



Falklands – South Georgia – Antarctic Peninsula

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

21st December 2025 – 8th January 2026

On board *m/v Hondius*



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



Captain Ernesto Barría Vargas

and his international crew of 74 sailors

Staff Captain:	Elizabar Kadaría	[Ukraine]
Chief Officer:	Sven Holzhausen	[Germany]
Second Officer:	Eline Schuurman	[Netherlands]
Third Officer:	Erik van de Reijden	[Netherlands]
Hotel Manager:	Jeroen William Barnes	[Netherlands]
Ass. Hotel Manager	Victoria Bridgwood	[Ireland]
Head Chef:	Khabir Moreas	[India]
Sous Chef:	Edward Nunag	[Philippines]
Sous chef:	Felix Lobo	[India]
Ships doctor:	Anne Vriend	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Chris Long	[New Zealand]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Bitao (Jerry) Zhao	[China]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Pierre Gallego	[Luxembourg]
Expedition Guide:	Mark Whiffin	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Rose Li Hong	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Alexander Romanovsky	[Russia]
Expedition Guide:	Andrea Schwetz	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Zoy Li	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Luce Moussiere	[France]
Expedition Guide:	Gabriela Kolodko	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	Hana Spickova	[Czech Republic]
Expedition Guide:	Geraint Rowlands	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Carina Ketterer	[Switzerland]
Expedition Guide:	Jodi Gaylord	[US]
Expedition Guide:	Shan Zhou	[China]
Expedition Guide:	Annelou Hulsker	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Simon Davies	[UK]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Sunday 21st December, Ushuaia, Embarkation day - Setting sail for Antarctica

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

Wind: SW-3 • Sea: Low • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 12°C

Our first day of the expedition began, with everyone coming aboard excited to go to Antarctica. After settling into our cabins and confirming that our luggage had arrived safely, most of us drifted into the lounge where tea and coffee were waiting. The mood was bright and chatty as people compared cabins and swapped stories about how long they had dreamed of making this journey. We were called to the lounge by our Expedition Leader Chris, to first inform us about some matters of safety.

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



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

As evening settled in we met again at 20:30 for the zodiac and IAATO briefing. The reality of what lay ahead began to land as we learned how we would move around in the days to come. By then we could already feel a gentle roll underfoot, and some of us took extra precautions by paying the doctor a visit for some seasickness medication. There was a steady flow of passengers exchanging wry smiles as they collected tablets and advice.

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

Day 2 – Monday 22nd December, Drake Passage - At sea sailing towards Antarctica

08h00 GPS Position: 56°54.65'S / 65°50.4'W

Wind: NW4 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: +6°C

Today's programme was filled with preparations for our visit to Antarctica. On our second day at sea, we received our first 'Good Morning, Good Morning!' wake-up call and began our crossing through the Drake Passage. The waves, around 4 or 5 metres high, gave us an idea of what the famous 'Drake' is like. Although it was not extremely rough for some of us, it was still relentless.

Our first lecture of the day was given by Simon, one of our ornithologist on board. He explained how and why birds follow the ship, and to our amazement, that albatrosses spend most of their lives on the sea. Meanwhile, some of us were watching these amazing birds fly by outside! Just before lunch, we had another lecture by Andi, one of our whale experts on board. She described the whales of the Southern Ocean, and what we could expect from our voyage.



After lunch, we had a little bit of free time, which most of us spent processing all the new information that was just given, or being up on the bridge, or outside, watching the birds Simon just talked about this morning fly by, sometimes extremely close!

In the afternoon, Annelou told us more about the types of ice we would see in Antarctica, as an icy introduction to the coolest continent.

Our first day on sea flew by! Recap was already at 18:00 followed by a plated dinner. As the sea was quite tiring for most of us, we went to bed early, ready for another day at sea.

Day 3 – Tuesday 23rd December, Drake Passage – At sea sailing towards Antarctica

08h00 GPS Position: 61°01.2'S / 064°08.4'W

Wind: SE4 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air temperature: 7°C

Our second day crossing the Drake Passage—an ocean stretch infamous for its wild and unpredictable seas—was met with remarkable luck. Instead of the legendary waves, we were greeted by relatively gentle conditions. Thanks to the calm seas, we traveled comfortably toward the White Continent. With the sun shining and a blue sky overhead, the conditions were perfect for wildlife watching. Around the ship, numerous bird species took advantage of the winds, effortlessly dynamic soaring just above the waves.



We were treated to an incredible aerial display. Wandering albatrosses—famous for having the largest wingspan of any bird in the world—glided around us. Alongside them were giant petrels, black-browed albatrosses, Wilson's storm petrels, cape petrels, and many others. As we continued south, we spotted whale blows in the distance, a sign that we were

nearing Antarctic waters.

This day was dedicated to preparation for our upcoming Antarctica landings. The morning began on a high note with a delicious breakfast, followed by a series of mandatory safety meetings. We learned about protecting the pristine Antarctic environment, proper behavior on land, and essential safety procedures for traveling at sea and zodiac boat operations. These briefings emphasized how fragile and unique this part of the world is, and how important our responsibility is as visitors.

In the afternoon, we were rewarded with our first views of Antarctica. After two full days at sea, this moment felt special. The first land we spotted was Smith Island in the South Shetland Islands, emerging on the horizon.

The view of towering mountains grew closer and more dramatic. This far south, darkness never truly arrives, and the sun dips below the horizon for only about three short hours. The evening felt like one long, never-ending sunset, painted with a beautiful play of colors of soft golds, deep oranges, and gentle pinks. It was a magical atmosphere, making time seem to slow as we sailed deeper into the Antarctic world.



Day 4 – Wednesday 24th December – Orne Harbour & Stony Point

09h00 GPS Position: 64°37.7'S / 62°32.6'W

Wind: E4 • Sea: Wavelets • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 1°C

The first day of operations for MV *Hondius* in Antarctica delivered an unforgettable introduction to the White Continent, combining wildlife encounters, scenic landings, and classic polar adventure under remarkably favourable conditions.

Our morning began at Orne Harbour, where calm seas and an overcast sky created a serene and atmospheric welcome. Before even entering the harbour, excitement built as a small group of Orca were spotted patrolling along the shoreline. Although they kept their distance and moved steadily past the entrance to Orne Harbour, the brief sighting was an awe-inspiring reminder that we had truly arrived in one of the world's great wildernesses.



Once safely inside the harbour, expedition operations commenced with efficiency and enthusiasm. Passengers were divided into two groups to make the most of the area. One group went ashore to tackle the steep climb up to the Chinstrap Penguin colony perched high above the landing site. The ascent was challenging but rewarded those who made it with close views of the bustling colony and spectacular panoramas over the harbour below. The energy and noise of the penguins, set against dramatic Antarctic scenery, made the effort well worthwhile.



Meanwhile, the second group enjoyed a Zodiac cruise along the shoreline and out toward the entrance of the bay. Here, wildlife sightings came thick and fast. Chinstrap and Gentoo penguins dotted the rocks and snowfields, while Snowy Sheathbills and Antarctic Shags added to the diversity. The true highlight, however, was a group of Humpback Whales actively feeding near the mouth of the harbour. Their repeated surfacing and powerful movements provided a thrilling and memorable display.

After the groups swapped activities, operations were briefly overseen by an unexpected onshore observer: an inquisitive Leopard Seal, its head emerging from the brash ice near the landing site, calmly watching the comings and goings of passengers and Zodiacs alike.

Following a short transit, the afternoon brought us to Stony Point in Paradise Harbour, where the weather transformed dramatically. The sun broke through, bathing the landscape in brilliant light and revealing why this area is considered one of the most beautiful in Antarctica. With relatively limited wildlife here, some guests took the opportunity to climb a small peak and enjoy the snow more freely—lying down, playing, and taking in the incredible surroundings. Along the shoreline, several Weddell Seals were hauled out, resting peacefully in the afternoon sun.

The day concluded with a highlight for many: a lively and well-attended Polar Plunge. Brave souls entered the icy Antarctic waters for a brief dip before racing back to shore, greeted by warm towels, cheers, and a quick Zodiac ride back to the ship and a well-earned hot shower.

It was, by every measure, an outstanding first day of Antarctic operations for MV *Hondius*—rich in wildlife, blessed with fine weather, and filled with moments that will be remembered long after the expedition ends.



Day 5 – Thursday 25th December (Christmas Day) – Portal Point & Punta Sucia

08h00 GPS Position: 64°29.8'S / 61°44.7'W

Wind: S4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 2°C

Christmas Day dawned with a true reminder of Antarctica's power. We awoke to blustery conditions at Portal Point, with winds gusting to 35 knots and seas building to around four feet. These conditions made for challenging Zodiac operations, demanding focus, teamwork, and respect for the environment as we maneuvered through Charlotte Bay.

Portal Point is a narrow, rocky promontory on the Reclus Peninsula along the Danco Coast of Graham Land (64°30'S, 61°46'W). Historically, it served as a vital "gateway" route for early British explorers attempting to ascend the hazardous glaciers leading to the Antarctic Plateau—hence its name. In 1956, a small British refuge hut known as Cape Reclus was established here and occupied briefly during the winters of 1957–1958 for survey work. The hut was later dismantled and relocated to the Falkland Islands in 1996, where it now stands in the Falkland Islands Museum in Stanley. Today, the only trace remaining at Portal Point is its concrete foundation, often buried beneath snow.



Despite the weather, the landing site was alive with wildlife. Gentoo penguins busily navigated the shoreline, while snow petrels fluttered effortlessly in the wind. Crabeater seals lounged along the ice edge, unfazed by the swell. Those cruising by Zodiac were rewarded with unforgettable sightings of humpback whales, their massive flukes lifting gracefully from the water. Humpback whales are known for their long pectoral fins—the longest of any whale species—which can reach up to one-third of their body length and help them maneuver with surprising agility.

During lunch, nature delivered one of its most poignant moments. A pod of Type B killer whales appeared along the starboard side of the ship, methodically surveying the area. Their attention was fixed on a nearby humpback whale and her calf. The scene was a quiet reminder that Antarctica is not only a place of beauty, but also of



raw ecological truth—where survival, care, and loss exist side by side in delicate balance.

In the afternoon, we relocated to Punta Sucia in the South Shetland Islands. Here, the weather transformed completely, revealing beaming sunshine and calm conditions. Punta Sucia showcases the classic geology of the maritime

Antarctic: dark basalt and andesite from ancient lava flows, layers of volcanic tuff and breccia, and bands of metamorphic rocks such as schist and gneiss. In places, sedimentary rocks hint at a warmer prehistoric Antarctica, sometimes preserving fossilized wood or leaf impressions. Ice-free areas supported resilient mosses, clinging to life in this harsh environment.

Wildlife encounters continued to delight. A leopard seal rested contentedly on an ice floe after feeding, while Antarctic shags nested nearby. Gentoo penguin rookeries bustled with activity, elephant seals lounged heavily along the shore, and humpback whales once again surfaced offshore.



The day concluded with a festive Christmas dinner, followed by an evening of celebration. Guests revealed impressive talents -singing carols with enthusiasm, excelling in Antarctic trivia, and embracing the joy of the season. To everyone's amusement, we were even visited by Captain Jack Sparrow and, incredibly, Santa Claus himself, having journeyed all the way from the North Pole.



As we turned in for the night, spirits were high and hearts were full—grateful for the warmth of Christmas cheer set against the awe-inspiring wonders of Antarctica.

Day 6 – Friday 26th December – At sea near Penguin Island

08h00 GPS Position: 62°37.5'S / 58°59.6'W

Wind: E5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -1°C

It wasn't the easiest of Antarctic days.

The forecast had already warned us: conditions around Penguin Island would be challenging. Still, the night found a way to surprise us. Ice pressed against the hull, and the steady banging along the side of *Hondius* kept more than a few of us awake, listening to Antarctica rearrange itself in the dark.

By morning, difficult navigation reshaped the plan. Instead of heading straight out, we shifted gears and leaned into education mode. The expedition team turned the delay into an opportunity. Pierre guided us through the world of humpback whales and their peculiar behaviors. Rose took us deep into Antarctic geology—this time in Mandarin—while Annelou explored why scientists often compare the polar regions to outer space: extreme isolation, hostile conditions, and the way life adapts against all odds.



Outside, the open waters kept rewarding those willing to brave the cold. Deck 6 aft became a familiar gathering spot for eager birders. As the winds picked up, so did the sightings. Black-browed albatrosses appeared, effortlessly cutting through the air, joined by cape petrels dancing low over the waves.

Fin whales teased us for most of the day. A distant blow here, another there—always solitary, always just out of reach. Until suddenly, the rhythm changed. A larger aggregation emerged, close enough to stop people mid-sentence and pull them toward the windows. This time, no binoculars were needed. We watched their immense bodies glide past the ship, taking in the subtle colors, the textures of their skin, the clean lines of their dorsal fins. A quiet, shared moment of awe.

As snow began to fall and night settled in, the expedition team offered a screening of a Shackleton documentary. The promise of popcorn and polar history was tempting—but fatigue won. One by one, people drifted off to their cabins, choosing rest over the screen.

Dinner ended early for many. The next day's wake-up call was set for 3:45 a.m.

Painfully early for some of us.

Completely worth it.

But that... is a story for another day.

