



# Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

Ushuaia – South Georgia – Antarctica - Ushuaia

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026 – 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026

On board M/V *Ortelius*



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



## Captain Remmert Costa

[The Netherlands]

and his international crew of 51

Chief Officer	<b>Sjoerd van Hoek</b>	[The Netherlands]
Second Officer	<b>Sander Witsenburg</b>	[The Netherlands]
Second Officer	<b>Nino Cizmic</b>	[Croatia]
Third Officer	<b>Ian Vicente</b>	[The Netherlands]
Chief Engineer	<b>Guntis Dizbite</b>	[Latvia]
Hotel Manager	<b>Ingrid Van De Loo</b>	[The Netherlands]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	<b>Maria van Moorsel</b>	[The Netherlands]
Head Chef	<b>Heinz Hacker</b>	[Austria]
Expedition Leader	<b>Chris Long</b>	[New Zealand]
Assistant Expedition Leader	<b>Allan White</b>	[Falkland Islands]
Expedition Guide	<b>Aitana Forcén-Vázquez</b>	[Spain]
Expedition Guide	<b>Koen Hoekemeijer</b>	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide	<b>Chloe Power</b>	[Australia]
Expedition Guide	<b>Jess Owen</b>	[United Kingdom]
Expedition Guide	<b>Gez Rowlands</b>	[Wales]
Expedition Guide	<b>Bill Smith</b>	[Scotland]
Expedition Guide	<b>Werner Kruse</b>	[South Africa]
Expedition Guide	<b>Lucas Jacobson</b>	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide	<b>John Yeh</b>	[China]
Expedition Guide	<b>Li Ye</b>	[China]
Ship's Doctor	<b>Miels Bartels</b>	[The Netherlands]

**WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!**

## Day 1 – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026. Ushuaia. Embarkation Day

0700 GPS Position: 42°44.8'S, 064°59.2'W

Wind: SW3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temperature: +12°C

---

At around 2pm, after travelling from many different parts of the world over several days, we made our way along the pier in Ushuaia to find the Ortelius. Some of us had spent a few days in Argentina exploring Buenos Aires and Ushuaia, while others had arrived shortly before embarking. On the pier we met some of the expedition team and we looked up at the ship, our home for the next month.

Once we were shown to our cabins and had a chance to explore the ship. We were then invited to the lounge to watch the mandatory safety briefing. After this we were informed that our three helicopters and the pilots and engineers from DAP Helicopters would be arriving soon from Ushuaia Airport. We watched from the top deck with excitement as all three helicopters arrived.

We then had an abandon ship drill so that we would know where to muster and where the lifeboats are in an emergency.

We enjoyed the views of the Beagle Channel, it was a beautiful evening, and we even saw some whales and dolphins. We gathered in the lounge before dinner to meet our Expedition Leader Chris. Chris informed us about what to expect from our long voyage and introduced us to the rest of the Expedition Team. We were also introduced to Hotel Manager Ingrid and Captain Remmert who toasted to our voyage together.

We went to the dining room where we met the restaurant team and enjoyed a buffet dinner before relaxing in the bar, unpacking our cabins, or heading straight to bed after a busy day.



## Day 2 – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January – Sea Day, sailing towards South Georgia

09:00 GPS Position: 54°41.1'S, 061°48.7'W

Wind: VAR 1/2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +8°C

---



This morning, we woke up very excited to experience the first full day of our expedition on Ortelius. The bird watchers among us were up early to see many wonderful seabird species such as the Southern royal albatross, the giant petrel, the Wilson's storm petrel, and the amazing wandering albatross with the biggest wingspan of any seabird.

Not long after breakfast we were invited for what would be the first of many lectures on this journey. Today Jess told us about the species of Cetaceans (whales, dolphins, and porpoises) that we have the possibility of seeing on this trip and gave us some hints and tips on how to spot them.

We spent a lot of time outside or on the bridge enjoying the seascape and the birds and the remarkably calm weather. In the afternoon Koen gave us a talk which included ten tips to improve your wildlife photography skills. We were amazed to see some of his beautiful photographs from Antarctica, and it got us very excited about the animals we might encounter on this trip.

Before dinner we gathered for the first of our daily recaps. Chris told us about the plan for tomorrow and Jess demonstrated how the lengths of the wingspans were of the different seabirds we had seen during the day. Bill then talked to us about 'Looking Seeing and Thinking' and advised us on how best to enjoy our visit to Antarctica.

We gathered in the dining room for a lovely plated dinner before heading to the lounge to chat, play games, and look through our photos of the day.

## Day 3 – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January – At Sea, sailing towards South Georgia

09:00 GPS Position: 53°34.5'S, 053°01.9'W

Wind: NW6 3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +7.3°C

---

Time to wake up...not just from an excellent night's sleep but waking up to gentle rocking reality...we have at long last really started the dreamed about voyage. Motored out of the security of the port of Ushuaia into the Beagle and next morning now on the high seas bound for weeks of exciting icy adventures first in South Georgia, next Sandwich Islands, then Antarctica before heading north again and home to extol to everyone the virtues of the Oceanwide Polar Product.

A superb breakfast was followed by the first activity at 9.15...a mandatory IAATO lecture and video delivered by our Oceanwide Expeditions leader Chris. This was followed by the Zodiac briefing and an explanation of the different lifejackets used for cruising and landings. Plus, a description of the boats and film of the correct method of getting in and out at landings.



Next the South Georgia visitor briefing was an interesting and excellent introduction to the environmental issues on the island and the strict controls to ensure compliance. The very successful public funded rat eradication scheme had ensured that the island was now free of rats and in the following years this had resulted in noticeable rise in the ground nesting bird population. General fundraising continues with the emphasis on restoration of building and habitat

At 11.30 we descended to deck 3 "lecture theatre where, after much playing around with different thick socks and trying out various sizes of footwear, we were issued with



our black neoprene rubber muck-boots. These extremely comfortable high-quality items of footwear are considered essential footwear for polar adventure activities. Throughout the day our binocular festooned bird enthusiasts scanned the skies and recorded every sighting...there was much excitement and camera clicking on the

bridge when they spotted Wandering Albatross, Southern Royal, Sooty Shearwater, Antarctic Prion and a Soft Plumaged Petrel

At 2 pm we had the mandatory South Georgia pre-landing fun session in the lounge. It was like a “find a seed or alien species’ in your garments boots and kit competition’. Various vacuum cleaners borrowed from the hotel department were deployed by guides in the lounge and the machines noisily sucked every seam and sand-laden pocket and seed covered velcro straps on the equipment before being carefully inspected and signed off by our eagle-eyed Expedition Leader.

At the regular recap session before the evening meal, Chris give us an outline of the next day activities and lecture programme and 24 hour weather forecast for this area.

So ended another Oceanwide Expedition day...the excitement was mounting!



## Day 4 – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January – At Sea, sailing towards South Georgia

09:00 GPS Position: 52°17.6'S, 044°27.2'W

Wind: NW 5/6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Fog • Air Temp: +6.9°C

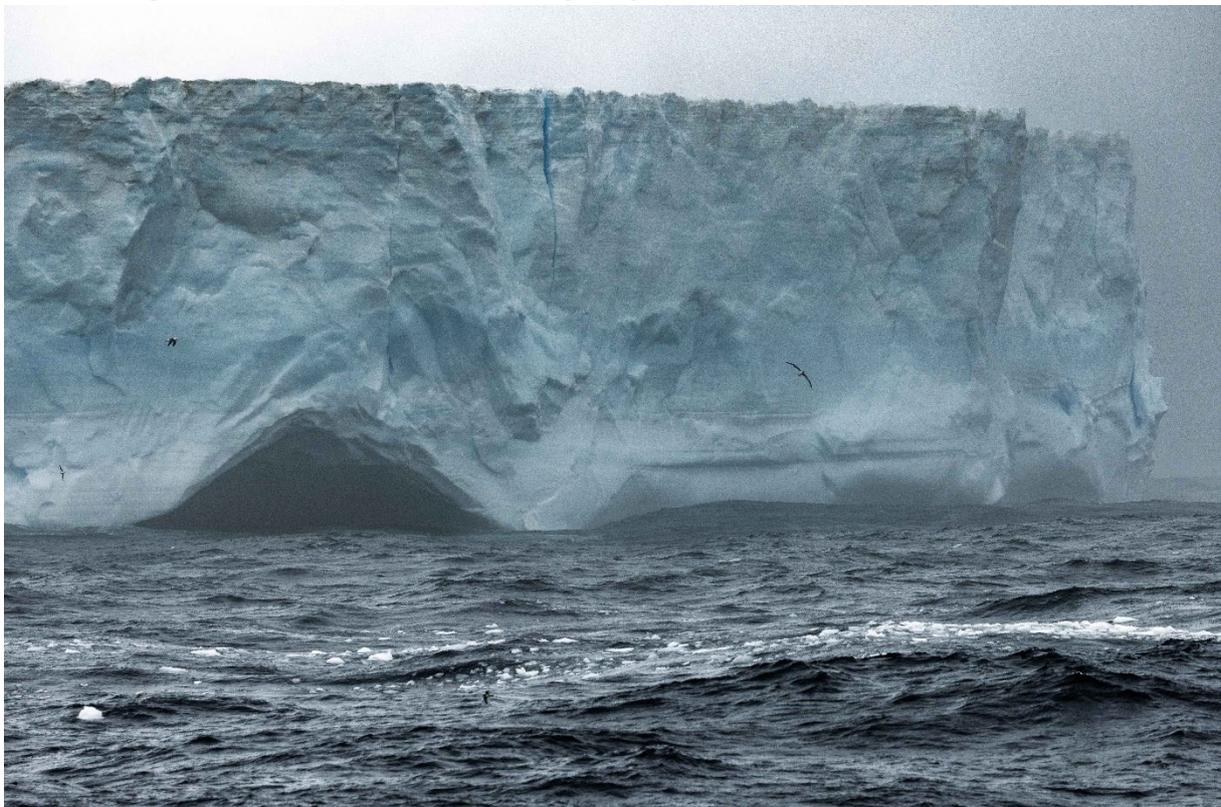
---

The day began with an atmospheric, mystical morning. Thick fog surrounded us as we sailed along the Antarctic Convergence, making our way toward the South Georgia Maritime Zone and the legendary A23a iceberg.

Shortly after breakfast, Bill invited us to the bar for a lecture on the history of whaling—an intense and detailed deep dive into the gritty realities of the whaling era. Outside, the day remained calm, with only a few species of birds gliding through the fog.

After lunch, Chloe welcomed us back to the bar for her lecture *Penguins: Flightless Wonders*. The talk sparked real excitement among the guests—soon it would be the first encounter with these remarkable birds for many, and a much-anticipated reunion for others.

Later, Chris announced that A23a lay just six nautical miles ahead, though it was still hidden from view. While we searched for the largest floating object on Earth, the hotel staff and expedition team kept us warm with hot chocolate (with a kick) topped with whipped cream. Soon, we began to hear thunderous sounds as waves crashed against the iceberg, and the ship started to roll gently from the backwash.



Then, a sliver of fog lifted. The colossal iceberg appeared on our port side—an extraordinary sight. The remaining fog only added to the drama. Black-browed albatrosses, grey-headed albatrosses, prions, and petrels filled the air, flying between

us and A23a. Just before we altered course, the fog thinned even more, revealing several ice caves carved into its face.

A beautiful, mysterious afternoon spent sailing among one of nature's true marvels.

The day ended with recap and briefing in the bar, where Chris outlined the plans for our first day in South Georgia, followed by a delicious plated dinner. Three sea days behind us—and we are finally ready to explore South Georgia.



## Day 5 – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Elsehul and Right Whale Bay

0900 GPS Position: 54°00.8'S, 037°58.5'W

Wind: NNE4 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Fog • Air Temp: +7.6°C

---

The word 'excited' was an understatement as we got up in the morning to approach South Georgia, the first land we had seen for three days. The very thick fog meant that we couldn't actually see the land until we were right next to it. We arrive at our morning destination just before breakfast. Through the mist we could just about make out the rocky shoreline and occasionally we could see Antarctic fur seals leaping from the water.



We started to embark onto the zodiacs, driven by the expedition team. We were both excited and lightly nervous as for some of us it was the first time travelling in power boats like this. We set off blindly into the mist in the direction of the shore. Almost straight away we were amazed to find a nest colony of Macaroni penguins. Their nest site was high up on the cliff surrounded by tussock grass, but many of the macaroni's were at the water's edge jumping in and out of the surf. Their yellow crests really stood out and we had fantastic views of them.

We followed the coast where we found many king penguins, the second largest penguin species. A lot of them were moulting, making them look fluffy and comical. We found some groups of gentoo penguins too and some of the boats spotted the South Georgia pipit, the only songbird we could see on our voyage and one that is endemic to South Georgia. There were lots of seals occupying the beaches and the rocks. We could see the Antarctic fur seals playing in the shallows and the much larger Southern elephant seals resting and moulting.



It was a very misty, rainy, and windy cruise. We headed back to the ship to get warmed up and have some lunch.

In the afternoon we arrived at Right Whale Bay. The fog was even thicker than it was in the morning, and we left the ship without being able to see the shore. The beach suddenly appeared out of the mist, and we landed at a spot that was covered with life. There were fur seals and king penguins everywhere. We slowly walked along the beach, soaking up the sites and sounds of our first landing.

We came to a little hill covered in tussock grass. When we reached the top, we were speechless, as we came face to face with thousands of king penguins. We looked down over a huge colony which included beautiful adults with vibrant yellow patches

on their heads, and adorable brown chicks that were rotund and fluffy. We spent hours admiring the penguins, watching how they interacted with each other, laughing at the humorous way they walked like people, and trying to capture their beauty through our cameras to share it with friends at home.



