



## Falklands – South Georgia – Antarctic Peninsula

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

On board *m/v Hondius*



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



## Captain Ernesto Barría Vargas

and his international crew of 72 sailors

Staff Captain:	<b>Nicolas Dameto</b>	[Spain]
Chief Officer:	<b>Igor Nazarov</b>	[Russia]
Second Officer:	<b>Solina Duguay</b>	[Canada]
Third Officer:	<b>Archer Cultura</b>	[Philippines]
Hotel Manager:	<b>Albert Don</b>	[Netherlands]
Ass. Hotel Manager	<b>Niels Schipper</b>	[Netherlands]
Head Chef:	<b>Bawa Gaurav</b>	[United Kingdom]
Sous Chef:	<b>Edward Nunag</b>	[Philippines]
Sous chef:	<b>Felix Lobo</b>	[India]
Ships doctor:	<b>Geerte Beesems</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	<b>Marcel Paul</b>	[Netherlands]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	<b>Bitao (Jerry) Zhao</b>	[China]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	<b>Pierre Gallego</b>	[Luxembourg]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Mark Whiffin</b>	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Enric Sangrà Mòdol</b>	[Spain]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Alexander Romanovskiy</b>	[Russia]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Andi Schwetz</b>	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Jakub Malecki</b>	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Luce Moussiere</b>	[France]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Tiphonie May</b>	[Falkland Islands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Hana Spickova</b>	[Czech Republic]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Yvonne Lin</b>	[Australia]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Jodi Gaylord</b>	[US]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Jade Heister</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	<b>Simon Davies</b>	[UK]
Snorkelling Guide:	<b>Michael Green</b>	[UK]
Snorkelling Guide:	<b>Sid Paul Dewfall</b>	[Gibraltar]

## WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

### Day 1 – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, Ushuaia, Embarkation day - Setting sail for Antarctica

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

Wind: N7 • Sea: Low • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: 11°C

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Our journey began in Ushuaia under unexpectedly warm and sunny skies, the kind that felt like a quiet blessing before heading south. With the mountains framing the harbor and the town buzzing softly behind us, we stepped aboard *Hondius* full of anticipation. Once on board, we made ourselves at home in our cabins, checking that all our luggage had arrived and beginning to settle into what would soon feel like our floating world. The Observation Lounge on Deck 5 quickly became a welcoming hub, with the gentle clink of cups and the comfort of tea and coffee easing us into the rhythm of ship life.

In the late afternoon, we gathered in the Observation Lounge for the mandatory safety briefing with the Expedition Leader and Chief Officer. Practical and reassuring, it reminded us that adventure at sea always comes with responsibility. Soon after, the emergency alarm echoed through the ship, and we returned to our cabins to collect our life jackets, completing our first drill together as a crew and community.

As early evening approached, we were invited back to the Observation Lounge for the Captain's Cocktails. With drinks in hand, we listened to a warm welcome from the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader, who introduced life on board and outlined the exciting days ahead. Meeting the Expedition Team made the journey suddenly feel very real.



While we sailed through the Beagle Channel, nature offered its own welcome: our first whale blows appeared on the horizon, followed by playful dolphins cutting through the calm water. The day closed with a beautiful sunset, painting

the sky in soft golds and pinks as we sat down to a buffet dinner on Deck 4. It was a gentle, perfect beginning to our Southern Ocean adventure.



## Day 2 – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January, At sea sailing towards the Falkland Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 55°00.9'S / 65°31.5'W

Wind: N4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Clear • Air temperature: +7°C

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On the first day at sea after exiting the Beagle Channel, MV *Hondius* set sail on its transit towards the Falkland Islands, marking the beginning of an exciting journey for both passengers and crew. The day began with a steady, calm sea, though passengers were advised about potential movement in the ocean, which, in the end, proved to be nothing of concern. Despite some gentle rocking of the vessel, the seas remained manageable, and the visibility was initially good, offering an ideal start to the expedition.

Early in the morning, the *Hondius* was accompanied by a range of seabirds, creating a lively atmosphere aboard the ship. Passengers were treated to a spectacular display of avian life, with notable sightings including many Black-browed Albatrosses, which gracefully soared above the water. The skies were also filled with numerous Sooty Shearwaters, while a Southern Royal Albatross made a rare and impressive appearance, much to the delight of birdwatchers on board. In addition to these iconic species, there were also smaller numbers of other seabirds, such as the White-chinned Petrel, Grey-

backed Storm Petrel, and Wilson's Petrel. The abundance of birds was a reminder of the rich biodiversity that characterizes this region of the Southern Ocean.

The morning kicked off with the first lecture of the trip, delivered by Simon, who introduced the land birds that the passengers would soon encounter on the Falkland Islands. He discussed the unique avian life of the archipelago, with a particular emphasis on the coveted Cobb's Wren, a local endemic species that many hoped to see during the visit. The lecture provided valuable context for the upcoming land-based activities and set the tone for the rest of the journey.

Following Simon's lecture, Marcel took the opportunity to address the ship's passengers, delivering the mandatory IAATO (International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators) and Zodiac operations briefings. This session was crucial for ensuring the safety and responsible conduct of all passengers during the landings and excursions that would begin the following day. With calm seas and relatively steady conditions, it was the perfect time to ensure everyone was properly informed and prepared for the hands-on activities ahead.

After a hearty lunch, the focus shifted to the snorkelers aboard the *Hondius*. They received their own mandatory briefings in preparation for the first snorkel expedition scheduled for the following day. With safety protocols explained, the passengers were left eager to explore the underwater world in the coming days. The anticipation was palpable among all passengers, as everyone began to settle into the rhythm of life at sea and the adventure ahead.

In the afternoon, Tiphanie, a Falkland Islands native, gave an engaging introduction to the history, culture, and wildlife of the Falklands. Her personal connection to the islands was evident, as she shared stories and insights about her family's long history on the islands, making the lecture particularly poignant and relevant. Her firsthand experience brought the region to life, creating a sense of familiarity and excitement among the passengers.

As the day progressed, the weather took a slight turn. While the seas remained calm, thick fog began to shroud the *Hondius*, reducing visibility and limiting wildlife sightings for the latter part of the day. Despite the fog, there was a palpable sense of anticipation among the passengers. Everyone was excited for the coming days, eager to explore the Falkland Islands and witness more of the region's spectacular wildlife.



### Day 3 – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January, Carcass Island & Saunders Island, Falkland Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 51°33.1'S / 61°22.6'W

Wind: N6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Fog • Air temperature: 9°C

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Marcel stood leaning against the dashboard. Through the windows of the captain's bridge, the blurry outlines of approaching land could be discerned. The Hondius ship, gently swaying from side to side and cutting through the waves with its powerful bow, was approaching the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

A dense fog enveloped everything around us, yet a fresh wind, locking horns with it, was determined to scour it from the surface of the sea and drive it far out into the open ocean. The opposing forces were evenly matched, but little by little the wind began to gain the upper hand. As a result, we could now and then make out the distant outline of the island, and breaks began to appear in the sky, through which the azure blue above could be seen. Exactly fifteen minutes before breakfast, at 6:45 am, Marcel, whispering, "Well, my friends, let's get it started," approached the microphone, pressed the loudspeaker button, and began her morning speech: "Good morning, Hondius, good morning..."

During breakfast, many of us felt a slight excitement, as it was our first full expedition day. Two landings were planned for the day: in the morning on the island with the ominous name Carcass Island, and after lunch on another island called Saunder's Island. Not everyone in our group had been on expeditions before, which added to the nervousness. What to wear, what to bring, and how not to forget anything important while not

overloading the backpack with unnecessary items were common concerns. Despite the detailed explanations from the expedition team members the day before, a mild uncertainty still lingered.

Hondius dropped anchor, sailors lowered several Zodiacs into the water. All members of the expedition team, except for two people, got into these black inflatable motorboats and, taking all the necessary equipment, rushed towards the shore, raising clouds of spray. It turned out to be a routine procedure: first, the expedition team lands, assesses the situation and weather conditions, and then the expedition leader gives the "green light" for us to exchange the ship's iron decks for the solid ground of the land.

We gathered in the Zodiac boarding area and, in small groups of ten, began to board the Zodiacs. As soon as all the seats in the boat were occupied, the Zodiac, led by an experienced guide, set in motion. Quickly gaining speed, it raced towards the shore. The sun played on the waves, the engine roared, splashes flew in all directions, showering us like rain and enhancing the sense of adventure we were experiencing. To those watching us from the deck, the Zodiacs resembled mischievous children who, as soon as the rain stopped, rushed outside and, with their childlike feet, ran through puddles, creating splashes, making adults shake their heads and wag their fingers.

On the shore, Marcel, Jodi, Sasha, Jakub, and other members of the expedition team were already waiting for us. The Zodiacs nosed into the white Falkland sand, and one by one, we climbed onto the shore, swinging our legs over the side. The low but feisty waves, as if encouraging us, relentlessly struck the Zodiacs' stern, showering us with sprays and even splashing overboard, causing the Zodiac drivers to grumble and hurry us along.

The sandy beach strip was replaced by tufts of tussock grass as we moved further inland. Sometimes we had to step through marshy areas. The air smelled simultaneously of the sea, grass, and peat — a very unusual combination of natural aromas.

In fact, we landed on a narrow isthmus. After passing through a densely overgrown grassy hollow, we found ourselves back on the beach but on the other side of the island. It was, I must say, much more picturesque than the one we initially landed on, not only because the sandy strip was much wider but also because the beach was bustling with quite a large number of local fauna representatives.

On a little hill, surveying everything with their proud gaze, stood a family of geese. The male and female, being the same size, sharply differed in the color of their feathers: one was entirely covered in absolutely snow-white feathers, and the other had brown feathers, but the chest was speckled in a thin black-and-white stripe. The goslings were all uniformly gray. Treading the ground with their small steps, they constantly bent their heads to the ground, plucking edible vegetation with their sharp beaks.

On the waves, a couple of Steamer ducks swayed. The male had an orange beak, and the female had a green one. These birds had long since forgotten how to fly. Why bother? The climate here is favorable, with no sharp temperature fluctuations, so there's no need to migrate. All their food is right in front of them, no need to fly for it, and the nest is within walking distance, just a few dozen meters from the shoreline. The most amusing thing about Steamer ducks is how they quack. No, it's not quacking; it's more like a cross between the chirping of a cicada and the sounds from some old computer game from the early 90s.

And here are our first penguins — Magellanic penguins! They are quite small, peculiar, constantly waddling and assisting themselves with their wings. Nevertheless, they are completely unbothered by it, strolling along the beach and looking in different directions. Instead of building nests, they dig deep burrows and sit in them, waiting for the arrival of their offspring. Yes, it's dark and dirty, but no skuas will ever steal their eggs. Well, except for the occasional curious penguin chick, wanting to see what lies beyond the burrow, inadvertently emerges on the surface — and here the troubles begin. The malicious skua only needs that, instantly diving down, grabbing the little one, and that's it. It sits somewhere on a rock and pecks at its bloody catch.



Ahead of us was a quite long walk. Three to four kilometers from the landing site stood a hamlet. The locals, the owners of the island, had been living there for a long time, raising sheep and catching fish. Around the houses, there was a garden with flowers and shady coniferous trees. Every time travelers arrived on their island, they baked hundreds of pastries and treated all the guests. It was the same this time, but before enjoying tea and indulging in local pastries, as mentioned earlier, we had to cover some distance.

The path led along the slope of the hill along the seaside. On our right, sheep were grazing, and local birds fluttered around, while on the left, the bay of Carcass Island spread out, in the middle of which stood our ship *Hondius*, anchored proudly and confidently. The sun showered us with ultraviolet and warmth, making it hot. Some of us had to make stops to take off sweaters or jackets. The situation was complicated by the fact that, according to the rules, nothing could be placed on the ground. We had to ask for help from other travelers: "Could you hold my backpack for a moment?" — "Yes, of course, no problem!" Upon reaching the house, we settled down in the shade of the trees. One by one, we entered the house to grab a pastry or cookie from the table, pour ourselves a cup of tea, and then go back outside, sitting on a bench or a log, appreciating the skill of local confectioners.

The morning time quickly passed. Look, and it's already approaching noon! It's time to return to the ship! The Zodiacs were already waiting for us near a small concrete pier. We put on life jackets, boarded the boats, and rushed back on board the Hondius. Pastries are undoubtedly good, but a full lunch is even better!

While we gathered for lunch, the sailors raised the anchor, and our ship headed to our afternoon activity location — the Saunder's Island. It was not far away, so we had no more than an hour for post-lunch rest, and even less for our guides. As soon as the anchor chain rattled, the brave participants of our expedition team boarded the Zodiacs and headed to the shore of Saunders Island to make some preparations for our landing.

Some time after, the official start of the operation was given. Zodiac after Zodiac, we raced across the smooth water and, as soon as we reached the shore, disembarked, hastily getting rid of the heavy life jackets. White fine sand, the calm of the water, and... penguins! The latter stared at us in complete bewilderment, flapping their peculiar wings and trying to understand who we were and what we wanted.

The local residents, the owners of Saunders Island, arrived in two cars to personally meet and greet us. Parking their cars near the shoreline, they opened their trunks, offering us some interesting souvenir products.

The trail was already marked. A walk of one and a half to two kilometers awaited us along the seaside. Gentoo penguins sat on their nests made of mud and grass, watching over their chicks. The chicks were already quite big, and some of them, gaining courage, went on short walks around their nests. The parents zealously guarded them, clapping and blocking their path with their wings: "Quiet, quiet, stay, where are you going? No, it's too early for you!" It was amusing to watch as they turned their necks toward us, clicked their beaks, as if saying to us: "Move along, guys, we have enough problems here!" And indeed, they had plenty of problems. Nasty skuas constantly circled above, keeping a sharp eye on the penguin colony. God forbid any penguin to be inattentive; instantly, a skua would swoop down and snatch a penguin chick! It would grab it in its beak and carry it away to a place where no penguin had ever returned. Nature here is cruel, but what can you do.

