

Wild Antarctica

Aboard *Greg Mortimer* | 02–14 March 2024



Frei Station | King George Island

DAY 1 | Monday 2 March 2024

Position at 0900 on 02 Mar

Latitude: 62°12.0'S

Longitude: 058°55.0'W

Course: 112

Speed: At Anchor

Wind Speed: E 5kts

Barometer: 1004 hPa

Air Temp: 0°C

Welcome aboard the *Greg Mortimer*! It was a lovely, sunny day as we met at the airstrip. After the plane, with its lovely chinstrap penguin design, touched down on the black gravel runway, we boarded our bus, which brought us down to the beach. Here, a few gentoo and chinstrap penguins splashed in the shallows and preened on the shore – a lovely beginning to our adventure.

Frei Station, King George Island is our first 'taste' of Antarctica. Although much of King George Island is glaciated, this bay is an area of contrast, for here the terrain is stripped bare by the frequent high winds, revealing a stark volcanic landscape that has its own allure, with small rocky towers and plugs. This will be the last time in over a week that we see anything in the way of civilised activity. It is a bustling little harbour, a small town really, with other ships going about their business, helicopters offloading supplies, and plenty of happenings on shore.

The South Shetland Islands and King George Island were the first to see human activity in the 1820s, not from exploration or scientific study, as many of the stations do now, but as an economic endeavour in sealing. Seal skins were hugely profitable, and as the common story goes, humans hunted the seals to near extinction and the industry went bust. Thankfully fur seals are in a full rebound today, and in the late Austral summer, are often seen in streams, making their way from South Georgia Island to the South Shetlands.

Once aboard, we checked in at reception and were shown to our comfortable staterooms by the housekeeping staff. A delicious Welcome buffet was served.

We had a quick Welcome briefing with Daniel and Anne to cover key points about life on board, followed by the mandatory lifeboat drill.

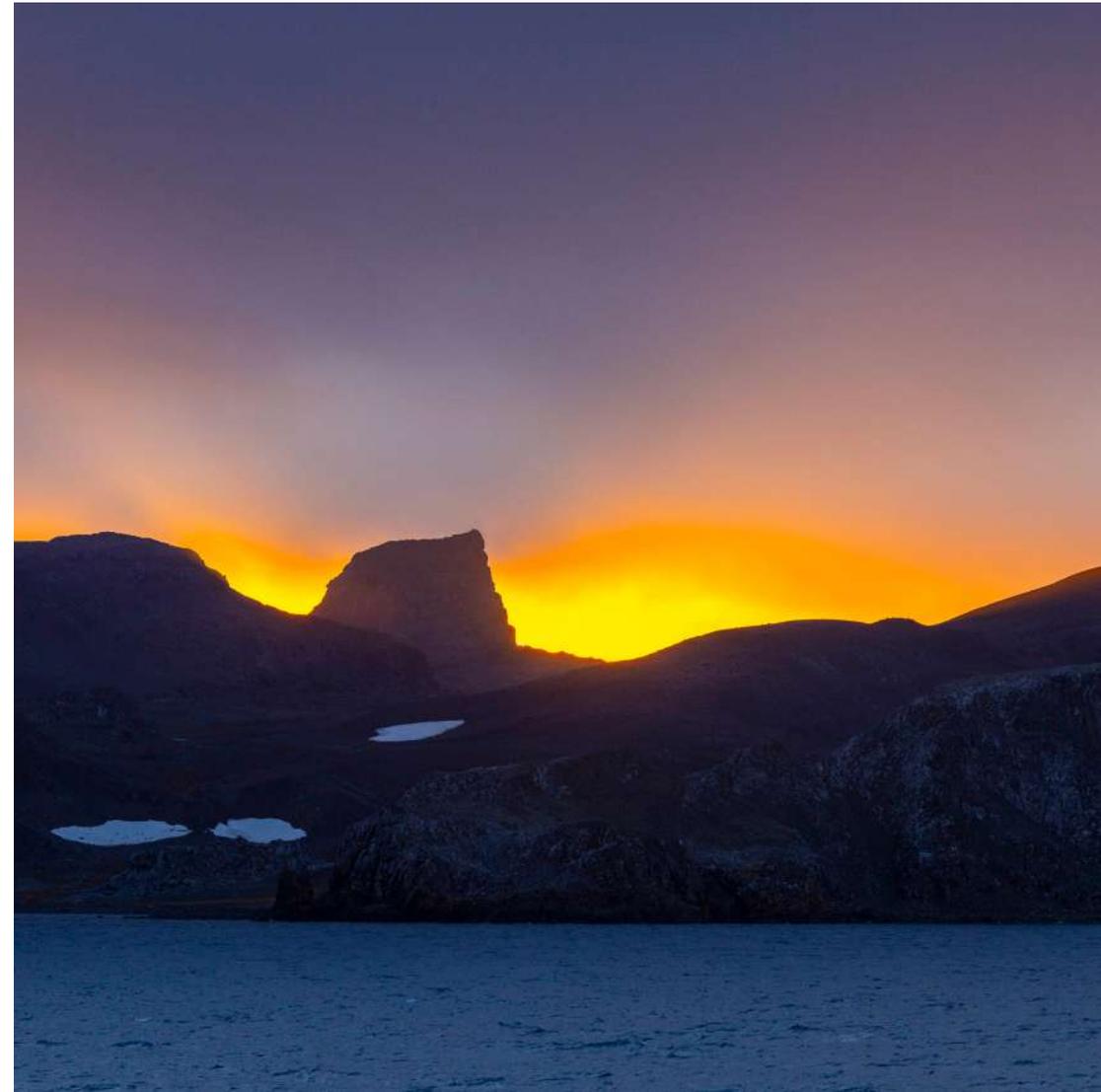
We had a lovely first dinner in the restaurant, served by the best and friendliest team.

We finished off the evening with the all-important expedition jacket exchange and then it was way overdue for bed.

We can only imagine what it took to reach the ship from our respective homes in this new age of travel. But finally, we were all together on board, with those challenges behind.

Together we total 109 Expeditioners: 25 from Australia, 1 from Canada, 2 from Chile, 2 from Finland, 1 from France, 1 from Germany, 1 from Indonesia, 1 from Latvia, 1 from India, 3 from Netherland, 3 from Russia, 1 from Singapore, 3 from Spain, 2 from Switzerland, 10 from the United Kingdom and 44 from the United States.

In addition we have 21 Expedition Team and 83 ship's crew from around the globe. We hope you are as excited as we are, about exploring this incredible environment together.



Paulet Island

DAY 2 | Sunday 3 March 2024

Position at 0800 03 Mar

Latitude: 63°18.0'S

Longitude: 056°47.0'W

Course: 137°

Speed: 5.7kts

Wind Speed: SSE 22kts

Barometer: 1022 hPa

Air Temp: -4°C

Welcome to the Weddell!

The first full day of our expedition and we awoke to find sun gleaming off icebergs and the *Greg Mortimer* already well positioned for the start of our Weddell Sea adventures. Given the long journeys many of us had taken to reach the ship yesterday, we might have expected blurry eyes around the coffee machine this morning. Instead, eyes were wide with astonishment as we adjusted to the Antarctic light and the realisation that, suddenly, here we were in this otherworldly place.

The Weddell Sea is named after James Weddell, a British sealer who explored the area aboard the ship *Jane* in 1823, searching for new stocks of fur seals. He is said to have made a surprisingly easy passage all the way through to 74 degrees south - 'surprising', because the Weddell Sea is renowned for heavy accumulations of ice, usually making for far more challenging passages than on the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula. Only for the truly intrepid, then!

To properly prepare for our expedition, the morning was set aside for introductions, briefings and biosecurity checks while we sailed on towards the landing site. First up we met the E-Team, who will be sharing their passion, knowledge and enthusiasm for this place with us over the next couple of weeks. Then we learned about IAATO and the guidelines that we all follow to protect Antarctica, and which enable us to adventure here with minimal impact. We had a refresher on Zodiacs, then cleaned and checked all our clothing and equipment to ensure it was biosecure ahead of going ashore. And the snorkel and kayak teams made their final preparations for getting in and on the water.

By lunchtime we were positioned just off Paulet Island, with its distinct volcanic cone rising to 350 metres. The island has great historical, biological and geological significance. Landing ashore, we discovered the remains of the hut built by shipwreck survivors from the Nordenskjöld expedition who overwintered here in 1903. Their survival was attributed to the availability of drinking water (the island's lakes remain unfrozen due to geothermal activity) and the abundance of penguins for food.

The island still supports a huge colony of Adélie penguins, though with the breeding season mostly complete, we encountered just a handful today. Running the gauntlet of some lively fur seals (their numbers bouncing back after being hunted to near-eradication in Weddell's time) we arrived back at the landing site and enjoyed our first sightings of the aptly named Weddell seals, with their beautifully mottled silvery coats.

The Captain's Welcome topped off our first full day together and we raised a glass to all the great adventures ahead.





Devil Island | The Naze

DAY 3 | Monday 4 March 2024

Position at 0730 on 04 Mar

Latitude: 63°47'0" S

Longitude: 057°18'0" W

Course: 022°

Speed: At Anchor

Wind Speed: S 8.8 kts

Barometer: 1027 hPa

Air Temp: 0°C

More than an incredible day on the Weddell Sea! The morning welcomed us with a clear-blue sky and an intense sun.

After breakfast, the Expedition Team went out to check the conditions on the landing site at Devil Island, when suddenly we heard on the radio that a group of orcas were approaching the *Greg Mortimer*.

The warning was given by our kayak guides, who during their operation spotted the orca. This certainly changed our plans and that is what Antarctica is all about—a changing and unpredictable environment, to which we have to adapt constantly.

Daniel, our Expedition Leader, quickly made the decision to go in search of those orca. He called the bridge and made sure that there were enough Zodiacs in the water for all of us to go and see these majestic cetaceans.

The fleet of Zodiacs headed west, along the enormous cliffs of Cape Well Met, where the three parts of the incredible and seasoned Swedish expedition met after a year of being separated and without communication.

Suddenly, we all started seeing the orca everywhere. They were different groups with adult males, juveniles, offspring and, of course, the important matriarchs.

We stayed for almost an hour next to these interesting animals, next to the strongest and most intelligent predator on our planet.

After this unique experience, the *Greg Mortimer*, with Captain Maxim in charge, repositioned the ship towards The Naze, on James Ross Island.

