

# Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctic Peninsula

Aboard *Douglas Mawson* | 12 March — 01 April 2026





Falklands, South Georgia  
& Antarctic Peninsula

12 March – 1 April 2026

# Ushuaia | Embarkation Day

DAY 1 | 12 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
54°48.5' S  
**Longitude:**  
068°18.7' W

**Course:**  
alongside  
**Speed:**  
alongside

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

**Air Temp:**  
8°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: Photographer Adrian and his able assistant Kayak Guide Liz, Onboard Expedition Manager Anne and E-Team Members Ed and Liam.

An embarkation buffet was laid out in the Tektite Bar and after check-in the Hotel Team escorted us to our cabins — our home for the voyage ahead.,



We gathered in the lecture theatre where Expedition Leader Isabelle introduced us to the Expedition and the Team.

In total, there are 15 "E (expedition) team" members, each bringing expertise in fields such as ornithology, marine biology, geology, glaciology, photography, history, kayaking, and mountaineering.

Anne and Hotel Director Vill shared helpful advice about life onboard, while First Responder Adrian C 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



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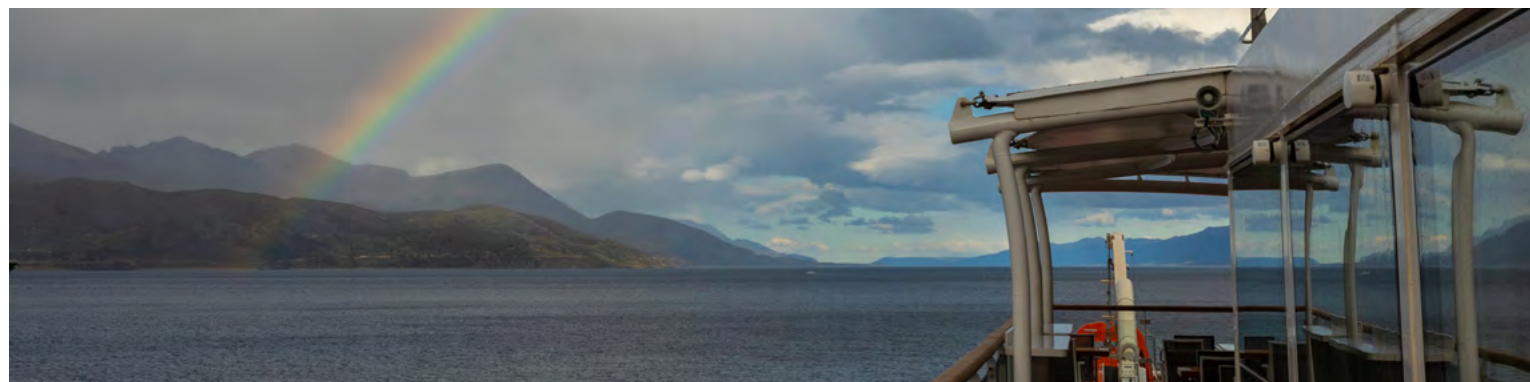
orange lifejackets for muster.

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.

The day finished with the all-important “Jacket Exchange” in the library lead by Shop Manager Ana and some of the E-Team.

In total, we are 86 Expeditioners representing many nations: from Australia: 32, from Canada: 7, from Colombia: 2, from Mexico: 11, from New Zealand: 2, from Russia: 2, from South Africa: 1, from UK: 11, from US: 16

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.







# At Sea

DAY 2 | 13 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
56°47.6' S  
**Longitude:**  
065°30.4'W

**Course:**  
168  
**Speed:**  
9.5 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
45 knots W  
**Barometer:**  
990 mbar

**Air Temp:**  
8°C

After the calm, flat start to our trip along the Beagle Channel, we woke up this morning to somewhat bumpier conditions this morning.

Despite that, most seemed to be coping well and breakfast was busy. The ship was also handling the waves extremely well but the wind gusts were quite high, up around 50 knots at one point, and so unfortunately the outer decks had to be closed until conditions improve.

The education program for the trip kicked off with Snowy telling us about the seabirds that we'll encounter as we head across the Drake Passage and throughout the voyage as we travel across so much of the Southern Ocean. A few albatrosses taking advantage of the winds and soaring above

the waves gave us a chance to observe them for ourselves.

After lunch we had a talk by Ed with the history of the exploration of the unknown southern extremes of the world, from James Cook, to the first sealing Captains who exploited the newly discovered lands and ultimately to the intertwined stories of Scott, Shackleton and Amundsen and the race to be the first to reach the South Pole. After many false starts and failed attempts, it was the clinical approach taken by Amundsen which was ultimately successful.

Later we heard from our photographer Adrian who gave us some pointers on how to make the most of our cameras, whether a phone or a fancy DSLR, and take great photos of the places and wildlife we'll see in the coming weeks. With all



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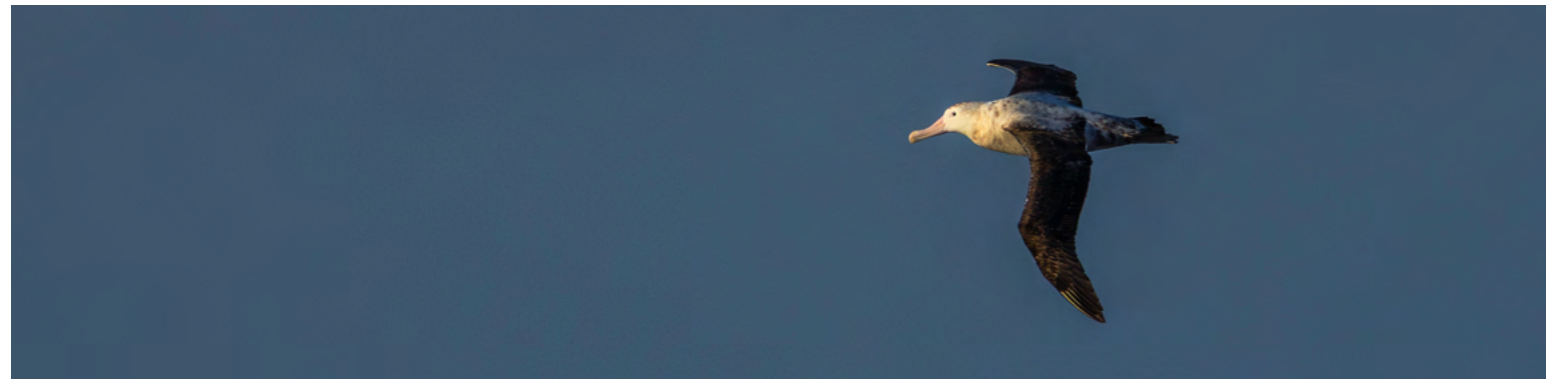
**Wind Speed:**  
45 knots W  
**Barometer:**  
990 mbar

**Air Temp:**  
8°C

the tips and hints he gave, we'll be able to not only impress our friends and family but tell a story as well.

To finish off the day, just before dinner we got to meet the Captain of our vessel and some of his senior officers. Captain Artem welcomed us, and we raised our glasses for a toast to a successful journey to amazing places at the bottom of the world.

Tomorrow we'll get all the info we need to be able to get off the ship and explore the Antarctic Peninsula when we arrive there the following day, so the pace will really start to increase.







# At Sea

DAY 3 | 14 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
61°08.7' S

**Longitude:**  
64°13.0' W

**Course:**  
172°

**Speed:**  
10 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
990 hPa

**Barometer:**  
17 knots NW

**Air Temp:**  
5°C

The second day on the Drake Passage aboard the *Douglas Mawson* turned out to be a total gift. We were braced for the infamous “Drake Shake,” but instead, we got a rather calm Drake. With the ship gliding through manageable swells, everyone felt steady enough to focus on the busy day of prep ahead.

After a solid breakfast, we gathered for the mandatory IAATO briefings. When you’re visiting one of the most untouched places on Earth, there’s a lot of “how-to” involved. We went over the game plan for the Zodiac operations—the rugged inflatable boats that will be our lifeline for landings and exploration.

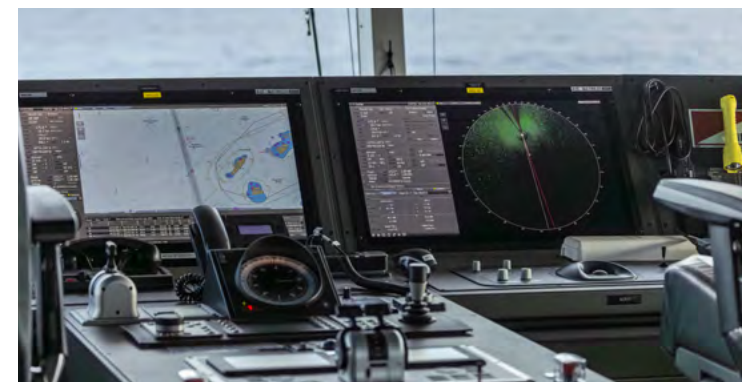
The highlight (or perhaps the most tedious but necessary part) was the biosecurity session. We spent the rest of the morning

vacuuming every pocket, velcro strap, and seam of our gear. Even a tiny seed or a bit of soil from home could disrupt the Antarctic ecosystem, so we made sure our kits were pristine before we ever stepped off the ship.

