

# Falkland – South Georgia – Antarctica

Ushuaia – Falklands – South Georgia – Antarctica – Ushuaia

11<sup>th</sup> December – 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025

On board M/V *Ortelius*



M/V *Ortelius* was built in 1989 in Gdynia, Poland as a special-purpose research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science. She was originally named "Marina Svetayeva" after a well-known Russian poetess and writer. The vessel was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions in 2011, re-flagged in The Netherlands, and re-



named *Ortelius*. She was extensively re-fitted in 2019 and complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea). M/V *Ortelius* is 91.25 m long, 17.2 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.4 m. She has ice class UL1 (Equivalent to 1A, POLAR CODE), 10.5 knots average cruising speed and propulsion is 6 ZL 40/48 SULZER, that allows her sailing for 44 days \*\*without needing to stop\*\*. *Ortelius* is named after the Dutch cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the "Theatrum Orbis Terrarum" (Theatre of the World) in 1570. Her home port is Vlissingen.

### **Captain Remmert Koster**

[The Netherlands]

and his international crew of 53

Chief Officer:	<b>Sjoerd van Hoek</b>	[The Netherlands]
Second Officer:	<b>Sander Witsenburg</b>	[The Netherlands]
Third Officer:	<b>Ian Vicente</b>	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	<b>Yuzon Jhunwel</b>	[Philippines]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Volodymyr Cherednychenko</b>	[Ukraine]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	<b>Karolina Guziejko</b>	[Poland]
Head Chef:	<b>Ivan Yuriychuk</b>	[Ukraine]
Expedition Leader	<b>Chloé Maréchal</b>	[Scotland]
Assistant Expedition Leader	<b>Koen Hoekemeijer</b>	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide	<b>Aitana Forcén-Vázquez</b>	[Spain]
Expedition Guide	<b>Saskia van der Meij</b>	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide	<b>Svatava Spěváčková</b>	[Czechia]
Expedition Guide	<b>Gary Miller</b>	[Australia]
Expedition Guide	<b>Jess Owen</b>	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide	<b>Wenyan Wang</b>	[China]
Expedition Guide	<b>Wei Deng</b>	[China]
Translator	<b>Daisy Yao</b>	[China]
Ship's Doctor	<b>Elmar Kleimann</b>	[Germany]
Lead Dive Guide	<b>Gonzalo Sabattini</b>	[Argentina]
Dive Guide	<b>Dimitris Sotirakis</b>	[Greece]
Dive Guide	<b>Kevin Verbist</b>	[Belgium]
Dive Guide	<b>Sid Dewfall</b>	[Gibraltar]

**WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!**

## Day 1 – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – Embarkation Day, Ushuaia

0800 GPS Position: 54°48.7'S, 068°17.8'W

Wind: Var 2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air Temp: + 11,2°C

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Most of us arrived yesterday in Ushuaia and enjoyed a good night sleep in a hotel in town. After exploring Ushuaia in the morning, we made our way down to the middle of the pier to embark on our new home, the *MV Ortelius*, for the next nineteen days. While boarding we've met some of the guides and after checking in we were brought to our cabins by one of the stewards from the hotel department and found our luggage already there. We got acquainted a little with the ship and found the tea and coffee station in the lounge on deck 6.

This is where we all were welcomed at 16:30 for to receive a brief introduction to your new home aboard *MV Ortelius*, followed by a mandatory safety briefing and lifeboat drill. We stayed out on deck as the vessel was leaving the pier and enjoyed the views, when we set sail into the Beagle Channel under a beautiful, yet dramatic cloudy sky.



At 17:15 we were asked to join our Expedition Leader Chloe and her Expedition team in the lounge again for Captain's cocktail. We were handed a glass of prosecco or orange juice and were treated with an array of lovely snacks. Captain Remmert Koster welcomed us on board and raised our glasses to a good voyage. After that the expedition team came up to introduce themselves.

We then were invited to come down to deck 4, where the dining room doors had opened. We enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by the galley team. Many of us were tired from travelling and from the anticipation of beginning our exciting journey and headed to our cabins for an early night. Others stayed up to watch the sun go down and enjoy the birds and scenery of the first day on board. Meantime, when all of this was happening, a pilot came on board via rope ladder, to assist with leading *Ortelius* through the Beagle Channel. After couple of hours,



the pilot was picked up again and brought back to Ushuaia.

## Day 2 – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Sailing towards Falkland Islands

09:00 GPS Position: 54°02.4'S, 064°05.1'W

Wind: NW7 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air Temp: + 7°C

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We woke up to the sound of Chloe's voice for the first time. We were excited to be spending our first full day on board *Ortelius*. There was a strong wind whipping around the ship and the waves were around three to four metres tall. This was enough to make many people feel the effects of sea sickness and so it was a quiet day for many.

Chloe invited everyone to the lounge first thing after breakfast to deliver a zodiac safety briefing. She showed us what to wear outside and how to safely embark and disembark the zodiacs.

Later on, in the morning Gary gave a presentation about the birds and seals species that can be seen in the Falkland Islands.

After a buffet lunch we were invited to collect our muck boots from the lecture room which would keep our feet warm and dry on our visits to some of the most remote and wild places. We were then asked to come in groups to the lounge to have all of our outdoor gear checked and given and extra clean. This was to ensure that we wouldn't bring any invasive or harmful species to the Falkland Islands.



Despite the windy weather, the sun was bright and the visibility outside was excellent. We enjoyed watching the deep blue waves crashing around us. In the afternoon we spent time watching the spectacular bird species that were soaring over the waves. We could see giant petrels, black-browed albatross, prions, storm petrels, and even some Southern royal albatross flying around us. We enjoyed the challenge of trying to identify and take pictures of these special Southern Ocean residents.

In the early evening, we gathered for the first of our evening recaps. Chloe gave us the tentative plans for tomorrow. If the fifty knot winds allowed us, we would be landing on New Island, a beautiful and rugged spot home to nesting black-browed albatross and rock hopper penguins.

Jess, assisted by Gary and Saskia, gave us a visual aid (a handy piece of string) to demonstrate the lengths of the wingspans of the bird species we had seen today. We were shocked to see that the royal and wandering albatross wingspans can reach three and a half meters. Gary told us about how these birds use dynamic soaring and orographic soaring to avoid flapping their wings and expending unnecessary energy. It was great to have some further information on species that we had been observing that very day.

We headed off for dinner. Afterwards, some of us enjoyed watching the sun set and soaked up the seascape, while others enjoyed a drink at the bar.



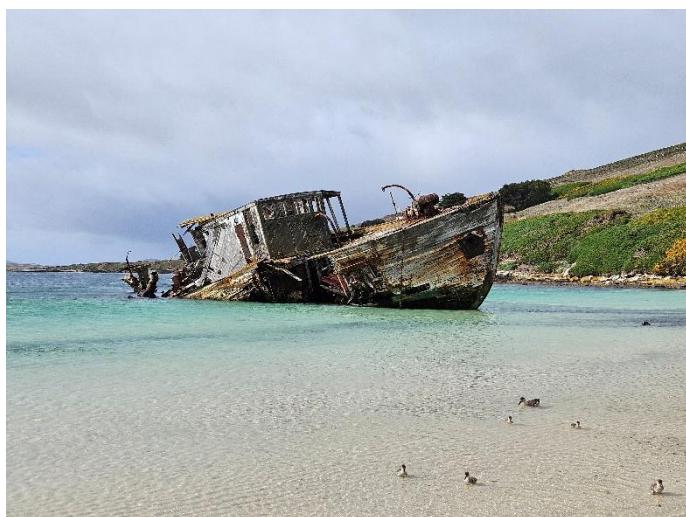
## Day 3 – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Landing at New Island, Falklands

09:00 GPS Position: 51°43.2'S, 060°15.9'W

Wind: NW10 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Rainy • Air Temp: + 6°C

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Yesterday was a big trial for many of our guests with the movement of the ship. Many had to stick to their cabins and/or bunks to keep it together. Today promised to solve those problems—at least temporarily—by landing at New Island in the Falkland Islands. In high hopes of a long day on shore, we had an early wake up at 07:45 for an 08:00 breakfast. As it happened, the wind was strong and the swell a bit more than we bargained for, so we were delayed a bit getting to our anchorage. In the end, Captain chose a slightly different place to drop anchor due to wind conditions, so we had quite a long, and windy, Zodiac ride to shore. The expedition staff went ashore first to set out the equipment and to be ready to receive everyone else. Tim and Jenny, the local caretakers for the Falkland Islands Conservation Trust met us at the beach and briefed our staff on the site. It wasn't long before we had a steady stream of passengers arriving.



Our landing site was a beautiful little beach with a hulk of an old shipwreck pushed up on shore. We all had a gorgeous greeting party of a family of Patagonia Crested Ducks with their five 4-day old ducklings in tow. Some perhaps made a quick stop at the Museum/shop in the substantial stone

building at the landing site, but most set out directly on the 1 km walk up to the west edge of the island where the mixed Black-browed Albatross/King Cormorant/ South Rockhopper penguin colony perched up on the cliff tops.

On first arriving, we encountered the part of the colony that is mostly King Cormorants. It was quiet for the most part as most of the individuals on the nests, were alone, and sitting tightly on their complement of eggs. The nests were very regular in their spacing, so the impression was of a very orderly community. Occasionally an unoccupied cormorant would arrive and bring a bit of seaweed or straw in to help build (or add to) their nest. When mates arrived from being at sea, the pair shared a few guttural growling vocalizations by way of greeting. Around the south flanks of the colony, the proportion of Southern Rockhopper penguin nests increased quickly with very few cormorants, but also now, Black-browed albatross, sitting regally on their pedestal nests. Most were still on their one egg, but a few had chicks, and regularly stood or shifted in such a way that we were able to catch glimpses of the tiny young chicks. Certainly, less than a week old, they are still small enough to be completely covered by the adult sitting over them on the nest. Patience and keen observation had their reward though, a few diligent observers did

catch glimpses of those gorgeous tiny chicks.

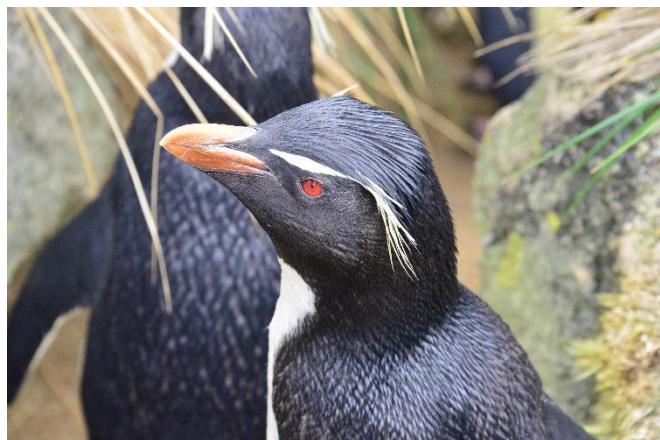
It was wonderful to be off the pitching and rolling ship and to be able to watch and study the little dramas of everyday life of these penguins, albatross and cormorants, even the few skulking predators were present in the forms of skuas and sheathbills. Eventually, the wind and driving rain convinced everyone that perhaps a warm dry ship would be a better place to be, so everyone headed back down the hill to

the landing site. A visit to the museum and shop was out of the wind and rain so it was quite enticing.

Once back on board, it took everyone a little while to peel off their soaked layers and get them hung up to dry to be ready for the next time. With the wind increasing, we had to cancel the afternoon outing so we started out navigation toward Stanley as everyone sat

down for lunch. For a while, we had the perfect arrangement of wind and waves, so our good ship rolled dramatically—enough to toss teacups and books and computers from their resting places. Fortunately, no injuries and no serious damage.

As everyone began to recover from the landing and be able to withstand the rolling, Jess gave us a tremendous introduction to the Whales of the Southern Oceans followed fairly quickly



to a recap. Plans for tomorrow include an all-morning stop in Stanley if we can get ourselves ashore. Following the briefing, Aitana presented us with a great explanation of waves, and Gary talked about what little dramas happened with the penguins and albatrosses today while we visited. The seas have calmed considerably for a pleasant evening, so everyone has head off to bed dreaming of Stanley.

## Day 4 – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Stanley

09:00 GPS Position: 51°41.8'S, 057°50.1'W

Wind: NW10 • Sea: Slight / Moderate • Weather:

Cloudy / Rainy • Air Temp: + 7,9°C

Today was a day of watching and waiting, a true expedition day. Early in the morning we approached Port Stanley. We sailed through the narrow gap into the port in around forty knots of wind. We were intrigued to watch the pilot boat approach our ship and see the pilot climb up via a rope ladder onto our vessel and join us on the bridge.

We could see the colourful town on the shore. After breakfast, the expedition team dropped zodiacs, and two boats made it to the jetty. However, the wind was extremely strong and started to gust at up to fifty knots. It was not safe to begin disembarking passengers in this weather. Despite the short distance between our ship and the jetty, the conditions at the gangway and on the water were far too bouncy and rough. Even the expedition team struggled to get back on board. Chloe and Koen made the good decision to wait a little while and see if the wind would drop before disembarking passengers. Throughout the morning, we could see little Commerson's dolphins swimming and playing around our ship in the waves that were being created by what were now sixty knot gusts.

