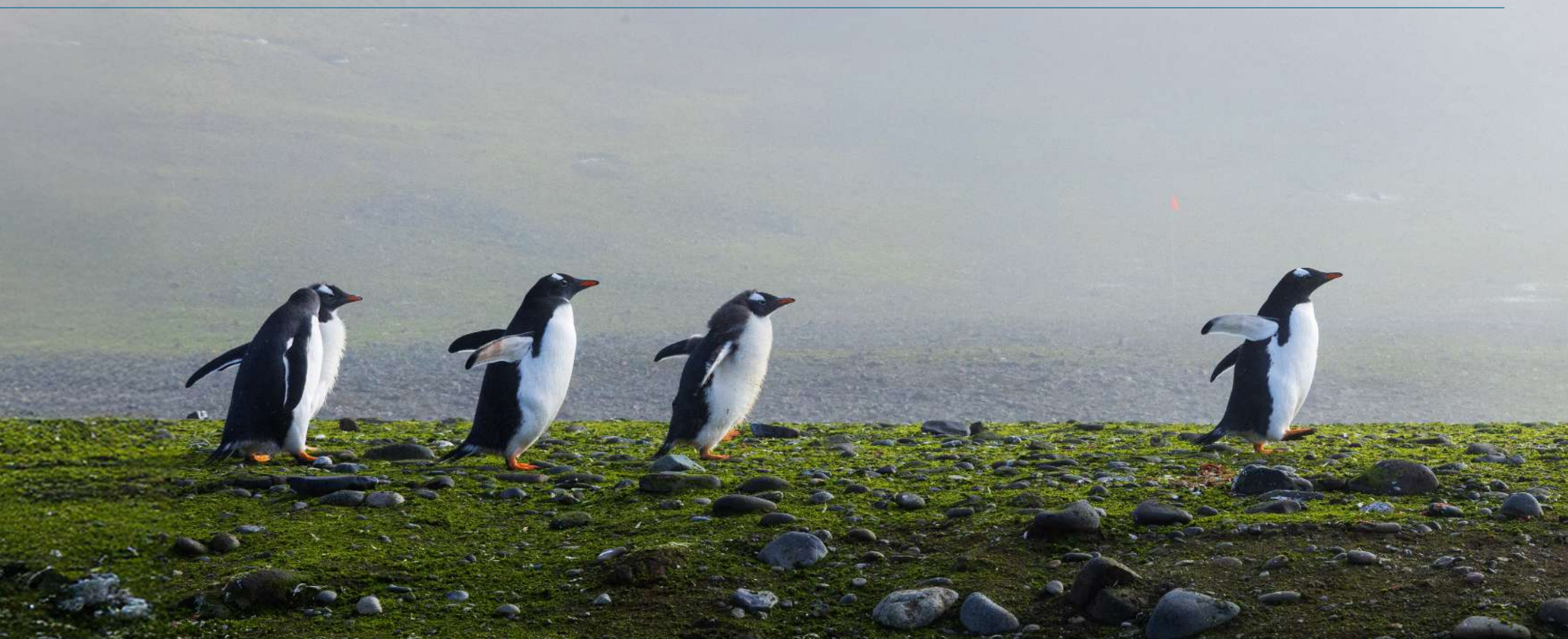
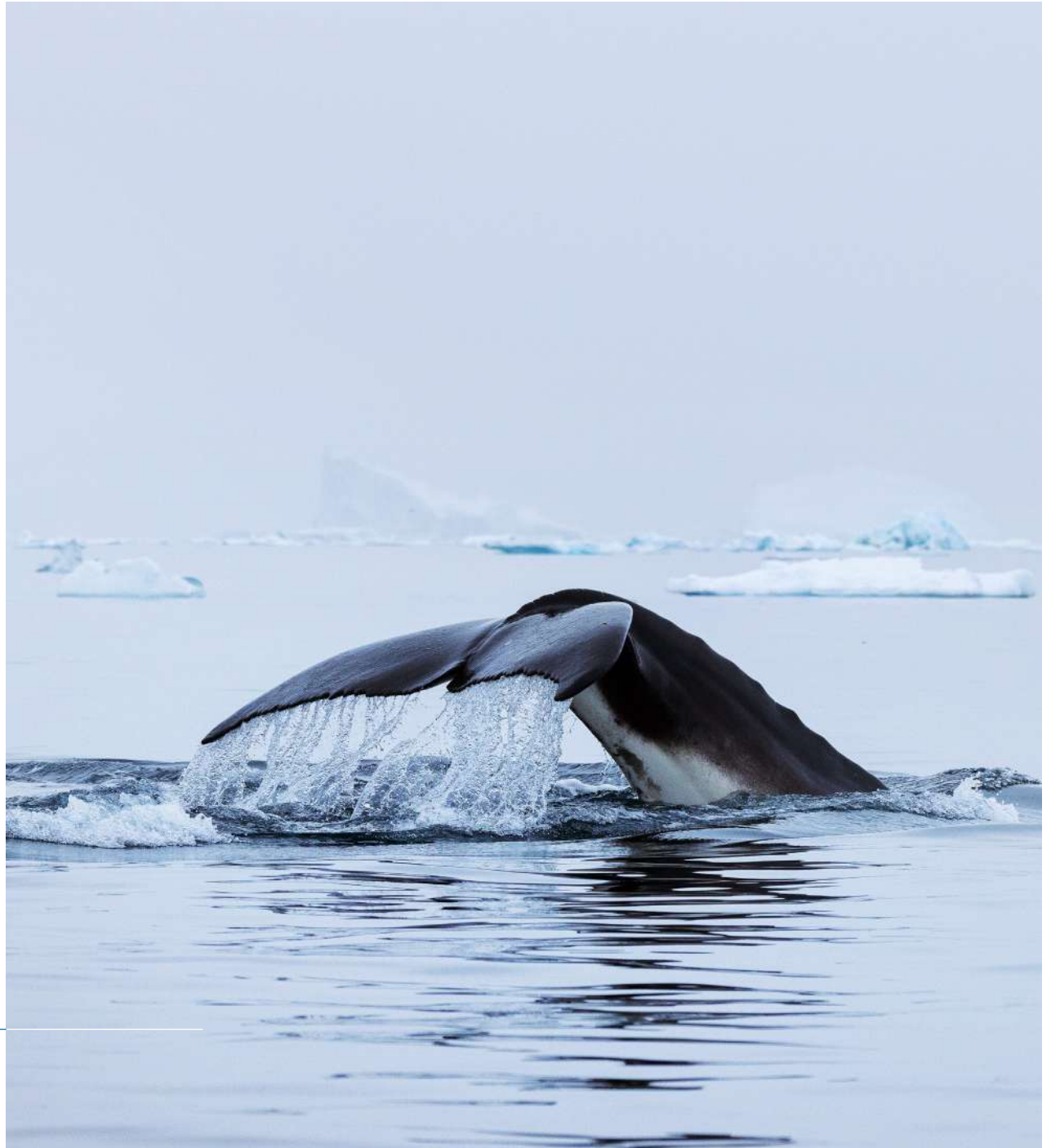


Antarctic Explorer Featuring the Chilean Fjords

Aboard *Sylvia Earle* | 2 March – 14 March 2025





Antarctic Explorer Featuring the Chilean Fjords

2 March – 14 March 2025

King George Island, South Shetlands

DAY 1 | Sunday 2 March 2025

Latitude:
62°12'1" S
Longitude:
58°56'84" W

Course:
At Anchor
Speed:
0 knots

Wind Speed:
12 knots
Barometer:
1000 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

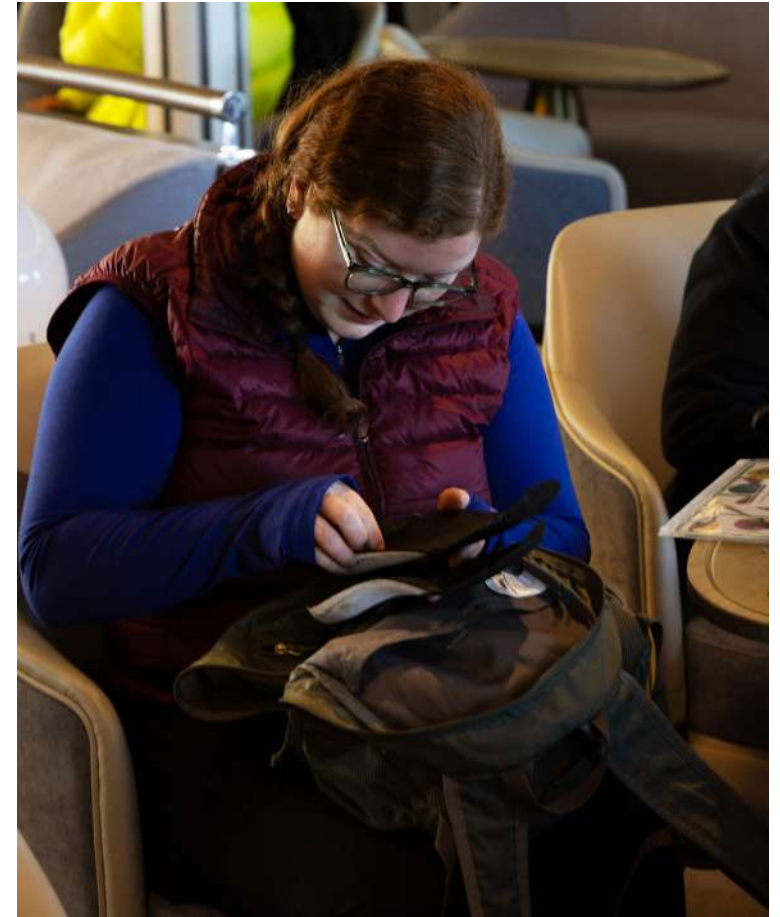
It was a relief to touch down on the gravel airstrip at Frei Station and take the Zodiac ride from shore to ship. The weather was kind to us, and we arrived warm and dry on the *Sylvia Earle*. Our hotel crew awaited us with cocktails and a welcome lunch buffet.

