



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Antarctica –Weddell Sea Basecamp

Ushuaia – Antarctic Peninsula – Ushuaia

March 17th – March 29th, 2026



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



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

CAPTAIN PER ANDERSSON

and his international crew of 55

Chief Officer:	Vladyslav Rozhynsky	[Ukraine]
Second Officer:	Nino Czimic	[Croatia]
Third Officer:	Erik Van Der Reijden	[Netherlands]
Chief Engineer:	Aleksandr Bondarev	[Lithuania]
Hotel Manager:	Ingrid van de Loo	[Netherlands]
Assistant Hotel Manager:	Marleen van Moorsel	[Netherlands]
Head Chef:	Heinz Hacker	[Austria]
Expedition Leader	Chris Long	[New Zealand]
Assistant Expedition Leader	Allan White	[Falkland Islands]
Expedition Guide	Koen Hoekemeijer	[Netherlands]
Expedition Guide	Valeria Sainz Herrera	[Argentina]
Expedition Guide	Hélène de Méringo	[France]
Expedition Guide	Marco Rosso	[Italy]
Dive Guide	Mickael Green	[England]
Dive Guide	Sid Dewfall	[Gibraltar]
Kayak Leader	Adam Harmer	[UK]
Lead Mountain Guide	David McKinley	[New Zealand]
Mountain Guide	Andy Perkins	[France]
Ship's Doctor	Samuel Fidder	[US]

WELCOME YOU ON BOARD!

Day 1 – Tuesday Wednesday 17th March 2026 – Embarkation Day, Ushuaia and the Beagle Channel

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

Wind: W- 6/7 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Calm • Air Temp: + 5 °C

The day of embarkation began under wet conditions in Ushuaia, as the overcast sky showered us with a drizzle of rain, but it didn't dampen our spirits! We couldn't be happier to walk on board the cosy dry ship of Ortelius, our new home for the next 14 days where adventure awaited us.

This was not just a cruise, but the beginning of a unique and adventurous experience and for most of us, a once-in-a-lifetime trip.

Once we were all aboard and got our bearings, the ship's mandatory safety procedures



began, which included a short video outlining the ship's rules and regulations, followed by a safety briefing and drill. This familiarised everyone on board with the emergency procedure and prepared us in case of abandoning ship.



Numerous black browed albatrosses and cormorants were flying around us in the Beagle Channel. A few dolphins have been seen also putting on quite the display! This got us so excited for the many more species we would hope to see soon. After the drill, Captain Per

then formally welcomed us and introduced our voyage ahead. We were then introduced to the Expedition Team, the people who would be guiding us through this region for the next two weeks. Their backgrounds ranged from working at research stations, marine biology, history, oceanography, geology to photography. We couldn't wait to learn more about

Antarctica from all of them.

The evening continued with a scrumptious dinner in the restaurant, where we had the



opportunity to meet one another and share travel stories and the reasons why we decided to venture to this southern land. After dinner, we continued to be prepared for the next days with a presentation about zodiac operations and IAATO regulations. What an exciting time ahead for us!



Day 2 – Wednesday 18th March 2026 – The Drake Passage

1200 GPS Position: 57°23.6'S; 063°29.6'W

Wind: SE- 4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 5.5 °C

We woke up to our very first official expedition wake-up call from Chris... although some of us would argue the Drake Passage had already been gently (and not so gently) waking us up all night. A bit of classic “Drake shake” kept things interesting - rocking, rolling, and reminding us we were truly on our way south.



At breakfast, we found ourselves surrounded by a soft, mysterious fog, giving the morning a slightly magical feel... or at least making it harder to tell how big the waves actually were (probably for the best). Out on deck, those who ventured outside were rewarded with the graceful sight of grey-headed albatrosses gliding effortlessly above the waves. Show-offs.

The day quickly turned into “briefing central.” Adam gathered our brave kayakers, while Michael and Sid prepared future snorkelers for their chilly adventures. Meanwhile, Andy, Narly, Marco, and Valeria got the hikers ready to stretch their legs (eventually—once land exists again).

In between briefings, the Drake reminded us who’s boss. A few enthusiastic waves crashed against the ship, and let’s just say... some of us decided that the best activity of the day was a strategic lie-down in bed. Expedition-approved.

During the afternoon, we kept things lively onboard. Koen shared his photography wisdom, getting us excited (and slightly overwhelmed) about capturing Antarctica at its best.



At recap, Chris walked us through plans for tomorrow — good news: the Drake is expected to behave a bit better. Promises were made. Hope was restored. Valeria helped us

fine-tune our phone settings, so we don't return home with 3,000 blurry penguin photos, and Andy... well, Andy gave us a full introduction to nautical language, which somehow ended in a dance. We're still processing that one.

Dinner was delicious, and even better—the ship began to calm down. The Drake, at last, showed us a softer side, rocking us more gently as we headed into the night.

We went to bed hopeful, slightly wobbly, and ready for whatever Day 3 would bring. Antarctica is getting closer.

Day 3 – Thursday 19^h March 2026 – Drake Passage

12:00 GPS Position: 61° 37.5 0S; 060°03.6' W

Wind: SE-3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: overcast • Air Temp: +1°C

This morning we woke up to another day on the infamous Drake Passage. However, after yesterday's ocean motion, things had calmed down today. And this was clearly confirmed in the restaurant as many more of us had an appetite this morning and sea sickness was slowly on its way out ;).

Today would be a busy day full with a variety of things to do. We started with the collection of our muck boots. These are the rugged, but comfortable rubber boots that we will wear on all our off-ship activities.



After we had found a comfortable pair of boots, it was time for what the guides call a vacuum party in the bar. Visitors to Antarctica need to execute a thorough bio security cleaning to ensure that invasive species are not introduced to this pristine continent. We were required to bring all our outer layers, boots, hats, gloves and backpacks for inspection.



Things went smoothly though, and soon it was time to eat again, lunch was served!

Straight after lunch both the kayakers and snorkelers were invited to the bar to secure a slot for these fantastic activities.

With us approaching the Antarctic continent closer and closer, it was time for Marco to invite us for his Introduction to Antarctica lecture. Marco shared historic information but also talked passionately about the ice and geological variety of the White Continent.

In the meantime, whale blows were spotted and we regularly saw penguins porpoising close to the ship. We were definitely heading in the right direction!



