



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS

Basecamp Antarctica

18th November – 29th November 2016

On board the

M/V Plancius



MV *Plancius* was named after the Dutch astronomer, cartographer, geologist and vicar Petrus Plancius (1552-1622). *Plancius* was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was named *Hr. Ms. Tydeman*. The ship sailed for the Royal Dutch Navy until June 2004 when she was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions and completely refit in 2007, being converted into a 114-passenger expedition vessel. *Plancius* is 89 m (267 feet) long, 14.5 m (43 feet) wide and has a maximum draft of 5 m, with an Ice Strength rating of 1D, top speed of 12+ knots and three diesel engines generating 1230 hp each.

Captain Evgeny Levakov

and his international crew

including

Hotel Manager:	Johnny van Velzen	Netherlands
Asst. Hotel Manager:	Katrin Völker	Germany
Head Chef:	Ralf Barthel	Germany
Sous Chef:	Sean Steele	Canada
Ship's Physician:	Hans Friema	Netherlands

and

Expedition Leader:	David Berg	Sweden
Asst. Expedition Leader:	Lynn Woodworth	Australia/Canada
Camping Guide:	Ignacio Marino	Argentina
Camping Guide:	Bernice Notenboom	Canada
Mountaineering Guide:	Tim Blakemore	U.K.
Mountaineering Guide:	Rocio Siemens	Spain
Snowshoe Guide:	Bill Smith	Scotland
Kayak Guide:	Paul Donovan	Wales
Expedition Guide:	Beau Pruneau	Canada
Expedition Guide:	Miriam Marquart	Germany
Expedition Guide:	Michael Ginzburg	Russia/Germany

Welcome you on board!

Day 1 – Friday 18th November 2016

Embarkation – Ushuaia, Argentina

GPS 08.00 Position: 042°45'S / 065°01'W



So here we are at last in Tierra del Fuego, at the bottom of the world. Well, from Ushuaia we'll be going *south* of south...a long way south. But for today, we ambled about this lovely Patagonian city, savouring the local flavours and enjoying the sights.

Ushuaia marks the end of the road in Argentine Tierra del Fuego, but also the beginning – the beginning of a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. During the summer this rapidly growing frontier town of 55,000 bustles with adventurous travellers. The duty-free port flourishes with tourism but also thrives on a sizeable crab fishery and a burgeoning electronics industry. Ushuaia (lit. "*bay that penetrates to*

the west" in the indigenous Yaghan tongue) clearly benefits from its magnificent, yet remote setting. The rugged spine of the South American Andes ends here, where two oceans meet. As could be expected from such an exposed setting, the weather has the habit of changing on a whim. However, temperatures during the long days of the austral summer are relatively mild, providing a final blanket of warmth before heading off on our adventures.

For many of us this is the start of a lifelong dream. The excitement comes in different forms for each unique person, but even the most experienced of us feels genuine excitement to depart on a journey to the Great White Continent of Antarctica. Most passengers were promptly at the gangway at 16:00, ready to board our ship MV *Plancius*, home for the next 11 days.

We were greeted at the gangway by members of our Expedition staff who sorted our luggage and sent us on board to meet Hotel and Restaurant Managers, Johnny and Katrin. We were then checked into our cabins with the assistance of our fabulous Filipino crew.

A little while after boarding we convened in the lounge on deck five to meet First Officer Jaanus, who led us through the details of the required SOLAS (Safety Of Life At Sea) Safety and Lifeboat Drill, assisted by the crew and staff. On hearing the alarm we reconvened at the 'muster station', the lounge, for the mandatory safety briefing and abandon ship drill donning our huge orange life jackets that will keep us safe should the need arise. After this lifeboat drill we returned to the outer decks to watch our departure from the jetty of Ushuaia and the last of city life for a while. We entered the Beagle Channel with an escort of black browed albatross. Once we were on our way into the channel we were invited once again to the lounge to meet our Hotel Manager Johnny who gave us an overview of the ship, a floating hotel which will be our home for the next 10 days or so. We then met our Expedition Leader, David Berg and the rest of the Expedition Team who will guide us in Antarctica in order for us to enjoy the various Basecamp activities that are on offer: kayaking, mountaineering and camping amongst others.

This was also a chance to meet our Captain, Evgeny Levakov and toast our voyage with a glass of Prosecco. At 19:30 we sampled the first of many delicious meals on board, prepared by Chef Ralf and Sean and their galley staff. This first evening on board was occupied with more exploration of the ship, adjusting to her movements, and settling into our cabins. In the early hours of the morning we would be out into the open waters of the Drake Passage and heading South towards Antarctica.

Day 2 – Saturday 19th November 2016

At Sea in the Drake Passage

08:00 GPS Position: 056°23' S / 065°10' W

The morning started with a bit of rolling, although the “Drake Lake” welcomed us very gently. The first sightings of giant birds excited us very much and kept people looking out for more wildlife.

After a while, the first whale sighting was recorded.

Most of us felt well so that we used the day at sea for an introduction to the Polar Regions by Lynn.

After Lunch, and some more hours of wildlife watching Michael gave us an introduction into the adaptations of animals to the polar environment.

Before Dinner, we got our Muck Boots handed out and met for a recap and outlook of the first day with action and landings.

Day 3 – Sunday 20th November 2016

At Sea in the Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 060°20' S / 060°47' W



We spent the day relaxing, watching the sea and settling in to life on board *Plancius*. We sailed under calm conditions, with very little wind or swell, so most of us were very comfortable, spending time in the Lounge chatting and getting to know our fellow passengers. During the morning, our guides Ignacio (“Nacho”), Bernice, Tim, Rocio and Paul briefed us on our Basecamp activities of Camping, Mountaineering, Snow-shoeing and Kayaking, and everybody was full of questions and enthusiasm, looking forward to getting out and doing everything. During the morning, whales were spotted, and we all rushed out onto the outer decks when David made the call. Some of us had never been whale watching before, but we spotted the blows easily, as the whales were quite close to the ship.

