



Antarctica-Elephant Island-Weddell Sea-Polar Circle

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

9 March 2025 – 23 March 2025

On board *m/v Plancius*



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



Captain Evgeny Levakov (Russia)

and his international crew of 50 sailors

Chief Officer:	Martin Hansson	[Sweden]
Second Officer:	Don Buren	[Netherlands]
Third Officer:	Solina Duguay	[Canada]
Hotel Manager:	Albert Don	[Netherlands]
Ass. Hotel Manager:	Niels Schipper	[Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Khabir Moraes	[India]
Sous Chef:	Sachin Naiks	[India]
Ships doctor:	Ruth Gussenhoven	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Adam Burke	[UK]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Steffi Liller	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Jakub Malecki	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	Koen Hoekemeijer	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Simon Davies	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Elizabeth Robinson	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	Pelin Asfuroglu	[Chile]
Expedition Guide:	Joyce Mulder	[Netherlands]
Kayak Leader:	Kelly Pearson	[UK]
Dive Leader:	Mike Pumm	[Switzerland]
Dive Guide:	Gonzalo Sabattini	[Argentina]
Dive Guide:	Kevin Verbist	[Belgium]
Dive Guide:	Angela Buschor	[Switzerland]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Sunday 9th March, Ushuaia, Embarkation Day

12h00 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S / 068°17.8'W

Wind: E-2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: 13°C



Finally, the long-awaited journey to the White Continent is about to begin! The excitement was palpable as everyone gathers on the pier, eagerly awaiting the adventure ahead. Our beautiful expedition ship, the MV Plancius, stands ready to take us southward to the Deep South. Embarkation began at 4 p.m., and as soon as we were all on board, we kicked things off

with the mandatory passenger drill, ensuring everyone is prepared before we set sail. Once that's complete, we headed to the outer decks to enjoy the breathtaking views as we began our voyage from Ushuaia, heading into the famous Beagle Channel.

About an hour later, our Expedition Leader, Adam, invited us to the lounge to introduce the rest of the expedition team and shared more about our upcoming journey to the Weddell Sea and the Antarctic Circle. The anticipation grew as the Captain took the stage and officially welcomed us aboard. With glasses of sparkling bubbles in hand, we toasted to the incredible adventure that lies ahead, enjoying some delicious canapés.



Afterward, Hotel Manager Albert invited us down to the restaurant, where we were treated to a sumptuous dinner. We were amazed by the variety and quality of the food, lovingly prepared by the talented Galley Team. Our bellies full and spirits high, we felt ready to embark on this unforgettable journey, filled with awe and wonder at the adventure that awaits us!

Day 2 – Monday 10th March, Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 56°41.3'S / 063°32.8'W

Wind: SSW-5 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Rain • Air temperature: 6°C



The night was eventful—we had been warned that the ship would start rolling around midnight, and sure enough, it did. Some handled it better than others, so breakfast wasn't well attended.

After breakfast, Adam, our expedition leader, gave a series of mandatory briefings. They were very informative,

covering the rules of the Antarctic continent, biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of diseases and invasive species, and—perhaps most exciting—the Zodiac briefing. The Zodiacs are essential for getting off the ship in remote areas without ports.

Most people appreciated that Adam kept the briefings concise, as some of us preferred to spend more time lying down.

In the afternoon, we checked our equipment to ensure we weren't bringing any invasive species along. After thoroughly inspecting and cleaning our gear, we signed a declaration allowing us to enter Antarctica.

Koen, our photo guide, gave us an introduction to wildlife photography, followed by a recap session led by the expedition staff.

Adam then explained the plans for the next day, and we heard more stories from the staff.



What a day! It felt like being back in school—but in the best way possible. Learning about the pristine region we're about to visit is truly exciting, even if it began with a real Drake Passage experience.

Day 3 – Tuesday 11th March, Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 59°42.2'S / 057°39.9'W

Wind: SSW-3 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: 0°C



After a somewhat calmer night we woke up to sunny skies and much friendlier waves. Our ship was still moving, but after yesterday's *stability training*, today almost felt like a walk in the park. We had more birds around the ship and the guides reported Black Browed, Light Mantled Sooty and Grey Headed albatrosses flying around the ship. As we are moving into

colder waters the chances of seeing more marine life increased as well, so we were going to keep looking out for blows and maybe dorsal fins throughout the day.

We had another full day at the Drake Passage ahead, so the expedition team had a variety of lectures scheduled. For those of us who were going to kayak or dive, there were briefings about their activities and in between there was time to relax, have a coffee and enjoy the views of the waves that passed the ship endlessly.

Kelly, our excited Kayak Guide, gathered *her* kayakers in the lounge to inform them about all the procedures involving the kayaking. It addressed how we were going to enter the kayaks, how it works with weather conditions and how it works for example with getting ready and being standby in time.

In the meantime, the divers had gathered in the dining room to follow a similar briefing as the kayakers. Diving in Antarctica must be something completely surreal and mesmerizing. Seeing large pieces of ice below the surface with hopefully glances of wildlife as well as smaller sea creatures must be amazing. As such those of us who were going to dive were very excited and eager to get down and submerge into the cold waters. At 11:00 AM it was Elizabeth's turn. Elizabeth has been studying whales for the last 10 years and during her lecture about cetaceans she definitely infected us with her passion for these intelligent, friendly and



social giants of our oceans. There are many species of whales so Elizabeth focused mostly on the whales and dolphins we might encounter during our expedition. Whale season was at its peak so all guides were optimistic about our chances of having wonderful encounters.

The movement of the ship made our bodies work hard and after a tasty lunch the time was right to get some rest and have a small power nap before the next lecture would start.

At 15:00 it was time for a special lecture. M/V Plancius has two scientists travelling with the ship to conduct scientific field seal research. Giulia and Frits are here to take tissue samples from Leopard, Weddell and Crabeater seals to study toxic contamination levels in these blubbery animals. It was a very interesting lecture even more so since it felt we are very far away from oceanic chemical pollution and it's hard to believe that there's no escaping from it for any sea creature.

As we are gradually moving closer and closer to Antarctica, Pelin closed the lecture program with an introduction to this beautiful and pristine continent. It was yet another interesting lecture which ignited our excitement to see and explore the *white continent* even more.

After recap we enjoyed dinner and today the dining room looked to have more seats occupied compared to yesterday.

Day 4 – Wednesday 12th March, Elephant Island

12h00 GPS Position: 61°13.7'S / 054°55.8'W

Wind: S-3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 1°C



This morning, we woke up to a beautiful view of Elephant Island, where our ship had stayed overnight. The island had huge cliffs and glaciers, and the ocean around it was full of floating ice. It was both amazing and wild. As we ate breakfast, we looked at Point Wild, the place where 22 men from Ernest Shackleton's expedition were stranded for over four months. They had to survive in the freezing

cold, eating only penguins, seals, and some leftover sugar and biscuits while they waited for help. It was hard to imagine how they stayed alive in such harsh conditions.

From the ship, we could see a statue of Captain Luis Pardo, the man who saved them. He arrived on a small steam-powered boat called the Yelcho, which belonged to the Chilean Navy.

Even though the weather was terrible, he safely rescued all 22 men. Our Historian Pelin told us this amazing story, helping us understand how brave Shackleton's men were. Around us, the ocean was full of life—chinstrap penguins jumped in and out of the water, looking happy and playful.

As we continued sailing toward the Weddell Sea, we passed Cape Lookout, Cornwallis Island, and Clarence Island. This part of the ocean was full of wildlife, and we were lucky to see many fin whales. Some swam very close to our ship, so we could clearly see their white lower jaws. These whales have an interesting way of catching food. When



they lunge feed, they often roll to the right side, making their white jaw blend with the bright sky and their dark side blend with the water. This helps them surprise their prey. The waters here were full of food, so we also saw albatrosses flying overhead and more penguins swimming nearby.

