

Antarctic Explorer Express

Aboard *Greg Mortimer* | 17 January – 24 January 2026





Antarctic Explorer
Express

17 January – 24 January 2026

Ushuaia | Embarkation day

DAY 1 | Sunday 18 January 2026

Latitude:
54°53.7' S

Longitude:
67°38.6' W

Course:

Speed:
15 knots

Wind Speed:
18 knots NNW

Barometer:
1025 hPa

Air Temp:
2°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 on board.

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. Warm hospitality and the wild beauty of Tierra del Fuego made for a fitting start to our adventure.

Later, we headed to the pier and finally stood before the *Greg Mortimer*. Jeff, our Expedition Leader, photographer Jarryd, Onboard Expedition Manager Alesha and other members of the Expedition Team greeted us warmly, checked us in and took a photo for the expedition board.

An embarkation buffet awaited us in the Elephant Island Bar, and the Hotel Team guided us to our cabins, our home away from home. Soon after, Jeff welcomed everyone in the lecture theatre, sharing a short video featuring *Greg Mortimer* and speaking about the innovative X-Bow design and Aurora's spirit of adventure. He outlined what to expect in the coming days before introducing our multi-skilled Expedition Team.

Alesha and Hotel Director Oliver explained life on board, and Dr Pranav gave a short briefing on staying healthy during the voyage. After the mandatory safety drill, we gathered in the dining room for dinner prepared by the galley team and served by our friendly restaurant staff. With 116 Expeditioners, 83 crew and 21 Expedition Team members, it was the perfect end to a full and unforgettable day, and a chance to relax and look forward to the journey ahead.



Drake Passage

DAY 2 | Friday 5 December 2026

Latitude:
56°59.0' S

Longitude:
64°4.7' W

Course:
146°

Speed:
12 knots

Wind Speed:
30 knots W

Barometer:
1011 hPa

Air Temp:
5°C

Our first day at sea crossing the Drake began with sunshine, setting an upbeat tone for what would be a full and informative day. After breakfast, the morning focused on preparation and safety, essential foundations for the adventures ahead. First was the compulsory IAATO briefing, outlining the guidelines that protect Antarctica's fragile environment and wildlife. This was followed by the Zodiac briefing, covering safe boarding procedures, on-water etiquette and what to expect during landings and cruises.

Biosecurity came next, a meticulous but vital process ensuring no seeds, soil or foreign material make their way ashore. Vacuum cleaners hummed as pockets, packs and Velcro were checked, and the mudroom soon came alive as Muck Boot fittings began.

The afternoon shifted into learning mode with a photography lecture from Jarryd, who shared practical tips on composition,

light and storytelling in polar environments. Gaby then delivered an engaging introduction to glaciology, explaining how glaciers form, move and shape the Antarctic landscape.

Between the two lectures, snorkellers, paddlers and kayakers attended their briefings and gear fittings, while others headed to deck 6 for the second eBird survey of the trip. No feathered friends appeared, but the data still contributed to Citizen Science.

As the day wound down, we gathered for the Captain's Welcome drinks, a chance to relax, meet fellow Expeditioners and toast the journey ahead. After dinner, Dan offered a lively introduction to navigation and chart reading, preparing everyone for the competitive 'Guess the First Iceberg location' contest. The evening ended with Jarryd's entertaining talk on maritime superstitions, sending everyone off smiling and ready for the days to come.





Drake Passage

DAY 3 | Monday 19 January 2026

Latitude:
61°28.4' S

Longitude:
57°53.7' W

Course:
143°

Speed:
14 knots

Wind Speed:
25 knots NW

Barometer:
1005 hPa

Air Temp:
3°C

Day two at sea and the feeling that the Drake Passage is behind us grows stronger with every mile. The Southern Ocean has treated us kindly, with conditions far better than many had anticipated, allowing everyone on board to relax and enjoy the crossing. As the ship moved steadily south, a sense of calm settled in, balanced by the quiet excitement of what lies ahead.

Today was devoted to learning and preparation of a different kind. A full program of lectures filled the day, focusing on Antarctic history, the seabirds of the Southern Ocean and the remarkable marine mammals that thrive in these cold, productive waters. These sessions helped bring meaning to the journey, connecting us to the explorers who first ventured here and to the wildlife that makes this region so unique. Between talks, conversations continued in lounges and on deck as anticipation grew.

Many spent time outside, watching the endless motion of the sea and scanning the horizon. Around midday, subtle but unmistakable signs of Antarctica appeared. Icebergs drifted quietly through the Southern Ocean, modest in size but powerful in symbolism. Almost simultaneously, land came into view. Off the starboard side, the South Shetland Islands emerged from the haze, their snow covered peaks rising above icy shorelines and offering our first true glimpse of the Antarctic landscape.

Later in the day, our Expedition Leader Jeff outlined the plan for tomorrow. Only one final crossing remains, the Bransfield Strait, before our first operational day in Antarctica. As evening settled in, the ship continued south, the first Antarctic land already behind our wake and the White Continent now very much within reach.

Cierva Cove & Mikkelsen Harbour

DAY 4 | Wednesday 21 January 2026

Latitude:
64°8.6' S

Longitude:
60°45.6' W

Course:
155°

Speed:
7.9 knots

Wind Speed:
3 knots SW

Barometer:
990 hPa

Air Temp:
0°C

After three days of crossing the Drake Passage and the Bransfield Strait, Antarctica greeted us with a moody, hushed kind of magic. Dawn broke over Cierva Cove in shades of grey, with towering icebergs and fractured ice caps drifting in and out of the fog. As the initial awe settled, the individuality of each iceberg came into focus, with sculpted arches, shifting blues and snow dusted ripples, no two alike.

