



Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Elephant Island, Antarctica & Polar Circle

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

16th February 2026 – 10th March 2026

On board *m/v Hondius*



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



Captain Jan Dobrogowski

and his international crew of 73 sailors

Staff Captain:	Nicolas Dameto	[Spain]
Chief Officer:	Igor Nazarov	[Russia]
Second Officer:	Solina Duguay	[Canada]
Third Officer:	Archer Cultura	[Philippines]
Hotel Manager:	Albert Don	[Netherlands]
Ass. Hotel Manager	Niels Schipper	[Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Bawa Gaurav	[United Kingdom]
Sous Chef:	Edward Nunag	[Philippines]
Sous chef:	Felix Lobo	[India]
Ships doctor:	Jessica Bakker	[Netherlands]
Expedition Leader:	Pippa Low	[Scotland\ UK]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Juan Berenstein	[Argentina]
Ass. Expedition Leader:	Pierre Gallego	[Luxembourg]
Expedition Guide:	Mark Whiffin	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Enric Sangrà Mòdol	[Spain]
Expedition Guide:	Alexander Romanovskiy	[Russia]
Expedition Guide:	Andi Schwetz	[Germany]
Expedition Guide:	Jakub Malecki	[Poland]
Expedition Guide:	Lucia Romero	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide:	Joyce Mulder	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Martin Anstee	[UK]
Expedition Guide:	Saskia van der Meij	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide:	Jodi Gaylord	[US]
Expedition Guide:	Sven Joest	[Germany]
Translator:	Frank Shi	[China]
Dive Team Leader:	Mike Pumm	[Switzerland]
Dive Guide:	Clara Lachetti	[Argentina]
Dive Guide:	Angela Buschor	[Switzerland]
Dive Guide:	Gonzalo Sabattini	[Argentina]

WE WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Monday 16th February, Ushuaia, Embarkation day - Setting sail for Antarctica

16h00 GPS Position: 54°48.5 S, 068°17.9 W

Wind: S3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partially Cloudy • Air temperature: 10°C

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



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

drill together as a crew and community.

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



While we sailed through the Beagle Channel, nature offered its own welcome: our first whale blows appeared on the horizon, followed by playful dolphins cutting through the calm water. It was a gentle, perfect beginning to our Southern Ocean adventure.

Day 2 – Tuesday 17th February, At sea sailing towards the Falkland Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 53°55.2'S / 64°00.9'W

Wind: SSE6 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 8°C

We continued our passage toward the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas). A gentle but persistent swell of around two meters accompanied us into the open waters of the Southern Ocean — enough to remind us we were truly heading into expedition territory, but comfortable for our first full day at sea.

Our day began with mandatory IAATO and Zodiac briefings. Safety and environmental responsibility are at the heart of any expedition voyage in the Southern Ocean, and the guidelines ensure that our presence has minimal impact on the fragile ecosystems we are about to explore. We also reviewed Zodiac operations, preparing for our first landings in the days ahead.

Biosecurity was part of the day as well, a vital ritual before any expedition landing. Every guest carefully cleaned outerwear, and inspected Velcro, pockets, and backpacks to remove seeds or foreign material. The excitement was building; tomorrow we would step ashore for our first true expedition activity.

By mid-morning, the outer decks had become the place to be. The swell carried us steadily eastward, and with it came an extraordinary parade of seabirds.

Black-browed albatrosses arced effortlessly over the waves, their dark eyebrows sharply contrasting against white heads. Wandering albatrosses, giants of the ocean, glided with breathtaking wingspans stretching over three meters. Among them, the magnificent Southern royal albatross soared in stately loops around the ship. Numerous other petrels, prions and shearwaters accompanied us, weaving between swells in dynamic flight. Later

in the morning, Martin delivered a fascinating lecture on the birds of the Falkland Islands, preparing us to identify species we hope to encounter ashore, from albatross colonies to penguins and caracaras. His stories of wind-lashed cliffs and thriving seabird rookeries heightened our anticipation.

In a moment of pure delight, a pod of hourglass dolphins joined the ship, expertly bow-riding along our hull. Their striking black-and-white markings flashed beneath the surface as they surfed the pressure wave, weaving effortlessly just meters from the bow.

In the afternoon, Juan hosted a polar photography lecture, sharing tips on capturing seabirds in flight, managing light in high latitudes, and preparing camera gear for wet Zodiac landings. Many guests left inspired — and ready to test their skills tomorrow.





As the day drew to a close, we gathered for our daily recap. The expedition team reviewed wildlife sightings and outlined plans for our first landing day in the Falklands (Malvinas). Maps were shown, weather discussed, the familiar rhythm of expedition life beginning to settle in.

Our first day at sea had delivered exactly what an expedition promises: preparation, education, wildlife, and the growing thrill of what lies ahead. Tomorrow, we step into the Falklands.

Day 3 – Wednesday 18th February, Saunders Island & Carcass Island, Falkland Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 51°19.7'S / 60°15.6'W

Wind: NW4 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air temperature: 11°C

Gusty winds furiously tore foam from the crests of the ocean waves. The grey sky, refusing to let the sun's rays touch the surface of the sea, added even more gloom to an already cheerless atmosphere. Hondius, our magnificent ship, drove its bow into the dark-green

waters of the Atlantic Ocean, sending showers of spray into the air as it continued toward the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands. The outlines of some of the scattered pieces of land that form this archipelago were already visible to the naked eye — their silhouettes emerging through the ragged grey patches of mist hanging over everything within sight. It was early morning, the morning of our first truly expeditionary day.

Our morning — and at the same time our very first — landing was scheduled for Saunders Island. The weather conditions were quite challenging, as the wind showed no intention of calming down. On the contrary, gusts of up to 50 knots were recorded, and as a result the landing was even delayed by half an hour while the expedition team assessed the safety of the operation. Eventually, having deemed the conditions acceptable, Pippa, our expedition leader, gave the green light to begin.

We gathered in the Zodiac boarding area and, in groups of ten, climbed into the Zodiacs piloted by our guides. Then, showered with millions of icy droplets, we sped toward the shore. On the beach we were greeted by Pippa and the other guides who, after giving us a few final instructions, sent us off on our walk. Besides the guides, there were also local residents on the shore — the owners of the island. They had arrived in two Land Rover jeeps and were offering us a few handmade souvenirs. Around them ran a cheerful, playful dog, wagging its tail enthusiastically.

The shoreline was completely occupied by representatives of the local fauna — there were Gentoo penguins, Magellanic penguins, and even a dozen or so King penguins! In the air circled Caracaras (Johnny Rooks), skuas, and various gulls. But the most interesting sights still awaited us ahead.

A trail ran along the shore and gradually climbed up the hillside. Following it, we reached a colony of shags and Rockhopper penguins. The latter were particularly amusing and colorful creatures. But our journey did not end there: even farther on lay a colony of black-browed albatrosses. This was perhaps the most fascinating sight of all. Huge, beautiful birds sat on their nests or wheeled through the sky above us. The chicks were already almost fully feathered and seemed impatiently to await the moment when they would be able to set out on their very first flight.



Alas, the weather showed no sign of mercy. On the contrary, in addition to the squally wind, rain suddenly began to pour down. Cold and heavy, as if determined to wash every intruder off the island, it forced us to start making our way back to the ship.

Returning to the landing site, we put on our life jackets and hurried to leave Saunders Island.

While we were having lunch, the ship was already heading toward another landing site. Ahead of us lay an island with the rather ominous name of Carcass Island. A small settlement was located there whose inhabitants managed a farm, kept sheep, and also welcomed tourists, offering several guest rooms in their home. For our arrival they had baked an enormous variety of pastries and brewed tea.

Just as we had done in the morning, we crossed the waves in Zodiacs, raising clouds of spray as we made our way ashore. A few hours of fresh-air exploration awaited us there, along with refreshments from the local residents. Some of us set off to conquer the summit of a nearby hill, others preferred to wander along the shore with their cameras, while some settled in the shade of the trees surrounding the house and simply enjoyed the homemade pastries with a cup of tea.

In the evening, after returning to the ship, we gathered in the main lounge for the daily recap, where we were told about the plans for tomorrow.

“The first pancake is always a flop,” says the proverb. But no — despite the weather, our first true expedition day could hardly be called unsuccessful. It had been a wonderful day.



Day 4 – Thursday 19th February – Stanley, Falkland Islands

08h00 GPS Position: 51°49.3'S / 57°57.5'W

Wind: NNW4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 7°C

We were gently awakened at 07:15 as *MV Hondius* approached the Falkland Islands. After breakfast, many guests gathered on deck as we carefully navigated through “The Neck,” the narrow entrance channel leading into Port Stanley. The early morning light illuminated the low rolling hills and colourful houses that line the harbour, offering a warm contrast to the wild landscapes we had grown accustomed to.

Stanley offered a charming and welcoming atmosphere. Many guests wandered along the waterfront, visited local shops, or sent postcards from the post office. Others took advantage of complimentary access to the Falkland Islands Museum, where exhibitions told the story of the islands’ maritime history, early settlement, wildlife, and the 1982 conflict. The brightly painted houses, Union flags, and red phone boxes lent the town a distinctly British character, though the ever-present wind reminded us we were firmly in the South Atlantic.

In the afternoon, Andi invited guests to the lounge for her presentation, *Whales of the Southern Ocean*. Her lecture introduced us to the whale species we may encounter on our voyage — from humpbacks and fins to minkes and orcas — explaining their behaviours, identification features, and migratory journeys through these rich waters.

Today offered a different perspective on expedition life — a moment to connect with local culture and history before returning once more to the vastness of the sea.



Day 5 – Friday 20th February – Scotia Sea

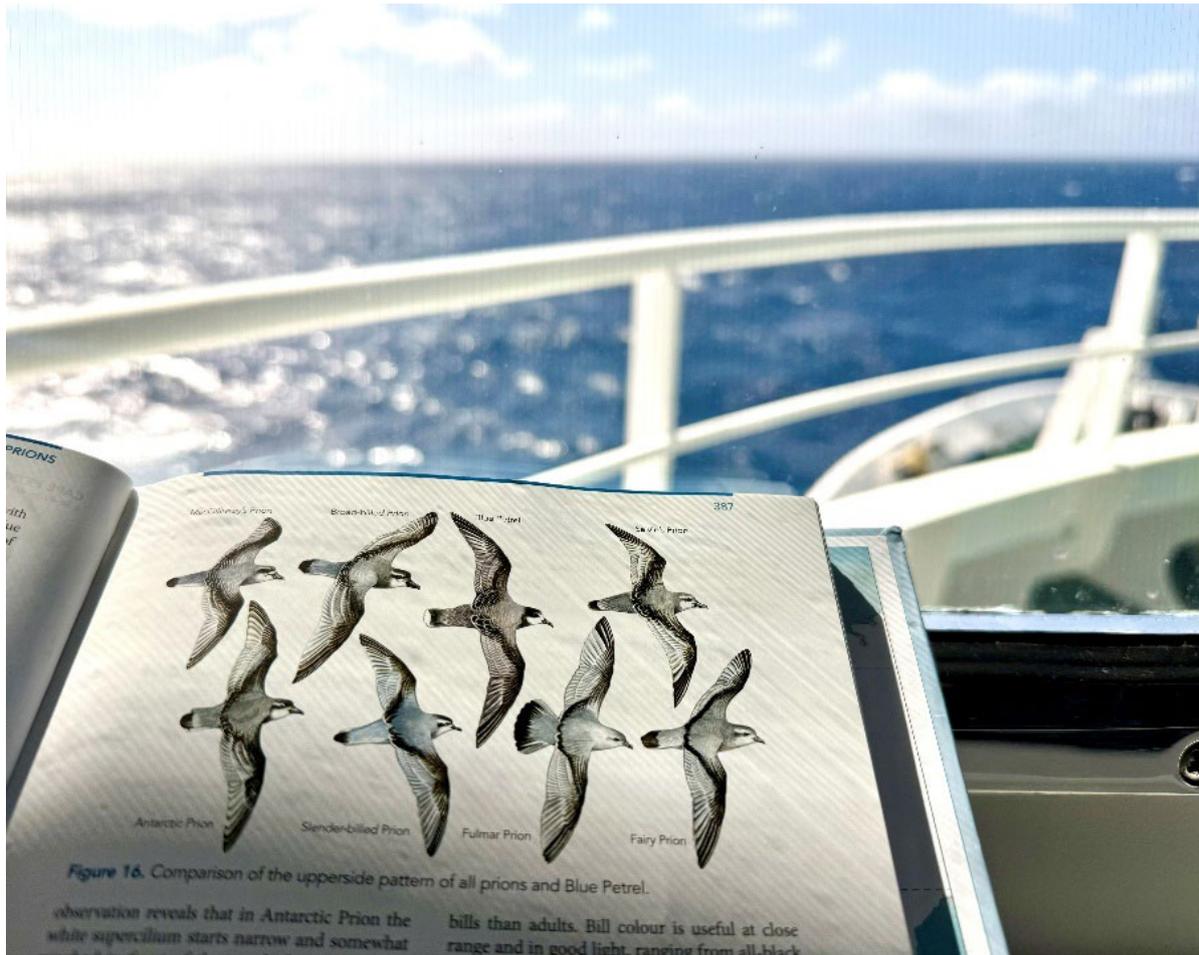
08h00 GPS Position: 52°14.4'S / 51°39.3'W

Wind: WSW6 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air temperature: 5°C

With no wake-up call scheduled, guests enjoyed a relaxed start to the day as *MV Hondius* sailed steadily toward South Georgia. Breakfast was served at 08:00, and many lingered over coffee while watching seabirds glide effortlessly alongside the ship.

The morning began with a mandatory South Georgia briefing, where the expedition team outlined biosecurity procedures, wildlife guidelines, and operational details for our upcoming landings. South Georgia is one of the most carefully protected ecosystems in the Southern Ocean, and the briefing reinforced our responsibility as visitors to minimise impact and respect the extraordinary wildlife that calls the island home.