Later, we also saw humpback whales and passed by huge icebergs, which looked like floating mountains of ice. In the evening, Adam told us about the next day's plan, and Elizabeth talked about the fin whales we had just seen. Pelin shared a fun story about Misses Chippy, the cat that accompanied Shackleton's carpenter, McNish. To conclude the recap, Gonzalo gave us a quiz about Antarctic animals.

After a long and exciting day, we were ready for the next—our first step in Antarctica!

Day 5 – Thursday 13th March, Brown Bluff, Antarctic Sound

12h00 GPS Position: 63°30.9'S / 056°52.1'W

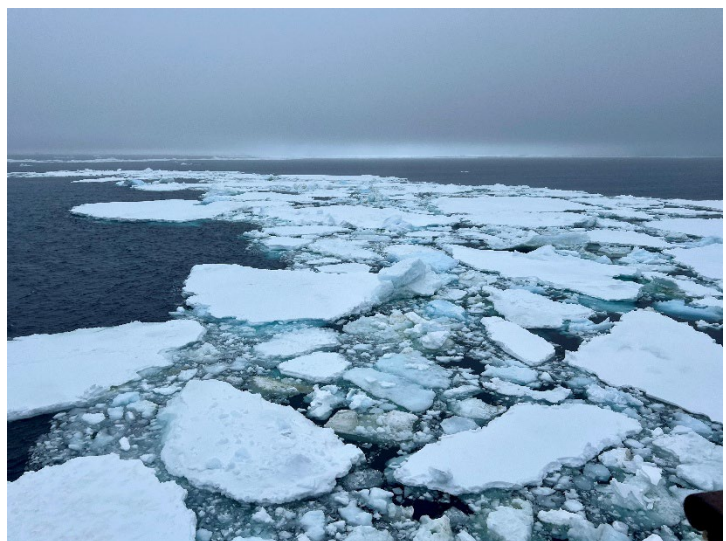
Wind: S-3 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 1°C



After a lovely overnight journey down south from the Elephant Island, we arrived in Antarctic Sound for a day of exploration. Our first stop was a landing site called Brown Bluff. This geological site is on the west side of Antarctic Sound, on Tabarin Peninsula, and just at the north entrance of Fridtjof Sound. Brown Bluff was a perfect first landing in Antarctica because it is a long pebbly beach covered with both Adelie and Gentoo penguins. The landing site is located at the base of huge,

towering red-brown volcanic cliffs leaving scattered rock and wind eroded boulders along the beach front. The sounding bay has both permanent ice features and tidewaters glaciers which made this view extra spectacular. The expedition team also lead out a short walk up the moraine ridge for a view over the glacier next to the site. The view from the top was amazing; the extent of the glacial front was impressive and the almost birds eye view of the icebergs in the bay. Guests thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity for a leg stretch along the beach and up the moraine ridge to the lookout. Other species seen on the shoreline included pale-faced snowy sheathbills, Antarctic fur seals, and kelp gulls. What a fantastic first landing activity in Antarctic Sound!

Once back onboard we indulged in a delicious lunch and prepared for the afternoon. Expedition Leader Adam advised that the afternoon was planned as a true expedition. The ship continued with a southerly course into the Weddell Sea and explore the ice edge. What a stunning site to see! A mixture of sea ice and ice bergs covered the horizon, and the bridge team navigated us through the dense ice. When the ice was too dense to continue, the ship turned back up north and said farewell to the Weddell Sea.



The day wasn't quite over yet though. Suddenly, a call came over the PA system announcing there were orcas up ahead and close to the ship! The next half an hour was spent with a group of over 25 orcas surrounding the vessel. The orcas displayed various behaviours and curiosity towards the ship, as well as towards a single humpback that was in the vicinity also. This group of orcas was deemed to be part of the B Ecotype and many calves were seen within the pod. What an incredibly exciting afternoon onboard Plancius.

Daily recap was held, explaining what we saw today and discussed the plans for tomorrow. A tasty dinner and pleasant conversations in the lounge to end the evening.



Day 6 – Friday 14th March, Cierva Cove & Palaver Point

12h00 GPS Position: 64°08.2'S / 060°57.2'W

Wind: Light Air • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 5°C



The day began with the familiar rumble of the ship's engines, a comforting soundtrack to the anticipation of another Antarctic adventure. After a hearty breakfast, we bundled into our multi-layered outfits and hopped into the Zodiacs waiting at the gangway. Our destination: Cierva Cove, a picturesque inlet near the

Argentinian base, Primavera. The rocky, hilly coastline, dotted with patches of vibrant moss, painted a stark yet beautiful landscape against the cloudy sky. The water was remarkably calm, a welcome change from the Drake Passage's notorious swells.

And then, it happened. A leopard seal, a predator of legendary ferocity, was spotted. It wasn't just resting; it was engaged in a full-blown feast, tearing apart a penguin with brutal efficiency. The raw power and primal nature of the scene were both shocking and utterly captivating. To witness such a fundamental aspect of the Antarctic food chain was a privilege. The air crackled with a mix of awe and morbid fascination. Our hearts pounded, a strange cocktail of excitement and respect for the harsh realities of this frozen wilderness.



We returned to the ship, our minds still buzzing from the morning's encounter, for a well-deserved lunch. As we steamed towards our next destination, a cry went up: "Orcas!" A pod of these magnificent apex predators was approaching. The ship slowed, and we rushed to the decks, cameras clicking. The sight of these sleek, powerful

creatures gliding through the icy water, their dorsal fins slicing through the surface, was breathtaking. The sheer intelligence and grace of the orcas were palpable, a reminder of the complex and awe-inspiring life that thrives in waters of this extreme environment. The orcas caused a slight delay in our schedule, but no one complained. The expedition leader used the opportunity to announce tomorrow's plans, adding to the excitement for the days to come.

Our afternoon landing was at Palaver Point. The fog had descended, shrouding the landscape in a mystical veil, reducing visibility, but the sea remained calm. Chinstrap penguins, with their distinctive "strap" of black feathers under their chins, were everywhere, squawking and waddling, a chaotic symphony of penguin life. Fur seals, their sleek bodies glistening, lounged on the rocks, while Weddell seals, seemingly oblivious to our presence, snoozed peacefully on the shore.



The initial frustration of the limited visibility was quickly replaced by a profound sense of peace. Our guides led us to the highest point of the landing, where, instead of a panoramic view, we were asked to participate in a "silence zone." We stood in absolute silence, allowing the sounds of Antarctica to wash over us: the gentle lapping of waves, the cacophony of the chinstrap colony, the high-pitched calls of skuas feeding their chicks, and the distant, thunderous crack of a glacier calving. It was a beautiful, immersive moment of pure, unadulterated connection with nature. The fog, which had initially seemed like a hindrance, became an integral part of the experience, enhancing the sense of isolation and allowing us to truly focus on the sounds of this pristine environment. It was a moment of reflection, a reminder of the fragility and power of the natural world.

Back on the ship, the dinner conversation was animated, filled with stories and shared experiences. The excitement for tomorrow's activities, already brewing, was palpable. Every moment in Antarctica feels precious, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness the raw beauty and untamed wilderness of this extraordinary continent. We couldn't wait to see what next day brings.

Day 7 – Saturday 15th March, Foyn Harbor & Danco Island

12h00 GPS Position: 64°32.5'S / 061°58.6'W

Wind: NNE-2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Snow • Air temperature: 0°C



Our day in Antarctica began in spectacular fashion as we arrived at Foyn Harbour under picture-perfect conditions. A steady snowfall dusted the landscape, creating a serene, almost dreamlike atmosphere, but thankfully, there was little wind to disturb our adventure. Bundled up against the cold and filled with anticipation, we left the ship aboard our zodiacs, eager for what the morning had in store.

