

# Antarctica Active

Aboard *Greg Mortimer* | 4 December – 17 December 2025

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## Antarctica Active

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4 December – 17 December 2025

# Ushuaia

DAY 1 | Thursday 4 December 2025

**Latitude:**

54°53'7" S

**Longitude:**

67°38'6" W

**Course:**

Alongside

**Speed:**

15 knots

**Wind Speed:**

18 knots NWN

**Barometer:**

1025 hPa

**Air Temp:**

9°C

Here we are in the picturesque town of Ushuaia, 'the end of the world'. Our day began with breakfast at the hotel, overlooking the Beagle Channel and the pier where the *Greg Mortimer* was already alongside, preparing to welcome us aboard.

Early in the morning we set out from Ushuaia, crossing the southern foothills of the Andes toward Lake Fagnano, surrounded by forests and dramatic mountain views. We continued to Las Cotorras, a rustic lodge where we savoured a traditional Argentinian BBQ lunch. Warm hospitality and the wild beauty of Tierra del Fuego made for a memorable start to our adventure.

Later, we headed to the pier and finally stood before the *Greg Mortimer*. Catherine, our Expedition Leader, photographer Fiona, onboard Expedition Manager Alesha, and other

members of the Expedition Team greeted us warmly, checked us in, and took a photo for the expedition board.

An embarkation buffet awaited us in the Elephant Island Bar, and the Hotel Team guided us to our cabins, our home away from home. Soon after, Catherine welcomed everyone in the lecture theatre, sharing a short video featuring Greg Mortimer speaking about the innovative X-Bow design and Aurora's spirit of adventure. She then outlined the days ahead and introduced our multi-skilled Expedition Team. Alesha and Hotel Director Oliver explained life on board, and Dr Javier gave a short briefing on staying healthy during the voyage.

Altogether, we are 104 Expeditioners, joined by 81 crew and 23 Expedition Team members. After many hours of travel, it is time to relax and look ahead to the adventures to come.











# Drake Passage

DAY 2 | Friday 5 December 2025

Latitude:  
56°44'7" S

Longitude:  
64°50'8" W

Course:  
155°

Speed:  
10.4 knots

Wind Speed:  
21 knots W

Barometer:  
1007 hPa

Air Temp:  
4°C

Feeling the motion of the ocean, the gentle rocking and rolling beneath us, we knew we were truly at sea. We were deep into our crossing of the infamous Drake Passage, named after the 16th-century English explorer Sir Francis Drake. This stretch of water is renowned as one of the most treacherous passages on Earth. Yet, with a modest 3.4 metre swell, winds at Beaufort 4, and the ship's stabilisers deployed, the *Greg Mortimer* carried us smoothly southward.

Our morning began with a briefing from our Expedition Leader Catherine on IAATO, the organisation that promotes safe and environmentally responsible Antarctic travel. We learned how to minimise our impact by keeping respectful distances from wildlife, giving animals such as the ever-curious Adélie penguins the right of way, and maintaining strict biosecurity through clothing checks and cleaning gear with Virkon.

Our Zodiac manager Nacho gave a safety briefing, demonstrating the sailor's grip and three-step technique, showing how to fit life jackets, and explaining how over-trousers worn over Muck Boots keep us dry.

In the afternoon, we prepared for paddling with guides Elo and Gabriel. Tracey-Ann then introduced us to Antarctica's seabirds and taught us bird-ID basics. On deck, we spotted wandering and light-mantled albatrosses, Wilson's storm petrels and Antarctic prions.

The evening began with a welcome from Captain Alex and his team, followed by Catherine's recap and plan for the next day. Gregory outlined the Citizen Science program, and Fiona introduced the slideshow and photo competition. After dinner, Jay and Antoine explained nautical charts. Spirits were high as we sailed toward the icy white continent.













# Drake Passage

DAY 3 | Saturday 6 December 2025

Latitude:  
65°18'3" S

Longitude:  
59°56'3" W

Course:  
153°

Speed:  
11.4 knots

Wind Speed:  
21 knots NW

Barometer:  
994 hPa

Air Temp:  
-7°C

We woke to a noticeably calmer sea compared to yesterday. The smoother conditions encouraged many of us to head to the restaurant for breakfast. As we ate, seabirds like light-mantled albatrosses, cape petrels and others flew past the windows, adding a lovely touch to the start of our day.

Our morning agenda began with essential briefings, starting with biosecurity. We vacuumed, plucked seeds and scrubbed every inch of our outerwear, from jackets to trusty Muck Boots, ensuring we introduce no alien species to Antarctica's unique ecosystem. Those signed up for snowshoeing met with Dan and Dave for the mandatory briefing.

After a busy morning, lunchtime arrived quickly, and the galley team had prepared a delicious spread. Next came the camping briefing with Mac and Monica, followed by the lecture

'Introduction to Antarctica'. Antoine spoke about the geology of the icy continent; Greg outlined the marine mammals we may encounter; and Jay concluded with Antarctic history.

Keen for fresh air, we headed outside for wildlife watching and the eBird survey. Bundled against the chilly wind, we were greeted by hundreds of seabirds soaring around the ship. As if that were not magical enough, we even spotted humpback and fin whales cruising by.

We wrapped up the day with our usual recap and briefing, buzzing with excitement at the news that tomorrow we reach the South Shetland Islands. As the curtains closed and the lights softened, we caught our first glimpse of Antarctica and sailed south into the night, ready for new adventures.







# Half Moon Island & Deception Island

DAY 4 | Sunday 7 December 2025

Latitude:  
62°33'1" S

Longitude:  
59°57'8" W

Course:  
VAR  
Speed:  
0 knots

Wind Speed:  
16 knots SW

Barometer:  
1022 hPa

Air Temp:  
-1°C

After a Drake Passage that treated us mostly well, we woke to calm seas and a gentle breeze. Coffee cups stayed upright, breakfast was early and delightful, and everyone agreed the Southern Ocean had taken pity on us overnight.

Our first outing of the expedition was to Half Moon Island, a little crescent of volcanic rock sprinkled with chinstrap penguins who looked very busy doing absolutely nothing. The rookery was in peak form: penguins marching purposefully, proudly showing off their latest rock-based home renovations.

Meanwhile, the adventurous among us dove into the frigid waters for an Antarctic snorkel or strapped on snowshoes to wander the volcanic caldera

Back on board, we drifted into a long, leisurely lunch. Some guests napped, some attended lectures on Deception Island's

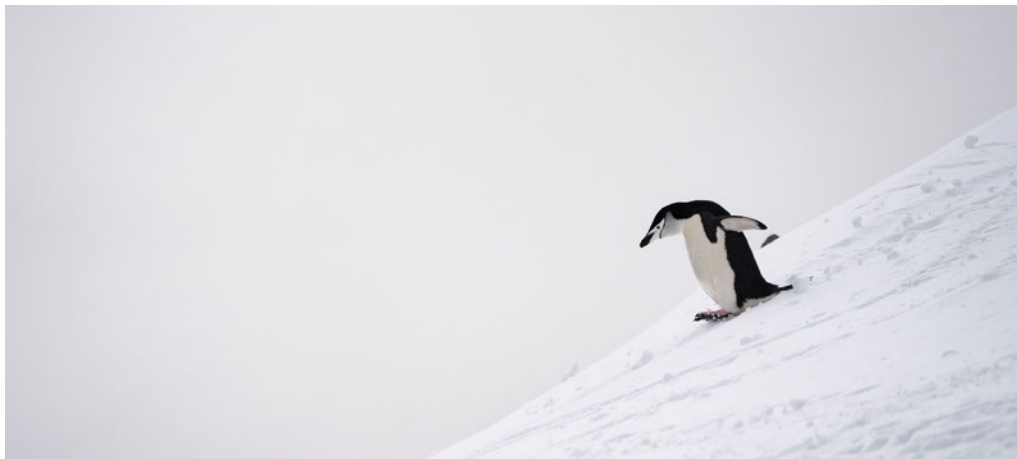
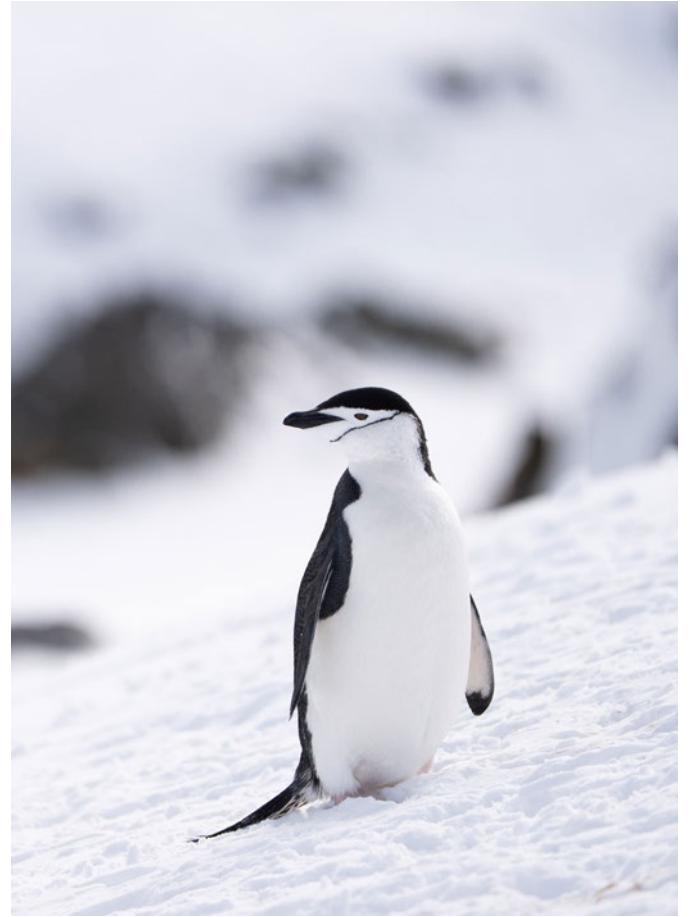
geology and whaling history, and some attempted both, drifting between scientific enlightenment and deep sleep.

In the afternoon, the outer decks became wildlife-watching stadiums. Cape petrels glided around the bow, storm petrels flickered across the waves, and every distant blow triggered an enthusiastic 'whale!' from several directions.

We then enjoyed a dramatic ship cruise through Neptune's Bellows, the narrow entry into Deception Island's flooded caldera. Ashore at Whalers Bay, we explored the weathered remains of the old whaling station before walking to Neptune's Window for sweeping views of nesting cape petrels.

As we sailed out, the mood was bright and buzzing. It was the perfect start, with wildlife, volcanoes, sunshine and the promise that the real Antarctic magic had only just begun.







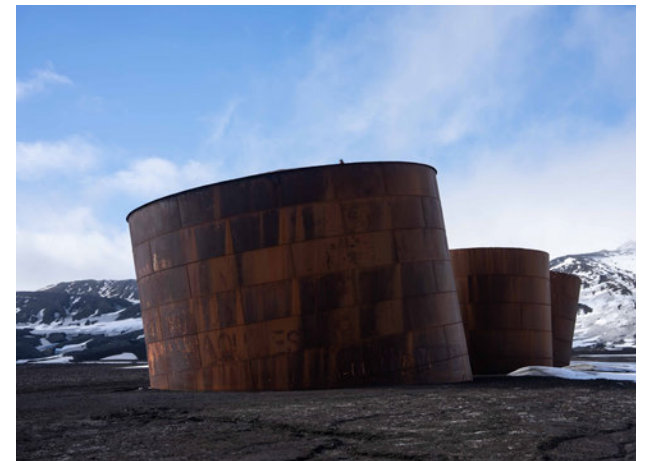
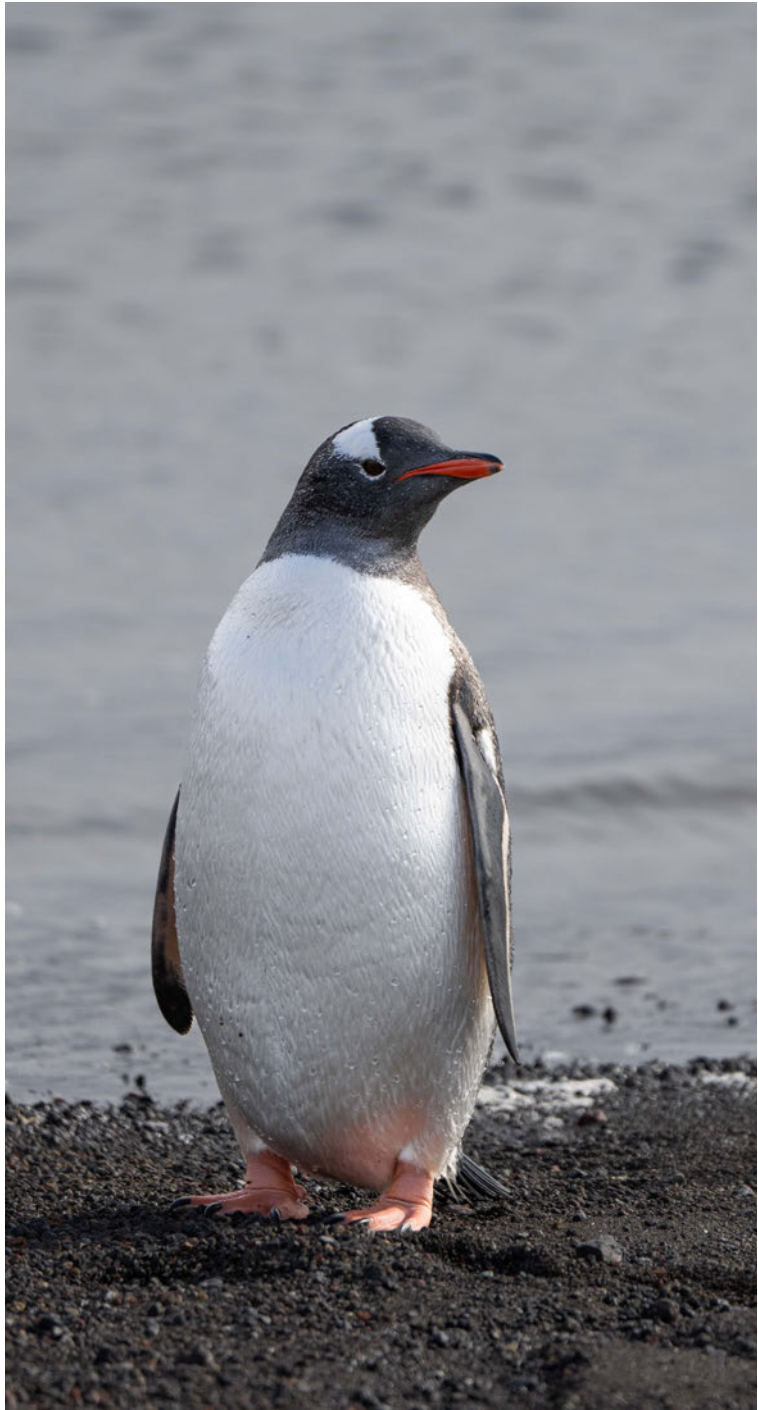














