



## **Polar Circle – Wilkins Iceshelf – Aurora Australis Discovery**

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

21 March – 05 April 2025

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 91.25 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 51

|                              |                              |                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Chief Officer:               | <b>Sjoerd Van Hoek</b>       | [Netherlands]      |
| Second Officer:              | <b>Warren Villanueva</b>     | [Philippines]      |
| Third Officer:               | <b>Archer Cultura</b>        | [Philippines]      |
| Chief Engineer:              | <b>Aleksandr Bondarev</b>    | [Lithuania]        |
| Second Engineer:             | <b>Ionut Daraban</b>         | [Romania]          |
| Hotel Manager:               | <b>Oleksandr Lyebyedyev</b>  | [Ukraine]          |
| Assistant Hotel Manager:     | <b>Lilianne van Meurs</b>    | [Poland]           |
| Head Chef:                   | <b>Heinz Hacker</b>          | [Austria]          |
| Sous Chef:                   | <b>Norman Estrada</b>        | [Philippines]      |
| Bosun:                       | <b>Eniano Agarin</b>         | [Philippines]      |
| Bosun:                       | <b>Lauren Malatag</b>        | [Philippines]      |
| Bartender:                   | <b>Glaiza Loterina</b>       | [Philippines]      |
| Ship's doctor:               | <b>Samuel Fidler</b>         | [The Netherlands]  |
| Expedition Leader:           | <b>Sara Jenner</b>           | [United Kingdom]   |
| Assistant Expedition Leader: | <b>Allan White</b>           | [Falkland Islands] |
| Expedition Guide:            | <b>Charlotte Taplin</b>      | [United Kingdom]   |
| Expedition Guide:            | <b>Enric Sangra</b>          | [Spain]            |
| Expedition Guide:            | <b>Dr. Gary Miller</b>       | [Australia]        |
| Expedition Guide:            | <b>Jess Owen</b>             | [United Kingdom]   |
| Expedition Guide:            | <b>Saskia van der Meij</b>   | [The Netherlands]  |
| Expedition Guide:            | <b>Tom van Hoof</b>          | [The Netherlands]  |
| Expedition Guide:            | <b>Valeria Sainz Herrera</b> | [Argentina]        |

**WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!**

## Day 1 – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, Ushuaia, Embarkation Day.

16:00 GPS Position: 54°48.4' S / 068°17.6' W

Wind: SW 5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Cloudy • Air temperature: +6°C

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The day had finally come! It was time to board *Ortelius* for our Antarctic expedition to pass the Antarctic Circle and to explore the deep south including the Wilkins ice shelf. The journey to the bottom of the world began in Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city on Earth, where the chill in the air felt like an omen of the adventure that lay ahead. Despite the brisk wind that greeted us, it was a sunny day with fresh snow falling on the peaks of the mountains, as we boarded the *M/V Ortelius*. A sense of excitement hung in the air, and anticipation was sensed among us. The ship, a sturdy ice-strengthened vessel, was waiting for us at the dock, ready to take us across the Drake Passage and into the icy waters of the Antarctic Peninsula.



We were warmly welcomed by the crew and staff who assisted us with check-in at reception and finding our cabins. We had some time to explore the ship, get our bearings and grab a coffee in the Bar. Everyone was on board by 16:30. Then it was time to gather at the Bar for a mandatory briefing on the ship safety procedures. Once complete, we could sail. We met Expedition Leader Sara Jenner, who introduced the mandatory safety video. Next it was time for an abandon ship drill. Upon hearing the emergency alarm we went to our cabins, put on something warm, grabbed our lifejackets, and went to the muster station back up to the Bar. From there we were guided outside and up to the bridge deck where the lifeboats are located, so we knew where to go in the event of a real emergency.

We went back to our cabins to put away our lifejackets when Sara invited us to join Captain Per Andersson in the Bar for prosecco and canapés, to raise a glass and toast the voyage ahead. This was followed by an introduction to shipboard services by Hotel Manager Oleksandr, and an overview of our expedition by our illustrious leader Sara. Before this



concluded the Expedition Team and the ship's doctor introduced themselves to us.

With the first briefing formalities concluded, it was time for our evening meal, with a delicious buffet selection prepared by Head Chef Heinz and his galley team, served by the ever-friendly



dining room staff. After dinner we were called back to the Bar so that two more mandatory briefings could be delivered. Because 100% attendance is required, these briefings were done while *Ortelius* was still in the sheltered waters of the Beagle Channel. Expedition Leader 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 then Sara gave us the Zodiac Safety Briefing.



After a long day of travel, it was time for bed and some well-earned rest. What would tomorrow bring. The infamous Southern Ocean laid ahead. We hoped (some prayed) it would be kind.

## Day 2 – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, At Sea, Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 57°29.2'S / 066°09.4'W

Wind: S 8 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +5.9°C Water T: +9°C

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Our morning had started with a wake-up call from Sara at 07:45. Shortly after, we made our way to the Restaurant on Deck 4 for a buffet breakfast, where we gathered to fuel up for the day ahead.



Later in the morning, the staff called us, deck by deck, down to the Lecture Room on Deck 3 to collect our muck boots. The instructions were clear: bring thick socks to try them on for sizing. It had been a little chaotic, but we all managed to get properly fitted for the adventure that lay ahead. There were beautiful albatrosses – the Wandering and the

Southern Royal flying around the ship so some of us made the most of these beautiful animals and watched them as they glided around the ship. Some of us unfortunately were feeling a little seasick as we hadn't quite got used to the 4 metre swell yet, so we rested in our cabins.

At 11:30, Gary invited us to join him in the Bar for a fascinating presentation about the Sea Birds of the Southern Ocean. We listened intently, captivated by the details of these majestic birds and the harsh environment in which they thrived. By midday, it was time for lunch. We returned to the Restaurant on Deck 4, where another buffet had been served. It was the perfect opportunity to refuel and socialize after the morning's activities.

In the afternoon, Jess called us up to the Bar for an Introduction to the Whales and Dolphins of the Southern Ocean. The presentation was just as compelling as the earlier one, and we eagerly took notes and asked questions about these incredible marine creatures. At 18:15, the Expedition Team gathered us in



the Bar for a daily recap. We came together to review what we had seen throughout the day, reliving the highlights and discussing what we could expect in the coming days.

By 19:00, it was time for dinner. We were served a plated dinner in the Dining Room on Deck 4, which offered the perfect conclusion to a day full of discovery and learning. As the evening unfolded, the crew reminded us about the ship's safety rules: walk slowly, always keep one hand for the ship, and make sure all doors were firmly shut while keeping fingers clear of door frames. It had been a thrilling, yet cautious day aboard the ship, filled with adventure and valuable lessons. We retired for the night, already looking forward to tomorrow's explorations.

### Day 3 – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, At sea, Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 62°44.9'S / 061°54.0'W

Wind: S force 4 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Bright and sunny • Air T: +2°C Water T: +6°C

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We woke up to our second day in the Drake passage feeling slightly better than the previous one. The sea state was not as rough and at times the sun was shining. Some seabird species such as Black-browed albatross and Giant petrels were spotted, we were practicing our new bird identification skills after Gary's seabird lecture the day before.

The lecture program began with Valeria giving us some tips and advice on how to make the most of your camera during the trip with her Photography in Antarctica lecture. She also talked about how to capture the Southern Lights, if we got lucky enough to see them.



Sara then talked about the penguin species that we were likely to encounter on our journey to the deep south of the Antarctic Peninsula.

We had another excellent buffet lunch. Today there was no time for a post lunch siesta though, because we had to head to the lounge for the



biosecurity party. It is essential that we protect the Antarctic environment from potential invasive and harmful species by cleaning our outdoor clothing and equipment. Once we were checked off by the Expedition Team we could relax for a little while and enjoy the polar scenery that

was starting to appear on the horizon. Saskia's voice appeared on the PA system to inform us of some exciting news that the first iceberg of the trip had been spotted. We enjoyed this huge piece of floating ice along with some others, a tantalising taste of what we had in store.

In the afternoon, Enric gave us a lecture about the geology and icy landscapes of the Antarctic Continent. Then at the evening recap Sara gave us the plans for our first day of operations. We would be heading to the Fish Islands. Enric explained to us the main reasons why Antarctica is frozen, and Tom gave us an entertaining story of how a Dutch explorer could very well have been the first person to discover Antarctica. Saskia then gave us the news about who had won the competition and guessed the closest location to our first iceberg. Matteo was the winner!

After dinner we had the chance to watch a gripping documentary about the discovery of the Endurance ship wreck, which sunk in the Weddell Sea over one hundred years ago on Shackleton's famous disastrous expedition to cross the Antarctic continent. Popcorn was included!



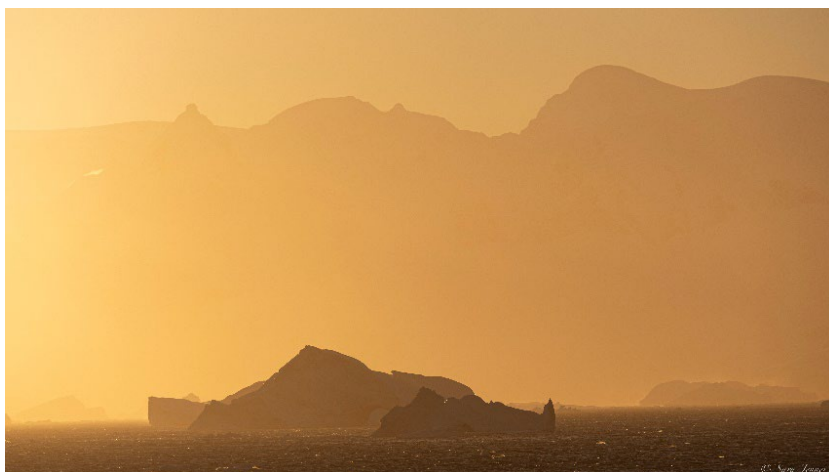
#### Day 4 – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March, Fish Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 66°01.1'S / 065°20.5'W

Wind: SW 1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Cloudy • Air T: +1.3°C Water: +2°C

Just before the morning announcement was made by Sara, we could hear some ice scraping alongside the bow of *Ortelius*. When we got on deck, we had arrived in the most beautiful environment we could wish for. A beautiful sunrise greeted us when we were approaching the Fish Islands. Although the decks were slippery a lot of us were out to feel the real Antarctica. We saw humpback whales next to the ship with their blows misty in the sun's glow. An amazing





first morning surrounded by white, snowy mountains. We all went for breakfast and were eager to get out in the Zodiacs.

