



## **Antarctica - Basecamp**

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

29 December 2024 – 10 January 2024

On board *M/V Ortelius*



*M/V Ortelius* was built in 1989 in Gdynia, Poland as a special-purpose research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science. She was originally named “Marina Svetaeva” after a well-known Russian poet. The vessel was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions in 2011, re-flagged in The Netherlands, and re-named *Ortelius*. She was extensively re-fitted in 2019 and complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea). *M/V Ortelius* is 90.95 m long, 17.2 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.4 m. She has ice class UL1 (Equivalent to 1A), 10.5 knots average cruising speed and propulsion is 6 ZL 40/48 SULZER. *Ortelius* is named after the Dutch cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* (Theatre of the World) in 1570. Her home port is Vlissingen.



## **Captain Per Andersson** [Sweden]

and his international crew of 57

Chief Officer:	<b>Nicolàs Dámeto Ordinas</b>	[Spain]
Second Officer:	<b>Warren Gamet Villaneuva</b>	[Philippines]
Third Officer:	<b>Archer Cultura</b>	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	<b>Floris Oskam</b>	[Netherlands]
Second Engineer:	<b>Jhunwel Yuzon</b>	[Philippines]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Volodymyr Cherednychenko</b>	[Ukraine]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	<b>Karolina Guziejko</b>	[Poland]
Head Chef:	<b>Ivan Yuriychuk</b>	[Ukraine]
Sous Chef:	<b>Sergei Sklyarov</b>	[Ukraine]
Bosun:	<b>Philip Malang</b>	[Philippines]
Bartender:	<b>Glaiza Loterina</b>	[Philippines]
Ship's doctor:	<b>Veronique Verhoeven</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Sara Jenner</b>	[United Kingdom]
Assistant Expedition Leader:	<b>Koen Jongerling</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Carina Jasmin Ketterer</b>	[Switzerland]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Hana Spickova</b>	[Czech Republic]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Bill Smith</b>	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Joyce Mulder</b>	[Netherlands]
Camping Guide:	<b>Jose Gonzalo Sabattini</b>	[Argentina]
Camping Guide:	<b>Hazel Marie Pittwood</b>	[United Kingdom]
Kayaking Guide:	<b>Zet Jonas Freiburghaus</b>	[Sweden]
Mountaineering Leader:	<b>Owain Peter Jones</b>	[United Kingdom]
Mountaineering Guide:	<b>Christopher John Forrest</b>	[United Kingdom]
Photography Guide	<b>Matthew Francis Harold Cheok</b>	[Australia]

**WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!**

## Day 1 – Sunday 29 December, Ushuaia, Embarkation Day.

16:00 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S / 068°17.8'W

Wind: N force 3 • Sea: n/a • Weather: Part Cloudy • Air temperature: +16°C

---



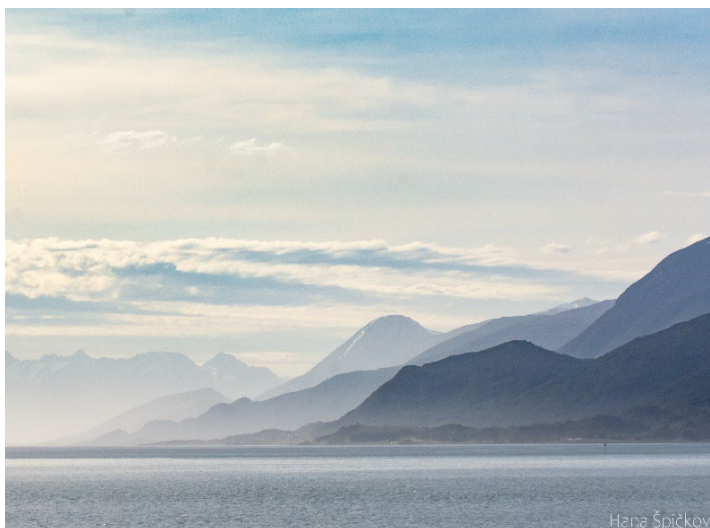
The day had finally come! It was time to leave Ushuaia and board the good ship *Ortelius* for our epic expedition. The crew and expedition team had loaded our luggage onboard and delivered it to our cabins earlier in the day. All that remained was for us to take a few photos of *Ortelius*, our home for the next ten days, before heading up the gangway.

We were warmly welcomed by the crew and expedition team who assisted us in finding our cabins. We

had some time to explore the ship, get our bearings and grab a coffee in the bar, then it was time to gather in the lecture room for the mandatory ship safety briefing where we met Expedition Leader Sara Jenner, and heard from the Safety Officer, who gave a practical demonstration on how to put on our emergency life jackets.

We underwent the abandon ship drill, putting-on our lifejackets and heading outside to be shown to the lifeboats, where we realised that we had already cast-off from the pier and our journey was underway! Following the drill, we assembled in the bar where Captain Per welcomed us with champagne and canapés, Hotel Manager Volodymyr talked about the shipboard services, and Sara gave an overview of the voyage and introduced the expedition team.

It was soon time for our first evening meal, with a delicious buffet selection prepared by Head Chef Ivan and his galley team, served by the friendly dining room staff. After dinner we were called back to the bar so that two more mandatory briefings could be delivered in the sheltered waters of the Beagle Channel. Sara first briefed us on the Antarctic Visitor Guidelines, as laid down by IAATO – the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators – of which Oceanwide is a founding member, and this was then followed by the Zodiac safety briefing.



With the formalities out of the way, many of us went onto the outside decks to enjoy what remained of the Beagle channel, marvelling at the spectacular mountains on either side in the evening light, scanning the waters for seabirds such as the Black-Browed Albatross, Magellan penguins, whales and dolphins.



## Day 2 – Monday 30 December, At Sea, Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 57°59.3'S / 065°22.6'W

Wind: S force 4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +5.2°C

---



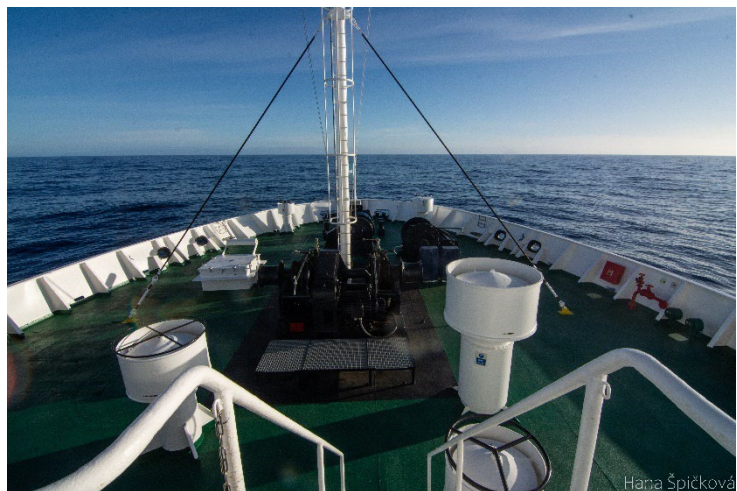
First thought as we stirred in the morning was “how rough is the sea”? We lay dozily in bed trying to assess the movement. How bad was it?

As we exited the Beagle Channel the previous evening, our imaginations had run riot as we visualised mountainous seas when crossing the notorious Drake Passage.

It was not meant to be! What a relief as we went to breakfast. A lumpy motion of Ortelius was certainly noticeable, but quite bearable for most, although a few unlucky pale faced souls were seen in the corridors apprehensively clutching little white bags.

