

South Georgia & Antarctic Odyssey

Aboard *Sylvia Earle* | 11 – 30 January 2026



Ushuaia

DAY 1 | Sunday 11 Jan 2026

Latitude:
54° 48.62' S
Longitude:
68°17.52'W

Speed:
Alongside

Wind Speed:
SW force 9 knots
Barometer:
1000 hPa

Air Temp:
9°C

Here we are in Ushuaia, 'el fin del mundo', the southernmost city in the world, and our final taste of civilisation before we journey to the inhospitable south.

We arrived at the dock, stepped off our buses and finally stood before our beautiful ship in the blasting wind of an Ushuaian summer.

Members of the *Expedition Team*, including our Expedition Leader Rune, Assistant Expedition Leader Piotr, Photographer Grant and Onboard Expedition Manager Rosie greeted us warmly on the gangway, and we made our way to Reception for check-in. An embarkation buffet awaited us in the Tektite Bar, and the Hotel Team guided us to our cabins, our home away from home. After a Jacket Exchange, we met our

Expedition Leader, Rune (with a rolling "Rrrrr"), in the lecture theatre, and were introduced to our *Expedition Team*.

There are 20 '*E-Team*' in total, with various specialities including: ornithology, marine biology, geology, glaciology, photography, history, first aid, kayaking, snorkeling and mountaineering.

Rosie and Hotel Director Vill gave some tips about life onboard, and Medic Jac gave a briefing on staying healthy during the voyage.

The sound of seven-short-one-long rings from the ship's signal system was our cue to muster in the lecture theatre and don bulky orange lifejackets for our mandatory safety drill.



Ushuaia

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Finally, we gathered in the dining room for a delicious buffet dinner prepared by our talented galley team and served by our ever-friendly restaurant staff with Grant and his able assistant Birgitta taking our “mug shots” for the Photo board on the way in.

Whilst we dined, we cruised along the Beagle Channel on the border between two countries: Argentina on our Port side, and Chile on our Starboard. The green rolling hills are a stark contrast to the landscapes will experience in days to come. As the sun set, our Marine Biologist, John, spotted 3 Sei whales, their tall dorsal fins silhouetted and their blows glowing golden in the light.

We left Tierra del Fuego in the distance and the sea rose to meet us in long gentle swells.

Night-time found us rolling in a very manageable ocean, tired from our long journeys to Ushuaia, but excited for the adventure to come.

Altogether, we are 105 *Expeditioners* from: USA (37), Australia (35), UK (19), Canada (9), Hong Kong (2), Italy (2) and Indonesia (1).

In addition to our *E-Team*, we have 87 wonderful ship's crew, from all corners of the world, here to look after everything from your cocktail order to the navigation of the ship.





At Sea

DAY 2 | Monday 12 Jan 2026

Latitude:
54°22.1' S
Longitude:
63°49.2' W

Wind Speed:
NE force 4 knots
Barometer:
1001 hPa

Course:
054°
Speed:
11 knots

Late last night, we departed the protected waters of the Beagle Channel and steered north by north-east towards the Falkland Islands.

In the morning, we made new friends by the coffee machine as we shared stories of where we are from and how we got here; and speculated on the days ahead. A relatively calm sea helped us to find our sea legs, but spare a thought for those amongst us whose bodies or stomachs were not made for sea travel. Fortunately, this too shall pass.

After breakfast, we checked into the lecture room to listen to mandatory safety and biosecurity briefings. As we will visit some of the most isolated and beautiful places on Earth, it is important that we keep them as pristine as possible. The Aurora Expeditions Team scrubbed boots, and helped us to pick clean Velcro strips, wipe any trace of mud from our outer clothing, and even to vacuum out our pockets. This is a process that we must repeat before South Georgia and again before Antarctica to ensure that we don't inadvertently transfer seeds or microbes between these remote and wild lands. During lunch, the bridge team spotted a pod of around a dozen long-finned pilot whales, so alerted Rune who

broadcast the news to all *Expeditioners*. Those still in the restaurants watched the whales pass close by the ship, while others viewed them from their balconies or the outer decks.

The afternoon passed quickly as we moved between the lecture room for presentations on wildlife and photography, and the outside decks to view some high-speed hourglass dolphins and to conduct the first seabird survey of the voyage. In the evening, a group of solo travellers gathered in the bar for a social session before we all gathered in the lecture room to be welcomed aboard by *Captain Apostolos* and his senior officers and crew. It certainly seems like we are in good hands for this voyage.

Tomorrow morning, we will be landing at the small town of Stanley, capital of the Falkland Islands, to view some local wildlife, and just soak up the ambience of this remote British outpost.



At Sea

Position at 0600

Stanley

DAY 3 | Tuesday 13 January 2026

Latitude:
51°41.3' S
Longitude:
057°51.1' W

Wind Speed:
NW force 4 knots
Barometer:
1004 hPa

Course:
265°
Speed:
9 knots

We woke to pastel skies and views over the charming town of Stanley in the South Atlantic. The wind howled with seabirds circling overhead, but nothing was going to stop us on our first outing. Our first *Zodiac* ride was slightly spicy, a good introduction to this part of the world. We bypassed the Roaring Forties straight into the Furious Fifties at 51.69° S, 57.86° W in Stanley. A couple of feisty sea lions greeted us on the dock, a good reminder we weren't in Kansas anymore. The wildlife reigns supreme in this part of the world, and nothing stops a big old sea lion.

The colourful town of Stanley beckoned with many flowers in bloom, including the vibrant, bright lupins outside the Christ

Church Cathedral, the most southerly in the world. Most of us hopped on a bus out to Gypsy Cove to get a peek of the Camp, the nickname for everywhere in the Falklands but Stanley. A few Magellanic penguins popped out to say hi while others managed to get glimpses of cute little chick near their burrows. We also saw diddle-dee everywhere, the iconic shrub of the Falkland Islands. Those who chose to wander back to town and stretch their legs were rewarded both with views of the iconic Lady Liz shipwreck perched over in Whalebone Cove as well as well-deserved fish and chips in town.

Those who joined the photo and history tour of Stanley were able to learn about the wild and complicated past that comprises the history of the Falklands. From mutineers



Stanley

DAY 3 | Tuesday 13 January 2026

Latitude:
51°41.3' S
Longitude:
057°51.1' W

Wind Speed:
NW force 4 knots
Barometer:
1004 hPa

Course:
265°
Speed:
9 knots

and outlaws to the a story of hardship and settlement, the resilience of the Kelpers (Falkland Islanders) and how they work to shape their own identity in a place that has endured centuries of conflict. From the iconic blue whalebone arch at the cathedral to the historic dockyard to the many memories from the 1982 war, there is plenty of history at your beck and call here. All too soon the last *Zodiac* time rolled around as we cruised back to the *Sylvia Earle* to start our journey across to South Georgia. Batten down the hatches!





At Sea

DAY 4 | Wednesday 14 January 2025

Latitude:
52°15.98' S
Longitude:
052°50.7' W

Course:
098°
Speed:
9 knots

Wind Speed:
NW force
7-8 knots
Barometer:
1000 hPa

A day spent onboard our lovely ship *Sylvia Earle*. The Southern Ocean has been kind to us today, not too much rolling though some of us are still getting used to our sea legs.

We all got to sleep in this morning as there was no wakeup call from our Expedition Leader. As usual on a sea day breakfast started at 8 am.

By mid-morning, attention turned to the lecture theatre, where Liz captivated a full house with the story of Shackleton. Her amazing storytelling transported listeners back to one of the greatest survival stories in polar history, reminding us that these waters once tested human endurance to its limits. Lunch was served at 1230, offering a welcome pause and a chance to refuel before the afternoon's program. Soon after, Peter took the stage with 'Fliers of the Southern Ocean,' an introduction to the remarkable birdlife that thrives here. Now we are ready to identify all the different species. Did you know

that there are 150 species of Tubenoses in the world? Theory quickly turned into practice as we headed out on deck for a bird survey, scanning the skies for birdlife.

At 1630, cameras and curiosity were at the ready for Grant's photography lecture. From composition tips to polar lighting tricks, his advice proved invaluable for anyone hoping to capture the spirit of the voyage through a lens.

As evening approached, the tone shifted from educational to celebratory. At 1745, the Tektite Bar filled with laughter as canapés circulated and the cocktail of the day was unveiled. This was followed by the daily recap and briefing, where the *Expedition Team* reflected on the day's highlights.



At Sea

DAY 5 | Thursday 15 January 2026

Latitude:
53°14.6' S

Longitude:
044°53.7' W

Course:
101°

Speed:
13 knots

Wind Speed:
NW force 7 knots

Barometer:
999 hPa

Air Temp:
7°C

We wake to an atmospheric morning, wrapped in fog and soft shades of grey. With wind and swell still following from behind, *Sylvia Earle* glides smoothly eastward across the sea. After breakfast, we gather in the observation lounge, where Erin invites us into the Iceberg Competition. We attempt to predict the moment the first iceberg will reveal itself, measuring distance and time against imagination.

Stepping out on deck, the damp air clings to our skin. The fog feels alive, making it easy to imagine the early seafarers who once navigated these waters, unaware of what might await them beyond the veil.

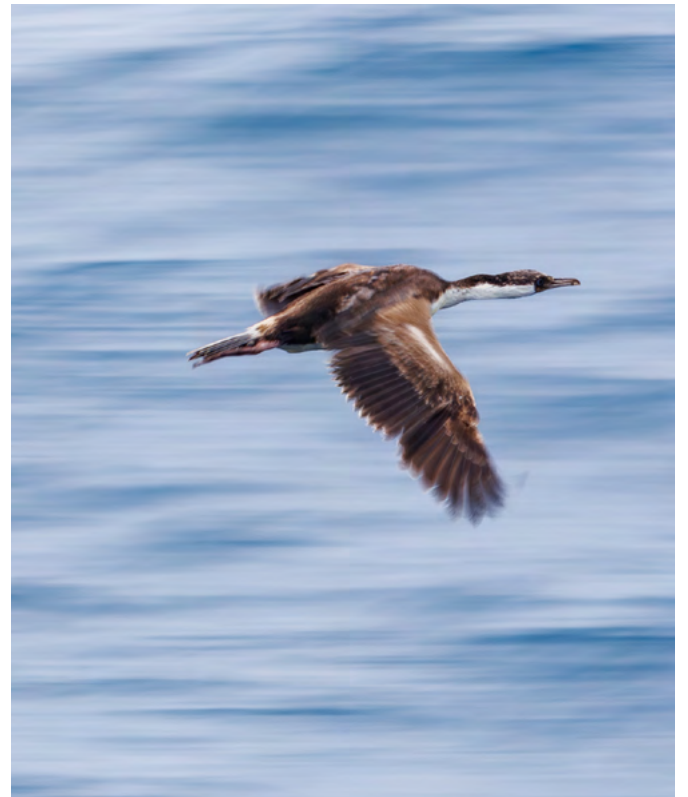
Refreshed by our time outside, we reconvene in the lecture theatre, where Heather deepens our understanding of the nutrient-rich cold waters of the Southern Ocean, explaining the Antarctic Convergence and the Antarctic Circumpolar Current.

