



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

27 November 2025 – 16 December 2025

On board *m/v Plancius*



M/v *Plancius* was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was named “Hr. Ms. *Tydeman*”. The vessel was completely rebuilt as a passenger vessel in 2009 and complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea). M/v *Plancius* is 89 m long, 14.5 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5 m, ice class 1D, 10,5 knots average cruising speed and has 3 Diesel- Electric engines.



Captain Matei Mocanu (Romania)

and his international crew of 50 sailors

Chief Officer:	Nicolas Dameto	[Spain]
Second Officer:	Giovanie Simene	[Philippines]
Third Officer:	Aleks Spiridonovs	[Latvia]
Hotel Manager:	Oleksandr Lyebiedyev	[Ukraine]
Ass. Hotel Manager:	Lilianna van Meurs	[Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Sachin Naik	[India]
Sous Chef:	Norman Estrada	[Philippines]
Ships doctor:	Antoine de Winter	[Belgium]
Expedition Leader:	Ali Liddle	[UK]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Steffi Liller	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Régis Perdriat	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Paolo Bellezze	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Simon Davies	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Rustyn Mesdag	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	Brenya Green	[Canada]
Expedition Guide:	Andrew Crowder	[UK]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Thursday 27th November, Ushuaia, Embarkation Day

12h00 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S / 068°17.8'W

Wind: NW-5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Mainly sunny • Air temperature: 6°C



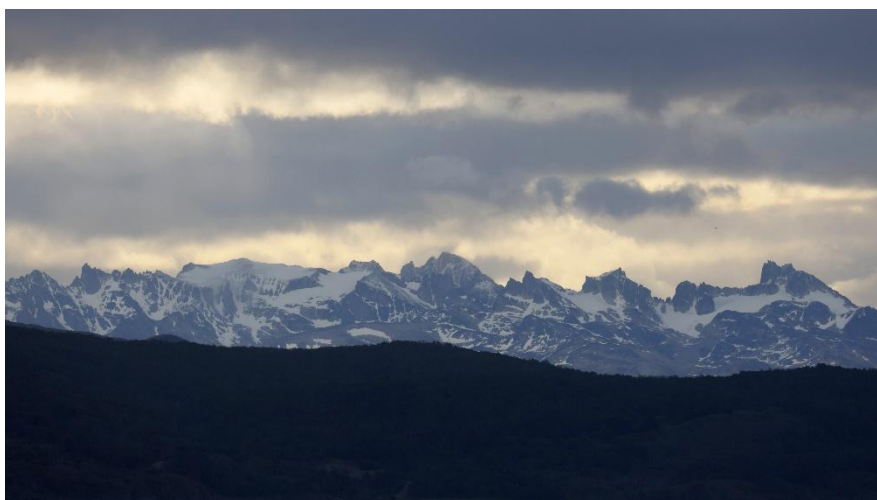
It's finally here! The day we have all been waiting for! Today we will set sail on our epic journey around the South Atlantic. At 4pm we made our way down to the port in Ushuaia and lined up to board our good ship *Plancius*. It was quite a nice sunny day although a brisk wind was sweeping across the jetty. As we

boarded the ship we checked in and were shown to our cabins where our luggage was already waiting for us. |

Once we were all aboard it was time for us to receive some important information. We were all invited to the lounge for some mandatory safety briefings and to take part in a drill of abandoning the ship. After we received our safety information, we all went to our cabins and grabbed our lifejackets and followed the crew to our assigned lifeboat. After the drill we were released to enjoy the ship leaving the dock.

After a little while we were invited again to the lounge to the "Captain's Welcome" event. We were treated to a glass of bubbles and some canapes while our captain; Captain Mattei welcomed us to the voyage and led a toast to our good travels. We then met our expedition leader Ali Liddle who in turn introduced to her expedition staff team. They were so excited to share their knowledge with us.

After the introductions Ali gave us the plan for tomorrow. The weather looks quite windy so tomorrow



may be a bumpy ride over to the Falkland Islands. We would make sure to prepare for the journey. Once the briefing was finished it was time for us to take part in the last event of the day...dinner! We all filed down to the dining room to experience our first meal onboard. The

galley team had prepared a feast for us, and we enjoyed it with much gusto with beautiful scenes of the Beagle Channel passing by along with our first taste of the wildlife that many of us had travelled here for. Black-browed Albatross and Giant Petrels flew around the ship whilst a few Magellanic Penguins were in the water. Afterwards we retired to our rooms to rest ready for tomorrow's adventures. What a great first day!

Day 2 – Friday 28th November, At sea, heading towards The Falklands

12h00 GPS Position: 53°45.1'S / 063°43.2'W

Wind: SW 5-3 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Sunny • Air temperature: 7°C

Our northbound transit toward the Falkland Islands unfolded as a classic Southern Ocean day, beginning with bright sunshine, a brisk wind and the kind of lumpy seas that remind us we are travelling through one of the world's great wild waters. As the hours passed, however, conditions steadily eased.

By late morning the wind had moderated and the swell dropped away, granting us a remarkably pleasant and stable day at sea—ideal for both wildlife viewing and the start of our lecture programme.



Wildlife was abundant from the first light. Throughout the morning, vast numbers of Sooty Shearwaters sheared low across the waves, their dark forms effortlessly riding the wind. They were accompanied by Southern Giant Petrels, impressive as always with their powerful wings and purposeful flight. Mixed flocks of Cape Petrels, Southern Fulmars, and delicate Wilson's Storm Petrels added variety to the avian spectacle, giving passengers ample opportunity to practise their seabird identification skills before our arrival at the Falklands.



After breakfast, the lecture series began with Simon, who provided an insightful preview of the birdlife we can expect when we reach the Falklands tomorrow. His talk offered a helpful overview of key species and habitats, setting the stage for many guests' first visit

to the islands. He was followed by Ali, whose long-term residence—over fifteen years—in the Falklands gave her presentation an authenticity and richness that only lived experience can provide. Her introduction covered the islands' history, culture, landscapes and wildlife, leaving guests both informed and eager for landfall.

The afternoon brought some of the most thrilling moments of the day: exceptional cetacean sightings. It began with lively groups of Peale's Dolphins and Hourglass Dolphins, their distinctive patterns clearly visible as they darted around the ship. Before long blows were spotted on the horizon, leading to close views of Fin Whales, and



shortly afterwards a Humpback Whale surfaced nearby, raising excitement levels even further. For a fortunate few on the outer decks, the highlight came when two Blue Whales appeared briefly—an extraordinary sighting and one that will no doubt be remembered for years to come.

The afternoon lecture was delivered by Andrew, who spoke about the cetaceans we may encounter during our voyage. In a moment of serendipity, his talk was repeatedly interrupted as some of the very species he described appeared right outside the ship, prompting several mass exoduses from the lounge. It was as though the wildlife had decided to participate directly in the programme.

Though cloud cover increased later in the day, it did little to dampen the enthusiastic mood on board. Passengers remained animated, sharing stories of the day's sightings and looking ahead with anticipation. With New Island on tomorrow's itinerary—one of the Falklands' most spectacular wildlife destinations—the excitement is palpable. The *Plancius* community goes to bed buzzing, grateful for an exceptional day at sea and eager for what lies ahead.

Day 3 – Saturday 29th November, New Island

12h00 GPS Position: 51°53.7'S / 061°17.2'W

Wind: NW-6 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Partly sunny • Air temperature: 7°C

We landed at New Island—our first landing in the Falklands—under clear skies and on calm, glassy water that made the approach feel almost effortless. The Zodiacs ran smoothly to the beach, where the rusting hulk of the *Protector III*, a former minesweeper, lay half-buried in the sand like a relic being slowly reclaimed by the island. Tim, who oversees and manages the island, met us at the

landing site with a warm welcome. After gathering everyone together, our expedition leader Ali delivered a concise but informative briefing, setting the stage for the morning's exploration and outlining the short hike toward the Black-browed Albatross colony.

We set off along the one-kilometre track that wound gradually upward. Almost immediately, the landscape came alive with activity. The slope above us was dotted with nesting Black-browed Albatrosses, each pair locked into steady flight circuits as they



alternated incubation duties. Their wings cut smooth arcs across the sky, and every landing seemed perfectly judged despite the gusts funnelled across the hillside. Rockhopper Penguins added their usual comedic energy to the scene, climbing determinedly over boulders and tussock grass, muttering and squabbling with one another as only rockhoppers can.



Along the shoreline below, Upland Geese and Kelp Geese grazed and loafed, their calls drifting upward on the wind. The birders in the group were quickly absorbed, identifying a rich mix of Falklands land birds. Dark-faced Ground Tyrants hopped confidently along the track, Falkland Thrushes flitted between low bushes, and

Tussockbirds flashed through the grass. Overhead, the ever-present Striated Caracaras—intelligent, opportunistic, and perpetually watchful—patrolled the skies and nearby grasslands, scanning the colonies for any chance of an easy meal.

On our descent we stopped at the restored stone building that now serves as a small museum and shop. The attention to historical detail was impressive, especially considering the challenges of maintaining such a site in a remote location. The displays were simple but effective, offering insight into the island's past and the people who once lived and worked here. It was an excellent first landing that set the tone for the journey.

