

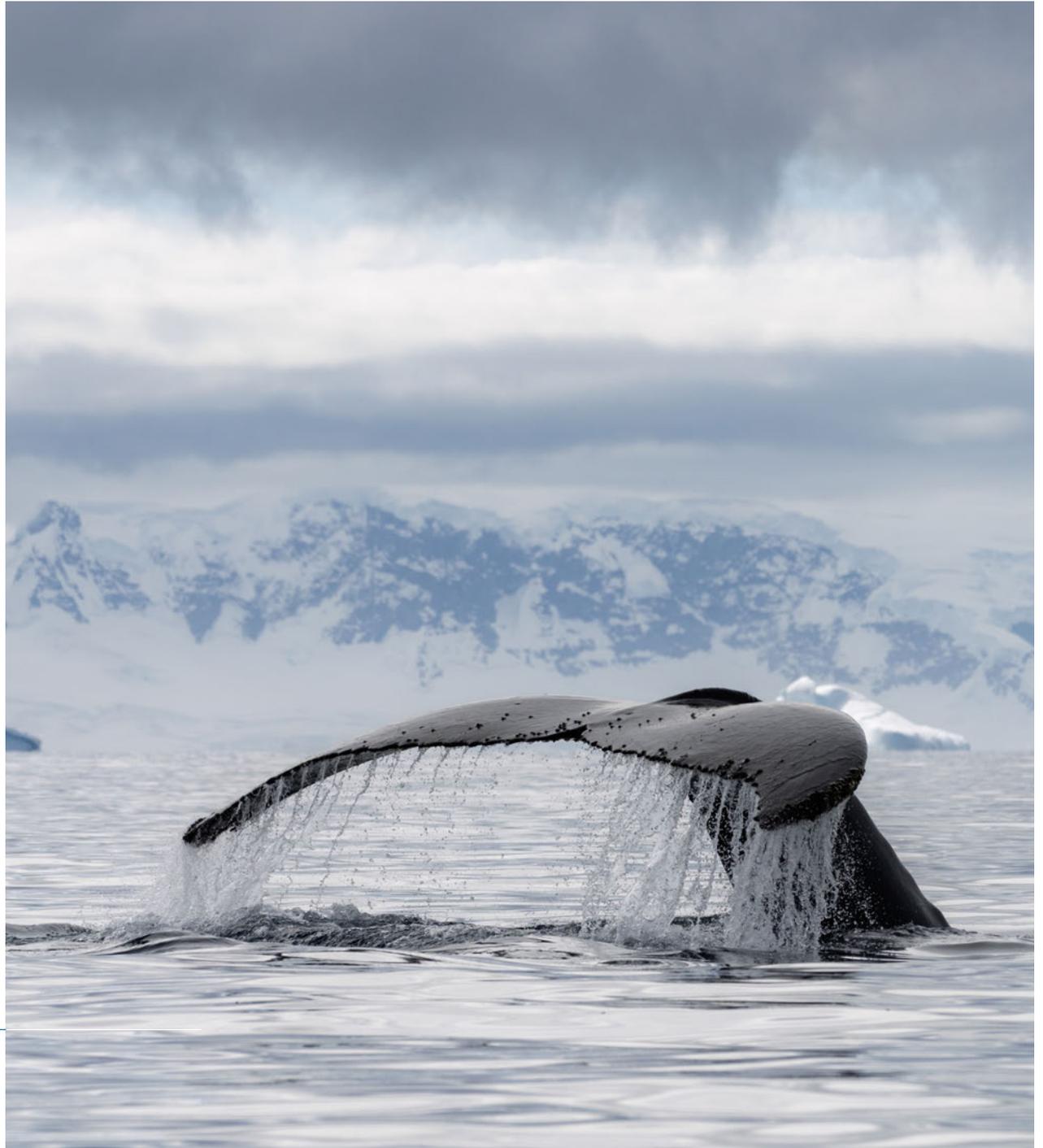
Falklands, South Georgia & Peninsula

Aboard *Greg Mortimer* | 28 December 2025 – 18 January 2026



Falklands, South
Georgia & Peninsula

28 December 2025 – 18 January 2026



Ushuaia | Embarkation day

DAY 1 | Sunday 28 December 2025

Latitude:
54°48.28' S

Longitude:
68°17.59' W

Course:
Alongside
Speed:
0 knots

Wind Speed:
3 knots W

Barometer:
1016 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

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

Early in the morning, we set out from Ushuaia and crossed the southernmost foothills of the Andes toward Lake Fagnano, surrounded by forests and dramatic mountain views. After enjoying the scenery and taking photos, we continued to Las Cotorras, a rustic lodge where we savoured a traditional Argentinian BBQ lunch. The warm hospitality and wild beauty of Tierra del Fuego made for a memorable start to our adventure.

Later, we headed to the pier and were greeted by Expedition Team members Gaby and Assistant Expedition Leader Leo. We boarded a catamaran to reach the *Greg Mortimer*, an unusual but exciting way to begin. On arrival, we were welcomed by the Expedition Team, including Expedition

Leader Jeff, Expedition Photographer Jarryd and Onboard Expedition Manager Alesha. After check in, Jarryd photographed each of us for the photo board.

An embarkation buffet awaited us in the Elephant Island Bar, and the Hotel Team guided us to our cabins. Soon after, Jeff welcomed everyone in the lecture theatre, sharing a short video featuring *Greg Mortimer* and speaking about the innovative X-Bow design. Mario outlined the days ahead before introducing the multi-skilled Expedition Team.

Alesha and Hotel Director Oliver explained life on board, and Dr Pranav gave a short health briefing. After the mandatory safety drill, we enjoyed dinner prepared by the galley team and served by the friendly restaurant staff.

Altogether, we are 106 Expeditioners, joined by 88 crew and 22 Expedition Team members. After many hours of travel, it is time to relax and look forward to the journey ahead.





Drake Passage

DAY 2 | Monday 29 December 2025

Latitude:
56°58.2' S

Longitude:
64°50.3' W

Course:
153°

Speed:
10.9 knots

Wind Speed:
23 knots NE

Barometer:
1015 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

We woke this morning to the *Greg Mortimer* gently rolling through the Drake Passage, the Southern Ocean reminding us that the adventure had well and truly begun. There is something about waking at sea that instantly resets our perspective, with the steady motion, the sound of water against the hull and the quiet excitement of sailing toward one of the most extraordinary places on Earth.

After breakfast, we gathered for the mandatory IAATO briefings. These sessions are a key part of any Antarctic journey, highlighting how fortunate we are to visit such a remote environment and how every small action helps preserve it. Attendance was full, with every guest eager to protect this remarkable region. With everyone able to brave the seas and attend, we are now all permitted to step off the *Greg Mortimer* and onto the celebrated lands of Antarctica.

Lunch followed as the ship continued making excellent progress south. Spirits were high around the dining room, with lively conversation and growing anticipation.

In the afternoon, Meike delivered a seabird lecture that brought the Southern Ocean to life. Soon after, many of us headed to the back deck to put that knowledge into practice. We were rewarded with sightings of black-browed albatross gliding through the wind, Antarctic prions skimming the surface and southern giant petrels cruising past the ship.

Later, the activity guides met with their groups to discuss upcoming plans. As evening arrived, we gathered for the Captain's cocktails and welcome drinks, followed by the daily recap. The day ended with a delicious dinner and plenty of smiles, another step closer to Antarctica.





Drake Passage

DAY 3 | Tuesday 30 December 2025

Latitude:
56°58.2' S

Longitude:
64°50.3' W

Course:
158°

Speed:
10.9 knots

Wind Speed:
23 knots NE

Barometer:
1015 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

The day greeted us with a familiar Southern Ocean mood, about minus one degree outside, a two metre swell and skies painted in soft shades of grey. The waves rolled smoothly beneath the ship, a steady reminder that we were well on our way south. It felt colder as we entered the Antarctic Convergence, and with it came a noticeable increase in seabird activity.

After breakfast, we gathered for a photography lecture with Jarryd, full of practical advice. His tips were simple and useful, keep charging your gear, put the camera down sometimes, move your feet, always have your camera with you, review images in the field and embrace creativity. The photos he shared left many eager to experiment more, especially with mobile phones. Meike then invited us onto the outer decks, where the day's magic unfolded. Fulmars skimmed the waves, juvenile light-mantled albatrosses cruised effortlessly and prions danced on the wind. We were also treated to the powerful sight of fin whale

blows moving in the same direction as the ship. Inside, EL Jeff's afternoon update brought news of unusually large amounts of sea ice blocking our route to the Antarctic Peninsula, something rare for this time of year in the Bransfield Strait. A reminder that Antarctica always writes its own rules.

Later, Nils delivered his lecture 'The Golden Age of Antarctica Explorers', offering deeper insight into the region's history. After lunch, a lively eBird session with Gabi saw ten species logged in twenty minutes despite hail and strengthening winds. As we warmed up, Meike introduced the lives of gentoo and chinstrap penguins. The evening recap covered plans for tomorrow's Zodiac cruise and landing. Dinner brought excitement as we spotted our first bergy bit drifting past. We ended the day with maritime superstitions with Jarryd, heading to sleep knowing that tomorrow, on the final day of 2025, we will be in Antarctica.





Cierva Cove and Mikkelsen Harbour

DAY 4 | Wednesday 31 December 2025

Latitude:
64°07.6' S

Longitude:
61°09.1' W

Course:
067°

Speed:
4.5 knots

Wind Speed:
15 knots NE

Barometer:
1012 hPa

Air Temp:
0°C

The day began early, with Jeff waking those still asleep at 0630 as the ship approached Cierva Cove. The early start was well worth it. Calm conditions revealed a spectacular Antarctic welcome, with humpback whales swimming past the ship against a backdrop of icebergs and gentoo and chinstrap penguins porpoising through the water.

The morning Zodiac cruise delivered our first close encounters. Cruising quietly among sculpted icebergs, more humpbacks were seen and a Weddell seal was spotted hauled out on an iceberg. Snorkellers seized the chance to enter polar waters, while kayakers and paddlers launched onto the ocean, soaking up the stillness and scale of their surroundings.

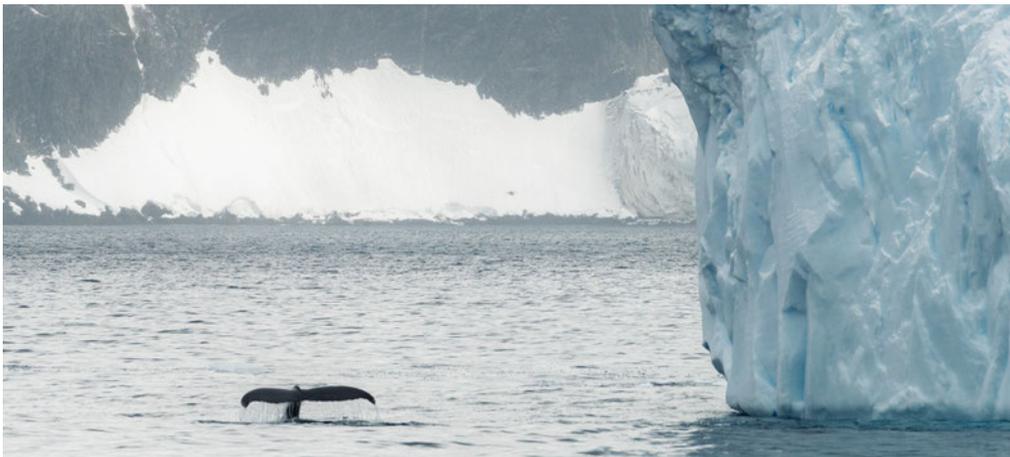
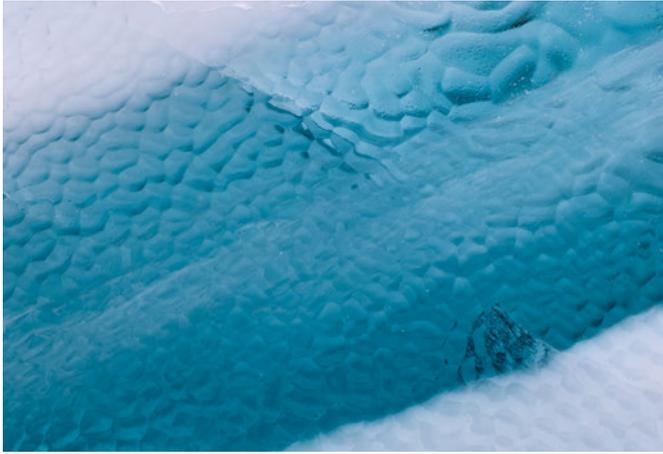
The afternoon brought us to Mikkelsen Harbour, where the shoreline of D'Hainaut Island revealed stories of wildlife and

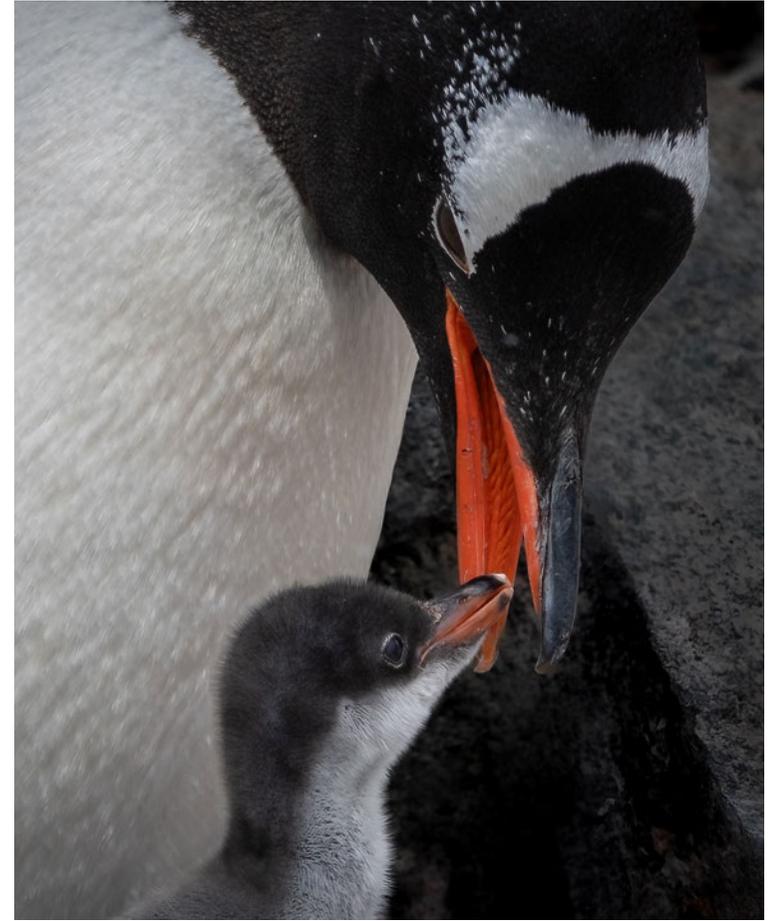
history. Gentoo penguins wandered among whale bones scattered along the beach and around the wreck of an old whaling ship. Some Expeditioners were lucky enough to spot young chicks being fed by their parents.

Back on the water, snorkellers, kayakers and paddlers made the most of the conditions. Curious gentoo penguins swam over to investigate, creating playful moments that captured the magic of Antarctica. Snowshoers also enjoyed their first outing.

On board, we gathered for champagne during the daily recap before another delicious meal. The evening continued with entertainment from Herman and festive songs from the hotel team. Humpback whales passed the ship, providing the perfect end to the meal. With spirits high, celebrations carried on as we welcomed 2026 at the end of the world.







