

# South Georgia & Antarctic Odyssey, Featuring the South Sandwich Islands

Aboard *Greg Mortimer* | 05 – 27 March 2026





South Georgia & Antarctic  
Odyssey, Featuring the  
South Sandwich Islands

March 05 – 27, 2026

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# Ushuaia

DAY 1 | 05 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
54°55.4' S

**Longitude:**  
67°29.4' W

**Course:**  
0

**Speed:**  
13.9 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
10 knots W

**Barometer:**  
1031 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
3°C

We started our morning in the picturesque town of Ushuaia, "the end of the world." Our day began with breakfast at the hotel, overlooking the Beagle Channel and the pier, where the beautiful *Greg Mortimer* was already alongside, preparing to welcome us aboard.

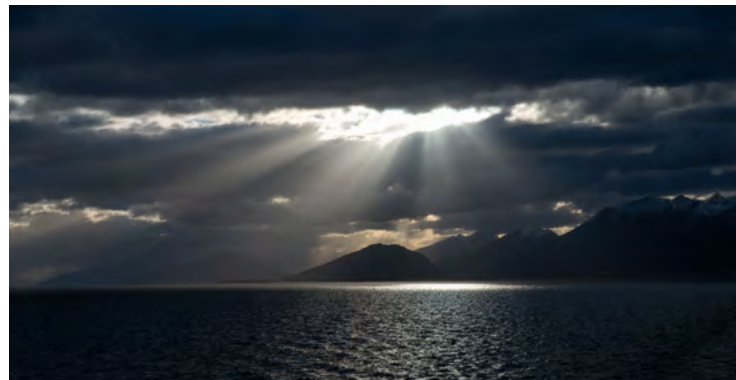
After breakfast, most of us set out from Ushuaia and crossed the southernmost foothills of the Andes toward Lake Fagnano, surrounded by forests and dramatic mountain views. After enjoying the scenery and taking photos, we continued to Las Cotorras, a rustic lodge where we savored a traditional Argentinian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

After our tour, we made our way to the pier and finally stood before the *Greg Mortimer*. Gaby, our Expedition Leader and

Tamsin, our Assistant Expedition Leader, were the first to welcome us, then photographer Stas and Onboard Expedition Manager Justine, together with other members of the Expedition Team, greeted us warmly, and took our first photo of the trip.

An embarkation buffet awaited us in the Elephant Island Bar, and the Hotel Team guided us to our cabins — our home away from home for the next 23 days.

Soon after, Expedition Leader Gaby welcomed everyone in the lecture theatre, sharing a short video featuring *Greg Mortimer* himself. He spoke about the innovative X-Bow design and Aurora's spirit of adventure. Gaby then outlined what to expect in the coming days, before introducing our multi-skilled Expedition Team, full of enthusiasm for the journey ahead.



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Justine and Hotel Director Oliver explained life on board, and Dr. Pranav gave a briefing on staying healthy during the voyage.

After the welcome briefing, Gaby recommended that we venture to the outer decks to watch the *Greg Mortimer* pull away from the pier in Ushuaia. It was a truly life-changing moment, as we were now on our way to Antarctica—the Earth's southernmost, coldest, driest, and windiest continent.

Before long, it was time for the all-important lifeboat safety drill. We returned to our cabins to collect our bulky orange lifejackets, along with our beanies and warm clothing, before mustering in the lecture theatre. From there, the safety officers and crew guided us to the lifeboats so we could familiarise

ourselves with their locations and procedures. Before dinner, a few of us stopped by to exchange our expedition jackets for better-fitting sizes. Then, with healthy appetites after an eventful afternoon, we made our way to the main restaurant. There we enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by the talented galley team and served by the friendly wait staff.

Onboard, we have total 66 Expeditioners with nationalities representing Australia (16), Canada (6), France (1), Germany (6), New Zealand (2), Singapore (2), Switzerland (2), UK (5), USA (26), along with 20 Expedition Team and 76 Ship's crew from all over the world.





# Drake Passage

DAY 2 | 06 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
56°22.5' S  
**Longitude:**  
65°24.0' W

**Course:**  
164°  
**Speed:**  
10.8 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
24 knots SSW  
**Barometer:**  
1033 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
3°C

After our first night on board, having left the shelter of the Beagle Channel, and now in the infamous Drake Passage, we were awoken by our Expedition Leader Gaby's morning bong at 7.30am: Time to see what was behind our curtains and to find out what breakfast was all about. We'd been aware of the motion of the ocean through the night and could now see the vast expanse of sea all around us, bathed in beautiful sunshine, albeit being blown around in 30 knot winds. Our buffet breakie set us up for the morning, fuelled for our first talk of the day with Kyle and his seabirds. We learnt about the effortless dynamic soaring of the albatross, and with Kyle's invisible string we saw just how big the 3.5m wingspan of our largest bird actually is. We then got to head outside to conduct our first Citizen Science bird survey and even saw also a couple of albatrosses that we'd just been learning about!

The snorkellers got together before our first buffet lunch on board where another feast awaited us. Then Stas, our expedition photographer took us through not only some incredible photos, but passed on some great tips to enhance our chances of capturing some future highlights with our cameras.

Millie then gave us another reason to head outside, or rather into a cosy dome, where she taught us about different clouds before we identified those that we could see around us. Hannah the historian then gave a talk not about history at all, but about the wonderful superlatives of Antarctica from it being the windiest, highest and driest continent, to learning various fun facts about some of its inhabitants – so now we're all going to be trying to spot salps and Antarctic midges as



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well as whales.

Our solo travellers had a get-together with the Expedition Team before everyone gathered for the Captain's Welcome where we met Captain Oleg and some of his officers and Heads of Departments for a toast to our adventure ahead. Then, back to the restaurant we went to find more new friends and get to know each other a little better and congratulate ourselves on surviving our first day on the Drake.



# Drake Passage

DAY 3 | 07 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
61° 08.3' S  
**Longitude:**  
64° 07.1' W

**Course:**  
173°  
**Speed:**  
12.6 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
6 knots SE  
**Barometer:**  
1034 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
1°C

We woke up to an easy 0730 start, with Gaby's voice over the PA letting us know our current location and that breakfast starts at 0800. We followed the smells of coffee, bacon, waffles, and made our way to greet our fellow Expeditioners. The view that greeted us was a cloud of advection fog, with a striking fogbow forming off to the starboard side of the bow. The sun peaked through the fog and around us, the swell had settled. The morning was serene.

At 0915 we gathered in the lecture lounge for our mandatory briefing about IAATO regulations and safety in the Zodiacs. We were reminded of the uniqueness of the environment we close to experiencing, our duty to protect Antarctica, and all the inhabitants. From the single celled organisms, all the way to the largest whales.

Gaby and Tamsin sent us off to gather our expedition gear, complete our biosecurity checks, and then we met in the mudroom to get our boots and life jackets fitted. The E team was spread out through the stations. There was chatting and banter in the lecture theatre and music and dancing in the mudroom. All spirits were high in anticipation for the nearing Antarctic Peninsula!

Our afternoon was filled with bird spotting out on the decks, and a fabulous lecture from Madi. She introduced us to whales, what we might experience in Antarctica, and that they eat "krill-ed cheese" sandwiches! Hannah then took us on a journey through time, more specifically, the discovery of Antarctica.



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We can't wait to get a glimpse of what the first explorers would have seen, especially during the Heroic Era.

We then gathered in the lecture theatre one last time today, to listen to the recap. We learned some basics about icebergs from our Glaciologist Sydney in preparation for tomorrow. Hannah had her actors perform a dramatic rendition, of why this patch of ocean is dubbed 'Drake's Passage.'

We are bound for Paradise Bay tomorrow. It feels like the night before Christmas, tomorrow we will wake up to icebergs, penguins, and Zodiacs! (And hopefully nice weather). We are off to dinner now. Bring on tomorrow!



# Paradise Harbour, Cuverville Island

DAY 4 | 08 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
65°06.41' S  
**Longitude:**  
63°59.94' W

**Course:**  
variable  
**Speed:**  
7.6 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
5 knot SW  
**Barometer:**  
1001 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
4°C

We woke up this morning to the kind of view that takes your breath away - Antarctica. Outside our windows, the glassy waters of Bryde Channel reflected towering ice and rugged mountains in that surreal Antarctic light. Not a bad way to start our first full day after sailing through the Drake passage.

After breakfast we bundled up and headed out for our first Zodiac cruise in Paradise Harbour, which turned out to be very appropriately named. Icebergs drifted silently around us while the occasional crack of distant ice reminded us that this landscape is very much alive. A leopard seal lounging on the ice like it had absolutely nothing planned for the day, which, in fairness, might have been the case.

Then came a surprise and a big milestone: our first continental

landing in Antarctica, close to Brown Station (officially Almirante Brown Antarctic Base), an Argentine research station perched dramatically on a hillside. The station dates back to the 1950s and has had a rather eventful history, including being accidentally burned down by a doctor who apparently preferred evacuation over another Antarctic winter. It was later rebuilt, and today it serves as a small seasonal base and a spectacular viewpoint over Paradise Harbour.

Wildlife wasted no time welcoming us to Antarctica. We saw humpback whales surfacing nearby, a minke whale cruising past, and plenty of gentoo penguins going about their very busy penguin lives. For a first landing, we felt we set the bar pretty high.



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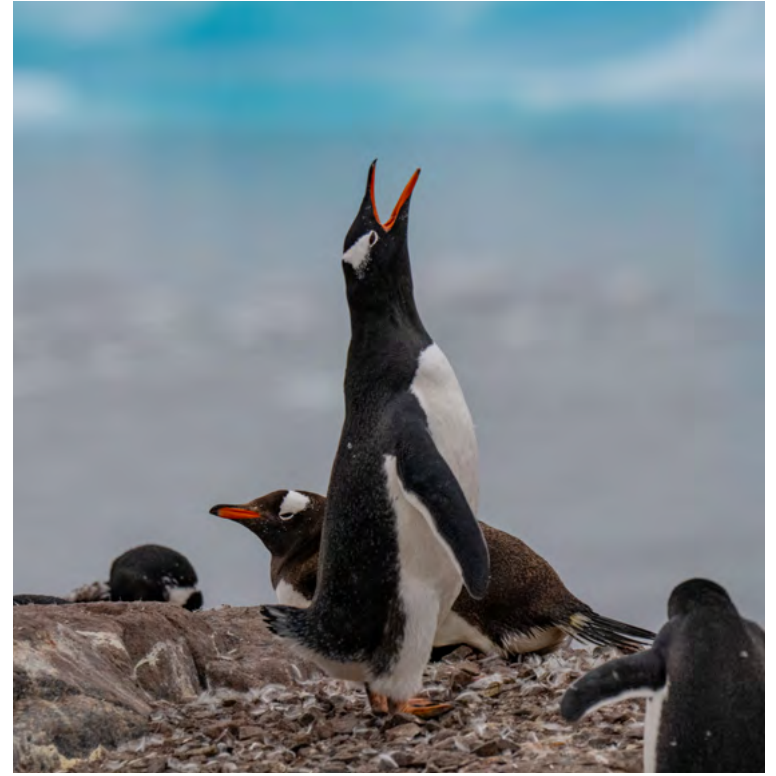
There was only one small setback: a leopard seal in the water decided it might be interested in the famous polar plunge participants. Out of respect for everyone's limbs, the plunge was postponed. No worries, there will be other chances (and hopefully fewer interested predators).

In the afternoon we visited Cuverville Island, home to one of the largest gentoo penguin colonies in the region. Hundreds of them waddled, argued and generally proved that penguin society is every bit as chaotic as it looks. We also spotted fur seals, Weddel seals, and several more leopard seals—one of which had just caught a penguin. Nature documentary moment, live and unedited.

After a day packed with ice, wildlife, and unforgettable firsts,

we wrapped it all up with an outdoor BBQ back on the ship. Antarctica, day one: safe to say expectations have officially been exceeded.

















# Recess Cove, Cierva Cove

DAY 5 | 09 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
64°27.2' S  
**Longitude:**  
61°46.1' W

**Course:**  
194°  
**Speed:**  
4.5 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
1.2 knot ENE  
**Barometer:**  
1027 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
2°C

You couldn't ask for a more perfect day in Antarctica. Rising at 6:30am, we were greeted by the serene waters of Charlotte Bay, dotted with icebergs and bordered by sharp-rising ridges and mountains. The kind of scene that makes you linger at the window a second longer. Embarking our Zodiacs, another delight – groups of hungry humpback whales gulped in front of us, and cruised past to say good morning. Our landing at Recess Cove was marked by the playful barks and whines of Antarctic Fur seals, which seemed to observe us with the same curiosity from our own eyes. Perhaps you spotted a regal cormorant surveying the cove from a rock. Or maybe, you heard the growing chorus of trumpeting humpback whales as more joined the feeding frenzy offshore. Better yet, as the Zodiacs returned to our floating home, the clouds lifted to reveal a royal blue sky – just in time for a polar plunge!

Sixteen brave souls enjoyed a dip in the freezing water, with too many impressive poses to count. We couldn't have planned a better backdrop if we tried!

Our transit over lunch was nothing short of magical. The Graham Land Coast stretched as far as the eye could see, while the sun continued to shine warmly down on us. Arriving in Cierva Cove, Base Primavera grew larger and larger in our view. The Argentine base, with all its red-walled buildings, seemed perfectly at home amongst the bustling Gentoo colony. Whilst kelp gulls flew overhead, we navigated around towering icebergs that looked almost too abstract, too otherworldly to be real. No matter where you looked, the shores at Cierva were teeming with life. We headed further afield to visit our first chinstrap colony on Penguin Island, with



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plenty of adorable penguins posing perfectly across the rocky shores. With the sun setting behind us and one last fluke-up dive from a humpback, we zoomed across the glass-like water back to the *Greg Mortimer*.

