



Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Puerto Madryn – Falkland Islands – South Georgia – South Orkney Islands – Antarctica – South Shetland Islands - Ushuaia

22nd October 2025 – 11th November 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 poetess and writer. 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 a 10.5 knots average cruising speed and propulsion is 6 ZL 40/48 SULZER, that allows her sailing for 44 days **without needing to stop**. *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:	Vladyslav Rozhynsky	[Ukraine]
Second Officer:	Warren Villanueva	[Philippines]
Third Officer:	Petroc Weychan	[The Netherlands]
Chief Engineer:	Guntis Dizbite	[Latvia]
Hotel Manager:	Volodymyr Cherednychenko	[Ukraine]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	Karolina Guziejko	[Poland]
Head Chef:	Ivan Yuriychuk	[Ukraine]
Expedition Leader	George Kennedy	[Australia]
Assistant Expedition Leader	Pippa Low	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide	Allan White	[Falkland Islands]
Expedition Guide	Beth Hitchcock	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide	Matt Choek	[Australia]
Expedition Guide	Jess Owen	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide	Martin Anstee	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide	Saskia van der Meij	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide	Wei Deng	[China]
Ship's Doctor	Marrigje Hofmeester	[The Netherlands]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Wednesday 22nd October 2025. Puerto Madryn. Embarkation Day

0700 GPS Position: 42°44.8'S, 064°59.2'W

Wind: NE 8 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air Temperature: +10°C

For many, the days prior to boarding were spent busying ourselves with obligatory whale watching from the shores of Puerto Madryn and exploring what this unexpected Argentinian coastal town has to offer. It wasn't long before this long-awaited moment became reality as we began the journey down the long pier to where *Ortelius* lay, right out amongst the waves and the whales.

Some took the brave decision to walk the length of the pier, although only those who had a confident firm grip of all their belongings and did not mind some involuntary facial expressions being forced upon them by the wind.



Upon embarkation, the crew showed us to our cabins where we were met with our luggage. Before settling into our new home for the coming 21 days, it was time for the mandatory briefings. These were essential to understand the safety procedures and precautions whilst on board *Ortelius*.

Due to the spectacular evening light and the abundance of marine life surrounding the ship, our Expedition Leader and Captain decided that we would postpone the captain's cocktail and introductions until after dinner. Therefore, we all dressed up in an extra layer and headed to the soft light on the outer decks to capture the pectoral fins and flukes of the southern right whales which frequented the surface.



The range of cameras was a sight in itself as we gasped and pointed, running from one side to the other, sharing our sightings and excitement with those around us. Some were up on the bridge. Others on the mid decks. Many lined the edges of the bow.

Dinner was called which enticed a few inside. It wasn't until the bridge announced we had to speed up and make headway towards the Falkland Islands that the last of us peeled ourselves from the outer decks to enjoy some food. It was hard to leave even without the impressive display from the whales!



Day 2 – Thursday 23rd October– Sea Day

08:00 GPS Position: 44°59.3'S, 063°33.5'W

Wind: NW 5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +10°C

We were very excited to begin our first full day onboard *Ortelius*. Today we would be spending a whole day at sea as we made our way towards the Falkland Islands. George gave us a wake-up call on the PA system, but many of us were already awake and excited to get outside. The sea was a silvery grey colour and there was a layer of fog on the horizon. There was some movement on the ship, but overall, the weather was good, and most people avoided feeling seasick.



After breakfast, George and Pippa invited us to the lounge for our two mandatory briefings of the day. The first was about IAATO and how to behave in Antarctica around the wildlife and the restrictions we needed to be aware of. The second was about the Zodiac operations and how to embark and disembark the Zodiacs at the gangway and on the beaches.

Lots of beautiful bird species were spotted throughout the day, including the black-browed albatross, cape petrel, white-chinned petrel, giant petrel, prions, shearwaters, and storm petrels.

Later in the morning, Matt introduced us to the photography program that would be running throughout the trip. He wowed us with some beautiful images of the polar regions and inspired us all to get involved in making portfolios of our voyage.

We enjoyed a tasty buffet lunch before we gathered in the lecture room to collect our muck boots that would keep our feet warm and dry during the trip.

In the afternoon, about ten minutes before Martins' lecture was about to begin, a blue whale was spotted quite close to the ship. This caused much excitement as it is a real rarity to see the largest animal in the world. Martin kindly delayed his lecture so we could enjoy the whale. He eventually gave us a great talk about the birds we can expect to see in the Falkland Islands. It got us excited at the prospect of seeing penguins and albatrosses at their nest sites as well as the shore birds and birds of prey.



Before dinner we gathered in the lounge for the first of our daily recaps. George told us about the plans for tomorrow and Jess gave us some more information about the two whale species we have seen so far.

We were served a lovely plated dinner in the restaurant before returning to the bar to listen to the first of Matts photography workshops. This one was about how to get the most out of your smart phone. It really showed how you don't need to have lots of expensive equipment to get excellent shots.

Many of us stayed on the outside decks all through the afternoon until it became dark in the evening enjoying the birds. We went to bed with our heads full of new information and ideas and with lots of excitement.



Day 3 – Friday 24th October – Arrival at the Falkland Islands: Steeple Jason

08:00 GPS Position: 49°51.5'S, 061°48.3'W

Wind: NE 3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: 8°C • Sea Temp: 6°C

We were woken up again by our Expedition Leader George. Some of our early birds were already out on deck and were greeted by the sun this morning. We'd made good speed overnight, which meant we were getting closer to the Falkland Islands. We saw more seabirds around our vessel like several little petrels soaring in the wind, but also some of the first giants of the Southern Ocean were around; the southern royal albatross and the black-browed albatross.

Before we are able to land in the Falklands we must do a biosecurity check. To make sure we are not bringing any seeds, grass, soil or invasive plants to the islands. We were called in groups to the lounge on deck 6 to complete our first biosecurity. On the rhythm of the waves, we tried our best to get all our outerwear, backpacks, muck boots and tripods/walking sticks up the staircases, to be checked and/or cleaned.

After that, at 1130, we were invited by Allan to join him in the lounge on deck 6 to listen to his lecture about The Falkland Islands and hear all about the wild islands, with some of his local insights into life on the islands, as Allan is a local Falklander and has lived there his whole life. It was amazing to hear his personal story about his country with its 778 islands, a few of which we will hopefully visit over the next coming days.

At 12:30 we were invited by our Hotel Manager Volodymyr to enjoy another lovely lunch in the dining room. And shortly after that we were asked to join the Expedition Team in the lounge (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing already at 1400. Because during the normal time around 1815 we would be off the ship.



Today was a special day as the Expedition Team would try to get us on land on Steeple Jason Island. It is located in the far northwest of the Falkland Islands archipelago. Due to prevailing winds coming from the southwest over the Southern Ocean, it is really hard to land here.

While we approached Steeple Jason we saw southern sea lions, fur seals and many seabirds and alongside *Ortelius* we also saw dusky and Peale's dolphins jumping the waves. Steeple Jason is home to the world's largest black browed albatross colony, as well as an array of other bird and wildlife species. We were all so excited to get on land and see it all for ourselves. We all got dressed and stood at the gangway, ready to be picked up by one of the Zodiacs and driven ashore. We had landed on a rocky outcrop in a sheltered bay that gave enough lee for us to be able to get off reasonably easily for our first outing.



Right beside the bags, where we had to drop our life jackets, we were met by our first penguins of the trip, a small group of nesting gentoos. Some of them briefly lifted their chest, so we could see the egg. A route was set out and we could follow the poles out to experience the island. We were overwhelmed by the wildlife that greeted us. Rockhopper and Magellanic penguins and finally at the end of the route the biggest colony of black-browed albatross in the world. There are more than 110,000 breeding pairs in this colony that stretches 5 kilometers along the coastline and is around 200 meters in width.

After a good leg stretch up the hill, we arrived at the colony. We had to meander our way through thick and high tussock grass to reach a viewpoint where we could be right at eye level with these gigantic birds. The sound was incredible and to see them nurturing their eggs, clacking beaks, walking around with their big feet and taking off with their enormous wingspan was just amazing. The sun was setting which shaded a beautiful glow over the colony. Just magical. For the birders on board, it was really exciting to spot their first endemic bird of the Falklands, the Falkland flightless steamer duck.

After this amazing landing we were back on board and enjoyed another great dinner made by the gally team. What an incredible first day this was in the Falklands.



Day 4 – Saturday 25th October – Carcass Island and Saunders Island

09:00 GPS Position: 51°18.2'S, 060°32.3'W

Wind: NW 5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partial Cloud • Air Temp: +4°C • Sea Temp: 4°C

First thing this morning *Ortelius* came to anchor off Carcass Island. The scene outside was one of rugged beauty bathed in glorious early morning sunlight. The tiny settlement was visible off the starboard side, surrounded by a tight cluster of introduced trees. A moderate cool breeze blew from the west, as is typical for the Falklands. The expedition team deployed during breakfast to scout the landing site, and soon we were donning outdoor gear for a thrilling Zodiac ride ashore.

We stepped on to Dyke Beach near the south-east end of the island where an incredible array of birdlife awaited us. The unmistakable morning chorus of Magellanic penguins welcomed us to the island. Chief among the wildlife highlights on Carcass was the endemic Cobb's wren, which birders were delighted to find almost immediately where we landed. And with minimal effort the second and only other endemic, the Falkland Steamer Duck, was found just along the beach. Walking across the narrow isthmus to the stunning Leopard Beach, there were so many birds that it was difficult to know where to look. This abundance and diversity are a result of the rodent-free status that Carcass enjoys. A small pond gifted a group of yellow-billed teal and a spectacular pair of Chiloë wigeon, as well as a mixture of upland and ruddy-headed geese. Those who made it across to Leopard Beach were treated to gentoo and Magellanic penguins coming ashore through the tropic-like shallows.



The long walkers headed north-west around the shore of Port Pattison towards the settlement, where a wonderful morning “smoko” (an old Falklands tradition) awaited us. In the main house a fantastic spread of cakes, cookies and other treats was laid out for all to enjoy, washed down with a steaming mug of coffee or tea. Those who didn’t hike were whisked across the bay by Zodiac to visit the settlement and sample the home-baked goodies. At the house we were hosted by Jane Chater, the owner of the Island. Her father bought Carcass Island in 1974, and only recently handed it on to Jane. We admired and photographed striated caracaras, one of the rarest birds of prey in the world, as they loitered mischievously in the tress. The time passed all too quickly, and soon it was time to take the Zodiacs back to *Ortelius*. It had been an unforgettable morning.



Over lunch, *Ortelius* repositioned 13.5 miles to the east to an anchorage off a location known as The Neck on Saunders Island. The day had changed dramatically, and soon dark, stormy skies brought driving snow and increased wind speeds that threatened our landing operation. Luckily, the bad weather eventually passed, and the winds dropped as sunshine returned. We took the Zodiacs ashore to a sandy beach near a large Gentoo penguin colony. We were met on the beach by David Pole-Evans, the owner of Saunders Island, and his sister Biffo. David also inherited his island from his father and is the lucky owner of the fourth largest island in the

Falklands. It is very much a family affair with David, his wife, daughter, sister and two brother-in-laws all living on the island. Their settlement is 10 miles (16km) from where we landed. A drive of 45 minutes in their 4x4 vehicles.



We followed a trail up to the steep hillside where a large colony of rockhopper penguins were the first to greet us. Further on we were delighted to encounter more black-browed albatrosses, sitting tight on their nests, protecting a single precious egg from the elements. The view from the vantage point was quite stunning, as we looked down over a spectacular sand beach that stretched some 1.5km into the distance. It was peppered with penguins, and those that ventured down to the sandy expanse were excited to find a small number of king penguins. These were both birds in spectacular adult plumage and large chicks in their thick brown fluffy coats. We stayed well into the evening to enjoy the soft light and dark, moody skies which looked quite threatening. Sure enough, the infamous Falklands weather changed once again and there was a sharp increase in wind as another wintery squall romped through our location.

Safe and sound back on *Ortelius*, it was time for a fine dinner and hot shower. Captain Per shaped a course for the Falklands capital, Stanley, which involved an overnight passage along the north coast of the Islands. The ship was buffeted by increasing winds, and violent wintery squalls made the decks very slippery. We joined the expedition team in the bar for a look at what lay in store tomorrow and learnt that the Falklands were about to be engulfed by a very nasty weather system that would bring gale-force winds. Our visit to Stanley was very much in the balance, and some luck would be needed tomorrow.

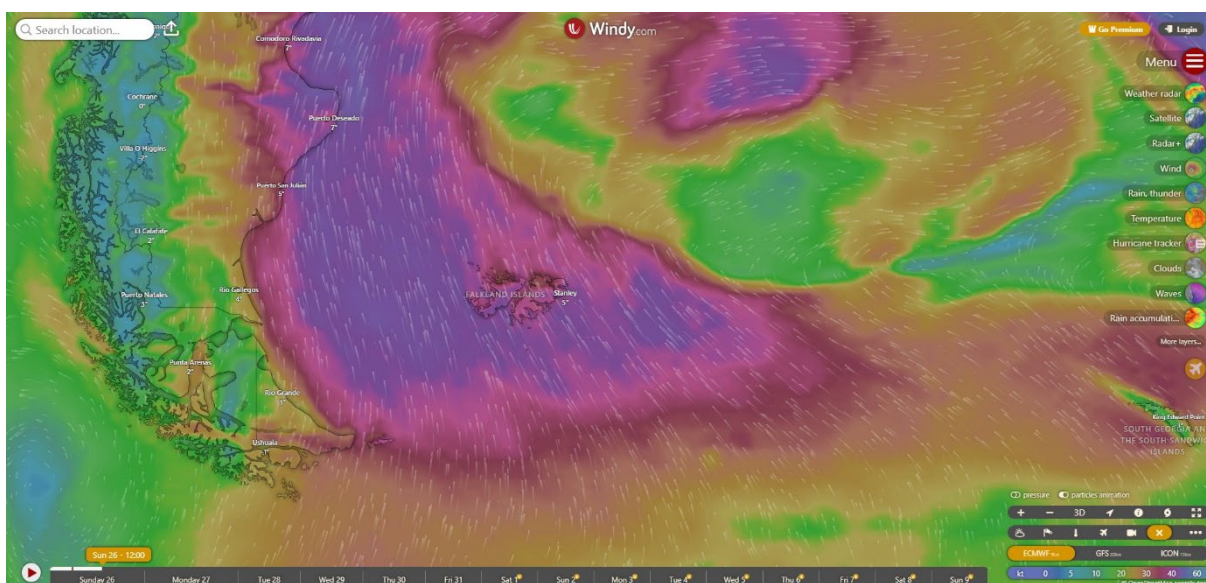


Day 5 – Sunday 26th October – Stanley

0800 GPS Position: 51°41.2'S, 057°51.0'W

Wind: S 9 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air Temp: +3°C • Sea Temp: +5°C

We woke this morning to the sight of the Narrows. This is a narrow channel from Port Williams through to Stanley harbour. It requires very careful navigation as not only is it narrow but it is also shallow. The captain did a fantastic job to get us through safely in winds gusting around 35 Knots. Many ships would not even attempt that navigation in such weather.



As we dropped anchor and manoeuvred into position it became clear that the disembarkation would be tricky with the wind as it was.



Another delicious breakfast was served as the expedition team dropped Zodiacs and assessed the conditions.

An hour or so later we were all enjoying dry land under our feet and the delightful town of Stanley. Some of us were escorted in by the local Commerson dolphins! One of the big attractions is the southernmost cathedral on the planet. Some of us visited the service at 10am. Others enjoyed the museum, the post office and the coffee shops.