The afternoon was a deep dive into the science of the South.

Meli, our geologist/glaciologist, kicked things off with a fascinating talk on ice. She broke down the differences between the massive ice sheets, glaciers, ice shelves, and the ever-changing sea ice. It’s wild to think about how much freshwater is locked up in the landscape we’re about to see.

Later, some of us headed out to the decks for a Citizen Science session with Dave and Ed. We conducted a cloud survey, contributing real-time data to help researchers track weather patterns. It was a great excuse to breathe in that crisp



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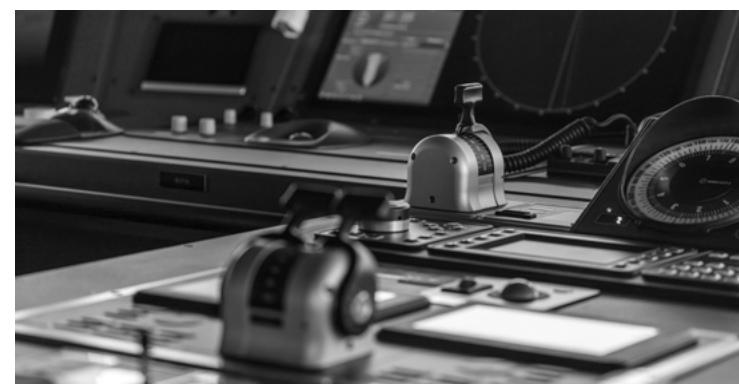
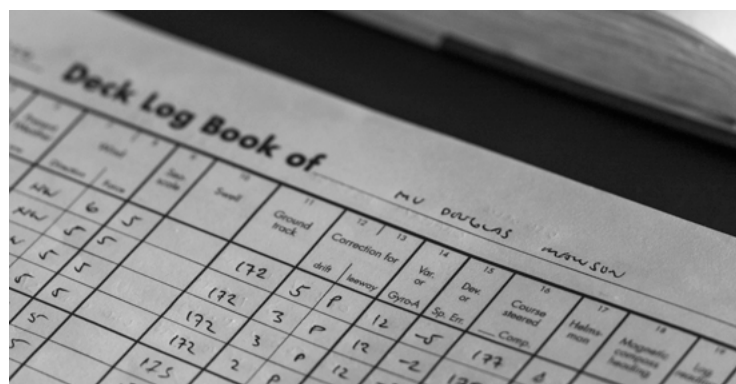
**Barometer:**  
17 knots NW

**Air Temp:**  
5°C

Antarctic air.

After a quick refuel during afternoon tea—thanks to the amazing galley team—our marine biologist, Dani, took the floor. She gave us a masterclass on the whales of the Southern Ocean, covering everything from their feeding habits to their complex breeding cycles.

We just finished our nightly recap and briefing with the Expedition Team. The energy on the ship is electric; we're now only hours away from our first glimpse of the White Continent. We're ready and waiting to see what Antarctica has in store for us.







# Fournier Bay | Melchior Islands

DAY 4 | 15 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
64°28'5" S  
**Longitude:**  
63°00'0" W

**Course:**  
231°  
**Speed:**  
5 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
Wind: 21 knots  
SE  
**Barometer:**  
989 mbar

**Air Temp:**  
-3°C

Our first day off the *Douglas Mawson* was one to remember, filled with remarkable wildlife encounters and spectacular Antarctic scenery.

The morning began with Zodiac cruises in Fournier Bay, a calm and icy inlet surrounded by towering glaciers and rugged peaks. As Expeditioners set out across the water sprinkling in rain, the bay quickly came alive with wildlife. The highlight of the morning was an unforgettable encounter with fin whales. Several were spotted feeding and travelling through the bay, their immense backs rolling through the water as they surfaced to breathe. Some of our kayakers had an especially privileged view, watching these giants from water level, an experience that left many in awe. For a few of the expedition guides, it was the first time seeing fin whales from a Zodiac,

making the moment even more special.

The bay was also busy with other life. Gentoo penguins zipped through the water around the Zodiacs, their torpedo-like bodies darting effortlessly beneath the surface before popping up nearby. Not far away, humpback whales made appearances throughout the morning, occasionally lifting their flukes before diving. A lucky handful of guests even witnessed the curious behaviour known as spy-hopping, when a whale rises vertically out of the water to look around. Seeing such an intelligent and inquisitive moment was truly special.

In the afternoon, the *Douglas Mawson* repositioned to the beautiful Melchior Islands, an intricate archipelago scattered with glacier-clad rocks and narrow channels. Once again,



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**Speed:**  
5 knots

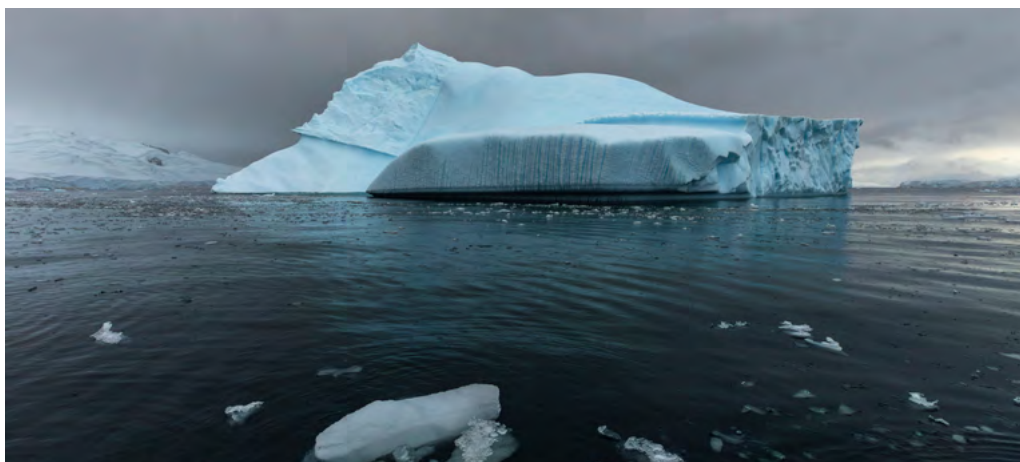
**Wind Speed:**  
Wind: 21 knots  
SE  
**Barometer:**  
989 mbar

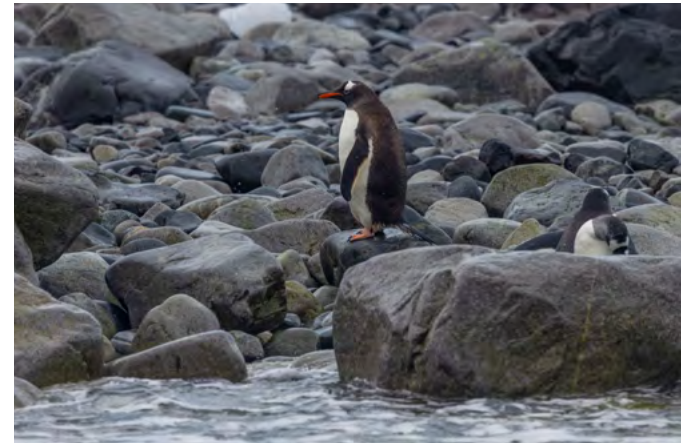
**Air Temp:**  
-3°C

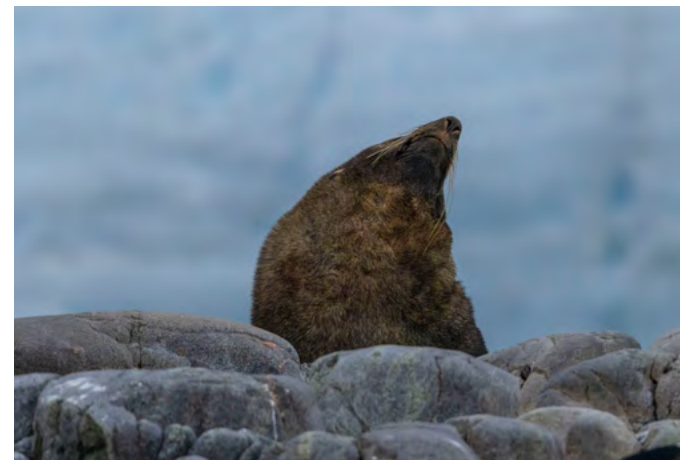
we launched the Zodiacs, weaving carefully through the icy maze. The scenery here felt almost otherworldly, dark rock spires coated in snow and ice rising straight from the sea, with glaciers spilling down into the water.