After lunch, it was time for a welcome briefing, where we met some of our Expedition Team and participated in the safety drill. Our safety officers and crew guided us to the lifeboats to familiarise us with their locations. Later, we had our Zodiac briefing, and the paddlers, kayakers, snorkellers and divers had their first meeting. We also did our jacket and boot exchange. At the recap session, we

learned about Plan A for tomorrow. There are 21 Expedition Team members in total, with various specialties, including photography, conservation, oceanography, ornithology, marine biology, cetaceans, geology, glaciology, history and medicine.

We had a total of 60 Expeditioners, representing: Australia (14), Canada (3), China (5), Germany (1), Mexico (1), Netherlands (1), New Zealand (2), United Kingdom (4), United States (29), along with the Expedition Team and 86 ship's crew from across the world. Our journey has begun!





Barrientos Island & Half Moon Island

DAY 2 | Monday 3 March 2025

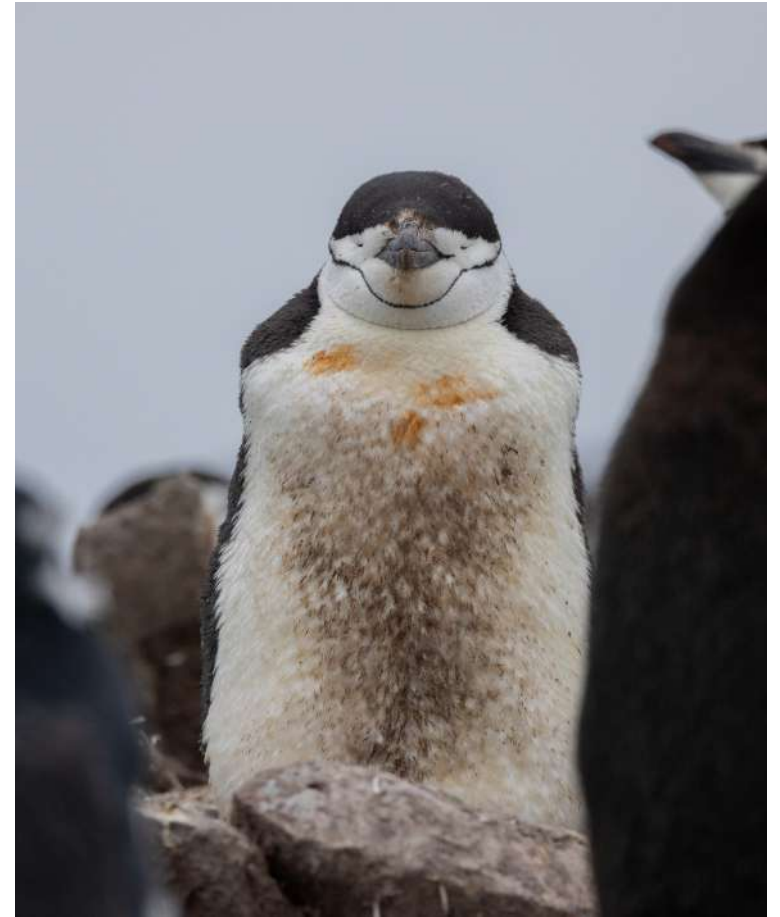
Latitude:
62°24'2" S
Longitude:
54°48'31" W
Course:
140°
Speed:
2.9 knots

Wind Speed:
2 knots N
Barometer:
997 hPa
Air Temp:
2°C

This morning, we woke to calm conditions and a beautiful mist as we made our way to our first landing of the trip. After a lovely breakfast, we geared up in our layers for the first time, eager to explore. Our Zodiacs drove through thick fog before we could see our first landing, Barrientos Island, in the Aitcho group. As we hopped off the Zodiacs, we were surrounded by gentoo penguins. Wilson's storm petrels danced gracefully on the water, and giant petrels soared above the colonies. The landscape was covered in beautiful green moss, sprinkled with snow. Taking our time, we soaked in the view and the peaceful sound of the ocean.

Some of us were fortunate enough to jump in the water for a snorkel, while others enjoyed a kayak. In the afternoon, we arrived at Half Moon Island. We were greeted by fur seals and some Weddell seals. As we explored the landscape, we watched some loud and busy chinstrap penguins perched high on the rocks, and a couple gentoo penguins along the shore. For a moment, the fog lifted, and we caught glimpses of mountains and glaciers. Once on board, we gathered in the lecture theatre for our daily recap and briefing. The Captain welcomed us, celebrating the start of our incredible expedition.





Cierva Cove & Hydrurga Rocks

DAY 3 | Tuesday 4 March 2025

Latitude:

63°57'5" S

Longitude:

61°07'8" W

Course:

178°

Speed:

7.3 knots

Wind Speed:

2 knots

Barometer:

981 hPa

Air Temp:

-1°C

At 6.30am, we woke to a foggy morning at Cierva Cove. The mist hung in the air, creating an atmosphere of intrigue, but our plans to move further were stymied by the thick fog and icy conditions. Adjusting to the change, we opted for a Zodiac cruise to explore the enchanting surroundings.

Climbing into the Zodiac, we excitedly navigated the fog-covered waters. To our delight, we soon spotted a minke whale surfacing, its streamlined body cutting through the mist with ease. We caught sight of several penguins waddling along the shore, while a few leopard seals lounged on the icebergs. The scenery was breathtaking, with the fog wrapping the landscape in a haunting beauty.

After lunch, once refreshed, we set out to explore Hydrurga Rocks where we were greeted by a lively colony of chinstrap penguins. Their playful movements provided plenty of amusement, while nearby, Weddell seals basked on the ice, soaking up the sun. For many of us, the highlight was surely the fur seals. Their curious antics brought a jovial spirit to our visit.

As the day wound down, we returned to the ship to reflect on our adventures. Exhausted yet fulfilled, we looked back on the fascinating sights we had encountered, appreciative of the day and the nature around us, as we settled in for the night—ready for whatever awaited us tomorrow.







Foyn Harbour & Portal Point

DAY 4 | Wednesday 5 March 2025

Latitude:
64°32'78" S
Longitude:
60°58'5" W

Course:
Adrift
Speed:
0.2 knots

Wind Speed:
2 knots
Barometer:
982 hPa

Air Temp:
1°C

The day began with a bit of mystery as we set off for Foyn Harbor, shrouded in fog. Just as we stepped off the ship, the fog seemed to close in, adding an atmospheric touch.

We began our exploration at the wreck of the *Guvernøren*, a haunting reminder of history. Foyn Harbor owes its name to Svend Foyn, the Norwegian whaling magnate who introduced the modern harpoon cannon.

The *Guvernøren's* tale is a tragic one. In 1915, the ship caught fire during a crew celebration, sparked by a lantern knocked off a table. The crew had been rejoicing over a successful whaling season, but their celebration soon turned to disaster. The captain, in a bid to save his men,

grounded the ship in Foyn Harbor. Miraculously, all 85 men aboard were saved.

Returning to the *Sylvia Earle*, our next adventure was the polar plunge. In a daring display of bravery, many of us took the plunge into the nearly freezing Antarctic waters.

Our afternoon plans had to change due to weather conditions, and we set course for Portal Point. As the fog lifted, we were treated to our first clear view of Antarctica. It was nothing short of magical—majestic icebergs towering over the icy waters, and humpback whales feeding in the distance. The sight was awe-inspiring, making every moment feel like a privilege.





Lemaire Channel, Petermann Island & Argentine Islands

DAY 5 | Thursday 6 March 2025

Latitude:
64°55'5" S
Longitude:
63°45'97" W
Course:
Adrift
Speed:
0.2 knots

Wind Speed:
3 knots
Barometer:
985 hPa
Air Temp:
3°C

We woke early to the sound of Christian's soothing voice informing us that we were almost starting our navigation through the Lemaire Channel. Despite the strong wind and heavy snow, some adventurous guests braved the outside decks in hope of glimpsing the stunning views as we slowly made our way through the icy waters.

After breakfast, we made our way to Petermann Island, where we saw our first Adélie penguins, some of which were still moulting. The snorkellers and divers braved the cold waters, while the kayakers and paddlers experienced the area from a unique perspective. It was a moment to truly appreciate the remoteness and untouched beauty.

After lunch, we sailed towards the nearby Argentine Islands. The afternoon was filled with excitement as we ventured out on Zodiac cruises through the stunning channels. The calm waters allowed for some incredible close-up views of leopard seals lounging on the ice.

The highlight of the afternoon was landing on Winter Island to visit the historic Wordie House, a former British research station. Some guests opted for a short walk to a viewpoint for stunning panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.