Cierva Cove, tucked into the northern edge of Hughes Bay on the Antarctic Peninsula, is long cherished by researchers and explorers. A glacial face calves regularly into the sea, creating dramatic spectacles and rich habitats for hardy wildlife. Though landings are not permitted in this protected area, a morning Zodiac cruise allowed us to absorb the scene. Sunbeams eventually pierced the fog, igniting the ice and water in sudden brilliance. Along the way, some Expeditioners spotted a curious leopard seal, humpback whales surfacing

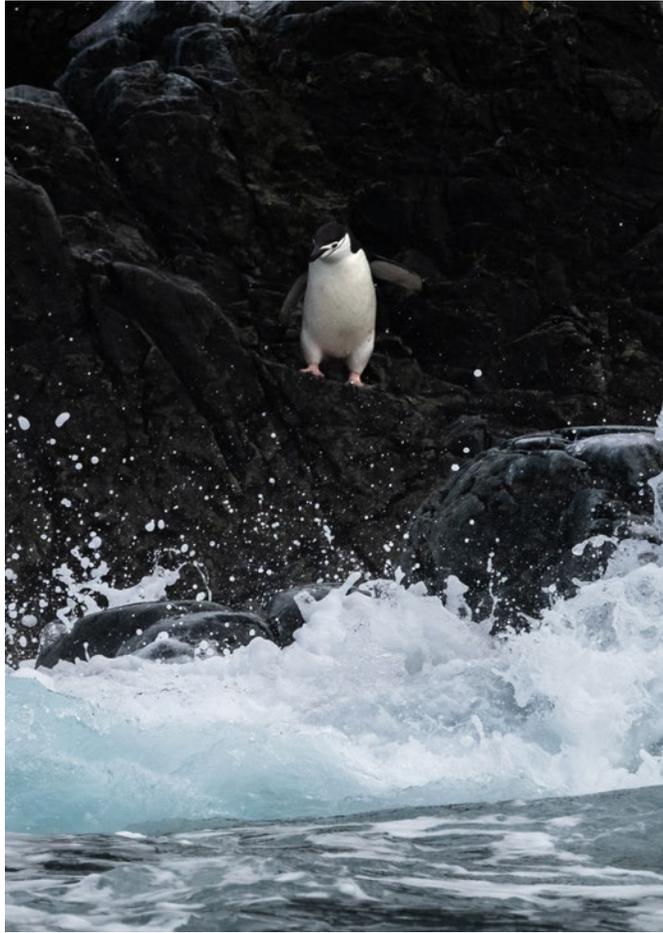
through brash ice and chinstrap and gentoo penguins navigating their frozen world. The orange red buildings of Argentina's Primavera Base stood in striking contrast to the grey rock and ice, with patches of mosses and lichens thriving in one of the peninsula's densest plant-covered areas.

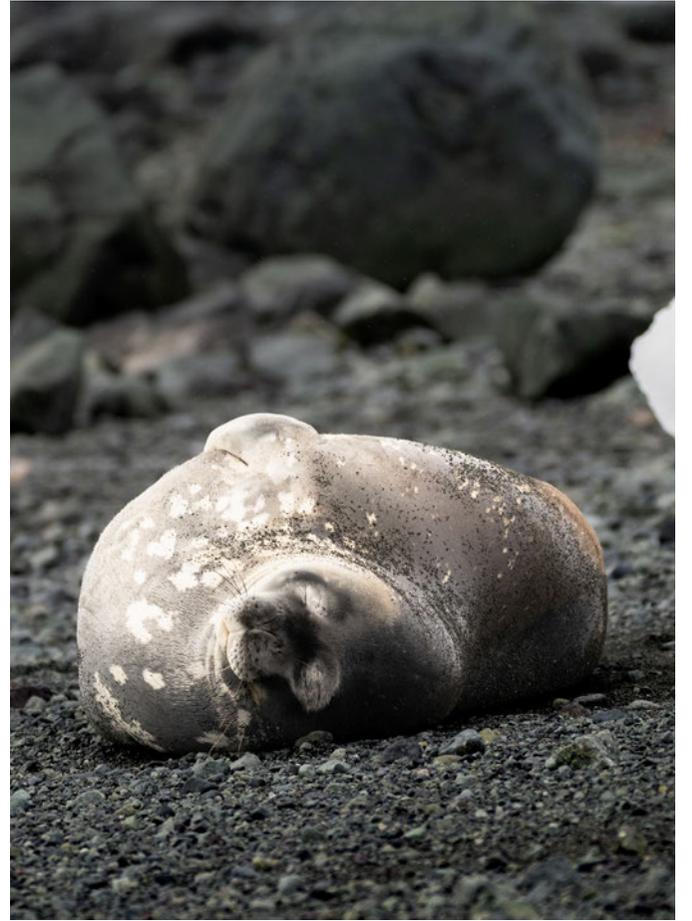
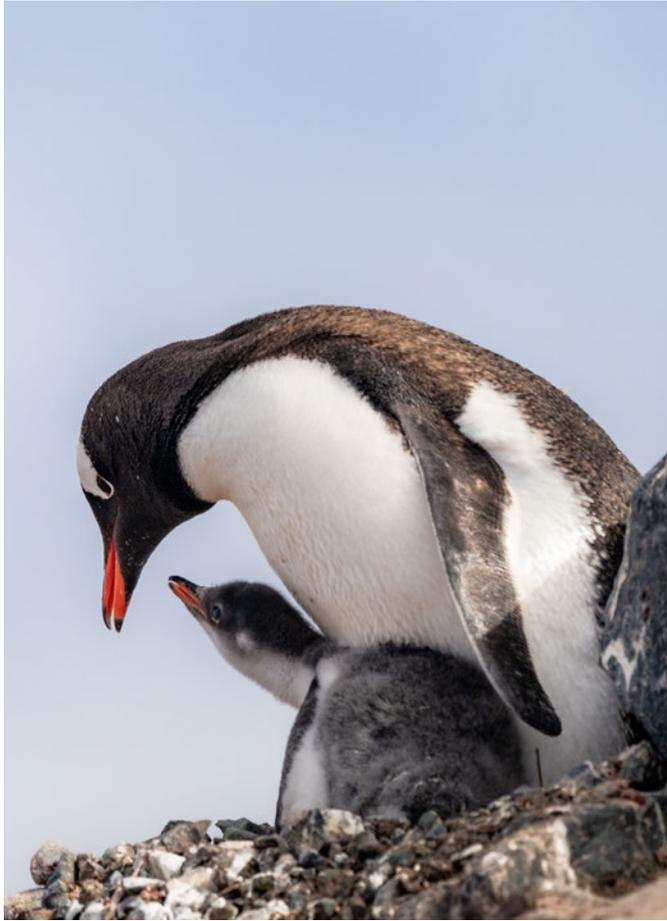
By afternoon, we arrived at Mikkelsen Harbour and landed on D'Hainaut Island, a small rocky outcrop set against the icy cliffs of Trinity Island. Whale bones and remnants of the whaling era lay scattered along the beach, while a lively gentoo penguin colony tended fluffy grey chicks and a lone Weddell seal rested nearby.

