



## Antarctica

Ushuaia – South Shetlands – Antarctica – Ushuaia

29<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 – 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2026

On board *M/V Ortelius*



M/V Ortelius was built in 1989 in Gdynia, Poland as a special-purpose research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science. She was originally named “Marina Svetaeva” after a well-known Russian poetess and writer. The vessel was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions in 2011, re-flagged in The Netherlands, and re-named Ortelius. She was extensively re-fitted in 2019 and complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea). M/V Ortelius is 91.25 m long, 17.2 m wide and has a maximum draft of 5.4 m. She has ice class UL1 (Equivalent to 1A, POLAR CODE), 10.5 knots average cruising speed and propulsion is 6 ZL 40/48 SULZER, that allows her sailing for 44 days \*\*without needing to stop\*\*. Ortelius is named after the Dutch cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the “Theatrum Orbis Terrarum” (Theatre of the World) in 1570. Her home port is Vlissingen.



## **Captain Remmert Koster**

[The Netherlands]

and his international crew of 53

Chief Officer:	<b>Sjoerd van Hoek</b>	[The Netherlands]
Second Officer:	<b>Sander Witsenburg</b>	[The Netherlands]
Third Officer:	<b>Ian Vicente</b>	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	<b>Yuzon Jhunwel</b>	[Philippines]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Ingrid van de Loo</b>	[The Netherlands]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	<b>Karolina Guziejko</b>	[Poland]
Head Chef:	<b>Heinz Hacker</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Leader	<b>Chloé Maréchal</b>	[France]
Assistant Expedition Leader	<b>Kohen Hookermeier</b>	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide	<b>Aitana Forcén-Vázquez</b>	[Spain]
Expedition Guide	<b>Joyce Mulder</b>	[The Netherlands]
Expedition Guide	<b>Svatava Spěváčková</b>	[Czechia]
Expedition Guide	<b>Sid</b>	[Gibraltar]
Expedition Guide	<b>Werner Kruse</b>	[South Africa]
Expedition Guide	<b>Matt Cheok</b>	[Australia]
Ship's Doctor	<b>Isaac Bustamante Roche</b>	[España]
Ship's Doctor	<b>Javier Casanova</b>	[España]
Kayak Guide	<b>Paolo Bellezze</b>	[Argentina]
Mountain Guide	<b>Massimo Candolini</b>	[Italy]
Mountain Guide	<b>Ric Potter</b>	[UK]

**WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!**

## Day 1 – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – Embarkation Day, Ushuaia

1200 GPS Position: 54°48.7'S, 068°17.8'W

Wind: E1 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 16 °C

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The day started with a stunning, clear-sky morning in Ushuaia. Wind and rain showers arrived post-boarding.

Embarkation from Ushuaia to the Great White Continent. The day we've dreamed of for years has finally begun. Ushuaia, the "End of the World," greeted us not with its famed winds, but with brilliant, benevolent sunshine. The mountains framing the city stood sharp and clear against a deep blue sky—a perfect send-off.

The morning was a flurry of last-minute preparations and excited reunions with fellow expeditioners. The sight of our ship, *Ortelius*, was something special. This isn't just a cruise; it's our ticket to a week of adventure and one in a lifetime



experiences. Conversations buzzed with shared excitement about the unique plans: camping on the ice itself, kayaking among bergs, and even some mountaineering. And the promise of ringing in the New Year in this most remote and majestic place hangs in the air like a special secret.

Boarding was smooth, and almost on cue, as we settled into our cabins, the Ushuaia we'd read about announced itself. The wind picked up and brief rain showers pattered on the decks—a



gentle reminder of the powerful elements we are entering.

The official shipboard routine commenced with the essential safety briefing and abandon ship drill, a sobering but necessary ritual that reminds us of the seriousness of our journey. This was swiftly followed by the Captain's Welcome in the lounge. Then,

the Expedition Team—our guide and mentors for the coming days—was introduced. Their collective experience, from marine biology to ornithology to polar skills, is very impressive. Almost as impressive as their love for Plankton 😊. We are in good hands.

A lovely dinner allowed us to get to know our tablemates, all sharing stories of how we came to be here.



We spent the post-dinner hours wrapped warmly on an outer deck. The evening light was sublime. The landscape slowly unfolded, and then the wildlife arrived as if on cue. Magellanic penguins porpoise in the distance. Sea lions lounged on rocky islets. The true highlight came as pods of Dusky dolphins, joined our procession. They danced in our bow wave and alongside the pilot boat. It felt like the perfect escort from the natural world.

As we approached the eastern end of the channel, the protective walls of land began to fall away. The ship's motion subtly changed; the rolling swell of the great Southern Ocean made itself known.

The anticipation is palpable. Ahead of us: the Drake Passage, then the ice, the silence, the adventure of camping on the Seventh Continent, and the dawn of a New Year unlike any other. The journey has truly begun.

## Day 2 – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> of December – Sailing towards Antarctica

13:00 GPS Position: 57° 46.6' S, 064°02' S

Wind: WNW2 • Sea: Ripples • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 5°C

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We woke up to an unmistakable note of excitement in Chloe's voice over the PA: "Good morning, everyone, and welcome to this beautiful day on the Drake Lake!"

Many of us were surprised to learn that we were, in fact, sailing. With barely any movement, it felt more like we were still in the Beagle Channel than crossing the infamous Drake Passage. Calm seas and blue skies made for a wonderfully gentle introduction to life onboard *Ortelius*.

After a well-rested night, guests enjoyed their first buffet breakfast before gathering for the mandatory IAATO and Zodiac Operations briefing. Chloe outlined the rules and guidelines for operating safely in Antarctica, emphasizing our role as visitors to this pristine environment and the importance of protecting its wildlife for future generations.

Next, we were invited to the lecture room to receive our muck boots—essential gear for wet landings and shore excursions, ensuring warm and dry feet throughout the voyage.



Before long, it was time to eat again, with a delicious buffet lunch served in the dining room. The afternoon continued with an engaging lecture by Koen, who introduced the different penguin species we may encounter during the expedition. Adding to the excitement, several guests arrived dressed as penguins, clearly eager to meet their real-life counterparts.

Another mandatory briefing followed—this one highly anticipated: camping. Joyce and Sid introduced the equipment and what to expect from this unique Antarctic experience. With just a bivy and sleeping bag, the sense of adventure was already building.

Afternoon treats were served in the bar, offering a chance to relax and get to know fellow expeditioners. Later, Chloe presented the plans for the following day, followed by insightful recaps on celestial navigation and cold weather adaptation by Joyce and Sid.

The day concluded with our first à la carte dinner onboard. An excellent meal rounded off an absolutely stunning first day in the Drake Passage—Drake Lake at its finest.

### Day 3 – Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December – Sailing towards Antarctica

13:00 GPS Position: 62°37' 32.8" S, 062° 07' 88.9" W

Wind: NE4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Fog • Air Temp: + 0.5 °C

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Our second day of the expedition was a full day at sea as we continued sailing south from Ushuaia toward Antarctica. Just like the first day, the ocean was very calm. There were hardly any waves, and it did not feel like we were crossing the famous Drake Passage at all. The ship moved smoothly, and everyone enjoyed the relaxed conditions as we prepared to say goodbye to the year 2025.

The morning started with a mandatory kayaking briefing given by Paolo. All passengers interested in kayaking learned about safety, equipment, and what to expect once we reach Antarctica. After the briefing, the activity sign-up began. Passengers were invited into the lecture room, where they moved through different stations. First, they met the mountaineers, then the camping guides, and finally the kayak guide to sign up for their Basecamp activities.

While this was happening, many guests spent time on the bridge and outer decks to watch for wildlife. We were surrounded by seabirds, including cape petrels, albatrosses, and storm petrels, flying gracefully around the ship.

Lunch was served around midday, followed by biosecurity checks in the afternoon. The expedition guides carefully inspected all passenger gear to make sure it complied with IAATO rules. This is very important to protect Antarctica and to ensure that no foreign material, such as grass or seeds, is brought ashore.

The weather stayed excellent, allowing guests to continue enjoying time outside on deck. At 16:00, Matt gave a photography lecture, sharing helpful tips on how to take the best possible photos during the expedition.



As the evening approached, excitement grew for the last night of the year. We began with happy hour and daily recaps, followed by a fun game of mingle bingo. The game was a great way for passengers to meet new people and connect with those they would be sharing this once-in-a-lifetime journey with. After the third “bingo,” prizes were handed out.

The celebrations continued with a fantastic BBQ on deck, served as

we approached the South Shetland Islands. These were our very first views of Antarctica. The evening ended with dancing outside, karaoke inside, and finally a countdown to welcome the New Year. *Happy New Year!* What a great way to sail into 2026, and to wake up in pristine wonders of Antarctica!