Cuverville Island & Neko Harbour

DAY 5 | Thursday 1 January 2026

Latitude:
64°36.0' S

Longitude:
67°34.9' W

Course:
263°

Speed:
5 knots

Wind Speed:
5 knots ENE

Barometer:
1011 hPa

Air Temp:
-1°C

A light snow flurry drifted through the early hours of the first day of the new year. The ship's common areas and upper decks began unusually quiet, though spirits were high as guests emerged for breakfast. Cruising steadily, we rounded the monolith of Spigot Peak, gateway to the Errera Channel. The highest peaks remained hidden behind a thin grey veil, but the coastline was sharp and luminous, draped in immense glaciers pouring from the clouds. Humpback whales surfaced calmly as we approached Cuverville Island.

Now well practised in expedition operations, the landing unfolded smoothly. Zodiacs wove past towering icebergs en route to shore. Above, cliffs carpeted in moss and lichen hosted nesting terns and petrels. Below, rock outcrops splashed guano pink echoed with the calls of more than twenty thousand gentoo penguins.

By midday the clouds broke, revealing blue skies and sweeping views across the Gerlache Strait. Before reaching our afternoon destination, keen eyes spotted orca from the observation deck. For nearly an hour, we witnessed a rare display as pods cooperatively pursued fleeing penguins. This behaviour and location suggested Type B2 orca, also known as Gerlache killer whales.

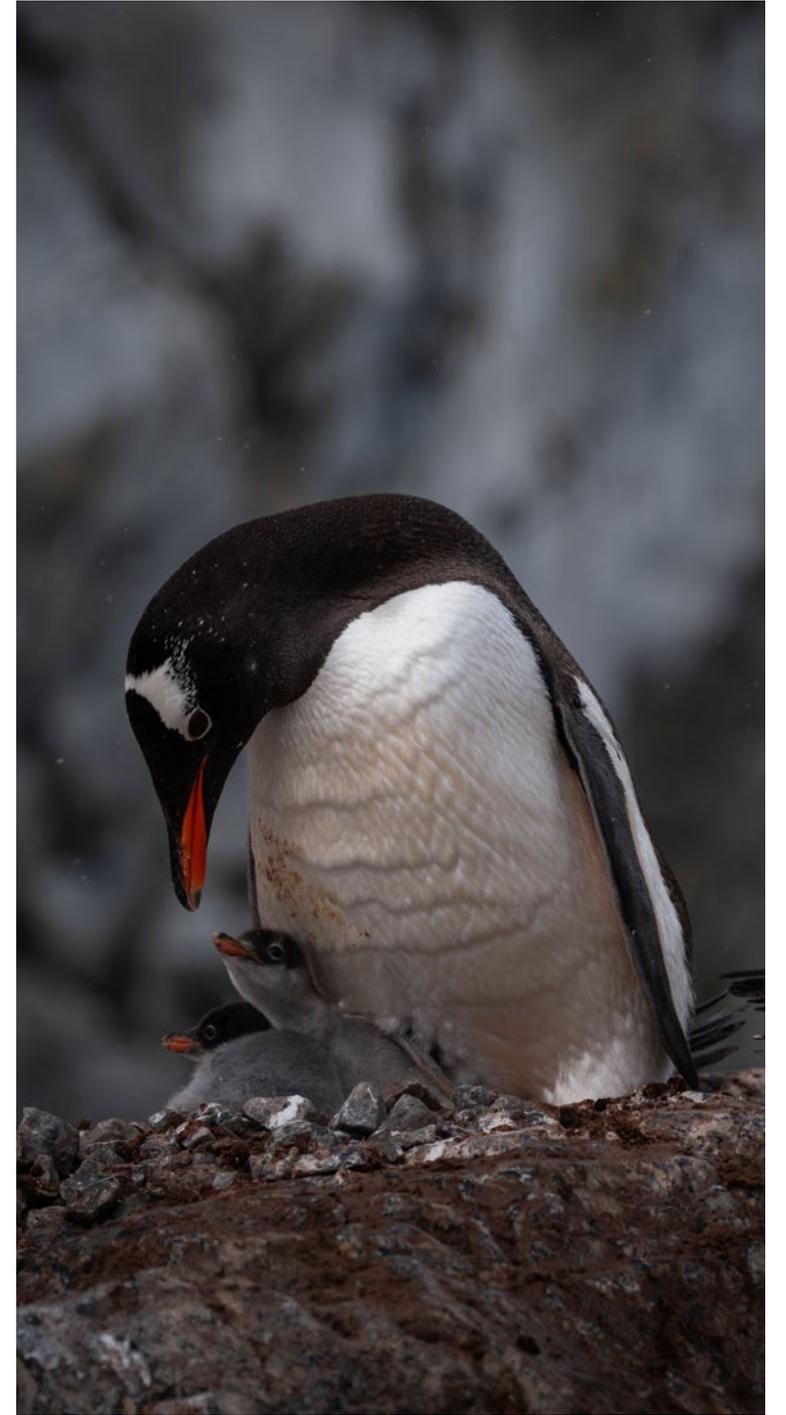
Though delayed, the afternoon landing proved unforgettable, marking our first steps on the Antarctic mainland. Calm conditions allowed for an easy shuttle and ascent alongside busy 'penguin highways' to the panoramic overlook of Neko Harbour.

The day ended as it began, in good company, gliding through protected waters alongside humpbacks and orcas beneath a lingering polar dusk.











Enterprise Island & Recess Cove

DAY 6 | Friday 2 January 2026

Latitude:
64°32.9' S

Longitude:
61°58.4' W

Course:

Speed:
0 knots

Wind Speed:
0 knots VAR

Barometer:
1016 hPa

Air Temp:
1°C

Another day for the books. Glassy conditions and calm seas set the stage for a morning filled with memorable moments. Jeff's wake up call welcomed us into Enterprise Island, specifically Foyn Harbour. Although whales kept their distance, there was still plenty to see, including the permanently beached *Governøren*, a striking reminder of the region's whaling history.

Wildlife sightings were excellent. From the Zodiacs, we had a clear view of an Antarctic shag perched high on the cliffs. A few lucky Expeditioners also spotted a leopard seal cruising through the bay. It surfaced with a fish in its mouth, made quick work of its meal, and then slipped away in search of more.

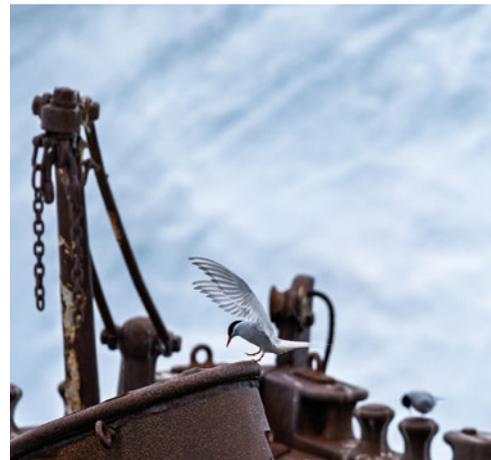
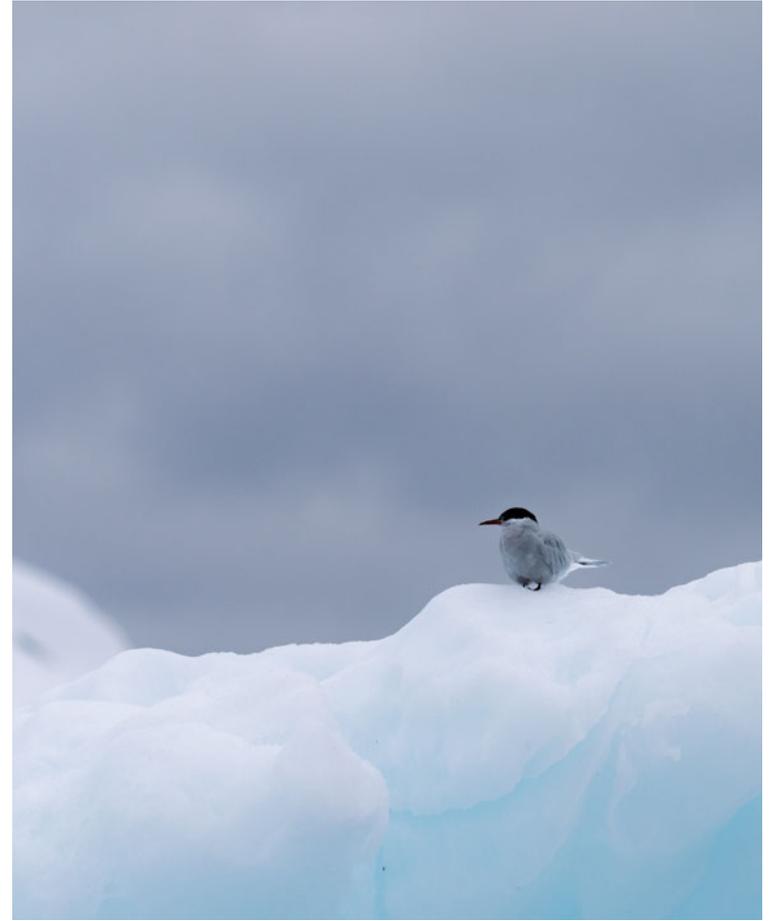
After such an active morning, many took the chance to brave the polar plunge. Congratulations to all who were bold enough

to take the dip in Antarctic waters. The photos will certainly be worth it.

The afternoon at Recess Cove was equally spectacular. Ice surrounded us, sunlight filtered through low cloud and the bay soon filled with whales. Breaching, pectoral fin slapping and countless flukes created what could only be described as whale soup. With so much activity, even choosing where to position the Zodiacs became a challenge. A towering iceberg dominated the bay, sparking lively conversation and imagination.

Some visited Alan on shore, enjoying his stories and the sweeping view across the cove. We ended the day sailing into a soft sunset, whales all around and excitement building for the days ahead.









Yankee Harbour & Fort Point

DAY 7 | Sunday 3 January 2026

Latitude:
62°35.6' S

Longitude:
59°45.7' W

Course:
341°

Speed:
10.7 knots

Wind Speed:
16 knots W

Barometer:
1013 hPa

Air Temp:
0°C

The weather gods smiled on us again as we awoke to another beautiful Antarctic morning. Our destination for the day was the South Shetland Islands, and with calm seas and soft light across the water, it felt like the perfect start. We rose earlier than usual to take advantage of the conditions and to allow time for the afternoon sail toward Elephant Island. Skipping breakfast, we bundled into Zodiacs and set off to explore the shoreline of Yankee Harbour.

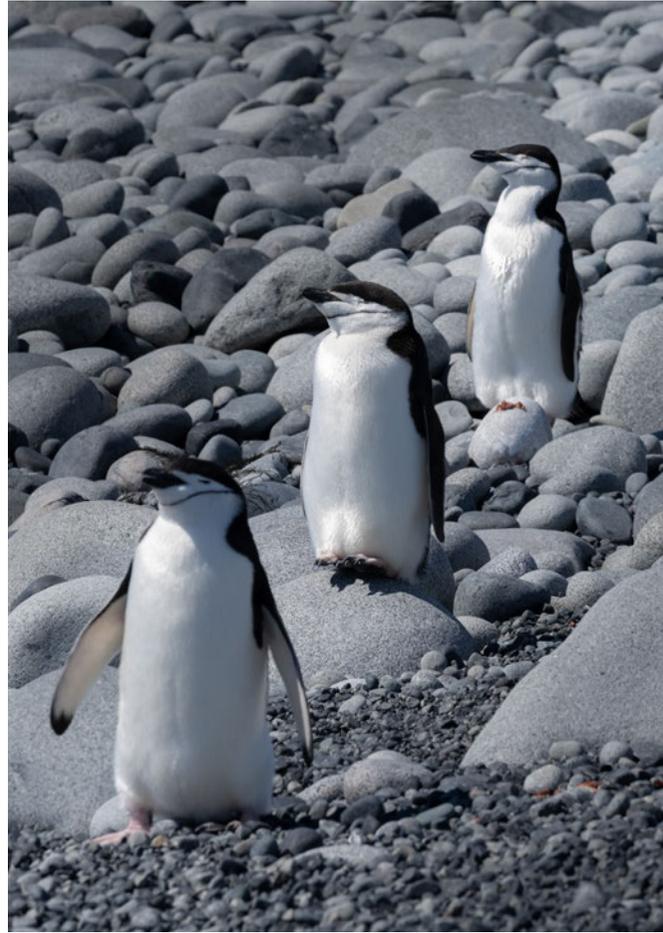
Yankee Harbour is a broad, sheltered bay framed by a hanging glacier and a long, low spit of rounded pebbles extending from a rugged escarpment. At the base of the mountain lies a large gentoo penguin rookery, busy and vocal even in the early hours. The spit protects the inner harbour from swell, creating an ideal landing site. We spent the morning wandering among

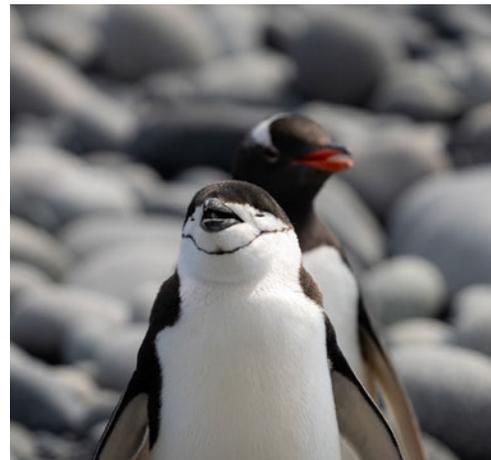
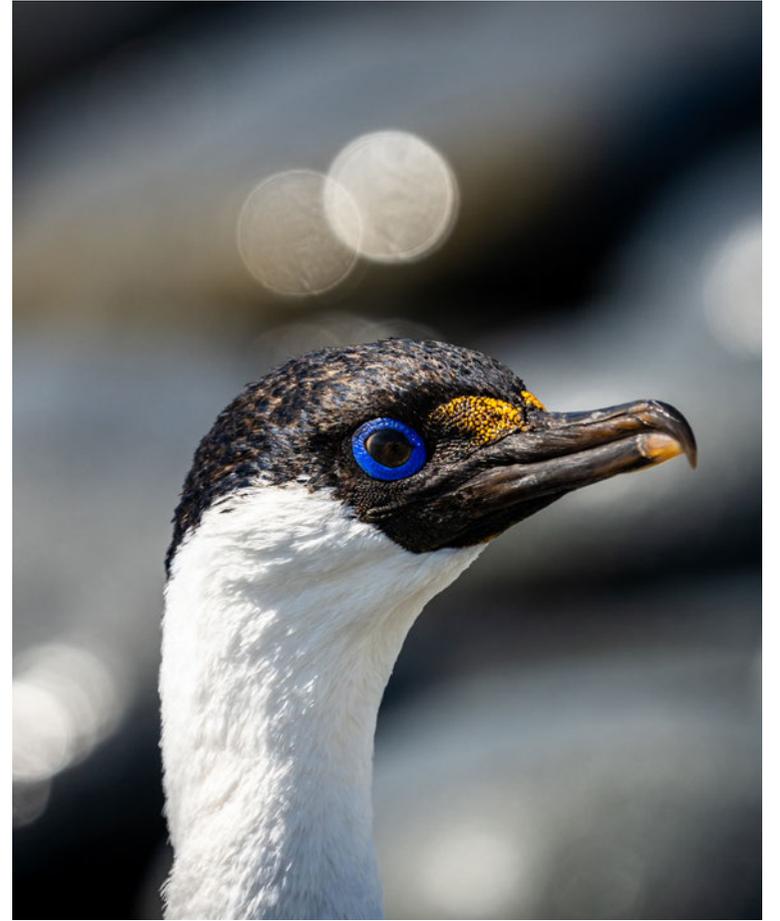
the penguins, watching adults shuttle to and from the sea while chicks called from their nests. As the wind increased and the sea state became livelier, we returned to the ship, enjoying a spirited Zodiac ride back.

