



Antarctica – Whale Watching Discovery & Learning Voyage

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

14th March 2025 – 23rd March 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 optimised 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 Ernesto Barria Vargas

and his international crew of 57 sailors

Staff Captain:	Matei Monacu
Chief Officer:	Igor Nazarov
Second Officer:	Eline Schuurman
Third Officer:	Erik Van Der Rijden
Hotel Manager:	Ingrid Van Der Loo
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel
Sous Chef:	Vasiliki Stefou
Sous Chef:	Donald Rivas Cielo
Ships doctor:	Jaye Martin
Expedition Leader:	Pippa Low
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Pierre Gallego
Ass. Expedition Leader:	George Kennedy
Expedition Guide:	Aitana Forcen Vasquez
Expedition Guide:	Julia Angermeier
Expedition Guide:	Lucia Romero
Expedition Guide:	William Kennedy
Expedition Guide:	Eduardo Rubio Herrera
Expedition Guide:	Gabriela Kolodko
Expedition Guide:	Meike Sjoer
Expedition Guide:	Carina Ketterer
Expedition Guide:	Marijke de Boer
Expedition Guide:	Matthew Cheok
Expedition Guide:	Juan Berenstein
Expedition Guide:	Andrea Schwetz
Expedition Guide:	Andrew Crowder

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Friday 14th March - Ushuaia, Embarkation Day

08h00 GPS Position: 54.8019° S, 68.3030° W

Wind: NE2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +7°C



Our polar adventure began in Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, nestled between majestic mountains and the famous Beagle Channel. Having travelled from all parts of the globe, we eagerly boarded Hondius, our state-of-the-art expedition vessel, which would be our home for the next ten days.

Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed by the expedition and hotel teams, who guided us to our cabins and helped us settle into our new surroundings. This was followed by a mandatory safety briefing in the lounge, where we learned how to wear lifejackets, were introduced to the lifeboats, and had our first interactions with the 174 other guests onboard.

As Hondius slowly pulled away from the dock, it gracefully turned southeast and began its journey along the 150-mile (240 km) Beagle Channel. During this time, we gathered again in the lounge for the Captain's welcome introduction, accompanied by a celebratory toast to mark the start of our journey.

Next, we met Pippa, our Expedition Leader, and her team of expert guides, who shared their knowledge and deep passion for Antarctica, sparking excitement for the days ahead.

The day concluded with a delicious buffet dinner in the restaurant, followed by an evening spent outside on the bow and open decks — but not for long. As we sailed further toward the open ocean, with anticipation of the big swell in the coming days, our Doctor, Jaye, shared her best tips and advice as we prepared for the expected 5-metre waves, making for an interesting start to our expedition!



Day 2 – Saturday 15th March - At sea, Drake Passage

08h00 GPS Position: 57°12.6'S / 065°34.01'W

Wind: NW5 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: +8°C



As we left the American continent, bound for Antarctica, we set course south and overnight we started the crossing of the Drake Passage. This is a famous body of water that separates the southern tip of South America and the Antarctic peninsula. The weather forecast was not very auspicious. We knew we were going to encounter waves of at least 4 metres high and winds over 50 knots. Consequently, we prepared our ship for those conditions and as predicted, overnight we started to feel the wind and the swell. Our ship rocked, pitched and rolled and as we went further south we were awakened occasionally by the violent moves due to the swell.

Our first morning onboard came with various types of weather, with rain, fog and wind each following in repetitive patterns.

Immediately after breakfast we had our first meeting. This one was dedicated to the smallest people we have on board: about a dozen kids. To ensure their safety and that of their families, our expedition staff organised this gathering. In the middle of the morning we had our first presentation, given by our on board Cetacean expert, Marijke. In her presentation, Marijke provided a comprehensive review of all the major whales that can be seen in the area where we are heading to. As a world expert, Marijke explained in plain language some of the biggest characteristics not just to identify the most relevant whale specimens but also some of the details of their lives. From Minkie Whales to Humpbacks, from Blue Whales to Orcas, she made emphasis also on the human activities that may affect their lives and how our human activities may change forever the habitat of these large creatures.

The presentation ended around midday and shortly after, we all enjoyed our lunch on board.

Aiming to prepare our guests for the encounters with the landscapes and wildlife, in the afternoon, Matt provided a presentation about photography. So after enjoying of a great lunch and a good coffee or tea, we learned the very basics of this trade. From tips about how to frame images to more advanced knowledge on how to bring the right settings of ISO, exposure time and aperture, aiming to achieve the perfect pic.

Our session in the afternoon was led by Andrew, our expert ornithologist. With a great sense of humour and a passion about his topic, Andrew explained in an amenable way the major birds that we may encounter along our voyage. He put special attention to explain the major characteristics such as size, plumage and biological characteristics of these incredible adapted birds. We learnt about the magnificent Wandering Albatross, the Wilson's Storm Petrel and many other incredible birds that populate the Southern Ocean.



By the end of the day, we had our daily recap. Pippa showed us the plans for the next day at sea and the weather - which surprisingly seemed to be better. Our staff surprised our guests with great stories. Gabi shared with us the origin of our ship's name. It turns out that Hondius was a Dutch cartographer! With Aitana we learnt about the ocean's waves, created after the relentless action of wind upon water. After dinner we still could see lots of guests in the lounge and bar enjoying themselves, chatting and exchanging traveller's stories.

As the darkness came, we continued sailing south bounded. For a few brief moments we had the chance to see patches of blue skies above a bank of fog. Some stars shone also briefly, just to disappear into the clouds. We are all so excited and thrilled about what's coming next!

