

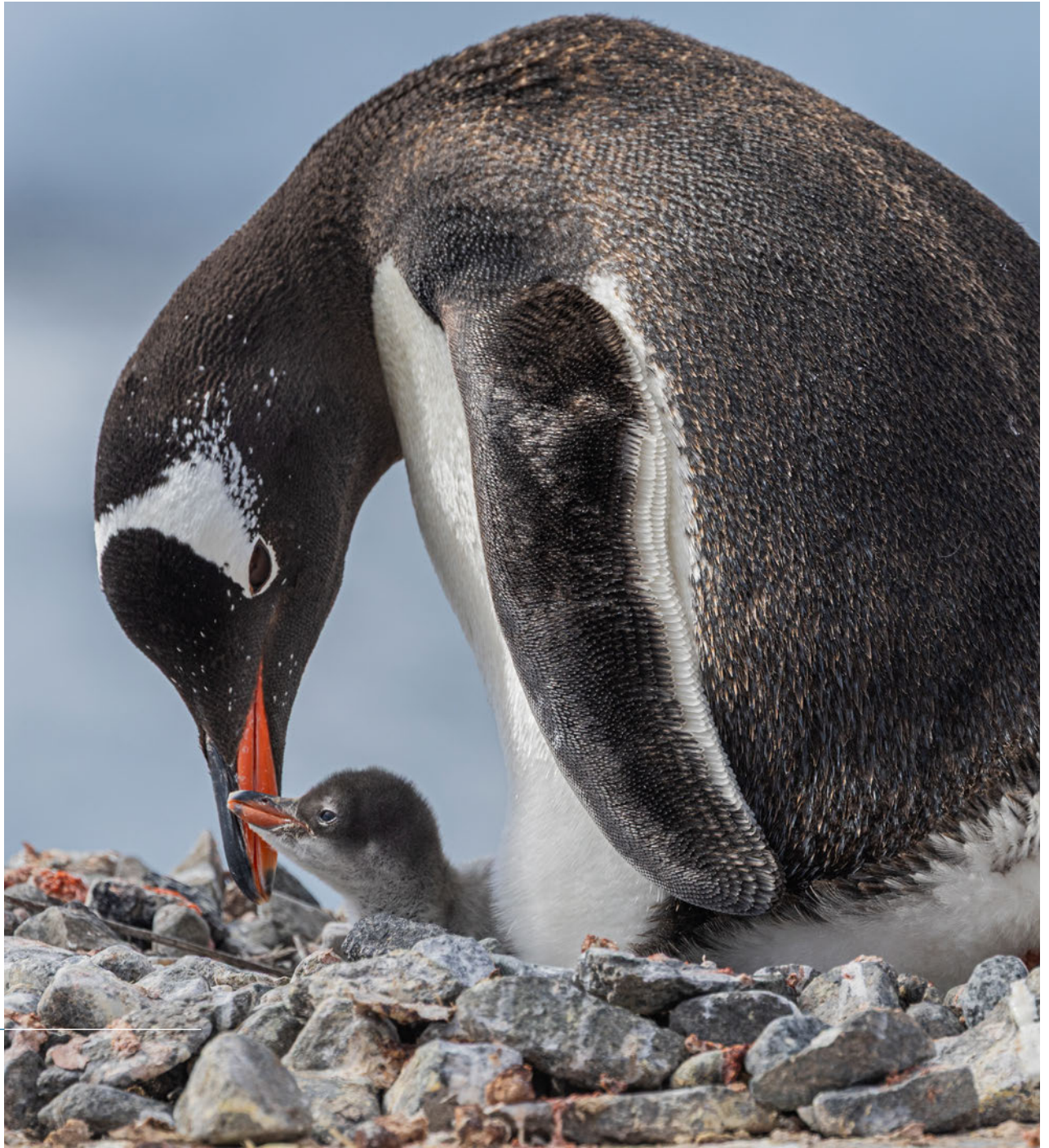
# Spirit of Antarctica

Aboard *Sylvia Earle* | 11 December – 21 December 2025

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## Spirit of Antarctica

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11 December – 21 December 2025

# Ushuaia

DAY 1 | Thursday 11 December 2025

**Latitude:**

54°52.2' S

**Longitude:**

67°58.8' W

**Course:**

285°

**Speed:**

12.5 knots

**Wind Speed:**

6 knots W

**Barometer:**

982 hPa

**Air Temp:**

8°

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 beautiful *Sylvia Earle* was already alongside, preparing to welcome us aboard.

We left Ushuaia early and crossed the southern foothills of the Andes towards Lake Fagnano, passing forests and dramatic mountain views. After taking in the scenery, we continued to Las Cotorras for a traditional Argentine BBQ lunch. The hospitality and wild beauty of Tierra del Fuego made for a wonderful beginning to our adventure.

Later, we headed to the pier and finally stood before the *Sylvia Earle*. Members of the Expedition Team, including our Expedition Leader Ashley, photographer Katia and onboard Expedition Manager Anne, greeted us warmly before we made our way up the gangway and into 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 jacket exchange and the mandatory safety drill, Ashley welcomed everyone in the lecture theatre, sharing a short video featuring Sylvia Earle herself. She spoke about the innovative X-Bow design and Aurora's spirit of adventure, before introducing our multi-skilled Expedition Team.

Anne and Hotel Director Alex explained life on board, and Medic Jac gave a briefing on staying healthy during the voyage. We gathered in the dining room for a buffet dinner, with Katia and her assistant Chloe taking our portrait photographs for the photo board.

Altogether, we are 120 Expeditioners joined by 85 crew and 21 Expedition Team members. After many hours of travel, it is time to relax and look forward to the adventures ahead.









# At Sea

DAY 2 | Friday 12 December 2025

Latitude: 56°46.2' S	Wind Speed: 21 knots W	<p>Our first day in the Drake Passage was sporty enough to know we were in the Drake but gentle enough that we could enjoy our new home on the waves. The skies were grey, with seas averaging three metres. The wind and swell made for excellent birdwatching, and by mid-morning many species were spotted, including a grey-headed albatross, a white-chinned petrel and several wandering albatrosses. Some Antarctic prions were also glimpsed, along with the ubiquitous cape petrels.</p> <p>The morning was filled with briefings, biosecurity and boot fittings. Ashley led us through the rules and regulations that will govern our visit to the seventh continent. We learned about the importance of leaving Antarctica as pristine as possible, with a special focus on avian flu, which has sadly been affecting not only birds but seals as well. It was a lot to take in, but we now know more about how expedition travel is organised.</p>	<p>Immediately after the briefing we headed down to the mudroom to find our lockers and try on our boots. Then we returned to the lounge to double-check our outerwear for any seeds that might have travelled with us from home.</p> <p>The skies turned blue in the afternoon and seas remained gentle. We enjoyed a photography presentation by Katia and an introduction to seabirds by John, after which we headed out on deck for our first bird survey. Before dinner we reconvened in the lounge for our first recap and briefing, and to meet our Captain and his bridge officers.</p> <p>After dinner we watched a movie in the lounge, learning about the conservation efforts of Dr Sylvia Earle.</p>
Longitude: 65°50.1' W	Barometer: 991 hPa		
Course: 172°	Air Temp: 8°		
Speed: 11 knots			



# At Sea | Drake Passage

DAY 3 | Saturday 13 December 2025

Latitude: 60°27.7' S	Wind Speed: 24 knots E	<p>Our second day in the Drake Passage started with the steady movement of the ship as we continued our way toward Antarctica. The ocean around us was wide, grey and a bit choppy, with large swells rolling through, reminding us that we were officially in the famous waters of the Drake. Everyone on board seemed excited, even if a little tired from their travels and the motion of the ocean.</p> <p>The morning was filled with lectures on history from Kelsey and on rocks and ice from Kevin. It was a lot of great information, helping set the tone for the rest of the trip and making everything feel more real as we sailed closer to Antarctica.</p> <p>After lunch, we attended a lecture by John on oceanography. The team introduced us to the common seabirds of the Drake Passage: albatrosses, petrels and a few others we hoped to spot.</p>	<p>After the talk, we put on warm layers and stepped outside for a cloud survey on the windy decks. The wind was strong, but it felt good to be out in the fresh air, watching the birds glide and dip around the ship.</p> <p>Afternoon tea was a delight, as was Kevin's open-book quiz. Those not resting from the motion of the ocean enjoyed the fun, while kayakers were fitted into their kayaks in preparation for the following day's adventure.</p> <p>We wrapped up the day with recap and briefing, where the team explained the plan for tomorrow. Excitement building for our first outing in Antarctica. As the ship continued south, everyone chatted before dinner, feeling Antarctica draw closer with every hour.</p>
Longitude: 64°27.9' W	Barometer: 966 hPa		
Course: 165°	Air Temp: 3°		
Speed: 11.5 knots			



# Lautaro Island | Cuverville Island

DAY 4 | Sunday 14 December 2025

Latitude:

64°31.2' S

Longitude:

67°43.5' W

Course:

127°

Speed:

9.5 knots

Wind Speed:

24 knots SW

Barometer:

983 hPa

Air Temp:

4°

Today was one of those exceptional Antarctic days when weather, wildlife and light aligned to create something truly memorable. Our day began at Lautaro Island, where a thriving colony of gentoo penguins tended nests, offering a wonderful opportunity to observe their daily rhythms. Sharing the shoreline were three Weddell seals, resting calmly on the ice and providing a striking contrast between gentoo energy and seal serenity.