As we savour the lunch buffet, *Sylvia Earle* continues toward Shag Rocks. Through the fog, the rocky formations briefly emerge, joined by shags, black-browed albatrosses and Antarctic prions gliding effortlessly alongside the ship before fading once more into the mist.

Back in the lecture theatre, Rune introduces South Georgia's strict biosecurity measures. A thorough check of our outer gear follows, ensuring we arrive as respectful visitors. Afternoon tea with an array of tempting bites precedes an engaging lecture by Hans and John on South Georgia's wildlife. As we imagine seals and seabirds crowding the island, humpback- and fin whales surface beside the ship, dissolving moments later into the mysterious fog.

At recap, the team gathers us once more. Rune outlines upcoming plans and the latest weather update, Liz adds layers of history to the unfolding journey, John introduces *Citizen Science* projects and Hans talks about fin- and pilot whales. The evening flows into a delicious three-course dinner, thoughtfully served by the ship's wonderful crew.

The day concludes with Lydia, who captivates us with stories from her extraordinary climbing adventures, including multiple ascents of Mount Everest. As night settles in, anticipation builds. *Sylvia Earle* carries us ever closer to South Georgia, where mountains, wildlife, and stories written in wind and waves await the first light of morning.



King Haakon Bay: Cave Cove & Peggotty Bluff

DAY 6 | Fri 16 January 2026

Latitude:
54°11.5' S
Longitude:
037°30.2' W

Course:
092°
Speed:
9.5 knots

Wind Speed:
NE force 5 knots
Barometer:
987 hPa

Air Temp:
9°C

January 16 dawned grey but we could see the southern coast of South Georgia approaching, complete with peaks, glaciers and our first icebergs. We were headed for King Haakon Bay, the place that Shackleton and his compatriots finally landed after their 16 day voyage from Elephant Island.

Visits here are rare, and landings even rarer. We ate an early breakfast to prepare for Cave Cove, a tiny inlet outside which Shackleton's crew spent days waiting for the seas to subside enough to land. We landed there and found the beach inhabited by a few southern fur seals and elephant seals. The eponymous cave was more of a depression at the base of the cliff which didn't look large enough for six men to sleep

in. South Georgia pintails, pipits, giant petrels, albatrosses and imperial cormorants flew about. *Zodiac* cruises revealed more spectacular vistas, additional glaciers and some gentoo penguins.

We lunched as the SE made for the head of the inlet passing glacier after glacier. When William Filchner surveyed the coast in 1911, most of the glaciers reached the sea. Very few of them still do, but they remain spectacular. The hoped for *Zodiacable* winds prevailed and we headed to Peggotty Bluff, the spot from where Shackleton and most of his crew started hiking across unmapped South Georgia to find help.



King Haakon Bay: Cave Cove & Peggotty Bluff

DAY 6 | Fri 16 January 2026

Latitude:
54°11.5' S
Longitude:
037°30.2' W

Course:
092°
Speed:
9.5 knots

Wind Speed:
NE force 5 knots
Barometer:
987 hPa

Air Temp:
9°C

Two groups led by Lydia, Heather and Hans made their way up and around a rock promontory while others were content to explore the beach, the flat tussac lands and the stream channel draining a large glacier. Here we found fur and elephant seals and some dead fur seals, possibly the victims of avian flu. We saw King and Gentoo penguins, and nesting giant petrels. The wind increased during the afternoon until

by the time the last *Zodiac* was headed back the wind was gusting 55 knots, giving us a wee taste of what Shackleton and his crew endured. But we were there in January, not April, had engines on our boats and were able to go back to the ship for hot showers and dinner. After dinner, Rune entertained us with an IAATO briefing, Peter talked about avian flu and Jac regaled us with the amazing history of Rune the royal family's court jester.













Grytviken | Ocean Harbour

DAY 7 | Sat 17 January 2026

Latitude:
54°09.5' S
Longitude:
036°28'2 W

Wind Speed:
NW force 7 knots
Barometer:
993 hPa

Course:
142°
Speed:
5.3 knots

January 17th's weather appeared bleak this morning, as the *Sylvia Earle* steamed towards Grytviken. Excitement grew as *Expeditioners* could view the quaint little town from the portside of the ship. After a hearty breakfast, and a 100% biosecurity clearance from the Grytviken officials, eager *Expeditioners* and *E-Team* were excited to explore all that this Historical Site and Town had to offer!

A short shuttle on the *Zodiacs* landed us at our destination and everyone was thrilled to be greeted by so many fur seals and curious fur seal pups.

Grytviken is a place of mixed emotions, having been a whaling

station, where over 175,000 whales were processed. The buildings are all but abandoned now, giving it the almost eerie feeling of a ghost town. Standing amongst the ruins, one feels a myriad of emotions, with the knowledge of its sombre past, and the awareness that Mother Nature is slowly claiming back what was stripped from her so brutally. Grytviken is tragic and beautiful, all at once, and now hosts a Post Office, a Museum, a Church and a Cinema.

Grytviken Cemetery is the burial place of Sir Ernest Shackleton, one of the greatest and most revered Antarctic Explorers in history and is also the resting place of Shackleton's dear friend and first mate, Frank Wild.



Grytviken | Ocean Harbour

DAY 7 | Sat 17 January 2026

Latitude:
54°09.5' S
Longitude:
036°28'2 W

Course:
142°
Speed:
5.3 knots

Wind Speed:
NW force 7 knots
Barometer:
993 hPa

After a wet and wild morning in Grytviken, a delectable buffet lunch was enjoyed back on the *Sylvia Earle*, before heading out once again, this time to Ocean Harbour.

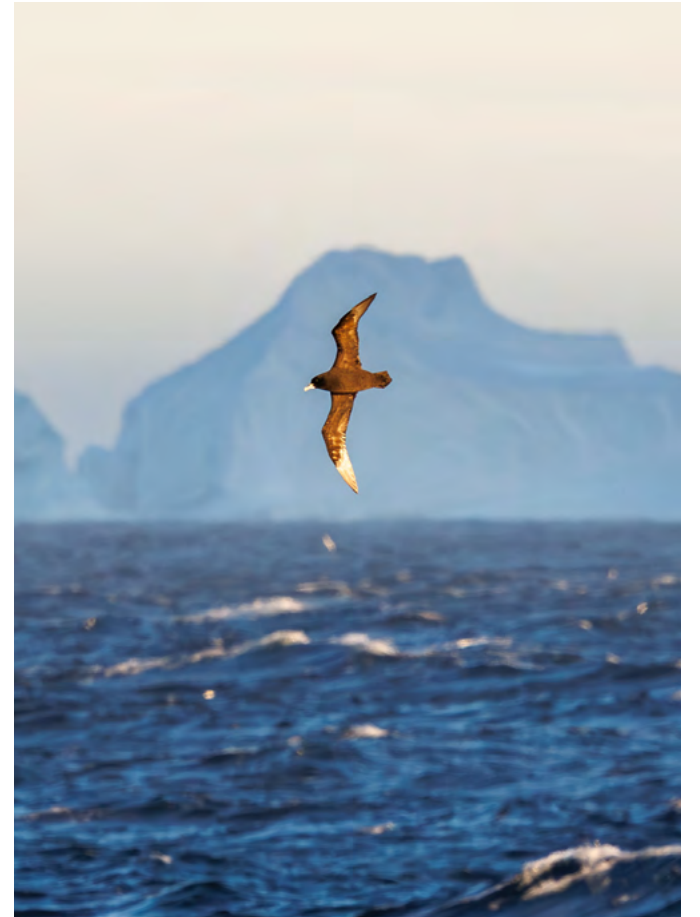
Upon approaching the beach, the shipwreck of The Bayard: a three-masted iron ship over 200ft long, can be seen in the harbour. She is still majestic, and commands notice, with tussock grass on her deck and nesting giant petrels now her crew. Ocean Harbour, once a whaling station, has a small cemetery

containing the oldest grave on the island, which dates back to 1820. The Harbour is now home to Kelp Gull, Light Mantled Albatross, South Georgia Pintail, Pipits, Antarctic Tern, Blue Eyed Shag, King Penguins, Fur Seals and Elephant Seals. A short hike was enjoyed by many *Expeditioners*, with lots of wildlife watching along the way.

A smooth ride was had back to the ship, where a quick recap took place, before we all feasted on an a la carte dinner.







Fortuna Bay | St Andrews Bay

DAY 8 | Sun 18 January 2026

Latitude:
54°08.9' S
Longitude:
036°48.5' W

Course:
At anchor
Speed:
0 knots

Wind Speed:
NNW force
4 knots
Barometer:
984 hPa

Air Temp:
8°C

It doesn't happen often we get up this early in the morning, majority of the ship was on vacation and no doubt getting up at 5 am in the morning was not high on the list of priorities. Yet, the whole ship was up and running, queueing for the life-giving coffee and a few pastries on the way to the mudroom, while trying to control the anti-social, pre-caffeine urges of an onshore fur seal.

The wake-up was worth it though, we got to the shore at Fortuna Bay while the morning sun was slowly rising above the clouds. Gold streaks were painting the grassy tussock slopes with a promise of a good day. Contrary to our sleepiness the wildlife was buzzing, the fur seal pups

engaging in the endless play fights, elephant seals lounging like there was no tomorrow, the king penguins bustling around their adorably fluffy brown chicks.

Some of us headed right back to breakfast to rush back out for the Shackleton Walk, beautiful and historic hike to Stromness. Others hopped back on the ship to reposition to Leith Harbour, another of many whaling stations of South Georgia. The *Zodiacs* filled the bay exploring the coastline making sure to stay safe way away from the decades old asbestos of the former station. Kayakers and snorkellers bumped up and down in the swell as they got a close look at the reclaimed fur seal paradise, enjoying the incredible visibility.