During recap our expedition leader Chris informed us that we were targeting to have our first landings tomorrow. We got really excited and couldn't wait for the next day to start.

However, first things first; time to have a delicious dinner!

After dinner Chris announced our first iceberg with



penguins on it! It was already dark outside, but with the ship's spotlights we were delighted to see Antarctica's cute inhabitants on a beautiful iceberg. The perfect closing to an exciting day.

Good night everyone!

Day 4 – Friday 20th March 2026 – Penguin Point Seymour Island and Nordenskjold hut Snow Hill Island

12:00 GPS Position: 64° 18.5' S; 056° 39.3' W

Wind: SW 3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: clear • Air Temp: -3 °C



The first landing of our adventure at Penguin Point on Seymour Island, at the tip of the Antarctic Peninsular. This island is sandwiched between the Admiralty Sound and the wonderfully named Erebus and Terror Gulf.

It is also the site of the remarkable rescue on the 8th Nov 1905 by the Argentine corvette the “Uruguay” of the member of the Swedish Nordenskjold expedition.



The Kayakers had a wonderful cruise along the eastern side of the island, seeing penguins, a Weddell seal and the seal-like behaviour of the Snorkelers playing around and on a nearby iceberg. The hikers wandered up a delightful moonscape of ridges and valleys into the interior. The “medium” length hikers covered nearly 5km with the “long” doing 7-8km and both groups rising more than 100m vertical above the gulf.



The theme of the day, Otto Nordenskjöld’s expedition and rescue continued in the afternoon with a visit to the Swedish hut on Snowhill Island where the main group of 6 of the team wintered over.

The bay was a jumble of small bergs, some sporting basking seals, much to the delight of the kayakers. We were privileged to be able to enter the hut in groups of 5. It has been maintained by the Argentine Government and still has the character and some of the fittings from the time. A short climb to a viewpoint or a long beach offered the opportunity of a freedom walk for those that wanted to stretch their legs.

HIKE:

Morning : Penguin Point, Seymour Island

5km for the long and 4km for the medium, max elevation 95m

Terrain: gently undulating, sandy, small boulders up to 20cm across.

Day 5 – Saturday 21 March 2026 – James Ross Island

12:00 GPS Position: 64° 18.5' S; 057° 22.4' W

Wind: NE-3 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Partly cloudy sky • Air Temp: +5 °C

We woke up to a crisp Antarctic morning at -3°C , greeted by an absolutely magical pink sunrise that painted the ice and sky in soft pastel tones. Days like this reminded us exactly why being part of an expedition was so special.

While most of the ship was still waking up, our expedition team headed out early to scout the perfect landing site. That's expedition life—flexible, adventurous, and always full of surprises! After exploring the options, they found a truly spectacular spot, and the ship was smoothly repositioned to set us up for an unforgettable morning ashore.

Once landed, we divided into three groups.

Long hikers were dropped at a separate landing site and set off on a rewarding trek, walking all the way up and eventually reuniting with the rest of the group at the main landing area.

Medium hikers enjoyed a gentler route, but one that was just as beautiful and scenic.





Leisure: enjoyed a peaceful zodiac cruising between icebergs and birds.

The weather was on our side, and the views from the top were nothing short of breathtaking—wide-open Antarctic landscapes stretching endlessly in every direction.



Adding to the magic, the tide had dropped more than usual, leaving several growlers (small icebergs) stranded along the beach. This gave us a fantastic opportunity to get up close and capture some truly unique photos.

After all that fresh air and excitement, we returned to the ship for a well-earned lunch, followed by another repositioning as we set our sights on the afternoon adventure.

In the afternoon, we once again split into three groups. The long hikers had an especially memorable experience: partway along the trail, a few boots became firmly stuck in the mud! The hike quickly turned into a full-on boot recovery mission. After plenty of teamwork, determination, and good humour from both guests and guides, the mission was a success. Boots were freed, spirits were high, and laughter echoed across the landscape.

With plenty of smiles, photos, and stories, we made our way back to the ship. It was time for hot showers, followed by our daily recap, where we relived the highlights of an incredible day. The evening wrapped up with dinner, and later we gathered at the bar to share pictures, laughs, and a few games. The atmosphere was warm and joyful — proof that even in the coldest place on Earth, camaraderie and adventure kept us glowing.

We ended the day knowing one thing for sure: tomorrow would be another amazing Antarctic day.



HIKES

Morning : Redshaw Point, Markham Bay, James Ross Island

5,65km for the long and 4km for the medium, max elevation 300m and 175m respectively

Terrain: ice landing for the long, beach for the medium. Long hike was a few hundred m of ice covered in a thin skin of snow, surface moraine from gravel and rocks up to 15cm across.

Afternoon : Valley between Redshaw Point and Hamilton Point, Markham Bay, James Ross Island

3.5km for the “long” hike and 4.5km for the medium

Terrain: long on lookers left of the valley encountered soft ground with sticky mud which turned to quicksand and forced an early turnaround. Medium on lookers right had soft ground scattered with big boulders.

Day 6 – Sunday 22th March 2026– sailing south of James Ross Island

1200 GPS Position: 64° 25.6' S; 057° 41.5' W

Wind: E2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Clear • Air Temp: + 0.6 °C

We awoke to stunning orange hues of dawn in the sky off the east coast of James Ross



Island.

Our intention was to circumnavigate this mass of volcanic rock over the next two days. The first challenge was to pass through Admiralty Sound, a 3 nautical mile wide strip of water between James Ross and Snow Hill Island. This was awash with huge icebergs being swirled around in the multidirectional currents of the sound. The experience of the captain was impressive, together with the calm and focused concentration of the bridge team to thread our way through an ever-changing maze of huge lumps of ice, some bigger than Ortelius herself.



The reward for their hard work came soon after we exited the narrowest part of the sound. When

we spotted 2 juvenile emperor penguins on an ice floe. Ortelius managed to manoeuvre to within 200m of these impressive birds, and the excitement of Chris and the expedition team matched our own. We spent an hour watching them before heading further southwest, celebrating our sighting with hot chocolate served on the bow of the ship. One of the guides emerged onto the bow dressed up in a penguin suit, and many selfies were taken.