We found the locals so friendly and happy to talk about their lives at the bottom of the world. By now it was sunny and warm as we walked along the 'front road' and Victory Green. Many visited the war memorials to pay their respects whilst others purchased gifts from the shops that had opened on this quiet Sunday morning.

Later in the morning, Falklands Beerworks and the gin distillery opened especially for us. A few samples were tasted, and bottles of beer and gin were taken back as mementos.

Before we knew it was time to head back to the ship. We headed back on the Zodiacs, this time a bit drier with the wind and spray behind us. We left the good people of Stanley to their quiet Sunday afternoon, and it was time for us to go to lunch. Many of us also watched our navigation back through the narrows. A truly spectacular exit as we passed Gypsy Cove and Yorke Bay and then finally Cape Pembroke and the Lighthouse as we ventured out into open seas.

There was a swell of 3-4 metres as we headed out and many of us retired to our cabins for the afternoon. During the afternoon those that could attend were treated to fascinating lectures on the Falklands War from Allan and Falklands geology from Beth.

After our vegetarian dinner some went to the photo workshop where images were shared from the last few days in the Falkland Islands and we reflected on what was a fabulous visit to the islands.

Day 6 – Monday 27th October – Sea Day

0800 GPS Position: 52°27.8'S, 052°08.8'W

Wind: SW 6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +2°C • Sea Temp: +3°C

After an incredibly successful and exciting three days in the Falkland Islands, we were quite pleased to be at the start of two sea days. This meant we could rest after our hikes and shore rock climbing adventures and begin the daunting task of organising our many thousands of photographs. The sea state had definitely improved from yesterday afternoon but there were still a few people struggling with seasickness.

We began the day with a mandatory briefing about what to expect when visiting South Georgia. George showed us an exciting film, a visitor's guide to South Georgia, which really got us inspired and excited about our upcoming trip. He then explained about the biosecurity measures in place to protect the unique flora and fauna of the island and how to manage a potentially intimidating advance from an angry fur seal.

Throughout the day we were birdwatching outside. Some new species of the day included the Atlantic petrel, light-mantled albatross and the grey-headed albatross.



Before lunch, Jess gave us a presentation about the cetacean species that we have the chance of seeing on our trip with some tips about how best to spot them.

After lunch we gathered in the lounge to hear Pippa give a presentation about the seal species we should see on our journey.

Around 4pm even more seabirds started to appear, and some light-mantled albatrosses were flying very close to the ship in beautiful low light, creating a perfect opportunity to capture today's photo objective which was 'birds in flight'. We also had great views of a wandering albatross, the record-breaking bird for having the largest wingspan.

In the late afternoon Saskia told us the story of Shackleton on the Endurance and how he and his men survived against the odds ultimately making it home from their disastrous attempt to cross the Antarctic continent.

We gathered for our daily recap in the evening where Martin gave us some more information about some of the bird species we had seen, Jess showed us the wingspans of a variety of the seabirds soaring around the Southern Ocean, and Pippa explained more about the Antarctic Convergence zone.

After dinner Matt invited us for another photography workshop where many of the passengers and staff shared some images they had taken over the last couple of days. We all take away different views and experiences from this trip and sharing our images was an excellent way of demonstrating this.



Day 7 – Tuesday 28th October – Sea Day and Shag Rocks

0900 GPS Position: 53°35.5'S, 043°46.2'W

Wind: SSW 6 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +2°C • Sea Temp: +2°C

After a bumpy night, George woke us up for our second full day at sea between the Falklands and South Georgia.

The bird watchers were out early this morning trying to see if there were any new species to be spotted as we crept closer to South Georgia.

Beth kicked off the lecture program with a talk about the Geology of South Georgia so that we could better understand the folds and structures in the landscape when we arrived there.

Straight after the talk we started getting ready for our second round of biosecurity. This one was particularly important as the South Georgia Government and South Georgia Heritage Trust have worked incredibly hard to eradicate invasive species such as rats and non-native plants. During the biosecurity checks a couple of beaked whales were spotted, and very far away on the horizon we could make out our first large iceberg.

We rewarded ourselves for doing such a great job cleaning by having yet another buffet lunch in the restaurant.



After lunch the magnificent Shag Rocks started to loom in the distance. The captain sailed the ship very close to the rocks so that we could see and hear the waves crashing up on the steep sides. There were hundreds of blue-eyed shags sitting on their nesting spots on the rocks, resting on the water, and flying in and out from fishing trips and to gather up seaweed to use for nesting material. It was quite a spectacle and there were also prions sitting in large numbers on the water around the rocks and even a humpback whale surfaced a couple of times. The

wind was icy, but it didn't stop us posing on the bow for a big group photo in front of the rocks. This was an excellent detour on route to South Georgia and a treat to get so close to these impressive geological structures in such a big swell.

In the late afternoon George gave us a lecture about the politics of South Georgia.



For the evening recap we gathered to hear the very exciting plans for tomorrow from George about our first activities in South Georgia. Martin told us about the South Georgia pipit, and Allan talked about the remarkable discovery of the ship Endurance, over one hundred years after it sank in the Weddell Sea.

We headed off to dinner with great excitement about tomorrow. Matt gave us another photography workshop in the evening where we looked at some of our photographs and he also gave us some more technical tips before improving our photography.



Day 8 – Wednesday 29th October – Fortuna Bay and Stromness Whaling Station

0800 GPS Position: 54°05.6'S, 036°48.0'W

Wind: SE 6 • Sea: Calm/Slight • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air Temp: +1°C • Sea Temp: +0.5°C

In the soft light of early morning, the coastline of South Georgia rose from the mist, a jagged sweep of mountains and glaciers that drew everyone out on deck despite the chill. To our delight, the weather was very pleasant, with reasonably calm seas and clear visibility, offering perfect conditions to appreciate the island's dramatic scenery. As the first rays touched the peaks, the island revealed its rugged beauty with snow-dusted ridges and waterfalls plunging into the sea.



After breakfast, we launched our Zodiacs for Fortuna Bay, a spectacular amphitheatre of rock and ice. The beach was alive with movement and sound as southern elephant seals lounged along the shore and king penguins filled the air with their brassy calls. As we made our way toward the colony, Antarctic fur seals were dotted along the path, watching our progress with mild curiosity. Against the backdrop of glaciers and sheer cliffs, it felt like stepping into another world. We truly felt we had arrived in South Georgia, delighted by the sheer number of king penguins and their chicks spread across the landscape.

Following lunch, we set out once more, this time for Stromness, a place that was once a bustling whaling station and is now a quiet monument to endurance and history. Rusting tanks and weathered buildings stood as reminders of a bygone era beneath a skyline of circling skuas. Bathed in soft afternoon light, some of us walked up the valley toward the waterfall, while others climbed a nearby hill for a view of the gentoo penguins nesting below. Our birders

were on the lookout for the elusive and endemic South Georgia pipit, though it managed to evade us on this occasion.



At the evening recap, George, our expedition leader, shared an exciting surprise: a wake-up call at 4:15 a.m. He promised it would be well worth the early start, as we are heading to St

Andrews Bay, home to the largest king penguin colony in South Georgia. The thought of seeing tens of thousands of penguins at dawn filled the room with anticipation — definitely a night for an early sleep.

Day 9 – Thursday 30th October – St Andrews Bay and Godthul

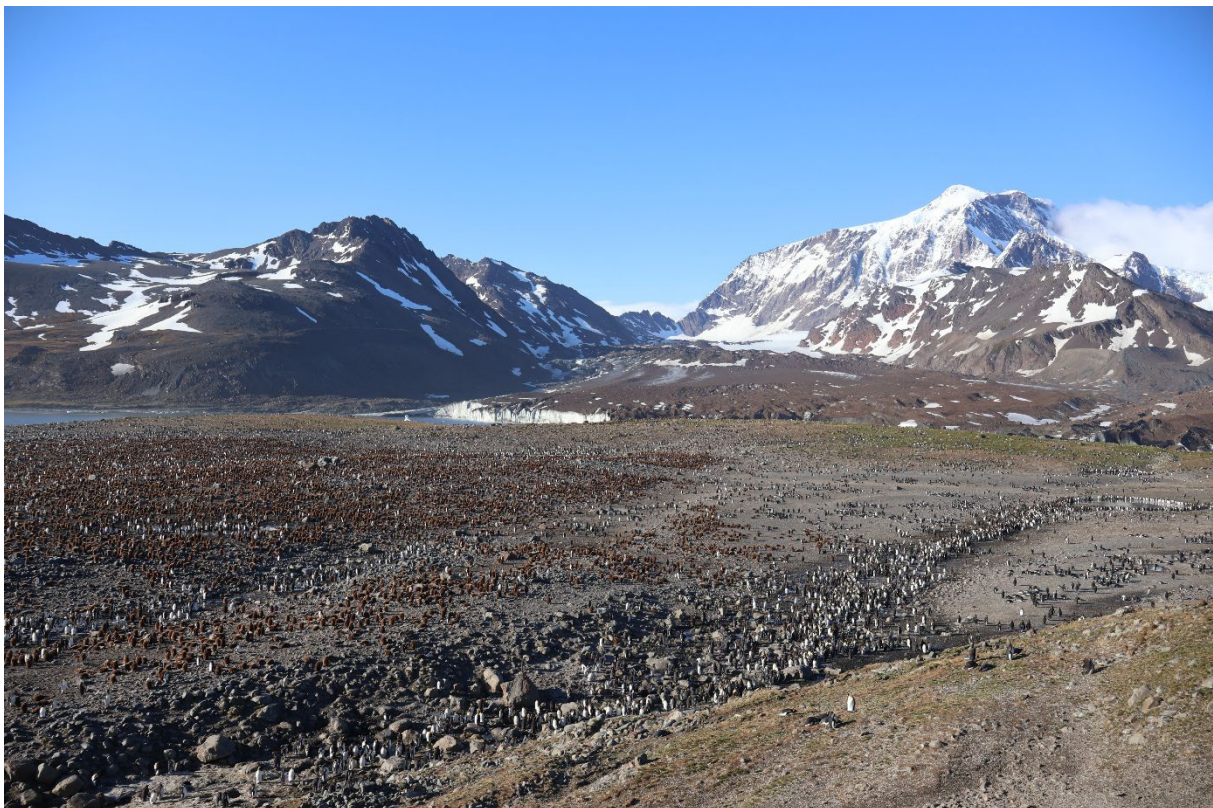
0800 GPS Position: 54°26.4'S, 036°07.2'W

Wind: Variable 1 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air Temp: +6°C • Sea Temp: 0°C

Due to a promising forecast for the St Andrews area, it was decided to grasp this opportunity and get an early morning landing with the soft light flooding the open outwash plane of St Andrews Bay. In polar operations we must make the most of any lull of the wild conditions that dominate these high latitudes, so we disregarded a complete night sleep and set off to the landing site at 04:45.

George woke us with the good news that things were looking good, and the swell was manageable where it reached the sweeping sandy beach. We watched the sun break the horizon, smelt the waft that accompanies any penguin colony and heard the hum of 400,000 breeding pairs of king penguins as we approached the landing site.

At the landing site we immediately disembarked the Zodiacs so the boats could be pushed back out from the waves of the shoreline. It was hard to get up to the lifejacket bags to rearrange ourselves into photography mode without being captured by the entertaining elephant seals grunting and snorting. The king penguins looked so spectacular in the morning light as they came and went from the crashing waves.



We had to focus on making time for reaching the viewpoint at the end of the walk where we could reach a spectacular position which overlooked the vast sea of penguins on this open plane. To reach the lookout we had to walk past many elephant seals which lined the beach. Males guarded their harems where the first of the young pups lay adjacent to their mothers.

Occasionally we were lucky enough to see a satellite male challenging the dominant male. As they caterpillar tracked over to their opponent, all other wildlife dispersed rapidly, avoiding being trampled. There were instances where we saw females disappearing under a male and reappearing the other side as the male bulldozed through the crowds, stopping for nothing.

We also had to make two river crossings to reach the viewpoint. This was not for everyone which wasn't a problem as there was so much action to see from before the rivers. The guides worked together to assist everyone through the water which luckily wasn't above the height of the muck boots, although there were certainly some wet feet amongst us!

After some time enjoying the vastness of the king penguin colony with the high mountains surrounding us and tumbling glaciers pouring down the valleys, it was time to make tracks back to the landing site.



By 08:30 we were all back on board and breakfast began. What a lot to discuss during this breakfast as we shared stories of amazement that this landing had really lived up to the high expectations.

After breakfast there was no break, it was time to head out on our first Zodiac cruise. All sun creamed up for the clear conditions, we headed to some rocks called Clark Point on the northern end of the beach where we could see many shearwaters feeding on the rocky shores. A group of king penguins looked curious as they waddled across the rocks, tempting each other to make a splash into the waves. It is always entertaining to speculate in our Zodiacs as to what the king penguins are saying to each other!

The Zodiac cruise delivered a new perspective to the site where we could view all the giant petrels on the water, keeping a beady eye ready for any carcasses to scrounge on. We saw large rafts of king penguins breaking through the surf to set off on fishing trips, often taking their time for some play first. The aspect from the sea also enabled us to appreciate the alarming rate of glacial retreat as we had seen in the introduction briefing that the three glaciers behind the landing site were once connected and came to a calving glacier front at the coast as recently as 1980.

Back on board it was time for lunch and a short break as we made our way round to Godthul. The coastline between the two locations was worth being out on deck for as we saw the high peaks, topped with lenticular clouds, leading down to the U-shaped valleys carved by the glaciers and large outwash planes where the glacial sediments are deposited forming spectacular open planes for the wildlife.



At Godthul there was the option to go ashore and tackle the steep tussock grass slopes up to Lake Aviemore and the Gentoo colony or take a Zodiac cruise to admire this fascinating bay where wildlife, whaling history and tectonic movements have all left their mark.

The gentoos were entertaining to watch as they stole nesting material from one another, looking very proud of their findings as they went back to their own nest. Occasionally we were able to get a glimpse of the two eggs they were sitting on.

Up at the gentoo colony a trip highlight for many came as our first South Georgia pipit was spotted. An endemic bird's population has been growing since the eradication of rats in South Georgia however, in recent years some of our guides had noticed fewer sightings.

On the way back down, we worked together find a way through the maze of tussock grass and listened carefully as we went to ensure there were no lurking seals in our track.

Back on board, George gave us a briefing about the next day's activities which involved a visit to Grytviken, one of the few whaling stations which is in safe condition, possible to visit. However, before we were able to consider this, it was time for a biosecurity session to remove the seeds we had acquired from scrambling through the tussocks at Godthul.

The day had more to offer as we finished with a BBQ on the heli deck. Our luck came again as the wind dropped at our anchorage in Godthul. Together, we reminisced on a wonderful, packed day!

Day 10 – Friday 31st October – Grytviken and Jason Harbour

0800 GPS Position: 54°17.1'S, 036°28.9'W

Wind: NW 7 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air Temp: +9.6°C • Sea Temp: +0°C

The day began with *Ortelius* making her way into scenic Cumberland East Bay and coming to anchor in Grytviken (Norwegian for Pot Cove) while we enjoyed breakfast. It was another sunny day, and the surrounding scenery was magnificent. Ahead of the ship was the rustic remains of the whaling station that was established in 1904 by Norwegian captain Carl Anton Larsen. Nearby on King Edward Point was the modern research station operated jointly by the South Georgia Government and British Antarctic Survey. Zodiacs were launched to collect two South Georgia Government Officers and some Heritage Trust personnel.