Captain Evgeny and the Officer on watch, plus the helmsman, did a great job of getting us close, without ever stressing the whales. They swam and fed in front of us, then after about half an hour, decided it was time to move on, so we let them go on their way and we returned to our path to Antarctica. Later in the day, the excitement rose when we confirmed one of our three whales to be a Blue whale, the largest animal to ever live!

After a leisurely lunch, many of us got out on deck and did some bird-watching, identifying some of the Antarctic species we have not seen before, including the incredible wandering and royal albatrosses, with their 3 metre wing-span. During the night, we had crossed the Antarctic Convergence, so we were truly in Antarctic waters! New species, including penguins, started popping up. After a little nap for many of us, it was time for the mandatory briefing required before going ashore in Antarctica. David, our Expedition Leader, filled us in on the dos and don'ts while ashore, making sure we knew how to behave around penguins and other wildlife. He then gave us some information on the Zodiacs, the fleet of black rubber boats we will use to go to shore and go cruising around the ice, and how to safely use the gangway and get into the boats. Following on from that, we learned about biosecurity, and how we have to vacuum our gear! Brains full, we went to our cabins to sort out our gear and figure out what needed to be cleaned. We were called to the lounge in small groups, where we put the vacuum over our gloves, hats, fleece, backpacks and everything else we could think of that might be carrying seeds or dirt. Many crumbs, crackers and bits of fluff (and the odd sock and glove) disappeared down the gullet of the machines, and the lounge was full of the roar of several vacuums for the rest of the afternoon. Cleaning completed successfully, we signed the form and went back to our cabins to reassemble our gear. Recap came just before dinner, where we were given the low-down on our plans for tomorrow, and some great info on the whales we had seen by our very own whale

expert, Beau. When Johnny called us, dinner was taken and enjoyed with great enthusiasm, though most of us had not done anything energetic all day, and had no excuse for being hungry after the big lunch we had. A few of us had a nightcap in the bar, but the racers amongst us rushed to bed to try to rest before the first running day at Bellingshausen tomorrow.

Day 4 – Monday 21th November 2016

Bellinghausen, King George Island (South Shetlands)

0800 GPS Position: 062°12' S / 058°55' W



Today we have our first landing after crossing the Drake Passage at the King George Island (South Shetland Islands) at Bellinghausen. At this lovely little island close to the Antarctic continent, Russia, Chile, Uruguay and China have their research station. The morning starts very early for some of the staff and the runners the latter will try to get 100 kilometres on their card here. The Basecampers are welcomed ashore by a bunch of Gentoo penguins; a couple of Crabeater seals are also lying here and there in sunshine. The morning starts with a snowshoe hike with Bernice in sunny weather conditions. The Mountaineering group starts of for their first trip with Rocio and Tim at the Collins glacier near the Uruguay station.

After lunch we are invited to visit the Chilean Navy and the Russian station here at Bellinghausen and everybody who took his passport ashore can get a stamp from the King George Island. A little later in the afternoon the Basecampers get a zodiac cruise over to Ardley Island where Gentoo penguins are nesting. Some lucky campers even spotted one Adelie penguin snooping around between the Gentoo's and couple of Chinstraps. Now it is time to head back to Plancius for dinner and later in the evening also the



runner's returning completely exhausted as some of them run up to 90km today. We're leaving King George Island at around 9 pm, next stop Deception Island.



Mountaineers

21st November King George Island

A pleasant hike on King George Island getting dropped off at Collins Glacier near the Uruguayan Antarctic station and walking back to Bellinghausen Base.



Day 5 –Tuesday 22th November 2016

Telephon Bay, Deception Island, Antarctica

0800 GPS Position: 062°55'S / 060°38'W

The day started dramatically as before breakfast Plancius slid through 'Neptunes Bellows' the narrow entrance to Deception Island. It was apparent that this was an apt name, as the massive expanse of the hidden flooded caldera came into view.



The vessel anchored off Telephon Bay, dropped Zodiacs and in excellent conditions, the 4 Deserts and Base Camp operations continued. As usual the track setters landed first and laid out a route along the lava gravel shore and up into the snow line at the base of the mountains fringing the bay. The climbers equipped with snow shoes followed next and led by Tim tackled a higher route overlooking the running course. Kayakers commanded by flotilla leader Paul and escorted by their reassuring Zodiac, paddled along the shore-line and into an intimate beautiful sheltered bay. The remaining Base

Campers had the option of Zodiac cruising or snow shoe hiking.

It was interesting watching the runners stopping regularly to whip out their cameras and photograph the admiring enthusiastic audience of penguins or the dramatic scenery unfolding throughout their route. The route setters should have laid out passing places at these critical view-points.

All were intrigued by the out-of bounds twisted remains of the burnt-out Chilean Research Station and atmospheric sight of clouds of steam rising from the shore line. Both serving as a constant reminder of the volcanic origins of the landscape.



A highlight of this landing was the polar plunge.



As Plancius departed in the afternoon, the vessel sailed past the rusty historic remains of the Whaling and Research Station at Whalers Bay. Passengers noted the brilliant colours of the red iron oxide and yellow sulphur tinted mountain-sides.

During recap Lynn gave an account the history of the bay and David outlined the Oceanwide Expedition plans for the next day.

Mountaineers

A full day hike starting and finishing in Telefon Bay. We hike up to the summit of Goddard Hill, taking in the views on the opposite side of the Deception Island. We walk along the rim of the old volcano and descend back down to the bay.



