



Antarctica Basecamp

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

9th December 2025 – 21th 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 Ernesto Barría Vargas

and his international crew of 81 sailors

Staff Captain:	Elizabar Kadaría	[Ukraine)
Chief Officer:	Sven Holzhausen	[Germany]
Second Officer:	Eline Schuurman	[Netherlands]
Third Officer:	Erik van de Reijden	[Netherlands]
Hotel Manager:	Jeroen William Barnes	[Netherlands]
Ass.Hotel Manager	Victoria Bridgwood	[Ireland]
Head Chef:	Khabir Moreas	[India]
Sous Chef:	Edward Nunag	[Philippines]
Sous chef:	Felix Lobo	[India]
Ships doctor:	Anne Vriend	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Chris Long	[New Zealand]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Bitao (Jerry) Zhao	[China]
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:	Luce Moussiere	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Gabriela Kolodko	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	Hana Spickova	[Czech Republic]
Expedition Guide:	Andy Perkins	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Brian Veltrop	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Carina Ketterer	[Switzerland]
Expedition Guide:	Valeria Sainz Hererra	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Marcelo Tarapow	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Annelou Hulsker	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Edward Bekker	[Netherlands]

Expedition Guide:	Matthew Cheok	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	Adam Harmer	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Jonny Baird	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Jianqun Li	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Paul Warnock	[UK]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Tuesday 9th December, Ushuaia, Embarkation day: Setting sail for Antarctica

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

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

Our first day of the expedition began, with everyone coming aboard excited to go 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. We were called to the lounge by our Expedition Leader Chris, to first inform us about some matters of safety.

As we began the drill, we all gathered and put on our life jackets, oddly reassuring that we now know what to do in an emergency. After the drill, Captain Ernesto invited us into the observation lounge with an inspiring welcome speech. Chris explained some what to expect from our adventure, and the expedition team also introduced



themselves; 25 guides with each their speciality! With that done, we quickly went to the buffet dinner, meeting new people and exchanging stories.

As evening settled in we met again at 20:30 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 some of us took extra precautions by paying the doctor a visit for some seasickness medication. 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 – Wednesday 10th December, Drake Passage - At sea sailing towards Antarctica

08h00 GPS Position: 56°43.5'S / 65°50.4'W

Wind: NW3 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Partial clouds • Air temperature: +2°C

Today's programme was filled with preparations for our visit to Antarctica. On our second day at sea, we received our first 'Good Morning, Good Morning!' wake-up call and began our crossing through the Drake Passage. The waves, around 2 or 3 metres high, gave us an idea of what the famous 'Drake' is like. Although it was not too rough for some of us, it was still relentless.

After breakfast, we attended two of the three mandatory briefings that we had to attend in order to prepare for kayaking, mountaineering and camping: Adam and Alexis covered kayaking, while Johnny, Ed, Andy and Paul covered mountaineering.



Next on our daily schedule was lunch.

Basecamp trips offer lots of additional activities, and the final compulsory briefing about camping with Luce, Brian and Sasha made us eager to sleep outside! Midway through the presentation, we were treated to a rare sight: a pair of Southern Bottlenose Whales.

In the afternoon, Matt invited us to a photography lecture where he shared all his tips and tricks for capturing the best photos of our incredible trip.

Later, we all gathered in the lounge again for a daily recap. Koen presented the plans for the following day and talked about the Antarctic Convergence. Alexis taught us about 'loss of body heat', and finally, Hana told us about the Drake Passage.

After another delicious dinner, everyone was excited about crossing the Drake Passage again the following day and getting closer to our destination: Antarctica!



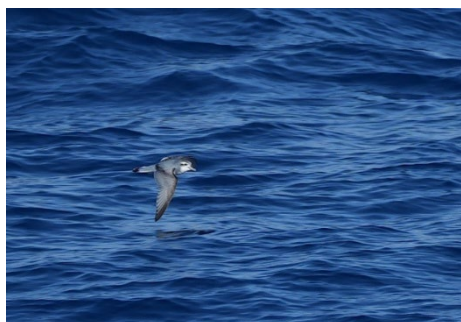


Day 3 – Thursday 11th December, Drake Passage – At sea sailing towards Antarctica

08h00 GPS Position: 61°29.2'S / 064°10.8'W

Wind: NE3 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Fog • Air temperature: 0°C

Our second and final day at the Drake Passage! We woke up with quite some fog; as Koen explained in the recap last night, that is because we are crossing the Antarctic Convergence Zone. This is a zone of approximately 10-30 km wide, which marks the biological transition to Antarctic waters. Due to the shift in water temperature (several degrees lower) fog can often occur.



We started our day with the signup for activities, as we all wanted a chance to go mountaineering, camping, or kayaking! Not only that, but we also got finally the chance to fit ourselves to a pair of muckboots, our new best friend in Antarctica. Meanwhile, the fog did not lift yet and there was not much wildlife (yet).

We were also busy cleaning for the biosecurity check, as we know how important it is to not bring any exotic species new into Antarctica. At around 2, the misty landscape seemed to disappear and we were surrounded by more birds, like fulmars and even some albatrosses as we got closer to Antarctica.

And then finally, our first big wildlife! Our bridge officer Eline spotted a group of vinwhales, and was thus announced. Most people ran outside and they were not disappointed. These enormous animals were quite close to the ship, and even after the first main group disappeared, several more were spotted. Vin whales are recognizable by their long, smooth backs. After this excitement, our own expert birder on board, Mark, gave a lecture. We learned about the penguins we might encounter in Antarctica and how they differ from each other. That was already almost the day!

During recap, Gabi told some of the backstory of our ship Hondius, namely about the Dutch cartographer Joost de Hondius, after which the ship was named. Our expedition leader Chris showed us the plans for tomorrow; how exciting, our first landing!



Day 4 – Friday 12th December – Danco Island & Orne Island

08h00 GPS Position: 64°43.9'S / 62°36.6'W

Wind: N1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Clear sky • Air temperature: 4°C

Our first day in Antarctica is finally here! We began the morning at Danco Island, greeted by calm seas and crisp Antarctic light. The day unfolded in motion: zodiacs slipped quietly along the coastline while our mountaineers split into two groups—one heading out on a scenic hike, the other taking on ice climbing routes. At the same time, our kayakers fanned out across the bay, tracing gentle lines through the ice-dotted water.



In two rotating groups, we alternated between zodiac cruising and time ashore, swapping halfway through the morning. For many of us, this first landing in Antarctica was unforgettable—close encounters with gentoo penguins bustling about their colonies and Weddell seals resting lazily on the ice made the moment feel almost unreal.

After a hearty lunch back on board, we set our sights on the Orne Islands. Once again, we explored from every angle: on foot along the ridges, quietly by kayak, and by zodiac along the dramatic shoreline. Gentoo penguins were everywhere, and we were thrilled to spot a few Adélies as well, their sharp contrast and lively behavior standing out against the landscape.

As the day seemed to be winding down, Antarctica had one more surprise for us. A pod of orcas appeared, moving swiftly through the water. To give ourselves the best possible view, we turned Hondius around and lingered, watching these powerful predators as long as we could before they disappeared into the distance—an epic and humbling end to an already extraordinary day.

After dinner, the adventure continued for some of us as the first group of campers departed for Stony Point, setting off to spend a quiet, remote, and thrilling night ashore—Antarctica at its most raw and intimate.



Day 5 – Saturday 13th December, Stony Point and Orne Harbour

08h00 GPS Position: 64°54.4'S / 62°56.8'W

Wind: WSW4 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Partially overcast • Air temperature: 4°C

Today, we woke up to Chris wishing us a good morning and letting us know that the plan had changed slightly. We would start the day at what was originally our afternoon site: Stony Point.



Upon arrival, we boarded the zodiacs for a cruise and a landing. As there is no wildlife recorded at this site, we were free to do all the crazy things we cannot do at other landing spots. Everyone embraced the moment : playing in the snow, throwing snowballs, and before long, it felt like each of us had joined a snowball fight at one point or another. It awakened our inner child; it was pure fun.

The views at Stony Point were just as memorable. We listened to the powerful sounds of a glacier calving and watched a few icebergs slowly flip in the distance. Sitting there for a few hours, simply appreciating the stillness of Antarctica, felt like a gift.



After a wonderful buffet lunch, topped off with ice cream, we enjoyed a short break before heading out for a landing and zodiac cruise at Orne Harbour. This was our continental landing—our first time stepping onto the Antarctic continent, and for some of us, the seventh continent!

After a quick photo with the flag, we began our steep ascent to the top of Orne Harbour. It was definitely challenging for some, but every step was rewarded upon reaching the summit. Standing there, surrounded by the immensity of Antarctica, with a full 360-degree view of the white continent, only one word came to mind: spectacular.