A short presentation on the work of the South Georgia Heritage Trust was followed by the much anticipated and thoroughly prepared for biosecurity inspection by the Government Officers. We passed with flying colours! It was a 100% success for Team *Ortelius*. Soon we were on the Zodiacs heading to shore for a landing below the whaler's cemetery where Sir Ernest Shackleton was laid to rest. We joined Expedition Leader George at the grave side for a whiskey toast to 'The Boss', taking a moment to appreciate what a privilege it was to be able to pay our respects to the most famous Antarctic explorer that ever lived. In addition to the many graves of whalers, the cemetery is also the resting place of Argentine submariner Felix Artuso, the only fatality from the 1982 skirmish between British and Argentine forces.



We wandered around the shoreline and through the remains for the whaling station, inspecting the machinery that efficiently processed every bit of the whales and extracted the maximum amount of oil. The whale catcher *Petrel* lay beached as a silent relic of a once brutal and barbaric era that saw the near annihilation of whales. At the back of the station, we found the beautifully preserved Whalers Church where, some took the opportunity to sit in quiet

contemplation or have a go at ringing the bell. This is where the funeral of Sir Ernest Shackleton took place in 1922. A short distance from the church we found the magnificent museum and gift shop located in what used to be the Manager's Villa, with the post office next door. Souvenirs were bought and postcards were mailed. At 11:00 some of us joined one of the Heritage Trust personnel for a guided walking tour of the whaling station. Meanwhile, ferocious katabatic winds were buffeting *Ortelius*, and Captain Per spent the whole morning on the bridge working the engines to ensure the ship held position in the tight little anchorage.

All too soon it was time to take the Zodiacs back to the ship, which were waiting for us in front of the museum next to the rusting hulks of the whale catchers *Albatross* and *Diaz*. As *Ortelius* turned and sailed out of Grytviken, another delicious lunch was served by the ever-attentive hotel department. The ship made her way northwards out of Cumberland East Bay and crossed Cumberland West Bay to drop anchor in Jason Harbour. The wind whistled down off the mountains ahead of the ship, peaking with gusts in excess of 35 knots. We donned our outdoor gear for a wild ride ashore in the Zodiacs.



We landed on a protected pebble beach that was a breeding site for Elephant seals. Menacing male Fur seals were also dotted here and there, which we had to keep a sharp lookout for. There was an old refuge hut that dated back to 1911, with a small tussac-covered hill behind that gave a great overview of the area. The elephant seals definitely stole the show, with lumbering great males reigning supreme over their harems and new-born pups begging their mothers for more of their rich milk. Super-cute weaners from last year were also scattered here and there, along with wannabe males who were not yet of beach master status. The action was intense, with everything from mating to maternal care. A lucky few got to witness the birth of a pup, after which a mass of skuas and giant petrels swooped in to feed off the placenta. Further along the beach some giant petrels fed on the carcass of a pup, their faces plastered with blood. It made for dramatic photographs with the spectacular mountain backdrop and softening light.

It was an exciting downwind ride back to the ship, with the Zodiac drivers skilfully negotiating the gangway operation in the strong wind and swell. Before dinner, there was just enough time for George to deliver a briefing on our plans for tomorrow, which brought the exciting news that we would attempt another dawn landing at one of South Georgia's most beautiful locations.



Day 11 – Saturday 1st November – Gold Harbour and Cooper Bay

0800 GPS Position: 54°37.8'S, 035°55.2'W

Wind: NE 3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temp: +2°C • Sea Temp: +1°C

This morning was another early start to enable us to get the most out of our last day in South Georgia. We were woken at 04:15 with George announcing that all looked good so far and the Expedition Team were heading ashore to check out the landing site. The forecast had been for 90% cloud cover, but we were optimistic due to our track record of sunshine so far that disregarded the forecast.

The team were able to find a gap in the wildlife to get ashore on the far northern end of the beach between the rocky outcrops. It was not the easiest landing as once on the beach we had to head straight up into the tussock grass behind the dense packed beach. After taking a wide berth around a nesting giant petrel, the young elephant seals and the fur seals, we were able to cross a stream and occupy a small area on the edge of the beach overlooking the dense king penguin colony.



Beyond the colony lay the rolling hills of the moraines and then the impressive steep cliffs. The glacier now terminated above these rolling hills, forming a hanging glacier. It was as recent as 1984 that this glacier reached the shoreline. In the evening, Wei showed us an impressive video of the front of the glacier breaking off and tumbling down the steep cliffs towards the lagoon below.

It was a spectacular setting with very dense wildlife which were really putting on a show with a large range of behaviours being displayed. There was plenty of jousting between the male elephant seals, suckling for the pups, play fighting between the 'teenagers' of the elephant seals and pecking of the seals by the inquisitive young king penguin chicks.



By 08:00 we were all back on board ready for breakfast. What an exciting feeling it is to have all these early starts to fit in the most to our days in this spectacular and historically rich island of South Georgia.



During breakfast we made our way south to Cooper Bay where we planned a Zodiac cruise. The landscape began to change as we made our way from the sedimentary layering of the east to the continental origin and igneous rocks of the southern part of the island.

Cooper Island protects the bay where we were to have our Zodiac cruise, otherwise this bay would be fully exposed to the Southern Ocean. The bay also hosts an iceberg graveyard where large ice bergs come to melt away that were broken off from the spectacular big tabular ice bergs that drift here from the Weddell Sea ice shelves. The currents from the Weddell Sea carry the ice along the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula and out towards the southern tip of South Georgia. The ones we saw are likely to have broken off larger tabular ice bergs, possibly even A23a.

In the Zodiacs we set off to the eastern part of the bay. Our Zodiac drivers carefully navigated between the spurs of rocks which jutted out from the coast. In the narrow channels we could see gentoo penguins and fur seals enjoying the kelp forests that lined these rocky shores. With every gentoo penguin we raised our binoculars and carefully inspected the head to see if it was what we were really in hope of: a macaroni penguin. After lots of gentoo spotting, our teamwork paid off and we were able to find some macaroni penguins which we could get the small boats close to.

Some of the boats were even lucky enough to spot a white morph giant petrel on the water in the head of the bay. We were able to spot the distinctive black line under the chin of the penguins giving them their name, the chinstrap penguins.



Although the macaroni penguins are likely the most numerous penguins in the world, many of which breed on South Georgia, it proves hard to find them on the east coast. However, with good spotters in the boats we were able to find five macaroni penguins on steep snow which they were trying to ascend to their nesting grounds. As we watched a sixth appeared at the shore and hopped across the rocky beach.

Back on board, we ate lunch quickly so we could get back out on deck to watch as we passed through the narrows between Cooper Island and the southern tip of South Georgia. The ice bergs forced us to take a very indirect route to reach the open water.

Captain Per manoeuvred *Ortelius* impressively close to some of the ice bergs allowing all of us who lined the foredeck to enjoy the close encounters. You could tell we were all very tired as even with the spectacular scenery we stood almost silently, enjoying the dramatic coastline as we departed South Georgia.

The coastline here is somewhat different from the South Georgia we have visited so far. The geology makes this area more comparable to the west Antarctic Peninsula where dramatic heavily glaciated mountains rise straight from the sea. With the sight of Cape Disappointment over our starboard quarter, we set course with optimism to the South Orkney Islands.

To compensate for our shortened recaps the last days in South Georgia, we had an extended session. First, we were captured by Allan's stories of Tom Crean, then Wei responded to our curiosity in the leucistic penguins and fur seals before Beth showed us some photos of the dramatic glacial retreat in some of the locations we visited.



Day 12 – Sunday 2nd November – Sea Day

0800 GPS Position: 57°51.5'S, 040°31.7'W

Wind: W 9 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +1°C • Sea Temp: 0°C

We woke to a gentle sunrise over the South Georgian coastline, greeted by a 7:45 a.m. wake-up call. Breakfast was a cheerful affair, fuel for a day full of learning, discovery, and a touch of mischief.

Our morning began with a photo editing session led by Matt and Martin in the lounge. They took a relaxed, conversational approach, showing us different styles and ways to edit our images, with a focus on fast and accessible mobile techniques. For those ready to dive deeper, they introduced us to Lightroom, opening up new ways to enhance and share the moments we had captured so far. The atmosphere was friendly and lively, with plenty of questions, tips, and shared enthusiasm for photography.



Later, Pippa guided us through the dramatic history of Antarctic whaling. Sitting in the lounge, we learned about the human stories, the industry's impact on the environment, and the lasting consequences for both people and wildlife. It was a sobering but fascinating glimpse into South Georgia's past, and it added new depth to the landscapes we had been exploring.

Lunch was served at 12:30 p.m., followed by a biosecurity check in the lounge. We cleaned and checked our outerwear, backpacks, muck boots, and equipment, ensuring our gear was ready for the next adventures enroute to the South Orkneys and Antarctica itself. Brushes and paperclips at reception helped, though most of us had already done our best to clean beforehand.

The afternoon continued with a Birds of the Southern Ocean session led by Martin. His conversational style kept everyone engaged as we learned more about the winged wonders we had seen and those still on our wish list. By the time the session ended, the lounge was abuzz with shared stories, observations, and plenty of inspiration for future sightings. Our baker had also supplied chocolate chip cookies during the afternoon, which disappeared almost immediately, much to everyone's delight.



The day took a playful turn as guides Saskia and Jess were spotted in penguin costumes, preparing for the evening's South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction. Dinner at 7:00 p.m. passed quickly, anticipation building for the fun ahead. Jess delighted everyone as the auctioneer, her good humour keeping the room laughing while a remarkable array of prizes went under the hammer — from driving the ship with the captain to joining the expedition team early. The highlight of the auction came with a penguin hair clip, which fetched an astonishing 110 British pounds, showing that a touch of fun can make fundraising truly memorable. It was a perfect blend of education, laughter, and shared appreciation for the beauty and heritage of South Georgia.

Day 13 – Monday 3rd November – Shingle Cove, South Orkney Islands

0800 GPS Position: 60°40.6'S, 045°13.7'W

Wind: NW 6/7 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: -1°C • Sea Temp: -1°C

Despite expecting a well-earned sleep in after several long days, George woke us at 5:00 a.m. with his calm yet excited voice, announcing that some dramatic ice was already in sight. Many of us were quick to get up and head out on deck to watch our expedition ship moving through the ice, a remarkable start to the day. Breakfast was served at 7:30 a.m., giving us time to refuel before our first outing.



Thanks to excellent navigation and good speed from the bridge, we made a landing at Shingle Cove by mid morning. The site is home to a small colony of Adélie penguins, and it was a rare treat to see them so early in the season while taking in the icy panoramas of the South Orkney Islands. The snow was blowing sideways, giving us our first real taste of the colder conditions as we journey further south. Sailing between Laurie and Coronation Islands provided spectacular views of jagged ice, snow dusted peaks and scattered wildlife, making the morning unforgettable. The photographers were withstanding land durations out on deck to capture the abundance of snow petrels.

After a busy start, we regrouped for lunch, and the afternoon offered a chance to rest and recharge, a welcome pause after the early wake up and time spent among the ice and wildlife. Later, we gathered to watch *Endurance*, complete with popcorn, as we continued our voyage towards Elephant Island, a fitting destination.

The day continued with the expedition team's recap, reflecting on the excitement of travelling through the ice, the penguin encounters and the striking scenery. Spirits were high as everyone shared their impressions and stories from the day.

In the evening, the photography workshops with Matt and Martin were a creative highlight. Their guidance was invaluable, but it was our dear guests' own images that truly stood out. Photos from South Georgia, carefully captured and edited throughout the voyage, shone on

the projector, showing the dedication and talent of our fellow travellers. The room was filled with enthusiasm and anticipation for what is still to come.

As night fell, we continued our journey south, sailing steadily towards Antarctica and the wild southern seas ahead.



Day 14 – Tuesday 4th November – Point Wild, Elephant Island

0900 GPS Position: 60°29.6'S, 051°44.7'W

Wind: S 8 • Sea: Moderate / Rough • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +2°C • Sea Temp: +0°C

We woke this morning to high winds and a rolling ship. The reason was the three metre swell outside.

The 60 knot winds had threatened to rip the ships flag from the mast. The commitment of the AB's had meant that the flag was fixed again, and all was well. An hour later the wind had won and the flag, this time, it was ripped from its fixings and had disappeared into the vast Southern Ocean.



Beth gave a fascinating lecture about the glaciers and ice that we were witnessing and would see lots more of over the next few days.

As the morning progressed the wind didn't let up, and the ship carried on its way towards Elephant Island. By now the air temperature was around -4 degrees Celsius and that was before the wind chill! The ship began to ice up; icicles were forming on the handrails and the rope that once held the ships flag became solid.

After a delicious vegetarian lunch, George gave a very interesting lecture on the history and geo-politics of Antarctica.

Mid-afternoon and land appeared on the horizon, that wind that had been consistently blowing from the south was beginning to abate, the sea started to calm, and the clouds started to part.

As we got closer to Elephant Island, flocks of pintado petrels flew around a huge iceberg and at one stage a single Antarctic petrel flew across the face of the ice. Fin and humpback whales cruised past as Captain Per took us as close as safety would allow to the huge iceberg.



It was then time for recap and another great all-vegetarian dinner. During dinner we approached Point Wild, the sea became flat and there was no wind! A huge decision was made and the expedition team dropped Zodiacs. We were so lucky to be able to Zodiac cruise Point Wild, the place where Frank Wild and 21 other men spent 4 months of the winter of 1916 in upturned lifeboats waiting for their 'Boss' Sir Ernest Shackleton to rescue them. The weather and light were amazing although a little chilly. Apart from the history there were chinstrap and gentoo penguins all over the land and sitting on the ice. As we cruised, the light began to fail, and we headed back to the ship. A truly memorable day!

Day 15 – Wednesday 5th November – Kinnes Cove and Brown Bluff

0800 GPS Position: 62°46.3'S, 056°40.5'W

Wind: Var 1 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: -1.6°C • Sea Temp: 0°C

This morning began quietly, the ship gliding gently among plates of drifting sea ice on the edge of the Weddell Sea. The light came early and pale, tinting the vast ice plain around us with shades of silver and blue. By breakfast time the air was crisp and still, and the sea around us a mosaic of floes and narrow leads, each glinting in the low Antarctic sun. It was one of those rare, perfect mornings when the Weddell Sea seems to open itself in welcome — bright, calm, and magnificent.



After breakfast, we gathered in the lounge for a presentation from Allan, who took us on a journey back in time through one of the most dramatic stories in Antarctic history — the Swedish Antarctic Expedition of 1901–1903, led by Otto Nordenskjöld and Captain Carl Anton Larsen.

Allan told the tale with enthusiasm, painting vivid images of the small wooden ship *Antarctic* pushing bravely into the Weddell Sea more than a century ago, when so little was known of these waters. It's a story of perseverance, leadership, and the resilience of the human spirit — and Allan reminded us that these very waters around us, calm and brilliant today, were the same that once swallowed the *Antarctic*. The contrast between the tragedy of the past and the beauty of our present morning was not lost on any of us.

After the lecture, we stepped out onto the outer decks, drawn by the incredible scene around the ship. The air was cold but clear, with the sun glinting off the smooth white surfaces of massive tabular icebergs. Each berg was a floating mountain, its walls sheer and blue-veined,

rising straight out of the water like the walls of a cathedral. Between them, the Captain and his bridge team guided our ship with masterful precision through the drifting ice floes.

Now and then, we heard the muffled crack and crunch as the hull gently parted thin layers of sea ice, a reminder of both the ship's strength and the fragility of the frozen world we were passing through. It was mesmerizing to watch — the stillness of the sea broken only by the rhythmic pulse of the engines and the occasional exhale of a distant seal. Everyone was outside, bundled up in parkas and hats, cameras ready, smiles wide. For many guests, this was the quintessential image of Antarctica — luminous light, drifting ice, and the serenity of true remoteness.

