



Antarctica Basecamp

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

27th November – 9th December 2025

On board *m/v Hondius*



M/v Hondius was built in 2019, as the first-registered Polar Class 6 vessel in the world, meeting the latest and highest Lloyd's Register standards for ice-strengthened cruise ships. Surpassing the requirements of the Polar Code adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Hondius represents the most flexible, advanced, innovative touring vessel in the polar regions, thoroughly optimized for exploratory voyages that provide you the utmost first-hand contact with the Arctic and Antarctica. Hondius complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea). M/v Hondius is 107.6 m long, 15.3 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.3 m, Polar Class 6 (equivalent 1A-Super), 15 knots average cruising speed and has 2 x ABC main engines; total 4,200 kW.



Captain Jan Dobrogowski

and his international crew of 78 sailors

Staff Captain:	Elizabar Kadaría	[Ukraine)
Chief Officer:	Sven Holzhausen	[German]
Second Officer:	Eline Schuurman	[Netherlands]
Third Officer:	Erik van de Reijden	[Netherlands]
Hotel Manager:	Jeroen William Barnes	[Netherlands]
Ass.Hotel Manager	Victoria Bridgwood	[Irish]
Head Chef:	Khabir Moreas	[India]
Sous Chef:	Edward Nunag	[Philippines]
Sous chef:	Felix Lobo	[India]
Ships doctor:	Max de le Lijs	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Chloe Maréchal	[France]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Koen Hoekemeijer	[Netherlands]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Koen Jongerling	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Mark Whiffin	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Rose Li Hong	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Alexander Romanovsky	[Russia]
Expedition Guide:	Alexis Belezze	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Stella Yufan Yao	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Lucia Romero	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Juan Berenstein	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Nick Cunliffe	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Andy Perkins	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Brian Veltrop	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Carina Ketterer	[Switzerland]
Expedition Guide:	Valeria Sainz Herrera	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Marcelo Tarapow	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Enric Modol	[Spain]
Expedition Guide:	Edward Bekker	[Netherlands]

Expedition Guide:	Matthew Cheok	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	JingJing Shi (Frank)	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Jonny Baird	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Martin Anstee	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Paul Warnock	[UK]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Thursday 27th November, Ushuaia, Embarkation day: Setting Sail for Antarctica

18h00 GPS Position: 54°48.5 S, 068°17.9 W

Wind: WSW-3 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 8°C



Our first day of the expedition began with that excited buzz that comes when everyone realises they are finally on their way to Antarctica. After settling into our cabins and confirming that our luggage had arrived safely, most of us drifted into the lounge where tea and coffee were waiting. The mood was bright and chatty as people compared cabins and swapped

stories about how long they had dreamed of making this journey.

The safety briefing and lifeboat drill came quickly enough and brought a sense of purpose to the day. There was something oddly reassuring about standing together in our bright life jackets listening to the crew explain what to do in an emergency. With that done, we gathered along the railings to watch Ushuaia slip behind us as the ship eased away from the dock. The mountains glowed in the late light and for a moment it was quiet in that way that makes you feel a new chapter has begun.



Back in the lounge the expedition introduction and captain's welcome brought the energy right up again. The team made their entrance with good humour and the staff introductions were filled with a lot of laughs, which helped melt away any remaining nerves. By dinner time people were moving easily between tables and the dining room felt like the beginning of a floating community.



As evening settled in we met again for the zodiac and IAATO briefing. The reality of what lay ahead began to land as we learned how we would move around in the days to come. By then we could already feel a gentle roll underfoot and word spread quickly that the swell out on the Drake Passage was expected to be lively. Many of us wandered back to the lounge to visit the doctor for our Drake

Shake medication, just in case. There was a steady flow of passengers exchanging wry smiles as they collected tablets and advice.

Before turning in for the night we secured our belongings as instructed, aware that we would be sailing into open sea within hours. The ship creaked softly and a few mugs rattled on their saucers as we made our way back to our cabins. It felt like the true beginning of the adventure a mix of anticipation, sea breeze and the pleasant uncertainty of what the next days would bring.



Day 2 – Friday 28th November, Drake Passage - At sea sailing towards Antarctica

08h00 GPS Position: 56°36.3'S / 65°32.2'W

Wind: W-5 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +5°C

Today's programme was filled with preparations for our visit to Antarctica. As our second day at sea began with our expedition leader, Chloe, calling out her first "Good morning!" wake-up call, we started our crossing through the Drake Passage. The waves, at around 3 to 4 metres high, were giving us an idea of the famous 'Drake Shake'.



After breakfast, we attended two of the three mandatory briefings we had to attend in order to be ready for kayaking, mountaineering and camping. Nick and Alexis explained everything about kayaking, while Johnny, Ed, Andy and Paul covered mountaineering.

Basecamp trips have lots of extra activities, and the last mandatory briefing about camping with Valeria, Brian and Sasha made us want to sleep outside as soon as possible! While spending time on the decks and in the bridge, we had the opportunity to see some sea birds of the South Atlantic and take amazing videos of the waves crashing over the bow.

In the afternoon, Martin invited us to a photography lecture, where he shared all his tips and tricks for getting the best shots of our incredible trip. Later on, we all gathered in the lounge again for a daily recap. Chloe presented the plans for the following day. Mark talked about the birds we could find in these latitudes and Koen taught us about the Antarctic Convergence. Finally, Andy gave us a crash course on 'How to Talk Like a Sailor!'. After another delicious dinner, everyone was excited about crossing the Drake Passage again the following day and getting closer to our destination: Antarctica!



Day 3 – Saturday 29th November, Drake Passage – At sea sailing towards Antarctica

08h00 GPS Position: 60°24.5'S / 064°27.8'W

Wind: VAR • Sea: Rough • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -1°C

Our last day on the Drake Passage passed much more gently than the day before. The Drake was kinder to us, and many of those who had battled seasickness yesterday were finally able to join meals in the restaurant.

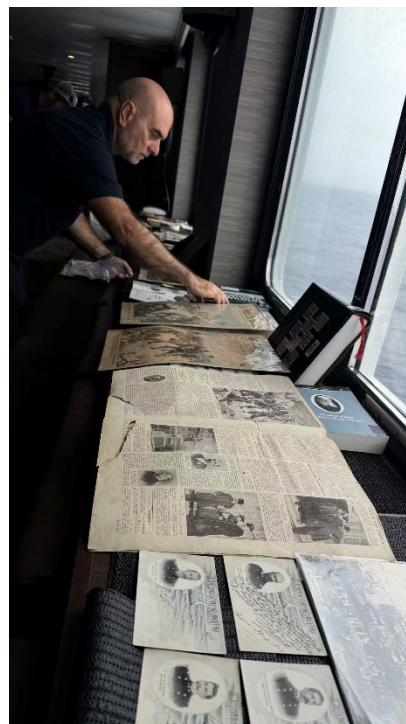
In the morning, we gathered to sign up for activities and select our preferred dates. The line stretched across the lounge, and everyone seemed equally eager, not just for the sign-up itself but for the adventures ahead. Mountaineering, kayaking, camping, zodiac cruising ... every possible way to roam, paddle, or stumble across Antarctica. After submitting our choices, we picked



up our muck boots for the landings to come. Carrying them felt like receiving a formal invitation from the White Continent itself.

It would be our first chance to explore Antarctica. Would a whale glide beneath our kayaks? Would the sky shine clear and the night fall silent and peaceful? Would penguins or snowy petrels wander over to visit us? Or, would any of us stumble into a crevasse and discover some ancient creature living beneath the snow secretly?

In the meantime, Marcelo held a mini-exhibition in the library showcasing his collection of items from Antarctica's exploration history. It was mind-blowing to see the photographs, medals, letters, and so on. Each piece whispered tales of adventure and courage. As we touched these items, we could feel the history, the rugged waves, the biting cold, and the crisp air that had brushed past intrepid explorers decades ago. It was their unwavering dedication that paved the way for us to embrace the wonders of this extraordinary continent.



In the afternoon we went through our biosecurity checks, bringing every piece of outer gear we planned to wear ashore. We needed to make sure there were no seeds,

soil, or forgotten snacks. Antarctica is a fragile environment and keeping it free from invasive species is one small but essential way we could help protect it.

Afterwards, Lucía introduced us to the penguin species we might encounter over the coming days. Her enthusiasm was contagious. Wearing her adorable penguin-printed jacket, she looked like their ambassador. We learned about their behaviours, courtship rituals, and quirky personalities. A video of a particularly mischievous penguin sneaking pebbles from a neighbour's nest had all of us laughing. By the end, we realized penguins might have just become our new favorite animals!

At the evening recap, the team revealed the detailed plan for our first activity day. We were scheduled for a 6:15am wake-up call, yet we couldn't wait for the morning to arrive. We felt like a kid on the night before a school field trip, except colder, and with a much higher chance of meeting a penguin.

Day 4 – Sunday 30th November – Portal Point, Foyen Harbour

08h00 GPS Position: 64°29.4'S / 61°44.9'W

Wind: VAR2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Snow • Air temperature: -2°C



The first day on the Antarctic Peninsula began with an unmistakably Antarctic mood as the ship approached Portal Point. Snowshoes swept across the landscape, and low, overcast skies cast a muted glow over the coastline, giving the entire scene an ethereal, almost otherworldly quality. Despite the wintry atmosphere, the seas remained calm, allowing for a smooth continental landing. On the approach, all three penguin species — Adélie, gentoo, and chinstrap were spotted perched on scattered icebergs, as if welcoming the visitors to the frozen continent.

Once ashore, guests had their first close-up views of true Antarctic icebergs, their towering blue walls grounded, motionless and silently in the bay. A pair of Humpback Whales surfaced nearby. Many guests took the opportunity to pose for photos with the Antarctic



flag, capturing the moment they set foot on their Seventh Continent. Kayaking and mountaineering groups set out from the landing site, weaving between ice formations or ascending and disappearing behind snowy ridgelines under the soft grey light.

By the afternoon, the scene transformed dramatically. As the ship arrived in Foyr Harbour, the weather shifted to brilliant sunshine and clear, blue skies - a striking contrast to the morning's snowfall. The sheltered bay sparkled under the bright light, providing ideal conditions for another round of Zodiac cruising, kayaking and mountaineering excursions.

Wildlife stole the show here as well. Zodiac cruisers were treated to the sight of Adélie penguins balanced on a small bergy bit, while nearby an Imperial shag colony busied itself along the rocky shoreline. Above the water, Antarctic terns hovered and dived, successfully fishing in the glistening shallows in front of the zodiacs.



Foyn Harbour's history was on full display with the wreck of the Guvernøren, its rusted remains rising sharply from the sea — a haunting reminder of Antarctica's whaling past. The afternoon concluded with unforgettable encounters as feeding humpback whales moved close to the zodiacs, fluking as they fed, their immense forms gliding just beneath the surface.



From swirling snow to sunlit seas, and from penguins on icebergs to whales at close quarters, it was a day that captured the full drama and beauty of Antarctica — an experience impossible to forget.



The afternoon concluded with plans for tomorrow and recaps on Humpback Whales by Chloe, the history of the Guvernøren by Marcelo and Sasha introduced the infamous Question Box.

The evening had one last surprise, in the form of a pod of Orca during dinner, viewable from the dinning room!

