ABOARD THE SA AGULHAS II

The quantities of the items below depend on how long you will be on the ship, and if you are a ship-based scientist you would need (want) much more than land-based scientists who are off the ship for most of the voyage. If you’re going on a long voyage, you can split your luggage in two bags and keep one in the luggage store (the cabins aren’t big enough for copious amounts of luggage).

☐ Passport! – you are leaving South Africa and need to pass customs first. No passport = you will have to stay behind.

☐ Clothing – think of the ship as a hotel. Casual during the day in the cabins and in the lounges; neat and sophisticated in the evenings, during bar hours and all meal times. For men this means collared shirts and for ladies covered shoulders, all need to wear closed shoes. Everyone should wear warmer clothes and closed shoes when outside. Bring gym clothes, bathing/swimsuit for the sauna. An extra towel helps for these activities.

☐ Toiletries and medication – bring your own, although there is a Doctor onboard that can help with emergencies.

☐ Cash and/or credit card – the ship sells merchandise; has a canteen and you should pay for your bar bill at the end of the voyage.

☐ Snacks – the ship meals are sufficient, but the stretch between lunch and dinner can feel very long. If you get sea sick, you need to keep your stomach full. Even if you snack on crackers or chips. Popcorn, energy bars and cookies are great – but should not be consumed in cabins, only in the lounges.

☐ Travel mug – for coffee and tea on board. The ship has mugs, but they’re small and they often get left in the rooms – leaving other passengers mug-less. An insulated mug is best for the cold outdoors.

☐ Hot drinks – the ship has Five Roses tea (black/Ceylon tea), Ricoffy, and a bean-to-cup machine (which is sometimes out of order). Bring any other warm drinks you may fancy. No personal alcohol allowed!

☐ Entertainment – books, movies, series, hacky-sack, board games, cards, binoculars.

☐ Electronics – earphones, chargers, adaptors, LAN cable, HDMI cable (for the cabin and lounge screens), camera.

☐ Miscellaneous – washing powder, magnets to keep the cabin blinds from banging against the walls.

☐ If you’re going to the pack-ice or Antarctica’s ice-shelf wrap-around polarized sunglasses are a must, as are extra warm clothes for long hours of observation.