



Into the Weddell Sea: In Search of Emperor Penguins

Ushuaia – Antarctica – Ushuaia

11th November 2025 – 21st November

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 53

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Chief Officer: | Vladyslav Rozhynsky | [Ukraine] |
| Second Officer: | Warren Villanueva | [Philippines] |
| Third Officer: | Ian Vicente | [Philippines] |
| Chief Engineer: | Guntis Dizbite | [Latvia] |
| Hotel Manager: | Volodymyr Cherednychenko | [Ukraine] |
| Assistant Hotel Manager: | Karolina Guziejko | [Poland] |
| Head Chef: | Ivan Yuriychuk | [Ukraine] |
| Expedition Leader | Pippa Low | [Scotland] |
| Assistant Expedition Leader | George Kennedy | [Australia] |
| Expedition Guide | Allan White | [Falkland Islands] |
| Expedition Guide | Beth Hitchcock | [Scotland] |
| Expedition Guide | Sam Bamford | [New Zealand] |
| Expedition Guide | Gary Miller | [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 | Veronique Verhoeven | [Belgium] |
| Helicopter Pilot | Marcelo Lira Contreras | [Chile] |
| Helicopter Pilot | Marcelo Yáñez | [Chile] |
| Helicopter Pilot | César Carrasco | [Chile] |
| Helicopter Engineer | Mario Solano | [Chile] |
| Helicopter Engineer | Fernando Silva Soto | [Chile] |
| Helicopter Engineer | Luis Aguilera | [Chile] |

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Tuesday 11th November 2025. Embarkation Day, Ushuaia

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

Finally, the day had come! We were all assembled in Ushuaia ready for embarking on the voyage of a lifetime. The weather was the variable Patagonian repertoire, with sunshine rapidly changing into cold rainy flurries. But of course, we all came prepared!



At 14:00, it was time to board our home for the coming 12 days - *Ortelius*. The crew welcomed us on board and showed us our cabins before we were whisked away to the lounge to begin our mandatory safety briefings.

After the safety aspects were covered, especially precautions for life on board, it was time for the Captain's Cocktails and welcome meetings. For this we received a hearty welcome from the Captain himself, Per, along with our Hotel Manager Volodymyr and Expedition Leader Pippa. We met the entire guiding team and the helicopter pilots and engineers. It was a lot to take in, but it was certainly exciting to be setting off at last!

At 16:00, we were all out on deck with cameras at the ready watching the helicopters come in. One by one they landed on *Ortelius'* Heli deck on the aft of the ship. Their blades were removed from their rotor, and they were wheeled into the Heli hanger to be stored for the drake crossing. The final helicopter was secured to the Heli deck and were we off, on our way down the Beagle Channel.

After a delicious buffet dinner, it was time to enjoy the last of the Beagle Channel before we head out onto the beginning of the Drake Passage. We were finally underway, excited and raring with anticipation!



Day 2 – Wednesday 12th November – Sea Day

09:00 GPS Position: 57°32.7'S, 065°20.2'W

Wind: Var 2-3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +3°C

This morning we were excited to wake up to our first full day of the journey. The drake passage was surprisingly smooth, but despite the relative calmness many people were still suffering from seasickness.

Through the morning fog there were some exciting Southern Ocean bird species spotted from the bridge such as the grey-headed albatross, the black-browed albatross, the cape petrel, and the giant petrel, many of which were new species for the birdwatchers among us.

After a great breakfast, Expedition guide Gary started the lecture program with his talk about penguins, giving us an introduction to the species we would hopefully come across and the behaviour and biology which helps them to survive in Antarctica.

Not long after, Beth the geologist gave us a great talk about ice and how the Antarctic continent was formed and how it's affected by ice today.



We had a tasty lunch before heading to collect our muck boots which would keep our feet warm and dry in the harsh snowy landscapes to come.

In the afternoon Expedition Leader Pippa and Assistant Expedition Leader George invited us to the lounge to receive a briefing about Zodiac operations and helicopter operations, so that we understood how to safely get in and out of each of these exciting modes of transport.

The weather certainly brightened up throughout the afternoon and we enjoyed watching the seascape from the bridge and outside decks.



The day at sea whizzed by and soon it was time to gather for the first of our daily recaps. Pippa informed us about the plans for tomorrow, we would be visiting the remarkable Deception Island and informed us about our helicopter practice run and biosecurity measures that would be taking place. Gary then entertained us by explaining how the

different species of penguin pair up and their respective divorce rates, crushing the common misconception that they mate for life.

We headed off for a tasty plated dinner and a chance to further chat with and get to know each other in the restaurant. In the evening, we watched the sun go down over the ocean and started to prepare for tomorrow's activities, charging our cameras and packing our pack backs, ready to explore.



Day 3 – Thursday 13th November – Sea morning and Whalers Bay, Deception Island

08:00 GPS Position: 62°17.0'S, 062°10.8'W

Wind: NE 3 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temp: -0.8°C • Sea Temp: +1°C

This morning, we were at sea, sailing towards the South Shetland Islands, on our way to the unique caldera Deception Island.

It would take us a long time to transit there, so during the morning we got two very important tasks done. The first was to do a helicopter 'dry run', an exact practice run of how the helicopter operations would work on the day when we would step into the helicopters for the first time. We were called in our flight groups to the lounge where the expedition team explained to us what to expect on the day. We were then escorted to the helideck where we could practice getting in and out of the helicopter with our outdoor gear on and our equipment. This practice run gave us an opportunity to take some photographs and to understand exactly what to expect on the big day and ask any questions we might have.

We were also invited to the lecture room to do our biosecurity checks. Here we were looking for any dirt or vegetation that might be stuck in our pockets, Velcro jackets, boots, or back packs, that could potentially be harmful or introduce invasive species to the Antarctic environment.



After these tasks were finished, expedition guide Martin gave us a talk about the birds of the Southern Ocean. It was great to hear information about the spectacular seabirds

that we were seeing in real time, many of which spend the majority of their lives soaring above the rough waves of the Southern Ocean, and only landing to breed once a year.