Day 5 – Monday 1st December, Damoy, Port Lockroy

08h00 GPS Position: 64°48.9'S / 63°31.8'W

Wind: N2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 0°C



For some of us — those who bravely challenged the forces of nature by spending the night on shore in sleeping bags — the day began very early. For everyone else, it began, as usual, at 6:45 a.m. Chloe, our expedition leader, woke us all with her wake-up call, after which we, waking up as we walked, headed toward the restaurant for breakfast.

The weather was wonderful — sunshine, a light breeze, and a temperature around zero degrees. While having breakfast and drinking our morning coffee, we kept glancing out the windows, curiously examining the stretch of land where our morning landing was planned. The name of the place — Damoy Point — sounds somewhat unusual to a Russian ear. At the very least, the day promised to be interesting.

After breakfast, dressed as usual according to the established rotation, we began gathering near the Zodiac Boarding Area. The kayakers were picked up by a special Zodiac, which had the kayaks secured behind it, and sped off somewhere around the corner toward Port Lockroy. The mountaineers, being the first to land, set off to conquer a nearby mountain peak. Half of those not engaged in any special activities headed out to walk through the snowdrifts and look at penguins, while the other half explored the area from the water, sitting in the Zodiacs.

In addition to penguins and snow, Damoy Point had a historic hut where, if necessary, one could even spend the night. Inside the hut were artifacts related to the everyday life of mid-20th-century polar researchers. Our guide Marcelo, on duty there, gladly explained everything to us. Partway through the morning program, we swapped places with those doing the Zodiac cruise.

One way or another, lunchtime soon approached, and once back on board Hondius, we hurried to the restaurant. In the meantime, the captain gave the order to relocate the ship to another spot, literally a kilometre away from the current one — which was promptly carried out. The second half of the day promised to be unforgettable! After all, we were going to visit Port Lockroy — the southernmost post office on the planet!



Before heading ashore, we gathered in the main lounge. The fact was that two staff members from Port Lockroy had come aboard to give us a short lecture about the history of this British base and how it had been transformed into a museum, a shop, and a post office. We were also curious to learn what life is like for the people who come here each season to work. Naturally, the friendly ladies gladly and thoroughly told us all about it.



From a logistical standpoint, the event was far from simple. Excluding the mountaineers and kayakers, all of us had to be divided into three groups and take turns visiting Port Lockroy itself, the small Jugla Point, and a short Zodiac cruise. One way or another, everything was organized flawlessly, and everyone who wanted to was able to do all three. It is worth noting that near Jugla Point we saw something rather rare for these places — an elephant seal. It was still a juvenile, but even so already impressive in size. We examined it with great curiosity and took photographs. In the shop at the former British base, we bought souvenirs and sent postcards. Now we can only wait to see when they reach their recipients.

Toward the end of the outing, the weather began to worsen — the wind strengthened. Nevertheless, we all successfully returned to the ship and attended the daily recap, followed by dinner.

Day 6 – Tuesday 2nd December, Melchior Island

08h00 GPS Position: 64°19.3'S / 62°59.1'W

Wind: WNW4 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +1°C



Today we arrived at Melchior Island. The sky was cloudy, and the water was a bit choppy, but everyone on the expedition boat was excited to start the day. We got ready to board the zodiacs for our first cruise. The plan was to look for wildlife and enjoy the amazing Antarctic landscape. As we moved away from the ship, we could feel the cold, fresh air on our faces. Even with the grey sky, the place looked calm and beautiful.

While we passed by the small station on the island, we started to see more and more wildlife. A group of penguins stood on the rocks, calling to each other and looking curious as we went by. Not far away, a few seals were resting on the shore. Some of them lifted their heads, almost as if they were greeting us. All around us were icebergs of many shapes and sizes. Some were tall and sharp, while others were round and smooth. Their bright blue and white colours made the whole scene look stunning.

As the cruise continued, the wind became a little stronger, and it started to feel quite cold. Our hands and faces felt the chill, and many of us pulled our hoods tighter. After some time, we turned back toward the ship. It felt good to climb back onboard, step into the warm dining room, and enjoy a hot lunch. The warmth and food brought back our energy.

In the afternoon, we had another small expedition. We went out once again in the zodiacs, even though the water was still a bit choppy. But only a short distance from the ship, we had an amazing surprise. We saw some of the best humpback whales of the trip. They were feeding close to the surface, lifting their tails high and blowing mist into the air. It was a wonderful sight.



Some of us stayed with the whales to watch them for a while, while others continued on to circumnavigate Gand Island. Both groups had their own special experience. Halfway through the cruise, the team surprised us with hot chocolate mixed with a little rum. The warm drink tasted wonderful in the cold air, and everybody enjoyed it.

When we finally returned to the ship, we had our daily recap in the lounge and then dinner. After such a full and exciting day, we went to bed tired, warm, and very happy. Antarctica had already given us so much to remember.

Day 7 – Wednesday 3rd December, Neko Harbour, Stony Point

08h00 GPS Position: 64°50.5'S / 62°32.5'W

Wind: VAR • Sea: Clear • Weather: Calm • Air temperature: 4°C

Antarctica welcomed us back with the return of the sun. A soft, fleeting sea breeze went virtually unnoticed, overpowered by the warmth of the rays that bathed us.



We woke up in Andvord Bay, anchored before immense walls of ice, and prepared for a landing at one of the journey's highlights: Neko Harbour. This is a place where standing on the "beach" can feel dangerous due to the unpredictable waves caused by the sheer collapse of ice from the immense glacier directly ahead. Indeed, many of us were fortunate enough to witness the spine-tingling rumble as a

monumental piece of ice thundered into the water. Neko is home to a vast Gentoo penguin colony, and in this season, we could observe the dedicated parents incubating the eggs of their future chicks.

From the shores of Neko, the visual and auditory spectacle continued out in the bay. We spotted numerous Humpback whales and the occasional Minke whale, an authentic feast for the senses. You only needed to lift your head to spot a whale or two performing their magnificent routines. And, for the luckiest among us, a sighting of the penguin's most feared predator: the Leopard Seal. She, a female barely two years old, was sprawled out on a small, secluded iceberg, oblivious to the drama unfolding nearby.

Neko, an authentic luxury for the eyes and ears — if not so much for the nose — allowed us to conclude the morning energized for our next destination: Stony Point.

After an excellent lunch, we arrived at Paradise Bay for a visit to Stony Point. This spot isn't famous for its land-based fauna, but rather because it was the location where many would fulfill the dream of taking a dip in the Antarctic waters. Following a good walk around the site, an impromptu snowball fight or two, and some energetic races in the snow, the moment arrived. It was a complete success: over 60 people bravely bared their skin to the 2-degree Celsius air to plunge into the near-zero-degree water. The mixture of screams and triumphant smiles concluded the afternoon's activities, leaving everyone yearning for a very, very hot shower.

But the day was not yet over. The Hondius smelled different tonight — it smelled of smoke, it smelled of food, it smelled like a barbecue! Yes, tonight was the barbecue night, a night of celebration and dancing right in front of Paradise Bay. We think it's safe to say the bay's name perfectly defines our day: we enjoyed ourselves as if we were truly in paradise.



Day 8 – Thursday 4th December – Cuverville, Ship Cruise

08h00 GPS Position: 64°37.5'S / 62°35.9'W

Wind: NE6 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 0°C

After last night's unforgettable barbecue and party, the slightly later wake-up call and breakfast were very much appreciated. A gentle start was exactly what we needed. Outside, the day began windy around Cuverville Island, but we managed to find shelter and went ashore for a landing at the largest Gentoo penguin colony in the Antarctic Peninsula. The penguins were as lively as ever, and the dramatic weather only added to the atmosphere.



We also had the opportunity to cruise part of the Errera Channel, weaving between icebergs carved into extraordinary shapes. Their deep blues and towering forms made for an unforgettable morning before we returned to the ship for lunch.

The plan for the afternoon was Wilhelmina Bay, but as we approached the area, visibility deteriorated quickly. Heavy snow and fog settled in, and Chloe explained that these were not safe conditions for Zodiac cruising. With a camping group scheduled for tonight, the decision was made to leave the bad weather behind and search for a more suitable and safer location.



Instead, we spent the afternoon on a ship cruise past massive, beautiful icebergs, sculptural giants floating. Chloe gave a passionate lecture on plankton, sharing just how vital and fascinating these tiny organisms are. Out on the bow, the team prepared warm mulled wine (Glühwein) for us to enjoy while taking in the proper Antarctic weather, with whales surfacing around us. A relaxed, restorative

afternoon, perfect for recharging before the adventures ahead.

Afterward, we gathered for the daily recap with the Expedition Team and shared plenty of laughs thanks to Sasha and his legendary “questions from the box.” Then came dinner and finally, the moment many of us had been waiting for: camping night!

Back at Stony Point, the weather had turned perfect for camping. Excitement buzzed through the group as we prepared to spend the night out on the Antarctic ice: an experience none of us will forget.

Day 9 – Friday 5th December – Graham Passage, Palaver Point

08h00 GPS Position: 64°32.6'S / 62°23.9'W

Wind: ENE-5 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Snow • Air temperature: -1°C

This morning Hondius entered the narrow, glacier-lined corridors of Graham Passage, the ship gliding between sculpted ice walls under a curtain of shifting cloud. The weather was already showing its Antarctic temperament — grey skies with gusty winds sweeping spindrift across the water — but conditions remained suitable for a Zodiac cruise, and we eagerly suited up.

Out on the water, the scenery was nothing short of breathtaking. Icebergs in every shade of blue drifted silently past, some smooth like marble, others jagged and fresh from the glacier's grip. We shared the channel with a lively assembly of Antarctic wildlife: penguins porpoising through the water, and on floating ice floes, Weddell and Crabeater seals resting lazily, occasionally lifting their heads to inspect us. The wind funneled through the passage, sometimes testing our balance in the Zodiacs, but the experience remained magical— classic Antarctica in all its raw, dramatic beauty.



After returning to the ship and thawing out, we enjoyed a welcome lunch before embarking on our split afternoon program in Palaver point. Half of the guests went ashore for a landing among a spirited colony of Chinstrap penguins, whose braying calls and endless rock-collecting antics provided plenty of entertainment. The wind had strengthened, making the landing a bit more challenging, but the reward was well worth it: close wildlife encounters and sweeping views of the rugged coastline.

Meanwhile, those staying onboard were treated to a fascinating lecture by Marcelo about Adrien de Gerlache's Belgica expedition — a story of endurance, scientific

discovery, and the trials of overwintering in the Antarctic darkness. Marcelo's storytelling, paired with the dramatic history, made it a highlight of the afternoon.

As evening approached, we gathered in the lounge for our Daily Recap, reviewing our wildlife sightings and hearing about the plans for tomorrow. The wind still howled outside, but inside Hondius spirits were high, warmed by the day's adventures and a hearty dinner to close out another memorable Antarctic day.

Day 10 – Saturday 6th December – Whalers Bay, Telefon Bay

08h00 GPS Position: 62°58.9' S, 60°28.2'W

Wind: E9 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Heavy Snow • Air temperature: -2°C



We began the day at 7:45am with a cheerful wake-up call, greeting another stunning morning in Antarctica. Guests enjoyed a hearty breakfast in the Dining Room while the Expedition Team prepared for operations at Deception Island, part of the South Shetland Islands. With weather conditions changing quickly, flexibility remained essential as we planned both morning and afternoon excursions.

