



## Falkland Islands - South Georgia - Antarctica

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

1<sup>st</sup> February 2025 – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025

On board *M/V Hondius*



M/v *Hondius* was built in 2019, as the first-registered Polar Class 6 vessel in the world, meeting the latest and highest Lloyd's Register standards for ice-strengthened cruise ships. Surpassing the requirements of the Polar Code adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), *Hondius* represents the most flexible, advanced, innovative touring vessel in the polar regions, thoroughly optimized for exploratory voyages that provide you the utmost first-hand contact with the Arctic and Antarctica. *Hondius* complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea). M/v *Hondius* is 107.6 m long, 15.3 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.3 m, Polar Class 6 (equivalent 1A-Super), 15 knots average cruising speed and has 2 x ABC main engines; total 4,200 kW.



## Captain Hans Söderholm

and his international crew of 57 sailors

Staff Captain:	Matei Mocanu
Chief Officer:	Igor Nazarov
Second Officer:	Nino Cizmic
Third Officer:	Erik Van Der Reijden
Hotel Manager:	Ingrid Van Der Loo
Head Chef:	Gaurav Bawa
Sous Chef:	Vasiliki Stefou

Ships doctor:	Anneke Planting
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Expedition Leader:	Pippa Low
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Pierre Gallego
Ass. Expedition Leader:	George Kennedy
Expedition Guide:	Ursula Tscherter
Expedition Guide:	Julia Angermajer
Expedition Guide:	Lucia Romero
Expedition Guide:	William Kennedy
Expedition Guide:	Ross Wheeler
Expedition Guide:	Charlotte Taplin
Expedition Guide:	Marco Rosso
Expedition Guide:	Julian Robinson
Expedition Guide:	Hana Spickova
Expedition Guide:	Mathew Choek
Expedition Guide:	Juan Berenstein
Expedition Guide:	Andrea Schwetz
Dive Leader:	Michael Green
Dive Guide:	Nicki Meharg
Dive Guide:	Sid Dewfall
Dive Guide:	Lorenzo Begaud

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

## Day 1 – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February - Ushuaia, Embarkation Day

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

Wind: S2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air temperature: +19°C

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Our adventure started in Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world that is nestled between towering mountains and the infamous Beagle Channel. Having travelled from all over the world, we eagerly boarded Hondius, our state-of-the-art expedition ship and new home for the next ten days.

Welcoming us onboard was the expedition and hotel teams that guided us to our cabins and helped us get acquainted with our new surroundings, this was followed by our mandatory safety briefing which was held in the lounge, accompanied with a lifejacket demonstration and lifeboat introduction.

As Hondius slowly moved off the berth, it pirouetted in a South East direction and started to sail along the 150 mile / 240 km Beagle Channel. During this time, we once again gathered in the lounge for our Captain's welcome onboard introduction, accompanied with a customary toast to our forthcoming adventure.

We were then introduced to Pippa, our Expedition Leader and her team of expedition guides who informed us of their specialties, subjects of interest / knowledge and their collective love for the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic region.



We ended the day with a buffet dinner in the restaurant and a beautiful evening outside on the bow and open decks. As we continued to sail towards the open ocean we were greeted by our first glimpses of albatross and petrels. A perfect start to our expedition – our Antarctic dream was finally a reality.

## Day 2 – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - At sea sailing towards The Falklands

08h00 GPS Position: 53°56.1'S / 064°49.8'W

Wind: NNE5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Foggy • Air temperature: +11°C

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A day at sea ahead of us until we reach the Falkland Islands/Ias Malvinas!

This morning we were awakened by the wakeup call from our Expedition leader Pippa at 07:15. As the sea was quite calm and most of us were happy and healthy and not tortured by seasickness, we enjoyed the breakfast buffet.

Shortly afterwards we were all called to join Pippa at the observation lounge for the mandatory IAATO and Zodiac Briefing. We learned a lot about where we are going, what kind of rules we should follow and how to behave in this special and pristine environment. We also learned a lot about safety and how to enter and leave the Zodiacs in the best way, and got excited about practicing the “Sailors Grip”.



At 11:00 with a little delay it was time again to learn something new! expedition guide Lucia gave her interesting lecture about Penguins which was interrupted by our first sighting of marine mammals! We watched a couple of Hourglass Dolphins swimming and very actively jumping in the water right next to our vessel Hondius. A very exciting welcome which we all very

much enjoyed. At 12:00 we were called by decks down to the Zodiac boarding area where we collected our muckboots.

Just half an hour later it was lunchtime and afterwards at 13:45 the fun continued with Biosecurity! Again we were called by decks down to Deck 3 where the expedition team waited for us, armed with brushes, paperclips and vacuums to help clean and prepare our gear, - waterproof layers, hats, gloves, backpacks and boots, - so that we would be ready to go out to explore the Falklands on the next day. Meanwhile our dive group got the briefing for their first diving adventure.



Some of us spent the afternoon on the outer decks as the sun came out to spot some wildlife, seabirds like Black browed Albatross, Southern Giant Petrels and Shearwaters. Others were using the time to read and learn or just to chat with a new friend.

We also found this time to be a good opportunity to talk and chat to some of the expedition guides and ask some questions about the following days, the program, favorite places and etc.



At 16:30 it was then time for another lecture given by expedition guide Matt called an Introduction to expedition photography. Now we were even more excited to finally get there and make our first visit to this remote place.

At 18:15 we all met in the observation lounge for our daily Re-cap. We learned what the plan for our first day in the Falkland Islands was, where we would go and what we could expect to see. And, of course what the weather, more exactly the wind, would be like.

Tomorrow we will be going to New Island, and for many of us a long-awaited dream will come true! Our expedition starts!

### Day 3 – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – New Island Settlement, The Falkland Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 51°71.6'S / 060°33.1'W

Wind: SW4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: P.Cloudy • Air temperature: +9°C

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Following a bumpy night, the day began with Hondius anchoring in the shelter of New Island, a small island off the west coast of West Falkland. Following breakfast, we boarded the zodiacs for the first time for the short crossing to the beach near the settlement. The sea was quite choppy as we travelled against the strong wind blowing from the shore, and some of us were treated to views of

Peale's Dolphins close by as we come into shore.

New Island is a nature reserve that is recovering its native vegetation following the removal of sheep in recent years and is home to two million pairs of burrowing Prions, nearly 30000 pairs of Black-Browed Albatross, 13000 pairs of Rockhopper Penguins as well as many Magellanic and Gentoo Penguins, Imperial Shags, Kelp and Upland Geese and



many more species of bird life. Once at the beach we could see the wreck of the former minesweeper and sealing ship, the *Protector III*, and we looked around the small museum.



We walked across the grassy island to a spectacular clifftop site hosting a colony of Albatross, Rockhopper Penguins and Shags, which all seemed to live happily living alongside each other. Large Albatross chicks sat on their pedestal nests waiting patiently for their parents to return with a fish supper. Scruffy Rockhopper chicks were almost ready to leave, waiting for the last of their down feathers to grow out. Shags were constantly swooping by, whilst nearby Caracara watched ready to take an opportune meal. We watched in awe of this spectacle, quickly filling-up our camera and phone memory cards.





After returning to the ship for lunch, Hondius made the short transit further round the island to North Harbour, where we had another walk across the island. We visited Albatross Bay, a beautiful white sandy beach where many Gentoo Penguins were gathered. We watched Peale's Dolphins surfing the waves and spotted some Sea Lions in the sea nearby. We also made a walk to a high clifftop viewpoint with another Albatross and

rockhopper colony. Here we could see the Rockhopper Penguins riding the crashing waves and rapidly climbing a well-worn path up the cliffs to the colony.

At the evening recap, Pippa talked about the next day's location, Stanley. Lucia talked about the smallest crested penguin, the Rockhopper, and Andi gave some facts about the Peale's Dolphins that most of us saw today.

#### Day 4 – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Stanley, The Falkland Islands

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

Wind: SW5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: P.Cloudy • Air temperature: +7°C

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During the night, Hondius headed east along the north shore of the Falkland Islands. Pippa's wake up call reached all those still in bed just on time to get up and on deck when the ship sailed towards the narrow entrance of Stanley Harbour. A truly spectacular view.





Soon after breakfast a constant stream of zodiacs left the shell door shuttling us through some splashy waves to the pier where several officials awaited us to check our key cards. It didn't take long and we were free to explore the small town of about 2500 inhabitants, which accounts for almost 75% of all people living on the Islands. Port Stanley was established in the 1840s. The buildings and various items such as the red phone booths and houses gave a distinct English feel to the place. Alone, in pairs and small groups we walked along the waterfront. Well aware of passing jeeps, for most of us driving on the "wrong" side, we made sure to stay on the narrow sidewalks. Not far from the pier most of us had to stop at southernmost Anglican Christ Church Cathedral with the dominant Whalebone Arch in front. It was built in 1933 using the lower mandibles of two blue whales killed 10 years before. The arch is one of many remnants found in town witnessing the historical whaling activities in close and far waters.



Most time was surely spent at the small yet fascinating Stanley museum. Filled with countless relicts from the past it helped us to imagine the challenging lifestyle of people working hard as farmers, mariners or military employees. A special interest was also given to the building of the Stanley Newspaper

exhibiting various printing machines and typewriters from times long gone. Today, the Islanders are mostly employed by the government and the tourism industry. The latter targets small and large expedition and cruise ships sometimes flooding the small town with hundreds of short-time visitors. On the way back we passed the post office, where countless postcards for the loved ones at home were dropped, the police station, the local supply store and tourist shops. Some ended up in the local gin distillery.

Time rolled on fast. After a short zodiac ride we found ourselves back on board where the doors to the restaurant were already open. However, some of us resisted for a while to head straight for the rich buffet. Instead we stood on deck while the anchor was lifted. When Hondius sailed through the narrows our next leg of the voyage started



heading towards South Georgia. Much to the delight a group of Peale's dolphins accompanied us for a short moment jumping in the wake.

After a relaxing break Ross introduced us to the seabirds of the Southern ocean. He invited us to come out on deck during the two coming days to observe these magnificent birds of the Southern Ocean. Later in the afternoon Michael gave us some insights into his very personal experiences during the Falkland war in 1982.

A unique day came to an end sailing through the open ocean leaving civilisation behind us. Some of us might have wondered how the sailors must have felt back in the days heading south into the unknown.

## Day 5 – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February – At sea, sailing towards South Georgia

08h00 GPS Position: 52°07.1'S / 051°36.7'W

Wind: W5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Sunny • Air temperature: +10°C

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It was one of the two sea days between the Falkland Islands and South Georgia, and it unfolded as a calm, beautiful day on the sea under a sunny sky.



At 9 a.m., we watched an insightful documentary about South Georgia, which provided us with valuable information about the biosecurity measures in place to protect the fragile ecosystem of the island. Then, at 11 a.m., Andy gave an engaging lecture on the whales of the Southern Ocean, adding a fascinating layer to our

understanding of the region's marine life.

As noon approached, we entered a new time zone, and the clocks were set to move forward.

In the afternoon, we conducted a thorough Biosecurity Check to ensure that no contaminants were introduced to the pristine environment of South Georgia. We carefully inspected everyone's cleaned outerwear, backpacks, muck boots, tripods, walking sticks, and even zodiac lifejackets, ensuring everything was in compliance.



In between lectures and briefings, we enjoyed some downtime on the outer decks, eating freshly baked cookies, basking in the sun and taking in the rhythmic motion of the waves. We spent the day admiring the graceful sea birds, including albatrosses, as they glided effortlessly and engaged in dynamic soaring across the vast expanse.

At 5 p.m., Julian invited us to a fascinating lecture about the geology of South Georgia. Not long after, we were fortunate enough to spot whale blows in the distance. Our ship changed course to get a closer look, and we were thrilled to see a Southern Right Whale near the ship.





During the evening recap, Pippa discussed the Antarctic Convergence, while Charlotte gave us more detailed information about the Southern Right Whale we had just observed. Marco then shared insights on the dynamic soaring techniques of albatrosses. After a delicious dinner, our photography guides, Matt and Juan, hosted a workshop to further enhance our skills and capture the stunning environment around us.

