

# Across The Antarctic Circle

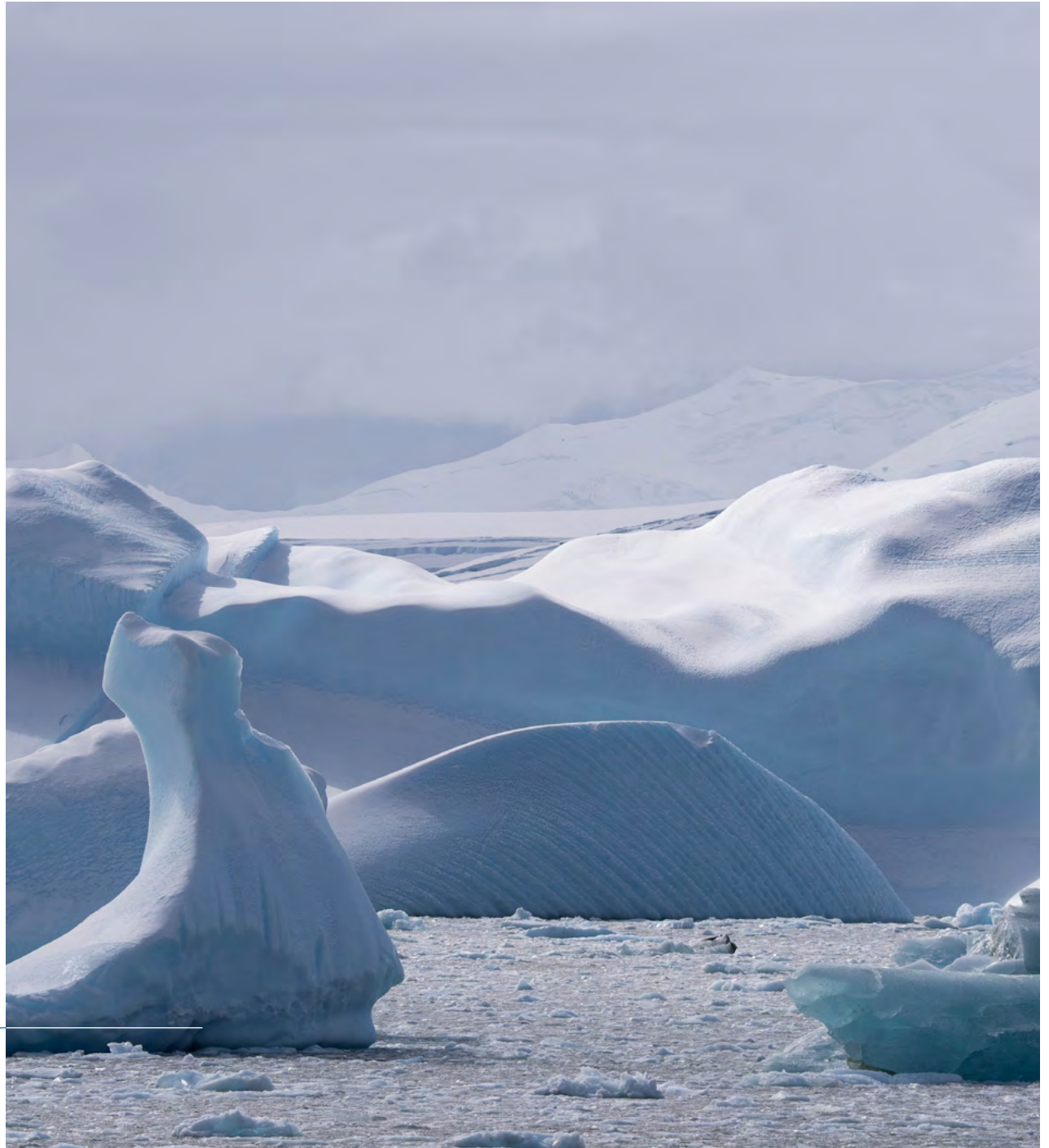
Aboard *Sylvia Earle* | 30 January – 09 February 2026

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# Across The Antarctic Circle

30 January - 9 February 2026



# Ushuaia

DAY 1 | 30 January 2026

**Latitude:**  
54°48'0"S

**Speed:**  
0 knots

**Longitude:**  
68°18'0"W

**Wind Speed:**  
Light Wind

**Course:**  
Docked in  
Ushuaia

**Barometer:**  
1000 hPa

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

We arrived at the dock, stepped off our buses and finally stood before our beautiful ship in unusually mild Ushuaian weather. We had our 'mugshots' taken for our photo-board by Fiona and her able assistant Ed.

Members of the *Expedition Team*, including our Expedition Leader Elena, Assistant Expedition Leader Mark, Photographer Grant and Onboard Expedition Manager Rosie greeted us warmly on the gangway, and we made our way to Reception for check-in.

An embarkation buffet awaited us in the Tektite Bar, and the Hotel Team guided us to our cabins, our home away from home.

After a Jacket Exchange, we met our Expedition Leader, Elena, in the lecture theatre, and were introduced to our *Expedition Team*.

There are 23 '*E-team*' in total, with various specialities including: ornithology, marine biology, geology, glaciology, photography, history, first aid, kayaking, snorkelling and mountaineering.

Rosie and Hotel Director Alex gave some tips about life onboard, and Medic Laura gave a briefing on staying healthy



# Ushuaia

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during the voyage.

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68°18'0"W

**Wind Speed:**  
Light Wind

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

**Course:**  
Docked in  
Ushuaia

**Barometer:**  
1000 hPa

Finally, we gathered in the dining room for a delicious buffet dinner prepared by our talented galley team and served by our ever-friendly restaurant staff.

Whilst we dined, we cruised along the Beagle Channel on the border between two countries: Argentina on our Port side, and Chile on our Starboard. The green rolling hills are a stark contrast to the landscapes will experience in days to come.

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

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

Altogether, we are 125 *Expeditioners* from: USA (49), Australia (39), China (17), UK (8), Denmark (2), Italy (2), Malaysia (2), Canada (1), France (1), Hong Kong (1), Isle of Mann (1), Russia (1), Trinidad & Tobago (1) and Turkey (1).

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





# At Sea Towards Antarctica

DAY 2 | 31 January 2026

**Latitude:**  
57°09'55"S  
**Longitude:**  
66°36'0"W

**Course:**  
187°  
**Speed:**  
13.4 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
W force 6 knots  
**Barometer:**  
1005 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
10°C

We awoke on our first morning of our Antarctic expedition to EL Elena's call informing us about the day ahead. A sunny sea day on the Drake Passage began with 20 knot winds and a few white caps as we headed south and Antarctic Circle bound.

After our first breakfast on board the lecture programme kicked off with Heather's colourful, informative and interactive presentation about the Southern Ocean as we literally rode through its waves. We learnt what a Sverdrup was (for future intelligent conversation starters and Scrabble points) and how sea ice forms from grease to pancakes (a recipe in the making?). Ed then followed with his '*Wings, Waves and Wings*' talk teaching us all about how albatross use dynamic soaring to fly effortlessly and how Wisdom, a Laysan albatross, at 74

years old was still hatching eggs.

After a delicious buffet lunch, the snorkellers, kayakers and paddlers learnt what to expect on their programmes and then our historian, Kelsey, regaled tales of Antarctica's human history. She took us from Greek philosophers first imagining this Terra Australis Incognita ('unknown southern land') to the first sightings and early exploitation by sealers and whalers. Then through the heroic era when Shackleton, Scott, Amundsen, Mawson and more defied death in their exploits and achievements, and onto today's regulations defined by the Antarctic Treaty and what the future may hold.

We can all say we ended the afternoon significantly more educated on our destination. Solo travellers got the chance to



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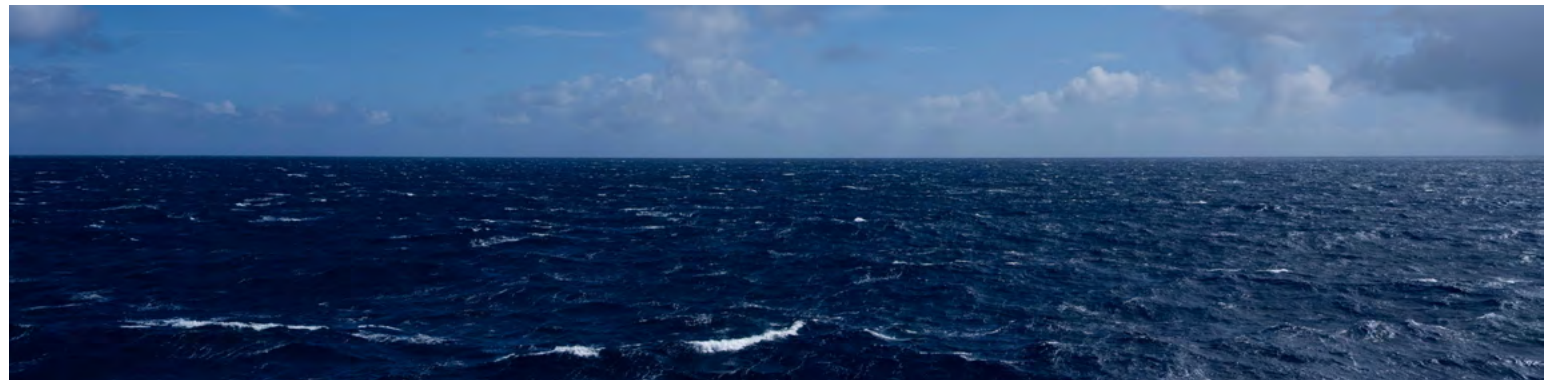
**Air Temp:**  
10°C

Mix 'n' Mingle at the bar before the eagerly awaited *Captain's Welcome* where we got to meet *Captain Andrey Gilevskiy* and his team accompanied by a beverage and a toast. That led onto our briefing from Elena about tomorrow's plan and weather and an introduction from Heather about our daily recap.

