



## Antarctica – Discovery & Learning

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

9<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2026

**On board *M/V Plancius***



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



## **Captain Matei Mocanu (Romania)**

and his international crew of 51 sailors

Chief Officer:	<b>Don Buren</b>	[Netherlands]
Second Officer:	<b>Anar Babaiev</b>	[Ukraine]
Third Officer:	<b>Piotr Filipkowski</b>	[Poland]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Oleksandr Lyebyedev</b>	[Ukraine]
Asst. Hotel Manager:	<b>Rolando Garcia</b>	[Philippines]
Head Chef:	<b>Ralf Barthel</b>	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	<b>Oleksii Shvets</b>	[Ukraine]
Ships Doctor:	<b>Laura Ouwerkerk</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Rustyn Mesdag</b>	[USA]
Asst. Expedition Leader:	<b>Charlotte Taplin</b>	[Great Britain]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Chloe Power</b>	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Esther Josten</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Katlyn Taylor</b>	[USA]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Lucia Romero</b>	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Marcelo Tarapow</b>	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Matthias Kopp</b>	[Germany]
Expedition & Camping Guide:	<b>Brenya Green</b>	[Canada]
Expedition & Camping Guide:	<b>Juan Berenstein</b>	[Argentina]
Expedition & Hiking Guide:	<b>Georg Hirn</b>	[Austria]
Expedition Guide & Translator:	<b>Zoy Li</b>	[China]
Kayak Leader:	<b>Julien Burellier</b>	[France]

**WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!**

## Day 1 – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of January. Ushuaia, Embarkation Day

18h00 GPS Position: 54°52.7'S / 067°54.4'W

Wind: W-3 • Sea: calm • Weather: partly cloudy • T<sub>air</sub>: +11°C • T<sub>water</sub>: +8°C



The day began with a light drizzle in Ushuaia, but it didn't take long for the weather to improve. Soon, calm conditions settled in: perfect for the start of our long-awaited expedition to Antarctica.

It was a very busy day at Ushuaia's pier. Out in the middle of it all, our beloved *Plancius* sat gracefully alongside, waiting for us.

Members of the expedition team greeted us at the pier and on board the ship. We boarded *Plancius* with a good mix of emotions: excitement, nerves, and eagerness.

Once on board, we settled into our cabins and took some time to explore the ship. This was followed by the mandatory safety briefing and drill, preparing us for the journey ahead.

Later, we gathered for the Captain's welcome, where we met our captain, Matei, along with the hotel manager, expedition leader, and the rest of the expedition team. Together, we raised a toast to a fantastic journey to Antarctica.

Dinner followed, and shortly after, we began sailing out of Ushuaia through the Beagle Channel. The views were stunning, with beautiful landscapes all around and birds filling the sky.

Some of us headed straight to bed while others enjoyed a drink at the bar, still taking in the peaceful scenery of the Beagle Channel as we sailed onward. The Drake Passage isn't expected to be too rough, but we're mentally prepared for whatever movement comes our way.

It was a calm, exciting first day, exactly the start we hoped for. We're ready for the adventure.

Let's go!



## Day 2 – Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> of January. On the Drake towards Antarctica

12h00 GPS Position: 56°46.3'S / 065°30.6'W

Wind: NNW2 • Sea: slight • Weather: partly cloudy • T<sub>air</sub>: +8°C • T<sub>water</sub>: +7°C

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After a quiet first night onboard, we heard the voice of our expedition leader Rustyn, coming over the ship's PA system, giving us a wakeup call. Entering the Drake Passage during the very early morning hours felt like quite a privilege, a reminder that even the most notorious stretches of ocean can reveal a gentler side. The sea greeted us in unusually calm spirits, with long, rolling swells instead of the fierce waves for which this passage is famous. Soft sunlight filtered through scattered clouds, illuminating a horizon that seemed endless and serene. Many of us sat outside on deck and enjoyed the unusual sunshine on the Drake.



In between the sunbathing, there were some mandatory briefings to attend to, these included our Zodiac, IAATO, and Biosecurity Briefing. All three are a crucial part of our journey to Antarctica. After we learned more about how tourism is managed here and what the role of the IAATO is – the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators, we also understood

why it is so important that we take necessary bio security measures. After we got our mug boots – the guides swear that they are the best boots we could possibly be using down here – we had to bring all our waterproof and outer layers of clothing and luggage into the lounge for them to be inspected and potentially cleaned by the guides so they would pass the bio



security check.

The ship moved steadily southward, its rhythm almost meditative. Seabirds accompanied us for hours—wandering albatrosses gliding effortlessly above the water, their vast wingspans barely touching the air. An unforgettable introduction to the southernmost waters of the world.



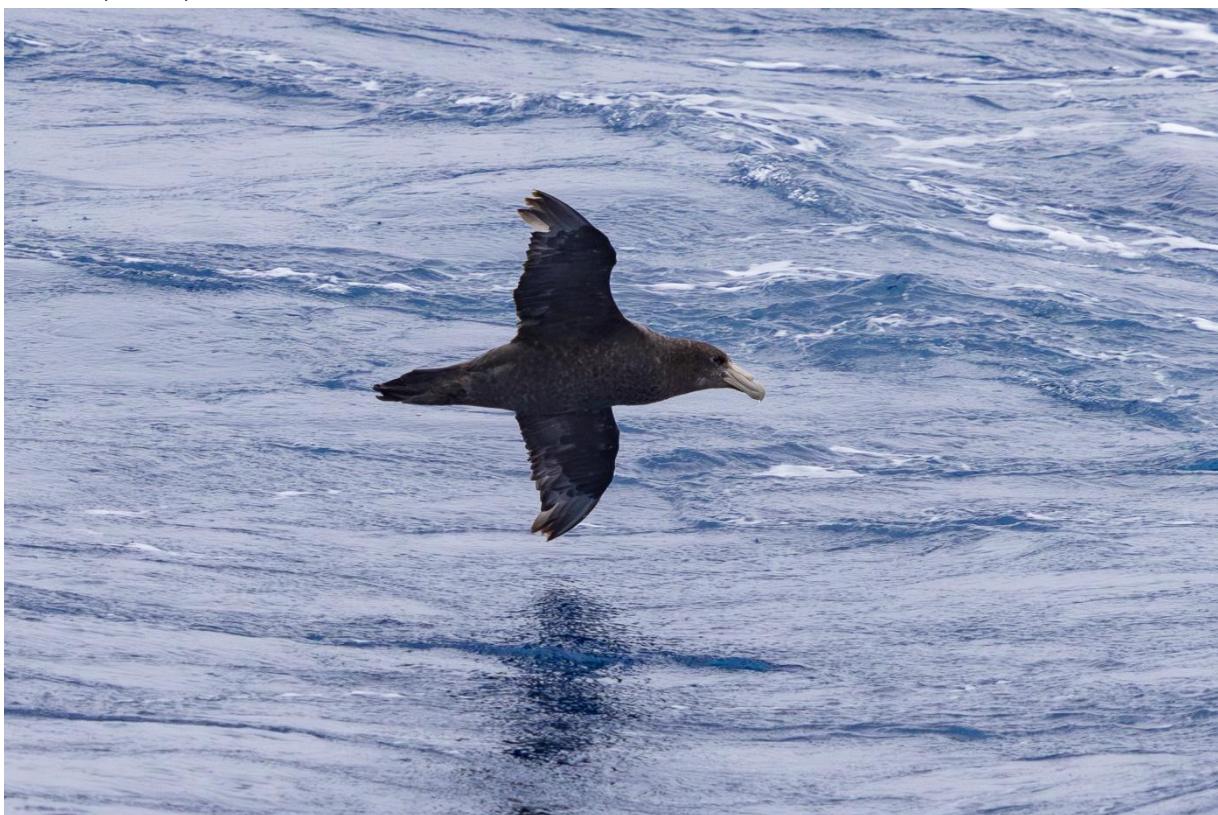
## Day 3 – Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> of January. Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 60°55.7'S / 063°05.1'W

Wind: NE-5 • Sea: slight • Weather: fog •  $T_{air}$ : +4°C •  $T_{water}$ : +5°C

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The sea state of the notorious Drake Passage remained unchanged, still no wind and our *Plancius* moved gently with the little swell. Since we crossed the Antarctic Convergence during the night, the temperature difference between water and air changed and with that, we lost the sunshine and we experienced foggy and partially quite wet air, a usual situation as our expedition team said. The Antarctic Convergence is an area in the ocean where cold water from Antarctica meets warmer water from the north. When these waters meet, they mix and cause lots of nutrients to rise to the surface. This makes the area very rich in sea life, like fish, birds, and whales.



During the morning hours our expedition team invited us for some briefings to get prepared for the coming operational days. Yesterday we heard the more general things, now we focussed more on our trip. Beside the “normal” landings on this trip we had the possibility to join kayaking, camping and hiking. Within our expedition guides there were experienced activity guides, Julien, the leader for kayaking, Brenya and Juan for camping and Georg for hiking. Each of them gave an explanation talk to their activity. We were all looking forward to starting the next day. Later during the day, the team offered us lectures, an “Introduction to Antarctica” with interesting and fun facts about the white continent, given by Brenya and about the “Life of Penguins on the Antarctic Peninsula” given by Lucia. In the later evening hours, once we had made it across the Drake, we reached the shelf area of the South Shetland Islands, an area where upwelling of nutrients happens. These regions are an important feeding ground for whales and birds, and we all kept our eyes peeled on the

waters. Our vigilance got rewarded, we spotted fin whales and spent some time with them. Even though the visibility wasn't perfect, everybody managed to be on the right side of PLANCIUS to see them, magical moments. Another busy day at sea with a lot of information and wildlife encounters was over, looking forward to see Antarctica.



## Day 4 – Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> of January. Elephant Point & Deception Island

12h00 GPS Position: 62°46.2'S / 060°57.4'W

Wind: NW-5 • Sea: calm • Weather: partly cloudy • T<sub>air</sub>: +4°C • T<sub>water</sub>: +3°C

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Finally! We made it to Antarctica! Our very first landing was called Elephant Point, located on Livingston Island, which is part of the South Shetlands, an island group just north of the Antarctic continent. The point was named after its slightly unusual inhabitants: the southern elephant seals that haul out on the beach. Our first experience boarding the zodiacs on the gangway was quite adventurous due to the big swells – our drivers told us that we were very lucky to be able to land at Elephant Point because the waves are often too high to land here. Overlooking the beach there are towering rocky cliffs and, in the water, we could spot many submerged rocks. From afar we could already smell the elephant seals and penguins. Once on land we were surprised of how green this island was. The two only vascular plants of Antarctica grow here: the Antarctic hair grass and the Antarctic pearlwort.





We spent the whole morning wandering along the beautiful beach, observing our very first Antarctic penguins, the gentoos, and watching the young elephant seals practicing their fighting skills. Our guides had the theory, that this place has become much more than just a haul out for these animals. Since we spotted so-called "super weaners" (exceptionally large elephant seals at weaning age), we could almost be certain that this island has become a breeding ground for the elephant seals by now.

Another interesting encounter on the island was the tent and "fortress" of a famous Russian explorer and adventurer named Fyodor Konyukhov. He is known for his many extraordinary voyages and world records. His current goal is to spend 4 months alone in his one-man research station on Elephant Point.

While we walked along the beach, the long hiking group scrambled up the mountain with Georg and the kayakers battled the waves with Julien, before we all went back to the ship for our well-deserved lunch break.