During lunch the ship repositioned to North Harbour, still within New Island, giving us a new landscape to explore for the afternoon. We set out past a small freshwater lake, where the calls of Magellanic

Penguins echoed from their burrows scattered across the gentler slopes. Many birds were tucked deep in their underground chambers, their braying vocalizations rising from hidden places beneath



our feet.

Farther on we reached a Gentoo Penguin colony bustling with activity. Newly hatched chicks huddled beneath their parents for warmth and protection, tiny heads occasionally poking out for a glimpse of the world. Adults returning from offshore feeding runs marched in determined, steady lines toward the colony, their white bellies still wet from the sea. Higher up the slope, another Black-browed Albatross colony occupied the cliff edge, where adults used the funnelling wind in the gully to launch and land with remarkable precision. Turkey Vultures and Skuas circled high overhead, opportunists assessing the colonies for any signs of vulnerability.

Clear weather stayed with us throughout the afternoon, and the hours passed quickly as we watched the wildlife and absorbed the rugged beauty of New Island. We returned to the ship at the scheduled time, satisfied and already looking forward to the next day's adventures.

Day 4 – Sunday 30th November, Barren Island and George Island

12h00 GPS Position: 52°21.3'S / 059°40.8'W

Wind: W-4 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Mainly sunny • Air temperature: 8°C

We've reached the southern tip of East Falkland. From the ship, Barren Island lives up to its name—a flat, windswept landscape of sandy beaches and one prominent feature: the wide

bay called 'Useless Harbour' laid out before us. Anchored in the bay was a small work vessel, with a service boat closer to shore. These belong to Chris and Lindsay May, who own and farm both Barren and George Islands. Chris was waiting ashore, eager to guide us and share his knowledge of the land.

The approach to Barren wasn't without its challenges. Very shallow water, rocky patches hidden beneath thick kelp beds, required our guide to wade out and pull the Zodiacs in by



hand. It was slow going, but a small price to pay for setting foot in such a rarely visited place.

The island is a nesting site for Southern Giant Petrels—often called 'the vultures of the south'—and they were certainly making the most of an opportunity. A young Sei Whale had stranded in the shallows several days earlier, and we witnessed nature efficiently at work. This unexpected bounty will likely contribute to a very successful breeding season for them.

Our guides had arranged a long loop hike, taking us along the beaches, past the whale carcass, and past the Southern Giant Petrel nesting area. The birds are remarkably well camouflaged; even lying in plain sight on their nests, they were far less visible than, for example, the striking Black-browed Albatrosses perched on their pedestal nests.

Along the walk, we spotted Sea-lions, Elephant Seals, Magellanic and Gentoo Penguins, Oystercatchers, Two-banded Plovers, Ruddy-headed Geese and—thanks to the island being rat-free—an encouraging number of small passerine birds.

All in all, Barren Island does stand by its name: barren in landscape, yet incredibly rich in wildlife. The density and diversity of species here were truly impressive.

After lunch, we relocated to George Island—and what a place! White sandy beaches, brilliantly blue water, a farmhouse and outbuildings nestled right by the shore, and a beautiful, long wooden pier stretching into the bay. The entire scene looked like a postcard, impossibly photogenic. This is the home of Chris and Lindsay May, who welcomed us with open arms.

We were treated to a live demonstration of sheep shearing. Chris expertly talked us through the entire wool production process, while Lindsay, with a practised flick of the wrist, laid out what was moments before the bundled coat of a sheared sheep—perfectly flat and ready for grading. A round of applause followed; she’s clearly done this before.



Sheep farming, of course, requires herding, which is no easy task. Luckily, the Mays have a secret weapon: Meg. An experienced border collie with a taste for belly rubs and a two-time Falkland Islands Dog Trials champion, Meg proudly

showed off her skills and thoroughly loved the audience’s attention.

Adding to the cuteness overload, we had the chance to feed a group of very young, orphaned lambs. Needless to say, they were utterly charming.

George Island also offered rich birdlife. Among the highlights were sightings of the endemic Cobb’s wren and the elegant white-tufted grebe.

It’s worth noting that our visit served a purpose beyond our own recreation and entertainment. By



visiting, we directly support this local family. Oceanwide pays a fair fee for such stops, providing a much appreciated and meaningful boost to their income, helping to diversify their livelihood.

Day 5 – Monday 1st December, Stanley and then at sea

12h00 GPS Position: 51°41.3'S / 057°50.5'W

Wind: W-3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partly sunny • Air temperature: 7°C

We passed through the narrow entryway into Stanley in the early morning. Though a grey day, the weather held off for us. The Zodiacs began shuttling ashore in lively company —



Commerson's Dolphins, bright-bodied and swift, darted alongside us. They wove through the bow waves with effortless agility, giving us flashes of their striking black-and-white patterns. The dolphins greeted nearly every Zodiac in the harbour as if it were their personal duty to welcome us.

Once ashore, guests dispersed into Stanley at their own pace. The town felt peaceful and welcoming — its colourful rooftops standing bright against the subdued southern light. Some wandered along the waterfront, stopping into the small shops and cafés; others visited the cathedral and strolled through the extensive museum, absorbing the islands' complex history and quiet charm as the morning eased into early afternoon.

There was still time for more wildlife watching with Night Herons stalking the shore and family parties of Falkland Steamer Ducks dabbling in the water. This was only a side note though with visits to the famous gin distillery and the supermarket much more important in the moment. The wind by this time, had increased a little but the Zodiac ride back to the ship for lunch was still fine and relaxing despite the odd splash.

As soon as everyone was on board we set sail again, headed out of the narrow harbour entrance, out past Pembroke Head and away into the open ocean once again, bound for South Georgia. There was a good selection of wildlife to see us off with Penguins in the water, big feeding flocks of South American Terns being harassed by Brown Skuas and wheeling flocks of Sooty Shearwaters followed by Storm Petrels and Albatrosses as we headed further out away from land.

The afternoon was nice and relaxed in the pleasant conditions with the birders birding, the nappers napping and the readers reading only interrupted by Ali giving a talk about the time she spent on the Falklands. A great end to the wonderful islands we had just left, giving us time to look forward to the days at sea and eventually, South Georgia.

Day 6 – Tuesday 2nd December, At sea

12h00 GPS Position: 52°18.4'S / 051°01.6'W

Wind: NW-3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast, murky • Air temperature: 5°C

The day began under a deep grey sky, wrapped in a soft mist characteristic of these southern latitudes. As *Plancius* continued her steady course toward South Georgia, life on board settled into the gentle rhythm of a transit day: no landings today, but plenty of time to breathe, sort photos, and let the hours drift by with the swell.



In the morning, the expedition team offered a series of presentations that quickly filled the lounge with an atmosphere of eager learning. Régis opened the session with a fascinating talk on penguins, sketching vivid portraits of these remarkable swimmers and resilient polar specialists. He was followed by Steffi, who guided us into

the world of seals— their surprising behaviours, hunting strategies, and the challenges faced by the species inhabiting the sub-Antarctic seas.

After lunch, Ali took the stage to give us a first glimpse of what awaits: South Georgia. Its dramatic mountains, abundant wildlife, and rich human history captured everyone's attention. To deepen the immersion, the afternoon continued with a BBC documentary showcasing the polar regions and their extraordinary fauna—a perfect complement to the day's lectures.

Outside, for those willing to brave the cool, damp air on the aft deck, nature provided its own show. Several birds, including majestic Wandering Albatrosses, soared effortlessly through the shifting winds, accompanied by tireless petrels. It was a true delight for the dedicated birders who savoured every sighting as the mist rolled across the sea.

As evening approached, we gathered for the customary daily recap, a warm and convivial moment during which the team hinted at the plans for tomorrow. In the soft glow of the austral twilight, *Plancius* pressed calmly onward, guided by the breath of the open ocean



and the promise of a wild island rising somewhere ahead.

Day 7 – Wednesday 3rd December, At sea

12h00 GPS Position: 52°53.3'S / 044°23.2'W

Wind: NW-3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 5°C

Our second full day at sea aboard *Plancius* brought a welcome sense of steadiness as we continued our south-easterly passage toward South Georgia. The ocean, which can be



notoriously unpredictable in these waters, remained mercifully calm. There was barely a roll to the ship, allowing everyone to move about comfortably and enjoy the day's programme without the usual battles against the swell. Although the atmosphere felt peaceful, the weather itself stayed

resolutely overcast. Low, wandering curtains of mist drifted around us, swelling and thinning throughout the day, occasionally breaking into gentle drizzle. Visibility shifted constantly—sometimes opening wide enough to take in the horizon, other times closing down to a soft, grey shroud.

We made the most of the clearer spells by spending time on deck, scanning the sea and sky for wildlife. These efforts were rewarded with a pleasing variety of seabirds accompanying the vessel. Several Wandering Albatrosses—the giants of the southern oceans—glided effortlessly alongside us, their wings barely moving as they rode the contours of the air.

Light-mantled

Albatrosses

followed later, their elegant, smoky plumage always a highlight. Smaller species also made appearances: Black-bellied Storm Petrels flickered low over the water's surface, while flocks of Antarctic Prions swept past in their



characteristic bounding flight. For many onboard, these sightings marked the first real sense of entering the rich biological realm of the Subantarctic.

