



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

19th of January – 6th of February 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 49 sailors

Chief Officer:	Don Buren	[Netherlands]
Second Officer:	Anar Babaiev	[Ukraine]
Third Officer:	Piotr Filipkowski	[Poland]
Hotel Manager:	Oleksandr Lyebyedyev	[Ukraine]
Asst. Hotel Manager:	Rolando Garcia	[Philippines]
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	[Germany]
Sous Chef:	Oleksii Shvets	[Ukraine]
Ships doctor:	Laura Ouwerkerk	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Ali Liddle	[Great Britain]
Asst. Expedition Leader:	Charlotte Taplin	[Great Britain]
Expedition Guide:	Annina Scholl	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Esther Josten	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Karoline Baelum	[Denmark]
Expedition Guide:	Marcelo Tarapow	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Matthias Kopp	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Sven Joest	[Germany]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Monday 19th January, Ushuaia, Embarkation Day

12h00 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S / 068°17.8'W

Wind: SW7 • Sea: port • Weather: sunny • Air temp.: 11°C • Water temp. 7°C

Finally! Most of us have travelled halfway around the world to come all the way down to Ushuaia. We spent the day with final preparations for the big adventure. The port of the small Argentine town is packed with cruise ships. We walked along the pier until we discovered our little blue ship among the other giants. When we could board *Plancius* in the afternoon we were warmly welcomed by the Expedition and the Hotel Team, who showed us to our cabins before we had some free time to explore the ship.



After all guests had come on board, we were invited to the lounge for a small introduction of our Expedition Leader Ali and our First Officer Don. Before the ship is allowed to leave port, we all had to attend a mandatory abandon ship drill. This was followed by a welcome drink and a speech of Captain Matei with whom we raised glasses to a great journey ahead of us. Alex, the Hotel Manager told us a bit more about the ship and Ali shortly introduced the Expedition Team. Due to strong winds, our departure got delayed by 2 hours and we eventually left Ushuaia in the evening. The team took the opportunity to hand out our rubber boots so we wouldn't have to worry about that when we're at sea and might be struggling with the movement of the ship. After a first delicious dinner aboard the *Plancius*, we got to enjoy the beautiful scenery around the Beagle Channel with the sun setting spectacularly over the rugged peaks of Patagonia. Let the adventure begin...



Day 2 – Tuesday 20th January, At sea, heading towards The Falklands

12h00 GPS Position: 53°57.7'S / 064°01.1'W

Wind: NW7 • Sea: moderate • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temp.: 7°C • Water temp. 10°C

After we left Ushuaia later than anticipated, we passed through the Beagle channel during the night. This morning, we woke up far away from land. At first it felt a little strange to be in bed that moves and with new sounds and noises around us. But we all were exhausted and grateful to have some rest. The sea was moving Plancius quite a bit and some of us made our first experience with sea sickness. Others didn't feel it at all – lucky them! The wind brought us quite a few seabirds – our first albatrosses – as well. We observed them as they followed the ship effortlessly without flapping their wings. Since the outside decks were closed due to the windy conditions we came up to the bridge to take fresh air and say hello to the captain, the officer and the AB on watch. The expedition team was there as well to explain and point out interesting things.

In the morning our expedition leader Ali told us more about the Falkland Islands, which were our first stop of the trip. She lived there for 15 years and experienced the life and the community first hand. A little bit later, Charlotte introduced us to whales and their biology. So far, we didn't see any, but we all kept our eyes open.



Sven Joest

In the afternoon the wind calmed down a little, so we all were able to be a little more active and enjoy the view and air outside. Even the sun came out for a little while. Black browed albatrosses, giant petrels, sooty shearwaters and other seabirds still followed the ship, while Matthias and Annina each gave a lecture about their biology and what makes a seabird a seabird.

Since we planned on going on land the next day, we had to participate in a mandatory briefing, to learn about how to get in and out of the zodiacs safely and how to behave on land. We couldn't wait to go out tomorrow and we hoped for good conditions that would allow us to land and discover the Falkland Islands.



Day 3 – Wednesday 21st January, New Island

12h00 GPS Position: 51°45.9'S / 061°27.2'W

Wind: SW5 • Sea: calm • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temp.: 10°C • Water temp.: 10°C

We all slept well after the full day at sea and looked already much forward for touching land at the Falkland Islands. The Falkland Islands are an archipelago, consisting of two main islands (East and West Falkland) and 778 smaller islands. The archipelago is situated in the South Atlantic, some 400 miles from the South American mainland and 850 miles north of the Antarctic Circle. The published plan of the day was to do two landings on an Island called New Island. New Island is located at the extreme west of the Falklands' archipelago. Dramatic cliffs contrast with sheltered sandy bays and natural harbours. New Island has a large concentration and great diversity of wildlife. The island, a Nature Reserve, is owned and run by the New Island Conservation Trust which relies entirely on donations to fund conservation and research.



Right after a good breakfast our expedition team offered us a first landing right next to the Settlement, consisting out of just a few houses. The nice museum and a gift shop was just a few meters away. The landing site was a beautiful sandy beach. We walked uphill and crossed the whole island to visit a mixed species colony of Southern Rockhopper Penguins, Black Browed Albatross & Imperial Shags. It was amazing to see so many birds on such a small place, densely packed together. It was noisy and really interesting to watch all the interactions between and within the species. It was as well a busy place with adult birds returning from their feeding trips and feeding their chicks or leaving the colony.

The expedition team, together with the local guide Tim had marked a nice route to the most interesting places in that area. We all enjoyed the time on land at this beautiful spot close to so much wildlife. Back on the beach we all had to clean our boots, which was not easy and took quite a while.



After a short break, having lunch, the bridge team of *Plancius* repositioned to North Harbour, another nice and protected landing site. Already the Zodiac ride was spectacular because we were accompanied by a group of Peale's Dolphins.

Again, perfect conditions with sunshine and just a little wind. The zodiacs headed towards a stretched sandy beach, which was the start of the hikes. It was a nice walk on grass. Here and there we could see Magellanic Penguins, standing right next to their burrows, that was

their breeding place. On our way, crossing to the other side of the island we passed by a Gentoo Penguin rookery with already big chicks which start losing their down feathers. We approached a beautiful sandy beach where the penguins returned from their feeding trips, using a single path to reach their breeding or nesting sites. It was absolutely magical to see Penguins standing on white sand, in the background blue water and clear blue sky. Dolphins were again present on



that side of the island.

The other place we could walk to was a colony of Black browed albatross, together with Rockhopper Penguins. It was a steep cliff and a canyon-like structure, allowing the penguins to get to this place. The albatrosses were nesting on top of cliff, but as well on the exposed side on lower levels. They had as well already quite big chicks filling the nest complete. Back at the landing site, we experienced a real low tide, the water was far away from the place we first touched land. It was very shallow, and the zodiacs picked us up in the middle of the bay, a hundred meters away from the dry sandy beach. On our way to the next destination, we passed a big group of Sei Whales, feeding in these productive waters off the Falkland Islands. By scanning the horizon, we could even see many more, those distant ones with just

the obvious blow. It had been an amazing day, finished by a beautiful sunset at sea level, the crescent moon was a bit later visible.



Day 4 – Thursday 22nd January, Stanley

12h00 GPS Position: 51°41.2'S / 057°50.9'W

Wind: NW5 • Sea: slight • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temp.: 10°C • Water temp.: 10°C

We woke up to another beautiful day in the Falkland Islands. During breakfast we were still sailing in between smaller and bigger islands with white sandy beaches and small rocky outcrops. As we passed through the narrows to reach today's destination, Stanley, we noticed several squid fishing vessels that remain at anchor in the area. As we learned yesterday, the squid fishing industry is a major source of income in the Falklands. After breakfast, the expedition team shuttled us to shore with the zodiacs. We landed on a small jetty and were free to discover Stanley on our own.

The town has only about 3000 inhabitants, but it offers everything the population needs and also some souvenir shops for those of us that wanted to bring something home. We spent the entire morning walking around town, enjoying the sun, discovering the dock yard museum and



soaking up the warmth of the day. By lunchtime we were ready to go back onboard *Plancius*. A male and a female south American sea lion had a nap on the jetty. We could clearly see the size difference between the two.

In the afternoon Ali told us about her time on the Falkland Islands during Covid. She spent most of her time during the pandemic on the remote sea lion island.

Later the expedition team gave recaps about peat, erosion and tussock grass and the sei whales, the species that we had seen yesterday after we left New Island.

After dinner we could enjoy a drink in the lounge, watching albatrosses and other sea birds following us in the sinking sun.



Day 5 – Friday 23rd January, Stanley and then at sea

12h00 GPS Position: 52°19.1'S / 051°08.8'W

Wind: NW6 • Sea: moderate • Weather: sunny • Air temp.: 9°C • Water temp.: 8°C

Our day began with a wake-up call from our Expedition Leader, Ali, easing us into another full day at sea. Shortly afterwards, we gathered in the Dining Room to enjoy a relaxed breakfast buffet, giving us time to wake up properly and prepare for the day ahead. Later in the morning, we met in the Lounge for an introduction to South Georgia. Ali gave us a fascinating overview of the island, covering its history, economy, and incredible wildlife. This talk helped set the scene for what we could expect from our time in this remote and remarkable place.

We stayed in the Lounge as the morning continued to learn more about seals. Although we had already seen some during our time in the Falkland Islands, Charlotte expanded our knowledge of these marine mammals, explaining their behaviour, adaptations, and the challenges they face in the Southern Ocean.

After a morning full of learning, we headed to the Dining Room for lunch, enjoying a break and sharing conversations about everything we had learned so far.

In the afternoon, we returned to the Lounge for a presentation by Marcelo and Esther on Sir Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition. They both told the incredible story in English and German of Shackleton's 1914 attempt to cross the Antarctic continent, highlighting the leadership, resilience, and determination that made the expedition legendary.



Later in the day, we relaxed with a BBC Iceworlds documentary screening in the Lounge, a welcome opportunity to unwind while still immersing ourselves in the polar world. As evening approached, we joined the expedition team for the daily recap, reflecting on the day's highlights and hearing about plans for tomorrow. We ended the day with dinner, enjoying good food, good company, and a growing sense of excitement for the journey ahead.



Day 6 – Saturday 24th January, At sea

12h00 GPS Position: 52°59.9'S / 044°14.2'W

Wind: WNW3 • Sea: slight • Weather: fog • Air temp.: 5°C • Water temp.: 6°C

Another day at sea. The Antarctic convergence zone received us trying to keep South Georgia hidden from our eyes. The fog didn't allow us to see anything more than 100 meters away from the bow. During the morning everybody was involved in taking care of their biosecurity. Firstly, receiving a mandatory briefing. Then we met in the Lounge, bringing all our outer gear for a deep check, being helped by the guides. After a couple of hours, we were ready and clean enough to land on this amazing island that was waiting for us somewhere beyond the fog.

In one of the armchairs closest to the windows in the fore section, on the port side, a wise man whispered to his guitar and then we would hear a faint melody we couldn't fully recognize, but it slowly soothed us.



In the afternoon, Ali gave us a complete lecture about penguins. All the species were explained in detail, this being very useful to understand their behaviour of these birds that cannot fly but swim in an incredible way.

For teatime, a short documentary about the wildlife in the polar regions created a good ambiance and led to friendly conversations with the other guests.



Before we had dinner, we had our daily recap and the anticipation was growing that in the next days we will be walking and observing through our own eyes wonderful landscapes and wildlife.