Just before dinner, laughter filled the air as the bravest among us took part in the frigid polar plunge. As we sailed south into the evening sun, orcas and humpback whales passed by, rounding out a wild and unforgettable first day in Antarctica.











Cuverville Island & Orne Harbour

DAY 5 | Thursday 22 January 2026

Latitude:
64°40.4' S

Longitude:
62°37.6' W

Course:
at Anchor
Speed:
at Anchor

Wind Speed:
3 knots SE

Barometer:
1003 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

Day five of our Aurora Expeditions voyage, and our second day exploring the Errera Channel and Gerlache Strait, felt like Antarctica reminding us who is in charge while still allowing us to achieve a great deal. We awoke to a weather puzzle, with high winds funnelling through the straits from every inconvenient direction. With deft ship handling, we tucked into the lee of Ronge Island, the bulk of Mount Britannia standing guard. Sheltered once again, spirits lifted and plans advanced.

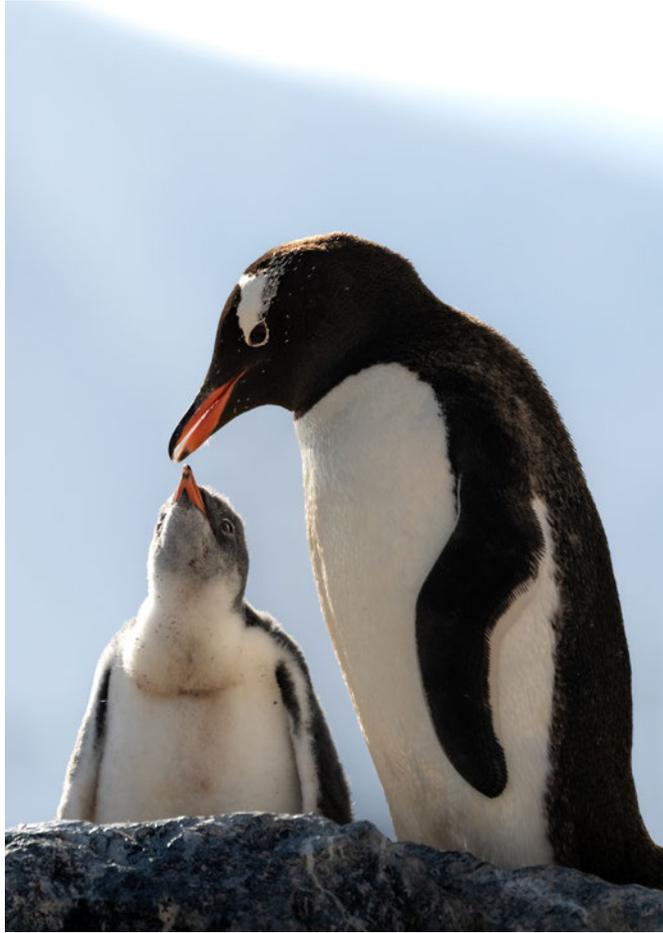
Our morning landing at Cuverville Island delivered exactly what it promised. The gentoo penguin rookery was alive with activity and noise. On shore, we watched endless commuting between nest sites and sea, while offshore the snorkelling team slipped into clear water and quickly realised they had entered a busy penguin highway. Kayakers circumnavigated the island, tracing its dramatic shoreline as Antarctic terns

fished above and disputed nesting rights on the cliffs.