Kayakers

22nd November 2016 – Deception Island – Team A

A brief calming in the weather allowed Team A to get out for a paddle at Telefon Bay during the afternoon. We initially ventured into one of the small coves to hide from the wind & get into our kayaks. Soon after the wind dropped with gave us the opportunity to circum-navigate the cove, taking in the Weddell Seals & Gentoo Penguins as we went. Once back out in the main bay, we hugged the shoreline, making our way back to the zodiac landing point where all the runners were coming through. Many more Weddell Seals were passed on the shoreline, oblivious to our presence. After watching a few of the runners pass by the start/finish line, we headed out towards Plancius where we rafted up before getting back onto the zodiac to conclude our session – only a few ‘beach whale’ entries into the zodiac!! A nice afternoon was had by all.....

Day 6 – Wednesday 23th 2016

Paradise Harbour; Almirante Brown & Stoney Point

0800 GPS Position: 064°54' S / 062°54' W

The day started off dark and brooding, clouds hovering overhead as the Plancius wove its way through the ice and water towards the days landing site. As David's strong Viking voice danced its way through the airwaves and into our ears, rousing us from our sleep, wafts of tastiness from the kitchen crept its way up our nostrils of varying cleanliness and cloggy-ness. A full day! It was to be, a landing at Almirante Brown for the basecamp passengers, while the marathon runners had a track built for them on Stoney Point by the always energetic Bill & Beau. Almirante never fails to deliver, with its fantastic views of glacial goodness, an intrepid hike up the hillside, as well as the ever present Gentoo penguins languishing about in the sunshine (hidden by the clouds as it were). Then also a short but sweet zodiac cruise, around in Skontorp Cove with views of cliffs and ice and fantastical beasts of the deep.

As lunchtime wove its way into the day, the runners kept the pace going while only stopping momentarily for a hot package of noodles while the sleet and damp snow pounded down upon them. The basecamp guests enjoyed a luxurious buffet of food prepared by Chef Ralph, our husky German chef who is never on short supply of warm tasty creaminess known as soup.

And then back out in the boats! Shouted the ever gregarious Scotsman Bill. Only a few dared the wet and cold for a zodiac cruise out around the bay, while the mountaineers tried their hand at Mount Banck, and the kayakers yet again headed out to splash and play in the wet soupy ocean.

And the runners you ask? They kept on running, how smashing! Through the wet, through the cold, through the soggy snow clinging at the track and their clothes, they pushed on through thick and thin determined to prove their worth to the South Polar Viking gods who rained down the elements upon them, determined to break them like ever so many fragile branches on a tree.

As the day wound to its end, the runners came crawling back the ship, some still fit as a fiddle and ready for more, while others groaned and moaned in agony as their muscles seized up and foot blisters popped with joyful glee. The base-campers however were all a-shiver with excitement; this would be a camping night out at Stoney Point! Camping in Antarctica, how curious. As they headed out to the designated camping spot, the runners had their turn to laugh as they enjoyed all the comforts of home aboard the Plancius that night.

Mountaineers



Morning: Paradise Bay, Almirante Brown



We hike up a small peak above the Argentinean Antarctic base and walk along glaciated terrain to get away from it all and access some of the best views of Skonthorp Cove.

Afternoon: Barbaro Point

A long glacier trek across glaciated terrain leads to Barabro Point, in a commanding position above the Ferguson Channel. We named this unnamed peak 'Mount Cherry'



Kayakers

The day began with Team C heading out to Base Brown in poor visibility but calm waters. WE headed directly to the Base to check out the Gentoo Penguins. After taking a few photos, we headed into the cove behind the Base, which had opened up some what. WE checked out a few lazy seals before moving out back to the Base & onto Skontorp Cove, passing the nesting Shags on our way. The cove had opened up to which allowed us some exploration before eventuall getting back on board the zodiac to head back to the ship for lunch.

After lunch, it was Team B's turn to head out. We started at Stoney Point, watching the Race the Planet runners. From hear we headed down the channel in calm waters but soon the conditions changed with winds reaching Force 3 and a degree of swell. Pre-empting a further increase in wind, we bid a hasty retreat to the zodiac and back to the ship. Fortunately we all stayed dry!
Another great day in Paradise!!

Campers

We had a full house with people from basecamp who wanted to camp on shore. During the day we noticed some weather moving in with some clouds and light snow but of no concern for a night camping out. A few guests came to us wanting to have a tent for the night and we got together 11 tents for people who didn't feel comfortable camping out in a bivi sack. After dinner we shuttled passengers to the shore. Once everybody arrived people were setting up their sleeping situation by digging into the snow and building a wall to protect themselves from the wind. A few people wanted to have a tent and we helped them set it up. The tents are not that easy to erect and need some instruction. Most people were happy because the wind had dropped completely and temperatures were well above freezing. Once everyone was settled into their own cave, people hiked up the hill to get a great view of Paradise Bay. We placed the toilet facilities right where the runners had used the area before. During the night we got a little snow and lots of sounds from glaciers and icebergs breaking and moving. The night went well; no one came in and wanted to go back to the ship or complained of being wet and cold. At 5 AM the ship's horn blew and 20 minutes after that zodiacs came to fetch us back to the ship. Everyone was back on board by 6 AM.

Day 7 – Thursday 24th November 2016

Damoy Point & Dorian Bay, Wiencke Island

0800 GPS Position: 064°45' S / 063°18' W

The day started snowy and wet, with not much visibility and a light but biting wind. The campers were sleeping - apparently comfortably! - through all of this, and the Bridge had to blow the ship's horn to wake them up and get them packing. We got everyone back on the ship not long after 05:00, and were soon under way for Damoy Point and Dorian Bay. The sailing through the fog, snow and choppy waters full of ice was very atmospheric, those of us that were not in a hot shower or warm, soft bed enjoyed the steely grey views and glimpses of the Gerlache Strait as we navigated westward towards Wiencke Island and our proposed landing site of Damoy Point. The weather cleared a bit while sailing, and the Neumayer Channel was a glorious sight, with glaciers coming down around us and icebergs floating on mirror-flat waters. The reflections in blue and grey were stunning, and a good chance to practice some landscape photography.

