

# Across the Antarctic Circle: Fly the Drake

Aboard *Greg Mortimer* | 24 January – 2 February 2026





# Across the Antarctic Circle

24 January – 2 February 2026

# Punta Arenas to King George Island | Embarkation day

DAY 1 | 25 January 2026

**Latitude:**  
62°12'5" S

**Longitude:**  
58°56'1" W

**Speed:**  
0.3 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
20 knots NWN

**Barometer:**  
1002 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
2°C

After a surprisingly eventful morning in Punta Arenas, we were delighted to hear that the small window of opportunity for our flights to King George Island was good enough for the plan to proceed and it was finally going to happen – we were soon to be on our way to Antarctica!

Upon arrival at the *Greg Mortimer*, after shedding a few layers in the mudroom, we made our way upstairs to meet our Onboard Expedition Manager, Alesha, and Expedition Photographer, Jarryd, who checked us off and took a memorable photo for the photo board.

Once onboard, welcome refreshments awaited us in the Elephant Island Bar, then our hotel team helped us to navigate the decks to our cabins and settle us into our 'home away from home' for the next 8 days.

Before getting into all the briefings and introductions, the hotel team made us all a delicious buffet lunch to energise us for the afternoon.

Our Expedition Leader, Jeff, then invited us into the lecture theatre to welcome us aboard. We were then introduced to our multi-skilled Expedition Team. Alesha and Hotel Director Oliver subsequently walked us through life onboard, and Doctor Pranav ensured we knew how to stay healthy during our voyage.

After this welcome briefing, we had a moment to get comfortable in our cabins before commencing the lifeboat safety drill. Once this was successfully completed, we all made our way into the dining room to enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by our talented galley team and served by our welcoming waiting staff.

Together we total 96 Expeditioners from USA (52), Australia (25), Canada (6), China (2), UK (5), Netherlands (1), Germany (2), Greece (2), Peru (1) along with crew from all around the globe.

Our 20 Expedition Team members have a variety of specialities including polar exploration, marine mammals, mountaineering, geology, history, ornithology, photography, medicine, snorkelling and kayaking.

After hours of travel to reach the *Greg Mortimer*, it's time to relax, breathe in the sea air, and get excited for the adventures ahead!

Altogether, we are 96 Expeditioners from around the world, joined by 76 crew members and 20 Expedition Team members ready to share their knowledge.

After many hours of travel, it's time to relax, breathe in the sea air, and look forward to the adventures ahead.

# Palaver Point & Sprightly Island

DAY 2 | 26 January 2026

**Latitude:**  
64°08'8" S  
**Longitude:**  
51°46'5" W

**Course:**  
273°  
**Speed:**  
6.6 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
8 knots NNE  
**Barometer:**  
1010 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
0°C

Our Antarctic expedition truly came alive this morning with our first Antarctic landing at Palaver Point, a small, rugged outcropping on the west side of Two Hummock Island in the Palmer Archipelago, and home to one of the loudest welcomes on Earth. The famed Chinstrap Penguin rookery announced our arrival long before our boots touched the ground!

Palaver Point eased us in gently. Our first glimpse of the Peninsula was a true initiation: wet rocks, low tide, steep snow patches, and bustling penguin highways with steep glacier tongues surrounding the island. The Chinstraps were in full command of their territory, curious and endlessly entertaining. Watching them negotiate icy slopes and steep rocks with

determined waddles and fearless leaps was a reminder that survival here requires both grit and humor.

Under brooding grey skies and steady Antarctic drizzle, the Expedition Team guided us onto slick sea rocks, and generous amounts of penguin guano. A few Fur Seals jostled playfully on the rocks to the east, while chinstraps torpedoed in and out of the water, and Skuas and Cormorants wheeled overhead, ever watchful and waiting for an opportunistic nest empty of penguin parents. It was loud, wild, and gloriously Antarctic!

By afternoon, we traded our lunch plates for lifejackets and boarded our Zodiacs for a cruise around Sprightly Island a little further south along the coast. Fog curled around us as



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0°C

we entered Graham Passage, with the occasional curtain of sunlight spilling across the ice, igniting the glaciers around us into countless shades of blue. Massive icebergs drifted silently past as our Boat Captains skillfully threaded their Zodiacs through ice and swell, revealing one breathtaking scene after another.

Wildlife rewarded our persistence. We spotted a few Humpback Whales, Weddell Seals, Blue-Eyed Shags, Wilson Storm Petrels, countless Chinstrap Penguins, and one lone Gentoo perched atop an iceberg, as if posing just for us.

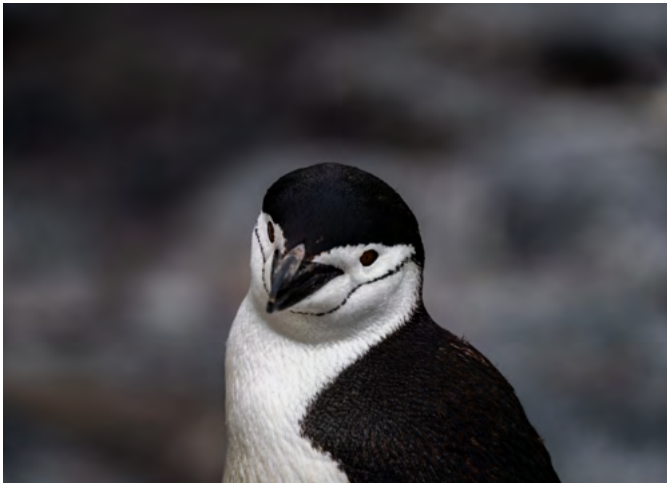
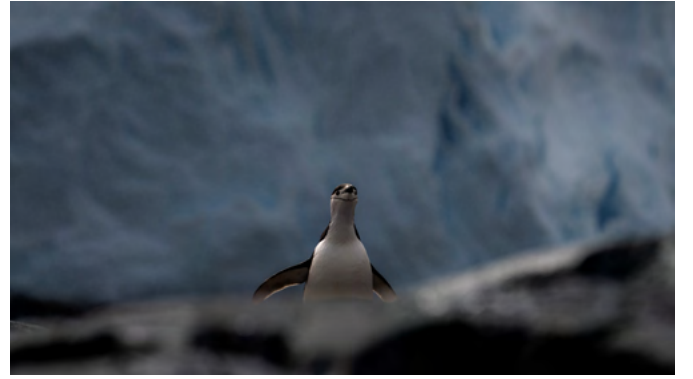
Adding to the excitement, our resident Oceanites Penguin Counters, George and Phil, delivered thrilling news: 1,474

chinstrap chicks counted at Palaver Point and 314 at Sprightly Island, nearly 1,800 new fluffy, down-covered ambassadors of the Antarctic Peninsula.

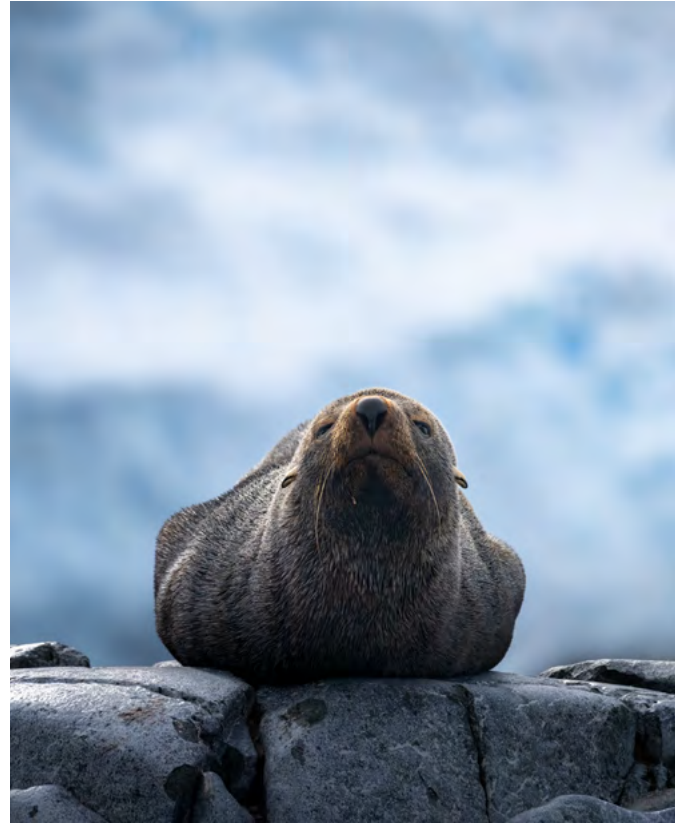
From roaring rookeries to sunlit ice, today delivered everything an expedition day should: challenge, wonder, wildlife, and awe. And with spirits high and cameras full, we now set our sights on the next iconic stop, Port Lockroy, home to the southernmost post office in the world!





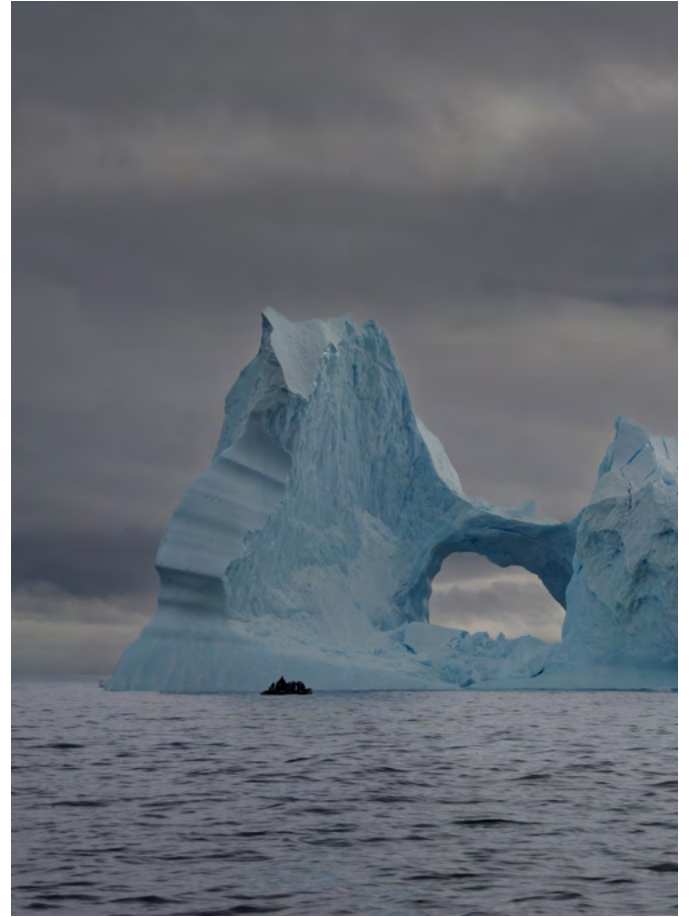
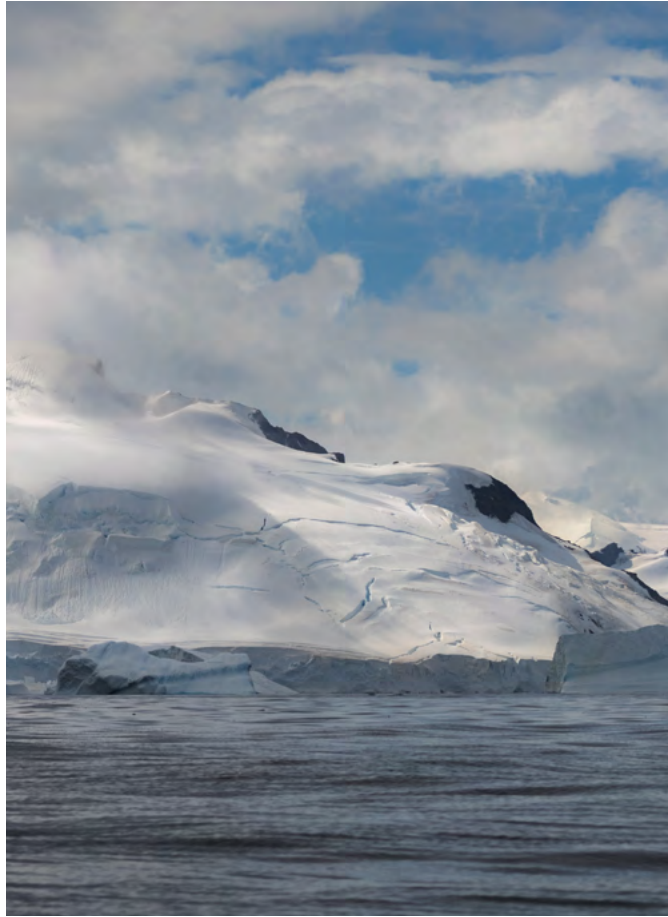