I believe that every day is unique. In words of L. R. Knost:
"Life is amazing. And then it's awful. And then it's amazing again. And in between the amazing and the awful it's ordinary and mundane and routine. Breathe in the amazing, hold on through the awful, and relax and exhale during the ordinary. That's just living heartbreaking, soul-healing, amazing, awful, ordinary life. And it's breathtakingly beautiful."

Remember, we cannot lose any second, every moment counts!

Day 7 – Sunday 25th January, Elsehul and Right Whale Bay

12h00 GPS Position: 54°00.8'S / 037°58.5'W

Wind: WNW4 • Sea: calm • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temp.: 15°C • Water temp.: 4°C

Finally South Georgia! As we approached the north tip of the island the fog lifted, and we saw mountains and icebergs. The ragged peaks were covered in wisps of mist, and we spotted the first king penguins in the water.

South Georgia is a long, narrow island known for its amazing wildlife, rugged mountains and deeply indented coastline. It stretches some 170 km from east to west, with Mount Paget towering at 2,935 m. The island was first sighted by Anthony de la Roché, in 1675 and later surveyed and claimed for Britain by Captain James Cook in 1775. In the 19th and early 20th centuries it became a centre for sealing and whaling, particularly at Grytviken. Today, the island's small year-round population lives at King Edward Point, home to a British Antarctic Survey research station.



As we entered the little bay Elsehul (Else's cove, named by Norwegian whalers) on the northwest side of the island we lowered all 10 zodiacs, and we started our first zodiac cruise of the trip. The steep beach and the high cliffs were home to hundreds of fur and elephant seals as well as numerous king penguins. The fur seal cubs were playing in the swell while the large elephant seals were sleeping on the shore. The weather was good and we stayed in the boats for 2 hours before returning to the ship for lunch while we repositioned to Right Whale Bay for our first landing on the island.



The conditions were perfect, and we were greeted on shore by a cacophony of sounds from thousands and thousands of fur seals and penguins. The fur seals can be territorial and aggressive but a stern voice and lifted hands is usually enough to make them reconsider. The juveniles are playful and curious. The King penguin with their characteristic colourful beak and neck is the second largest species of penguin, up to 1m tall and weigh 10-15 kg. The chicks were downy grey with some partway through moulting. We spent 3 hours on land, observing, enjoying and photographing the incredible wildlife before returning to the ship for dinner, a ships cruise in the bay of isles and some much-needed photo editing. What a fantastic first day on South Georgia!



Day 8 – Monday 26th January, Salisbury Plain and Fortuna Bay

12h00 GPS Position: 54°03.2'S / 037°19.1'W

Wind: N6 • Sea: smooth • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temp.: 12°C • Water temp.: 3°C

Another day in paradise started with the wake-up call, given by our dear expedition leader Ali. The published plan for today's morning activities was to land at Salisbury Plain inhabited by a large King penguin colony with 60,000 breeding pairs. During the night our *Plancius* bridge team sailed the ship outside of the Bay of Isles. Conditions looked good and while we approached, the weather became better. Outside the bay it was quite foggy, coming closer, the visibility improved. After breakfast our expedition team offered us a landing at Salisbury Plain after assessing the conditions ashore. We touched land at a wide area of level ground formed by the retreat of the Grace Glacier, which we could see in the back within huge mountains. Right behind the grey sand beach was green short grass, which looked like a golf lawn but at this place crowded by Fur Seals and King Penguins. We made our way to the colony, the second largest penguin colony in South Georgia. On the approach there were many photo opportunities with beautiful scenery in combination with wildlife. Close to the colony we met the first chicks that looked quite funny in a way. It did not surprise us that those penguins with the long brown down feathers were formerly believed to be a separate species. We know now that those nice chicks will soon lose their fluffy down and will become a beautiful colourful King Penguin. It was amazing to see such a huge colony of sheer countless penguins. Some were incubating eggs, some probably guarding small chicks and the big brown chicks were in between. In addition, we saw the penguins in moult. We had enjoyed every moment on land, already looking forward for the afternoon.



In the early afternoon hours *Plancius* entered Fortuna Bay. That bay is a 6km long fjord leading to the heart of South Georgia's rugged interior. We faced a spectacular panorama with high mountains all around and the massive König Glacier in the back. Our expedition team assessed the conditions and set up the route for us. When they started it looked fine, however the wind picked up and with this as well the waves, so Ali decided to wait for a while in the hope that the conditions improve, and it calmed down. We still had some waves but the ride to the shore with our experienced drivers was possible and enjoyable. Right next to the landing site, on rocky outcrops, there were dozens of tiny Fur Seals and in higher places there were Elefant Seals, Tussock everywhere in the back. We all followed the sandy beach with beautiful small bays in which penguins and seals played in the waves. In the inner part of Fortuna Bay there was a massive iceberg, probably sitting on the ground in shallow water. The marked route led us to two scenic lookout points, overlooking a King Penguin colony, green grass, the glacier and high pointy mountains in the back. On the way to those far end points, we had to cross several melt water streams coming from the nearby mountains. The Penguins, but also the Fur Seals seemed to like those streams, they gathered in high numbers. Also, the South Georgia Pintail was present at small lakes, an endemic species of that island. We all enjoyed the scenery and the hikes surrounded by wildlife. However, the expedition team asked us to make the way back to the landing side because the wind did pick up in the bay. On the landing site we got prepared for a wet transfer to the ship. The experienced zodiac drivers brought us back and it was indeed wet, and we all tasted the salt water of Fortuna Bay. It was a outstanding experience which we will never forget, the teamwork was great, and all got back save. We left Fortuna Bay spending the night at the northern cost.



Day 9 – Tuesday 27th January, Godthul and Grytviken

12h00 GPS Position: 54°15.1'S / 036°13.8'W

Wind: SE1 • Sea: smooth • Weather: overcast • Air temp.: 7°C • Water temp.: 5°C

We started our day early in the morning making our way into “Godthul”. The place name originates from Norwegian whalers and translates into “Good Cove”. Upon our arrival the clouds were hanging lower on the hills in this old circuit glacial bay. After we had landed on the beach most of us made their way up the steep hill through the tussock grass with wildlife already around us. Leaving the King Penguins, Fur and Elephant seals behind at the beach we climbed higher to reach the Gentoo Penguin colony. For many of us this climb was very successful due to the spotting of the endemic South Georgia Pipit. With this motivation we scrambled on to reach the higher Gentoo colony and had the chance to observe these Penguins. Some of us rather wanted to Zodiac cruise in the bay of Godthul and we went closer to two bigger icebergs in the bay and had fur seals swimming around the Zodiac playfully.



After everyone was back onboard, we started to relocate to our afternoon destination in Grytviken. Over lunchtime all of us cleaned our gear again like we have been doing it since arrival in South Georgia. Upon arrival we got checked by the Authorities of King Edward Point and got a 100% biosecurity-approved. That meant we were ready to go ashore to visit the historical whaling Station of Grytviken. When we arrived, all of us worked our way through the fur seals scattered around towards the cemetery of Grytviken. In fashion, most of us visited Sir Ernest Shackleton's grave and toasted to him with a glass of Whiskey. After giving the honours to this great explorer, we made our way towards the rusty whaling machinery and the old buildings in Grytviken. All of us wandered through the place looking at the relicts of this historical place. Many visited the museum to read up on the History of Grytviken and many joined a guided walk where more information about the history and the life of the whalers and sealers were explained. When the day came to an end the sky broke up and we had a blue sky over us with a great evening atmosphere in the King Edward Cove. As soon as we were returned to *Plancius* we could smell the barbecue on the outer deck. The day ended with a delicious outdoor dinner, and everyone was enjoying the food and drinks outside on deck with a beautiful view of the surroundings at Grytviken.



Day 10 – Wednesday 28th January, St. Andrews Bay, Gold Harbour, Drygalski Fjord

12h00 GPS Position: 54°29.1'S / 035°56.4'W

Wind: NW5 • Sea: slight • Weather: overcast • Air temp.: 4°C • Water temp.: 4°C

Plancius spent the whole night in open water. In the morning, we approached St. Andrew's Bay. That bay is home to the largest King Penguin colony, counting no less than 250.000 breeding pairs. The wide bay is fully exposed to the open sea, and we could see quite a big swell going in. However, our expedition team checked the conditions at the landing side. They went out while we were still having breakfast. After a while the expedition team returned with a zodiac filled with water and the message that a landing is unfortunately not possible because of breaking waves at the beach. But instead of a landing Ali invited us to join a zodiac cruise. We set out and explored the 3km long beach, covered with penguins and elephant seals. In the background we could



see high mountains with clouds on the top and two massive glaciers named Cook- and Heaney Glacier. We all had a great time in the zodiacs, enjoying the King Penguins in big numbers in the water and in amazing huge numbers on land. We cruised in the big swell, sometimes even the zodiacs disappeared in the lowest sections in the waves.

Back on *Plancius* we moved to Gold Harbour in the hope to be able to land on that beach. On the way to there, we moved out in the open ocean but stayed on the shelf, an obviously very productive area. Already from a distance we saw a lot of blows of whales. Coming closer, we found ourselves surrounded by Humpback whales, some came really close to the ship. An amazing experience in the open ocean.



Our Expedition team set out with two zodiacs and all the equipment they need to prepare a landing for us. After a while we got the message that it is not safe to land at that place. Also here are huge waves breaking on the beach, because of the swell entering the bay from an unfavourable direction for us. Gold Harbour is however one of the most beautiful visitor sites of South Georgia with a massive hanging glacier named Bertrab Glacier. Being nearly on the southern end of the island our dear expedition leader Ali decided to cruise into Drygalski



Fjord, a 14km long Fjord system. By sailing in, we entered a totally new world. High mountains on both sides, glaciers and bare rock, the water was bright blue. Nothing green in this fjord. However, we spotted a lot of beautiful Snow Petrels. Everybody enjoyed the sailing, in the far inner side we celebrated the nice day, but as well the previous ones with sparkling wine on the sun deck, behind the bridge. Later it was unfortunately time to turn around,

leaving Drygalski Fjord and with that South Georgia aiming for Antarctica.

Day 11 – Thursday, 29th January, At sea towards Antarctica

12h00 GPS Position: 56°14.4'S / 039°46.7'W

Wind: W7 • Sea: rough • Weather: overcast • Air temp.: 5°C • Water temp.: 2°C

We started the day with a gentle wake-up call from our Expedition Leader, Ali, at 07:45. It was another day at sea, and the excitement was quietly building as we edged closer to the White Continent. Breakfast followed soon after in the Dining Room, where a generous buffet gave everyone plenty of time to ease into the morning and swap stories over coffee.

By mid-morning we gathered in the lounge to learn more about ice as we sailed steadily south. We were already beginning to see it along the way, small reminders that Antarctica was no longer just a point on the map. Karoline's talk added a whole new layer of appreciation to the frozen world forming around us.

Later in the morning, Sven took us on a geological journey through the Falklands and South Georgia. Having already explored these islands earlier in the voyage, it was fascinating to hear how time, tectonics, and nature had shaped the rugged landscapes we had enjoyed so much. Lunch was served at 12:30, offering a welcome pause and a chance to recharge before the afternoon's activities.

In the afternoon, Charlotte spoke about whale feeding, building on the incredible humpback whale encounters we had been lucky enough to witness. Learning more about how they forage for krill made those moments at sea feel even more special — and gave us plenty to talk about afterward. At the same time, Annina held a German lecture about krill which is the basis of all animal life here in the Southern Ocean.