Three brave souls, Gonzalo, Sid, and Dimi, did continue to drive in the conditions and headed back to the jetty in one zodiac to pick up some supplies, and an officer from the South Georgia Government. The officer had with him a little dog called Hunter who was eight years old. Hunter was a working dog who was here to check that there were no rodents hiding on the ship before we set sail to South Georgia. The South Georgia Government and

Heritage Trust spent a huge amount of time and resources eradicating rats from South Georgia, a species that was harming the nesting bird species on the island. It would be a disaster if a visiting ship like ours was to accidentally reintroduce rats to the island, so hunter came to make sure we were rat free.

Because of the weather conditions, Hunter and his owner had to stay on board for a little longer than usual. The officer offered to take Hunter to the lounge where we



could give him a cuddle and learn more about his training process. This ended up being the highlight of the morning, what a treat to play with Hunter and make a fuss of him after his work was done.

After lunch, at around 2.30pm the wind started to die down. The expedition staff hopped in the boats again and this time we were all finally able to get ashore in very wet and rainy weather.

We enjoyed exploring the town and hiding from the rain in the gift shops. Many of us visited the museum on the shore and the beautiful cathedral with an impressive whale bone arch outside. There was also great wildlife to be seen even in a residential area. Falkland Island steamer ducks and their tiny fluffy chicks were charming us at the jetty. We could also see lots of impressive turkey vultures soaring around and resting on the pier. We even spotted a seal swimming between the zodiacs. But the real wildlife highlight of the day was seeing the Commerson's dolphins close up from the zodiacs as we sailed in.

By the time we finished our operation in Stanley, the water in the harbour was flat and calm, a total transformation from the choppy waves in the morning. We returned to the ship loaded with Christmas presents in the form of local gin, beautiful artwork, handmade knitwear, and lots of chocolate.

After a quick briefing in the lounge about the plans for our day at sea tomorrow, we made our way to dinner. Remarkably, the excitement of the day was still not over. A search and rescue team from the Falkland Islands asked if they could come and do a practice with their helicopter on our ship, lowering a person down onto our outer decks via a winch.





## Day 5 – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December – At sea towards South Georgia

0900 GPS Position: 52°35.3'S, 053°27.8'W

Wind: NW4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air Temp: + 9.1°C

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Good morning, good morning, Ortelius!

After our exciting and true expedition style activities in the Falklands, we woke up this morning in the Southern Ocean again. We had left the Falkland Islands behind us and had set course towards South Georgia. The Falkland Islands had been a great start to our journey, and we immediately saw why we were on an expedition and not on a cruise!

Luckily the ocean looked a lot calmer than the past days and if the weather and swell forecast was correct than our entire crossing to South Georgia would be calm with little swell. We deserved it!

This day was packed with lectures about different topics and for the afternoon also an outside photo workshop was planned.

QB and Koen kicked off the day with their lectures about photography. QB talked about basic photography and photography



skills in the lecture room, whereas Koen shared 10 of his tips to improve our wildlife photography. Both presentations were very inspiring and motivated us to take better photos. However, Koen also shared a bonus tip which was to put your camera or phone down occasionally, as to soak up the amazing and remote places we will visit during our adventure and see it through with only our eyes.

Then it was Chloe's turn, and she shared her passion for plankton and the underwater forest. It was a very interesting and fascinating lecture and Chloe's enthusiasm was very inspiring. This was only part 1 of 3 so we were all looking forward to Chloe's next chapter.

For the afternoon a photo workshop was planned with a focus on photographing birds in flight. However, it had been a meager day in terms of flying wildlife, so it was decided to postpone this workshop. But this didn't prevent us from going outside. The weather was lovely with the sun out, little wind and mild temperatures. Many of us decided to spend time sitting on one of the benches enjoying the warm rays of the sun and the gentle movement of the ship. Some of us probably dozed off every now and then ;).

Later in the afternoon Gary treated us with a lecture about several seal species which we may encounter during our expedition. South Georgia is full of millions of fur seals, and the elephant seals and leopard seals can be found there.

The day flew past and soon it was time again for our recap and then onwards we made our way down to the restaurant for a tasty dinner. One more day at sea ahead before arriving at the magnificent island of South Georgia.

Good night, everyone!



## Day 6 – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – At sea towards South Georgia

0900 GPS Position: 53°37.9'S, 044°40.8'W

Wind: WNW5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 2,8°C

We woke to another full day at sea, with Ortelius steadily making her way eastward toward



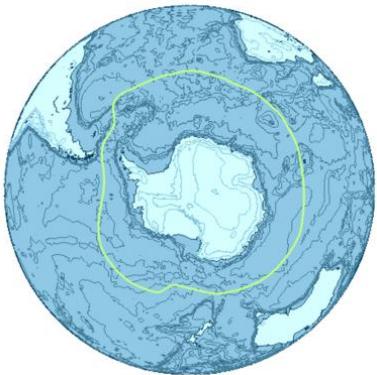
South Georgia. After breakfast, the lounge gradually filled as everyone gathered for a morning of briefings and talks, a rhythm that has already begun to feel familiar, and reassuring, as we move deeper into the Southern Ocean.

Our Expedition Leader, Chloe, opened the morning with a comprehensive briefing on South Georgia and Antarctica. She spoke

about what we could expect in the days ahead: the landscapes, wildlife, and weather conditions but also about our responsibilities as visitors to some of the most pristine environments on Earth. The discussion covered practical guidance as well as the broader principles behind IAATO regulations, reminding us that every step ashore is a privilege that comes with care, awareness, and respect. We also reviewed biosecurity standards and watched a video specifically focused on South Georgia, highlighting why such strict measures are essential to protect its fragile ecosystems.



Later in the morning, Gary took us on a journey through the birds of South Georgia. His talk ranged from the great albatrosses and various petrels to endemic species and penguins, weaving together scientific knowledge, field experience, and plenty of humour along the way. Through stories from past seasons and clear explanations of life cycles, migration routes, and flight strategies, Gary brought the avian world of the sub-Antarctic vividly to life. What stood out most was how these birds are perfectly adapted to an environment that, to us, feels extreme. Navigating vast distances, fierce winds, and remote islands with remarkable efficiency.



After lunch, the ship shifted into a more hands-on mode as we began our biosecurity checks. Guests were called deck by deck to the lounge, bringing outer layers, backpacks, muck boots, and equipment with them. The expedition team had vacuums, brushes, and cleaning tools ready, and the process was thorough, patient, and meticulous. Every seam, pocket, and tread was carefully inspected and cleaned to ensure nothing foreign would be carried ashore. It was a long but essential operation, and a clear demonstration of the collective effort required to protect South Georgia's unique environment.

At 4:00 pm, Aitana invited us back to the lounge for a presentation on Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance expedition. She shared not only the events of the journey but also reflected on what made Shackleton such an extraordinary leader. His ability to adapt, to prioritise his people, and to make difficult decisions under immense pressure. It was a timely story, fitting for a voyage approaching the very landscapes that shaped one of the most remarkable survival stories in polar history.

As the day drew on, we spent time on deck and on the bridge, rewarded with sightings of wandering albatrosses, royal albatrosses, southern giant petrels, and light-mantled sooty albatrosses gliding effortlessly alongside the ship. Watching them trace wide arcs over the waves was a reminder that we were well and truly in the Southern Ocean now.

During the evening recap, Chloe outlined the tentative plans for the following day, with hopes of arriving in South Georgia waters and attempting landings at Right Whale Bay and Salisbury Plain. Assistant Expedition Leader Koen then explained the Antarctic Convergence, where cold Antarctic waters meet warmer northern seas, and why crossing this invisible boundary marks an ecological and symbolic entry into Antarctica. With that, we officially welcomed everyone south.



To end the recap on a lighter note, Jess hosted a fun sound-guessing game, inviting us to identify the calls of various polar animals. Laughter filled the lounge as guests were surprised by how different birds, mammals, and cetaceans sound in the wild.

The day concluded with a delicious three-course plated dinner, and a quiet sense of anticipation settled

over the ship as we continued our approach toward South Georgia.

## Day 7 – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – South Georgia: Right Whale Bay & Salisbury Plain

0900 GPS Position: 54°00.6'S, 037°40.9'W

Wind: Var 3 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp + 4,5°C

During the early morning hours, the ship approached the dramatic coastline of South Georgia, where steep, snow-dusted mountains rose from the sea beneath a blanket of low cloud. After days of anticipation, we had finally arrived at one of the most wildlife-rich islands on the planet. Excitement was palpable on board as guests gathered on deck, catching their first glimpses of this remote sub-Antarctic landscape.



Our first landing of the day took place at Right Whale Bay, a broad and gently sloping beach backed by tussock grass and glaciated terrain. Conditions were favourable for Zodiac operations, allowing us to begin the day smoothly. As guests stepped ashore, they were immediately greeted by the unmistakable sounds of king penguins, echoing across the bay. For many, this was a long-awaited moment, their first encounter with king penguins in the wild.

Scattered across the beach and surrounding slopes, king penguins stood in small groups or moved purposefully between the sea and their nesting areas. Their striking orange and gold markings contrasted vividly with the muted tones of the landscape. Guests spent time quietly observing penguins preening, calling, and interacting, while several large southern elephant seals rested along the shoreline. Massive bulls lay motionless near the water's edge, while females and juveniles dozed or shifted lazily in the sand. Curious Antarctic fur seals also made appearances, darting along the edges of the landing site and keeping a watchful eye on our activities.

The landing at Right Whale Bay provided a relaxed and rewarding introduction to South Georgia's extraordinary wildlife. Expedition staff guided guests along designated routes,

sharing information about penguin life cycles, seal behaviour, and the island's complex history of exploitation and recovery. With time to explore at a comfortable pace, guests were able to fully appreciate the atmosphere of the place before returning by Zodiac to the ship.

During lunch, the ship repositioned along the coast toward our afternoon destination, Salisbury Plain, one of South Georgia's most iconic wildlife sites. As we approached, the scale of the colony became evident even from offshore, with the shoreline appearing alive with movement.

Zodiac operations resumed in the afternoon, bringing guests ashore at Salisbury Plain under increasingly grey skies. Upon landing, we were immediately immersed in a vast colony of approximately 60,000 breeding pairs of king penguins, accompanied by thousands of chicks in various stages of development. The constant chorus of calls filled the air, creating an unforgettable sensory experience.

Walking routes were carefully established to allow safe movement through the colony while minimizing disturbance. Penguins crowded the landscape in all directions, adults standing shoulder to shoulder, chicks clustered together in crèches, and long lines of penguins commuting between the colony and the sea. Brown, fluffy chicks stood out among the sleek adults, patiently waiting as parents returned from foraging trips.

As the landing progressed, a steady rain began to fall. Soon, everyone was thoroughly wet, from waterproof outer layers to camera gear. Despite the conditions, spirits remained high. Guests embraced the experience with good humour, taking photographs and simply standing in awe of the sheer abundance of wildlife around them. The rain added a raw, elemental atmosphere to the scene, with mist drifting across the hills behind the colony and water beading on penguin feathers as they continued their daily routines, seemingly unaffected.



Elephant seals were again present along the beach, lying contentedly among the penguins, while fur seals moved energetically through the shallows. Expedition staff remained on site throughout the landing, helping, ensuring safety, and sharing observations about penguin behaviour and the ecological significance of Salisbury Plain.

Eventually, with the rain continuing and guests soaked but smiling, the decision was made to conclude the landing. Zodiacs ferried everyone back to the ship, where warm drinks and dry



indoor spaces provided welcome relief. Conversations buzzed with excitement as guests shared impressions of their first day in South Georgia, many describing Salisbury Plain as one of the most extraordinary places they had ever visited.

The evening was dedicated to biosecurity preparations ahead of the next day's operations. Guests carefully cleaned boots, outerwear, backpacks, and camera equipment, removing any seeds or organic material to ensure compliance with South Georgia's strict environmental regulations. The cleaning stations were busy as everyone worked together to protect this fragile ecosystem. Though tired from a long and eventful day, guests approached the task with enthusiasm and care, fully aware of the importance of preserving South Georgia's unique environment.

As the ship settled for the night offshore, the sense of accomplishment was strong. From the gentle introduction of Right Whale Bay to the overwhelming wildlife spectacle of Salisbury Plain, December 17 marked a remarkable beginning to our time in South Georgia, one that would surely remain a highlight of the voyage.

## Day 8 – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Grytviken & St. Andrew's Bay

0900 GPS Position: 54°17.3'S, 036°28.9'W

Wind: Var 5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temp: + 5°C

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Today was a very exciting day for many as we planned to visit two unique places. The first stop was Grytviken. Grytviken was once a working whaling station, active from 1904 to 1964. In that time it's estimated that over 175,000 whales were caught and brought there to be processed. The whales were used to make all sort of products such as oil, margarine, soap, and their baleen plates were even used to make corsets.

Before we could go ashore, we first had an inspection from the government officer who came to check our rat prevention measures and look at our equipment. Meanwhile, Will and Emily from the South Georgia Heritage trust who look after and run the museum came on board to give us a presentation about the work that the trust does. The government officer then checked the first ten passengers going ashore to make sure their boots, bags, and coats were clean. We scored 100% in the biosecurity check, a perfect result which was so satisfying after we had spent so much time cleaning our belongings. This meant the rest of us could head to the shore without being checked. It was amazing to see Grytviken; a place steeped in history. We walked around the old whaling station. We explored the church which had Christmas decorations up and we could ring the bell. We enjoyed visiting the post office and the museum shop to get some souvenirs and Christmas presents. We spent time looking in the museum which had lots of artefacts and specimens to look at from the whaling era, Shackleton's Endurance Expedition, and the flora and fauna of South Georgia.