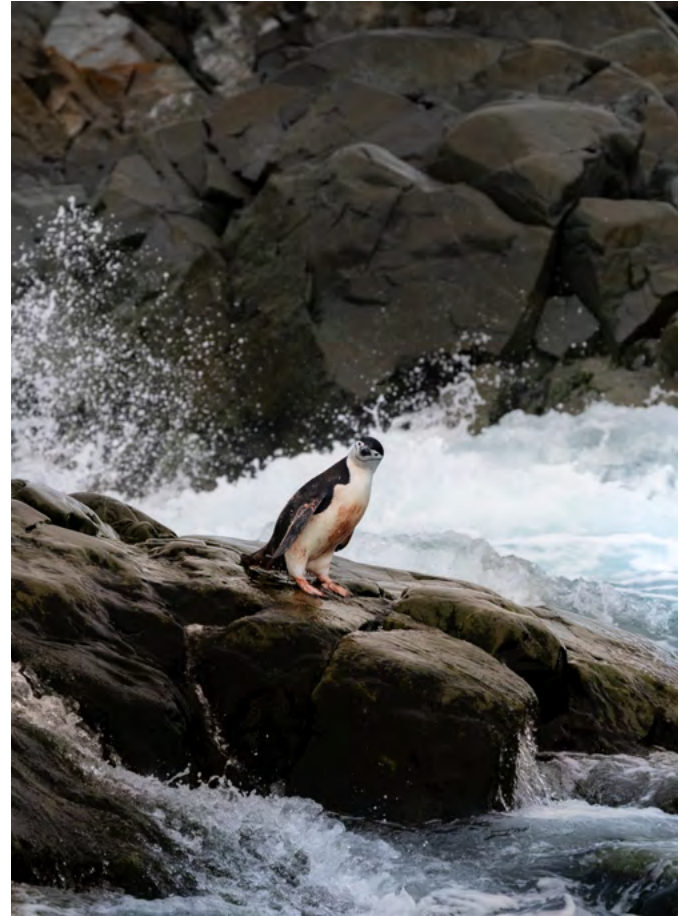












# Port Lockroy, Jougla Point & Moureaux Islands

DAY 3 | 27 January 2026

**Latitude:**  
64°49'5" S  
**Longitude:**  
63°35'1" W

**Wind Speed:**  
16 knots W  
**Barometer:**  
1007 mBar

**Course:**  
93°  
**Speed:**  
6.9 knots

**Air Temp:**  
0°C

We awoke to a moody gray atmosphere outside the ship, sleet and snow falling, the wintery mix melting on contact with the decks. Just north of the Gerlache Strait now, *Greg Mortimer* was entering the protection of a well-known, narrow, inverted S-shaped channel known as the Nuemayer.

Tucked away near the point of this hidden passage's inflection, on the northwest side of Wiencke Island, is our morning destination: the natural harbor of Port Lockroy, a safe anchorage once used as a whaler's hub, before becoming the site for Great Britain's first permanent base in Antarctica. The restored hut sitting upon tiny Goudier Island now serves as a museum, souvenir shop, and the most southerly post office in the world!

In a persistent drizzle, Expeditioners made short Zodiacs shuttles to visit the museum, meet the staff, shop for gifts and post some cards. Then over to the adjacent Jougla Point for a look at some impressive, puzzle-like whalebone recreations, and our first proper Gentoo penguin colony, where a multitude of soggy chicks were on display. Looking miserable, many were unsupervised and patiently awaiting the return of a parent, and subsequently, meal delivery. Their favourite food: well, regurgitated krill, of course.

A bit of mystery surrounded our afternoon excursion, as the Moureaux Islands, situated far at the head of Flanders Bay, is a particularly ice-chalked and little-visited site. But boy did our gamble pay off. As ugly conditions descended on the



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**Course:**  
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**Speed:**  
6.9 knots

**Air Temp:**  
0°C

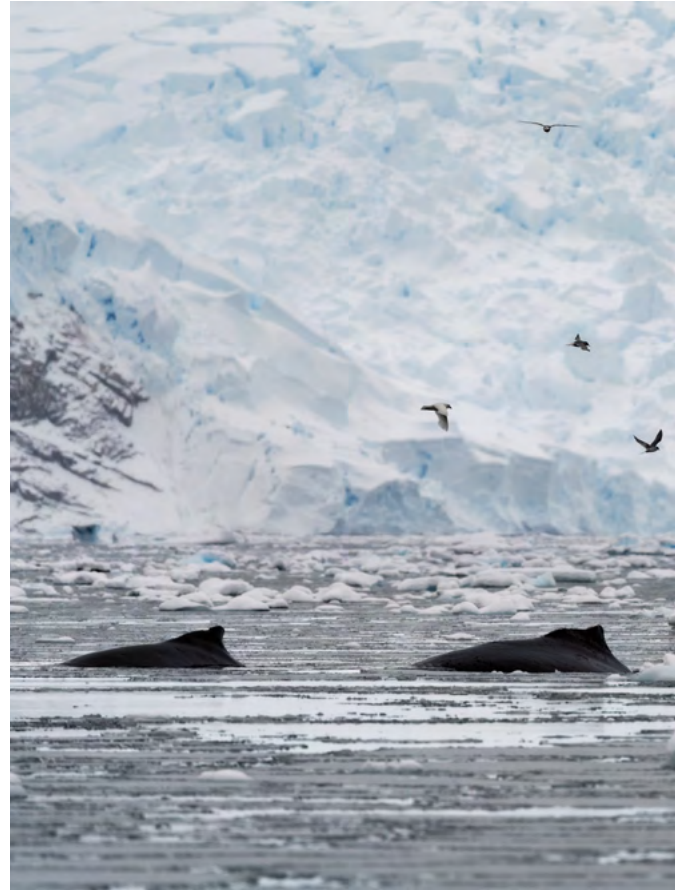
surrounding areas, the embayment we arrived in was glassy, encased with "pancake" ice, and occupied by numerous, welcoming humpback whales!

After watching them excitedly from the top decks, we descend into the slushy dreamscape upon Zodiacs and kayaks, hoping to get similarly close encounters at water-level. I think it's safe to say that no one was disappointed. And more likely, most of us had some of the most enthralling wildlife experiences of our lives, as these unperturbed behemoths patrolled the fjord all around us, surfacing, spouting, trumpeting, lunging, logging, and even investigating us!

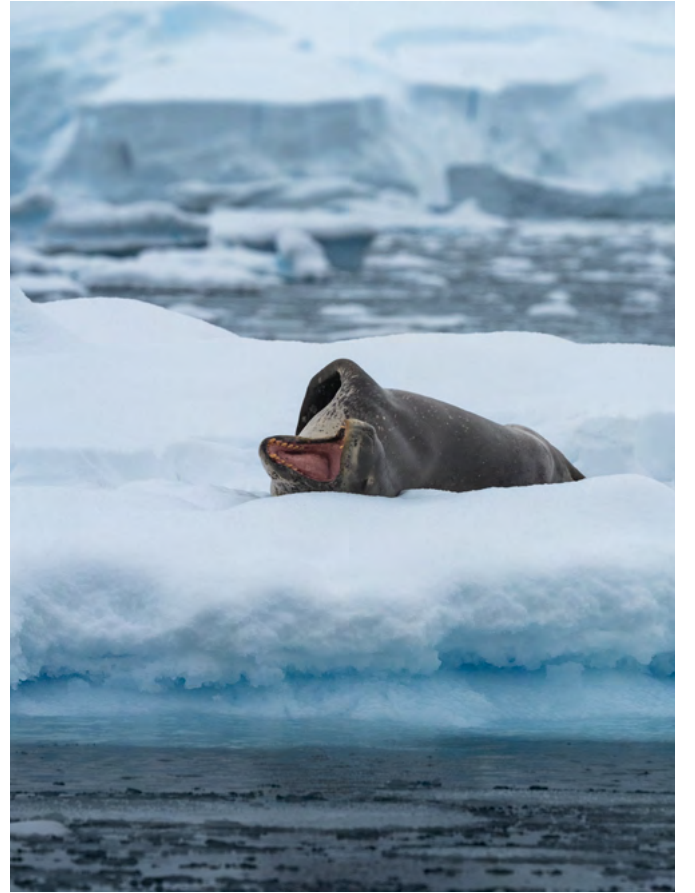
Back on board, the mood was ecstatic and celebratory, as we recapitulated, contemplated, and recounted anecdotes from the day's adventure. Fittingly, the evening's meal was a BBQ complete with silly hats and revelry amongst, what has quickly become, a strangely familial party of strangers.













# Lemaire Channel & Yalour Islands

DAY 4 | 28 January 2026

**Latitude:**  
64°59'45" S  
**Longitude:**  
63°56'7" W

**Course:**  
224  
**Speed:**  
6.2 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
16 knot W  
**Barometer:**  
1005 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
0°C

The day began with a 6:00 a.m. wake-up call from Jeff as we prepared to transit the legendary Lemaire Channel.

Wrapped in layers and armed with coffee cups and pastries, we made our way out onto decks 7 and 8, with a few venturing onto the observation wings on deck 5 for a closer to water-level view. A light breeze carried the sharp Antarctic chill through our layers, but it did little to distract from the spectacle unfolding around us. Towering cliffs, cloaked in cloud, rose steeply on either side as the ship glided quietly through the narrow passage, weaving between scattered icebergs. The stillness was broken only by the gentle scrape of ice against the hull. Along the way, penguin colonies came into view, and areas of red and green snow algae added unexpected colour to the otherwise monochrome landscape.

After breakfast we arrived at the Yalour Islands, where we boarded the Zodiacs and headed ashore. It was a slightly different landing to our usual slide and legs towards the ocean, as instead we went over the bow and onto the rocks. The island was alive with Adélie penguins, and we were treated to intimate glimpses of daily life in the colony. Parents busily moved back and forth, feeding hungry chicks, while others stood sentinel on the rocks, framed by sweeping views of snow-covered peaks and scattered icebergs. The combination of wildlife and scenery made this landing a true highlight of the day.