Day 3 – Sunday 16th March At Sea, Drake Passage

08h00 GPS Position: 62°08.9'S / 063°10.8'W

Wind: NW5 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +3°C



Hondius is sailing towards Antarctica, making good time. Outside, the weather is greyish, and the waters are calm — perfect conditions to take in the vastness of the Southern Ocean. The anticipation grows as we inch closer to the White Continent.

After a hearty breakfast this morning, we kicked off the day with the mandatory IAATO briefing — an essential part of responsible exploration. Lucia took us on a deep dive into the world of Antarctic penguins, sharing fascinating insights into their daily struggles and triumphs on the icy shores. Just as her lecture wrapped up, excitement spread across the deck — two Fin whales surfaced close to the ship! For those outside, it was a breathtaking first encounter with these giants of the ocean, their sleek forms slicing through the steel-grey waters.

The Galley team, led by Head Chef Ralf, prepared a delicious lunch buffet that had us all rushing to the restaurant. Rose and her team made sure we had everything we needed, ensuring a warm and welcoming dining experience.



As we near Antarctica, preparations intensify. Biosecurity checks are crucial, so we meticulously inspected our outer layers for any stray seeds or burrs. Our Zodiac life jackets were test-fitted, a tangible reminder that soon, we would be in the most pristine place on Earth.

Then, an unexpected delight — ice cream in the lounge! Big scoops in crisp waffle cones, the perfect prelude to the "Ice Ice Baby" lecture by Aitaina, who had us fully engaged in the science of ice. Who knew ice could be so complex?



Meanwhile, on the bridge, Captain Ernesto and his skilled team navigated us toward Deception Island — a surprise detour! We gathered at the bow and bridge to watch as the *Hondius* was expertly guided through the narrow entrance into the flooded caldera of this active volcano. Great views and lots of wildlife around, fur seals lounging on the black volcanic sands, and the first Chinstrap penguins of the voyage, their distinctive markings making them easy to spot among the rocky slopes. Kelp Gulls wheeled above, while Antarctic Shags and Giant Petrels dotted the shoreline. Snowy Sheathbills flitted about, their white plumage a stark contrast against the dark volcanic rock.



A full 360-degree circuit inside the caldera, taking in the eerie beauty of this natural harbour, and then we sailed out, with an extra pass by the towering basalt formations before setting our course for the Antarctic Peninsula.

As we sailed on, daily recap informed us about tomorrow's plans and the staff took a quick dive into oceanic science with a recap on the Antarctic Convergence — where cold, nutrient-rich waters mix with warmer sub-Antarctic currents, creating an oceanic boundary teeming with life.



Dinner was a feast, a fine dining experience that capped off the day with perfectly composed dishes from the Galley team. Every bite a delight, every moment shared at the table adding to the adventures of the voyage.

But the day wasn't over yet! Eduardo, our onboard astronomer, delivered an evening talk that had us looking skyward with renewed wonder. His passion for the stars was contagious, and even though we were in one of the most remote places on Earth, he reminded us that we were part of something much, much bigger.

As we turned in for the night, the gentle hum of the ship and the promise of what lay ahead lulled us to sleep. Sweet dreams — tomorrow, Antarctica awaits!

Day 4 – Monday 17th March, Fournier Bay, Neko Harbour

08h00 GPS Position: 64°28.7'S / 063°01.5'W

Wind: E2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -1°C



Well, Antarctica sure knows how to make an entrance.

We kicked things off in Fournier Bay this morning, and it felt like the whales had been waiting for us. Each zodiac had its own group of humpbacks — and they were very interested in us. Spy hopping left and right, popping up like curious toddlers playing hide and seek. At one point, it felt like we were the ones on display.

After a hearty lunch we cruised over to Neko Harbour for our first continental landing. Stepping onto the actual Antarctic continent was a moment we won't forget — snow crunching underfoot, penguins waddling past like they owned the place (which, to be fair, they kind of do).

The scenery was unreal— massive glaciers rising from the sea, cliffs dusted in snow, and that classic Antarctic stillness ... until the glacier let loose. A thunderous crack, a splash, and jaws on the floor. We all saw it coming, but still jumped like it was the first time.

Gentoo penguins kept us entertained, as always — slipping, sliding, bickering over pebbles. Nature's comedians in tuxedos. Oh, and a sharp-eyed few spotted something special: a melanistic gentoo penguin, dark as night and just as cool. Like the goth cousin at the family reunion.

To top it all off, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day in true expedition spirit — with music, laughter, and maybe a few green-themed surprises. Who needs a pub when you have the Drake Passage behind you and glaciers out the window?

An epic first day. Whales, penguins, calving glaciers, and a party. Antarctica, we're off to a good start.



Day 5 – Tuesday 18th March, Danco Island, Paradise Bay

08h00 GPS Position: 64°45.1'S / 062°55.7'W

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



After a hearty breakfast, the morning began in the tranquil, snow-covered expanse of Danco Island. The weather was calm, with the soft whisper of the wind barely disturbing the quiet. The pristine white landscape was mesmerising, with the mountains looming in the distance and the icy waters reflecting the pale blue sky.



We set foot on the island, greeted by the curious gaze of hundreds of Gentoo penguins. Their tuxedo-like plumage gleamed against the snow as they waddled around, hopping and sliding on the icy surfaces. The air was filled with the sound of their soft calls and the occasional squawk as they interacted with each other in their lively colonies.

We also boarded a zodiac for a cruise around the island. The icy waters were dotted with floating icebergs, their jagged edges reflecting the sunlight. As we navigated the waters, we witnessed the raw power of nature: leopard seals hunting penguins. The sleek predators glided through the water with precision,

making the penguins scramble for safety. It was an awe-inspiring yet humbling scene, reminding us of the delicate balance in this frozen world.