Due south of James Ross at over 64 degrees south, we embarked into zodiacs near the location of iceberg A81, the third largest in the world with an area of over 40 square nautical miles. Cruising through the jumbled chaos of brash ice, bergy bits and growlers, we started to catch glimpses of more wildlife. Crabeater seals and leopard seals were spotted basking on ice floes, and then we got the longed-for radio call: “4 adult emperor penguins spotted”. We gathered around an ice floe to hang out with these iconic symbols of the Antarctic for over an hour. Their colours, the light, their occasional calls made for an unforgettable experience of a lifetime. One of the guides took over 1700 photos, such was his enthusiasm



for this magical moment.

That evening, we celebrated once again with a barbecue on the heli deck of Ortelius. Dancing continued well after the sun had set with the same glorious gamut of colour we'd had that morning.

Day 7 – Monday 23th March 2026 – Brandy Bay, James Ross Island and Camp Hill.

1200 GPS Position: 63° 50.7' S; 057° 59.6' W

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

We were awakened to the promise of a true expedition day as we arrived along the northern coast of James Ross Island. With ice conditions dictating our plans, anticipation was high as we prepared for a flexible day of exploration in this remote and seldom-visited part of Antarctica.

Following breakfast, guests were invited ashore in hiking groups, with long, medium, and leisurely walkers setting out across the rugged terrain. The landscape here felt distinctly different, more open, raw, and geological, with sweeping views across the surrounding ice and sea.

The morning landing offered a rewarding hike inland toward a frozen lake, with one of the most unusual Antarctic sights along the way: mummified seals, preserved by the cold, dry conditions far from the shoreline. Their presence sparked curiosity and conversation, a reminder of how harsh and unforgiving this environment can be.

At the same time, kayakers slipped quietly onto the water, paddling through the stillness beneath towering cliffs and scattered ice. Snorkellers entered the frigid Southern Ocean, experiencing the Antarctic world from below the surface, an entirely different perspective of this wild landscape.

At the end of the landing, those feeling brave took part in the polar plunge, diving into near-freezing waters before quickly retreating back into dry clothes, laughter, and well-earned

adrenaline.



After returning to the ship for lunch, we prepared for an afternoon continental landing. Once again, guests split into hiking groups, exploring a new stretch of coastline. The conditions had shifted, with strong wind gusts sweeping across the landscape, adding an extra layer of challenge and energy to the experience.



Despite the wind, the afternoon rewarded us with whale sightings offshore, with blows and distant surfacing visible from both land and zodiacs. The combination of dynamic weather, wildlife encounters, and dramatic scenery made for a powerful Antarctic

experience.



HIKES

Morning : Brandy Bay, James Ross Island

Long hike to Monolith Lake, 7.5 km return, medium hike 5.5km

Terrain: gentle ascent on gravel to a site of mummified seals.

Afternoon : Camp Hill

4.6 km for the long hike and 3.8km for the medium, max elevation 135m

Terrain: Pebble beach, then gravel leading to a short section of soft snow.

Rocky terrain from gravel to rough rocks up to 40cm across.

Viewpoint with a 100m cliff on the headland overlooking the landing beach.

Day 8 – Tuesday 24th March 2026 – Cierva Cove

1200 GPS Position: 64° 08.85 S; 060° 53.1' W

Wind: NE-5 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 0.9 °C

MV Ortelius had made excellent progress overnight, rounding the northeastern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula, exiting the Antarctic Sound, and entering in the early hours of the morning the eastern entrance of the Gerlache Strait. Overnight, fierce gusts had reached 60–65 knots, listing her to starboard; however, by morning, a gentle breeze from the stern was helping our southwestward navigation.

A leisurely morning awaited us, and the forecasted damp weather on the western side of the Peninsula was confirmed by light snow covering the outer decks when we woke up. A calm

breakfast was followed by a talk given by Chris about his time working at Scott Base in the Ross Sea. Koen followed shortly afterward with his photography workshop, though he was interrupted several times as whale sightings became more frequent while we approached our afternoon destination: Cierva Cove.

Cierva Cove is a strikingly scenic inlet along the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, renowned for its dense concentration of floating icebergs and active glacier fronts that regularly calve into the sea. The cove is also an important site for wildlife observation, with frequent sightings of seals, penguins, seabirds, and marine mammals such as whales navigating its icy waters, making it a popular stop for scientific research and expedition cruises. It takes its name from the Argentine research



station Primavera Station (formerly called “Caleta Cierva”), which in turn honors the Spanish engineer and aviation pioneer Juan de la Cierva, best known for inventing the autogyro.



As the bridge carefully steered us into the bay, we approached the snouts of Breguet Glacier and Sikorsky Glacier, two of the many outlet tidewater glaciers that flow from the Antarctic Peninsula Ice Sheet along the western Danco Coast. The impressive seracs and cascading ice walls descending from the upper plateau shimmered in the late morning light, which faintly penetrated the heavy cloud cover.



Photo : Siobhan

In the early afternoon, the expedition staff were eager to take us out in the zodiacs, as weather conditions had improved. The excursion was magnificent from the start, with multiple encounters with Humpback whales feeding in the area. In addition, hundreds of penguins were porpoising through the rich waters of the bay. As we approached Penguin Island, we

observed a new species of brush-tailed penguin—the Chinstrap penguin—sharing part of the island with Blue-eyed shags.



Across toward the mainland, we then approached Primavera Station, where a rookery of Gentoo penguins was located. Watching these fast-swimming seabirds move through the icy waters and return to the rocky shoreline was yet another magical moment of this wonderful trip. The day was eventually wrapped up by a curious young humpback whale, which

decided to investigate the ship and the surrounding zodiacs, delighting us with several spy-hopping displays and gentle movements around the gangways and small boats.

Our first day on the western side of the Peninsula had been filled with wildlife and excitement, despite the overcast and damp conditions of the morning—endless surprises during this magical journey around the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Day 9 – Wednesday 25th March 2026 – Wilhelmina Bay and Davis Island

1200 GPS Position: 64° 34.6' S; 061° 59.2' W

Wind: NE-4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: fog snow • Air Temp: + 5 °C

Good morning explorers!

After a wonderful afternoon yesterday at Cierva Cove with lots of penguins and whales, we felt we should try and do the same again today! Our rugged M/V Ortelius had arrived in Wilhelmina Bay and we were already surrounded by countless whales. That looked promising!

Wilhelmina Bay was named after the Dutch Queen at the time, however it wasn't the Dutch that named this Bay. It was actually Belgian explorer Adrian de Gerlache who named the Bay in honor of the Dutch Queen as an expression of gratitude for the Dutch royal family supporting his expedition.