Our morning operations focused on Whalers Bay, one of the most historically significant locations on Deception Island. As guests came ashore in their respective groups, they explored the remains of the early 20th-century Norwegian whaling station, once one of the busiest hubs of Antarctic whaling. The rusted boilers, water tanks, and weathered buildings stand today as a stark reminder of the industry that operated here between 1912 and 1931.

Whalers Bay also played a role in later decades: British forces used it during WWII, and repeated volcanic eruptions — especially in 1967 and 1969 — forced the final

abandonment of the site. Walking among the scattered relics, guests gained a powerful sense of the human history layered into this dramatic volcanic landscape.

Rotations continued smoothly between the Gentoo Penguins & Antarctic Krill group and the Humpback Whales & Weddell Seals group, allowing everyone time to explore the beach, station ruins, and steaming coastal waters.



A buffet lunch at 12:30 offered a warm break between outings.

In the afternoon, improving conditions opened the door to our planned operation at Telefon Bay, one of Deception Island's most striking volcanic features. The area is named after the ship Telefon, which sought refuge in the island's natural harbor in the early 1900s.

We enjoyed a wonderful hike across the black volcanic ash plain and up onto the crater ridges formed during eruptions in the late 1960s. The trail provided sweeping views across the flooded caldera, making it a unique chance to walk inside an active volcanic system—an experience possible in very few places on Earth. The stark contrast of dark ash slopes, snow patches, and the brilliant caldera waters made the afternoon a highlight of the day.

Both guest groups rotated through zodiac operations to ensure everyone had time to explore this spectacular landscape. At 18:15, guests gathered in the Observation Lounge for our daily recap, where the Expedition Team shared insights into Deception Island's geology and human history.

We closed the day at 20:45 with Sasha's engaging presentation, "How to Get to Antarctica?", in the lounge — a fitting end to a full day exploring one of the most dramatic and historic sites in the South.

Day 11 – Sunday 7th December – At Sea, Drake Passage

08h00 GPS Position: 61°16.4' S, 63°11.9'W

Wind: E4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 0°C



A late wake-up call let us rest well as we faced the last days of this unforgettable trip, waking to Sasha's voice. We needed the extra energy because the farewell was coming, and sad moments can easily find us. We spent days discovering incredible, pristine places and encountering Antarctic flora and fauna we had never seen before, and we also shared our time with amazing

people from many different latitudes — 36 countries — who told us their experiences, feelings and expectations. We attended the final lectures from Martin, Carina, Koen and Chloe, covering a range of Antarctic topics. Just as we were crossing 60 degrees south, a whale appeared beside the ship as if taking part in our farewell.

We met some passengers who were very proud to receive their Antarctic Certificates — proof of their adventure on the White Continent. As Hondius sailed smoothly, almost as if on a lake, the expedition team held a meeting led by Ed and Andy to refresh our knowledge about glaciers, calving events, avalanches and other dangers that Antarctica always keeps in store — hazards we must remember and respect. After dinner, we shared a fantastic time trying to answer the Antarctic Quiz run by KJ.



But returning to the idea of farewells: are farewells truly sad moments? Farewells are necessary for us to meet again in the future. That means farewells are not an ending; they are the first step towards what lies ahead — a moment, or perhaps a day, that will come and find us together again, maybe forever.

Day 12 – Monday 8th December – At Sea, Drake Passage, Returning to Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 56°46.2' S, 65°49.8'W

Wind: NW2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 5°C

The day began with a cheerful wake-up call, gently easing us into another morning on the Drake Passage. Breakfast in the dining room offered a warm and familiar start, giving everyone time to settle in as Hondius continued her steady course northward.

Our morning program unfolded in the Observation Lounge, beginning with KJ's captivating lecture on the exploration of Antarctica. His storytelling brought to life the daring journeys and extraordinary perseverance of the early polar explorers. This was followed by Ed's inspiring session on climbing Mount Vinson, Antarctica's highest peak. His insight into the challenges and triumphs of tackling one of the Seven Summits painted a vivid picture of life at extreme altitude.

After a relaxed buffet lunch, we returned to the Observation Lounge for Alexis's fascinating talk on the Yamana people, the Indigenous inhabitants of the southernmost reaches of Tierra del Fuego. Their deep connection to the sea and remarkable resilience offered a thoughtful contrast to our own brief presence in these latitudes.

Later in the afternoon, Valeria hosted a hands-on mate workshop in the lecture room. Her enthusiasm made it an engaging and authentic experience, giving us not only a taste of the traditional South American drink but also an appreciation for its cultural significance.

As evening approached, we gathered for the Farewell Toast with Captain Jan and the Expedition Team. The slideshow that followed brought our journey full circle, capturing the extraordinary moments, landscapes, and wildlife that shaped our time on the White Continent. It was a warm, reflective celebration of everything we experienced together.

The day concluded with a plated dinner in the Restaurant, enjoyed in good company as the ship carried on through the Southern Ocean.

Day 13 – Tuesday 9th December – Disembarkation, Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 54°48.5 S, 068°17.9 W

Wind: NW8 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 8.1°C

Our final morning arrived quietly as the ship eased back into Ushuaia, the first light settling over the harbour. Before breakfast the corridors were already lined with luggage placed outside the cabins, a simple sign that the journey was drawing to its end. Breakfast itself felt warm and unhurried, filled with easy conversation and shared stories as everyone reflected on their favourite moments.

Soon after, we made our way ashore where our bags were arranged on the pier for collection. Farewells drifted across the group as fellow travellers exchanged hugs, handshakes and grateful thanks to the crew who had looked after us so well throughout the voyage.

With a final glance back at the ship that had carried us across the Drake Passage and through the unforgettable days in the ice, we stepped into the crisp Ushuaia morning carrying the memories of Antarctica with us.

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1820 nautical miles

Furthest south: 64°54.656' S



On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Jan Dobrogowski , Expedition Leader Chloe Maréchal, Hotel Manager Jeroen William Barnes and all the crew and staff of M/V Hondius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!

KAYAKING

30 November 2025 AM, Portal Point

An early morning arrival on the Antarctic Peninsula saw our first team of intrepid basecamp kayakers venture into the icy waters of Portal Point. Cold calm conditions and overcast skies greeted our explorations amid porpoising groups of Gentoo penguins. We visited the shallow glacial lagoon north of the landing site, before heading south on a coastal journey between grounded icebergs. We returned to Hondius, delighted with our fantastic morning of Antarctic paddling adventure.

30 November 2025 PM, Foyen Harbour

Our first afternoon in Antarctica brought windless blue skies as we launched our kayaks on the NE side of Nansen Island. We ventured into a shallow tidal lagoon to quietly observe a group of resting Weddell seals hauled out on the snowy shoreline. Leaving these magnificent animals to their peaceful isolation, we completed a 1km crossing to the island-studded shores of Enterprise Island. Heading north, we entered a narrow inlet flanked by ice cliffs to find the grounded remains of the *Governoren* in Foyen Harbour. The century-old rusting remains of this abandoned whaling ship provide a seasonal home to nesting Antarctic terns. We marvelled at this relic of a bygone age before paddling into the icy Gerlache Strait. We returned to the Zodiacs, grateful for our glorious afternoon of kayaking adventures.

1 December 2025 AM, Port Lockroy

Anchored at Damoy Point, a fresh NE wind created lively conditions in the southern approaches to the Neumayer Channel. Seeking shelter, we launched beneath protecting cliffs at the entrance to Port Lockroy's beautiful natural harbour. Here we enjoyed a wonderful kayaking morning beneath a dramatic backdrop of coastal mountains, among Gentoo penguins and through dense rafts of brash ice. We completed a satisfying circuit alongside flanking ice cliffs before returning to Hondius, delighted at our morning of solitary exploration.

1 December 2025 PM, Port Lockroy

We remained in Port Lockroy this afternoon, where a brave team of paddlers enjoyed their first experience of kayaking - in the remarkable waters of the Antarctic Peninsula! A cold wind blew across the bay from Thunder Glacier, as our bold newcomers navigated between shallow rocky islets and clustered bergy bits. We admired a pair of resting Weddell seals, as scores of Gentoo penguins swam among our scattered kayaks. As the wind increased, we navigated steeper waves in the Goudier Island channel en route to our safety Zodiacs, and finally our Hondius mothership.

2 December 2025 AM, Melchior Islands

Antarctic challenges returned with a vengeance this cold windy morning, as light snow drifted across Hondius' decks in the shelter of the Melchior Islands. Undeterred, our bold team of kayak venturers launched beneath the icy shores of Gamma Island and headed east to the Argentinian research base at its northern tip. Revelling in the conditions, we crossed to Zeta Island as a 2m swell rolled under our kayaks, and a light southerly breeze assisted our progress to Andersen Harbour. Back in sheltered water, we joined a group of resting Weddell seals beneath icy slopes in a tiny hidden glacial inlet. Returning to our Zodiacs, we recrossed the now-turbulent sound to the safety of Hondius at the end of a magnificent kayaking adventure.

3 December 2025 AM, Neko Harbour

Antarctica was in benign mood the following morning, with a return to sunshine and light winds in the magnificent Neko Harbour. Brash ice and bergy bits littered the sound, mountains mirrored in glassy reflections. Our kayak journey took us into these remarkable waters, brought encounters with feeding Humpback whales, diving Gentoo penguins and a resting Leopard seal. Adrift amid the ice, we celebrated our unforgettable Antarctic experience before reluctantly paddling home.

3 December 2025 PM, Stony Point

The calm waters of Paradise Harbour greeted our afternoon kayaking team as we launched in the shallow bay of Stony Point. Surrounded by a 360° vista of jagged mountains peaks, we headed deep into the isolation of Skontorp Cove, where we entered an icy world of brash ice and glacial icebergs. Alone in this powerful environment, we sat a while in contemplative silence as our kayaks nestled amid a floating carpet of bergy bits and growlers. We completed a long paddle back to our ship as a cold wind numbed our hands and as water splashed chilled our exposed skin. Back on board, the hot chocolate never tasted so good!

4 December 2025 AM, Cuverville Island

Seeking shelter from a fresh NE wind, Captain Jan navigated us into the lee of Cuverville Island, where we commenced a fine morning of sea kayaking exploration. Our hardy kayakers inched upwind to reach the impressive Gentoo penguin colony at the island's northern tip - here we paddled into a more exposed world of wind and wave from the Gerlache Strait, among a playground of grounded icebergs. We found entertainment and adventure in this magnificent corner of the Antarctic Peninsula before returning to calmer waters on the island's west shore. A final close encounter with a Humpback whale perfectly capped our superb kayak morning.

6 December 2025 AM, Deception Island

Here in the windswept waters of Port Foster, we enjoyed a final bonus kayak adventure in the huge caldera of Deception Island's flooded volcano crater. Hiding from the cold breeze we visited a sheltered lagoon where we admired a group of resting Weddell seals, their curious vocalisations echoing off the snappy walls of this amazing volcanic bay. Out into open water again, we rode wind and wave down to a second lagoon, swerving into its narrow entrance through swift tidal streams. We rested a while in the protection of the lagoon, gazing awestruck at the otherworldly panorama of Deception's vast snow-covered crater rim. As the wind grew in strength it was time to return to Hondius, to begin our homeward journey north.

MOUNTAINEERING

30 November 2025 AM, Portal Point

Portal Point was the first itinerary of the expedition, Mountain Guides Jonny, Andy, Ed, and Paul each led a roped team of 6 passengers wearing snowshoes on a superb journey.