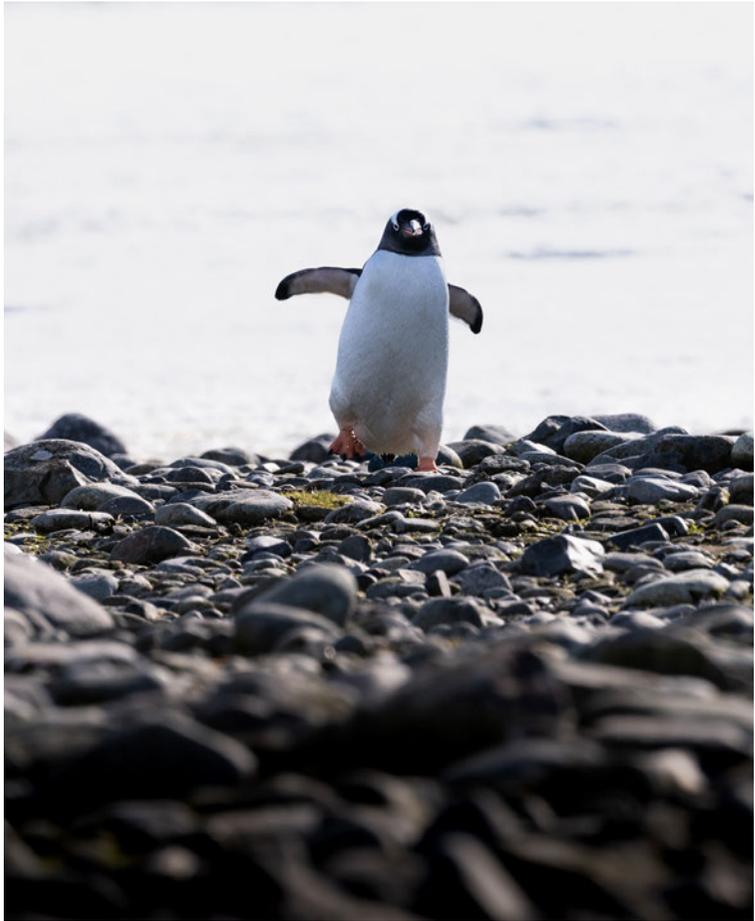
Over a well earned brunch, the *Greg Mortimer* repositioned to Fort Point. Stepping ashore, we were greeted by sunshine and a bluebird afternoon. The initial swell at the gangway soon eased, and the sea turned silky under the summer sun. Jagged spires rose sharply from the cobbled isthmus, creating a dramatic backdrop for thousands of penguins that call this small corner of the South Shetlands home.

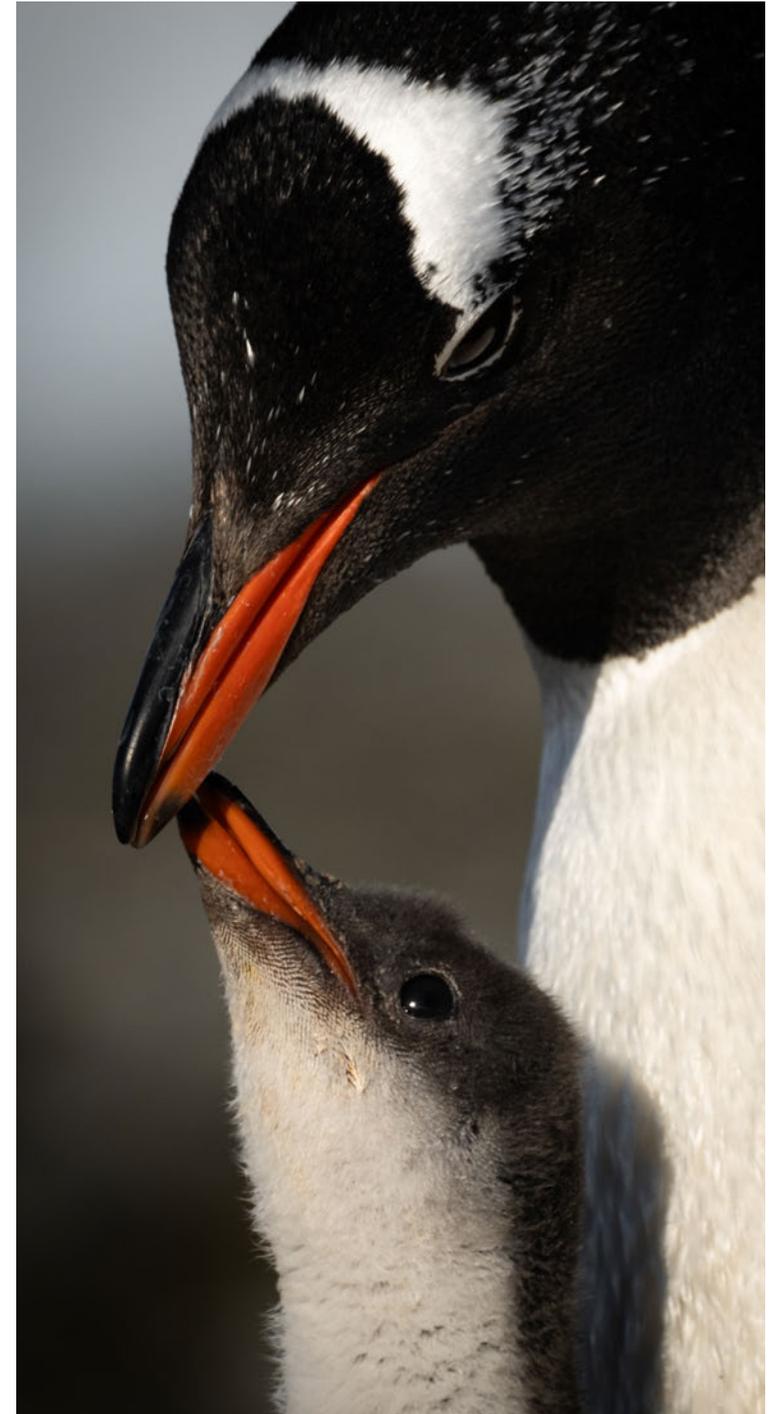
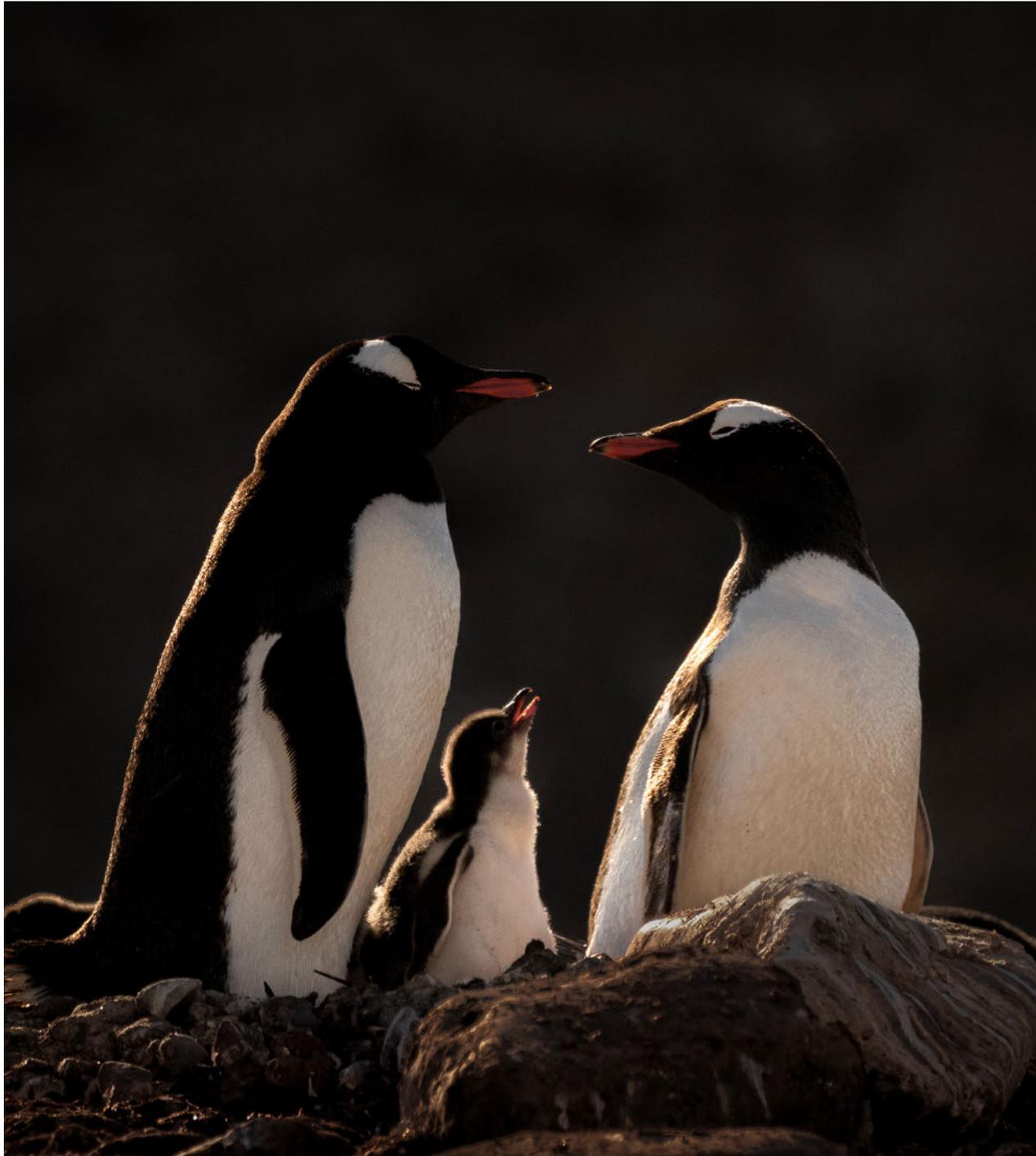
By early afternoon we were back on board, heading east-north-east on a following sea toward our hopeful rendezvous with Point Wild and Elephant Island the next day.











Point Wild, Elephant Island

DAY 8 | Sunday 4 January 2026

Latitude:
60°54.7' S

Longitude:
55°18.0' W

Course:
097°

Speed:
9.7 knots

Wind Speed:
13 knots NW

Barometer:
1008 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

Today was a historic day. We landed at Point Wild on Elephant Island, a location exposed to heavy swell and strong winds that make landings extremely rare. Many of our experienced Expedition Team members had never set foot here before, and the excitement was unmistakable.

Point Wild is iconic in Antarctic history. This tiny rocky outcrop sheltered twenty two men from Shackleton's Endurance expedition, who were stranded here for four and a half months in 1916. Their ship had been crushed by ice, forcing them to camp on drifting floes before making a desperate journey in three small lifeboats to Elephant Island. What seemed like failure became one of the greatest survival stories of all time.

Adding to the drama, the nearby Furness Glacier calved, sending huge icebergs crashing into the water with thunder

like cracks. Those on shore moved to higher ground in case of a tsunami. While no large wave arrived, a negative wave left our Zodiacs briefly high and dry, echoing the isolation faced by Shackleton's men.

After lunch, Sir David Attenborough introduced us to South Georgia in a short documentary. We then biosecured our gear to protect this fragile environment. The afternoon brought a lively glaciology lecture from Gaby, complete with beer and gin analogies to explain snow, ice and sea level change.

The day ended with diverse recaps featuring underwater footage from the *Gouvernøren* shipwreck, stories of Frank Wild, chinstrap penguin micro-naps and Mrs Chippy, the ship's cat. A challenging day with big achievements proved Shackleton right, 'Difficulties are just things to overcome, after all.'





At Sea on the way to South Georgia

DAY 9 | Monday 5 January 2026

Latitude:
58°44.7' S

Longitude:
47°18.8' W

Course:
058°

Speed:
11.7 knots

Wind Speed:
17 knots WSW

Barometer:
995 hPa

Air Temp:
3°C

The day at sea after leaving the Antarctic Peninsula unfolded as a lively and purposeful passage toward South Georgia, filled with learning, creativity, and growing anticipation.

Aboard the *Greg Mortimer* with Aurora Expeditions, we found ourselves running just ahead of an approaching storm system, the ship pressing onward with confidence and grace. The seas held at a reasonable two metres, enough to remind us we were in the Southern Ocean, but never enough to dampen spirits. The steady motion and low grey sky gave the day a sense of momentum, as if we were being ushered forward toward our next great chapter.

Much of the day was spent enriching our understanding of what lies ahead. A series of engaging lectures brought South Georgia vividly into focus. We learned about the remarkable lives of king penguins; their immense colonies, elegant postures, and the long, patient journeys of their chicks and parents. These talks made the prospect of seeing them ashore feel all the more special, grounding future encounters in knowledge and respect.

Complementing this was a sobering yet fascinating exploration of the history of whaling in South Georgia. The stories of industry, excess, and eventual protection gave depth to the landscapes we are soon to visit, reminding us how far conservation has come and how important it remains.

Between lectures, the ship buzzed with quiet creativity. An artistic session using black ice offered a reflective pause from the rolling sea. Scratching light into dark surfaces, we created stark, beautiful images that echoed the polar environment outside; simple, high-contrast, and surprisingly expressive. It was a chance to slow down, share ideas, and connect with the place in a different way.

As evening settled in, excitement steadily built. Tomorrow morning, we hope to arrive in South Georgia and finally step into the zodiacs, trading the ship's decks for shorelines alive with wildlife and history. The day at sea felt like a bridge between Antarctica and South Georgia, between learning and experience, and it left us energized, inspired, and ready for the adventure ahead.

At Sea on the way to South Georgia

DAY 10 | Monday 5 January 2026

Latitude:
58°44.7' S

Longitude:
47°18.8' W

Course:
058°

Speed:
11.7 knots

Wind Speed:
17 knots WSW

Barometer:
995 hPa

Air Temp:
3°C

Our final sea day carried us northeast through the Scotia Sea toward South Georgia. For a time this morning, we were escorted by a wandering albatross in its snowy form, a sure sign that we were drawing closer to the island. It set the tone for a day filled with learning and reflection as we prepared for the next stage of our journey.

Nils began with an engaging summary of the whaling industry, tracing its origins in the Northern Hemisphere and its later expansion into Antarctic waters. His talk provided valuable context for our upcoming visit to Grytviken, once the centre of southern hemisphere whaling. The discussion that followed explored the complexities of both whaling and sealing, encouraging thoughtful questions from the group.

We are fortunate to have two researchers on board, Laura and Alex from Oceanites, who spoke about their work. For

more than three decades, Oceanites has monitored penguin populations across the Antarctic Peninsula, using them as indicators of ecosystem health. Their long-term data helps the world understand how climate change is reshaping Antarctica. Tourism vessels often support their work by providing access to remote sites, a reminder that responsible tourism can contribute meaningfully to science.

Gaby followed with an introductory guide to South Georgia, covering geology, wildlife, flora, human history and the island's unique economy. For such a small place, it holds remarkable depth and complexity.

The day grew even more interesting as Alan shared stories and photos from his Antarctic diving experiences, including encounters with leopard seals and moments on thin ice. We now look forward to waking up to South Georgia in the morning.

Cooper Bay & Gold Harbour

DAY 11 | Wednesday 7 January 2026

Latitude:
54°46.1' S

Longitude:
35°45.0' W

Course:
218°

Speed:
8.1 knots

Wind Speed:
8 knots SE

Barometer:
998 hPa

Air Temp:
3°C

After two full days at sea, the morning of 7 January greeted us with remarkably calm conditions as the *Greg Mortimer* sailed through gentle swells toward South Georgia. The destination felt almost mythical after days of open ocean, a remote and rugged island rising from the Southern Ocean. With the weather in our favour, there was a quiet hope that the next few days would allow us to make the most of this extraordinary place.