Day 7 – Saturday 27th December – Elephant Island, Point Wild

08h00 GPS Position: 61°03.2'S / 54°46.2'W

Wind: S5 • Sea: Wavelets • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 3°C

We woke up very early in the morning at 3:30 am. We had daylight and it was very quiet on the ship. The reason for the early wake-up was very special. We were at Elephant Island, at a place called Point Wild. This place is very important in Antarctic history.



Point Wild is known because of Ernest Shackleton and his expedition in 1916. After their ship *Endurance* was crushed by ice, Shackleton and his crew had to escape. Finally, 22 men were left on Elephant Island. They had almost nothing: very little food, and very bad weather. They built a small camp with boats turned upside down and waited there for help. Shackleton left the island with five men to get help, and the others stayed behind for more than four months.





They did not know if Shackleton would come back. In the end, they were rescued by Captain Luis Pardo, a Chilean captain, and all 22 men survived. This makes Point Wild a very emotional and historic place.

Only a few times it is possible to go out with a

zodiac cruise at Point Wild because the weather and ice are often too dangerous. But today was our lucky day. The conditions were great, so we went out in the zodiacs. We saw many penguins on the rocks and in the water. We passed the statue of Captain Pardo, which stands there to remember the rescue. We also saw a leopard seal hunting a penguin, which was intense and very real nature. Around us was a lot of ice, big and small pieces. It was an unforgettable experience.

After the zodiac cruise, we went back to the ship and had breakfast. Everyone was happy but also tired, so we took a nap. Later, Simon gave us a talk and taught us everything about penguins. We learned about their life, how they survive the cold, and how they raise their chicks.

After a good lunch and another short nap, Jerry and Hana gave a lecture about ice and icebergs. They explained how ice is formed and why icebergs have different shapes and colors.

In the evening, we had a good dinner. It was a long and special day. Everyone was very tired, so we all went to sleep early, with many strong memories of Elephant Island.



Day 8 – Sunday 28th December – At sea towards South Georgia

08h00 GPS Position: 60°30.75'S / 047°00.8'W

Wind: SE5 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 3°C

We awoke to a true Southern Ocean Sea day, the Hondius steadily pressing northward from the South Shetland Islands toward South Georgia. Overnight the weather had built, and by morning it was clear that the swell and wind would not allow us to safely carry out our planned operation in the South Orkney Islands. Though there was a collective sigh of



disappointment, we were reminded that flexibility is part of polar travel, just as it was for the great explorers who once sailed these same waters.

The ship became our world for the day, and what a fine refuge it was. As we rolled gently through the grey-blue sea, we gathered for a lecture on Sir Ernest Shackleton from Jody. We traced his legendary Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition and reflected on the astonishing open-boat journey of the James Caird from Elephant Island to South Georgia in 1916. Knowing we were following a similar route gave the ocean



around us a deeper meaning; these were not just waves and wind, but a living corridor of history.

Later, we turned from history to wildlife with a talk from Andi on orcas. We learned that orcas are the largest members of the dolphin family and are highly intelligent, living in tight-knit, matrilineal pods. Different ecotypes specialize in different prey, from fish to seals, using sophisticated hunting techniques passed down through generations. As apex predators with no natural enemies, they play a crucial role in maintaining the balance of the Southern Ocean ecosystem.



After lunch, we focused on the practicalities ahead with our South Georgia biosecurity briefing and recap. We carefully reviewed procedures to ensure that no non-native species would be carried ashore, understanding how vital these measures are for protecting South Georgia's fragile and remarkable environment.

The day wound down with dinner and a sense of anticipation for what lay ahead. In the evening, there was the option to watch a documentary about penguins in Antarctica, their resilience and charm a perfect counterpoint to the wild seas outside. As the *Hondius* continued her course through the night, we felt both humbled and exhilarated—part of a long tradition of voyagers moving through these storied southern waters.

Day 9 – Monday 29th December – At sea towards South Georgia

08h00 GPS Position: 57°37.2'S / 040°32.5'W

Wind: SSE4 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Snow • Air temperature: 0°C

The day unfolded as a gentle transition from open ocean to the promise of land ahead, as the ship sailed through the Scotia Sea en route to South Georgia. The sea carried a sense of anticipation, its cold blue surface stretching endlessly toward the horizon, while the air itself seemed alive with movement and story.



Morning brought immediate excitement. Snow petrels and Kerguelen petrels appeared early, gliding effortlessly around the ship, their crisp white and soft grey forms cutting through the polar light. Their presence felt like a welcome sign that the Southern Ocean was truly revealing itself. Between sightings, the morning settled into a rhythm of learning, with a series of lectures that added depth and context to the journey.

Mark spoke first, sharing insights from his time working and living on South Georgia. His stories painted a vivid picture of life on the remote island—its isolation, resilience, and the deep connection formed with such a rugged environment. This was followed by Jodi's lecture on whaling in the Southern Ocean, a sobering and powerful account of the region's history. Her talk traced the legacy of exploitation and the long-lasting impacts on wildlife, grounding the voyage in reflection as much as discovery.

Just before lunch, the ocean offered another surprise. A lone Orca appeared briefly alongside the ship, its sleek black-and-white body breaking the surface with quiet authority. Though the encounter was short, it left a lasting impression—an electric reminder of the wildness that defines these waters.

The afternoon continued with learning and observation in equal measure. Carina delivered a fascinating lecture on the behind-the-scenes workings of *Hondius*, revealing the complex choreography required to keep an expedition ship running smoothly in such remote conditions. It offered a new appreciation for the crew's efforts, often unseen but essential to every moment of the journey.



Throughout the afternoon, snow petrels came and went, sometimes appearing in pairs, sometimes in small flurries, as if escorting the ship onward. Their intermittent presence was matched by a striking sight on the horizon: a large tabular iceberg. Its flat, monumental shape stood in stark contrast to the surrounding sea, a floating cathedral of ice that drew eyes and cameras alike.



As evening approached, the focus shifted once more to storytelling. Sasha delivered an engaging lecture about his own personal intriguing journey to Antarctica, weaving together personal experience, challenge, and wonder. His narrative echoed much of what was being felt onboard—a shared sense of privilege at traveling through such a rare and powerful place.

The day concluded quietly but symbolically. As the ship drew closer to South Georgia, the blinds were closed for the first evening, marking a subtle but meaningful transition. It was a gesture of respect and readiness, signalling entry into a new chapter of the voyage. Outside, the sea continued its steady motion, while inside, the sense of arrival—both physical and emotional—settled gently over the ship.



Day 10 – Tuesday 30th December – St Andrews Bay (special triplog by Sascha)

12h00 GPS Position: 54°26.1' S, 036°10.5'W

Wind: S6/7 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Clouds • Air temperature: 3°C

The morning of our fifth day at sea was gloomy. Low, layered clouds, gusty wind — damp and cold — and the huge, lazy waves of the Southern Ocean: this scene had already become familiar to us, almost dear. Yet this time there was something different about it. The waves were less aggressive, the wind had eased, and the character of the clouds had noticeably changed. All signs pointed to our proximity to land. And then, when the darkness of night had fully given way to the murky light of morning, silhouettes of a chain of jagged mountains slowly began to emerge from behind the veil of mist. This was the legendary South Georgia — mysterious, bristling with snow-covered peaks, a harsh and unwelcoming land. It was here that we were to spend the next four days. And yet, alongside its severity and hostility, there was something in this lost kingdom that felt alluring, beckoning, even hopeful: in places along the coast, the mountain slopes were covered with grass. The glaciers creeping through the valleys were not as monolithic as their Antarctic relatives, the colour of the sea shifted from deep blue to a lighter, greenish hue, and the wind carried from shore the scent of soil and peat.



If one looks at a map, South Georgia's outline bears a striking resemblance to a Chinese dragon — long, elongated, with a deeply indented coastline. Having rounded the island from the south, Hondius now set a north-westerly course, advancing along the northern shore and steadily closing the distance to land.

At a quarter to eight, the now painfully familiar voice of Chris, our expedition leader, sounded over the PA system: "Good morning, Hondius, good morning..." In his unhurried, calm manner, Chris informed us that we had successfully reached the shores of South Georgia and that Hondius would soon be dropping anchor in a bay bearing the name of Saint Andrew. He then gave us a brief weather update and promised that the day would be unforgettable.

By that time, many of us had already been up for quite a while and, cameras at the ready, were peering into the distance from the open decks. Some, squinting slightly and leaning back in their chairs, were enjoying their morning coffee in the Observatory Lounge, while most were still luxuriating in their beds, rocked by the lazy ocean swell like children in cradles. One way or another, it was time to get up and prepare for great deeds and unforgettable impressions.

If South Georgia itself is rightly considered a diamond in the crown of Antarctic and sub-Antarctic islands, then St. Andrew's Bay is a diamond — or rather, a black pearl — in the necklace of the island's many bays and coves. One hundred and fifty thousand pairs of king penguins! One hundred and fifty thousand — just think of it! Add to this southern elephant seals, Antarctic fur seals, giant petrels, Antarctic skuas, and so much more, not to mention the truly breathtaking beauty of the local landscapes. Each of us was eager to see all of this with our own eyes.



At eight o'clock, the restaurant on Deck 5 opened its doors and we rushed in for breakfast. Meanwhile, Hondius finally came to a stop. The anchor chain screeched and thundered as the massive anchor dropped to the bottom of the bay.

A vast valley framed on three sides by mountains whose snow-capped peaks stood out against the overcast sky; three glaciers descending the slopes; and a tussock-covered plain split in two by a long, narrow moraine — this was St. Andrew's Bay. But this description is meaningless without mentioning its main inhabitants — the king penguins. Thousands upon thousands of these remarkable birds were everywhere, as far as the eye could see. It seemed as though half the valley was covered by a vast carpet with a strange pattern — all of it penguins! What delighted us even more was the fact that we would not be spending three or four hours in this extraordinary place, but the entire day.

At 08:30, the Zodiacs were launched. Two of them immediately sped toward shore, carrying several guides and the equipment needed for landings. The remaining Zodiacs, also operated by guides, stayed by the ship to await us.

On South Georgia, the same rules apply as in Antarctica: no more than one hundred people may be ashore at any given time. Accordingly, the plan was simple — half of us would go ashore until lunchtime, while the other half would explore the coastline of St. Andrew's Bay from the water on a Zodiac cruise.

We were just beginning to gather near the Zodiac Boarding Area when William, our hotel manager, announced the start of the operation over the PA system. Well then — the time had come.

In groups of ten, we boarded the Zodiacs one by one and headed for shore. Tall but calm waves rolled gently in the same direction as we did. At the same time, the wind continued to blow offshore, and at times its gusts were quite strong, covering the sea's surface with short, sharp, biting waves running against the ocean swell. The whole scene felt strangely surreal, as

if we were about to discover a portal to a parallel world. Meanwhile, our guides bravely handled the boats, doing their best to spare us from the salty spray that kept exploding into the air like fireworks.

The most serious part of the ordeal awaited us at the landing site. One could not simply pull up to the shore: the Zodiac driver had to surf the wave, riding its crest and allowing it to throw the Zodiac onto the beach. Our guides, to their credit, handled this task brilliantly. Once the Zodiac was beached in the surf zone, we had to disembark without the slightest delay and move a couple of dozen metres inland. There, members of the expedition team explained where to go, what to look at, and how to behave around the aggressively inclined fur seals. Meanwhile, the Zodiac driver, lifted from the sand by the next incoming wave, had to return with it to the realm of water. This continued until all of us were safely ashore.

We looked around. A sandy beach giving way to a valley covered in low grass; mountains; enormous glaciers partially strewn with rock debris; a terminal moraine already overgrown with grass — and early morning light. The air, like our spirits, felt fresh and joyful.



The beach and the valley were teeming with wildlife: giant petrels dozing with their heads tucked under their wings, elephant seal pups abandoned by their parents, fur seals casting menacing glances around with their muzzles raised high, and, of course, hordes of king penguins, whose main colony lay beyond the glacial moraine. Cameras at the ready, we slowly moved forward.

The route ahead was not short and even included an obstacle — a small but spirited river crossing the entire valley, originating from a glacial lake. The path, or rather the trajectory of our movement, was marked with red poles, thanks to our guides.

Moving from pole to pole and occasionally arguing with fur seals clearly displeased by our presence, we soon reached the river, which turned out to be favoured by hundreds upon hundreds of moulting penguins. They stood motionless along its banks, dropping their old feathers into the water one by one, while new, bright and clean ones grew in their place. Moulting is a difficult process: during this time, penguins lose their waterproofing and therefore cannot swim. As a result, they go without food for weeks, standing forlornly on the riverbank, waiting for the moult to end. Trying not to disturb them, we carefully waded across the river, with our guides actively helping us. The water was shallow, but the current was remarkably strong.

After walking a few hundred more metres, we began climbing the moraine. On one of the slopes, right beside the path, we came across a skua nest. The chick, nimbly moving its little legs, was exploring its surroundings, while its parents kept a vigilant watch to make sure nothing happened to it. Whenever one of us stopped to take photos, one of the adults would spread its wings menacingly, puff out its chest, and open its beak in a show of aggression. That was enough to make it clear that we should move on.

A few more dozen metres, another steep section, a couple more steps — and we found ourselves on top of the moraine. There, Mark, our ornithologist, was waiting for us along with a couple of guides. A crooked grin spread across Mark's face: he clearly knew something and was anticipating our reaction — but to what? The answer followed almost immediately, as soon as we walked a few dozen metres farther. The moraine dropped steeply into the western part of the valley, which opened up before us in its entirety, laid out like a map. And there — there! Thousands, tens of thousands, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS of king penguins. Before us stood the largest colony of these incredible birds in the world. We stopped dead in our tracks, unable to believe our own eyes. It took some time before we began to recover and notice the details.