## Day 6 – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February – At Sea towards South Georgia

08h00 GPS Position: 52°56.6'S / 043°48.4W

Wind: NW • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 5°C

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On our second day crossing the Scotia Sea, we awoke to find MV *Hondius* shrouded in mist. The visibility was much lower compared to the previous day, and the humidity hung heavily in the air. During the night, we had crossed the Antarctic Convergence (ACC), entering more biologically productive waters. The air temperature had dropped to meet the dew point, creating the mist that lingered around the ship throughout the day.



A full schedule of lectures awaited us. After breakfast, Marco kicked things off with a fascinating introduction to the cryosphere of the Southern Ocean. His presentation covered the formation of glacial ice, the dynamics of glaciers, and an extensive discussion on Antarctic sea ice and its movement.



After a short break to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, Pippa took the stage with a detailed presentation on pinnipeds. She covered both the eared seals and true seals we had already encountered at the start of the voyage, as well as those we could expect to see in South Georgia and along the Antarctic Peninsula. The anticipation for seeing Antarctic Fur Seals and Elephant Seals the next day was building.



Meanwhile, some of us spent time on the outer decks, especially around the bow and stern of the ship, where we had the chance to observe various sea birds, particularly those from the Procellariiformes order. These included Albatrosses, Petrels, Prions, and Fulmars, known for their low-energy flight technique, "dynamic soaring." It was a rewarding experience for both birdwatchers and photographers,

watching these medium to small-sized birds glide gracefully past the ship.

Lunch in the restaurant was, as always, a delicious affair, thanks to chef Bawa and his talented team. After a brief break for a power nap, we returned to the lounge for George's engaging lecture on South Georgia's geopolitical significance in the Southern Hemisphere. His presentation sparked numerous questions and went on for over an hour and a half, with the crowd fully engaged.



At 16:30, it was Michael's turn to share the incredible story of Ernest Shackleton and his crew, stranded in the Weddell Sea's sea ice for months before they managed to escape and seek refuge on Elephant Island. Their eventual rescue by the Chilean Navy marked the end of their ordeal.

As the day wound down and we neared the island, still enveloped in mist, Pippa briefed us on the plans for the next day. Excitement

grew as we prepared for our first landing among King Penguins and Fur Seals in South Georgia. After a hearty dinner, we settled in to watch *Endurance Found* with popcorn, bringing Shackleton's story to life on the screen.

It was a quiet yet enriching day at sea, filled with fascinating lectures and a growing sense of anticipation for the adventures awaiting us in South Georgia.



## Day 7 – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Fortuna Bay and Stromness

08h00 GPS Position: 54°10.5'S / 036°79.4'W

Wind: NE6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Rainy • Air temperature: +4°C

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We woke up to the breathtaking sight of South Georgia, its rugged mountains glimmering in the distance, bathed in the soft morning light. Our excitement was palpable as we prepared to disembark and see our first King Penguin colony. As we approached the shore, the weather reminded us that we were in the sub-Antarctic—gusts of wind and sudden downpours soaking us through, as if to welcome us to this wild, remote place. Half of us zodiac cruised through the kelp while watching King Penguins and Fur Seals on the shore while the other half went on land to visit the colony. Wow what a sight to behold. Unfortunately the swell picked up and we had to be evacuated. While we were frustrated, we understood the situation, we knew our adventure was far from over.

In the afternoon, we landed at Stromness, the historic whaling station which lasted from 1912-1931 killing thousands of Whales. A lot of the buildings were still left over for the wildlife to make their home. We did a split landing, and the scenery was absolutely spectacular. Fur Seals played along the shore, their playful antics filling the air with laughter, while the mighty Elephant Seals lay nearby, moulting in the chilly, damp air. The sheer number of seals and their peaceful presence was awe-inspiring.

We hiked to the famous waterfalls, the very place where Shackleton made his final descent towards the whaling station, desperate for rescue after his ill-fated expedition. Standing in the same place where history had unfolded, we felt a deep sense of reverence for his journey.

Though we were soaked from the rain, our spirits were undampened. The day had already given us more than we could have hoped for. As we made our way back to the ship, we couldn't stop talking about what we had seen. After a recap of the day's adventures, we gathered for a well-deserved dinner, our minds still buzzing with the beauty and history of the places we'd visited.

## Day 8 – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> february – Grytviken and Godhul

08h00 GPS Position: 54°28.1'S, 036°50.9'W

Wind: E2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +6°C

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Today, we began our adventure with a stunning view of Grytviken, the historic old whaling station that once played a significant role in the South Georgia whaling industry. Founded in the early 20th century, Grytviken became the hub of a thriving whaling operation, which ultimately led to the near-extinction of whale populations in the region. The site holds a rich and somber history, with the abandoned buildings and equipment standing as silent witnesses to the past. We made our way ashore to explore the site, walking through the weathered buildings and immersing ourselves in the rich history of the settlement.

The cemetery, where Sir Ernest Shackleton, the legendary explorer, is buried is of a particular significance. His grave serves as a poignant reminder of his incredible leadership and the challenges of Antarctic exploration. We stood in front of the grave of the legendary explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, and we got the chance to reflected on Shackleton's remarkable





legacy and toast for the chief, with a solemn atmosphere of the resting place.

A guided tour offered an in-depth look at the whaling station's operations and the surrounding area. The small settlement, though quiet now, once bustled with activity, and the tour brought its past to life with fascinating stories of the people who lived and worked there. It was a day full of history, exploration, and reflection, as we connected with the past and gained a deeper understanding of this remarkable part of the world.

After returning to the ship for a nutritious lunch, we set off towards a picturesque bay known as Godthul. Surrounded by cascading waterfalls and teeming with wildlife, the bay was a perfect spot for exploration. The plan was to make a landing and walk towards a small gentoo penguin colony, but the path was blocked by a group of resting elephant seals. Unfazed by the obstacle, the team embraced the spirit of adventure—after all, we are on an expedition!



Instead of giving up, we switched plans and opted for a zodiac cruise around the bay. The waters were calm and the weather was perfect, providing an ideal setting to enjoy the stunning scenery. We encountered a wide array of wildlife, including fur seals, elephant seals, king penguins, gentoo penguins, giant petrels, and blue-eyed shags. The highlight of the cruise was the sight of the lush kelp forests, which created a magical atmosphere as we cruised through the bay, soaking in the beauty of the landscape.



The adventure didn't end there—after the cruise, we made a brief landing to walk among the adorable fur seal pups. The little seals were playful and curious, adding an extra layer of charm to an already incredible day. With calm seas, sunshine, and wildlife all around, it was a truly memorable experience.

After a thrilling day of exploration, we returned to the ship just in time for the daily recap with the expedition team.



During the recap, everyone eagerly listened to the highlights of the day and learned about the exciting plans for tomorrow's adventure. The expedition team's enthusiasm and expertise added to the anticipation for the next leg of the journey.

Following the recap, we enjoyed a delicious dinner in the restaurant, savoring a well-earned meal after such an eventful day. With full stomachs and satisfied hearts, we retired for the evening, ready to rest and rejuvenate before another day of discovery and exploration. The adventure was far from over, and we can't wait to see what tomorrow would bring.

## Day 9 – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Hercules Bay and St Andrews bay

08h00 GPS Position: 54°12.6'S, 036°66.7'W

Wind: N • Sea: Calm • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +4°C

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Hana Špičková

During the night the officers and crew on duty had sailed our floating home southwards along the coast. The sea was quite calm offering all of us a good night sleep. At 5 o'clock the early risers enjoyed an incredible sunrise painting the magnificent mountain range of South Georgia into various colours from yellow to deep red. From then on the increasing light unfolded a most amazing landscape while the ship slowly sailed into a beautiful little bay to drop anchor for our morning activity. Those standing on deck discovered numerous macaroni and gentoo



penguins swimming close and far in the green coloured water surface.

Soon after breakfast we all boarded the zodiacs to explore Hercules Bay and its inhabitants. During a 30-minute landing we could only walk along the small beach passing hundreds of whale bones bleached from the sunlight and age. Behind the first row of tussock grass lied a dozen sleeping elephant seals side by side. Once in a while they raised their heads to look at us with their huge black eyes. Exactly lying on the only path leading up the 70 m high slope we had to cancel the original plan to climb up to the penguin colonies.



All the more we enjoyed the extra long Zodiac cruise as there was plenty to see and discover. We admired the golden stems and leaves of giant kelp floating at the surface, groups of penguins and some South Georgia terns diving into the water surface to feed. We even discovered giant petrels feeding on a elephant seal carcass. After a while the feeders stopped and walked down to the waterline to wash their bloody heads in the water. They gave space to other individuals who were nearby waiting for their turn. This was surely an unusual event of nature to observe.



Back on board we went for lunch while the Hondius sailed to St Andrews Bay, our next destination further south. We were very lucky as little wind and low swell allowed us to go on land. Too often this is not possible due to the beach fully exposed to the open sea. Shuttled to the landing site we were greeted by king penguins, playful fur seal pups and mid-sized elephant seals. While the pups were very playful and bluffing, a few larger seals were more serious signalling their need for space. Right away we slowed down our pace and walked around the seal in a respectful distance allowing the animal to calm down. After a short hike through the most unique landscape we climbed a little hill where a breathtaking view over the estimated 150'000 breeding pairs of king penguins were spreading below us. Not counting the many brown chicks. In the background the steep rocky summits of 2000 m high mountains reached into the sky. Separated by the Clark, Buxton and Healey glaciers. Or the fractions of them.



From here we could oversee the whole bay where Hondius anchored in the distance. With our binoculars we could follow seven tiny zodiacs cruising along the shore enjoying the landscape and wildlife from the waterline's perspective. They even came across the first leopard seal of our voyage sleeping on the black rocky cliffs. It

was one of about 100 mostly juvenile individuals living on South Georgia. Below it were countless stems of giant kelp attached to the rocks floating in the swell like golden hairs.

Finally it was time to leave the overwhelming beauty to go back on board where a tasty barbecue was awaiting us. Dressed in warm layers we sat on wooden benches kindly set up by the crew. Later on the tables and benches were removed to make space for a dance floor. Only minutes later guests and guides started to move, spin and even jump to the music. Half an hour later the party had to





continue in the observation lounge as the outside lights had to be turned of to reduce bird strikes.

As we had to get up very early the next day most guests headed to bed to catch enough sleep for our last day in South Georgia. A few however gathered in the lecture room to watch the super bowl broadcasted live. At about 54° 26' South and 36° 11'W.

## Day 10 – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February – Gold Harbour and Cooper Bay

08h00 GPS Position: 56°52.5'S, 046°20.6'W

Wind: SE • Sea: Calm • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +7°C

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At the break of dawn, the day began with the promise of something extraordinary. The early morning was still and quiet. The reason for the early wake-up was simple: Gold Harbour, a hidden gem of South Georgia, awaited at sunrise. And as the sun slowly rose above the horizon, it painted the sky with vibrant shades of orange and gold, casting a breathtaking glow across the bay.



The Blue Group was the first to step ashore and the Red Group embarked on a zodiac cruise, gliding over the still waters. The moment they set foot on land, the scene was nothing short of magical. Before them, 25,000 breeding pairs of King Penguins gathered in a bustling, cacophonous colony. The penguins' black-and-white forms dotted the landscape, moving in a synchronized

rhythm, their calls echoing around us. Nearby, a smaller colony of Gentoo Penguins waddled along, while around 100 Elephant Seals dotted lounged lazily on the beach, with a few enormous males asserting their dominance in the mix.

The sight was otherworldly. The beach itself was a hive of activity, with penguins emerging from the surf and waddling back toward their nests, and others making the opposite journey, their path lined with the delicate footprints they left behind in the sand. The scene was alive with the sounds of the wild, from the chatter of the penguins to the deep, guttural calls of the seals.



As the sun crept higher, the colors of the landscape shifted. The warm orange haze that had



graced the sky now enveloped the bay, painting everything with a soft, golden light. The Zodiac cruises that had set off into the waters captured the scene from another perspective. The sea itself seemed to glow with oranges and yellows, reflecting the warm light as Fur Seals darted in and out of the waves, their sleek bodies twisting through the water in playful joy.