We ended the day with a lovely dinner, while whales passing by pulled us away from the dining room, entertaining us well into the evening before bedtime.

Once again, an amazing day aboard Hondius—our window into this extraordinary part of the world. We fell asleep with our heads full of new memories, ready to create many more tomorrow.



Day 6 – Sunday 14th December, Pleneau and Petermann Island

08h00 GPS Position: 65°05.9'S / 63°58.8'W

Wind: Calm • Sea: Calm • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +3°C

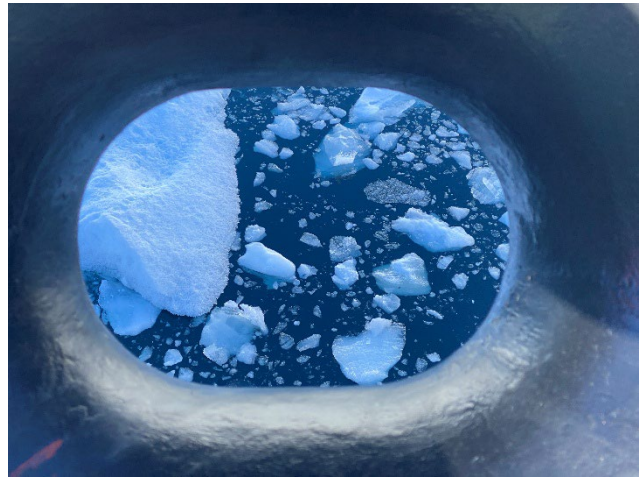
The day began pre breakfast bathed in sunlight as the expedition vessel glided quietly into the legendary Lemaire Channel. Known for its dramatic cliffs and narrow passage, the channel was at its most breathtaking. Jagged mountains rose steeply from the sea, their snow-covered peaks perfectly mirrored in the flat, glassy water below. The stillness was broken only by the distant thunder of small avalanches cascading down the slopes, a powerful reminder that this frozen landscape is constantly in motion. Early risers were rewarded with the sight of a Leopard Seal hauled out on an ice floe, lazily surveying the passing ship as the Antarctic morning unfolded.



By mid-morning, the expedition arrived at Pleneau Island under flawless conditions. The sea remained flat calm, the sun illuminating every detail of the surrounding ice and rock. A bustling Gentoo Penguin colony was in full swing, with nesting birds tending to their carefully arranged pebble nests while others came and went from the colony, porpoising through the water on foraging trips. Nearby, a Southern Elephant Seal rested on the rocks, while a Weddell seal cruised slowly through the adjacent shallows. On a nearby ice floe, a Crabeater seal lay stretched out, steaming gently as it dried in the warm sun. Just offshore, a Leopard Seal patrolled a small piece of ice, its sleek form moving effortlessly through the

clear water. Adding to the spectacle, several Humpback Whales were spotted feeding in the bay, while others rested motionless at the surface, appearing to sleep between breaths.

The afternoon brought the expedition to historic Petermann Island, where both Adélie and Gentoo penguin colonies dotted the landscape. The contrast between the two species was evident as they went about their daily routines amid the snow and rock. Visitors also paused at the Argentine hut, a quiet reminder of the human history woven into this remote region. Offshore, Humpback Whales continued to make appearances, their blows visible against the blue sky. A Leopard Seal lounged atop an ice floe near by, while another proved especially curious, weaving through the water around the zodiacs and offering unforgettable close encounters. Scattered across the ice were Crabeater and Weddell seals, resting peacefully on their floating platforms.



Towering arched icebergs framed the scene, their sculpted forms glowing in every imaginable shade of blue and green. As the light softened and the afternoon waned, the day stood out as a perfect example of Antarctic exploration at its finest—rich wildlife encounters, pristine conditions, and awe-inspiring scenery combining to create an unforgettable expedition cruise experience.

Later in the evening the evening the final group of campers were dropped off at Hovgaard Island for their Antarctic camping experience.

Day 7 – Monday 15th December, Jougla and Damoy Point

08h00 GPS Position: 64°49.6'S / 63°30.2'W

Wind: S3 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Partially overcast • Air temperature: 4°C

The day began with a wake-up call at 07:15, followed by a buffet breakfast served in the Dining Room between 07:30 and 08:30.

During the morning, conditions allowed for zodiac operations around Jougla Point and the Jougla & Goudier Islands. Guests participated in zodiac cruises, enjoying close views of nesting Gentoo Penguins, Imperial Cormorants, Weddell Seals, and sightings of Humpback Whales feeding in the surrounding waters.



From the zodiacs, guests observed Goudier Island, home to Port Lockroy, an important historic site in Antarctica. Port Lockroy was established in 1944 as part of Operation Tabarin, a British wartime initiative to maintain a permanent presence in the Antarctic. The base later became a scientific research station and is now preserved as a museum and post office, administered by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. Although the site was closed to landings this morning, its historic huts and sheltered harbor were visible from the water, offering insight into early Antarctic exploration and research life.



Specialist activities, including mountaineering and kayaking, were conducted during the morning in accordance with conditions and group schedules.

Lunch was served as a buffet in the Dining Room on Deck 4 between 12:30 and 13:30.

In the afternoon, the expedition relocated to Damoy Point, where guests participated in landings and zodiac cruises. The site provided excellent opportunities to observe Gentoo Penguins, Weddell Seals, and dramatic Antarctic scenery. Guests enjoyed a longer walk ashore and visited the remains of a historic hut.

Damoy Point holds notable historical significance, having been used during the 1970s as a British Antarctic Survey transit station. The nearby hut supported an airstrip on the adjacent snow slope, enabling ski-equipped aircraft to transport personnel and supplies between ships and inland research stations. This logistical operation played an important role in Antarctic exploration prior to the establishment of more permanent infrastructure.

At 18:30, guests gathered in the Observation Lounge for the daily recap led by the Expedition Team, reviewing the day's activities, wildlife encounters, and historical highlights.

The evening continued with a festive Antarctic BBQ dinner served on the aft of Deck 5 at 19:00. Following the BBQ, a lively dancing party took place onboard, with strong participation from guests, expedition staff, and crew members alike. The atmosphere was energetic and joyful, with many guests dancing together late into the evening, making it a truly fantastic night and a memorable highlight of the voyage.

Day 8 – Tuesday 16th December, Foyn Harbour and Portal Point

08h00 GPS Position: 64°34.8'S / 61°58.2'W

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

We started our day early with a morning wake-up call. Outside, the weather was cloudy, but still very beautiful. Soon after breakfast, we arrived at Foyn Harbour. This place is quiet and surrounded by ice, mountains, and cold water. After getting ready, we went out on a zodiac cruise. The small boats moved slowly around the island, giving us a close look at the area.



While cruising, we learned about the history of the shipwreck *Governoren*. This old whaling ship burned and sank here 110 years ago. Even though the ship is gone, the story is still very interesting and shows how hard life was for early explorers and whalers in Antarctica. As we went around the island, we saw amazing wildlife. A leopard seal was resting on the ice and swimming in the water, watching us as we passed by. We also saw whales swimming in the distance, coming up for air. Large glaciers stood tall around us, with blue and white ice shining even under the cloudy sky.

After the zodiac cruise, we returned to the ship for lunch. A great meal was waiting for us, and it felt nice to warm up inside after being out in the cold. We had time to relax before heading out again for the afternoon activity.

Later, we went back out to Portal Point for another landing on the Antarctic continent. Walking on the snow was exciting, and the views were incredible. We could walk around freely, enjoy the quiet, and take photos. From this spot, we had a beautiful view into Wilhelmina Bay, with ice, water, and mountains all around us.

After the landing, we went zodiac cruising again. This time, we saw more seals resting on ice floes and on land. Also penguins swimming and jumping in the water. There were many icebergs of different shapes and sizes, making the scene feel magical and peaceful.



In the evening, we returned to the ship for a recap of the day. The guides shared information and stories about what we had seen. After that, we enjoyed dinner together. Tired but happy from a full day of adventure, we went to bed, ready for the next day in Antarctica.



Day 9 – Wednesday 17th December, Expedition day at Cape Roguemaurel and Astrolabe

08h00 GPS Position: 63°30.9'S / 58°59.7'W

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

The day started early, with that special buzz in the air that tells you this is no ordinary day. This was a true expedition day. We were heading into the unknown, exploring places new to many of us. And that, after all, is what expedition life is all about: explore, discover, and see what the day reveals. It did not disappoint.

Our destination was Cape Roguemaurel, and the plan was a full-ship Zodiac cruise. Once the Zodiacs were lowered and we set off, it was clear we were beginning a journey none of us would forget.