We could see skuas and giant petrels flying over the colony, looking for scraps or perhaps some easy prey. There were a lot of seal carcasses on the beach from both adults and pups, a sign of the bird flu which is still very much present in South Georgia.

The fog opened up a little during the afternoon but towards the end of the landing it closed in on us again. We returned to the ship so delighted to have done a full day of activities in South Georgia. The mist made for atmospheric photos and our first experience of a penguin colony was magical.



## Day 6 – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Fortuna Bay and Godthul

0900 GPS Position: 54°08.8'S, 036°48.5'W

Wind: N5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +6.9°C

---



We awoke to a beautiful sight of Fortuna Bay, the destination for our morning activities. The wind was fairly strong already, but that didn't stop us from getting into the zodiacs and arriving on the shores of where the famous Sir Ernest Shackleton once stood. This shoreline of South Georgia was part of the route Shackleton and his men traversed through to eventually reach Stromness whaling station, where they finally sought help



and refuge. It was an incredible feeling to trace some of the footsteps of the Boss himself.



Fortuna Bay wasn't just teeming with history, but wildlife too. We were greeted by numerous Antarctic fur seal pups, playing in the crashing waves as we clumsily got out of the zodiac. Keeping a five-meter distance was extremely hard as these curious pups just wanted to investigate us! Most of these little dark brown fur seal pups were about 1- 2 months old, where they were born between mid-November and late December.



They suckle high fat milk from their mums for their first week of life and then are left ashore for the next four months, where their mums will alternate between foraging and nursing. We could hear the goat-like cries of the pups answered by the haunting calls of the mums, sometimes separated by hundreds of metres of ground to cover to find

each other again. We witnessed numerous mum and pup pairs nursing which was just too sweet! By the end of April, these pups will be fully weaned and no longer attended by their mums and will be ready to start foraging by themselves. Some of the juvenile fur seals from previous seasons were a little feisty and we had to remain vigilant from ones sneaking up behind us! They may be small, but their teeth are riddled with bacteria that would cause a very nasty infection if it pierced through our clothing. But for most of the time, these cheeky seals were just trying to act tough and backed away when we showed them who was boss.



The seals weren't the only stars of the show. Numerous king penguins riddled the shoreline, some returning from their foraging trips, others departing, and others standing sullenly as they endured their catastrophic moult of last season's plumage. The number of king penguins increased at the end of our walking route, which was the location of their breeding colony. Approximately 5,000 pairs of king penguins call Fortuna Bay home, and due to the penguin's long breeding cycle, the colony here is always occupied with both adults and chicks. We got to witness some of these gorgeous brown fluffy chicks (that almost resembled a kiwi fruit!) and hearing their high-pitched calls was just adorable. We even got a glimpse of some bulges in the adult penguin's brood patches above their feet, which were carefully containing individual eggs soon ready to hatch.

Upon walking back towards the landing site, we heard a few crackling noises coming from a nearby iceberg that had grounded near the shoreline of the bay. And sure enough, those cracks gave way to a huge calving! A large chunk of the iceberg came crashing down into the water, creating a ginormous splash and subsequent wave heading straight for the shore. Luckily our Ortelius and zodiacs were far enough way, but we spotted many king penguins and fur seals scrambling up the beach to escape the waves' wash. It was surreal to see!

Back on board during our transit to our next location, the weather changed dramatically. With over 50 knots of wind, the outside decks soon closed, and the sea was dotted with white caps. After hearing all about the Beaufort scale with Gez a few days ago, we really started to understand how quickly the sea state can change. Despite the blistering wind and wave action, we spotted multiple humpback whales, porpoising fur seals, and giant petrels soaring around the ship. We couldn't believe how many whales there were! One after the other was spotted in almost every crest and trough in the distance. Unfortunately, due to this weather, our Plan A for a landing at St. Andrews Bay was cancelled as it would have been impossible to safely operate zodiacs. As we tried for Plan B, a landing or zodiac cruise at Ocean Harbour, the conditions persisted and the next plan had to be made.

Finally, we found a sheltered bay out of the elements, and we came to Plan C! The

afternoon gave us a landing at Godthul, a small, protected bay with steep tussac-covered cliffs that would allow us to stretch our legs and climb up to a viewpoint of a scenic lake. The sun was shining and we were delighted! Plan C wasn't too much of a consolation prize at all! The keen climbers braved the fur seal-



riddled tussac and made it to the top of the mountain and were greeted with incredible views looking down at Ortelius in the bay below. The keen wildlife lovers who remained on the beach got to witness a leucistic (lacking pigment) gentoo penguin, and the endemic South Georgia pipit and South Georgia pintail. All in all, it was a fantastic afternoon!

We were then treated to more humpback whale sightings back on board and enjoyed another scrumptious dinner by the hotel team. Another day in paradise waited!

## Day 7 – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January – Grytviken

0900 GPS Position: 54°17.7'S, 036°28.8'W

Wind: N4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +3.7°C



We woke up with *Ortelius* calmly anchored in Cumberland East Bay, our destination for the day was the “city” of Grytviken—the only settlement in South Georgia. The morning was calm, and the sounds of fur seals echoed off the mountain cliffs as they carpeted the beaches of Grytviken.

During breakfast, the team picked up the government officer at King Edward Point, where the base is located, along with two staff from the museum. They boarded the



ship to conduct a thorough inspection for any foreign species we might potentially carry onto the island. An introduction to the work of the South Georgia Heritage Trust was later presented in the bar by the museum staff Rachel and Emily. We were very pleased

to learn that all our hard work cleaning our gear and the ship had paid off: we received a 100% score and were cleared to go ashore.

We began the morning at the museum and post office, where many gifts were bought and postcards sent. Walking tours were hosted by the local staff, introducing us to the whaling station and its operations from back in the day. Tucked away at the back stood a beautiful little church. From there, we took a short walk along the coast, passing many young and curious fur seals, eventually reaching the graveyard where Sir Ernest Shackleton is laid to rest. Steven gave a memorial speech, followed by a toast with Shackleton whisky.

Upon returning to the ship, lunch awaited us—prepared by the hotel team on Deck 7 out on the open deck. A delicious soup and sandwiches, followed by mouth-watering brownies, accompanied our slow sail away from South Georgia.



Later, Chloe invited us all to the bar for a lecture about seals. We now know everything about these curious little nibblers we've encountered over the past three days.

As we set course for the South Sandwich Islands, we

encountered a large pod of seals and numerous humpback whales feeding in the shallow waters around South Georgia—a spectacular farewell to a truly majestic island.



## Day 8 – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January – At sea, Zavodovski Island

0900 GPS Position: 55°35.4'S, 030°25.6'W

Wind: WSW8 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +3.2°C



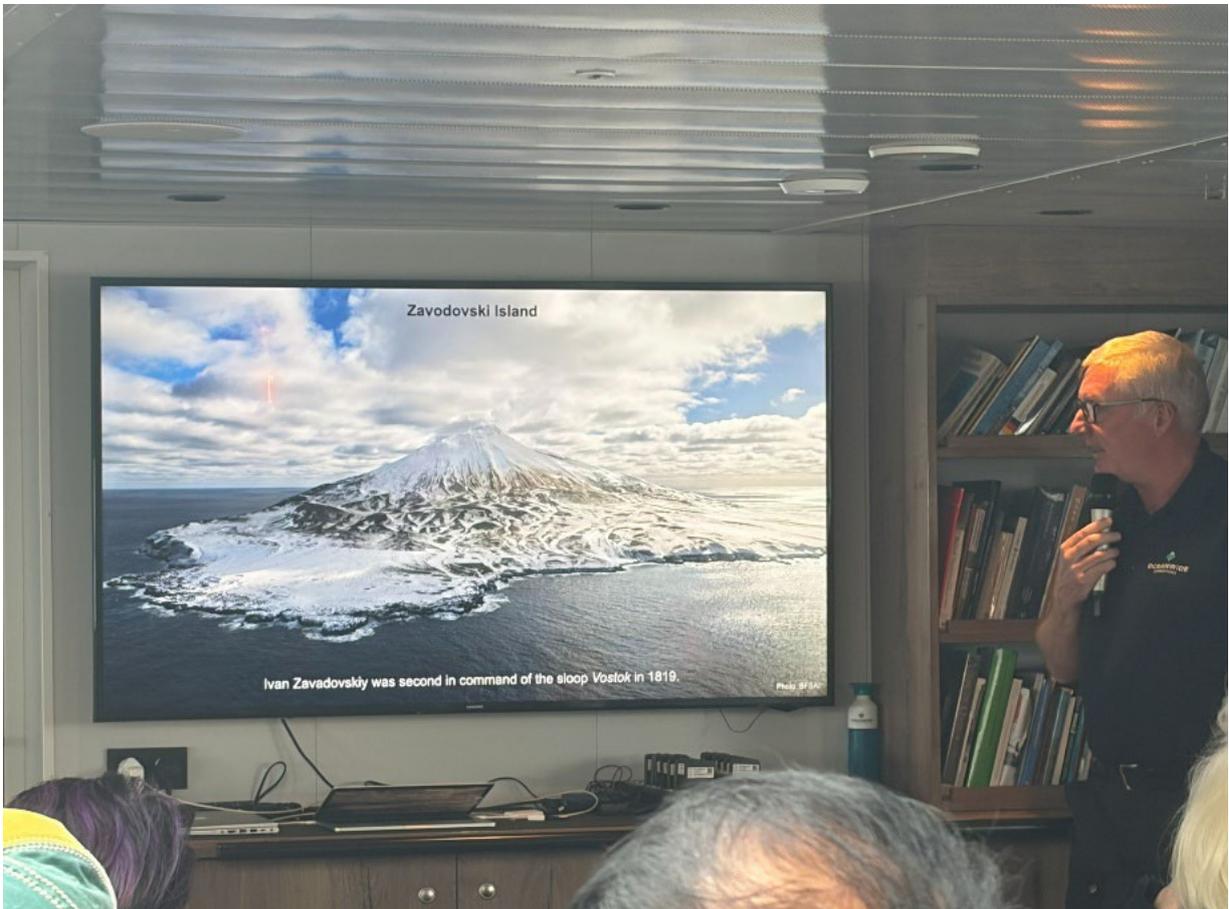
Life on board *Ortelius* had settled into a familiar and comforting rhythm. Meals, lectures, and quiet observation flowed seamlessly into one another, and by this day many of us found ourselves drawn to the bridge, gazing out over the Southern Ocean. For many, it was a time of reflection, particularly after the deeply moving visit to Grytviken the day before. Standing where the great explorers once stood and paying respects to Ernest Shackleton left a lasting impression that carried into the following day.

Our daylight hours were enriched by a series of engaging lectures. Steve spoke about Shackleton's early life, his relentless ambition, and the experiences that shaped him during the Heroic Age of Antarctic exploration. We learned of his marriage to Emily Dorman, whose steady presence supported a man constantly drawn toward risk and discovery. Shackleton's expeditions were marked by extraordinary challenges, and while many failed to achieve their original objectives, his ability to bring his men home against overwhelming odds cemented his legacy. It is this human-centered approach to leadership—placing the welfare of his crew above all else—that has led Shackleton to be widely regarded as one of the greatest leaders in exploration history.



Later in the day, Allan delivered a compelling lecture on the South Sandwich Islands. Discovered in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, this remote arc of islands was formed by powerful tectonic forces beneath the ocean. Allan also outlined the complex political history between Britain and Argentina, including Operation Matchstick in the 1970s, when British forces destroyed an Argentine scientific base on Thule Island, reaffirming British control in the region. Even in such isolation, human history has left a distinct footprint.

At approximately 6:00 p.m. local time, Ortelius passed south of Zavodovski Island. Conditions outside were severe: 4.2-metre





waves, winds gusting to 35 knots (around 40 mph), an air temperature of just 1°C, and a wind chill of roughly -16°C. Guests braving the elements on Deck 6 experienced their first true taste of the Antarctic environment in all its raw intensity.



Mount Curry, the island's dominant peak, rose steeply from the sea but remained shrouded in cloud. This active stratovolcano, reaching 551 meters, releases sulfurous gases from fumaroles near its summit and is one of the reasons Zavodovski is often referred to as the "world's smelliest island." The reputation is well deserved, and as we passed to the south, the pungent smell of penguin guano was unmistakable.

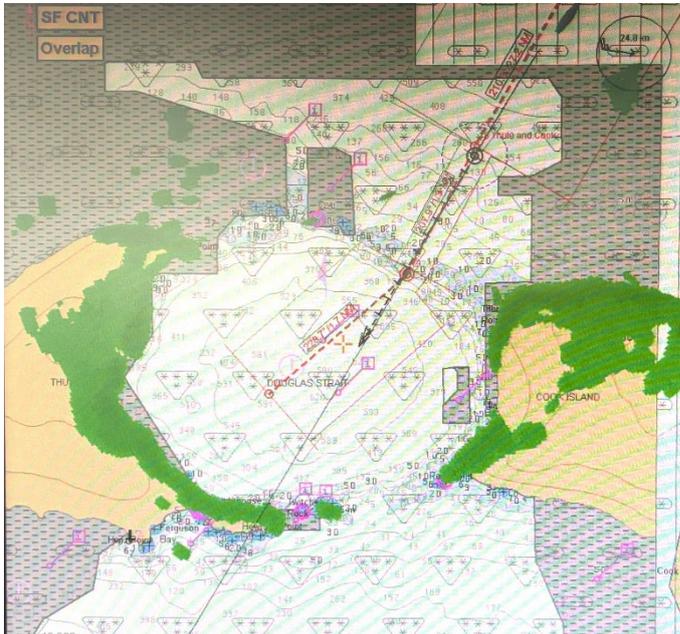
Zavodovski Island is home to an estimated 1.3 million breeding pairs of chinstrap penguins, the largest chinstrap colony anywhere on Earth. Combined with volcanic heat that keeps parts of the island free of snow, the island supports an astonishing concentration of wildlife, providing a powerful conclusion to a day defined by reflection, learning, and the untamed nature of the Antarctic.



