

# Wild Antarctica featuring the Weddell Sea

Aboard *Greg Mortimer* | 7 March – 17 March 2025

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7 March – 17 March 2025





# Ushuaia

DAY 1 | Friday 7 March 2025

**Latitude:**

54°52.6' S

**Longitude:**

67°56.5' W

**Course:**

120°

**Speed:**

14.1 knots

**Wind Speed:**

8 knots SW

**Barometer:**

1020 hPa

**Air Temp:**

5°C

Today we are in the charming town of Ushuaia, the end of the world. Some of us spent our morning leisurely exploring before making our way to the optional catamaran cruise in the afternoon. Most of us enjoyed sailing through the Beagle Channel towards the city's iconic Les Eclaireurs Lighthouse, where we observed local wildlife against panoramic views of the surrounding mountain range.

When we arrived at the *Greg Mortimer*, we met our onboard expedition manager, Heidi, and expedition photographer, Stas. Welcome refreshments awaited us in the Elephant Island Bar, then our hotel team helped us to navigate the decks to our cabins.

Our Expedition Leader, Dan, then invited us into the lecture theatre to welcome us. Heidi and hotel director, Alex,

walked us through life on board, and Doctor Javier ensured we knew how to stay healthy during our voyage, followed by a lifeboat safety drill.

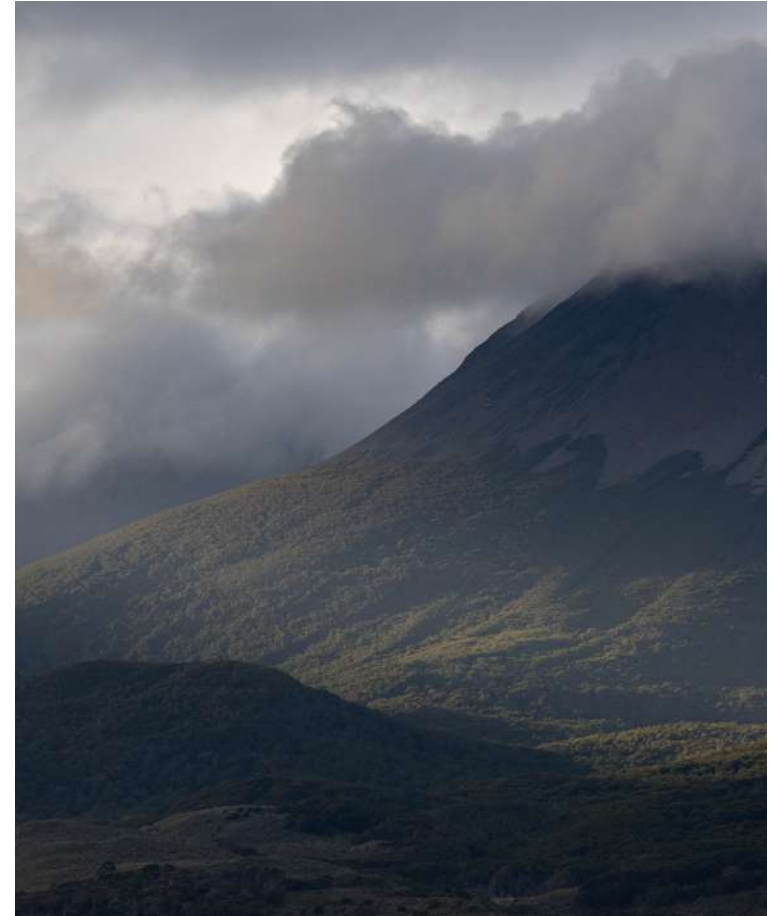
Together we total 90 Expeditioners from 11 different nations: Argentina (2), Australia (33), France (2), United Kingdom (7), United States (36), Canada (2), Germany (1), Greece (3), Italy (2), Poland (1), and South Africa (1), along with 82 crew from all around the globe. Our 21 Expedition Team members have a variety of specialities, including marine mammals, geology, history, ornithology, photography, medicine, snorkelling, and kayaking.

After hours of travel from various destinations worldwide to reach the *Greg Mortimer*, it's time to relax, breathe in the sea air, and get excited for the adventures ahead!









# Drake Passage

DAY 2 | Saturday 8 March 2025

**Latitude:**  
54°10.8' S  
**Longitude:**  
65°25.6' W

**Course:**  
144°  
**Speed:**  
9 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
8 knots SW  
**Barometer:**  
1022 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
5°C

The rhythmic rocking of the ship marked our first full day in the legendary Drake Passage. The open ocean surrounded us, stretching endlessly in all directions. After breakfast, we gathered for our first lecture of the trip. The Expedition Team introduced us to the seabirds of the Southern Ocean, with T-A leading the session. Albatrosses, petrels and storm petrels soared outside the windows – an attractive sight that kept us all staring out in search of these majestic creatures.

Later in the day, Ryan gave a fascinating talk about their whale research in Antarctica. Ted, TR, and Ryan sailed with us, sponsored by Aurora to facilitate science in this remote place in the world. The room was filled with curiosity as Ryan described how they use crossbows to collect tiny biopsy samples from the whales – an innovative yet non-

invasive method to study their genetics, health, and diet. His passion was contagious, and we left the session with a newfound appreciation for the importance of their work.

Meanwhile, excitement built among the Expeditioners gearing up for their Antarctic experiences. Snorkellers and kayakers received their specialised equipment. Dry suits were fitted, masks adjusted, and anticipation was thick in the air as we imagined sailing through the cold waters alongside curious wildlife.

As evening approached, the Captain officially welcomed us aboard with a toast. To top off the day, we held an iceberg-spotting competition, a fun way to sharpen our eyes for the ice giants that would soon dominate our horizon.







# Drake Passage & Hall Peninsula

DAY 3 | Sunday 9 March 2025

**Latitude:**  
60°63.0' S  
**Longitude:**  
62°27.2' W

**Course:**  
162°  
**Speed:**  
12.6 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
6 knots  
**Barometer:**  
1015 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
6°C

After a leisurely breakfast, we got down to business with our mandatory IAATO and Zodiac briefings. These sessions were all about how to be good Antarctic ambassadors when going ashore. We also had a biosecurity check, where we had to thoroughly inspect and vacuum our gear.

Once we were all certified as responsible Antarctic visitors, Angela gave an eye-opening talk about endangered Antarctic species and how they're coping in a world that's changing fast. After lunch, Avi delivered an inspiring lecture about women in Antarctica, which was a perfect way to celebrate International Women's Day (yesterday). It was a great reminder of the women who've ventured here before us, the

challenges they faced and all that they have overcome. We then took a well-deserved waffle and ice-cream break – necessary fuel for the brain and to take in all the geology.

