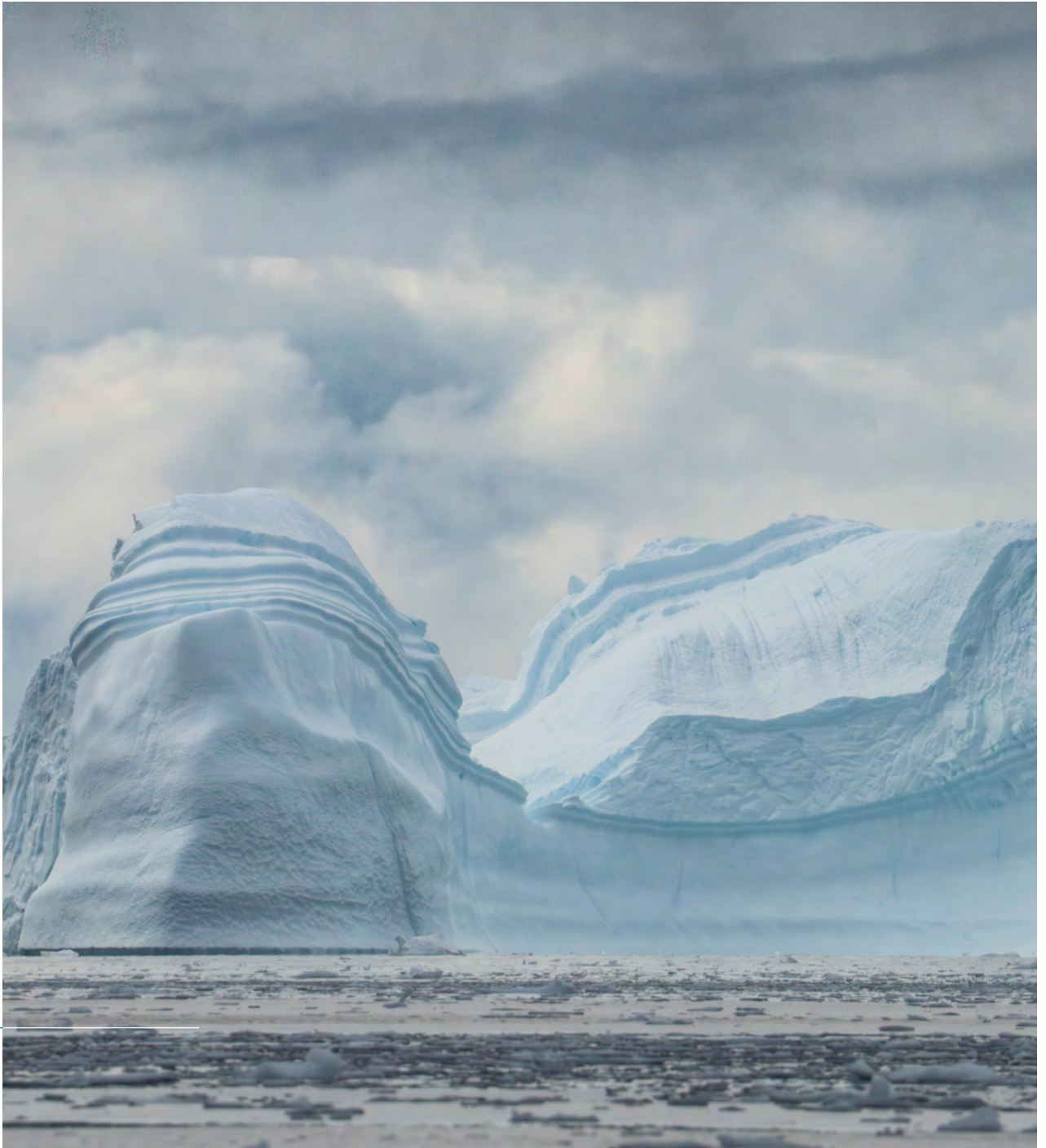


South Georgia, Falklands & Antarctic Odyssey

Aboard *Sylvia Earle* | 28 February to 19 March 2026





South Georgia, Falklands & Antarctic Odyssey

28 February to 19 March 2026

Ushuaia | Embarkation Day

DAY 1 | 01 March 2026

Latitude:
54°22.1' S
Longitude:
63°49.2' W

Wind Speed:
NE 5kn
Barometer:
1001 hPa

Course:
Alongside
Speed:
Alongside

Air Temp:
13°C

In Ushuaia — el fin del mundo — the southernmost city on Earth and our last touch of civilisation before heading into the wild southern latitudes.

We arrived at the dock, stepped off our buses, and at last stood before our beautiful vessel on a glorious summer's day in Ushuaia. We were welcomed by members of the *Expedition* Team: *Expedition* Leader Elena, Assistant *Expedition* Leader Mark, Photographer Jamie, and Onboard *Expedition* Manager Heidi.

An embarkation buffet was laid out in the Tektite Bar, after check-in the Hotel Team escorted us to our cabins — our home for the voyage ahead. Following our jacket exchange, we gathered in the lecture theatre where Elena introduced us to the *Expedition* and the Team.

In total, there are 25 "E (*Expedition*) team" members, each bringing expertise in fields such as ornithology, marine biology, geology, glaciology, photography, history, kayaking, snorkelling, and mountaineering. Heidi and Hotel Director Alex shared helpful advice about life onboard, while First Responder Belinda briefed us on staying healthy and safe throughout our voyage.

The call of seven short blasts followed by one long on the ship's horn signalled it was time for our mandatory safety drill. We assembled in the lecture theatre and donned our bright orange lifejackets for muster.

Later, we gathered in the dining room for a delicious buffet dinner, thoughtfully prepared by the talented galley team and served by our ever-cheerful restaurant staff. As we dined, the ship sailed through the spectacular Beagle Channel, which forms part of the border between Argentina on our port side and Chile on our starboard. The lush green hills surrounding us were a vivid contrast to the stark sub- and polar landscapes that await in the days ahead.

During our passage through the channel, we were treated to wonderful wildlife sightings — numerous seabirds, sea lions, and even Sei and Minke whales. Gradually, Tierra del Fuego faded into the distance as gentle ocean swells began to roll beneath us. By nightfall, we were rocking softly in a manageable sea. Though weary from long journeys to Ushuaia, excitement for the adventure ahead carried us to our beds.

Ushuaia | Embarkation Day

DAY 1 | 01 March 2026

Latitude:

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Alongside

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Wind Speed:

NE 5kn

Barometer:

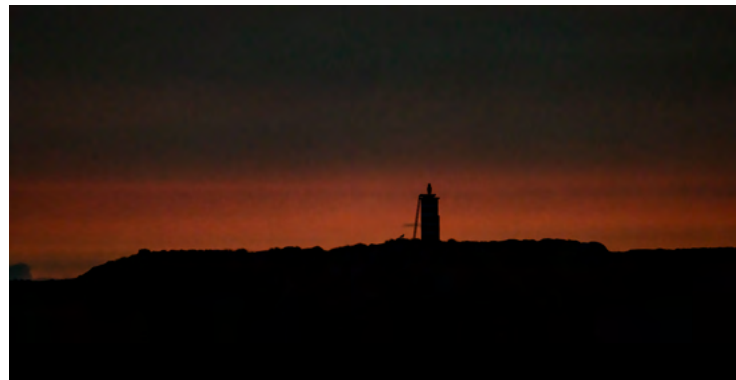
1001 hPa

Air Temp:

13°C

In total, we are 111 *Expeditioners* representing many nations: 31 from Australia, 2 from Canada, 19 from China, 2 from Hong Kong, 2 from India, 1 from Spain, 6 from Switzerland, 2 from Taiwan, 29 from the UK, and 17 from the US.

Alongside our *Expedition Team*, 87 dedicated crew members from around the world are onboard, ensuring everything runs smoothly — from crafting your favourite cocktail to navigating our course south.



Location

DAY 2 | 02 March 2026

Latitude:
54°10' S

Longitude:
63°20' W

Course:
060°

Speed:
12.8 knots

Wind Speed:
E 33 knots

Barometer:
999 hPa

Air Temp:
7°C

After departing Ushuaia last night, we woke to our very first full day at sea, charting a course northeast toward the Falkland Islands, where we are due to arrive tomorrow morning. The Southern Ocean greeted us kindly, offering a gentle introduction to life on *Expedition* (with only a few rock-and-roll moments).

The morning began with our mandatory Zodiac briefing and biosecurity checks. Before we can step ashore in these remote environments, every piece of outdoor gear must pass inspection.

Boots were scrubbed, Velcro pockets vacuumed, backpacks inspected, and even the smallest seeds hunted down and removed. Biosecurity may not be glamorous, but it is one of the most important ways we protect the fragile ecosystems we are about to visit.

Our specialist activity groups gathered for their introductions. Kayakers, paddlers, snorkellers, and divers met their guides, started sorting equipment, and began learning the ropes.

There is a special kind of excitement in the air when dry suits are unpacked and paddles adjusted. It is the promise of adventure just beneath the surface.

In the afternoon, we were introduced to the Citizen Science projects we will contribute to throughout the voyage. From identifying whales through Happywhale, to monitoring phytoplankton with FjordPhyto, recording cloud formations for the Cloud Survey, and logging seabirds on eBird, we officially became scientists at sea. Every observation matters in these wild and changing places and we can't wait to add to the global data sets.

Science in action began almost immediately. Under brilliant sunshine on Deck 7, we scanned the horizon for seabirds. Before long, elegant Black-browed Albatross appeared, effortlessly surfing the wind alongside the ship. Several species of petrels joined the show, gliding low over the waves. By late afternoon, dozens of albatrosses were carving arcs through the air around us, a spectacular escort toward the Falkland Islands.

Location

DAY 2 | 02 March 2026

Latitude:
54°10' S

Longitude:
63°20' W

Course:
060°

Speed:
12.8 knots

Wind Speed:
E 33 knots

Barometer:
999 hPa

Air Temp:
7°C

Later, our Falklands Variety Hour gave us a taste of what awaits: fascinating geology, resilient ecosystems, rich marine mammal life, remarkable bird colonies, and a complex human history. There is so much to discover.

We ended the evening with the Captain's Welcome, raising a glass to new friendships, shared adventure, and an incredible journey ahead.

● Position at 0700





Stanley | Falkland Islands

DAY 3 | 03 March 2026

Latitude:
51°44' S
Longitude:
057°40' W

Wind Speed:
W 26 knots
Barometer:
994 hPA

Course:
022°
Speed:
8.3 knots

Air Temp:
6°C

After a full day at sea, scanning the horizon for seabirds and watching the restless swell roll beneath our hull, the sight we had all been waiting for finally appeared: the low, undulating coastline of the Falkland Islands.

By early morning we were gliding into the sheltered waters off Stanley, the colourful roofs of the town bright against the green-brown hills. Anchored just off the pier, we could truly feel that this was summer in the Southern Hemisphere. The air was mild, the sky wide and blue, and the light carried that unmistakable southern clarity.

After breakfast, we boarded a small bus for the short drive to Gypsy Cove. The white sand beach and turquoise shallows felt almost tropical at first glance, until a closer look revealed

the true stars of the morning: Magellanic penguin burrows scattered among the tussac grass. We were fortunate to observe several individuals shuffling between sea and nest.

A few were amid their annual molt, standing patiently in their scruffy, half-shed plumage. This vulnerable phase, when they cannot enter the water to feed, marks the closing chapter of their breeding season. Watching them endure the process under the warm sun was a powerful reminder of the rhythms that govern life in these latitudes.

Back in Stanley, we spent the remainder of the morning and midday wandering its quiet streets. This remote outpost, with its red phone boxes and neat gardens, feels unmistakably British despite its position in the middle of the South Atlantic.



Stanley | Falkland Islands

DAY 3 | 03 March 2026

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51°44' S

Longitude:
057°40' W

Course:
022°

Speed:
8.3 knots

Wind Speed:
W 26 knots

Barometer:
994 hPA

Air Temp:
6°C

At the Historic Dockyard Museum, we traced the islands' layered past of exploration, conflict, and resilience. A visit to Christ Church Cathedral and the Whalebone Arch offered a moment of reflection, and many of us took the chance to send postcards from this far-flung corner of the world, trusting they will eventually find their way home.

By early afternoon, however, it was time to return to our vessel. With a storm advancing from the west, our Captain made the prudent decision to sail for South Georgia ahead of its arrival.

Under bright skies and calm seas, we weighed anchor, leaving Stanley astern and setting our course for the next chapter of our southern adventure.





At Sea | Towards South Georgia

DAY 4 | 04 March 2026

Latitude:
52°24' S
Longitude:
052°10' W

Wind Speed:
N 26 knots
Barometer:
999 hPa

We are underway, having departed Stanley yesterday. With every passing hour we move closer to South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, while at the same time leaving a significant storm system building behind us.

Course:
098°
Speed:
13.9 knots

Air Temp:
7°C

The day began with a relaxed breakfast as MV *Sylvia Earle* rolled gently in the Southern Ocean swell.

After breakfast we gathered in the lecture theatre for our mandatory briefing on South Georgia and IAATO protocols. Biosecurity procedures followed, with careful inspection of all outer garments to minimise environmental risk. These steps are essential to protecting the fragile ecosystems we are about to visit.

Later in the morning, the "Whale Boys" delivered an engaging presentation on whale research in the Southern Ocean, including an explanation of biopsy sampling techniques using specialised crossbows to collect small tissue samples for scientific study. It was a fascinating insight into modern cetacean research.

Following a busy morning, lunch provided a welcome pause before we moved into Citizen Science activities. Many of us headed out onto the outer decks to conduct eBird and cloud surveys. Despite the brisk conditions, we recorded several remarkable species, including wandering albatrosses, shearwaters, and a soft-plumaged petrel.

Afternoon tea, Beautifully prepared by our Hotel Team, was a



At Sea | Towards South Georgia

DAY 4 | 04 March 2026

Latitude:
52°24' S

Longitude:
052°10' W

Course:
098°

Speed:
13.9 knots

Wind Speed:
N 26 knots

Barometer:
999 hPa

Air Temp:
7°C

welcome treat before Leanne's inspiring lecture on Southern Ocean seabirds. Her depth of knowledge added context to the species we had observed earlier in the day.

As evening approached, our daily recap covered topics including ship blackout procedures to reduce bird strikes, whale observations, and scavenger bird behaviour. After dinner, Jamie closed the day by reading a chapter from his book 'An Inconvenience of Penguins'.

A full and rewarding day at sea — and we now brace for bigger seas ahead.



At Sea | Towards South Georgia

DAY 5 | 05 March 2026

Latitude:

53°02' S

Longitude:

044°19' W

Course:

097°

Speed:

13.6 knots

Wind Speed:

NW 65 knots

Barometer:

985 hPa

Air Temp:

7°C

The morning opened with a rocking and rolling feeling onboard the *Sylvia Earle*, as the bruised-purple weather system we were aiming to outrun on the way to South Georgia was nipping closely at our heels. Having moved faster than forecast across the Falkland Islands overnight, it was sending us surfing forward on a swell from three to four metres, growing through the day.