Here is the colony of Magellanic penguins. Like their counterparts we saw in the morning, these also sat in their burrows, consumed by curiosity, peeking outside and looking at us. On the slope, more appropriately described as a "cliff," a colony of shags was situated, and right next to them, a patch of land was claimed by rockhopper penguins. Small, agile troublemakers, living up to their name, were constantly in motion, hopping from rock to rock. We lingered by them for a long time, taking photos and simply observing their bustle. Nevertheless, the most important awaited us ahead.

Eventually, the trail led us to a colony of black-browed albatrosses. These enormous and majestic birds sat in nests of perfect cylindrical shape. Most of the albatrosses had already raised their offspring. Spotting an albatross chick wasn't an easy task. We had to wait for the parent to rise on its feet, and only then could we see the small gray living bundle beneath it. Some albatross parents allowed their chicks to admire the outside world, holding them snugly under their wings.

Parental duties weighed heavily on the albatrosses. Sitting in their nests, they gazed longingly at the sea, dreaming of the moment when they could finally spread their enormous wings and, taming the wind, soar over the waves into the distance. Albatrosses are made for flight, and only the ancient instinct, as old as the Earth itself, compelled them to sit still in the nest and attend to their offspring. Some albatrosses emitted long,

mournful sounds, probably expressing the emotions that had accumulated within them. While preening their chicks' feathers, it seemed as if they were whispering in their ears: "Grow up quickly, and then we'll fly together! I'll show you how the moonlight plays on the sea waves and how whales shoot fountains into the sky. I'll teach you to challenge the wind and catch squids!" Oh, if only it could happen sooner!



Our guides showed us where to take the best photographs and made sure none of us, absorbed in the spectacle, fell off the cliff. Albatrosses, glancing at us, furrowed their brows but still posed for photos.

Having feasted our eyes on Albatrosses, we started our return journey. On the way back to the landing site, we had the opportunity to turn right and find ourselves on another beach, opposite to the one we arrived on. White, towering waves, ominously roaring, crashed onto the sand. Fearless Magellanic and Gentoo penguins eagerly rushed towards them, disappearing in the white foam. Some penguins, on the contrary, emerged from the sea foam, as if Venus herself, having swum and hunted, appeared in white foam, heading to their nests to swap places with their mates, thereby giving them the opportunity to go hunting in the sea.

But what penguins are standing there near the shoreline? Oh, these are the King penguins! There were only a few of them, some still chicks adorned in huge, clumsy brown pajamas made of soft warm feathers. What a surprise! Of course, we all tried to capture at least a few photographs of these magical creatures.

Walking briskly past the penguins were kelp and dolphin gulls. They turned their heads and repeatedly pecked the sand, devouring the crustaceans hiding in it. Among small sand dunes, oyster catchers strolled, astonishing us with their long bright red bills. Leisurely, rocking from side to side, steamer ducks ambled here and there. A turkey

vulture circled above, and, just like at the beginning of our walk, skuas and caracaras soared in the air, striking terror into all the other feathered inhabitants of Saunders Island. On the slopes of the hill, occasionally drawing attention with loud bleats, sheep grazed. In the local setting, they seemed to perceive us as something outlandish, if not extraterrestrial, certainly as something entirely out of harmony with the surrounding landscape.

One way or another, it was time to return to the ship. As soon as the last of us were on board, the *Hondius* set course for Stanley, the capital of the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands. In my opinion, a very decent first day of the expedition, wouldn't you agree?

#### Day 4 – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Stanley, Falkland Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 51°12.4'S / 58°39.4'W

Wind: WNW5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 10°C

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After days of experiencing vast nature, stunning landscapes, and abundant wildlife on the remote islands of the Falklands, it was time to visit the capital city, Stanley.

Our arrival was an experience in itself. Our captain guided *Hondius* through the very narrow entrance of the harbor with impressive precision. Many of us watched from the bow, admiring his excellent maneuvering skills as he carefully navigated between two other cruise ships and numerous squid fishing vessels anchored in Stanley Harbor. The town was lively, with several ships visiting at the same time.



We spent a good half a day exploring Stanley. There was plenty to see and do. The Falkland Islands Museum was a highlight, covering the history of the Falklands War, maritime life, and local wildlife. Some of us visited the brewery or a pub to taste local beers, while others checked out the local gin distillery. A few cosy cafés were perfect for a coffee break, and souvenir shops offered a wide range of lovely local gifts.

Several guests went for walks around town to enjoy the views and observe the rich birdlife. By chance, there were horse racing competitions taking place that day, so some of us took a longer walk to watch the races. Stanley truly had a lot to offer, and the time passed very quickly.

The weather was perfect—warm, sunny, and calm. Almost magically, the rain started the moment our last zodiac returned us safely back to *Hondius*.



Once onboard, we enjoyed a delicious lunch, which was very welcome after a busy morning ashore. After lunch, we had a truly unique opportunity to listen to Michael, our diving/snorkelling guide, sharing his personal experiences from the Falklands War. He had been there as a soldier, and his story gave us a powerful and moving perspective.

In the afternoon, *Hondius* set course toward South Georgia. As we are heading to one of the most remote and pristine places on Earth, biosecurity is extremely important. We received an introduction explaining how to protect this fragile environment, avoid spreading invasive species, and reduce the risk of bird flu. We were shown how to properly clean our clothes and equipment to keep the wildlife and nature as untouched as possible.

The day ended with dinner, followed by a lively evening in the bar, filled with stories, laughter, and shared memories.

## Day 5 – Sunday 01<sup>st</sup> February – Scotia Sea

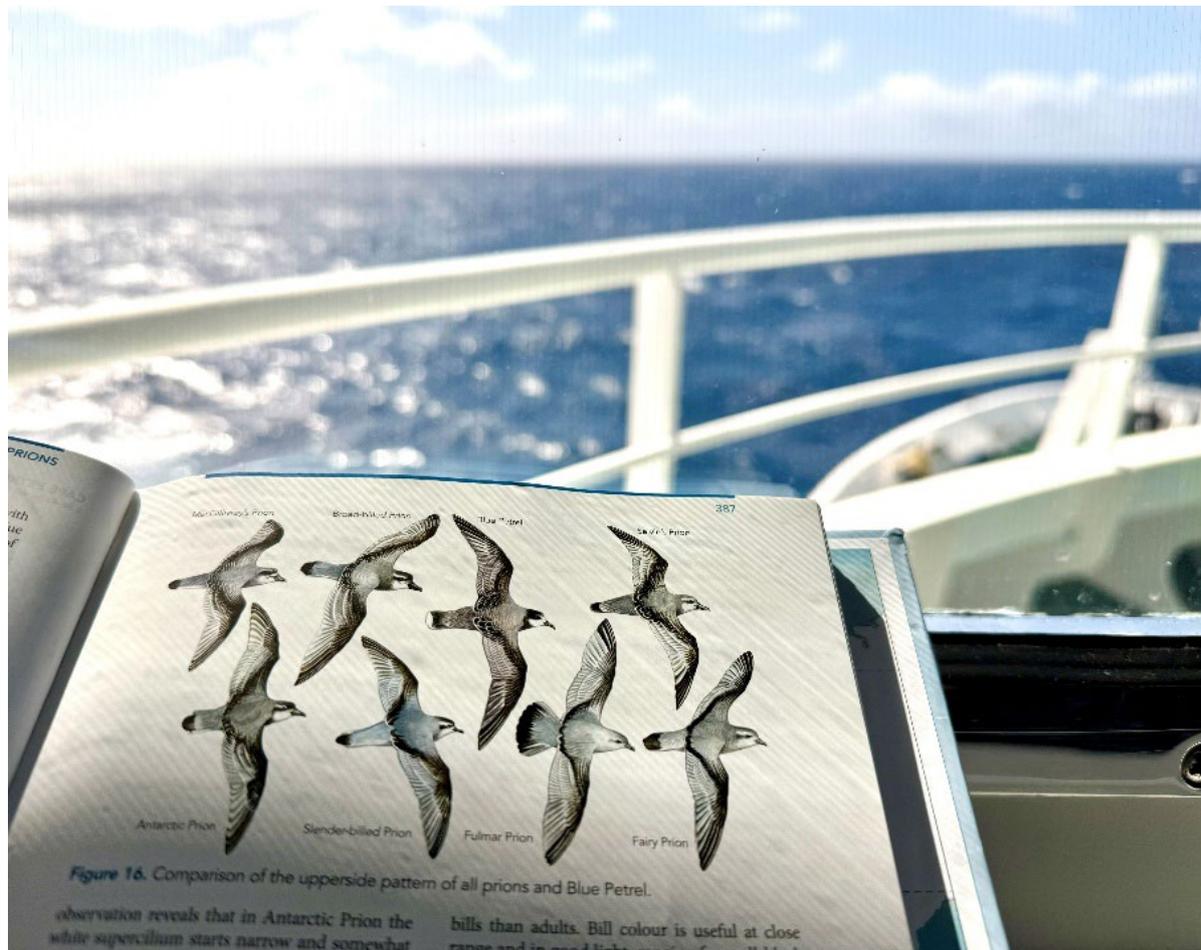
08h00 GPS Position: 52°15.7'S / 51°26.2'W

Wind: SW4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: partly cloudy • Air temperature: 6°C

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Today was one of our two sea days in the Scotia Sea, sub-Antarctic sea located between the southern tip of South America (Tierra del Fuego) and the Antarctic Peninsula, where the South Atlantic meets the Southern Ocean. For an ocean famous for its rough seas, the Southern Ocean showed us its very best side today. The ship gently rocked as we sailed through deep blue water under bright sunshine. The conditions could not have been better.

In the morning, Luce prepared a lecture for us about what is happening below the ocean surface and show us incredible photos from the underwater world. Later, Andi gave an excellent introduction to the whales of the Southern Ocean, preparing us for what we may encounter in the days ahead.





During the whole day, seabirds such as giant petrels, southern royal albatrosses, and wandering albatrosses glided effortlessly around the ship. The wandering albatross holds the record for the largest wingspan of any living bird, reaching up to 3.5 meters (12 feet). A few Wilson's storm petrels danced low over the waves.

As we continued to watch the birds following the ship, Mark gave an afternoon lecture on albatrosses and petrels. He shared fascinating facts as well as stories from his own experiences with these majestic ocean travelers.

The sun stayed with us all day, the sea remained calm, and we made a good progress towards South Georgia. As we were approaching this island of rich and dramatic history, we ended the day with a special evening screening of Shackleton's story—a fitting introduction to what lies ahead.

## Day 6 – Monday 02<sup>nd</sup> February – Approaching South Georgia

08h00 GPS Position: 53° 15.9'S / 043° 42.2'W

Wind: NW6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 5°C

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Today was a full sea day as MV Hondius continued her approach toward South Georgia. With no wake-up call scheduled, guests enjoyed a relaxed start to the morning, making their way to the dining room between 08:00 and 09:00 for breakfast while the Southern Ocean rolled steadily past the windows.

The morning focused on learning and anticipation. At 09:15, Enric welcomed guests to the observation lounge for an introduction to the geology of South Georgia. He explained how tectonic forces, glaciation, and erosion have shaped the island's dramatic mountains and fjords, helping us better understand the landscapes we would soon be exploring. Later in the morning, Jade continued the theme of deep time with her engaging presentation, "4.5 Billion Years in 45 Minutes," tracing Earth's history from its formation to the present day and placing the polar regions into a broader global context.

After lunch, excitement grew on deck and on the bridge as Hondius approached Shag Rocks. Guests gathered outside with binoculars as the afternoon turned into an exceptional wildlife-

watching experience. Whales were sighted repeatedly around the ship, surfacing and blowing in the nutrient-rich waters. Calls quickly spread across the decks as people moved from rail to rail, watching these giants of the Southern Ocean appear again and again against the open seascape. It was a striking welcome to South Georgia and a powerful reminder of the richness of these waters.





Following our passage past Shag Rocks, attention turned to expedition preparation. The mandatory South Georgia biosecurity checks began shortly afterward, with guests called deck by deck to the observation lounge. Outerwear, boots, bags, life jackets, and equipment were carefully inspected to ensure everything was completely clean and ready for landing. These measures are essential to protect South Georgia's fragile ecosystems from introduced species.

In the late afternoon, Tiphonie invited everyone to the observation lounge for an Introduction to South Georgia. Her lecture brought together wildlife, history, and conservation, building excitement for the days ahead and highlighting why this remote island is such an important and special place.

Dinner was served at 19:00, and MV Hondius continued her approach through the evening sun kissed skies as we sailed South East, and the sun set on the horizon behind us. One of the most spectacular closes to our days at sea.



With South Georgia now in sight, today felt like a transition from open ocean to island life, marked by learning, preparation, and an introduction to the whales of the Southern Ocean.

### Day 7 – Tuesday 03<sup>rd</sup> February – Salisbury Plains

08h00 GPS Position: 53°48.1'S / 38°07.7'W

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

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An early wake-up call at 06:45 signaled a full and exciting day ahead as MV Hondius lay offshore at Salisbury Plain, one of South Georgia's most iconic and wildlife-rich landing sites. After breakfast in the dining room, guests prepared for a full day of exploration, with activities carefully rotated to allow everyone to experience this remarkable place.