Stepping on to the Antarctic continent after a big sea on the Drake Passage was much appreciated by the mountaineering teams and with adequate visibility, good snow cover on the glacier and high spirits in team we enjoyed a fantastic mountaineering hike and a serene moment of silence on the summit before returning to the Hondius on zodiacs.



30 November 2025 PM, Foyn Harbour



After lunch on the Hondius we sailed in a south westerly direction to Enterprise Island and landed in Foyn Harbour.

Similarly, the mountain guides and twenty passengers roped up for glacier travel wearing snow shoes to increase safety and efficient progress. The route choice allowed a good vantage point to view the Governoren

Shipwreck and from our highpoint the excellent visibility provided a great view of Brabant island.

1 December 2025 AM, Damoy Point, Jabet Col

A day of blue bird weather on Wienke Island proved ideal for the thirteen passengers in the technical mountaineering group. The team started off in snowshoes and roped up to cross the glacier, careful route choices avoid the crevasses. Before the slope angle increase the mountaineers switch from snow shoes to crampons and adjust the rope length for a steep climb, several switch backs later and the team



reach Jabet Col. The process of descending and switching back into shoes was carried out with great efficiency in order catch the arranged zodiac shuttle back to Hondius for a well-deserved lunch.

1 December 2025 PM, Damoy Point, Tombstone Hill



A beautiful afternoon in Antarctica! The three groups consisting of 18 passengers equipped with snowshoes, ice axes and ropes hiked up Tombstone Hill and enjoyed views over Port Lockroy and Jougla Point. The teams continued up to the lower slopes of Jabet Peak before returning to the pick-up point and catching a Zodiac to Port Lockroy.

2 December 2025 AM, Melchoir Islands



The mountaineering teams were dropped off by zodiacs on Gamma Island which is part of the Melchoir Archipelago and is home to an Argentinian Base.

The overcast weather did not affect the passengers who were in high spirits, the teams spotted a weddell seal not far from the base and set off on a mountaineering journey roped up, wearing snow-shoes and carrying ice

axes or poles.

3 December 2025 AM, Neko Harbour

Neko Harbour in glorious sunshine! Twenty mountaineers were welcomed ashore by Gentoo Penguins, splitting into four teams the groups strapped on snow-shoes and zigzagged their way up the mountain taking curious glances into the imposing crevasses on the neighbouring glacier.



3 December 2025 PM, Punta Sofia, Bryde Island



The sky was overcast in the afternoon on Bryde Island, however the nineteen strong team members were singing, laughing and posing for photos with guides this made for a jolly snow-shoe hike. The roped teams completed a circular route wearing snow shoes, excitement increased throughout the afternoon in anticipation of the polar plunge which was planned for that evening.

4 December 2025 AM, Cuverville



A small team of four mountaineers and three guides roped up to climb Cuverville, passengers wore snowshoes and carried ice axes while the guides wore crampons for additional grip on the steep icy slopes.

Cuverville delivered excellent 360° views and a wonderful welcome from the resident Gentoo penguins.

5 December 2025 PM, Palaver Point

A wild day on Palaver where three mountaineers and three guides persevered in wet and windy conditions, a line of ascent close to the rocks meant that crampons and short rope techniques were sound mountaineering decisions. In contrast the chinstrap penguins appeared quite at home in the fresh weather.



CAMPING

30 November 2025, Night 1, Damoy Point



The weather was simply perfect: the low evening sun was shining, and the sea was completely calm. Hondius was slowly moving through the Neumayer Channel toward our landing site—Damoy Point. While we were having dinner and getting ready to go ashore, our guides launched several Zodiacs and began preparing our campsite: they brought the necessary equipment to shore and marked the area within which we were to set up our sleeping places. When all the preparations were complete, William, our hotel manager, made an announcement over the PA system, giving us a fifteen-minute notice. We gathered near the Zodiac boarding area, where each of us received a large dry bag containing two camping mats (this was Antarctica—good insulation was essential), a thin waterproof bivy bag, and of course the most important item: a big, warm, and cozy sleeping bag, which came with a so-called liner—a thin inner bag serving as a sheet, the innermost layer.



The Zodiac ride took only a few minutes, and on shore we were met by Valeria — our lead camping guide. The other guides — Sasha and Brian — waited a bit farther inland to give us

additional instructions and encouragement. We removed our life jackets, picked up the shovels prepared for us, and headed out to set up our sleeping spots.

Each of us chose a place within the marked perimeter and began digging a trench in the snow. It must be said that this was not easy: the frost was light, but the snow—especially the upper layer — was hard, so breaking through it with a shovel and digging deeper required quite a bit of effort. One way or another, within the next hour each of us managed to complete the task. Our guides constantly offered advice and helped wherever needed — whether with digging the snow, laying out the sleeping bags, or even turning our rubber boots into makeshift pillows by inserting one boot into the other and placing them under our heads.

Little by little, our camp quieted down as everyone settled into sleep. It felt warm and cozy lying inside our sleeping bags, looking up at the sky and realizing that we were not just anywhere, but in Antarctica. From afar came the calls of penguins and the footsteps of our guides, who took turns patrolling the camp, watching over us and regularly checking that everything was all right.



Around two in the morning, the wind picked up — you could feel its cold breath even inside the sleeping bag. It only added to the sense of adventure. The sky, which had been clear in the evening, became covered with gray clouds, though it didn't last long, and soon the sky cleared again. Gradually, the snow-covered peaks of the surrounding mountains began to glow with the first golden rays of the morning sun.

Around five in the morning it was time to get up, pack our sleeping gear back into the dry bags, fill the trenches we had dug the night before and used as shelters, put on our life jackets, and return to the ship. The Captain had already ordered the Zodiacs to be launched, and they were soon heading toward the shore. We lined up in a long queue at the landing site, boarded the Zodiacs in groups of ten, and returned to the ship, where tea and pastries awaited us.

3 December 2025, Night 2, Leith Cove



Paradise Bay is a beautiful and picturesque place that captivates every traveller. Its beauty is so striking that even the rough and hardened whalers of the early 20th century could not help but be moved by it. They were the ones who gave this bay its poetic name. One of its coves is called Leith Cove. In the middle of it rises a small island — this was where we were to land and spend the night.

The weather was cause for concern: on our way to Paradise Bay we repeatedly found ourselves in snowfall that threatened to turn into rain. Nonetheless, as soon as Hondius arrived at the site, all our worries vanished — there was no precipitation, nor was any expected. We were slightly concerned by the fresh wind, but once we boarded the Zodiacs and crossed to the island, we discovered that the wall of mountains surrounding it on three



sides served as an excellent barrier against the gusty, cold Antarctic wind. The island was calm and peaceful.

Our guides had already prepared the camping area — using red poles stuck into the snow, they marked the perimeter where we were to set up for the night, and they had prepared shovels for

digging trenches. Before stepping through the shell door and boarding the Zodiac, each of us

received a dry bag with sleeping gear (a sleeping bag, a bivy bag, and warm camping mats). The night promised to be exciting, and we were all anticipating something unusual.

Once ashore, we placed our life jackets into large white bags, grabbed the shovels, and began digging trenches. The task was not an easy one. Our friends who had camped two days earlier had warned us that the upper layer of snow was extremely hard and not easy to break through. This turned out to be completely true, and we had to work hard; however, beneath the hard surface the snow was soft, and digging it was a pleasure.



After laying out our sleeping bags and admiring the glow of the sunset, we gradually began to settle in for the night. The sleeping bags were warm and cozy, so the occasional gusts of wind did not bother us at all. Grey clouds drifted across the sky, and now and then small avalanches tumbled down the mountain slopes, echoing throughout the area.

Early in the morning, just before five, our guides woke us and advised us to start packing, as the Zodiacs from Hondius were expected to arrive at any moment. We gathered our things, filled the trenches back in as though we had never been there, put on our life jackets, and lined up to board the Zodiacs. The night had ended, the morning had begun, and with it the bright sun began to warm the mountain slopes, scattering the clouds with its rays.

Back on the ship, we returned our dry bags with the sleeping gear to the guides and headed to Deck 5 to enjoy our morning coffee.

5 December 2025, Night 3, Stony Point

All our plans fell apart! Hondius, pushing its way through a snowstorm toward Portal Point, was leaning from side to side under the force of the wind. At first, of course, everyone hoped that the capricious Antarctic weather would relent and allow us to land and spend the night

at the planned location, but eventually we had to accept reality and acknowledge the obvious: Portal Point was not an option. After a short meeting, our guides and the captain decided we needed to turn around and find another camping site.



Hondius changed course and headed toward a place already familiar to us—Paradise Bay, beautiful, scenic, and well protected from bad weather by the surrounding mountains. The campsite selected was Stoney Point. We had already landed there earlier that day, and some people had even dared to take a polar plunge. But landing for a short visit is one thing, and spending the night wrapped in a sleeping bag is quite another.

The weather, to be honest, gave us reasons to doubt. A gusty wind was blowing, low clouds were sweeping across the sky and clinging to the mountain peaks, and there was a constant threat of snowfall — but as it turned out, we were lucky and avoided it.

The guides, as usual, landed first to prepare everything for our arrival — marking the perimeter within which we were to spend the night, and scouting alternative landing spots, because there was a risk that during the night the wind would bring in a lot of brash ice and complicate our return to the ship.



Soon William, our hotel manager, announced a fifteen-minute notice over the PA system. We gathered at the Zodiac boarding area, where each of us received a large dry bag with sleeping gear and other essentials, and then boarded the Zodiacs and headed to shore, where Valeria

and Frank welcomed us. Sasha and Brian waited a bit farther away to give us additional instructions and hand out shovels.