After battening down hatches and securing belongings in our cabins, we learned more about what happens following the worst circumstances that can befall a vessel in the Antarctic, as Piotr shared the story of the ill-fated Imperial Transantarctic Expedition. Better known as the Endurance Expedition, led by Sir Ernest Shackleton, it has become a classic account of survival against all the odds, and developed into a

model of effective leadership and teamwork in challenging circumstances. Part 2 awaits us soon.

In a complete contrast to the icy wastes of the Weddell Sea, one of our special guests, award-winning photographer Shane Gross took us to more balmy climes with a virtual dip into the tropical waters of the Bahamas in the company of some adorable lemon sharks. Shane shared personal insights into the way photography can drive narratives in wildlife and environmental conservation, along with some of his phenomenal images.

After lunch, we returned to Polar regions once more, as Marcos prepared us for arrival in South Georgia with an introduction to the geology of these remote islands and sea stacks. He dived



At Sea | Towards South Georgia

DAY 5 | 05 March 2026

Latitude:
53°02' S

Longitude:
044°19' W

Course:
097°

Speed:
13.6 knots

Wind Speed:
NW 65 knots

Barometer:
985 hPa

Air Temp:
7°C

into the deep time stories and slow forces which shaped the spectacular island that we'll be exploring over the next few days, explaining the origin of the features which provide the backdrop to the incredible spectacle of wildlife that awaits us ashore and in the surrounding sea.

Of course, all that is dependent on favourable winds, which as our specialists revealed at recap drive all that happens here in the Southern Ocean.

The forces driving the wild winds of the Roaring Forties and Furious Fifties will soon yield to the Screaming Sixties, with the potential to leave us like poor Mark, soaked through and cowering on the deck in the face of blasting winds and blizzarding confetti while our holiday cocktails remain undrunk.



Jason Harbour & Nordenskjöld Glacier | South Georgia

DAY 6 | 06 March 2026

Latitude:
54°14' S
Longitude:
036°24' W

Wind Speed:
NW 20 knots
Barometer:
986 hPa

Course:
VAR
Speed:
6.5 knots

Air Temp:
4°C

Land ahoy! How exciting to awake to views of South Georgia coupled with reducing winds and tamer seas. We had made it through the storm, the *Sylvia Earle's* motion was much more tolerable – a relief for all.

At breakfast the stoke was high – in fact very high. But with gusts in the 40-knot range, landing was a not a given.

A direct quote from Chief Officer Victor, referring to Jason Harbour this morning: "this position good, the rest, disaster." Facing south and protected by a large headland Jason Harbour, named after Larsen's whaling vessel, is as good a location as you can find in a gale northwest.

Would it get good enough to land? While monitoring

conditions, Piotr delivered part 2 of the compelling story of Shackleton's *Endurance Expedition*. Fortunately, the weather improved faster than forecast, so it was all go!

How fantastic to be greeted by majestic King Penguins, with their striking yellow and orange plumage, on our first Zodiac landing. Cute Fur Seal pups swam in groups close to shore and played on the beach while their mothers preferred shelter in the tall tussock that festooned the shore.

We viewed the historic hut that acted as a postal center during the whaling days.

A 2km hike took us to a viewpoint, traversed tussock covered hills and descended to a lake with several elephant seal



Jason Harbour & Nordenskjöld Glacier | South Georgia

DAY 6 | 06 March 2026

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Course:
VAR
Speed:
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Wind Speed:
NW 20 knots
Barometer:
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Air Temp:
4°C

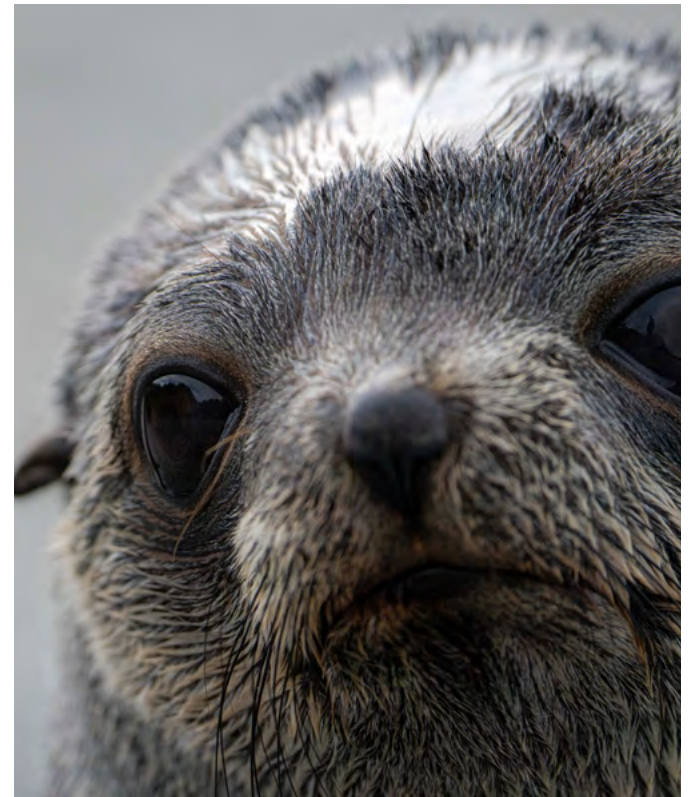
wallows. A small stream, home to many overzealous seals intent on 'bluff charging', led back to the beach. What a fantastic outing, it was hard to tear ourselves away.

Over lunch (it was pizza day!) the ship repositioned to Cumberland Bay East. During a two-hour Zodiac cruise, we were treated to sun as we took in the sights of the spectacular Nordenskjöld Glacier, a world of ice. Along the bay were isolated groups of King Penguins and Elephant Seals that had hauled out.

The kayakers enjoyed a first landing, maneuvering around and through floating ice, remnants of glacial calving. Several spectacular icebergs provided great opportunities for putting Jamie's top photo tips into action.

During recap and briefing Elena outlined plans for another action-packed day, Vicky shed light on Pinnipeds, focusing on the Fur Seal, while Marcos shared insights on glaciology. We're living the dream folks.











St. Andrews Bay & Ocean Harbour | South Georgia

DAY 7 | 07 March 2026

Latitude:
54°17' S

Longitude:
036°05 W

Course:
151°

Speed:
7.3 knots

Wind Speed:
NWW 3 knots

Barometer:
991 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

The day began with an early breakfast. There were perhaps some grumbles, but any doubts some may have had about an early start on their vacation were soon forgotten when we got to land at Saint Andrew's Bay, home of the largest King penguin colony in the world.

The wildlife was so fantastic along the beach - fur seals frolicked in the surf, and swarms of freshly bathed kings paraded about proudly. This frenzy of fur seals and penguins were interspersed by several haul outs of impressive elephant seals, resting together, raising the odd flipper for a scratch.

We proceeded in small, guided groups, past the curious fur seals playing in the grasses, towards a river crossing. Our Muck Boots handled the situation no problem, allowing us to cross river and the wound our way up to a viewpoint from which we could bear

witness to one of the most spectacular sights on earth - the largest colony of Kings on earth. How will we describe this experience to our friends and family back home? A boiling cauldron of wildlife? It was sensory overload! An overwhelming abundance. A day to be remembered for sure!

Returning to the beach, the swell and wind had increased, but the *Expedition* team worked their magic like a well-oiled machine, spinning the Zodiacs around, so that everyone could stay as dry as possible. This was the South Georgia conditions that we had all been so conscientiously practicing for, swinging our legs, never turn our backs to the sea, sitting and sliding... now it all made sense! How lucky to be able to visit such a wild, fantastic place, in such good company. Back on the ship, we circled the lunch buffet like hungry skuas, as if we had never been fed. Had it only been a half-day out?



St. Andrews Bay & Ocean Harbour | South Georgia

DAY 7 | 07 March 2026

Latitude:
54°17' S
Longitude:
036°05 W
Course:
151°
Speed:
7.3 knots

Wind Speed:
NWW 3 knots
Barometer:
991 hPa
Air Temp:
4°C

While we feasted the ship repositioned, heading towards our second landing of the day at Ocean Harbour.

Soon it was time to board our trusty Zodiacs again, and venture into the sheltered waters of Ocean Harbour. While there was swell at the ship, Ocean Harbour was eerily calm, with light rain making it moody and atmospheric. The wreck of the Bayard added to the eeriness, with tussac grasses colonizing the decks of the three masted barque. The divers, snorkellers and kayakers all got to enjoy the calm waters of the harbour, amongst porpoising fur seals swimming through beautiful beds of kelp. On shore graves could be seen on the southern slopes of the at the head of the bay. In 1910 a man's skeleton was unearthed which contained a bullet hole through the skull - 'probably a relic of some quarrel' from the early sealing days. An algae-covered trypot on shore was another visible remnant from sealers,

and their brutal time on shore. Today though, the fur seals population has rebounded. But the fur seals are still not without their challenges - to our dismay, we spotted two seals on shore entangled in fishing gear. Luckily our expert seal biologist George Colaco knew how to expertly handle the seals so the fishing gear could safely be removed. How amazing to have such knowledge and expertise onboard!

Back on our ship, we gathered for recap. Elena managed to wrestle the mic from our extremely shy photographer Jamie, and she briefed us on the plans for the next day. We also heard directly from George about how to hold an eared seal safely. We had several of the *Expedition* team lined up to share their knowledge, but we had to call it short, as dinner was ready! What a whirlwind of a day! Quintessential South Georgia at its finest.







Stromness & Hercules Bay | South Georgia

DAY 8 | 8 March 2026

Latitude:
54°12' S

Longitude:
036°28' W

Course:
036

Speed:
6.2 knots

Wind Speed:
WNW 13 knots

Barometer:
996 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

The morning at Stromness began with an eerie stillness, a calm that felt almost deceptive. As soon as we started operations, the winds began to roar, with gusts sweeping across the bay in true South Georgia fashion. In a display of seamless teamwork, the bridge team repositioned the ship to provide a better lee for our shuttle, while the *Expedition* team monitored the conditions with bated breath.

When the window finally opened, our *Expeditioners* stepped ashore to follow in the footsteps of legends. Most chose the 5km pilgrimage towards the Shackleton Waterfall.

Hiking through a swirl of wind and driving snow, the atmosphere was thick with history; it was impossible not to reflect on the sheer grit of the Endurance survivors as they

descended these very slopes toward the whaling station below. The rusted remains of the station stood as silent sentinels of a bygone era, while the beach itself was a vibrant tapestry of life: elegant King penguins, curious Gentoos, and the ever-present fur seals and “weenie” elephant seals lounging amongst the kelp.

By the afternoon, the weather shifted once more as we ventured into Hercules Bay for a Zodiac cruise. What began as a rare window of sunshine soon transitioned into a gentle snowfall, adding a magical layer to the dramatic rock formations. Our mission: the elusive Macaroni penguins. Seeing these golden-crested characters tucked into the craggy cliffs, alongside spectacular plunging waterfalls, was a true highlight of the day.



Stromness & Hercules Bay | South Georgia

DAY 8 | 8 March 2026

Latitude:
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Longitude:
036°28' W

Course:
036

Speed:
6.2 knots

Wind Speed:
WNW 13 knots

Barometer:
996 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

Back on board, our Recap took on a special significance in honor of International Women's Day. Our bird expert Lianne provided a fascinating deep dive into the life of the Macaroni penguins we had just encountered. This was followed by a poignant presentation from Erin of the kayak team, who shared the stories of the "Antarctica Housewives"—the resilient women who lived in South Georgia—reminding us of all the diverse voices that have shaped this wild frontier.

What a whirlwind of a day—from the snowy struggles of the Shackleton Walk to the celebration of women in the polar regions.











At Sea | Towards Antarctica

DAY 9 | 09 March 2026

Latitude:

54°13' S

Longitude:

036°17' W

Course:

132°

Speed:

7.2 knots

Wind Speed:

SE 47 knots

Barometer:

999 hPa

Air Temp:

1°C

If we had woken up this morning and knew that it was going to be our last day in South Georgia, we could not have fit any more into it!

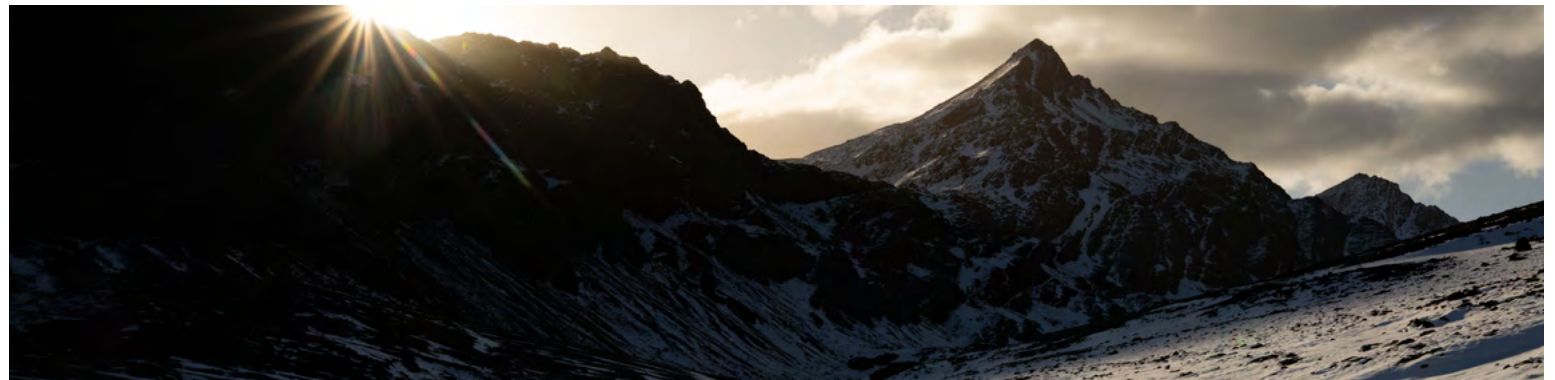
Opening the curtains this morning to a view of 'good hollow' which was the Norwegian whaler's term for Godthul was rather an appropriate name for this well protected harbour. A short commute on our trusty Zodiac steeds allowed some of us to hike up the tussock grass to the Gentoo penguin colony while the rest of us watched the South Georgia pipit working its way down the beach amongst the fur seals, gentoo penguins and kings! Rumour has it that the diving and snorkelling was great too.

Lunch was fish and chips and warmed chocolate brownie

which set us up for all the hard work of cleaning and scrubbing to pass the high bar of the South Georgia government officials. Well, the chocolate brownie must have paid off as we passed official South Georgia biosecurity inspection with a 100% and allowed ashore and for some a nice kayak at Grytviken.

As one passenger said, "there is so much to see, I wish I could spend a week here". First stop was a toast to the boss himself Sir Ernest Shackleton at his gravesite of 1922.