# Sprightly Island & Recess Cove

DAY 5 | Monday 8 December 2025

**Latitude:**  
64°11'7" S

**Longitude:**  
61°16'7" W

**Course:**  
164°

**Speed:**  
6.7 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
7 knots E

**Barometer:**  
1024 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
2°C

We woke this morning to a classic Antarctic scene: soft light, gentle winds and a ceiling of overcast skies. By the time we approached Sprightly Island for our morning operations, the clouds had lifted and brilliant blue skies welcomed us to our first full day on the Antarctic Peninsula. Glaciers framed the horizon, icebergs drifted silently by and the landscape put on a show worthy of our long journey south.

Sprightly Island offered something for everyone. Zodiacs cruised among sculpted ice and curious wildlife, while snorkellers slipped into the frigid, crystal-clear water for their first underwater glimpse of Antarctica. Kayakers paddled through calm seas beneath towering ice cliffs, and our snowshoers explored the island's pristine slopes. Cruisers

enjoyed close views of a charming chinstrap penguin colony going about its busy day.

Back on board, we sailed out of the bay and straight into what the team fondly calls 'whale soup'. Humpbacks surrounded the ship, surfacing and diving all around us, creating moments that will stay with us long after the voyage ends.

In the afternoon we arrived at Recess Cove, where the weather gods continued to smile upon us. Snorkellers and kayakers geared up again, eager to explore the icy waters. This site also offered a continental landing, an especially meaningful moment for those stepping onto their seventh continent. Towering ice formations and peaceful glaciers provided a dramatic backdrop.







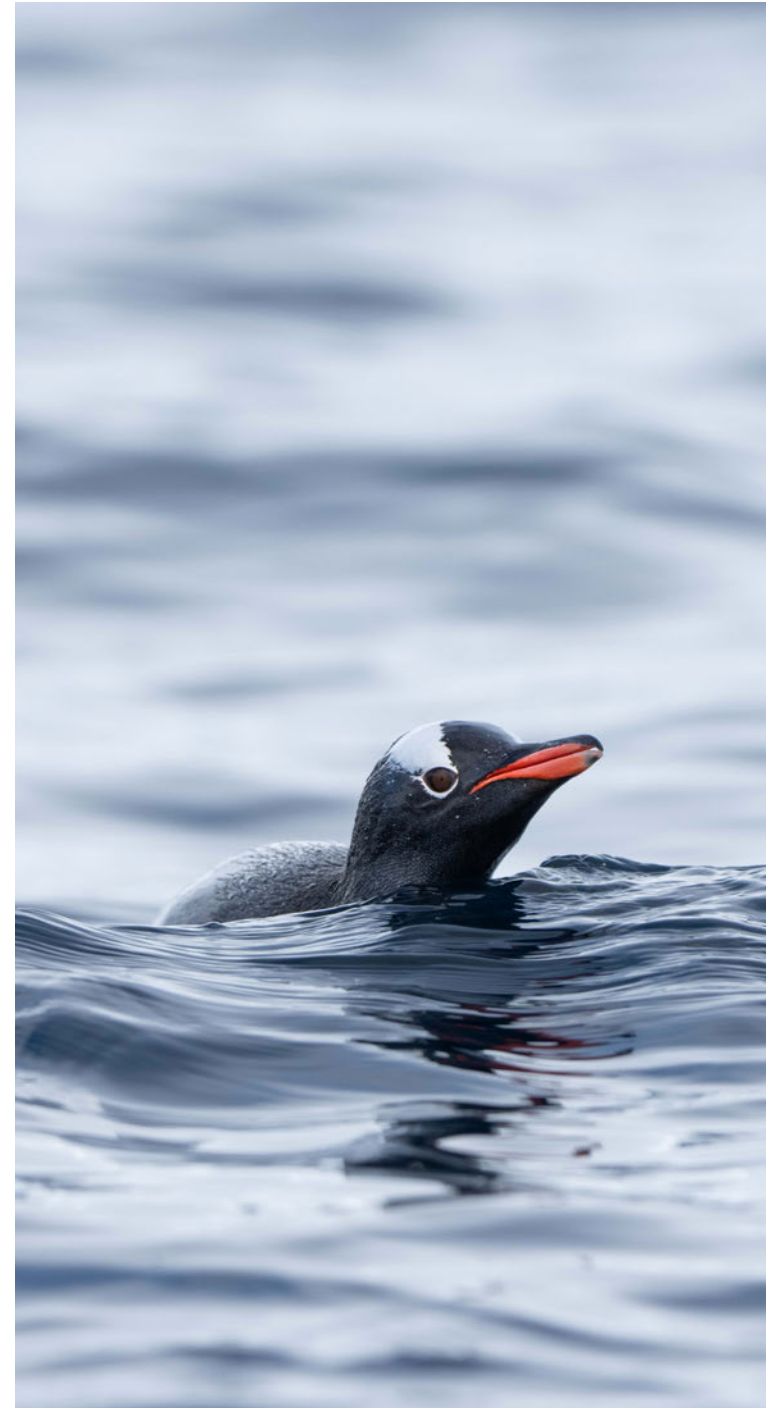














# Portal Point & Wilhelmina Bay

DAY 6 | Tuesday 9 December 2025

**Latitude:**

64°29'7" S

**Longitude:**

61°42'5" W

**Course:**

VAR

**Speed:**

0 knots

**Wind Speed:**

VAR

**Barometer:**

1010 hPa

**Air Temp:**

-0°C

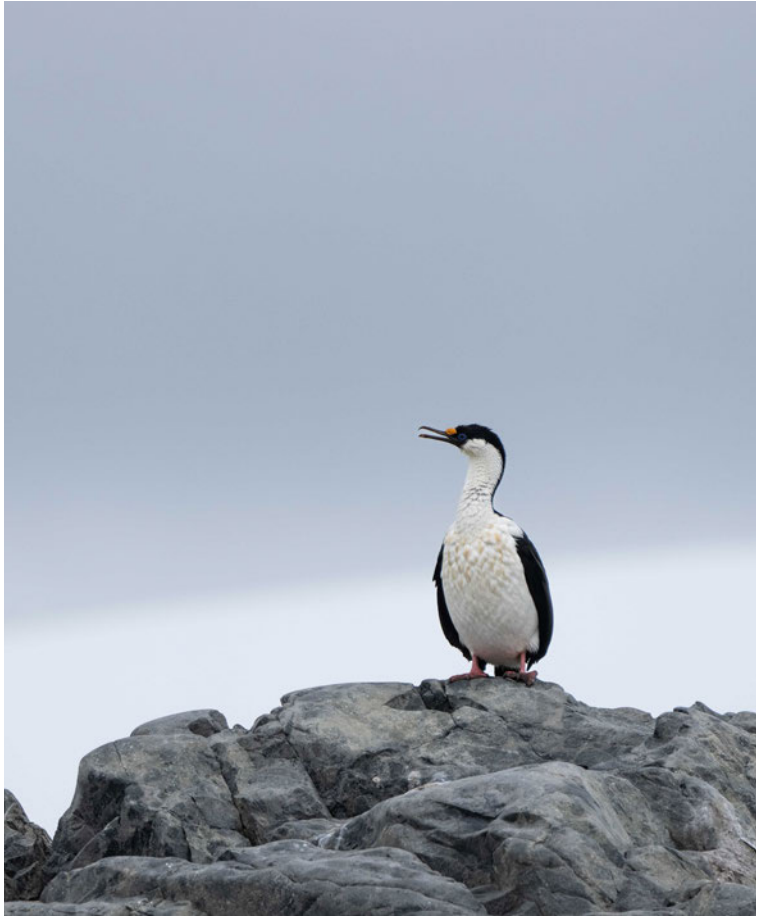
Our morning kicked off with a surprise; none of us expected whales bubble-net feeding right next to the ship. One moment we were settling into breakfast, the next we were hurrying outside, some still gripping their first cup of coffee. The whales moved in close, circling the ship with rising rings of bubbles, their breaths echoing across the water as snow fell.

After the excitement settled, we prepared for the day's first adventure at Portal Point. At 0900, the order of departure began: snorkellers first, then paddlers, followed by snowshoers, the Citizen Science team and the photographers. Each group set off into the steady swell and brooding skies, conditions that made the icebergs stand out even more sharply.

Snorkellers and kayakers found sheltered pockets of water where they could drift without fighting the elements, surrounded by icebergs and glaciers looming in every direction. Snowshoers took on the climb with determination, gaining height step by step and earning wide, elevated views of the white, wild landscape. Those landing on the continent for the second time were rewarded with sweeping vistas of the bay.

The Citizen Science team and the photographers searched for whales, though it did not take long before the whales came to them, offering more spectacular views and behaviours.









# Neko Harbour

DAY 7 | Wednesday 10 December 2025

**Latitude:**

64°44.9' S

**Longitude:**

62°52.7' W

**Course:**

242°

**Speed:**

3.3 knots

**Wind Speed:**

27 knots ENE

**Barometer:**

1006 hPa

**Air Temp:**

0°C

After a rocky night, and with 30-knot winds at breakfast, we were all glad we had diverted from Wilhelmina Bay into Andvord Bay rather than face the full force of the Gerlache Strait to reach the Melchior Islands. This plan B gave us a great opportunity to learn more about Antarctic marine life, from the largest creatures in these waters to the smallest.

First up, Greg shared his passion for humpback whales with a presentation on their biology and conservation, covering whale song, calf feeding, bubble netting, migration and the surface behaviours we have been observing.

Then we shifted from 15-metre whales to 80-micrometre diatoms with a phytoplankton workshop led by Linda and Jay. Using onboard microscopes and samples from the Citizen Science Zodiacs, we examined various phytoplankton shapes

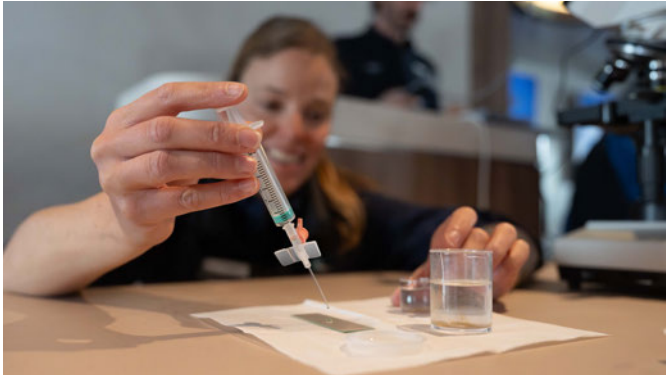
and explored their importance as food for krill, which in turn sustain humpback whales.

After an early lunch, we set off for our afternoon adventure at beautiful Neko Harbour. Sheltered from the weather, the sea was glassy calm, and with paddling, snorkelling, Citizen Science, photography and snowshoeing underway. Ashore, highlights included visiting the gentoo penguin colony and hiking for breathtaking views across Andvord Bay.