The wildlife did not disappoint. The islands were alive with Antarctic fur seals, many lounging along the rocky shores or playfully mock fighting one and other. There were also blue-eyed shags flying overhead and resting on the rocks. As we returned to the ship, in there was a shared feeling among Expeditioners and E-Team alike that this had been a truly special day, a great start to our expedition.















# Cuverville Island | Neko Harbour

DAY 5 | 16 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
64°35'6" S  
**Longitude:**  
62°32'1"W

**Wind Speed:**  
7 knots  
**Barometer:**  
951 hPa

**Course:**  
116°  
**Speed:**  
7 knots

**Air Temp:**  
4°C

Our second day on the Antarctic Peninsula began at Cuverville Island, home to the largest gentoo penguin colony in the region. As we approached the island, several whales were spotted right beside the ship, a magical welcome to the morning.

Soon after, we boarded the Zodiacs and headed ashore. Penguins were everywhere, especially in the water, and the scene looked like something straight out of a nature documentary.

Gentoo penguins were spread across the entire landing site. Many chicks were beginning to venture into the water for the first time, learning how to swim while staying alert for potential predators such as leopard seals lurking nearby.

At the same time, some of the adults were already starting their annual molt, shedding their old feathers and preparing for the long Antarctic winter that will soon arrive. Watching the colony from the shore was mesmerizing, with constant movement and noise coming from every direction.

Meanwhile, the kayaking group circumnavigated the island in calm, mirrorlike waters. Along the way they encountered a few seals resting peacefully near the shoreline.

Back on the Zodiacs, some of our guests joined guest lecturer Richard Kirby to learn more about the Secchi Disk Study, the Citizen Science project he founded. Aurora Expeditions proudly contributes to this global initiative, which helps scientists monitor phytoplankton by measuring ocean clarity



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951 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
4°C

and light penetration in the water column, an essential indicator of ocean health.

Back onboard Anne O sprang the news that the famous polar plunge was happening. 35 Expeditioners and 4 Crew made the mad jump and was awarded with a nice warm-up sip from Ana.

In the afternoon we visited Neko Harbour, one of the most breathtaking locations on the Antarctic Peninsula. Our landing site was again surrounded by gentoo penguins going about their busy daily routines. Some guests hiked up to the viewpoint overlooking the bay, where the scenery revealed towering glaciers, dramatic mountains, and calm, glassy waters reflecting the icy landscape.

On our Zodiac ride back to the ship we received an unforgettable surprise. A pair of curious humpback whales approached several boats and came incredibly close, seemingly inspecting the lucky Expeditioners. From the ship, the view was spectacular as the whales surfaced beside us, their long pectoral fins glowing beneath the clear Antarctic water.

A soft pink sunset over the icy landscape closed our incredible second day on the Antarctic Peninsula.













# Hydrurga Rocks | Sierra Cove

DAY 6 | 17 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
64°12.1' S

**Longitude:**  
61°34.0'W

**Course:**  
355°

**Speed:**  
8 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
5 knots SE

**Barometer:**  
992 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
3°C

After venturing northwards up the Gerlache Strait overnight, the *Douglas Mawson*, and her band of adventurers (that's us!), find ourselves creeping through the fog on the eastern side of Two Hummock Island (itself east of mighty Brabant). Floating low to our starboard the petit Hydrurga Rocks call us to the sea.

By now a seasoned bunch of adventures, we grab jackets, gloves, a dose of 'polar plunge' attitude, then jump into our Zodiacs & Kayaks.

Breakfast coffee still warms the belly, we step into a rocky, other-worldly, secret landscape. The courageous Chinstrap Penguins (the great climbers), man the ramparts of blocky rock, while Fur Seals keenly flop themselves in the small bays,

occasionally booming in vibrating baritone or jousting with one another with puffed chests. Cormorants swoop down narrow channels over dazzled kayakers and citizen scientists, while Snowy Sheathbills bobble heads at the scene. Across the water, the tumbling ice walls of Two Hummock Island tease us while upper slopes hide in the clouds. (Did anyone see where the ship went?).

How does it feel to be here? This place, like all we have visited, has its own distinct atmosphere. The light, life, rock and ice coming together in unique ways to help us see and sense new things.

Across the silvery Gerlache we glide, in awe at the expanse. We try to digest what we see as we chatter and share stories



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**Wind Speed:**  
5 knots SE

**Barometer:**  
992 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
3°C

over warm soup.

Soon the mist lifts, Two Hummocks appear behind and the magnificence of Cierva Cove expands ahead – a truly Antarctic arena. An amphitheatre of glaciers, the Antarctic Peninsula announces its arrival while we weave deeper into the majestic bay. Towering ridges, sculptured icebergs, savannas of brash ice - lite by everchanging silver and yellow - provide a canvas for a star-studded cast. Chinstrap Penguins and Cormorants, Leopard & Weddel Seals, while Gentoo Penguins launch themselves onto rocks, they share with Primavera Base (Argentina) a tiny human footnote here. And of course, the Humpbacks, curious, playful and elegant insist wonderfully on saying hello once again.

Vibes are high and the room chatters at recap.

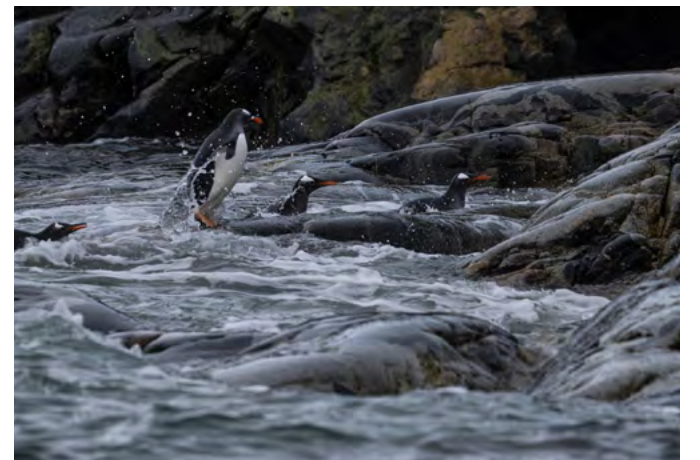
A magnificent day, that will echo long and deeply - alive in us all.













# Whalers Bay | Baily Head | At Sea

DAY 7 | 18 March 2026

**Latitude:**

62°59.6' S

**Longitude:**

60°33.1' W

**Course:**

90°

**Speed:**

7 knots

**Wind Speed:**

7 knots SW

**Barometer:**

994 hPa

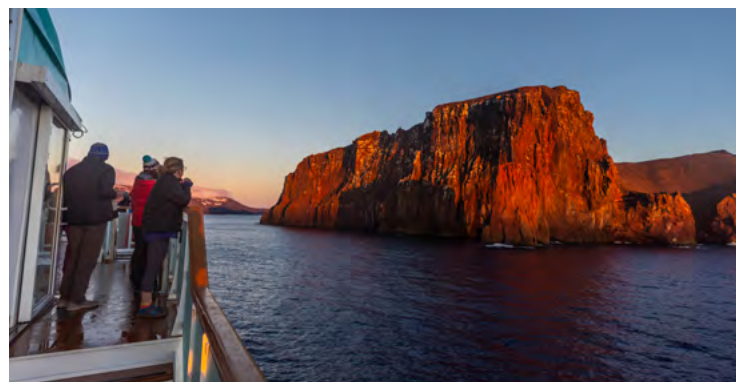
**Air Temp:**

3°C

If you're ever going to delay breakfast, you better have a good reason.

Today, breakfast was scheduled for 8am, and the reason was better than good. At 6:40am when Isabelle's voice came over the loudspeaker to wake us up, it announced that we were on the outer edges of Deception Island, ready to enter the caldera through the fog that had seemingly settled in. As we gathered on the icy and slippery decks of the deck 8, the ship neared Neptune's Bellows.

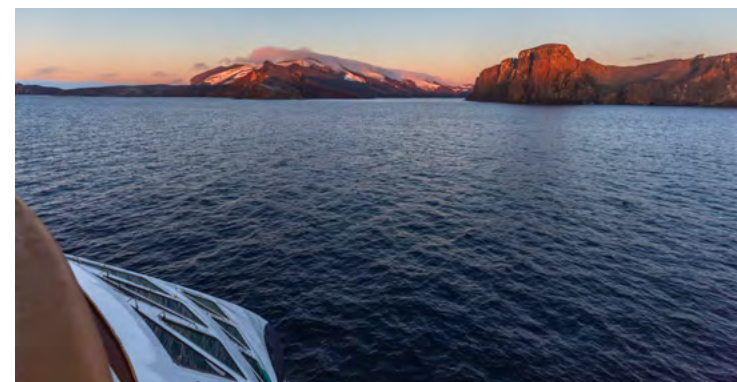
The fog parted as we got closer and revealed sunrise colours of pink, red and orange painting the cliff faces and mountain sides of the island in pastelle shades that glowed in the morning light.