## Day 9 – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Saunders Island, Thule and Cook Islands

0900 GPS Position: 58°37.3'S, 026°40.0'W

Wind: WNW5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: -0.5°C



We woke at 4:00 a.m., long before dawn, to be on the bridge as we passed Saunders Island and sailed straight into Cordelia Bay in the remote South Sandwich Island chain. The early hour only highlighted the guests' commitment—sleepy eyes, thermoses clutched tight, and an unmistakable sense of anticipation as everyone chose discovery over comfort. Visibility was good on the water, though the dramatic volcanic peaks remained veiled in fog, hinting at the raw power of this place. Saunders Island itself is a restless world: an active stratovolcano crowned by Mount Michael, one of the few volcanoes on Earth known to host a persistent lava-lake. Uninhabited and rarely visited, it sits isolated in the Southern Ocean, shaped by fire, ice, and relentless weather.

The morning lecture onboard was delivered by Gez, our guide from Wales, who unraveled the forces behind the volatile conditions we were experiencing. He explained how global weather systems are driven by convection, with warm air rising and cooler air sinking, setting the atmosphere in motion. He also described the Coriolis effect, which deflects moving air due to Earth's rotation and gives storms their spiraling structure, and katabatic winds—cold, dense air accelerating downslope under gravity, a defining feature of polar environments. With this insight, the changing conditions outside took on new meaning.

In the afternoon, a miraculous weather window opened as we entered the flooded volcanic caldera between Thule and Cook Islands. This dramatic location was once home to the Argentine scientific base Corbeta Uruguay. Guests may remember Operation Matchstick, the British operation in 1982 that reasserted control of the area,



after which the base was destroyed. From the zodiacs, the remains of the station were clearly visible, a stark reminder of human presence in this harsh landscape. Wildlife thrived here too, with chinstrap penguins lining the shores and fur seals hauled out among the rocks, completely at ease in their elemental world.

As the zodiac cruise came to an end, Ortelius lay in the center of the caldera, exposed and away from the shelter of the mountains of Thule Island. The ship's growing list told us that conditions were worsening. After 2.5 hours on the water, the weather window abruptly closed. Visibility dropped to just a few hundred meters as we climbed back onboard, and the mountains that had encircled us only moments before vanished into thick, rolling clouds. This was only the second zodiac cruise ever conducted at this remarkable location.





The afternoon recaps included Aitana, who spoke about weather forecasting. Having worked for a leading meteorological company, her talk was very insightful. She explained how satellite images, weather stations, ocean buoys, and weather balloons are all used to input data into mathematical weather models.

Jess also gave an insightful and visual talk on the size of various marine mammals. Comically, it became apparent that we would not be able to fit a blue whale into the ship's lounge. Her modelling of the Blue Whale took her outside and onto the ship's deck, she was forced to talk to us through the window which made everyone laugh.

That evening, we crossed 60° south latitude, the internationally recognized boundary that defines the beginning of Antarctica. With hearts full of wonder and an appetite for adventure growing stronger by the day, we turned southward once more, pressing on toward the sheet ice and the promise of what lay ahead.



## Day 10 – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January – At sea, sailing towards Antarctica

0900 GPS Position: 62°29.4'S, 024°10.3'W

Wind: SW6/7 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: -0.1°C

---

We continued our navigation south from the South Sandwich Islands toward Antarctica under favorable sea conditions. The ocean remained calm throughout the day, with a gentle rolling motion that provided a comfortable rhythm on board.

In the morning, guests attended the helicopter safety briefing, an important step in preparation for upcoming operations. Safety procedures, flight protocols, and expectations were clearly explained, and helicopter flight numbers were assigned. Excitement was high across the ship as anticipation built for the days ahead.

The afternoon took on a relaxed and social tone. During Crafternoon, Chloe and Aitana hosted a crochet session, offering guests the chance to learn a new skill and unwind together. The galley complemented the activity by preparing a selection of freshly baked cookies, enjoyed by all.

Later in the afternoon, Werner led an informative session on smartphone photography, sharing practical tips to help guests improve their images and make the most of their phones when documenting the expedition.

The day concluded with the daily recap and briefing, followed by dinner. In the evening, guests gathered to watch the documentary *Ring of Fire*, which explores the discovery of a lava lake on Saunders Island in the South Sandwich Islands, a fascinating insight into one of the most remote and geologically active regions on Earth.

A calm and productive day at sea, marked by learning, sharing moments, and growing anticipation as we continue our journey toward Antarctica.



## Day 11 – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February – At sea, sailing towards Antarctica

0900 GPS Position: 66°41.9'S, 018°29.1'W

Wind: SW5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temp: -1.2°C

---

Another beautiful day awaited us, starting with a wake-up call announcing that we'd soon be crossing the coordinates of 66° 33' - the Antarctic Circle. This invisible boundary can sometimes define the 'true' Antarctica for some, as temperatures this far south plummet, and places become harder to reach. The atmosphere up on the bridge was buzzing as Allan counted us down to the second we crossed the coordinates, and the captain blew the horn to celebrate another significant milestone of our voyage. We really started to feel remote!

Mid-morning we were treated by Steve, our guest lecturer, once again to share his wealth of knowledge and passion for polar history, this time talking about the incredible journeys during the exploration of the Weddell Sea.



Up on the bridge, we spotted a large blow from a whale in the distance, and it looked like it was travelling northward, so we were hopeful we'd catch a glimpse of it again soon. One cruised past the bow very quickly and closely, and we heard "fin whale, 11 o'clock!", but this species of whale is known to be quite speedy (reaching up to bursts of 45 km per hour!!) and often regarded as the 'greyhounds of the sea'. As the excitement spilled out onto the decks at this close encounter, another blow was spotted, and this one much larger, which could only mean one thing – the elusive blue whale! After confirmation from photographs by our guest Rob, and whale expert Jess, we had indeed spotted a blue whale! The excitement grew and grew, and soon enough everyone was out on decks with binoculars and cameras in hand. Over the course of the next 30-60 minutes, we had

spotted three more blue whales, and a couple of fin whales. We were just so overwhelmed at the size of these creatures. These whales can reach up to 33 m in length, making them not only the largest living animal today, but the largest animal to ever exist! Albeit we probably only glimpsed ¼ of the animal itself, as the majority of the body is underwater, but it was still impressive. We did, however, get to witness a truly magical sight, the blue whale's fluke! Seeing a blue whale is one thing but seeing them in Antarctica where their populations were almost decimated and are still recovering is another, and to top it off with seeing these graceful beauties take a dive and see the sheer size of their tail was just the icing on the cake.

Our afternoon consisted of a mandatory drill for our upcoming helicopter operations, so we knew exactly how it worked, what to wear, and what to expect. It was a full rehearsal, as if we were going out in the helicopters for real. It was really reassuring having all this information and practice before our big day of flying! We were all so excited to get up in the air!

Later in the afternoon, the expedition team on bridge watch counted an additional four more blue whale blows in the distance, giving us a total count of NINE blue whales!! For some of the expedition team, it was their very first blue whale sighting, so we soon began to appreciate just how rare and fortunate this experience was.

We went to bed eager with anticipation for tomorrow's potential helicopter flights. Another day in paradise!



## Day 12 – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Neuschwabenland

0900 GPS Position: 70°27.6'S, 010°55.3'W

Wind: WSW5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partial Cloud • Air Temp: -1.3°C

---

This was to be an exciting day, but it started slowly. Much organisation was required to arrange the flying groups and deploy the mass of equipment required for the landing area...to say nothing of the preparation of the helicopters. The rotor blades were carefully removed from the hanger and bolted onto the drive unit at the top of the first helicopter. Eventually we received a call to action and almost as if it were a cue, a simultaneous This was an immediate distraction as everyone rushed to the side of the vessel camera in hand shout...'whales!' They were immediately identified as Orca. No possibility of this being a mistake as a large number of large black dorsal fins were seen cutting at speed through the water. Much agitated activity as the darted backwards and forwards obviously feeding.



First flight off the helideck was Chris, Lucas and Gez on a scouting mission to find a suitable landing area and once selected, to check it for crevasses. The first task was to mark out a safe perimeter and erect as large dome tent as a base and emergency shelter. Then the shuttle flights began. Life jackets issued and checked and group of 4 or 5 led to the helicopter-deck to board the machines and be strapped in by the DAP mechanics.



The organisation was seamless well thought out, the guide team with designated roles ensured a smooth flow. Everyone was excited and delighted at the superb views as we flew in across the sea and ice. The guide team looked like lonely small dots on the vast plain of pristine ice. The pilots landed at the designated zone and it was only a short walk indicated by a line marker poles to the free roaming area. It was hard to believe that we were standing on the Antarctic mainland for the first time. Certainly, as we had been warned by Chris ....it was cold. Very cold!

A few minutes without gloves was certainly very uncomfortable. The wind was blowing as forecasted at about Force 4 to 5 WSW, generating a very noticeable wind chill factor. The scenic flights from the ship to the shore gave the DAP pilots an opportunity to demonstrate their superb highly professional flying skill, swooping over the ice and tracking along the crumbling startlingly white cliffs, the sea was a beautiful turquoise along the very edge of the ice shelf.

The pilot's faces had ear to ear grins...clearly, they were in their element...the experience was fun, serious fun!



The return flights were just as smooth and gave everyone an opportunity to photograph Ortelius as it gradually changed from being a small speck on the horizon to an aquatic 'airfield' and our extremely comfortable temporary home. The rest of the day was in spent in groups editing thousands of photographs and chatting about this magnificent unique Weddell Sea experience.

## Day 13 – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Riiser-Larsen Ice Shelf

0930 GPS Position: 72°14.3'S, 016°00.1'W

Wind: NW3 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: High Clouds • Air Temp: -5°C •



After a day when helicopter flights had already been one of the great highlights of the expedition, just when we thought nothing else could surprise us, the day found us sailing further South into the depths of the Weddell Sea. The goal of the day was clear: among the countless icebergs surrounding us, there was one thing we were still missing — the Emperor Penguin.

At 9:06 in the morning, our first wildlife encounter was a Minke Whale and a Blue Whale. They were spotted from the bridge and followed for several minutes at position 72°11'97"S, 17°10'26"W. After breakfast, around 10:00, Chris gave an engaging lecture about glacial ice and frozen seas, a great opportunity to understand



their technical differences and how these environments are formed.

Around 11:30, the first Emperor Penguin was spotted on a small floating iceberg off the port side of Ortelius. Although many people were watching, Nick was the first to see it and kindly shared his photo with everyone — to our collective surprise and excitement. It felt like a promising sign. Just moments later, from the bridge, we spotted many more emperors, along with seals and a Giant Petrel. Excitement spread quickly, and the announcement was clear: eat lunch as fast as possible, because a Zodiac cruise was coming up!



Departure time was set for 13:00, and everyone was ready on deck 4. As soon as we moved away from Ortelius, we reached a series of small icebergs where we found our first large group of Emperor Penguins. This marked the beginning of countless photos and videos. The deep blue of the water combined with the dark sky created a stunning contrast, and no one could stop capturing the best shots of the day.



As we continued exploring the area, we discovered more groups of Emperor and Adelie Penguins. One of the most surprising moments came when we noticed that one of the colonies was sharing and ice flow with several seals. Chris observed something unusual about one of them and called Chloe over to confirm. As soon as she got a closer look, she confirmed it — a Ross Seal, an extremely rare sight. For Chris, it was only the second time he had seen one in all his years of exploration. Everyone was thrilled by the news (especially Chloe!).

As if that wasn't enough, after spending quite some time in the area, two Minke Whales appeared and began swimming around the Zodiacs, circling us and adding even more magic to an already incredible day. Still eager to explore, we moved on toward other icebergs. Soon after, a radio call announced the sighting of a Leopard Seal. A massive animal, resting on an ice floe, it impressed us all with its sheer size.



We returned on board around 16:00 and continued sailing south, watching the sun's colours reflect over the vast bay and the drifting icebergs. The sunset was simply unforgettable.

No one could quite believe everything we had experienced that day. Back on board, everyone was eager to review photos and relive the moments. It was truly one of the best close encounters with Antarctic wildlife. During the daily recap, Chris even mentioned that for Allan, after 34 years of Antarctic exploration, this had been his very first Ross Seal sighting.

We all agreed it would be another day to remember. After yet another excellent dinner on board, the evening continued with relaxed conversations in the bar and lively dice games with the pilots.

## Day 14 – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February – At Sea, sailing South

0900 GPS Position: 74°07.7'S, 023°00.1'W

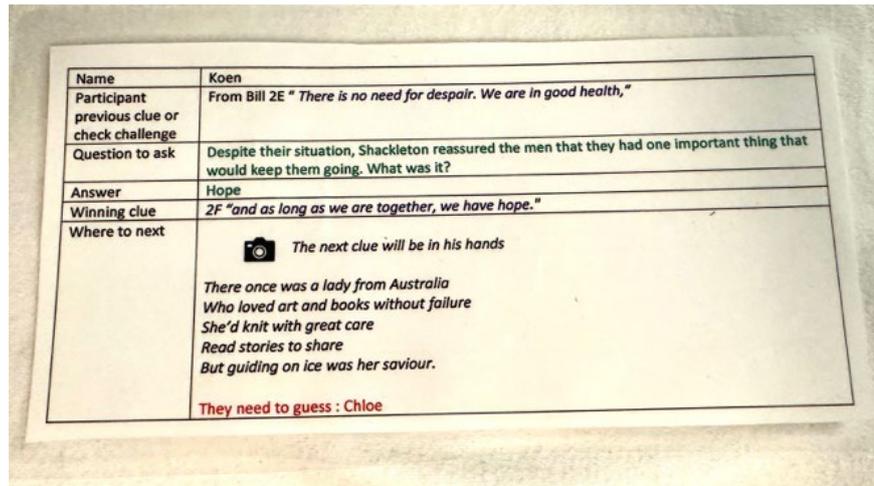
Wind: VAR1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partial cloud • Air Temp: -0.7°C

Good morning expeditioners!