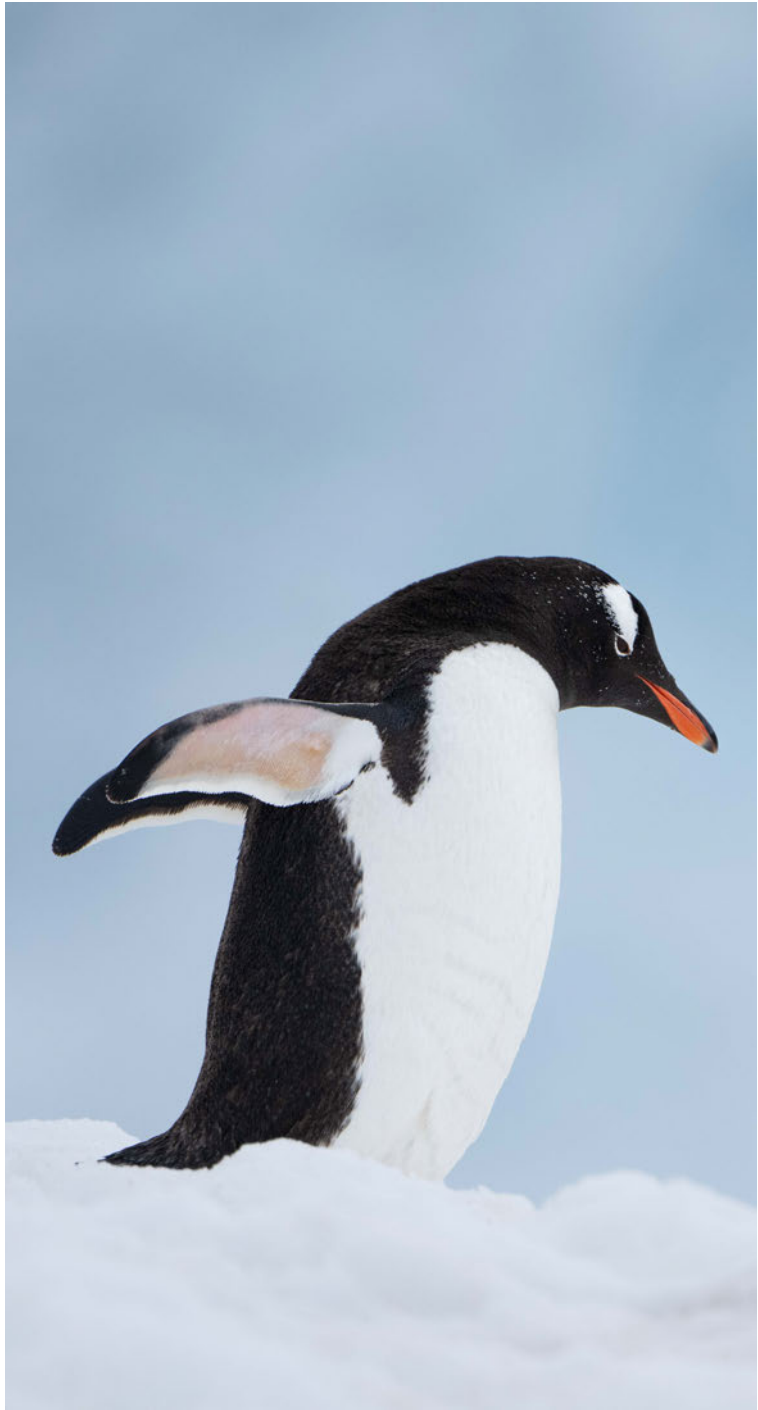
Alongside the gentoos, an Adélie penguin and two chinstraps appeared, a leopard seal patrolled the beach and a humpback whale cruised close to shore. Then came the moment of the day: beaked whales. Nacho and Antoine had the encounter of their lives, and excitement swept through the ship. Rare and mysterious, meeting them here was an unforgettable privilege.















# Lemaire Channel & Vernadsky Station

DAY 8 | Thursday 12 December 2025

**Latitude:**

65°11'2" S

**Longitude:**

64°7'6" W

**Course:**

VAR

**Speed:**

9.8 knots

**Wind Speed:**

4 knots SE

**Barometer:**

1003 hPa

**Air Temp:**

2°C

We began our day in the serene embrace of Paradise Bay, arriving to collect 40 happy campers returning from Punta Vidt. Their night on the continent had been extraordinary, with Weddell seals nearby, calm conditions and scenery so beautiful it felt unreal. Their smiles and sleepy eyes said everything as they stepped back aboard.

The morning continued with a lively presentation by Jay and Antoine, our charismatic French duo. Their talk on the heroic age of Antarctic exploration and early geological discovery brought legends and landscapes to life. In true French style, they celebrated Jean-Baptiste Charcot's legacy and even recreated his famous champagne-on-the-ice photograph.

Then came one of Antarctica's greatest treasures: a spectacular Lemaire Channel crossing. With calm winds,

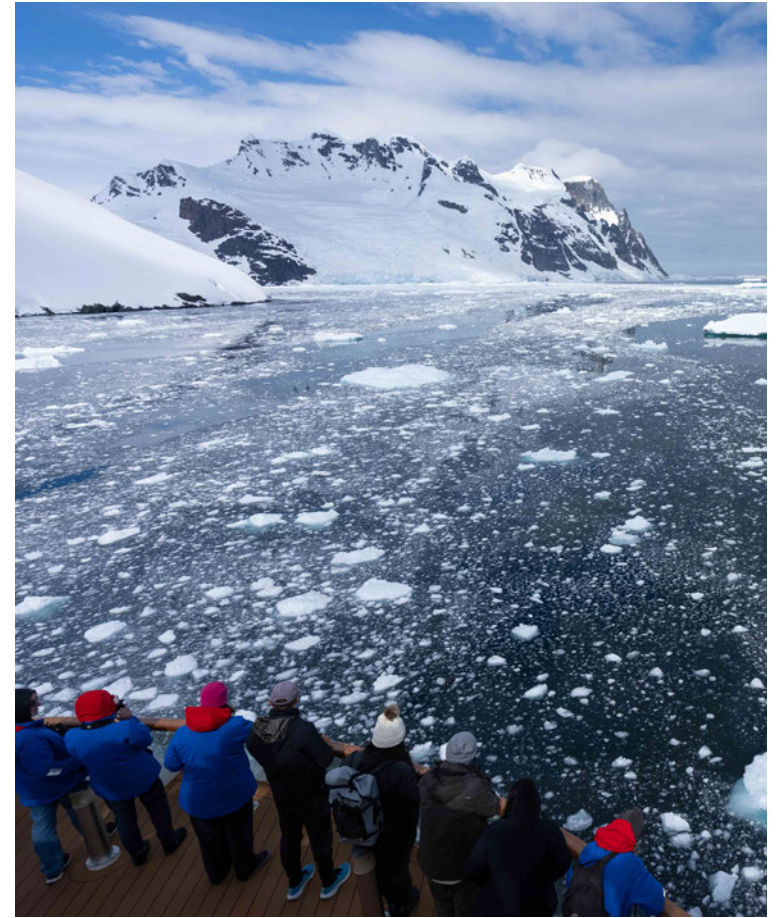
bright sun and mirrored mountains, it offered the perfect moment for our group photo.

After lunch, we set out for our afternoon activity in the Winter Islands, exploring the area around the Ukrainian research station Vernadsky. Though too much ice blocked our way to Port Charcot, the shift to plan B brought its own rewards: stunning views, playful penguins and the quiet charm of one of the most remote research outposts on Earth.

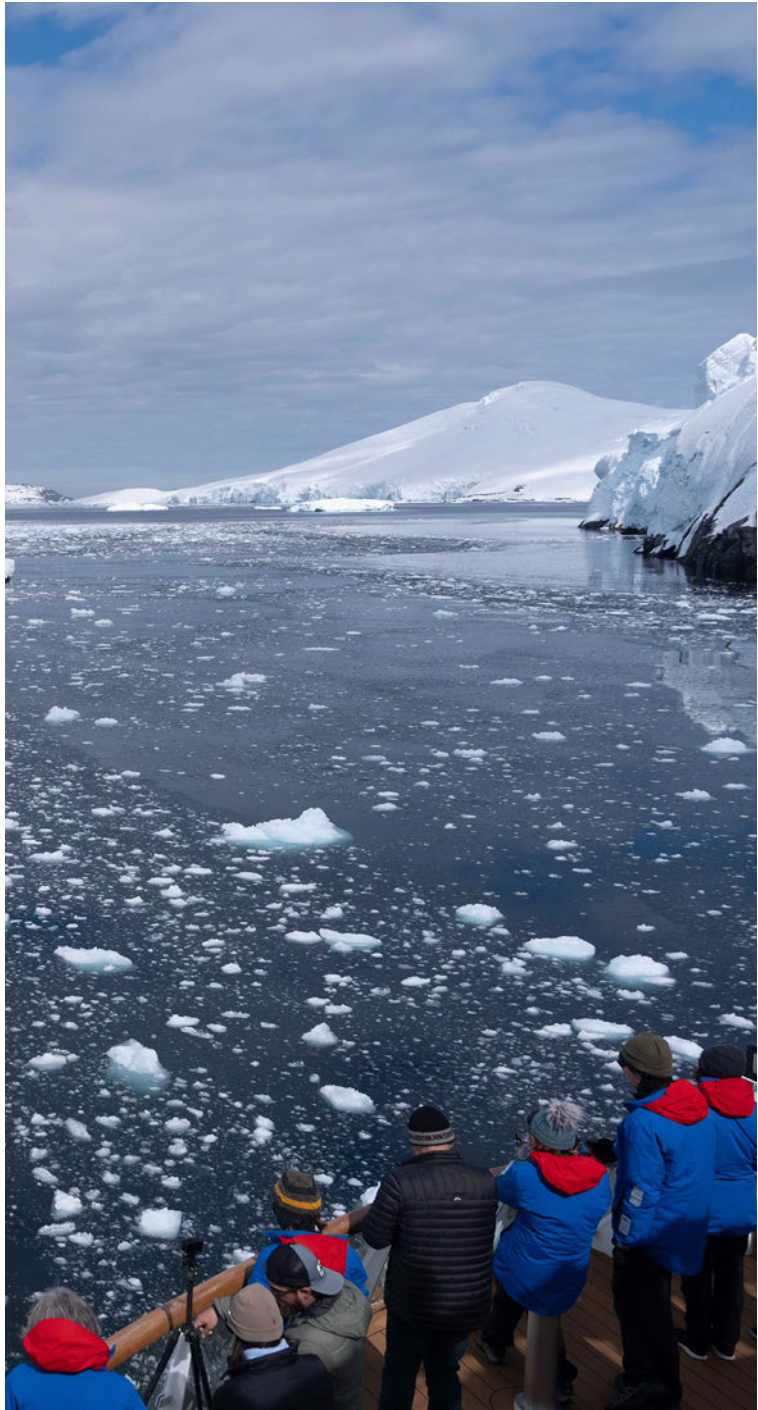
The day concluded in unforgettable fashion with a barbecue on deck 8, bathed in bright sunshine as the *Greg Mortimer* cruised past the southernmost point of our journey. As if the evening needed more magic, humpback whales surrounded us through sunset, their blows rising in golden light as the sky turned amber and rose.





















# Jougla Point & Damoy Point

DAY 9 | Friday 12 December 2025

**Latitude:**

64°49.8' S

**Longitude:**

63°36.3' W

**Course:**

At anchor

**Speed:**

At anchor

**Wind Speed:**

4 knots E

**Barometer:**

1000 hPa

**Air Temp:**

3°C

As we entered Port Lockroy, the ship settled in a still, sunlit bay before Goudier Island, home to the southernmost post office, affectionately called the penguin post office. With penguins crowding the island, landing was impossible, so the staff were brought on board by the Expedition Team. Rachel, the postmaster and full-time Antarctic Heritage Trust employee, gave us a presentation.

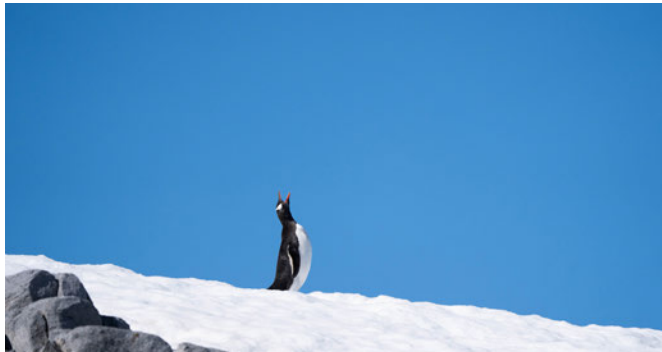
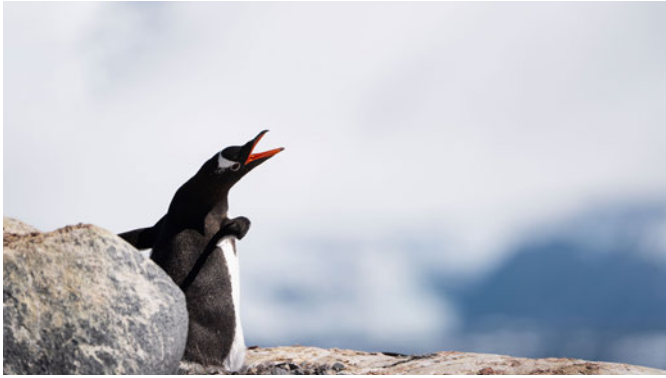
The buildings on the island are remnants of the original Base 'A' from Operation Tabarin, a mission run by the British Government during WWII to establish a presence in Antarctic territories. While two buildings have since been added, the original structure remains intact, standing strong despite its age, even though the rooms have been reallocated to serve different functions over the years.