As the day slowed, we settled into the lounge for a documentary screening on the Endurance Expedition, a comfortable way to spend the late afternoon while the ship continued her journey south. We rounded off the day with the evening recap, where the expedition team reflected on the day's highlights and shared plans for tomorrow, leaving us feeling both informed and excited about what lay ahead. Dinner followed at 19:00, bringing another satisfying end to a day filled with learning, good company, and the quiet thrill of getting ever closer to Antarctica.



Day 12 – Friday, 30th January, At sea towards Antarctica

12h00 GPS Position: 58°12.2'S / 045°38.2'W

Wind: WNW5 • Sea: rough • Weather: fog • Air temp.: 4°C • Water temp.: 2°C

During the night, *Plancius* continued southwards. We changed back to Argentinian time, so we got an hour's extra sleep. After breakfast we continued our lecture program starting with a lecture about Krill by Annina followed by Marcello giving an overview of South Georgias history. The wind was holding steady at 20-30kt and the swell still 2-3m with some rogue waves of 4-5m. After lunch we all saw the amazing documentary of the discovery of Shackleton's ship Endurance in 2022, exactly 100 years after it sank. The movie ended with a scene from Shackleton's grave in Grytviken, the exact spot where we were standing just 3 days ago. The five men in the 23-foot lifeboat James Caird used 14 days for the 1500km journey from Elephant Island to South Georgia, a stretch of the polar sea we now cover in 3 days on a very different ship and with all modern comforts.

A tradition on the South Georgia trips is the auction to the benefit of the South Georgia Heritage Trust. Items for sale included 7 postcards pictures of our journey painted by Deborah, a pinguin bracelet and engraved hip flask, a book and a bottle of Shackleton Whiskey both signed by Dr. John Shears, the expedition leader of the Endurance22 search mission and Nico Vincent the Expedition Sub-Sea Manager. Also for sale was a chance to do the morning wakeup call, the flag from the bow and a chance to join the expedition team as a guide for a day.



Day 13 – Saturday, 31st January, At sea towards Antarctica

12h00 GPS Position: 60°20.4'S / 052°23.3'W

Wind: W5 • Sea: moderate • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temp.: 3°C • Water temp.: 2°C

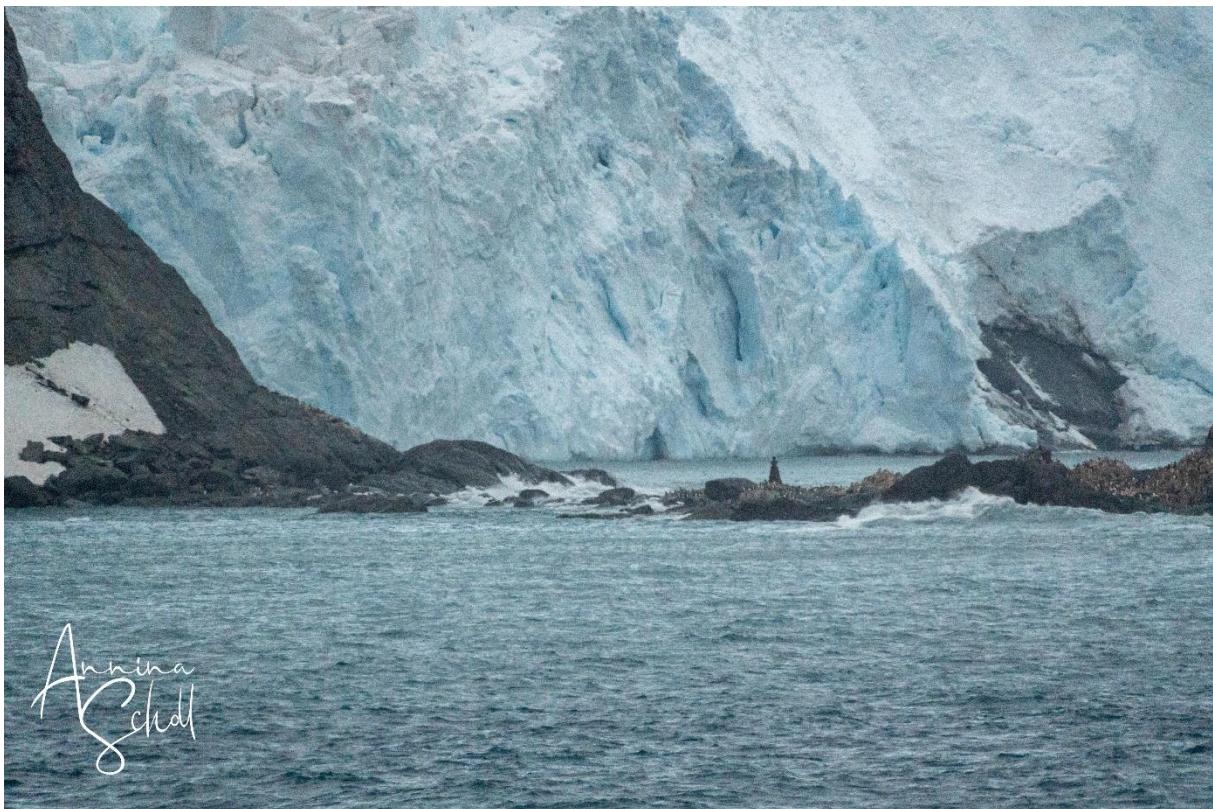
After breakfast, Annina gave a lecture named “Welcome to Antarctica” and therewith told us about many wonderful things we will see in our next destination, the White Continent is getting closer and closer.

Later, Sven invited us to the Lounge to share some history of the Antarctic plate tectonics and the formation of this special continent. It was very useful to understand what happened after the continental drifting, when all of them were part of a supercontinent named Gondwana.

Chef Ralf explained to us some of his many secrets and experiences for being able to cook delicious lunches and dinners for such a big group of people. He emphasized the importance of good logistics and acquiring fresh supplies and provisions, distributing different roles in the kitchen, and preparing the menus while considering not only the passengers' tastes but also

the preservation of the food, preventing it from losing its quality, as well as the weather conditions.

The Race to the Pole is one of the most interesting and intense moments in Antarctic history. Charlotte (English) and Esther (German) told us how Amundsen and Scott carried on their own plans to reach the South Pole, comparing both routes, gears, methods, teams, provisions, and finally, their goals and outcomes that they got. Sadly, Scott and his last four companions died after they reached the South Pole, knowing that Amundsen won the race. Cicero said that the life of the great dead consists in being present in the spirit of the living. I am sure that the spirits of Amundsen, Scott and Shackleton travelled with us onboard



Plancius.

At 5:30pm we sighted Clarence Island, its typical mountainous silhouette, giving us a very first impression of Antarctic landscape. Not so much later, Elephant Island appeared in front of us.

The Captain decided to approach until we could see the monument of Luis Pardo, the Chilean captain who rescued the twenty-two Endurance crew members who were living there waiting for their boss and the help that he, Shackleton promised before leaving Point Wild heading to South Georgia in April 1916.

This great Leader never gave up until his men were saved after four attempts. It is almost impossible to imagine the hardships that all of them had to endure during the nearly two years that the expedition lasted, but they made it!

Now I understand how right Albert Einstein was when he developed the Theory of Relativity. These men surely experienced long days of sadness and just as many days holding onto the hope that a better future would come. For them, the eternal could have been a minute in their

moments of sorrow and then, as fleeting as that eternal wait could have been, when they saw that they would finally be rescued.

During dinner, a couple of birthdays were celebrated. The stewards, with Maria leading the road, made us feel as happy as we were younger.

Day 14 – Sunday, 1st February, Hope Bay & Antarctic Sound

12h00 GPS Position: 63°06.4'S / 056°58.7'W

Wind: 1 • Sea: calm • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temp.: 4°C • Water temp.: 2°C

When we woke up in the morning, *Plancius* was on her way to the Antarctic Sound. After the talk about the Swedish Antarctic Expedition by Marcelo all of us gathered outside on deck to see the first massive icebergs passing by. Shortly we also saw at the horizon the start of the Antarctic Peninsula, covered in most places with a thick layer of ice. The sun was shining above us and nearly no clouds were covering the blue sky. As we sailed into the Antarctic Sound our afternoon destination, Hope Bay, became visible. As we entered the bay we passed the Argentinian Esperanza Base. As soon as we were in position half of us went



ashore to look at the local Adelie penguin colony while the other half went for a Zodiac cruise around the bay. It was a beautiful afternoon with many interesting things to see onshore but also in the Zodiac.

Especially the amount of porpoising penguins in the water was fascinating. After this successful afternoon we sailed deeper into the Antarctic Sound.



© Charlotte Taylor

After Dinner, we were all surprised by Ali on the PA system. We were asked once more to get ready for an evening zodiac cruise through the ice. As soon as we entered the zodiac, we were stunned by the beauty around us. The light was surreal, reflecting on the water surface that looked like glass. As we slowly made our way through the ice we spotted Adelie penguins on ice flows, a big elephant seal on an ice flow and just before the end of the cruise two humpback whales passed by our zodiacs. The evening could have not been better. Except for the fact that just as most went to their cabins and the darkness started to settle the

announcement of Orca's came through the speakers. As we rushed outside, we got a great show of a larger pod of Orca's swimming past *Plancius* and some even passed just beside the Ship. That was truly the cherry on top of the cake for this day.



Sven Joest

Day 15 – Monday, 2nd February, Paulet Island and Brown Bluff

12h00 GPS Position: 63°36.5'S / 055°59.8'W

Wind: 1 • Sea: calm • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temp.: -1°C • Water temp.: 2°C

This morning, we rose earlier again since we had a whole day of activities planned for the day. The morning was cold, and the decks were covered in a thin layer of snow. Overnight we had gone through the Antarctic Sound and reached Paulet Island around 7am. Right in front of the island there was a massive current that made it seem like the icebergs were drifting on a conveyor belt. The ship had to relocate shortly after anchoring as there was a gigantic tabular iceberg drifting towards us, easily ten times as big as our *Plancius*.

Today, our expedition team had another member, Hans, who bought his spot on the team during the South Georgia auction. Paulet Island is home to around 100,000 breeding pairs of Adelie penguins and it was difficult to find a path through the densely packed colony. We were greeting by countless curious chicks as we made our way up the island. We met Marcelo by the remains of the historic hut that Carl Anton Larson built in 1903 after their ship, the *Antarctic* was crushed by the ice and sank. 20



men overwintered in this tiny stone cabin before they set out the next spring to look for the remaining members of the Swedish Antarctic Expedition under Otto Nordenskjöld. We continued, carefully walking through the penguin colonies until we reached a viewpoint that overlooked a freshwater lake and another one where we could see over the whole bay with its many icebergs and the masses of penguins in the water. Our landing ended with a short zodiac cruise along the shore where we got a closer look at the nesting imperial cormorants and two Weddell seals relaxing at the beach.

After the morning at Paulet Island, we made our way back through the Antarctic Sound – which is actually named after the ship that sank here in the early 20th century. The clouds lifted, the sun came out and we enjoyed a spectacular cruise through towering ice bergs. Just to make this moment even more perfect, we encountered a group of feeding humpback whales, a truly majestic sight amidst this incredible landscape.

This wonderful experience, we had another landing planned for the afternoon: Brown Bluff, a rugged volcanic cliff in multiple shades of brown, red and yellow. The high towering cliffs are bordered by an imposing glacier front.



When we arrived at the landing site, there was a young male elephant seal sleeping on the beach that couldn't be bothered by our presence. The expedition team had flagged a route along the shore through the numerous Gentoo and Adelie penguins and stranded pieces of ice. Another route led over a snow field and an area of volcanic debris until the edge of the glacier. We enjoyed great views and beautiful penguin encounters in the afternoon sunshine.