Fortuna Bay | St Andrews Bay

DAY 8 | Sun 18 January 2026

Latitude:
54°08.9' S
Longitude:
036°48.5' W

Course:
At anchor
Speed:
0 knots

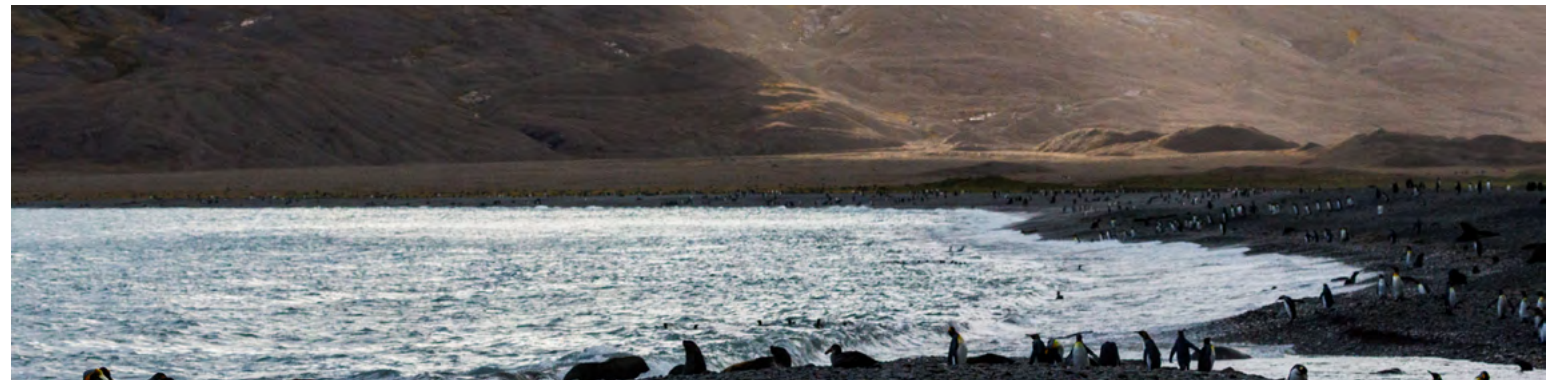
Wind Speed:
NNW force
4 knots
Barometer:
984 hPa

Air Temp:
8°C

We got back on the ship tired and happy and windswept, ready for lunch the the part three of the day: St. Andrews Bay. This iconic place did not disappoint, the walk through the abundance of King penguins among the green slopes and stunning valley glaciers was undeniably mind blowing and that we got to experience it first hand.

We were just visitors, witnessing a spectacle of wildlife, there was not much that could beat the moment. That's what we though at least, until the sun shone once again, casting a golden backlight through the hundred of thousands of proud silhouettes tending to their offspring.

All at once we had sunshine, hail and a double rainbow to top up the end of our day. One day to last a lifetime.









At Sea Towards Antarctica

DAY 9 | Mon 19 January 2026

Latitude:
55°37.2' S
Longitude:
037°33.1' W
Course:
234°
Speed:
12.3 knots

Wind Speed:
S force 8 knots
Barometer:
991 hPa
Air Temp:
3°C

Last night reminded us very clearly that we're deep in the Southern Ocean. The ship rolled and pitched through the darkness, waves thumping against the hull as we were gently, and not so gently, rocked from side to side. It was a restless night for many, the kind that reminds you just how small you are out here, crossing one of the wildest seas on the planet.

Morning arrived with calmer spirits and, thankfully, an amazing breakfast. Sitting in the dining room, coffee in hand, it was hard not to reflect on the incredible days we've already experienced, the raw beauty of South Georgia, the wildlife encounters, and the unforgettable moments in the Falklands. It feels like a lifetime ago already, yet somehow still very present.

The day unfolded at a slower, more reflective pace, centred around learning and understanding this extraordinary region. We began with a powerful lecture by Liz on the history of whaling in Antarctica. It was sobering, emotional, and incredibly important, a reminder of how heavily these waters were exploited in the past, and how close many species came to disappearing altogether. Standing in Antarctica, hearing

those stories carries a very different weight.

Throughout the day, guests were invited up to the bridge for tours, offering a behind-the-scenes look at how the ship is operated in such remote and challenging conditions. Watching the crew at work, navigating ice and weather with precision and calm, gave a whole new appreciation for what it takes to safely explore this part of the world.

In the afternoon, John delivered a fascinating lecture on krill, tiny creatures with an enormous role. It's incredible to think that something so small underpins almost the entire Antarctic ecosystem, from penguins and seals to whales. Understanding krill is understanding Antarctica itself.

The day wrapped up with our evening recap, sharing plans and reflections, followed by dinner and quiet conversations as the ship continued its journey south. As evening set in, we gathered to watch footage and stories from Shackleton's legendary expedition, a humbling reminder of the resilience, courage, and sheer determination of those early explorers who ventured south with far fewer resources than we have today.



At Sea

Position at 0600

At Sea towards Antarctica

DAY 10 | Tues 20 January 2026

Latitude:
58°37.3' S

Longitude:
046°07.8' W

Course:
234°

Speed:
12.3 knots

Wind Speed:
S force 8 knots

Barometer:
991 hPa

Air Temp:
3°C

For the *Expeditioners* of the *Sylvia Earle*, today was a 25 hour day as we switched back to Argentinian time last night, although the author of this particular post missed the memo! We spent the day sailing towards the Antarctic Peninsula, catching up on sleep if the bigger seas kept us awake two nights ago, reading, watching wildlife, and attending lectures.

At 9:30am we had another biosecurity cleaning event. HPAI was evident on South Georgia and we want to avoid carrying any diseases or seed to the Peninsula. Everyone brought their outer apparel items to be vetted or cleaned meanwhile downstairs the Eteam picked sand, seeds and grasses from the logos in the mud boots, hand-scrubbed each boot and rinsed them in Virkon.

In John's morning Bird Survey mostly Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*) were spotted.

Heather gave a stunning lecture on the geological history of Antarctica, focusing on the evidence of dinosaurs and lush temperate rainforests. She described how mass extinctions align with high rates and magnitudes of planet temperature change. Continental drift then the development of the Southern Ocean currents, essentially isolated the climate of

Antarctica and thus began the Deep Freeze.

At 2:30pm Peter gave a penguin lecture where he spoke about the evolution of penguins. The 'original' penguin has been found to be around 2m tall, (taller than Rune) weighing in at around 150kg! They had very long beaks and were very efficient fishers. There was a stockier shorter and probably heavier penguin too. The image of vast colonies of mega penguins would surely have been an animal wonder of the world.

Later in the afternoon Alastair and Bertrand gave a presentation explaining about the Oceanities work, photographing and counting many different penguin colonies, contributing to a big-data longevity study of world penguin populations. Aurora supports Oceanities research by providing their passage to Antarctica.

At a lively Recap, Rune explained how expedition landing/activity sites are chosen, Chloe the IAATO Agreement, Heather showed: Dressing For A *Zodiac* Cruise in Antarctica, and Chris described how the ship was built, its engines and machinery. And after dinner...Shackleton Pt 2!



Elephant Island | Bransfield Strait

DAY 11 | Wednesday 21 January 2026

Latitude:
61°05.3' S
Longitude:
054°17.4' W

Course:
248°
Speed:
8.1 knots

Wind Speed:
NW force 7 knots
Barometer:
981 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

We approached the formidable Elephant Island. The place where Shackleton's expedition reached landfall as a staging island for further self-rescue to South Georgia after months adrift on sea ice. For us, the weather dictated that Point Wild was out of the question. Southeastern side it was.

At the Endurance Glacier the anticipating crowd watched the initial foray into the strong winds and waves by our Expedition Leader Rune and his trusty Lieutenant Piotr to assess condition for *Zodiac* cruising. To all watching it was evident conditions were not suitable to venture out. A quick reposition was needed.

Repositioning to Cape Lookout we still had strong wind but with a much lower sea state with the waves manageable in our *Zodiacs*. Loading into our craft with the lifting and dropping of the *Zodiacs* required some timing and decisive steps but off we went. Adventure was all around with Chinstrap penguins, Macaroni penguins, some sighting a leopard seal. Time spent in these harsh sea conditions highlight the courage, strength and aptly endurance shown by the men on Shackleton's expedition camped on this island awaiting rescue.

Sea state allowed for another bird survey with John to add to the data points collected. Which he then followed up with an excellent lecture on whales.

Deck 8 for hot chocolate warmed us or maybe it was the Bailey's that was contained within.

Pre-dinner briefing and recap time gave us the knowledge that the northeast end of the Antarctic Peninsula was our destination. Antarctic Sound. A quick lesson on Norwegian versus Swedish ship design was followed by Bertrand on whale research. Peter with phytoplankton and diatoms and Heather with dancing Antarctic ice.

After dinner, an auction of goods as varied and wide ranging from original paintings completed on the voyage, distilled whiskies, hip flasks, wildlife prints, Oceanites caps and much more. The big-ticket item that had the gathered crowd hooting and shouting was the chance to navigate and steer the ship after a personal instruction session with our *Captain*, with over \$6500 total being raised.



Brown Bluff | Gourdin Island

DAY 12 | Thursday 22 January 2026

Latitude:
63°24.48' S
Longitude:
056°78.92' W

Course:
228°
Speed:
8 knots

Wind Speed:
S force 7 knots
Barometer:
983 hPa

Air Temp:
0°C

Finally, we arrived in Antarctica, and what an amazing first day it was.

Our morning began in the Antarctic Sound with a landing at Brown Bluff under nearly perfect conditions: sunshine, calm seas, and barely any wind. Brown Bluff is a striking basaltic volcanic feature. Instead of lava flows, volcanic ash piled up into steep cliffs of layered palagonite tuff, stained reddish-brown by oxidised iron. Fragile and constantly reshaped by freeze, thaw cycles and wave action, the cliffs rise dramatically above the landing site.

The beach was alive with wildlife. Large groups of Gentoo

and Adélie Penguins were constantly on the move, streaming along the shoreline, heading into the water for a swim, or returning home from the sea. Watching this nonstop flow of penguin traffic was endlessly amusing. Snowy sheathbills hopped and fluttered around the landing site, always alert for opportunities. We were even lucky enough to spot beautiful, purely white snow petrels nesting beneath a rock, delicate, elegant, and perfectly adapted to this extreme environment.

After the landing, we were also offered a short *Zodiac* cruise through floating ice pieces. Several leopard seals were spotted swimming through the clearly water or lazily resting on the ice. Whether on land, in *Zodiacs*, kayaking, or



Brown Bluff | Gourdin Island

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Course:
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Speed:
8 knots

Wind Speed:
S force 7 knots
Barometer:
983 hPa

Air Temp:
0°C

snorkeling, everyone was simply soaking up the rare Antarctic sunshine, a long-missed gift.

After returning to the ship for lunch and a relocation, we arrived at Gourdin Island, where activities were split between a landing and a *Zodiac* cruise.

Gourdin was overwhelming with wildlife. All three brush-tailed penguin species, Adélie, Gentoo, and Chinstrap, were present in astonishing numbers, covering nearly every ice-free surface. It was the densest penguin colony I have ever seen on a single island. Nests and fluffy chicks were packed tightly together, and parts of the island were stained red with guano. Penguins were everywhere, courting, calling, walking home, feeding chicks, and building nests. Seeing all three species

together, often in the same view, was a true highlight. For those who climbed to the top of the island, the reward was a stunning panorama, including views toward the northernmost tip of the Antarctic Peninsula.