Annette then talked us through the *Citizen Science* projects that we hope to be able to get involved in on our trip which

include taking photos of whales and seals for Happy Whale, identifying and counting birds for eBird, and measuring phytoplankton density with a Secchi disk.

After a wonderful dinner, our final event of the day was to predict when the first iceberg will be seen on this trip. Good luck everyone, and don't forget Eddie's Wonder Box on deck 4!





# At Sea Towards Antarctica

DAY 3 | 01 February 2026

**Latitude:**

62°20'5"S

**Longitude:**

67°39'0"W

**Course:**

190°

**Speed:**

13.3 knots

**Wind Speed:**

SW force 6 knots

**Barometer:**

988 hPa

**Air Temp:**

7°C

We woke to our second day in the Drake Passage, the ship moving with a gentle, rhythmic rocking that had already begun to feel familiar. Overnight, the vast Southern Ocean had lulled many of us into deeper sleep, and the morning carried a quiet sense of anticipation as we gathered for the day ahead.

We began with IAATO and *Zodiac* briefings, preparing us for the landings planned in the coming days. These sessions covered both the practicalities of *Zodiac* operations and the principles of responsible travel in Antarctica, reinforcing a shared understanding that safety and environmental care go hand in hand in such a remote and fragile place.

With landings approaching, biosecurity became our main focus. Clothing and equipment were carefully inspected. Pockets were emptied, seams checked, Velcro examined, and boot soles cleaned. Protecting Antarctica from invasive species begins long before anyone steps ashore, making this our first real act of stewardship.

Later in the morning, we moved on to snorkel and kayak fittings, adjusting gear and getting a first tangible sense of the adventures awaiting us on the water.

This was followed by a talk from Annette titled Binoculars into the Blue, exploring the link between ocean fronts and predator hotspots. Using examples such as rubber ducks lost from

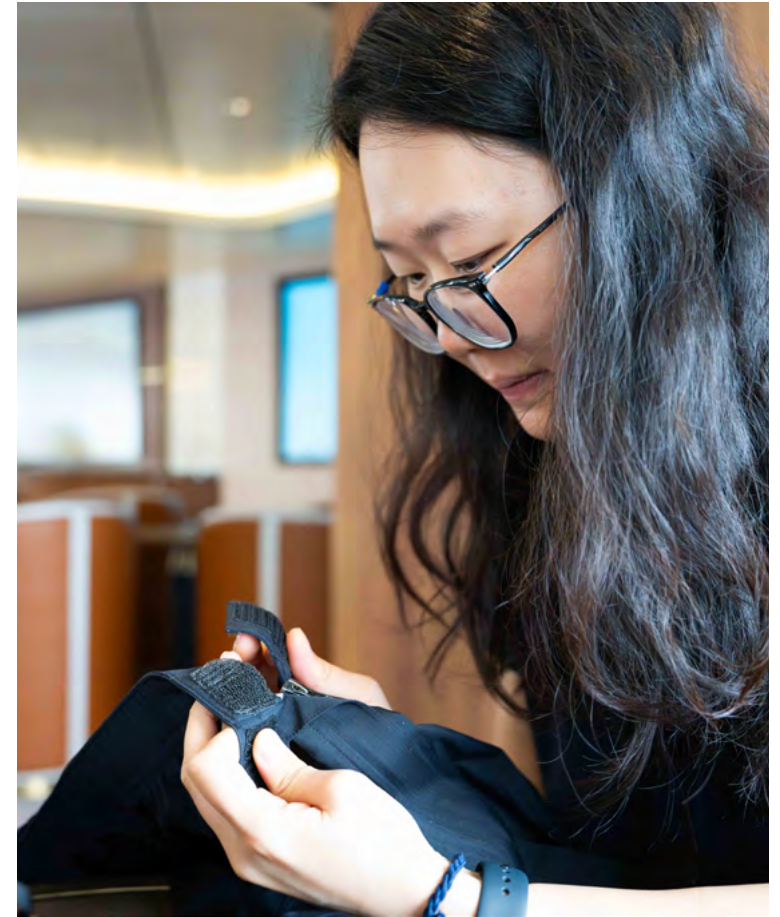
a container ship to illustrate ocean currents and the role of thermoclines in concentrating prey, she explained how these processes create predictable feeding zones, like underwater supermarkets for marine life.

Drawing on her research on king penguins from South Georgia, Annette showed how penguins will travel up to 400 kilometres to reach reliable food sources, but also how changes in these systems can be detrimental. She described a year in which disruption led to a crash in the king penguin breeding season. As ocean warming alters currents and thermoclines, birds, seals, and whales are affected, underscoring how closely the entire ecosystem is tied to the structure of the sea.

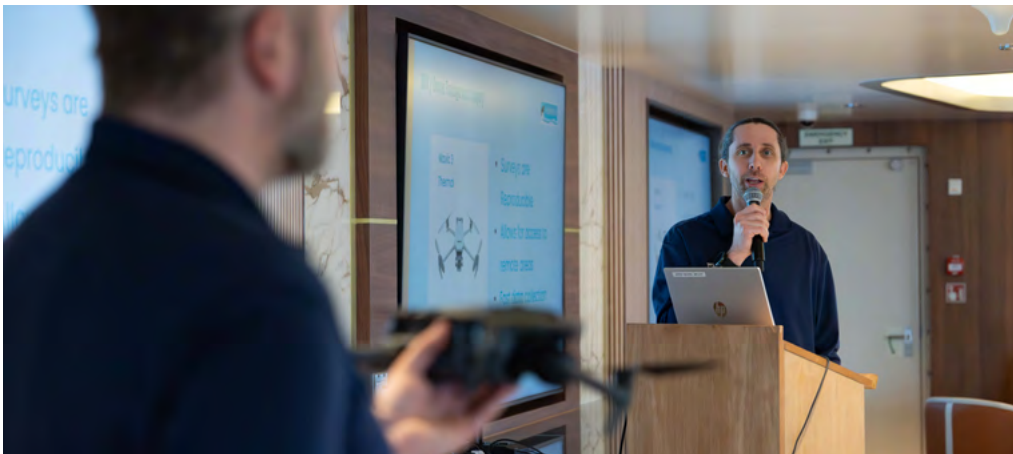
The afternoon slowed with a generous tea spread before an Oceanites talk with Grant and James, who shared insights into their penguin science and population monitoring. We also learnt that you can adopt a penguin colony with the money going towards helping support Oceanites field expeditions and drone image analysis!

We ended the day with the daily recap, dinner, and a screening of Mission Blue, a fitting close to a day shaped by science, conservation, and anticipation as we get one day closer to reaching Antarctica.









# At Sea | Bongrain Point

DAY 4 | 02 February 2026

**Latitude:**  
67°23'5"S  
**Longitude:**  
69°29'0"W

**Course:**  
162°  
**Speed:**  
13 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
SW force 3 knots  
**Barometer:**  
980 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
1°C

Monday morning at 04:22 while most of us were tucked in our beds, we had a quiet almost unobserved crossing of the Antarctic Circle at 66° 30.50' S. Fortunately (or unfortunately), we didn't feel the promised bump when the ship rolled over the line as Hannah had told us we would.

Awaking this morning we were greeted with the gentle roll of the ship, less a lullaby and more of a reminder that after approximately sailing 1200 kilometres (650 nautical miles) we were across the legendary Drake Passage. After two days of open Southern Ocean, we were all eager for something, anything, besides the pulsing sea: an iceberg, a hint of land, or a penguin commuter on an ice flow. The reward was the sight of Adelaide Island 12 nautical miles off our port side and big looming icebergs floating nearby!



With a satisfying breakfast behind us, we made our way into the lecture theatre for the morning's lecture on photography enthusiastically presented by Fi.

Calmer and more gentle seas meant the decks were opened for us to get out in the 'brisk' air, stretch our legs, get out the cameras and take in the spectacular landscape as we rounded the south end of Adelaide Island entering Marguerite Bay. The first whales of the voyage were spotted with many more to come.

Ed, who had been chomping at the bit to get out and do a bird survey finally got his opportunity, reminding us that spotting birds was a team effort and not just him pointing the birds out to us.



