



Antarctica - Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

Ushuaia – Antarctic Peninsula – Ushuaia

February 18th – March 4th 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 PER ANDERSSON

and his international crew of 55

Chief Officer:	Vladyslav Rozhynsky	[Ukraine]
Second Officer:	Nino Czimic	[Croatia]
Third Officer:	Ian Vicente	[Philippines]
Chief Engineer:	Guntis Dizbite	[Latvia]
Hotel Manager:	Ingrid van de Loo	[Netherlands]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	Maleen van Moorsel	[Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	[Germany]
Expedition Leader	Chris Long	[New Zealand]
Assistant Expedition Leader	Koen Hoekemeijer	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide	Allan White	[Falkland islands]
Expedition Guide	Aitana Forcén-Vázquez	[Spain]
Expedition Guide	Chloe Power	[Australia]
Expedition Guide	Jess Owen	[UK]
Expedition Guide	Werner Kruse	[South Africa]
Expedition Guide	Marco Rosso	[Italy]
Expedition Guide	Loel Collins	[UK]
Expedition Guide	Valeria Sainz Herrera	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide	Li Ye	[China]
Kayak Leader	Nick Cunliffe	[UK]
Dive Team Leader	Jerry Sutton	[UK]
Dive Guide	Dave Sutton	[USA]
Dive Guide	Kevin Verbist	[Belgium]
Ship's Doctor	Jaye Martin	[Australia]

WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Wednesday 18th February 2026 – Embarkation Day, Ushuaia

1800 GPS Position: 54°50.9'S; 068°06.4'W

Wind: N-4 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 8 °C



The day of embarkation unfolded under nice conditions in Ushuaia, with mild temperatures, overcast sky and an unusual calm in the air, with no wind in the Beagle Channel. These rare conditions set a positive tone for the beginning of the voyage.

The long-awaited day of embarkation to the Great White Continent had finally arrived, and after a morning filled with last-minute preparations and excited reunions with fellow expeditioners, we finally had the first sighting of our ship, **M/V Ortelius**. This was not just a cruise, but the beginning of a unique adventure and a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Once we were all aboard, the ship's mandatory safety procedures were carried out, including a comprehensive safety briefing and drill. This ensured everyone on board was familiar with emergency protocols



and prepared for departure. Following the drill, Captain Per formally welcomed guests and introduced them to the voyage ahead. The Expedition Team—our guides and mentors for the

coming days — were then introduced. Their collective experience in marine biology, oceanography, photography, and polar operations was impressive.



The evening continued with a relaxed buffet dinner, offering an opportunity for us to meet one another, reconnecting after our travels, and beginning to settle into life on board. As the ship completed her final preparations and the lines were readied for departure, the atmosphere on board was filled with anticipation for the adventures awaiting us in the southern waters.

Day 2 – Thursday 19th February 2026 – Southbound towards Antarctica

12:00 GPS Position: 58° 02.7' S; 066°45.9' W

Wind: NW-8 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 7°C



We woke up excited to experience our first full day of the expedition. Expedition Leader Chris woke us up to tell us how the weather was today. We could already feel from our beds that it was a little

bumpy, but as far as the Drake Passage goes it was considered quite nice weather conditions.

Many people were up early on the bridge to see if there were any interesting birds or marine mammals around. We could see some black-browed albatross and giant petrels soaring over the waves and enjoying the uplift from the wind. A snowy sheathbill also landed on the deck to take a rest. We enjoyed a nice breakfast and shortly afterwards all the people scuba diving in Antarctica were invited to a

briefing in the bar with Jerry and the diving team. They then spent some time sorting out all their equipment and getting ready for their dives.

After this Jess gave a lecture in the bar informing us about the whale and dolphin species



that we could possibly see on our journey. She explained why Antarctica is so good for seeing whales at this time of year and showed us how they feed and migrate huge distances to come here each year.

We enjoyed a nice lunch before the kayakers were called to the bar for their briefing with Nick the kayak guide. They also spend some time getting their drysuits and equipment ready.

Later in the afternoon Koen gave us a visually beautiful lecture where he gave his top ten tips to improve your photography in Antarctica. Koen loves to photograph wildlife, and he shared with us many beautiful pictures he had taken during his career.

In the early evening, we gathered for the first of our daily recaps. Before dinner the expedition team give more information about what has been seen during the day and give us the plans for tomorrow. We went to dinner, yes, more food! Before heading to relax in the bar.



Day 3 – Friday 20th February 2026 – At Sea in the Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 63°06.6' S; 067° 06.2' W

Wind: NE-5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Part. Cloudy • Air Temp: + 3 °C

Today's programme was dedicated to our final preparations before reaching Antarctica, and excitement could be felt everywhere on board. Our third day at sea began with Expedition Leader Chris's cheerful "Good morning!" wake-up call, welcoming us into another adventurous day as we continued crossing the legendary Drake Passage. The ocean gave us a true Drake experience, with rolling waves and lively conditions that reminded us we were sailing toward one of the most remote and extraordinary places on Earth.



After breakfast, we attended one of our final mandatory briefings covering IAATO guidelines and Zodiac operations. With every instruction and explanation, the reality of our destination felt closer — Antarctica was finally

within reach, and our anticipation continued to grow.

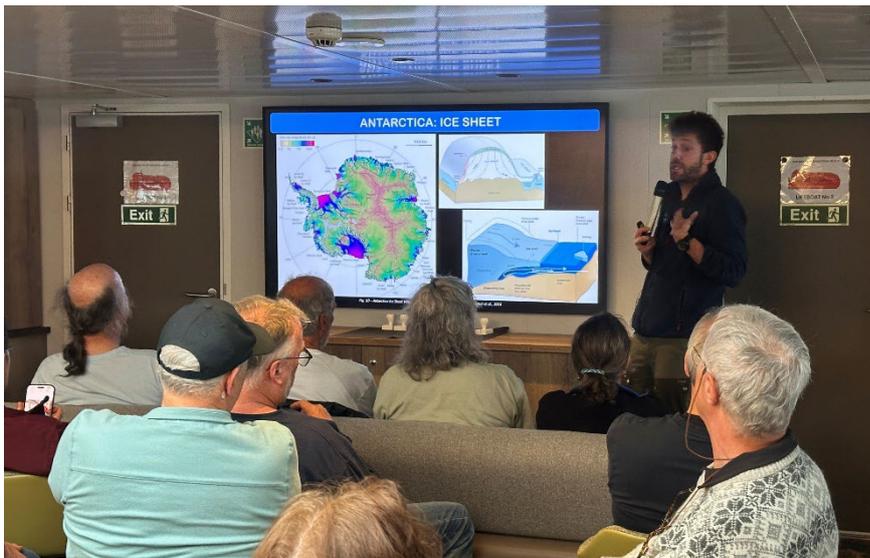
Soon after, Chloe invited us to the lounge for a fantastic lecture about penguins. Learning about these charismatic and resilient animals made us even more eager for our first wildlife encounters, and the room was filled with smiles and excitement as we imagined seeing them in their natural habitat.

Later in the morning, we headed to Deck 3 — the famous "Boot Room" — where we were fitted with our warm, waterproof muck boots, ready for all upcoming landings and Zodiac adventures. Trying on our expedition gear made everything suddenly feel very real.



Just before lunch, we enjoyed our first Navigational Workshop from the Bridge. Second Officer Nino introduced us to the ship's navigation instruments and explained how the crew safely guides the vessel through polar waters. It was fascinating to gain insight into the daily work happening behind the scenes.

After another delicious lunch, many of us spent time outside on deck or visiting the Bridge, watching the vast Southern Ocean unfold around us while spotting seabirds gracefully gliding alongside the ship across the South Atlantic.



The afternoon brought one of the most important preparations of the expedition — our biosecurity check. Together, we carefully cleaned and inspected all the gear and clothing we would take ashore, ensuring that we would help preserve Antarctica

exactly as we found it. It was a meaningful reminder of our shared responsibility as visitors to this pristine environment.

Later, Marco welcomed us back to the lounge for a comprehensive introduction to Antarctica. His presentation deepened our understanding of the continent's geography and landscape, building even more excitement for the adventures awaiting us.

Throughout the day, the Drake Passage continued to show its character, with winds reaching up to 50 knots, energetic waves, and occasional rain offering us a thrilling preview of the polar conditions ahead — a true expedition experience that we embraced with enthusiasm.

In the late afternoon, we gathered once again for our daily recap. Chris presented the plans for the following day, heightening our anticipation. Adam shared stories about his upcoming restoration work with the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust team at Stonington Island, and Valeria concluded by sharing helpful photography tips and creative advice to help us capture the unforgettable moments ahead.

Day 4 – Saturday 21st February 2026 – Lallemand Fjord and The Gullet

12:00 GPS Position: 67° 03.5' S; 066° 33.7' W

Wind: N-7 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: 3 °C

As we edged closer to Antarctica, we crossed the Antarctic Circle at 4am this morning. Guests were invited to come up to the bridge to witness the moment, though for many, sleep understandably won over the early wake-up call.

In the early hours, some of the expedition team boarded two Zodiacs with staff from UK Antarctic Heritage Trust and headed ashore at Detaille Island to assess and collect equipment. Unfortunately, the winds and swell were not in our favour, making a guest landing unsafe. Instead, we made the decision to sail further south in search of a more sheltered location for our first afternoon operation.