At 11:00, Mark welcomed us back to the lounge for his lecture on penguins. Drawing on his experience living and researching on South Georgia, he explained penguin adaptations, identification features, and breeding behaviours. From the sleek torpedo shape of a diving king penguin to the remarkable endurance of macaroni and gentoo colonies, his talk brought the seabirds of the Southern Ocean vividly to life.



At noon, the ship's clocks moved forward an hour as we adjusted to South Georgia time, a small but noticeable reminder that we were progressing eastward across the ocean.

After lunch, Jodi transported us back in time with her lecture on Ernest Shackleton and the legendary *Endurance* expedition. Her vivid retelling of the harrowing journey. From the crushing of the ship in pack ice to the open-boat voyage to South Georgia, added depth and emotion to our approach toward the island that played such a pivotal role in that story.

At 18:15, we gathered for recap as the expedition team shared updates and plans for the days ahead. Dinner followed at 19:00, and later in the evening guests returned to the lounge for movie night, watching *Endurance Found*, the documentary chronicling the modern discovery of Shackleton's shipwreck more than a century after it sank beneath Antarctic ice.



Day 6 – Saturday 21st February – Approaching South Georgia

08h00 GPS Position: 52°59.1'S / 43°57.9'W

Wind: W4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 8°C

The Southern Ocean greeted us gently today: unusually calm, bright, and almost warm, as we continued our voyage toward South Georgia.

We began the day with breakfast in the dining room, the soft roll of the ship and endless blue stretching beyond the windows.

After breakfast, Enric gave an engaging lecture on the geology of South Georgia. He unraveled the island's dramatic story: tectonic collisions, uplifted seabed, folded rock layers, and the forces that shaped its rugged mountains.

Later in the morning, Joyce introduced us to the seals we might soon encounter. Her stories of their behavior (and their sometimes feisty personalities) made us even more eager for our first landing.

Just before lunch, excitement rippled through the ship. At exactly 12:11:56, our first iceberg was spotted. A friendly competition had been running: who could guess the precise time we would see our first iceberg? As soon as it appeared on the horizon, Saskia announced the official time over the PA system - 12:11:56 - cheers erupting throughout the ship.

It was only the first one, because then other more followed.

After lunch, it was time for biosecurity checks. Every pocket, Velcro strap, boot, and backpack seam was carefully vacuumed and inspected. South Georgia's ecosystems are fragile and precious; we all felt the responsibility of ensuring we brought nothing ashore that didn't belong there.

Later, Lucia was scheduled to give her lecture about krill, the small crustaceans that underpin the entire Southern Ocean food web. But nature had other plans.

Before she could begin, there were dolphins swimming around the ship. Followed by whale blows in the horizon, fur seals playing around and plenty of sea birds. All under calm seas and brilliant sunshine — weather almost unheard of for this part of the Southern Ocean. The lecture was postponed and we all went out to enjoy the surroundings.



As if the day hadn't already delivered enough, we were treated to an unplanned sighting of Shag Rocks, jagged, dramatic spires rising abruptly from the sea.

Remote and wild, they stood like sentinels marking our approach to South Georgia.

In the evening, we gathered for recap with the expedition team to hear about tomorrow's plans. The sense of anticipation in the room was tangible: tomorrow, we reach South Georgia.



Dinner followed, filled with animated conversations about icebergs, wildlife sightings, and hopeful guesses about what tomorrow might bring.

Tonight, as the ship continues southward, there is a shared feeling onboard: We are ready. South Georgia awaits.

Day 7 – Sunday 22st February – Right Whale Bay & Salisbury Plain

08h00 GPS Position: 53°57.7'S / 32°40.6'W

Wind: W4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 2°C

The morning began under a veil of fog. As the ship approached Right Whale Bay, mist clung to the dark cliffs and glacier-fed slopes, creating an atmospheric, almost ethereal introduction to the landscape. A light rain fell steadily at first, dimpling the sea surface, but as the zodiacs were lowered and guests prepared to land and zodiac cruise, the fog began to lift and the rain gradually eased.

The day's itinerary promised two of the island's most wildlife-rich landing sites: Right Whale Bay and Salisbury Plain—both legendary among expedition cruisers for their density of wildlife and sweeping subantarctic scenery.

The morning began with a split landing with half of the guests landing and the other half zodiac cruising first, before swapping mid morning. The zodiac cruise along the dark, pebbled shoreline of Right Whale Bay. Named for the Southern Right Whales once hunted in these waters, the bay today feels wild and reclaimed by nature. The surrounding peaks

formed a dramatic amphitheater around the bay, while glacier-fed streams braided their way toward the sea.

Passengers stepping ashore were immediately immersed in one of South Georgia's defining spectacles: vast colonies of King Penguins. Thousands stood shoulder to shoulder along the beach and up into the tussock grass, their orange-gold markings vivid against the monochrome landscape. The air hummed with their calls, a constant background chorus punctuated by the sharp barks of Antarctic Fur Seals.

The fur seals, particularly numerous during the breeding season, often claimed sections of the beach as their own. Expedition guides carefully plotted safe walking routes, ensuring guests could observe without disturbing the wildlife.

Overhead, seabirds wheeled in the brisk air currents. Giant Petrels patrolled the shoreline and beach along with Brown Skua, ever vigilant for a meal. The surrounding waters, part of the nutrient-rich Southern Ocean, teem with life thanks to the mixing of currents near the Antarctic Convergence, making South Georgia one of the most biologically productive places on Earth.

After time ashore to wander designated paths and absorb the scale of the colony, guests returned to the ship exhilarated—already feeling they had witnessed one of the great wildlife gatherings of the planet, and yet knowing more was to come.



If the morning had been impressive, the afternoon landing at Salisbury Plain elevated the experience to another level. Hosting the second largest King Penguin colony in South Georgia after St. Andrews Bay, Salisbury Plain presents an astonishing panorama: tens of

thousands of penguins stretching from the surf line to the base of the glaciated mountains beyond.

The setting is breathtaking. A broad outwash plain fans out from retreating glaciers, backed by steep, ice-clad peaks. Waterfalls thread down rocky slopes, and braided streams glint under shifting subantarctic light. Against this grand backdrop, the penguin colony appears almost endless.

Visitors walking the marked route found themselves surrounded by life at every stage: fluffy brown 'kiwi' chicks clustered in crèches, sleek adults commuting to and from the sea, and pairs engaged in courtship rituals. The rhythm of the colony is constant—arrivals from the ocean, greetings between mates, the careful transfer of food to waiting chicks.



Fur seals darted along the water's edge, agile and alert, while pups and females occupied the flat plain in large numbers, with the occasional 'blond' fur seal pup putting in an appearance to the lucky few.

By the time the ship weighed anchor and continued its voyage along South Georgia's coast, the impression left by Right Whale Bay and Salisbury Plain was unmistakable. The sheer abundance of wildlife, set against a landscape of glaciers, mountains, and restless sea, encapsulates the essence of expedition cruising in the subantarctic.

For many aboard, the day stood out not just for the numbers—though the numbers are staggering—but for the intimacy of the encounters. Standing quietly as a king penguin chick waddled past, or watching waves crash behind a colony that has gathered here for

generations, offered a profound sense of connection to one of the planet's last great wildernesses.

In a single day, guests experienced both the raw energy and delicate balance of South Georgia—a place where wildlife reigns, landscapes remain untamed, and every landing feels like a privilege.

Day 8 Monday 23rd February – Hercules Bay & Grytviken

08h00 GPS Position: 54°07.4'S / 36°40.0'W

Wind: SW2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Fog • Air temperature: 7°C

This morning's adventures began in a beautiful little inlet called Hercules Bay. A staff favorite, the site includes high mountains, a waterfall, a small beach, a tiny bay within the bay, jagged rock features, and penguins and seals absolutely everywhere. Zodiac cruising the shoreline allowed us to get close views of the stars of Hercules: macaroni penguins. In the late 1700s, the term "macaroni" referred to a man who dressed in a manner that "exceeded the ordinary bounds of fashion." The bright gold crest of feathers over the penguins' eyes reminded people of those outrageous dressers, and the nickname stuck. With thick orange bills, blood red eyes, and pink feet, these colorful penguins do seem to be pushing the bounds of fashion in the most flattering of ways. They cut a striking image.

Though we knew that they can climb quite far up into the tussock grass, we were nonetheless surprised to see just how high on the cliff face some of the penguins made their nests. At times we were only able to see nests when we backed off from the shore and looked from further afield. There were still dozens (hundreds?) of nests hidden from our sight, revealed only by the raucous calls of the penguins inhabiting them. Penguin rookeries are noisy places, with each species having its own unique sound. It is always a delightful cacophony, and Hercules Bay is no exception.

On the beach near the waterfall was a mixed group of king and gentoo penguins, all molting. Feathers were everywhere; it resembled a place where an enormous pillow fight had gone awry. Feathers covered the grasses, the sand, the water. Shaggy penguins stood in the midst of plumes of feathers. Juvenile fur seals romped through the area, sending more feathers aloft. It was quite amusing. The waterfall added a majestic backdrop to a lighthearted scene, and our hearts all but burst with the sheer joy of it all.

Northern and southern giant petrels gathered in mixed groups of ten to fifteen on the water, younger juveniles showing more curiosity about our zodiacs than the older, wiser adults. We got good looks at the tubes on the tops of their beaks where a mucous is produced that filters out excess salt in the water they drink, allowing them to drink sea

water. This tube is also what groups them in with a larger family of birds called, appropriately enough, tubenoses. The petrels being still and close also allowed us to see the distinguishing reddish or greenish tints on the tips of their bills that enable the distinguishing between the northern and southern species.

To round out the morning, several dozen elephant seals lolled about, also molting. Their blubbery bodies belie the strength hidden under their mass; it requires incredibly strong abdominal muscles to galumph that amount of weight around.



In the afternoon we explored the historic whaling station of Grytviken, Norwegian for “Pot Cove.” The only former whaling station on South Georgia that is safe to visit (the rest still have asbestos and unsecured, crumbling artefacts that can cause severe injury in high winds), it is a living museum. The remains of many parts of whaling infrastructure still stand, including the flensing plan, blubber boilers, storage tanks, meat boilers, etc. There is also a lovely little church, and the manager’s villa has been turned into a more traditional museum that is quite impressive despite its relatively small size. Markers denote the length of the largest whale ever processed at Grytviken (a blue whale), and a new installation memorializes the whales caught here with a visual representation of their numbers by species. Though it is still rare to see whales in the bay in front of Grytviken, fur seals have overrun the station, which is a victory in itself. During the height of the sealing era, their numbers were so diminished that they were very near extinction. Seeing so many pups clambering all over the whaling implements give hope for the future.

The Carr Maritime Museum sits in a separate building just to the side of the main museum and houses a replica of the lifeboat *The James Caird*, made famous by Sir Ernest Shackleton in his efforts to save his men trapped on Elephant Island during his Imperial Transantarctic (*Endurance*) Expedition of 1914 – 1917. Seeing the small size of the *James Caird* in person sharpened the understanding of just how harrowing the trip across the Southern Ocean must have been; it is a tiny boat. The *James Caird* is not the main memorial to Shackleton, however, for the man himself lies at rest in the Grytviken cemetery. Interred here after he suffered a fatal heart attack aboard his ship *Quest* in the bay in front of Grytviken, we drank a toast to the great explorer. He and his most ardent supporter and most loyal crewmate, Frank Wild, who is interred to the right side of Shackleton, both face south, toward Antarctica. This is as it should be, for their lives were centered around that mysterious continent. As we leave Grytviken in zodiacs only a little smaller than the *James Caird*, fog has rolled in, shrouding the *Hondius* in a thick mist. The mystique of Antarctica builds.



Day 9 – Tuesday 24th February – Fortuna Bay & Stromness

08h00 GPS Position: 54°09.6'S / 36°44.8'W

Wind: NW5 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Rainy • Air temperature: 5°C

We woke to the low murmur of wind against the hull and the promise of a day that would test our expedition spirit. After breakfast, we layered up carefully—waterproofs zipped tight, hoods cinched, boots ready. Outside, rain swept across the bay and strong winds whipped the sea into restless motion. But this was no ordinary voyage; this was an adventure. And adventure waits for no weather.

We stepped onto the wild shores of Fortuna Bay and made our way along the beach toward a low hill. From its crest, the scene unfolded in breathtaking clarity: a colony of king penguins spread across the landscape like a living tapestry. Though smaller than others on the island, it still held some 7,000 breeding pairs—thousands of sleek bodies standing proud against the wind. The air hummed with their calls. King penguins clustered in tight-knit groups, while gentoo penguins darted along the water's edge. Fur seals sprawled across the glacial outwash plain and tussock grass, their movements unpredictable and full of attitude. At the valley's far end, the mighty König Glacier descended in frozen majesty. Its older moraine lines etched the story of its once-greater reach—a reminder of nature's slow but relentless change. Among the wildlife, we were delighted to spot the endemic South Georgia pintail dabbling near the shore. And for a lucky few, a rare treasure: a blonde fur seal, its pale coat glowing against the dark earth.



Meanwhile, those exploring by Zodiac glided past sculpted ice formations and gazed up at an outlet glacier spilling down rocky slopes—an icy offshoot of the vast Fortuna Glacier high in the mountains.

After our time ashore, windblown and exhilarated, we returned to the warmth of *Hondius* for a well-earned lunch and the comfort of dry clothes. As we ate, the ship pressed onward toward our afternoon destination: Stromness Bay.

Our arrival at Stromness Bay was met with fierce gusts—winds howling up to 50 knots. We waited as the expedition team carefully assessed the conditions. Then at last, the welcome news: we could land. Stepping ashore, we were greeted by the haunting silhouette of the old Stromness whaling station. Weathered and silent, its rusting remains stand as a relic of another era. Because of asbestos contamination, we observed from a respectful distance, the past looming quietly against the mountains.