But first, it was Tiler's turn to give his lecture on the Aurora Australis, also known as the Southern Lights. He explained how it is a natural light display in the Earth's southern hemisphere, primarily

visible in high-latitude regions near the South Pole. It occurs when charged particles from the sun interact with the Earth's magnetic field, exciting gases in the atmosphere, which then release light. The phenomenon typically produces green, red, and purple hues, and is most visible during the winter months in places like Antarctica and southern parts of Australia and New Zealand. Because fewer people live in the Aurora Oval in the south, fewer people have seen it, compared to the Aurora Borealis in the north. 2025 is one of the years where the activity is the highest and a bigger outburst of particles was predicted for tonight and the following 2 nights, so we could potentially see it tonight, if the weather would allow us to see it.



After his lecture ended, we heard Sara's voice over the intercom saying that we had to make ourselves ready as the conditions looked perfect and we would all go out for a Zodiac cruise before lunch. Cruising in a Zodiac along the Fish Islands was an incredible experience, offering an amazing overview of Antarctica's remote and pristine coastline. The small boats allowed us to navigate through narrow channels of brash ice and offered our first up-close encounters with wildlife, including Adelie penguins, a Weddell seal and several Crabeater seals, all resting on ice flows. Getting off *Ortelius* for the first time was an exciting and truly great experience.

The raw beauty of the environment was awe-inspiring, as we glided silently through the icy waters, being able to observe everything so close. It was like we entered a David Attenborough documentary.



Getting back on board we warmed up and enjoyed lunch, before we headed out again in the afternoon. In combination with another Zodiac cruise, we were able to set foot on the Antarctic continent at



Prospect Point. Prospect Point is a historic site, known for its breathtaking views of glaciers and snow-capped mountains. At this point, visitors can see remnants of the former British hut used during early expeditions. The hut, built in the early 1900s, was part of a scientific outpost and now serves as a

symbol of early human exploration in the harshest conditions on Earth. During the cruise we saw our first leopard seal on ice and again several crabeaters. Big icebergs and a gloomy dark sky with the sun behind it casting the rays through it. It was again a magical afternoon.

That night, around 23:30, we were woken up by Sara, our expedition leader, with the thrilling news that we would soon cross the Antarctic Circle. Around 25 of us made our way to the bridge, eagerly watching the GPS display as we crossed the 66°33'S latitude, marking a significant milestone in our journey into the heart of Antarctica.

### Day 5 – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March – The Gullet and Pourquoi Pas Island

12:00 GPS Position: 67°25.7'S / 067°51.3'W

Wind: E3 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air T: +1.7°C • Water T: +1°C



In the middle of the night at 12:30, we crossed the Polar Circle. Sara announced over the PA system that we crossed 66° 33' 47.5'. Many of us got up to celebrate, while some of us hadn't been asleep yet. It was dark so we couldn't see much, but an imaginary bump was there, and it made us feel excited for the journey ahead.



It was a beautiful start to the day with wind and mountains all around us. We began transiting towards The Gullet shortly after breakfast. This narrow passage connects the Southern and Northern parts of the peninsula; however, it is often full of ice so navigation through is often difficult or impossible. As we transited through, we saw many Crabeaters, Fur and Leopard seals on ice floes, the wind was whipping off the mountains and lenticular clouds loomed heavily over the tops of the mountains.



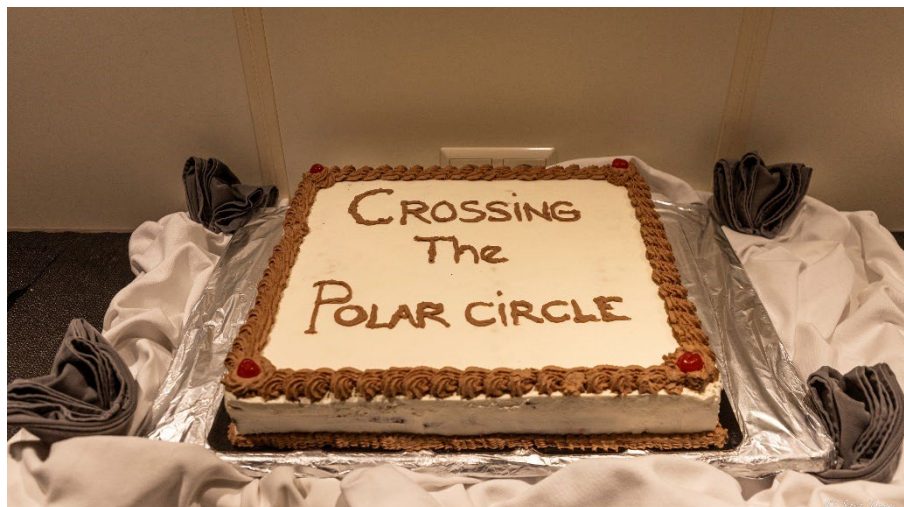
We successfully made it through the passage and transited towards Pourquoi-Pas island also known as 'Why not' island and named by the French explorer Charcot. The Expedition Team found a spot to do a landing, and we all managed to get off the ship. We had a fantastic landing full of wildlife; Adelie penguins, Weddell seals, Fur seals; and the most incredible backdrop of mountains in the background. It felt so good to properly stretch our legs and to breathe in the fresh crisp air.



Once we got back on the ship we heard the plans for tomorrow from Sara. During dinner the sun demonstrated its beauty once again as the sky turned pink and orange, we all just wanted to be outside soaking in the last rays. To top the day off, the Aurora Australis appeared at 21:00!!

The KP Index was predicted at 6 and there was a geomagnetic storm so we knew that it was highly likely we'd see the Aurora tonight. And wow, did we!

The sky was covered in pink and green lights dancing around, awe-inspiring, none of us could believe what we were seeing.



Some of us stayed up until midnight until our eyes could no longer stay open and our hands no longer worked from the cold.



### Day 6 – Wednesday 26th March – Stonington Island and Red Rock Ridge

12:00 GPS Position: 68°11.2'S / 067°00.7'W

Wind: NE 7 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast with snow • Air T: +2.5°C • Water T: +1°C

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Today many of us woke up early to watch the sunrise. This is a rare thing to see in the Antarctic season for visitors as normally in peak summer the sun does not rise or set but remains a constant companion. But we were very much in Antarctica's autumn and thus we could see a beautiful pink sky reflected over a silky ocean. The scenery around us was stunning: we were in a great position, anchored next to Stonington Island.







The Zodiacs practically glided across the flat sea as we made our way to the landing site. The snow on the ground was deep and we had to stick to the marked routes to avoid falling up to our chests. If we followed the trail to the left, we could visit the US hut where Gary was waiting to dust off the snow from our boots and show us around. Next to the hut a small crowd gathered to observe some Humpback whales that were resting at the surface of the water just off the shore.

If we turned right on the route, we headed towards the UK hut which we could explore with Allan. He told us about life at the base and the sled dogs that once lived there. We could also walk up to a brilliant viewpoint where we could see seals resting on the snow, penguins porpoising in the water, and look down at the buildings that held such historical significance.





During lunch we transited to Red Rock Ridge, named so because of its geological features. This is a breeding site for Adelie penguins and we were excited to see them. The change in weather was a classic example of how wild Antarctica can be. It was a very long and bouncy shuttle to the shore, and when we arrived, we got blasted



by gusts of wind and snow. It was amazing to see the penguins going about their business in what we would consider extreme weather. They didn't mind being covered in snow as they lay resting on the ground, their bodies perfectly adapted for the cold. We watched them interacting with each other, bowing their heads, erecting their head feathers, and widening their eyes as they bickered with others. They are certainly the most expressive of the Antarctic penguin species. We could also see some Antarctic Fur seals and a Weddell seal lounging on the rocks.



We stayed for as long as we could in the icy wind before heading back to the ship. Here we could warm up and rest after another action packed day.

## Day 7 – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Sea day at Southern Ocean, going South

12:00 GPS Position: 69°33.4'S / 074°39.2'W

Wind: S 5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Snow/fog • Air T: +1.3°C • Water T: +2°C

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Today we were heading south, having a day at sea, while we were rounding Charcot Island on our way to reach the Wilkins Ice Shelf. Last night we had some big waves lifting us from our beds again, but as the ship made its way through the frigid waters the waves seemed to get longer and therefore provoked less movement of the ship. The landscape of icy seas and some big icebergs is addictive to look at from the bridge, even on a grey day

like today. Occasionally we had some glimpses of sea birds like Cape Petrels, Blue Petrels and an Antarctic Petrel, a sea bird we don't see that often when we stay up in the Gerlache region. An impressive sighting.

Our first lecture began after our breakfast, promptly at 09:15, with Tom inviting everyone to the bar for his fascinating presentation titled "Ice Sheets and Climate Change." His talk delved into the science behind ice sheets, explaining how they play a pivotal role in regulating the Earth's climate. Tom highlighted the urgent impact of climate change on the polar regions, emphasizing how the melting ice sheets contribute to rising sea levels and alter global weather patterns. He also gave a little insight into the fieldwork the Dutch do from their small base on Rothera Station: how they work on the Wilkins Ice shelf to get information about the melting process of the ice shelf.



At 11:30, we were treated to a lecture from Gary about Adelie penguins. His invitation to his lecture with the call of an Adelie penguin already set the scene for his passion for these charming and resilient creatures. It was evident as he spoke about their unique behaviours,

breeding patterns, and the challenges they face in the harsh Antarctic environment that Gary really loved the subject. His insights, through several scientific researches he did in Antarctica, on the importance of Adelie penguins in the ecosystem gave us a deeper appreciation for these



little birds as we sailed ever closer to their icy home. We couldn't help but think of them as the tiny, determined survivors in this frigid world.

After lunch, at 14:00, Valeria offered an entirely different kind of session. She introduced us to the world of image editing in Lightroom. As many of us were capturing the incredible landscapes around us, Valeria's tips on enhancing photos with professional editing techniques were incredibly useful. Her practical advice helped us improve our photography skills and gave us a new perspective on how to capture the beauty surrounding us, whether it was the way the light played on ice or the vibrant colours in the sky.