We passed through the opening and as we entered the caldera, the remnants of Whaler's Bay greeted us. As it sat there in the morning light, aching to tell us its story, both Meli and Ed from the Expedition Team described the geological and historical features of this renowned landscape, revealing the progression of both man and nature in this part of Antarctica.

We circled around for a while and headed back out of the bellows to a still and calm sea and glorious day as we made a start on the forgotten about delayed breakfast.

We headed toward Baily Head, an infamously difficult place to land that was now shrouded in a thick fog. The Expedition Team made an attempt to get to shore, but announced



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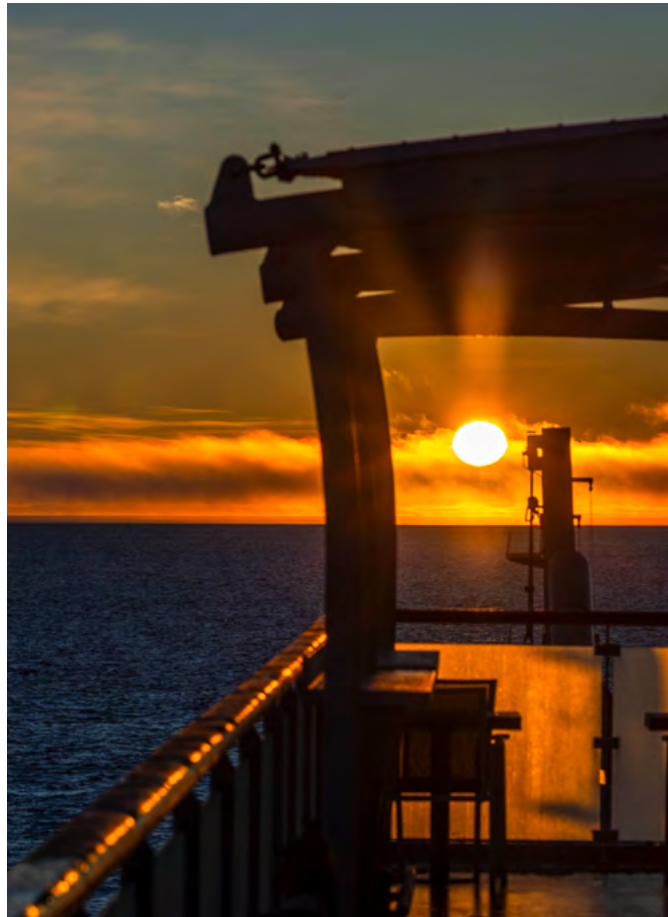
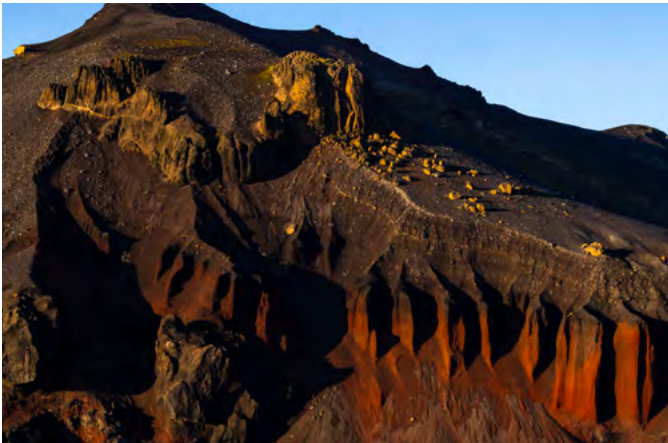
it would be a Zodiac cruise as conditions didn't suit. We embarked for our ride as a fogbow hovered over both the ship and the headland and as we neared the shore the sun came out again revealing the ground that holds the largest chinstrap colony on the peninsula.

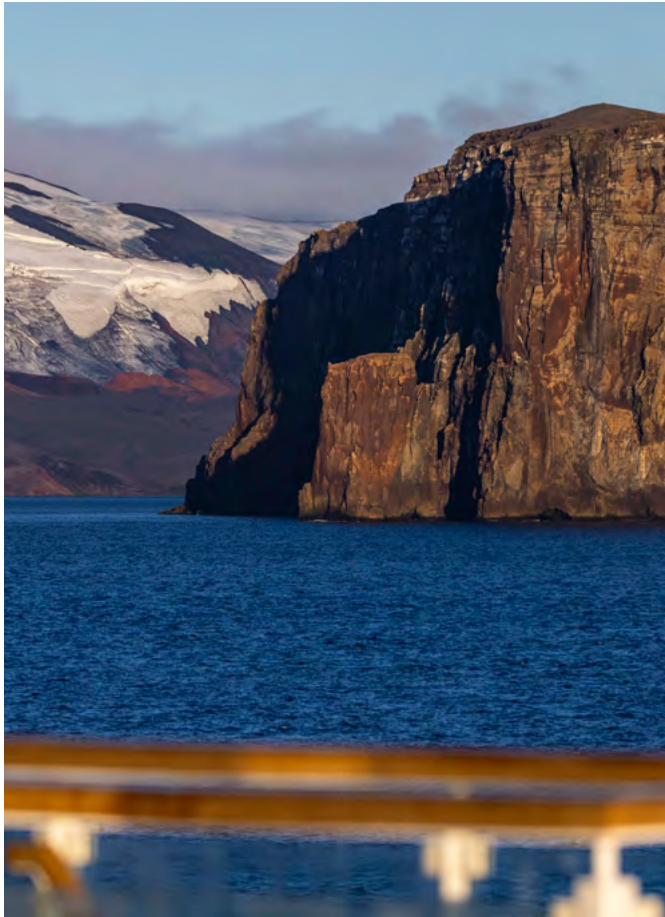
Fur seals, elephant seals, gentoo and chinstrap penguins all frolicked on the black sandy beaches, watched closely by skuas and giant petrels, forever waiting for a weakened individual and an easy meal.

After a memorable morning, we climbed back on board and steamed for the next days destination, Point Wild, where the Shackleton story awaits, but not before encountering some fin whales along the way and listening to a lecture from Dani

about seals.

















# Point Wild, Elephant Island | At Sea

DAY 8 | 19 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
61°12.2' S

**Longitude:**  
54°37.4' W

**Course:**  
356°

**Speed:**  
9 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
710 knots SW

**Barometer:**  
1000 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
-1°C

After sailing during the night across the Bransfield Strait, we arrived near Elephant Island early in the morning. The light was soft, creating a quiet atmosphere, and Isabelle woke us up at 0630 so we could enjoy this remote and very exposed place with the first lights of the day.

Before the first sip of coffee, we already saw some blows in the distance in the channel between Clarence Island and the northeastern corner (the trunk) of Elephant Island. It was a great start, but soon our attention moved to the island as it appeared in front of us. Elephant Island looked dark, rocky and isolated, with a strong feeling of remoteness.

The Bridge Team did an incredible job bringing the ship close to Point Wild. Conditions were not easy, with some swell, but

they managed to bring us in front of the little beach we were looking for.

Here, the 22 men from Shackleton's expedition survived for 128 days under the command of Frank Wild, while the Boss and 5 other members sailed to South Georgia to find rescue.

We tried to land, but the swell was too big and it was not safe to operate. Waves were breaking strongly on the beach, so the decision was made to stay onboard and enjoy the scene from the comfort of the outer decks.

The bridge team moved the ship even closer to the shore, and suddenly we were in front of the bust of Pilot Pardo, surrounded by penguins and fur seals with a massive glacier



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in the background. It was a strong image, where history and wildlife meet in the same place. We stayed there for some time, watching quietly and taking in the moment.

After this, we started sailing towards South Georgia, with around 800 miles ahead of us.

In the afternoon, Ed gave a talk about Shackleton and Meli explained the geology of Antarctica.

After dinner, Dave shared his music with us, closing the day in a perfect way.











# At Sea towards South Georgia

DAY 9 | 20 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
59°00.7' S  
**Longitude:**  
48°26.5' W

**Course:**  
060°  
**Speed:**  
10 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
13 knots NNW  
**Barometer:**  
1069 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
1°C

As promised, no wake-up call this morning—just the quiet luxury of time.

We eased into the day slowly, sipping coffee and tea before wandering down to breakfast, giving ourselves space to begin processing the unforgettable days we've just shared on the Antarctic Peninsula.

Photos were revisited, stories retold, and laughter echoed easily between tables. Messages were sent to friends and family far away—though we all quietly acknowledged that what we experienced here is something words can only ever partially capture.

That reflective mood carried naturally into the lecture theatre,

where Snowy shared stories from his time overwintering on the Peninsula. It's an experience so few people have had, and it's hard not to imagine how we might fare in those same conditions. The southern lights would be a dream, shimmering through the polar night, but the long stretches of darkness would undoubtedly test even the most resilient among us.

Meanwhile, the ship continued steadily north, the sea still kind as we made our way toward South Georgia.