During the *Zodiac* cruise or kayaking, we explored the coastline from sea level, weaving through brash ice and small bays while watching penguins porpoise through the water, swim around us, or leap down from the rocks into the sea.

Back onboard, we gathered for plans for tomorrow, followed by fascinating and super interesting exploration and survival stories shared by Liz from the Swedish Nordenskjöld Antarctic Expedition, right in the area we explored today.







Freud Passage | Portal Point

DAY 13 | Friday 23 January 2026

Latitude:
64°04.03' S
Longitude:
061°14.89' W

Course:
238°
Speed:
10 knots

Wind Speed:
WSW force
7 knots
Barometer:
970 hPa

Air Temp:
5°C

Bright sunshine picked out snow-covered mountains and jagged icebergs as the *Sylvia Earle* cruised south in the wee hours. Our first destination was Freud Passage, a dramatic channel between two large glaciated islands.

We arrived there in mid-morning and boarded the *Zodiacs* in a bucking sea. As we entered the passage, we stared upwards at enormous cliffs of rock and ice. Kelp gulls wheeled overhead, a Wilson's storm petrel flitted by, and some southern fulmars flew out from the cliffs.

Then the lead *Zodiacs* alerted us to humpback whales ahead, so our small flotilla converged to view those whales, who kept on feeding, unperturbed by our puny presence. Every few minutes, they dived beneath the surface. Then, small flocks

of kelp gulls and fulmars gathered together on the surface and bubbles appeared around them. That was followed by an enormous head surfacing in the midst of all the activity as the whales closed their mouths to gulp thousands of litres of krill-rich water. This 'bubble-net feeding' is unique to humpback whales and fascinating to watch.

After a while, the snorkellers left the main group to go and play in brash ice, the kayakers arrived to do their own whale watching, and the *Citizen Scientists* collected phytoplankton samples. Too soon, it was time to bid farewell to the whales and return to the ship.

In the afternoon, we split into several groups: some opting for another snorkel or kayak paddle, others landing on the



Freud Passage | Portal Point

DAY 13 | Friday 23 January 2026

Latitude:
64°04.03' S
Longitude:
061°14.89' W

Course:
238°
Speed:
10 knots

Wind Speed:
WSW force
7 knots
Barometer:
970 hPa

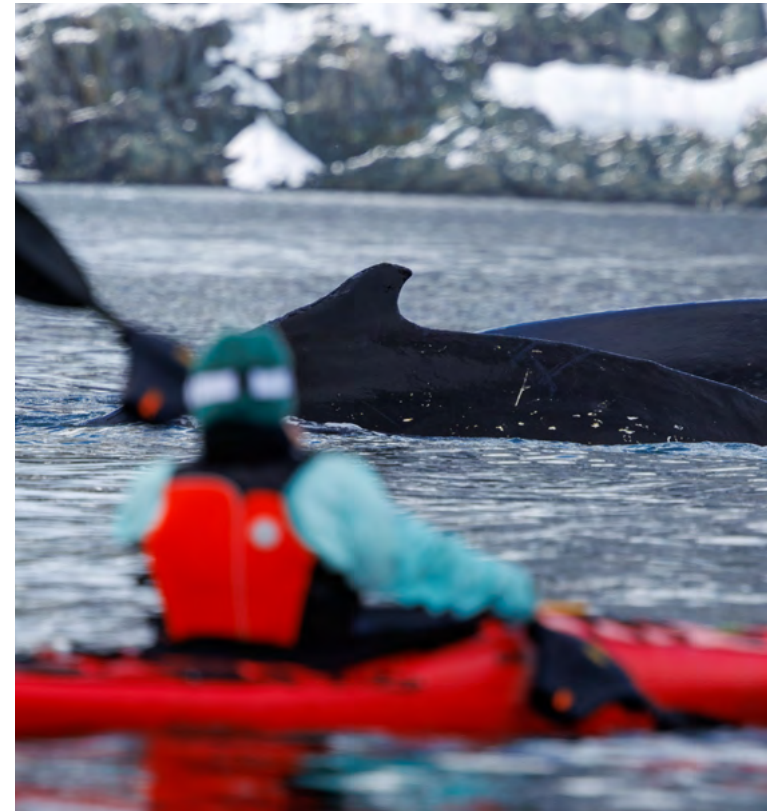
Air Temp:
5°C

Antarctic continent at Portal Point and others opting for a *Zodiac* cruise amongst the icebergs. Well, some people partook in more than one activity, but you get the drift. The landing was another opportunity to stretch our legs hiking to a scenic outlook or to the remains of the Portal Point hut, which is now housed at the Falkland Islands Museum in Stanley.

A few Weddell seals rested along the shoreline and a lazy crabeater seal on an ice floe raised its head to look at us, then

went back to sleep in complete disinterest. Some humpbacks cruised by, but had other destinations in mind and did not wait around to entertain us. That couldn't be said for the humpbacks who interrupted our dinner with an impromptu display of the extravagant behaviours that make humpbacks amongst the most beloved of all whales.









Duperré Bay | Melchior Islands

DAY 14 | Saturday 24 January 2026

Latitude:
64°28.15' S
Longitude:
062°40.76' W

Course:
At anchor
Speed:
0 knots

Wind Speed:
SSE force
2 knots
Barometer:
989 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

It was a beautiful morning in Duperré Bay, and many of us were woken up to incredible views of cascading glaciers along with many humpback whales feeding around the *Sylvia Earle*. The sun popped in and out as we made our way down to the *Zodiacs* for a day of exploring. Sometimes the best experiences are out on the water. There were so many pairs of whales we could each have our own special moments with them. They were lunge feeding, sometimes giving us glimpses of the insides of their mouth and baleen as they snacked away on krill. The occasional calving of the glaciers boomed all around us, and we had a lot of fun playing amongst the brash ice. The whales hung around even as we came back onboard a few hours later for lunch. What a memorable morning!

It was a day following in the footsteps of the first French Antarctic Expedition from 1903 to 1905, under Jean-Baptiste Charcot. He named it for Vice Admiral Charles Duperré of the French Navy. They sailed down onboard the *Français*, which was purpose built for this expedition. The goal was mapping and charting of islands and the western coasts of Graham Land, on the Antarctic Peninsula. More than 600 miles of new coastlines and islands had been surveyed with 18 volumes of scientific reports published afterward.

For the afternoon we made our way over to the Melchior Islands, also charted under Charcot on the same expedition. A drizzly sleet kept us company on our *Zodiac* cruise, a good



Duperré Bay | Melchior Islands

DAY 14 | Saturday 24 January 2026

Latitude:
64°28.15' S
Longitude:
062°40.76' W

Course:
At anchor
Speed:
0 knots

Wind Speed:
SSE force
2 knots
Barometer:
989 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

reminder of where we are in the world. If Antarctica had mild climates, everyone would be here, right? We saw some beefy young male fur seals and some of us were lucky enough to see a whale breach as we began the cruise. Big icebergs set the scene as we zoomed in between channels, admiring the huge snow layers. Antarctic terns zipped through the air as we went by their homes, and the occasional penguin or two made us wonder if they were lost or just on a holiday too.









Neko Harbour | Port Lockroy | Jougla Point

DAY 15 | Sunday 25 January 2026

Latitude:
64°49.1' S
Longitude:
062°38.77' W

Course:
130°
Speed:
7.3 knots

Wind Speed:
N force 2 knots
Barometer:
979 hPa

Air Temp:
5°C

We glided into Neko Harbour past small icebergs under a cloud-dotted blue sky, a welcome change from the yesterday's *Zodiac* sleet.

At Neko Harbour, we were again able to step onto the Antarctic continent. The amphitheatre of glaciers provided a booming backdrop for hikers, kayakers, snorkellers and *Zodiac* cruisers. On land we were greeted by an active gentoo colony with half of the broods featuring two chicks. The penguin highway here was more of a gentoo freeway complete with eight lanes of traffic. Hiking above the always entertaining penguins, the bay spread below us dotted with ice. The panoramic views of the highly crevassed and active

glacier face highlighted the dynamic nature of ice. Kayakers found sea rod, a ropelike colonial tunicate, which along with salps, are counterintuitively the invertebrates most closely related to us, humans (ask the naturalists about this!). The *Zodiac* cruisers, not to be outdone, found a Weddell and crabeater seal cohabiting a piece of ice.

As we were finishing up our morning activities, many of us witnessed an enormous icefall which threw up a large wave that washed the beach.

After lunch and under sunny skies, we transited to historic Port Lockroy through the narrow and stunning Neumayr Channel



Neko Harbour | Port Lockroy | Jougla Point

DAY 15 | Sunday 25 January 2026

Latitude:
64°49.1' S
Longitude:
062°38.77' W

Course:
130°
Speed:
7.3 knots

Wind Speed:
N force 2 knots
Barometer:
979 hPa

Air Temp:
5°C

where we fleetingly glimpsed a couple of humpback whales and seals.

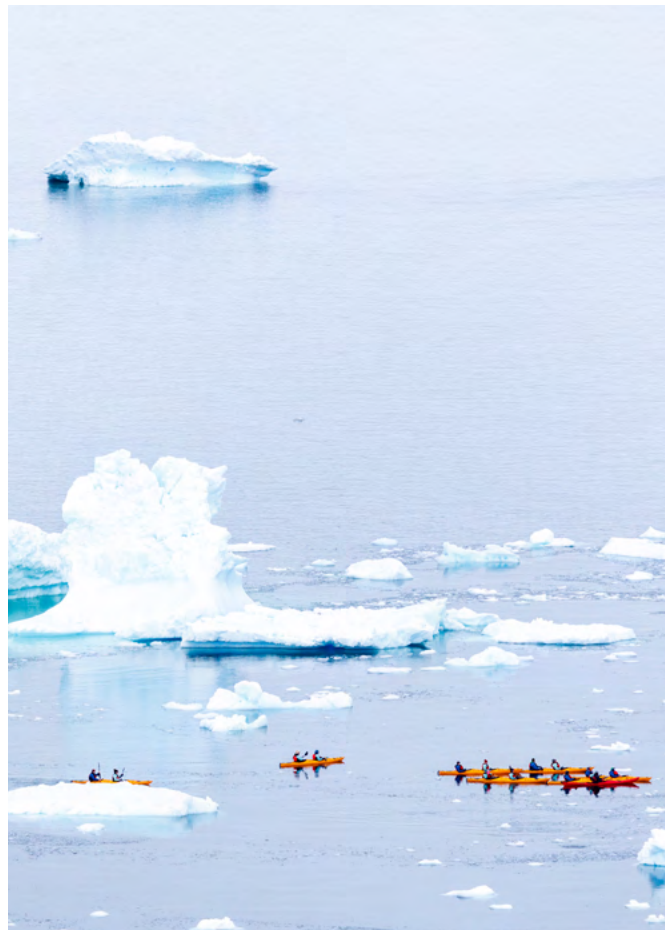
Port Lockroy, a former British research station dating to 1944's Operation Tabarin, now serves as a living museum and the world's most remote post office. The Lockroy staff talked to us on the ship and brought their store with them. Everyone then had a chance to visit Port Lockroy's museum and vintage equipment, as well as take a rocky walk through Jougla Point's maze of nesting gentoo penguins and skuas to a spectacular view of the Seven Sisters. At Jougla we were

again entertained by adorable gentoo chicks, almost as large as their parents chasing them for a feed.