## Day 4 – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of January – South Shetland Islands - Elephant Island and Whalers Bay

13:00 GPS Position: 62°44' 07"S, 060° 43' 57" W

Wind: NE2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temp: 0 °C

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We woke on the morning of the first day of 2026 to a cheerful wake-up call and calm Antarctic conditions. After a relaxed breakfast, excitement grew as we prepared for our very first landing of the voyage to Antarctica. Thanks to favourable weather, especially light winds, we were able to land at the dramatic Elephant Point.



Our first Zodiac operation went smoothly, and everyone made it ashore without difficulty. Right on the beach, just a few metres from the sea, we encountered our first elephant seals, hauled out on the sandy shoreline. Following a clearly marked route set up in advance by the expedition team, we began our walk toward a nearby colony of gentoo penguins.

The atmosphere felt almost mystical. Steam drifted low across the ground, carried by a gentle breeze, while the deep, echoing roars of elephant seals resonated around us, making it difficult to pinpoint their source. We were delighted to see elephant seal pups resting near the shore, as well as gentoo penguin



chicks bustling around their nests. The site was remarkable not only for its wildlife but also for its diversity of flora. Bright green mosses and several species of lichen clung to the surrounding rocks, adding subtle colour to the stark landscape.

We also came across a Russian research field camp and learned that scientists there had been conducting fieldwork focused on microplastics. After a couple of hours ashore, we returned to the ship, full of new impressions from our first Antarctic landing.

Following a satisfying lunch, some of us chose to rest, while others spent time on the outer decks scanning the horizon for whales or simply enjoying the scenery with a warm cup of tea or coffee in hand.

In the afternoon, we arrived at the famous volcanic Deception Island, setting the stage for another remarkable experience. Our ship carefully navigated Neptune's Bellows, the narrow entrance into the island's flooded caldera. Towering black volcanic cliffs, dusted with snow, rose steeply on either side, creating the sensation of passing through a gateway into another world.

Once inside the sheltered inner bay, the scenery unfolded in soft tones of white, grey, and black. Snow-covered volcanic slopes rolled gently down toward calm, steel-grey waters, masking the island's turbulent geological past. We landed near the atmospheric remains of Whalers Bay,



where early 20th-century whaling stations once operated. Rusted boilers and decaying structures, half-buried in snow, stood as silent reminders of a bygone industrial era.

Many of us continued a walk up to Neptune's Window, a saddle overlooking the open sea, where seabirds circled

the cliffs below. The second landing of the day concluded with a much-anticipated highlight: the polar plunge. Despite the icy temperatures, we braved the Antarctic waters, made marginally warmer by the volcanic caldera in which we were swimming.

Our ever-enthusiastic expedition leader, Chloe, added another memorable moment to the day. Earlier, she had collected plankton samples, and after dinner we gathered to observe sea angels and other delicate planktonic organisms under the microscope.

As the day came to an end, we headed to our cabins, tired but content, having experienced an unforgettable start to the year in Antarctica.

#### Sea Kayaking:

Who were the first sea kayakers to paddle Antarctica in 2026? Chances are it was us! 8 brave paddlers had an early start on the first day of the year to enjoy a kayaking session on Elephant Point. This site is located on the southern coast of Livingstone Island, and it presents a broken coastline with several islets and shallow rocks. We had the chance to see several porpoising penguins coming to and from the rookeries by the beach. The highlights of the day were a large Leopard Seal that swam past our kayaks a few times and elephant seals hauled out by the beach. A few large males were very loud, and we could clearly hear them from the water.

### Day 5 – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of January – Melchior Islands and Orne Island

1300 GPS Position: 64° 30.2' S, 062° 50.2' W

Wind: S2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: 1.5 °C

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We were gently awakened at 06:45 to begin our first full day of activities in Antarctica. After breakfast in the dining room, excitement was high as guests prepared for a morning zodiac cruise around the Melchior Islands — a scattered group of low, ice-covered islands.

This morning also marked the beginning of our activity programme. Depending on registrations, guests split into groups for mountaineering, kayaking, or zodiac cruising. As the ship lay quietly among the islands, mountaineers departed first, followed by zodiac cruisers and kayakers, each group heading out in turn to explore this beautiful and sheltered Antarctic landscape.

The Melchior Islands provided ideal conditions for a scenic zodiac cruise. Surrounded by snow-covered islets, calm waters, and drifting ice, we navigated through narrow channels and around sculpted icebergs, taking time to absorb the stillness and scale of our surroundings. The low relief of the islands offered expansive views in all directions, making it a peaceful and visually striking introduction to Antarctic exploration.



After returning to the ship, lunch was served at midday, allowing everyone to warm up and reflect on the morning's experiences.

In the afternoon, we turned our attention to Orne Island, a small but dramatic island known for its steep slopes, striking scenery, and lively wildlife. Once again, guests split into activity groups, with mountaineers heading out first, followed by those joining the zodiac landing and kayakers.



Those who landed were greeted by a bustling colony of nesting Chinstrap penguins and a colony of Gentoo penguins, their calls echoing across the snow as they moved between nesting sites and the shoreline. From the landing area, guests enjoyed excellent views across the Gerlache Strait, with towering peaks and glaciers providing a classic Antarctic backdrop. The combination of wildlife, dramatic terrain, and clear polar light made for a memorable afternoon ashore.

As the final groups returned to Ortelius, we gathered in the lounge for the daily recap. The expedition team reflected on the day's highlights and outlined plans for the days ahead, as we continued deeper into the Antarctic Peninsula. Later in the evening, campers were called to the zodiac boarding area and transported ashore to spend the night on the Antarctic continent — an unforgettable adventure under the polar "night" sky.



With our first full day of Antarctic activities complete, Ortelius remained surrounded by ice, mountains, and silence. Today offered a perfect balance of exploration and immersion, marking a powerful beginning to our time in this extraordinary region.

#### Sea Kayak: AM

Melchior Islands, AM: Beautiful conditions to paddle in. We covered around 5.5Km in no wind, flat seas and a gentle swell. The Melchior Islands are a mayhem of islets and canals with steep snowbanks, seracs and grounded icebergs. Beautiful but potentially treacherous hence the need to pick conservative lines at the time of enjoying our kayaking. We visited Argentina's Melchior Base, it was opened

in 1947, and it was year-round inhabited until 1961. This base broadcasted the Antarctic Weather forecast widely used in the Peninsula,

Sea Kayak: PM

This afternoon, we relocated to Orne Island by the northern end of Errera Channel, the wind was blowing cold from the south and for a moment it looked like kayaking may not be possible. Luckily, we were able to tow our boats to the northern coast of Cuverville Island and use the shelter of the lee side to operate normally. We paddled along the coast, downwind from a very large Gentoo penguin colony, an experience our nostrils will not forget any time soon. Then as we paddled counterclockwise towards the SW coast, we saw the beautiful two masted Barque Europa, anchored by a rocky outcrop. The same rocky outcrop had been used early in the 20th century by whaling ships as seen by the rusty old chains and water boat remains.

## Day 6 – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> of January – Myriad Islands and Pleaneau Island

1300 GPS Position: 65° 08' 9.5" S, 064° 08' 8" W

Wind: SW1 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 1.5 °C

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Today was a true Antarctic expedition day, shaped by the conditions and defined by the incredible environment around Basecamp. The morning began with a relaxed wake-up and breakfast, with guests watching the movement of swell and ice outside. Due to the larger swell, kayaking was not possible, and instead, everyone took part in Zodiac cruising. This allowed us all to safely experience the Antarctic landscape from the water.

Zodiacs moved away from the ship and into a maze of ice, rising and falling gently with the swell as we navigated between icebergs of all shapes and sizes. Some bergs towered above the boats, their surfaces carved by wind and sea, while others revealed glowing blue ice beneath the waterline. The scale and beauty of the scenery were striking, creating a powerful sense of perspective in this remote place.

Wildlife encounters brought the morning to life. Penguins porpoised through the water near the Zodiacs, while others gathered on ice floes, watching our slow approach. Seals were seen resting on the ice, lifting their heads briefly before settling back into the stillness. Seabirds passed overhead, their calls echoing across the bay and adding sound to an otherwise quiet world.

After returning to the ship, lunch provided a welcome chance to warm up and share stories from the morning. The afternoon expedition took us to the Pleneau Islands, often described as an iceberg graveyard. Here, massive, grounded icebergs filled the shallow waters, their dramatic forms creating narrow channels and striking silhouettes. Cruising among them felt like drifting through a frozen gallery, each iceberg offering new textures and colours.





The wildlife of Pleneau added further highlights, with seals lounging on the ice and penguins moving confidently between sea and shore. Whales were spotted in the distance, their blows briefly breaking the calm surface of the water and magnificent flukes on full display. As the light softened across the ice, the sense of scale and isolation became even more pronounced.

The day concluded with a recap from the expedition team and a shared dinner on board. Later, campers prepared to head ashore for the night, carrying with them the quiet wonder of a day spent exploring one of the most extraordinary environments on Earth.