Ben then took us through the complexities of Antarctic geology. We tried our best to wrap our heads around ancient rocks and ice.

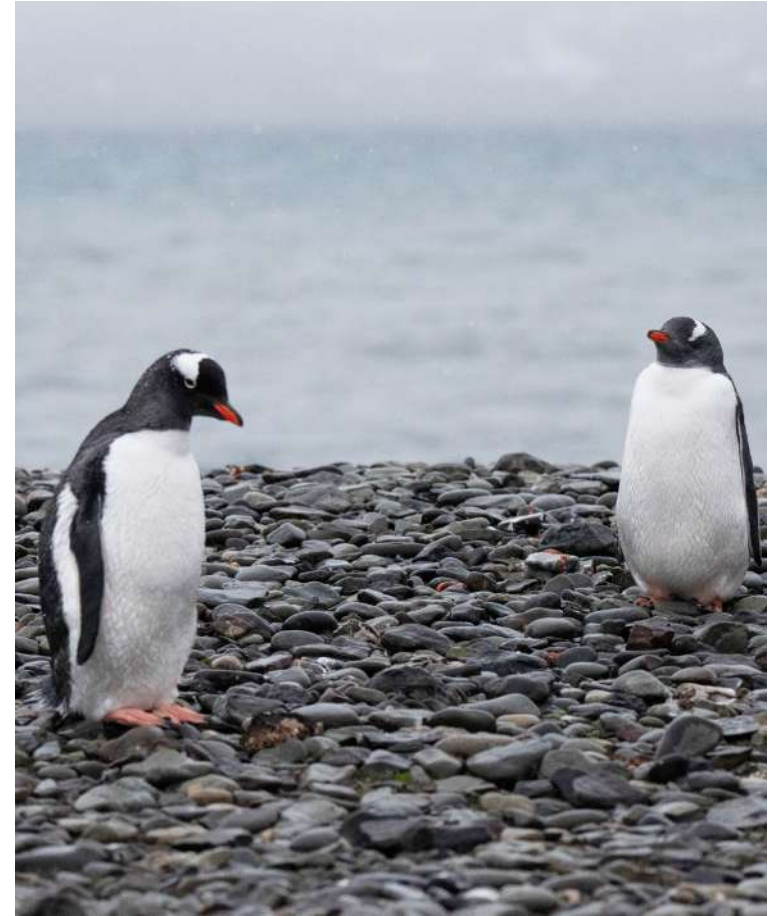
After dinner, we had an amazing surprise bonus landing at the Hall Peninsula; what a treat! There were lots of snorting and belching elephant seals, some fur seals and penguins. It was the perfect spot for our first landing, and a unique experience coming back to the ship in the snow at dusk.













# Cierva Cove & Spring Point

DAY 4 | Monday 10 March 2025

**Latitude:**  
63°58.4' S  
**Longitude:**  
61°08.4' W

**Course:**  
155°  
**Speed:**  
7.1 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
2 knots S  
**Barometer:**  
994 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
2°C

Mystery shrouds the atmosphere as we wake from slumber, a mist awaiting us as we don our life jackets and carefully embark upon our first Zodiac cruise ... We are embraced by the stunning Cierva Cove, a graveyard of picturesque icebergs littered with brash ice. Penguins porpoising in rafts, the crackles and pops of ice, storm petrels dancing to a tune of serenity, and as the curtain of fog dissipates, we are left with a sensory overload of the best kind.

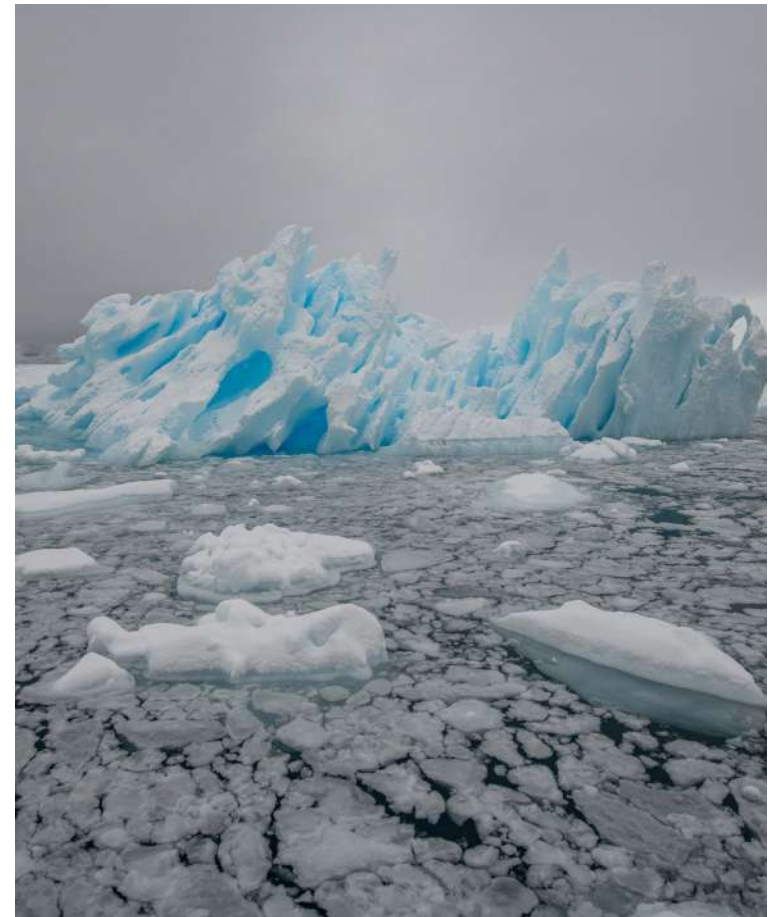
As the sun punctures through the clouds, we begin to truly see how vast this land of white actually is, with surreal landscapes of mountain peaks reaching to the skies. Gentoo penguins crowding the shores of Primavera Base was a highlight on this excursion, as our flippered friends entertained us by slipping, sliding and falling down the

jagged terrain. There were southern giant petrels feeding, terns squawking and the blue-eyed shag posing.

After a quick sail down the coast, we arrived at Spring Point. Thick with brash ice and growlers, navigation proved difficult, but the blue sky paved the way into a blissful afternoon. We were greeted by whales resting, mother and calf side by side, evoking a gentle feeling of peace.

As we continued, we found the daring chinstrap and gentoo penguins miles high upon ridges. We are struck with awe by the cuteness of the Weddell seal, and we were introduced to the greatly anticipated leopard seal, with their oddly scary smile. An astonishing day and a beautiful introduction for an expedition to a land we call Antarctica.