After yesterday's amazing day with the Emperor penguins, Crabeater seals, Minke whales and the rarely seen Ross Seal, we were then heading further south. And that meant that we would spend the day onboard. But that was more than OK as it gave us time to process the wonderful impressions our expedition had given us so far, and look at our photographs and videos as well.

Ingrid woke us up for breakfast and after breakfast the expedition team had scheduled a number of onboard activities.

Gez had worked hard creating a full-on treasure hunt with riddles, clues and questions. Straight after breakfast he invited us to pick up our Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition Quiz Book. As Gez said; "Let the search begin". What a great and fun initiative!



Soon after, our guest lecturer Steve welcomed us to the bar for a lecture about Shackleton's Endurance Expedition. Steve is probably *the* most knowledgeable



Shackleton expert in the world and this morning he treated us once again with an in depth and detailed lecture about this remarkable explorer. After lunch Steve continued his lecture in the form of a workshop where it was possible to have more extensive discussions and time for questions.

Chloe and Aitana clearly had sparked big enthusiasm for onboard knitting. Since their workshop, more and more of us were spotted knitting and it was lovely to see. No one on this adventure will have cold ears or a cold head anymore with all the new beanies and headbands that were made.



At 16:15 it was lovely Jess who invited us to the bar for her lecture about the evolution of whales. It was very interesting to see how whales evolved into the gentle giants of the ocean that they are today.

And talking about whales, we continued to spot them! So far, we had possibly spotted 8-10 blue whales and today we also spotted quite a few minke whales. And where better to observe these beautiful blubbery creatures than from the top deck while enjoying a cup of hot chocolate. The weather had been lovely and although it was cold, it was fantastic to be outside so far from home.

The day had passed quickly and after recap it was time for another delicious dinner.

After dinner many of us spent time in the bar, whereas others decided to sleep early. Let's see how far south we are tomorrow! Good night, everyone.



## Day 15 – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Vahsel Bay,

0900 GPS Position: 78°05.5'S, 036°09.7'W

Wind: Var 2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temp: -6.6°C

---

What an incredible day!

Today was another day of helicopter landings. Everyone had been hoping for good weather since yesterday. Chris's announcement this morning said it would be cold, and everyone should dress warmly. We were reaching Vahsel Bay, the highest latitude landing point of our voyage, and everyone was excited. Many people went to the bridge early this morning to take photos of the latitude and longitude, wanting to record this important moment. This is not only the southernmost point we've reached on this voyage, but also the southernmost latitude record reached by any passenger expedition ship this Antarctic season. Our ship has broken its own record set last year, becoming the southernmost expedition ship company to reach the southernmost point for the second consecutive year!



Today's activities were in the order of group 4,3,2,1,8,7,6,5. Since we had already done a helicopter landing, everyone was familiar with the procedures, and when the activity announcement was made, everyone proceeded in an orderly manner, and everything went very smoothly and efficiently. Before landing, the pilot gave us a scenic flight, taking us up and down the ice shelves and between crevasses – it was incredibly exciting!

The scenic flight was wonderful, and the pilot's flying skills were commendable. After the flight, everyone disembarked on the ice shelf, took photos with sign, some were lying down, some were sitting, and some were jumping. After all the passengers had disembarked, some crew members arrived by helicopter. They were also very excited and happy. This experience was unprecedented for them as well.

In the afternoon, Gez led a workshop where everyone learned some survival skills. At 4 pm, assistant expedition leader Allen showed us a lecture about sledge dogs. From that we know how crucial the role dogs have played in human Antarctic expedition history. They are loyal, reliable, strong, and resilient; without them, the history of human expedition in Antarctica might have been very different. Dogs truly are man's best friend!



## Day 16 – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Luitpold Coast, Sea Ice Landing

0900 GPS Position: 76°47.2'S, 031°02.6'W

Wind: NE5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: -6.6°C

---

The day was spent operating in the sea ice off the coast of the Luitpold Coast. Planned helicopter operations were not possible due to weather conditions, and the Expedition Leader and the Captain made the decision to position the ship directly alongside stable sea ice. With the vessel securely parked, the gangway was deployed, allowing guests to step onto the Antarctic sea ice for a full morning.



Before guests disembarked, the expedition team went ahead to assess and secure the area. Wildlife sightings quickly followed, including several crabeater seals resting on the ice, a curious emperor penguin approaching the group, and a small number of Adélie penguins moving through the area. Birdlife included sightings of a snow petrel and a South polar skua flying overhead. Along the edge of the ice, some lucky guests also observed minke whales patrolling the edge of the ice.

Guests spent the morning exploring the sea ice, enjoying the rare opportunity to walk in this dynamic environment, take photographs, and observe wildlife at close range. As the day progressed, increasing swell began to affect the ice conditions, and the Captain made the call to conclude operations and recall all guests safely back on board. The sea ice excursion was a great success and a highlight of the voyage so far.

During the afternoon, Gez hosted a hands-on survival workshop, sharing practical skills and insights relevant to polar environments. This was followed by a fascinating lecture from Allan on the history and importance of sled dogs in Antarctica, offering both historical context and personal perspective.

The day concluded with dinner on board, followed by the first part of the film

*Shackleton*, enjoyed with popcorn, a fitting way to end a full and memorable day in the Antarctic sea ice.



## Day 17 – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Stancomb-Wills Glacier

0900 GPS Position: 73°42.6'S, 024°11.9'W

Wind: Var 5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partial Cloud • Air Temp: -3°C



We woke up to find beautiful bright and clear skies. The helicopter pilots and engineers agreed that it was perfect weather for a scenic flight over and around the Stancomb-Wills Glacier. The staff and crew set about preparing for flights during breakfast and shortly afterwards the first flights were ready.

Two zodiacs were also launched so that we could have some guests out on a zodiac cruise while others were taking their scenic flight. The flights were extraordinary. We could see many Emperor penguins from the air on icebergs and flows, and we could see the patterns made by their tracks through the snow. We flew over beautiful brash ice and the towering glacier which looked as if it could calf at any minute. The people on the very first flight even saw Arnoux's beaked whales from the helicopter. It was



also a thrill to look down on Ortelius from above. Our floating home looked so small in the vast icy landscape.



Meanwhile those of us on the zodiac cruise were having a wonderful time. We admired emperor penguins on icebergs at eye level. The highlight for many this morning was finding a juvenile Adeline penguin inside a little ice cave in one of the icebergs! The weather was beautifully calm, the ocean at times was like

a mirror, giving us opportunities for beautiful pictures of ice.

In between activities we managed to grab some lunch. After all the excitement of the morning it was time to relax in the lounge, and Aitana gave the second instalment of her lecture about her time working onboard a research vessel.

We gathered for the recap. We were so tired yet satisfied by the day's events and many hours were spent looking through our photos, processing all the beautiful sights and experiences we had.



## Day 18 – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February – At sea

0900 GPS Position: 70°17.4'S, 024°56.7'W

Wind: SW9/10 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: -1°C

---

Today would be our first day of potentially five sea days ahead of us until we reached dry land again. Some of us were frightened by the sheer thought of this, others seemed relieved to finally catch up on some rest! No wake-up call was needed, and a leisurely morning was enjoyed. The seas, however, had a mind of their own, and rolled little Ortelius in their crests and troughs, so we had to be very careful making our way around, always keeping one hand for the ship.

After breakfast we gathered in the bar with Chris to hear all about his time at New Zealand's Antarctic research station in the Ross Sea region, Scott Base. Chris spent two summer seasons down at the base working as a field trainer, where his duties involved teaching field staff and visiting scientists on how to live and work in the harsh polar environment.

These duties ranged from setting up traditional polar tents, how to avoid hypothermia, how to use primus stoves for cooking, crevasse rescue, logistical support for field camps and many more jobs that are essential for managing a successful Antarctic



season. The skills and experience Chris gained from his time in the Ross Sea were evidently invaluable for his present career as an Expedition Leader.

Afterwards, we were joined by Gez and Lucas in the bar for a workshop on crevasse rescue, in which we got to learn some new knots, ways of belaying rope and carabiners, and the techniques involved in creating a pulley system in case someone fell into a crevasse while out in the field.

After lunch, Werner hosted a workshop for beginner photo editors for an introduction to photo editing. After many days full of snapping photos, our memory cards were beginning to fill, and it was a great chance to sift through and edit them with the help of Werner's keen eye and expertise. For those interested in getting a little crafty, Aitana and Chloe gathered some crochet supplies and hosted a little workshop on the basics of crocheting. By the end of the session, we were seeing some great stitching, so we would soon be onto our next project- crocheting our very own Antarctic penguin or seal!



In the afternoon, Chloe invited us to the bar for a presentation about the ecological importance of sea ice. Chloe told us all about how not only sea ice was formed, but how Antarctica essentially doubles in size

over the winter as the ocean around the continent freezes. The size of this froze ocean expanse changes, however, from year to year, depending on atmospheric and ocean conditions such as the El Nino Southern Oscillation, the Coriolis effect and ocean warming. Therefore, the extent of Antarctic sea ice isn't always the same, which can have effects on the polar environment not just for the wildlife, but for maritime operations as well. We learnt that numerous Antarctic species rely on sea ice one way or another during their lives, they may depend on it for breeding, resting, moulting or spending their early life stages hidden in the sea ice rafts as baby krill. We often hear about krill being the 'keystone' species here in Antarctica, but we have a newfound appreciation for sea ice now. Without sea ice, there is no substrate for ice algae to grow on, which is what the krill feeds on by scraping the underside of the sea ice in the austral winter and spring before the ice starts to break up.

We were treated by another scrumptious dinner in the dining room and reflected on yet another magical and educational day in the beautiful Southern Ocean.

## Day 19 – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February – At sea, heading North

0900 GPS Position: 65°27.6'S, 028°56.9'W

Wind: SW9 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: -2°C

Wind: Var 2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temp: -6.6°C

---



Good morning, Ortelius expeditioners. Today we woke up to an ocean that was showing us some of its stormy moves. Although the waves were not extremely high, Ortelius was still moving quite a bit and with wind speeds of more than 40 knots and regular snow showers, it provided for a true Southern Ocean experience. Today would be a day of travelling further around the Weddell Sea ice so we had lots of time to witness the power of the ocean. We saw big waves crashing on icebergs, we saw waves crashing on the bow and we could hear the wind howling around the ship. A perfect day to spend inside a warm and comfortable ship.

This morning Allan shared fascinating stories about his time onboard the Kapitan Khlebnikov back in 2004. The Kapitan Khlebnikov was a Russian Ice Breaker that made it deep into the Weddell Sea trying to reach several Emperor Penguin colonies to conduct research. Allan shared fascinating insights and some of his photos were simply wonderful and definitely very cute when it came to photos of the Emperor chicks. Although onboard an icebreaker, back then they didn't make it further south than 76°S. Just sayin' ;).

After Allan, it was time for Gez and Lucas to continue their crevasse rescue workshop. It was great to see the interest of many of us in this workshop where we got to play with ropes and knots and where we learnt *simple* things that can make the difference between life and death.



After lunch Werner continued his photo editing workshop. Today he went into the endless possibilities of Adobe's Lightroom and shared some very useful tips, tricks and workflows that could help us get so much more out of our photos. It's quite stunning what you can do with your images and how much better they can get with some small adjustments.

Then it was Jess again who informed us how important the role of whales are in our ecosystem. Jess is not shy of talking about poop and death, so she was really in her element today. She talked about the importance of whale poop being an oceanic fertilizer and with whales being very large creatures, their contribution is significant and important. Whales also take out CO<sub>2</sub> from our atmosphere and store that in their body where it will stay forever. Once a whale dies it *falls* down to the ocean floor where their corpses will be processed by many small creatures that feast on their remains. The world is definitely a better and healthier place with more whales in it and therefore it is good to see that more and more people enjoy whale watching all over the world.

In between lectures games were played, some of us were reading and of course many of us continued our new crochet and knitting hobbies ;).

After dinner we enjoyed seeing part 2 of the Shackleton Movie. Although we knew the story well, it was still captivating and entertaining to see the motion picture.

The motion of the ocean had made many of us quite tired so after the movie ended many decided to sleep early.

Good night!

## Day 20 – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February – At sea

0900 GPS Position: 61°18.5'S, 033°43.3'W

Wind: SE6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: -2°C

Another day of still voyaging north after our record breaking landing at Wahsel Bay. Only now as Ortelius ploughs on at a steady 13 knots are we beginning to realise just how far south we had sailed. The trip down had been punctuated by numerous adventures, cruising in zodiacs and landing while this was day after day steadily covering the ground. The guides and officers were seeing whales regularly so each loudspeaker announcement brought photographers to the rail.

First lecture of the day was Steven with his detailed and harrowing account of trials and tribulations of the 'Ross Sea Party'. Fortunately sea conditions had changed, the lurching and rolling of our vessel had been converted overnight into a relatively calm sea.

Lucas and Gez delivered another well attended avalanche rescue workshop in the lounge. The complex pulley system created looked a bit like a large version of the complicated knitting that Jess, Chloe and a number of passengers were engaged in...so many people were totally absorbed in this knitting group created by our Spanish craftswoman guide Aitana.

Bill continued adding detail to the increasingly complex chart of our voyage. Positions and our route north are marked alongside numerous small illustrations and the names



of all passengers, crew, guides and creatures seen. A fantastic reminder of a fabulous voyage.