As soon as we arrived at Damoy Point and Dorian Bay, the Captain dropped the anchor between the point and the bay, and Expedition Leader David set off in a zodiac to find a place to get us on shore. There was no chance of landing on Damoy Point, but the landing team dug a set of stairs through a couple of metres of snow, and we finally landed at Dorian Bay. Or, at least some of us did. A few of us also decided to stay on the ship and rest up after camping! But a small group of hearty explorers set off with Michael to check out the ice and then the Gentoo penguins on shore. Our runners started a bit later than usual today, as the course took quite some time to set up. Mountaineering Guide Tim made good time on a single lap, and checked the whole route, ensuring the glaciers were safe, and the end result was a long track in quite deep snow, sloping upwards to a ridgeline with spectacular views.

After lunch, the ship began to reposition a nautical mile from Dorian Bay around Damoy Point to Port Lockroy, but before we even got there, we turned around and returned to Dorian Bay to end the running due to ice and wind. Wind was blowing sea ice towards the landing site, and so we had to get everybody off Dorian Bay while it was still safe to do so. We put a few extra boats in the water, and quickly packed up the gear, loading up the zodiacs with racers, then all the paraphernalia of flags, toilets, garbage bins, sledges, snowshoes and water. Once everybody and everything was back on board, we put our nose around the corner again, but the sea ice was also coming in on the Port Lockroy side, and all potential landing sites were fully blocked by sea ice. While we were sad to miss out on a shopping opportunity on shore, Johnny provided a great range of goods on the ship - he and Katie suddenly had a whole selection of clothing, books, and cute stuffed penguins on display, and we took advantage of that and added to our souvenir collections.

We were sailing the beautiful Neumayer Channel, the narrow waterway between Anvers and Wiencke Islands and the views could only be described as spectacular. Our ice-experienced Russian Captain took the ship into heavy mixed brash and sea ice, and we crunched and bumped our way through what looked like solid ice. Surprisingly blue glacial icebergs stood above the white sea ice, seals and penguins rested on the ice, looking up as we sailed past. All of us were out on deck, then warming our hands in the lounge, then back out again. Beau called out when he spotted Leopard seals on the ice, these huge-mouthed predators hardly noticing the ship as we sailed past. A little

after the Leopard seal call, we heard Nacho's voice over the speakers, announcing "Orcas ahead!" Orcas, or Killer Whales, had been spotted. Everybody inside went back out, and we hung over the rails of the ship for about an hour, while a spread-out pod of Orcas cruised the Neumayer Channel with us. The first animals we saw were huge males, with big triangular dorsal fins reaching almost 2 metres out of the water. They swam alongside the ship, checking us out and showing off their beautiful black and white pattern when they surfaced. Cameras clicked, videos recorded, and everybody bounced about from port to starboard as the different individuals surfaced around the vessel. Captain Evgeny, Chief Officer Jaanus and Helmsman Teresito ("June") did a brilliant job of staying close to the Orcas but not bothering them, and we had over half an hour of quality time, with amazing close up viewing of at least three males and a small calf in light ice. After a good look, and many, many photos, we left the whales in peace, and turned back to our original course. After the Orcas, many of us came in for a coffee or hot chocolate to warm our hands and tummies, but it was such an amazing day we all went back out again, too. Finally, we crossed the Gerlache, and entered the Errera Channel from the south, with the taller mountains of the continental peninsula looming over us on the right and the Captain holding the ship tight against Ronge Island to our left, in the deep part of the narrow channel. We sailed past our destination for tomorrow, dodging giant icebergs and shallow water, and finally put the anchor down between Danco and Cuverville Islands. Everything was still, the light was soft, the weather had improved, and it was a glorious evening.

While everybody wanted to hear from David about our plans for tomorrow, everybody really paid attention when Beau did his part of Recap, telling us about the amazing Orca sighting. He explained about the different types of Orcas in Antarctica, all about little Bs and big Bs, as well as how to tell male from female, identifying individuals by their dorsal fin, and other fascinating facts on these marvelous mammals.

Mountaineers

24th November Damoy Point Glacier

We hike up an easy angled glacier on the old runway where they used to land planes on skis and continue up to a col just below Jabet Peak. The views from here down into Port Lockroy and beyond are exceptional.



Kayakers

24th November 2016 – Dorian Bay / Damoy Point – Team B

As we got ourselves ready on aft Deck 3 & began lowering the kayaks, ice floes came in & engulfed the ship, which presented us with a few problems. A number of the ABs came to our rescue and we continued lowering. Within 10 minutes the ice floe had gone again & we were able to get onto our zodiac. We headed out to a safe point, jumped into our kayaks and headed along the shoreline towards Damoy Point, taking in the many Gentoo Penguins as we went. Stopping briefly at Damoy Point we retraced our steps before venturing off between the icebergs and around the island close by. Picking our way through the ice floes, we headed back into Dorian Bay to find some shelter, before jumping back on the zodiac & heading back to the ship to get warm. The weather may have been mixed but the journey was wonderful.

Day 8 – Friday 25th November 2016

Danco Island, Antarctica

0800 GPS Position: 064°43' S / 062°36' W



Danco Island welcomed us in a beautiful light and mirror like sea. Big icebergs surrounded the little island and brought some blue colours into a black and white scenery. It was the day of accomplishments. The runners went out very early in the morning, so that the first 4 runners could finish their 250Km before lunch. The mountaineers decided to have a technical day and went vertical to conquer a glacier. Our kayak enthusiasts were very lucky as Neptune was very friendly and welcoming to them. The hikers had a wonderful hike up the hill which granted them with an amazing view over the bay, which was explored from the zodiacs later on.