After the presentation, we posted postcards and browsed souvenirs before preparing to land. Plans shifted, and we went ashore at nearby Jougla Island. A short Zodiac ride brought us to a penguin colony, with elephant seals resting on the snow and old whale bones embedded in the ground. Snowshoers, kayakers, and snorkellers enjoyed the pristine snow and calm waters under clear skies.

After landing, we launched into the polar plunge, with seventy-three Expeditioners braving near-freezing Antarctic waters. Our afternoon sail was brief, taking us to Dorian Bay. At Damoy Point we landed beside an abandoned Argentinian hut and a heritage-listed British transit station built in 1973. A highlight was spotting a gentoo chick and observing all three brushtail penguins: gentoo, chinstrap, and Adélie, before farewelling another camping group heading out for a quiet Antarctic night.

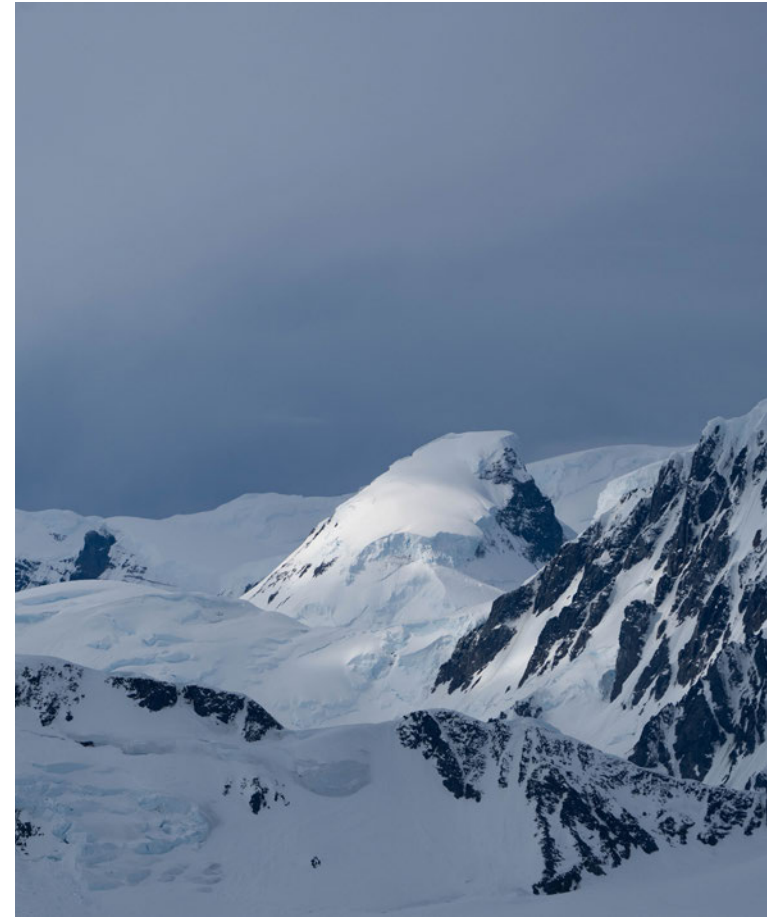
















# Danco Island & Chiriguano Bay

DAY 10 | Saturday 13 December 2025

**Latitude:**

64°46'6" S

**Longitude:**

65°16'5" W

**Course:**

VAR

**Speed:**

9.9 knots

**Wind Speed:**

16 knots SE

**Barometer:**

998 hPa

**Air Temp:**

5°C

The day began with two very different wake-up calls: some Expeditioners rising from warm cabins, others unzipping sleeping bags after another memorable night on the ice. Over breakfast, Catherine announced our approach to George Point, and excitement brewed with the coffee.

Excitement spiked when breakfast was abruptly interrupted and we were called onto the decks. Pods of orca surrounded the ship, surfacing gracefully near the bow and offering an unforgettable wildlife encounter to start the day. Hearts racing and cameras full, we eventually returned to finish breakfast, still buzzing from the sighting.

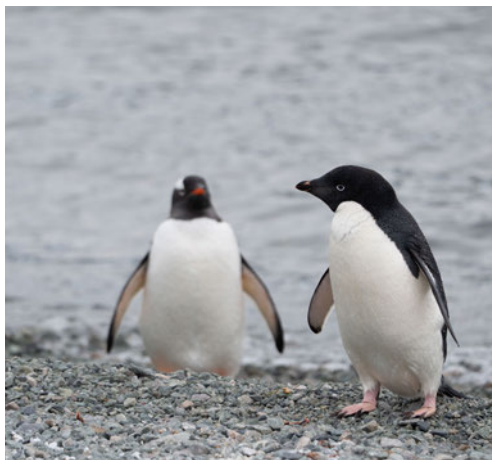
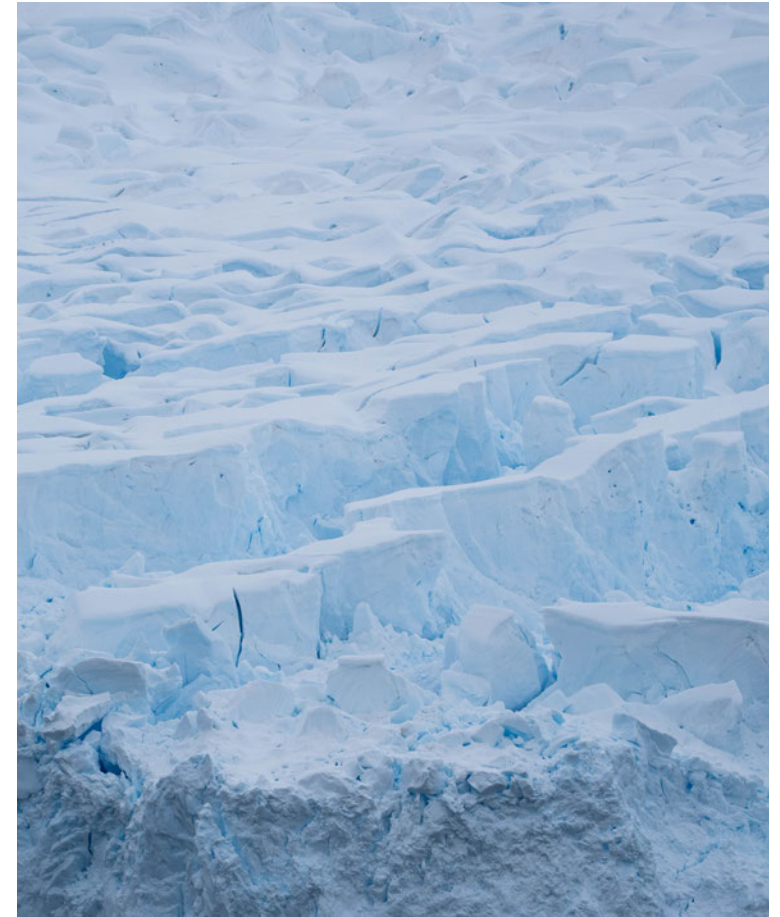
Upon arrival at George Point, nature had other plans. Heavy ice blocked access to the landing, sending the Expedition Team into rapid action with plans B through E. The result was

a welcome change of scenery at Danco Island. Expeditioners spread out to snowshoe, paddle, snorkel and take a Zodiac landing that led to a steady climb up Danco's slopes. At the top, we were rewarded with sweeping bay views and a lively gentoo colony busy with their daily routines.

After lunch, we arrived in Chiriguano Bay. Paddlers and snorkellers set out again, while others explored by Zodiac. The highlight was a group of humpbacks feeding in the bay, an awe-inspiring sight that briefly left everyone silent.

As the day drew to a close, we gathered for dinner before a light-hearted Antarctic trivia quiz. Laughter filled the room as we tested our knowledge, ending a day that embodied expedition travel: adaptability, discovery and shared wonder.









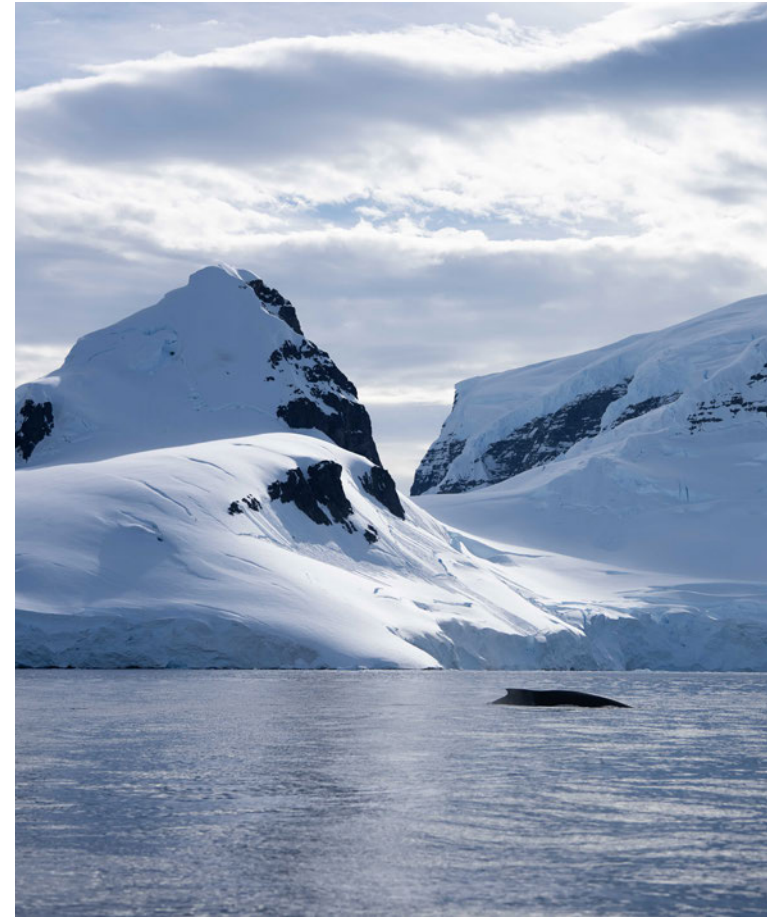














# Spert Island

DAY 11 | Sunday 14 December 2025

**Latitude:**  
63°56.2' S

**Longitude:**  
61°9.7' W

**Course:**  
040°

**Speed:**  
4.1 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
16 knots SE

**Barometer:**  
1000 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
1°C

Today began with a rare chance to visit Spert Island. Usually exposed to the Drake Passage swell and seldom accessible, it opened to us in calm conditions. The Expedition Team were thrilled, some for the first time, and it was a privilege to share such a special place with our fellow Expeditioners.

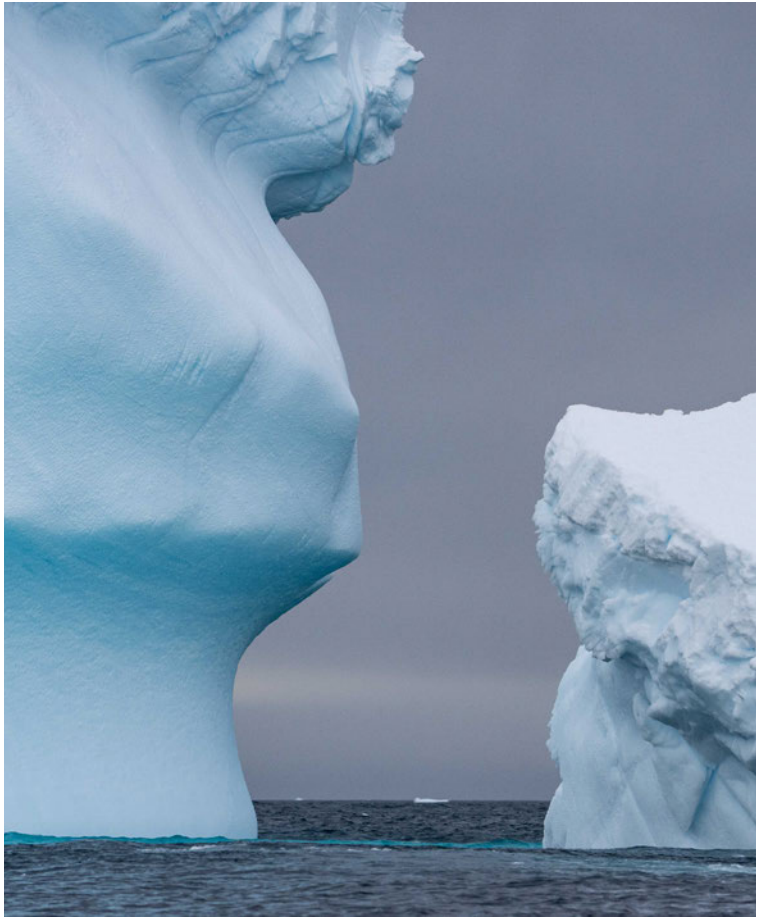
We spent the morning exploring the island by Zodiac, cruising past dramatic volcanic formations shaped by wind, sea and time. The coastline revealed tunnels, arches and sculpted cliffs, a striking display of Antarctica's volcanic history. As we navigated the area, we wove between grounded icebergs that filled the channels and ringed the island, creating a natural sculpture garden. Chinstrap penguins dotted the icebergs and nearby colony, offering moments of quiet observation. To round off an already memorable morning, a humpback

whale appeared close to the ship and breached a few times, a special moment for those lucky enough to see it. It was an unexpected and fitting farewell to our time in Antarctic waters.