The snorkelers gambolled with the swimming gentoos around them and got tremendous looks at ice sculptures from below.

Despite the light rain that started falling as we returned to the ship driving the voyage barbeque inside, the energy was electric as everyone shared their stories about the day's magic.









Danco Island | Foyn Harbour

DAY 16 | Monday 26 January 2026

Latitude:
64°36.79' S
Longitude:
062°70.1' W

Course:
061°
Speed:
3.3 knots

Wind Speed:
N force 3 knots
Barometer:
990 hPa

Air Temp:
1°C

A Lovecraftian horror awoke us, in some cases many times throughout the darkness of the night, as our televisions blinked on and off, inexplicably.

If you awoke as early as 03:00, you would have walked past the Expedition Desk to find Rosie, bleary-eyed and manic, fixing the Bazeport system so that we can be tethered to some form of space and time, namely, the Daily Plan.

Unhinged, we carried on, unsure of where we were or what we were walking into, which was just fine as it turned out, because our plan changed before we finished our morning croissant.

We peeled out of Orne Harbour, avoiding an inevitably grizzly fate of being crushed to a pulp by ice at the landing site.

We changed course for Danco Island instead, it perhaps wasn't made evident at the time, but this was rather a gamble of Rune, and it paid off in spades as the wind dropped in the lee of the mountains, and we had a gorgeous icy morning in the Errera Channel.

The only thing calmer than the wind was Johnny-John-John's radio, which he forgot to turn on. We saw heaps of leopard seals, some Weddell seals, and penguin chicks, and Lydia led the charge up to the summit,



Danco Island | Foyn Harbour

DAY 16 | Monday 26 January 2026

Latitude:
64°36.79' S
Longitude:
062°70.1' W

Course:
061°
Speed:
3.3 knots

Wind Speed:
N force 3 knots
Barometer:
990 hPa

Air Temp:
1°C

probing for crevasses and being generally genial and outrageous, as per usual.

We piled back on board for a most excellent lunch and a reposition nap.

The afternoon featured a spicy afternoon at Enterprise Island and Foyn Harbour, where the sea state allowed us to surf over

to a wild fluke-slapping juvenile humpback. We then cruised over to see the wreck of the *Guvernøren*, which is perhaps the hottest yacht club in Antarctica. We marvelled at the ruins of the rowdiest party of 1915, and then dashed back to the ship for a delectable dinner.





George's Point | Chiriguano Bay

DAY 17 | Tuesday 27 January 2026

Latitude:
64°33.08' S
Longitude:
062°25.9' W

Course:
182°
Speed:
5.6 knots

Wind Speed:
E force 5-6 knots
Barometer:
991 hPa

Air Temp:
3°C

It would be cliché to say that our final day in Antarctica dawned bright and clear, so thankfully we instead get to say that our final day in Antarctica dawned with torrential rainfall flattening the sea into a tattoo of sparkles as the droplets floated on the cold and salty waters.

Undeterred, the *E-Team* set out to get us to what would be our last chance to set foot on Antarctic ground, at George's Point. Intrepid *Expeditioners* donned every waterproof layer and headed off to explore. The rocks at George's Point proved to be a tapestry of colours and shapes, telling tales of their multi-million year journey deep into the crust of the Earth and back again. A few blustering fur seals gazed imperiously at us

as we passed. Gentoos huddled over their chicks, stalwart in the rain. A resounding feature of the morning was the smiles of everyone, grinning through the downpour and embracing this different view of the mysterious southern continent. Some folks headed off to *Zodiac* cruise amongst the icebergs, waving hello to the DAP vessel at neighbouring Cuverville Island. Several humpbacks blew nearby, perhaps welcoming us as fellow beings in a watery world.

By the afternoon, at Chiriguano Bay, things could not have been more different. A soft sun began to break through the clouds and the wind dropped away to barely a whisper. *Zodiac* cruising along the majestic frosting of glacier fronts



Georges Point | Chiriguano Bay

DAY 17 | Tuesday 27 January 2026

Latitude:
64°33.08' S
Longitude:
062°25.9' W

Course:
182°
Speed:
5.6 knots

Wind Speed:
E force 5-6 knots
Barometer:
991 hPa

Air Temp:
3°C

encouraged reflection and recollection, stamping the sights and sounds of Antarctica into our indelible memories even as we mentally prepared for the upcoming Drake crossing. Cracks and grumbles from the imperceptibly seething ice kept us glancing around, hoping to witness the drama of a calving event. For many, this was the first experience of zipping across glassy calm polar waters, watching an ever changing

mirror of reflections as the *Zodiacs* weave between brash ice and bergy bits.

All in all, the celebratory atmosphere mixed with the gentle nostalgia of home-going made for a lovely convivial vibe in the Tektite bar later as we braced for the surging Drake Passage and bid farewell to glaciers and icebergs for now.





Drake Passage

DAY 18 | Wednesday 28 January 2026

Latitude:
62°55.05' S
Longitude:
062°06.3' W
Course:
000°
Speed:
11.2 knots

Wind Speed:
NW force
7-8 knots
Barometer:
986 hPa
Air Temp:
3°C

This morning on the Bridge, JP described the Engine of the ship as the Heart of the ship, and the Bridge, as the Brain of the ship. The seas were big and rolling and grey, and the bridge was calm as we stood watching the dark nothingness of the water that we know is so full of life. Our heading was 000, the wind due west at 40 knots, the swell SSW 4.3m at 0600hrs...

Our dining and lecture rooms were quiet too, few of us roaming, our steps wide and randomly spanning the compass. You *Expeditioners* are a pretty sturdy lot, not too much seasickness, mostly sleepiness after a few weeks of action, many smiles.

At 11am Heather gave a great lecture explaining the critical geographical, environmental and physical differences between the Arctic and the Antarctic. To begin with... Arktos (Ancient Greek: ἄρκτος) means 'bear,' referring to the NH constellations Ursa Major and Minor, being the root for the word 'Arctic,' and in opposition, Antarctic.

Liz stole the afternoon with her superb renditions of the Golden Age of Antarctic Exploration, largely the journeys

to the South Pole, bringing colour, quirk and suffering into history.

At Recap Rune started it off with subtle references to Norwegian skilful boat building, doubtless a national skill honed by the need to replace the [whaling] boats they'd burned down whilst partying. Peter presented a cool lecture on tunicates, the clear low-nutrient pelagic salps, and the sessile sea rods, including how, anatomically, humans were related.

John wrapped up the expedition *Citizen Science* projects: the Secci Disc phytoplankton recordings results, the cloud surveys, and bird surveys commenting that we had the record number of 53 observers on deck at any one time, not including John who was sick! Max had contributed a beautiful fluke image to Happy Whale and John showed the whale's track record as well as others from past expeditions.

Finally, at the drum-rolls, Grant announced the winners of the photo competition, congratulations to those who took time to produce such beautiful images.

Drake Passage

DAY 19 | Thursday 29 January 2026

Latitude:
57°54.33' S
Longitude:
062°25.5' W

Wind Speed:
NW force 6 knots
Barometer:
1008 hPa

After a relatively calm night crossing the Drake Passage, we all woke slightly more well rested this morning than the day before! Swells remain less than 3 meters as we continue our journey across 'The Drake' towards the Beagle Channel.

Course:
320°
Speed:
12 knots

Air Temp:
8°C

As always, we were provided with a delicious buffet breakfast to start the day well. This was followed by an interesting lecture by Peter on Salmon, krill, and Salmon Farming....which had everyone engrossed.

Heather led the *E-Team* and *Expeditioners* through a thought-provoking discussion called 'Keeping the magic alive.' This focused on sustainability, and the positive impact we can have

on the environment by making simple, small changes that are easily achievable without too much effort. It was inspirational to see everyone get involved in this discussion.

Rosie chatted to us all about the possibility of future expeditions Aurora has to offer, sparking a lot of interest from the audience. It was uplifting to see how much this journey had impacted people and how inspired they had become to continue their adventures with Aurora.

The Captain gave us a wonderful farewell, and we all acknowledged the skill and professionalism that he and his crew displayed. Rune showed great appreciation for

Drake Passage

DAY 19 | Thursday 29 January 2026

Latitude:
57°54.33' S
Longitude:
062°25.5' W

Course:
320°
Speed:
12 knots

Wind Speed:
NW force 6 knots
Barometer:
1008 hPa

Air Temp:
8°C

the *E-Team* and thanked them all individually. All of the *Expeditioners* expressed gratitude for the *E-Team* and *Captain's Crew*.

Grant shared a slideshow he had made of the entire voyage, which was a wonderful display of memories we had all shared together. It reminded us of our time in South Georgia, The Falklands, and so many places we visited in Antarctica.

And then, it was off to the *Captain's dinner*, where the Chef and his team excelled themselves and a delicious a la carte menu was served.

Being the last evening of our voyage, of course we had entertainment for everyone! Our *Zodiac* manager, Chris, displayed his musical talents by playing guitar and singing some classic tunes. This was followed by the *Captain* himself, DJ'ing with some good old-fashioned rock 'n' roll to get everyone up dancing.

Overall, today was a day of reflection and joy, although everyone was a little sad that our voyage had finally come to an end, we are all grateful for the experience and the profound effect it has had on us all.