In the morning, one group of guests was invited ashore for a landing at Salisbury Plain, while the other set out on a zodiac cruise along the coastline. At the same time, the snorkelling team prepared for their morning outing, meeting at the dry suit area before

heading out to explore the cold, nutrient-rich waters with one plan and one plan only. Penguins.

Those who landed were immediately immersed in one of the most extraordinary wildlife spectacles of the expedition. A vast colony of King penguin stretched across the coastal plain, with thousands of adults standing shoulder to shoulder and large, fluffy chicks gathered nearby, patiently awaiting their next feed. The sound, movement, and sheer density of life were overwhelming, offering a powerful introduction to the ecological richness of South Georgia.

Meanwhile, zodiac cruisers enjoyed a different perspective of Salisbury Plain, observing the colony from the water and navigating along the shoreline where seals rested on the beaches. The scale of the site was striking from every angle, with penguins, seals, and dramatic glaciated mountains filling the view.

After lunch aboard *Hondius*, the groups swapped activities. Those who had cruised in the morning went ashore to experience the colony up close, while the morning landing group took to the zodiacs to explore the coastline. In the afternoon, additional one-time snorkellers also entered the water, enjoying an incredible session among king penguins and playful fur seals, making the most of the rare opportunity to witness South Georgia's wildlife both above and below the surface.





As the day drew to a close, guests returned to the ship buzzing with stories and photos from every angle of Salisbury Plain. Today was a true South Georgia highlight, immersive, energetic, and unforgettable, showcasing the raw abundance of life that makes this island so special.

### Day 8 – Wednesday 04<sup>th</sup> February – Ocean Harbour & St. Andrews Bay

08h00 GPS Position: 54°07.6'S / 36°32.8'W

Wind: NW5 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 3°C

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The day began early with a zodiac cruise through Ocean Harbour, the stillness of the morning broken only by the calls of fur seals resounding across the water. Once an active whaling station between 1909 and 1920, Ocean Harbour was smaller than many of South Georgia's other industrial sites, yet it carries a heavy sense of history. Rusting remnants of machinery and scattered structures tell the story of an intense but relatively brief chapter in the island's past.

Just offshore lies the wreck of the \*Bayard\*, a steel barque that met its fate here in 1911. Time and tide have reduced her to a skeletal outline, but the wreck remains a striking reminder of the dangers faced by early sailors in these remote waters. Nearby is South

Georgia's oldest grave, a quiet and poignant landmark that underscores the isolation and hardship of life at the edge of the Southern Ocean.

Ocean Harbour also marks the site where reindeer were first introduced to South Georgia in 1911. Brought by whalers as a food source, the animals would go on to reshape local vegetation until their successful removal between 2013 and 2015, with the last two reindeer eliminated in 2017. Today, the landscape is slowly recovering, offering renewed habitat for native species.

Wildlife sightings were abundant. The endemic South Georgia Pipit flitted among the tussock grass, a conservation success story following the eradication of invasive predators. Elephant seals lounged along the shore, sharing the beach with abundant Antarctic Fur Seals including several blond pups whose pale coats contrasted starkly against regular black coated pups. Yellow-billed Pintails foraged and paddled calmly in the shallows, unfazed by the passing zodiacs.



Following lunch back onboard and acting on a tip from another cruise ship we sailed north along the coast of South Georgia to the Cumberland Bay area, a large congregation of Humpback Whales had been reported and guests were treated to several close encounters alongside the ship, a single Southern Right Whale put in a brief, but close encounter adding to the sense that South Georgia's waters are once again thriving after decades of exploitation.

In the late afternoon, a brief but welcome weather window opened, allowing for a zodiac cruise into St Andrew's Bay. The reward was immediate and overwhelming. The vast king penguin colony stretched across the beach and into the distance, tens of thousands of birds creating a constant low roar of sound and motion. Among them were elephant seals of all ages, including a young male already showing the early development of his proboscis. The beach was also alive with activity from numerous young fur seals, their boundless energy contrasting with the languid sprawl of the larger seals.

As the day drew to a close, attention turned to plans for tomorrow. With South Georgia's weather always unpredictable, the itinerary remains flexible, guided by conditions and opportunity. Whatever lies ahead, the day's experiences reinforced the island's unique blend of raw wildlife, deep history, and powerful sense of place—an environment that leaves a lasting impression on all who visit.



## Day 9 – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Grytviken & Leith Harbour

08h00 GPS Position: 54°14.0'S / 36°34.7'W

Wind: W7 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Sunny • Air temperature: 5°C

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Our day started with a landing at Grytviken, the oldest whaling town on South Georgia. Even though the wind was strong, the captain managed to bring *Hondius* safely into the sheltered bay. Because of the weather, the South Georgia Heritage Trust team could not come on board to give their usual talk, but we met them later on land instead. The government inspectors also did not check our boots this time — something we would have easily passed thanks to everyone’s excellent biosecurity efforts. That evening, our “100% score” was rewarded with a glass of prosecco or juice after dinner.

At Grytviken, everyone is allowed to go ashore at the same time, so after a short zodiac ride we were free to explore the remains of the old whaling station. Rusty fuel tanks, heavy machinery, abandoned buildings, stranded whaling boats and scattered whale bones told a powerful story of the suffering these animals once endured here. During the height of the whaling era, whales could be hunted directly in this bay. Across South Georgia, over 175 thousand blue, fin, humpback, sperm, minke and southern right whales were killed in land-based stations like this. We visited the museum and joined a guided tour led by the South Georgia Heritage Trust.



It was uplifting to see fur seals now reclaiming the land among the rusting remains. Young fur seals played in the glacial meltwater, swimming and tumbling in the current. Southern elephant seals rested near the graveyard, where Sir Ernest Shackleton lies buried among whalers and explorers. Here, Michael and Jodi shared a traditional toast with a whisky to “The Boss.”

After lunch, we relocated to Leith Harbour. As we already knew the history of whaling and the old station here is unsafe to visit due to collapse risks and asbestos, we focused on stretching our legs. The short hikers enjoyed beautiful views of the bay, folded rock formations, and many fur seals resting on the beach and in the tussac grass. Those who walked a bit farther had great views of the rusting station remains and encountered gentoo penguins along the way.



Around 60 of us joined the long hike, covering about five kilometres through rough and rarely visited valley terrain. Along the way, Enric explained the folded rock formations we passed. We reached a scenic viewpoint overlooking the bay, took photos atop a huge boulder, and returned via gentoo penguin colonies. Seeing these penguins — so familiar from Antarctica — walking through green grass was surprising and delightful. They were moulting, and their unusual hairstyles provided plenty of smiles.

A delicious dinner was the perfect end to another memorable day.

## Day 10 – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Gold Harbour & Cooper Bay

08h00 GPS Position: 54°23.0' S, 36°00.6'W

Wind: N2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 3°C

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What an unforgettable way to conclude our four-day journey through the "Serengeti of the South." Today, we bid a wet and wild farewell to South Georgia, and it was a day that truly showcased the raw, unfiltered power of nature.

We began our day at Gold Harbour, greeted by a moody, misty landscape and a gentle drizzle. Despite the swell, our expedition team navigated us safely to the long, sweeping beach. The sight was nothing short of breathtaking: thousands of King penguins stretched out before us, while the spectacular Bertrab glacier peeked through the low-hanging clouds from high above.

Following the path marked by red poles, we immersed ourselves in a world of wildlife. We wove our way past dense clusters of King and Gentoo penguins, while massive elephant seals and feisty fur seals guarded the shoreline. We witnessed the full spectrum of life in the sub-Antarctic: from the comedic waddle of the penguins to the brutal reality of the wild, as we watched a giant petrel claim a Gentoo right before our eyes.

Perhaps the most astonishing moment for the birders among us was the sighting of a Great Grebe — a bird that, incredibly, has never been reported on South Georgia before! As the rain intensified, we swapped our shore walk for a Zodiac cruise, observing shags on the rocks and the icy lagoon at the glacier's foreland. Getting back onto the Hondius proved to be a bit of an adventure itself, as the swell made for a "tricky" but safe re-embarkation.

By 15:15, we were back in the Zodiacs for our final South Georgia activity at Cooper Bay. The rain was coming down in earnest now, and the swell at the shell door had grown considerably. But the rewards were worth every drop of water!



We were treated to the rare sight of four penguin species in one area: Macaronis, Kings, Gentoos, and even Chinstraps. Seeing the golden-crested Macaronis against the rugged rocks was the perfect "grand finale." By the time we headed back to the ship, the swell had reached a challenging peak. It took focus and teamwork to get everyone back on board, but we did it!

The hotel team knew exactly what we needed. As we stepped off the Zodiacs, wet and shivering, we were greeted by a hot chocolate station—complete with generous helpings of rum and cream! By 17:00, we were all tucked away, warming up and drying out our gear.

We gathered for our final South Georgia recap at 19:00 before a celebratory dinner. Now, the bow of the Hondius is pointed south. We are officially on our way to Antarctica! We had a full day at sea tomorrow to reflect on these memories before we made our first stop at the South Orkneys.

## Day 11 –Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February – At sea heading southwest

08h00 GPS Position: 55°49.7'S, 37°12.4'W

Wind: S7 • Sea: Rough • Weather: Rain • Air temperature: 0°C

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Today we have our first sea day after South Georgia and to reward us for our dedication to expedition over the last few days our expedition leader Marcel did not wake us this morning. We had a very relaxed breakfast as the ship gently rolled from an oncoming swell.

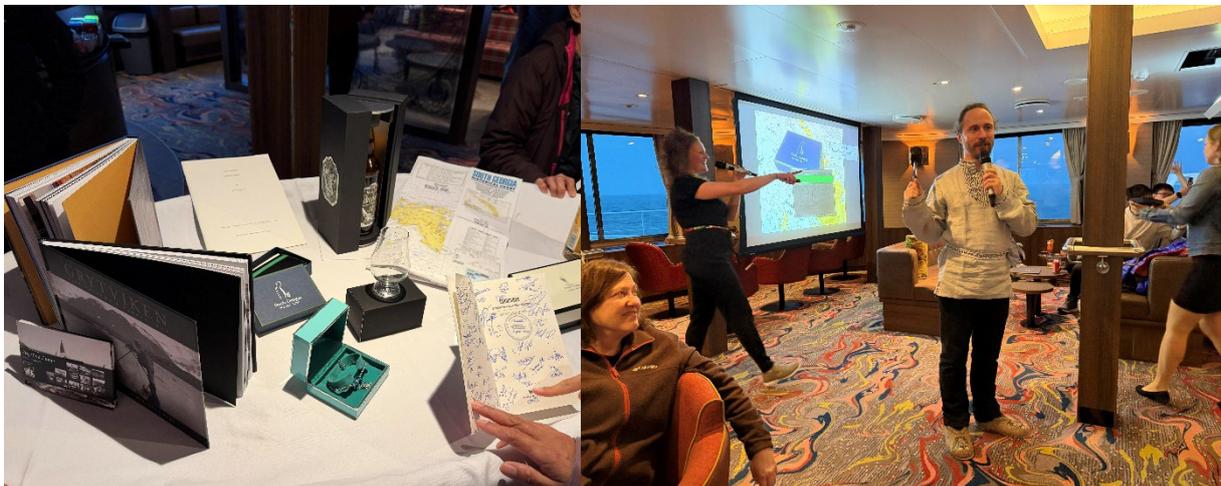
Today we would have several wonderful presentations to attend should we feel inclined. The program started off with Jodi and her telling of the story of Shackleton's Endurance expedition. A bracing tale of strength and determination against endless adversity. We enjoyed connecting our experiences in South Georgia to the story. After a break next up to present was the "ice man" Jakub with his presentation "Ice of Antarctica". His presentation was very eye opening to the importance of Antarctic ice and how it is affected by our changing world.

Then before we knew it, it was time for lunch, the swell was subsiding nicely and we all filed down to the dining room for a delicious meal prepared by the galley team. After lunch there was an opportunity for a few of us that had missed part one of the Shackleton movie to view it in the lecture room. Then for the final presentation of the day we had Jade with her presentation "A year in the life of a Southern Right Whale" which gave her a glimpse into the life of the amazing Southern Right whale we saw a few days ago in South Georgia.

After the presentation we had a little time to digest everything we had just learnt. Before we knew it was time for recap. We enjoyed the team's short presentations and Marcel's plans

before heading down to the dinner. We enjoyed another wonderful meal prepared by the galley team but that was not the end of the day.

Once again, we were called up to the lounge to take part in a charity auction for the South Georgia Heritage Trust. The bar was open for happy hour and the drinks were flowing. Our auctioneers were expedition team members Sasha and Jade. Twenty special South Georgia related items and donated experiences from the Hondius crew and staff were up for grabs including a bottle of Shackleton whisky signed by the expedition leader of the ship who discovered the endurance, the ships flag signed by the entire Hondius crew and a bedtime story by Sasha. Bidding was ferocious and our auctioneers stirred the crowd as each item found its new home. It was a wonderful evening overall and when the final bid was accepted for the evening the total sat at £3410 for the South Georgia Heritage Trust. A fantastic figure for a very worthy cause. After an entertaining evening it was time to head to bed as tomorrow we have big plans in the South Orkney Islands!



## Day 12 – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Signy Island & South Orkneys

08h00 GPS Position: 60°20.8 S, 43°44.8 W

Wind: SSW4 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: -5°C

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It was a crisp -4° C this morning as we loaded into the zodiacs for a cruise through some of the bays of Signy Island. Though there is a research base belonging to the British Antarctic Survey here, since Covid we have not been able to visit any bases, which kept our focus on the wildlife and scenery. Chinstrap penguins regarded us with curious looks as they stood on ice floes, apparently trying to figure out what these weird beings on giant black floating things were. A few also peeked out from their nests high up a cliff. We were left wondering: why do they climb so high? How do they climb so high on such little legs? Is it worth it?