Then a walk through the meat cookery and the blubbery cookery and you start to get an idea of the mass slaughter of whales from 1904 to 1964. A walk up to the church you passed the football pitch and according to our trusty guide



At Sea | Towards Antarctica

DAY 9 | 09 March 2026

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Longitude:

036°17' W

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132°

Speed:

7.2 knots

Wind Speed:

SE 47 knots

Barometer:

999 hPa

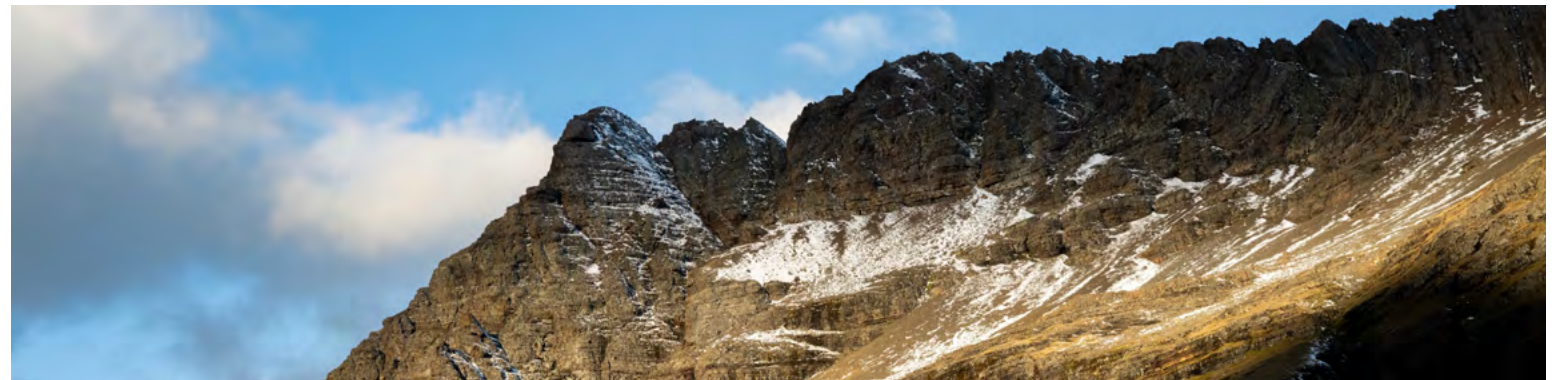
Air Temp:

1°C

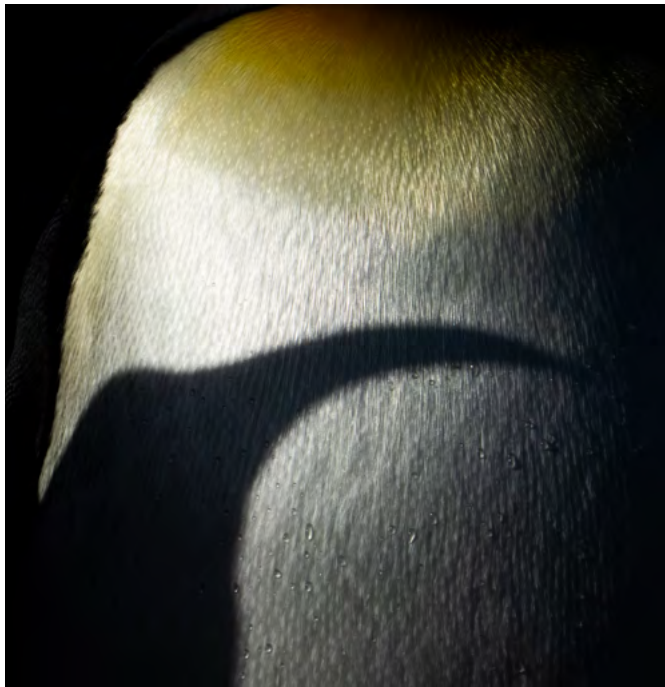
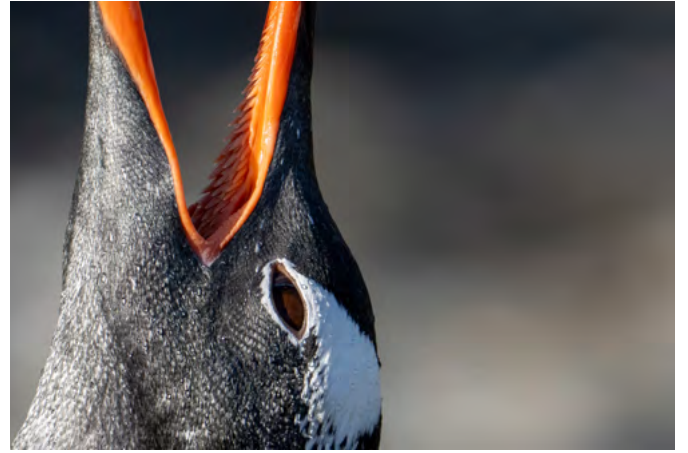
Vicky a ski jump hill.

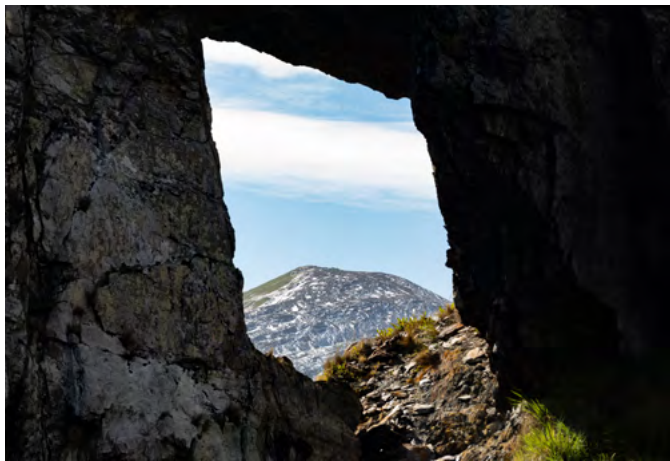
After a few postcards written and a wander through the museum it was time for some of us to separate; to either spend some more time in the sun exploring the wonders of Grytviken or to get your hiking legs on and hike the one-way trip up out of the valley and over the top to Maiviken. The rules were clear if you don't change your mind in the first ten minutes you have to make it all the way over as the ship is leaving!

A cracking pace set up the hill by our fearless leader Eddie led us to a sunny snowy Lewis Pass with incredible mountain view, but no ship could be seen. Onwards we plodded up and down and finally through the crux of bunchgrass, fur seals and slippery river rocks we made it to the beach at Maiviken and there our lady *Sylvia Earle* slipped into the bay with the enticing thoughts of hot showers and full bellies. What a day.











At Sea towards Antarctica

DAY 10 | 10 March 2026

Latitude:
53°29' S

Longitude:
037°11' W

Course:
245°

Speed:
8.5 knots

Wind Speed:
W 33 knots

Barometer:
1004 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

Today was a fascinating day onboard the *Sylvia Earle*!

The day began with a thought-provoking lecture by Logan about whaling in South Georgia. He shared insights into the history and impact of whaling on the region's ecosystem.

The crew and passengers were engaged and asked plenty of questions.

Next up was Ryan's captivating talk on the sensorial experiences of marine wildlife. He explored how marine animals perceive and interact with their environment, highlighting the importance of understanding their unique perspectives.

After lunch, we participated in a Citizen Science Cloud and eBird survey, contributing to valuable research on marine and avian life. The *Expedition* staff facilitated the process, making it easy for everyone to get involved.

The afternoon continued with a lecture by Piotr on the history of the whaling industry. He shared stories and images from the era, providing context for our current conservation efforts.

As the day drew to a close, we enjoyed a delightful evening with Mike, who regaled us with tales of his adventures as a field guide, logistician, and safety expert in Antarctica. He shared stories of his time working on various scientific projects, including the discovery of new dinosaurs and fossils. His passion and expertise were infectious, and we were all captivated by his experiences.

A wonderful day onboard the *Sylvia Earle*, with plenty of learning, sharing, and inspiration!



At Sea towards Antarctica

DAY 11 | 11 March 2026

Latitude:
58°05' S
Longitude:
044°29' W

Course:
242°
Speed:
13.8 knots

Wind Speed:
NW 20 knots
Barometer:
1006 hPa

Air Temp:
3°C

As we waited in line for our morning coffee, we could see and hear that people had slept better last night. The pitching swell of the previous day had subsided to a gentle rocking now. Sipping our dark caffeinated brew, we stared outside at the 50 or so shades of grey that was the Scotia Sea. We could not see very far; it was misty all around.

Relieved it had calmed down so much for a couple of reasons. One, we wanted all on the ship to feel better and enjoy the day outside instead of lying in bed and two we wanted everyone to attend the auction later in the afternoon.

Before that however, we really wanted to sit in on Marcos's lecture, he really explains the geological history of Antarctica and the peninsula in a clear and engaging way that we like

and learn a lot from. Hopefully, we will retain most of that good information.

Piotr later entertained and informed us about the wild and sometimes comical *Expeditions* that have helped put Antarctica on the map, or on the many different maps over the years. Antarctica was a concept and a myth long before explorers had ventured this far south. After lunch Shane Farrell, one of our fellow passengers, held a bit of a workshop and an explanation session in the Science lab. Shane is an expert on kelp and seaweed studies and is onboard to dive and study some of the underwater plant life we encounter on our way. Today we saw under the microscope some of these wonders of the kelp world.



At Sea towards Antarctica

DAY 11 | 11 March 2026

Latitude:
58°05' S

Longitude:
044°29' W

Wind Speed:
NW 20 knots

Barometer:
1006 hPa

Course:
242°

Speed:
13.8 knots

Air Temp:
3°C

The afternoon's entertainment was great fun and for a good cause. We had an auction in the lecture theatre to raise money for the South Georgia trust, the *Oceanites* penguin research and the Friedlaender Lab Whale researchers.

All worthy causes. With Mark B and Jamie L running the auction it was like a two-hour comedy show. Plus, much money was raised (over \$11,000) and much fun was had. We will be laughing about that auction for a while. Tomorrow, we set our sights for Elephant Island and beyond.



Elephant Island

DAY 12 | 12 March 2026

Latitude:
60°58' S

Longitude:
054°18' W

Wind Speed:
SW 6 knots

Barometer:
994 hPa

Course:
243°

Speed:
10.3 knots

Air Temp:
x°

2°C

The *Sylvia Earle* made good time overnight, travelling in and out of bands of fog in the morning to arrive in the vicinity of Elephant Island for 0930hrs.

Although there was a significant swell of 1.5 metres at Point Wild, we were still able to get out for a Zodiac cruise. This is a rare treat in a location that is very exposed to the swells and weather of the open Southern Ocean. The kayakers also got out for a rare and monumental paddle at this iconic location. The wind was very calm, the light Beautifully soft and ominous with some low-lying cloud. The Endurance Glacier made some grumblings and let off a few little calvings before we went on our merry way.

After a hearty lunch we encountered hundreds of Fin whales around Cape Valentine, the site where Shackleton first landed before heading to Point Wild. From the ship we gained excellent views of feeding Fin whales - the fastest whale of them all, known as the greyhounds of the sea, also the second largest living animal in the world. Along with the fins we were fortunate to encounter an abundance of wildlife including Albatross and Gentoo & Chinstrap penguins.

We then pressed onward toward our next proposed destination of Deception Island in the South Shetlands.

En route we did some bridge tours in the late afternoon followed by some live music from Scotty and Nacho in the bar for cocktail hour. We closed the day out with an after dinner talk from Jamie on the origins of his book 'The Inconvenience of Penguins'.

That night the seas were calm, some of the E-Team strummed guitars at the bar and we all drifted off to a cozy slumber.





Freud Passage | Portal Point

DAY 13 | 13 March 2026

Latitude:
62°45' S

Longitude:
059°41' W

Course:
233°

Speed:
9.7 knots

Wind Speed:
N 15 nt

Barometer:
994

Air Temp:
3°C

Friday 13th of March dawned overcast but with promising patches of blue sky as the *Sylvia Earle* transited the Bransfield Strait, from Elephant Island to our destination for the day, Deception Island. One of best parts of *Aurora Expeditions* trips is the anticipation - what adventures lay ahead for us today? Not though, hopefully, the misadventures of another era experienced by Adrien de Gerlaches *Expedition* of 1897-1899 recounted by Piotr in his lecture titled "Madness, Mayhem and Misery. The Story of 'Belgica', The First Scientific *Expedition* to Overwinter in Antarctica". One of the little know *Expeditions* of the 'Golden Age of Exploration'.

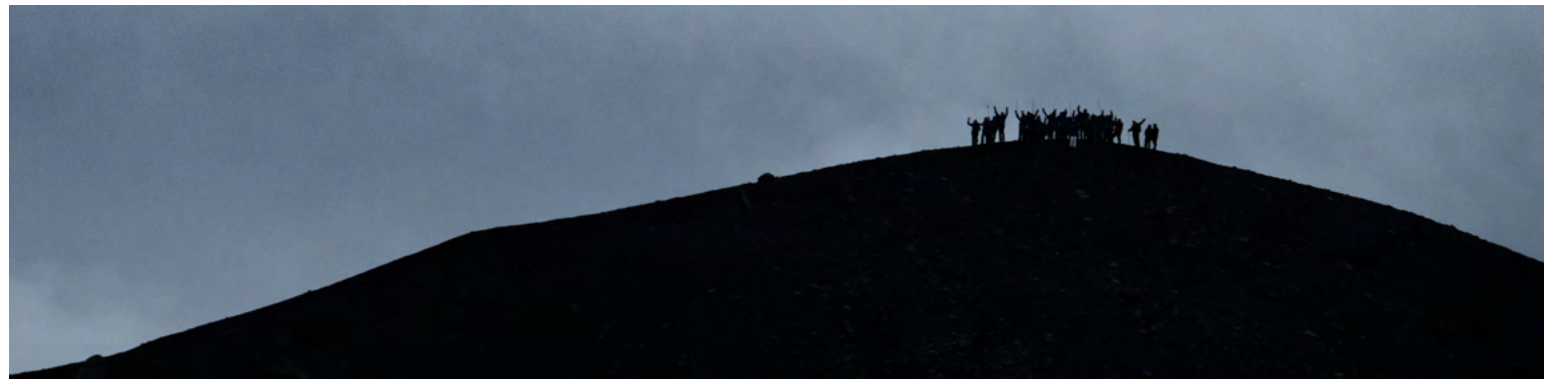
Spot on schedule at 1030 the *Sylvia Earle* was anchored off the impressive prow of Bailey Head, the most western point of Deception Island. Two Zodiacs were launched to scout the

beach landing but despite there being little wind and a low swell it was deemed too 'sporty' for safe landing.

While the *Sylvia Earle* weighed anchor, Thomas's talk took us back to the early years *Aurora Expeditions*, a story stretching from cruising in ex-Soviet era icebreakers to the current modern, comfortable trio of state-of-the-art vessels that have set the standard for Antarctic adventure cruising.