By 07:30, everyone made their way back to the ship for a hearty breakfast, fueling up for the next phase of the morning's adventure. The groups swapped roles; the Red Group went ashore as the Blue Group set off on a zodiac cruise. The sun continued to shine, and the clouds parted, revealing the full splendor of Gold Harbour. The immense glacier descended from the mountains above, its icy blue hues contrasting



against the rugged cliffs that towered above the beach. The light from the sun illuminated everything below, turning the landscape into a living painting, the kind that would forever be etched in their minds as they witnessed the natural world in its purest, most untouched form.



After returning to the ship for a well-deserved lunch, it was time to set off for Cooper Bay, where the adventure continued. The group embarked on a full-ship zodiac cruise, heading to the rocky outcroppings that were home to a Macaroni Penguin colony. These quirky penguins, with their bright yellow crests, greeted the visitors with their usual antics—jumping in and out

of the water, their calls piercing the air as they scolded one another for getting too close. It was a fun and lighthearted moment.

The seals were just as entertaining. They swam gracefully around the kelp forests, darting through the water with astonishing speed and agility. At times, they playfully chased each other along the rocks, their sleek bodies cutting through the water like missiles. The sight was mesmerizing, a reminder of the vibrant life that thrived here in this remote corner of the world.



As the clock struck 16:30, it was time to return to the ship, but the day was far from over. Sailing past Cooper Sound, the ship passed enormous icebergs that were grounded in the shallows. Their massive, pristine forms loomed like silent giants, a reminder of the untamed beauty of the region.

During the evening recap, Lucia, the Penguin Expert, shared her knowledge



about the Macaroni Penguins. Charlotte followed with a fascinating talk about the surfactant in seals, humorously dubbed “whale snot,” that helps them thrive as they dive deep to find their favourite prey; squid. By then, the group was exhausted but deeply content, their hearts full from the day’s experiences. They gathered for dinner, then retreated to their cabins for an early night, still in awe of the untamed beauty they had witnessed in this extraordinary place



## Day 11 – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February – At sea, sailing towards Antarctica

08h00 GPS Position: 59°08.9'S, 049°58.4'W

Wind: NW5 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +1°C

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With the clocks moving back an hour overnight and following an exhausting but exhilarating four days in South Georgia, we were all looking forward to a lie-in. Instead, we were awakened by Pippa shortly after 7am announcing that the iceberg A23a was in sight, earlier than expected!



A23a is currently the largest iceberg in the world. It broke away from the Filchner-Ronne ice shelf in 1986 and got grounded shortly after. In 2020 it broke free again and was carried by currents to its present position close to South Georgia.

Many of us gathered out on the bow to marvel at the sheer scale of the iceberg, and the huge arches that had been formed by the crashing waves exploiting cracks in the iceberg's edge. We passed along the edge of the iceberg for a couple of hours before we were all called out onto the bow for a photo of all the guests and staff. A short while later we noticed a Zodiac on the water, battling the wind and spray. Are we going on a Zodiac cruise? Surely not! It was a couple of guides and Andrew the photographer out trying to take pictures of Hondius and the iceberg! Just as the guides in the Zodiac were collecting a piece of the iceberg for our evening cocktails, a large section of ice calved off producing some large waves and making the Zodiac run away.

After lunch, Pierre gave a lecture on humpback whales, telling us about how he worked in Mozambique taking and studying biopsies to determine whether the whales are visiting different feeding grounds.



With ice-cream being served just before Julian's talk on icebergs, there was a good turn-out. He talked about how both Arctic and Antarctic icebergs are born and how they drift in the oceans and also described the life of the A23a iceberg that we had seen earlier in the day.

At the evening recap, Will showed some historical maps of Antarctica and Marco described the wind patterns around the Antarctic continent.

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## Day 12 – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February – At sea, sailing towards Antarctica

08h00 GPS Position: 58°46.4'S / 047°32.9'W

Wind: SSE7 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Snow • Air temperature: -1°C

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The day begins with a hearty breakfast in the dining room. The view outside the windows is breathtaking—seabirds soaring above, and the soft glow of the Antarctic morning light reflecting off the water. The dining room is buzzing with excitement as fellow expedition members discuss the day ahead.

After breakfast, we gather in the lounge where Marco delivers an insightful lecture on the physical environment of the Antarctic Peninsula. He explains the region's geology, climate, and ice formations, emphasizing the effects of climate change on the fragile ecosystem.



Later in the morning Will takes us on a journey through history, recounting the incredible story of Tom Crean, the Irish explorer who played a crucial role in Antarctic expeditions alongside Scott and Shackleton. His survival stories, acts of bravery, and resilience leave us in awe, painting a vivid picture of the early days of polar exploration.

Lunch is served in the dining room, providing a welcome break.

In preparation for land excursions, we undergo the last mandatory biosecurity check in the lounge. One by one, our decks are called, and we bring our pre-cleaned outerwear and backpacks to be inspected, ensuring we don't introduce any non-native species to this pristine environment. The process is thorough but necessary to preserve Antarctica's delicate ecosystem.



Charlotte's lecture on cetacean breeding is a fascinating dive into the world of Antarctic whales. She explains mating behaviours, migration patterns, and the challenges whales face in a rapidly changing climate. Stunning underwater footage and expert insights make for an engaging session, leaving us eager to spot whales during our voyage.

As the day winds down, the Expedition Team hosts the daily recap in the lounge. Highlights of the day are discussed, and plans for tomorrow's activities are revealed. There's an air of anticipation as we hear about potential shore landings and wildlife sightings.

Dinner is a time to relax and reflect on the day's experiences. The dining room is filled with laughter and lively discussions, with many sharing their thoughts on the lectures and the plans for the next day: Elephant Island.

## Day 13 – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Elephant Island and Point Wild

08h00 GPS Position: 63°57.9'S / 055°78.6'W

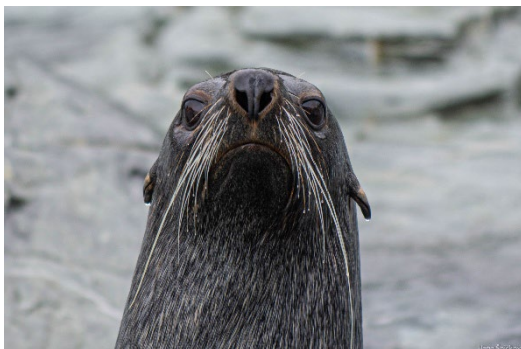
Wind: NE2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Cloud • Air temperature: -3°C

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The closer we get to the forever frozen continent the colder it gets. On this morning, we can feel the air and its pure freshness, filling our lungs with anticipation and the wonders ahead. For the past two days our minds have been fixed on today. We are heading to Elephant island where the conditions seem to offer a one in a lifetime opportunity to set foot on this desolate piece of land, home to Shackleton's 22 companions, forced to spend a gruesome winter, four full months, waiting in anguish for their leader to return with help.

Around ten we sighted Elephant island as we gazed upon its unhospitable shoreline, forever snowy tops, alone, adrift, in this merciless southern ocean.



As we arrived and anchored in the bay, looking at its threatening glacier towering over us remind us of our fragile nature, we planned to get out for an exciting day. The expedition team made their way out to check the shore and find a suitable landing spot for us to land. They succeeded and shortly after we disembarked for a short Zodiac cruise around the tip of the bay to see penguins and a leopard seal and geological wonders.



It was time soon after to make history, for us as for most of the staff this would be the first time they set foot on Elephant island, a one in a hundred chance! As we finally walked on to the beach, we could feel the eerie sensation of being left in a place where no one would ever find you. A place so desolate and inhospitable one is anxious to get back on the Zodiacs and back to the comfort of the ship.



Back on board a healthy lunch awaited us, and a series of lectures took place during the afternoon. Pippa talked about the history of whaling in the southern Atlantic and George about the tense and awkward geopolitical situation of Antarctica.

We were not done with surprises for the day as during dinner we witnessed a large pod of Orca chasing down a small group of three fin whales, relentlessly harassing them, trying to get at the calf, smaller of the three.

After dinner we gathered in the lounge for a drink and the South Georgia Heritage Trust auction where we all participated in donations for a good cause. Around 1500 pounds were raised for the baby seals! Among others..

## Day 14 – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Antarctic Sound and the Weddel Sea

08h00 GPS Position: 66°4.,5S / 067°06.9'W

Wind: S5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +1°C

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We woke up to stunning views of Antarctica. From our windows, we were treated to beautiful blue icebergs, and at times, we spotted penguins or seals resting on the floating ice. As we sailed closer to Paulet Island, we marveled at its dramatic lava flows and the cinder cone with its small summit crater. Paulet Island is also historically significant. In 1903, during the Swedish Antarctic Expedition led by Otto Nordenskiöld, the ship *Antarctic* was tragically crushed and sunk by ice off the island's coast. The island is known as an important bird area, home to a large breeding colony of Adélie penguins.



As our ship cruised through the waters around Paulet Island, we navigated a sea filled with massive amounts of floating ice, rapidly moved by powerful currents. Throughout the journey, we were in awe of the exceptional navigation skills of our bridge team, expertly maneuvering the ship around towering icebergs in the Weddell Sea.

With the thick sea ice around us, we took advantage of a unique opportunity to land on it! Our Captain skillfully positioned the ship close to the sea ice, and we launched



the zodiacs. Some of us went on a zodiac cruise, observing curious Adélie penguins and even a humpback whale that appeared surprisingly close to our zodiacs. Others ventured onto the sea ice itself, where we had a blast with snowball fights, made snow angels, and reveled in the surreal feeling of standing hundreds of meters above the ocean below. As the strong currents pushed the ice closer to our landing spot, we headed back to the ship.



While we enjoyed a delicious lunch, the ship repositioned, and afterward, we did a second ice landing with the other half of our guests. The views of the vast, white landscapes were breathtaking, and once again, we stood on floating ice, feeling the magic of this remote, frozen world.

In the afternoon, we were treated to stunning views of the endless white landscape from the bow and from the bridge of Hondius as we cruised through the Weddell Sea. As the temperature dropped with our journey further south, we were served hot chocolate with rum to keep us warm. The scene was peaceful, but nature had more surprises for us—once again, we were lucky to witness orcas, this time hunting for an Adélie penguin. It was a thrilling sight to see these magnificent creatures in action.

During the recap, we learned more facts about orcas we had seen over the past two days, as well as the birds of Antarctica, like the Giant Petrels, and Adélie penguins. It was a great opportunity to deepen our understanding of the incredible wildlife in this pristine region.



Later in the evening, the galley team went all out for a special Valentine's dinner, preparing an amazing dinner and surprising us with a large variety of delicious heart-shaped desserts. The dining room was beautifully decorated, creating a warm and festive atmosphere, making the evening feel even more special and adding to the unforgettable experience of our Antarctic adventure.

## Day 15 – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Cierva Cove and Palavar Point

08h00 GPS Position: 64°15.6'S / 060°88.5'W

Wind: NE • Sea: Calm • Weather: P.Cloud • Air temperature: -3°C

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The day began with a soft knock on our doors and the voice of our expedition leader, Pippa, waking us at 7:45 AM. As we stretched off the last remnants of sleep, excitement buzzed through the ship—another day of Antarctic adventure awaited.

Our morning expedition took us on a full Zodiac cruise through the breathtaking Cierva Cove. The water, a mirror of icy blues, was dotted with

floating sea ice. We wove our way between towering glaciers, their sheer walls radiating an eerie, otherworldly glow. The air was crisp, almost still, apart from the occasional crack of ice breaking and the rhythmic hum of our engines. As we glided through this frozen realm, nature granted us a spectacular show. A minke whale surfaced nearby, its sleek body cutting effortlessly through the frigid waters. Not long after, we spotted the familiar arching backs of humpback whales, their massive tails disappearing into the deep. Leopard seals lounged lazily on ice floes, while crabeater seals peered at us curiously, their wide eyes catching the dim Antarctic light.