Wilhelmina Bay is a favorite location for feeding humpback whales and throughout the season large gatherings of these gentle giants can be observed here. Because of this, expedition guides often refer to the bay as

Whale-amina Bay ;).

After breakfast we dressed up warmly and headed out on the zodiacs. We didn't have to search very long as we saw whales in all directions. We observed beautiful icebergs, porpoising penguins and seals, however this morning we were most intrigued with the whales. At the end of the season most whales are well fed and this leaves time for more social behaviour. Some whales approached the zodiacs quite closely whereas others seemed to have some pre-breeding season interactions with each other. We got to see fantastic whale fluking, spy hopping and some very loud breathing. Some of us even felt and smelled their breath which was a unique experience.



on the rocks and snow.

After lunch we went out on the zodiacs again, this time around Davis Island. The weather had changed as it was now snowing and the wind had picked up; proper expedition conditions! We circumnavigated Davis Island and saw penguins, imperial shags and many fur seals who were resting

Because of the snow, many looked very cute with their white faces. When we had almost completed the circumnavigation, we saw a fantastic iceberg. It had a major arch which was quite thin. It looked like an artist had sculpted it and was probably the most beautiful iceberg



from this trip.

When we moved slowly towards the ship, multiple whales showed up once again. Despite the cold we spent more quality time with these amazing mammals and they treated us with many fantastic tail flukes and social behaviour.

It had been another incredible day. We experienced true Antarctic winter weather, we had amazing wildlife encounters and we got to be close to many whales.

During recap Koen told us more about why the whales are here during the summer and Marco talked about icebergs. Then it was time for dinner, the restaurant was buzzing from excitement, and it seemed we all had enjoyed this day tremendously.

Good night everyone!

Day 10 – Thursday 26th March 2026 – Half Moon Island

1200 GPS Position: 62°35.3 S; 059° 53.8' W

Wind: W-2 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Snow • Air Temp: -1.7 °C

We were awakened at 06:45 as MV Ortelius approached the Half Moon Island, part of the South Shetland Islands and our final planned day of Antarctic landings. The plan for the day was to make two landings; one in the morning at Half Moon Island; followed by an afternoon visit to Yankee Harbour, before beginning our return north.

After breakfast, guests prepared for the morning landing, and by 08:00 we were invited to the gangway to head ashore. Half Moon Island welcomed us with a classic Antarctic scene: snow-covered slopes, a rugged coastline, and a lively colony of Chinstrap penguins scattered across

the landscape. Their calls echoed across the island as they moved between nesting sites and the shoreline, while seals rested quietly along the



beaches, occasionally lifting their heads as we passed. We even had a sighting of Kevin, the resident yet elusive Macaroni Penguin!

The nearby Argentine Cámara Base added a small but noticeable human presence to the otherwise wild setting, offering a glimpse into ongoing scientific work in the region.

Following a rewarding morning ashore, we returned to the ship for lunch with the expectation of heading out again in the afternoon for our second landing at Yankee Harbour.

However, conditions had begun to deteriorate. Increasing winds and building swell made operations unsafe, and the decision was taken to cancel the afternoon landing.



Instead, Ortelius began her northbound journey earlier than planned, setting course toward Ushuaia to stay ahead of an approaching system in the Drake Passage.

The afternoon took on a more relaxed pace as guests settled in for the crossing. Later in the day, Sid hosted a lecture on life beneath the ice, offering a fascinating look into the hidden ecosystems of Antarctica, from ice-adapted fish to delicate invertebrates that thrive in one of the harshest environments on Earth. It was a fitting reflection on a part of Antarctica that often remains unseen.

As the day progressed, the ship began to feel the first effects of the rising seas, with swells building to around four metres. Movement onboard became more pronounced, and many guests stopped by the doctor to collect seasickness medication in preparation for the Drake Passage crossing ahead.

Today marked a turning point in our voyage, a final landing in Antarctica, followed by the decision to leave early in response to the ever-changing conditions of the Southern Ocean. As Ortelius pushed into building seas, our Antarctic adventure began its transition toward the journey home.

Day 11 – Friday 27th March 2026 – Drake passage

1200 GPS Position: 59° 18.05' S; 063° 45.4' W

Wind: N-34 • Sea: Moderate • Weather: Cloudy • Air Temp: + 5 °C

We woke up to the gentle (and by gentle, we mean enthusiastic) rolling of the Drake Passage. Honestly, it was a bit better than we had expected—though still enough to remind us exactly where we were! A shy sun peeked over the horizon, giving us a soft, moody start to the day.

Breakfast was a lively affair—the restaurant was full, which we took as a very good sign. Strong sea legs (or at least strong determination) all around!

Our morning kicked off with Helene, who introduced us to the fascinating world of wildlife tracking. We learned how scientists follow seabirds using everything from classic ringing techniques to high-tech devices. Even more intriguing was how these birds can act as unexpected “spies,” helping detect illegal fishing vessels out at sea. Who knew seabirds were also part-time detectives?

After the lecture, we embraced the Drake in full force. We gathered by the bridge, cameras in hand, laughing as we tried (and mostly failed) to capture the sheer power of waves crashing dramatically against the windows. What an experience—equal parts thrilling and humbling!



Koen then took us into the world of whale watching, sharing some incredible stories from his time guiding, along with jaw-dropping footage. Safe to say, excitement levels for future sightings went through the roof.

By the time lunch rolled around, so did the ship—with a bit more enthusiasm from the Drake. Plates were held a little tighter, and walking became a creative exercise.

In the afternoon, Allan



entertained us with the wild and slightly unbelievable story of the Antarctic Snow Cruiser—a massive vehicle designed to conquer Antarctica that, well... didn't quite go as planned. A bold idea, a challenging reality, and a great reminder that Antarctica always has the final say.

During recap, Chris showed us a storm system we were very lucky to avoid—close enough to be impressive, far enough to be comforting. He also shared a glimpse into life at Scott Base, giving us a taste of what it's like to live and work on the ice. Andy followed with a deep dive into the winds that shape this wild region, helping us better understand the forces behind our rolling day.

Dinner time arrived, at least for the brave among us, while others opted for a quieter evening. And so we ended the day, still dancing with the Drake, but full of stories, laughter, and anticipation.

Tomorrow: another Drake day—rumour has it, a gentler one. We'll believe it when we see it!