Seemingly with ease but with much concentration on the ship's bridge the *Sylvia Early* cruised smoothly through the very narrow entrance of Neptune's Bellows into the caldera of Port Foster, to drop the anchor in Whalers Bay.

Here we found much calmer water enabling those who chose



Freud Passage | Portal Point

DAY 13 | 13 March 2026

Latitude:
62°45' S

Longitude:
059°41' W

Course:
233°

Speed:
9.7 knots

Wind Speed:
N 15 nt

Barometer:
994

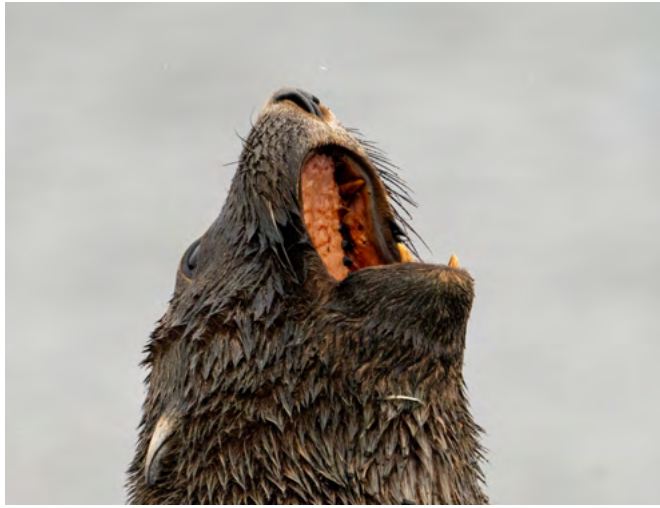
Air Temp:
3°C

a landing the opportunity to explore the remains of the old whaling station, the historic aircraft hangar and other buildings tracing the human impact on the island. For those who wished to stretch their legs, the viewpoint of Ronald Hill provided a challenging climb or at the southwestern end of the beach Neptune's Window beckoned with views both west out to sea and east back over our safe anchorage in Whaler Bay.

The kayakers and paddlers were very happy too. Launching in the lee of the cliffs near Neptune's Window the paddling group experienced their very first day on Antarctic waters. Two groups of kayakers explored the spectacular cliffs of the southwestern shore of Whaler Bay, one even paddling out through Neptune's Bellows towards the spectacular sea stack of Roca Aldunate.

Despite the tantalising patches of blue sky early this morning it was pretty much a cold, drizzly day. Perfectly described by the Gaelic word 'dreich'. But did it matter? Hell no, we've made memories today that will last a lifetime!





Portal Point & Wilhemina Bay

DAY 14 | 14 March 2026

Latitude:
64°19' S

Longitude:
061°41' W

Course:
199°

Speed:
8 knots

Wind Speed:
E 11 knots

Barometer:
988 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

This morning, we arrived at Portal Point for our first continental landing of the voyage. Excitement was high as everyone stepped onto the Antarctic continent.

Surprisingly, no one decided to ski all the way to the South Pole — maybe because we were all a little distracted by the incredible whale activity around us! The majestic humpback whales had clearly captured everyone's attention.

The weather was quite good, and nothing stopped us from enjoying the magnificent views from the landing site. From the top of the small hill, we could admire the surrounding landscape — big, beautiful mountains rising sharply from the sea and the calm waters of Charlotte Bay stretching out in front of us. It was one of those classic Antarctic scenes that

makes you stop for a moment and simply take it all in.

In the afternoon, we headed to Wilhelmina Bay for a Zodiac cruise. Or, as the *Expedition* team likes to call it — Whalemina Bay! And very quickly we understood why. Humpback whales were everywhere. In almost every direction we could see blows, backs rolling through the water, and the occasional fluke appearing before a deep dive.

The weather brought a little bit of everything. Rain came and went during the operation, adding to the wild Antarctic atmosphere. Toward the end of the outing, the sky began to clear in the northeast part of the bay, and suddenly the landscape looked even more beautiful with soft light touching the mountains and ice.



Portal Point & Wilhemina Bay

DAY 14 | 14 March 2026

Latitude:
64°19' S

Longitude:
061°41' W

Course:
199°

Speed:
8 knots

Wind Speed:
E 11 knots

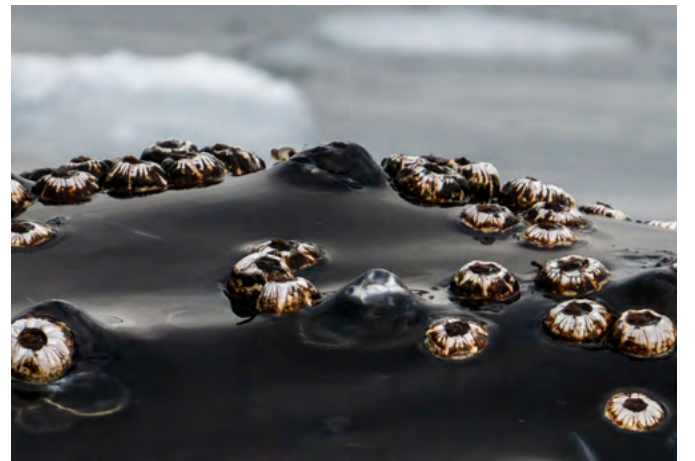
Barometer:
988 hPa

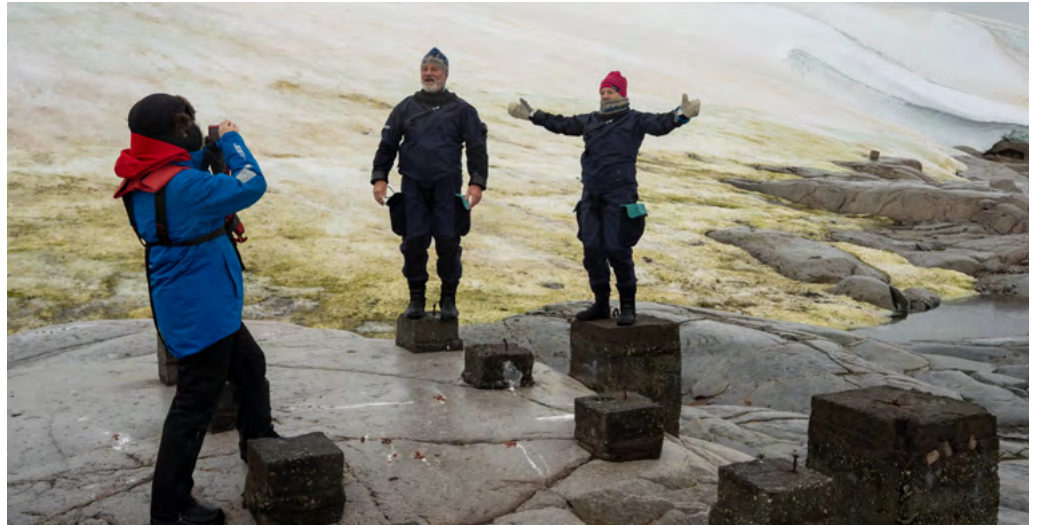
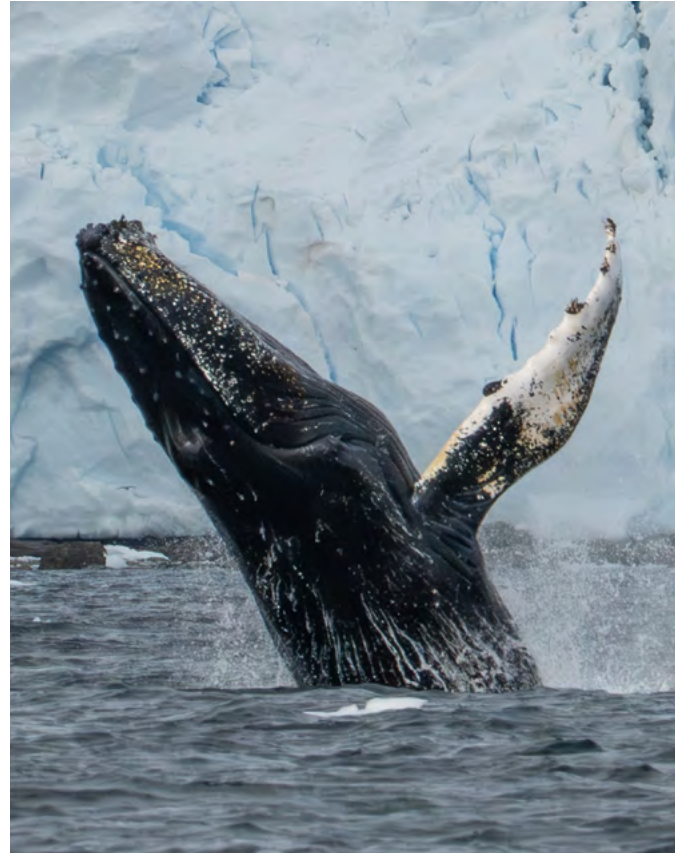
Air Temp:
2°C

Kayakers and paddlers went out for a peaceful paddle across the bay, and we heard that some very large marine mammals crossed their path along the way. Meanwhile, divers and snorkellers enjoyed playing among the brash ice. Apparently, the whales were quite busy with their own mission — feeding and travelling through the bay.

To finish the day, we had the cherry on top of this Antarctic adventure: a fantastic Antarctic BBQ on deck! With music playing, happy hats for everyone, and lots of smiles, it turned into a wonderful celebration. It was a joyful and unforgettable ending to a day full of whales, beautiful landscapes, and great company in Antarctica.







Neko Harbour & Duperre Bay

DAY 15 | 15 March 2026

Latitude:

64°45' S

Longitude:

067°54' W

Course:

54°

Speed:

VST adrift

Wind Speed:

NNE 4 knots

Barometer:

993 hPa

Air Temp:

1°C

Today was the kind of day that perfectly captures the spirit of an Antarctic *Expedition*—wild, beautiful, and full of unforgettable moments.

Our morning began at Neko Harbour, one of the rare locations where visitors can step directly onto the Antarctic mainland. The slopes above the landing site were alive with bustling colonies of Gentoo penguins. Penguins moved constantly between their nests and the sea, carefully navigating the rocky terrain or sliding down snowy paths with surprising speed. From the shore, we enjoyed sweeping views across the bay while towering glaciers framed the landscape. Every so often the silence was broken by the distant cracks and deep rumbles of shifting ice, a powerful reminder that this frozen world is constantly changing.

In the afternoon we continued to Duperre Bay, a spectacular bay surrounded by steep mountains and scattered with drifting ice. The water was calm and glassy, reflecting the dramatic peaks around us. Penguins porpoised through the surface as they travelled along the coastline, while a few curious seals rested peacefully on floating ice floes.

Our dive team explored a shallow plateau beneath the surface. Although visibility was limited, the water was rich with life. Large swarms of Antarctic krill drifted slowly through the cold, creating shimmering clouds in the dim light—an essential foundation of the Antarctic ecosystem.

For the kayakers, the conditions were almost surreal. There was no wind, only a gentle ocean swell and a perfectly flat



Neko Harbour & Duperre Bay

DAY 15 | 15 March 2026

Latitude:
64°45' S

Longitude:
067°54' W

Course:
54°

Speed:
VST adrift

Wind Speed:
NNE 4 knots

Barometer:
993 hPa

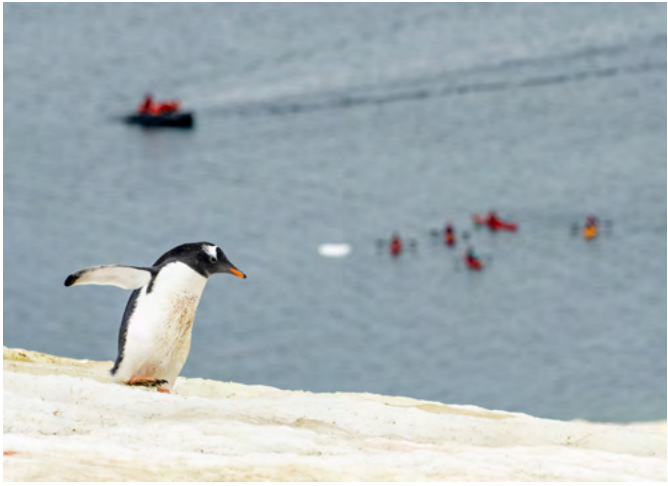
Air Temp:
1°C

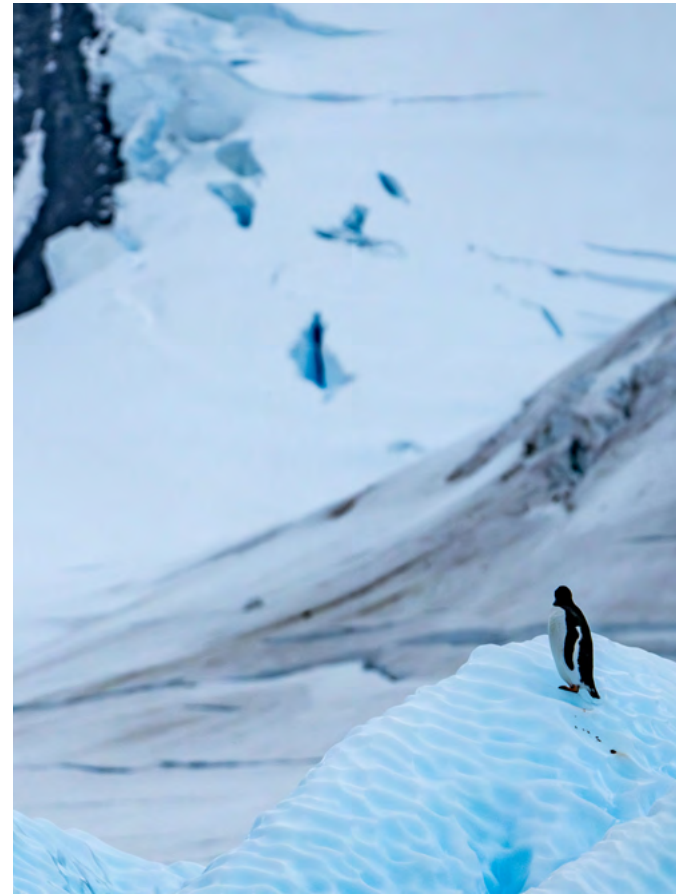
surface that stretched like a mirror across the bay.

In these calm waters we experienced one of the most extraordinary wildlife encounters of the day. Several humpback whales moved through the bay, surfacing quietly around us. At times the whales worked together in coordinated feeding displays, lunging upward through dense patches of krill with mouths wide open. The sudden rush of water, the flash of enormous bodies just beneath the surface, and the slow exhale of misty blows created an awe-inspiring scene. Watching these giants feed so close to the surface was a powerful reminder of how vibrant these polar waters truly are.

It was one of those *Expedition* days that reminds you just how special Antarctica can be.