At 16:15, Allan captivated the group with his lecture titled "Sledge Dogs – The Unsung Heroes of Antarctic Exploration." His talk focused on the critical role that sled dogs played in early Antarctic expeditions, often underappreciated but crucial for survival in extreme conditions. His deep knowledge of the history and contributions of these dogs was both moving and informative, shedding light on their vital role in polar exploration.



Finally, after a fulfilling day of learning, and yet enjoying another amazing three-course meal prepared by Chef Heinz and his gally team, we relaxed with a screening of the animated musical comedy "Happy Feet Part 1". The charming film, centered around a young penguin with a passion for tap dancing, was a light-hearted end to a day that had been full of both intellectual stimulation and a deeper connection to the world of Antarctica. It was actually one of our guides, Gary, who had shared behaviour details with the producer of the movie before they made it. To make it as true as it could get. When we now listened to Gary's stories about



his time shared on the ice with the Adelie's and Emperor penguins, we agreed that the characters in the movie do represent the individual penguins perfectly. It was a great way to wind down after a day of lectures and reflection on today.

### Day 8 – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Wilkins Ice Shelf and Wilkins Sound

12:00 GPS Position: 71°02.9'S / 073°28.7'W

Wind: 0 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Snow • Air T: +3.6°C • Water T: +2°C

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The day had started with hope and excitement, as we woke up with the goal of reaching the Wilkins Ice Shelf. We had already made it to our most southerly point at 71°19'37"S, and the closer we got to the ice shelf, the more our anticipation grew.



As we approached, we found ourselves facing a wall of ice stretching before us, and as we looked left and right, we saw more of the same. It was as if we were surrounded by an endless fortress of ice.

The Wilkins Ice Shelf, a vast and rectangular expanse measuring about 80 nautical miles (150 km) long and 60 nautical miles (110 km) wide, filled the central part of Wilkins Sound. The sight was breathtaking. We all felt incredibly small in the shadow of this massive, frozen landscape. First observed by Hubert Wilkins from the air in 1929, the ice shelf had



remained a distant and elusive feature, but today, we were right there, standing on the bow of the ship, taking it all in.



Captain Per gave us a wonderful view of the ice shelf, and we couldn't help but marvel at the incredible sight before us. After a few photos together, we reluctantly began our transit away from the ice shelf, still in search of wildlife to observe. Soon, we spotted a patch of sea ice in the distance and

decided to move closer. As we approached, we began to see seals lounging on the ice floes. But what really made our day was the unexpected sight of an Emperor Penguin perched on an iceberg. We slowly moved towards it, careful not to disturb the serene beauty of the moment, and we were rewarded with a magnificent view of the Emperor Penguin as snowflakes gently began to fall around us.

After lunch, the Expedition Team dropped the Zodiacs, and we couldn't wait to gear up and get in. The moment we boarded the Zodiacs, two Emperor Penguins swam up to us, their curiosity obvious as they circled our boats. We were all in disbelief, watching these majestic creatures glide gracefully in the water so close to us. But the surprises didn't end there. Moments later, two Minke Whales appeared, swimming alongside the Zodiacs, just as intrigued by us as we were by them. The beauty of the scene was overwhelming: majestic icebergs surrounded us, and the sea was dotted with hundreds of Crabeater seals, some swimming, some resting on the ice. It was a spectacle like no other, and we didn't know where to look first.



As we marvelled at the Crabeater seals, a fully grown Leopard seal emerged, its sleek body cutting through the water with ease. It seemed to be just as curious as the rest of the animals, spying on two Crabeater seals with a focused gaze. The two seals hissed at the Leopard in warning, but it only intrigued the predator more. The Leopard seal swam back and forth under our Zodiacs, circling us in a mesmerizing pattern, its eyes never leaving us.



After two and a half hours, the cold began to creep in, and we made our way back to the ship. A hot shower was a welcome relief, and soon we gathered for a recap of the day. To our delight, the staff had prepared a glass of bubbly champagne to celebrate the incredible experiences we'd had. We raised our glasses in a toast to the unforgettable wildlife sightings, the stunning ice shelf, and the memories that would stay with us forever. It had truly been a day to remember.



### Day 9 – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March – A day at sea – Lazarev Bay

12:00 GPS Position: 69°17.5'S / 075°00.0'W

Wind: ESE 5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air T: +3°C • Water T: +2°C

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We began our morning at sea with a lecture by Enric all about the geology of Antarctica, you could say it rocked! Many of us spent time on the bridge this morning looking at fantastic towering icebergs and searching for wildlife. There were many Cape petrels and Southern fulmars shooting across the bow and we could see some Fin whales and Humpback whales blowing in the distance.

Everyone was very intrigued to watch Gary's lecture about the life cycle of the Emperor penguins and hear more about his time studying them when he overwintered at Mawson Base. We couldn't help but giggle when he impersonated the calls of the penguins with such accuracy.





After a buffet lunch we continued to watch the seascape that Ortelius was gliding through. Our guest lecturer Tyler gave a brilliant talk called 'Seeking Southern Skies' where he told us about the star constellations in the Southern Hemisphere.



We had planned to reach Lazarev Bay in the afternoon for a Zodiac cruise, however during the night before we stumbled upon a lot of ice which slowed our progress. So instead, we had a wonderful scenic ship cruise as we approached the bay. In the late afternoon we arrived at Lazarev Bay. No one was really prepared for what we saw there. The landscape was surreal. Enormous icebergs grounded all around us. The ice and the mountains in the distance encircled us and we could see Crabeater seals, Weddell seals, and Leopard seals resting on the remaining sea ice floes.

We heard an announcement on the PA system to tell us that there was a treat waiting for us on the deck behind the bridge. The expedition team had hot chocolate and rum with cream to give us a warm fuzzy feeling inside as we tried to take in our unbelievable surroundings.



The recap was kept to the minimal plans for tomorrow so we could maximize our time outside. The sun went down, and we absorbed the last light hitting the ice before heading for dinner.

## Day 10 – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Lazarev Bay and sailing North

12:00 GPS Position: 69°20.2'S / 072°19.8'W

Wind: NW 4 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air T: +3.9°C • Water T: +2°C

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Having anchored in Lazarev Bay, we woke up surrounded by icebergs again. Only this time the weather completely changed the landscape. Yesterday's sunshine had been swapped for



thick snow and fog and we could no longer see many of the icebergs near us let alone the mountains in the distance. So, we waited a little while for a better time to begin our operations.

Conditions improved and we decided to drop the Zodiacs. It was

snowy and cold to begin with but about halfway through our cruise, the sun started to shine again. It was exciting to weave through the ice alongside *Ortelius* as the Captain sailed out of the bay, following our track from the evening before.

Many of the Zodiacs were visited by curious Crabeater seals. Gangs of them were spy-hopping at us, lifting their heads out of the water to observe and investigate us. Some boats even saw a Leopard seal, but it didn't stay for long before slinking into the ocean.

Snow petrels and Wilson's storm petrels were flying around us as we marvelled at the arches in the ice.







We dragged ourselves away from the icy world to warm our toes up and have lunch. Julie then gave us a talk about her work on the Europa Clipper Spacecraft mission. During the afternoon, the views outside were wonderful. The sunshine drew everyone out on deck as we left Lazarev Bay.

Saskia gave us a great lecture about the story of the Lost Men, the often-forgotten side expedition team of Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition. As we were drawn into the story more and more, we were interrupted by an announcement. We found ourselves suddenly surrounded by Humpback whales! Saskia paused her lecture so that we could go outside and watch a spectacle unfold. Many groups of whales were lunge feeding around us. Opening their huge mouths and stretching their muscular throats as they lunged at the krill, invisible to us just under the water's surface.

We saw many of the whales fluke, a behaviour typical of humpback whales, where they lift their tail up out of the water before a dive. We snapped many pictures of the whales' tails which we would later upload to Happy Whale, a marine mammal photo catalogue that could tell us if these whales had been seen before.



After this amazing encounter, people were very keen to hear the end of Saskia's talk and find out the fate of the expedition, so we returned to the bar.

We were very excited to have finally had some really amazing whale encounters and to have seen such beautiful land and seascapes throughout the day.



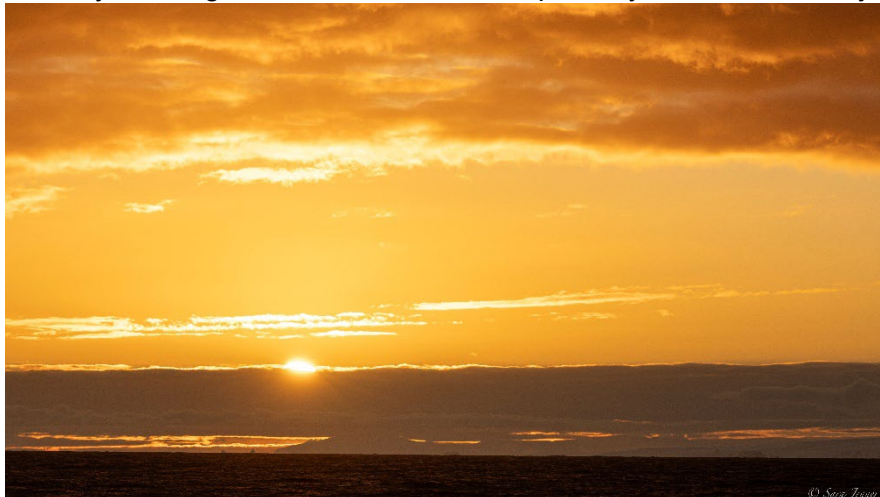
## Day 11 – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Sailing North

08:00 GPS Position: 66°15.4'S / 067°38.0'W

Wind: S 4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Clear • Air T: +0.2°C • Water T: +1°C

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The day had begun with the usual wake-up call by Sara at 07:45. By 08:00, the breakfast buffet