This was our first taste of cruising through close ice, and the icebergs, though mostly small, were intriguing. Debates were vigorous about whether some of the pieces were icebergs or sea ice; those debates remain unsettled. We made our way through the ice to a small beach where we were able to disembark the zodiacs, two boats at a time, for a bit of time on shore. Here we saw more of the large male fur seals than we have yet seen on this trip, plus quite a few elephant seals. The difference in the activity levels of the two species is dramatic. The fur seals are bundles of energy, while the elephant seals make us happy if they so much as raise their heads. And if they spar with each other... Well! That might be a highlight of the day.



Most of us were happy to get back aboard the *Hondius* to warm up a bit; this was a good reminder that we will need to dress for the cold on future outings. We are no longer in the (relatively) warm sub-Antarctic; good gloves and hats are requirements. As we sailed away from the island, we were treated to a demonstration of master sailing as Captain Ernesto deftly wove through the many icebergs that dotted our path. He even got us close to a truly fascinating berg that boasted many hues of blue ice, seemingly carved into the shape of a horse's head. Nature is truly an artist.

Mark had just begun his lecture on Penguin Adaptations and his time working with the birds on South Georgia when a call came over the radio: "Orcas." All of us scrambled to windows or went outside, where roughly twenty orcas were hunting. At first we could not tell what they were hunting, only that they were hunting. A very large male was prominent in the pod, which included smaller males, females, and even a few youngsters. Wait -- was that another whale in front of them? Suddenly all of the orcas began porpoising more or less in place, even the small ones. What were they doing? Another whale's head appeared vertically above the surface, and all became clear. The orcas were hunting a juvenile fin

whale, and the porpoising was them drowning the whale. The young orcas were learning how to do it, so that they could provide for their pod in the future. It was both gruesome and magical, an event that occurs frequently enough, but is nonetheless rare to see. We mourned the fin whale, yet felt very lucky to have witnessed the hunt. The cycles of nature often leave us conflicted in such ways.



Many dozens of birds surrounded this event, hoping to get pieces of the kill. Represented in the mix were at least two black-browed albatrosses and a wandering albatross, along with many kelp gulls and pintados. Adult and juvenile southern giant petrels showed up in great numbers, including about half a dozen of the white morphs. As we sailed away, our last views were of a number of the petrels fighting each other for access to a piece of the fin whale's throat pleats that was floating on the surface.

Eventually Mark was able to return to his lecture, though our focus was a little less sharp than it had been at the beginning. We all had orcas on the brain, and would for a while to come.

After we had all settled back down a bit, the evening finished with a screening of the second part of the Shackleton movie. It had been quite an interesting day.

## Day 13 – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Day at sea

08h00 GPS Position: 60°09.7 S, 049°20.6 W

Wind: W5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Snow • Air temperature: 0°C

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Having departed the South Orkney Islands the previous day, MV *Hondius* spent today making steady progress south-westward towards the Antarctic continent. The sea greeted us in a relatively gentle mood, a welcome change in these often-boisterous waters. A low swell rolled beneath the hull, but overall conditions were calm and comfortable, allowing guests to move easily about the ship and spend extended time on deck enjoying the scenery and wildlife.

The morning began with patches of mist drifting across the ocean's surface, lending a soft, ethereal quality to the seascape. Visibility fluctuated as the veil of fog shifted around us, occasionally obscuring the horizon before thinning again. By late morning the mist gradually lifted and brightened, revealing clearer skies and a broad expanse of Southern Ocean stretching in every direction. The improving light created excellent viewing conditions for seabirds, and many guests gathered on the outer decks with binoculars and cameras in hand.

Birdlife proved to be one of the day's highlights. Two elegant Light-mantled Albatrosses were particularly well appreciated as they arced gracefully around the vessel, their pale mantles and dark wings striking against the steely sea. Their effortless gliding, barely touching the wind, captivated all who watched. Several Black-browed Albatrosses accompanied the ship as well, confidently wheeling close to the stern. A Grey-headed Albatross offered more distant but rewarding views, while small Black-bellied Storm Petrels fluttered low over the waves, pattering lightly on the surface as they foraged. In addition to the avian companions overhead, a few groups of Chinstrap Penguins porpoised through the water nearby, their sleek black-and-white forms briefly airborne before slipping back beneath the surface. Their presence was a cheerful reminder of the wildlife richness awaiting us further south.

The day's lecture programme began mid-morning. Michael opened with a sobering and thought-provoking presentation on the history of whaling in the Southern Ocean, tracing the industry's devastating impact on whale populations and the ecosystems that depend upon them. He also addressed the modern krill fishery, encouraging reflection on how contemporary practices continue to shape Antarctic marine systems. The session sparked many conversations among guests afterward.



Following Michael, Jakub—fondly known as “the Iceman”—concluded his two-part lecture series on Antarctic ice. Building on his earlier talk, he explored glaciers, ice caps, and the immense ice shelves that fringe the continent, explaining their formation, dynamics, and global significance. His clear explanations helped illuminate the powerful natural forces that have sculpted the Antarctic landscape over millennia.

After lunch, Eric introduced guests to the geology of Antarctica, unravelling the deep-time story written in the continent's rocks. His engaging talk was followed by a lively and interactive workshop, encouraging participants to apply what they had learned. Later in the afternoon, Luce presented the second part of her marine life series, focusing on everything that swims in Antarctic waters—from fish and squid to the larger predators that depend on them—complementing her earlier lecture on planktonic life.

In the evening, guests gathered in the lecture room for Part Two of the Shackleton film, a fitting conclusion to a day spent travelling through waters steeped in polar history. As *Hondius* continued her steady course south-westward, anticipation grew for our approaching arrival in Antarctica.

## Day 14 – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February – Mikkelsen Harbour & Punta Sucia

08h00 GPS Position: 63°01.9 S, 058°50.10 W  
Wind: E4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Snow • Air temperature: -4°C

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The day began quietly, with the ship easing toward its first landing on the Antarctic Peninsula at Mikkelsen Harbour. Overnight snow dusted the decks, and the morning unfolded under an overcast, slightly misty sky that gave the landscape a soft, muted feel. Southern Fulmars and Pintado Petrels traced effortless arcs behind the ship, keeping faithful company as it pushed south, while a Humpback Whale surfaced nearby, a calm reminder of the life thriving in these cold waters.

As the mist thinned, the sun began to break through just as Trinity Island emerged from the grey—an almost theatrical reveal that drew everyone outside. The morning program split between a landing and a lecture, with Yvonne's talk, *\*Eyes in Antarctic Wildlife\**, sharpening everyone's awareness for what they were about to experience ashore.

At Mikkelsen Harbour, the historic Argentine hut stood as a weathered marker of the recent human presence, while the remains of the wooden boat on the shore amongst the whale bones marked a much earlier chapter in an otherwise wild place. Nearby, a bustling gentoo penguin colony stole the scene: moulting adults shuffled around awkwardly, while fluffy chicks lingered close by. Weddell Seals rested on the snow, seemingly unbothered by visitors, while Antarctic Fur Seals added a touch of unpredictable energy to the shoreline. Even lunch offered no pause in the day's surprises. From the dining room windows, Orcas were spotted slicing through the water, turning an ordinary meal into another unforgettable moment.



The afternoon brought a change of pace at Punta Sucia. Under clear skies and sunshine, a zodiac cruise revealed more of the peninsula's drama. Everyone managed excellent views of Humpback Whales, their massive bodies rolling just beneath the surface. A lucky few also caught sight of Leopard Seals hauled out resting on ice, their sleek forms perfectly at home in the frozen seascape.

As evening settled in, the day saved one final spectacle. At the end of dinner, a large group of feeding humpback whales appeared alongside the ship. Lunge feeding and deep dives unfolded in sequence, flukes lifting high before slipping back into the sea as the vessel sailed onward toward its next destination.

The day concluded, as always, with plans for tomorrow—spoken with quiet excitement, knowing that in Antarctica, each new day has a way of outdoing the

## Day 15 – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Yalour Island & Pleneau Island

08h00 GPS Position: 64°42.0 S, 062°58.8 W

Wind: E2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air temperature: -4°C

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Once again we were awoken by our expedition Leader Marcel calling us to action on our second day in Antarctica. This morning we woke up at our most southern point of the voyage at 65° S overlooking the Yalour Islands. Here we would have an opportunity to see Adelie penguins! Our final penguin species of the trip.

First, we had a wonderful breakfast prepared by the galley team. Then it was time to get dressed up to go outside. Once again, the weather gods are on our side, and the small islands were bathed in sunshine. This morning, we would be split into three groups with all groups getting a zodiac cruise and a landing. For those cruising first we circumnavigated some of the huge icebergs grounded on the shoreline. Amongst them we were lucky to find whales, leopard seals and Adelie penguins. After the cruise we had a chance to get ashore for an hour and enjoy the penguins. The Adelie penguins were very busy taking care of their now huge chicks that were on the cusp of fledging. The chicks were very demanding but for many of them it's now time for them to go to sea for the first time. Some still had some of their downy feathers stuck to their heads where they couldn't reach giving them funny hair styles. It was a great morning! All too soon it was time to load up the zodiacs and get back to the ship for lunch.

Whilst we enjoyed fajita day in the dining room, the ship repositioned to an area called Pleneau Island. There was a huge iceberg graveyard in the area full of towering tabular icebergs. Here we would have a three-hour zodiac cruise to enjoy the area, which appeared to be full of seals as well. So, we loaded up in our zodiacs once more and headed out to explore the island and the surrounding icebergs. The ice was incredible

and we found Leopard seals, Crabeater seals and Weddell seals in amongst the ice. The weather was fantastic. Bright sunshine and blue skies highlighted our zodiac cruise as we tried to get lost amongst the icebergs. All too soon our time came to an end it and we had to head back to the ship. We had big plans for the evening.



It is BBQ time! The galley team had been busy preparing a delicious BBQ dinner out on the back decks. The ship would be parked in the famous Lemaire Channel where we could dine and enjoy the incredible vistas surrounding us. After dinner we broke out onto the dance floor and danced the night away in one of the most beautiful places on earth. Another wonderful day in Antarctica complete we went to bed ready for our last full operational day tomorrow.



## Day 16 – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Danco Island & Neko Harbour

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

Wind: SSW8 • Sea: calm • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air temperature: 0°C

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Today we woke up to another day under beautiful sunshine. The team keeps mentioning how lucky we've been with the weather—and they're right. It's hard to believe we are in Antarctica.

After a delicious breakfast, we hopped into our gear for a full day of expedition. Danco Island was our morning destination. Some of us embarked on a Zodiac cruise, while others went ashore. Surprisingly, the beach was free of snow, and the gentoos welcomed us from the very beginning, gathering around the Zodiacs as we approached.

The team had marked a path along the beach leading to the remains of Base O, an old research hut. From there, we continued to the edge of the penguin colony, where we could clearly see their “highway” stretching up and down the steep, snow-covered slope to the colony at the top of Danco Island. Some of us spotted snowy sheathbill chicks

hidden among the rocks. During the Zodiac cruise, a few lucky guests also saw a Minke whale and a sleeping Leopard seal.



At the end of the morning, we gathered on the beach for the craziest Adventure of the trip : THE Polar Plunge. About 40 of us jumped into the glacial waters of Antarctica for this unforgettable experience, cheered on by the rest of the passengers. It's a memory we will carry forever.

After a good lunch, and for some, a warm shower, we arrived at Neko Harbour for our continental landing.

Stepping onto the continent felt different from any other landing so far. The steep climb to the colony and viewpoint was a welcomed leg stretch, appreciated by all. The view over the impressive calving glacier at Neko Harbour was simply stunning. We even had the chance to take a photo with the Antarctic flag, making some of us proud holders of the "7 continents" title.

During the Zodiac cruise, and from shore as well, some of us were lucky enough to witness a breaching Humpback whale, an incredible sight, especially so close to us.



The hotel team had prepared a surprise on the water: a warm glass of cider served as we cruised along. Cider with that view, what a perfect afternoon.

Another beautiful day ended here in Antarctica. With hearts and minds full of memories, we sail into the sunset, ready for our final day of activities tomorrow.

### Day 17 – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Astrolabe Island

08h00 GPS Position: 63°18.5 S, 058°49.5 W

Wind: SSW2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Sunny • Air temperature: 8°C

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Our final morning on the White Continent greeted us as if Antarctica itself didn't want to let us go: radiant sunshine, deep blue skies, and a gentle breeze that barely ruffled the water's surface. Our objective for the day was Astrolabe Island, the final jewel of our itinerary before turning our bow north toward Ushuaia.

After intense days navigating more southerly latitudes, we allowed ourselves the luxury of a restful morning before reaching the island. The galley team took advantage of these

extra hours to surprise us with a fantastic brunch—the perfect fuel for our final day of exploration in Bransfield Strait.

By 11:00 AM, the imposing silhouette of Astrolabe rose before us. This volcanic island serves as a direct testament to the tectonic opening of the Bransfield Strait. Formed by relatively "young" volcanism—with much of the seafloor spreading and associated activity occurring within the last 2-3 million years—this rugged landscape was sculpted by the same subterranean forces that continue to shape the region today.



Although the expedition team made several attempts to approach the craggy, rocky coastline, safety is always our North Star. After evaluating the conditions, we decided to pivot from a shore landing to a full Zodiac cruise around the island.