With that privilege comes responsibility, shifting our focus to biosecurity. Like Antarctica, South Georgia demands careful stewardship, and so we set about cleaning our gear with precision—scrubbing boots, picking out every last speck of dirt from seams, velcro, and labels. It's a meticulous process,



# At Sea towards South Georgia

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**Course:**  
060°  
**Speed:**  
10 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
13 knots NNW  
**Barometer:**  
1069 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
1°C

and one we'll continue after every excursion, ensuring we arrive as respectful visitors, carrying only memories with us.

This sense of connection carried through Richard Kirkby's lecture, where our attention turned to the microscopic world of phytoplankton—the foundation of the ocean's food web and the source of over half the oxygen we breathe. It's a delicate balance, increasingly disrupted by warming oceans. Yet, as if on cue, a call from the deck reminded us of the life still thriving around us—fin whales exhaling in the distance, their presence grounding us firmly in the present moment.

The day gently closed with recap, briefing, and another exceptional meal from the galley team.



# At Sea towards South Georgia

DAY 10 | 21 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
56°44'15" S  
**Longitude:**  
40°59.9' W

**Wind Speed:**  
20 knots S  
**Barometer:**  
1001 hPa

**Course:**  
57°  
**Speed:**  
11.4 knots

**Air Temp:**  
5°C

We are heading north. Today we were allowed to sleep in as we are at sea. Our delicious breakfast started at 0800 hours.

At 1000 most of us gathered in the Lecture Theatre for Liam's talk "Freaking Laser Beams" The presentation sparked our curiosity, for sure a refreshing lecture about the anatomy of various species – how not all of us see things the same way. What a joy to see a different perspective on our normal view of things. Amazing photos, reflections and colours.

By late morning, Anne O and other members from the Expedition Team took the stage to showcase other exciting destinations offering insights into future adventures like Svalbard, Greenland, Northwest Passage and many more.

Lunch was served between 1230 and 1400, once again bringing us together over a generous buffet. Conversations buzzed with reflections on the morning's talks and growing excitement for what lay ahead in South Georgia.

The afternoon featured a lecture by our very own crazy whale lady Dani, "Of Whales & Men — from Whaling to Whale Watching," which offered a deeper understanding of the ocean's giants and humanity's evolving relationship with them.

Creative minds later gathered in the Observation Lounge for an art workshop with Ana. We saw drawings of penguins, landscape, people and whales.

While photography enthusiasts received expert critique from



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57°  
**Speed:**  
11.4 knots

**Air Temp:**  
5°C

the ship's photographer Adrian in the Lecture Theatre.

Next on the program was the refined wine tasting hosted by Raj, followed by cocktails and canapés at the S/Y Aurora Bar.

Whilst most of the Expedition Team were refreshing their knowledge in a rescue training in the mudroom.

At 1815, we all gathered in the Lecture Theatre for our daily recap and briefing on what the next few days may offer in South Georgia. Ensuring everyone was on the same page especially when it comes to biosecurity and keeping this fragile environment safe from invasive species.

After two sea dayss we are now excited, well rested and ready for new adventure.



# Gold Harbour | St Andrews Bay

DAY 11 | 22 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
54°41.6' S  
**Longitude:**  
035°38.4' W

**Course:**  
321°  
**Speed:**  
9 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
12.5 knots S  
**Barometer:**  
1016 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
5°C

After two days at sea, the ship was eager for its first glimpse of land. We were well rewarded as dawn broke on the 22nd of March and Gold Harbour appeared on the horizon. As we approached, majestic mountains and dramatic glaciers came into focus, revealing the immense scale of this beautiful place. The shoreline was dotted with thousands of tiny, jostling specks moving along the beach. The weather seemed to grant us a calm morning for our first excursion in South Georgia.

The Expedition Team went ahead to scout the landing, and soon the call came to board the Zodiacs. As we headed ashore, it was impossible not to be overwhelmed by the sheer volume of wildlife.

Kayakers launching north of the landing were quickly surrounded by curious penguins and seals weaving through the kelp forests beside them.

On shore, guests were greeted by king penguins, elephant seals, and fur seals. The loud cacophony of king penguins nearly drowned out the whimpers of fur seals and the belches of the elephant seals. Giant petrels gathered on the water, ready to scavenge any unattended chick or egg, while a few gentoo penguins lingered among the tussock grass.

All of this unfolded beneath one of the most stunning glaciers, hanging above cliffs and a lagoon. As the morning progressed, the clouds lifted from the mountains, revealing an even more breathtaking view.



# Gold Harbour | St Andrews Bay

DAY 11 | 22 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
54°41.6' S  
**Longitude:**  
035°38.4' W

**Wind Speed:**  
12.5 knots S  
**Barometer:**  
1016 hPa

Before long, our time was up and the ship repositioned for the next outing. We returned aboard to scrub our boots and prepare for the afternoon. If we thought the morning had been unforgettable, the afternoon surpassed it.

**Course:**  
321°  
**Speed:**  
9 knots

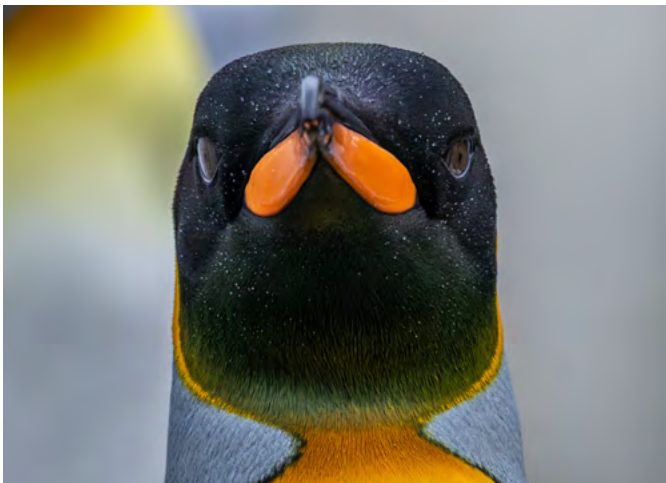
**Air Temp:**  
5°C

St. Andrews Bay, home to nearly half a million king penguins, was extraordinary. We began with a lively walk through a meadow filled with bold, blustering fur seals, charging and whining at every opportunity. We crossed a swift river, then another meadow, before climbing gentle hills as the noise grew ever louder. Soon we stood overlooking a vast colony, stretching as far as the eye could see.

A fantastic first day at South Georgia





















# Cumberland Bay

DAY 12 | 23 March 2026

**Latitude:**

54°17.6' S

**Longitude:**

36°26.1' W

**Course:**

301°

**Speed:**

2.8 knots

**Wind Speed:**

5 knots S

**Barometer:**

978 hPa

**Air Temp:**

5°C

After the perfect conditions of yesterday, today we had some more typical South Georgia weather to contend with. As the Captain brought the ship into Cumberland Bay towards Grytviken, our planned morning stop, although the forecast winds didn't seem to be so bad, we could see and feel the large swell which meant that it wouldn't be possible to safely operate and get ashore. So it was time to go into expedition mode and find somewhere that offered protection and calmer conditions to allow us to do some sort of activity in the morning.

We headed around into Cumberland West Bay where it looked like we would get some protection from the wind and swell. And so it turned out to be, which meant we could get out for a Zodiac cruise. The steep shores were draped with

waterfalls cascading down from above and the glaciers in the adjoining bays made for spectacular viewing as the low cloud lifted and some sunshine appeared. The ship repositioned to the entrance of Carlita Bay, at the mouth of the vast and impressive Olsen Valley stretching to the north, where we did encounter some sportier conditions, which made for an exciting ride and embarkation at the sidegates.

Over lunch we relocated not too far, towards the entrance of Cumberland Bay, to a normally quiet little cove known as Jason Harbour. But today we encountered very strong winds there, gusting up to 60 knots and the ship couldn't maintain its position, so it was back into expedition mode again to find somewhere a little less wild. Sadly it wasn't to be, as the wind really set in and it wasn't possible for us to get off the ship



# Cumberland Bay

DAY 12 | 23 March 2026

Latitude:

54°17.6' S

Longitude:

36°26.1' W

Course:

301°

Speed:

2.8 knots

Wind Speed:

5 knots S

Barometer:

978 hPa

Air Temp:

5°C

again.

Instead, Meli gave an interesting talk about the Geography of South Georgia, combining the geology and glaciology that has formed the landscape. Later a few ventured out for a seabird survey, which also provided some spectacular views of the mountains and ice in glorious sunshine and after that Liz ran a hotly contested trivia quiz with teams competing against each other for glory.

Hopefully tomorrow brings better conditions and we can again get out to enjoy more of everything South Georgia has to offer.