After a buffet lunch it was time to step foot on Deception Island at Whalers Bay. We watched in awe as we sailed through Neptune's Bellows, the narrow entrance into the island. We were given the chance to walk around and explore the old Norwegian whaling station and see the remains of old research buildings from British scientists that were forced to leave the island after its most recent eruption. There was an unusual amount of krill washed up on the beach which gave us a chance to see these remarkable little animals up close, a keystone species that the entire Antarctic food chain is dependent on. There were many birds taking advantage of the accessible krill including Antarctic terns, Arctic terns, kelp gulls, cape petrels, and Gentoo penguins. We could also take a walk up to Neptune's Window, a view point between the peaks where, on a clear day, it's possible to see all the way to the Antarctic Peninsula and we could see cape petrels nesting on the cliff edges.

After exploring the island, some brave souls decided to take a dip in the ocean and do the famous Polar Plunge! Their screams could be heard from up on the hill but most emerged from the water with big smiles.

Once we had returned to the ship and warmed up with showers and hot drinks it was time for the daily recap from the expedition team in the lounge. Pippa told us about the plans to head ever closer into the Weddell Sea, and Beth gave an engaging recap about Deception Island. George finished off by explaining how the coastal waters of

Antarctica are not separated into zones based on who owns them, and so technically those who took the plunge today did so in the high seas, a rare experience indeed!



Day 4 – Friday 14th November – Exploration of the Antarctic Sound

09:00 GPS Position: 63°31.8'S, 056°45.9'W

Wind: SE 3 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Partly Cloud • Air Temp: -10°C • Sea Temp: 0°C

Today we were woken up at 07:15 by our Expedition Leader Pippa while we were sailing through the Antarctic Sound. A lot of us were already awake and out on the decks to experience the raw nature we were surrounded by. Some of us set alarms for 03:30 to see the sunrise. The clouds combined with the light turned the start of this day into a magical moment. We did not stay out as long as the previous days as we needed to come in to warm up. Today the temperature had dropped massively to minus 10 degrees Celsius, as the wind blew over the ice.

We were surrounded by beautiful sea ice and amongst that, bobbing around, were towering icebergs. The view was just spectacular. Sailing through the sea ice is such a great experience. Seeing big ice floes being pushed underneath others and being split in smaller pieces. And floes of a softer composition were scrapping the top layer off the underlying ones in these beautiful different patterns. We also saw some crabeater seals on the ice, quite close to the ship.

Sitting on the water were several southern giant petrels. With a wingspan of roughly two meters these clumsy birds were taking off in their own funny way. Around the ship we saw pintados (cape petrels), the elusive Antarctic petrel and the white fairies of the south: the beautiful snow petrels. They would fly in groups of two or three, elegantly skimming over the water.



At 10:30, we were invited to the lounge on deck 6 to join our Assistant Expedition Leader George to listen to his interesting lecture on Polar Geopolitics: the emergence of the Antarctic Treaty System. During this he explained the fascinating story of how this unique political system was formed. Shortly after, another delicious lunch was prepared by the gally team. The bridge team was still trying to navigate us through the sea ice, but because of the currents, wind and therefore colder temperatures the ice was getting thicker. Then over the PA system came the message that our second officer had spotted four emperor penguins on the ice edge in front of us. The captain then slowly navigated the ship close up so we could all enjoy these magnificent birds.



Around 15:00 our Expedition Leader Pippa went on a reconnaissance flight with the second officer to see if there was a lead through the ice that we could follow to get us through the thick ice to Snow Hill Island. After returning she explained to us, with the aid of several pictures taken on the flight, that for this afternoon there was no visible option for heading south at the time. The ice was too dense.

We were sailing in an area of great historical importance and Allan captured us this afternoon at 16:30 in the lounge with his story about the Swedish Antarctic Expedition. An incredible, but to most of us unknown, survival story from in total 28 men on a ship named the Antarctic. The Antarctic Sound that we sailed through this morning was named after this ship.

At 18:15 we were invited up to the lounge again by the expedition team to hear about the plans for tomorrow. Still positive that the ice conditions would change, the complete team with the captain up at the bridge the whole day, kept trying to get us to Snow Hill Island. For the evening Captain Per moored MV *Ortelius* in the sea ice. We were

surrounded by different groups of Adelie penguins which were fun to watch. After an amazing day in the ice, we would end up stepping on the sea ice ourselves.

We went for dinner at 19:00 in the dining room and got dressed to step on the ice. The expedition team had checked the ice condition and set up a perimeter where we could roam and take pictures. We got an incredible visitor joining us at that exact moment, an emperor penguin! It was chilled and sat on the ice while we all came out and could take pictures and enjoy it. A large group of Adélie penguins also joined the show later. They glowed with the light reflecting on the wet feathers. The sun was setting and the icebergs and snow-capped mountains of surrounding Joinville Island and the Argentinian summer station 'Petrel' on Dundee Island, were lit up in pink and orange. Just magical again. It was an incredible way to end this beautiful day in the sea ice.



Day 5 – Saturday 15th November – Scenic Flights and Brown Bluff

0900 GPS Position: 63°33.3'S, 056°23.3'W

Wind: S 2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air Temp: -7.8°C

What a day! We woke up to a beautiful, mostly sunny day with little wind—perfect for a bit of helicopter flying. Just as everyone was getting up, we spotted a few emperor penguins swimming near the ship. That turned out to be a good omen for the day.

While everyone had their breakfast, just a bit earlier than usual, the pilots, engineers, expedition staff and crew heli-team readied the deck and helicopters for a run of flight-seeing around the north end of the Weddell Sea. For best viewing, we only put three in each helicopter, so everyone had a window seat as our pilots put their machines through their paces. Everyone had about 20 minutes of flying to see the packed in ice of the northern Weddell Sea. It was obvious to most that no change was apparent, so the ice still blocked our way, but the feeling of zooming high above the ice was exhilarating. Then the Star Wars-like run through the large tabular bergs flying back toward the ship, and finally a bit of a bird's eye view of our *Ortelius* before landing back home.



As the *Ortelius* moved position during lunch, we passed through several layers of newly frozen patches of ice. We could see vast but thin sheets of clear hard ice called nilas or finger ice. The clear and thin sheets are still flexible, but when pushed together they break in a way that various fingers of ice form where the two sheets stack segments on top of each other.

By just crossing the narrow area of the entrance to the Weddell Sea, it didn't take very long to reach our afternoon landing site - Brown Bluff.