Sometimes, a change of plans hides the best memories. By spending more time cruising among the colonies of Chinstrap penguins, fur seals, and Imperial cormorants (Blue-eyed shags), nature granted us a final masterpiece. To the southeast of the island, a massive concentration of krill attracted dozens of Humpback whales. One after another, their flukes and blows escorted us through a sun-drenched morning—a moment we will hold close to our hearts as the perfect "broche de oro" to our Antarctic journey.



At 3:00 PM, we returned to the ship to officially begin our northbound transit. The afternoon continued to feed our curiosity with a presentation by Tiphonie, who helped us identify and better understand the behaviors of the various seal species we've encountered throughout the peninsula.

To close the day, we gathered for our final recap and a shared dinner, toasting to the incredible experiences we've lived. Now, we prepare to cross the legendary Drake Passage which, according to the forecasts, awaits us as a true "Drake Lake."

## Day 18 – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Day at sea

08h00 GPS Position: 60°30.1 S, 062°05.3 W

Wind: NW5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 4°C

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Heading north, bound for Ushuaia. The much-feared Drake Passage is treating us with unexpected courtesy. Swells of just over two meters (about 7 feet) gently rock the *Hondius*—our floating home for these past three weeks—as we slowly distance ourselves from the ice.

Following a nice breakfast, we gathered to immerse ourselves in the world of Humpback whales guided by Pierre. With the passion of someone who has dedicated his life to observation and research, Pierre broke down their most fascinating characteristics and

behaviors. His personal stories as a global researcher transported us back to those magical moments we shared with these 40-ton giants during our journey.

After a short break, Jakub took the stage with a presentation grounded in scientific reality: *“The Beginning of the End?”* We explored the evolution of our planet's ice sheets and glaciers in the face of the current climate scenario. It was a nuanced session that invited deep reflection while offering practical solutions and a sense of hope regarding the challenges facing these vulnerable regions of the world.



Following lunch and some well-deserved downtime, a symbolic milestone arrived at 3:30 PM: the return of the muck boots. Parting with the piece of equipment we've used most over these weeks inevitably marks the closing of our adventure on the ground.

The afternoon continued with Hana, who revealed the secrets of the deep in her talk: *“How to Observe the Ocean Below the*

*Antarctic Ice Shelf.”* We learned about the technology and ingenuity required to study what happens beneath the ice shelves—a hidden world vital to the planet's equilibrium.



To close the day, after our recap and dinner, we were captivated by Michael's photography exhibition: *“Fragile Elements.”* This showcase, part of his Bachelor of Arts project, is the result of years of professional guiding in the Antarctic. His images capture the ephemeral essence and vulnerable beauty of the continent we are now leaving behind.

Tomorrow will be our final night on board. It's time to recharge and process everything we've experienced.

## Day 19 – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February – At sea approaching South America

08h00 GPS Position: 56°22.3 S, 066°06.6 W

Wind: NNW7 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Cloudy • Air temperature: 7°C

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There was something indulgent about having no wake-up call this morning. The gentle rolling of *Hondius* was reminder enough that we were nearing South America, the Drake Passage giving us a final farewell. “One hand for the ship,” we reminded each other as we made our way carefully to breakfast on Deck 4, where the familiar comfort of the buffet felt almost nostalgic on our last full day aboard.



After settling our accounts at reception, we gathered in the Observation Lounge for Jodi’s lecture, *The Race to the Pole*. She transported us back to the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration, when Roald Amundsen and Robert Falcon Scott competed to be first to reach the South Pole in 1911. Amundsen’s meticulous planning, use of skis, and dog teams gave

him the edge, while Scott’s tragic return journey became one of the most poignant stories in polar history. The Antarctic, once a blank spot on maps, suddenly felt more alive knowing the human determination etched into its ice.

Later, Pierre offered a glimpse into future possibilities, presenting other remote destinations and voyages. From Arctic archipelagos rich with polar bears to deep south -Antarctic trips teeming with Emperor penguins, it was inspiring—and tempting.

In the afternoon, we watched the documentary *Endurance*, recounting the remarkable 2022 discovery of Ernest Shackleton’s ship beneath the Weddell Sea. Resting upright nearly 3,000 meters deep, preserved by icy waters, the wreck was found using advanced underwater drones—proof that exploration continues even today.

Evening brought Captain’s cocktails, disembarkation briefings, and Sasha’s beautiful slideshow, each image stirring laughter and quiet reflection. By the farewell dinner, the ship felt less like a vessel and more like a shared home—one shaped by wind, waves, and extraordinary stories at the edge of the world.

## Day 20 – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Disembarkation day in Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 54°58.0 S, 068°18.1 W

Wind: VAR • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air temperature: 9°C

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Our final morning arrived quietly as the ship eased back into Ushuaia, the first light settling gently over the harbour. Even before breakfast, the corridors were lined with luggage placed neatly outside cabin doors — a simple but certain sign that our voyage was drawing to a close.

Breakfast felt especially warm and unhurried, filled with easy conversation as we shared favourite moments and reflected on all we had experienced. Stories of wildlife encounters, landings on remote shores, and the crossing of the mighty Drake Passage flowed easily between tables.

Soon after, we made our way ashore, where our bags were arranged along the pier for collection. Farewells drifted through the mild air as fellow travellers exchanged hugs, handshakes, and heartfelt thanks to the staff who had guided us so expertly throughout our time in Antarctica, South Georgia, and the Falkland Islands.

With one last glance back at the ship that had carried us safely through ice-filled channels and unforgettable southern landscapes, we stepped into the mild yet windswept morning, carrying with us memories that would long outlast the journey itself.

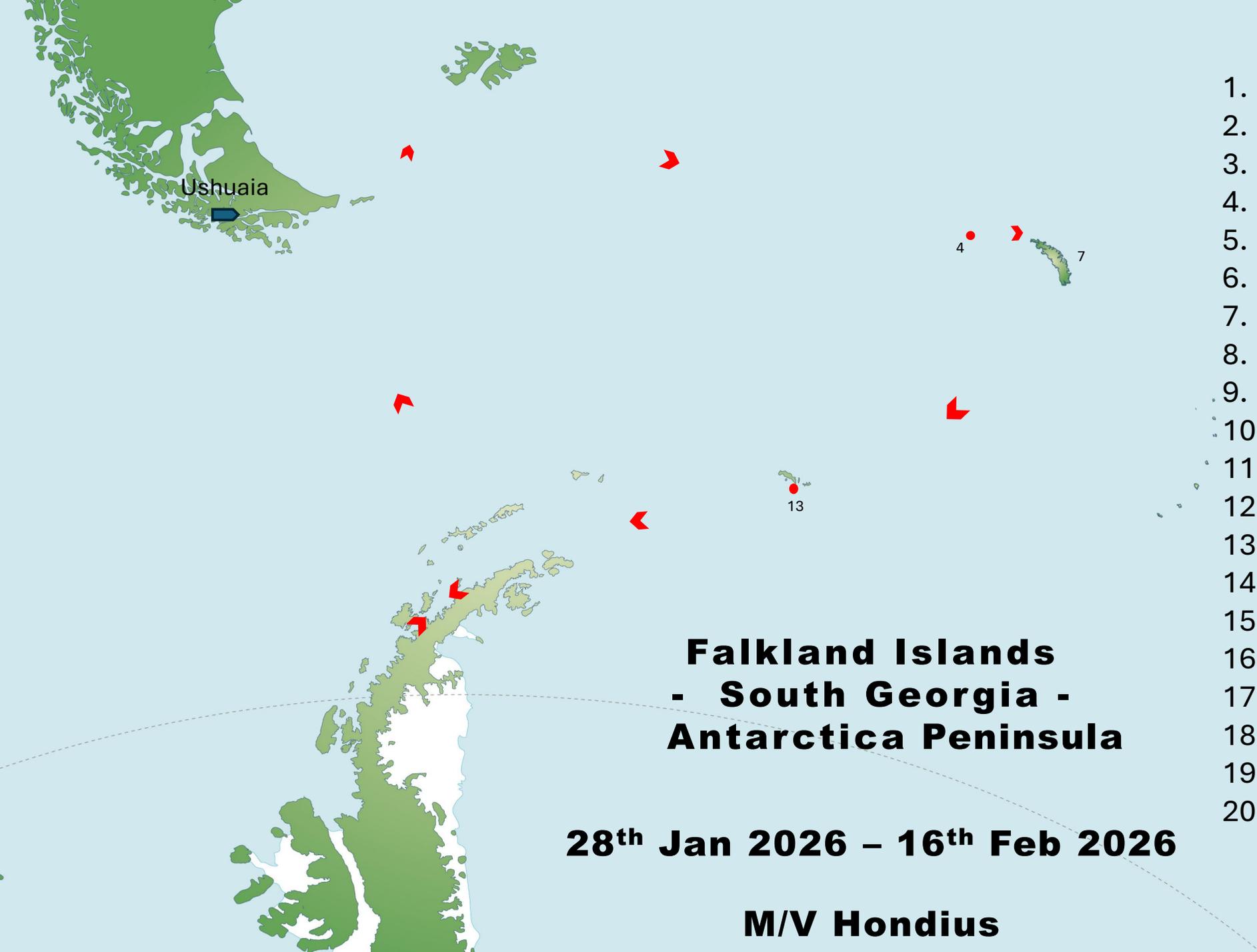
**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 3711.3 NM (6873km)**

**Furthest South: 64°42.0 S, 062°58.8 W**

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On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Ernesto Barría Vargas, Expedition Leader Marcel Paul, Hotel Manager Albert Don and all the crew and staff of M/V Hondius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!





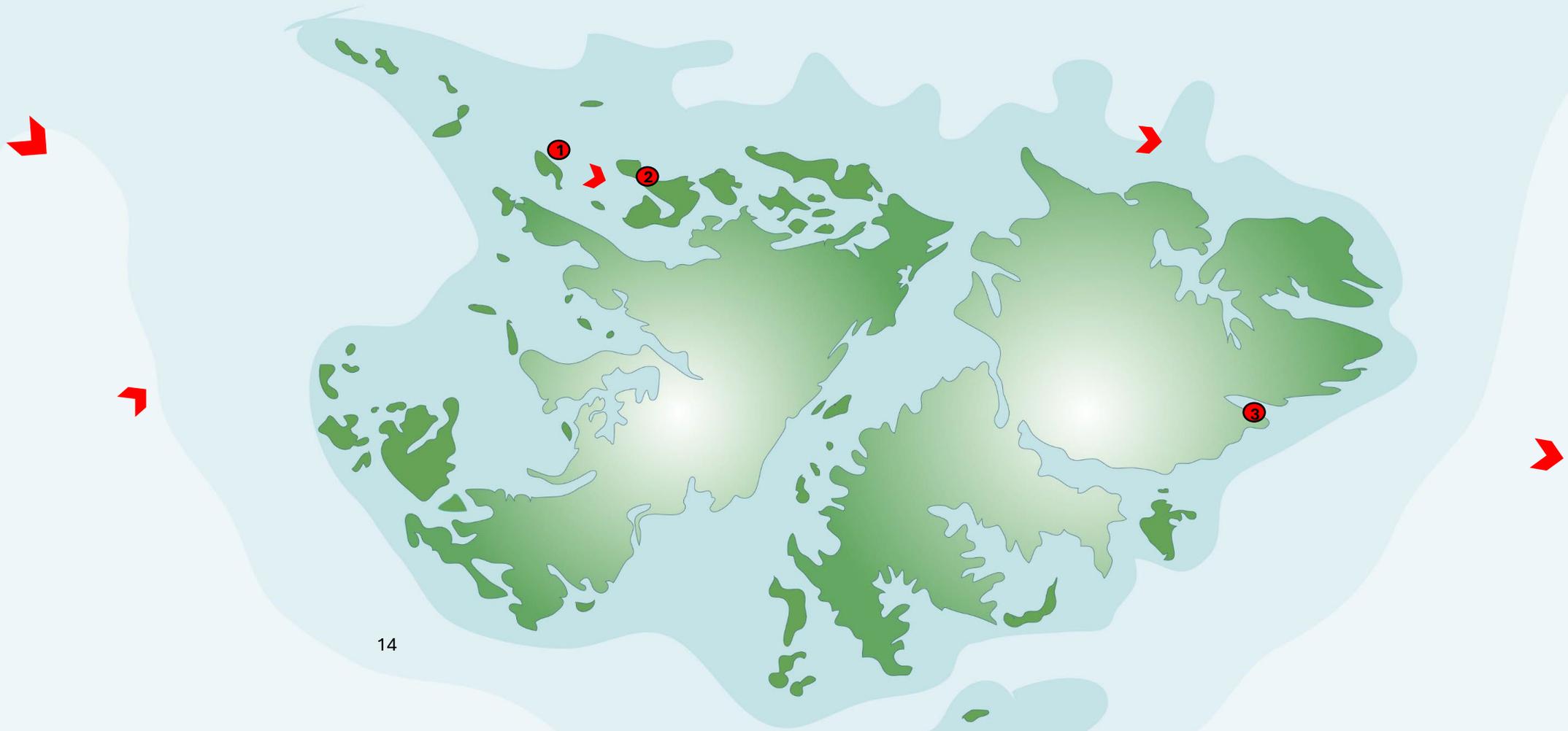
1. Carcass Island
2. Saunders Island
3. Stanley
4. Shag Rocks
5. Salisbury Plain
6. Ocean Harbour
7. Outside of Godthul Harbour
8. St. Andrew's Bay
9. Grytviken
10. Leith Harbour
11. Gold Harbour
12. Cooper Bay
13. Signy Island, South Orkneys
14. Mikkelsen Harbour
15. Punta Sucia
16. Yalour Island
17. Pleneau Island
18. Danco Island
19. Neko Harbour
20. Astrolabe Island

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

**28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026 – 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026**

