



Antarctica – Polar Circle – Whale Watching

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

23rd March – 3rd April 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:	Giovanie Simene	[Philippines]
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:	Oliver von Olnhausen	[Sweden]
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:	Marco Rosso	[Italy]
Expedition Guide:	Pelin Asfuroglu	[Chile]
Expedition Guide:	Joyce Mulder	[Netherlands]
Dive Leader:	Mike Pumm	[Switzerland]
Dive Guide:	Gonzalo Sabattini	[Argentina]
Dive Guide:	Kevin Verbist	[Belgium]
Dive Guide:	Angela Buschor	[Switzerland]

WELCOMES YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Sunday, March 23. Ushuaia, Embarkation Day

18h00 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S / 068°17.8'W

Wind: WSW-6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Part. Cloudy • T Air : 11°C • T Sea : 10°C



The day has finally arrived! Our incredible journey south begins now. In the late afternoon, we make our way to the port, our eyes fixed on the swift silhouette of our ship, Plancius, ready to carry us to the farthest reaches of the world.

After traveling to the ends of the Earth to Ushuaia, the southernmost city, this moment feels surreal. As we step onto the

gangway, our cheerful expedition team and lovely crew greeted us, their faces full of enthusiasm and excitement for the adventure ahead. The day wrapped in a soft, cloudy sky, the warmth of the air comforting, the gentle winds whispering of the vast, untouched wilderness to come. The sea was still, reflecting the sky like a perfect mirror. We check in with the hotel team and were escorted to our cabins, our new home for the next twelve days.

We took a moment to explore the ship while the others arrive, feeling the pulse of this grand vessel beneath our feet. Once everyone was on board, we gathered for some essential briefings, including the abandon ship drill, where we mustered at the lifeboats, ready for any situation that might arise. With this important task completed, it was time to return to the lounge, where we were greeted with a glass of bubbly, and Captain Evgeny raised a toast to the voyage ahead.

As the ship began to come alive with the hum of anticipation, our hotel manager Albert introduced the Plancius to us, unveiling the marvels of this mighty ship. Expedition Leader Adam then stepped forward, introducing the expert team who will guide us on this unforgettable journey. Every face was warm and welcoming, and we were instantly enveloped by the camaraderie and spirit of adventure that filled the air.

Finally, time for the last event of the day arrived as we moved to the restaurant, the anticipation palpable, and sat down to a feast,

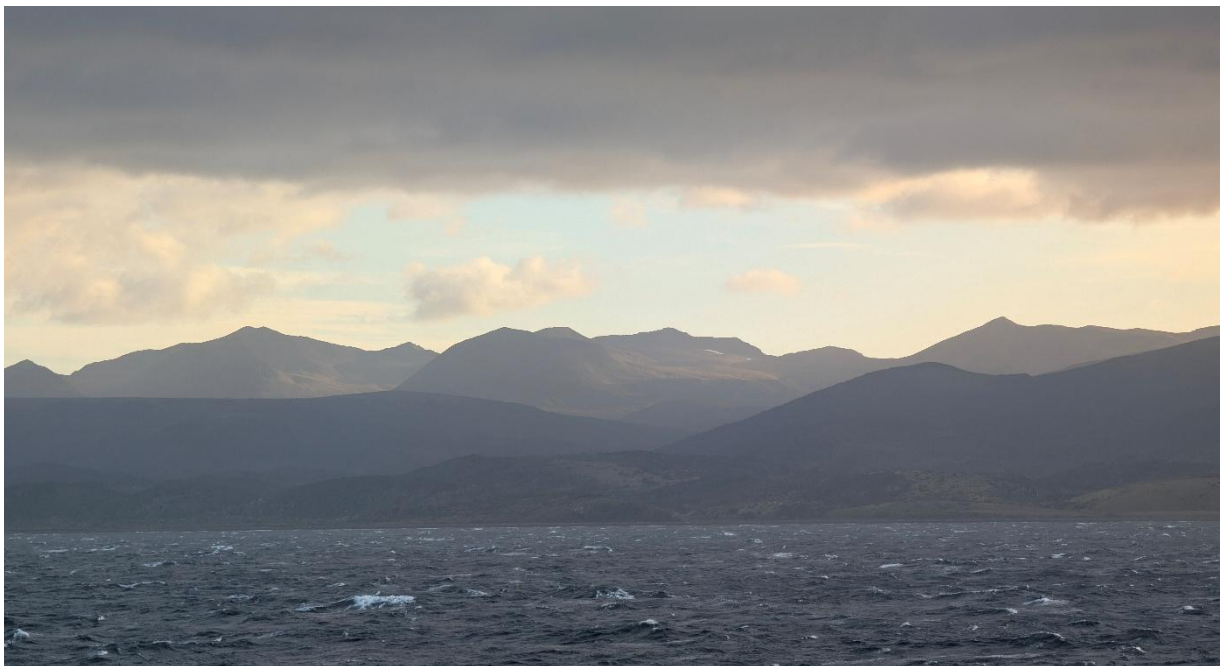


our eyes drawn to the breathtaking views of the Beagle Channel outside. The fading light of day casted a golden glow on the waters, and it was impossible not to feel the weight of history and nature around us. We are on the brink of something extraordinary, and tomorrow promises to be just the beginning of the epic journey ahead.

Day 2 – Monday, March 24. At sea towards Antarctica

12h00 GPS Position: 55°01.3'S / 064°45.3'W

Wind: W-9 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Cloudy • T Air : 9°C • T Sea : 10°C