At first glance, complete chaos reigned in the colony, amplified by a cacophony of penguin calls so loud that we had to raise our voices to talk — although most of us, stunned by the sight, preferred silence. Still, the “nurseries” were clearly visible — areas where chicks in their ridiculous brown-feathered “pyjamas” clustered together. As for the adults, some were moving toward the sea, while others, waddling slowly from side to side and carrying a rich haul of krill and fish in their bellies, were heading inland. Most, however, simply stood in place, going nowhere at all.

Unfortunately, we were pressed for time and could not afford to remain atop the moraine for several hours, so before long we had to begin our return journey. Once again skirting angry fur seals, once again wading across the river, and weaving between elephant seal pups.

Every seasoned traveller setting off for some remote backwater knows that reaching the destination is only half the journey, and that just as much effort will be required to get back out again. So it was with us: standing on the shore and donning our life jackets, we understood perfectly well that there was no way back to the ship except by climbing into a Zodiac once more and trusting the skill of its driver in battling the waves.

At Chris's command, the driver surfed the wave and was "thrown" onto the beach. Our task was to get into the Zodiac as quickly as possible. This already challenging feat was made even harder by the waves that kept slamming into the stern, drenching us from head to toe with icy, salty seawater mixed with sand — and generously laced with penguin feathers. Brrr.



Reaching the shell door, we disembarked from the violently rocking Zodiacs one by one and, with the help of the guides and deck crew, climbed back aboard Hondius.

After reaching our cabins and hanging our clothes up to dry, we went to lunch. We had worked up an excellent appetite, to say the least. This was followed by a very short post-lunch rest, after which it was time to get dressed again and board the Zodiacs once more.

The Zodiac cruise served as a perfect postscript to our morning excursion. Gently bobbing on the waves, we explored the coastline of St. Andrew's Bay, continuing to marvel at the sheer number of penguins. At the same time, those whose schedule placed the Zodiac cruise first were finally able to go ashore to follow the same route we had taken in the morning. To be honest, there was a touch of good-natured envy — after all, they still had the river crossing ahead of them and the moment of standing atop the moraine, frozen in awe at the spectacle unfolding before their eyes.

Evening came suddenly. Soon the last of us had returned aboard Hondius, the Zodiacs were hoisted back onto the deck, and the shell doors were securely closed. A short recap followed, during which Chris told us about the plans for the next day, and then came the long-awaited dinner.

Meanwhile, the weather began to turn capricious. Like spies slipping through mountain passes from the island's southern coast, low clouds crept into the valley. Light snow began to fall. It grew chilly. How good it was that we were already back on board.

Goodbye, St. Andrew's Bay! Farewell, penguins!

Day 11 – Wednesday 31st December – Grytviken & Hercules Bay

08h00 GPS Position: 54°17.4' S, 036°28.9'W

Wind: N2 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Snow • Air temperature: 3°C

At 07:15, we were gently awakened as the ship lay off the rugged coast of South Georgia, where jagged mountains rose steeply from the cold Southern Ocean.

By 07:30, breakfast was being served onboard, and guests gathered in quiet anticipation while the island slowly revealed itself through low cloud and drifting mist.

As the morning progressed, our arrival at Grytviken brought us into one of the most historically significant places in the sub-Antarctic. Before landing, customs formalities were completed with the Government Officer, followed by a short presentation by the South Georgia Heritage Trust, highlighting conservation achievements and the successful rat eradication project that has allowed native bird populations to recover. During this time, individual biosecurity inspections were carried out at the shell doors to ensure the protection of this fragile environment.

Once ashore later in the morning, we landed near the weathered shipwrecks in front of the museum. Grytviken, established in 1904, was once the center of the Antarctic whaling industry. Walking among the historic buildings—the church, museum, post office, and gallery—it was impossible not to imagine the lives of the thousands of men who once worked here, isolated at the edge of the world. Guided walking tours of the whaling station departed from the museum at 10:00 and 11:00, offering deeper insight into the industry that shaped the island's past.



At 10:30 and again at 11:30, some guests made their way to the cemetery overlooking the bay to raise a traditional toast to Sir Ernest Shackleton. Shackleton, whose legendary Endurance expedition defined the spirit of polar exploration, is buried here, and the moment felt both humbling and deeply moving.



By 12:30, we had returned to the ship, where lunch was served until 13:30, as we prepared for the afternoon's adventure deeper into South Georgia's wilderness.

In the early afternoon, the ship repositioned to Hercules Bay, a spectacular natural amphitheater of steep mountains, and cascading waterfalls. Named after the vessel *Hercules*, the bay felt wild and untouched.

At 14:45, the Red Group set out on a Zodiac cruise, followed by the Blue Group at 15:00. From the water, we encountered thriving colonies of Macaroni Penguins, alongside King Penguins, while southern elephant seals and fur seals lined the shore, crashing water, and the sheer scale of the landscape made this an exhilarating highlight of the voyage.



As the day drew to a close, we reconvened at 18:30 in the lounge for the expedition recap, reflecting on the history, wildlife, and unforgettable scenery experienced throughout the day. At 19:00, a barbecue dinner was served on the aft of Deck 5, enjoyed in the crisp polar air with the dramatic South Georgia coastline as our backdrop.



The day concluded at 22:00 with a New Year's toast in the Observation Lounge. Surrounded by ice, ocean, and mountains, we welcomed the New Year from one of the most remote places on Earth—an extraordinary end to an unforgettable day of exploration.

Day 12 – Thursday 1st January – Gold Harbour & Drygalski Fjord

08h00 GPS Position: 54°37.6' S, 035°56.2'W

Wind: VAR • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air temperature: 3°C

This morning felt different from any other morning of the expedition. Happy New Year 2026. Beginning both the day and the year aboard Hondius was truly special and an experience most of us will never forget. The expedition team and crew had planned everything perfectly, offering us a genuine South Georgia expedition day at Gold Harbour. When we looked out the windows early on, we were greeted by a vast and dramatic bay where we were lucky enough to spend the entire day.

After a delicious breakfast, we dressed in full winter gear. Snow was falling steadily, creating a beautiful atmosphere. The group then split for the morning activities, with some heading out on a Zodiac cruise and others going ashore for a landing.

At the landing site, the staff ashore stood knee deep in the water, catching the Zodiacs in the swell. We stepped onto a striking black sand beach and were immediately surrounded by life. Elephant seals rested along the shore, fur seals played in the surf, and king penguins were everywhere. Wherever we looked, wildlife filled the scene and it felt like stepping straight into a nature documentary.



A marked path led us closer to the main part of the colony, allowing us to observe the chicks from a respectful distance. Brown and fluffy, they watched the adult penguins coming and going from the sea, seemingly wondering what they were doing and when they might be able to join them.

Meanwhile, the Zodiac cruise explored the bay from south to north, starting near the lagoon and continuing along the rocky shoreline past Gold Head, a stunning mountain partly hidden by clouds and fresh snow. Wildlife was abundant here as well, with southern giant petrels and fur seals sharing the kelp forests as they fed along the coast.



After lunch, the groups swapped activities so everyone could enjoy what they had not done in the morning. Light snow continued to fall throughout the day, often transforming the landscape into a pristine winter wonderland. Just before returning to the ship, the clouds lifted and the sun appeared, bathing the steep cliffs in warm light and offering a brief hint of why this place is called Gold Harbour.

That golden light stayed with us into the evening. After a delicious buffet dinner, we were invited out onto the decks and up to the bridge as the captain carefully navigated us through the Drygalski Fjord. This narrow and dramatic fjord is fed by several glaciers, and we were able to spot the two main ones, Risting and Jenkins.

After several hours of cruising, we finally made our way to bed, our minds full of memories. The first day of the year could not have begun in a better way.



Day 13 – Friday 2nd January – Leith Harbour

08h00 GPS Position: 54°08.7 S, 036°40.5 W

Wind: VAR • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 2°C

Today began even better than the past few days. The sun had been shining since the night before, and everyone woke up to bright light waiting outside.

Chris woke us at 6:45 am, a little earlier than usual, as the team had planned a different kind of morning. Today we were going hiking in Leith Harbour.

After a good breakfast, the long hikers were called first to board the Zodiacs, followed shortly by the short hikers.

Our arrival in Leith Harbour was stunning. Thick kelp surrounded the landing site, so the Zodiac drivers approached slowly, giving us time to observe the old whaling station before reaching a beach crowded with wildlife. Fur seals greeted us under the warm sunshine of the bay.

The long hikers gathered farther inland where wildlife was more sparse. The hike was led by Jerry, Lu, Rose, Hana, Annelou, Zoy and Anne. Most of us were eager to walk, and the guides

explained that such hiking opportunities are rare here, as the weather often does not allow it.



We hiked along the edge of the mountains, passed an old glacier tongue, and reached a gentoo penguin colony halfway along the route. Here we observed two month old chicks before continuing on. We crossed a river, stopped for a group photo, and completed our ascent at the highest viewpoint, a large

rocky moraine. At the top, we shared five minutes of silence while Antarctic terns flew above our heads. It was a truly refreshing and meditative moment.



Meanwhile, the short hikers arrived after the long hikers had already departed, leaving the area calm and peaceful. We followed a marked path to a viewpoint overlooking the abandoned whaling station. Along the way, we walked through damp moss and grassy fields where fur seals and elephant seals rested. We spotted the occasional gentoo penguin heading toward the shore, and some of us were lucky enough to see South Georgia pipits as well.



The sun continued to shine throughout the morning, offering clear views of the surrounding snow covered mountain peaks.

Right after lunch, we were called out onto the decks as whales appeared all around the ship. We had begun our journey toward the Falkland Islands, and some of us spotted humpback whales breaching or fin slapping, a beautiful farewell as we left South Georgia after an unforgettable stay.

Later in the afternoon, Chris gathered us in the lounge to share an incredible story about his time living at the New Zealand Antarctic station.

After a plated dinner, and chocolate lava cake for some of us, we settled in for a calm evening and a good night's sleep, our dreams filled with memories of our remarkable time in South Georgia.

Day 14 – Saturday 3rd January – At sea towards the Falklands Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 52°54.6 S, 042°10.1 W

Wind: SW5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 1°C

Our adventures on our first full day at sea crossing the Drake Passage from South Georgia to the Falkland Islands began before the sun even rose in the sky. We were awoken around 3:30 am with the good news that the weather was clear enough for us to see the famous giant iceberg A23a. Now the fourth largest iceberg in the world, it stretched on much further than we could see, even had it been full daylight.

Covering approximately 1700 square kilometers (650 square miles), it is less than half its original size – but still as large as greater London.



Later in the morning, after most of us had gone back to bed for a few hours, Annelou treated us to a lecture about the geology of South Georgia. It was fascinating to learn about huge slabs of sedimentary rock experiencing a significant upheaval event and literally folding in upon itself. We had already seen the rock folds ourselves; learning about the processes that created them only deepened our appreciation.

Lu then gave us a lecture full of unexpected cuteness, as she discussed her favorite types of plankton that she sees while diving in polar waters. From diatoms that create most of the oxygen we breathe to sea angels that turn devilish and everything in between, she filled our eyes and hearts with beautiful bioluminescence and giant whales. Partway through her lecture, as though on cue, a pod of humpback whales were seen all around the ship, fin and tail slapping, even breaching a time or two, as they fed on – what else – plankton in the form of krill. A few fin whales were also spotted, but they were outnumbered by the humpbacks.

We all congratulated Lu on her ability to get the whales to show up at the precisely appropriate time in her lecture.



After lunch, Carina told us more about the life cycle of giant icebergs, focusing on A23a. We learned how they form, how they break apart, and how A23a has traveled throughout its 40-year lifespan: cruising along the Antarctic coast, getting stuck on the seafloor for 30 years, its eventual refloating, and its voyage past Elephant Island and around South Georgia to its current location west of the island. Though it is no longer the largest, A23a is still an impressive berg.

At recap we learned the nautical origins of some of our English phrases and customs, including “hung-over” and why you shouldn’t put your elbows on the table when you eat; saw just how large albatross wing spans actually are; and got a taste of what life is like on a polar research vessel. Then we were off to another delicious four-course dinner. The day ended on two additional positive notes: we got to set our clocks back an hour before bed (an extra hour of sleep!), and for the first time since arriving at South Georgia, we were not required to black out the windows. We could enjoy the evening sky all we wanted while remaining warm in the observation lounge. It was a good day.

Day 15 – Sunday 4th January – At sea towards the Falklands Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 52°13.9 S, 050°39.2 W

Wind: NW4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 5°C

After getting a lovely extra hour of sleep this morning due to the clocks being turned back an hour overnight, our first scheduled event for the day was a very interesting talk by Mark where we learned about the massive (and not so massive) birds of the Southern Ocean, the albatrosses and petrels. They comprise a diverse group of birds, all with fascinating adaptations to their lives spent mostly on the wing, rarely coming to land. Can I interest anyone in half a brain's nap?

Shortly after Mark's lecture, hourglass dolphins made their first appearance of the voyage. They proceeded to come and go throughout the day, but you had to be very quick to see them; they never stayed for long. Those spending their time out on the decks were rewarded; those waiting for the announcements usually missed them. Such is expedition life!