Back on board, we gathered for an insightful recap of the day, where we learned about Leo's fascinating work with Weddell seals.





Paradise Harbour & Damoy Point

DAY 6 | Friday 7 March 2025

Latitude:
64°48'04' S
Longitude:
63°04'33' W

Course:
284°
Speed:
7.2 knots

Wind Speed:
25 knots
Barometer:
990 hPa

Air Temp:
3°C

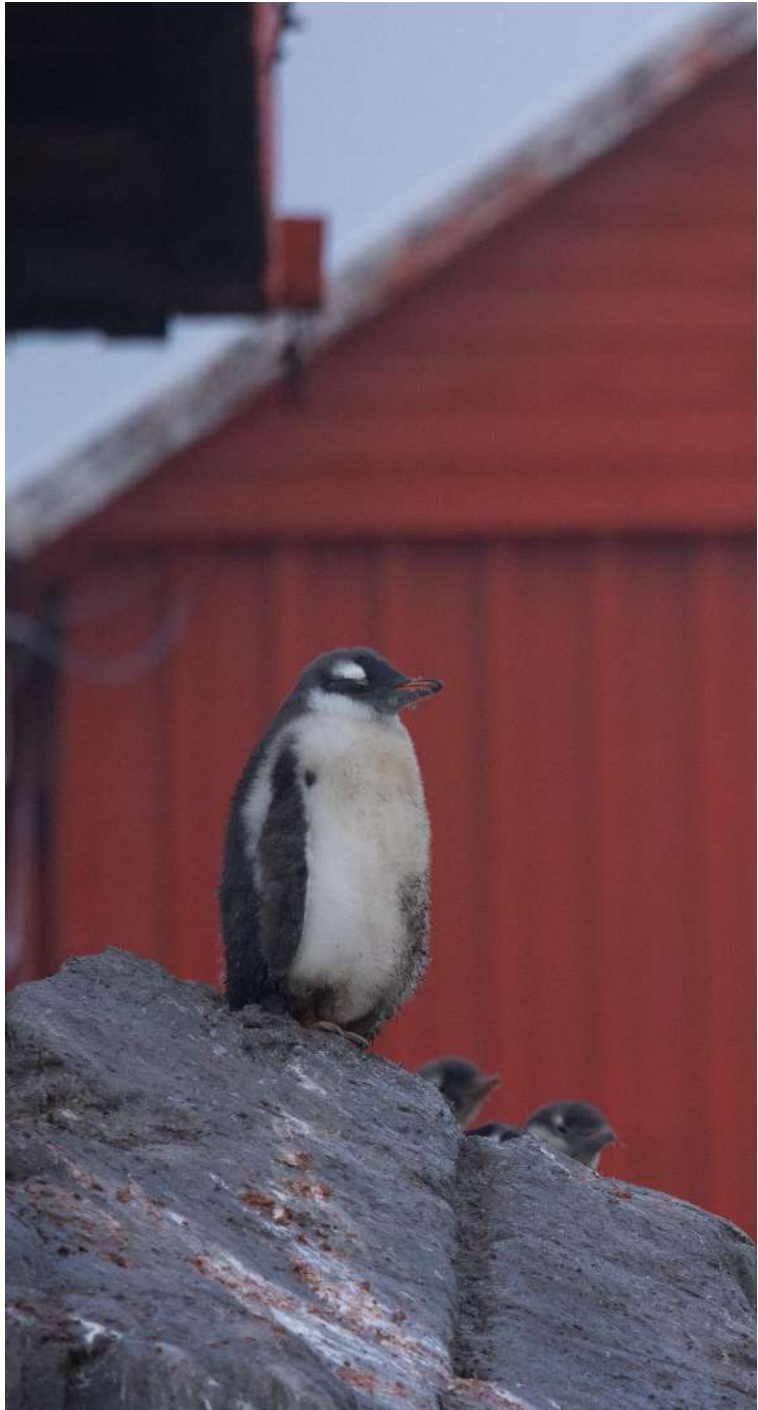
Antarctica is a place that never quite seems real, but rather the workings of our imaginations, our morning Zodiac exploration in the silvery waters of Paradise Harbour was a cruise into that dreamlike world, through swirling mists and shattered ice.

The backdrop of snow-clad mountains, and a glacier front that looked like the fairytale castle promised by our drivers, was revealed in tantalising glimpses through the clouds. Heather guided us through the deep geological history of Antarctica, from its steamy tropical past as part of Gondwanaland to its frozen present; from simple ferns to dinosaurs to penguins.

The afternoon landing was followed by a hike at Damoy, once a gateway to the deeper south of the peninsula for members of the British Antarctic Survey. For the first time in a few days, the wind picked up and the mercury started to fall, leaving a distinct chill in the air as we hiked up the hill to look down on the historic site of Port Lockroy.

Moments in Antarctica are unrepeatable. A particular play of light on these landscapes, the wind, the time of the season—one could live several lifetimes and never see the place as it is in this moment again. Though the rock, ice, and ocean remain in the same place, the moments spent with them will never repeat themselves.





Melchior Islands & Cuverville

DAY 7 | Saturday 8 March 2025

Latitude:
64°28'92" S
Longitude:
62°53'70" W

Course:
127°
Speed:
8.8 knots

Wind Speed:
9 knots
Barometer:
994 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

We were welcomed to the Melchior Islands with clear skies, light winds and calm seas. Those of us on a Zodiac cruise spent time close to Melchior Base, built in 1947, the second oldest Argentine base on the peninsula. The islands are inhabited by juvenile fur seals.

The divers and snorkellers among our group once again dived into the chilly Antarctic waters, while the kayakers and paddlers set off to explore the many channels.

Over lunch, the *Sylvia Earle* re-positioned to Cuverville Island. Cuverville has the largest gentoo penguin population on the peninsula. The snow and ice on the lower section of the island had melted, exposing a

coastline of well-weathered rocks and whale bones. The highlight of the afternoon for everyone was the number of humpback whales in the ocean around Cuverville Island – they had us all mesmerised.

Back on board, our hotel team had drinks ready for all the ladies to celebrate International Women's Day. Recaps this evening focused on the life cycle of humpback whales.

After dinner, many of us gathered in the theatre to absorb more facts about the skies above as guest lecturer Keith spoke about the zodiac, how it was formed, and its significance in the night sky.





Recess Cove & Graham Passage

DAY 8 | Sunday 9 March 2025

Latitude:
64°30'50' S
Longitude:
61°31'00' W

Course:
127°
Speed:
4.39 knots

Wind Speed:
1 knot
Barometer:
984 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

It was a moody, misty morning on the ocean as we made our way towards Recess Cove. Early risers were already spotting humpback whales. It was another early start with our 6.30am wakeup, and we enjoyed a leisurely breakfast.

At Recess Cove, groups of paddlers, kayakers, divers and snorkellers all scattered around exploring the cove, with others on Zodiac cruises.

There was so much humpback whale action that everyone preferred to stay on the water rather than do the landing. We were in awe of the spectacle before us: lunge and bubble-net feeding, whales moving with purpose in large groups, others on their own breaching, and some sleeping

in pairs. It was such an incredible morning. Conditions remained calm for the entire outing, and the soft morning light on the mountains surrounding the cove placed us all in the painting of our dreams!

We warmed up over a delicious lunch as we moved towards Graham Passage. As the afternoon rolled around, we readied ourselves for our second outing. This time, the amazing, glaciated Graham Passage. The ship dropped us at the northern end of the passage and we followed it downwind to its new location on the other side, where we were picked up.





Mikkelsen Harbour & Lindblad Cove

DAY 9 | Monday 10 March 2025

Latitude:
63°45'2" S
Longitude:
59°36'7" W

Course:
82°
Speed:
10 knots

Wind Speed:
4 knots
Barometer:
979 hPa

Air Temp:
0°C

Another day on the Antarctic Peninsula started with the same misty intrigue. The atmosphere the snow and cloud created added so much to the feeling of remoteness. A walk around the deck revealed a snowy petrel and Wilson's storm petrel on deck.

The approach to Mikkelsen Harbour was blustery, and we were pleased to gain the protection of the bay. The snow started to fall, and the wind freshened as we prepared for a final landing on the peninsula. The E-Team approached the island, only to be greeted with a bay packed with ice. The morning operation had to reluctantly be cancelled, and we consoled ourselves with a view of some feeding humpback whales from the ship.

The afternoon brought one last opportunity to experience the incredible landscape of the Antarctic Peninsula with a Zodiac exploration of an ice-filled Lindblad Cove.

Antarctica obliged by providing the perfect setting, with thick, brash ice and towering icebergs interspersed with some smaller bergy bits to explore. The search was productive, with humpback and minke whales spotted in the open stretches of water, and leopard, fur, and crabeater seals relaxing on the ice. The wind died away, leaving stretches of mirror-calm water towards the ship.

Back on board, we enjoyed a fascinating introduction to glaciers. As we went to dinner, the low light and sunset between the icebergs was a fitting way to leave the peninsula.





Deception Island & at Sea

DAY 10 | Tuesday 11 March 2025

Latitude:
62°44'4" S
Longitude:
61°53'9" W

Course:
338°
Speed:
13.3 knots

Wind Speed:
12 knots
Barometer:
928 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

I'll never understand the appeal of climbing. My flippers were built for slicing through the sea, not scrambling up volcanic slopes. Yet, each season, I watch the two-legged creatures trample through snow, puffing like exhausted elephant seals, heading towards Neptune's Window, looking for something—a grand revelation..