Afterwards, the adventure reached a whole new level with the Polar Plunge — the unique, exhilarating opportunity to take a dip in the icy waters of Antarctica. The anticipation built as we suited up in our gear, the cold air biting at our skin as we prepared for the ultimate challenge.

Stepping onto the rocks of the beach, the icy waters of the Southern Ocean stretched out before us, a deep, almost surreal blue beneath the overcast sky. The air was frigid, but the energy among the group was electric. There was a mixture of excitement and nervous laughter as each of us braved the plunge.



And then... the moment came. With a deep breath and a rush of adrenaline, we dove into the freezing cold waters. The shock of the cold was instant — it felt like a thousand needles pricking the skin, but it was also refreshing in a way only the Antarctic waters could offer. The water, so cold it took your breath away, made it feel as though time itself had frozen for that one brief moment.

As we emerged from the water, shivering and grinning, there was an undeniable sense of accomplishment. Not everyone gets to say they've swum in the Southern Ocean, especially in the heart of Antarctica! Wrapped in towels and quickly back into the warmth of our gear, we couldn't help but feel a deeper connection to this incredible, remote place.

It was one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences, a true rite of passage for anyone visiting this frozen wonderland.

After the Polar Plunge, we headed back to the ship for a much-needed warm lunch. The cosy dining room felt like a refuge from the cold, with the crew serving up hearty, comforting dishes that refuelled our bodies after the exhilarating dip. As we sat together, the conversation

buzzed with excitement about the plunge and what was to come next. The snow outside began to intensify, transforming the landscape into a soft, white blur as we sailed towards our next destination.

After lunch, the snow had lightened up just enough for another zodiac adventure — this time, into the stunning Paradise Bay. As we slid into the frigid waters once more, the snowflakes began to fall intermittently, adding an ethereal quality to the already surreal surroundings. The bay was quiet, save for the occasional call of wildlife and the gentle splashing of the zodiac against the water.

We cruised through a maze of towering icebergs, their massive forms floating majestically on the icy waters. Some were smooth and rounded, while others had jagged peaks, almost like frozen castles. The sheer scale of the ice around us was awe-inspiring, and the quiet snow created a peaceful atmosphere as if time had slowed to a crawl.

Our zodiac also brought us closer to Brown Station, an Argentine research station nestled along the bay. The station, built into the rugged landscape, looked both out of place and perfectly at home in the harsh surroundings. It was a reminder of the scientific and exploratory missions that continue in this remote part of the world. We marvelled at its position, surrounded by ice and towering mountains, a testament to human resilience in one of Earth's harshest environments.



After the zodiac cruise, we returned to the warmth and comfort of the ship. The day's adventures had left us with stories to share and a deep sense of awe for the majestic landscapes we had just experienced.

As the evening settled in, the day's chill slowly gave way to a cozy atmosphere on board. The perfect way to end our Antarctic adventure for the day? Movie night! We were treated to a classic movie — Happy Feet, the delightful tale of a little penguin who just can't stop dancing. It felt like the perfect choice, as we had spent the day among real penguins in the wild.

Tomorrow, who knows what wonders we would encounter in this unspoiled corner of the Earth? Whatever it was, we were ready.

Day 6 – Wednesday 19th March, Portal Point

08h00 GPS Position: 64°32.05'S / 062°47.2'W

Wind: SSW4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +2°C



Today was an unforgettable day filled with incredible wildlife encounters and stunning Antarctic scenery. We began the morning with a leisurely breakfast, but as the weather conditions weren't favourable, the planned morning operation was unfortunately cancelled. However, the silver lining quickly appeared — we encountered a large group of whales, offering us a breathtaking spectacle to start the day. The whales were a welcome surprise, and despite the unpredictable weather, we found some shelter and continued our adventure. Later in the morning, we embarked on a zodiac cruise in the stunning Wilhelmina Bay. The scenery was nothing short of magical, with towering glaciers and ice formations surrounding us. The bay was teeming with wildlife, and we were fortunate enough to observe more whales and seals basking in the icy waters.

For lunch, we gathered together to share a delicious meal, refuelling for our afternoon activities. Afterwards, we made our way to Portal Point for a split landing, marking our last step on the Antarctic continent for this expedition. We were lucky enough to witness Chinstrap penguins in their natural habitat, and the ice formations around us were nothing less than spectacular, creating a serene and awe-inspiring atmosphere. The whales we had been seeing all day continued to make their presence known, adding to the magic of the moment.



As the evening approached, we gathered on deck for a barbecue, which was a fantastic way to wrap up the day. Guests and crew mingled, enjoying the food and the company, while the atmosphere was full of laughter and camaraderie. The night took a fun turn as we danced with the guests in the bar, celebrating our time together in one of the most remote places on Earth. It was a perfect end to a day filled with adventure, wildlife, and unforgettable memories.

Day 7 – Thursday 20th March, Kayak Bay

08h00 GPS Position: 64°17.05'S / 062°07.6'W

Wind: W2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +1°C



© Matt Cheok

We awoke to the sound of our expedition leader Pippa's voice at 7:00am. The cold, crisp air of Kayak Bay greeted us as we peered out of our cabins, and for the first time in days, the clouds parted to reveal clear blue skies above. It was a rare sight, and the excitement in the air was palpable.

After a hearty breakfast, we bundled up and hopped into the zodiacs for an unforgettable cruise. We glided through the serene waters of the bay, navigating the narrow Freud Channel, surrounded by towering glaciers and ice formations. And then, a surprise—there, sitting proudly on a small iceberg, was a fur seal, basking in the morning sun. It looked so regal, it could've been posing for us.

The real magic, however, happened as we ventured further. Humpback whales! There were a couple of them in the area, and as if they knew we were watching, they began to breach—leaping from the water in graceful arcs that took our breath away. Some of us were lucky enough to catch the whole show. Their sheer size and elegance left us in awe.