After enjoying a delicious breakfast on board, we prepared to explore our new destination: Salmon Cove. This beautiful bay, framed by dramatic glacier-clad mountains, offered a breathtaking introduction to the Antarctic landscape. Spectacular icebergs surrounded us, their brilliant whites contrasting beautifully against the dark, moody skies — perfect conditions for striking photographs.



The day began with a Zodiac cruise and kayaking excursion. The weather kept us on our toes, shifting from calm, sunlit moments to sudden gusts and choppy waters. Despite the changing conditions, everyone thoroughly enjoyed their time on the water.

Wildlife encounters made the experience even more extraordinary. Some Zodiacs were treated to the incredible sight of spy-hopping humpback whales, while others were visited by a curious minke whale that approached right alongside the boats. Several humpbacks were feeding in the area, and many guests captured stunning images of flukes raised high against a backdrop of brilliant blue glaciers.



A spectacular first day in Antarctica concluded with our evening recap and briefing, followed by a delicious à la carte dinner — the perfect end to an unforgettable introduction to the White Continent.

KAYAK

Our long southward journey from Ushuaia took us across the Drake Passage, beyond the Antarctic Circle, and deep into the isolated depths of the peninsula. We arrived in Lallemand Bay, where the cold wind brought sleet and snow to the ship's decks. Our first team of hardy kayakers braved the unsettled conditions to explore the glaciated waters between McCall Point and Salmon Cove.



Our commitment was quickly rewarded with a close encounter of a feeding Humpback whale, as we lay beneath the shelter of the icy shoreline. Enchanted by this dramatic Antarctic greeting, we continued SE through rafts of brash ice as an increasing breeze blew down from the Solch glacier. Our excellent paddlers coped admirably with the challenging wind and waves, slaloming between icebergs and gradually approaching closer to our Ortelius home. After two hours of unforgettable kayaking adventures we returned to the ship, chilled and soaked but delighted with our amazing experiences.

Day 5 – Sunday 22nd February 2026 – Horseshoe and Blaiklock Islands

12:00 GPS Position: 67° 48.1' S; 067° 16.8' W

Wind: NE-5 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Part. Cloudy • Air Temp: 3 °C



Today we explored two remarkable sites along the Antarctic Peninsula: Horseshoe Island in the morning and Blaiklock Island in the afternoon. Calm conditions and light winds made for excellent operations throughout the day, with overcast skies occasionally opening to patches of blue.

Our morning landing at Horseshoe Island offered a fascinating glimpse into both Antarctic history and geology. Guests visited the historic British base hut, preserved much as it was during its years of operation, providing insight into



the realities of life and research in this remote environment. Nearby, striking green rock formations, rich in copper minerals and resembling malachite, added vivid color to the landscape.



A long hike led us around a partially frozen lake and across exposed rocky terrain. With surprisingly little snow cover for this time of year, walking conditions were excellent. Along

the shoreline, several Adélie penguins were observed in the final stages of their annual moult, standing quietly as they waited for their new waterproof plumage to grow in.

KAYAK

Conditions remained unsettled as we anchored close to Horseshoe Island in the north corner of Marguerite Bay. Beneath a grey sky of scudding clouds, we took a short Zodiac ride into the partial protection of Sally Cove on the NW side of the island. Here we entered our kayaks and began to explore the perimeter of the bay beneath the impressive steep flanks of Mount Searle.

A journey took us on a fine adventure among grounded icebergs, resting Crabeater seals, and a scattering of Adélie penguins. As we headed north towards Homing Head, the increasing wind brought steeper waves that challenged our attempts at upwind progress. Switching plans, we crossed the mouth of the bay towards the abandoned buildings of an old British research base. Tucked into protected waters again, we rested a while before navigating a narrow channel that led into open water on the bay's west side. Here we paddled through steeper waves, threading an exciting route between small grounded icebergs before riding downwind back into the bay. Despite the cold wind, we felt the rewards of committing to this fine Antarctic kayaking adventure.

In the afternoon, we continued to Blaiklock Island, a landing site new to all members of the expedition team, an exciting opportunity for guides and guests alike. We set out on another extended walk over mostly snow-free ground, following rocky ridges and gentle slopes.



Here we visited the small Base Y refuge hut, a small emergency shelter historically used to support sledging journeys between Detaille Island and Horseshoe Island. The hut stands as a reminder of the logistical challenges and isolation faced by early Antarctic field parties. Wildlife encounters included several Weddell seals resting near the shoreline, while numerous skuas patrolled the area overhead and occasionally voiced their objections to our presence as we passed near their nesting territories.



The day's soft light, calm seas, and expansive rocky landscapes created a serene atmosphere, offering a different perspective of Antarctica, one defined not by deep snow and ice, but by exposed geology, history, and quiet wildlife moments.

We finished the day with our daily recap, where plans and adventures for the following day were shared, followed by dinner served in the restaurant.

An enriching and memorable day of exploration.

Detaille Island and Horseshoe Island. The hut stands as a reminder of the logistical challenges and isolation faced

KAYAK

A small team of paddlers ventured out into the wide glacial fiord on Blaiklock Island's NW side. We followed a wild rocky coastline towards an impressive cirque of tidewater glaciers at the head of the inlet, enthusiastically paddling against the moderate N wind that blew down from the mainland mountains. En route, we encountered a wonderful scene, two dozen resting Crabeater seals that dozed on the flat shingle shoreline. Pressing on, we found refuge beneath the low snout of a broad glacier, where a meltwater torrent cascaded down the ice cliff into the fiord. Crossing towards the middle of the inlet, we admired the grand glacial landscape of the far SE-facing shoreline.

Mid-crossing, we switched to a downwind route towards our now-distant Ortelius home, passing numerous small floating icebergs. As we savoured this fantastic open water adventure, a Skua paid us close attention, circling our kayaks almost within touching distance. We marvelled at its mastery of the conditions before continuing our adventure, finally arriving back within 100m of the ship. Delighted with our afternoon of kayaking exploration, we returned to our safety Zodiac and home - with amazing paddling memories from this wild Antarctic coast.



Day 6 – Monday 23rd February 2026 – Stonington Island and Marguerite Bay

1200 GPS Position: 68° 11.2' S; 067° 01.2' W

Wind: NE-5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Part. Cloudy • Air Temp: + 3 °C

The plan for this morning was to land at Stonington Island and possibly witness the history of Antarctic scientific and political exploration of the 20th century. However, when we woke up, the wind was howling outside, and from the bridge the anemometer was measuring a steady 25–28 knots, with gusts up to 35–38 knots. A potential reason to change our plans.

To ensure it was safe to proceed, members of the expedition team, right after breakfast, went ashore to assess the conditions on land and at the gangway. Meanwhile the provisions and the material that the members of the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust were slowly shuttled ashore by the experienced Zodiacs drivers. After their evaluation, they confirmed



that the landing could be carried out safely, and arrangements were made for guests to go ashore. No one wanted to miss the opportunity to visit such a legendary landing site.



On Stonington Island, two historic research stations stand as reminders of the heroic age of twentieth-century Antarctic exploration. The American East Base was established in 1940 during the United States Antarctic Service expedition led by Richard E. Byrd. It



served as a base for scientific research and aerial exploration along the Antarctic Peninsula before being abandoned in 1941 due to the outbreak of World War II. A few years later, in 1946, the British established Base E as part of Operation Tabarin, later continued under the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey. Base E became a key center for surveying, meteorology, and geological research in the region and was occupied until 1950. Today, the remaining buildings of both stations are preserved as Historic Sites and Monuments, symbolizing an important chapter of scientific ambition and geopolitical presence in Antarctica.



After successfully disembarking on the eastern side of the island well protected from the morning wind and swell, everyone was free to roam around the island and could pay a visit to the historical sites and witness history at first hand. Many of us left messages in the commemorative book. Not only

was the historical part interesting, but also the rich geological diversity of the island with beautiful intrusive mafic dykes cutting across more felsic plutonic rocks, and of course the immense views which spanned from the two peaks of Neny island across the channel, to the immense front of the Eastern glacier tumbling down directly from the Antarctic Peninsula Ice

Sheet. Several calving events in shallow waters produced massive waves which washed more and more brash ice ashore during the course of the morning.



In the afternoon, many people participated in the expedition team's navigational workshop lead by Loel, learning about navigation techniques; followed by expedition guide Aitana who gave a thorough introduction to sea ice and glaciers. Through her lecture, we learned that ice plays a vital role not only in the poles but also in global climate regulation. However, the ongoing melting of glaciers worldwide is a problem that humanity can no longer ignore. It is closely related to every person on Earth, and environmental protection is of utmost urgency.

Eventually in the evening, the expedition team gathered everyone for a recap of the day and a briefing on the plans for tomorrow's adventures. Dinner was then served, offering a welcome opportunity to relax and reflect on the historic landing. As the night settled in, the MV Ortelius continued her navigation through the scenic Faure Passage, making her way toward Lazarev Bay, where new discoveries awaited with the coming day.