I can tell you what they see—water, a lot of it. Maybe, if the air is clear, a glimpse of the continent they've come so far to see. But they're after more than just a view.

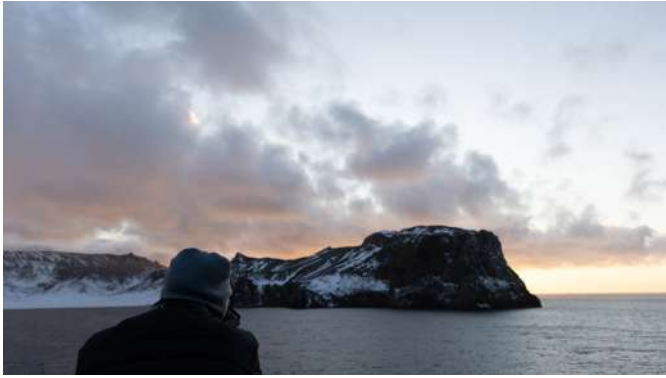
I stretch on my patch of warm black sand, basking in the volcanic heat. The younger males keep their distance, and the penguins shuffle past with their usual indifference, as if I'm just another lump of rock in their busy little world.

My great-great-grandmother would have laughed. In her time, humans came with clubs and harpoons, seeking our thick blubber and rich fur. Now, they come with cameras, and wonder in their eyes.

I watch them from the shore as they step around old whaling buildings, taking photos. They seem small in this vast land of ice and fire. As they leave, I hear the *Sylvia Earle* hum through the caldera, bound for the Drake Passage, that great, churning beast of a sea. I admire the ship's confidence. The Drake is not kind. But I respect it. I survive it.

Tomorrow, more will come, but for now, the island is mine again. The sea will always belong to those of us who know its true dance.





Drake Passage

DAY 11 | Wednesday 12 March 2025

Latitude:
59°41'00' S
Longitude:
63°49'00' W

Course:
344°
Speed:
14.2 knots

Wind Speed:
6 knots
Barometer:
1002 hPa

Air Temp:
3°C

We awoke far from land, having crossed latitude 60°S, the boundary of Antarctica as defined by the Antarctic Treaty, at approximately 4.30 that morning, . We are heading back to join the rest of the world.

The Drake Passage was being relatively kind. It certainly wasn't a lake, as there was a bit of a shake, but the stabilisation system on the *Sylvia Earle* helped us handle the rolling swell as we steamed towards Cape Horn, some 230 nautical miles ahead of us.

No landings or Zodiac cruises did not mean that we had nothing to do; our day contains a mixture of citizen science – eBird surveys and Happywhale workshops, a

lecture on the 'Dogs of Antarctica' through history; tours of the ship's bridge — a place of calm, efficiency and professionalism, usually off-limits to all but the ship's crew, and entertainment, playing 'How Big Is It?' in the lecture theatre.

That period of travel gave us an opportunity to reflect upon what we have done, seen and experienced on our voyage; we had many photographs, many more memories, yet when we arrived back in 'civilisation', we struggled to convey to our friends and family the combination of heart-aching beauty, immensity, and raw power that the continent possesses.





Beagle Channel and Chilean Fjords

DAY 12 | Thursday 13 March 2025

Latitude:

54°54'9" S

Longitude:

69°21'7" W

Course:

281°

Speed:

13.5 knots

Wind Speed:

3 knots

Barometer:

1000 hPa

Air Temp:

8°C

We were welcomed back to the South American continent as we sailed into the Beagle Channel overnight. Despite the later wake-up call than on our landing days, most of the passengers were already awake and checking out the Magellanic penguins in the water.

The day started with a visit to Puerto Williams for clearance before continuing our journey towards Punta Arenas, with plenty of black-browed albatrosses surrounding the ship.

Vicky gave us an overview of the albatrosses in the region, followed by real-life wildlife spotting. Many seals, albatrosses, petrels and terns were spotted around the ship, with a humpback whale and Andean condor in the distance as well.

After lunch, Leo treated us to a lecture about his research on mummified seals in the Weddell Sea, followed by sessions on how to become an Antarctic ambassador.

We had a traditional Captain's Farewell Dinner, where the full team received a standing ovation for creating so many great memories on this beautiful voyage.

Last but not least, Natalie created a beautiful slideshow for us, with stunning photos and videos as a summary of our voyage together.

It's safe to say this has been a wonderful trip, where lots of new memories and friendships were created.





Punta Arenas

DAY 13 | Friday 14 March 2025

Latitude:

53°17'9" S

Longitude:

70°53'9" W

Course:

Variable

Speed:

3.4 knots

Wind Speed:

16 knots

Barometer:

1009 hPa

Air Temp:

8°C

Aurora Expeditions extends a heartfelt thank you to each of you for your wonderful sense of humour, boundless enthusiasm and ever-present smiles. It has been an absolute pleasure having you on board, and we're grateful to have shared with you some of the incredible wonders of the icy south. May the memories of this journey stay with you, shining brightly for years to come.

Together, we've sailed 1,668 nautical miles.

And until we meet again, safe travels!

BBQ



Polar Plunge





Citizen Science





Kayak and Paddle Log

Guides: Vanja, Eamon, Matt, Tracy

3 March 2025, PM: Hielcho,
Barrientos Island

Kayak: 4.2 km | Paddle: 2.9 km

Our first outing for both groups. Even the guides had not paddled here before. The island looked mysterious, with the surrounding fog coming and going. One thing was clear: there were a lot of penguins on the shore and in the water. Near the landing site, they were gentoo penguins, and not far around the corner on the rocks, we found many chinstraps.

The kayakers and paddlers went in different directions around the island. Either way, it was calm and clear under our boats. The scenery was dramatic around every corner. The kayak group encountered a curious leopard seal that joined them for a while. It was an outing full of seabirds; we saw gulls, skuas, small petrels, cormorants and, on land, a lot of snowy sheathbills.

4 March 2025, AM: Cierva Cove
Kayak: 4.8 km | Paddle: 4.8 km

We put a lot of trust in our guides and their navigation equipment today. The mist was so thick we couldn't see more than a couple of hundred metres. We towed away from the ship towards a small island that appeared suddenly out of the fog. The sea was calm, allowing us to hug the rocky coastline. A few penguins and cormorants watched us glide past. On the far side, a leopard seal cautiously popped up nearby but didn't interfere. By the time we rounded the island, two leopard seals—big, sleek and beautiful—were watching us. Feeling brave, we paddled towards looming icebergs, circling one and marvelling at the iridescent blue ice disappearing into the depths. We set a bearing back to the ship and were rewarded as the *Sylvia Earle* slowly emerged from the mist.

Number of Kayakers: 4

Total Paddle Outings: 12

Total Distance Paddled: 56 km

Kayakers:

David

Paulette

Niall

Janice

Number of Paddlers: 6

Total Paddle Outings: 11

Total Distance Paddled:
47.3 km

Paddlers:

Les

Maxine

Bain

Julie

Kevin

Bev

4 March 2025, PM: Hydrurga Rocks

Kayak: 3.3 km | Paddle: 3.3 km

A group of small rocky islands and one larger one makes up the Hydrurga Rocks. Again, it was shrouded in mist, but once near the islands there was plenty to see. Perched on the rocks were hundreds of chinstrap penguins—surprisingly quiet, perhaps because they were moulting and not so raucous. Tiny Wilson's storm petrels danced on the water, stirring up food. Conditions were calm on all sides, so we were able to easily circumnavigate the islands. Towards the end, we pulled into a sheltered cove and were mesmerised by a couple of fur seals swimming and playing with each other in the shallows—a beautiful sight. They saw us but were not at all concerned by our colourful crafts.

5 March 2025, AM: Foyen Harbor, Enterprise Island

Kayak: 4.5 km | Paddle: 4.1 km

For kayaking, this place has it all. Leaving the ship, we towed a few kilometres south to a group of small rocky islands. It was shallow among these islands and clear enough to see the bottom—that's how we spotted some large whale bones on the rocky floor. These islands are dotted with fur seals. Occasionally, there was evidence of the whaling past. We headed north along the main island and, as we rounded a corner, saw more rusted metal—this was much bigger. The ship *Gobenoren* ran aground here in January 1915; it was on fire and full of whale oil. A sad tragedy for whales, though all the men survived. We continued exploring channels and coves among more small islands before returning to the ship.

6 March 2025, AM: Petermann Island

Kayak: 3.7 km | Paddle: 2.9 km

This was a paddle and land option, allowing us to see some Adélie penguins on the island. The water was glassy calm, and the two groups went their separate ways. It was fun watching the confused antics of the penguins as they decided whether to jump in off the rocks. Just south of Petermann Island are a handful of small rocky islets, offering great opportunities to explore by kayak. Iceberg sculptures were everywhere, and it looked like many large bergs had travelled here to be grounded for their final days. On our return to the ship, a humpback whale entertained the paddle group.