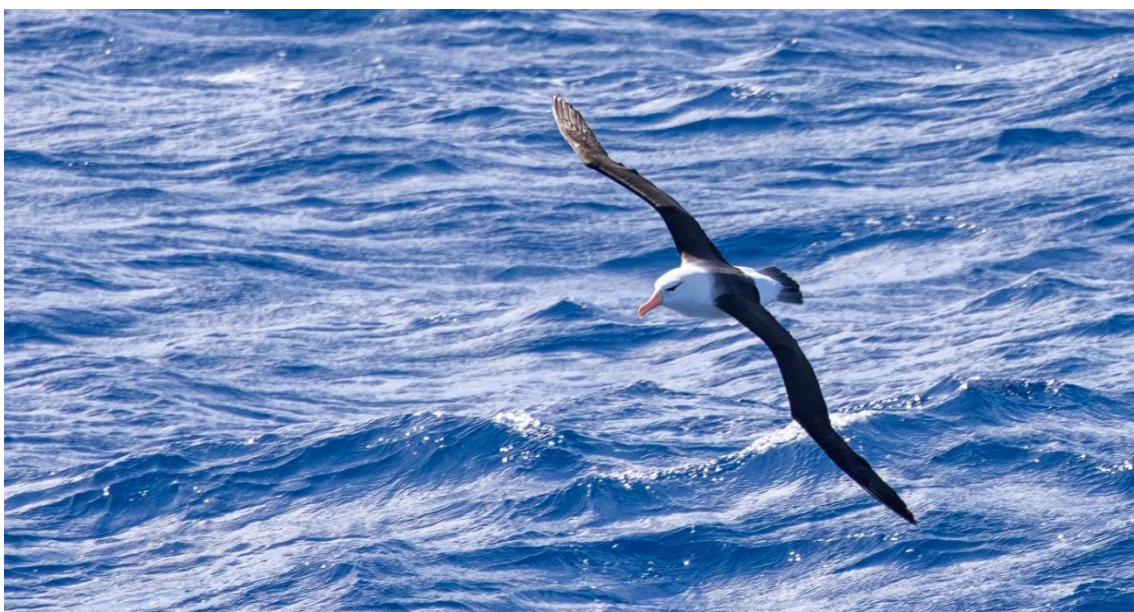
The day began with a gentle, if somewhat rolling, reminder of the journey ahead. We'd spent the night nestled in the relative calm of the Beagle Channel, a necessary respite from the Drake's Passage's notorious fury. Even here, however, the waves hinted at what was to come, rocking us with a steady two-meter swell. Breakfast, our first in the ship's dining room, was a communal experience, a shared anticipation of the adventure unfolding.

The morning's formalities were crucial: mandatory briefings. We absorbed the IAATO's guidelines, the "dos and don'ts" that would ensure our respectful interaction with Antarctica's fragile ecosystem. Safety, of course, was paramount, and we listened intently to the procedures for our upcoming landings and zodiac cruises. The distribution of our sturdy,



expedition-grade boots felt like a tangible step closer to our goal, a physical manifestation of our impending arrival. Lunch was a welcome interlude, a moment to refuel before the afternoon's tasks.

The afternoon was a whirlwind of activity. Biosecurity was the order of the day. We meticulously presented our gear for inspection, ensuring no invasive species, no stray seeds, would hitch a ride to the pristine Antarctic shores. Then, a sudden burst of excitement: orcas! In the very Beagle Channel! The sight of these magnificent creatures, their sleek forms breaching the water, was a breathtaking prelude to the wonders to come. Simon, the ship's birder, captivated us with a lecture on albatrosses, their majestic wingspans and incredible journeys.



Finally, we ventured into the Drake's Passage. The recap, our daily briefing, painted a picture of the challenges ahead. The forecast was, to put it mildly, "pessimistic" wave-wise. But we were undeterred. We had known the price of reaching the seventh continent, the legendary Drake Shake, was a test of our resolve. As evening fell, the waves surged to four and five meters, and the ship began to roll with a vengeance. Many of us succumbed to the inevitable sea sickness, a testament to the Passage's power. The night was a symphony of creaking metal and the relentless rhythm of the waves, a constant reminder of the wild, untamed nature of our journey. Despite the discomfort, a thrill coursed through us. We were on our way, braving the elements, closer with every passing hour to the icy embrace of Antarctica.

Day 3 – Tuesday, March 25. Across the storm in the Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 58°10.9'S / 063°54.0'W

Wind: W-9 • Sea: Very Rough • Weather: Part. Cloudy • T Air : 4°C • T Sea : 8°C

This morning we found ourselves at a serious Drake Shake Passage. Yesterday afternoon we had left and we could feel the movement of the ship increase, however yesterday we still had some shelter from the South American continent. Overnight we *lost* that shelter and the motion increased significantly. The waves were mostly coming from the starboard side of the ship and this meant that we were rolling in our beds. Although it wasn't very uncomfortable, it did wake us up a lot and as a result we didn't feel well rested.

In the dining room both the dining room staff as well as the expedition team were present. No buffet this morning, but table service by professional stewards and some amateur expedition staff ;). The rolling of the ship was too severe and too unpredictable to have many people walking around so we enjoyed this extra service.



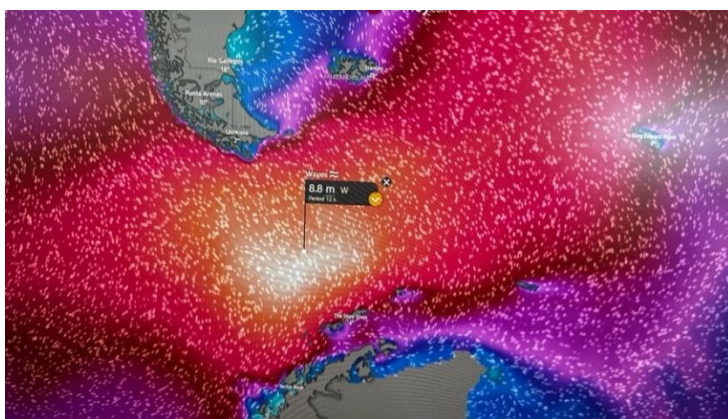
Expedition guide Marco dared to give a lecture which many of us attended. Despite the movement of the ship, Marco stood his ground and introduced us to Antarctica. He did this with a lot of passion and after the lecture finished, we were even more excited to visit the pristine White Continent.



In between many of us paid a visit to the bridge. It was exciting to see the wild sea state and how our gracious ship was plowing through the waves. For the afternoon even higher waves were forecasted so we felt excited, but also a bit anxious for what was coming.

The afternoon lecture program had been cancelled so many of us took the opportunity to lay down and rest a bit or read a book in the lounge.

At some point we changed course slightly and this led to more waves coming towards our bow. With wind speeds up to almost 70 knots and waves reaching 9 meters, it was a spectacular sight and it reminded us to never underestimate the power of the oceans. Some waves were really showing off as they reached eye level with us on the bridge and that meant estimated heights of 13-14 meters.