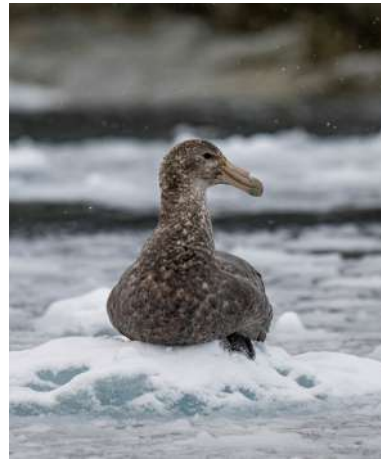




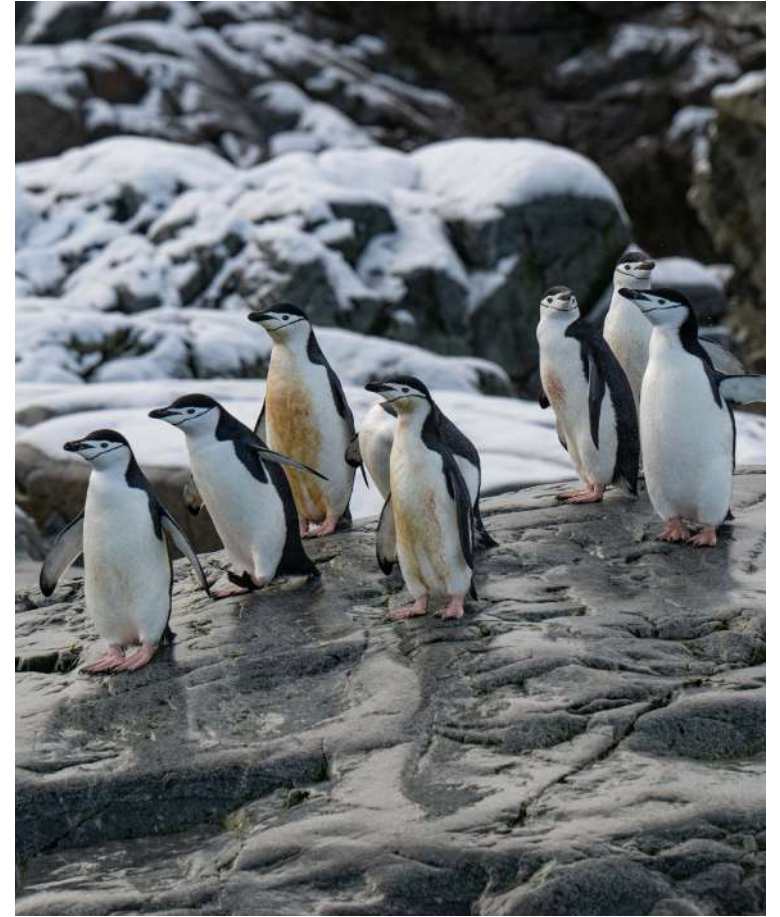












# Antarctic Sound & Brown Bluff

DAY 5 | Tuesday 11 March 2025

**Latitude:**

63°01.2' S

**Longitude:**

57°09.1' W

**Course:**

116°

**Speed:**

12.1 knots

**Wind Speed:**

5 knots SE

**Barometer:**

1003 hPa

**Air Temp:**

6°C

An amazing start to our day in the Antarctic Sound, with a breakfast announcement by Daniel about orcas approaching the ship! The winds were blowing, and the decks were frozen over as we took to the observation lounge and outer decks to get a glimpse of these wonderful creatures of the sea.

A quick decision was made to go outside among the edge of the ice floe for a Zodiac cruise! As we loaded into the Zodiacs, we saw a humpback whale swimming and deep diving along the edge of the sea ice. Daniel called us over to a massive ice floe – an ever-shifting, floating island of frozen sea water. We drove our Zodiacs onto the floe and stepped onto its frozen surface, the white expanse stretched in every direction as we soaked in a moment that we would never forget.

After lunch, we navigated through the tabular icebergs towards Brown Bluff, the rust-coloured cliffs towered in the distance. The contrast was striking – the black volcanic rock of Brown Bluff against the pristine white of the glaciated frozen backdrop. We were greeted by gentoo penguins and we had officially set foot on the Antarctic continent. The kayakers and paddlers took advantage of the calm waters, and the snorkellers were able to get in the water for the first time. Today, Antarctica became more than just a travel milestone; it was a humbling, awe-inspiring encounter in one of the last wild places on Earth.

After dinner we were treated to a history lecture by historian, Avi, where we learned about Nordenskjöld and the Swedish Antarctic Expedition from 1901–1904.















# Hydrurga Rocks & Portal Point

DAY 6 | Wednesday 12 March 2025

**Latitude:**  
63°49.3' S  
**Longitude:**  
60°27.6' W

**Course:**  
182°  
**Speed:**  
9.7 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
2 knots W  
**Barometer:**  
1012 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
-2°C

Another action-packed day in Antarctica! We began with Annette's fascinating and informative lecture on penguins, setting the scene for our first landing at a chinstrap penguin colony on Hydrurga Rocks. We eased the Zodiacs into a sheltered cove with a pebbly beach, and were soon immersed in a multisensory penguin experience. The unmistakable aroma of the colony, the guttural calls, clouds of moulted feathers, and slippery trails of krill-rich guano made for a vivid landing.

Although Hydrurga Rocks are named for the leopard seal (*Hydrurga leptonyx*), we spotted dozens of fur seals, a young elephant seal, and a Weddell seal—offering a great chance to compare eared and true seals.

In the afternoon, we landed at Portal Point—our second continental landing—where wildlife took a back seat to the dramatic scenery. From the lookout, we enjoyed 360-degree views of slow-moving glaciers, jagged peaks, flawless snow slopes, and icebergs in every size, shape, and hue. At sea level, kayakers encountered an enormous, glassy black iceberg, while the snorkellers once again donned their drysuits and slid right into that icy sea.

We rounded off the day with a special BBQ and mulled wine, as the *Greg Mortimer* spun gently and humpback whales fed nearby—an unforgettable Antarctic evening.















# Yankee Harbour & Deception Island

DAY 7 | Thursday 13 March 2025

**Latitude:**

62°49.6' S

**Longitude:**

59°46.0' W

**Course:**

351°

**Speed:**

10.1 knots

**Wind Speed:**

8 knots

**Barometer:**

1012 hPa

**Air Temp:**

4°C

What a day! Our final day in Antarctica truly felt like a grand finale written by nature itself. We set course for the South Shetland Islands, preparing for our evening departure across the Drake Passage. However, fierce winds—gusting over 50 knots—made our initial landing attempt impossible. In true expedition spirit, plans quickly shifted, and we soon found ourselves ashore at Yankee Harbour. The wind still roared, adding a thrill to our experience, as gentoo penguins waddled around us, unfazed by the conditions. Scattered relics hinted at the whalers and explorers who once passed through these rugged shores.