Almost immediately, as if drawn from the pages of a fantasy, we found ourselves surrounded by Humpback whales. These magnificent creatures became the defining theme of our morning, engaging with us in ways that exceeded our wildest expectations. With seemingly boundless curiosity and playfulness, they spy-hopped, rolled through the water, fluked their massive tails, and slapped the surface, all just inches from our astonished faces. It was an extraordinary privilege to witness such natural wonder up close, particularly at this time of year when the whales are well-fed and preparing for their migration north to warmer waters for breeding.

Amidst the thrill of whale encounters, we managed to take a brief detour to view the wreck of the whaling ship *The Governoron*. This haunting relic served as a stark reminder of humanity's past exploitation of these majestic animals. The sight of the rusting remains contrasted sharply with the thriving marine life around us, highlighting how far conservation efforts have come and reinforcing the importance of protecting Antarctica's fragile ecosystem.

After returning to the ship, we enjoyed a well-earned lunch, taking the opportunity to process the sheer incredibility of the morning's experiences. But our adventure was far from over. By mid-afternoon, we had reached Danco Island, where the snow continued to fall gently, adding to the magic of our surroundings. Stepping ashore, we found ourselves immersed



in the bustling activity of a late-season Gentoo Penguin colony. Everywhere we looked, there was action: large chicks eagerly chasing their parents for food, grumpy moulting adults standing still in contemplation, and young penguins taking their first tentative swims in the icy waters.

For some, the real thrill of the afternoon came from an entirely different challenge—the polar plunge. A few brave souls took the daring leap into the freezing Antarctic waters from the beach. Their high-pitched screams and shocked expressions provided endless entertainment for those watching from the shore, making for a memorable highlight of the day.

Just when we thought the day could not get any better, we were treated to a special outdoor barbecue on the back deck of *Plancius*. As the snow and mist gradually cleared, we were rewarded with a breathtaking backdrop to our meal, the pristine Antarctic landscape stretching out before us. The evening's festivities soon took on a lively turn, with dancing—some graceful, some questionable—becoming the perfect conclusion to our extraordinary day.

Day 8 – Sunday 16th March, Lemaire Channel & Pleneau Island

12h00 GPS Position: 65°07.0'S / 064°02.6'W

Wind: SE-5 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Rain • Air temperature: 5°C



Good morning, good morning, good morning! Today, Adam woke us up a bit earlier as we passed south through the Lemaire Channel. This narrow channel separates the mainland from Booth Island and becomes progressively narrower as you head further south. Also known as the Kodak Gap, it's one of the most photographed passages on the Antarctic Peninsula. So, we decided to rise early and capture some more photos. The weather is moody—not

too much rain or fog, but a low cloud base and a fascinating atmosphere. As we continue south, the icy walls on either side grow higher above us, and, as always, the captain's navigation is impeccable.



A good cup of coffee and a breathtaking view—what more could we ask for to start another day in Antarctica?

After breakfast, we headed out for a Zodiac cruise around Pleneau Island. We explored the area surrounding this small island, where fledgling penguins played in the little pools along the shore. Around the corner, we reached the Iceberg Graveyard, also known as the Iceberg Garden. The ice was truly stunning in all its beauty, showcasing

the life stories that water tells through its many forms. What a morning—nature is truly the best artist. Despite the drizzle and wind, we didn't mind. We enjoyed our time outside, knowing that our clothes would dry out in the afternoon as we headed further south.

The afternoon was relatively quiet on the ship. After passing through the Penola Strait and observing the Ukrainian supply ship at Vernadsky Station, we made our way outside the sheltered islands to avoid icebergs during the dark night navigation. Some of us felt seasick, while others used the time to recover from flu symptoms.



Nevertheless, the Expedition Team delivered another round of excellent lectures. Pelin gave

an engaging talk about the Belgica Expedition, which named many of the places we've visited in the past few days. The story is incredible, and the famous book title, *The Madhouse at the End of the World*, describes the experience perfectly. Pelin made the story come to life and shared many fascinating side stories.

Next, Jakub gave a talk about ice. His passion for the subject was evident, and we learned so much about the importance of ice for both our environment and us.

In the evening, Adam shared more about the plans for the evening. We will soon be south of the Antarctic Circle, a milestone on our journey from Elephant Island down to the Antarctic Circle. We were all excited—this is a significant moment in our trip!

The Galley Team served another wonderful dinner, even though the dining room wasn't as full as usual. No matter what, we'll be ready for our activities in the morning. So, good night, little Plancius—our home away from home.

Day 9 – Monday 17th March, Detaille Island & Lallemand Fjord

12h00 GPS Position: 66°52.4'S / 066°48.5'W

Wind: N-4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Rain • Air temperature: +1°C



We made the crossing of the Antarctic Circle at 66.33 degrees south as the clock ticked into the early hours, passing this significant geographical marker, on our way to our destination of Detaille Island. The weather, overcast and a bit breezy, set the tone for what would become an epic day in one of the most remote and pristine places on Earth. Despite the cold, the sense of adventure and exploration was palpable, as we found ourselves surrounded by the wild, untamed landscapes of Antarctica, literally in the middle of nowhere.

When we arrived at Detaille Island, the conditions were harsh but exhilarating. The chilly air and breezy environment didn't dampen the excitement; instead, they added to the authenticity of the experience. This was Antarctica as we had imagined it—untouched, desolate, and beautifully rugged. It felt as if we had arrived at the edge of the Earth itself.

Our morning was split into two activities: a zodiac cruise and a landing. Half the group disembarked by the old Base W hut, a fascinating relic of the past, while the other half embarked on a short zodiac cruise. The latter turned out to be a cold, choppy and wet ride with some curious Adelie Penguins the highlight. After about an hour, the groups switched, ensuring that everyone got a taste of both experiences.



The Base W hut was undoubtedly the focal point of our visit. Left exactly as it was when it was abandoned in 1960, it stood as a fascinating time capsule, offering an authentic glimpse into the past. The hut had been hastily evacuated by its inhabitants, who crossed the sea-ice to reach safety aboard an awaiting ship. The thought of those who had once lived and worked there, in such extreme conditions, was palpable. We wandered through the hut, carefully preserved to maintain its original atmosphere—complete with old equipment, personal belongings, and other artifacts. It was almost surreal to step into this moment frozen in time, a poignant reminder of the harsh realities of life in the Antarctic.

The afternoon was set to be an adventure. The plans had undergone several changes throughout the day, and we eventually set course south into Lallemand Fjord. Initially, it seemed as though the weather and visibility would thwart our plans; heavy snow and poor visibility had many of us doubting the wisdom of continuing. There were even discussions about turning around and heading north again. However, as we approached the end of the fjord, the skies began to clear, and the first shout rang out from one of the expedition staff—Minke Whales had been spotted!

This was just the beginning. The sightings escalated quickly, with Humpback Whales soon following and then, to our sheer amazement, Orcas appeared near the glacier. The excitement on board was palpable. Adam, our experienced expedition leader, wasted no time. Zodiacs were lowered in record time, and we soon found ourselves amid an incredible cetacean spectacle.

The Orcas, the stars of the show, displayed their characteristic playfulness and curiosity, often swimming within inches of our zodiacs, offering an up-close and personal view of these magnificent creatures. We were mesmerized by their beauty and intelligence as they interacted with the surrounding environment. The Orcas were not alone, however. Minke Whales, usually seen in small numbers, were present in staggering quantities—at least 20 were spotted in the area. The



Humpback Whales added to the drama, their massive bodies surfacing gracefully as the Orcas seemed to harass them, creating a dynamic and intense interaction.