Many of us opted to go on a guided tour led by one of the museum staff where we learnt more about what life was like for the whalers.



We also had the privilege of visiting the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his right-hand man Frank Wild. Here Chloe and Wei read an emotional tribute to Shackleton, and we toasted to his memory with a dram of whiskey, one of his favourite drinks.

After a thought-provoking morning, we went back to the ship and repositioned to St Andrew's Bay. This bay is home to the biggest colony of King penguins on South Georgia where the number estimate is around 400,000 individual penguins. We set off across the grassy plain from the beach landing site. On route we could see lots of elephant seals

resting, Antarctic fur seals running around, and of course lots of king penguins. Koen and the dive team tried to get everybody across the river crossing. Some days it is possible to cross the river, which is made up of rain and melt water from the glacier, but others it's just too fast and high to be able to cross. Unfortunately, today was a day where it was unsafe to cross, so instead the expedition team made a route out to see the glacier. Because we couldn't make it

to a high viewpoint of the main penguin colony, instead on the way back to the ship all the returning zodiacs cruised along the shore in front of the colony, so we could view it from the water instead. This was a great alternative as the evening light was beautiful, and we could see all the thousands of chicks and adults in the soft sun set light.

When we returned to the ship we had a lovely surprise. The hotel department had arranged for us to have a barbecue outside on the helideck. It was wonderful to dine outside whilst



watching the huge king penguin colony in the distance and seeing sheathbills and giant petrels flying over us. We partied into the night, dancing on the helideck and soaking up the landscape.



## Day 9 – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Fortuna Bay & Hercules Bay

0900 GPS Position: 54°08.9'S,  
036°47.9'W  
Wind: NW3 • Sea: Calm / Rippled •  
Weather: Cloudy • Air Temp: + 5,3°C

NW3

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We woke up to another sunny day in South Georgia. Today we were going to visit Fortuna Bay, another huge king penguin colony. The weather was surprisingly warm and many of us began our walk in just a couple of layers. We landed on the beach in a fairly big swell and set off across the grassy plain towards the colony. First, we had to weave our way through some patches of tussock grass where there were lots of very small Antarctic fur seal pups hiding, playing, and sleeping. Some lucky passengers even witnessed the birth of a fur seal pup. It was a beautiful walk, and we could see amazing geology on our right with steep cliffs and waterfalls running down them. We followed a river which was full of moulting penguins standing at the edges. On the way we saw some skuas nesting on the ground and their tiny fluffy chicks. We followed the poles marking the route and began scaling a small hill. Just that little bit of elevation gave us a wonderful view over the colony. The sounds of both adults and chicks almost deafening once again. It was a photographer's dream, but by now we had seen so many king penguins many of us just stopped to look and listen and soak up the incredible sight of them all.

We had a short transit to our afternoon activity location. The guides were excited to show us a little harbour called Hercules Bay. We did a fantastic zodiac cruise here. Shortly after lunch we disembarked into the zodiacs and set off around the bay. The highlight of this cruise was seeing a new species of penguin for the first time, the Macaroni penguin. These are the most

numerous species of penguin in the world and yet it is quite hard to see them because they nest on remote and wild sub-Antarctic islands, often at the top of steep slopes. They had beautiful bright orange crests on their heads and red bills. We were able to get great views of them coming in and out of the surf and jumping up onto rocks. They were calling and sleeping and occasionally squabbling with each other.

We carried on along the coast where we found a big haul out of elephant seals, lots of fur seals resting on the rocks, and a spectacular waterfall. The whole bay had a Jurassic Park feel about it, with tall tussock grass covered cliffs and steep rocky slopes. We spent a lot of time watch beautiful light-mantled albatross soaring above us. They nest here in the tussock grass, and we waited patiently for one to land so we could see where its nest was.



Another highlight of the cruise was discovering a blonde fur seal. Around one in a thousand Antarctic fur seals are leucistic giving them a white, blonde colouration.

There were so many interesting things to look at on the cruise that some boats stayed out for around three hours. Some opted to head back and get a drink and enjoy the scenery from the bow and outside decks.

In the evening after dinner, we had a lot of photos to start sorting and editing and lots of things to talk about in the bar.

## Day 10 – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Gold Harbour & Cooper Bay

0900 GPS Position: 54°37.5'S, 035°56.1'W

Wind: SE2 • Sea: Rippled / Calm • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air Temp: + 4,7°C

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This morning was another beautiful start, perfect for making the most of our last day in South Georgia. We were woken by Chloe's cheerful voice announcing that all was going well so far, and the Expedition Team was heading ashore to check out the landing site. Although the forecast predicted 90% cloud cover, we were ready to embark on the zodiac shuttle to the shore.



The team found a gap in the wildlife and managed to land at the far northern end of the beach, near the rocky outcrops. It wasn't the easiest landing; as we neared the disembarkation zone, we had to brace ourselves for a large swell and fast waves. The marked route was shorter than usual due to the packed beach. After steering clear of a pile of young elephant seals, king penguins, and fur seals, we crossed a stream to occupy a small area at the beach's edge, overlooking a dense king penguin colony. We were lucky to spot gentoo penguin chicks hiding in the tussac grass.



Beyond the colony stretched rolling hills of moraine and steep cliffs. Above these hills, the glacier terminated in a dramatic hanging glacier, remarkably, this glacier only reached the shoreline as recently as 1984.

The wildlife here was spectacular, with a wide range of behaviours on display. We saw male elephant seals jousting, pups suckling, 'teenage' elephant seals play fighting, and curious young king penguin chicks pecking at the seals.

After lunch, we set off south towards Cooper Bay, where we planned a zodiac cruise. The landscape began to shift as we moved from the sedimentary rock layers of the east to the igneous rocks of the island's southern part.

Cooper Island protects the bay, which would otherwise be fully exposed to the Southern Ocean. This bay also hosts an iceberg graveyard, where large icebergs from the Weddell Sea ice shelves come to melt. The currents from the Weddell Sea carry these icebergs along the Antarctic Peninsula's eastern side toward South Georgia. The icebergs we saw had likely broken off from larger tabular icebergs.

In the zodiacs, we carefully navigated through narrow channels between spurs of rock along the bay's eastern side. Here, gentoo penguins and fur seals were enjoying the kelp forests that lined the rocky shore. Every time we spotted a gentoo, we eagerly raised our binoculars, hoping for a macaroni penguin. After spotting several gentoo penguins, our teamwork paid off, and we found some macaroni penguins close enough for the small boats to approach. The icing on the cake was our first sighting of chinstrap penguins, spotting the distinctive black line under the chin of the chinstrap penguins, which gave them their name.

Some of the boats even had the chance to spot one South Georgia pipit, one of the few non-seabirds of the region and the only songbird in Antarctica.

Captain Per expertly maneuvered the *Ortelius* close to some icebergs, allowing us to enjoy an up-close encounter. We were all so tired that, even with the stunning scenery, we stood

almost silently, savouring the dramatic coastline as we departed South Georgia.



This coastline was different from the parts of South Georgia we had visited so far. Its geology resembled that of the western Antarctic Peninsula, where dramatic, heavily glaciated mountains rise straight from the sea. As Cape Disappointment

appeared over our starboard quarter, we set our course with optimism toward the Antarctic Peninsula.

## Day 11 – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December – At sea towards Antarctica

0800 GPS Position: 56°22.9'S, 040°09.7'W

Wind: NW5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Foggy • Air

Temp: + 3.8°C

Today was a full sea day as *M/V Ortelius* continued her journey south from South Georgia toward Antarctica. With the Scotia Sea stretching endlessly around us, the day offered a welcome opportunity to learn, prepare, and settle into the rhythm of life at sea as we edged closer to the White Continent.



After breakfast in the dining room, guests were invited to choose between two morning lectures offered simultaneously in different languages. In the lecture room, Aitana introduced us to the fascinating world of ice, explaining how sea ice, glaciers, and icebergs form, move, and shape polar environments. At the same time, in the bar, Wei welcomed Mandarin-speaking guests with an introduction to Antarctica, setting the scene for the extraordinary landscapes, wildlife, and experiences that lie ahead.

Later in the morning, Gary gathered us in the bar for an engaging lecture on the life history of the emperor penguin. From their remarkable breeding cycle through the Antarctic winter to their extraordinary adaptations to cold and endurance, the talk offered insight into one of Antarctica's most iconic species. The lecture was translated into Mandarin, allowing everyone onboard to share in the story of these resilient birds.

The afternoon focused on preparation for our upcoming landings. Beginning at 14:00, we were called in groups to the bar to complete the final mandatory biosecurity checks.

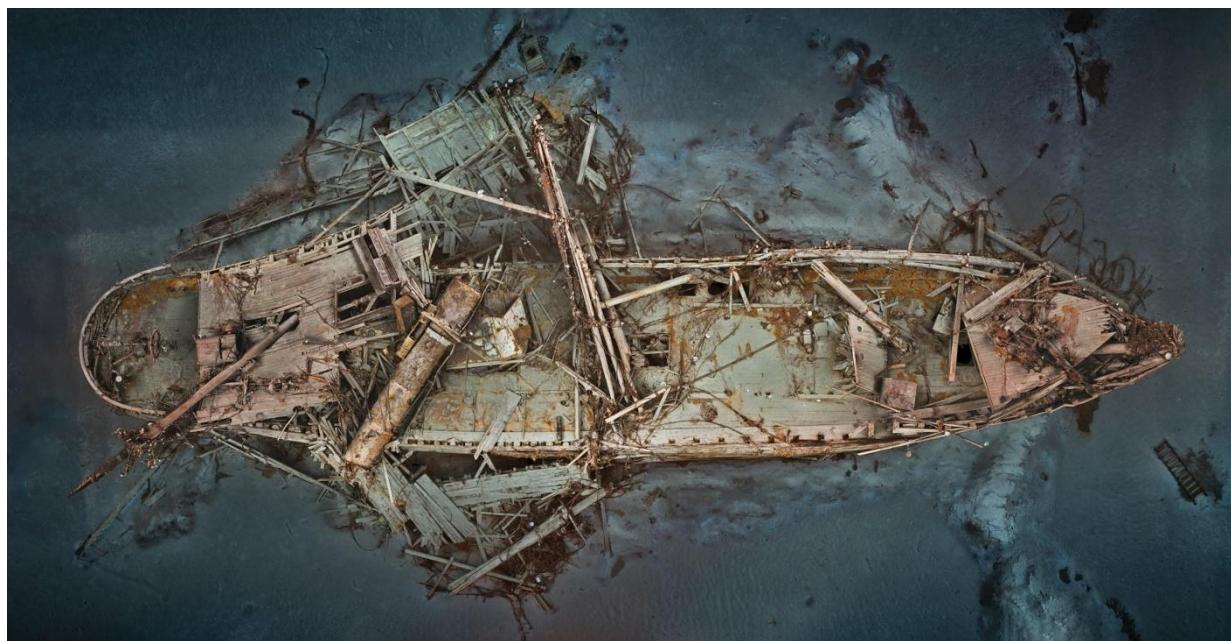


Outerwear, backpacks, muck boots, tripods, and walking sticks were carefully inspected and cleaned to ensure that no non-native species would be carried into Antarctica.

As the day continued, the atmosphere onboard remained relaxed. At 16:30, we gathered in the bar for happy hour, followed shortly by the South Georgia Heritage Trust auction. This lively and enjoyable event raised funds to support conservation and heritage projects on South Georgia, reminding us of the lasting importance of protecting the places we have already visited.

To close the night, a delicious plated dinner was served at 19:30, and later in the evening many guests returned to the bar for movie night. The National Geographic documentary Endurance told the extraordinary story of Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition and the recent discovery of his lost ship — a fitting film as we sail through the same Southern Ocean that once tested the limits of early explorers, and with POPCORN!

Day 12 – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – At sea towards Antarctica



0800 GPS Position: 58°52.9'S, 047°43.8'W

Wind: NW3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partially cloudy Partially cloudy • Air Temp: +3,3°C

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The Scotia Sea continued to treat us kindly today, allowing M/V *Ortelius* to cruise peacefully south toward the Antarctic Peninsula. With gentle seas and steady progress, the ship provided the perfect setting for a restful night, and many of us woke feeling refreshed and ready for another full day at sea. There was no wake-up call this morning, and guests made their way to the dining room at a relaxed pace to enjoy a generous breakfast while watching the ocean slide past the windows.

The morning began with a choice of photography lectures, offered simultaneously in two languages. In the bar, Koen delivered an engaging English presentation on photographing Antarctica, sharing practical advice on composition, light, and storytelling in polar environments. At the same time, QB hosted a Mandarin lecture in the lecture room, focusing on capturing the frozen wilderness through the lens. Together, these talks highlighted how photography can be both a creative pursuit and a powerful tool for conservation, helping us document and share the fragile beauty of the Antarctic world.