After lunch, we entered Deception Island via the dramatic Neptune's Bellows, stepping into an active volcanic

caldera. At Whalers Bay, the landscape struck us with its eerie beauty—with its rusting relics of whaling operations and a former research station— which stood in stark contrast to the pristine wilderness we'd explored elsewhere. The unmistakable scent of sulphur reminded us of the volcanic activity still simmering beneath. We hiked to Neptune's Window, carefully skirting feisty fur seals along the way. The panoramic views were well worth the effort.

To cap off the day, a few intrepid souls decided to embrace the Antarctic chill head-on, running into the icy waters for a polar plunge. It was the perfect way to close this once-in-a-lifetime journey.















# Drake Passage

DAY 8 | Friday 14 March 2025

**Latitude:**  
60°56.3' S  
**Longitude:**  
60°27.6' W

**Course:**  
182°  
**Speed:**  
11.4 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
20 knots W  
**Barometer:**  
1004 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
3°C

We woke to the full force of the Drake Passage, the ship swaying in the heavy swell that defines the infamous 'Furious Fifties'. This stretch of ocean, between 50° and 60° South, is notorious for strong westerly winds and rough seas—conditions caused by the absence of land masses to slow the wind's momentum. The terms 'Furious Fifties' and 'Roaring Forties', first coined by 19th-century sailors, refer to the roaring sound of wind as it tore across sails and rigging.

In these wild conditions, we began our day with a seabird survey on deck with T-A. Avi's lecture on the race to the South Pole brought our minds back to the icy landscapes

we'd just left behind. A plankton microscopy session with Annette and Eddie gave insight into the hidden forest of Antarctica—phytoplankton sampled during the FjordPhyto citizen science project.

After lunch, T-A returned with a lecture on oceanic plastic debris, providing updates on its current impact and the implications.

After some afternoon rest with the ever-present movement of the big swell, we wrapped up the day with Antarctic Trivia hosted by Tamsin—revisiting the unforgettable experiences of our extraordinary expedition.





# Drake Passage

DAY 9 | Saturday 15 March 2025

**Latitude:**  
56°20.9' S  
**Longitude:**  
62°09.7' W

**Course:**  
320x°  
**Speed:**  
12.4 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
20 knots  
**Barometer:**  
1012 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
5°C

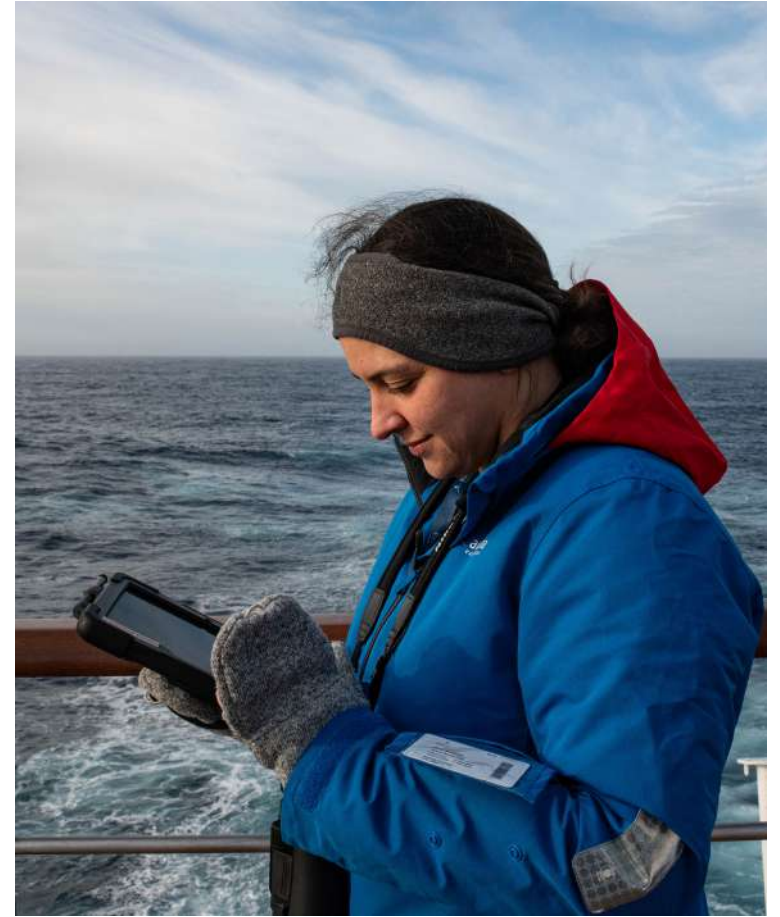
There are moments when we must accept that greater forces are at play. During our return crossing of the Drake Passage, Daniel and the Captain made the wise decision to depart early, staying ahead of a looming storm. Behind us, 50-knot winds and 5–6 metre seas churned; even so, the *Greg Mortimer* pitched and rolled as we found the safest ways to move and sleep.

Expeditioners engaged in a wide range of activities, both indoors and on deck. Bridge visits and eBird surveys highlighted the 'patchiness' of the Southern Ocean—where a great albatross, with its 3.5-metre wingspan, appeared alongside one of the smallest seabirds (weighing 40 grams), the Wilson's storm petrel, nicknamed the 'flying piece of toast'.

Guest speaker Ryan explored marine mammal acoustics, and Ted, founder of Happywhale, led a workshop on identifying whales—part of a global citizen science effort that has now identified over 110,000 humpbacks. Annette shed light on the oceanographic richness of the Southern Ocean, while Raj hosted a wine-tasting session. A full moon rose during our fundraising auction for Friedlander Lab. Stas took us on an adventure around the world with his jaw-dropping images of his photographic adventures.

As we reflect on our journey together, may we all hold Antarctica in our hearts and minds, and continue to protect this extraordinary natural wonder and amazing planet we call home.







# Drake Passage & Beagle Channel

DAY 10 | Sunday 16 March 2025

**Latitude:**  
55°00.3' S  
**Longitude:**  
66°48.0' W

**Course:**  
309°  
**Speed:**  
5 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
5 knots W  
**Barometer:**  
1023 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
8°C

This morning felt different. The *Greg Mortimer* had entered the Beagle Channel, and our journey was coming to an end. But if we had to say goodbye, nature ensured it was unforgettable. A glorious sunrise lit the sky in warm hues, and as the pilot boat approached, two sei whales surfaced—like a parting gesture. Soon, the decks filled with Expeditioners savouring final glimpses of wildlife: dolphins, seabirds, and even a few humpbacks making their last appearances.

At 10am, Ben shared stories of life at the South Pole—where the sun defies convention, the cold bites through layers, and stepping outside feels like entering space. Inspiring? Yes. Career change? Perhaps not.