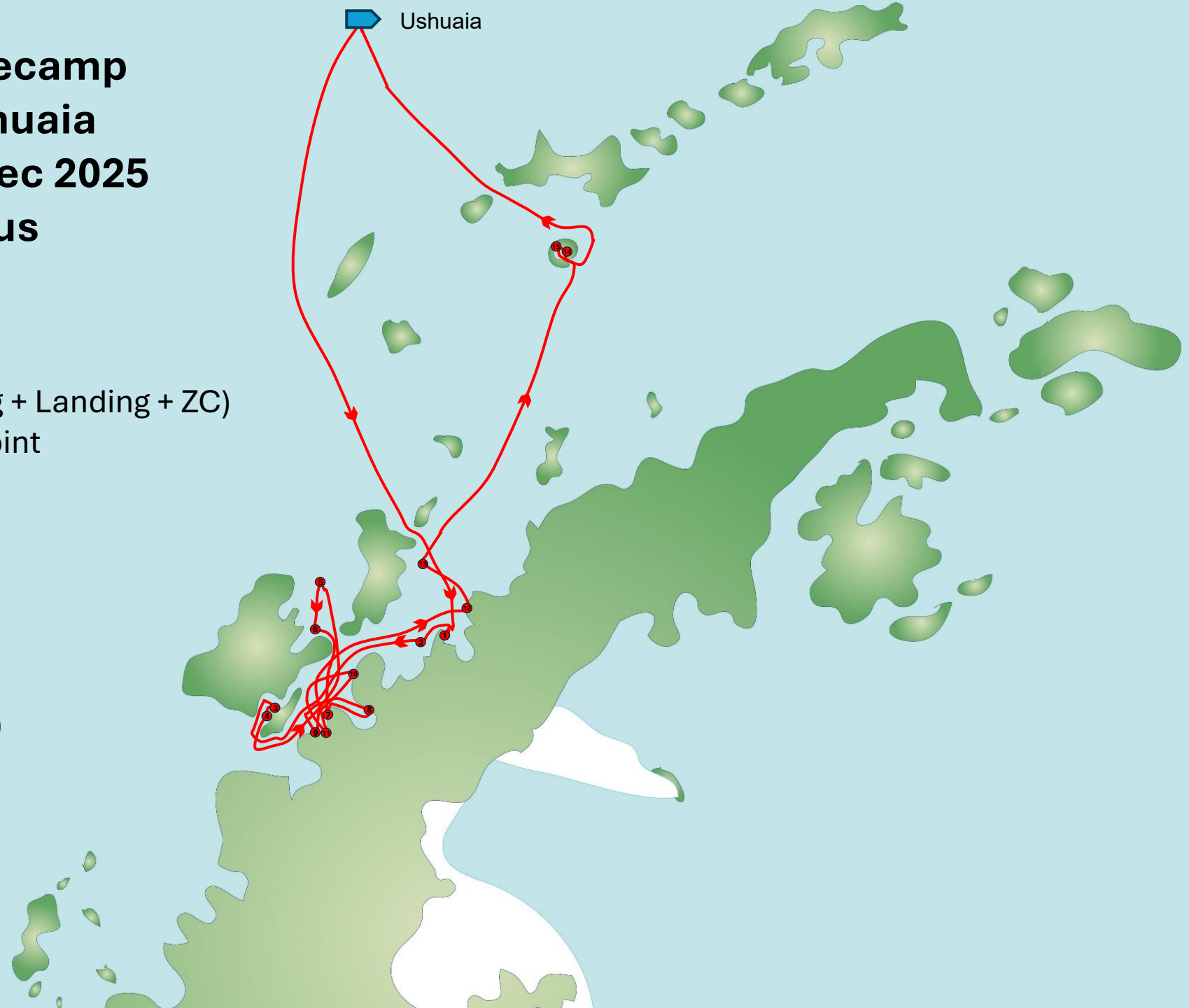
The air temperature was above zero, so the snow was wet, loose, and very easy to dig. We completed our trenches quite quickly. As soon as we laid out our sleeping bags, we hurried to climb into them, because although the temperature was above freezing, the fresh Antarctic wind made us shiver. So — straight to sleep! The sleeping bags were wonderfully cozy. It was barely past 11 pm, and most of us were already fast asleep.

The night turned out to be very short. Because of the change of plans, the ship needed to cover a distance of 50 nautical miles to reach the location of our morning landing, so we had to leave Paradise Bay no later than 4:30am. Around 3:30am, our guides began waking us and helping us pack. The weather had changed — the wind had died down, the sea had calmed, and a quiet Antarctic stillness settled over the bay.

We had barely finished gathering our things and filling in our trenches when the Zodiacs arrived to take us back to the ship, where we immediately headed to the Main Lounge to enjoy tea and fresh fruit.

Antarctica Basecamp
Ushuaia – Ushuaia
27th Nov – 9th Dec 2025
m/v Hondius

1. Portal Point
2. Foyn Harbour (ZC)
3. Damoy Point (Camping + Landing + ZC)
4. Port Lockroy / Jougla Point
5. Melchior Island (ZC)
6. Phils Island (ZC)
7. Puerto Leith (Camping)
8. Neko Harbour
9. Stony Point
10. Cuverville Island
11. Stony Point (Camping)
12. Graham Passage (ZC)
13. Palaver Point
14. Whalers Bay
15. Telefon Bay



Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region

English	Latin	27-nov	28-nov	29-nov	30-nov	1-dec	2-dec	3-dec	4-dec	5-dec	6-dec	7-dec	8-dec	9-dec
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>				x									
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>				x	x	x		x					
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>				x	x	x		x	x	x	x		
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		x									x		
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>		x	x								x	x	
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>		x	x								x	x	
Light-Mantled Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>		x	x								x		
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>						x							
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>				x		x	x	x					
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>		x										x	
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>			x								x	x	
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		x										x	
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>		x	x								x		
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>		x											
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	x											x	
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Snowy (Pale-faced) Sheatbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>					x	x		x		x			
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>													
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>				x	x		x	x	x	x			
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta lonnbergi</i>											x		
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	x												x
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	x				x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	x												x
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Marine mammals		27-nov	28-nov	29-nov	30-nov	1-dec	2-dec	3-dec	4-dec	5-dec	6-dec	7-dec	8-dec	9-dec
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>							x						
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>											x		
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>				x									
Leopard Seal	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>							x						
Crabeater Seal	<i>Lobodon carcinophagus</i>					x		x		x				
Weddell Seal	<i>Leptonychotes weddelli</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonin</i>					x		x	x		x			

Chloé Maréchal – Expedition Leader



Chloé is a dedicated diver with an insatiable passion for marine life and exploration. Armed with a European master's degree in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, she's on a mission to share her expertise and promote the conservation of the marine environment. But here's the twist—while everyone else is busy oohing and aahing over flashy dolphins and majestic whales, Chloé's heart belongs to the unsung heroes of the ocean—the often underrated world of plankton and the mysteries of unseen microbes. She's here to show that even the tiniest organisms can have big personalities!

In April 2013, Chloé's dedication and skills were recognized when she was chosen as the prestigious 2013-14 European Rolex Our World Underwater Scholar. This remarkable opportunity allowed her to work alongside renowned leaders in the fields of marine science and diving industry, providing her with diverse experiences and invaluable insights. During this transformative year, her first encounter with Antarctica left an indelible mark, igniting a lifelong passion for polar exploration.

Chloé isn't just a science nerd with a thing for plankton. She's an adventurous soul with an insatiable curiosity. She's dived across all continents, lived in 20 countries, and now sails on her 12-meter aluminum boat. Together with her partner she has recently crossed the challenging waters of the North Sea.

Currently, Chloé calls northern Norway her home, residing just above the polar circle. When not guiding, she explores underwater wonders, uncovers forgotten wrecks, and maps uncharted underwater caves. Her passion for the ocean, sailing, and work with Oceanwide Expeditions fuel her relentless pursuit of adventure.

Koen Hoekemeijer – Asst. Exp. Leader



Koen Hoekemeijer was born in 1974 in The Netherlands. When it comes to nature and wildlife Koen was quite a late bloomer as he had always been more into nightlife and sunny beaches. But that all changed when he discovered his passion for wildlife and photography in 2009 in Costa Rica. It was during this trip that Koen saw his first humpback whales and he fell in love with them instantly. Not only did it make him eager to see more and different types of whales in locations all over the world, but he also wanted to learn to take better photos of these amazing creatures. And with the love for whales

and photography, came a broader passion for all sorts of wildlife.

Since that memorable vacation in 2009, Koen has been travelling the planet to see and photograph the world's most beautiful places. Usually from boats, jeeps or simply face down in the mud, but since 2016 also underwater. Snorkeling in the presence of whales and orcas is bringing Koen pure happiness.

Among his favourite animals are whales, orcas, penguins, tigers and jaguars. But in between safaris, he also likes to do street photography and capture life and portraits of people all over the world.

Koen believes that travelling does not only enrich your life, it also makes you more humble, more appreciative and it provides new levels of perspective and understanding. Koen has won the prestigious WWF Frans Lanting Photo contest, and in 2020 he won the Ellen Fitzgibbon Memorial Photography competition. It's Koen's dream to one day have a Vizsla dog and own a small cabin somewhere in northern Norway surrounded by snow and trees ;).

Koen Jongerling - Asst. Exp. Leader



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

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

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

Mark Whiffin – Expedition Guide



Mark holds a Master's Degree in Conservation Biology and is an ornithologist and birder with extensive field experience. His passion for birds and travelling started from a very young age in East Sussex, England and expanded from there.

While at university studying Biochemistry and Molecular Plant Biology, he participated in an ornithological expedition to Indonesia. This experience led to a Masters degree in Conservation Biology and he subsequently led numerous expeditions and scientific research projects to

remote tropical areas of the world in search of birds with a particular emphasis on threatened and endemic species.

Mark first visited Antarctica in 2018 employed by the British Antarctic Survey, and subsequently spent five years living and working on Bird Island, South Georgia as a Zoological Field Assistant working primarily with the penguins and petrels that breed on the island. During this time he developed a deep love for the Southern Ocean, its scenery and the birds that call it home, "seeing the first Cape Petrels on any trip always gives a feeling of arriving home".

In his free time Mark enjoys trekking, running or cycling. He is also a keen photographer and videographer who enjoys documenting and sharing his passion for birds, travel and wild places, his images have been used by Birdlife International, newspapers and online. He looks forward to sharing the birds of the southern ocean with you.

Rose - Expedition Guide



Rose Li is an accomplished expedition professional with a diverse background in interior design, hospitality, and polar guiding.

Originating from China, she graduated from Wuhan College with a degree in Interior Design. Since 2014, her career has been dedicated to immersive travel, beginning on international cruise ships where she honed her skills as an Expedition Guide, VIP Services Executive, and Head Cruise Ambassador across Asia and Europe.

In 2018, Rose transitioned into the expedition industry, where her passion for geology and history became central to her role. She serves as a Polar Expedition Guide & Lecturer, captivating guests with insights into the earth's past and landscapes. Her versatile skill set also encompasses interpretation, Zodiac driving, and Guest Services Management.

An avid adventurer, Rose has visited over 50 countries. Outside of work, she channels her creativity and energy into skiing, and hosting. She is always looking forward to her next adventure and is committed to providing exceptional customer service while sharing the incredible journey of discovery with fellow travelers.

Alexander Romanovskiy – Exp. Guide



Alexander Romanovskiy comes from Saint-Petersburg, the Northern capital of Russia. He was born in 1981. After having graduated from the boarding school Alexander entered Saint-Petersburg State University, where he spent 5 years studying physical geography, ecology, regional geography and international tourism. Afterwards he was working on his PhD thesis in Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, doing geoecological researches.

In the year of 2011 however, Alexander decided to pause his scientific career and start doing something completely

different, which means working in tourism and traveling the world. He spent 2 seasons working as a trekking guide in Fann mountains (Tajikistan), 1 season on Novolazarevskaya Antarctic scientific station (Queen Maud Land, Antarctica) working as a member of a guesthouse crew.

Since February of 2012 most part of the year he spends on Svalbard. For five seasons in a row Alexander has been living and working as a guide in a ghost town of Pyramiden. In 2016 a new page in Alexander's guiding career was opened: he started working as a naturalist guide on cruise ships in polar regions of the world – Svalbard and Antarctica.

3 to 4 months a year Alexander dedicates to his main passion – traveling the world. No public transport, no hotels, only hitch-hiking and staying overnight with locals or sleeping in a tent. This way he has already visited almost all Soviet republics, Middle East (Iran, Turkey), Asia (China), South America (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay), and it is hopefully far not the end! The world is big, friendly and interesting to explore!

Alexis Bellezze – Kayak Leader



Alexis Bellezze was born in San Luis, Argentina in 1973. He spent his childhood in the center of the country, in a rural area, then moved to the city of Mendoza close to the Central Andes and studied in the Army High School where he fell in love with the mountains and the outdoors. Then moved to Cordoba where he spent 3 years in the Air Force Academy. After that he moved to Italy where he worked and finished a paragliding course, then returned to Argentina to finish his studies as a Veterinarian. In 2006, he did a Residency in the ICU Service of the Large Animal Hospital of the Royal

“Dick” Veterinary College in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 2006 and 2008 he did an internship as a veterinarian surgeon at Milano, Italy. Then he moved to Villa La Angostura, an isolated village in the middle of the Patagonian Lake District where he works as a veterinarian surgeon and runs a kayak company in the Nahuel Huapi National Park.