This weather meant that we would be further delayed for our arrival in Antarctica, but this spectacle sure made up for it.

Recap for tonight was cancelled as well and instead we were asked to go to our cabins. Not because we had been bad, but for the simple reason of having dinner in the cabin. The dining room stewards took our orders and not too long after both the dining room staff as well as some expedition staff were knocking doors to deliver our room service. This hadn't happened



in a long time so that definitely meant that we were on a proper Drake Shake!

After the dinner plates were collected again, we were *free* to leave our cabins. Some of us went to the lounge, but most of us enjoyed the comfort of our beds and cabins for an early and hopefully better sleep.

It had been an exciting day experiencing such an angry ocean, but now we hoped for better weather and a good rest! Good night!

Day 4 – Wednesday, March 26. Heading South through the Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 60°39.2'S / 064°48.32'W

Wind: NW-5 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • T Air: 4°C • T Sea: 3°C

The second day aboard the MV Plancius marked a significant shift in conditions as we continued our journey south towards Antarctica, crossing the infamous Drake Passage. After yesterday's tumultuous seas, the weather had calmed considerably, offering a much more comfortable experience. The once fierce waves had subsided, leaving only a gentle but still noticeable rolling motion, a subtle reminder of the storm we had left behind. Despite the more tranquil waters, the excitement on board was palpable, with the anticipation of reaching Antarctica growing by the hour.



Wildlife sightings were relatively sparse today. However, there were still some notable encounters. The graceful Black-browed, Grey-headed, and Light-mantled Albatrosses were spotted, their vast wingspans skimming the surface of the water as they soared effortlessly in the wind. Blue Petrels and

Antarctic Prions also made brief appearances, darting across the waves. But the highlight for many came in the form of a pair of Southern Bottlenose Whales, which surfaced briefly before disappearing into the depths, much to the frustration of those hoping for a more extended viewing.

As the ship made its steady progress towards the Antarctic Peninsula, the educational program on board continued to enrich the experience for all passengers. In the morning, Joyce gave an insightful lecture on the Cetaceans we might encounter during the expedition. Her talk covered various species of whales, dolphins, and porpoises, providing us with a deeper understanding of these marine mammals and what to look out for in the coming days.

The afternoon lectures offered more specialized knowledge. Koen, our photography expert, shared valuable tips for capturing the incredible scenery and wildlife we would soon encounter. His advice was particularly useful for those eager to document their once-in-a-lifetime trip to the southernmost continent. Later, Giulia presented her fascinating research project, which involves collecting skin biopsy samples from seals to analyse toxin levels in



these Antarctic pinnipeds. Her work will provide vital information about the health of these animals in the face of environmental changes, and it was clear that her passion for the subject had everyone intrigued.

As the day drew to a close, the mood aboard the Plancius was one of eager anticipation. Tomorrow would mark the first day of operations in Antarctica, and the excitement was tangible. The divers had their briefings for the check-out dive, ensuring that everyone was well-prepared for the icy waters ahead. Meanwhile, other passengers were eagerly awaiting their first glimpses of penguins, icebergs, and perhaps even more whales. The thought of finally stepping onto the frozen continent and experiencing its untamed wilderness was enough to keep everyone on high alert, eagerly counting down the hours.

Day 5 – Thursday, March 27. Mikkelsen Harbour and Cierva Cove

12h00 GPS Position: 63°54.4'S / 064°46.1'W

Wind: NW-4 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Snow • T Air : 0°C • T Sea : 2°C



Finally, this morning, after three days in the Drake Passage experiencing one of the most notorious storms of the season, the long-expected Antarctic land was in sight. After a hearty breakfast prepared by our talented galley team, we headed out for our very first landing in Antarctica. Despite the low visibility and constant snowfall, we were more than ready and excited to set foot on solid land and visit Mikkelsen Harbor, on D'Hainaut Island.

This tiny, protected harbour got its name from the heyday of Southern Ocean whaling. The remains of a water boat on the shore served as a reminder of the





times when Norwegian sailors ventured to the White Continent in search of blubber. Mikkelsen Harbor is also home to a small gentoo penguin colony, and, of course, seeing our first penguins of the voyage was a highlight in itself. We were all delighted by the playfulness of these amazing and resilient birds.

In the afternoon, MV Plancius repositioned toward the Antarctic Peninsula, dropping anchor in Cierva Cove, near Argentina's Primavera Research Station. Our expedition guides took us on an almost three-hour-long Zodiac cruise through the bay. This time, the weather gods were on our side. The Antarctic mainland greeted us with a beautiful, soft autumn light, and the bay was filled with icebergs of various shapes and sizes.

While admiring the beauty of this icy world, we had our first exciting seal encounter—a female



crabeater seal napping on a large iceberg. Then, we spotted a leopard seal hunting a chinstrap penguin. It almost felt like we were inside a BBC Nature documentary. How privileged and lucky we were to witness the majesty of the polar wilderness at its finest!

We were already buzzing with excitement when we returned from our incredible cruise, but even better things were to come. As we sailed away from the bay, we were treated to a breathtaking sunset, with otherworldly shades of orange and yellow painting the sky.

The day concluded with a recap from our expedition guides, who shared insights about the many incredible moments we had experienced. This was followed by another delicious meal.

What a day! How great it is to be alive in Antarctica.



Day 6 – Friday, March 28. Pleneau and Salpetriere Bay

12h00 GPS Position: 65°06.8'S / 064°02.5'W

Wind: E-4 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Snow • T Air : 0°C • T Sea : 1°C



Early in the morning, before breakfast, we started sailing into the Lemaire Channel at around 7 AM. The view was breathtaking. A mist covered the mountains, creating a mysterious yet beautiful scene. Many of us were already awake, standing on the bow to take in the incredible sights. After enjoying this scenery,

it was time for breakfast.

Later, we boarded the zodiacs for a cruise around Pleneau Island, known as the "iceberg graveyard." As we set out, the fog was thick, but soon it cleared, revealing an amazing sight.