Day 12 – Saturday 28th March 2026 – Drake passage

1200 GPS Position: 55° 34.45' S; 066° 34.5' W

Wind: NE-6 • Sea: slight • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 11.1°C

It was a bittersweet feeling as the voyage started to draw to a close as we approached the southern tip of South America. To balance this out, the sea state had calmed down considerably overnight from the 5m of the previous day down to a much more reasonable 2m. So most of us could enjoy our breakfast and move around the ship a little more easily. We were all very excited to see Cape Horn in the middle of the morning off our port beam. A poem, "The Albatross" was read out over the ship's PA in honour of the many sailors who have died over the centuries rounding the Horn.



We spotted Peale's dolphins with their distinctive white stripes around the ship and even riding its bow wave as if welcoming us back to what passes for normal life.



Meanwhile, to keep us entertained, we had presentations on oceanography and other Oceanwide voyages and destinations. There's a world of adventure out there. The highlight presentation of the day was undoubtedly the question-and-answer session with Captain Per, revealing some behind the scenes details about Ortelius as well as recounting some of his experiences from decades as a ship captain all over the world's oceans.

As we steamed up the Beagle Channel to narrowly avoid a monster storm coming in from the west, the Captain and crew joined us in the bar for a celebratory toast to mark the end of a magnificent and challenging expedition.

Day 13 – Sunday 29th March 2026 – Disembarkation, Ushuaia

0800 GPS Position: 55° 42.4' S; 064° 35.8' W

Wind: SW-1 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Overcast • Air Temp: + 5 °C

The final wake-up call was delivered by Chris, oh how we would miss these wake-up calls! Chris instructed us to place our large checked in luggage in the corridors by 07:30 for transport to the pier. Off we went for one last breakfast, a sad morning to say goodbye to all the incredible dining room staff who had looked after us so well these last few weeks! Oh how we would miss the delicious fresh baked bread and pastries! After checking our cabins one more time for left behind items, we were ready to disembark.

Next up were the goodbyes to the hotel team, expedition team and most of all, each other. Strangers at the beginning, some leaving as lifelong friends. To share an experience like this together can create some very special bonds.

Some of us travelled directly to the airport, while others continued their journey into Ushuaia- one of the gateways into Patagonia where many planned to hike and explore for the next coming days. This expedition into the Weddel Sea in Antarctica offered us truly an incredible and adventurous experiences that we will cherish forever. Who knew that one could not only zodiac cruise in Antarctica, but scale up high mountains, kayak through iceberg dotted bays and snorkelled around iceberg?! An adventure we will never forget and so many stories to take home. Until next time!

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

Total distance sailed on our voyage: 1965 nautical miles

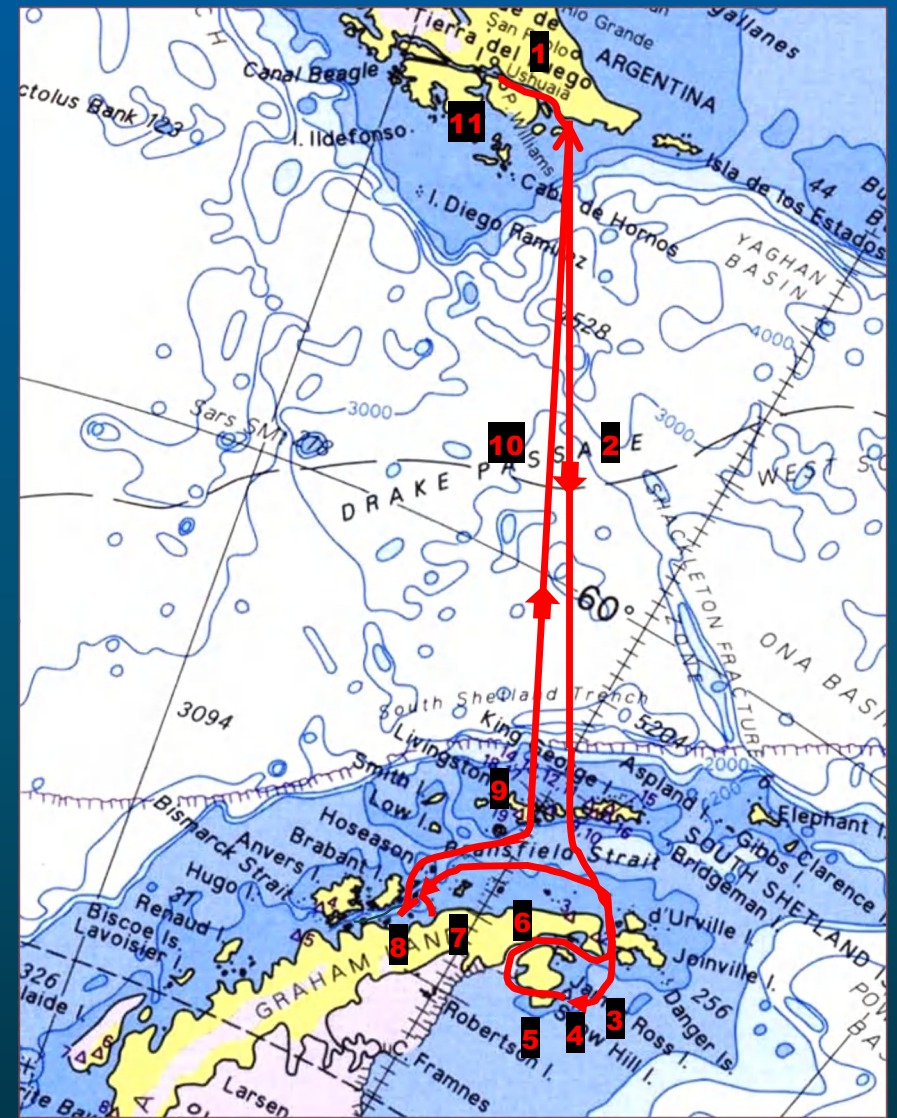
Most southern point sailed: 64° 39.513' S; 062° 07.404' W