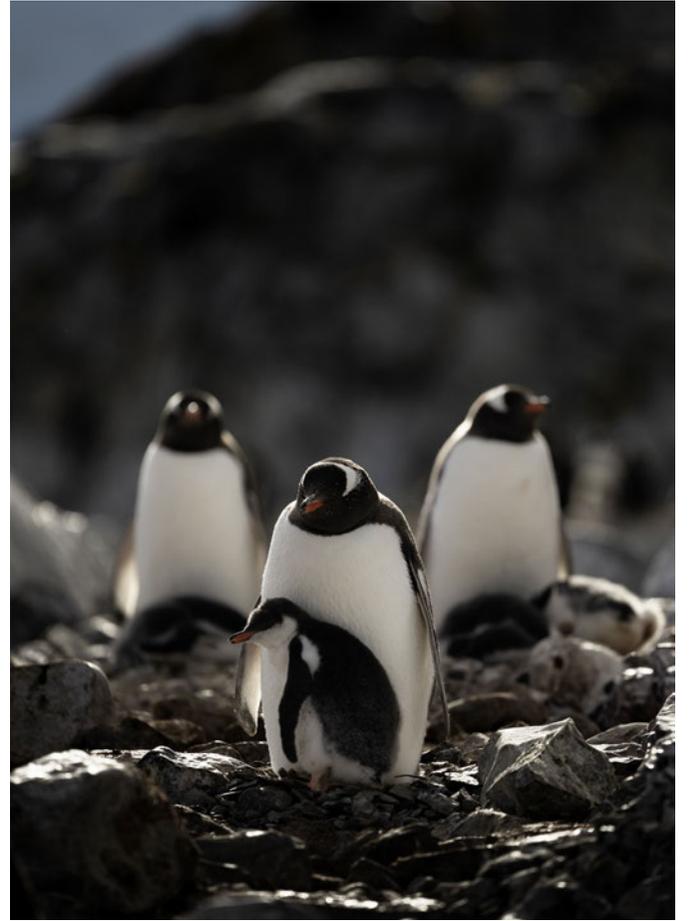
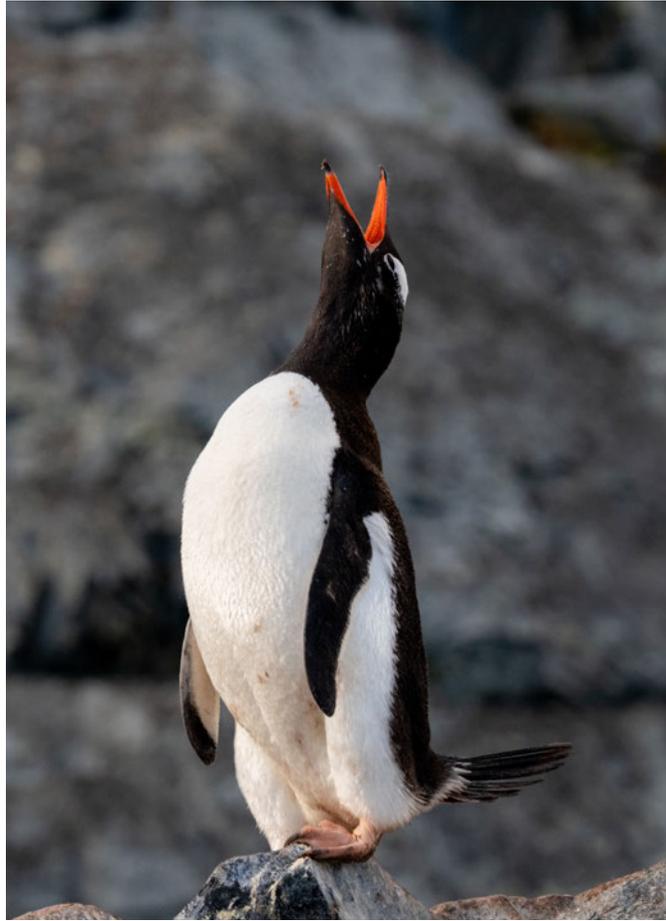
A short hop across the bay brought us to the calm of Orne Harbour, where we proudly celebrated a continental landing. As winds built, the harbour became a lesson in timing and efficiency, culminating in a sporty Zodiac pickup from a rocky spit of land.

Between landings, the deck delivered its own rewards, with whales surfacing in the strait and seabirds passing steadily by. As the wind finally asserted dominance, we moved the planned BBQ indoors, trading scenery for warmth, laughter and celebration. The evening rolled on with stories, toasts and a shared sense that we had already achieved something special, and that Antarctica, for all its bluster, was very much on our side.











Half Moon Island

DAY 6 | Friday 23 January 2026

Latitude:
62°34.4' S

Longitude:
59°49.4' W

Course:
270°

Speed:
8.3 knots

Wind Speed:
36 knots W

Barometer:
993 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

Today we woke to a moody Antarctic weather day, with high swell and roaring winds. Even with the ship moving more than we had grown used to, our hotel team served a proper breakfast so we were ready for whatever the day might bring. It quickly became clear that the conditions were too rough for morning activities outside the ship. After several wonderful excursions earlier in the voyage, it was also fitting to experience Antarctica at its wildest. With clear skies, we could still enjoy the majestic landscape with a warm chocolate from the comfort of the ship.

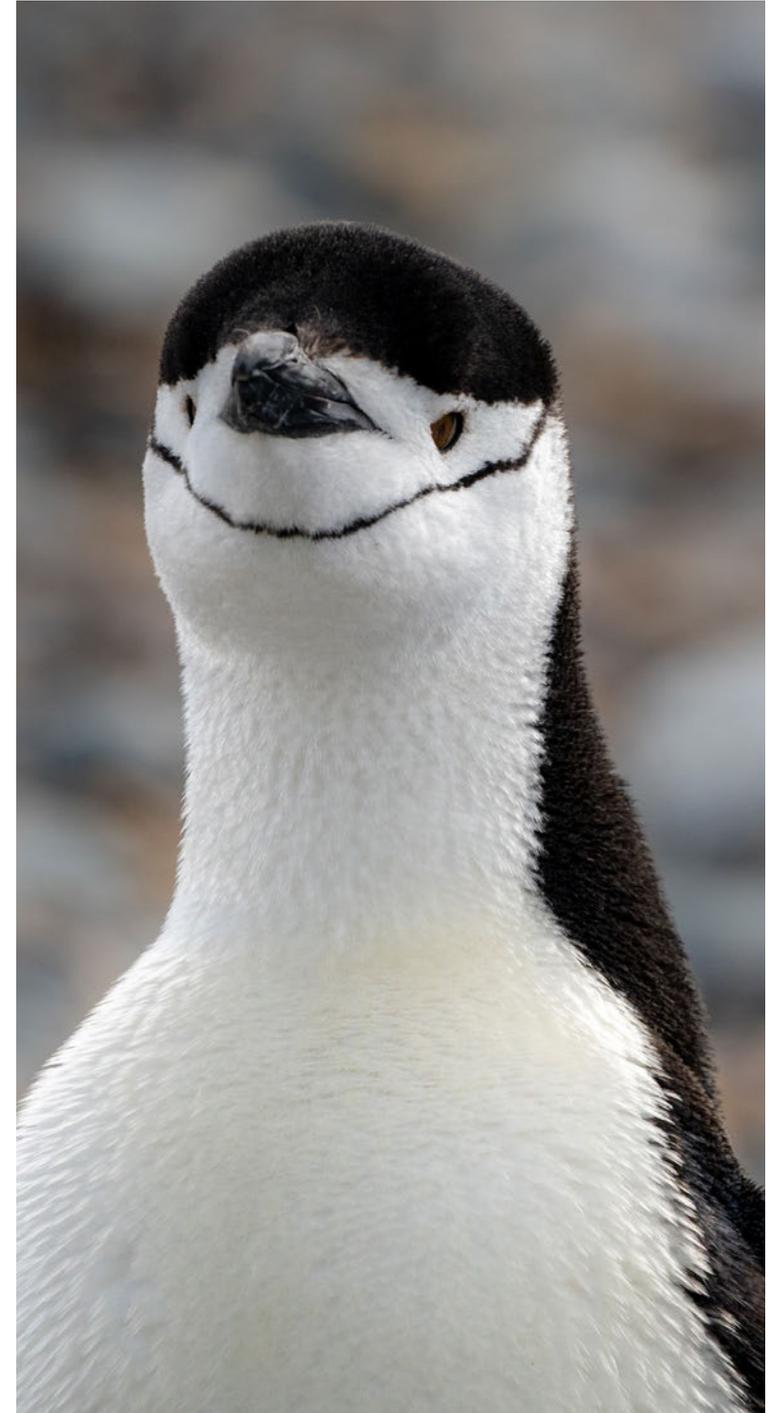
As lunchtime approached, we made our way to the feeding tray once again, many joking that the hotel team might be responsible for wardrobe upgrades once back home. In the afternoon the weather eased, and the Captain skilfully