Since 2018 he has been working as a Polar Kayak Guide and Expedition Guide. He has guided in the Antarctic Peninsula many times, reaching the Antarctic Polar Circle, Svalbard, circumnavigated Spitzbergen, East coast of Greenland and many rivers and lakes in Patagonia. During the last years he travelled the south and north of Chile and Argentina as a Wilderness First Responder instructor working in different environments like the jungle, the Patagonian mountain range, the windy Patagonian estepa and the desert of Atacama. Since 2014 Alexis is the owner and Director of endurance kayak & mountain expeditions based in Patagonia Argentina, offering multiple days kayak trips in this pristine area.

Alexis is divorced, has 3 children and lives in Patagonia Argentina. He likes to cook for them with fire in the wilderness and go camping when is possible.

He speaks fluently Spanish, Italian and English.

Stella Yao - Translator



Stella Yao hails from Zhejiang, China. She is an outdoor enthusiast passionate about wildlife, marine ecosystems, and cross-cultural education.

From scuba diving in Mozambique to tracking wildlife in Kenya and rehabilitating animals in Malawi, she brings curiosity and care to every environment she explores.

Stella is a certified scuba instructor and Wilderness First Responder. Stella is fluent in Mandarin and English and enjoys sharing environmental knowledge with diverse

audiences.

Her experience includes assisting with marine research, leading dive and snorkel trips, and supporting animal rehabilitation efforts.

Whether underwater or in the savannah, Stella is committed to learning from nature and contributing to conservation efforts through hands-on involvement and education. She started traveling globally at the beginning of last year. Before that, she worked in environmental NGOs and sustainable investment in New York City.

Lucia Romero - Expedition Guide



Lucia is an extroverted and curious person always looking for new challenges and experiences worldwide.

Born and raised in Puerto Madryn, a small town of Argentinian Patagonia coast, she grew up surrounded by marine wildlife and outdoor lifestyle. This led her to choose her career, with a bachelor degree in hospitality and tourism and becoming a professional tour guide and kayak guide.

She loves sharing her passion for exploration, learning, discovering, conservation and wildlife.

With over 12 years of experience on leading groups around Patagonia, she is now focusing on the wonders and biodiversity of the polar environments.

Juan Berenstein – Expedition Guide



Juan is a professional photographer and drone pilot born in Ushuaia, Argentina and is a Zodiac driver, expedition and photography guide.

He is a young and highly motivated person, who loves enjoying the outdoors and being in the mountains. His hobbies are hiking, FPV drone flying and photography.

His passion for nature started at an early age with his family, who enjoyed the weekends camping at the end of the world and travelling around the country on holidays.

He studied photography in Buenos Aires and decided to return to his hometown to start his career and develop an independent way of life.

Juan has been working in the polar regions for several years now, including Antarctica, South Georgia, Falkland Islands, Svalbard, Greenland, and the Great Lakes in North America.

Nick Cunliffe - Kayak Leader



Nick is a sea kayak coach / guide from North Wales in the United Kingdom. He has been guiding for over 30 years and owes many rewarding experiences to his involvement in sea kayaking.

Professional Certifications:

- Paddle UK Sea Kayak Guide
- Open Water Navigation Trainer
- R2Ri Remote Medical Responder

This is Nick's third Antarctic season - he is inspired to share his appreciation of this remarkable natural environment.

Nick's sea kayaking experience includes many self-led expeditions to remote coastal environments around the world, including:

- East Greenland Sermilik Fiord / Josef Petersen Fiord
- Arctic Norway Lofoten Islands: Å to Svolvær
- Chilean Patagonia Chonos archipelago / San Rafael glacier
- British Columbia N Mainland & Vancouver Island W coast
- SE Alaska Sitka to Glacier Bay / Admiralty Island

Nick has also guided many sea kayaking expeditions in the Scottish Hebrides. Personal highlights include Barra / Mingulay, the St Kilda archipelago and the Isle of Skye. Beyond wilderness sea kayaking,

Nick loves to ski and climb in the mountains of the European Alps. Closer to home, the Eryri peaks of Wales remain his personal favourite playground. Nick loves to share the experience of exploring wilderness places and encountering marine life in their natural environments. He places great value on the rewards that such encounters can offer - the Antarctic Peninsula delivers these experiences in abundance! Nick looks forward to sharing unforgettable Antarctic kayaking experiences with his Oceanwide Expeditions guests.

Andy Perkins – Expedition Guide



Andy Perkins is an IFMGA mountain guide living in Chamonix at the foot of Mont Blanc, western Europe's highest mountain. He has been climbing and skiing since he was a teenager and has worked as a qualified mountain guide for over twenty years.

His "normal" work is as a guide in the European Alps. In the summer he guides climbing and mountaineering clients from all over the world. In winter he works with off piste skiers in and around lift-served ski resorts and by using ski touring equipment to access more remote spots. It's in that capacity

that he discovered the magical combination of mountains and ocean, initially through ski sail trips in Arctic Norway. He has pursued that fabulous formula with trips to Iceland and Greenland over recent years.

Here are three highlights from his mountain experience:

- 17 days on Cerro Kishtwar's north face in the Indian Himalaya . Intensity of experience is his goal in personal climbing, and this one had it in spades.
- 2 rescues on Denali, the second of which earned him the Denali Pro Award and an Award for Bravery from the US Department of the Interior.
- Skiing in Arctic Norway with his wife Lise, 60 years after his dad was pioneering there in the 1950's. Mountains run in the family!

He speaks fluent English and French and basic German and Italian.

His aim as a guide is to share his love of the wild places of the world and to maximise his clients' potential - to exceed their expectations of what they're capable of. This often means taking on new skills as well as sharpening existing ones. The big grins when someone finally "gets it", whether skiing or climbing, makes his job as a guide a real joy.

Brian Veltrop – Expedition Guide



This is Brian, he is 31 years young and lives in the Netherlands.

Brian is a true nature lover. He has been in nature since he was little and has really found his passion for it in recent years.

In recent years, Brian has completed various courses in the outdoor world. In 2021 he started the training as a hike & survival instructor, hike & backpacking guide, international wilderness guide lvl 1. He trained for this in the Netherlands, France and Canada. He also followed the training of BICO, Baby it's cold outside and

Mountain 101 (University of Alberta, Canada).

After completing these courses, he entered the specialization and completed the training as a wilderness guide lvl 2 and the winter travel & survival lvl 3 in Winter Canada.

As an examination for this, he had to endure a 48 hour solo in -30 (Celsius).

Furthermore, Brian is very passionate about identifying Flora & Fauna. He likes to look for animal tracks & signs and talk about them.

In addition to Oceanwide Expeditions, Brian works at two Dutch companies as a survival instructor and wilderness guide. These offer wilderness trips to Scandinavian countries, France, Poland, Canada and Spain. And is a member of the Wilderness Guide Association and Interpretive Guide Association.

Carina Ketterer – Expedition Guide



This is Carina, she grew up in the Swiss capital of Bern far away from the sea. Her studies in renewable energies and environmental engineering gave her a curiosity in energy production and civil engineering. She would like to share this curiosity with you! Carina is a sports nut and runs triathlons in her spare time. But don't worry, she has vowed to slow down the tours to half-tempo.

Carinas favorite animal since childhood, was the penguin. In 2019 she finally hopped on a boat to the Antarctic to see them in their natural habitat. That journey bore in her a new fascination

with these cute animals and their dominion.

Being the happiest outside, Carina chose to make the world her workplace and to become an international guide for Oceanwide Expeditions.

Carina is a passionate and optimistic person who always likes to learn new things and has a broad interest in geography, history, archaeology, the arts and the natural sciences. As the cheesy Instagram posts say: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". So step up and let Carina share her passion for civil engineering and penguins with you and take part in your once in a lifetime adventure!

Valeria Sainz Herrera – Exp. guide



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

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

working in tourism area.

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

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

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

Marcelo Tarapow – Expedition Guide



Marcelo Tarapow has a Master's degree in Social Sciences, specialized in History from the National University of Quilmes, retired Rear Admiral of the Argentine Navy, Honorary Professor at the Nikola Vaptsarov Academy (Bulgaria) and Graduate in Naval Systems.

He participated in twelve expeditions to Antarctica between 1988 and 2017, occupying different roles until being the leader on his last two occasions, spending around 900 days in Antarctic activity.

He has also carried out studies in Environmental Preservation, Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Tourism.

He has been a professor in pre-Antarctic courses taught in Argentina, Colombia and Bulgaria, especially on navigation, meteorology, the Antarctic Treaty and the Madrid Protocol.

He is the President of the Academy of Antarctica, a lecturer and researcher especially on topics related to the White Continent, having presented on historical Antarctic expeditions in Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Colombia, France and Romania.

He is a member of the Council at Polar Educators International for the 2024-2025 biennium.

His main hobbies are swimming, cycling, tango, reading, an enthusiastic collector of ancient objects linked to Antarctic history and an amateur photographer.

Always ready to learn from other cultures, listen to stories, passionately share their experiences and care for the environment.

Enric Sangrà Mòdol – Exp. Guide



“Connecting Science with People” – This is Enric’s mission.

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

Enric is passionate about making Earth Science accessible to the public. He bridges the gap between researchers

and society, transforming complex scientific results into clear and engaging messages. His skills led him to become one of the ten finalists in the national scientific monologue competition in Spain, "Solo de Ciencia," where the country’s top science communicators were selected.

Enric’s expertise spans a wide range of Earth Science topics, from geology to environmental issues. Enric is excited about guiding in the polar regions, where the unique geological features, including ancient rock formations, meteorite-rich fields, and glacial landscapes, offer invaluable insights into Earth’s history. By sharing fascinating stories about these remote regions, Enric brings the Earth’s geological history to life, making science both accessible and engaging for all audiences.

Enric’s hobbies are outdoor sports, including alpinism, mountaineering, hiking, climbing, trail running, and backcountry skiing. His favorite spots are the Catalan and Aragonese Pyrenees, where he has summited Aneto (3,404 m) during the winter period.

Edward Bekker – Mountain Guide



Edward Bekker, born in Rotterdam, grew up in the south of the Netherlands, but from an early age on his favorite place was in the mountains. His dream came true when he was admitted to the prestigious mountain guide training at the Technical University of Munich and in 1987, he graduated as 'Certified Mountain and Ski Guide approved by State'; So he was definitely one of the very first UIAGM/IVBV/IFMGA certified mountain guides from a non-Alpine country!

Since then he has been out and about in the mountains every day. For more than 30 years, Edward has specialized in Mountain Guiding & Freeride Ski guiding, Ski Touring and Heli Skiing especially in the Arctic Areas of Iceland, Norway, Spitsbergen, Sweden and Greenland, as well as in the Swiss Alps, Turkey, Chile, Argentina and Canada. Edward has been guiding with Oceanwide Expeditions since 2018 both in the Arctic as well as in Antarctica.

He participated in worldwide expeditions to the Himalayas, the Andes of South America, Antarctica, West Papua, Russia, Africa and Alaska. Twice he was Expedition Leader on a UIAA International Expedition for high performance young climbers, exploring remote locations in Pakistan and China and opening up many new routes in rock and ice.