Day 7 – Tuesday 24th February 2026 – Uncharted Islands

1200 GPS Position: 69° 29.2' S; 072° 09.9' W

Wind: E-1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Part. Cloudy • Air Temp: + 1 °C



We arrived in the stunning Lazarev Bay, where we were woken up a little earlier than expected, due to our first sighting of an emperor penguin! So up we got, dressed in our warm layers and cameras at the ready to witness one of Antarctica's most prized creatures. As we ventured up to the bow, we were welcomed with not only the emperor penguin posing on an iceberg, but the most spectacular sunrise painting the sky with oranges, pink and purple hues. It was magic! (and well worth the wake-up call!)



It was so special to witness the elusive emperor, standing there in all its regality. It truly is astonishing how these birds thrive and survive down here in the Antarctic winter, and we were just so thrilled to have

had the chance to see this animal with our own eyes, as we have been told just how rare these encounters can be. After breakfast, we got ready to venture out into the bay, in the hopes of spotting more wildlife and exploring these uncharted islands dotted in the distance.



We were blown away by the sheer magnitude of the icebergs here. Chris referred to this bay as an 'iceberg jail' rather than an 'iceberg graveyard', as these humungous bergs had been trapped inside the bay, unable to drift away due to the water depth. We had never seen so many icebergs in our lives! They were everywhere we looked, some resembled ancient castles, some exquisite gems, and some even faces! We meandered our way through the ice towards some protruding jagged isles. As we arrived, we noticed a few people were in fact standing on these small islands!



Our Zodiac drivers got us ashore where we were welcomed by some of the staff and crew. These islands were uncharted and off the maps, meaning we were the first people to ever set foot on them! What a surreal feeling! We climbed up on the first ledge and smiled with the Antarctic and Oceanwide flag in hand beaming with joy.



We continued cruising around in the zodiacs, spotting more wildlife such as crabeater seals,



Antarctic terns, brown and south polar skuas and the odd Wilson's storm petrel. Some of us counted over seven seals! We ventured closer to a larger one of the few uncharted islands, and we were reminded just how remote and far away from the 'normal' Antarctic itinerary we were.

After another scrumptious lunch in the dining room, we were treated to another zodiac cruise outing, this time in the east side of Lazarev Bay. The conditions were calm, the lighting was phenomenal



and the wildlife was in full force. We spotted numerous seals, mostly crabeaters and a few Weddells, and one lucky zodiac even had an encounter with a leopard seal! It was an amazing afternoon spent in paradise. The Antarctic land and seascape will never cease to amaze us!

KAYAK AM



We reached the most southerly extent of our Antarctic Peninsula expedition at Lazarev Bay, close to the Wilkins ice shelf and at almost 70° South. Here the day dawned still and sunny, glassy waters surrounding the ship

while an armada of enormous icebergs lay strewn around the vast glacial bay. We launched our kayaks and began an other-worldly journey between these icy behemoths, as Ortelius gently sailed further south into the Antarctic wilderness.

Tracking a parallel course to our ship, we played hide and seek as it regularly disappeared behind towering icebergs. After two hours of unforgettable kayaking adventures, we reluctantly returned to our vessel, marvelling at the amazing adventure we had enjoyed.

KAYAK PM

A new team launched once again into Lazarev Bay, where conditions were idyllically still beneath a bright blue afternoon sky. Our group of novice kayakers experienced perhaps the

most remarkable introduction imaginable, as we gently paddled towards a cluster of uncharted rocky islets, our route wandering between fantastically-sculpted ice formations. All the while Ortelius followed in our wake, as we led our ship on a journey of exploration.

We encountered two resting Crabeater seals, on a low flat ice floe that permitted our team to quietly approach to observe these beautiful animals at close quarters. We stayed a while, delighted to enjoy this precious wildlife encounter. The time finally came for us to return to our ship, as the end of a superb day of Antarctic kayaking, in a truly isolated corner of the Antarctic Peninsula.



Day 8 – Wednesday 25th February 2026 – Exploring Lazarev Bay

1200 GPS Position: 69° 28.6' S; 072° 07.5' W

Wind: SW-2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temp: + 0.5 °C

Ortelius remained in the calm, ice-laden waters of Lazarev Bay overnight. Captain Per had found an uncharted anchorage near some uncharted islands the evening before but was forced to move his ship in the small hours following an endless barrage of icebergs. Although slow moving, some of the frozen giants were a real menace for the ship and more open waters had to be found where we could drift and the officers on watch could take avoiding action when icebergs came close.



© Koen Hoekemeijer

Many of us were already up when Chris made his wake-up call at 07:15. His summary of the weather revealed that it was a very different day outside compared to yesterday. The blue skies and sunshine had been replaced by low clouds and variable visibility. Nevertheless, it was still spectacular. The sea was glassy calm with dramatic reflections of the icebergs all around us, and the dark skies created a very moody atmosphere.

Chris's announcement was something of a call to arms, as if rallying his troops before embarking on an important mission. It was a reminder that straight after breakfast we would be heading off in the Zodiacs on a long-range exploration of the most southerly, uncharted waters of Lazarev Bay. The goal was to try and reach the Wilkins Ice Shelf at the south end of the bay, but we were under no illusion that this required a lot of luck with ice and weather. The outside temperature was zero degrees Celsius, and Chris emphasized the importance of wearing even more layers than normal, and taking extra clothing for back-up.



The general direction was south-south-east, and the aim was to travel as fast as possible, which meant that the drivers needed to get their Zodiacs up on the plane and running at full speed. For a few

boats this required a bit of fine-tuning where a passenger or two was transferred to another boat with more power or a lighter load. Eventually, all Zodiacs were soon weaving their way through the kingdom of ice at speed, providing a thrilling and awe-inspiring experience. Many sat in quiet bewilderment, taking in the spectacular scene around us as we sped our way southwards.

Our progress was only slowed by dense belts of brash ice or stops for wildlife. An occasional lone Crabeater and Weddell seal was encountered, but unlike the day before, it was the

Leopard seals that were the more numerous seal species of the excursion. There were several memorable encounters with this apex predator. We also came across some Adelle



penguins, hitching a ride on icebergs while some of them completed their annual moult. But it was the experience of seeing a few Emperor penguins standing proud on ice that will stay with

us forever. Looking utterly magnificent in their perfect plumage, it was a sight that none of us will ever get tired of.

Onwards and ever southwards the Zodiacs sped, weaving their way through the frozen maze.



The drivers weren't just having fun; they were having the time of their lives. One Zodiac driver was inspired to quote English poet Samuel Taylor-Coleridge (1772-1834), with verses from his epic masterpiece 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'.....

And now there came both mist and snow, and it grew wondrous cold.

And ice mast high came floating by, as green as emerald.

The ice was here, the ice was there, the ice was all around.

It cracked and growled and roared and howled like noises in a swound.

Day after day, day after day, we stuck nor breath nor motion.

As idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean.

Having travelled almost 25km from the ship, the first concerns about fuel consumption were voiced by a couple of the Zodiac drivers, who felt the need to change to their second tank. Chris put out a call to all the drivers, requesting that everyone raft up. There we were, a tiny flotilla of ten Zodiacs, carabiner'd side-by-side, drifting with the ice in the vastness of Lazarev Bay. We were still quite some ways from the Wilkins Ice Shelf, but it was visible in distance

through binoculars. Chris checked the fuel state of all Zodiacs and decided to err on the side of caution. This was as far south as we would go.

A little bit of a party atmosphere developed as everyone celebrated the farthest south of the



voyage. Music played in one Zodiac and many happy photos were taken while people danced a little to get the blood flowing into their cold limbs. It was decided that once our flotilla broke up, we would travel south a very short distance further to ensure we crossed latitude 69° 40' South. In the end, the most southerly position recorded was....

69° 40.312' SOUTH - 071° 55.904' WEST



It was then a sprint back through the ice to Ortelius. The visibility was reduced for a time with a brief spell of snow followed by rain. Once again, some Zodiacs refused to plane

and go at full speed, despite the best efforts of their drivers with shuffling guests around in search of the magic point of balance. In one boat it was unanimously decided that stops would

only be made for Leopard seals, Emperor penguins and Orcas. Happily, two out of three occurred. Only the Orcas eluded us.

The return journey seemed to pass more quickly and at a distance of around 8km we caught our first glimpse of the ship. By then most people were starting to feel the cold and couldn't wait to get back on board. Fortunately, the ice was really open for the final leg of the journey, and we sped swiftly towards the warmth of Ortelius. Pulling up to the ship, drivers checked their GPS devices and revealed that we had travelled over 50km. Wow! In this modern era of expedition cruising, it is extremely rare to find an Expedition Leader and team that are willing to undertake such a colossal challenge. Enormous congratulations to Chris and his team!

No sooner were we back onboard than the wonderful Hotel Department were announcing that a very welcome hot buffet lunch was served. Conversation in the restaurant was livelier than usual, as we reflected on the remarkable adventure just completed. This was something we would remember for many years to come. After lunch there was time to relax and enjoy one last view of Lazarev Bay as Ortelius slowly made her way northwards through the icebergs. For some, there was the irresistible urge to adopt the horizontal position and enjoy a little nap.