Expeditioners enjoyed a range of activities throughout the morning. Zodiac cruising and kayaking offered close perspectives of the coastline and wildlife, with several groups fortunate enough to encounter humpback whales in the surrounding waters. Ashore, snowshoers explored the landscape at a gentle pace, taking in expansive views and the quiet grandeur of the Antarctic Peninsula.

In the afternoon we continued to Cuverville Island, home to one of the largest gentoo penguin colonies in the region. Penguins traversed well-worn paths through the snow, while guests ashore observed colony dynamics from respectful distances.

Science and exploration were strongly present throughout the day. Guests participating in a Citizen Science Zodiac collected phytoplankton samples for the Fjord Phyto Project, while Melissa and Steve from Oceanites gathered data from multiple gentoo penguin colonies.

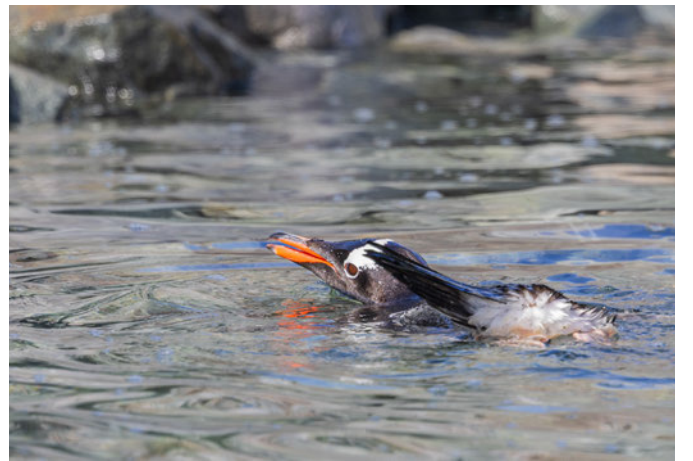
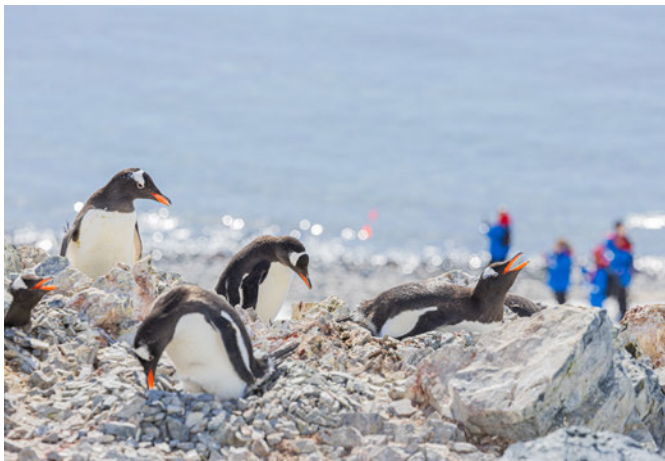
At 2200, the Zodiacs took 42 of us ashore for a twilight camping experience. We dug flat spaces in the snow, settled into our sleeping bags and drifted off to the sound of gentoo penguin calls beneath a multicoloured sky.



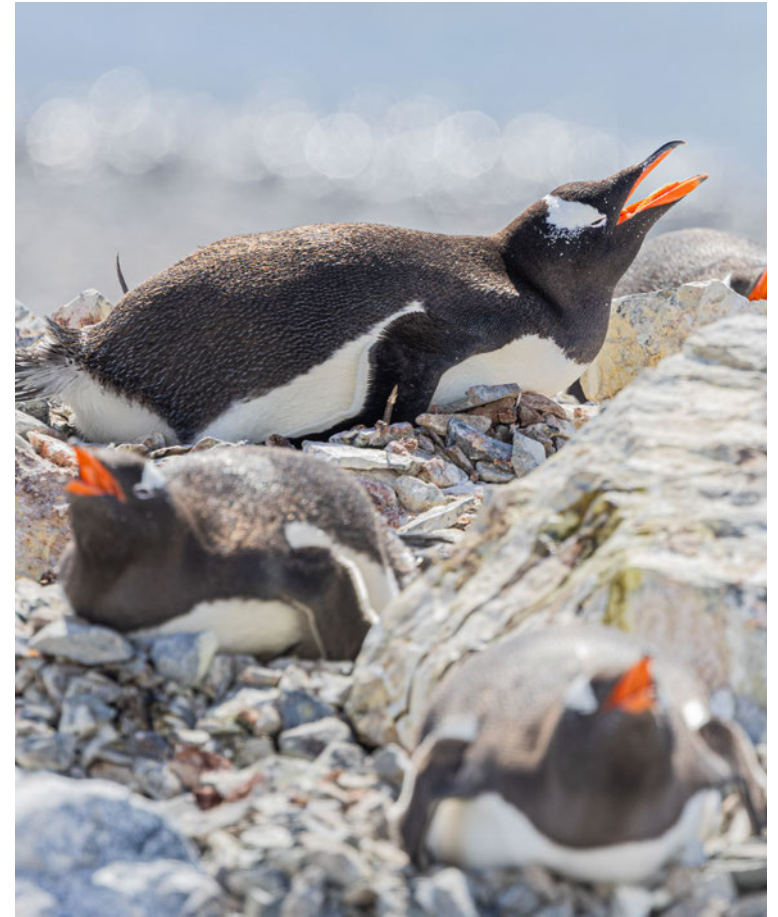


















# Petermann Island | Argentine Islands

DAY 5 | Monday 15 December 2025

**Latitude:**

64°52.3' S

**Longitude:**

63°35.8' W

**Course:**

At Anchor

**Speed:**

At Anchor

**Wind Speed:**

6 knots W

**Barometer:**

950 hPa

**Air Temp:**

4°

Is this a dream? A lifetime could have been lived in the emotions already experienced, and it is only day two. We woke to never-ending sunlight, today softened by low cloud enclosing us as we sailed through the Lemaire Channel. The sea was so calm that, despite the missing peaks of the surrounding mountains and the hidden chandelier-like hanging glaciers, the reflections from the ice were hauntingly hypnotic, creating portals to unknown worlds. Humpback whales passing by were the only ripples breaking the trance, their breaths amplified in the stillness of the morning.

As soon as we were fed and dressed, adrenaline kicked in. Another day of kayaking through frozen sculptures, climbing the ridgeline of steep glaciers on foot and studying the never-ending comedy of penguins awaited us. As the sun trickled through during our landing on Petermann Island, curious

whales teased the lenses of budding photographers as they circled below the Zodiacs. Following the flags on our human highways, we were lucky to witness the first of the Adélie chicks nestled within the feathers of their guardians.

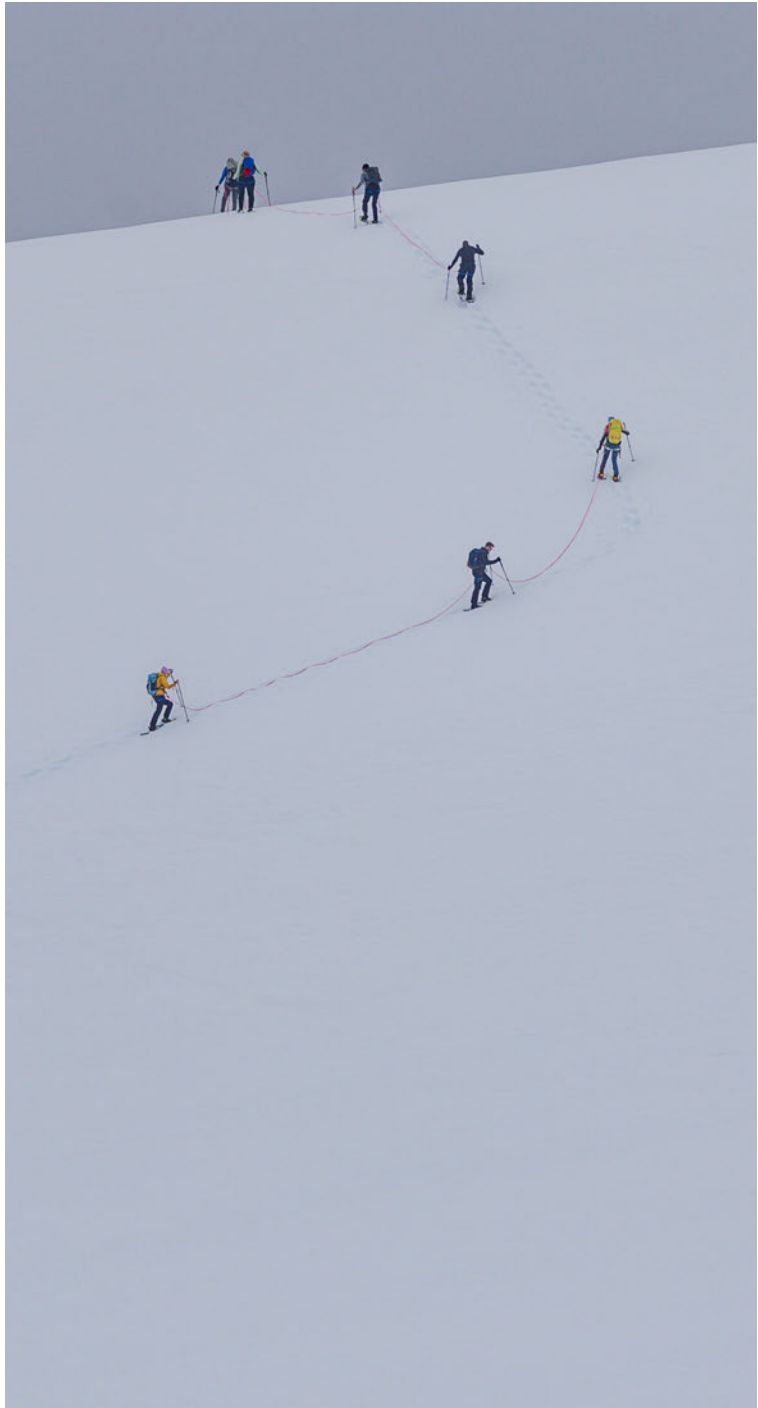
Despite the distraction of whales, we shifted to plan B for the afternoon and diverted toward the Winter Islands. In a frosty breeze we boarded our Zodiacs and headed into the unknown. Before exploring the moss-covered channels and sculpted ice near the colourful buildings of Vernadsky Station, we were graced with the day's show-stopping wonder: a breaching humpback whale. Watching a 40-tonne animal launch itself from the water was spectacular.