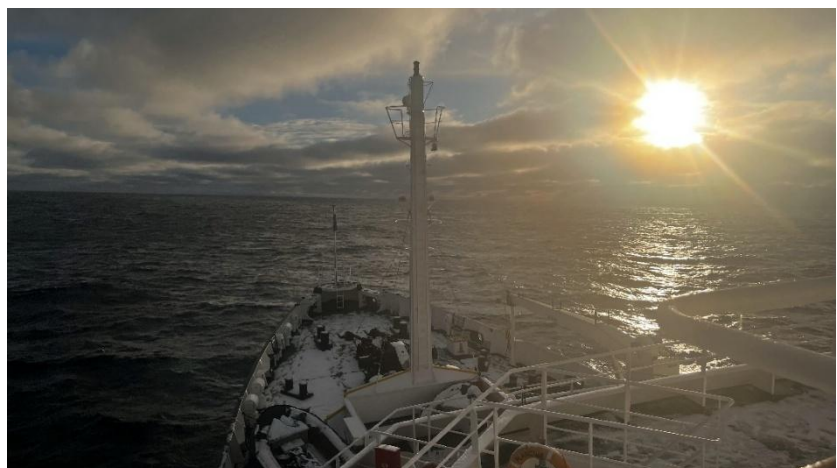




Hundreds of penguins were swimming in the water, and among them, four humpback whales were feeding together. On one small iceberg, three penguins jumped onto the ice, quickly followed by many more. We found ourselves surrounded by about 300 penguins, a truly unforgettable experience!

We then made our way to the iceberg graveyard, where we saw enormous icebergs. It was stunning to be surrounded by nothing but ice. On our way back, we stopped again to watch the whales. This time, they briefly played near our zodiacs, making the experience even more magical. As it was a cold and snowy morning, many of us were eager to return to the ship for a hot chocolate to warm up.

After lunch, we spent the afternoon on the ship, continuing our journey further south. There was still a long way to go. During the afternoon, Pelin gave a lecture about the pioneers of Antarctic exploration, focusing on De Gerlache and the Belgica Expedition, which took place between 1897 and 1899. Later, we spent time in the lounge playing games and enjoying drinks before gathering for the daily recap.



During the recap, Adam shared plans for the next day, while Koen explained the feeding behavior of humpback whales. Joyce talked about altruism in humpbacks, Pelin discussed Charcot, and Angie gave insights into leopard seals. Afterward, we had dinner as the evening settled in.

Still on our journey further south, we knew that during the night, we would cross the Antarctic Circle. By the next day, we would be setting foot below the polar circle, an exciting thought!

Day 7 – Saturday, March 29. Detaille Island and Crystal Sound

12h00 GPS Position: 66°52.5'S / 066°47.8'W

Wind: N-3 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • T Air: 1°C • T Sea: 0°C



By now, we had gotten pretty used to hearing Adam's cheerful "Good morning, good morning, good morning." This morning, however, was a bit different, as we had crossed south of the Antarctic Polar Circle overnight. We reached the southernmost point of our trip: the small island of Detaille. Here, we visited the British Base "W," which was occupied from 1956 to 1959.

The base was abandoned fairly quickly, as the supply ship could not reach the island. The hut at the station now appears like a little time capsule, with many fascinating details about the lives of those who lived and worked there.



The primary focus of their research was meteorology and geology, though they also made several observations on wildlife.



While half of us had the opportunity to visit the island, the other half enjoyed a small Zodiac cruise around it, which was full of wildlife. We saw humpback whales lounging and rolling in the water, moving close by and clearly not disturbed by our presence. We also had our first chance to observe Adelie penguins, the smallest but undoubtedly the cutest of the brush-tailed penguins.

In addition, we spotted many seals around the island—mostly crabeater seals in the water and fur seals on land. The ice, by the way, was breathtaking. We simply couldn't get enough of it.



Through mid morning we then swapped the groups, so all of us could experience the views around this special island

After the morning excursion, we headed north again to make the most of the remaining time on our trip. We cruised through the inner passage of Crystal Sound, passing stunning icebergs along the way. We crossed the Antarctic Circle again on our way north, and the hotel team served hot chocolate with rum on deck 6. Not a bad way to spend the afternoon—cruising past icebergs and enjoying a warm drink.



Later in the afternoon, Jakub gave an insightful presentation about the importance of glaciers. This was followed by an extended recap session. Adam discussed the plans for the upcoming day, Steffi spoke more about the breeding cycles of penguins, Marco shared interesting facts about swimming and “pooing” penguins, Jakub continued with a discussion on aspects of icebergs, and Pelin wrapped up with a great story about sled dogs that were once used at Dettale Island.

After a delicious dinner and a drink at the bar, we headed to bed to rest up for another day full of exciting activities.

Day 8 – Sunday, March 30. Paradise Bay and Foyn Harbour

12h00 GPS Position: 64°53.5'S / 062°52.4'W

Wind: E-1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Part. Cloudy • T Air: 4°C • T Sea: 0°C



Our day began with an unusually early breakfast, a necessity dictated by the rapidly diminishing daylight hours and the ambitious, multi-faceted itinerary planned for the day. We awoke to the serene, almost mystical, ambiance of a misty Paradise Bay. A gentle snowfall, a delicate dusting of white, blanketed the

landscape, creating a hushed, ethereal atmosphere. Remarkably, the winds were calm, a rare and welcome respite from the region's typically turbulent weather. We quickly prepared for our first excursions of the day, dividing into two groups for our zodiac adventures.

Half of our group were destined for a continental landing, a tangible, physical connection to the Antarctic mainland, while the other half embarked on a zodiac cruise, eager to explore the intricate network of icy waterways that carved their way through the bay.





Our landing at the summer-only Argentinian Brown Station, now an empty outpost, a silent testament to human presence in this remote and unforgiving environment, was a poignant and reflective experience. As the morning mist began to dissipate, Paradise Bay gradually unveiled its namesake glory, a spectacle that exceeded all expectations. Those of us with a thirst for adventure embarked on a challenging hike up the steep hill that loomed behind the station.

The ascent was arduous, but the reward was immeasurable: a panoramic vista that stretched beyond the limits of our vision, encompassing the entire bay and its surrounding peaks. The sun, finally breaking through the overcast, cast a golden light upon the landscape, transforming the already stunning scenery into a scene of otherworldly beauty. We seized the opportunity to capture this momentous occasion, posing proudly with the Antarctic flag, each click of the camera a testament to our shared experience. Meanwhile, those on the zodiac cruise were treated to a mesmerizing display of marine life of humpback and minke whales.