It was difficult to know where to look. The zodiacs were surrounded by these three species of cetaceans, all interacting with one another. Every moment offered something new—no one had ever witnessed such an incredible gathering of whales in one spot. The experience was awe-inspiring, and no words could truly capture the magnitude of the scene. Alongside the whales, a few Fur Seals and Crabeater Seals also made appearances, adding to the magic of the moment.

Eventually, after what felt like an eternity of wonder, we returned to the *Plancius*, where we celebrated crossing the Antarctic Circle in style. A glass of bubbles and a themed pub quiz marked the conclusion of what had been an unforgettable day—a day filled with exploration, discovery, and unparalleled wildlife encounters. Our time below the Polar Circle would forever be etched in our memories as one of the most extraordinary days of our lives.

Day 10 – Tuesday 18th March, Damoy Point, Wiencke Island

12h00 GPS Position: 64°48.3'S / 063°30.1'W

Wind: NW-2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Fog • Air temperature: +5°C



Our night on board was a lot calmer than the previous night when we were rolling quite a bit and that made sleeping a little less comfortable. However, with calm seas and after our unique encounter with those large numbers of wonderful orcas, humpbacks and minke whales, we slept like babies. And a good night

sleep makes hungry, so soon we enjoyed our breakfast.

This morning, we would spend on the ship as we had quite some distance to cover to our next destination. We had left the Antarctic Circle behind us and were gradually heading up north bound. Dorian Bay at Damoy was our next stop, but we wouldn't arrive until after lunch. However, most of us didn't mind staying on the ship. So far, our days had been filled with beautiful landscapes, icebergs and wildlife that it was good to have some time to process and reflect.

At 11:00 AM, Elizabeth shared her passion for- and knowledge about the charismatic humpback whales. Our encounters had been incredible and surreal, and it was great to learn

even more about these intelligent gentle giants. Elizabeth's enthusiasm was contagious and made us hope for many more whale and orca encounters. After lunch we arrived at Damoy and for a moment it seemed that even the sun would come out. Maybe the sun had heard us as it disappeared immediately, but that didn't stop us from landing. The weather was good, and the seas were calm so we headed out on the zodiacs.

Damoy was discovered and named by the members of the French Antarctic Expedition (1903-1905) under the leadership of Jean Baptiste Charcot. Later, this site served as an entry point to Antarctica for explorers and scientists as the nearby glacier top was *suitable* for landing with small planes that only needed short runways.

Today a hut remains, and this hut served as a *waiting lounge* for scientists waiting for their flights out. The hut was built in 1973 and was used until 1993. It's a historic site managed by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. The hut now serves as a museum and refuge in case of emergency. Many items remain in the hut today and it was wonderful to have a look around in this extraordinary waiting lounge.



However, Damoy is also a lovely place to stretch the legs and enjoy several Gentoo penguin colonies. At the end of the season most adult penguins have left, whereas many chicks born in the 24/25 season were still around and boy did we enjoy their company. They were curious, goofy, cute and what not! It was wonderful to witness these cute penguins, and we took many photos and videos.

They say that in case of having a bad day you just need to look at a penguin video to cheer up, well today it was once again proved that that is very true. We couldn't stop smiling, the penguins had conquered a permanent place in our hearts.



After recap and dinner, we felt tired, but very happy. Tomorrow would be another expedition day, and we couldn't wait to see what beautiful encounters we would experience next.

Day 11 – Wednesday 19th March, Patagonia Bay & Brown Station

12h00 GPS Position: 64°26.3'S / 063°08.4'W

Wind: Light Air • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Snow • Air temperature: 1°C



We woke up this morning in the beautiful Patagonia Bay. Although the fog was quite thick, it added a magical touch to the mountains around us. After a delicious breakfast, we set out for a zodiac cruise. Everywhere we looked, we could hear the breaths of whales echoing in all directions. There were so many whales around, some were logging (resting), while others were playfully swimming close to our

zodiacs. It was incredible to see them so nearby. Despite the snow, many guests had their cameras and GoPro's ready, trying to capture the moment. Along with the whales, we saw plenty of fur seals swimming and rolling around in the water and on the ice floes, adding to the excitement.

After the cruise, it was time to return to the ship for lunch. Then, we set sail for the next destination: Paradise Harbor. The journey took about four hours, giving everyone a chance to relax and enjoy the surroundings. Around 3 PM, Adam led an early daily recap, sharing plans for the next day's adventures. Steffi gave an insightful talk about fur seals, explaining their behavior and diet. Joyce wrapped up the recap with a reminder to cherish the stories behind our photos, encouraging us to reflect on the moments captured, especially those of the incredible animal behaviour we've witnessed.

When we arrived at Paradise Harbor, we took part in a split zodiac landing and cruise. Half of the group went on land first, while the other half explored the area by zodiac. After about an hour and a half, we swapped. From the water, we were able to enjoy stunning views of the landscape, and some guests were lucky enough to spot a minke whale and a leopard seal. On land, we visited



Base Brown, a research station that is only active in the summer. A lot of multidisciplinary research is done there, such as biology, limnology, and ornithology. The research station, surrounded by gentoo penguins, was quiet and peaceful. Some of us took a walk up the hill, although the start was a bit slippery (many had to clean penguin poop off their clothes later!). But once we got past the tricky section, the rest of the walk was much easier, and the views from the top were stunning.

At 7 PM, we returned to the ship to set course for tomorrow's adventures. It was another wonderful day in Antarctica, filled with amazing wildlife and stunning landscapes.

Day 12 – Thursday 20th March, Buls Bay, Brabant Island

12h00 GPS Position: 64°11.4'S / 061°53.7'W

Wind: W-3 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: 2°C



Today would be our last day operating in Antarctic waters. We had another exploration morning planned, making it our third new operational location for Oceanwide Expeditions. Expedition Leader Adam woke us up early to make the most of the day and we headed to the restaurant for a delicious breakfast and coffee prepared by our galley team. At the same time, our bridge team navigated us into Buls Bay, located

on the southeastern side of Brabant Island. This two nautical mile wide bay is on the north side of D'Ursel point in the Palmer archipelago and on the north side of the Gerlache Strait. In the bay, we were surrounded by towering mountainous peaks covered with fresh snow and cold harsh ice. The landscape we could see included Yunak Peak, Galen Peak, Cool Summit and Mount Imhotep. Buls Bay was named during the 1897-1899 Belgian Antarctic Expedition lead by famous polar explorer Gerlache. Charles Buls was a Belgian politician and mayor of the city Brussels. He was a big supporter of the Gerlache expedition and therefore it was applicable to name this new bay after the man.

Buls Bay was a tad on the windy side with increasing wind speeds as the morning went on. However, that did not stop us from exploring! The zodiacs were lowered to the water and guests loaded into the zodiacs to set off on an exploration. The bay had a significant amount of ice, and it was stunning to drive the zodiac through the ice conglomerations. On the zodiac we could hear the ice crackling, breaking, the oxygen bubbles being released back into the atmosphere, and the swell moving up and down with the rising tide. A few humpback whales and Antarctic fur seals were seen during the cruise but mainly the focus was on the towering glacial cliffs surrounding the bay and taking in our last moments in Antarctica. Despite some rain and wind, it was a beautiful last operation of our voyage.



After we were back onboard and changed into warm clothes we headed into the restaurant for a lovely lunch. In the afternoon, intermitted with rest, guests enjoyed time on the bridge and in the lounge taking in the beautiful views. Expedition guide Joyce gave a lecture about the life on the seabed floor. She spoke about the exploration and research projects trying to explain and map the seabed floor and an introduction to the different species living down there. She shared stories about the sea spiders, anemones, and sponges. She also spoke about the exciting research project she was involved with in Greenland; how cool!