**M/V Hondius**

# Falkland Islands



14

1. Carcass Island
2. Saunders Island
3. Stanley

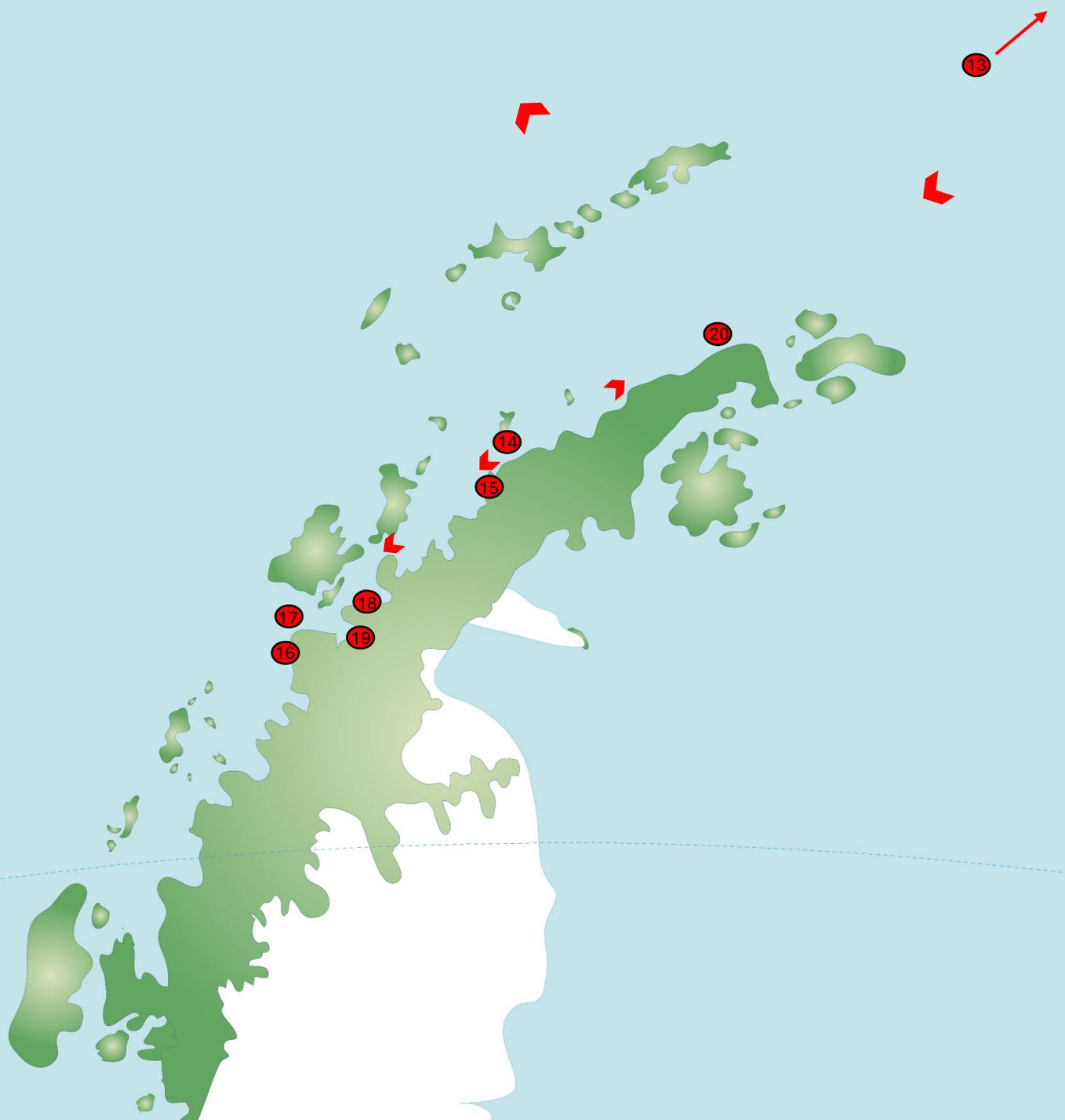
# South Georgia



- 4. Shag Rocks
- 5. Salisbury Plain
- 6. Ocean Harbour
- 7. Outside of Godthul Harbour
- 8. St. Andrew's Bay
- 9. Grytviken
- 10. Leith Harbour
- 11. Gold Harbour
- 12. Cooper Bay

# Antarctica Peninsula

- 13. Signy Island, South Orkneys
- 14. Mikkelsen Harbour
- 15. Punta Sucia
- 16. Yalour Island
- 17. Pleneau Island
- 18. Danco Island
- 19. Neko Harbour
- 20. Astrolabe Island









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# Marcel Paul - Expedition Leader

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From his teens Marcel has been a keen traveller. After camping and trekking with friends, he led groups trekking to Austria, Switzerland, England, Wales, and Scotland.

His own travels over the last 30 years brought him to more than 65 countries on all 7 continents.

With his interest in history, ice, cartography, exploration, and as a keen hobby photographer, the Polar Regions have always been drawing his attention.

At his first arrival to Svalbard in 2011 and a second trip in 2013, he felt connected with the remoteness of the place and the dynamics of the polar nature. At that time the idea started to grow to become a polar guide and give up a job that was keeping him indoors most of the time.

When the Dutch organised a scientific polar expedition to Edgeøya it seemed the perfect opportunity to gain more knowledge about Spitsbergen, the uniqueness of the islands and their eco systems by working with the scientists.

He joined the expedition in 2015 as field assistant and participated in various fields of research. In 2016 he spent time in the summer at the Dutch polar station in Ny Ålesund, again as field assistant. From 2017 Marcel has been working as a polar guide in the Arctic followed by Antarctica in 2018.

Today he still spends about half the year onboard with Oceanwide whilst sailing around Spitsbergen, Greenland, Jan Mayen, Antarctica, Falklands, and South Georgia. The rest of the year is spent either at his homes in Holland and Slovakia or traveling with his wife and their dog.

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## Jerry Zhao – Asst. Exp. Leader

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

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

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

Along the way as he spent more time in polar regions, learns more about polar regions, he is more interested in polar regions. He has self-studied the geography, wildlife and history of the Polar regions. He is beginning to learn wildlife photography.

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

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## Pierre Gallego – Asst. Exp. Leader

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

He is currently carrying out his PhD with the Oceanology Lab of the University of Liege, Belgium. His PhD thesis deals with

pollutants and stable isotopes in humpback whales off Ecuador and Mozambique.

He is a keen birdwatcher and enjoys photography. The ocean is his passion, and water is his element!

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## Mark Whiffin – Expedition Guide

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

While at university studying Biochemistry and Molecular Plant Biology, he participated in an ornithological expedition to Indonesia. This experience led to a Masters degree in Conservation Biology and he subsequently led numerous expeditions and scientific research projects to

remote tropical areas of the world in search of birds with a particular emphasis on threatened and endemic species.

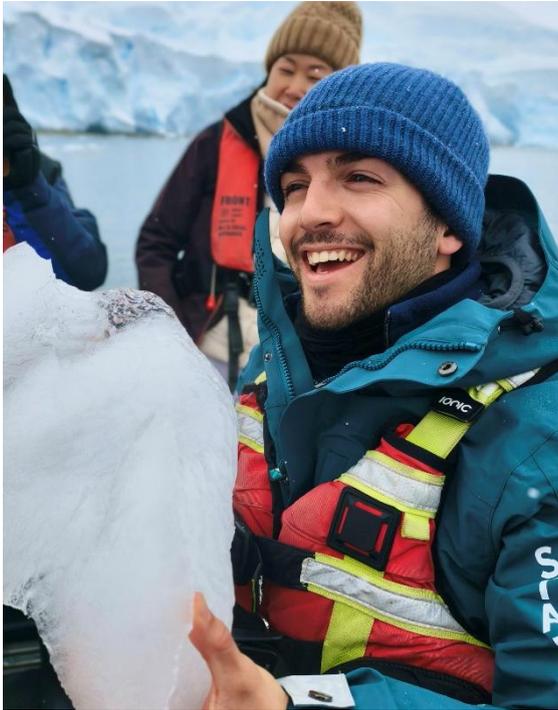
Mark first visited Antarctica in 2018 employed by the British Antarctic Survey, and subsequently spent five years living and working on Bird Island, South Georgia as a Zoological Field Assistant working primarily with the penguins and petrels that breed on the island. During this time he developed a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

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

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# Enric Sangrà Mòdol – Exp. Guide

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**“Connecting Science with People”** – This is Enric’s mission.

He holds a **Master’s degree in Scientific Communication** from Valencian International University and a **Bachelor’s degree in Geology** from the University of Barcelona. With extensive experience as a science communicator in various research institutes in Spain, he has worked closely with researchers to effectively communicate their discoveries.

Enric is passionate about **making Earth Science accessible to the public**. He bridges the gap between researchers and society, transforming complex scientific results into clear and engaging messages. His skills led him to become one of the ten finalists in the national scientific monologue competition in Spain, "Solo de Ciencia," where the country’s top science communicators were selected.

Enric’s expertise spans a wide range of Earth Science topics, from geology to environmental issues. **He is really excited about guiding in polar regions**, where the unique geological features, including ancient rock formations, meteorite-rich fields, and glacial landscapes, offer invaluable insights into Earth’s history. By sharing the fascinating stories of these remote regions, Enric brings the Earth’s geological history to life, making science both accessible and engaging for all audiences.

Enric’s hobbies are always outdoor sports, including alpinism, mountaineering, hiking, climbing, trail running, and backcountry skiing. His favorite spots are the Catalan and Aragonese Pyrenees.

**Ask him anything about geology and of “quartz” he will give you the best explanation.**

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# Alexander Romanovskiy – Exp. Guide

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

In the year of 2011 however, Alexander decided to pause his scientific career and start doing something completely

different, which means working in tourism and traveling the world. He spent 2 seasons working as a trekking guide in Fann mountains (Tajikistan), 1 season on Novolazarevskaya Antarctic scientific station (Queen Maud Land, Antarctica) working as a member of a guesthouse crew.

Since February of 2012 most part of the year he spends on Svalbard. For five seasons in a row Alexander has been living and working as a guide in a ghost town of Pyramiden. In 2016 a new page in Alexander's guiding career was opened: he started working as a naturalist guide on cruise ships in polar regions of the world – Svalbard and Antarctica.

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

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# Andi Schwertz – Expedition Guide

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

As a scuba and freediver, she was able to get particularly close to many whale species and experience adventures. For example, she has already swum with orcas three times in arctic Norway. She came to Oceanwide because she wanted to share her passion with heart and enthusiasm. She was already able to gain experience as a trainee in Antarctica in the spring of 2023. The polar regions with their special fauna exert a very special attraction on her. She is also interested in landscape photography and has great tips for successful mobile phone photography. Another passion of hers is yoga, which she also practices as a yoga instructor. She speaks English, German, Hungarian, and a little bit of Spanish and French. Andi is looking forward to more great adventures as a team member of Oceanwide!

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# Jakub Malecki - Expedition Guide

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Jakub, born in Poland in 1985, is a university professor in glaciology. He dreamed of becoming an astronaut as a child. His focus later shifted toward astronomy, and he eventually earned a Master's degree and a PhD in Earth Sciences, becoming a glaciologist. As he puts it, researching remote, glacier-covered regions is almost like landing on another planet, making his childhood dream partly come true.

Since 2007, Jakub has been studying glaciers across the world, either directly in the field or remotely using satellite and aerial imagery. His

primary research interest is how glaciers respond to climate change in diverse environmental settings. He carries out most of his glaciological work on Svalbard, an Arctic archipelago located midway between Norway and the North Pole, where he fell in love with ice. Since then, Jakub joins expeditions to remote regions on an annual basis.

Jakub considers public education by the science community to be at least as important as delivering new scientific knowledge. He is an avid glaciology communicator, a published author, and a frequent guest on Polish media outlets and at science festivals, where he comments on polar and mountain affairs. Apart from glaciology, Jakub is a huge enthusiast of planetary sciences and space exploration and tries to play the ukulele in his free time.

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## Luce Moussiere (Lu) – Expedition Guide

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

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

She lived in Asia, and Australia and dived all around the world. But after years in tropical waters, it was the challenge of cold environment that truly captivated her.

She moved to Iceland to lead expedition in

Silfra, the famous fissure in between tectonic plates, in order to train and gain access to the polar regions as a Dive guide.

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

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

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

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# Tiphanie May – Expedition Guide

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Tiphanie May is an 8th generation Falkland Islander and holds an MSc in Marine Biology. She guides in the Arctic and Antarctic with warmth and curiosity. A certified first responder and trained firefighter, she brings calm, practical leadership to every trip. Raised on her family's island in the Falkland Islands, Tiphanie grew up on boats and developed a lifelong love of the sea and its wildlife. From the penguins on the doorstep to the fish in the rock pools Tiphanie has always had an affinity for all creatures great and small.

Tiphanie started her career at 21 working aboard spanish trawlers for the Falkland Islands Government working in fisheries research and protection. Spending 200 days per year at sea she later moved on to manage an inshore boating project. Nowadays when shes not on the ship she works doing marine mammal observation, habitat restoration and occasionally working on her parent's farm.

She enjoys sharing simple, memorable moments on deck — spotting whales, pointing out seabirds, or watching guests meet their first iceberg. Friendly, down-to-earth, and passionate about conservation, Tiphanie loves helping guests connect with the polar world and leave with a little more wonder than when they boarded.