Late in the morning, the lounge filled once again as Jess, affectionately known as our “whale lady”, took us on a fascinating journey through the evolution of whales. Her lecture explored how mammals evolved from land-dwelling ancestors into the giants of the modern oceans, weaving together genetics, fossil evidence, and historical discoveries. Jess’s passion and clear explanations revealed the hidden stories behind these magnificent animals, reminding us of the extraordinary adaptability of life and the quiet magic that nature holds over vast stretches of time.

After lunch in the dining room, the afternoon shifted to a smaller, more intimate scale of



discovery. Chloe welcomed guests to the bar, where she had set up a microscope and plankton samples collected from South Georgia. Peering into this secret world, we discovered intricate shapes, delicate colours, and constant motion, life forms that are rarely seen but form the foundation of the Antarctic marine ecosystem. Many guests were visibly amazed, struck by how much beauty and complexity exists beyond what the naked eye can perceive.

At 4:00 pm, as guests enjoyed afternoon tea and sweet treats prepared by the hotel team, Kevin invited us back to the bar for a historical lecture on the Belgian Antarctic Expedition. He told the story of Adrien de Gerlache and the ship Belgica, the first expedition to overwinter in Antarctic waters after becoming trapped in pack ice. Kevin explained why so many Belgian names appear on maps of the Antarctic Peninsula and introduced notable figures from the expedition, including Roald Amundsen, whose polar career would later make history. The talk offered a thoughtful reminder of the courage, uncertainty, and endurance that defined the earliest Antarctic explorers.

Before dinner, the expedition team gathered everyone together for the daily recap. Expedition Leader Chloe revealed the exciting plan for the following morning: an early arrival at Elephant Island, with hopes of visiting Point Wild. She explained the island’s significance

as part of Ernest Shackleton's legendary story, setting the stage for what promises to be a deeply meaningful day ahead.

As *Ortelius* continued her steady course southward, anticipation grew throughout the ship. More ice, more stories, and the raw beauty of Antarctica await us. With every nautical mile, the sense of adventure deepens, and we look forward to discovering what this remarkable continent has to offer next.



### Day 13 – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Elephant Island & At sea

0800 GPS Position: 61°05.6'S, 054°52.0'W

Wind: Var 7 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 0.7°C

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After leaving South Georgia we got more than 2 days at sea on our way to the White Continent. South Georgia had been amazing but quite intense at the same time, so we welcomed some time onboard. However, after 2 days at sea we were ready for new adventures!

This morning, we arrived at a very famous location in the history of polar exploration. When we woke up it was still foggy, but soon the fog lifted and Point Wild slowly emerged in front of us. Point Wild is part of Elephant Island and it's the location where 22 of Shackleton's men waited for more than 3 months to be rescued. Seeing where the men had managed to survive put a shiver through many of us as the conditions



and environment were very challenging and inhospitable. It's hard to imagine how Shackleton's men dealt with the cold, wet clothing, little shelter, and a monotonous diet of seals and penguins. And these were probably not even the biggest challenges; the mental part must have been even more difficult. Not having any information or knowledge about Shackleton's progress and whether they would be rescued or not must have been nerve wrecking.



as it became very clear how brave these men had been, and we could all imagine the hardship of survival.

To make us feel a bit warmer, the expedition team surprised us with hot chocolate with rum and whipped cream on the top deck. With some jolly Christmas songs on the speaker and free rum refills morale was high and we started dancing in the snow and cold winds! What a fabulous morning!



were enough whales for everyone as we could see many blows all the way to the horizon. We had some close encounters with fin whales while large flocks of Cape Petrels were escorting our beautiful M/V *Ortelius*. What a spectacular morning it had been.

To get into the spirit of Christmas some of us had requested the expedition team to play *Home Alone* in the bar and so they did. Funny how a movie made 35 years ago still brings so much joy and laughter.

Chloe also brought joy and laughter when she passionately presented the second part of her lecture about plankton and krill. Today she talked about the *Secret Life of Zoo* plankton. It was once again interesting and inspiring and delivered with passion.

After a delicious dinner some of us went outside to enjoy an amazingly calm and clear evening. Surrounded by more and more giant icebergs and a setting sun it was the perfect



ending to a wonderful day. Antarctica here we come!

## Day 14 – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Gourdin Island & Brown Bluff

0800 GPS Position: 62°34.3'S, 057°46.4'W

Wind: SE4 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air Temp: + 0.8°C

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The Antarctic sun hung low in the sky, painting the frigid waters in strokes of gold and pale blue, as our zodiac glided away from the expedition ship on the afternoon of December 24, Christmas Eve, a day that would gift us memories etched into the very fabric of our polar adventure. The air, crisp and sharp with the scent of sea ice, carried the faint, briny chorus of penguins, an unmistakable soundtrack to our journey at Gourdin Island, a small, ice-fringed





haven off the Antarctic Peninsula's west coast, renowned for its thriving seabird colonies and unspoiled polar landscapes.

As we approached the island, the shoreline erupted into a flurry of black and white: Adélie, Chinstrap, and Gentoo penguins, the triumvirate of Antarctic penguin species that call this

stretch of ice and rock home. We navigated the zodiac slowly, careful not to disturb their bustling territories, and watched in quiet awe as groups of penguins waddled down to the water's edge, paused for a split second as if summoning courage, then launched themselves off the rocky ledges in clumsy yet endearing leaps. Beneath the surface, their awkwardness vanished, they transformed into sleek, graceful swimmers, darting through the icy currents, chasing krill, and weaving around each other in playful synchrony.

The real magic, though, was in the journey between the penguin colonies. We threaded our way through a maze of giant icebergs, their jagged peaks glistening in the sunlight, some tinted emerald and sapphire by the compressed ice within. One leopard seal was lazing on a flat expanse of iceberg nearby. We drifted closer, keeping a respectful distance, and observed it.

In honour of Christmas Eve, our expedition team had added a special evening landing at Brown Bluff to our itinerary. After a warm, hearty meal that chased away the chill of the afternoon cruise, we suited up again, our gear clinking with anticipation, and boarded the zodiacs once more, bound for the dramatic volcanic cliff that rises sharply from the sea, its rust-coloured rock contrasting vividly with the surrounding white snow.

What made this landing even more extraordinary was that it marked our first true step onto the Antarctic Continent, a milestone that sent a thrill of awe through each of us as we set foot on the snow-dusted ground. Brown Bluff is famous for its dense penguin rookeries, and as we walked along the paths, we were surrounded by the Adélie and Gentoo penguins, paired with the high-pitched peeps of their fluffy, down-covered chicks, huddled together in stone nests to stay warm against the biting wind.

But the penguins were not the only stars of the show. The air was alive with other seabirds: skuas circling overhead in search of unguarded eggs or vulnerable chicks; kelp gulls, perched on rocky outcrops, their calls echoing across the bluff; and the charming



Snowy Sheathbills, their pure white plumage blending seamlessly with the snow, hopping about the edges of the rookeries in search of scraps.

As we boarded the zodiac to head back to the ship, we looked over shoulder one last time, at Brown Bluff fading into the twilight, at the penguins still bustling about their nests, at the sea ice glinting in the fading light. This was not just a travel adventure, it was a Christmas Eve miracle, a reminder of how precious our planet's polar regions are, of the fragile, delicate balance that sustains life in one of the harshest environments imaginable. On this quiet,



unforgettable night in Antarctica, surrounded by the wild beauty of Gourdin Island and Brown Bluff, we felt a deep sense of gratitude, gratitude for the chance to witness this magic, gratitude for the resilience of the polar wildlife, and gratitude for the quiet, awe-inspiring moments that make traveling to the ends of the Earth worth every shiver and every sacrifice.

## Day 15 – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day at Deception Island

0800 GPS Position: 63°11.9'S, 059°51.8'W

Wind: E4 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 6.8°C

Merry Christmas from the frozen southern frontier! December 25 dawned with a crisp, wind-kissed clarity, setting the stage for a day of unparalleled Antarctic wonders centered on Deception Island, a volcanic caldera nestled in the South Shetland Islands, famous for its



unique horseshoe shape and dramatic polar landscapes. Our adventure kicked off at first light, as our expedition ship navigated the narrow, towering passage known as Neptune's

Bellows, the only gateway into Deception Island's sheltered inner bay. Flanked by steep, black volcanic cliffs dusted with snow, this natural channel feels like a portal to another world; the water churns gently against the rock walls, and the air hums with the quiet thrill of entering a place few humans get to explore.



Once through Neptune's Bellows, we cruised the inner bay, where the polar scenery unfolded like a delicate ink wash painting. Snow-blanketed volcanic slopes rolled down to glassy, steel-grey waters, every contour softened by a pristine white layer that glowed in the pale Antarctic sun. The calm of the present belied the island's turbulent past, and our guide pointed out the ghostly remains of Whalers Bay, a historic site where early 20th-century whaling stations once stood, their rusted boilers and crumbling buildings now half-buried in snow, silent witnesses to a bygone era of industrial exploitation. To see these relics juxtaposed against the island's unspoiled beauty was a poignant reminder of Antarctica's fragile balance between history and wilderness.



After a hearty Christmas lunch aboard the ship, we set off for our next adventure: a landing at Telephone Bay. The highlight of this stop was a 4-kilometer circular hiking trail that wound its way up the island's volcanic ridges, offering ever-expanding views of the caldera. As we trekked, the crunch of snow under our boots mingled with the raucous cries of seabirds overhead, flocks of kelp gulls and skuas wheeling through the air.

When we reached the trail's highest point, we were rewarded with a breathtaking panoramic view of Deception Island: the curving sweep of the caldera, the glint of inner bay waters, and the distant outline of snow-capped peaks beyond. Down on the pebbly shore below, a Weddell seal lay sprawled in lazy repose, its plump body rising and falling with slow, contented breaths, while a handful of Chinstrap penguins waddled and darted about, their playful antics providing endless entertainment.

We returned to the ship for a sumptuous Christmas special dinner, complete with festive treats that felt like a warm hug amid the cold, a reminder of the holiday cheer we carried with us to the ends of the Earth. But the day's magic was far from over. After dinner, our expedition team member Jess host a Christmas Antarctic trivia contest, a spirited game that brought everyone together in cozy camaraderie. Split into teams, we pored over 40 carefully

crafted questions, testing our knowledge of polar wildlife, geology, and expedition history. Laughter echoed through the lounge as we debated answers and celebrated small victories, and when the scores were tallied, the top three teams were awarded bragging rights (and a few polar-themed souvenirs). More than just a game, it was a joyful way to revisit the incredible moments we'd shared so far, weaving our collective experiences into a tapestry of shared memories.

The ship sways gently in the bay, and the distant glow of Deception Island fades into the



night. Today was more than a Christmas celebration, it was a testament to the wonder of Antarctica: a place where volcanic history meets pristine wilderness, where festive joy mingles with the quiet awe of standing in one of the most remote corners of the planet. It was, without a doubt, a perfect Christmas Day!

## Day 16 – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December – Cierva Cove & Palaver Point

0800 GPS Position: 64°07.7'S, 060°59.2'W

Wind: WNE3 • Sea: 3/10 ice • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temp: + 0.4°C

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Our final day of operations in Antarctica unfolded under exceptionally favourable conditions, offering a memorable and fitting conclusion to our journey on the White Continent. After weeks of exploration, learning, and shared experiences in one of the most remote regions on Earth, the Antarctic Peninsula seemed determined to bid us farewell in the best possible way.

The morning began with a zodiac cruise in Cierva Cove, a location renowned for its dramatic scenery and rich wildlife. As we arrived, we were greeted by almost ideal weather: very little wind, calm seas, and excellent visibility. These conditions allowed the surface of the water to become a perfect mirror, reflecting towering icebergs and snow-covered peaks with remarkable clarity. The stillness of the bay created a peaceful atmosphere, inviting guests to slow down and fully absorb the surroundings.

One of the most distinctive features of Cierva Cove is the presence of the Argentine Primavera Station, quietly positioned along the shoreline. During the Zodiac cruise, guests had the opportunity to observe the station up close, its colourful buildings reflected clearly in the glassy water. Around the station, gentoo penguins were seen moving between the shoreline and their nesting areas. Guests watched as the gentoos porpoise through the water, climbed out onto the rocks, and waddled purposefully along well-worn penguin highways. These close observations provided an excellent contrast to the surrounding ice-dominated landscape and highlighted the adaptability of wildlife living alongside a human research presence.



As the Zodiacs continued to navigate through the bay, wildlife encounters continued to delight. Resting peacefully on a floating ice floe, a leopard seal was spotted fast asleep. Known for its powerful hunting skills and agile movements, the seal appeared completely undisturbed by our presence. Guests were able to observe its distinctive spotted coat, large



head, and relaxed posture, offering a rare glimpse of this apex predator in a moment of rest.

Adding to the excitement of the morning, a humpback whale made a brief appearance in the cove. Although only seen for a short time, its presence was unmistakable. A few distant blows and graceful surfacing reminded us that these waters are rich feeding grounds during the austral summer. Even fleeting encounters with whales leave a lasting impression, and guests were thrilled to witness these giants of the Southern Ocean as part of our final Zodiac activity.



Following a successful morning on the water, we returned to the ship to prepare for our afternoon plans. After lunch, the vessel repositioned to Palaver Point, where we would conduct our final landing of the expedition. The sense that this was our last opportunity to step ashore in Antarctica added a layer of significance to the afternoon.