In the early afternoon our next excursion Zodiac cruise in Kinnes Cove on the northern coast of Joinville Island began. The conditions were promising — sunshine, relatively calm seas, though the air remained distinctly chilly. Dressed in layers, gloves, and lifejackets, we made our way down to the gangway and boarded the waiting Zodiacs, engines purring softly against the icy water.

Out on the water, the Weddell Sea revealed itself in a new dimension. The ice here was beautiful — sculptures of blue and white in every shape imaginable, some as smooth as marble, others ridged and rough from wind and melt.



Wildlife sightings came one after another. We spotted groups of Adélie penguins, unmistakable in their tuxedo plumage, busily carrying small stones to build their nests on the rocky shore. A few Gentoo penguins mingled among them, their white head-bands shining in the sunlight. From several boats came the excited calls of "Weddell seal!" — and indeed, two of these sleek, large seals were seen resting on ice floes, while another surfaced close by, curious and unbothered by our presence. Cameras clicked continuously.

Even though the sun was shining, the cold made itself felt, the kind of chill that sneaks through even the thickest gloves when you pause too long to take photos. Still, no one seemed eager to return — it was too beautiful to leave. When at last we turned back toward the ship, the scene behind us — the ice, the penguins, the distant cliffs of Joinville Island — looked like a painting that would stay in our minds for years.

Back on board, we warmed up with hot drinks and freshly baked pastries. But the day was far from over. Our expedition leader, George made the decision that we would advance dinner and attempt an evening landing on the Antarctic continent itself — at Brown Bluff. For many, this would be the moment they had dreamed of for years: stepping foot on the Antarctic mainland.

By early evening, the light had softened into that magical golden hue that only polar regions seem to create. The wind had dropped, the water gleamed like glass, and our Zodiacs were soon heading toward the reddish-brown cliffs of Brown Bluff — a towering volcanic formation that marks the edge of the continent. The moment we stepped onto the shore, it felt momentous. One by one, we took photographs beside the continental landing flag, smiling in triumph and awe.



The atmosphere was joyous but reverent. Above us, snow petrels soared in graceful arcs, their pure white plumage catching the evening light. Along the beach, colonies of Adélie penguins were hard at work building and defending their nests. They seemed utterly unfazed by our presence, continuing their endless exchange of stones, squabbles, and courtship displays. Watching them so close, in their natural world of ice and wind, was deeply moving.

Down by the water's edge, several of our photographers waited patiently, cameras poised, hoping to capture the perfect image — that split second when a penguin leaps from the snow into the sea. It took patience, but their dedication was rewarded with shots that captured the energy and grace of these little Antarctic residents. The light continued to shift, glowing pink and orange on the cliffs, turning the sea into a mirror.

As the time came to return to the ship, no one wanted to leave. It felt like the perfect end to a perfect Antarctic day — a journey through history, ice, wildlife, and finally, the continent itself.

That night the lounge was alive with stories, laughter, and a sense of shared accomplishment. We had followed in the wake of the early explorers, navigated through sea ice and tabular bergs, cruised among penguins and seals, and stood upon the Antarctic continent.



Day 16 – Thursday 6th November – Devil Island and Weddell Sea Cruising

0800 GPS Position: 63°47.3'S, 057°88.8'W

Wind: Var 2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air Temp: -3°C • Sea Temp: 0°C

The lovely voice of our Expedition leader George woke us up again, warning us about the beautiful setting that we had arrived in this morning. Overnight the bridge team had navigated our *Ortelius* out of the Antarctic Sound into the Erebus and Terror Gulf on the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. They had dropped anchor right in front of Devil Island, with two mountain peaks on every side of the landing site, looking like horns. Behind it we could see the mountains and glaciers of Vega Island. We could relive history here as well, as the cliff behind our vessel was Cape Well Met. Allan told us earlier this trip about the story of the Swedish Antarctic Expedition. And here we were, right at the place where five of Nordenskjöld's men met each other again after an unsuspected overwintering in the icy conditions of this rough continent.



From the decks we had excellent visibility to the horizon and beautiful views of bay surrounding us, filled with pieces of sea ice and scattered small icebergs. It was -2 degrees Celsius and just 4 knots of wind, giving us perfect conditions to do our morning operation.

A few of us were up early to scout the big birds, Emperor penguins, who live out here in the Weddell Sea area. A couple of suspicious spots were found on the horizon, but still approximately 15 nautical miles out. A scope had been put up, for the curious amongst us, to have a look at the dot, which for now only was a hinge. But we hoped our luck would continue in the afternoon by finding them.

During the wake up call the expedition team was already checking the conditions to land on shore. It became clear that the Adelie's had taken over the whole landing site, and we could only go ashore with half of the passengers. The others would do a Zodiac cruise and then we swapped. Over breakfast the ice had come in a little. So, while waiting at the gangway, to be taken ashore, the vessel was moved a little further into a more ice-free area. Many of the icebergs had grounded and on shore they were just sitting there, and we could have a closer look at them, including the hundreds of Adelie's that were nesting on the slopes of this rugged island. During the Zodiac cruise some of us spotted the south polar skua and the expedition guides were navigating in the shallow waters in between the icebergs with beautiful colors of white and blue and the flat sea ice floes. The sun had come out and again, it was a truly spectacular morning.



Back on board we went for lunch and then almost everybody was somewhere out of the decks or on the bow. We were navigating out of the Gulf into the northeastern part of the Weddell Sea, through an impressive sea ice landscape. The ship was pushing through all different kinds of ice floes. Thicker ones were cracked and split open, softer floes with slight upright edges were slushier and just pushed aside.

It was a bright, sunny afternoon with no clouds in the sky. Gentoo penguins swimming and porpoising in the glassy sea, where icebergs would mirror a perfect reflection. Southern Giant Petrels tried to lift off by walking on the water with their big feet and taking off eventually. It was really magical.

Just after lunch we heard our Expedition Leader George, over the tannoy, again with great news, as always! This time it was an unexpected message. We were invited up to deck 7, behind the bridge for a hot chocolate, and for those who liked, with a dash of rum and cream. It was a happy gathering.



With hundreds of photos taken from the bow and up on the decks we went into the lounge to join for the daily recap for tomorrow and some great additional topics presented by the expedition team. The 'weather luck' would seep away a little as we would enter the Bransfield Strait tonight and head down to the Gerlache Strait. With some more swell it would be a smooth rocky night.

Another delicious dinner followed, prepared by the galley team. To conclude this amazing day, we went up to the lounge, where some of us shared their pictures during the Photography Workshop presented by Matt. One more drink and then we went to bed.

Day 17 – Friday 7th November – Mikkelsen Harbour and Palaver Point

0700 GPS Position: 63°55.0'S, 060°35.1'W

Wind: W 2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: -2°C • Sea Temp: 0°C

Overnight *Ortelius* made steady progress down through the stormy Bransfield Strait and entered the more friendly waters of the Gerlache Strait. Most of us were happy to find that the rough conditions of the night before had subsided and this morning brought light winds and relatively calm seas. However, it was heavily overcast with light snow and a temperature of minus 2 degrees Celsius when the morning wake-up call echoed around the ship. As breakfast was being served, *Ortelius* came to anchor in Mikkelsen Harbour at the south end of Trinity Island. Our destination for the morning, tiny D'Hainaut Island, was just visible through the falling snow.

We took the Zodiacs ashore and were greeted, as always, by the ever-enthusiastic expedition team. A new experience awaited us. There, lined up in the snow, lay row upon row of snowshoes, which were something of a necessity with the deep snow. The staff helped us fit them, and off we went to explore the little island. A loop trail had been marked out by the staff for us to follow. The distance was not great, but for many the snowshoes made for a slow and cautious walk. There were small groups of gentoo penguins scattered around the island, many of them stood shoulder to shoulder on small rocky outcrops where they prepared their nests. Lower down, a couple of Weddell Seals slept peacefully on the snow as we wandered by.



There were several signs of past and present human activity. The oldest was the remains of a wooden boat, the ribs of which were just visible above the surface of the snow near the landing site. At the far end of the island, we saw a small hut which was built in 1954 and is maintained as an emergency refuge by the Argentine Navy. A sign over the door showed that it was named the 'Captain Callet Bois Naval Refuge'. Gentoo penguins surrounded the hut and snowy

sheathbills perched on the roof. At different points along the trail, we saw a navigational marker built by the Chilean Navy, and a weather station that was probably installed by the Argentine Navy. Evidence of the conflicting territorial claims in this part of Antarctica, which is also claimed by the U.K.



Towards the closing stages of our visit, there was the opportunity for a Polar Plunge for those who wanted to experience the invigorating sensation of a dip in the frigid Antarctic waters. The diehard and dedicated stripped down to their bathing costumes, braving the sub-zero temperatures, and boldly ventured forth into the ice-cold sea. The noises and facial expressions provided great entertainment for on-lookers, who stood with cameras in hand and towels at the ready. Zodiacs whisked the brave 'plungers' back to the ship where hot showers and warm drinks brought life back to numb extremities. By 11:30, everyone was back onboard, and *Ortelius* headed off for our next destination. Very soon, the noon announcement for lunch filled the ship.

As we crossed the Gerlache Strait, heading south-west for Two Hummock Island, *Ortelius* weaved her way through a sea of scattered icebergs. Several Humpback whales broke the calm surface as they went about their business. At 14:00 we gathered in the bar for an early recap and briefing on the plans for tomorrow. Then there was time to



relax a little or spend time on the outer decks as we closed in on Two Hummock Island. *Ortelius* found her anchorage there at around 15:15.

The expedition team headed ashore to scout the landing site, and at 16:00 we disembarked for a Zodiac landing at Palaver Point. This curiously named site is home to a sizeable colony of chinstrap penguins, which collectively are capable of making quite a 'palaver' when they choose to do so. There was a lot of snow, so it was time to don the snowshoes once more. We hiked up the slope to various viewpoints which gave fantastic views of the chinstrap penguins and surrounding scenery. It was heavily overcast with a low cloud base at first, but little by little the cloud lifted to reveal some spectacular ice-capped mountains. To the west of us across the iceberg-strewn channel lay the dramatic coastlines of Brabant and Ledge islands.

The highest viewpoint gave a fantastic overview of a glacier with a tortured and heavily crevassed front. Colossal chunks of ice seemed to hang precariously, and many of us waited patiently for a dramatic calving that never came. It didn't matter. The scene was utterly breathtaking. It was hard to imagine a more spectacular place. To cap it all, some humpback whales visited the bay where *Ortelius* lay quietly at anchor, venturing close to the ship as their curiosity got the better of them. Birders were delighted to find some south polar skuas hanging around the chinstrap penguins, which objected noisily to their presence. It was a spectacular landing enjoyed by everyone, and a wonderful way to round off another memorable day in the Antarctic.



Day 18 – Saturday 8th November – Whalers Bay, Deception Island and Half Moon Island

0800 GPS Position: 62°58.9'S, 060°33.7'W

Wind: SW 6/7 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: 0°C • Sea Temp: 0°C

Our final day in the Antarctic began long before the first Zodiac touched the water. At dawn, *Ortelius* approached the South Shetland Islands under a moody sky, the horizon framed by shifting curtains of low cloud and streaks of light breaking through the grey. The wind was howling steadily—gusts easily over 35 knots—sending streaks of spray across the deck and challenging anyone brave enough to step outside for an early-morning look.

Captain Per's skill at the helm was once again on full display. With steady hands and calm precision, he guided *Ortelius* toward the dramatic entrance of Deception Island—known famously as Neptune's Bellows. This narrow and treacherous channel, with its submerged rocks and swirling winds, demands the utmost attention and experience from any navigator. The sea boiled around us as gusts funnelled through the opening, making the approach both thrilling and humbling. Yet, under the captain's expert command, *Ortelius* slipped gracefully through the Bellows and into the flooded caldera of Deception Island, an active volcano and one of the most remarkable natural harbours on Earth.



Once inside, the dark volcanic slopes of the island rose steeply on all sides, their tops dusted with snow, creating a stark contrast of black rock and white frost. The wind still whipped across the bay, but the expedition team quickly went to work preparing for our morning landing at Whaler's Bay. Despite the challenging conditions, their coordination was seamless.

The Zodiacs danced in the gusts as the team skilfully shuttled guests ashore—every landing carefully timed between the swells, every hand extended with confidence and care. It was another reminder of the quiet professionalism that defines the expedition team’s work each day. Thanks to their efforts, every guest was able to step safely onto the black volcanic beach of Whaler’s Bay, setting foot once more on the Antarctic shores.

Whaler’s Bay is steeped in history. The rusted remains of the old Norwegian whaling station stand as silent witnesses to a bygone era, when ships hunted the great leviathans of the Southern Ocean. The weathered wooden structures, the collapsed tanks, and the scattered bones of the past gave the landscape a haunting character—made all the more dramatic by the wind and drifting mist.



By late morning, we returned to the ship—faces flushed, jackets soaked with sea water, hearts full of awe. As *Ortelius* raised anchor and made her way back through Neptune’s Bellows, the wind began to ease.

Lunch on board was cheerful and hearty—a perfect interlude between two very different landings. Over steaming bowls of soup and freshly baked bread, conversations buzzed about the morning’s adventures. Windows on the dining room revealed a changing light outside; the clouds were breaking apart, revealing patches of vivid blue.

By the time *Ortelius* reached Half Moon Island, the transformation was complete. The wind had dropped to a mere 5 knots, the sky had cleared entirely, and sunlight bathed the snowy peaks in a golden glow. It was as if Antarctica had decided to grant us one final gift—a perfect afternoon to close a remarkable voyage.

Zodiacs once again carried guests to shore, this time under a calm sea. The landing beach at Half Moon was alive with wildlife: chinstrap penguins bustling about their colonies, Weddell seals lounging in the snow, and the occasional skua circling overhead in search of opportunity.

The air was crisp but still, filled with the familiar symphony of penguin calls—and, admittedly, the unmistakable aroma of guano. “It’s a very poopy island,” someone said with a laugh, and indeed it was. But it was also profoundly beautiful: the gleaming white snow against the sapphire sea, the graceful arcs of penguins sliding on their bellies, and the peace of knowing this was our final landing in Antarctica.



Many guests took their time wandering quietly among the colonies, reflecting on the journey that had brought them here—the countless penguins, the icebergs, the whales, the storms and calms, the laughter and shared wonder. Some found a quiet spot to simply watch the scene unfold, letting the experience sink in fully.

As the afternoon sun dipped lower, the expedition team called the final Zodiac back to the ship. The last guests waved farewell to the penguins, reluctant to leave but filled with gratitude. Back on *Ortelius*, the decks buzzed with stories and the soft realization that the Antarctic chapter of our voyage was drawing to a close.

That evening, as we sailed northward through, a serene calm settled over the ship. The dining room filled with toasts and laughter, and the conversation often turned to moments that had defined the past 20 days—encounters with whales, the first glimpse of the Antarctic Peninsula, the camaraderie that had formed among travellers who had started as strangers and were now part of a shared story.

Outside, the horizon glowed softly under the late polar light. The sea stretched endless and silver, the wake of *Ortelius* marking a gentle path northward. It was the perfect end to an extraordinary voyage—a day that began with fierce winds in a volcanic caldera and ended in stillness among penguins and snow.

As midnight approached, the ship moved steadily onward, carrying with it not just her passengers, but their memories—of wind and ice, of laughter and quiet awe, and of a world that will forever remain deep in their hearts: the White Continent.

Day 19 – Sunday 9th November – Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 60°08.0'S, 062°13.8'W

Wind: W 7 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +1°C • Sea Temp: +1°C

A more restful day was planned, allowing a 07:45 wake up call from George this morning. We were straight into action submitting our greatest creations for the photo competition. This took some sorting through our portfolio of photos which, for many, were ever improving throughout the voyage.