We all went ashore at Brown Bluff to wander around the big penguin colonies there. The landscape itself is a feature enough with the impressively high reddish-brown rocky cliffs rising out of the Adélie penguin colony. The cacophony of 50,000 or more Adélie's, along with several thousand gentoo penguins nesting on the slopes, met us at the beach. It was such a busy site with the penguins still trying to finish laying eggs for their nests. Most of the Adélie's had two eggs and the female had already gone to sea for the first foraging trip. But there were still plenty along the borders of the colony that were still striving to find a mate, build a stone nest and get a mate to put some eggs in it. As a result, we saw lots of matings as well as many comings and goings along the beach. Back on board for recap and a late dinner.



Day 6 – Sunday 16th November – Cape Green Heli-Landing and Sea Ice Walk

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

The day began under a soft early-morning glow as our vessel lay quietly within a gently shifting mosaic of sea ice. Even before breakfast, the promise of the day felt special: a helicopter operation onto Cape Green, one of those rare and remarkable opportunities to place footfall on a remote and pristine corner of the Antarctic continent. For many on board, this was their first time landing by helicopter in Antarctica, and the anticipation could be felt throughout the ship long before the rotors began to turn.

Morning preparations were smooth, and the conditions could hardly have been more ideal. Clear skies stretched overhead, the visibility nearly perfect, and the winds modest enough to allow for safe and comfortable flying. As each group boarded the helicopter, the excitement was tangible. It was an eager blend of curiosity, exhilaration, and quiet reverence for the environment we were entering.



The flight itself was unforgettable. Lifting off from the vessel, we quickly rose above a frozen world of astonishing texture and colour. The ocean, nearly completely enclosed by sea ice, looked like a vast white quilt, stitched by fracture lines and pressure ridges. From above, patterns in the ice became visible. Swirls, cracks, and broad frozen plates separated by narrow leads of dark water. Here and there, immense tabular icebergs lay embedded within the sea ice, their sheer cliffs rising stark and geometric against the gentle undulations of the frozen ocean.



As we approached Cape Green, the landscape transformed again. The mountains emerged from the continent like jagged sculptures, their slopes draped in snow that glowed faintly gold in the morning light. The helicopter made a careful approach to our landing site atop a ridge, and soon the skids touched down with a gentle thump. The

moment the doors opened, an astonishing sense of space and silence poured in. The Antarctic air, crisp and cold, wrapped around us like a reminder that we had arrived in a place that belongs to itself alone. Once the helicopter had left, our attention was drawn to the complete silence.



From the ridge at Cape Green, the view was almost overwhelming in its scale. The panorama stretched uninterrupted across sea ice, iceberg fields, and distant frozen coastlines, the entire world appearing both immense and intricately detailed. Guests dispersed across the site, each finding their own perspective on this rare vantage point. Some stood quietly, simply absorbing the silence. Others took slow, deliberate walks along the ridge, pausing often to admire the varied textures of the ice below or to take photographs that could never fully capture what it felt like to stand there.

Eventually, the groups returned in sequence to the vessel, each landing bringing back guests glowing with exhilaration, cheeks flushed from the cold and the awe of the landscape. The rest of the day carried a lightness with it, as if today's experience had set a new tone of quiet wonder on board.

After dinner, the day offered yet another unforgettable encounter. Our captain positioned the ship securely into the sea ice, creating a stable platform for an evening excursion directly from the gangway.

Once conditions were assessed and confirmed safe, we ventured out onto the ice, forming a gentle line of figures moving across the frozen surface toward a large tabular iceberg that lay anchored in the ice nearby. Walking across Antarctic sea ice is always a special experience—crisp underfoot, faintly echoing with each step, and carrying a

unique sense of privilege. As we approached the iceberg, its massive vertical face revealed itself in finer detail: wind-carved grooves, subtle blue veins, and edges softened by seasons of drift and freeze.

Just as we were preparing to conclude the operation, a quiet murmur spread through the group. From a distance across the flat sea ice, two small dark shapes appeared, moving steadily toward us. Through binoculars, their identities became unmistakable—two emperor penguins, walking with their characteristic dignified stride, making their way directly toward our position. It was one of those moments that unfold slowly enough for everyone to witness but quickly enough to feel almost unreal. The penguins approached with curiosity, pausing now and then as if to better assess this unusual assembly of humans standing on their frozen terrain.

They came close enough for us to observe their elegant markings, the subtle gradations of yellow and orange on their necks, the way their feet shifted rhythmically across the ice. They seemed calm, inquisitive, and completely unbothered by our presence. Our group stood quietly, giving them space yet savouring the extraordinary privilege of the encounter.

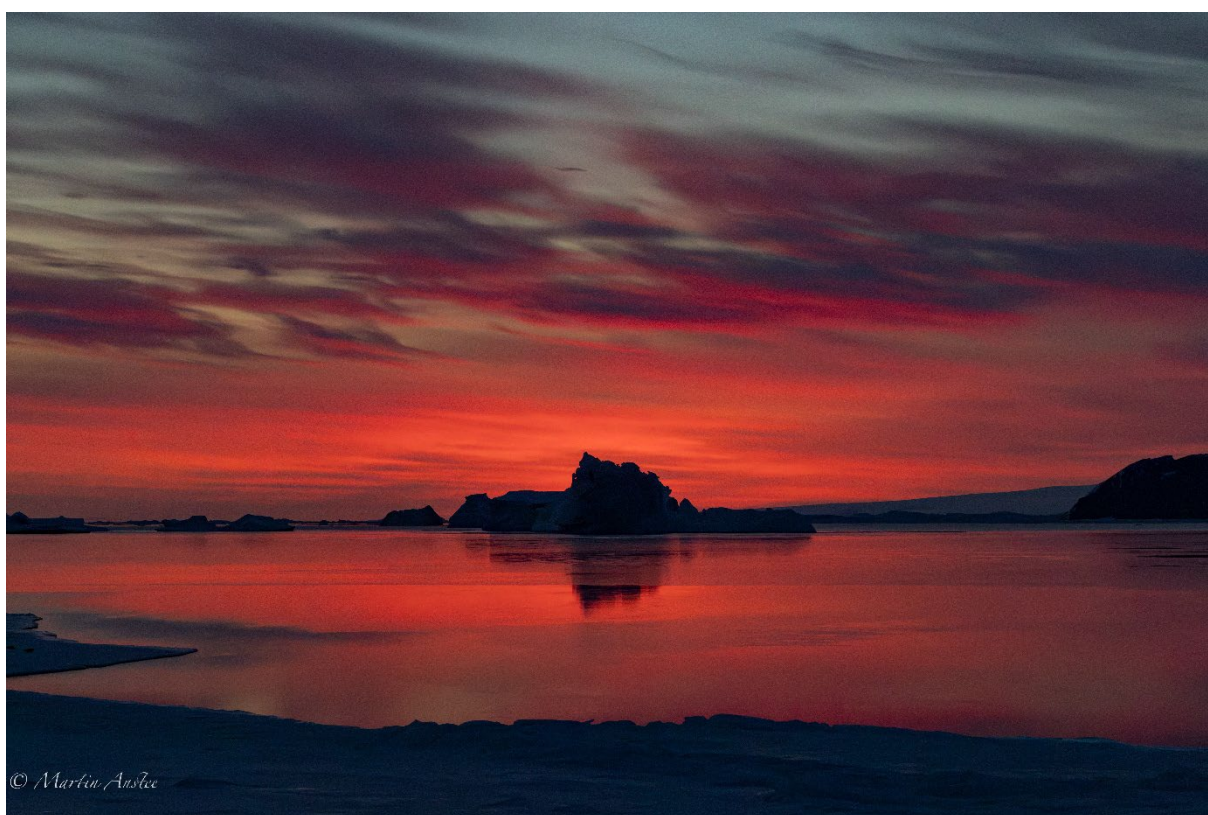
As if the day needed any further perfection, the sky began to transform as the sun dipped toward the horizon. Slowly, the colours deepened into warm hues that belied the icy landscape—pinks, lavenders, and soft amber tones radiated across the horizon, reflecting gently off the ice and the distant bergs. The tabular iceberg before us glowed softly under this pastel sky, its edges catching the last rays of sunlight. The entire scene felt almost dreamlike, a serene and fragile beauty that held everyone in quiet admiration.