# At Sea | Bongrain Point

DAY 4 | 02 Feb 2026

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69°29'0"W

**Course:**  
162°  
**Speed:**  
13 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
SW force 3 knots  
**Barometer:**  
980 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
1°C

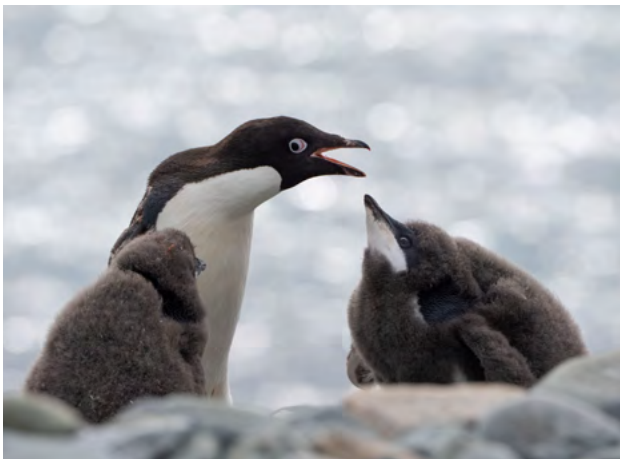
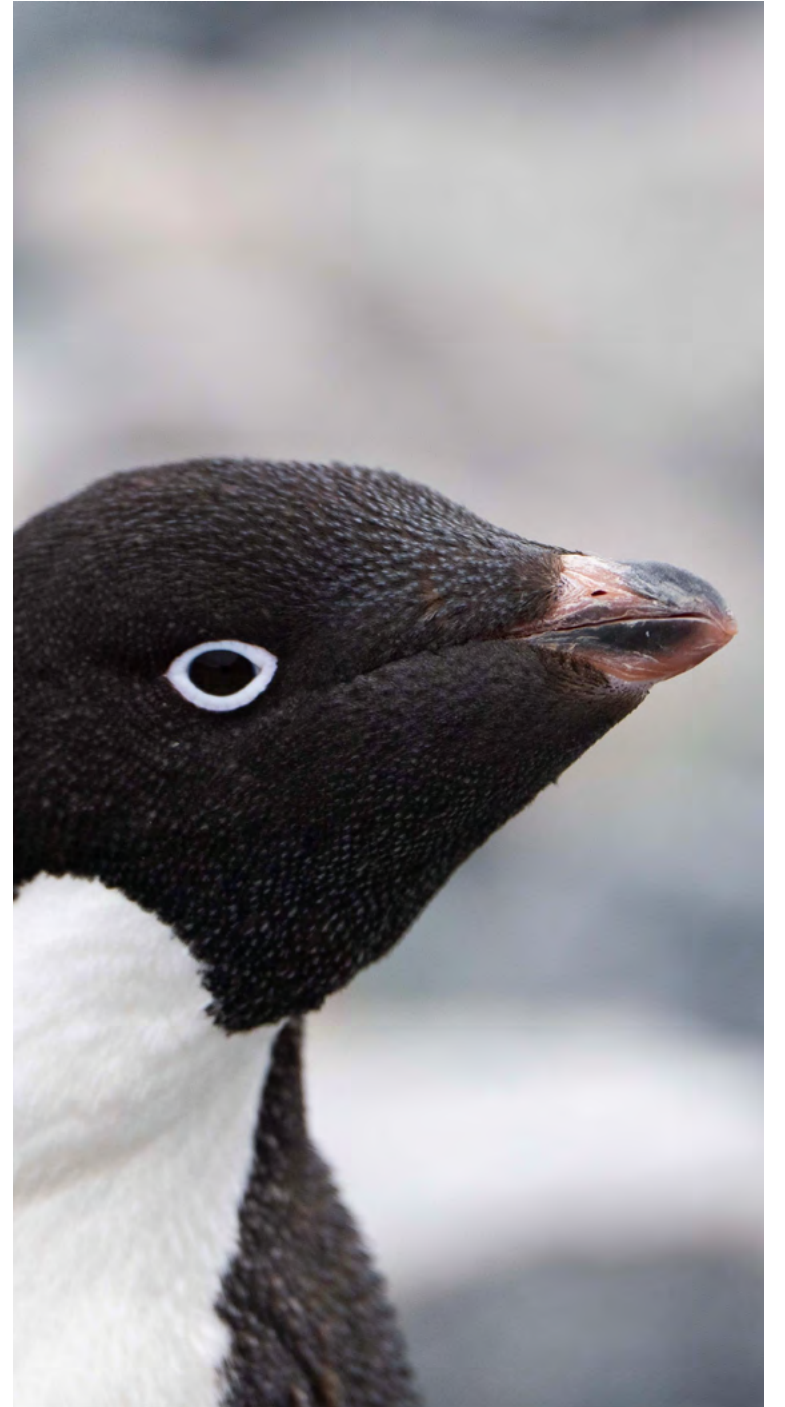
The anticipation was palatable when at 14:30 the first groups were called to the mudroom to prepare for the landings and activities at Bongrain Point on Pourquoi Pas Island. Where do we go? How cold will it be? How does this lifejacket go on again?

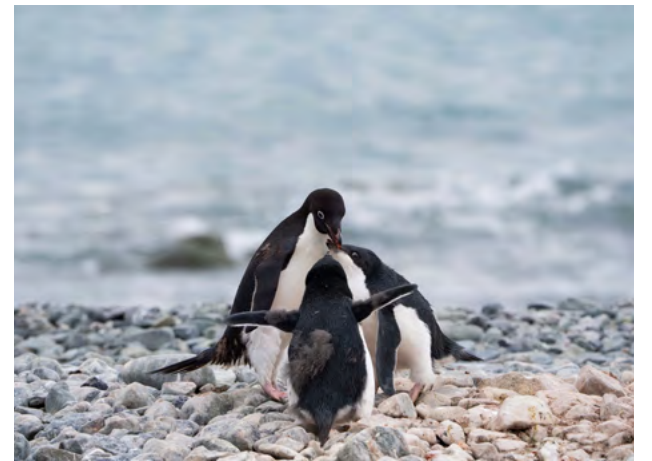
A flurry of mudroom activity and we were all out for our first *Zodiac* ride to adventure. Kayakers witnessed a calving on the glacier, Snorkellers had their first cold water experience in the gentle swell, and the landing party had a visual feast of Adélie penguins, fluffy Skua chicks, a bold ascent up the morainal viewpoint and a basking Weddell seal.

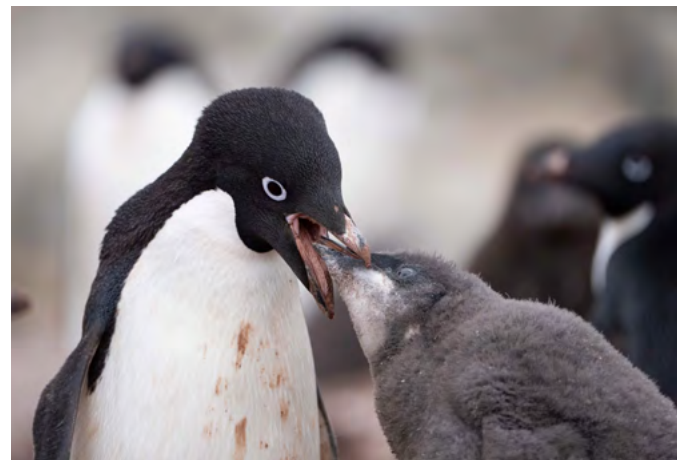
The evening recap tied the day together with a whirl of knowledge: Elena guiding us through where we came from and where we were headed, Laura briefed us on the possible polar plunge. Brrr. Annette shared her extensive knowledge of Adélie Peguins and Ed talked about how to identify whales. Drum roll ... the 1st iceberg was spotted at 06:28 this morning. Bonnie was the winner!!

It was a full, fascinating day, learning, discovering, surprises, and more Antarctic insight than any of us expected. If this was only the warm-up, the adventures ahead promise to be unforgettable.

















# Red Rock Ridge | Polar Plunge | Stonington Island

DAY 5 | 03 February 2026

**Latitude:**  
68°12'S

**Longitude:**  
67°24'W

**Course:**  
132°

**Speed:**  
11 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
W, 9 knots

**Barometer:**  
978 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
3°C

We woke up this morning at Red Rock Ridge, the southernmost part of our expedition. The team headed out for a scout of the landing, and quickly discovered conditions were a bit too dicey for operating, the swell was high, and the side door was choppy. Even when the ship repositioned slightly south, we weren't able to find enough shelter.

Instead, we opted for a ship cruise of Neny Fjord, which was exciting because the area was completely uncharted, our *Captain* made an entirely new track by sounding as we slowly sailed along. The scenery and glacier around us were beautiful, and the inside of the fjord was calm. With such conditions, it was the perfect opportunity to polar plunge in 0°C water! Some of us braved the frigid temperatures, and

others made an impressive cheering squad on the back decks.

In the afternoon we visited Stonington Island, which is a historian's dream. The glacier backing the island used to extend as a ramp all the way down to the island, and the easy access to the Peninsula ice sheet is why multiple nations were tempted to build bases there. First the US in 1939 with East Base, and then the British with Base E in 1946. During the time of their occupations, the area was busy with aircraft and dog teams (over 120 sled dogs were spanned across the glacier 'ramp'). East Base also hosted the first two women to overwinter in Antarctica in 1947-1948.



# Red Rock Ridge | Polar Plunge | Stonington Island

DAY 5 | 03 February 2026

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**Latitude:**  
68°12'S

**Longitude:**  
67°24'W

**Course:**  
132°

**Speed:**  
11 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
W, 9 knots

**Barometer:**  
978 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
3°C

Nowadays only a portion of the bases are open for viewing, but it was fascinating to walk around and see different artefacts left behind. The landscape surrounding us was also stunning: icebergs and glacier faces, not to mention the seals lounging on the snowy shore. The sun even made an appearance, lucky us!

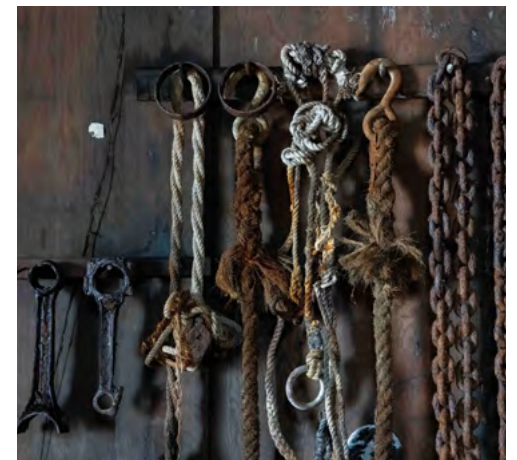
Our day ended with a fantastic BBQ out on deck, thanks to the restaurant and bar team. Everyone put on some party hats and worked on their polar tan lines. I even heard rumors that the pool got busy after our kayak guide Reg started swimming butterfly. What a day!