Antarctica at its best – sunshine and clear air in the morning. Snow, fog and thick clouds in the noon and the sunniest afternoon one could ask for in the afternoon.

We set the sails early as the tomorrows destination, Halfmoon Island is quite far away, and took the chance to get Bernice to speak about climate change.



Mountaineers

25th November Danco Island Ice Climbing

A more technical day with a taster session practicing ice climbing techniques on the side of the glacier on Danco Island. We climb the seracs of Danco Island using axes and crampons.





Kayakers

Danco Island - 25th November 2016 – Team A + a few others

Given the wonderful conditions on the water today, it was a great opportunity to circumnavigate Danco Island. Permission was granted by the Bridge. Armed with an Iridium Phone for when the radios lost reception on the backside of the island, we were off, with our zodiac for back up. The sea was super calm and the wind non-existent. The sun was shining and temperatures were very reasonable – a no glove day! We made steady progress around the backside of the island and as we turned the corner at the base of the island, the whole Errera Channel opened up to us. What a wonderful view! Our route back towards the ship required a degree of concentration as we negotiated the many small bergs. We came across our mountaineers who were ice climbing on the seracs, followed by the Race the Planet runners who were hard at it. After a few more photos we continued on around the island to complete our 6km journey. Another great venture in Antarctica!

Day 9 – Saturday 26th November 2016

Half-Moon Island, South Shetlands

0800 GPS Position: 062°35' S / 059°59' W

Wow! Last day of 4 Deserts running and Oceanwide Base Camp activities as Plancius dropped anchor in calm waters of Half-Moon Island in brilliant sunshine. What a magnificent setting...snow capped peaks rising high in the distance, rocky outcrops festooned with Chin-strap



penguins, and as we later discovered, a lonely Macaroni penguin.

Zodiacs launched and the first to land were the 4 Deserts course setters, followed by Tim and the mountaineers who were deposited several miles away to climb high on a glacier clad mountain.



Kayaks experienced perfect conditions for a leisurely meander with Paul around the bay. Runners and the remainder of Base Campers were next.

Once everyone was on shore and had received the safety, keep clear of historic remains and wildlife briefings, all were free to either run the carefully prepared route or explore the Oceanwide guide monitored areas.

National flags fluttered, people cheered and yelled encouragement and the organisers announced that 7 runners had followed superman Kyle and completed the magic 250 kms

total. What a great effort and demonstration by all concerned of physical prowess and stamina. Magnificent medals[Quite the best that anyone had seen!] were issued to all runners who completed the event.



Highlight of the day was the wedding at 11am of Karen and Nicholas. Both appeared on shore elegantly clad in sophisticated black contrasted against the multi- coloured outfits of the runners and fluttering flags. Captain Eveny officiated, and conducted the ceremony both professionally and sensitively. He confessed that he was quite proud that it was his third wedding in his career as captain.

After lunch all attended a champagne fuelled cake cutting party in the lounge and Bill presented the happy couple with a drawing signed by all on board.

What a superb day as the last day of a highly successful fun filled cruise in Antarctic waters.

By mid-afternoon, Plancius upped anchor and motored out in the beautiful light for ' The Drake Passage' As the vessel left sight of land, dark rocky outcrops thrust aggressively from the ocean and contrasted against the startling white of massive bergs.

With this last landing, Oceanwide Expedition Leader David could hardly have had a more satisfactory voyage in terms of weather and brilliantly achieved outcomes.

Mountaineering

26th November Livingstone Island exploration

Today we have a couple of options: a smaller team will climb a technical snowy couloir (Jonny's Gully) to a rocky summit and the more gentle hike will be to a col high above with impressive views along the way across to Half Moon Island.



Day 10 – Wednesday 27th November 2016

The Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 059°21' S / 060°39' W

We are on the way back to Ushuaia and the Drake Passage is still very polite to us, but for precautions ropes were set up in the lounge area for walking. The morning started with a late breakfast and a talk by our Scotsman Bill about whaling in the Arctic and Antarctica. The racing the planet people organized a little quiz after lunch which was followed then by a talk of Bernice about her experiences skiing to the South Pole. Later in the afternoon Michael invited then for a talk about the sea ice and its importance and Brownies were served in the lounge. Recap at 6.30 pm and dinner at 7 pm as usual and the evening finished very calm compared while the sea got rougher...

Day 11 – Friday 28th November 2016

Drake Passage

0800 GPS Position: 055°38'S / 062°42'W

The day promised to be calm. Slight rolling, mediocre winds, everything seemed fine for the day. The odd white-chinned petrel & fulmar glided about the seas, the lack of wind keeping the horizon relatively empty of bird life. David's sultry voice glided through the airwaves, announcing the start of the day.

Time for breakfast! Shouted Johnny. Eager passengers piled into the dining room, all wanting a taste of chef Ralph's warm creamy white porridge. Afterwards, Bernice gave her talk about her expedition to the South Pole. Slowly the winds increased, the waves got higher, the storm picked up in intensity. Guests rested in their cabins, the odd one popping up the bridge to take photos and videos of the waves crashing over the bow of the ship.

As lunch slowly crawled into view, the storm increased. Waves got higher, some up to 9 meters in height. After lunch at 3pm sharp, account settlements started and guests were called down deck by deck to reception to pay their bills from the voyage. At 5pm, Beau played the classic film *Around the Horn*, a 40 minute black and white silent film from the 1920's, narrated in the 80's by the original film maker on the ship. As the storm increased, the captain's cocktail was postponed until after dinner sometime, as the motion and rolling of the ship was too dangerous to risk handing full champagne glasses out. But eventually the ship came into sheltered waters, the entrance of the Beagle Channel at last. As the guests and the expedition team toasted to a successful voyage, the captain Evgeny Levakov thanked everyone for their cooperation in making the voyage a success. As everyone settled down into their beds that night, knowing that this was the last time they would sleep on the good ship *Plancius*. Unless they booked another trip on board, possibly to the Arctic.....