The afternoon brought another highlight: a landing at Palavar Point. Stepping onto solid ground after a morning on the water felt exhilarating. At the Chinstrap penguin colony, we were greeted by a cacophony of squawks as these charismatic birds waddled about, their feathers a little bit filthy from the melting muddy grounds, yet they remained entirely unbothered by our

presence. We hiked up a snow-covered mountain, each step sinking slightly into the fresh powder. At the summit, we were rewarded with a stunning panoramic view—vast expanses of ice, rugged peaks, and the endless Southern Ocean stretching beyond the horizon.



Just when we thought the day couldn't get any better, the water around us came alive. As we cruised back in our Zodiacs, a pod of humpback whales emerged, their curiosity matching our own. They surfaced near our boats, spouting mist into the air, their immense forms gliding effortlessly beneath us. For a few magical moments, we were surrounded, caught in their world, feeling a connection that words could hardly capture.



That evening, back on the ship, we gathered for our daily recap. Pippa shared our plans for tomorrow, her voice filled with the same enthusiasm that had fueled us all day. Over a delicious buffet dinner, we reminisced about the encounters, the landscapes, the sheer wonder of Antarctica. As the ship gently rocked, we knew this was a day we would never forget.

## Day 16 – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Neko Harbour and Paradise Bay

08h00 GPS Position: 64°83,3S / 062°66.9'W

Wind: NE • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -2°C

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Our second day on the West Antarctic Peninsula started at the beautiful Neko Harbour, a small stop located within Andvord Bay of the Gerlache Strait. The incredibly photogenic natural harbour, surrounded by towering mountains and glaciers was discovered by the explorer Adrien de Gerlache during his 1897-1899 Antarctic expedition and was named after a Scottish whaling vessel. Visiting Neko Harbour was also a significant milestone for our expedition as it was our first and only landing on the Antarctic continent.

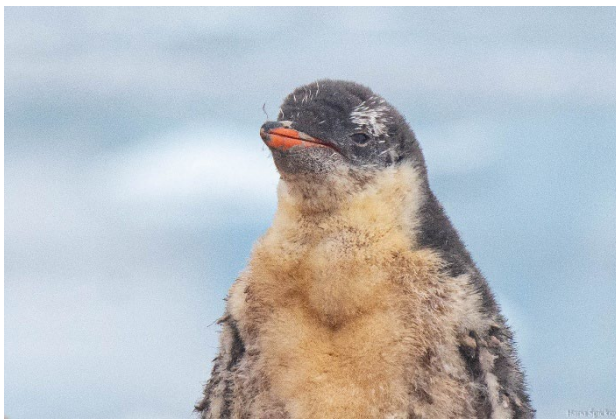


As half of us stepped foot on the Antarctic continent for the first time, we were greeted by hundreds of gentoo penguins as they made their daily commute along their 'highways' to and from their rookery. A short hill climb provided stunning views of the nearby glaciers reflecting off the glassy sea, a chance to have a photo with the iconic Antarctic flag or simply a chance to take

in the never-ending natural beauty Antarctica has to offer. Whilst half of the group were on land, others were treated to another magnificent zodiac cruise in search of the whales, seals,



birds and the giant icebergs that frequent the waters of the Peninsula. Continuing our luck from the day before, this was also a very rewarding and memorable cruise for all as many humpback whales, minke whales, crabeater seals and snow petrels were observed amongst the icy waters.



After lunch we all participated in a Zodiac cruise within the appropriately named Paradise Bay. Located a short distance from Neko Harbour, Paradise Bay is renowned for its stunning scenery and plentiful wildlife; it is also the location of the Argentinian research base, Almirante Base Brown. Continuing our good fortune from the morning, the wind was light, sea mirror calm and the bay was full of wildlife. We were all

rewarded with stunning views of feeding humpback whales, travelling minke whales and sleeping seals on icebergs. To warm our afternoon, we were also treated to a hot drink served by our Captain and the hotel team amongst the brash ice before we head back out to explore the splendors of Paradise Bay once again.

As we finished our Zodiac cruise, we once again attended and listened to Pippa's recap on our plans for the next day and we slowly sailed in a Northerly direction along the Antarctic Peninsula towards our next destination, Deception Island.

## Day 17 – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February – At sea, sailing to Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 56°52,6S / 067°01.4'W

Wind: SW2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partial Cloud • Air temperature: +6°C

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Pippa's wake-up call came early—6:45 AM—to take in the extraordinary view from the caldera entrance of Deception Island. We had now reached the South Shetland Islands, still within Antarctica, yet the atmosphere and scenery had noticeably changed.

Navigating into the caldera was a precise operation, as the entrance is both shallow and narrow. On the starboard side, we admired the towering basaltic cliffs guarding the entrance

to Neptune's Bellows. Once inside, the remains of the ancient Hektor whaling station came into view, standing as a silent testament to the island's past.

After an 8:00 AM breakfast, we disembarked onto the black sandy beach of Whaler's Bay, a strikingly different and almost lunar landscape. We were standing in the very center of a 100,000-year-old volcano.



Deception Island is one of Antarctica's most active volcanoes, having undergone multiple eruptions over the past century, the most recent between 1968 and 1970. It lies within the Bransfield Basin, where tectonic extension over the last four million years—at a rate of 10mm per year—has led to the formation of the Bransfield Strait and associated volcanism. Most of this volcanic activity occurs below sea level, but three volcanic centers rise above the waves: Deception Island, Penguin Island, and Bridgeman Island. These islands form the youngest landmasses of the South Shetland archipelago.



As we continued exploring, we came upon the remains of the old whaling station, the large hangar once used by Hubert Wilkins for his pioneering flight over the Antarctic Peninsula, and the steamy shoreline of Whaler's Bay. Well-practiced from our previous landings, we swiftly set foot on shore and began our hike to Neptune's Window. From this vantage point, with the



blessing of incredible weather, we enjoyed sweeping views of the caldera and the open sea beyond, where a few humpback whales could be seen. It was heartening to witness these majestic creatures returning to waters that had once been the site of relentless hunting—now protected under the Antarctic Treaty since 1959.



Some of us took a Zodiac ride beyond Neptune's Bellows into the open waters of the Bransfield Strait, venturing over to Bailey Head, where we observed a vast colony of chinstrap penguins. On our return, we were once again treated to the sight of humpback whales feeding along the island's southern coastline.

The afternoon brought the much-anticipated polar plunge. The MV Hondius repositioned north into Pendulum Cove, a site marked by the tragic history of the Chilean research station Aguirre Pedro Cerda, which was buried under debris and ash during the 1967 eruption. The station's personnel had to trek to the British station at Whaler's Bay, from where they were eventually evacuated by helicopter.

The dramatic landscape provided the perfect setting for our plunge into the frigid Antarctic waters. With the tide receding and geothermal activity heating certain areas, some brave souls took the plunge, experiencing the extreme cold before retreating to naturally warmed pools along the shore. Afterward, a warm shower back on the ship was a welcome relief.



As the day wound down, we bid farewell to the Seventh Continent, once again navigating through the narrow strait we had entered in the morning. Our journey now led us northward, across Boyd Strait and into the formidable Drake Passage. That evening, we gathered for a briefing with Pippa and the expedition team, learning about the plans for the following day.

With a toast at the bar, we celebrated this unforgettable voyage through one of the most remote and breathtaking places on Earth.



## Day 18 – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Disembarkation Day, Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 60°07,3'S / 063°34.1'W

Wind: W6 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +3°C

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We are on our way back to Ushuaia!

As we heard at the Recap yesterday there is a storm or as Pippa likes to call it a big purple monster ahead of us. Captain Hans and his team on the bridge is doing a great job trying to outrun these 9m waves so we can all stay safe and healthy. With 14knots we are sailing through the Drake Passage.



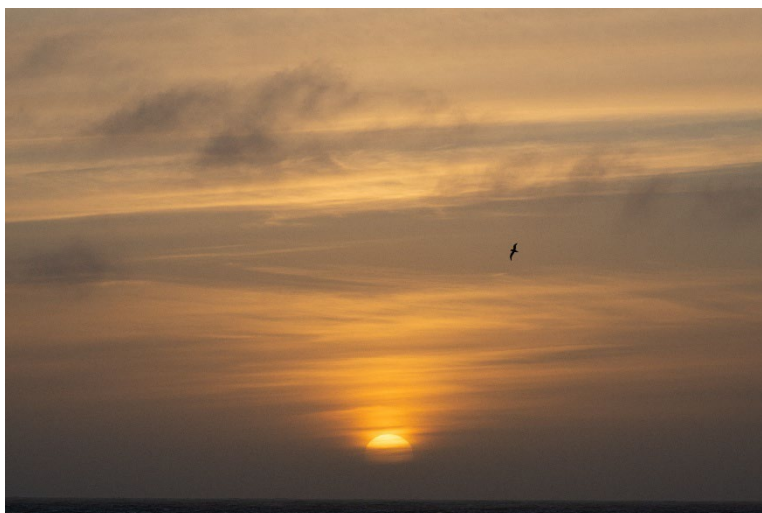


The morning started without a wakeup call so everybody could sleep in a little bit as sleep is very much needed after this fantastic and very active days in antarctica. After breakfast it was time for those who joined the Photo competition to meet with expedition guides Juan and Lucia to give them our pictures and hope to win in one or more of the three categories which were wildlife, landscapes and comedy.

At 10:00 the Dive team leader Michael and his team gave a lecture called underwater Antarctica, about their job here in the south and showed some stunning photos of their discoveries on this voyage. Shortly afterwards expedition guide Will gave an interesting presentation about Rolad Amundsen, a Polar Professional in the lecture room.

It was time for lunch then and as our Captain does a great job keeping us away from the monster we all enjoyed the delicious food.

To keep us busy the expedition team asked us after lunch to Deck 3 where they collected our muckboots, red bags and rental gear. We just had time to get a cup of tea or coffee until the next lecture started. This time Pippa talked about Whaling in Antarctica which was eye opening for many of us. Exactly as interesting as Piers presentation about the



International Whaling Commission which followed at 16:30. We have learned so much on this trip and it definitely changed some of us.

At 18:15 it was time for our daily Recap. We heard about the plans for tomorrow, our last day at sea.

After another delicious dinner we all met at the observation lounge for the final decision of the Photo competition. Great fun!!!!

But for some of us the day wasn't over yet! Expedition guide Will gave his fantastic concert, which was part of the South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction, in the library. What a great way to enjoy this "almost-last evening" on board our beloved Hondius!

## Day 19 – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February – At sea, sailing towards Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 54°88,9'S / 067°83.9'W

Wind: NW7 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +7°C

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Our efforts to outrun the storm seemed to be sufficient to not get thrown around as we were fast approaching the safety of the shores of Argentina. However the storm was faster than us and around 8 am as we were woken up by an exceptional wake up call from one of our dear passengers, started building up strength and unleashed all its might on our portside. For the better part of the morning waves pounded Hondius and tested her ability to cut through the giant waves punching through us.

Before lunch as we rounded the southernmost tip of the Beagle channel Hondius found shelter and the waves and the wind reduced in energy. Behind us were building giant waves of over 15 meters and would've tested us to an uncomfortable level.

Two lectures took place in morning for those of us who felt fit enough to assist, Ross gave us an insight into the environmental aspect of our voyage. Later Marco talked about "The Big Blue Machine" where he explained the importance of the polar thermocline circulation of our oceans.





Lunch was served as we begin our cruise into the Famed Beagle channel first sailed through by Fitzroy in 1831. Our last lunch on board and as always, so tasty we cannot resist a second serving.

In the afternoon George talked about the future history of antarctica, deepening our understanding of what is at play in the Southern Ocean and especially the role of the Antarctic treaty system.

In the evening time came for the official goodbyes to the staff and Captain. Glasses were raised and tears poured as Matt showed us the slideshow he had been working on since day one, remember that? So long ago..

The final dinner was served by chef Bawa and we got to thank the entire crew of Hondius or their welcome and dedication throughout our voyage.