Antarctica – Weddell Sea Basecamp

M/V Ortelius 17 to 29 March 2026

- 1) 17 March Embarkation Day, Ushuaia
- 2) 18 -19 March Drake Passage
- 3) 20 March Penguin Point and Nordenskjold Hut.
Hiking, Snorkelling and Kayaking
- 4) 21 March Markham Bay, James Ross Island.
Hiking, Snorkelling and Kayaking
- 5) 22 March Emperor Penguins south of James Ross, ice floe landing
- 6) 23 March Brandy Bay and Camp Hill.
Hiking, Snorkelling and Kayaking
- 7) 24 March Cierva Cove. Humpback Whales in abundance
- 8) 25 March Wilhelmina Bay and Davis Island. Whales and sea cliffs
- 9) 26 March Half Moon Island. Three diferent species of penguin
- 10) 27 -28 March Drake Passage
- 11) 29 March Disembarkation, Ushuaia



Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic region

		18-Ma	19-Ma	20-Ma	21-Ma	22-Ma	23-Ma	24-Ma	25-Ma	26-Ma
English	Latin									
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>					X				
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>									
Adélie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>			X		X		X		
Gentoo Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua papua</i>		X			X	X			
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarctica</i>		X					X	X	X
Macaroni Penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>									X
Magellanic Penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>									
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	X								
Northern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>									
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>									
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>	X	X							
Grey-Headed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>	X	X						X	
Light-Mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>	X	X							
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>		X							
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		X	X		X				
Cape Petrel (Pintado)	<i>Daption capensis</i>		X	X		X		X	X	X
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>									
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>				X					
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>		X							
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	X	X							X
Soft-Plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	X	X							
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>									
Kerguelen Petrel	<i>Aphrodroma brevirostris</i>		X							X
Atlantic Petrel	<i>Pterodroma incerta</i>									
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	X	X							
Great Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>									
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>		X	X						X
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>									
Prion sp	<i>Pachyptila sp</i>		X							
		18-Ma	19-Ma	20-Ma	21-Ma	22-Ma	23-Ma	24-Ma	25-Ma	26-Ma
English	Latin									
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>		X							
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>		X							X
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites nereis</i>									
Common Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanooides (urinatrix) berard</i>									
Magellanic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanooides magellani</i>									
Imperial (Blue Eyed) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax atriceps</i>									
Antarctic Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Rock Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>									
Snowy Sheathbill	<i>Chionis alba</i>			X						X
Chilean Skua	<i>Catharacta chilensis</i>									
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>			X			X	X		
Sub-Antarctic (Brown) Skua	<i>Catharacta lonnbergi</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dolphin Gull	<i>Larus scoresbii</i>									
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>									
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Arctic tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		X							

Chris Long – Expedition Leader



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

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

what the rest of the world had to offer.

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

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

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

Allan White – Asst. Exp. Leader



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

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

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

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

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

Koen Hoekemeijer – Exp. Guide



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

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

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

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

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

Valeria Sainz Herrera – Exp. guide



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

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

working in tourism area.

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

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

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

Hélène de Méringo – Exp. Guide



Native from Brittany in France, Hélène quickly developed a passion for nature and wildlife.

After studying biology and ecology, she multiplied missions in various latitudes, working for conservation programs in Guinea, Quebec, and research programs in New Zealand and Indonesia.

In 2008, she winters in the Kerguelen Archipelago as a volunteer biologist for the French Polar Institute and develops a real interest for island ecosystems and the polar world. A grandiose and decisive experience. She continues her experience in the Great South as an agent of the French Southern and Antarctic Natural Reserve. 8.64 cm

Since 2012, she works as an engineer in a research team focus in island ecology. This work leads her to regularly participate in on-board missions to study seabirds nesting in remote islands, particularly in the Pacific.

Since January 2019, she has been participating in cruises to the Antarctic Peninsula and the Arctic on expedition ships with Oceanwide Expedition.

Marco Rosso – Expedition Guide



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

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

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

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

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

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

Michael Green – Lead Dive Guide



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

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

His biggest tip for you is slow down.

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

Sid – Dive 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 — qualities he brings to every expedition. 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 a 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.

Adam Harmer – Kayak Leader



Adam has been paddling for over 20 years and this includes on all seven Continents. He calls the mountains and the Ocean his home.

Currently Adam lives in North Wales UK. He spends much of his life training and assessing outdoor instructors around the world.

Whether that is sea kayaking in Canada or Chile or raft guides and instructors on rivers in Africa.

Adam is also more than happy when he is working at home, where he shares his passion and extensive outdoor experience in training outdoor professionals and guides.

A previous winner of the Yukon 1000, the Worlds Longest Kayak race, first descents in Africa and South America and coaching under the Golden Gate Bridge and Antarctica so some of his highlights.

Adam also loves sharing the outdoors with people, sharing the interaction of nature, the sounds of waves crashing or seeing something special means the world to Adam.

He has two children and loves taking his family on 'Outdoor Adventures'

David McKinley – Mountain Guide



Dave “Narly” is an IFMGA Ski & Mountain Guide with 30+ years Guiding. Based in Twizel near Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park, with his lovely wife, 3 dogs and guest appearances from their 3 children. He is passionate about sharing his experience and joy in exploring the more remote parts of our world with people and, having a previous life as a chef, he has a belief that guiding is a part of the “hospitality” industry at its heart.

He has climbed and guided in Europe, Alaska, New Zealand, Nepal, Tibet and South America. Including successful

ascents of Everest, Lhotse, Manaslu, Denali and Aconcagua and many more.

Dave has been a willing repeat offender with OceanWide Expeditions since 2019 and loves sharing the special experience of mountaineering in Antarctica with all our guests.

When not climbing, guiding or Heliskiing in the Southern Alps he has a passion for training and working with Avalanche Search and Rescue dogs and is a member of the local Land Search and Rescue team.

Andy Perkins – Mountain Guide



Andy Perkins is an IFMGA mountain guide living in Chamonix at the foot of Mont Blanc, western Europe's highest mountain. He has been climbing and skiing since he was a teenager and has worked as a qualified mountain guide for over twenty years.

His "normal" work is as a guide in the European Alps. In the summer he guides climbing and mountaineering clients from all over the world. In winter he works with off piste skiers in and around lift-served ski resorts and by using ski touring equipment to access more remote spots. It's in that capacity

that he discovered the magical combination of mountains and ocean, initially through ski sail trips in Arctic Norway. He has pursued that fabulous formula with trips to Iceland and Greenland over recent years.