Back onboard, we repositioned to our next destination during lunch. Unfortunately, strengthening winds were not in our favour, and conditions meant we couldn't safely get off the



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**Air Temp:**  
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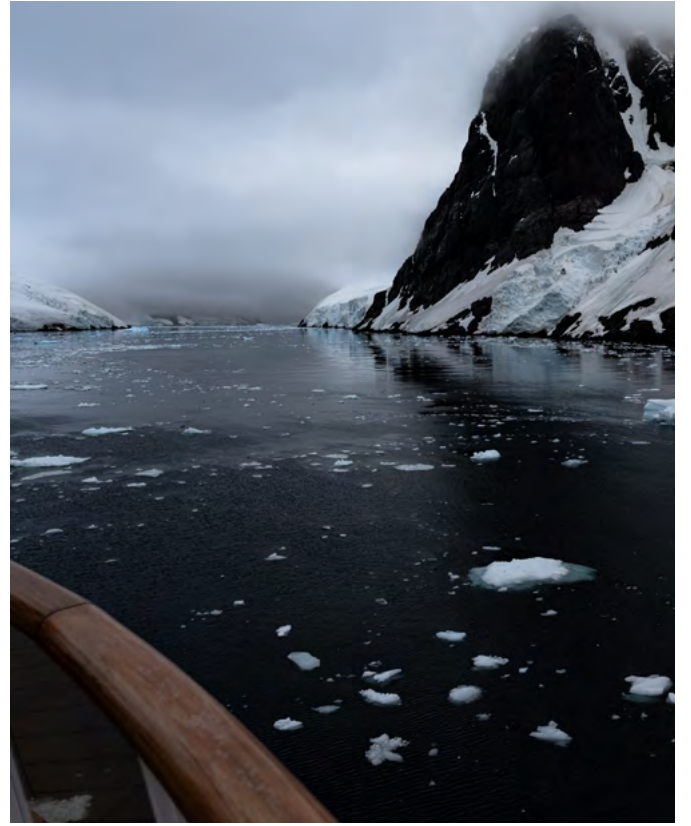
ship. Making the most of the situation, the announcement was made that we would use the afternoon to push on toward the Antarctic Circle.

As the ship continued south, some took the opportunity to catch up on sleep, while the rest of us joined Nils for a captivating introduction to the explorers of the Heroic Age, their ambition, endurance, and extraordinary stories adding depth and context to our own journey.

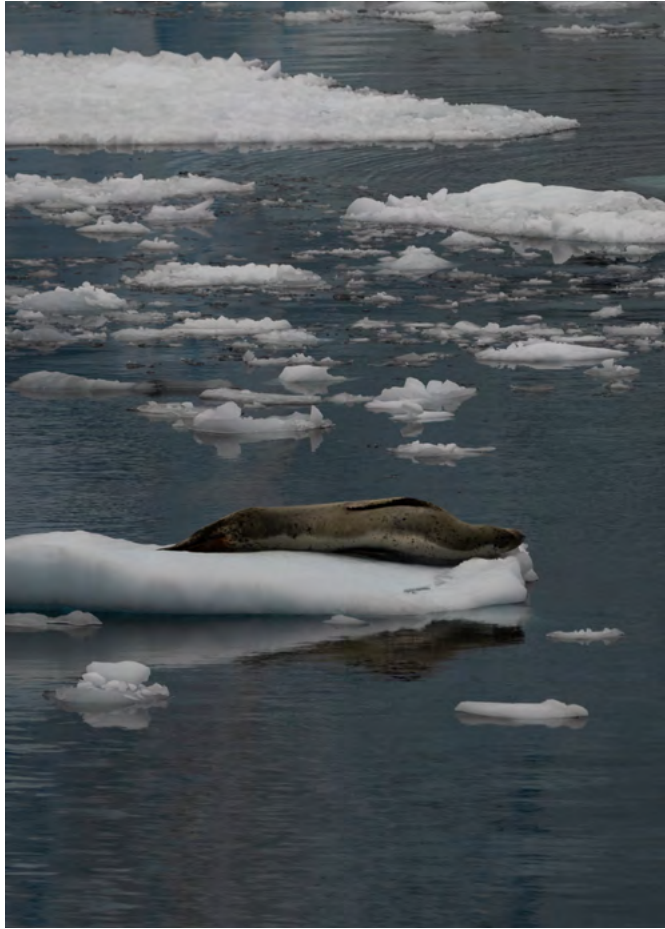
We had a brilliant and delicious Antarctic BBQ in the dining room to end the night. Great music, great company and funny hats, set the conversations and the laughter of the room. After dinner, the day wound down in the best possible way, with the

movie, *'Encounters at the end of the Earth'* and popcorn, the perfect ending to another unforgettable day of our Antarctic adventure.

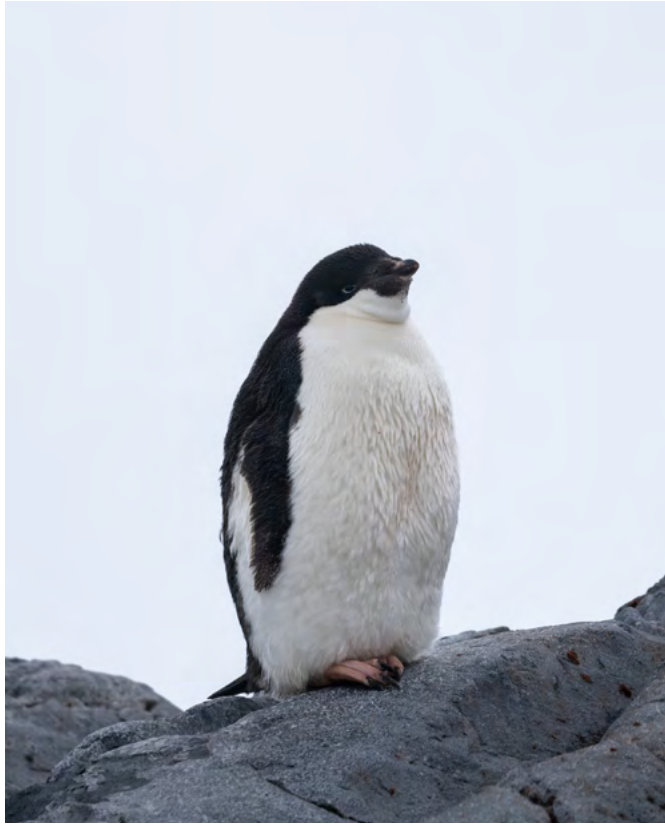














# Crossing the Antarctica Circle

DAY 5 | 29 January 2026

**Latitude:**  
66°43'3"S  
**Longitude:**  
67°30'0" W

**Course:**  
039  
**Speed:**  
12.7kn

**Wind Speed:**  
25 knot E  
**Barometer:**  
1000 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
1°C

Welcome to south of the Antarctic circle!

I hope everyone woke up in the early hours to experience the crossing of the line. I'm sure most of us did get woken up though by a little rolling of the ship as we made our way south along the coast in some more exposed seas. Hopefully everyone did get back to sleep though, so that we could wake up to the views the Antarctic circle had to offer. After the strong winds, swell and ice unfortunately writing off the chance to land we decided to make our way north again in search of better weather.

This was good news for those that hadn't experienced crossing the circle the first time because it meant we could do

it again all together! The Captain marked the crossing with a few blows of the conch horn and festivities began with a hot chocolate and some photos for this years Christmas cards.

After the celebration kept the party rolling with a great talk from our Oceanites penguin counters along with a Binocular workshop and sea bird survey with Meike. After another epic lunch put on by the restaurant team it was time to get off the ship again and explore more of the Antarctic Peninsula.

As we arrived to the Fish Islands we were greeted by spectacular Icebergs and much calmer seas than previously south, so it was all go. The name of the game was brash ice and Adélie Penguins; each island was named after a classic



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**Wind Speed:**  
25 knot E

**Barometer:**  
1000 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
1°C

Atlantic fish, there was trout island, salmon island and even a bunch of smaller islets called the minnows. It was a challenge to weave in and out of the giant icebergs to get close enough to see the Adélie penguins, but luckily every now and then, one popped out of the water and comically slipped and slid on the ice flows.

The swell began to pick up so it was a bumpy ride for some back to the mother ship. We warmed our bodies and our spirits with a spirit before the team gathered us to debrief on the plans for tomorrow.

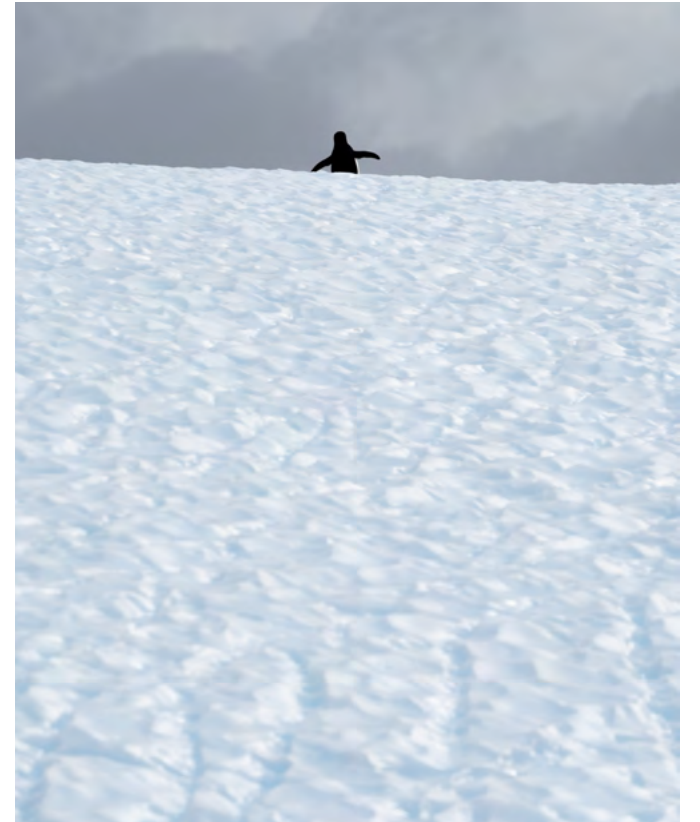
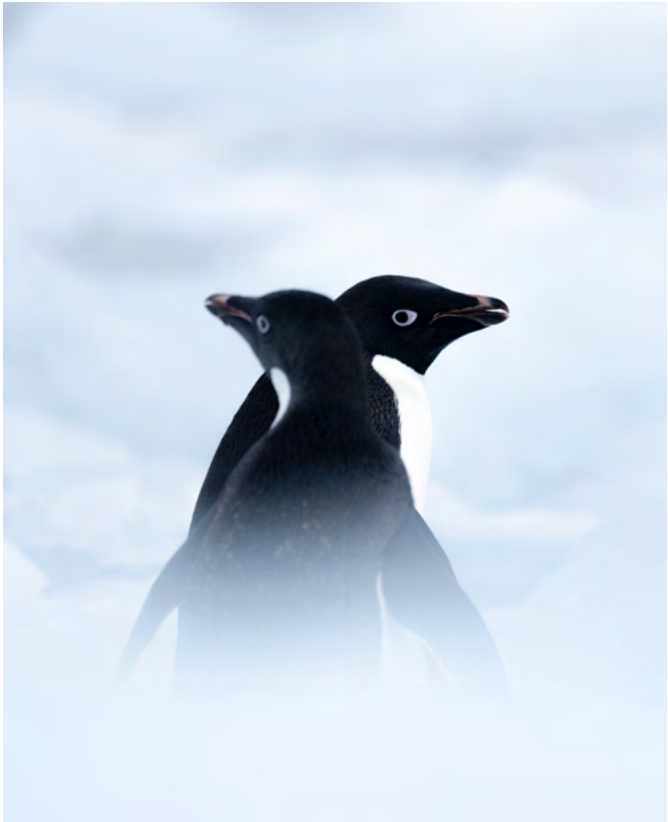
















# Cuverville Island & Orne Harbour

DAY 6 | 30 January 2026

**Latitude:**  
64°38'3"S

**Longitude:**  
62°36'2" W

**Course:**  
At Anchor

**Wind Speed:**  
15 knot SE

**Barometer:**  
1009 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
4°C

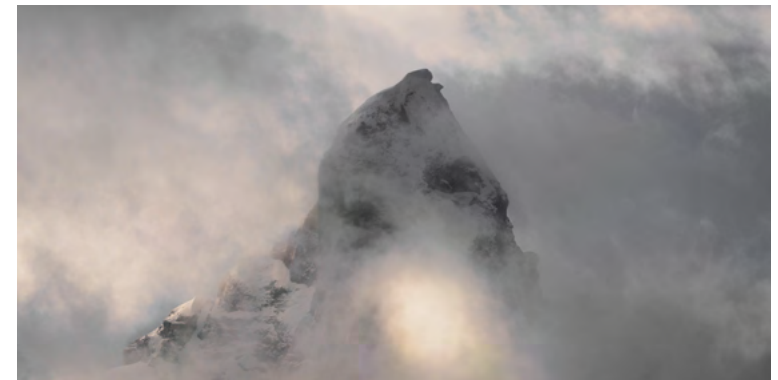
Day six aboard MV *Greg Mortimer* marked our seventh outing and felt like the expedition really hit its stride in the Errera Channel and Gerlache Strait. Morning rain and snow showers draped the Peninsula in moody blues, polishing the ice and reminding us that a proper Antarctic welcome includes a little weather. Sunny breaks and mild temperatures kept spirits high as Zodiacs threaded bergy bits into Cuverville Island.