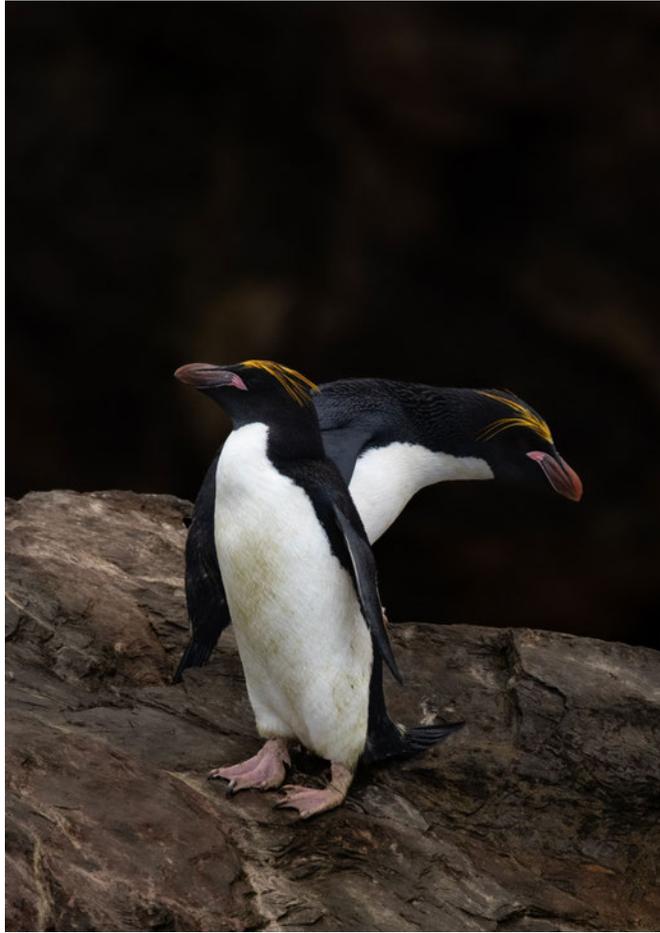
The day began with a hearty breakfast as the Captain guided the ship into the striking waters of Cooper Bay. Once at anchor, the Expedition Team launched into action, preparing Zodiacs for the morning cruise along South Georgia's dramatic shoreline. Under bright skies, we skimmed across calm water and were rewarded with superb wildlife sightings. Macaroni, king, gentoo and chinstrap penguins crowded the rocks, while

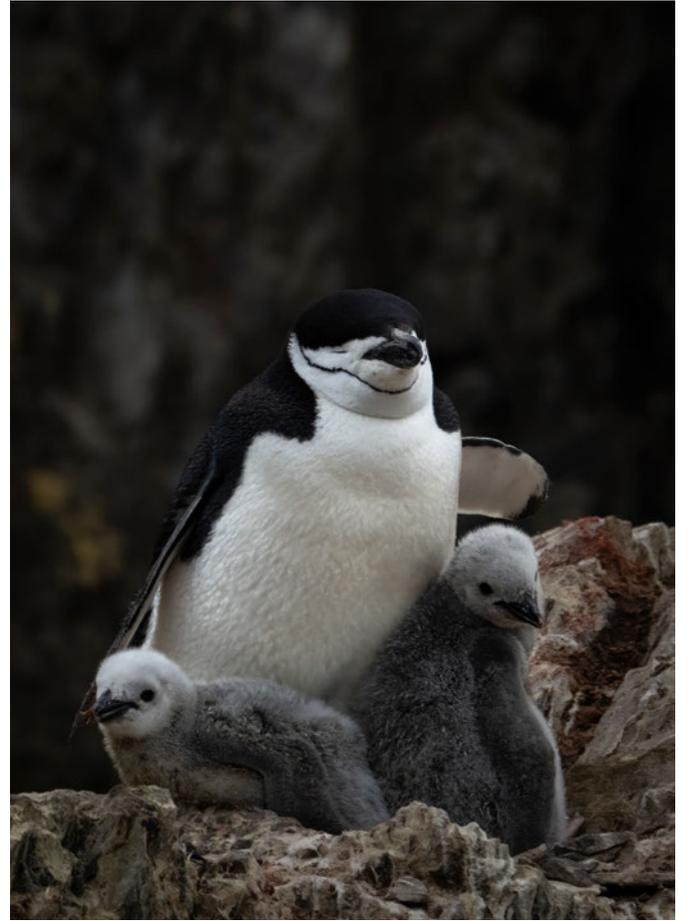
fur, elephant and leopard seals rested along the beaches. South Georgia pipits and South Georgia pintails flitted through the tussock, adding to the sense of abundance.

After lunch, we set out again, this time for a landing at Gold Harbour. The approach alone was breathtaking, with glacier-covered cliffs and steep mountains framing the bay. Gold Harbour is home to one of the island's largest king penguin colonies, with tens of thousands of breeding pairs. We spent several hours on shore, taking in the spectacle of the colony and watching fur and elephant seals jostle and snooze along the beach. The chance to stretch our legs was welcomed by all.

Soon it was time to return to the ship for recap, briefing and dinner, bringing a remarkable day to a close.











Ocean Harbour & Jason Harbour

DAY 12 | Thursday 8 January 2026

Latitude:
54°20.0' S

Longitude:
36°04.2' W

Course:
236°

Speed:
5.4 knots

Wind Speed:
18 knots S

Barometer:
1003 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

Today was one of those South Georgia days that quietly reminds you why this island holds such a legendary place in Antarctic travel. Varied, wildlife rich and blessed with cooperative weather, it was a true highlight.

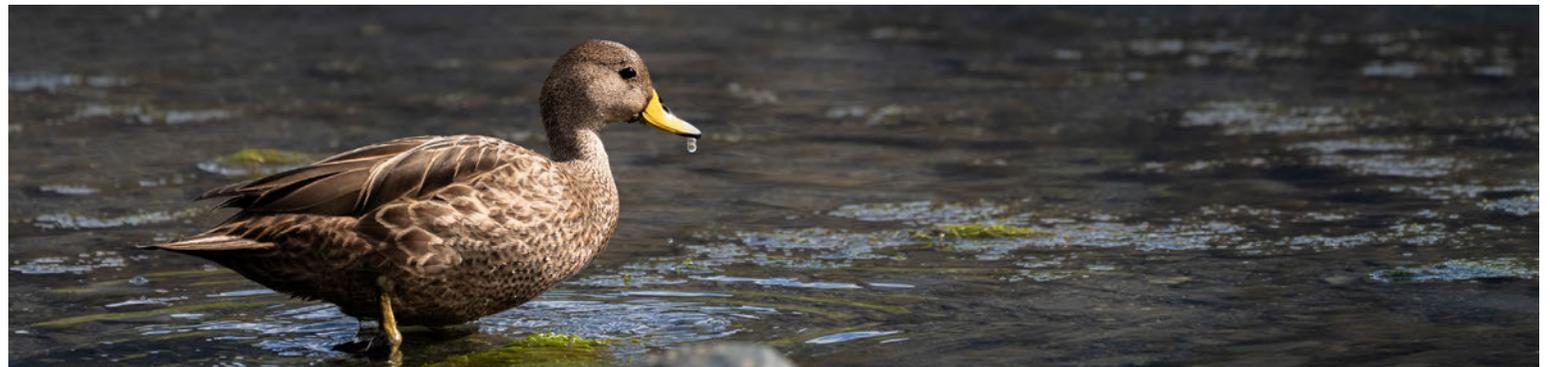
Our morning began at Ocean Harbour, a site steeped in history and framed by rugged hills and glacial remnants. Under an overcast sky, with light snow showers, conditions were ideal for exploring. Guests spread out across activities. Hikers wandered the tussock lined slopes, kayakers glided across calm water and the brave took to the Southern Ocean for a snorkel. The wreck of the Bayard, a former whaling vessel, lay rusting quietly in the bay, a stark reminder of South Georgia's past.

Wildlife was abundant. King penguins dotted the shoreline, giant petrels patrolled overhead and fur seals sprawled across the beaches, entirely unfazed by our presence.

In the afternoon, we shifted to Jason Harbour. As if on cue, the weather transformed. Clouds lifted, sunshine broke through and we found ourselves walking in warm, almost spring like conditions. A gentle stroll took us around the lagoon and past an old hut before climbing to a viewpoint atop an ancient moraine terrace. From above, the bay unfolded in classic South Georgia fashion, sweeping beaches, glacial backdrops and wildlife in every direction.

Once again, fur seals dominated the shoreline, king penguins stood proudly at the water's edge and giant petrels completed the scene. It was an afternoon no one wished to end.

With excellent weather, abundant wildlife and a perfect balance of activity and reflection, South Georgia continues to exceed expectations, and today was no exception.









Grytviken & Godthul

DAY 13 | Friday 9 January 2026

Latitude:
54°16.3' S

Longitude:
36°27.5' W

Course:
195°

Speed:
6.7 knots

Wind Speed:
7 knots E

Barometer:
1013 hPa

Air Temp:
3°C

Our third operations day in South Georgia began with a rare and welcome sight. Sunshine streamed through the curtains, revealing clear skies, flat calm water and only a gentle breeze. Many guides will tell you that a typical day in Grytviken brings cloud, wind and lively seas, so this calm morning felt like a gift.

The day began with our ship inspection. Conducted by South Georgia officers, every vessel must pass a strict biosecurity check to protect the island's wildlife. Coats, boots, gloves and bags were examined carefully, and thanks to everyone's effort, we achieved a perfect score. It was a satisfying moment that reflected the care taken by all on board.

Grytviken began as Carl Anton Larsen's whaling station in 1904, becoming the island's main settlement and processing tens of thousands of whales until the 1960s. Today it stands as a heritage site with a museum, church and the grave of

Sir Ernest Shackleton, who died here in 1922. We wandered through the historic buildings, gaining a sense of the scale and intensity of South Georgia's whaling past. No visit is complete without paying one's respects at Shackleton's grave, raising a quiet toast to him and his crew.

In the afternoon we sailed to Godthul, a beautiful site framed by mountains and icebergs. Our Zodiac cruise took us through kelp forests where fur seals swam and gentoo penguins porpoised beside us. Along the beaches we enjoyed views of king penguins, gentoo penguins, fur seals and southern elephant seals resting in the sun. A lucky few even spotted macaroni penguins.

Returning on board, we found the crew had prepared a BBQ, a perfect end to another remarkable South Georgia day.











Fortuna Bay & Stromness

DAY 14 | Saturday 10 January 2026

Latitude:
54°04.9' S

Longitude:
36°10.5' W

Course:
260°

Speed:
7.1 knots

Wind Speed:
4 knots N

Barometer:
1021 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

Our day began cruising into the calm waters of Fortuna Bay, clouds hanging low and shrouding the freshly snow capped peaks. Stepping ashore revealed classic South Georgia scenery, dramatic and overwhelming in every direction. Three Brothers Peaks slowly emerged through the cloud as we made our way across the grassy outwash plains of the retreating König Glacier toward the main crèche and colony of king penguins.

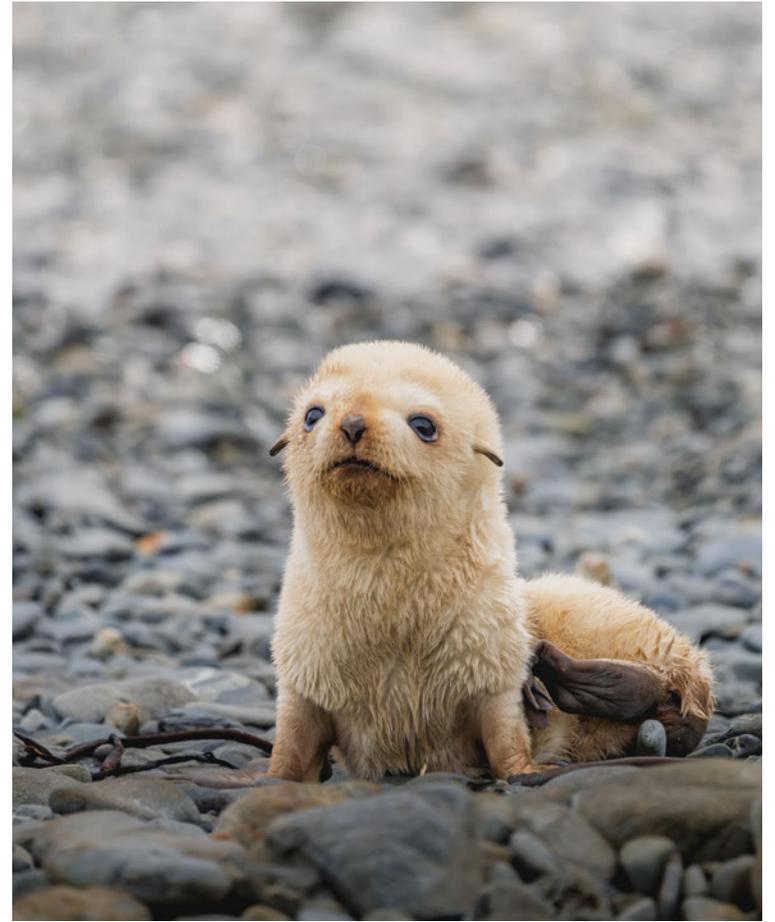
Among the penguins were Antarctic fur seals and several enormous southern elephant seals. The fur seal pups, with their dark coats and wide eyes, were irresistibly cute yet famously mischievous. Turn your back for a moment and one might be growling at your boots, reminding us who truly owns these beaches. As we continued inland, a deep chorus reached us before the colony itself came into view. Tens of thousands of king penguins filled the landscape, parents in

black, white and gold returning from the sea while fluffy brown chicks called endlessly.

In the afternoon, more than fifty hikers set off from Worsley Beach to follow part of Shackleton's legendary 1916 route. Led by Dan and Bron, the group climbed steadily to around three hundred metres, crossing tussock slopes and rocky ridges toward the saddle overlooking Stromness Valley. At the summit, Nils shared stories of Shackleton, Crean, and Worsley's desperate crossing.

Meanwhile, others repositioned to Leith Harbour for a Zodiac cruise and kayaking. The remains of the whaling station stood stark against the coastline, a powerful reminder of South Georgia's industrial past. As the hikers were collected, warm evening light washed over the mountains, bringing a remarkable day of wildlife, history and scenery to a perfect close.









Salisbury Plain & Right Whale Bay

DAY 15 | Sunday 11 January 2026

Latitude:
54°04.9' S

Longitude:
36°10.5' W

Course:
260°

Speed:
7.1 knots

Wind Speed:
4 knots N

Barometer:
1021 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

We woke to another beautiful morning in South Georgia as the *Greg Mortimer* sailed toward Salisbury Plain. The hotel team served another hearty breakfast to prepare us for a full day of exploration. Salisbury Plain is home to one of the island's largest king penguin colonies, set within a sweeping and majestic landscape. Alongside the vast numbers of king penguins were Antarctic fur seals and several southern elephant seals. The tiny fur seal pups were especially endearing, making it hard to imagine that these playful bundles will one day grow into the assertive adults that patrol the beaches.