By 11am, Heidi's disembarkation briefing made it official—our adventure was nearly over. That afternoon, we took a scenic bus tour to Lake Escondido. Blue skies and sunshine in Ushuaia? Rare, but today we were lucky. The lake was stunning and at Las Cotorras, we enjoyed coffee as caracaras loitered nearby, and an Andean condor soared overhead—majestic and unforgettable.

At the Captain's Farewell Dinner, Daniel asked three thoughtful questions that brought quiet reflection. Stas's slideshow followed, capturing the magic of our journey.

Dinner was filled with laughter and nostalgia. Tomorrow we disembark, but tonight, we remain with full hearts.







# Ushuaia

DAY 11 | Monday 17 March 2025

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Latitude:

54°48.6' S

Longitude:

68°19.7' W

Course:

At Anchor

Speed:

At Anchor

Wind Speed:

20 knots SW

Barometer:

1018 hPa

Air Temp:

6°C

We arrived alongside the wharf in Ushuaia in the early hours of the morning, enjoyed a final breakfast aboard and disembarked the vessel 8.00 am.

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

BBQ





# Polar Plunge





# Citizen Science







# Kayaking Log

Guides: Elo Berrier, Hodei Orueta, Liz MacNeil, Pablo Passera, Ivan Klochkov

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## 09 March 2025, PM: Hall Peninsula 1.1km

After a rough Drake Passage crossing, the strong winds pushed us ahead of schedule. That meant one thing—an evening kayaking session in the Hall Peninsula! The wind bit at our faces, the silence broken only by the distant calls of penguins. Ashore, seals lay motionless, but in the water, curious juveniles approached—watching, circling. As we were coming back to the ship, it started snowing, making everything even more magical. This was only the first day in Antarctica, and a great prelude to the kayaking adventures coming up!

## 10 March 2025, AM: Cierva Cove 4km

Today was a fantastic kayaking session! We got on the water surrounded by brash ice fields and were absolutely stunned by the beauty of the place. It was our first proper ice paddle! We covered some important things like hand signals and steering strokes, then approached the Argentinian Primavera Base and gentoo penguin colony. It was so much fun to navigate through the dense ice, dodging growlers and big icebergs. We made our way around the beautiful rocky headland, observing penguins swimming in the water and discussing different formations of the icebergs. At some point, we looped back to the ship to be on time. What a great morning!



Number of Kayakers: 3  
Total Paddle Outings: 6  
Total Distance Paddled:  
20.74 km

Kayakers:  
Nates Brabham  
Melanie Kusmik  
Jennifer Yriondo

#### 10 March 2025, PM: Sprightly Island/Spring Point 4.7km

The sun came out for us this afternoon—and so did the ice! As we loaded onto the Zodiac, we saw whales in the distance and went over to check them out; they came up super close. After watching for a few minutes, we made our way into open water, as there was brash ice everywhere. Breaking through the ice towards Sprightly Island felt like it earned us double dessert this evening, though it eventually became too thick to reach the island. With a hard right, we headed for more open water, where we spotted a Weddell seal hauled out on the ice and whales in the distance. Hoping to catch a glimpse from our kayaks, we paddled through the brash and up and down the swell towards the open water—but to no avail. Loading back into the Zodiac, we set off once again in search of the whales, enjoying the sunshine and the majestic mountain views.

#### 11 March 2025, PM: Brown Bluff 3.8km

This was our fourth outing. By this time, everybody was quick and very confident in their kayaks. When we arrived, the wind picked up with gusts of 15 knots, but luckily for us, after 15 or 20 minutes in the water, it calmed down and the afternoon became beautiful. The good weather allowed us to go slowly and observe the penguins and seals very close without disturbing them. Lots of gentoo and Adélie penguins, a few still moulting and a few returning from their feeding trips. We paddled all the way along the shoreline, and at the end, we found a big female leopard seal napping on top of some flat icebergs. We finished our outing with a great continental landing.

#### 12 March 2025, AM: Hydrurga Rocks 4km

In the heart of the Gerlache Strait, near Two Hummock Island, lies this rocky outcrop. With Pablo as our guide and Rob (our journalist) joining the group, Elo drove us to the more sheltered side of the island, protected from the winds. We kayaked along the shoreline, observing a magnificent colony of chinstrap penguins. Fur seals and a whale moved parallel to us, occasionally surfacing in the distance. Once we reached the more protected side, the sea was choppy but manageable. We navigated through the island's narrow channels and small inlets, surrounded by penguins, antarctic shags, and more fur seals. We made time for a landing, giving us the opportunity to walk among the chinstraps and observe them from a different perspective.

#### 12 March 2025, PM: Portal Point 3.14km

It was a bit windy in the afternoon, but we managed to find a sheltered spot south of Portal Point—a beautiful rocky headland with a striking and intricate coastline. We launched next to a marvellous piece of black ice, which sat just beneath the surface. As we navigated around large, beautifully shaped icebergs, we spotted fur seals lounging along the coast and a Weddell seal resting on an ice floe. Continuing south, we paddled along a spectacular glacial face—when suddenly, we heard a whale blow behind us! We turned and paddled towards it, enjoying a fantastic encounter with a humpback whale. Afterwards, Nates decided to go ashore for some time on land, while Melanie and Jennifer chose to stay out on the water a little longer. What a beautiful kayaking session!





















# Paddling Log

Guides: Elo Berrier, Hodei Orueta, Liz MacNeil, Pablo Passera, Ivan Klochkov

## 10 March 2025, AM: Cierva Cove 3.2km

First outing of the trip. With a cold and cloudy morning, we boarded the Zodiac to get closer to Cierva Cove, where Primavera Station is also located. First, we practised how to control the kayak and steer, and discussed safety.

The bay was filled with lots of icebergs and brash ice, so we paddled through some of it to reach a point where we could observe gentoo penguins on the rocks, going back and forth into the water. After that, we paddled along the coast—about 500 metres to the east, then later to the west and south.

We learned from Pablo a bit more about the ice, icebergs, colour density, and more. We finished by paddling in the direction of the *Greg*

*Mortimer.*

## 10 March 2025, PM: Sprightly Island / Spring Point – 3.1 km

The day brought us lots of brash ice. For our second outing, the plan was to explore the islands by kayak, but we couldn't proceed as the amount of brash ice was too much. We felt like icebreakers, opening our own path through the ice with our kayaks—an amazing and very special experience.

We stopped to play with the ice and hear the sound it makes when releasing air. We found a Weddell seal resting on the ice and finished our kayak session close to the ship,



Number of Paddlers: 8  
Total Paddle Outings: 5  
Total Distance Paddled:  
11.9 km

Paddlers:  
Colleen Carey  
Sylvia Eadie  
Sonia Foo  
Andrew McKay  
Susan McKay  
Andy Plimak

Mark Tipper  
Diane Tipper

surrounded by whales.