*Plancius* continued her course south. Next destination: Deception Island, the caldera of an active volcano that we were going to sail into. Rustyn made an announcement when we were about to pass through the so-called "Narrows", the collapsed rim of the volcano that led to the caldera filling up with sea water and turned it into a calm and safe harbour for ships. We landed in Whalers Bay, an old Norwegian whaling station – the perfect site for people who



love photographing abandoned places. Many of the old buildings are still visible and we could walk around the eerie whaling station. It was beautiful to see how nature was claiming back the land with many nesting kelp gulls and penguins that were resting on the dark volcanic beaches. Those of us who wanted to go for a longer walk could go up to a viewpoint named “Neptune’s window” which overlooked the entire bay and allowed a view out upon the open sea.

In the late afternoon we were shuttled back to our ship where we enjoyed a small recap of the day and our first dinner in Antarctica.

### **Elephant Point long hike**

Distance covered: 5km – 3.1mi, elevation gain: 84m – 275.6ft, duration: 2h15

Off to the first hike. After landing, we went along the Rotch Glacier through moss and mud. On the other side of the island, we saw elephant seals, who among other things watched us from a glacial lagoon. Respectfully, we turned back and climbed up a glacier moraine. By now, the group had split into a leisurely and a fast & furious group. From above, we had a great view over the Rotch Glacier! On the descent, we walked past a variety of small lakes, had a meeting with seals on the beach, passed through a narrow area, and enjoyed the penguin colony.



### **Kayak log Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – morning tour:**

#### **Livingston Island (South Shetlands) – Elephant Point (4km)**

We left Plancius by Zodiac and slipped into the kayaks off Elephant Point, Livingston Island, with that familiar South Shetlands feeling in the air: a bit of wind, a bit of chop, and a lot of moving grey. The swell outside the point had teeth, so we made the smart call early and tucked into the bay on the east side of Elephant Point, working the sheltered water where the shoreline could do the heavy lifting for us.

At first the world was all muted tones. Low cloud pressed down on the ridges and the sea wore a steel colour, flecked by wind-ruffle. Along the beach, southern elephant seals lay in their massive stillness, scattered like boulders with breath. Every now and then a head lifted, an eye opened, and you could feel that calm, heavyweight presence watching us without



really caring that we were there.

We paddled steadily along the inside of the bay, keeping the group tight and the rhythm easy, letting the chop dictate the cadence rather than fighting it. Then – almost as if someone turned a dial – the light changed. The clouds broke in places, and patches of blue sky opened above us. Sunlight slid across the water and picked out detail in the ice-blue textures of the coast. The same landscape that had looked austere minutes earlier suddenly felt crisp and alive.

Wildlife did the rest. Chinstrap penguins (the “strap” clear even at distance) animated the shore, small and busy against the scale of the beach and the seals. Between strokes we watched them porpoise and shuffle, heard the sharp calls carry over the water, and took in those classic Antarctic contrasts: sleek black backs, white faces, and that bold line under the chin that looks like it was inked on by hand.

We covered about 4 km in total, a compact morning that had everything a Shetlands paddle should: a little weather to keep you honest, sheltered water to keep it safe, and moments of pure clarity when the sky lifts and the whole scene opens up. Back in the Zodiacs, faces

were bright with salt and sun—exactly the kind of half-day that reminds you why you come this far south in the first place.

Highlights: resting southern elephant seals hauled out along the beach, chinstrap penguins close to shore, active and vocal, weather shift from grey to blue sky, transforming the



visibility and mood.

#### **Kayak log Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – afternoon tour:**

#### **Deception Island (South Shetlands), Whalers Bay to Neptune's Window**

We launched from Whalers Bay under a sky that felt almost unreal for Deception Island: bright blue, a few clean-edged clouds, and the kind of calm you don't expect inside an active volcanic ring. The water in Port Foster lay surprisingly settled, and for once the island's usual wind tricks stayed quiet long enough to let us enjoy the place on its own terms.

Paddling north, we held a steady line with the rusting silhouettes of the old whaling station to one side, reminders of a rougher era stranded on black volcanic sand. It's a strange contrast here: human history scattered across ash and pumice, and behind it the bigger story—we were kayaking inside a flooded caldera, the sea filling the heart of a volcano. Even on a calm day, Deception has a way of making you feel small and alert at the same time.



Just north of Whalers Bay we slipped into the shallow geothermal lagoon known as Kroner Lake. It was barely deep enough in places—exactly the kind of “kayak-only” passage where you remember how little water you truly need to keep moving. At the far end, steam rose off the warmer ground and water, a low, drifting veil that made the whole scene feel alive and slightly unreal, as if the island was quietly breathing beneath our hulls.

From there we eased back out and continued along the coast toward Neptune’s Window, the volcanic cliffs glowing with ochres and oranges where ash layers and rock bands cut sharp lines across the landscape. Chinstrap penguins dotted the shoreline in small groups, and above us Antarctic shags (the local cormorants) nested on ledges, dark birds set against bright mineral-stained rock. In the stillness you could hear wingbeats, calls, and the faint hiss of water on volcanic sand—Deception’s own soundtrack.



We finished the afternoon with roughly 4 km on the water: calm conditions, big geology, and that signature Deception atmosphere—beautiful, eerie, and unforgettable.

Highlights: kayaking within Port Foster caldera: the feeling of paddling inside an active volcano, Kroner Lake geothermal lagoon with visible steam/evaporation, Chinstrap penguins and nesting Antarctic shags on vividly colored volcanic cliffs.

## Day 5 – Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> of January. Cuverville & Danco Island

12h00 GPS Position: 64°40.5'S / 062°37.2'W

Wind: NNE-3 • Sea: smooth • Weather: overcast • T<sub>air</sub>: +3°C • T<sub>water</sub>: +2°C

Over night the ship continued heading south into the Errera Channel, also known as “downtown Antarctica”, due to the many great landing sites, penguin colonies, majestic glaciers and spectacular panoramas that we find here. In the morning, we landed at Cuverville Island where we had the possibility to spend a lot of time observing



gentoo penguins and their chicks. For those who wanted to walk a bit further, the guides routed out a trail that led to a beautiful viewpoint above the colonies from where we could oversee the entire bay. This included a bit of scrambling over rocks and sliding down a slippery snow track, but the view was definitely worth the effort.

The afternoon consisted of a zodiac cruise and kayak tour in the vicinity of Danco Island while the long hike led up the island that offered amazing Antarctic panoramas. On the water we were soon greeted by humpback whales that were feeding in the bay. We circumnavigated Danco Island and discovered many exciting things en route. Towering icebergs, imposing glaciers and our first sightings of different Antarctic seals. A Weddell seal was dozing on an ice flow making soft whistling sounds while sleeping. A bit further we found another type of seal and an apex predator of the area: a Leopard seal. They don't hunt when they are resting on an ice floe and since it didn't show any sign of disturbance, we could drift

around it and get some really good views on this impressive animal.



We returned after a truly beautiful afternoon out on the water. For some of us there was time to rest now, for others the adventures of the day were not over yet. The ship relocated to Kerr Point, where approximately half

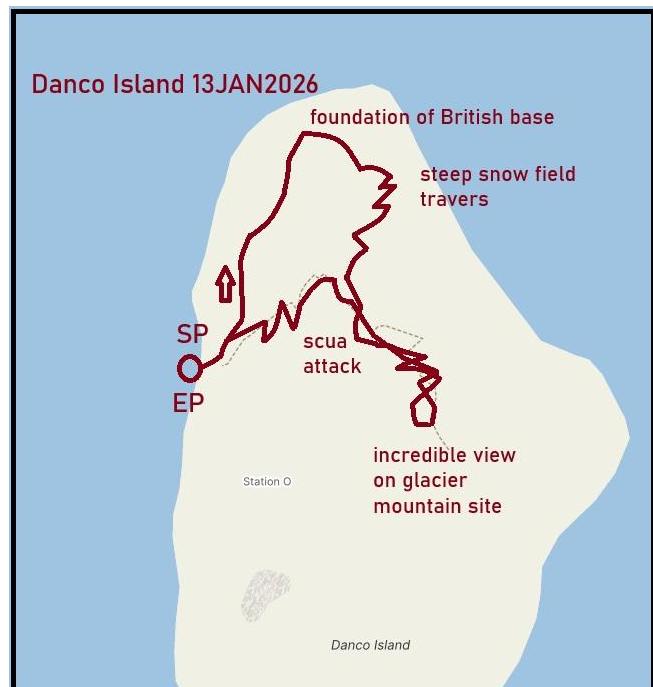
of the guests went camping on the ice that night. It could not have been a better day for being out there in the night. The evening colours that surrounded us and the setting sun on the glaciated mountains were a sight we will not easily forget. It was a cold night and many of us did not get a whole lot of sleep, but this incredible experience will last us a lifetime! Sleeping in the snow under the summer sky of Antarctica...



### Danco Island long hike

Distance covered: 4km – 2.5mi, elevation gain: 189m – 275.6ft, duration: 2h15

26 daring hikers climbed to the highest point of Danco Island. But first, we visited the remains of a British base. No one balked at the steep, sweat-inducing ascent, which first led up a steep snowfield. Then we went through many penguin colonies on a scree-covered path up to the highest point, a glaciated summit with a magnificent view of the mountains ahead of us. After a proper break, we descended over loose terrain, being careful and keeping distance from



the sneezing penguins. A skua attack forced us to find a different route down, which again led over a snowfield.

**Kayak log Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> – morning tour:**

**Cuverville Island (Gerlache Strait): Full Circumnavigation (~4.8 km)**

We left *Plancius* by Zodiac and stepped into the kayaks off the north end of Cuverville Island, the light already telling us what kind of morning it would be: soft grey skies, low contrast, and that quiet Antarctic stillness where even the smallest sound carries. With barely any wind, the sea was calm enough to let the ice do its slow drift around us—small bergs and brash pieces moving like a scattered, floating border.

We set off clockwise and almost immediately met the island's first claim to fame: a bustling Gentoo penguin colony near the shoreline. From the water you get the best seat in the house—gentoos slicing through the shallows, popping up again like corks, then rocketing onto the beach with that unmistakable, purposeful waddle. The colony's noise and motion filled the bay for a few minutes, and then, a few strokes later, the coast shifted and the island became something else entirely.



Cuverville's north-west cliffs rose up in dark, vertical faces, cut by snow and stained by meltwater lines. We kept a respectful distance from the rock and any potential ice fall, letting the route breathe while still staying close enough to feel the scale. Out in the channel, the surrounding glacier fronts framed the horizon in every direction—white walls and blue crevasses—so even under a flat sky the scene had depth: ice in the water, ice on the land, ice in the distance.

As we continued around, the wildlife shifted with the geology. Farther toward the south-west side we spotted Antarctic shags on ledges, their dark shapes tucked into the cliff bands, perfectly placed above the waterline. The paddling stayed smooth and steady, the group rhythm settling into that long, quiet cadence you only get when conditions cooperate, and everyone is simply present.

The highlight was as simple as it was satisfying: we completed a full circumnavigation of Cuverville Island, roughly 4.8 km of uninterrupted shoreline perspective. Grey sky, calm water, drifting ice—and that rare feeling of having traced an entire island by paddle, one continuous line through a landscape made of glaciers and sea.