Ushuaia

DAY 20 | Thursday 29 January 2026

Latitude:
54° 48.62' S
Longitude:
68°17.52'W

Wind Speed:
SW force 2 knots
Barometer:
1000 hPa

Speed:
Alongside

Air Temp:
12°C

Aurora Expeditions send out a big thank you to you all for your great humour, infectious enthusiasm and smiling faces. It was a pleasure having you all on board and being able to share some of the pleasures that the icy south has to offer. May your memories live long and bright

BBQ





Polar Plunge





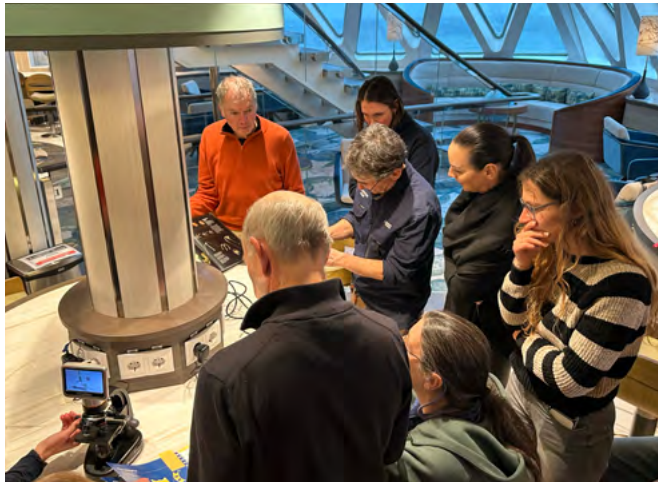


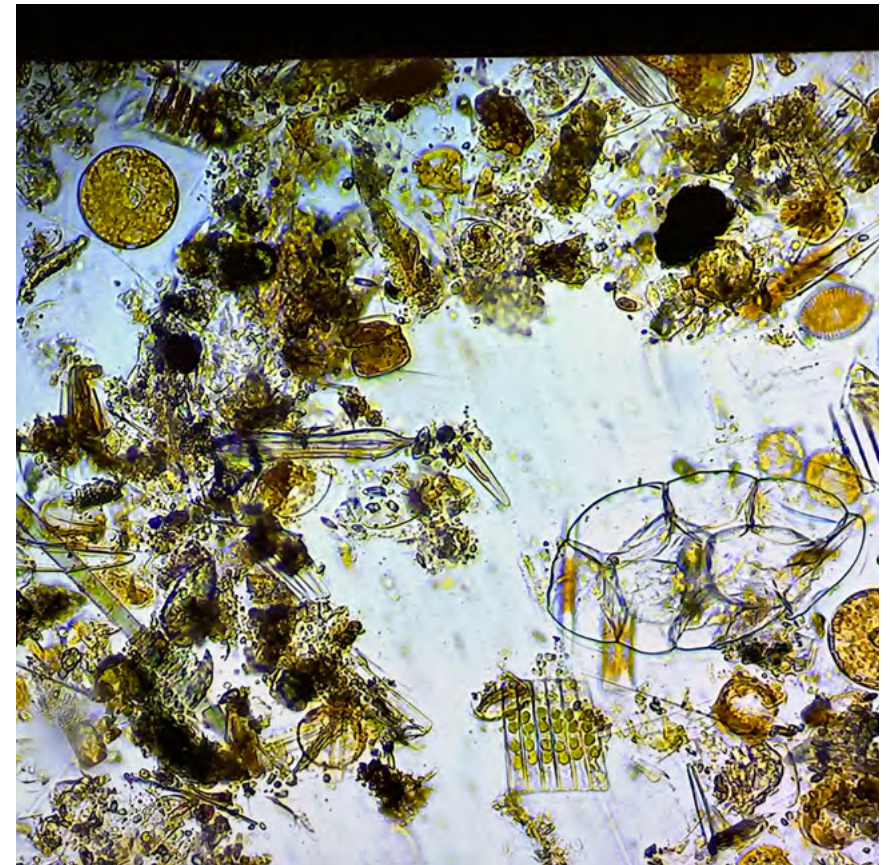
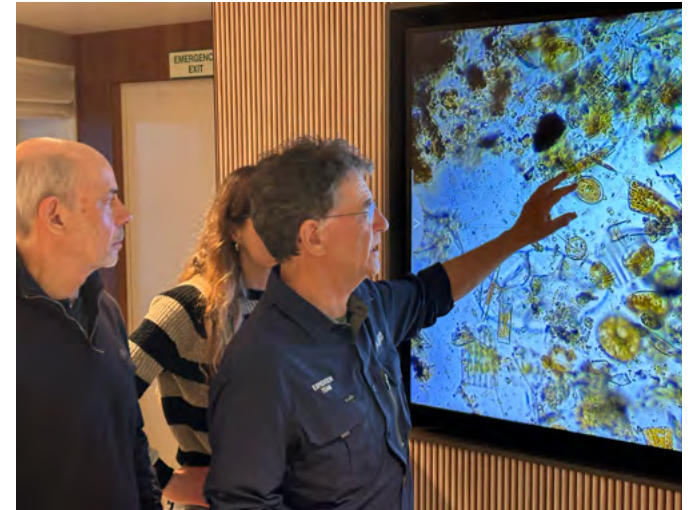
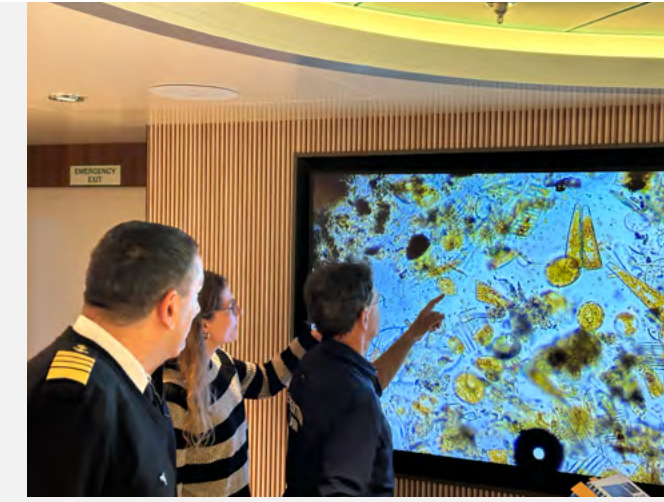






Citizen Science







Kayaking Log

Guides: Tim Vanhoutteghem, Anula Jochym, Vanja Davidsen, Reg Grundy, Erin Scott

17 January 2026, PM:
Ocean Harbour – 3.5 km

Our first kayak outing of the voyage! We couldn't ask for better conditions. South Georgia finally showed us its incredible beauty, the clouds gave way to brilliant sunshine, the green of the mountain slopes contrasted with the white of the distant glaciers and the reddish-brown of the former whaling station of Ocean Harbour. The swell and the wind made for an interesting paddle as we negotiated the route along the coastline so vibrant with wildlife. Penguins and seals, both fur and elephant, were dotting the coastline, pups playing in the countless pools between the rocks. The abundant kelp gave us just the right amount of protection from the gusts that drifted us along the busy shoreline. We rounded the bay and headed towards the Bayard, the shipwreck now reclaimed by tussock grass and nesting shags. We crossed the bay and headed to the opening of the harbour, where swell and wind bounced off the interesting rocky coastline and grounded icebergs. What a beautiful outing to spend in a kayak!

18 January 2026, AM:
Leith / Stromness Harbour – 2.5 km

After sailing from Fortuna Bay and dropping off the Shackleton hikers, a small group of us embarked on a paddle in the beautiful sunshine from Leith to Stromness Harbour. We got on the water near the abandoned Leith whaling station, ensuring a safe radius from this historic site. There was a bit of a breeze that blew us downwind at the start, but we found pockets of calm water between the kelp beds and the shoreline. Well, calm from the wind, at least, the water was boiling with seals! It was challenging to find a place to dip one's paddle for all the seals, which were rolling and playing and writhing in the shallows. We watched through the clear water as they swam under our boats and followed us around, spy-hopping and observing us. Such a cool paddle!

Number of Kayakers: 21

Total Paddle Outings: 14

Total Distance Paddled: 55.8 km

Kayakers:

David Ruddell

Gemma Ruddell

Anastasios (Tom) Pragastis

Katrina Pragastis

Diane (Di) Schaffer

Jonathan (Johnny) Schaffer

Louise Schaffer

Luke Doyle

Phil Bainbridge

Moira Bainbridge

Nat Schaffer

Tim Allen

James (Jim) Leckey

Matt Garman

Dyllon Martini

Jay Weinberg

Marjorie (Margie) Delaney

Elena Wimberger

Wynne Brown

Ken Jacobs

Louise (Lou Lou) Jacobs

22 January 2026, AM:

Brown Bluff – 6 km

Not often we get to visit Brown Bluff and even less often explore it in a kayak! We hopped in our boats and headed towards the coastline. As we navigated the growlers to get closer to the shore we noticed an odd and unique scene, a leopard seal resting on a piece of ice accompanied by a very inquisitive and obviously bold Adélie penguin checking this apex predator out. An unlikely pairing that somehow seemed to be working out. The whole place was dotted with countless nests of these boistrous little birds, groups of them getting in and out of the water. We continued along the coast observing this busy settlement, commenting on the questionable character and undeniable charm of these brushtail penguins. The spectacular landscape, a mix of volcanic and glacial features, made for a stunning paddle, meandering between rocks and icebergs, each one of them occupied by resting wildlife.

22 January 2026, PM:

Gourdin Island – 2.3 km

We knew the weather was going to be spicy, and that we had a challenge ahead when we signed up for kayaking today, but we charged forward nevertheless! After a bumpy *Zodiac* ride over to our launch site, we embarked in a relatively sheltered bay, which was filled with penguins. After being briefed about paddling in waves and wind, we set off clockwise around the island. There were many cool little channels that we explored as we travelled downwind, enjoying the dramatic coastline and being serenaded the whole time by squawks from various bird species. We finished by navigating some dynamic waters and traveling around a little surf zone safely before reconvening with the safety *Zodiac* prior to getting out into some more exposed seas.

23 January 2026, AM:

Freud Passage – 5.6 km

A fantastic reposition paddle. This is when the *Sylvia Earle* drops us off and then will be at another location for us to paddle to. A full team of kayakers and paddlers splint into 3 groups for the amazing run down the Freud Passage. The passing of another cruise ship at 9 knots bought a few messages over the radio from our bridge team. But the main attraction was going to be the whale in the passage. Close down where our vessel was repositioned was numerous whales. We drifted slowly basically around in circles in awe of these magnificent creatures. A little foray at the end into the brash ice for the first time was definitely a highlight for many. For me whales, whales, whales.

23 January 2026, PM:

Portal Point – 3.4 km

Before we even finished launching our kayaks, we had so much to look at between whales and rolling icebergs! The skies were a mix of moody and sunny off in the distance, with the mountains illuminated along the horizon. We embarked on our afternoon paddle, shortly thereafter spotting a crabeater seal, hauled out on an ice floe. After a beautiful and quiet interaction with this new species, we reconvened to discuss it, only to see whales not far off! We paddled towards them, and rafted up for a break, when shortly thereafter two humpback whales surfaced about 25m from our kayaks. Then, they surfaced again, only about 10m off our bows! It was crazy! We all held our breath as we craned our necks for where they would surface next...perhaps underneath us!? But they moved on, this mother and calf, and we enjoyed watching them feed and be acrobatic. Then some snow started to fall, and we carried on paddling to stay warm. The winds picked up, so we turned and paddled downwind, back the way we'd come before getting picked up and shuttled to land.