The daily programme of activity briefing meetings commenced immediately after breakfast. We received reassurances from our kayak instructor Zet that the craft we were to paddle was extremely stable and it was therefore rare for people to capsize. He gave further advice not to let our hands dip in the frigid sea while paddling as they would become very cold. This was welcomed, although experiential learning since childhood had already taught us that frozen fingers were tear inducing!

Gonzalo, the camping guide, explained in detail everything there is to know about the high-quality sleeping bags and waterproof outers used for this activity, assuring those who were apprehensive that we would not freeze but survive an interesting night in the snowy Antarctic landscape. He explained that we would even have ‘toilet facilities’ at the site. What a ‘relief’ to learn!



Next up was Owen and Chris, the leaders of the mountaineering group. They explained in details the nature of the roped and un-roped activities at the landing sites. We were asked to bring along any boots we had brought on the voyage to check their suitability for crampons and to fill in a form indicating our level of fitness.

The leaders of each activity explained the eventual selection of groups. They would try to facilitate friendship groupings where possible. We were full of anticipation of a great time.

At various times whales and dolphins were seen as we progressed south, each announcement prompting a rush to the rails and a frantic clicking of cameras.

At recap, our artist Bill introduced a presentation of what was ahead: Looking, Seeing, Thinking, Doing, Listening, Hearing, Understanding. He was explaining that this was the Oceanwide Expeditions experience, stimulating education and endless fun.

After the usual excellent dinner, the lounge was full of passengers in the evening with most groups playing cards and savouring the restful atmosphere.



### Day 3 – Tuesday 31 December, Drake Passage, Melchoir Island

12:00 GPS Position: 62°48.8'S / 063°36.3'W

Wind: W force 4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +3°C

---

The day started with the process of signing up for the day's events. There was a buzz of energy as everyone eagerly lined up to secure spots in their favourite activities.

Our morning officially began with a fascinating presentation about whales. The onboard naturalist Hazel delivered an engaging talk that delved into the lives of these magnificent marine mammals. One of the highlights was learning about fin whales, the second-largest animals on Earth. Their immense size and speed were awe-inspiring, and the presentation set the tone for an exciting day ahead.







Not long after the presentation, we had our first wildlife encounter. From the ship's deck, we spotted several fin whales gliding gracefully through the water. The sight of their massive bodies surfacing and creating misty blows in the crisp air was breathtaking. Cameras clicked furiously as everyone tried to capture this remarkable moment.

Lunch followed soon after, offering a brief but welcome break. The dining room was filled with chatter about the whales and anticipation for the rest of the day. After lunch, we attended a session on biosecurity. This important briefing ensured that we understood the measures needed to protect the pristine environment we were exploring. The crew emphasized the importance of cleaning our gear and following strict protocols to prevent introducing any non-native species to these fragile ecosystems.

The afternoon brought another educational opportunity: a lecture about penguins. Carina shared fascinating insights into the lives of these iconic Antarctic birds. We learned about their breeding habits, adaptations to extreme cold, and the different species found in the region.



The lecture was both informative and entertaining, keeping everyone thoroughly engaged. However, halfway through, something extraordinary happened. The lecture was interrupted by the announcement that orcas had been spotted near the ship. Excitement rippled through the room as everyone rushed to the deck to catch a glimpse of these apex predators. Watching the orcas swim and breach was mesmerizing and a highlight of the day.



As if that wasn't enough, another interruption soon followed. The captain announced that we were passing a massive tabular iceberg. This enormous slab of ice was a true natural wonder. Its sheer size and perfectly flat top made it look like a frozen skyscraper floating on the sea. It was a reminder of the power and majesty of the Antarctic landscape.

The evening began with the daily recap, a cherished tradition where the expedition team reviewed the day's events. We shared stories, reflected on the highlights, and got a preview of what was planned for the next day. It was a great way to relive the day's adventures and bond with fellow travellers.

Dinner that night was a feast, with delicious dishes that satisfied everyone after such an eventful day. The atmosphere in the dining room was lively, filled with laughter and animated conversations about the day's sightings and experiences.



After dinner, the adventure continued with a zodiac cruise around Melchior Island. This experience was nothing short of magical. As we glided through the calm waters, we encountered humpback whales swimming nearby. They seemed curious about our presence, occasionally surfacing near our zodiacs and treating us to unforgettable views. The serene beauty of the island, combined with the thrilling presence of the whales, made this an experience to treasure forever.

The day concluded with a New Year's celebration in the ship's bar. The festivities were full of energy and joy. Glasses of prosecco were raised as everyone toasted to



the new year. A spirited dance competition added to the fun, with participants showing off their best moves. The countdown to midnight brought everyone together, and as the clock struck twelve, cheers filled the room. It was the perfect way to end an extraordinary day, surrounded by new friends and unforgettable memories.



#### Day 4 – Wednesday 1 January, Brown Station, Danco Island

12:00 GPS Position: 64°45.0'S / 062°39.7'W

Wind: NN force 7/8 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Fog • Air temperature: +2.3°C

---

What a remarkable way to start New Year's Day—waking up in the freezing yet breathtaking continent of Antarctica after a lively New Year's Eve celebration! With the smooth crossing of the Drake Passage behind us, the true adventures were set to begin.

We began with a zodiac cruise, which gave us a close-up look at the wildlife and scenery. We spotted nesting Antarctic shags, many with tiny chicks. These little ones, born blind and featherless, stayed tucked under their parents for warmth—a touching sight of life in such a harsh place. Deeper into the bay, we entered a quieter world. With the engine shut off, the only sounds were the soft cracking







of the ice, the distant rumble of glaciers breaking apart, and the splashes of penguins jumping playfully near our boats. The weather was perfect, with calm waters sheltered by the fjords. Some of us even saw a rolling iceberg. Although it was a small one, the way it flipped with such power reminded us how unpredictable and strong this environment can be.

We explored Brown Station from the water and heard about its fascinating history. Many years ago, a doctor, desperate to avoid another season here, set the station on fire so he could leave. Today, it's used by researchers during the summer, surrounded by colonies of Gentoo



penguins waddling around. Our zodiac cruise ended with a landing on the continent itself—our first steps in Antarctica! We took photos with the continental flag and watched Weddell seals resting peacefully on the ice. It felt amazing to finally

stand on this remote and incredible land.

After a morning filled with wonder, we returned to the ship for a hearty and warming lunch. However, the weather had begun to shift, and behind the scenes, our Expedition Leader Sara was busy at work. The afternoon plans required quick adjustments as the worsening conditions threatened our original itinerary. But in true Antarctic spirit, a new plan emerged—what better way to embrace the icy wilderness than with a polar plunge to welcome 2025?

And so, our next destination was Danco Island, a place full of Gentoo penguins and amazing views. A short hike from the landing spot gave us great sights of the bay, while others climbed higher for even more stunning views. Then it was time for the polar plunge! Passengers, staff, and crew, all joined in, cheering each other on as we took turns jumping into the freezing water. The shock of the cold was unforgettable, but it was also refreshing and fun—a perfect way to welcome 2025.

In the evening, we gathered for a recap of the day. Plans for tomorrow were shared, and we heard stories about Brown Station and the myth of Icarus. Dinner was lively, and after such an eventful day, many were ready for bed. It was the perfect start to the New Year—full of new experiences, unforgettable memories, and the kind of excitement that only Antarctica can offer. And this was just the beginning.