# The Gullet | Detaille Island

DAY 6 | 04 February 2026

**Latitude:**  
67°10'S

**Longitude:**  
67°39'W

**Course:**  
Variable

**Speed:**  
2.5 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
Calm

**Barometer:**  
984 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
4°C

We started the day bright and early with a wake-up call from Elena and yummy breakfast treats, sunshine, coffee and the sweeping Antarctic landscape stretching in all directions.

Nothing could have prepared us for what came next. We were in awe watching humpback whales bubble net feeding. One of the most beautiful surprises of the trip so far. Rings of bubbles rose beneath the surface, and moments later massive bodies surged upward in perfect coordination.

From there, we headed through the Gullet, one of the narrowest and most dramatic channels in the Antarctic Peninsula. Towering ice and steep rock walls closed in around us, and while the passage looked intimidating, our *Captain* and bridge team made the transit seem effortless.

Later in the day, snorkel guide Eddie delivered a fascinating

lecture on krill, tiny, shrimp-like creatures that are truly small but mighty. We were reminded just how vital these organisms are, not only to Antarctica's wildlife but to the health of the entire planet and its ecosystems.

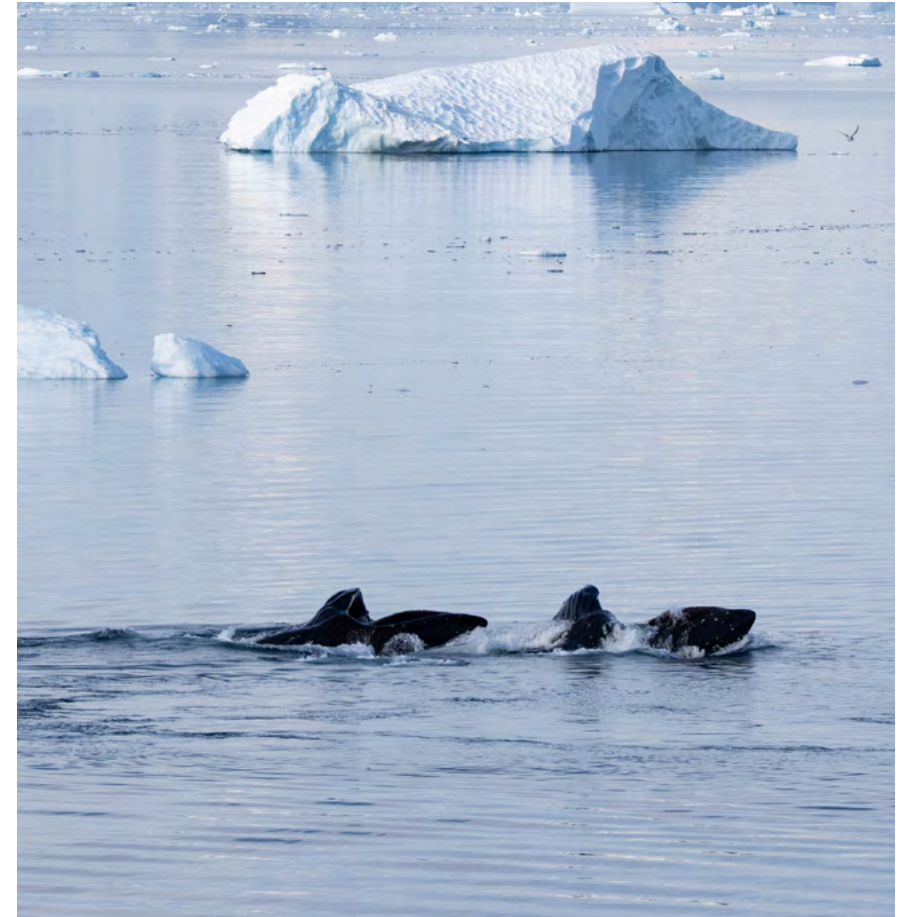
The afternoon brought us to Detaille Island, where everyone found their own version of joy. Some wandered among penguins, others explored the historic base, while many took to the water on *Zodiac* cruises weaving between icebergs, snorkelling or kayaking.

Kelsey delighted us all with the story of Steve, the independent and adventurous sled dog, whose tale added warmth, humour, and resilience to the polar setting. To cap off an unforgettable day, we celebrated crossing back over the Antarctic Circle with festive cheer, laughter and a group photo.





















# Petermann Island | Port Charcot | Lemaire Channel

DAY 7 | 05 February 2026

**Latitude:**  
65°14'S  
**Longitude:**  
64°12'W  
**Course:**  
Variable  
**Speed:**  
6.5 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
SE 1 knots  
**Barometer:**  
986 hPa  
**Air Temp:**  
4°C

Today was one of those Antarctic days that reminds us exactly why we travel to the ends of the Earth.

Our morning began with a landing at Petermann Island, a place steeped in polar history and alive with wildlife. As we stepped ashore, we were immediately greeted by bustling colonies of Gentoo penguins and on the higher pinnacles, the Adélies, full of attitude and purpose, zipped across the snow on important-looking missions, while the Gentoos busily tended nests and chicks, seemingly unfazed by our presence.

From Petermann, we repositioned to Port Charcot, another remarkable landing site and the winter refuge of Jean-Baptiste Charcot's French Antarctic Expedition. Here, we were treated to even more Gentoo penguins, their orange bills and curious expressions bright against the monochrome landscape. Among them, a small group of Chinstrap penguins added variety, and then came the real surprise of the day: a rare lone King penguin, standing tall and unmistakable among its smaller cousins.

Seeing a King penguin this far south is always special, and this solitary visitor quickly became the star of the landing.

Back on the water, the afternoon delivered yet another highlight with a *Zodiac* cruise along the icy coastline. We encountered several leopard seals hauled out on ice floes, their powerful frames and watchful eyes reminding us who rules these waters. As if on cue, humpback whales soon joined the scene, surfacing near the *Zodiacs* and exhaling towering plumes of mist into the crisp polar air, an unforgettable encounter.

We concluded the day with a scenic cruise through the legendary Lemaire Channel. Bathed in soft light, sheer rock walls rose dramatically on either side as icebergs drifted past in near silence. It was a serene, fitting end to a day filled with wildlife, history, and some of Antarctica's most breathtaking scenery.

Another extraordinary chapter in our Antarctic adventure.

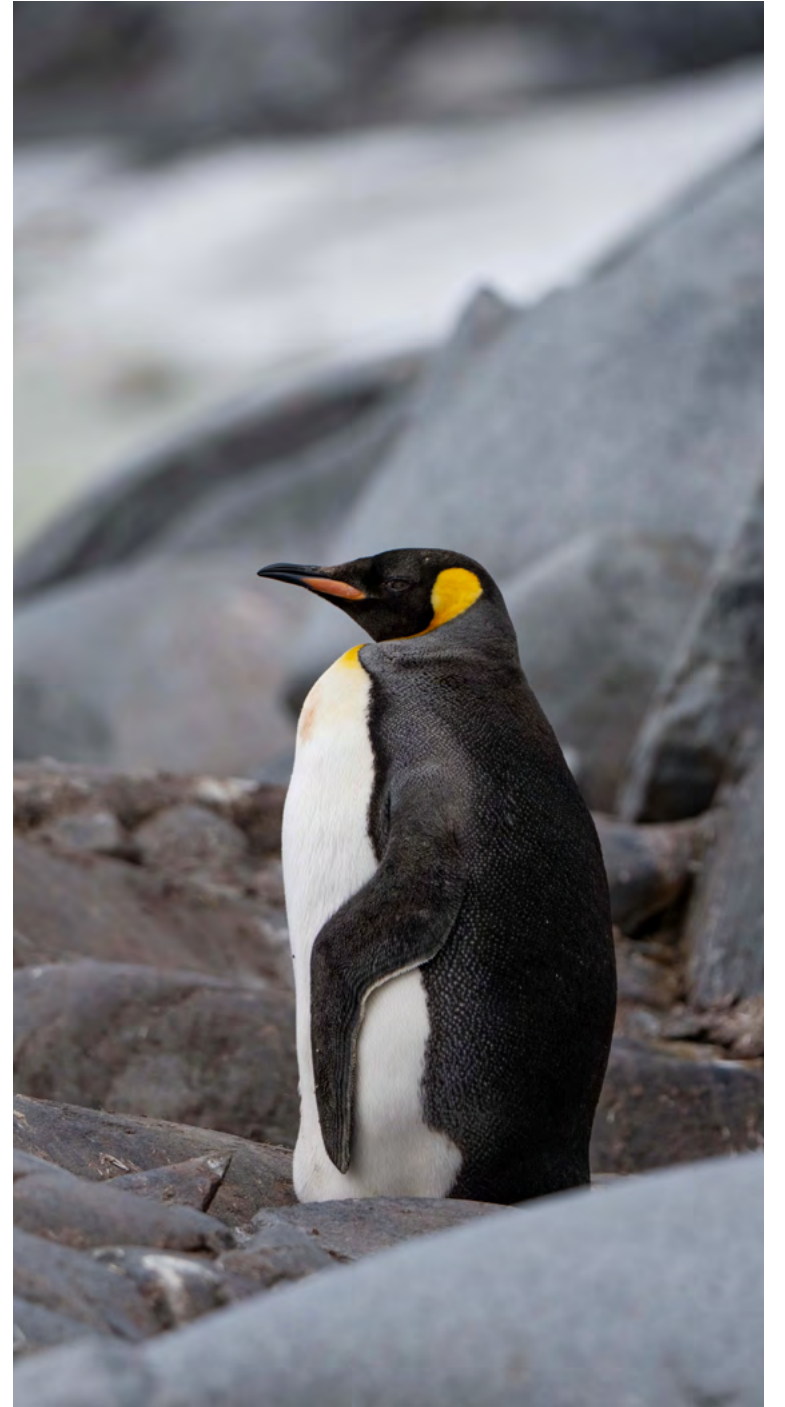






















# Paradise Harbour | Neko Harbour

DAY 8 | 6 February 2026

**Latitude:**  
64°48'S

**Longitude:**  
63°05'W

**Course:**  
123°

**Speed:**  
4 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
Calm

**Barometer:**  
984 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
5°C

One easily risked being blinded while opening the curtains this morning, the brilliant sunshine flooded the ship as we entered Paradise Harbour, our location for a morning *Zodiac* exploration. The stillness and the lack of overcast were not the only things that were giving a promise of a great outing: the incredible landscape was breathtaking, even before we boarded our *Zodiacs*. Snow-draped peaks encircled the Harbour, reflecting on the glassy water and giving the scenery an almost unreal tranquillity. Nestled against the rocky shoreline was Argentina's Almirante Brown Research Station, a small but striking reminder of human curiosity and scientific dedication in this remote wilderness. Gentoo penguins waddling along well-worn paths of the small rocky outcrops were a treat, a cherry on the top of some amazing encounters from our beloved humpback whales.