Hydrurga Rocks & Cierva Cove

DAY 16 | 16 March 2026

Latitude:
64°15' S

Longitude:
061°40' W

Course:
026°

Speed:
7.2 knots

Wind Speed:
NW 3 knots

Barometer:
991 hPa

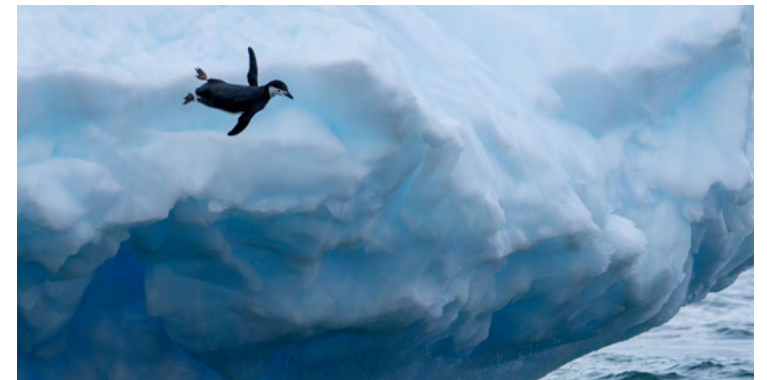
Air Temp:
2°C

Another day in the Antarctic Peninsula brought a full share of excitement and discovery. We began bright and early with a morning exploration of the small Hydrurga Rocks, a scattering of rugged small islets in the Gerlache Strait just east of Two Hummock Island, which is where the famous Roald Amundsen became the first person to ski in Antarctica on January 26, 1898, during the Belgian Antarctic *Expedition*.

Under a calm, fully overcast sky, conditions were perfect for our activities, kayaking, paddling, Citizen Science, snorkelling and diving! The rest of us stepped ashore for a landing among lively wildlife, visiting a busy colony of Chinstrap Penguin and elegant Antarctic Shags. By around 11 a.m., the morning outing ended, just in time for a warm coffee and a cheerful group photo framed by Antarctica's dramatic icy scenery.



After another delicious lunch onboard, the afternoon promised even more adventure. Kayakers, paddlers, and divers set off on their own explorations, while the rest of us cruised through the spectacular Cierva Cove, a vast bay carved deep into the Antarctic Peninsula's mainland. The cove was teeming with life: hundreds of penguins along the shores, seabirds circling overhead, and whales surfacing in the distance. The true stars of the afternoon, however, were the powerful Leopard Seal, spotted both swimming through the icy water and resting majestically on drifting ice floes. With almost no wind and a soft overcast sky filled with mid-level clouds, the light was extraordinary. It filtered gently through the clouds and illuminated the towering glaciers, brash ice, and massive icebergs surrounding us.



Hydrurga Rocks & Cierva Cove

DAY 16 | 16 March 2026

Latitude:
64°15' S

Longitude:
061°40' W

Course:
026°

Speed:
7.2 knots

Wind Speed:
NW 3 knots

Barometer:
991 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

The famous Antarctic blues seemed deeper than ever, turning the entire landscape into a breathtaking panorama. As if the day hadn't been thrilling enough, 34 brave guests capped it off with the ultimate Antarctic challenge: the polar plunge. One by one, they leapt into the frigid sea, today measuring a brisk -1°C—officially joining the Society of Antarctic Plungers - SOAP.

The evening concluded with our daily recap and briefing, where we reflected on the day's adventures, learned about our plans for tomorrow, reviewed our Citizen Science contributions, and learned more about the remarkable seals of Antarctica. After dinner, it was finally time for some well-earned rest, while wondering what unforgettable experiences tomorrow might bring.



Half Moon Bay, Edinburgh Hill & Yankee Harbour

DAY 17 | 17 March 2026

Latitude:
62°44' S
Longitude:
059° 50' W

Course:
047
Speed:
8.7 knots

Wind Speed:
SW 20 knots
Barometer:
994 hPa

Air Temp:
2°

It feels like a lifetime ago that we first set sail from Ushuaia. Since then, we've crossed some of the most incredible places on Earth, fragile, wild, and breathtaking beyond words.

Our final morning of activities began under a shy, gentle sun at Half Moon Island, in the South Shetland Islands, a crescent-shaped haven of dramatic rocky scenery and silence, where wildlife moves undisturbed through this pristine landscape. After a power breakfast, we made our way to the landing. We were not alone.

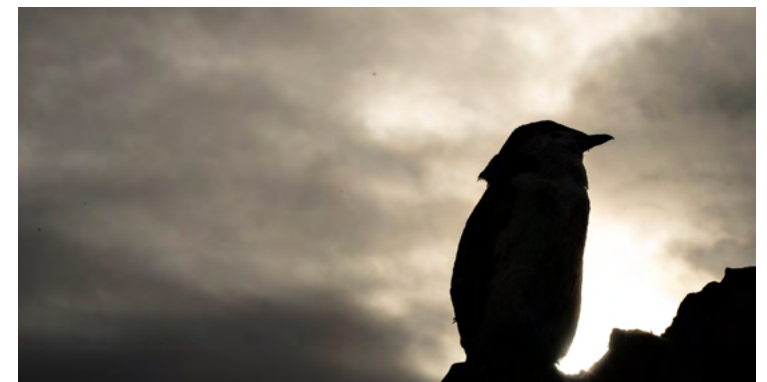
Chinstrap penguins shuffled across the shore, their curious eyes tracing our steps, while Weddell and fur seals rested in quiet dignity upon the beach. Many folks set off on a long, leg-stretching hike to a stunning lookout, passing by the



Argentine Cámara Station, framed by towering glaciers and scenery that felt almost unreal.

The morning continued with our final kayaking, slicing through cold waters, and a last descent beneath the surface, diving and snorkeling in a world untouched and pure. A farewell written in movement and silence. It was, unmistakably, an ending, and yet, one filled with gratitude so deep it could not be spoken.

After a delicious lunch, we sailed past Edinburgh Hill, a 150-meter-high columnar basalt formation in the South Shetland Islands and is an example of Antarctica's volcanic history. A brief but memorable sight, and definitely worth experiencing.



Half Moon Bay, Edinburgh Hill & Yankee Harbour

DAY 17 | 17 March 2026

Latitude:
62°44' S
Longitude:
059° 50' W

Wind Speed:
SW 20 knots
Barometer:
994 hPa

Course:
047
Speed:
8.7 knots

Air Temp:
2°

Following a short power nap, we boarded the Zodiacs one last time and headed toward Yankee Harbour, a small, glacial-rimmed harbor enclosed by a curved gravel spit. The fog slowly lifted, giving way to bright sunshine that transformed the landscape.

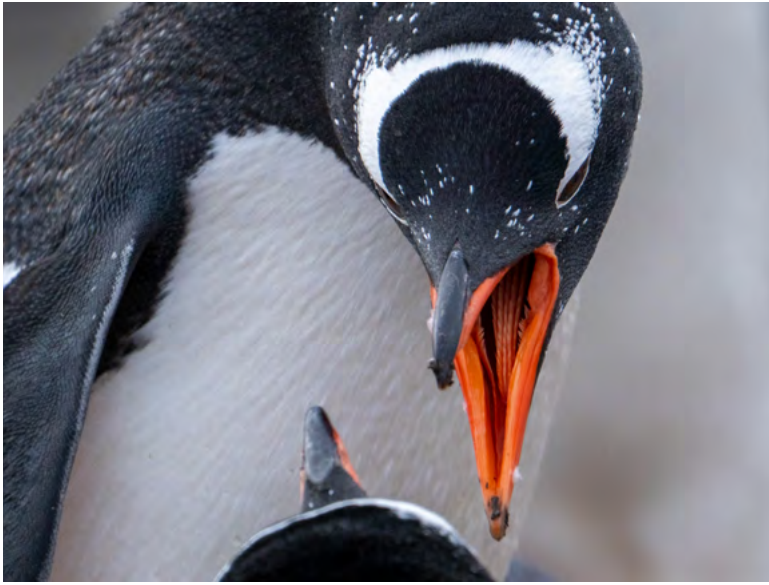
There, we said goodbye to our Gentoo penguin friends, elephant seals, and Weddell seals. Many even caught a glimpse of a cattle egret being chased by skuas, a fleeting yet vivid moment of life in the wild.

We left with a few souvenirs and a suitcase filled with memories: fragile, vivid, and infinite.

The day couldn't have ended more perfectly than with a farewell cocktail alongside Captain Andrey, all crew and the *Expedition* team, celebrating a journey that words can hardly capture.

How do you describe a journey like this?
You don't.
You carry it
like the cold, like the light, like the silence
forever within you.
A voyage beyond words.
A lifetime, lived in weeks.









King George Island

DAY 18 | 18 March 2026

Latitude:
62°15' S

Longitude:
058°46' W

Course:
adrift

Speed:
2.3 knots

Wind Speed:
E 10 knots

Barometer:
999 hPa

Air Temp:
2°

We arrived in Maxwell Bay early in the morning, the sun trying to peek through a blanket of low cloud cover. The muted light cast a serene, almost reflective mood over the landscape, as if the day itself understood this was a moment of transition. We enjoyed a lovely breakfast aboard, taking our time as we soaked in the final views and quiet rhythms of ship life.

Afterward, we packed up and placed our luggage outside our cabins, reluctantly vacating the spaces that had become so familiar over the course of the journey. With that, we joined the “Keep the Magic Alive” workshop, a thoughtful session dedicated to reflecting on our experiences, sharing memories, and considering how to carry this sense of wonder forward.

Following this, we gathered once more for another of Piotr’s wonderful and insightful lectures. A final lunch aboard gave us time to connect, laugh, and savour the last moments together.

Soon, we were called to the mudroom to board the Zodiacs for one last time. Bundled up and ready, we made our way to shore, where our flights to Punta Arenas awaited, marking the end of an unforgettable journey.

Aurora Expeditions extends its deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for bringing warmth, curiosity, and an adventurous spirit. It has been an absolute privilege to explore the wonders of the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica together. May the memories made, and friendships forged continue to inspire long after the voyage ends. Together we have travelled 3017.4 nautical miles.

BBQ





Polar Plunge



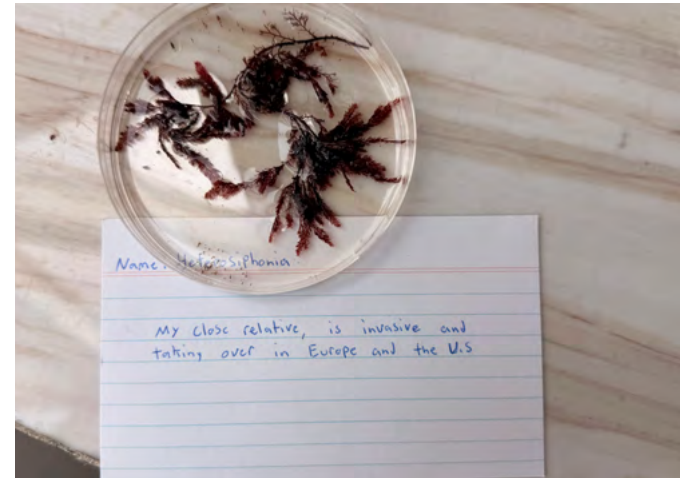






Citizen Science









Kayaking Log

Guides: Eamon Larkin, Tim Stredwick, Sarah Hrdlicka, Scotty McCormick, Erin Scott

06 March 2026, PM Nordenskjold Glacier – 4.5km

The conditions were perfect for our first kayak of the voyage. The sun was out and the ocean was glassy calm as we loaded into our kayaks for the first time. We loaded in around some brash ice - we could hear it bubble and pop as we rafted up to go over paddle signals. With a few reminders from our kayak guides on the water, Tim, Eamon & Sarah, we were off, paddling our way through the brash ice towards the shoreline where we saw several groups of giant elephant seals hauled out, resting together on shore. As we continued along, the brash ice grew thicker. Skirting the end of a thicker band of ice, we continued bumping our way towards the Nordenskjold Glacier. After taking a moment to better understand the geology of the landscape created by the retreating glacier, we pushed in a little further into the ice, and spread ourselves out for a moment of silence. After we settled in, suddenly a large iceberg calved - right on cue! After a second calving, it was

time to reload into our trusty safety Zodiacs and head back to the ship. Time flies when you're paddling in South Georgia!

07 March 2026, PM Ocean Harbour – 1.5 km

At the ship anchored just outside the former whaling station of Ocean Harbour the swells were 1.5 meters and the wind blowing a good 20+ knots. However, inside the harbour there was adequate protection for us to get a nice little paddle in. For our second paddle of the voyage, we hopped into our kayaks from the Zodiacs at the Bayard, the shipwreck that is now reclaimed by tussock grass and nesting cormorants. After playing musical boats, we slowly made our way around the protected harbour while viewing penguins, fur and elephant seals along the coastline. While we paddled through the kelp, fur seal pups played in the pools between the rocks. After making our way past the remnants of the old Wharf where the Bayard let go before it was blown

Number of Kayakers: 21

Total Paddle Outings: 12

Total Distance Paddled: 38 km

Kayakers:

Julie Zieschang

Greg Zieschang

Dan Philips

Jackie Philips

Andrew Young

Diane Ferrier

Christine Lee

David Wilson

Peter Chrystie

Anna Chrystie

Heather Chrystie

Emily Chrystie

Dylan Yeung

Cheryl Yip

Mynan Feldman

Grant Thomas

Sara Alcaraz

Mike Weaver

Jacqueline Weaver

Harvey Reynolds

Tricia Reynolds

onto the rocks where it now sits, we loaded out of our kayaks and back into our Zodiacs so that we could make our way to shore for a little visit to dry land. T'was a nice little South Georgian paddle in the Ocean Harbour.

09 March 2026, PM

Grytviken – 3.3km

Despite that we were amidst a larger storm system in the Southern Ocean, our afternoon at Grytviken on the water was magical! The sun shone, the ice floes sparkled, and the fur seals were manic as ever. We launched by the cemetery where Shackleton is buried, and paddled along the shoreline where the crumbling remains of a once-bustling industrial town spill into the intertidal zone, now retaken entirely by hundreds (thousands?) of juvenile fur seals, watching us with their orb-like eyes. We continued on to King Edward Point, and rounded the corner to arrive at Shackleton's memorial cross, perched on a scenic bluff, overlooking the sea. We wove through growlers, admiring seals and kelp and birds, before getting picked up and taken to shore to explore the town on land.

12 March 2026, AM

Point Wild – 1.8km

The *Sylvia Earle* anchored off Point Wild on a moody, misty day with the swell rolling in from the northwest. Two groups of very keen kayakers set out by Zodiac to the sheltered western side of the bay in the lee of Belham Cape. Despite the swell all kayakers slipped into their cockpits with ease and paddled on following the white water fringed the coastline towards the massive teetering ice cliffs of the Furness Glacier. There were a couple of small crashes as ice calved from the glacier face as we crossed the bay and through some narrow but dense patches of brash ice. The ice clattering against the hulls of our kayaks and the blades of our paddles.