Antarctica is spectacular, a wild and restless wilderness casting a spell upon us all.







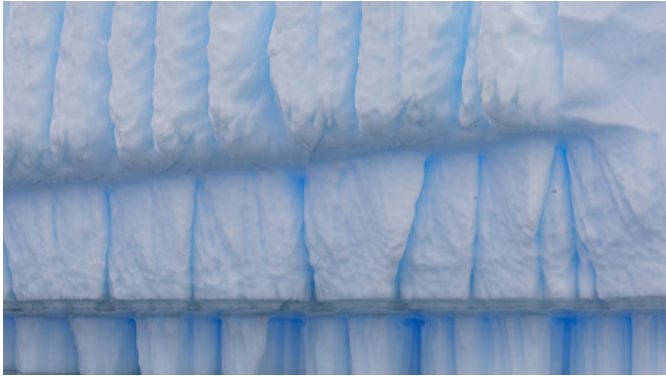














# Damoy Point | Port Lockroy & Jougla Point

DAY 6 | Tuesday 16 December 2025

**Latitude:**

64°50.3' S

**Longitude:**

63°37.8' W

**Course:**

036°

**Speed:**

3.2 knots

**Wind Speed:**

6 knots W

**Barometer:**

984 hPa

**Air Temp:**

2°

We woke to a calm, overcast day at Damoy Point, where our shuttles to shore brought us beneath an impressive ice cliff. From the landing, we walked out to penguin colonies to the west and south and stopped for a visit to the historic Damoy Hut. Built in 1975 as a holding place for field staff waiting for flights to other bases on the peninsula, it is now preserved as a time capsule, and it was fascinating to see the provisions and books on display.

The snowshoers and trekkers went up the glacier for a view, crossing the ridgeline in their aesthetically pleasing rope formations. Meanwhile, the kayakers paddled around icebergs and along the coastline before coming ashore for a visit.

We did not have far to travel for the afternoon activities at Port Lockroy. Before heading out, one of the Lockroy staff came

on board to give a presentation on the Antarctic Heritage Trust and the history of Port Lockroy.

Once equipped with our contextual knowledge, we headed to the Zodiacs for an eventful afternoon. On Goudier Island, we visited the museum and the penguin post office, the most southerly post office in the world. The building was surrounded by penguins on their nests, occasionally lifting to reveal eggs and even a couple of chicks.

The second part of the landing was at Jougla Point, where snowshoers and trekkers headed for the heights. Sunshine broke through the clouds, creating perfect conditions for a Zodiac cruise. A highlight was a leopard seal resting on an ice floe, its small reptilian face turned toward us. Another day of magic in Antarctica.





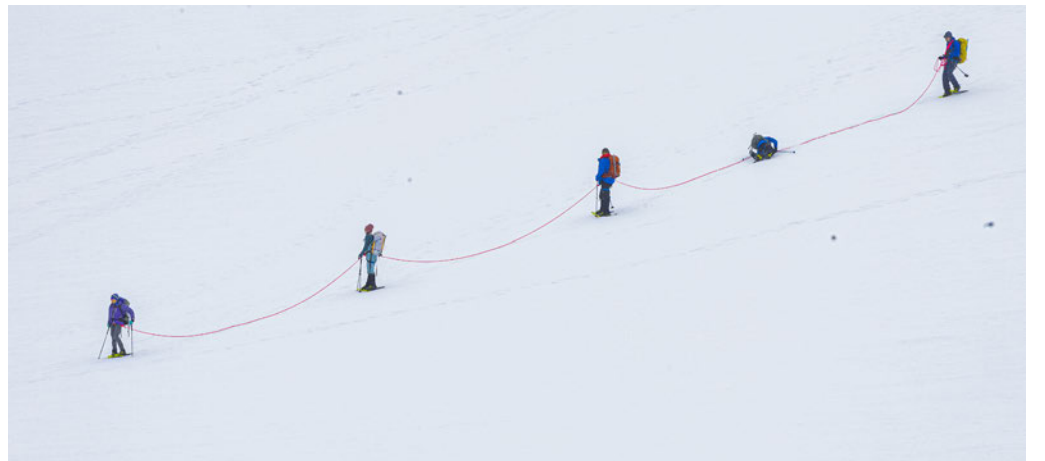
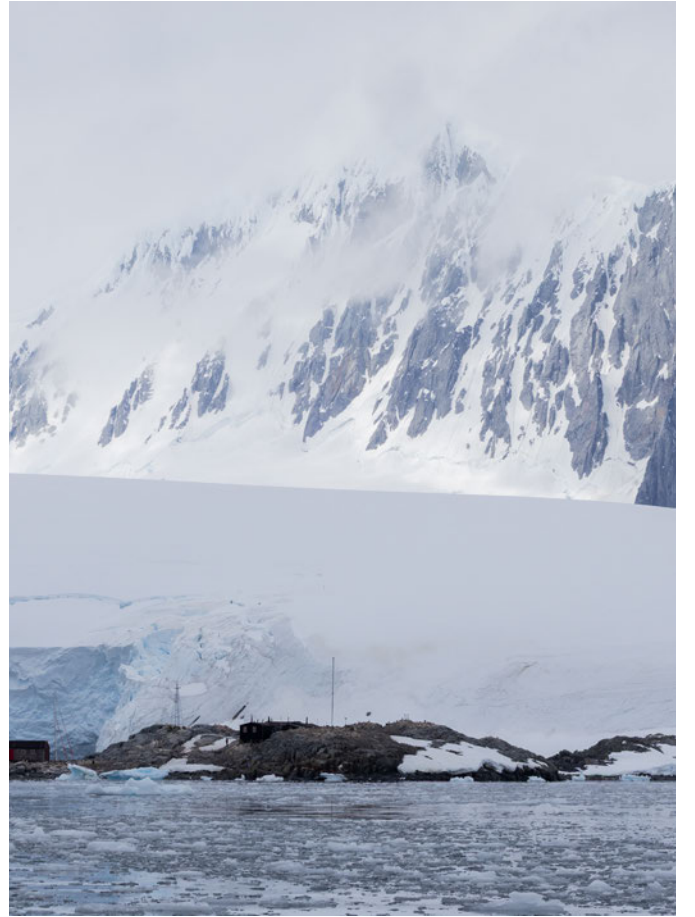
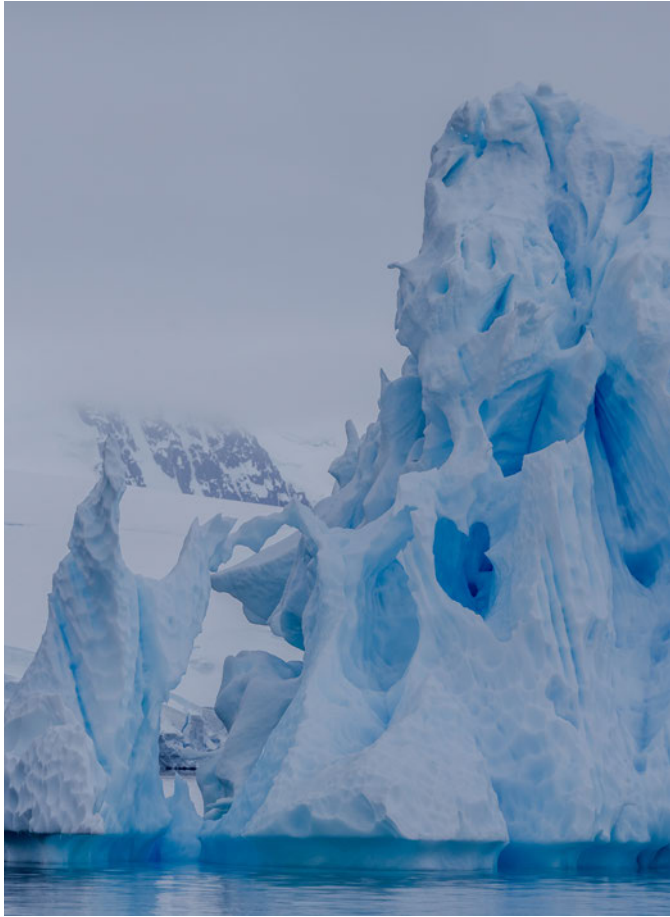


