Once ashore at Palaver Point, guests were welcomed by a lively chinstrap

penguin colony. Many penguin chicks were present, busily moving between their parents and neighbouring nests. Their fluffy appearance and curious behaviour provided countless moments of delight and excellent photo opportunities. Observing the interactions within the colony, adults guarding their young, chicks calling out, and penguins navigating the rocky terrain, offered a fascinating glimpse into the daily life of Antarctic wildlife during the breeding season.

The landing allowed time not only for wildlife observation but also for quiet reflection. Guests explored the area at their own pace, taking in the stark beauty of the landscape, the sounds of the colony, and the feeling of standing at the edge of the Antarctic Peninsula. For many, this moment marked the realization that their long-anticipated Antarctic journey was ending.

As the afternoon progressed, guests returned to the landing site and boarded the Zodiacs for the final time. Yet Antarctica had one last surprise in store. On the journey back to the ship, the Zodiacs encountered four humpback whales actively feeding in the bay. The whales surfaced repeatedly, their massive bodies rising effortlessly from the water as they lunged through schools of krill below.

This encounter quickly became one of the highlights of the entire voyage. Guests watched in awe as the whales moved through the bay, sometimes close enough to hear their blows. The calm sea conditions allowed for excellent viewing, and the feeding behaviour offered a rare and intimate look at these magnificent animals at work. Smiles, quiet laughter, and moments of stunned silence filled the Zodiacs as everyone took in the spectacle.

The timing could not have been more perfect. After days of exploration across ice, sea, and shore, this extraordinary whale encounter served as a powerful farewell from Antarctica itself. It felt as though the continent was offering a final gift, ensuring that the last memories carried north would be unforgettable.

As guests returned to the ship for the final time, there was a shared sense of gratitude, for the weather, the wildlife, the crew, and the opportunity to experience such a remote and pristine part of the world. From calm waters and mirror-like reflections in Cierva Cove, to playful penguin chicks at Palaver Point, and finally to feeding humpback whales in the bay, the day encompassed everything that makes Antarctica so special.



With this exceptional final day, our Antarctic operations ended. It was a perfect ending to an extraordinary journey, one that will remain with us long after we leave the icy shores behind.



## Day 17 – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December – Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 61°43.9'S,

063°02.2'W

Wind: SW4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 1°C

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After leaving the Antarctic Peninsula and Palaver Point, we are now heading toward

the legendary Cape Horn and Ushuaia. But, before we get there, we must first navigate the (in)famous Drake Passage. As many seasoned travellers know, the Drake Passage can either be a calm “Drake Lake” or a rough and wild “Drake Shake.” Fortunately for us aboard, today it’s closer to a “Drake Lake,” with only gentle 2.5- to 3-meter swells and minimal wind. Cruising along steadily at 12 knots, we are making good progress toward Cape Horn.

The excitement from yesterday’s humpback whale sightings is still fresh in everyone’s minds, as those majestic creatures truly were the cherry on top of this incredible voyage.

The day began without a wake-up call, allowing everyone to sleep in a bit, before enjoying a delicious breakfast. Afterward, passengers took time to savour the last views of the stunning Antarctic landscape, snapping their final pictures, and soaking in the experience before we head back to more familiar shores.



We then gathered for some fascinating lectures. Jess kicked things off with an engaging talk on the vital role whales play in the ocean ecosystem. These magnificent creatures are not just a marvel to observe but are essential to the health of our planet, helping regulate everything from ocean nutrients to the climate.

Next up was Gary, our experienced guide, who shared stories from his remarkable adventures, including the time he overwintered in Antarctica. A rare feat accomplished by only a handful of people, his tales of survival and solitude were both humbling and inspiring.

After a hearty lunch (yes, hamburgers!), many of us settled in for a short nap. Then Dr. Elmar, our onboard physician, gave an insightful talk about scurvy, a disease that claimed the lives of over 2 million sailors during the age of early exploration. It wasn’t until the 1930s that the cure was discovered, and the solution turned out to be surprisingly simple: eating more oranges or taking Vitamin C!

Svatava followed with a lecture about the important role dogs played during the Heroic Age of Antarctic exploration. More than just companions who pulled sledges, these dogs helped lift the spirits of early explorers during long, harsh winters, providing much-needed morale on the coldest and most remote of expeditions.

Throughout the day, the bridge made occasional announcements about whale sightings, mostly humpback whales, but also a small group of fin whales, which kept everyone’s spirits high.

As the day wound down, we gathered for a plated dinner, and then it was time to relax. We settled in to watch the classic film Happy Feet in the lecture room, all while slowly making our way in the direction of the much-anticipated Cape Horn.

**Day 18 – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December – Drake Passage**

0800 GPS Position: 57°47.5'S, 066°26.3'W

Wind: SW6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air Temp: + 5°C

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After a calm night on the infamous Drake Passage, we were woken up by an unfamiliar voice. This morning it wasn't Chloe wishing us a wonderful day, instead it was 8-year-old Lilian from Hong Kong who told us to get up and enjoy breakfast followed by a beautiful piece of classical music. Although we will miss Chloe's voice, it was nice to hear a future expedition leader speak to us so confidently and enthusiastically. The wakeup call was one of the auctioned items for the South Georgia Heritage Trust and Lilian did a fantastic job.

Outside the weather was sunny and the seas were calm, perfect to enjoy a relaxed breakfast. However, soon after QB invited us to the bar to join her lecture on climate change illustrated with photographs. Climate change is an important topic globally, but more so in the polar regions where decreasing sea ice has an accelerating effect to the warming up of our planet.

During our adventure we had a small group of divers on board that explored the underwater worlds of the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica. The divers and dive team carried with them a lot of camera gear, and they compiled a presentation and short slide show from all the footage they recorded. It's incredible how much life there is below the surface both in terms of plant life, invertebrates and also large mammals such as fur and leopard seals. The footage of the leopard seal was fantastic.

After lunch Koen invited us to the bar to hear and see what other adventures Oceanwide has to offer in the Polar regions. From polar bears to remote trips in the Weddell Sea, Oceanwide has a wide variety of expeditions and activities, and Koen was speaking excitingly about them.

Koen was so enthusiastic that seemingly he lost track of time. However, the captain helped us out here. As we had been making good progress, the captain had decided to sail past the infamous Cape Horn. The southernmost tip of South America and famous for its unpredictable weather, strong winds and massive waves and swells. It's an area where many ships sank trying to conquer the challenging conditions, but where nature couldn't be beaten. Although we were not allowed to approach closer, it was still a spectacular moment seeing this famous place. We were accompanied by lots of sea birds and here and there we spotted dolphins. Fantastic!

At the end of the afternoon, it was time for Captain's Cocktail. Captain Remmert spoke inspirational words and thanked us for sailing with him and Oceanwide Expeditions on our strong yet beautiful M/V Ortelius. Chloe thanked all departments and her team, and then it was time for the slide show. Aitana had been working hard on creating a slide show with highlights from the trip. She had done an incredible job and some of us shed a small happiness tear while watching it. Time had flown by during our trip, and it was amazing to see how many fantastic places we had visited, the overwhelming amounts of wildlife we had seen, and the wonderful landscapes and icebergs that came with it. What a fantastic journey!

Our Head Chef Ivan prepared one last dinner for us, and it was delicious as always. The restaurant was buzzing with laughter and excited chatter while we slowly entered the Beagle Channel on our way to Ushuaia.

After dinner we went outside to enjoy some milder temperatures and a beautiful sunset.

Good night, everyone! This adventure ended way too soon!

## Day 19 – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December – Disembarkation Ushuaia

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

Wind: Var 1 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 7°C

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Our final wakeup call was made by Chloe, and we were asked to leave our big luggage in the corridor at 07:30, so the expedition team could take them all down for us and on to the pier. It was amazing how quickly ten days has whizzed by. We headed for breakfast and said goodbye to the dining room team who took such good care of us throughout the trip. We gathered our belongings and headed to the gangway to say goodbye to the crew, staff, and new friends we had made. Some of us hopped straight on the bus to the airport to head home, while others set off to explore Ushuaia and continue travelling in Patagonia. We got to see breathtaking landscapes of South Georgia; beaches packed with various wildlife, elephant seal babies being curious, fur seal bulls fighting and protecting their harems, king penguins getting off the water. And of course, young king penguins being cute and hilarious. We got to see colonies of all 3 different Brush-tail penguins, several times we had an up-close encounter with Humpback whales. This trip really reminded us of the power of nature, and we saw firsthand just how wild and rugged Antarctica is. The highlights of this trip will stay in our thoughts for many years to come. This trip really reminded us of the power of nature, and we saw firsthand just how wild and rugged Antarctica is. The highlights of this trip will stay in our thoughts for many years to come.

**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 3423 nautical miles**

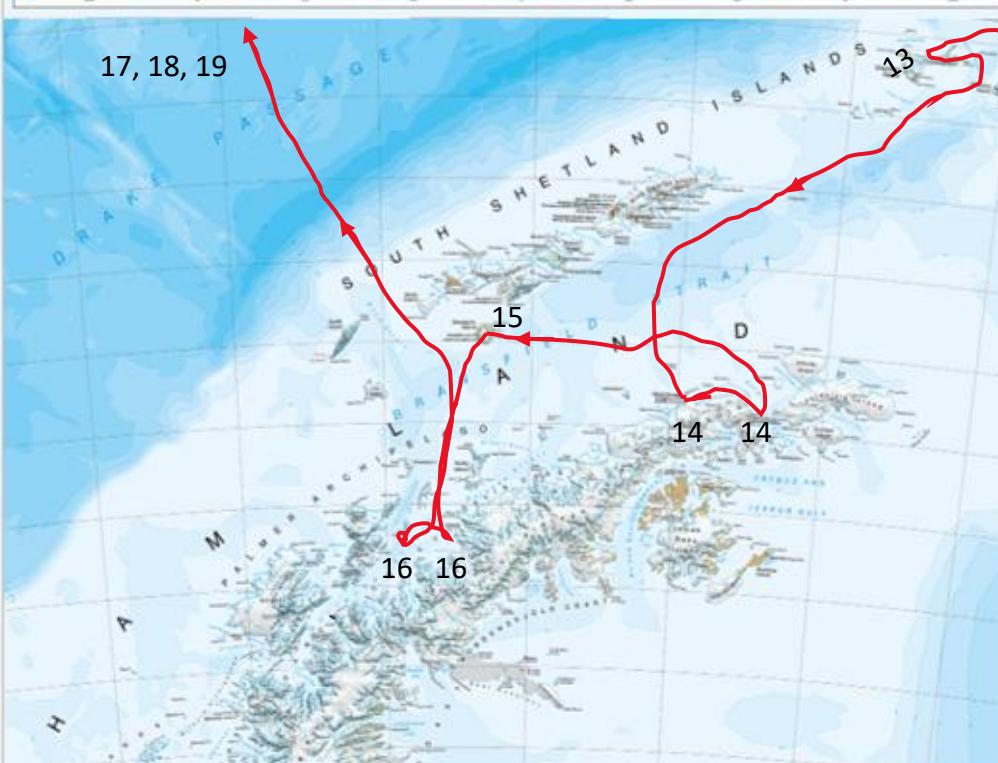
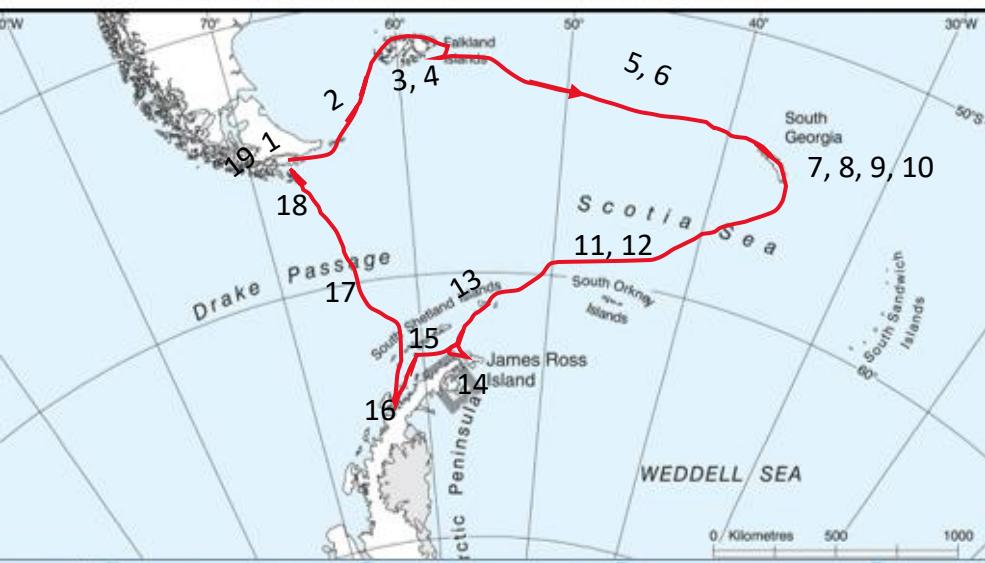
**Most southern point sailed: 64° 08.5' S, 061° 45.8'W**

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



# Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica.