Our zodiac continued to weave through icebergs, their sharp edges and blue hues creating an ethereal landscape. We rounded the front of a massive glacier, the ice creaking and groaning as we passed. Then, to our delight, a hotel boat appeared on the horizon, offering steaming cups of hot chocolate delivered directly from one zodiac to another. In Antarctica, even the little luxuries feel like a special gift.

Back aboard the ship, we refuelled with a well-deserved lunch. Today's menu? Burgers—comfort food that hit the spot after a morning full of adventure. With full bellies, we turned our attention to the afternoon. The captain slowly began steering the ship north, our journey toward Ushuaia officially underway. We were leaving Antarctica, but the day wasn't over yet. Eduardo, our resident astronomer, gave an incredible lecture on the scientific wonders of Antarctica — its ecosystems, its climate, and the stars that shine so clearly here in the Southern Hemisphere. The wealth of knowledge he shared was nothing short of fascinating.

As the evening settled in, we gathered for our daily briefing, learning about tomorrow's plans. The excitement of the trip was far from over. We capped the day with an unforgettable dinner, expertly crafted by our chef Ralf. As we tucked into dessert, there was a sense of shared wonder in the room — we had explored one of the most remote places on Earth, and today, we had truly felt its magic.

Day 8 – Friday 21st March – At Sea, Drake Passage

08h00 GPS Position: 60°51.2'S, 063°20.2'W

Wind: W5 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: +1°C



© Marijke de Boer

Today marked the first day of the return journey to Ushuaia. The night had been pretty rough and the sea was still a bit rocky in places but not too bad and soon the aft decks were opened.

Some speedy hourglass dolphins zoomed by during breakfast. Soon to be followed by three species of albatross: the Wandering, the Grey-headed and the Black-browed albatrosses. The first lecture commenced at 10:00am presented by Meike, who captivated the audience with her knowledge about these mighty albatrosses, with wingspans spanning up to 3.5 metres, leaving a lasting impression on us all.

Our expedition guide, Will then invited us to his lecture about the 'forgotten' Polar Explorer Tom Crean who managed to reach South Georgia together with Shackleton after their disastrous mission in Antarctica. After Will's lecture we passed by a series of rather stunning icebergs – with different colours of blue and with beautiful shapes.

After lunch it was time to return the boots, rented equipment, and waterproof orange backpacks. All boots were checked and most were found to be properly cleaned!

The hotel department provided lovely snacks for everyone to enjoy a moment of relaxation and before we knew it, it was time for Andi to share her knowledge about krill. We learnt that without krill, life in Antarctic would not be the same – it truly is the cornerstone species of the Southern Ocean! In the meantime, outside, some of the ship's followers included Soft-plumaged petrels, Antarctic prions, blue petrels and black-bellied storm-petrels. Tiny creatures of the Southern Ocean and all relying on a healthy ecosystem in these challenging waters.



As the day ended, it was Carina who told us all about the Hondius, for example who take care of our best friends - the Zodiacs - and last but not least we gathered some info about the bridge and where exactly is that (tiny) steering wheel!

We then gathered in the lounge for our recap. Pippa briefed us on tomorrow's plan and weather. Following her, George told about the baby-boom in Antarctica. Marijke played some Weddell Seal sounds and Andi explained why there are no polar bears in Antarctica. We also got to admire a huge humpback whale juvenile made out of cloth! Just like the ones that were spyhopping next to our zodiacs.

The evening program included the photo competition where we could admire all those beautiful photos from the past days. We then participated in an entertaining Antarctic Quiz! We all sat down in small groups and we did rather well.

Day 9 – Saturday 22nd March – At Sea, Drake Passage

08h00 GPS Position: 56°30.1'S, 065°35.9'W

Wind: W7 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Cloudy • Air temperature: +3°C



The morning broke aboard the ship as we made our final leg of the journey towards the sheltered waters of the Beagle Channel, the last stretch of our Antarctic adventure. With the goal of returning to Ushuaia, the excitement of coming home was tempered by the swells and the inevitable sense of melancholy that this incredible journey was nearing its close.

That day was our final sea day, and it was clear from the increasing pitch and roll of the ship that many sought refuge in their rooms, battling seasickness or simply opting for some much-needed rest. Despite the conditions, the lecture program continued, offering a welcome distraction and opportunity for learning amidst the unsettled seas.

Edu led the first session of the day with his thought-provoking lecture on the Anthropocene, exploring the changing climate of our planet and the profound human impact on its ecosystems. His insights into how humanity had shaped the Earth's environmental landscape were both eye-opening and sobering, making us reflect on our collective responsibility for the future.

Following Edu, Gabi delivered a captivating talk on the life of Jackie Ronne, the first American woman to overwinter in Antarctica. Gabi's storytelling brought Jackie's incredible story to life, detailing her pioneering spirit and the challenges she faced in one of the most inhospitable places on Earth. It was a tale of resilience and bravery that left the audience in awe.

The afternoon session featured George's lecture on the future history of Antarctica, a fascinating look at the ongoing challenges facing the Antarctic Treaty System. As global climate change accelerated and geopolitical tensions rose, George's presentation delved into the difficult decisions that would shape the continent's future. What would become of Antarctica in the coming decades? Would it remain a peaceful and protected zone, or would new pressures alter its course? It was a compelling topic that kept us all thinking.



As the day unfolded and the swells began to ease, we found ourselves entering the more sheltered waters of the Beagle Channel. The rolling motion of the ship subsided, and with it, the general mood lifted. To mark this transition, we were treated to a Captain's Toast, a celebratory moment where we raised our glasses to the experiences shared, the adventures taken, and the memories made.