# Portal Point | Recess Cove

DAY 7 | Wednesday 17 December 2025

**Latitude:**

64°30.2' S

**Longitude:**

62°15.6' W

**Course:**

064°

**Speed:**

5.7 knots

**Wind Speed:**

11 knots SW

**Barometer:**

984 hPa

**Air Temp:**

3°

We woke to calm conditions in the Gerlache Strait as we approached Portal Point, icebergs drifting past in the still water and setting a relaxed tone for the day. Kayakers set out first, gliding smoothly among large icebergs in calm, windless conditions and taking time to appreciate the scale and colour of the ice. Portal Point gave us our first continental landing of the expedition. We walked a scenic loop with views over Charlotte Bay and nearby mountain ranges, enjoying firm snow underfoot and time to stop and take photographs.

The snowshoe group climbed roughly 150 metres inland from Portal Point toward the Reclus Peninsula, following terrain once used by early expeditions and dog teams. The steady ascent provided both a challenge and excellent coastal views.

During the afternoon, we relocated to Recess Cove. Conditions remained calm, ideal for Zodiac cruising and kayaking among grounded icebergs. The area felt quiet and expansive, with shifting shapes and shades of blue as we moved through the ice.

The alpine hiking group took to the Zodiacs for a relaxed cruise through the surrounding bays and were rewarded with whale sightings moving slowly through the area. Back on board, energy spiked as 62 Expeditioners participated in the polar plunge.

The day concluded with an evening ship cruise through Graham Passage, a calm and fitting end to a beautifully Antarctic day.





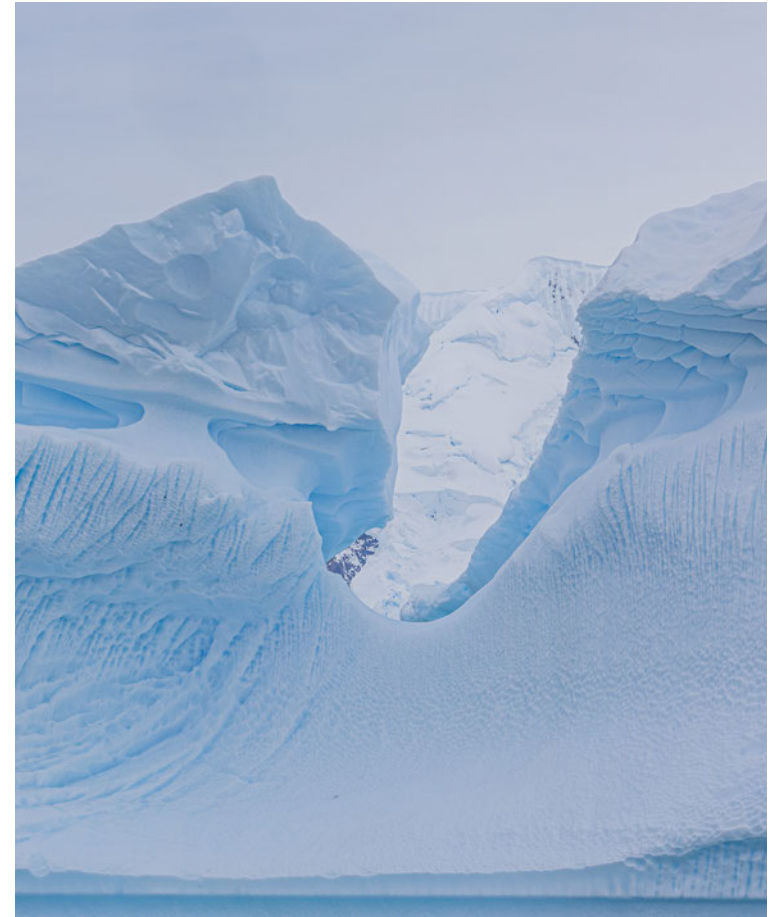














# Curtiss Bay | Palaver Point

DAY 8 | Thursday 18 December 2025

## Latitude:

64°04.2' S

## Longitude:

61°04.4' W

## Course:

170°

## Speed:

3.3 knots

## Wind Speed:

6 knots NE

## Barometer:

985 hPa

## Air Temp:

4°

We woke to a calm, overcast day at Curtiss Bay, where our Zodiacs took us out onto a glassy sea surrounded by icebergs and a memorable display of bubble netting from our watery hosts, the humpback whales. It was an impressive and consistent demonstration of how these animals feed.

The accessible side of the bay offered striking rock outcrops and plenty of places to explore. Kayakers paddled around icebergs and along the coastline before returning to the ship after their final outing of the voyage.

After warm drinks and sweets on board, we repositioned to Palaver Point. From here we saw chinstrap penguin colonies scattered along the shoreline for the first time during this expedition. Oceanites scientists worked with the Zodiac

manager to reach a position away from the ship, using drone capability to count additional penguin nests.

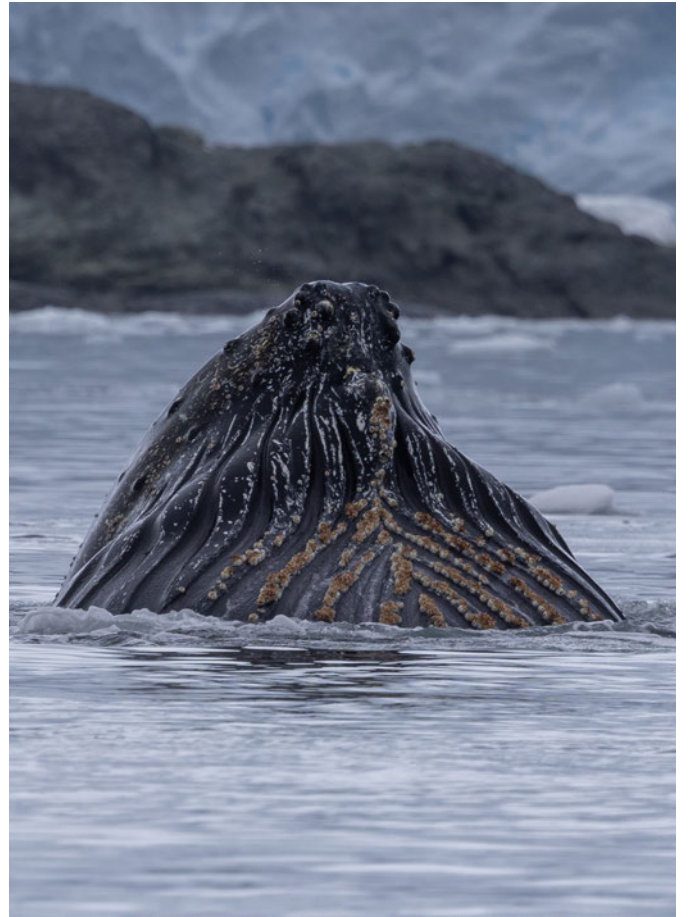
From the landing, we walked to penguin colonies to the west and south, stopping to observe several more groups. Snowshoers and trekkers went up the glacier for a view, crossing the ridgeline in their rope formations.

Throughout the afternoon, the clouds parted, revealing sunshine and a bright blue sky. It was the perfect time for a Zodiac cruise, and everyone appeared to be enjoying the calm conditions on the water.

A final highlight just before dinner was another impressive display of bubble netting. Another wonderful day in Antarctica.