Navigating through the maze of wildlife felt almost like wandering through the Serengeti of South Georgia. Everywhere we looked, animals moved, called, rested or interacted. Returning to the Zodiacs, we reflected on the morning's

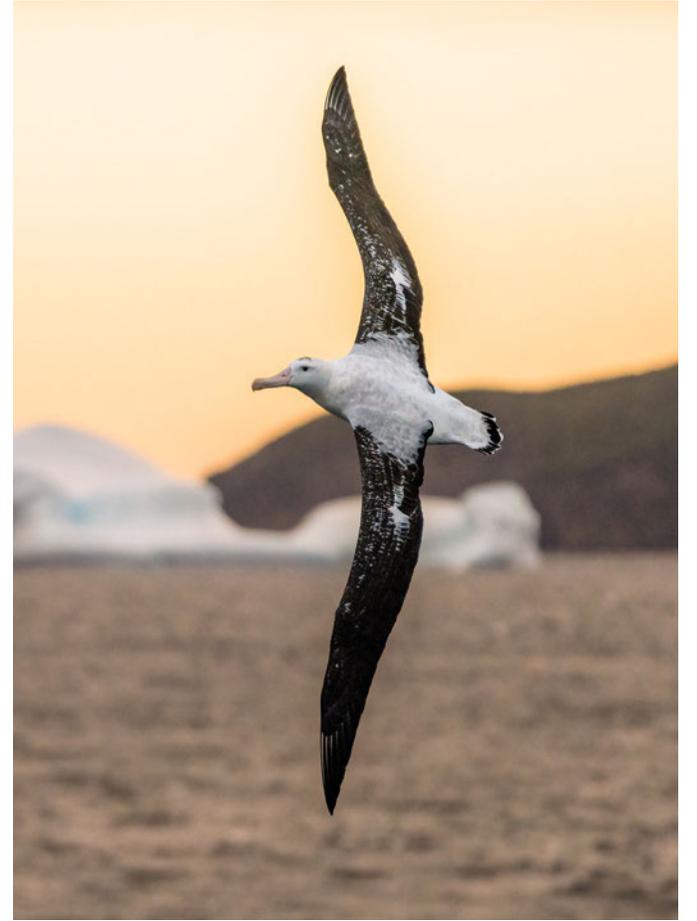
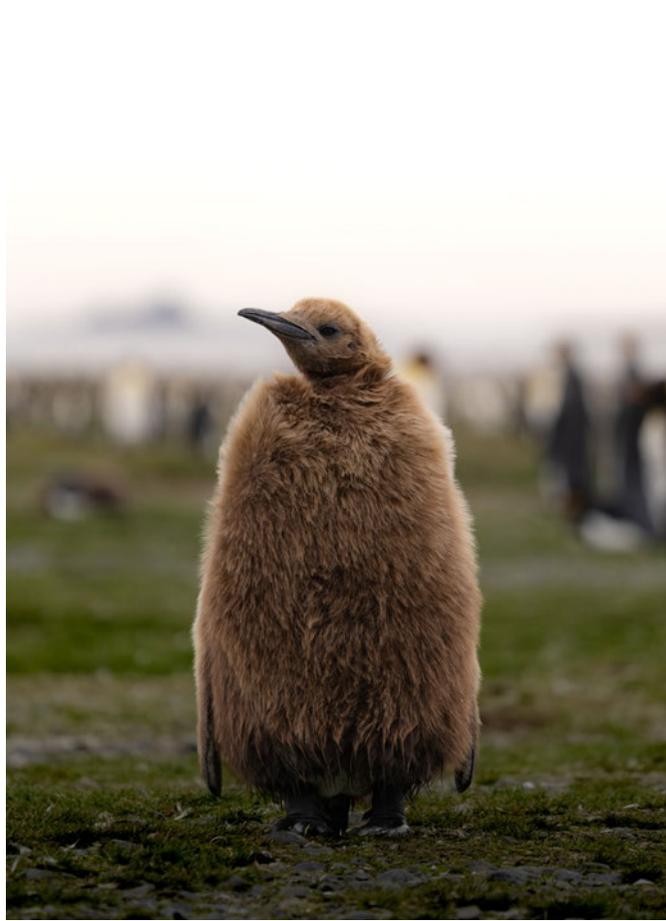
remarkable sights. Once on board, it was time again to visit the feeding tray, and many joked that the hotel team might be responsible for future wardrobe adjustments once home.

During our repositioning to Right Whale Bay, we finally experienced a taste of true Antarctic weather. Stronger winds and colder air made it clear why waterproof and windproof layers are essential. On arrival, we were greeted by yet another abundance of wildlife along the beach. It was humbling to witness South Georgia in such a raw and powerful state.

Few people ever have the chance to experience these places, and the Zodiac ride back to the ship offered a moment to reflect on that privilege. As we set sail toward new destinations, the evening concluded with a recap and briefing, filled with anticipation for what lay ahead.











Cape Rosa & Peggotty Bluff

DAY 16 | Monday 12 January 2026

Latitude:
54°10.5' S

Longitude:
57°24.1' W

Course:
071°

Speed:
6.6 knots

Wind Speed:
8 knots NE

Barometer:
1028 hPa

Air Temp:
5°C

As Jarryd, our Aussie photographer, would say, today was an absolute 'banger'. Once again, we touched history on this voyage. Landing at Cave Cove on Cape Rosa and at Peggotty Bluff is extremely rare, and both places are steeped in Antarctic legend. On 10 May 1916, six men, including Sir Ernest Shackleton, landed here after a gruelling crossing of the Southern Ocean in the tiny lifeboat *James Caird*.

The sense of gravitas was unmistakable as our Zodiacs slipped through the narrow entrance, tall rock stacks looming on either side. Ahead lay a small pebbly beach and a modest cave. We tried to imagine what those men must have felt; exhaustion, relief and fragile hope after surviving mountainous seas.

On the beach, our historian Nils read a passage from Frank Worsley's *Shackleton's Boat Journey*. Their arrival, unlike

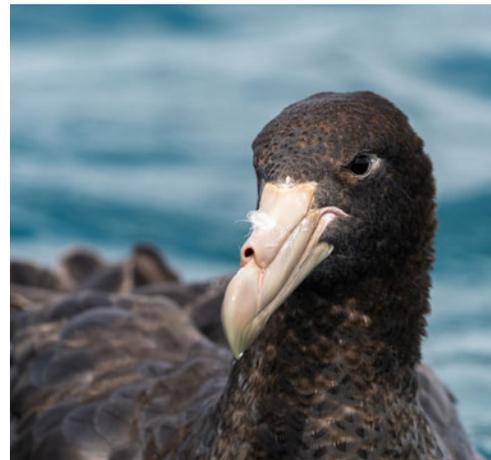
ours, was desperate and dangerous. After landing, the men needed days to recover before moving deeper into the bay. We followed suit, though our recovery was far more comfortable with lunch back on board.

That afternoon we landed at Peggotty Bluff, where Shackleton's party overturned the *James Caird* for shelter. From here, Shackleton, Worsley and Tom Crean set off across South Georgia's unexplored interior, nails hammered into their boots as makeshift crampons.

Walking in their footsteps, surrounded by dramatic scenery, the significance of the moment was not lost on us. Earlier in the voyage we had landed at Point Wild and hiked the final section of Shackleton's crossing. Now we had walked its beginning too, a full circle moment none of us will forget.







At Sea on the way to Falkland Islands

DAY 17 | Tuesday 13 January 2026

Latitude:
54°26.1' S

Longitude:
42°15.1' W

Course:
276°

Speed:
11.5 knots

Wind Speed:
15 knots SSW

Barometer:
1015 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

Having left the calm before the storm in South Georgian waters, we awoke to the familiar pendulum motion of the ship in freshening seas. Several factors worked in our favour, a long wave period, a head on swell and the *Greg Mortimer's* Ulstein X Bow and fin stabilisers, all softening the movement and making the ride surprisingly comfortable.

After a hyperactive week in which we completed twelve successful excursions in a row, many aboard took the chance to sleep in, letting the gentle rocking lull them back to rest. It was the first of three sea days as we pushed west-by-northwest across the Scotia Sea toward the Falklands or Malvinas, wrapped in moderately high winds that would accompany us for much of the day.

Today became a day to exhale. We recovered, relaxed and reflected. Some edited photos, others visited the gym or spa,

and many simply enjoyed the company of new friends. Charts were studied to trace our whirlwind journey through South Georgia, and conversations drifted toward the significance of retracing so many steps of Shackleton's extraordinary story.

Optional activities filled the day. Leo shared the mystery of mummified seals found in a natural trap in the Weddell Sea. Fellow Expeditioner David offered a slideshow and stories from his decade in Stanley. Later, artist in residence David Brooks guided a creative workshop making plaster moulds from Antarctic bones.

From the decks, careful eyes spotted whales and great albatross. Around dinner, we crossed the Antarctic Convergence and quietly departed the Antarctic. The evening ended with Part I of Shackleton, before we headed to bed, ready for the Furious Fifties.

At Sea on the way to Falkland Islands

DAY 18 | Wednesday 14 January 2026

Latitude:
53°43.2' S

Longitude:
49°17.3' W

Course:
283°

Speed:
9.3 knots

Wind Speed:
27 knots NW

Barometer:
1014 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

Our second sea day between South Georgia and the Falklands greeted us with rugged, windswept conditions. The ship pushed into a four metre swell and a strong headwind, rolling steadily as we made our way west. It was not the gentlest day aboard the *Greg Mortimer*, yet spirits remained high as we settled into the rhythm of life at sea.

After breakfast, the morning unfolded with lectures or quiet time around the ship. For bird lovers, these windy days are ideal. Several albatross species soared effortlessly along the wind lines, joined by classic Southern Ocean seabirds skimming the waves. From the lounge windows, we spotted occasional humpback whale blows and even a full breach, a spectacular sight against the grey sea.

Sea days offer more than rest. They provide space to reflect on the extraordinary journey we have shared. Whether

relaxing in cabins, chatting in the lounge or sorting through thousands of photos, many took time to absorb the privilege of visiting such remote and powerful places.

Every adventure has moments that etch themselves into memory. Over the past weeks, we have collected many, from Antarctica's icy stillness to South Georgia's overwhelming wildlife. It is impossible not to feel reverence for the places we have visited and gratitude for the chance to witness nature at its most spectacular.

As we sail away from this region and return to our other worlds, we carry these memories with us. Hopefully they bring a warm heart and a nostalgic smile, treasured moments shared with friends aboard the *Greg Mortimer*.

At Sea on the way to Falkland Islands

DAY 19 | Thursday 15 January 2026

Latitude:
52°42.5' S

Longitude:
55°39.0' W

Course:
283°

Speed:
10.4 knots

Wind Speed:
20 knots SW

Barometer:
1006 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

The ship had been rolling steadily since the early hours, the kind of deep, muscular swell that reminds you how small you are on the long journey from South Georgia to Stanley. Breakfast was a quiet affair, cups held firmly and conversations punctuated by waves striking the hull. Yet there was a shared sense of anticipation, a stormy sea day with nowhere to be but here.

The morning lectures set the pace. Elle began with a fascinating exploration of whale evolution, describing how ancient land mammals became ocean specialists through buoyant bones, powerful lungs and insulating blubber. Listening while the ship surged felt fitting, as though whales were moving beneath us with far more grace than we could manage.

Later, Meike lifted our attention to the skies with the albatross. Images of vast wingspans and effortless soaring

filled the room while the wind outside seemed determined to demonstrate her point. The idea that these birds travel thousands of kilometres with barely a flap was both humbling and inspiring.

By afternoon, the storm had settled into a steady roll. Jarryd's photography workshop became a welcome refuge. Laptops slid gently on tables as we worked through images of whales breaching, albatross banking and South Georgia's stark beauty. Adjusting light and colour felt like anchoring memories, shaping the wildness of the journey into something lasting.

As evening arrived, the sea remained restless but spirits were high. Today felt like the heart of an expedition, learning, sharing and finding meaning even when the horizon refused to sit still.

Stanley & Gypsy Cove, Falkland Islands

DAY 20 | Friday 16 January 2026

Latitude:
51°36.6' S

Longitude:
57°42.3' W

Course:
188°

Speed:
8.3 knots

Wind Speed:
25 knots N

Barometer:
1013 hPa

Air Temp:
7°C

The day in Stanley opened with unmistakable intensity as powerful winds swept across the harbour in the early morning. Expeditioners were shuttled ashore by Zodiacs, the ride an exhilarating introduction to the conditions, with spray and gusts reminding us how exposed the Falkland Islands can be. Once ashore, groups separated for different activities, including bus tours to Gypsy Cove. The journey and time on the beach felt raw and untamed, with sand blasting across the shoreline and the landscape showing its wild character. Despite the challenging weather, wildlife sightings were rewarding. Three Magellanic penguins were spotted along the coast, joined by geese and other hardy bird species perfectly adapted to the elements.

Back in Stanley, the pace softened. Wandering through town offered a closer look at island life. Cafes provided warmth and shelter, while shops displayed colourful souvenirs and locally inspired goods. The museum added depth to the day, sharing

stories of natural history, exploration and conflict that have shaped the Falklands. A visit to a local pub added a social highlight, blending relaxed conversation with the town's welcoming atmosphere.

Wildlife continued to feature throughout the day. Sea lions sprawled along the wharf, drawing attention with their size and calm behaviour, while abundant birdlife filled the skies and shoreline. Commerson's dolphins darted through the harbour with quick, graceful movements. By afternoon, the weather eased, allowing more comfortable exploration.

By around 1400, everyone returned on board. The afternoon concluded with snorkel and kayaking celebrations. During the after-dinner recap, the Oceanites team summarised their penguin monitoring work, supported by drone surveys that minimise disturbance. It was a memorable final day of exploration on this remarkable adventure.





At Sea on the way to Ushuaia

DAY 21 | Saturday 17 January 2026

Latitude:
53°59.9' S

Longitude:
62°45.6' W

Course:
238°

Speed:
14.7 knots

Wind Speed:
25 knots SSE

Barometer:
1010 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

As we sailed north toward Ushuaia, time seemed to fold in on itself. Days, places and moments blended into a single powerful experience. This was far more than a voyage between destinations. It was a journey shaped by ocean crossings, wild landscapes, history and the shared rhythm of life at sea.

From the first roll of the Drake Passage to our final miles north, we were reminded of how small we are in the vast Southern Ocean. Icebergs drifted past, whales surfaced without warning, penguins crowded the shores and seals watched us with curiosity. The raw beauty of ice, mountains, glaciers and wind swept green shores left a lasting impression of a world still ruled by nature.

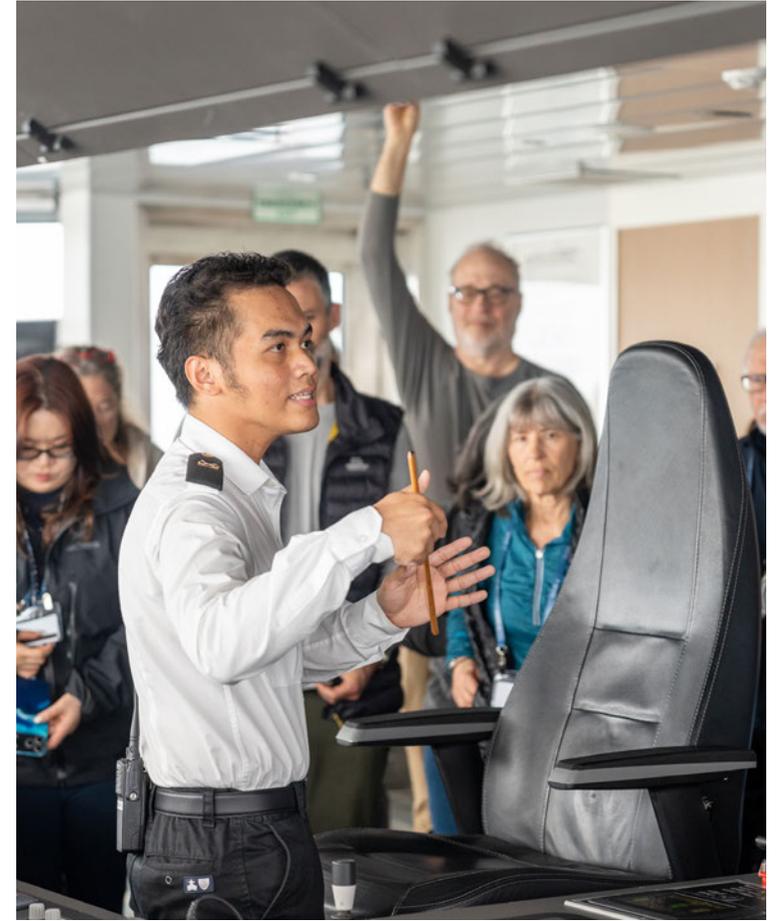
Throughout the expedition, the story of Ernest Shackleton accompanied us. Travelling the same waters and visiting

places tied to his extraordinary journey made it impossible not to reflect on the courage and resilience required to survive here a century ago. His story added depth to our own experience.