Before our return to the ship, some of us were brave enough to take a swim in the freezing Antarctic waters surrounded by floating icebergs! A proper polar plunge! The return journey on the zodiacs was splashy as the wind started to pick up but eventually, we were all safe and happy back on board where a warm shower and hot drinks awaited us.

The evening was rounded off with a short recap and a briefing for our last expedition day followed by another delicious dinner and a beautiful sunset in the Bransfield Strait.

Day 16 – Tuesday, 3rd February, Half Moon Island and Edinburgh Hill

12h00 GPS Position: 62°33.9'S / 059°51.5'W

Wind: W4 • Sea: rippled • Weather: overcast • Air temp.: 2°C • Water temp.: 2°C

After a quiet night onboard *Plancius* we wake up around the South Shetland Islands. This morning's destination was Half Moon Island with the shape giving the name. It is home to hundreds of breeding chinstrap penguins. There was barely any wind this morning, so that we arrived at the beach after an easy ride on the zodiacs. On the beach, there is an old wooden boat that were used during the whaling times in the early 20th century. We went uphill and reached the penguin highway with quite a lot of traffic this morning. We kept our respectful distance, and the chinstraps didn't really mind our presence. Through a narrow gap between rock formations, we reached another beach. An elephant seal rested on the gravel while a few adult male fur seals squabbled over a few rocks in the water. The scenery was beautiful.

The island consists of sharp rock formations with many differently coloured lichens on it and long dark gravel beaches. In the background we saw islands covered by glaciers. On the higher rocks the chinstraps had established their colonies. In contrast to the other penguin



species these were very vocal. They kept calling while stretching their necks out into the air. We could observe that they are very territorial. Whoever trespassed was attacked rather viciously. Even the chicks participated in that. In addition to visiting the colony we got to

stretch our legs while walking over the long hills all the way to the beach on the other side of the island. Here we discovered the jawbone of a large whale, potentially of a fin whale. The size was unbelievable. Finally, we returned to Plancius for a quick lunch. Our next planned landing site was just 30min of sailing away. Our expedition team rushed through lunch to then assess the conditions for the afternoon. Unfortunately, the wind picked up quite a lot and the swell increased so that the waves started to break. The expedition team returned wet after testing the waters. We couldn't land at Yankee harbour. Instead, the captain offered a ship cruise to Edinburgh hill which is a basaltic rock formation of 180m hight. It rises from the sea in front of the glaciers, the dark grey forming a strong contrast to the white glaciers and the bright blue waters.

This was the last stop on our voyage.

Unfortunately, it was time to set sails and return towards Ushuaia. We said our farewells to the last sights of Antarctica with hot chocolate on the forward deck with the expedition team.



Day 17 – Wednesday, 4th February, Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 59°27.1'S / 062°16.8'W

Wind: W5 • Sea: moderate • Weather: overcast • Air temp.: 3°C • Water temp.: 4°C

A late call for a wake up let us rest well for facing the last day of this unforgettable trip. We needed extra energy because the farewell was coming. We spent days getting to know

incredible and pristine places, flora and fauna never seen before, but also, we shared our time with amazing people from many different latitudes who told us their experiences, feelings and expectations.

The captain studied and ordered the best course to cross the Drake Passage or “Sea of Hoces”, as the Spanish call it. Then, Plancius headed to Tierra del Fuego, having hundreds nautical miles ahead us the emblematic Cape Horn, a small island that divides the Pacific Ocean from the Atlantic. It was a feared corner of the world during the era of the great Clippers, when Panama Chanel did not yet exist.



At 08:45 am we crossed the latitude of 60 degrees south, which marks the northern limit of the Antarctic continent. For this first day on the notorious Drake, the expedition staff had created an interesting lecture program again.

Charlotte spoke about the reproduction in whales, sharing unknown information, especially how long takes each stage in the life of these gorgeous mammals.

At little bit later, Ali spoke about the “Ice Maidens” – women in Antarctica which included the fascinating stories of some of the explorers’ wives who did never make it to Antarctica personally, but also women who actually wrote polar history through their own achievements, such as Jackie Ronne or Liv Arnesen.

During the afternoon there was a programme of three short lectures combined, both in English and in German. In the Lounge, Ali told us about the pets in South Georgia and in Antarctica, Karoline frightened us with her stories about giant isopods, and Charlotte spoke about fascinating species of orcas. In the restaurant, Annina talked about plankton, the base of the food web, Matthias shared his first-hand experiences with skuas, his favourite bird, and Esther spoke about the tourism management in Antarctica.





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.

I remember a thought from Benjamin Franklin. There are two kinds of people in the world: those who are happy and those who are not. The happy ones see the convenience of things in the good parts of a conversation, in well-prepared dishes, in a well-spent day, in the subtlest details of life, and they enjoy them with joy. Unhappy people think, talk, and always dwell on the negative. Happiness is not a reward, but a consequence, and suffering is not a punishment but a result.

The journey is slowly coming to an end and each of us will return to the respective activities of our lives. Meeting family and friends, going back to work, meeting at the club or a coffee shop to tell our stories and experiences. Maybe one day during the trip we will feel sad. We had time to reflect on our lives, our desires and future projects. And... If we still have something left without finding an answer, the rough waves and the icy Antarctic wind will be the custodians of that secret, perhaps until our next trip and adventure.

Day 18 – Thursday, 5th February, Drake Passage

12h00 GPS Position: 55°46.6'S / 065°46.9'W

Wind: SW6 • Sea: moderate • Weather: overcast • Air temp.: 3°C • Water temp.: 4°C

During the night we experienced a good storm on the infamous Drake Passage. When we woke up in the morning, a few things in the cabin were not where they used to be. This morning, we were woken up by a unique wake up call. Tobias and Sabine had donated money for the wake-up call during the South Georgia auction and therefore were allowed to wake up the entire ship today. They were gentle to us, we maybe expected heavy metal, but instead, there was many kind words and peaceful music playing.

After breakfast, our educational entertainment on board continued. At 9:30 am, Karoline gave us a spectacular insight into her seven years of living in a remote trapping hut in Svalbard with her partner, their little boy, and a lot of dogs. In a very humorous way, she portrayed the solitude, the trapping and hunting life, as well as the darkness in winter.

Shortly after her, we had two guest lecturers with quite an amazing story: Janneke and Wietze from the Netherlands told us the story of our dear ship *Plancius*, about times, when her name was still *Tydeiman* and she was operated by the Dutch Navy and used for hydrographic work, mapping the ocean floor, and many other scientific purposes. They ended their lecture by pointing out, that whenever the keel is laid for a ship, something determines whether it is going to be a happy ship or not. *Tydeiman* and now *Plancius* has always been a happy ship and we all got to experience this deep truth on our voyage to some of the most remarkable places on Earth, with some of the most remarkable we met.

In the afternoon, Ali had prepared some entertainment for all of us. We were to participate in a pub quiz where our knowledge got tested on all elements of this voyage: the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Antarctica, the ship, the wildlife, and our guides. It was great fun coming together for a game in the lounge.

The wind did not drop this afternoon, it rather felt like it kept increasing. When we approached the notorious Cape Hoorn, it reached speeds up to 50 knots! It was crazy to see how the storm was whipping up the sea!

Cape Hoorn Island has a beautiful lighthouse, a few families are living close to the cape. Since 1992 there is a beautiful albatross sculpture dedicated to the sailors lost at sea. You can read the following poem by Sara Vial:

*I am the albatross that awaits you
At the end of the world.
I am the forgotten souls of dead sailors
Who passed Cape Horn
From all oceans of the world.
But they did not die in the furious waves.
Today they fly in my wings.
Toward eternity,*

In the last crack

Of the Antarctic winds.

We finished our last day on board with a glass of sparkling wine and a beautiful speech from Captain Matei. We clinked glasses with Ali and her team and got to see the wonderful slideshow that Sven and Annina prepared for us as a memory of this unforgettable voyage.

One final delicious dinner on board and a huge round of applause for the kitchen and hotel team, and then some of us retreated in their cabins to pack their luggage, and others sat together for some more drinks at the bar.



Day 19 – Friday, 6th January, Ushuaia, Disembarkation Day

12h00 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S / 068°17.8'W

Wind: NW-5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Mainly sunny • Air temperature: 6°C

It is time to go. Time to say our goodbyes, time to exchange contacts with new friends we made along the way, time to travel on. We walked down the gangway and back onto the pier of Ushuaia, looking back at the ship and the crew.

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

**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 3,225.6 nm
Southernmost position: 63°37'S / 055°55'W**

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, the Captain, Crew and Expedition staff we would like to thank you for a wonderful time, it has been a pleasure sailing with you.



Ushuaia

1. New Island (Settlement)

2. New Island (North)

3. Stanley

Sea Day

Sea Day

4. Elsehul

5. Right Whale Bay

6. Salisbury Plain

7. Fortuna Bay

8. Godthul Bay

9. Grytviken

10. St. Andrew's Bay

11. Gold Harbour

12. Drygalski Fjord

Sea Day

Sea Day

Sea Day

13. Elephant Island (Point Wild)

14. Hope Bay

15. Paulet Island

16. Brown Bluff

17. Half Moon Island

18. Edinburgh Hill (Ship Cruise)

Sea Day

Sea Day

Beagle Channel

Ushuaia



Lat: 63° 37.508' South

Long: 056° 12.344' West

Southernmost position reached

Total Distance Travelled:

- 3224.2 NM

- 5971,2 Km

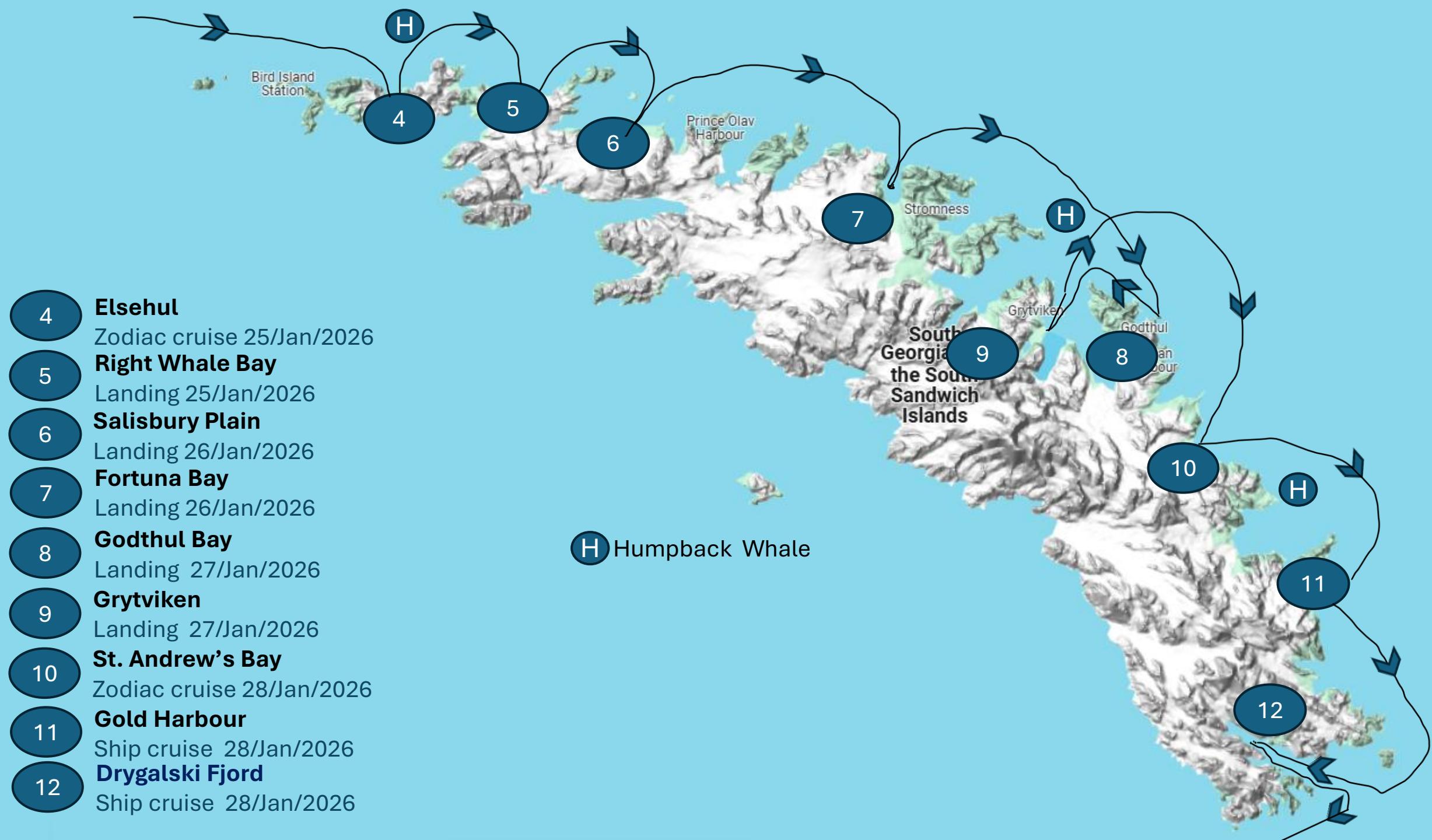


1 New Island (Settlement)
Landing AM 21/Jan/2026

2 New Island (North)
Landing PM 21/Jan/2026

3 Stanley
Landing AM 22/Jan/2026

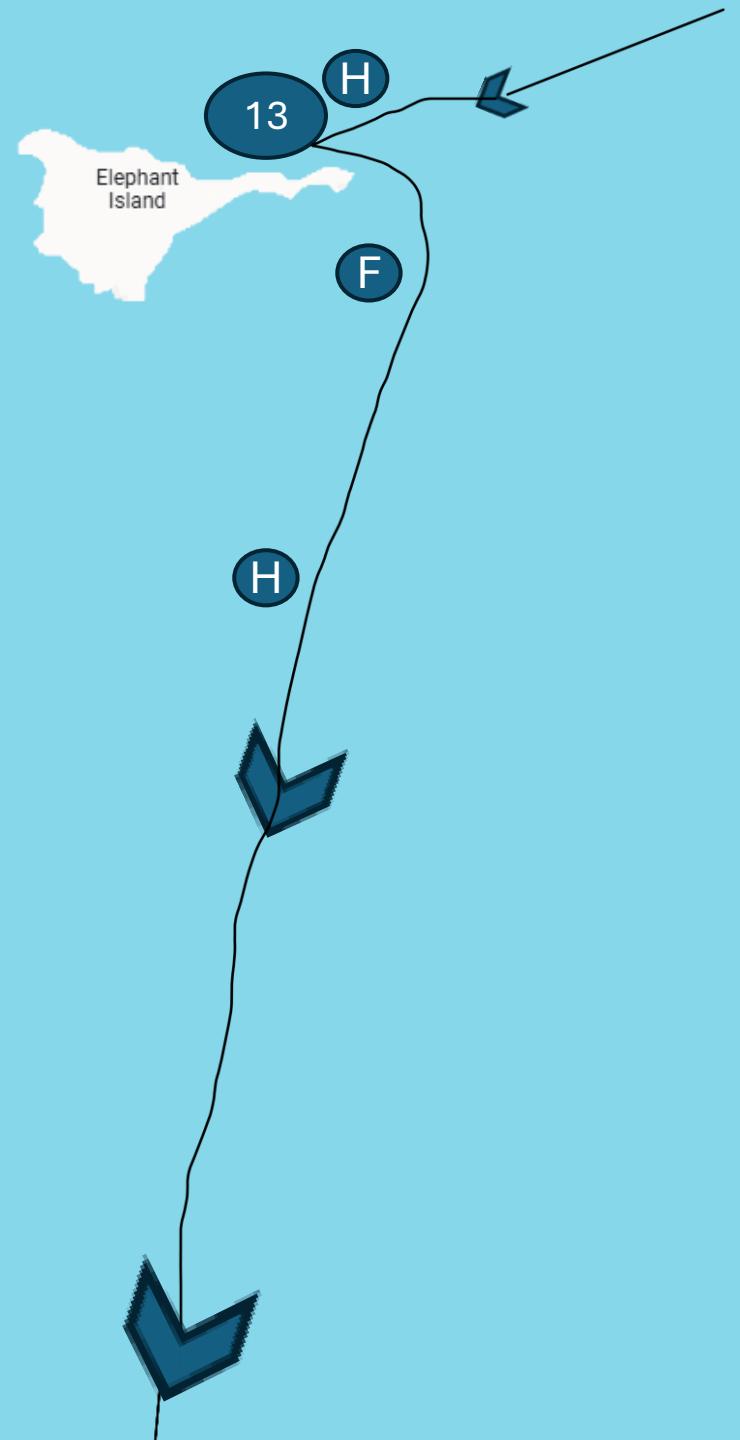


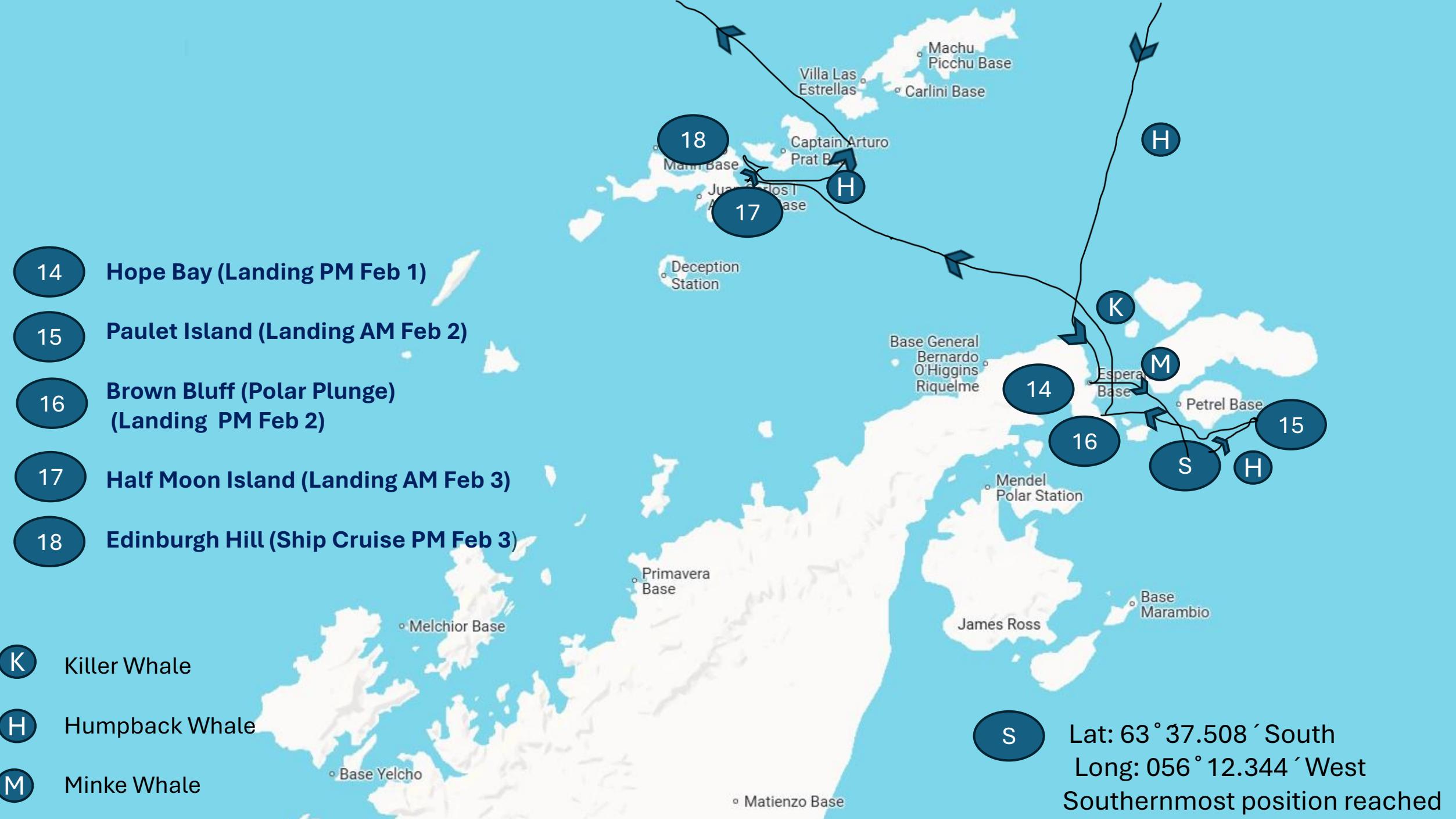


13

Point Wild, Elephant Island
Ship cruise PM 31/Jan/2026

H Humpback Whale
F Fin Whale





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

English	Latin	19-Jan	20-Jan	21-Jan	22-Jan	23-Jan	24-Jan	25-Jan	26-Jan	27-Jan	28-Jan	29-Jan	30-Jan	31-Jan	1-Feb	2-Feb	3-Feb	4-Feb	5-Feb	6-Feb
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>																			
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>							X	X	X	X	X								
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>															X	X			
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>								X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X		
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>								X						X	X	X	X		
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysophrys</i>				X				X				X							
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>			X	X															
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>				X	X		X	X			X		X				X		
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>				X															
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>					X	X											X	X	
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		
Grey-headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>						X		X					X	X			X	X	
Light-mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>							X		X			X	X						
Northern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>							X		X										
Southern Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>														X	X				
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capense</i>								X		X		X	X	X	X				
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassarche antarctica</i>																			
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>									X	X	X	X				X			
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>									X										
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>			X				X	X			X	X	X					X	
Soft Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>					X	X	X												
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>																			
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		X		X	X													X	
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>					X														
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>								X	X	X	X	X	X						
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>																			
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>	X																		
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregata tropica</i>							X	X						X	X			X	
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>																			
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>		X						X	X									X	
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides magellani</i>																			
Imperial Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps atriceps</i>	X		X	X														X	X
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps bransfieldensis</i>															X	X	X		
Snowy (Pale-faced) Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>			X					X	X		X				X	X	X		
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>																			
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>																X	X	X	
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta falklandica lönbergi</i>					X	X			X	X	X	X		X		X	X		
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>	X	X	X															X	
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	X	X						X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	X			X														X	X
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>								X	X	X	X				X	X	X		
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>																			
Great Grebe	<i>Podiceps major</i>													X						
Falkland Islands		19-Jan	20-Jan	21-Jan	22-Jan	23-Jan	24-Jan	25-Jan	26-Jan	27-Jan	28-Jan	29-Jan	30-Jan	31-Jan	1-Feb	2-Feb	3-Feb	4-Feb	5-Feb	6-Feb
Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>			X	X															
Rock (Magellanic) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>				X								X							

Ali Liddle – Expedition Leader



Originally from the UK, Ali spent 15 years living in the Falkland Islands where she worked as a Primary school teacher both teaching out in 'camp' and at the school in Stanley. Latterly, she was employed as Education Officer for Falklands Conservation and shared her time between classroom teaching and conservation. In 1997, she spent 9 months living on South Georgia where she ran the Post Office and took every opportunity to hike, ski and explore the surrounding peaks and coastline. She has published three books to date: *Plants of the Falkland Islands* and two art and craft books for children using penguins and albatross as the inspiration. Ali is a keen runner, having completed three marathons in the Falkland Islands and two in the UK, and she also enjoys cycling, hiking and camping. Ali has been working on Antarctic and Arctic expedition cruises with Oceanwide for more years than she cares to remember and works on all of the Oceanwide vessels at some point during the year. She has recently relocated from Northumberland to the Isle of Skye where she is renovating a cottage and enjoying the hiking opportunities of the island. Her particular interest is

natural history and the wildlife, and she enjoys sharing her knowledge of and passion for the polar regions.