#### 11 March 2025, PM: Brown Bluff 2km

After a wild morning landing on shifting ice, the afternoon promised a calmer adventure. Paddling beneath the towering cliffs of Brown Bluff, we glided through the still waters at the edge of the Weddell Sea.

The sun was out, and the tuya volcano shielded us from the wind. Penguins—mostly gentoo, with a few chinstraps—darted past our kayaks, while fur seals lounged ashore. A leopard seal eyed us from its icy throne.

Time slowed in the quiet vastness of Antarctica. And, as if the day couldn't get better, we even stepped onto the continent itself—truly touching the

edge of the world.

#### 12 March 2025, AM: Hydrurga Rocks 2.4km

It was windy and cold as we were approaching Hydrurga Rocks – a great spot for paddling. We decided to tow our kayaks to the western side of the island, so it gave us some lee from the wind and choppy waves. It was so much fun to paddle along the rocky coastline and hang out with numerous fur seals swimming around us and sitting on the rocks. At some point we approached the northern tip of the island and became more affected by the wind and choppy waves, so we decided to turn around for a short but fun downwind paddle back to the sheltered area. We then got back to the Zodiac and went to the landing site to check out the

penguin colony.

#### 12 March 2025, PM: Portal Point 1.2km

Gliding through the icy waters of Portal Point, we felt like explorers in a world untouched by time. Towering icebergs, sculpted by wind and water, surrounded us, their deep blue hues glowing in the Antarctic light.

Soaking in the stillness, the silence felt almost surreal. As our kayaks drifted among the bergy bits and growlers, we saw a Weddell seal lounging on a floating ice chunk, lazily lifting its head to observe us before settling back into its nap.

All of a sudden, Andy heard the deep exhale of a humpback whale nearby. Seeing it in the distance, we paddled towards it, hoping to get a better glimpse. Watching it surface a few times in the shallows of the bay was

truly a special moment.

Being one of the few places where we could set foot on the continent, we loaded into the Zodiac and took a short walk on land. The views were awe-inspiring—and the day, fantastic!





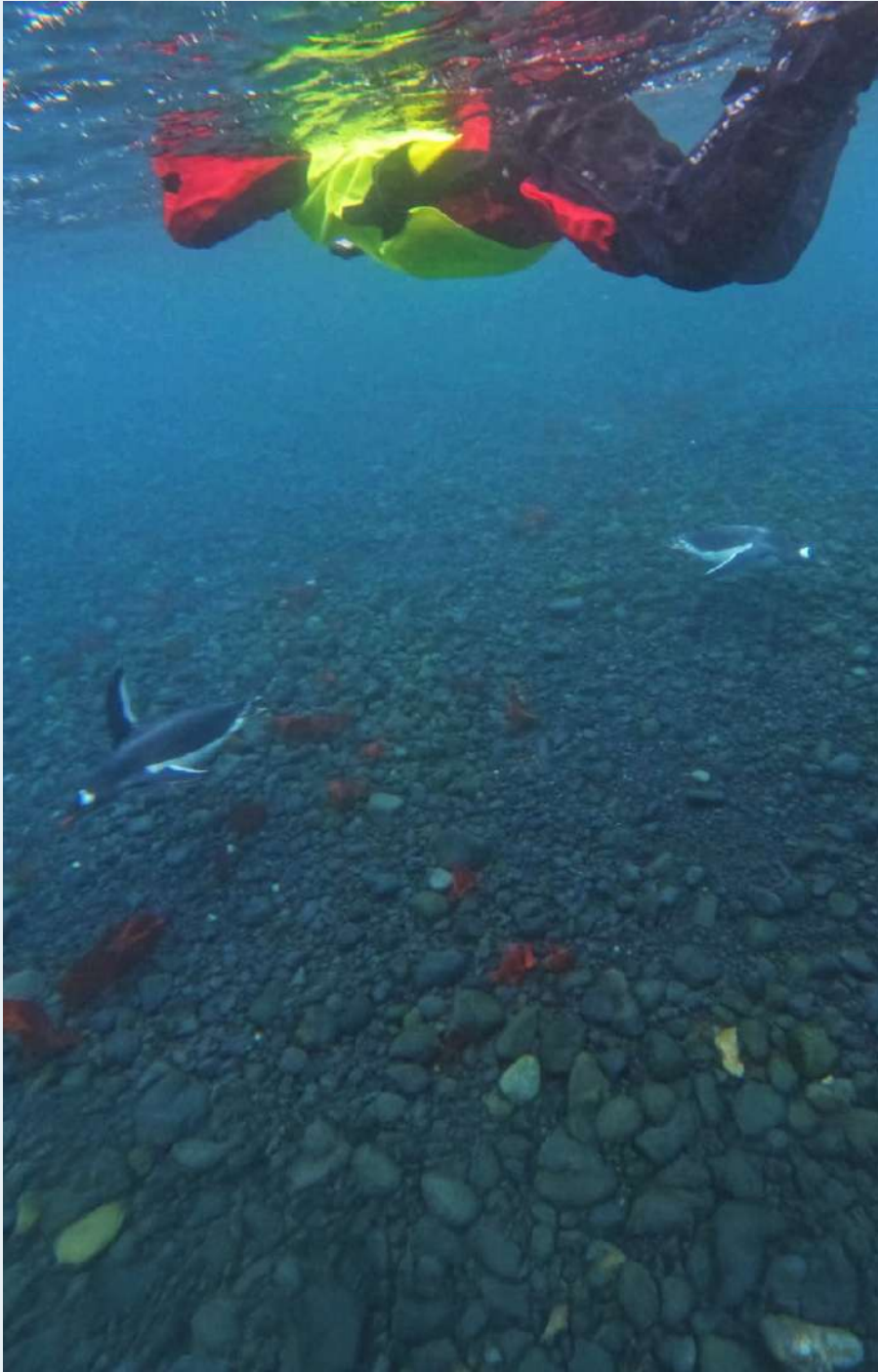












# Snorkelling Log

Guides: Richard Devanney (Lead), Eddie Hauzer, Remi Ritchie

## 11 March 2025, PM: Brown Bluff

After some challenges with the weather, this was to be our first opportunity to snorkel. It was also our first landing on the continent of Antarctica! We took a short walk and watched gentoo penguins. Conditions were calm as we climbed into the Zodiac and drove a very short distance along a beach to the snorkel site.

Richard gave us a concise but detailed briefing to consolidate what we'd learned during the initial briefing in the library and to add in any site-specific information, such as the boundary of the site, buddy teams, and the recall system. He reminded us how to conduct ourselves during wildlife interactions, and then Eddie demonstrated how to get into the water, how to check the suit and become comfortable, how to snorkel efficiently and roll onto our backs, and how to get back onto the Zodiac.