Highlights: clockwise full circumnavigation of Cuverville Island (~4.8 km), Gentoo penguins near the northern colony, calm water with scattered small icebergs and panoramic views of surrounding glaciers.

## **Kayak log Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> – morning tour:**

### **Danco Island (Errera Channel) – Brash Ice Navigation & West Coast Run (~5 km)**

We were dropped off at the north end of Danco Island, and the first thing that hit us wasn't wind or swell—it was ice. Big, sculpted bergs loomed nearby, some towering well above our heads, and the west side was partially choked with the kind of traffic you don't argue with. With calm water and excellent visibility, it looked deceptively "easy" ... until you read the lanes and realize the ice is writing the route for you.

Our initial plan was to explore the east side, hoping for a quieter line. Instead, the current had been quietly doing its work, pressing more and more brash and small bergy bits against that shore. We threaded into it anyway, easing through a maze of brash ice and loose chunks, picking careful gaps, keeping the group compact and the pace slow. It was classic Antarctic paddling: not hard, but demanding constant attention—blade placement, hull control, and the discipline to stop and reassess before a tidy corridor becomes a closing door.

We met a couple of Weddell seals hauled out on the ice, unbothered and heavy-lidded in the stillness—perfect ambassadors for a calm afternoon. But the ice kept thickening ahead, and it became clear the "easy" option was turning into an unnecessary squeeze. So, we made the call: turn back, reset, and commit to the longer, cleaner line.



From there we committed to the west coast of Danco, following the shoreline all the way toward the southern point. With the route decided, the paddle opened into a smooth, satisfying rhythm. Gentoo penguins were everywhere—on the beaches and snow-free patches, in the shallows, and commuting in and out of the water with that purposeful gentoo energy. (Danco is a known gentoo site, and it showed.)

Around us, the soundscape was pure peninsula: the occasional crack and distant boom from the surrounding glaciers, the whisper of water against ice, and the small, sharp calls of birds. Above the darker rock bands, we also noticed red snow algae staining sections of the névés toward the south—those subtle pink-red patches that feel almost unreal until you remember they're part of the peninsula's summer biology. (Snow algae can be extensive here in late season.)



Later in the paddle, the light finally softened. The sun broke through just enough to throw a warm sheen across the mountains and icefields to the west—Rongé Island's high ridges, including Mount Britannia, standing out more clearly as the colors sharpened and the shadows deepened.

We finished with about 5 km on the water: a calm afternoon, technically straightforward, but shaped by good decision-making—reading the ice, adapting the plan, and keeping a safe margin around the big bergs.

Highlights: brash-ice route finding and a clean plan change when the east side tightened up, Weddell seals hauled out on ice, plus constant Gentoo penguin activity, late sunlight lighting up the western skyline toward Rongé Island / Mount Britannia.

## Day 6 – Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> of January. Andvord Bay & Orne Harbour

12h00 GPS Position: 64°50.3'S / 062°40.4'W

Wind: SE-2 • Sea: rippled • Weather: overcast • T<sub>air</sub>: +2°C • T<sub>water</sub>: +2°C

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The morning was a bright, early (and cold!) one for some, with the campers awaking in their bivvy bag cocoons dusted with overnight snow at Kerr Point. The campers' cold and tired faces eagerly awaited their zodiac chariots back to the warmth and comfort of Plancius, where some caught up on sleep, and others grazed on the fresh pastries whilst gazing out at the morning sun with their morning coffee.

After the 'real' wake up call for the rest of us, breakfast was served, and we soon got ready for our morning's activities. We joined the expedition team in the zodiacs for a cruise through Andvord Bay, where we had no idea what to expect, as nature is unpredictable and we are at the mercy of the ocean. Within the first few minutes of the cruise, we were delighted with none other than the majestic humpback whale, and not one, but many, swimming straight towards us! We couldn't believe our luck! We spent the next few hours weaving through icebergs and brash ice finding many more humpbacks. Some were even sleeping at the surface, a behaviour called 'logging' (due to the uncanny resemblance of a log floating at the surface) were they rest for around 30 minutes at a time.



We also spotted numerous gentoo penguins on ice floes, Wilson's storm petrels dancing on the surface and kelp gulls flying above. As we neared towards the end of our zodiac cruise,

the cold started to creep in and what other way to warm up than a surprise zodiac filled with the hotel and bridge team serving rum and hot chocolate! It was the sweetest way to warm up.



After lunch, we headed back out into the elements to Orne Harbour, with the weather turning on a show for us with some beautiful afternoon sun! The kayakers headed out into the brash ice towards the glacier, while the rest of us landed ashore, on the continent at last! Although we had visited many places already on our trip, this landing was on the actual Antarctic continent itself rather than an island, so lots of photo opportunities were had with the Antarctic flag, and lots of 7th continents were ticked off!



Today's landing there was only one route - up! We visited a chinstrap penguin colony, and these little birds are often referred to as the mountaineer of penguins as they can sometimes be found nesting on rocky outcrops up to 160 m above sea level! What crazy little creatures! So upwards we went to the top of the ridge to observe the colony, with lots of switchbacks made in the snowy path to help us clumsy humans walk up easier. It was such a glorious view from the top, looking down at the bay in the glimmery afternoon sun with the chirps of chinstrap chicks in our ears.

Back on board, during Rustyn's daily briefing and recap, we got rudely interrupted by an incredible wildlife encounter - a pod of over 20 orcas! We rushed outside with our cameras and warm clothing and witnessed a true spectacle of nature. Mixing pods of small Type B (Gerlache) killer whales had come together to socialise possibly after a successful hunt of

their preferred prey, penguins. There are five ecotypes of orca down here in Antarctica, Type A, Large Type B (pack ice), Small Type B (Gerlache), Type C (Ross Sea) and Type D (Subantarctic). These are technically still all the same species, but eventually they may get divided into subspecies due to their morphological, ecological and distributional differences.



After the orca show, we were treated with another scrumptious dinner by the hotel team, and the next group of campers set off for their evening camp out at Damoy Point. It was yet another wonderful and eventful day in Antarctica, some of us headed off to bed early, others socialised in the main lounge with drinks and board games and sharing stories of our world



travels and home lives. The Plancius was really becoming a home away from home.

### **Kayak Log Wednesday 14 – Morning tour:**

#### **Andvord Bay (Gerlache Strait) – West Shore Paddle (~5 km)**

We were dropped by Zodiac onto the north-west side of Andvord Bay, the kind of quiet Antarctic morning that feels almost staged: calm sea, little wind, and a ceiling of grey that softened every edge. We launched smoothly and set a course south-east along the coastline, keeping the group tight and the pace measured, letting the bay draw us deeper into its glacial amphitheater.

At first the light was flat and cold, but Andvord doesn't need sunshine to be dramatic. The shoreline carried that familiar mix of rock, snow, and hanging ice, with icebergs scattered like carved monuments, some small, some larger pieces with an impossible, clean blue glowing through their flanks. The soundscape was pure peninsula: the hush of paddles, the occasional crack from somewhere unseen, and the low, distant groan of glaciers settling into



the sea.

Then the bay reminded us why glacier distance rules matter. Ahead, a section of front shed a serac with a sudden, heavy urgency: ice collapsing into water, the aftermath rolling out as a pulse you could feel even from where we were. We were already holding a conservative

margin, and the moment turned into a powerful, real-time lesson: in Andvord Bay, the glaciers don't give warnings; they just happen. (It's a dynamic place, with regular calving around the bay.)

As the morning opened, the cloud began to break. Blue patches appeared between the layers, and the scene sharpened: ridges, crevasses, and the steeper faces around the bay standing out in higher contrast. Above the shoreline, the surrounding high ground—features such as Mount Hoegh and Dallmeyer Peak on the bay's western side—gave the whole fjord a sense of scale that only grows as you move.

And then came the encounter that resets your internal compass. A humpback whale surfaced close—quiet, unhurried, passing within roughly fifteen metres of the kayaks. No drama, no rush, just a slow, deliberate presence moving through the bay as if we were the ones drifting. It lingered in the area, and in that calm water it felt very much like feeding behaviour—steady, purposeful, and completely at home.

Near the end of the paddle, as we were still absorbing everything Andvord had shown us, the day offered one more surprise: Zodiacs arrived with hot chocolate, delivered right there on the water. Warm cups in cold hands, glaciers all around, and a brief pause where everyone just looked up and listened—ice rumbling in the distance, the bay breathing, the moment perfectly placed.

We covered about 5 km in total: calm, controlled paddling with a route shaped by good judgement, big ice awareness, and the kind of wildlife encounter you don't forget.

Highlights: serac fall / calving event observed safely at distance, close, calm humpback whale encounter, hot chocolate delivered by Zodiac in the middle of Andvord's glacier arena.



### **Kayak log Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> – Afternoon tour:**

#### **Orne Harbour (Gerlache Strait) – Sheltered Coves & Brash-Ice Slalom (~5 km)**

Orne Harbour greeted us with a very Antarctic contradiction: a strong WSW breeze on the outside, but glassy water once we tucked into the protected pockets of the harbour. We launched under a huge blue sky, the wind having scrubbed the air clean and pushed the clouds into crisp, high-contrast shapes. Orne itself is a compact, steep-walled inlet on the west coast of Graham Land, famous for tight scenery and dramatic peaks rising straight from the sea.

With the wind pressing from the southwest, we kept the paddle plan conservative and worked the sheltered bays on the eastern side of the harbour, using the coastline as a windbreak. The water was littered with bergy bits and brash ice—enough to force constant micro-decisions, but not so much that it stopped us moving. We weaved through the pieces

in a slow, controlled slalom, enjoying the sound that only sea ice makes: tiny air bubbles escaping with a fizzing, soda-water crackle as the ice softened in the mild surface melt. The mountains framed everything. Spigot Peak—that dark, unmistakable spire marking the southern side of the harbour entrance—was our constant reference point, and farther along the skyline the needle-like profile of Mount Dedo (Zeiss Needle) added to the jagged, volcanic drama of the Arctowski Peninsula coast. The glaciers around the inlet looked close enough to touch, but we kept a deliberate distance off any active fronts—ice has a way of reminding you, without warning, that it is never truly still.



Toward the end of the route, we spotted Weddell seals resting on a drifting floe, relaxed and unbothered as we passed at a respectful range. The breeze stayed with us, but inside the harbour there was no swell, clean air, calm water, and that satisfying feeling of navigating through moving ice without needing to fight the sea.

We finished with roughly 5 km on the water: a bright, wind-polished afternoon where the route was shaped by good judgement, staying sheltered, reading the ice, and letting Orne Harbour deliver its best kind of Antarctic atmosphere.

Highlights: wind outside, calm water inside: classic shelter strategy in Orne



Harbour, brash-ice slalom with the “soda-water” fizz of air bubbles escaping melting ice, Weddell seals hauled out on a drifting piece of ice.

## Day 7 – Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> of January. Damoy Point and Port Lockroy

12h00 GPS Position: 64°48.2'S / 063°29.7'W

Wind: SW-2 • Sea: calm • Weather: overcast • T<sub>air</sub>: +3°C • T<sub>water</sub>: +2°C

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The day began very early aboard *MV Plancius* as we made our way into the calm waters of Dorian Bay under the soft light of the Antarctic morning. Before breakfast, the expedition team launched Zodiacs to retrieve our overnight campers, who had spent an unforgettable night ashore. As the campers were brought back onboard, tired but smiling faces told the story of a truly special experience, having slept surrounded by towering peaks, glaciers, and the unmistakable sounds of Antarctica.