Tired? Maybe a little. Triumphant? Totally! And all of us, utterly in love with Antarctica!

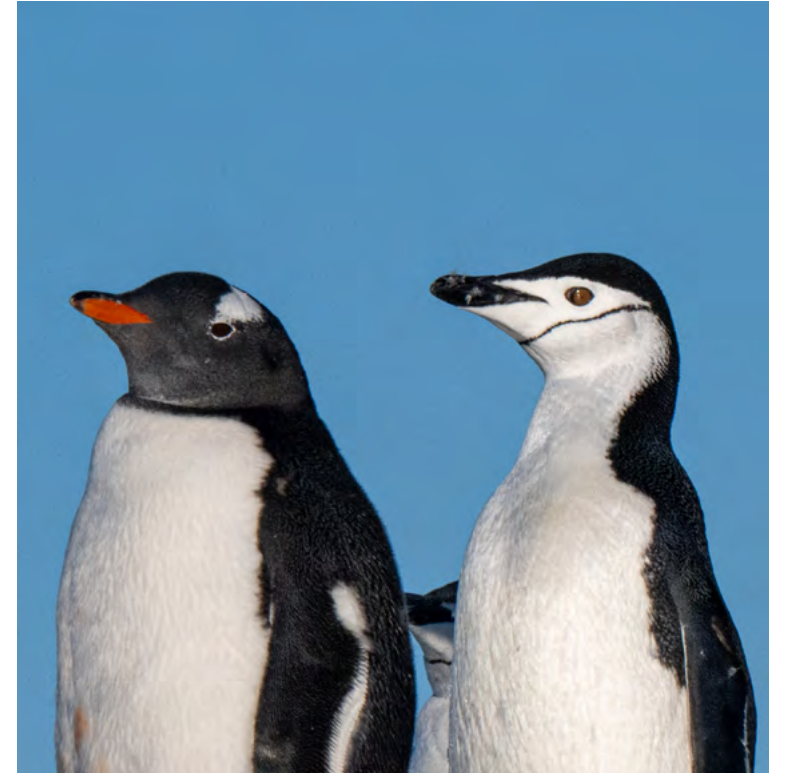
● Position at 0600















# Telefon Bay: Deception Island, Half Moon Island

DAY 6 | 10 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
63°10.3' S

**Longitude:**  
60°38.0' W

**Course:**  
29°

**Speed:**  
9.7 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
13.5 knot E

**Barometer:**  
1022 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
-3°C

Falling asleep last night, we had no idea what adventures would lie ahead as we make our way towards the South Shetland Islands. So, waking up to Gaby's voice at 6:30 this morning we were all happy to hear that we would be visiting somewhere unexpected which was Deception Island. The fog surrounding the ship hid the view of the island until suddenly an announcement at breakfast heralded our arrival through Neptune's Bellows and into Deception Island.

Heading into the fog on our Zodiacs we couldn't see where we were going but eventually we did find the team onshore at Telefon Bay excited to take us on a wake across the volcanic island up to a crater rim. The silent landscape, lack of wind and dark volcanic rocks gave an otherworldly feeling like being on the moon. It was a fantastic opportunity to stretch

the legs and Sydney gave us some remarkably interesting interpretation on the formation of the landscape we viewed from above.

As we returned to the ship the fog lifted and revealed the entirety of the island which had remained hidden. Sailing out of Deception Island we could finally see the remains of the old whaling station in Whaler's Bay before leaving the Bellow's once more and heading for Half Moon Island. At 2:00pm Gaby invited us into the lecture theatre to give us an update on the plan for the rest of the voyage. Dark pinks, purples, and reds were unfortunately quite common on Windy when examining weather patterns in the Southern Ocean. Gaby's incredibly detailed explanation helped to show us that we were in good hands and no matter what happens we'd be making the best



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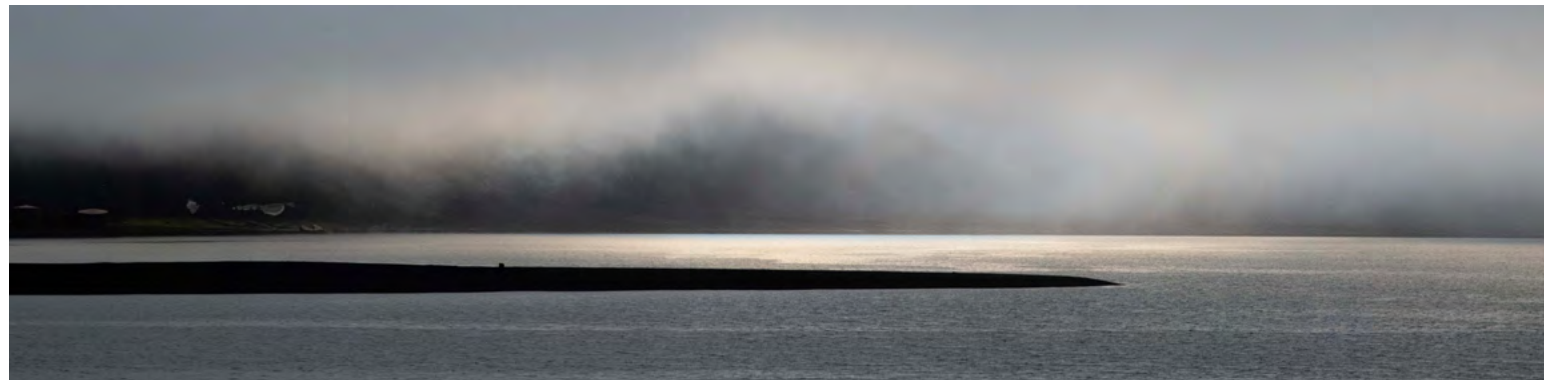
**Air Temp:**  
-3°C

of the weather situation.

An afternoon landing at Half Moon Island gave us more opportunities to see Antarctic Fur Seals and Chinstrap penguins. It was amazing to see the Chinstrap penguins climbing up the almost vertical rock surfaces and the Fur Seals playfully fighting with each other on the beach. It was a stunning conclusion to our time spent in Antarctica and as we head out to sea, we will hold with us incredible memories of the icy continent.

Deception Island - Mount Doom. Deception Island is the most recently active volcano in Antarctica. Historically, it erupted in 1842, 1912–1917, 1921(?), 1967, 1969 and 1970. That's once every 50–70 years. That means we are due for another eruption... around now!

● Position at 0600













# At Sea, en route toward South Sandwich Islands

DAY 7 | 11 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
61°47.1' S

**Longitude:**  
54°48.0' W

**Course:**  
65°

**Speed:**  
13.5 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
26 knots NW

**Barometer:**  
1015 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
1°C

This is from the perspective of a cookie...

My very first memory is of being scraped off a baking tray, scooped up, and dumped into the glass vessel I now call home. Soon after being piled in with my companions, I was lifted into the air and carried across a room full of contorted, but peaceful people. I do not think my body is built for yoga.

The jar was placed in what I would soon learn was my forever home: fruit basket to the right, coffee machine to the left. From here, one can learn a great deal about human behaviour, especially when no one thinks they are being watched.

First came Sydney's lecture, Antarctica's Past Lives. We learned how fossilization works and that Antarctica was once

green and full of life. The Antarctic Titanosaur is said to be among the largest land animals ever but had a brain only slightly bigger than a walnut. About cookie sized... How big does that make my brain?

Late morning, Madi taught us how to identify whales, which was helpful because we had an excellent window view and had been seeing creatures all day with no idea what they were. After lunch one of our special guest photographers, Martin, presented some of his amazing trip photos, and photography tips.

By mid-afternoon it was time to feast our appetites on my competition, which was a delicious offering of crepe suzette in the Elephant Island Bar, a treat prepared by my creators in the



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1°C

galley.

By 16:30 it was time for Hannah to tell the story of the Race to the South Pole. We were left impressed by the strength and determination of humans, but most importantly, we learned that Amundsen left 42,000 biscuits in his depots. It is comforting to know some of our ancestors were so valued and are still remembered today.

The last thing I saw was Gaby updating everyone on the weather and Kyle taught us about Albatross detecting illegal fishing.

As my friends disappeared one by one from around me, I felt increasing anticipation to see the outside world and to finally be chosen. To my surprise, being chosen was less glamorous than it looked from behind the glass. At least I went out as one of the most educated cookies in the Southern Ocean.



# At Sea, still en route toward South Sandwich Islands

DAY 8 | 12 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
59°12.3' S

**Longitude:**  
45°38.2' W

**Course:**  
55°

**Speed:**  
12.8 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
30 knots NNW

**Barometer:**  
1017 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
3°C

As the Drake Passage yawned over the course of tens of millions of years, remnants of the former Andean land bridge would be stretched and subduct far eastward in a complicated tectonic struggle. The result is a backwards-arching, submarine ridge running from Tierra del Fuego to South Georgia, down the South Sandwich Islands, then hooking to the South Orkneys, and finally connecting back to the South Shetlands.

Encompassed within these continental fragments is the infamous Scotia Sea. And on this morning, *Greg Mortimer* was bounding gracefully downwind at its southern reaches. Although the waves outside were thus far forgiving, the skies appeared especially gloomy, even for these extreme reaches.

As the morning yogis moved to Katia's gentle encouragement, one might have noticed something like a camera's flash, followed by a low rumble. Could it be? Sure enough, during breakfast service, rain squalls were accompanied by lightning and thunder?! For these parts, it was a phenomenon novel to even the most seasoned mariners aboard. Our Expedition Leader Gaby, who just so happens to be a meteorologist, astutely interpreted the anomaly for us.

Taking advantage of smooth following seas, we started the day with our South Georgia biosecurity briefing, followed by a post-peninsula clothing and gear check. The island has a vibrant, yet vulnerable ecosystem that warrants us taking



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1017 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
3°C

extraordinary measures to safeguard each outing. A delightful talk and short-film showed by Peter Eastway drives home the point. As a perennial special guest with Aurora Expeditions going back to its Polar Pioneer days, his experiences inspire fellow photographers and general enthusiasts to harvest the island's transcendent abundance and stark landscapes for creativity.

After lunch, Madi held a successful art workshop that produced a score of Chinstrap Mona Lisa's. Yet subsequent plans for Citizen Science surveys out on deck had to be postponed due to the dense fog which had swallowed the ship. Meanwhile, the Southern Ocean storm hot on our heels was gradually increasing the ship's motion. Hopefully, most still caught Kyle's engaging lecture on the strange lives of

penguins and how their anthropomorphic eccentricities are precisely what endears them to us.

Our evening briefing revolved around more of Gaby's keen weather insights, and analysis about how this powerful system is likely to impact our coming days. It's reassuring to know we are in such good hands. Our northeasterly course aims to skirt the worst of it. Yet dinner discussions likely involved speculations on just how much we would be rocked and rolled to sleep.



# At Sea, en route toward South Georgia

DAY 9 | 13 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
58°18.5' S  
**Longitude:**  
37°50.6' W

**Course:**  
51°  
**Speed:**  
13.5 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
34 knots NNW  
**Barometer:**  
1023 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
4°C

Another easy morning greeted us today, with no wake-up call and a bit of extra time to enjoy breakfast. Afterward we gathered in the lecture theater for an update about the weather and, more importantly, what the coming days of our voyage might look like. For several days the Captain and Expedition Leader had been closely monitoring conditions and studying the forecasts. In the end, a decision had to be made. Unfortunately, we would not be continuing to the South Sandwich Islands as we had originally hoped due to severe weather conditions.

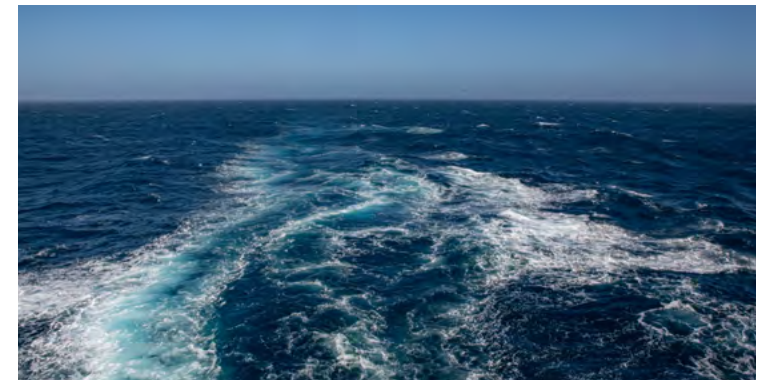
The good news, however, was a very exciting silver lining. We will now be spending an entire week exploring South Georgia. That is also quite rare, and it opens the door to visiting many more locations than usual—both the well-known highlights

and some lesser-known, unique landing sites that we might not otherwise have the chance to see. While the weather in South Georgia can also be unpredictable, the island's size gives us far more sheltered options to get out and explore.

Right after the briefing, Katia led a morning yoga session. After a few days at sea, it felt wonderful to stretch and move a little.

Later in the morning, Sydney gave a lecture about glaciers—perhaps not quite as cool as rocks and fossils (depending on who you ask!), but definitely fascinating and very relevant for where we're headed.

Lunch followed, and in the afternoon Madi introduced us to the world of seals, preparing us for some of the wildlife we'll



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**Air Temp:**

4°C

soon encounter.

Today also brought clearer skies and even some sunshine, a welcome change after the previous days. Taking advantage of the improved visibility, we headed out on deck for a bird survey before afternoon tea. Soon after, Hannah shared the incredible story of Shackleton and his legendary expedition.