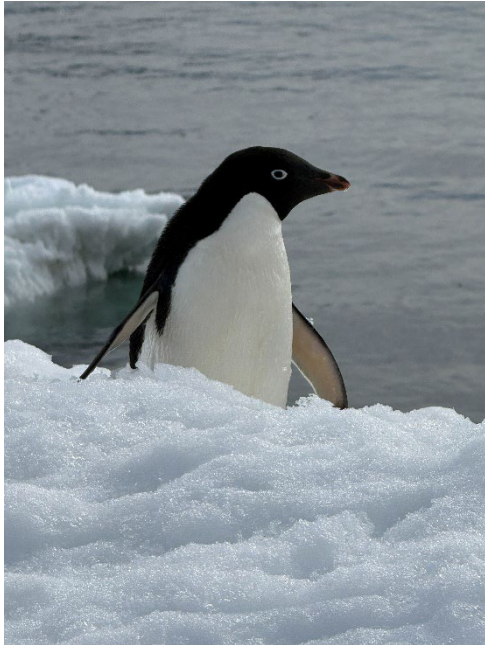
We first glided past enormous tabular icebergs, some carved with delicate arches that looked like frozen sculptures, glowing in incredible shades of shiny blue. Each iceberg felt like a work of art, shaped by wind, water, and time.

As we continued cruising, we realized we were not alone. Rafts of penguins appeared, following us with great curiosity. They leapt out of the water and swam beneath our boats completely fearlessly.

Above and around us, Cape petrels and fulmars put on their own lively show, fighting for krill in the plankton-rich waters. The scene was already spectacular—but nature was not finished yet; we had yet an amazing experience with whales feeding to experience.



The water around us felt alive. Huge humpback whales were feeding everywhere, and before we could fully take it in, they were all around us. Wherever we looked—left, right, straight ahead—there was a whale. From our floating Zodiacs, we watched them surface unbelievably close, close enough to hear the powerful rush of air as they exhaled through their blowholes. That deep, booming sound echoed across the sea.



It was one of those moments when time seemed to stand still. Surrounded by ice, wildlife, and giants of the ocean, we were reminded exactly why we explore.

Our afternoon destination was yet another true expedition adventure. The ship remained at a safe distance from the island, as we were navigating uncharted waters. From there, we set out by Zodiac to explore Astrolabe Island. Named after the ship *Astrolabe* of a French expedition, it gave us a small taste of what it must have felt like to discover a brand-new location for the first time.

We cruised slowly through narrow channels, weaving between icebergs where seals were stretched out and resting peacefully. Penguins gathered in lively colonies on rocky outcrops, watching our Zodiacs pass by as if we were part of the scenery.

Eventually, we landed on the island—and were greeted in the most joyful way imaginable. All three penguin species welcomed us at once: Gentoo, Chinstrap, and Adélie penguins, sharing the same space on the beaches. Seals lounged lazily along the shore, while curious penguins followed us as we walked around.

As if the day had not already given us enough magic, whales returned in the afternoon to say hello once more, appearing offshore and reminding us how special this place truly is. Another day filled with sunshine, another day in paradise.

Day 10 – Thursday 18th December, Deception Island (Whalers Bay) and Half Moon Island

08h00 GPS Position: 62°59.0' S, 60°33.8'W

Wind: W3 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -1°C

The day started with our arrival at Deception Island, one of the most special places in Antarctica. The ship slowly sailed through a very narrow entrance called Neptune's Bellows. Tall rock walls stood on one side, and it felt like entering a hidden world. Deception Island is actually an active volcano, with the sea filling the middle of it. The views were dramatic and unforgettable.

After entering the island, we went out for a landing and zodiac cruise at Whalers Bay. This place has a long and interesting history. Many years ago, it was used by whalers who hunted whales and processed them here. Later, it also became a research station. Old buildings, rusted tanks, and remains of the past can still be seen along the beach. Walking there felt like stepping back in time.



On the beach, we noticed a lot of dead krill washed up on the sand. It was surprising to see so much of it in one place. Some brave guests decided to take part in the polar plunge. Around 140 people jumped into the cold Antarctic water. Even though the water was freezing, the sand felt warm under our feet because of the volcanic heat below the surface.



After this exciting morning, we returned to the ship for lunch. While we ate, the ship started a long transit toward Edinburgh Hill. During the crossing, we joined a photography workshop with Matt. He shared helpful tips on how to edit photos. It was a nice and relaxing way to spend the afternoon.



Later, we had the daily recap, where the guides talked about the plans and what we had seen. After that, we prepared to go out again. However, the wind became very strong, reaching around 35 knots, which made it unsafe to drive around Edinburgh Hill. The plan changed, and we sailed to Half Moon Island instead.

At Half Moon Island, we enjoyed our last zodiac cruise in Antarctica. We saw a Weddell seal resting on land, a large elephant seal on the shore, and many penguins swimming and standing along the beach. A minke whale also appeared near the zodiacs, giving us a special final wildlife moment. Icebergs and glaciers surrounded us, making the scenery perfect for our last outing.

Back on the ship, we had dinner together and shared memories from the trip. Later that evening, the ship began sailing into the Drake Passage, marking the end of our Antarctic adventure.



Day 11 – Friday 19th December – At Sea, Drake Passage

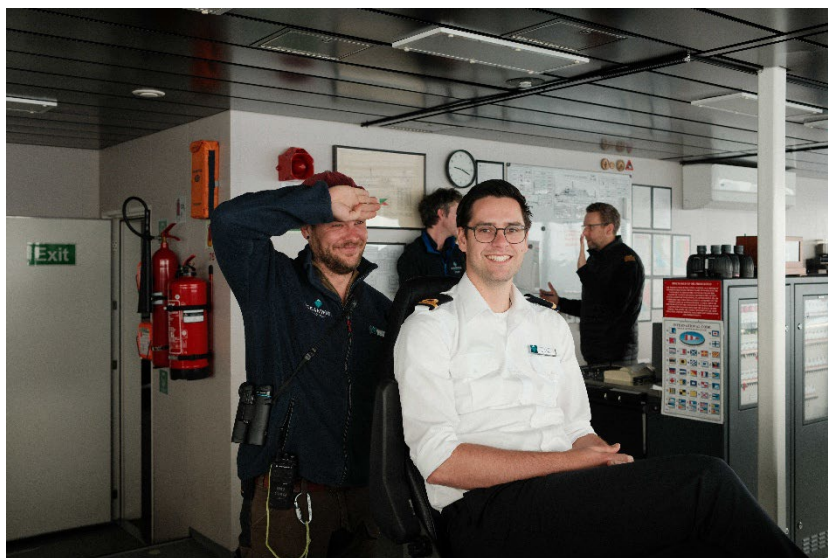
08h00 GPS Position: 60°21.7' S, 62°04.9'W

Wind: NW4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 1°C

Today was a classic Drake Passage day — no wake-up call, no rush, just the gentle movement of the ship and the familiar reminder to keep one hand for the vessel. Most of us woke slowly, rocked in and out of sleep before wandering down to breakfast. The swell was actually nice and flat, which was very well received by almost everyone on board, particularly those grateful for calm seas. That said, a few adventurous souls were slightly disappointed, hoping for a proper “Drake Shake” to film and brag about later.



After breakfast, we gathered in the Observation Lounge where Koen kicked things off with a fascinating talk on the exploration of Antarctica. Hearing about the early explorers while travelling these same waters really put their achievements into perspective. Their resilience, optimism and sheer determination felt especially relevant as we made our own way south, albeit in far greater comfort.



Later in the morning, Carina gave us a behind-the-scenes look at Hondius. Her talk offered a real appreciation for what goes on beyond what we see as guests, from the logistics to the daily teamwork required to keep an expedition ship running smoothly in such a remote environment.

Lunch was a relaxed affair, with plenty of time to refuel and swap stories. The calm seas made it easy to linger over meals or spend time gazing out at the endless Southern Ocean, watching the low swell roll by.

In the afternoon, Sasha's talk on how to get to Antarctica struck a perfect balance between informative and entertaining. His practical insights were made even more memorable by the legendary mention of his “fur underpants”, which earned plenty of laughs and lightened the mood.

As the day drew to a close, the expedition team hosted the daily recap, sharing important information about the days ahead, including details around disembarkation and settling accounts. It was a helpful and grounding moment to bring everyone together and look ahead.

Dinner followed, unhurried and social, before the evening wrapped up with Edward sharing his life story of climbing Mount Vinson. His reflections on challenge, endurance and success were genuinely inspiring and a fitting way to end the day.

With the Drake behaving itself and spirits high on board, Shackleton's words about optimism felt particularly apt. Tonight, there's a strong sense of anticipation as we continue our journey towards Ushuaia, grateful for calm seas — even if a few cameras went unused.