brought the ship into Half Moon Island, where we anchored for a landing. Here we had close encounters with Antarctic fur seals resting on the beach in windy but sunny conditions. A few Weddell seals were also present, along with an abundance of penguins.

Half Moon Island hosts thousands of nesting chinstrap penguins, with a few gentoo penguins mingling nearby. The remains of an old whaling dory lay on the beach, a stark reminder of a grim era now past.

Back on board, Jeff informed us that challenging weather might delay tomorrow's flight, meaning one more day to enjoy Antarctica. The evening concluded with a slideshow from photographer Jarryd, a warm recap of our voyage on our home away from home, the *Greg Mortimer*.









Potter Cove

DAY 7 | Saturday 24 January 2026

Latitude:
62°15.6' S

Longitude:
58°41.0' W

Course:
062°

Speed:
5 knots

Wind Speed:
18 knots E

Barometer:
1009 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

Just when we thought the morning plan was set, the Expedition Team surprised us with a Zodiac cruise into Potter Cove. Jackets zipped and cameras ready, we skimmed across dark, restless water toward the rugged shoreline. The sea was high and alive, with breaking waves slapping the Zodiacs, and every bounce made us feel wonderfully intrepid, like proper Antarctic explorers.

Potter Cove unfolded dramatically around us. We cruised past the Argentinian research base, Carlini Station, perched against stark rock and ice, a reminder that science continues even in places this wild. Not far beyond, the shore belonged entirely to southern elephant seals. They sprawled across the beach like enormous breathing boulders, occasionally lifting their heads or unleashing thunderous snorts.

We learned that elephant seals are the largest seals on Earth, with adult males reaching six metres and weighing up to four tonnes. They can dive over 1,500 metres and hold their breath for two hours, abilities that seem almost unreal as they lie so still on land.

Back on board the *Greg Mortimer*, the weather had other ideas. The wind rose, the seas built further and afternoon landings were cancelled. No disappointment lingered. The Expedition Team rallied us with a brilliantly silly game show, 'How Big Is It?'. Guests teamed up to guess the lengths of Antarctic creatures, from krill to orca, earning points and bonus points for singing, miming or acting out the animals. Watching adults flap and waddle had the lounge in stitches. Antarctica reminds us daily that plans are optional, but adventure and laughter are guaranteed.









King George Island

DAY 8 | Sunday 25 January 2026

Latitude:
62°12.5' S

Longitude:
64°7.6' W

Course:
310°

Speed:
0.3 knots

Wind Speed:
20 knots NW

Barometer:
1002 hPa

Air Temp:
1°C

Disembarkation at 1000 at King George Island for the onward flight to Punta Arenas.

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 Vink Wackernagel, Matt Barnes, Rob Barth, Jimmy Thorp, Pablo Passera

21 January 2026, AM: Cierva Cove – 3.5km

A light drizzle was falling as we towed deep into Cierva Cove for our first outing and first drop-in from Zodiac to kayak. In loose brash ice, we found our balance and test-drove our vessels on a learning swerve. Fortuitously, a lone humpback whale approached our group and made a respectful pass in front of us. Once everyone was settled, we held a brief on-water refresher on paddling and manoeuvring before heading back into the brash. We pushed towards larger icebergs, breaking into more challenging ice before exiting into open water near Primavera Point. Two large, dazzling blue bergs sat in front of the station on the hillside, with surprising greenery behind and thousands of gentoo penguins dotting the rocky ledges.

Around the bend we moved closer to the colony, admiring shoreline ramps where rafts of penguins came and went from their rookery. Several groups porpoised up amongst our kayaks, seemingly puzzled but unbothered by our presence. A few chinstraps also made an appearance. The low inversion layer threatened to break, giving us glimpses of sun and blue sky. Continuing beneath steep geological features, we encountered clapotis, where swells refracted around an islet and back off the cliffs. Rounding the corner, we entered a quieter embayment surrounded by glaciers. After waiting for a calving that never came, we rafted up for a photo before re-embarking the Zodiacs, about as gracefully as penguins leaving the water.