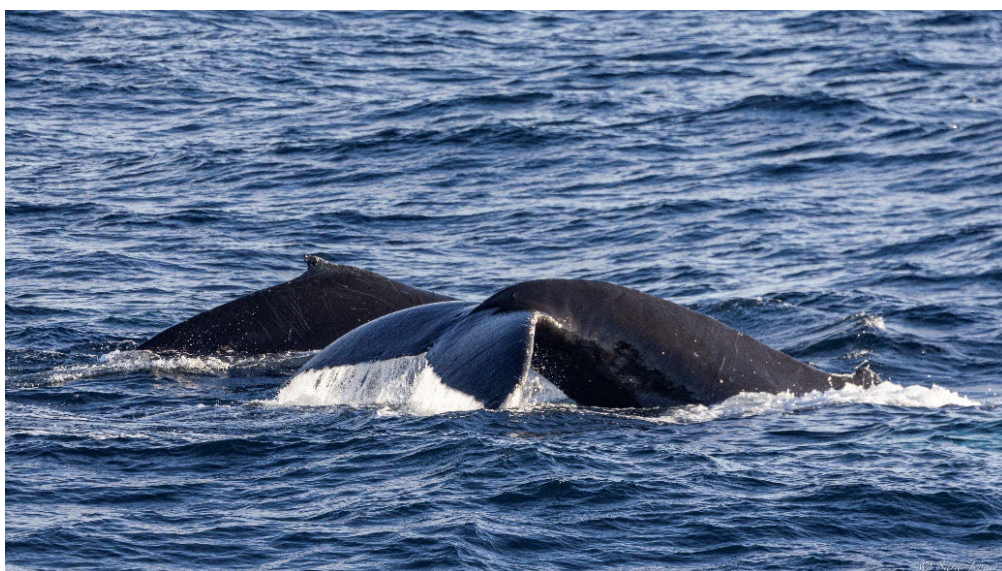


was laid out with the usual eggs, sausages, fruit and delicious pastries. Afterwards Sara invited everyone to the Bar for a presentation about Women in Antarctica. The room was filled with curious faces as Sara shared inspiring stories and facts about the women who had made their mark in the icy

expanse. Shortly afterward the Expedition Team spotted Humpback whale blows in the distance. As the ship neared closer we realised there were several of them. The sunlight glistened as they expelled, it was beautiful to watch. At one point they came very close to the ship and swam parallel to us and we watched in amazement as all three surfaced at once, the beautiful white of their blow shining dramatically.

Valeria was waiting at the Bar to help with any camera or editing questions. Those interested in learning more about photography or video techniques gathered around her, eager to get some expert advice.

Jess finished off the lecture programme for this morning with a fascinating lecture on the importance of whales in the ocean ecosystem. The room had been captivated as she explained



how these magnificent creatures played a vital role in the health of the seas.

Around 12:30, it was time for a buffet lunch. We spent the afternoon enjoying the beautiful sunshine from the bridge or from the outside decks. From a distance we could see Renaud Island and huge icebergs anchored close to the island. Later in the afternoon Allan delivered

a lecture about Admiral Byrd's Antarctic Snow Cruiser. His stories about the curious case of the vehicle had everyone talking.



By 18:15, the Expedition Staff had met in the Bar for a recap, discussing the day's events and preparing for the adventures that lay ahead.

The day ended with a hearty dinner, we all felt like our waistlines were slightly larger than they were when

joining the ship. Lastly after dinner we watched as the sun set across the horizon illuminating the skies with its orange tones while Cape Petrels glided at the bow and the occasional icebergs towered in the distance.

## Day 12 – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Petermann Island and Port Charcot

08:00 GPS Position: 65°10.2'S / 064°07.4'W

Wind: 0 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air T: +2.8°C • Water T: +2°C

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We awoke to yet another spectacular soft pink sunrise. The mountainous landscape stunned us as we positioned ourselves next to Petermann Island.



The expedition team set out a big route for us to stretch our legs and enjoy the sunshine. There were multiple beautiful viewpoints we could stop at to enjoy. The Gentoo penguins were





charming and the chunky Snowy sheathbills entertained us as they tried to peck at our belongings on the tarpaulin. We also watched Giant petrels soar over our heads and we could see humpback whales surfacing in the channel. Petermann Island has a lot of historic significance because of its association with Charcot's expedition on the Pourquoi Pas vessel and if you look closely at the tide line on a rock near the

landing site you can see the letters 'PP' etched into the rock.

Over lunch we had a spectacular transit to Port Charcot, gliding past huge turquoise blue icebergs. We could see the reflections of the surrounding mountains in the still water. When we arrived at Port Charcot we lowered the Zodiacs onto a large area of grease ice which was forming



on the surface of the ocean, the very beginnings of the sea ice arriving for the winter. It was exciting to carve our way through the grease ice as we made our way to the shoreline, and on route we could see Gentoo penguins porpoising. The water was so calm we could see them under the water too, completely transformed from their clumsy cute land version of themselves into graceful bullets in the water.



We had two options when we landed: we could head to the right and visit Gary, who spotted two chinstrap penguins, a new species of penguin for our list, or head to the left via a steeper walk up to the cairn, a beautiful viewpoint. Port Charcot was the overwintering site of the French Antarctic Expedition, 1903-1905 onboard the Français under the

command of Jean-Baptiste Charcot. Remains from the expedition are still visible in the form of a cairn with a wooden pillar and the stone built magnetic hut. Saskia and Allan were waiting for us at the hut to give us more information.

After two brilliant landings we were feeling energised. After our daily recap



the hotel department gave us a real treat. Waiting for us on the helideck was a BBQ dinner! The weather was perfect, and the sun was setting over the icebergs as we tucked into our dinner wearing all our outdoor gear. Everyone was so happy that it didn't take long for the dancing to start, and in Charlotte's safe DJ hands, we danced as the stars came out and the Milky Way shone down on us.

### Day 13 – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Danco Island and The Melchior Islands

08:00 GPS Position: 64°37.8'S / 062°37.2'W

Wind: NW 3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air T: +1.8°C • Water T: +2°C

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Yet another beautiful morning was waiting for us after breakfast as the sun started to rise. Pastel colours of blues, pinks and oranges started to appear in the sky and reflect on the water.

The Expedition Team waited for us ashore along with 100 juvenile Gentoo penguins, freshly moulted they were at the water's edge waiting for something – maybe to venture off into the ocean when they felt ready. Fresh snow had recently fallen, so Danco looked especially beautiful with white fluffy snowflakes sprinkled over the island.



There was an Elephant seal on the beach lazily looking at us as we walked past, slowly it made its way to the water and half laid in the water until eventually he swam off for some peace and quiet. We slowly started to make our way up the hill and although it was hard work getting to the top, the view at the top was absolutely spectacular. We had a 360 ° view of the bay, Errera Channel and Cuverville Island to the West. Quite a few Gentoos sat at the top of the hill one was even carrying stones and putting them on the nest!





After lunch we all boarded the Zodiacs at 14:30 and “in buddies”, we each went out on our own adventure. The conditions were an absolute perfection with glassy seas and clear skies. Each of us had fantastic whale encounters whether they were breaching 30 times, spy hopping next to the Zodiac or logging at the surface we all felt so lucky for this incredible afternoon and for our last activity in Antarctica. The orange light started to fill the sky as the sun started to set and it illuminated its orange rays on the whites of the mountains, it was breathtaking. The day



ended with a delicious dinner and we all chatted with smiles in our hearts about how lucky we had been.



## Day 14 – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – The Drake Passage

08:00 GPS Position: 61°30.8'S / 064°57.7'W

Wind: SW 9 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air T: 0°C • Water T: +3°C

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The day began with a hearty breakfast buffet. The atmosphere was relaxed, with everyone eagerly chatting about the upcoming lectures. After breakfast, Julie Rathbun took the stage in the Bar for her fascinating lecture on "Why Planetary Scientists Love Antarctica." The room was filled with curiosity as she shared her insights into the frozen continent's unique geological features and how they relate to planetary exploration. The audience listened intently, captivated by

her passion for both Antarctica and space.

Later in the morning, Charlotte invited everyone back to the Bar for her own presentation, this time about feeding whales. She spoke about the incredible mechanisms behind how these magnificent creatures sustain themselves in the harsh Antarctic waters. The lecture was both informative and awe-inspiring, leaving the audience with a deeper appreciation for the wonders





of the natural world. At noon, guests were called to the Lecture Room to return their muck boots, rental clothing, red waterproof bags, and Zodiac lifejackets. It was a reminder that the time for adventure was drawing closer, and preparations for the upcoming excursions were underway.

A buffet lunch followed, offering guests a chance to recharge and socialize before the afternoon's presentations. The Restaurant buzzed with conversation, laughter, and the clinking of glasses as everyone relaxed and enjoyed the delicious spread.



In the afternoon, Gary took the floor in the Bar to share his incredible story about overwintering at an Australian Antarctic Station. His firsthand account of life in one of the most remote places on Earth fascinated the audience. Gary's experiences and tales of survival in the extreme cold captivated everyone, sparking lively discussions and a renewed sense of excitement for the journey ahead. As evening approached, the Expedition Staff gathered everyone in the Bar for a recap session. Important details about disembarkation, settling accounts, and other logistics were shared. It was an essential meeting, and the staff encouraged at least one person from each group to attend, ensuring that everyone was well-informed about the next steps of the adventure.

## Day 15 – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April – The Drake Passage

08:00 GPS Position: 56°42.68'S / 066°57.52'W

Wind: W • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air T: +4.5°C • Water T: +6°C

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The final day of the voyage began with a wake-up call, gently ushering everyone into the morning. After a peaceful night, everyone sleepily went to the dining room for breakfast.

Once breakfast was over, we were invited to settle our accounts at Reception. It was a quick, but necessary task to ensure everything was in order before the day came to a close.



Following breakfast, the Expedition Team gathered everyone for a series of lectures to conclude the voyage. Shortly afterward we had a brief, but exciting, sighting of Long-finned Pilot whales and Peale's dolphins, this helped draw everyone out on deck for a few minutes.

Later in the morning, Captain Per welcomed guests to the Bar for an engaging Question-and-Answer session with us. The Captain spoke candidly about the voyage, sharing behind-the-scenes stories, challenges, and triumphs and answered any questions we had.

Mid-afternoon we approached Cape Horn, we could just about make out the iconic lighthouse and the Albatross sculpture which stands as a tribute to the sailors who have passed through this perilous passage. The majestic bird, carved in stone, spreads its wings in a symbolic



gesture of freedom, representing the enduring spirit of those who have braved these turbulent seas. Sara said a few poignant words over the PA system which together with the sight of the lighthouse and sculpture helped evoke a deep sense of history and the harsh, yet beautiful, nature of the Cape.