Lunch was a brief, almost hurried, interlude, a moment to refuel and share our





experiences before we embarked on our next adventure. The transit to our afternoon destination offered a continuous, captivating display of the Antarctic Peninsula's breathtaking landscapes. The sun, now fully emerged, illuminated the rugged coastline, revealing hidden coves, towering cliffs, and intricate ice formations. The frequent sightings of

humpback whales, their massive forms breaching the surface, provided a constant source of wonder and excitement. Then, a sudden, electrifying burst of excitement rippled through the ship: orcas! We observed them in awe as their sleek bodies cut through the water, a thrilling reminder of the wild, untamed nature of this remote continent. A slight delay in our transit, caused by our collective desire to witness these magnificent creatures, only amplified the anticipation for our next destination.

We arrived at Foyen Harbour around 17:30. Our zodiacs took us on a sombre yet fascinating journey to the hauntingly beautiful shipwreck of the *Governoren*, a Norwegian whaling ship from 1915, a relic of a bygone era, a silent testament to the region's history and the brutal industry that once thrived here. The high clouds, at moments tinged with the colours of the setting sun, painted a unique canvas as we witnessed a final, breathtaking symphony of whale behaviour. Spy hopping, feeding, rolling, and playful flipper and fluke slapping filled our senses. It was a bittersweet moment, a poignant farewell to the continent, knowing our time was drawing to a close. The short, 1.5-hour cruise, cut short by the encroaching darkness, left us longing for even more.

Back onboard, a special Antarctic barbecue awaited us, a celebratory feast under the sky. We dined on the outside decks, the music and the shared joy creating a vibrant, almost festive atmosphere. We danced celebrating the incredible journey we were undertaking, the shared experiences that had forged a bond between us. Tired, but exhilarated, we retreated to our cabins, knowing the last day of our Deep South adventure was just around the corner, a final chapter in an unforgettable story. We fell asleep to the gentle rocking of the ship, the sounds of the Antarctic night a lullaby to our dreams.

Day 9 – Monday, March 31. Deception Island and Half Moon Island

12h00 GPS Position: 62°54.9'S / 060°20.3'W

Wind: S-2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • T Air: 2°C • T Sea: 1°C

After a crossing over the calm waves of the Bransfield Strait our beautiful blue Plancius had arrived at the entrance of Deception Island. Today would unfortunately be our last day, but the expedition team had prepared a full and



very active schedule for us. And that schedule started around 07:00 A.M. when captain Evgeny steered the ship through Neptune's Bellows into the caldera of Deception Island. Neptune's Bellows is the only entrance into the caldera and it's narrow and shallow which makes it a spectacular and exciting passage.

Right after we had entered, the ship made a right turn and headed for Whalers Bay which is located at the east side of the island. Whalers Bay is a former whaling station where thousands of whales were processed for their oil. The Norwegian Hektor station was used until 1931. Whale oil prices had dropped significantly and whaling had become a pelagic business. Whales were now caught and processed on board so the whaling stations were no longer needed.



Today large parts of the station still remain. We could still see the pressure cookers, the large storage tanks for the whale oil and some old rowing boats that were used in the hunt for whales. With the dark skies and gloomy weather,

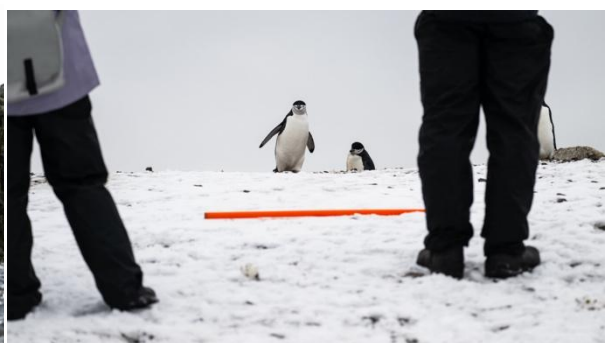
it made for the perfect atmosphere. Many of us visited the old buildings whereas others decided to walk up to Neptune's Window, a beautiful view from where you can see the Antarctic peninsula on a clear day.

At 10:00 it was time for some fun, cold fun! The team had brought towels because many of us decided to participate in the traditional polar plunge! With water temperatures close to zero degrees it was going to be a very refreshing plunge, but many of us were very brave and some even ran into the water before diving in. It was a lot of fun, but it was also nice to enjoy the warm shower afterwards ;).



Lunch was served while we left Deception Island behind us as we set course towards Half Moon Island for our last landing. Half Moon Island has beautifully colored lichen and it is home to Chinstrap Penguins.

We enjoyed the landing a lot as we saw many cute Chinstraps, but we also saw Fur Seals, a Weddell Seal and even an Elephant Seal was spotted. Unfortunately, we had to return to the landing site on time as the captain wanted to sail out at 17:30 latest. We already had done our dues on the Drake "Shake" Passage on the way down, and the captain wanted to try and avoid this for the way back.



After recap and dinner, some of us went to the bar for a coffee or something stronger. But many of us were tired so we decided to relax in our cabins instead.

Day 10 – Tuesday, April 1. At Sea, Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 59°35.6'S / 062°12.3'W

Wind: SSE-2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Part. Cloudy • T Air: 3°C • T Sea: 1°C

As we bid farewell to the icy grandeur of the Antarctic Peninsula and the remarkable journey beyond the Antarctic Circle, MV Plancius set course northward across the infamous Drake Passage. However, unlike our tumultuous southbound crossing, today gifted us with a remarkably serene and sun-drenched experience, making for a far more pleasant return to more temperate latitudes.

The weather was nothing short of glorious—clear skies and bright sunshine illuminated the vast, rolling expanse of the Southern Ocean. The sea state remained calm throughout the day, a welcome relief for those who had endured the rough seas on our voyage south. The gentle motion of the ship, rather than the violent pitching and rolling we had previously encountered, allowed everyone to enjoy the passage in comfort. With the ship gliding smoothly over the waves, spirits were high, and passengers took full advantage of the conditions to reflect on the incredible expedition we had just completed.