Following a short break, we returned to the same landing site later in the morning. Conditions remained excellent, allowing for a smooth landing at Dorian Bay. Once ashore, guests visited the historic Damoy Hut, a former British Antarctic Survey facility, offering a fascinating glimpse into the logistical challenges and daily life of early Antarctic operations. From there, we made our way to nearby penguin rookeries, where gentoo penguins were busy nesting and commuting along well-worn penguin highways. The lively scenes provided fantastic opportunities for observation and photography.



To round off the morning’s activities, the bravest among us took part in a polar plunge. Amid cheers and encouragement from the shore, we plunged into the icy Antarctic waters,

emerging exhilarated and quickly wrapped in warm towels — a highlight for many and a memory that will last a lifetime.

After an eventful morning, we returned to Plancius for a well-earned lunch and some time to warm up while the ship repositioned for the afternoon activities. Our next destination was Port Lockroy, where we went ashore to visit the historic base, museum, and famous Antarctic post office, the southernmost post office of the world! Many postcards were sent to all corners of the world today! We explored the surrounding area, enjoying close encounters with penguins and taking in the remarkable scenery.



Meanwhile, Zodiacs cruised around Jouglar Point, where the shoreline was bustling with wildlife. Penguins were everywhere, moving between nests and the sea, while blue-eyed cormorants nested along the rocky outcrops. The combination of abundant wildlife, calm conditions, and dramatic ice formations made for an exceptional afternoon on the water.

As we returned to the ship, the expedition team gathered everyone in the lounge to outline plans for our final day of operations in Antarctica. With the end of the voyage approaching, the evening was a celebration of everything we had experienced together. A BBQ was held on the outside deck, where guests and crew enjoyed good food, music, and each other's company. Dancing followed, with laughter and smiles all around, as Plancius gently sailed northwards again — a perfect ending to another incredible day in the Antarctic Peninsula.

#### **Kayak log Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> – Morning tour:**

**Damoy Point & Dorian Bay (Wiencke Island) – Casabianca Island Loop (~5 km)**

We began the morning a couple of kilometers north of Damoy Point, dropping into the kayaks and setting a gentle course south along the coastline. A light westerly wind was in the system, enough to raise a small chop whenever we were exposed, but most of the time the land and ice did what they do best here—offering shelter in the right places if you read the shoreline well. We kept a respectful, safety-minded distance off the glacier faces, letting the bay draw us in rather than trying to “take” it.



The sky was classic peninsula: mostly overcast, but with occasional blue breaks that turned the landscape into a theatre of contrast—dark rock, bright snow, and sudden highlights sliding across the water. Bergy bits drifted through the bay like scattered punctuation marks, just enough ice to keep us alert and weaving, but nothing that slowed the pace. Inside Dorian Bay, the feeling is always intimate: a protected bowl of water with glaciers close enough to dominate the view, but far enough away—if you keep your distance—to feel safe.

As we moved deeper toward Damoy, penguin life started to thicken. The shoreline carried the unmistakable signs before you even saw the birds: the stained rock, the tracks, and then—there it was—the smell. That warm, blunt guano tang that somehow makes the whole place feel more alive. We passed the area around the huts, with views toward the historic Argentine refuge and the simple, practical structures that speak of this bay’s long operational history. Nearby, Gentoo penguins were the most obvious presence.

From Dorian Bay we pushed out to the small, low silhouette of Casabianca Island, crossing a slightly more exposed stretch where the westerly breeze had room to build a light clapot. We rounded the island’s west side and completed a neat little loop—one of those satisfying “mini-circumnavigations” where every few minutes the view changes: rock and snow on one flank, open water and bergy bits on the other, and glaciers framing the horizon.

Back inside Dorian Bay, the morning ended in the best possible way: the group went for



a polar plunge, a burst of laughter and adrenaline in a place that already feels like the edge of the world. We finished with roughly 5 km paddled—calm, scenic, and full of those small, sensory details that make Antarctica feel real: the light, the ice, the birds, and that unmistakable penguin-scented air.

Highlights: working the shoreline shelter into Dorian Bay under shifting light, close coastal access by kayak, landing options among rocks thanks to shallow draft, Casabianca Island loop and the polar plunge finale (plus the ever-present guano “perfume”).

**Kayak log Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> – Afternoon tour:**

**Port Lockroy (Goudier Island) – Granite Channels & Historic Shoreline (~4.8 km)**

We were dropped slightly west of Port Lockroy, then eased toward the shoreline where Gentoo penguins animate the rocks with constant movement. The sky stayed mostly grey, but every so often it opened just enough to throw shafts of sunlight onto the slopes above—those fleeting spotlights that make the peninsula feel like a stage set, with the scenery changing minute by minute.

The afternoon quickly became a game of precision. With little wind and calm water, we could take advantage of the kayaks’ shallow draft and work the coastline properly—threading through narrow granite channels, slaloming around low rocks and scattered ice, and using the quiet conditions to get close without feeling rushed. Low tide helped in a strange way: more rock was exposed, which made the route look busier, but it also revealed the structure of the place. And for us, it was perfect—just enough complexity to be fun, never enough to be stressful.



Among the snow patches and pale rocks, we spotted what looked like a couple of ordinary boulders—until they breathed. Weddell seals, so well camouflaged against the snowy slabs that from a distance you’d swear they were stone. We kept a respectful line and watched them do what Weddells do best: rest, unbothered, perfectly adapted to being almost invisible in their own world.

As we approached the Port Lockroy area, the human history came into focus. The famous base sat tucked against the shoreline, framed by granite and ice, and nearby the unmistakable sight of a whale skeleton lay on the rocks—skull and vertebrae clearly visible, with penguins milling behind it as if the whole scene belonged to them now. It's one of those very Antarctic images: relics of old oceans and old expeditions sitting quietly beside today's wildlife.

We completed a full loop around Goudier Island, taking our time along the deeply indented coast where every corner reveals another small cove, another rock garden, another fresh angle on the surrounding peaks. And then we found something unexpected: a small French sailing yacht anchored nearby. I chatted with the crew and heard their story—departing Toulon last year, overwintering in Brazil, and then crossing the Drake Passage with just two people on a roughly 10-metre boat. Brave, committed, and a reminder that Antarctica still attracts the kind of travelers who choose the hard way on purpose.

We finished with about 4.8 km paddled—an afternoon defined by calm water, intricate granite navigation, wildlife surprises, and the rare pleasure of exploring Port Lockroy's coastline at kayak speed. Back on board, the group swapped kayak booties for muck boots and headed straight to the base to post their Antarctic postcards—an iconic end to a day that already felt like a postcard.



Highlights: low-tide granite slalom and close shoreline exploration thanks to shallow draft, Weddell seals so camouflaged they looked like rocks until they moved, whale skeleton on the shoreline, full Goudier Island loop, and the encounter with a brave French yacht crew.

## Day 8 – Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> of January. Half Moon Island & Edinburgh Hill

12h00 GPS Position: 62°34.5'S / 059°49.6'W

Wind: SW-2 • Sea: calm • Weather: overcast • T<sub>air</sub>: +2°C • T<sub>water</sub>: +2°C

A late wakeup call let us rest very well facing the last day in Antarctica of this unforgettable trip that was slowly coming to an end, but we had a few hours of adventure ahead of us. We needed that extra energy today because the farewell was coming so we got ourselves prepared for some sad moments. We spent days getting to know incredible and pristine places, Antarctic flora and fauna, landscapes, icebergs never seen before, but also, we shared our time with amazing people from many different latitudes, different countries, who told us their experiences, feelings and expectations.



This morning, we visited Half Moon Island where we discovered the debris of an old whaling boat right next to our landing site, testimony of an epoch that hopefully never will come again. The long hikers followed Georg and Marcelo to the top of the hill where we saw many skuas (*Stercorarius maccormicki*) nesting and an amazing view both sides of the island. The Argentine base called Camara Station was closed. It was built in 1953 and its original name was Moon Bay Station, but a couple of years later the name changed in honour of Lieutenant Juan Camara, an Argentine navy pilot who died in Antarctica, close to this island, on January 16th of 1955. Yes, it is great coincidence, he died 71 years ago, exactly the same day.



While the long hikers were overlooking the bay, other lucky guests got to see a King penguin (*Aptenodytes Patagonicus*) and a Macaroni (*Eudyptes Chrysolophus*), both unusual visitors in this area.

*Plancius* sailed to the north and during the afternoon we had the opportunity to visit Edinburgh Hill, a volcanic cliff with towering geometric columns of basalt rock that truly surprised us with their otherworldly shape. Leopard seals (*Hydrurga Leptonyx*) were waiting for us resting on a couple of icebergs. They looked friendly but.... keep distance, they can be quite aggressive.

Many of us passengers felt very grateful for and proud of being able to visit Antarctica, the White Continent.

At 6.15pm it was time for the recaps. Rustyn told us about the Antarctic bugs, Juan gave a magistral class about the zodiacs boat as a great driver that he is, and Charlotte explained to us many things about the leopard seals and shared incredible videos recorded under the water.



Before dinner, the picture on the bow was taken where we all came together – a strong team we built during the previous days.

But going back again to the farewell. Are farewells a sad moment? Mmmmm.....I read in "Illusions", a book written by Richard Bach that: "A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends"

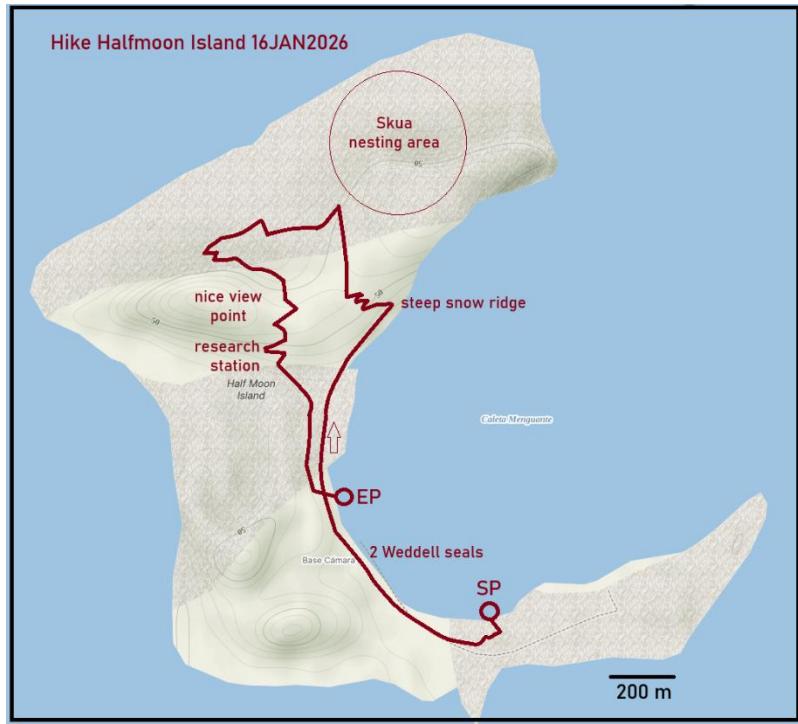
That means that farewells are not the end, they are the first step looking forward to the future, a moment or perhaps a day that is coming and that it will find us together again, maybe, forever.