In the afternoon, we began our journey north toward Ushuaia. Progress slowed through ice-blocked seas, a final reminder of this environment's dynamic nature. During the transit, some joined a cloud survey for NASA's satellite program. Later, Antoine presented his lecture Sea Ice: The Last Continent, exploring the forms and processes of sea ice.

It was a beautiful and reflective final day in Antarctica, made all the more special by experiencing a place slightly removed from the familiar Peninsula and ending our journey with something truly different.





















# Drake Passage

DAY 12 | Monday 15 December 2025

Latitude:  
63°35.15' S

Longitude:  
63°15.8' W

Course:  
341°

Speed:  
0 knots

Wind Speed:  
16 knots SW

Barometer:  
1008 hPa

Air Temp:  
0°C

Today marked a full sail day as we headed back across the Drake Passage toward Ushuaia. The waters became spicy again overnight, causing a bit of rock and roll as we traversed the turbulent seas. It felt glorious to enjoy a leisurely lie-in, free from the usual wake-up call from Catherine. Although I must admit, her voice over the public address system is pleasant and friendly, making mornings easier.

With wind and cloud lingering throughout the day, this became our first genuine opportunity to reflect on our incredible Antarctic adventure. As I scrolled through the countless photos captured during our journey, I pondered how best to convey this breathtaking experience to friends and family back home. I quickly realised it is nearly impossible to do

Antarctica justice through pictures and words alone. The majestic icebergs, vibrant blue waters and captivating wildlife are experiences that must be felt firsthand.

As the day unfolded, bridge tours offered a rare look at the technology that drives the ship and guides us through these unpredictable waters. Collecting our personal effects from the mud room signalled the journey's approaching end, though the trip was not yet over, with presentations on why Antarctica is cold and on kelp. The winds also brought seabirds gliding past, their wings seeming to wave a final goodbye.

Afternoon tea offered time to catch up with fellow guests, sharing photos and camera tips. The evening finished with a recap and dinner in a room filled with stories of adventure.



# Drake Passage

DAY 13 | Tuesday 16 December 2025

Latitude:	Wind Speed:
55°47.6' S	21 knots WSW
Longitude:	Barometer:
66°5.1' W	1010 hPa
Course:	Air Temp:
344°	3°C
Speed:	
9.6 knots	

The day began with the persistent rolling of the ship as we crossed the Drake Passage heading north, leaving the white continent behind. The unsettled sea reminded us that this corridor is a threshold between worlds. The hull pressed on, cutting through waves that seemed to bid farewell to our Antarctic journey.

To the west, Cape Horn appeared briefly through breaks in the horizon, distant and solemn and commanding respect, a symbol of sailors, limits and decisions made against wind and history. Its presence, even far away, reinforced the sense of navigating a passage heavy with meaning.

As the hours passed, the sea eased. Entering the Beagle Channel, the landscape shifted, and with it, the mood on board. Peale's and dusky dolphins escorted the bow with

precision and playfulness, offering moments of silence and spontaneous smiles, a living bridge between ocean and channel. The air changed too. A deep, humid scent announced the southernmost forests on Earth, the smell of land after days of ice and salt. It settled as a certainty: we were returning, but we were not the same.

Antarctica lay behind us, yet its message remained, its fragility, its scale and its essential role in the planet's balance. What we experienced was not only a memory but a responsibility.

And so, between approaching mountains and calmer waters, a new impulse emerged: the desire to dream of adventures yet to come, knowing that every journey transforms us, and that some places, like Antarctica, are never truly left behind.



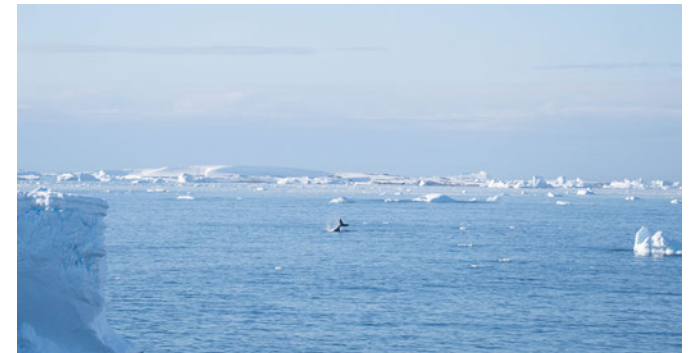
# Ushuaia

DAY 14 | Wednesday 17 December 2025

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Latitude: 54°53'7" S	Wind Speed: 30 knots WSW	Disembarkation at 0800  Aurora Expeditions thanks you for joining us aboard <i>Greg Mortimer</i> . We hope to see you on the high seas again someday!
Longitude: 67°38'6" W	Barometer: 983 hPa	
Course: Alongside	Air Temp: 4°C	
Speed: Alongside		

BBQ













# Polar plunge



































# Kayaking Log

Guides: Elo Berrier, Gabriel Wackernagel

## 8 December 2025, AM: Sprightly Island – 1.5km

Absolutely perfect paddling weather awaited us. Nicole captained the Zodiac from *Greg Mortimer* to the island, where Gabriel briefed us on safe paddling around icebergs. We practised different strokes in our kayaks.

We set a course east, navigating into the bay towards the mainland Antarctic Peninsula. Gliding along quietly, passing beautiful sculptures of ice, some opaque white, bright blue and dark like the deep water below. Sprightly Island is known for its protected seas, abundance of icebergs and rich wildlife. Cruising around the bay we were greeted by a humpback whale surfacing for a breath nearby, its exhale creating a wispy plume of mist. Hearing word of a nearby leopard seal we clambered out of kayaks and cruised over to observe from the Zodiac. The infamously savage seal rested peacefully with eyes closed. We returned to the ship feeling blessed

and looking forward to more outdoor adventures in Antarctica!

## 8 December 2025, PM: Recess Cove, Charlotte Bay – 2.5km

We set out for an afternoon paddle in Recess Cove under calm seas and light wind, perfect conditions for many guests on their first Antarctic kayaking experience. After a short safety briefing on the water, we followed the sheltered coastline and began exploring the narrow, shallow channels that only kayaks can access, weaving quietly among small pieces of brash ice.

Along the route, we enjoyed close views of glacier fronts and low rocky shores where gentoo penguins were moving between land and sea. We also observed a couple of weddell seals resting on the rocks, completely undisturbed by our silent approach.

The calm environment allowed the group to build confidence and paddle comfortably while staying compact



Number of Kayakers:

8 per session

Total Paddle Outings:

10

Total Distance Paddled:

20.4 km

and well-coordinated. We concluded the outing with a smooth return to the Zodiac and continued directly to the first continental landing of the voyage, rounding off a beautiful and memorable introduction to Antarctic paddling.

### 9 December 2025, AM: Portal Point, Recluse Peninsula – 2km

The morning brought true Antarctic character, with light snow and calm winds. Knowing Portal Point from past visits, we trusted its sheltered bay as a safe, rewarding refuge for paddling.

We launched the kayaks and before we began our journey, we practised turning strokes, spinning the kayak 360 degrees on the spot. Paddling together into the bay, a landscape carved by years of glacial movements. Up ahead, three penguins stood preening, straightening and re-waterproofing their feathers on a snow-capped islet. On approach we identified both crabeater and Weddell seals hauled out, resting on the snow. They stretched, scratched and yawned

as if their day was also just beginning.

Also lying at rest in the bay were monoliths of ice, pushed into the bay by powerful wind systems that Portal Point is exposed to. The iceberg we loved the most was pyramid-shaped, reflecting stunning tones of blue, sculpted by ocean waves. Beside this was a flatter wedge-shaped iceberg which had a crabeater seal enjoying drying out in the morning light. Our journey continued through a maze of bergs, then finished with a more exposed rounding of Portal Point itself, where wind and swell became more of a thrill than chill.

### 9 December 2025, PM: Wilhelmina Bay – 1.3km

We paddled in Wilhelmina Bay under calm conditions, perfect for exploring this iconic 'Whale Bay.' After a brief safety talk on the water, we began our route along icebergs and glacier fronts, enjoying an easy start to the outing.

Very quickly, we found ourselves surrounded by an extraordinary number of humpback whales feeding all around us. We kept distance, stayed quiet, and let the kayaks drift while observing blows, backs and flukes emerging from every direction. The group remained calm and compact as we monitored whale movements and behaviour.

It was a remarkable moment of nature, and we all felt genuinely grateful and privileged for the opportunity. A powerful and unforgettable kayaking experience.

### 10 December 2025, PM: Neko Harbor, Andvord Bay – 43km

The paddle at Neko Harbor seemed to slip us quietly into a different frozen world, alive with wildlife and the thaw of thousand-year-old ice. Out in the bay, our kayaks traced curving lines through the light brash, each stroke and nudge of our kayak hulls pushing aside glassy white ice. A grey object caught our attention; thinking it might be a seal, we

paddled over. On closer observation, it was revealed that sand and rock from basal glacial erosion had been caught up and refrozen in the iceberg. Another, with veins of blue, carved runnels and a scalloped pattern, told sculpted stories of being upside down.

Gentoo penguins bobbed and porpoised around, like curious punctuations, unbothered by our presence. A dozen arnoux's beaked whales surfaced nearby, 'pffsh' – the repeated exhale after their deep, long dive. Their melon heads were visible, followed by sleek grey-brown bodies. Six breaths and they dove again, leaving us in awe and silence. Heading for the landing site, the unmistakable blow and small dorsal fin announced the arrival of a humpback, gliding past with calf in tow. Their movements had a slow, deliberate ease that made time suspend. For a while we floated there, still and small among ice and giants, all this surrounded by towering white peaks and massive glaciers carving into the bay.





### 11 December 2025, PM: Argentine Islands – 1.5km

Perfect paddling conditions with sunshine, calm seas and ice formations let us explore shallow waters and narrow channels of the Argentine Islands.

We moved smoothly through the area, weaving between grounded ice and open water while enjoying uninterrupted views of the surrounding landscape. We paddled toward the bay that hosts a gentoo penguin colony, where we paused to observe their elegant movements as they entered and exited the water, transitioning effortlessly between sea and land.

The area around Vernadsky Station holds significant historical and scientific importance. Originally established as Faraday Station by the British Antarctic Survey in 1947 and transferred to Ukraine in 1996, the station has been continuously occupied for decades and is closely linked to long-term

atmospheric and environmental research in Antarctica. Paddling through these waters offers a unique perspective on the interaction between human presence and the pristine polar environment.

The outing unfolded at a relaxed pace, allowing for observation, quiet moments and a strong sense of immersion. The combination of exceptional weather, dramatic ice, wildlife activity and the historical setting made this paddle a truly memorable Antarctic experience.

### 12 December 2025, AM: Port Lockroy, Goudier Island – 2km

The paddle around Port Lockroy carried us into thought and conversation of people, penguins and place. Our kayaks slid across calm waters, the surface dark and reflective, as if holding the memories of those who came here long before us. The buildings of the old Base A, weathered but enduring, are a reminder of the early explorers and scientists who once lived and worked near the bottom of the world, recording weather

and studying life in conditions that demanded both resilience and wonder.

Gentoo penguins were everywhere, busy and purposeful. They porpoised nearby and gathered along the rocky shore, turning to watch us paddle by. Gentoos are very fast swimmers, reaching remarkable speeds beneath the surface, yet on land they waddle with earnest determination. Many here return to the same nesting sites year after year, raising their chicks through the brief Antarctic summer, timed to the rhythms of ice and sea.

As we paddled on, the past and present stitched together. The historical remains of anchor chains, whale bones, engravings and buildings rested alongside the daily, timeless work of penguins feeding, nesting and surviving. In that calm water around Port Lockroy, it felt as though we were moving not just through a place, but through a living archive, where science, story and wildlife coexist.