The primary purpose of the day, however, was more practical but critically important. Our team carried out comprehensive biosecurity checks on all guests' outer clothing, boots, and backpacks. This meticulous process—vacuuming pockets, inspecting Velcro, and removing even the smallest seeds or soil particles—ensures we transport no contaminants to the fragile ecosystems of South Georgia. With global concern heightened following recent avian influenza outbreaks, preventing the introduction of disease pathogens is more vital than ever. The patience and cooperation of everyone made the operation smooth and efficient.

Midway through the morning, our biosecurity routine came to a delightful halt. Word spread quickly across the decks: whales off the starboard side. A pair of Sei Whales passed us with swift, purposeful blows, and shortly afterward a feeding group of Humpback Whales surfaced repeatedly, their exhalations hanging in the cool air. The sight of these great animals feeding and moving around the ship added energy and excitement to the day.

After lunch, we gathered in the lounge for our afternoon lecture programme. Rustyn opened with the remarkable tale of Ernest Shackleton's Endurance expedition—his ship crushed in the Weddell Sea ice, the crew's desperate march and boat journey to Elephant Island, and the extraordinary open-boat crossing to South Georgia that followed. Paolo then offered a

sobering but fascinating overview of South Georgia's whaling era, focusing on the lives of the men who worked in brutal conditions at the island's remote stations.

As evening settled, a sense of anticipation grew throughout the ship. Tomorrow should bring our first glimpses of South Georgia's rugged coastline—and, weather permitting, our first landing on this storied island. The excitement is unmistakable.

Day 8 – Thursday 4th December, Right Whale Bay and Possession Bay

12h00 GPS Position: 54°00.3'S / 037°50.1'W

Wind: NE 5 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 4°C

We arrived at our first South Georgia destination in the morning full of anticipation, but it was clear from the outset that operations would be tricky to say the least. There was a stiff wind blowing and the sea was far from calm. The staff were trying their best with much deliberation about the swell at the gangway and then the swell with big, dumping waves on our landing beach. Two Zodiacs were launched and the staff headed deeper into the bay to check things out but as suspected, the conditions were too rough for our planned landing. It was on to plan B.



A short transit down the coast accompanied by squadrons of seabirds including huge Wandering Albatrosses and graceful Grey-headed Albatrosses led us to our next spot which was the famous Salisbury Plain in the Bay of Isles. Here, the staff didn't even have to think for long, it was clearly too rough for any operations but here, the disappointment was more keenly felt as we could all see the tens of thousands of King Penguins on the land, just out of reach. The big breaking waves all along the shore and the big, rolling swells persuaded most people that the decision was indeed the right one after all. So, plan C then.

Further transiting down the coast brought us to our final spot of the day, that of Possession Bay where, in 1775 Captain Cook landed for the first time and claimed this new land for Britain. This was obviously more promising, the very sheltered bay was almost immediately calm, and we could see that this was the place! Zodiacs were lowered and we made our way across for our first landing in South Georgia at the third attempt.



This site wasn't a huge King Penguin colony, but the small group of moulting adults were well photographed. It was though, a fine place to get up close and personal with the wonderful Antarctic Fur Seals for the first time. We were nervous at first with

the males often bluff charging at us, making all kinds of grunting and roaring sounds to try and intimidate us but it didn't take long to be won over by their constant antics, cute pups and fascinating behaviours. This certainly became a theme of every landing on this amazing



island, and we soon began to read their intentions, mainly whether any evasive action was needed on our part or whether it was just boys being boys.

It was definitely a rollercoaster day of emotions, bitter disappointment that we couldn't land initially but then relief and joy that the team kept trying and eventually pulled off a fine first

landing in tricky conditions. A true day of expedition and with a favourable forecast for the next few days, just the start!

Day 9 – Friday 5th December, Hercules Bay, Fortuna Bay and Grytviken

12h00 GPS Position: 54°08.8'S / 036°48.4'W

Wind: NE 2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: 4°C

Today was a 'make the most of what we have' day. Our Expedition Leader encouraged an early start with a beautiful morning cruise into Hercules Bay before breakfast. Conditions were not ideal. The sea, though calm with hardly a ripple from the wind, carried a long swell that made boarding and disembarking the Zodiacs at the gangway challenging. Our Captain skilfully manoeuvred in a tight space, getting us as far into the bay as safely possible—a masterful display of seamanship!



Hercules is a small, rocky bay with steep cliffs on all sides, floating banks of Giant Kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*), and a waterfall over a pebbly beach at the far end. The beach was full of Elephant Seals, Fur Seals, and even a small flock of King Penguins. The highlight, however, was its resident Macaroni Penguins! The birds were nesting on the steep slopes amongst the tussock grass.



After this breath of fresh air, we headed back onboard just in time for coffee and breakfast by 08:00. Next destination: Fortuna Bay. The bay came into view—a large, wide-open bay with low clouds hiding the mountain tops and patchy snow showers. We

could see an abundance of wildlife on the beach from the ship.

The Expedition Team set up the landing, and we had our first experience interacting with feisty Fur Seals! Having fought over beach patches and females to build their harems only a couple of weeks earlier, they remain very territorial. A long walk was set up past Elephant Seals, King Penguins, Skuas, Southern Giant Petrels, and through beautiful scenery. Some of us were lost in thought, reflecting that Ernest Shackleton had walked this very beach on his final march towards Stromness and salvation.

As we headed up the valley, we found a large colony of King Penguins—a rookery of approximately 20,000 breeding pairs. This special moment gave us enough time and space to find our own private moment



to take it all in. We are truly starting to feel the South Georgia experience; this place is unlike anywhere we have visited before. We Zodiac'd back to the ship for yet another tasty lunch—does this chef ever get it wrong?

Next destination... Grytviken. It was time for our highly anticipated biosecurity inspection. We had cleaned our clothes and outer layers in fine detail: vacuuming pockets of any crumbs, checking for alien seeds hiding in our backpacks, brushing Velcro to remove stray threads, and rinsing our boots and gear with biocide. We were ready! Unsurprisingly, we passed the inspection with flying colours—a perfect 100% score. Well done, everyone!



Now cleared to land in Grytviken, we received a brief introduction from the ladies running the museum before landing by the cemetery. We walked straight to visit Shackleton's grave. This legendary figure found his fitting resting place in South Georgia, buried here alongside his right-hand man, Frank Wild. We toasted his memory with a 'wee dram' of Shackleton's whisky and then walked to the museum.

Grytviken is an old whaling station—not just any station, but the first established in South Georgia and the last to close. Here, we find the full spectrum of whaling history, along with a museum, post office, and gift shop. The setting is stunning, and we were given a comprehensive tour of the historic station.

Back on board it was time for the BBQ! Out on the back deck there was an incredible selection of meats and salads and with warming drinks and some beers it was a great party atmosphere. Crew (Maria) and staff led some dancing on the deck and everyone joined in for a lots of fun quite late into the night!

Day 10 – Saturday 6th December, St. Andrews Bay and Godthul

12h00 GPS Position: 54°26.3'S / 036°10.1'W

Wind: NW-2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partly Cloudy • Air temperature: 5°C

There are few places left in the world where we humans feel like a minority. St. Andrews Bay is one of them. This spectacular, immense bay opens onto plains that stretch inland towards beautiful glaciers and snowy mountains. From our landing site, the view was hidden by the irregular, high ground of a grass-covered terminal moraine, concealing something truly



spectacular.

We walked from marker pole to marker pole across the plains, dotted evenly with lounging fur seals. Crossing two shallow rivers, we noticed the soundscape beginning to change. The constant wind noise transformed into a more recognizable sound: screeching. Penguins.

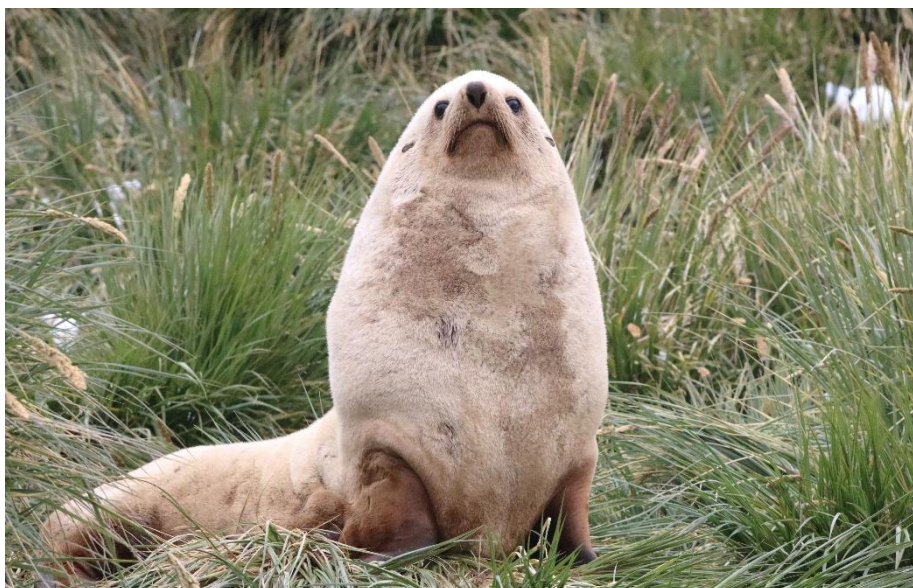
The noise grew louder and louder as we trekked up and down the moraine. Finally, we approached the last hillock. With the sound reaching a crescendo, we took the final few steps over the crest—and boom!