24 January 2026, AM:
Duperre Bay – 4.2 km

WWW of a different kind. Wind. Whales. Wonder. We started with a bit of an upwind kayak to get ourselves amongst the brash ice in a safe position clear of the glacier face. The kayakers hull scraping and banging into the floating chunks of ice. Mindful that this moving ribbon of ice was grasping our kayakers we stayed only for a few minutes as being drawn deep into the brash ice can prove difficult to get out of. Turning we drift downwind with whales lunge feeding in the distance getting ever closer. Before long we were watching the mesmerising site of two humpback whales snacking on krill. At one stage the cry of “back paddle, back paddle” was ringing in our ears as we watch the majestic creature move ever closer to us. The wonder. We are actually kayaking with whales in Antarctica. Wonderful.

24 January 2026, PM:
Melchior Islands – 2.4 km

We had a spicy afternoon, paddling in the wind and rain and waves at the Melchior Islands. We already knew it was going to be a challenge after what was written on the whiteboard, and once we saw Tim and Vanja's gleeful faces, we knew it was going to be a wild ride. We first embarked on a little *Zodiac* mission over to some tight channels that would be too dangerous to kayak around, and marveled at the icy cliffs that surrounded us. Then, we had a cold windy ride back to the ship to pick up our kayakers and our guides. We headed over to a reasonably sheltered area, and got in our boats. We explored the cool channels on the west side of the island group, and saw out beyond into the open ocean, which was boiling with waves and swell. We tucked through a narrow passage, everyone exhilarated, and practiced some rock hopping! Tim scouted out ahead, and managed to show off his rolling skills, as he navigated a particularly tight passage... which we proceeded not to go into, ourselves! After an adrenaline-filled paddle, we headed back to the warmth of the ship, tired, but excited to have pushed the limits of our comfort zones.

25 January 2026, AM:
Neko Harbour – 5.0 km

The ship was positioned in the midst of many big, beautiful icebergs, and a slough of brash ice. We disembarked near the landing site, and paddled deeper into the bay, stopping for the occasional closer look at penguins or ice. The water was glassy, and there wasn't a breath of wind. We bashed our way through the brash ice, enjoying the hectic practice of navigating ice in a kayak. Eventually, we had a humpback whale pop up nearby, with the sound of its breath echoing around us. We found solitude, away from the other boats, and enjoyed the amphitheatre of ice that surrounded us. We turned around, once again navigating a path around several large icebergs, and enjoying watching some Wilson's storm petrels dancing on the water as they fed. We reached a particularly appealing patch of brash ice, and took a few minutes of silence to enjoy the spectacular nature of our surroundings, before half the group was picked up to go on land. The remaining few continued to paddle on, listening to the rumblings of glacial calvings in the background. We finished our paddle by finding a rather suggestive looking pyrosome, which was the cause of much slimy amusement!

25 January 2026, PM:
Port Lockroy – 3.1 km

A short *Zodiac* ride took us North around the corner of Doumer Island and into the Peltier Channel. Before us was 1500m mountains rising straight out of the water. Luigi Peak being the highest and a ridge of smaller peaks called the seven sisters. In our kayakers, the size and scale of our surroundings made us feel very small. We watched a Chilean research vessel tow scientific equipment and listen to their shouts of encouragement not that we needed it in such a place. Photos, words for places such as this are great, but memories is where the journeys really live. A quick pick up and off to the Port Lockroy Station.



26 January 2026, AM:
Danco Island – 6.1 km

A quick little *Zodiac* ride to launch off into our kayaks. Firstly northeast, south, west then north again. Wait what happened. That's right we circumnavigated Danco Island. Entered a labyrinth of grounded icebergs on the north. Encountered two leopard seals up on there ice flows in the east. Listened to the rumble and tumble of avalanches and glacier calving to the south. At our western point we posed for photos under the dramatic mountains and looked at GPS tracks to ensure we were able to close the loop. Back up to the landing site to complete the circumnavigation. Landings for some.

26 January 2026, PM:
Foyen Harbour – 2.0 km

Another wild weather afternoon, though we were fortunate to find some shelter between islands, in which to launch our kayaks. After getting in the water, we immediately encountered a most extraordinary whale slapping its fluke over and over, again. We watched, amazed, as this display went on for many minutes. We were in a bit of a rough area around the whale, so we continued onwards to find a safe place to turn around. When we entered back into sheltered waters, we went to go check out the remains of wooden water boats left on shore from the whaling days. We then went to go explore the Gouvernoren shipwreck, and check out the yachts that were moored to it. We were amused to learn the story of the rowdy party behind the shipwreck. It was a quick paddle, but packed with action!

27 January 2027, AM:
Georges Point – 5 km

We took on another challenge, the circumnavigation of Cuverville Island. Starting on the north side of it, we paddled around clockwise, enjoying the countless gentoo penguins minding their own business, commuting to and from their rocky colony. The impressive volcanic cliffs painted with different coloured lichen stood out in this icy landscape, providing us with protection from the gusting wind. Without a doubt this was our rainiest day on the Peninsula and we were all glad to be locked into cocpits of our kayaks, while others had to enjoy the full exposure to the elements. We circled around the southern tip of the island, accompanied by a humpback whale, casually escorting us as we moved along. The other side proved to be a bit more challenging, with the wind now in our faces we treaded towards a group of scientists collecting samples among the wind, and rainswept penguin rookery. We closed the loop around the island with a nearby iceberg rolling, to mark our achievement. Wet, cold and happy we got back to our *Zodiac* and zoomed back.

27 January 2026, PM:
Chiriguano Bay – 4.7 km

Our last paddle in Antarctica was magically calm (at least, at first!) and serene. We got into our kayaks and enjoyed a still paddle through the glassy waters of Chiriguano Bay, admiring the glacial scenery that surrounded us. We took a few contemplative breaks, and then paddled over to another *Zodiac*, which served us hot chocolate on the water! After visiting the party boat, we continued onwards through the brash ice, hearing the rumbling of calvings all around us. We sat in silence for a few minutes, enjoying the sounds around us. Then, we began a mission to paddle towards an iceberg arch off in the distance. We paddled hard, and began to exit the shelter of the bay, encountering wind waves and somewhat miserable conditions, however we were warm enough from our exertion for it to be alright! Once we made it to our destination, we returned to the ship via *Zodiac*, noting that the weather inside the bay was still gorgeous.







Paddling Log

Guides: Tim Vanhoutteghem, Anula Jochym, Vanja Davidsen, Reg Grundy, Erin Scott

23 January 2026, AM: Brown Bluff – 3.7 km

Our very first paddle. We towed our boats from the ship towards the glacier west of the landing site. Jumped into our kayaks from the *Zodiac*, all 8 of us on the water. The weather was great. We paddled in between the ice along the shoreline. Lots and lots of Adelie penguins greeted us on the beach. East of the landing site we played by the rocks and ended our lovely outing in the brash ice. We had the option for a short paddle and go on land at the end of our operation, but everyone chose to stay on the water.

23 January 2026, AM: Freud Passage – 3.5 km

Freud Passage seemed to be the only place that warranted some protection from the wind that morning. We got on the water in somewhat bumpy conditions to soon drift into the flat and calm of the Passage. The towering glaciers on both sides of the channel

were mesmerising and no doubt inspired respect. Very early on we realised that this place was different to other locations we had visited so far, it was silent. Free from penguin rookeries and constant squawking, the only sound present was that of water dripping down our paddles. That silence lasted for a while until we first heard, then saw, an impressive calving happen in the corner of the glacier we just passed. The thunder-like sound was followed by the ice hitting the water and a wave being sent into the middle of the passage. We continued paddling, now heading across to the other side, where a few humpback whales decided to make an appearance. We slowly drifted towards them to then realise that they are actually heading towards us. We got the first row seats while the whales surfaced and fluked in front of us only to be topped by an avalanche coming down of one of the overhanging glacier seracs.



Number of Paddlers: 8
Total Paddle Outings: 9
Total Distance Paddled: 26.7 km

Paddlers:
Scott Marchant
Julie Marchant
Tina Brill
Margaret Butler

Neil Renfrey
Gary Edwards
Judith Edwards
Adrienne Ripley

23 January 2026, PM: Freud Passage – 1.4 km

A calm and relaxed paddle at Portal Point, exploring the quieter backside of the bay. Conditions were gentle, allowing us to take our time moving through still water and open ice. We paused near a small, safely grounded growler resting against the rocks for photos, then continued on, slaloming smoothly between larger icebergs.

24 January 2026, AM: Duperre Bay – 2.7 km

An adventurous morning! We launched our boats in the dramatic Duperre Bay, amidst a cacophony of whales. Humpbacks fed acrobatically throughout our entire paddle, to the point where it was challenging at times to find a route that wasn't blockaded by them! We watched these giants feed for a while, getting an excellent view and appreciation for their behaviour. Then we headed north as the wind picked up, and we had a chance to paddle hard and warm up to avoid being pushed backwards by the wind! We had

a remarkable amount of swell, which was fun to ride, but as the wind picked up and the waves built, we decided to head for shelter in a bit of brash ice. We enjoyed the crackling of the ice for a while, and then sailed downwind, back towards the whales, where we began.

25 January 2026, AM: Neko Harbour – 1.3 km

The focus was unhurried exploration rather than distance, drifting and weaving through brash ice, surrounded by grounded icebergs and the constant crackle of melting ice. A humpback whale surfaced nearby, adding scale and movement to the stillness. A single krill sighting reminded us how much life hides in these cold waters. A compact paddle, rich in atmosphere and classic Antarctic moments.

25 January 2026, PM: Port Lockroy – 2.0 km

There were only two of us on this quiet and beautiful paddle, which made for lovely solitude. We began by embarking

in our boats in the Peltier Channel. We paddled close to the shoreline, and enjoyed watching penguins shoot out of the water onto rocks, and a meltwater waterfall. There were many little coves we stopped to explore, marveling at how much krill was in the water. As we rounded the corner, we began to see nesting sites of different birds, but were particularly captivated by the shags, as we watched the chicks stick their heads entirely down their parent's throat as they fed. We saw many gentoo chicks, as well, in all their fluffy glory. The conditions allowed us to paddle very close to shore, which was a real treat, as we got some excellent views of the birds prior to hopping into the *Zodiac* and heading to Port Lockroy.

26 January 2026, AM: Danco Island – 6 km

The Errera Channel was one of very few protected spots on the map that morning. Home to Danco Island, a small rookery outpost surrounded by calving glaciers made for some magnificent paddling. We set off in a

vacinity of an impressively towering iceberg and we continued to weave our way through these surreal icy sculptures. We slowly drew closer to a smaller channel seemingly locked in by brush ice. With a closer look and some skillful navigating through the shallows we managed to find a way to the other side of the now distant terminal moraine of a nearby glacier. Being a good distance away from anyone else we had the whole place to ourselves. We pushed through ice, making lines of open water that would disappear behind us in the matter of seconds. Our excitement grew once we realized we were in a seal country now, about a dozen Weddells were hauled out on ice with an occasional larger head rising in curiosity, leopard seal in the flesh. We kept moving through ice and the ice moved around us. With every passing kilometre we counted another leopard, amounting to the final sixth, spotted right before we got off the water.