Just as our final afternoon cake of the voyage was being served, Sara took the stage in the Bar to present Oceanwide's other destinations. She spoke about the incredible range of adventures offered by the company, inspiring guests to consider future travels and explore even more of the world's wildest places. Just when we thought there could be no further little surprises from the Expedition Team, they welcomed us out on deck for a rum infused hot chocolate, as we took in the magnificent views of the tip of South America.



As evening approached, the Expedition Staff invited everyone back to the Bar for the Captain's Farewell Cocktails. It was a bittersweet gathering, as everyone celebrated the memories of the voyage while preparing to say goodbye. A slideshow of the voyage was shown by Valeria, filled with stunning photos and moments captured during the trip. It was a beautiful reminder of all the extraordinary sights and experiences they had shared. Dinner that evening was served in the Restaurant, marking the final meal of the journey. There was a sense of camaraderie as we dined together, exchanging stories and memories from the trip.



### Day 16 – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Ushuaia, Disembarkation

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

Wind: NNW 2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Cloudy/Sunny • Air T: +5°C • Water T: +8°C

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The time had come for all of us to say our goodbyes and to leave the ship. The ship now had to head North all the way to Vlissingen, Netherlands to prepare for the Arctic season. After filling up on our last free meal we disembarked the beautiful *Ortelius* at 08:30. Tears were shed as we said goodbye to the staff, they embraced us with their hugs, and we felt such a close bond with them it was hard to say goodbye. They

had already put our suitcases on the dock, so we all grabbed our bags and off we went either onto the next adventure or for a flight back home.

**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 2810 nautical miles.**

**Southernmost position: 71°19.37'S / 075°53.33W.**

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

## Your Oceanwide Expeditions Team

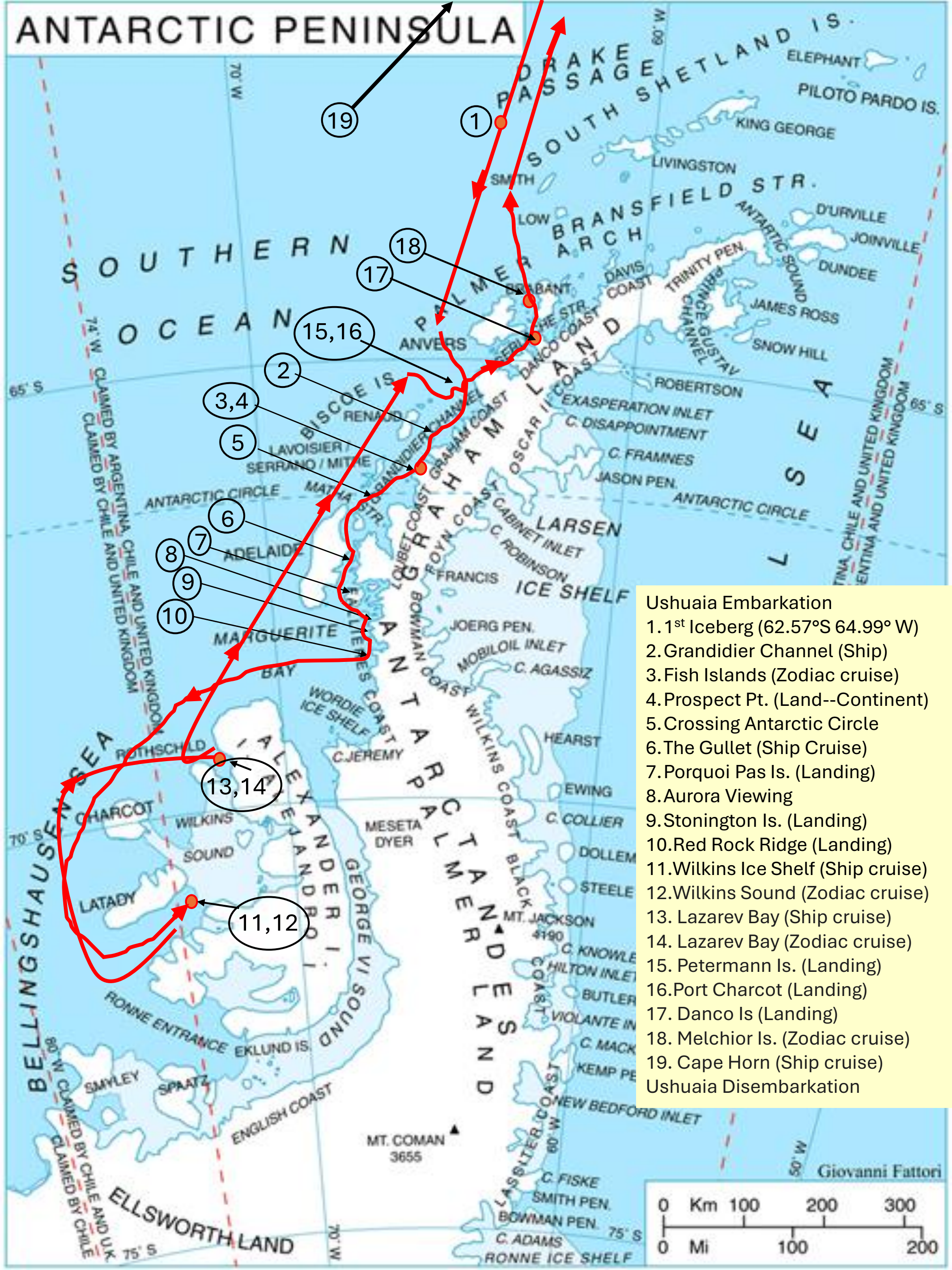


Back row: Tom, Saskia, Allan, Dr. Sam

Front row: Sara, Gary, Jess, Valeria, Charlotte, Enric



ANTARCTIC PENINSULA



## Ushuaia Embarkation

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Iceberg (62.57°S 64.99° W)
  2. Grandidier Channel (Ship)
  3. Fish Islands (Zodiac cruise)
  4. Prospect Pt. (Land--Continent)
  5. Crossing Antarctic Circle
  6. The Gullet (Ship Cruise)
  7. Porquoy Pas Is. (Landing)
  8. Aurora Viewing
  9. Stonington Is. (Landing)
  10. Red Rock Ridge (Landing)
  11. Wilkins Ice Shelf (Ship cruise)
  12. Wilkins Sound (Zodiac cruise)
  13. Lazarev Bay (Ship cruise)
  14. Lazarev Bay (Zodiac cruise)
  15. Petermann Is. (Landing)
  16. Port Charcot (Landing)
  17. Danco Is (Landing)
  18. Melchior Is. (Zodiac cruise)
  19. Cape Horn (Ship cruise)
- Ushuaia Disembarkation