## Day 5 – Thursday 2 January, Flanders Bay, Jougla Point

12:00 GPS Position: 64°57.1'S / 061°31.8'W

Wind: W force 6/7 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Snow • Air temperature: +1.9°C

---

This morning, we explored Flandres Bay. As we cruised around in the zodiacs, blasted by the cold wind and dampened by snowfall we thought of that brave expedition crew who had explored the area before it was known, literally putting it on the map; it is said back then the men were made of steel whilst the boats of



wood. Conditions were a little challenging, especially for those kayaking. The glacier-lined bay was nonetheless very beautiful, and humpback whales were seen raising their tail flukes as they dived to feed which took our minds off the weather. Additionally, rafts of penguins confidently approached our vessels. They delighted everyone who watched them as they disappeared beneath the surface and zipped around underwater beneath the zodiacs. Other bird highlights included diminutive Wilson's Storm Petrels, Cape Petrel, Southern Fulmar and amazing views of pure white Snow Petrel, the 'dove of the Antarctic'. Conditions worsened as





we were cruising, and we all headed back to the ship. Having now spent a few days with Ortelius as our home, we were interested to receive a lecture from Expedition Guide Bill telling us more about the ship and what goes on behind the scenes.

After a delicious lunch of freshly made burgers, it was time for our afternoon landing at Jougla Point. Once ashore, we roamed around the Gentoo penguin colony, following the path laid out



by the expedition team. Everyone was delighted to see that some of the Gentoo penguins had tiny chicks! A few of us even observed a parent feeding its chick a regurgitated meal of krill. We could see Port Lockroy, aka the Penguin Post Office, the most southerly post office in the world on the neighbouring island. We also enjoyed a short zodiac cruise in the surrounding bay watching seals resting on the rocks. You might think the day was then over, but no, not yet! We were treated to an amazing after dinner experience as the ship transited through the Lemaire Channel, a narrow passage flanked by towering snow-covered mountains. The scenery alone was enough to leave us in awe, but our enjoyment was further enhanced by the many humpback whales, particularly a close swim-by of a mother and calf. What a wonderful spectacle to

end the day! As we finished the transit through the channel, we could see Hovgaard Island and nearby Port Charcot which was our areas of exploration for the next day!



## Day 6 – Friday 3 January, Port Charcot, Iceberg Graveyard

12:00 GPS Position: 65°04.2'S / 064°02.3'W

Wind: S force 3/4 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +0.5°C

---



We woke up to a foggy morning that soon cleared into sunshine at Port Charcot. Port Charcot is a favourite landing site for many of the guides for its diversity, glacial scenery, and its wildlife. It is a Historic site of Charcot's 1st French Antarctic Expedition. It was first mapped in 1904 and the expedition used Port Charcot as its base for exploring the area. A cairn

can still be seen at the top of the hill as well as remains of their stone-built hut. All three pygoscelid species of penguins' nest on the island, gentoo, chinstrap and Adelie.

The day began with a proper leg stretch and two hiking options. One path was leading uphill towards a cairn. From the top the views were stunning towards Pléneau Island, overlooking 'the iceberg graveyard'. This iceberg graveyard was later explored on a spectacular Zodiac cruise. The second hiking path led to a colony of gentoo penguins, followed by a stop at





remains of a stone built Magnetic hut that was used for astronomical observations and magnetic measurements. Among all the gentoo penguins, we were able to see the other two species as well, followed by hungry Skuas waiting to steal penguins' eggs or chicks.

The sunny weather continued as we embarked on a Zodiac cruise through an iceberg graveyard, encountering very closely leopard seals and humpback whales that were just a few meters from us. We experienced iceberg calving and falling in the water with a sound of thunder and creating waves that were rocking us on our boats. We cruised around breathtaking ice arches and ice sculptures that appeared blue in the sunshine.

As if it was not enough of experiences, the highlight of the day was a close encounter with orcas. We witnessed orcas hunting for a poor chinstrap penguin right next to our Ortelius ship!

The day ended with a delicious dinner, leaving everyone with sun-tanned faces and unforgettable memories.

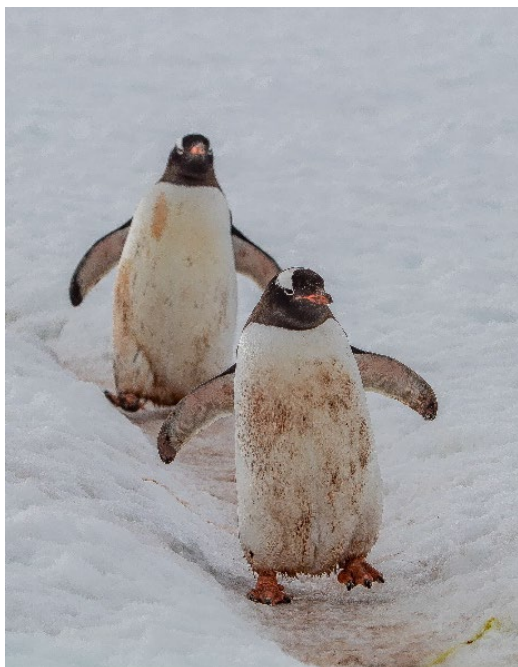


## Day 7 – Saturday 4 January, Damoy Point, Paradise Harbour, Leith Cove

12:00 GPS Position: 64°43.1'S / 063°07.2'W

Wind: N force 4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Clear sky • Air temperature: +1.8°C

---



Our day began with an early wake-up call, signalling the start of an unforgettable adventure. As we sailed toward Damoy Point, Antarctica's icy beauty unfolded in front of us with snow-covered mountains and towering glaciers. We landed at Damoy Point, where we explored two historic huts: the British Antarctic Survey Hut and an Argentinian hut. These structures, once used by explorers, stood as quiet reminders of past expeditions.

Nearby, we found a lively Gentoo Penguin colony. It was magical watching the penguins waddle along the snow and dive into the freezing water. Their playful nature added a special touch to our stop here.

The mountaineers were the first to venture out, facing strong winds as they climbed the icy slopes. The conditions were tough, but the views from the top were endless white landscapes and jagged glaciers stretched as far as we could see. Unfortunately, the strong winds also meant that the kayaking trip had to be cancelled, which was disappointing, but we found other ways to stay engaged.

Back on the ship, we had an informative session with Koen, who explained the vital ecological role of sea ice. He shared how sea ice is essential to Antarctic life, supporting penguins, seals, and marine ecosystems. It was fascinating to learn how this unique environment works and how crucial it is to protect it.



After lunch, we sailed into the stunning Paradise Harbour. The mountaineers and kayakers set off again, this time using snowshoes to climb a nearby hill. The snowshoes made the climb easier, and the panoramic view from the top was breathtaking.





Meanwhile, we took a Zodiac cruise around the Chilean Gonzales Videla research station. It was amazing to see the work being done in such a remote location.

During the cruise, we had an incredible encounter with humpback whales. These giant creatures swam gracefully through the icy waters, and we were lucky enough to see a raft of penguins following them. The sight was magical with whales and penguins coexisting in this pristine environment.

As the day ended, we anchored at Leith Cove for an unforgettable night of camping. We spent the evening building snow shelters, enjoying the peaceful Antarctic landscape.

This day was full of adventure, wildlife, and unforgettable moments, making it a truly extraordinary experience.