Life on board became its own world. Days filled with landings, Zodiac cruises, lectures and shared laughter slowly turned strangers into companions and companions into friends. These bonds, formed at the edge of the world, may be among the most valuable things we take home.

This journey has changed us. Witnessing such remote and fragile regions is a privilege that carries responsibility. As we sail away, we do so with memories that will stay with us, a deeper respect for wild places and the knowledge that for a few remarkable weeks, we were part of something extraordinary.





Ushuaia

DAY 22 | Sunday 18 January 2026

Disembarkation at 0800

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

BBQ





Polar Plunge











Citizen Science





Kayaking Log

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

31 December 2025, AM: Cierva Cove – 2km

The excitement was palpable for our first day kayaking in Antarctica. After all the briefings and preparation it was great to finally get out on the water. Conditions could not have been better. We paddled among impressive icebergs with porpoising penguins all around us, which truly epitomises kayaking in Antarctica. Moving towards land we passed the Argentinian science base Primavera. Watching penguins launch in and out of the water never gets old, so we cruised along the coast enjoying the scene. Before finishing we did a small rock hop closer to shore, then returned to the Zodiac after a very successful first paddle with plenty of trust built up.

31 December 2025, PM: Mikkelsen Harbour – 3.7km

With slightly more wind than the morning we started by testing our paddling technique upwind towards the northeast corner of the bay. Everyone charged against the wind without issue, a strong group. After hearing a nearby calving we took a closer look at ice walls, caves, crevasses, seracs and what appeared to be a moulin. A strip of exposed rock had nesting birds we suspected were chinstraps, confirmed when two appeared and joined our armada for a stretch. Turning downwind we paralleled the glacial faces at a safe distance. We then practised ruddering through bergy bits and rock outcrops before circumnavigating the shallows around D'Hainaut Island, full of cartoonish gentoos and a few menacing skuas, before pickup and a quick shore visit.

Number of Kayakers: 19

Total Kayak Outings: 18

Total Distance Paddled: 90.9 km

Kayakers:

Terri Griffin

Ed Griffin

Michael Forsyth

Malissa Penny-Forsyth

Karen Monaco

Ann Hughes

David Chant

Barry Taylor

Judith Geary

Saidhbhe Quigley

Sandra Chambers

James Branam

David Heinbockel

Young Heinbockel

Rowena Scott

Miles Campbell

Lani Campbell

Reta Rea

Kha Ly

1 January 2026, AM: Cuverville Island – 6.5km

Cuverville Island stands at the entrance of Errera Channel and is home to thousands of gentoo penguins and nesting Antarctic terns. We set off on a 6.5 kilometre circumnavigation in mirror calm water, pushing through brash ice and weaving around bergy bits while watching penguins nesting or scrambling ashore. A humpback surfaced nearby with a loud pfff, stopping us in our tracks. The strong tidal current helped the second half of the circuit as we glided past an old whaling water boat and anchor chain now used by terns. Grounded icebergs filled the western bay, each sculpted by weather and tide. We took a moment to soak it all in before joining the rest of our travel companions back aboard the *Greg Mortimer* for lunch.

1 January 2026, PM: Neko Harbour – 4km

We enjoyed an incredibly calm afternoon at Neko Harbour, the sea silky with no wind. Conditions like this are rare and we relished gliding past rafts of ice with penguins and crabeater seals. Leaving the Zodiac, we paddled deeper into the back bay, enjoying the quiet until whale blows echoed in the distance. Two groups of humpbacks approached and we sat watching them swim past, a dreamy moment for all. To finish we followed the whales out of the bay towards the landing site, then returned to the Zodiac to step onto the Antarctic continent.

2 January 2026, AM: Enterprise Island, Foyr Harbour – 4km

We began south of Enterprise Island near Thor Island, a cluster of tidally connected islets ideal for kayak exploration. After practising tandem

manoeuvres we split into two teams and meandered through the shallows, spotting tiny krill in the clear water. Weddell seals rested on a nearby islet beside a rusted mooring chain. Gentle swells let us test our draught while rock gardening. A kelp gull haunt held two downy chicks, and cormorants roosted on a rocky corner. As we headed towards the Guvernøren a young leopard seal appeared briefly before the groups reunited above the shipwreck for a photo.

2 January 2026, PM: Recess Cove – 5km

We were blessed with flat calm conditions as we set out into Recess Cove. After circling a rocky islet we headed towards an iceberg shaped like a citadel across the bay. The paddle was worth it, as the berg sat in a bay full of humpback whales. Six whales swam around us, diving and circling peacefully, an unforgettable display. To finish, the group split, with

some heading to land to step onto the continent while the rest paddled back towards the *Greg Mortimer*.

3 January 2026, AM: Yankee Harbour – 2.5km

Greenwich Island in the sheltered bay of Yankee Harbour gave us calm conditions to start kayaking on a sunny morning. Inside the bay formed by the glacier's frontal moraine we met our first wildlife, an elephant seal weaner. We continued east towards the landing area and spent time watching the gentoo colony, especially the chicks visible from our kayaks. The mountains of Livingston Island made an impressive backdrop. Later we paddled north as the wind picked up, then returned to the Zodiacs after good practice embarking in breezier conditions ahead of South Georgia.



4 January 2026, AM: Point Wild, Elephant Island – 2.9km

Conditions were good inside the cove as we launched below the western cliffs. Moderate swells exposed shoal rocks and created clapotis. Cape Belsham and its islet were covered with chinstraps, many porpoising around our kayakers. Freshening wind and swell kept us from rounding the point, and a snow squall arrived as we followed the glacier's edge through brash ice. We crossed east from the bright blue glacial face to Point Wild, seeing the beach where Shackleton's men overwintered and the Pardo bust. A large calving pushed us offshore, but we continued safely through a gap by the Gnomon and circumnavigated it before pickup near the ship.

7 January 2026, AM: Cooper Bay – 6.5km

Welcome to South Georgia. We stepped things up with a longer paddle from Cooper Island and some lively rock gardening. Travelling along the coast away from ship operations we saw king penguins on a small beach. Crossing the channel back to the main bay was swelly with some current, a good skills challenge. Once inside the bay it turned glassy and became a wildlife show with penguins and elephant seals. We finished by visiting the macaroni penguin colony, adding a new species to the list.

7 January 2026, PM: Gold Harbour – 7.5km

Gold Harbour sits beneath sheer cliffs of the Cumberland Bay formation. The day was overcast with a light swell as we paddled the rocky northern coastline, weaving through islands and channels thick with macrocystis kelp. Bull kelp swayed

in the swell while seals and seabirds watched us pass. We turned back towards the beach where elephant seals lay hauled out, their size and diving ability remarkable. Penguins and seals were in catastrophic moult, so we kept a respectful distance while thousands of king penguins and their fluffy chicks called across the shore. We continued to the lagoon entrance, then paddled into its calm water before following the beach beneath towering cliffs and a hanging glacier.

8 January 2026, AM: Ocean Harbour – 3km

Our kayak session at Ocean Harbour began just outside the inner harbour. We explored rocky reefs lapped by swell and thick kelp, with fur seals swimming around us, sometimes playfully and sometimes a little aggressively. Kelp gardens slowed our glide as we approached the wreck of an old coal lugger, now

covered in tussock grass and used by Antarctic shags and gulls. We then headed downwind along the northern coast, exploring rocky shoreline and shallow lagoons before moving into deeper water. As it was a short excursion, our time ended quickly and we packed into the Zodiac to return to the ship.

8 January 2026, PM: Jason Harbour – 6.8km

We began in a kelp-filled cove where playful fur seals darted through the forest beneath us. Comb jellies drifted in the water as we paddled along low cliffs dotted with a gentoo, a South Georgia pintail and a shag. A shallow entrance led into a large lagoon with seals, elephant seals and moulting kings. A tailwind pushed us back out, and we washed through the overfall gap before heading west. Giant petrels gave close views, and swells surged over rocks and reefs, perfect for some rock gardening. Outside



Jason we saw tidewater glaciers and towering mountains before katabatic wind pushed us back into shelter. We enjoyed more surges and wildlife before paddling to the *Greg Mortimer*.

9 January 2026, PM: Godthul – 6.5km

We began inside Godthul surrounded by tall mountains and lush tussock, with fur seals following in our wake. We stopped at several beaches to enjoy the wildlife and found large comb jellies glowing in the water. After pushing through giant kelp we reached more exposed waters with bull kelp clinging to cliffs and waves surging along the coast. Further around the headland we entered a quiet bay before taking a narrow channel back into the open ocean. A large iceberg covered in penguins drew us out, and we watched them launch in and out of the water. We

finished with a final view of the South Georgia coastline before returning to the ship for a BBQ dinner.

10 January 2026, AM: Fortuna Bay – 3.5km

We started at Hodson Point where a waterfall flowed under the beach. Curious fur seals filled the area, and we continued along the coast in calm conditions, passing elephant seals and a few leucistic fur seals. We paddled past another waterfall and Worsley Beach, the trailhead of the Shackleton Walk. King penguins became more numerous as we approached the head of the bay, many moulting or still in their brown juvenile coats. A retreated glacier floated at the head of a lake, and we passed its sediment outflow before transferring to shore to view the main colony.

10 January 2026, PM: Leith to Stromness Harbour – 4.5km

This reposition from Fortuna Bay to Leith and Stromness was a perfect chance to kayak between the two whaling stations. Most kayakers were completing the final section of the Shackleton Walk, so a small group set off from Leith, viewing the station from a distance. We paddled west then south towards Stromness, with kelp, fur seal pups and elephant seal pups along the coast, plus pintail ducks in the kelp. Near the end of the bay we saw the waterfall and buildings of the station, imagining the history of the whaling era and Shackleton's journey. It was also an ideal day for rescue practice within the kayak team.

11 January 2026, PM: Right Whale Bay – 9km

We spent the afternoon exploring the rocky coastline of Right Whale Bay. Starting from the northern end, we meandered through rocky nooks and kelp-filled inlets with seals all around. With the wind at our backs the paddling was pleasant as we continued out of the bay and up the coast for a few kilometres. Turning back, we explored the southern end, navigating thick kelp forests while fur seals chased our wakes. As the wind increased we finished in a sheltered cove with a small waterfall. After reloading into the Zodiacs we enjoyed a hot chocolate and toasted another incredible South Georgia paddle.



12 January 2026, AM: Cape Rosa, King Haakon Bay – 6.5km

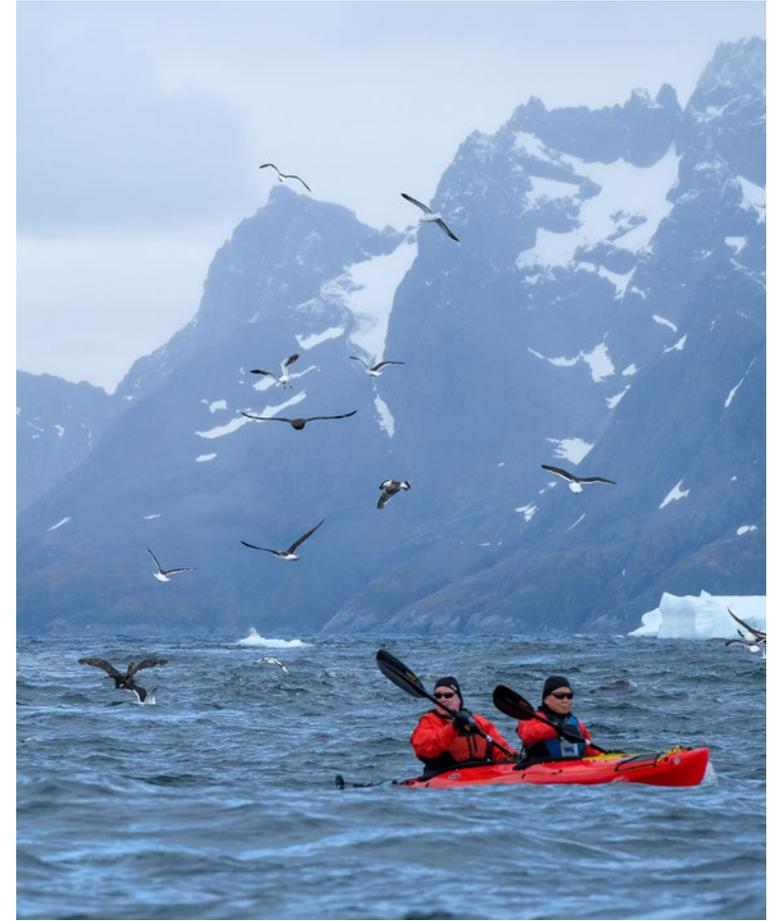
The forecast looked good for a Zodiac excursion, kayak and small landing at Cave Cove. King Haakon Bay was mirror calm with swell rolling off the Scotia Sea. We towed kayaks to the entrance of Cave Cove, where in 1916 Worsley, Shackleton, Crean and crew made landfall after crossing from Elephant Island. Some landed briefly while others began paddling, exploring rocky nooks. Giant petrels fed nearby, and elephant and fur seals basked on the rocks with king penguins on the beach. We navigated narrow channels filled with ctenophores and enjoyed the scenery before taking photos in Cave Cove and poking our bows into a small cave. With stomachs rumbling we returned for brunch after an amazing dawn paddle.

12 January 2026, PM: Peggotty Bluff, King Haakon Bay — 6.5km

On our final South Georgia outing we visited Peggotty Camp, where Shackleton's men recovered after their voyage from Elephant Island. We paddled against the north wind along the beach, seeing penguins, fur seal pups and elephant seals, as well as several dead animals likely from avian flu. After twenty minutes we turned downwind towards Vincent Island, home to nesting giant petrels, fur seals and an elephant seal. Driftwood from South America lined the shore. Continuing towards the Murray Glacier, the milky water showed heavy sediment, and up close the glacier was far larger than it appeared from a distance. We explored a rocky entrance with a small waterfall before a final toast celebrating our fellowship and the remarkable number of outings on this trip.















Paddling Log

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

31 December 2025, AM: Cierva Cove – 3km

This morning greeted us with calm and ideal conditions for our first paddle together at Cierva Cove. After loading into the Zodiac we commuted to the shoreline near the Argentinian base. On the way we were delayed and entertained by a passing humpback whale, our first close encounter of the trip. After offloading into our kayaks we headed into the rocky shoreline to view the gentoo penguins coming and going from the rock outcrop. We continued along the rugged coastline, dodging icebergs and rocky islets. We saw our first Weddell seal in the water and gazed up at the escarpment covered in nesting gentoos. Before long it was time to end our first excursion and climb back into the Zodiac for the commute to the ship. All in all, a great first paddle excursion.

31 December 2025, PM: Mikkelsen Harbour – 2.7km

This afternoon Mikkelsen Harbour was shrouded in heavy cloud, and a stiff breeze blew out of the north, causing the surface to ripple with small waves. Aboard our Zodiac we motored to the north of the bay where shelter and reduced fetch offered a safe place to embark, holding position and keeping our bows into the wind until everyone was on the water. Once together in our kayaks we pushed into the wind, paddling to a nearby shag and kelp gull rocky roost, the most southern of these two species in the world. From there, with wind at our backs, we paddled south along tall ice cliffs and through small bergy bits, finding protection behind larger bergs and islands until we reached D'Hainaut Island, charted during the 1908 Charcot Expedition. We lazed back in our seats observing the gentoos, even spotting and hearing recently hatched chicks. Back in our



Number of Paddlers: 8

Total Paddle Outings: 7

Total Distance Paddled:
23.64 km

Paddlers:

Dulcie Mulholland

Jerry Morrison

Mia Morrison

Debra Mitchell

John Mitchell

Jessie Meranda

Danielle Honigstein

Stephen Choy

Zodiac, Jimmy headed to shore for a landing and a look at relics from the whaling days.