Another stunning spot on the Weddell Sea. The weather changed drastically, the sky darkened and the wind began to increase, reaching speeds of more than 20 knots.

But this didn't stop us.

This landing is very special, since we were able to set foot in a very particular place. The Naze has a large concentration of fossil ammonites, extinct cephalopod molluscs.

Here we were able to experience the past firsthand, thanks to the information shared by our guides, and, of course, by Paul, our passionate palaeontologist.

The fossilisation process is very difficult and complex; it is thanks to fossils that the theory of evolution is known. Now imagine how many evolutionary secrets Antarctica hides, as it is almost completely covered in ice!

Today we all had a great privilege, not only to have observed the orcas so closely, but also to have seen evidence of past life on the last-discovered continent!





Astrolabe Island | Duroch Islands

DAY 4 | Tuesday 5 March 2024

Position at 0730 on 05 Mar

Latitude: 63°17'0" S

Longitude: 058°36'0" W

Course: 146°

Speed: 9.4kts

Wind Speed: W 7kts

Barometer: 1021 hPa

Air Temp: 0°C

What a difference a few hours and a few degrees of latitude and longitude can make (or about 50 nautical miles as the skua flies)! We awoke possibly still hungover from the giddiness of the orca encounter, the stroll on the Mars-scape of The Naze and the discovery of 65-million-year-old ammonites, or perhaps being jostled about in the hurricane-force winds and steep wind waves in the middle of the night, to an unrecognisable world of misty Dragon's Teeth on Astrolabe Island.

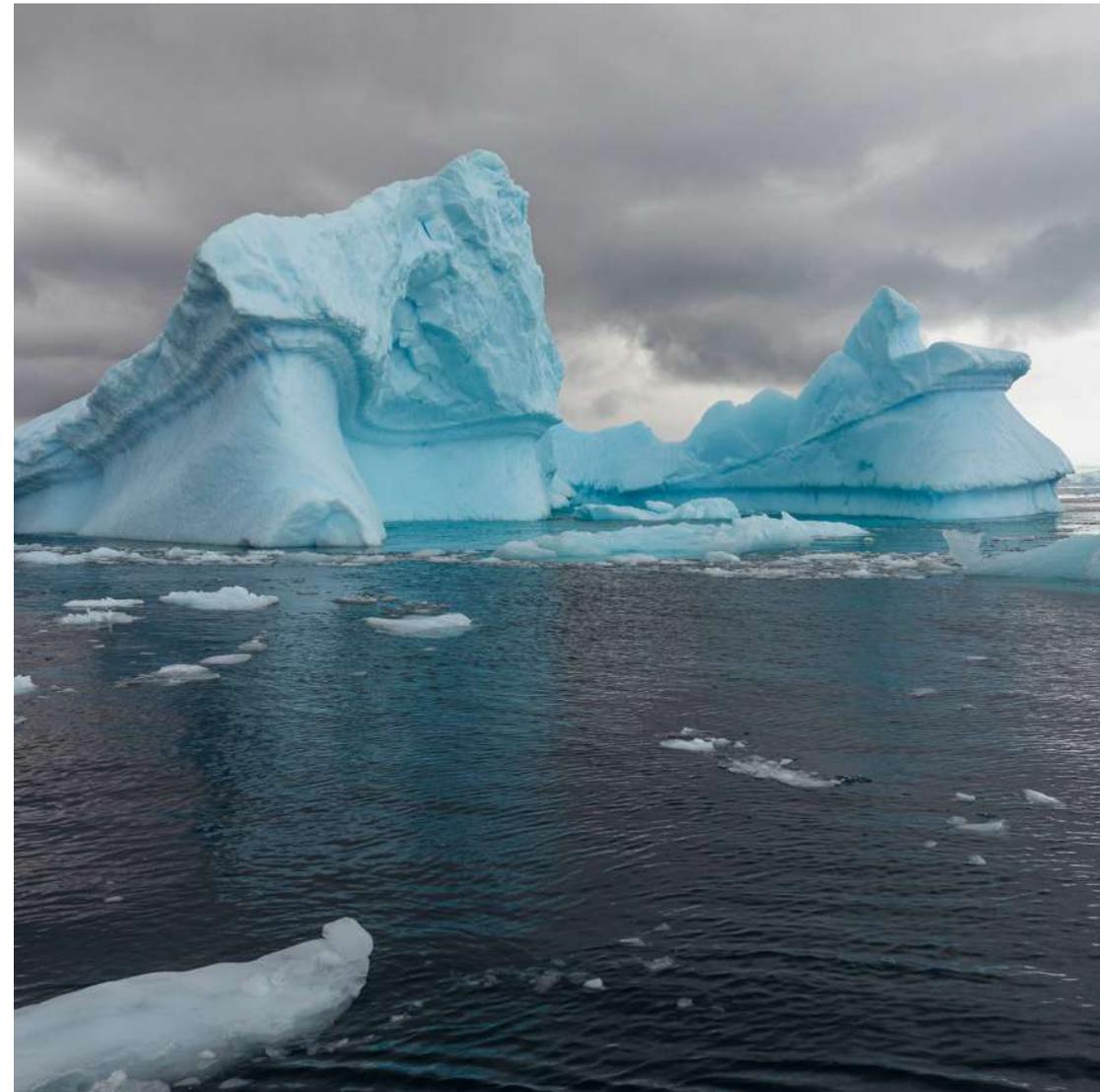
The bridge team performed masterfully navigating in the challenging conditions while attempting to find a lee suitable for a landing on this remote rock in the Bransfield Strait. Unfortunately, Neptune won the battle as the residual swell proved too much, wrapping around this seldom-visited place.

We continued on in the grey, rainy dreamscape to the Duroch Islands. En route, Cape petrels and southern fulmars accompanied our ship. Once again, our amazing Captain weaved through icebergs and a maze of islands to assess the Zodiac-cruise conditions, but still, the leftover swell persisted. This good fortune allowed a bird's-eye perspective from the upper decks of the *Greg Mortimer* of the chinstrap penguins on land, the rafts of porpoising gentoo penguins in the water and the frolicking fur seals in the backwash of waves.

Paul gave an enlightening talk about the Nordenskjöld expedition and the fascinating fossils, geology and palaeontology in the region of James Ross, Snow Hill, Vega and Seymour Islands in the Weddell Sea.

The rain ceased as black-browed albatrosses and giant petrels appeared; obviously we had entered the cafeteria, as the concept of 'patchiness' in the ocean was on display as whale blows appeared all around the ship. We identified a few humpbacks, sei and fin whales during this brief-ish period; always keep those binoculars and long-lenses handy!

Recap was full of diverse and interesting topics, including one by Elo about the Weddell seal tagging project they witnessed firsthand as the Argentine researchers explained why there were odd 'robo-seals' in the area. Adrian focused on photography tips and Alan wrapped up by discussing the productivity of the Southern Ocean, ranging from Sverdrup transport to krill swarms, the Antarctic Circumpolar Current, to copepods and salps. 'This is just the beginning of the conversation...'



Mikkelsen Harbour | Cierva Cove

DAY 5 | Wednesday 6 March 2024

Position at 0700 on 06 Mar

Latitude: 63°54'0" S

Longitude: 060°47'0" W

Course: 343°

Speed: 1kts

Wind Speed: NNE 5kts

Barometer: 1018 hPa

Air Temp: -1°C

Little did we know when the voice on the PA woke us up that the day would turn out this way. After a full day on board, we felt the need to get off the ship, breathe the Antarctic air, feel the water under our feet and discover the landscape and wildlife of the western part of the Peninsula.

The morning took us to the small island of D'Hainaut in Mikkelsen Harbour. What a beautiful place to start our excursions on this side of the peninsula. The drivers needed to carefully navigate through the shallow water that led to a great landing site. Gentoo penguins have set up a colony on this rocky island; the smell welcomed us right away. We quickly realised that the walk up the hill was going to be a walk through penguin guano. The state of our boots coming back down towards the shore was proof of that.

The site was rich with wildlife. Snowy sheathbills and brown skuas patrolled the penguin colony, patiently waiting to prey on their next meal. A few fur seals were resting on the lower levels of the island, showing some signs of competition among themselves.

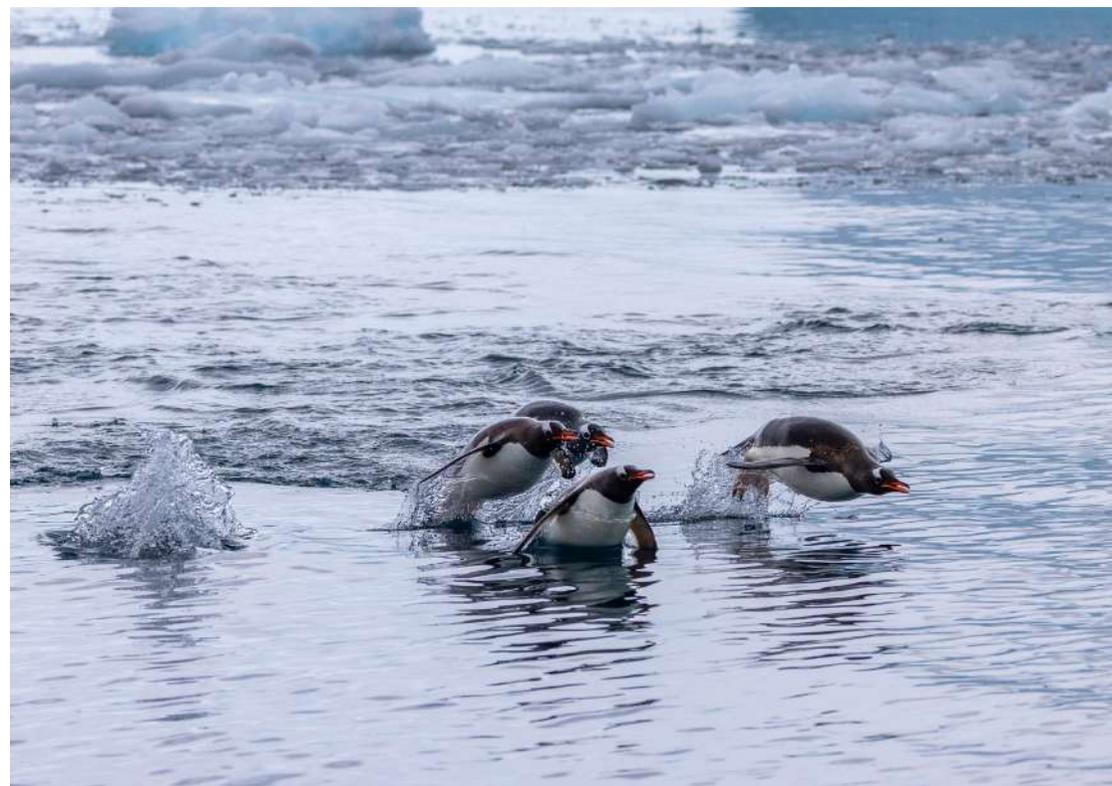
We could witness the old presence of humanity in this region of the world, with many whale bones scattered on parts of the beaches. Back in the whaling days, whalers would flense the carcasses on the shore and boil the blubber into oil. It is a great opportunity to witness how humans travelled down to these latitudes through time for a very different reason than ours, to remind us that our impact on this fragile nature is not necessary less negative than those a hundred years ago, who came to hunt and profit from the cetaceans of Antarctica.