Beneath us lay the world's largest colony of king penguins, an estimated 250,000 breeding pairs. Penguins stretched literally as far as the eye could see. It was stunning.

Impossible not to be struck by the sheer scale of the colony—the deafening noise, the potent smell, the bursts of colour. Everything about it was unforgettable.



This place is home for the southernmost colony of sub-Antarctic Rhinos. They feed on pain au chocolate still available from a grounded, French whaling factory ship. Capt Perdriat lost his way mesmerized by a South Georgia Pipit. Walking further inland towards a glacial lake, we found hauled-out Elephant Seals and a fantastic panoramic view of the Buxton, Heaney, and Cook Glaciers. The area was also alive with skuas, nesting densely and tending to their



very cute chicks amidst the penguin metropolis.

All too soon, it was time to head back to the ship for our next stop: Godthul. Godthul, the former site for the Thor & Dhal whale factory ship, is a place where history

whispers from the shore. Artifacts and bleached skeletons serve as stark reminders of the past. On the landing beach, fur seals were abundant, including a beautiful and rare blonde bull who unquestionably won the prize for 'most photographed.'

A group of walkers headed up the hill past Aviemore Lake for the panoramic view, while others stayed on the beach. Two Zodiacs were arranged for a cruise around the bay—a site that keeps on giving. The cruisers hugged the coastline, venturing into little inlets and rocky shores to photograph sleepy fur seals against the most breathtaking backdrops. We all had a wonderful day, one that will stay with us forever.



Day 11 – Sunday 7th December, Gold Harbour, Cooper Bay and at sea

12h00 GPS Position: 54°47.9'S / 036°02.8'W

Wind: W-3 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Snow • Air temperature: 3°C

We arrived at Gold Harbour in the wee hours of the morning, around 05:00, with a fresh dusting of snow blanketing the ships outer decks. The team launched the Zodiacs, and guests rode ashore in a sleepy silence with mountains and glaciers only faintly visible behind the snowy veil. As we approached the beach, the view of our landing site was revealed – King and Gentoo Penguins, Elephant and Fur Seals all seemingly enjoying the particularly brisk summer snowstorm. The snow began to fall heavier as guests explored the colony



watching the steady bustle of the King Penguins, the brown fluffy chicks coated in snow, listening to the ever-funny snorts and sneezes of the elephant seals and playful wieners. After a few unforgettable hours in this rare wintry version of Gold Harbour, we returned to the warmth of *Plancius*, cold but exhilarated, carrying the memory of a South Georgia morning few ever experience.



During breakfast, Captain repositioned the ship to our next destination, Cooper Bay. We arrived in the wavy harbour with minimal protection as the winds blew nearly 25 knots. After dropping the ships anchor, it became

clear that the gangway would be a challenge with the swell, dropping and rising nearly a metre. As the ship settled into its anchoring position, the Zodiacs were dropped and the Expedition Team, hopeful, attempted the mission anyway. After the first few Zodiacs were manned, it was obvious that it would not be possible to continue, and the Zodiacs were quickly reattached to the vessels crane and brought back aboard to safety. Unfortunately, our time in Cooper Bay would not be.

But our time in South Georgia was not quite finished, with a quick pivot, we repositioned into the Drygalski Fjord – named after professor Erich von Drygalski, a pioneering German geographer and glaciologist. Captain slowly navigated the ~14 kilometres fjord



as we enjoyed the multiple glaciers, few Weddell Seals on the shoreline rocks, and steep, rising mountains from the bow and outer decks as the sun began to show itself. As we exited the fjord, we waved a final farewell to South Georgia.

Day 12 – Monday 8th December, at sea

12h00 GPS Position: 56°03.1'S / 042°10.6'W

Wind: NW-2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 3°C

The day started full of promise with wonderfully calm seas that initially were full of birds to keep everyone entertained with an increasing flock of Cape Petrels following the ship along with good numbers of Antarctic Prions, Blue Petrels and Wilson's Petrels with the occasional goliath Wandering Albatross gliding past – perhaps the only ones that were not impressed by the calm conditions (flying is such hard work when there's little wind for you to ride!).



The day though took an unexpected and disappointing turn when Ali called us all to the lounge for an impromptu meeting the news was, as feared, not

good, due to technical issues in the engine room, our little Plancius was not running at full speed or full power and we were unable to reach Antarctica and then get back to Ushuaia on time. With the ice conditions and weather adding to the problems it would not be safe or sensible for us to continue with the scheduled itinerary and the decision had been made to change course and head back to Ushuaia.



The news was difficult to take but it was out of our hands now and we had to make the best of the situation, take stock and work out how this affected us all

individually. Ali kept us all informed and updated us as soon as she had any new information but in the mean time Andrew gave a lecture about the Whales of the Southern Ocean – perhaps even more important now we had many days at sea ahead of us on our way back to South America.

The rest of the day was spent planning our next moves with regular updates on the situation making us feel better while Rustyn gave some more Shackleton stories and some inspiring wildlife documentaries were shown.

There was plenty to look out for on the sea as well with a steady stream of birds around the ship including the scarce Kerguelen Petrels picked out in amongst the masses of Prions, Diving-Petrels and Storm Petrels. Some good cetacean sightings also kept us busy with some Fin Whales and new for the trip, some Southern Bottlenose Whales adding excitement.

Day 13 – Tuesday 9th December, at sea

12h00 GPS Position: 55°48.6'S / 049°66.4'W

Wind: N-4 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Sunny • Air temperature: 6°C

The day dawned with a real rarity – bright, glorious sunshine, a commodity we have been severely lacking on this trip, especially during our time in South Georgia. Anyway, it was a wonderful morning with calm seas and the aforementioned sunshine, the obvious wildlife highlight were the clouds of Slender-billed Prions which whizzed around the ship in a spectacular blizzard which, despite there numbers still frustrated photographers with the speed and jinking flight patterns.



We were all now acclimatised to our new normal of being out at sea, far from land, thinking about our changed, future plans but we had a full day ahead to take our minds off these little problems. First up was a lecture from Steffi detailing the fascinating and vital world of sea ice and its place in our changing world, closely followed by Ali who talked about the women who visited these remote southern regions and left their indelible mark on the wider world in this traditionally male dominated environment.

After another great lunch it was straight into [possibly] the days highlight of the much anticipated, polar plunge. A very different event than usual due to our circumstances but the crew were nothing if not adaptable and creative by filling a spare Zodiac with seawater on the back deck to form a makeshift swimming pool for a delighted stream of people to dive dramatically into the cold waters of the Southern Ocean. The sea had picked up by this point so the sloshing around added to the surreal sight of this once in a lifetime spectacle. As soon as the participants jumped out they were handed a towel and a hot chocolate with rum and cream (not necessarily in that order) to add to the party mood.

The action didn't stop there with Rustyn then talking about some wonderful and sometimes random tales of the sea before another highlight which consisted of an auction in aid of South Georgia Heritage Trust. Some unique items were enthusiastically bid upon ranging from some hand drawn wildlife sketches by Regis to some Shackleton Whisky with the bottle signed by the Expedition Leader on the mission to find the wreck of The Endurance, Shackleton's doomed ship under the ice. A fabulous total of £1734 was raised for this worthwhile charity, now close to our hearts.

Day 14 – Wednesday 10th December, at sea

12h00 GPS Position: 55°34.3'S / 055°18.3'W

Wind: N-6 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Sunny • Air temperature: 5°C

After a bumpy night the sea had calmed down by the morning but there was still a strong headwind attacking the ship forcing the birders to take shelter at the back. It was bright and sunny though and a nice selection of Albatrosses were around first thing including Snowy, Southern Royal, Black-browed, Grey-headed and Light-mantled.



The morning lecture today was Andrew talking about the importance of wildlife photography both in terms of our enjoyment and the valuable data and discoveries that can lead on from an interesting picture. This was closely followed by Brenya talking about the psychology of darkness, full of stories about polar explorers braving the elements and possibly losing their minds in the process.

After lunch, our fantastic head chef, Sachin gave a very well attended talk in the dining room, detailing his and the rest of the galley teams roles and the tips, tricks and strategies which he employs to ensure that a full ship of passengers and crew are well-fed and happy. This was followed by the housekeeping staff giving an excellent demonstration in towel folding, creating an array of shapes and animals to spice up the bedroom.

A documentary on the Arctic Ocean transported us to the other end of the earth in the afternoon and a fun movie night after dinner was complete with piles of popcorn.

The sea had calmed down by this point and it was a stunning afternoon and evening, with bright sunshine and light winds. Whale blows could be seen



on the horizon but unfortunately didn't come very close but the occasional Albatross, Prion and Petrel popped up out of the vast ocean, did a lap of the ship and headed off again to parts unknown.

Day 15 – Thursday 11th December, at sea

12h00 GPS Position: 55°17.8'S / 061°53.6'W

Wind: N 7-4 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Sunny • Air temperature: 6°C

Another day at sea, sailing slowly towards Ushuaia. Today we had a real mix of weather conditions, giving us time to see the Southern Ocean in a range of guises; first thing it was overcast and rough with a fair bit of movement from where it gradually calmed down becoming very pleasant with bright blue skies and a slight sea state. Later, it clouded over again with some annoying spells of drizzle, but we took it all in our stride as always.