We remained out on the ice until the colours reached their peak, a full pink dome stretching over the Antarctic expanse. Eventually, as the light softened into evening twilight, we returned slowly toward the ship, each step marked by the lingering glow of one of the most memorable days of the voyage.

Back on board, the conversations lingered long after we had all returned to the warmth of the lounges and cabins. Guests shared their photos, impressions, and quiet moments of reflection. Helicopter landings, emperor penguins, sea ice walks, and a sunset sky painted in pink—this day had given us a collection of experiences that would remain vivid long after the expedition ended.

And so, the day closed, the ship wrapped in silence under the lasting glow of the southern sky, ending a truly spectacular day in Antarctica.



Day 7 – Monday 17th November – Mikkelsen and Cierva Cove

0800 GPS Position: 63°26.0'S, 060°10.4'W

Wind: NW 3 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air Temp: -0.4°C

We woke this morning to another sunny beautiful morning in Antarctica although this morning we had moved around from the Antarctic Sound, through the Bransfield Strait towards the upper reaches of the Gerlache Strait on the western Antarctic peninsula.

There was a subtle difference in the landscape with more snow and ice shining in the sunshine.

After another fabulous breakfast from the galley team, it was time to go out and explore the outer decks and search for wildlife.

At 10:00 Jess started her lecture on marine mammals, a fascinating insight into these amazing creatures. Jess had not been talking long when word came from the bridge of a sighting of three humpback whales, probably a mother, calf and maybe an aunty. Jess stopped her lecture and we watched these three wonderful creatures swimming around the ship, showing us their flukes (tails) as they dived repeatedly into the depths before resurfacing.



When everyone had seen the whales, we carried on our way towards our afternoon destination and Jess was able to finish her lecture!

After a very tasty lunch we were taken out on the Zodiacs to D'Hainaut Island in Mikkelsen Harbour, the weather was glorious, the sun was shining and it was very warm. The island is covered in snow at this time of year, and we enjoyed a circular walk around the island looking at the various satellite groups of gentoo penguins. We also found three Weddell and two elephant seals.

After a full afternoon of exploring D'Hainaut Island we returned to the ship for the daily recap.





After another delicious dinner it was time to get dressed up again, this evening was to be our first Zodiac cruise. The location was Cierva Cove on the west Antarctic peninsula. Cierva Cove is home to the Argentine research base, Primavera, as well as chinstrap and gentoo penguins, glaciers and hundreds of icebergs. As we cruised around the beautiful ice, we found many penguins and even our first leopard seal. The light was astonishing as the sun went down below the horizon, as it did so the temperature dropped rapidly, and it was time to return to the ship for a warm drink. What a way to end a fabulous day!



Day 8 – Tuesday 18th November – Yankee Harbour and Half Moon Island

0800 GPS Position: 62°32.6'S, 059°48.2'W

Wind: SE 4 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air Temp: -0.7°C • Sea Temp: -1°C

Overnight *Ortelius* made excellent progress northwards across the Bransfield Strait, heading for the wild and windy South Shetland Islands. When Pippa's morning wake-up call echoed around the ship, *Ortelius* was already in McFarlane Strait between Livingston and Greenwich islands. The scene of ice-capped mountains and heavily glaciated terrain was a sight to behold, and as if it couldn't get any better, several fin whales welcomed us to the area. As breakfast was being served, *Ortelius* came to anchor just outside Yankee Harbour on the south-west coast of Greenwich Island. Our destination for the morning, a colony of between 4,000 and 5,000 breeding pairs of gentoo penguins, was clearly visible through binoculars.

We took the Zodiacs ashore and were greeted, as always, by Pippa and the ever-enthusiastic expedition team. It was cold. A southerly wind swept across the exposed landing site, and overcast skies prevented the warmth of the sun from reaching us. But none of that mattered. We were treated to a scene of endless entertainment as thousands of Gentoo penguins went about their business. For the most part, they seemed blissfully oblivious to our presence. It was the start of their breeding season, so most of the birds that were on a nest were incubating one or two precious eggs. Kelp gulls and brown skuas patrolled overhead, looking for an opportunity to swoop in and steal an egg. Many penguins that were not on nesting duty were busy coming and going from the sea as they departed for, or returned from, feeding trips.



There were signs of past and present human activity. The oldest were the remains of a sealer's trypot, which was partially visible sticking out of the gravel along from the landing site. Near the penguin colony there was a modern navigational marker built by the Chilean Navy. And at the far end of the rocky spit there was an older, simpler navigation beacon, probably erected many years ago by the Argentine Navy. Those that walked all the way to the end of the spit were rewarded with fantastic views of sleeping Weddell seals, a wonderful creature that has one of the cutest faces in the entire animal kingdom.