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# Hana Spickova – Expedition Guide

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

Her love for nature and outdoor life brought her first to Tromsø in Northern Norway where she did her master degree while working as a northern light guide, photographer, dog sledding guide and dog handler. She likes to spend her free time in the mountains skiing, hiking, kayaking and diving. She spent two years traveling to Asia, Africa, South America and Patagonia. She worked as

a volunteer in rescue stations for wild animals in Bolivia and Peru and as a humanitarian helper in Iraq, Rwanda and Ethiopia. After finishing her studies, she has been working as an analytical chemist in Norway. Her curiosity and enthusiasm for outdoor life brought her all the way to Svalbard where she enjoys ski touring, dog sledding and exploring new places on a snowmobile. She speaks Czech, English and Norwegian.

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## Yvonne Lin – Expedition Guide

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Born in Taiwan, Yvonne moved to Melbourne, Australia, with her family in 1990. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Optometry and a Bachelor of Science with Honors in Pharmacology, and has worked in Taiwan and Australia as a clinical instructor, optometrist, and lens expert in a renowned optical lens company.

An adventurous spirit with a deep curiosity for the world, Yvonne loves exploring local cuisines and sampling beers while immersing herself in different cultures. Since 2009, she has spent over six months each year

traveling, visiting more than 150 countries, primarily through solo overland backpacking. Her journeys have also taken her to high peaks and deep oceans—she has scaled summits including Kilimanjaro, Chachani, and Stok Kangri, and reached base camps of iconic mountains such as Everest, K2, Kanchenjunga, Manaslu, and Broad Peak. A certified Rescue Diver, she has also explored diverse marine life worldwide.

Yvonne now shares her passion for exploration by leading adventurous travelers off the beaten path to exotic and often misunderstood destinations such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, and many others, where history, culture, and adventure come alive.

Her experiences around the world reflect her curiosity and love for adventure—from climbing mountains to diving oceans and immersing herself in vibrant cultures—and she hopes to inspire others to embrace new experiences and discover the beauty and diversity of our planet.

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# Jodi Gaylord – Expedition Guide

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

After working in the medical field while pursuing her degree in the history of ancient medicine, she pursued her love of nature and wild animals by becoming

a professional wildlife photographer, running her own business for 13 years. It was during her photography travels that she first experienced the polar regions, traveling to the Canadian High Arctic in 2010. She became mesmerized by the icebergs, and was quite surprised to find herself falling for a place without trees – something she had not thought possible before. It was during her first trip to Antarctica in 2017 that the polar bug (disguised as a penguin) finally bit her in an absolutely incurable way. She knew that she had to share these amazing places with other people, so she decided to become a guide. Throwing herself into learning the history of Arctic and Antarctic exploration, she also studied how to be a safe and effective polar guide, which culminated in her completion of the Expedition Guide Academy’s Comprehensive Guide Course in 2023.

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

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# Jade Heister – Expedition Guide

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Jade is a science communicator from the Netherlands. She is currently working as a TV editor, writing for various family-oriented programs on public channels. She is mostly involved in shows that highlight Earth's biodiversity, striving to help people of all ages understand and appreciate nature, sustainability, and the importance of protecting wildlife.

Jade is a passionate nature lover herself. She enjoys hiking, skiing, and exploring on horseback. She has always been fascinated by the polar regions and ocean wildlife, and feels right at home in

cold climates. Back home in the Netherlands, she enjoys performing improvised theatre and starting new DIY projects, such as woodworking.

She holds a degree in Molecular Life Sciences, where she studied the chemical and biological interactions within organisms. Her particular interests lie in genetics, evolution, and ecosystems, with a special focus on (marine) mammals and microorganisms — quite the size range.

After completing a Master's degree in Science Communication and Education, she worked as a primary school science teacher and performed in a scientific theatre show that aired for two seasons across the Netherlands. She also spent a summer assisting in various citizen science and ocean conservation outreach programs for students and tourists, focusing on marine ecosystems in South Africa.

Her deepening love for the ocean and its creatures naturally led her to the field of expedition guiding. First she worked as a whale watching guide in Plettenberg Bay, South Africa, where she could combine her expertise on marine mammals with public education. She then joined Oceanwide Expeditions as an expedition guide, sharing her knowledge and passion on journeys to both the Arctic and Antarctic.

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# Michael Green – Lead Dive Guide

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He began diving in 1980 learning with the Royal Navy in Portsmouth Harbour. Leaving the Navy, he continued to dive mainly around the U.K. dive into the wrecks always looking for a new story to learn.

He is qualified as an instructor with BSAC and PADI. Plus, certified to operate Drager Dolphin and Buddy Inspiration rebreather. He has worked for Oceanwide since coming aboard as a guest for the Last eight years. He enjoys spending time giving our guests a safe but enjoyable experience in the Polar Regions.

His biggest tip for you is slow down.

Look around you, enjoy these beautiful flames they are amazing. He is looking forward to spending some time with you over the coming days. Please ask any questions you may have as soon as you have them, we are here to help!

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## Sid – Expedition Guide

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Sid Dewfall is a professional dive instructor and expedition guide with a strong background in marine science and field operations. Originally from Gibraltar, he has built his career around a passion for the ocean and a fascination with remote environments.

Sid holds a Master of Science degree in Marine Science and Climate Change and has been involved in research and conservation projects ranging from coral restoration in the

Mediterranean to community-based citizen science initiatives.

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

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

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

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# Geerte Beesems – Ships Doctor

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Geerte is an emergency physician from Rotterdam in the Netherlands. She grew up in a rural part in the south of the country and went to study in Groningen. Besides her degree in Medicine, she also completed a bachelor in Life, Science and Technology majoring in biomedical sciences. During her study she got the opportunity to do part of her research in the USA. She combined this with traveling for an extended period of time, and this started her love for adventurous traveling all over the world.

After finishing medschool she went on to work as a registrar in the ED in Rotterdam, this sparked her interest in the field of emergency medicine. The possibility of working as an emergency physician all over the world made her decide to pursue this career. She went on to work on the island of Aruba for over a year, then COVID hit. This caused her to return to the Netherlands to work in the ICU department in a hospital in The Hague. Then she started her residency in emergency medicine and has been working as an emergency physician ever since.

Over the years she has faced multiple (medical) challenges, i.e. flooding of a hospital, fire in a hospital, a ransomware attack during shift, and also COVID was challenging on a small island with just 1 hospital. This is when she loves her job the most. Being flexible and creative in finding solutions in before unthinkable situations. Colleagues told her about being a ship doctor for Oceanwide Expeditions and this had been on her mind for years. That is until last year when she finished her first season as a ships doctor in Antarctica with Oceanwide Expeditions. This was a truly remarkable experience and is therefore back for another season.

She is here to help with all your medical issues and is looking forward to meeting you.



# Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctica

## Welcome aboard!

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Day 1: Ushuaia - Embarkation

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

17:15+/- Please join the Expedition Leader and Chief Officer for the ship safety briefing, in the Observation Lounge on Deck 5. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**.

After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket.

All guests accommodated on Deck 3 (Cabins 301-337) will go to MUSTER STATION A which is the Restaurant on Deck 4

All guests accommodated on decks 4, 6, and 7 will go to MUSTER STATION B which is the Observation Lounge on Deck 5.

18:15+/- We would like to invite you to Captains Cocktails in the Observation Lounge on Deck where the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader will give a welcome briefing.

This briefing will give you an orientation about life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days. You will also meet your Expedition Team.

19:30 Buffet dinner will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.

*Please note that tonight we will be sailing into the open sea. Take your seasickness medication before you really feel the movements of the vessel, the doctor will be available in the bar after dinner to assist with such matters.*

*Make sure that all your belongings are put away safely and that doors and drawers in your cabin are tightly closed.*

*Walk slowly on the ship, always use one hand for yourself and one for the ship and beware of your fingers because of doors slamming.*



# Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctica

## Welcome aboard!

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Day 2: At sea towards Falklands

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

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

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

11:15 Please join the Expedition Leader Marcel, in the **Observation Lounge on Deck 5** for the **Mandatory IAATO and Zodiac Briefing**. Attendance will be checked on your way in.

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

14:00 For those who have signed up for snorkelling, and the ones that hope to have a change, there will be a **Mandatory** briefing in the lecture room on deck 5.

15:00 You will be called deck by deck down to Deck 3 to collect your Muck Boots, please bring your thick socks so you can try them for size

16:15 Tiphonie invites you to the Observation Lounge for her presentation titled: Introduction to the Falklands.

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

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

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

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



# Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctica

## Welcome aboard!

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Day 2: Carcass Island and Saunders Island

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

*This morning, we hope to offer a landing at Carcass Island. We will visit the penguin colonies on the eastern end of the island before taking a 4km hike along a muddy/grassy farm track to the Carcass Island settlement where we can enjoy a typical Falklands smoko.*

***Gentle reminder – Avian Influenza is a critical threat to wildlife in the Falklands. Please do not kneel/lie down/sit or put anything on the ground. Please keep a 5-metre distance from any wildlife.***

08:15 We hope to invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a landing at Carcass Island.

08:30 Snorkellers please meet at the dry suit hanging area on deck 3 to prepare for your first snorkelling outing at Carcass Island

08:45 We hope to invite the **Blue Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a landing at Carcass Island.

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

*This afternoon we hope to land at Saunders Island. Here we can hike across “the Neck” to see King, Gentoo and Magellanic penguins. Further up the hills we can see Rockhopper penguins and nesting Black-browed albatross and Imperial Shag’s overlooking the cliffs.*

14:00 We hope to invite the **Blue Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a landing at Saunders Island.

14:15 We hope to invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a landing at Saunders Island.

19:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for our daily recap.

19:30 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

*“The greatest adventure of all is life itself” - Bertrand Piccard.*



# Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctica

## Welcome aboard!

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Day 4: Stanley and back to sea

We encourage you to be on the outside decks to enjoy our final approach towards Stanley Harbour, as we navigate through The Narrows. We estimate we will sail through the Narrows 07:00

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

08:15 We hope to take you ashore in Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. We will start with the **RED group**, and we will call the **Blue group** soon as possible after.

We will land at the jetty which is close to the centre of town. Maps and other information leaflets are available in the Tourist Centre, which is very close to the jetty.

The admission price to the museum is included in your visit, just show your **visitor card** that you receive at the shell doors. The local currency is Pounds Sterling, but you can use Euros and Dollars in most shops. Debit and Credit cards are also widely accepted.

Please remember, **no food to be taken ashore**, you may be inspected by a government officer on disembarkation. This is the only landing of the voyage where **you may wear your own shoes to go ashore in the zodiacs**.

**The last Zodiac will leave at 12:45 - PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE!**

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

15:30 Michael invites you to the observation lounge for a presentation about his own experience in the Falklands War.

17:00 **MANDATORY** South Georgia and Biosecurity Briefing in the Bar. Attendance will be checked, please be on time.

18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the **Observation Lounge on deck 5** for daily recap.

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

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



# Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctica

## Welcome aboard!

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

Day 5: At sea towards South Georgia.

No wake-up call.

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

09:15 Luce invites you to the Bar for her lecture titled 'What is going on below the surface: Drifters'.

11:00 Andi welcomes you to join her in the Observation Lounge for a presentation about Introduction to the whales in the Southern Ocean.

**PLEASE NOTE - At midday the clocks will go forward 1 hour.  
Which means 12:00 become 13:00**

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

16:15 Mark welcomes you to the Bar for his presentation about Albatross and Petrels.

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

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

Please take time during the day to start bio securing your outer clothing, Muck boots and bags in preparation for visiting South Georgia. Brushes, cloth rags and paper clips are available at library to borrow, please return them as soon as you have finished with them for the next people to use.

20:30 We will be doing a screening of the latest Shackleton Movie, 'Endurance', with popcorn! This will be in the Lecture Room on deck 5.

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



# Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctica

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

Day 6: At sea approaching South Georgia.

No Wake-up call.

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

09:15 Enric invites you to the observation lounge for an introduction to the geology of South Georgia.

11:00 Jade welcomes you to join her in the Observation Lounge for her presentation titled “4.5 billion years in 45 minutes”.

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

14:00 We will call you deck by deck for the **MANDATORY South Georgia Biosecurity**.

When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods, etc. that you plan to use in South Georgia for the expedition staff to check.

Please make sure everything is extremely clean before proceeding to the Observation Lounge and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have approved by the Expedition Team.

16:30 Tiphonie welcomes you to the observation lounge for her lecture titled “Introduction to South Georgia”.

18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for recap. We hope to be able to pass by Shag Rocks to look for wildlife, timings to be confirmed. Re-cap might therefore be moved till after dinner. Please listen for announcements.

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

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

*“The most beautiful thing in the world is, of course, the world itself” – Wallace Stevens*



# Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctica

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Day 7: A day at Salisbury Plain

- 06:45 Wake-up call.
- 07:00-08:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 08:30 We hope to invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a landing at Salisbury plain.
- 08:30 Snorkellers please meet at the dry suit hanging area on deck 3 to prepare for your snorkelling outing at Salisbury Plain.
- 09:00 We hope to invite the **Blue Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Salisbury plain.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 We hope to invite the **Blue Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a landing at Salisbury plain.
- 14:00 All one-time snorkellers please meet at the dry suit hanging area on deck 3 to prepare for your snorkelling outing at Salisbury Plain.
- 14:30 We hope to invite the **Red Group** to the zodiac boarding area on deck 3 for a zodiac cruise at Salisbury plain.
- 18:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for recap.

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

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

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



# Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctica

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Day 8: Ocean harbour and St. Andrews Bay

06:15 Wake-up call

06:30-07:15 Pastries and juice will be available in the bar

*We hope to take you for a zodiac cruise in Ocean harbour early today. Ocean harbour is a bay on the north coast of South Georgia and was as a whaling station between 1909 and 1920.*

07:00 We would like to invite the **RED** group for a Zodiac cruise in Ocean harbour.