Eager to stretch our legs, many of us trekked up the valley toward Shackleton Falls. The name carries weight. It was here that Ernest Shackleton completed the final, desperate leg of his epic journey to seek rescue for the 22 men stranded on Elephant Island after the loss of the *Endurance*. Walking that same route, even in comfort and safety, felt profoundly humbling. As the afternoon unfolded, the transformation was remarkable. The wind eased. The sun broke through. Light spilled across the valley, illuminating fur seals—one more blonde pup among them—gentoo penguins shuttling between sea and shore, and elephant seals dozing heavily on the beach.

We had been granted a gift: safe passage ashore in a place where weather rules all. Grateful and exhilarated, we departed Stromness in the early evening glow, turning our bow toward the next chapter of our journey, hearts full and spirits soaring.



Day 10 – Wednesday 25th February – Gold Harbour & Cooper Bay

08h00 GPS Position: 54°37.4' S, 35°56.2'W

Wind: S3 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 4°C

We woke this morning to a stunning sunrise, at least some of us did at around 5.15.

The weather was clear and sunny with a few clouds over the mountains as we approached Gold Harbour.

Those that weren't already awake were woken by Pippa for our last day in South Georgia. We were treated to another fabulous breakfast from our galley team.

Shortly after breakfast the first group boarded the zodiacs for a short shuttle to land at Gold Harbour. As soon as we landed we had fabulous views of King penguins, Gentoos and some huge male Elephant seals.

The Elephant seals were a major attraction for everyone, the size of them has to be seen to be believed. Most of the time they would lay together quite contentedly but every now and then an argument would ensue and would involve two or three individuals before they settled down into more contented slumber.



The second group were taken on a zodiac cruise to see some spectacular scenery. On one side of Gold Harbour a spectacular hanging glacier and then on the other side some really spectacular cliffs and stacks.

The proximity of the King penguins to the landing site and the huge numbers was spectacular with many, many photographs taken. Nearly everyone who wanted to, saw the South Georgia Pipit that was showing well at one end of the beach.

Sadly, it was all too soon to return to the ship for the transit to our last afternoon activity in South Georgia, during which we had another great lunch.

Following lunch and a little rest we all boarded zodiacs for another zodiac cruise. The location was Cooper Bay, a beautiful sheltered bay full of wonderful wildlife and more spectacular scenery.

We cruised, to the south of Cooper Bay, a massive Macaroni penguin colony, we had the chance to not only see Macaroni's up close but also Chinstraps, Kings and Gentoo penguins. We watched many Snowy sheathbills along with a pair feeding a well grown chick and we also saw Northern and Southern Giant petrels, along with the special, endemic birds, The South Georgia Pipit and the South Georgia Pintail.

All too soon it was time to return to the ship so that we could move to the South Orkney Islands. The scenery and the sunset was just out of this world as we sailed away from South Georgia full of some amazing memories of one of the most amazing places on earth!

Day 11 –Thursday 26th February – At sea heading southwest

08h00 GPS Position: 57°00.9'S, 39°40.2'W

Wind: S7 • Sea:Slight • Weather: P.Cloudy • Air temperature: 3°C

After our last intense day at South Georgia yesterday, our expedition leader Pippa decided to let us sleep in and not do a Wakeup call this morning. After one more hour of sleep, as the ship's time was put back at midnight, it meant we had to set our own alarm, to be in time for breakfast at 08:00.

On this sea day we could spend time on the bridge or the outside decks spotting birds and other wildlife. But the expedition team also keep us entertained with several interesting lectures.



It was Pippa that started off and invited us to the lounge at 09:30 to introduce us to the history of whaling in South Georgia and the Antarctic region. She shared some interesting facts and told us the story that started with devastation but changed into recovery tail of the whales living in these areas.

At 11:30 it was Lucia's turn with her 'Killing me Softly' lecture. She told us in her passionate way about the lynchpin species of the Southern Ocean, krill. Sharing information about the biology, but also the fishery that is going on here in the Southern Ocean. How appropriate was it, that her talk got interrupted by the announcement of whales that were sighting just a few meters of the ship.

After lunch we were all called down to the lounge again to complete your biosecurity check. This time we all knew what we were up against. We came prepared with clean gear and could all go back to enjoying the vastness of the ocean that we were sailing through. When the fog lifted we saw a beautiful fog bow appear in front of the ship and there were lovely birds around.



In the afternoon it was up to Jakub, our ice master of the expedition team, to learn more during his lecture 'On thin ice'. An interesting talk about the global role of glaciers and icesheets. He started off with introducing us to his favourite glacier on Spitsbergen, called Sven, where he is doing research on for many years now.

After recap with the daily briefing, followed by dinner, we were all asked to come up to the lounge to join the expedition team to attend the South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction. It turned out to be an evening of fun and fundraising, all in aid of helping preserve the beauty and history of South Georgia.

Day 12 – Friday 27th February – Signy Island, South Orkneys

08h00 GPS Position: 60°49.8 S, 45°18.6 W

Wind: SSE2 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Sunny • Air temperature: 3°C

At 0600, as we slipped quietly into between and , the early light revealed a calm, silvery sea. The whisper traveled quickly through the ship: whales ahead. We hurried on deck, breath visible in the cold air, just as the first blows rose against the horizon. Several humpbacks moved steadily through the passage, surfacing in graceful arcs, their flukes lifting high before slipping beneath the glassy water. In the stillness of the morning, every exhale carried clearly across the water. It was an unforgettable start to the day.



As we continued toward Signy Island , the weather proved exceptionally kind—clear skies, bright light, and barely a breeze. By mid-morning we arrived at for our much-anticipated zodiac cruise. In near-perfect conditions, we traced the rugged coastline, snow-draped slopes rising behind us.

Wildlife defined the experience. Chinstrap penguins clustered along rocky ledges, massive Southern elephant seals layed in languid heaps along the shore, occasionally shifting or lifting their heavy heads with deep, rumbling breaths. Male Antarctic fur seals relaxed on the beaches and rocks with surprising agility, their thick coats catching the sunlight. The scene felt dynamic and wonderfully raw.

Further out, we encountered our first true Antarctic icebergs—brilliant sculptures of blue and white, some towering like cathedrals, others delicately arched and translucent. The zodiacs drifted quietly as we took in their intricate shapes, each one unique. A short touch-ground landing in the South Orkneys allowed us to briefly step ashore as we absorbed sweeping views across this remote archipelago.



The afternoon shifted from exploration to reflection. In the lounge, Saskia introduced us to the remarkable story of the Belgica expedition under , the first expedition to overwinter in Antarctica—a tale of endurance and human resilience. Later, Sven guided us through the tectonic history of the continent, unraveling the geological forces that shaped the dramatic landscapes we had just experienced. In the evening, Clara shared insights into life on an Argentine Antarctic base, offering a contemporary perspective on living and working in this extreme environment.

Yet long after dinner, it was the morning that lingered most vividly: whales in the golden light of Washington Passage, flawless weather at Signy Island, our first icebergs, and the vibrant wildlife of the South Orkneys marking a truly extraordinary day.

Day 13 – Saturday 28th February – Point Wild, Elephant Island

08h00 GPS Position: 60°57.1 S, 54°26.7 W

Wind: NW3 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Foggy • Air temperature: 4°C

This morning, we woke up in a tiny world again. The fog had surrounded the ship, while we were sailing south towards Elephant Island. We are retracing the route in reverse that Shackleton made with five of his crew members in the James Caird in April 1916. The ocean was treating us well today. Not to be compared to the rough trip the men had in that

small, refitted lifeboat, in which they had crossed the Southern Ocean. There is hardly any movement in the ship and a lot of us are about.

After breakfast, Pierre, our assistant expedition leader, invited us to the lounge for his lecture about Humpback whales. For many years he has done scientific research on these whales, spent a lot of time in the water with them and guided whale-watching trips. With his extensive knowledge he gave us a nice insight in the life of these gentle giants, accompanied by some incredible underwater footage of a mother and calf hanging out together.

Then it was time for those who always wanted to learn more about geology. Our expedition guide Enric invited us for a workshop on rocks, in the lecture room. He himself said that geology can be complicated and boring sometimes, but he came up with the perfect idea to get us involved. He created this hands-on workshop, where after he explained some basics, we were to make small groups and identify different aspects from different rocks. It was really entertaining, and this was a great way of properly understanding and learning about the different rocks we had already seen, or we would about to see during the rest of our trip.

At lunchtime chef Bawa and his galley team prepared another delicious buffet for us. We kept heading south. The fog was still this magical curtain which we couldn't look beyond until we had reached our destination for this afternoon. Just of port side of the ship a Fin whale came up to the surface and those of us that were on the bridge cheered a little. But we had to stay quiet so Captain Dobrogowski and his bridge team could concentrate on their navigation for the approach to Elephant Island. And there it was, suddenly, the fog cleared a little and we were right there. Just a few meters from *Hondius* we saw Point Wild, named after Frank Wild, who was sent out to find a more suitable place to stay than the tip of the island, Cape Valentine, where they landed in the first place.



Elephant Island lies right on the edge of the Drake Passage and the swell that travels over great distances built up around the Point. The big swell together with lots of ice made a landing impossible, which is a unique given, as the chance of stepping foot on land is minimal at this wild place on earth. But the deck team lowered the zodiacs and the expedition team got ready to take us out for a closer look. The bay we were in was filled with brash ice, small pieces of ice, fed by the Furness Glacier. This sweet water source was one of the important 'items' that kept the 22 men alive, who were left on this spit of land by Shackleton in April 1916, when he went for help in the *James Caird* with 5 of his crew members. Geologist James Wordie wrote in his diary: "She is our only hope". The spit is not that big anymore as it eroded over time.

The glacier was very active and many of us witnessed a calving, that would add even more ice to the bay. Sitting in that zodiac, while the swell moved us a meter up and down, with the crackling ice around us, was just an unreal feeling. Here, almost at the end of the world, to imagine that for four and a half months these men had to survive of penguin and seal meat, living in/under their 2 upturned lifeboats with winter on their doorstep. They were rescued on 30 August 1916 by the Chilean Naval vessel *Yelcho* commanded by Captain Luis Pardo. His statue was placed here in 1988 by the Chilean Antarctic Scientific Expedition, as here is a remembrance to that rescue.

With the smell of the many Chinstrap penguins that still live here at the point cemented in our brain, we went back on board. During recap we learned about the plans for tomorrow, but we also got shown a few historic photographs of the *Endurance* expedition. For us to compare it with what we experienced ourselves this afternoon.

After dinner, expedition member Sasha, shared his personal story of how he got to Antarctica and his life experiences. It was a great way to end this interesting day.



Day 14 – Sunday 01st March – Kinnes Cove & Brown Bluff

08h00 GPS Position: 63°18.5, S 56°53.0 W

Wind: SW5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 0°C

The day began in Kinnes Cove, an indentation along the west side of Joinville Island at the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. The expedition team launched the Zodiacs under a brooding sky, but Antarctica, as always, had its own plans. What started as a manageable breeze steadily stiffened, and deteriorating wind conditions eventually curtailed the morning's cruise. Even so, Antarctica ensured that effort was rewarded.

Before the winds forced a return to the ship, two magnificent Leopard seal were spotted draped across separate icebergs, under the towering Madder Cliffs. Their sleek, serpentine bodies stretched along the blue-white ice. Ever watchful, they lifted their reptilian heads to observe the Zodiacs from a distance—apex predators resting between hunts. Nearby, a couple of immature male Antarctic fur seal lounged hauled out, their thick coats ruffled by the increasing wind.



The cove was alive with birdlife. Groups of Antarctic Shag—adults in crisp breeding plumage alongside dusky juveniles either perched in groups on the rocks or flying between foraging trips. They could be seen diving repeatedly into the frigid water, seemingly unfazed by the swell that was beginning to build. Though shortened, the excursion offered a vivid snapshot of life thriving in the margins of ice and sea.

By afternoon, the ship had repositioned to the dramatic volcanic cliffs of Brown Bluff. Snow was falling as guests prepared for landing, snow flakes swirling through the Antarctic air and dusting everything and everyone in white. The weather had shifted once more, cloaking the landscape in a muted, monochrome beauty.

On shore, colonies of Adélie penguin and Gentoo penguin bustled across the snow-covered beach. Adélies, stoically stood on the higher slopes waiting out their moulting period, while Gentoo penguins, identifiable by the bright white stripe across their heads and lipstick coloured bills moved with deliberate purpose between sea and the colony sites. Among them pattered opportunistic Snowy sheathbill, ever alert for an easy meal, their white plumage nearly indistinguishable against the falling snow.



A Zodiac cruise along the towering ice cliffs revealed even more life at sea. Many Wilson's Storm-Petrels fluttered low over the water, pattering delicately on the surface as they fed. Occasionally, a white morph Southern giant petrel glided overhead, its broad wings commanding against the grey sky. In the distance, a Humpback Whale surfaced, exhaling misty plumes before slipping beneath the swells as they passed through the bay.

One particularly striking iceberg drifted nearby, hosting all three species of brush-tailed penguins—Adélie, Gentoo, and Chinstrap—an emblematic Antarctic tableau perched on sculpted ice.

Today stood as a powerful reminder of how changeable the weather can be in Antarctica. Within a single rotation of the clock, conditions shifted from calm promise to blustery retreat, from brooding skies to gentle snowfall. Yet through every transformation, wildlife endured and adapted, offering those on expedition a front-row seat to one of the most dynamic environments on Earth.

Day 15 – Monday 02nd March – Elephant Point & Deception Island

08h00 GPS Position: 62°50.4 S, 60°39.8 W

Wind: NW4 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 2°C

We awoke this morning to glorious, finally blue skies! They took a while to reach us, but it was worth the wait. We were all very eager to get out and enjoy the morning.