### Half Moon Island long hike

Distance covered: 4.5km – 2.8mi, elevation gain: 142m – 465.9ft, duration: 2h

The last hike of this trip! We started our hike today on a beautiful beach where we could see the remnants of an old whaling boat as well as several Chinstrap penguins. Our path led us over a small ridge onto another long beach where we passed a Weddell seal. We scrambled up a steep snow ridge and entered an area with many nesting skuas that we had to avoid since they don't like it when we come too close. We enjoyed the views over the bay before we hiked back down towards the Argentine research station Camara. The zodiacs came to pick us up close by so we didn't have to walk all the way back.



#### Kayak log Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Morning tour:

#### **Half Moon Island (South Shetlands) – South Point Slalom & West Coast Run**

We launched by Zodiac into the western bay of Half Moon Island, stepping into the kayaks on water so calm it felt unreal—glassy, windless, and silent, as if the sea had decided to hold its breath for the morning. Above us the sky was grey, but the light still had that Antarctic magic: muted tones sharpening the blues in the ice and the whites in the snow, with glaciers hanging in the background like a painted backdrop.



Right from the start we set a southbound course, aiming for the island's southern point. With no swell and no wind waves, we could work close to the shoreline safely, reading the rock

shelves and small channels as they appeared. At the south tip, the coast tightened into a playful rock garden—perfect for a careful slalom. We slowed down, picked clean lines between exposed boulders and low shelves, and enjoyed that rare Antarctic treat: precise, technical paddling made easy by perfectly flat water.

From the south point, we then committed to the longer, quieter reward: a full run up the entire west coast of Half Moon Island. The shoreline opened into a series of low rocky sections and small coves, and the wildlife kept coming. Gentoo penguins dotted the shore and moved through the shallows, quick and confident in the water. Antarctic shags held the rock outcrops, dark against the snow. We also spotted Weddell seals resting—so well camouflaged they only became obvious once you caught the curve of a body or the slow blink of an eye.

One of the most memorable characters of the morning was the sheathbill—the colony's opportunist and clean-up crew, forever patrolling the edges of penguin life and making a living from whatever the shore provides. It's not the most glamorous bird in Antarctica, but it's one of the most perfectly adapted, and seeing it up close always adds a little humor to the scene.

All along the paddle, the distant human footprint remained in view: the Argentine station Cámara appearing and disappearing behind points of rock, small and bright against the greys and whites. It's a reminder that even in places that feel utterly wild, people have been coming here, working here, and enduring here for a long time.

We were eventually picked up by Zodiac along the west coast. From there, we continued the island's circumnavigation clockwise, running up and around the north side by boat to return to *Plancius*. Kayaks for the close detail, Zodiac for the wider sweep—an ideal combination on a calm Half Moon morning.



Highlights: rock-garden slalom at the south point in perfectly calm water, Gentoo penguins, Antarctic shags, and well-camouflaged Weddell seals, Sheathbill sightings and a clockwise Zodiac finish around Half Moon's north coast.

## Day 9 – Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> of January. On the Drake Passage to the North

12h00 GPS Position: 59°16.6'S / 062°59.1'W

Wind: SW-4 • Sea: slight • Weather: overcast • T<sub>air</sub>: +3°C • T<sub>water</sub>: +5°C

*Plancius* sailed gently through calm seas today as we began our first full day heading north, back toward Ushuaia. It felt strange to turn our backs on Antarctica after such an intense stretch of landings and wildlife encounters, but the ocean was kind to us, staying under a

metre most of the day, barely enough to notice, and the sky remained overcast and grey, a familiar Southern Ocean palette.

Our day on board focused on learning and reflection. Rustyn opened the morning with a lecture on the Antarctic Treaty, explaining how this vast continent is governed by cooperation, science, and protection rather than ownership. Hearing about the fragile balance that keeps Antarctica preserved made our journey feel even more meaningful. Fin whales appeared off the bow not long after, long and sleek, surfacing rhythmically as they moved through the water ahead of us.

Later, Chloe gave a lecture on seals, walking us through the different species we had encountered and helping us put names and behaviours to the faces we had been photographing for days. Then Marcelo shared something deeply personal: his own collection of impressive historical artifacts linked to the early Antarctic explorers. Pieces connected to the Charcot and Gerlache expeditions for example, tangible links to a time when Antarctica was still largely unknown.

As evening settled in, the ship continued steadily north, engines humming softly beneath our feet. The sea remained calm, the clouds unbroken, and conversations around the lounge carried a reflective tone. Today was less about adventure and more about rest and reflection.



## Day 10 – Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> of January. Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 55°18.3'S / 066°15.4'W

Wind: NW-3 • Sea: smooth • Weather: overcast • T<sub>air</sub>: +10°C • T<sub>water</sub>: +7°C

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Our last day at sea. Throughout the night we got a small taste of what the Drake can be like when you actually get caught in a storm. Captain Matei ordered our little blue ship to steam northwards as fast as she could in order to avoid a so-called “purple monster” that was going to hit the Drake Passage today. Many of us didn’t sleep much last night, others really enjoyed the rocking movement of the ship as she danced through the increasing waves. By the time we went to the restaurant to enjoy our breakfast, we had almost reached the shelter of Cape Hoorn that protected us from the swell. After breakfast we came together in the Lounge to listen to George’s lecture about geology. He gave us a great overview of how the earth is formed and how Antarctica ended up all the way down south, what kind of rock it consists of and what might happen to the land once the ice is gone. An hour later, it was Esther’s turn for storytelling. We were just passing Cape Hoorn so she read out a poem that is engraved into a memorial close to the cape’s lighthouse. It is dedicated to all the sailors who lost their lives in the attempt to round the notorious Cape Hoorn.

Poem at the Cape (Sara Vial):

I am the albatross that waits for you  
At the end of the world.  
I am the forgotten souls of dead mariners  
Who passed Cape Hoorn  
From all oceans of the earth  
But they did not die  
In the furious waves.  
Today they sail on my wings  
Toward eternity  
In the last crack  
Of Antarctic winds.



She then went on to tell us the story about the epic Race to the South Pole shining light on the two main characters, Roald Amundsen from Norway and Robert Falcon Scott from England, taking a closer look at their cultural backgrounds and the societies they emerged from. After this fascinating story, we enjoyed another delicious lunch in the restaurant. The early afternoon was dedicated to napping, packing and paying our bills on the ship. It slowly starts feeling like this journey is coming to an end. But there were still a few small surprises left for us.

In the afternoon it was our time to shine. Our expedition team set a time slot aside where we as guests could share some of our stories with the rest of the ship. First, we had Helen and Karin from the Oceanwide office in the Netherlands telling us a bit more about Oceanwide as a company, presented the other ships, as well as the other destinations we could travel to in the future – with a 10% off voucher for returning customers! After them, Tony came up to share some of his beautiful wildlife photos that he had taken during the tour, before Yasmine told us more about two fascinating little creatures most people don't notice: sea angels and sea butterflies. She was followed by Cole, who gave a great explanation about how the incredible basalt columns of Edinburgh Hill have formed, and last but not least we had Rob telling us a super interesting and slightly strange story about how the American Navy brought the first nuclear reactor to McMurdo Station in Antarctica and assembled it down in the field under very harsh conditions. After these great little stories, we had some more time to sort ourselves out for tomorrow's departure before we all came together again in the lounge for our Captain's Farewell, where we raised our glasses to a successful and unforgettable journey.

The highlight of the evening was the incredible slide show that Katlyn and Chloe prepared for us to take home as a memory of this voyage, and of course the wonderful last dinner on board where we got to celebrate the amazing teams of the restaurant, the kitchen, the bar, the housekeeping, and the hotel management. They have all been absolutely wonderful and greatly contributed to the great success of this tour!



## Day 11 – Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> of January. Ushuaia, Disembarkation Day.

08h00 GPS Position: 54°50.6'S / 068°07.7'W

Wind: light air • Sea: port • Weather: partly cloudy • T<sub>air</sub>: +12°C • T<sub>water</sub>: +7°C

We woke up one last time on our beloved ship, the *Plancius*, who had carried us into a different world where we could escape reality for 10 unforgettable days. Our bags were all packed and we left the suitcases in front of our cabins so the expedition team could take them off the ship while we were having breakfast. At 9 o'clock it was time to say goodbye.

We walked down the gangway and back onto the pier of Ushuaia, looking back at the ship and the crew.

Have we really been there? Are we actually coming back from Antarctica? It will take some time to truly comprehend what we have just experienced. Many of us are missing the words. Some eyes are filled with tears. Our hearts are filled with joy and gratitude. The experiences we had throughout the last days, the memories we made, the friendships we have started on this voyage... they will last us a lifetime.

Farewell, goodbye, stay safe and fair winds until we meet again!

**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1591nm  
Southernmost position: 64°49'S / 063°30'W**

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, the Captain, Crew and Expedition Staff would like to thank you for the great time.

It has been a pleasure travelling with you.