The expedition staff gathered at the bar for a last moment together were we enjoyed talking of all the adventures we have gone through

## Day 20 – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Disembarkation Day, Ushuaia

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

Wind: NW2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +12°C

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We heard Pippa's soft Scottish accent for the final time for the wakeup call. We put our suitcases outside the cabin at 07:30 then made our way to the fabulous buffet breakfast to fill up one more time. What a fantastic trip it has been, far beyond expectations, it was a bitter sweet moment leaving the ship, but we hope to be

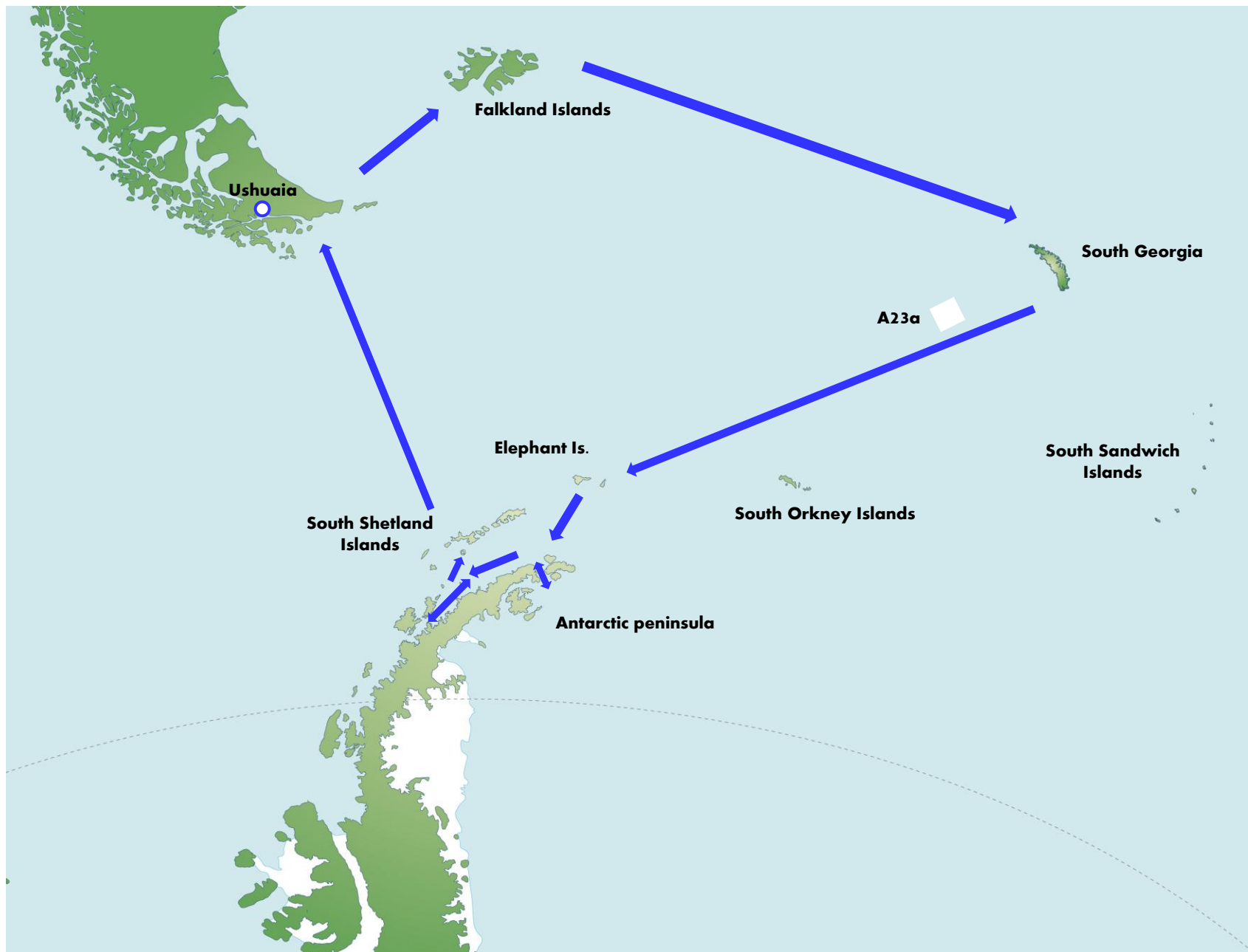
back one day for another expedition. We said our final goodbyes to the staff and off we went into the big wide world, ready to fend for ourselves.



**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 3,531 nautical miles**  
**Southernmost position: 64°85.5'S, 062°92.9'W (Paradise Harbour)**

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Hans Soderholm, Expedition Leader Pippa, Hotel Manager Ingrid and all the crew and staff of M/V Hondius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.





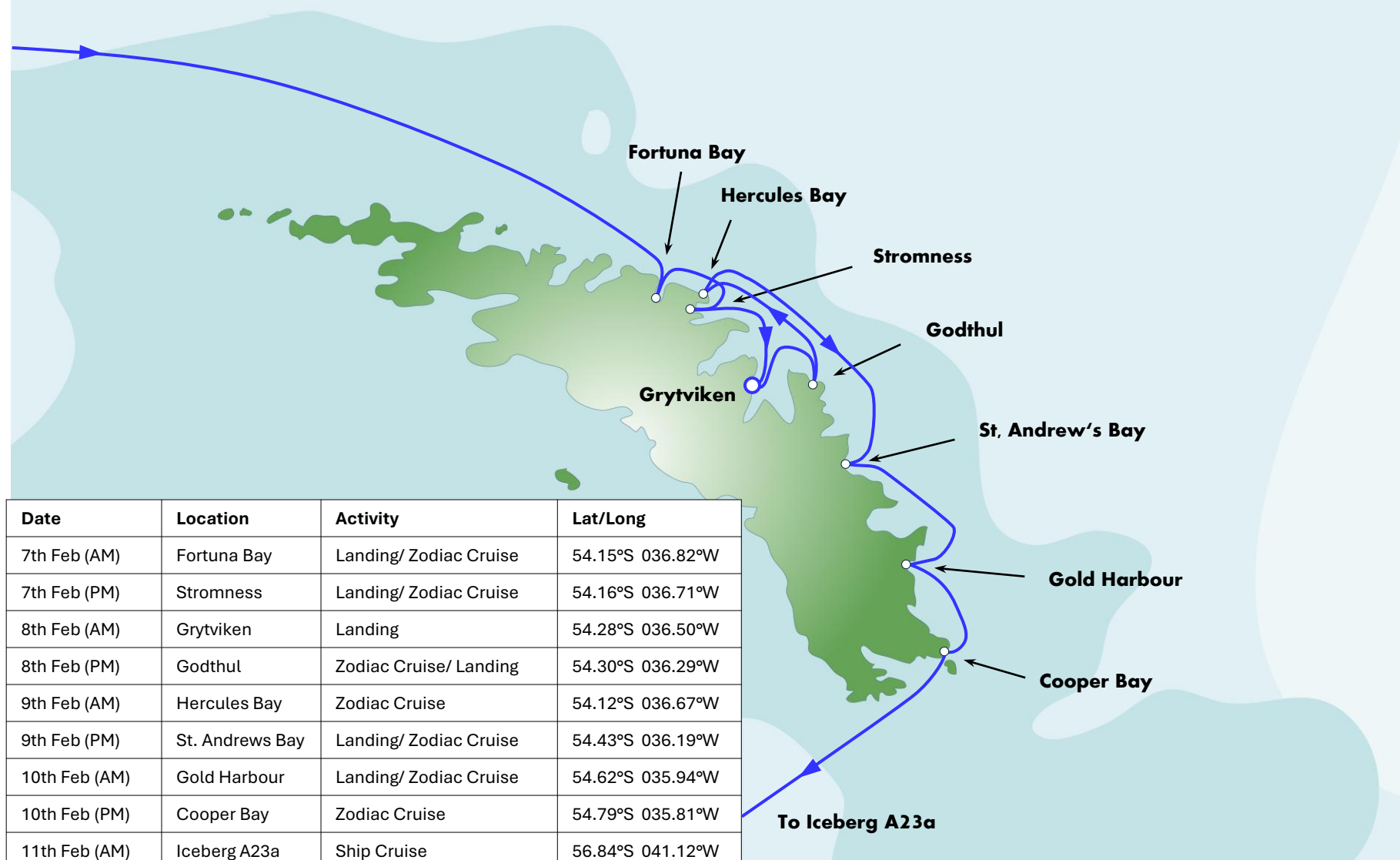
# Falkland Islands



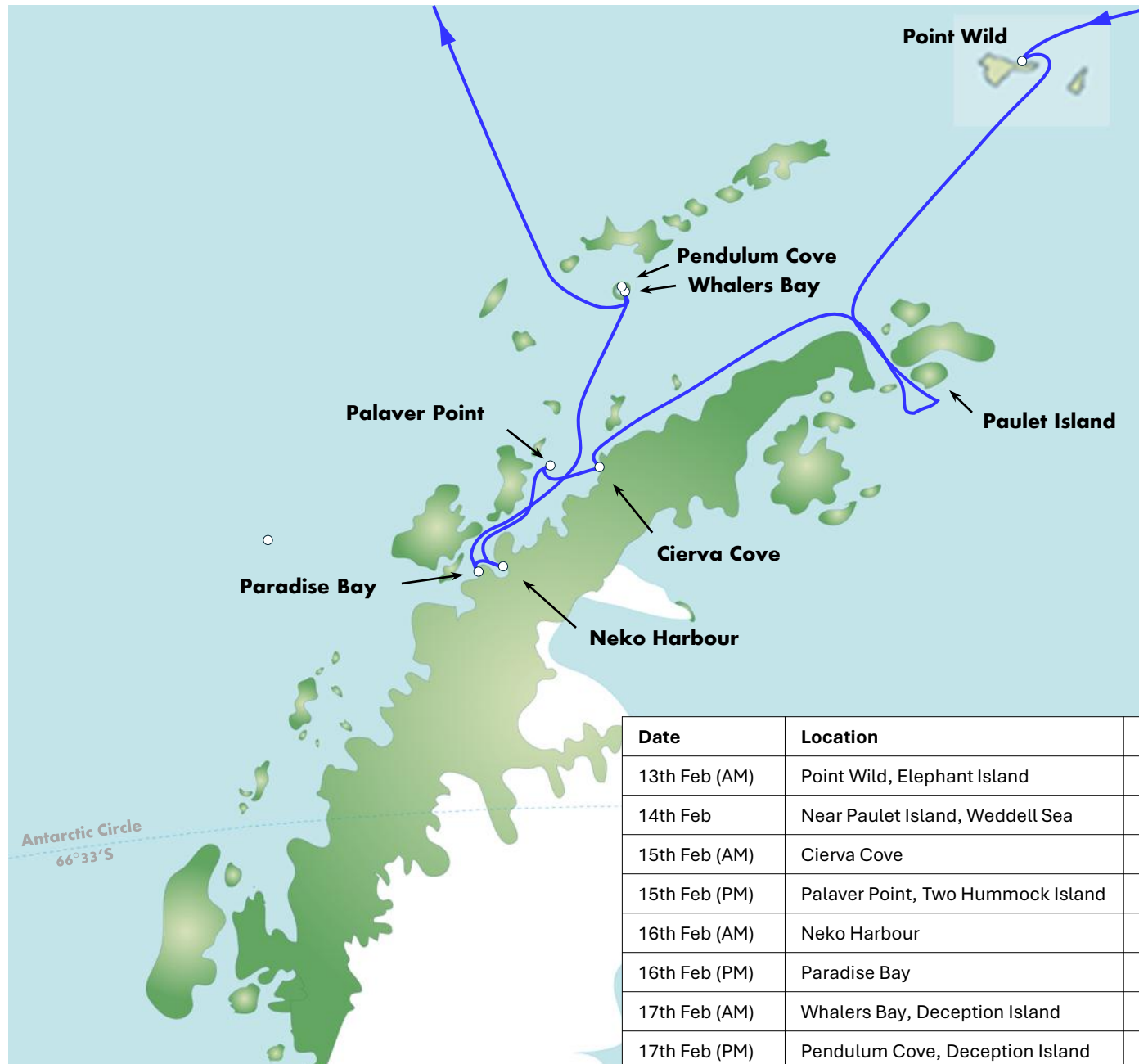
Date	Location	Activity	Lat/Long
3rd Feb (AM)	Settlement, New Island	Landing	51.72°S 061.30°W
3rd Feb (PM)	North Harbour, New Island	Landing	51.70°S 061.25°W
4th Feb (AM)	Stanley	Landing	51.69°S 057.86°W



# South Georgia



# Antarctic Peninsula





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

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## Pippa Low – Expedition Leader

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

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

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

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

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

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## Pierre Gallego – Asst. Exp. Leader

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Pierre is a veterinarian specialized in marine mammal medicine. He has been working in the field of marine biology for 18 years, and has been organizing marine mammal research internships around the world since 2004. He represents the Government of Luxembourg at the International Whaling Commission and CCAMLR, and works with numerous international NGOs to promote marine mammal conservation and to fight cetacean captivity.