6 March 2025, PM: Argentine Islands, Wordie House

Kayak: 3.5 km | Paddle: 3.5 km

Today was cold, even by Antarctic standards. It was a bit windy at the ship, so we started in the shelter of a nearby cove. Gentoo penguins swam erratically. As we explored the rocky coastline, we soon encountered the Ukrainian Vernadsky Research Station perched on a point in the middle of this group of islands. It was once the British base F, known as Faraday Station. A call came out that there was a leopard seal on the ice nearby, so we cautiously went to say hello. It seemed a little restless, being harassed by several gulls. We left it in peace and glided through some small rock islets. Huge bergs were stranded in the shallow waters between the islands. Paddling past icy cliffs, we reached Wordie Hut. A living museum frozen in time, as if the inhabitants had just left yesterday.



7 March 2025, AM: Paradise Harbour

Kayak: 5.4 km | Paddle: 5 km

The water was glassy calm, and there was brash ice everywhere. The immense glacier looked like it had been calving recently, so we kept our distance. A group of three Weddell seals appeared to be asleep on the ice-covered beach next to the glacier. We cruised past the Argentinian Base, Almirante Brown, which was also home to a lot of Gentoo penguins with their fluffy but hungry chicks. Past the base were the cliffs, home to a number of cormorants. Streaks of green malacite added to the colours of the lichens and mosses. The fog had covered the mountain tops, but as we rounded a corner, we had glimpses through the mist of the imposing mountains. This was Skontorp Cove, and it was beautiful—surrounded by glaciers and full of brash ice. A perfect spot to be still and absorb it all.

8 March 2025, AM: Melchior Islands

Kayak: 6.1 km | Paddle: 3.4 km

The ship anchored in the large bay in the centre of the Melchior Islands. As soon as we were in the Zodiac, a whale was spotted in the distance, fully breaching out of the water, followed by another two feeding on our left. We went left and watched these beautiful animals for a while before starting our paddle. The kayakers were already disappearing while the paddle group started near the now-closed Argentine base. Lots of fur seals on all sides and in the water welcomed us. Exiting one of the channels, it was even calmer on the western side of the islands. Here, the rocky shore was steep and colourful, with very interesting geological formations. The water was so clear, a turquoise blue colour. The kayakers went farther out and saw humpbacks as well.



8 March 2025, PM: Cuverville Island

Kayak: 4.6 km | Paddle: 2.7 km

We could see and hear the whales in the channel beside Cuverville Island, the sound of their breathing amplified by the glaciers and mountains behind them. Before long, some whales passed by, cruising gently, resting, and occasionally feeding. We were mesmerised by these majestic giants. We sat in silence, listening to the powerful sound of their exhales. Moving on, we drifted alongside the island's gentoo penguin colony. There were thousands of gentoo penguins on the rocks here, and many more in the water, coming and going from their feeding expeditions. On land, the paddlers spotted terns with their young. Some whale bones were visible from our kayaks. Finishing our outing on the east side of the island, we saw a Weddell seal and crabeater seals relaxing on some ice floes.

9 March 2025, AM: Recess Cove

Kayak: 6.1 km | Paddle: 4.9 km

This was a one-of-a-kind outing. As the ship sailed into Recess Cove, we saw whale after whale feeding and diving around us. At anchor, there were humpbacks in multiple directions. Today, we paddled among these gentle giants. A proud looking fur seal watched us pass and three curious cormorants stayed next to us, not fazed at all. It was even calmer at this end of the cove, protected on three sides by high ice walls. It was not long before we saw three humpbacks heading straight towards us. We moved aside a little to let them pass. We held our breath as we listened to theirs. They glided past us so smoothly, for such a giant sea mammal. Nearby the kayakers also had their own whales lunge-feeding and swimming past their kayaks.



9 March 2025, PM: Graham Passage

Kayak: 6.8 km | Paddle: 6.8 km

The weather was looking a little bleak as we arrived at the mouth of Graham Passage, so it was not surprising that after this morning's wonderful outing, most decided not to paddle here. The three brave souls who did had a rewarding outing. We started behind an iceberg and headed south down the passage with the wind at our backs. It was snowing lightly, so we decided to keep paddling to stay warm, and to stay in the middle away from the looming ice cliffs and glaciers on each side of us. The ship glided past us quietly and disappeared ahead into the fog.

We zoomed past some interesting bergs and soon, we were at the end of the passage. The wind was strong here, so we continued out and around the corner to a sheltered bay for our Uber Zodiac home.

10 March 2025, PM: Lindblad Cove

Kayak: 3.0 km | Paddle: 3.0 km

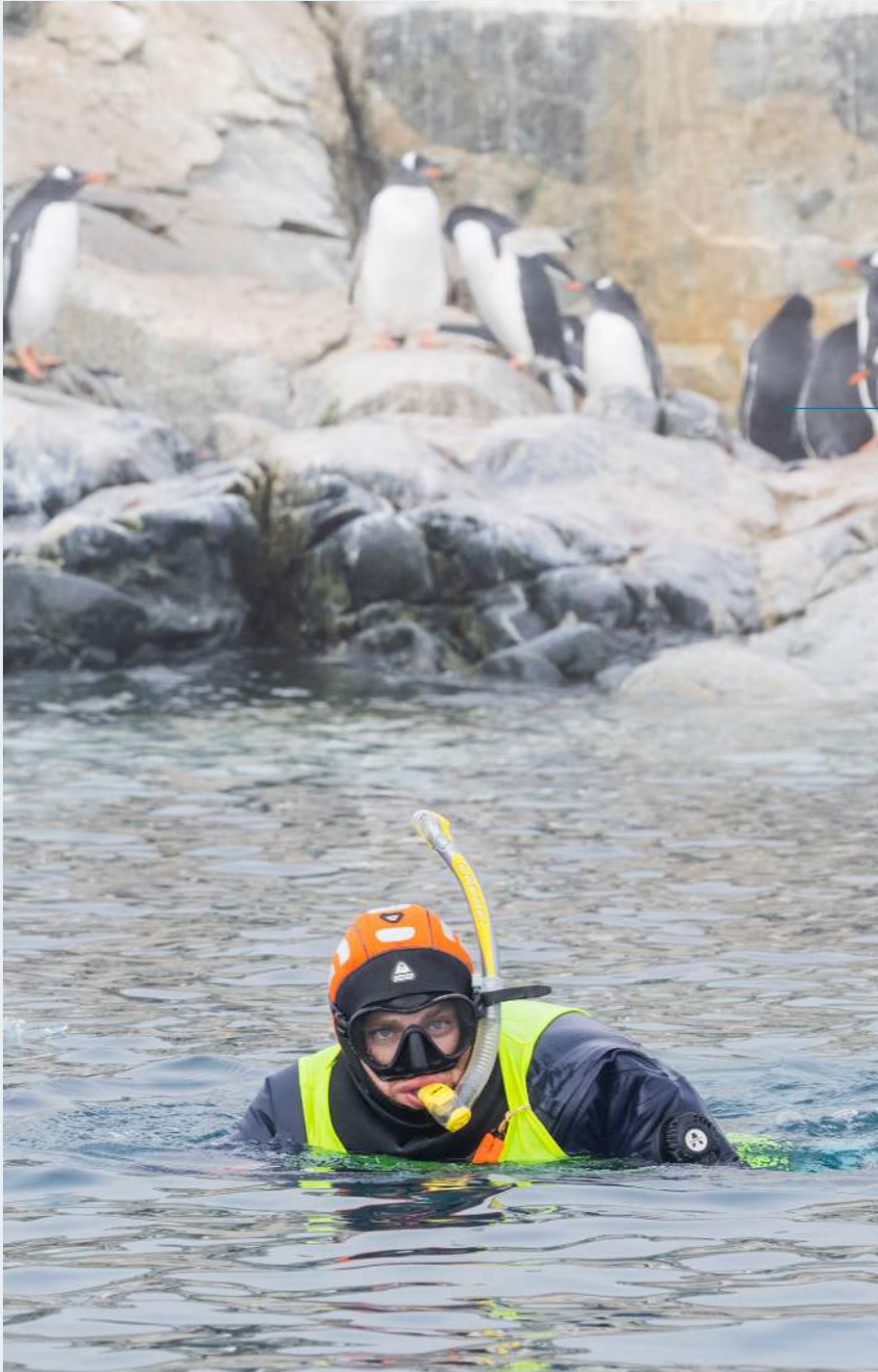
We were not sure if this was to be our last kayak/paddle outing. Everyone came out. The huge Lindblad Cove was very silent, still and full of ice. The low cloud and mist added to the atmosphere. We were on the water quickly, and once the Zodiacs had zoomed out of the cove, we enjoyed the quiet. In parts the ice was too thick to paddle through comfortably, so we stayed on the edge of the brash, hopping from one iceberg to the next. A lone fur seal seemed surprised to see us, he was resting on one of the many growlers of ice. Farther on, a ternary of terns was flying, feeding and resting together on the ice. It was an unexpected highlight. We rafted up one final time all together, kayakers and paddlers, and drank in the beauty of the place. It was our last outing together, a short and sweet one.











Snorkelling Log

Guides: Darren, Katia

3 March 2025, AM: Aitcho Islands – South Shetland Islands

It was a misty and atmospheric first expedition. There were many smiles among the snorkellers as they tried out their drysuits, despite having witnessed a penguin predation by a giant petrel. The first session was all about testing the equipment and ensuring that the suits were watertight, while also making sure that everyone was comfortable with getting in and out of the Zodiac. Visibility was good, so a pleasant snorkel was enjoyed by all. On our return to the ship, we took a little time to see if we could find any seals. To our amazement, we were extremely fortunate to witness a leopard seal catch a penguin and then pluck the feathers and skin off right in front of us. The GoPro on a stick was the perfect camera for the job, and the snorkellers secured some great footage.