This morning's first lecture was Regis, who detailed his year spent on the French subantarctic islands of Kerguelen, studying the myriad of seabirds present and surviving on these incredibly remote outposts. This was followed by Steffi who recounted her time competing in gas balloon competitions all around Europe, a very different range of skills to guiding on ships in the polar regions.

As everyday, there were sharp-eyed observers out on deck seeing what flew past the ship and today they were rewarded with a fine Northern Royal Albatross which did a few circuits

of the ship before disappearing into the blue – never as common as its Southern Royal counterpart, it's always a treat when one shows up.

The afternoon highlight was a pub quiz in the lounge, the teams gathered to answer questions relating to our voyage to see if they really were paying attention while the staff were giving lectures and giving stories and explanations when we were off the ship. This was all very well but the



photo round which consisted of baby photos of the staff was the obvious highlight and the round which caused the most hilarity.

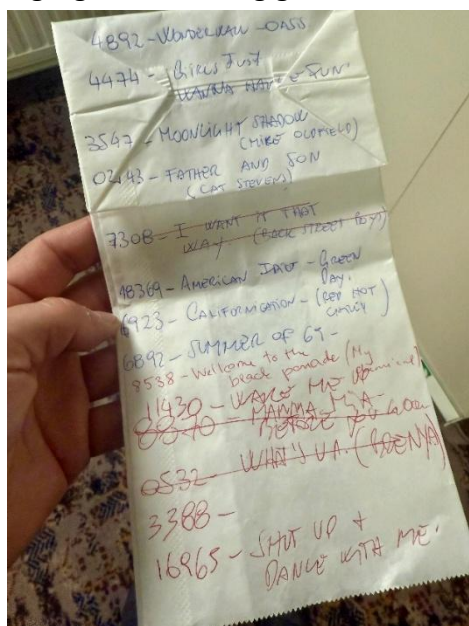
Late afternoon, as always saw the latest offering by Sir David Attenborough as he described the hardships endured by the wildlife who call this area home. The evening entertainment then comprised a spirited game of guess who in the lounge.

Day 16 – Friday 12th December, at sea

12h00 GPS Position: 55°07.1'S / 066°02.8'W

Wind: NW 3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Sunny • Air temperature: 7°C

A gorgeous morning greeted us as we awoke in sight of the South American mainland, bright



sunshine and light winds illuminated the Argentinian coast ahead of the ship. There was an interesting selection of birds around the ship before breakfast with a Subantarctic Shearwater and most bizarrely a Least Seedsnipe which circled the ship the highlights – the latter a species of upland wader which should have been breeding up a Patagonian mountain rather than circling a ship off the coast!

After breakfast the team collected our Muck Boots, a sure sign the trip is coming to an end, before Rustyn gave a presentation on pirates, something fortunately we didn't encounter on this voyage but also very different from the typical Hollywood representation. Then it was back on deck to bask in some welcome sunshine and recharge in time for a mini-presentation

by Regis and Rustyn again with some ideas for things to do in Ushuaia and a bit further away at Torres del Paine National Park in Chile – with some unpredicted extra time on some folk's hands, it might be just the thing.

A group photo on the outer deck after lunch got everyone in a happy mood, perfect for the boisterous continuation of the treasure hunt that was initiated this morning (results tomorrow) and the putting up of Plancius Christmas decorations in the lounge, some might say a bit too early, but it was a fun afternoon enjoyed by some of the passengers.

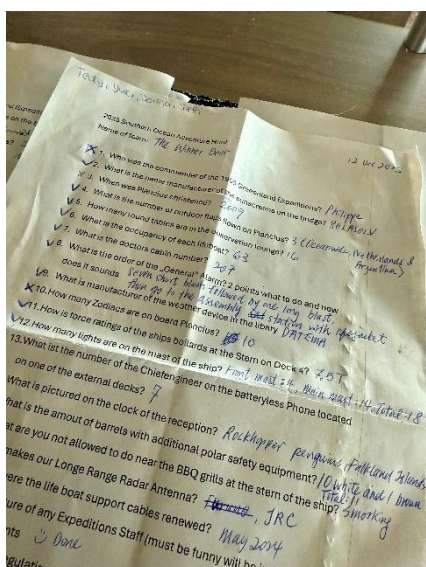
The now traditional late afternoon documentary went on as usual before the showing of the trip slideshow consisting of a range of photos taken by the staff over the course of this voyage, expertly put together with some music by Brenya – always a tear-jerker as we look back on some of the amazing sights we have witnessed over the last couple of weeks. At the same time The Falklands seems like a lifetime ago and yet only two weeks have passed. An after-dinner karaoke session which had to be seen (and heard) to be believed took pride of place in the impromptu series of entertainment put together over our days at sea. We had to pass the time somehow whilst waiting in the Beagle Channel for the pilot to take us to the jetty!

Day 17 – Saturday 13th December, Beagle Channel and Ushuaia

12h00 GPS Position: 55°19.1'S / 066°40.8'W

Wind: NW 6 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 6°C

It was a rough and choppy start to our [final] day on board but we were still in the shelter of the Beagle Channel so it could have been a lot worse! The main difference was that although it was still blowing a steady 30 knots of wind, our sheltered position meant there was no swell to throw us about.



The morning's presentation was Andrew giving a light-hearted but invaluable guide to the world of birders. Their behaviours and terminology have baffled many of the 'non birders' over the course of this adventure but Andrew went some way to explaining their, sometimes bizarre antics!

This was followed by the results of yesterday's adventure hunt with [some might say inevitably] many of the answers cheerfully and occasionally forcibly challenged but Steffi, as the quiz master had the final say and that was that!

The videos and songs that they had to produce as part of the game were the obvious highlights.

We finally picked up the pilot in the Beagle Channel at lunchtime, as Argentinian maritime rules say each ship has to be guided into the port of Ushuaia, for the final leg of this, seemingly epic, sea-journey from South Georgia all those days ago!

The afternoon was spent longing for the touch of dry land, just ahead of us in Ushuaia but we were effectively distracted by Dolphins and Sei Whales in the Beagle Channel and the last few Black-browed Albatrosses of the trip. We headed east towards town and the traditional Captain's farewell and a final glass of bubbles.

Day 18 – Sunday 14th December, Ushuaia, Disembarkation Day

12h00 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S / 068°17.8'W

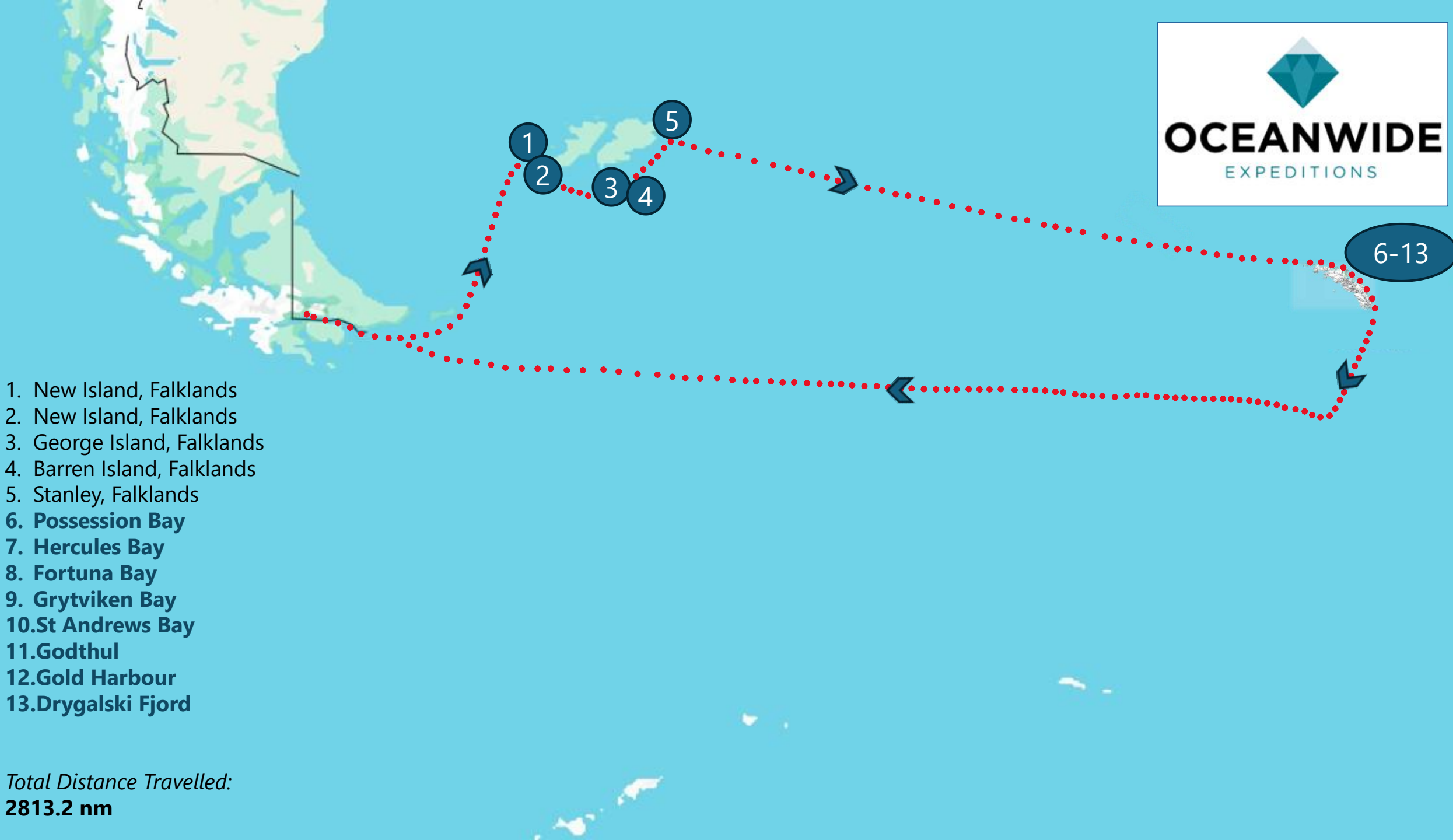
Wind: NW-5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Mainly sunny • Air temperature: 6°C