# Marine Mammal Sightings on OTL32-2025: Wilkins Ice Shelf Voyage on Ortelius

| Date      | Time (UTC) | Observer Name | Location Name      | Latitude<br>(Decimal degrees) | Longitude<br>(Decimal degrees) | Species                 | Quantity | Notes  |
|-----------|------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|--|
|           |            |               |                    |                               |                                |                         |          | (Were the animals sleeping, feeding, resting, etc.? Were there pups/calves present? How many if more than 25 individuals?) |
| 21-Mar-25 | 17:00      | Gary          | Beagle             | -54.82                        | -68.23                         | Sei Whale               | 2        |  |
| 21-Mar-25 | 17:05      | Gary          | Beagle             | -54.82                        | -68.23                         | Other (list in comment) | 2        | Unknown  |
| 21-Mar-25 | 17:50      | Gary          | Beagle             | -54.85                        | -68.05                         | Humpback Whale          | 2        |  |
| 21-Mar-25 | 19:03      | Gary          | Puerto Williams    | -54.9                         | -67.52                         | Sei Whale               | 2        |  |
| 23-Mar-25 | 17:30      | Enric         |                    | -63.05                        | -64.51                         | Fin Whale               | 1        |  |
| 24-Mar-25 | 8:11       | Allan         | Penola Strait      | -65.9                         | -65.17                         | Humpback Whale          | 2        |  |
| 24-Mar-25 | 8:42       | Allan         | Crystal Sound      | -65.95                        | -65.2                          | Crabeater Seal          | 1        |  |
| 24-Mar-25 | 8:44       | Allan         | Crystal Sound      | -65.95                        | -65.2                          | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 24-Mar-25 | 8:50       | Allan         | Crystal Sound      | -65.95                        | -65.33                         | Crabeater Seal          | 4        |  |
| 24-Mar-25 | 8:50       | Archer        | Crystal Sound      | -65.95                        | -65.33                         | Humpback Whale          | 2        |  |
| 24-Mar-25 | 9:05       | Archer        | Crystal Sound      | -65.98                        | -65.4                          | Humpback Whale          | 2        | M+C  |
| 25-Mar-25 | 8:08       | Valeria       | Top end of Gullet  | -66.99                        | -67.5                          | Minke Whale             | 1        |  |
| 25-Mar-25 | 8:45       | Gary          | Top end of Gullet  | -67                           | -67.52                         | Minke Whale             | 1        |  |
| 25-Mar-25 | 10:30      | Per           | s. end of Gullet   | -67.18                        | -67.67                         | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 25-Mar-25 | 11:30      | Valeria       | Marguerite Bay     | -67.2                         | -67.5                          | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 25-Mar-25 | 11:38      | Valeria       | Marguerite Bay     | -67.22                        | -67.51                         | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 25-Mar-25 | 11:52      | Gary          | Marguerite Bay     | -67.42                        | -67.85                         | Humpback Whale          | 2        | M+C  |
| 26-Mar-25 | 8:30       | Gary          | Stonington         | at anchor                     | at anchor                      | Minke Whale             | 1        |  |
| 26-Mar-25 | 10:05      | Gary          | Stonington         | at anchor                     | at anchor                      | Humpback Whale          | 2        |  |
| 27-Mar-25 | 12:40      | Warren        | Bellingshausen Sea | -69.67                        | -75.95                         | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 27-Mar-25 | 12:42      | Warren        | Bellingshausen Sea | -69.69                        | -75.95                         | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 27-Mar-25 | 17:38      | Enric         | Bellingshausen Sea | -70.32                        | -77.01                         | Fur Seal                | 10       |  |
| 27-Mar-25 | 18:15      | Enric         | Bellingshausen Sea | -70.39                        | -77.07                         | Minke Whale             | 1        |  |
| 28-Mar-25 | 9:25       | Gary          | Wilkins ice shelf  | -70.88                        | -73.08                         | Minke Whale             | 4        |  |
| 28-Mar-25 | 9:50       | Gary          | Wilkins ice shelf  | -70.88                        | -73.25                         | Minke Whale             | 2        |  |
| 28-Mar-25 | 10:15      | Gary          | Wilkins ice shelf  | -70.97                        | -73.45                         | Minke Whale             | 1        |  |
| 29-Mar-25 | 8:25       | Bridge        | Charcot Island     | -69.86                        | -76.27                         | Humpback Whale          | 2        |  |
| 29-Mar-25 | 8:40       | Allan         | Charcot Island     | -69.78                        | 76.43                          | Humpback Whale          | 5        |  |
| 29-Mar-25 | 8:58       | Bridge        | Charcot Island     | -69.73                        | -76.13                         | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 29-Mar-25 | 9:05       | Bridge        | Charcot Island     | -69.72                        | -76.08                         | Humpback Whale          | 2        | M+C  |
| 29-Mar-25 | 9:08       | Lucy          | Charcot Island     | -69.7                         | -76.06                         | Humpback Whale          | 2        | M+C  |
| 29-Mar-25 | 10:34      | Jess          | Bellingshausen Sea | -69.28                        | -75.34                         | Fin Whale               | 1        | Normal Swimming  |
| 29-Mar-25 | 10:36      | Jess          | Bellingshausen Sea | -69.28                        | -75.34                         | Humpback Whale          | 1        | Normal Swimming  |
| 29-Mar-25 | 11:04      | Charlotte     | Bellingshausen Sea | -69.23                        | -75.23                         | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 29-Mar-25 | 13:16      | Saskia        | Bellingshausen Sea | -69.16                        | -74.16                         | Humpback Whale          | 2        |  |
| 29-Mar-25 | 13:25      | Saskia        | Bellingshausen Sea | -69.16                        | -74.11                         | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 29-Mar-25 | 13:42      | Saskia        | Bellingshausen Sea | -69.16                        | -74.01                         | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 29-Mar-25 | 14:25      | Jess          | Bellingshausen Sea | -69.15                        | -73.36                         | Humpback Whale          | 2        |  |
| 29-Mar-25 | 15:42      | Charlotte     |                    | -69.16                        | -72.52                         | Humpback Whale          | 2        |  |
| 29-Mar-25 | 15:48      | Charlotte     | Lazarev Bay        | -69.28                        | -72.78                         | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 29-Mar-25 | 15:50      | Charlotte     | Lazarev Bay        | -69.28                        | -72.78                         | Humpback Whale          | 3        |  |
| 30-Mar-25 | 15:15      | Valeria       | Lazarev Bay        | -69.31                        | -72.69                         | Minke Whale             | 1        |  |
| 30-Mar-25 | 16:35      | Valeria       | Lazarev Bay        | -69.08                        | -73.15                         | Humpback Whale          | 5        |  |
| 30-Mar-25 | 16:47      | Valeria       | N.of Rothschild Is | -69.06                        | -73.15                         | Humpback Whale          | 25-30    | Feeding  |
| 31-Mar-25 | 8:05       | Gary          | W.of Matha Strait  | -66.73                        | -68.85                         | Humpback Whale          | 4        |  |
| 31-Mar-25 | 8:50       | Bridge        | W.of Matha Strait  | -66.6                         | -68.63                         | Fin Whale               | 4        |  |
| 31-Mar-25 | 10:20      | Bridge        | W.of Lavoisier Is  | -66.45                        | -68.12                         | Humpback Whale          | 5        | 2 in one group; 3 in the other--one calf in the 3 group  |
| 31-Mar-25 | 13:56      | Bridge        | W.of Lavoisier Is  | -65.56                        | -67.06                         | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 31-Mar-25 | 17:25      | Bridge        | W.of Lavoisier Is  | -65.22                        | -66.05                         | Humpback Whale          | 5        |  |
| 31-Mar-25 | 17:47      | Bridge        | W.of Lavoisier Is  | -65.2                         | -65.57                         | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 1-Apr-25  | 7:52       | Selam         | Petermann Is       | -65.17                        | -64.12                         | Humpback Whale          | 4        |  |
| 1-Apr-25  | 7:52       | Selam         | Penola Strait      | -65.17                        | -64.12                         | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 2-Apr-25  | 10:00      | Gary          | Danco Is           | -64.72                        | -62.62                         | Humpback Whale          | 3        |  |
| 2-Apr-25  | 11:40      | Bridge        | N. Ererra          | -64.66                        | -62.6                          | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 2-Apr-25  | 11:40      | Bridge        | N. Ererra          | -64.66                        | -62.6                          | Humpback Whale          | 2        |  |
| 2-Apr-25  | 11:45      | Bridge        | N. Ererra          | -64.66                        | -62.6                          | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 2-Apr-25  | 11:48      | Bridge        | N. Ererra          | -64.65                        | -62.6                          | Humpback Whale          | 1        |  |
| 2-Apr-25  | 11:50      | Bridge        | N. Ererra          | -64.64                        | -62.6                          | Humpback Whale          | 2        |  |



|          |       |           |           |        |        |                         |    |                         |
|----------|-------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 2-Apr-25 | 11:55 | Bridge    | N. Ererra | -64.64 | -62.6  | Humpback Whale          | 1  |                         |
| 2-Apr-25 | 12:00 | Gary      | Gerlache  | -64.6  | -62.65 | Humpback Whale          | 1  |                         |
| 2-Apr-25 | 12:06 | Gary      | Gerlache  | -64.6  | -62.65 | Humpback Whale          | 1  |                         |
| 4-Apr-25 | 10:30 | Charlotte | Drake     | NR     | NR     | Other (list in comment) | 1  | S. Bottlenosed whale    |
| 4-Apr-25 | 11:05 | Valeria   | Drake     | -56.54 | -62.5  | Other (list in comment) | >4 | Peale's Doilphins       |
| 4-Apr-25 | 11:05 | Valeria   | Drake     | -56.54 | -62.6  | Other (list in comment) | 10 | Long-finned Pilot Wahle |

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# Sara Jenner – Expedition Leader

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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.



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# Allan White - Expedition Guide

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Allan was born and raised in the Falkland Islands. He's a fifth generation Islander, and a descendant of one of the original British colonists in 1840. His higher education was completed in England, after which he embarked on a military career.

He joined the British Army aged 17. After serving in West Germany for two years during the Cold War period, he completed deployments in Northern Ireland, Cyprus as a United Nations peace-keeper, and with British Forces South Atlantic Islands. He left the Army to settle back in the Falklands.

While working as a Port Agent, Allan worked with the late Lars-Eric Lindblad, the inspirational pioneer of the small ship expedition cruising concept. He encouraged Allan to become a Zodiac driver and go to sea for a year. Twenty eight years later, he's still at it. His voyages have taken him all over the world, with particular focus on the Polar regions. His travel experience ranges from 90° North to 76° South.

In the Falklands, Allan and his wife owned and operated their own tourist lodge for over a decade. More recently they managed a privately owned island, where they were the sole residents for almost 5 years, with thousands of albatrosses, penguins and seals for neighbours.

Allan is an experienced guide and Zodiac driver, with a keen interest in natural history and polar exploration. He lives in the Falklands capital Stanley, with his wife Jacqui and their Labrador Bosun.

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# Charlotte Taplin – Expedition Guide

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Charlotte grew up by the Coast in Cornwall, United Kingdom. From a young age she has always been fascinated by wildlife and the ocean. She studied Wildlife Conservation at University and then spent the next 10 years travelling through South America, Australasia and Africa. Charlotte's love for boats began in 2013 where she worked on research and dive vessels visiting remote regions of the Great Barrier Reef. Her interest in Marine Biology grew in Australia and New Zealand while studying Humpback, Minke and Sperm Whales.

After driving overland in a land rover from South Africa to Jordan she then moved to Mozambique in 2018 where she started her own backpacker hostel. In her spare time Charlotte worked as a Researcher studying Whale sharks and Manta Rays along the Coast of Mozambique. During 2020-2022 she worked as a Deckhand/Divemaster on superyachts and ice breaker explorer vessels. Her hobbies include scuba-diving, surfing, free-diving and hiking. Being surrounded by the ocean is Charlotte's favourite place to be and she is so excited to have started her first season with Oceanwide in 2022.



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# Enric Sangra Modol – Exp. Guide

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Enric Sangrà holds a Master's degree in Scientific Communication from the Valencian International University and a Bachelor's degree in Geology from the University of Barcelona. With extensive experience as a science communicator in various research institutes in Spain, he has worked closely with researchers to effectively communicate their discoveries.

Enric is passionate about making Earth Science understandable to the public through storytelling. He bridges the gap between researchers and society, transforming complex scientific results into clear and engaging messages. His skills led him to be one of the ten finalists in the national final of scientific monologues in Spain, "Solo de Ciencia," where the top ten science communicators in the country were selected.

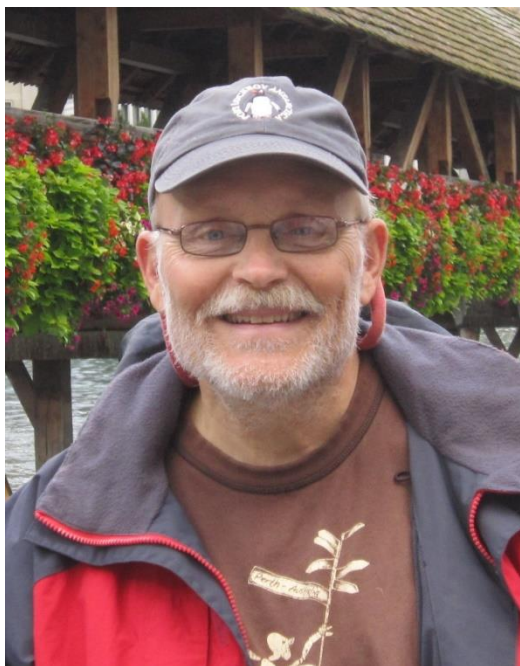
For Enric, Antarctica represents the pinnacle of geological exploration. The continent's unique geological features, including ancient rock formations, meteorite-rich fields, and glacial landscapes, provide invaluable insights into Earth's history. Studying these rocks and minerals reveals secrets about past climates, tectonic movements, and the processes that have shaped our planet over millions of years.