He is currently carrying out his PhD with the Oceanology Lab of the University of Liege, Belgium. His PhD thesis deals with pollutants and stable isotopes in humpback whales off Ecuador and Mozambique.

He is a keen birdwatcher and enjoys photography. The ocean is his passion, and water is his element!



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## George Kennedy – Asst. Exp. Leader

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

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

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

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# Ursula Tscherter - Expedition Guide

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She grew up far from the oceans in landlocked Switzerland when in the 70s, when exploitative whaling was still happening, the dream of her childhood evolved; to meet whales in their natural environment. It came true in 1993 and changed her life radically. She gave up her original profession as a teacher for Craft and Art and spent the next 20 summers in Eastern Canada studying whales. As the director of the Swiss-Canadian ORES Foundation she combined scientific research and education for international audiences leaving deep imprints in many peoples' lives.

She is a true minke whale enthusiast. A thousands of hours she observed these mind-blowing whales and studied their habitat use, hunting and breathing ecology using photo-identification. At 50 years she obtained my Master in Marine Mammal Science at the University of St Andrews (Scotland). She nourished my urge to learn more from the oceans and whales in various research projects in Australia, New Zealand or South Africa. In 2008 she started to work as an expedition guide and lecturer in Antarctica and later in the Arctic. When at home she produced life-sized foldable animals, which she carries to schools and ships. Visit her lectures to meet some of them.

Just as strong as her urge to learn and explore is her need to share her knowledge and fascination with others to raise environmental awareness. Please join or approach her at any time, as she loves to answer questions and to be on deck on the lookout for wildlife.

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# Julia Angermeier – Expedition Guide

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Julia was born Germany in a small village outside of Frankfurt.

She has always had a love of the outdoors. Camping, hiking, mountaineering, kayaking have been her favorite activities since her childhood.

She started her professional career as an Intensive Care Nurse in 1998 and finished her studies in 2003. She continues this profession today in her time off.

The majority of her time, however, is spent in Puerto Natales (Chile) where she works as a trekking and outdoor guide in Torres Del Paine Nationalpark and other regions in Patagonia some of the most remote and beautiful parts of the world.

In 2019 she started working as a camping- and expedition guide for Oceanwide Expeditions in Antarctica. From the first day on she fell in love with the beautiful and breathtaking nature of the deep south. Becoming a Polar guide was now her goal.

Julia's "Speciality" are still people...telling the known and unknown stories of the most interesting people in the history of exploration of the polar regions became her passion.

Another passion of her is connecting people with nature, and showing the beauty around them. Getting people away from their computers, social media and stress, and giving them a life changing experience.

Julia looks forward to sharing these amazing adventures with her guests on every trip.



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# Lucia Romero - Expedition Guide

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

Born and raised in Puerto Madryn, a small town of Argentinian Patagonia coast, she grew up surrounded by marine wildlife and outdoor lifestyle. This led her to choose her career, with a bachelor degree in hospitality and tourism and becoming a professional tour guide and kayak guide.

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

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

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# William Kennedy – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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# Ross Wheeler – Expedition Guide

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Ross lives in a small town in Cornwall which is located in the southwestern corner of the UK. As he grew up in a coastal town he has always been fascinated by marine wildlife and the marine environment.

Having completed an undergraduate degree and master's degree in environmental sciences/ conservation biology at Plymouth University he then went on to use this passion and education to work as an environmental consultant and researcher in the coastal and marine field.

This progressed into the offshore sector where he worked as a marine mammal observer and passive acoustic monitoring operator in the offshore seismic and renewable industry sectors. This role took him to a wide range of areas throughout the North Atlantic, Central Africa and Southern Africa where he conducted marine mammal and sea bird surveys aboard various survey vessels. After a few years in this industry he then moved into the environmental compliance side of the cruise ship industry where he continues to work for six months of the year today. Whether he is working on ships around the world, volunteering for conservation-based organisations or travelling in his 'time off' he is constantly seeking opportunities to photograph wildlife in their natural environment.

Feel free to ask him any questions about marine mammals, seabirds or anything environmentally related with the shipping industry.



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# Charlotte Taplin – Expedition Guide

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Charlotte grew up by the Coast in Cornwall, United Kingdom. From a young age she has always been fascinated by wildlife and the ocean. She studied Wildlife Conservation at University and then spent the next 10 years travelling through South America, Australasia and Africa. Charlotte's love for boats began in 2013 where she worked on research and dive vessels visiting remote regions of the Great Barrier Reef. Her interest in Marine Biology grew in Australia and New Zealand while studying Humpback, Minke and Sperm Whales.

After driving overland in a land rover from South Africa to Jordan she then moved to Mozambique in 2018 where she started her own backpacker hostel. In her spare time Charlotte worked as a Researcher studying Whale sharks and Manta Rays along the Coast of Mozambique. During 2020-2022 she worked as a Deckhand/Divemaster on superyachts and ice breaker explorer vessels. Her hobbies include scuba-diving, surfing, free-diving and hiking. Being surrounded by the ocean is Charlotte's favourite place to be and she is so excited to have started her first season with Oceanwide in 2022.

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# Marco Rosso - Expedition Guide

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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.

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# Julian Robinson – Expedition Guide

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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.



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# Hana Spickova – Expedition Guide

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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.

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# Matt Cheok – Expedition Guide

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Matt is an adventure photographer and videographer from Sydney, Australia.

His work has taken him to some of the planet's most remote and captivating destinations – from the polar regions of Antarctica, Svalbard and Greenland to the majestic African savannah, landlocked steppe countries of Central Asia, and rugged mountains of South America.

In Antarctica, Matt's favourite subjects to capture are the playful gentoo penguins and the dramatic polar landscapes in the late afternoon light.

As a photography educator, Matt enjoys sharing his expertise with fellow travellers and inspiring them to connect with the natural world.

Matt's career path has been full of surprises. He previously worked as a commercial and insurance lawyer in Sydney, but he's now much happier pursuing his passion for photography and adventure.

When he's not guiding, Matt spends much of his time camping, thru-hiking, drinking lots of Bialetti coffee, and exploring the outdoors, having recently returned from the Fann Mountains in Tajikistan.

Onboard, you'll find Matt out on deck, cameras in hand. Don't hesitate to approach him with any photography questions or just for a friendly chat!

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# Juan Berenstein – Expedition Guide

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Juan is a professional photographer and drone pilot born in Ushuaia, Argentina and is a Zodiac driver, expedition and photography guide.

He is a young and highly motivated person, who loves enjoying the outdoors and being in the mountains. His hobbies are hiking, FPV drone flying and photography.

His passion for nature started at an early age with his family, who enjoyed the weekends camping at the end of the world and travelling around the country on holidays.

He studied photography in Buenos Aires and decided to return to his hometown to start his career and develop an independent way of life.

Juan has been working in the polar regions for several years now, including Antarctica, South Georgia, Falkland Islands, Svalbard, Greenland, and the Great Lakes in North America.



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# Andi Schwetz – Expedition Guide

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Andi was born in Budapest and grew up in Germany. Andi has always been fascinated by animals and nature, especially marine mammals ever since she was a child. She wanted to be a whale researcher, became a whale expert, without studying at a university, but through passion. She initially graduated in sociology, but then ran her own cocktail bar for 10 years. However, her enthusiasm for sea creatures never left her and she began to travel the world to be close to these fascinating animals and to observe them.

As a scuba and freediver, she was able to get particularly close to many whale species and experience adventures. For example, she has already swum with orcas three times in arctic Norway. She came to Oceanwide because she wanted to share her passion with heart and enthusiasm. She was already able to gain experience as a trainee in Antarctica in the spring of 2023. The polar regions with their special fauna exert a very special attraction on her. She is also interested in landscape photography and has great tips for successful mobile phone photography. Another passion of hers is yoga, which she also practices as a yoga instructor. She speaks English, German, Hungarian, and a little bit of Spanish and French. Andi is looking forward to more great adventures as a team member of Oceanwide!

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# Michael Green - Dive Team Leader

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He began diving in 1980 learning with the Royal Navy in Portsmouth Harbour. Leaving the Navy, he continued to dive mainly around the U.K. dive into the wrecks always looking for a new story to learn.

He is qualified as an instructor with BSAC and PADI. Plus, certified to operate Drager Dolphin and Buddy Inspiration rebreather. He has worked for Oceanwide since coming aboard as a guest for the Last eight years. He enjoys spending time giving our guests a safe but enjoyable experience in the Polar Regions.

His biggest tip for you is slow down.

Look around you, enjoy these beautiful flames they are amazing. He is looking forward to spending some time with you over the coming days. Please ask any questions you may have as soon as you have them, we are here to help!

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# Nicki Meharg - Dive guide

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Nicki Meharg is a seasoned polar guide working in both the northern and southern polar regions.

Nicki is a commercial diver, CCR, open circuit and free diver and has worked as a dive and wildlife guide globally for the last 14 years.

Nicki also works in wildlife and expedition documentary film making. Working as a camera person, camera assistant and organising dive safety and logistics.

Nicki is a dive medic technician and remote expedition medic, so you are in safe hands!

Nicki enjoys taking people to little travelled corners of the earth and sharing the wonders only a few of us are privileged enough to see.

Nicki's main concern is your comfort and safety, but she also loves sharing and hearing everyone's stories from their underwater adventures. She cannot wait to share the underwater world of the Antarctic region with you.



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# Sid Paul Dewfall – Dive Guide

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Sid was born in Gibraltar, at the southern most tip of Europe, and had been diving now for over 10 years. His passion for diving came from the experience of diving between two tectonic plates in the Silfra, Iceland and has since diver all around the world, working as a dive guide in countries such as Australia, Canada, Gibraltar and, Thailand.

Sid recently graduated with a Master's degree in Marine Science, focusing specifically on the health status and distribution of orange stony cup corals, eventually publishing and authoring a data set and diving course to educate citizen divers on various monitoring techniques and, assessing and collecting their own datasets to track changes temporally and spatially amongst benthic communities.

In his free time, he enjoys playing and coaching multiple sports, including competing nationally in Athletics, and recreationally playing Squash, and Climbing. Being a diver, Sid has always had an affinity with water and will always try to find time to join the waves, be it underneath as diver, or above the surface on a board. He is particularly interested in marine organisms so if you have any questions or interests in diving or marine species, please ask him

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# Lorenzo Begaud – Dive Guide

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Lorenzo grew up in France far from the sea in the Champagne region. In 2012 he went to Patagonia on his first adventure to work in a local tour operator guiding hikes & kayak trips in Puerto Natales, Chile, gateway to the famous Torres del Paine National Park.

That was an eye opening experience and ever since, he never stop traveling and exploring new places.

He has been working all over the world for the past 10 years, from Africa to Antarctica, through South, Central & North America, Australia, and all around the Nordic countries.

His biggest appeal ? Meeting new people, blending into new culture & lifestyle but also going to remote places to enjoy a “simpler” life. Going out of his comfort zone and learning new things is what keeps him going.

A few years ago he turned his passions into work and decided to dedicate himself full time to outdoor activities by leading people to experience the beauty of the wilderness.

After hard work and plenty of trainings he became really comfortable above and under the water as he works now mostly as dive & kayak guide / instructor.