Number of Kayakers: 18

Total Paddle Outings: 4

Total Distance Paddled: 15 km

Kayakers:

Scott Doba

Rachel Doba

Christine Gillespie

Alan Solomon

Darren Rice

Peter Hermosa

Gregory Warden

Dwanye McBride

Paul Simonsen

Andrew Solomon

Edward Tobias

Ruth Tobias

Francois Coulombe

Mariana Takashima

Michael Heath

Kaitlin Scruggs

Alex Davis

Beverly Neal

21 January 2026, PM: Mikkelsen Harbour – 2.6km

We were greeted by slightly higher winds as we loaded into the Zodiacs at Mikkelsen Harbour. Conditions remained excellent for kayaking, and 16 participants were eager to explore another iconic Antarctic site. We made a longer commute to the headland at the entrance of the harbour and disembarked in front of the gentoo penguin rookery. After dodging rocky reefs for a closer look, we watched penguins waddle about and leap into the water to head off fishing. Leaving the headland, we paddled downwind towards a rocky islet with a few shags and a Chilean trig point. We then made a beeline for the island in the middle of the harbour and our eventual landing. Skirting its edge, we passed penguins and an Argentinian refuge hut before rounding the corner into a shallow reef. As the wind strengthened into a headwind, we ran out of time and loaded into the Zodiac to head ashore and explore the rookery.

22 January 2026, AM: Cuverville Island – 5km

We awoke to calm weather and sunshine as we anchored off Cuverville Island. With ideal kayaking conditions, it was the perfect opportunity to attempt a circumnavigation. After launching from the *Greg Mortimer*, we paddled towards the shoreline where a large gentoo penguin colony nests. After regrouping and watching the penguins and their fluffy chicks, we continued around the island past more rookeries, towering cliffs and small floating icebergs. On the far side, we spotted a Weddell seal and a young leopard seal resting on ice. We continued past the old waterboat from the whaling era and onwards to the landing site. Once the circumnavigation was complete, we loaded into the Zodiacs and went ashore to explore the rookery on foot.

22 January 2026, PM: Orne Harbour – 3.9km

Cruising into Orne Harbour, conditions looked perfect for kayaking. In the Zodiac, Gabe noted that the weather would deteriorate during the excursion. Once in our kayaks, we paddled along the southern shore where a chinstrap penguin colony occupied the rocky headland. Fluffy chicks flapped and waddled while parents came and went from the ocean, swapping feeding duties. Rounding the point into the Gerlache Strait, we took in the wide icy expanse. Returning to Orne, we pushed into 12-knot headwinds. At the back of the bay, ice cliffs rose from the water's edge, the tidewater glacier still distant. A chunk calved off, plunging into the sea with a splash and rumble, reminding us how active this environment is. To complete our seventh-continent achievement, we boarded the Zodiac and headed in for the landing. Congratulations all round, big smiles and happy people everywhere.













Paddling Log

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

21 January 2026, AM: Cierva Cove – 2.4km

After two days at sea, it was refreshing to explore from our smaller craft. All layered up, zipped up and clipped up, we stepped aboard the Zodiac. A little swell caused the boat to rock. A man-overboard training with Pablo reminded us to look out for each other and make sure we did not fall in ourselves. On the water we sessioned different strokes, including power, turning and draw strokes.

The wide-open Cierva Cove to the north is surrounded by glaciers and ice cliffs ending in the ocean, and to the south is a rocky ridge with lichens, mosses, Antarctic hairgrass and the Argentine research station Primavera. But most exciting of all for us paddlers was the hustling, bustling gentoo penguin colony scattered along the

shore and high up the hillsides. We watched from our kayaks as they waddled to the water's edge, then queued up and dove one after another into the waves. Rafts of gentoos and chinstraps porpoised along. What a delight to see, especially when they took an interest in us, pausing to look up at our colourful group. We continued exploring further into the bay, pushing through dense brash ice which, when we paused for a moment of silence, crackled and popped as air parcels were released from ice. The sights of great bergs in various shapes and sizes beckoned us on; however, Zodiacs were returning to the ship, so finishing up this mesmerising paddle, we did too.



Number of Paddles: 8

Total Paddle Outings: 4

Total Distance Paddled: 10 km

Paddlers:

Bradley Strock

Susan Tandler

Jon Tandler

Talia Tandler

Nancy Nonini

Elliot Strock

Karen Ross

Peter Williams

21 January 2026, PM: Mikkelsen Harbour – 2.2km

The paddling started on the south side of Mikkelsen in the shelter of Skottsberg Point. Once in the water, we paddled a bit against the wind and to our side towards a small island. We could also see snow algae and a very clear lecture of the layers on the glacier. After 20 minutes more of paddling, we arrived at D'Hainaut Island where there is an Argentinian hut and a gentoo penguin colony. We could see the nests and chicks from the kayaks on the north side. The smell of guano was strong and the colour of the island was a pinky orange due to the guano. After watching them for 10–15 minutes, we got into the Zodiacs to go to the landing site on the south side of the island to walk among penguins.

22 January 2026, AM: Cuverville Island – 2.8km

Despite stiff winds out in the Gerlache Strait, our drop point just south of Cuverville Island was flat, calm and protected. It was an absolutely stunning day, with just the right amount of cloud cover and excellent visibility at the glacial icescape surrounding us in the Errera Channel. We started with some manoeuvre practice and ice-weaving through a maze of safe-sized bergy bits. A light tailwind pushed us back along the lee shoreline below the most colourful stretch of lichen- and moss-painted cliffs, where a small gentoo colony sits on a limited rocky outcrop. Shags seemed to have claimed the highest points of the rookery, but the penguins with their large, downy chicks were most prominent. Also nesting high in the cliffs, and low on outcroppings, were Wilson's storm petrels and Antarctic terns.

