

BASECAMP expeditions

aboard
m/v 'Plancius' & m/v 'Ortelius'
all adventure activities are free of charge



Expedition is our passion !

M/v Plancius & M/v Ortelius
Our activity base in the Arctic and Antarctica



**OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS**



We are what we do...
We are expedition!

George Mallory (1886-1924), an English mountaineer, who took part in the first three British expeditions to Mount Everest in the early 1920s was once famously quoted as having replied to the question "Why do you want to climb Mount Everest?" with the retort: "Because it's there". These are regarded as the most famous three words in mountaineering.

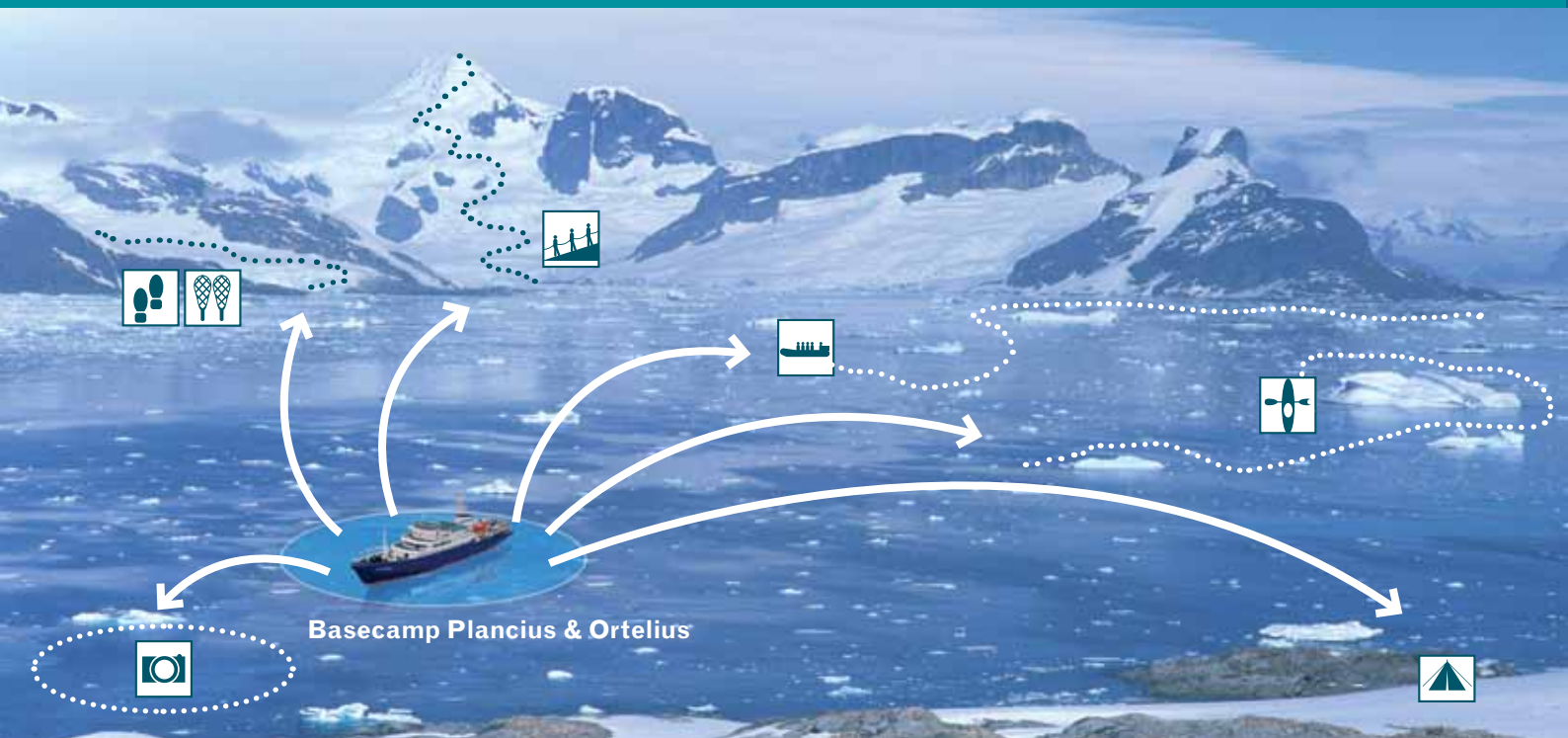
Why do we travel to the Antarctic and the Arctic? It's our passion!