## Day 7 – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> of January – Yarlour Islands and Lemaire Channel

1300 GPS Position: 65° 13' 47" S, 064° 08' 19"W

Wind: NNE3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 0.8 °C

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The day began with Chloe's cheerful "Good morning!" over the PA, setting the tone for a beautiful Antarctic morning. As we approached the Yarlour Islands, several humpback whales were spotted feeding near the ship—an unforgettable start.

Shortly after breakfast, fog and gentle snowfall moved in, creating an atmospheric and almost mystical setting. Despite the conditions, operations ran smoothly. Mountaineers were transported to Canisa Point for a challenging ascent through the fog, while other guests went ashore at a small island affectionately known as *Adélie paradise*. The island was dotted with Adélie penguin colonies, many with large chicks. The colonies were surprisingly calm, with only the occasional call between partners breaking the silence.



Kayakers explored the narrow channels between islands, weaving through ice and enjoying close encounters with the Antarctic landscape. Meanwhile, the mountaineering team—cheered on by Gentoo penguins halfway up—successfully reached an altitude of 1,000 meters.



After lunch, guests gathered on deck and on the bridge to enjoy spectacular scenery as the ship carefully navigated heavy ice toward the iconic Lemaire Channel. Entering the channel required precise manoeuvring, but the captain and bridge team guided us safely past a massive iceberg and into the narrow passage.



Halfway through the Lemaire Channel, zodiacs were launched for a truly rare experience: a zodiac cruise through this dramatic corridor. Steep cliffs rose on both sides as we passed Gentoo penguins resting on ice, striking icebergs, and dense brash ice. Near the exit of the channel, we were rewarded with a sighting of a leopard seal resting on an ice floe.

The day concluded back onboard with a recap from Chloe and the expedition team, followed by another excellent dinner. An extraordinary Antarctic day and one that will be remembered by all.

## Day 8 – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of January – Neko Harbour and Paradise Harbour

1300 GPS Position: 64° 49.4' S, 062° 41.9' W

Wind: Var 2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 1.3 °C

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We woke to a calm Antarctic morning, with soft light spreading across the ice and mountains outside. After breakfast, excitement built as we prepared for a continental landing at Neko Harbour, one of the highlights of the voyage. Named after the Scottish whaling ship Neko, which once operated in these waters, the harbour offered a powerful first impression of Antarctica's scale and beauty.

Stepping ashore on the Antarctic continent was a special moment for many. People took the opportunity to have photos with the Antarctic flag, marking the occasion, while gentoo penguins wandered nearby, entirely unfazed by our presence. The landscape was dominated by towering glaciers and steep snow-covered slopes, and throughout the landing we were treated to several epic calvings. The thunderous cracks and splashes



echoed around the harbour, a dramatic reminder of the constant movement shaping this icy environment.

Back on board, a vegetarian lunch was served as part of the ship's sustainability initiative, and conversations buzzed with stories from the morning. The afternoon then took us into Paradise Harbour for a zodiac cruise around Brown Station. The light was beautifully diffused, softening the scenery and creating stunning reflections on the calm water. We passed the manned summer station, where scientists spend a short but intense season living and working in Antarctica.



Wildlife encounters added to the experience, including a leopard seal resting on the ice, drawing quiet admiration from the zodiacs as we drifted past. Ice floes moved slowly around us, enhancing the sense of stillness and scale. The afternoon ended on a joyful note when hotel manager Ingrid surprised everyone by appearing out at sea in the hot chocolate

boat. Warm drinks were passed around, made even better with a splash of rum, and laughter carried across the water.

After dinner, we gathered for the daily recap, sharing highlights from both the landing and the cruise. It was a day defined by powerful landscapes, unexpected moments and the shared feeling that we had experienced Antarctica at its very best.

## Day 9 – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> of January – Damoy Point and Port Lockroy

1200 GPS Position: 64° 49' 016" S, 063° 32' 007" W

Wind: Var2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temp: + 2.1 °C

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This morning we awoke to another beautiful day with calm and clear weather. Some snowflakes alternated with warm rays from the bright sun. Today the expedition team had planned a nice leg stretch at Damoy Point and in the afternoon we would visit the Port Lockroy or as the *locals* say, The Penguin Post Office!



After breakfast the zodiacs lined up to bring us ashore. Damoy is where we had one of our camping nights and it was great to be back. Damoy offers a scenic walk while passing several Gentoo penguin colonies. We enjoyed our walks through deep snow while the sun had started to shine abundantly. The walk was sort of triangular and led us towards the Damoy Heritage Hut.

Damoy used to be an air transit station for scientists and explorers. The hut was built in 1973 and



basically functioned as an airport *waiting lounge*. The planes would land on top of the glacier which made landing and taking off quite challenging in quickly changing wind and weather conditions.

Today the hut is a historic site which is preserved by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. It is allowed to have a look inside, so the expedition team opened the hut and it was great to see old artifacts, classic food products and the basic sleeping facilities.



Completing the walk, we enjoyed the sights of penguins and their incredibly cute chicks. What a beautiful morning!

In the afternoon we would go to the Penguin Post office, a wish that many of us shared. Immediately after lunch the Port Lockroy team came onboard for a brief presentation that gave us more historical insights, but it also explained more about the research that is conducted here.





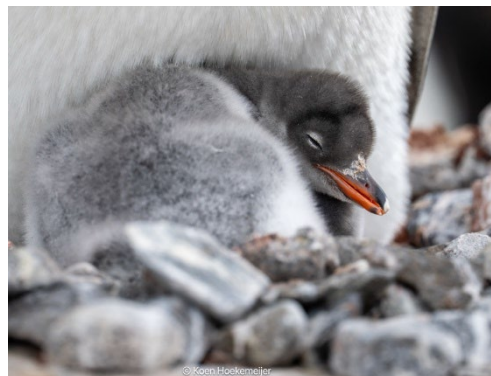
Not too long after the first boats left for Port Lockroy whereas others first went on a zodiac cruise or a landing at nearby Jougla Point before going to the post office too. Jougla was filled with Gentoo chicks whereas the zodiac cruisers encountered some gentle humpback giants.

The wind had picked up a bit during the afternoon and that made the ride back to the ship a bit splashy, but that only added

to the fun we had had today. We had seen the cutest little penguins, we managed to buy souvenirs and send postcards, and the weather had been incredible.

After recap the dining room was buzzing with excitement, and we couldn't wait to see what tomorrow would bring us.

Good night everyone!



## Day 10 – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of January – Foyn Harbour and Palaver Point

1300 GPS Position: 64° 19.2' S, 061° 51' W

Wind: S4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Clear • Air Temp: + 3 °C

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Today is a sunny day. We woke up to a stunning, calm, clear sky on Monday, surrounded by white peaks and jagged mountains, as we anchored by Nansen and Enterprise Islands, the landscape took us all by surprise. It really is stunning. Zodiacs cruise, enjoying some

great whale encounters whilst the kayakers have the 'history tour' of Enterprise Island. It happens that this part of the Antarctic Peninsula was heavily exploited for whaling, and the landscape is peppered with historic artifacts and remains from the whaling period. Mooring chains, oil barrels, coal storage areas, and even a factory shipwreck, The Gøvernoren. When

floating over its sunken hull is possible to identify some features of the ship and even a copious load of harpoon heads still piled high on the ship's hull.

The climbers went up Enterprise Island and got the bird's eye view of the safe haven and like the rest of us, enjoyed the sunshine.

In the afternoon, after yet another delicious lunch



we headed over to Palaver Point. This is a headland west of Hummock Island in Antarctica's Palmer Archipelago famous for noisy Chinstrap colonies. The mountaineers had a great excursion today and so did the crew of Ortelius by Kayak. It seems a very fitting final operation for our trip. Everybody, guests and crew are very happy.

## Day 11 – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of January – At sea towards Ushuaia

1300 GPS Position: 60°37'2" S, 063°30' 9" W

Wind: WSW4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Foggy • Air Temp: + 3 °C

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We are sailing back. No wake up calls this morning, we are now resting, everybody is tired after 7 intense operations days in the Antarctic. We have camped, mountaineered, kayaked and drove zodiacs around on a daily basis. It was very special, and we can feel the intensity in our bodies. We slept well last night. Today as we slowly wind down, we had a presentation by Aitana "Does planet earth have a heart?", a story of ice, currents and courage.

Chloe talked to us about the love of her life...the wonderful drifting plankton. Later we returned our boots and Kohen and Matt gave us presentations on Humpback whales and Photography respectively.