Jess kicked off the lectures this morning, sporting her incredible whale leggings and a wealth of marine mammal jewellery to compliment her topic! Today she shared some of her favourite stories of what whales do for us, comically drawing on their contributions through the faecal blooms they excrete and during their decomposition after death.

Allan then presented a fantastic talk on another group of contributors to Antarctic history: the dogs. Their presence played a vital role in the exploration of this vast continent and an often-underappreciated aspect, is their contribution to the moral on long polar journeys and during the dark winters. Following this was a delicious lunch which we made it to only by grabbing handrails and walking at a different angle to the walls.

It was quiet on the bridge with only a few birders squabbling over the identification of different types of prions. Some others enjoyed the wide-open sea which merged into mist.





Muck boots were returned after lunch, signifying an end to the outside adventures of this trip and making us reflect on the places we'd been so lucky to walk in these boots. In between the action we enjoyed coffee and delicious cupcakes in the lounge while watching the display of photo competition submissions. With so many fantastic contributions it was hard to choose favourites for voting.

Matt gave a wonderful closing talk in the afternoon which rounded up the fantastic photography program which has been on our minds throughout this incredible voyage. Before we knew it, the evening recap came around and it was time to gather again.

We have got to know each other well throughout the voyage by sharing photos at the photography workshops, overcoming the challenge of a polar plunge and living in the confined space together. This is reflected in the dining room as we varied where we sat.

During dinner and lunch today, the dining room screens have been playing the photo competition submissions with a number on each ready for our voting. This has brought about conversations of the places we have visited and of the admirable creativity that has been used to capture the places and their atmosphere, remoteness and often sinister past. The comedy round often told a story of the fun we have had ashore in particularly whilst watching the clumsy penguins.

The finalists were presented to a full audience up in the bar. The honour of winning the competition on a photography special trip was reflected in the response of some of the finalists. It was a wonderful atmosphere in the bar with everyone congratulating one another and celebrating the community feel of this voyage that we have shared.

Day 20 – Sunday 10th November – Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 56°17.8'S, 066°26.7'W

Wind: W 8 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +5°C • Sea Temp: +3°C

Today was a day of poems starting with 'Jenny kissed me' read by George over the PA system. During our fundraising auction for the South Georgia Heritage Trust, Jenny successfully bid for the opportunity to make the morning wake up call. We all enjoyed this special wakeup call from our bunks.

After paying for our South Georgia Heritage Trust auction purchases, it was time to settle down to listen to a wonderful talk by Saskia. *Ortelius* was rolling in the drakes rocking waves, but Saskia and a full lounge were there to hear the stories of the incredible woman behind three famous polar heroes.

Just to make sure we were never to have a two-day streak on this trip without an activity, we were all called to the bridge as captain Per brought us close by to Cape Horn. An opportunity which rarely arises due to the timings and weather. As we looked out of the splashed windows, we could make out the outline of a rocky coast, jagged with rocks near the shoreline. George read out *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, highlighting the historical significance of this harsh, far-flung extremity of our terrestrial world!





After a delicious lunch it was time for the long-anticipated Q and A session with captain Per. This shone light on many of the mysterious goings on aboard the *Ortelius*!

A few dolphins were spotted on the bridge by Martin. We rushed to the outer decks to enjoy the new views of forested hillsides leading to the calm waters of the Beagle Channel. To our port side was Isla Navarino of Chile and to our starboard side, Tierra del Fuego of Argentina. The scent of vegetation and a terrestrial landscape was not going unnoticed!



George, Pippa and Beth then presented the other trips that Oceanwide offer. This was fascinating to have a roundup of the other regions especially from those who are so passionate and know the highs and lows of all the options.

George squeezed in the opportunity to talk to us about the future history of the Antarctic. A vitally important topic to talk about as WE are now the ones who hold the responsibility of caring for Antarctica on our shoulders, as we now know there are no Antarctic Citizens to work for this continent's preservation.

The evening finished with a delightful captain's cocktail in the bar, where we reflected on the wonderful trip we have shared together. There were cheers, whistles and whoops as we thanked the dining room and all the hotel team for their work on this trip.

Day 21 – Sunday 11th November – Ushuaia. Disembarkation Day

0800 GPS Position: 54°48.5'S, 068°17.9'W

Wind: Var 1 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +8°C • Sea Temp: +4°C

It was a hard moment to part from *Ortelius* which we have called home for the last 21 days. Although we can look forward to heading to home to our loved ones and sharing stories, we will all look back fondly on this trip of a lifetime.

The components really aligned to allow such a wonderful voyage which took the energy from every individual on board to be up at all times of the day and night, often for uncomfortably long durations, dodging ice through the night, to plan and replan as the spell of the weather changed and changed again, to adapt to the new decisions, the maybes and the well-let-you-knows. Everyone has gone out of their way to make this expedition possible and a pleasure to be part of.

We had a final breakfast onboard and said goodbye to the hotel and dining room team. We headed for the gangway for a final farewell. Some of us were staying in Ushuaia to continue our adventures, while others were heading home. One thing was for sure, we would not forget our time together on-board *Ortelius*.

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 3483 nautical miles / 6450 km

Most southern point sailed: 64° 12.0' S, 061° 39.3'W

Freshwater Consumption: 453.3 m³

Freshwater Production: 420.3 m³

Fuel Oil: 171.4 m³

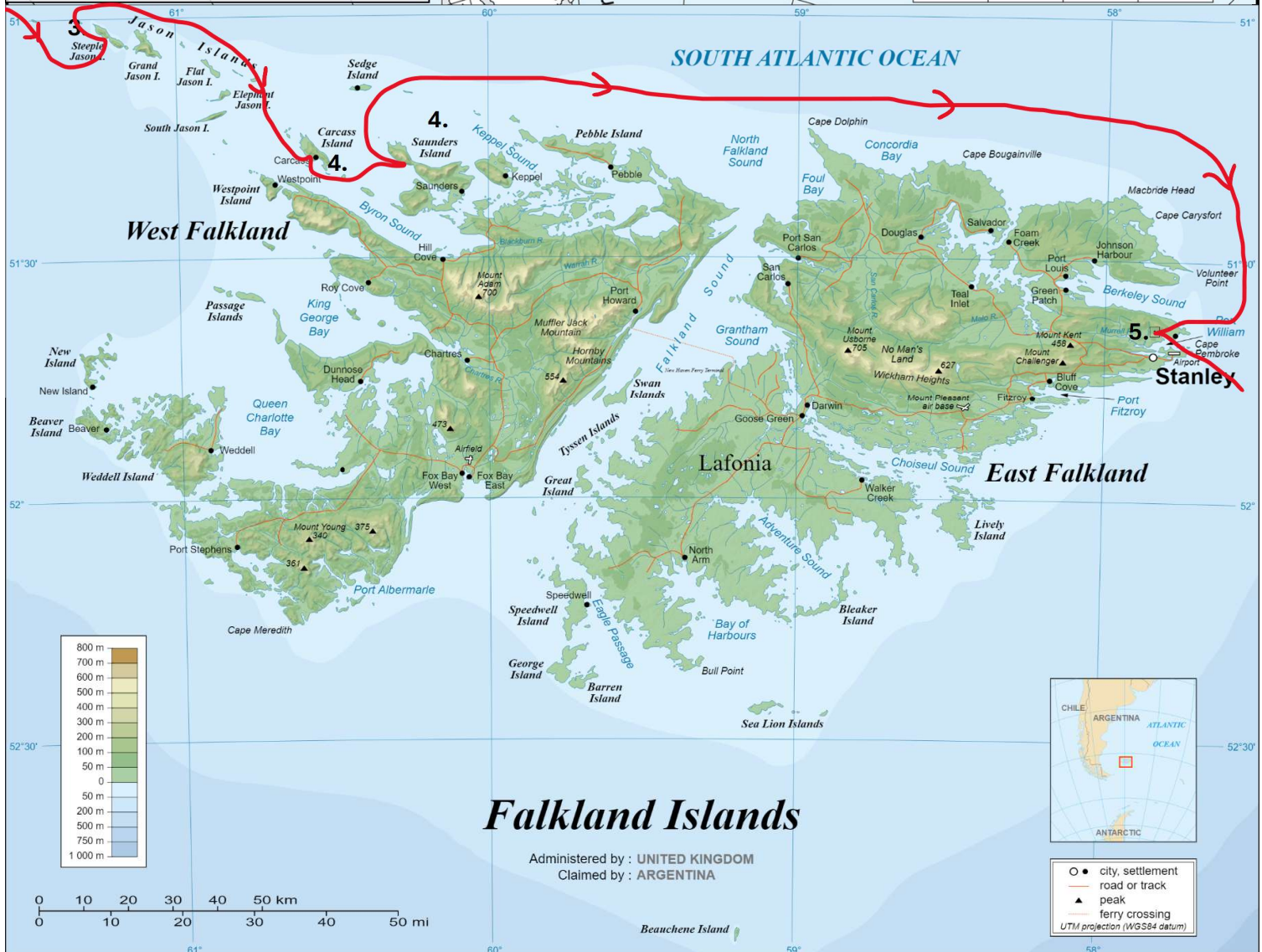
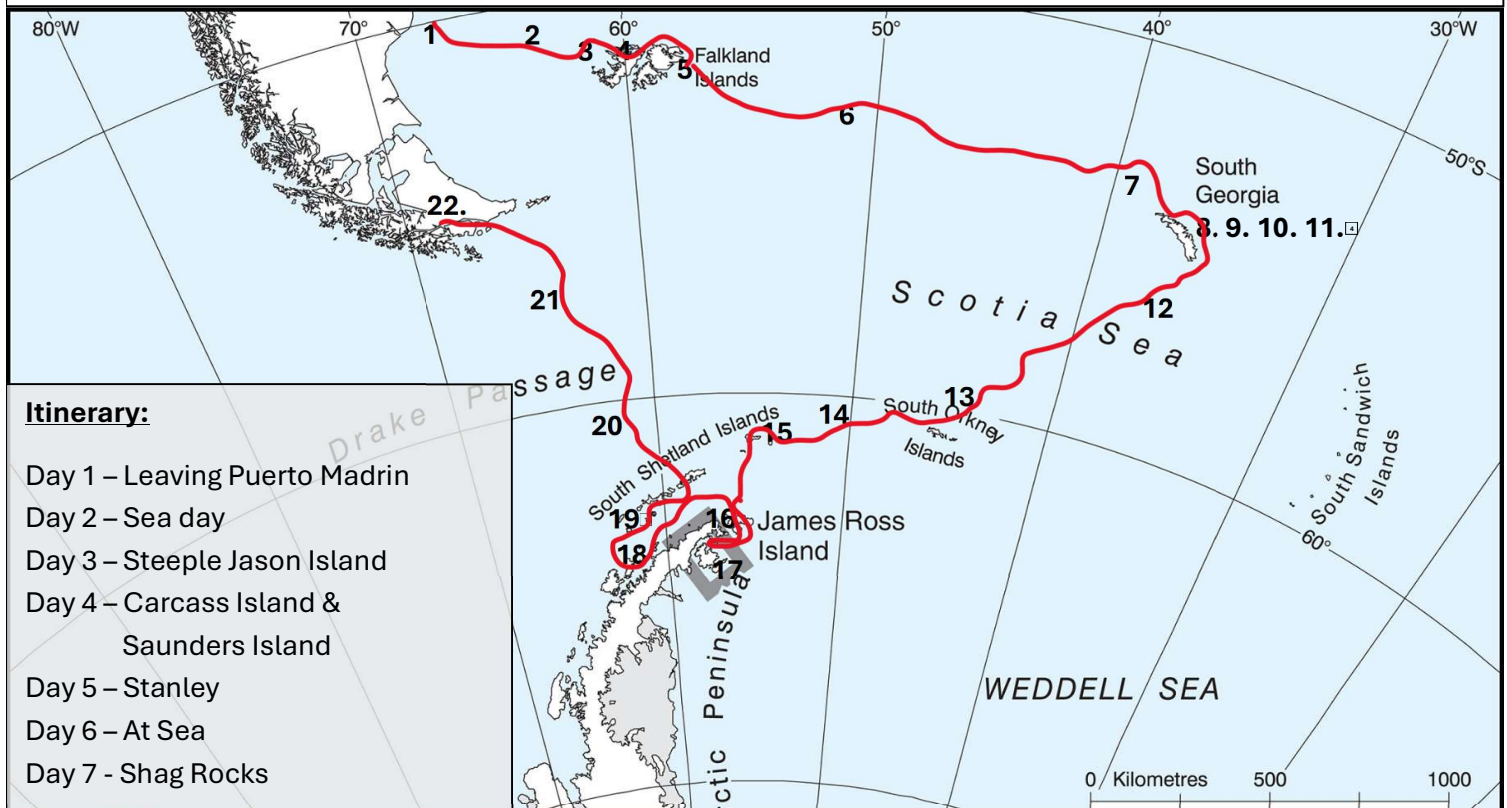
Zodiac Petrol: 393 litres

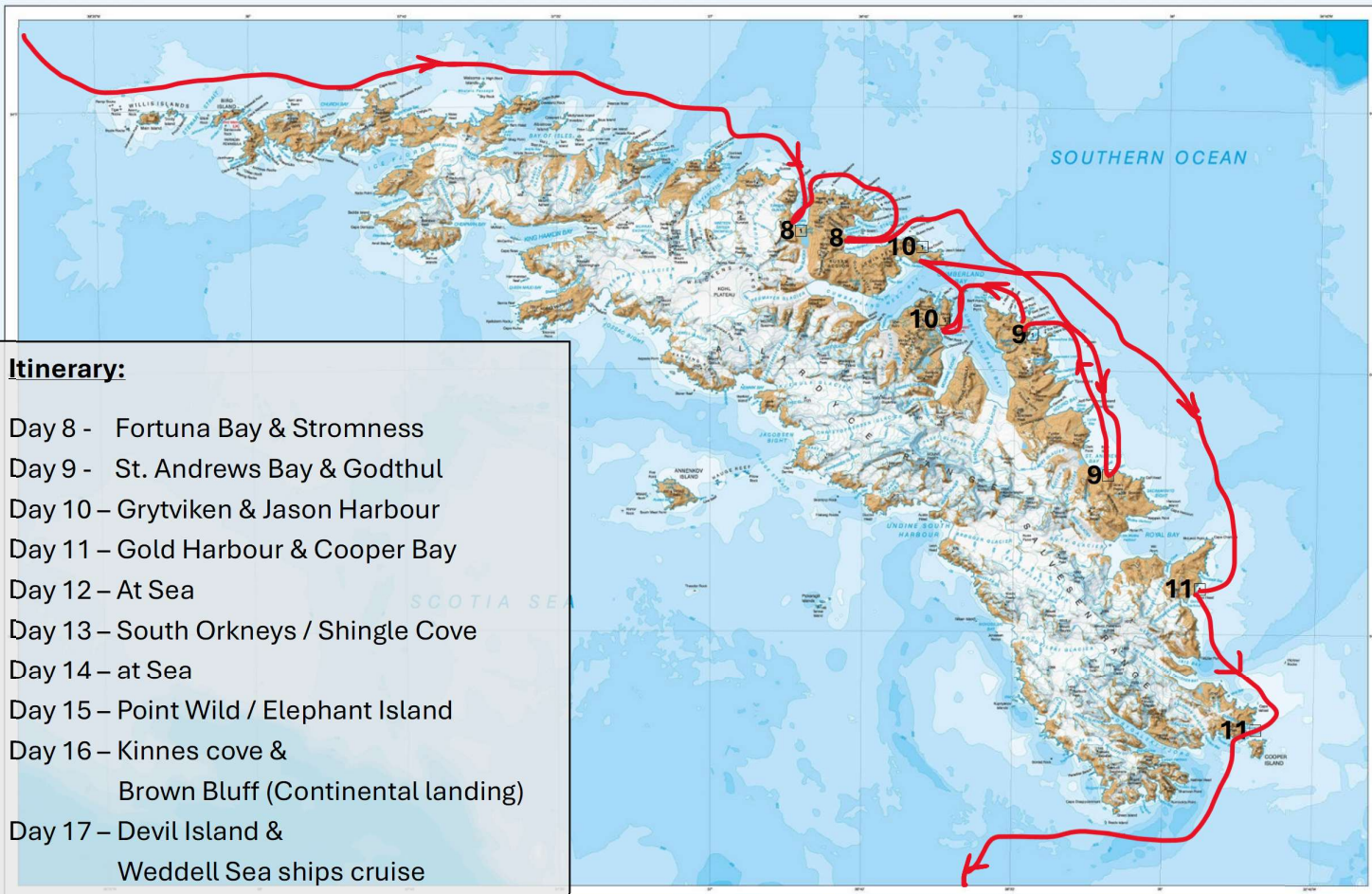


On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Per Andersson, Expedition Leader George Kennedy, Hotel Manager Volodymyr Cherednychenko and all the crew and staff of *M/V Ortelius*, it was a great pleasure and a privilege travelling with you!

Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica.

An Oceanwide Voyage: 22nd October – 11th November 2025



**Itinerary:**

Day 8 - Fortuna Bay & Stromness

Day 9 - St. Andrews Bay & Godthul

Day 10 - Grytviken & Jason Harbour

Day 11 - Gold Harbour & Cooper Bay

Day 12 - At Sea

Day 13 - South Orkneys / Shingle Cove

Day 14 - at Sea

Day 15 - Point Wild / Elephant Island

Day 16 - Kinnes cove &
Brown Bluff (Continental landing)

Day 17 - Devil Island &
Weddell Sea ships cruise

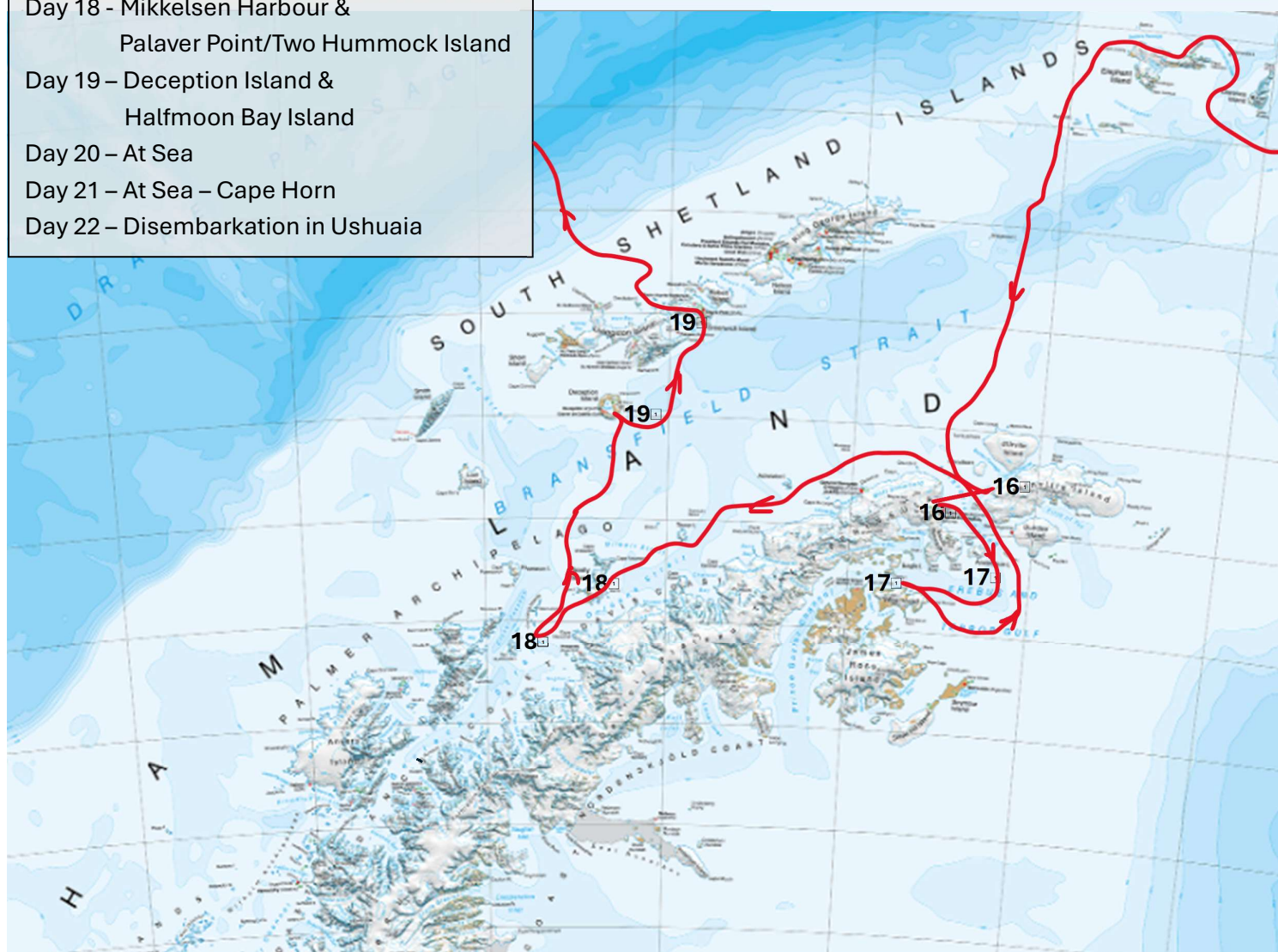
Day 18 - Mikkelsen Harbour &
Palaver Point/Two Hummock Island

Day 19 - Deception Island &
Halfmoon Bay Island

Day 20 - At Sea

Day 21 - At Sea - Cape Horn

Day 22 - Disembarkation in Ushuaia



Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region including Falkland Islands and South Georgia: 22nd October 2025 - 11 November 2025

English	Scientific	22/10	23/10	24/10	25/10	26/10	27/10	28/10	29/10	30/10	31/10	01/11	02/Nov	03/Nov	04/Nov	05/Nov	06/Nov	07/Nov	08/Nov	09/Nov	10/Nov	
Upland Goose	<i>Chloephaga picta</i>			X		X																
Kelp Goose	<i>Chloephaga hybrida</i>			X		X																
Ruddy-headed Goose	<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>																					
Flying Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres patachonicus</i>																					
Falkland Flightless Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres brachypterus</i>			X		X																
Crested Duck	<i>Lophonetta specularioides</i>				X																	
Chiloe Wigion	<i>Mareca sibilatrix</i>				X																	
Speckled Teal/ Yellow billed	<i>Anas flavirostris</i>				X																	
Silver Teal	<i>Spatula versicolor</i>																					
Yellow-billed Pintail	<i>Anas georgia</i>																					
South Georgia Pintail	<i>Anas georgica georgica</i>								X	X	X	X										
Great Grebe	<i>Podiceps major</i>																					
Silvery Grebe	<i>Podiceps occipitalis</i>																					
White-tufted Grebe	<i>Rollandia rolland</i>																					
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>																					
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>				X				X	X	X	X										
Ad�lie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>											X		X	X	X	X	X	X			
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>			X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>											X						X	X			
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>											X										
Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>			X	X																	
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>		X	X	X	X																
Snowy Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>						X	X				X	X									
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>																					
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		X	X	X		X	X														
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X							X					X	X	
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>						X	X	X											X	X	
Light-Mantled Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>						X	X	X	X	X	X								X		
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>							X	X			X					X					
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>							X						X	X	X			X			
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capense</i>		X	X			X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>														X			X	X			
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>								X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
White-headed Petrel	<i>Peterodroma lessonii</i>																					
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>						X	X				X	X		X					X		
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								X	
Soft-Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>							X														
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>																					
Grey Petrel	<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>																					
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X														X
Subantarctic Little Shearwater	<i>Puffinus elegans</i>																					
Great Shearwater	<i>Ardenna gravis</i>		X	X																		
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>						X	X														
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>											X										
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>																					
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		X	X	X			X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Fuegian Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>																					

English	Scientific	22/10	23/10	24/10	25/10	26/10	27/10	28/10	29/10	30/10	31/10	01/11	02/Nov	03/Nov	04/Nov	05/Nov	06/Nov	07/Nov	08/Nov	09/Nov	10/Nov	
Upland Goose	<i>Chloephaga picta</i>			X		X																
Kelp Goose	<i>Chloephaga hybrida</i>			X		X																
Ruddy-headed Goose	<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>																					
Flying Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres patachonicus</i>																					
Falkland Flightless Steamer Duck	<i>Tachyeres brachypterus</i>			X		X																
Crested Duck	<i>Lophonetta specularioides</i>				X																	
Chiloe Wigion	<i>Mareca sibilatrix</i>				X																	
Speckled Teal/ Yellow billed	<i>Anas flavirostris</i>				X																	
Silver Teal	<i>Spatula versicolor</i>																					
Yellow-billed Pintail	<i>Anas georgia</i>																					
South Georgia Pintail	<i>Anas georgica georgica</i>								X	X	X	X										
Great Grebe	<i>Podiceps major</i>																					
Silvery Grebe	<i>Podiceps occipitalis</i>																					
White-tufted Grebe	<i>Rollandia rolland</i>																					
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>																					
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>				X				X	X	X	X										
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>											X		X	X	X	X	X	X			
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>			X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>											X						X	X			
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>											X										
Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>			X	X																	
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>		X	X	X	X																
Snowy Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>						X	X				X	X									
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>																					
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		X	X	X		X	X														
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X							X					X	X	
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>						X	X	X											X	X	
Light-Mantled Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>						X	X	X	X	X	X								X		
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>							X	X			X										
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>							X						X	X	X			X			
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capense</i>		X	X			X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>														X			X	X			
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>								X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
White-headed Petrel	<i>Peterodroma lessonii</i>																					
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>						X	X				X	X		X					X		
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									X
Soft-Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>							X														
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>																					
Grey Petrel	<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>																					
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardena grisea</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X														X
Subantarctic Little Shearwater	<i>Puffinus elegans</i>																					
Great Shearwater	<i>Ardena gravis</i>		X	X																		
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>						X	X														
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>											X										
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>																					
Wilson’s Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		X	X	X			X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Fuegian Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>																					

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>						X	X											
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Garrodia nereis</i>			X	X														
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>			X	X			X	X										
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>																		
South Georgia Diving Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides georgicus</i>											X							
Snowy (Pale-faced) Sheatbill	<i>Chionis albus</i>							X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		
Rock Shag/Magellanic Cormorant	<i>Leucocarbo magellanicus</i>	X		X	X	X						X							
South Georgia Shag	<i>Leucocarbo georgianus</i>							X	X	X	X	X							
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Leucocarbo atriceps</i>			X	X	X		X											X
Antarctic Shag	<i>Leucocarbo atriceps</i>												X		X	X	X		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					X													
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>				X	X													
Red-backed Hawk	<i>Geranoaetus polyosoma</i>																		
Striated Caracara	<i>Daptrius australis</i>			X	X														
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus plancus</i>																		
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>																		
Magellanic Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus leucopodus</i>			X	X														
Blackish Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ater</i>			X															
Two-banded Plover	<i>Anarhynchus falklandicus</i>																		
Rufous-chested Dotterel	<i>Zonibyx modestus</i>																		
Magellanic Snipe	<i>Gallinago magellanica</i>					X													
Falkland/Brown Skua	<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>			X	X														
Chilean Skua	<i>Stercorarius chilensis</i>																		X
South Polar Skua	<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>															X		X	
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua (Ionnbergi)	<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>							X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Dolphin Gull	<i>Leucophaeus scoresbii</i>			X	X	X													
Bown-hooded Gull	<i>Chroicocephalusmaculipen</i>	X				X													
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	X		X	X	X					X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>							X	X	X	X	X							
Arctic tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		X																
Blackish Cinclodes (Tussac mBird)	<i>Cinclodes antarcticus</i>			X	X														
Dark-faced Ground-tyrant	<i>Muscisaxicola m.</i>			X	X														
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>																		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>																		
Cobb's Wren	<i>Troglodytes cobbi</i>				X														
Grass Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>			X	X														
Chilean Swallow	<i>Tachycinata leucopyga</i>				X														
Austral Thrush	<i>Turdus falcklandii</i>				X														
White-banded Mockingbird	<i>Mimus triurus</i>																		
Rufous-collared sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>																		
Long-tailed Meadow Lark	<i>Leistes loyca</i>			X	X														
Correndera Pipit	<i>Anthus correndera</i>																		
South Georgia Pipit	<i>Anthus antarcticus</i>								X	X	X								
White-bridled Finch	<i>Melanodera melanodera</i>			X	X														
Black-chinned Siskin	<i>Spinus barbatus</i>				X														
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	X																	
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>					X													
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				X														

Marine mammals		22/10	23/10	24/10	25/10	26/10	27/10	28/10	29/10	30/10	31/10	01/11	02/Nov	03/Nov	04/Nov	05/Nov	06/Nov	07/Nov	08/Nov	09/Nov	10/Nov
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	X																			
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>																				
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>		X												X			X	X		
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>		X																		
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>		X			X									X						
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>																				
Southern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>																				
Long Finned Pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>																			X	
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>																				
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>																				
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>		X	X																	
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>		X	X																	
Commerson's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus</i>				X	X															
Leopard Seal	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>																				
Crabeater Seal	<i>Lobodon carcinophagus</i>															X					
Weddell Seal	<i>Leptonychotes weddelli</i>															X	X	X	X		
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonin</i>								X	X	X	X		X							
Antarctic Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>								X	X	X	X					X				
Southern Sea Lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>		X	X	X																
South American Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus australis</i>		X	X																	
Arnoux's Beaked Whale	<i>Berardius arnuxii</i>																	X			

George Kennedy – Expedition Leader



George is an Australian social scientist specialising in polar geopolitics. He completed a Masters of International Development Practice at Monash University in 2016 and a Graduate Diploma in Antarctic Governance at the Australian Institute for Marine and Antarctic Science in 2021.

Since completing his studies, George has worked within the policy office of the Australian Antarctic Division, collaborating with other Antarctic Treaty Parties to develop sustainable tourism policy, as well as representing Oceanwide at the IAATO general meetings.

Alongside polar geopolitics, George has worked as an ALS paramedic for over a decade, and is now in the final stages of completing his Doctorate of Medicine at Deakin University where he hopes to specialise in Remote Medicine.

George has a passion for travel, boats, and motorcycles. Over a three-year period, he rode a motorcycle from Patagonia to Mexico, exploring Latin America on two wheels. It was during his time in Patagonia that his passion for the Polar Regions developed, working closely with conservation organisations in Tierra del Fuego and visiting Antarctica for the first time in 2017. George has been guiding in Antarctica and the Arctic since 2019, sharing stories of its incredible wildlife, landscapes and, of course, its unique politics!

Pippa Low – Asst. Exp. Leader



Pippa has worked as a marine guide and skipper for 15 years, primarily in Scotland, Australia, New Zealand and the polar regions. A marine scientist specialising in marine mammal research and conservation, she splits her time between the hemispheres, and loves showing the public the marine world and all it has to offer.

Growing up on the coast of the incredible Moray Firth sparked a love for the marine world and its inhabitants. Spending every spare minute in, on or under the water; professional life reflected this love from a young age,

becoming an instructor in various marine disciplines and going on to study Marine biology at university in Scotland, then later, Australia.