Edward lives with his family in western Switzerland in the small Valais Mountain village of Finhaut-Emosson, which is strategically located in the 'Massif du Mont Blanc' between Chamonix-Verbier-Zermatt, where he and his partner run their Mountain Guiding business and Mountain Lodge.

Edward is always curious to meet new people and guide them in mountain areas in a safe and enjoyable way. Fluent in English, German, French and Dutch, he gets by in some Italian, Spanish, Swedish and Norwegian.

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!

Frank Shi – Translator



Frank Shi, also known as Jingjing Shi, is a seasoned translator and free diving instructor. Graduating from Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, Frank has extensive work and life experience in English-speaking environments. He has served as a resident instructor in Moalboal, Philippines; Saipan, USA; and Bali, Indonesia, and won the bronze medal in the free diving Asian Cup's no-fins category in 2019. Frank has a deep passion for nature and wildlife, having grown up watching various wildlife documentaries, from Discovery Channel to the 2024 National

Geographic production "The Queen of Nature," which he has watched multiple times. He particularly admires two narrators, China's Zhao Zhongxiang and the UK's Sir David Attenborough. As a translator, Frank is dedicated to helping the team overcome language barriers and ensuring smooth communication. Additionally, Frank is an avid fitness and outdoor enthusiast with years of Crossfit training experience. He enjoys surfing, skiing, hiking, and motorcycle touring, having logged over 30,000 kilometer on his rides. Whether at work or during leisure time, Frank is always eager to share his experiences and engage in conversations.

Jonny Baird – Lead Mountain Guide



Jonny Baird grew up in the small village of Taynuilt near Oban on Scotland's west coast, where he first discovered his passion for climbing and skiing. He is now based in the French Alps near the Chamonix Valley and has worked as an IFMGA-certified Mountain Guide since 2005. Since 2017, Jonny has worked regularly as a mountaineering guide aboard the Oceanwide expedition ship *Ortelius* and as Lead Mountain Guide aboard *Hondius* on the Antarctic Peninsula. Over the years, his deep appreciation for the Antarctic has

grown—not only for its mountaineering potential but also for its unique and abundant wildlife. In winter, Jonny primarily guides ski mountaineering trips across France, Italy, and Switzerland, with regular expeditions further afield. His Arctic guiding experience includes trips to Arctic Norway (Lofoten Islands, Kvaløya, Tromsø, and Arnøya), Greenland, and Iceland's Troll Peninsula.

During the summer months, Jonny focuses on alpine climbing, mountaineering, and rock climbing, sharing more than 35 years of personal climbing experience with his clients. His climbing has taken him around the world, including the European Alps, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, Canada, the U.S., Morocco, New Zealand, Australia, and of course Scotland, where it all began.

Beyond guiding, Jonny has worked in mountain safety for television, film, and photography projects. He is the co-author of a ski touring guidebook and has contributed to several online publications.

Jonny is a member of the Syndicat National des Guides de Montagne (SNGM), the French national mountain guiding association. Over the years, he has climbed, skied, and guided on every continent.

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.

Paul Warnock – Mountain Guide



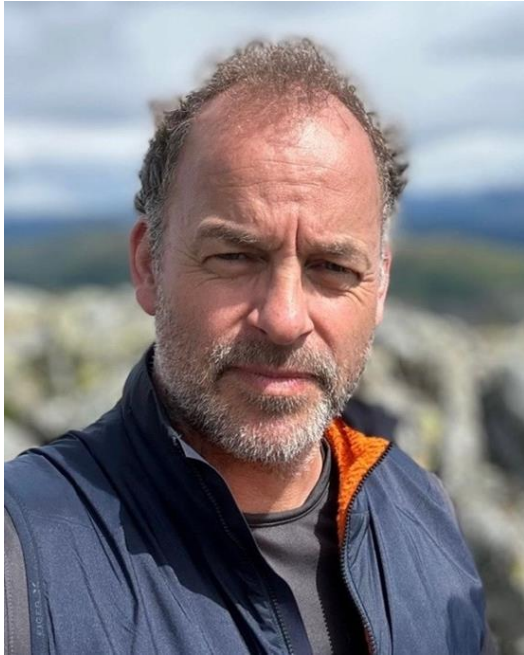
Paul is originally from Ireland and is now based in North Wales, UK. He qualified as a mountain guide in 2010 and has since dedicated more than a decade to training and mentoring both climbing instructors and aspiring mountain guides. His career has allowed him to combine technical expertise with a genuine passion for helping others develop confidence and skills in challenging environments.

A formative moment in Paul's professional life came during an exploratory expedition to Greenland, where he and his team made first ascents of seven previously unclimbed peaks. This experience forged a lasting connection with the wilderness of the Arctic and strengthened his appreciation for remote and pristine landscapes.

Paul works regularly in the European Alps and the Scottish winter mountains, guiding individuals and groups as they pursue their mountaineering ambitions. His friendly, supportive manner and deep technical knowledge create a reassuring environment for guests of all experience levels.

His work has also taken him farther afield to the Himalaya, New Zealand, Japan and Norway, allowing him to bring a global perspective to every expedition. Paul enjoys sharing his experience with guests and hopes to inspire lasting memories of adventure and discovery.

Max de le Lijs – Ships Doctor



Max lives in Utrecht, in the heart of the Netherlands, with his wife and their two teenage sons. His professional journey in acute care as a highly skilled paramedic spans more than 25 years, beginning in the emergency department of the OLVG hospital in Amsterdam. Five years later he transitioned onto the ambulance service, where he continues to be drawn to the dynamic and multicultural challenges of working in a metropolitan environment.

Known for his ability to gain a quick overview in critical situations, he acts swiftly while bringing a sense of calm to

those around him. Alongside his frontline work, he has a passion for teaching. For over a decade, he has been affiliated with the General Practitioner Training Programme, where he shares his expertise in acute care skills for both adults and children, including resuscitation training.

Curiosity and adventure have always been a defining thread in his life. It began with a train trip through Europe as a teenager and expanded during his studies with internships in New Zealand, England, and Suriname. From 2018 to 2019, he travelled the globe as the medical officer for the Red Bull Air Race rescue team. More recently, he found new purpose as a sit-ski instructor and guide, working alongside people with disabilities to help them experience the freedom of the mountains.

When not on the ambulance or teaching, Max's heart is often in the high peaks, despite living in the famously flat Netherlands. He loves fly fishing, hiking, skiing, and mountaineering, and when at home, he enjoys time in the kitchen cooking and sharing good food with family and friends.

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Thursday 27th November 2025
Embarkation - Ushuaia

WELCOME ABOARD!

Luggage will be delivered to your cabin. Please 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 5 * ***

±1715 **Safety briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5, forward) for a welcome to the voyage, followed by a **mandatory** safety briefing and lifeboat drill.

Lifeboat Drill

All guests accommodated on Deck 3 (Cabins 301-337) will go to MUSTER STATION A which is the **Restaurant** on Deck 4

All guests accommodated on decks 4, 6, and 7 will go to MUSTER STATION B which is the **Observation Lounge** on Deck 5

±1800 **Departure from Ushuaia.**
The bridge will be closed during these operations.

1830 **Expedition Introduction & Captain's Welcome** – Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5) for an introduction to the expedition, a welcome to your new home from the Hotel manager, the captain's toast and to meet your expedition team.

1930 **Buffer dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4)

±2045 **Zodiac and IAATO safety briefing** - Please join us in the lounge (Deck 5) for a mandatory safety briefing about our zodiac operations.

*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.*



- 07:45 **Wake-up call!** Good morning!
08:00 **Buffet breakfast** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.

Please check the activity groups assigned to you on the wall at reception. If you would like to change group, please ask for Koen or KJ.

- 09:15 Please join **Nick** and **Alexis** in the **Observation Lounge** for the **Mandatory Kayak Briefing**.
10:30 Please Johnny and the mountaineering team in the **Observation Lounge** for the **Mandatory Mountaineering Briefing**.

*Throughout the day, please take a moment to **clean all clothing and equipment** you plan to take ashore. Tomorrow, we will conduct our mandatory IAATO Biosecurity check, so it's essential that your gear is cleaned beforehand. Pay special attention to the mesh on backpacks, pockets, and Velcro. Brushes and paperclips will be available for borrowing at reception. If you have any questions, feel free to ask a member of the expedition staff.*

- 12:30-13:30 **Buffet lunch** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.
14:00 Please join Valeria, Brian and Sasha for the **Mandatory Camping Briefing** in the **Observation Lounge** on deck 5.
16:00 Martin invites you to the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5** for his **Photography Workshop**. Learn how to take your polar photography skills to a whole new level!
18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for **Daily Recap**, this is a daily event where we go through what we have seen during the day and plans for tomorrow.
19:00 **Plated dinner** will be served in the **Dining room** on deck 4.

While on the ship, please walk at a slow pace and avoid rushing. Always keep at least one hand on the ship for stability. Make sure to close all doors securely and keep your fingers clear of the door frames.

"A sure cure for seasickness is to sit under a tree." - Spike Milligan.

Saturday 29th November 2025
At sea - Drake passage

- 07:45 **Wake-up call!** Good morning! 😊
08:00 -09:00 **Buffet breakfast** will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

*Throughout the day, please take a moment to **clean all clothing and equipment** you plan to take ashore. In the afternoon, we will conduct our mandatory IAATO Biosecurity check, so it's essential that your gear is cleaned beforehand. Pay special attention to the mesh on backpacks, pockets, and Velcro. Brushes and paperclips will be available for borrowing at reception. If you have any questions, feel free to ask a member of the expedition staff.*

- 09:15 Please join the activity group leaders in the **Lecture Room** on deck 5 for our **Activity Sign up**, you will be called by Animals Group. **Please listen to announcements.**
- 09:15-11:30 **Marcelo** will set up a mini museum in **the library** with his personal collection of **artifacts from famous Antarctic expeditions**, including the Belgica expedition led by Adrien de Gerlache and the Nordenskjöld expedition led by Otto Nordenskjöld. Don't hesitate to drop by and meet Marcelo, who will be passionately sharing stories about his artifacts.
- 11:45 The Expedition team will hand out your **rubber boots**. **You will be called deck-by-deck starting from deck 7** to the boot room on deck 3. Bring your thick socks to find the best-sized boots for you! **Please listen to announcements.**
- 12:30-13:30 **Buffet lunch** will be served in the **Dining room** on Deck 4.
- 13:45 During the afternoon we will call you deck by deck for the **mandatory IAATO Biosecurity check in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica for the Expedition Staff to check. Please ensure your equipment is clean **BEFORE** proceeding to the deck 3 and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have been approved by the Expedition Team.
- 14:00 Our photography guide **Martin** will be **outside, Deck 6 aft**, for **flying bird photography**. Feel free to join him and he will help you set up your camera the right way and give you tips.
- 16:00 **Lucia** invites you to **the Observation Lounge** for a presentation on **the penguins** we may encounter during our journey.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for **Daily Recap**.
- 19:00 **Plated dinner** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.

06:15 **Wake-up call!** Good morning!
06:30 **Buffet breakfast** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.

In the morning, we hope to land at Portal Point, a continental landing on the Antarctic Peninsula. This site offers scenic views of Antarctica and serves as a gateway to the continent's vast ice sheet. Portal Point is notable for its dramatic glacial landscape and is surrounded by towering ice cliffs and pristine polar wilderness.

±07:30 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area** to get ready.