### 12 December 2025, PM: Damoy Point, Neumeyer Channel – 1.5km

We kayaked for an hour at Damoy Point, using grounded icebergs and coastline for shelter from the wind. After departing from the Zodiac, we paddled along the coast, moving between ice formations and calm pockets of water. The kayaks allowed for quiet and close observation of wildlife, and we spent time watching penguins entering and exiting the sea along well-defined penguin highways. From the water, we were able to observe several penguin colonies, where adult penguins were attentively incubating their eggs while skuas patrolled the area, repeatedly attempting to steal unattended eggs. These interactions offered a clear and powerful insight into the constant balance between care, survival and predation in the Antarctic ecosystem.

Damoy Point was used by the British Antarctic Survey in the 1970s–80s as a summer air facility. The preserved hut now stands as a Historic Site and



Monument, reflecting early logistical challenges and polar exploration.

Toward the end of the paddle, we encountered several Adélie penguins resting on the rocks along the shoreline, providing a calm and rewarding conclusion to the outing. The group returned to the Zodiac using the same sheltered route, completing a well-managed kayak excursion that combined careful use of terrain, wildlife observation and historical context in a classic Antarctic setting.

### 13 December 2025, AM: Danco Island, Errera Channel – 1.5km

Arriving at Danco Island, the conditions were flat and calm with glassy reflections of the mountain scenery around us. As we started climbing into our kayaks, a katabatic wind blew off the Antarctic Peninsula and caused rippling waves along the surface, which soon became quite choppy. We turned our bows into the

wind and waves and paddled for the protection of Danco Island. After 10 minutes of paddling, we were in the shelter the island offered.

A well-deserved rest was spent watching gentoo penguins surface, then make their way up and down the penguin highways as little mountaineers hiking the 140 metres to the colony on top of the island. At the water's edge the gentoos were diving into the water and swimming around, cleaning and preening their feathers. We explored south along the coastline of the island, through small sculpted ice features, and then back around the northern edge where larger icebergs lay stranded in the shallows, reflecting white and deep blues.

We took photos and enjoyed the soaring peaks around us. Before we knew it, our time to head back to the ship came. A glorious morning paddle with some challenge and charm.

### 13 December 2025, PM: Chiriguano Bay, Brabant Island – 2.3km

We conducted a kayak outing in Chiriguano Bay under stable and favourable conditions, with a calm sea, no wind and slightly overcast skies. The group departed from the Zodiac and began paddling toward the glacier fronts that dominate the bay.

Due to mild temperatures and periods of sunshine, the ice was highly active throughout the area. Loud cracking sounds and frequent ice explosions were heard, and we were able to witness several large calving events from a safe and appropriate distance. Group positioning and spacing were carefully managed to ensure safety while allowing clear observation of the dynamic glacial environment.

The kayaks broke through dense brash ice, requiring careful manoeuvring and steady progress to explore deeper.

Chiriguano Bay holds historical significance within the context of early Antarctic exploration and cartography. The bay was charted during early 20th-century expeditions along the Antarctic Peninsula and later became part of the operational area for scientific research and logistical navigation in the region. Today, it remains a remote and relatively untouched location, offering a powerful sense of continuity between the era of exploration and modern-day expeditions.

The outing concluded with a calm and memorable wildlife observation, as we encountered a Weddell seal resting peacefully on an ice floe. The group returned to the Zodiac under the same calm conditions, completing a rewarding kayak outing that combined active glacial processes, ice navigation, wildlife observation and a strong sense of historical place.





































# Camping Log

Guides: Alan McPherson, Monika Bischof

## 8 December 2025, EVE: Recess Cove

Our continental landing that afternoon already felt like an achievement, but the real adventure began after dinner. After a lively recap and a hearty meal, we gathered in the mudroom with our P-Rolls: bivi bags, inflatable mats, sleeping bags and liners, buzzing with a mix of excitement and anticipation.

The Zodiacs carried us across calm, steel-grey water toward a small, isolated island in Recess Cove. The clouds gave the landscape a dramatic Antarctic stillness. We arrived just before 2100., greeted by our camping guides and the quiet crunch of untouched snow. The snowpack was soft and wet from the warm afternoon, so we stomped out our sleeping spots, compacting the snow into makeshift beds before unrolling our gear.

Settling into our bivi bags on the open snow felt surreal. All around were

glacier fronts, penguins swimming in the water, the occasional seal cruising past and even a distant whale surfacing. Groups of storm petrels fed on krill at the water's surface, and flocks of Antarctic terns skimmed overhead. It was one of those rare moments when Antarctica felt impossibly vast and intimately close at the same time.

The night brought mixed experiences: deep, peaceful sleep for some, long hours of listening to shifting ice and distant wildlife for others. By early morning, we were packing up, rolling our gear and carefully filling in every footprint, sleeping hollow and post hole to ensure no curious penguin wandered into our traces. Around 6 a.m., the first Zodiacs emerged from the quiet grey light to ferry us back to the ship, where an early breakfast awaited, along with the quiet satisfaction of having spent a night out on the ice.



Number of Campers:  
88

Total Outings:  
3 nights

### 10 December 2025, EVE: Punta Vidt

We had a successful afternoon landing at Neko Harbour, followed by recap and a relaxed dinner at the campers' table. After the meal, we met in the mudroom with our camping gear. Our Zodiac drivers ferried us across calm waters to Punta Vidt near Brown Station. The sea was perfectly still, reflecting surrounding icebergs and mountains like a mirror.

The camping guides and Expedition Team greeted us on arrival and briefed us for the night. We prepared our sleeping spots by compacting the snow, either by stomping or using a shovel. It was a magical location for an overnight stay. The weather remained calm, and we enjoyed a beautiful sunset over the bay.

Throughout the evening, we watched Weddell seals and gentoo penguins nearby. Humpback whales surfaced

in the distance, their blows echoing across the water. A curious snowy sheathbill wandered through camp, inspecting our gear. Many campers were reluctant to go to bed; there was simply too much to see and hear.

We listened to several glacier calvings during the night, some powerful enough to send small waves rolling toward the shore. Later, as camp settled into quiet, we fell asleep to the haunting songs of Weddell seals and the soft chirping of Cape petrels.

The wake-up call came at 5:30 a.m. Some campers were already awake and eager to start the day, while others were still fast asleep. At 6 a.m., the first Zodiac arrived to collect us, bringing everyone safely back to the ship.

### 12 December 2025, EVE: Damoy Point

With strong winds forecast, Damoy Point was the only viable camp, a perfect choice after our afternoon exploring. Expedition Leader Catherine secured us an overnight slot on this familiar yet impressive island.

After dinner, we met in the mudroom, fully kitted out with our overnight gear and buzzing with anticipation. The Zodiac ride was short and smooth, and we were dropped onto a rock slab, carefully chosen to keep our boots dry. From there, we set up camp near Damoy Hut, with sweeping views across Dorian Bay.

Wildlife and sounds quickly filled the evening. A curious skua stopped by, taking a bath in a shallow puddle on the rocks, while in the distance we could hear the chatter of gentoo penguins and the occasional rumble of ice falling from nearby glaciers. As

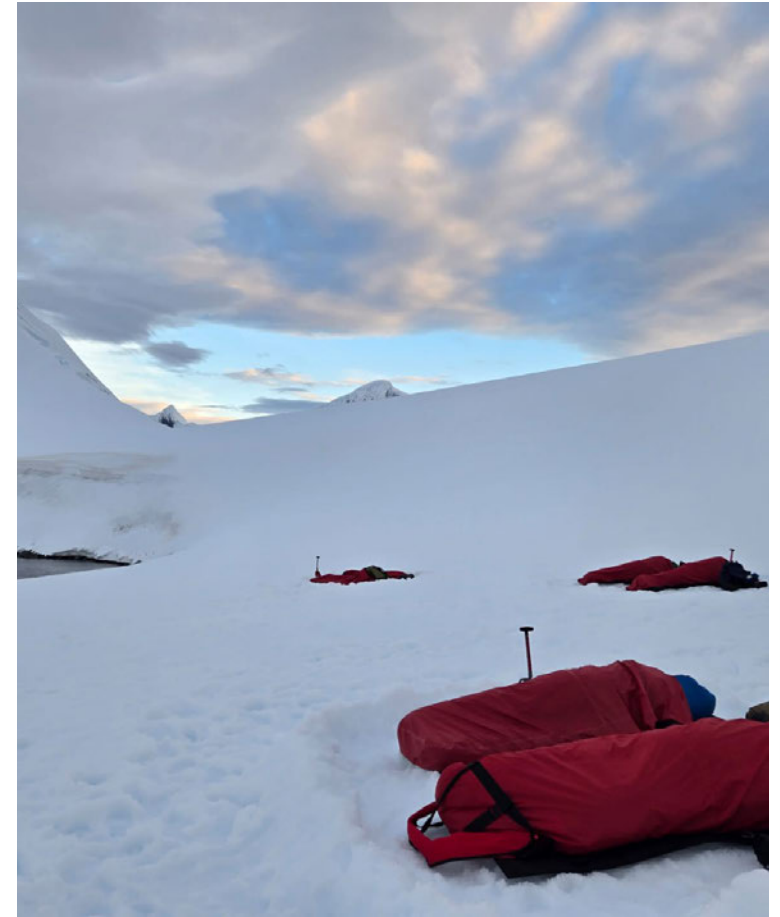
the evening progressed, the sky put on an unexpected show as the sunset intensified and the clouds slowly cleared, bathing the bay in soft light.

Some campers took the opportunity to wander quietly toward the gentoo penguin colony, soaking in the stillness and vastness of the surrounding landscape. Throughout the night, our camping guides kept watch, ensuring no drifting icebergs blocked our exit route.

Sleep came easily for some, while others barely slept at all, carried by excitement and the awareness of where we were. At 0500, we rose, packed camp efficiently and left the site as we found it. A short Zodiac ride delivered us safely back to the ship.

The adventure was capped off perfectly at breakfast, when a pod of orcas appeared nearby, a powerful and unforgettable finale to our night at Damoy Point.

























# Snorkelling Log

Guides: Darren Clarke, Freya Dooley and Alan Keller

## 7 December 2025, AM: Half Moon Island

What a great start to the trip. The sun shone on the surrounding mountains and gave us our first look at a typical Antarctic landscape, with glaciers dominating the skyline. A brisk breeze meant we snorkelled in the shelter of cliffs on the east of the island. Clear water full of benthic species such as seaweeds, limpets and starfish made for a pleasant start to the day. The appearance of some inquisitive penguins added a gentle but exciting beginning to the adventure.

## 7 December 2025, PM: Deception Island | Whalers Bay

We entered through the Bellows into the caldera and anchored in Whalers Bay. There was a sense of excitement on the Zodiac at the thought of snorkelling inside an active volcano. A backdrop of tall brown

and red-rock cliffs added to the atmosphere. The snorkel along two small bays to the west of the island proved enjoyable and fun. At first we observed seaweed, limpets and starfish, and some snorkellers even sighted brittle stars before reaching an area where everyone saw large whale bones, an interesting glimpse into the bay's darker past. A group of inquisitive gentoo penguins then arrived, showing particular interest in the snorkellers and cementing a very positive first day of activities.

## 8 December 2025, AM: Sprightly Island

We awoke to a beautiful landscape on the Antarctic Peninsula, with bright blue sky contrasting against mountains and glaciers. We cruised around the island looking for a safe site to snorkel, enjoying penguins along the way. Approaching the



Number of Snorkellers:

92

Total Outings:

12

south of the island, we came across a crabeater seal resting on ice. We kitted up and enjoyed a snorkel among swaying seaweed, limpets, starfish and small icebergs. The highlight was a couple of friendly penguins putting on an underwater display for a few lucky snorkellers. After exiting the water, some of the group went ashore to enjoy the history and views.

### 8 December 2025, PM: Recess Cove

Recess Cove rarely disappoints, and this was no exception. We entered the water in a shallow bay north of the landing. Clear water full of colourful life awaited. The snorkellers spent time absorbing the peaceful yet constantly moving seabed. Some ventured out to enjoy the mesmerising shapes and deep blue of an iceberg close to shore before continuing around the island. Throughout the journey, a few gentoo

penguins showed off their grace and speed under the water. It was a beautiful way to end our first day on the Antarctic Peninsula.

### 9 December 2025, AM: Portal Point

After a stunning morning of whale watching aboard the *Greg Mortimer*, we arrived at Portal Point for our morning operations. Sixteen eager snorkellers made their way down to the mudroom and began the struggle of putting on a drysuit for the first time, helping each other and laughing along the way. Once in our suits, we entered the Zodiacs through the side gates to begin exploring. Portal Point offers a sheltered cove behind the point, perfect for a first snorkel in Antarctica. We slipped into hoods, gloves, fins, masks and snorkels, gently lowering ourselves into the frigid waters and checking our drysuits stayed dry. In the water we were surprised by the amount of life:

limpets, sea stars, kelp and even krill. Seeing bergy bits from below offered a unique experience. A few lucky snorkellers glimpsed curious gentoo penguins swimming by. After braving the water for around 30 minutes, we flopped back into the Zodiacs to return to the ship, ready to warm up and prepare for more excitement.