3 March PM: Half Moon Island, South Shetland Islands

Another misty and atmospheric operation started by dropping the group on the shore to enjoy the chinstrap colony perched between the rock stacks covered in lichen—a beautiful location, whatever the weather. In addition, there were fur and Weddell seals to keep them entertained for an hour on shore. We picked up the snorkelling party from the far side of the island, and as we were getting dressed, we spotted some young fur seals at the waterline. Once the snorkellers entered the water, the seals came to investigate and started to really show off their dexterity—wheeling, diving, and whirling around the snorkellers, who were a little stunned and unsure how they were meant to keep at a safe distance from these inquisitive marine mammals.

Number of Snorkellers: 6

Total Snorkel Outings: 16

Snorkellers:

Ivy

Max

Gavin

Tim

Alan

Tiffany

Tuesday 4th March AM: Cierva Cove, Antarctic Peninsula

Once more, there was thick fog surrounding the vessel, with visibility down to approximately 100 metres, casting an eerie atmosphere. Nevertheless, we headed out, pushing through the brash ice and enjoying the moment as the iceberg emerged from the gloom ahead of us. Eventually, before we got too cold, we decided to snorkel near some ice at a point where there were plenty of transiting penguins.

It seemed like a good choice, as everyone got a view of at least some penguins showing us how graceful they are in the water.

4 March PM: Hydrurga Rocks, Antarctic Peninsula

A thick, heavy mist blanketed the glaciated bay, making visibility poor. The rain poured relentlessly, creating a surreal, almost otherworldly atmosphere as we navigated through the icy waters. Despite the challenging conditions, the bay was teeming with life—countless fur seals darted through the water, their playful energy undiminished by the stormy weather. They twisted and turned around us, their sleek bodies cutting through the dark water like torpedoes. Their curiosity was undeniable, some coming within arm's reach before darting away just as quickly. The rain drummed against our drysuits and the cold seeped into our bones, but the incredible experience of being surrounded by such animated wildlife made it all worthwhile.

5 March AM: Foyen Harbor, Antarctic Peninsula

Overcast and misty it was; however, glassy calm as we left the ship and headed towards the sheltered Foyen Harbor—the resting place of the wreck of the ill-fated whaling vessel that caught fire in 1915. The captain was forced to beach the vessel, and it now provides an interesting snorkel. With the bows protruding, it creates a habitat for small marine life and is the only place in Antarctica to snorkel a wreck.

The rusty metal stood in stark contrast to the other days, which were dominated by the natural beauty of the peninsula; however, it served as a fantastic reminder of a more industrial past.

5 March PM: Portal Point, Antarctic Peninsula

We started with a continental landing, a short hike up to an elevated viewpoint over an amazing bay full of grand icebergs. After the landing, we decided to cruise a little and see what we could find. After just 10 minutes, we spotted some minke whales close to the ship. They were swimming randomly back and forth, so we decided to jump into the water to wait and see if we would be lucky enough to see them.

It turned out to be a great decision, as after only 10 minutes, two minke whales came to investigate these strange bright yellow blobs floating in the water. For the next 20 minutes, we marvelled at their dexterity as they made pass after pass of the floating snorkellers. The giggles of delight could be heard from the Zodiac.



6 March AM: Petermann Island, Antarctic Peninsula

Another atmospheric day with heavy snow and low cloud made for a true Antarctic experience. We started with a landing to enjoy the historical significance of the island and observe the mix of gentoo and the adorable Adélie penguins. Following this, we scouted the surrounding islands for signs of wildlife and a good place to snorkel. In the open sea behind the island, there were various whales and rafts of penguins, so we decided to drop into the middle of the bay and see what happened. The whales passed within 20–30 metres on two occasions but were too far to see clearly; however, a large raft of gentoo penguins surrounded the snorkellers and provided amazing entertainment. We also saw two leopard seals on our transit back to the ship.

6 March PM: Argentine Islands, Antarctic Peninsula

The water was like glass. First off, the ship headed through the channels that are the trademark of this area to Wordie House. We spent 45 minutes enjoying this part of Antarctic history before getting back into the Zodiacs to enjoy another exploration. We spotted a leopard seal and a few active fur seals before coming across another very large leopard seal on an ice floe. While admiring the seal, another seal arrived and was incredibly curious and dynamic. It was almost like he was showing off, swirling around the Zodiac and frequently hauling out onto various ice floes, only to slip back in again. It even followed the Zodiac as if pursuing us as we made our way back to the ship. Another amazing day on the water.

7 March AM: Paradise Harbour, Antarctic Peninsula

It was another misty and atmospheric morning as we set off to enjoy an ice-filled bay. As we rounded the corner to Scunthorpe Bay, we sighted a Weddell seal before moving on and enjoying the glacier and how the scale of it seemed to grow as the mist lifted, allowing us to appreciate the grandeur surrounding us. As we continued around the bay, we found a spot of sun, which had been so scarce on this trip, and it fortunately coincided with spotting a leopard seal sleeping on an ice floe. We enjoyed watching the seal for a few minutes, then our attention was diverted to the many antarctic terns feeding from the surface between the brash ice, occasionally perching on the impressive icebergs. After two hours of scouting, the group decided they were happy to just Zodiac-cruise and enjoy the scenery rather than snorkel.

7 March PM: Damoy Point, Antarctic Peninsula

It felt fresh as the wind picked up, but it was great to see an intermittent skyline after days of mist. The scale of the mountains as a backdrop was a sight we had been waiting for. The options for snorkelling were limited; however, what a lovely spot it turned out to be: clear water, kelp, limpets, starfish, and some unexpected playmates in the form of gentoo penguins who entertained with wilful abandon, often whizzing past the snorkellers with a graceful elegance that we could not match. A lovely way to end an unforgettable day.



8 March AM: Melchior Islands, Antarctic Peninsula

We boarded the Zodiacs to calm and glassy seas. The diatom concentration made snorkelling visibility dismal. We made a track around the Argentine base, noting the potential of hauled-out seals playing close to the water's edge. We decided to continue on a cruise, leaving snorkelling for the end of the outing. After hearing of whales in the bay behind the base, we went to investigate the area and were delighted by a mother and calf passing under our Zodiac on their journey to rest below a tall, glaciated wall. The lighting over the mountains and giant icebergs was stupendous. The ocean seemed to be breathing as swell lines were dissipated by the thick coating of broken ice. Although surrounded by fur seals during our snorkel, none were in the mood to interact, so the activity was a peaceful meander around the cove.

8 March PM: Cuverville Island, Antarctic Peninsula

The dominant Cuverville Rock with its gentoo colony as a backdrop surrounded - the largest on the Antarctic Peninsula - and surrounded a backdrop of mountains and glaciers, was a perfect setting to sit and listen to the many whale blows. Enjoying the show and careful not to get too close, we entered the water hopeful that a whale might take an interest. Twice we tried but to no avail, and then the third time, the whales turned towards us and came to investigate. Very obviously both curious and interested, they mesmerised us with their agility and how quickly they could turn and come back again and again, passing within an arm's length. An incredible experience to see these gentle but enormous animals eye to eye. For many, a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

9 March AM: Recess Cove, Antarctic Peninsula

Our group left the ship to enjoy a closer look at the phenomenal and majestic humpback whales displaying incredible behaviours, including bubble-net feeding, lunge feeding, and making curious passes at the Zodiacs. All around us were blows, flukes sinking beyond the surface, and the awe-inspiring excitement of a big, bulging chin from a persistently feeding whale.

We encountered a pod consisting of a mother, calves, and escorting whale, dozing peacefully. The calf, restless with sleep, came and checked our Zodiac out, and we decided the conditions were suitable to slip into the water to watch the magnificent creature from below. The calf was eager to show off its agility, circling, seemingly excited by its new, in-water admirers. Not long after, the adult whales came to steer the calf away and happened to interact with a passing minke whale.

9 March PM: Graham Passage, Antarctic Peninsula

After such a mesmerising morning with wildlife, the snorkel team suited up, ready for action—just in case we could continue the unbelievable week of animal encounters. With a dusting of persistent snow and the beginning of a front moving in, we rugged up and nestled into the Zodiac, exploring icebergs and looking for creatures beneath the glaciers.

There were thunderous roars of calving ice adding to the dramatic landscape as we managed to spot a few humpbacks and a minke near a small gentoo colony. As the snow began to fall heavily, we navigated through a gallery of ice towards the new anchorage of the *Sylvia Earle*. Towards the end of the cruise, while playing in the clear waters below an iceberg, we found our first crabeater seal of the trip. The seal checked us out, then proceeded to hide beneath the eroded caves in the ice.



10 March PM: Lindblad Cove, Antarctic Peninsula

We sailed into Lindblad Cove and were welcomed by incredibly still seas and a light dusting of perfectly shaped snowflakes. Only one snorkeller came dressed in a drysuit with fins and gear in hand. We had a mission to get him into the water among the brash and pancake ice.