This morning Ali woke us up one last time with her soft and soothing voice. We will surely miss her waking us up. We opened our eyes and realised the ship was no longer moving and when we looked outside, we saw we were actually back in Ushuaia, it wasn't a dream! We made our way to the breakfast restaurant once more and while eating we already started saying our goodbyes to the lovely stewards who had been so good and friendly to us. In the meantime the expedition team had carried out our luggage and then *unfortunately* Alex announced the ship had been cleared by the authorities and that the buses had arrived.

We said goodbye to our fellow passengers who had become our friends and with whom we had shared this unforgettable adventure. The expedition team was there as well, and we were sad to have to say goodbye to them too. But with firm hugs and big smiles we parted ways while we looked back to our beautiful *Plancius* one more time. Our expedition had been amazing, and we would never forget this great adventure!



On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, the Captain, Crew and Expedition staff we would like to thank you for a wonderful time, it has been a pleasure sailing with you.



Total Distance Travelled:
2813.2 nm

- 1

New Island
Landing Nov 29, 2025
- 2

North Island
Landing Nov 29, 2025
- 3

George Island
Landing Nov 30, 2025
- 4

Barren Island
Landing Nov 30, 2025
- 5

Stanley
Landing Dec 1, 2025



- 
- 6 **Possession Bay**
Landing 04/12/2024
- 7 **Hercules Bay**
Zodiac Cruise 05/12/2024
- 8 **Fortuna Bay**
Landing 05/12/2024
- 9 **Grytviken Bay**
Landing 05/12/2024
- 10 **St Andrews Bay**
Landing 06/12/2024
- 11 **Godthul**
Landing 06/12/2024
- 12 **Gold Harbour**
Landing 06/12/2024
- 13 **Drygalski Fjord**
Landing 06/12/2024

Bird Island
Station

Prince Olav
Harbour

Stromness

South
Georgia and
the South
Sandwich
Islands

Ocean
Harbour

12

13

Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region including Falkland Islands and South Georgia

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	10-Dec	11-Dec	12-Dec	13-Dec	14-Dec
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>																		
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>							X	X	X	X	X	X						
Ad�lie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis ad�lie</i>																		
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>			X	X				X	X	X	X							
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>											X							
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>			X			X					X	X			X			
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	X	X	X	X	X											X	X	
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		X				X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X			
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>														X	X			
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		X		X										X	X	X		
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Grey-headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>					X			X	X		X		X	X	X	X		
Light-mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>						X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X				
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>								X	X	X	X	X		X				
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	X	X	X		X											X	X	
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>																		
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>								X		X	X	X						
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>						X		X			X	X	X					
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Soft Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>						X							X	X				
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>						X												
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>																X		
Subantarctic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus elegans</i>																X		
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		X	X	X	X	X							X	X	X	X	X	
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>															X	X		

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Ali Liddle – Expedition Leader



Originally from the UK, Ali spent 15 years living in the Falkland Islands where she worked as a Primary school teacher both teaching out in 'camp' and at the school in Stanley.

Latterly, she was employed as Education Officer for Falklands Conservation and shared her time between classroom teaching and conservation. In 1997, she spent 9 months living on South Georgia where she ran the Post Office and took every opportunity to hike, ski and explore the surrounding peaks and coastline.

She has published three books to date: *Plants of the Falkland Islands* and two art and craft books for children using penguins and albatross as the inspiration. Ali is a keen runner, having completed three marathons in the Falkland Islands and two in the UK, and she also enjoys cycling, hiking and camping. Ali has been working on Antarctic and Arctic expedition cruises with Oceanwide for more years than she cares to remember and works on all of the Oceanwide vessels at some point during the year. She has recently relocated from Northumberland to the Isle of Skye where she is renovating a cottage and enjoying the hiking opportunities of the island.

Her particular interest is natural history and the wildlife, and she enjoys sharing her knowledge of and passion for the polar regions.

Andrew Crowder – Expedition Guide



Andrew is an experienced naturalist with a life long history of observation, study and sheer enjoyment of wildlife. His interest in natural history started as a young boy watching birds and they remain his first passion. Focusing mainly on Western Palearctic species, he has travelled extensively and accrued a wealth of knowledge. As part of that journey of discovery, he has also developed self-taught skills in wildlife photography.

Andrew has always been drawn to the sea and is a CMAS Class 2/BSAC qualified Advanced Scuba Diver; he has had the privilege of experiencing incredible marine life which few others get to see. Time spent exploring the underwater world helped spawn his other main interest: cetaceans. Andrew has over twenty years of experience with these amazing animals, undertaking scientific surveys and guiding on cruise ships in UK, European and Polar waters.

Andrew recognizes the powerful emotional reaction in humans when they have amazing wildlife encounters. He uses his knowledge and enthusiasm to help more people share such inspirational experiences and thereby promote the conservation of our precious natural world.

Antoine de Winter – Ships Doctor



Dr. Antoine De Winter is a Belgian physician with extensive experience in emergency and remote medicine. He has practiced in diverse environments, including Mayotte, French Guiana, Martinique, and Brussels, providing medical care in both hospital and isolated settings.

Combining clinical precision with adaptability, he is particularly interested in expedition and wilderness medicine, where medical skills meet the challenges of autonomy and the environment.

Outside his medical work, Antoine is also a visual artist and photographer,

exploring the relationship between the human body, landscape, and perception through alternative photographic processes.

He speaks French, English, and Spanish, and enjoys hiking, diving, and exploring remote natural areas.

Brenya Green – Expedition Guide



Brenya grew up in a small town along the Grand River in Southern Ontario, Canada. After relocating to Toronto to pursue a career in Social Work, her journey took an unexpected turn into the world of expedition ships and has been in the industry since 2016.

Her primary focus over the years has been the polar regions, Canadian Arctic, Greenland, and Antarctica, but she has also worked in Scotland, Iceland, Seychelles, and Madagascar and has often found herself spending more time at sea than on land. Through the years, she has filled many different roles from

office leadership to field guide.

When she's not on board, Brenya is focused on building her off-grid cabin located in Washington State.

Paolo Bellezze – Expedition Guide



Born in Argentina (Dec 80') and raised in Italy, Paolo finally moved to Scotland where he settled in 2006. Nowadays, when not at sea, he splits his time between Argentina and Scotland.

Before expedition cruises Paolo spent 12 years working shoreside in merchant shipping. He was a Product Manager for a Norwegian company developing Voyage Planning and Marine Weather Forecasting Systems for merchant ships.

He also started Paragliding at the age of 14 and has been very involved in the sport as a school owner instructing both beginners and advanced courses for over 20 years. When not paragliding, Paolo likes to sea kayak and he mixes Field Guide with Kayak Guide roles onboard.

In 2021 he started working full time in expedition cruises, since then he has guide in several expeditions such as Antarctica, South Georgia, Falklands, Greenland West coast, Greenland East coast, Iceland, Faroes Islands and British Isles.

Aside from sea kayaking and flying he is into hiking, motorbikes and spending time with friends. He is passionate about polar regions and sharing the experience with our guests.

“Happiness is only real when shared” (Chris McCandless)

Languages: English, Spanish, Italian.

Regis Perdriat – Expedition Guide



Regis has always been passionate about nature and wildlife conservation.

After a master's degree in Ecology, he first specialized in seabird rehabilitation after oil spills for BirdLife France. Then he joined the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, studying endangered species.

In Brittany he worked seven years for the Sept-Iles National Nature Reserve, driving zodiac, counting seabirds and seals in this wild and protected archipelago.

His polar experiences go as far back as 2007, when he spent 15 months working as a field researcher studying the seabirds and marine mammals of the remote Kerguelen Islands, a French subantarctic territory.

In love with those isolated environments he carried out several fieldwork missions in subantarctic islands. He finally joined the management team of French Southern and Antarctic Lands and became Head of the Southern Lands National Nature Reserve.

He now proposes his experience as a freelance biologist for scientific expeditions and share his passion for birds as often as he can. His last expeditions took him to North-East Greenland, Central Asia or Antarctic Peninsula.

Looking for him? Try outside, you should find him and his binoculars searching for birds or whales.

Rustyn Mesdag – Expedition Guide



Rustyn Mesdag was born in Seattle, Washington. He was working as an alpine guide, when in 2004 he relocated to Chilean Patagonia where he started a guide service outside of Torres del Paine National Park, specializing in long distance treks and big wall climbing.