We didn't have to wait long before we saw gentoo penguins swimming all around us as they entered the water or jumped back onto the beach. It was mesmerising how graceful and fast they were—a huge contrast to their waddling on land! Some of us also spent time observing the geology of the rocks behind the beach while floating in the water. There were some bergy bits in the water further down the beach, but they were beyond the area we were allowed to snorkel in.

Most of us lasted around 20 minutes before the cold started to kick in. Then we climbed back aboard and returned to the ship. What a fantastic first outing!



Number of Snorkellers: 14  
Total Snorkel Outings: 3

Snorkellers:  
Sandra Debuire  
Nicolai Debuire Barjot  
Danielle Marchante  
Cindy Laper  
Melanie Laurendine  
Angela Smith

Christienne Genaro  
Mark Greenslit  
Phil Karp  
Wendy Humphrey  
Stephanie Voris  
Larry Baum  
Thomasina Seah

Barney Casey

## 12 March 2025, AM: Hydrurga Rocks

We had a change in location from the original plan, so had a bit more time after breakfast to relax, before heading down to the mudroom to get dressed into the drysuits.

Once in the Zodiacs, we headed straight to the landing site for a 30-minute landing. The ground was quite dirty with guano, but the reward was plenty of chinstrap penguins all around us.

The snorkel boat then picked us up, and we moved slowly along the western edge of Hydrurga Rocks, observing penguins and fur seals on the rocks.

The snorkel site was in a very sheltered area at the south of the main island. There were a few small,

grounded bergy bits in the bay to be aware of and stay away from, but the snorkelling area was very shallow and the water was really clear. Once in the water, we spent a lot of time looking at various things on the seabed—kelp, starfish, limpets—and we saw some long strings of salp suspended in the water. We were hoping for a fur seal or two to come and investigate us, and towards the end of the snorkel, one did, but we didn't manage to catch it. No matter; we saw a Weddell seal lying on the rocks, resting.

After 20 minutes, it was time to get back in the Zodiac and head back to the ship, ready for lunch. It was a fantastic and relaxing snorkel.

## 12 March 2025, PM: Portal Point

The weather was overcast as we entered the Zodiacs and explored icebergs on our way to land. We manoeuvred through grounded bergy bits blocking the landing site. Once ashore, we walked up a hill to overlook the bay, where we saw the foundations of the British Cape Reclus Base. The rocks they sat on had an unusual colour compared to other sites we'd visited.

There were a lot of chinstrap penguins up the hillside; it was fascinating to watch them going about their day. After 30 minutes, Richard, Remi and Eddie came to pick us up to take us slowly to the snorkelling location. On our way, we saw a couple of fur seals on the rocks, and we came across a Weddell seal sleeping on an iceberg.

Just as we were about to get ready, the kayakers radioed to tell us they

were watching a humpback whale! We moved to their location and watched it slowly pass by before diving and swimming out of the bay. What a sight!

Richard gave us a succinct briefing, and we then geared up and lowered ourselves into the frigid water. We saw kelp and small starfish, with excellent visibility. While marine life was scarce, the geology of the seabed was distinctive and fascinating. We hoped the two nearby fur seals would enter the water, but they stayed on the rocks!

With each outing, our time in the water was increasing, and this was the longest snorkel yet. Before we knew it, we were back at the ship, ready to get in the jacuzzi or enjoy a hot drink.















# Bird & Mammal Sightings

Bird Species	March											
	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Snowy Sheathbill						●						
South Polar Skua				●	●							
Skua (unidentified)			●	●	●	●	●		●			
Kelp Gull	●					●	●			●	●	
Dolphin Gull	●									●	●	
Antarctic Tern				●	●							
South American Tern	●									●	●	
Gentoo Penguin			●	●	●		●					
Chinstrap Penguin			●	●		●	●					
Adélie Penguin					●							
Magellanic Penguin	●									●		
Snowy Albatross		●							●			
Large Albatross (unidentified)								●	●			
Black-Browed Albatross	●	●	●					●	●	●		
Grey-Headed Albatross		●	●					●				
Light-Mantled Albatross		●	●					●				
Northern Giant Petrel								●	●			
Southern Giant Petrel	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Cape Petrel			●				●					
Snow Petrel				●								
Soft-Plumaged Petrel		●										
Kerguelen Petrel			●									
Prion (unidentified)		●	●					●				

Bird Species	March										
	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
White-Chinned Petrel									●		
Sooty Shearwater									●	●	
Diving Petrel Species										●	
Wilson's Storm Petrel		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Black-Bellied Storm Petrel			●	●				●			
Antarctic Shag			●	●	●	●					
Imperial Cormorant	●										
Magellanic Cormorant	●								●		