Day 12 – Saturday 20th 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

A late wake-up call allowed us to rest well as we faced the final days of this unforgettable trip, which will end in just a few hours.

We needed extra energy today because the farewell was approaching, and with it, moments of sadness. Over the past days, we explored incredible and pristine places, discovering Antarctic flora and fauna never seen before. Even more importantly, we shared our time with amazing people from many different latitudes and countries, who shared their experiences, feelings, and expectations.

We attended the final lectures given by Luce, Rose, and Valeria on a variety of Antarctic topics, as well as a special talk on “The Mate.”

As we were almost arriving at the Beagle Channel, six southern right whale dolphins, dressed in striking black-and-white colors, approached Hondius as part of our farewell.



As Hondius sailed smoothly—almost like on a lake, and definitely not in the brave Drake 😊—the expedition team held a refresher meeting under the guidance of Andam, Jonny, and Andy. They reviewed essential knowledge about knots, Zodiac driving, shelters, stretchers, and other important topics we must always keep in mind while operating in Antarctica.

At 18:00, it was time for the Captain’s farewell. We watched a video compiled by Gabi, summarizing the days we spent on this magical adventure and expedition.

Returning once more to the idea of farewell: are farewells truly sad moments? Mmmm... In *Illusions*, a book written by Richard Bach, it is noted that farewells are necessary so that we may meet again in the future. This means that farewells are not the end; they are the first step toward what lies ahead—a moment, or perhaps a day, that will come and find us together again, maybe forever.

Day 13 – Sunday 21th December – Disembarkation, Ushuaia

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

Wind: VAR • Sea: Calm • 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: 1705 nautical miles

Furthest south: 65°10.17' S

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barría Vargas, Expedition Leader Chris Long, Hotel Manager Jeroen William Barnes and all the crew and staff of M/V Hondius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!

KAYAKING

Danco Island Morning 12th December 2025

A beautiful morning at Danco, where the kayakers got to see the ice climbers and enjoy their first views of Antarctica. Gentoo Penguins and a Weddell Seal on ice were seen by all



Georges Point Afternoon 12th December 2025

A great kayak excursion amongst the icebergs with distant views to Cuverville Island
Playful penguins and Fantastic Brash Ice were the flavour of this outing.



Stony Point Morning 13th December 2025

Whales, Whales and more Whales

The team were super lucky to experience Humpbacks close to the kayaks in this mornings kayak excursions, light winds and fantastic icebergs also added to this special trip



Orne Harbour Afternoon 13th December 2025

The kayaking here was calm and protected with hardly a breath of wind. We got to see a Weddell Seals up close, a humpback and the penguin colonies. The calving glacier was also a great sight...



Pleaneau Island Morning 14th December 2025

Amazing blue skies, calm seas and sneaking amongst the Ice Berg Graveyard was fantastic. A Weddell Seal on ice and plenty of penguins, plus the amazing scenery made for this very special voyage.



Petermann Island Afternoon 14th December 2025

Adelie Penguins from the kayaks were a fantastic start to this session with again blue skies and light winds the order of the day. Finished off the session with everyone to see the humpback whale up close..



Jougla Point and Port Lockroy Morning 15th December 2025

Beautiful Views and stunning scenery around Port Lockroy Post Office before we explored the brash ice and whale bone skeletons. Baby Gentoo chicks were also visible in this kayak session.



Foyn Harbour Morning 16th December 2025

A final morning of kayaking took us around the Shipwreck at Foyn Harbour before exploring the wooden boat and icebergs.



A massive thank you for sharing our time together in kayaks on the water on this fantastic voyage with calm seas and light winds

All the best from the Kayak Guides Adam and Alexis

MOUNTAINEERING

The Mountaineering Team embarked on an adventure that would encompass the raw beauty of the Antarctic Peninsula. Based aboard the wonderful Hondius, we combined glacier snowshoeing, ice climbing and exploratory landings, all shared with a brilliant group of passengers whose enthusiasm and curiosity fuelled every moment.

Ice Climbing Danco Island 12th Dec 2025 morning & Snowshoeing at Georges Point in the afternoon

Our Antarctic adventure began in earnest with a day of snowshoeing and Ice Climbing on Danco Island, stepping of the Zodiac onto the ice felt like entering another world.

The snowshoeing team explored the glacial terrain, with views of crevassed ice and distant peaks. For the technical climbing we set up ice routes that provided both challenge and exhilaration.



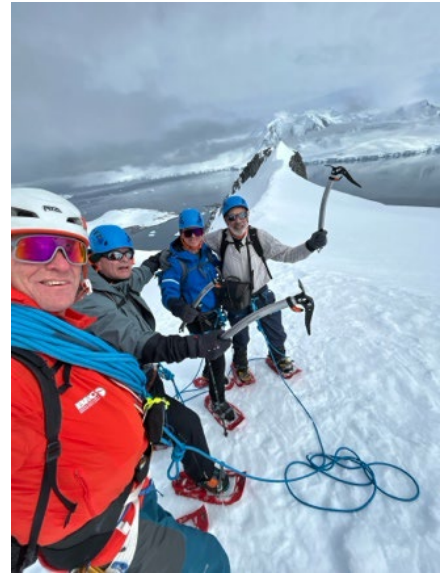
Hovgaard & Petermann 14th Dec.2025 morning & afternoon

After a phenomenal experience passing through the Lemaire Channel the terrain opened out into a breathtaking panoramic view featuring the sculpted snowfields of Hovgaard Island. Then in the afternoon heat we ascended to the highest point of Peterman Island famous for its penguin colonies and historic huts.



Jabet Col and Damoy Airstrip 15th Dec.2025 morning & afternoon

It dawned a cooler day and the technical mountaineering team made a landing and were immediately faced with a steep ascent in crampons before switching to snowshoes for crossing the glacier. The journey to Jabet Col weaves a line through crevasses and provides a true Alpine feel for this fantastic itinerary.



There were no twin otter flights today from the airstrip however the wonderful team were in high spirits. The team roped up for glacier travel and armed with snow shoes ice axes and camerras they journeyed past the penguin colony to a superb viewpoint over Port Lochray.

Foyn Harbour and Portal Point 16th Dec.2025 Morning.

At Foyn harbour the remains of the Governoren shipwreck sit quietly among icebergs and snow slopes. Snowshoeing here was reflective and unhurried, the calm conditions allowed for a relaxed pace and the conversations flowed easily among the group.



Our final mountaineering session at portal point was a celebration of good humour and abundance of energy. Inspired by team Banana the groups quickly too on the names of team coconut team watermelon and team tomato, the friendly competition and sense of adventure was intoxicating.



Hondius provided a perfect base from which to explore one of the most remarkable places on earth!

CAMPING

Night 1 – Stony Point

“Why waste time?” — this was the question of highest relevance on the evening of our very first expedition day in Antarctica. The weather was good, there was no wind, everyone was healthy — ideal conditions for going ashore in the evening and burying ourselves in the snow. Everyone was full of enthusiasm and determination.

Hondius — our wonderful ship — under the command of Captain Ernesto Barría entered Paradise Bay and headed toward a small cove called Leith Harbour. However, a surprise awaited us there: strong, gusty winds, overcoming the high wall of mountains that surrounded the harbour on three sides, came crashing down with such force that they threatened to tear the flag off the ship’s bow. Needless to say, under such conditions it was impossible not only to land ashore, but even to launch a Zodiac. As a result, it was decided to resort to Plan “B”, relocate to another harbour within Paradise Bay, and try our luck at Stony Point.

This time, the capricious Antarctic weather was far more favourable to us. A light breeze, calm, and snow — that was what awaited us at Stony Point. The Zodiacs were launched, and our camping guides, having loaded all the necessary equipment into them, sped off to shore to set up our camp. As soon as they reported that everything was ready, William, our hotel manager, announced a fifteen-minute readiness over the PA system. We gathered at the Zodiac Boarding Area, where each of us received a large dry bag containing insulated sleeping pads, a bivy bag, and, most importantly, a large and warm sleeping bag. Gradually boarding the Zodiacs, we began crossing to shore.

Upon arrival, we received the main instructions from the guides and then, taking shovels, started digging our shelters — pits sized to our sleeping bags and knee-deep in the snow. Some of us even managed to build additional snow walls for extra protection, so that even the strongest wind would not disturb them.

Little by little, we all finished digging our pits, laid out our sleeping pads and sleeping bags, and, having each received a thin liner — the thinnest cotton sleeping-bag liner — began to settle in for the night. The wind had almost completely died down, so undressing was not too cold, and once inside the sleeping bag it was easy to warm up and relax.