## Day 12 – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of January – At sea towards Ushuaia

1300 GPS Position: 55° 49' S, 066° 01' W

Wind: N2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temp: + 8,6°C

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Final sailing day, now the trip really is drawing to a close. We can see land in the distance and black-browed albatrosses fly past Ortelius. We primarily relax, connect and talk to other guests, share contact details and promise to see each other again. Some of us are already planning our next trip, the Arctic perhaps. As the journey really sinks in, we also have the chance to attend some presentations. Paolo talked to us about climate and what makes Antarctica the coldest, windiest, and driest continent on earth, we had the chance to discuss global warming and climate change. Joyce showed us more about what lies beneath the ship and life on the seabed. Svata, shared some of her dog sledding passion by telling us about “Dogs of Antarctica” and finally, Kohen talked to us about other trips offered by Oceanwide in the Arctic.

Later, we scrub up for our Captain's farewell toast, trip slideshow and final plated dinner.

## Day 13 – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> of January – Disembarkation Ushuaia

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

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

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Our final wakeup call was made by Chloe, and we were asked to leave our big luggage in the corridor at 07:30, so the expedition team could take them all down for us and on to the pier. time. It was amazing how quickly these days whizzed by. We headed for breakfast and said goodbye to the dining room team who took such good care of us throughout the trip. We gathered our belongings and headed to the gangway to say goodbye to the crew, staff, and new friends we had made. Some of us hopped straight on the bus to the airport to head home, while others set off to explore Ushuaia and continue travelling in Patagonia. We got to see breathtaking landscapes of Antarctica. This trip really reminded us of the power of nature, and we saw firsthand just how wild and rugged Antarctica is. The highlights of this trip will stay in our thoughts for many years to come.



**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1723 nautical miles**

**Most southern point sailed: 65° 14' S, 064° 08' W**



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

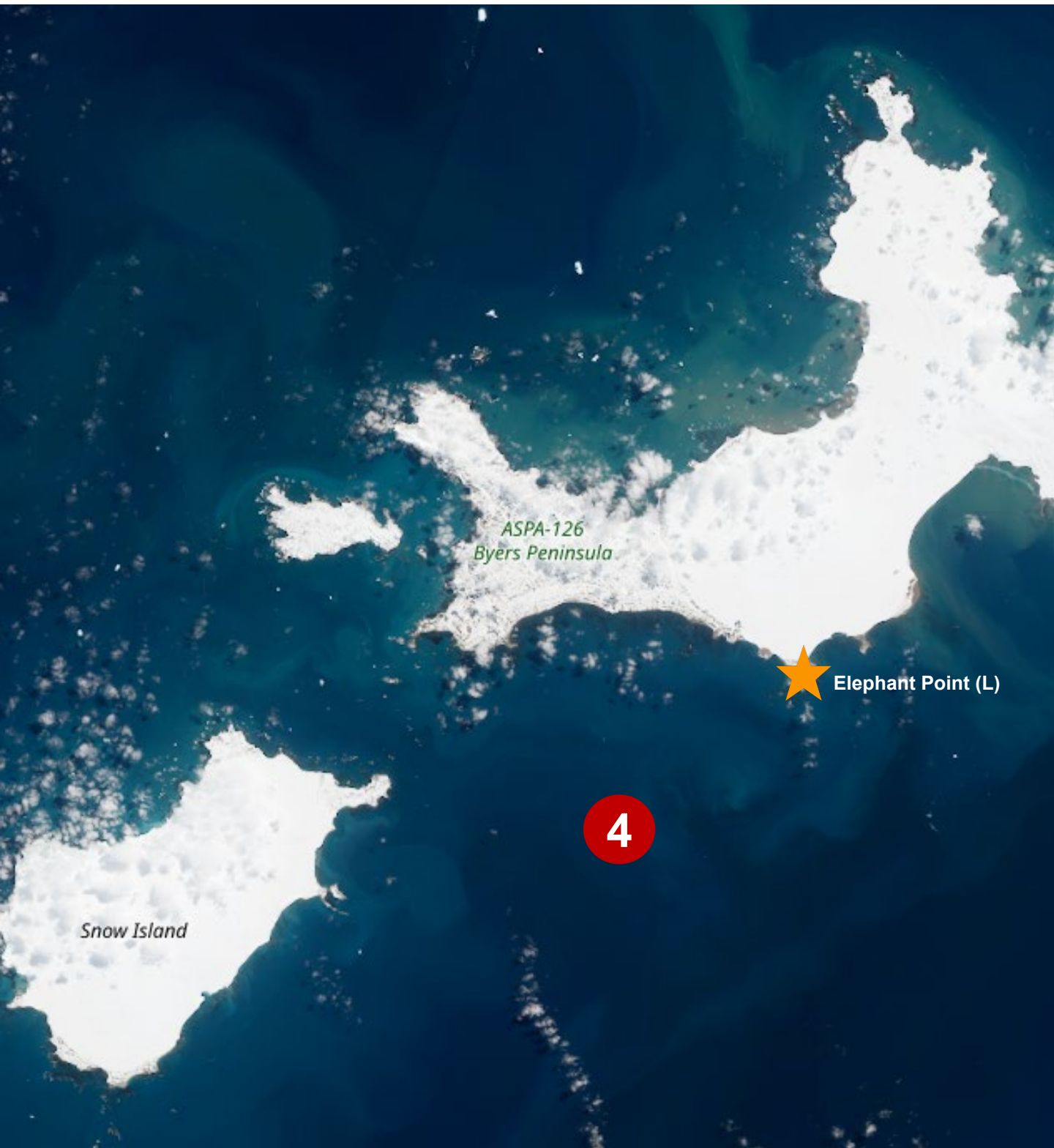


# Antarctica – Basecamp

29<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025 – 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026



1. Embarkation day, Ushuaia (54°48'S, 68°17'W)
2. At sea, Drake Passage (56°46'S, 65°30'W)
3. At sea, Drake Passage (61°42'S, 62°42'W), South Shetland Islands – New Years Eve (62°42'S, 60°50'W)
4. Elephant Point (L) (62°42'S, 60°50'W), Whalers Bay – Deception Island (L) (63°05'S, 60°41'W)
5. Melchior Island (Z) (64°09'S, 68°57'W), Orne Island (L) (64°40'S, 62°33'W), Damoy Point camping (L) (64°48'S, 63°30'W)
6. Expedition cruise – on the way to Pleneau (Z), Pleneau Island (Z) (65°10'S, 64°32'W), Hovgaard Island camping (L) (65°07'S, 64°03'W)
7. Yalour (L) (65°14'S, 64°09'W), Lemaire Channel (Z) (65°03'S, 63°54'W)
8. Neko Harbour (L) (64°51'S, 62°33'W), Brown Station (Z) (64°52'S, 62°52'W)
9. Damoy Point (L) (64°48'S, 63°30'W), Goudier Island – Port Lockroy and Jougla Point (L + Z) (64°48'S, 63°30'W)
10. Foyn Harbour (Z) (64°21'S, 61°34'W), Palaver Point (L) (63°59'S, 61°42'W)
11. At sea, Drake Passage (61°40'S, 62°55'W)
12. At sea, Drake Passage (56°43'S, 65°37'W)
13. Disembarkation day, Ushuaia (54°48'S, 68°17'W)



ASPA-126  
Byers Peninsula



Elephant Point (L)

4

Snow Island







Melchior Islands (Z)



5

9

Dorian Bay, Damoy Point Camping (L)

Damoy Point (L)

Goudier Island, Port Lockroy and Jougla Point (L+Z)