It was a relaxed day overall - full of interesting talks, but also time to rest and enjoy the spa. Before recap and dinner, we were treated to our first views of South Georgia's dramatic peaks on the horizon. As the sun set, the sky lit up in colours

so beautiful it looked almost like a painting. After dinner, most of us headed to bed early—partly from excitement about tomorrow's landing, and partly because we had to move our watches forward one hour. South Georgia awaits!



# Nordenskjöld Glacier, Jason Harbour

DAY 10 | 14 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
54°13.7' S

**Longitude:**  
36°25.3' W

**Course:**  
204°

**Speed:**  
6.2 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
12 knots NW

**Barometer:**  
1030 mBar

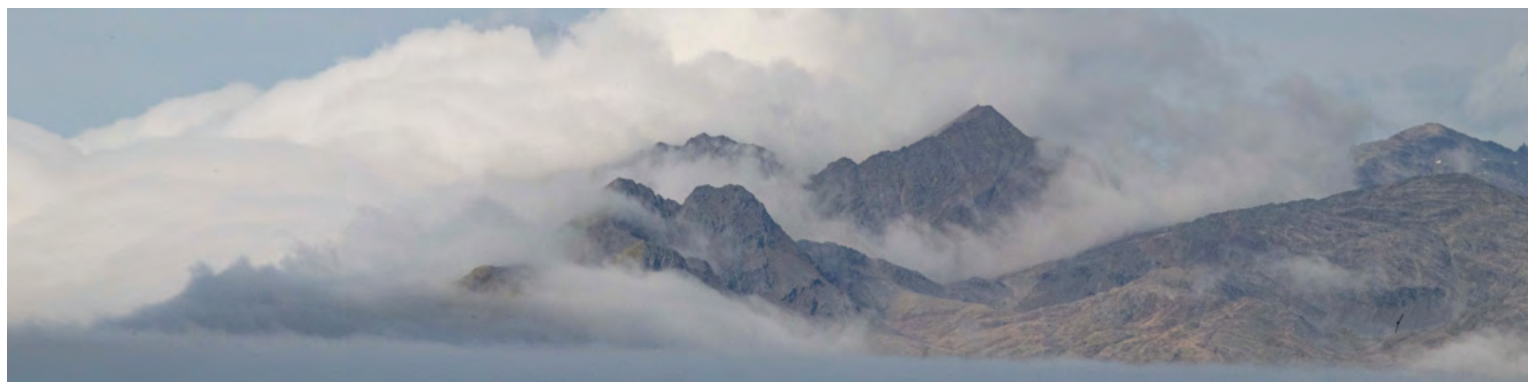
**Air Temp:**  
4°C

We woke this morning aboard *Greg Mortimer* to one of those South Georgia scenes that immediately pulls everyone to the windows. East Cumberland Bay lay calm and glassy, with long bands of clouds drifting low across the ocean. Above them, the mountains slowly emerged in the early light. As the sun rose, a few upper slopes of Mount Paget—the highest mountain on South Georgia at 2,934 metres—caught the first golden light while a few clouds lingered around the ridges. A dramatic start to our first morning on the island.

After three sea days from the Antarctic Peninsula—spent successfully outrunning a lively storm system—it felt fantastic to finally begin operations. Our first outing in South Georgia stayed entirely on the water, with Zodiac cruising and sea kayaking along the face of Nordenskjöld Glacier.

Conditions were about as calm as they could be: glassy water, almost no wind, and the bay dotted with brash ice. The glacier face itself kept everyone's attention. Nordenskjöld is a tidewater glacier, meaning the ice flows directly into the sea. Like many glaciers across South Georgia, it has been steadily retreating in recent decades. Warmer ocean water undercuts the ice front, destabilising it and triggering frequent calving events. Throughout the morning we heard the deep cracks and rumbles as blocks of ice fractured and fell into the water, constantly reshaping the glacier's edge.

Along the old moraines lining the fjord we spotted our first wildlife of South Georgia: a few king penguins, along with seals hauled out among the stones. Passing showers moved through the bay as well, sending bright rainbows arching over



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the ice-strewn water.

Later we repositioned to Jason Harbour for the afternoon. The harbour has a small piece of history connected to Carl Anton Larsen, one of the key figures in South Georgia's early whaling era. Our first landing here was a proper introduction to the island: tussock grass, elephant seals and fur seals (plus plenty of pups), king penguins along the shore, and a small hut tucked into the bay.

The kayakers finished the day with a 5 km downwind paddle along the coastline as the wind picked up, enjoying the more dynamic conditions.

An incredible first day in South Georgia—a perfect taster for

what lies ahead. And not a bad way to celebrate kayak guide Rob's birthday either... though we're still wondering if he ordered that downwind.















# Fortuna Bay, Stromness

DAY 11 | 15 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
54°2.4' S

**Longitude:**  
36°52.5' W

**Course:**  
116°

**Speed:**  
7.7 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
7 knots NE

**Barometer:**  
1030 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
4°C

We awoke to another perfect South Georgia day outside. Glassy seas and an overcast sky. Spirits were high getting off the ship as we could already see the lines of King penguins marching back and forth from shore. As we landed, the expectations were exceeded as fur seal pups and penguins surrounded us on all sides, making us extra cautious to maintain a safe distance away. Once we'd made it off the beach the plains stretched out before us with so much wildlife, we barely knew how to navigate our way through. Following the trusty flags, we survived curious seal pups and speedy penguins getting to the high point looking down over the whole colony. With so many king penguins to look hopefully no one missed the solo Chinstrap penguin trying unsuccessfully to blend in.

After another lunch that once again tested our self-control skills at the buffet, it was time to get off the ship again. This time it was off to Stromness whaling station, the historical site of one of the largest whaling areas in South Georgia. This was also the end of Shackleton's journey to find help after his voyage across the Southern Ocean. For many of us this was a chance to stretch our legs again and test how our days at sea have affected our endurance on land. Those who went on a longer hike got to see the waterfall, which was the final hurdle for Shackleton and the boys just before safety.

Meanwhile on the beach we were accompanied by the usual gangs of troublesome fur seal youths as well as the big rusty buildings dominating the beach. These really stand out against



# Fortuna Bay, Stromness

DAY 11 | 15 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
54°2.4' S

**Longitude:**  
36°52.5' W

**Course:**  
116°

**Speed:**  
7.7 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
7 knots NE

**Barometer:**  
1030 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
4°C

the wilderness of South Georgia, reminding us of a different time where humans were doing what they could to exploit the land and make a living down here in the wild. Luckily, we're here a few years later to experience the place in a different and much better way.

Back onboard we enjoyed a drink at the bar before gathering again for our daily recap and delicious dinner.









# At sea, en route to Stanley, Falkland Islands

DAY 12 | 16 March 2026

**Latitude:**

53°30.2' S

**Longitude:**

40°31.1' W

**Course:**

280°

**Speed:**

10.3 knots

**Wind Speed:**

40 knots N

**Barometer:**

1023 mBar

**Air Temp:**

6°C

Today was a sea day as we made our way toward Stanley, and the Southern Ocean certainly kept things interesting. With winds of around 50 knots and waves reaching up to 5 metres, the ship was moving around a lot.

The morning began with stretching and yoga with Katia. It felt like a particularly fitting way to start the day, and she encouraged everyone to acknowledge and appreciate their emotions, good or bad. It was a thoughtful and beautiful reminder that not every day has to feel the same, and that there is value in simply noticing where you are.

The first lecture of the day was with Sydney, who presented on the geology of South Georgia. We learned how the island is incredibly unique: although it sits out in the middle of the

ocean, it is not volcanic in origin like many remote islands. Instead, South Georgia began as part of South America before tectonic forces carried it eastward into the Atlantic, where glaciers later helped carve the dramatic landscape we see today.

After a delicious lunch, many people took advantage of the rolling ship and enjoyed some afternoon naps. Later, Madi hosted an art workshop, where most drew Antarctic fur seals, while others took a bit more creative liberty with their masterpieces.

In the afternoon, Hannah gave a fascinating lecture about her time living and working at both Port Lockroy and Grytviken. She shared how different the two experiences were: Port



# At sea, en route to Stanley, Falkland Islands

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10.3 knots

**Wind Speed:**

40 knots N

**Barometer:**

1023 mBar

**Air Temp:**

6°C

Lockroy meant conserving water, never leaving the island, and counting gentoo penguins, while Grytviken had abundant water, more people, and a few more things to do.

Later on, Millie hosted a navigation workshop. After introducing some basic navigation, she informed participants that the original map had been written in invisible ink, and that they would have to remake the nautical charts themselves. It was a lot of fun!

We wrapped up the day with recap, where we learned more about two important conservation challenges in South Georgia: avian flu and the rat eradication program. We were left with a deeper appreciation for the enormous effort behind protecting South Georgia's fragile ecosystems.



# At sea, en route to Stanley, Falkland Islands

DAY 13 | 17 March 2026

<b>Latitude:</b> 53°13.2' S	<b>Wind Speed:</b> 21 knots N	An Ode to a Life at Sea	Gave voice to what cannot be denied.
<b>Longitude:</b> 48°37.9' W	<b>Barometer:</b> 1025 mBar	As the ship ceased its violent dance And we all woke from our slumber, Coffees brewed and bellies full, Pink hues lit skies, a sea much humbler.	175,000 whales— A number that lands, then lingers too long, So we paused in the silence between heartbeats, A quiet, collective, wordless song.
<b>Course:</b> 275°	<b>Air Temp:</b> 7°C	We stretched our bodies, Lengthened our spines, Like puppets under Katia's commands, Escaping our bunks in a yoga-designed trance—divine.	For the whales, for the people, For a past both heavy and real— Because sometimes at sea, the bravest thing Is simply choosing to feel.
<b>Speed:</b> 11.9 knots		Then off to the bridge in the early light, Where screens all glowed with confident flair, Charts digital, beeping softly... (while some of us nodded like, yes, we're aware).	Another feast and perhaps a small rest, (Research, of course—purely digestive intent), Before Martín took us far from the deck On a wildly enthusiastic tangent.
		Buttons, radars, mysterious pings— A language of tech we'll never quite know, We left feeling wildly qualified... To absolutely not run the show.	Polar bears! Cameras! National Geographic dreams! A tundra blooming with danger like flowers in snow, Where every step hums with quiet electricity— And you learn very quickly where not to go.
		Oh the woes, the plight of whaling, A dark history once glorified, Madi, steady and thoughtful,	And though we did not sail to her side, We honoured A23a just the same— A drifting giant, a melting marvel,

# At sea, en route to Stanley, Falkland Islands

DAY 13 | 17 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
53°13.2' S  
**Longitude:**  
48°37.9' W

**Course:**  
275°  
**Speed:**  
11.9 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
21 knots N  
**Barometer:**  
1025 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
7°C

An iceberg with a whisper, not a name.

A memorial of ice and time,  
Of slow surrender to the sea,  
A reminder that even the grandest forms  
End in quiet humility.

And just as the day grew deep with thought,  
It swerved—magnificently—into chaos and cheer:  
Trivia! Glorious nonsense unleashed,  
The true reason we're all gathered here.

Katia, all soul—yet playful, electric, light,  
Sydney, all rock—precise, wit razor-sharp and bright,  
One lifts you gently into wonder and flow...

the other making you question what you thought you already  
did know

Together they danced between calm and chaos,  
Keeping us humble, curious, slightly disgraced—  
Where being confidently wrong isn't a problem...  
it's practically the whole point of the game embraced.

Because life at sea, in all its wonder,  
Its weight, its stories, its curious spree—  
Is best lived somewhere between reverence...  
And yelling answers that absolutely cannot be.



# At sea, en route to Stanley, Falkland Islands

DAY 14 | 18 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
52°14.7' S  
**Longitude:**  
56°24.4' W

**Wind Speed:**  
45 knots NW  
**Barometer:**  
1007 mBar

**Course:**  
276°  
**Speed:**  
6.6 knots

**Air Temp:**  
10°C

We were awoken on our third sea day heading for the Falkland Islands by the motion of the ocean being quite swelly again. Winds hit 50 knots and the 5m+ waves rose to greet them before being whisked away.

Once again, the effervescent Katia transformed into a zen yogi for some relaxing horizontal stretching as we embraced the pitching and rolling of the ship as it led us astray.

The ship was quiet this morning as many of us stayed close to home in our cabins, counting down the hours before we could pop another seasickness pill. Those who were dosed up and curious joined Kyle to learn 'How to Bird'. He gave some advice on binoculars and how to be 'bird ready' as well as boosting our confidence by showing us silhouettes of birds to

identify. We're now ready to spot away all 220 bird species we might see over the next few days in the Falklands.

Stas then led a very helpful smartphone photography workshop with Madi which resulted in the practicing of newly found button functions even over lunch. Who knew you could take photos while simultaneously recording a video? We all do now.

After lunch, Madi was up with her usual enthusiasm enlightening us on the Sounds of the Southern Ocean where we learnt about and heard the melodies and the moans and the tunes and the tones of some of the sea creatures that swim below us.



# At sea, en route to Stanley, Falkland Islands

DAY 14 | 18 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
52°14.7' S  
**Longitude:**  
56°24.4' W

**Course:**  
276°  
**Speed:**  
6.6 knots

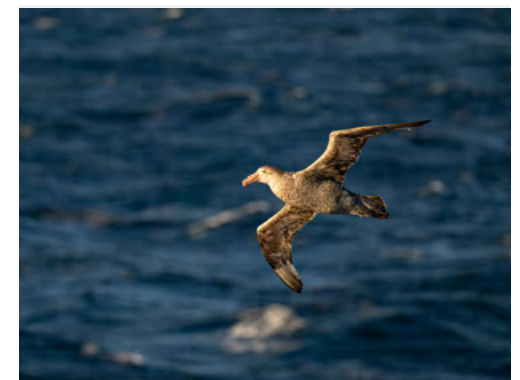
**Wind Speed:**  
45 knots NW  
**Barometer:**  
1007 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
10°C

There was even a report of a dolphin sighting later on, but was it singing at the time?