Sleep always creeps up unnoticed: you lie in the snow, look at the sky, and — just like that! — you fall into the arms of Morpheus. Some of us, however, were in no hurry to sleep and simply sat wrapped in our sleeping bags, watching enormous icebergs slowly, very slowly drift by, along with mountain peaks and the low Antarctic sky gradually taking on shades of violet. Simply breathtaking!

Wake-up was sounded at 4 a.m. Well, camping is not about rest, but about impressions. Crawling out of our sleeping bags, we shivered from the cold and pulled on clothing that had stiffened overnight — probably the most unpleasant moments. However, as soon as we began working with the shovels — we had to fill in the pits, those are the rules — we immediately warmed up, and some of us even became hot.

The Zodiacs were already waiting for us by the shore, and, gradually boarding them, we headed back to Hondius. Meanwhile, the sun was already beginning to gild the mountain peaks.

After returning to the ship, we went to the main lounge, where tea, fruit, and pastries were waiting for us. An unforgettable night!

Night 2

The weather continued to delight us! Our second day in Antarctica, and once again the sun was shining and there was almost complete calm. We were enjoying ourselves, while our guides kept repeating that we were far too lucky and that it could not last this long. Be that as it may, tonight was camping night!

It was a quiet, sunny evening, and Hondius was smoothly moving forward along the Neumayer Channel toward the site of our nighttime adventure. But then — bad luck! When the landing site was already in front of us, it was clearly visible through binoculars that there was no snow left at all in which we could bury ourselves. Apparently, the harsh winter winds had blown it all away completely. Well, for such cases the expedition leader always has a Plan “B”! We continued farther south and soon spotted a place very suitable for camping.

Our guides jumped into the Zodiacs and rushed off to reconnoitre, while we gradually gathered at the Zodiac Boarding Area and received our huge dry bags with sleeping pads, bivy bags, and warm sleeping bags inside. Soon the guides reported over the radio that everything was fine, and then we, in turn, jumped into the Zodiacs and sped off to shore to set up our night camp.

On shore, a fenced perimeter and shovels were waiting for us. After listening to the final instructions, we began digging our sleeping pits. It must be said that, even though it was snow and not earth, digging still turned out to be a very labor-intensive process. Nevertheless, in about an hour we had all completed the task and began undressing and settling in for the night.

It was late evening, accompanied by a stunningly beautiful sunset. Many of us, armed with cameras, tirelessly took photos of the mountain slopes on the opposite side of the bay bathed in the late sun, as well as clouds gradually taking on various shades of yellow. In any case, by one o'clock in the morning everyone had calmed down and our camp fell silent — but not for long.

At four in the morning our guides were already walking between the rows of pits we had dug, collectively waking us and urging us to crawl out of our sleeping bags and pull on our cold clothes. Nothing terrible — soon we all warmed up while wielding shovels and filling in our pits. Before long, the Zodiacs arrived and took us back on board Hondius. And just in time! A strong wind was beginning to rise.

On board the ship, we spent a long time drinking tea in the main lounge and enjoying pastries.

Night 3 : Hovgard Island

After dinner, we prepared ourselves to camp outside on Hovgard Island. The camping guides went out first to scout the best spot to welcome us ashore. When we arrived, the golden light of the sunset was hitting the mountains in the background, and the views were stunning.

After a quick briefing, we chose our spot and started digging our pit, all of us with shovels in hand, dedicated to making ourselves the best nest for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. The temperature was quite crisp, but digging the snow warmed us very quickly.

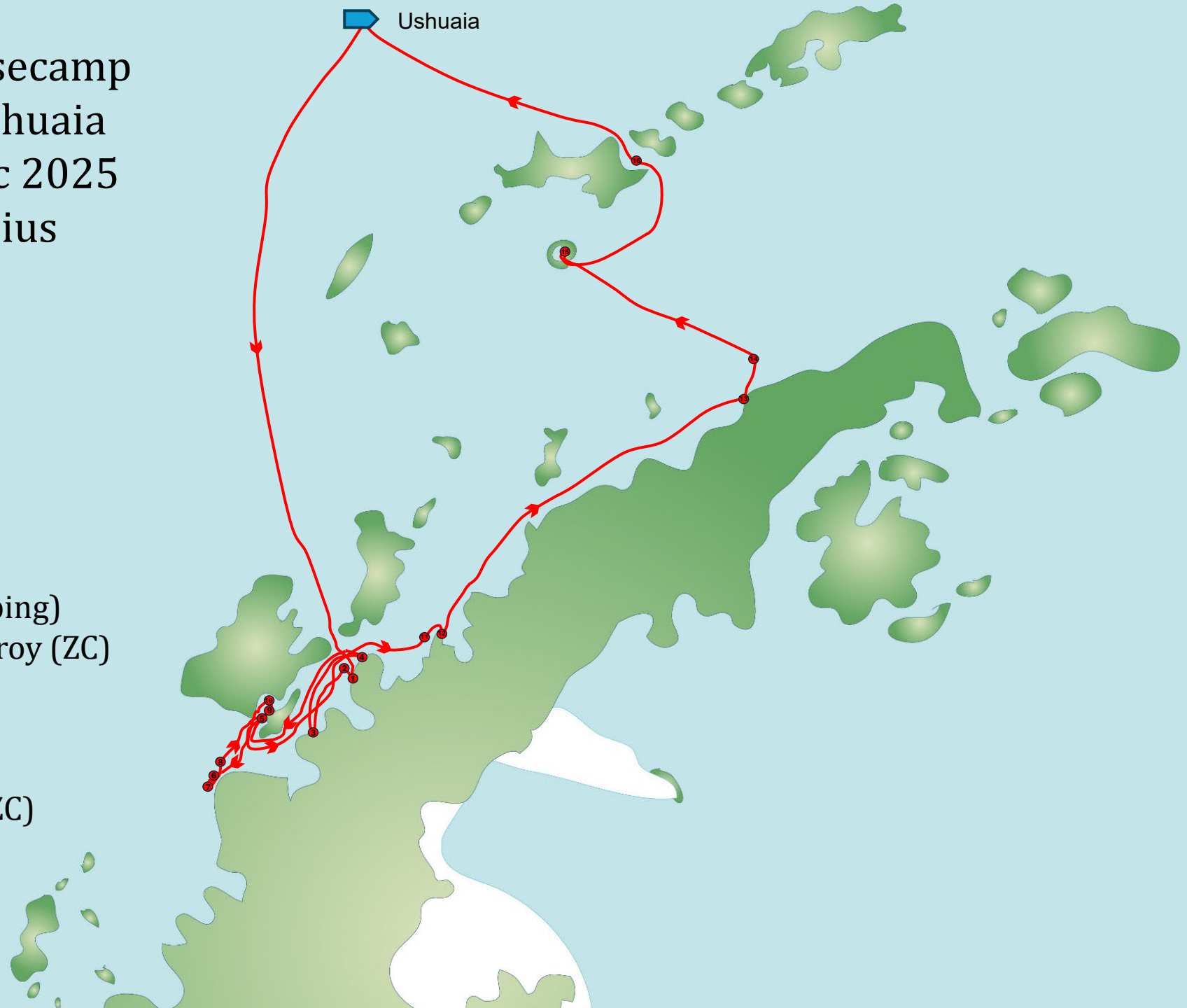
We took a few minutes to appreciate the view and then slipped into our sleeping bags, warm socks on, hoping to get a few hours of sleep. Once everyone was tucked in, silence settled in, and we could hear the glacier calving, icebergs flipping, and brash ice bubbling. Antarctica's sounds rocked us to sleep, with the cold, dry air on our cheeks.

We woke up at 4 a.m. to the guides singing us good morning. Valeria told us that a penguin had wandered around the campground during the night, singing in the middle of us sleeping.

It was time to head back on board, enjoying snacks and hot beverages prepared by the hotel team. It was definitely an unforgettable experience.

Antarctica Basecamp
Ushuaia – Ushuaia
9th– 21th Dec 2025
m/v Hondius

- 1.Danco Island
- 2.Orne Island
- 3.Stony Point (Camping)
- 4.Orne Harbour
- 5.Punta Lapa (Camping)
- 6.Pleneau Island (ZC)
- 7.Petermann Island
- 8.Hovgaard Island (Camping)
- 9.Jougla Point/Port Lockroy (ZC)
- 10.Damoy Point
- 11.Foyn Harbour (ZC)
- 12.Portal Point
- 13.Cape Roquemaurel (ZC)
- 14.Astrolabe
- 15.Whalers Bay
- 16.Half Moon Island (ZC)



Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region

[illegible]

Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonin</i>	南象海豹						x	x	x		x			
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Chris Long – Expedition Leader



Chris grew up as a part of New Zealand's remotest family two long days hike from the nearest road at a place called Gorge River, on the South Islands West Coast, New Zealand.