## Day 8 – Sunday 5 January, Orne Harbour, Foyn Harbour

12:00 GPS Position: 64°31.9'S / 062°16.8'W

Wind: NE force 4/5 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +1.7°C

---

It was an early start for the campers, who were picked up at 5:00 AM. The previous night had been magical. The weather was perfect, and the yellow skies glowing behind the mountains made everything feel serene. It was a peaceful night, filled with the natural sounds of glaciers cracking and Antarctic terns flying by. Onboard the ship, breakfast was served a bit later than usual, giving everyone a chance to sleep in after the mountaineers and kayakers had departed.



As the morning went on, the rest of us got ready for our next adventure: a trip to Orne Harbour, our second continental landing of this journey. We boarded the zodiacs and began our trip towards the shore. The hike to the top of Orne Harbour was challenging, with a steep zigzag path that required effort, but it was all worth it. At the summit, the view was breathtaking. We could see the entire bay stretching out, surrounded by snow-capped peaks. To make things even better, Chinstrap penguins were waiting for us at the top! Some of them had newly hatched chicks, tiny and





fluffy, a sight that warmed everyone's hearts.



From our perch, we could see the kayakers gliding through the water below. The sound of glaciers calving echoed across the bay, adding to the grandeur of the scene. Eventually, it was time to make our way back down the steep hillside and return to the ship for a warm lunch.

After lunch, the ship set sail for Foyen Harbour, a spot known for its rich wildlife and fascinating history. Once there, we hopped into zodiacs for a cruise around the area. This bay is home to various animals and a shipwreck—the *Governoren*. This whaling ship caught fire just nine days after the sinking of the famous *Endurance*. The captain ran it aground to save all 84 crew



members, and thankfully, everyone survived. Now, nature has claimed the wreck, with nesting Antarctic terns making it their home. The sight of the front of the ship out of the water and the rest beneath the surface wreck with blue glacier walls in the background was incredible.

As we explored the area, we spotted Weddell seals resting lazily on the ice and Antarctic shags nesting nearby. To our surprise, we even found an elephant seal deep in the bay. It was a fantastic spot for wildlife viewing.



After the zodiac cruise, we returned to the ship to warm up and enjoy a delicious dinner. The second group of campers eagerly waited to hear if they could camp that night. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't on our side, and camping had to be cancelled. However, Sara, came up with an exciting alternative plan for the next day, keeping everyone's spirits high.

### Day 9 – Monday 6 January, Portal Point, Palaver Point, BBQ

12:00 GPS Position: 64°21.0'S / 061°48.1'W

Wind: NW force 4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Cloudy • Air temperature: +2.9°C

---

After last night's planned camping had to be cancelled due to snowfall, we were excited and amused to be offered an alternative: morning camping at Portal Point! Since there were 24 hours of the daylight, and perfect conditions, Expedition Leader Sara decided to make the most of the opportunity to get the second camping group ashore for the experience. The campers enjoyed their Sunday morning basking in



the Antarctica scenery and sunshine for a quiet couple of hours in cozy sleeping bags. Meanwhile, others were not so still! A mountaineering group led by Owain and Chris hiked from the Portal Point landing site until reaching a heavily crevassed area, after what they turned back after relishing the spectacular views they achieved from their higher viewpoint. The kayakers paddled under Zet's leadership along the coast seeking the sheltered waters of the





bay behind the camping site where they were rewarded with views of an elephant seal. Those not engaged in the aforementioned activities went on a zodiac cruise with the rest of the Expedition Team and were treated to views of Humpback Whales, Chinstrap Penguins, Antarctic Shags and beautiful icebergs in the vicinity of Two Hummock Island within Charlotte Bay.

Around midday we were all back on board for lunch as Ortelius got underway towards the proposed site for our afternoon activities: Palaver Point. As we continued on the route, Bill gave



an insightful lecture about large scale fishing operations and their impact upon our oceans. On reaching Palaver Point we met with heavy swell and high winds. It was immediately apparent that kayaking would not be possible, but the expedition team dropped a zodiac to test if conditions would allow a landing. Unfortunately, the

heavy swell was causing big waves not only at the gangway of the ship but also at the landing site, making it impossible to go ashore safely. With the plan to go ashore abandoned, Sara



gave her impassioned lecture about threats to the oceans and inspired us all to do what we could to protect them.

The bridge team took Ortelius in search of a suitably sheltered spot for our evening BBQ which they skillfully achieved. After the recap, we put on our warm clothes and headed out to the helideck for our evening meal with music, singing, dancing, free drinks and spectacular Antarctic scenery as a backdrop.



## Day 10 – Tuesday 7 January, Deception Island

12:00 GPS Position: 62°58.9'S / 063°33.7'W

Wind: N/W force 5/6 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Rain • Air temperature: +3°C

---

We were advised to wake up early and get out on deck to experience Ortelius navigating an



intimidating narrow entrance of the 'Neptune's Bellows' channel on a Deception Island. The experience did not disappoint, as we crowded the bulwarks in the rain feeling rather small as the crumbling dark lava cliffs towered above us only a few metres from the hull. We emerged into a natural harbour created by the vast caldera. We sailed several kilometres across to the site of Telefon Bay where we landed to walk the steep



depositions of lava gravel. The expedition guides had marked out the route, and the path led along the exposed ridge.



The wind was gusting strongly, and clouds hung over the high ground all adding to the menace of the monochromatic landscape. It was a dramatic change from the snow-covered mountains of the Antarctic peninsula. A sleeping young elephant seal provided a photo diversion as we left for Ortelius for lunch.

In the afternoon, Ortelius sailed back towards Neptune's Bellows and dropped an anchor off the at the old whaling station and research base called Whalers Bay. The shoreline was littered with rusty architecture of the former station, crumbling buildings destroyed by a volcanic eruption and multi-rust coloured distorted storage tanks. You could imagine the base in its heyday but now the place expressed a sad decay. We meandered through the eroded buildings and buckled tanks whilst sharing the place with some curious Chinstrap and Gentoo penguins. Most of us then walked along the shoreline to climb a steep path to the Neptune's Window. This gave us a great vantage point to view the bay and Port Foster although it was hard to stand at the top as wind was blowing so hard. Bill



was the guardian of the area, marling out how far back from the crumbling edge we should stand.



Once we were all thorough soaked and cold, we returned to Ortelius. She upped an anchor and sailed out in a lumpy sea setting course for Ushuaia.

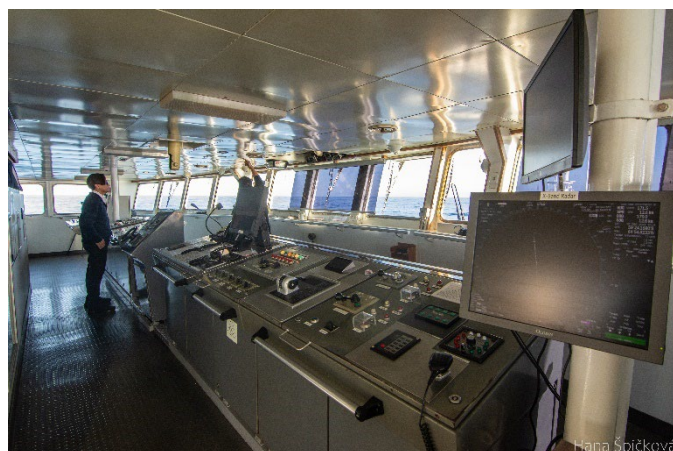
Now we would find out what the Drake had in store for us!