±07:45 The **Humpback whales** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±08:00 The **Antarctic krill** and the **Gentoo penguins** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±08:15 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **zodiac boarding area**).

12:30 **Buffet lunch** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.

In the afternoon, we aim to offer a landing and zodiac cruise at Danco Island, home to a thriving rookery of gentoo penguins. This small, scenic island in the Errera Channel is named after Belgian geophysicist Emile Danco and offers panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and glaciers.

±14:45 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±15:00 The **Weddell seals** and the **Gentoo penguins** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±15:15 The **Antarctic krill** and **Humpback whale** the - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±15:30 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready) to go to the **zodiac boarding area**.

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

±20:45 **Quick daily recap** covering tomorrow's plan in **the lounge**.

±22:30 **Campers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**, we will take you ashore for the night. *Please listen for announcements*

"Penguin meat tastes excellent." - Roald Amundsen.

Sunday 30th November 2025
Portal point and Danco Island

06:15 **Wake-up call!** Good morning!
06:30 **Buffet breakfast** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.

In the morning, we hope to land at Portal Point, a continental landing on the Antarctic Peninsula. This site offers scenic views of Antarctica and serves as a gateway to the continent's vast ice sheet. Portal Point is notable for its dramatic glacial landscape and is surrounded by towering ice cliffs and pristine polar wilderness.

±07:30 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area** to get ready.

±07:45 The **Humpback whales** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±08:00 The **Antarctic krill** and the **Gentoo penguins** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±08:15 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.

12:30 **Buffet lunch** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.

CHANGE OF PLAN FOR THE AFTERNOON

Foyn Harbour is a sheltered anchorage on the Antarctic Peninsula, known for its historical significance in the whaling era and the shipwreck of the Gouvernoren.

±13:45 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±14:00 The **Weddell seals** and the **Gentoo penguins** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±14:15 The **Antarctic krill** and **Humpback whale** the - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±14:30 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready) to go to the **zodiac boarding area**.

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

±18:15 **Daily recap** covering tomorrow's plan in **the lounge**.

±22:30 **Campers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**, we will take you ashore for the night. *Please listen for announcements*

06:45 **Wake-up call!** Good morning!
07:00 **Buffet breakfast** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.

In the morning, we hope to land and cruise at Damoy point. Here we hope to enjoy gentoo penguins, a long walk and stunning Antarctic scenery.

0800 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.
0815 The **Humpback whales** and the **Gentoo penguins** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.
0830 The **Antarctic krill** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.
0845 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **zodiac boarding area**).
12:30-13:30 **Buffet** lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

Our afternoon will begin with a presentation from The UK Antarctic Heritage Trust in the lounge. We then hope to offer a landing at Port Lockroy Post Office. Given the limited space at Port Lockroy, only 4 zodiacs will visit at a time. The remaining zodiacs will enjoy the cruise and a landing at Jugla point before rotating through to the Post Office. All purchases are card only. All major credit/debit cards are accepted, plus ApplePay and GooglePay. Stamps cost £4 each, passport stamp £10.

1345 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.
14:00 The **Gentoo penguins** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.
14:15 The **Humpback whales** and the **Antarctic krill** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.
14:30 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready) to go to the **zodiac boarding area**.
18:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for daily recap.
19:30 **Dinner** will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
21:30 ± **Campers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**, we will take you ashore for the night. *Please listen for announcements*

*"The difficult is what takes a little time. The impossible is what takes a little longer."
— Fridtjof Nansen*

06:45 **Wake-up call!** Good morning, another day in beautiful Antarctica.
07:00 **Buffet breakfast** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.

This morning, we invite you for a zodiac cruise around the Melchior Islands. It's a group of many low, ice-covered islands lying near the center of Dallmann Bay between Brabant Island and Anvers Island in the Palmer Archipelago. A scenic area for a stunning zodiac cruise!

±0800 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.
±0815 The **Humpback whales** and the **Weddell Seals**, please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.
±0830 The **Antarctic krill** group and the **Gentoo penguins** please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.
±0845 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **zodiac boarding area**).
12:30-13:30 **Buffet** lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

EXPEDITION AFTERNOON

A true expedition afternoon as we are expecting unpredictable weather changes. Therefore, the expedition team will be looking for sheltered places where we can try to organise outdoor activities and take you off the ship. We thank you in advance for your flexibility and patience.

Please listen for further announcements.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for daily recap.
19:00 **Dinner** will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

"Antarctica has this mythic weight. It resides in the collective unconscious of so many people, and it makes this huge impact, just like outer space. It's like going to the moon."— Jon Krakauer



Wednesday 3rd December 2025
Neko Harbour and Stony Point

06:45 **Wake-up call!** Good morning, another day in beautiful Antarctica.
07:00 **Buffet breakfast** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.

This morning we aim to land and zodiac cruise at Neko harbour. This is one of the few places where you can walk on mainland Antarctica. Watch for gentoo penguins and listen for the loud cracking sounds of ice breaking off the glaciers.

±0800 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.
±0815 The **Humpback whales** and the **Antarctic krill**, please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.
±0830 The **Gentoo penguins** and the **Weddell Seals**, please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.
±0845 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **zodiac boarding area**).
12:30-13:30 **Buffet** lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

In the afternoon, we will offer a landing and cruise at Stony Point, a location with beautiful Antarctic views. For the bravest among you, we will offer a polar plunge at the end of the landing!
Please wear your swimwear underneath your clothing.
*We will provide towels, so please **DO NOT** bring the towel from your room.*

±1430 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.
±1445 The **Humpback whales** and the **Weddell Seals**, please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.
±1500 The **Antarctic krill** group and the **Gentoo penguins**, please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.
±1515 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **zodiac boarding area**).
19:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for daily recap.
19:30 **Antarctic Dinner** will be served on deck 5 aft. Dress warmly!

"Many small people, in small places, doing small things, can change the world."
- Eduardo Galeano

**Thursday 4th December 2025
Cuverville and Beaupre Point**

07:45 **Wake-up call!** Good morning, another day in beautiful Antarctica.

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

This morning, we aim to land and zodiac cruise at Cuverville Island. Home to one of the largest gentoo penguin rookeries in the Antarctic Peninsula, Cuverville offers incredible wildlife viewing opportunities amid ice-carved landscapes and towering glaciers.

±0915 The **Gentoo penguins** and the **Antarctic krill**, please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±0930 The **Humpback whales** and the **Weddell Seals**, please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±0945 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **zodiac boarding area**).

13:00-14:00 **Buffet lunch** will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

In the afternoon, we aim to zodiac cruise at Beaupre Cove in Wilhelmina Bay, a spectacular setting known for its mountain scenery and frequent humpback whale sightings.

±1530 The **Humpback whales** and the **Weddell Seals**, please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±1545 The **Antarctic krill** group and the **Gentoo penguins**, please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±1600 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **zodiac boarding area**).

18:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for daily recap.

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

±22:30 **Campers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**, we will take you ashore for the night. *Please listen for announcements*



"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water"- Loren Eiseley

0745 **Wake-up call!** Good morning, another day in beautiful Antarctica.
0800 **Buffet breakfast** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.

Operating times are approximate. Please listen for announcements.

This morning, we aim to zodiac cruise the Graham passage. Graham passage is known for its abundant brash ice and glacial scenery.

±1000 The **Gentoo penguins** and the **Antarctic krill**, please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±1015 The **Humpback whales** and the, **Weddell Seals** please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

1300 -1400 **Buffet** lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

In the afternoon, we aim to zodiac cruise and land at Palaver Point. This charming site offers panoramic views across the Neumayer Channel and is home to a chinstrap penguin colony.

±1500 The **Humpback whales** and the **Weddell Seals**, please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

±1515 The **Antarctic krill** group and the **Gentoo penguins**, please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

1915 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for daily recap.

1930 **Dinner** will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.



“Antarctica has 90 percent of the world’s ice, and God help us if it melts, whales will be swimming in the streets of New York.” — Jacques-Yves Cousteau



0745 **Wake-up call!** Good morning, another day in beautiful Antarctica.
0800 **Buffet breakfast** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.

Today, we want to take you out to Deception Island which is part of the South Shetland Islands. We hope to do an operation in the morning and the afternoon. Weather seems challenging so be flexible.

TBA The **Gentoo penguins** and the **Antarctic krill**, please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

TBA The **Humpback whales** and the, **Weddell Seals** please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

1230 **Buffet** lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.

TBA The **Humpback whales** and the, **Weddell Seals** please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.

TBA The **Gentoo penguins** and the **Antarctic krill**, please come to the **zodiac boarding area**

1815 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for daily recap.

1900 **Dinner** will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

2045 **How to get to Antarctica?** A fascinating story from **Sasha** will be told after dinner in the lecture room.

'Why then do we feel this strange attraction for these Polar Regions, a feeling so powerful and lasting, that when we return home, we forget the mental and physical hardships, and want nothing more than to return to them? -' Jean-Baptiste Charcot

- 0745 **Sasha's Wake-up call!** Good morning!
- 0800 **Buffet breakfast** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.
- 0915 Join **Martin** in the **Observation Lounge** as he shares insights **on using photography for conservation efforts**.
- 1045 Join **Carina** in the **Observation Lounge** as she shares what goes on **behind the scenes aboard Hondius**.
- 1200 The Expedition team would like to collect the **Muck boots** and Rental equipment from Ushuaia from you on deck 3, please take a moment to clean your boots before you return them to us.
- 1230 **Buffet** lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 1500
- 1615 To be defined
- 1800 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge** for **Daily Recap**.
- 1900 **Plated** Dinner will be served in the Restaurant.
- 2045 **Antarctic Quiz!** Come to the Observation Lounge and see how much you've learned on this voyage.

- 0745 **Wake-up call!** Good morning!
- 0800 **Buffet breakfast** will be served in the **Dining Room** on Deck 4.
- 0915 Please join **KJ** in the **Observation Lounge** for a lecture about **the exploration of Antarctica**.
- 1045 Join **Ed** in the **observation lounge** for a lecture about **climbing Mount Vinson**. Antarctica's highest peak at 4,892 meters (16,050 feet), one of the Seven Summits.
- 1230 **Buffet** lunch will be served in the dining room on Deck 4.
- 1400 Join **Alexis** in the **observation lounge** for a lecture about the **Yamana** people, indigenous marine hunter-gatherers who inhabited the southernmost channels of Tierra del Fuego for thousands of years.
- 1530 Join **Valeria** in the **lecture room** for a hands-on workshop about **mate**, the traditional South American caffeinated beverage made from yerba mate leaves, deeply rooted in the social customs of Argentina.
- 1815 **Farewell Toast** and presentation of the Slideshow - Please **join Captain Jan and the expedition team** for a toast to our wonderful voyage through the rough seas of the Southern Ocean and a slideshow of our expedition to the beautiful White Continent.
- 1900 **Plated** Dinner will be served in the Restaurant.

“There must be a beginning of any great matter, but the continuing unto the end until it be thoroughly finished yields the true glory” - Francis Drake

0715 **Last Wakeup call – Good Morning!**

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.*

0730-0830 **Breakfast** will be served in the dining room.

0830-0900 **Disembarkation – Please listen for announcements.**
We will inform you once we have been cleared by local authorities.
Once clearance has been completed, we will invite you to the
gangway to disembark Hondius.

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

- 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 all at Oceanwide Expeditions and all on board Hondius we
thank you for a truly incredible expedition.
Safe travels home.***