Upon completion of her degree, Pippa has worked as a marine mammal observer, scientific diver and research assistant on various research projects; including photo ID, migration, distribution and behavioural studies on a range of marine mammals. She has developed a keen interest in marine mammal conservation through outreach and research.

After working in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica as a research assistant, she fell in love with Antarctica. Pippa now works as a full-time Guide, and Assistant Expedition Leader in both the Arctic and Antarctica. In-between seasons, she still finds time to work on research projects – most recently completing a masters research degree specialising in Humpback Whale physiology.

Allan White - Expedition Guide



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. Thirty 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 78° 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 heroic age polar exploration. He lives in the Falklands capital Stanley, with his wife Jacqui.

Beth Hitchcock – Expedition Guide



After graduating from her Geology honours degree in 2018 at Glasgow, Beth balanced two jobs until she succumbed to full time in the guiding world in 2021. Beth worked as a deckhand / guide on a tall ship and, when on the land, as an Engineering Geologist working mainly on Scotland's road and railway networks.

On the tall ships, Beth visited many places around the Atlantic Ocean from the Azores to Cape Town and Tristan da Cunha. In the austral summers she guides on the ship when they visit Antarctica and South Georgia. These are ideal places to interpret the landscape and explain to the guests how the glaciers and geological processes have carved what we see today. The incredible human history in these regions has a significant impact on the regional geological story and on our understanding of geology globally.

Beth also enjoys spending time in the mountains of Scotland where she works when she is not guiding on board ships. She grew up sailing around the islands of the west coast of Scotland - home to some fascinating geology where she spent many field trips during her undergraduate years. This sparked the desire to explore and embark on adventures to discover new landscapes and cultures around the world.

Matt Cheok – Expedition Guide



Matt is an adventure photographer and videographer from Sydney, Australia.

His work has taken him to some of the planet's most remote and captivating destinations – from the polar regions of Antarctica, Svalbard and Greenland to the majestic African savannah, landlocked steppe countries of Central Asia, and rugged mountains of South America.

In Antarctica, Matt's favourite subjects to capture are the playful gentoo penguins and the dramatic polar landscapes in the late afternoon light.

As a photography educator, Matt enjoys sharing his expertise with fellow travellers and inspiring them to connect with the natural world.

Matt's career path has been full of surprises. He previously worked as a commercial and insurance lawyer in Sydney, but he's now much happier pursuing his passion for photography and adventure.

When he's not guiding, Matt spends much of his time camping, thru-hiking, drinking lots of Bialetti coffee, and exploring the outdoors, having recently returned from the Fann Mountains in Tajikistan.

Onboard, you'll find Matt out on deck, cameras in hand. Don't hesitate to approach him with any photography questions or just for a friendly chat!

Jess Owen – Expedition Guide



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.

Martin Anstee – Expedition Guide



Martin has been a keen naturalist and wildlife photographer for most of his life.

Martin has been an active Bird Ringer since the year 2000 and particularly enjoys studying/ringing and just being around seabird colonies.

Martin has used a camera since an early age and has combined his love of the outdoors and seabird habitats with photography. Martin has spent time in Zimbabwe and Botswana photographing other wildlife.

Martin has combined this with a career in the Police Service, firstly in the UK where he was, amongst other roles, a wildlife crime officer. His last role in The Police was as a Police Sergeant in The Royal Falkland Islands Police.

Martin lived in the Falkland Islands, Stanley, for just over two years, leaving to return to the UK in November 2021. In his two years Martin was a volunteer with Falklands Conservation, he helped with The Falkland Islands Seabird Monitoring Program (FISMP) in particular counting Seabirds and ringing Black browed Albatross. Martin was also involved in fieldwork for a Striated Caracara (Johnny Rook) study. As a result Martin has visited most of the larger (and some of the smaller) outlying islands that form part of The Falkland Islands.

This is also where Martin started his career as a guide, he enjoys sharing his knowledge of the Islands and the wildlife which he continues to do to this day. Martin has also guided in The Arctic, Antarctica and some of the sub-antarctic Islands as well as some of the least visited Islands in The Atlantic such as Tristan da Cunha.

Saskia van der Meij – Exp. guide



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.

Wei Deng – Expedition Guide



Wei Deng was born and raised in Guangzhou, China. She graduated from the University of Bonn with a master degree in Economics. During her studies in Germany, she backpacked in Europe a lot and has been hooked on travel ever since.

Wei's passion for nature and outdoor adventure urged her to quit her consultant job in 2011. She loves diving and taking pictures. This got her to become an underwater photographer. She has been leading diving trips all over the world since 2012. Her underwater photos are featured in magazines and newspapers in China

and the US. She has over 1800 logged dives under her belt, is also a PADI dive master.

In 2017 she started to work in Antarctica as an expedition guide. Polar region instantaneously became her favorite place besides underwater world. She now works all over the world on various expedition ships and is particularly passionate about everything in the ocean. Wei's previous travel, dive and work experiences have taken her to all 7 continents, over 60 countries. She is adventurous and always eager to increase everyone's understanding of the natural environment, especially, to promote marine conservation.

Marrigje Hofmeester – Doctor



Marrigje is a Dutch general practitioner. After earning her medical degree, she initially worked in pediatrics before starting her training in family medicine. She has now been practicing as a GP for over seven years. Marrigje greatly enjoys the variety her job offers and the opportunity it gives her to connect with people in different contexts.

In addition to her work in different practices, she works for the Dutch Ministry of Defense, providing medical care at two military bases in the Netherlands.

Travel and exploration have always played a big role in her life. She has a deep love of nature, particularly wildlife. While traveling, she loves to scuba-dive —giving her the chance to observe marine wildlife up close.

She feels fortunate to have visited the White Continent twice before (first time on her honeymoon!) and considers it a great privilege to now be able to explore the Falkland Islands and South Georgia on this journey.

In her personal life, Marrigje is married and a proud mother of two young children, aged 2 and 5. She is happy to have found a good balance between family life and her career, while still finding time to discover new places. Outside of work and travel, she enjoys social activities, going to the gym and scuba diving.

WELCOME ABOARD!

Luggage will be delivered to your cabin. Please make check to make sure you have received all your luggage. If you have any extra luggage in your cabin – please notify a crew member.

*** * Tea and coffee are always available in the lounge on deck 6 * ***

±1715 Welcome & safety briefing - Please join us in the **lounge (deck 6)** for a brief introduction to our new home aboard MV Ortelius, followed by a **mandatory** safety briefing and lifeboat drill.

Lifeboat Drill

All guests please collect your orange lifejackets from your cabin and proceed to the passenger MUSTER STATION in the **lounge (deck 6)**.

After our safety drill, please join the expedition team on the outer decks to enjoy the Southern Right Whales of Puerto Madryn. You may hear wildlife announcements using a clock face system to describe their location – 12 O’Clock is forward of the vessel, 3 O’Clock is to the Starboard (right) side, 6 O’Clock is behind the vessel and 9 O’Clock is to the Port (left) side.

1830-1930 Buffet Dinner is served in the **dining room** (deck 4)

1945 Expedition Introduction & Captain’s Welcome – Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 6) for a toast from our Captain and an introduction to the expedition and your expedition team.

We will sail into open sea this evening and the ship may move – please secure your belongings and be careful when moving around the ship. Take your seasickness medication before we head out into open sea- the doctor will be available in the lounge after dinner to assist.

- 0745 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 0915 **Zodiac & Biosecurity Briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 6) for our **mandatory** zodiac operations and biosecurity briefings (**All passengers must attend please**).
- 1115 **Introduction to Polar Photography Program** – Please join Matt and the Expedition Team in the **lounge** (deck 6) for an introduction to our polar photography workshop program.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 1400 **Boots** – We will call you by deck to collect your Muck boots from the lecture room on **Deck 3** (forward).
- 1600 **Birds of the Falkland Islands** – Please join Martin in the **lounge** (deck 6) for his lecture exploring the wonderful avian world of the Falklands.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 6) for our first daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4) – *Tonight's dinner will be plated – please make your way to the dining room promptly.*
- 2045 **Photo Recap** – Please join Matt and the Expedition Team in the **lounge** (deck 6) for our first photo recap. This evening, we will focus on mobile phone photography.

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

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia
& Antarctica

Friday 24th October 2025
Approaching Falkland Islands
& Steeple Jason Island



Sunrise: 0555



Sunset: 1956

- 0745 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 0900 **Biosecurity Check** – We will call you in groups to the **lounge** (deck 6) to complete our first biosecurity check and (if required) cleaning – please bring **all your outerwear, backpacks, muck boots and tripods/walking sticks** to be checked and/or cleaned. Please take time to check and clean your gear **before** the biosecurity check – brushes & paperclips can be found at reception.
Please bring your **zodiac lifejackets** to be fitted.
Please also bring along your **South Georgia PRN (Permit number)**.
Please listen for announcements.
- 1130 **The Falkland Islands** - Please join **Allan** in the **lounge** (deck 6) to hear all about the wild islands of the Falklands, with some local insight to a life on the islands.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1400 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 6) for our daily recap and briefing.
- This afternoon, we hope to arrive in time to land at Steeple Jason Island, on the far Northwest shores of the Falkland Islands archipelago. Steeple Jason is home to the World's largest Black Browed Albatross colony, as well as an array of other bird and wildlife species. Our arrival and operations will be dependent on weather conditions – please standby for announcements.*
- TBC **Steeple Jason Zodiac Boarding** – please come to the zodiac boarding area (deck 4 – at reception) – *listen for announcements.*
- +/-1930 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).

"It is in our nature to explore, to reach out into the unknown. The only true failure would be not to explore at all" – Ernest Shackleton



Falkland Islands, South Georgia
& Antarctica

Saturday 25th October 2025
Carcass & Saunders Islands



Sunrise: 0536



Sunset: 1954

0715 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

This morning, we hope to land at Carcass Island, offering a long walk (approx. 4km) from Dyke Bay to the Carcass island settlement. Those not wishing to venture on the long walk will enjoy the Magellanic and Gentoo penguins of Dyke Bay before being taken by zodiac to the settlement. The local family will provide us with some delicious tea and cake at the end of our landing.

+/-0845 **Long walkers** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 4) – *listen for announcements.*
+/-0900 **Beach & Settlement only** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 4) – *listen for announcements.*

1300 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

This afternoon we hope to land at Saunders Island, offering a walk up a gentle incline to visit Gentoo, Magellanic, Southern Rockhopper & King Penguins and Black-browed Albatross. Please follow the poles and remember to keep a safe distance from wildlife. The local family will likely have some home-made souvenirs for sale – they can only accept GBP (cash).

+/- 1530 **Saunders Island Zodiac Boarding** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 4) – *listen for announcements.*

1930 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

2045 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** to hear the plans for tomorrow.

"Penguins are extraordinarily like children, these little people of the Antarctic world, either like children, or like old men, full of their own importance and late for dinner, in their black tail-coats and white shirt-fronts and rather portly withal"
– Aspley Cherry-Garrard, British Explorer



Falkland Islands, South Georgia
& Antarctica

Sunday 26th October 2025

Port Stanley



Sunrise: 0532



Sunset: 1946

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

This morning, we hope to land at Port Stanley – the capital of the Falkland Islands. You can walk freely through the town – please remain within the town limits. Please respect the local traffic and peoples' private homes & gardens.

Very last zodiac will leave the jetty at 12:15pm.

If you hear the ships horn sound – please return immediately to the jetty.

+/-0830 **Stanley Zodiac Boarding** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 4) – *listen for announcements.*

1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
Meat Free Dining experience. *All dishes prepared today will be meat and seafood free. As part of our efforts to support sustainable food practices, we aim to reduce the amount of meat and fish consumed on board. Today, we invite you to support us in achieving this goal. Thank you.*

*This afternoon we will head back out to sea, making our way towards South Georgia. We will have some swell and movement. Please secure your belongings, take any seasick medication you require and always remember – **one hand for the ship!***

1400 **Falklands Conflict** – Please join Allan in the **lounge** for his lecture on the historical Falklands conflict.

1600 **Falkland Island Geology** – Please join Beth in the **lounge** to hear more about the incredible Falkland Islands landscapes we have seen.

1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.
Meat Free Dining experience. *All dishes prepared today will be meat and seafood free.*

2045 **Photography Workshop** – Please join Matt and the team in the lounge for this evening's photography workshop.

"Adventure is just a romantic name for trouble"
– Roald Amundsen



- 0745 **Wakeup call** – Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0915 **South Georgia Briefing** – Please join us in the **lounge** for a **mandatory briefing** and video (narrated by David Attenborough) for our visit to South Georgia.
- 1115 **Whales of the Southern Ocean** – Please join Jess in the **lounge** to hear all about the leviathans of the Southern Ocean.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1430 **Pinnipeds**– Please join Pippa in the **lounge** for her lecture about the seals we hope to encounter during our expedition.
- 1630 **Shackleton's Endurance** – Please join Saskia in the **lounge** to hear the harrowing tale of Shackleton and his men on the Endurance expedition.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** – *Tonight's dinner will be plated – please make your way to the dining room promptly.*
- 2045 **Photography Workshop** – Please join Matt and the team in the **lounge** for this evening's photography workshop.

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

"Through endurance we conquer"
– Ernest Shackleton



- 0715 **Wakeup call** – Good Morning :)
- 0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0900 **South Georgia & the Scotia Sea** – Please join Beth in the **lounge** to hear how South Georgia came to be and the history of its Geology.
- 1000 **South Georgia Biosecurity** - We will call you in groups to the **lounge** to complete our biosecurity check & cleaning – please bring all your **clean** outerwear, backpacks, muckboots and tripods/walking sticks to be checked and/or cleaned. Please do your best to clean your gear beforehand – this is meant only as a check – there are brushes and paperclips available at reception. ***Please listen for announcements.***

TIME CHANGE – At 1200 the time will move forward one hour to 1300.

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

During the afternoon we will pass by Shag rocks – an area of upwellings and possible increase in wildlife sightings – please stand by for announcements on the timing we will pass – this may alter the program for the afternoon.

- TBC **Political History of South Georgia** – Please join George in the **lounge** to explore the human history of South Georgia.

- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

*As we enter South Georgia waters, we must minimise the light pollution from the ship to prevent birds striking and landing on the ship. **PLEASE PUT ALL THE BLINDS IN YOUR CABINS DOWN/ CLOSE YOUR CURTAINS** before dinner!*

- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.
- 2045 **Photography Workshop** – Please join Matt and the team in the **lounge** for this evening's photography workshop.

*“Need to put footprint of courage into stirrup of patience.”
– Ernest Shackelton*



Falkland Islands, South Georgia
& Antarctica

Wednesday 29th October 2025

Fortuna Bay & Stromness



Sunrise: 0443



Sunset: 1935

During the early hours of the morning, we will be approaching and sailing alongside the beautiful coastline of South Georgia. If we have good visibility, the first sights of South Georgia are ones not to miss!

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

This morning, we hope to land at Whistle Cove in Fortuna Bay, a broad, glacier carved bay framed by towering peaks and rich in wildlife. The beach is alive with Antarctic fur seals and Southern Elephant seals lounging along the shore, while a thriving colony of King Penguins fill the air with their calls and colour.

+/-0900 **Fortuna Bay Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements – we may call you by colour group to board the zodiacs.

1300 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

This afternoon we visit Stromness, once a busy whaling station and the historic endpoint of Ernest Shackleton's epic 1916 crossing of South Georgia. We'll offer a walk to Shackleton Falls, a scenic 4 km return route through long grass, boggy ground and gentle inclines to a beautiful waterfall at the back of the valley. The old station is now surrounded by abundant wildlife, including many Antarctic fur seals, offering plenty to observe for those who prefer to remain near the beach.