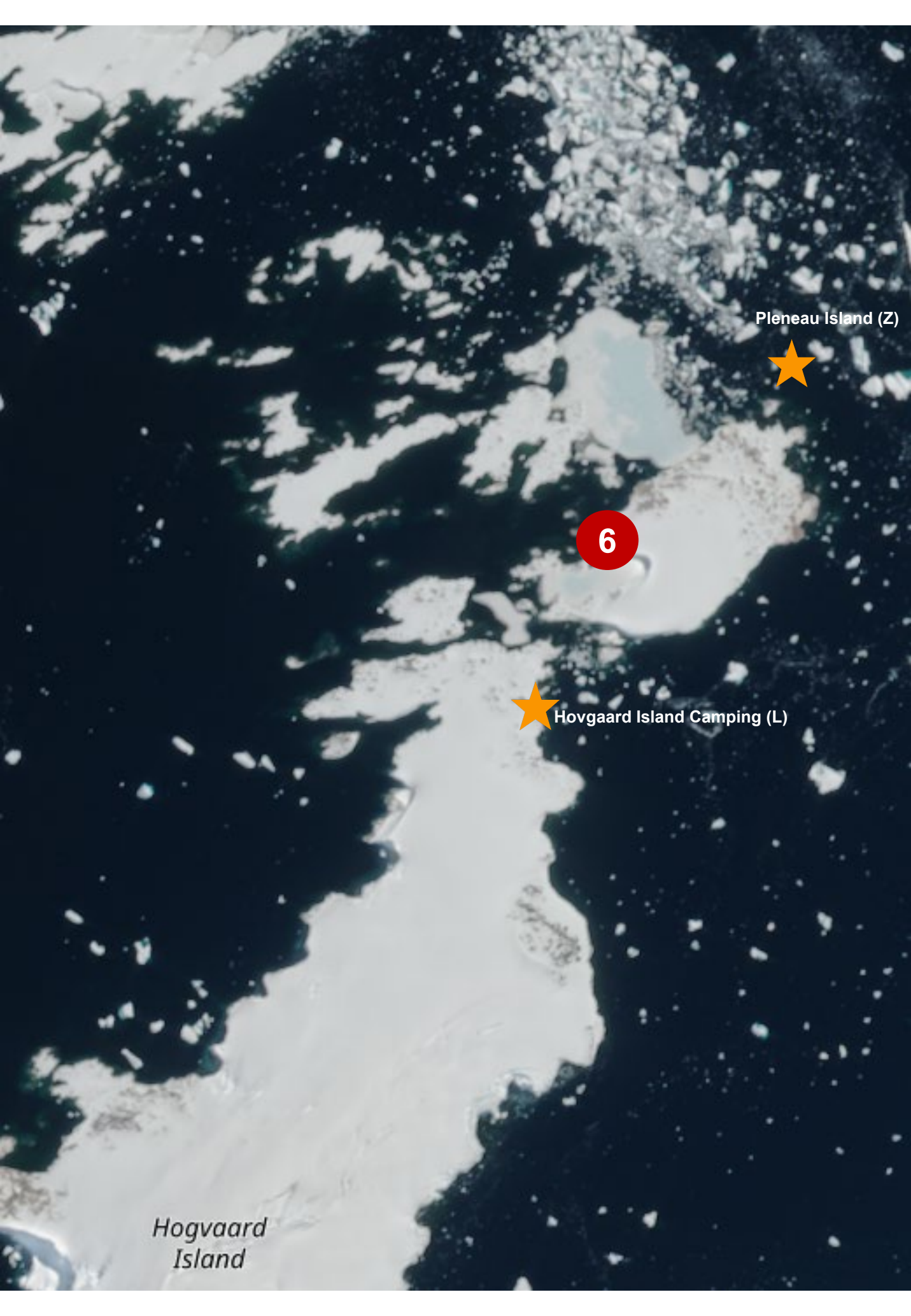


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Orne Island (L)



Cuerville  
Island



Pleneau Island (Z)



6



Hovgaard Island Camping (L)

Hogvaard  
Island





Yalour Islands (L)

7





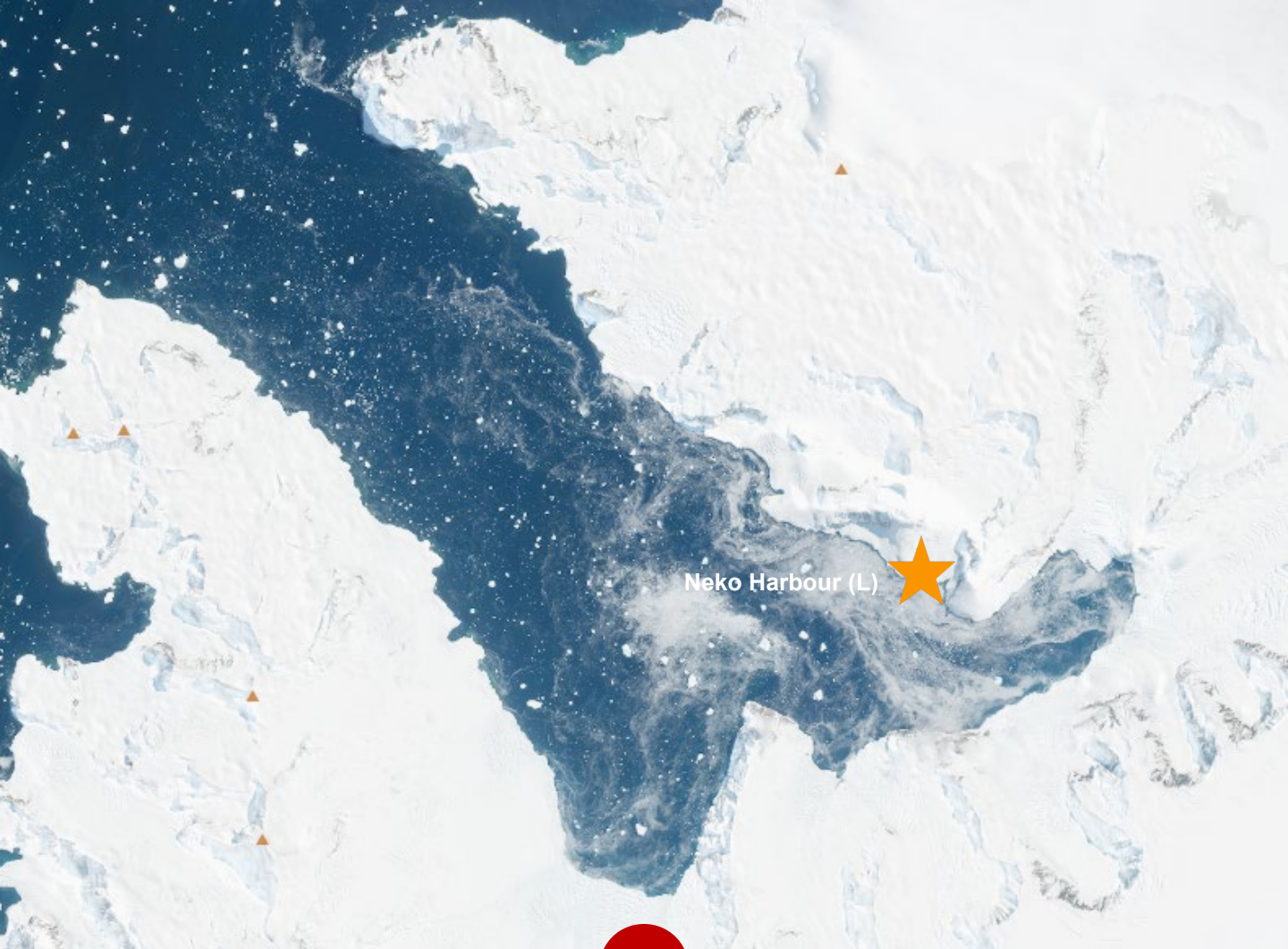
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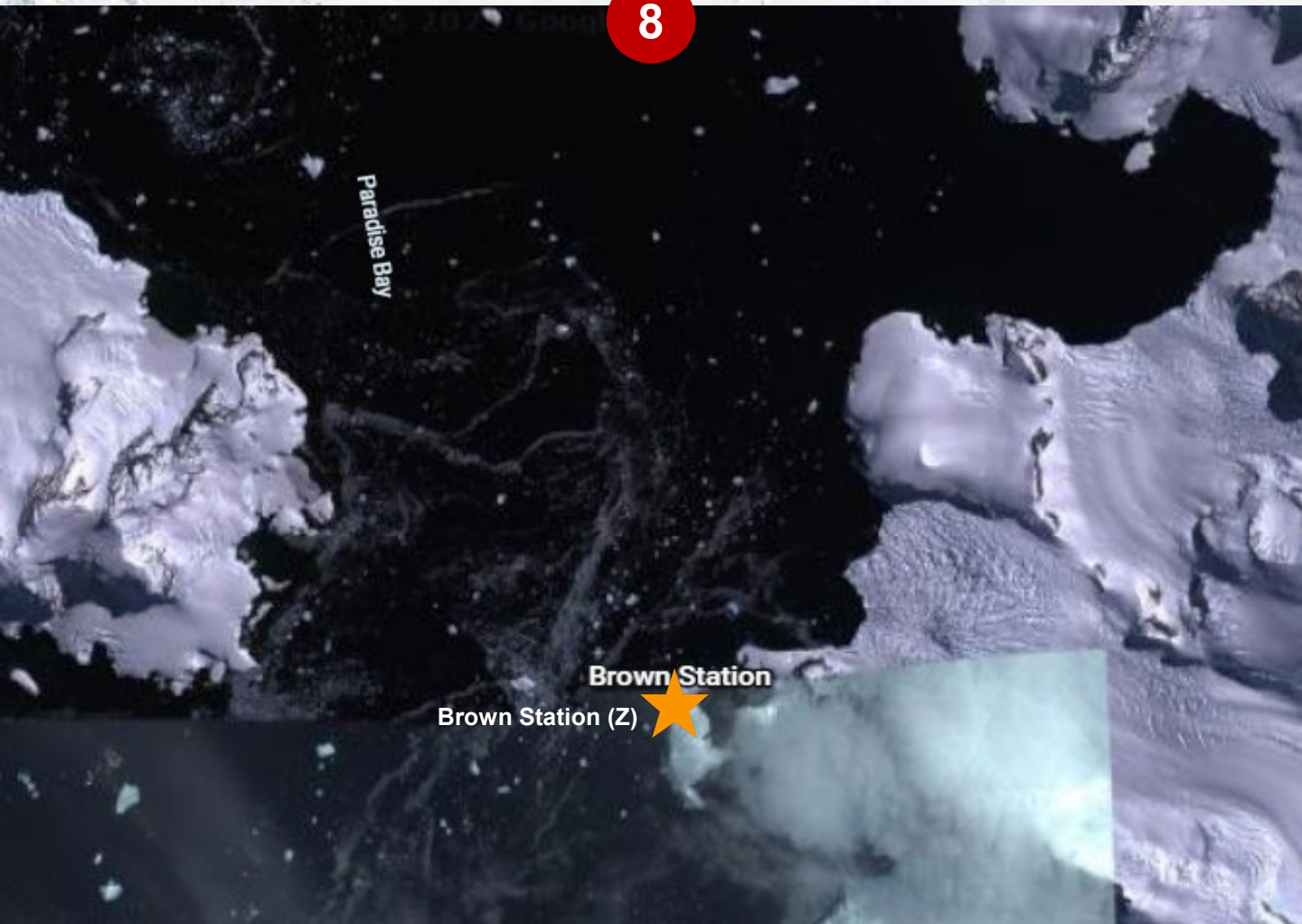
Lemaire Channel (Z)