Soon, we left the sheltered bay behind, and the ship took on a gentle motion as she met the swell of open ocean. At 16:15 Chloe invited everyone to join her in the bar for a fun and enlightening lecture about Seals. Chloe's enthusiasm and passion for these wonderful creatures was very much evident as she told us everything we wanted to know, and more, about all the seals we had encountered so far. At 18:15 we gathered in the bar for the daily recap and briefing on the next day's activities. Then dinner was served. There were a few empty seats in the restaurant, a result of the 'ocean motion' that finally rocked us all to sleep. Some of us lay awake for a while, thinking about what an extraordinary day it had been. A proper adventure in an uncharted corner of Antarctica where nobody goes. It doesn't get any better than that!!!

Day 9 – Thursday 26th February 2026 – Calmette Point and Millerand Island

1200 GPS Position: 68° 03.4' S; 067° 07.4' W

Wind: NW-4 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Part. Cloudy • Air Temp: + 3 °C

After crossing the Faure Passage and the southern part of Marguerite Bay, we found ourselves creeping through the calm waters between Pourquoi Pas and Millerand Islands. Captain Per had sent out a scouting Zodiac, maneuvered by the third officer Ian and equipped with a portable Olex on board. The device could communicate live with the ship, sending soundings of the poorly charted waters we were about to cross. Carefully advancing at 2–2.5 knots, the ship made her entrance and was set at anchor in Calmette Bay.



Right after breakfast, the expedition staff went out for yet another exploratory and exciting visit to this new landing site, and soon we joined them on land, skimming across waters filled with growlers and bergy bits. Setting foot on the mainland peninsula was quite a feeling, especially when surrounded by such beautiful scenery. To the east, the extensive Todd Glacier filled the bay, calving blue, glimmering icebergs into the water. This outlet glacier of the Antarctic Peninsula Ice Sheet reminded us of the immense power of nature at play here in Antarctica.



On land, we could freely roam, walking on ancient beach ridges formed by the isostatic rebound that the Peninsula experienced during the Holocene after the Last Glacial Maximum. Some of these ridges were located about 50 meters above present sea level — again, a testament to the

impressive and relentless power of nature at work. Some of us wandered west toward a land-terminating glacier cascading from a small mountain range, while to the east a few molting Adélies and a couple of Weddell seals were peacefully photographed as they rested on the pebbly shoreline.



The highlight of the morning, however, was the polar plunge. Many of us decided to test the frigid Antarctic waters, which that morning were hovering around 1.5 – 2 °C. After a warm shower and a hearty lunch, MV Ortelius quickly moved out of Calmette Bay on her way southwest toward the northern shore of Millerand Island and another poorly charted area.



This time, our second officer Nino was in charge of leading us closer for another new landing and exploration of this rocky and mountainous island. At 3 p.m., the Zodiacs

began running and brought us ashore. Briefed by Expedition Leader Chris, we once again had the chance to roam freely along the snow-free shoreline of Millerand. Once more, we observed raised beaches similar to those from the morning, and this time we were blessed with a large colony of molting Adélies, among whom a Chinstrap penguin made an appearance. Along the shoreline, Weddell and crabeater seals were scattered about, while kelp gulls and south polar skuas patrolled the sky. Although the weather had deteriorated during the afternoon, we were pleased with these new exploratory landings and walks in this unknown corner of Marguerite Bay.

Back on the ship, we quickly gathered in the bar for the usual briefing about the next operational day, after which Valeria and Marco enriched the evening with a couple of recaps about the sizes of marine mammals and the recent behavior of ice shelves on the Antarctic Peninsula. Luckily, tonight's navigation took place in protected waters, thus avoiding the annoying swell of the previous night.



KAYAK

We relocated north to return to Marguerite Bay, where - still well below the Antarctic Circle - we explored the austere and exposed coastline of Millerand Island. In light winds, with a gentle swell, we crossed a 1km strait of open water to the Debenham Island group, where we encountered dense brash ice in the shallow narrow channels between these rocky islets. Squeezing through gaps in this icy soup, we emerged triumphantly into open water again, close to the Argentinian research station of San Martin. We paused a while to admire the impressive glacial ice cliffs close to the station, and passed by a small colony of Antarctic shags on their lonely rocky outcrop.



Our return crossing to Millerand Island followed a series of grounded icebergs, finally arriving at the shoreline 1km south of our launch point. We paddled a course parallel to the beach past a sleeping Weddell seal, finally returning to the rocky reefs that marked the start of our adventure. We celebrated our absorbing afternoon of Antarctic paddling that combined a wonderful variety of memorable encounters.

Microplastic Sampling on M/V Ortelius

Throughout the Uncharted Expedition, Dr. Victoria Fulfer from the 5 Gyres Institute conducted microplastic sampling of the air, water, and sediment to assess how microplastics travel, settle, and persist in remote Antarctic regions. Using a manta tow at 4 different locations, Victoria collected microplastics from the surface water, finding a high number of microfibers as well as some small fragments. Thanks to the assistance of SCUBA divers on the expedition, benthic

sediment samples from beneath the ocean were collected, along with intertidal sediment samples from landing shorelines.

Throughout the voyage, Victoria sampled microplastics from the air both inside and outside of the ship. These samples will be compared to the fibers found in the environment. 5 Gyres would like to thank the entire crew and expedition team on Ortelius for making this science possible.

Day 10 – Friday 27th February 2026 – Crystal Sound and Fish Islands

1200 GPS Position: 66° 00.5' S; 065° 27.3' W

Wind: NE-5 • Sea: Rippled • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 2 °C



During the morning we continued sailing toward our next destination under bright skies and fresh winds. The time at sea provided an excellent opportunity for learning on board, with two engaging lectures offered to guests. Loel continued his navigation workshop,

sharing practical techniques for orienting oneself at sea. Guests showed great interest in understanding how mariners determine position and direction using charts, bearings, and natural cues.

Later in the morning, guest lecturer Jeff presented a talk on diving in Antarctic waters, offering insight into the challenges, unique conditions, and extraordinary marine life encountered beneath the polar surface.



In the afternoon, we launched the Zodiacs for a cruise around the Fish Islands. The day looked stunning, with dramatic light and sweeping views, though brisk winds reminded us of the region's raw environment. The surrounding glaciers provided a striking backdrop as we began exploring the islands.



Wildlife sightings were abundant. We visited a colony of Imperial Shags, where chicks could be seen in the nests. Guests were fortunate to observe adults returning to feed their young, while skuas patrolled

overhead, ever watchful for an opportunity to snatch an unattended meal. The shag nests themselves were clearly visible, carefully constructed from seaweed and marine grasses gathered from the shoreline.

We then cruised toward the glacier front and through fields of brash ice. The scenery was spectacular, and as we moved closer to the ice, the air temperature dropped noticeably. The



subtle crackling and popping of melting ice added a quiet soundtrack to the experience, while guests took in the sensation of being surrounded by floating ice.

Continuing around Prospect Point, we passed the site where the British Base J station once stood. Although the station itself no longer remains, remnants and equipment from earlier operations can still be seen, offering a glimpse into past Antarctic fieldwork in this remote area. Guests thoroughly enjoyed the cruise despite the cold, embracing the rare opportunity to experience the Antarctic environment from water level among ice and wildlife.

We concluded the day with the daily recap, where plans for the following day were shared, followed by dinner served in the restaurant.

Day 11 – Saturday 28th February 2026 – Ferguson Channel and Cuverville Island

1200 GPS Position: 64° 53.9' S; 062° 54.9' W

Wind: SW-3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 2.5 °C

Excellent progress had been made during the night crossing of the Grandidier Channel and Bismarck Strait. As the first light of morning began to rise, MV Ortelius was navigating the southern Gerlache Strait on her way toward Paradise Harbour, our destination for the morning Zodiac cruise.



© Werner Kruse

While breakfast was being served in the restaurant and the ship was gliding into the Ferguson Channel, the bridge team and many staff members observed a significant presence of Humpback whale. A quick “Plan B” was therefore put into action. The ship was positioned in the channel between Bryde Island and the mainland peninsula, 11 Zodiacs were deployed, and the expedition staff efficiently escorted everyone on board for a morning whale-watching activity.



Despite the drizzle that persisted throughout the morning, we were blessed with an abundance of humpback whales busily engaged in feeding. Every two to four boats had their own group of whales consistently lunge feeding at the surface. Lunge feeding is a dramatic hunting technique used by certain baleen whales, such as humpbacks. In this method, the whale accelerates toward a dense patch of prey such as krill or small fish, then opens its mouth wide and engulfs an enormous volume of water and food in a single gulp.

Pleated grooves along the throat expand like an accordion, allowing the mouth to balloon outward. The whale then closes its mouth and pushes the water out through its baleen plates, trapping the prey inside before swallowing. This high-energy strategy enables whales to consume vast amounts of food quickly to sustain their massive bodies.

The cold and humidity did not matter, as halfway through the morning Ingrid and her cheerful staff approached us with the “Chocolate Boat,” warming our hearts and bodies and giving us the boost of spirit needed to continue the Zodiac cruise for an extra hour.