Day 13 – Friday 21st March, At Sea Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 60°06.0'S / 063°42.1'W

Wind: W-4 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: 8°C



The sun, a welcome and almost forgotten friend, finally broke through the clouds this morning, casting a golden glow across the turbulent Drake Passage. After days of battling the elements in Antarctica, the relative calm was a balm to our weary souls. The waves, though still present, were a gentler reminder of the passage's notorious reputation. We gathered after breakfast, eager to learn and process the

incredible experiences we'd just had. Koen, our resident photography expert, shared invaluable tips on editing our Antarctic snapshots in Lightroom, helping us capture the true essence of the frozen continent. We learned how to bring out the subtle blues of glacial ice and the stark contrast of penguins against the white expanse.

Then, Simon, with his deep knowledge of the avian world, captivated us with a talk about albatrosses. These magnificent birds, masters of the air, were our constant companions, soaring effortlessly around the ship. We spotted wandering, black-browed, and royal albatrosses, each a testament to the resilience of life in this harsh environment. The sheer size and grace of the wandering albatross, with its immense wingspan, filled us with awe. We learned about their incredible journeys, their ability to stay aloft for years at a time, and the challenges they face in a changing world. Lunch followed, a welcome break to refuel and share stories of our Antarctic adventures.

The afternoon's lectures took on a more somber tone. Jakub, a glaciologist, presented a stark and sobering picture of the state of glaciers and ice sheets in a warming climate. He showed us data and images that illustrated the rapid retreat of ice, a stark reminder of the fragility of the Antarctic ecosystem. The sheer scale of the ice loss was alarming, and we felt a collective sense of responsibility to protect this extraordinary place.

Elizabeth, our whale and conservation expert, then introduced us to the complex world of global species conservation. She explained the importance of the IUCN Red List, the challenges of species protection, and the biases that can influence conservation efforts. We discussed the delicate balance of the Antarctic ecosystem and the threats posed by climate change, pollution, and tourism. The lecture was a call to action, reminding us that our journey was not just a sightseeing trip, but a chance to become ambassadors for this incredible continent.



As the sun began to set, casting longer shadows across the rolling waves, Adam, our expedition leader, gathered us for a daily recap. As usual, he presented the plan for tomorrow and gave us a weather forecast, a crucial piece of information as we navigated the Drake Passage. The news was reassuring; the conditions were expected to remain relatively calm, a relief for many of us who were still recovering from the previous days' rough seas...

Day 14 – Saturday 22nd March, At Sea Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 55°42.7'S / 066°04.7'W

Wind: W-7 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: 10°C



Our last day at sea. We woke up to calmer seas and a clear blue sky—Drake was treating us kindly today. Even the long-missed sun finally showed its face after days of low clouds. The birders were up early, admiring the majesty of a Snowy Albatross that briefly accompanied our beautiful ship on its journey back to Ushuaia. Watching the effortless flight of

the largest albatross on Earth was truly a special moment to cherish. Around 8 a.m., Albert called us for breakfast. As always, the galley team had prepared a delicious spread for us.

Our daily presentation program began with Steffi, who gave a fascinating and engaging talk about her experience as a gas balloon pilot in one of Europe's oldest aviation races. After Steffi, our Expedition Leader, Adam, took the stage. He spoke about his time working at research bases in the Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia, offering valuable insights into life in these remote locations in modern times. Then, of course, it was time for lunch—another delicious buffet prepared by the galley team.

In the early afternoon, as we neared the entrance of the Beagle Channel, Koen shared stories of his time in Tonga as a whale-watching guide. It was fascinating to learn about the diverse backgrounds of our guides and the unique paths that led them to the White Continent. After Koen's talk, we had the opportunity to watch the famous 1929 documentary *Around Cape Horn*. Originally a silent film, it was later narrated by Captain Irving Johnson. It was eye-opening to see the harsh conditions sailors once faced when cargo ships had no choice but to navigate the treacherous waters of Cape Horn.

Around 6 p.m., when we were in the calmer waters of the Beagle Channel, the Expedition Team invited us to the lounge to watch the Voyage Slideshow, prepared by Koen. Seeing the precious moments we had shared over the past two weeks on screen brought tears to our eyes. It was a truly unique and unforgettable voyage.



After the slideshow, the Captain took the stage once more to bid us farewell, and we raised our glasses, filled with bubbles, in a final toast.

Day 13 – Sunday 23rd March, Disembarkation Day Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S / 068°17.8'W

Wind: Light Air • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: 10°C

This morning, Adam woke us up one last time with his familiar call: "*Good morning, good morning!*" His cheerful wake-up will surely be missed. We made our way to the breakfast restaurant once more, sharing our final meal aboard while exchanging goodbyes with the wonderful stewards who had been so kind and welcoming throughout our journey.

Meanwhile, the expedition team had already taken care of our luggage, and soon, Albert announced that the ship had been cleared by the authorities and the buses to the airport had arrived.

With heartfelt hugs and warm smiles, we bid farewell to our fellow passengers—friends with whom we had shared this unforgettable adventure. As we stepped off the ship for the last time, we took one final glance at the beautiful *Plancius*, a vessel that had carried us through an extraordinary journey. This expedition had been nothing short of incredible, and the memories we made will stay with us forever.

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 2327.8nm

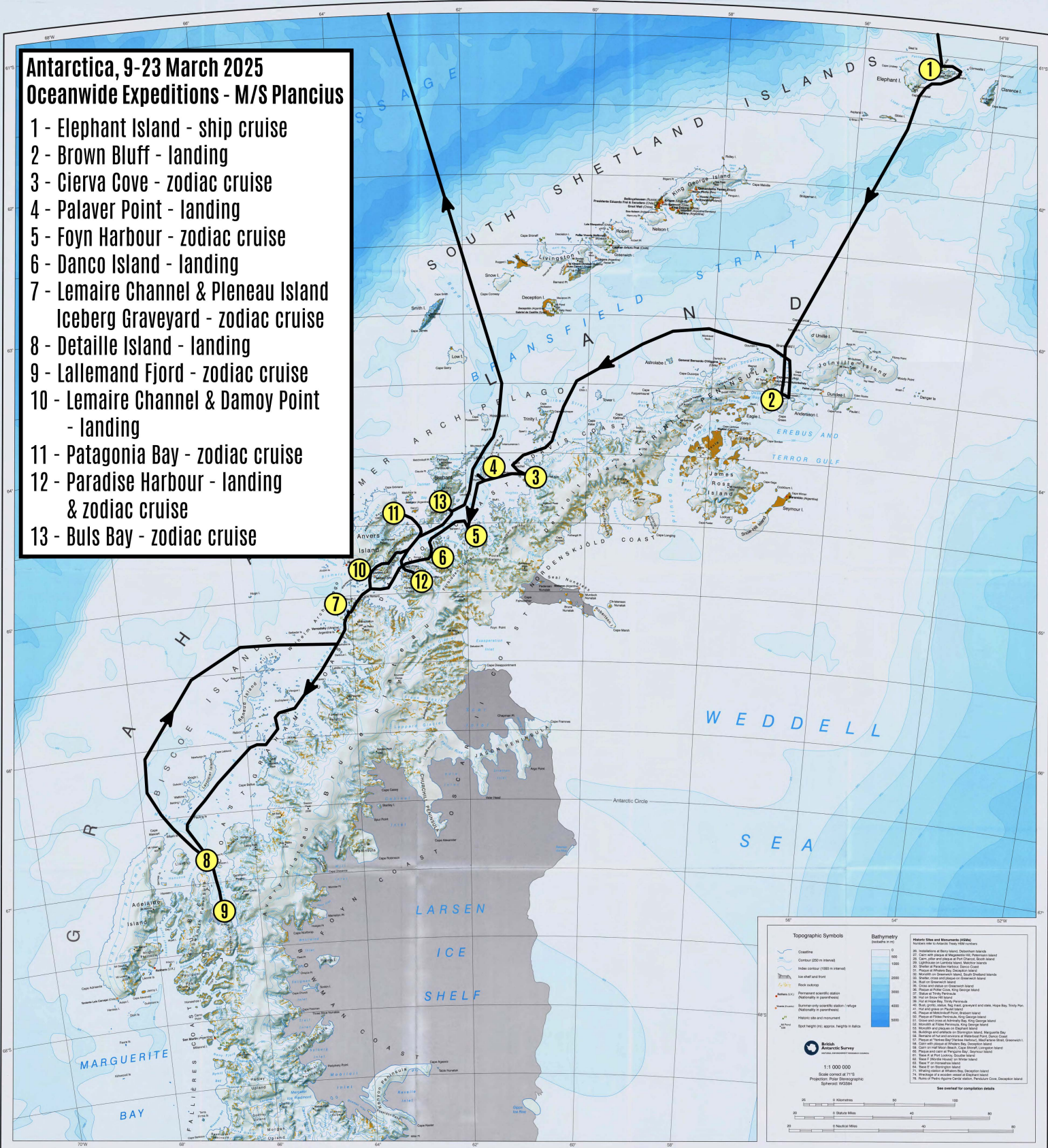
Southernmost position: 67°10.5'S / 066°43.8'W