Booth Island



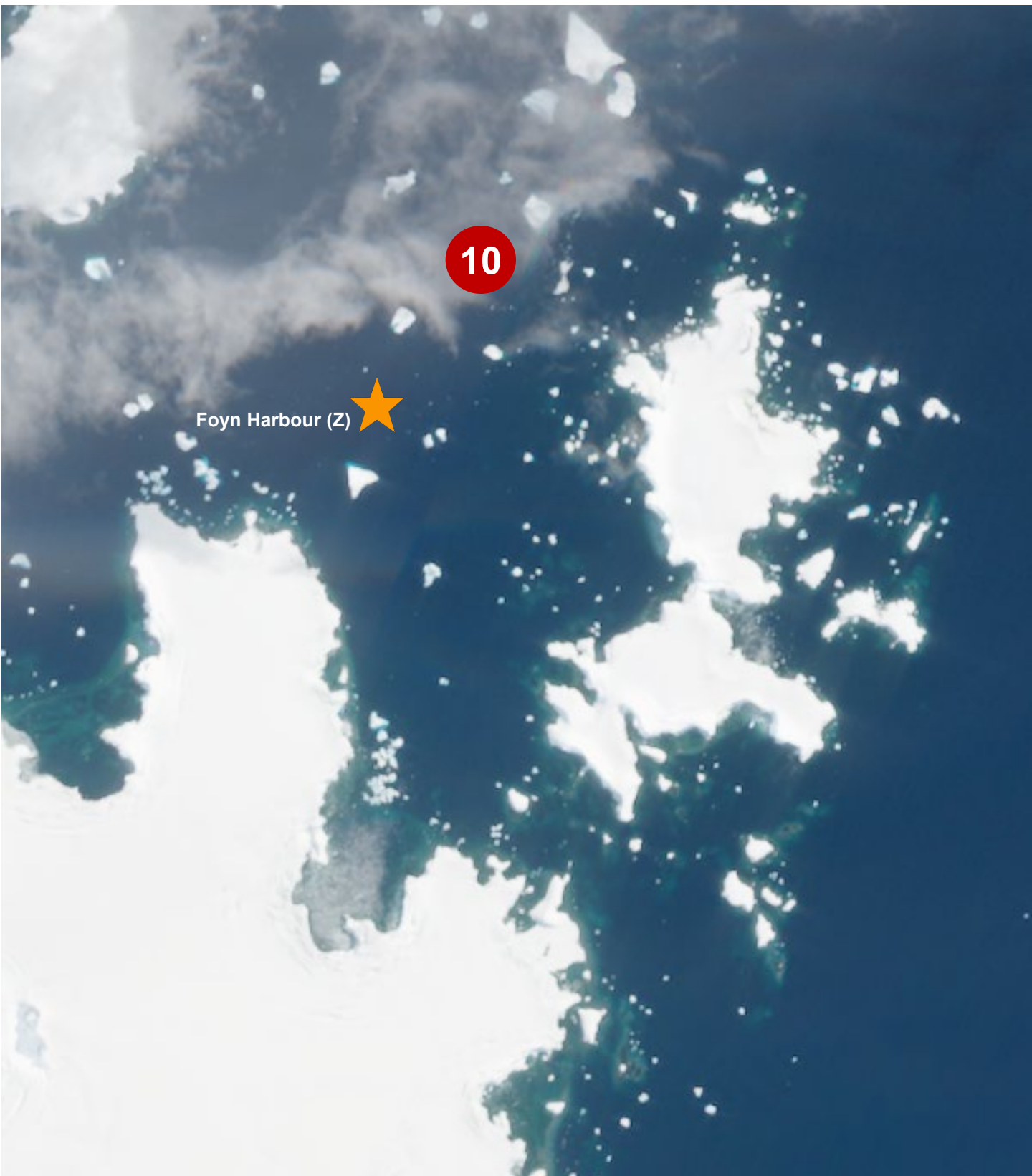


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10

Palaver Point (L)



## BIRD AND MAMMAL LIST

<b>Ortelius: Base Camp Antarctic Peninsula 29 December 2025 - 10 January 2026</b>					
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		December			January											
BIRDS	Latin name	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>															
King Penguin	<i>A. patagonicus</i>															
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
Adelie Penguin	<i>P. adelaie</i>					x	x	x		x						
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>P. antarctica</i>			x	x	x		x		x	x					
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>															
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>															
Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocoe</i>															
Snowy Wandering Albatro	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>			x												
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>D. epomophora</i>												x			
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>D. sanfordi</i>															
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophrys</i>	x	x										x			
Grey-headed Albatross	<i>T. chrysostoma</i>															
Light-mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>															
Cape/Pintado Petrel	<i>Capense capense</i>		x	x	x											
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>															
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>															
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialoides</i>			x												
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>															
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>M. giganteus</i>		x	x	x	x	x									
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>															
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>															
Slender-billed Prion	<i>P. belcheri</i>															
Antarctic Prion	<i>P. desolata</i>	x	x									x	x			
White-headed Petrel	<i>Pterodroma lessoni</i>															
Mottled Petrel	<i>P. inexpectata</i>															
Soft-plumaged Petrel (dar	<i>P. mollis</i>															
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>															
White-chinned Petrel	<i>P. aequinoctialis</i>															
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Fuegian Storm-petrel	<i>O. chilensis</i>															
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>		x													
Grey-backed Storm-petrel	<i>Garrodia nereis</i>															
Common Diving-petrel	<i>Pelacanoides urinatrix</i>															
Imperial Cormorant	<i>Phalacrorax atriceps</i>	x														
Antarctic Shag	<i>P. bransfieldensis</i>				x	x	x		x	x	x					
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>															
Subantarctic skua	<i>C. antarctica</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
South Polar Skua	<i>C. maccormicki</i>															
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	x														
Kelp Gull	<i>L. dominicanus</i>	x			x	x	x									
Antarctic Tern	<i>S. vittata</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
South American Tern	<i>S. hirundinacea</i>															
Arctic Tern	<i>S. paradisaea</i>															
Pale-faced Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>							x	x	x						
Great Grebe	<i>Podiceps major</i>															



MAMMALS	Latin name	December                      January													
		29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>														
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>														
Sei Whale	<i>B. borealis</i>											x			
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>B. bonaerensis</i>														
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>			x	x					x					
Antarctic Killer (type A)	<i>Orcinus species</i>														
Antarctic Killer (type B)	<i>Orcinus species</i>														
Hourglass Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>														
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>														
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>														
Dolphin	<i>Unidentified Species</i>														
S. Bottlenosed Whale	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>														
Arnoux's Beaked Whale	<i>Berardius arnuxii</i>														
Beaked Whale-	<i>Cuvier's or Grey's</i>														
South American Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus australis</i>														
Antarctic Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>														
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonina</i>				x	x	x								
Crabeater Seal	<i>Lobodon carcinophaga</i>						x	x	x						
Weddell Seal	<i>Leptonychotes weddellii</i>					x	x		x						
Leopard Seal	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>				x		x	x	x		x				
		Depart Ushuaia	Drake Passage	Drake Passage-								Drake Passage	Drake Passage-Beagle Channel	Ushuaia	

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# Chloé Maréchal – Expedition Leader

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

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

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

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

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# Koen Hoekemeijer – Asst. Exp. Leader

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

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

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

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

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



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# Aitana Forcén-Vázquez – Exp. Guide

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

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

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# Joyce Mulder – Expedition guide

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While studying Coastal and Marine Management in the Netherlands, Joyce began working as a whale-watching guide in the Azores in 2018 in Vila Franca do Campo. After this, she studied the Arctic snowfall variability at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, laying the foundation for her future career in Polar research.