As the morning progressed, the sky slowly cleared, and the cold wind subsided. By the time we were taking the Zodiacs back to the ship, it was a different day altogether. The biting cold wind was replaced by calm conditions, sunshine and much warmer temperatures. The surrounding scenery looked magnificent, bathed in glorious sunshine with a blue sky overhead. It was time to say goodbye to Yankee Harbour, which had been a safe haven for British and American sealers as early as 1820. For a few hours, over 200 years later, it had also been a safe haven for us. By 12:15, everyone was back onboard, and *Ortelius* headed off towards our next destination. Very soon, the announcement inviting us to lunch filled the ship.



We crossed McFarlane Strait, heading south-west for Half Moon Island, just 5 nautical miles or so from Yankee Harbour. *Ortelius* found her anchorage at Half Moon at around 13:30, just in front of the brightly painted buildings of Argentina's Camara Station, which is currently unoccupied. The expedition team headed ashore to scout the landing site, and at 14:30 we disembarked for a final Zodiac landing near a colony of chinstrap penguins. The remains of an old wooden dory lay above the beach near our landing site, partially buried by snow. We hiked up the slope to various viewpoints which gave great views of the chinstraps and surrounding scenery. Nearby Livingston Island provided a spectacular backdrop of tumbling glaciers and ice-capped mountains. In the opposite direction, distant Greenwich Island looked equally stunning.

A portion of the trail gave a fantastic view over the small bay where *Ortelius* lay quietly at anchor. At the penguin colony onlookers watched kelp gulls hanging around and flying low over the chinstraps, which objected noisily to their presence. Scattered everywhere were thousands of limpet shells, one of the favorite foods of kelp gulls. Snowy sheathbills also hung around the penguins, making their living from whatever edible detritus they could find. Some of us walked down to the shore in the general direction of the station where some Weddell seals slept soundly in the snow. The view across to Livingston Island was out of this world, and the weather was nothing less than extraordinary. The South Shetland Islands can often be a savage and inhospitable region, but today we were privileged to enjoy the rarely seen softer side of these incredible islands.

It was hard to leave, but we had an appointment with Ushuaia, and the Drake Passage beckoned. Once we were all back on board, Captain Per got *Ortelius* under way and skilfully guided her out through the navigationally challenging waters of McFarlane Strait. The gentle swells of the Drake Passage soon met us, and the ship took on a gentle motion as we set course for the southern tip of the South American continent.



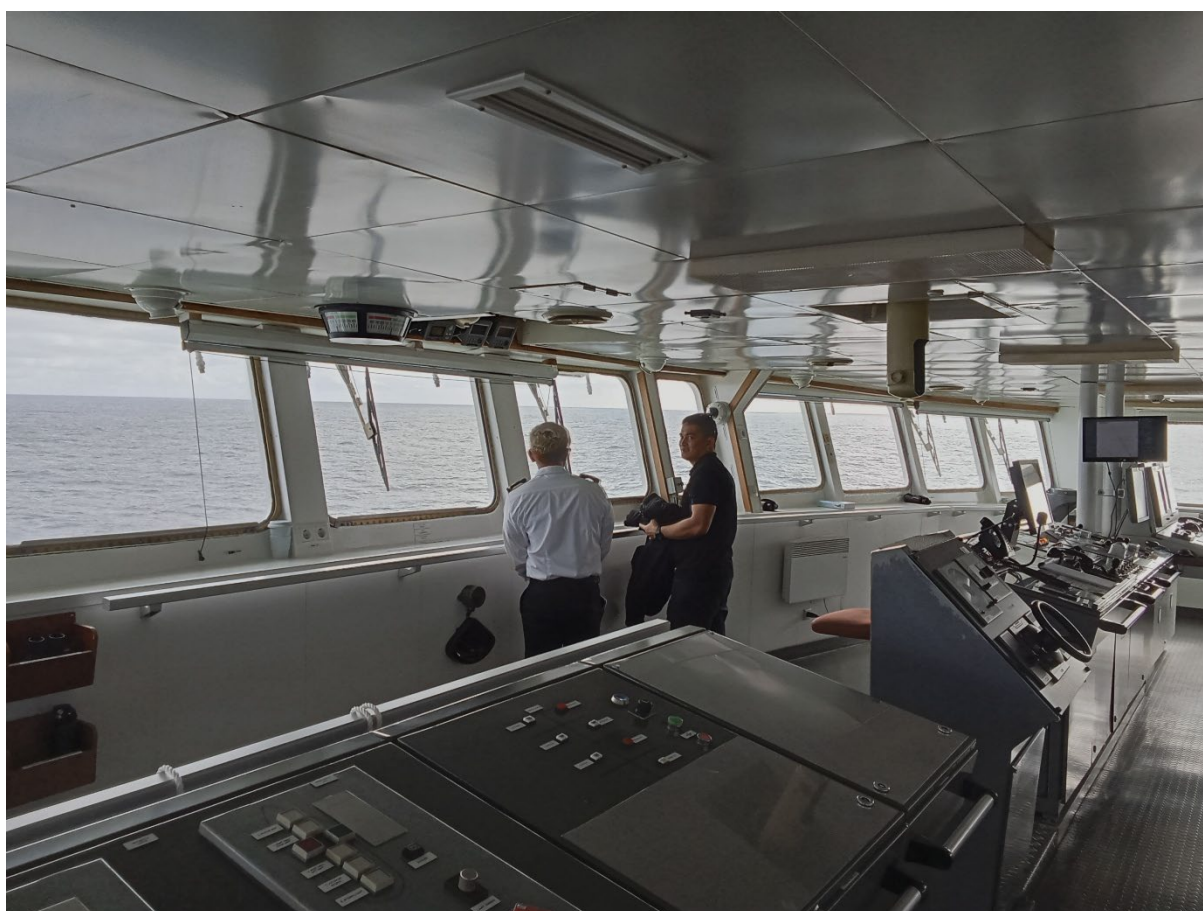
Day 9 – Wednesday 19th November – Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 60°00.3'S, 062°58.4'W

Wind: SW 3/4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temp: -1.1°C • Sea Temp: +2°C

A nice sleep in was a wonderful way to start the day with a 07:45 wake up call from Pippa this morning. After breakfast we were enthralled by a lecture on the inner workings of the ship by Chief Engineer Guntis and Second Officer/Helicopter Landing Officer Ward.