The outing began with a lot of seal spotting—enjoying the puppy-dog face of a crabeater seal and three sleepy leopard seals on ice floes. The fresh snow kept us entertained as we made snowballs and found targets in passing Zodiacs. Towards the end of the trip, we found a photogenic spot to put Gavin in for a swim and enjoyed his delight. After he finished his dip, we cruised past an antarctic fur seal and returned to the ship, ready to hang the suits up after our last ‘true Antarctic’ snorkel of the trip.

11 March AM: Deception Island, Antarctic Peninsula

We started our last day by being dropped ashore, and were all able to enjoy the warm, steaming water close to shore—evidence indeed that we were about to snorkel inside an active volcano.

We proceeded towards Neptune's Bellows, where a small cove filled with fur seals was the location for the final snorkel of the trip. Good visibility and rocks covered in seaweed made for a pleasant last dip. The normally playful fur seals stayed on land, and a lone chinstrap penguin looked like he might have entered the water—if he had the support of another of his kind before braving a swim past these strange yellow seals.

They were fun to watch from the water, and it was further evidence of the different perspective that an activity like snorkelling can offer.





Diving Log

with Snorkel Guides: Pete & Freya

3 March 2025, AM: Aitcho Islands – South Shetland Islands

It was a lively morning aboard the *Sylvia Earle* as excitement grew for our first Antarctic outing. The destination for that morning: the Aitcho Islands, with Barrientos Island providing a great introduction to the South Shetland Islands.

After putting on our drysuits, we met Pete at the side gate and squeezed onto our (very full) Zodiac. Our scouting was interrupted by a visit from a curious leopard seal, a treat to watch such an elegant creature glide through the water around our boat. Once the seal had moved on, we descended into the water and started exploring. The highlights of the dive included a few starfish and limpets. The rocky, weedy substrate made for a great first dive, giving us time to adjust buoyancy and get comfortable before more challenging dives later in the trip.

4 March, AM: Cierva Cove

We woke to dense fog surrounding the ship. Cierva Cove was the site for this morning's outing. Located across the Gerlache Strait from Two Hummock Island, it boasts stunning icy scenery with towering glaciers all around—an excellent location for spotting leopard seals, chinstrap penguins, and a variety of birds.

We cruised towards Penguin Island, our intended destination. Our dive site came into view—a stunning wall that drops down to about 20 metres. We geared up and splashed into the water. The wall was full of various types of seaweed, algae and colourful starfish. A curious leopard seal decided to steal the show and came to see where all the bubbles were coming from. It was a once-in-a-lifetime treat to watch the graceful female glide around us, observing us just as much as we were her.



Number of Divers: 5
Total Diving Outings: 10

Kayakers:
Craig
Keith
Alexandra
Florencia
John

4 March, PM: Hydrurga Rocks

The fog was still hanging low as we left the ship. The small coves around the island offered a perfectly sheltered dive/snorkel site. We geared up and performed pre-dive checks before slipping into the water to explore.

With a bottom at about 12 metres, a wall full of life was great fun to explore. Long bull kelp hosted a variety of creatures, including antarctic sun starfish, nudibranchs, antarctic limpets and even an antarctic cod! The highlight of the dive was watching a salp propel itself through the water.

On the surface, Craig had some fun looking at magnificent icebergs from a snorkeller's perspective. On our way back to the ship, we found ourselves surrounded by playful gentoo penguins—an opportunity not to be missed! Back in the water, Craig and Freya got to watch the torpedo-like penguins swirl past them with ease.

5 March, AM: Foyn Harbor

Foyn Harbor consists of a glaciated archipelago and is full of historical whaling artefacts, including the *Governøren*, an old whaling ship that partially sank in 1915 when it caught fire.

Following safety checks, we descended and were immediately surprised by the amount of life on the wreck. Limpets, anemones, kelp, and various sponges have taken up residence, giving the wreck an abundance of colour and life.

We headed towards the stern, which is at a depth of about 20 metres, and got to appreciate how intact the ship really is. We even got a quick look at its propeller! It was a great morning to reflect on the whaling history that is present in Antarctica, reminding us of the impact humans can have on the environment, no matter how far away

or isolated it may be.

6 March, AM: Petermann Island

This morning, we ventured to Petermann Island in hope of spotting some Adélie penguins. On the island, there is an Argentine refuge hut and a cross commemorating the death of three members from the British Antarctic Survey in 1982.

It was a rather cold and snowy morning, but we had two keen divers: Alexandra and Craig. We went for a short cruise around the island to appreciate the harsh conditions that the men would have had to survived in all those years ago—and spotted some rather cute Adélie penguins.

The dive site that day was a small cove sheltered from the wind, with a few magnificent grounded icebergs nearby. Under the water, we explored a wall covered in kelp, home to starfish, limpets and some small copepods.

7 March, AM: Damoy Point

Damoy Point is a rocky isthmus off the west coast of Wiencke Island on the Antarctic Peninsula. On land, there is the historic British Damoy Hut and an Argentine field hut, along with a gentoo penguin colony.

Just off the landing site is Casabianca Island—a perfect spot to explore, offering some protection from the cold westerly winds. The usual dive site here is very exposed and not ideal, so we took the opportunity to explore the other side of the island and see what it had to offer. After gearing up and jumping into the water, the big group of five set off to see what they could find.

The rocky substrate was covered in a variety of seaweed, home to starfish, limpets and the occasional snails. It was a perfectly executed and enjoyable dive by the team.



8 March, AM: Melchior Islands

The Melchior Islands are a complex archipelago and are often home to antarctic shags, gentoo and chinstrap penguins, and the occasional fur and Weddell seals.

We headed towards the channels to watch a breaching humpback—an incredible sight as these gigantic animals propel their bodies out of the water with such grace. Afterwards we headed towards the little cove next to Melchior Base, where we would be diving. A soup of bergy bits had congregated in the cove, giving the perfect opportunity to have a closer look at some glacial ice.

Today, Alexandra, Keith, and Craig dived together. After performing pre-dive checks, they were quickly away to explore the area. Some nearby fur seals toyed with the idea of saying hi and were a treat to watch swimming in the nearby waters.

8 March, PM: Cuverville Island

Cuverville Island is well known for its great variety of wildlife and population of gentoo penguins—estimated to be 7,000 breeding pairs. It is also home to several species of antarctic seals and antarctic birds, notably shags and southern giant petrels.

A rocky dome dominates most of this small island, along with large patches of lichen and deep moss growing on the rocks—the only botanical species found on the surface of Antarctica. The clear waters of the Errera Channel tempted us towards the wall dive on the southwest corner of the island. Florencia and John chose to dive along the wall, which they later described as 'beautiful'. Craig and Keith snorkelled with the penguins, while Alexandra went on a Zodiac cruise, watching a myriad of whales gliding through the channels on either side of the island.

9 March, PM: Recess Cove

As we made our way to Recess Cove, we spotted humpback whales in every direction. Countless humpbacks were feeding and playing in the area—almost too many to decide in which direction to explore.

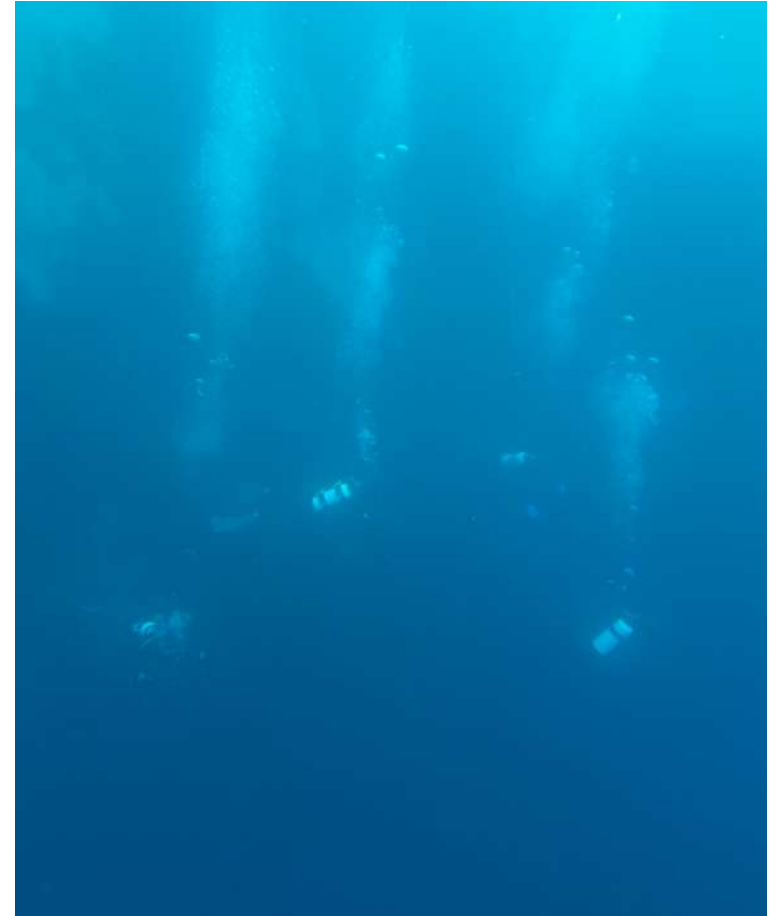
After a few attempts at in-water interactions, we spotted a large female logging on the surface, looking peaceful. We quietly slipped into the water and stuck close together as we approached to see the beautiful creature from a new perspective. The sheer size of her body and fins is something you can only truly appreciate when in the water. She woke in a playful mood and began to show off her style by swimming and circling around us for about 40 minutes!