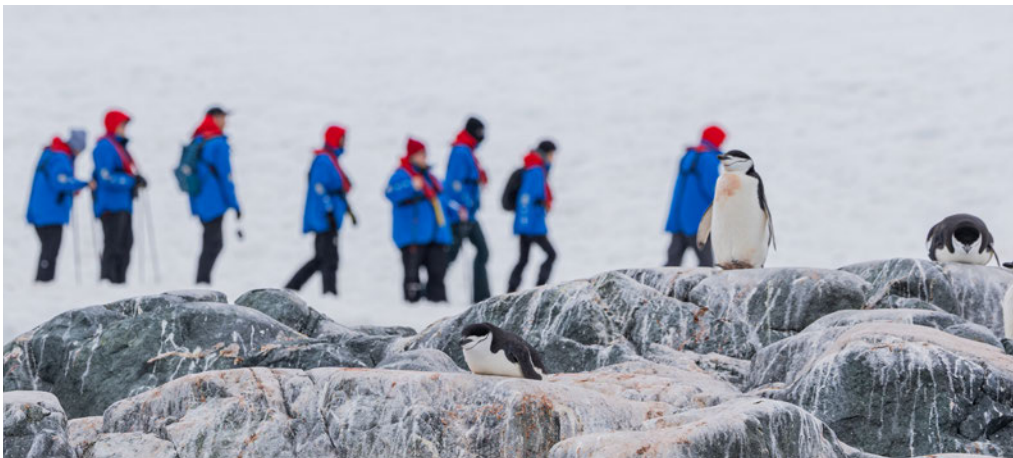
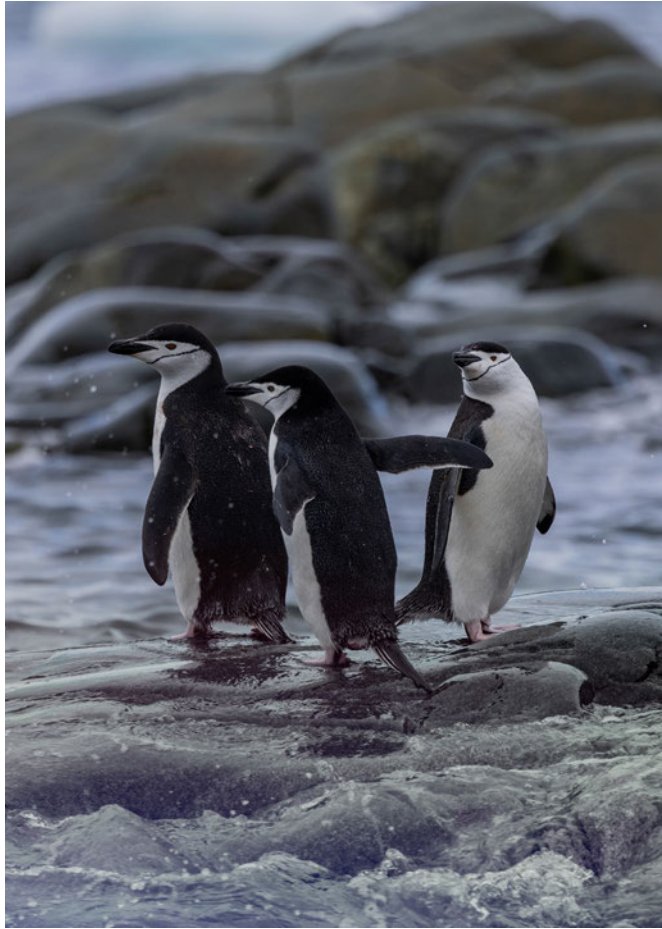






















# At Sea | Drake Passage

DAY 9 | Friday 19 December 2025

**Latitude:**

62°52.2' S

**Longitude:**

61°39.3' W

**Course:**

290°

**Speed:**

10.2 knots

**Wind Speed:**

23 knots SW

**Barometer:**

986 hPa

**Air Temp:**

2°

What a voyage we have experienced. While we enjoyed our final Antarctic landing yesterday, Expedition Leader Ashley still had one last task with Oceanites scientists Melissa and Steve. At 0330 the ship paused in the Drake Passage so they could survey one final chinstrap penguin colony at Presidents Head, Hall Peninsula, bringing the voyage total to 38. An impressive effort from Aurora, Ashley and her Expedition Team, and Oceanites.

The Drake Passage has been kind to us on our journey back to Ushuaia, with gentle two metre swells and not an emesis bag in sight. Expeditioners were relieved by the calm seas, which allowed them to enjoy many activities throughout the day.

After breakfast, Ashley delivered a ship's presentation in the lecture room before Expeditioners toured the ship's bridge. Bia

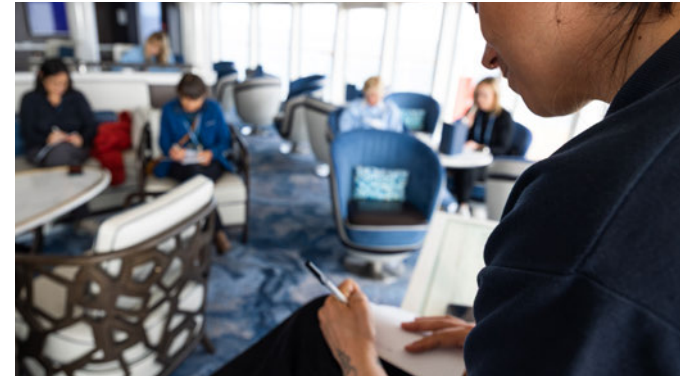
conducted a Happy Whale workshop, with many photographs submitted to the Happy Whale website. Remarkably, three whales photographed had never been recorded for science, and one had been recorded but not named.

After lunch, John conducted a cloud survey with the Citizen Science Expeditioners. Ashley led scenario-based training with the Expedition Team, while Kelsey captivated the room with her tale of 'Belgica'. Anne followed with the disembarkation briefing, keeping the room fully engaged.

The Tektite Bar provided a relaxing end to the day, with Kevin sharing his musical talents. As we reflect on our journey, it feels surreal to be leaving the icebergs behind.







# At Sea Towards Ushuaia

DAY 10 | Saturday 20 December 2025

<b>Latitude:</b> 58°28.2' S	<b>Wind Speed:</b> 37 knots NW	During the night, 30-knot westerlies transformed yesterday's Drake Lake into rolling two to three metre seas, nothing drastic but enough to make a sleep-in desirable.	Sea kayakers, snowshoers and alpine trekkers held farewell gatherings, toasting friendships and shared adventures. Kevin delved into celestial navigation and the sextant, demonstrating ingeniously by taping a vinyl record to the wall as a stand-in sun.
<b>Longitude:</b> 64°36.5' W	<b>Barometer:</b> 983 hPa	As well as sharing photos, clips and memories of five action-packed days on the Antarctic Peninsula, there were plenty of presentations and activities to keep everyone occupied. After watching humpback whales bubble-net feeding at close quarters in Curtiss Bay, many were keen to hear Bia speak about the biology, migration and conservation of these remarkable mammals. Bubble netting is a collaborative feeding technique in which two or more humpbacks blow bubbles in a spiral beneath krill, trapping them together before rising with mouths open to filter the krill through their baleen plates.	Several hardy Expeditioners braved the wind for a bird survey with John, observing a southern giant petrel, two prions and two black-browed albatrosses. Reg presided over a cloud survey beneath 90 per cent cover.
<b>Course:</b> 336°	<b>Air Temp:</b> 5°	John gave an overview of the six species of Antarctic seal, focusing on the five found on the Antarctic Peninsula and the adaptations that allow them to survive on the driest, coldest continent.	In the afternoon, Bia's presentation on 'Keeping the Magic Alive' explored ways we can help keep Antarctica pristine through storytelling, art and education.
<b>Speed:</b> 10.8 knots			Diminishing seas saw the Captain's Farewell well attended, followed by Katia's excellent twenty-minute voyage presentation. One final dinner together rounded out the evening.



# Ushuaia

DAY 11 | Sunday 21 December 2025

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Latitude:

54°48.8' S

Longitude:

68°15.8' W

Course:

286°

Speed:

0 knots

Wind Speed:

11 knots SW

Barometer:

984 hPa

Air Temp:

8°

Aurora Expeditions send out a big thank you to you all for your great humour, infectious enthusiasm and smiling faces. It was a pleasure to host you on board and to explore the unique landscapes and wildlife of the icy south alongside you. May your memories live long and bright. We have travelled 1660 nautical miles together.

