



# BASECAMP

EXPEDITIONS



**OCEANWIDE**  
EXPEDITIONS

WHY DO WE TRAVEL TO THE ANTARCTIC?

# IT'S OUR PASSION!

We follow the explorers and reach out to the pristine and remote Polar places not only because they are on the map but to follow our passion of pioneering true ship based expedition programs for activity minded people who wish to explore the unique wildernesses of our Polar planet: an exciting mix of dramatic landscapes, rugged mountains towering the sea, fascinating glaciers and endless ice, close wildlife encounters and the true feel of history.

## Basecamp – Our activity base

The ship becomes our base camp on selected dates. “Base camp” is by definition a temporary storing and starting place, from which an activity starts. On selected voyages (see dates & rates) we offer “activity modules” which go beyond our normal shore program. The vessel will stay for two or three days at specific locations to serve our active passengers as a comfortable hub to allow more time than usual for wide ranging activities: mountaineers

to climb mountain ranges (soft climbing), hikers to participate in long walks, photographers to explore photo opportunities, campers to enjoy life at shore base camps, kayakers and zodiac passengers to explore near shores where the ship cannot go. Passengers who do not wish to become physically active will enjoy our zodiac

excursions and follow the normal shore program and land excursions (easy to moderate walks and hikes with focus on wildlife). We aim for visiting active and manned research stations in the Antarctic.

“ **OUR PHILOSOPHY:**  
**WE KEEP SEA DAYS AS SHORT AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE ASHORE.** ”



## “Because it’s there”

George Mallory (1886-1924)

George Mallory, an English mountaineer, who took part in the first three British expeditions to Mount Everest in the early 1920s was once famously quoted as having replied to the question “Why do you want to climb Mount Everest?” with the retort: “Because it’s there”. These are regarded as the most famous three words in mountaineering.

# BASECAMP

## OUR ACTIVITIES



“Basecamp” emphasis is on activities, including: zodiac excursions, hiking, kayaking, glacier walking/mountaineering, camping and photo shooting. All activities will be conducted by trained expert guides. All adventure activities are free of charge on “Basecamp” voyages and are included in the package. On our regular voyages, activities can be booked as specialized standalone modules. These modules are supplemented by a fee. Please refer to “Basecamp” dates and activity codes on our regular voyages in the dates & rates. Please be aware that the availability of activities always depends on safe weather and ice conditions.

### Basecamp – Our guides

An international team of Polar experts and field guides is enthusiastic about sharing their in depth knowledge with lectures, briefings and field excursions. Lectures are selected and relevant to the destinations we travel to. We cover major topics like marine biology, geography, geology, glaciology, ornithology and history. Our staff is skilled, trained and qualified in the activity they are

in charge of: mountain guiding, photography, kayaking, zodiac driving. Expedition guides deliver the informative ship program and actively guide our shore excursions in different languages.

### Rubber Boots

We keep a wide variety of rubber boots on board for our guests to use free of charge. If you need an unusual size or have specific



requirements, please contact your travel agent or Oceanwide Expeditions. Our rubber boots are of high quality and will keep your feet dry, warm, and comfortable during all landings.



## ZODIAC CRUISING & SHORE PROGRAM

This is our core activity: guided shore excursions, walks and wildlife spotting and zodiac cruises are included in the fare and will be offered to all passengers during the voyages.

Our voyages are primarily defined as explorations and we spend as much time ashore as possible. We can be flexible, taking advantage of wildlife opportunities by using our zodiacs for both landings and cruises. Our knowledgeable guides assist on these outings, providing detailed information. This is supplemented by lectures on board which covers topics such as wildlife, history and true emotions.

On Basecamp voyages we offer a variety of activities (see hereunder), but participation is not obligatory.

- Kayaking
- Photo workshops
- Snowshoeing / Hiking
- Mountaineering
- Field Camping



## KAYAKING

We plan to offer 3-4 days of kayak excursions parallel to all other activities (6-7 outings morning, afternoon or evening) during designated “Basecamp” voyages.

Basic kayak experience, appropriate outdoor clothing and physical fitness is essential. The maximum number is limited to 14 kayakers per outing.

Special kayak gear will be provided: double seat kayaks, neoprene wet suits, life vests. Kayakers will bring their personal warm and protective clothes. An expedition kayak guide will supervise the activity. The kayakers will be accompanied by a safety zodiac boat.

### Basecamp voyage:

1 kayak excursion free of charge. Every passenger will be able to take advantage of at least 1 outing.



*Kayaking must be pre-booked with Oceanwide's reservation departments prior to departure (maximum 1 outing for Basecamp Plancius & Ortelius).*



## PHOTO WORKSHOP

During “Basecamp” voyages we are going to offer photo workshops for beginners and advanced photographers under the supervision of a photo expert on board.