The afternoon brought a completely different experience. We launched the Zodiacs in a soup of ice. A mixture of big icebergs and brash ice covered Cierva Cove, a beautiful bay running into the actual Antarctic continent.

More gentoos were gathering around the Argentinian Primavera Base. A presence that had the consequence of attracting predators. A couple of leopard seals were being spotted around. The apex predator has shown us its true face. The 'do not mess with me' face. The interaction became quite intense and some distance was needed away from the animals.

We came back to the comfortable *Greg Mortimer* after a day full of emotions, beautiful encounters and quite low temperatures. The plan is now to head a little more south to see what the next days will bring.







Enterprise Island & Portal Point

DAY 6 | Thursday 7 March 2024

Position at 0700 on 07 Mar

Latitude: 64°30'0" S

Longitude: 062°55'0" W

Course: 199°

Speed: 3.7kts

Wind Speed: ESE 2.4kts

Barometer: 1010 hPa

Air Temp: 0°C

In the morning our Captain and crew moved the ship towards the famous Enterprise Island.

It is famous for being the harbour for Norwegian whaling ships in the end of 19th to the beginning of the 20th centuries, so there are a lot of cultural remains like wooden boats, chains and the most famous one - the shipwreck *Governoren*, which sank here over a century ago, in 1915.

The story of this shipwreck is really interesting. Whalers had a big party celebrating the end of the season - which meant the ship was full of whale oil. During the party, a fire started and soon the whole ship was on fire. The captain made the decision to run the ship aground to save the lives of the crew. As it was happening in a sheltered bay with other whaling ships around, all crew survived this fire and were brought home safely.

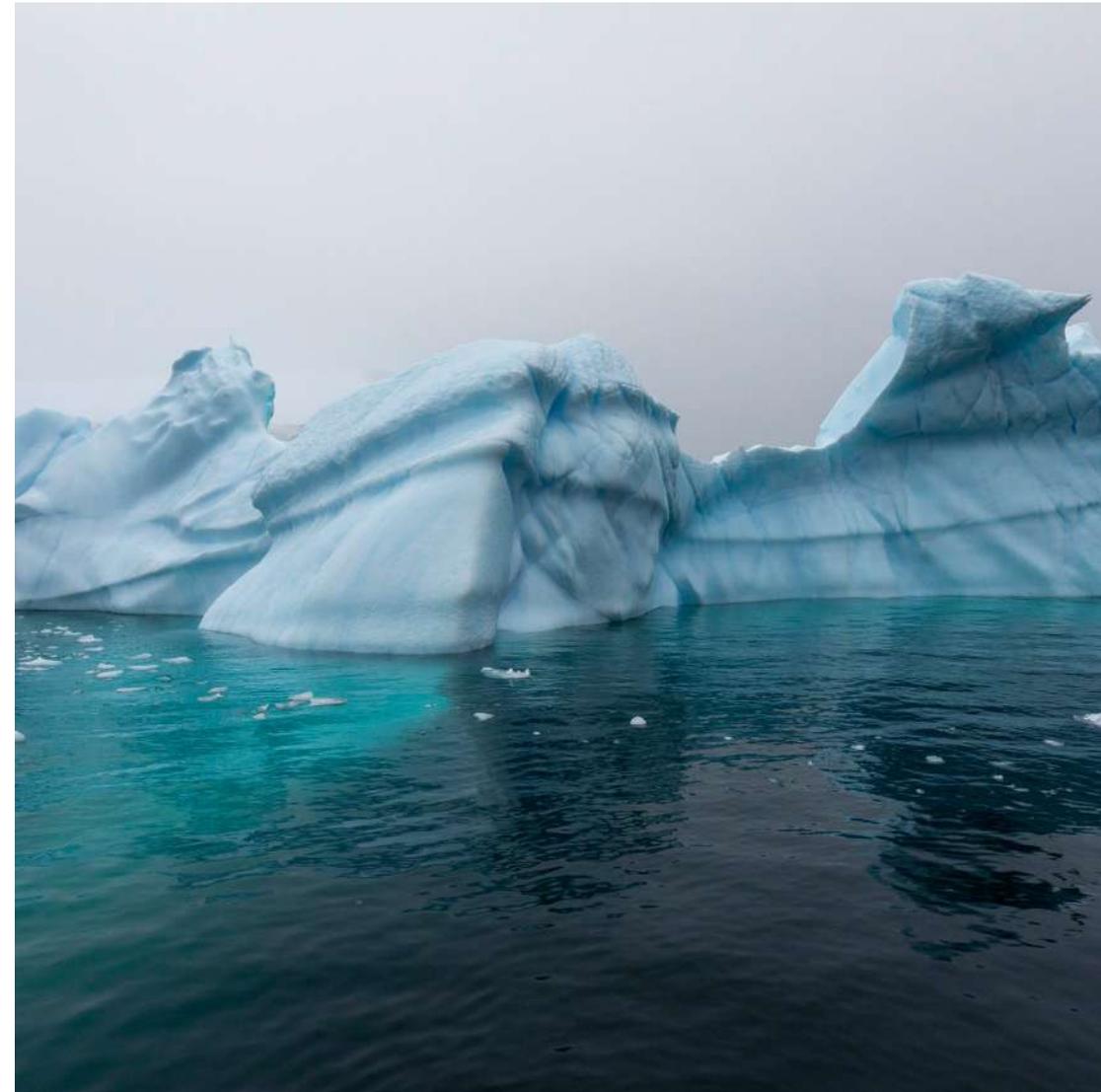
We started our outing with Zodiac cruising along the small island and saw two old wooden water boats, and then around insert the rusty *Governoren*, trying to imagine what it looked 110 years ago before the fire happened.

Snorkellers were lucky to observe the shipwreck underwater and explore it in detail. We continued our cruise in the narrow channels between the small islands, and enjoyed the company of imperial cormorants, chinstrap penguins and fur seals. We also found whale bones - probably whale corpses that were processed somewhere around here.

We continued our day with a landing on Portal Point in the afternoon. This place is famous for being used by the British Antarctic Survey as a spot to access mainland Antarctica for research expeditions. We saw the foundations of the old hut, though the hut itself is now on display in the museum in Stanley. Everyone was excited to set foot on the Antarctic continent for the first time, and for some this was particularly special as it marked their 7th continent. We spotted some fur seals as well as Weddell seals, imperial cormorants and skuas.

It was a foggy and misty afternoon, and the sea was glassy and calm. Kayakers paddled between beautiful icebergs, allowing us to really understand the size of these huge pieces of ice! We spotted several humpback whales feeding at the surface and enjoyed paddling along quietly to observe these majestic animals.

Tired, but happy and filled with emotions, we returned to the ship. Another amazing day in Antarctica came to an end, and we are looking forward to what tomorrow will bring us.













Skontorp Cove & Neko Harbour

DAY 7 | Friday 8 March 2024

Position at 0700 on 08 Mar

Latitude: 64°51'0" S

Longitude: 062°57'0" W

Course: 138°

Speed: 4.1kts

Wind Speed: SE 5kts

Barometer: 1001 hPa

Air Temp: 0°C

The dawn of the 8th March found the *Greg Mortimer* pushing slowly through open brash ice into the calm waters of Paradise Harbour. This wide bay was named by the whalers who would shelter here in the 1920s. As the ship awoke, a soft-blue light revealed the ring of heavily glaciated mountains and a bay full of loose pack ice gently moving with the small swell coming into the bay from the Gerlache Strait. On the east shore of the bay the small wooden buildings of Argentina's Brown Station could be seen perched on a small, rocky terrace. The station dates from the 1950s and is named after Admiral William Brown, the father of the Argentine navy, and currently operates as a summer-only research station.