Then, Aitana presented a beautiful slideshow presentation that encapsulated the incredible journey we had all been a part of. From the frozen expanses of Antarctica to the vibrant wildlife and stunning landscapes, Aitana's presentation brought our journey to life once more, reminding us of the sheer magnitude of what we had seen and done.

As the evening wore on, we sipped our drinks and chatted with fellow travellers, reliving moments of awe and wonder. Some of us stayed on deck to watch as the ship, now guided by the harbour pilot, slowly manoeuvred into Ushuaia's port. The ship's lights reflected on the calm waters, and we knew we were finally home. The late hours found us gathered together, a sense of fulfilment settling over us as the ship docked at the port. Our adventure in Antarctica may have been over, but the memories would stay with us forever.

Day 10 – Sunday 23rd March – Disembarkation, Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 54.8019° S, 68.3030° W

Wind: N2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: +10°C



© Matt Cheok

We heard Pippa's gentle Scottish accent for the last time as she delivered the wake-up call. At 7:30am, we placed our suitcases outside the cabin and headed to the amazing buffet breakfast for one final feast. This trip has been truly unforgettable, exceeding all expectations. Leaving the ship was a bittersweet moment, but we're hopeful that one day we'll return for another adventure. After bidding our final farewells to the incredible staff and crew, we stepped off the ship and into the wide world, ready to take on whatever comes next.

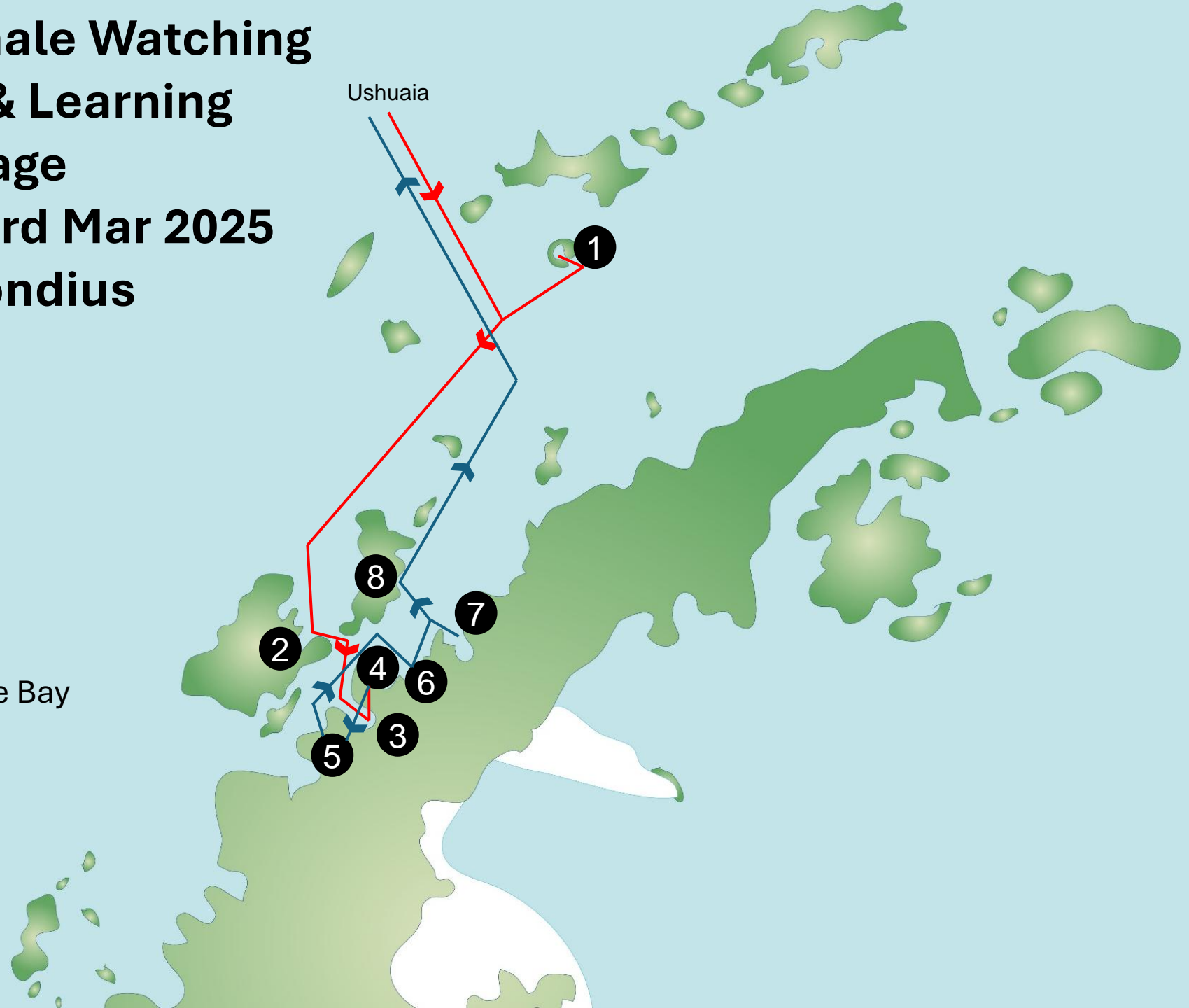


Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1677 nautical miles
Southernmost position: 64.8574° S, 62.9201° W (Paradise Bay)

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

Antarctica Whale Watching Discovery & Learning Voyage 14th Mar – 23rd Mar 2025 M/V Hondius

1. Deception Island
2. Fournier Bay
3. Neko Harbour
4. Danco Island
5. Paradise Bay
6. Wilhelmina Bay
7. Portal Point, Charlotte Bay
8. Kayak Bay



Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region

English	Latin	14-mrt	15-mrt	16-mrt	17-mrt	18-mrt	19-mrt	20-mrt	21-mrt	22-mrt	23-mrt
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>				x						
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>			x	x	x	x	x			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>			x			x				
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	x								x	
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		x						x	x	
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>									x	
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	x	x					x	x	x	
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>		x	x			x	x	x	x	
Light-Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>			x				x			
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>		x							x	
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialoides</i>	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>						x			x	
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>				x		x				
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>			x					x	x	
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		x						x	x	
Soft-Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>		x						x		
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>										
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	x	x							x	
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>									x	
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>		x						x		
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>			x							
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>		x	x				x	x	x	
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>		x								
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>		x						x	x	
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	x								x	
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>			x	x	x	x	x			
Snowy (Pale-faced) Sheatbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>			x		x	x				
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>	x								x	
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>			x		x	x	x			
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta lonnbergi</i>			x		x	x	x			

Pippa Low – Expedition Leader



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.

Pierre Gallego – Asst. Exp. Leader



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!

George Kennedy – Asst. Exp. Leader



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!

Aitana Forcén-Vázquez – Exp. Guide



Aitana is a passionate oceanographer and adventurer, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role as a polar guide. Originally from Spain, she spent 12 years in New Zealand, where she earned her PhD in Physical Oceanography—focusing on unravelling the mysteries of how the ocean moves.

Her expertise extends to large-scale currents, waves, ice and water mass formation, and climate, with an unwavering enthusiasm for discussing these topics. Aitana's conversations can seamlessly transition from the intricacies of oceanography to her love

for endurance sports and the art of knitting. With a strong background in ocean-going fieldwork, Aitana served as the Principal Investigator for the Ross Sea Outflow Experiment, a groundbreaking initiative examining the export of cold water from the Ross Sea. She made history as one of the most junior-ever physical scientists to assume the role of voyage leader on the R V Tangaroa, New Zealand's esteemed research vessel, during an oceanographic voyage to the Southern Ocean.

Aitana's career has been as diverse as the marine environments she has explored. From driving a weather boat for two editions of the America's Cup as a meteorological technician to transitioning into the private sector, where she provided vital marine forecasts for port operations and Defence exercises. In these roles she has been a key player in ensuring the safety and efficiency of maritime operations. When adventure allows it, Aitana shares her knowledge with university students as an associate lecturer, fostering the next generation of marine scientists.

In her free time, Aitana is an avid open water swimmer, a dedicated communicator and content creator, and a seeker of unconventional road trips off the beaten path.

Julia Angermeier – Expedition Guide



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 hers 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.

Lucia Romero - Expedition Guide



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.

William Kennedy – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Eduardo Rubio - Expedition Guide



I describe myself as an astronomer by profession with a passion for sharing nature with others.

After studying physics, I got my PhD in Astronomy from the University of Amsterdam in 2010. After a postdoctoral position I became a lecturer of physics and Astronomy as well as a guide in expedition cruise ships. Since 2018 I have been working for Oceanwide Expeditions in the Antarctic and in the Arctic in several roles including guide, Assistant Expedition Leader and Expedition Leader in the Arctic and the Antarctic. Today besides working for

Oceanwide I split my time teaching undergraduate students and making astronomy outreach at the largest planetarium of Switzerland at the Swiss Museum of Transport in Lucerne.

My interests vary from history of exploration to the intricacies of astronomy. During the trips I have undertaken, I offer lectures about polar explorers, the science carried out in Antarctica (astronomy in particular), about our Universe, and the mysteries of our ocean's depths, to mention some. At sea, besides being an engaged guide and lecturer, I love to show constellations to people, pointing out their names and their lore. In every trip I made, I always aim to raise the enthusiasm of guests towards science, and their awareness towards the unique and fragile planet where we live. Born in Guatemala (1978), I speak English, Spanish and German.

Gabi Kolodko – Expedition Guide



Having been exposed to the pristine wilderness of Alaska, Canada, and Lapland before turning ten, Gabi developed a deep-rooted passion for cold climates and the great outdoors. Each summer, she devoted herself to sailing, and in 2012, her adventures included crossing the Baltic Sea from Poland to Scandinavia and back aboard the Zawisza Czarny, a historic 42-meter vessel originally built in 1952.

With a Master's in Fine Arts and a fascination for art, culture, and history, Gabi's curiosity led her to explore the unique human-animal relationships in polar regions, combining her interest in zooanthropology with the stories of Antarctica's early exploration and modern conservation. Her first journey to Antarctica in 2019 only deepened her connection to the continent's striking landscapes and rich history.

Gabi's enthusiasm for the cold extends beyond her travels; she actively practices the Wim Hof method and regularly takes on ice baths, walrusing, and cryotherapy throughout the year. A memorable encounter with a herd of Musk Oxen in 1993 at Herschel Island off the Canadian Arctic coast sparked her love for Arctic wildlife, with the Gentoo Penguin now topping her list of favorites in Antarctica.

She loves being part of life-changing voyages, rediscovering the polar regions with each new group of guests. Driven by a passion for adventure and a genuine desire to share the wonders of the poles, Gabi aims to inspire awe and respect for these breathtaking and fragile landscapes, offering others a transformative glimpse into the natural world.

Meike Sjoer – Expedition Guide



Meike Sjoer, a dedicated birder, nature enthusiast, and polar expedition guide, has spent her life immersed in the beauty of the natural world. Growing up in the heart of the Dutch forest, Meike developed a profound love for nature from a young age, a passion that would shape her extraordinary journey as a birder and wildlife explorer. She holds a Master of Arts from the University of Utrecht. During her studies Meike discovered a natural inclination towards sharing her wildlife experiences with others.