For 25 years he has been leading climbers, travelers and trekkers through the most extreme terrains around the world. Aside from the guide service, he moonlighted as a travel writer, published an English speaking travelers newspaper in Patagonia, operated equipment centers & immigrated between four countries.

Always looking for the next adventure, Rustyn still finds himself working around the world, in such places as South America, Antarctica, Canada, Greenland, Svalbard, Iceland, the Amazon and East Africa - helping others explore. Rustyn speaks English, Dutch and Spanish and is more than happy to sit and spend time discussing world travels, off-grid living, alpine climbing and the in's & out's of cold weather equipment management.

Simon Davies – Expedition Guide



Simon is a life-long birder and naturalist and after achieving a Masters degree in Ecology focusing on seabirds he has undertaken a broad range of wildlife related contracts around the world.

His career has predominantly been focused on birds (with the only notable 'blip' coming during a year researching Meerkats in South Africa) during which his focus has ranged from research to conservation to guiding and much in between. Most recently he has been working in Scotland and Sweden studying both breeding birds and migratory species through

ringing/banding, a wide range of surveys and other tracking methods.

He is an experienced guide, having led bird and wildlife tours in Australia and many tours, walks and talks in his native UK, enthusiastic about sharing the wide range of seabirds in the colonies he loves.

Among the recent studies he has participated in has included putting geolocators on Black Guillemots in Scotland to find out where they are foraging, fixing satellite transmitters on migratory wading birds in Australia to track their movements as they move up and down the East Asia flyway and affixing geolocators on Great Reed Warblers in Sweden to work out migratory routes.

A large part of his recent work has also been training others in bird ringing/banding and surveying, hopefully inspiring others to a career in research or conservation.

The vast majority of his spare time is also spent birding and wildlife watching and he has undertaken many trips around the world including Australia, Europe, India, Venezuela and the USA, always chasing the next bird!

Stefanie Liller – Asst. Exp. Leader



Steffi Liller was born in Offenbach, Germany in 1978. After completing her apprenticeship as a biology lab technician at the Paul-Ehrlich Institute in Langen, Germany, she earned a degree in Biology and Meteorology at the Universities of Darmstadt and Freiburg in Germany. Alongside her studies and her love of nature, Stefanie developed an interest in and a passion for skydiving. This eventually changed from being a hobby to her profession. While working at drop-zones and indoor skydiving facilities throughout central Europe, Stefanie enjoyed sharing her passion for the sport with other people.

A large part of her career was spent as a coach. It was always very important to her to make her own skills available to people curious and interested, and to look after their safety and lasting enjoyment in the sport. Starting in 2011 she managed several indoor skydiving facilities in Germany and Austria. In addition to her professional career, Stefanie is an avid world-traveller by foot or public transport. While exploring various landscapes and communities on all seven continents, she enjoys sharing her experiences and unique moments with others. Since 2017 Stefanie has been working as an independent coach in skydiving and indoor skydiving and guide or lector on several vessels in remote areas. Stefanie has chosen Vienna, Austria as her home base, and lives there in between trips.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica Ushuaia

Embarkation

Thursday 27th November 2025

- 1600 **Welcome on board!** Your luggage should be in your cabin when you arrive. Please check carefully if you are missing any luggage and if there is luggage in your cabin that does not belong to you then please let one of the staff know. Please feel free to explore the ship.
Tea and coffee are available in the Lounge on Deck 5.
- >1700 **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Instruction** in the Lounge. **ALL PASSENGERS** are required to participate in this very important instruction.
- 1800 Departure from the pier.
- 1845 Please join us in the Lounge for an **introduction to the ship** from your Hotel Manager Alex.
This will be followed by **Captain's Cocktails**, a chance to meet your Captain, Matei Mocanu and then you will meet with your Expedition Leader Ali Liddle. She will explain the plans for the coming days, and it will be a chance to meet with your Expedition Team.
- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk. Enjoy your meal.
- 2030 After dinner we will hand out your rubber boots. We will call you by deck so please listen for announcements.

Tonight we will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Please make sure that all your valuables (cameras, computers, etc.) are properly stowed in your cabin to avoid accidents. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to the Falkland Islands

Friday 28th November 2025

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Birds of the Falklands.** The Falkland Islands are home to many species of birds, including some endemic species. Please join Simon in the Lounge to learn more.
- 1100 **The Falkland Islands.** Your Expedition Leader, Ali lived in the Falklands for 15 years so please join her in the Lounge for a presentation about the islands.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1530 **Small Cetaceans of the South Atlantic.** We hope to see some whales and dolphins during this trip so if you would like to learn more about the species we might see please join Andrew in the Lounge.
- 1800 **Zodiac Briefing and Recap.** This is a mandatory briefing for all guests so please join the expedition team in the Lounge. You will hear about our plans for tomorrow in the Falkland Islands.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the Reception desk. Enjoy your meal.

We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica New Island

Saturday 29th November 2025

- 0700 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- ~0830 **New Island Settlement.** This morning we hope to take you ashore at the settlement landing at New Island. At the landing site there is a small museum where you can buy locally made souvenirs. Cards payment, Apple Pay, Google Pay, Cash in £, Euro and \$.
From here you can walk up the hill to the Black browed albatross colony where you will also see Rockhopper penguins. The walk is around 1km. The scenery is beautiful on the way.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- ~1400 **New Island North.** In the afternoon we hope to land at North Harbour where there are large colonies of Gentoo penguins and Magellanic penguins. We hope to be able to walk over to the northern sand beach where the Gentoo penguins come ashore. This is a 1.5 km walk from the landing site.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for the re-cap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Barren and George Island

Sunday 30th November 2025

- 0700 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- ~0830 **Barren Island.** This morning we hope to take you ashore at the Barren Island. On shore there are Gentoo penguins and Magellanic penguins. We will offer a walk to see the Giant Petrel colony and hope to find some Southern sea lions on shore. Please follow any poles and listen to the advice of the guides.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- ~1400 **George Island.** In the afternoon we hope to land at George Island where there will be an opportunity to free roam and explore the area around the settlement and meet the island owners, Chris and Lindsey who will demonstrate shearing and sheep work on their farm.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for the re-cap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Stanley

Monday 1st December 2025

0700 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

At this time we will be navigating through The Narrows so it is worth being out on deck to enjoy the approach to Stanley.

0730 Breakfast buffet is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0830 **Stanley.** We hope to be able to take you ashore in Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. We will land at the jetty which is close to the centre of town. Maps and other information leaflets are available in the Jetty Centre.

Enjoy a visit to the museum and a walk along the sea front where you will find the shops and Post Office.

Local currency is Pounds Sterling but you can use Euros and Dollars in most shops. Debit and Credit cards are also accepted.

WiFi internet cards can be bought at the Jetty Centre and used at WiFi hotspots in town.

1300 Lunch is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

1530 Island Isolation! Escaping Covid. Ali spent much of the covid pandemic on Sea Lion Island, one of the remote islands in the Falklands. Please join her in the Lounge to hear some more stories of island life.

1815 Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow. Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for the re-cap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 Plated dinner is available in the Dining Room.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to South Georgia

Tuesday 2nd December 2025

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Penguins.** We have seen three species of penguins so far on this voyage; Magellanic, Gentoo and Rockhopper. If you would like to learn more about these penguins and the species we are going to see then please join Regis in the Lounge.
- 1100 **Seals.** We have already seen some seals in the Falkland Islands but if you would like to learn more about these marine mammals then please join Steffi in the Lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Introduction to South Georgia.** Please join Ali in the Lounge for an introduction to the island of South Georgia, including aspects of history, the economy and the wildlife.
- 1630 **Documentary.** We will screen a documentary in the lounge.
- 1830 **Re-cap.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to South Georgia
Wednesday 3rd December 2025

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **South Georgia Briefing and Bio-security.** These are mandatory briefings that everyone must attend.
After this there will be a Training Drill for the crew.
- 1045 **Bio-security.** Cleaning sessions in the Lounge. We will call you by deck to clean your outer gear – jackets, over trousers, back packs and camera bags. You will need to sign a declaration form after you have done your cleaning. Many thanks.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- Presentations to be announced during the afternoon.
- Sir Ernest Shackleton. Endurance Expedition.** Please join Rustyn in the Lounge his presentation about the remarkable story of Shackleton's expedition to attempt to cross the Antarctic continent in 1914.
- South Georgia Whaling.** Human history on South Georgia began with the sealers and whalers. Today we understand the horror of whaling but at the time it was a vital industry. Please join Paulo to hear more of the stories of whalers and whaling.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow, our first day on South Georgia.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck. Enjoy your meal.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Right Whale Bay and Salisbury Plain

Thursday 4th December 2025

This is our plan for the day but please be prepared for the fact that this might change!

In the morning, we will be sailing along the coast of South Georgia so enjoy the views from deck as we approach the Bay of Isles.

- 0730 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- TBA **Right Whale Bay.** For our first landing on South Georgia, we hope to be able to take you ashore on Right Whale Bay where there is a colony of King penguins as well as Fur seals and Elephant seals. Please follow the marker poles on shore, keep a look out for Fur seals and listen to the advice of the guides.
- 1300 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **Salisbury Plain.** This morning, we hope to take you ashore at Salisbury Plain where there is a large King penguin colony with 60,000 breeding pairs of penguins. On shore, please follow the red poles as these will take you to the colony via the best route. Remember your distance to wildlife and enjoy your time on shore!
- 1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck. Enjoy your meal.