The afternoon brought us to Neko Harbour. Quite quickly it became obvious that once again Antarctica managed to beat any possible expectations. The vastness of glaciated landscape was truly overwhelming. But this time it wasn't only about what we can see: every now and then the bay would fill up with the sound of thunder as the ice - a truly living thing, would move, crack and fall in numerous places surrounding us. Witnessing this ongoing process would no doubt bring the sense of respect for this ever-changing place. With its overhanging glaciers and calving icebergs in the background, we, the mere visitors to this landscape, explored it by land and water. And of course, let's not forget: our visit to this part of the Peninsula was for many the first time to set foot on the Antarctic Continent.



# Paradise Harbour | Neko Harbour

DAY 8 | 6 February 2026

**Latitude:**  
64°48'S

**Longitude:**  
63°05'W

**Course:**  
123°

**Speed:**  
4 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
Calm

**Barometer:**  
984 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
5°C

Happy, tired and sun-kissed we returned once more to our mother ship for recap, briefing and well-deserved dinner. For some though, the day was not over yet, as our dear Penguin Counters, Grant and James from Oceanites, headed out once again. This time to Breakwater Island to meet for the first time an uncounted colony located on the island.

With the day drawing to an end, many of us would have plenty of experiences and memories to reflect upon: the dramatic landscapes, humpback whales and truly shameless weather to mention just a few.





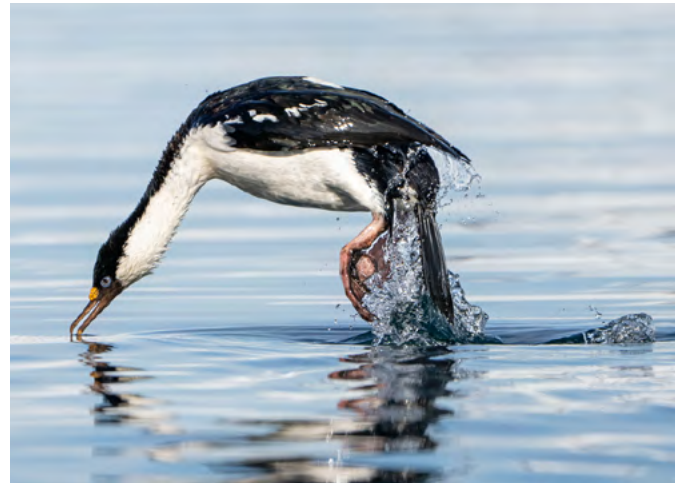
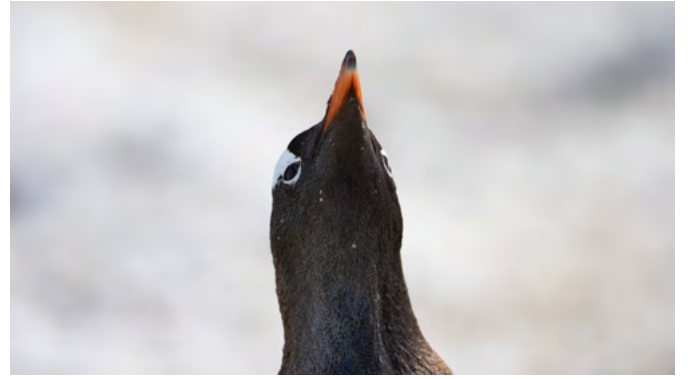












# Port Lockroy | Jougla Point | Duperré Bay

DAY 9 | 7 February 2026

**Latitude:**  
64°49'S

**Longitude:**  
63°30'W

**Course:**  
Stopped

**Speed:**  
0 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
NW force 4 knots

**Barometer:**  
974 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
2°C

Morning brought a few new faces, when the team from Port Lockroy came aboard. They arrived with empty water jugs and big smiles, eager for the rare luxuries of a hot shower and warm conversation. Before long they were sharing stories about life at the most southerly operational post office on Earth, a tiny outpost on Goudier Island where more than 70,000 letters are stamped and sent each season. Only four people are chosen each year from thousands of hopefuls to live and work there, and we are lucky to have one of their alumni among us: our own *E-team* member Hannah Johns, who served two seasons on the island.

Port Lockroy's history is as layered as the surrounding glaciers. The sheltered bay was named by French explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot in honour of Edouard Lockroy, a key

supporter of his 1903–1905 French Antarctic Expedition. Whalers later sheltered here until 1931, leaving behind scattered bones that still whisper of that era. In 1944 the British government established 'Station A' as part of the clandestine Operation Tabarin, a wartime effort to assert sovereignty with the Falkland Islands Dependencies. The base evolved into a research station, was abandoned in 1962, and finally restored in 1996 before being entrusted to the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust in 2006.

While half of the ship's *Expeditioners* explored the intriguing rooms and museum of the base, the others faced the wind on Jougla Point, a rocky finger clinging to Wiencke Island. Here 1,400 Gentoo Penguin nests dotted the slopes and rock outcrops, their residents bustling about with comic



# Port Lockroy | Jougla Point | Duperré Bay

DAY 9 | 7 February 2026

**Latitude:**  
64°49'S  
**Longitude:**  
63°30'W

**Wind Speed:**  
NW force 4 knots  
**Barometer:**  
974 hPa

**Course:**  
Stopped  
**Speed:**  
0 knots

**Air Temp:**  
2°C

determination. A particularly indignant skua appointed itself air-traffic controller, dive-bombing any intruder who strayed too close, an unforgettable reminder that we were guests in a very wild neighborhood.

After swapping places so everyone could experience both sites, we retreated gratefully to the ship for steaming soup and a hearty lunch. The afternoon carried us north along the Gerlache Strait on a four-hour passage to Duperré Bay at the tip of Brabant Island. During our final voyage recap, laughter mixed with a touch of melancholy as we realized how quickly the days had flown.

But the adventure wasn't over. *Zodiacs* skimmed across the steel-gray water for one last cruise beneath looming peaks, in a bay first charted and named, of course, by Charcot, this time in honor of Vice Admiral Charles Duperré of the French Navy.

By evening we were back aboard, gathering for a well-earned dinner as the ship turned toward the open sea and the distant Shetland Islands. A full day to the very last minute, Antarctica at its exhilarating best.



















# King George Island Disembarkation

DAY 10 | 8 February 2026

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**Latitude:**

62°48' S

**Longitude:**

66°52'W

**Course:**

097°

**Speed:**

10.4 knots

**Wind Speed:**

WSW force

24 knots

**Barometer:**

980 hPa

**Air Temp:**

5°C

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

# BBQ









# Polar Plunge













# Citizen Science











# Kayaking Log

**Guides: Eamon Larkin, Edu Larranga, Kris Ronning, Reg Grundy, Anula Jochym**

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**02 January 2026, PM:  
Bongrain Point – 3.6 km**

The day had finally arrived. Safety briefings, Test fitting drysuits. It was time to go to the dance. Kayak dance that is. Our guides for the day Edu, Kris and Reg. The weather. Light winds. Overcast skies. Loading onto our *Zodiacs* for the first time and picking up our assigned string of kayaks it was of North towards the glacier front. Into the kayaks was fantastic to finally hit the water in our sleek craft. We didn't kayak too far as we were planning to land after kayaking. Adelle penguins lonely on the rocky shore, one even on the smallest iceberg imaginable. Ice to kayak through and just as we turn for home the glacier decided to crumble and calve a little. A quick spin of our boats and a few secondary icebergs were created by the glacier calving. Our UBER pick up *Zodiac* arrived and off to the land for an up close look at the penguins.

**03 January 2026, PM:  
Stonington Island – 3.7 km**

After having to cancel at Red Rock Ridge due to swell we had entirely opposite conditions when paddling at Stonington Island! The weather was fantastic and the conditions were calm. Andrew and I (Kris) paddled and it felt as if I was out paddling with an old friend. The dynamics were quite relaxed and we enjoyed some wildlife and iceberg watching. We saw an Adélie penguin, Blue eyed shag, Crabeater seal, and briefly we saw 2 Weddell seals harassing Aemon in the safety *Zodiac*. We followed along the Northeast coast of Neny Island and eventually doubled-back Towards Stonington Island. It was like being in a fine art gallery as we past by several very large icebergs. Andrew asked if there was an opportunity to see an ice arch and moments later we saw a small one in a large iceberg. We finished the outing plowing through a dense strip of brash ice. I am happy and sunburnt as a result from the days' affairs!