The reminder of afternoon tea brought in those who had perhaps been abstaining thus far today due to their delicate dispositions, so Hannah's talk on The Falkland Islands – Its Human and Other History, was well attended. She covered the islands sightings and landings by Englishmen named John, and touched upon various topics including 'Camp', 'Kelpers' and the Falklands War. But now we know that we can leave behind one boot at Boot Hill before we depart...after we've found the gnome garden.

At recap, Gaby informed us of exciting plans for getting back on land in Stanley tomorrow, Hannah's video entertainingly taught us more (or perhaps less) about Falklands history, Kiwi Rob spoke about Falkland sheep (of course), and Millie enlightened us on the sewage treatment on board...right before dinner!



# Stanley, Gypsy Cove: Falkland Islands

DAY 15 | 19 March 2026

**Latitude:**

51°41.2' S

**Longitude:**

57°51.0' W

**Course:**

At Anchor

**Speed:**

0.0 knots

**Wind Speed:**

Calm

**Barometer:**

1018 mBar

**Air Temp:**

6°C

How sweet was a sleep on calm seas after a few days of waves and wind! We woke to the sound of the anchor chain, telling us we'd arrived in Stanley - the capital of the Falkland Islands. As we approached the pier, friendly Falkland faces stood ready to welcome us back on solid ground. Keen eyes scanned the shore to spot the Falkland Island Company building featured in Hannah's lecture the day prior. Cars, roads, and houses stacked neatly side-by-side seemed almost alien after so much time spent in the wilderness. We hurriedly piled onto our busses, to see what sights Gypsy Cove had in-store. As the buses rolled away from the pier, we heard information about this quaint little town from the local guides. Soon, we were greeted with a misty view of York Bay, an expanse of sand, greenery, and wildlife. A Magellanic penguin

poked it's head from a burrow, geese walked and honked in the grasses, and a blackchin siskin sat proud on its branch. Within this pristine and biodiverse environment, the rusted metals of the WWII Vickers Gun and Lady Elizabeth shipwreck stood out as harsh reminders - humans are but visitors in this wild place.

Back in town, everyone got to stretch their legs along the historic main streets of Stanley. Many happy faces strolled past, with full bellies and even full-er shopping bags! Maybe you saw an upland goose strolling the shore, or a sleepy seal guarding the pier.

Perhaps you picked up a souvenir for your friends or family



# Stanley, Gypsy Cove: Falkland Islands

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57°51.0' W

**Course:**  
At Anchor  
**Speed:**  
0.0 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
Calm  
**Barometer:**  
1018 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
6°C

back home. Or even, visited the museum to transport yourself back in time, through both the hardships and prosperity of these remote islands.

We can all agree that after pulling away from Stanley, we felt a connection to this hardy town. The complex history is still seen in the beautiful façade of the township. The generous spirit of the 'townies' welcoming us to their home. And the time to stop, breathe, and soak in the atmosphere of the Falkland Islands. Oh, some exciting days to come!













# Steeple Jason Island. Carcass Island

DAY 16 | 20 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
50°59.8' S  
**Longitude:**  
60°54.9' W

**Course:**  
275°  
**Speed:**  
11.7 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
13 knots SSW  
**Barometer:**  
1020 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
8°C

We woke to the wild beauty of Steeple Jason, where the morning air was filled with the effortless glide of black-browed albatross circling gracefully around the ship. From the deck, we could see what felt like countless albatross gathered along the island's cliffs. An unforgettable sight and a reminder of how remote and alive this place truly is.

As we continued sailing toward Carcass Island, the sun stayed with us, lighting up the sea in shimmering blues. Along the way, we were joined by a few playful Peale's dolphins riding the waves from the ship, seemingly as entertained by us as we were by them. Not a bad escort service, we must say.

Our arrival at Carcass Island came with the full theatrical performance typical of Falklands weather. Sunshine, dark

clouds, gusts of wind, a touch of rain, and then back to sunshine again, all within what felt like minutes. Thankfully, the sun won most of the battle. We landed on a stunning white sandy beach, a perfect contrast to the island's lush green landscape.

Carcass Island is one of the few inhabited islands in the Falklands and is known for its rich birdlife and being free of mice/rats, making it a safe haven for many species.

On the beach, we found gentoo penguins casually lounging, while Magellanic penguins peeked out from burrows or disappeared entirely into the landscape.

Birdlife was everywhere. We encountered numerous striated



# Steeple Jason Island. Carcass Island

DAY 16 | 20 March 2026

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**Latitude:**  
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**Wind Speed:**  
13 knots SSW

**Barometer:**  
1020 mBar

caracaras, curious and bold, alongside upland geese and oystercatchers. Altogether, we (or should I say Kyle and Matthew) counted up to 30 different bird species throughout the day, each adding to the island's vibrant ecosystem.

**Course:**  
275°

**Speed:**  
11.7 knots

**Air Temp:**  
8°C

Many of us took the scenic walk from Leopard Beach to the settlement, enjoying clear skies and sweeping views across the island. Back on board, we rounded off the day with a delicious dinner, already looking forward to what tomorrow might bring, though if it involves more albatross and dolphins, we certainly won't complain.









# Westpoint Island

DAY 17 | 21 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
51°18.1' S

**Longitude:**  
40°37.0' W

**Course:**  
237°

**Speed:**  
5.4 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
20 knots N

**Barometer:**  
1022 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
8°C

Dear reader,

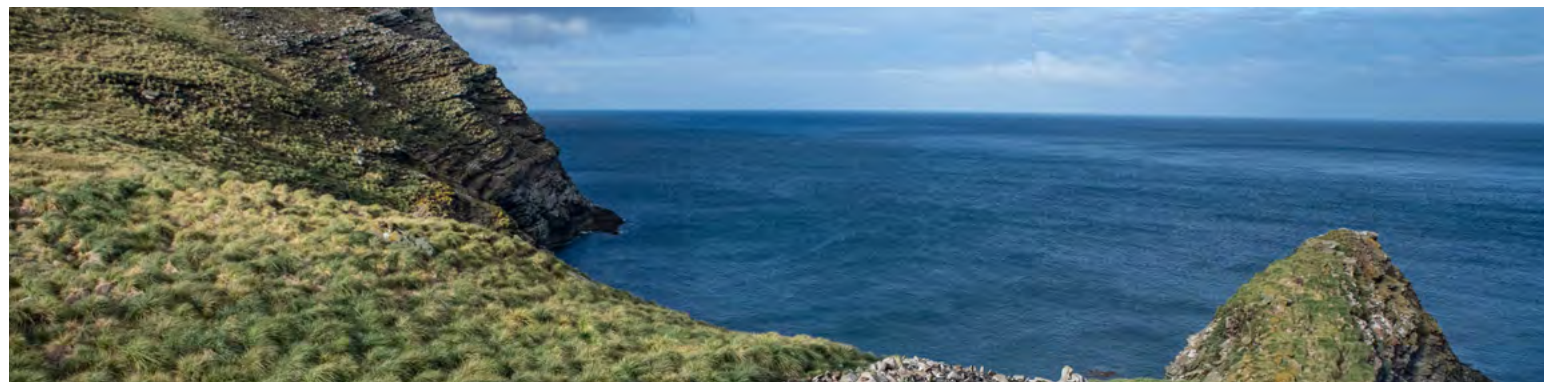
My name is Peat. I exist on West Point Island as the dark, nutrient rich, spongy soil, common across the Falkland Islands. I would like to make an entry into the Geologic Record, for this particular day during the Holocene.

The sun rose over Bryon Sound and cast its rays on my visitors today. A group of excited Expeditioners onboard the *Greg Mortimer* were moving about the ship, getting their morning coffees and chatting at the breakfast buffet. They wondered what this day had in store for them. I couldn't wait to see what they thought of my Island home.

At 0830 the Expedition Team arrived on the first Zodiacs,

quicky followed by the rest of the Expeditioners. A couple of groups went either kayaking or snorkelling within the nearby caves. They experienced the beautiful rainbow-like deposits within the sand and mudstone caves, the towering sea cliffs and imperial cormorants keeping watch above them. Other Expeditioners traped across the Island and made their way over my soft pathways, west bound.

They finally arrived at the Devil's Nose to experience one of my favourite achievements, the black-browed albatross and rockhopper penguin colony. I have been working for thousands of years, accumulating and partially decaying vegetation and organic matter, until I could support the life of my local flora and fauna. I now provide tussac homes and nest material for these amazing birds. Not to mention the striated



# Westpoint Island

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**Speed:**

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**Wind Speed:**

20 knots N

**Barometer:**

1022 mBar

**Air Temp:**

8°C

caracaras and turkey vultures that curiously watch any visitors of the colony.

My visitors took their Zodiacs back to the *Greg Mortimer* for lunch before making their way back to see me. For the afternoon they enjoyed a ride in the Island Land Rover, to spend more time at the colony. They also had the option to walk along the white sand beach near the landing site, to visit the Magellanic penguins. I provide the soft, mouldable ground where these penguins build their little burrows.

Many Expeditioners then enjoyed some tea and cakes that had been specially made at the homestead, just for this visit. As the sun began to descend, my visitors made their way back to their ship.

Perhaps one day in another few thousand years, paleogeologists will dig me up and learn about the special day that Expeditioners from the *Greg Mortimer*, experienced the wonders I have built on West Point Island.

Yours Sincerely,  
Peat











# Saunders Island

DAY 18 | 22 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
51°22.5' S  
**Longitude:**  
60°26.0' W  
**Course:**  
295°  
**Speed:**  
8.4 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
19 knots SSW  
**Barometer:**  
1017 mBar  
**Air Temp:**  
7°C

Whakataka te hau ki te uru (Cease the winds from the west)  
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga (Cease the winds from the south)  
Kia makinakina ki uta (Let the breeze blow over the land)  
Kia mataratara ki tai (Let the breeze blow over the sea)  
E hi ake te ana te ataakura (Let the red tipped dawn come with an sharpened air)  
He tio, he huka, he hau hu (A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day)  
Ti hei Mauriora

The day brought a mix of cloud, strong winds, and sunshine. In the morning, the Expedition Team carried out Zodiac scouting at the south beach of the Neck; however, both this area and the north side proved too windy for a landing. Once out on deck, the wildlife sightings quickly built: cormorants, dolphins surfing the bow wave, and sooty shearwaters skimming the surface. Sightings continued with sei whales and albatross, followed by Peale's dolphins riding the bow wave and more shearwaters (thanks, Kyle!). The excitement grew with further dolphin encounters, until Katia—the “whale whisperer”—called out, “At 11 o'clock, approximately 5 km away!” Soon after, there were more cormorants, Commerson's dolphins surfing the bow wave (thanks, Madi!), and yet more dolphins. Shearwaters seemed

endless—“millions of them!” (thanks, Matt!)—along with additional albatross and more Commerson's dolphins (thanks, Hannah).

Whales, shearwaters, and cormorants continued to appear in abundance, along with a few seals and even some pirouetting dolphins—an absolutely fantastic display.

Later, after lunch, the E-Team tried again at the Rookery... which again was no go.

In the afternoon Katia ran a very welcome Mindful Movement and vertebrae stacking session.

Madi's Cloud survey reported 90% coverage and a big blue sun hole beaming down on everyone whilst Kyle was simply overwhelmed by yes, “Hundreds of sooty shearwaters!”

Highlights from Sydney's geology lecture included the following gems:

- The Falkland Islands are essentially a fragment of Africa that ended up on the “wrong” side of the Atlantic.
- A slightly unexpected moment—apparently involving putting a hand inside a penguin—though how this relates to geology remains unclear!
- The cross-bedding example on the ridges above the albatross colony was particularly striking—practically AED-

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1017 mBar

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7°C

worthy.

- Another reference to the Permian–Triassic Mass Extinction.
- Trilobites as “masters” of mass extinction events and a kind of barcode for rock dating.
- Petrified wood as evidence that trees once grew on the Falklands.
- Discussion of oil development beginning in 2028.
- Stone runs formed through freeze–thaw processes and gravity.

Recap:

Gabi delivered the weather update—strong winds and 6+ metre swell on the beam.

Hodei shared the fascinating and sobering story of the Warrah, a predator that trusted too much and the only known native land mammal of the Falkland Islands.

Looking ahead to an early wake-up call at 6:00 am, with a landing planned just after sunrise at New Island, at Coffin’s Harbour.



# New Island, At Sea

DAY 19 | 23 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
51°41.0' S

**Longitude:**  
64°09.1' W

**Course:**  
213°

**Speed:**  
4.6 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
26 knots WNW

**Barometer:**  
1019 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
7°C

We woke to a softer kind of morning today. No rush, no urgency. Just that quiet sense that something special was waiting for us. Coffin Harbour lay calm and inviting, the kind of place that feels tucked away from the rest of the world. A thin layer of sunlight stretched across the water as we made our way to breakfast, the usual draw of coffee and something warm pulling everyone together before the day began. Landing at New Island just after sunrise, we stepped ashore into a landscape that felt both rugged and alive. The walk up to the penguin colony did not disappoint. The ground was busy with movement, calls echoing across the hillside as birds went about their morning routines, completely unfazed by our presence. There is something grounding about standing quietly among them, just watching life unfold at its own pace. After some time exploring and a quick stop by the small

settlement, museum and gift shop, some of us regrouped for the snorkel outing. The forecast hinted at building winds, but our guides had found us a pocket of calm, sheltered perfectly from the worst of it. As we slipped into the water, the clarity was immediately striking. Sunlight filtered down through long ribbons of kelp, swaying gently like an underwater forest in slow motion. It did not take long before the snorkellers had company. Two sea lions appeared out of the blue, curious and completely at ease.