### Day 11 – Wednesday 8 January, At sea, Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 60°16.4'S / 064°39.8'W

Wind: NE force 6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 4.1°C

---



We woke up slightly apprehensive. Today is the first day of our two-day crossings of 'The Drake', one of the most hyped 'so called notorious' sea areas in the world. But as we checked the movement, it was not as expected. Nothing even remotely like it! A gentle slow rolling and only the reassuring powerful sound of our ever-reliable engines expected us. We could go safely to a leisurely breakfast! It felt like a holiday as we had just a relaxing

programme of lectures.



Bill was the first to lecture with another of his Looking - Seeing – Thinkings presentations called Paintings of the Sea, in which he explained the meaning of the sea by using examples from art through the ages giving considerable “food for thought”. ‘We are but nothing in relation to nature and the scheme of things’ was a continuing theme through the perspective of the art history.

Koen followed mid-morning with a thoroughly researched early days of Antarctic exploration. What drove these heroic sailors to venture into the unknown, to risk danger in this icy vastness? It was a stimulating presentation which encouraged us to read more about this enormous continent.



Our fantastic captain Per, a captain like no other, conducted a Q&A session to a crowded lounge in the afternoon. He answered a range of questions related to the operation of Ortelius and his previous nautical experiences in his long and varied career. His responses were in his usual frank and good-natured manner providing an amusing informative entertainment enjoyed by all.

Later in the afternoon, the deck crew were seen dressed in fire-fighting gear and breathing apparatus dragging high pressure water hoses through the corridors as they conducted one of their regular training exercises. It was interesting to have these reminders of the complexities of the operation of Ortelius and reassuring to see their professionalism.

At 4.00 pm, just after we had been enticed to the lounge by promises of a cake and coffee, Hana delivered her lecture “How to observe the ocean under 400m thick ice shelf in Antarctica”, describing research and logistics at one of the Norwegian research bases in Antarctica.

The staff was asked during the daily recap to list the places they would have liked to visit on the peninsula during the voyage and what was their highlight moment of the voyage. The responses were, as expected, very variable.

A surprisingly relaxing first day in the 'Drake ended with a vibrant atmosphere in the bar, filled with a mix of familiar voices, and an occasional burst of laughter.

## Day 12 – Thursday 9 January, At sea, Cape Horn

12:00 GPS Position: 56°19.3'S / 067°19.7'W

Wind: SW force 9 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air temperature: +7°C

---



We awoke to overcast skies and three metre swells on our final day at sea, the conditions were uninspiring but the brilliant numbers of Southern Royal and Wandering Albatrosses gliding serenely around the ship certainly were not. They were giving amazing views as they cruised effortlessly on the wind behind the ship, often within a few metres – a wonderful start to the day. The coast of South America soon appeared on the horizon.

The days programme started soon after, with Joyce giving a presentation about the life on the deep seabed, followed by Hazels talk about krill, the cornerstone species in Antarctica. We continued north to the closest point to Cape Horn that Chilean authorities allow us to be.

We could see the small dwelling perched on the cliff which doubles as the military lookout and the famous sculpture on the cliff-edge with the poem below inscribed next to it, in memory of the many mariners who lost their lives trying to round this unforgiving stretch of coast.



*I am the albatross that waits for you at the end of the World.  
I am the forgotten souls of dead sailors  
who passed Cape Horn from all the oceans of the Earth.  
But they did not die in the furious waves.  
Today they fly on my wings towards eternity,  
in the last trough of the Antarctic winds.*

The rest of the afternoon passed serenely with views towards the southernmost point of South America, Cape Horn. Later, Sara gave an inspiring presentation about Women in Antarctica.



Then it was time for Captains Cocktails in the bar, the showing of the slideshow of the trip, put together by Matt, a fantastic final dinner and then time to reflect on a wonderful expedition.

### Day 13 – Friday 10 January, Ushuaia, disembarkation day

08:00 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S / 068°17.9'W

Wind: N force 2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly cloudy • Air temperature: +10°C

---

We arrived in Ushuaia early morning, with many folks up and about to see us dock in beautiful conditions. It was a calm morning, with the surrounding mountains bathed in a few early morning sunrays that were coming through a thin layer of clouds.

The crew and Expedition Team handled all the luggage and placed it on the pier, while we enjoyed one last buffet breakfast. At 08:30 it was time to leave the ship, the voyage over, and time to go our separate ways. Fond farewells were exchanged on the dock, as our band of intrepid adventurers dispersed and began the long journey home. For some of us, it was just the beginning of the next chapter in our own personal travel story.

**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1788 nautical miles.**  
**Southernmost position: 65°08.3'S / 064°04.3'W (Salpetriere Bay).**

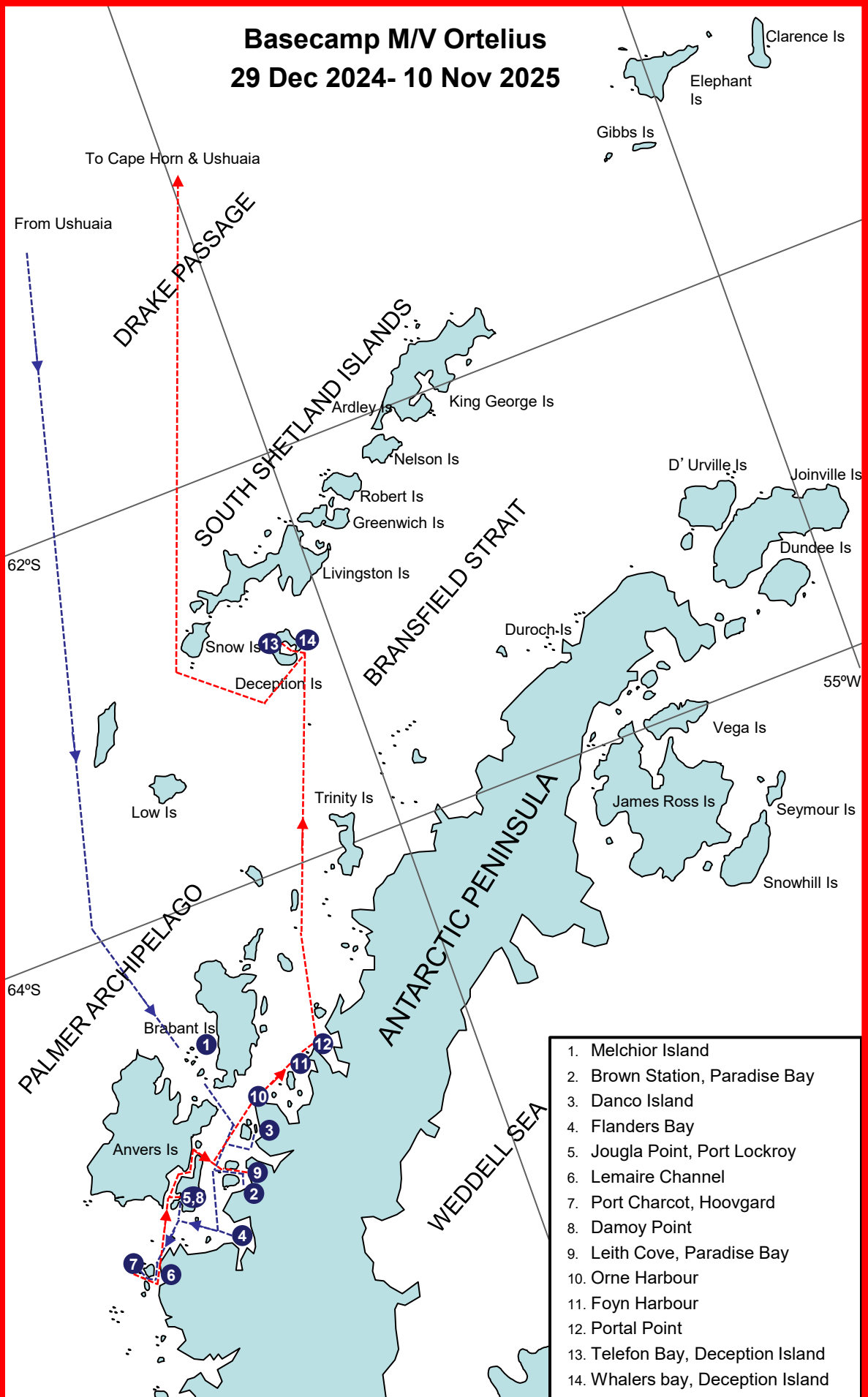
On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Per Andersson, Expedition Leader Sara Jenner, Hotel Manager Volodymyr Cherednychenko and all the crew and staff of *M/V Ortelius*, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!