We follow the explorers and reach out to the pristine and remote Polar places not only because they are on the map but to follow our passion of pioneering true ship based expedition programs for activity minded people who wish to explore the unique wildernesses of our Polar planet: an exciting mix of dramatic landscapes, rugged mountains towering the sea, fascinating glaciers and endless ice, close wildlife encounters and the true feel of history.

Basecamp – Our activity base

The ship becomes our base camp on selected dates. "Base camp" is by definition a temporary storing and starting place, from which an activity starts. On selected voyages (see dates & rates) we offer "activity modules" which go beyond our normal shore program. The vessel will stay for two or three days at specific locations to serve our active passengers as a comfortable hub to allow more time than usual for wide ranging activities: mountaineers to climb mountain ranges (soft climbing), hikers to participate in long walks, photographers to explore photo opportunities, campers to enjoy life at shore base camps, kayakers and zodiac passengers to explore near shores where the ship cannot go. Passengers who do not wish to become physically active will enjoy our zodiac excursions and follow the normal shore program and land excursions (easy to moderate walks and hikes with focus on wildlife). We aim for visiting active and manned research stations in the Antarctic and Arctic.

Our philosophy: "We keep sea days as short as possible in order to spend as much time as possible ashore".



Basecamp – Our activities

“Basecamp” emphasis is on activities, including: zodiac excursions, hiking, kayaking, glacier walking/ mountaineering, camping and photo shooting. All activities will be conducted by trained expert guides. All adventure activities are free of charge on “Basecamp” voyages and are included in the package. On our regular voyages, activities can be booked as specialized stand alone modules. These modules are supplemented by a fee. Please refer to “Basecamp” dates and activity codes on our regular voyages in the dates & rates.

Basecamp – Our guides

An international team of Polar experts and field guides is enthusiastic about sharing their in depth knowledge with lectures, briefings and field excursions. Lectures are selected and relevant to the destinations we travel to. We cover major topics like marine biology, geography, geology, glaciology, ornithology and history. Our staff is skilled, trained and qualified in the activity they are in charge of: mountain guiding, photography, kayaking, zodiac driving, guarding against polar bears. Expedition guides organize the informative ship program and actively guide our shore excursions in different languages.

Rubber Boots and Expedition Jackets

Onboard Plancius & Ortelius all passengers are entitled to use a pair of sturdy rubber boots for free. Sizes need to be pre-ordered with Oceanwide’s reservation departments the latest 8 weeks prior to departure. A voucher will be sent with final travel documents approximately 4 weeks prior to departure. The rubber boots are high quality; they keep feet dry, warm and comfortable for all landings. Expedition jackets can also be pre-ordered (only on Plancius) for a special price. Terms and conditions can be found on the pre-order form.



Select your activity



It's Your expedition! Make your own choices



Zodiac Cruising & Shore program:

This is our core activity: guided shore excursions, walks and wildlife spotting and zodiac cruises are included in the fare and will be offered to all passengers during the voyages.

Our voyages are primarily defined as explorations and we spend as much time ashore as possible. We can be flexible, taking advantage of wildlife opportunities by using our zodiacs for both landings and cruises. Our knowledgeable guides assist on these outings, providing detailed information. This is supplemented by lectures on board which covers topics such as wildlife, history and true emotions.

On Basecamp voyages we offer a variety of activities (see hereunder), but participation is not obligatory.

- Kayaking
- Photo workshops
- Snowshoeing / Hiking
- Mountaineering
- Field Camping



Kayaking:

We plan to offer 3-4 full days of kayak excursions parallel to all other activities (6-7 outings morning, afternoon or evening) during designated "Basecamp" voyages. Basic kayak experience, appropriate outdoor clothing and physical fitness is essential. The maximum number is limited to 14 kayakers per outing.

Special kayak gear will be provided: single seat and double seat kayaks, neoprene wet suits, life vests. Kayakers will bring their personal warm and protective clothes. An expedition kayak guide will supervise the activity. The kayakers will be accompanied by a safety zodiac boat.

Basecamp voyage:

1 kayak excursion free of charge. Every passenger will be able to take advantage of at least 1 outing but it can be more availability allowing.

Kayaking must be pre-booked with Oceanwide's reservation departments prior to departure (maximum 1 outing for Basecamp Plancius. There are no waitlists for any extra outings that might be offered.