1 January 2026, AM: Cuverville Island – 3.5km

The southwest part of the island, opposite the activity of the landing site, was almost dead calm. We embarked below the most colourful stretch of lichen and moss-painted cliffs, where a small gentoo colony sits on a limited rocky outcrop. Shags claimed the highest points of the rookery and had a few large downy chicks among the penguins. High in the cliffs, cape petrels, Wilson's storm petrels and Antarctic terns appeared to be actively nesting and fending off skua. Gentoos swam, porpoised and bathed around us as we floated and enjoyed the penguin theatre before detouring for some special marine mammals.

An initially elusive humpback surfaced in our path, then proceeded to log at the

surface. A few minutes later it sounded, only to resurface beside us as we took pictures by an iceberg. It meandered close before diving again. Next, we observed a pale blond seal lazing on ice, close enough to determine it was a crabeater. Circling a gorgeous blue iceberg, we rejoined the shoreline and paddled north beneath sheer cliffs and through swaths of brash ice. At the northern side of the island we trolled along the edge of the main gentoo colony and observed them, plus a couple of rogue chinstraps, more closely than the shore party. We finished with a tour of magnificent turquoise icebergs grounded north of the island. As we reloaded for the short shuttle to the ship, the clouds began to burn off and blue sky appeared.

1 January 2026, PM: Neko Harbour – 2.5km

The afternoon brought perfect conditions. Once in the Zodiac we got into the kayaks and paddled towards

Steinheil Point. We moved among mid-sized icebergs and through brash ice, the silence and sense of being completely alone remarkable. A Weddell seal and penguins on an ice floe gave us an excellent chance to observe them. The deep quiet allowed us to hear whale blows, and after searching we finally saw the humpbacks. We watched them for several minutes before paddling closer to the landing site. Neko was a continental landing.

2 January 2026, AM: Enterprise Island, Foyn Harbour – 3.14km

The trip started with a mellow paddle among the rocks, watching Weddell seals lying in the snow. We moved across the bay watching the glacier wall and keeping a safe distance from large icebergs. At the point we came across a shag colony with active fliers coming and going. Rounding the corner into Foyn Harbour we had story time with Rob about the rusty wreck of the

Governoren. We got close enough to see the rivets before heading out again. As we left the bay there was word of a mellow leopard seal cruising around, and we watched it hunt and eat a fish before it moved on. To finish, we paddled into the open and enjoyed a moment of silence before returning to the ship.

2 January 2026, PM: Recess Cove, Charlotte Bay – 6.7km

Paddling into the bay, glassy calm conditions greeted us, with the Antarctic Peninsula mountains shrouded in high cloud. With the warmth of the day, icebergs crackled and popped as air bubbles escaped. On our way to shore we were surprised by a humpback surfacing loudly only metres from our bows. It took a quick breath before diving and continuing its journey. We observed Weddell seals hauled out on a snowbank, their heads lifting to watch us with bored curiosity. Further into the glaciated bay we wove between



grounded icebergs and brash ice from the nearby glacier. Five keen paddlers stood up in their boats for a photo.

Exploring further, the tip of the island held a shag colony with built-up nests. A huge iceberg stood on the horizon, and we set off across the bay to get closer. Its castle-like features revealed spires, archways and courtyards. Rounding the berg, humpbacks stole the show, breaching, backslapping, bubble feeding and resurfacing. As we neared the group we slowed to watch. A family of four swam towards us, and Gabe called us together to raft up. As they approached we held tight, turning left and right to observe the incredible display. It was a stunning Antarctic afternoon.

3 January 2026, AM: Yankee Harbour – 2.1km

An early start saw us shuttled into the southwestern bight of Greenwich Island, inside the protection of its spit,

a moraine from the retreated glacier at the head of the cove. We passed a weaner elephant seal on shore and continued to the eastern cliffs. Paddling to a cobble beach where a few outcast gentoos were resting, we took a close look at the glacier terminus in the morning light, then hand-railed beneath geologically unique mountain spires. The route offered views of a closely guarded kelp gull chick, abundant mosses, small snow-melt waterfalls and the tussling of two pairs of territorial skua. Penguins swam between and beneath us in the clear shallows. As the wind freshened from the west the number of gentoos above multiplied, thousands nesting on the hillsides. Down at the spit we viewed a try-pot and some chinstraps mixed with the gentoos. Fetch from the increased winds made the short Zodiac ride back wet and wild. Good thing we got on the water when we did.











Snorkelling Log

Guides: Thomas Gov, Ellen Coenra, Rémi Ritchie

31 December 2025, AM: Cierva Cove

Our first outing of the trip took place in Cierva Cove, a glaciated bay surrounded by ice and mountains. The nearby Primavera Argentine station was unoccupied, adding to the quiet atmosphere. Along the shoreline we watched gentoo penguins moving between their nests and the water, while large drifting icebergs filled the bay. Before entering the water we were treated to a peaceful sight, a Weddell seal sleeping on the ice.

For our first snorkel we chose the calm northern shore, giving everyone time to adjust to drysuits and the sensation of entering cold Antarctic water. The focus was on slow movement, buoyancy and breathing. The first touch of cold on our lips and the stillness below made this a gentle and memorable introduction to Antarctica's underwater world.

31 December 2025, PM: Mikkelsen Harbour

Our afternoon outing took place in Mikkelsen Harbour. We first landed on D'Hainault Island, where old wooden whaling boats and scattered whale bones remain as reminders of the whaling era. Today the island is home to a large gentoo colony, with fluffy chicks watched closely by attentive adults. After time among the colony we travelled by Zodiac to the opposite side of the island for our snorkel.

We entered the water near a small sandy beach where conditions were calm and clear. Almost immediately gentoo penguins swam around us, some heading out to feed while others returned at high speed. A few curious birds circled the group, inspecting us closely. Snorkelling alongside these agile penguins created a lively and memorable end to the day in Mikkelsen Harbour.



Number of Snorkellers: 12
Total Snorkel Outings: 12

Snorkellers:
Elyse Sainsbury
Glenn Smith
Charly Bai An Chen
Kellie Smith
David Smith
Barbara Roth

Jonathan Roth
Nicky Jie Xiao
David Brooks
Joyce Johnson
Carol Zapapas
Rishi Gupta

1 January 2026, AM: Cuverville Island

Our snorkel outing at Cuverville Island was a memorable start to the new year. We began with a visit to a busy gentoo penguin colony before taking a short hike and a Zodiac cruise through an eerie ice graveyard, where jagged icebergs rose dramatically from the sea. Calm water made for ideal snorkelling conditions. The cold was intense, but the underwater world was worth it. Penguins zipped past with incredible speed, weaving through the water like silver arrows. In the shallows we saw bright patches of algae, delicate comb jellies drifting like translucent ghosts and clouds of plankton swirling around us. With clear visibility, we could appreciate the stark beauty of this frozen world. Being among the first snorkellers of 2026 made the experience even more special.

1 January 2026, PM: Neko Harbour

Our snorkel at Neko Harbour blended wildlife, glacial scenery and the thrill of cold-water exploration. The outing began with a steep hike that offered sweeping views of the glaciers and ice-filled bay. From the summit we witnessed a small calving event, sending waves across the water. Close to shore the icy water was clear, revealing gentoo penguins gliding past and a couple of Weddell seals asleep on the beach. A brief moment of whale watching added excitement, with a minke whale surfacing nearby and distant humpbacks appearing and disappearing as they breathed. The snorkel was short due to a leaking drysuit, but the chance to enter Antarctic waters among ice, penguins and whales made it unforgettable.

2 January 2026, PM: Recess Cove

The day began with a Zodiac excursion in Foyn Harbour, where we searched for whales and found three old whaling water boats, reminders of Antarctica's industrial past. We then moved to the wreck of the *Guvernøren*, a whaling factory ship grounded in 1915. Just as we prepared to snorkel, a leopard seal appeared, and plans shifted. We followed the seal as it circled an iceberg and later watched it feeding on a fish, an extraordinary encounter. Back at the wreck, those with cameras captured glimpses below the surface.

In the afternoon we reached Recess Cove for our second continental landing, followed by snorkelling among brash ice and swarms of krill. The day ended with humpback whale watching, with countless whales feeding, fin slapping and breaching across the bay.

3 January 2026, PM: Fort Point

After unsuitable conditions at Yankee Harbour, we made a second attempt at Fort Point, which proved ideal. A thriving colony of gentoo and chinstrap penguins greeted us, and we spent time observing the nesting birds against a dramatic coastline. We then boarded the Zodiacs and rounded the point into a sheltered cove where calm water contrasted with the rolling swell outside. Entering the shallows felt like swimming through a colourful garden, with red and green seaweeds swaying in the surge. Small fish darted between the fronds, and sea stars, limpets and other invertebrates covered the rocks. Steep volcanic cliffs rose above us, adding to the atmosphere. It was one of the most vibrant snorkel sites of the voyage and a perfect end to the day.



8 January 2026, AM: Ocean Harbour

The day unfolded as a demanding but unforgettable outing that blended history, wildlife and our first underwater exploration in South Georgia. A hard hike took us along a windswept ridge with sweeping views and a sense of stepping back in time. Below lay the remains of the old whaling station, active from 1909 to 1920, now a rusted and weather-beaten landscape slowly reclaimed by nature. A small cemetery nearby included the grave of Frank Cabrial, a sealer whose name rests among tussock and stone.

The wreck of the Bayard, once a coaling hulk, now serves as a nesting site for blue-eyed shags, while the beaches host breeding fur seals, elephant seals and scattered penguins. Our first South Georgia snorkel was brief but thrilling, weaving through algae and kelp, watching curious fur seals and massive elephant seals in the shallows.

8 January 2026, PM: Jason Harbour

Jason Harbour offered a rewarding mix of rugged walking and rich wildlife encounters. A moderate loop walk followed the coastline, rising to vantage points overlooking the harbour. Curious fur seals appeared often, some watching from afar while others charged forward before stopping short, adding excitement to the walk. Several leucistic seals stood out against the darker rocks, their pale colouring giving the landscape an otherworldly feel. Lower down, swampy ground and tangled vegetation created a scene reminiscent of a Lord of the Rings landscape.

The snorkel in a sheltered bay was quieter but equally captivating. Fur seals glided through the water, curious but calm. Dense kelp forests swayed with the surge, and among the fronds drifted ctenophores and other planktonic creatures catching the light. Together, the walk and snorkel created a vivid sense of immersion in Jason Harbour.

9 January 2026, PM: Godthul

The day blended history, wildlife and unforgettable encounters. The morning was spent in Grytviken, wandering through the remnants of the old whaling station now reclaimed by nature, with seals and penguins among the rusting machinery and weathered buildings. At Shackleton's grave we raised a toast in his honour, an Expedition tradition, before a quick visit to the small gift shop.

In the afternoon we arrived at Godthul, a stunning bay with a giant iceberg and a waterfall. After exploring ashore it was time to snorkel, and a slightly mistimed back-roll had everyone in the water. Fur seals zipped around us blowing bubbles and darting past our masks, their energy contagious. A second snorkel at the base of the waterfall was the perfect finish to a day that captured the spirit of South Georgia: wild, historic and wonderfully alive.

10 January 2026, AM: Salisbury Plain

The long-awaited snorkelling outing at Salisbury Plain lived up to expectations. Known for one of the largest king penguin colonies in the region, the site was alive with wildlife. King penguins stood in dense groups along the beach while fur seals moved between surf and sand, and elephant seals rested nearby. After taking in the sounds, movement and abundance of wildlife on land, we boarded the Zodiacs for our first snorkel. In a shallow cove, penguins and seals were curious and playful, swimming close to investigate. Even giant petrels circled overhead, assessing the scene. Encouraged by the conditions, we moved along the long beach for a second snorkel where large rafts of penguins gathered before diving. Being surrounded by them underwater was breathtaking and made this outing unforgettable.



10 January 2026, PM: Right Whale Bay

Our last outing in South Georgia took place at Right Whale Bay, home to an impressive king penguin colony set within a breathtaking landscape. Towering mountain peaks rose sharply behind the beach, and a waterfall cascaded down the slopes, adding movement and sound to the scene.

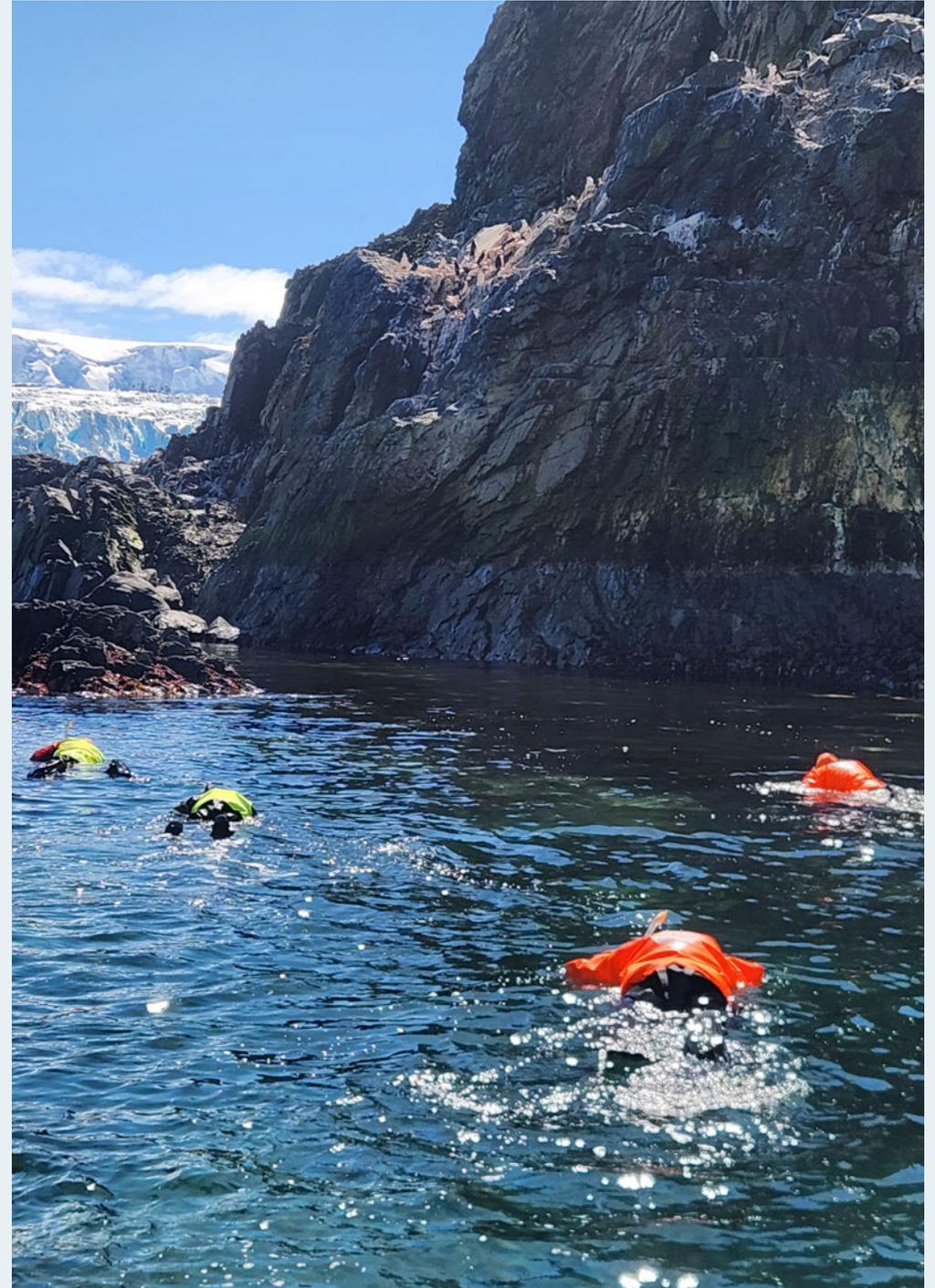
We began with a short landing to take in the place from shore. King penguins filled the beach, their calls echoing through the bay as they moved between the water and the colony. After returning to the Zodiacs, we headed out to snorkel in a sheltered bay. The water was exceptionally clear, and fur seals appeared almost immediately, swimming around us with speed and confidence. Soon more joined, turning the snorkel into a playful swirl of whiskers, bubbles and movement. Energetic and joyful, it ranked among the best underwater encounters of the trip.