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, the Captain, Crew and Expedition staff we would like to thank you for a wonderful time, it has been a pleasure sailing with you.



Antarctica, 9-23 March 2025 Oceanwide Expeditions - M/S Plancius

- 1 - Elephant Island - ship cruise
- 2 - Brown Bluff - landing
- 3 - Cierva Cove - zodiac cruise
- 4 - Palaver Point - landing
- 5 - Foyn Harbour - zodiac cruise
- 6 - Danco Island - landing
- 7 - Lemaire Channel & Pleneau Island
Iceberg Graveyard - zodiac cruise
- 8 - Detaille Island - landing
- 9 - Lallemand Fjord - zodiac cruise
- 10 - Lemaire Channel & Damoy Point
- landing
- 11 - Patagonia Bay - zodiac cruise
- 12 - Paradise Harbour - landing
& zodiac cruise
- 13 - Buls Bay - zodiac cruise



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Adam Burke – Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

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

Stefanie Liller – Asst. Exp. Leader



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

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

Jakub Małecki – Expedition Guide



Jakub was born in Poland in 1985. As a kid, he dreamed of becoming an astronaut, but later his focus shifted towards astronomy. Eventually, he obtained a masters and doctoral degree in Earth Sciences and became a glaciologist. As he puts it, researching remote, glacier-covered regions is almost like landing on another planet, so the childhood dream has partly come true.

Since 2007 Jakub has been studying glaciers across the world, either directly or remotely, i.e., using satellite or aerial images. His main interest is how glaciers respond to changing climate in different environmental settings. Most of his glaciology work Jakub carries out on Svalbard, the arctic archipelago located midway between Norway and the north pole, where he fell in love with ice. Since then, Jakub joins expeditions to remote regions on an every-year basis.

Jakub considers public education by the science community at least as important as delivering new knowledge, so he is a keen glaciology communicator, book author and a frequent guest to the Polish media outlets and science festivals where he comments on polar and mountain affairs. Apart from glaciology, Jakub is a huge enthusiast of planetary sciences and space exploration and tries to play the ukulele.

Koen Hoekemeijer – Exp. Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Simon Davies – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Elizabeth Robinson – Exp. Guide



Elizabeth was born and raised in Minnesota, a state in the middle north of the United States. Minnesota is known for having over 10,000 lakes and nature around every corner; something she took full advantage of growing up. Before the age of eighteen, Elizabeth travelled to all fifty US states, and became a Junior Park Ranger at over thirty National Parks.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mammalogy, accompanied by additional degrees in Psychology, English Writing and Environmental Studies. Her undergraduate research focused on

African elephants and squirrels. Recently, she graduated from the University of Bristol (UK) with a Master of Science degree in Global Wildlife Health and Conservation. Her dissertation focused on cetacean conservation and understanding how policy is integrated within conservation efforts.

Elizabeth has lived and studied whales in many places such as Hawaii, British Columbia, Alaska, Norway, and the UK. She has previously worked as an orca kayak guide, a snorkel guide in Hawaii, a wildlife documentary co-producer, and a marine mammal researcher. She has spent the last eight years studying species such as orcas, humpback whales, right whales, porpoises, and pinnipeds. She is passionate about cetacean conservation, specifically endangered species. Elizabeth is very proud to have recently received her United States Coast Guard 100-ton Master Captains license and sailboat endorsement! She currently calls both the US and the UK home and is happiest at sea.

Pelin Asfuroglu – Expedition Guide



Pelin was born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey.

Growing up in a very big city, she was amazed by the stories she read about the adventures of early explorers and mountain climbers who travelled to the most remote places in the world.

She discovered her real passion for great outdoors at age 17 when she first started paragliding.

Thanks to the great extracurricular student activities offered in her University, she ended up spending most of her time paragliding, mountain climbing, caving and sailing. During the long summer holidays, she worked as a trekking/mountain guide in diverse locations throughout Turkey.

Her love of outdoors has taken her so many wonderful places in the world; from the Himalayan Mountains to the Amazon rainforests. Pelin finally settled in Chilean Patagonia in 2013 where she has worked as an outdoor guide leading multi-day hiking and wildlife trips.

Her interest in Polar Regions was kindled when she first travelled to Antarctica. In other words, she caught the Polar Fever.

Pelin holds a Master's degree in History from the University of Leiden. She specially is interested in Polar Exploration history and loves to share her knowledge with the guests.

Joyce Mulder – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

Kelly Pearson – Kayak Guide



Kelly grew up in the South East of England, home of the Norfolk Broads. After completing her BA Hons Degree in Contemporary Fine Art in Newcastle she worked as an Artist Assistant for Sir Antony Gormley for several years. One day walking along Tyne green she discovered the local kayak club and from there her journey to paddle across the world began.

Kelly is kayak instructor based in North Wales in the UK. Her source to sea adventures began almost 10 years ago when she discovered her passion for whitewater kayaking which naturally led

her to the sea. Whilst travelling she spent time exploring the waters of the Gulf Islands, the remote rivers on Vancouver Island, expedition kayaking and raft guiding across British Columbia. She later spent time working and playing as a kayak instructor on the South Island of New Zealand. After several years travelling overseas, kayaking on multi day expeditions in Canada, USA and New Zealand, she relocated to North Wales to pursue her ambition to share her passion with others as a kayak coach. When not guiding she loves to spend time paddling in tide races off the Anglesey Coast and exploring the abundant wildlife, kayaking the local whitewater rivers and running in the Eryri mountains and when there is time practicing her passion for Art.

Kelly's advice to those wanting to travel is "Be open and talk to people, never stop learning and say yes to everything, you never know where you will end up"

The most memorable experience for Kelly working in the polar regions so far was the first time she saw a polar bear in Svalbard and the overwhelming sense of privilege that overcame her. It is the same sentiment she enjoys to see in guests having these experiences for the very first time. Through the means of kayaking she hopes to share her passion to inspire and inform others about the importance of protecting these important places.

Mike Pumm - Dive Team Leader



Mike was born in Switzerland in 1987. He is the managing director and diving instructor at Tauch-Treff Zug in central Switzerland. In his free time he dives several times a week, preferring technical diving and cave diving in different regions of the world.

He had the opportunity to live in Honduras on the island of Roatan for a few years and managed a dive resort there.

Since his time in the Caribbean, he has preferred the colder regions of our world and in 2016 he had the privilege to travel

to Antarctica for the first time, as a guest with Oceanwide Expeditions. Since then he has been traveling every year as a dive guide, dive team leader or regular expedition guide with Oceanwide Expeditions - no matter if he is in the Arctic or Antarctic, he just loves ice and the cold!