Gabi then filled us in on some of the general history of the Falkland Islands, including Darwin's fascination with the *caracaras* and the lack of Falkland trees. Tomorrow everyone will be trying to find Phil to learn the story of the mistake on a currency bill, plus trying to take photos of sheep and penguins peacefully sharing a hillside. We will also be rejoicing that we do not have to sail around oil platforms to reach the islands -- at least not yet.

After lunch (at the beginning of which more hourglass dolphins appeared), we watched a documentary called "The Untold Story" about the British experience in the Falklands War, as told by some of the military personnel who were directly involved. It was a moving story, highlighting how close the British came to losing the war – and how frequently they almost lost the war. It was good preparatory information before our landing in Stanley tomorrow.

Our final lecture of the day was given by Pierre, and it covered the International Whaling Commission (the IWC) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Life Resources, or CCAMLR. Here we discovered that the IWC is not actually intended to protect

whales, but rather to regulate the hunting of them, and that its members are deeply divided between hunting nations and those more interested in whale conservation. We also learned that coming from a completely land-locked country is no obstacle to developing a career as a cetacean veterinarian!

A happy hour followed an early dinner, both a warm-up to the evening's highlight: the charity auction to benefit the South Georgia Heritage Trust. It was an evening of lively bidding on jewelry, artwork, rare whiskeys, tumblers, and more. We even had a visitor from the northern polar regions: a walrus made an appearance as a guest auctioneer's assistant. In the end 2600 British pounds were raised for the SGHT. Well done!

Day 16 – Monday 5th January – Falkland Islands, Stanley

07h00 GPS Position: 51°39.5 S, 057°41.5 W

Wind: SW6 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air temperature: 11°C

Today we arrived at the Falkland Islands, and in the morning we reached the capital town, Stanley. The weather was good, and everyone was excited to spend a full day on land. After many days at sea and in remote places, it felt very nice to arrive in a small town again.



We were taken from the ship to the shore by zodiac boats. The ride was short, and soon we arrived at the jetty in Stanley. From there, we were free to walk around the town on our own. It was great to have time to explore at our own speed.

Many of us joined tours and hikes outside of town. The main goal for most people was to see more penguins. We were lucky and saw Magellanic penguins and Gentoo penguins. They were walking, resting, and going in and out of the water. It was also very good to stretch our legs after being on the ship for so long. Walking on land for a full day felt refreshing and gave us new energy.



Back in Stanley, we enjoyed simple things that we had missed. It was time to buy souvenirs, send postcards, and visit small shops. Many of us stopped at cafés to have a coffee, and we enjoyed lunch off the ship, which felt special and different. The town has a lot of history, and while walking around, we could see old buildings, memorials, and learn more about life on the islands.

We spent the whole day in and around town, enjoying being off the ship and feeling closer to normal life again. We also saw many birds, not only penguins, which made the day even better. Being back in a place with roads, houses, and shops made us feel closer to civilization again.

In the late afternoon, we returned to the ship by zodiac. Once everyone was back onboard, we had our daily recap. During the recap, we talked about today and learned about the plans for tomorrow, when we will travel to New Island.

In the evening, we enjoyed a buffet dinner. People talked about their day, shared photos, and exchanged stories about penguins, birds, and town life. It was a relaxing end to a very enjoyable day in the Falklands.



Day 17 – Tuesday 6th January – Falkland Islands, New Island

08h00 GPS Position: 51°30.3 S, 061°06.9 W

Wind: W8 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 6°C

The night was far from pleasant. Our ship, Hondius, was rounding the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands from the north, forcing her way through strong winds that had whipped the ocean into towering three-metre waves, their crests raging with white foam. A fifty-knot wind battered the flag on Hondius's bow with all its might, threatening to tear it loose and carry it off into the unknown.

Such weather conditions, naturally, took their toll on our well-being. Some lay stricken with seasickness, others simply failed to get any sleep because of the rolling, while those more tolerant of storms cheerfully greeted the dawn from the Observatory Lounge. There was no wake-up call — Chris, our expedition leader, had decided to let us sleep in until breakfast, as there was no rush that morning.

Our hotel manager William, however, wasted no time: as soon as the clock struck eight, he thundered the breakfast announcement over the PA system. Not everyone — far from it — made it down to the restaurant, but those who did clattered their cutlery merrily, enjoying omelettes, porridge, fruit, and sipping their morning coffee.



After breakfast came a lecture, and then Hondius began to slow down. The swell eased, and with it a flicker of optimism stirred within us: could it really happen, would we really be able to land? Some of us were particularly eager to see southern rockhopper penguins and black-browed albatrosses — and that was possible only at our intended landing site, an island with the simple name of The New Island.

When lunch — yes, lunch — was already well under way, our guides began cautiously lowering the Zodiacs into the water. It was no easy task. The swell had subsided because we were now sheltered by the island, having anchored on its leeward side, but the wind had not gone anywhere. Gusts of up to fifty (!) knots were no joke.

Nevertheless, once the Zodiacs were in the water and some of the guides were already waiting for us ashore, William announced five-minute readiness. As usual, boarding ten people per Zodiac, we set off toward land. Choppy, angry little waves, salty sea spray, and at the same time warmth and the scent of grass — such was our journey ashore.

On the beach we were met by the guides, flightless steamer ducks, and kelp geese with a brood of goslings. We stowed our life jackets in white bags and set off on foot toward the albatross and penguin colonies. Some of us, however, chose to linger first by the souvenir shop.

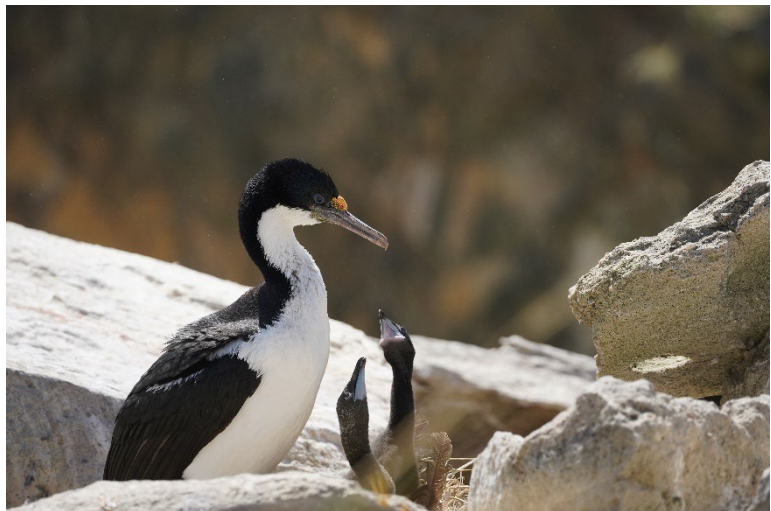
A dirt track led uphill along the slope. Geese grazed everywhere, small birds flitted about — birds whose names only our ornithologists knew — and higher in the sky one could spot skuas and shags.



Despite the wind, which nearly knocked us off our feet, it was warm, as the sun was shining — and after all, one should not forget that the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands lie in temperate latitudes. We moved forward slowly, and each time we reached the edge of a cliff we froze in amazement: none of us had expected to see such a concentration of birds.

Black-browed albatrosses patiently tended to their chicks, covered in soft grey down. The same was true of the rockhopper penguins. Nasty skuas darted back and forth, while shags filled the air with noise.

Below, at the very foot of the cliffs, enormous ocean waves slammed into the rocks with full force, hurling myriads of spray skyward. The squally wind seized them and carried them farther and higher, and very soon we all began to taste salt on our lips.



After some time, having had our fill of birds and the untamed elements, we set off on the return walk. The way back was far more cheerful, as the path now led downhill.

On the shore, donning our life jackets and boarding the Zodiacs, we headed back to the ship. Thus ended our final landing of the cruise. Our birders were in seventh heaven.



Back on board, we had to return our rubber boots, as there was no further need for them. It felt oddly sad to part with them, for it was in these very boots that we had first set foot on the Seventh Continent and on the mysterious South Georgia — but such is life.

By the time of the daily recap in the Observatory Lounge, Hondius was already back in the open sea, and the ocean swell had once again set her rocking.

What a wonderful day! And now — the road to Ushuaia, which is to say, in effect, the journey home.

Day 18 – Wednesday 7th January – At sea towards Ushaia

08h00 GPS Position: 53°27.8 S, 063°27.6 W

Wind: SW6 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air temperature: 5°C

Our last final day on Hondius! We awoke with luckily slightlier easier seas than yesterday, as the swell reduced over the night. During the morning, we were still lucky enough to see several whale blows, and many black-browed albatrosses around the ship. Our first lecture of the day was given by Simon; he took us on a journey into the world of birding, and then specifically the language of birders. After the lecture, we were enriched with a new vocabulary!

Gez introduced us at 11:00 to the ocean currents, which came in handy as we were still feeling the waves, however, most of us were pretty adjusted to the ship by now, after almost 3 weeks.

After lunch we had the opportunity to watch the National Geographic *Endurance* documentary, about finding Shackletons lost ship in the ice in the Weddell Sea. Some of us bought the signed original book in Stanley!

Our final recap was something special; the expedition team came in formal clothes, and the Captain offered us a toast. We had some time to reflect back on the amazing trip we had, and Gabi surprised us with a wonderful slideshow she made, capturing the essence of the trip in videos, pictures, and music, for all of us. After raising our glasses, we went for the final time to dinner; a farewell dinner. All of the galley team, stewards, housekeeping and laundry were given several rounds of applause, ending with William and Victoria, our hotel manager and our assistant hotel manager. With our bags packed, and late in the evening we saw the first signs of land again, we went to bed early, ready for our last wake up call.



Day 19 – Thursday 8th January – Ushuaia, disembarkation

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

Wind: SW3 • Sea: Low • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 12°C

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

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

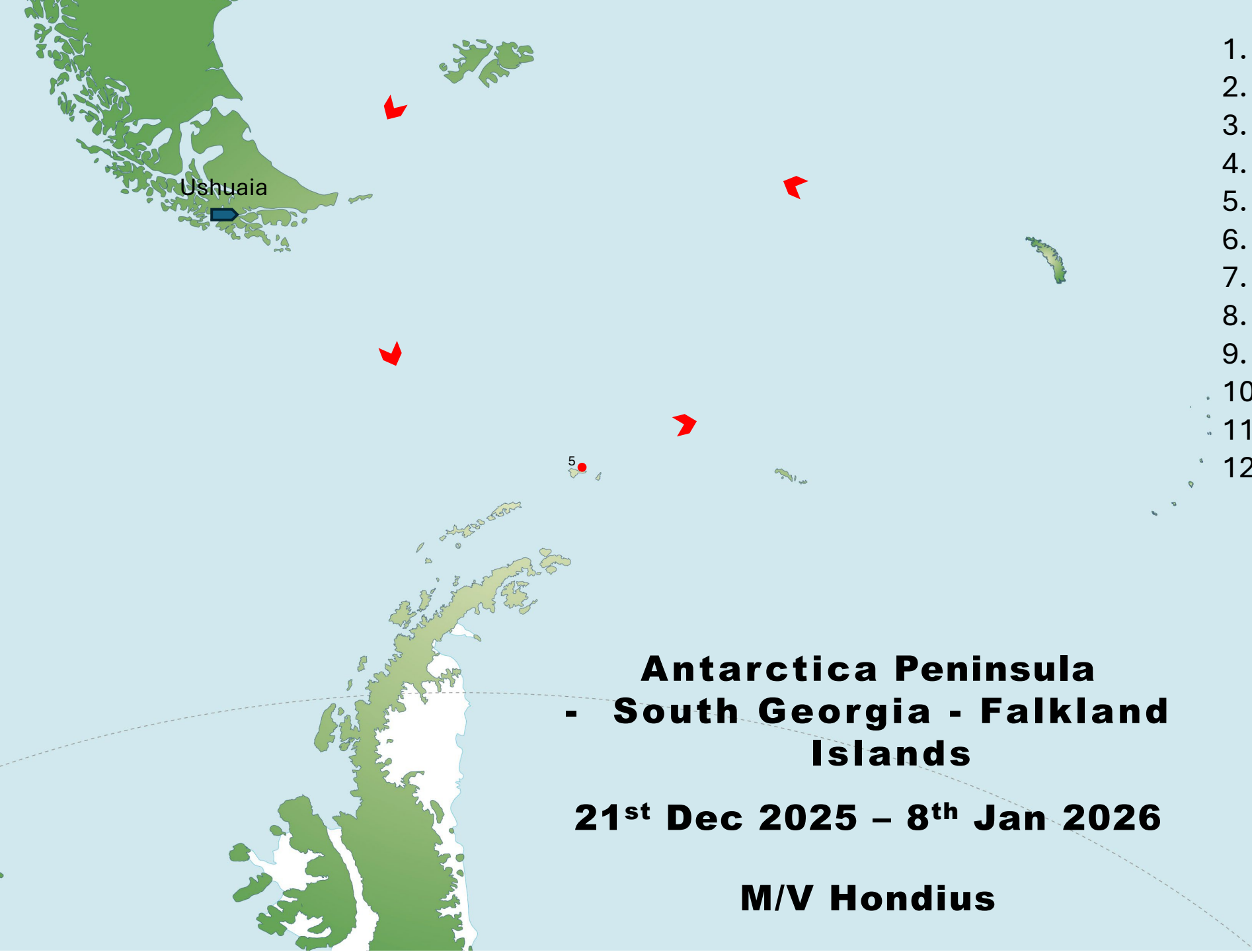
With a final glance back at the ship that had carried us across the Drake Passage and through the unforgettable days in the ice, we stepped into the crisp Ushuaia morning carrying the memories of Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falklands with us.