It was such a special interaction that left us all emotional and in awe of these incredible animals.

11 March, AM: Deception Island

As we left the Antarctic Peninsula behind, we headed farther north towards the South Shetland Islands, with our last stop—Deception Island. A stunning morning as we entered through Neptune's Bellows into the active volcano that holds a rich history. While Craig, Keith and Alexandra opted to explore the historic site from land, John and Florencia were keen to see what it's like to dive in a volcanic caldera.

After a quick exploration of the historic whaling artefacts, we headed back towards Neptune's Bellows at the entrance of the caldera to see what calls these waters home. The divers descended close to a wall and began exploring. They were surprised by the amount of life that is able to thrive in these volcanic waters, even spotted a few fish on the rocky bottom.





Bird & Mammal Sightings

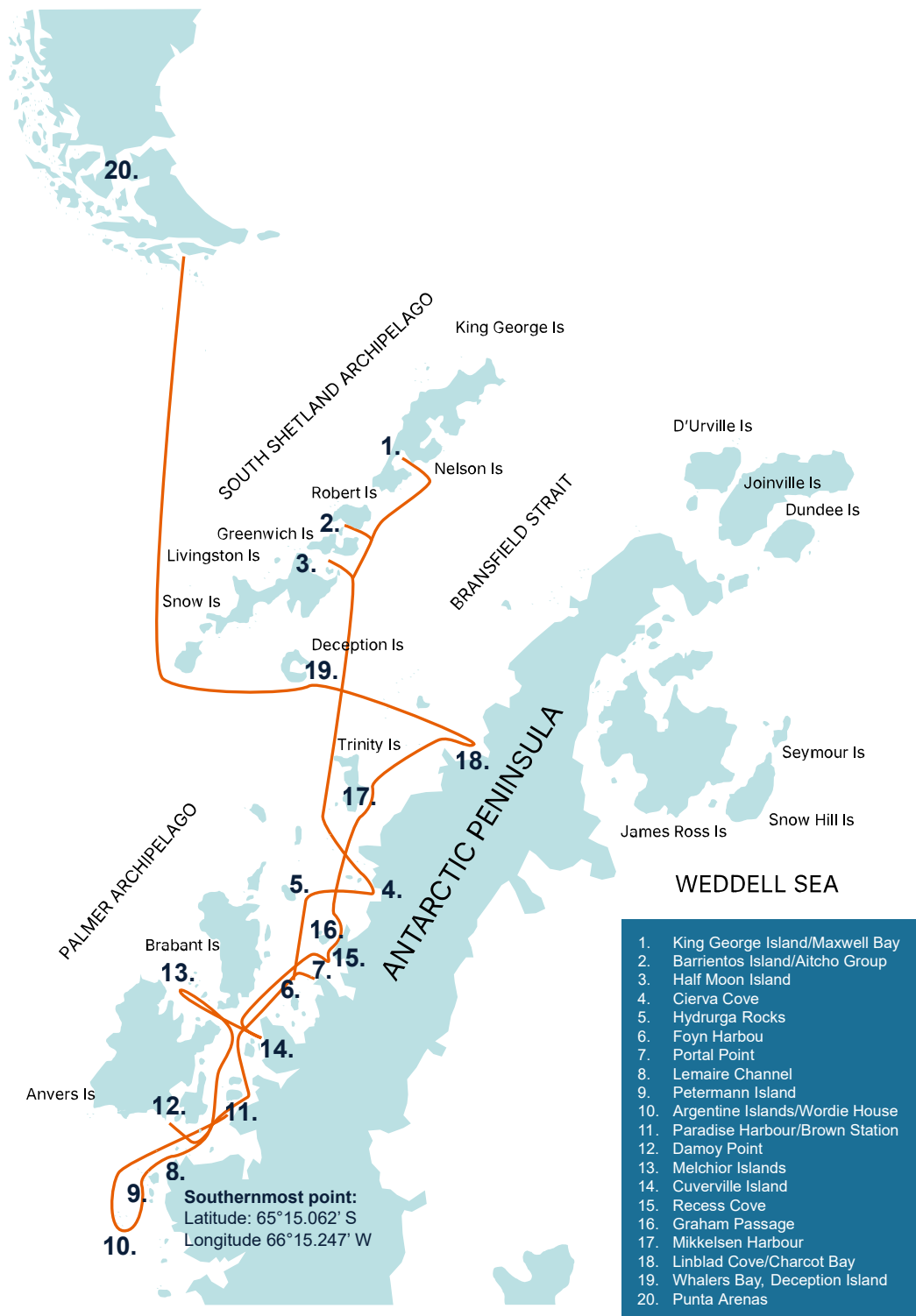
Bird Species	March													
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Gentoo Penguin		●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●				
Chinstrap Penguin		●	●							●				
Adélie Penguin					●									
Giant Petrel sp.		●			●	●	●	●	●	●				
Cape Petrel										●				
Snow Petrel				●				●						
Southern Fulmar									●					
Blue Petrel									●					
Wilson's Storm Petrel		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Imperial Cormorant (Blue-eyed Shag)		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Kelp Gull		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Skua		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Chilean Skua					●									
South American Tern			●											
Tern sp.			●	●	●		●	●		●				
Snowy Sheathbill														

Mammal Species	March													
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Antarctic Fur Seal		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				
Southern Elephant Seal			●		●									
Crabeater Seal			●	●						●				
Weddell Seal		●	●	●	●	●	●							
Leopard Seal		●	●				●			●				
Minke Whale		●	●	●	●		●			●				
Humpback Whale			●	●	●	●	●	●	●					

Map

Antarctic Explorer Featuring the Chilean Fjords

2 March – 14 March 2025





Our Expeditioners

Lynn Alexander

Bob Baker

Leslie Barnsley

Maxine Barnsley

Beverly Boies

Gav Breeze

Jennifer Brent-White

Rachel Callus

Sherry Chu

Mark Clements

Bruce Crockett

Marla Crockett

Tim Evans

Florencia Franco
Fernandez

David Gramse

Paulette Gramse

Karthika Gupta

Marlene Gut

Frank Gut

Antonius den Hartigh

Guy Hatch

Laurie Hatch

Lena Hilton

Niall Holland

Veronica Isham

Suzette Johnston

Maxwell Jones

Pat Jones

Stan Kai

Bev Kelley

Kate King

Anne Maree Mackenzie

Andrew Marshall

Nancy Tuor Moore

Alan Murray

Keith Nelson

Craig Nelson

Alexandra Owens

Bex Porritt

Tommie Radd

Ben Rowland

Rodney Rowland

Tiffany Schauer

Anja Seidel

Julie Shenstone

Bain Shenstone

Varya Simpson

Gina Smith

Steve Smith

Fay Stenhouse

John Stenhouse

Kevin Tokarski

Keith Treschman

Jan Whyte

John Wright

Nicole Wu

Shelly Xiao

Liao Xiu

Ivy Yin

Katie Yokom

Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Christian Savegny

Assistant Expedition Leader: Dot Robertson

Onboard Expedition Manager: Lelia Cataldi

Onboard Expedition Assistant: Ari Benzo Ceria

Naturalist Guide/Ornithologist: Vicky Inglis

Geologist/Glaciologist: Heather Chrystie

Marine Biologist CSC: Leo Soibelzon

Photography Guide: Natalie Long

Expedition First Responder: Moniek Mestrom

Expedition Guide: Lianne Thompson

Expedition Guide/Historian: Piotr Damski

Mandarin Guide: Guozhi Juice Ye

Lead Kayak Guide: Eamon Larkin

Senior Kayak Guide: Vanja Davidsen

Senior Kayak Guide: Tracy Gardner

Kayak Guide: Matt Barnes

Snorkel Guide: Darren Clarke

Snorkel Guide: Katia Benini

Zodiac Master: Ryan Kampf

Lead Dive Guide: Pete Shaw

Dive Guide: Freya Dooley

Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Jorge Alexis Ferdinez

Chief Officer: Andrey Gilevskiy

Second Officer: Joseph Bryan Salem

Safety Officer: Costin Simion

Bosun: Leo Francis Marzan

Ship Doctor: Jose Alejandro Muller San Juan

Chief Engineer: Artem Vyshnevskiy

First Engineer: Warlito Verzosa

IT Officer: Rene Antoine Reyes

Hotel Director: Balvant Singh

Chief Purser: Caroline Sabrina Papenfuss

F&B Service Manager: Narendra Seeram

Head Bartender: Irene Gayta

Executive Chef: Ronaldo Reyes

Sous Chef: I Gusti Ketur Purnawirawan

Hotel Controller: Romat Nurhidayat

Receptionist: Angela Manuel

Receptionist: Erliza Mae Balagot

Head of Stateroom: Florante Lusong

Deck Cadet: Rodrigo Vigario Pinto

Able Seaman: Anthony John Brosas

Able Seaman: Muhammad Karier

Able Seaman: John Paul Sibug

Able Seaman: Eduardo Aloyan

Able Seaman: Ferdy Noel Diaz Roque

Able Seaman: Hardik Dipakbhai Rao

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Natalie Long





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