**Total Number of Kayakers:** 20  
**Total Paddle Outings:** 8  
**Total Distance Paddled:** 35.1 km

**Kayakers:**  
Andrew Marshall  
Rachael Vockler  
Michael Ferguson  
Erica Kresch  
Mark Neighbour  
Ruth Neighbour  
Kenneth Dwyer

Judith Robinson  
Reshma Sharma  
Yilun Cheng  
Hanjiao Zhang  
Zhilin Han  
Kexin Zhu  
Zara Dicton  
Shelley Langford-Dicton

Reece Dicton  
Peter Dicton  
Bart Freedman  
Esme Freedman  
Paul McCarthy

#### 04 January 2026, PM: Detaille Island – 4 km

What a special treat to paddle below the Antarctic Circle once again! This time we decided to circumnavigate Detaille island, a home to a historical British base 'W'. The rocky coastline had multitude of channels we could navigate through, every now and then stumbling upon a seal or two. The whole area around the island resembled an ice garden, icebergs and bergy bits were dotting the coastline as well as the horizon. It wouldn't be too hard to imagine the winter locking the whole place into ice, the reason why the Base was eventually abandoned in the first place. We paddled around to the backside, battling a headwind every now and then to eventually finish the circumnavigation right in front of the landing site. We hopped into the *Zodiacs* and headed to shore to learn a little bit more about the life below the Circle.

#### 05 January 2026, AM: Petermann Island – 5.5 km

On a day like this you know you wanna be in a kayak, when windy and snowing at least your bottom half is protected from the elements. We set off to explore the coastline of this cool little island. Icebergs and shallows required some attention from us but so did the penguins. From water level, everything felt so intimate and immersive. We paddled past some impressive bergy bits and into the conditions around the corner, a bit of chop and wind gave us just enough motivation to keep moving and stay warm. Penguins porpoising past our kayaks like curious torpedoes, Weddell seals lifting their heads to watch us, unbothered and sleepy. Finally off we went to the landing site, with another great paddle under our belt.

#### 05 January 2026, PM: Port Charcot – 6.8 km

It was not far from this mornings outing at Petermann Island, however there was a lot more icebergs looming around us. We took our *Zodiac* past these icy giants and found a sheltered cove behind a rocky island.

There was a bit of wind so we would have to hop from island to island. As we approached one piece of ice we saw the familiar shape of a seal. It was a leopard seal ! Looking beautiful resting on the ice. We got a glimpse of it's huge mouth full of sharp teeth. Continuing on the wind increased as did the size of the icebergs. We decided not to risk getting blown onto a berg and went downwind to be picked up in a calm bay. In the *Zodiac* we encountered a humpback whale and saw more leopard seals. This outing was exceptional.

#### 06 January 2026, AM: Paradise Harbour – 3.8 km

There was no doubt that this outing will be special, the sunshine and the perfect stillness made it a very easy choice, we were going to paddle. We moved around the brash ice with the kayaks stringed behind our *Zodiac* looking for a perfect spot to put in. And we found it, surrounded by a few humpback whales with a shy minke near by. We sat in our boats in silence enjoying seeing and hearing the blows around us. Once the whales gave us a break we started moving along the coastline, pushing through ice and currents, until we reached the Brown Station, Argentinian research base. We continued on, pass the rocky outcroppings and around the corner where we met maybe slightly too curious imperial cormorant (aka Henry), that would not leave our kayaks alone without a thorough inspection. The wildlife, glaciers and glassy reflections in the water made it for a stunning paddle.



**06 January 2026, PM:  
Neko Harbour – 3.8 km**

Another great start to a paddle, a Weddell seal resting on ice became our focal point while we got on the water and as we paddled around it to get a closer look. We headed deeper into the bay, right past the ship. The design of the X-Bow becomes even more impressive when you sit right underneath it! Meandering through brash ice, we reached the landing side where we got to watch the waddling gentoos, coming and going from their continental colony. Then we headed into the brash, towards the icebergs and the vast crackling glaciated waters, away from the sounds of the busy colony. We spent a bit of time enjoying just that, the calmness in this ever-changing landscape. As some of us stayed on the water, the majority headed to accomplish one more thing: a continental landing.

**07 January 2026, PM:  
Duperre Bay – 4.2 km**

Today we enjoyed a one-hour kayak excursion in Duperré Bay, Antarctica, under exceptionally calm conditions. The sea was completely flat and there was no wind at all, allowing us to paddle effortlessly across the bay. A very light snowfall drifted around us, creating a quiet, almost surreal atmosphere. The water displayed a beautiful turquoise color, standing out against the icy landscape. During the excursion, we observed a small number of chinstrap penguins resting on shore while molting their feathers, as well as two Weddell seals calmly swimming nearby. The stillness, soft snowfall, and close wildlife encounters made this a serene and unforgettable Antarctic kayaking experience.







# Paddling Log

**Guides: Eamon Larkin, Edu Larranga, Kris Ronning, Reg Grundy, Anula Jochym**

**02 January 2026, PM:  
Bongrain Point – 2.8 km**

It was our first paddle so the anticipation was high. We were lucky to have calm conditions and a stunning backdrop as well. *Zodiacs* took us to a sheltered spot to launch. Within minutes we had spotted a penguin, an Adélie, swimming past us. Soon we were spotting them in pairs and threes along the shoreline. We had some safety and paddle briefings and continued on our paddle. Around a corner a huge bay with an enormous glacier revealed itself. Giant mountains behind it all. This is Antarctica. Well in fact it was an island off the Peninsula called Porque País. After an enjoyable time on water we got back in a *Zodiac* and shuttled to land to see many more penguins.

**03 January 2026, PM:  
Stonington Island – 4.9 km**

Today's log records an unforgettable kayaking journey in Antarctica, shared by only two people. We paddled quietly around the waters surrounding Stonington Island during a beautiful, sunny afternoon, when the light revealed the raw power of the landscape. The geology was striking: dark rock rising sharply from the sea, framed by enormous icebergs and towering glaciers that seemed to breathe as they creaked and cracked. The silence was broken only by the splash of our paddles and distant ice shifting.

At the end of the kayak excursion, we landed on Stonington Island and walked through the abandoned scientific stations, weathered by time and frozen history. The empty buildings told stories of past exploration and resilience. Earlier, while exploring the coastline of nearby Nery Island, we were rewarded with a beautiful sight, a crabeater seal resting calmly on a sheet of ice, watching us with quiet curiosity.



**Total Number of Paddlers:** 8

**Total Paddle Outings:** 8

**Total Distance Paddled:**  
30.5 km

**Paddlers:**

Alisa Tazhitdinova

Natalia Ignatenko

Nicole Peterman

Christine Ludwig

Kim Terrell

Scott Kresch

Laura Nath

Gerard Bayley

#### 04 January 2026 PM: Detaille Island – 3.3 km

Detaille Island surprised us with its beauty this afternoon! A little-visited place, yet full of history, with a coastline that's a lot of fun to explore from our inflatable kayaks. We paddled through its channels and also enjoyed some more challenging conditions when we ventured out to see what lay beyond the northern tip of the island. There we encountered enormous icebergs. During our journey, we also spotted several Weddell seals resting. At the end of our excursion, the sun came out strongly, which was very comforting. Afterwards, Reg took us ashore to visit the old scientific station, full of polar history.

#### 05 January 2026, AM: Petermann Island – 4.1 km

On a day like this you know you wanna Launching close to the landing site we headed south for a leisurely paddle. Dressed with more layers to keep the cold at bay we meandered the coastline. Stopping to watch Gentoo penguins perform their belly flop dives into the water. In between the jumble of big ice bergs we were reminded of their power when a large berg disintegrated into 3 pieces before our eyes. In a small cove a Weddell seal was laying asleep on the rocks. A little push through a tidal channel to check out the more exposed side confirmed our thoughts. A bit too messy. Further south for a float in the brash ice. Listening, hearing in wonder the air bubbles from the ice popping loudly in our ears. We let the wind we had been pushing against on the way down blow us back to be picked up for a landing. A few intrepid paddlers stayed on the water to check out the penguin colony from the sea close up at the landing site.

#### 05 January 2026, PM: Port Charcot – 2.7 km

A windy forecast had us heading into the iceberg alley to the west of the landing site. A small group of hardy paddlers. Spotting a leopard seal from a distance had us *Zodiac* over to it for a closer inspection. Little did we know there was more of that to come. Another Leopard seal on ice over by the kayakers so over we went. A push into the wind and also a side wind had us drifting between the big bergs at quite a distance. Just a well as large berg collapsed with a mighty noise. As the wind picked up a sheltered place tucked around the corner was found to load into the *Zodiac*. We anchored the kayaks offshore and zoomed back to the ship. With a stop for the closest whale encounter of the trip thus far. A massive female leopard seal was just laying asleep on an iceberg. Occasionally lifting her to inspect us. A short but rewarding paddle.

#### 06 January 2026, AM: Paradise Harbour – 4.7 km

As the sun shone upon our faces we knew that it was going to be a good outing. Before we started paddling we heard the radio call that there was a humpback in the bay we were heading directly towards. We loaded into our kayaks and pushed through bits of brash-ice where another radio call was made and there they were, humpbacks, minke's and porpoising penguins. We later chatted with a couple of the local scientists at the Almirante Brown station. I didn't as my Spanish is not existing but conversations were had! We continued along the shoreline and had several Blue Eyed Shags swooping down over our heads. Many of the juvenile birds were also learning how to swim which was exciting to watch. We finished off the tour in Skontorp bay with the glacier behind us and we found some Nilas ice to break through which made for a well rounded tour!