A zodiac cruise around Elephant Point fit the bill nicely. Literal tons of Elephant seals were hauled out on the beaches molting. Giant animals, we got good looks at some of the big males that are often hard to find on expedition cruises, and we saw some very large proboscises. Most of the Elephant seals looked a bit grumpy, as most of us would, too, if our entire bodies itched. A few seals swam in the shallows, cooling their massive and well-insulated bodies in the brisk ocean water. They do not spend much time in the water during a molt as the blood flow to their surface skin increases to feed the growing new layers, and the seals cool off much more quickly than usual. On warm days like today, however, a quick roll in the water must feel refreshing.

Male Fur seals were also plentiful, and seeing a large, healthy male fur seal next to a large, healthy male elephant seal sharpened the understanding of just how different in size these animals are. The Fur seal, which we would normally consider a big animal, suddenly seemed tiny. The bull Elephant seal was simply gigantic. No wonder the aggressive furies tend to leave the ellies alone.



These two species were not the only seals we saw, however, as a few Leopard seals were also hanging about. They are abundant this time of year as there are many young Gentoo penguins entering the water for the first time, unaware of the ways of the ocean. Though fifty percent of a Leopard seal's diet consists of krill, other things are on the menu right now. Dinner is tasty -- and plentiful. Some Gentoos stayed closer to the (very rocky) shallow waters, where Leopard seals and Zodiac drivers have a harder time reaching them, but many were in groups offshore, fishing.

We also saw a more unusual Antarctic creature: a scientific researcher. Camped on the beach above us, a Russian scientist was studying microplastics in the penguins' diet. He was entertaining visitors while we were there, and we empathized as they tried to launch their zodiac out of the very shallow waters. Meanwhile the glacier glowed a brilliant blue and white, and the cloud formations were simply stunning. Most of us were so intrigued by the interplay between the clouds and the snow-covered mountains, in fact, that we would have been very happy even had we not seen any animals. But we did, and that made a good outing even better.

Back aboard the ship, the call that everyone had been eagerly anticipating for two weeks finally came: Orca. Not just a few, but large groups of them; at least thirty animals in all. Mother and calf pairings popped up around the ship, then large males with their entourages, to the point that we didn't know where to look for the best sightings. This was such an amazing "problem" to have; the Orca were simply everywhere. It was impossible for any one person to see them all. We kept shifting back and forth from port to starboard, bow to stern, fifth deck to fourth. The Orca ensured that we all got our steps in today.



Eventually we sailed through Neptune's Bellows, the narrow, tricky to navigate opening to Deception Island. An active volcano into whose ocean-filled caldera we can sail thanks to a collapse in the side of the crater, this area was once a haven for whales. Few are seen here in modern times. Not surprisingly, we were able to explore the ruins of an old whaling station, in a place called Whalers Bay. Massive tanks that held whale oil, a dry dock, barracks, plus a plethora of other whaling detritus sat slowly decaying, being

reclaimed by the island bit by rusty and broken bit. Whale bones and the disintegrating remnants of an old water boat stood off the beach a bit further away, while an airplane hangar from the days of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) created a boundary on the other side. Toward the center lay a cemetery now marked by only two crosses, the rest having been buried by a mudslide caused by an eruption of the volcano in 1969. Signs of destruction were everywhere, and the land itself was mostly barren and rocky. It was nonetheless strikingly beautiful. The colours of the rocks were deep and rich, and where there was green, it held a saturation that is not seen against lighter backgrounds. Deception Island feels somehow otherworldly, as though it belongs to outer space, not our blue planet.

We hiked to the rim of the caldera at a point where the ridge is lower, a place called Neptune's Window. Here we could look out to the ocean surrounding the volcano and see the gorgeous cliffs created by the exterior of the volcano. We could also see each other! When we were not on land, we zodiac cruised through the Bellows and explored a small portion of the volcano's flanks. Incredible rock formations created by compressed layers of ash and sediment mesmerized us. The dark rocks contrasted sharply with the brilliant blue of the sky and the perfect white of the puffy clouds. Chinstrap penguins, fur seals, gentoos, and elephant seals added life to the rocks, while dozens of pintados rafted together on the water, swimming surprisingly close to the zodiacs. To top it all off, a humpback whale made an appearance. Could the afternoon possibly get any better?

Why, yes. Yes it could. How? By stripping off our warm clothes and throwing ourselves into the frigid water, of course! Into the "warm"(2°C) waters of Whalers Bay we ran, wearing nothing but our swimsuits. Screaming and laughing simultaneously, our breath left us as the shock of seriously cold water turned our brains to mush. "Get out now!" our bodies screamed, but if we were able to withstand the first thirty seconds, it became rather pleasant. Refreshing, one might even say. Brain damaging, others would say. But for those of us who did the Polar Plunge, it will certainly be among the more memorable parts of the trip.



Day 16 – Tuesday 3rd March – Paradise Bay & Danco Island

08h00 GPS Position: 64°41.2 S, 63°02.0 W

Wind: SW2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Sunny • Air temperature: 4°C

Dawn found us gliding silently into the dreamlike stillness of Paradise Bay. The morning felt almost unreal. Sunlight spilled across the snow-covered peaks, and the sea lay so calm it became a perfect mirror, reflecting the vast white amphitheater of glaciers and mountains surrounding us. Antarctica had offered us one of her rare, flawless mornings.

Even before we reached our anchorage, life was already stirring around us. Dark shapes of seals rested on drifting ice floes, and in the distance the misty breath of whales rose above the water like quiet signals that we were not alone in this frozen wilderness.

Soon the zodiacs slipped into the water, and we scattered across the bay to explore. It quickly became clear that the true rulers of the morning were the humpback whales. All around the bay they surfaced—gliding, breathing, diving again—sometimes traveling, sometimes feeding in the cold, rich waters. Each exhale echoed softly across the glassy surface.

Then came an unforgettable encounter: a leopard seal approached, sleek and curious. It circled the zodiacs with effortless confidence, lifting its head to examine us as closely as we were examining it. Nearby, crabeater seals lounged lazily on ice floes, seemingly indifferent to our quiet passage.



Yet even when the wildlife slipped beneath the water or drifted out of view, the landscape itself held us captive. Jagged white peaks towered overhead, glaciers poured slowly down the mountainsides, and every surface glowed in the Antarctic sun.

Before leaving the bay, we paid a visit to the small Argentine research station Almirante Brown Antarctic Base. Established in 1951, the station now operates during the summer months and houses a small team of researchers—just a handful of people living and working in one of the most remote places on Earth.

After such a perfect morning, we lifted anchor and turned toward our afternoon destination: Neko Harbour. As we entered Andvord Bay, towering walls of ice appeared ahead. Massive floes drifted everywhere, forcing our ship, the MV Hondius, to push slowly and carefully through the frozen maze.

But the ice had the final say. As we approached Neko Harbour, it became clear that landing by zodiac would be impossible. Plans changed quickly. Instead, we turned away from the ice-choked bay and set course for a new destination: Danco Island.

Even the detour brought its own rewards. As we exited Andvord Bay, humpback whales lay resting—“logging”—among the dense ice, their enormous bodies barely moving as they floated peacefully between the floes.

Soon another breathtaking scene unfolded in the narrow waters of the Errera Channel. Danco Island appeared ahead, framed by two enormous icebergs drifting like frozen cathedrals near our landing site.

Once again the zodiacs were lowered. One group stepped ashore to explore the lively gentoo penguin colony, while the rest of us cruised the icy waters surrounding the island. Everywhere we looked, penguins darted through the sea in fast-moving rafts, porpoising across the surface like living torpedoes.

Seals were everywhere too—Antarctic fur seals, Weddell seals, crabeater seals, and even another leopard seal—sprawled across rocks and ice as if the island were their private lounge.

The afternoon had begun under bright skies, but Antarctica changes quickly. As the sun slipped behind the mountains, the warmth vanished with it and the cold crept in.



Day 17 – Wednesday 4th March – Melchior Islands & Sailing South

08h00 GPS Position: 64°19.8 S, 62°58.9 W

Wind: EN6 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Cloudy • Air temperature: 1°C

We spent our morning navigating the Melchior Islands, a cluster of ice-capped islets that felt like a frozen labyrinth. Under cloudy skies and a bit of a swell, we hopped into the Zodiacs for a cruise. While the wildlife was a bit shy this morning, the scenery more than made up for it. We drifted past massive, perfectly formed ice and snow domes that draped over the small islands like thick white frosting. It was a quiet, ethereal experience of the Antarctic wilderness before we returned to the *Hondius* around 12:30 for lunch.



As we headed back out into open water towards our tomorrow's big goal – the Antarctic Circle – of the Southern Ocean decided to show us the little demonstration of its strength. With two-metre waves and a stiff wind, the ship began a spirited dance of rolling and pitching. For many of us, it was the "true" polar experience—finding our sea legs while watching the grey, powerful waves march past our windows.

To keep our minds off the motion, we gathered for two presentations. At 14:30, our guide Sid took us beneath the surface. Using his perspective as a diver, he showed us the vibrant, hidden world that thrives under the sea ice. It's a completely different universe down there! At 16:00, we were incredibly honored to hear from fellow guest and published author Dr. Joanna Kafarowski. She captivated us with the story of Ingrid Christensen, the first woman to ever see and set foot on the Antarctic continent. It was a powerful reminder of the pioneers who paved the way for us to be here today.

After a lively, extended recap where the team shared more insights into our surroundings, we gathered for another fantastic dinner. Despite the ship's movement, the atmosphere was warm and full of conversation about the incredible history and biology we've learned.

We are tucked in now, letting the swell rock us to sleep as we prepare for whatever wonders tomorrow brings!

Day 18 – Thursday 5th March – Detaille Island & Crystal Sound

08h00 GPS Position: 66°33.7 S, 67°24.3 W

Wind: WSW5 • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 0°C

The day began earlier than usual for many of us, but for the best possible reason. Around 06:30 a.m., a crowd gathered on the bridge, eyes fixed on the GPS monitors. As the numbers rolled over and we officially crossed the Antarctic Circle, a spontaneous wave of applause broke out! It was a powerful moment of shared achievement, standing together as we entered this exclusive club of southern explorers.

By mid-morning, we arrived at Detaille Island. While the day started under a blanket of clouds, the sun eventually broke through, illuminating the rugged landscape just in time for our landing and cruise.



We explored the island in a three-group rotation, with the highlight being a great house—UK's former Base W. It truly felt like a time capsule of 20th-century exploration. Seeing the old tins of food, scientific equipment, and living quarters left exactly as they were decades ago gave us a profound sense of the isolation and bravery of the researchers who once called this place home.

After a hearty lunch, we pushed even further south into the Crystal Sound area. This marked the southernmost point of our entire expedition, and the Antarctic scenery certainly dressed up for the occasion! Under brilliant sunshine, we cruised past majestic

mountains and icy shores. The water was dotted with icy bits, many of which served as lounges for sunbathing seals. It was the Antarctic we had all dreamed of: blue, white, and perfectly still.

After we came back onboard, we couldn't let the Polar Circle milestone pass without a proper party! Later in the afternoon, we gathered on the bow for our official Circle Crossing Celebration. The deck was transformed into a festival of color as guests and staff donned colorful polar costumes.

With music playing and the sun shining, we celebrated with hot chocolate and rum, posing for pictures in the special photo frame to commemorate the occasion. The energy was electric—a perfect blend of Antarctic chill and heartwarming camaraderie.

We wound down the day with a celebratory dinner at 19:30, followed by a recap where we looked back at our "farthest south" photos and heard the exciting plans for our journey back north. We may be leaving the Circle behind, but the memories of this golden day are certainly coming with us!



Day 19 – Friday 6th March – Port Charcot & Port Lockroy

08h00 GPS Position: 65°12.9 S, 64°09.4 W

Wind: SSW3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Sunny • Air temperature: 2°C

We woke this morning to another glorious day, those up early watched as we sailed towards Port Charcot, the destination for the mornings zodiac cruise.

After another delicious breakfast we boarded zodiacs with the expedition team to explore the area. The immediate area was full of huge icebergs, infact so many that the ship had to stop short of our destination. This meant a longer and more spectacular ride on the zodiacs around the icebergs and plenty of Humpbacks towards Port Charcot.

We watched both Leopard and Crabeater seals on the ice as well as Gentoo penguins in the water. Then there were the Humpbacks, they were everywhere, some were super curious and approached the zodiacs where others were intent on feeding and socialising with each other.



Some of us were lucky enough to watch the feeding whales, infact it was a feeding frenzy, at one point the zodiacs were surrounded by hundreds of feeding Gentoos and with around 6 whales it made for a fabulous, incredible sight, even a Leopard seal also got involved in the action. All this was happening while the sun was shining, and everyone got some amazing photographs and film.

All too soon we had to return to Hondius so that we could move to our next destination but this involved another wonderful spectacle, to get to our next location we had to navigate the Lemaire channel, one of the most photographed locations in Antarctica. The sun was still shining as we travelled through the narrow, steep sided channel. It was truly beautiful!

After lunch we again boarded zodiacs for a cruise and double landing around Port Lockroy. We landed at Jouglia Point and on Goudier Island the home to the British Antarctic Heritage Trust base, known as Port Lockroy or Base A, the southernmost Post office.

We had the chance to visit the museum which was the original British Antarctic Survey Base A and post our postcards and buy some souvenirs from the post office/gift shop.

We also saw lots of Gentoo Penguins, some being bothered by the Snowy Sheathbills on the land and then Crabeater seals and Minke whales from the zodiacs.



Following a very full day of activities there was one more surprise, a special Antarctic outdoor BBQ.

We had more lovely food with music and dancing outside with spectacular views of Antarctica as the sun went down revealing some beautiful light and even a full moon. A perfect end to a perfect day!