Continuing her academic pursuits, Joyce studied Arctic terrestrial biology at the University Centre in Svalbard in 2019, acquiring insights into the valuable ecosystems of the far north.

With a bachelor's degree in Coastal and Marine Management, she followed a master's program in the same field in Ísafjörður, Iceland, making it her home from 2021 to 2023.

Her academic journey also brought her to the Norwegian town of Tromsø, where she studied fish migrations. For her master's thesis, she joined a research vessel in Greenland to study benthic communities, mapping previously unexplored regions of the seabed, a project she continues to return to, exploring the deep-sea environments around Greenland.

Today, Joyce works as an expedition guide with Oceanwide Expeditions, sharing her knowledge of marine wildlife and the polar regions with visitors.

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# Svatava Spěváčková – Exp.Guide

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

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

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

outdoors and sports was born.

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

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

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

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

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



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# Sid – Expedition Guide

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

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

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

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

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# Werner Kruse - Expedition Guide

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Werner Kruse is a well-seasoned traveller and an experienced filmmaker, photographer and expedition guide. He has worked on numerous international productions and produced travel documentaries, including wildlife and expedition documentaries in Africa. His film, *The Boy from the Wild*, premiered at the Royal Geographic Society in London as well as the Wildlife Conservation Film Festival in New York City. Currently the film is available on Amazon Prime Video.

After completing his studies, he travelled extensively, making documentaries all over the world. He explored places such as Petra, Machu Picchu, Great Barrier Reef and Rapa Nui, Spitsbergen, Iceland as well as his favourites, the Hawaiian and Tahitian Islands. He is currently based in Cape Town, South Africa, working on TV shows, documentaries, commercials and corporate productions. He frequently travels abroad for various video and photographic assignments.

Werner is extremely passionate about conservation, particularly wildlife and the ocean and supports various environmental causes. His work depicting Gentoo penguins in Antarctica was featured by National Geographic, and his annual return to Antarctica remains a highlight for him. His travels have taken him to 112 countries, enabling him to capture a richly diverse spectrum of images.

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# Matt Cheok – Expedition Guide

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Matt is an adventure photographer and videographer from Sydney, Australia.

His work has taken him to some of the planet's most remote and captivating destinations – from the polar regions of Antarctica, Svalbard and Greenland to the majestic African savannah, landlocked steppe countries of Central Asia, and rugged mountains of South America.

In Antarctica, Matt's favourite subjects to capture are the playful gentoo penguins and the dramatic polar landscapes in the late afternoon light.

As a photography educator, Matt enjoys sharing his expertise with fellow travellers and inspiring them to connect with the natural world.

Matt's career path has been full of surprises. He previously worked as a commercial and insurance lawyer in Sydney, but he's now much happier pursuing his passion for photography and adventure.

When he's not guiding, Matt spends much of his time camping, thru-hiking, drinking lots of Bialetti coffee, and exploring the outdoors, having recently returned from the Fann Mountains in Tajikistan.

Onboard, you'll find Matt out on deck, cameras in hand. Don't hesitate to approach him with any photography questions or just for a friendly chat!



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# Isaac Bustamante – Ships Doctor

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A physician with 20 years of experience across in emergency medicine, primary care, and palliative care.

Outside the clinic, he thrives on challenge, whether snowboarding, kitesurfing or diving or any adventure that gets his adrenaline pumping. Traveler, music lover, you can find him playing bass with his band in Zaragoza.

Since childhood, he has been captivated by great navigators like Fernando Magallanes, Francisco de Hoces, and Juan Sebastián Elcano, as well as legendary polar explorers such

as Shackleton, Amundsen, and Thomas Crean.

Now. The opportunity to join you on an expedition to Antarctica with Oceanwide Expeditions is, for him, an exciting challenge.

Fluent in Spanish (obviously), English, French and Catalan.

## **WELCOME ABOARD!**

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

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

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

**Lifeboat Drill**

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

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

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

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

*We will sail into open sea this evening and the ship may move – please secure your belongings and be careful when moving around the ship.*

*Take your seasickness medication before we head out into open sea- the doctor will be available in the lounge after dinner to assist.*


- 0745      **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0915      Please join the expedition team for a **mandatory IAATO and zodiac briefing**.
- 1030      **Mountaineering briefing** - Please join **Massimo and Rick** in the **lounge** about the mountaineering operation. This meeting is obligatory if you wish to join this activity.
- 1145      **Muck Boots** - We will call you by deck to collect your Muck boots from the boot room on **deck 3**. *Please bring your thick socks to make sure you have the perfect fit! **Please listen for announcements**.*
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1430      Please join the **Koen** in the **lounge** where he will talk about **penguins**!
- 1630      **Camping briefing** - Please join **Joyce and Sid** in the **lounge** about the camping operation. This meeting is obligatory if you wish to join this activity.
- 1815      **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our first daily recap and briefing.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** – *Tonight's dinner will be plated – please make your way to the dining room promptly.*





**Antarctica - Basecamp**  
**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**  
**Drake Passage**



- 0745 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0915 **Kayaking briefing** - Please join **Paolo** in the **lounge** about the Kayaking operation. This meeting is obligatory if you wish to join this activity.
- 1045 Please join the activity group leaders in the **Lecture Room on deck 3** for our **Activity Sign up**, you will be called by decks - ***Please listen to announcements.***
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1345 During the afternoon we will call you deck by deck for the **mandatory IAATO Biosecurity check in the Lounge** . 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 lounge and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have been approved by the Expedition Team.
- 1600 **Introduction to Polar Photography** - Meet **Matt in the lounge** Whether you're using a smartphone or camera, learn essential tips and tricks for capturing the magic of Antarctica. Matt will guide you through techniques to make the most of your expedition photography.
- 1800  **Happy Hour!**
- 1830 **Recap & Facts Bingo** Please join Chloe and the Expedition Team in the lounge for a recap for a preview of tomorrow's plans. **Then get to know your fellow explorers through our Facts Bingo icebreaker game!**
- 2000 **New Year's Eve Celebration** - Dress warmly and bring your dancing shoes for a special Antarctic dinner as we countdown to 2025!



***Happy New Year!***

*As we sail into 2026, all of us aboard the Ortelius and the entire Oceanwide Expeditions family wish you a wonderful new year! May 2025 bring you safe travels, amazing discoveries, and memories to last a lifetime.*

***There's a list at reception with names and dates for all activities. Please take a moment to confirm your name is on it!***

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

*We'll attempt our morning landing at Elephant Point on Livingstone Island's southwest corner in the South Shetlands. The site is named for its elephant seal residents and also hosts gentoo penguins and nesting giant petrels. **Please listen for announcement concerning timing.***

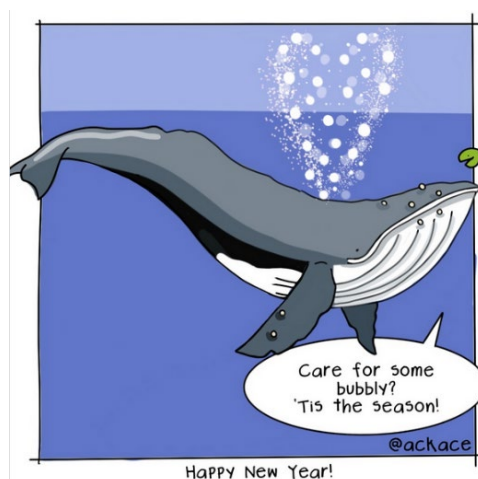
±0915      Please come to the **gangway for our landing**.  
±0930      **Kayakers:** Please come to the **Bar**.

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

*In the middle of the afternoon, we aim to reach **Deception Island** and visit **Whalers Bay**, located within the flooded caldera of this **active volcano**. This historic site features the remains of an early 20th-century whaling station, including old oil tanks, abandoned buildings, and whale bones along the black volcanic beach. **Please listen for announcement concerning timing.***

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

±14:30      Please come to the **zodiac boarding area for our landing**.  
1815      **Daily Recap** Please join The Expedition Team in the **Lounge**.  
1900      **Plated dinner** will be served in the **Dining Room**.



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

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

*Today we begin our activity program. If you're unsure about your activities schedule, please check for details at reception. If you're not registered for kayaking or mountaineering, It means that you're joining the zodiac cruise this morning.*

±0745      **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to **the lecture room**.  
±0815      **Zodiac cruise** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
±0845      **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
  
1200      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon we'd like to offer a landing at Orne Island, a small but scenic island known for its Chinstrap penguin colony and Antarctic landscapes.*

±1545      **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to **the Lecture Room**.  
±1430      **Landing** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
±1515      **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
  
1815      **Daily Recap** Please join The Expedition Team in **the Lounge**.  
1900      **Buffer dinner** will be served in the **Dining Room**.  
  