Deutsch

Ali kommt ursprünglich aus Großbritannien und hat 15 Jahre lang auf den Falklandinseln gelebt. Dort arbeitete sie als Grundschullehrerin im sogenannten "Camp" wie auch in der Schule von Stanley. Später war sie zuständig für den Bereich Bildung des Umweltamtes und teilte ihre Zeit zwischen Klassenzimmer und Naturschutz. 1997 verbrachte sie neun Monate in Südgeorgien, wo sie das Postamt betrieb. Gleichzeitig nutzte sie jede Gelegenheit, um zu wandern, Ski zu laufen und die umliegenden Gipfel und Küstenlinien zu erkunden. Sie hat drei Bücher veröffentlicht: *Pflanzen der Falklandinseln* und zwei Kunst- und Handwerksbücher für Kinder, die von Pinguinen und Albatrossen inspiriert sind. Sie ist eine leidenschaftliche Läuferin und hat bereits drei Marathons auf den Falklandinseln und zwei in Großbritannien absolviert. Außerdem fährt sie gerne Rad und liebt das Wandern und Zelten.

Ali arbeitet bereits seit vielen Jahren auf allen Schiffen der Oceanwide-Flotte, sowohl in der Antarktis wie auch der Arktis. Sie ist vor kurzem von Northumberland in England auf die Isle of Skye in Schottland gezogen, wo sie zur Zeit eine alte Kate renoviert. In ihrer Freizeit genießt sie die unglaublichen Wandermöglichkeiten der Insel.

Ihr besonderes Interesse gilt der Natur und der Tierwelt: dieses Wissen und ihre Leidenschaft für die Polarregionen teilt sie gerne mit Euch.

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.

Deutsch

Charlotte wuchs an der zerklüfteten Küste von Cornwall, Großbritannien, auf, wo ihre Faszination für Wildtiere und den Ozean schon in jungen Jahren begann. Inspiriert von der natürlichen Welt um sie herum, studierte sie Wildtier- und Naturschutz an der Universität und legte somit den Grundstein für ein Leben, das der Forschung, dem Abenteuer und dem Schutz der marinen Ökosysteme gewidmet ist. Ihre Liebe zu Schiffen und dem Leben auf See begann 2013, als sie auf Forschungs- und Tauchschriften arbeitete, die abgelegenen Regionen des Great Barrier Reef erkundeten. Während ihres Aufenthalts in Australien und Neuseeland vertiefte sich Charlottes Leidenschaft für Meeressbiologie, mit dem Schwerpunkt Ihres Studiums für Buckelwale, Zwergwale und Pottwale. Zwischen 2020 und 2022 arbeitete Charlotte in der Superyacht- und Explorer-Schiffindustrie als Deck Hand und Dive Master in abgelegenen und herausfordernden Regionen. Diese Erfahrungen verfeinerten ihre nautischen Fähigkeiten und verstärkten ihre Wertschätzung für die Meeressumwelt. Als begeisterte Reisende hat Charlotte die Welt seit ihrem 18. Lebensjahr erkundet, indem sie durch Asien, Australasien und Südamerika reiste. 2015 unternahm sie eine Überlandreise von Südafrika nach Jordanien in einem Land Rover, bevor sie 2018 in Mosambik sesshaft wurde. Dort gründete sie ihr eigenes Hostel für Rucksacktouristen und kombinierte ihren Unternehmergeist mit ihrer Liebe zum Reisen. Neben der Leitung des Hostels arbeitete sie als Forscherin und studierte Walhaie und Mantarochen entlang der Küste Mosambiks. Zuletzt absolvierte sie eine 7.000 km lange Reise in einem 4x4 durch Kasachstan, Kirgisistan, Usbekistan und Tadschikistan. Wenn sie nicht auf See ist, liebt Charlotte es, tauchen, surfen, freitauchen und wandern zu gehen. Aber auch die einfachen Freuden des Lebens genießt sie – Tee trinken und mit ihrem Hund spazieren gehen. Sie fühlt sich sehr glücklich, Oceanwide als ihr zweites Zuhause zu bezeichnen und freut sich darauf, ihre Liebe zum Meer, zu Wildtieren und zum Abenteuer in einer Karriere zu vereinen, die der Erkundung und der gefrorenen Wildnis gewidmet ist.

Annina Scholl – Expedition guide



Annina is a biologist with a passion for remote destinations and marine life – especially plankton, one of the most essential groups of creatures on our planet.

After dreaming of everything alive and wild during her childhood, she studied biology at the TU Darmstadt, where she graduated with a PhD in cell biology. More specifically, she studied how genetic material, DNA, is packed and organized within the cell nucleus.

During her bachelor and master studies however, Annina decided to deepen her understanding and knowledge in marine biology when she worked at the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) in Bremerhaven, Germany in the research group “Antarctic krill”. Her master thesis focused on how the annual light conditions in Antarctica influence the metabolism of Antarctic krill, which is the very centre of the food web.

In 2018 her dream of the polar regions became true when she started working as an expedition guide. Since

then, Annina has worked in some of the wildest and remotest environments on earth - from the high Arctic down to Antarctica. While it is easy to infect guests with the polar bug in these unique places, it is important to Annina that this happens in a passionate but respectful manner. It is a privilege to visit, and it is our responsibility to protect these environments and all its inhabitants.

In her free time, Annina enjoys spending time outdoors especially hiking, horseback riding and photography.

Deutsch

Annina ist Biologin mit einer Schwäche für abgelegene Reiseziele und alles Leben im Meer – insbesondere interessiert sie sich für Plankton, eine der essentiellsten Gruppen von Lebewesen auf unserem Planeten.

Den Kindheitsträumen von allem Wilden und Lebendigen folgte ein Biologiestudium an der TU Darmstadt, dass sie mit einer Promotion in Zellbiologie, über die Organisation und Struktur unseres Erbgutes im Zellkern, abschloss.

Während ihres Bachelor- und Masterstudiums entschied sich Annina dafür ihr Fachwissen in Meeresbiologie zu vertiefen. Sie arbeitete am Alfred-Wegener-Institut, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Polar- und Meeresforschung, in der Forschungsgruppe “Antarktischer Krill”, wo sie auch ihre Master-Arbeit absolvierte. Fokus dieser Arbeit war, wie sich die Lichtbedingungen während des Jahres auf den Stoffwechsel von Antarktischem Krill, dem Zentrum des antarktischen Nahrungsnetzes, auswirken.

Annina’s Traum die Polarregionen zu erkunden erfüllte sich 2018, als sie anfing als Expeditionsguide in einigen der abgelegensten und wildesten Regionen der Erde zu arbeiten – von Arktis bis Antarktis. Seither genießt sie es an diesen wunderbaren Orten Gäste mit dem “Polar-Virus” anzustecken, allerdings sollte das mit Leidenschaft aber auch Respekt geschehen. Diese Regionen zu erleben ist ein Privileg und es ist unsere Verantwortung sie und alle seine Bewohner zu schützen.

Ihre Freizeit verbringt Annina am liebsten draußen, beim Wandern, Reiten und der Fotografie.

Esther Josten – Expedition Guide



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 and works as freelancer in several other fields.

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. Travelling can inspire, educate, trigger thought and discussion, and expand our horizons. Esther loves sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge with others and specializes in storytelling, history, and tourism management.

Deutsch

Esther's Heimat ist ein kleines Dorf im Westen Deutschlands, in der Mittelgebirgsregion Eifel. Die Landschaft dort ist geprägt von erloschenen Vulkanen, weiten Wäldern und tiefen Tälern. Von dort aus begann sie, die Welt zu entdecken und fand dabei ihre Leidenschaft für die Reise- & Outdoor-Branche.

Sie studierte Internationales Tourismus Management in den Niederlanden und lebte eine Weile in Frankreich, Spanien und Neuseeland. Seit fast 10 Jahren arbeitet sie als Reiseleiter, Wander- und Bootsführer und Expeditions-Guide. Wenn sie nicht in den Polarregionen unterwegs ist, verbringt sie die meiste Zeit damit, ihre eigene Firma für Outdoor-Erlebnisse und maßgeschneiderte Touren in der Fjordlandschaft Südnorwegens aufzubauen und arbeitet als Freiberufler in verschiedenen Bereichen.

Was sie an ihrem Beruf liebt, ist nicht nur die Nähe zur Natur und den Elementen, sondern auch die wunderbaren Begegnungen mit Menschen aus aller Welt. Neben all den natürlichen Wundern, die unser Planet zu bieten hat, ist sie fasziniert von dessen Geschichte, Kulturen und Sprachen.

Sie ist davon überzeugt, dass Tourismus ein Katalysator positiver Veränderung sein kann, solange er richtig organisiert wird. Das Reisen kann inspirieren, lehren, Gedanken und Diskussionen anregen und unseren Horizont erweitern. Esther liebt es, ihren Enthusiasmus und ihr Wissen mit anderen zu teilen und hat sich auf das Geschichtenerzählen, Geschichte und Tourismus-Management spezialisiert.

Karoline Bælum – Expedition Guide



Karoline came to Svalbard as an undergraduate geology student in 2001 and never managed to leave. After more than 20 years on the island she has so far acquired a team of sled dogs, a master's degree in glaciology, a PhD in Geology, a kid and a trapper station.

In addition to guiding part time since 2002 she has worked both at the University Centre in Svalbard as a scientist and as a senior advisor for the Norwegian Research Council. She has guided trips for Oceanwide in Svalbard, Greenland, and Antarctica since 2007.

Together with her son, partner and 7 dogs she has done two overwinterings at Farmhamna Trapper station in Forlandssundet, keeping Svalbard's 400-year-old trapper tradition alive. When not working you can find her out with the dogs, up on a glacier or training with the Red Cross Avalanche rescue team.

Working and guiding in the Polar regions is a geoscientists dream as most of the landscape consists of rocks and ice. With no trees or much other vegetation to obscure the rocks the fascinating geological history is visible and easily accessible.

Deutsch

Karoline kam 2001 als Geologiestudentin im Grundstudium nach Spitzbergen – und hat es seither nie geschafft, die Insel zu verlassen. Nach über 20 Jahren auf Spitzbergen hat sie mittlerweile ein Team von Schlittenhunden, einen Masterabschluss in Glaziologie, einen Doktortitel in Geologie, ein Kind und eine Trapperstation.

Seit 2002 arbeitet sie nebenbei als Guide und war außerdem sowohl als Wissenschaftlerin am Universitätszentrum in Spitzbergen als auch als leitende Beraterin für den Norwegischen Forschungsrat tätig. Seit 2007 führt sie für Oceanwide Expeditions Touren in Spitzbergen, Grönland und der Antarktis durch.