### 9 December 2025, PM: Wilhelmina Bay

After warming up back on board, we arrived at this afternoon's destination of Wilhelmina Bay. Tucked away from the harsh nearby weather system, we had the opportunity to explore stunning glacial scenery and even try to spot whales. Back down to the mudroom we went to slip into our drysuits, which was much easier the second time. We loaded into the Zodiacs with excitement for what the afternoon had to offer. Surrounded by dramatic Antarctic scenery, with towering icebergs and endless

glaciers, it was the perfect spot to snorkel around an iceberg. We geared up and slipped into the water next to a blue berg. Straight away we saw how large it was beneath the surface compared to what we saw above. The glowing blue ice was beautiful, and looking closely we could see tiny air bubbles escaping. Back into the Zodiac we went after taking as much cold as we could handle, returning to the ship with a new perspective of Antarctica that only snorkellers experience.

### 10 December 2025, PM: Neko Harbour

This afternoon we arrived at Neko Harbour, a beautiful area with stunning glacial scenery and many large bergs in the bay. We made our way to the mudroom for the hardest part of the day: putting on our drysuits. We struggled and squeezed into our suits with some elegance, checking we had all the equipment





needed for exploring the icy waters. Once loaded onto the Zodiacs, we cruised around the area looking for a suitable piece of ice to snorkel near. Due to the bay's deep basin, we focused on ice and penguins above the dark blue waters. We found a piece of ice and finished gearing up with hoods, gloves, fins, masks and snorkels. In the water we gained a new perspective of the iceberg. The vibrant blue surprised us, and its immense size beneath the surface was striking. A couple of curious penguins swam by, giving a lucky few snorkellers a glimpse. After braving the cold for around 30 minutes, we flopped back into the Zodiac. The fun was not over, as a pod of rare beaked whales swam close by, giving us a great view and a memorable end to a unique day of new experiences.

### 11 December 2025, PM: Vernadsky Station

After a stunning morning ship cruise through the Lemaire Channel, plans changed a few times and we ended up exploring the area around Vernadsky Station, a Ukrainian station. The weather was kind again, with blue skies making this afternoon's snorkel inviting. We slipped into our drysuits with ease compared to yesterday and loaded into the Zodiacs with anticipation. This archipelago offers a unique area to explore different islands, many home to nesting penguins and resting seals. We found a beautiful cove to snorkel in and finished gearing up. Unfortunately, the water looked green from phytoplankton, but this did not deter our snorkellers. In the water they tried to glimpse nearby penguins. We were surprised by the amount of life in the bay, with nutrient-rich waters revealing

plankton creatures such as sea angels and ctenophores. A few lucky people even watched penguins torpedo past as they left the colony to feed. Another successful snorkel, then back to the ship to warm up and share stories.

### 12 December 2025, AM: Jougla Point | Port Lockroy

It was a beautiful, calm morning with the sun shining as we anchored off Port Lockroy. We loaded into the Zodiacs and toured around checking sites to snorkel. We saw a couple of fur seals on shore in a small cove, but penguin activity was quiet. Visibility was poor near the landing site, so we crossed from the base to a small island. Visibility improved and kelp promised life among its swaying fronds. Once in the water, we circumnavigated the island, spotting sea stars in the kelp. Near the end, a couple of gentoo penguins swam among us briefly. We also saw

krill and ctenophores. After exiting the water, we returned to the ship to prepare for the Polar plunge.

### 12 December 2025, PM: Damoy Point

After the Polar plunge, we quickly relocated to Damoy Point. The weather began to cloud over and the air was breezy, prompting us to seek a suitable spot for snorkelling. Along the shore we found a penguin colony, hoping they would be active in the water, but they were on their nests keeping eggs warm. We crossed to a small island with better visibility. After our briefing, we kitted up and slid into the water in buddy pairs. We explored ice that snapped, crackled and popped as it melted, releasing air. There was more krill and ctenophores, and a couple of penguins paid a visit, whizzing past underwater. It was an unforgettable experience amidst Antarctica's wonderland.

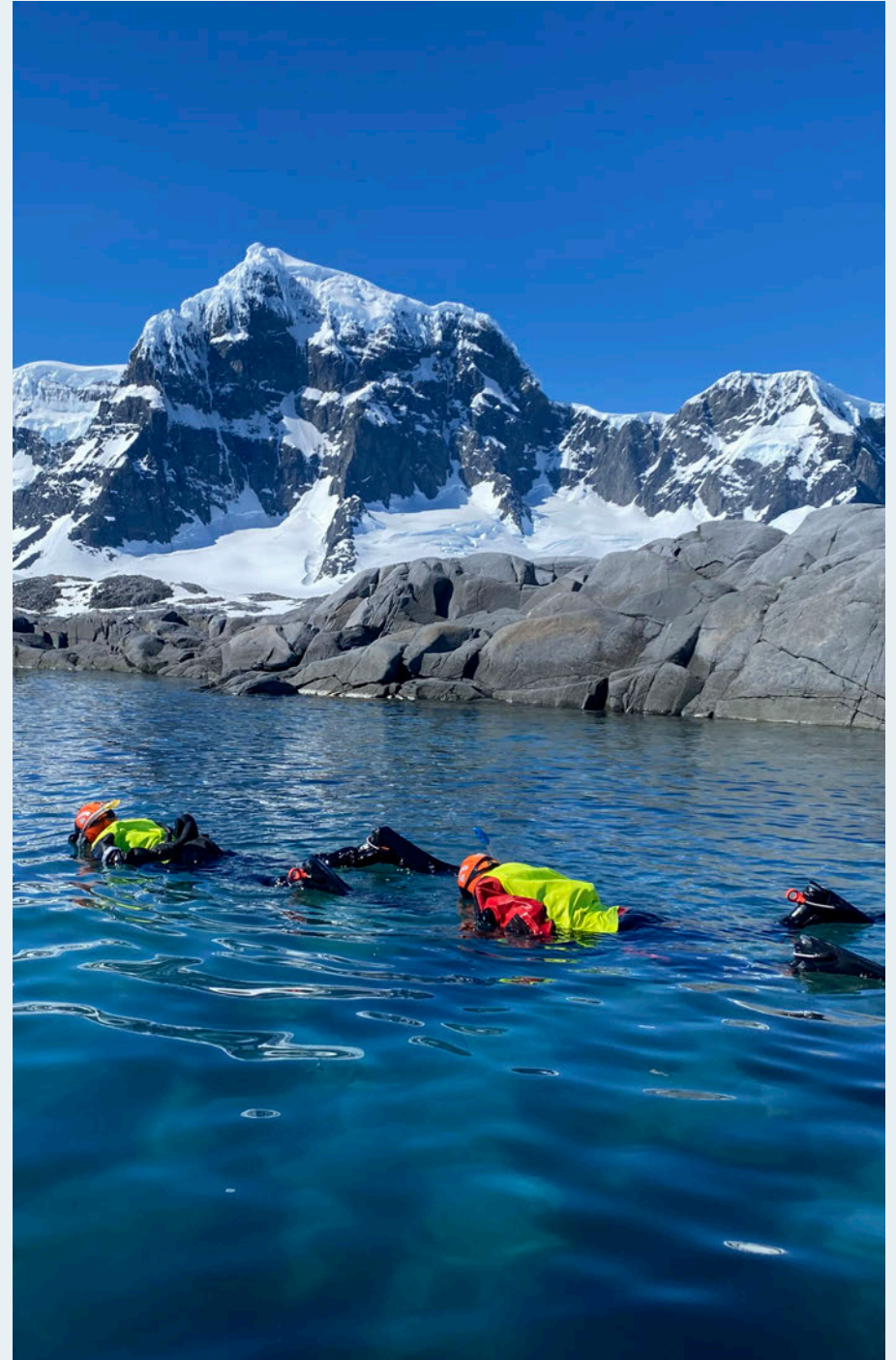


### 13 December 2025, AM: Danco Island

The morning was breezy and cloudy, making it chilly. Our planned stop at Ronge Island had to be changed due to ice, so we relocated to Danco Island. It is smaller than Ronge but has a gentoo penguin colony, promising sightings underwater. Visibility was not the best, and being shallow and exposed, ice can scrape away life there. Since the site was straightforward with no issues on shore or in the water, we kitted up quickly, which was welcome in the bone-chilling wind. We snorkelled around ice bits and, further along shore, reached the penguin entry point, watching them zip past underwater.

### 13 December 2025, PM: Chiriguano Bay

The ice cliffs in the bay restricted our choices during this afternoon's operation. With calm conditions, we left the bay in search of a shallow area. We checked icebergs to see if they were suitable for snorkelling, but fractures and overhangs made them unsafe. We found a location with small islands creating a calm, shallow area filled with brash ice. Visibility was not the best, and initially there were no penguins, but over time we spotted fur seals. One curious seal joined us in the water for close encounters, making it a memorable snorkel to end the trip.











# Snowshoeing Log

Guides: Dave Stark, Dan Philips

## 7 December 2025, AM: Halfmoon Island, South Shetlands

We had a relaxed Drake Passage with a little rock and roll for flavour, but everyone was eager to get off the ship and stretch their legs. Halfmoon Island is a volcanic caldera, home to a chinstrap penguin colony, many skuas patrolling the surrounds, and an Argentine research base set amongst dramatic peaks and tidewater ice walls. We landed on a pebble beach north of the orange base buildings and headed into skua territory on the small peak above. A small group of curious chinstrap penguins greeted us, determined to check our credentials despite our efforts to avoid them and let them pass.

## 8 December 2025, AM: Spring Point, Brialmont Bay

We were greeted by bright sunshine and calm conditions at Sprightly Island. Faced with massive expanses of tumbling glacial flows from the continental peninsula, we wondered if we could go ashore and explore the slopes below Tournachon Peak looming above. We found a small weakness in the mainland's defences and landed on a narrow snow platform leading to a shallow gully. Travel underfoot was treacherous, with many of us sinking to our thighs and hips in warm isothermal snow until we managed to strap on snowshoes. Negotiating skuas amongst the rocks and reflecting on life at the old abandoned research station, the terrain opened to a broad view across the bay. We roped up and pushed higher onto the glaciated snowfield to a magnificent 360° viewpoint.





Number of Snowshoers:

98

Total Outings:

9

#### 8 December 2025, PM: Meusnier Point, Recess Bay

We left the ship hopeful, wishing the cloud would hold and shield the snow surface from harsh sunlight. The forecast was good for temperature, but the sun broke through and cooked the surface into loose, warm snow crystals. Avalanches rained down, and it was clear we would not get far uphill. We attempted to forge a line across the flats, avoiding steep, unstable snow, but the weather beat us. Returning to the regular landing site, we were satisfied we had tried. The afternoon was spent gazing at ice formations scattered across the drying shallows of the exposed reef where we landed.

#### 9 December 2025, AM: Portal Point

Much to our delight upon arrival at the turbulent landing, the snow surface was frozen and firm, allowing easy travel up the steep shoulder of Portal Point. It was a crisp, cool morning for an excursion on the continent of Antarctica. We headed up the slopes and over the narrow neck with seas on both sides, enjoying views south with Weddell seals lounging on the ice. Our high point was 70 m above sea level. We followed our tracks back down, turned on the glacial plateau and headed to the normal landing, where we picked up our Zodiac ride back to the ship. We travelled just under five kilometres, a good pace for the team with smiles all around as we re-embarked.

#### 10 December 2025, PM: Neko Harbour, Andvord Bay

After a gentle sail around stormy, grey Fournier Bay, breaks in the cloud appeared as we approached Neko Harbour. Andvord Bay's steep ice walls guarded chaotic broken slopes of massive tidewater glaciers stretching as far as the eye could see. We arranged ourselves in snowshoes and clipped into the rope to begin our ascent, leaving the gentoo rookery and the smell of guano behind. Higher up, in fresh air, we enjoyed a gentle uphill climb to a viewpoint overlooking the adjacent glacier and panoramic views of the expansive bay, with dramatic mountains and glaciers reflected in perfectly calm waters.

#### 11 December 2025, PM: Winter Island, Vernadsky Base

A bright sunny day on the low, flat island gave brilliant views of surrounding mountains and the mouth of the Lemaire Channel. Zodiacs cut through steely grey water littered with icebergs, from tiny chunks to large tabulars. We circumnavigated the island on land, hugging the coastline and avoiding cornices and nesting kelp gulls and skuas. Coming across Wordie Hut, the smell of the tarred roof and old wood warmed by the sun was nostalgic, reminding us of a time gone by. Strolling in T-shirt weather gave us an appreciation of how dynamic this part of the world is. A short Zodiac tour around the nearby gentoo colony concluded the excursion before returning to the ship, stunned and satisfied.