They circled, darted, and paused just long enough to meet their gaze before looping back again. It felt less like an encounter and more like an invitation into their world. Time stretched in that moment, the cold forgotten as they hovered among the kelp and movement. All too soon, the signal came



# New Island, At Sea

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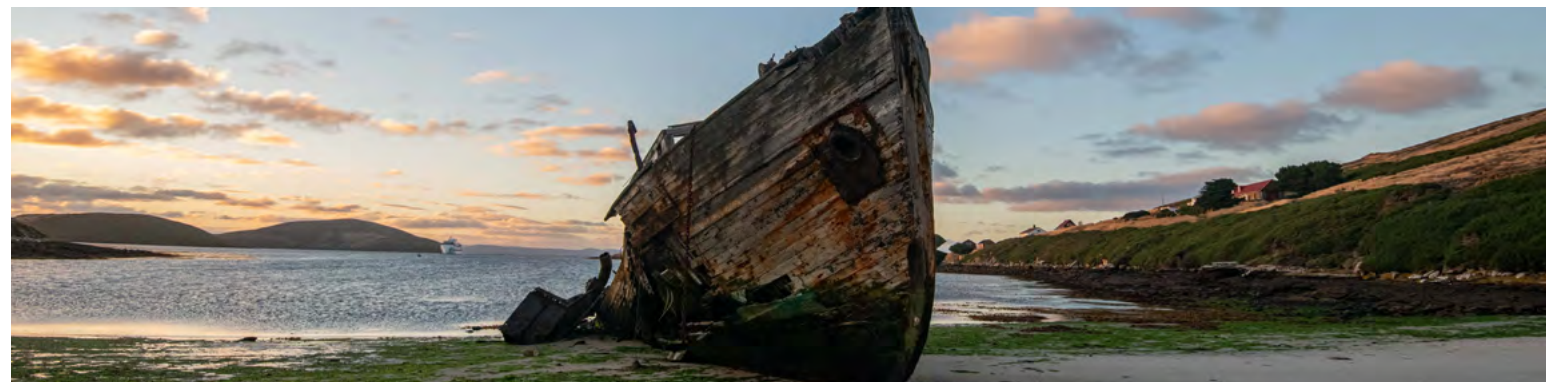
**Barometer:**

1019 mBar

**Air Temp:**

7°C

to return. Back on the Zodiac, there was that familiar mix of exhilaration and quiet reflection. We had managed to stay ahead of the weather, but more than that, we had ended on a high. As we headed back to the ship, the mood was simple. Grateful. Tired in the best way. And aware that this final outing had given us exactly the kind of ending you'd hope for, but never quite expect.

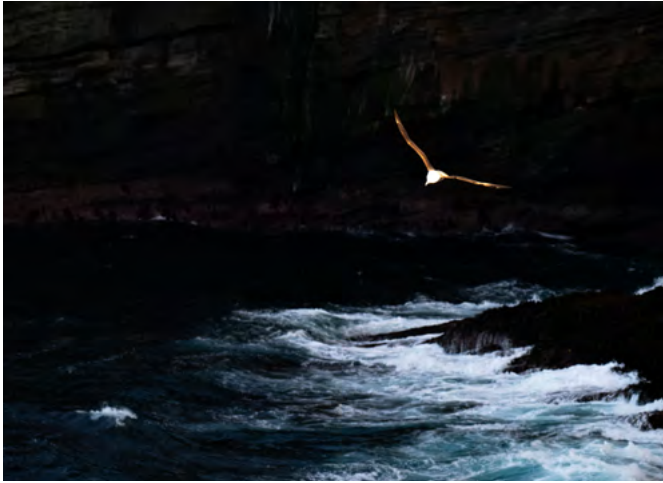












# At sea, en route to Ushuaia

DAY 20 | 24 March 2026

**Latitude:**

54°43.3' S

**Longitude:**

64°57.1' W

**Course:**

214°

**Speed:**

8.5 knots

**Wind Speed:**

36 knots WNW

**Barometer:**

985 mBar

**Air Temp:**

8°C

Today we woke with hope of our last day at sea on our way to Ushuaia. For the non-birders you may want to skip this next part. What an amazing morning! For those that went out birding had amazing sights such as soft plumaged petrels and more than a dozen Southern Royal Albatross! The biggest Albatross in the world using the morning's strong winds to zoom past our ship while collecting food for their chicks back over in New Zealand! Ok, welcome back to our future birders! Rounding the Southern tip of South America, we turned into the wind and waves and had a taste of the enormous storm that threatened us as the ship lifted before crashing down with wind screaming past the beam. For those at morning movement the difference could certainly be felt!

Madi's morning lecture on Animal Research helped illustrate

to us the complexities of studying the amazing wildlife we've seen in some of the most inhospitable regions on earth. Following lunch many of us grabbed a beverage and headed into the lecture theatre to see some of the incredible photos taken over the trip. But strangely enough a rabbit snuck its way into the competition. We may have to organise an eradication project for it! "Have you ever wanted to fold a penguin?" Never before had those words been uttered and yet they were surprisingly accurate as we folded, crimped and cried our way through a beautiful Origami session led by Sydney, where animals such as dolphins, penguins, whales, krill, titanosaurs but sadly no gulls, all appeared for us.

And finally the long wait was over as Chief Engineer Dimitar revealed the secrets of the Engine Room for us and how we've



# At sea, en route to Ushuaia

DAY 20 | 24 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
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**Longitude:**  
64°57.1' W

**Wind Speed:**  
36 knots WNW  
**Barometer:**  
985 mBar

all drastically over-exaggerated the size of the stabilisers in our mind. Our evening recap and briefing brought news of a couple of days of exploration in Ushuaia from National Parks to a local ranch visit.

**Course:**  
214°  
**Speed:**  
8.5 knots

**Air Temp:**  
8°C

But the evening entertainment didn't stop there as we were promised by Hannah the best 37 minutes of entertainment for this evening and she didn't disappoint. Popcorn and a film on Rounding Cape Horn was a fantastic way to end the evening and left us excited for tomorrow's adventures and even more birds!



# Beagle Channel, Ushuaia: Tierra del Fuego National Park

DAY 21 | 25 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
54°48.6' S

**Longitude:**  
68°14.9' W

**Course:**  
Ushuaia Pier

**Speed:**  
0.0 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
10 knots SW

**Barometer:**  
999 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
5°C

It's day 11. We've been trapped in this dark, dingy Muck Boot, just one locker out of place...

Our owner and the E Team have searched everywhere except here. We have lain here undiscovered, for almost two weeks. But today was different. We awoke to the rumbling of the engines as the *Greg Mortimer* was expertly brought alongside the dock in Ushuaia. We heard the announcement; Katia was commencing yoga. We would've loved to participate, but typically we are cast aside before a yoga mat anyway. The smell of breakfast wafted down to the Mudroom. Not for the first time, we worried our owners' toes were cold on the tiles around the buffet. The vessel went quiet as Martin and Thomas presented their amazing footage in the Lecture Theatre. It was hard not to feel resentful of all the fun. We

heard conversations of rainbows and baby fur seals, glacial calvings and rockhopper penguins. What an amazing trip! If only we could've experienced it too...

A certain magic feeling began to fizz over the ship. Kyle and Hannah must've been presenting 'Keeping the Magic Alive'. We remember being a reusable item... the pride that came with sustainability...

After the lunch smells began to fade, we heard a commotion as Expeditioners exited the vessel, bound for Tierra del Fuego National Park. It was threatening to snow by this time. Our owners' toes must've been missing our woollen warmth terribly.



# Beagle Channel, Ushuaia: Tierra del Fuego National Park

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68°14.9' W

**Course:**

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**Barometer:**

999 mBar

**Air Temp:**

5°C

We would've made such a great companion for the phenomenal scenery, the delightful little gift shop, and the unique wildlife. It's hard to soak in the beauty when your toes are cold...

Then, the E Team's voices filled the mudroom. Now was our chance! We saw Sydney inching closer as she inspected each locker. Our owner's locker was next, then finally, she turned her attention to us. She tipped our temporary Muck Boot home, upside down. We fell. We watched Sydney's face light up in pure delight, the like of which rivalled, only by our own. At last, we were found!

We were even treated to a grand presentation to our beloved owner, at the recap and briefing. We were reunited to

our rightful feet, as we listened to a song rendition of the Expedition, sung by Hannah the Historian.

What a journey,

- The pair of lost, handmade, woollen socks





# Ushuaia: Harberton Ranch

DAY 22 | 26 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
54°48.6' S

**Longitude:**  
68°14.9' W

**Course:**  
Ushuaia Pier

**Speed:**  
0.0 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
5 knots NE

**Barometer:**  
1008 mBar

**Air Temp:**  
1°C

We awoke for our final full day of our trip to the mountains surrounding Ushuaia decorated in even more snow than yesterday after last night's flurry. How special, especially for those of us who don't have the white stuff back home. Today's tour was to Harberton Estancia with some interesting stops along the way. First was at a viewpoint looking over Carbajal Valley and its 'turbal' peatland carved out by glaciers and leaving us with the gorgeous spectacle of more snow capped mountains and white dusted nothofagus and lenga beech trees.

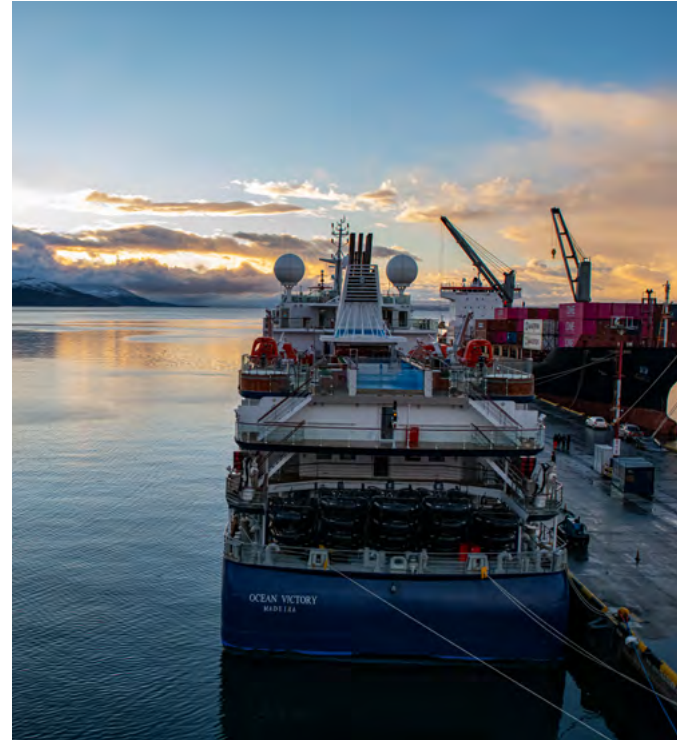
Our next stop provided us not only with the chance to enjoy a tippie of locally made gin at the world's most southerly motorcycle museum at Haruwen, but we also got to meet 'Justin Beaver' – the taxidermy version – and see an eclectic collection of old phones, typewriters and other items from yesteryear.

The beautiful 100km drive took us through beech forests and then out to the Beagle Channel and past the 'flag' trees standing at crazy angles shaped by the fierce winds. We then entered the 50,000 acre Harberton Ranch established in 1886 by Thomas Bridges, our hero of the day. We learned that he was found in England as an orphan under a bridge which was how he got his name and how he grew up to become the

leader of the Christian missionary in the Falklands at only 19 years of age before later being gifted the land which became the Harberton estate.

After a hearty stew and rhubarb cake for lunch we were taken to the Acatushun museum and around the homestead. Next to the museum was the fascinating Bone Shed with magnificent festering specimens of pinniped and cetacean skulls and skeletons coupled with their rather odiferous...perfume (which was a bit overpowering for some!). Inside the museum were many more fully processed specimens including complete penguin, whale, dolphin and seal skeletons and beautiful drawings of the animals as their background. The homestead tour was captivating, with stories from Bridges descendants now buried in the cemetery there, to hearing how the indigenous Yamana survived naked in these cold climes.

Back on board M/V *Greg Mortimer* we raised our glasses with Captain Oleg and his fabulous crew to toast our incredible trip and relived our experiences through Stas's slideshow full of scenic wonders, adorable wildlife and forever memories. What a trip it has been!



# Ushuaia

DAY 23 | 27 March 2026

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Latitude:

54°48.6' S

Longitude:

68°14.9' W

Course:

Ushuaia Pier

Speed:

0.0 knots

Wind Speed:

5 knots NE

Barometer:

1008 mBar

Air Temp:

1°C

Disembarkation at 8:00 am

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

# BBQ





# Polar Plunge







# Citizen Science





# Kayaking Log

**Guides: Tim Vanhoutteghem, Hodei Orueta, Gareth Wheeler, Matthew Barnes, Rob Barth**

**08 March 2026, AM**

**Paradise Harbour – 2.4km**

We started off our first Antarctic excursion with a special treat from the Zodiac: one humpback in the distance and then a leopard seal hauled out an iceberg! There was very little ice in the harbour so we dropped just inside the heart of Skontorp Cove, took some photos, and utilized the flat calm conditions for tandem instruction / paddling refresher. After practised a bit of maneuver-ing, we started weaving through ice, teasing out our driving skills. While pushing towards the foot of amazingly stunning glaciers, we suddenly realized we were being chased down by a group of porpoising Gentoos! We slowed to welcome them to our formation, yet when they caught up, they seemed confused that we had stopped.