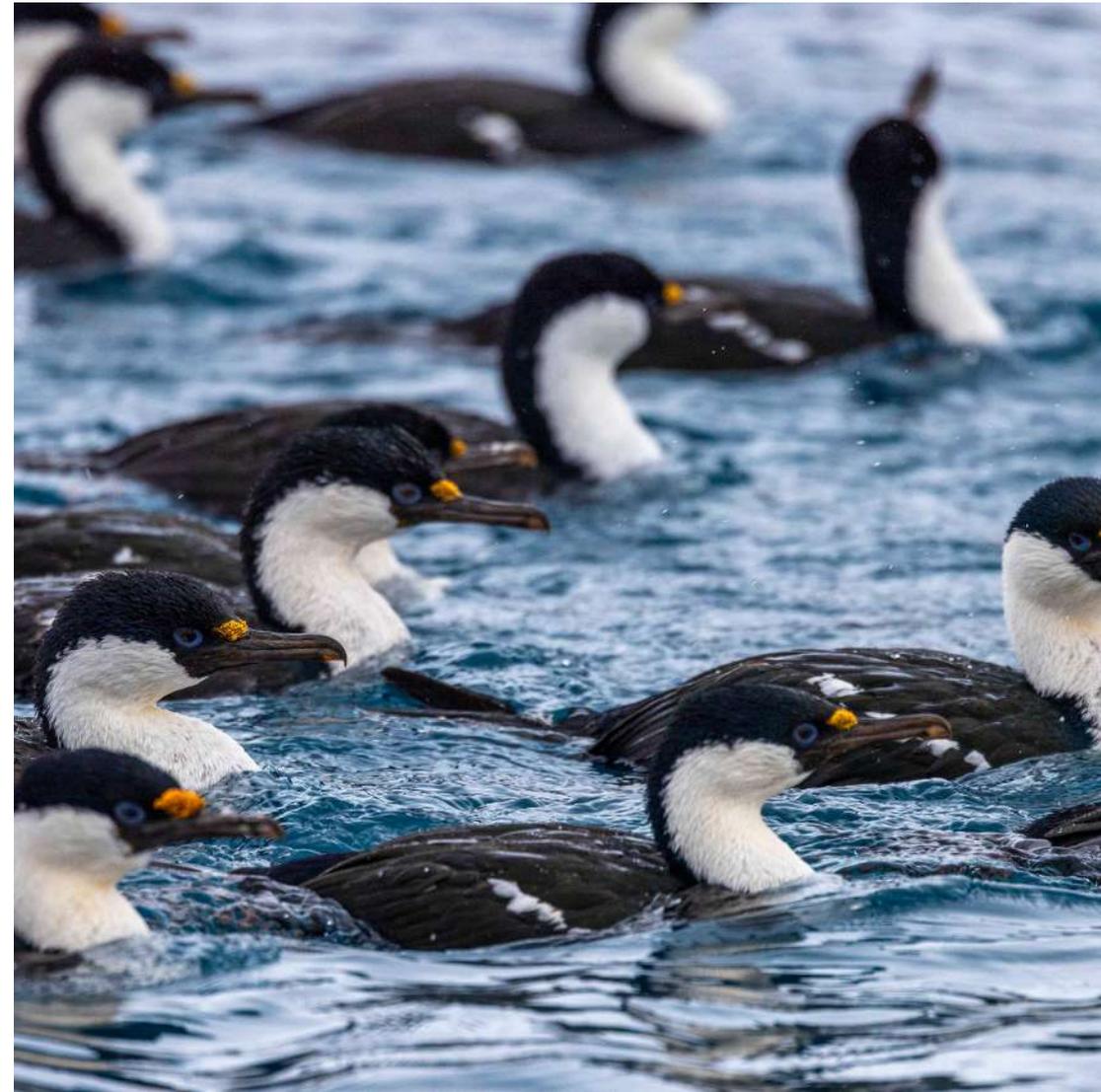
Shortly after breakfast we spread out from the ship in several groups. Three Zodiacs with the photography left the ship first to cruise the bergs in the bay. The rest of the ship disembarked for a Zodiac cruise or paddle past the research station and nearby cliffs decorated with rich moss and golden lichen. The cliffs are home to nesting imperial cormorants. Many of the chicks were well grown and exercising their wings in anticipation of their first flight. The Zodiacs and kayakers then spread out into the beautiful ice amphitheatre of Skontorp Cove, before returning in good spirits to the ship in light rain.

A short transit with wonderful views took us past the Chilean base of Gonzalez Videla and into Neko Harbour just after lunch. The ship anchored in a brash-filled bay with a stunning glacial backdrop. The kayakers and paddlers were able to enjoy time working through the brash-ice-filled bay and spent time observing a humpback whale and her calf as they rested after feeding on the rich swarms of krill in the bay. Storm petrels were also actively feeding in the brash ice.

The rest of the ship split their time between a Zodiac cruise of the bay, with a focus on the large bergs towards the middle of the bay, and spending time on the raised section of a rocky beach that faces an active glacier. There were small carvings from the glacier during the stay.

The gentoo colony on the beach had almost adult-sized chicks that were not confined to individual nests, and almost ready for life at sea. The pale rocks of the shore provided a good background to watch the penguins swimming back from feeding trips.

The full day closed with a barbecue on deck. Good food and mulled wine enjoyed with the stunning backdrop of Neko Harbour.











Petermann Island | Winter Island

DAY 8 | Saturday 9 March 2024

Position at 0700 on 09 Mar

Latitude: 65°10'0" S

Longitude: 064°7'0" W

Course: 201°

Speed: 3.9kts

Wind Speed: NNW 4.4kts

Barometer: 1000 hPa

Air Temp: -1°C

There is nothing quite like an early morning transit through the majestic Lemaire Channel. Towering peaks either side of the vessel close in as if we are entering the gates of Valhalla! This feels like the home of so many lost Nordic gods or perhaps an unwritten chapter from Tolkien on ice. We are humbled into silence with reverence for such a magical place.

This is the closest we get to the rocks that make up the bulk of the Antarctic Peninsula; ancient marine sediments that have been raised up, bunched up and contorted into fantastic distortions. Once horizontal bedding planes smashed into irregular tilting blocks, as if Pablo Picasso had been asked to portray the steep cliffs that rise before us. And all this before breakfast. How lucky we are!

First landing of the day was Petermann Island and the strangely named Circumcision Point (named after the day in the Catholic calendar when it was discovered). This is a low granite outcrop with a lonely refuge hut. While the conditions were slippery, most of us ventured forth to explore, and were rewarded with so many Adélie penguins waddling about their daily lives. It's close to the end of the breeding season and the young fledglings look so stropy and bedraggled as they stand around waiting for the last of their baby feathers to fall off. Then they will be able to take to sea, hunt their own food and begin their lives as independent creatures.

All around us are signs of the closing of the southern season of plenty. Occasional pancake ice, the beginning of the formation of the winter sea ice, has been encountered here and elsewhere – a sign of the harsh seasons to come.

Perhaps a sobering glimpse of the next few months was available at the afternoon landing. Wordie House on Winter Island was a British base established in 1947 and abandoned after just a few short years in 1954. The fabric of the building reeks of the hardships endured by those long-forgotten men (and it was men in those days) who overwintered here in the harshest of conditions. Months of total darkness and cold with only a small coal-fired heater to fortify their spirits. Nothing like the luxury afforded to us aboard our beautifully appointed, modern vessel! We have the luxury of returning to warmer climes. That's something that eluded so many adventurers that have gone before us.

But it's time to let the ghosts of the past continue their slumber as we sally forth on our continuing adventure into the heart of the Antarctic Peninsula. What new wonders await us tomorrow?









At Sea

DAY 9 | Friday 10 March 2024

Position at 0700 on 10 Mar

Latitude: 64°51'0"S

Course: 037°

Longitude: 063°31'0"W

Speed: 5.6 kts

Our day started quite early with the passage through the Peltier Channel, discovered by the French Antarctic Expedition in 1903–1905 led by Jean Baptiste Charcot, and it separates Doumer and Wiencke islands. We gazed upon the towering cliffs – some call them the Seven Sisters - they looked harsh and beautiful that morning.

Once we have finished with the delicious breakfast, we approached the famous Damoy Point. This place was used by the British Antarctic Survey as a summer air facility and transit station for scientific personnel – there was a ski airstrip for small aircrafts to land and a refuge hut that we can still see today.

The plan was to land there and spend some time on shore – however, the weather changed our plans. As soon as we dropped the anchor the wind picked up dramatically, exceeding the forecast by more than 30 knots. Some Zodiacs were put on the water to assess the chance of landing, but eventually the outing was cancelled. The wind was just too strong and there were some icebergs moving towards the ship.

The Captain and the crew did an amazing job navigating in such challenging conditions and taking the ship to a safe spot.

Meanwhile, two Zodiacs went around the corner (to a place called Port Lockroy) to pick up three 'Antarctic Hitchhikers'. Three guys have been working on the station for the whole Antarctic summer, and several months without a proper shower! We were glad to give them a lift back to Ushuaia and welcomed them aboard. It is important to maintain this sense of camaraderie in harsh environments like Antarctica!

The landing at Damoy Point was replaced by another, no less exciting event by our palaeontologist, Paul, giving us a lecture on Antarctic geology! It is hard to find a person more enthusiastic and passionate about this topic than Paul. He told us lots of interesting things about the Antarctic Peninsula, how it was formed and what processes created those magnificent rocks and cliffs that we see around.

In the afternoon we found a sheltered spot on the southern side of rocky Cuverville Island. Lying in the Errera Channel between Arctowski Peninsula and the northern part of Ronge Island, it was discovered by the Belgian Antarctic expedition in 1897–1899 led by Adrien de Gerlache, who named it after Jules de Cuverville – a vice admiral of the French navy.

The main landing site was just packed with hundreds of gentoo penguins, so we landed on a little rocky headland and explored the island from there. There also was a beautiful labyrinth of grounded icebergs to the north of the island – what a magnificent view!

It was a great day for us. We saw how fast the weather can change in Antarctica and then followed the footsteps of some great explorers!







Whalers Bay | Half Moon Island

DAY 10 | Monday 11 March 2024

Position at 0630 on 11 Mar

Latitude: 62°59'6" S

Longitude: 060°33'14"W

Course: 267°

Speed: 7kts

Wind Speed: NNW 4kts

Barometer: 780 hPa

Air Temp: 0°C

Another wonderful morning worth waking up early for, and the reason was that we were approaching Deception Island. The place welcomed us with quite foggy weather, but so much history makes this location unique and attractive for visitors.

Just off the northwest Antarctic Peninsula in the South Shetland Islands, this island is an active volcano, the crater of which is about 16 kilometres in diameter and forming one of the best anchorages in the Antarctic.

The island has also served as a whaling and seal-hunting station from 1906–1931 and, during World War II, as a British military base.

Right before breakfast, the bridge team brought the ship through a very narrow entrance of the caldera, and we arrived to our morning destination - Whalers Bay. The landing site includes the remains of Hektor whaling station, a whalers' cemetery and the British Base B, partially destroyed by a volcanic eruption in 1969. All of which are now protected by the Antarctic Treaty as a historical site and monument.

We could witness the human activity here with old buildings, destroyed whaling equipment and wooden boats, and evidence of everyday life of whalers and station workers in this place.

We enjoy our time ashore exploring the historical site, learning about the geology of the area, and even walking up to Neptune's Window, a narrow break in the wall of the volcano from where we could look out to sea, which is pretty steep and with gusting winds.

The group of kayakers explored the site, paddling along the shore and enjoying views of geological layers on the steep walls of the island.

In the afternoon we had to cover a bit of distance to reach our next destination - Half Moon Island, also a part of South Shetland Islands in Antarctica.

The landing site is characterised by pebble and boulder beaches leading to steeper slopes. It is also a volcanic island by origin, and here the remains of a whaling dory (a type of shallow, planked boat) can be seen.