Back on board, it was time to take off our outer layers and dry ourselves while the ship repositioned toward our afternoon destination, Orne Harbour. As we cruised through Paradise Harbour, we could see in the distance the Argentine research station Base Brown, followed by the Chilean

“González Videla” Station located in the Aguirre Channel. Lunch was served, and despite our good progress, there was yet another change of plans. As we approached the Errera Channel and Orne Harbour, the wind increased to gusts of up to 50 knots. Our Expedition Leader, Chris, wisely decided to seek shelter in the southwestern corner of Cuverville Island. The anchor was dropped and, after a short delay, the Zodiacs were quickly ready to shuttle us ashore on this rocky island, partially covered by a small ice cap at its summit.

The shoreline was wet and slippery as we landed in the intertidal zone; however, the amount of wildlife around us was overwhelming. A dozen Antarctic fur seals were playing with each other on the shingle areas,



and as we slowly moved through the penguin rookery, hundreds of curious chicks approached us inquisitively.



The Gentoo penguin is easily recognized by its bright orange bill and the wide white stripe that stretches like a bonnet across the top of its head. Agile both in the water and on land, it is one of the fastest-swimming penguin species, feeding mainly on krill and small fish. On Cuverville Island, large rookeries of these penguins crowd the rocky shoreline, filling the brisk Antarctic air with a lively, almost musical chorus.

It was a day filled with unexpected changes of plans, yet rich in wildlife and exciting activities as we continued our journey north along the western coast of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Citizen Science Projects

Citizen Science Coordinator Susan Copelas, an Explorers Club member and Society of Women Geographers, conducted three experiments to study the correlation between underwater sound reception, visibility and salinity. Hydrophone recordings, water visibility and salinity tests were performed on three occasions from a zodiac and discovered that the clearer the water, and the more wildlife that was found, equalled better recordings. The location in the bays could have been a factor as well but was not tested. iNaturalist and eBird apps were strongly encouraged and downloaded by passengers and used to ID, unknown to us, species. Extensive sightings-Happy Whale- found min of two whales that have not been identified in the past along with a baby!

Day 12 – Sunday 1st March 2026 – Neko Harbour and De Gerlache Strait

1200 GPS Position: 64° 48.9' S; 062° 37.8' W

Wind: NW-2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 1 °C

Another morning in paradise! We were woken up by Chris a bit earlier today, as we sailed through the brash ice towards our morning's destination of Neko Harbour. The sea was glassy, speckled with bergy bits and whale blows in the distance. We couldn't believe how many whales we had seen in the space of 24 hours! This area sure must be productive with krill! Captain Per safely anchored the Ortelius in the Harbour, where we got a spectacular view of the surrounding glaciers with towering ice cliffs dotted with crevasses and dazzling blue ice. Wilson's storm petrels danced on the surface, gentoo penguins porpoise amongst the brash ice and the odd southern giant petrel soared above. The wildlife down here never ceases to amaze us.



Our morning's activity would sadly be our last excursion, consisting of a landing adjacent to a very active glacier. This meant that as soon as we landed, we had to head up to higher ground in case of large waves flooding the shore from the nearby

calving ice cliffs. Upon arrival, we were also greeted with the pungent smell of penguin guano which comprised the fishy-smelling Antarctic krill that the penguins had been feasting on. The colour of the rocks were stained pink from this krill, and soon enough our boots (and even our pants!) were covered in the muck. Nonetheless, the scenery was absolutely incredible, especially as we hiked higher up the mountain to a magnificent viewpoint on the less pink-stained snow.

It was super special to feel the snow crunch underfoot, as this time of year in Antarctica it is normal to see more bare rock due to warmer temperatures and snow melt. It truly felt like we were in Antarctica today! The stars of the show here, however, were the cute gentoo penguins,



undergoing their annual moult, where they acquire new feathers for the upcoming winter. There was a mixture of adult penguins, 'teenager' penguins, and chicks from this season that had almost lost all their fluffy down and into their more 'adult plumage'.



They were so curious, waddling straight up to us at times making the five metre distance extremely difficult! What goes up must come down, and we carefully treaded back down the slippery guano covered rocks down to the Zodiacs where the expedition team helped us scrub the guano off our boots and trousers with none other than toilet brushes from the ship! (luckily unused ones!). Hopefully the smell would come off too, but only time will tell...

Back on board and after lunch the Ortelius continued to sail through some incredible scenery, through the Gerlache Strait and Fournier Bay where we spotted numerous humpback whales, porpoising penguins and even the odd seal hauled out on an ice floe. It was sad to say goodbye to Antarctica as we headed out into open water, but we knew we would be leaving with a mind full of memories, new friendships made and no doubt memory cards almost out of storage!



We were joined by Loel for a final navigation workshop in the bar, and treated with some scrumptious treats by the galley team for our afternoon sailing out into open sea. Hopefully some more seabirds on our way back through the Drake Passage tomorrow!

KAYAK

On our final morning before sailing north, we launched into the magnificent waters of Neko Harbour, a superb paddling venue beneath the towering coastal mountains of the Arctowski Peninsula.

In windless conditions, we paddled towards the middle of the inlet, through dense brash ice that finally proved too closely packed for easy progress. Returning towards the shoreline SE of the



landing site, we were rewarded with a magical moment - four slow-moving Humpback whales surfaced only a few metres from our kayaks. we watched in awe for several minutes as these majestic animals breathed regularly in the still air, before diving again into the icy depths. Stunned into silence, we paddled on in awe at our good fortune.

Our journey back to Ortelius' anchorage included a final visit with the wonderfully comic Gentoo penguins, and a last adventure through the brash ice. The time finally arrived for our return to the ship and the start of our voyage home - this final kayaking adventure was the perfect way to end our amazing Deep South Antarctica expedition.

Southern Cross - A Low Earth Orbit Satellite Navigation Project: Researcher David Marsh, a graduate student at Georgetown University and member of The Explorers Club, conducted a navigation experiment onboard in coordination with the Ohio State University. Using a series of antennas and software-defined radios set up on the helipad, he gathered signals from Starlink and OneWeb satellites passing overhead, at approximately 600 kilometers in altitude (known as Low-Earth Orbit). Using a new methodology, these signals will be used to calculate the position of the ship, and this calculated position compared against a GPS ground track to determine overall accuracy of the method. This technique is intended to become an augmentation or replacement for Global Navigation Satellite Systems to help enhance navigation in polar regions. A future demonstration will test the system in space, proving a method for navigating on the lunar or Martian surface.

Expedition Radio Scientist and Antarctic Scuba Diver

During the voyage aboard the M/V Ortelius, I installed a WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter) transmitter at the stern near the helipad and transmitted beacon signals continuously throughout the journey to study HF propagation under Antarctic maritime conditions. I also conducted scientific scuba dives with the expedition team to collect settlement substrates for microplastics analysis and fauna collection in support of the Head of Collections at the Natural History Museum. In addition, following an initial hypothesis by Captain Per, I collaborated with the Chief Engineer to investigate and experimentally confirm that Starlink transmissions were triggering the vessel's fire alarm system; I subsequently prepared and submitted a formal technical report of our findings to the Captain.

Day 13 – Monday 2nd March 2026 – Drake Passage Northbound

1200 GPS Position: 60° 18.9' S; 065° 12.4' W

Wind: NNE-3 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Sunny • Air Temp: + 4.5 °C



Today we crossed the legendary Drake Passage... and it behaved beautifully. No wake-up call, no chaos — just a calm, rolling Southern Ocean and a bright, sunny sky greeting us when we chose to emerge from our cabins. So much for

Shackleton's "violent confusion"! Instead, we enjoyed what can only be described as a gentleman's Drake.

Breakfast on Deck 4 came with sunshine pouring through the windows and only the gentlest motion underfoot. Outside, grey-headed albatrosses escorted us in effortless arcs, barely moving their wings as they skimmed the calm swells. We leaned on the rails (confidently, for once) and admired their mastery of the air.

The morning lectures kept us happily busy. Koen transported us to Iceland and Tonga with tales from his whale-watching adventures, and Chris shared stories of life at Scott Base — giving us a glimpse into what it truly means to call Antarctica home.

Then came lunch... and just as we were settling in, forks poised and plates full, the call went out: ORCAS! In true expedition style, we abandoned our meals and rushed outside. There they





were — sleek dorsal fins cutting cleanly through the calm sea, surfacing gracefully under the sunshine as if perfectly scheduled for our entertainment. After a proper appreciation session (and plenty of photos), we returned inside, slightly windblown but triumphant, to finish lunch with excellent excuses for cold food.



In the afternoon, Dr. Victoria Fulfer guided us through the complex and important world of microplastics research. She explained the different scientific projects she and her team had

been conducting during our time in Antarctica, reminding us how interconnected even the most remote corners of the planet truly are.

Dr. Tania Pineda then introduced us to the fascinating diversity of echinoderms. Sea stars, brittle stars, and other wonderfully spiny creatures took center stage as she presented photos from the thousands of specimens collected during this voyage. Most exciting of all, she showed us two potential new specimens discovered during their research — science happening in real time, right onboard with us.

At recap, Chris shared plans for tomorrow, keeping us all curious and hopeful. Allan entertained us with stories linking Iron Maiden, poetry, and Metallica's legendary performance aboard *Ortelius* — the only band to perform on all seven continents. Chloe tested our seabird knowledge with a delightfully chaotic "Guess the Bird" quiz, complete with some very creative photographs. Confidence levels varied.

The Captain spoke about Cape Horn and our attempt to set a record for the number of people visiting the bridge — a challenge we are clearly taking very seriously.