His family lives as self-sufficiently as possible in a small cabin surrounded by the jungled rainforest, the rough rugged coastline, and an emerald green river. Most of their food came from a huge vegetable garden or was fished from the ocean. This wild untouched natural corner of New Zealand was Chris's home for the first 17 years of his life, until, one day, he set out to explore

what the rest of the world had to offer.

Since leaving Gorge River Chris has set out to see, explore and experience as much of the globe as possible. This constant search for adventure has seen him travel to over 60 countries on all seven continents. Along this journey, he spent two full summer seasons living and working as a field trainer at Scott Base, a New Zealand research station in Antarctica, as well as multiple voyages to the Ross Sea and East Antarctica.

Chris is also no stranger to the arctic. He once sailed the notorious northwest passage across the top of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska and spent much of the covid pandemic living with 150 husky dogs in Tromso, northern Norway, enduring two long cold dark arctic winters training for long distance dog races.

Since recently returning to New Zealand, he has published an autobiography and is training for his commercial fixed-wing pilot's license.

Jerry Zhao – Asst. Exp. Leader



Jerry has been in love with nature and wildlife and traveling all his life. Soon after completed his degree in Business Administration at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Jerry began a career in the travel industry. Jerry first started as an international travel consultant and tour leader and led exclusive small high-end groups throughout Europe.

He then became partner in an international traveling consulting firm and focused on route planning and employee training.

As he searched for more adventure, He collected skills and knowledge while he traveled around to world. Finally, his step stopped at Polar regions, and joined Oceanwide Expeditions as Expeditions Guides, He has guided expeditions to the North Pole, Svalbard, Greenland, Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia many times.

Along the way as he spent more time in polar regions, learns more about polar regions, he is more interested in polar regions. He has self-studied the geography, wildlife and history of the Polar regions. He is beginning to learn wildlife photography.

When he is not in polar regions, he likes to spend his time in the forest, dessert, and plains in Northwestern part of China. He loves nature, wildlife, and he loves to share all that he knows to everyone who comes across.

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 Guide



Alexis Bellezze was born in San Luis, Argentina in 1973. He spent his childhood in the center of the country, in a rural area, before moving to the city of Mendoza close to the Central Andes. Here he studied at the Army High School where he fell in love with the mountains and the outdoors.

Alexis also lived in 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, before returning to Argentina to finish his studies as a Veterinarian. In 2006, he did a Residency in the ICU Service at the Large Animal Hospital of the Royal “Dick” Veterinary College in Edinburgh, Scotland.

In 2006 and 2008 Alexis did an internship as a veterinarian surgeon in Milano, Italy. Afterwards he moved to Villa La Angostura, an isolated village in the middle of the Patagonian Lake District where he currently works as a veterinarian surgeon. He also runs a kayak company in the Nahuel Huapi National Park.

Since 2018 he has been working as a Polar Kayak - and Expedition Guide, working in the polar regions including Greenland, Svalbard and Antarctica. Alexis also has extensive experience in the rugged areas of Patagonia.

During the last years he travelled in Chile and Argentina as a Wilderness First Responder instructor working in different environments such as the rainforest, the Patagonian mountain range, the windy Patagonian estepa and the dry desert of Atacama.

Since 2014 Alexis is the owner and Director of endurance kayak & mountain expeditions based in Patagonia Argentina.

Alexis is divorced, has 3 children and lives in Patagonia Argentina. He likes to go camping with them and prepare food over a campfire.

He speaks fluently Spanish, Italian and English.

Stella Yao - Translator



Stella Yao hails from Zhejiang, China and is currently based in New York after moving to the U.S. about ten years ago. She speaks fluent English and Mandarin and works onboard as the ship's translator. But you don't need to speak Mandarin to come say hi. She's always happy to help with anything, or just chat about life, travel, or whatever animal she's been thinking about that day.

Animals have always been a big part of Stella's story. She studied Animal Sciences and has spent years working in animal shelters, wildlife rehab centers, and animal welfare NGOs across the U.S., China, and Africa. That's taken her from rehabbing vervet monkeys and serval cats in Malawi, to working on whale and shark conservation programs in Washington D.C., to diving with marine scientists to collect data on sharks and rays in Mozambique.

Before working on expedition cruises, Stella worked as an investment analyst in the impact and sustainable investing space. But eventually the call to travel, be outside, and get closer to nature got too loud to ignore. She took the leap, started traveling, and found her way into expedition life, where adventure, conservation, and connecting with people from all walks of life all come together.

Stella brings a lot of curiosity, care, and enthusiasm wherever she goes. She loves sharing what she's learned, learning from others, and helping people feel more connected to the natural world, no matter if that happens on a zodiac ride, underwater, or over a cup of tea after a long day out in the cold.

Luce Moussiere (Lu) – Expedition Guide



Luce knew how to swim before she could walk. Originally from Ardèche, a wild and outdoorsy region in the south of France, she has always felt most at home in nature.

She is an Expedition Guide, Polar Dive Guide, Scuba Diving Instructor, lifeguard and Safety Diver for technical diving projects around the world.

She lived in Asia, and Australia and dived all around the world. But after years in tropical waters, it was the challenge of cold environment that truly captivated her.

She moved to Iceland to lead expedition in Silfra, the famous fissure in between tectonic plates, in order to train and gain access to the polar regions as a Dive guide.

Not content with just exploring below the surface, Luce expanded her expertise to land and became a full Expedition Guide.

Though not formally trained in science, her curiosity and determination have led her to work in diverse environments — from trekking through Malaysian rainforests and exploring remote coral reefs, to hiking active volcanoes and guiding in the polar regions. There's very little she isn't eager to learn about.

When she's not guiding guests on board, you'll likely find Luce diving, hiking, cooking, or off discovering new corners of the world to explore and learn from.

Gabi Kolodko – Expedition Guide



Having been exposed to the pristine wilderness of Alaska, Canada, and Lapland before turning ten, Gabi developed a deep-rooted passion for cold climates and the great outdoors. Each summer, she devoted herself to sailing, and in 2012, her adventures included crossing the Baltic Sea from Poland to Scandinavia and back aboard the Zawisza Czarny, a historic 42-meter vessel originally built in 1952.

With a Master's in Fine Arts and a fascination for art, culture, and history, Gabi's curiosity led her to explore the unique human-animal relationships in polar regions, combining her interest in zooanthropology with the stories of Antarctica's early exploration and modern conservation. Her first journey to Antarctica in 2019 only deepened her connection to the continent's striking landscapes and rich history.

Gabi's enthusiasm for the cold extends beyond her travels; she actively practices the Wim Hof method and regularly takes on ice baths, walrusing, and cryotherapy throughout the year. A memorable encounter with a herd of Musk Oxen in 1993 at Herschel Island off the Canadian Arctic coast sparked her love for Arctic wildlife, with the Gentoo Penguin now topping her list of favorites in Antarctica.

She loves being part of life-changing voyages, rediscovering the polar regions with each new group of guests. Driven by a passion for adventure and a genuine desire to share the wonders of the poles, Gabi aims to inspire awe and respect for these breathtaking and fragile landscapes, offering others a transformative glimpse into the natural world.

Hana Spickova – Expedition Guide



Hana is a chemist who is working the last two years at the University Centre on Svalbard. She comes originally from the Czech Republic and has spent the last 11 years in Norway.

Her love for nature and outdoor life brought her first to Tromsø in Northern Norway where she did her master degree while working as a northern light guide, photographer, dog sledding guide and dog handler. She likes to spend her free time in the mountains skiing, hiking, kayaking and diving. She spent two years traveling to Asia, Africa, South America and Patagonia. She worked as

a volunteer in rescue stations for wild animals in Bolivia and Peru and as a humanitarian helper in Iraq, Rwanda and Ethiopia. After finishing her studies, she has been working as an analytical chemist in Norway. Her curiosity and enthusiasm for outdoor life brought her all the way to Svalbard where she enjoys ski touring, dog sledding and exploring new places on a snowmobile. She speaks Czech, English and Norwegian.

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.

Annelou Hulsker – Expedition Guide



Annelou grew up in a seaside town in the Netherlands known for its navy base and fisheries. There she spent most of her time sailing, hiking, or looking for shiny rocks and shells on the beach. This is where her passion for the Earth began, which she decided to turn into her career.

Annelou specialized in Earth Sciences and graduated from Utrecht University. She specialized in physical geography, where her focus is on land-surface processes, natural hazards, geomorphology, climate reconstruction and climate changes and a minor in sustainability.

The connection between the academic and practical aspects of Earth Sciences, which involves a lot of fieldwork and is highly hands-on, is what she enjoys most. She loves to share her understanding of the Earth in general and the Arctic in particular. She also got a special interest in the history of whaling as it played a large role in her hometown's history.