Antarctic fur seals, chinstrap and gentoo penguins welcomed us ashore and we had time to explore the place, walking from the areas with moulting penguins and resting seals, to points where there were fantastic view of the Argentinian base Camara and Livingston Island covered with ice.

In the evening hours we left South Shetland Islands with beautiful colours in the sky. We have had another memorable day of the voyage and the Drake Passage crossing is ahead.









Drake Passage

DAY 11 | Tuesday 12 March 2024

Position at 0830 on 12 Mar

Latitude: 60°50'0"S

Longitude: 061°57'0"W

Course: 333

Speed: 12.8kts

Wind Speed: NNE 20.3kts

Barometer: 1005 hPa

Air Temp: 0°C

The day's activities started with a fascinating glimpse into life on the bridge. Goncalo (the officer with the best handlebar moustache ever seen!) explained to our group that they had to take it in turns to be on watch and the higher up your rank, the less sleep you seemed to get!

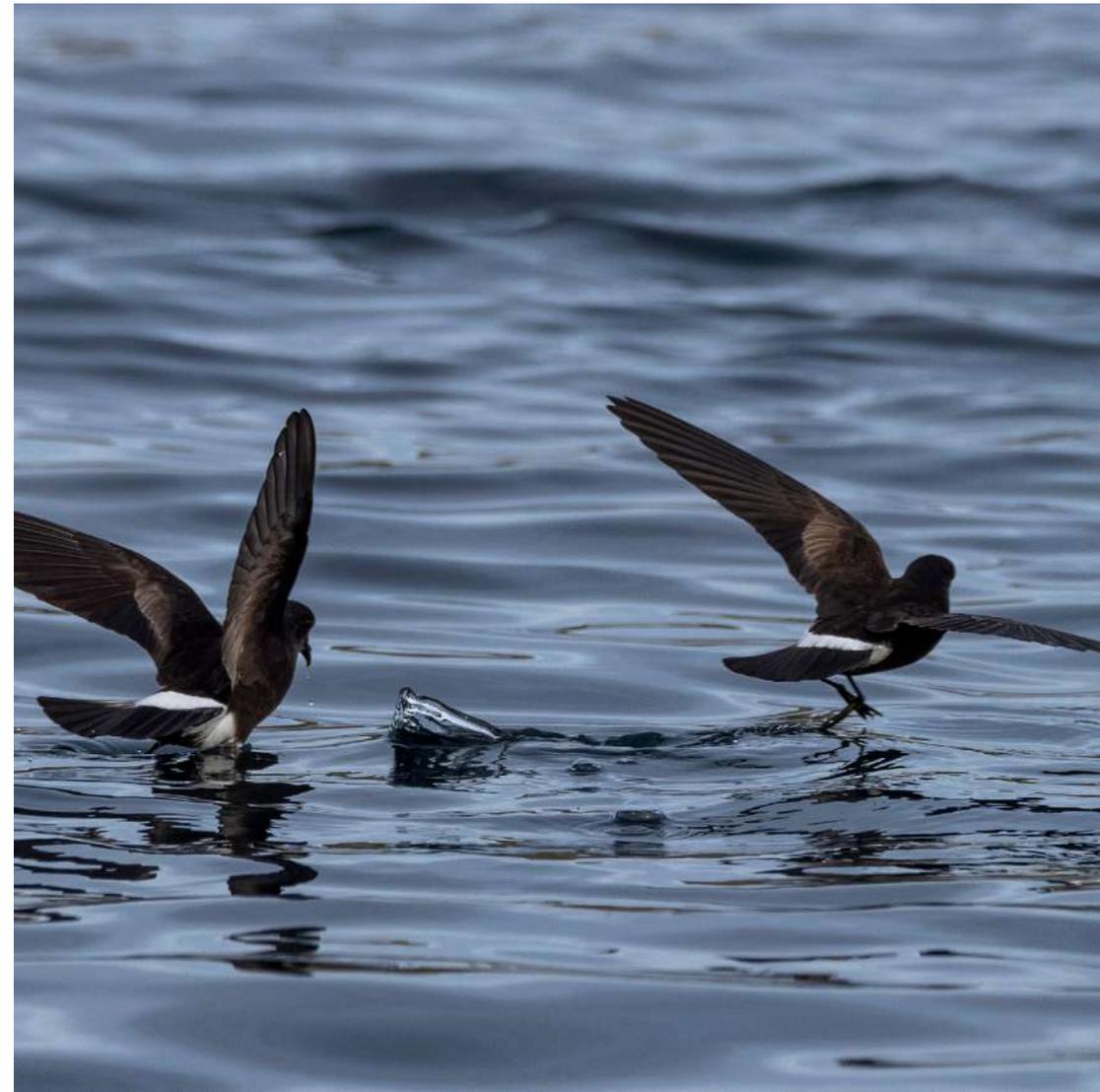
It takes about 15 years to become a captain. The most important equipment in the room was the coffee machine – especially at 4am! In the short 15 minutes we had, Goncalo told us myriad interesting details to enable the smooth running of the ship. It was fascinating that in the middle of all the modern technology was an old-fashioned wind-up telephone on a cord, in case all the electricity failed. Questions were coming thick and fast from the group, but sadly we only had 15 minutes. We could have stayed there all morning.

'Sea Birds of the Southern Ocean' was our first lecture of the day. Although there are approximately 10,000 birds in the world, only 350 of those are seabirds, and of those, 50 species are in our current proximity. They range in size from the tiny Wilson's storm petrel (which can live up to 10 years) with its 40-centimetre wingspan and 40-gram weight, to the wandering albatross with its amazing 3.5-metre wingspan. We then braved the wind and light rain on deck for a seabird survey with T-A, and were rewarded after 30 minutes with sightings of six different species, including the black-browed albatross exhibiting its amazing, dynamic soaring. Unfortunately, there are threats at sea for the seabirds, including reduced food supplies, fisheries interactions, marine debris and pollution. Threats on land include introduced predators, disturbance at breeding sites and, of course, HPAI (avian influenza).

'Looking for the dinosaur in a Bird' was the first lecture after lunch given by Paul. During this talk, he dismembered a cooked chicken, and revealed the dinosaur within!

After delicious crepe suzette, we listened to Katya's lecture on 'Who Owns Antarctica?'. Antarctica is the coldest, driest, highest continent. Over the course of 35 years, between 1908 and 1942, a total of seven nations rushed to claim various territories below the 60-degree parallel in Antarctica. However, the Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959 by 12 countries (they now number 56) stating that Antarctica should be used for peaceful purposes only. Then the Madrid Protocol came into place in 1991 designating Antarctica as a 'natural reserve, devoted to peace and science' until 2048.

Although today was a sea day, it still seemed to be action packed, with a movie after dinner named *Around the Horn* filmed in the 1920s with very dry and witty dialogue!



At Sea

DAY 12 | Wednesday 13 March 023

Position at 0840 on 13 Mar

Latitude: 55°58'0" S

Longitude: 065°41'0" W

Course: 337°

Speed: 8.7 kts

Wind Speed: NNW 19.8kts

Barometer: 991 hPa

Air Temp: 10°C

Our last sea day! It was a bittersweet day as, although many of us had other exciting things to move on to, we were sad to leave the amazing *Greg Mortimer* and Antarctica behind. We've shared a lot of memories over the last almost two weeks, and these days at sea have been a great opportunity to reflect and remember our trip. For some of us it may have been editing and looking over photos, for others it may be writing a diary. Whatever the method, we hope everyone had an amazing trip and will come away with some incredible and life-changing memories.

The Drake Passage had a pretty mild swell of around two metres. That doesn't mean the ship wasn't rolling a little here and there, so to those who made it through the day without feeling queasy at all, well done! To those who may have felt some of the effects of the sea, don't worry, it's just another part of the journey and sometimes the price to pay for visiting a place like Antarctica.

Now that we are safely across the Drake, it's worth knowing why people get seasick and what's actually happening in your body when you feel that slight spin in your head and need to run to the bathroom really quick. So, all that's really happening is that your eyes and balance mechanisms are miscommunicating. The human balance mechanism resides in the inner ear, so when the sea is making the ship move, our balance mechanism tells us everything around us is moving while our eyes are focused on the still cabin around us. This confuses the brain, so it reacts by releasing stress-induced hormones. These make us feel nauseous. Don't worry, though, after about two days of this, most people start to feel better as the brain adjusts and stops releasing the hormones.

One of the other great things about these sea days is that we get to do lectures and learn from our fellow Expedition Team and passengers. Most of us got to witness Hans's lecture on whale species and learn something new, as well as the hearing from the Port Lockroy crew about the little island they've been living on and their work for the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust.

We finished the trip off perfectly with a great speech from the Captain and a lot of clapping for all the amazing work the crew does. Thank you very much for coming along – it has been a pleasure.



Ushuaia

DAY 13 | Thursday 14 March 2024

Position at 0800 on 14 Mar

Latitude: 54°48'6" S

Longitude: 068°17'7" W

Course: At Anchor

Speed: At Anchor

Wind Speed: NNW 14kts

Barometer: 1095 hPa

Air Temp: 8°C

Disembarkation day

The entire Aurora team thanks you for joining us on this adventure, and we hope to see you on the high seas again!



Kayaking Log

Kayak Masters: Ivan, Pablo, Rob and Eduardo

Number of Paddlers: 7

Total Paddle Outings: 13

Total Distance Paddled: 48 km

Kayakers:	David Zifken	Andrew Morgenstern	Jaume Pou Vicens
Denise Wyllie	Courtney Zifken	Mary Jo Morgenstern	Esperanza Pou Vicens

03/03/2024, PM: Paulet Island. Distance: 2 km

This morning we began with briefings, and then just after lunch we took the chance to go out for our first kayak session. Our sea-kayaking adventure was near the swelly beach of Paulet Island. After towing away from the ship, and under blue sky, we hopped out of the Zodiacs and into our kayaks for the first time. After a short briefing on the water, we paddled to the beach of Paulet Island where we were greeted by fur seals, gentoo penguins and Weddell seals. The smell of the guano from the cormorant colony was unique! What a way to begin our adventure at the end of the world!

04/03/2024, PM: Devil Island. Distance: 1 km

This was a short and sharp kayak due to some unforeseen wildlife. We hopped into the water among stunning icebergs and had a quick view of some Adélie penguins. However, we soon heard the radio call, 'orcas by the boat!' This was very exciting news! For safety reasons, we had to get out of the water as soon as possible and, after a quick exit into the Zodiac, we cruised off to see if the orcas were still around. They stayed around for the next hour. We had an epic experience cruising with the pod of about 30 type-B orcas and everyone got some amazing photos of the day.