Here are three highlights from his mountain experience:

- 17 days on Cerro Kishtwar's north face in the Indian Himalaya . Intensity of experience is his goal in personal climbing, and this one had it in spades.
- 2 rescues on Denali, the second of which earned him the Denali Pro Award and an Award for Bravery from the US Department of the Interior.
- Skiing in Arctic Norway with his wife Lise, 60 years after his dad was pioneering there in the 1950's. Mountains run in the family!

He speaks fluent English and French and basic German and Italian.

His aim as a guide is to share his love of the wild places of the world and to maximise his clients' potential - to exceed their expectations of what they're capable of. This often means taking on new skills as well as sharpening existing ones. The big grins when someone finally "gets it", whether skiing or climbing, makes his job as a guide a real joy.

Samuel Fidder – Ships Doctor



Samuel Fidder is a Dutch surgery resident who lives and works in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

He received his medical degree from Utrecht University and performed his PhD research at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD, USA. For his PhD he studied transplant immunology and ultra-low temperature graft preservation techniques in hand and face transplants.

After returning to the Netherlands, he gained experience in critical care and emergency medicine through his work at the Erasmus University Medical Center ICU and the Maasstad Hospital Surgery and Emergency Medicine departments. Currently he is a surgeon in training at the Erasmus University Medical Center.

Growing up in a family of sailors and hikers, he developed a keen interest in outdoor adventure through rock climbing, alpinism, trekking, canoeing, skiing, and (sea)sailing. While working as a researcher in the United States, he climbed extensively in West Virginia, New York State, Utah, and Maine, repeatedly sailed up and down the Chesapeake Bay, canoed Minnesota's Boundary Waters and trekked through the Cascade Mountain Range and sections of the Appalachian Trail. As a ship's doctor he previously worked on journeys on the North- and Mediterranean Seas, the Atlantic- and Pacific Oceans and Antarctica.

Through his travels he gained a deep respect for nature and an understanding of how fragile the earth's ecosystems are. He loves to share the wonders of the polar wilderness with guests and to provide the best possible experience on polar voyages.



Weddell Sea Basecamp! Welcome on Board!

Date: 17th March 2026.

Day 1 - Ushuaia.

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

PLEASE LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 17:00+/- Ship safety briefing, in the **Bar on Deck 6**. Attendance to this is **MANDATORY**. After the briefing the emergency alarm will be sounded, and you will need to go back to your cabin and get your life jacket. All guests will go to their **MUSTER STATION** which the **Bar on Deck 6**.
- 18:15 Please join the Expedition Team and Captain in the **Bar on Deck 6** for a celebratory toast to the forthcoming voyage. This will be followed by a welcome briefing by the Hotel Manager and Expedition Leader to orientate you to life on board and explain the plan for the forthcoming days.
- 19:30 Buffet dinner in the **Restaurant on Deck 4**.
- 20:30 Please join Chris, the Expedition Leader, in the Bar on Deck 6 for the Mandatory IAATO and Zodiac Briefing. Attendance is mandatory and will be checked.

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

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



Weddell Sea Basecamp!

Date: 18th March 2026.

Day 2 - Northern Drake Passage.

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

07:45 Wake up call.

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

09:30 Kayakers, please join the kayak team leader in the bar for your mandatory kayak safety briefing.

11:30 Please join the Snorkelling guides in the bar for a mandatory snorkelling briefing, if you wish to go snorkelling.

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

During 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 at the library. If you have any questions, feel free to ask a member of the expedition staff. Tomorrow we will do our mandatory biosecurity checks of everyone.

14:00 Anyone wanting to do Long Hikes, please join the long hiking guides in the bar for your mandatory safety briefing.

16:15 Koen invites you to join him in the Bar for a presentation titled '10 tips for photography in Antarctica'.

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

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

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



Weddell Sea Basecamp!

Date: 19th March 2026.

Day 3 - Southern Drake Passage.

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

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

07:45 Wake up call.

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

09:15 You will be called deck by deck down to the Lecture Room on Deck 3 to collect your Muck Boots, please bring your thick socks so you can try them for size.

10:00 We will call you deck by deck to the bar for the MANDATORY IAATO Biosecurity inspection. When called, please bring all your outer garments, bags, boots, life jackets, tripods, etc. that you plan to use in Antarctica, for the expedition staff to check. Please make sure everything is clean before proceeding to the bar and ensure you sign the self-declaration form once you have been approved by the Expedition Team.

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

14:00 Please join us deck by deck in the bar for your Snorkelling and Kayaking activity group sign up.

16:30 Please join Marco in the bar for his 'Introduction to Antarctica' lecture.

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

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

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



Weddell Sea Basecamp!

Date: 20th March 2026

Day 4 - Arriving in Antarctica – Seymour Island and Snow Hill Island.

In the morning, we will visit Penguin Point, located on the southeastern coast of Seymour Island (Antarctic Peninsula). It is a significant breeding site for Adelie penguins and a notable location for Eocene-era fossil penguins. It is a monitored, historic site, often called Pinguinenkap or Pinguinbucht (Penguin Bight)

06:45 Wake up call.

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

08:00+/- We hope to invite you to the gangway for our first landing of the voyage, at penguin point. Please wear your lifejackets and waterproof clothing and have with you a warm hat and gloves and some spare layers. We invite those of you who would like a **long fast hike** to go first in line to the gangway. Then those wanting a **medium hike**, followed by those wanting a **leisurely slow hike**.

08:30+/- Kayakers please come dressed in your thermals to the bar.

08:30+/- Snorkelers please come dressed to the Heli hangar on deck 6

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

In the afternoon we hope to land at Nordenskjöld's Hut, a small wooden shelter built on Snow Hill Island during the Swedish Antarctic Expedition of 1901–1904 led by Otto Nordenskjöld. It is one of the oldest surviving structures in Antarctica and stands as an important monument to early polar exploration.

15:15+/- We hope to invite you to the gangway for our second landing of the voyage.

15:15+/- Kayakers meet in the bar wearing thermal base layers

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

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

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



Weddell Sea Basecamp!

Date: 21st March 2026.

Day 5 - James Ross Island.

Today we will be exploring the coastline of James Ross Island, a large island off the northeastern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula, separated from it by the Prince Gustav Channel.

It is known for its relatively ice-free areas, rich fossil beds, and geological importance, providing key insights into Antarctica's past climate and life. We will attempt to hike, kayak and maybe snorkel along the coast lines.

07:15 Wake up call.