07:00 Snorkellers please meet at the dry suit hanging area on deck 3 to prepare.

07:15 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group for a Zodiac cruise in Ocean harbour

10:00-11:30 After coming back on board we invite you to a buffet brunch in the dining room. Take your time to enjoy all delicious dishes the gally will prepare for you.

*In the afternoon we will be at St. Andrews Bay. It is home to one of the world's largest king penguin colonies, with **around 150,000 breeding pairs**, making it possibly the largest single king penguin aggregation on Earth. There are also fur seals and elephant seals on the beaches.*

*Due to the expected weather the visit to St. Andrews Bay will most likely be a ships cruise. However, if the weather allows an operation, we will surely take the chance to take you out. Please listen for announcements*

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

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

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

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

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



# Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctica

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Day 8: Grytviken and Leith Harbour

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

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

Before going ashore, we will be individually inspected at the shell doors. This can be a timely process so please be patient, we will call the **Red** group first, followed by **Blue**.

We hope to land you near the two shipwrecks in front of the museum, you can then visit the church, museum, post office, and gallery. Before, entering any of these buildings, you must walk through the Virkon solution provided at the entrance and again when you leave.

## IMPORTANT:

- Do not enter any of the old whaling buildings.
- You can only use credit or debit cards.
- Please do not take tripods or monopods ashore for this landing.
- No backpack for this landing, you can only take the Oceanwide red bags!
- Meet at the museum at **10:00** and **11:00** for a walking tour of the whaling station.
- We invite you to make a toast to “the Boss” at the graveyard. Please be at the graveyard at either 11:00 or 11:30 if you would like to join us!

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

14:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the lounge for recap.

15:00 We invite anyone wanting a **long-guided hike**, to come to the zodiac boarding area for a long hike at Leith Harbour. This hike will be about 5km round trip taking up to 4 hours. And it traverses rolling grassy, boggy and rocky terrain.

15:30 We invite the **short hikers** to come ashore at Leith Harbour.

**PLEASE PUT THE BLINDS DOWN IN YOUR CABINS BEFORE DINNER**

19:30 Dinner will be served in the dining room on deck 4

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



# Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Day 10: Gold Harbour and Cooper Bay

*Today we aim to visit Gold Harbour, a stunning bay backed by glaciers and green tussock grass. About 25,000 breeding pairs of king penguin cover the beach and nearby plains, creating a spectacular wildlife spectacle alongside elephant seals and other seabirds.*

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

08:30 We invite the **BLUE** group to the gangway for a zodiac landing at Gold Harbour

08:30 Snorkellers please meet at the dry suit hanging area on deck 3 to prepare for your snorkelling outing at Gold Harbour.

08:45 We invite the **RED** group to the gangway for a zodiac cruise at Gold Harbour

*Please note that halfway through the morning the zodiac cruisers will go ashore, and the landing passengers will go for a cruise.*

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

*This afternoon, we hope to zodiac cruise at Coopers Bay, a rugged, colourful bay with striking volcanic rocks and steep cliffs. We hope to see chinstrap and macaroni penguins, fur seals, seabirds, and sometimes whales offshore.*

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

15:15 Snorkellers please meet at the dry suit hanging area on deck 3 to prepare for your snorkelling outing at Cooper Bay.

15:30 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group for a Zodiac cruise of Cooper Bay.

19:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for recap.

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

19:30 Buffet dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

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



# Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctica

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Day 11: At sea heading Southwest

No wake-up call.

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

09:15 Jodi welcomes you to her lecture in the Observation Lounge about Shackleton and the Endurance.

11:15 Jakub the “ice man” invites you to the Observation Lounge for his presentation titled: Ice of Antarctica.

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

14:00 We will be doing another screening of the **first** part of the Shackleton Movie; this will be in the Lecture Room on deck 5.

16:15 Jade invites you to the Observation Lounge for her presentation titled: A year in the life of the southern right whale.

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

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

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

20:30 Happy Hour in the bar.

20:45 Please join the expedition team in the observation lounge for a fun auction raising money for the South Georgia heritage trust. Your support helps preserve South Georgia’s natural and cultural heritage and goes directly towards conservation.

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

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



# Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctica

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Day 12: South Orkney and approaching Antarctica

- 07:15 Wake-up call.
- 07:30-08:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 09:00 +/- We invite the **BLUE** group to the shell doors for a zodiac cruise and possible landing at Signy Island.
- 09:00 +/- Snorkellers please meet at the dry suit hanging area on deck 3 to prepare for your snorkelling outing at Signy Island.
- 09:15 +/- We invite the **RED** group to the shell doors for a zodiac cruise and possible landing at Signy Island.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 14:00 We will call you deck by deck for the **MANDATORY IAATO Biosecurity**.
- When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods, etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica for the expedition staff to check.
- Please make sure everything is extremely clean before proceeding to the Observation Lounge and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have approved by the Expedition Team.
- 16:15 Mark invites you to the Observation Lounge for her presentation titled: Penguins and working with penguins
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team in the observation lounge for recap.
- 19:00 Plated dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.
- 20:30 We will be doing a screening of the second part of the Shackleton Movie, with popcorn! This will be in the Lecture Room on deck 5.

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

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



# Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctica

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Day 13: At sea approaching Antarctica

No wake-up call.

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

09:15 Michael welcomes you to his lecture in the Observation Lounge about Whaling and Krill.

11:15 Jakub the “ice man” invites you to the Observation Lounge for his presentation titled: Ice of Antarctica Part II

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

14:00 Enric invites you to the Observation Lounge for his presentation titled: Geology of Antarctica followed by his Rock workshop.

16:15 Luce invites you to the Observation Lounge for her presentation titled: What is going on below the surface: swimmers

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

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

20:30 We will be doing a screening of the second part of the Shackleton Movie, with popcorn! This will be in the Lecture Room on deck 5. Move close to each other so we can fit everyone in.

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

*“The greatest adventure of all is life itself” - Bertrand Piccard.*



# Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Day 14: Mikkelsen Harbour and Punta Sucia

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

*This morning, we hope to Land in Hainaut Island and cruise in Mikkelsen Harbour.  
Located amid the incredible scenery of Trinity Island.*

08:30 We invite the **RED** group to the shell doors for a landing at Mikkelsen Harbour

08:30 Snorkellers please meet at the dry suit hanging area on deck 3 to prepare for your snorkelling outing at Mikkelsen Harbour.

08:45 We invite the **BLUE** group to the shell doors for a zodiac cruise at Mikkelsen Harbour

*Please note that halfway through the morning, the zodiac cruisers will go ashore, and the landing passengers will go for a cruise.*

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

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

15:00 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group for a Zodiac cruise at Punta Sucia.

15:00 Snorkellers please meet at the dry suit hanging area on deck 3 to prepare for your snorkelling outing at Punta Sucia.

15:15 We would like to invite the **RED** group for a Zodiac cruise of Punta Sucia.

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

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

*"Penguin meat tastes excellent." - Roald Amundsen*



# Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Day 15: Yalour, Pleneau and Lemaire channel

05:30 +/- Lemaire channel crossing

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

*This morning, we hope to Land on Yalour island and cruise the islands around looking for wildlife. On Yalour we will be able to visit an Adélie penguin colony and one of the southernmost recorded gentoo penguin colonies.*

08:30 We invite the **BLUE** group to the shell doors for a landing and zodiac cruise in the Yalour Island area.

08:30 Snorkellers please meet at the dry suit hanging area to prepare.

08:45 We invite the **RED** group to the shell doors for a landing and zodiac cruise in the Yalour Island area.

*Restrictions only allow us to get 60 passengers ashore at the time. But we will rotate the landing with a zodiac cruise so you all can have the chance to go ashore.*

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

*In the afternoon, we hope to take you all out for a zodiac cruise around Pleneau island and the Iceberg graveyard. Please dress warmly.*

14:45 We would like to invite the **RED** group for a Zodiac cruise at Pleneau island and iceberg graveyard.

14:45 Snorkellers please meet at the dry suit hanging area on deck 3 to prepare

15:00 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group for a Zodiac cruise at Pleneau island and iceberg graveyard.

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

19:00 A special dinner will be served out on deck 5, dress warm and bring your dancing shoes.

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



# Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Day 16: Danco Island and Neko Harbour

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

*This morning, we hope to land and zodiac cruise at Danco, a small island in the Errera channel surrounded by icebergs and home to several gentoo penguin rookeries. The first group will go to shore; the next group will zodiac cruise – we will during the morning.*

08:15 We invite the **RED** group to the shell doors for a landing at Danco Island

08:15 Snorkellers please meet at the dry suit hanging area on deck 3 to prepare for your snorkelling outing at Danco Island.

08:30 We invite the **BLUE** group to the shell doors for a zodiac cruise at Danco Island.

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

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

*This afternoon, we hope to land and cruise at Neko Harbour, where we can enjoy beautiful glaciers, ice and Gentoo Penguin colonies. The first group will go to shore; the next group will zodiac cruise – we will swap during the afternoon.*

*Neko harbour will also be the continental landing of this voyage, we will bring the Antarctica flag if you want to take a picture with it.*

14:15 We would like to invite the **BLUE** group for a landing at Neko Harbour.

14:30 We would like to invite the **RED** group for a Zodiac cruise of Neko Harbour.

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

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

20:15 We will show the movie "Happy Feet " in the lecture room.

*"Penguin meat tastes excellent." - Roald Amundsen*



# Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Day 17: Astrolabe island and South Shetlands

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

*In the morning we hope to land and cruise at Astrolabe Island. Astrolabe Island is a small island off the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula near the entrance to the Bransfield Strait. It was discovered by a French expedition in the 19th century and is surrounded by ice-filled waters and rugged coastal scenery. Few ships ever visit this island due to its location and how exposed it is to the open sea swells.*

08:45 We invite the **BLUE** group to the shell doors for a landing at Astrolabe Island.

08:45 Snorkellers please meet at the dry suit hanging area on deck 3 to prepare for your last snorkelling outing of this voyage.

09:00 We invite the **RED** group to the shell doors for a zodiac cruise around Astrolabe Island.

*Please enjoy your last outing of this voyage and as always, we will swap the groups during the morning so you all can enjoy a last landing and zodiac cruise.*

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

*During the afternoon we will enjoy a ships cruise towards the Drake passage via the South Shetland Islands. Please enjoy the last views of the Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands before we reach open seas just after dinner.*

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

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



# Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Day 17: Astrolabe island and South Shetlands

09:00 Wake-up call.

09:30-11:00 Before taking you all on your last outing of this voyage we invite you to a buffet brunch in the dining room. Take your time to enjoy all delicious dishes the gally will prepare for you.

*Late in the morning we hope to land and cruise at Astrolabe Island. Astrolabe Island is a small island off the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula near the entrance to the Bransfield Strait. It was discovered by a French expedition in the 19th century and is surrounded by ice-filled waters and rugged coastal scenery. Few ships ever visit this island due to its location and how exposed it is to the open sea swells.*

11:00 +/- We invite the **BLUE** group to the shell doors for a landing at Astrolabe Island.

11:00 +/- Snorkellers please meet at the dry suit hanging area on deck 3 to prepare for your last snorkelling outing of this voyage.

11:15 +/- We invite the **RED** group to the shell doors for a zodiac cruise around Astrolabe Island.

*Please enjoy your last outing of this voyage and as always, we will swap the groups during the morning so you all can enjoy a last landing and zodiac cruise.*

15:15 Coffee, cake and sandwiches available in the lounge

16:15 Tiphonie welcomes you to her lecture in the Observation Lounge about Seals in Antarctica.

*During the afternoon we will enjoy a ships cruise towards the Drake passage via the South Shetland Islands. Please enjoy the last views of the Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands before we reach open seas after dinner.*

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

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

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



# Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Day 18: At sea

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

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

09:15 Pierre invites you to the Observation Lounge for his lecture about Humpback whales.

10:30 Luce will be collecting payments for the South Georgia auction. Please bring your credit/debit cards for this.

11:15 Jakub invites you to the Observation Lounge for his lecture titled: The beginning of the end? The journey of the future of the ice.

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

15:30 We will call you by deck to return the muck boots back to Zodiac boarding area on deck 3. Also bring the Oceanwide waterproof bags with you if you borrowed one from us.

16:15 Hana invites you to the Observation Lounge for her lecture about How to observe ocean below the Antarctic ice shelf.

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

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

20:45 Michael invites you into the lecture room to talk about his exhibition "Fragile elements: for his bachelor of the arts degree.

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



# Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Day 19: At sea - Approaching South America.

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

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

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

09:15 Jodi invites you to the Observation Lounge for her lecture about The Race to the Pole.

11:15 Pierre invites you into the lecture room for an overview of other voyages and destinations Oceanwide can offer.

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

15:00 The National Geographic documentary "Endurance" will be played in the lecture room. It is about the expedition finding Shackleton's lost ship under the ice in Weddell sea.

18:00 Please join the captain and the Expedition Team in the Observation Lounge for Captain's cocktails, plans for disembarkation and the premiere of our voyage slideshow compiled by Sasha. You will receive a copy of the slideshow after the voyage via email. Make sure you signed up for this by scanning the QR code.

19:30 Farewell dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

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



# Antarctic Discovery

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Day 20: Ushuaia

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

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

***PLEASE NOTE:*** Upon arrival in Ushuaia, please wait in lounge until the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to disembark. We will provide a free bus to the airport for **morning flights** only, at 08:00-09:00 a.m.

***Please identify your luggage on the pier and put it on the bus if you would like this service. For the Guests with afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the drop-off center, and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00 hrs.***

***Please identify your luggage on the pier and put it into the luggage truck if you wish to do this. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please identify your luggage on the pier and take it with you.***

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

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