06/03/2024, PM: Cierva Cove. Distance: 3.2 km

This outing was one of the highlights of the trip, for sure! As soon as we got on the water, we entered quite dense brash ice. We approached the Argentinian base Primavera, and then paddled to the east of it. It was amazing to paddle through the ice, surrounded by massive icebergs. At some point we reached a patch of open water and then the magic happened – a huge leopard seal approached us and started to swim around and under the kayaks! It was very curious, and we called for our support Zodiac just in case. We rafted up and observed the seal for several amazing minutes – this creature is so graceful in the water! Shortly after, we started to paddle back towards the Primavera base to check out a small penguin colony, and then got around the rocky cape to the west of the station. There were many amazing icebergs and a bit of swell – we paddled around tidal rocks and felt the movement of the ocean. What a wonderful day!

07/03/2024, AM: Enterprise Island. Distance: 4.5 km

Paddling next to Enterprise Island is always great; a perfect rocky coast for playing with the sea kayakers, impressive glaciers, wildlife and lots of history. Today we did a good loop with the sea kayakers, starting on the outer site from the islets and heading towards the shipwreck. After visiting the wreck, we kept on paddling towards the

colony of blue-eyed shags, a beautiful antarctic bird. Right after having that little and very quiet stop by the shags, we use the last minutes from this wonderfully calm outing to admire more glaciers. Then we paddled back to the ship, achieving a whole kayaking loop!

07/03/2024, PM: Portal Point. Distance: 3.8 km

This afternoon we had incredible humpback whale sightings from our kayaks! The area of Portal Point is always great for encountering whales, and today was no exception. The conditions were perfect, no wind and a beautiful light that made the huge icebergs look very blue. We came across several groups of humpbacks, very impressive cetaceans that we could observe and hear very clearly from a safe distance. We spent almost the whole time admiring these animals, and we all were speechless. After this beautiful experience, we finished the outing by taking the Zodiac to the landing site to step foot on the Antarctic continent for the first time!

08/03/2024, PM: Neko Harbour. Distance: 5.3 km

The conditions this afternoon at Neko Harbour were perfect, with a beautiful light, no wind, and a glassy sea. We paddled for more than two hours, and we covered 5.3 kms, probably the longest sea-kayaking session so far! We enjoyed the peace of the place together with several humpback whales around us. We also paddled through dense brash ice, which is always an amazing experience. After playing with the kayaks in this beautiful scenery, we made a stop by the landing site to observe the gentoo penguin colony and we were very lucky because we even came across a young elephant seal hauling out on the rocky beach from Neko Harbour.

09/03/2024, AM: Petermann Island. Distance: 8 km

This morning, we had perfect weather conditions, no wind and a calm sea. We used the Zodiacs to move just a bit farther from the ship, then we started paddling on the south side of Petermann Island and headed to another small island that we circumnavigated. We were surrounded by tall icebergs, and there were fur seals on the rocks and a Weddell seal and lots of gentoo penguins in the water. We also saw some humpback whales before we turned around and came back to Petermann Island, this time navigating along the east coast. We paddled into some small bays and explored some little channels and all the historical sites, including the cross from 1982, the Argentinian Hut and the inscription 'PP' in the rock. The inscription stands for *Pourquoi Pas*, the name of the ship used on the Charcot expedition, and shows the place where the ship overwintered in Port Circumcision.

09/03/2024, PM: Winter Island. Distance: 3.5 km

What a day for kayaking. The Argentine Island group is a kayaker's dream, with lots of channels and bays to explore. To start our trip, we made our way away from the general operations and noisy outboards. As we cruised around the back side of the island, we travelled through a beautiful channel with tall rock cliffs on one side and calm, clear water. Then we moved into an area with beached icebergs everywhere; we navigated these, always staying a safe distance from big icebergs. As we came around the corner and saw the ship again, we could hear the whales blowing in the bay. Next thing we knew, we were out there trying to find them. It was a very successful whale hunt. We spent a while watching a mother and her teenage calf rest on the surface, and then start to cruise around. On the way back to the ship we had more whales pass by for a bit of a show. A day with pretty much everything you could want in a kayak session.

10/03/2024, PM: Cuverville Island. Distance: 4.7 km

This day was very windy so there were no activities in the morning, but we managed to find some shelter in the afternoon to explore Cuverville Island by kayak. The island offered nesting sites for an extensive colony of gentoo penguins, so we stayed close to the shore to observe the penguins' behaviour. The chicks were moulting and the adults were feeding them, and the juveniles were learning how to swim for the first time. After that, we paddled through big icebergs that were grounded, enjoying the idea that every single piece was unique, so it was like we had entered an open-sky art gallery! We loved connecting with this amazing place.

11/03/2024, AM: Whalers Bay Distance: 4.5 km

The last kayak session for the trip, and we were inside a huge volcanic crater! As we began the paddle along the huge cliff side, we saw our first fur seals for the morning. From here we pretty much had a consistent entourage of fur seals checking us out and playing around our kayaks. It was awesome to see them twist and turn right under our boats. On shore we could see the remnants of the old whaling station. It ranged from the early days of whaling with wooden barrels and boats, to the huge vats they used later on to store all the whale oil. After paddling to the landing site, the team hopped onshore for a quick look around as well.





Paddling Log

Kayak Masters: Elo, Edu, Pablo, Ivan, Rob

Number of Paddlers: 6

Total Paddle Outings: 11

Total Distance Paddled: 35 km

Paddlers:	Leah Frei	Denise Henkind	Gregory
Dan Kolkowitz	Laurence Bullock	Christian Codelli	

04/03/2024, AM: Devil Island. Distance: 1.8 km

Our first adventure on the water began with the best orca encounter of our life – there were more than 30 orcas swimming around us! We enjoyed watching them but we couldn't enter the water for at least 30 minutes because they were too close to us. After that, we embarked the kayaks from the Zodiac and we started paddling around grounded icebergs, each with a different and beautiful shape, and some of them with Adélie penguins on top. Then we paddled back to the ship which was repositioning. What a way to begin our adventure at the end of the world!

04/03/2024, PM: The Naze. Distance: 1.1 km

We towed our inflatable kayaks away from the ship, under a grey sky and with some wind, then entered the water, taking care to not disturb the work that a group of scientists were doing on Weddell seals. We'd been paddling for 10 minutes when the scientists called out to invite us over to the shoreline. They welcomed us and explained about the tagging and monitoring job that they were doing with seals. Suddenly the wind increased considerably, reaching 20 knots. We had to cancel our session with the kayaks, but we got the chance to explore the island on foot, and we had fun roaming around grounded icebergs the shoreline.

06/03/2024, AM: Mikkelsen Harbour. Distance: 2.2 km

A challenging and beautiful morning at Mikkelsen Harbour. This was our first paddling outing in the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula, right at the entrance of the Gerlache Strait.

We started kayaking downwind in a sheltered little bay and then kept on paddling against the wind. It was cold and foggy, but this is Antarctica, a very changeable place that we must adapt to constantly. We enjoyed the view from huge, amazing glaciers, and we were all delighted! Then we had to keep a good pace to reach shelter from the wind behind D'Hainaut Island. Once there, we enjoyed the view of the penguin colony. We kept paddling, discovering the coastline from this small island, then we went on shore to stretch our legs before coming back to the ship.

06/03/2024, PM: Cierva Cove. Distance: 3 km

From the ship, we used the Zodiac to move closer to Primavera Station. We started paddling in the middle of Cierva Cove, just before all the brash ice and immense icebergs. This was such an intense and wonderful experience that we took many pictures, then relaxed on the water listening to the ice cracking and bubbling. We headed towards the rocky shore, being careful not to navigate towards big icebergs, and we saw so many gentoo

penguins porpoising in the water and going back and forth from the sea. After that, we kayaked back towards the ship, using the Zodiacs for the final part of the journey. A super experience in the ice!

07/03/2024, PM: Enterprise Island. Distance: 3.5 km

We had an intimate paddle crew with Greg and Chris as the only participants. It was a beautiful day for a lap around the bay, with a little rain but not a breath of wind. It was perfect weather for Chris to do some photography and for Greg to paddle him around. On our journey, we saw fur seals, chinstrap penguins, antarctic shags and a big old shipwreck. Some very scenic paddling and, no doubt, lots of great photos from the day.

07/03/2024, PM: Portal Point. Distance: 5 km

We used the Zodiac as launch point not far from the *Greg Mortimer*, and set off to explore the north coast of Portal Point. The sea state was calm, with almost no wind. We paddled to the shore through a little brash ice and past some big icebergs, focusing on photography and looking for wildlife. First we approached some rocks and looked for fur seals. We spotted some whales in the distance so we started kayaking in that direction and, after 20 minutes, we stopped to watch them feed and swim. The conditions were very calm so it was an amazing experience. We ended close to the ship and boarded the Zodiac to do a continental landing on Portal Point. A perfect day kayaking!

08/03/2024, PM: Neko Harbour. Distance: 2.6 km

For this trip, we split the group so some of us could focus on photography and the others could explore more. The conditions were excellent – there was no wind and the seas were calm. We set off by Zodiac and straight away we found two humpback whales having a nap and looking super-relaxed. The silence and then the sounds of nature were impressive, with glaciers calving, whale blows and penguins swimming in different directions. And the reflection of the icebergs in the water were unforgettable.

Most of the time we paddled through brash ice and looked for clear patches with no ice, to take pictures of some incredible icebergs. Once we boarded the Zodiac, we went ashore to see some gentoo penguins. Another perfect day on the water!

09/03/2024, AM: Petermann Island. Distance: 3.1 km

This morning, we had perfect weather conditions, no wind and a calm sea. We used the Zodiacs to move just a bit farther from the ship, then we started paddling on the south side of Petermann Island and headed to another small island that we circumnavigated. We were surrounded by tall icebergs, and there were fur seals on the rocks and a Weddell seal and lots of gentoo penguins in the water. We also saw some humpback whales before we turned around and came back to Petermann Island, this time navigating along the east coast. We paddled into some small bays and explored some little channels and all the historical sites, including the cross from 1982, the Argentinian Hut and the inscription 'PP' in the rock. The inscription stands for *Pourquoi Pas*, the name of the ship used on the Charcot expedition, and shows the place where the ship overwintered in Circumcision Bay.