BBQ

















# Camping

















# Polar Plunge











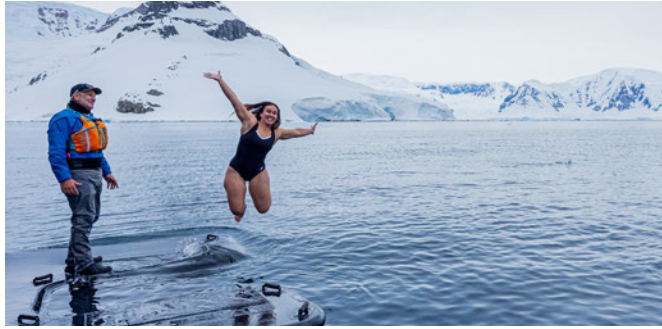






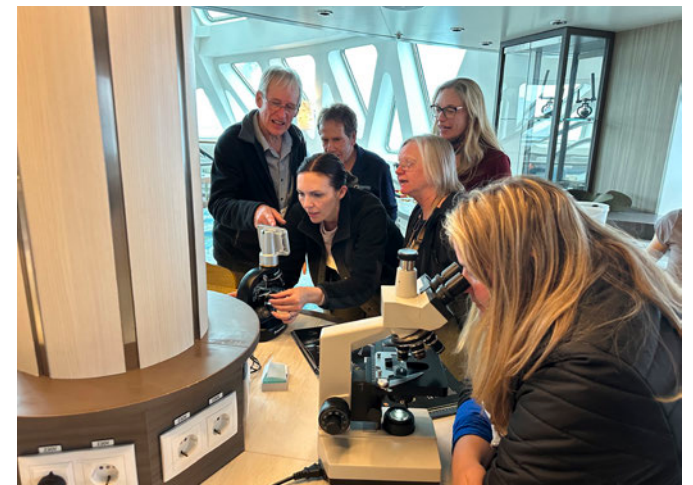








# Citizen Science











# Kayaking Log

Guides: Gabby Bruce, Tim Vanhoutteghem, Mark (Reg) Grundy

## 14 December 2025, AM: Lautaro Island – 5.8km

Wow would be a good word to describe our very first paddle in Antarctica. We could not have asked for better conditions, flat glassy calm and clear blue skies. Everyone's excitement was teeming as we were getting ready in the mudroom, sweaty and hot, ready to get off the ship. We climbed into the Zodiacs with our kayaks in tow and hopped onto the water. The water was calm, we visited some gentoo penguins tanning on the shore and began our journey to circumnavigate Lautaro Island. While we were cruising around the other side, we saw some whale action all around us. Weddell seals and a giant petrel pestering them on shore was a highlight to see. As we rounded the bottom of the island, we took a moment to ourselves in what Gabby called a 'zen' moment. We sat and listened to the sounds of Antarctica all around us. A truly special moment for everyone. We neared the ship and were

greeted with more whales before we reluctantly jumped out of the kayaks to end a brilliant first outing.

## 14 December 2025, PM: Cuverville – 6.6km

What a perfect Antarctic afternoon at Cuverville Island: glassy water, full sunshine, no wind and a fjord filled with icebergs. With conditions like these, we decided on a full circumnavigation of the island, one of the more rewarding paddles Antarctica has to offer. After observing the gentoo penguin colony near the main landing site, we paddled southward, weaving between beautiful growlers and bergy bits toward the southern tip of Cuverville. Rounding the backside of the island, we enjoyed welcome shade from the steep mountain face, proof that it can even feel warm in Antarctica. Reaching the northern side once more, we spent time watching the gentoo colony, glided past towering icebergs and wrapped up a truly memorable day on the water.



Number of Kayakers: 19	Kayakers:	Rob Shaffer	Anna Richards
Total Paddle Outings: 9	Kate Wilson	Kristin Centofante	Natalie Wegner
Total Distance Paddled: 38.8 km	Jenn Allsop	Jon Lemor	Caroline Wegner
	Fiona Smith	Andrea Lemor	Ming Wu
	Lewis Jayatilaka-Smith	Marcos Lemor	Xiao Cheng
	Erin Turner	Daniel Lemor	Amanda Capon
	Peter McGrail	Jane Richards	

### 15 December 2025, AM: Petermann – 3.9km

The morning started with whale soup. Everyone seemed happy to sit and enjoy the views as whales were actively feeding all around us. The clouds were high and the water was glassy calm yet again. Mesmerised, we all sat in awe as whales surfaced around us. It was hard to tear away from them as we began to paddle the coastline, rock hopping and watching gentoos. The odd Adélie penguin was spotted on icebergs, making for great entertainment as we watched them waddle around and shake their booties. As we paddled along, we spotted a gentoo fly out of the water and rock climb a cliff. Upon summiting, the penguin was dive bombed by Antarctic terns, a captivating performance. As we cruised along the south side of the island, we ran into a large brown thing on the shore. We found it was an elephant seal hauled out. Our paddle was complete when Tim took a group photo of us in front of an epic ice arch.

### 15 December 2025, PM: Vernadsky, Argentine Islands – 3.9km

A dynamic Antarctic paddle around Vernadsky Station and the Argentine Islands, with fresh winds adding a true expedition feel to the afternoon. Despite the breeze, conditions remained suitable for kayaking, and we took advantage of the shelter offered by the islands. We began by exploring areas of old sea ice, sliding our kayaks on and off the floes, a playful and memorable start to the paddle. Several seals were spotted resting on the ice, adding to the sense of quiet wildlife encounters along the way. As we continued north through the Argentine Islands, we enjoyed close-up views of grounded icebergs, rugged rock and snow-covered slopes before returning to the ship, having experienced a rewarding paddle that highlighted both the challenges and rewards of Antarctic kayaking.

### 16 December 2025, AM: Damoy Point – 3.1km

On to the water once again, this time for a dedicated Kayak School morning, an opportunity to take the skills we had been using during our guided outings and refine them. Using Tim's silky smooth paddling as our template, we focused on working with the water and letting our sleek craft do the work. Concepts like rotation, catch, blade position and the idea of 'push, do not pull' echoed in our ears as the dynamics of efficient paddling gradually began to make sense. With technique taking priority over distance, every stroke felt more effective. After the session, we set off along the coast for a short paddle, passing gentoo and chinstrap penguins and taking in the historic huts at Damoy before Gabby's 'super Uber' delivered us back to the comfort of *Sylvia Earle*, a satisfying end to a focused and rewarding morning on the water.

### 16 December 2025, PM: Port Lockroy – 3.8km

With minimal sign ups, the kayak outing for the afternoon turned into a private tour for Anna and Jane. After visiting the museum and checking out Port Lockroy, we set off aiming for a sleeping leopard seal on the ice just west of the ship. After peacefully watching the seal, we continued along the coastline, watching gentoos hop along the shore and jump into the water. The sun began to shine and many penguins were out basking in the warmth, enjoying the glassy calm afternoon. We cruised along and rounded back toward the ship, and as we were paddling, a humpback whale popped up right in front of us. Peacefully we watched as it circled us, then carried on its way. What an incredible sight. Our journey ended back at the sleepy leopard seal, who had drifted 500 metres from where we left him on his moveable home. We boosted back to the ship with our cups very full from another amazing day.





### 17 December 2025, AM: Portal Point – 2.2km

A calm and atmospheric morning paddle at Portal Point, with glassy water and a soft, semi overcast sky creating beautiful light across the bay. Surrounded by sculpted icebergs and snow covered peaks, we enjoyed quiet paddling in near perfect conditions. We paddled around a striking arch shaped iceberg, where Gabby positioned herself on the other side to capture photos that made it look as if we were paddling directly beneath the arch, an unforgettable perspective made even better by the still water and reflections. To finish the morning, we brought all kayakers ashore for their first continental landing, stepping onto the Antarctic continent itself. A special milestone and a perfect ending to a serene and memorable morning on the water.

### 17 December 2025, PM: Recess Cove – 4.8km

In among the icebergs we went. Shapes, sizes, colours and textures slowly revealed themselves, drawing us ever closer. The grounded bergs offered the perfect opportunity for a labyrinth paddle, with no set course, letting the ice dictate the direction, the flow and the path. Almost as soon as we had entered the maze, we found our way back out and continued up the coast, heading farther from the vessel. Spotting rocks that move, we detoured toward a group of seals resting along the shoreline before pressing on. We finished in a glacier bay, where the soundtrack of the day was the deep crack and low rumble of the glacier face slowly making its way toward the sea. With the Zodiac called in, we rafted up for one final highlight: experienced Australian kayaker Peter pulled on his thermal hood, steadied his nerves and executed a perfect polar roll, cheered on by the entire rafted up kayak crew. What a way to finish.

### 18 December 2025, AM: Curtiss Bay – 4.7km

Now the last dance has arrived. Curtiss Bay was where it was all happening. Big bergs and brash were on the paddle menu today. We broke into two smaller pods to make the tricky navigation in the narrow sea leads more manageable. The dull thud of brash ice onto the hull of our beautiful sleek craft was sometimes interrupted by the louder bang of heavier ice colliding with the hull for those who were navigation challenged. The big bergs came into view and drew us ever closer. Choosing the course, with the moving tidal water shifting smaller floes of ice, made the route like a curvy path of a slalom skier. A monster angular iceberg was passed. Mesmerised by the ice blue, we paused. We thought. We wondered. We became paddlers of the South.