The monument here celebrates Captain Luis Alberto Pardo and his vessel the 'Yelco' which came to the rescue of Shackleton's men. What an inhospitable spot to survive for 4 ½ months with such a slim chance of rescue.

Well done to a fantastic group of kayakers, who with big smiles experienced a very rare day on the water at Point Wild.

13 March 2026, PM

Whaler's Bay – 4km

As the conditions at Bailey Head on the outside of Deception Island proved to be unsuitable for operations we sailed through the Bellows where we found much better conditions for paddling at Whalers Bay. Our first Antarctic sea kayak paddle would be inside the caldera of a volcano! We started by paddling alongside the geo-thermally active scoria outcrops to the east of the whaling station that supports moss and lichen and ledges with cormorant chicks. Paddling through the Bellows, the conditions picked up a bit with some small waves refracting off the cliffs. We gained a nice view of the sewing machine needles before retreating back the the bellows and back towards the landing site at Whalers Bay. Eamon's group of paddlers paddled a bit longer and ended their paddle on the South side of whaler's bay across from Penfold Point.

14 March 2026, AM

Portal Point – 2.7km

As the conditions at Bailey Head on the This morning's kayak outing started

with a short Zodiac ride away from the *Sylvia Earle* with the kayaks snaking behind us in a long line. The day was calm, a bit overcast but with many sunny patches in the distance. Once launched from our Zodiac we kayaked north towards the Gaston Islands weaving our way between some large grounded icebergs. There were lots of humpback whales as well as of course many penguins porpoising in and out of the water as they swam around us. Many fur seals lounged about the on the coastal rocks. Too soon it was time to leave the wildlife, clamber back in to the Zodiac and prepare for a landing.

14 March 2026, PM

Wilhelmina Bay – 4km

A late afternoon at Wilhelmina Bay - a 28 km wide bay between the Reclus Peninsula and Cape Anna along the west coast of on the Antarctic Peninsula, proved to be a great idea. Never in all my years of paddling down here have I seen or been so close to so many whales. We had trouble deciding which way to paddle and which direction to look as we were completely surrounded by Humpbacks. We paddled deep into the bay, about



2 km from the ship when we ended up being surrounded on all sides by logging humpbacks. They had been feeding on so much krill that they were needing to rest by "logging," where they float motionless at the surface like a log to rest, often switching off half their brain at a time (unihemispheric sleep) to remain conscious to breathe. All kayakers were fortunate to have magical encounters with humpback on this paddle. We finished the paddle by paddling part way back to the ship where we were greeted by another curious humpback at Erins Zodiac before loading out. It was an afternoon to remember!

15 March 2026, AM Neko Harbour – 1.1km

Surrounded by beautiful glaciers at Neko Harbour, we loaded into our kayaks. As we were still loading in, a curious minke whale approached us, circling around several times. We paddled towards the landing site, to check out the coming and goings of the gentoo penguins. Back in the direction that we had come from, a humpback whale beckoned. As we paddled towards it, it slowly turned to

go deeper into the bay. We could see the wind in the distance. The stronger gusts travelled towards us, rippling across the water, as we paddled into the headwind. Soon, it was time to get back into our trusty Zodiac and head to shore. As we were doing this, the wind gusts increased even more. We had enjoyed a short calm weather window before conditions became too much - a demonstration of how quickly the weather can change here sometimes!

15 March 2026, PM Duperre Bay – 3km

The first thing we noticed when we disembarked the ship was the stench - the whale breath stench! A good sign for things to come... We had some decent swell, but with a nice rolling quality that ended up being quite fun on which to catch waves downwind. We set off to explore the bay, and got stopped by whales throughout the entire operation. We began by encountering a group of three humpbacks - two adult and one juvenile - swimming back and forth and occasionally displaying flukes. As we continued onward, we encountered many more groups of whales,

culminating in lunge feeding whales which approached us incredibly close! We rafted up and were steered around to get the best view possible, which ended up being challenging, seeing as they surrounded us. To top it off, on our way back to the ship, we witnessed a full breach from the Zodiac. A magnificent afternoon!

16 March 2026, AM Hydrurga Rocks – 2.2km

We had calm conditions at the low lying islets at Hydrurga Rocks this morning, though there was nevertheless some exciting paddling to be had! The reefs that lay just offshore provided the opportunity for us to test our growing paddling skills, as we navigated some choppy water and avoided breaking waves to go around the islands. We explored small channels which were lined with chinstrap penguins and imperial shags, squawking at us as we drifted by, and we saw the odd fur seal galloping about on shore. We rounded the north part of the Rocks, making our way down the other side, as the Antarctic peninsula was illuminated in the distance.

16 March 2026, PM Cierva Cove – 3.5km

After the usual short Zodiac ride towing our kayaks we launched about a kilometre from the Argentinian base of Primavera. Once we were all settled comfortably in our cockpits we set off for a look at the base buildings as we headed north west towards Cierva Point. About 1.5km north of the point Penguin Island looked a tempting destination so weaving our way between icebergs and through thick patches of brash we spotted numerous humpback whales as well as a Crabeater and Leopard seal dozing on their respective ice flows. Again, and far too soon it was time to get back in the Zodiac and head back to the ship, but with the prospect of a polar plunge in mind!

17 March 2026, AM Half Moon Island – 6.5km

We loaded into our kayaks in some sheltered water beneath the towering basalt cliffs of Half Moon Island. As we paddled along the coastline, the wind chop bounced off of the rocks. Our kayaks gracefully sliced through the



bumpy waters as we continued around the headland, noting the colourful mosses and lichens along the way. Just as some began to get weary, we had the wind at our backs, pushing us along the backside of the island, past the Argentinian research station. The glaciers of Livingston Island rumbled in the background. As we followed the coastline, more wildlife began to appear. An elephant seal, fur seals and a resting weddell seal were spotted. Gentoos and chinstraps stood guard on shore, while others porpoised by us in our kayaks, to our delight. The locals of Antarctica were gathering round to bid us farewell on our final paddle together. While we had all become quite familiar with kayaking together by this point in our voyage, the incredible landscape and its inhabitants remained dazzling and wild - never mundane. Memories to be cherished forever.









Paddling Log

Guides: Eamon Larkin, Tim Stredwick, Sarah Hrdlicka, Scotty McCormick, Erin Scott

13 March 2026, PM
Whaler's Bay – 3km

Our first paddle! We launched in the lee of the towering cliffs of Whaler's Bay, finding fantastic shelter despite the reasonable winds in the middle of the bay. We launched our kayaks, and became familiar with our boats, experimenting with our paddle strokes. We started by approaching the shoreline and watching the fur seals, elephant seals, and penguins from our boats, appreciating for the first time, the eye level view with these animals. We continued on along the coastline, admiring the silence of the water, punctuated by the frequent interruptions from fur seals! The fur seals were extremely playful, approaching our boats with curiosity, and swimming alongside us while shags and kelp gulls flew overhead. We even poked our bows into Neptun'e Bellows, before returning along the shoreline and going to land.

14 March 2026, AM
Portal Point – 3.2 km

With our boats in tow, we loaded into our trusty Zodiac and began heading towards a small rocky island. En route, we were greeted by a humpback whale quite close by! We also got to see a resting weddell seal on the rocks - the first of the voyage. The day was off to a good start! Once we reached the island, we loaded into our boats. Two fur seals watched as we took to the water. As we continued along the shoreline, there were more fur seals joisting in the water, putting on a show. We began to venture towards the next island, into a few waves, but it soon became clear that one of our boats needed attention. Eamon, in our safety Zodiac, to the rescue! He went on the get us a replacement boat, while the rest of the group continued to circumnavigate the island, finding a calm, narrow channel to drift through, past penguins and icebergs. We took some time for photos amongst the beautiful iceberg graveyard, and soon our friends were back on the water with us. We began to



Number of Paddlers: 6

Total Paddle Outings: 8

Total Distance Paddled: 25 km

Paddlers:

Annette Herring

Mark Herring

Alex Hadjimina

Beatrice Hadjimina

Thomas Esslinger

Christine Esslinger

make our way downwind towards the landing site, into some choppy waters. Everyone did super well maneuvering around icebergs and shallow rocks. We found calm water again, along with some penguins, who greeted us as we loaded back into our Zodiac and landed on the continent proper!

14 March 2026, PM Wilhelmina Bay – 3.1km

Well what an amazing morning's paddle. Whales, whales, whales in amongst the ice of Wilhelmina Bay. There wasn't a breath of wind and although cloudy there were bright patches of sun on the mountains in the distance. There were humpback whales to be seen in just about every direction and the loudest sound from all around us was whales blowing as they surfaced. Many of the whales seemed as though they were simply lounging on the surface with the occasional slow dive. A few were actively feeding using bubble nets, others lunge feeding near the surface. The paddlers will never forget this experience of a lifetime.

15 March 2026, AM Neko Harbour – 1.5km

Neko Harbour, discovered by Belgian explorer Adrien de Gerlache and named for a Scottish whaling boat, the Neko, which operated in the area between 1911 and 1924, was the site for our morning paddle for March 15th, 2026. Erin was our Zodiac driver for the excursion. All six paddlers and Scotty launched close to the ship and attempted to head deeper into Andvord Bay before being met with a stiff headwind. We chose to make a 180 degree turn and took refuge at Neko Harbour where we paddled around for another 20 mins. The winds started to pick up and we ran out of sheltered waters to paddle. Mark stayed on a paddled a little bit more with Scotty while everyone else headed to shore for a continental mainland landing! The wind continued to pick up and 15 mins later Mark headed to shore to join the others. It was a short and breezy paddle.

15 March 2026, PM Duperre Bay – 2.4km

It was a late outing just before dinner

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

16 March 2026, AM Hydrurga Rocks – 3.2km

Sylvia Earle anchored in the channel between the Hydrurga Rocks and Two Hummock Island. The weather today being absolutely perfect for a paddle exploration with no wind, smooth seas and gentle rolling swell.

Six paddlers boarded the Zodiac and with their sturdy inflatable craft bobbing along behind it was a short ride to the

southern end of Hydrurga Rocks. As we paddled steadily north following the west coast numerous chinstrap penguins dotted the shoreline rocks others above us silhouetted against the sky on the islands ridge line.

As we rounded the northern tip of the island leaving the more sheltered eastern side the swell increased slightly but the conditions were still perfect for our paddling exploration. Heading south we passed the two groups of kayakers.

Many of the young chinstrap penguins still moulting into their full adult plumage. We explored a couple of deep inlets, in of them the headland was dotted with blue eyed shags, the other we found a Weddell seal on shoreline, raising it's head to check us out as we passed.

All too soon it was time to call up the Zodiac, change into Muck Boots for an excursion ashore

16 March 2026, PM Cierva Cove – 4.7km

We could see the huge ice bergs as we approached Cierva cove, and as we neared we spotted seals lying on ice. There was a lot of ice, which is



usually the case for Cierva. The three of us took a Zodiac up to see one of these seals, it was a leopard, having a nap amongst all the ice. We let it rest and started paddling in and around the brash. Beautiful bergs all around us, big and small. Most of them were swaying and rocking in the gentle swell. We watched a whale swim close to a big ice berg, we had to stay a good distance away. It did not.

Another leopard seal was spotted, so we inched closer to observe it sleeping. It did not stir.

The scenery all about us was stunning and imposing. A perfect afternoon paddle before we braved the freezing waters with a Polar plunge quick dip.

17 March 2026, AM

Half Moon Island – 3.6km

The winds were higher than expected from the forecast when we set out at Half Moon Island, but we found a nice bit of shelter to launch our kayaks, and hoped they would calm as we made our way around the bay. We were lucky, and they did! We paddled along the shoreline, quietly observing gentoo and chinstrap penguins, fur seals, kelp gulls, imperial shags, and a lone Weddell seal sleeping peacefully. As

we made our way around the bay, we didn't encounter any strong winds, and so we carried on, enjoying the rocky coastline of the island, and passing by the landing site. As we came around the south east corner of the island, we passed through a channel with some dynamic waters to take a shortcut, and were graced with spectacular glacial scenery on the other side. We enjoyed watching a large number of penguins in the shallow waters ahead of us, and as we wrapped up our paddle, Alex went for a (intentional) swim to test out his drysuit! A fun way to end our last paddle in Antarctica.









Snorkelling Log

Guides: **Ania Baranek (lead), Eddie Hauzer**

07 March 2026, AM

Ocean Harbour, South Georgia

Today marked an exciting milestone as we completed our first snorkel in South Georgia. While the visibility was limited, the overcast light gave the water a mysterious, emerald-green atmosphere that only added to the sense of adventure. The team's energy remained high from start to finish as we prepared to see what these sub-Antarctic waters had to offer.

We entered the water and were almost immediately rewarded by the arrival of Antarctic fur seals. Curious and agile, they darted through the gloom, providing several close-up encounters as they circled the group. We also spent time exploring the thick kelp forests, drifting between long, golden fronds that moved rhythmically with the swell.

Even without crystal-clear views, the experience felt raw and completely immersive - a memorable introduction to the wild coastal environment of South Georgia for everyone involved.

08 March 2026, PM

Hercules Bay, South Georgia

A very special International Women's Day spent in the wild heart of the sub-Antarctic. The weather today has been a masterclass in South Georgian unpredictability; we moved from the fierce winds and heavy snowfall of Stromness this morning to unexpected, golden rays of sun as we pulled into Hercules Bay this afternoon. Our team of snorkellers set out on a dedicated Zodiac cruise with our guides Ania and Eddie. We began in beautiful light, admiring the ancient, folded mountain geology and an atmospheric waterfall that served as a backdrop for several vocal elephant seals and king penguins. The true highlight, however, was finding a colony of Macaroni penguins—the only ones we'll see this voyage—with their distinctive golden crests. In fact, we were able to observe 4 different species of penguins in this unique location! Chubby gentoos with their distinctive red beaks and a couple of stranded chinstraps joined the party.



Number of Snorkellers:10

Total Number of Outings:8

Snorkellers:

Nick Newell

Craig Costello

Lucy Baxter

John Baxter

Carol Mueller

Rob Parkinson

Helen Parkinson

Donna Babylon

Susan Casad

Gabrielle Yuen

As we prepared to gear up, the snow returned, but the spirit of the group remained unshakable. Buoyed by yesterday's successful check-out, seven brave snorkellers committed to the dip. Eddie's hot water bottles were a stroke of genius, keeping hands and gloves warm before the plunge.

We jumped into deeper waters today where the visibility had improved. Beneath the surface, we drifted through forests of giant kelp swaying in the surge, while playful fur seals watched us from the nearby rocks. The lucky few even caught a glimpse of a gentoo penguin "porpoising" out of the water and onto the shoreline. Despite the 4°C water chill, we managed a solid 20 minutes before heading back for a well-deserved hot chocolate.

09 March 2026, AM
Godthul, South Georgia

What an exhilarating morning at Godthul! We ventured into the deep, open water of the bay, immediately finding ourselves immersed in vast kelp forests that swayed in the surge like an underwater jungle. The conditions

were so inviting that we remained in the water for well over half an hour, happily exploring every hidden corner we could.