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 3546 nautical miles

Furthest south: 64°57.0' S (Paradise Bay)

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



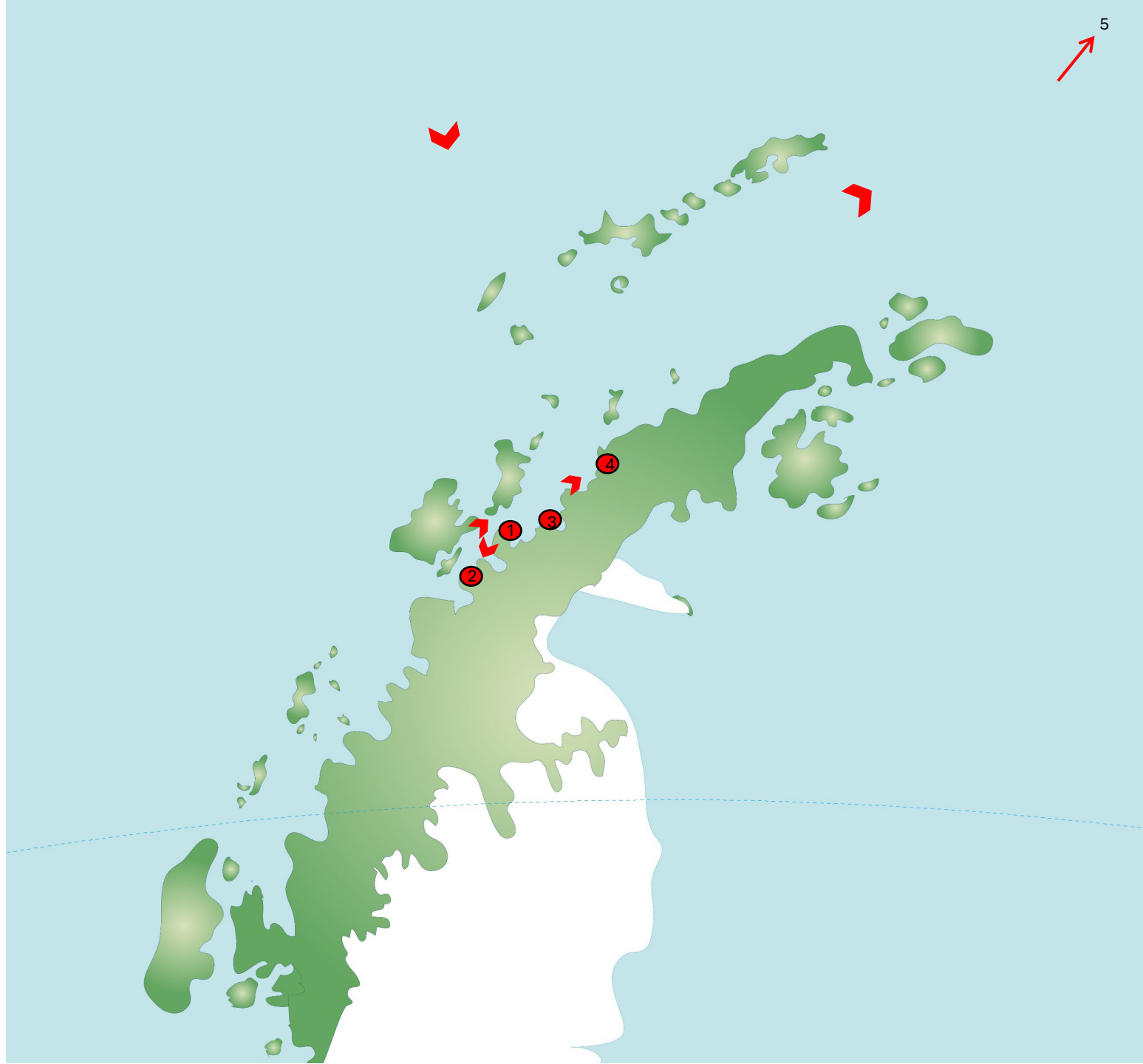


1. Orne Harbour
2. Stony Point
3. Portal Point
4. Punta Sucia
5. Point Wild (Elephant Island)
6. St. Andrews Bay
7. St. Andrews Bay
8. Grytviken
9. Hercules Bay
10. Gold Harbour
11. Gold Harbour
12. Leith Harbour

**Antarctica Peninsula
- South Georgia - Falkland
Islands**

21st Dec 2025 – 8th Jan 2026

M/V Hondius



Antarctica Peninsula

1. Orne Harbour
2. Stony Point
3. Portal Point
4. Punta Sucia
5. Point Wild (Elephant Island)

South Georgia



- 6. St. Andrews Bay
- 7. St. Andrews Bay
- 8. Grytviken
- 9. Hercules Bay
- 10. Gold Harbour
- 11. Gold Harbour
- 12. Leith Harbour

Falkland Islands



13. Stanley

14. New Island

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

English	Latin	中文	21-dec	22-dec	23-dec	24-dec	25-dec	26-dec	27-dec	28-dec	29-dec	30-dec	31-dec	1-jan	2-jan	3-jan	4-jan	5-jan	6-jan	7-jan	8-jan
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>	帝企鹅																			
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	王企鹅										X	X	X	X		X	X			
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>	阿德利企鹅				X															
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>	巴布亚企鹅				X	X	X				X	X	X	X			X	X		
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>	帽带企鹅				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X							
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	麦克罗尼企鹅							X		X	X	X	X	X				X		
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	麦哲伦企鹅	X	X														X	X	X	
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	漫游信天翁		X	X				X		X					X	X				
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	北部皇家信天翁			X																
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	南部皇家信天翁		X	X																
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	黑眉信天翁	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Grey-headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>	灰头信天翁		X				X	X	X		X		X		X					
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>	灰背信天翁		X	X				X		X	X	X	X							
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	北方巨鹱						X	X			X		X	X						
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	南方巨鹱	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	南极暴风鹱			X	X	X	X	X	X	X										
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>	海角鹱 (花斑鹱)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>	南极鹱																			
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>	雪鹱					X			X	X	X		X							
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>	蓝鹱		X	X				X	X	X					X					
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	白颈风鹱		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Soft Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	柔羽圆尾鹱		X												X	X				
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>	灰翅圆尾鹱																			
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>	大西洋圆尾鹱														X	X				
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	剪水鹱(灰鹱)	X	X													X	X	X	X	
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>	大剪水鹱																			
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	鸽锯鹱		X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X					
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	仙锯鹱								X	X										
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>	细嘴锯鹱		X	X											X	X	X	X	X	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	黄蹼舰海燕		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>	黑腹舰海燕		X	X			X	X	X	X					X	X				
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>	灰背舰海燕																X	X		
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>	鹈燕										X			X			X	X		
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>	麦哲伦鹈燕	X																		
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	蓝眼鸬鹚	X															X	X	X	X
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax [atriceps] bransfieldensis</i>	南极鸬鹚				X	X	X	X												
Snowy (Pale-faced) Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>	白面鞘嘴鸥				X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X				X		
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>	智利贼鸥	X																	X	X
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>	南极贼鸥/灰贼鸥			X	X	X	X	X												
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta lonnbergi</i>	棕贼鸥/中贼鸥				X	X		X			X	X	X	X						
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	豚鸥	X															X	X	X	X
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	黑背鸥	X			X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	南美燕鸥	X															X	X	X	X
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>	南极燕鸥				X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X						
Arctic tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	北极燕鸥																			
Specific to Falkland Islands			21-dec	22-dec	23-dec	24-dec	25-dec	26-dec	27-dec	28-dec	29-dec	30-dec	31-dec	1-jan	2-jan	3-jan	4-jan	5-jan	6-jan	7-jan	8-jan
Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>	跳岩企鹅																X	X		

[illegible]

Weddell Seal	<i>Leptonychotes weddelli</i>	威德尔海豹				X															
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonin</i>	象海豹					X		X		X	X	X	X	X						
Antarctic Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>	南极海狗（毛海豹）							X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Southern Sea Lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>	南部海狮	X															X	X	X	

Christan Long – Expedition Leader



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

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

Since leaving Gorge River, Chris has set out to see, explore and experience as much of the globe as possible. This constant search for adventure has seen him travel to over 65 countries on all seven continents. Along this journey, he spent two full summer seasons living and working as a field trainer at Scott Base, a New Zealand research station in Antarctica, as well as multiple voyages to the Ross Sea, Antarctic

Peninsula, East Antarctica and the Atlantic Ocean.

Chris is also no stranger to the arctic. He once sailed the notorious northwest passage across the top of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska on a small yacht and spent much of the covid pandemic living with 150 husky dogs in Tromso, northern Norway. Here he endured two long cold dark arctic winters training for long distance dog races. He also guides with Oceanwide in Svalbard each summer.

In 2022, Chris published a best-selling autobiography *"The Boy From Gorge River"* and when he is not at sea you will find him training for his commercial fixed-wing pilot's license or exploring a new corner of the globe.

中文

克里斯在新西兰最偏远的乡村长大，他们家距离最近的公路需要跋涉两天的山路，那条公路就位于新西兰西海岸的乔治河边。

他的家人在小木屋里过着尽可能自给自足的生活，木屋四周被丛林环绕，海岸线崎岖，河流翠绿。他们的大部分食物来自一个巨大的菜园或从海洋中捕捞。在这个未受破坏的自然角落，克里斯度过了人生中的前17年，直到有一天，他决定开始探索世界其他有趣的地方。

离开乔治河后，克里斯开始尽可能多地去体验和探索世界。对冒险的不断追求让他走遍了七大洲60多个国家。此外，他在新西兰南极洲研究站斯科特基地作为野外训练员度过了两个完整的夏季工作，并多次航行到罗斯海和东南极洲。

克里斯对北极也不陌生。他曾经在凶险的西北航道航行，穿越格陵兰岛、加拿大和阿拉斯加的顶部，并在新冠大流行期间在挪威北部小城特罗姆瑟，和150只哈士奇狗一起生活，忍受了两个漫长寒冷黑暗的北极冬季，为雪地赛狗耐力赛训练。

最近返回新西兰后，带着亲身经历的真情实感和切身感受，克里斯出版了一本自传，并正在接受商业固定翼飞行员执照的培训。

Jerry Zhao – Asst. Exp. Leader



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

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

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

Along the way as he spent more time in polar regions, learns more about polar regions, he is more interested in polar regions. He has self-studied the geography,

wildlife and history of the Polar regions. He is beginning to learn wildlife photography.

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

中文

Jerry 一直都很喜爱自然野生动物和旅行。从美国 Drexel University 毕业后，开始从事旅游业。开始作为高端客户旅行顾问和领队走遍了欧洲。然后作为一家旅行社的合伙人，主要从事路线规划和员工培训。为寻找更多的冒险，Jerry 去往世界各地学习所需技能，足迹踏遍 7 大洲 4 大洋，然后在 2015 年作为探险队员加入 Oceanwide 探险队。他曾多次前往北极点，北极斯瓦尔巴地区，和南极地区，在这期间他自学关于极地的地理，野生动物和环境知识。他热爱大自然和野生动物并喜爱与人分享他的故事。

Pierre Gallego – Asst. Exp. Leader



Pierre is a veterinarian specialised in marine mammal medicine. He has been working in the field of marine biology for 18 years and has been organising marine mammal research internships around the world since 2004. He represents the Government of Luxembourg at the International Whaling Commission and CCAMLR, and works with numerous international NGOs to promote marine mammal conservation and to fight cetacean captivity.

He is currently carrying out his PhD with the Oceanology Lab of the University of Liege, Belgium. His PhD thesis deals with pollutants and stable isotopes in humpback whales off Ecuador and Mozambique. He is a keen birdwatcher and enjoys photography. The ocean is his passion, and water is his element!

皮埃尔是一位专注于海洋哺乳动物的兽医。他已经在海洋生物学这个领域工作了 18 年。他曾代表卢森堡政府参加世界鲸类委员会，促进世界海洋哺乳动物保护话题已经反对鲸豚类的囚禁。

他现在正在进修他的博士学位，研究座头鲸和海洋污染的各种关系。同时他喜欢摄影和观鸟。海洋是他的热情，水是他的元素。

Mark Whiffin – Expedition Guide



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

While at university studying Biochemistry and Molecular Plant Biology, he participated in an ornithological expedition to Indonesia. This experience led to a Masters degree in Conservation Biology and he subsequently led numerous expeditions and scientific research projects to remote tropical areas of the world in search of birds with a particular emphasis on threatened and endemic species.

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

first Cape Petrels on any trip always gives a feeling of arriving home”.