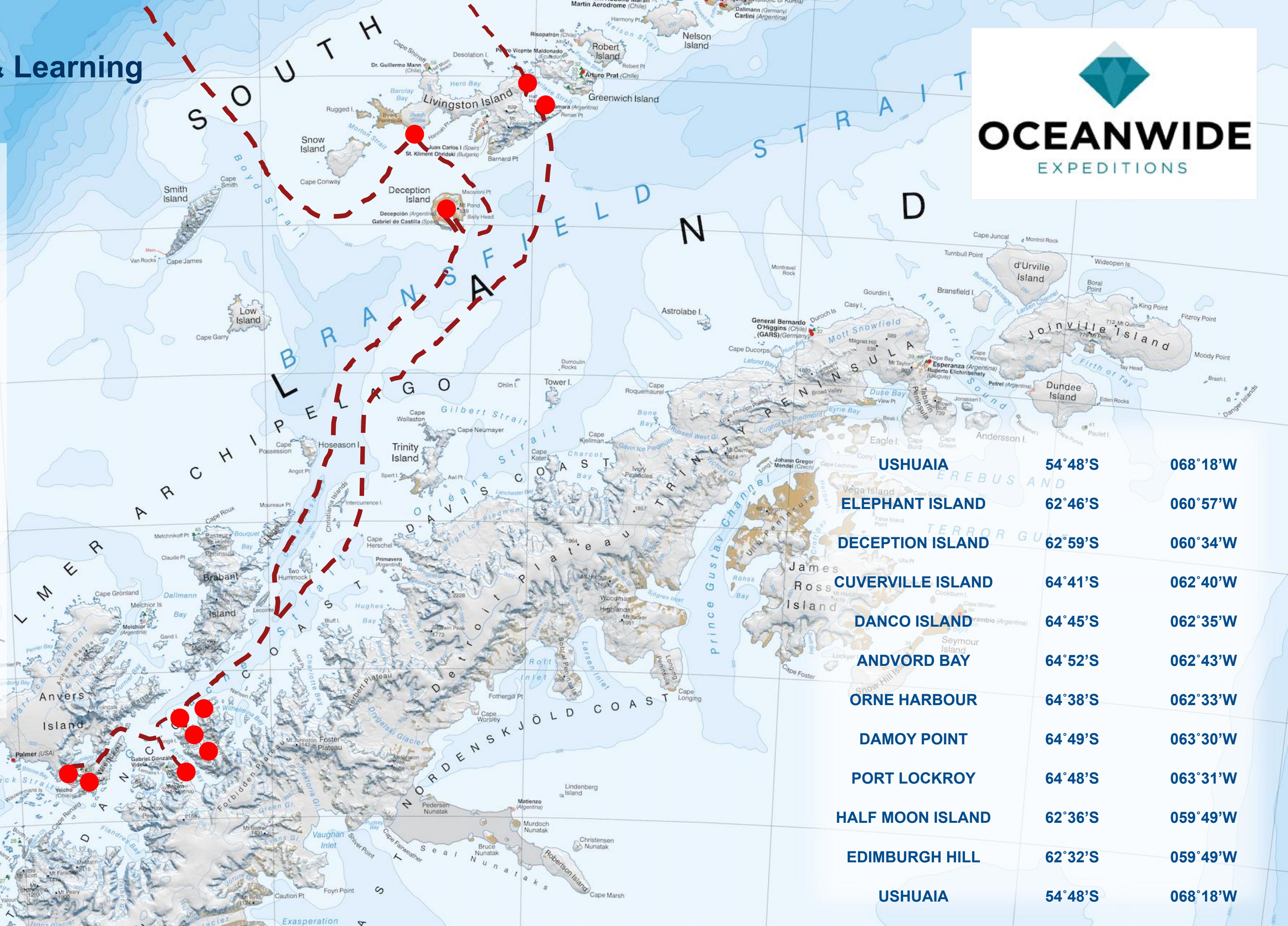


# Antarctica Discovery & Learning

## Jan 9-19, 2026

- Jan 9 Ushuaia
- Jan 10 Drake Passage
- Jan 11 Drake Passage
- Jan 12 Elephant Point
- Jan 13 Deception Island
- Jan 13 Cuverville Island
- Jan 13 Danco Island
- Jan 13 Kerr Point
- Jan 14 Andvord Bay
- Jan 14 Orne Harbour
- Jan 14 Dorian Bay
- Jan 14 Dorian Bay
- Jan 14 Port Lockroy
- Jan 15 Half Moon Island
- Jan 15 Edinburgh Hill
- Jan 16 Drake Passage
- Jan 16 Drake Passage
- Jan 16 Ushuaia

**Total Distance Travelled:  
1590.9 km**

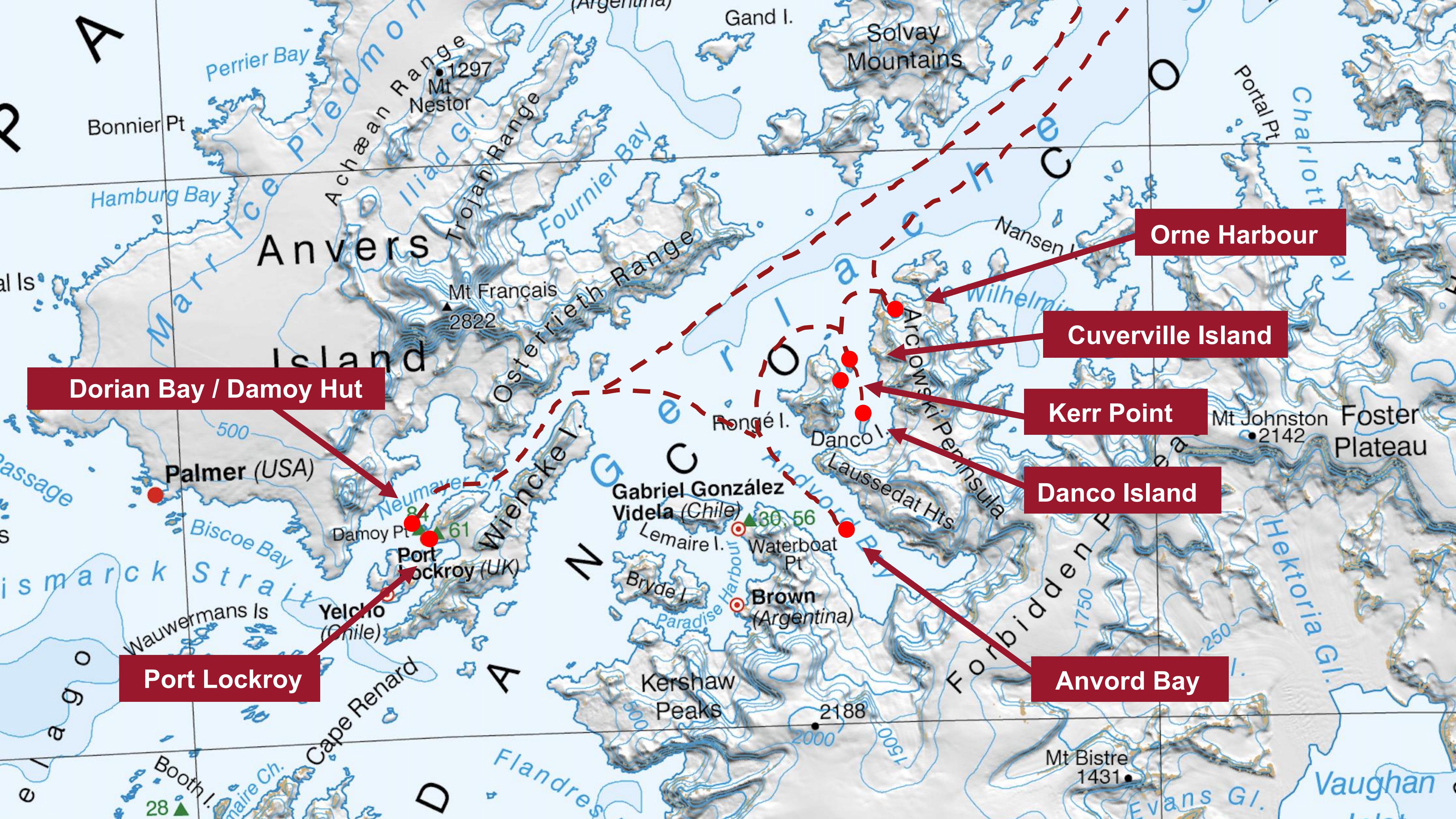


# Edinburgh Hill

# Elephant Point

# Half Moon Island

# Deception Island



## ***Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region***

English	Latin	中文	09. 01	10. 01	11. 01	12. 01	13. 01	14. 01	15. 01	16. 01	17. 01	18. 01	19. 01
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>	帝企鹅											
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	王企鹅									X		
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>	阿德利企鹅									X		
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>	金图企鹅/巴布亚企鹅				X	X	X	X				
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>	帽带企鹅			X	X	X			X			
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysophrys</i>	马可罗尼企鹅								X			
Mesoplodon layardii	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>		X										
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	麦哲伦企鹅										X	X
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	漂泊信天翁		X	X							X	
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	北部皇家信天翁											
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	南部皇家信天翁									X		
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	黑眉信天翁	X	X	X						X	X	X
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>	灰头信天翁											
Light-Mantled Sooty Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	灰背信天翁											
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	北部巨鹱											
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	南部巨鹱	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>	南部暴风鹱			X				X		X	X	
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capense</i>	花斑鹱/海角鹱		X	X		X			X		X	X
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>	南极鹱											
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>	雪鹱									X		
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>	蓝鹱		X									
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	白颊风鹱		X	X						X	X	X
Soft-Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	柔羽圆尾鹱											X
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>	大翅海燕											
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>	大西洋圆尾鹱											
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	灰鹱											X
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>	大水剃鸟											
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	鸽锯鹱		X	X								
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	仙锯鹱											
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>	细嘴锯鹱											
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	黄蹼洋海燕		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>	黑腹洋海燕		X	X						X	X	
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>	灰背洋海燕											
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides (urinatrix) berard</i>	鹈燕		X									
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>	麦哲伦鹈燕											
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>	蓝眼鸬鹚	X										X
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>	南极鸬鹚				X	X	X	X				
Snowy (Pale-faced) Sheatbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>	白面鞘嘴鸥				X	X		X		X	X	



# Rustyn Mesdag – Expedition Leader

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

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

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

# Charlotte Taplin –Asst. Exp. Leader



Charlotte grew up along the rugged coastline of Cornwall, United Kingdom, where her fascination with wildlife and the ocean began at an early age. Inspired by the natural world around her, she went on to study Wildlife Conservation at University, laying the foundation for a life devoted to research, adventure, and the protection of marine ecosystems.

Her love for ships and life at sea began in 2013, when she worked aboard Research and Dive vessels exploring the remote regions of the Great Barrier Reef. During her time in Australia and New Zealand, Charlotte's passion for Marine Biology deepened as she studied Humpback Whales, Minke Whales, and Sperm Whales.

Between 2020 and 2022, Charlotte joined the Superyacht and Explorer vessel industry, working as a Deckhand and Divemaster in remote and challenging regions. These experiences further honed her seamanship and deepened her appreciation for the ocean environment.

A keen traveller, Charlotte has been exploring the world since the age of 18, backpacking across Asia, Australasia, and South America. In 2015, she undertook an overland journey from South Africa to Jordan in a Land Rover before settling in Mozambique in 2018. There, she founded her own backpacker hostel - combining her entrepreneurial spirit with her love of travel. Alongside managing the hostel, she worked as a Researcher studying Whale Sharks and Manta Rays along the Mozambican coast. Most recently, she completed a 7,000 km journey in a 4x4 across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. When she's not at sea Charlotte loves scuba diving, surfing, freediving, and hiking, but she also enjoys life's simple pleasures - drinking tea and walking her dog. She feels very fortunate to call Oceanwide her second home and looks forward to continuing to combine her love of the sea, wildlife, and adventure in a career dedicated to exploration and the frozen wilderness.

## 中文

夏洛特在英国康沃尔郡崎岖的海岸线旁长大，自幼便对野生动物与海洋深怀热爱。受身边自然界的感召，她进入大学攻读野生动物保护专业，由此开启了致力于生态研究、户外探险与海洋保护的人生旅程。2013年，她开始在探索大堡礁偏远区域的研究与潜水船上工作，从此与航海结缘。在澳大利亚和新西兰期间，她通过对座头鲸、小须鲸和抹香鲸的深入研究，进一步坚定了对海洋生物学的热忱。2020至2022年间，夏洛特进入超级游艇及探险船行业，在偏远艰险海域担任甲板员与潜水长。这些经历不仅磨砺了她的船艺，更深化了她对海洋环境的敬畏。作为一名旅行爱好者，夏洛特自18岁起便背起行囊探索世界，足迹遍布亚洲、澳新与南美。2015年，她驾驶路虎汽车完成从南非到约旦的穿越之旅，并于2018年定居莫桑比克。在那里，她将创业精神与旅行热爱结合，创立了自己的背包客旅舍。在经营旅舍的同时，她还在莫桑比克沿海担任研究员，致力于鲸鲨和蝠鲼研究。最近，她刚完成驾驶四驱车穿越哈萨克斯坦、吉尔吉斯斯坦、乌兹别克斯坦和塔吉克斯坦的七千公里壮游。

不在海上时，夏洛特热爱水肺潜水、冲浪、自由潜与徒步，同时也享受喝茶与遛狗这般的生活简单乐趣。她非常荣幸能将泛海探险视为第二个家，并期待在未来继续将她对海洋、野生动物与冒险的热爱，融入这片冰封荒野的探索事业中。

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# Chloe Power – Expedition Guide

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Chloe grew up in a small town on the east coast of Australia but has been calling Tasmania and California home for the last few years. Chloe has a background in marine science and high school teaching and likes to think as science as just measurable magic!