Zusammen mit ihrem Sohn, ihrem Partner und sieben Hunden hat sie zwei Überwinterungen an der Trapperstation Farmhamna im Forlandssundet verbracht und damit geholfen, die über 400-jährige Trappertradition Spitzbergens am Leben zu erhalten. Wenn sie nicht arbeitet, ist sie oft mit den Hunden unterwegs, auf einem Gletscher oder beim Training mit dem Lawinenrettungsteam des Roten Kreuzes.

In den Polarregionen zu arbeiten und zu guiden, ist für eine Geowissenschaftlerin ein wahr gewordener Traum – denn die Landschaft besteht größtenteils aus Fels und Eis. Ohne Bäume oder viel Vegetation, die den Blick auf die Gesteine verdecken könnten, ist die faszinierende geologische Geschichte dieser Regionen deutlich sichtbar und leicht zugänglich

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.

Matthias Kopp - Expedition Guide



Matthias live 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 settled work right next to the home village, to do a great step in direction uncertainty. 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 area of 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. Thereby most impressive for him were the Polar Regions. Matthias stayed for his studies with the Skuas in total 5 summer seasons at Antarctic bases and meanwhile 10 seasons in the high Arctic as a Tour guide onboard vessels.

Currently Matthias is predominantly settled, based again in the village of his childhood, but now with wife, 3 young girls, 2 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 high north – also to escape the heat fewer.

German

Matthias lebt die meiste Zeit des Jahres in Thüringen/ Deutschland. Nach der Schule erlernte er den Beruf des Großhandelskaufmanns und entschied sich nach einigen Jahren geregelter Arbeitsanstellung, ganz in der Nähe seines Heimatortes, einen großen Schritt ins Ungewisse zu machen. Er begann Biologie an der Universität in Jena zu studieren. Er spezialisierte sich auf die Fachrichtungen Ökologie und Ornithologie (Vogelkunde) und schrieb auch seine Diplomarbeit in diesen Gebieten; mit Raubmöwen (Skuas) im Gebiet der Antarktischen Halbinsel. Auch nach diesem Abschluss an der Universität arbeitete Matthias noch einige Jahre mit diesen wunderbaren Tieren. Während des Studiums ist Matthias durch sein Interesse und sein Netzwerk auf der ganzen Welt unterwegs gewesen. Besonders haben es ihn bei seinen Touren die Polaren Gebiete angetan. Er verbrachte für seine Studien mit den Raubmöwen 5 Südsommer auf Forschungsstationen in der Antarktis und mittlerweile 10 Saisons in der Arktis als Tourguide auf Schiffen.

Gerade ist Matthias überwiegend sesshaft, mit Lebensmittelpunkt im ländlichen Heimatdorf, mit Frau, 3 kleinen Mädchen, 2 Katzen, ein paar Bienenvölkern und einem großen Garten, die ihn brauchen. Seine Frau weiß allerdings auch, dass es ihm im Hochsommer in Deutschland viel zu warm ist, deshalb darf Matthias mit Euch hier im hohen Norden unterwegs sein – auch um den Heuschnupfen aus dem Weg zu gehen.

Sven Joest – Expedition Guide



Sven is an arctic enthusiast from Bonn, Germany, with a passion and expertise in the area of geomorphology. During his undergraduate study in geography at the University of Bonn, it was his semester abroad in Joensuu, Finland, that sparked his interest in the wilderness of the north and the arctic.

Since then, he has pursued his enthusiasm for adventure through several trips to northern Norway and is currently continuing his academic journey with a master's degree specialising in Peace and Conflict

Transformation, at the Arctic University of Tromsø, Norway, which is the most northern university in the world. From here he is able to pursue his passion for the outdoors and the cold by skiing, hiking, and exploring these vast and remote environments.

As an enthusiastic hobby photographer, and an increasingly keen birder since volunteering at a bird nature reserve on the island of Fehmarn, you'll most likely find him out on deck taking snaps of the landscapes and the wildlife in his spare time during the voyage.

Excited to continue expanding his knowledge and experience in all aspects of the polar expanses, he welcomes you to chat at any point during the adventure about any questions you may have or your own polar interests and stories.

Deutsch

Sven ist ein Arktis-Enthusiast aus Bonn, Deutschland mit einer Leidenschaft und Expertise im Bereich der Geomorphologie. Während seines Grundstudiums der Geographie an der Universität Bonn war es sein Auslandssemester in Joensuu, Finnland das sein Interesse an der Wildnis des Nordens und der Arktis weckte.

Seitdem hat er seine Begeisterung für Abenteuer durch mehrere Reisen nach Nordnorwegen weiterverfolgt und setzt derzeit seine akademische Reise mit einem Masterstudium mit Schwerpunkt Friedens- und Konflikttransformation an der Arktischen Universität in Tromsø, Norwegen fort, der nördlichsten Universität der Welt. Von hier aus kann er seiner Leidenschaft für die Natur und die Kälte nachgehen, indem er Ski fährt, wandert und diese weiten und abgelegenen Gebiete erkundet.

Als begeisterter Hobbyfotograf und zunehmend begeisterter Vogelbeobachter, seitdem er ein Praktikum in einem Vogelschutzgebiet auf der Insel Fehmarn absolviert hat, werden Sie ihn in seiner Freizeit während der Reise höchstwahrscheinlich an Deck finden, um Fotos von der Landschaft und der Tierwelt zu machen.

Er freut sich darauf, sein Wissen und seine Erfahrung in allen Aspekten der polaren Weiten zu erweitern und lädt Sie ein, während der Reise mit ihm über Ihre Fragen oder Ihre eigenen polaren Interessen und Geschichten zu sprechen.

Laura Ouwerkerk – Ships Doctor



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.

Deutsch

Laura Ouwerkerk ist eine erfahrene Ärztin mit großer Leidenschaft für die Arbeit in abgelegenen und herausfordernden Umgebungen. Mit über sechs Jahren Erfahrung im Bereich der globalen Gesundheit und der Notfallmedizin war sie in einer Vielzahl von ressourcenarmen Einsatzgebieten tätig. Ihre berufliche Laufbahn führte sie in entlegene und oft anspruchsvolle Regionen wie den Südsudan, und sie ist erst kürzlich von einem Jahr medizinischer Arbeit in Sierra Leone zurückgekehrt, wo das Management medizinischer Notfälle unter unvorhersehbaren und oft harten Bedingungen zum täglichen Alltag gehörte.

Neben ihrer medizinischen Laufbahn ist Laura eine leidenschaftliche Abenteurerin. Ihre Radtour von den Niederlanden zum Nordkap und drei Monate Reisen durch Patagonien – einzig mit Pferd und Zelt unterwegs – haben ihr eine tiefe Wertschätzung für die Schönheit und Herausforderung unberührter Wildnis vermittelt. Zudem haben ihre alpinen Expeditionen, etwa in Österreich und Nepal, ihre Verbindung zur Natur und deren Fähigkeit, sowohl zu inspirieren als auch herauszufordern, weiter gestärkt.

Für Laura bietet die Arbeit mit Oceanwide Expeditions die perfekte Gelegenheit, ihre medizinische Expertise mit ihrer Liebe zum Abenteuer zu verbinden. Sie gedeiht in dynamischen, eng verbundenen Teams und setzt sich leidenschaftlich dafür ein, die Sicherheit und das Wohlbefinden der Gäste auf ihren Polarreisen zu gewährleisten. Sie freut sich darauf, zu den unvergesslichen Erlebnissen der Menschen beizutragen, denen sie unterwegs begegnet.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica Ushuaia

Embarkation
Monday 19th January 2026

1600 **Welcome on board!** Your luggage should be in your cabin when you arrive. Please check carefully if you are missing any luggage and if there is luggage in your cabin that does not belong to you then please let one of the staff know. Please feel free to explore the ship.
Tea and coffee are available in the Lounge on Deck 5.

>1700 **Mandatory Safety and Lifeboat Instruction** in the Lounge. **ALL PASSENGERS** are required to participate in this very important instruction.

1800 Departure from the pier.

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**, a chance to meet your Captain, Matei Mocanu and then you will meet with your Expedition Leader Ali Liddle. She will explain the plans for the coming days, and it will be a chance to meet with your Expedition Team.

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

2030 After dinner we will hand out your rubber boots. We will call you by deck so please listen for announcements.

Tonight we will be sailing in open water and 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 handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

At Sea to the Falkland Islands

Tuesday 20th January 2026

0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0930 **The Falkland Islands.** Your Expedition Leader, Ali lived in the Falklands for 15 years so please join her in the Lounge for a presentation about the islands

1100 **Whales and Dolphins.** We hope to see some whales and dolphins during this trip so if you would like to learn more about the species we might see please join Charlotte in the Lounge.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

1530 **Seabirds.** We will be seeing lots of seabirds on our voyage so if you would like to learn more about the species then please join Annina in the Lounge.

1800 **Zodiac Briefing and Recap.** This is a mandatory briefing for all guests so please join the expedition team in the Lounge. You will hear about our plans for tomorrow in the Falkland Islands.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3 behind the Reception desk. Enjoy your meal.

We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.

Wednesday 21st January 2026

0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

~0800 **New Island Settlement.** This morning, we hope to take you ashore at the settlement landing at New Island. From here you can walk up the hill to the Black browed albatross colony where you will also see Rockhopper penguins. The walk is around 1km. The scenery is beautiful on the way.
At the landing site there is a small museum where you can buy locally made souvenirs. Cards payment, Apple Pay, Google Pay, Cash in £, Euro and \$.

1200 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

TBA **New Island North.** In the afternoon we hope to land at North Harbour where there are large colonies of Gentoo penguins and Magellanic penguins. We hope to be able to walk over to the northern sand beach where the Gentoo penguins come ashore. This is a 1.5 km walk from the landing site.

1830 **Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for the re-cap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

0715 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0730 Breakfast buffet is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

~0830 **Stanley.** We hope to be able to take you ashore in Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. We will land at the jetty which is close to the centre of town. Maps and other information leaflets are available in the Jetty Centre.
Enjoy a visit to the museum and a walk along the sea front where you will find the shops and Post Office.
Local currency is Pounds Sterling but you can use Euros and Dollars in most shops. Debit and Credit cards are also accepted.
WiFi internet cards can be bought at the Jetty Centre and used at WiFi hotspots in town.

1300 Lunch is available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

1530 Island Isolation! Escaping Covid. Ali spent much of the covid pandemic on Sea Lion Island, one of the remote islands in the Falklands. Please join her in the Lounge to hear some more stories of island life.

1815 Re-cap and Plans for Tomorrow. Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for the re-cap of the day and our learn of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 Dinner is available in the Dining Room.

0745 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0930 **Introduction to South Georgia.** Please join Ali in the Lounge for an introduction to the island of South Georgia, including aspects of history, the economy and the wildlife.

1100 **Seals.** We have already seen some seals in the Falkland Islands but if you would like to learn more about these marine mammals then please join Charlotte in the Lounge.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

1500 **Sir Ernest Shackleton. Endurance Expedition.** Please join Marcelo in the Lounge for his presentation about the remarkable story of Shackleton's expedition to attempt to cross the Antarctic continent in 1914.

1630 **Documentary.** We will screen a documentary in the lounge.

1830 **Re-cap.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0930 **Bio-security Briefing.** This is a mandatory briefing that everyone must attend. Thank you.

1000 **Bio-security.** Cleaning sessions in the Lounge. We will call you by deck to clean your outer gear – jackets, over trousers, back packs and camera bags. You will need to sign a declaration form after you have done your cleaning. Many thanks.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

The timings of our afternoon programme will depend on progress made with Bio-security during the morning.

TBA **Penguins.** We have seen three species of penguins so far on this voyage; Magellanic, Gentoo and Rockhopper. If you would like to learn more about these penguins and the species, we are going to see then please join Ali in the Lounge.