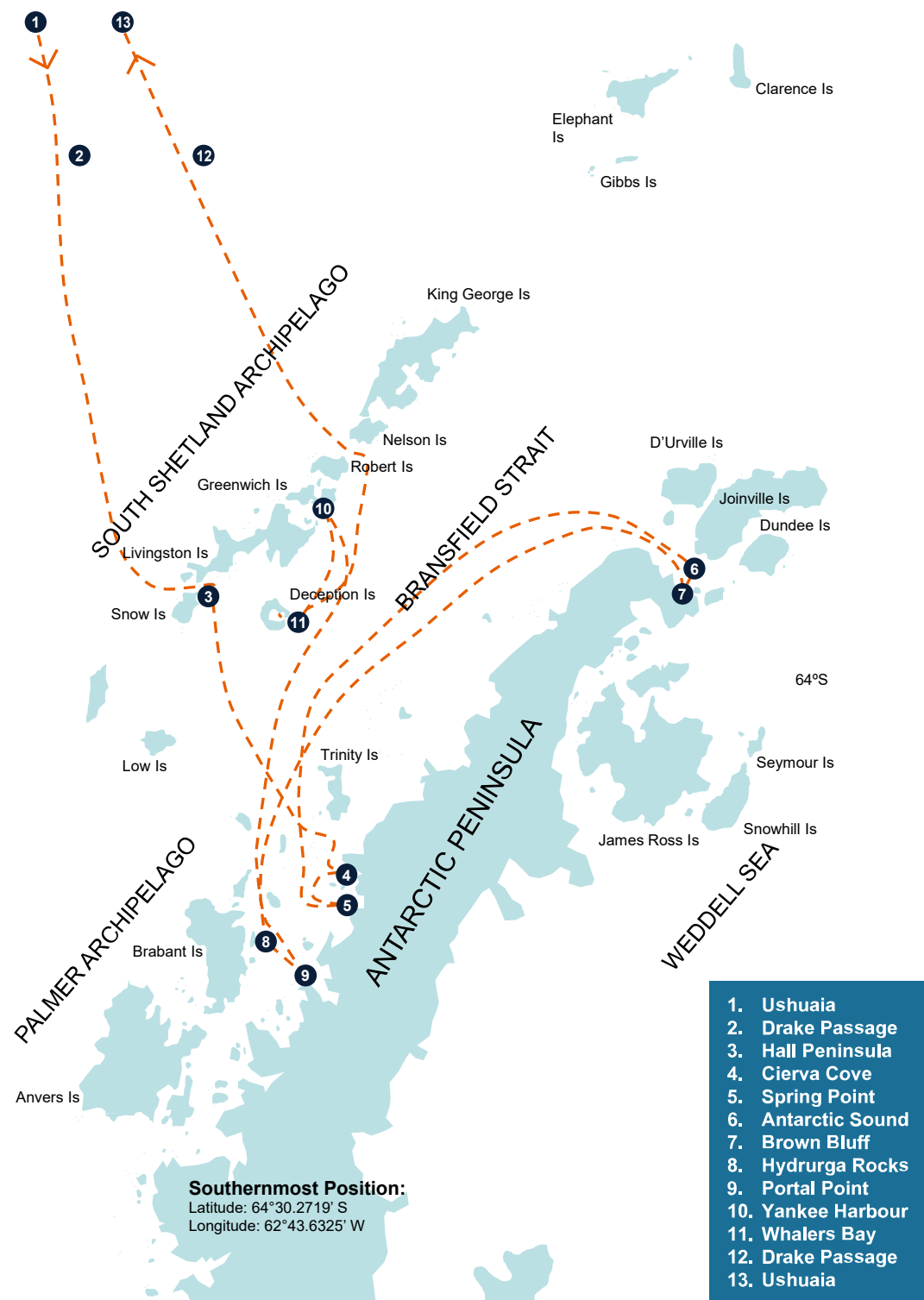
Mammal Species	March											
	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Antarctic Fur Seal			●	●	●	●	●					
Southern Elephant Seal			●			●	●					
Weddell Seal				●		●						
Leopard Seal				●	●							
South American Sea Lion	●											
Humpback Whale	●		●	●	●	●	●			●		
Antarctic Minke Whale				●								
Fin Whale			●									
Orca					●							
Hourglass Dolphin									●			
Dusky Dolphin	●											



# Map

## Wild Antarctica featuring the Weddell Sea

7 March – 17 March 2025







# Our Expeditioners

Robert Annis Jr	George Chaplain	Susan Grose Hodge	Iordana Kyriazidou	Aileen Oliver	Melanie Tyrrell
Rosalia Barbieri	Christine Coman	Kym Holden	Vishvakala Lakhoo	Heather Penberthy	Stephanie Voris
Nicolaï Debuire Barjot	Marion de Hennin	Robert Hughes	Kokilakumari Lakhoo	Sandro Picchiolutto	Patricia Weaver
Anne Barley	Peter de Hennin	Wendy Humphrey	Cynthia Laper	Andrew Plimack	Richard White
George Barley	Sandra Debuire	Christi Irinaga-Bistolas	John Latus	Judith Polkinghorne	Jennifer Yriondo
Larry Baum	Evangelia Doulgaroglou	Lawrence Ivins	Sheila Latus	Carol Postulka	
Deborah Baxley	Symoni Doulgaroglou	Mary Ivins	Melanie Laurendine	Darnelle Pura	
Paulina Bielewicz	Cheryl Doyle	Klaus-Dieter Jahn	David Lees	Grant Pura	
John Bistolas	Sylvia Eadie	Kathleen Jenkins	Suzanne Lees	Rajesh Ramsukh	
Adam Bonkowski	Maria Grazia Fauche	Christopher Johnson	Helen Levins	Robin Rolston	
Debra Boyce-Jahn	Doreen Foo	Philip Karp	Anne Mannett	Nyssa Rusterholz	
Nathaniel Brabham	Sonia Foo	Kay Kean	Paul Mannett	Kurt Rusterholz	
Marilyn Brookes	Christienne Genaro	Michael Kean	Danielle Marchante	Thomasina Seah	
Colleen Carey	Andrea Giorgetti	B Joan Kelton	Andrew Mckay	Angela Smith	
Bernard Casey	Mark Greenslit	Christopher Kirby	Susan Mckay	Denise Taylor	
Patricia Castle	Ulrike Halmer	Dale Kirby	Catalina Menendez	Mark Tipper	
Scott Chaplain	Karen Harris	Melanie Kusmik	Marek-Marsel Mesulam	Diane Tipper	

## Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Daniel Stavert  
Assistant Expedition Leader: Isabelle Howells  
Onboard Expedition Manager: Heidi Dohn  
Ornithologist: T-A Hooley  
Geologist: Ben Comeskey  
Historian: Avi Schluter  
Photography Guide: Stas Zakharov  
Marine Biologist: Annette Scheffer  
Expedition Guide: Tamsin Both  
Zodiac Master: Sergei Andronov  
Onboard Expedition Assistant: Reza Russera  
Expedition Guide: Chen Zhongyuan  
First Responder: Hans Bruning  
Lead Kayak Guide: Elo Berrier  
Kayak Guide: Liz MacNeil  
Kayak Guide: Ivan Klochkov  
Kayak Guide: Pablo Passera  
Kayak Guide: Hodei Orueta  
Lead Snorkel Guide: Richard Devanney  
Snorkel Guide: Remi Ritchie  
Snorkel Guide: Eddie Hauzer

## Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Oleg Kapko	Hotel Controller: Orlando Costa
Chief Officer: Vladimir Kolesnikov	IT Officer: Ihor Yesmienieiev
Safety Officer: Sergei Abromov	Receptionist: Jaica Puyod
Bosun: Bobby Payumo	Receptionist: Jonathan Valdez
Deck Cadet: Joao Varlos De Souza Lima Filho	Head Stateroom: Roniel Garcia
Ship Doctor: Javier Martinez Rodriguez	Spa Manager: Hadas Gev
Chief Engineer: Branimir Ujević	Able Seaman: Angelo San Antonio
First Engineer: Iurii Peretiakia	Able Seaman: Roberto Ixtan Mejia
Hotel Director: Alex Barkar	Able Seaman: Nikola Georgiev
F&B Manager: Rajesh Murao	Able Seaman: Noel Refugia
Chief Purser: Pia Blanca Bangug	Able Seaman: Joel Noble
Executive Chef: Edgar Mangalinao	Able Seaman: Roberth Herman Presida Enitencio
Sous Chef: Edgar Agnelo Xavier Pereira	
Head Waiter: Neelam (James) Lopes	

## Enrichment Specialists

Enrichment Specialist: Ted Cheeseman  
Enrichment Specialist: Michael Tepper-Rasmussen  
Enrichment Specialist: Ryan Jones

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