Next, we hooked around near a safe stretch of land and even did a drive-by of a rock outcrop reaching out for us to pat — our first touch of the Antarctic continent. Mosses lined the exposed rock, and icebergs shined and popped. More penguins encircled

us for a bit, then we continued on along some beautiful metamorphic cliffs which housed colourful lichen, nesting Antarctic cormorants, and some exposed malachite. Detouring back out to open water, we had the pleasure of watching two sleepy humpback whales peacefully cruise past! Or last order of business was learning the raft-up technique and getting a nice group photo before re-loading into the Zodiac, changing into our Muck Boots, and heading to shore for our first continental landing!

**08 March 2026, PM**

**Cuvertville Island circumnavigation – 4.37km**

It was a cold, clear day as we set out in the Zodiacs towards Cuvertville Island or Ile de Cavelier de Cuvertville as it was named by Gerlache and the Belgian Antarctic Expedition of 1897-1899... Tim was feeling right at home! There was the obligatory whale spouting in the distance as we launched. Slowly we turned towards the island and headed in towards the impressive rocky cliffs and thousands of gentoo



**Number of Kayakers:** 10

**Total Number Outings:** 13

**Total Distance Paddled:** 124 km

**Kayakers:**

Charlie Perston

Douglas Sasser

Kristian Timmerman

Katy Lees

Robert Munster

Denise Munster

Douglas Howie

Janet Howie

Noel Schoknecht

Sandy Maley

penguins (6500 pairs making it the largest colony on the Antarctic Peninsula and a designated Important Bird and Biodiversity Area by BirdLife International). There were leopard seals being radioed in all around the island attracted by the 'buffet' on offer. Around the back side, the rocky cliffs gave way to permanent snow and ice cover, shallow water...and a large leopard seal resting on an ice floe that allowed us relatively close up pictures! At the next rocky point before the landing beach, a large number of Antarctic fur seals were hauled out and also obligingly prepared to model. Our circumnavigation complete we headed back to clear water so Matt could pick us and return us safely to the *Greg Mortimer*. Another great day on the water!

**09 March 2026, AM**  
**Recess Cove – 82 km**

Dropped off west of the 'cormorant' island landing site with humpback whales surface feeding nearby! Followed them along the ice floe for awhile and watched them transit

stealthily through the brash ice. One pair surfaced just behind us, so we slow to watch them until they sounded. Somehow, the behemoths snuck away into the icy distance, but we managed to find a couple "logging" (sleeping) individuals further on. After leaving them to their nap, we headed into the northwest cove and found a "furry" (antarctic fur seal) on the rocks, and two Weddell seals on ice. Out of nowhere, we were surprised by a small humpback calf really close to shore. As it passed, we admired the incredible, bluish mountain backdrop and heard more whales in the distance. Before we could decide which direction to continue on, one headed straight towards us. We watched it pass serenely. And few minutes later, another cow & calf pair also took the same route just in front of us! We finished up by weaving through some rock outcrops, finding a couple more fur seals, rediscovered one of the calves, and scrutinising another whale passed out-cold between some nice icebergs. What an incredible serene and action packed morning!

**09 March 2026, PM**  
**Cierva Cove – 9 km**

A beautiful sunny afternoon paddle at Cierva Cove, with almost no wind and calm water reflecting the surrounding ice and mountains. The bright conditions brought out the remarkable green tones on the slopes near Primavera Base, a striking contrast to the snow and ice around us.

We paddled along the shoreline past penguins gathered near a small waterfall, before continuing toward the old glacier face at the end of the bay. The glacier, icebergs, and towering peaks made for a spectacular setting from water level.

On the way back to the ship, we enjoyed a beautiful brash ice paddle, gently weaving through the floating ice in the afternoon sun—an unforgettable end to a perfect Antarctic kayaking day.

**10 March 2026, AM**  
**Telefon Bay – 2.1km**

The cloud hung low as we set out for a short coastal paddle inside the caldera of Deception Island! The landscape

was in stark contrast to the ice and snow of further south...the dark, black, desert-like, volcanic soils was a reminder of the recent (late 1960's and 1970), turbulent activity still shaping the geography today...protected lagoons, mini-craters on land, scoria fallout covered glaciers...an amazing experience!

**10 March 2026, PM**  
**Halfmoon Bay – 4.63km**

Low cloud and drizzle greeted us for our last Antarctica Peninsula paddle. It created atmospheric conditions with fantastical volcanic rock spires, rocky channels and hidden lagoons to be explored. Chinstrap penguins, a couple of lonely Weddell seals parked up on rocky glacial retreat benches were spotted before turning towards Camara Station and more slalom kayaking between rocky outcrops. The cloud lifted revealing the backdrop of the massive glaciers and ice sheets of Livingston Island. We stayed near the landing site as numerous, curious, young fur seals played around us, spotted a number of sooty sheathbills,



paddled around the corner to see more seals and a lone humpback saying "Hi" and "Bye" before we headed back to the *Greg Mortimer*.

**14 March 2026, AM**

**Nordenskjold Glacier, East Cumberland Bay – 4.18 km**

We launched just offshore, about a two miles from the eastern face of the glacier in absolutely stunningly nice conditions, with views of light clouds on the mountain-tops above the ice. As we got in close to some fearless South Georgia Shags on ice, a bergy bit behind up broke up and rolled, giving us a hint about how the more temperate island climate makes ice more active here. Along shore we found several gangs of juvenile fur seals, many quite curious of us, and a flock of terns. Also accompanying us along were two King Penguins, our first of the trip! The dynamic weather was on full display as a brief rain squall rolled through, leaving in its wake a nice rainbow. After admiring the moonscape left barren by the recent retreat, we hooked out

in front of the glacial, heading for a nice spot front and center. Along the way, we caught glimpses of massive calvings in the distance, and one decent one right beside us. After rafting up for photos and some shenanigans, we got a glimpse of an elephant seal hyperventilating at the surface. Then we continued on for a closer look at the glacier, catching at least one more serac (ice tower) collapse into the sea. We picked up just as the wind was freshening and brash ice moving in. We couldn't ask for a more glorious morning intro to South Georgia.

**14 March 2026, PM**

**Jason Harbour, West Cumberland Bay – 5.2 km**

It was quite breezy as we dropped off in a coastal lee, between two cliffy outcrops called The Spit Pin, home to countless, adorable "furries" playing in and around the kelpy cove. After enjoying their raucous behavior, we poked around the corner towards the landing site (and emergency hut), just to test ourselves out against the

wind. After a quick 180, we hand-railed along the protected cliffs of Lagoon Point where we saw heaps of furries, shags, pintails, terns, sheathbill, and a few odd Gentoos. The entrance to Little Jason Lagoon was chock-full of ju-venile seals, like a frenzy of piranha, too dense to get through! We marveled at their abundance and vitality for a bit, even spotting one leucistic pup and a lone elephant seal up on the rocks. Next, we angled against some strong wind gusts out into the bay, before tacking downwind and straight out to the western headland. There, we found some swell surging over countless rocky islets. More fur seals dotted the rocks, along with a host of other critters. One beach had a small clique of Kings. We pushed through a couple rock garden gaps in single file, then wrapped around the headland towards Doubtful Point. The whole group should be proud of this paddle in moderately challenging conditions.

**15 March 2026, AM**

**Anchorage Bay, Fortuna – 2 km**

After a very scenic Zodiac trip up the

fjord a little bit, we found our own little bay with loads of wildlife and a very scenic receding Glacier. After hopping in the water we made our way through the kelp and along shore, from there it was a gentle cruise with all kind of wildlife hanging out on the beach. There was some fun interactions between the King penguins and fur seal pups with a few Elephant seals laying around too. Most of the action was happening around a small outflow from the land, with a kindergarten of fur seals playing in the current and surge. As we continued along the beach the scenery with the glacier really took my breath away but it was time to hop out and go check out one of my favourite landing sights, Fortuna bay colony.

**19 March 2026, AM**

**Gypsy Cove, Stanley, Falkland Islands – 3.4 km**

We Zodiac cruised out Stanley Harbour into Port William, with some impressive residual swells wrapping around from the northeast. However, they were smooth and the wind was quiet, so we motored out in sight of Cape Pembroke



lighthouse, then around some islands, where we found our first Peale's Dolphin! After assessing conditions and letting the dolphin play around the zo-diacs, we repositioned along the shore by a dense kelp bed — with a remarkably inquisitive pod of dolphins circling us, investigating our off-loading into kayaks, and (im)patiently waiting for us to join them in the water! Once we finally all got off, they excitedly zoomed in and around us, and happily chased and bow-waked any kayak able to make enough haste to keep their attention.

Working westward along the sandy and kelpy shores, the dolphin accompanied us for more than a half-hour. Absolutely incredible! The swells, however, also accompanied us, and we stayed a safe distance from breakers on beaches and headlands, until we wrapped into Yorke bay, where we finally had conditions safe enough to approach right along shore. In the meantime, a fog had come in and encircled and cooled things off, giving a spooky feel to the dunes and rock out-crops, and cutting visibility in all directions. Yet it began to lift just as

quick as it had come on, and the latter portion of our paddle was a leisurely hand-rail right off the beaches, ticking off over a dozen native species of birds, tasting fresh kelp, and enjoying views of the colourful town-ship in the distance. As we wrapped back into the harbour, through The Narrows, we found the old chain that used to be used to "net" off the bottleneck entrance to Stanley. After loading back up, we finished with a quick jaunt over to the old hulk Elizabeth II.

**21 March 2026, AM**

**West Point, Falkland Islands – 2.5 km**

Zodiac cruised far from the ship, east through a passage called Woolly Gut, then along the tallest cliffs in all of the Falklands and their enormous, and surprisingly inviting, caverns. We stopped to check out nesting Black-browed Albatross with big, downy chicks still on their nests; then a small colony of Rockhopper penguins higher up! Down around Penguin Point and its adjacent cove, we found an abundance of Giant Petrels, Gentoo Penguins, Upland and Ruddy-headed Geese, and

other birdlife. We then returned to a cove in the leeward cliffside, dropped off, prac-ticed some maneuvering, then went spelunking!! In spite of, and because of, the stiff north winds, the south side of the cliffs was flat calm, allowing us to paddle all the way inside several incredible caves. Not only that, but it was calm enough to just hang out inside them; admire the clear water, strange geology, and nesting shags; rinse and repeat with another cave in the same cove; then a couple more a little further down the way. The geology was incredibly colourful and unique, and the views out towards distant headlands were as dramatic as they come. Time flew by during this extraordinary and unique experience.

**23 March 2026, AM**

**New Island, Falkland Islands – 1.8 km**

With strong winds ripping across the bay we made our way to a stretch of coast with some shelter and a big kelp forests to keep us in calm waters. Once we were on the water we battled our way through the kelp along the coast. Seeing all types of sea birds and Magellanic penguins on the

rocks. Occasionally we could also see a curious sea lion check us out and slowly tag along from a distance, these animals are very curious but shy until they decide to be playful as we saw later. We made our way into our own private beach with beautiful clear water that makes the Falklands so special, soaking in the scenes it was time to make our way back on the boat to go ashore and see what else New Island had to offer. As we left we had the sea lion get playful and even had some Peales dolphins bow ride and play on our trip to shore.









# Paddling Log

**Guides: Tim Vanhoutteghem, Hodei Orueta, Gareth Wheeler, Matthew Barnes, Rob Barth**

**08 March 2026, AM**

**Paradise Harbour – 2 km**

Our first time off the ship in Antarctica!! After all the talking and preparation it was finally time to get out there.

We started the trip with a few more essential bits of information until we were let loose on the water. What an introduction to Antarctica, we paddled along a stunning cliff side with moss and lichen popping out at us, the green contrasting with the ice. From there we spotted some Blue eye shags nesting on the cliff and some beautiful malachite in the rock. After cruising along the coast a friendly Humpback whale decided to swim by so we paddled out and watched it swim past peacefully. After that it was time to hop out and tick off a quick Continental landing so we landed on the mainland and called it a successful morning.

**08 March 2026, PM**

**Cuvertville Island – 1.3 km**

Our second adventure in Antarctica was amazing from start to finish. It was a bit windy at first, so we stayed close to the shores of Cuvertville, weaving around small chunks of ice, some stuck

on the ground. We got close enough to the rocks to watch gentoo penguins coming and going, along with plenty of other birds. When the wind eased, we paddled farther out and spotted leopard seals resting on ice, plus curious fur seals checking us out. On the ride back, we saw a wild moment—a leopard seal catching a penguin. What a day, and it's only the first one!

**09 March 2026, AM**

**Recess Cove – 1.2 km**

An incredible paddle!! It all started with a friendly Weddell seal in the shallows. As we paddled around the island we saw a few penguins and shags on the rocks. I think we all loved the male Antarctic fur seals on the beach practicing their fighting skills the most though. After the island visit it was time to go spot some whales. We started with a cruisy Humpback that decided to swim right past us. Then it got a little more spicy. As we pulled up to watch some feeding whales they decided to turn toward us and start bubble net feeding in our direction. We were all rafted up so we had the chance to sit back and enjoy the show. When the bubble net started forming right

**Number of Snorkellers:**

7

**Total Number Outings:**

5

**Total Distance Paddled:**

8.9 km

**Paddlers:**

Michael Baker

Lidija Baker

Pat Brier

Ken Brier

Mary Ann Wilkinson

Earl Wilkinson

Beverly Schuberth

in front of us I knew we were in for a treat. What followed was an incredible experience with whales feeding all around us, one for the books for sure. Even after that they continued moving around us right up until we got back in the Zodiac. A very whale heavy day that I'm sure we'll never forget.

cliffs were rich with moss and lichen. There was intermittent icebreaking through brash, a peak into a quiet cove, and a great look at a gorgeous Weddell lounging on a rock. Alpine glow and glacial scenery surrounded our pickup and return to the ship.