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

中文

马克拥有保护生物学硕士学位，是一位兼具深厚田野经验的鸟类学家与观鸟者。他对鸟类与旅行的热爱始于童年时代的英国东萨塞克斯郡，并由此生根发芽。

在大学攻读生物化学与分子植物生物学期间，他参与了一次前往印度尼西亚的鸟类学考察。这段经历促使他转而攻读保护生物学硕士，此后更主导了众多前往全球偏远热带地区的科考项目，专注于搜寻濒危与特有鸟种。

马克于2018年受雇于英国南极调查局首次踏足南极，随后在南乔治亚岛的鸟岛工作生活了五年，担任动物野外助理，主要研究在该岛繁殖的企鹅与鹱类。在此期间，他深深爱上了南大洋的壮丽风光和以此为家的鸟类——“无论在旅途中第几次看到花斑鹱，总能唤起一种归家般的亲切”。

闲暇时，马克喜爱徒步、跑步与骑行。他也是一名热衷记录与分享的摄影师和摄像师，用镜头捕捉鸟类、旅行与荒野之美的作品已被国际鸟盟、多家报纸及网络媒体刊用。他期待与您一同分享南大洋的飞羽世界。

Rose Li – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

中文

Rose Li 是一位经验丰富的极地探险专业人士，兼具室内设计、酒店服务及极地导览的多元化背景。

她来自中国，毕业于武汉学院，获室内设计学位。自2014年起，她的职业生涯便致力于沉浸式旅行，最初在国际邮轮上担任VIP客户关系主管及邮轮大使主管，穿梭于亚洲欧洲各地，积累了丰富的服务与管理经验。

2018年，李玫瑰正式进入专业探险领域，她对于历史与地质学的热爱在此成为了工作的核心。作为极地探险向导和讲师，她通过讲述地球的过往与地貌的变迁，为旅客带来富有深度的体验。她的综合技能还包括口译、冲锋艇驾驶以及宾客服务管理。

作为一名狂热的探险者，Rose的足迹已遍布全球50多个国家。她始终期待着下一次冒险，并致力于提供卓越的客户服务，与同行旅客分享探索世界的无穷乐趣。

Alexander Romanovskiy – Exp.Guide



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

In the year of 2011 however, Alexander decided to pause his scientific career and start doing something completely different, which means working in tourism and traveling the world. He spent 2 seasons working as a trekking guide in Fann mountains (Tajikistan), 1 season on Novolazarevskaya Antarctic scientific station (Queen Maud Land, Antarctica) working as a member of a guesthouse crew.

Since February of 2012 most part of the year he spends on Svalbard. For five seasons in a row Alexander has been living and working as a guide in a ghost town of

Pyramiden. In 2016 a new page in Alexander's guiding career was opened: he started working as a naturalist guide on cruise ships in polar regions of the world – Svalbard and Antarctica.

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

中文

亚历山大·罗曼诺夫斯基来自俄罗斯北部首都圣彼得堡，他出生于1981年。从寄宿学校毕业后，亚历山大进入圣彼得堡国立大学，5年中，他学习了包括自然地理学、生态学、区域地理学和国际旅游在内的许多课程。随后，他在俄罗斯赫尔岑国立师范大学攻读博士学位，涉足地质生态学研究。

然而 2011 年，亚历山大决定暂停他的科研生涯，开始从事一些与研究完全不同的事情——环游世界。他在范恩山脉（塔吉克斯坦）担任了两个季节的徒步向导，在 Novolazarevskaya 南极科学站担任了一整个冬季的酒店工作人员。

自 2012 年 2 月起，亚历山大一年中的大部分时间都在斯瓦尔巴群岛度过。其中，亚历山大连续五个冬季都在皮拉米登，这个被俄罗斯政府废弃的城市生活和工作。2016年，亚历山大的导游生涯翻开了新的一页，他开始在世界极地地区——斯瓦尔巴群岛和南极洲的游轮上担任博物学家和导游。

每年，亚历山大有3 到 4 个月的时间仍致力于他的主要爱好——环游世界。没有公共交通，没有酒店，只能搭便车，与当地人一起过夜或睡在帐篷里，就这样他已经走遍了几乎所有的前苏联加盟共和国、中东（伊朗、土耳其）、亚洲（中国）、南美洲（阿根廷、智利、巴拉圭），但他的旅程还远没有结束，对亚历山大来说，世界很大，很友好，也很有趣，他将继续他的探索之旅。

Andi Schwertz – Expedition Guide



Andi was born in Budapest and grew up in Germany. Andi has always been fascinated by animals and nature, especially marine mammals ever since she was a child. She wanted to be a whale researcher, became a whale expert, without studying at a university, but through passion. She initially graduated in sociology, but then ran her own cocktail bar for 10 years. However, her enthusiasm for sea creatures never left her and she began to travel the world to be close to these fascinating animals and to observe them.

As a scuba and freediver, she was able to get particularly close to many whale species and experience adventures. For example, she has already swum with orcas three times in arctic Norway. She came to Oceanwide because she wanted to share her passion with heart and enthusiasm. She was already able to gain experience as a trainee in Antarctica in the spring of 2023. The polar regions with their special fauna exert a very special attraction on her. She is also interested in landscape photography and has great tips for successful mobile phone photography. Another passion of hers is

yoga, which she also practices as a yoga instructor. She speaks English, German, Hungarian, and a little bit of Spanish and French. Andi is looking forward to more great adventures as a team member of Oceanwide!

中文

安迪出生于布达佩斯，在德国长大。从小，安迪就一直对动物和自然，尤其是海洋哺乳动物着迷。她想成为一名鲸鱼研究员，成为鲸鱼专家，不是在大学学习，而是出于热情。她最初毕业于社会学专业，但后来经营了自己的鸡尾酒吧 10 年。然而，她对海洋生物的热情从未消退，她开始环游世界，靠近这些迷人的动物并观察它们。

作为一名潜水和自由潜水员，她能够特别接近许多鲸鱼物种并体验冒险。例如，她已经在挪威北极地区与虎鲸一起游泳三次。她来到 Oceanwide 是因为她想用心和热情分享她的激情所在。她曾在2023年春天作为实习生在南极洲积累了经验。拥有特殊动物种群的极地对她有着非常特别的吸引力。她还对风光摄影感兴趣，并可以为手机摄影提供很好的建议。她的另一个爱好是瑜伽，她也是一名瑜伽教练。她会讲英语、德语、匈牙利语，还会说一点西班牙语和法语。安迪期待着作为 Oceanwide 团队成员经历更多精彩的冒险！

Zoy Li - Translator



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

Worked for a high-end tailor-made travel agency in China which focused on operating groups to polar region since 2014. There she had several job functions: travel consultant, product planning, sales-support, tour operation & tour leader, and got many chances to lead groups to Arctic, Europe, Central America, Galapagos, South America till Antarctic. In 2019, she started to join the expedition cruises, worked as Interpreter & Expedition guide on board, and had experienced a multiple of wildlife expeditions in various remote areas in this world, and so fascinated by every element from nature, she has great passion on sharing the most breathtaking scenes with every distinguished passenger for the polar region.

中文

来自中国湖南，本科学历，旅游管理专业；

从 2014 年开始，在中国的一家高端定制旅行社工作，主要负责极地地区的团队运营。在那里，她身兼数职：旅游顾问、产品规划、销售支持、出团操作和出行领队；曾带领团队前往北极、欧洲、中美洲加拉帕戈斯群岛、南美洲和南极；

2018年转邮轮行业，在船上担任歌诗达邮轮亚洲航线的旅游经理；从2019年开始转探险邮轮，在船上担任翻译和探险向导。多次参与野生动物探险活动的经历，足迹遍布世界各个偏远地区，逐渐增强了她对大自然各种元素的迷恋，尤其热衷于极地，每年就像动物迁徙一样夏季回到北极，南半球的夏季回到南极。

Luce Moussiere – Expedition Guide



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

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

She lived in Asia, and Australia and dived all around the world. But after years in tropical waters, it was the challenge of cold environment that truly captivated her. She moved to Iceland to lead expedition in Silfra, the famous fissure in between tectonic plates, in order to train and gain access to the polar regions as a Dive guide.

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

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

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

中文

卢斯·穆西埃（Luce Moussiere）在学会走路之前就知道如何游泳。她是一位年轻的法国潜水教练、游泳教练和徒步向导。在获得神经语言编程学位后，她离开了法国，立志为所有人带来最非凡的体验。

她生活在亚洲和澳大利亚，当她不教授休闲课程时，她参与了多个海洋生物保护项目和珊瑚礁恢复项目，与大堡礁海洋公园管理局合作。她监督勘探活动，调查偏远的未受影响的珊瑚礁系统，然后带队经验丰富的潜水员并与之分享气候变化的影响。她带团私人游艇，邂逅大型海洋生物，如牛鲨、虎鲨、小须鲸和座头鲸。

在热带水域工作了5年之后，随后转向冷水环境，也就是现在她住的冰岛。她训练自己适应并在冰岛的冬季工作，那里几乎没有日光，气温低至零下30摄氏度（-22 华氏度）。她现在正在北美和欧亚板块之间的史费拉（Silfra）清澈的海水中潜水或浮潜。

她专注于技术减压潜水、冰潜、冷潜、深水潜、夜潜、沉船潜水和高氧潜水，并且始终热衷于为自己的职业生涯增添更多技能，以便能够潜越并带队穿越最具挑战性的潜水环境。

当冰岛火山爆发时，她还是一名随叫随到的向导，带队寻找穿过火山地的最佳路线，并安全地带领徒步旅行者目睹这些事件。当她不工作时，你会发现卢斯在峡湾、冰川上徒步旅行，探索冰洞，在北极海藻森林中自由潜水：享受冰岛这片原始土地的巨大游乐场。

Gabi Kolodko – Expedition Guide



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

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

Gabi's enthusiasm for the cold extends beyond her travels; she actively practices the Wim Hof method and regularly takes on ice baths, walrusing, and cryotherapy throughout the year. A memorable encounter with a herd

of Musk Oxen in 1993 at Herschel Island off the Canadian Arctic coast sparked her love for Arctic wildlife, with the Gentoo Penguin now topping her list of favorites in Antarctica.

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

中文

盖比在十岁之前就去过阿拉斯加、加拿大和拉普兰的原始荒野，因此她对寒冷气候和户外活动有着根深蒂固的热情。每年夏天，她都会全身心地投入到帆船运动中，2012 年，她乘坐 *Zawisza Czarny* 号帆船横渡波罗的海，从波兰到斯堪的纳维亚，再从斯堪的纳维亚返回。

盖比拥有美术硕士学位，对艺术、文化和历史非常着迷，她的好奇心促使她探索极地地区独特的人与动物的关系，将对动物人类学的兴趣与南极洲早期探索和现代保护的故事结合起来。2019年，她首次踏上南极大陆，这加深了她与南极大陆壮丽景观和丰富历史的联系。

盖比对寒冷的热情不仅限于旅行，她还积极练习维姆-霍夫（Wim Hof）方法，并在一年中定期进行冰浴、冰敷和冷冻疗法。1993 年，她在加拿大北冰洋沿岸的赫歇尔岛遇到了一群麝牛，这次难忘的邂逅激发了她对北极野生动物的热爱，如今巴布亚企鹅已成为她在南极洲最喜爱的动物。

她喜欢成为改变生活的旅程的一部分，每次与新的游客群体一起重新发现极地。盖比被冒险的热情和分享极地奇观的真诚愿望所驱动，旨在激发对这些令人叹为观止且脆弱的景观的敬畏和尊重，为其他人提供对自然世界的变革性一瞥。

Hana Spickova – Expedition Guide



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

Her love for nature and outdoor life brought her first to Tromsø in Northern Norway where she did her master degree while working as a northern light guide, photographer, dog sledding guide and dog handler. She likes to spend her free time in the mountains skiing, hiking, kayaking and diving. She spent two years traveling to Asia, Africa, South America and Patagonia. She worked as a volunteer in rescue stations for wild animals in Bolivia and Peru and as a humanitarian helper in Iraq, Rwanda and Ethiopia. After finishing her studies, she has been working as an analytical chemist in Norway. Her curiosity and enthusiasm for outdoor life brought her all the way to Svalbard where she enjoys ski touring, dog sledding and exploring new places on a snowmobile. She speaks Czech, English and Norwegian.

中文

汉娜在斯瓦尔巴大学做了两年化学师。她出生于车臣，在挪威生活了11年。

她对自然和户外生活的热爱将她带到了挪威北部的特朗姆森，她在完成硕士学位期间并成为极光领队，雪橇犬领队。她的空闲时间都在山间滑雪，徒步，皮划艇，潜水。她花了两年时间在亚洲，非洲，南美洲旅行。在玻利维亚和秘鲁做野生动物救护的志愿者，在伊拉克，卢旺达和埃塞俄比亚做人道主义救援。在她完成学业后，他在挪威作为化学分析师。她对户外生活的好奇和热情将她带到了斯瓦尔巴并在此享受滑雪，带领雪橇犬和发现新地点。她会说法语，英语和挪威语。

Geraint (Gez) Rowlands – Exp. Guide



Gez had his first kayak, age 10. It was a fiberglass red Comanche, with white go faster stripes that he was particularly proud of. He matched the colour scheme to the kayak that Dave Manby, his paddling hero, paddled on the 1st descent of the Dudh Kosi. The river that flows down Everest.

Spending most of his early paddling career racing slalom kayaks for Wales he finally got to meet his paddling hero when he took part in the 1st British youth expedition to the Grand Canyon. This was the springboard that sent him traveling to every continent on the planet as a guide, descending the river corridors of the amazon rainforest, avoiding crocodiles on the Zambezi river in Africa, and watching humpback whales in Antarctica.

One of his claims to fame is being the co-author of white water safety and rescue and a number of the Rescue3 water rescue manuals. These days he splits his time between guiding, training firefighters in water rescue as well as being a Paramedic for the Welsh Ambulance Service.

Gez still remembers how special his 1st kayaking moments were, in his red kayak with go faster stripes and he would like to share that enthusiasm and sense of adventure with you.