The birdlife on this leg of the journey did not disappoint. The open ocean provided ample opportunities for birdwatching, and we were treated to spectacular sightings of some of the most magnificent seabirds in the world. Black-browed, Grey-headed, and Light-mantled Albatrosses graced the skies, their effortless gliding a marvel to behold. A particular highlight was the sighting of a Wandering Albatross, its enormous wingspan a reminder of nature's astonishing adaptations to life at sea. Southern Fulmars and Cape Petrels were also abundant,

their dynamic flight patterns adding to the spectacle. For those with a keen eye, the presence of several elusive Kerguelen Petrels provided a rare and thrilling sighting, a fitting reward for diligent observers scanning the horizon.



Beyond the impressive wildlife encounters, the day also featured a rich and engaging lecture programme, designed to further enhance our understanding of the Antarctic environment. The educational sessions began with Steffi's informative talk on the crucial role of Antarctic Krill in sustaining the region's complex

food web. This tiny crustacean is the foundation of the Antarctic ecosystem, supporting everything from fish and seabirds to the mighty whales we had been fortunate enough to observe during our journey.

Joyce followed with an insightful presentation on the often-overlooked wildlife of the seabed, shedding light on the remarkable organisms that thrive in the frigid depths beneath the ice-laden waters. Marco then took us on a deep dive into oceanography, explaining how polar currents and the very presence of Antarctica itself shape global climate patterns, emphasizing the continent's far-reaching influence on the planet's systems.

The day's lectures concluded with Fritz and Giulia, who shared the final findings from their research project on seal sample collection for toxin level analysis. Their work underscored the importance of ongoing scientific research in Antarctica, highlighting both the pristine nature of the region and the growing concerns about pollution and climate change.

As the day drew to a close, passengers gathered on deck to soak in the golden hues of the evening sky, reflecting on a remarkable expedition that had taken us to one of the most remote and awe-inspiring places on Earth. With the Drake Passage treating us kindly this time, we sailed northward in comfort, filled with memories of an extraordinary adventure.

Day 11 – Wednesday, April 2. At Sea, Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 55°21.5'S / 066°09.9'W

Wind: S-6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Part. Cloudy • T Air: 2°C • T Sea: 6°C

Our second day across the turbulent waters of the Drake Passage unfolded with remarkable fortune, as the weather continued to favor us. A steady southerly breeze accompanied our northbound voyage, offering a smooth and steady passage. At a consistent speed of 11.5 to 12 knots, our little blue ship had made excellent progress overnight. By the time the wake-up call sounded, we had already reached the latitude of Cape Horn. This provided a natural barrier against the usual westerly winds, though today, we continued our gentle rolling from port to starboard—a rhythm that had, by now, become second nature.

As one fleeting storm gave way to moments of sunshine, the Procellariiformes remained ever-present, circling the ship in their graceful dance. White-chinned Petrels and Antarctic Prions flitted through the air, while the occasional Wandering or Royal Albatross made its majestic appearance. Here and there, we spotted Black-browed Albatrosses—a clear sign that South America was drawing near.



The morning's schedule was rich with knowledge and discovery. Pelin commenced the day's lectures with From Greenhouse to Icehouse, a geological journey through the transformations Antarctica has undergone across different eras, leading to its present-day position. Following



this, Simon shared his extensive and fascinating experiences with bird ringing and data collection, offering insight into avian research across the British Isles and beyond. Just before lunch, excitement rippled through the ship as a playful pod of Peale's dolphins appeared off the port side, escorting us toward the southeastern entrance of the Beagle Channel.

After lunch, the expedition guides gathered boots and equipment, busy with the meticulous task of packing up for the season's end. In just a few months, the ship would leave these southern waters behind, repositioning to the Arctic Ocean for a new season of exploration in the north.

As we entered the calmer waters between Tierra del Fuego and the Chilean islands of Nueva and Lennox, Jakub took to the stage in the lounge. His presentation on the cryosphere illuminated the stark realities of global warming, shedding light on the profound impact climate change will have on our world in the coming decades.

The afternoon drew to a heartfelt close with laughter and celebration. Captain Levakov joined us in the lounge for a final toast, while Expedition Leader Adam expressed gratitude to the dedicated crew and staff who had made our journey truly unforgettable. A touching slideshow, skillfully compiled by Joyce, captured the breathtaking beauty of the continent we had just left behind—a lasting memento of an extraordinary adventure.



Excitement filled the air during our final dinner on board. As the Argentine pilot took control of the vessel, guiding us safely into the harbor of Ushuaia, we reflected on the memories made, the wonders witnessed, and the profound connection we had forged with the great white wilderness.

Day 12 – Thursday, April 3. Ushuaia, Disembarkation

08h00 GPS Position: 54°51.7'S / 068°02.6'W

Wind: S-1 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • T Air: 4°C • T Sea: 11°C

We arrived in Ushuaia early this morning, marking the end of our journey. After enjoying a final breakfast aboard Plancius, we gathered our belongings and made our way to the gangway. We exchanged farewells with the incredible team onboard and the friends we had made along the way. While some of us set off to explore Ushuaia, others prepared for their flights home. As we departed, we took one last look at Plancius, reminiscing about the unforgettable moments and perhaps already dreaming of future adventures.