Cuverville delivered classic Gentoo chaos. Slippery rocks kept everyone honest, while well-worn penguin highways led us past a thriving rookery. Old whale bones lay bleached along the shore like museum pieces left outside, and the bay was crowded with icebergs glowing turquoise under shifting cloud. Above, Antarctic terns and kelp gulls fussed over cliffside

nests, providing running commentary as we carefully danced across the rocks, laughing at our own penguin impressions.

Before lunch, and clearly before anyone could think too hard about it, we added a rite of passage: the polar plunge. In a bay choked with icebergs, with the water sitting at a bracing -1°C, brave souls leapt from the Zodiac ladders into liquid Antarctica. The result was a mix of gasps, yelps, heroic posturing, and very fast exits, followed by uncontrollable laughter and a deep sense of accomplishment. Cold, ridiculous, unforgettable, and absolutely worth it.

By afternoon the sky settled into an overcast calm, light winds nudging a bit of swell across the Gerlache. Orne



# Cuverville Island & Orne Harbour

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**Air Temp:**  
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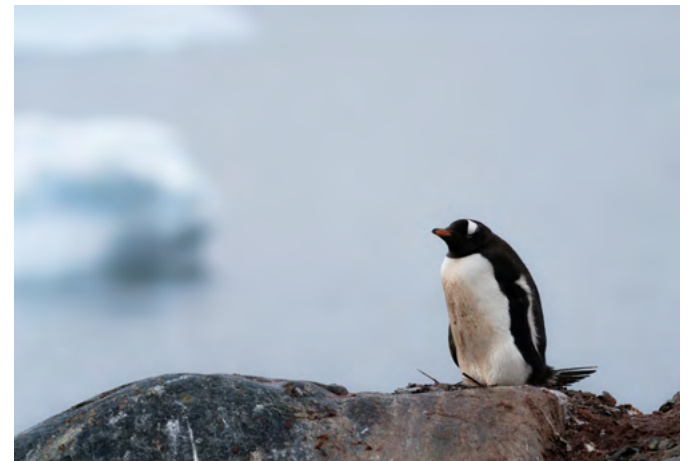
Harbour demanded effort and rewarded it generously. Snowy switchbacks climbed steadily uphill, just slick enough to keep crampon technique tidy. At the ridgetop, a chinstrap rookery buzzed with attitude, and the panorama opened wide: glaciers spilling into the bay, ice tongues curling below, and our ship a small red punctuation mark in an enormous white sentence.

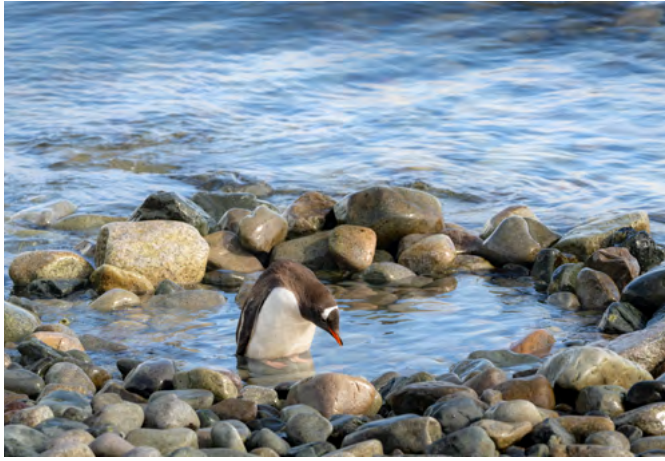
After dinner, Antarctica saved the best for last. Humpback whales erupted around the ship, bubble feeding and lunge feeding so close you could hear the exhale before the splash. We were surrounded, phones forgotten, grins fixed, as the ocean boiled with life. Day six felt like a celebration of how far we've come, colder, bolder, and smiling wider than ever.



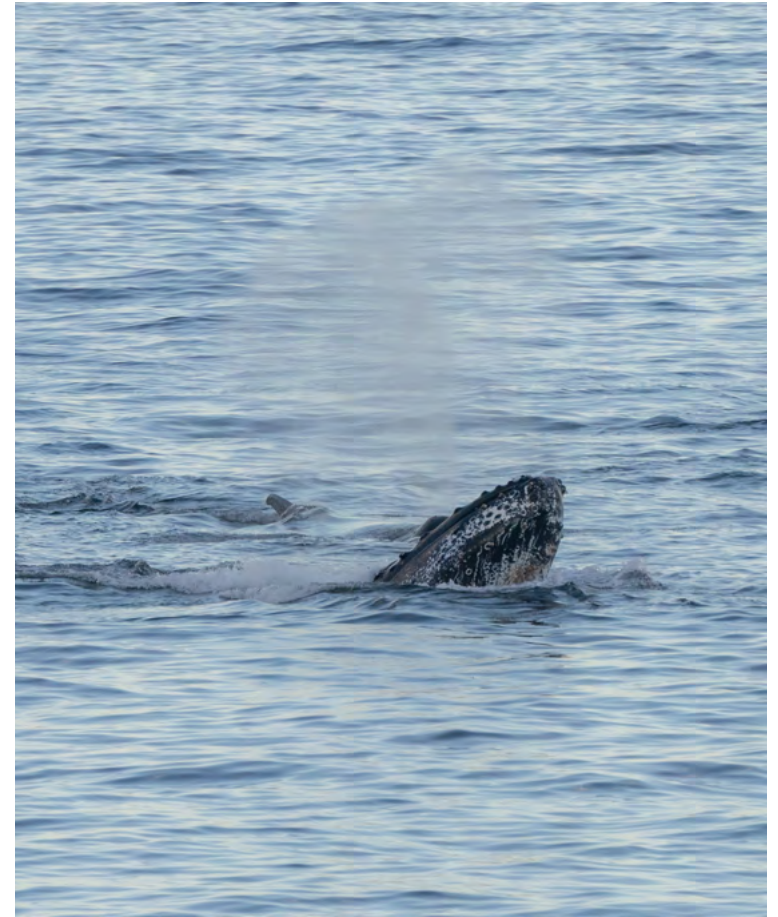


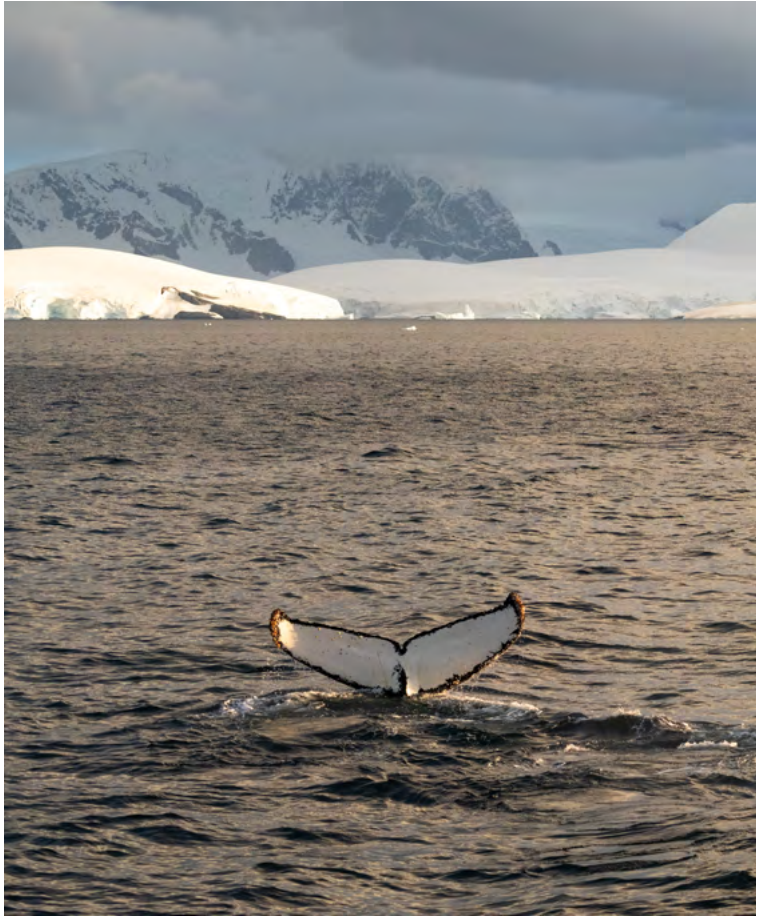














# Salvesen Cove & Cierve Cove

DAY 7 | 31 January 2026

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**Latitude:**

64°22'1" S

**Longitude:**

61°19'5" W

**Course:**

135°

**Speed:**

9 knots

**Wind Speed:**

18 knots S

**Barometer:**

1008 mBar

**Air Temp:**

0°C

Today we woke up to a beautiful weather day in Antarctica as the ship was making its way into Salvesen Bay where we would do our morning Zodiac cruise.

Our amazing hotel team dished up with a proper breakfast yet again so that whatever the day had planned for us we would be ready. As we were lowering Zodiacs, we could see whale blows all over in the bay and it almost became difficult to choose which whale to approach since there were so many to choose from. In addition to the Zodiacs the kayakers also made their way out on the water to explore and hang out with whales.

Most of us had some amazing encounters with these majestic animals and when they come up close to you when you are on the water you really feel small in comparison. After some time with the whales some Zodiacs decided to go on a little adventure around an island inside the bay to explore and enjoy the landscape. Back onboard and as lunchtime was approaching it was again time to make our way to the feeding tray and several of us will maybe blame the hotel team for having to renew our wardrobe when we are back in normal life.

During lunch our skilful navigation team on the bridge took the ship to our afternoon destination called Cierva Cove. As we were embarking our Zodiacs to go out on another adventure it was a little rocky so the good Zodiacs routines we have learned came well in handy. The first thing we did was that we went over and checked out the Argentinian station Prima Vera that are situated close to a big colony with Gentoo penguins. After that the boats went separate ways and we all came back with nice encounters with different seals like the Leopard seal and some whales. When we had made our way back onboard, then the evening was rounded off by recap and briefing in the lecture theatre before it yet again was time for dinner onboard our home away from home the *Greg Mortimer*.







# Half Moon Island & Yankee Harbur

DAY 8 | 1 February 2026

**Latitude:**  
62°35'14" S  
**Longitude:**  
59°54'3" W

**Wind Speed:**  
22 knots E  
**Barometer:**  
1000 mBar

**Course:**  
291°

**Air Temp:**  
1°C

As we slept aboard the *Greg Mortimer* we cruised north towards the South Shetland Islands to prepare ourselves for our final day of excursions on what has become an epic Antarctic voyage.