She is overjoyed to be able to combine her passion for the Earth with traveling the seas by ship.

In her free time she still loves to collect shiny rocks. Most of the time she can be found on the water sailing somewhere in Europe with her family, hiking, or, when at home, bouldering and climbing.

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!

Adam Harmer – Kayak Leader



Adam has been paddling for over 20 years and this includes on all seven Continents. He calls the mountains and the Ocean his home.

Currently Adam lives in North Wales UK. He spends much of his life training and assessing outdoor instructors around the world.

Whether that is sea kayaking in Canada or Chile or raft guides and instructors on rivers in Africa.

Adam is also more than happy when he is working at home, where he shares his passion and extensive outdoor experience in training outdoor professionals and guides.

A previous winner of the Yukon 1000, the Worlds Longest Kayak race, first descents in Africa and South America and coaching under the Golden Gate Bridge and Antarctica so some of his highlights.

Adam also loves sharing the outdoors with people, sharing the interaction of nature, the sounds of waves crashing or seeing something special means the world to Adam.

He has two children and loves taking his family on 'Outdoor Adventures'

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.

Zoy Li - Translator



Originally from China and major in tourism management with Bachelor's degree,.

Worked for a high-end tailor-made travel agency in China which focused on operating groups to polar region since 2014. There she had several job functions: travel consultant, product planning, sales-support, tour operation & tour leader, and got many chances to lead groups to Arctic, Europe, Central America, Galapagos, South America till Antarctic. In 2019, she started to join the expedition cruises, worked as Interpreter&Expedition guide on board,

and had experienced a multiple of wildlife expeditions in various remote areas in this world, and so fascinated by every element from nature, she have great passion on sharing the most breathtaking scenes with every distinguished passengers for the polar region.

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.

Anne Vriend – Doctor



Anne Vriend (33) was born and raised in Groningen, in the north of the Netherlands. She studied medicine at the University of Amsterdam. With a strong interest in acute care, Anne spent several years working in emergency departments and Intensive Care Units, both in the Netherlands and on the Caribbean island of Sint Maarten.

Having recently completed her training as a general practitioner, Anne is now working as a GP, dedicated to providing holistic and personalized care to her patients. Her passion for travel and exploration often intertwines with her medical career. Last year, she joined an expedition to the Arctic as a ship's doctor with Oceanwide Expeditions. She also gained experience earlier on board a tall ship exploring uninhabited islands in the Caribbean Sea, and during a 2,000-kilometre rally through the Sahara Desert.

Outside of her medical work, Anne enjoys spending time in nature. She hikes regularly in the Netherlands and across Europe, particularly on mountain trails. She also practices kickboxing and recently earned her Advanced Open Water diving certification, which allows her to further explore the underwater world during her travels.



Basecamp Antarctica

Welcome aboard!

Date: 9th December 2025

Day 1: Ushuaia - Embarkation

Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check you have received all your luggage! Tea/coffee is available in the Observation Lounge located on Deck 5.

17:15+/- Please join the Expedition Leader and Chief Officer for the ship safety briefing, in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5. Attendance to this is MANDATORY.

After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket. All guests 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.

18:15+/- We would like to invite you to Captains Cocktails in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5. The Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader will do a welcome briefing, to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days. You will also meet your Expedition Team.

19:30 Buffet dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

20:30 The Expedition Team welcomes you to the Observation Lounge on deck 5 for the MANDATORY IAATO and Zodiac Briefing. Attendance will be checked.

Please note that tonight we will be sailing into the open sea. Take your seasickness medication before you really feel the movements of the vessel, the doctor will be available in the bar after dinner to assist with such matters. Make sure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed. Walk slowly on the ship, always use one hand for yourself and one for the ship and beware of your fingers because of doors slamming!

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



Basecamp Antarctica

Date: 10th December 2025

Day 2: At sea - Drakes Passage

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.

07:45 Wake-up call.

08:00-09:00 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 Koen or Jerry.

09:15 Please join your kayak guides in the Observation Lounge for the mandatory Kayak Briefing.

10:30 Please join 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 your camping guides for the mandatory Camping Briefing in the Observation Lounge on deck 5

16:15 Matt 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.



Basecamp Antarctica

Date: 11th December 2025

Day 3: Approaching Antarctica – Drake's 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 colour Group. *Please listen to announcements.*

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.

14:00/16:00 Meanwhile waiting for your group to be called. You may join our photography guides and Birder Mark on deck 6 for an interactive workshop.

16:15 Mark invites you to the Observation Lounge on deck 5 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.

"By endurance we conquer." - Ernest Shackleton:

Sunrise 03:45 – Sunset 23:41



Basecamp Antarctica

Date: Date: 12th December 2025

Day 4: Danco island and Orne Islands

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

This morning we hope to land and zodiac cruise at Danco, a small island in the Errera channel surrounded by icebergs and home to several gentoo penguin rookeries.

0745 Mountaineers - Please go to breakfast as soon as it opens and come (dressed & ready to go) to the Zodiac Boarding area on deck 3 at 0745

08:15 The **Yellow** and the **Green** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Danco island.

08:35 The **Red** and the **Blue** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Danco Island.

Please note that groups will swap half way through the morning so everyone gets to go for a cruise, and a landing.

08:45 Kayaker group A - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the of the zodiac boarding area.

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

In the afternoon we aim to land at George's Point & Orne Islands – we hope to see Gentoo & Chinstrap Penguins as well as lots of huge icebergs.

13:45 Mountaineers - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3.

14:15 The **Red** and the **Blue** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area (deck 3) for a landing at Orne Islands Island.

14:30 The **Yellow** and **Green** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area (deck 3) for a zodiac cruise at Orne Islands.

14:45 Kayaker group B - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the of the zodiac boarding area.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for daily recap and plans.

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

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



Basecamp Antarctica



Date: 13th December 2025

Day 5: Orne Harbor and Stony Point (*Paradise Bay*)

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

Stony Point is a small, rocky headland located in Paradise Bay, along the Antarctic Peninsula, known for its scenic views and as a site for spotting various seals and penguins. The location features a rocky shoreline, is snow-covered most of the season, and requires caution during landings due to shallow inner approaches and tidal variations.

Cancelled ~~Mountaineers — Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the zodiac boarding area to get ready for mountaineering.~~
08:15 The **Red** and the **Green** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Stony Point
08:30 The **Yellow** and the **Blue** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise around at Stony Point
08:45+/- Kayakers - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the zodiac boarding area).

Polar plunge will be another day

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

Orne Harbour is a scenic, mile-wide cove on the west coast of Graham Land, known for its stunning views of glaciers and towering mountain peaks. It is a popular tourist destination primarily to visit a large nesting colony of chinstrap penguins, which can be reached via a steep but safe hike up from the beach.

14:45 Mountaineers - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the zodiac boarding area to get ready for mountaineering.
15:00+/- The **Blue** and the **Red** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise landing at Orne Harbour.
15:15+/- The **Green** and the **Yellow** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Orne Harbour.
15:30+/- Kayakers - Please come (dressed & ready) to go to the zodiac boarding area.
18:30 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.
21:00+/- 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



Basecamp Antarctica

Date: Date: 14th December 2025

Day 6: Pleneau Island and Peterman Island

07:00 Wake-up call.

This morning we hope to transit the spectacular Lemaire Channel, considered by many as Antarctica's most photogenic passage. Please be on deck to enjoy the towering glaciers and wildlife as we transit through this narrow passage at 07:00

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

This morning we plan to zodiac cruise around Pleneau Island.

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

08:30 The **Blue Group** and the **Green Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise around Pleneau Island.

08:45 The **Yellow Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise around at Pleneau Island.

08:45+/- 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.

This afternoon we aim to land at Petermann Island, a small, rocky island off the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, near the southern end of the Lemaire Channel. It is known for its colonies of Adélie and gentoo penguins and is a common landing site for Antarctic research and tourism.

14:00 Mountaineers - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the zodiac boarding area.

14:15 The **Yellow Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Peterman Island

14:30 The **Blue Group** and the **Green Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise around at Peterman Island

14:15+/- Kayakers - Please come (dressed & ready) to go to the zodiac boarding area.

18:30 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.

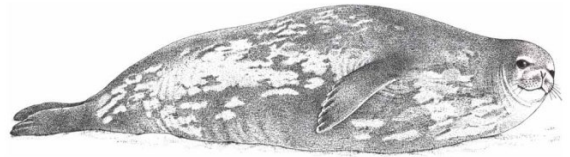
21:15+/- Campers - Please come to the zodiac boarding area, we will take you ashore for the night. *Please listen for announcements*



Basecamp Antarctica

Date: Date: 15th December 2025

Day 7: Jougla Point and Damoy Point



07:15 Wake-up call.