By late afternoon we were excited when the weather changed from fuzzy mist in the morning to clear to the horizon. A glimmer of white, a long line of ice on our port side gradually changed into an inviting mass of floes. Ortelius closed nearer to this vast expanse of gentle undulating white shapes, and nudged into it with banging and scrapping sounds to add atmosphere. A few penguins hopping on and off floes alongside the ship and relatively near , a young elephant sea lazied on a larger chunk of ice. What better a place to have a barbecue? The hotel staff laid out benches and tables and carried up an assortment of dishes and drinks then the festivities began. It was certainly cold on deck but once the music started the more energetic of us started dancing providing the others with entertainment. As the evening progressed the moves became trickier. Our senior guide Bill appeared in his yellow wellies and garish tartan outfit joining Miel our doctor dressed in a walrus outfit for some wild dancing. Much fun was had by all ...the time did not really matter as the clocks changed this evening so we were all gaining an extra hour of sleep.

So ended another terrific day on this fantastic totally memorable voyage.



## Day 21 – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February – At sea

0900 GPS Position: 60°44.5'S, 040°47.9'W

Wind: NW5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Rain/Fog • Air Temp: +2°C

---

Today was a Sea Day, and we were on route to the South Orkney Islands.

This morning, Alex, a guest on the ship, gave a lecture about protecting the ocean with a focus on Krill. Through this lecture, we learned that although krill are small, they are a vital link in the marine food chain, providing a food source for many marine animals, both large and small. The stable krill population plays a crucial role in the recovery of whale populations. However, many countries still come to Antarctica to harvest krill for various purposes, some of which sound utterly absurd. On this journey, we not only experience the unique scenery of Antarctica but also learn a great deal about its ecosystem, wildlife, and the challenges they face. What we can do is start with ourselves, promoting conservation, refusing krill products, and setting an example to influence others and contribute to protecting the ocean.

At 11:00 AM, the crevasse rescue workshop continued, with groups 1 and 2 participating today. After lunch, photography guide Warner also organized a workshop for guests who wanted to learn video editing; many friends who wanted to edit their videos and photos taken in Antarctica participated. At the same time, Koen also invited all the guests who won bids at the South Georgia Heritage Trust auction to complete



the payment, and everyone seemed to be very satisfied with their auction results.

Later, Aitana gave a lecture on ocean currents, which was very engaging. She introduced the role of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current in global ocean currents. Through her lecture, we learned that seawater from the Mediterranean region can be detected in the Antarctic Ocean, and that the salinity and temperature of seawater vary at

different depths. Seawater from different parts of the world can also converge in the same body of water – all results of ocean currents. It was incredibly surprising and fascinating!

Today's briefing introduced tomorrow's activities. Tomorrow's plan was to go to the South Orkney Islands, and the activities will start very early, around 4 am. After several days at sea, everyone was eager to disembark and participate in activities, so everyone went to bed early to be well-rested for tomorrow morning's activities.

Also today was Jess's birthday as well, Happy birthday to this lovely girl!!

## Day 22 – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Shingle Cove, South Orkney Islands

0900 GPS Position: 60°45.9'S, 045°49.5'W

Wind: SSE8 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: -0.6°C

---

Today the ship started to stir a lot earlier than usual. At 4am the expedition team were up on the bridge assessing the conditions at the South Orkney islands. We were aiming for Shingle Cove, a small beach landing which offered a rocky walk up to see Adelie penguins on their nests. The expedition team set off at 4.30am in two zodiacs and disappeared into thick fog. We waited a long time for them to return. In the meantime, we munched on pastries in the bar and drank coffee to help us adjust to the early start. We heard an announcement from Marlene to say she had heard from the team onshore and sadly there would be no landing this morning. The team were met with a very sorry sight onshore. Where the Adelie penguins once stood with their nests was now empty. All of the nests and penguins had gone and there were many remains of dead adults and chicks scattered on the ground. It was a very sad mystery indeed, and the team speculated that this was perhaps a result of bird flu or maybe a bad weather event. Due to the dangerously thick fog and the mass mortality event, plus the weather being due to deteriorate meant that we moved on towards Elephant Island. Some of us quickly returned to our beds while other stayed awake enjoying the fog and atmosphere. We could see some gentoo and chinstrap penguins porpoising around us and some beautiful snow petrels and storm petrels soaring in and out of view.





During the mid-morning, we watched an episode of Frozen Planet 2, a beautiful BBC documentary about the coldest places on earth.

Chloe then gave us a talk about the seabirds we have seen on our journey so far and may continue to see when we head back across the drake passage.

There was some excitement on the bridge during the day as the fog lifted and we watched beautiful icebergs pass by and some fin whales and humpback whales swam by.

After a later lunch we enjoyed a fun lecture from Bill and Hotel Manager Ingrid who told us all about the inner workings of Ortelius and what goes on behind the scenes.



## Day 23 – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Point Wild, Elephant Island

0900 GPS Position: 61°05.3'S, 054°32.2'W

Wind: S6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partial Cloud • Air Temp: +1.7°C

---



We awoke with cautious optimism as we approached Point Wild, one of the most challenging landing sites in Antarctica. Conditions here are rarely favorable, and landings are often prevented by swell and wind. Our Plan A had been a scenic helicopter flight, with Plan B a Zodiac cruise and, if conditions allowed a landing too.

Early morning weather ruled out scenic flight operations, and we shifted to Plan B. Fortunately, the day revealed itself to be calm and remarkably clear. With the swell manageable and winds light, guests boarded the Zodiacs and we began our approach.

Landing at Point Wild requires precision and patience. Only two Zodiacs could land at a time, and timing between waves was critical. Even our Expedition Leader had never landed here before; Allan, with 32 years of guiding experience, was the only team member who had previously set foot on this historic shore. The expedition team executed the operation flawlessly, with special recognition to the “catchers” who steadied boats and assisted guests safely ashore.

Against the odds, we made it.



Standing on the narrow spit of rock where Ernest Shackleton's men waited nearly four months for rescue was a powerful and emotional experience. Many guests took quiet moments to reflect on the endurance and hardship endured here in 1916. The landing was brief but deeply meaningful.

In the afternoon, a species identification workshop and craftersnoon were planned; however, nature had other ideas. As we departed Elephant Island, an extraordinary spectacle unfolded: approximately 150 fin whales were observed feeding in the surrounding waters. Guests lined the decks in awe as blows appeared in every direction and whales surfaced in coordinated feeding activity — an unforgettable scene.

At 16:00, Allan delivered a compelling lecture on the Swedish Antarctic Expedition of 1901–03, sharing the dramatic story of endurance, shipwreck, and survival that unfolded in these same southern latitudes.

The day concluded with our evening recap and dinner, as guests reflected on an extraordinary sequence of events: a rare landing at one of Antarctica's most storied sites, an emotional connection to polar history, and one of the most impressive whale encounters of the voyage.

An unforgettable day in every sense.



## Day 24 – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Cape Green & Brown Bluff

0900 GPS Position: 63°38.2'S, 056°34.6'W

Wind: WSW6 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Partial Cloud • Air Temp: +5.1°C

---

Happy Valentine's Day! As we entered the dining room for our early morning breakfast, we were showered with love with all of the beautiful decorations displayed all over the walls and tables. The hotel team sure knows how to create a sense of home, especially us many of us were away from our loved ones.



Excitement brewed over breakfast as we listened to the dulcet tones of Chris notifying us that the weather was favourable for one last round of scenic helicopter flights. We were ecstatic! This morning, we would be flying over towards a headland called Cape Green in the Antarctic Sound region of the Antarctic Peninsula, the skies were clear, the sun was shining, and the water was like a mirror, we couldn't have asked for better conditions. The first flight left around 8 am, which navigated through countless icebergs, floating sea ice floes and then upwards towards the volcanic brown bluffs of the northerly part of the Antarctic continent. We landed on Cape Green, an area full of loose volcanic rocks riddles with interesting lichen beds. It felt like walking on the moon! Although the sun was shining and it wasn't too cold, the wind was quite intense, so we were careful to stay within the boundary and not get too close to the edge! We saw skuas soaring above, icebergs drifting southward in the distance, and nearby islands

such as James Ross, Devil and Vega Islands towards the southwest. It was crazy to think that just over a week ago, we were south of where we were looking, deep in the Weddell Sea! We had really covered some distance on this voyage.

After an adventurous morning flying and rock hopping, we were treated with a scenic transit to our next destination, Brown Bluff. Tabular icebergs and impressive volcanic islands dotted the horizon, with some sea ice floes hosting Adelie penguins and even a leopard seal was spotted! However the weather then decided to take a little turn, and the wind speed at our proposed afternoon destination had picked up to 40 knots, making zodiac operations unfavourable and unsafe. Sadly, the landing was changed to a zodiac cruise instead in some nearby sheltered cliffs. But this is the nature of expedition cruising! Sometimes you have to be prepared for Plan B, C and even D! Nonetheless, we ventured out in the wind chop, some of us getting a little splashed, and zodiac cruised along some more of this spectacular volcanic geology. We spotted numerous seabirds soaring around, Antarctic terns, skuas, southern giant petrels, cape petrels and the adorable Wilson's storm petrel dancing on the surface. As we ventured closer to the coastline, we observed both gentoo and Adelie penguins, and even the odd Antarctic fur seal! The wind was increasing, however, and it was soon time to head back to Ortelius. After a bit of a bumpy ride back, we were soon warm and dry again with the comfort of a hot chocolate and biscuits in the bar, and smiles of delight as we reflected on adventurous day spent in Antarctic Sound.



## Day 25 – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February – At sea, towards Ushuaia

0900 GPS Position: 62°40.6'S, 062°21.4'W

Wind: N8 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Rain • Air Temp: +3.4°C

---

Good morning, everyone, good morning, Drake Passage!

After our fantastic last day yesterday in Antarctic Sound, we woke up in the notorious Drake Passage this morning. We had left early in the evening and overnight we crossed the Bransfield Strait and from there on we would sail onto the Drake Passage back to Ushuaia.

The weather forecast hadn't been great, and our bridge team had informed us that we would see bigger waves and more movement of the ship around 09:00. Perfect timing as that offered us a good night's sleep and a good appetite for breakfast!

Indeed after 09:00 we could feel the increased motion of the ocean and many of us decided to lie down in bed. Others were reading or chatting in the bar whereas many of us enjoyed looking at our photos and videos from this incredible adventure.



Around 10:30 it was Bill who started his lecture on “Paintings of the Sea”. As a former art teacher, Bill has a keen eye for the meaning and symbolism of art and his views on several sea themed paintings was interesting and eye-opening. Bill discussed many artworks with us and with his usual passion and devotion he kept us engaged till the end.

After lunch Jess led a workshop on how to identify several animal species. During this wonderful expedition we saw many bird, whale and seal species among others. However, immediately identifying them needs some knowledge and training as the differences are often subtle and not easy to see. It can be a little discoloration in the

bill with bird species, whereas Weddell Seals and Crabeater seals have different facial shapes. The Weddell having a cat like face, whereas the Crabeater has a more dog shaped face. With whales we look at dorsal fins, colors and patterns on the skin and backsides of the tails.



At 16:15 Koen shared personal stories from his time as a whale watch guide in both Iceland and the Kingdom of Tonga. End 2017 Koen decided to leave his corporate career to pursue a career as a guide and he started with this job in Tonga in 2018. Koen shared what his life was like in these beautiful countries and what it was like to be close to humpbacks and even snorkeling next to them in the ocean. During his very first time in the water, Koen told us that he was lifted out of the water by a whale while he was sitting on its nose, wonderful.

Then it was time for our recap and dinner followed shortly. Jess gave us an overview of the whale species we had seen and Aitana gave us a great explanation about how katabatic winds work. The winds we were so familiar with having been buffeted by them on our zodiac cruise the day before. Chloe then gave us a fun visual bird quiz. The ship had been rolling and bouncing off the waves all day long and with the wave height further increasing to above 5 meters, many of us gathered on the bridge to catch some large waves crashing on the bow for a video to show back home.

## Day 26 – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – At sea, The Drake Passage

0900 GPS Position: 58°40.2'S, 062°32.5'W

Wind: NW7 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +6.8°C

---



Today is Drake Passage Day. The wind and waves didn't stop after a bumpy night, and the ship was still rocking noticeably. Many guests chose to stay in their cabins to rest, and the restaurant and bar were much quieter than usual.

In the morning, Aitana gave a lecture

on whether the Earth has a heart. Her lectures always make people think, reflecting on the characteristics of our planet and how they are inextricably linked to our lives, yet we usually neglect to pay attention to them. If we hadn't participated in this trip, would we have consciously paid attention to or learned about these things in our daily lives? Therefore, travel is not just about witnessing beautiful scenery and experiencing nature, but also about learning, understanding, reflecting, and acting.

We spent a lot of time on the bridge looking for wildlife, but it was a quiet day for whales and birds. The usual friends like Giant petrels and storm petrels made an appearance and we enjoyed quietly chatting on the bridge.

In the afternoon, Chole and Aitana organized a workshop where everyone learned to knit in their spare time, which was also a pleasure. Later, at 4:15 pm, historian Steve shared the story of Shackleton, providing a deeper understanding of the legendary explorer's experiences and personality.

In the evening Chloe gave us an in-depth recap about krill fisheries in Antarctica and Gez gave us a really fun quiz called Penguins...Wow..but How?!

Today is also Chinese New Year. Li from China, briefly explained the significance of the Chinese Lunar New Year—a time for family reunions. However, we met in faraway Antarctica. Although we are not related and had never even met before boarding, after a month together, we all got to know each other and developed a deeper understanding. Whether happy or not, it's all fate, a destiny's arrangement.

Today is the last day of the Year of the Snake, and tomorrow is the first day of the Year of Horse. We wished everyone on board a prosperous and lucky Year of the Horse.

## Day 27 – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February – The Drake Passage & Beagle Channel

0900 GPS Position: 55°54.0'S, 065°32.8'W

Wind: ESE2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +4.9°C

---

Today we woke up to realise it would be our last full day on board Ortelius and that tomorrow we would be in Ushuaia again after all this time.