Further down we found some nice grottos to observe the main colony, getting a unique, up-close perspective of the gentoos above on rocks and beneath in the crystal-clear water. In the shallows, they zoomed around us like torpedoes. On land, they stumbled like drunkards. Instead of rushing to a landing, we opted to stay on the water. From our floating front-row seats, we enjoyed the penguin theatre, taking in the overwhelming sight, sound and smell. At the northern tip of the island, we encountered a few chinstrap penguins posing for contrast. Today, Cuverville provided about as idyllic a site for an Antarctic paddle as we could hope for.

22 January 2026, PM: Orne Harbour – 2.5km

For the last paddle outing, we had a great array of options. We started by pushing ourselves a little and poking our heads around the point into slightly choppy conditions with beautiful views at the base of huge sea cliffs. Everyone handled the challenge well, so we made our way back to shelter for a break to watch the chinstrap and gentoo penguins, with quite a few chicks feeding too. We even found a few blue-eyed shag chicks. From there, we had a relaxed drift down the coast with the wind, checking out the wildlife. After all the hard work we had done, the wind began gusting a little stronger, so it was time to get out of the boats and step foot on the Antarctic continent.







Snorkelling Log

Guides: Thomas Gov, Ellen Coenra, Remi Ritchie

21 January 2026, PM: Mikkelsen Harbour

The first day of the new trip began in Cierva Cove with a mix of excitement and challenging conditions. Wind, swell and drifting ice made it far from ideal for snorkelling, but with drysuits on and motivation high, we decided to give it a try. We boarded the Zodiacs and set out to explore the bay, weaving between icebergs and scanning the water. The highlight of the morning came quickly when a curious leopard seal appeared, swimming beneath the Zodiacs and giving everyone an unforgettable first wildlife encounter. Despite the excitement, the conditions were clearly not suitable for a safe snorkel, and we made the call to postpone our first immersion until later in the day.

In the afternoon, we headed to Mikkelsen Harbour and landed on D'Hainaut Island, a small and

well-sheltered place packed with gentoo penguins and, unmistakably, their guano. A couple of Weddell seals rested along the shore, while old remains from the whaling era reminded us of Antarctica's human history. This landing marked the first steps on the continent for our new group of snorkellers and set the tone for the trip.

Afterwards, we geared up once more and entered the water on the southern side of the island. The conditions were much calmer, with good visibility. A few penguins swam past, and we observed invertebrate life in the water column, including isopods and salps. This successful first snorkelling session was perfectly capped off with the traditional polar plunge back on board, making it a memorable first day in Antarctica.

Number of Snorkellers: 14

Total Snorkel Outings: 3

Snorkellers:

Vale Pelletier

Kristin Ziemke

Marko Dumlija

Damien Pryor

Jesse Alloy

Shubham Patel

Nathan Arcand

Mackenzie Gaspar

Melanie Taussig

Julia Wright

Christina Grivas

Maggie Shipstead

Matthew Shipstead

Tejpal Singh

22 January 2026, AM: Cuverville Island

Our snorkel outing at Cuverville Island kicked off with a visit to a bustling gentoo penguin colony. We watched as these playful birds waddled about, seemingly unfazed by our presence, with the countless gentoo chicks being the highlight for many. A short hike across the rocky terrain (while obeying penguin traffic regulations) led us to a quick Zodiac cruise along the shoreline of this magnificent island. Rafting penguins led us to a small bay with trails of birds streaming in and out of the adjacent nesting sites.

The water conditions were calm, offering the perfect environment for snorkelling. The cold was intense, but the underwater world was worth every shiver. Penguins zipped around us with remarkable speed and agility, weaving through the water like silver arrows. The shallow depths revealed

vibrant patches of algae, and we were mesmerised by the delicate planktonic life in the water column. Countless krill inhabited these shallow waters, keeping our curiosity alive.

A Zodiac cruise concluded this morning's outing as we sailed past massive icebergs jutting out of the sea in jagged formations, creating a hauntingly beautiful scene. With numb fingers, it was time to return to the ship for a hearty meal.

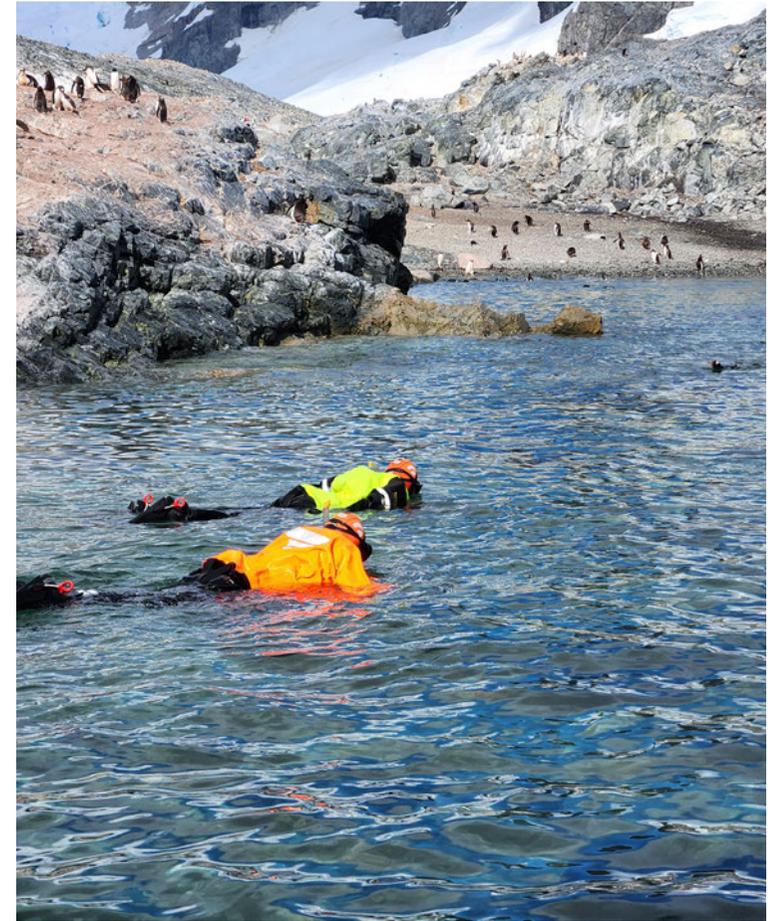
22 January 2026, PM: Orne Harbour

The outing unfolded as a classic Antarctica introduction, blending land, sea and underwater encounters into a single, unforgettable day. We began with a continental landing on the Antarctic Peninsula, stepping ashore amid a stark, beautiful landscape of rock, snow and ice. A quick celebration followed for many as they