09/03/2024, PM: Winter Island. Distance: 3.45 km

This was a memorable outing for all the paddlers! We got on the water next to the Argentine Islands – a group of tiny islets with lots of narrow channels and intertidal rocks that were waiting for us to explore. The conditions were fantastic – the water was almost completely flat. We explored some amazing channels, gazed upon dozens of grounded icebergs, and then reached Vernadsky Station, which was once a British base called Faraday but nowadays is a Ukrainian station.

We were at Vernadsky when a very cool thing happened. We were paddling along past a penguin colony when suddenly a huge leopard seal approached us out of the blue. It was very curious and almost immediately started to dive under our kayaks. It tried to touch them and literally looked into our eyes from underwater. We tried to paddle away, but the curious seal followed us and would not let us go! We called for Elo with her Zodiac to get us out of the water and we started to drive away, but the leopard seal continued to chase the line of kayaks and tried to play with them on the go! We enjoyed this close encounter – it was amazing to see this big and beautiful creature moving so gracefully in the water. We managed to get back to the ship and retrieve the kayaks, as at some point the seal lost interest. It was one of the most amazing episodes of the trip for our paddling team!



Snorkelling Log

Snorkel Guide: Thomas Stas, Remi

Number of Snorkellers: 5

Total Outings: 12

Snorkellers:

John (David) Hammett

Kelly Hammett

Angela Smith

Matthew (Ivan) Rusilko

Paul Rusilko

03/03/2024, PM: Paulet Island

Welcome to the snorkelling program! After the general snorkelling briefing, we quickly realised that the group will be no more than five snorkellers; happy days!

The dry suits are now fitting well; it is time to try them out and get into the water.

The ship is anchored at Paulet Island in the Weddell Sea and we are ready for our first outing. We wait on land on the island for an hour with Stas, while Remi and Thomas go out scouting with the Zodiac in order to find the perfect first snorkelling place. And what a great place! We didn't expect that much for a first. We are snorkelling around a nice piece of ice, in nice clear water and we are super lucky to be visited by of a few fur seals, even two of them passing right under our fins!

Great success for our first outing; let's see what kind of surprises the next day will offer.

04/03/2024, AM: Devil Island

We started our morning on Devil Island. It was a lovely sunny morning. Just shortly after we left the ship the orcas were spotted! They were calmly cruising along the coast of Vega Island. We spent our time with the killer whales, enjoying a calm and lovely morning. It was truly a unique experience.

06/03/2024, AM: D'Hainaut Island, Mikkelsen Harbour, Trinity Island

A new day has once again greeted us with calm seas. Although overcast, D'Hainaut Island still offered beautiful scenery and a colony of gentoo penguins waiting to be played with. Hopping on the island in dry suits, and hiking up the hill is one way to keep warm and work up a sweat, ready to take on the cold waters!

Sleeping Weddell seals on the shores and gentoo penguins staggered around the place leads to excited spirits on the Zodiac! Jumping into the fresh 0.5-degrees-Celsius water, the punters are on their way, scattered among the shallow rocky bottom with plenty of red and brown seaweed, while alien-like species such as the giant antarctica isopod gave us a different appreciation for creatures that live here. Starfish, gastropods, krill, limpets; they are all on the list of weird and wonderful things we can see while snorkelling in the shallows.

06/03/2024, PM: Cierva Cove

As we move on for an afternoon adventure, we find ourselves in the stunning Cierva Cove. A graveyard of picturesque icebergs littered with brash ice gave a feeling of true Antarctica. With penguins porpoising in rafts and the crackles and pops of ice music to our ears, we are left in awe. Then the leopard seal came... adding to the excitement, the curious seal circled the Zodiac, twisting and turning in the most agile way possible and gave us a beautiful display of its sheer power and size! Leaving behind our new friend, we ventured far away for a quick snorkel among some icebergs, where we got a different perspective of just how big these masses of ice are!

07/03/2024, AM: Enterprise Island

In the morning, we stopped in Enterprise Island for some snorkelling around the shipwreck of the *Governoren*. What a lovely sight! The water was clear, so we had an opportunity to see the whole hull of the ship underwater. We even took the second snorkel away from the ship to observe some whale bones underwater. Great experience.

07/03/2024, PM: Portal Point

In the afternoon we landed on Portal Point. The weather was super calm and sea surface was glassy. After a short landing, we observed a couple of humpback whales feeding on krill, and then did an easy and nice snorkel in the shallow between the growlers, finding some interesting krill hiding around the ice.

08/03/2024, AM: Paradise

Once again, the snorkel team are ready for an exciting day full of adventures. The day started with a Zodiac tour in absolute paradise, the magical scenery of sheer glaciers and cliff sides and the glassy water, pathed with picturesque icebergs and littered with brash ice, was pure bliss! Pausing and letting it all soak in, we were greeted by a small orange fish (possibly part of the Notothenioidei family) and a few ctenophores lighting up the way. After a quick glimpse of a whale we continued and found a stunning waterfall surrounded by moss, a rarity in this harsh environment! Finally jumping into the shallow shores we waited for the gentoo penguins to grace us with their presence. So agile and quick, these penguins are gone within moments, but worth the wait in the near-freezing conditions!

08/03/2024, PM: Neko Harbour

After our bellies were filled, Neko Harbour was next on the list! A bay, and in every direction with raised cliffs with glaciers wedged in between, icebergs of all shapes and sizes and thick brash ice covering the glassy waters. The green and red algae turning the glaciers into a painting and deep crashing of calving events echoing through the harbour was a vision of beauty! The whale blows led us deep into the harbour, our fingertips starting to numb as the world got colder and the waters froze over! Beautiful stony drop-offs can be seen in the depths with the inviting kelp bringing the sea floor alive. Once again a few penguins joined the ranks of the patient snorkellers, and a seemingly curious elephant seal watching close by left the team with bright faces and memories to share!

09/03/2024, AM: Petermann Island

Before breakfast we had the privilege to observe majestic Lemaire Channel, as our ship was slowly cruising through.

In the morning we landed on Petermann Island and observed a colony of gentoo penguins, and some Adélies as well. We snorkelled with penguins in a nice, sheltered bay. Great beginning of another day in Antarctica.

09/03/2024, PM: Winter Island

In the afternoon we stopped near Vernadsky Station, cruised around the base and through narrow channels, and landed on famous British Wordie Hut on Winter Island. We just started snorkelling, but received a message about a hunting leopard seal. We left the water and moved fast towards the area. We saw several attempts to attack penguins, however, all failed. On our way back to the ship we spent some time with some beautiful humpback whales.

Another amazing day in Antarctica.

10/03/2024, PM: Cuverville Island

After a morning of high winds and anticipation, we venture out into the icy rain of the Antarctic. The island has a jagged cliffside layered with moss on one side and rocky shores engulfed with the largest gentoo colony on the other. Surrounded by icebergs and plenty of whales the team are in for a treat, while amazing visibility allowed for a stunning top view into the underwater realm! After a brief encounter with the whales and navigating the island and its surrounding icebergs, it was time to immerse ourselves into the depths! Close to the shore the penguins are staring intently at us, wondering if we are friends or foe. They take a chance and dart right past, allowing us to witness their beauty! Our three new snorkel friends are introduced into this new world of icy-cold water and are absolutely loving every single moment! Finding whale bones and porcupine fish were last on the list before the cold eventually forced everybody out, and the river of penguin poo also deteriorated the visibility. All happily back on board ready for another adventure after a bit of shuteye!

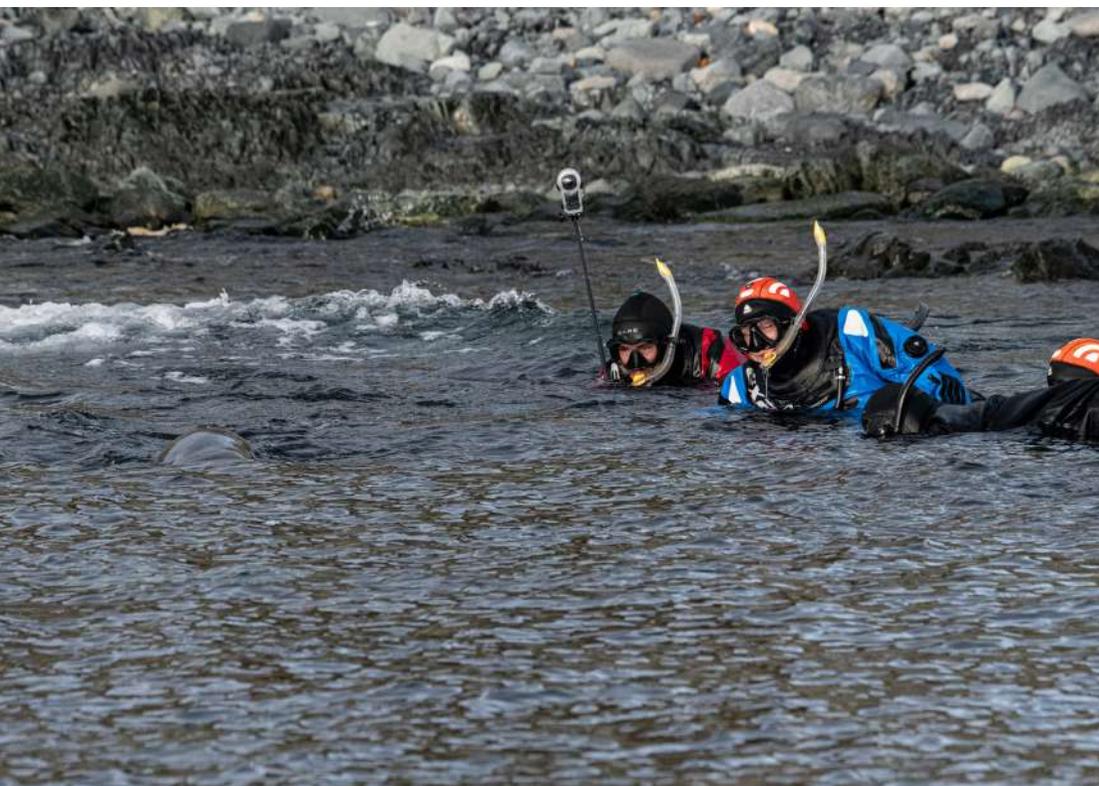
11/03/2024, PM: Half Moon Island

We spent our morning in the mysterious Whalers Bay, the most significant cultural place in the whole Antarctic Peninsula. We saw the remains from old whalers times and felt the special vibes of this place. We didn't snorkel here - it's better to spend this time on land.