From leading snowmobile trips and northern lights hunts in Lapland to dive in the Sac Actun cave system in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, he’s sure always eager to learn something new.

Life is a journey and you should make sure you make the best of it while having plenty fun on the way.

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# Anneke Planting – Ships Doctor

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Anneke, originally from Friesland in the north of the Netherlands, now resides in the Algarve, Portugal. She is a vascular surgeon and currently works as a locum in surgery departments and emergency medicine in Germany, balancing her professional expertise with her passion for travel and adventure.

Anneke's connection to the sea is profound. As a ship's doctor, she has completed numerous transatlantic voyages aboard tall ships, living the timeless art of traditional sailing. Now embarking on her second season in

the Antarctic, Anneke thrives in this remote and breathtaking environment, where her medical expertise and adventurous spirit come together seamlessly. South Georgia and the Falkland Islands, with their wild and mysterious landscapes, continue to captivate her, drawing her back time and again. Anneke developed a fascination with the history of whaling, remnants of which remain visible in these regions, connecting us to the past and the stories of those who ventured into these remote corners of the world.

For Anneke, these journeys are not only about the extraordinary natural beauty but also about the incredible people she meets along the way. The camaraderie of the crew and the inspiring stories of the guests create an atmosphere of connection and shared adventure, making every trip even more meaningful and unforgettable. As the ship's doctor, Anneke is dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of all crew members and guests. She is always there to provide care, support, and reassurance, creating an environment where everyone feels secure and looked after.



## **WELCOME ABOARD!**

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

**\* \* Tea and coffee are always available in the lounge on deck 5 \* \***

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

### **Lifeboat Drill**

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

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

**±1800**      **Departure from Ushuaia.**  
The bridge will be closed during these operations.

**1830**      **Expedition Introduction & Captain's Welcome** – Please join us in **The Observation Lounge** (deck 5) for the Captain's toast, a welcome to your new home from the Hotel Manager and an introduction to your Expedition Team.

**1930**      **Buffet dinner** is served in the **Dining Room** (deck 4)

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

*"Adventure is just a romantic name for trouble"*

*– Roald Amundsen*

After lunch we will begin our biosecurity check for The Falkland Islands. Please take the time to ensure your outer layers are clean, and that all areas of Velcro, hoods and pockets are empty. Brushes & Paperclips are available at reception to help with cleaning.

- 0715      **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0730      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 0845      **Zodiac & IAATO Briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our **mandatory** zodiac operations and IAATO briefing.
- 1045      **Penguins** – Please join Lucia in the **lounge** (deck 5) for her lecture on the wonderful world of Penguins.
- 1200      **Muck Boots** - We will call you by deck to collect your Muck boots from the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3). *Please listen for announcements.*
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 1345      **Biosecurity Check & Zodiacs Lifejackets Fitting** - We will call you by deck to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) to complete your biosecurity check – please bring all your **cleaned** outerwear, backpacks, footwear, and tripods/walking sticks and zodiac lifejackets. **Please listen for announcements.**
- 1400      **Dive Briefing – Divers** - please join Micheal and the dive team for this **mandatory dive briefing** in the **lecture room** (deck 5).
- 1630      **Introduction to photography** – Please join Matt in the **lounge** (deck 5) for an introduction to expedition photography.
- 1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our first daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4) – *Tonight's dinner will be plated – please make your way to the dining room promptly.*

*Please walk slowly on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself and at least one hand for the ship.*

*"Through endurance we conquer" – Ernest Shackelton*



Antarctica, South Georgia  
& Falklands Islands

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

New Island

Sunrise: 0544 Sunset: 2135

0645      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!  
0700      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*Today we hope to explore New island. In the morning we hope to land at the Settlement of New Island; home to Rock Hopper and Gentoo Penguins, Black Browed Albatross, several native Falkland Island Birds and the New Island Museum. Payments can be made with British Pounds, Euros, USD and credit/debit cards.*

0800      **Divers** – Please meet the dive team at the **forward shell door on Deck 3**

0800      **Red** groups please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at New Island– *listen for announcements.*

0815      **Blue** group please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at New Island – *listen for announcements.*

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

*This afternoon we hope to land at the North Harbour of New Island; home to Magellanic and Gentoo Penguins, white sandy beaches and a range of other birds.*

1330      **Divers** – Please meet the dive team at the **forward shell door on Deck 3**

1330      **Blue** please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at New Island – *listen for announcements.*

1345      **Red** please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at New Island – *listen for announcements.*

1745      **Recap & Briefing** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

1830      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

*Please follow the poles/flags and remember to **keep a safe distance from wildlife.***



- 0645      **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0700      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- +/-0700    **Port Stanley Neck** - We hope to pass through the narrows in to Port Stanley.

*This morning, we hope to visit Port Stanley, the Capital of the Falkland Islands. Upon arrival, we hope to take you ashore for a visit to the town of Stanley. Please make sure to take your room keycard with you to get in and out of the port. You can wear your own shoes. **Please make sure your footwear, clothing and backpacks are clean of any dirt, seeds, etc.** Whilst in Stanley, you can walk freely through the town – but please respect the local traffic and peoples' homes & gardens.*

- 0800      **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) – *listen for announcements.*
- 0815      **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) – *listen for announcements.*

*Zodiacs will begin shuttling back to Hondius at 1130 from the pier.*

**Our last zodiac will depart from the pier at 1245 sharp.**

- 1130      **First zodiac** returning to Hondius from the pier.
- 1245      **Last zodiac returning to Hondius.**
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1430      **Birds of the Southern Ocean** – Please join Ross in the **lounge** for an introduction to our Antarctic Feathery Friends.
- 1630      **My Part in General Galtieri's Downfall** – Please join Michael in the **lounge** for his experiences during the Falkland Island's war.
- 1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

*We will spend today at sea on route to South Georgia. We will be doing a mandatory biosecurity check before we are allowed to land on South Georgia.*

**Therefore, please clean all your outerwear, backpacks, muck boots and tripods/walking sticks before the check this afternoon.**

**No wakeup call – enjoy! :)**

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

0915 **South Georgia Briefing** – Please join the Expedition Team in the **lounge** for a mandatory South Georgia briefing.

1115 **Whales of the Southern Ocean** – Please join Andi in the **lounge** for her lecture on the leviathans of the Antarctic waters.

**Time change: At 1200 the clocks will change forward. At 1200 it will be 1300.**

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

1430 **Biosecurity Check** - We will call you by deck to the **lounge** to complete your biosecurity check – please bring all your **cleaned** outerwear, backpacks, muckboots, and tripods/walking sticks and zodiac lifejackets. **Please listen for announcements.**

1700 **South Georgia Geology** – Please join Julian in the **lounge** for his lecture on the physical environment of South Georgia.

1845 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

1930 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

+/-2100 **Photography Workshop** – Please join Matt & Juan in the **lecture room** for some more photography tips and any assistance you need with your cameras and photographs.

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



Falklands Islands, South Georgia  
& Antarctica

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025

At Sea to South Georgia

Sunrise: 0524 Sunset: 2030

*Today is our final day at sea towards South Georgia. We hope to start spotting new Antarctic species as we are now South of the Antarctic Convergence and sailing in the Antarctic Ocean.*

**No wakeup call – enjoy your morning!**

- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0915      **Ice** – Please join Marco in the **lounge** for his lecture exploring the ice and cryosphere of the Southern Ocean.
- 1115      **Pinnipeds of the Southern Ocean** – Please join Pippa in the **lounge** for her lecture on the Seals we hope to see on our expedition.
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1430      **Who owns South Georgia?** – Please join George in the **lounge** for his lecture exploring the modern history of South Georgia.
- 1630      **Endurance** - Please join Michael in the **lounge** for his lecture about Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition.
- 1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.
- +/-2030      **Endurance Found** - A century after Shackleton's Endurance sank beneath the ice, explorers uncover the legendary shipwreck and an amazing tale of survival.

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



- 0645 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!  
0700 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning, we hope to land and zodiac cruise at Fortuna Bay. Here you will see a King Penguin colony, Fur & Elephant Seals, and many more birds and wildlife. The **Blue** group will go to shore first, the **Red** group will zodiac cruise; you will swap over on shore halfway through the morning.*

*The weather tomorrow looks challenging, please be patient with changes of plans.*

- 0800 **Blue group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Fortuna Bay.
- 0830 **Red group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Fortuna Bay.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon we hope to land and zodiac cruise at Stromness. Here you will see the remains of an old whaling station, Fur & Elephant Seals, and Gentoo & King Penguins. We will offer a long walk to 'Shackleton Falls' – the waterfall that Shackleton and his men descended on their final approach to Stromness for rescue. The walk is just under 5km round trip and is over grass, streams and some boggy terrain. The **Red** group will go to shore first, the **Blue** group will zodiac cruise; you will swap over on shore halfway through the morning.*

- +/-1400 **Divers** – Please meet Michael and the team at the forward shell door.
- +/-1430 **Red group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Stromness.
- +/-1445 **Blue group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Stromness.
- 1900 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for the daily recap.
- 1930 **Dinner** will be served in the dining room.

***Tomorrow morning (the 8<sup>th</sup>) we will hope to visit Grytviken. We will be inspected by the Government officers as we disembark the vessel. Please ensure your boots, rucksacks, outerwear, hats, gloves, walking sticks and tripods are clean. If you need any assistance with cleaning this evening, the expedition team will be happy to help you in the lecture room during the evening.***

0700      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!  
0715      **Breakfast** will be served in the dining room.

***We will be inspected by the South Georgia Government upon arrival in Grytviken!***  
***Please remember to bio-secure all your outer clothes, boots, bags and poles.***

*This morning, we hope to land at Grytviken. All groups will land together this morning. Here you can expect to see the old whaling station, church, cemetery, and visit the museum, shop & post office. You can pay with credit or debit card only. South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT) invite you to a guided tour of Grytviken Whaling Station. We will also offer a toast to Shackleton at the cemetery.*

+/-0815      **South Georgia Heritage Trust Briefing** – Please join the SGHT members from the museum for a presentation in the lounge.  
+/-0845      **Red group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Grytviken.  
+/-0900      **Blue group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Grytviken.  
0930      **Red group Whaling Station tour** – If you would like to join the museum team for a tour – meet outside the museum for a tour of the Whaling station.  
1100      **Blue group Whaling Station tour** – If you would like to join the museum team for a tour – meet outside the museum for a tour of the Whaling station.  
1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon we hope to offer a landing and zodiac cruise inside spectacular Godthul. There is a wealth of wildlife in this site including Fur and elephant seals, King and Macaroni penguins.*

1430      **Blue group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Godthul.  
1445      **Red group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Godthul.  
1900      **Recap** Please join our team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.  
1930      **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia  
& Antarctica  
**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025**  
**Hercules & St Andrews Bay**

- 0645      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!  
0700      **Breakfast** will be served in the dining room.

*This morning, we hope to offer a full ship zodiac cruise inside spectacular **Hercules Bay**. There is a wealth of wildlife in this site including Fur and elephant seals, and we hope to find Macaroni Penguins here.*

- 0800      **Blue group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Hercules Bay.
- 0815      **Red group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Hercules Bay.
- 1130      **Recap** Please join our team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon, we hope to land and cruise at St Andrews Bay, which is best known for its huge breeding colony of king penguins, numbering about 150,000 pairs, the largest in South Georgia. The beaches of St. Andrews Bay are also great for viewing fur seals, elephant seals, and mountainous snow-capped surroundings. The **red** group will come to shore first, the **blue** group will zodiac cruise – you will swap halfway through the afternoon.*

- 1415      **Red group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at St Andrews Bay.
- 1445      **Blue group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at St Andrews Bay.
- 1900      **Special South Georgia Dinner** will be served! Dress warm!

*"Polar exploration is at once the cleanest and most isolated way of having a bad time which has been devised". – Apsley Cherry-Garrard*



0455 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!