+/-1515 **Stromness Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements – we may call you by colour group to board the zodiacs.

+/-1915 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for the daily recap.

1930 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

"It is in our nature to explore, to reach out into the unknown. The only true failure would be not to explore at all"
– Ernest Shackleton

0415 **Wakeup call - Good Morning!**

Pastries, Fruit & Juice will be available in the lounge.

This morning, we hope to make a very early morning landing at St Andrews Bay, which is best known for its huge breeding colony of king penguins, numbering about 150,000 pairs, the largest in South Georgia. But the beaches of St. Andrews Bay are also great for viewing fur seals, elephant seals, snow-capped mountains and stunning glacial scenery.

+/-0445 **St Andrews Bay Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements – we may call you by colour group to board the zodiacs.

0830 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

In the second half of the morning, we hope to offer a short zodiac cruise at St Andrews Bay, offering you a new and complete perspective of this incredible site.

+/-1000 **St Andrews Bay Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements – we may call you by colour group to board the zodiacs.

1300 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon we hope to visit Godthul, a scenic bay framed by tussock-covered hills with hints of the historical whaling past. Guests can explore the small but busy beach or take a relatively strenuous hike to a Gentoo Penguin rookery and spectacular views over the bay. For those who do not wish to hike the hill in Godthul, we will offer a zodiac cruise – **please sign up at reception for the zodiac cruise by 1300.***

+/-1515 **Godthul Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements – we may call you by colour group to board the zodiacs.

+/-1815 **Recap** – Please join us in the lounge for the daily briefing.

1830 **Special South Georgia Dinner** is served on the **Heli Deck** – dress warm :)

“Through endurance we conquer”
– Ernest Shackelton



The Falklands Islands , South Georgia
& Antarctica

Friday 31st October 2025

Grytviken & Jason Harbour

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!



Sunrise: 0444

Sunset: 1939

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

This morning we hope to land at Grytviken. Here you can expect to see the old whaling station, church, cemetery and visit the museum, shop & post office. We have invited the museum team on to the ship to give a presentation about their work. After this presentation we will call you by colour group for a landing at Grytviken.

We will be inspected on disembarkation- please insure all your equipment is clean.

0830 **South Georgia Heritage Trust presentation.** A representative from the Heritage Trust Museum will come on board to give a short presentation about their current projects in the **lounge**.

+/-0900 **Red Group Grytviken Zodiac Boarding** - please come to the gangway.
Please listen for announcements.

+/-0915 **Blue Group Grytviken Zodiac Boarding** - please come to the gangway.
Please listen for announcements.

1100 **Whaling Station Guided Tour** - Please meet outside the museum.

1300 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

This afternoon we hope to land at Jason Harbour, a beautiful, secluded cove teeming with life. Whilst ashore, we hope to encounter elephant seals, fur seals, king penguins and cormorants in the shadows of South Georgia's largest mountain – Mt Paget.

1515 **Jason Harbour Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements – we may call you by colour group to board the zodiacs.

1830 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily recap.

1900 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.



The Falkland Islands, South Georgia
& Antarctica

Saturday 1st November 2025

Gold Harbour & Cooper Bay

 **Sunrise: 0440**

 **Sunset: 1938**

0415 **Wakeup call - Good Morning!**

Pastries, Fruit & Juice will be available in the lounge.

This early morning, we hope to land at Gold Harbour, another one of South Georgias most famous sites. Here we have the opportunity to walk amongst many southern elephant seals and to a beautiful colony of king penguins, as well as searching for nesting terns, snowy sheathbills and light mantled albatross!

+/-0445 **Gold Harbour Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements – we may call you by colour group to board the zodiacs.

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

After breakfast, we hope to take you for a zodiac cruise of Cooper Bay, a beautifully scenic bay filled with life. Here we hope to encounter more elephant, and fur seals, as well as four species of penguins – king, gentoo, chinstrap and macaroni. Dress warmly for a beautiful morning on the water.

+/-1015 **Cooper Bay Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements.

1300 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

After we get back on board, Ortelius will make its way Southwards and into the open ocean. We hope to sail through the beautiful Cooper Sound which is often laden with icebergs – please enjoy this and our last sights of South Georgia. Please prepare your belongings, and yourself as there will be movement on the ship once more.

1800 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.

1900 **Dinner** will be served in the dining room – *dinner this evening will be plated – please come to the dining room promptly. Bon appetite!*

“Victory awaits him who has everything in order – luck, people call it. Defeat is definitely due for him, who has neglected to take the necessary precautions – bad luck we call it.”
– Roald Amundsen



Falkland Islands, South Georgia
& Antarctica

Sunday 2nd November 2025
At Sea to South Orkney Islands

 **Sunrise: 0340**

 **Sunset: 1859**

****Clocks go back 1 hour during the night – 0000 will become 2300****

- 0745 **Wakeup call** – Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0930 **Photo Editing** - Please join Matt in the **lounge** to hear how you can edit and enhance the images you have captured on your journey so far.
- 1130 **History of Antarctic Whaling** – Please join Pippa in the **lounge** to explore the dramatic history of Antarctic whaling and its lasting impact on both people and the planet.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1400 **Biosecurity** - We will call you in groups to the **lounge** to complete our biosecurity check & cleaning – please bring all your **clean** outerwear, backpacks, muck boots and tripods/walking sticks to be checked and/or cleaned. Please do your best to clean your gear beforehand – this is meant only as a check – there are brushes and paperclips available at reception. ***Please listen for announcements.***
- 1630 **Birds of the Southern Ocean** – Please join Martin in the **lounge** to learn about the incredible winged wonders we have been seeing and those we still hope to see on our expedition south.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.
- +/-2045 **South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction** - Please join us in the **lounge** for an evening of fun and fundraising for the continuing conservation of the beautiful Island of South Georgia.

“The world is a huge place. How will you know where you fit in unless you explore beyond your comfort zone?”

- Sir Ernest Shackleton.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia
& Antarctica

Monday 3rd November 2025

South Orkney Islands

 **Sunrise: 0337**

 **Sunset: 1952**

South Orkney Islands Expedition Day

Today, we hope to approach the South Orkney Islands, we will spend the morning sailing between the two main islands; Laurie & Coronation, and by the afternoon we hope to be able to offer a landing at a small landing on the south side of Coronation Island, called Shingle Cove.

0715 **Wakeup call**

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

During the morning, we hope to enjoy beautiful views of the Orkneys, Ice and Wildlife. Please join us out on deck, on the bridge or by a window.

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

The ice density will determine what time (and indeed if) we can reach Shingle Cove. Please standby for announcements throughout the day for updates on our activities today. Home to a small Adelie penguin colony, Shingle Cove offers beautiful views of the Orkney's and a chance for a short walk.

+/-1300 **Shingle Cove Zodiac Boarding** - *please listen for announcements.*

1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

2045 **Photography Workshop** – Please join Matt and the team in the **lounge** for this evening's photography workshop.

"Never stop because you are afraid — you are never so likely to be wrong."
- Fridjof Nansen



Falkland Islands, South Georgia
& Antarctica
Tuesday 4th November 2025
At Sea to Antarctica & Elephant Island

 **Sunrise: 0401**
 **Sunset: 1936**

- 0745 **Wakeup call!** Good morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0915 **Antarctic Geology & Ice** – Please join **Beth** in the **lounge** to learn about the icy landscapes we travel through in Antarctica.
- 1100 **Swedish Antarctic Expedition** – Please join **Allan** in the **lounge** to hear the incredible story of Otto Nordenskjöld and his men on one of the most epic survival expeditions in Antarctica. *Over the next days, we hope to travel through some of the very waters where this expedition took place.*
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1500 **Polar Geopolitics; the emergence of the Antarctic Treaty System** - Please join George in the Lounge to hear the story of how this unique political system was formed.
- 1745 **Recap** - join the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.
- 1830 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**. *Dinner this evening is plated – please arrive promptly. Bon Appetit.*

*After dinner, we hope to approach Elephant Island – Stand by for announcements.
We hope to view Point Wild - please join us to view the rugged shorelines as we arrive, remembering how Shackleton's men survived on these shores for four months, awaiting rescue.*

"I thought, dear, that you would rather have a live ass than a dead lion."
-Sir Ernest Shackleton
[To his wife Emily, after deciding to turn back 97 miles from the Pole]



Falkland Islands, South Georgia
& Antarctica

Wednesday 5th November 2025

Antarctic Sound

 **Sunrise: 0410**

 **Sunset: 2056**

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

0900 **Whale Evolution** - Please join **Jess** in the **lounge** to hear where the biggest animals in the world originated from.

This morning, we hope to enter the Antarctic Sound – at the very North of the Antarctic Peninsula. Our arrival will be dependent on the ice we encounter during our transit from Elephant Island.

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

This afternoon we hope to go for a zodiac cruise around Kinnes Cove. A glacial bay on the west of Joinville Island, on the Eastern edge of the Antarctic Sound. The bay will likely be filled with sea ice and is home to thousands of Adelie Penguins.

+/-1345 **Kinnes Cove Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements.

1730 **Recap** meet the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.

1800 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

After dinner we hope to take you for a landing at Brown Bluff a striking volcanic headland on the Antarctic Peninsula known for its dramatic cliffs. A continental landing that is also home to thousands of Adelie and Gentoo Penguins.

+/-1900 **Brown Bluff Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements.

“The land looks like a fairytale.”
— Roald Amundsen



Falkland Islands, South Georgia
& Antarctica

Thursday 6th November 2025

Weddell Sea & Devil Island

 **Sunrise: 0402**

 **Sunset: 2100**

0645 **Wakeup call!** Good morning!

0700 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

This morning, we hope to be in the Northern Weddell Sea. We hope to visit Devil Island; a small island in the Erebus & Terror Gulf, home to thousands of Adelie Penguins and surrounded by stunning Antarctic scenery.

+/-0815 **Devil Island Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements.

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

This afternoon we hope to navigate through the Northern Weddell sea, passing enormous tabular icebergs, and keeping our eye out for wildlife along the way. Please join us to enjoy this fantastic Antarctic environment.

1800 **Recap** meet the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

2045 **Photography Workshop** – Please join Matt and the team in the **lounge** for this evening's photography workshop.

"I have come to the conclusion that life in the Antarctic Regions can be very pleasant."

- Robert Falcon Scott



The Falkland Islands, South Georgia
& Antarctica

Friday 7th November 2025

Mikkelsen Harbour & Palaver Point

 **Sunrise: 0420**

 **Sunset: 2117**

0645 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!

0700 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

This morning, we enter the Gerlache Strait on the Western Antarctic Peninsula. We hope to land at D'Hainaut Island in Mikkelsen Harbour. Home to Gentoo Penguins and surrounded by beautiful Antarctic scenery. We also hope to offer a polar plunge at the end of our landing – wear your swimmers under your landing gear. We will provide the towels – please do not bring the towels from your cabin.

+/-0800 **Mikkelsen Harbour Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements.

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

1400 **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.

This afternoon we will sail through the Gerlache Strait. Later in the afternoon, we hope to land at Palaver Point on Two Hummock Island. Here we hope to observe a Chinstrap Penguin colony and offer a hike to a viewpoint.

+/-1600 **Palaver Point Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements.

1930 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

"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



The Falkland Islands, South Georgia
& Antarctica

Saturday 8th November 2025

Deception Island & Half Moon Island

 **Sunrise: 0414**

 **Sunset: 2109**

0700 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!

This morning, we hope to sail into Deception Island – a flooded volcanic caldera. We hope to pass through the entrance, known as Neptune’s Bellows, around 0710.

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

This morning, we hope to land at Whaler’s Bay, inside Deception Island, where history and geology meet in striking contrast. Wander among weathered whaling relics, steaming beaches, and the towering volcanic slopes that make Deception Island one of Antarctica’s most unforgettable sites.

+/-0830 **Whaler’s Bay Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements.

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

This afternoon we will sail north in the Bransfield strait to reach Half Moon Island. We hope to land at Half Moon Island, amongst the South Shetland Islands, with beautiful Antarctic scenery and home to Chinstrap Penguins.

+/-1600 **Half Moon Island Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements.

1830 **Recap** - Please join the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.

1900 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

+/-2030 **Final Photography Workshop** - Please join Matt and the team in the **lounge** for the final photography workshop.

+/-2100 **Movie Night** – Please join us for a fun evening of Antarctic animation to watch Happy Feet.

“The struggle for existence is the essence of life.”
- Douglas Mawson

- 0745 **Wake-up call**, Good morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0845-1000 **Photo Competition Submissions** – Please meet Matt and the expedition team in the **Photo Corner** to share your photos competition submissions. *Entries will be displayed on the screens in the lounge throughout the afternoon – please cast your votes for your favourite photos by 1800.*
- 1000 **What Whales do for us** - Please join Jess in the **lounge** to hear about the many ways whales help our planet.
- 1130 **Dogs of Antarctica** - Please join Allan in the **lounge** to listen to his talk about the unsung heroes of Antarctic exploration – the sled dogs.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1330 **Muck boot Return** – We will call you in groups to return your **clean muck boots** and **dry bags** (if borrowed) to the **boot room on deck 3** forward. *Please listen for announcements.*
- 1400 **Project Tiger Documentary** – Please join Yashpal and the team in the **lounge** for a screening of this incredible conservation documentary.
- 1700 **Photography Programme Round up** – Please join Matt in the **lounge** to conclude our photography programme and learn how to incorporate your images into a polar portfolio.
- 1800 **Recap** - Please join the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.
- 1900 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**. *Dinner will be plated.*
- 2045 **Photo Competition** - Please join the team in the **lounge** to reveal the competition winners.

“With friends like these, one might endure, I would say, under any circumstances”
– Andre Solomon, Swedish Expeditioner

0745 **Wakeup call** – Enjoy your morning!

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

*This morning you will receive your bill in your cabin. We will call you by deck to complete your payments at reception – **Please listen for announcements throughout the day.***

0900 **SGHT Auction Payments** - Please join Pippa in the **lounge** if you purchased any items at the auction – we will process your payments.

1000 **Polar Women** – Please join Saskia in the **lounge** to learn about the stories of the women in Antarctica.

1130 **Future History of Antarctica** – Please join George in the **lounge** to explore the future challenges and opportunities for Antarctica.

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

1400 **Q&A with Captain Per** – Please join Captain Per in the **lounge** for a question-and-answer session – bring any burning questions along or pop them in the question box beforehand.

1630 **Oceanwide Expeditions** - Please join us in the **lounge** to hear about the other incredible expeditions that Oceanwide Expeditions offers.

1800 **Farewell Toast & Trip Slideshow** - Please join Captain Per and the Expedition team in the **lounge** to toast our incredible voyage through the Southern Ocean and watch the trip slideshow.

1900 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

“We do not live for ourselves alone; our lives are connected by a thousand invisible threads.”

- Douglas Mawson

0715 **Wakeup call** – Good Morning!

0730 **Breakfast** will be served in the dining room.

*Please place your large/check-in luggage outside your cabin no later than 0730.
During breakfast we will collect your luggage and deposit it on the pier where it will
be your responsibility to identify and collect each item.*

0830 **Disembarkation** Please join us at the gangway for our final farewell.

Please place your cabin key card holders at reception before departing the vessel.

*Upon disembarkation, **please identify and collect your luggage** from the pier and
choose to either;*

- 1. Take it with you into Ushuaia and walk into town.*
- 2. Put it on the airport bus and get on the bus.*
- 3. Put it in the luggage truck.*
- 4. If you have arranged your own transport – please take your luggage.*

***On behalf of everyone at Oceanwide Expeditions and all on board
Ortelius we thank you for a truly incredible expedition.
Safe travels home – we hope to see you again soon.***