## Your Oceanwide Expeditions Team



# Basecamp M/V Ortelius

## 29 Dec 2024- 10 Nov 2025





## Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region

**Ortelius: Basecamp, 29th December 2024 - 10th January 2025**

[illegible]

Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>												
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	X											
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				X		X	X	X		X		
Snowy (Pale-faced) Shearwater	<i>Chionis alba</i>				X				X				
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>	X											
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>			X	X			X	X	X			
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta lonnbergi</i>												
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	X											
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	X											
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>				X			X	X	X	X		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea?</i>							X					

[illegible]



---

# Sara Jenner – Expedition Leader

---



For as long as Sara could remember she has had a passion for travel and searching for the wildest and most remote places on earth.

Back in the UK when she was only 10, she remembers trading in her favourite pink bicycle for the money to start her travel fund. Every birthday and Christmas she added a little more in the kitty and finally, at 18 she realised her dream of diving at the Great Barrier Reef! At that point the travel addiction was born. Ever since Sara has been travelling the globe in search of wild and remote places and has spent many

months volunteering on wildlife conservation projects in a bid to help some of our most iconic and endangered species.

Sara's love of wildlife and the great outdoors has taken her to all seven continents, and she has travelled extensively in the polar regions including the Antarctic Peninsula, Weddell Sea, Ross Sea, Falklands, South Georgia, NZ and Australian Sub Antarctic Islands, Spitsbergen, Greenland, Iceland, Baffin Island and Canadian High Arctic. Returning to the UK, Sara used this knowledge to work in the travel industry as a polar specialist for several years, until the travel bug hit again, when she decided to swap life on the land for a life at sea and joined the Oceanwide Expedition Team in 2016.

During 2020-2021 she worked extensively on a leopard seal identification project and took the opportunity to fulfil a lifetime dream of visiting South Georgia in winter by working on the M/V Pharos, which is deployed by the South Georgia Government as a fishery patrol vessel.

Sara is a keen wildlife photographer and when she is not wrapped up warm in the polar regions she enjoys working as a photographic guide in Botswana, on the beautiful Chobe River and Okavango Delta, so really has a life of two halves.

---

# Koen Jongerling - Asst. Exp. Leader

---



Having grown up in the Netherlands Koen always knew he wanted to live in a more rugged landscape than the rather flat lowlands that surrounded him. That is why after finishing his outdoor education in 2011, he choose to move to Patagonia, Chile to find the mountains he was longing for.

Combining his love for nature and the desire to learn more, he started guiding expeditions through the mountain ranges of Patagonia. Travelling back and forth to Europe for additional mountain courses - every time feeling more at home in the rough conditions of Patagonia. In 2017 he started his own guide company, introducing travelers to the beauty of Southern Chile.

Living in Puerto Natales he came to love the cold and extreme weather and after years of working in one of the most southern mountain ranges in the world, he could not stop looking further south to the great white continent, Antarctica.



---

# 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!

---

# Hana Spickova – Expedition Guide

---



Hana is a chemist who is working the last two years at the University Centre on Svalbard. She comes originally from the Czech Republic and has spent the last 11 years in Norway.

Her love for nature and outdoor life brought her first to Tromsø in Northern Norway where she did her master degree while working as a northern light guide, photographer, dog sledding guide and dog handler. She likes to spend her free time in the mountains skiing, hiking, kayaking and diving. She spent two years traveling to Asia, Africa, South America and Patagonia. She worked as

a volunteer in rescue stations for wild animals in Bolivia and Peru and as a humanitarian helper in Iraq, Rwanda and Ethiopia. After finishing her studies, she has been working as an analytical chemist in Norway. Her curiosity and enthusiasm for outdoor life brought her all the way to Svalbard where she enjoys ski touring, dog sledding and exploring new places on a snowmobile. She speaks Czech, English and Norwegian.



---

# Bill Smith – Expedition Guide

---



“Super Bill” as described by his colleagues and clients, is a fun-loving outdoor pursuits enthusiast, cartoonist and former Head of Art and Design Education at Ellon Academy Aberdeenshire.

Bill joined Oceanwide Expeditions as a guide when Plancius was built and over the last few years has become addicted to the Polar Regions.

He has 58 years’ experience of Art and Design Education and Design for Industry. Plus 58 years leading and instructing a range of outdoor pursuits.

Bill delights in producing humorous cartoon logs of each trip and operates as an Artist / Designer / Illustrator / Cartoonist

Aside from his artistic commitments Bill is qualified instructor in a range of Royal Yachting Association disciplines including sailing, windsurfing and powerboating. He is also a British Canoe Union Open Canoe Instructor and British Caving Association Local Cave leader. He is a safety expert in these fields.

During the winter at home Bill is a National Patroller for the British Association of Ski Patrollers and in addition is a member of Member of the Federation Internationale de Patrolles De Ski.

As Bill lives in the North-west of Scotland he is President of Lochinver Highland Games Committee and former Chieftain Assynt Highland Games.

Bill is an Honorary Member Assynt Crofters Trust and recently awarded Honorary Lifetime Guardian of Island of South Georgia.

---

# 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.



---

# Gonzalo Sabattini- Expedition 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.

---

# Hazel Pittwood – Expedition Guide

---



Hazel grew up in the county of Dorset on the South coast of the UK. A childhood spent pond dipping, bug hunting and exploring the countryside and coast nurtured her love of the natural world.

She has worked in practical conservation and community engagement roles for a variety of habitats, including heathland and coastal nature reserves. Hazel also has experience surveying rare protected species and is a trained wildlife rescue volunteer and marine mammal medic.

Whilst she is broadly learned about the natural world, Hazel has specialised in marine mammals and seabirds since 2014. At that time, she began volunteering as a marine mammal and seabird surveyor, collecting sightings data regarding these animals for UK based conservation charities. In 2017 she worked on a passenger ship travelling between the UK and Spain across the Bay of Biscay for six months, delivering talks and leading wildlife watching sessions out on deck.

Hazel has been working as a guide and lecturer on cruise ships for over three years. This role has taken her to Norway and Svalbard, Iceland, Alaska, Canada, the Faroe Islands, the Canary Islands, the Caribbean and Central America. She is a World Cetacean Alliance certified responsible whale watching guide, championing the highest standards of wildlife experiences.

The polar regions host an incredible diversity of seabird and marine mammal species, and Hazel looks forward enhancing your encounters with these incredible animals with her knowledge, skills and enthusiasm.