Day 12 – Friday 29th November 2016

Disembarkation in Ushuaia

0800 GPS Position: 056°21'S / 064°28'W

Today is disembarkation day in Ushuaia. Coming alongside, we were boarded by the Argentine officials who cleared our vessel and allowed us to disembark. On the pier we bade farewell to many of the friends we have come to know over the past 10 days, and had one last look at the *Plancius*, the ship that took us safely on such an incredible voyage from Ushuaia, across the infamous Drake Passage to Antarctica. We have camped, kayaked, mountaineered and simply enjoyed the wildlife and scenery of this very special continent and are privileged that we were able to do so. This trip will last us a lifetime – in our memories, our imaginations, and in our dreams.

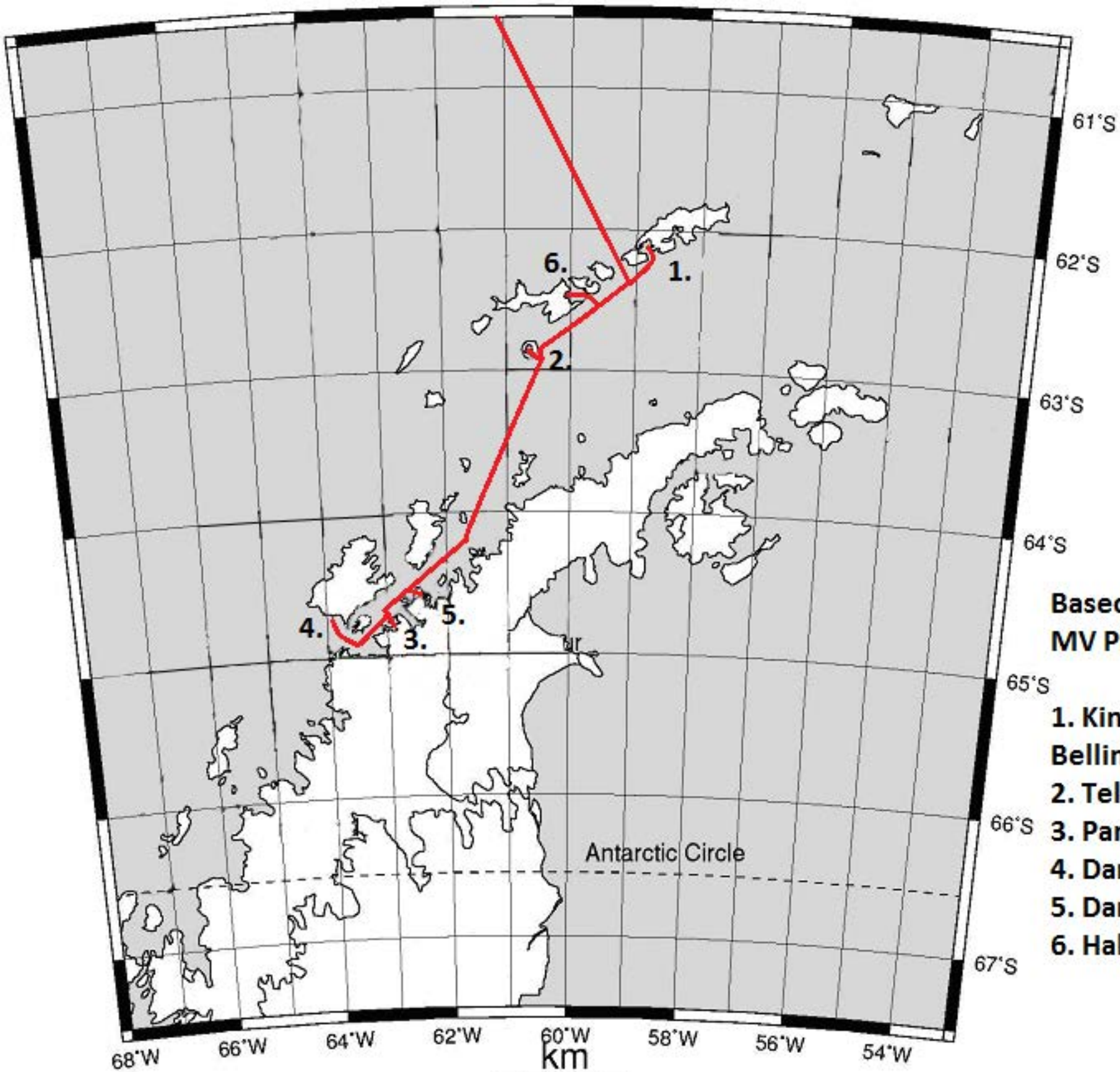
Thank you all for such a wonderful voyage, for your company, good humour and enthusiasm. We hope to see you again in the future, wherever that might be!

Total distance sailed on our voyage:

Nautical miles: 1769 nm

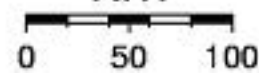
Kilometres: 3276 km

On behalf of Oceanwide Expeditions, Captain Evgeny Levakov, Expedition Leader David Berg and all the crew and staff, it has been a pleasure travelling with you.



**Basecamp Antarctica
MV Plancius 19.11.-29.11.2016**

- 1. King George Island - Bellinghausen**
- 2. Telefon Bay, Deception Island**
- 3. Paradise Harbour - Stoney Point**
- 4. Damoy Point**
- 5. Danco Island**
- 6. Half Moon Island**



2016 TRAVEL WRITING COMPETITION

Write a Blog, Win a Trip!