We awoke to a bluebird day at Half Moon Island, our excursion site for the morning. Blessed by the weather we bundled into Zodiacs and sped off to explore the shore. Half Moon Island is a dramatic landscape, a low-lying rocky island with long cobblestone beaches and stark rocky outcrops. The island is best within a large bay adorned in glaciers and fringed by mountain ranges.

Half Moon is renowned for having thousands of Chinstrap

penguins and the occasional Gentoo. Fur seals also frequent the cobble beaches, sunning themselves in the infrequent bursts of sunshine. Our excursion began in driving snow and ended in burning sun, a classic example of the temperament of the weather in Antarctica, always dynamic and changeable.

In the afternoon we repositioned to another iconic site in the South Shetland islands. Yankee Harbour is synonymous for its sheltered inlet and bustling penguin rookery. We deployed the Zodiacs and embarked on our final excursion in Antarctica. Interestingly the gentoo penguin rookery had transformed into a busy beach scene. The penguins had raised their chicks and moved off their nests and now crowded along the shoreline, waddling about in animated antics or standing brooding in



# Half Moon Island & Yankee Harbur

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22 knots E  
**Barometer:**  
1000 mBar

**Course:**  
291°

**Air Temp:**  
1°C

disgruntlement as they uncomfortably molt their plumage.

After a couple of hours ashore, trekking the cobbled promontory or relaxing in the late afternoon sun absorbing the final moments of our Antarctic experience it was time to head back to the *Greg Mortimer* and bid farewell to Antarctica.

As our Zodiacs skipped across the inner lagoon of Yankee Harbour it was hard not to slip into sentimentality as we gazed at the soft afternoon light blushing the snowcapped vista, a beautiful reflection of what had been an incredible experience. It was as if Mother Nature took a deep breath and just for one special moment the edges of the world softened to expose

her gentleness. In moments like this it is hard not to be struck by the reverence for this place. And the immense privilege we have all been given to share such a moment in time when nature turns on its splendour and blesses us with a true crescendo to our voyage









# King George Island - Disembarkation

DAY 9 | 2 February 2026

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**Latitude:**

62°12'9" S

**Longitude:**

58°54'3" W

**Course:**

At Anchor

**Wind Speed:**

8 knots NW

**Barometer:**

998 mBar

**Air Temp:**

0°C

Disembarkation at 1000 for the King George Island to head to Punta Arenas on your flight.

Aurora Expeditions thanks you for joining us aboard *MV Greg Mortimer*. We hope to see you on the high seas again someday!

# BBQ



# Polar Plunge

























# Kayaking Log

**Guides: Gabriel Vink Wackernagel, Matt Barnes, Rob Barth, Jimmy Thorp, Pablo Passera**

**26 January 2026, AM:  
Palaver Point, Two Hummock Island  
– 2.4 km**

Today appeared to be a classic Antarctic morning. Clouds hanging heavy with a stiff breeze blowing across to the seas. As the *Greg Mortimer* came to the anchorage of Palaver Point. A chinstrap penguin colony and the landing site for this morning. In the lee of Two Hummock Island our kayak team spotted an area of protection from the wind where conditions looked good to kayak.

All geared up and ready to go by 9 o'clock. Drysuits zipped up, PFD's clipped up and kayaks adjusted to everyone, we set off in the Zodiac for the island. Kayak guides Pablo and Gabe briefed us on different signals and paddle techniques. Sliding into our kayaks from the Zodiac, paddle in hand, we set off in a figure 8 to practice strokes, forwards, turning, stopping and reverse. Rafting up together to watch penguins, chinstraps and Gentoo, preening their feathers and catching on sleep with micro-naps. Making a plan, we pushed apart and paddled into a

glaciated bay, ice walls 20m to 30m high surrounding the bay. A crash of a carving, ice breaking off into the seas below.

A few birds soared in the wind, Skua flew overhead and Kelp gulls near their nesting site. Letting the wind turn boats downwind. We made our way past the zodiac for some photos. And then into the shelter of the rocky point where an Antarctic Fur seal twirled in the water before clambering onto the rocks. To arrange enough time at the landing site with the penguins, we climb back into the Zodiac and headed for the colony. A challenging windy morning but great to start this epic kayak adventure.

**26 January 2026, PM:  
Sprightly Island – 4 km**

Approaching Sprightly Island, we gauged its size and pondered a circumnavigation. Yet before we could even reach our drop-off spot, Pablo spotted not one, but two humpback whales in the vicinity. As we prepared to disembark just north of the small islet sitting above Sprightly, we watched one

**Number of Kayakers:**18

**Total Number of Outings:**11

**Total Distance Paddled:**  
37 km

**Kayakers:**

Thomas Koch  
Carmen Kolbig  
Fiona Taylor  
Craig Taylor  
Helen Cates

Larry Cates  
Dallas Foster  
Joanne Sakai  
Anna Davis  
Tony Davis  
Joan O'Neill

Stephen Feeney  
Camille Mullins  
Steven Halstead  
Konstantinos Lampropoulos  
Xakousti Kalkani  
Sally Orpin  
Tristan Orpin

whale surface close. On the water we skirted some large berglets and through loose brash ice towards a behemoth and astonishing, archway iceberg sitting just northwest of the island. After grabbing some photos, we darted back to the island, paddled under steep cliffs in gentle swell, and around a few precarious icebergs, admiring their brilliantly turquoise, submerged parts. Around the south-west point, we found slightly calmer seas and handrailed close to shore, admiring the stark geology and shooting kayak-sized gaps. In a tiny grotto, some briefly glimpsed a "weaner" elephant seal.

From the southeast bend, we detoured out through more brash ice and "growlers" to a flatter berg occupied by two penguins — a prone Chinstrap and a restless Gentoo. How cool to see the two species side by side. As we departed, Pablo informed us that he had spotted more whales further in the ice. We followed as he cleared a path for us a short ways in, and we got to witness a sleepy, "logging" humpback from quite close, as another surfaced in the distance. After breaking back

towards the island and cutting between a few more berglets, we regained the island and several more off-lying islets that housed more chinstraps and even a lone crabeater seal tucked up on rocks in a passage that only we kayakers could access. We finished up with a drive-by of the main Chinstrap colony up on the north islet, then out to where we started, completing our circumnavigation right on time for a return shuttle to the ship.

**27 January 2026, AM:  
Port Lockroy – 1.5 km**

We were welcomed into the harbour at Port Lockroy by overcast rainy skies and cold conditions. Non the less we were not deterred and 8 intrepid kayakers headed out for a kayak to explore the little islets within the harbour. We launched into the kayaks on the outer side of Jougla and attempted to push into the wind around the island but due to the strong head wind we changed the plan and headed downwind around the bottom side of Jougla and around to the

penguin rookery where we stopped to admire the antics of the gentoo penguins. We then continued along the rocky shoreline to the landing site on Jougla to view more penguins and the large whale bones on the beach. From Jougla we headed out along the windward side of Goudier, we had to push into the wind a bit but after some challenging conditions we rounded the top point and began running downwind towards the British Antarctic Survey buildings. We stopped for a group photo in front of Port Lockroy before continuing past the landing site to complete our round trip. We finished off the excursion by loading into the Zodiac and heading to shore to explore the Port Lockroy post office.

**27 January 2026, PM:  
Moureaux Islands, Flanders Bay  
– 2 km**

Another unreal paddle!! It all started with the ice, we had an unexpected amount of pancake ice which is what happens when the fresh water on the top of the ocean starts to freeze and

create slushy pancake looking discs that eventually fuse together to form the beginnings of sea ice.

As we pushed our way through the slush following the track set by the leader, we had whales spy hopping and playing in the ice all around us, we didn't know where to look. The idea was to paddle around trying to find whales but in the end they found us. As we slowly made our way through the ice we had the whales swim past all around us and had some amazing interactions. Eventually we had Jimmy lead the way in the Zodiac so we could make some headway and were rewarded with a curious Humpback whale spy hop around us a few times and really check us out. We finished the trip by checking out a large Leopard Seal on an ice flow and then hopped out to push back to the *Greg Mortimer*.

**28 January 2026, AM:  
Moureaux Islands, Flanders Bay  
– 3.3 km**

Climbed on the water in the lee of Yalour I proper and dipped into an



islet-cove for a super close look at a small Weddell seal on the rocks. From there, we split the group in two knowing that the space will be tight between the cluster of small islets immediately south.

One team starts in the main channel on the southeast side of Yalour to observe our first Adélie penguins up close on rocky ramps down by the water, many cautiously contemplating going back out to sea. Around the corner, winds are gusting over 20 knots so we go with it briefly before attempting to shoot a gap into the islet maze. A rough set of swells changes our plans and we pivot around and head to the next, less challenging cut. In the protection of islets on all sides, we practice some maneuvering and checkout more Adélie penguins that have chosen the smaller quarters away from the hustle and bustle of the main rookery. Our second attempt at rock gardening takes us through another cool gap, but waves breaking near the exit halt our progress again, so we turn back to the protection of the islet-encircled cove. Given the deteriorating weather, we decide

to stop while we're ahead, get to the shore landing, and enjoy the always entertaining Adélie penguins from terra firma.

After splitting the group into two, Jimmy's group began their paddle by running a gap into an inner lagoon. The gap had a small wave breaking over a reef but everyone in the team timed their run through the gap nicely and some surfed a small wave past the reef. We explored the lagoon and then paddled out the bottom end and along the coast. The coast of the rocky islands was exposed and a lumpy swell was keeping everyone on their toes as we ran downwind past icebergs and nesting penguins. After rounding the bottom side of the most southerly island we had a brief rest in slightly sheltered waters behind the island before coming around the windward side of the island. Unfortunately to get back to the shelter of the channel near the landing site we would have to push into the wind. So the team dug deep and we paddled strongly into the wind and up to the lagoon we had entered to begin the trip. After a well deserved rest in the lagoon watching the snorkelers floundering

around we continued onto the channel to our waiting safety Zodiac. We had kayaked all the sheltered parts of the archipelago so elected to end the kayak trip and go to explore the landing site and penguin rookery to finish off the excursion.

### 29 January 2026, PM: Fish Islands, Prospect Point – 4 km

The fish Islands, which lie just north of the Antarctic Circle at 66°1'20.5" South, is home to a large colony of Adélie penguins and Antarctic shags, which we desired to go see with our kayaks. The weather forecast was okay, northwesterly 15 knots, which created splashy chop. However, a Zodiac tow, allowed us to find the lee of Perch Island. We had calmer seas and beautiful, deep blue glacier, icebergs and brash ice to kayak through.

It became so dense that half of our group found themselves entrapped in the ice and required a Zodiac to tow them out. 12 minutes later our team was together again. Kayaking more carefully along the edge of the brash

ice, we enjoyed seeing the bustling Adélie colony, parents tending to their large fluffy grey chicks, all clustered high atop the little Islands. Here and there a lone Adélie hopped porpoised onto an ice flow. It looked this way and that flapping its wings excitedly before diving back into the icy seas. Such fun, could have stayed all day watching these guys. Turning north along the glacier front our team pushed into the wind to make our way back towards the ship where Jimmy awaited us with the Zodiacs.

### 30 January 2026, AM: Cuverville Island, Errera Channel – 5.4 km

Pulling into the Errera Channel, we could already tell it was going to be one of those picture-perfect outings. We disembark the Zodiacs on the northern bight of Cuverville, right into the heart of penguin colony in the tens of thousands. Flat seas allow us to "handrail" right along the rocky shore, watching Gentoos go about their business up on ledges, a few groups



gathering up, hopping in and out to sea. We catch the tail-end of a huge calving from a glacier across the channel, experiencing it more viscerally via its delayed, thundering rumble.