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

This morning we hope to offer a landing and a zodiac cruise around Jougla & Goudier islands. Here we hope to see nesting Gentoo Penguins & Imperial Cormorants. Goudier Island is home to Port Lockroy. Port Lockroy is closed to landing this morning.

08:15+/- Mountaineers - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the zodiac boarding area.

08:45 The **Gentoo penguins** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Jougla Point.

09:00 The **Humpback whales** and the **Antarctic krill** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise around at Jougla Point.

09:15+/- 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 hope to land and cruise at Damoy point. Here we hope to enjoy gentoo penguins, a long walk, a visit to a historic hut and stunning Antarctic scenery.

14:00 The **Humpback whales** and the **Weddell seals** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Damoy Point.

14:15 The **Antarctic krill** and the **Gentoo penguins** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Damoy Point.

Please note if the weather is unsuitable we will do a lecture onboard instead and groups will swap at 15:45

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

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for daily recap.

19:00 An Antarctic BBQ dinner will be served on the back of deck 5. Dress warmly for the occasion and lets enjoy food with spectacular views! 😊



Basecamp Antarctica

Date: 16th December 2025

Day 8: Foyen harbour and Portal Point

07:45 Wake-up call. Good morning Good morning!

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

In the morning, we hope to take you to Foyen harbour for a zodiac cruise. One of the most unusual attractions, is the shipwreck of the Norwegian factory ship, Governøren. In 1915 the captain intentionally ran the ship aground to save his crew (and whale oil) after a fire broke out on board.

08:30 Mountaineers - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the zodiac boarding area.

09:00 The **Red group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Foyen Harbour.

09:15 The **Blue group** and the **Green Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Foyen Harbour.

09:30 Kayakers - Please meet at the zodiac boarding area.

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

This afternoon we hope to land at Portal Point, a narrow, snow-covered headland on the Antarctic Peninsula at the entrance to Charlotte Bay. This stunning headland offers panoramic views of surrounding glaciers and mountains and is an Antarctic continental landing.

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

14:15 The **Yellow Group** and the **Green Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Portal Points.

14:30 The **Blue Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Portal Point.

18:30 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.



Basecamp Antarctica

Date: Date: 17th December 2025

Day 9: Cape Roquemaurel and Astrolabe Island

06:45 Wake-up call. Good morning Good morning!

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

We would like to ask everyone to please tag your name at reception, before 17:00 today, in case you would like to use the shuttle service from the Ship to the Airport at 8:30 on disembarkation day.

In the morning we are going to explore around Cape Roquemaurel, a rocky cape on the west coast of Graham Land on the Antarctic Peninsula, overlooking the northern Gerlache Strait. It was named during early French Antarctic expeditions and is notable for its steep cliffs and icy coastal scenery. This is a place few ships ever get the chance to explore.

08:00 The and the **Blue Group** and the **Green Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Cape Roquemaurel

08:15 The **Red Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Cape Roquemaurel

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

In the afternoon we will attempt to land and cruise at Astrolabe Island. Astrolabe Island is a small island off the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula near the entrance to the Bransfield Strait. It was discovered by a French expedition in the 19th century and is surrounded by ice-filled waters and rugged coastal scenery. Few ships ever visit this island due to its location and how exposed it is to the open sea swells.

13:45 The **Yellow Group** and the **Red Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Astrolabe Island.

14:15 The **Blue Group** and the **Green Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise around Astrolabe Island.

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.

20:30+/- Join us in the lecture room for the movie Happy feet with popcorn!

"King weather is the tyrant of these latitudes, and he rules South Georgia with ruthless despotism." - Frank Hurley



Basecamp Antarctica



Date: 18th December 2025

Whalers Bay And Edinburgh Hill

06:15 Wake-up call. Good morning Good morning!

At 0630, we will sail into Deception Island; we encourage you to be on the outside decks to enjoy this remarkable navigation. The caldera has a narrow entrance, just 230 metres (755 feet) wide, called Neptune's Bellows.

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

In the Morning we hope to land and cruise in Whalers Bay. Deception Island. This island is the caldera of an active volcano and previously held one of the largest whaling stations.

At the end of the morning, we'll be offering a Polar Plunge for those feeling brave! Please wear your swimsuit underneath your expedition's waterproof gear. Towels will be provided, so do not bring the towel from your cabin along.

0800 The **Blue Group** and the **Green Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Whalers Bay.

0815 The **Red Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Whalers Bay.

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

14:00 Matt invites you to the lecture room for a mobile and camera photo editing workshop.

In the afternoon we aim to take you out on a Zodiac cruise at Edinburgh Hill. A hill that comes straight out of the water made from Basalt Hexagonal pillars. An incredible and unique sight to see in the Antarctic Peninsula. It will be a short cruise so no matter the weather. We highly recommend coming out and join us for this adventure.

1615 The **Red Group** and the **Yellow Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a Zodiac Cruise at Edinburgh Hill.

1630 The **Blue Group** and the **Green Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a Zodiac Cruise at Edinburgh Hill.

On arrival back to the ship please return your (Clean) muck boots to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3.

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

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

Tonight, we will be headed back out into the Drakes Passage. Please take a moment before dinner to make sure your cabins are secure before the ship starts to roll. Please be careful moving about especially in stair wells. Please always have one hand free for the ship at all times when moving about.



Basecamp Antarctica

Date: 19th December 2025

Day 11: At sea - Drake Passage.

Today there will be no wake up call. Wake up at your leisure. Please make sure to have one hand for the ship at all times as the ship will be rolling a little in the Drake Passage Swells..

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

09:15 Koen invites you to the Observation Lounge for his lecture about the "Exploration of Antarctica".

10:45 Carina welcomes you to the Observation Lounge for her lecture about "Hondius, Behind the scenes"

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

16:15 Sasha invites you to the Observation Lounge for his lecture about How to get to Antarctica. This will include special mention about Sasha's famous "Fur underpants"

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for Daily Recap. There will be some important information given by the Hotel Manager about disembarkation, settling accounts etc. therefore, we encourage at least one person from each group to attend.

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

20:45 Edward invites you to the Lecture room on Deck 5 for his life story of Climbing Mount Vincent!

"The quality I look for most is optimism: especially optimism in the face of reverses and apparent defeat. Optimism is true moral courage". – Sir Ernest Shackleton



Basecamp Antarctica

Date: 20th December 2025

Day 12: At sea - Approaching South America.

Today there will be no wake up call. Wake up at your leisure. Once again please make sure to have one hand for the ship at all times as the ship will be rolling.

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

After breakfast you will be able to settle your accounts at reception, please ensure your account is settled before 17:00 at the latest.

09:15 Luce invites you to the Observation Lounge for her lecture: "What is going on below the surface in Antarctica, Underwater wildlife and the food web."

10:45 Rose invites you to the Observation Lounge for her lecture Antarctic Geology.

12:00 The Expedition team would like to collect your Rental equipment from Ushuaia from you on deck 3.

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

16:15 Valeria invites you to the Observation Lounge for her Workshop All about *Argentinian MATE*.

18:00 Please join the captain and the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for Captain's cocktails, plans for disembarkation and the premiere of our voyage slideshow compiled by Juan.

A copy of the voyage slideshow will be sent to you after the voyage. Please make sure you have scanned the QR code to enter your email address.

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

PLEASE NOTE: Upon arrival in Ushuaia, please wait in lounge until the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to disembark. We will provide a free bus to the airport for **morning flights** only, at 08:30-09:00 a.m. **Please identify your luggage on the pier and put it on the bus** if you would like this service. For the Guests with **afternoon flights**, we will transfer your luggage to the **drop-off center**, and you will need to pick up your luggage **before 14:00 hrs**. Please identify your luggage on the pier and put it into the **luggage truck** if you wish to do this. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please identify your luggage on the pier and take it with you.



Basecamp Antarctica

Date: 21st December 2025

Day 13: Ushuaia.

07:15 Wake-up call.

Please ensure your luggage is outside your room by 7:30 before going to breakfast.

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

PLEASE NOTE: Upon arrival in Ushuaia, please wait in lounge until the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to disembark. We will provide a free bus to the airport for **morning flights** only, at 08:30-09:00 a.m. **Please identify your luggage on the pier and put it on the bus** if you would like this service. For the Guests with **afternoon flights**, we will transfer your luggage to the **drop-off center**, and you will need to pick up your luggage **before 14:00 hrs**. Please identify your luggage on the pier and put it into the **luggage truck** if you wish to do this. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please identify your luggage on the pier and take it with you.

08:45+/- We invite all guests to disembark.

From all the Expedition Team and Crew on board the MV Hondius, we wish you safe onward travel. Thank you for sharing this incredible voyage with us and we look forward to sailing with you again in the future.