For the past 26 years, she has devoted her talents as a television director for the Dutch National Television. In this role, she dedicated herself to directing programs that involved stories of nature, wildlife, and environmental conservation. Meike's talent for filming and editing led her to directing the renowned Dutch National Wildlife television program *Vroege Vogels* for the past 15 years. Beyond her television work, Meike is a certified nature guide for the Dutch Institute for Nature and Education. When she is not sailing across polar waters, she takes great pleasure in guiding birding and wildlife tours within the second largest National Park of the Netherlands.

Additionally, driven by her deep concern for the well-being of our planet, Meike was part of the Sea Shepherd media team for 5 years and played a role in raising awareness about the urgent need to protect marine life and preserve delicate ecosystems.

Yet, it is in the polar regions of Antarctica and the Arctic that Meike finds her greatest fulfilment. Here, surrounded by icy vastness and majestic wildlife, she is happiest creating outdoor experiences that challenge individuals to connect with their inner selves and develop a profound respect for the planet we call home. Meike is thrilled to be your guide on this trip and looking forward to sharing her passion and knowledge for wildlife with you.

Carina Ketterer – Expedition Guide



This is Carina, she grew up in the Swiss capital of Bern far away from the sea. Her studies in renewable energies and environmental engineering gave her a curiosity in energy production and civil engineering. She would like to share this curiosity with you! Carina is a sports nut and runs triathlons in her spare time. But don't worry, she has vowed to slow down the tours to half-tempo.

Carinas favorite animal since childhood, was the penguin. In 2019 she finally hopped on a boat to the Antarctic to see them in their natural habitat. That journey bore in her a new fascination

with these cute animals and their dominion.

Being the happiest outside, Carina chose to make the world her workplace and to become an international guide for Oceanwide Expeditions.

Carina is a passionate and optimistic person who always likes to learn new things and has a broad interest in geography, history, archaeology, the arts and the natural sciences. As the cheesy Instagram posts say: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". So step up and let Carina share her passion for civil engineering and penguins with you and take part in your once in a lifetime adventure!

Marijke de Boer - Expedition Guide



Marijke grew up in the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany. In the early-90s, she worked over a number of summers as a field biologist specialising in sea turtle conservation in Greece. This was a magnificent experience and formed the inspiration for switching her Academic career towards Marine Biology.

She is fascinated by cetaceans, and has worked with Minke whales, Killer whales, Blue whales, Belugas, Bottlenose whales in the Arctic Labrador Sea, Risso's dolphins and Sperm whales. She has also participated in various

ocean-crossing surveys, namely the Davis Strait, Indian Ocean, South China Sea, Southern Ocean and Antarctica. These surveys formed the core foundation of her detailed in-depth experience with marine mammals.

She completed a MSc in Marine Ecology (University of Utrecht) and a PhD (Marine Mammal Ecology) at the University of Wageningen focusing on the abundance and distribution of cetaceans using (low-cost) seagoing vessels ('Platforms of Opportunity'). Nowadays her research focuses on marine fauna within the Wider Caribbean Region, West Africa and Cornwall (UK). Marijke has produced a wide selection of scientific publications.

Whilst she very much enjoys the academic side of her career, her first love is sharing her knowledge in the field. She has worked as a wildlife guide during multiple oceanic expeditions and is happy to 'escape the office'. She currently lives in the Netherlands and England and speaks Dutch, English and German. The ocean is very special to her – 'after more than 20 years of sailing the seven seas, it never fails to educate, surprise and enthrall me'.

Matt Cheok – Expedition Guide



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!

Juan Berenstein – Expedition Guide



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.

Andi Schwetz – Expedition Guide



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!

Andrew Crowder – Expedition Guide



Andrew is an experienced naturalist with a life long history of observation, study and sheer enjoyment of wildlife. His interest in natural history started as a young boy watching birds and they remain his first passion. Focusing mainly on Western Palearctic species, he has travelled extensively and accrued a wealth of knowledge. As part of that journey of discovery, he has also developed self-taught skills in wildlife photography.

Andrew has always been drawn to the sea and is a CMAS Class 2/BSAC qualified Advanced Scuba Diver; he has had the privilege of experiencing incredible marine life which few others get to see. Time spent exploring the underwater world helped spawn his other main interest: cetaceans. Andrew has over twenty years of experience with these amazing animals, undertaking scientific surveys and guiding on cruise ships in UK, European and Polar waters.

Andrew recognizes the powerful emotional reaction in humans when they have amazing wildlife encounters. He uses his knowledge and enthusiasm to help more people share such inspirational experiences and thereby promote the conservation of our precious natural world.



Antarctica
Whale Watching
Discovery & Learning Voyage
Friday 14th March 2025
Embarkation - Ushuaia

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 * ***

±1700 Departure from Ushuaia.

The bridge will be closed during these operations.

±1730 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**

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)

+/-2030 Boots & Lifejackets – We will call you by deck to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 to collect your Muck boots and Zodiac lifejackets. Please standby for announcements.

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



Antarctica
Whale Watching
Discovery & Learning Voyage
Saturday 15th March 2025
At Sea to Antarctica

- 0745 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 0915 **Family Briefing** – If you are a family traveling with children under the age of 16, please join **Pippa** in the **lecture room** (deck 5) for a special family briefing about our voyage to Antarctica.
- 1030 **Whales of the Southern Ocean** – Please join **Marijke** in the **lounge** (deck 5) to learn about the whales we are likely to see on our journey South, as well as the best strategies to identify them.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 1430 **Introduction to polar photography** – Please join **Matt** in the **lounge** (deck 5) for his lecture exploring the most important tips, tricks and techniques for Antarctic photography.
- 1630 **Birds of the Drake Passage** – Please join **Andrew** in the **lounge** (deck 5) to learn about our feathered friends of the Southern Ocean and their unique adaptations which help them survive and thrive.
- 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. Never allow children to enter the outer decks without adult supervision.