As the day drew to a close, the calm Drake rewarded us with a truly beautiful sunset. The sky softened into golds and pinks, the sea reflected every shade, and we gathered on deck in quiet appreciation. It was one of those evenings that reminds us exactly why we are here.

A sunny, calm Drake, orcas at lunch, albatross overhead, science, stories, rock legends, and a glowing sunset — not a bad way to spend a day at sea.

Day 14 – Tuesday 3rd March 2026 – Nearing Cape Horn and the Beagle Channel

1200 GPS Position: 55° 42.4' S; 064° 35.8' W

Wind: NE-8 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Part. Cloudy • Air Temp: + 11 °C



Our second day at sea was much rougher than the previous one. During the night, a pressure system moved eastward closer to Patagonia, and this morning we woke up to strong northeasterly gales blowing at 35–40 knots. The *MV Ortelius* was listing to the port side, and in the

distance, the clear sky allowed us to savor our first glimpse of the South American continent and the archipelago of the Wollaston Islands.



Cape Horn is a rugged and windswept headland at the southern tip of South America, located on Hornos Island in Chile's Tierra del Fuego archipelago. Where the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans meet, the waters around Cape Horn are famous for their powerful currents, towering waves, and fierce storms, making it one of the most challenging maritime passages in the world. Before the construction of the Panama Canal, ships traveling between the east and west coasts of the Americas often had to brave this treacherous route. Today, although modern vessels rarely need to round the Horn, it remains a legendary milestone for sailors and a symbol of endurance, exploration, and the raw power of nature.

Captain Per
manoeuvred the ship





closer to the Horn until the lighthouse and the Albatross Monument were visible through binoculars from the deck. Around us, flocks of Black-browed Albatrosses, Sooty Shearwaters, Imperial Shags, South American Petrels, and the occasional juvenile Snowy Albatross soared effortlessly in the powerful wind. Right after

breakfast, we were invited to gather on the bridge in an attempt to set a “world record for the most crowded bridge” while nearing the Horn. In the end, we managed to squeeze in just under 140 passengers. As we admired the green slopes of the southernmost of the Wollaston Islands, Chris shared some information with us and recited Baudelaire’s Albatross poem.

Cheers were raised and photos taken from Deck 7 and the bow before we resumed our course to the northeast toward the entrance of the Beagle Channel. Allan delivered a captivating talk about Admiral Byrd, followed by a Q&A session with Captain Per regarding the ship and crew who had accompanied us over the past couple of weeks.



Lunch was served, followed by the final two presentations of the voyage. First, Koen introduced Oceanwide’s destinations in the polar regions, and then Marco presented historical, anthropological, geological, and conservation projects from Patagonia, where he has lived for the past decade. Soon it was time to dress up for the Captain’s cocktail, the auction of the voyage flag, and the slideshow presentation led by Jess—an incredible way to wrap up the memories of this unique expedition to the extreme southern latitudes of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Day 15 – Sunday 4th March 2026 – Ushuaia, disembarkation

0800 GPS Position: 54°48.6'S; 068°17.8'W

Wind: NE-1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 6°C

The final wake-up call was delivered by Chris, with instructions to place large luggage in the corridors by 07:30 for transport to the pier. The past days had passed remarkably quickly. After breakfast, we said farewell to the dining room staff who had taken such good care of everyone throughout the voyage. Disembarkation followed, with heartfelt goodbyes exchanged with the crew, expedition team, and newly made friends.

Some of us travelled directly to the airport, while others continued their journeys in Ushuaia and Patagonia. The expedition offered unforgettable experiences and a powerful reminder of the scale, beauty, and raw nature of Antarctica—memories that will remain long after the journey ended.



On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Per Andersson, 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!

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 2540.9 nautical miles

Most southern point sailed: 69° 40.3' S; 071° 55.9' W

Dive Log, Ortelius, Uncharted Islands



Dive	Location	Divers	Notes
1	Horseshoe Island	15	Check dive, shelving shoreline
2	Blaiklock Island	12	Shelving shoreline
3	Lazarev Bay	13	Un-dived & uncharted sites on 3 isolated islands
4	Cape Calmette	12	Shelving shoreline
5	Millerand Island	9	Shelving shoreline
6	Fish Islands	12	2 sites, rocky slope and a steeper wall
7	Cuverville Island	12	Wall and drop off
8	Neko Harbour	13	Ice berg
		98	TOTAL DIVES

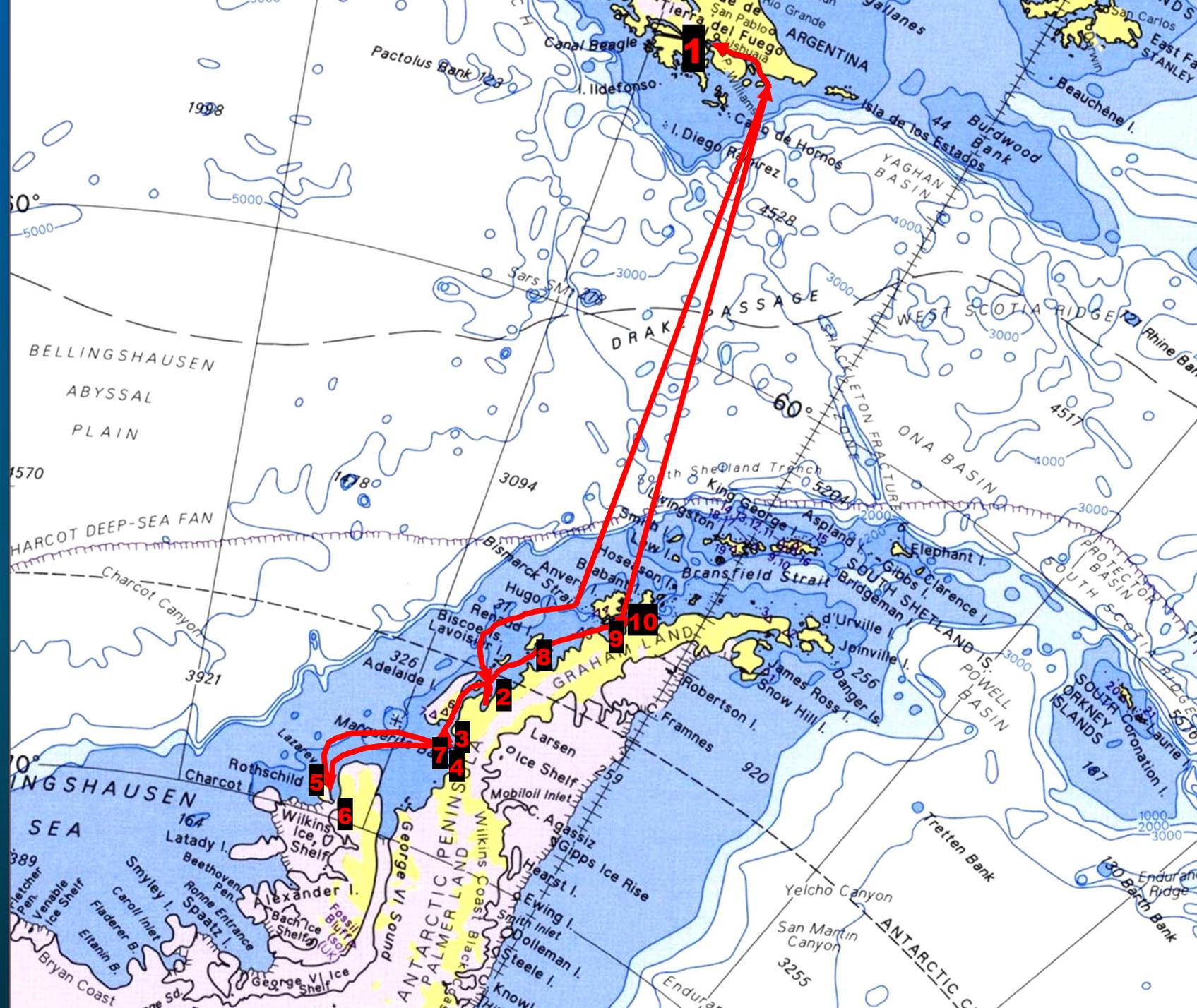


Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

M/V Ortelius

18 February to 4 March 2026

- 1) 18th February – Embarkation Day, Ushuaia
- 2) 21st February – Lallemand Fjord and The Gullet
- 3) 22nd February – Horseshoe and Blaiklock Islands
- 4) 23rd February – Stonington Island and Marguerite Bay
- 5) 24th February – Uncharted Islands
- 6) 25th February – Exploring Lazarev Bay
- 7) 26th February – Calmette Point and Millerand Island
- 8) 27th February – Crystal Sound and Fish Islands
- 9) 28th February – Ferguson Channel and Cuverville Island
- 10) 1st March – Neko Harbour and De Gerlache Strait



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.

Koen Hoekemeijer – Asst. Exp. Leader



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 ;).

Allan White - Expedition Guide



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 peace-keeper, and with British Forces South Atlantic Islands. He left the Army to settle back in the Falklands.

While working as a Port Agent, Allan worked with the late Lars-Eric Lindblad, the inspirational pioneer of the small-ship expedition cruising concept. 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 heroic age 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."