In the afternoon we landed on Half Moon Island. The weather was amazing, sunny and calm. We snorkelled in a sheltered bay, and had several fur seal encounters. Curious seals came close and were checking us out. The visibility was surprisingly nice for the South Shetlands.

It was an amazing ending of another great snorkelling expedition.





Bird Sightings

Bird Species	March													
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Gentoo Penguin	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●				
Chinstrap Penguin				●	●	●					●			
Adélie Penguin		●	●		●			●						
Black-browed Albatross				●							●	●		
Grey-headed Albatross											●			
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross											●			
Giant Petrel	●			●	●			●	●	●		●		
Antarctic Fulmar (Southern)				●						●				
Kerguelen Petrel											●			
Soft-plumaged Petrel (light morph)											●	●		
Prion sp. (probably mostly Antarctic)											●			
White-chinned Petrel				●										
Sooty Shearwater												●		
Wilson's Storm-petrel	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Black-bellied Storm-petrel											●			
Imperial Cormorant (blue-eyed)		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				
Cormorant sp. (unidentified)													●	
American Shearbill (Snowy)		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●				
Chilean Skua														
Skua (Brown and/or South Polar)		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				
Kelp Gull		●	●	●	●	●		●		●		●		
Tern (probably mostly Antarctic)			●		●	●	●	●	●	●				
Arctic Tern			●											
Dolphin Gull													●	
Great Shearwater												●		

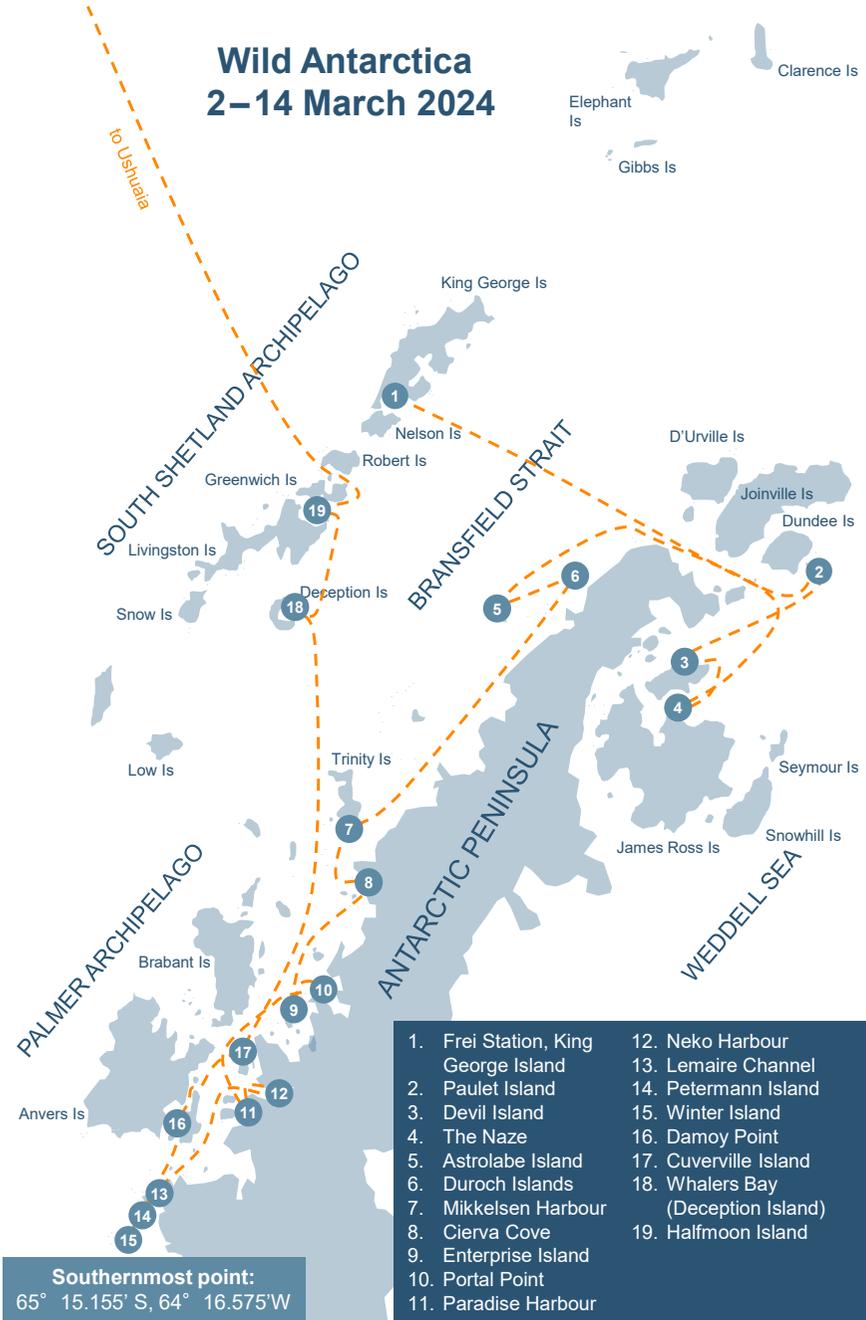


Mammal Sightings

Mammal Species	March													
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Antarctic Fur Seal		•		•	•	•				•	•			
Southern Elephant Seal						•					•			
Crabeater Seal						•	•							
Weddell Seal		•	•	•	•					•	•			
Leopard Seal					•			•						
Sei Whale		•		•										
Fin Whale				•										
Humpback Whale		•		•	•	•		•						
Orca			•											
Unidentified Whale											•	•		
Unidentified Dolphin													•	



Wild Antarctica 2–14 March 2024





Expeditioners:

Ivan Aqueero Krauss

Shabir Alidina

Fernando Araya Carrasco

Clifford Boehm

Toni Borrett

Ron Borrett

Di Brogan

Daniel Brune

Laura Büllesbach

Larry Bullock

Robert Carter

Wayne Cherry

Chris Codelli

Judy Cook

Mark Daughn

Diane David

Lucia De Souza

Muris Demirovic

Albert Dros

Doug Elrod

Gil Epstein

Lea Epstein

Fort Felker

Kerry Finlay

Steve Finlay

Leah Frei

Sallyann Gall

Robert Gandelman

Stephen Gershberg

Christine Godfrey

Amy Goeman

Mark Gries

Terry Hall

Gayle Hall

Harold Hall

Matthew Hamilton

David Hammett

Kelly Hammett

Denise Henkind

Joshua Hoerner

Sarah Hoyland

Ruby Hoyland

Robert Hurley

Suzy Ibrahimovic

Ethan Johnson

Hywel Jones

Leena Karlekar

Jane Katzen

Dan Kolkowitz

Daniel Korzhonov

Violeta Lazareva

Courtney Lesnick

William Lewis

Diana Lopez

Iven Macleod

Sanjay Mahatma

Sybil Marcus

Bridie Martin-West

Alice Miles

Greg Miles

David Miles

Susan Miles

Mary Jo Morgenstern

Andrew Morgenstern

Robin Newmark

James Patrick

Dee Potter

Maria Pou Vicens

Jaume Pou Vicens

Prakash Prakash

Criz Quinn

Jacquelyn Randall

Cliff Redeker II

Jeremy Robertson

Suzie Robertson

Lesley Robertson

Sara Robinson-Glasser

Ravi Roth

Paul Rusilko

Ivan Rusilko

Ravindra Satish Samant

Catherine Schwab Wildi

Val Scotchmer

Peter Scotchmer

Roman Semashko

Ekaterina Semashko

Iwan Setijawan

Adrienne Smith

Angela Smith

Brad Teys

Deborah Teys

Elina Timgren

Martti Timgren

Anges van der Logt

Jerome Viard

Isabel Vicens Gelabert

Julie Weis

Kim Whelan

Heather Wicke

Bruno Wildi

Denise Wyllie

David Zifkin

Courtney Zifkin



Expedition Team:

Expedition Leader: Daniel Stavert

Assistant Expedition Leader: Isabelle Howells

Onboard Expedition Manager: Anne Oeyasaeter

Glaciologist: Gaby Pilson

Naturalist / Citizen Science Coordinator: Tracey Ann Hooley

Naturalist: Hans Bruning

Naturalist: Alan McPherson

Geologist: Paul Willis

Marine Biologist: Ekaterina Uriupova

Lead Sea Kayak Guide: Eloisa Berrier

Senior Sea Kayak Guide: Eduardo Larranaga

Senior Sea Kayak Guide: Ivan Klochkov

Sea Kayak Guide: Robin Barth

Sea Kayak Guide: Pablo Passera

Lead Snorkel Guide: Thomas Gov

Snorkel Guide: Stas Zakharov

Snorkel Guide: Remi Ritchie

Expedition Medic: Mari Fleri

Photography Guide: Adrian Wlodarczyk

Zodiac Manager: Ryan Kaempfe

Onboard Expedition Assistant: Reza Rusooly

Senior Officers & Heads of Department:

Master: Maxim Makarovskiy

Chief Officer: Alexandru Taraoi

Safety Officer: Sergeii Voina

Bosun: Francis Marvin Linga

Third Officer: Goncalo Alexandre Saraiva Aniceto Costa

Ship Doctor: Anzor Chomakhidze

Support Doctor: Eliana Caro Garzon

Chief Engineer: Sergiy Melynk

Hotel Director: Pascal Joubin

Chief Purser: Pia Blanca Bangug

Executive Chef: Ronwaldo Reyes

Head Waiter: Jemuel Alcantara

IT Officer: Gerry Dcunha

Receptionist: Ana Gabriela Fernandez

Receptionist: Jonathan Valdez

Head Stateroom: Florente Lusomg

Able Seaman: Dan Well Danico

Able Seaman: Jufri Mujahid

Able Seaman: Nikola Georgiev

Able Seaman: Mark Christian Torero

Able Seaman: Joel Noble

Able Seaman: Roberto Ixtan Mejia

Able Seaman/Carpenter: Angelo San Antonio

Deck Cadet: Giuseppe Guidice

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Adrian Wlodarczyk



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