currently works full time operating a small boat in the Falklands.

Tiphanie started working in the tourist industry at the age of 23. Having grown up with no roads her whole life, 4X4 tour driving just made sense. Tiph has worked to provide a variety of tours such as hiking, 4X4 and penguin colony visits. In 2018, Tiphanie was offered the amazing opportunity to go to Antarctica and South Georgia with Oceanwide as guide. She fell in love with the scale of the landscape and has never looked back.

Marco Rosso - Expedition Guide



Marco was born in the country of Pasta & Pizza. He graduated in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Padua, his native city in Italy, and subsequently achieved a Master's degree in "Turbomachinery and Fluid Dynamics" at the Von Karman Institute in Brussels, Belgium.

After a few years working in the industry, he decided to embark himself on a quest. For two years he carried his tent and camping equipment; backpacking from the steamy jungle of Mexico and Central America, through the snowy peaks of the Peruvian Andes and the dry highlands of Bolivia. Rolling all the way down to the tip of South America.

The raw and powerful beauty of Patagonia convinced him to swap Mother Nature wonders for mankind artifacts. Fascinated by applied geophysics, he therefore decided to use his deep and broad knowledge in thermodynamics and fluid mechanics to satisfying his innate curiosity, thus self-teaching Earth Science natural processes such as geological volcanism, sea ice and glaciers formation and dynamics, wind patterns and oceanic currents.

During the last decade he has been living in Puerto Natales, Chile; leading groups as a trekking guide and tour leaders in some of the most beautiful and rugged trails of Patagonia, such as Torres del Paine, Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre circuits as well as the southernmost trekking in the world, Dientes de Navarino.

One step further from Patagonia lies the Antarctic peninsula, where he is willing to share with you an incredible camping experience in this truly pristine and untouched environment.

Martin Anstee – Expedition Guide



Martin has been a keen naturalist and wildlife photographer for most of his life.

Martin has been an active Bird Ringer since the year 2000 and particularly enjoys studying/ringing and just being around seabird colonies.

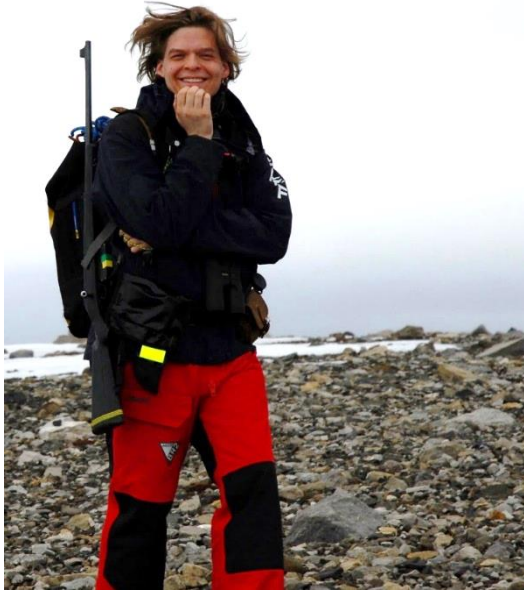
Martin has used a camera since an early age and has combined his love of the outdoors and seabird habitats with photography. Martin has spent time in Zimbabwe and Botswana photographing other wildlife.

Martin has combined this with a career in the Police Service, firstly in the UK where he was, amongst other roles, a wildlife crime officer. His last role in The Police was as a Police Sergeant in The Royal Falkland Islands Police.

Martin lived in the Falkland Islands, Stanley, for just over two years, leaving to return to the UK in November 2021. In his two years Martin was a volunteer with Falklands Conservation, he helped with The Falkland Islands Seabird Monitoring Program (FISMP) in particular counting Seabirds and ringing Black browed Albatross. Martin was also involved in fieldwork for a Striated Caracara (Johnny Rook) study. As a result Martin has visited most of the larger (and some of the smaller) outlying islands that form part of The Falkland Islands.

This is also where Martin started his career as a guide, he enjoys sharing his knowledge of the Islands and the wildlife which he continues to do to this day. Martin has also guided in The Arctic, Antarctica and some of the sub-antarctic Islands as well as some of the least visited Islands in The Atlantic such as Tristan da Cunha.

Szymon Niezabitowski – Exp. Guide



Szymon was born in Cracow, Poland. He studied Biology and Geography in Cracow where he received his graduate degree in “Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences”. His final thesis was about Volcanic Soils on Iceland.

After he finished his studies, he joined Polish Academy of Sciences and worked for the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, where he was a guide and researcher on exotic animals.

Szymon began guiding in the Arctic in 2016 on Spitsbergen and since then has also led Orca whale trips in North Norway.