As we reach an Antarctic Tern colony, a humpback whale surfaces just beyond a loose band of brash. We listen for its spouts, and others further out, so clearly audible in the calm, fjord amphitheatre. We weave through some ice to watch it resurface. In the meantime, the views across the channel were stunning, with huge glaciers pouring down from the mountain passes, engulfing the panorama of the mainland. When we turned to paddle south, a curious fur seal popped up and swam between us! Not much further, we quietly approach another, smaller humpback — this one is fast asleep or “logging.” So after admiring for a few minutes, we snuck around and back to the monolith island, up under its steepest cliffs, which are coated in “ornothogentc” mosses and lichens — greens and oranges — one of the most colorful spots on the peninsula.

At the base of the cliffs, another miniature Gentoo colony with large, healthy chicks on display. We pass a flock of Antarctic shags as we quickly round the south-end, the sun out in full force at this point. In the west passage, we find a beautiful Weddell seal sleeping on an islet, just below a “water-boat” from the whaling era. Another, smaller and cuter, Weddell is passed out on a point just across as we rejoin the north shoreline, with views of the main colony, just about completing our circumnavigation. We decide to finish up with a weave through some of the fantastically-shaped and beautifully lit icebergs bottomed out just northwest of the island. To cap it off, as we paddle to our Zodiac, a small calving breaks off a glacial tongue directly in front of us. It was all happening for us at Cuverville this morning.

**30 January 2026, PM:**  
**Orne Harbour, Arctowski Peninsula**  
**– 4.5 km**

Orne Harbor is a impressively glaciated cove, a mile wide, two miles in length tucked between 1000-meter-high peaks. Carved by glaciers the harbour

indents the Danco Coast of Graham Land, Antarctic Peninsula. Today our team selected a route to circumnavigate the harbour, starting by visiting the point where Chinstrap penguins are found nesting on the steep rocky shore. In our kayaks we swayed side to side and bobbed up and down in the lightly choppy seas, watching as penguins porpoised headfirst out of the water to land gracefully on their feet then start the highly strenuous climb to their partner and chicks high above.

Turning into the harbour we paddled with wind and swell behind us to the calmer waters where the tower cliffs and ice walls took our breath away. So tall is the Vidbol glacier face, one cant see its source, making us feel tiny in our kayaks paddling by. Looping around the bay we headed for the landing site where our fellow Expeditioners were making their way up and down to the view point up towards Spigot Peak. Finishing another memorable kayak, we were taken ashore where the Expedition Team congratulated us for making it to the Antarctic continent, some of the teams 7th continent.

Stepping ashore felt great. Even better was the awesome views that were well deserved as the viewpoint was reached high above.

**31 January 2026, AM:**  
**Salvessen Cove – 2.5 km**

Orne Harbor is a impressively glaciated This area was a new exploration for all the Expedition Team and couldn't be better outing. The sunny morning with impressive views of the mountain range of the Peninsula and Graham Land. And also an unbelievable number of whales in the hole Salvessen Cove.

We went with the Zodiac to a more shelter waters and surrounded by some brush ice very well spread, and whales blowing all around with good distance to aloud to get into the kayaks.

Once in the kayaks, we could choose where to go, the decision was made by the behavior of the whales and what we could experience. We first were with some mothers and calf feeding and swimming, the mother seems to be teaching the calf how to feed. After



we moved to another group of whales, we saw groups of 3 or 4 together making more bubbles, sometimes a line of bubbles and another very clear circle feeding. We could see some heads coming out of the surface clearly feeding and swallowing a good number of krill. And for the last we went where another mother and a calf were swimming a bit faster but with every dive the mother was showing the fluke, so we had the best ending of this epic morning in Antarctica with humpback whales.

### 31 January 2026, PM: Cierva Cove – 6.2 km

Cierva cove is an impressive location and makes for great sea kayaking. A rocky coastline with towering cliffs surrounded by large icebergs and brash ice. As you follow the rocky coastline it opens up into a beautiful bay adorned in glaciers. We began our kayak excursion by commuting in the Zodiac to Penguin island to seek shelter from the lazy swell rolling in. We all launched into our kayaks and first paddled

over to explore the rocky coastline of penguin island and the many Chinstrap penguins that use it as a summer home. We then left the shelter of Penguin island and struck out towards Primavera Argentinian research station on the opposing coastline. As we approached the station navigation became harder as the wind and swell had swept icebergs and brash ice upon the coastline. We were dwarfed by some beautiful icebergs as we attempted to paddle in towards the station via some Leopard seals sleeping on ice. Unfortunately as we neared the coast the ice conditions thickened and progress through the brash ice slowed until it was too hard to paddle forward any further. We elected to divert back into open ice free waters. As we doubled back past some amazing icebergs we skirted the brash ice and continued along the coast and inshore towards the craggy hillsides. Beyond the craggy escarpment and icebergs we entered a broad tranquil bay adorned with tidewater glaciers. It was a welcome relief from the rolling sea and foreboding coastline. With a long and cold Zodiac commute to return to the ship we elected to end

our paddle there in the bay and bundle back into our trusty Zodiac and head for the warmth of the *Greg Mortimer*.

### 01 February 2026, AM: Half Moon Island, South Shetlands – 1.4 km

The weather gods didn't know what it wanted to give us this morning. Moderate winds at first with unappealing chop. Towing our kayaks towards the northern point of the moon, it began to snow horizontally, which is in fact a calming presence when you're rugged up for it. Jimmy helped us into kayaks, as we waited for the others to join Gabe spoke about the life stages of the penguins we were watching, Gentoos undergoing their annual catastrophic moult. From here, Matthew led the way, rock-gardening around the headland through narrow channels and poking our noses into the exposed westerly corner of the island. Returning into the lee, we continued along the rocky coastline, following the curve of the bay. Weddell seals lay hauled out on the shingle beach, head lifting to

acknowledge our presence. Rob guided the team past the brightly red painted Camara, Argentine summer research station. After an hour of paddling, we neared the colony of Chinstrap penguins, an impressive sight with their lively calls echoing across the water luring us in. Stepping ashore we had about an hour to explore the landing area on foot, taking in the unique landscape and the wonderful wildlife that makes Half Moon Island such a special Antarctic location to visit and especially in the now balmy sunny calm conditions.

















# Paddling Log

**Guides: Gabriel Vink Wackernagel, Matt Barnes, Rob Barth, Jimmy Thorp, Pablo Passera**

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## 26 January 2026, PM: Sprightly Island – 3.6 km

For our first outing we had dreamy conditions around Sprightly Island. The trip was a winner before we even got on the water with whales interrupting the safety briefing and distracting all of us. Once we got on the water though we couldn't catch up to them. So once we were used to the boats we made our way to shore to check out the chinstrap penguins holding on to the rocks as the waves surged all around them. Making our way along the coast it was epic to see penguins, epic icebergs and stunning rock formations all in one bay. After paddling out to a huge iceberg archway for a group photo it was time to follow the island around to see what we could find. Sprightly island has many cool nooks and crannies and we found the nicest secret cove to explore for a minute. The next challenge was paddling through what we call brash ice, brash ice is the small chunks of ice we can easily pick our way through. As we made our way

through the ice we could hear it pop all around us over the sound of our plastic scraping over ice.

After punching through the ice we had a cheeky peak of a Crabeater seal on the snow. Then completing a full circumnavigation of the island, it was time to hop back in the Zodiac.

## 27 January 2026, AM: Port Lockroy – 1.5 km

Our paddling started under the rain, in Jougla Point in the shelter of the Lecuyer point. From there we paddled close to the shore observing Gentoo penguins, sometime the wind gusts were pushing us away from the shore, but quickly we were back. Watching all the chicks already big, but some fluffy feathers all wet, they look very uncomfortable. The whales bones were very clear in the area due to the very little snow, that's normally covers the bones. After been all around Jugla we crossed to Goudier island where we navigated around and start watching



**Number of Paddlers:** 7

**Total Paddle Outings:** 8

**Total Distance Paddled:**  
18.2 km

**Paddlers:**

John Friedhoff

Heidi Sachs

Anne Dellaca

Rodney Ryland

Janine Morison

Heidi Kinkartz

Nik Cronin

port Lockroy and the history of whaling in the area. We were in shallow waters until we disembarked in the Zodiac to go on land to the museum and post office.

### **27 January 2026, PM:** **Moureaux Islands – 1.8 km**

We weren't sure what to expect with visiting Flanders Bay for the afternoon excursion. Certainly not paddling in such thick slushy pancake ice, the beginning stages of sea ice formation due to low overnight temperatures and heavy snowfall. Can't forget to mention the Humpback whales everywhere! Exhaling, breaching and diving down below the frozen surface then reappearing somewhere different.

Our paddling team started in the open water, then pushed into the slushy, potato mash like substance. Due to more friction, creating a path was challenging, but the freshly snowed on icebergs, snow petrels flew low over the water, occasionally scooping up a crustation of some kind. Wilson Storm

petrels danced on the surface and Kelp gulls fluttered near Humpback feeding grounds. We stopped here and there to watch as a hump bake. Surfaced with a sound or a bubbling, exhale and even trumpeting.

Then they arched their backs, humped dorsal fin pointing up before diving back into the frozen depths. Resting, enjoying the icy landscape with ice cliffs, massive icebergs. A small family of whales surfaced nearby, swimming in our direction. They came so close that we smelt the sulphury breath as they passed us. Not the nicest smelling breath, but certainly one to remember. The glaciated landscape drew us closer seeing ice cliffs rise high out of the ocean. Eventually the time came to head back. With one more quick stop, Gentoo penguins resting a top an iceberg.

### **28 January 2026, AM:** **Yalour Islands – 1 km**

After driving in the Zodiac to the shelter of the channel in Yalour island, we

started paddling watching the Adélie penguins looking at them very well from our kayaks. The rockery was covered with guano and even after all the rain from the last days, it wasn't washed at all, very sticky guano. The wind was picking up so we went through a few channels and managed to stay in the shelter of the wind, but also the swell was coming from the side of the island so we did a short exploration where we could see a Weddell seal in the rocks. We finally went back to the shelter and got into the Zodiacs to go to do a very nice landing in between the Adélie penguins.

### **29 January 2026, PM:** **Fish Islands – 2.4 km**

With the ship anchored just off from Prospect Point, we tow the kayaks a couple miles south to and islet-chain called the Minnows, where Adélie are known to nest. We are stopped a little short by a thick band of brash ice jammed in and around the islands, pushed down by northerly wind and

constriction currents. But after working around a larger iceberg, we find a spot where the brash is close enough to shore to easily observe a small colony, on a smooth, knobby islet. There are plenty of healthy looking chicks amongst the googly-eyed adults. And there are many stunning bergs near and far: some captivate us with their size, some their shape or texture, and others their stain-glass blue colour. After briefly spotting a swimming fur seal, the sun made an equally brief appearance, bringing even more interest to the icescape. As we go, a few penguins comically hop out onto ice for eye-level inspection. And it would appear some of those silly kayakers got themselves stuck in the brash nearby we watch them get extracted safely with the assistance of multiple Zodiacs! Ourselves hemmed in by the shifting bands of brash, we circle back the colony to find it even more accessible and decide to enjoy the show for a bit longer before re-boarding our Zodiac for a bumpy transit back to the ship.