Photo workshop:

During “Basecamp” voyages we are going to offer photo workshops for beginners and advanced photographers under the supervision of a photo expert on board. Everyone is welcome to participate, no previous experience required. The workshop group will be accompanied by the photo expert during activity ashore. The maximum participants per photo workshop is aimed at 20 participants per outing per guide, so maximum attention can be paid to individuals. The work shop group will be taken on shore excursions whenever opportunities arise. Participants with a special interest in photography will bring their personal photo equipment. During cruise days everyone will be able to listen into photo lectures in order to learn more about objects, exposures and photo composition. The workshop intention is not to instruct on how to use specific camera models, but more to give an insight on better photo results by respecting basic rules of photography. Photographers can also take part in other activities of their choice.

Basecamp voyage:

Photo workshops are free of charge. The group size per outing is limited to 20 participants.



Snowshoeing/Hiking:

We plan to offer several possibilities to become active ashore. There will be easy, moderate and more demanding walks on offer in the vicinity of the landing sites. There are walks on offer which suit everyone's capability. In the Antarctic we are aiming at two hikes per day, each 2 - 3 hours long during morning and / or afternoon landings (lunches onboard). In the Arctic we offer several full day walks of up to 5-7 hours (with packed lunch). Hikers are recommended to bring a proper pair of hiking boots and gaiters. Rubber boots suitable for hiking will be provided. Hikes will be guided by experienced expedition guides.

Snowshoeing:

Especially on early departures at the beginning of the season there are still snow covered hills and mountains further inland (North Spitsbergen) and close to shore (Antarctica). Snowshoes are easy to use and don't require any technical skills. They make it easier and safer to walk on snow surfaces. They are available free of charge for everyone on board, fit all boot sizes and can be used in combination with the Oceanwide rubber boots.

Basecamp voyage:

The activity is free of charge.

The photo workshop must be pre-booked with Oceanwide's reservation departments prior to departure.

Snowshoeing/hiking must be pre-booked with Oceanwide's reservation departments prior to departure.



Mountaineering:

This is a technical and more strenuous activity for mountaineers who wish to walk beyond the shore radius in order to reach higher grounds and view points. Mountaineers walk in rope parties under the leadership of a certified mountain guide mostly across glaciated environment in Antarctica.

Depending on the landing site, glacier walks can vary from half day to full day outings. In general we plan to offer 4-5 glacier excursions parallel to all other activities during designated "Basecamp" voyages. Mountaineering knowledge is preferable, but not required. Physical fitness is essential. The maximum number is limited to 6 mountaineers per rope party. Special glacier equipment will be provided: ropes and carabiners, harnesses, helmets, ice axes and crampons.

Participants will bring their personal protective outdoor clothes, mountaineering boots (leather or plastic) suitable for using crampons. A qualified mountain guide and assistant will supervise and guide the activity for a maximum of 12 mountaineers at a time.

Basecamp voyage:

1 mountaineering excursion is free of charge. Every mountaineer will be able to take advantage of at least one outing but it can be more. Space is limited to 48-60 participants, first come first serve.

Mountaineering must be pre-booked with Oceanwide's reservation departments prior to departure.



Field Camping:

We plan to offer 3 - 4 camp nights during "Basecamp" voyages. Everyone can participate, no previous experience is required. The maximum number is limited to 30 persons per night. The camping group will be taken ashore after dinner, and returns to the ship just before breakfast. On shore a camp will be made in a place where wildlife will not be disturbed. Special gear and field equipment will be provided: tents, wind and waterproof bivouac bags, mattresses and polar sleeping bags provide comfort during the night. Campers bring their personal warm and protective clothes. Expedition guides will conduct the activity ashore.

Basecamp voyage:

1 camp night free of charge.

Antarctica: 30 campers per night, 3 - 4 nights total, (1 guaranteed night out for all passengers).

Camp nights must be pre-booked with Oceanwide's reservation departments prior to departure (maximum 1 night). There are no waitlists for any extra nights that might be offered.

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Terms and conditions

All travel elements relating to staying on board the vessel and/or excursions or programs off the ship (such as but not limited to excursions or programs on land, including zodiac excursions) are at 100% at passenger's own risk. Oceanwide Expeditions is therefore not liable for any damage, such as but not limited to (bodily) injury, illness and death except for gross negligence. On all our transactions the general terms and conditions of Oceanwide Expeditions b.v. apply, registered at the Chamber of Commerce, Middelburg, the Netherlands. File nr.: 22036730. Upon request, a free copy will be provided.

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**OCEANWIDE
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