Fancy yourself as a travel writer? Enter our annual travel writing competition for your chance to **win a free cruise to Antarctica in March 2017!**

Write about your experience!

What was it like to camp out under the Auroras? Was it scary when you encountered a polar bear? Was this your first cruise and were you nervous about crossing open waters?

After all, how your expedition made you feel is what you're going to carry with you for the rest of your life. If you share your experience you just might win yourself a cruise to Antarctica in March 2017!

Here's what you need to do:

1. Write a post (600 – 1200 words) in Dutch, English, or German about what excited you the most on your Oceanwide Expeditions cruise. The topic is entirely up to you.
2. Get it seen! You can either get it posted online yourself (for example, as a post on your own blog) OR send it to us so we can post it for you on our blog.
3. Create a hyperlink or two inside of your post that links back to the particular trip you took as found on our website. The link could connect to the ship's page, the trip itinerary, the particular destination's page, or perhaps a page related to one of the activities you enjoyed.
4. Add 1 to 3 pictures (they should be 1 MB minimum in size, in landscape format and attached separately when you decide to send your entry to us).
5. Send it in! You can either send your post to us at marketing@oceanwide-expeditions.com OR send us the URL (the web address) if you posted the blog somewhere else. Either way, make sure you include your full name, e-mail address and phone number.



A cruise to Antarctica valued at over €6000



2x A €250 voucher good for Oceanwide Expeditions!



7x A €150 voucher good for Oceanwide Expeditions!

ENTRIES CLOSE DECEMBER 31

Our lucky winners will be contacted by e-mail and Facebook by January 15, 2017 and will receive the award in March 2017.



2016 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Picture Yourself Winning a Free Cruise!

Everyone knows a picture is worth a thousand words, but did you know that your photos might now also be worth a chance to **win a free cruise to Antarctica valued at over \$6000 in March 2017!**

Share your experience!

Did you catch a rare seabird on the wing? Do you have a panorama of the Northern Lights filling the sky? Did you get up close and personal with a penguin? Did you capture a look of awe or wonder on a fellow passenger's face?

If you've been a passenger on any one of our past voyages we want to see your pictures.

You're free to send in as many pictures as you wish. The best pictures are the ones that capture what it's like to take one of our special expeditions to the remote and beautiful ends of the Earth.



PRIZES



A cruise to Antarctica valued at over €6000



2x A €250 voucher good for Oceanwide Expeditions!



7x A €150 voucher good for Oceanwide Expeditions!

**UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO AT
WWW.OCEANWIDE-EXPEDITIONS.COM/
FANTASTIC-PHOTO/CREATE**

The size of your photo should be between 1MB and 8MB. Entries close at December 31, 2016



Read the terms and conditions of the contest on www.oceanwide-expeditions.com/page/contest-terms

David Berg – Expedition Leader



David is an accomplished Expedition Leader and a professional guide from Sweden. He has spent the last 5 years working as a full time Adventure guide and explorer, traveling between Arctic and Antarctic. David has a wide range of experience from leading Expeditions on different Ships to dogsledge driving and Kayakguiding in the cold regions of the World. He has led Expeditions in Svalbard, Greenland, Scotland, Iceland, Faroe Islands, South Georgia, Falkland islands and ofcourse Antarctica. Earlier in 2016 he completed an unsupported crossing of the Inlandice of Greenland backtracking Fridtjof Nansens footsteps. The 600- kilometer long journey on the ice took 27 days. He also spent several winters working for the Icehotel in Sweden driving snowmobiles in temperatures dropping down to minus 50 degrees.

He is an accomplished lecturer and loves to share his knowledge about the polar regions with evryone who is traveling with him. His educational background in earth science and glaciology and his big interest in polar history guarantees some interesting stories during the trip!

Many people thinks that he loves the cold but David just says that “I dont like it more than the next man. I just have a weak brain and a strong heart”!



Lynn Woodworth
Canadian/Australian

Lynn comes from the mountains and lakes of western Canada, where she first developed her love for remote wilderness and cold water. She started travelling at 17, and settled in Australia, where she completed two biology degrees, including a PhD in conservation genetics, examining minimum viable population size in wildlife. She first went to Antarctica by accident in 1996. Travelling again after her time in academia, Lynn left her motorcycle in Argentina to sail to the Antarctic Peninsula. She was hooked on Antarctica, and has been working in the polar regions ever since. She has been to the Ross Sea region, and knows the Antarctic Peninsula, the Falkland Islands and South Georgia better than some penguins. In the northern summer, she has taken ships to arctic Canada, Iceland, Greenland, Svalbard, Russia and the North Pole. Lynn stopped counting at somewhere over 135 voyages, 17 different vessels, and more than two years of her life spent in the Drake Passage. She has held most ship-based roles including lecturer (wildlife

and natural history), guide, zodiac driver, Assistant Expedition Leader and Expedition Leader, and has also worked on shore as Operations Manager. She has co-authored two books on Antarctica, *Antarctica The Complete Story* (published on three continents) and *The Blue Continent* (released in 17 languages at last count). Lynn still calls Australia home, and has recently moved as close to Antarctica as she can get and still be in Australia.

Ignacio Marino – Camping Guide



Ignacio Marino was born in Ushuaia, the capital city of Tierra Del Fuego Antartida e Islas del Atlantico Sur, Argentina.

From the age of 14 he has spent many seasons working with tourists, at first taking care of Huskies used to pull the sledges in winter time and then over the years working with many different hiking and trekking companies. He has taken tourists to hidden lagoons, glaciers and different viewpoints in the mountains surrounding Ushuaia.