Day 20 – Saturday 7th March – Foyu Harbour & Palaver Point

08h00 GPS Position: 64°29.2 S, 62°04.8 W

Wind: Light Air • Sea: Smooth • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 0°C

Our final day of activity in Antarctica arrived—a bittersweet sunrise marking our last chance to gaze upon the majestic icebergs, the blue-veined glaciers, and the incredible biodiversity of this frozen frontier.

We began early in Wilhelmina Bay, setting our sights on a place steeped in whaling history: Foyu Harbour. As we lowered the zodiacs, a dense, ethereal mist swallowed the horizon, dropping visibility to less than 100 meters. Navigating through the white-out in search of a shipwreck, we were suddenly interrupted by the exhales of giants. A large pod of Humpback whales appeared through the fog. We spent the morning mesmerized by the arching of their dorsal fins and the iconic fluke of their tails. For a few lucky souls, the silence was shattered by the thunderous splash of a breach.

Despite the distraction of the whales, we reached our haunting destination: the *Governoren*. In 1915, this floating whale factory ship was intentionally run aground by her captain after a lantern started a massive fire. By wrecking the ship, the crew was able to escape the flames and survive, leaving the rusted skeleton as a permanent monument to the whaling era.



After returning to the *Hondius* to thaw out and refuel with lunch, we prepped for our final landing at Palaver Point on the Hummock Islands. The shore was alive with a massive colony of Chinstrap penguins. These penguins are easily identified by the thin black band under their heads. This specific colony is a bustling metropolis of activity, where the birds navigate steep, rocky paths with surprising agility to reach their nesting sites high above the waterline.

For those with a bit of energy left, we hiked to the island's summit. From the peak, we were rewarded with a panoramic view of "active" glaciers—massive rivers of ice that seemed to groan under their own weight.



Back on board, the atmosphere was electric. You could see it in every smile: a collective sense of fulfillment for having successfully completed every activity of this epic expedition. We celebrated the closing of this chapter with a formal plated dinner, followed by a lighthearted movie night. Watching *Happy Feet* with a bowl of popcorn was the perfect, joyful way to say goodbye to the penguins before bed.

Now, we turn our bow toward the open ocean. The Drake Passage awaits us in the dark. How will we wake up tomorrow? Only the sea knows.

Day 21 – Sunday 8th March – Drake Passage, at sea to Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 61°44.7 S, 63°58.5 W

Wind: NNW4 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Overcast • Air temperature: 2°C

March 8th dawned with a rare gift: a remarkably calm Drake Passage. But the tranquility of the water was only the backdrop to a much more significant occasion. Today, aboard the *Hondius*, we celebrated International Women’s Day.



Following a hearty breakfast, the energy shifted toward the lecture room for the All Women’s STEAM Team Round Up. It was a privilege to join the scientists, artists, and photographers of the expedition team as they shared insights into their research and their visions for the future. The morning also featured a silent auction supporting the King’s Trust ‘Change a Girl’s Life’ program, adding a layer of purpose to our gathering. This celebration was led by the Sea Women group, the same inspiring women we’ve shared these past three weeks with. Hearing them share their experiences and the tangible results of their work was nothing short of a masterclass in dedication.

After a brief mid-morning pause, the intellectual momentum continued. Helen, Emma, and Catherine took the stage for a compelling lecture titled: “Does a Marine Mammal Need a Lawyer? Antarctica Edition.” They delved into the complex legal frameworks surrounding marine life, illustrating how rigorous science is the essential backbone for informed policy-making.

As the *Hondius* pressed on through the Drake at a steady 11.5 knots, we broke for lunch.

The afternoon brought a moment of quiet reflection—and a bit of logistics—as we returned our warm, waterproof boots. Looking at them, it was hard not to think of the ground they’ve covered: from the rugged shores of the Falklands to the wild peaks of South Georgia and the pristine ice of the Antarctic continent.

The afternoon lecture series served as a bridge between the legends of the past and the mission for our future. We began with *The Pioneer*, as Joanne transported us back in time to the legacy of Jackie Ronne. Hearing about the first woman in history to serve as a working member of an Antarctic expedition was a poignant reminder of the grit required to blaze a trail on this frozen continent.

Shifting from history to *The Future*, our dive guide Clara took the stage to present her project, *"Una Ventana al Mar"* (A Window to the Sea). Along with Gonzalo, she runs this NGO with a mission as unique as it is honorable: fostering marine conservation and ocean literacy. It was the perfect way to close the day’s talks, leaving us with a sense of responsibility for the very waters we are currently sailing through.



We wrapped up the formal presentations with our daily recap before heading to a plated dinner—our penultimate evening meal of this journey.

The day concluded with a bit of friendly competition. Sven prepared a group quiz that served as the perfect finale, allowing us to put the knowledge we’ve gathered over these three weeks—from both the guides and the lectures—to the test. It was a night filled with laughter and shared memories.

Goodnight. We have one final day at sea ahead of us before we reach the lights of Ushuaia.

Day 22 – Monday 9th March – Drake Passage, at sea to Ushuaia

08h00 GPS Position: 56°50.4 S, 65°42.2 W

Wind: N5 • Sea: Slight • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air temperature: 5°C

We woke gently to the quiet rhythm of the ocean, the kind of morning that only comes after weeks spent at the far end of the world. Our voyage aboard *Hondius* was drawing to a close, and today the Drake Passage seemed determined to give us a kinder farewell. The sea rolled beneath us in long, patient swells—still unmistakably the Drake, yet far calmer than its fearsome reputation might suggest. Sailors have crossed this stretch between South America and Antarctica for centuries, and while it is often called the roughest sea on Earth, today it felt almost contemplative.

After breakfast we gathered in the lecture room, ready to reflect on our journey and the wider world of polar exploration. One presentation took us through other remarkable voyages undertaken by our expedition company—reminders that the polar regions hold endless stories still waiting to be experienced. Later, Jakub guided us into the future with a thought-provoking lecture about ice: how glaciers and sea ice form, how they move, and how rapidly they are changing in a warming world. It was a sobering topic, but one that made our recent encounters with Antarctica’s vast white landscapes feel even more precious.



After lunch the focus shifted beneath the waves. Andi introduced us to one of the Southern Ocean's most formidable predators: killer whales. These highly intelligent animals live in complex family groups called pods and display remarkably specialized hunting techniques, from wave-washing seals off ice floes to coordinated attacks on larger prey. Lucia then carried us northward in spirit with a talk about Argentina—its culture, landscapes, and the history that awaited us at the end of our voyage.



As evening approached, we gathered for the Captain's Cocktail, a warm and celebratory moment shared between guests, staff, and crew. Glasses were raised, laughter echoed through the lounge, and heartfelt thanks were exchanged for the teamwork that had made our Antarctic adventure possible. It felt both festive and nostalgic.

The day concluded with our final plated dinner in the restaurant. Conversation lingered long after the last course, as we looked back on three unforgettable weeks among icebergs, wildlife, and endless southern horizons—aware that while the voyage was ending, the memories of Antarctica would travel home with us.

Day 23 – Tuesday 10th March – Disembarkation Day

08h00 GPS Position: 54°48.5 S, 68°17.9 W

Wind: N5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partially cloudy • Air temperature: 8°C

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

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

Soon after, we made our way ashore, where our bags were arranged along the pier for collection. Farewells drifted through the mild air as fellow travellers

exchanged hugs, handshakes, and heartfelt thanks to the staff who had guided us so expertly throughout our time in Antarctica, South Georgia, and the Falkland Islands.

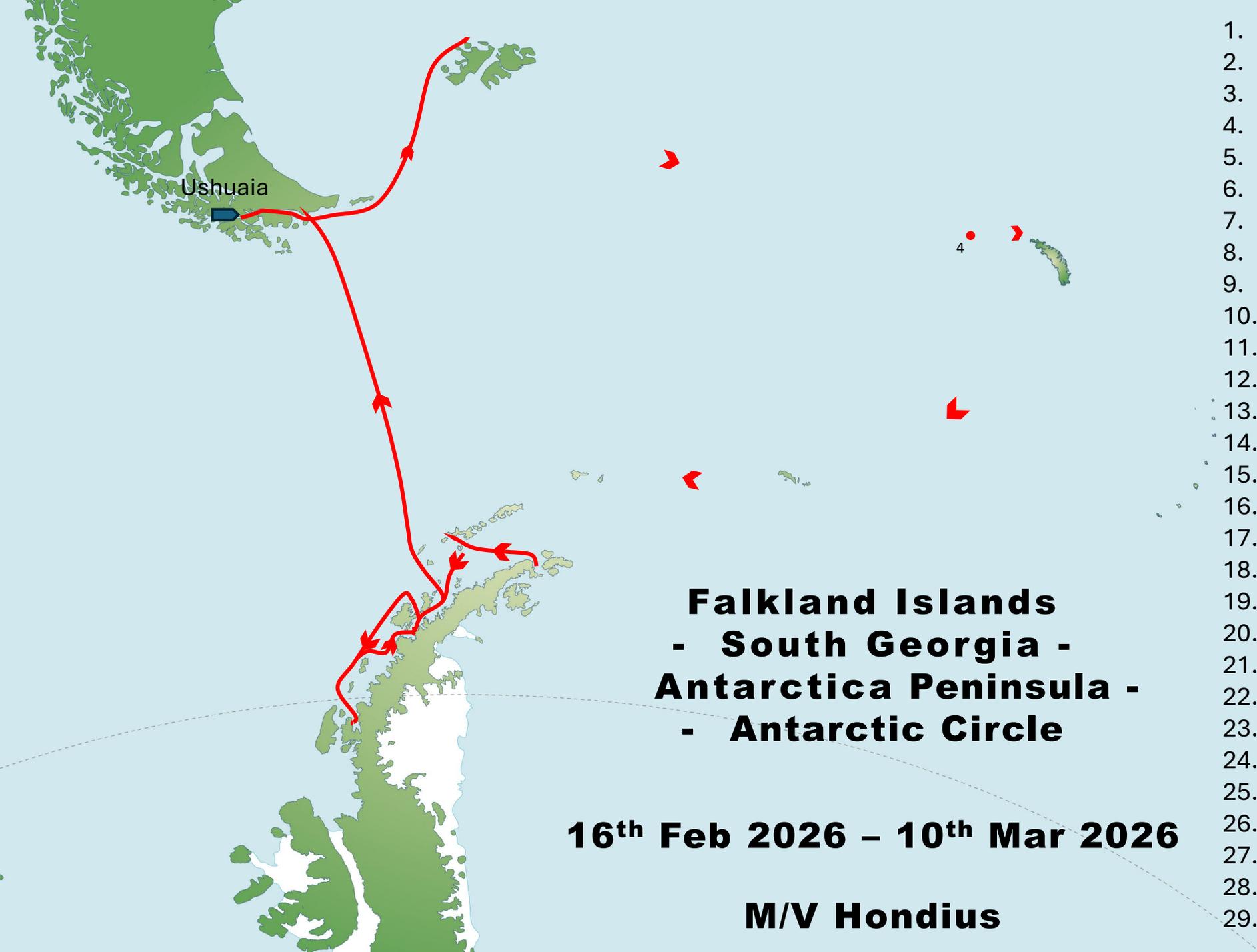
With one last glance back at the ship that had carried us safely through ice-filled channels and unforgettable southern landscapes, we stepped into the mild morning, carrying with us memories that would long outlast the journey itself.

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 4229.2nm (7832,47km)

Furthest South: 67°02.4'S, 67°30.7'W

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Jan Dobrogowski, Expedition Leader Pippa Low, Hotel Manager Albert Don and all the crew and staff of M/V Hondius, it has been a pleasure travelling with you!





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

16th Feb 2026 – 10th Mar 2026

M/V Hondius

1. Saunders Island
2. Carcass Island
3. Stanley
4. Shag Rocks
5. Right Whale Bay
6. Salisbury Plain
7. Hercules Bay
8. Grytviken
9. Fortuna Bay
10. Stromness
11. Gold Harbour
12. Cooper Bay
13. Signy Island
14. Point Wild
15. Kinnes Cove
16. Brown Bluff
17. Elephant Point
18. Whaler's Bay
19. Paradise Bay
20. Danco Island
21. Melchior Islands
22. Antarctic Circle
23. Detaille Island
24. Crystal Sound
25. Port Charcot
26. Lemaire Channel
27. Port Lockroy / Jugla Point
28. Foyen Harbour
29. Palaver Point

Falkland Islands



1. Saunders Island
2. Carcass Island
3. Stanley

South Georgia



- 4. Shag Rocks
- 5. Right Whale Bay
- 6. Salisbury Plain
- 7. Hercules Bay
- 8. Grytviken
- 9. Fortuna Bay
- 10. Stromness
- 11. Gold Harbour
- 12. Cooper Bay

Antarctica Peninsula

13. Signy Island, South Orkneys
14. Point Wild, Elephant Island
15. Kinnes Cove
16. Brown Bluff
17. Elephant Point
18. Whaler's Bay, Deception Island
19. Paradise Bay
20. Danco Island
21. Melchior Islands
22. Antarctic Circle
23. Detaille Island
24. Crystal Sound
25. Port Charcot
26. Lemaire Channel
27. Port Lockroy / Jugla Point
28. Foyen Harbour
29. Palaver Point



Pippa Low – Expedition Leader



Pippa has worked as a marine guide and skipper for 15 years, primarily in Scotland, Australia, New Zealand and the polar regions. A marine scientist specialising in marine mammal research and conservation, she splits her time between the hemispheres, and loves showing the public the marine world and all it has to offer.

Growing up on the coast of the incredible Moray Firth sparked a love for the marine world and its inhabitants. Spending every spare minute in, on or under the water; professional life reflected this love from a young age, becoming an instructor in

various marine disciplines and going on to study Marine biology at university in Scotland, then later, Australia.