Before landing, please check your boots, backpacks and any Velcro to make sure they are clean.

On return to the ship please make sure your boots are clean and all your gear has been checked.

- 0515 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali. Pastries and juice will be available in the Lounge.
- 0545 **Hercules Bay.** This morning we hope to be able to take you out on a zodiac cruise in Hercules Bay where we hope to see the Macaroni penguins that nest on the steep cliffs above the bay. We often see them on the rocks along the shore. Please dress warmly.
- 0715 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0830 **Fortuna Bay.** We hope to be able to take you ashore at Fortuna Bay where there is a colony of King Penguins. Please walk carefully on the beach and follow the poles to the colony. Keep a look out for Fur seals along the way.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **Grytviken.** This afternoon, after we have cleared customs and immigration we will take you ashore at Grytviken. You can visit the South Georgia Museum where there is a small shop and there is a Post Office is behind the museum. The shop and Post Office only take card payments. You can also visit the church at the back of the whaling station.
Tours of the whaling station will also be offered by the staff at the museum. Timing will be arranged.
We can visit the cemetery where you will find the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton.
- 1900 **Special Dinner** is served on Deck. Dress warmly and enjoy your meal!



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

St Andrews Bay and Godthul
Saturday 6th December 2025

- 0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0800 **St Andrew's Bay.** This morning, we hope to take you on ashore at St Andrew's Bay where we will find the largest King penguin colony on South Georgia with around 250,000 breeding pairs of penguins. We will flag a route to the river crossing point and from here to a viewpoint over the colony. Please keep your 5m distance from all wildlife as you walk along the beach and grassy areas beyond.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- TBA **Godthul.** This is known as 'Good Cove' and we hope to take you ashore here for a walk up to the Gentoo penguin colonies up beyond the tussock grass. It is quite steep at the beginning of the walk and you will need to follow the red poles as these show the easiest way up. From here you can walk to Lake Aviemore and to the higher penguin colonies. We will also offer a guided long hike which will take you to the summit of Edda Hill which is 302 m high and offers great views of the coast beyond
Long hikers please come to the gangway first.
- 1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Buffet Dinner** is available in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Gold Harbour and Cooper Bay
Sunday 7th December 2025

- 0515 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
Pastries, juice and fruit will be available in the Lounge.
- 0545 **Gold Harbour.** We hope to take you ashore at Gold Harbour where there is a big king penguin colony and there will be lots of elephant seals on the beach. It is not a big beach so please walk slowly and keep your 5m distance from the wildlife.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- TBA **Cooper Bay.** We hope to be able to take you out on a zodiac cruise at Cooper Bay where there is a Chinstrap penguin colony and hopefully some Macaroni penguins near their colony on the steep cliffs. The scenery is also very beautiful. Dress warmly.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- We will have some presentations during the afternoon. Please listen for announcements.
- 1815 **Re-cap and Plans.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Introduction to Antarctica.** Brenya will give a presentation introducing you to many aspects of Antarctica from the development of ice sheet to the modern researchers based on the continent. Please join her in the Lounge.
- 1100 **Whales.** We have been lucky enough to see some Humpback whales and Sei whales during this trip so if you would like to know more about these species and others that we might see on our voyage then please join Andrew in the Lounge.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **The Forgotten Men – The Ross Sea Party.** Rustyn told us the remarkable story of Shackleton's expedition on the Endurance but what about the expedition team on the other side of Antarctica? Join him in the Lounge to hear their story.
- 1800 **South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction.** SGHT is a charitable organisation and for them to continue their environmental and cultural conservation projects on South Georgia we will hold a charity auction on board. The items are all from the South Georgia museum and are not available to buy in the shop. There will also be some mystery items! Please join us in the Lounge.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.

Tuesday 9th December 2025

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **Sea Ice.** We have heard about the importance of sea ice to many species in the Southern Ocean (including Alan the Krill) but if you would like to learn more about sea ice then please join Steffi in the Lounge.
- 1100 **Ice Maidens.** Rustyn has told stories of Shackleton and Scott but what about the women behind these polar explorers? Please join Ali in the Lounge to hear about the women behind the men.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1400 **Polar Plunge!** Join us on the back deck on deck 3 for the opportunity to take a '**Plancius Polar Plunge.**' You are all welcome to plunge or watch and there will be Hot Chocolate for everyone!
- 1600 **Sea Stories.** From sailors tattoos to superstitions at sea Rustyn will share some maritime stories related to life at sea. Please join him in the Lounge.
- 1800 **South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction.** SGHT is a charitable organisation and for them to continue their environmental and cultural conservation projects on South Georgia we will hold a charity auction on board. The items are all from the South Georgia museum and are not available to buy in the shop. There will also be some mystery items! Please join us in the Lounge.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

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Wednesday 10th December 2025

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **The Growing Importance of Wildlife Photography.** Most of us take photos to record memories and events in our life but wildlife photography can assist science and research about the animals we share our planet with. Join Andrew in the Lounge to learn more.
- 1100 **Psychology of Darkness.** Please join Brenya for stories of polar explorers braving the elements and losing their minds.....
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 Chef Sachin Naik, our Head Chef has been keeping us very well fed during this voyage but provisioning a ship and preparing 3 meals a day takes a huge amount of organisation and effort. Join him in the Dining Room to learn about his role on board.
Housekeeping staff will then lead a demonstration session to teach you how to fold towels (the cute animal ones!!)
- 1630 We will screen a wildlife Documentary in the Lounge.
- 1830 **Re-cap.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

After dinner we will have a Movie Night in the Lounge. With Popcorn!

We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.

Thursday 11th December 2025

- 0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.
- 0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0930 **A Year on Kerguelan Island.** Regis spent a year on the remote sub-Antarctic Island of Kerguelan studying the penguins and birds. If you would like to hear more about his time there then please join him in the Lounge.
- 1100 **The Oldest Race in Aviation.** Steffi has mostly been at sea level during this voyage but away from Plancius she can be found high above the earth competing in gas balloon competitions. Please join her in the Lounge to hear more about her adventures.
- 1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1500 **Plancius Pub Quiz.** We hope that you've been listening carefully during lectures and on shore! Please join the team in the Lounge for a Trip and Trivia Quiz! Team of up to 6 people!
- 1700 We will screen a wildlife Documentary in the Lounge.
- 1830 **Re-cap.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

After dinner we invite you to the Lounge for an informal session entitled Who's Who. If you're curious then please join the team in the Lounge.

We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.

Friday 12th December 2025

0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

After breakfast an Adventure Hunt will be available in the Lounge. Take a question sheet and see if you can find the answers around the ship!! Take care if the ship is moving!

After Breakfast we will call you by Deck to return your Rubber Boots

0930 **Pirates – Fact and Fiction.** We're hoping not to be visited by pirates on our voyage but if you would like to hear stories of ancient and modern-day pirates then please join Rustyn in the Lounge.

1100 **Ushuaia.** Regis will give you information about things to see and do in Ushuaia and Rustyn will talk about the Torres del Paine National Park.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

1500 **Christmas decoration time!** Help us decorate our Christmas tree and the Lounge!



1645 We will screen a wildlife Documentary in the Lounge.

1830 **Slide Show.** Please join us for a slide show of our journey to the Falklands and South Georgia. There will also be an update of plans for the next day.

1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

Don't forget to put the photos and videos from the Adventure Hunt in the folder on the computer in the Library.

Saturday 13th December 2025

0745 **Special Wake Up Call!!**

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0930 **The Secret Life of Birders.** We have some very keen bird watchers on board the ship but they are a very special breed.... Join Andrew to find out more about their secret lives!

1100 **Adventure Hunt Results.** Please join Steffi in the Lounge to hear the results of the Hunt and see some of the videos and photos taken on the Hunt!

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

1500 We will screen a wildlife Documentary in the Lounge.

1800 **Farewell Cocktails.** Please join the Expedition team to toast our voyage to the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.

1830 **Farewell Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

We should be alongside the pier during the evening so as soon as we are alongside and the gangway is down you are welcome to leave the ship.

Please make sure you have your ship card/key card with you and some ID.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica Ushuaia

Sunday 14th December 2024

0645 Your final wake up call from Ali! Good Morning everyone, Good Morning!

0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

As you go to breakfast at 0700 please could you put your large check-in luggage outside your cabin so that we can get it onto the pier for you.

If you are taking a bus from the ship straight to the airport, please make sure your luggage has a **RED** label on it. Your bus is at **0730**

If you are placing your luggage in storage, please put a **YELLOW** label on your luggage. The truck will arrive at **0800** You must collect your luggage before 2pm. This is at the same place you left it before the trip.

If you are going to the Wyndham Hotel (booked for you by Oceanwide) please put a **BLUE** label on your luggage. Your bus is at **0900**

If you have other arrangements to stay in Ushuaia, you do not need a label. You can take a bus at 0900 to the Albatros Hotel and other hotels or walk from the pier with your luggage and take a taxi.

Keep your hand luggage in your cabin or take it to the Lounge.

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions the Captain, Crew and Expedition staff would like to thank you for travelling with us and wish you a very safe journey home.