Chloe's bachelor studies focused on the intertidal ecology of her Australian hometown of Caves Beach NSW, while her postgrad studies involved researching the biological oceanography of tropical (Ningaloo Reef, Australia) and frozen (Antarctica and North Japan) environments.

Chloe first visited Antarctica in 2018 during her Masters year, where she stayed on New Zealand's Scott Base in the Ross Sea region, inevitably caught the 'polar bug', and has been guiding in Antarctica ever since.

Chloe has an immense passion for science communication and ocean conservation. In her free time, she is an Education Volunteer at the Marine Mammal Centre in San Francisco that rescues, rehabilitates, and releases sick and injured seals and sea otters.

Chloe's love for the ocean and wildlife is boundless, no matter what latitude. You'll always find her by the water - swimming, surfing, or tide pooling. Chloe has guided in the Kimberley (AUS), Indonesia, NZ, Antarctica (Peninsula & Ross Sea), and her most favourite - the stunning subantarctic islands. She loves art, crocheting, a good book, and can't wait to explore the magical Southern Ocean with you!

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# Esther Josten – Expedition Guide

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The place she calls home is a small village in a western German hillside area called Eifel. It's surrounded by extinct volcanoes, vast forests and steep valleys. From this base she started exploring the world and found her great passion in the travel industry and outdoor life.

She studied International Tourism Management in the Netherlands, lived in France, Spain, and New Zealand for a while. She worked as tour leader, hiking guide, skipper, and expedition guide for almost 10 years now. When she's not guiding in the Polar regions, she spends

most of her time building up a small business for outdoor experiences and tailor-made tours in the fjords of southern Norway.

What she loves about her job is not only getting out into nature and being in touch with the elements, but also the meaningful connections with people from all corners of the world. Besides all the natural wonders our planet offers, she is fascinated by its' history, cultures and languages.

She strongly believes that – if managed well – tourism can be a catalyst for positive change, it can inspire, educate, trigger thought, and expand our horizons. Esther loves sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge with others and specializes in storytelling, history, and tourism management.

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# Katlyn Taylor – Expedition Guide

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Katlyn is an Expedition Guide originally from the Pacific Northwest of the United States. She grew up learning tidepool animals on the Oregon Coast.

She comes from a background as a captain and guide on whale watching boats all over the US. She has worked in both the North Atlantic and North Pacific for over 9 years. In 2023 she shifted her career to expedition guiding and has worked in Antarctica and Alaska. She has guided trips in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and Southeast Alaska throughout the past summer.

Her passions are facilitating experiences with wildlife, educating people about the marine life they encounter, and inspiring conservation actions among her guests. She loves the community that can be built around citizen science projects in these remote places in the world. Staying curious about the natural world and spending time outside looking for wildlife are two of her favorite things to do each trip.

She received bachelors' degrees from Oregon State University in Marine Biology and International Studies. She's a Junior Fellow with the Safina Center of Stonybrook University. Her biggest passion and love are marine mammals, especially whales. She co-hosts a show called The Whalenerd's Podcast, a science communication project about whales and other ocean related topics.

# Lucia Romero – Expedition Guide



Lucia is an extroverted and curious person always looking for new challenges and experiences worldwide.

Born and raised in Puerto Madryn, a small town of Argentinian Patagonia coast, she grew up surrounded by marine wildlife and outdoor lifestyle. This led her to choose her career, with a bachelor degree in hospitality and tourism and becoming a professional tour guide and kayak guide.

She loves sharing her passion for exploration, learning, discovering, conservation and wildlife.

With over 12 years of experience on leading groups around Patagonia, she is now focusing on the wonders and biodiversity of the polar environments.

## 中文

露西娅·罗梅罗（Lucia Romero）是一个外向的且充满好奇心的人，总是在世界各地寻找新的挑战和经历。

她在阿根廷巴塔哥尼亚海岸的一个小镇马德林港出生和长大，在海洋野生动物和户外生活方式的包围下长大。这促使她选择了自己的职业走向，获得了酒店和旅游学士学位，并成为一名专业导游和皮划艇向导。

她喜欢分享她对探索、学习、发现、保护和野生动物的热情。

她拥有超过 12 年带队巴塔哥尼亚旅行的经验，现在专注于极地环境的奇观和生物多样性。

# Marcelo Tarapow – Expedition Guide



Marcelo Tarapow has a Master's degree in Social Sciences, specialized in History from the National University of Quilmes, retired Rear Admiral of the Argentine Navy, Honorary Professor at the Nikola Vaptsarov Academy (Bulgaria) and Graduate in Naval Systems.

He participated in twelve expeditions to Antarctica between 1988 and 2017, occupying different roles until being the leader on his last two occasions, spending around 900 days in Antarctic activity.

He has also carried out studies in Environmental Preservation, Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Tourism.

He has been a professor in pre-Antarctic courses taught in Argentina, Colombia and Bulgaria, especially on navigation, meteorology, the Antarctic Treaty and the Madrid Protocol.

He is the President of the Academy of Antarctica, a lecturer and researcher especially on topics related to the White Continent, having presented on historical

Antarctic expeditions in Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Colombia, France and Romania.

He is a member of the Council at Polar Educators International for the 2024-2025 biennium.

His main hobbies are swimming, cycling, tango, reading, an enthusiastic collector of ancient objects linked to Antarctic history and an amateur photographer.

Always ready to learn from other cultures, listen to stories, passionately share their experiences and care for the environment.

## 中文

马塞罗·塔拉波 (Marcelo Tarapow) 拥有基尔梅斯国立大学社会科学历史学硕士学位，阿根廷海军退役少将、尼古拉·瓦普萨罗夫学院 (保加利亚) 名誉教授和海军系统毕业生。

在1988年至2017年间，他参加了12次南极探险，担任过不同的职务，直到最后两次担任了探险队长，在南极的活动时长大约900天。

他还进行了对环境保护、气候变化、能源效率和旅游方面的研究。

他曾在阿根廷、哥伦比亚和保加利亚担任南极行前课程教授，特别是航海、气象学、南极条约和马德里议定书方面的课程。

他是南极学院院长，也是讲师和研究员，特别是与白色大陆相关的主题，曾在阿根廷、比利时、保加利亚、哥伦比亚、法国和罗马尼亚介绍过历史上的南极探险活动。

他是 2024-2025 年双年度极地教育者国际理事会成员。

他的主要爱好是游泳、骑行、探戈、阅读，还是与南极历史有关的文物收藏家，也是一名业余摄影师。

随时准备学习其他文化，聆听故事，热情分享他们的经验并关心环境。

# Matthias Kopp – Expedition Guide



Matthias lives most of the year in Thuringia/ Germany. After school he started an apprenticeship to become a wholesale dealer but decided after a couple of years to settle into work right next to the home village.

He started studying biology at the University in Jena. Matthias' main interests were Ecology and Ornithology. He wrote a diploma thesis about the breeding biology of Antarctic Skuas in the Antarctic Peninsula but also after that degree, Matthias kept on studying those impressive animals for a couple of years. While studying, both his interest

and his network brought Matthias all over the world. Most impressive for him were the polar regions. This led to Matthias staying for his studies with the Skuas for a total of 5 summer seasons in Antarctic bases, as well as 10 seasons in the high Arctic as a tour guide onboard different vessels.

Currently Matthias is predominantly settled, based again in the village of his childhood, but now with wife, three young girls, two cats, a couple of bee colonies and a wide-ranging garden, who all need him. However, his wife knows that for Matthias the high summer in Germany is much too warm. For that reason, he is together with you in the polar regions.

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# Brenya Green – Expedition Guide

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

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

office leadership to field guide.

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

# Juan Berenstein – Expedition Guide



Juan is a professional photographer and drone pilot born in Ushuaia, Argentina and is a Zodiac driver, expedition and photography guide.

He is a young and highly motivated person, who loves enjoying the outdoors and being in the mountains. His hobbies are hiking, FPV drone flying and photography.

His passion for nature started at an early age with his family, who enjoyed the weekends camping at the end of the world and travelling around the country on holidays.

He studied photography in Buenos Aires and decided to return to his hometown to start his career and develop an independent way of life.

Juan has been working in the polar regions for several years now, including Antarctica, South Georgia, Falkland Islands, Svalbard, Greenland, and the Great Lakes in North America.

## 中文

胡安·贝伦斯坦 (Juan Berenstein) 是一位出生于阿根廷乌斯怀亚的专业摄影师和无人机飞行员，也是冲锋舟驾驶员、探险队员和摄影向导。

他是一个年轻且积极进取的人，喜欢享受户外活动和山里的时光。他的爱好是户外徒步、FPV 无人机飞行和摄影。

他对自然的热情源于从很小的时候，他的家人给他的户外启蒙，他们喜欢周末在世界的尽头露营，并在假期环游全国。

他在布宜诺斯艾利斯学习摄影，但最后决定回到他的家乡开始自己的职业生涯并发展独立的生活方式。

胡安多年来一直在极地地区工作，包括南极洲、南乔治亚岛、福克兰群岛、斯瓦尔巴群岛、格陵兰岛和北美五大湖。

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# George Hirn - Expedition Guide

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Since he was walking five kilometres from kindergarten, alone, home to pick up his left snack box, Georg is inspired of doing outdoor activities.

Following to that he found the way into the Austrian Armed Forces as a non-commissioned officer in an airborne and mountaineering unit.

After quitting the service he was educated to, and therefore, he worked as such a sport physiotherapist for several years.

In 2002 longing for the wide world he has started with international tour guiding. Up to now he lives his passion and globetrot

with people about 10 months per year in different countries like Ecuador, Greece, Myanmar, Portugal, Scotland, Spain....as well as in the Artic region:

Firstly conducting a lot of trekking on the highlands of Iceland, amongst others, he took part in a travel and outdoor TV-production as guide and presenter.

For nearly 12 years he joins the Inuit hunters in Greenland and going on trekking with groups along the East and Westcoast true to the motto having phenomenal experiences in unbelievable dimensions of nature and Artic life.

Shaped by this he has also been bringing all of his knowledge to bear in testing and developing outdoor equipment for a German manufacturer.

Since 2016 the Rembrandt van Rijn has been for him a cosy base for hiking and snowshoeing in Greenland, Northern Norway and Svalbard, whether under the northern lights or the midnight sun - the Rembrandt trips always open up wonderful experiences and time far north – for his guests and himself!!

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# Julien Burellier - Kayak Leader

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Julien was born and raised in the Auvergne region in central France. He started kayaking and skiing as a child and never stopped.

Sea kayak instructor since 1998, he is also a whitewater kayak and ski instructor. He travelled all over the world paddling and guiding guests in various locations such as Papua, Oman, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Sweden, Greece, Corsica... and of course Norway!

He visited North Norway for the first time in 2010 and fell in love with the sea and mountain mix. Snow and northern lights in the winter combined with midnight sun during summer produce many breathtaking moments. Since then, Julien goes several times a year to Norway either for kayaking, skiing or hiking.

When he is not traveling, Julien lives in the French Alps and teaches skiing at Serre Chevalier or supervises whitewater rafting activities on the local rivers. He is also passionate about photography which led him to collaborate with French outdoor and kayak magazines, writing articles and reporting on his trips.