The water column was thick with tiny planktonic creatures and jellies, creating the surreal sensation of floating inside a living snow globe. However, the true stars of the show were the Antarctic fur seals. They zoomed past us like sleek, underwater rockets - spinning, circling, and constantly returning for a second (and third) look at their visitors.

Curious, playful, and ridiculously fast, they clearly loved the attention, mirroring our movements with effortless grace. Between the world-class wildlife encounters, the fantastic team vibes, and the nonstop smiles, this was a quintessential and truly unforgettable South Georgia snorkel.

14 March 2026, AM
Portal Point, Antarctic Peninsula

A milestone morning as we celebrated our first continental landing and our official sailing into Antarctic waters. For those in the group ticking off their

seventh continent, the excitement was palpable - and the local residents seemed to agree, with whales surfacing to welcome us the moment we stepped off the ship and into the Zodiacs.

After a few days' hiatus following the long sea crossing from South Georgia and our visit to Elephant Island, Portal Point provided the perfect "refresher" site. While we explored the shoreline, Ania and Eddie conducted extensive scouting of the nearby shallow bays. As the wind began to pick up, they successfully tucked us into a Beautifully sheltered spot behind the main landing site.

The underwater scene was a stark, vibrant contrast to the sub-Antarctic. With visibility far exceeding what we experienced in South Georgia, we found ourselves drifting over colorful starfish and dense clouds of krill—the tiny engines of the entire Antarctic ecosystem. On the nearby granite rock formations, a group of penguins watched us with quiet curiosity, while an impressively large male fur seal kept a watchful eye on our "pod" from the water.

The energy today was contagious. Despite the biting Antarctic temperatures, the group stayed submerged for a solid 30 minutes. To cap off a perfect session, several snorkellers celebrated the occasion with a series of "happy jumps" straight from the Zodiac into the deep blue. A truly spectacular introduction to the white continent!

14 March 2026, PM
Wilhelmina Bay, Gerlache Strait

Often referred to as "Whale-mina Bay," this iconic feeding ground in the Gerlache Strait lived up to its reputation the moment we arrived. Humpback whales were everywhere, some putting on a show by slapping their massive tail flukes against the water. Because this vast bay offers no beaches or rocky landings, we set out for a pure Zodiac-based adventure, joined by some non-snorkelling partners who were eager to catch the action from the boat.

We initially buddied up with the dive team before heading into deeper waters to explore the sub-surface world. Swimming around "berg bits" was a



highlight, as the underwater portions of the ice revealed intricate, sculpted shapes that remain hidden from above. While we were admiring the ice, a large, curious fur seal unexpectedly joined the group, darting between snorkellers in a playful display.

Though we kept a hopeful eye out for whales to approach closer, they remained at a distance for the first half hour. However, the conditions were so extraordinary—mirror-glass water, zero wind, and no swell—that we decided to do something very rare: we offered a second snorkel session in a new location.

Four brave snorkellers took the plunge for a second time, and their persistence paid off. From a safe distance in the water, they were able to watch two massive humpbacks glide through the bay. As we finally made our way back to the ship, the day concluded with a spectacular light show, as the setting sun cast a vibrant glow over the towering mountain peaks surrounding the bay. A double-dip day we won't soon forget!

15 March 2026, AM Neko Harbour, Antarctic Peninsula

We arrived this morning at one of the most coveted landing sites on the Antarctic continent. Neko is famed for its breathtaking vantage points, towering glacial scenery, and a bustling colony of playful Gentoo penguins. To make the most of the site, our snorkellers landed first, allowing ample time for the hike up to the viewpoint to soak in the panoramic vistas. Donna, however, opted for an early dip instead of the trek and was rewarded with a rare and serene encounter: a solo swim with a graceful crabeater seal.

By the time the rest of the group was ready to transition from land to water, the weather started to deteriorate, with some strong wind gusts felt through the harbour. Despite the turn in the weather, the lure of snorkelling with the Gentoos was too strong to ignore. We tucked into the shallow waters near the beach, spending a focused window of time watching the penguins from the water perspective.

Due to the rapidly changing weather

conditions, it was a short outing - lasting only about 15 minutes before safety dictated a return to the ship. Even though our time in the water was brief, the group returned buzzing with energy, grateful for the unique perspective of observing the penguins in their true element.

16 March 2026, AM Hydruga Rocks, Two Hummock Island

Our final morning in the vicinity of Antarctic Peninsula brought us to the uniquely shaped Hydruga Rocks. The name *Hydrurga leptonyx* is Latin for the Leopard seal, and while these apex predators are magnificent to behold, we were quite content not to share the water with one today! Instead, the group was buzzing with excitement for one last snorkel before our turn north toward the South Shetland Islands.

Hydruga Rocks is a "secret" gem in the *Aurora Expeditions* history, a site of hidden gullies and dramatic metamorphic rock walls. It's a bustling hub of life; we were treated to our first

sightings of Weddell seals hauling out on the rocks, alongside a colony of Chinstrap penguins and Antarctic shags. After a brief landing to soak in the rugged geology, Ania and Eddie zipped us away to a calm gully flanked by a steep, towering rock face.

Plunging in, we followed the wall as it dropped vertically into the deep. With visibility around 4 to 5 meters, we explored a miniature world of bright orange starfish, limpets, and pulsing krill. The weather remained exceptionally kind - with no wind chill to speak of - giving us the warmth and stamina to go for a second dip!

Our second snorkel session took place in a shallow, sheltered bay. It was a very relaxing swim, with a sleepy Weddell seal watching us from a nearby ledge, we dropped into the clearest water of the voyage. It was absolutely teeming with life - clouds of krill and amphipods darting amongst even more vibrant starfish. Several snorkellers dubbed this the best session of the entire trip. We are leaving the Antarctic continent feeling completely satisfied and incredibly lucky.



17 March 2026, AM
Half Moon Bay, South Shetland Islands

Our final snorkelling session of the voyage began under the golden glow of the morning sun. Before slipping into the water for the last time, our guides took us on a scenic Zodiac cruise to admire the island's impressive glaciers. We even crossed paths with the dive team, only to find they had traded their tanks for snorkels today! It was a nodding acknowledgement of what we've known since day one: in Antarctica, the most vibrant action often happens right at the surface.

Half Moon can be a notoriously difficult site, often plagued by high winds and exposed, surging beaches. However, our luck held firm as we tucked into a perfectly sheltered bay with a small, quiet beach near the landing site. The visibility was a welcome surprise - far clearer than anticipated - allowing us to swim alongside a group of highly active fur seals.

The real stars of the finale, however, were the Chinstrap and Gentoo penguins. Watching them from the water as they transitioned from land to sea was a masterclass in nature's engineering; they shot past us like feathered torpedoes, a blur of speed and grace that you just can't appreciate from the shore.

After a solid final soak, we returned to the ship to peel off our drysuits and warm up. Some of the group even managed to squeeze in a second outing and landed for a long hike across the island's rugged interior. The small band of snorkellers who took this final plunge returned to the ship absolutely stoked - happy, exhausted, and perfectly "salted" to end this incredible journey.







Diving Log

Guides: Darren Clarke, Thomas Gov and Peter Neilson

03 March 2026, AM Sparrow cove

The opportunity for a check-out dive in the Falklands was too good to miss, although there was a fresh breeze the shelter of Sparrow cove meant flat water with no swell. Something that would be hard to find in South Georgia (an island known for its swell). We found a spot in the middle of the bay free of kelp.

The divers enjoyed a flat seabed 6-10 m deep, suitable for our check-out dive. An opportunity to ensure our weighting was correct and our equipment was working.

As they cruised along through the kelp enjoying the wide variety of small marine life thriving there. Nudibranchs, isopods, some fish, star fish, sea stars made for a great way to start the trip in 3-4m of visibility.

07 March 2026, AM Ocean Harbour

There was a turbulent sea which made getting onto the Zodiac a little

challenging, South Georgia was showing us its trademark swell. The dive team went out to scout for a sheltered place to dive as the divers waited patiently on the ship.

Good news there was a workable site lined with kelp and close to a fur seal nursery, maybe we would get lucky and be joined by these playful animals.

The dive followed the kelp line sheltered behind small island, it was great to see some fish, star fish, sea stars etc. The divers were enjoying a gentle dive and then suddenly things livened up. At first a few seals came to check out the divers and then suddenly there were dozens of them. Seemingly effortlessly twisting and turning. Giving a real show. As the divers ascended the intensity increased with the divers seemingly surrounded or even part of this writhing mass of fun. What a great way to finish a dive.

08 March 2026, AM Stromness

It looked like it was going to be an



Total number of Divers: 4

Total number of outings:
14 (11 dive / 3 snorkel)

Divers:

Shane Gross

Shane Farrel

Jie You

Lu

atmospheric but calm morning as we approached the anchorage. The glassy water reflecting the grey skies. However, as we started to lower Zodiacs the catabatic wind bared its teeth and suddenly the gusting wind whipped up the spray and changed the picture completely.

The dive team had to now scout and hunt for a sheltered spot. Fortunately, we found a small bay on the north side of the main Channel which offered a lovely dive amongst the kelp in 10-12m of water. The seabed was alive with brittle stars, sea stars and other invertebrates,

The ascent to the surface once again brought the divers close to another fur seal nursery which is always a great way to end a dive.

08 March 2026, PM **Hercules Bay**

Hercules Bay with its tall cliffs and fantastic waterfall is certainly an impressive place to dive the bay is deep and only has a couple of small shelves in which we could operate. Home also to Rockhopper penguins we spent some time enjoying them

knowing that we will not see them further south in Antarctica before. We moved a short way along the cliff to the dive site.

Once again the kelp dominated the landscape however the visibility meant we could enjoy the sunshine whilst enjoying the dive, meandering through the underwater forest it felt good to enjoy some more settled conditions. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the dive, We look forward further exploration to come.

09 March 2026, AM **Godthul**

What a beautiful bay Godthul is. The dramatic and majestic scenery engulfed us. We were thankful for the depth of the bay and the height of the mountains as the wind was gusting at 50 knots in the open sea, however all was calm inside the safety of the bay.

It was hard to know which way to look. Within the greater bay there are numerous smaller ones lined with kelp and home to penguins and seals.

We chose a sheltered little cove that had a long gully between the kelp. Starting in 8m of water the divers

marvelled at the ecosystem crafted by the kelp. The suns rays shining through the clear water made for a memorable dive in 8-10m of visibility. Two lucky divers were visited by a fur seal and then the highlight were two friendly Gentoo Penguins showing how graceful they are as they fly through the water.

12 March 2026, AM **Point Wild, Elephant Island**

We arrived at Elephant island to the sound of the blows of many fin whales, it seemed a fitting addition to the mist that hugged the shoreline and stopped us viewing the potential dive site.

The swell seemed too big and the water looked grey however after a Recce trip of the dive site by the Dive team the go ahead was given and we raced across the bumpy waters into the shelter of the small bay close to the location where Shackeltons men survived for four and a half months.

The dive was a great first taste of diving in Antarctic waters with plenty of limpets, 3-4 m visibility in water that was 1 degree Celsius.

It is very rare to get a chance to dive at Point wild, so it was all smiles as we

took a selfie in front of the memorial to the Chilean skipper who saved the men more than 100 years ago.

13 March 2026, PM **Deception Island**

A last-minute change to the schedule meant that we moved from Bailey head to Whalers Bay. Coming through the bellows full of excitement we could see that the water was dark brown. After a search around the bay, it was clear that diving inside the Caldera would not happen today, fortunately the wind was low enough to venture back out through the bellows and locate a dive site near Neptunes window.

A fairly shallow dive 4-5m visibility and once the divers found some rocks the dive came to life. Beautiful sponges and tunicates covered the rocks making for a colourful and enjoyable drift along the side of an active volcano.

14 March 2026, AM **Portal point**

It was our first look at a typically Antarctic landscape with the Glaciers and mountains dominating the skyline.



Total number of Divers: 4

**Total number of outings:
14 (11 dive / 3 snorkel)**

Divers:

Shane Gross

Shane Farrel

Jie You

Lu

It has a beauty all of its own and there was certainly an air of excitement to get a first dive on the Peninsula.

The ice bergs added to the sense of adventure as we approached the shore.

A brisk breeze meant that we dived in the shelter of the cliffs. On our way to the dive site we saw numerous Humpback Whales which helped build the excitement before the dive.

The dive itself was in around 8-10m of water, a rocky bottom covered with Algae, starfish and isopods kept the divers interested. One diver saw a large Black Cod and some spotted the ever impressive Sun Stars.

On returning to the surface we enjoyed the seals along the shoreline and even stepped upon the shore for the first time on the continent of Antarctica.

A good day was had by all

14 March 2026, PM Wilhemena Bay

We set out on a mini adventure. Taking the dive kit and being prepared to take advantage of whatever we would find. It did not take long to realise that this was a day to embrace watching

the Humpback whales, Gorged after months of feeding they were largely resting however some were showing some interest in the Zodiacs. Everyone agreed to take a chance and enter the water snorkelling and see what happened. It did not take long before a Whale slowly approached. Two snorkellers were approached by a whale and it came within 1.5m of them however with the poor visibility and the whales well adapted black colour made it extremely difficult to see underwater.

It was a special experience to be in the water and so close to these majestic animals. A little later we had a second similar encounter making for a very memorable afternoon.

15 March 2026, AM Neko Harbour

Another of the Classic Peninsula sites. Neko harbour provides an impressive backdrop to any activity.

We started with a snorkel on the beach to enjoy the Gentoo penguin colony as they played in the shallow water and preened their feathers. It was fun to see them in the water so close and after 20 minutes or so we headed out into

the bay to see what we could find. Two minutes later we spotted some Minke whales a few hundred meters away. The divers jumped into the water in snorkeling gear and the Minkes came to check them out. The whales are fast and they made 3 circles around the divers, they stayed 5-10m away. It was too far to get a good look in the limited visibility, however a great feeling to be in the water with such beautiful animals.

We had the opportunity to experience some more catabatic winds as we wiggled our way back through the ice towards the ship. A beautiful morning to be on the water.

15 March 2026, PM Duperre bay

The bay is big and largely Glaciated offering few opportunities for a sea bed to dive on. We set off to see if we could find a suitable site and it was not long before we had a Leopard seal cruising beside, It is always fun to witness their own unique way of lifting their head high out of the water to check us out.

We moved on and found safe and suitable site and whilst the divers kitted

up a young Humpback Whale hung around and created a lovely pre-dive atmosphere.

The dive was 12-18m deep with 4-5 m of visibility, this time there was not much life on show but interesting to see the rock formations. Everyone was glad we managed to get into the water after the previous two snorkel outings.

16 March 2026, AM Hydruga rocks

It was still beautiful morning with the mist sitting at the base of the peninsula mountains on one side and Two Hummocks island behind us.