He is really looking forward to sharing this special part of the world with you, and especially sharing his love of what lies beneath the surface!

Gonzalo Sabattini- Dive Guide



Gonzalo Sabattini was born in Córdoba, Argentina in 1987. Son of Cecilia and Juan and brother to Matias and Marcos.

Since a young kid his life was connected to water because his family owns fishing boats in Los Molinos Lake in Córdoba. Summers and weekends were endless among friends and family, swimming, and fishing.

As time passed by, swimming in the lake evolved into diving; Gonzalo received his first diving certification as a Argentinian Federation of Subaquatic

Activities (FAAS_CMAS)-One Star Diver at the age of 16.

During his twenties Gonzalo was an active member of the local diving school collaborating as a volunteer as he continued his formation as a diver.

In 2013 he was invited to work to Cozumel, Mexico as a dive guide guiding certificate and first-time divers. At the island, he gained a lot of experience working with international tourism and he spent more than a year diving daily.

When he came back to his country, he set sails to a new adventure. Decided to move to Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, where diving and weather conditions are a challenge. For the last 6 years he has become a cold-water diver, mastering the dry suit and the rest of cold-water equipment. On 2018 he was certified as a dive instructor (FAAS – CMAS) and since then, works at a diving school lecturing new cold-water divers and guiding national and international divers who marvel with the kelp forests that characterize dives in the Beagle Channel.

On top of diving Gonzalo has always been as sportive person, he loves snowboarding, fishing, and spending time in nature and wilderness, and he found in Ushuaia a perfect playground.

Kevin Verbist – Dive Guide



As a diving instructor for over 20 years working from the most tropical places with ripping currents to the polar regions. I just love diving.

My name is Kevin, born in Belgium and for the last 5 years mainly based in Iceland, where i fell in love with the polar regions. As an ice diving instructor my favourite time in Iceland is actually the winter where most days, you will find me either under the ice or digging a hole to get underneath it.

I have lived in many countries during my diving career and was fortunate to pick up some languages, I speak English, Dutch, French, German, Spanish and medium Icelandic (it is work in progress to get fluent).

My goal in life is to show guests the beauty of the underwater world, and especially the less-visited polar regions. While also educating people about the threats and challenges that faces this delicate and crucial ecosystems.

The way the sunlight reflects the ice and shows you 50 shades of blue and the wildlife that Antarctica brings is unique and a diver's dream.

I can't wait to meet you on our ship and make everlasting memories together.

Angela Buschor – Dive Guide



Angela was born in Austria and raised in Switzerland. She always enjoyed spending her time outdoors and exploring the areas around her. You might think she would start working in a field that involved outdoor activities, but that didn't happen. Instead, she moved to Zurich, the biggest city in Switzerland, to start working at an insurance company. Whenever possible, she traveled to different places around the globe and, in 2017, began scuba diving in the US. She quickly became hooked and wanted to pursue her new hobby in her home country. That's how she ended up diving in Switzerland.

Over the years, she gained a lot of experience in cold water diving, diving year-round, even during the cold Swiss winters. In 2023, she was ready for a new challenge, so she flew to Bali to complete the Divemaster course. Back home, she became part of the team at a local dive center in Zurich, where she leads local dives and assists with various diving courses. She also plays a leading role in the local women's diving group.

2024 was a special year for Angela as she traveled to Antarctica for the first time, which meant she visited all seven continents and conducted dives on each of them.

Angela is looking forward to returning to Antarctica as a dive guide, and she is eager to bring the underwater Antarctica experience closer to the guests aboard the vessels of Oceanwide Expeditions.

Frits Steenhuisen – Expedition Guide



Frits Steenhuisen is an environmental scientist at the Arctic Centre of the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. He specializes in spatial analyses and computer modelling to study pollutant behaviour in polar environments on different scale levels. His main research topics include global mercury emissions and the distribution and effects of heavy metals and organic pollutants, such as mercury and PFAS, on local ecosystems.

Frits develops and runs a global mercury emissions model that contributes to the Global Mercury

Assessments for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). His research also extends to the distribution of radionuclides in the Arctic, conducted for the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority. Much of his work is tied to the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), where he represents the Netherlands.

In addition to his pollutant research, Frits's work includes drone photogrammetry for archaeological survey and the use of remote sensing imagery to study vegetation changes in relation to climate change.

Frits's connection to the Polar Regions dates back to the early 1990s, starting with an expedition to "Het Behouden Huis," the wintering site of Willem Barentsz on Novaya Zemlya. Since then, he has participated in numerous field studies and student expeditions across Spitsbergen/Svalbard, Greenland, and Antarctica. In addition to his research, Frits serves as a guide and expedition leader on ships navigating both the Arctic and Antarctic.

Outside of his scientific endeavours, Frits is passionate about photography and (sea) kayaking, activities that allow him to further explore and document the polar landscapes he studies.

Ruth Gussenhoven – Ships Doctor



This is Ruth, 34 years old, and she will be your doctor during this expedition. In the Netherlands she is currently in training to become a Global Health and Tropical medicine doctor. This training brings together her greatest passions, namely helping people improve their health and discovering new places around the world. Going to remote areas where no healthcare facilities are available and providing the best possible care is what challenges her the most.

As a doctor she graduated almost ten years ago. The past years she has worked in the emergency department of several hospitals in the Netherlands. Abroad, she has worked in an African hospital and refugee camps in Europe. Moreover, she has gained experience in pre-hospital and outdoor medicine while working at several sport events, music festivals and she guided repatriations of patients to the Netherlands.

She was born and raised in a small village in the southern part of the Netherlands. In her spare time she loves to be outside, spending time in the nature which she preferably combines with sports. If the weather allows it she likes to go out for a mountain bike ride. But as an enthusiastic skier and snowboarder she also does not fear the snow and cold.

Ruth is very much looking forward to a great and healthy expedition together. Please contact her for all questions or concerns regarding your health. Stay safe but most of all enjoy this unforgettable expedition!

Antarctica - Elephant Island- Weddell Sea – Polar Circle Ushuaia

Embarkation

Sunday 09th of March 2025

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

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

Antarctica - Elephant Island- Weddell Sea – Polar Circle At Sea

Monday 10th of March 2025

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Zodiac, IAATO and Biosecurity Briefing.** During our seadays we have to take part in some mandatory briefing for our visit to Antarctica. Join Adam in the lounge for these obligatory briefings.
- 1130 **Boots.** We will hand out the boots you will use throughout the trip. We will call you by deck. The Bootroom is on deck 3 forward.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1430 **Biosecurity.** Followed by the briefing on biosecurity in the morning, we will call you by deck to bring all your outer gear, boots, tripods and walking poles you plan to use during your time of the trip. We will inspect them with you and take care we are not bringing any invasive species or diseases to the places we would like to visit.
- 1700 **Photography.** Our Photo guide Koen will offer a series of short Photo lectures throughout the trip. Please join him in the lounge for “10 tips for Wildlife Photography”
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

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

Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale Watching Drake Passage

Tuesday 11th of March 2025

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Kayak Briefing.** For those who prebooked Kayak. Please meet Kelly in the lounge on deck 5 for the mandatory Kayak Briefing.
- 1015 **Dive Briefing.** Divers, please meet your Dive Team in the restaurant on deck 3 for our mandatory briefing.
- 1100 **Cetaceans** Along our Voyage. Elizabeth will talk about the whales we expect to see. Please join her in the lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Science during our trip.** Our Scientists Giulia and Frits on board will work on seal biopsies to learn more about contaminants and pollutants in this region. Please join them in the lounge for this interesting project.
- 1700 **Introduction to Antarctica.** Pelin will give you the first informations about the continent and the region we will visit.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

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

Antarctica - Elephant Island- Weddell Sea – Polar Circle Elephant Island

Wednesday 12th of March 2025

Sunrise: 06:20

Sunset: 19:18

0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.