## An Oceanwide Voyage: 11-29 December 2025



Day	Location/Activity
1	Depart Ushuaia
2	At Sea
3	New Island-Falklands
4	Stanley-Falklands
5	At Sea
6	At Sea
7	Right Whale Bay & Salisbury Plain
8	Grytviken & St. Andrews Bay
9	Fortuna Bay & Hercules Cove
10	Gold Harbour & Cooper Bay
11	At Sea
12	At Sea
13	Elephant Island-Pt. Wild (cruise)
14	Gourdin Is (Z-cruise) & Brown Bluff
15	Telefon Bay (Deception Is)-Plunge
16	Cierva Cove (Z-cruise) & Palaver Pt.
17	Drake Passage
18	Drake Passage & Cape Horn & Beagle Channel
19	Ushuaia

*Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region, Falkland Islands, and South Georgia: OTL25-2025 11-29 December 2025*



# Chloé Maréchal – Expedition Leader

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

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

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

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

# Koen Hoekemeijer–Asst. Exp. Leader



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

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

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

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

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# Aitana Forcén-Vázquez – Exp. Guide

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Aitana is a Spanish–New Zealand oceanographer who feels most at home in cold, remote places where the sea tells the story. With a PhD in Physical Oceanography and years of experience working from the Southern Ocean to the Arctic, she brings both scientific insight and field-tested grit to her role as a polar guide.

She's studied deep ocean currents, led research voyages, forecast weather for the America's Cup, and occasionally teaches at university when she's not out chasing ice. Off duty, she's into long-distance swimming, adventurous road trips, and knitting, usually in places no one expects to find yarn."

# Saskia van der Meij – Exp. guide



Saskia is an adventurous girl born in The Netherlands. With a huge national park in her backyard, she felt at a young age how great it is to be active in & part of nature.

Saskia has a background in tourism and hospitality. For almost twenty years she was a product manager for a nature-oriented tour operator. She travelled to develop interesting products in Alaska, Canada, Argentina, Chili, Southern Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

In 2019 she worked for three months in Namibia as an assistant manager in two different remote private game lodge. Two fantastic years followed while spending her time in North Norway, Spitsbergen and the Baltic Sea as a hotel manager on a three mast Barque (Tallship).

But her heart told her to go guiding. She spent almost every season in Spitsbergen from mysterious Blue February until the colourful sunsets in October. Here, she started guiding as part of a two-man expedition team on a small sailing ship. Since 2022 she guides for Oceanwide Expedition in both the Arctic and Antarctic. Saskia loves the vast wilderness of Antarctica, with its fifty shades of white, which is home to her for three to four months every season. As a camping guide, on specific trips, she can't wait to take guests out for a night in the snow on this incredible seventh continent.

She is passionate about nature in general and has a wide interest and understanding, from animals to landscapes and ice. But she developed a deeper love for the fascinating polar history and whales.

Hospitality lies in her core, and her ongoing 'sunshine' is what guests remember Saskia by. She welcomes you on board and likes to share her knowledge and enthusiasm for these amazing destinations.

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# Svatava Spěváčková – Exp.Guide

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From a young age, Svatava was inspired by the stories of travel and mountain climbing told by her parents and grandparents. On many of her birthdays, she received an ice cream cake shaped like a mountain.

This clearly had a lasting impact on her. For as long as she can remember, she has had a passion for cold temperatures and all kinds of adventures.

At just 8 years old, she began cross-country skiing competitively, a pursuit she continued for 10 years. It was during this time that her lifelong love for the outdoors and sports was born.

When she was 15, Svatava set out to hike across Sarek National Park in Sweden, known as "Europe's last wilderness."

It was during this journey that Svatava became enchanted by the beauty of wild, untamed landscapes.

Since 2018, Svatava has worked as a mountain guide and has spent two winter seasons as a musher, dog-sledding beyond the Arctic Circle in Scandinavia. She also undertook several ski expeditions in the region.

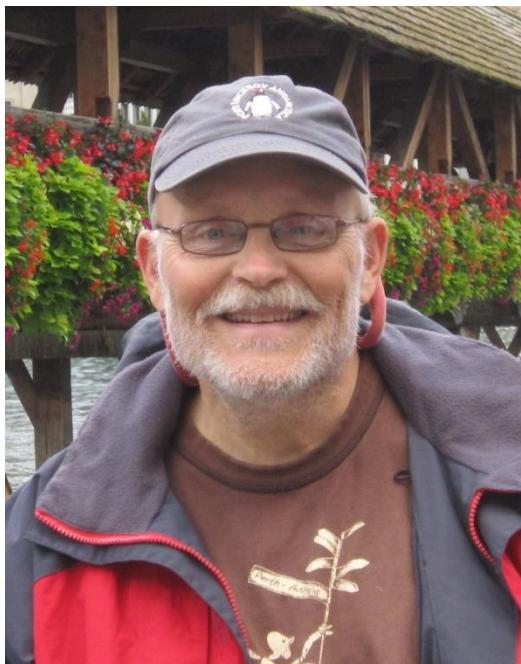
As a trained paramedic, she completed the Polar Medicine Course in Northern Norway and continues to expand her skillset in challenging environments.

These experiences have led her even further north, to the high Arctic, where she has worked with the Czech Arctic Research Station in Svalbard in recent years.

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# Gary Miller – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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# Jess Owen - Expedition Guide

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Jess is from England and has recently been living on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. Since graduating from a degree in Wildlife and Media, Jess has been working in environmental research and education roles with wildlife conservation charities in the UK, with a focus on marine mammals and birds. Jess is a passionate science communicator, wildlife guide, and nature enthusiast. She has delivered lectures, workshops, tours, school lessons, and training courses to a wide variety of audiences on subjects such as birds, insects, marine mammals, marine and terrestrial conservation, citizen science, and gardening for wildlife. She is particularly passionate about citizen science and helping inspire people to become connected to wildlife and active in its conservation.

Jess now specialises in whales, dolphins, and porpoises, having worked as a marine mammal surveyor and whale watching guide since 2015. This work has taken her to the Bay of Biscay, the West Coast of Scotland, the Southern Ocean, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Svalbard, Greenland, and the Antarctic Peninsula. She is very excited to be returning to work with Oceanwide Expeditions for another season in the polar regions.

When she is not out at sea, Jess spends her time gardening, reading, making films, snorkelling, and bird watching. She loves to spend time with her nieces and nephew and likes travelling in her beloved campervan.

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# Wenyan Wang (QB) - Expedition Guide

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In addition to working as an expedition guide and photographer in the Antarctica and Arctic for several months every year since 2019, Qiu Bi (Wenyan Wang) has been travelling to remote areas and ethnic minority regions in China and abroad for more than ten years to photograph scientific research and environmental protection and other humanities projects, including topics such as environmental protection, community development, agriculture and forestry cultural heritage preservation, women empowerment, climate change, preservation of traditional cultures, biodiversity conservation, children, and so on. As a curator, she has curated numerous photography exhibitions. She has curated photo exhibitions in Beijing, Kunming, Hong Kong, Montreal and many other cities and different foreign embassies in China. Her photographs and stories have been exhibited in over a thousand spots on the Beijing Metro. Her photos have been published in many magazines such as *Geography*, *Chinese National Geography*, *China Weekly*, *Chinese Photographers*, *China Philanthropist* and *Cultural Geography*.

As a humanistic photographer, curator and Canon official lecturer, her photographic life story has been interviewed and told by many magazines. In December of 2022, she was invited to participate in the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), where she gave a talk to show how humanistic photographers connect the scientific research institutes, the public welfare organizations, with the public. Her photos have also won numerous photography awards in China and abroad. In 2023, she was invited by TED to give a talk on climate change and sustainable community development. During 2023-2024, she collaborated with different scholars to publish three sets of thematic photography books about traditional culture preservation and agriculture cultural heritage preservation.

秋笔(王文燕), 南北极极地探险队员&极地摄影师, 人文摄影师, 策展人, 佳能官方讲师。

从2019年开始, 除了每年数月在南北极从事探险队员工作、极地摄影师工作之外, 秋笔逾十年持续前往国内外偏远地区、少数民族地区拍摄科研环保等人文专题项目, 包括环境保护、社区发展、农业/林业文化遗产保护、女性赋权、气候变化、传统文化保护、生物多样性保护、儿童等议题。作为策展人, 她策划了众多摄影展, 包括生物多样性保护、气候变化、传统文化保护等专题。她在北京、昆明、香港、蒙特利尔等多个城市及国外驻中国大使馆策划举办摄影展。她所摄照片及故事在北京地铁一千多个点位展出。作品在《国家地理》、《中国国家地理》、《中国周刊》、《中国日报》、《中国摄影家》、《中国慈善家》等众多杂志发表。

作为一名人文摄影师, 她的摄影人生故事被众多杂志采访讲述。2022年12月, 她受邀参加联合国《生物多样性公约》第十五次缔约方大会, 在大会上以一位女性摄影师的视角阐述人文摄影师在生物多样性保护领域如何连接科研机构、公益机构与公众, 展示人文摄影的力量。她的照片也在国内外获得了众多摄影奖项。

2023年12月, 她受TED邀请, 做了一场关于气候变化与社区可持续发展的专题演讲。2023-2024年期间与不同学者合作, 围绕传统文化保护、农业生物多样性保护等出版三套专题摄影书籍。2025年1月, 作为致敬青年代表参与录制由北京广播电视台制作的大型爱国主义教育系列专题片《薪火·见证》。

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# Wei Deng – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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# Daisy Yao - Translator

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Born and raised in Shenzhen — a city known for its innovation and close relationship with nature — Daisy has always been drawn to exploration and discovery. A graduate of Shenzhen Middle School and The Chinese University of Hong Kong, where she majored in Economics and Contemporary China Studies, she also spent a year at Peking University on an international exchange program. Immersed in international cultures from a young age, she developed a broad perspective and a curiosity about how people connect with the world around them. As an entrepreneur running a branding agency, she is fascinated by how people build connections with landscapes, cultures, and the environment that sustains us all.

A few years ago, Daisy embarked on her first journey to Antarctica with her family — an experience that changed her life. Immersed in the stillness, vastness, and wildlife of the polar world, she felt both its power and fragility. What moved her most was how Antarctica transcends boundaries — a continent united by science

and collaboration in the protection of something far greater than ourselves. That journey sparked her lifelong connection with the polar regions.

Motivated by this vision, Daisy pursued professional certifications in expedition guiding and field skills while deepening her knowledge of the polar regions through continuous study and engagement. She also volunteers by giving talks on polar science and conservation. Since entering the expedition industry, she has joined several polar voyages as part of the expedition team, working as a naturalist and staff assistant.

Now joining Oceanwide Expeditions as a Translator, Daisy brings bilingual fluency in English and Chinese, together with warmth, curiosity, and a deep respect for nature and people.

## 中文

Daisy生于深圳，长于深圳——这座以创新与自然共生著称的城市，自幼培养了她对探索与发现的热忱。她从小浸润于多元文化之中，毕业于“深圳中学”与“香港中文大学”，主修经济学以及当代中国研究，并在“北京大学”完成一年的国际交流项目。作为品牌咨询公司的创始人，她热衷于探寻人们与自然、文化以及环境之间的联结。

几年前，Daisy随家人首次踏上南极之旅——那次经历改变了她的人生。置身于冰雪的静谧、浩瀚与野生生态之间，她深切感受到极地的壮丽与脆弱。最令她感动的，是南极那超越国界与政治的精神——科学与合作让人们共同守护更宏大的目标。那次旅程，也点燃了她与极地终生相伴的缘分。

受此感召，Daisy考取了探险队员的所有相关证书，学习户外技能，不断深化对极地的理解，并积极开展极地与环境保护主题的公众分享。她的极地生涯虽刚启程，却已几次以探险队员的身份前往极地。这些经历让她的热忱愈发坚定——希望通过引导人们的理解与探索，重新建立与自然深层的联结。

如今，Daisy以翻译的身份加入Oceanwide Expeditions团队，带着她的双语能力、真诚、好奇与对自然及人类的敬意，继续在极地之路上前行。

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# Elmar Kleimann – Ships Doctor

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Dr. Kleimann is a specialist in surgery with a focus on visceral surgery and emergency medicine. He completed his medical studies at the universities of Marburg and Aachen. For more than 20 years, he served as Consultant Surgeon and Head of the Department of Surgery at St Franziskus Hospital in Cologne. Over the course of his career, he acquired extensive qualifications in surgery, visceral surgery, emergency medicine, sonography, and maritime medicine. After taking early retirement from his hospital post, he fulfilled a longstanding dream: working as a

ship's doctor on expedition cruises and research vessels. In this role, he combines his medical expertise with his deep connection to the sea.

Since summer 2024, Dr Kleimann has been sailing with Oceanwide Expeditions, joining voyages to Svalbard, Greenland, and Antarctica. He also participated in a scientific mission aboard the German research vessel *Maria S. Merian* in the North Atlantic, which focused on locating continental shelf basalts for the permanent storage and mineralisation of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Outside of his medical career, Dr Kleimann is an experienced sailor who has completed numerous voyages across the North Sea, Baltic Sea, English Channel, Irish Sea, Mediterranean, and North Atlantic, including a transatlantic crossing. Away from the sea, he is a passionate globetrotter, photographer, and nature enthusiast who has travelled extensively across Europe, the USA, Central America, Africa, the Indian Ocean, and Australia.

With his expertise in surgery, emergency medicine, and maritime medicine, Dr Kleimann is dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of both crew and passengers during every voyage.