Chris invited us to the lounge to learn about future trips that Oceanwide offer. It was quite exciting and tempting to learn about the trips offered in the Arctic where you can see polar bears and walrus and to learn about the more unusual trips offered like the Atlantic Odyssey.



In the morning Allan invited us to his lecture titled The Curious Case of Admiral Byrd's Antarctic Snow Cruiser. This was so entertaining due to the story's absurdity but also Allans excellent storytelling style.

In the afternoon Steve gave us a final history workshop and the

keen army of new crocheters worked hard to finish their projects with Aitana and Chloe. There were now many new woolly penguins and head bands in the world.

There was also a hugely fun dumpling making workshop which Li set up and our Mandarin speaking passengers showed many of us how to make a dumping.

In the afternoon as we were positioned near the entrance to the Beagle Channel we waved goodbye to our helicopter pilots and engineers.

Before dinner we met in the lounge for one final and special recap. A few of us put on our best clothes for the Captain's Farewell Cocktails. We were given a drink before toasting to a very successful voyage with Captain Remmert. Ingrid and Chris gave us some final information about disembarkation and Chris then formally thanked all the departments on the ship for their hard work. We then had a special treat from Werner who had been working hard throughout the trip to produce a slideshow of our journey that included photos and videos of our experiences. It was quite emotional and surprising to look back at all the things we had done and achieved over the last month on Ortelius. This reliable and versatile ship had helped us to achieve many expedition 'firsts' and we went to dinner will a real spring in our step.

## Day 28 – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Disembarkation, Ushuaia

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

Wind: Var 2 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: +9°C

It was quite remarkable to realise that we had been away for almost a whole month. We arrived back in Ushuaia, where we had been 27 days before. The experiences we had on this journey were unique. The list of highlights was huge. For many it was their first time seeing and stepping foot on the Antarctic continent. Landing at Elephant Island is such a rare event for the Expedition ship industry and so many guests, staff and crew were amazed by the opportunity to stand where Shackleton's men survived for almost four months, awaiting their rescue. Reaching extremely far South in the Weddell Sea and breaking the years record. Seeing landscapes from the water and the air that were unlike anywhere we had ever been before. And meeting some of the incredible inhabitants of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean including blue whales, orcas, humpback whales, emperor penguins, albatross, crabeater seals and the remarkably rare Ross seal. We went for our final breakfast and said farewell to the Hotel and Restaurant team who had kept us so well fed and cared for. We then gathered our belongings and reluctantly walked down the gangway onto the pier where we said goodbye to the expedition team and our many new friends.



**Total distance sailed on our voyage: 6216 nautical miles**

**Most southern point sailed: 78° 05.60' S, 036° 08.43'W**

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



## Itinerary:

NO. 1 - A23a Iceberg

NO. 2 –Elthul

NO.3 – Wright Whales Bay

NO. 4 –Fortuna Bay

NO. 5 – Godthul

NO. 6 – Grytviken

NO. 7 – Zavodovski Island

NO. 8 – Saunders Island

NO. 9 – Thule and Cook Island

NO. 10 – Neuschwabenland

NO. 11 –Riiser Larsen Ice Shelf

NO. 12 – Vahsel Bay

NO.13 – Fast Ice (Luitpold Coast)

NO. 14 – Stancomb and Wills Ice Shelf

NO. 15 – Sea Ice (BBQ)

NO. 16 – Elephant Island

NO.17 – Cape Green

NO. 18 – Antarctica Sound

NO. 19 – Ushuaia

**Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region including South Georgia**

		22-Jan	23-Jan	24-Jan	25-Jan	26-Jan	27-Jan	28-Jan	29-Jan	30-Jan	31-Jan	1-Feb	2-Feb	3-Feb	4-Feb	5-Feb	6-Feb	7-Feb	8-Feb	9-Feb	10-Feb	11-Feb	12-Feb	13-Feb	14-Feb	15-Feb	16-Feb	17-Feb	18-Feb
English	Latin																												
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>												X		X	X	X												
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>				X	X	X	X		X																			
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>									X			X	X		X	X				X				X				
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>					X	X	X	X	X											X		X	X	X			X	
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>					X			X	X											X	X	X	X	X				
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>					X			X														X						
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	X	X																										X
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		X	X	X							X											X				X	X	X
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>																												
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		X	X																									
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X											X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>				X	X																X					X	X	
Light-Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>							X	X		X	X										X	X				X		
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>					X	X	X																			X	X	X
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>							X	X	X												X	X	X	X			X	
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>		X			X		X	X	X									X		X	X	X	X					
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>							X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X								
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>					X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X					
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>				X	X	X	X			X								X	X	X			X					
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X										X		X		X				X	X	X
Soft-Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>			X	X			X																					
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>																												
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>		X								X	X															X		
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>		X	X				X	X											X		X	X					X	X
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>																											X	
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X						X		X	X	X			X	X		
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>				X																	X							





---

# Chris Long – Expedition Leader

---



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

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

what the rest of the world had to offer.

Since leaving Gorge River Chris has set out to see, explore and experience as much of the globe as possible. This constant search for adventure has seen him travel to over 60 countries on all seven continents. Along this journey, he spent two full summer seasons living and working as a field trainer at Scott Base, a New Zealand research station in Antarctica, as well as multiple voyages to the Ross Sea and East Antarctica.

Chris is also no stranger to the arctic. He once sailed the notorious northwest passage across the top of Greenland, Canada, and Alaska and spent much of the covid pandemic living with 150 husky dogs in Tromso, northern Norway, enduring two long cold dark arctic winters training for long distance dog races.

Since recently returning to New Zealand, he has published an autobiography and is training for his commercial fixed-wing pilot's license.

---

## Allan White – Asst. Exp. Leader

---



Allan was born and raised in the Falkland Islands. He's a fifth generation Islander, and a descendant of one of the original British colonists in 1840. His higher education was completed in England, after which he embarked on a military career.

He joined the British Army aged 17. After serving in West Germany for two years during the Cold War period, he completed deployments in Northern Ireland, Cyprus as a United Nations peacekeeper, and with British Forces South Atlantic Islands. He left the Army to settle back in the Falklands.

While working as a Port Agent in the Falklands, Allan worked with the late Lars-Eric Lindblad, the inspirational pioneer of small ship expedition cruising. He encouraged Allan to become a Zodiac driver and go to sea for a year. Thirty years later, he's still at it. His voyages have taken him all over the world, with particular focus on the Polar regions. His travel experience ranges from 90° North to 78° South.

In the Falklands, Allan and his wife owned and operated their own tourist lodge for over a decade. More recently they managed a privately owned island, where they were the sole residents for almost 5 years, with thousands of albatrosses, penguins and seals for neighbours.

Allan is an experienced guide and Zodiac driver, with a keen interest in natural history and polar exploration. He lives in the Falklands capital Stanley, with his wife Jacqui.

---

# Aitana Forcén-Vázquez – Exp. Guide

---



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

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

---

# Koen Hoekemeijer – Exp. Guide

---



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

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

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

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

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

---

# Chloe Power – Expedition Guide

---



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

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

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

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

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

---

# Jess Owen - Expedition Guide

---



Jess is from England and has recently been living on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. Since graduating from a degree in Wildlife and Media, Jess has been working in environmental research and education roles with wildlife conservation charities in the UK, with a focus on marine mammals and birds. Jess is a passionate science communicator, wildlife guide, and nature enthusiast. She has delivered lectures, workshops, tours, school lessons, and training courses to a wide variety of audiences on subjects such as birds, insects, marine mammals, marine and terrestrial conservation,

citizen science, and gardening for wildlife. She is particularly passionate about citizen science and helping inspire people to become connected to wildlife and active in its conservation.

Jess now specialises in whales, dolphins, and porpoises, having worked as a marine mammal surveyor and whale watching guide since 2015. This work has taken her to the Bay of Biscay, the West Coast of Scotland, the Southern Ocean, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Svalbard, Greenland, and the Antarctic Peninsula. She is very excited to be returning to work with Oceanwide Expeditions for another season in the polar regions.

When she is not out at sea, Jess spends her time gardening, reading, making films, snorkelling, and bird watching. She loves to spend time with her nieces and nephew and likes travelling in her beloved campervan.

---

# Geraint (Gez) Rowlands - Kayak Guide

---



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

Spending most of his early paddling career racing slalom kayaks for Wales he finally got to meet his paddling hero when he took part in the 1<sup>st</sup> British youth expedition to the Grand Canyon. This was the springboard that sent him traveling to every continent on the

planet as a guide, descending the river corridors of the amazon rainforest, avoiding crocodiles on the Zambezi river in Africa, and watching humpback whales in Antarctica.

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

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

---

# Bill Smith - Expedition Guide

---



“Super Bill” as described by his colleagues and clients, is a fun-loving outdoor pursuits enthusiast, cartoonist and former Head of Art and Design Education at Ellon Academy Aberdeenshire.

Bill joined Oceanwide Expeditions as a guide when Plancius was built and over the last few years has become addicted to the Polar Regions.

He has 58 years’ experience of Art and Design Education and Design for Industry. Plus 58 years leading and instructing a range of outdoor pursuits.

Bill delights in producing humorous cartoon logs of each trip and operates as an Artist / Designer / Illustrator / Cartoonist

Aside from his artistic commitments Bill is qualified instructor in a range of Royal Yachting Association disciplines including sailing, windsurfing and powerboating. He is also a British Canoe Union Open Canoe Instructor and British Caving Association Local Cave leader. He is a safety expert in these fields.

During the winter at home Bill is a National Patroller for the British Association of Ski Patrollers and in addition is a member of Member of the Federation Internationale de Patrolles De Ski.

As Bill lives in the North-west of Scotland he is President of Lochinver Highland Games Committee and former Chieftain Assynt Highland Games.

Bill is an Honorary Member Assynt Crofters Trust and recently awarded Honorary Lifetime Guardian of Island of South Georgia.

---

# Werner Kruse - Expedition Guide

---



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

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

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

---

# Lucas Jacobson – Mountain Guide

---



My name is Lucas Jacobson and I am the fourth generation of Swedish and Italian immigrants in Argentina. I have worked as a guide for the last 25 years. This was mostly in Patagonia in different settings and activities. I was trained as a UIAGM guide in Bariloche Argentina where I currently reside. This training process led me to travel to various places in search of experience. In my beginnings I had the opportunity to travel to Europe and work in the mountains of the Aosta Valley and experience various alpine environments.

I also spent time of my life in British Columbia, Canada where I was able to climb and ski with several lifelong friends.

In Patagonia I have carried out several expeditions to the Southern Ice Field and other corners of these wild lands. In my city San Carlos de Bariloche where I live with my family I spend much of my time climbing the most important mountains in the area, as well as teaching classes for the local Alpine Club for both young people and adults.

Backcountry skiing is my main activity during the Austral winter, several surrounding mountains and volcanoes in Chile are the main terrain for this activity.

My free time is divided between mountain biking and rock climbing. I always liked to travel and see new places.

---

# John Yeh - Expedition Guide

---



I was born in 1958 in Taiwan but have lived in Sydney, Australia since 1991. I joined the “Chinese Boy Scouts” from Junior High School level and continued with them until college. During these years I learned a lot about teamwork, camping, the art of tracking, wildlife, plants, amongst other things. I served in the Army for 2 year as a Lieutenant and spent time in the Gobi Desert orienteering, and really enjoyed this outdoor challenge.

I have a bachelor's degree in Engineering and worked as an engineer for 7 years before a complete change of career to a regional sales manager in South Europe, Australia and New Zealand. This work allowed me to travel to six continents and countless countries across the globe. Since 2013 I have been working in the tourism industry as a Senior International Business Consultant and Polar Expedition Guide.

Due to the increase in Chinese travelers visiting the Arctic and Antarctic my work now primarily revolves around these incredible regions and I enjoy educating our guests as to the conservation and environmental

issues at stake in them. I hope our future generations can enjoy these last great wilderness areas and I am committed to sharing my knowledge and passion for them with our guests.

## 中文

我于1958年出在台湾, 1991年移居澳洲雪梨. 初中到专校我参加”中国童子军”, 在这期间我学会了团队合作的重要性, 露营技巧, 野外求生及追踪技巧, 野生动植物的辨识及应用. 服过两年兵役, 少尉分队长.

2013参与两项戈壁徒步赛事及高中拓展训练. 我喜爱旅行及户外挑战运动.

我已取得电机工程学士学位, 有7年电子线路研发经历, 也担任过南欧区域业务经理及澳洲/新西兰公司总经理. 在这些年工作期间走访过27个国家及6大洲. 2013转换职场到旅行业, 担任公司资深国际业务顾问及荷兰南北极探险旅行探险队员. 截至2015年12月, 已去过南极7次, 北极2次, 享受跟旅客对话及互动的过程.

鉴于南北极旅行中国旅客数量逐年增加, 做为探险队员可以有很好的机会传递生态保育教育, 好让我们后代子孙可以欣赏到地球上最后一块野生净土. 这是我热衷的事, 希望未来能做得更多.

---

# Li Ye – Expedition Guide

---



Li was born and raised in China, her childhood's dream was to travel the world and she had visited more than 50 cities in more than 20 countries around the world.

She fell in love with polar expedition on her first trip to the Antarctica and plans to continue her career in this field to become a professional expedition guide.

Li has wide range of hobbies, she likes calligraphy, incense, tea, sports and travel. When not working in the polar region, Li also likes to try and challenge

new things. It's hard to imagine such a slim girl like her once went to Chiang Mai, Thailand, to learn Muay Thai by herself. Li is also an influencer who loves to share her experiences traveling around the world and working in the polar regions.