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.

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.

Marco Rosso – Expedition Guide



Marco was born in the region of Prosecco & Tiramisù in Northern Italy.

He graduated in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Padua, his native city, and subsequently achieved a Master's degree in "Turbomachinery and Fluid Dynamics" at the Von Karman Institute in Brussels, Belgium.

Currently he is studying Earth Science at Stockholm University, Sweden.

After a few years working in the automotive industry, he decided to embark himself on a new quest. For two years he backpacked from the tropical forests of Central America, through the snowy peaks of the Andean Cordillera, rolling all the way down to the tip of South America.

The raw and powerful beauty of Patagonia convinced him to swap Mother Nature wonders for mankind artifacts. Fascinated by applied geophysics, he therefore decided to use his deep and broad knowledge in thermodynamics and fluid mechanics to satisfying his innate curiosity, thereby started to study Earth Science.

During the last decade he has been living in Puerto Natale, Chile; leading groups as a trekking guide and tour leader in some of the most beautiful and rugged trails of Patagonia and for four years has started to join expeditions to the Arctic and the Antarctic on board of Oceanwide vessels.

Loel Collins – Workshop Guide



Loel comes from a small village in the mountains of Snowdonia National Park, North Wales in the UK. Over a forty-year career he has worked around the globe, in North and South America.

Europe, Arctic Greenland and Canada, the middle and far East as a kayak and canoe guide and coach. In the winter you can find him telemark skiing and training other outdoor professionals in rescue and emergency care.

He has a background as a performance psychologist with a focus on performance in expedition and adventure. He lectures at The University of Edinburgh in Moray House, the School of Education and Sport where he teaches and researches in adventure sports coaching and leadership.

He has several first kayak descents of remote gorges to his name as well as many expeditions to wilderness areas, among them the highland rain forests of Papua New Guinea, the Himalaya in Northern Pakistan and Nepal, and the Arctic of Northern Canada and Greenland.

Valeria Sainz Herrera – Exp. guide



Valeria Sainz Herrera is an Argentine photographer. She grew up in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina. Throughout the years she has found that one of her greatest passions is to travel to the wildest and remotest places around the world. So, traveling as much as she could, she found in the photography, a profession that gives her the freedom to know and live in different locations.

Nowadays she spends her life between “the poles”, working as a guide for Oceanwide Expeditions, and during the rest of the year you could find her in a beautiful island names Ilhabela in Brazil,

working in tourism area.

Living in different countries allows her to learn and practice many activities that she enjoys, especially in natural environments, like rock climbing and skiing in the Argentinian Patagonian Andes or camping and hiking in the central region of Argentina and, in Brazil, she learned other kinds of sports like scuba diving, kayaking and sailing.

She is also particularly interested in the history of the expeditions that discovered and mapped some of the places we are about to visit. This gives her the chance to share fascinating stories on board.

The Antarctic and The Arctic were always a dream of her, and now are part of her life.

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.

Nick Cunliffe - Sea Kayak Guide



Nick is a sea kayak coach / guide from North Wales in the United Kingdom. He has been guiding for over 30 years and owes many rewarding experiences to his involvement in sea kayaking.

Professional Certifications:

- Paddle UK Sea Kayak Guide
- Open Water Navigation Trainer
- R2Ri Remote Medical Responder

This is Nick's third Antarctic season - he is inspired to share his appreciation of this remarkable natural environment.

Nick's sea kayaking experience includes many self-led expeditions to remote coastal environments around the world, including:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| • East Greenland | Sermilik Fiord / Josef Petersen Fiord |
| • Arctic Norway | Lofoten Islands: Å to Svolvær |
| • Chilean Patagonia | Chonos archipelago / San Rafael glacier |
| • British Columbia | N Mainland & Vancouver Island W coast |
| • SE Alaska | Sitka to Glacier Bay / Admiralty Island |

Nick has also guided many sea kayaking expeditions in the Scottish Hebrides. Personal highlights include Barra / Mingulay, the St Kilda archipelago and the Isle of Skye.

Beyond wilderness sea kayaking, Nick loves to ski and climb in the mountains of the European Alps. Closer to home, the Eryri peaks of Wales remain his personal favourite playground.

Nick loves to share the experience of exploring wilderness places and encountering marine life in their natural environments. He places great value on the rewards that such encounters can offer - the Antarctic Peninsula delivers these experiences in abundance!

Nick looks forward to sharing unforgettable Antarctic kayaking experiences with his Oceanwide Expeditions guests.

Jerry Sutton - Dive Guide



Jerry grew up running around the country side, reading Tintin & Famous Five and watching Jacques Cousteau on the TV, all of which spawned a taste for outdoor adventure.

University was the springboard into many activities that involved leaving the safety net of modern society, and he's is just as happy rummaging through a wreck, squeezing through a cave, scaling a mountain cliff or jumping out of a perfectly serviceable airplane.

In real life, when not guiding, Jerry is an engineer with the oil and gas industry,

living in the granite city of Aberdeen.

Always hankering for adventure and something a bit different, a love for extremes has lead from bug infested rain forests, to the high dry deserts, and on to the ice of the polar regions.

Jerry has also been lucky enough to work on several expeditions over the years. He has built bridges & cut trails in the Bornean rain forests, carried out coral reef surveys in the South China Sea, and worked directly and indirectly with the BBC natural History Unit in such things as trekking in search of various seeds & plants in Borneo, fixing ropes, platforms and cameramen into the forest canopy whilst filming the elusive mandrill in Gabon, or ice diving with the Frozen Planet 2 team.

Jerry has taught scuba diving since university, just for fun, and holds instructor ratings through the British Sub Aqua Club across many diving related activities.

Diving has led to many interesting activities from hacking through solid ice, to supervising music videos and even snorting vodka in remote Scottish bars with well-known TV personalities.

Back at home, Jerry has a young family who in no way take the constant wish to leave home personally (yet!).

Dave Sutton – Dive Guide



Dave Sutton is returning again to Antarctica to celebrate his 41st anniversary of his first trip, where he worked for a season as the Boating Coordinator and Dive Leader at the US Palmer Station on the Antarctic Peninsula. Dave then moved across the continent to work at McMurdo Station, with periodic visits to South Pole Station, as a survival instructor and field assistant to science parties, wintering over on a trip that was 15 months long.

More recently he's been aboard Plancius as a guest on a diving trip and enjoyed it so much that he's decided to come and help show Antarctica to others.

Dave is a trained commercial diver and holds a Level 5 (unlimited depth/gas/duration) instructors rating for both open circuit and rebreather diving. He leads cold-water shipwreck diving expedition diving to destinations such as the Great Lakes in the USA and has led diving expeditions to the Andrea Doria as well as many other cold-water destinations globally.

When not diving or afloat, Dave spends his time flying as a Medivac Pilot or enjoying photography "with film".

Kevin Verbist – Dive Guide



As a diving instructor for over 20 years working from the most tropical places with ripping currents to the polar regions. I just love diving.

My name is Kevin, born in Belgium and for the last 5 years mainly based in Iceland, where i fell in love with the polar regions. As an ice diving instructor my favourite time in Iceland is actually the winter where most days, you will find me either under the ice or digging a hole to get underneath it.

I have lived in many countries during my diving career and was fortunate to pick up some languages, I speak English, Dutch, French, German, Spanish and medium Icelandic (it is work in progress to get fluent).

My goal in life is to show guests the beauty of the underwater world, and especially the less-visited polar regions. While also educating people about the threats and challenges that faces this delicate and crucial ecosystems.

The way the sunlight reflects the ice and shows you 50 shades of blue and the wildlife that Antarctica brings is unique and a diver's dream.

I can't wait to meet you on our ship and make everlasting memories together.

Jaye Martin – Ships Doctor



Jaye graduated from the University of Nottingham in the UK then worked as a junior doctor there for 5 years before emigrating to Western Australia, where she has been based ever since. She completed her specialist training in Perth and has worked as a Consultant Physician (Internist) since, both in city teaching hospitals but predominantly in rural and remote parts of the state. For the past 20 years she has lived in the remote Kimberley region (3000km from Perth) in the north west of the state, travelling by 4WD and light plane to provide clinics in small isolated towns and Aboriginal communities. She also

works in the region's hospitals, providing clinics and acute medical care.

Jaye has been travelling to the polar regions since 2003, when she visited East Antarctica as a tourist to view a total solar eclipse. Since then she has made numerous trips to Antarctica on expedition cruise ships, working sometimes as doctor and sometimes as Assistant Expedition Leader. She has visited the peninsula many times, including once by a 60 foot sail boat, has made 3 trips to the Ross Sea Region and visited many of the subantarctic islands around the continent. In the northern hemisphere she has travelled to Svalbard and Greenland, and has crossed the NE passage in the Russian Arctic, a trip on which she gave history lectures as well as working as the doctor.

Back home in Australia Jaye has worked as Expedition Leader on Kimberley coastal cruises. When not working Jaye enjoys competitive yacht racing, 4WD treks and camping in remote outback Australia.



Uncharted Islands of the Deep South Welcome on Board!