盖兹十岁时拥有了人生中的第一艘皮划艇——一艘他引以为傲的红色玻璃纤维“科曼奇”号，艇身上还有白色的“加速条”装饰。他特意将这套配色设计成与他心目中的划艇英雄戴夫·曼比在首次成功穿越珠穆朗玛峰下方杜德科西河时所使用的皮划艇相同。他早期的大部分划艇生涯都在为威尔士参加激流回旋比赛中度过。后来，他终于在英国首次青少年科罗拉多大峡谷探险中见到了自己的偶像，这次经历成为他人生的转折点——从此，他作为探险向导，踏遍世界各大洲，沿着亚马孙雨林的河道漂流、在非洲赞比西河上避开鳄鱼、并在南极海域观赏座头鲸。他还因参与编写《激流安全与救援》一书以及多本水上救援手册而闻名。如今，盖兹将时间分配在探险带队、培训消防员进行水上救援，以及担任威尔士急救服务的护理员之间。盖兹至今仍清晰地记得自己最初划艇时的那份激动——坐在那艘带有白色加速条的红色小艇中，感受自由与速度。他希望能将这份热情与冒险精神分享给每一位同行者。

Carina Ketterer – Expedition Guide



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

Carina's favorite animal since childhood, was the penguin. In 2019 she finally hopped on a boat to the Antarctic to see them in their natural habitat. That journey bore in her a new fascination with these cute animals and their dominion.

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

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

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中文

卡琳娜在远离大海的瑞士首都伯尔尼长大。卡琳娜是一个热情乐观的人，总是喜欢学习新事物，对地理、历史、考古、艺术和自然科学有着广泛的兴趣。她对可再生能源和环境工程的研究，让她对能源生产和土木工程产生了极大的好奇心，同时她也非常乐意与您分享这种好奇带来的快乐！同时，卡琳娜还是一位运动迷，铁人三项运动成为她非常喜欢的项目，为她业余时间增添了快乐。

卡里娜从小最喜欢的动物是企鹅。2019年，她终于乘船前往南极，在自然栖息地见到了它们，那次旅程让她对这些可爱的动物和它们的生活的领地产生了新的迷恋。

作为一个生性活泼、喜欢户外活动的人，卡琳娜选择将旅行和探险作为她的工作，这也促使她成为了泛海探险的国际导游。

俗话说：“千里之行始于足下”。所以，就让卡琳娜与您分享更多她对大自然和企鹅的热情，并让她带领您，身临其境的感受一次人生中难忘的冒险吧！

Jodi Gaylord – Expedition Guide



Jodi grew up in a relatively warm part of the world (Texas, USA), never even seeing a snowfall until she was 21 years old. When she moved to the mountains of Salt Lake City, Utah, to finish her university degree, she fell head over heels in love with the fluffy white flakes that blanketed the region every winter. Since then, she has wanted to spend more and more time in colder and colder climes.

After working in the medical field while pursuing her degree in the history of ancient medicine, she pursued her love of nature and wild animals by becoming a professional wildlife photographer, running her own business for 13 years. It was during her photography travels that she first experienced the polar regions, traveling to the Canadian High Arctic in 2010. She became mesmerized by the icebergs, and was quite surprised to find herself falling for a place without trees – something she had not thought possible before. It was during her first trip to Antarctica in 2017 that the polar bug (disguised as a penguin) finally bit her in an absolutely incurable way. She knew that she had to

share these amazing places with other people, so she decided to become a guide. Throwing herself into learning the history of Arctic and Antarctic exploration, she also studied how to be a safe and effective polar guide, which culminated in her completion of the Expedition Guide Academy's Comprehensive Guide Course in 2023.

When she is not on ship, she spends her time in a warm place – her home in Hawaii, where scuba diving, snorkeling, and asking “Why am I doing this?!” while participating in triathlons are among her favorite past times

中文

乔迪·盖洛德在世界上相对温暖的地区——美国德克萨斯州长大，直到 21 岁那年才第一次见到下雪。后来，她搬到犹他州盐湖城的群山中完成大学学业，从此深深迷恋上那片每到冬季便被白雪覆盖的世界。自那以后，她就希望能在越来越寒冷的地方度过更多时光。

在攻读古代医学史学位期间，乔迪曾在医疗领域工作。毕业后，她追随对自然与野生动物的热爱，成为一名职业野生动物摄影师，并经营自己的摄影事业长达 13 年。她第一次接触极地地区是在 2010 年前往加拿大高北极地区拍摄时。那次旅行让她被冰山的壮丽所深深吸引，也让她惊讶地发现，自己竟会爱上一片没有树木的土地——这是她从前从未想过的。

2017 年，她首次前往南极旅行，从此彻底被那片土地深深感染，再也无法自拔。她意识到，自己必须把这些奇妙的地方分享给更多人，于是决定成为一名探险领队。她全身心投入学习南北极探险史，并系统掌握极地安全与带队知识，最终于 2023 年完成了“探险领队学院”的综合带队课程。

当她不在船上时，她会回到温暖的家——夏威夷。在那里，她喜欢潜水、浮潜，以及一边参加铁人三项比赛一边笑着问自己：“我为什么要这么做？！”

Shan Zhou – Translator



Shan, from Anhui, China, holds a Master's degree in Sustainable Tourism and worked as an environmental educator before.

With three years of experience in wildlife conservation and environmental education, she has conducted research across major protected areas in China, residing permanently on the frontlines of conservation sites for fieldwork. Shan has participated in the baseline species survey projects and environmental education development initiatives in the Tangjiahe area of Giant Panda National Park and the Dongning area of Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park. As a female wildlife conservationist, she blends feminine delicacy with extensive field experience.

Having joined the polar expedition team in 2024, she finds that each successful landing and cruise has deepened her passion for the polar regions. In her role, she always upholds the principles of safety first and nature protection, and her interdisciplinary background in sustainable tourism and ecological conservation allows

her to better guide visitors in experiencing the polar beauty and jointly safeguard this pure world.

In her spare time, Shan enjoys traveling and diving, and has a love for all things related to nature and wildlife.

中文版

珊来自中国安徽，拥有可持续旅游硕士学位，是一名环境教育家。

她

有三年野生动物保护与自然教育的经验，足迹遍布中国各大保护区，常驻保护地一线参与野外调研，曾参与大熊猫国家公园唐家河片区和东北虎豹国家公园东宁片区的本底物种调查项目和环境教育建设。作为一名女性野保人，她既有女性的细腻，也有丰富的野外经验。

珊

于2024年加入极地探险行业，每一次的成功登陆与巡游，都加深了她对极地的热爱。在工作中，她始终遵守安全至上与保护自然的原则，而可持续旅游与生态保护的复合背景，也让她能更好地引领访客去感受极地之美，和访客共同守护这一片纯净的世界。

工作之余，珊也很爱旅行和潜水，喜欢一切和自然和野生动物相关的事物。

Annelou Hulsker – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

中文

安妮卢在荷兰的一个海滨小镇长大，小镇以海军基地和渔业而闻名。这里的一切激发了她的热情，让他置身大自然的美景，仿佛梦开始的地方。

空闲时间，安妮卢喜欢收集闪亮的岩石，或者在海滩上寻找美丽的贝壳。大多数时候，她还是会和家人一起在欧洲某个地方航行、徒步旅行，各类攀岩活动也是安妮卢的最爱。

安妮卢毕业于乌得勒支大学，专业为地球科学。她擅长自然地理学，重点研究地球表面变化过程、自然灾害、气候重建和气候变化，并辅修环境可持续性。

地球科学的学术和实践方面有着密切联系，涉及大量的实地考察和实践活动，而这也是安妮卢最喜欢的。她喜欢分享她对地球，特别是北极的认知，她还对捕鲸的历史特别感兴趣，因为捕鲸在她家乡的发展历史中也是浓墨重彩的一笔。安妮卢非常高兴能够将对地球的热情与乘船航行结合起来，使其成为了自己热爱的职业。

Simon Davies – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

Among the recent studies he has participated in has included putting geolocators on Black Guillemots in

Scotland to find out where they are foraging, fixing satellite transmitters on migratory wading birds in Australia to track their movements as they move up and down the East Asia flyway and affixing geolocators on Great Reed Warblers in Sweden to work out migratory routes.

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

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

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中文

西蒙是一位热衷的观鸟者和博物学家，他在获得海鸟生态学硕士学位之后，踏上了遍布全球的研究之旅，探索野生动物的奥秘。他的职业生涯始终以鸟类为核心，从研究到保护，再到指导，涵盖了无数相关领域。

西蒙曾有一年在南非专注研究猫鼬，这一经历成为了他职业生涯中难忘的插曲。近期，他的工作重点放在苏格兰和瑞典，通过环纹/环带、广泛的调查以及其他追踪方法，研究繁殖鸟类和迁徙物种。

此外，西蒙也是一位经验丰富的导游，曾在澳大利亚带领旅行团开启了一场探寻鸟类和野生动物之旅，并在他的祖国英国进行过多次旅行、散步和演讲，热衷于分享他喜爱的栖息地的各种海鸟。

西蒙最近参与的研究包括在苏格兰的黑海鸬上安装地理定位器以找出它们在哪里觅食，在澳大利亚的候鸟涉水鸟上安装卫星发射器以跟踪它们在东亚迁徙路线上来回移动时的活动，在它们在东亚迁徙路线上上下移动时安装卫星发射器以及在瑞典大芦苇莺上的地理定位器用于确定迁徙路线。

西蒙最近的大部分工作也是对其他人员进行鸟类环志/环志和调查方面的培训，希望能够激励其他人从事研究或保护工作。

西蒙的大部分业余时间也都花在观鸟和野生动物观赏上，他曾多次环游世界，足迹遍及澳大利亚、欧洲、印度、委内瑞拉和美国，而他也停不下脚步，插上梦想的翅膀，去追逐下一只鸟！



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Welcome aboard!

Date: 21st December 2025

Day 1: Ushuaia - Embarkation

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

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

17:00+/- Please join the Expedition Leader and Chief Officer for the **ship safety briefing**, in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**.

After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket. All guests accommodated on **Deck 3 (Cabins 301-337)** will go to **MUSTER STATION A** which is the **Restaurant on Deck 4**. All guests accommodated on **decks 4, 6, and 7** will go to **MUSTER STATION B** which is the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5**.

18:15+/- Please join the Expedition Team and Captain in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5** for a celebratory toast to the forthcoming voyage. This will be followed by a welcome briefing by the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days.

19:30 Buffet dinner in the **Restaurant on Deck 4**.

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

"All things considered there are only two kinds of men in the world; those that stay at home and those that do not, the latter are more interesting." - Rudyard Kipling



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 22nd December 2025

Day 2: At Sea, heading south

07:45 Wake-up call.

Throughout the day, please take a moment to clean all clothing and equipment you plan to take ashore. Pay special attention to the mesh on backpacks, pockets, and Velcro. Brushes and paperclips will be available for borrowing at reception. If you have any questions, feel free to ask a member of the expedition staff.

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

09:15 Simon welcomes you to his lecture in the Observation Lounge about Birds of the Southern ocean.

11:15 Andi invites you to the observation Lounge for her lecture about Whales of the Southern Ocean.

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

16:15 Annelou invites you to the Observation Lounge for her presentation titled: Antarctica, the coolest continent.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap, this is a daily event where we go through what we have seen during the day and plans for tomorrow.

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

Remember: 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.

*"You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore" -
Christoph Columbus*



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 23rd December 2025

Day 3: At Sea, approaching Antarctica

07:45 Wake-up call.

During the morning, please take a moment to clean all clothing and equipment you plan to take ashore. Pay special attention to the mesh on backpacks, pockets, and Velcro. Brushes and paperclips will be available for borrowing at library. If you have any questions, feel free to ask a member of the expedition staff.

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

09:15 Please join Luce for her lecture about Scuba Diving in Antarctica

10:30 Please join Chris and Jerry, in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5 and the Lecture Room** for the **Mandatory IAATO, South Georgia and Zodiac Briefing**. Attendance will be checked on your way in. English will be in the Lounge, and Mandarin in the Lecture Room.

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

13:45 You will be called deck by deck down to the Lecture Room on Deck 3 to collect your Muck Boots, please bring your thick socks so you can try them for size.

15:00 During the afternoon we will call you deck by deck for the mandatory IAATO Biosecurity check in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica for the Expedition Staff to check. Please ensure your equipment is clean BEFORE proceeding to the deck 3 and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have been approved by the Expedition Team.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica Happy Holidays!!

Date: 24th December 2025

Day 4: Orne Harbour and Foyn Harbour

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

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

08:15 The **Red Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a continental landing at Orne Harbour.

08:45 The **Blue Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise around Orne Harbour

Please note the groups will change over halfway through the morning.

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

13:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for daily recap.

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

15:00+/- The **Blue Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Foyn Harbour.

15:15+/- The **Red Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Foyn Harbour.

18:30 A festive Holiday dinner buffet will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4!

"Penguin meat tastes excellent." - Roald Amundsen



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica Happy Holidays!!

Date: 25th December 2025

Day 5: Portal Point and Punta Sucia

07:45 Wake-up call.

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



This morning we hope to land at Portal Point, a narrow, snow-covered headland on the Antarctic Peninsula at the entrance to Charlotte Bay. This is a continental landing

09:15 The **Blue Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a continental landing at Portal Point.

09:30 The **Red Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise around Portal Point

Please note the groups will change over halfway through the morning.