# Gonzalo Sabattini-Lead Dive Guide



Gonzalo Sabattini was born in Córdoba, Argentina in 1987. Son of Cecilia and Juan and brother to Matias and Marcos.

Since a young kid his life was connected to water because his family owns fishing boats in Los Molinos Lake in Córdoba. Summers and weekends were endless among friends and family, swimming, and fishing.

As time passed by, swimming in the lake evolved into diving; Gonzalo received his first diving certification as a Argentinian Federation of Subaquatic Activities (FAAS\_CMAS)-One Star Diver at the age of 16.

During his twenties Gonzalo was an active member of the local diving school collaborating as a volunteer as he continued his formation as a diver.

In 2013 he was invited to work to Cozumel, Mexico as a dive guide guiding certificate and first-time divers. At the island, he gained a lot of experience working with international tourism and he spent more than a year diving daily.

When he came back to his country, he set sails to a new adventure. Decided to move to Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, where diving and weather conditions are a challenge. For the last 6 years he has become a cold-water diver, mastering the dry suit and the rest of cold-water equipment. On 2018 he was certified as a dive instructor (FAAS – CMAS) and since then, works at a diving school lecturing new cold-water divers and guiding national and international divers who marvel with the kelp forests that characterize dives in the Beagle Channel.

On top of diving Gonzalo has always been a sportive person, he loves snowboarding, fishing, and spending time in nature and wilderness, and he found in Ushuaia a perfect playground.

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# Dimitris Sotirakis – Dive Guide

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Dimitris is a scuba diving instructor from Greece. He has 5 years' experience of teaching, leading and driving Zodiacs in the Mediterranean sea.

Most of his career work has been at one of the most popular and busy dive centres in Greece, located at Naxos. His responsibilities there, ranged from teaching the introductory 'Discover Scuba' programme to Dive Master courses. Whilst working there he gained invaluable Zodiac driving experience, driving in some of the worse conditions that the Mediterranean sea can throw at you. He was also responsible for the servicing of the regulators, BCD's and tanks.

Since leaving Greece he has been working as a tour guide in Silfra in Iceland, leading snorkelling, and diving tours into the fissure between the two tectonic plates. This is where he has found his new passion for a cold environment and polar diving.

Besides diving Dimitris is also very passionate about motorcycles. He likes to drive his motorbike around the islands of Greece and is always exploring new places on two wheels.

During the winter months he also enjoys leading Snowmobile tours at the second largest glacier in Europe located in Iceland, langjökull, which means long glacier in Icelandic.

Dimitris is really looking forward to sharing this incredible adventure with you and helping to explore new places, both above and below the surface.

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# Kevin Verbist – Dive Guide

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As a diving instructor for over 20 years working from the most tropical places with ripping currents to the polar regions. I just love diving.

My name is Kevin, born in Belgium and for the last 5 years mainly based in Iceland, where i fell in love with the polar regions. As an ice diving instructor my favourite time in Iceland is actually the winter where most days, you will find me either under the ice or digging a hole to get underneath it.

I have lived in many countries during my diving career and was fortunate to pick up some languages, I speak English, Dutch, French, German, Spanish and medium Icelandic (it is work in progress to get fluent).

My goal in life is to show guests the beauty of the underwater world, and especially the less-visited polar regions. While also educating people about the threats and challenges that faces this delicate and crucial ecosystems.

The way the sunlight reflects the ice and shows you 50 shades of blue and the wildlife that Antarctica brings is unique and a diver's dream.

I can't wait to meet you on our ship and make everlasting memories together.

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## Sid – Dive Guide

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Sid Dewfall is a professional dive instructor and expedition guide with a strong background in marine science and field operations. Originally from Gibraltar, he has built his career around a passion for the ocean and a fascination with remote environments. Sid holds a Master of Science degree in Marine Science and Climate Change and has been involved in research and conservation projects ranging from coral restoration in the Mediterranean to community-based citizen science initiatives.

With thousands of dives completed around the world, Sid has developed his particular expertise in polar diving and the unique demands it brings. Working in challenging conditions has given him a deep respect for safety, teamwork, and careful preparation — qualities he brings to every expedition. His focus is on helping guests explore the polar regions with confidence, while sharing insights into the ecosystems and wildlife encountered along the way.

On board, Sid can often be found supporting dive operations, guiding Zodiac cruises, or assisting guests during landings. He enjoys working closely with people, making sure each experience is both safe and memorable. His approachable style and enthusiasm for the natural world make him a valued member of the team.

Away from the polar regions, Sid continues to pursue underwater research and outdoor adventure. Whether in the water, on a mountainside, or travelling by motorcycle, he is most at home in environments that demand resilience and curiosity. He believes that time spent in wild places fosters a lasting connection with nature — and he is proud to help guests experience that in the Arctic and Antarctic.

## **WELCOME ABOARD!**

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

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

±1715      **Safety briefing** - Please join us in the **Bar** (deck 6, forward) for a welcome to the voyage, followed by a **mandatory** safety briefing and lifeboat drill.

### **Lifeboat Drill**

Following the safety briefing, you will be asked to return to your cabin. When the alarm sounds, **all guests** should proceed to the MUSTER STATION located **in the bar on Deck 6**. Please bring your orange life jacket, warm clothing, and any necessary medication.

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

1830      **Expedition Introduction & Captain's Welcome** – Please join us in the **bar** (deck 6) for an introduction to the expedition, a welcome to your new home from the Hotel manager, the captain's toast and to meet your expedition team.

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

*We will sail into open sea this evening and the ship may move – please secure your*

*belongings and be careful when moving around the ship.  
Take your seasickness medication before we head out into open sea- the doctor will  
be available in the lounge after dinner to assist.*

0745      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!

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

0915      This morning we have our **mandatory Zodiac** briefing in the lounge. Please make your way up to the **bar** on **Deck 6**.

1015      **Gary** welcomes you to the lounge to talk about **the birds and the seals in the Falkland Islands**.

1145      **Muck Boots** - We will call you by deck to collect your Muck boots from the lecture room on **deck 3 forward**. *Please bring your thick socks to make sure you have the perfect fit! Please listen for announcements.*

1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 4).

1430      **Biosecurity check:** Please bring all your outer garments, bags, poles, boots, tripods & lifejackets etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica to be checked. Please take time to check and clean your gear **before** the biosecurity inspection – brushes & paperclips can be found at reception. Please bring your zodiac lifejackets to be fitted. **Please listen to announcements.**

1630      **Jess** welcomes you to the **bar** (Deck 6) for an **introduction to cetaceans** (the group of marine mammals that includes whales, dolphins, and porpoises).

1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar (deck 6) for our first daily recap.

1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4) – *Tonight's dinner will be plated – please make your way to the dining room promptly.*

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

0645      **Wakeup call - Good Morning!**  
 0700      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*The weather forecast looks windy, but today we're hoping to find shelter at New Island. Located far west of West Falkland, New Island is a nature reserve hosting over 40 breeding bird species. It features diverse wildlife including ducks, geese, and Rockhopper penguins.*

*In the morning, we hope to land at Coffin Bay. We would like to offer a walk to the Black Browed Albatross and the Rockhopper rookery. The eggs of the albatross are just hatching now and the rockhoppers have very little chicks. The walk is about 1 km (0.7miles) with little elevation. You might also visit the historic Charles Barnard building, one of the Falklands' oldest structures which now serves as a museum and visitors centre. The museum has a shop which takes cash, phone, and cards.*

***Please listen for announcements for more precise timing.***

±0815      Please come to the gangway for a landing at **Coffin Harbour** in New Island. We'd like to offer a scenic walk up to a Rockhopper penguin and Black Browed Albatross colony.

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

*In the afternoon we hope to land in North bay. We wish to offer a walk that leads d to a cliff with albatrosses and a beach where you can observe gentoo penguins on the way.*

±1345      Please come to the gangway for a landing at **North Harbour**. We'd like to offer another scenic walk with stunning views, white sandy beaches with a variety of wildlife.

1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar for our daily recap.

1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**. *Tonight's dinner will be plated – please make your way to the dining room promptly.*



0645      **Wakeup call - Good Morning!**  
 0700      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning, we hope to visit Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. Home to about 2,500 residents, this charming port town features colourful houses, the most southerly Anglican cathedral in the world and several shipwrecks visible in the harbour. You can walk freely through the town but please remain within the town limits and respect the local traffic and peoples' private homes & gardens.*

***Very last zodiac will leave the jetty at 12:15 pm.***  
***If you hear the ships horn sound – please return immediately to the jetty.***

0815      Please come to the gangway for a landing at Port Stanley.

1215      **Last zodiac will leave the jetty.**

1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 4).

1500      In the afternoon we will offer a photography lecture. **Koen** will share **10 tips to improve your wildlife photography in English in the bar** and **QB** will give a lecture about the **basic theory of photography in the lecture room in Mandarin**.

1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar (deck 6) for our first daily recap.

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

0745      **Wakeup call - Good Morning!**

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

0930      This morning we will offer a photography lecture. **Koen** will share **10 tips to improve your wildlife photography in English in the bar** and **QB** will give a lecture about the **basic theory of photography in the lecture room in Mandarin**.

1100      **Underwater Floating Forest.** Come join **Chloe** at the bar for the first part of her super enthusiastic talk about plankton!

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

1400      **Photography workshop:** Come on the outside deck to meet **QB** and **Koen**. They will help you setting up your camera to take photos of birds in flight.

1615      Join **Gary** at the bar for a fascinating talk about several **seal species** that we hope to see during our expedition.

1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar for our first daily recap.

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

*"Men wanted for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful, honor and recognition in case of success." Sir Ernest Shackleton*

0745      **Wakeup call - Good Morning!**  
 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

0915      **South Georgia Briefing** – Please join us in the **lounge** for a **mandatory briefing** and video for our visit to South Georgia.

1115      **Birds of South Georgia**- Please meet **Gary** in the Bar for a lecture about birds, including penguins species that we might encounter during our journey to South Georgia. Most likely including real life penguin imitation.

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

1400      **South Georgia Biosecurity** - We will call you in groups to the **bar** to complete our biosecurity check & cleaning – please bring all your **clean** outerwear, backpacks, muckboots and tripods/walking sticks to be checked and/or cleaned. **Please do your best to clean your gear beforehand – this is meant only as a check – there are brushes and paperclips available at the bar.** We will call you by decks so **please listen for announcements**.

1600      **Shackleton's Endurance** – Please join **Aitana** in the **Bar** to hear the story of Shackleton and his men on the Endurance expedition.

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

1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar for our daily recap.  
 1900      **Plated Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

*"For scientific discovery give me Scott; for speed and efficiency of travel give me Amundsen; but when disaster strikes and all hope is gone, get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton'*  
 - Sir Raymond Priestley



## Falkland – South Georgia – Antarctica

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
Right Whale Bay and Salsbury Plain

0745      **Wakeup call - Good Morning!**  
0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning, we aim to land at Right Whale Bay, located on the northern coast of South Georgia in the sub-Antarctic. Named after the Southern Right whales that once frequented these waters in large numbers, the bay is backed by dramatic glacier-covered mountains and is home to elephant seals, fur seals, and various seabirds.*

*Timing will depend on our arrival time. We hope to land shortly after breakfast, around 09:30. Please listen for announcements.*

TBA      Please come to the gangway for a landing at Right Whale Bay. **Timing might change as the team needs time to assess conditions - please listen for announcements.**

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

*This afternoon we aim to land at Salisbury Plain, one of South Georgia's most spectacular wildlife sites. This vast coastal plain is home to one of the largest King Penguin colonies in the world, with over 60,000 breeding pairs. The beach is also populated by elephant seals and fur seals, making it one of the most densely packed wildlife areas in South Georgia.*

±1430      Please come to the gangway for a landing at Salisbury Plain. **Timing might change as the team needs time to assess conditions - please listen for announcements**

1845      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar for our daily recap.

*We must minimise the light pollution from the ship to prevent birds striking and landing on the ship. PLEASE PUT ALL THE BLINDS IN YOUR CABINS DOWN/ CLOSE YOUR CURTAINS before dinner.*

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

*"Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colours." - Terry Pratchett - English author.*

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

*This morning, we aim to land at Grytviken, the largest former whaling station on South Georgia, which was operational from 1904 to 1964 and is the final resting place of Sir Ernest Shackleton. During your visit, you can expect to see the old whaling station, church, cemetery, and The Whaler's Warehouse, as well as visit the museum, shop, and post office. We have invited the museum team on board to give a presentation about their work, and following this presentation, we will call you for landing at Grytviken. The shop accepts card payments only—all cards except American Express.*

**PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU WILL BE INSPECTED FOR BIOSECURITY BY THE SOUTH GEORGIA GOVERNOR ON DISEMBARKATION, SO PLEASE ENSURE ALL YOUR EQUIPMENT IS CLEAN.**

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

0930      **Whaling Station Guided Tour with a Mandarin speaker** - Please meet outside the museum.  
 1000      **Toast to Shackleton in the cemetery in English** - Please meet in the cemetery.

1030      **Whaling Station Guided Tour in English** - Please meet outside the museum.  
 1100      **Toast to Shackleton in the cemetery with a Mandarin speaker** - Please meet at the cemetery.

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

*This afternoon we aim to land at St Andrews Bay, home to one of the largest king penguin colonies in the world with an estimated 150,000 breeding pairs. This spectacular beach, backed by the towering Heaney Glacier.*

TBA      Please come to the gangway for a **landing** at St Andrews Bay.