Date: 18th February 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

- 17:00+/- 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**.
- 18:15 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.
- 19:30 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



Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

Date: 19th February 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.
- 09:30 Divers, please join the dive team leaders in the bar for your mandatory diving safety briefing.
- 11:15 Please join Jess in the Bar for her presentation about the Whales and Dolphins we could see on the voyage.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 14:00 Kayakers, please join the kayak team leaders in the bar for your mandatory kayak safety briefing.
- 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*



Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

Date: 20th February 2026

Day 3 Southern Drake Passage

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 the 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 and Zodiac Briefing**. Attendance is mandatory and will be checked.
- 10:45 Please join Chloe in the bar for her lecture about penguins!
- 11:45 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 IAATO Biosecurity**. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods, etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica for the expedition staff to check. Please make sure everything is clean before proceeding to the lounge and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have been approved by the Expedition Team.
- 16:30 Please join Marco in the bar for his Introduction to Antarctica lecture.
- 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



Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

Date: 21st February 2026

Day 4 Arriving in Antarctica – Crystal Sound

In the early hours of the morning, we will be crossing the Antarctic circle.

07:15 Wake up call.

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

Expedition morning in Antarctica!

We will be arriving at Detaille Island around 7am. Here we will assess the conditions for off ship activities. However, due to the weather forecast it is likely we will search further south for an area with more shelter for a zodiac cruise later in the morning.

Kayakers: if the weather allows, we will take the first group kayaking.

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

In the afternoon we will be sailing through the south of Crystal Sound and attempt the Gullet. Be on deck for this spectacular navigation.

14:30 Adam invites you to the Bar, for his history lecture about Operation Tabarin. Here you will learn more about the British historic huts we will be seeing throughout the voyage.

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 Buffet 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*



Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

Date: 22nd February 2026

Day 5 Horseshoe Island and Blaiklock Island

In the morning, we hope to land on Horseshoe Island, a small, ice-covered island off the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, near Marguerite Bay. It is best known for hosting the former British research station Base Y, which operated there in the 1950s and 1960s. It's also a good place to take a short hike up onto the top of the island. We hope to also offer a check dive for the divers and kayaking.

07:15 Wake up call.

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

08:30 We hope to invite everyone to the gangway for a zodiac landing at Horseshoe Island.

TBD Kayakers and divers listen to announcements

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

In the afternoon we hope to land at Blaiklock Island, a rugged, ice-covered island in Marguerite Bay, named after surveyor Kenneth Blaiklock. It is known for its steep terrain, glaciers, and proximity to historic Antarctic exploration and research activity in the region. We hope to also offer kayaking and diving.

15:00 We hope to invite everyone to the gangway for a zodiac landing at Blaiklock Island.

TBD Kayakers and divers listen to announcements

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

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

*"If there really is a pole at the South Pole, I bet there's some dead explorer-guy with his tongue stuck to it."
Bob Van Voris*



Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

Date: 23rd February 2026

Day 6 Stonington Island

07:15 Wake up call.

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

08:30 We hope to invite everyone to the gangway for a zodiac landing at Stonington Island.

TBD Kayakers and divers listen to announcements

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

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

14:00 Loel invites those on the list for "The fundamentals of navigation" to the bar for his workshop.

16:15 Aitana invites you to the lounge for her lecture: Ice, Ice, baby! Sea ice and Glacier ice

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.

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



Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

Date: 24th February 2026

Day 7 Lazarev Bay, in search of the Uncharted Islands

07:45 Wake up call.

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

Expedition Day in Lazarev Bay

Throughout the day we will be making our way through uncharted waters into Lazarev Bay. This will take some time. As we go we will assess the conditions and hope to take you for one or two zodiac cruises in the area in search of wildlife and large ice bergs!

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

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

19:00 Tonight we have a special Antarctic dinner. We can't tell you what it is, but we can tell you to dress warmly!

"The true explorer does his work not for any hopes of reward or honor, but because the thing he has set himself to do is a part of his being."

- Robert Peary, Antarctic Explorer -



Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

Date: 25th February 2026

Day 8 Lazarev Bay exploring South

07:15 Wake up call.

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

08:00 We hope to invite you to the gangway for a long zodiac cruise to the southern end of Lazarev Bay. Dress very warm for this so we can maximize our chances of seeing the ice shelf at the southern end of the bay. If you only want a short zodiac cruise, please come last to the gangway.

There will be no kayaking and no diving today.

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

Throughout the afternoon we will be ships cruising out of Lazarev Bay towards the north. Please enjoy the stunning scenery and the ice bergs and search for more wildlife! Depending on the weather we may put on a lecture.

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.

"There is no bad weather, only bad clothing."

Norwegian saying



Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

Date: 26th February 2026

Day 9 Calmette Bay

During the early hours we will be navigating through uncharted water to a landing site we have never visited before. This will take time, so it's hard to know exactly what time we will arrive and what we will find there.

07:45 Wake up call.

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

Expedition morning.

We will be making our approach into Calmette Bay. We will assess conditions to see if we can do a landing or zodiac cruise. If we manage to do a landing it will likely be a continental landing with a polar plunge.

If we are able to leave the ship we will be also diving and kayaking.

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

Expedition afternoon.

Expedition afternoon likely in Calmette Bay.

If we are able to leave the ship we will be also diving and kayaking.

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.

"Adventure is just bad planning."

Roald Amundsen



Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

Date: 27th February 2026

Day 10 Fish islands

- 07:45 Wake up call.
- 08:00-09:00 Buffet breakfast will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 09:30 Please join Loel in the bar for his next navigation workshop.
- 11:00 Join Jeff, our guest lecturer for his lecture about his years of experience diving in Antarctica.
- 12:30-13:30 Buffet lunch will be served in the Restaurant on Deck 4.
- 14:15 We hope to take you for a zodiac around the ice capped Fish Islands. Here we hope to see some penguins and seals, and the chance of whales as well. This zodiac cruise can be as long as we want it to be so dress warmly. If you would like a shorter cruise, please come to the gangway last in the que.
- 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.

"If you're a leader, a fellow that other fellows look to, you've got to keep going".

-Sir Ernest Shackleton-



Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

Date: 28th February 2026

Day 11 Orne Harbour and Skontorp Cove

07:15 Wake up call.

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

In the morning, we hope to visit Orne Harbour, a scenic, mile-wide cove on the west coast of Graham Land, known for its stunning views of glaciers and towering mountain peaks. It is a popular destination primarily to visit a nesting colony of chinstrap penguins, which can be reached via a steep, but safe hike up from the beach.

09:00 We hope to take you for a landing at Orne Harbour to see chinstrap penguins. Plan B will be a zodiac cruise nearby.

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

In the afternoon, we hope to zodiac cruise Skontorp Cove in Paradise Harbour, where we can see nesting Antarctic shag, gentoo penguin colonies, and hopefully seals and whales.

14:30 We hope to take you for a zodiac cruise at Skontorp Cove.

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.

“Why then do we feel this strange attraction for these Polar regions, a feeling so powerful and lasting, that when we return home, we forget the mental and physical hardship, and want nothing more than to return to them?”

-Jean Baptiste Charcot, French explorer-



Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

Date: 1st March 2026

Day 12: Neko Harbour and Fournier bay

06:45 Wake up call.

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

This morning, we hope to land and cruise at Neko Harbour, where we can enjoy beautiful glaciers, ice and Gentoo Penguin colonies.

07:45 We hope to take you for a landing at Neko Harbour to see Gentoo penguins. Plan B will be a zodiac cruise nearby.

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

This afternoon we will ships cruise out through Fournier Bay and past the Melchior Islands along the northeast coast of Anvers island. It is known for its stark beauty, towering peaks, and high chance of seeing whales. Let's enjoy our last views of Antarctica.

17:00 Loel welcome you in the Bar for his navigation workshop.

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.

"We must always remember with gratitude and admiration the first sailors who steered their vessels through storms and mists and increased our knowledge of the lands of ice in the South."

-Roald Amundsen-



Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

Date: 2nd March 2026

Day 13 - Drake Passage.

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

Remember: When the ship is rolling, keep one hand for the ship at all times as you move about. 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.

09:30 Koen invites you to the Bar for his lecture about his personal experiences as a whale watching guide in Iceland and Tonga

11:15 Join Chris for a lecture; Calling Antarctica Home: about living in Antarctica at New Zealand's Scott Base

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

14:15 Please join guest lecturers in the bar for their lecture about Micro Plastics

16:15 Please join guest lecturer Tania in the bar for her lecture about what lives under the water in Antarctica.

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

19:00 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.*



Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

Date: 3rd March 2026.

Day 14 - Approaching South America.

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

Remember: When the ship is rolling, keep one hand for the ship at all times as you move about. 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.

During the morning Captain Per will attempt to sail past Cape Horn.

09:15 Allan invites you to the Bar for a lecture titled 'The Curious Case of Admiral Byrd's Antarctic Snow Cruiser'.

11:30 Please join Captain Per in the bar, for Questions and Answers! Ingrid will also play a video of the workings behind the scenes of our beloved ship Ortelius.

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

14:30 Enjoyed travelling with us to Antarctica? Please join Koen in the Bar for a presentation about Oceanwide's other destinations.

16:15 Marco invites you to the bar for his lecture; Land of the Giants: An introduction to Patagonia

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.



Uncharted Islands of the Deep South

Date: 4th March 2026

Day 15 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.