"Through endurance we conquer" – Ernest Shackelton



Antarctica
Whale Watching
Discovery & Learning Voyage
Sunday 16th March 2025
At Sea to Antarctica
Sunrise: 0649 Sunset: 1932

After lunch we will begin our biosecurity check for Antarctica. 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.

- 0745 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0915 **Zodiac & IAATO Briefing** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for a **mandatory** briefing.
- 1130 **Penguins** – Please join Lucia in the **lounge** for her lecture on the brushtail penguins of the Antarctic Peninsula.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1400 **Biosecurity Check & Lifejacket Fitting** - We will call you by deck to the **lounge** to complete your biosecurity check & lifejacket fitting – please bring all your **cleaned** outerwear, backpacks, and tripods/walking sticks. Please also bring your lifejacket to be fitted. **Please listen for announcements.**
- 1630 **Ice** – Please join Aitana in the **lounge** for her lecture about the ice of Antarctica.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our first daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** – *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. Never allow children to enter the outer decks without adult supervision.

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



Antarctica
Whale Watching
Discovery & Learning Voyage
Monday 17th March 2025
Fournier Bay & Neko Harbour
Sunrise: 0659 Sunset: 1939

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

This morning, we hope to zodiac cruise around Fournier Bay. The bay lies to the North of Anvers Island, and we often find large numbers of Humpback Whales in the bay. Both groups will zodiac cruise.

0800 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise around Fournier Bay.
0815 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise around Fournier Bay.
1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon we hope to offer a landing & zodiac cruise at Neko Harbour, a continental Landing, 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 during the zodiac cruise. **Red** group will come ashore first, **blue** group will zodiac cruise, the groups will swap activities halfway through the morning.*

+/-1445 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take for a continental landing at Neko Harbour.
+/-1500 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a Zodiac cruise around Neko Harbour.
1845 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily briefing and recap.
1930 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

After dinner, Join Will in the library for an evening of music to celebrate St Patricks Day.

"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.



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

*This morning we hope to land and zodiac cruise at Danco, a small island in the Errera channel surrounded by icebergs and home to several gentoo penguin rookeries. The **Blue** group will go to shore while the **Red** group will zodiac cruise first. We will then swap halfway through the morning.*

We also hope to offer a Polar Plunge at Danco Island. Polar plungers – please come prepared with your swimmers under your clothing. Do not bring the towels from your cabin – we will provide towels onshore.

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

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.

1445 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a Zodiac cruise around Paradise Bay.
1500 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take for a Zodiac cruise around Paradise Bay.

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**.

"Adventure is not outside man; it is within" – Roald Amundsen

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

This morning, we hope to zodiac cruise around Schollaert Channel. We hope to find whales amongst ice and towering landscapes. Both groups will zodiac cruise simultaneously.

0800 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise around Schollaert Channel.

0815 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise at Schollaert Channel.

1130 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily briefing and recap.

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

This afternoon, we hope to land and zodiac cruise at Portal Point, Charlotte Bay. Portal Point is a continental landing with views over Charlotte Bay. We hope to zodiac cruise to find whales, seals, icebergs and, hopefully, Chinstrap Penguins. The groups will swap half-way through the afternoon.

1445 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a landing at Portal Point.

1500 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take for a Zodiac cruise around Charlotte Bay.

1830 **Special Antarctic Dinner** – dress warm! :)

"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.

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

This morning, we hope to zodiac cruise around Kayak Bay. We hope to find whales amongst ice and towering landscapes. Both groups will zodiac cruise simultaneously.

0830 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise around Kayak Bay.
0845 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise around Kayak Bay.

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

This afternoon, we will head North to make our way across the drake. We anticipate large swells mid to late afternoon – please prepare your belongings and, if required, seasick medication.

1400 **Photo competition submissions** – Please join Juan and Matt in the **library** to submit your entries to the Photo Competition. Categories: Wildlife, Landscape & Comedy – 1 entry per person per category.

1600 **Science in Antarctica** – Please join Eduardo in the **lounge** for his lecture exploring the scientific endeavours of Antarctic research programs.

1800 **Extended Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the **lounge** for an extended 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

- No wakeup call – enjoy!**
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0930 **Life of the Albatross** – Please join Meike in the **lounge** for her lecture exploring the life histories of these giant winged wonders.
- 1130 **Tom Crean** – Please join William in the **lounge** for his lecture about the Forgotten Polar Explorer Tom Crean.
- 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 **Krill** - Please join **Andi** in the **lounge** for their lecture exploring the wonderful lives of Krill – the cornerstone species of the Southern ocean.
- 1630 **Jackie Ronne** – Please join Gabi in the **lounge** for her lecture about the life story of the first American women to overwinter in Antarctica.
- 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.

Antarctic Quiz – After the Photo competition please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a fun night of Antarctic Trivia.

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

“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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia
& Antarctica

Saturday 22nd March 2025

At Sea towards Ushuaia

Sunrise 0733 Sunset 1939

0745 **Wake-up call** – Good Morning!

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

0930 **The Anthropocene** – Please join Eduardo in the **lounge** for his lecture exploring our Planet's changing climate and the human impact on it.

1130 **Jackie Ronne** – Please join Gabi in the **lounge** for her lecture about the life story of the first American women to overwinter in Antarctica.

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.***

1530 **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.*

"Victory awaits him who has everything in order - luck, people call it"

- Roald Amundsen



Antarctica
Whale Watching
Discovery & Learning Voyage
Sunday 23rd March 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