**06 January 2026, PM:  
Neko Harbour – 5.6 km**

In the Afternoon we were able to visit our trip's continental landing! Neko harbour not unlike Skontorp has roots in a whaling past where there used to be a Scottish/Norwegian floating factory whaling ship that operated in Andvord Bay between 1911 and 1924. The conditions for us were quite ideal in that the brash-ice was fun to navigate through and we were able to see a couple of seals on ice and in the water. We paddled deeper into the bay where Aemon was sent ahead to scout for wildlife. Almost at once we noticed a congregation of several Wilson's storm petrels gathering over the water and when looking down at that location I noticed a seal's flipper splash as it headed away from that location. We later caught up with it and it turned out to be a Weddell seal which was unique in that it was breathing at the surface of the water with it's eyes closed for a few minutes! It was a really nice paddle, after the Weddell sighting we wrapped up the operation where 3 went to touch foot on the continental landing and 2 paddled towards another Weddell seal! Great day and great weather along the peninsula!

**07 January 2026, PM:  
Duperre Bay – 2.4 km**

It was a late outing just before dinner and was planned to be a short and sweet one. As we entered the bay with the ship, the seas around us went very calm. The water was a milky blue glacial colour. This bay is boarded by ice cliffs and glaciers. We had to keep our distance. At only a couple of spots was there a rocky outcrop we could approach. It was at one of these we saw some penguins and one Weddel Seal. Then another weddel and final a third all watching us from the water. One seal need some rest do hauled up on the rocks and closed its eyes occasionally. A beautiful site. We paddled back to the ship quietly through hundreds of gulls feeding. A short but peaceful paddle.







# Snorkelling Log

**Guides: Darren Clarke, Richard Devanney, Eddie Hauser**

**Mon 02 February 2026, PM**

## **Bongrain point**

It was our first look at a typically Antarctic landscape with the Glaciers and mountains dominating the skyline, A brisk breeze meant that we snorkelled in the shelter of the cliffs, Although the milky glacial water meant that the visibility was not good it was an excellent way to check out our gear and ensure we understood our entry, exit and buddy procedures, we saw a handful of penguins and a couple of crabeater seals from the boat which made for a gentle but exciting start to the adventure.

**Tuesday 03rd February 2026, AM**  
**Red Rock Ridge**

There was a turbulent sea which made getting onto the *Zodiac* a little challenging However there was a sense of excitement on the *Zodiac* as we navigated the swell towards the

shore weaving between the shallow rocks and reefs. As we did so we heard on the radio that the ship was to reposition and no other passengers were on the water.

We found our way into a small lagoon where there was an Adélie penguin colony full of chicks showing off their fluffy down coats along with a dozen or so Weddell seals and one lone Cape fur seal. We enjoyed the wildlife while we waited for the ship to reposition before deciding to take our chances for a short snorkel. Whilst we were gearing up the operation was cancelled however we managed to get into the water and enjoy a penguin's eye view of the colony and four lucky snorkellers saw two crabeater seals in the water before the long bumpy ride back to the ship in its new location.



**Number of Snorkellers:** 15

**Total Snorkel Outings:** 8

**Snorkellers:**

Chiara Butini

Matt Carey

Farzin Farhang

Bonnie Gallagher

Trish Gallagher

Travis Kluegel

Frank Lumbar

Nancy Lumbar

Cori Mack

Kariz Mak

Darla Nykamp

Filippo Tabaccanti

Steve Terrell

Jill Traver

Dan Traver

**Wednesday 03rd Feb 2026, PM**  
**Stonington island**

The island was set inside a beautiful bay with the still waters in complete contrast to the mornings outing. We started with a 45 mins landing to enjoy the Historic bases and learn some of the interesting facts about its past. It used to house over 100 dogs which were used to access the interior of the peninsula when the nearby glacier used to reach the island itself and the base where the first two women to overwinter took place. We enjoyed a couple of crabeater seals relaxing on an ice flow before heading across the bay to enjoy a snorkel in the brash ice. The brash ice is made up of millions of small bits of ice packed together by wind and tide into a dense belt. It seems to have a life and personality of its own and the lazy swell added to the feeling of being part of this icy environment. The ice is constantly

moving and the noise as the bubbles escape can be incredibly soothing. Judging by the smiles and laughter the brash ice delivered a rewarding experience.

**Thursday 04th Feb 2026, PM**  
**Detaille island**

The day started with a trip ashore to another old British base with a short but interesting history having only been operational for 3 years. The rush to leave meant that the hut gives an unusually accurate picture of the conditions that scientists operated in during the late 1950's and it is wonderfully preserved.

Our snorkel site on the back of the island was in the best visibility so far giving glimpses of better snorkelling conditions to come as we move north. The back drop of the peninsula mountains across the channel was

incredible as we kitted up close to a small penguin colony. There were some small icebergs which were lovely to see however most snorkellers made their way towards the small penguin colony in the hope of catching a glimpse of these majestic marine birds. The penguins were constantly transiting and the deep water made it easier for the penguins to evade the peering eyes of the snorkel team. A few snorkellers got lucky and saw a few penguins before we completed the best snorkel of the trip so far.

**Friday 05th Feb 2026, AM**  
**Petermann island**

Petermann island is always a firm favorite with its mix of Gentoo and Adélie penguins to enjoy on shore, whilst the channel filled with icebergs (in this case bigger than the ship) and the mountains close makes for a classic peninsula setting.

We found a long thin cove with a beach at one end where there were dozens of penguins transiting in and out. The visibility was the best so far allowing the snorkellers a glimpse at the benthic life on the sea bed, limpets, sea weeds, starfish and even a sea angel made an appearance. Most of the snorkellers enjoyed their first glimpse of how graceful and fast penguins are underwater. It was amazing to see how well adapted these beautiful birds are to the marine environment.

**Friday 05th Feb 2026, PM**  
**Port Charcot**

Port Charcot is a dramatic spot on the peninsula, The surrounding waters full and often chocked with large, irregular Icebergs providing a wonderful backdrop to the operation. Whilst the snorkellers were ashore enjoying the penguin colony and majestic views we scouted the



back of the island and found a very promising bay which even us as guides had not snorkelled in before.

What a treat it turned out to be, shallow enough for everyone to enjoy the sea bed but with dozens of penguins transiting back and fourth it allowed everyone to see then in the clearest water yet. With the sun shining and the incredible mountains behind it was a memorable day. As an additional bonus we got to see a Leopard seal active in the water and another two lying on ice flows as we made our return to the ship.

#### [Saturday 06th Feb 2026, AM](#) [Paradise Harbour](#)

We awoke to clear blue skies and absolutely no wind creating perfect conditions for an exploration of the very aptly named Paradise harbour. The surrounding mountains and

Glaciers created an incredible backdrop whichever way you looked.

We started by cruising past Base Brown , watching the Gentoo penguins cruise around in the shallows before reaching the shag wall and the malachite staining alongside the nesting birds. As we moved along towards the next Glacier we were fortunate to see 2 Fulmars and a Wilson's storm Petrel before we headed out into the bay towards the ever shifting ice belt, We decided that snorkelling in the brash ice would be fun for those who had not experienced it yet and the ice did not disappoint. The constant crackling of the ice as the air escaped along with the bright sunshine making the ice sparkle like jewels made for a mesmerizing snorkel.

On our way back to the ship we stopped between two whales around 200m either side of us when one of

the whales swam directly at us and then dived. We thought that it had left us but to our amazement it came up gently directly underneath our *Zodiac* and remained there for some minutes. After what seemed like quite some time it circled the *Zodiac* many times, including lifting its head out of the water and often rolling onto its back to show us its underside. We were all feeling incredibly privileged that this majestic animal allowed us to share such a special time. What a way to start the day.

#### [Saturday 06th Feb 2026, PM](#) [Neko Harbour](#)

After warming up back on board, we arrived to this afternoon's destination of Neko Harbour, our warmest outing yet we started with a landing and an opportunity to gain some height. Many of the snorkellers had to take off their vests and unzip their drysuits as they navigated the

slope in the beautiful sunshine. We picked up the snorkellers and saw a Weddel seal sleeping on the beach as we made our way to the snorkel site. We started the snorkel on a large patch of kelp and rocks our first opportunity to relly enjoy the benthic life. It was certainly the best visibility we have experienced so far on the trip which really helped as we moved along the beach and the rafts of penguins transiting to and from the beach could now clearly be seen from further away. For many it was the best snorkel of the trip so far .We made our way back to the ship filled with a new perspective of Antarctica that only the snorkellers have experienced.

#### [Sunday 07th Feb 2026](#) [Port Lockroy](#)

The weather had finally broken, we awoke to it snowing, a fresh breeze and low cloud, an opportunity to



enjoy a typical Antarctic morning. It proved to be a busy morning.

Firstly being the first passengers to visit the most southerly post office and gift shop on the planet, where the snorkellers had an opportunity to send a post card home. Next came a landing at Jougla point to see the large Gentoo penguin colony and the amassed whale bones from the areas

Whaling past before getting back onto the *Zodiac* and a last chance to snorkel on the Antarctic peninsula. For those whose chose to get in the water a little patience paid off with a view of a few Gentoo penguins as they arrived back at the colony. Being a much colder day than we had been accustomed to the snorkel was a little shorter, however the ship was close by and we were soon back on board and rewarming nicely.