There were only a few people up and about the bridge mid morning as we maintained a brisk pace across the Drake Passage toward Cape Horn. The seas were also calm, and we sailed in the company of a black-browed albatross, a southern fulmar, and several pintado petrels gliding gracefully beside us.



Around 11:30am, Gary gave a very interesting talk about his winter-over at Mawson Station where he studied the emperor penguins at the nearby Auster Colony. We learned all about the quirks of spending 11 months with only 16 other people!

With the seas still mercifully gentle, we thoroughly enjoyed lunch before settling in for Allan's fantastic presentation on an often overlooked chapter of Antarctic history: the dogs. Their presence proved vital to early exploration—not only in their practical contribution to travel across the ice, but also in the morale they brought to long polar journeys and dark winter months.

After lunch, we returned our Muck Boots - a small but symbolic gesture marking the end of our outdoor adventures on this voyage and prompting reflection on the extraordinary places we had been privileged to explore in them.

Pippa then gave a recap of our attempts towards Snow Hill Island before George gave us a rundown on what it means to be from Antarctica and a funny recount of the Chilean/Argentinean race to have a childbirth on the white continent.

Then after another exquisite dinner, many of us settled into a watching Happy Feet with a great introduction by Gary. With still gentle seas, it was a pleasant evening onboard as some watched a few Wilson's storm and white-chinned petrels fly past the bridge to end the day.



Day 10 – Monday 20th November – Cape Horn and the Beagle Channel

0800 GPS Position: 56°10.5'S, 067°06.5'W

Wind: SW 3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temp: +5.1°C

We were woken by Pippa at 07:45 who told us that South America was already in sight! We had made remarkable speed across the Drake Passage in these beautifully calm seas. The skies had been clear for much of the crossing too, making it a joy to be on deck taking in the vastness of the ocean and the birds who wander these rarely reached stretches of our planet.



After a swift breakfast for many, it was time to layer up and make our way to the outer decks where we watched as Captain Per took us in as close as was allowed to Cape Horn. An opportunity which rarely arises due to the timings and weather. This infamous tip of the Americas has been part of the history of exploration and trade throughout the 17th, 18th, 19th and even early 20th centuries as ships tried to round this cape in the notoriously rough and challenging waters of the Drake Passage. Today we can see this rocky shore, owned by the Chileans, in calm conditions, fooling us to believe this place is peaceful and calm.

Gathered on the bridge and the outer decks we photograph the impressive crags jutting out of the water with occasional bursts of swell crashing up onto the sides. It was a spectacular first sighting of our return to South America. The island where we find Cape Horn is named Isla Hornos, and on its eastern side lies a rocky promontory where there is a sculpture showing a silhouette of an albatross which is to honour the sailors who

died while attempting to round the horn. Beside this, lies some buildings that are occupied by a Chilean family.



Just as we were increasing our distance from Isla Hornos, there was a call that there were Peal's dolphins riding the bow wave. It was an impressive sight as we peered over the side, watching the fun these dolphins were having in *Ortelius'* bow wave. We lined the bow with our heads cold in the wind as we watched them through the clear water, repeatedly jumping into the air as they played.

As we made our way round to the Beagle Channel it was lovely to be out on deck, we could smell the earthy vegetation and see the busy bird life. Black browed albatross, shags and pintado petrels were seen from the outer decks.

As we had made good time, we made our way over to the north side of the Beagle Channel and stopped by Blanco Islet, a small rocky outcrop where we could see southern sea lions and shags resting in the warm sun.



Day 11 – Sunday 21st November – Disembarkation Ushuaia

0800 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S, 068°17.9'W

Wind: Var 1/2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Raining • Air Temp: +6.6°C

It was a hard moment to part from *Ortelius* which we have called home for the last 11 days. Although we can look forward to heading home to our loved ones and sharing stories, we will all look back fondly on this trip.

Over the last couple of days, we have reflected on the power of nature and that still to this day we cannot overcome the forces of nature in this remote and wild region, Antarctica. In some ways, this is the beauty we see in this place, and we have certainly made the most of this icy region from dawn till dusk, enjoying every part it offered.

We had a final breakfast onboard and said goodbye to the hotel and dining room team. We headed for the gangway for a last 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*.

The Helicopter Team



Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1621 nautical miles / 3002.1 km

Most southern point sailed: 64°09.3' S, 060°58.2' W

Freshwater Consumption: 299 m³

Freshwater Production: 250 m³

Fuel Oil: 171.4 m³

Zodiac Petrol: 154 litres

Helicopter Fuel: 5491 litres

Fuel Oil Consumption: 84.5m³



On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Per Andersson,
Expedition Leader Pippa Low, 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!

Antarctica – In Search of Emperor Penguins

11th – 21st November 2025

Day 1 – Leaving Ushuaia

Day 2 – Drake Passage

Day 3 – Whalers Bay

Day 4 – Antarctic Sound &
sea ice landing

Day 5 – Scenic Flights & Brown
Bluff

Day 6 – Cape Green &
sea ice landing

Day 7 – Mikklesen Harbour &
Cierva Cove

Day 8 – Yankee Harbour & Half
Moon Island

Day 9 – Drake Passage

Day 10 – Cape Horn & Beagle Channel

Day 11 – Arrival in Ushuaia



Ortelius: Weddell Sea Emperors 11-21 November 2025

[illegible]