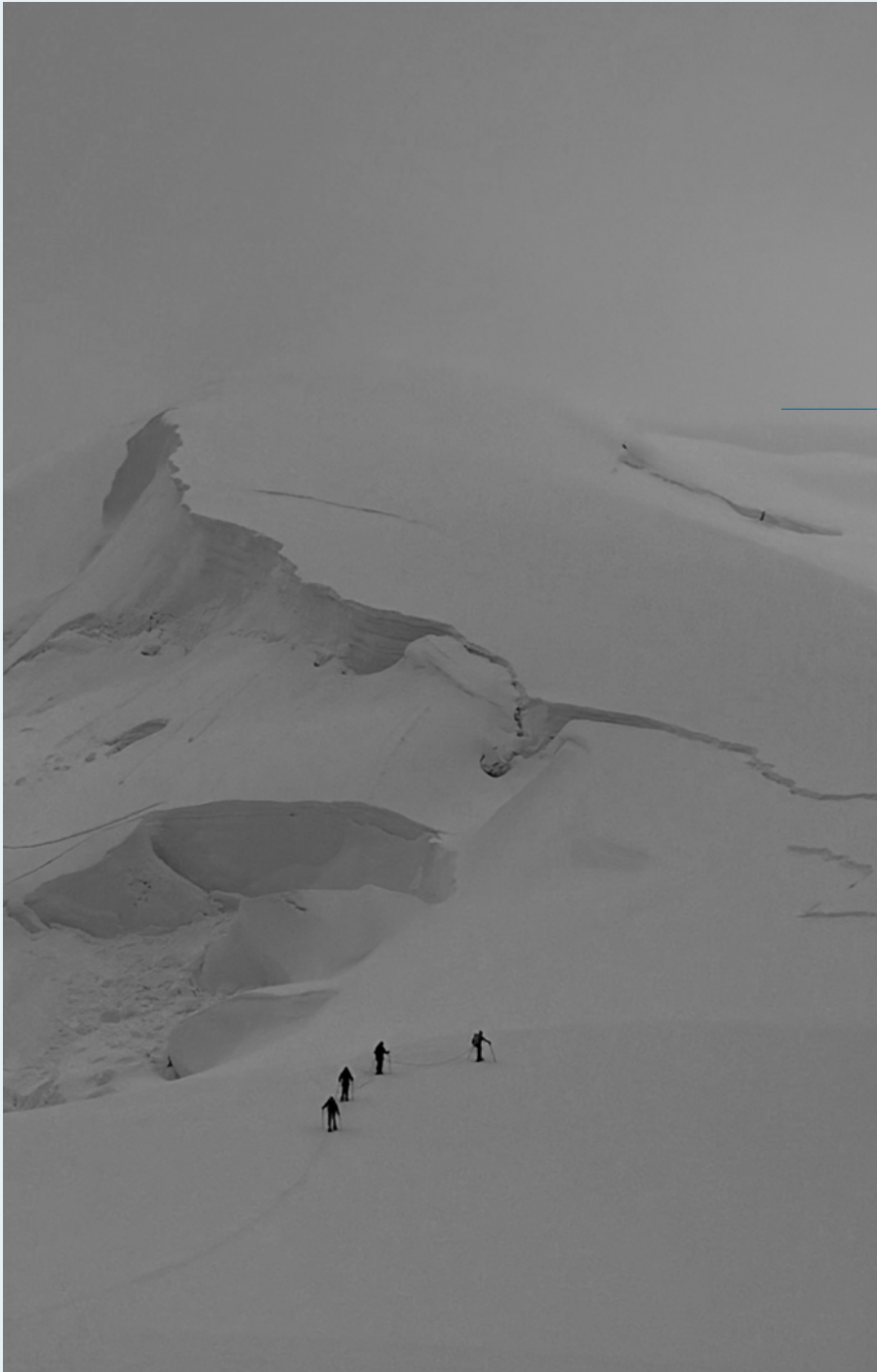












# Snowshoe Log

Guides: Mike Roberts, Alison Andrews, Rob Orvig, Lydia Bradey

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## 14 December 2025, AM: Lautaro Island

A glorious day of full sun, light winds and excited guests. We awoke to outrageous views, bergy bits, whales and icebergs. We snowshoed past the navigational marker on Lautaro, past gentoo penguins and a Weddell seal near the landing and navigation marker. Once past the regular route for guests, we roped up and snowshoed to the flat summit of the island, enjoying views in all directions.

## 14 December 2025, PM: George Point | Rongé Island

Our afternoon landing was at George Point on Rongé Island as the sun and light winds continued. Another Weddell seal was present near our landing site but did not react to us. We snowshoed up to the viewpoint with seven

snowshoers. We started past several rock outcrops with gentoo penguins occupying the rocks. Once again we had glorious views in all directions. The day continued with a BBQ on Deck 7 and some of our group heading out for camping overnight.

## 15 December 2025, AM: Petermann Island

The day started with a gorgeous traverse of the Lemaire Channel before breakfast, with a low fog creating a very polar ambience. We headed for the summit on Petermann Island with five snowshoers. The steep hill was doable with snowshoes for the ascent, but we opted for Muck boots for the descent, with good plunge steps. There were many gentoo penguins near the shore to entertain us.





Number of Snowshoers: 12  
Total Outings: 9

Snowshoers:  
Alison Canavan  
Peter Langer  
Leslie Langer  
Diane Fitch  
John Fitch  
David Norwood

Tina Norwood  
Len Miodinow  
Eugen Vasilescu  
Cristina Meirosu  
Beverley Wells  
Greg Bell

### 15 December 2025, PM: Hovgaard Island

In the afternoon, two hardy snowshoers joined the alpine trekkers and the guides to summit Hovgaard Island. The wind had picked up and with the low cloud it was a different environment from the heat of the day before. We finished our tour with a bumpy Zodiac ride for 40 minutes to join up with the ship and the rest of the passengers. A couple of whale sightings were a reward for enduring the bumps. 16 December 2025, AM: Dorian Bay

We visited Dorian Bay in the morning with six snowshoers, hiking past an abandoned Argentine base and heading toward Jabet Peak with a good crust supporting our snowshoes. Unfortunately, the crust turned us back as the slope grew steeper, but this meant we had time to look at the penguin colonies, including chicks, and the hut.

### 16 December 2025, PM: Jougla Point | Goudier Island

The afternoon trip with five snowshoers started at Jougla Point, where a lack of continuous snow meant we had to deal with mud and slime for a couple of hundred metres. Then we found snow that led us between rookeries to a stunning ice wall shimmering in the emerging sun. We finished with a visit to Goudier Island, visiting the museum and shop to finish our Christmas shopping. Our postcards were mailed from the world's most southerly post office.

### 17 December 2025, AM: Portal Point

The morning started with a very scenic snowshoe up Portal Point, through the narrows and up to the high point of the glacier. Seals were seen lounging near the beach.

### 17 December 2025, PM: Recess Cove

A short reposition at lunch had us at Recess Cove for the afternoon. Only one hardy snowshoer joined us while the rest opted for the Zodiac cruise. We had great whale viewing from close to our high point. The climax of our afternoon had to be a well attended polar plunge.

### 18 December 2025, AM: Curtis Bay

The morning was a Zodiac cruise for all passengers who were rewarded with amazing humpback whale watching. The whales were bubble feeding all around Curtis Bay and could be seen in all four directions at once.

### 18 December 2025, PM: Palaver Point

The afternoon, and the trip's final outing, was at Palaver Point. The trip started with a slow Zodiac cruise past chinstrap penguins and another humpback whale until we eventually found our landing spot, unfortunately covered with penguin guano. We snowshoed in windy, cloudy conditions up to a viewpoint. There, the wind dropped, the sun came out and once again we watched a whale from up on high. It was a fitting ending to a fabulous week of benign weather and great outings, with nine out of a possible nine trips.

















# Alpine Trek Log

Guides: Mike Roberts (Alpine Team Supervisor), Alison Andrews, Rob Orvig, Lydia Bradey

## 14 December 2025, AM: Lautaro Island

A stunning, crisp day of clear skies. We awoke to outrageous views, scattered bergy bits and icebergs. We had seen a pod of orca that morning. We landed and learned how to put snowshoes on and adjust the length of our trekking poles. Starting on the regular route for guests, we passed gentoo penguins, a Weddell seal and an old Lautaro Island navigation marker. A little further on, we roped up and donned our snow levitating snowshoes, then hiked up the glacier to the flat summit of the island, enjoying views in all directions.

## 14 December 2025, PM: George Point | Rongé Island

Our afternoon landing was at George Point on Rongé Island, below a mountain called Mount Tennant. The light had remained crisp, the few clouds had literally disappeared and the

scenery was very blue and white. All four of us plus guides managed some quite steep snowshoeing to a small col between two sub peaks, affording us a view through to the other side, always a special opportunity. There was little or no wind and the sea was oily smooth in many corners of the bays.

## 15 December 2025, AM: Lemaire Channel | Petermann Island

The day started with a gorgeous journey along the Lemaire Channel before breakfast, for those of us who were up early enough to appreciate the vistas. The atmosphere had begun to change, with low cloud obscuring the feet of the mountains and sunlight catching the summits of the peaks, causing them to float in the sky. Very alpine, and reminiscent of paintings by early world explorers. The Alpine





Number of Trekkers: 4  
Total Outings: 9

Trekkers:  
Alexei Mlodinow  
Erin Ritchie  
Nick Ritchie  
Susan Levy

Team were dropped off on the northern edge of the island and traversed the little peak of approximately 115 metres. The ascent route wound its way up moderate slopes between rocky outcrops. On the summit we met the snowshoe team and descended in the direction they had climbed. The descent was steep but the snow had softened dramatically. We took off our snowshoes to avoid sliding and used the heel plunge technique. There were many gentoo penguins near the shore to entertain us.