# Bird & Mammal Sightings

Bird Species	January-February									
	30	31	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
Gentoo Penguin							•	•	•	•
Chinstrap Penguin						•	•		•	
Adelie Penguin				•	•	•	•			
Magellanic Penguin	•									
King Penguin							•			
Wandering Albatross (Snowy)		•	•							
Black-browed Albatross	•	•	•	•						
Grey-headed Albatross		•	•							
Light-mantled Albatross			•							
Sooty Albatross			•							
Giant Petrel sp. (Northern or Southern)	•	•	•	•			•		•	
Cape Petrel		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Snow Petrel						•			•	
Antarctic Fulmar (Southern Fulmar)			•	•	•		•	•	•	•
Grey Petrel		•								
Prion sp. (likely Antarctic)		•	•	•						
White-chinned Petrel		•	•							

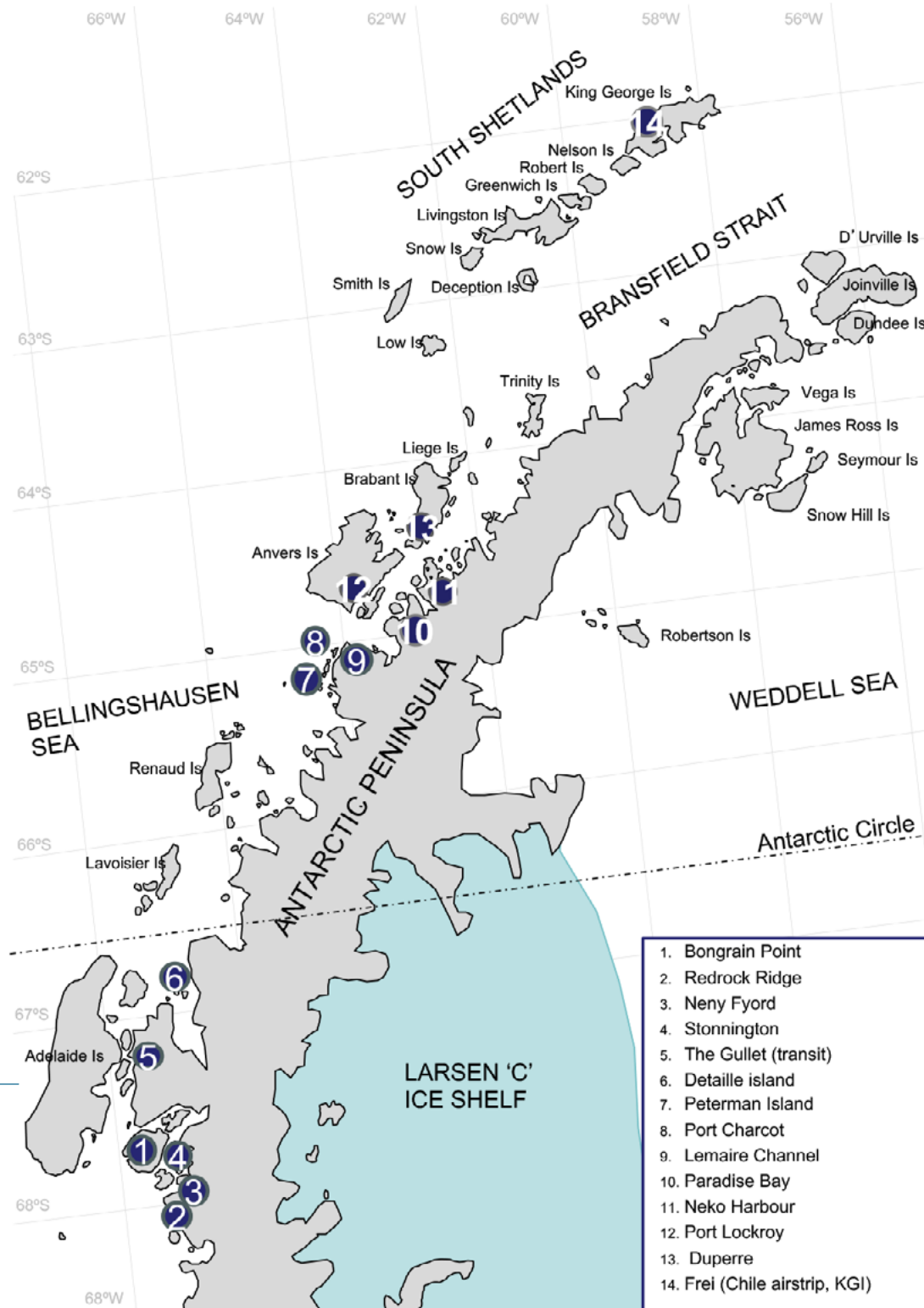
Bird Species	January-February									
	30	31	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
Wilson's Storm-petrel			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Imperial Cormorant (Blue-eyed Shag)			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Magellanic Cormorant (Rock Shag)	•									
Dolphin Gull	•									
Kelp Gull	•					•	•	•	•	
Skua (Brown or South Polar)				•	•	•	•	•	•	•
South American Tern	•									
Antarctic Tern			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Snowy Sheathbill				•	•	•	•			



# Map

## Across the Antarctic Circle

28 January - 10 February 2026





# Our Expeditioners

Paul Amato	Collette Cooper	Roger Griffiths	Yvette Lohnes	Julianna Paterson	Kim Terrell
Louis Amato	Peter Diction	Xinglu Han	Christine Ludwig	Nicole Peterman	Steve Terrell
Bruce Amsden	Reece Diction	Zhilin Han	Frank Lumbar	Sharon Roberts	Chris Thomson
Muriel Amsden	Zara Diction	Lindsay Hanchett	Nancy Lumbar	Rachel Robinson	Jill Traver
Gerard Bayley	Kiannan Du	Carolyn Hanchett	Cori Mack	Sean Scott	Dan Traver
Debra Bayley	Ken Dwyer	Jackie Hardwick	Kariz Mak	Sean Scott	Donna Tuite
Mark Bertsch	David East	Bill Hitchings	Andy Marshall	Qianwen Shao	Mark Tursa
Julie Bertsch	Farzin Farhang	Lesley Hitchings	PAUL McCarthy	Reshma Sharma	Racheal Vockler
Zhen Bi	Michael Ferguson	Grant Humphries	Margaret McCarthy	Carol Shaw	Ziqian Wang
Rod Brooks	Bart Freedman	Natalia Ignatenko	Carl Middlehurst	Fumei Shen	Mingze Wei
James Bunyan	Esmé Freedman	Sharon Irwin	Lori Middlehurst	Mark Sherwood	Weitman Weitman
Chiara Butini	Bonnie Gallagher	Juairi Jaafar	Martin Mikkelsen	Ruth Sherwood	Leanne Wright
Matt Carey	Trish Gallagher	Mark Jacobs	Susanne Mikkelsen	Shangjie Shi	Chi Xu
Cate Caruso	Liz Gehr	Sandra Jacobs	Laura Nath	Stuart Smith	Youran Xu
Chris Chavez-Weitman	Anne Marie Geib	Val Jones	Mark Neighbour	Jane Smith	Elizabeth Zarb
Yilun Cheng	Greg Geib	Alan Jones	Ruth Neighbour	David Stephens	Hanjiao Zhang
Li Peng Cheek	Alice George	Travis Kluegel	Satya Nishtala Nishtala	Sue Stephens	Peng Zhang
Sandra Chryssidis	Con George	Scott Kresch	Seetha Nishtala	Sean Summers	Jie Zhou
Jim Chryssidis	Viv Gold	Erica Kresch	Yulan Niu	Nadege Supornpaibul	Ming Zhou
Paul Cockram	Clive Gold	Shelley Langford-Diction	Darla Nykamp	Filippo Tabaccanti	Kexin Zhu
Susan Cockram	Kayla Goodnight	Haiming Li	Andy Paterson	Alisa Tazhitdinova	

## Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Elena Wimberger

Assistant Expedition Leader: Mark Brophy

Onboard Expedition Manager: Rosie Leaney

Shop Manager: Flor March

Marine Biologist: Annette Scheffer

Geologist/Glaciologist: Heather Chrystie

Naturalist/Ornithologist: Ed Nolan

Historian: Kelsey Camacho

Photography Guide: Fiona Wardle

Expedition First Responder: Laura Boenish

Expedition Guide/Mandarin Translator: Chloe Wang

Expedition Guide/Mandarin Translator: Adela Zhang

Expedition Guide: Hannah Johns

Lead Senior Kayak Guide: Eamon Larkin

Senior Kayak Guide: Eduardo Larranga

Senior Kayak Guide: Anula Jochym

Kayak Guide: Reg Grundy

Kayak Guide: Kris Ronning

Lead Snorkel Guide: Richard Devanney

Snorkel Guide: Darren Clarke

Snorkel Guide: Eddie Hauzer

Senior Alpine Guide: Dave Stark

Zodiac Manager: Nacho Marino

## Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Apostolos Kaknis

Chief Officer: Viktor Koshelets

Second Officer: JP Sibug

Safety Officer: Bryan Salem

Bosun: Leo Marzan

Ship Doctor: Maria Zambrano Ruales

Chief Engineer: Enes Candic

First Engineer: Sergeii Luba

IT Officer: Rene Reyes

Hotel Director: Vill Ignacio

F&B Service Manager: Narendra Seeram

Head Bartender: Sheenie Landauz

Chief Purser: Peter Diaz

Executive Chef: Indra Wicaksono

Sous Chef: Priteviraj Dakona

Hotel Controller: Orlando Costa

Receptionist: Angela Manuel

Receptionist: Jaica Puyod

Head Stateroom Attendant: Florante Lusong

Deck Cadet: Constantin Turmacu

Able Seaman: Eduardo Aloyan

Able Seaman: Ferdy Diaz Roque

Able Seaman: Prasad Pallikara Vilayan

Able Seaman: Anthony Brosas

Able Seaman: Dan Danico

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