What truly excites Enric about guiding in Antarctica is the opportunity to make passengers see beyond the ice and rocks, bringing out his full potential by sharing the fascinating geological stories of this pristine and remote region.

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## Gary Miller – Expedition Guide

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Gary's love of the polar regions began over 40 years ago when he studied polar bears in Canada for his MA in Zoology. He started by following an academic career as a scientist studying wildlife. During that time he also worked on bowhead whales and gray whales in Alaska and Mexico and then a 3-year study of desert bighorn sheep in Arizona for his PhD in Behavioral Ecology in 1986. After that his life took a dramatic turn to the south when he began research on Antarctic penguins and skuas. He immediately fell in love with the Antarctic and has continued to work there for his career. Starting with 6

summers of research on Ross Island, deep in the Ross Sea, he has logged 10 summers and one winter at research stations studying South Polar Skuas, Adelie, Gentoo, Chinstrap, Royal, King, and Emperor penguins. Gary has tremendous experience with Emperors having spent an entire winter studying the emperor penguins at Auster colony in East Antarctica.

For the past 30 years, Gary has split his time between research expeditions and ship-based tours to the polar regions. He enjoys sharing his knowledge, enthusiasm and experience with passengers from all over the world. In his many years he has circumnavigated Antarctica, visited a wide range of penguin colonies in different parts of Antarctica, and has managed to visit 10 different Emperor penguin colonies. Gary is one of the most experienced naturalist/guides working today.



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## Jess Owen – Expedition Guide

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Jess is from England and has recently been living on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. Since graduating from a degree in Wildlife and Media, Jess has been working in environmental research and education roles with wildlife conservation charities in the UK, with a focus on marine mammals and birds. Jess is a passionate science communicator, wildlife guide, and nature enthusiast. She has delivered lectures, workshops, tours, school lessons, and training courses to a wide variety of audiences on subjects such as birds, insects, marine mammals, marine and terrestrial conservation,

citizen science, and gardening for wildlife. She is particularly passionate about citizen science and helping inspire people to become connected to wildlife and active in its conservation.

Jess now specialises in whales, dolphins, and porpoises, having worked as a marine mammal surveyor and whale watching guide since 2015. This work has taken her to the Bay of Biscay, the West Coast of Scotland, the Southern Ocean, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Svalbard, Greenland, and the Antarctic Peninsula. She is very excited to be returning to work with Oceanwide Expeditions for another season in the polar regions.

When she is not out at sea, Jess spends her time gardening, reading, making films, snorkelling, and bird watching. She loves to spend time with her nieces and nephew and likes travelling in her beloved campervan.

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## Saskia van der Meij – Exp. guide

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Saskia is an enthusiastic girl born in The Netherlands. With a huge national park in her backyard, she felt at a young age how great it is to be active in & part of nature.

Multiple-day hikes in the Andes or the Himalayas, kayaking around remote islands in Canada or camping on mountain tops overlooking Alaska's glaciers.

Saskia has a background in tourism and hospitality. For almost twenty years she was a product manager for a nature-oriented tour operator. She travelled to develop interesting products in Alaska,

Canada, Argentina, Chili, Southern Africa, Australia and New Zealand. In that time, while co-guiding a trip in Iceland, she knew she wanted to be a nature guide.

In 2019 she worked for three months in Namibia as an assistant hotel manager in two different private game lodges. Two fantastic years followed while spending her time in North Norway, Spitsbergen and the Baltic Sea as a hotel manager on a three mast Barque (Tallship).

But her heart told her to go guiding. She spent almost every season in Spitsbergen and became an expedition guide on several ships. She called Antarctica home for three months last winter/summer. As a camping guide she took guests out for a night on this amazing continent.

She has a wide interest and understanding, from animals and landscapes to ice and history with its interesting explorer stories.

Hospitality lies in her core and her ongoing 'sunshine' is what guests remember Saskia by. She welcomes you on board and likes to share her knowledge and enthusiasm for these breathtaking destinations.



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# Tom van Hoof – Expedition Guide

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I visited the polar regions for the first time in 2001. As a PhD student I attended a course at the University Centre of Svalbard and fell in love with the Arctic Wilderness of Spitsbergen. After finishing my PhD in palaeo-climate research at Utrecht University, the Netherlands, I lived for a while in Arizona. When returning home, I started to work for the Dutch Geological Survey where I got the chance to do fieldwork in the Arctic again.

Over the years I participated and organized several geological field campaigns in Spitsbergen where I spent the most precious moments of my life in tents, remote cabins or small ships. In 2015 I came into contact with Oceanwide Expeditions during a scientific expedition on M/V Ortelius. Shortly after, I started working as a expedition guide for Oceanwide Expeditions in both polar regions. Besides expedition guiding I also still help with the field logistics on Arctic scientific expeditions.

My day-to-day job nowadays is for the Netherlands Polar Program, a section of the Dutch Science Council (NWO). This organization funds Dutch polar scientific research and manages the Dutch polar infrastructure. I am a fanatic outdoor enthusiast, and I recently finished a training for Hike and Survival instructor. I live in the Netherlands with my wife, three daughters and two Leonberger dogs who all like to camping, preferably in winter conditions.

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# Valeria Sainz Herrera – Exp. guide

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Valeria Sainz Herrera is an Argentine photographer. She grew up in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina. Throughout the years she has found that one of her greatest passions is to travel to the wildest and remotest places around the world. So, traveling as much as she could, she found in the photography, a profession that gives her the freedom to know and live in different locations.

Nowadays she spends her life between “the poles”, working as a guide for Oceanwide Expeditions, and during the rest of the year you could find her in a beautiful island names Ilhabela in Brazil,

working in tourism area.

Living in different countries allows her to learn and practice many activities that she enjoys, especially in natural environments, like rock climbing and skiing in the Argentinian Patagonian Andes or camping and hiking in the central region of Argentina and, in Brazil, she learned other kinds of sports like scuba diving, kayaking and sailing.

She is also particularly interested in the history of the expeditions that discovered and mapped some of the places we are about to visit. This gives her the chance to share fascinating stories on board.

The Antarctic and The Arctic were always a dream of her, and now are part of her life.



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# Samuel Fidler – Ships Doctor

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Samuel Fidler is a Dutch surgery resident who lives and works in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

He received his medical degree from Utrecht University and performed his PhD research at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD, USA. For his PhD he studied transplant immunology and ultra-low temperature graft preservation techniques in hand and face transplants.

After returning to the Netherlands, he gained experience in critical care and emergency medicine through his work at the Erasmus University Medical Center ICU and the Maasstad Hospital Surgery and Emergency Medicine departments. Currently he is a surgeon in training at the Erasmus University Medical Center.

Growing up in a family of sailors and hikers, he developed a keen interest in outdoor adventure through rock climbing, alpinism, trekking, canoeing, skiing, and (sea)sailing. While working as a researcher in the United States, he climbed extensively in West Virginia, New York State, and Maine, repeatedly sailed up and down the Chesapeake Bay, canoed Minnesota's Boundary Waters and trekked through the Cascade Mountain Range and sections of the Appalachian Trail. As a ship's doctor he previously worked on journeys on the North- and Mediterranean Seas, the Atlantic- and Pacific Oceans and to Antarctica.

Through his travels he gained a deep respect for nature and an understanding of how fragile the earth's ecosystems are. He loves to share the wonders of the polar wilderness with guests and to provide the best possible experience on polar voyages.



# Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis Welcome on Board!

Date: 21 March 2025

Day 1 Ushuaia

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 **Bar on Deck 6**. 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*





## Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis

Date: 22 March 2025

Day 2 Drake Passage

07:45 Wake up call.

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

10:30 You will be called deck by deck down to the Lecture Room on Deck 3 to collect your Muck Boots, please bring your thick socks so you can try them for size.

11:30 Please join Gary in the Bar for a presentation about Sea Birds of the Southern Ocean.

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

16:15 Jess invites you to the Bar for an Introduction to the Whales and Dolphins of the Southern Ocean.

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.

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



## Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis

Date: 23 March 2025

Day 3 Approaching Antarctica

- 07:45 Wake up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Please join Valaria for an Introduction to Photography in Antarctica and the Aurora Australis.
- 11:30 Sara invites you to join her in the Bar for a lecture about Penguins.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant 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 Enric invites you to join him in the Bar for a lecture titled 'Antarctic Glaciology: Understanding the icy landscape of Antarctica'.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 20:30 There will be a screening of the new Shackleton Movie, about finding the Endurance in the Bar, with popcorn!

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.

*"A journey is a person, 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*





## Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis

Date: 24 March 2025

Day 4 Fish Islands and Crossing the Antarctic Circle

07:45 Wake up call.

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

09:15 Guest speaker Tyler Nordgren welcomes you to the Bar for a presentation titled 'In Search of the Aurora Australis'.

11:30 Charlotte welcomes you to the Bar for a lecture about Seals of the Southern Ocean.

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

We hope to offer you a Zodiac cruise of the Fish Islands, exact timings for this will be dependent on our progress over night, so please listen to announcements as this may also alter our meal and lecture times. We may also call you my colour groups so please check to see if you are in the **RED** group or **BLUE** group.

**Please ensure you are dressed in full waterproofs, Mucks boots and that your lifejacket is correctly fastened before coming to the gangway. Remember to swipe out and back in on your return.**

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

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

We expect to cross the Antarctic Circle during the evening, we will make an announcement 30 minutes before, in case you would like to join us on the bridge for this event.

*"Half the fascination an Antarctic expedition possesses is to be found in the sharpness of the contrasts experienced during its course, for it appears to be true that a hell one day is liable to make a heaven the next." - Raymond Priestley.*



## Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis

Date: 25 April 2025

Day 5 The Gullet, South of the Antarctic Circle

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

### An Expedition Day South of the Antarctic Circle.

We hope to transit The Gullet during the morning and we encourage you out on deck for this very scenic navigation.