We chose to dive in the channel on the deeper side of the island and what a good choice it was. Even though the visibility was 3-4 m there was an abundance of Benthic life, with various algae and nudibranchs to keep the divers interested throughout the dive.

The divers completed the morning with an outing onshore to enjoy the chinstrap penguins, Weddel and Fur seals. A lovely start to the day.



16 March 2026, AM Cierva Cove

Cierva cove rarely fails to deliver a true Antarctic experience and today was no exception. The towering icebergs surrounded by smaller bergs, and swathes of brash ice creates an atmosphere all of its own.

As we pushed our way through the brash ice towards the potential dive site at an island on the North side of the bay we spotted 3 Leopard seals resting on ice flows.

Around 400m short of the island we broke free of the brash ice and had clear water around the island, this combined with no wind was perfect surface conditions for the dive.

Underwater the vis was stubbornly average however good enough to really enjoy the dive.

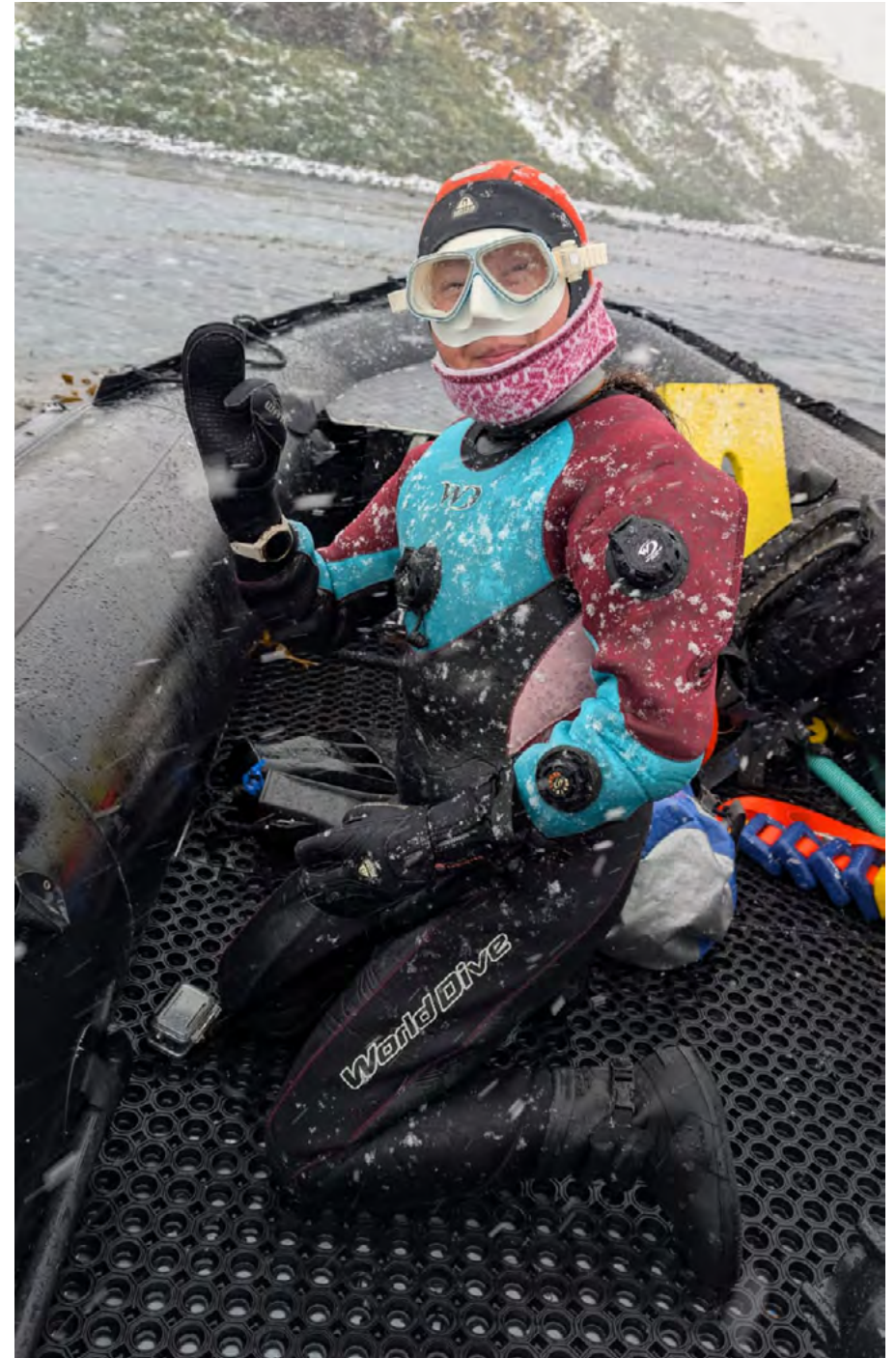
The dive on the North wall of the island rarely gets scoured by the ice so is a real treat, with long swathes of kelp, and algae. There is always a good chance of seeing kelp and Nudibrachs here and today was no different. A great way to finish the day.

17 March 2026, AM Halfmoon

We never had confirmed flight times for leaving from King George Island so we had to snorkel instead of dive to ensure that we had 24hrs clear of diving before any potential flight.

This is no way detracted from an amazing morning. At long last we had some clear water and with the rafts of both Gentoo / Chinstrap penguins and dozens of playful fur seals the divers had a fantastic time being swarmed by the inquisitive wildlife.

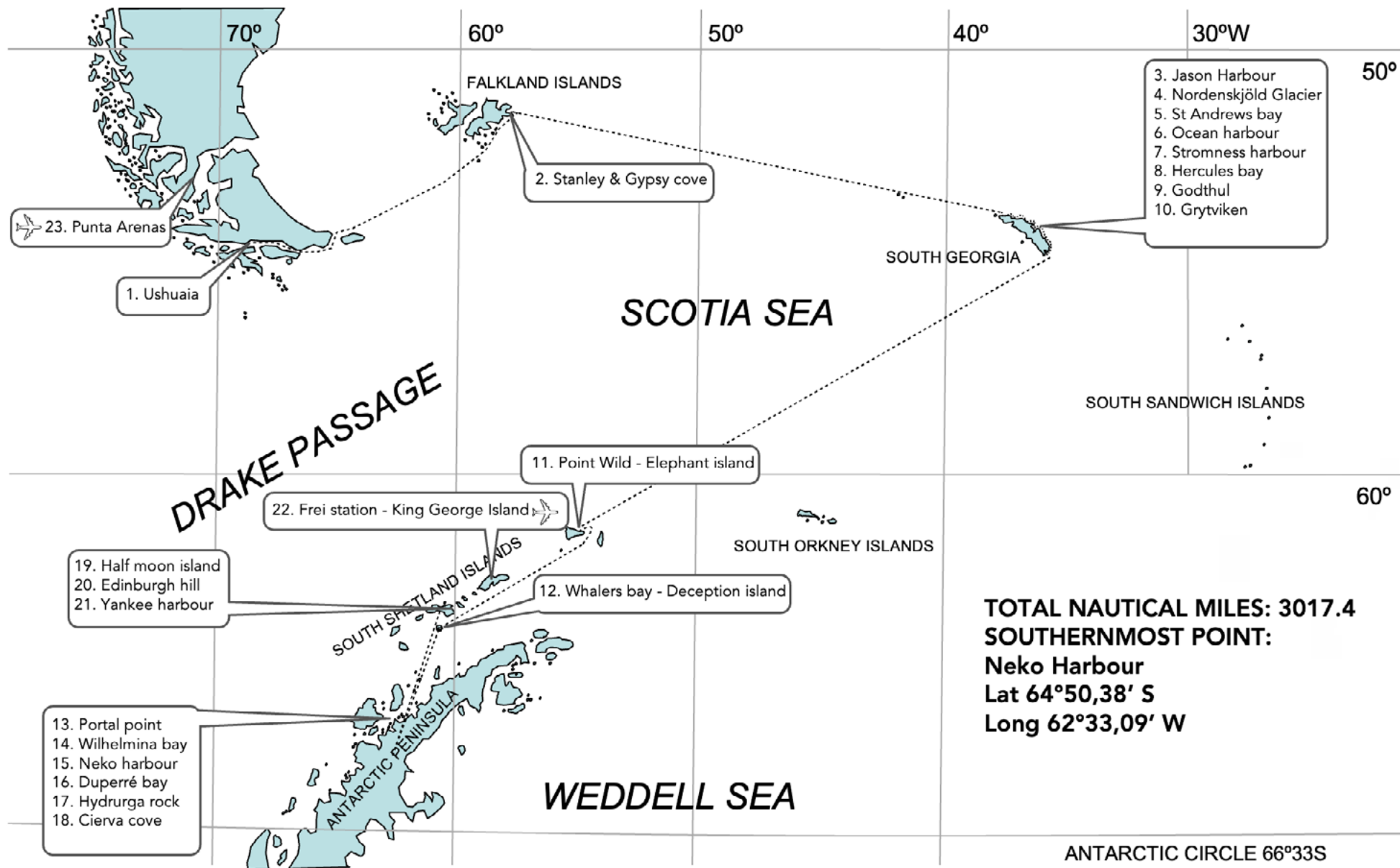
A Magical way to end a trip that has brought us in water experiences with Whales, Penguins and seals.



Bird & Mammal Sightings

Bird Species	March																	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Magellanic Penguin	•		•															
King Penguin						•	•	•	•									
Gentoo Penguin						•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	
Chinstrap Penguin						•		•				•	•		•	•	•	
Macaroni Penguin								•										
Wandering Albatross		•	•	•	•													
Royal Albatross		•																
Black-browed Albatross	•		•	•	•						•							
Giant Petrel sp. (Northern / Southern)	•	•	•			•	•	•	•			•	•			•	•	
Cape Petrel		•											•					
Prion sp.		•		•	•			•		•	•	•						
White-chinned Petrel			•		•					•		•						
Wilson's Storm-petrel		•			•					•	•			•	•	•	•	
Great Shearwater				•														
Light-mantled Albatross								•		•	•							
Southern Fulmar											•							
Soft-plumaged Petrel										•								
Black-bellied Storm-petrel										•								
Snow Petrel												•						
Imperial Cormorant (Blue-eyed Shag)	•											•	•	•	•	•	•	

Map



South Georgia, Falklands & Antarctic Odyssey

28 February to 19 March 2026



Our *Expeditioners*

Alcaraz Centeno Sara	Chrystie Heather	Hadjimina-Muller Beatrice	Li Yan	Phillips Jacqueline	Wei Huijuan
Amin Sheena	Chrystie Peter	Herring Annette	Li Ning	Phillips Dan	Wilson David
Arlidge Burnham	Chrystie Anna	Herring Mark	Li Liuyu	Ren Baotong	Wu Wenguang
Babylon Donna	Clark Peter	Hinds David	Liu Yanyan	Reynolds Harvey	Xu Xiaohui
Bai Chunbo	Colaco George	Hofstetter Peter	Liu Rui	Reynolds Tricia	Yang Jian
Barnes Julia	Costello Craig	Hsu Hung-Chieh	Liu Guangxing	Robinson Peter	Yepez Tito Ellie
Barnes Mike	Costello Sylvia	Hu Jianjun	Locke Elaine	Robinson Ann	Yeung Dylan
Baxter John	Cox Russell	Hu Xiaojing	Locke Nigel	Ruparelia Satish	Yip Cheryl
Baxter Lucy	Esparza Sylvia	Jeffrey Julie	Ma Li-Ching	Shen Chyau	You Jie
Bhuva Girish	Esslinger Christine	Jeffrey Brett	Medansky Susan	Shepherd Lynn	Young Andrew
Bhuva Bharti	Esslinger Thomas	Jia Zhong	Moore Amanda	Stone Alan	Yuen Gabrielle
Burridge Paddy	Ewin Justin	Jin Lu	Mueller Carol	Sun Yi	Zhou Lei
Burridge Colin	Ewin Bodhi	Jones Ryan	Newell Nick	Tepper-Rasmussen Michael	Zieschang Greg
Byrne Helen	Farrell Shane	Kennedy Debbie	Pallin Logan	Thomas Grant	Zieschang Julie
Byrne Richard	Feldman Mynan	Kerr Maryann	Parkinson Robert	Waldman Ron	
Cardinaletti Miriam	Ferrier Diane	Kfoury Dany	Parkinson Helen	Wang Yaqun	
Casad Susan	Foster Sandy	Lee Christine	Patel Mahesh	Wang Shaobing Wang	
Challis Danny	Foster Mark	Leigh Stephanie	Patel Alka	Weaver Mike	
Chandra Abhishek	Gross Shane	Leigh Stuart	Patino Vicky	Weaver Jacqueline	
Chrystie Emily	Hadjimina Alex		Perrin Patricia		

Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Elena Wimberger
Assistant *Expedition* Leader: Mark Brophy
Onboard *Expedition* Manager: Heidi Dohn
Shop Manager: Reza Rusooly
Ornithologist / Naturalist: Lianne Thomson
Glaciologist / Geologist / CSC: Marcos Goldin
Historian: Piotr Damski
Marine Biologist / Naturalist / EC: Vicky Inglis
Expedition Guide: Samira Drissi
Photography Guide: Jamie Lafferty
Expedition First Responder: Belinda Denchfield
Expedition (Mandarin) Guide: Qing Qu
Expedition (Mandarin) Guide: Rose Luan
Lead Senior Kayak Guide: Erin Scott
Senior Kayak Guide: Eamon Larkin
Senior Kayak Guide: Scotty McCormack
Senior Kayak Guide: Sarah Hrdlicka
Kayak Guide: Tim Stredwick
Lead Snorkel Guide: Ania Baranek
Snorkel Guide: Eddie Hauzer
Dive Team Leader: Darren Clarke
Dive / Snorkel Guide: Thomas Gov
Dive Guide: Peter Nilsson
Senior Alpine Guide: Mike Roberts
Zodiac Manager: Nacho Marino

Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Andrey Gilevskiy
Chief Officer: Victor koshelets
Second Officer: John Paul Sibug
Safety Officer: Bryan Joseph Salem
Bosun: Leo Francis Marzan
Ship Doctor: Maria Zambrano
Chief Engineer: Artem Vyshnevskiy
First Engineer: Warlito Versoza
IT Officer: Mikhail Volkov
Hotel Director: Alex Barkar
F&B Service Manager: Narendra Seeram
Head Bartender: Sheenie Vi Landauz
Chief Purser: Pedro Camilo Jr Diaz
Executive Chef: Indra Wicaksono
Sous-Chef: Priteviraj Dakona
Hotel Controller: Orlando Costa
Receptionist: Angela Manuel
Receptionist: Jaica Marie Puyod
Head Stateroom Attendant: Florante Lusong Jr.
Deck Cadet: Constantin Turmacu
Able Seaman: Eduardo Aloyan
Able Seaman: Ferdy Noel Diaz Roque
Able Seaman: Prasad Pallikara Vijayan
Able Seaman: Anthony Brosas
Able Seaman: Danico Dan Well

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Photographer: Jamie Lafferty







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