### 09 March 2026, PM Cierva Cove – 2.4 km

For this stunningly beautiful, late-afternoon paddle, we first cruised along the swelly coastline of Argentina's Primavera Base. Thousands of Gentoo penguins shared the promenade alongside the bright red buildings. With a slight wind chop, we choose to duck around and drop off behind some large icebergs just north of the headland. Along this rocky shoreline, we watched Gentoos commute in lines and stampedes towards the main colony cliffs above the point. There was an abundance of greenery to admire, a particularly cool berg with a kayak-sized tunnel, and a lone Chinstrap (our first!) bafflingly high up on another blocky berg. Back around nearshore, we "hand-railed" along stone islets and beaches watching the penguin march, noting small waterfalls, and interesting rock outcrops. Even more colourful

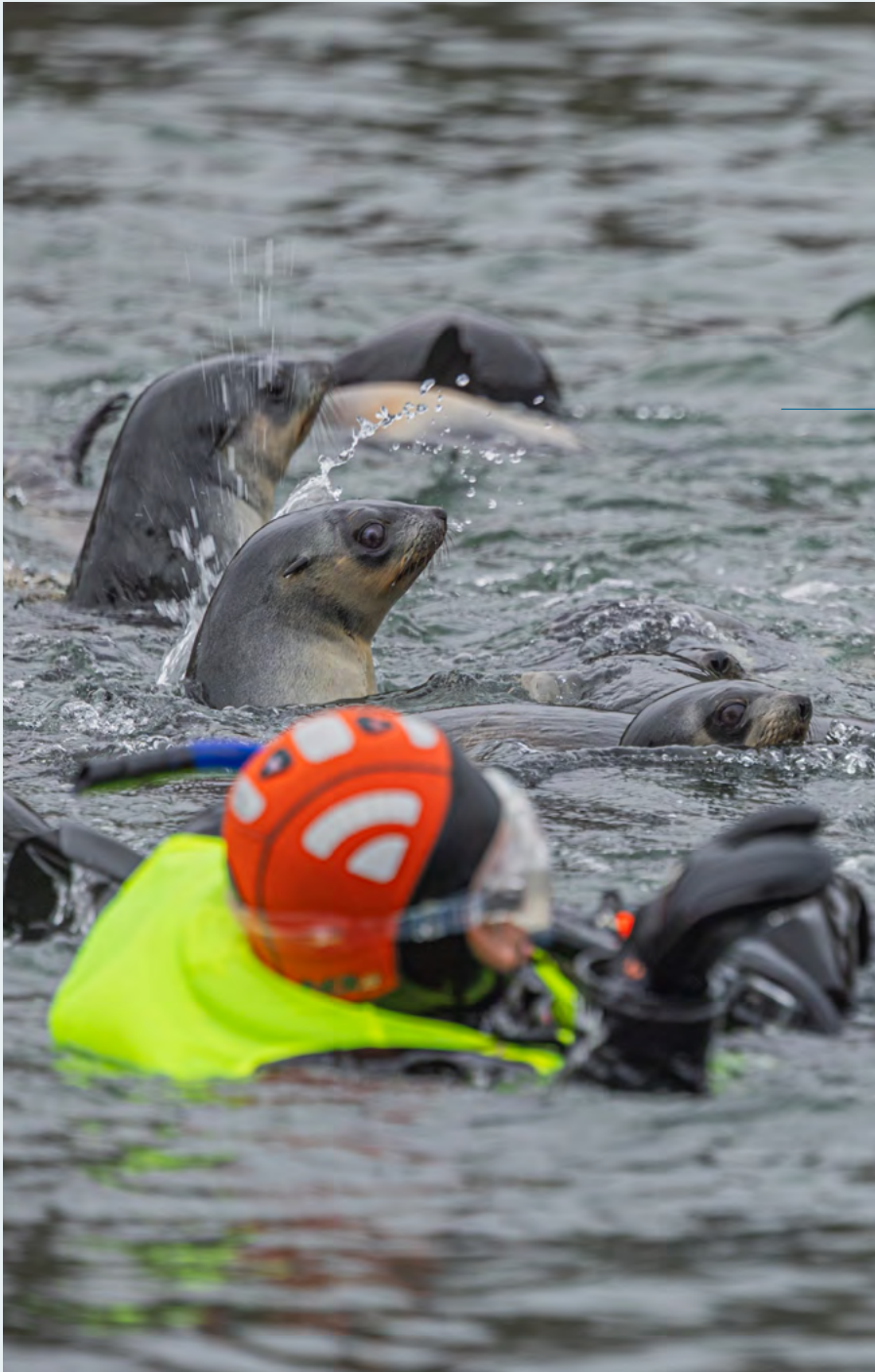
### 10 March 2026, AM Telefon Bay – 2 km

This turned out to be our last Paddle for the trip and what a way to finish an amazing trip. The landscape was very different to what we were used to with low fog and very rocky, volcanic scenes. Once we were on the water we paddled along the coast with a light wind to paddle against to make it a little more challenging. On the coast we saw a few Weddell seals warming up on the beach and the odd bird flying about but the slightly warmer seas and barren shore make it a slightly less active wildlife spot. Great way to paddle somewhere new and inside of an active volcanic caldera!! After exploring the coastline it was time to go ashore and explore more of the land.









# Snorkelling Log

Guides: **Katia, Richard, Edwin**

08 March 2026, AM

Paradise Bay

64°53'32" S, 62°51'37" W

Water temperature: 2°C

Paradise Bay lies on the Danco Coast of Graham Land. This wide embayment, indenting the west coast behind Lemaire and Bryde Islands, was named by early whalers around 1920 and hosts Argentina's Brown Station (Base Almirante Brown, established in 1951). A key summer research site.

Under low lying cloud, we started with a Zodiac cruise, spotting Gentoo penguins on rocks in front of Brown Station, Imperial shags on nearby rocks, and a leopard seal asleep on an iceberg. Conditions were calm in the sheltered harbour, with air temperatures around 0-2°C (32°-36°F), water temperature at 2°C (36°F), and very clear underwater visibility, framed by glaciers and icebergs.

We then landed on a beach adjacent to Brown Station, marking our first time stepping foot on the Antarctic mainland. After a thorough briefing, we geared up and entered the water.

Penguins were visible porpoising on the surface nearby, but too distant for clear views underwater. No matter, the aim of the snorkel was to check that we were comfortable and ensure that the equipment was working as it should.

After 30 minutes, we slowly returned to the ship. The leopard seal was still on the iceberg, so we gave it one final visit. It was a fantastic location for our first outing; penguins, a seal, birdlife all around, and dramatic glaciers.

09 March 2026, AM

Recess Cove

64°30'11" S, 61°31'08" W

Water temperature: 1°C

Recess Cove is a 2.5-nautical-mile-wide cove on the east side of Charlotte Bay, along the west coast of Graham Land on the Antarctic Peninsula. Surveyed by the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (FIDS), the cove forms a marked indentation in the coastline and often contains large icebergs. Steep, glaciated slopes rise on either side, creating a dramatic,



**Number of Snorkellers:** 12  
**Total Number Outings:** 10  
**Total Distance Paddled:** 25 km

**Paddlers:**  
Dani,  
Lana,  
Thomas,  
Suzanne,  
Rebecca,  
Yannik,

Jeff,  
Steven,  
Pierre,  
Priya,  
Mandi,  
Julia

enclosed feel to the bay.

Conditions this morning were exceptionally mild, with no wind, flat seas and a water temperature of 1°C. During our Zodiac cruise we encountered a large group of humpback whales; some were resting at the surface, while others were actively lunge feeding, and one group was bubble-net feeding, with a couple of whales briefly approaching very close to the Zodiacs. Afterwards, we landed on a small island to the north of the cove and observed fur seals hauled out on the shore, and Gentoo penguins. A Weddell seal was also hauled out on the rocks on the northern tip of the island.

We then moved into an area of brash ice and geared up for our snorkel. After sliding ourselves into the water, we could see that the water was very clear. We swam around some small icebergs, explored the chunks of brash ice, and saw some whale flukes in the distance. As we started to feel the cold in our fingertips, it was time to climb back aboard the Zodiacs and head back to the ship. What an incredible experience in such calm conditions.

**09 March 2026, AM**  
**Cierva Cove**  
**64°09'52" S, 60°53'40" W**  
**Water temperature: 0°C**

This afternoon's outing was at Cierva Cove, a sheltered cove 6 nautical miles southeast of Cape Sterneck in Hughes Bay, just south of Chavdar Peninsula along the west coast of Graham Land, Antarctica. Named by the UK Antarctic Place-Names Committee in 1960 for Juan de la Cierva, Spanish designer of the autogiro- the first successful rotating-wing aircraft in 1923, the area features dramatic icebergs, glaciers, and diverse wildlife. Nearby on Primavera Cape at the cove's southwest entrance sits Argentina's Base Primavera (formerly Capitán Cobbett Refuge), inaugurated in 1954 and expanded into a summer research station in 1977 for meteorological, biological, and logistical studies, accommodating up to 18 personnel.

We began with a Zodiac cruise around a towering drydock iceberg; Our guides suggested circling it, so we could capture a time-lapse, which worked really well! We then explored around

Penguin Island, observing Chinstrap penguins, before heading to Base Primavera to watch Gentoo penguins. Moving slowly along the shore, we found our snorkel spot: a small beach where penguins were walking in single file, before entering the water.

After gearing up, we entered the 0°C water, which was quite clear, though less so than this morning's outing. We tried to view the penguins as they entered the water, but they were very fast and a little sneaky, so we had little success seeing them underwater. Although we were quite persistent, the low temperature shortened our immersion time, and hands were getting cold. After climbing back into the Zodiacs, we went looking for whales, but they must have all been at Recess Cove! Once back aboard the *Greg Mortimer*, it was time to warm up and enjoy dinner in beautiful surroundings.

**10 March 2026, AM**  
**Half-moon Island**  
**62°35'55" S, 59°54'52" W**  
**Water temperature: 2°C**

This morning's outing was at Half

Moon Island, a small crescent-shaped island in McFarlane Strait, 1.35 km north of Burgas Peninsula on Livingston Island in the South Shetland Islands. Formed by gravel tombolos (depositional coastal landforms) linking volcanic bedrock outcrops, it hosts Argentina's summer-only Cámara Base at Menguante Cove and is renowned for its Chinstrap penguin colony, skuas, seals, and an opportunity to stretch the legs whilst viewing the surrounding peaks.

We landed to observe penguins and seals, then boarded the Zodiacs to reach a bay in the island's southern part. After gearing up and entering the 2°C (36°F) water, we first attempted to observe penguins porpoising in and out nearby, but they were doing a great job of avoiding us! However, it didn't take long for 5-6 adult fur seals to take a keen interest in us, and they approached closely to inspect us.

The seals stayed in the vicinity, barrel-rolling, leaping clear of the surface, and playfully darting between and around us for a full 35 minutes. Their energetic display held our attention until they eventually lost interest. By then the



chill had made its presence known, signalling that it was time to exit the water, board the Zodiacs, and return to the ship. What an extraordinary encounter!

**14 March 2026, AM**  
**Jason's Harbour, South Georgia**  
**54°11'42" S, 36°34'58" W**  
**Water temperature: 5°C**

Jason Harbour is a 1.6 km-wide bay on the north side of Cumberland West Bay, South Georgia, west of Allen Bay on Barff Peninsula's coast. First charted by the Swedish Antarctic Expedition (1901-04) under Otto Nordenskiöld and named for Captain C.A. Larsen's ship Jason (which visited in 1894), it's a compact, sheltered site popular for landings amid tussock grass, elephant seal wallows, and growing Antarctic fur seal colonies. On the beach stands a small, weather-beaten corrugated iron refuge hut built in 1911 by Larsen as a shelter for mail relays to Stromness Bay whaling stations; it contains a wooden table carved with ship graffiti (some from as early as 1925), a small stove, and original fittings, serving as a

communication link in South Georgia's remote whaling era.

We landed first and took a short walk to a lookout, which offered incredible view of the surrounding landscape. We steered clear of tussock grass, where numerous fur seals were resting and hard to see. We also took some time to view the historic hut on the beach. Our guides then picked us up for the brief journey around the corner to a small bay.

After a short briefing, we geared up and jumped into the 5°C (41°F) water, where large numbers of juvenile fur seals immediately surrounded us in a frenzy of activity. A giant petrel bobbed curiously nearby on the surface. Thanks to the milder water temperature (compared with the Antarctic Peninsular), we enjoyed a 45-minute snorkel amid the playful barrel rolls of the seals, before climbing back aboard the Zodiacs and heading to the ship. Where else in the world can you find yourself surrounded by such a huge number of fur seals? What a unique experience!

**15 March 2026, PM**  
**Stromness, South Georgia**  
**54°09'27" S, 36°42'35" W**  
**Water temperature: 6°C**

Stromness is an abandoned whaling station on the northern coast of South Georgia, forming the central of three harbours on the west side of Stromness Bay. It began as a floating factory in 1907, then a land-based whaling station from 1912 to 1931, before conversion into a ship repair yard with a machine shop and foundry; operations ceased and the site was abandoned in 1961. Stromness is best known as the end point of Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1916 rescue journey, where he, Worsley, and Crean reached the station after a crossing of South Georgia's interior and descended past what is now commonly called Shackleton's Waterfall.

This afternoon's snorkel took place off the beach at Stromness. Some of the group first landed and walked up the valley to Shackleton's waterfall, while others opted to Zodiac cruise along the coast. Once the hikers were collected by Zodiac, we repositioned along the beach and prepared to snorkel.