Everyone is welcome to participate, no previous experience required. The workshop group will be accompanied by the photo expert during activity ashore. The maximum participants per photo workshop is aimed at 20 participants per outing per guide, so maximum attention can be paid to individuals. The work shop group will be taken on shore excursions whenever opportunities arise. Participants with a special interest in photography will bring their personal photo equipment.

During cruise days everyone will be able to listen into photo lectures in order to learn more about objects, exposures and photo composition. The workshop intention is not to instruct on how to use specific camera models, but more to give an insight on better photo results by respecting basic rules of photography. Photographers can also take part in other activities of their choice.

### Basecamp voyage:

Photo workshops are free of charge. The group size per outing is limited to 20 participants. Please note, we do not supply any photography equipment.



*The photo workshop must be pre-booked with Oceanwide's reservation departments prior to departure.*



## SNOWSHOEING/HIKING

We plan to offer several possibilities to become active ashore. There will be easy, moderate and more demanding walks on offer in the vicinity of the landing sites.

There are walks on offer which suit everyone's capability. We are aiming at two hikes per day, each 2 - 3 hours long during morning and/or afternoon landings (lunches onboard). Hikers are recommended to bring a proper pair of hiking boots and gaiters. Rubber boots suitable for hiking will be provided. Hikes will be guided by experienced expedition guides.

### Snowshoeing:

Especially on early departures at the beginning of the season there are still snow covered hills and close to shore. Snowshoes are easy to use and don't require any technical skills. They make it easier and safer to walk on snow surfaces. They are available free of charge for everyone on board, fit all boot sizes and can be used in combination with the Oceanwide rubber boots.

### Basecamp voyage:

The activity is free of charge.



*Snowshoeing/hiking must be pre-booked with Oceanwide's reservation departments prior to departure.*



## MOUNTAINEERING

This is a technical and more strenuous activity for mountaineers who wish to walk beyond the shore radius in order to reach higher grounds and viewpoints.

Mountaineers walk in rope parties under the leadership of a certified mountain guide mostly across glaciated environment in Antarctica. Depending on the landing site, glacier walks can vary from half day to full day outings. In general we plan to offer 4-5 glacier excursions parallel to all other activities during designated “Basecamp” voyages. Mountaineering knowledge is preferable, but not required. Physical fitness is essential. The maximum number is limited to 6 mountaineers per rope party. Special glacier equipment will be provided: ropes and carabiners, harnesses, helmets, ice axes and crampons.

Participants will bring their personal protective outdoor clothes, personal mountaineering boots suitable for crampons use may be brought with you. A qualified mountain guide and assistant will supervise and guide the activity for a maximum of 12 mountaineers at a time.

### Basecamp voyage:

1 mountaineering excursion is free of charge. Every mountaineer will be able to take advantage of at least one outing but it can be more. Space is limited to 48-60 participants, first come first served.



*Mountaineering must be pre-booked with Oceanwide's reservation departments prior to departure. Please note that some mountaineering activities may require different experience and fitness.*



## FIELD CAMPING

We plan to offer all participants one night of camping. Everyone can participate, no previous experience required.

The expedition leader and camping guides will decide the maximum number of campers per night based on local conditions and site guidelines.

Guides will conduct the activity, bringing the camping group to shore after dinner and returning to the vessel before breakfast. Camp will be made where wildlife will not be disturbed, and all necessary gear will be provided: wind and waterproof bivouac bags, mattresses, and polar sleeping bags.

Campers must bring their own warm and protective clothes. If local conditions prevent us from camping, we may attempt to camp on the open decks of the ship.



*Camp nights must be pre-booked with Oceanwide's reservation departments prior to departure (maximum 1 night).*

# ACTIVITY GROUP SELECTION PROCESS

When booking your basecamp voyage you will have the opportunity to select the activity that has your highest priority. As the conditions in Antarctica are unpredictable, we operate this method to give you the best experience possible, of course we hope that all our guests can participate in each activity once per voyage.

## **In the event of cancellations due to unsafe ice and/or weather conditions:**

- You will be moved to another activity time slot as circumstances allow.
- If there are less time slots than passenger groups, those with that activity as highest priority will participate in the next available activity time slot.
- Activity groups for mountaineering may be selected based on ability/equipment as detailed in the mountaineering section
- Briefings for each activity will be held by the activity leaders onboard.



## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

*All travel elements relating to staying on board the vessel and/or excursions or programs off the ship (such as but not limited to excursions or programs on land, including zodiac excursions) are at 100% at passenger's own risk. Oceanwide Expeditions is therefore not liable for any damage, such as but not limited to (bodily) injury, illness and death except for gross negligence. On all our transactions the general terms and conditions of Oceanwide Expeditions b.v. apply, registered at the Chamber of Commerce, Middelburg, the Netherlands. File nr.: 50590715. Upon request, a free copy will be provided.*

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