---

## Miel Bartels – Ships Doctor

---



Dr. Miel Bartels is a Dutch physician with extensive experience in emergency and intensive care medicine. He is currently specialising in anaesthesiology at Amsterdam UMC, where he combines hands-on clinical work with a passion for innovation in medicine. His research interests include indigenous South American healing practices and the integration of artificial intelligence into modern healthcare systems.

For the past several years, Miel has been part of Quinacare, a hospital located in a remote region of Ecuador near the Colombian border. In this challenging environment, he is one of the few physicians providing life-saving care in a low-resource setting. His work there reflects a deep commitment to global health and to bringing high-quality medical care to those who need it most.

Beyond medicine, Miel is an avid adventurer and outdoor enthusiast. He has undertaken long-distance cycling expeditions through Patagonia and Europe. He loves climbing and has scaled mountain ranges in Ecuador, Italy, and France, and is an experienced sport climber. These pursuits mirror the resilience and curiosity he brings to his professional life. When the weather allows, he is always ready for a good game of chess at sea.



## DAILY PROGRAM

# Remote Weddell Sea Explorer Welcome on Board!

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

Day 1 Ushuaia

Please make yourselves at home in your cabins and check you have received all your luggage! Tea/coffee is available in the Bar located on Deck 6.

### PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 15:00+/- Ship safety briefing, in the **Bar on Deck 6**. 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 will go to their **MUSTER STATION** which the **Bar on Deck 6**.
- 18:00 Please join the Expedition Team and Captain in the **Bar on Deck 6** for a celebratory toast to the forthcoming voyage. This will be followed by a welcome briefing by the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days.
- 19:00 Buffet dinner in the **Restaurant on Deck 4**.

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

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



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

Day 2 Northern Drake Passage

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

07:45 Wake up call.

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

10:00 Please join Jess in the Bar for her presentation about Whales and Dolphins we could see on the voyage.

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

16:15 Koen invites you to join him in the Bar for a presentation titled 10 tips for Wildlife Photography

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

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

*"One must never be in haste to end a day; there are too few of them in a lifetime". -  
Sir Francis Drake*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Day 3 - Scotia Sea

*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.*

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

07:45 Wake up call.

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

09:15 Please join Chris, the Expedition Leader, in the Bar on Deck 6 for the Mandatory IAATO, Zodiac Briefing and South Georgia Visitor Video. Attendance is mandatory and will be checked.

11:30 You will be called deck by deck down to the Lecture Room on Deck 3 to collect your Muck Boots, please bring your thick socks so you can try them for size.

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

14:00 We will call you deck by deck to the bar for the **MANDATORY South Georgia Biosecurity**. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods, etc. that you plan to use in South Georgia for the expedition staff to check. Please make sure everything is clean before proceeding to the lounge and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have been approved by the Expedition Team.

16:15 Please join Steve Scott-Fawcett in the bar for his lecture: Heroic Heroes, a look at the characters behind the heroic age of Antarctic Exploration.

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

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

*“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*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Day 4: Approaching the South Georgia Maritime Zone and A23a Iceberg.

Today there will be no wake-up call. Wake up at your leisure.

*Remember: **Keep one hand for yourself but at least one hand for the ship.** Shut all doors firmly and keep fingers away from door frames.*

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

10:00 Bill invites you to the lounge for his lecture, History of Whaling.

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

15:00 Chloe invites you to the Bar for her lecture about Penguins: Flightless Wonders. This will be translated into Mandarin by Li.

*Some time in the afternoon we plan to sail near to the largest moving object on earth. Be on the outside decks on approach to the iceberg, as there is a good chance of seeing whales.*

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

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

**PLEASE NOTE - At 2am tonight the clocks will go forward 1 hour to South Georgia time. 02:00 becomes 03:00**

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!**

Sunrise: 04:03

Sunset: 19:58

*"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page" - St. Augustine*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Day 5 Approaching South Georgia, Elsehul and Right Whale Bay

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

***Clocks changed forwards one hour last night. (2am became 3am)***

*We encourage you to spend the morning out on deck as we approach South Georgia looking for wildlife and enjoying the magnificent scenery. Some time in the morning we hope to Zodiac cruise at Elsehul, a small, sheltered bay on the north coast of South Georgia, known for its dramatic glaciers, tussock grass, and rocky shoreline. It's a haven for wildlife like seals, penguins & seabirds, making it feel wild, remote, and totally untouched.*

TBD Around 9:15am we hope to start embarkation for a Zodiac cruise at Elsehul.

**Please ensure you are dressed in full waterproofs, Muck boots and that your lifejacket is correctly fastened before coming to the gangway. Please use the Virkon solution provided to clean your boots, tripods, monopods etc before you leave the ship and on your return. Remember, no sitting, kneeling, crouching or placing anything on the ground while you are ashore in the afternoon. Move slowly and quietly around wildlife.**

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

*In the afternoon we hope to land at Right Whale Bay, a remote bay on the northern coast of South Georgia, named for the right whales that were once hunted in the surrounding waters. Today it's a stark, beautiful landscape of glaciers and beaches, with fur seals and elephant seals on the shoreline. And a short walk to a King Penguin colony with around 25,000 breeding pairs.*

14:30+/- We hope to start embarkation for a landing at Right Whale Bay.

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

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

Sunrise: 04:40

Sunset: 20:43

**PLEASE PUT THE BLINDS DOWN IN YOUR CABINS BEFORE DINNER! DECK 3 & 4 PORTHOLES MUST REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL WE LEAVE SOUTH GEORGIA!**



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Day 6, Fortuna Bay and St. Andrews Bay

06:15 Wake-up call.

06:30-07:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

*In the morning, we hope to visit Fortuna Bay, a remote, scenic fjord on the north coast of South Georgia surrounded by glaciers, tussock grassland, and rugged peaks. It is a classic spot for wildlife watching and being on the historic Shackleton walk toward Stromness. It hosts a thriving colony of about 4,000 breeding pairs of King penguins.*

07:30+/- We hope to start embarkation for a landing at Fortuna Bay

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

13:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for a mid-day recap.

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

15:30+/- We would like to invite you to the gangway for a landing at St. Andrews Bay. It is likely this landing will be in rough conditions. Please be cautious and if you think the conditions are too rough for you, stay on the ship or the zodiac.

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

**PLEASE PUT THE BLINDS DOWN IN YOUR CABINS BEFORE DINNER! DECK 3 & 4 PORTHOLES MUST REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL WE LEAVE SOUTH**

**After dinner we will have three staff in the bar for South Georgia Biosecurity. Please make sure your equipment is completely clean before tomorrow's landing at Grytviken. If you have any doubt if your equipment is clean, please see the staff members in the bar.**

Sunrise: 04:37

Sunset: 20:37

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



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 7 - Grytviken

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

On arrival we have to clear customs, 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.

**Please make sure all of your equipment is clean!** Before going ashore, we will be individually inspected at the gangway, this can be a timely process so please be patient. 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.

### IMPORTANT:

- Please do not enter any of the old whaling buildings.
- Please do not sit, kneel, crouch or put anything on the ground.
- You can only use credit or debit cards.
- If you would like to make a toast to Sir Ernest Shackleton, please be at the cemetery either at 10:00 or 11:00.
- There will be a 30 min tour of the Whaling Station leaving at 09:30 and 10:30 from in front of the museum.

12:30-13:30 A polar lunch of soup and sandwiches will be served on deck 7 behind the bridge. Dress warmly and enjoy our last views of South Georgia.

16:15 Chloe invites you to the bar for her lecture all about Seals!

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

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

**PUT THE BLINDS DOWN IN YOUR CABINS BEFORE DINNER! DECK 3 & 4 PORTHOLES MUST REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL WE LEAVE SOUTH GEORGIA!**

Sunrise: 04:41

Sunset: 20:45

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



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 8 - At sea and Zavodovski Island

Today there will be no wake-up call. Wake up at your leisure.

***Remember: Keep one hand for yourself and at least one hand for the ship at all times as we head into one of the most remote corners of the globe. Shut all doors firmly and keep fingers away from door frames.***

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

09:15 Please join Steve in the Bar for his lecture - Shackleton, - A Life.

11:15 Allan invites you to the Bar for an Introduction to South Sandwich Islands

**Please remember to check at reception for our helicopter activity groups.  
If you have any change requests, then please talk to Chris or Allan.**

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

14:00 For those serious historians. Please join Steve in the port side corner of the bar for an advanced Shackleton workshop.

16:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

*Late afternoon we hope to approach Zavodovski Island, which is the Northernmost island of the South Sandwich Islands. Be out on deck to get our first sights of these rugged volcanic peaks jutting up from the Southern Ocean.*

18:00 Dinner will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

Sunrise: 03:56

Sunset: 20:10

*"Mystery creates wonder, and wonder is the basis of man's desire to understand..." -  
Neil Armstrong*



**DAILY PROGRAM**

## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 9 - Saunders, Thule and Cook Islands

04:00+/- We aim to be at Saunders Island around sunrise. We encourage you to join us on the bridge and outside decks. We will then continue to sail south past Montagu Island around breakfast time.

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:30 Join Gez in the bar for his lecture about: Weather in the polar regions.

*Just before lunch we will be sailing past Bristol Island and Freezland Rock.*

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

13:30 Mid-afternoon we will sail past Bellingshausen Island and in between Thule and Cook Island, the southernmost islands of the archipelago. If the weather allows, we will try to offer a Zodiac cruise, please listen to announcements.

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

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

Sunrise: 03:48

Sunset: 20:11

*“Traveling – it leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller” – Ibn Battuta*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 10 - Heading south towards Antarctica.

Today there will be no wake-up call. Wake up at your leisure.

***Remember: Keep one hand for yourself and at least one hand for the ship at all times as we head into one of the most remote corners of the globe. Shut all doors firmly and keep fingers away from door frames.***

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

10:15 Please join Chris in the Bar for the **Mandatory Helicopter Briefing**. After the briefing you will receive your individual helicopter number and a Helicopter Release Form that must be signed if you want to fly.

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

14:30 Aitana invites you to join her in the corner of the bar for “Crafternoon” a craft workshop of knitting, crochet and other fun creative things

16:15 Werner invites you to the bar for a lecture about Cellphone Photography in the Polar Regions. Bring your phone for some practice!

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

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

20:30 There will be a screening of the documentary ‘Lake of Fire’ in the Bar (45mins) which tells the story of Mount Michael, the live volcano on Saunders Island in the South Sandwich Islands.

Sunrise: 03:56

Sunset: 20:10

*“The first great thing is to find yourself and for that you need solitude and contemplation - at least sometimes. I can tell you deliverance will not come from the rushing noisy centres of civilization. It will come from lonely places”- Fridtjof Nansen.*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 11 - Crossing the Antarctic Circle.

07:45 Wake-up call.

***Remember: Keep one hand for yourself and at least one hand for the ship at all times as we head into one of the most remote corners of the globe. Shut all doors firmly and keep fingers away from door frames.***

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

*At approximately 08:00 we will be crossing the Antarctic Circle.  
We invite you to the bridge for this exciting occasion.*

10:30 Steve invites you to join him in the Bar for his lecture about 'Weddell Sea Exploration'.

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

13:45+/- During the afternoon you will be called to the Bar by your helicopter group number for the **MANDATORY Helicopter Drill**. This is a full rehearsal, as if we are doing it for real. We will gather you in groups of 4 people and escort you to the Heli deck. Please wear your Muck boots, waterproof clothing and bring your camera bags, ruck sacks, helicopter card and signed helicopter release form. We will start with Group 1 and work upwards (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8). This will be a timely process so please do not come to the bar before your group is called.

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

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

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



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 12 - Approaching Neuschwabenland, Queen Maud Land.

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

09:15 Aitana invites you to the bar for her lecture about 'Life aboard a research Vessel'. This will be translated by Li.

Mid-morning we hope to be approaching Neuschwabenland, Queen Maud Land, so we encourage you to be out on deck to hopefully gain your first views of the Antarctic Continent.

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

### Expedition Afternoon

The afternoon will be an expedition afternoon. Standby for announcements. We will assess weather conditions when we get close to the continent and decide if it is possible to fly helicopters or potentially have a Zodiac cruise to look for wildlife. Otherwise, we might ship's cruise and put on a lecture.

The final decision will be made by the pilots so please listen to announcements. As you will appreciate, helicopter operations take a significant amount of time, so please be patient. We will keep you updated as and when we have more information.

When your group is called, please proceed to the Bar, ensuring you have your numbered helicopter card with you and clearly visible. Please dress warmly, in waterproof clothing and Muck boots.

We will start with Group 5 and continue in ascending order (5,6,7,8,1,2,3,4).

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

19:00 Dinner will be served in the dining room on deck 4

*"The use of travelling is to regulate imagination by reality, and instead of thinking how things may be, to see them as they are." - Samuel Johnson*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 13 – Riiser-Larsenisen

07:45 Wake-up call.

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

10:15 Please join Chris in the bar for his lecture, An introduction to the Practical Side of Sea Ice and Glacier Ice.

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

14:00 Please join Gez in the Bar for his Survival Workshop. This will be with activity groups 1,2,3 and 4.

### Expedition Afternoon

The afternoon will be an expedition afternoon. Standby for announcements. We will assess weather conditions and sea ice conditions and potentially would like to do a Zodiac cruise to look for wildlife. Otherwise, we might ship's cruise and put on a lecture.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

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

*"The continent has become a symbol of our time. The test of man's willingness to pull back from the destruction of the Antarctic wilderness is the test also of his willingness to avert destruction globally. If he cannot succeed in antarctica he has little chance of success elsewhere."- Edwin Mickleburgh*



# DAILY PROGRAM

## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 14 – At sea heading towards Vahsel Bay.

Today there will be no wake-up call. Wake up at your leisure.