# Grytviken | Stromness

DAY 13 | 24 March 2026

**Latitude:**

54°16.9' S

**Longitude:**

36°30.1' W

**Course:**

282°

**Speed:**

3 knots

**Wind Speed:**

23 knots S

**Barometer:**

985 hPa

**Air Temp:**

6°C

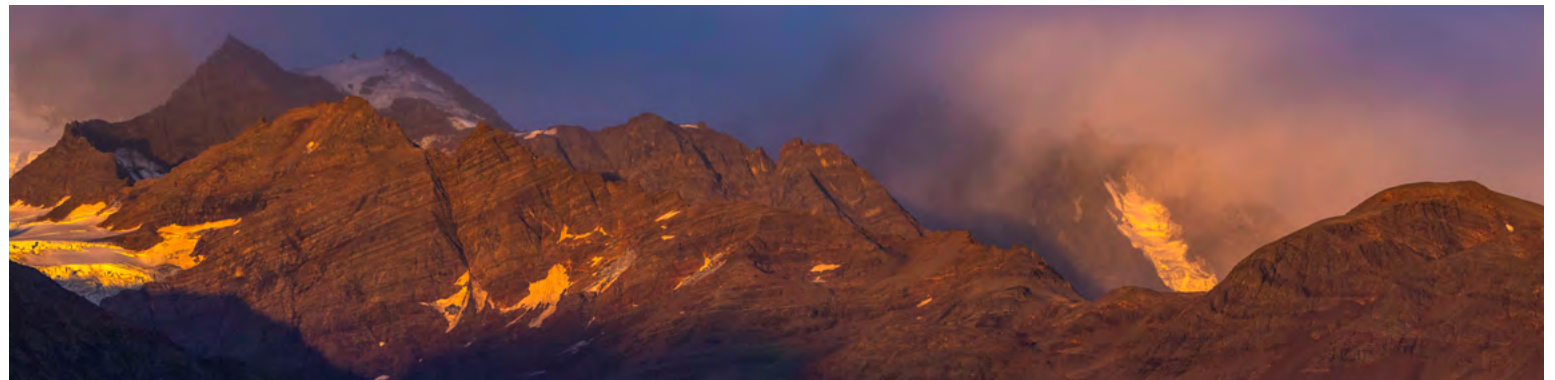
Today we started the day with the *Douglas Mawson* arriving to King Edward Point, with a vibe like no other. Sunshine and warm weather welcomed us in the remote and historic place.

After fueling up with a delicious breakfast, we headed ashore at Grytviken. The place is a hauntingly beautiful mix of rust and history. We spent the morning wandering through the old whaling station. Those massive, weathered structures really put the scale of the past into perspective.

For those of us feeling energetic, during the morning we took a hike over to Maiviken. The views were absolutely stunning on this clear day, and the fresh South Georgia air was the perfect wake-up call.

We had more than enough time to visit the museum, the gift shop and the post office to send some postcards from the edge of the world and of course do some shopping before heading to the cemetery. Standing by Shackleton's grave felt heavy but special. We popped a bottle and Ed from the Expedition Team offered a toast to "The Boss"—a proper tribute to the man who redefined "grit."

Back on the ship, the galley team had a refreshing lunch waiting for us. We didn't have much time to lounge, though, because by afternoon we were dropping anchor at Stromness. This spot is legendary—it's where Shackleton finally reached safety after his epic trek across the island from King Haakon Bay on the southern side. Watching the remains of the whaling station felt like stepping back in time, all while being



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**Speed:**  
3 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
23 knots S  
**Barometer:**  
985 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
6°C

surrounded by dramatic peaks, glacial landscapes, and curious fur seals. The natural scenery here is just unreal; it's rugged, raw, and totally cinematic.

Once we were back on the *Mawson*, we thawed out and gathered for the daily briefing to see what amazing plan was on the agenda for tomorrow.

To top it all off, the crew threw a massive BBQ dinner out on deck. Chilling with the team, eating great food, and enjoying this amazing background was the perfect end to a wild day. South Georgia is showing off.

























# Salisbury Plains | At Sea

DAY 14 | 25 March 2026

**Latitude:**

54°08.5' S

**Longitude:**

37°15.1' W

**Course:**

264°

**Speed:**

4 knots

**Wind Speed:**

7 knots NE

**Barometer:**

1002 hPa

**Air Temp:**

3°C

Our day in South Georgia began with a sense of uncertainty as we approached Salisbury Plains due to a large rolling swell. From a distance, the surf looked formidable, and for a time it seemed as though a landing might not be possible. But as we drew closer, the conditions revealed a narrow window of opportunity, and with careful timing and expert driving, we made it ashore.

What greeted us was nothing short of extraordinary. The beach was alive with hundreds of juvenile fur seals, their curiosity outweighing any caution. They approached in bounding bursts of energy, playfully circling boots and investigating anything that moved. Walking among them required patience as each step became a negotiation with these charismatic young locals.



Beyond the shoreline, we followed a muddy path, rich with the unmistakable scent of penguin guano, gradually climbing toward a viewpoint overlooking one of South Georgia's great wildlife spectacles. Spread out before us was the second-largest king penguin colony on the island, an astonishing congregation of around 60,000 breeding pairs. The sight and sound were overwhelming: a living, shifting mass of sleek bodies and golden flashes, stretching as far as the eye could see.

After taking in the scene, we returned to the landing site and departed, weaving our way through a scattering of offshore islands. As if to bid us farewell, several wandering albatrosses appeared, gliding effortlessly alongside the ship. Their immense wings barely seemed to move as they rode the wind,



# Salisbury Plains | At Sea

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**Speed:**

4 knots

**Wind Speed:**

7 knots NE

**Barometer:**

1002 hPa

**Air Temp:**

3°C

a fitting escort as we left the rugged beauty of South Georgia behind.

The afternoon at sea offered time for reflection and learning, with Richard delivering a thought-provoking lecture on microplastics and the environmental benefits of natural fibres like wool over synthetic materials. It was a timely reminder of the broader impacts of our choices.

The day concluded on a high note with another excellent dinner, followed by a lively and entertaining auction hosted by Liam and Liz. Spirits were high as guests generously supported the Polar Collective and the South Georgia Heritage Trust, raising an impressive sum for two very worthy causes.







# At Sea

DAY 15 | 26 March 2026

---

**Latitude:**  
49°22.4' S  
**Longitude:**  
38°48.1'W

**Course:**  
352°  
**Speed:**  
12 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
30 knots NW  
**Barometer:**  
998 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
9°C

We started the day watching big waves roll past the ship while guests were divided into four groups for Bridge tours. The Bridge team explained the ship's controls, navigation systems, and some of the technical aspects of operating an expedition vessel. The most important instruction, of course: don't push the red button!

Later in the morning, Dani presented her lecture, How Do We Know What We Know... About Whales? She took us on a journey through the history of whale science, beginning with Aristotle's early observations and moving through the era of commercial whaling, which provided much of the first large-scale biological data on whales. From there, she introduced the modern tools scientists use today, including photo-identification, acoustic monitoring, drones, satellite tags, genetics, and biopsy sampling. The lecture highlighted not only how much we have learned, but also how complex the lives of whales and dolphins truly are, and how much there is still left to discover.

The sea state picked up slightly around lunchtime, adding a little extra movement to the day.

In the afternoon, our Executive Chef, Pratik, gave a fascinating presentation about the galley operation onboard. He introduced his team, shared photos of the areas below deck we all wish we could visit and explained the logistics of

feeding everyone during a 20-day voyage. He talked about the enormous quantities of fresh produce consumed, how everything is stored and managed to stay fresh, and offered some wonderfully entertaining insights into life behind the scenes. We eat 20 dozen eggs a day, and he "has only one chicken downstairs!"

Afterwards, Snowy gave a talk about the construction of the Greg Mortimer in China, the first X-Bow expedition ship and sister vessel to our *Douglas Mawson*. Through a virtual tour, he showed us parts of the ship we cannot access, including the engine room.

Afternoon tea was a highlight, with sandwiches, cakes, banana flambé with vanilla ice cream and lollies.

The day ended with a weather briefing from Isabelle, whose forecast of deep reds and purples on the charts confirmed that the big seas would be staying with us tomorrow.



# At Sea

DAY 16 | 27 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
47°17.8' S  
**Longitude:**  
42°40.6' W  
**Wind Speed:**  
25 knots  
**Barometer:**  
1047 hPa

**Course:**  
247°  
**Speed:**  
10.2 knots  
**Air Temp:**  
10°C

The boisterous ocean jostled us through the night, with zero-G dreams and shuddering scenes of spray across the windows. We raced gallantly north, into the Atlantic, to outflank the worst of the weather.

Now we swing west, and the sun and warmth greet us for another day on the high seas. We eye the Falklands/Malvinas over the horizon. The light in these latitudes is different, and we can feel the slightest hint of tropics in the air. Yes we are a long way from Antarctica now! Outside decks reopen – and eager folks soon lap and savour the sky above and fresh air. Albatross, Sooty Shearwater and Prions peer in through windows to the gym, giggling at us as we flap our limbs on stationary machines while just through the glass they soar and swoop free in the rollicking wind.

Straight on into the swell now, our trusty *Douglas Mawson* groovily threads westward keen to prove herself on the high seas. She occasionally jumps and we are momentarily on the crest of a rollercoaster.