---

## Zet Freiburghaus – Kayak Leader

---



Zet is a former successful member of the Swedish national kayak team who after his active career has travelled around the world.

Just last year he hiked and rode a horse in the Tien Shen mountains of Kyrgyzstan and explored big parts of Ethiopia, where he saw the Ethiopian wolf and were standing on the rim on an active volcano.

His sharp eyes and great experience in nature implies he rarely misses an animal.

Zet has a Master of Science in Biology from Lund University.

Today he works as a guide with the whole world as his office. Zet is very excited to share his enthusiasm and energy on board our vessels this season.

---

## Owain Jones – Mountain Leader

---



Owain is a fully certified IFMGA Mountain Guide and full member of the British Association of Mountain Guides.

Owain started climbing and mountaineering with his father at the age of nine and the passion continues to this day. He has led several mountaineering expeditions and glacial treks in the Indian and Nepalese Himalaya. On ski he has led remote first ascents in East Greenland.

His experience as a mountain guide in the European Alps, on foot and ski, spans many seasons and includes more than fifty successful summits of Mont Blanc with his clients.

Rock climbing and ice climbing are his foremost passions, and he has made several first ascents across these disciplines in the United Kingdom. Owain takes great pride in helping others fully experience the mountain environment; not just leading but using every available opportunity to share his knowledge and top tips!

In addition to his work as a Mountain Guide, Owain is a professionally qualified youth worker and safety consultant for outdoor educational activities with young people in the United Kingdom.



---

# Chris Forrest – Mountain Guide

---



Chris has retired from the Joint Services Mountain Training as chief instructor.

He was a former senior instructor at Plas y Brenin and an instructor at Glenmore Lodge.

Chris is an UIAGM guide, Level 5 kayak and canoe coach, climber, skier, paddler and family man.

His motivation is developing people to enjoy the outdoor environment whether it is in the mountains, sea or journeying down rivers.

His career has taken him to the far corners of the globe, yet he still enjoys discovering new places.

---

# 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!

---

# Veronique Verhoeven – Ships doctor

---



No one wants to get sick on the ship!!

....but if you do, you are in the good hands of ship's doctor Veronique.

When she was nine years old, her grandma gave her for Christmas a book on Christopher Columbus, which fascinated her so much that she decided she wanted to become an explorer too.

For years she fell asleep at night dreaming of future great adventures.

However, soon she found out that many of these explorers die young, poor and miserable, and she decided to change career.

That is how she ended up being an emergency doctor and a Professor in general practice at the University of Antwerp, Belgium.

Her first experience in the polar regions was a trekking expedition with scientists in Svalbard in 2005, where she acted, besides as the doctor, also as a cook and a watch keeper for polar bears at night. Since this wonderful experience, she has returned to the Arctic and the Antarctic every year, with Oceanwide Expeditions.

Among her hobbies are whitewater kayaking, kitesurfing and playing the oboe in an orchestra.





## Antarctic Basecamp Welcome aboard!

Date: 29 December 2024

Day 1: Ushuaia - Embarkation

Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check you have received all your luggage! Tea/coffee is available in the bar located on Deck 6.

### PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 17:00+/- Ship safety briefing, in the **Lecture Room on Deck 3**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**. After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket. All guests will go to their **MUSTER STATION** which the **Bar on Deck 6**.
- 18:00+/- Please join the Expedition Team and Captain in the **Bar on Deck 6** for a celebratory toast to the forthcoming voyage. This will be followed by a welcome briefing by the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days.
- 19:00 Buffet dinner in the **Restaurant on Deck 4**.
- 20:15 Please join Sara, the Expedition Leader, in the **Bar on Deck 6** for the **Mandatory IAATO and Zodiac Briefing** and to hear more about plans for the forthcoming days. Attendance will be checked.

Please note that tonight we will be sailing into the open sea. Take your seasickness medication before you really feel the movements of the vessel, the doctor will be available in the bar after dinner to assist with such matters. Make sure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed. Walk slowly on the ship, always use one hand for yourself and one for the ship and beware of your fingers because of doors slamming!

*"All things considered there are only two kinds of men in the world; those that stay at home and those that do not, the latter are more interesting." - Rudyard Kipling*



## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 30 December 2024

Day 2: Drake Passage - At Sea

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 The Expedition team will hand out your rubber boots. You will be called, deck-by-deck to the Lecture Room, so please listen to announcements. Bring your thick socks to find the best-sized boots for you!
- 10:00 Please join Owain and Chris in the Bar for the **Mandatory Mountaineering briefing**.
- 12:00 Please join Zet in the Bar for the **Mandatory Kayak briefing**.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 Please join Hazel and Gonzalo for the **Mandatory Camping Briefing** in the Bar.
- Please note that we will be checking attendance to all the mandatory activity briefings, if you do not attend, you will not be able to participate in the activity. Unfortunately, we cannot make any exceptions to this rule.**
- 16:15 Please join Matt in the Bar for a presentation about Photography - Tips on how to take great photos.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap, this is a daily event where we go through what we have seen during the day and plans for tomorrow.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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

*"You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore"*  
- Christoph Columbus



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Antarctic Basecamp New Years Eve!



Date: 31 December 2024

Day 3: Approaching Antarctica, Melchior Islands

07:45 Wake-up call.

08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

09:00+ Please join the activity group leaders in the Bar, you will be called in small groups, please listen to announcements. If you have your own mountaineering boots, please bring them with you and your completed mountaineering questionnaire.

11:30 Please join Hazel in the Bar for her lecture about Whales of the Southern Ocean.

12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

13:30+ During the afternoon we will call you deck by deck for the **MANDATORY IATTO Biosecurity** in the **Bar**. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica for the Expedition Staff to check. Please ensure everything is clean before proceeding to the Lecture room and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have been approved by the Expedition Team.

16:15 Carina invites you to join her in the Bar for a lecture about Penguins.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

After dinner we hope to take you for a Zodiac cruise of the Melchior Islands, more details will be given at recap.

**New Year's Eve Celebrations in the Bar.**

*"When your feet are cold, cover your head." - Inuit proverb*





## Antarctic Basecamp Happy New Year!

Date: 1 January 2025

Day 4: Brown Station and Orne Islands.

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:15 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 1** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots. There will be a light breakfast served for you in the Bar from 06:45.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:30 Please could the **Kayak Group 1** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 08:45+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing at Brown Station.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 13:15 Koen welcomes you to the Bar for a short presentation about the ecological importance of sea ice.
- 14:30 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 2** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 15:00 Please could the **Kayak Group 2** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 15:00+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing at Orne Islands.
- 18:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:30 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

*"It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves" - Edmund Hillary*



## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 2 January 2025

Day 5: Flanders Bay and Jougla Point.

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:15 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 3** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots. There will be a light breakfast served for you in the Bar from 06:45.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:30 Please could **Kayak Group 3** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 08:45+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a Zodiac cruise of Flanders Bay.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 13:15 Bill invites you to the Bar for a presentation about M/V Ortelius - A look behind the scenes.
- 15:00 Please could the **Kayak Group 4** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 15:00+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a landing and Zodiac cruise of Jougla Point.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

After dinner we will transit down the Lemaire Channel, nicknamed Kodiak Gap, as it is considered one of the most photographic parts of the Antarctica Peninsula.