### 30 January 2026, AM: Cuverville Island – 4 km

We were blessed with bluebird conditions as we awoke at Cuverville Island. The best weather of the trip so far greeted us as we headed out for our morning excursion. Four bold paddlers decided to take advantage of this rare and beautiful Antarctic day. We commuted by Zodiac to the backside of Cuverville Island to begin. Just as we were nearing our put-in spot we came across a sleeping Humpback whale. Little did we know it, but this whale encounter was to set the theme of the excursion 'Whales' so after spending 10 minutes watching the slumbering Humpy we headed further afield looking for a supposed fur seal. It was soon apparent that the fur seal had vacated its iceberg as we watched it swim past. We soon saw more humpback whales out in the bay so headed offshore to investigate. As we watched the Humpbacks swim past us a Dwarf Minke whale appeared, almost crossing paths with the humpback. When we had got our whale

fix sufficiently we bee lined for the Gentoo penguin rookery on the point of Cuverville island. As we skirted the coast we watched the penguins frolic in the shallows. We rounded the point and into the bay where the landing beach is to finish our paddle outing.

### 30 January 2026, PM: Orne Harbour – 1.8 km

Motoring into the Bay, we had mountains, andesite and basalt cliffs towering high above us into the clouds. Great ice cliffs and a massive glacier front carving its way down into the bay. At water level a black dot on an ice flow caught our attention. Veering towards it to take a closer look, we identified that it was a Crabeater seal, pointy nose, its pelt a shiny brown, resting high and dry on the ice.

Our team of four climb into kayaks and paddled deeper into the bay where the glacier loomed, larger and larger and larger the further we went. Still 700 m away, in our kayaks, we felt so small compared to the that ice hung around

us in all directions. Turning to the west, we paddled along the shore towards Spigot peak, to the base of where the hike starts. We were determined to step onshore and hike to the chinstrap colony high up in the saddle.

So finishing up and a nice 1-hour paddle covering 1.8 km we stepped ashore and began the ascent. The view from the top is one of the best in Antarctica, overlooking both Orne Harbour and out into the Gerlache Strait. Not only this, but it was also an opportunity to step onto the seventh continent proper for most of our paddlers. Happy as, we congratulated each other for making it the summit and this icy southern continent.

### 31 January 2026, AM: Salvassen Cove – 2 km

Another Whaley day!! We knew as soon as we entered the bay it was going to be a day for whales, they were spread out as far as the eye could see. This was proven as soon as we got on the water, we were immediately surrounded

by the Humpbacks. I didn't know where to paddle. We did our best to dodge the roaming and feeding whales but still had some really close encounters. Most of the time we could just drift and enjoy the show, there was a lot to see. As we drifted out of the bay we were treated to some very nearby bubble net feeding and had a really close up view of the whales swim under our kayaks. It was hard to get off the water but eventually we had to get back to the ship for lunch. One for the books for sure.









# Snorkelling Log

Guides: Thomas GOV (lead), Eddie Hauzer

## Snorkel Outing #1 26 January 2026, AM: Palaver Point 64° 8,8901' S, 61° 45,2305' W

The first outing of this voyage came with less than ideal conditions, as strong winds and choppy water greeted us on arrival. Despite this, we made a landing on the beautiful Two Hummock Island, where a lively chinstrap penguin colony awaited us. A couple of Antarctic fur seals were also resting along the shoreline, adding to the sense of wildlife abundance. The rocks were slippery underfoot, but this did nothing to dampen the experience as we carefully moved through the colony and took in the surroundings.

After the landing, we prepared for our first snorkelling session of the trip. We entered the water close to the landing site, where conditions were slightly calmer. Underwater visibility was limited, but the experience was rewarding nonetheless. Several chinstrap penguins joined us in the water, darting past with their characteristic speed and agility. A fur

seal also made a brief appearance, gliding through the water before disappearing again.

Returning to the ship after this first immersion in the cold waters of Antarctica, everyone was smiling. Despite the challenging conditions, sharing the water with penguins and seals made for a memorable and motivating start to the journey ahead.

## Snorkel Outing #2 26 January 2026, PM: Sprightly island 64° 17,1909' S, 61° 3,9226' W

The second outing of the day unfolded as a perfect Plan B and quickly became a highlight of our first day in Antarctica. We arrived at Sprightly Island, a truly gorgeous place surrounded by magnificent icebergs of all shapes and sizes. One enormous iceberg stood out in particular, sculpted with a large natural window that allowed us to see straight through its glowing blue ice, an unforgettable sight from the Zodiacs.



**Number of Snorkellers:**8

**Total Number of Outings:**

8/11 Outings Offered

**Outings cancelled:**

Pleneau island: Leopard seals

Freud passage/Hunt island:

leopard seal

**Snorkellers:**

Raluca Podiuć

Lucian Grijincu

Deanne Denmark

Joanne Dougherty

Steven Chang

Chang-Hung Yao

Tsai-Yu Chung

Gwendolyn Holden

The journey itself was filled with memorable moments. During the Zodiac ride, we came across a small chinstrap penguin colony perched along the shoreline, their calls echoing across the water. As if that were not enough, several whales were also spotted swimming calmly in the bay, surfacing nearby and adding a sense of scale and magic to the experience. Seeing penguins, whales, ice, and mountains all in one place perfectly captured the essence of Antarctica.

We continued our way through fields of brash ice, gently pushing aside small chunks as we navigated toward our snorkelling site. Drifting silently through this frozen maze was an experience in itself and made the anticipation of entering the water even stronger.

Once in the water, we were rewarded with clear visibility and a peaceful underwater environment. Colourful pieces of ice drifted slowly past us, glowing softly beneath the surface. Below, numerous isopods swam in the water column, adding movement and life to the scene. The combination of ice above, marine life below, and the stillness of the surroundings created a truly immersive experience.

As we returned to the Zodiacs and made our way back to the ship, it was hard to believe this was only the first day of the trip. With whales, penguins, icebergs, and a successful snorkel already behind us, it was clear that this journey was off to an incredible start.

### Snorkel Outing #3

27 January 2026, AM:

Port Lockroy, Jougla Point

64° 49,6783' S, 63° 29,5786' W

Our day began with a visit to Port Lockroy, one of the most well known historic sites on the Antarctic Peninsula. We went ashore to explore the museum and the small gift shop, gaining insight into the history of Antarctic exploration and life at this remote research station. Gentoo penguins wandered freely among the buildings, completely at home in a place where human history and wildlife blend together. Icebergs drifted slowly through the harbour, framed by steep peaks and glaciers, creating a striking setting for this unique landing.

After our visit to Port Lockroy, we moved a short distance to Jougla

Point for a second landing. This rocky headland was alive with gentoo penguins, many of them tending to well fed chicks nestled in their pebble nests. Spending time here allowed us to observe the daily rhythm of the colony, with adults constantly coming and going from the sea while chicks waited eagerly on shore.

Once back on the Zodiacs, we headed behind Jougla Point for our snorkelling session. Entering the water, we were quickly joined by numerous gentoo penguins swimming past us with incredible speed and agility. Some penguins passed close by on their way back to shore, while others circled briefly, curious about the strange floating figures in the water. Watching them fly effortlessly beneath the surface was a memorable and joyful experience.

After the snorkel, we returned to the ship with smiles on our faces, feeling that this outing perfectly combined history, wildlife, and underwater encounters. Port Lockroy and Jougla Point delivered a rich and varied Antarctic experience, making it a truly special day both above and below the water.

### Snorkel Outing #4

27 January 2026, PM:

Moureaux Islands, Flandres bay

65° 5,4660' S, 63° 8,2256' W

Our afternoon outing took us deeper into Flandres Bay toward the Moureaux Islands, where the atmosphere immediately felt wild and timeless. We launched the Zodiacs into a quiet bay covered with pancake ice, the first stage of sea ice forming on the surface. The small circular plates drifted gently around us as we moved forward, creating a scene that felt unmistakably Antarctic.

Almost as soon as we entered the bay, we realised we were not alone. Numerous whales were feeding beneath and around the pancake ice, surfacing regularly and filling the area with life. The conditions added to the mood of the moment. Low clouds wrapped the mountains and ice in soft tones, turning the landscape into a striking black and white scene. Sound carried far in the still air, and the silence was broken only by the deep trumpeting blows of humpback whales and the sharp calls of seabirds gathering to feed on what the whales



brought to the surface.

We spent much of the outing simply observing. Watching these giant, gentle animals feeding so close to us was deeply moving and held everyone's attention. The combination of ice, wildlife, sound, and stillness made the moment feel both powerful and intimate.

After taking time to absorb the scene, we prepared for a short snorkelling session nearby. We entered the water around a couple of beautifully sculpted blue growlers, their colour glowing beneath the surface. The water was calm and clear, and drifting ice added to the sense of being immersed in a living, changing environment. While the whales remained at a respectful distance, their presence was constantly felt through sound and movement around us.

We returned to the ship quietly, aware that we had just witnessed something special. The Moureaux Islands delivered a pure Antarctic experience, combining ice, whales, and underwater exploration in a way that will remain vivid long after the journey ends.

### Snorkel Outing #5 28 January 2026, AM: Yalour Islands 65° 14,2577' S, 64° 9,4477' W

Our outing at the Yalour Islands was a full sensory immersion from the overbearing smell to the icy winds... This rugged archipelago is blanketed by vast Adélie penguins colonies, the ground crowded with chicks nearing fledging age. Their constant activity, calls, and unmistakable presence meant guano everywhere, a pungent reminder that boots rarely stay clean here. Despite the smell and slippery footing, the scene was electric with life and energy.

A short Zodiac cruise followed, weaving carefully between the islands and through a maze of icebergs. The bergs ranged from towering slabs to sculptured fragments, glowing with remarkable shades of blue. A few Weddell seals lounged along the shoreline and others lifted their heads from the shallows as we passed. As the cruise progressed, wind speed steadily increased, and the wind chill became impossible to ignore, sharpening the cold and adding urgency to the

conditions.

Snorkelling took place in a wind protected bay, offering a calmer but no less fascinating experience. The water was very shallow with fair visibility, revealing a surprisingly rich benthic world. Algae carpeted the bottom, dotted with limpets clinging firmly to rock surfaces. Transparent krill drifted through the water column, almost ghost like, while delicate sea angels fluttered past, otherworldly and graceful. It was a quiet, intimate contrast to the bustling penguin chaos above, a reminder of how much life thrives beneath Antarctica's icy surface.

### Snorkel Outing #6 29 January 2026, AM: Fish Islands 66° 1,5709' S, 65° 21,5402' W

Following our crossing of the Antarctic Circle the night before, operations were not possible the next morning due to conditions. We therefore headed slightly north again, just above the Circle, toward the Fish Islands. The area immediately felt wild and exposed, with strong winds, drifting ice, and a raw Antarctic atmosphere that reminded us

how dynamic this environment can be.

Our outing began with a Zodiac cruise through the islands. Adélie penguins were soon spotted along the ice edges, moving confidently between sea and shore. Large amounts of brash ice filled the channels, and navigating through it was both challenging and great fun, with the Zodiacs carefully weaving through the constantly shifting pieces.

After some exploration, we managed to find a relatively sheltered spot that looked suitable for snorkelling. We entered the water and began settling into the site, enjoying the clear Antarctic water and the feeling of being surrounded by ice. However, conditions changed quickly. In less than ten minutes, the guides called us back to the Zodiacs as the ice started moving fast and began closing in on the snorkelling area. It was a good reminder of how rapidly the Antarctic environment can transform and why constant awareness is essential.

Once everyone was safely back on board, we continued our Zodiac ride through the brash ice, making our way toward the ship. As a final and



unexpected highlight, a couple of beautiful humpback whales appeared near the vessel, surfacing calmly and bringing the outing to a perfect close.