The bustle of daily expedition life soon commences. It is relaxed and familiar to us by now, plus we're better at dancing down hallways and up stairs that dance back with the pulse of waves!

Richard, with sharp clarity in his talk Plankton and Dogs, illuminates the plight and political complexities swirling in Antarctic krill fisheries, and provokes us to think (why) 'are we barking mad?'. Up high on deck 8 a few brave folks ride the bucking motion, with white capped waves popping in the sea,



# At Sea

DAY 16 | 27 March 2026

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47°17.8' S  
**Longitude:**  
42°40.6' W

**Course:**  
247°  
**Speed:**  
10.2 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
25 knots  
**Barometer:**  
1047 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
10°C

and take in the vastness of the sharp horizon stretching (and twisting) all around us.

After lunch, Ed draws us beyond that horizon with an Introduction to The Falklands/Malvinas, an overview of its amazing life, complex history, and the living community today.

Citizen Science Cloud and Bird Surveys are carried through by those willing to gaze skyward with agile balance on the top decks.

We are collectively morphed into new species (and hilarity) with Liam and Sounds of the Southern Ocean.

Recap, dinner & evening chats arrive, before the now 'gentle'

roll carries us to dream land.



# At Sea towards Falkland Islands

DAY 17 | 28 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
49°17.1' S

**Longitude:**  
48°50.1' W

**Course:**  
247°

**Speed:**  
13.2 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
18 knots W

**Barometer:**  
1012 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
8°C

We awoke to the ship seemingly moving around a lot less. A quick look out of the window revealed why. The swell had died down considerably overnight, and any movement was being caused by the multi-directional washiness of the left-over storm system. The other clue was that we couldn't see very far!!! A thick bank of fog closed visibility in to approximately 150 metres which wasn't great for bird watching, but fantastic that it signified the wind had died down!!

Snowy gave us a lecture on the birds of the Falkland Islands and followed that with a Citizen Science bird survey. Prions, petrels and shearwaters dominated the mornings viewing with no albatross to be found just yet. Maybe they were sitting more than 200 metres off in the protection of the fog.



Adrian gave a workshop on Lightroom and ran over some new and interesting editing tricks and techniques. As the blinds went up afterwards the room seemed brighter than before. The fog had started to lift as we headed into lunch.

Meli followed with a lecture on the geology of the Falkland Islands to add to our preparation for our hopeful arrival tomorrow.

A few of us getting physically ready by heading to the gym, it being reopened now we had passed the bigger sea state swells.

As the afternoon passed by, there were people scattered through the cozy little nooks of the ship, sharing stories,



# At Sea towards Falkland Islands

DAY 17 | 28 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
49°17.1' S

**Longitude:**  
48°50.1' W

**Course:**  
247°

**Speed:**  
13.2 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
18 knots W

**Barometer:**  
1012 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
8°C

reading books, relaxing, contemplating and reflecting.

A true sea day, and what a sea day should be used for. That was of course until Liz and her "How Big Is It?" game rolled into town and everybody sprang to life. Music, voices and laughter filled the air as everyone was wondering how the scoring system worked just as much as they were wondering about how big things really were.

Nothing would be as big as the irreplaceable memories of this trip though, and I hope as many people as possible cemented those into their minds on this sunny and calm afternoon.



# Stanley, Falkland Islands

DAY 18 | 29 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
51°26.1' S  
**Longitude:**  
056°51.8' W

**Wind Speed:**  
28 knots W  
**Barometer:**  
1002 hPa

**Course:**  
248°  
**Speed:**  
13.6 knots

**Air Temp:**  
11°C

Today felt like a different day in the South Atlantic Ocean. We started the morning sailing in the fog, but there was some excitement in the air, as we knew that after three days at sea we would finally reach land again.

And to make the most of the day, breakfast was earlier than usual, and even the wake-up call was back at 0700.

After breakfast, we started in a relaxed way. Kate, our passenger from South Georgia, gave a talk about resilience in remote places like Falkland Islands and South Georgia. It was a nice and thoughtful way to begin the day.

Before midday, many of us were already on the outside decks, some even in short sleeves, enjoying the sun after our

Antarctic Voyage . We could see rock cormorants and also some dolphins moving ahead of the ship. Slowly, Stanley appeared in front of us, with its small harbor, low cliffs and white sandy beaches. It felt like a very welcoming place.

Lunch was quick, and soon we were heading ashore to explore.

Many guests took the shuttle buses to Gypsy Cove, a beautiful beach that not so long ago was still a minefield. There, some of us added a new penguin to the list, the Magellanic (aka jackass in the region). A few more energetic guests even walked (or ran!) back to town.

The afternoon was spent enjoying Stanley at a slow pace.



# Stanley, Falkland Islands

DAY 18 | 29 March 2026

**Latitude:**  
51°26.1' S  
**Longitude:**  
056°51.8' W

**Course:**  
248°  
**Speed:**  
13.6 knots

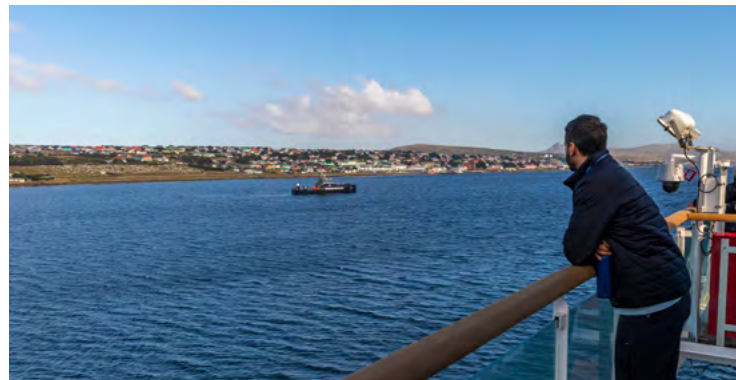
**Wind Speed:**  
28 knots W  
**Barometer:**  
1002 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
11°C

Some visited the museum, others looked around the souvenir shops, and some went to the local pub. It felt like a quiet Sunday afternoon in a small town.

For the last Zodiac ride of the trip, we had a very special moment. The sun was setting in the west while the moon was rising almost full in the east, colouring the sky in soft blues and violets. A perfect way to say goodbye to this place.

It was a short stop, but a place not easy to forget.



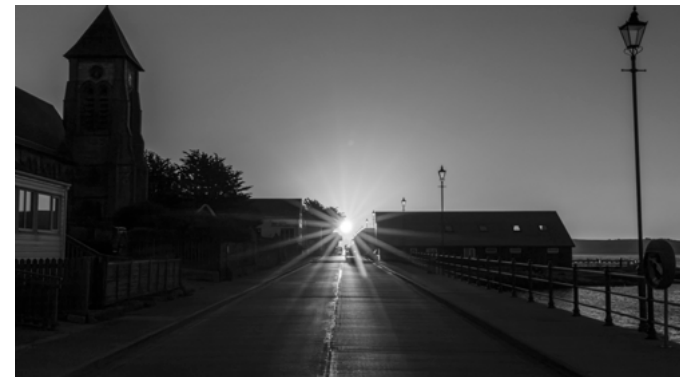












# At Sea towards Ushuaia

DAY 19 | 30 March 2026

---

**Latitude:**  
53°45.3' S  
**Longitude:**  
69°23.9' W

**Course:**  
246°  
**Speed:**  
14.9 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
11 knots N  
**Barometer:**  
1000 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
8°C

We woke to a beautiful morning as we crossed the ocean from the Falkland Islands toward Ushuaia. Soft light shimmered across calm seas as we made our way to breakfast, where the photography competition entries were displayed for voting.

After breakfast, Anne O led an informative session on disembarkation logistics, covering luggage preparation and flight planning.

Daniel followed with a thoughtful discussion on preserving memories from our time in the wild—through stories, photography, and creative outlets—and how to share these experiences with others. The conversation then shifted toward sustainability, encouraging reflection on how we can adopt more responsible lifestyles at home to help protect these fragile environments. Many guests contributed, sharing meaningful memories and intentions inspired by the voyage. We later gathered on the top deck for a full group photo.

After lunch, Adrián entertained us with stories from his sailing career before introducing Rounding Cape Horn, a film capturing the challenges of rounding one of the world's most iconic maritime passages. He then joined Dave and Liam to lead a practical knot-tying session, demonstrating useful techniques and their real-world applications.

At 5:00 p.m., the kayakers met in the lecture hall for a final gathering, sharing highlights from their paddling experiences before enjoying a slideshow of the journey.

During the evening recap, the first distant glimpses of the Beagle Channel appeared on the horizon, with its rugged peaks hinting at our destination. Dani presented the group's Citizen Science achievements, while Adrián demonstrated how to map our trip on something he set up for us in Google Maps and Ana gave us a tour of Ushuaia. This was followed by an incredible musical performance by the Krillers. An incredible self-written song accompanied by great costumes. "Don't kill the krill".