11 January 2026, PM: Peggotty Bluff

The day's outing in South Georgia blended history, wildlife and exploration, beginning with a Zodiac cruise along the dramatic coastline of Cape Rosa. Sheer cliffs draped with waterfalls and dark sea-carved caves surrounded the harbour, with seabirds circling overhead.

We then landed at Peggotty Bluff, the starting point of Shackleton's hike to Stromness. A steep climb led to a lookout with sweeping views of the coastline and surrounding glaciers. Along the way we encountered small groups of king penguins and numerous fur seals, including playful pups. A striking dead tree stood silhouetted against a glacier backdrop.

The day ended with our final South Georgia snorkel. Calm conditions and good visibility made for excellent sightings of fur seals gliding through the water, a peaceful finish to an extraordinary day.









Snowshoeing Log

Guides: Dan Phillips, Bronwen Waters

31 December 2025, PM: Tetrad Island | Mikkelsen Harbour

We had our very own landing and island for our first snowshoe outing. We made our way out of Mikkelsen Harbour through brash ice and a narrow channel towards a small island called Tetrad. We found a place to land the Zodiacs on the rocks, made our way to the snow and put our snowshoes on for the first time. It was a gentle walk up past a great rock stack with nesting kelp gulls, then we reached the top of our small island with very Antarctic views in all directions. There was a cool wind blowing and some snow falling, with icebergs in the dark, inky water surrounding the island.

As we moved down to the other side of the island we could see seals hauled out on the ice below us. We spent a while on the hill above watching the crabeater seals and

listening to the sounds of a male elephant seal from across the other side of the channel.

An awesome start to our Antarctic adventure.

1 January 2026, AM: Georges Point | Rongé Island

Once again, we made our way to a different landing for our snowshoe at Rongé Island. On approaching the shore in the Zodiacs we could see many gentoo colonies on the hillside. We donned our snowshoes and made our way up in single file between penguin colonies.

It was a busy place, and we stopped several times to let penguins cross our path, making their way to and from the sea. As we reached the top of the colony area it became apparent that it was so busy with nesting penguins that we were not able to cross over to the glacier beyond. So



Number of Snowshoers: 12
Total Snowshoe Outings: 3

Snowshoers:
Chris Baker
Mark Behrens
Mary Behrens
Kylie Emery
John Glowacky
David Jasinski

Jeffrey Mischkinsky
Judith Muchard
Steven Parkes
Kristen St John
Karen Wharton
Philip Wharton

instead we used our time to enjoy the view. The mountain behind us appeared from behind the clouds, and we watched the commuting and nesting penguins, all with the backdrop of several interesting grounded icebergs close to the shore. We observed a loud and intense fight between a skua and three gentoo penguins. The skuas were very active, particularly swooping above penguins nesting alone.

A great chance to watch some dense penguin colonies.

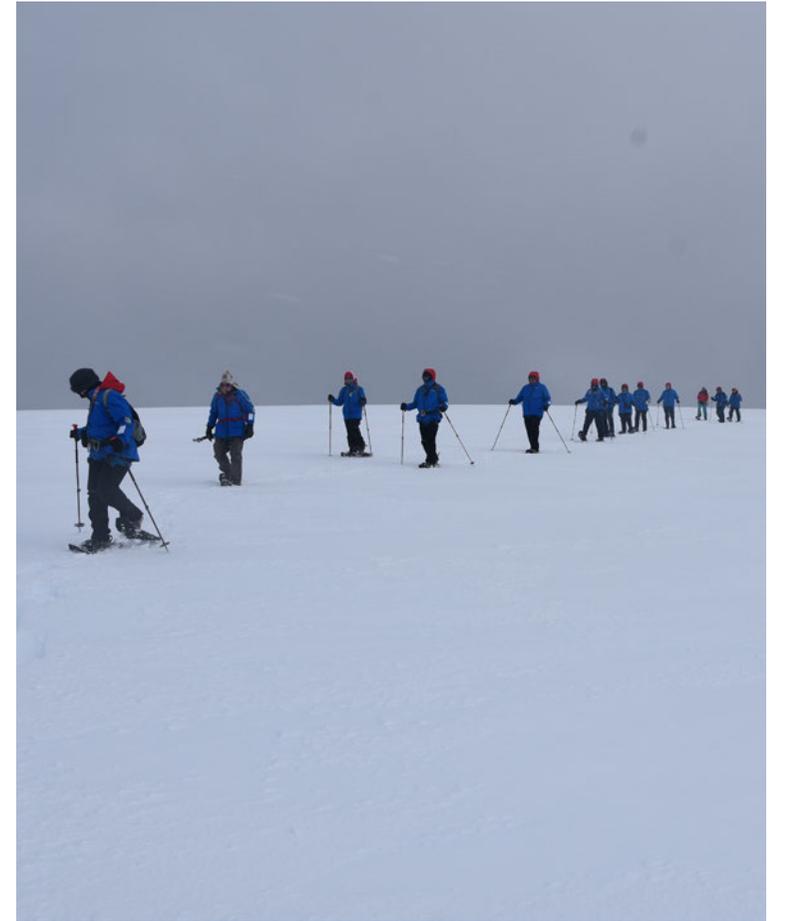
1 January 2026, PM: Neko Harbour | Antarctic Continent
Our first foray onto a glacier, and our first foray onto the continent of Antarctica.

We zigged and zagged our way up the hill at Neko Harbour, and then connected to the rope to continue

our snowshoe beyond the penguin colony and onto the glacier.

Each gain in height gave us an amazing perspective and long views over the harbour. Dark, silky water was dappled with many icebergs. The highlight was looking across, and then down on the icefall of the glacier above Neko Harbour. All of the crevasses made fascinating shapes and lines across the landscape opposite us. Sometimes we would hear the distant rumble of an icefall collapse.



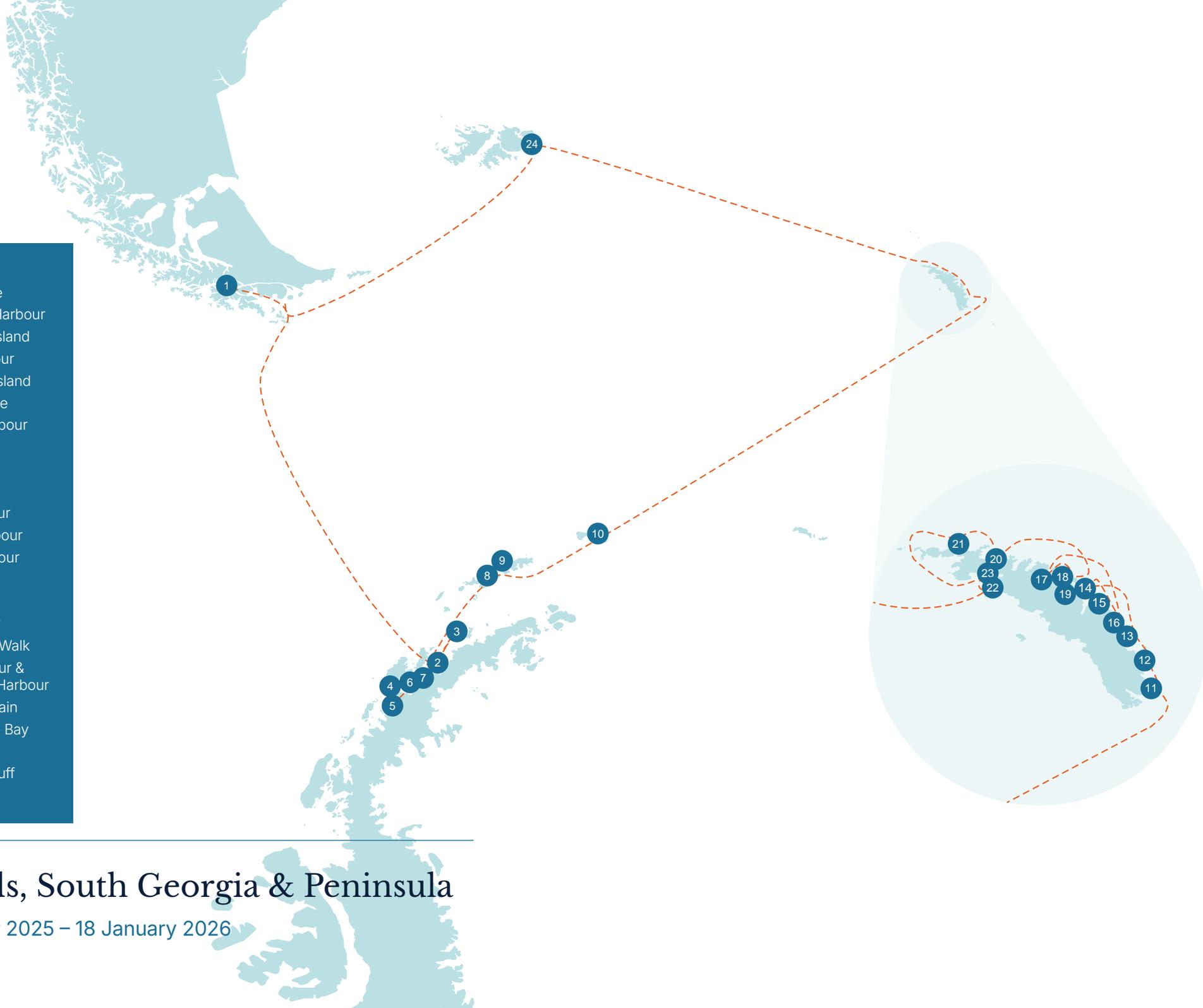






Map

1. Ushuaia
2. Cierva Cove
3. Mikkelsen Harbour
4. Cuverville Island
5. Neko Harbour
6. Enterprise Island
7. Recess Cove
8. Yankee Harbour
9. Fort Point
10. Point Wild
11. Cooper Bay
12. Gold Harbour
13. Ocean Harbour
14. Jason Harbour
15. Grytviken
16. Godthul
17. Fortuna Bay
18. Shackleton Walk
19. Leith Harbour & Stromness Harbour
20. Salisbury Plain
21. Right Whale Bay
22. Cape Rosa
23. Peggotty Bluff
24. Stanley



Falklands, South Georgia & Peninsula

28 December 2025 – 18 January 2026



Our Expeditioners

Soedjiati Ang	Paul Dorando	Bill Hartman	Judith McQuerry	Saidhbhe Quigley	Tash Toothill
Chris Baker	Graham Drake	Young Heinbockel	Sam McQuerry	Lorena Rackow	Cristin Vimaladewi
Silva Bassett	Holly Drake	David Heinbockel	Jessie Meranda	Mendizabal	Jan Vleugels
Mark Behrens	Steve Edwards	Avi Honigstein	Debra Mitchell	Reta Rea	Shirley Watson
Mary Behrens	Kylie Emery	Danielle Honigstein	Boyd Mitchell	Alex Robbins	Karen Wharton
Laura Bogaard	Katia Faris-Denis	Tiffany Holcomb	Jeff Mischkinsky	Jack Roth	Philip Wharton
James Branan	Caroline Farrelly	Xin Hu	Karen Monaco	Barbara Roth	Nicole White
David Brooks	Michael Forsyth	Liam Yao Hu	Jerry Morrison	Elyse Sainsbury	Lee White
Kim Bullis	Tito Fornasier	Ann Hughes	Mia Morrison	Rowena Scott	Cilla Williams
Miles Campbell	Jasper Fu	David Jasinski	Dulcie Mulholland	Jim Scott	Carol Zapapas
Lani Campbell	Yaoyao Fu	Ping Johnson	Judy Muchard	Kellie Smith	Stuart Young
Sandra Chambers	Judy Geary	Joyce Johnson	David Neilson	Glenn Smith	Nicky Xiao
Ian Chant	Susan Gillies	Dave Jones	Sue Peterson	Kristen St John	
Jenny Choy	John Glowacky	Sae Kitajima	Malissa Penny-Forsyth	Oksana St John	
Stephen Choy	Ed Griffin	Lilian Lam	Jeannine Perrot	Max St John	
Tony Chen	Terri Griffin	Kha Ly	Chantal Perrot	Phil Taylor	
Charly Chen	Leigh Grench	Andy Mac Leod	Steven Parkes	Barry Taylor	
Catherine Davies	Rishi Gupta	Amy Mac Leod	Eddi Quiggle	Laura Tildesley	
Paul Davies	Marla Hartman	Kate McCallum	Dexter Quiggle	Simon Tildesley	

Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Jeffery Nagel

Assistant Expedition Leader: Leopoldo Soibelzon

Onboard Expedition Manager: Alesha Bradford

Marine Biologist/Citizen Science Coordinator:
Eleanor Boorne

Historian: Nils Egeland

Expedition Guide: Will Versluis

Geologist / Glaciologist: Gaby Pilson

Ornithologist / Naturalist: Meike Mossi

Photography Guide: Jarryd Salem

Medic: Alan McPherson

Zodiac Manager: Thomas Marks

Shop Manager: Reza Rusooly

Lead Kayak Guide: Gabriel Wackernagel

Senior Kayak Guide: James Thorp

Kayak Guide: Pablo Passera

Kayak Guide: Robin Baths

Kayak Guide: Matthew Barnes

Lead Alpine Guide: Dan Phillips

Alpine Guide: Bronwen Waters

Lead Snorkel Guide: Thomas Gov

Snorkel Guide: Ellen Coenra

Snorkel Guide: Remi Ritchie

Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Oleg Kapke

Chief Officer: Vladimir Kolesnikov

Safety Officer: Andrey Balandin

Bosun: Francis Marvin Linga

Ship Doctor: Pranav Tukarem Sawant

Chief Engineer: Denys Odrynsky

First Engineer: Dmytro Matviienko

IT Officer: Razvan Malciu

Hotel Director: Oliver Sevilla

F&B Service Manager: German Orlando
Cayasso Wilson

Chief Purser: Pia Blanca Bangug

Executive Chef: Ronwaldo Reyes

Head Waiter: James Andrew Refina

Hotel Controller: Cheryl Ann Dela Torre

Receptionist: Maria Nympha Abuda

Receptionist: Liberty Joy Acelar

Head Stateroom Attendant: Roniel Garcia

AB Seaman: Raffy Singuelas

AB Seaman: Roberto Ixtan Mejia

AB Seaman: Junar Gorecho

AB Seaman: Noel Refugia

AB Seaman: Angelo San Antonio

AB Seaman: Khenette Versoza

Photography thanks to:

Photography Guide: Jarryd Salem

Kayak Guides: Gabriel Wackernagel, James Thorp, Matthew Barnes, Pablo Passera

Alpine Guides: Dan Phillips, Bronwen Waters

Snorkel Guide: Thomas Gov, Ellen Coenra, Remi Ritchie





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