Despite the short time in the water, the Fish Islands delivered a true Antarctic experience, full of ice, wildlife, changing conditions, and unforgettable moments.

### Snorkel Outing #7

30 January 2026, AM:

#### Cuverville Islands

64° 40,8293' S, 62° 37,2427' W

This morning, conditions outside the ship could not have looked better. The sea was flat, the air felt relatively mild, and everything pointed toward a beautiful outing ahead. We headed to Cuverville Island, home to thousands of gentoo penguins and known as the largest gentoo colony on the Antarctic Peninsula.

We began with a landing on shore and spent a good hour among the penguins. The island was alive with activity, with gentoos constantly moving between their nesting areas and the sea. Being surrounded by such a large colony

was impressive, both visually and acoustically, and offered plenty of time to observe their behaviour up close while enjoying the dramatic Antarctic landscape around us.

After our time on land, we boarded the Zodiacs and made our way to a nearby snorkelling site. The plan was to enter the water where penguins were busy getting in and out of the sea, hoping to share the water with these graceful birds. Once in the water, it quickly became clear that visibility was very poor, making it difficult to see the penguins underwater as they passed through the area.

Even with limited water clarity, the snorkel remained enjoyable. Attention naturally shifted to the seafloor, where small Antarctic creatures could be observed, adding interest and detail to the dive and offering a quieter perspective on the underwater environment.

To finish the outing, we enjoyed an excellent whale watching moment on the way back to the ship. A humpback whale was resting at the surface, allowing us to observe it calmly

breathing and drifting in the still water. This peaceful encounter provided a perfect ending before returning on board, rounding off a relaxed and rewarding day at Cuverville Island.

### Snorkel Outing #8

01 February 2026, AM:

#### Half Moon Island

62° 35,6802' S, 59° 53,9682' W

This morning at Half Moon Island marked our final day of the expedition, and it could not have offered a better farewell. Out on the Zodiacs in the South Shetland Islands, we were welcomed by something we had been waiting for all trip: clear, blue water beneath the boats. Conditions felt calm and inviting, setting the scene for a special last outing.

We began with about an hour on land, exploring a beautiful chinstrap penguin colony. The area was full of life, with penguins moving constantly between nests and the shoreline. A few Weddell seals were resting nearby, along with several Antarctic fur seals, adding to the diversity of wildlife around the landing site. It was a relaxed and enjoyable way to start our final day

ashore in Antarctica.

Not far from the landing area, we prepared for our last snorkelling session. Entering the water, we were immediately struck by the clarity and deep blue colour, easily the best conditions we had experienced during the trip. The underwater colours were stunning, with the seabed covered in reddish algae and small bottom dwelling creatures swimming and drifting around us.

Wildlife encounters made the snorkel even more memorable. Some snorkellers spotted chinstrap penguins flying past underwater, while others were treated to the unexpected sight of what may have been a sea angel. A curious fur seal also joined the scene, swimming nearby and adding a playful touch to the experience.

This snorkel felt like the perfect conclusion to our Antarctic underwater adventures. Clear water, vibrant colours, and unforgettable encounters combined to leave us with lasting memories and a strong sense of gratitude as we headed back to the ship.

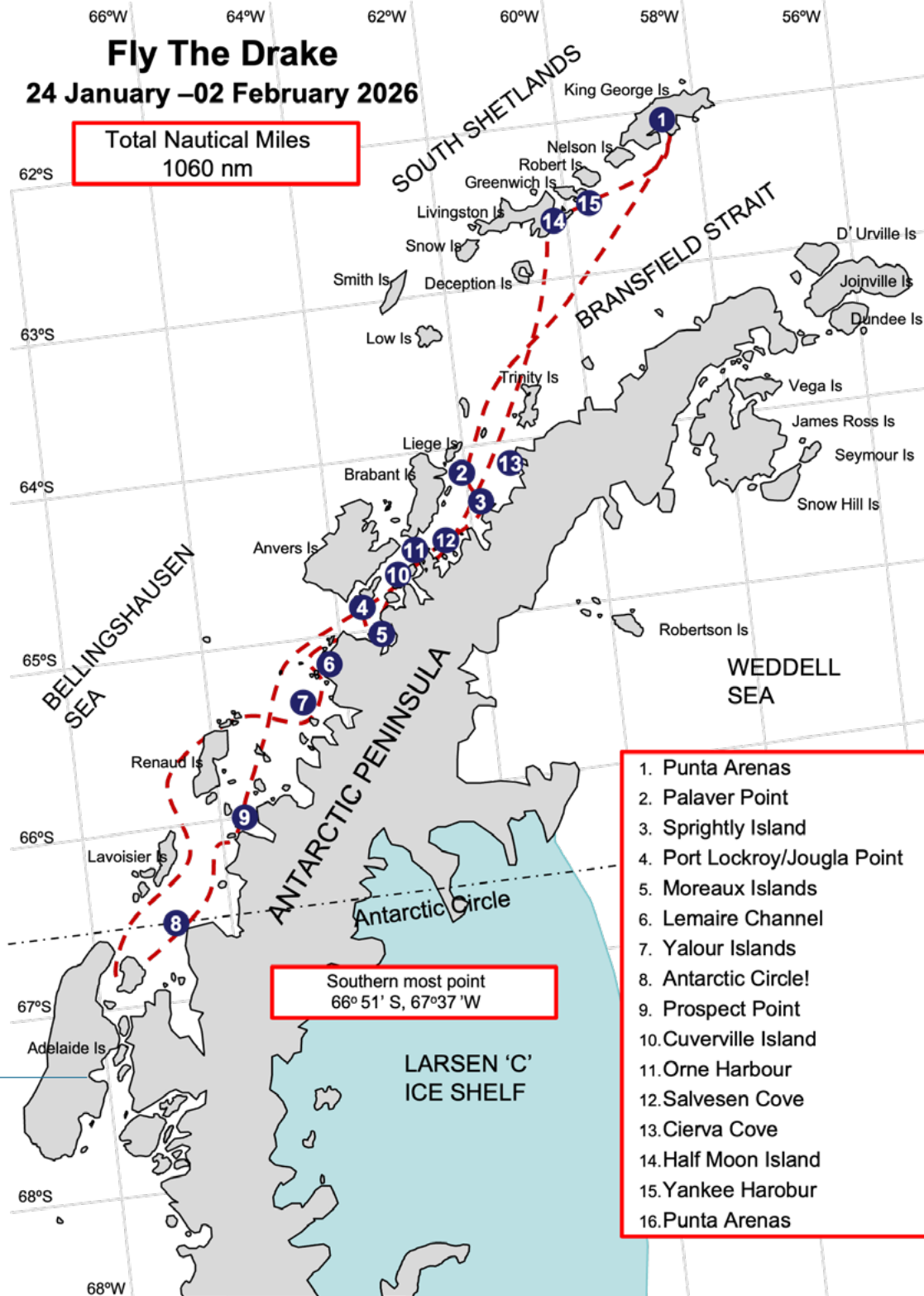




# Map

## Fly The Drake 24 January – 02 February 2026

Total Nautical Miles  
1060 nm



Southern most point  
66° 51' S, 67°37' W

1. Punta Arenas
2. Palaver Point
3. Sprightly Island
4. Port Lockroy/Jougla Point
5. Moreaux Islands
6. Lemaire Channel
7. Yalour Islands
8. Antarctic Circle!
9. Prospect Point
10. Cuverville Island
11. Orne Harbour
12. Salvesen Cove
13. Cierva Cove
14. Half Moon Island
15. Yankee Harobur
16. Punta Arenas

## Across the Antarctic Circle

24 January – 2 February 2026



# Our Expeditioners

Abe Adel	Tony Davis	Hugh Kerbel	Janine Morison	Marie-Anne Richardson	Fiona Taylor
Mon Bills	Anna Davis	Kaine Kerkhoff	Nils Mueller	Rod Ryland	Carolina Torres Holzer
Peter Birnstein	Robbert de Weijer	Heidi Kinkartz	Camille Mullins	Heidi Sachs	Phil Trathan
Patricia Booth	Anne Dellaca	Kay Klass	Jason Ng	Susan Saco Vertiz Osterloh	Khanh Vo
Charlotte Burdette	Maria Dwiutama	Thomas Koch	Joan O'Neill	Joanne Sakai	Carmen Wakileh-Leskowsky
Fred Burdette	Annika Ellingson	Carmen Kolbig	Jean Orellana	Siddique Salleh	George Watters
Megan Campbell	Stephen Feeney	Alex Kydd	Tristan Orpin	Shep Salusky	
Tianyuan Cao	Jan Filochowski	Glenn Lamartin	Sally Orpin	Robert Sandler	
Helen Cates	Kathleen Findlay	Karen Lamartin	Hetal Patel	Benita Sandler	
Larry Cates	Dallas Foster	Konstantinos Lampropoulos	Ami Patel	Bob Schumacher	
Justine Champine	Fritz Friedhoff	Christian Leskowsky	Kristen Poggensee	Mary Schumacher	
Laura Champine	Joe Frisch	Mark Levitt	Bonnie Potash	Trish Scott	
Rohan Charrett	Naomi Fulop	Colleen Luck	Howard Potash	Nishant Shah	
Donald Charrett	Jenny Goddard	Lisa Matichak	Marjorie Prindle	Nirmita Shah	
Nik Cronin	Steve Halstead	Fang Meng	Brian Prindle	Malini Siram	
Lilli Cronin	Krzysztof Holzer	Guy Messick	Savitha Racha	Amanda Smartt	
Rich Crowley	Vicki Ireson	Don Moore	Dave Rasmussen	Amy Smartt	
Frances Crowley	Leni Ituriaga	Pat Moore	Linda Rasmussen	Craig Taylor	
Jean Crowley	Xakousti Kalkani		Henry Richardson		

## Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Jeffery Nagel

Assistant Expedition Leader: Leopoldo Soibelzon

Onboard Expedition Manager: Alesha Bradford

Marine Biologist/Citizen Science Coordinator:  
Eleanor Boorne

Historian: Nils Egeland

Geologist / Glaciologist: Melina Pelzmajer

Ornithologist / Naturalist: Meike Mossi

Photography Guide: Jarryd Salem

Medic: Tammy MacKenzie

Zodiac Manager: Serghei Hincu

Shop Manager: Cecilia Mossi

Lead Kayak Guide: Gabriel Wackernagel

Senior Kayak Guide: James Thorp

Kayak Guide: Pablo Passera

Kayak Guide: Robin Baths

Kayak Guide: Matthew Barnes

Lead Alpine Guide: Dan Phillips

Lead Snorkel Guide: Thomas Gov

Snorkel Guide: Ellen Coenra

Snorkel Guide: Remi Ritchie

## Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Oleg Kapke

Chief Officer: Mikhail Levkin

Safety Officer: Andrey Balandin

Bosun: Francis Marvin Linga

Ship Doctor: Pranav Tukarem Sawant

Chief Engineer: Dimitar Vasilev

First Engineer: Dmytro Matviyenko

IT Officer: Razvan Malciu

Hotel Director: Oliver Sevilla

F&B Service Manager: German Orlando  
Cayasso Wilson

Chief Purser: Pia Blanca Bangug

Executive Chef Ronwaldo: Reyes

Head Waiter: James Andrew Refina

Hotel Controller: Cheryl Ann Dela Torre

Receptionist: Maria Nympha Abuda

Receptionist: Liberty Joy Acelar

Head Stateroom Attendant: Roniel Garcia

AB Seaman: Raffy Singuelas

AB Seaman: Roberto Ixtan Mejia

AB Seaman: Junar Gorecho

AB Seaman: Noel Refugia

AB Seaman: Angelo San Antonio

AB Seaman: Khenette Versoza

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