1630 **Documentary.** We will screen a documentary in the lounge.

1830 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow, our first day on South Georgia.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Elsehul and Right Whale Bay

Sunday 25th January 2026

During the early morning we will be making our final approach towards South Georgia and will maybe see icebergs and we'll have the first views of the island.

0730 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

~0900 **Elsehul.** For our first experience of South Georgia, we will arrive in Elsehul and hope to take you out on a zodiac cruise in the bay area. On the beaches we will see Elephant seals and Fur seals as well as Gentoo penguins while above on the tussac slopes we will see albatross on their nests. We will explore the Inner Bay and the beautiful little cove called Joke Cove and, depending on the swell and wind conditions we may try to take you around to see the Macaroni penguin colony

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

TBA **Right Whale Bay.** This afternoon we hope to be able to take you ashore on Right Whale Bay where there is a colony of King penguins as well as Fur seals and Elephant seals. Please follow the marker poles on shore, keep a look out for Fur seals and listen to the advice of the guides. Remember your 5 metre distance from wildlife.

1900 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.

Before landing, please check your boots, backpacks and any Velcro to make sure they are clean.

On return to the ship please make sure your boots are clean and all your gear has been checked.

1930

Dinner is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3. Enjoy your meal.

Before landing, please check your boots, backpacks and any Velcro to make sure they are clean.

On return to the ship please make sure your boots are clean and all your gear has been checked.

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Salisbury Plain and Fortuna Bay

Monday 26th January 2026

0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0800 **Salisbury Plain.** This morning, we hope to take you ashore at Salisbury Plain where there is a large King penguin colony with 60,000 breeding pairs of penguins. There will also be lots of Fur seals and maybe some Elephant seals. On shore, please follow the red poles as these will take you to the colony via the best route. Remember your distance to wildlife and enjoy your time on shore! Try to avoid the worst of the muddy bits at the colony!

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

TBA **Fortuna Bay.** We hope to be able to take you ashore at Fortuna Bay where there is a colony of King Penguins. The beach is quite narrow so please walk carefully on the beach and keep a good look out for fur seal pups in the tussac grass. Follow the poles to the colony along the grass. When you get there you will be able to approach the colony and reach a small viewpoint. Keep a look out for Fur seals along the way. Remember your distance to wildlife and enjoy your time on shore!

1900 **Re-cap and Briefing.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for a re-cap of the day and to learn of our plans for tomorrow.

1930 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant on Deck 3. Enjoy your meal.
Before landing, please check your boots, backpacks and any Velcro to make sure they are clean.
On return to the ship please make sure your boots are clean and all your gear has been checked.

Before landing, please check your boots, backpacks and any Velcro to make sure they are clean.

On return to the ship please make sure your boots are clean and all your gear has been checked.

0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0800 **Godthul.** This is known as 'Good Cove' and we hope to take you ashore here for a walk up to the Gentoo penguin colonies up beyond the tussac grass. It is quite steep at the beginning of the walk and you will need to follow the red poles as these show the easiest way up. From here you can walk to Lake Aviemore and to the higher penguin colonies. We will also offer a guided long hike which will take you towards the summit of Edda Hill which is 302 m high and offers great views of the coast beyond. Our final destination will depend on the weather.
Long hikers please come to the gangway first.
If you think the tussac will be too steep and difficult then we will offer you a zodiac cruise with Expedition Staff in the bay.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

After lunch please check all of your outer clothing, backpacks and boots ready for our inspection!

TBA **Grytviken.** This afternoon, after we have cleared customs and immigration we will take you ashore at Grytviken. You can visit the South Georgia Museum where there is a small shop and there is a Post Office is behind the museum. **The shop and Post Office only take card payments.**

You can also visit the church at the back of the whaling station. We can visit the cemetery where you will find the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton. Tours of the whaling station will also be offered by the staff at the museum. Timing will be arranged.

1900

Special Dinner is served on Deck. Dress warmly and enjoy your meal!

This is PLAN A for the day but please be aware that plans may change as we are expecting some swell after some strong winds passing through the area.

0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0800 **Gold Harbour.** We hope to take you ashore at Gold Harbour where there is a big king penguin colony and there will be lots of elephant seals on the beach. It is not a big beach so please walk very slowly and keep your 5m distance from the wildlife.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

St Andrew's Bay. This afternoon we hope to take you on ashore at St Andrew's Bay where we will find the largest King penguin colony on South Georgia with around 250,000 breeding pairs of penguins. We will flag a route to the river crossing point and from here to a viewpoint over the colony. Please keep your 5m distance from all wildlife as you walk along the beach and grassy areas beyond.

1830 **Re-cap and Plans.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the Restaurant. Enjoy your meal.

0745 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0930 **Ice.** We are sailing towards the Great White continent and will encounter ice along the way and certainly see it when we get there. If you would like to learn more about ice, please join Karoline in the Lounge.

1100 **Geology of the Falklands and South Georgia.** We have enjoyed these islands on our voyage but if you would like to learn about their geological formation then please join Sven in the Lounge

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

1500 **Whales: Feeding.** We were lucky to have an amazing encounter with Humpback whales who were foraging for Krill. If you would like to hear more then please join Charlotte in the Lounge.

1630 **Documentary.** We will screen a documentary in the lounge.

1830 **Re-cap.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

0745 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0930 **Krill.** This small marine invertebrate is the basis of all marine life in the Southern Ocean with penguins, seals and whales feeding on it. If you would like to learn more then please join Annina in the Lounge.

1100 **History of South Georgia.** We saw some of the human history of South Georgia when we visited Grytviken but if you would like to hear more about it then please join Marcelo in the Lounge.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

1500 The **Race to the Pole.** This is the story of the expeditions of Scott and Amundsen as they both strived to be the first human to reach the South Pole. Please join Charlotte in the Lounge.

1630 A documentary will be screened in the Lounge.

1800 **South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction.** SGHT is a charitable organisation and for them to continue their environmental and cultural conservation projects on South Georgia we will hold a charity auction on board. The items are all from the South Georgia museum and are not available to buy in the shop. There will also be some mystery items! Please join us in the Lounge.

1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

0745 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0930 **Welcome to Antarctica.** We are nearing our final destination on our voyage, Antarctica. Please join Annina in the Lounge to hear about the White Continent.

1100 **Antarctica Tectonics.** Join Sven in the Lounge to hear the history of plate tectonics and the formation of the Antarctic continent.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

1500 **Chef Ralf.** Have you ever wondered how the Chef and his team order and prepare food on a long expedition cruise? Well, if you would like to hear stories from the galley then please join Ralf in the Lounge.

1630 The **Race to the Pole.** This is the story of the expeditions of Scott and Amundsen as they both strived to be the first human to reach the South Pole. Please join Charlotte in the Lounge.

1830 **Re-cap.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.

TBA **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

In the evening we will be approaching Elephant Island but our arrival will depend on progress during the day. Please listen for announcements.

Sunday 1st February 2026

0745 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0930 **IAATO briefing.** The International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators regulates all tourism in Antarctica and we have to conduct a mandatory briefing for all guests before our arrival. Please join Ali in the Lounge. Afterwards we ask that you check your outer gear and backpacks before arriving in Antarctica.

1030 **Swedish Antarctic Expedition.** This is a story of both disaster and good fortune on an expedition led by Otto Nordenskjold on the ship Antarctica in 1901. Please join Marcelo in the Lounge.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

Around lunchtime we will be entering Antarctic Sound and should be seeing our first views of the Antarctic Continent.

TBA **Hope Bay.** In the afternoon we hope to take you out in the zodiacs to explore Hope Bay where there is an Adelie penguin colony on shore. There will be icebergs and maybe some seals. We will cruise past the Argentinean base called Esperanza.

1845 **Re-cap.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

0645 Wakeup call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0800 **Paulet Island.** In the morning we hope to take you ashore on Paulet Island where there is a huge colony of Adelie Penguins. Please walk slowly with the penguins and keep your distance from the edge of the colony.
There are the remains of the historic hut from the Nordenskjold Expeditions. Please do not walk on the rock walls.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

TBA **Brown Bluff.** In the afternoon we hope to take you ashore on Brown Bluff which is another continental landing. There are Adelie penguins and Gentoo penguins on shore. Please follow the poles and stay at the top of the beach. We will also offer a walk to view the glacier. colony on shore. There will be icebergs and maybe some seals. At the end of the landing we may offer a Polar Plunge. We will bring the towels if you bring the insanity!

1845 **Re-cap.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

Tuesday 3rd February 2026

0645 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0700 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0800 **Half Moon Island.** This morning, we hope to go on shore at Half Moon Island where we will find a colony of Chinstrap penguins. There are often Weddell seals on shore here as well. As always, follow the pole markers, keep your distance from the wildlife and give penguins the right of way at the penguin highway.

1200 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

TBA **Yankee Harbour.** For our final landing in Antarctica we hope to be able to take you ashore at Yankee Harbour where there is a colony of Gentoo penguins and very often we find Weddell seals, fur seals and elephant seals on shore. Please follow the marker poles to the colony. Enjoy a walk along the gravel sea spit with views of the glacier.

1800 Re-cap and Briefing. Our plans for tomorrow and some stories from staff.

1830 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

0745 Wake up call from your Expedition Leader Ali.

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0930 **Reproduction in Whales.** If you would like to hear all about the finer details of whale reproduction (sex and babies!) then please join Charlotte in the Lounge!

1100 **Ice Maidens.** We have heard the stories of Shackleton and Scott but what about the women behind these polar explorers? What about the women who also visited this continent? Please join Ali in the Lounge to hear about the women behind the men.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

1530 **Tri-lecture series.** Please join the staff in the Lounge for 3 short presentations. Charlotte will talk about Orca, Killer whales, Karoline will introduce you to Giant Isopods and Ali will talk about some unusual species in Antarctica

1630 **Documentary.** We will screen a documentary in the lounge.

1830 **Re-cap.** Please join the expedition team in the Lounge for re-cap and to hear of our plans for tomorrow.

1900 **Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.

0745 **A very Special Wake up call!**

0800 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

0930 **Alone but not lonely.** Karoline has spent time living and working in a remote trappers hut in Svalbard. This presentation reflects on remote living and how we adapt to it. Please join her in the Lounge.

1100 **2 Short presentations.** Guest presentation about Plancius when she was known as Tydeman by Janneke and Wietze and information about other trips available with Oceanwide Expeditions.

1230 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room.

1500 **Plancius Pub Quiz.** Test your knowledge of locations visited on our voyage and about the Little Blue Ship Plancius. Teams of up to 6 people!

TBA **Boots.** You will be called to return your boots to the boot room. We will call you by deck so please listed for announcements.

1830 **Captain's Cocktails.** Please join the Expedition team and Captain Matei Mocanu in the Lounge to toast our voyage to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica.

1900 **Farewell Dinner** is served. Enjoy your meal.

We will be sailing in open water and expect the ship to move. Always use the railings and handholds when moving around on the ship, especially in rough seas. Always one hand for the ship and one hand for yourself. Thank you.

Friday 6th February 2026

0700 Your final wake up call from Ali! Good Morning everyone, Good Morning!

0730 **Breakfast buffet** will be available in the Dining Room for 1 hour.

As you go to breakfast at 0730 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. Your bus is at **0830****

If you are placing your luggage in storage, please put a **YELLOW label on your luggage. The truck will arrive at **0830** You must collect your luggage before 2pm. This is at the same place you left it before the trip.**

For anyone staying in Ushuaia please collect your luggage from the pier and walk to the port gate. Taxis are available across the road.

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

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.