From the earliest years of his life he is a passionate naturalist with a special interest in the geography and the wildlife of the higher latitudes.

Susanne Polap – Expedition Guide



Susanne Polap is a Switzerland based Guide from Germany with Polish roots and has a master's degree in biology.

Her never-ending curiosity and passion for outdoors has paved the way for becoming a professional Expedition Guide. Starting with whitewater rivers and gaining experience and knowledge in rafting and kayaking, she is exploring now the polar regions, aiming to share her enthusiasm for exploration and connect people with the wonders of nature.

With a solid background in biology, she possesses a deep understanding of the complex workings of our diverse ecosystem and the role of flora and fauna in it. She wants to share her passion and knowledge to ensure unforgettable expeditions for all adventurers to come.

In addition to her work as a guide, she loves to actively experience nature - be it hiking, snowboarding, kayaking, rafting or on expeditions through the most remote areas of the world. She always keeps her camera close to capture moments and feeling of the scenery.

Susanne firmly believes that direct experiences of nature can inspire people to take a responsible approach to our planet. She wants to raise awareness of climate change and its impact on fragile regions like Antarctica, by sharing her experiences and knowledge with others.

Nick Cunliffe – Kayak Leader



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

Å to Svolvær Chilean Patagonia
Chonos archipelago / San Rafael glacier

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

Joost Moerman – Ships Doctor



Joost is a general practitioner based in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. He runs his own practice, where he and his dedicated team work closely together to provide patient-centered care, ensuring that each patient's unique needs are met with attention and compassion. Joost emphasizes the importance of teamwork, believing that collaborative efforts lead to better health outcomes. In addition to his role as a GP, Joost also serves as a palliative care consultant, offering specialized support to patients and families dealing with end-of-life conditions.

Joost's medical career has also taken him abroad, including periods working as a doctor in New Zealand, and internships in Canada and Africa. These experiences allowed him to gain a broader perspective on healthcare practices and to appreciate the diversity of patient needs across different cultures and settings. It's a perspective that continues to inform his work in Rotterdam.

Outside of his professional responsibilities, Joost is passionate about travel, particularly to remote and less-explored destinations. This love for adventure is complemented by his interest in activities like horseback riding, scuba diving, and riding his motorcycle. Despite these active pursuits, he values balance and enjoys relaxing with a good book or spending time with friends.

In addition to his native Dutch, Joost is fluent in English and has recently begun learning Spanish, driven by a desire to connect with a wider range of people and cultures.

Joost Moerman brings a blend of local and international experience to his practice, along with a diverse range of interests that reflect his curiosity and love for travel.

Antarctica Discovery and Learning voyage Ushuaia

Embarkation
Monday 6th of January 2025

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

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

Antarctica

Discovery and Learning voyage

Drake Passage
Tuesday 7th of January 2025

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1000 **Zodiac, IAATO and Biosecurity Briefing.** During our seadays, we will have to fulfil some mandatory briefings for our visit to Antarctica. Join Adam in the lounge for these obligatory briefings.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Introduction to Antarctica.** As we are heading south towards the frozen continent, join Marco in the lounge for lecture about Antarctica as an introduction to our trip.
- 1700 **Seabirds.** We will encounter many seabirds throughout the trip. If you would like to learn more about these iconic birds and how they live their life on the ocean, join Steffi in the lounge.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

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

Wednesday 8th of January 2025

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Boots.** We will hand out the boots which you will use throughout the trip. We will call you by deck. The bootroom is on deck 3 forward.
- 1030 **Biosecurity.** Followed by the briefing on biosecurity of the first morning, we will call you by deck to bring all your outer gear, boots, tripods and walking poles you plan to use during your time of the trip. We will inspect them with you and take care we are not bringing any invasive species or diseases to the places we would like to visit.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1330 **Kayakbriefing.** For those who take part in Kayaking, please meet Nick for a briefing in the lounge.
- 1500 **Photography.** We will hopefully see amazing landscapes and a lot of wildlife. If you would like to improve your photos, join Martin in the lounge for some tips in photography.
- 1700 **Adaptations of whales.** We will encounter hopefully many whales throughout the trip. If you would like to learn more about these gentle giants of the oceans, join Tiphany in the lounge.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

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

Antarctica

Discovery and Learning voyage

Orne Island & Damoy Point
Thursday 9th of January 2025

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 **Orne Island.** This morning, we plan to do our first landing at Orne Island. We will see gentoo and chinstrap penguins. The island is located north of glaciated Ronge Island and the views over the Gerlache Strait are stunning.
Please listen to the announcements.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- tba **Neumayer Channel.** On our way to our afternoon location we will pass through the Neumayer Channel. It is a beautiful passage, enjoy the ships cruise.
- 1430 **Damoy Point.** In the afternoon, we would like to take you ashore at Damoy Point. The place is home for gentoo penguins and the scenery with the high mountain around is beautiful
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