set foot on their seventh continent. From there, a Zodiac cruise carried us slowly around a glaciated harbour, where towering ice formations framed the shoreline. Along the way, we passed lively gentoo and chinstrap penguin colonies, their calls echoing across the water, and paused near a cormorant nest where fluffy chicks navigated the steep cliffs, an unexpectedly tender sight against a dramatic polar backdrop.

The adventure continued with a snorkel in clear, cold water boasting surprisingly good visibility. Beneath the surface, chinstrap penguins streaked past with effortless speed and agility, darting and looping around us like feathered torpedoes. The snorkel was made even more special by a brief but memorable encounter with a Weddell seal, which appeared calmly nearby before slipping back into the blue.

After relocating to a new site, we entered the water again for a second snorkel, this time in deeper conditions. A low-lying iceberg in the centre of the harbour kept us entertained from above and below, its submerged contours glowing softly in the filtered light. The combination of ice, depth and silence created a fittingly surreal conclusion to an extraordinary Antarctic day.





Bird & Mammal Sightings

Bird Species	January						
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Snowy Sheathbill				●	●	●	
Chilean Skua	●						
South Polar Skua		●	●	●	●	●	●
Kelp Gull	●			●	●	●	●
Antarctic Tern				●	●	●	
South American Tern	●						
Gentoo Penguin	●			●	●	●	●
Chinstrap Penguin				●	●	●	●
Adélie Penguin							●
Magellanic Penguin	●						
Black-Browed Albatross	●	●	●				
Grey-Headed Albatross		●					
Northern Giant-Petrel	●						

Bird Species	January						
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Southern Giant-Petrel	●			●	●	●	●
Southern Fulmar		●	●				
Pintado (Cape) Petrel		●	●		●		
Snow Petrel		●	●				
Soft-Plumaged Petrel		●	●				
White-Chinned Petrel		●	●				
Sooty Shearwater	●						
Wilson's Storm-Petrel		●	●	●	●	●	●
Black-Bellied Storm-Petrel		●					
Magellanic Cormorant	●						
Imperial Cormorant	●						
Antarctic Shag				●	●	●	●
Black-Faced Ibis	●						

Mammal Species	January						
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Antarctic Fur Seal						●	
Southern Elephant Seal							●
Weddell Seal				●		●	
Leopard Seal				●	●		
Humpback Whale				●	●	●	
Fin Whale		●	●			●	
Hourglass Dolphin	●						
Dusky Dolphin	●						

Map

1. Ushuaia
2. Cierva Cove
3. Mikkelsen Harbour
4. Cuverville Island
5. Orne Harbour
6. Half Moon Island
7. Potter Cove
8. Frei Station

Antarctic Explorer Express

17 January – 24 January 2026





Our Expeditioners

Aji Aleyas Kaniyampadical	Alex Davis Katy Day	Cinthia Kim Ashok Kumar	Michael Jr Morgan Jr. Miriam Moultrie	Maggie Shipstead Matt Shipstead	Edward Tobias Brenda Todd
Jesse Alloy Nathan Arcand	Feng Ding Scott Doba	Kayal Kumar Shoba Kumar	Paul Naron Bev Neal	Patrick Shipstead Paul Simonsen	Phil Trathan Ken Ueda
Mya Aye Bea Barraza	Rachel Doba Marko Dumlija	Nancy Laird Cheryl Lewis	Dana Nelson Don Nelson	Tejpal Singh Dana Snowdon	David Van Staalduinen Yu Wah
Jen Bite Denise Boone	Ronnie Fann Kristian Forkel	Lloyd Lifton Tim Long	Nancy Nonini Nellie Nunez-Gonzalez	Alan Solomon Andrew Solomon	Ying-Ying Wang Greg Warden
Bob Bray Heidi Bullough	Brian Gadbery Mackenzie Gaspar	Brittany Manley Naitry Marini Marini	Shubs Patel Vaune Pelletier	Helen Starley Preston Stone	George Watters Humi Widhalm
Joanne Cacanindin Gaye Cacanindin	Christine Gillespie Terry Goudy	Seema Massand Bimal Massand	Vale Pelletier Brad Peters	Todd Stone Elliot Strock	Peter Williams Tony Wilson
Laura Calabi Mona Calvert	Christina Grivas Pauline Harris	Dwayne McBryde No Mehra	Damien Pryor Sam Pryor	Brad Strock Mariana Takashima	Mary-Jane Wilson Julia Wright
Shannon Clarke Sara Cohen	Stephanie Harvey Edward Harvey	No Mehra Tanvee Mehra	PK Rehbein fred Rehbein	Diane Takvorian Jon Tandler	wen zhang Zhang Han Zhang
Luci Collings Francois Coulombe	Michael Heath Peter Hermosa	Kevin Mooren Mark Morgan	Darren Rice Catherine Robertson	Susan Tandler Talia Tandler	Kristin Ziemke
Holly Craig Steve Craig	Dan Howard Dan Hughey	Michael Morgan Chris Morgan	Karen Ross Kaitlin Scruggs	Melanie Taussig Ruth Tobias	

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: Mikhail Levkin

Safety Officer: Andrey Balandin

Bosun: Francis Marvin Linga

Ship Doctor: Pranav Tukarem Sawant

Chief Engineer: Dimitar Vasilev

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, Robin Baths

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