### 15 December 2025, PM: Hovgaard Island

In the afternoon, two hardy snowshoers joined the alpine trekkers and the guides to summit Hovgaard Island. The wind had picked up and the sky was darker and somewhat brewing, with extra jackets donned and bigger gloves carried. We traversed and climbed up to a shoulder, then along with a slight descent, before climbing a final slope to

a summit shoulder. Just getting there in time to score a sneaky ascent, we raced back down to meet our Zodiac ride home, who had been waiting for a wee bit so we could summit. We finished our tour with a hoods up, bumpy Zodiac ride for 40 minutes to join up with the ship and the rest of the passengers. A couple of whales were spotted, a reward for enduring the bumps.

### 16 December 2025, AM: Dorian Bay | Jabet Peak

We visited Dorian Bay in the morning along with six snowshoers, hiking past an abandoned Argentine base and heading toward Jabet Peak. The snow was quite frozen and gave us good support, but we still used ropes and travelled in glacier travel mode to be safe in case of crevasses. However, walking on this surface was noisy and a little hard on the ankles. As the slope steepened, the snowshoers turned around and the trekkers got higher, changing to crampons and using

their axes. We all collected back at the bottom of the island, with time to explore the abandoned British AHT hut. Our route up and down had crossed the broad, flatter shoulder of the hill above the buildings, which had once sported a fixed wing runway for supplies delivery.

### 16 December 2025, PM: Doumer Peak | Doumer Island

The afternoon trip with two alpine trekkers had the objective of reaching a high point on Doumer Peak, on Doumer Island. The landing site is directly opposite Jougla Point, where the snowshoers had a pretty walk and visited the most southerly post office in the world. Our path took us up a shoulder and across a long glacier. Part way along we had to cross a long crevasse before heading up the steeper slopes. The sun had come out strongly that afternoon and we were hot on our journey. We climbed in snowshoes all the way to a shoulder at 330 metres, where we would have transitioned to

crampons but ran out of time. Hard to say you run out of daylight in this part of the world.

### 17 December 2025, AM: Portal Point | Polar Plunge

The morning started with a very scenic snowshoe up Portal Point, through the narrows which were like a land bridge but forged by ice. On one side we could see down onto patches of snow on the beach and spotted at least seven seals sleeping. We also gazed down on utterly smooth tidal pools where the rich blues and shattered seracs of the ice cliffs were perfectly reflected on the water. The summit of the hill was 150 metres above the sea and gave great views in many directions.

A short reposition at lunch had us at Recess Cove for the afternoon, where the Alpine Trek Team opted for the Zodiac cruise. And what a cruise it was. The single snowshoer had a great view of the Alpine Trek Team's whale viewing from above.





In the late afternoon, all the Alpine Trekkers braved the polar plunge into the minus one degree waters of the Southern Ocean.

### 18 December 2025, AM: Zodiac Whale Watching | Palaver Point

The morning was a Zodiac cruise for all passengers who were rewarded with amazing humpback whale watching. The whales were bubble feeding all around Curtis Bay and could be seen in all four directions at once.

The afternoon, and the trip's final outing, was at Palaver Point. The Alpine Trekkers and snowshoers shared a destination. The trip started with a slow Zodiac cruise past chinstrap penguins and another humpback whale until we eventually found our landing spot, in shallow, low tide waters and seemingly completely covered with penguin guano. It was still glacial, so we roped up and took a high, zigzagging line to a shoulder that was spectacular,

with rock cliffs rearing above us and dramatic, steep ice cliffs shearing off into the pewter dark ocean on both sides. Once we reached a rocky shoulder, we took off our snowshoes to feel the rocks and earth beneath our boots. Looking out, we saw more whales, perhaps up to three. The sun began to peek through cloud gaps and in the far distance lit mountain ranges many nautical miles across, a beacon to our journey into the Antarctic waters, islands and hills. It was a visually dramatic ending to a week of amazing weather, low winds and great outings, with nine out of a possible nine trips.













# Bird & Mammal Sightings

[illegible]

Bird Species	December										
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Kelp Gull	●			●	●	●	●	●			
Skua (Brown or South Polar)	●			●	●	●	●	●			
Antarctic Tern					●	●	●	●			
Snowy Sheathbill				●	●	●		●			

[illegible]



# Map

1. Lautaro Island (L)
2. Cuverville Island (L)
3. Doumer Island (camping)
4. Lemaire Channel (SC)
5. Petermann Island (L)
6. Argentine Islands (ZC)
7. Damoy Point (L)
8. Port Lockroy | Jougla Point (L/ZC)
9. Portal Point (L)
10. Recess Cove (L/ZC)
11. Graham Passage (SC)
12. Palaver Point (L & ZC)

SC=Ship Cruise  
ZC=Zodiac Cruise  
L=Landing

## Spirit of Antarctica

11 December – 21 December 2025









# Our Expeditioners

Lindsey Albano	Xiao Cheng	Kyra Hickson	Marcos Lemor	Chuck Newman	Rich Stanek
Jake Albano	Caitlin Clarke	Marcela Hrnecir	Andrea Lemor	Tina Norwood	Rachael Stanek
Jenn Allsop	Jim Cornett	Isabella Jacobson	Daniel Lemor	David Norwood Jr	Laura Tidswell
Doris Beath	Terry Cornett	Jacinta Jacobson	Susan Levy	Anjie Ou	Tina Torkamanishamimi
Greg Bell	Sharon Cotter	Lindy Jaworski	Zhenyu Li	May Pang	Patrick Turner
Simy Benaim	Byron Cotter	Henry Jaworski	Yuzhen Li	Patricia Patterson	Erin Turner
Michelle Bennewies	Martin Cummings	Lewis Jayatilaka-Smith	Soo Lim	Dana Prestigiacomo	David Turner
Brittany Bessinger	Stacey Dudley	John Joyce	Zhiming Liu	Lu Ran	Eugen Vasilescu
Shaoshu Bian	Ariel Ehrlich	Nika Kakoishvili	Shiyun Lu	Anna Richards	Bianca Venn
Lisa Blank	Gholam Farboody	Aditi Kalla	Michele Mason	Jane Richards	Archana Vyas
Leah Bloomfield	John Fitch	Jens Knauer	Annette McBride	Melissa Rider	Min Wang
Christina Boerigter	Diane Fitch	Metin Kozan	John McBride	Nick Ritchie	Xiaoqian Wang
Dan Boerigter	Steve Forrest	Dilek Kozan	Peter McGrail	Erin Ritchie	Tory Warner
Tiana Brown	Michael Friedman	Mark Kressenberg	Cristina Meirosu	Michal Pawel Rys	Caroline Wegner
Alison Canavan	Sienna Gardner	Kim Kressenberg	Christine Miller	Jenny Sai	Natalie Wegner
Amanda Capon	Andrea Gormley	Ryan Kurtanich	Len Mlodinow	Rob Shaffer	Beverley Wells
Martina Catinari	Elisa Guevara	Leslie Langer	Alexei Mlodinow	Michael Shneier	Kate Wilson
Kristin Centofante	Peter Hackman	Pete Langer	Julio Montoya	Khin Khin Slone	Ming Wu
Wenqiong Chen	Delila Hansen	Jon Lemor	Gill Neale	Ben Smith	Jiang Yan
Ping Chen	Kati Haworth	Monica Lemor	Soso Nebieridze	Fiona Smith	Ping Zhou



## Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Ashley Perrin  
Assistant Expedition Leader: Piotr Damski  
Onboard Expedition Manager: Anne Oeyasaeter  
Shop Manager: Cecilia Mossi  
Marine Biologist EC: Bia Figueiredo  
Naturalist: Kevin Cunningham Closs  
Naturalist CSC: John Kirkwood  
Historian: Kelsey Camacho  
Photography Guide: Katia Benini  
Expedition First Responder: Jac Emmaline  
Expedition & Mandarin Guide: Zhongyuan Chen  
Expedition & Mandarin Guide: Jiaqi Wang  
Lead Kayak Guide: Gabby Bruce  
Senior Kayak Guide: Tim Vanhoutteghem  
Kayak Guide: Reg Grundy  
Lead Alpine Guide: Mike Roberts  
Alpine Guide: Lydia Bradey  
Alpine Guide: Alison Andrews  
Alpine Guide: Rob Orvig  
Zodiac Master: Serghei Hinchu  
Future Zodiac Master: Chris O'Meara

## Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Andrus Pruul  
Chief Officer: Viktor Koshelets  
Second Officer: Ludivico Fernandez  
Safety Officer: Bryan Salem  
Bosun: Leo Francis Marzan  
Ship Doctor: Maria De los Angeles Zambrano Ruales  
Chief Engineer: Enes Candic  
First Engineer: Sergei Luba  
IT Officer: Rene Reyes  
Hotel Director: Alex Barkar  
F&B Service Manager: Narendra Seeram  
Head Bartender: Sheenie Landauz  
Chief Purser: Pedro Camilo Jr 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: John Sibug  
Able Seaman: Prasad Pallikara Vilayan  
Able Seaman: Anthony Brosas  
Able Seaman: Dan Danico

Photography thanks to:

Katia Benini









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