Upon completion of her degree, Pippa has worked as a marine mammal observer, scientific diver and research assistant on various research projects; including photo ID, migration, distribution and behavioural studies on a range of marine mammals. She has developed a keen interest in marine mammal conservation through outreach and research.

After working in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica as a research assistant, she fell in love with Antarctica. Pippa now works as a full-time guide and Expedition Leader in both the Arctic and Antarctica. In-between seasons, she still finds time to work on research projects – most recently completing a masters research degree specialising in Humpback Whale physiology.

Juan Berenstein – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Pierre Gallego – Asst. Exp. Leader



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

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

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

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

Mark Whiffin – Expedition Guide



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

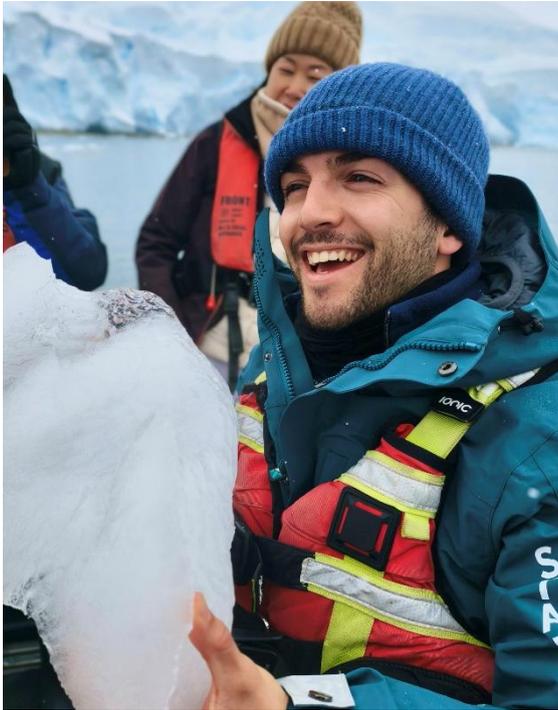
While at university studying Biochemistry and Molecular Plant Biology, he participated in an ornithological expedition to Indonesia. This experience led to a Masters degree in Conservation Biology and he subsequently led numerous expeditions and scientific research projects to

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

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

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

Enric Sangrà Mòdol – Exp. Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

Alexander Romanovskiy – Exp. Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Andi Schwertz – Expedition Guide



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

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

Jakub Malecki - Expedition Guide



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

Since 2007, Jakub has been studying glaciers across the world, either directly in the field or remotely using satellite and aerial imagery. His primary research interest is how glaciers respond to climate change in diverse environmental settings. He carries out most of his glaciological work on Svalbard, an Arctic archipelago located midway between Norway and the North Pole, where he fell in love with ice. Since then, Jakub joins expeditions to remote regions on an annual basis.

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

Lucia Romero - Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

Joyce Mulder – Expedition guide



While studying Coastal and Marine Management in the Netherlands, Joyce began working as a whale-watching guide in the Azores in 2018 in Vila Franca do Campo. After this, she studied the Arctic snowfall variability at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, laying the foundation for her future career in Polar research.

Continuing her academic pursuits, Joyce studied Arctic terrestrial biology at the University Centre in Svalbard in 2019, acquiring insights into the valuable ecosystems of the far north.

With a bachelor's degree in Coastal and Marine Management, she followed a master's program in the same field in Ísafjörður, Iceland, making it her home from 2021 to 2023.

Her academic journey also brought her to the Norwegian town of Tromsø, where she studied fish migrations. For her master's thesis, she joined a research vessel in Greenland to study benthic communities, mapping previously unexplored regions of the seabed, a project she continues to return to, exploring the deep-sea environments around Greenland.

Today, Joyce works as an expedition guide with Oceanwide Expeditions, sharing her knowledge of marine wildlife and the polar regions with visitors.

Martin Anstee - Expedition Guide



Martin has been a keen naturalist and wildlife photographer for most of his life.

Martin has been an active Bird Ringer since the year 2000 and particularly enjoys studying/ringing and just being around seabird colonies.

Martin has used a camera since an early age and has combined his love of the outdoors and seabird habitats with photography. Martin has spent time in Zimbabwe and Botswana photographing other wildlife.

Martin has combined this with a career in the Police Service, firstly in the UK where he was, amongst other roles, a wildlife crime officer. His last role in The Police was as a Police Sergeant in The Royal Falkland Islands Police.

Martin lived in the Falkland Islands, Stanley, for just over two years, leaving to return to the UK in November 2021. In his two years Martin was a volunteer with Falklands Conservation, he helped with The Falkland Islands Seabird Monitoring Program (FISMP) in particular counting Seabirds and ringing Black browed Albatross. Martin was also involved in fieldwork for a Striated Caracara (Johnny Rook) study. As a result Martin has visited most of the larger (and some of the smaller) outlying islands that form part of The Falkland Islands.

This is also where Martin started his career as a guide, he enjoys sharing his knowledge of the Islands and the wildlife which he continues to do to this day. Martin has also guided in The Arctic, Antarctica and some of the sub-antarctic Islands as well as some of the least visited Islands in The Atlantic such as Tristan da Cunha.

Saskia van der Meij – Exp. guide



Saskia is an adventurous girl born in The Netherlands. With a huge national park in her backyard, she felt at a young age how great it is to be active in & part of nature.

Saskia has a background in tourism and hospitality. For almost twenty years she was a product manager for a nature-oriented tour operator. She travelled to develop interesting products in Alaska, Canada, Argentina, Chili, Southern Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

In 2019 she worked for three months in Namibia as an assistant manager in two different remote private game lodge. Two fantastic years followed while spending her time in North Norway, Spitsbergen and the Baltic Sea as a hotel manager on a three mast Barque (Tallship).

But her heart told her to go guiding. She spent almost every season in Spitsbergen from mysterious Blue February until the colourful sunsets in October. Here, she started guiding as part of a two-man expedition team on a small sailing ship. Since 2022 she guides for Oceanwide Expedition in both the Arctic and Antarctic. Saskia loves the vast wilderness of Antarctica, with its fifty shades of white, which is home to her for three to four months every season. As a camping guide, on specific trips, she can't wait to take guests out for a night in the snow on this incredible seventh continent.

She is passionate about nature in general and has a wide interest and understanding, from animals to landscapes and ice. But she developed a deeper love for the fascinating polar history and whales.

Hospitality lies in her core, and her ongoing 'sunshine' is what guests remember Saskia by. She welcomes you on board and likes to share her knowledge and enthusiasm for these amazing destinations.

Jodi Gaylord – Expedition Guide



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

After working in the medical field while pursuing her degree in the history of ancient medicine, she pursued her love of nature and wild animals by becoming a professional wildlife photographer, running her own business for 13 years. It was during her photography travels that she first experienced the polar regions, traveling to the Canadian High Arctic in 2010. She became mesmerized by the icebergs, and was quite surprised to find herself falling for a place without trees – something she had not thought possible before. It was during her first trip to Antarctica in 2017 that the polar bug (disguised as a penguin) finally bit her in an absolutely incurable way. She knew that she had to share these amazing places with other people, so she decided to become a guide. Throwing herself into learning the history of Arctic and Antarctic exploration, she also studied how to be a safe and effective polar guide, which culminated in her completion of the Expedition Guide Academy’s Comprehensive Guide Course in 2023. When she is not on ship, she spends her time in a warm place – her home in Hawaii, where scuba diving, snorkeling, and asking “Why am I doing this?!?” while participating in triathlons are among her favorite past times.

Sven Joest – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Frank Shi - Translator



Frank Shi, also known as Jingjing Shi, is a seasoned translator and free diving instructor. Graduating from Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, Frank has extensive work and life experience in English-speaking environments. He has served as a resident instructor in Moalboal, Philippines; Saipan, USA; and Bali, Indonesia, and won the bronze medal in the free diving Asian Cup's no-fins category in 2019. Frank has a deep passion for nature and wildlife, having grown up watching various wildlife documentaries, from Discovery Channel to the 2024 National

Geographic production "The Queen of Nature," which he has watched multiple times. He particularly admires two narrators, China's Zhao Zhongxiang and the UK's Sir David Attenborough. As a translator, Frank is dedicated to helping the team overcome language barriers and ensuring smooth communication. Additionally, Frank is an avid fitness and outdoor enthusiast with years of Crossfit training experience. He enjoys surfing, skiing, hiking, and motorcycle touring, having logged over 30,000 kilometers on his rides. Whether at work or during leisure time, Frank is always eager to share his experiences and engage in conversations.

Mike Pumm – Lead Dive Guide



Mike was born in Switzerland in 1987. He is the managing director and diving instructor at Tauch-Treff Zug in central Switzerland. In his free time he dives several times a week, preferring technical diving and cave diving in different regions of the world.

He had the opportunity to live in Honduras on the island of Roatan for a few years and managed a dive resort there.

Since his time in the Caribbean, he has preferred the colder regions of our world and in 2016 he had the privilege to travel to Antarctica for the first time, as a guest with Oceanwide Expeditions. Since then he has been traveling every year as a dive guide, dive team leader or regular expedition guide with Oceanwide Expeditions - no matter if he is in the Arctic or Antarctic, he just loves ice and the cold!

He is really looking forward to sharing this special part of the world with you, and especially sharing his love of what lies beneath the surface!

Clara Iachetti – Dive Guide



Clara is Argentinean, who is born in Buenos Aires. Since she was a child Clara loved the ocean and the adventure. In 2011 she obtained her bachelor's Marine Biology-oriented degree in Biological Sciences, at the Universidad de Buenos Aires and a European M.Sc. in Marine Environment and Resources (MER) in 2012. Since 2012 she has been working in the Austral Centre of Scientific Investigations (CADIV- CONICET) at Ushuaia, Tierra de Fuego (Argentina). Firstly, on her PhD on plankton dynamics, then with her postdoctoral project on harmful algal blooms, and

nowadays as a researcher at CADIC. For the last 10 years she has participated of several research expeditions to the South Atlantic and Antarctica, even spending some time in the Shetland Islands, at the Argentinean Base "Carlini".

On top of her scientist career, she is a member of Beagle Secretos del Mar, a non-profit organisation that supports marine conservation in which she is responsible for the education program, lecturing and diving. Living in Ushuaia (and previously in Bariloche) has also led her passion towards mountaineering, mainly backcountry skiing and climbing.

Angela Buschor – Dive Guide



Angela was born in Austria and raised in Switzerland. She always enjoyed spending her time outdoors and exploring the areas around her. Whenever possible, she traveled to different places around the globe and, in 2017, began scuba diving in the US. She quickly became hooked and wanted to pursue her new hobby in her home country. That's how she ended up diving in Switzerland.

Over the years, she gained experience in cold water diving, continuing to dive year-round, even during the cold Swiss winters. In 2023, she was ready for a new challenge and flew to Bali to complete the Divemaster course. Back home, she became part of the team at a local dive center in Zurich, where she led local dives and assisted with various diving courses.

In 2025, Angela decided to change her career path and left Switzerland to move to Cyprus, where she began working at a local dive center. During the season, she completed her Scuba Instructor training and gained valuable first-hand experience teaching a variety of scuba courses.

Back in colder waters, Angela is looking forward to returning to Antarctica for her second season as a dive guide, eager to share the unique underwater world of Antarctica with the guests aboard the vessels of Oceanwide Expeditions.

Gonzalo Sabattini- Dive Guide



Gonzalo Sabattini was born in Córdoba, Argentina in 1987. Son of Cecilia and Juan and brother to Matias and Marcos.

Since a young kid his life was connected to water because his family owns fishing boats in Los Molinos Lake in Córdoba. Summers and weekends were endless among friends and family, swimming, and fishing.

As time passed by, swimming in the lake evolved into diving; Gonzalo received his first diving certification as a Argentinian Federation of Subaquatic

Activities (FAAS_CMAS)-One Star Diver at the age of 16.

During his twenties Gonzalo was an active member of the local diving school collaborating as a volunteer as he continued his formation as a diver.

In 2013 he was invited to work to Cozumel, Mexico as a dive guide guiding certificate and first-time divers. At the island, he gained a lot of experience working with international tourism and he spent more than a year diving daily.

When he came back to his country, he set sails to a new adventure. Decided to move to Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, where diving and weather conditions are a challenge. For the last 6 years he has become a cold-water diver, mastering the dry suit and the rest of cold-water equipment. On 2018 he was certified as a dive instructor (FAAS – CMAS) and since then, works at a diving school lecturing new cold-water divers and guiding national and international divers who marvel with the kelp forests that characterize dives in the Beagle Channel.

On top of diving Gonzalo has always been as sportive person, he loves snowboarding, fishing, and spending time in nature and wilderness, and he found in Ushuaia a perfect playground.

Sid – Expedition Guide



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

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

Mediterranean to community-based citizen science initiatives.

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

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

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

Jessica Bakker - Ships Doctor



Jessica will be our ship doctor during this trip. She went to medical school in Rotterdam the Netherlands. She started her carrier as a resident at the cardiothoracic surgery, later cardiology and ICU, before starting her training as a hospitalist. She is currently working as a hospitalist in the Hague, the Netherlands. Jessica spends most of her time on the surgery department and is an ambassador for patient safety improvement in her hospital. Next to her work in the hospital, she followed courses in diving- and outdoor medicine and gives CRP-training.

During her medical training, she coordinated a researchproject to lower the acquisition rate of MRSA infections on a surgery ward in Surabaya Indonesia. Propper hand hygiene turned out to be the most effective measure to prevent the spread of MRSA infection. With the recent pandemic in mind, Jessica will ask everybody kindly to disinfect your hands before entering the public areas, so we can all enjoy a safe and healthy journey. This project learned her a lot about working with limited researches.

Summer 2017 was Jessica's first trip to Greenland. She loved the beauty of the nature and amount of whales in Arctic and could not wait to explore more places in de polar region. In 2022 she started as a shipsdoctor.