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

14:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for daily recap.

In the afternoon we hope to zodiac cruise at Punta Sucia is a small rocky headland along the Gerlache Strait near Cierva Cove on the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. The area is characterized by steep, ice-covered terrain and is often surrounded by floating sea ice, with frequent sightings of penguins and seals.

16:00+/- The **Red Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Punta Sucia

16:15+/- The **Blue Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Punta Sucia

19:30 A festive Holiday plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4!

20:45+/- Please join the expedition team in the bar for Happy Hour! And a festive evening to celebrate the holidays!



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 26th December 2025

Day 6: Open sea headed North East

No wake-up call. Please enjoy a sleep in.

09:30-10:30 Buffet brunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

12:30 Jodi invites you to the Observation Lounge for her history lecture, Race to the South Pole! This will be translated into mandarin.

13:30 There will be snacks available in the lounge

16:15 Rose invites you to the lecture room for her presentation about Antarctic Geology in **Mandarin**

16:15 Annelou invites you to the Observation Lounge for her presentation about Antarctica, White Mars?? In **English**

17:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the Observation lounge for daily recap.

18:30 Buffet dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

20:00+/- We will show part one of the Shackleton movie, in the lecture room after dinner. This will get us in the mood for our voyage ahead into Shackleton's part of the world.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 27th December 2025

Day 7: Elephant Island and heading East

- 04:15 The **Blue Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac cruise around Point Wild.
- 04:30 The **Red Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise around Point Wild
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 11:15 Simon invites you to the Lounge on deck 5 for his lecture of Penguins
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

Please note the clocks will go forward one hour. 12:30 becomes 13:30

- 16:15 Hana invites you to the Lounge on deck 5 for her lecture all about Icebergs in **English**
- 16:15 Jerry invites you to the lecture room for his presentation about Icebergs, in **Mandarin**
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

"The ice and the long moonlit polar nights, with all their yearning, seemed like a far-off dream from another world, a dream that has come and passed away. But what would life be without dreams?" - Fridtjof Nansen



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 28th December 2025

Day 8: South Orkney Island

- 07:15 Wake up call
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:00 The **Red Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Shingle Cove
- 09:15 The **Blue Group** - Please come to the zodiac boarding area for a zodiac cruise at Shingle Cove
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- Please make sure to have one hand for the ship at all times as the ship will be rolling throughout the next day or two*
- 14:30 We will call you deck by deck to the Observation Lounge for the **MANDATORY South Georgia Biosecurity**. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods, etc. that you plan to use in South Georgia for the expedition staff to check. Please make sure everything is clean before proceeding to the lounge and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have been approved by the Expedition Team.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.
- 19:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 20:30+/- Join us for part two of the Shackleton movie series in the Observation Lounge

"The ice and the long moonlit polar nights, with all their yearning, seemed like a far-off dream from another world, a dream that has come and passed away. But what would life be without dreams?" - Fridtjof Nansen



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 29th December 2025

Day 9: Approaching South Georgia

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

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

09:15 Please join Mark in the Observation Lounge for an Introduction to South Georgia and his time working on Bird Island

11:15 Jodi invites you to the Observation Lounge for her lecture all about the Whaling History of South Georgia. In **English**

11:15 Rose invites you to the Lecture Room for her lecture all about the Whaling History of South Georgia. in **Mandarin**

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

15:15 Carina invites you to the Observation Lounge for her lecture, Behind the Scenes of our ship, Hondius

14:15 Please bring your passport to the Lecture Room. You will be called deck by deck.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

20:45 Sasha invites you to the Observation Lounge for his lecture about How to Get to Antarctica. This will include special mention about Sasha's famous "Fur underpants."

As we enter the South Georgia special protection area, we must minimise the light pollution to prevent birds striking the ship. **PLEASE PUT ALL THE BLINDS IN YOUR CABINS DOWN BEFORE DINNER!**

"The most beautiful thing in the world is, of course, the world itself." – Wallace Stevens



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 30th December 2025

Day 10: St Andrews Bay

07:45 Wake-up call

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

*Today we will be at St. Andrews Bay, a quiet coastal bay known for its marshes, tidal creeks, and rich wildlife. It is home to one of the world's largest king penguin colonies, with **around 150,000 breeding pairs** (which translates to roughly **300,000 adult penguins**, not counting chicks present year-round) making it possibly the largest single king penguin aggregation on Earth. There are also fur seals and elephant seals on the beaches.*

10:00 We would like to invite the **RED** group for a Zodiac landing at St Andrews.

10:15 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group for a Zodiac cruise of St Andrews.

13:00-14:00 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

14:45 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group for a Zodiac landing of St Andrews.

15:15 We would like to invite the **RED** group for a Zodiac cruise at St Andrews.

Once back on the ship please take time to do another biosecurity check of your equipment. Everything needs to be spotless for our assessment from the government officers tomorrow morning. If you have any questions please ask a staff member. And take extra care to clean the treads of your boots with a paper clip.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

"People do not decide to be extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things." - Sir Edmund Hillary



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 31st December 2025

Day 11: Grytviken and Hercules Bay

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

On arrival we have to clear customs with the Government Officer, during this time there will be a short presentation in the lounge by the South Georgia Heritage Team about their recent work and the rat eradication project, this is weather dependant.

Before going ashore, we will be individually inspected at the shell doors. This can be a timely process so please be patient, we will call the **Blue** group first, followed by the **Red**. We hope to land you near the two shipwrecks in front of the museum, you can then visit the church, museum, post office, and gallery. Before, entering any of these buildings, you must walk through the Virkon solution provided at the entrance and again when you leave.

IMPORTANT:

- Do not enter any of the old whaling buildings.
- You can only use credit or debit cards.
- Please do not take tripods or monopods ashore for this landing.
- If you would like to make a toast to Sir Ernest Shackleton, please be at the cemetery either at **10:30** or **11:30**.
- Meet at the museum at **10:00** and **11:00** for a walking tour of the whaling station.

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

In the afternoon we hope to visit Hercules Bay, a small, sheltered bay known for its dramatic mountains, glaciers, and cold Southern Ocean waters. Here we hope to see Macaroni Penguins! Along with King penguins, elephant seals and fur seals along the shore line under a beautiful cascading waterfall.

14:45 We would like to invite the **RED** group for a zodiac cruise at Hercules Cove

15:00 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group for a zodiac cruise at Hercules Cove

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the lounge for recap.

PLEASE PUT THE BLINDS DOWN IN YOUR CABINS BEFORE DINNER! DECK 3 PORTHOLES MUST REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL WE LEAVE SOUTH GEORGIA!

19:00 BBQ dinner will be served on the back of deck 5. Dress warmly!

22:00 Join us for a new years toast in the Observation Lounge!

"Human effort is not futile, but man fights against the giant force of nature in a spirit of humility."- Sir Ernest Shackleton



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica Happy New Year!

Date: 1st January 2026

Day 12: Gold Harbour

*Today we aim to visit Gold Harbour, a stunning bay backed by glaciers and green tussock grass. About 25,000 breeding pairs of king penguin cover the beach and nearby plains, creating a spectacular wildlife spectacle alongside elephant seals and other seabirds. **The sunrise at Gold Harbour is spectacular, if you are interested in waking up early, you are welcome to enjoy the sun rising and shining onto the glacier behind Gold Harbour, at 3:52.***

- 07:45 Wake-up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:00 We invite the **BLUE** group to the gangway for a zodiac landing at Gold Harbour
- 09:20 We invite the **RED** group to the gangway for a zodiac cruise at Gold Harbour
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:15 We would like to invite the **RED** group for a zodiac landing at Gold Harbour
- 14:30 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group for a Zodiac cruise of Gold Harbour
- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for recap.

**PLEASE PUT THE BLINDS DOWN IN YOUR CABINS BEFORE DINNER! DECK 3
PORTHOLES MUST REMAIN CLOSED AT NIGHT UNTIL WE LEAVE SOUTH**

- 19:00 Buffet dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 2nd January 2026

Day 13: Leith Cove and Husvik

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

08:00 We invite the anyone wanting a **long guided hike**, to come to the zodiac boarding area for a long hike at Leith Harbour. This hike will be about 5km round trip taking up to 4 hours. And it traverses rolling grassy, boggy and rocky terrain.

09:00 We invite the **short hikers** to come ashore at Leith Harbour.

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

Expedition afternoon.

In the afternoon we will be cruising north west along the coast of South Georgia. Standby for announcements regarding lectures or activities.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

PLEASE PUT THE BLINDS DOWN IN YOUR CABINS BEFORE DINNER! DECK 3 PORTHOLES MUST REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL WE LEAVE SOUTH GEORGIA

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

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



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 3rd January 2026

Day 14: Northern Scotia Sea

Some time around 2-3am we will be passing the A23a Iceberg. If conditions are good, and we can see it, we will announce it for all to see.

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

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

09:15 Rose invites you to the lecture room for her presentation about South Georgia Geology in **Mandarin**

09:15 Annelou invites you to the Observation Lounge for her presentation about South Georgia Geology In **English**

11:15 Luce welcomes you to the Observation Lounge for her presentation about, Antarctica beneath the surface: Underwater Habitats and food web.

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

16:15 Carina welcomes you to the Observation Lounge for her presentation of The Journey of an Iceberg

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

*"A journey is a person, no two are alike. And all plans, safeguards, policies, and coercion are fruitless. We find after years of struggle that we do not take a trip, a trip takes us." –
John Steinbeck*



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 4th January 2026

Day 15: Northern Scotia Sea

Please note overnight the clocks go back one hour. 04:00 becomes 03:00 becomes

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

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

09:15 Mark invites you to the Observation Lounge for his presentation about Albatross and Petrels.

11:15 Gabi welcomes you to the Observation Lounge for her presentation – an Introduction to the Falkland Islands.

During the day, we will be displaying the pictures of items for South Georgia heritage trust auction on the screens in the observation lounge.

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

14:00 A Movie about Falklands war “The Untold Story” will be played in the observation lounge

16:00 Pierre invites you to the observation lounge for his presentation about International Whaling Commission & CCAMLR

17:45 Please join the Expedition Team in the observation lounge for recap.

18:30 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4

20:00 Happy Hour in the bar.

20:15 Please join the expedition team in the observation lounge for a fun auction raising money for the South Georgia heritage trust. Your support helps preserve South Georgia’s natural and cultural heritage and goes directly towards conservation.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 5th January 2026

Day 16: Stanley

We encourage you to be on the outside decks to enjoy our final approach towards Stanley Harbour, as we navigate through The Narrows sometime around breakfast. For the birders, this is a good chance to see rockhopper penguins in the water.

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

Please make sure all your equipment going ashore has been biosecured to the same standard as for Antarctica and South Georgia.

09:00+/- We hope to take you ashore in Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. Exact timings will be dependent on our progress over night, so please listen to announcements.

We will land at the jetty which is close to the centre of town. Maps and other informational leaflets are available in the Tourist Centre, which is very close to the jetty. The admission price to the museum is included in your visit, just show your room card key at the entrance. The local currency is Pounds Sterling, but you can use Euros and Dollars in most shops. Debit and Credit cards are also widely accepted. Please remember, **no food to be taken ashore**, you may be inspected by a government officer on disembarkation.

We will run Zodiacs back to the ship from the jetty, starting on arrival.

12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4. There will be zodiac shuttles available to and from the shore if you wish to return for lunch.

17:30 Please be back at pier, the ship will be leaving!

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

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

"It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves" - Edmund Hillary



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 6th January 2026

Day 17: New Island

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

09:00 Gez invites you to the Observation Lounge for a "Game, of Survival!"

10:15 Please join Chris for a presentation about "Oceanwide's Other Destinations"

11:30-12:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

12:30+/- Weather permitting we hope to invite you to the gangway for a landing at New Island, Settlement.

Gentle reminder – Avian Influenza is a critical threat to wildlife in the Falklands. Please keep a 5-metre distance from any wildlife and obey all IAATO biosecurity rules. No sitting, kneeling, or backpacks on the ground.

The walk from the settlement to the rookery is about 0.6 miles (1km) each way, this is where you will find nesting Black-browed albatross, Rockhopper penguins and King Cormorants. Within the Settlement there is a small shop where you can buy a small assortment of gifts (Dollars, Euros, Sterling, and credit cards are accepted). You can also visit the Barnard Memorial Museum, for which the entrance fee is included in your visit.

Please ensure you are dressed in full waterproofs as it could be a rough ride ashore.

Please note this is going to be weather permitting. Conditions are forecast to be windy. We will do our best to get everyone off the ship however we ask you to please be patient as disembarkation may take extra time, if its even possible at all.

On return to the ship please leave your boots on deck 3 between the shell doors

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for daily recap.

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

"The greatest adventure of all is life itself" - Bertrand Piccard.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 7th January 2026

Day 18: At sea - Approaching South America.

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

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

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

09:15 Simon invites you to the Observation Lounge for his lecture about The Language of Birders.

10:00 Gabi and Shan will be collecting payments for the South Georgia auction. Please bring your credit/debit cards for this.

11:15 Gez invites you to the Observation Lounge for his lecture about How the ocean currents work.

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

16:15 The National Geographic documentary "Endurance" will be played in the lecture room. It is about the expedition finding Shackleton's lost ship under the ice in Weddell sea.

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

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

"The Sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in its net of wonder forever."
— Jacques Cousteau



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 8th January 2026

Day 19: Ushuaia.

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

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

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

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

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