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# Zoy Li - Translator

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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。

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# Laura Ouwerkerk – Ships Doctor

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Laura Ouwerkerk is an experienced physician with a deep passion for working in remote and challenging environments. With over six years of experience in global health and emergency care, she has worked in a variety of resource-limited settings. Her professional journey has taken her to remote and often challenging regions such as South Sudan, and she has just returned from a year of medical work in Sierra Leone, where managing medical emergencies in unpredictable and often harsh conditions was part of daily reality.

Outside of her medical career, Laura is a passionate adventurer. Cycling from the Netherlands to the North Cape and spending three months traveling through Patagonia, relying on nothing but her horse and tent while making her way southward, have given her a deep appreciation for the beauty and challenges of exploring wild, untouched places. In addition, her mountaineering expeditions, for example in Austria and Nepal, have further strengthened her connection to nature and its ability to both inspire and challenge.

For Laura, working with Oceanwide Expeditions offers the perfect opportunity to combine her medical expertise with her love for adventure. She thrives in dynamic, close-knit teams and is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of guests as they embark on their polar journeys. She looks forward to contributing to the unforgettable experiences of those she meets along the way.



## Antarctica – Discovery and Learning

# Welcome aboard!

Date: Friday, 09.01.2026

Day: Embarkation, Ushuaia

1600 **Welcome onboard!** Your luggage will be in your cabin when you arrive. Please inform us if you are missing any luggage or if there is luggage present that does not belong to you. Feel free to explore the ship. Tea and coffee is available in the Lounge on Deck 5.

1700 +/- **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Instruction** in the Lounge (Deck 5). All passengers must attend.

1800 +/- Departure.

1845 Please join us in the Lounge for an **Introduction to the ship** from your Hotel Manager Alex. This will be followed by **Captain's Cocktails**; this a chance to meet your Captain, Matei Mocanu and your Expedition Leader Rustyn Mesdag. Here you will learn about the plans for the following days.

1930 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the reception desk. Enjoy your dinner.

**Tonight we will be sailing in open water so expect the ship to move. Please make sure that all your valuables (cameras, computers, etc.) are properly stowed in your cabin to avoid accidents. Always use the railings and**



## DAILY PROGRAM

**handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.**



## Antarctica – Discovery and Learning

### Day at sea: *The Drake Passage*

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

0745	Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Rustyn.
0800	<b>Breakfast buffet</b> will be available in the Dining Room (Deck 3).
0930	<b>Zodiac, IAATO &amp; Biosecurity Briefing.</b> Join Rustyn in the lounge for some mandatory briefings. Attendance is mandatory for all passengers.
1230	<b>Lunch</b> is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3).
1415	We will call you by deck to collect your muck boots on Deck 3 forward.
1530	<b>Biosecurity.</b> We will call you by deck to bring all your outer gear, boots, tripods and trekking poles that you plan to use during our expedition. With the help of our expedition team your equipment will be inspected and cleaned to ensure we are not bringing invasive species and foreign particles to our landing sites.
1815	<b>Recap</b> Please join us in the Lounge to meet your expedition team and learn about our plans for tomorrow.
1900	<b>Dinner</b> is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.



## Antarctica – Discovery and Learning

### Day at sea: *The Drake Passage*

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

0745

Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Rustyn.

0800

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

**Activity Briefings:** If you would like to take part in the additional activities you must join the activity guides in the lounge for the **mandatory briefings**.

0930

*Kayaking*; Please meet your kayak guide Julien in the lounge.

1030

*Camping*; Please join Juan and Brenya in the lounge for you camping briefing.

1130

*Hiking*; Please meet your Hiking Guide Georg in the lounge.

1230

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

*Please check your activity groups on the Whiteboard behind the staircases on deck 5.*

1430

**Introduction to Antarctica.** Join Brenya in the lounge for some interesting and fun facts about the white continent.

1630

Please join Lucia in the lounge (Deck 5) for a lecture on the **Life of Penguins on the Antarctic Peninsula.**

1830

**Recap** Please join the expedition team in the lounge for recap and learn about our plans for tomorrow.

1900

**Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.



## Antarctica – Discovery and Learning

### *Elephant Point & Whalers Bay*

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

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0715	Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Rustyn.
0730	<b>Breakfast buffet</b> will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
0815	<b><u>Kayakers</u></b> - please meet Julien in the boot room to collect your gear (Deck 3).
0830	<b><u>Hiking Group One</u></b> - please meet Georg <b><i>dressed up and ready to go</i></b> at the gangway on Deck 3.
0845	<b><u>Everyone not joining an extra activity</u></b> - We are visiting Elephant Point today, a beautiful island which is home to a colony of gentoo penguins and Elephant Seals.
1230	<b>Lunch</b> is served in the Dining Room.
1400	<b><u>Kayakers</u></b> - please meet Julien in the boot room to collect your gear (Deck 3).
1430	<b><u>Everyone not joining an extra activity</u></b> - We will be visiting Whalers Bay in the afternoon. This is your chance to visit a historical Whaling site inside an active volcano.
1830	<b>Recap</b> Please join the expedition team in the lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
1900	<b>Dinner</b> is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.



## Antarctica – Discovery and Learning

### *Cuverville & Danco Island*

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

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0715	Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Rustyn.
0730	<b>Breakfast buffet</b> will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
0815	<b><u>Kayakers</u></b> - please meet Julien in the boot room to collect your gear (Deck 3).
0900	<b><u>Everyone not joining an extra activity</u></b> - We will be landing at Cuverville today – a Gentoo Penguin Colony.
1230	<b>Lunch</b> is served in the Dining Room.
1400	<b><u>Kayakers</u></b> - please meet Julien in the boot room to collect your gear (Deck 3).
1430	<b><u>Hiking Group Two</u></b> - please meet Georg <b><i>dressed up and ready to go</i></b> at the gangway on Deck 3.
1445	<b><u>Everyone not joining an extra activity</u></b> - We will explore the area of Danco Island by zodiac where we have the possibility of seeing Whales, Seals and Penguins.
1830	<b>Recap</b> Please join the expedition team in the lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
1900	<b>Dinner</b> is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.
2030	Campers be ready for the night. <b>Please listen to the announcements!</b>



## Antarctica – Discovery and Learning

### *Anvord Bay & Orne Harbour*

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

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- 0715      Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Rustyn.
- 0730      **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
- 0815      **Kayakers**- please meet Julien in the boot room to collect your gear (Deck 3).
- 0900      **Everyone not joining an extra activity** - We will be doing a zodiac cruise in the beautiful Anvord Bay. We have the opportunity to see Whales, Penguins and Seals.
- 1230      **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.
- 1345      **Kayakers**- please meet Julien in the boot room to collect your gear (Deck 3).
- 1430      **Everyone not joining an extra activity**- We will be visiting Orne Harbour – a continental landing in Antarctica!
- 1830      **Recap** Please join the expedition team in the lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
- 1900      **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.
- 2030      Campers be ready for the night. **Please listen to the announcements!**



## Antarctica – Discovery and Learning

### *Damoy Point, Port Lockroy and Goudier Island*

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

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0715	Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Rustyn.
0730	<b>Breakfast buffet</b> will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
0815	<u>Kayakers</u> - please meet Julien in the boot room to collect your gear (Deck 3).
0900	<u>Everyone not joining an extra activity</u> - This morning we will be landing at Damoy Point – where we find a fantastic landing with a Historic Argentinian and British hut. This will also give us an opportunity to have a good leg stretch and visits a gentoo penguin colony.
1200	<b>Lunch</b> is served in the Dining Room.
1245	<u>Kayakers</u> - please meet Julien in the boot room to collect your gear (Deck 3).
13.00	<u>Port Lockroy Presentation</u> – Join us in the lounge for a presentation from the Lockroy staff before we head to shore.
1330	<u>Everyone not joining an extra activity</u> - This afternoon we will be landing at the famous Penguin post office – the most Southerly post office in the world! Followed by a Gentoo Penguin colony.
1815	<b>Recap</b> Please join the expedition team in the lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
1900	<b>Dinner</b> is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Antarctica – Discovery and Learning

### *Half Moon Island and Edinburgh Hill*

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January**

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0715	Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Rustyn.
0730	<b>Breakfast buffet</b> will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
0845	<b>Kayakers</b> - please meet Julien in the boot room to collect your gear (Deck 3).
0930	<b>Hiking Group Three</b> - please meet Georg dressed up and ready to go at the gangway on Deck 3. <b>Please make sure you are the gangway first.</b>  <b><u>Everyone not joining an extra activity</u></b> - This morning we will be landing at Half Moon Island, a Chinstrap Penguin colony. Please be at the gangway at 0930 just after the hikers.
1230	<b>Lunch</b> is served in the Dining Room.
1415	<b>Zodiac Cruise</b> - This afternoon we will be doing a zodiac cruise at Edinburgh Hill; a geological spectacle in the South Shetland Islands.

**Once back onboard we will call everyone to return your muck boots,  
please listen for announcements.**

1830	<b>Recap</b> Please join the expedition team in the lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
1900	<b>Dinner</b> is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.



## *Antarctica – Discovery and Learning*

### *Drake Passage heading North*

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January**

0745	Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Rustyn.
0800	<b>Breakfast buffet</b> will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
0930	<b>The Antarctic Treaty</b> – Past, present & future - Rustyn will talk about the Antarctic Treaty, the future of mining, tourism & the historic political contract which protects the territory south of 60° South.
1100	Join Chloe in the lounge for a lecture on the <b>Precious Pinnipeds</b> ; our Seals of Antarctica.
1230	<b>Lunch</b> is served in the Dining Room.
1600	Join Marcelo for a ' <b>show and tell</b> ' session where he will talk about the Oceanwide exhibition; artifacts from many different Antarctica expeditions.
1815	<b>Recap</b> Please join the expedition team in the lounge for recap and learn of our plans for tomorrow.
1900	<b>Dinner</b> is served in the dining room. Enjoy your meal.



## *Antarctica – Discovery and Learning*

### *Drake Passage heading towards Ushuaia*

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2026

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0745	Wake-up call from your Expedition Leader Rustyn.
0800	<b>Breakfast buffet</b> will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.
0930	Please <b>Join Georg</b> to learn about the fascinating <b>Geology of Antarctica</b> in the lounge.
1100	Join Esther to learn the incredible story of the ' <b>Race to the South Pole</b> ' in the lounge.
1230	<b>Lunch</b> is served in the Dining Room.
1530	<b>Human's of Plancius</b> – please join us in the lounge to hear the insights and stories from a few of our guests.
1815	<b>Captain's Cocktails.</b> Please join the Expedition team and Captain Matei Mocanu in the Lounge to toast our successful voyage.
1900	<b>Dinner</b> is served in the dining room. Enjoy your meal.



# *Antarctica – Discovery and Learning*

## *Ushuaia, Disembarkation*

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January

0700

Your final wake up call from Rustyn! Good Morning everyone, Good Morning!

**Before breakfast at 0715** please could you put your large check in luggage outside your cabin so that we can get it onto the pier for you.

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

If you do not fly out in the morning, you can leave your luggage in the **luggage storage until 14:00**. Please mark it with a **yellow** label.

If you have other arrangements to stay in Ushuaia you can take your luggage and walk to the port entrance where you will find a taxi.

Please identify your luggage on the pier and make sure it goes to the airport bus, the luggage storage ...or you take it with you!!!!

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

0730

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

0830/0900

It is time to leave our Little Blue Ship, Plancius. Please make sure you have all your belongings with you and that you have taken your key card holder back to Reception.

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