*"An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered. An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered." - G. K. Chesterton*



## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 3 January 2025

Day 6: Port Charcot and Iceberg Graveyard

- 07:00 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 4** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots. There will be a light breakfast served for you in the Bar from 06:30.
- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:30 Please could the **Kayak Group 5** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 08:45+/- We would like to invite all other guests to the gangway for a landing at Port Charcot.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 13:15 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 5** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 14:00 Please could the **Kayak Group 6** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 14:00+/- We would like to invite all other guests to the gangway for a Zodiac cruise of the Iceberg Graveyard.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Buffet dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- Depending on weather conditions, we hope to take **Camping Group 1** ashore for a night on the ice. This would take place after dinner, more information regarding timings will be given at daily recap.

*"The difficult is what takes a little time; the impossible is what takes a little longer –  
Fridtjof Nansen*





## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 4 January 2025

Day 7: Damoy Point and Paradise Harbour.

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:15 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 6** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots. There will be a light breakfast served for you in the Bar from 06:45.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:30+/- We would like to invite all other guests to the gangway for a landing at Damoy Point
- 08:30 Please could the **Kayak Group 7** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 11:45 Koen will give a lecture about the ecological importance of Sea Ice.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group 7** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 15:00 Please could the **Kayak Group 8** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 15:00+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a Zodiac cruise of Paradise Harbour.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Buffet dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

Depending on weather conditions, we hope to take campers ashore for a night on the ice. This would take place after dinner, more information regarding timings will be given at daily recap.

*"A journey is a person in itself, no two are alike. And all plans, safeguards, policies, and coercion are fruitless. We find after years of struggle that we do not take a trip, a trip takes us." - John Steinbeck*



## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 5 January 2025

Day 8: Orne Harbour and Foyen Harbour.

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:30 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 09:30 Please could the **Kayak Group** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 09:30+/- We would like to invite all other guests to the gangway for a landing at Orne Harbour.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 13:45 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 14:30 Please could the **Kayak Group** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 14:30+/- We would like to invite all other guests to the gangway for a Zodiac cruise of Foyen Harbour, Enterprise Island.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Buffet dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- Depending on weather conditions, we hope to take **Camping Group 1** ashore for a night on the ice. This would take place after dinner, more information regarding timings will be given at daily recap.

*"It must be remembered that the men whose desires lead them to the untrodden paths of the world have generally marked individuality." - Sir Ernest Shackleton*



## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 6 January 2025

Day 9: Portal Point and Palaver Point.

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 07:30 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 08:00 We hope to take **Camping Group 1** for a morning on the ice.
- 08:15 Please could the **Kayak Group** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 08:45+/- We would like to invite **all other guests** to the gangway for a Zodiac cruise of Charlotte Bay.
- 12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 14:15 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 14:45 Please could the **Kayak Group** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 14:45+/- We would like to invite all other guests to the gangway for a landing at Palaver Point.
- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served outside, please dress warmly!

*"Mystery creates wonder, and wonder is the basis of man's desire to understand."*

*-Neil Armstrong*





## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 7 January 2025

Day 10: Deception Island.

- 07:00 Wake-up call.  
We will sail into Deception Island; we encourage you to be on the outside decks to enjoy this remarkable navigation. The caldera has a narrow entrance, just 230 metres (755 feet) wide, called Neptune's Bellows. Navigating a ship through the bellows can be very tricky, adding to the hazard is Ravn Rock, which lies 2.5 metres (8.2 feet) below the water in the middle of the channel. Remains of a shipwreck, a Norwegian whale catcher that hit Ravn Rock in 1957, can still be seen in the passage.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:00 We hope to take the **Mountaineering Group** ashore, please meet in the Lecture Room, fully dressed, with your appropriate boots.
- 08:45 Please could the **Kayak Group** meet Zet in the Heli Hanger on Deck 6. Please be dressed in your base layer and have any bags, cameras, water bottle etc. you wish to take with you.
- 08:45 We invite all other passengers for a landing at Telefon Bay.
- 12:15 We will show a short film (10 mins) about the last eruption of Deception Island and its whaling history.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 14:00+/- We hope to take you ashore at Whalers Bay in Deception Island.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.  
19:00 Dinner will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

*Please note that tonight we will be sailing into the open sea. Take your seasickness medication before you really feel the movements of the vessel, the doctor will be available in the bar after dinner to assist with such matters. Make sure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed.*

*"Anything more wonderful than the polar night does not exist. It is a dream-like sight. It is a light poem of all the finest and most delicate tones of the soul. - Fritjof Nansen*



## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 8 January 2025

Day 11: Drake Passage.

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 10:45 Koen invites you to the Bar for a presentation titled 'Exploration of Antarctica until 1900'.
- 12:00 We will call you to the Lecture Room to return your Muck boots and hire rental clothing, please listen for announcements.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 13:45 Please join Captain Per in the Bar for a Question-and-Answer session, ensure your questions for him are in the box before lunch time.
- 16:15 Please join Hana in the Bar for a lecture about 'How to observe the ocean below a 400m thick ice shelf in Antarctica'.
- 18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap! There will be some important information given about disembarkation, settling accounts etc. therefore, we encourage at least one person from each group to attend.
- 19:00 Plated dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Upon arrival in Ushuaia, we will provide free busses to the airport for morning flights only, at 09:00 a.m. Please get from Reception a **Blue** luggage tag if you would like this service. For the Guests with afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the drop-off center (1210 Av. Maipu), and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00 hrs. No luggage tag is required for this service, you just need to indicate your luggage at the pier and ensure the stewadors load it into the truck. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please wait till the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to go, no luggage tag is required for this.

*"One must never be in haste to end a day; there are too few of them in a lifetime". -  
Sir Francis Drake.*



## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 9 January 2025

Day 12: Approaching South America.

07:45 Wake-up call.

08:00-09:00 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

**After breakfast you will be able to settle your accounts at reception, please ensure your account is settled before 17:00 at the latest.**

10:00 Please join Joyce in the Bar for her presentation titled 'Antarctica below: Life on the deep seabed'.

12:00 Hazel welcomes you to the bar for a short presentation about 'Krill - The Cornerstone Species in Antarctica'.

12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

In the afternoon we hope to pass by Cape Horn so encourage you out on deck for a better observation of this historic natural landmark.

16:00 Sara would like you to join her in the Bar for her presentation about Women in Antarctica.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for Captain's Farewell Cocktails and a viewing of the slideshow.

A copy of the voyage slideshow will be available for collection from the Bar after dinner, please bring a USB or similar, or we can help airdrop it to Apple devices.

19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

*"An Antarctic expedition is the worst way to have the best time of your life." - Apsley Cherry-Garrard*





## Antarctic Basecamp

Date: 10 January 2025

Day 13: Ushuaia.

07:15 Wake-up call.

**Please ensure your luggage is outside your room before 07:15am.**

07:30-08:30 Breakfast buffet will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Upon arrival in Ushuaia, we will provide free busses to the airport for morning flights only, at 09:00 a.m. Please get from Reception a **Blue** luggage tag if you would like this service. For the Guests with afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the drop-off center (1210 Av. Maipu), and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00 hrs. No luggage tag is required for this service, you just need to indicate your luggage at the pier and ensure the stewadors load it into the truck. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please wait till the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to go, no luggage tag is required for this.

08:30+/- We invite all guests to disembark.

From all the Expedition Team and Crew on board the MV Ortelius, we wish you safe onward travel and thank you for sharing this incredible voyage with us. We look forward to sailing with you again in the future.

*"It's when you are safe at home that you're having an adventure. When you're having an adventure, you wish you were safe at home." - Thorton Wilder*