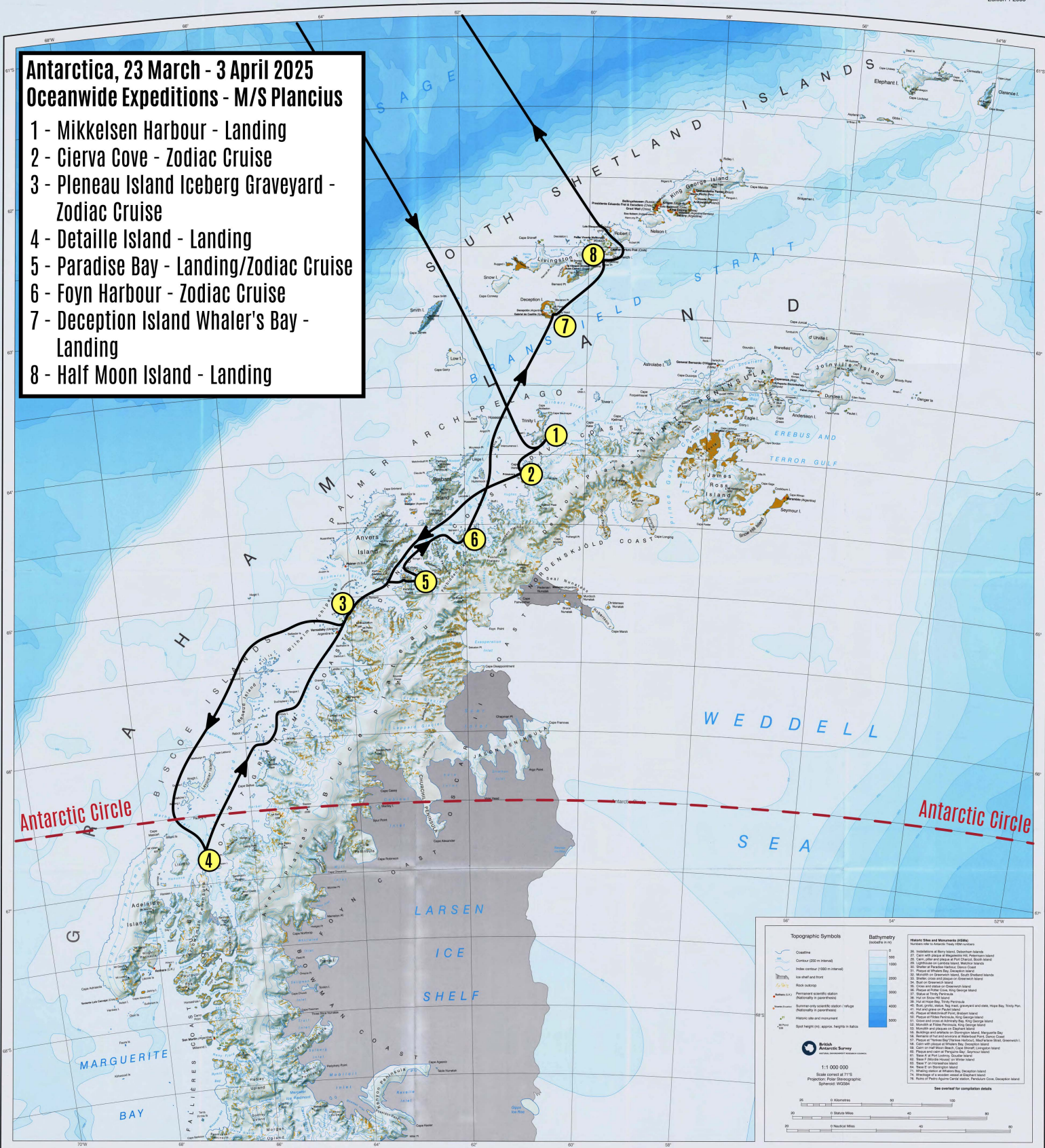
Total distance sailed on our voyage: 2235 nm
Southernmost position: 66°52.5'S / 066°47.8'W

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



Antarctica, 23 March - 3 April 2025 Oceanwide Expeditions - M/S Plancius

- 1 - Mikkelsen Harbour - Landing
- 2 - Cierva Cove - Zodiac Cruise
- 3 - Pleneau Island Iceberg Graveyard - Zodiac Cruise
- 4 - Detaille Island - Landing
- 5 - Paradise Bay - Landing/Zodiac Cruise
- 6 - Foyen Harbour - Zodiac Cruise
- 7 - Deception Island Whaler's Bay - Landing
- 8 - Half Moon Island - Landing



Species list: Breeding birds of Antarctica													
English	Scientific	23-mrt	24-mrt	25-mrt	26-mrt	27-mrt	28-mrt	29-mrt	30-mrt	31-mrt	1-apr	2-apr	3-apr
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>												
Adelie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>							X					
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>					X	X		X	X			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>					X				X			
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>		X									X	
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>												
Antarctic Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialoides</i>				X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>					X	X			X	X	X	
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		X								X	X	
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	X	X	X	X						X	X	X
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>			X	X		X			X	X	X	
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>											X	
Light Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>				X				X		X		
Blue Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>			X	X			X			X	X	
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		X								X	X	
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachytila desolata</i>			X	X						X		
Kerguelen Petrel	<i>Aphrodroma brevirostris</i>										X	X	
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>						X						
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>								X				
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Fuegian Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites chilensis</i>												
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>				X		X				X		
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	X	X	X								X	
Imperial Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	X	X									X	X
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>					X	X	X	X	X			
Pale-faced Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>					X			X	X			
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	X										X	X
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	X				X	X	X	X	X		X	X

[illegible]

Adam Burke – Expedition Leader



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

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

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

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

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

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

Stefanie Liller – Asst. Exp. Leader



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

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

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!

Marco Rosso – Expedition Guide



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

Currently he is studying Earth Science at Stockholm University, Sweden.

After a few years working in the automotive industry, he decided to embark himself on a new quest. For two years he backpacked from the tropical forests of Central America, through the snowy peaks of the Andean Cordillera, rolling all the way down to the tip of South America.

The raw and powerful beauty of Patagonia convinced him to swap Mother Nature wonders for mankind artifacts. Fascinated by applied geophysics, he therefore decided to use his deep and broad knowledge in thermodynamics and fluid mechanics to satisfying his innate curiosity, thereby started to study Earth Science.

During the last decade he has been living in Puerto Natale, Chile; leading groups as a trekking guide and tour leader in some of the most beautiful and rugged trails of Patagonia and since a couple of years has started to join expeditions to the Arctic and the Antarctic on board of Oceanwide vessels.

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.

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.

Oliver von Olnhausen - Ships Doctor



Oliver is an emergency medicine physician and anaesthesiologist with a keen interest in expedition and mountain medicine.

After graduating from the Karolinska Institute in 2016, he completed a residency in emergency medicine. His passion for critical care led him to pursue a second specialty in anaesthesia and intensive care.

Oliver has a special interest in prehospital care and holds a Diploma in Mountain Medicine from the University of New Mexico. He is also course director for a

medical elective in Expedition- and Wilderness Medicine at the Karolinska Institute. His main area of research is out-of-hospital blood transfusion for major bleeding.