27 January 2026, AM:
Georges Point – 2.1 km

With the planned site of George's Point blown out by the wind a bit the decision to shuttle down to the west side of Cuverville Island proved the right call. A quick logistic fix with the flipped kayak on tow placed on the *Zodiac* as well as our inflatable kayaks fixed our issue. Cuverville is home to one of the largest Gentoo penguin colonies in Antarctica. Lots of them everywhere. A research vessel had deposited some science personell to monitor the effects of HPAI. A drift down to an amazingly shaped iceberg signalled the point where our fingers needed some relief from the cold. Pick up arranged, shuttle back, fingers warmed.

27 January 2026, PM:
Chiriguano Bay – 4 km

1½ hour paddle. We planned to head towards the seals on land, but changed our minds when we heard on the radio how amazing it was in the ice. We started from the ship, headed towards our Hot Chocolate surprise where we met up with the kayakers. Then we headed into the ice where we had glassy calm water. We had a special 5 minutes silence moment listening to how loud nature can be. On our way back to the ship we called the bridge for permission to approach the bow, the *Captain* came out on deck to say hello







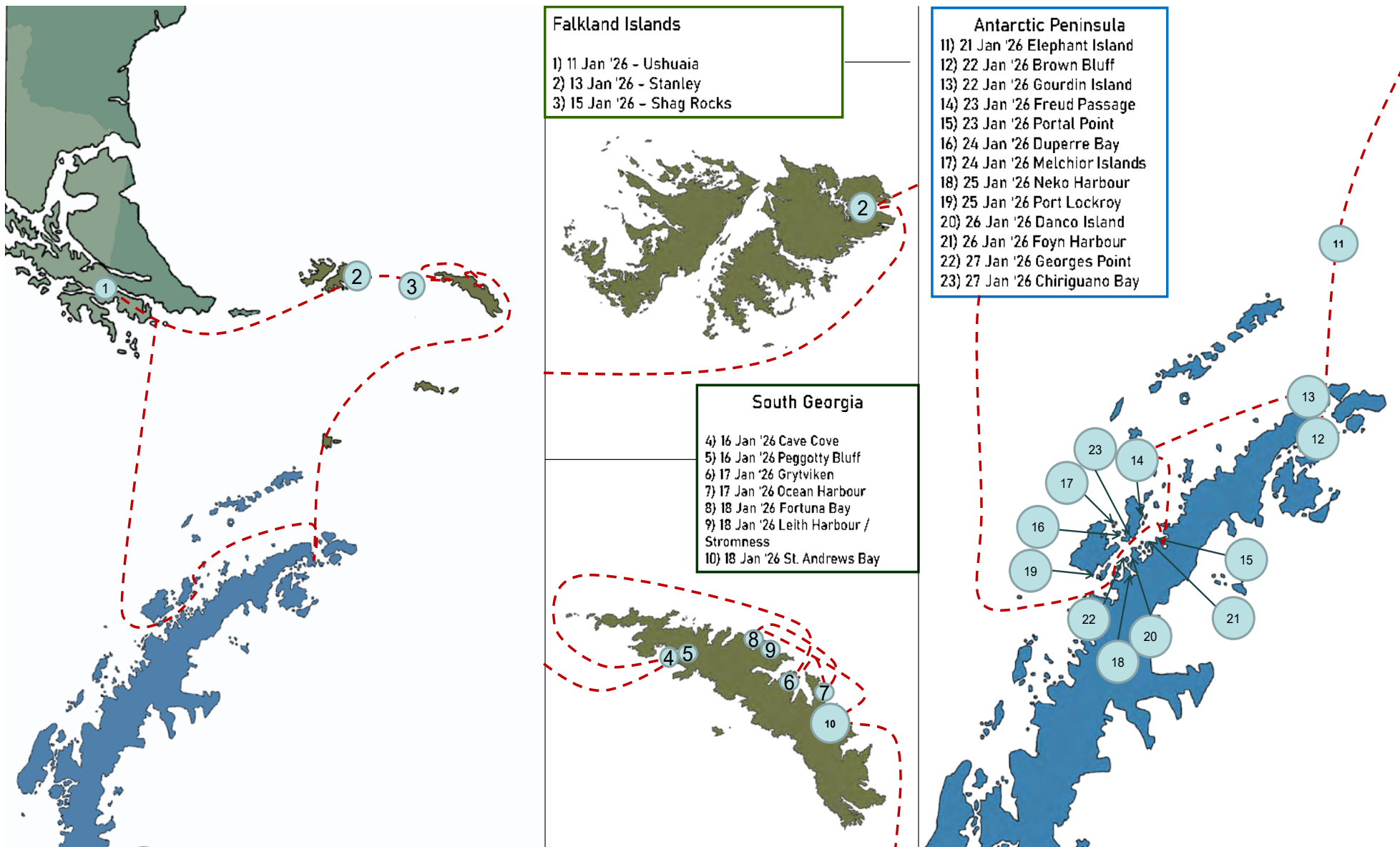
Bird & Mammal Sightings

Bird Species	January 2026																			
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Gentoo Penguin	•					•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•			•
Adelie Penguin												•	•							
Chinstrap Penguin											•	•	•	•			•			
Magellanic Penguin	•		•																	•
Wandering (Snowy) Albatross					•	•	•		•	•								•		
Black-browed Albatross	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•										•	•
Grey-headed Albatross						•	•	•	•									•		
Light-mantled Albatross						•	•	•	•									•		
Southern Giant Petrel	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•				•	•	•	•
Northern Giant Petrel						•	•	•												
White-chinned Petrel						•	•	•									•	•	•	
Pintado (Cape) Petrel							•			•	•	•		•	•		•	•		
Blue Petrel		•							•				•							
Soft-plumaged Petrel			•		•	•														
Antarctic Prion		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•					•		
Prion sp.		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•										
Southern Fulmar										•	•		•			•	•			

Bird & Mammal Sightings

Mammal Species	January 2026																			
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
South American Sea Lion	•	•	•																	
Antarctic Fur Seal					•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•						•
Southern Elephant Seal						•	•	•			•									•
Weddell Seal													•	•	•	•				
Crabeater Seal													•		•					
Leopard Seal											•	•		•			•			
Humpback Whale	•				•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Antarctic Minke Whale								•				•							•	
Fin Whale					•						•								•	
Sei Whale	•																			•
Commerson's Dolphin		•	•																	
Hourglass Dolphin		•															•			
Long-finned Pilot Whale		•															•			

Map



South Georgia, Falklands, & Antarctic Odyssey

11 – 30 January 2026



Our Expeditioners

Joe Ades	Andrew Cruickshank	Lou-Lou Jacobs	Kerrey Mitchell	Louise Schaffer	Jay Weinberg
Alan Akrill	Chitra Das	Sue Johnson	Tim Molony	Gwen Shaw	Chris West
Becky Allen	Tulip Das	Richard Kiefer	Claudia Morawetz	Rick Shedd	Michelle West
Tim Allen	Margie Delaney	Bill Kleinsorge	Matt Morris	Philippa Shedd	David Wilkie
Deborah Anderson	Max Dobens	David Lane	Mark Moseley	Don Smith	Alastair Wilson
Kevin Anderson	Tamara Dodd	Hilary Lane	Luc Moyen	Sue Smollett	Elena Wimberger
Phil Bainbridge	Simon Dodd	Thomas Leckey	Jennifer Moyen - Logan	Simon Smollett	Andre Woop
Moira Bainbridge	Luke Doyle	Lallie Leckey	Doina Neculce	Sandra Sockwell	Nick Wyatt
Denis Barbascompa	Judith Edwards	Athenie Leckey	Corinne Nygren	David Sorensen	
Corry Bazley	Gary Edwards	Jim Leckey	Deanne Porsch	Gordon Stewart	
Tina Brill	Laura Evans	Cindy Leung	Tom Pragastis	Amanda Summers	
Alan Brooke	Ellen Feigen-Kiefer	Candace Lewis	Katrina Pragastis	Richard Summers	
Wynne Brown	Shirley Finell	Kenny Lin	Neil Renfrey	Jim Szalay	
Marg Butler	Matt Garman	Yayah Little	Adrienne Ripley	Linda Szalay	
Elizabeth Campbell-Cowan	Cynthia Gray	Peter Mann	Linnea Rose	Kevin Tate	
	Steven Gray	Scott Marchant	David Ruddell	Dixie Thomas	
Garth Campbell-Cowan	Bess Heliker	Julie Marchant	Gemma Ruddell	Andrea Tidd	
Bertrand Charry	Marco Ho	Dyllon Martini	Nat Schaffer	James Trickett	
Frances Chee	Melanie Hollis	Greg McKinstry	Jonny Schaffer	Sue Trimble	
Chris Cruickshank	Ken Jacobs	Paul Mitchell	Di Schaffer	Jane Wang	

Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Rune Kongsro

Assistant Expedition Leader: Piotr Damski

Onboard Expedition Manager: Rosie Leaney

Shop Manager: Flor March

Marine Biologist: Hans Brunig

Geologist/Glaciologist: Heather Chrystie

Naturalist/Ornithologist: Peter Wimberger

Naturalist: John Kirkwood

Historian: Liz Carlson

Photography Guide: Grant Thomas

Expedition First Responder: Jack Emmaline

Expedition Guide: Chloe Wang

Lead Senior Kayak Guide: Tim Vanhoutteghem

Senior Kayak Guide: Erin Scott

Senior Kayak Guide: Vanja Davidsen

Senior Kayak Guide: Anula Jochym

Kayak Guide: Reg Grundy

Lead Snorkel Guide: Richard Devanney

Snorkel Guide: Birgitta Mueck

Senior Alpine Guide: Lyrdia Bradey

Zodiac Manager: Chris O'Meara

Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Apostolos Kaknis

Chief Officer: Viktor Koshelets

Second Officer: JP Sibug

Safety Officer: Bryan Salem

Bosun: Leo Marzan

Ship Doctor: Maria Zambrano Ruales

Chief Engineer: Enes Candic

First Engineer: Sergeii Luba

IT Officer: Rene Reyes

Hotel Director: Vill Ignacio

F&B Service Manager: Narendra Seeram

Head Bartender: Sheenie Landauz

Chief Purser: Peter Diaz

Executive Chef: Indra Wicaksono

Sous Chef: Priteviraj Dakona

Hotel Controller: Orlando Costa

Receptionist: Angela Manuel

Receptionist: Jaica Puyod

Head Stateroom Attendant: Florante Lusong

Deck Cadet: Constantin Turmacu

Able Seaman: Eduardo Aloyan

Able Seaman: Ferdy Diaz Roque

Able Seaman: Prasad Pallikara Vilayan

Able Seaman: Anthony Brosas

Able Seaman: Dan Danico

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