All off-ship activities today will very much depend on progress and the ice we encounter so please listen to announcements. If you have any questions about our plans please come to the bridge where you can ask an expedition staff member or the bridge officer on duty.

If an opportunity arises during the day, guest speaker Julie Rathbun will give a presentation in the Bar titled 'The Europa Clipper Spacecraft mission to an Icy World'.

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

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.

*"Glittering white, shining blue, raven black, in the light of the sun the land looks like a fairy tale. Pinnacle after pinnacle, peak after peak, crevassed, wild as any land on our globe, it lies, unseen and untrodden."- Roald Amundsen*



## Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis

Date: 26 March 2025

Day 6 Stonington Island and Red Rock Ridge

07:15 Wake-up call.

07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

We hope to offer a landing on Stonington Island in the morning, timings will be confirmed during breakfast so please listen to announcements.

East Base was established during the United States Antarctic Service Expedition led by Richard E. Byrd (1939-41) and was subsequently occupied during the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition (1947-1948). The buildings were also occupied and modified by the UK during the construction and operation of Base 'E'. which was established by the UK in 1946, only a 100m from the US East Base. The station closed in 1950 as sea ice conditions prevented access. It reopened in 1960 as the centre for field work in the south Antarctic Peninsula, and a new steel-framed, two-story plywood hut was erected in 1961. Stonington served largely as a staging post for access to the peninsula via the Northeast Glacier. Up to 120 sledging dogs were spanned on the glacier above Stonington Island, which also served as runway for aircraft. The original Base 'E' was burnt down by accident in 1972, and only fragmentary remains mark the site. The station closed down in February 1975.

We are limited to 12 people inside the historic huts at once so please be patient. We advise you bring a torch or head light with you to use in the hut. You will be required to clean your boots before entering the hut and will need to leave your rucksacks and camera bags outside.

12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

In the afternoon we hope to offer an off-ship activity at Red Rock Ridge, once again, timings and logistics will be announced after lunch, please listen to announcements.

18:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.

19:30 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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





## Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis

Date: 27 March 2025

Day 7 Heading South

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:15 Tom invites you to the Bar for a presentation titled 'Ice sheets and climate change'.
- 11:30 Please join Gary in the Bar for a lecture about Adelie Penguins.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 Valeria invites you to the Bar for a presentation about image editing in Lightroom.
- 16:15 Please join Allan in the Bar for a lecture titled 'Sledge Dogs - The unsung heroes of Antarctic Exploration'.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 20:30 After dinner we will show the animated musical comedy – 'Happy Feet Part 1'.

*"If antarctica were music it would be Mozart. Art, and it would be Michelangelo. Literature, and it would be Shakespeare. And yet it is something even greater; the only place on earth that is still as it should be. May we never tame it."- Andrew Denton*



## Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis

Date: 28 March 2025

Day 8 Wilkins Ice shelf

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

We hope to arrive at the Wilkins Ice Shelf today, which will represent our most southern point during this voyage. All lectures, workshops and off ship activities will be dependent on our arrival time, weather conditions and wildlife sightings so please listen to announcements or come to the bridge where you will always find a member of staff or crew to ask if you have questions.

The Wilkins Ice Shelf was named after the Australian-born British explorer Sir George Hubert Wilkins, who first scouted the region by airplane in late December 1928. The Wilkins Ice Shelf spanned the region between Alexander Island, Charcot Island, and Latady Island in the Bellingshausen Sea, an area of about 16,000 square km (6,200 square miles), before its retreat began in the late 1990s. By the early 21st century the ice shelf had substantially diminished because of rising regional air temperatures and the physical stresses of ocean wave activity. In January 2008 the ice shelf covered an area of approximately 13,700 square km (about 5,300 square miles). However, a section measuring 405 square km (about 160 square miles) collapsed by March of that year, leaving a thin bridge of continuous ice connecting the ice shelf to Charcot Island. This bridge, only about 6 km (3.7 miles) wide at its widest point, acted like a dam to hold back the shelf's partially broken interior from the open sea. In April 2009 the ice bridge lost its connection to Charcot Island, increasing the likelihood of rapid disintegration of the remaining ice shelf.

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

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

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

*"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". - Fridtjof Nansen*



## Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis

Date: 29 March 2025

Day 9 Lazarev Bay

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:15 Please join Enric in the Bar for a presentation titled 'Antarctic Geology: What can Rocks Beneath the Ice tell us?'

10:15-11:15 Valeria will be in the Bar if you have any camera or photo editing questions.

11:30 Gary invites you to the Bar for a lecture about Emperor Penguins.

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

14:00 Guest speaker, Tyler will give a lecture titled 'Seeking Southern Skies' in the Bar.

This afternoon we hope to reach Lazarev Bay which separates Alexander Island from Rothschild Island. The north coast of Alexander Island was first seen from a great distance by the Russian expedition of 1821 under Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen however the bay was only first mapped from air photos taken by the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition, 1947–48, by D. Searle of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey in 1960. The bay was named after Lieutenant Mikhail Petrovich Lazarev, who was second-in-command of Bellingshausen's expedition.

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

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

*"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world." - Albert Einstein*





## Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis

Date: 30 March 2025

Day 10 Lazarev Bay

07:15 Wake-up call.

07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

During the morning, we hope to take you for a Zodiac cruise of Lazarev Bay, please dress warmly as we expect it to be a cold morning. We will confirm timings after breakfast, please listen to announcements.

12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

14:00 Guest speaker Julie Rathbun will give a presentation in the Bar about the operations of the Europa Clipper Spacecraft Mission, a sequel to her original presentation.

16:15 Saskia welcomes you to the Bar for a lecture titled 'The Ross Sea Party'- The Forgotten men of the Imperial trans Antarctic Expedition'.

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

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

*"We have probed the earth, excavated it, burned it, ripped things from it, buried things in it. That does not fit my definition of a good tenant. If we were here on a month-to-month basis, we would have been evicted long ago." - Rose Elizabeth Bird*



## Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis

Date: 31 March 2025

Day 11 Heading North

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:15 Sara invites you to the Bar for a presentation about Women in Antarctica.

10:15-11:15 Valeria will be in the Bar if you have any camera or editing questions.

11:30 Jess invites you to the Bar for a lecture titled 'What whales do for us – The Importance of whales in our oceans'.

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

16:30 Allan invites you to the Bar for a lecture titled 'The Curious Case of Admiral Byrd's Antarctic Snow Cruiser'.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.

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

*"But who wants to be foretold the weather? It is bad enough when it comes, without our having the misery of knowing about it beforehand."- Jerome K. Jerome*



## Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis

Date: 1 April 2025

Day 12 Petermann Island and Port Charcot

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

After breakfast we hope to offer a landing at Petermann Island, where a small colony of Gentoo and Adelie penguin reside.

Charcot's second French Antarctic expedition wintered aboard the Porquois-Pais at this location and a number of associated artefacts remain visible, including a cairn, chains, and the letters 'PP' engraved in stone near the landing site. There is also a small Argentine refuge hut and the death of three members of the British Antarctic Survey in 1982 is marked by a commemorative cross.

12:00-13:00 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

This afternoon we hope to offer a landing at Port Charcot, on Booth Island, we will announce the exact timings after lunch as our arrival time will be dependent on ice conditions.

The location was the overwintering site of the French Antarctic Expedition, 1903-1905 onboard the Français under the command of Jean-Baptiste Charcot. Remains from the expedition are still visible in the form of a cairn with a wooden pillar and the stone built magnetic hut. It is one of few sites where you have the chance of seeing all three types of brushtail penguins if you are lucky.

18:00 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap.

18:30 Dinner will be served outside, please dress warmly.

*"I own myself one of those who do not fear the shore, for hardly any great things are done in a small ship by a man that does." - Admiral Lord Nelson*





## Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis

Date: 2 April 2025

Day 13 Danco Island and Melchoir Islands

06:45 Wake-up call.

07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

After breakfast we hope to land you at Danco Island, home to a small Gentoo Penguin colony. The island is named after the Belgian geophysicist Emile Danco who tragically lost his life during the Belgian Antarctic Expedition of 1897-99.

At the end of the landing, we hope to offer a **polar plunge**. If you wish to take an icy dip, please wear your swimwear underneath your expedition clothing. We provide the towels, do not bring them from your cabin. Please remember to do vigilant biosecurity checks of your swim wear before coming ashore. When you get undressed, please place all your clothing on the waterproof mat provided, except your Muck boots which stay to the edge on the ground. There will be Zodiacs ready to take you back to the ship immediately after your swim.

12:00-13:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

Late afternoon we hope to offer a final Zodiac cruise of the Melchior Islands, please listen to announcements for exact timings. This group of low, ice-covered islands lying near the center of Dallmann Bay between Brabant Island and Anvers Island. They were first seen but left unnamed by a German expedition under Eduard Dallmann, 1873–74 but were resighted and roughly charted by the Third French Antarctic Expedition under Jean-Baptiste Charcot, 1903–05.

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. Make sure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed.*

*"People do not decide to be extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things." - Sir Edmund Hillary*



## Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis

Date: 3 April 2025

Day 14 Drake Passage

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:15 Please join guest speaker Juile Rathbun in the Bar for a lecture titled 'Why do Planetary Scientists love Antarctica?'

11:30 Charlotte invites you to the Bar for her lecture about feeding in whales.

12:15 We will call you to the Lecture Room to return your Muck boots, hire rental clothing, red waterproof bags and Zodiac lifejackets.

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

16:15 Please join Gary in the Bar for a presentation about his time overwintering at an Australian Antarctic Station.

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.

*"Notorious for violent storms which quickly turn a moderate sea into violent confusion, turmoil and mountainous waves." - Shackleton describing the Drake Passage.*



## Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis

Date: 4 April 2025

Day 15 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.**

09:15 Please join the Expedition Team for a miniseries of lectures to conclude the voyage.

11:30 Captain Per welcomes you to the Bar for a Question-and-Answer session with him in the Bar, please ensure you put your questions in the Question Box before 11:00.

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

16:15 Sara welcomes you to the bar for a presentation about Oceanwides' other Destinations.

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*





## Antarctica - Beyond the Polar Circle - Wilkins Ice Shelf - Aurora Australis

Date: 5 April 2025

Day 16 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*