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



**From 09:15 you will be able to pick up your Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition Quiz Book from Gez in the bar. Let the search begin!**



- 10:00 Steve invites you to join him in the Bar for his lecture – ‘Shackleton’s Endurance Expedition.’
- 11:30 Please join Gez in the Bar for his Survival Workshop. This will be with activity groups 1,2,3 and 4.
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 14:00 For those serious historians. Please join Steve in the port side corner of the bar for an advanced Shackleton workshop.
- 16:15 Please join Jess in the bar, for her lecture about The Evolution of Whales.
- 18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!
- 19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 20:30 Join us in the bar for a showing of the first of the two-part Shackleton movie series. With popcorn!

*"I have come to the conclusion that life in the Antarctic Regions can be very pleasant." - Scott (1868—1912) at the end of the Discovery expedition.*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 15 - Vahsel Bay.

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

We hope to take you for a scenic flight over Vahsel Bay, and if possible, a short landing on the ice shelf. The final decision will be made with the pilots in the morning so please listen to announcements. As you now appreciate, helicopter operations take a significant time, so please be patient. We will keep you updated as and when we have information.

When your group is called, please proceed to the Bar, ensuring you have your numbered helicopter card with you and clearly visible. Please dress warmly, in waterproof clothing and with your Muck boots.

We will be starting with Group 4 and continue in the following order (4,3,2,1,8,7,6 and 5).

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

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

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

*"As we sever connection with our fellow men to follow a mirage in the frozen south, the mind falls into reverie. Doubt, apprehension, inspiration and determination come crowding. What tremendous events may transpire while we are locked away in the great white silence?" - excerpt from the diary of Frank Hurley.*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 16 – Luitpold Coast

06:45 Wake-up call.

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

**An Expedition Day along the Luitpold Coast near an area of fast ice. All timings are subject to change depending on weather and wildlife sightings and if there are any opportunities to do any off-ship activities like a helicopter flight or zodiac cruise. If we do a scenic flight we will start with helicopter group number ...???**

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

14:00 Please join Gez in the Bar for his Survival Workshop. This will be with activity groups 5,6,7 and 8

16:15 Allan invites you to join him in the Bar for a presentation titled 'Sledge Dogs; Unsung Heroes of Antarctic Exploration'. This will be translated to mandarin.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

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

*"Having an adventure shows that someone is incompetent, that something has gone wrong. An adventure is interesting enough — in retrospect. Especially to the person who didn't have it." - Vilhjalmur Stefansson*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

Date: 7 February 2026.

Day 17 – Stancomb-Wills Glacier.

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

**An Expedition Day near the Stancomb-Wills glacier. We will assess conditions on arrival for any opportunities to do off-ship activities like helicopter scenic flights or Zodiac cruising in the sea ice (most likely). If we do scenic flights, the helicopter group order will be 3,4,5,6,7,8,1,2.**

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

14:00 Activity groups 7 and 8, please meet Lucas and Gez in the bar for a crevasse rescue workshop!

16:15 Aitana invites you to join her in the Bar for the second part of her lecture, Life aboard a research vessel: How to survey the ocean part two.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

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

*"We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."- T.S. Eliot*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 18 - Weddell Sea.

Today there will be no wake-up call. Wake up at your leisure.

***Remember: Keep one hand for yourself and at least one hand for the ship at all times as we expect the ship to be rolling heavily today.***

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

09:30 Please join Chris in the bar, for his presentation 'Calling Antarctica Home' – all about his time working at Scott Base.

11:00 Activity groups 7 and 8, please meet Lucas and Gez in the bar for a crevasse rescue workshop!

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

14:00 Beginner photo editors group 1, please meet Werner in the bar for an introduction to photo editing workshop.

14:00 Anyone who would like to get creative please meet Aitana in the bar for "Crafternoon"!

16:15 Chloe invites you to the Bar for a presentation about 'The Ecological Importance of Sea Ice'.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

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

*"Difficulties are just things to overcome after all." - Sir Ernest Shackleton from the heart of Antarctica*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 19 - Heading up through the Weddell Sea.

Today there will be no wake-up call. Wake up at your leisure.

***Remember: Keep one hand for yourself and at least one hand for the ship at all times as we expect the ship to be rolling heavily today.***

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

09:30 Please join Allan in the Bar for a lecture about an 'Early season Icebreaker voyage to the Weddell Sea'.

11:00 Activity groups 5 and 6, please meet Lucas and Gez in the bar for a crevasse rescue workshop!

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

14:00 Advanced photo editors group, please meet Werner in the bar for an advanced photo editing workshop.

16:15 Jess invites you to the bar for her lecture, 'What Wales do for us; the role of whales in the ecosystem and human health'.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

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

20:30 Please join us in the bar for a showing of the Shackleton Movie part Two, with popcorn!

*"But who wants to be foretold the weather? It is bad enough when it comes, without our having the misery of knowing about it beforehand."- Jerome K. Jerome*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 20 – Heading West through the South Scotia Sea.

Today there will be no wake-up call. Wake up at your leisure.

***Remember: Keep one hand for yourself and at least one hand for the ship at all times as we expect the ship to be rolling heavily today.***

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

09:30 Please join Steve in the bar, for his presentation about Shackleton's Ross Sea party.

11:00 Activity groups 3 and 4, please meet Lucas and Gez in the bar for a crevasse rescue workshop!

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

14:00 Please join Steve for an advanced history workshop in the bar.

14:00 Also anyone who would like to get creative please meet Aitana in the bar for "Crafternoon"!

16:15 Please join Chloe for her lecture about Seabirds of the Southern Ocean.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

19:00 BBQ dinner is served outside behind the bridge on deck 7.

*Half the fascination an Antarctic expedition possesses is to be found in the sharpness of the contrasts experienced during its course, for it appears to be true that a hell one day is liable to make a heaven the next."- Raymond Priestley.*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 21 – Approaching the South Orkney Islands.

**PLEASE NOTE - At 2am on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup>, the clocks will go back 1 hour to Ushuaia time. 02:00 becomes 01:00.**

Today there will be no wake-up call. Wake up at your leisure.

***Remember: Keep one hand for yourself and one hand for the ship at all times, as we expect the ship to be rolling today.***

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

09:30 Guest lecturer Alex Garofolo invites you to the bar for his presentation: "Sea Shepherd in Defense; We are for the Oceans".

11:00 Activity groups 1, 2, and anyone else who missed the other workshops, please meet Lucas and Gez in the bar for a crevasse rescue workshop!

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

14:00 Anyone wanting to video edit, please meet Werner in the bar for a video editing workshop.

14:00 Those who bought items during the South Georgia Heritage Trust auction, please see Koen in the bar to make your payment.

16:15 Aitana invites you to the lounge for her lecture: 'Going with the flow, discussing the Worlds Ocean Currents'.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

*"I am myself one of those who do not fear the shore, for hardly any great things are done in a small ship by a man that does." - Admiral Lord Nelson.*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 22 - South Orkney Islands.

04:15 Bright and early wake-up call! (There will be some snacks available in the bar).

04:45 We hope to invite all guests to the gangway for a landing at South Orkney Islands, Shingle Cove.

*At the end of the landing, we will assess the conditions for offering a Polar Plunge! Please wear your swimsuit underneath your waterproofs and clothing in the hope this will be possible. **Towels will be provided**, so do not bring them from your cabin.*

08:30-09:30 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

12:00 Join Chloe in the bar for her postponed lecture about 'Seabirds of the Southern Ocean'.

13:00-14:00 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

16:15 Join Bill and Ingrid in the bar as we explore "Behind the Scenes of *Ortelius*".

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

19:00 Dinner will be served in the dining room on deck 4.

20:30 Happy Feet - with Mandarin subtitles - will be screened in the Bar, with Popcorn!

*"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world." - Albert Einstein*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 23 - Elephant Island.

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

TBD We will assess conditions and hope to take you for a Zodiac cruise or possibly a scenic flight at Point Wild, Elephant Island. Listen for announcements in regard to exact timings for activities after breakfast. If we do fly, the helicopter group order will be 2,1,8,7,6,5,4 and 3.

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

14:00 Please join Jess for a "Wildlife ID" workshop in the bar. Bring with you any pictures that you may have taken of wildlife, and Jess and the team will help you to determine what wildlife you actually saw.

14:00 Anyone who would like to get creative please meet Aitana in the bar for "Crafternoon"!

16:15 Allan welcomes you to the Bar for his history presentation about 'The Swedish South Polar Expedition; 1901-03'.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

*"The land looks like a fairytale." - Roald Amundsen (1872—1928) about Antarctica*



## DAILY PROGRAM

### Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

♥ Happy Valentines Day! ♥

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

Day 24 - Antarctic Sound.

06:00 Wake-up call.

06:15-07:15 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Dining Room on Deck 4.

### Expedition Morning

We hope to take you for a scenic flight over Antarctic Sound, and if possible, a short landing on a plateau. The final decision will be made with the pilots in the morning so please listen to announcements. As you now appreciate, helicopter operations take a significant time, so please be patient. We will keep you updated as and when we have information.

When your group is called, please proceed to the Bar, ensuring you have your numbered helicopter card with you and clearly visible. Please dress warmly, in waterproof clothing and with your Muck boots. We will be starting with Group 2 and continue with 1,8,7,6,5,4 and 3.

Plan B will be a Zodiac landing at Brown Bluff.

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

### Expedition Afternoon in Antarctic Sound

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

19:00 Dinner will be served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

20:30 Please return your clean Muck boots, dry bags and helicopter number cards to the lecture room.

Sunrise: 4:59

Sunset: 21:06

*"It was a first-rate tragedy, but tragedy was not our business." - Apsley Cherry-Garrard on the fate of Captain Robert Scott.*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 25 - Drake passage.

Today there will be no wake-up call. Wake up at your leisure.

***Remember: Keep one hand for yourself and at least one hand for the ship at all times as we head into a Drake Passage storm.  
Shut all doors firmly and keep fingers away from door frames.***

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

10:30 Bill welcomes you to the Bar for a presentation about: Paintings of the Sea.

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

14:00 Please join Jess for a "Wildlife ID" workshop in the bar. Bring with you any pictures that you may have taken of wildlife, and Jess and the team will help you to determine what wildlife you actually saw.

16:15 Koen invites you to the Bar for his lecture about his personal experiences with Humpback Whales in Tonga and Iceland as a whale watching guide.

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

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

*"Soon after we were hauling ashore the scant amount that was left of our stores and dragging our boats on to what appeared to us the promised land. We did not know Elephant Island then - that it was nothing more than a gigantic mass of rock, carrying on its back a vast sheet of ice." - excerpt from Endurance by Frank Worsley.*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

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

Day 26 - Drake Passage.

Today there will be no wake-up call. Wake up at your leisure.

***Remember: Keep one hand for yourself and at least one hand for the ship at all times as we head into one of the most remote corners of the globe. Shut all doors firmly and keep fingers away from door frames.***

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

10:30 Aitana invites you to the Bar for her lecture titled - Does Planet Earth have a Heart? How Antarctica is the heart of Planet Earth.

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

14:00 Anyone who would like to get creative please meet Aitana and Chloe in the bar for "Crafternoon"!

16:15 Please join guest lecturer Steve in the bar for his lecture - 'Shackleton the Marvellous Maverick'.

18:15 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for recap!

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

*"Notorious for violent storms which quickly turn a moderate sea into violent confusion, turmoil and mountainous waves."  
- Shackleton describing the Drake Passage.*



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Day 27 - Approaching South America.

Today there will be no wake-up call. Wake up at your leisure.

***Remember: Keep one hand for yourself and at least one hand for the ship at all times as we head into one of the most remote corners of the globe. Shut all doors firmly and keep fingers away from door frames.***

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

**After breakfast, please finish settling your accounts at Reception. Please ensure your account is settled before 17:00 at the latest.**

09:30 Enjoyed travelling with us to the Weddell Sea? Please join Chris in the Bar for a presentation about Oceanwide's other destinations.

11:15 Allan invites you to the Bar for a lecture titled 'The Curious Case of Admiral Byrd's Antarctic Snow Cruiser'.

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

14:00 Please join Steve for an advanced history workshop in the bar.

14:00 Join us for dumpling making in the Restaurant, starboard side.

Late afternoon we will be disembarking our helicopters at the entrance of the Beagle Channel. We invite you out on deck to say a fond farewell to our DAP team as they fly off M/V Ortelius for the final time this season.

18:00 Join the Expedition Staff in the Bar for Captain's Farewell Cocktails and a viewing of the voyage slideshow. A copy of the slideshow will be sent to you after the voyage along with your trip log.

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

***PLEASE NOTE: Upon arrival in Ushuaia, we will provide free buses to the airport for morning flights only, at 08:45 a.m. For guests with afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the storage center (1210 Av. Maipu), and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00 hrs. You just need to indicate your luggage on the pier and ensure the stevedores load it into the truck. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please wait until the ship is cleared by the port agent, and you are free to go with your luggage.***



## Remote Weddell Sea Explorer

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Day 28 - Ushuaia.

07:15 Wake-up call.

**Please ensure your luggage is outside your room before 07:30am.**

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

***PLEASE NOTE:*** Upon arrival in Ushuaia, we will provide free buses to the airport for morning flights only, departing at 08:45. For guests with afternoon flights, we will transfer your luggage to the storage center (1210 Av. Maipu), and you will need to pick up your luggage before 14:00 hrs. You just need to identify your luggage on the pier and ensure the stevedores load it into the truck. For guests who have their own transportation or planning to stay in Ushuaia, please wait till the ship is cleared by the port agent and you are free to go with your luggage.

08:30+/- We invite all guests to disembark.

From all the Expedition Team and Crew on board *M/V Ortelius*, we wish you safe onward travels and thank you for sharing this incredible voyage with us.

We look forward to sailing with you again in the future.

*"It's when you are safe at home that you wish you were having an adventure.  
When you're having an adventure, you wish you were safe at home."*

*- Thorton Wilder.*