Since 2000 he has been regularly climbing around the whole of South America. In 2010 he started to guide 4x4 excursions around the island of Tierra Del Fuego, never leaving the mountains far behind. During the climbing season he gives a hand at the climbing school of the CAMU (Club Amigos de la Montana Ushuaia).

He is also an active circus clown using this as a job when he is traveling around the world and he always carries juggling toys with him. In his first season he had the chance to marry a couple in the polar circle in detaille island, since that and always in the funny size some of the crew call him "The Minister".

He became recently a zodiac driver for all weather conditions working down here in Antartida.

At the present he works as a freelance guide in Ushuaia for many different conventional and unconventional tours.

Tim Blakemore



Tim is an international (IFMGA) mountain guide with over twenty years of experience. From the UK, he is now based in Chamonix, France and guides all over the world and is a current trainer and assessor of new mountain guides.

He has climbed new routes and skied first descents in Scotland, Norway, Greenland, Svalbard, Alaska and Antarctica.

He first visited Antarctica with the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) in 2000 and he spent half a year working from Rothera Research Station. He's since visited the Peninsula five times; Mostly working as a guide for Oceanwide Expeditions (this is his third year with them) but more recently (January 2016) he chartered a 30 metre yacht and led a thirty day ski expedition to the continent.

Rocio Siemens



Originally from Spain, and now based in north Wales, I work as an IFMGA Mountain Guide taking people up mountains throughout the world on foot and on skis. In another life I studied marine biology and specialised in fisheries management, but soon discovered that the urge to climb mountains was too big and so I began my career as an outdoor instructor and guide some 15 years ago. I am lucky to be able to travel for work and pleasure to fantastic places like Greenland and Alaska and then return to Wales, which is where my heart feels at home.



Bill Maclean Smith

Bald, blue-eyed, patriotic but not fanatical, tartan-clad, hairy-chested, yellow wellie and kilt wearing, energised, fun loving Scotsman.

50 years teaching / 36 years Head of Art and Design Ellon Academy,
Artist / Designer / Illustrator / Cartoonist
50 years experience in Adventure Education

Royal Yachting Association Advanced Powerboat Instructor
Royal Yachting Association Senior Sailing Instructor
Royal Yachting Association Windsurfing Instructor
British Association of Ski Patrollers First Aid Trainer UK and the Alps.
British Canoe Union Open Canoe Instructor
British Caving Association Cave Leader.

Depute Leader Glenshee Ski Patrol Team – Skis everyday during the winter
Member of the Federation Internationale de Patrolles De Ski Avalanche
Committee

President of Lochinver Highland Games Committee
Crofter – Assynt, North West Highlands

Safety Expert

Oceanwide Expeditions Guide Arctic / Antarctic
Adventure Sports –Windsurfing / Sailing / Powerboating / Skiing / Canoeing
Loves excitement - art and design, mountains and the sea

Lectures

A Taste of Scotland – History of Whaling Arctic – History of Whaling Antarctic
Paintings of the sea

Paul is a qualified & competent Teacher, Lecturer and Outdoor Activity Coach with 30 years plus experience in dealing with public, private and voluntary sector organisations, providing safe & rewarding experiences & opportunities at the highest level, to enhance personal & social development of individuals & groups both in the UK & throughout the rest of the world. Currently Paul is the Director of a company, providing Outdoor Activity Coaching, Technical Consultancy & Worldwide Kayaking, Trekking & Mountaineering. Paul's expertise & competencies as a paddler & mountaineer have enabled him to explore the rivers, seas & mountains on all continents of the world, including making first ascents in the Greater Ranges.

Paul is also a Freelance Inspector for the Adventurous Activities Licensing Service (AALS), Adventure Activity Associates (AAA), Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge & British Canoeing (BC). Alongside this, Paul is Chair of the Wales Adventure Tourism Organisation (WATO), which represents the majority of outdoor activity providers in Wales at national level.





Beau Pruneau, Expedition Guide

Born in California near Los Angeles, Beau moved to Canada when he was one year old. Growing up in the Northern Ontario wilderness, he learned at an early age to appreciate the great outdoors while learning wilderness skills such as camping, survival, navigation, & tracking. After graduating college with a diploma in Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Management including studies in Biology, Wilderness Guiding, Wilderness Survival, Canoe Guiding, Marketing, & Business Management, he headed west to British Columbia to work at ski resorts where he learned to drive just about every kind of vehicle including tracked snow-cats, while exploring the mountains by snowboarding, mountain biking, hiking, & heli-boarding. After meeting his German wife in B.C., he moved back to Ontario working at another ski resort near the great lakes. In 2011 he crossed over to Germany permanently, trying his hand at making wine & building bikes while travelling the world with his wife, having been to nearly every continent with a special appreciation for the African savannah & Italian cuisine. Happiest in a jeep out on safari or out on deck searching for polar bears, he started working on expedition ships in the Polar Regions as an assistant expedition leader, guide, lecturer, gun armorer, bear expert, photographer, camping leader, safety officer, zodiac & outboard engine mechanic, as well as assisting with helicopter operations. He currently resides in Dresden, Germany with his beautiful wife.

Michael Ginzburg—Guide and Lecturer



Since his first scientific project at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research at age 17, Michael focused his work on polar algae and sea ice. Field work became his passion and turned even into an addiction when he first stepped on Svalbard at the early age of 20. Michael instantly fell in love with sea ice and ever since (12 years by now) worked on the evolution and ecology of sea ice diatoms of the Arctic and Antarctic.

Michael has studied both marine and polar biology as well as participated in over a dozen scientific expeditions with durations of up to four months. Having traveled all 7 continents, it was only a matter of time before Michael began sharing his passion and love for nature in photography and articles. Today, Michael is leading expeditions and working as a photojournalist throughout the world. In 2016 Michael accepted a teaching position for photojournalism at the German POP Academy in Bremen.