1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar for our daily recap.

***We must minimise the light pollution from the ship to prevent birds striking and landing on the ship. PLEASE PUT ALL THE BLINDS IN YOUR CABINS DOWN/ CLOSE YOUR CURTAINS before dinner.***

1900      **A special Antarctic dinner is served.** We can't tell you what it is, but we can tell you to dress warmly!

*“Better a live donkey than a dead lion.” — Ernest Shackleton*

0645      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!  
0700      Breakfast is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning, we aim to land at **Fortuna Bay**, a stunning glacial bay on South Georgia's northern coast. Fortuna Bay is rich in wildlife, including large colonies of **King penguins**, **elephant seals**, and **fur seals** that crowd its black sand beaches. The bay holds historical significance as part of the final leg of Ernest Shackleton's legendary crossing of South Georgia in 1916, his party descended through Fortuna Bay on their way to the whaling station at Stromness.*

±0815      Please come to the gangway for a landing at Fortuna Bay. **Timing might change as the team needs time to assess conditions - please listen for announcements.**

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

*This afternoon we aim to offer a zodiac cruise at **Hercules Bay**, famous for its colonies of **Macaroni Penguins**. These charismatic birds are known for their striking golden-yellow head crests and their impressive ability to climb steep, rocky cliffs to nest in the tussock grass high above the bay.*

±1430      Please come to the gangway for a Zodiac cruise at Hercules Bay. **Timing might change as the team needs time to assess conditions - please listen for announcements.**

1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar for our daily recap.

*We must minimise the light pollution from the ship to prevent birds striking and landing on the ship. **PLEASE PUT ALL THE BLINDS IN YOUR CABINS DOWN/ CLOSE YOUR CURTAINS before dinner.***

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



*"By endurance we conquer."*



- Ernest Shackleton

0715      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!

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

*This morning, we aim to land at Gold Harbour, one of South Georgia's most spectacular wildlife destinations. The beach is home to a king penguin colony, where thousands of these elegant birds gather alongside elephant seals hauled out. The surrounding tussock grass provides nesting sites for wandering albatross, giant petrels, and Antarctic terns.*

±0845      Please come to the gangway for a landing at Gold Harbour. **Timing might change as the team needs time to assess conditions - please listen for announcements.**

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

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

±1415      Please come to the gangway for a Zodiac cruise at Cooper Bay. **Timing might change as the team needs time to assess conditions - please listen for announcements.**

1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar for our daily recap.

***We must minimise the light pollution from the ship to prevent birds striking and landing on the ship. PLEASE PUT ALL THE BLINDS IN YOUR CABINS DOWN/ CLOSE YOUR CURTAINS before dinner.***

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

"We must always remember with gratitude and admiration the first sailors who steered their vessels through storms and mists and increased our knowledge of the lands of ice in the South." - Roald Amundsen



0800 **No Wakeup call** – Enjoy your sleep in!  
**Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

0915 **Aitana** invites you to the **lecture room (deck 3)** and she will tell you all about ice! (In English)  
0915 **Wei** is excited to do an introduction to Antarctica in the **bar** (In mandarin).

1100 **Gary** is welcoming you in the **bar** to talk about The Life History of the Emperor Penguin.  
This lecture will be translated in Mandarin.

***Today, both lunch and dinner are vegetarian.***

*In an effort to become more sustainable, Oceanwide has decided to implement a weekly vegetarian day. This small change helps reduce our environmental impact, as plant-based meals require significantly less water, land, and energy to produce compared to meat-based dishes. Additionally, reducing meat consumption lowers greenhouse gas emissions and helps preserve natural ecosystems. We appreciate your support in making our operations more environmentally responsible!*

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

1400 **Biosecurity** - We will call you in groups to the **Bar** to complete our biosecurity check & cleaning – please bring all your **clean** outerwear, backpacks, muck boots and tripods/walking sticks to be checked and/or cleaned. Please do your best to clean your gear beforehand – this is meant only as a check. ***Please listen for announcements.***

1630  **Happy hour** at the bar!

1645 **South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction** - Please join us in the **Bar** for a fun fundraising for the continuing conservation of the beautiful Island of South Georgia.

1845 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar for our daily recap.

***We must minimise the light pollution from the ship to prevent birds striking and landing on the ship. PLEASE PUT ALL THE BLINDS IN YOUR CABINS DOWN/ CLOSE YOUR CURTAINS before dinner.***

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

2045  **Movie night** in the bar! Tonight, we would like to show you **the National Geographic documentary Endurance**. In a legendary feat of leadership and perseverance, polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton kept his crew of 27 men alive for over a year despite the loss of their ship in frigid pack ice. Over a century later, a team of modern-day explorers sets out to find the sunken ship.

***"The guy who invented the wind chill factor was buried yesterday.  
He was 89 but felt like 53." — Unknow author.***

0800      **No Wakeup call** – Enjoy your sleep in!  
**Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

0915      This morning we will offer the part 2 of the photography lecture. **Koen** will share **several aspects of photography in the bar in English** and **QB** will give a lecture about the **Shooting the frozen wild: photography tips in Antarctica in the lecture room in Mandarin**.

1100      Join **Jess** at the **bar** for a fascinating lecture on **whale evolution**. She'll explore how these magnificent marine mammals evolved from land-dwelling ancestors over millions of years.

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

1400      **Chloe** will be at the bar with a **microscope and the plankton sample** collected from Hercules Bay. Feel free to stop by and take a look through the microscope yourself.

1600      Join **Kevin** in the bar for a fascinating lecture about the **Belgian Antarctic Expedition** led by **Adrien de Gerlache**. This historic voyage marked the first expedition to overwinter in Antarctic waters when their ship, the Belgica, became trapped in pack ice. Among the crew were notable figures including Roald Amundsen, who would later reach the South Pole. The Lecture will be translated in mandarin.

1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar for our daily recap.

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



Thank you all so much for your generous participation in the auction! Together we raised **£4,591 for the South Georgia Heritage Trust**. Your support will have a lasting impact on their critical conservation work. To learn more or contribute: <https://sght.org/>

*“No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced” - David Attenborough*

0745      **Wakeup call** – The adventure starts again!  
0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.



*In the morning, we hope to cruise (either by zodiac or ship depending on weather) Point Wild, located on the northern coast of Elephant Island in the South Shetland Islands, holds a legendary place in Antarctic exploration history. This desolate rocky spit became the refuge for 22 members of Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition in April 1916, after their ship, the Endurance, was crushed by pack ice. The men endured nearly five months on this narrow, storm-battered beach—surviving on seal and penguin meat while waiting for rescue—as Shackleton and five others made their perilous 800-mile journey to South Georgia in a small lifeboat to seek help. Today, Point Wild is marked by a bronze bust of Captain Luis Pardo, the Chilean naval officer who commanded the ship that finally rescued the stranded crew. The site remains a powerful symbol of human endurance and survival against impossible odds in one of Earth's most unforgiving environments.*

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

1400      Join **Aitana** in the bar for a lecture a **Thread of Survival: the wool around the pole**.

1600      **Chloe** will continue her plankton lecture series with part 2: **“The Secret Life of Zooplankton.”** The lecture will take place in **the bar**.

1815      **Mandatory Recap** – Gather with the Expedition team in the bar for **today's recap**. We'll be showing a short but important **IAATO film** about Antarctica that all guests are required to watch.

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

*“No person who has not spent a period of his life in those 'stark and sullen solitudes that sentinel the Pole' will understand fully what trees and flowers, sun-flecked turf and running streams mean to the soul of a man”*- Ernest Shackleton

0715      **Wakeup call** – The adventure starts again!  
0730      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.



## **EXPEDITION DAY!**



*Today we're aiming for an expedition day in the Antarctic Sound. Ice conditions will dictate our activities, so whether we're ship cruising, launching zodiacs, or making landings, anything is possible.*

*Stay tuned for announcements, and we encourage you to head out on deck and up to the bridge, perfect spots for wildlife watching and soaking in the incredible views.*

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

1815      **Daily Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar for our daily recap.

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



*"Why then do we feel this strange attraction for these Polar regions, a feeling so powerful and lasting, that when we return home, we forget the mental and physical hardship, and want nothing more than to return to them?"*  
– **Jean-Baptiste Charcot, French Explorer**



Falkland – South Georgia – Antarctica

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
Deception Island

0745      **Wakeup call** – The adventure starts again!  
0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

**All timings are "To Be Announced."**

Due to ice conditions, it's difficult to predict when we will arrive at Deception Island.  
Please listen for announcements.

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

*In the morning, we aim to land at **Pendulum Cove**, located northeast of Port Foster on Deception Island. It was home to the Chilean research station Base Aguirre Cerda, which conducted volcanological and meteorological studies until it was destroyed by volcanic eruptions. The station's ruins were designated as an Antarctic Historic Site and Monument (HSM 76) in 2001.*

*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.*

TBA      Please come to the gangway for a landing at pendulum cove.

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

*This afternoon we aim to land at **Telefon Bay** on Deception Island in Antarctica's South Shetlands. Telefon Bay offers a spectacular crater walk along the ridge. This scenic hike takes approximately 1 to 1.5 hours to complete and involves about 300 meters of elevation gain, making it a rewarding experience for those eager to explore Deception Island's unique geological features.*

TBA      Please come to the gangway for a landing at pendulum cove.

1815      **Daily Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar for our daily recap.  
1900      **Buffet Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

2045      **Happy hour** at the bar!

2100      **Christmas Antarctic Quiz!** Please join us in the bar to test what you've learned during the voyage.





Alkland – South Georgia – Antarctica

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Cierva Cove and Palaver point

0645            **Wakeup call** – The adventure starts again!  
0700            **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning, we aim to **zodiac cruise** in **Cierva Cove**, a stunning glacial inlet on the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula. Cierva Cove offers incredible opportunities to navigate between sculpted icebergs. The cove is known for its resident **Gentoo penguin** colonies and frequent sightings of **Weddell seals** lounging on ice floes. If we're fortunate, we may also spot **humpback whales** and **leopard seals**.*

±0815           Please come to the gangway for zodiac cruise at Cierva Cove.  
1230            **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This morning, we aim to **land at Palaver Point**, a rocky outcrop located on the northern tip of Booth Island in the Wilhelm Archipelago. The point gets its name from the constant chatter and activity of the **chinstrap penguins** that inhabit the island - "palaver" meaning a lengthy or idle discussion. The relatively level terrain also makes Palaver Point an excellent spot for taking in the **Antarctic panoramas** that surround us.*

±1500           Please come to the gangway for a landing at Palaver point.  
1815            **Daily Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar for our daily recap.  
1900            **Buffet Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

**Please note that the bar will exceptionally close at 10:00 PM tonight.**

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



**Did you know? The Weddell seal is the southernmost mammal in the world! They inhabit the fast ice around Antarctica year-round.**

0745      **No Wakeup call!** Enjoy your sleep in.

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

0930      **What Whales do for us** - Please join Jess in the **lounge** to hear about the many ways whales help our planet.

1045      **Gary** will talk about his **overwintering in the Australian Antarctic station** – this lecture includes very cute fluffy Emperor penguin chicks.

1200      **Muck boot Return** – We will call you by deck to return your **clean muck boots, dry bags** (if borrowed) and **life jackets** to the **boot room on deck 3** forward. *Please listen for announcements.*

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

1330      We would like to process **Auction Payment** at the bar – please listen for announcements.

1430      Join **Doctor Elmer** in the **bar** to hear about **scurvy**! Discover how this disease killed an estimated 2 million sailors between 1500 and 1800.

1600      **Dogs of Antarctica** - Please join Svata in the **lounge** to listen to her talk about the unsung heroes of Antarctic exploration – the sled dogs.

1815      **Daily Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar for our daily recap.

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

*“Even if you never have the chance to see or touch the ocean, the ocean touches you with every breath you take, every drop of water you drink, every bite you consume. Everyone, everywhere is inextricably connected to and utterly dependent upon the existence of the sea”* - Sylvia A. Earle



0745      **Special Wakeup call!**  
0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

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

0930      Please join **QB** in the **bar** her lecture. ***Visions of climate change: From melting ice to Human Hope.***

1045      Please join **Gonzalo and the dive team** in the **bar**, where they will share **what the divers saw**. They will give a short presentation and show a compilation of the footage divers took during the voyage.

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

***Around 14:30, we will be able to see Cape Horn from the ship. Cape Horn marks the northernmost point of the Drake Passage and the southernmost tip of South America and has long been considered one of the most challenging maritime passages in the world due to its notoriously rough seas and strong winds.***

1615      **Oceanwide Expeditions** - Please join Koen in the **lounge** to hear about the other **incredible expeditions that Oceanwide Expeditions offers**.

1800      **Farewell Toast & Trip Slideshow** - Please join Captain Remmert and the Expedition team in the **lounge** to toast our incredible voyage.

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

*"We only protect what we love, we only love what we understand, and we only understand what we are taught." - Jacques-Yves Cousteau, French naval officer, oceanographer, filmmaker, and ocean conservation pioneer.*

0715      **Wakeup call – Good Morning!**

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

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

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

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

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

***On behalf of all at Oceanwide Expeditions and all on board Ortelius we thank you for a truly incredible expedition.***  
***Safe travels home.***