TBA      **Campers** - Please come to the **zodiac boarding area**, we will take you ashore for the night. *Please listen for announcements.*

*"Antarctica has 90 percent of the world's ice, and God help us if it melts, whales will be swimming in the streets of New York." — Jacques-Yves Cousteau, French naval officer, oceanographer and filmmaker.*





**Antarctica - Basecamp**  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**  
**Expedition Morning and Pleneau**

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

*This morning, we are having an **expedition morning**. We hope to offer a zodiac cruise and Kayaking.  
**Please listen for announcements.***

±0930      **Zodiac cruise** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
±0945      **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **bar**).

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

*For the afternoon we're pleased to offer a zodiac cruise around the spectacular Pleneau Islands. Pleneau is often called the "iceberg graveyard" due to the stunning collection of massive icebergs that run aground in its shallow waters. As we navigate through this archipelago, you'll have the opportunity to witness these ice formations up close, along with the chance to spot various seals, penguins and whales.*

±1400      **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **lecture room**  
±1430      **Zodiac cruise** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
±1430      **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **bar**).

1815      **Daily Recap** Please join The Expedition Team in the **Lounge**.  
1900      **Buffer dinner** will be served in the **Dining Room**.

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

*"Even if you never have the chance to see or touch the ocean, the ocean touches you with every breath you take, every drop of water you drink, every bite you consume. Everyone, everywhere is inextricably connected to and utterly dependent upon the existence of the sea"- Sylvia Earl, American marine biologist, oceanographer, explorer, writer, and lecturer.*

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

*This morning, we invite you for a landing and a cruise at Yalour island, a small island home to one of the largest Adélie penguin colonies in the region, with thousands of breeding pairs returning each summer.*

±0815 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **lecture room**.  
±0845 **Landing** - please come to the **Gangway**.  
±0845 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **bar**).

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

*This afternoon we're pleased to offer a landing at Port Charcot, a historic site on Booth Island along the Antarctic Peninsula. It was named after the father of the famous French explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot, who led the French Antarctic Expedition (1903-1905) and wintered here aboard his ship, the Français. During their time at this remote outpost, Charcot and his crew conducted valuable scientific research and surveyed the surrounding coastline. The site features the remains of a stone cairn and refuge hut built by Charcot's expedition, serving as a tangible connection to the heroic age of Antarctic exploration.*

±1330 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **lecture room**.  
±1400 **Landing** - please come to the **Gangway**.  
±1415 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **bar**).

1815 **Daily Recap** Please join The Expedition Team in the **Lounge**.  
1900 **Plated dinner** will be served in the **Dining Room**.

*After dinner, we're going to attempt to navigate through the Lemaire Channel. This narrow passage - often called "Kodak Gap" by photographers - cuts between Booth Island and the Antarctic Peninsula, with steep cliffs rising on both sides. The channel is only about 11 kilometres long and can be as narrow as 700 meters at some points, making it one of the most photogenic and thrilling passages in Antarctica. However, it's also frequently blocked by ice, so whether we can make it through depends entirely on the conditions we encounter.*



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

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

*This morning, we invite you for a continental landing at stunning Neko Harbour. Neko Harbour is a beautiful inlet known for its massive, calving glaciers, towering peaks, and abundant wildlife. Especially gentoo penguins, and seals can be observed here and on the way in we hope to spot some whales. Neko Harbour was named after the Scottish whaling ship Neko which was active in this area from 1910-1925.*

±0830      **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **lecture room**.  
±0845      **Landing** - please come to the **gangway**.  
±0845      **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **Bar**).

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

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

1200      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*For the afternoon we plan to take you on a scenic zodiac cruise around Brown Station. It's also called Paradise Harbour and for good reason as it offers stunning glaciers, beautiful landscapes and often a good variety of wildlife. During this time of the year Brown Station is manned by scientists who stay here for about two months during the summer.*

±1315      **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **lecture room**.  
±1345      **Zodiac cruise** - please come to the **Gangway**.  
±1345      **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **Bar**)

1815      **Daily Recap** Please join The Expedition Team at the **bar**.  
1900      **Buffer dinner** will be served in the **Dining Room**.

*"The guy who invented the wind chill factor was buried yesterday.  
He was 82 but felt like 64."*



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

*We have planned more penguins for you this morning! Damoy Point offers a nice leg stretch leading to several Gentoo penguin colonies while the views from all directions are simply amazing. We also intend to open the famous hut which served as a lounge for explorers and scientists who were waiting for their flights back in the days. Nowadays it functions as a museum, and it's maintained by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust.*

±0830      **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **gangway**.  
±0845      **Landing** please come to the **Gangway**.  
±0845      **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **bar**).

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

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

±1345      **Presentation from The UK Antarctic Heritage Trust in the bar.**  
±1400      **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **ganway**.  
±1445      **Landing** - please come to the **Gangway**.  
±1445      **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **Bar**).

1815      **Daily Recap** Please join The Expedition Team in the **bar**.  
1900      **Buffer dinner** will be served in the **Dining Room**.

Find the 7 differences:



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

*Foyn Harbour is a historic whaling anchorage in Antarctica's Wilhelmina Bay, famous for the wreck of the Norwegian whaling factory ship Governoren, which caught fire and was grounded there in 1915, becoming a haunting reminder of the whaling era. With a little bit of luck, we also hope to spot some whales here as well.*

±0830 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
±0845 **Zodiac cruise** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
±0845 **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **bar**).  
  
1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*Palaver Point is a rocky headland on the west side of Two Hummock Island, Palmer Archipelago, Antarctica, famous for its noisy chinstrap penguin colonies, giving the point its name (meaning idle chatter).*

±1400 **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
±1430 **Landing** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
  
1815 **Daily Recap** Please join The Expedition Team in **bar**.  
1900 **Plated dinner** will be served in the **Dining Room**.

*"Antarctica is otherworldly, like nothing I've ever seen before. Stark, cold, beautiful desolation."  
— Mark Hoppus*



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

*This morning we intend to land at Cuverville Island. Cuverville is a prominent, rocky island in Antarctica's Errera Channel, famous for its massive Gentoo penguin colony, the largest on the Antarctic Peninsula. It was discovered by Adrien de Gerlache and it's named after French Vice Admiral Jules de Cuverville. Aside the large Gentoo colonies, it offers steep cliffs, boulder beaches, mosses, lichens, remnants of early whaling and often large icebergs that are stranded in front of the landing site.*

±0830      **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
±0815      **Zodiac cruise** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
±0845      **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **zodiac boarding area**).

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

*Foyn Harbour is a historic whaling anchorage in Antarctica's Wilhelmina Bay, famous for the wreck of the Norwegian whaling factory ship Governoren, which caught fire and was grounded there in 1915, becoming a haunting reminder of the whaling era. With a little bit of luck we also hope to spot some whales here as well.*

±1430      **Mountaineers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go) to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
±1445      **Zodiac cruise** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**.  
±1515      **Kayakers** - Please come (dressed & ready to go to the **zodiac boarding area**).

1815      **Daily Recap** Please join The Expedition Team in the **Lounge**.  
1900      **Buffer dinner** will be served in the **Dining Room**.

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



- 0745      **No wakeup call** – Enjoy your sleep in!
- 0800      **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0915      **Does planet earth have a heart?** Please – join Aitana for a story of ice, currents and courage.
- 1045      **Chloe** invites you to an enthusiastic lecture about **the drifting life of plankton**. Did you know the longest plankton is 60m long? Join the talk to see a picture of this giant!
- 1200      **Muck Boot Return** – We will call you by deck to return your: **clean muck boots, dry bags (if borrowed) and Rental gear** to the **boot room** on **Deck 3 forward**. You may keep your warm coat until the last minute, but please bring everything else when your deck is called. *Please Listen for announcements.*
- 1230      **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1430      **Koen** invites you in the **bar** for a personal story about his **humpback whale** encounters when he was a whale watch guide.
- 1600      Please join **Matt** in the **bar** for a live **photography editing workshop**.
- 1815      **Daily Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the bar for our daily recap.
- 1900      **Plated Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

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

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

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

0930 Please join **Paolo** in the **Bar** for a talk about **climate in Antarctica**.

1100 **Life on the deep seabed**, join **Joyce** in the bar, she will tell you what's beneath the ship.

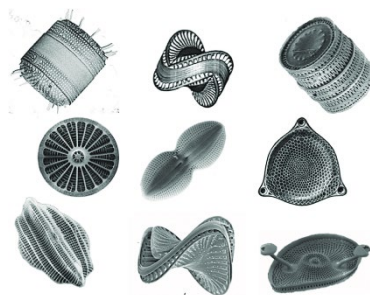
1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

1415 **Oceanwide Expeditions** - Please join **Koen** in the **bar** to hear about other **incredible expeditions that Oceanwide Expeditions offers**.

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

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

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



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

0715      **Wakeup call – Good Morning!**

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

***Please place your large/check-in luggage outside your cabin no later than 0730.***

*During breakfast we will collect your luggage and deposit it on the pier where it will be your responsibility to identify and collect each item.*

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

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

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

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