### 12 December 2025, AM: Doumer North East Point

We made our way south-east from the ship, away from the hustle and bustle of Jougla Point, to land on a thin spit of land at the north-east end of Doumer Island. Ashore via a small sequence of rock steps, we met the snow and rigged snowshoes and ropes to begin our ascent along gently angled slopes. Dramatic ice calving from glacier faces and the massive feature of Mt Luigi's 1000 m face, with the Fief mountain range looming above Port Lockroy, framed the climb. Brilliant sunshine and true T-shirt weather made for a memorable experience in this fantastic part of the planet.

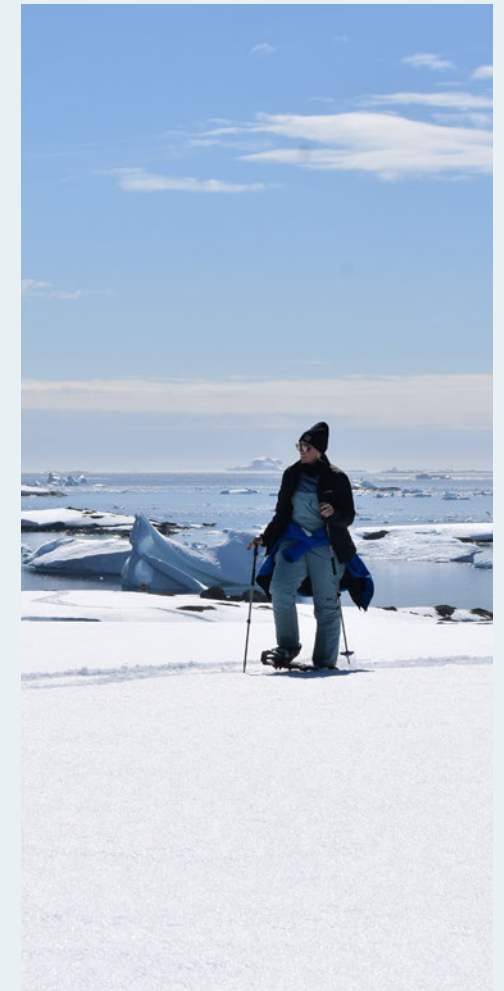
### 12 December 2025, PM: Damoy

The moody lighting of the Antarctic grey sky inspired us to don snowshoes again and climb on rope to the top of the old airstrip of the Damoy resupply station. We were rewarded with panoramic views of Port Lockroy and sailboats seeking shelter in the protected bay. Pictures were taken, nostalgia ran high, and we returned to the landing at the penguin rookery to finish off a fantastic day.



### 13 December 2025, PM: Danco Island

Plan C, or perhaps D, proved the best of the day. Sailing through savage winds pouring off the peninsula mountains gave orcas a playground of swell and chaotic water, making them curious and playful around the ship. At Georges Point, towers of ice and brash defended the rookery at the northern tip of Ronge Island, so we redirected into the protective lee of larger peaks and aimed for calmer waters at Danco Island. Ashore at a gentoo rookery, we strapped on snowshoes and climbed the steep snow slope, rewarded with 360° panoramic views of the Errera Channel. With 125 m of ascent on rope for glacier travel, we topped out at the summit and enjoyed the rookery on the way down.











































# Bird Sightings

Bird Species	December																
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
Gentoo Penguin				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						
Chinstrap Penguin			●	●	●	●	●		●		●						
Adélie Penguin				●		●	●	●	●	●	●						
Magellanic Penguin	●														●		
Wandering Albatross		●															
Royal Albatross		●															
Black-browed Albatross	●	●	●										●	●	●		
Grey-headed Albatross			●									●					
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross		●	●										●	●			
Giant Petrel sp. (Northern and/or Southern)	●	●	●		●	●					●		●	●			
Antarctic Petrel			●									●					
Cape Petrel		●	●										●	●	●		
Snow Petrel					●	●					●	●					
Antarctic Fulmar (Southern)			●				●	●			●	●					
Blue Petrel		●															
Prion sp. (probably mostly Antarctic)		●									●	●					

[illegible]

# Mammal Sightings

[illegible]

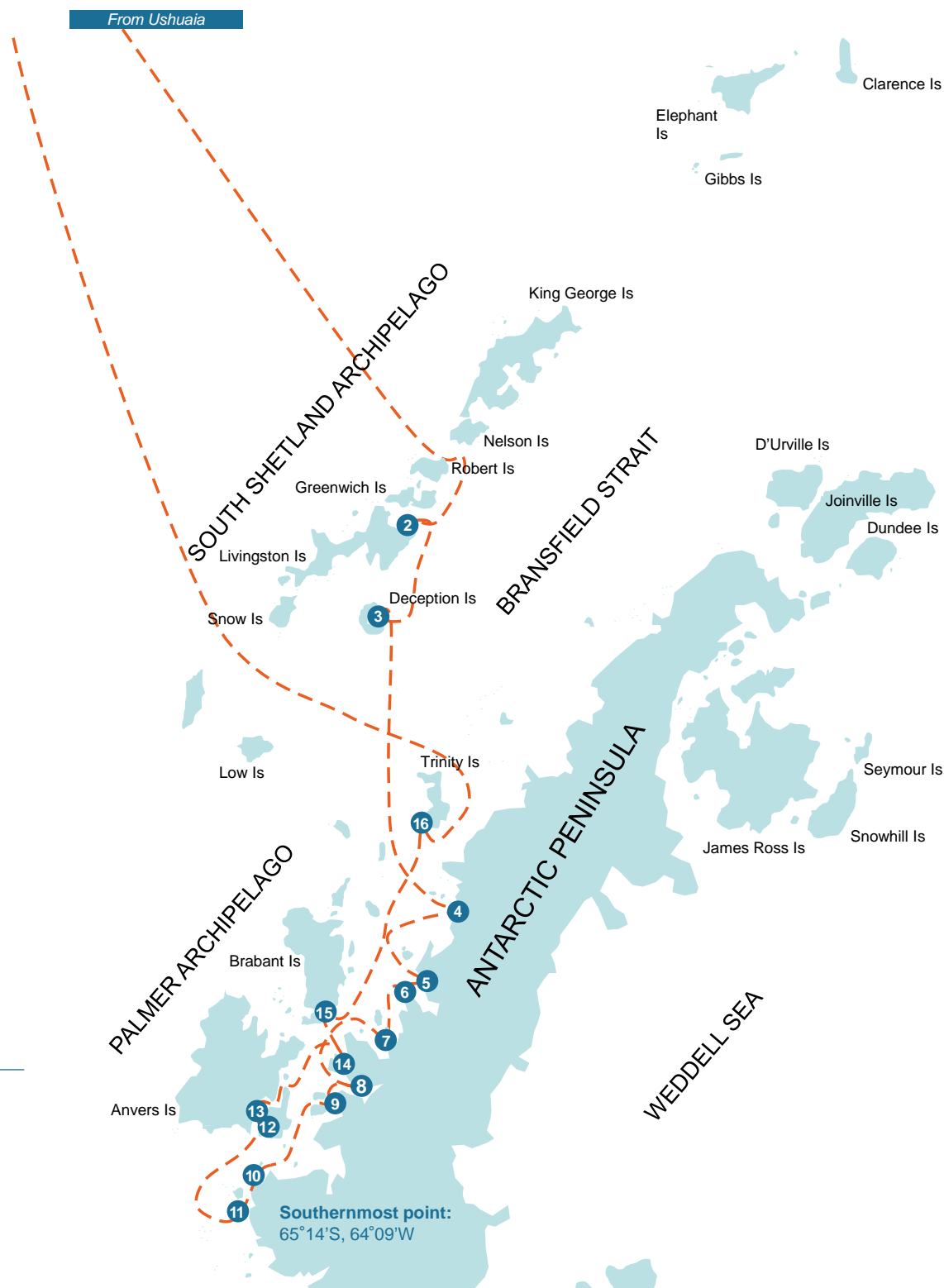


# Map

1. Ushuaia
2. Half Moon Island
3. Whalers' Bay
4. Sprightly Island
5. Recess Cove
6. Portal Point
7. Wilhelmina Bay
8. Neko Harbour
9. Punta Vidt
10. Lemaire Channel
11. Vernadsky Station, Winter Islands
12. Jougla Point
13. Damoy Point
14. Danco Island
15. Chiriguano Bay
16. Spert Island
17. Ushuaia

## Antarctica Active

4 December – 17 December 2025







# Our Expeditioners

Mark Allen	Evett Espiritu	Brandon Hunt	Samuel Lindsay	Nicola Palmer	Maria Telles Pereira
Tom Anderson	Donna Fairbanks	Graham Hunt	Nicole Lindstrom	Richard Palmer	Brooke Thompson
Emily Anderson	Pedro Ferrari	Kent Ilhardt	Casey Link	Giorgia Papalia	Dave Thomsen
Nicole Anstee	Mike Franczak	Lora Ilhardt	Cody Link	Leigh Powell	Mel Tockman
Tommy Belowske III	Anne-Lo Gavois	Susie Jennings	Claire Mackey	Brian Roth	Erin Ulrey
Craig Blundell	Roucher	Reid Juday	Geoff Marx	Ivan Saari	Sophie Ung
Claudia Burbidge	Matt Gomillion	Ben Keen	Cathy Masar	Nick Sangster	Lisa Vehrenkamp
Brian Burbidge	Gemma Jumapao	Catherine Keen	DeLaine Mayer	Janice Sangster	Sue Voitek
Heather Cain	Goodyear	Reilly Keith	Kirsty McKenzie	Michael Scherping	Mark Voitek
Tim Cain	Lauren Goonan	Gavin Keith	Annette Michaux	Jessica Schmit	Sheena Vonthethoff
Shari Cohen	Natasha Griffith	Jane Kurtz	Curtis Miles	Nick Seeger	Nick Whitehead
Mimi Coolidge	Jenny Hale	Amy La Jeunesse	Todd Mitchell	Marghee Selby	Margie Willensky
Darrell Coughlan	Deb Harmady	Ann Landrigan	Joanne Mitchell	George Selby	Harvey Willensky
Mark Danby	Lou Henzen	Tim Larkin	Justin Muench	Brad Smith	Marc Zboch
Darren Dorcas	Benjamin Hindmarsh	Colleen Larkin	Tanya Murphy	Glen Sorensen	Pam Zboch
Anastasia Ellerby	Leah Hiniker	George Latendresse	Jim Murphy	Dave Stepp	Amber Zeng
Mathieu Ellerby	Maria Hobson	Linnsey Leithner	James Murray-Smith	Melissa Suarez	Angel Zhang
Erwin Espiritu	Simon Hobson	Crystal Lim	Sonia Murray-Smith	Edison Sun	
	Shane Hunt				

## Expedition Team

**Expedition Leader:** Catherine Buckland

**Assistant Expedition Leader:** Nicole Genoud

**Onboard Expedition Manager:** Alesha Bradford

**Marine Biologist/Citizen Science Coordinator:**  
Greg Padoa

**Historian:** Jay Verniest

**Geologist / Glaciologist:** Antoine Viot

**Ornithologist / Naturalist:** Tracey-Ann Hooley

**Photography Guide:** Fiona Wardle

**Medic:** Linda Steutel

**Zodiac Manager:** Nacho Marino

**Shop Manager:** Reza Rusooly

**Lead Kayak Guide:** Elo Berrier

**Senior Kayak Guide:** Gabriel Wackernagel

**Lead Alpine Guide:** David Stark

**Alpine Guide:** Dan Phillips

**Lead Snorkel Guide:** Darren Clarke

**Snorkel Guide:** Freya Dooley

**Snorkel Guide:** Alan Keller

**Lead Camping Guide:** Alan McPherson

**Camping Guide:** Monika Bischoff

## Senior Officers & Heads of Department

**Master:** Alexandru Taraoi

**Chief Officer:** Vladimir Kolesnikov

**Safety Officer:** Sergei Abramov

**Bosun:** Francis Marvin Linga

**Ship Doctor:** Javier Martinez Rodriguez

**Chief Engineer:** Denys Odrynsky

**First Engineer:** Dmytro Matviyenko

**IT Officer:** Ihor Yesmieniev

**Hotel Director:** Oliver Sevilla

**F&B Service Manager:** German Orlando  
Cayasso Wilson

**Chief Purser:** Pia Blanca Bangug

**Executive Chef:** Vinod Kumar

**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:** Joel Noble

**AB Seaman:** Roberto Ixtan Mejia

**AB Seaman:** Junar Gorecho

**AB Seaman:** Noel Refugia

**AB Seaman:** Jay Belaguin

**AB Seaman:** Khenette Versoza

## Photography thanks to:

**Photography Guide:** Fiona Wardle

**Kayak Guides:** Elo Berrier, Gabriel Wackernagel

**Alpine Guides:** David Stark, Dan Phillips

**Snorkel Guide:** Darren Clarke, Freya Dooley, Alan Keller

**Lead Camping Guide:** Alan McPherson, Monika Bischoff









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