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

08:30+/- We hope to invite you to the gangway for a landing. Once again, we will invite the serious long hikers first, then medium and leisurely.

09:00+/- Kayakers meet in the bar wearing thermal base layers

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

14:30+/- We hope to invite you to the gangway for a landing. Once again, we will invite the serious long hikers first, then medium and leisurely.

15:00+/- Kayakers meet in the bar wearing thermal base layers

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

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

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

Sunrise: 06:48

Sunset: 19:06



Weddell Sea Basecamp!

Date: 22nd March 2026.

Day 7 - A81 Iceberg and sea ice day.

07:45 Wake up call (or earlier).

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

During the day we will be exploring the sea ice in search of wildlife in the vicinity of the A81 iceberg. Be up and about early searching for wildlife. And we hope to do two off ship activities including snorkelling and kayaking.

09:00+/- We potentially invite everyone to the gangway for a Zodiac cruise

09:30+/- Kayakers listen for announcements and meet in the bar

09:30+/- Snorkelers listen for announcements and meet in the Heli hangar.

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

14:15+/- We potentially invite everyone to the gangway for a Zodiac cruise

14:45+/- Kayakers listen for announcements and meet in the bar

14:45+/- Snorkelers listen for announcements and meet in the Heli hangar.

18:00 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

18:30 BBQ dinner will be served on the Heli deck on deck 6. Dress warmly!

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

- Sylvia Earl.



Weddell Sea Basecamp!

Date: 23rd March 2026.

Day 8 - Northern James Ross Island.

EXPEDITION DAY

Today will be an expedition day on the northern side of the stunning James Ross Island. We hope to land and do some hiking wherever we can get to, ice conditions permitting.

07:15 Wake up call.

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

08:30+/- We hope to invite you to the gangway for a landing. We will invite the serious long hikers first, then medium and leisurely.

09:00+/- Kayakers meet in the bar wearing thermal base layers.

09:00+/- Snorkellers meet in the Heli hangar.

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

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

14:30+/- We hope to invite you to the gangway for a continental landing. We will invite the serious long hikers first, then medium and leisurely.

15:00+/- Kayakers meet in the bar wearing thermal base layers.

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

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

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

Norwegian saying



Weddell Sea Basecamp!

Date: 24th March 2026.

Day 9 - Heading Southwest along the Antarctic Peninsula.

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

08:00-09:00 Breakfast is served in the Restaurant in Deck 4.

09:30 Join Chris in the bar for his lecture: Calling Antarctic Home, About working at New Zealand's Research Station Scott Base

10:15-11:15 Get your merchandise from this trip in the Dining Room

11:15 Join Koen in the bar for the next lecture in his photo workshop series.

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

Expedition Afternoon

During the afternoon we will assess the conditions for an off-ship activity. Standby for announcements. If we can't leave the ship we will have a lecture.

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

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

"I don't know where I'm going, but I promise it won't be boring".

-David Bowie-



Weddell Sea Basecamp!

Date: 25th March 2026.

Day 10 - Wilhelmina Bay and Harry Island.

07:15 Wake up call.

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

08:30 We hope to invite you to the gangway, weather permitting, for a Zodiac cruise.

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

13:30 Please join the Expedition Team in the Bar for recap.

14:45+/- We hope to invite you to the gangway, weather permitting, for a Zodiac cruise at Harry Island.

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

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

- Sir Ernest Shackleton.



Weddell Sea Basecamp!

Date: 26th March 2026.

Day 11 – Half Moon Island and Yankee Harbour.

06:45 Wake up call.

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

In the morning, we aim to land on Half Moon Island, one of the South Shetland Islands. It is the site of Argentine research station - Cámara Base. During our landing on Half Moon Island, we hope to see chinstrap penguins, and some seals.

08:00 We hope to invite everyone to the gangway for a landing at Half Moon Island.

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

In the afternoon we hope to land at Yankee Harbour, a small, sheltered bay on Greenwich Island, known for its historical use as a 19th-century sealing anchorage. Today, it's a popular landing site for visitors to Antarctica, where you can often see Gentoo Penguin colonies and dramatic icy landscapes.

13:15 We hope to invite you to the gangway for a landing and Yankee Harbour.

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

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

Soon after leaving Yankee Harbour, we will reach open ocean and begin our journey back across the Drake Passage. Please ensure that everything in your cabin is secure, and do not let doors swing freely. Remember.... always have one hand free for the ship at all times, and NEVER place your fingers in the door frames.

"I don't know where I'm going, but I promise it won't be boring".

-David Bowie-



Weddell Sea Basecamp!

Date: 27th March 2026.

Day 12 - Drake Passage.

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

Remember: The ship will be rolling, please keep one hand for the ship at all times as you move about. Shut all doors firmly and keep fingers away from door frames.

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

09:30 Please join Helene in the bar for her lecture about “How to track Birds”.

11:30 Please join Koen for his lecture about his personal experiences as a whale watching guide around the world, including of course, lots about Humpback Whales.

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

16:15 Allan invites you to the Bar for a lecture titled “The Curious Case of Admiral Byrd’s Antarctic Snow Cruiser”.

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

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

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



Weddell Sea Basecamp!

Date: 28th March 2026.

Day 13 - Approaching South America.

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

Remember: When the ship is rolling, keep one hand free for the ship at all times as you move about. Shut all doors firmly and keep fingers away from door frames.

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

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

- 09:30 Enjoyed travelling with us to Antarctica? Please join Koen in the Bar for a presentation about Oceanwide's other destinations.
- 11:30 Please join Marco for his lecture about "The role of the Polar Regions in the Ocean Circulation"
- 12:30-13:30 A buffet lunch is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.
- 14:30 Please join Captain Per in the bar, for Questions and Answers!
- 16:15 Valeria invites you to the bar for her workshop: How to prepare the perfect Argentinian Mate.
- 18:00 Please join Captain Per and the Expedition Staff in the Bar for Captain's Farewell Cocktails and a viewing of the voyage slideshow. A copy of the slideshow will be sent to you after the voyage along with your trip log.
- 19:00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant, Deck 4.

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



Weddell Sea Basecamp!

Date: 29th March 2026

Day 14 Ushuaia.

07:15 Wake-up call.

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

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

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

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

From all the Expedition Team and Crew on board *M/V Ortelius*, we wish you safe onward travels and thank you for sharing this incredible voyage with us.
We look forward to sailing with you again in the future.

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