Falkland Islands, South Georgia,
Elephant Island, Antarctica & Polar Circle
Monday 16th February 2026
Embarkation – Ushuaia

WELCOME ABOARD!

Luggage will be delivered to your cabin. Please check to make sure you have received all your luggage. If you have any extra luggage in your cabin – please notify a crew member. Please also check your cabin for any rental gear and try it on to ensure it fits.

**** Tea and coffee are always available in the lounge on deck 5 ****

±1715 **Welcome & safety briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5, forward) for a **mandatory** safety briefing and lifeboat drill.

Lifeboat Drill

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

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

±1800 **Departure from Ushuaia.**
The bridge will be closed during these operations.

±1815 **Captain's Welcome & Expedition Introduction** – Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5) for an introduction to the expedition, a welcome to your new home from the Hotel manager, the captain's toast and to meet your expedition team.

1930 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4)

We will sail into open sea this evening and the ship may move – please secure your belongings and be careful when moving around the ship.

Take your seasickness medication before we head out into open sea- the doctor will be available in the lounge after dinner to assist.

- 0745 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4).

Throughout the day, please take a moment to clean all clothing and equipment you plan to take ashore. Pay special attention to the mesh on backpacks, pockets, and velcro. Brushes and paperclips will be available for borrowing in the library.

- 0915 **Zodiac & IAATO Briefing** - Please join us in the **lounge** (deck 5) for our **mandatory** zodiac operations and biosecurity briefings.

- 1115 **Lecture** – Please join Martin in the **lounge** (deck 5) for a lecture about the birds of the Falkland Islands.

- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room** (deck 4).

Biosecurity cleaning - If you require assistance to clean your gear – staff and cleaning equipment will be available in the library on deck 5 after lunch until 1600.

- 1345 **Boots** – We will call you by deck to collect your Muck boots from the zodiac boarding area on **Deck 3**. *Please listen for announcements.*

Please listen for announcements during the afternoon for briefings about snorkelling and diving, which will take place in the Lecture room.

- 1600 **Lecture** – Please join Juan in the **lounge** (deck 5) for an introduction on photography in the polar regions.

- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the lounge (deck 5) for our first daily recap and briefing.

- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room** (deck 4) – *Tonight's dinner will be plated – please make your way to the dining room promptly.*

Please walk slowly on the ship, never rush. Keep one hand for yourself and at least one hand for the ship – always keep your hands clear of door frames.

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

- 0715 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

This morning, we hope to land at Saunders Island to visit King, Gentoo, & Magellanic penguins. A steeper walk will take you to see Southern Rockhoppers and Black-browed Albatross. Please follow the poles and remember to keep a safe distance from wildlife. There may be a small number of local souvenirs available (GBP & USD cash only).

- +/- 0815 **Divers/Snorkellers** please meet Mike & the dive team on the zodiac deck dressed and ready to go - *listen for announcements.*
+/- 0830 **Red group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) – *listen for announcements.*
+/- 0845 **Blue group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) – *listen for announcements.*
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

This afternoon, we hope to land at Carcass Island, offering a long walk (approx. 4km) from Dyke Bay to the Carcass Island settlement. Those not venturing on the long walk will enjoy the Magellanic and Gentoo penguins of Dyke Bay. In addition to wildlife, we will also enjoy a delicious selection of local cakes at the settlement.

- +/-1430 **Divers/Snorkellers** please meet Mike & the dive team on the zodiac deck dressed and ready to go - *listen for announcements.*
+/-1445 **Long walkers** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) – *listen for announcements.*
+/-1500 **Beach & Settlement only** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) – *listen for announcements.*
- 1900 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1930 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

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



Falkland Islands - South Georgia
Elephant Island - Antarctica - Polar Circle

Thursday 19th February 2026

Port Stanley

Sunrise: 0611 Sunset: 1956

- 0715 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
- 0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- ~0730-0800 **Navigation into Port Stanley** – We will sail through the ‘Neck’ – a narrow navigation in to Port Stanley. *Standby for announcements for the timing of this.*

This morning, we hope to land at Port Stanley – the capital of the Falkland Islands.

*You can wear your own shoes – but **please make sure they are clean of any dirt, seeds, etc.** You should still wear waterproofs.*

The shops, post office & museum should all be open by 10:00am.

Showing your ships card (given at the port) will gain you free access to the museum.

*You can walk freely through the town – but please respect the local traffic and peoples’ homes. **Very last zodiac will leave the jetty at 12:45pm.***

- 0830 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) – *listen for announcements.*
- 0845 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area** (deck 3) – *listen for announcements.*

1245 **Last zodiac returning to Hondius.**

1300 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

1530 **Whales of the Southern Ocean** – Please join Andi in the **lounge** for her presentation introducing the whale species we hope to see on our expedition.

1800 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

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



Falkland Islands - South Georgia
Elephant Island - Antarctica - Polar Circle
Friday 20th February 2026
At Sea to South Georgia
Sunrise: 0530 Sunset: 2040

- No wakeup call – enjoy! :)**
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0930 **South Georgia Briefing** – Please join the Expedition Team in the **lounge** for a mandatory South Georgia briefing.
- 1100 **Penguins** – Please join Mark in the lounge to hear about Penguin adaptations and identification, as well as his time researching them whilst living on South Georgia.
- Time change: At 1200 the clocks will change forward. At 1200 it will be 1300.**
- 1300 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1500 **Shackleton’s Endurance Expedition** – Please join Jodi in the lounge to hear the harrowing tale of Shackleton and his men on the epic endurance expedition.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.
- +/-2030 **Movie Night – Endurance Found** – A century after Shackleton's Endurance sank beneath the ice; explorers uncover the legendary shipwreck and an amazing tale of survival.

"I thought, dear, that you would rather have a live ass than a dead lion."
- Sir Ernest Shackleton to his wife Emily, after deciding to turn back 97 miles from the Pole.

Today is our final day at sea towards South Georgia. We will be doing a mandatory biosecurity check before we are allowed to land on South Georgia.

Therefore, please clean all your outerwear, backpacks, muck boots and tripods/walking sticks before the check this afternoon.

- 0745 **Wakeup call – good morning!**
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0930 **Geology of South Georgia** – Please join Enric in the **lounge** to hear about how South Georgia originated from a geological point of view, as well as the rocks we will observe during our visit.
- 1130 **Seals of the Southern Ocean** – Please join Joyce in the **lounge** to hear about the seals we will encounter during our journey: their identification and biology.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1400 **Biosecurity Check** - We will call you by deck to the **lounge** to complete your biosecurity check – please bring all your **cleaned** outerwear, backpacks, muck boots, and tripods/walking sticks. **Please listen for announcements.**
- 1630 **Krilling me Softly** – Please join Lucia in the **lounge** to hear about the lynchpin species of the Southern Ocean, krill. Hear about the biology and the fishery in the Southern Ocean.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

From this evening, we will be blacking out the ship – please ensure your blinds are closed before dinner – Thank you.

“Need to put footprint of courage into stirrup of patience.”
– Ernest Shackelton



Falkland Islands - South Georgia
Elephant Island - Antarctica - Polar Circle
Sunday 22nd February 2026
Right Whale Bay & Salisbury Plain
Sunrise: 0541 Sunset: 1944

- 0645 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
0700 **Breakfast** will be served in the dining room.

*This morning, we hope to land and zodiac cruise at **Right Whale Bay**. A beautiful landscape loaded with king penguins, fur seals and elephant seals as well as an amazing waterfall. The **Red** group will go to shore first, the **Blue** group will zodiac cruise; you will swap over onshore halfway through the morning.*

Please remember to ensure all your outer clothes, boots, bags and poles are clean.

- +/-0800 **Red group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Right Whale Bay.

+/-0830 **Blue group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Right Whale Bay.

1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon we hope to land and zodiac cruise at **Salisbury Plain**; the glacial plains of Grace Glacier are home to a large King Penguin colony, as well as Fur & Elephant Seals. The **Blue** group will go to shore first, the **Red** group will zodiac cruise; you will swap over on shore halfway through the morning.*

- +/-1500 **Blue group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Salisbury Plain.

+/-1530 **Red group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Salisbury Plain.

+/-1900 **Recap** Please join our team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.

1930 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

- 0715 **Wakeup call - Good Morning!**
0730 **Breakfast** will be served in the dining room.

In the morning, we hope to visit Hercules Bay, a small, sheltered bay known for its dramatic mountains, glaciers, and cold Southern Ocean waters. Here we hope to see Macaroni Penguins! Along with King penguins, elephant seals and fur seals along the shoreline under a beautiful cascading waterfall.

- +/-0845 **Blue group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Hercules Bay.
+/-0900 **Red group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Hercules Bay.

1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

This afternoon, we hope to land at Grytviken. All groups will land together this afternoon. Here you can expect to see the old whaling station, church, cemetery, and visit the museum, shop & post office. You can pay with credit or with debit card only.

Please remember to ensure all your outer clothes, boots, bags and poles are clean for inspection.

- +/-1415 **South Georgia Heritage Trust Briefing** – Please join the SGHT members from the museum for a presentation in the **lounge**.
+/-1445 **Red group** please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Grytviken.
+/-1500 **Blue group** please come to the zodiac boarding area for a landing at Grytviken.
+/-1600 **Toast to Shackleton at the cemetery.**
+/-1600 **Whaling Station tour 1** – meet outside the museum for a tour of the Whaling station.
+/-1700 **Whaling Station tour 2** – meet outside the museum for a tour of the Whaling station.
+/-1700 **Toast to Shackleton at the cemetery.**

1900 **Recap** - Please join our team in the **lounge** for our daily recap.
1930 **Dinner** will be served in the dining room.

"Polar exploration is at once the cleanest and most isolated way of having a bad time which has been devised". – Apsley Cherry-Garrard

- 0645 **Wake up call** - Good Morning!
0700 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning, we hope to land and zodiac cruise at Fortuna Bay. Here you will see a King Penguin colony, Fur & Elephant Seals, and many more birds and wildlife. The **Blue** group will go to shore first, the **Red** group will zodiac cruise; you will swap over on shore halfway through the morning.*

The weather tomorrow looks challenging, please be patient with changes of plans.

- 0800 **Blue group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Fortuna Bay.
0815 **Red group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Fortuna Bay.
1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon we hope to land at Stromness whaling station. Here you will see the remains of an old whaling station, Fur & Elephant Seals, and Gentoo & King Penguins. We will offer a long walk to 'Shackleton Falls' – the waterfall that Shackleton and his men descended on their final approach to Stromness for rescue. The walk is just under 5km round trip and is over grass, streams and some boggy terrain. The **Red** group will go to shore first, the **Blue** group will remain on the ship; you will swap over halfway through the morning.*

- +/-1430 **Red group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Stromness.
+/-1600 **Blue group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Stromness.
+/-1900 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for the daily recap.
1930 **Dinner** will be served in the dining room.

Need to put footprint of courage into stirrup of patience." – Ernest Shackleton

- 0645 **Wakeup call** - Good Morning!
0700 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning, we hope to land and zodiac cruise at **Gold Harbour**. Here you will see a King Penguin colony, Fur & Elephant Seals, and many more birds and wildlife. The **Red** group will go to shore first, the **Blue** group will zodiac cruise; you will swap over on shore halfway through the morning.*

- 0800 **Red group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a landing at Gold Harbour.
0815 **Blue group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Gold Harbour.
1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon, we hope to offer a full ship zodiac cruise inside spectacular **Cooper Bay**. There is a wealth of wildlife in this site including Fur and elephant seals, and we hope to find Macaroni Penguins here. We will all go zodiac cruising at the same time.*

- +/-1400 **Blue group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Cooper Bay.
+/-1415 **Red group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Cooper Bay.

Once everyone is back onboard, we will depart South Georgia – please take in the last sights of this incredible island as we make our way southwards.

- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for the daily recap.
1900 **Dinner** will be served in the dining room.

This evening, we will be sailing back into the open ocean to head South – please prepare your cabins, and yourselves. Take care moving around the ship, always keep one hand for the ship.

“Adventure is not outside man; it is within” – Roald Amundsen

During the night will set the ship's time back one hour - midnight will become 11pm.

- No Wakeup call – Enjoy!**
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 0930 **Antarctic Whaling** – Please join Pippa in the **lounge** for her lecture on the history of whaling in South Georgia and the Antarctic region – from devastation to recovery.
- 1130 **Krilling me Softly** – Please join Lucia in the **lounge** to hear about the lynchpin species of the Southern Ocean, krill. Hear about the biology and the fishery in the Southern Ocean.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1400 **Biosecurity Check** - We will call you by deck to the **lounge** to complete your biosecurity check – please bring all your **cleaned** outerwear, backpacks, muck boots, and tripods/walking sticks. **Please listen for announcements.**
- 1630 **On thin ice** – Please join **Jakub** in the **lounge** for his lecture about the global role of glaciers and icesheets.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.
- 2030 **South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction** – Please join the expedition team in the **lounge** for an evening of fun and fundraising – all in aid of helping preserve the beauty and history of South Georgia.

"They are extraordinarily like children, these little people of the Antarctic world, either like children, or like old men, full of their own importance and late for dinner, in their black tailcoats and white shirt-fronts — and rather portly withal."

— Cherry-Garrard

+/- 0600 **Washington Passage** – We hope to pass between Laurie Island and Coronation Island – If visibility is good we will wake you up early.

0715 **Wakeup call** - Good morning!

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

South Orkney Islands – Expedition Morning

This morning, we hope to explore the South Orkney Islands. We hope to offer a zodiac cruise near Signy Island mid-morning. Our activities will depend on our time of arrival – dictated by the ice conditions. We will keep you updated on timings throughout the day.

+/-1030 **Blue group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Signy Island.

+/-1045 **Red group** please come to the **zodiac boarding area** for a zodiac cruise at Signy Island.