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------|--|--|--|
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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MAMMALS | Latin name | November | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | | | |
| Southern Right Whale | <i>Eubalaena australis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Humpback Whale | <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> | | | 3 | | | | 3 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Fin Whale | <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> | | | >15 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| Sei Whale | <i>B. borealis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antarctic Minke Whale | <i>B. bonaerensis</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Killer Whale | <i>Orcinus orca</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antarctic Killer (type A) | <i>Orcinus species</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antarctic Killer (type B) | <i>Orcinus species</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hourglass Dolphin | <i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peale's Dolphin | <i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i> | | | | | | | | | | >10 | | | | |
| Dusky Dolphin | <i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dolphin | <i>Unidentified Species</i> | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S. Bottlenosed Whale | <i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i> | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arnoux's Beaked Whale | <i>Berardius arnuxii</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beaked Whale- | <i>Cuvier's or Grey's</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| South American Fur Seal | <i>Arctocephalus australis</i> | X | | | | | | | | | X | | | | |
| Antarctic Fur Seal | <i>Arctocephalus gazella</i> | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Southern Elephant Seal | <i>Mirounga leonina</i> | | | | | | | X | X | | | | | | |
| Crabeater Seal | <i>Lobodon carcinophaga</i> | | | | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | |
| Weddell Seal | <i>Leptonychotes weddellii</i> | | | X | X | | | X | X | | | | | | |
| Leopard Seal | <i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i> | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | |
| | | Depart Ushuaia | Drake Passage | Drake-Whalers Bay (Deception Is.) | Anarctic Sound-Weddell Sea | Fridtjoff Channel-Brown Bluff | Fridtjoff Chl.-C. Green (Trinity Pen.) | Mikkelson Harbour-Cierva Cove | Yankee Harbour-Halfmoon Island | Drake Passage | Drake-C. Horn-Beagle-Ushuaia | Ushuaia | | | |

Pippa Low – Expedition 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.

George Kennedy – Asst Exped 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!

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.

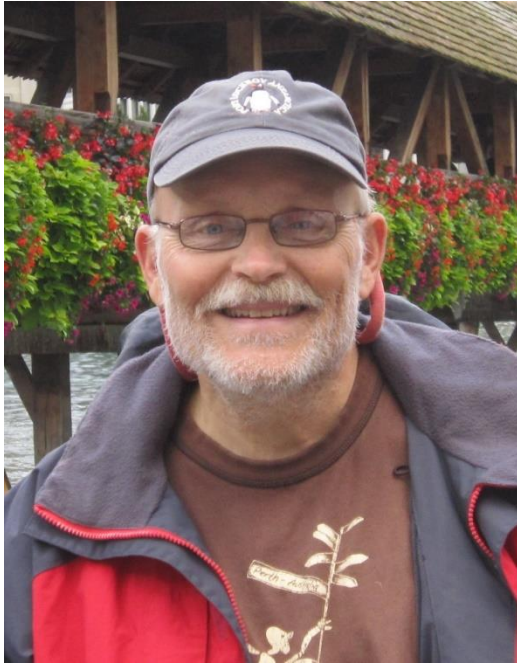
Samuel Bamford – Expedition Guide



Sam was raised between both France and New Zealand. Over the past 20 years, he has worked in the alpine world. His experience includes three seasons at New Zealand's Scott Base, where he completed a 14-month overwinter stint as well as ski patrolling, alpine search and rescue and ski guiding in Hokkaido, Japan. Recently, he has returned to tertiary education and completed a Diploma in Land Surveying. When he's not in the snow, you'll likely find him surfing somewhere warm."

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Gary Miller – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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.

Veronique Verhoeven – Ships doctor



No one wants to get sick on the ship!!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Weddell Sea
In search of the Emperor Penguin
Tuesday 11th November 2025
Embarkation – Ushuaia

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 * ***

±1515 **Welcome & safety briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge (deck 6)** for a brief introduction to your 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)**.

Shortly after departing from Ushuaia, we will receive the helicopters – please enjoy their arrival from the outer decks (forward) – please stay clear of the Helicopter Deck area (deck 6 aft).

±1800 **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.

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

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.



Weddell Sea
In search of the Emperor Penguin
Wednesday 12th November 2025
At Sea to Antarctica



Sunrise: 0402
Sunset: 2005

This morning, we sail south on the Drake Passage. Please enjoy the outer decks, open bridge and the lecture program.

Please check the helicopter groups at reception before lunch – any changes – please speak to George.

- 0745 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 0915 **Penguin Biology** – Please join Gary in the **lounge** (deck 6) for his lecture exploring the wonderful world of Penguins and the species we hope to see on our trip.
- 1115 **Antarctic Ice** – Please join Beth in the **lounge** (deck 6) for an introduction to the many forms of ice we will encounter on our voyage to Antarctica and the Weddell Sea.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- 1330 **Boots** – We will call you by deck to collect your Muck boots from the lecture room on **Deck 3** (forward).
- 1600 **Zodiac & Helicopter Briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 6) for our **mandatory** zodiac & helicopter operations briefings (**All passengers must attend please**).
- 1800 **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.*

Please walk slowly on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself and at one 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

- 0745 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- +/-0930 **MANDATORY Helicopter Dry Run** - During the morning you will be called to the **lounge (deck 6)** by your helicopter group number. Please wear your Muck boots, waterproof clothing, life jackets, and bags and bring your **helicopter card** and **signed helicopter declaration form**. We will start with Group 1 and work upwards (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10).
- Simultaneously**, we will also be calling helicopter groups for the **MANDATORY IAATO Biosecurity** in the **Lecture Room (deck 3)**. We will start with Group 5 and work upwards (5,6,7,8,9,10,1,2,3,4). Please bring all your outer garments, bags, poles, tripods & lifejackets etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica to be checked and/or cleaned. Please take time to check and clean your gear **before** the biosecurity inspection – brushes & paperclips can be found at reception. Please bring your zodiac lifejackets to be fitted. **PLEASE LISTEN TO ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ONLY ATTEND EACH ACTIVITY WHEN YOUR GROUP IS CALLED.**
- TBC **Birds of the South** - Please join Martin in the **lounge** for his lecture about the winged wonders of Antarctica.
- 1300 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 4).
- This afternoon, we hope to reach Deception Island. We hope to sail in to this flooded caldera through a narrow entrance called **Neptunes Bellows** at around 1430. After our transit through the bellows, we hope to offer a landing at Whaler's Bay, where history and geology meet in striking contrast. We also hope to offer a polar plunge at the end of the landing – please wear your swimmers under your outdoor clothing. We will provide the towels.*
- +/-1515 **Whalers Bay Zodiac Boarding** - please come to the zodiac boarding area (**deck 4**) – please listen for announcements.
- +/-1845 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** (deck 6) for our first daily recap and briefing.
- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).

Entering the Weddell Sea

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

Today, we will navigate through the Antarctic Sound and into the Weddell Sea. We will spend most of the day navigating our way past stunning Antarctic scenery, huge tabular icebergs and vast amounts of sea ice. Please join us up on the bridge or on the outer decks. Our lecture program may vary throughout the day depending on sightings and conditions outside.