*Pastries & Juice available in the lounge.*

*This morning we hope to land and cruise at Gold Harbour, a bustling beach filled with King Penguins, Elephant and Fur seals in the shadow of the Bertrab Hanging glacier.*

*The **Blue** group will go to shore first and the **Red** group will cruise first.*

*We will then all come back onboard for breakfast. After breakfast the **Red** group will go onshore and the **Blue** group will cruise.*

0530 **Blue group (& Divers)** we will take you ashore at Gold Harbour.

0545 **Red group** we will take you on a zodiac cruise around Gold Harbour.

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

0900 **Divers** – Please meet at the zodiac deck.

0915 **Red group** we will take you ashore at Gold Harbour.

0930 **Blue group** we will take you on a zodiac cruise around Gold Harbour.

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

*This afternoon we hope to zodiac cruise at Cooper Bay, home to Gentoo, Chinstrap, King and Macaroni Penguins. The kelp forest shores of Cooper bay are home to many marine species also. All colour groups will go for a zodiac cruise.*

1345 **Red group** we will take you for a zodiac cruise around Cooper Bay.

1400 **Blue group** we will take you for a zodiac cruise around Cooper Bay.

+/-1700 **Departing South Georgia** – Join us outside for our last sights of South Georgia.

1815 **Recap & Daily Briefing** – Please join the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the dining room.

*We will head out to sea towards Antarctica this evening – please secure your belongings, take care when moving around the ship & take seasick medication as required.*

**\*\*Clocks go back 1 hour during the night\*\***

0745      **Wake up call** – Good Morning!

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

*During the morning, we will be passing A23a, the largest iceberg in the world measuring about 3,800 sq km (1,470 sq miles) and has been afloat since 1986. Once we are in sight of this huge iceberg, we will announce it so you can enjoy this breathtaking spectacle. Our lecture program will be changeable based on iceberg viewing.*

1030      **Ice Ice baby!** – Please join Aitana (in English) in the lounge and Jerry (in Mandarin) in the lecture room for their lecture all about the crystalline world of the cryosphere.

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

1430      **History of Antarctic Whaling** – Please join Pippa (in English) in the lecture room and Rose (in Mandarin) in the lounge for their lecture about the history of Antarctic whaling.

1600      **Geographical Introduction to Antarctica** – Please join Sasha in the lounge for his lecture exploring the unique geography of our southern continent. This lecture will be in English and translated into Mandarin.

1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

2030      **South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for an evening of fun and fundraising – all in aid of helping preserve the beauty and history of South Georgia.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia  
& Antarctica

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025

At Sea towards Antarctica

Sunrise: 04:23 Sunset: 20:07

**No wakeup call** - Good morning!

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

0930 **Introduction to the Antarctic Peninsula** – Please join Marco in the Lounge for his lecture on the physical environment of the Antarctic Peninsula.

1130 **Tom Crean** – Please join Will in the Lounge for his lecture on the forgotten Irish hero.

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

1400 **Biosecurity:** We will call you by deck to complete our biosecurity check in the lounge – please bring all your **precleaned** outerwear and backpacks to be checked. We will have a wash station for your muckboots and tripods/walking sticks. ***Please listen for announcements.***

1630 **Whale Reproduction** – Please join Charlotte in the Lounge for her lecture exploring cetacean breeding.

1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

*"I have come to the conclusion that life in the Antarctic Regions can be very pleasant." -  
Scott (1868—1912) at the end of the Discovery expedition.*





Falkland Islands, South Georgia  
& Antarctica  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
Elephant Island & At Sea to Antarctica  
Sunrise: 05:05 Sunset: 20:42

- 0745      **Wakeup call** - Good morning!
- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0830      **Biosecurity Check** - If you did not get your biosecurity check done yesterday, please come to deck 3 to complete your biosecurity check/cleaning.

*This morning, we hope to reach Point Wild, Elephant Island. This is the location where Shackleton and his men first stepped foot on land after enduring months. We hope to take the ship close enough to see Point Wild, and if the conditions offer an activity off the ship.*

*As we sail towards Elephant Island, keep your eyes peeled for whale blows! These waters can be home to many large cetaceans, the more eyes looking out for them, the better our chance of spotting them!*

- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1430      **Antarctic Whaling** – Please join Pippa in the Lounge for her lecture on the history of Antarctic Whaling.
- 1630      **Antarctic Geopolitics** – Please join George in the Lounge for his lecture on the political world of the white continent.
- 1815      **Recap** - join the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.
- 2030      **Happy Hour & South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction** – Please join Will and the Expedition Team in the Lounge for the SGHT Auction, an evening of fun and fundraising.

*“Adventure is not outside man; it is within” – Roald Amundsen*



Falkland Islands, South Georgia  
& Antarctica  
 **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025**  
**Paulet Island & Weddel Sea**  
**Happy Valentine's Day!**

*During the morning, we will navigate through the Antarctic Sound and the timings of the morning will depend on ice conditions during our navigation.*

0715      **Wakeup call!** Good morning!  
0730      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning, we hope to visit Paulet Island, a circular island, topped with a distinct volcanic cone. Home to 100,000 breeding pairs of Adelie Penguins! We hope to land and cruise Paulet Island, however the densities of penguins will dictate if we are able to land.*

0845      **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you ashore at Paulet Island.  
0900      **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise at Paulet Island.  
1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

### ***Weddell Sea Expedition Afternoon***

*This afternoon we plan to sail through the sea ice and tabular icebergs of the Northern Weddell Sea. We will be looking out for wildlife and enjoying the spectacular scenery. Please join us out on deck or on the bridge.*

1815      **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily briefing and recap.  
1900      **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

*“With friends like these, one might endure, I would say, under any circumstances” – Andre Solomon, Swedish Expeditioner*





Falkland Islands, South Georgia  
& Antarctica

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025**  
**Cierva Cove & Palaver Point**  
**Sunrise: 05:28 Sunset: 21:13**

0715      **Wakeup call!** Good morning!  
0730      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning, we hope to zodiac cruise at Cierva Cove, a glacial bay filled with ice, whales, seals and Penguins.*

+/-0900      **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you on a zodiac cruise around Cierva Cove.  
+/-0915      **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you on a zodiac cruise around Cierva Cove.

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

1400      **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily briefing.

*This afternoon, we hope to land and zodiac cruise at Palaver Point. Palaver Point is home to Chinstrap Penguins and sometimes Weddell and Fur Seals.*

+/-1530      **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you ashore at Palaver Point.  
+/-1545      **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you on a zodiac cruise at Palaver Point.  
             **We will swap on shore halfway through the afternoon.**

1900      **Special Antarctic Dinner** will be served – dress warm! :)

*“Victory awaits him who has everything in order - luck, people call it”  
- Roald Amundsen*





Falkland Islands, South Georgia  
& Antarctica

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025**  
**Neko Harbour & Paradise Bay**  
**Sunrise: 05:25 Sunset: 21:17**

0715      **Wakeup call!** Good morning!  
0730      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning, we hope to land & zodiac cruise at Neko Harbour, a continental landing and home to a Gentoo Penguin colony. At the head of the bay is an active glacier, meaning there are many glacial icebergs, as well as excellent chances for whales and seals.*

+/-0830      **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you ashore at Neko Harbour.  
+/-0845      **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you on a zodiac cruise at Neko Harbour.

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

*This afternoon, we hope to zodiac cruise in Paradise Bay, a beautiful bay filled by ice and surrounded by Antarctic scenery. During our cruise we hope to see cormorants, Gentoo Penguins, Seals and Whales, as well as views of Argentina's Almirante Brown Base.*

+/-1500      **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you on a zodiac cruise at Paradise Bay.  
+/-1515      **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you on a zodiac cruise at Paradise Bay.

1815      **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily briefing.

1900      **Dinner** will be served in the **dinning room**.

*"Adventure is just a romantic name for trouble" – Roald Amundsen*



Falkland Islands, South Georgia  
& Antarctica

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025

**New Year's Day**

**Orne Islands & Palmer Archipelago**

0715      **Wakeup call!** Good morning!

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

*This morning, we hope to land and zodiac cruise at Orne Islands. Orne Islands is home to a Chinstrap Penguin colony. Beautiful glacial landscape surrounds Orne Islands, and we often spot whales and seals on the zodiac cruise here.*

0830      **Red & Yellow groups** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you to shore at Orne Islands.

0845      **Blue & Green groups** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you on a zodiac cruise at Orne Islands.  
**We will swap on shore halfway through the afternoon.**

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

*This afternoon we will sail through the Palmer Archipelago and Melchior Islands. We hope to spot some whales and please enjoy our last sights of Antarctica, as we make our way North.*

1800      **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily briefing and recap.

1900      **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon/ evening we will make our way North and back out to open sea towards the Drake Passage and Ushuaia. Please ensure your belongings and cabins are secure, and you are prepared with any seasick medication.*

*This morning, we hope to visit Deception Island, an active caldera volcano, which we hope to sail in to. We hope to sail through Neptune's Bellows, the narrow entrance to the caldera, around +/-0710.*

0645        **Wakeup call!** Good morning!  
0715        **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning, we hope to offer a landing and zodiac cruise at Whaler's Bay, an abandoned whaling station and British research facility located near the entrance to Deception Island. During our landing, we hope to walk among relics of the whaling and heroic eras, visiting the buildings, aircraft hangers and oil tanks that can be found along the geothermal coastline.*

0815        **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you ashore at Whaler's Bay.  
0845        **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise at Whaler's Bay.

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

*This afternoon we hope to take you ashore at Pendulum Cove to offer a short landing and polar plunge! Pendulum Cove lies deep inside the Deception Island caldera and has active geothermal beaches. We will take one group at a time to shore.*

*Polar plungers – please come prepared with your swimmers under your clothing. Do not bring the towels from your cabin – we will provide towels onshore.*

1415        **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you ashore for a Polar Plunge at Pendulum Bay.

1500        **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you ashore for a Polar Plunge at Pendulum Bay.

1800        **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily briefing and recap.

1900        **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

+/-2030     **Movie Night** – Please join us for movie night & Popcorn.

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

- No wake up call – enjoy!**
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0830-1000 **Photo competition Submissions** – Please meet Juan and Lucia in the library with your photo competition submissions.
- 1000 **Underwater Antarctica** – Please join Michael and the dive team in the Lounge for a presentation on what the divers have been seeing on our expedition.
- 1130 **Amundsen, Polar Professional** – Please join William in the Lounge for his presentation on Roald Amundsen.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1330 **Muck boot & Drybag Collection** – We will call you by deck to the **zodiac boarding area** to return your muck boots, drybags and rental gear. Please listen for announcements.
- 1430 **Antarctic Whaling** – Please join Pippa in the Lounge for her lecture exploring the history of whaling in Antarctica.
- 1630 **International Whaling Commission** – Please join Pierre in the Lounge for his lecture about the management and conservation of whales.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the **Lounge** for our daily briefing and recap.
- 1900 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 2030 **Photo Competition** - Please join Juan and the team in the **lounge** to reveal the competition winners.

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



- 0745      **Special Wake-up call** – This morning you will be awoken by one of your fellow guests.
- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0930      **The Environmental Aspects of the Expedition** – Please join Ross in the Lounge for his lecture on the environmental facets of our expedition.
- 1130      **The Blue Machine** – Please join Marco in the Lounge for his presentation on the importance of the polar regions in the thermohaline circulation of our oceans.
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*You will receive your bill in your cabin and after lunch we will call you by deck to complete your payments at reception – **Please listen for announcements.***

- 1500      **Future History of Antarctica** – Please join George in the Lounge for his lecture exploring the future challenges of the Antarctic Treaty System.
- 1800      **Farewell Toast & Trip Slideshow** - Please join the Captain and the expedition team to toast our voyage through the Southern Ocean and watch the trip slideshow.
- 1900      **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

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

*“It is in our nature to explore, to reach out into the unknown. The only true failure would be not to explore at all” – Ernest Shackleton*



Falkland Islands, South Georgia  
& Antarctica

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
Disembarkation - Ushuaia

0715      **Wakeup call** – Good Morning!

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

*Please place your large/check-in luggage outside your cabin no later than 0730. During breakfast we will collect your luggage and deposit it on the pier where it will be your responsibility to identify and collect each item.*

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

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

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

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

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