Oliver is an avid backcountry skier and will happily climb thousands of meters of vertical to find the perfect turns on the way down. His favourite place to ski is Riksgränsen in the north of Sweden where he has worked as a mountain rescue physician.

When he's not out chasing mountain peaks Oliver lives in central Stockholm with his labradoodle named Silver.

- 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 - Polar Circle – Whale Watching Drake Passage

Monday 24th 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.
- 1330 **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 **Albatrosses.** Please join Simon in the lounge to learn more about these iconic seabirds that we hope to see in high numbers.
- 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 25th 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.

Our lecture programme depends on the sea conditions. Please listen to announcements.

1015 **Dive Briefing.** Divers, please meet your Dive Team in the restaurant on deck 3 for our mandatory briefing.

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

Our lecture programme depends on the sea conditions. Please listen to announcements.

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

Wednesday 26th of March 2025

There might be changes in the programme depending on the conditions.

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 1000 Joyce will talk about the **dolphins and whales in the Southern Ocean**.
Please join her in the lounge to learn more about the marine wildlife we hope to see.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 Please join Koen in the lounge for **10 tips on wildlife photography** and improve your pictures and get new ideas for unique shots
- 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.

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

D'Hainaut Island & Cierva Cove

Thursday 27th of March 2025

Sunrise: 07:20

Sunset: 19:00

0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.

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

TBA **D'Hainaut Island.** This morning we hope to get you ashore in D'Hainaut Island. The little island is situated in a natural harbour of glaciated Trinity Island. You will see your first gentoo penguins and hopefully also some Weddell Seals.

Please listen to the announcements.

Divers please meet at your designated areas.

1300 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

+/-1500 **Cierva Cove.** In the afternoon we hope to do our first Zodiac cruise in Cierva Cove. This place is really scenic with a scenic glacier front, ice in the water and most plenty of wildlife. Please dress warmly.

Please listen to the announcements.

Divers 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 - Polar Circle – Whale Watching Lemaire Channel & Pleneau Island Friday 28th of March 2025

Sunrise: 0735

Sunset: 1910

- 0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0700 We will navigate through the scenic Lemaire Channel. Do not miss the opportunity to see the steep mountain while we pass this narrow gap between the continent and Booth Island.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0900 We will take you for a Zodiac cruise around Pleneau Island. We will see a iceberg graveyard and we will look for wildlife along the ice.
Please dress warmly.
- Divers, please meet at your designated areas.*
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- In the afternoon we will travel south on our way to pass the Antarctic Circle.*
- 1600 **Pioneers of the Antarctic Exploration: De Gerlache and the Belgica Expedition (1897-1899).** Join Pelin in the lounge to learn more about early exploration in Antarctica.
- 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.

Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale Watching

Detaille Island, below the Polar Circle

Saturday 29th of March 2025

Sunrise: 0755

Sunset: 19:15

0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.

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

0830 **Detaille Island.** This morning, we visit the little island south of the Polar Circle. An old abandoned station is located here and a visit feels like a travel in time. The place is quite small so we do it as a split activity. The first 4 boats we take ashore and the following 4 boats go cruising. We will swap after half of the time on shore.

When you come ashore it is a short steep approach to the hut.

Divers, please meet at your designated areas.

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

We reached our most southern point. In the afternoon we head north again, for more activities further north.

1600 **On thin ice.** Join Jacob on the lounge to learn more about the ice on our planet.

1815 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap, learn of our plans for tomorrow and for a toast crossing the Antarctic circle and our most southern point.

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

Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale Watching Paradise Harbour & Foyn Harbour Sunday 30th of March 2025

Sunrise: 07:39

Sunset: 18:55

- 0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 **Brown Station at Paradise Harbour.** This morning, we like to visit the Argentinian Brown station. The place provides a nice viewpoint over the scenic bay. We will do it as a split activity. The first 4 boats we take ashore and the following 4 boats go cruising in Paradise Bay. We will swap after half of the time on shore.
- Divers, please meet at your designated areas.*
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap, learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1600 **Foyn Harbour.** We will go for a Zodiac Cruise in the afternoon. We will visit an old ship wreck from the whaling time but we also search for whales around the bay. Dress warmly.
- Divers, please meet at your designated areas.*
- 1900 Get prepared for a **special dinner**. Dress warm.

Antarctica - Polar Circle – Whale Watching Deception Island & Half Moon Island

Monday 31th of March 2025

Sunrise: 07:27

Sunset: 18:42

- 0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Adam.
- 0700 We will pass the Neptunes Bellows, the entrance to the caldera of Deception Island. Do not miss this spectacular moment.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0815 **Whalers Bay.** In the morning, we will visit Whalers Bay, an old whaling station in the caldera of Deception island. We have the chance to see the historic remain and enjoy the true volcanic atmosphere. At the end of the landing, we will offer a polar plunge. You will bring the courage, we will bring the towels.
- Divers, please meet at your designated areas.*
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Half Moon Island.** Our last landing in Antarctica will be on the little island which is called Half Moon. The landing offers scenic views over the glaciers off Livingstons Island and we hope also to see some penguins and seals along the shore.
- Divers, please meet at your designated areas.*
- 1830 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for recap, learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 Your **dinner** will be served in the dining room.

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.

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 **Antarctic Krill.** Join Steffi in the lounge to learn more about the species that thrives the life down in Antarctica.
- 1100 **Antarctica below: Life on the deep seabed below us.** Please join Joyce in the lounge to learn more about the things underwater.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **The Blue Machine.** Join Marco in the lounge to learn more about how the polar regions influence the global ocean circulations.
- 1700 **News from our Scientist on board.** Join Giulia and Frits in the lounge to more about their progress throughout the trip.
- 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.

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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 **Greenhouse to Icehouse Prehistoric Life in Antarctica.** Join Pelin in the lounge to learn more about the past of the Antarctic continent.
- 1100 **Bird Ringing.** Simon is doing a lot of bird ringing to understand more about life of birds and their migration. Join him in the lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- At some point in the afternoon, we will collect the boots. Please listen to announcements, we will call you by deck.*
- 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.
- 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.

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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 a **blue 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.**