1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

1430 **The Belgica Expedition** – Please join Saskia in the **lounge** for her lecture about the first overwintering expedition in Antarctica under the command of Adrien de Gerlache.

1630 **Tectonic History of Antarctica** – Please join Sven in the **lounge** for his lecture explaining the fascinating Geography of Antarctica.

1815 **Recap** – Please join the Expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily recap and briefing.

1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.

+/-2030 **Argentina in Antarctica** – Please join Clara in the **lecture room** to learn about life on an Antarctic Base.

"I have come to the conclusion that life in the Antarctic Regions can be very pleasant."

- Scott (1868—1912) at the end of the Discovery expedition.

- 0745 **Wakeup call** - Good morning!
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 1000 **Humpback Whales** – Please join Pierre in the **lounge** to learn everything about these magnificent marine mammals.
- 1130 **Rock ID** – Please join Enric in the **lecture room** to learn the ins and outs of rock identification.

As we sail towards Elephant Island, keep your eyes peeled for whale blows! These waters can be home to many large cetaceans, the more eyes looking out for them, the better our chance of spotting them!

- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon, we hope to reach **Point Wild, Elephant Island**. This is the location where Shackleton and his men first stepped foot on land after enduring months at sea. We hope to take the ship close enough to see Point Wild, and if the conditions allow, offer an activity off the ship.*

- TBC **Point Wild** - The Expedition team will assess conditions to determine our activities at Point Wild.
- 1815 **Daily Recap** -Please join the team in the **lounge** for our daily recap for plans for the following day.
- 1900 **Dinner** is served in the **dining room**.
- 2030 **How to get to Antarctica** – Please join Sasha in the **lecture room** to learn more about his way to Antarctica and life experiences.

"I am just going outside and may be some time."

Captain L. E. G. Oates. In March 1912, returning from the Pole, he walked willingly to his death in a blizzard to try to save his comrades, beset by hardship.

Antarctic Sound Expedition Day

This morning, we will enter the Antarctic Sound where ice conditions will dictate our timings and activities throughout the day. Please enjoy the stunning views from the outer decks and standby for announcements confirming timings for our activities.

0745 **Wakeup call!** Good morning!
0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning, we hope to visit **Kinnes Cove**, an Adelie penguin colony located on the southern shores of Joinville Island. Home to numerous breeding pairs of Adelie Penguins!*

+/-0915 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise at Kinnes Cove.
+/-0930 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise at Kinnes Cove.

1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon we hope to land and zodiac cruise at **Brown Bluff**. A continental landing, home to towering volcanic tuff rock and thousands of Adelie Penguins. **Red** group will go to shore first, and **Blue** will zodiac cruise, we will swap halfway through the afternoon.*

+/-1400 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a landing at Brown Bluff.
+/-1415 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise at Brown Bluff.

1845 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily briefing and recap.

1930 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

“It is in our nature to explore, to reach out into the unknown. The only true failure would be not to explore at all” – Ernest Shackelton



Falkland Islands, South Georgia
Elephant Island - Antarctica - Polar Circle
Monday 2nd March 2026
Elephant Point & Whalers Bay
Sunrise: 0600 Sunset: 2027

*During the morning, we will navigate into the South Shetland Islands where we hope to take you to **Elephant Point**, Livingston Island; an amazing peninsula filled with wildlife including moulting elephant seals as well as gentoo and chin strap penguins.*

0715 **Wakeup call!** Good morning!

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

0845 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise at Elephant Point.

0900 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise at Elephant Point.

1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

This afternoon, we hope to offer a landing and zodiac cruise at Whaler's Bay, an abandoned whaling station and British research facility located near the entrance to Deception Island.

During our landing, we hope to walk among relics of the whaling era that can be found along the geothermal coastline.

*The **Blue** group will go to shore while the **Red** group will zodiac cruise first. We will then swap halfway through the morning.*

Polar plungers – please come prepared with your swimmers under your clothing. Do not bring the towels from your cabin – we will provide towels onshore.

+/-1430 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you ashore at Whalers Bay.

+/-1445 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise at Whalers Bay

1845 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily briefing and recap.

1930 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

“Adventure is just a romantic name for trouble” – Roald Amundsen



Falkland Islands, South Georgia
Elephant Island - Antarctica - Polar Circle
Tuesday 3rd March 2026
Paradise Bay & Neko Harbour
Sunrise 0614 Sunset 2035

This morning we will sail in to the Gerlache Strait – surrounded by icebergs and beautiful Antarctic scenery.

0715 **Wakeup call!** Good morning!
0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning, we hope to zodiac cruise at **Paradise Bay**, a beautiful and famous bay surrounded by ice and high mountains where we often find whales and seals.*

0915 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise at Paradise Bay.
0930 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise at Paradise Bay.
1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*This afternoon, we hope to land & zodiac cruise at **Neko Harbour**, a continental landing home to a Gentoo Penguin colony. At the head of the bay is an active glacier, meaning there are many glacial icebergs, as well as excellent chances for whales and seals.*

1500 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a landing at Neko Harbour.
1515 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take for a Zodiac cruise around Neko Harbour.
1900 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily briefing and recap.
1930 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

“It is in our nature to explore, to reach out into the unknown. The only true failure would be not to explore at all” – Ernest Shackelton

- 0715 **Wakeup call!** Good morning!
0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*This morning, we hope to zodiac cruise at **Melchior Islands**, a group of protected islands where we find an Argentine station, we hope to find towering ice cliffs and wildlife.*

- +/-0815 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you zodiac cruising at Melchior Islands.
+/-0830 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you zodiac cruising at Melchior Islands.

- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

This afternoon we will start our sail towards the south on our goal to reach the Antarctic Polar Circle and spend the next day enjoying the beauty of the deep south.

We will sail into open ocean after lunch and the ship will be rolling, prepare yourself and your belongings.

- 1430 **Glamour & Guts: Ingrid Christensen Claims Antarctica** – Please join Dr Joanna Kafarowski – a Canadian member of the All-women’s Expedition onboard – in the **lecture room** for her lecture on the first woman to view and land on mainland Antarctica. Joanna is an authority on women and polar history and has written several books on the subject.
1630 **Under the ice** – Please join Sid in the **lounge** for his lecture about life beneath the ice and this amazing world.
1815 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily briefing.
1900 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

“Victory awaits him who has everything in order – luck, people call it. Defeat is definitely due for him, who has neglected to take the necessary precautions – bad luck we call it.” – Roald Amundsen

0630-0700 Around this time - we hope to **cross the Polar Circle** (66° 33' 39") – timing will be dependent on the sea and ice conditions during the night - we will make an announcement before crossing.

0715 **Wakeup call**

0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*In the morning, we hope to land at **Detaille Island**. Though there is a small rookery of Adélie penguins living on the islands, the main attraction is the abandoned British station: Base W. The base was occupied between 1956 and 1959, after which it was hurriedly evacuated when its supply ship became blocked by ice. The personnel had to leave across the pack ice, abandoning most of their gear.*

+/-0900 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a landing in Detaille Island.

+/-0915 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take for a Zodiac cruise in Detaille Island.

1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

*In the afternoon we hope to take you zodiac cruising in **Crystal Sound**, a beautiful bay where we will look for amazing ice and wildlife.*

+/-1415 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a Zodiac cruise in Crystal Sound.

+/-1430 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a Zodiac cruise in Crystal Sound.



Join us on the bow to celebrate our crossing of the **Antarctic Polar Circle**.

Please listen for announcements for this celebration.



1930 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

2030 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the **lounge** for our daily briefing and recap.

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

- 0715 **Wakeup call!** Good Morning!
0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

This morning, we hope to zodiac cruise around Port Charcot. This location is also called the "Iceberg Graveyard" due to shallow waters that trap massive icebergs around it and a great spot for whales and leopard seals.

- +/-0830 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a zodiac cruise at **Port Charcot**.
+/-0845 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for zodiac cruise at **Port Charcot**.

After we get back onboard, we hope to transit through the Lemaire channel – or 'Kodak Gap' – an iconically beautiful passage with towering mountains above a narrow channel.

- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

- +/-1345 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily briefing and recap.

This afternoon we hope to take you to visit Port Lockroy, the 'penguin post office'. There is also a small museum and gift shop. We may only have 40 people visit the same island at once – we hope to also visit a Gentoo Penguin rookery called Jougla Point and offer a short zodiac cruise. The post office accepts card payments only. Please write your postcards ahead of time.

- +/-1430 UK Antarctic Heritage Trust Presentation – Please join the team from Port Lockroy about life on Goudier Island and the work of UKAHT.
+/-1500 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for a landing and zodiac cruise at **Port Lockroy**
+/-1515 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you for zodiac cruise and landing at **Port Lockroy**.

- 1900 **Special Antarctic Dinner** will be served on deck 5 aft – dress warm :)

"Adventure is just a romantic name for trouble"

– Roald Amundsen



Falkland Islands, South Georgia
Elephant Island - Antarctica - Polar Circle
Saturday 7th March 2026
Foyn Harbour & Palaver Point
Sunrise 0624 Sunset 2016

- 0715 **Wakeup call!** Good morning!
0730 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

This morning, we hope to zodiac cruise at Foyn Harbour. We will explore the shores of Enterprise Island and the shipwreck of the Governoren; a whaling factory ship that caught fire and shipwrecked here in 1915.

- +/-0830 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you on a zodiac cruise around Foyn Harbour & Enterprise Island.
+/-0845 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you on a zodiac cruise around Foyn Harbour & Enterprise Island.
1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

This afternoon, we hope to land and zodiac cruise at Palaver Point. Palaver Point is home to Chinstrap Penguins and sometimes Weddell and Fur Seals.

- +/-1430 **Red group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you ashore at Palaver Point.
+/-1445 **Blue group** - please come to the **zodiac boarding area**. We will take you on a zodiac cruise at Palaver Point.
We will swap on shore halfway through the afternoon.
1815 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the lounge for our daily briefing.
1900 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

*“Victory awaits him who has everything in order - luck, people call it”
- Roald Amundsen*

- No wakeup call – enjoy!**
- 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.
- 1000 **All Women's STEAM Team Round Up & International Women's Day celebration** – Please join the scientists, artists and photographers from the women's team in the **lecture room** to hear about their work onboard and going forward. There will also be a silent auction in aid of Kings Trust: 'Change a Girl's Life Program'.
- 1130 **Does a Marine Mammal need a lawyer? Antarctica edition.** Please join Helen, Emma and Catherine in the **lecture room** to hear their talk about the legal issues surrounding marine mammals and how science can help make better informed policy decisions.
- 1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.
- 1330 **Muck boot & Drybag Collection** – We will call you by deck to the **zodiac boarding area** to return your muck boots, drybags and rental gear. Please listen for announcements.
- 1430 **Jackie Ronne** - Please join Joanne in the **Lecture room** for her lecture about the first woman in the world to be a working member of an Antarctic expedition.
- 1630 **Una Ventana al Mar** – Please join Clara in the **Lounge** for her lecture about the NGO around marine conservation and ocean literacy she runs together with Gonzalo with a unique and honourable mission.
- 1815 **Recap** – Please join the expedition team in the **Lounge** for our daily briefing and recap.
- 1900 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.
- +/-2030 **Antarctic Quiz** – Please join the Expedition Team in the Lounge for a fun night of Antarctic Trivia – join a team and come up with a fun team name!

*Please walk slowly on the ship, never rush. **Keep at least one hand for the ship.***

"Penguin meat tastes excellent." - Roald Amundsen

0745 **Wake-up call** – Good morning!

0800 **Breakfast** is served in the **dining room**.

*You will receive your bill in your cabin, when you are ready, please come to reception to complete your payments at reception – **Please listen for announcements.** We will also take payments (separately) for the **SGHT auction bids** – please come to the library after lunch for these payments.*

0930 **Future Voyages & Diving in the Polar Regions** – Please join the expedition team in the **lounge** to have a deeper look into Oceanwide's catalogue of expeditions to Antarctica as well as the Arctic

1130 **The Future of Ice** – Please join Jakub in the **Lounge** for his lecture about the facts that could determine the future of the ice around the world.

1230 **Lunch** will be served in the **dining room**.

1430 **Killer Whales** – Please join Andi in the **Lounge** for her lecture about the incredible and charismatic Orca of Antarctica and the World.

1630 **Argentina** – Please join Lucia in the **Lounge** for her lecture about our host port country – Argentina.

1800 **Farewell Toast & Trip Slideshow** - Please join the Captain and the expedition team in the **Lounge** to toast our voyage through the Southern Ocean and watch the trip slideshow.

1900 **Dinner** will be served in the **dining room**.

“Penguins are extraordinarily like children, these little people of the Antarctic world, either like children, or like old men, full of their own importance and late for dinner, in their black tail-coats and white shirt-fronts and rather portal withal”
– Aspley Cherry-Garrard, British Explorer



Falkland Islands, South Georgia
Elephant Island - Antarctica - Polar Circle
Tuesday 10th March 2026
Disembarkation - Ushuaia

0715 **Wakeup call** – Good Morning!

0730-0830 **Breakfast** will be served in the dining room.

Please place your large/check-in luggage outside your cabin no later than 0730. During breakfast we will collect your luggage and deposit it on the pier where it will be your responsibility to identify and collect each item.

0830-0900 **Disembarkation – Please listen for announcements.** We will inform you once we have been cleared by local authorities. Once clearance has been completed, we will invite you to the gangway to disembark Hondius.

*Upon disembarkation, **please identify and collect your luggage** from the pier and:*

- 1. Take it with you into Ushuaia and walk into town.*
- 2. Put it on the airport bus and get on the bus.*
- 3. Put it in the luggage truck, you can pick up at the luggage depot before 14:00.*
- 4. If you have arranged your own transport – please take your luggage*

On behalf of all at Oceanwide Expeditions and all aboard Hondius we thank you for a truly incredible expedition. Safe travels home.

“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