

For Immediate Release

February 23, 2009

11:00 EST



QUARK
EXPEDITIONS

Incident Involving M/V Ocean Nova

February 17, 2009

Marguerite Bay, Antarctica

68° 08' S, 67° 06' W.

Incident Details

Vessel: M/V Ocean Nova

Date: February 17, 2009

Location: 68° 08' S, 67°06' W

Time: 04:30 UTC / 01:30 Local Time

Clipper Adventurer, carrying *Ocean Nova's* passengers, arrived at the port of Ushuaia on Sunday February 22, 2009, at 7:20 AM local time. *Ocean Nova's* guests spent the night at the Albatros Hotel and are continuing their homebound journey today, February 23, 2009.

Ocean Nova also arrived at the port of Ushuaia on Sunday February 22, 2009. Divers conducted an extensive underwater survey of the ship's hull, identifying four indented areas and flaking of the keel's paint. The survey confirmed that the rudder and the propeller were not affected by the grounding.

Repairs of the affected areas are currently being performed in Ushuaia and are expected to take three days. Consequently, *Ocean Nova's* next Antarctic voyage originally scheduled to depart today has been cancelled. Quark Expeditions has re-booked passengers on *M/V Polar Star's* next voyage, which departs tomorrow, February 24, 2009. *Polar Star* is operated by Polar Star Expeditions, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Quark Expeditions is providing passengers with hotel accommodation for tonight, and is rearranging the passengers' return flights.

(more)

“Although the discovery of indentations on *Ocean Nova*’s hull means that the ship cannot depart for the next scheduled voyage, we are pleased that we could protect our customers’ Antarctic experience by reserving space on board *Polar Star*” said Quark Expeditions’ President, Patrick Shaw.

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