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

Expedition Morning!

In the night we will reach remote and wild Elephant Island.
Enjoy the rough environment of this historical known place.

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

1500 **Endurance.** Join Pelin in the lounge for Shackleton's Saga of Survival in the lounge.

1700 **Seabirds.** Learn more about the iconic birds of the ocean and join Steffi in the lounge.

1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.

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

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

Antarctica - Elephant Island- Weddell Sea – Polar Circle Antarctic Sound

Thursday 13th of March 2025

Sunrise: 06:28

Sunset: 19:25

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 **Brown Bluff.** This morning we hope to be able to offer you a landing at Brown Bluff on the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. We will see gentoo and Adelie penguins, as well as a breathtaking scenery.
Divers and Kayakers, please meet at your designated locations.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **Weddell Sea.** In the afternoon we make our way further into the Weddell Sea and the Ice. We will navigate along the ice-edge and enjoy the beautiful, unique Antarctic landscape.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.



Antarctica - Elephant Island- Weddell Sea – Polar Circle Cierva Cove & Palaver Point

Friday 14th of March 2025

Sunrise: 06:47

Sunset: 19:39

0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

TBA This morning we plan to take you out for a Zodiac Cruise at **Cierva Cove**. We hope to find a lot of wildlife and we will see the Argentinian Research Station “Primavera”. Please listen to announcements and dress warm.

Divers and Kayakers, please meet at your designated locations.

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

TBA In the afternoon we hope to get ashore at **Palaver Point** which is home to chinstrap penguins in the summer. The views are pretty scenic.

Divers and Kayakers, please meet at your designated locations.

1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.

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



Antarctica - Elephant Island- Weddell Sea – Polar Circle Foyen Harbour & Danco Island Saturday 15th of March 2025

Sunrise: 06:53

Sunset: 19:40

0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.

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

0900 This morning we hope to make a Zodiac Cruise at **Foyen Harbour**. We will explore a shipwreck from the whaling times. The area is also really good to see whales alive that recovered from this time. Dress warm.

Divers and Kayakers, please meet at your designated locations.

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

15:30 In the afternoon we try to get you ashore at **Danco Island**. We hope to give you the chance to walk up the hill and enjoy the surrounding views over the Errera Channel. At the end of the landing there will be the chance for a Polar Plunge. You will bring the courage, we will bring the towels.

Divers and Kayakers, please meet at your designated locations.

1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 A **special dinner** will be served. Dress warm!

Antarctica - Elephant Island- Weddell Sea – Polar Circle Pleneau Island & Heading south Sunday 16th of March 2025

Sunrise: 06:53

Sunset: 19:40

- 0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- +/-0700 We will pass the Lemaire Passage. This scenic route is also called the Kodak Gap. Enjoy the dramatic scenery.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0900 This morning we hope to make a Zodiac Cruise at Pleneau Island. We will explore the iceberg graveyard around the bay and we will look for marine wildlife. Dress warm.
- Divers and Kayakers, please meet at your designated locations.***
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- The afternoon we will use to head further south towards the Polar circle!*
- 1530 **Pioneers of the Antarctic Exploration: De Gerlache and the Belgica Expedition (1897-1899).** Pelin will talk more about early exploration and this important part of history. Join her in the lounge.
- 1700
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.



Antarctica - Elephant Island- Weddell Sea – Polar Circle Detaile Island & Cruising in the south

Monday 17th of March 2025

Sunrise: 07:15

Sunset: 20:02

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0900 This morning we hope to get you ashore on **Detaile Island**. The little island south of the Antarctic Circle is a historic site. The visit feels like a travel in time, as everything is left as it was. We will do a split landing. The first 4 boats go ashore first, the following 4 boats are cruising around the island. After half of the time, we will swap.
- Divers and Kayakers, please meet at your designated locations.***
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Zodiac cruise.** In the afternoon we would like to take you on a Zodiac cruise in the south. We hope to find a lot of ice and marine wildlife. Dress warmly.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.
- 2030 We will meet for a **toast crossing the Antarctic Circle**. Please join us in the lounge.



Antarctica - Elephant Island- Weddell Sea – Polar Circle Heading North & Damoy Point

Tuesday 18th of March 2025

Sunrise: 07:05

Sunset: 19:52

0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

In the morning we will make our way to the north again.

1000 **Humpback whales.** Please join Elizabeth in the lounge to learn more about our charismatic friends.

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

TBA In the afternoon we will take you ashore at **Damoy Point**. You will get a chance to get a leg stretch. There are gentoo penguins scattered along the hillside and a historic hut. The scenery with the surrounding glaciated mountains is special.

1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.

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

We will pass through the Neumayer Channel.



Antarctica - Elephant Island- Weddell Sea – Polar Circle Patagonia Bay & Paradise Harbour

Wednesday 19th of March 2025

Sunrise: 07:05

Sunset: 19:36

0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.

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

0900 In the morning we hope to get a chance for another Zodiac cruise in search of Wildlife. Join us for some exploration in Patagonia Bay. Dress warmly.

Divers and Kayakers please meet at your designated areas.

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

1530 We plan to spend the afternoon in **Paradise Harbour**. The Bay has its name for a reason. We will do a split landing. The first 4 boats will go to land at Brown Station the other 4 boats go cruising, we will swap after half of the time.

Divers and Kayakers please meet at your designated areas.

1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.

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



Antarctica - Elephant Island- Weddell Sea – Polar Circle Buls Bay & heading north Thursday 20th of March 2025

Sunrise: 07:06

Sunset: 19:26

- 0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0800 In the morning we will take you out for a last Zodiac Cruise in **Buls Bay**. We explore the area in search of wildlife and ice. Dress warm.

Divers and Kayakers please meet at your designated areas.

After the morning activity we will head north and leave the Antarctic Peninsula behind us. Our return journey towards Ushuaia starts. Please secure your belongings.

- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1530 **Antarctica below:** Life on the deep seabed below us. Join Joyce in the lounge to learn more about the creatures in the ocean
- 1815 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

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

Thank you.

Antarctica - Elephant Island- Weddell Sea – Polar Circle Drake Passage

Friday 21st of March 2025

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

- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Photography.** We took many pictures during the trip. If you would like to know more about post-processing your memories, join Koen in the lounge.
- 1100 **Albatrosses.** As we are heading north into the Drake Passage. We hope to see more albatrosses. Please join Simon in the lounge to learn more about the iconic birds.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Is it the beginning of the end?** Join Jacob in the lounge to learn more about the state or the fate of glaciers and icesheets.
- 1700 **What does it mean to be Endangered? An Introduction to Wildlife Conservation.** Join Elizabeth in the lounge to learn about this topic and her effort in wildlife conservation for North Pacific Right Whales.
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

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



Antarctica - Elephant Island- Weddell Sea – Polar Circle Drake Passage

Saturday 22nd of March 2025

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

- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **The oldest Race in Aviation.** Join Steffi in the lounge for some storytelling about travelling in a gasballoon for over 2000km.
- 1100 **Science in Antarctica.** Adam worked in South Georgia and Antarctica supporting science. Join him in the lounge for some stories about his work south.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- At some point in the afternoon we will collect the boots. We will call you by deck. Please listen to the announcements.*
- 1500 **Working as a whale guide on Tonga and Iceland.** Join Koen in the lounge for some stories of his time working in these places
- 1630 **Around Cape Horn.** Join the Expedition Team in the lounge for this great documentary how the old sailors were passing the famous waters of Cape Horn.
- 1815 **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join the Expedition team and Captain Evgeny Levakov in the Lounge to toast our successful voyage.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

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

Antarctica - Elephant Island- Weddell Sea – Polar Circle Ushuaia - Disembarkation Sunday 23rd of March 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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