+/-1030 **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.

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

+/-1500 **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. *Today we will travel through some of the very waters where this expedition took place.*

1815 **Recap** meet the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.
1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

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

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

Expedition Day in Weddell Sea

Today, we hope to attempt to head southwards again into the Weddel Sea, continuing in our attempts to penetrate towards Snowhill Island.

Based upon our early morning recce flight we will advise on what time we can commence our helicopter operations and the specific objectives of these flights. **Please standby for announcements during the morning.**

Helicopter operations - Please listen to announcements for exact timings. As you can appreciate, helicopter operations can take considerable time, so please be patient.

When your group is called, please proceed to the lounge, ensuring you have your helicopter number card with you and clearly visible. Please dress warmly, in waterproof clothing, with your muck boots and lifejacket.

We will be starting with **Group 1** and continue in the following order **(10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2)**.

When you return to the ship, please ensure you are checked back in, and your lifejacket is reactivated by a member of staff.

Whilst you are on the ship, please enjoy the beautiful Antarctic surroundings from the forward decks and stay clear of the back decks & helicopter operation areas.

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

1830 **Recap** meet the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.

1900 **Special Antarctic BBQ** – dinner is served on the outer decks
(ALL TIMINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

"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 Shackelton



Weddell Sea In search of the Emperor Penguin

Sunday 16th November 2025

Northern Weddell Sea

 **Sunrise: 0322**

 **Sunset: 2137**

0715 **Wakeup call!** Good morning!

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

This morning, we hope to take you to offer helicopter operations. Please listen to announcements for exact timings. As you appreciate, helicopter operations take a significant time - please be patient.

When your group is called, please proceed to the lounge, ensuring you have your helicopter number card with you and clearly visible. Please dress warmly, in waterproof clothing, with your muck boots and lifejacket.

We will be starting with Group 5 and continue in order (6,7,8,9,10,1,2, 3 and 4).

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

This afternoon, we aim to explore in search of Emperor Penguins. Dependent on conditions and wildlife sightings, we may offer off-ship activities. Please enjoy the sights from the outer decks and listen for announcements.

1815 **Daily Recap** – Please join Pippa and the Expedition Team in the lounge.

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

(ALL TIMINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

*“Through endurance we conquer”
– Ernest Shackelton*



Weddell Sea
In search of the Emperor Penguin
Monday 17th November 2025
Bransfield Strait and Mikkelsen Harbour

 **Sunrise: 0341**
 **Sunset: 2156**

0745 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!

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

This morning, we will transit through the Bransfield towards the northern reaches of the Gerlache Strait on the Western Antarctic Peninsula. During our transit we should enjoy beautiful views of the Antarctic continent along our port side, as well as icebergs and wildlife in the icy waters. Please join the expedition team on the outer decks to spot wildlife and enjoy these stunning vistas.

1000 **Marine mammals of Antarctica** – Please join Pippa in the lounge for her lecture exploring the beautiful, blubbery seals and whales of the southern ocean.

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

This afternoon, we enter the Gerlache Strait on the Western Antarctic Peninsula, hoping to land at D'Hainaut Island in Mikkelsen Harbour. This beautiful landing is home to Gentoo Penguins, surrounded by beautiful Antarctic scenery.

TBC **Mikkelsen Harbour Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements.

1815 **Daily Recap** – Please join Pippa and the Expedition Team in the lounge.

1830 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

(ALL TIMINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

*"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.]*



Weddell Sea
In search of the Emperor Penguin
Tuesday 18th November 2025
Yankee Harbour & Halfmoon Island

 **Sunrise: 0348**
 **Sunset: 2143**

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

This morning, we hope to land at Yankee Harbour – a glacial rimmed harbour enclosed in a large bay, first used by American sealers in the 19th century, when it first earned its name. It is now home to several thousand breeding pairs of gentoo penguins, as well as being a common site to see seals.

- 0900 **Yankee Harbour Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements.

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

This afternoon, we hope to land at Halfmoon Island – a large crescent shaped island set amongst the South Shetland Islands of Livingston and Greenwich islands. This landing offers beautiful Antarctic scenery, as well as close encounters with the local colony of chinstrap penguins. Half Moon is also home to Camara Base, an Argentine summer research station conducting meteorological and geological science.

- 1430 **Halfmoon Island Zodiac Boarding** - please listen for announcements.

- 1815 **Daily Recap** – Please join Pippa and the Expedition Team in the lounge.

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

“Adventure is just a romantic name for trouble”

– Roald Amundsen



Weddell Sea
In search of the Emperor Penguin
Wednesday 19th November 2025

At Sea to Ushuaia



Sunrise: 0347

Sunset: 2150

This morning, we sail North in the Drake Passage. Please enjoy the outer decks, open bridge and the lecture program.

- 0745 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0930 **Ship Ortelius** – Please join Chief Engineer Guntis and Second Officer/Helicopter Landing Officer Ward for a presentation about the inner workings of our dear ship Ortelius.
- 1130 **Living in Antarctica** - Please join Gary in the **lounge** to hear stories of his time living on the white continent.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1330 **Boots Helicopter Cards** – We will call you in groups to the boot room on deck 3 to return your muck boots, red dry bags and helicopter number cards. ***Please listen for announcements.***
- 1600 **Dogs of Antarctica** - Please join Allan in the **lounge** to listen to his talk about the unsung heroes of Antarctic exploration – the sled dogs.
- 1800 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.
- +/-2045 **Movie Night – Happy Feet** – Join us in the lounge for an evening of Antarctic animation – with an introduction to the movie from Gary (the films' penguin consultant/guru).

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

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

- Douglas Mawson



Weddell Sea
In search of the Emperor Penguin
Thursday 20th November 2025

At Sea to Ushuaia



Sunrise: 0442

Sunset: 2123

0745 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!

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

This morning, we hope to reach the very southern tip of the South American continent – Cape Horn. We hope to have good views of this historic landmark – please join us on the bridge and outer decks.

This morning you will receive your bill in your cabin. Please complete your payments at reception.

1100 **Q&A with Captain Per** – Please join Captain Per in the **lounge** for a question-and-answer session.

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

1530 **Future History of Antarctica** – Please join George in the **lounge** to explore the future challenges and opportunities for Antarctica.

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

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

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

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

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.***