After a briefing, we eased ourselves into the water and were immediately joined by a large number of juvenile fur seals. They remained around us throughout the session, repeatedly approaching, wheeling past, and jostling amongst themselves to secure the closest vantage point to inspect us. We spent around 40 minutes in the water before the cold began to bite, at which point we boarded the Zodiacs and returned to the ship. It's almost impossible to describe what an astonishing encounter this was.

**19 March 2026, PM**  
**Gypsy Cove, Stanley, Falkland Islands**  
**51°40'36" S, 57°47'54" W**  
**Water temperature: 9°C**

Gypsy Cove is a small bay on the west side of Yorke Bay, facing north into Port William on East Falkland, close to the capital Stanley. At around 6-7 km from town, it is one of the most accessible wildlife sites in the Falklands and forms part of the Cape Pembroke peninsula National Nature Reserve, known for its white-sand beach, coastal



walking paths, and a breeding colony of Magellanic penguins nesting in burrows in the dunes above the shore.

After spending the morning travelling by bus to Gypsy Cove and walking the trails, some of us chose to snorkel in the afternoon. We returned to the cove by Zodiac, spotting dolphins in the vicinity as we approached. Entering the water beside the kelp beds, we were soon joined by a group of five Peale's dolphins, a coastal species common around the Falklands and often associated with kelp forests.

The dolphins circled us repeatedly, passing beneath and around us for roughly 30 minutes, maintaining close but controlled curiosity throughout. Once back aboard the Zodiacs, they shifted to riding the bow wave, pacing us as we motored away from the cove. An exceptional encounter in one of the Falklands' most accessible marine wildlife hotspots.

**20 March 2026, PM**  
**Carcass Island, Falkland Islands**  
**51°18'21" S, 60°32'12" W**  
**Water temperature: 10°C**

Carcass Island, the largest of the West Point Island group in the Falklands' northwest sector, spans 19 km<sup>2</sup> (7.3 square miles) with peaks reaching 220 m at Mount Byng and Stanley Hill. Named for HMS Carcass which surveyed it in 1766, this privately owned sheep farm has been predator-free (no rats or cats), preserving rich birdlife including Magellanic and Gentoo penguins, black-crowned night herons, and endemic Cobb's wrens; its varied terrain features sandy bays like Leopard Beach, tussac grasslands, and freshwater ponds making it an Important Bird Area.

After an hour observing penguins on the beach, we boarded Zodiacs and repositioned to the bay's edge. Entering the exceptionally clear water—noticeably warmer than Antarctic Peninsula sites, we explored the vibrant kelp forests. A curious rock cormorant (likely Imperial Shag) bobbed on the surface nearby, adding to the serene underwater scene. Although a gentoo penguin was seen near us on the surface, we didn't get to see it swimming underwater. After approximately 25 minutes, we decided

to climb back aboard the Zodiacs and go for a short Zodiac cruise, before heading back to the ship.

**21 March 2026, PM**  
**West Point Island, Falkland Islands**  
**51°20'57" S, 60°40'42" W**  
**Water temperature: 10°C**

West Point Island (originally Albatross Island; Spanish: Isla Remolinos) lies in the northwest corner of the Falkland archipelago, off West Falkland's northwest point, covering 1,469 hectares (5.67 square miles) with dramatic west-facing cliffs, the archipelago's highest at Cliff Mountain (381 m). Privately owned by the Napier family as a sheep farm and nature tourism site since 1879, it's famed for black-browed albatross and southern rockhopper penguin colonies, predator-free status supporting endemic birds, and striking coastal scenery including sea caves eroded from sedimentary rocks of the Devonian West Falkland Group.

After leaving the ship, we Zodiac-cruised along a jagged coast of sedimentary rocks, where erosion has carved mini

caves that we paused to explore. With strong offshore winds, we snorkelled in the mouth of one of the larger caves. The water was exceptionally clear, allowing close inspection of the rocks for small creatures amid bright green algae coatings. Once back aboard the Zodiacs, it was time to head back to the ship. Although the water was warmer, the wind makes cruising a little too chilly. It was such a unique experience in a stunning location.

**22 March 2026, PM**  
**Coffin Harbour, New Island, Falkland Islands**  
**51°44'47" S, 61°14'52" W**  
**Water temperature: 9°C**

New Island (Spanish: Isla de Goicoechea) lies in the far west of the Falkland archipelago, north of Beaver Island, about 238 km from Stanley, and is around 13 km long with steep-cliffs to the north and west and lower, sandy bays to the east. Long used historically for whaling, sheep farming, and guano extraction, it is now a protected nature reserve considered one of the most



scenic and wildlife-rich islands in the Falklands, supporting dense seabird colonies and marine mammals. Place names such as Coffin's Harbour and Coffin Island commemorate the Nantucket Coffin whaling family, reflecting the strong New England whaling presence among some of the earliest settlers here. Today, landings are typically made on the sheltered eastern side at Coffin's Harbour, close to the wreck of the Protector III and the restored historic Barnard Building, now a small museum.

We landed just after sunrise and walked up to a penguin colony before stopping at the small gift shop near the settlement. After an hour and 20 minutes, we were picked up and transferred by Zodiac to a small island southeast of the landing site. Although the forecast called for increasing winds, this corner of the island remained well sheltered.

Under bright sun and with very clear water, we entered the sea beside a kelp forest, enjoying excellent visibility through the swaying fronds. Two inquisitive sea lions soon appeared and spent time circling and inspecting us at close range as we explored. After roughly 30 minutes in the water, it was time to climb back aboard and head to the ship to stay ahead of the weather. It was a fitting and memorable way to conclude our snorkelling program.







# Bird & Mammal Sightings

Bird Species

March

	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
South Georgia Pintail									•	•													
Yellow-billed Pintail																							•
Magellanic Oystercatcher														•	•				•				
Blackish Oystercatcher														•	•	•							
Black-crowned Night Heron														•		•			•				
Turkey Vulture														•	•	•			•				
Striated Caracara (Johnny Rook)															•	•			•				
Crested Caracara																			•		•	•	
Chimango Caracara																				•	•		
Variable Hawk																							•
South Georgia Pipit									•	•													
Austral Throughsh														•	•	•							
Long-tailed Meadowlark														•	•	•			•				
Dark-faced Ground Tyrant (Newsybird)														•	•	•			•		•		
Blackish Cinclodes (Tussacbird)															•	•			•				
Cobb's Wren															•								
House Sparrow														•									•
Correndra Pipit														•	•	•			•				
Black-chinned Siskin														•	•	•			•				

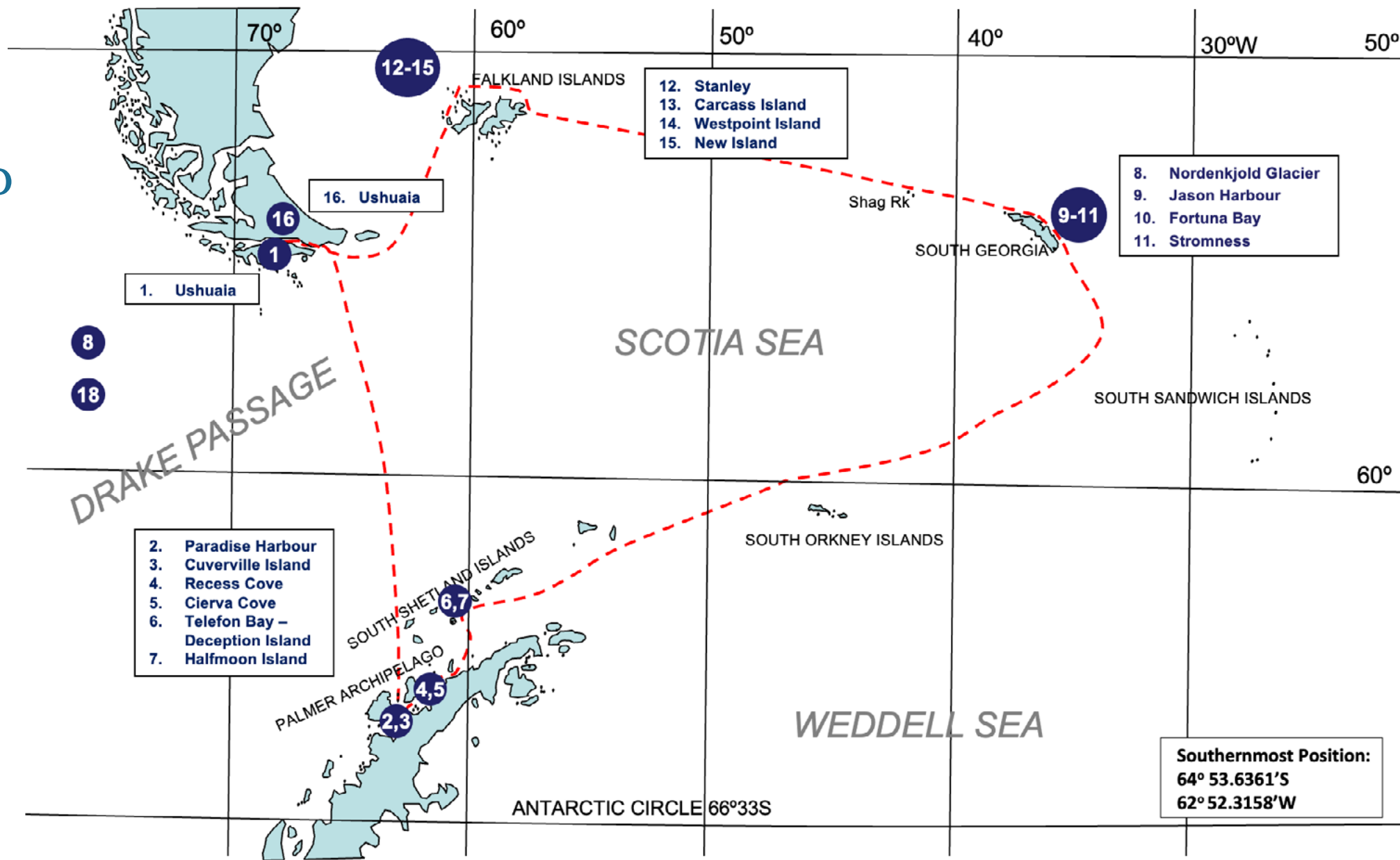
# Bird & Mammal Sightings

## Mammal Species

March

	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Antarctic Fur Seal			•	•	•				•	•												
Southern Elephant Seal									•	•												
Weddell Seal				•																		
Leopard Seal			•	•					•													
South American Fur Seal															•		•					
South American Sea Lion														•				•	•			
Minke Whale			•																			
Sei Whale															•	•	•					
Fin Whale					•																	
Humpback Whale			•	•																		
Dusky Dolphin													•								•	
Peale's Dolphin														•	•		•	•				
Commerson's Dolphin																	•					

# Map



## South Georgia & Antarctic Odyssey, Featuring the South Sandwich Islands

March 05 – 27, 2026



# Our Expeditioners

Janet Aldridge

Lorne Anderson

Geok Ang

Pierre Appert

Lidija Baker

Mike Baker

Rob Barrett

Jeff Bozek

Pat Brier

Ken Brier

Clive Briggs

Niall Chang

Priya Chotai

Dani Dani

Jeannette De Wyze

Peter Eastway

Sarah Gallo

Elizabeth Gallo

Thomas Gasior

Deborah Greenway

Martin Gregus

Jannik Hartung

Jan Hodges

Nancy Howard

Doug Howie

Janet Howie

Tim Hughes

Sally King

Lana Kreimer

Bobbi Laufer

Katy Lees

Tume Levenstein

Fumei Lin

Kevin Lin

Longshaw Longshaw

Sandy Maley

Julia Manso

Craig McGowan

Christine Miles

Denise Munster

Robert Munster

Susan Parker

Steven Pennebaker

Mandi Perrett

John Perston

Charmian Perston

Thomas Reissnecker

Susanne Reissnecker

Danielle Roberts

Brian Russell

Jean Sarson

Doug Sasser Sr

Noel Schoknecht

Beverly Schuberth

Tim Scott

Rebecca Sterne-  
Hoffmann

Steve Taragel

John Thong

Kristian Timmermann

Daniel Tosoni

Carolina Tosoni-Hasler

Sandra Waters

Peter Wiederholt

Mary Ann Wilkinson

Earl Wilkinson

Steve Wolfe

## Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Gaby Pilson

Assistant Expedition Leader: Tamsin Both

Onboard Expedition Manager: Justine Bornholdt

Marine Biologist/Citizen Science Coordinator: Madi Lacy

Historian: Hannah Johns

Expedition Guide: Millie Harrex

Geologist / Glaciologist: Sydney Carste

Ornithologist: Kyle Smith

Photography Guide: Stas Zakharov

Medic: Solvi Jensen

Zodiac Manager: Sergei Hincu

Shop Manager: Ari Benzo

Lead Kayak Guide: Tim Vanhoutteghem

Senior Kayak Guide: Hodei Orueta

Senior Kayak Guide: Matthew Barnes

Kayak Guide: Rob Baths

Kayak Guide: Gareth Wheeler

Lead Snorkel Guide: Edwin Sargeant

Snorkel Guide: Katia Benini

Snorkel Guide: Richard Devanney

## Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Oleg Kapko

Chief Officer: Mikhail Levkin

Safety Officer: Andrey Balandin

Bosun: Bobby Payumo

Ship Doctor: Pranav Tukarem Sawant

Chief Engineer: Dimitar Vasilev

First Engineer: Iurri Peretiaka

IT Officer: Razvan Malciu

Hotel Director: Oliver Sevilla

F&B Service Manager: Orlando Cayasso

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: Joel Noble

AB Seaman: Junar Gorecho

AB Seaman: Mark Bretania

AB Seaman: Angelo San Antonio

AB Seaman: Khenette Versoza

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