

Update on *Kaptian Khlebnikov*: Free of Weddell Sea Ice and Returning to Ushuaia

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

November 19, 2009, Providence, RI, USA. Quark Expeditions reported today that the icebreaker *Kapitan Khlebnikov* has successfully navigated the pack ice of the Weddell Sea and is now in open water, on the way to Ushuaia, Argentina.

The vessel is expected in the port of at 10:00 a.m. the morning of November 22nd. At that time, the ship will disembark those passengers whose trip was extended six days due to the delay caused by ice and weather conditions in the Weddell Sea, put aboard fresh stores and embark new passengers. The new expedition cruise to Antarctica will be adjusted to take into account the delayed departure.

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IAATO is a member organization founded in 1991 to advocate, promote and practice safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic. IAATO currently has 109 members worldwide. Members work together to develop, adopt and implement operational standards that mitigate potential environmental impacts. Numerous operating procedures and guidelines have been adopted over the last 19 years that have proven to be successful methods for avoiding impacts, including site-specific guidelines, site selection criteria, passengers-to-staff ratios, limiting numbers of passengers ashore, boot-washing guidelines and the prevention of the transmission of alien organisms, wilderness etiquette, garbage policy, ship scheduling and vessel communications procedures, emergency medical evacuation procedures, emergency contingency plans, reporting procedures, marine wildlife watching guides, station visitation policies and more.

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