Antarctica

Discovery and Learning voyage

Port Lockroy & Port Charcot
Friday 10th of January 2025

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0845 The Port Lockroy Team will come on board to tell us more about the work of the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, join them in the lounge.
- 0915 We would like to visit Port Lockroy, the southern most post office. The site is pretty small. You will get the chance to visit the shop and the museum at Goudier Island and we will offer also a Zodiac cruise around the bay.
Please listen to the announcements.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- tba **Lemaire Channel.** We will pass one of the most scenic passages in Antarctica. Enjoy from the outer decks.
- 1430 **Port Charcot.** In the afternoon we would like to take you for a Zodiac cruise around Salpêtrière Bay. We hope for nice wildlife encounter, nevertheless the scenery is beautiful. Dress warmly.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

Antarctica

Discovery and Learning voyage

Pleneau Island & Petermann Island

Saturday 11th of January 2025

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0900 **Pleneau Island.** This morning, we hope to take you for a Zodiac cruise around Pleneau Island. We will see great Ice and will search for wildlife around the area.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 **Petermann Island.** In the afternoon we would like to take you ashore at Petermann Island. You will get the chance to see some Adelie penguins that breed within the gentoo and shag colonies. The view over the Penola Strait and the southern entrance of the Lemaire Channel is stunning.
- During the afternoon landing our **Photoguide Martin** will be available for practical tips in the field. Join him to learn more and improve your photoskills.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 A special **dinner** is served. Dress warm and listen to the announcements.
- tba We today our furthest southern point and we will head back north through the **Lemaire channel**. Enjoy the views.

Antarctica

Discovery and Learning voyage

Paradise Bay & Orne Harbour
Sunday 12th of January 2025

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0900 **Paradise Bay.** This morning, we hope to take you on a Zodiac Cruise around Paradise Bay. The bay has the name for a reason, as the early explorers enjoyed the views already while finding also shelter from storms. We try to find a lot of wildlife and enjoy the views. Please dress warmly.
At the end of the Zodiac cruise we will land on the Antarctic continent and give you the chance to do a **polar plunge**. Make sure you wear your swimsuit under your clothes. We will bring the towels.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Orne Island.** In the afternoon we would like to take you ashore at Orne Harbour. You will step onto the continent of Antarctica. The hike is a bit steep but short. The views over the Gerlache Strait are amazing and the nesting chinstrap penguins are cute.
If you feel not comfortable to walk up, we will offer a Zodiac to show you around the bay. We will start this from land, so come ashore and than you get back into the boats.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the restaurant.

Antarctica

Discovery and Learning voyage

Melchior Islands

Monday 13th of January 2025

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0900 **Melchior Islands.** We try to take you for a Zodiac cruise at the Melchior Islands. A beautiful and special island group between Brabant and Anvers Island. Dress warmly, come and explore the glaciated Archipelago of these stunning islands with us.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1530 **Orcas.** We were privileged to see Orcas on quite some occasions. Join Szymon in the lounge to learn more about these iconic whales.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the restaurant.

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

Antarctica

Discovery and Learning voyage

Drake Passage – heading north
Tuesday 14th of January 2025

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

- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Photography in Conservation.** Martin will give you more information how photos can be useful in wildlife conservation. Please join him in the lounge.
- 1100 **Antarctic Krill.** The Antarctic Krill is the most abundant animal on earth. Join Suzie in the lounge if you would like to learn more about the important animal in the foodchain of Antarctica.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1530 **Movie Afternoon.** Join us in the lounge for a Movie Afternoon. We will stream “Happy Feet”. Popcorn will be available.
- 1800 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the restaurant.

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

Antarctica

Discovery and Learning voyage

Drake Passage – heading north
Wednesday 15th of January 2025

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

- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Supporting Antarctic Science.** Adam worked at Rothera Station and also on South Georgie. Join him on the lounge for some interesting stories about this time.
- 1100 **The Belgica Story.** The heroic age and the exploration of Antarctica tells many interesting stories. If you would like to learn more about the Belgica Expedition, join Nathalia in the lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA *At some point in the afternoon we will collect your boots. We will call you by deck. Please listen to the announcements.*
- 1530 **Climate Change.** Szymon will talk about this important topic, so join him for more informations about it after visiting on of the last pristine landscapes on our planet.
- 1700 **Around Cape Horn.** We will stream a documentary about old sailors passing the waters around Cape Horn.
- 1800 **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join the Expedition team and Captain Artur Iakovlev in the Lounge to toast our successful voyage.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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