After dinner, Liam closed the day with an engaging bar talk on expedition whitewater kayaking in Chile, sharing thrilling stories and videos that offered a glimpse into the adventurous world beyond the voyage.



# Ushuaia

DAY 20 | 31 March 2026

---

**Latitude:**  
54°42.6' S  
**Longitude:**  
68°17.8' W

**Course:**  
Alongside  
**Speed:**  
Alongside

**Wind Speed:**  
6 knots variable/  
west  
**Barometer:**  
975 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
12°

What a day at the end of the world!

We started bright and early with a buffet breakfast from 08:00–09:30, fueling up for a big adventure ahead. Some of us spent the day in town.

After lunch we headed out to Lake Acigami, surrounded by breathtaking scenery. We visited Bahía Lapataia — famously known as the “end of the road” from Alaska. This marks the southernmost point of the Pan-American Highway, which stretches an incredible 30,000 km all the way from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego. Standing there really made the world feel both huge and beautifully connected.

We stopped by the visitor center, Alakush (which means “steam duck”), where some of us warmed up in the café and enjoyed some delicious empanadas — a perfect treat in the chilly weather. Along the way, we spotted an amazing variety of birdlife: Kelp Goose, Thorn-tailed Rayadito, Southern Lapwing, Great Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, and Crested Duck. A real highlight for nature lovers!

We also reached the end of the Andes mountain range — such a surreal moment to stand at the finish of such a vast and iconic landscape.

The weather kept us on our toes all day — we experienced rain, wind, cold, and even sunshine by the end! Despite it all, the landscapes remained absolutely stunning, with dramatic views in every direction.

After returning back to the ship at 17:00, we just had time to freshen up for a special evening. Dave’s amazing tunes and the Captain’s Farewell Drinks & Canapés at the S/Y Aurora Bar, followed by a beautiful voyage slideshow in the Lecture Theatre.

Adrian is the best storyteller I know, he managed to capture all the important moments and took us through all the memories of this epic voyage and all the feelings attached to it.

The day ended with the Captain’s Farewell Dinner which was the perfect way to celebrate an unforgettable journey.

What a day! Full of adventure, back in civilization, wildlife, and incredible landscapes — Ushuaia truly delivered! Thank you all for joining us on this amazing trip.



# Ushuaia

DAY 21 | 01 April 2026

---

**Latitude:**  
54°45'6" S  
**Longitude:**  
68°17'8" W

**Wind Speed:**  
12 knots N  
**Barometer:**  
970 hPa

**Course:**  
Alongside  
**Speed:**  
Alongside

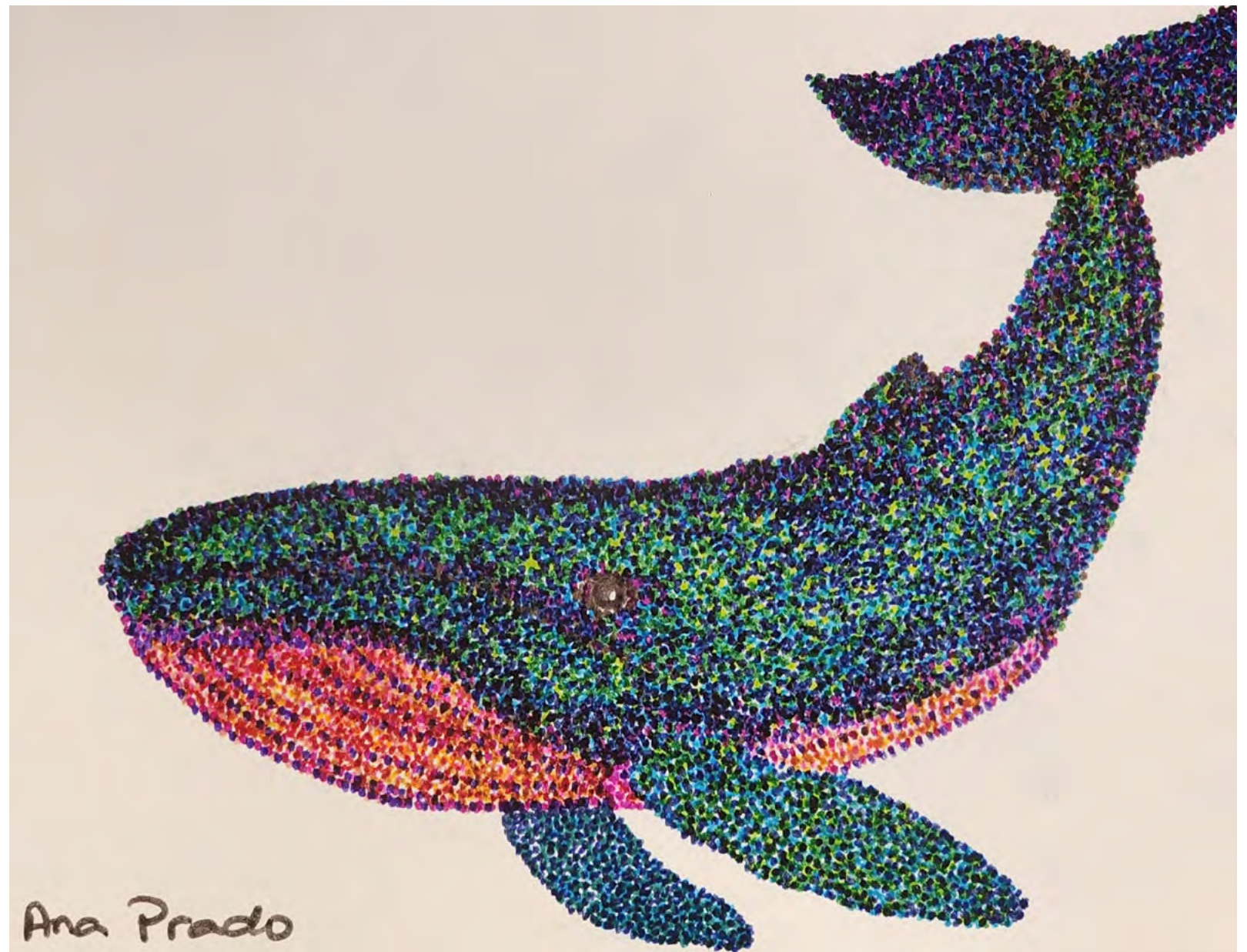
**Air Temp:**  
7°C

After a wonderful last day onboard, we woke from a good night's sleep to enjoy one last breakfast together before disembarking.

With bags packed and farewells said, our journey to the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands came to an end. We stepped ashore with great memories of incredible wildlife, wild landscapes, and the friendships made along the way. Wishing everyone safe onward travels and hoping our paths cross again soon.

We have travelled 3737 nautical miles together.

# Artwork



# BBQ





# Polar Plunge

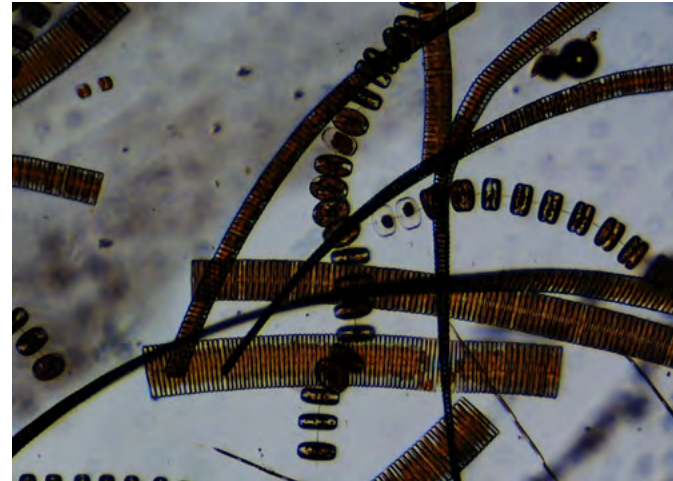
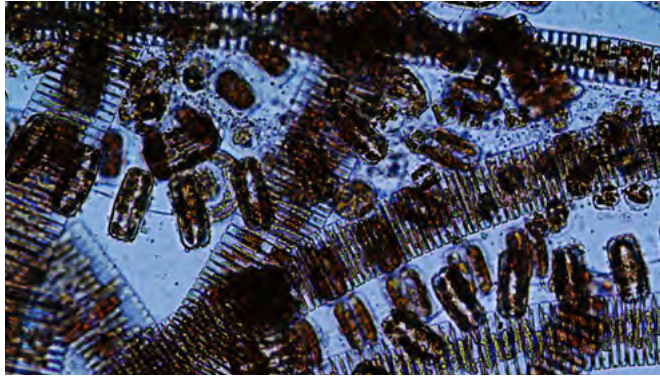








# Citizen Science







# Kayaking Log

Guides: Liz MacNeil, Vanja Davidsen, Liam Hopkinson

15 March 2026, AM

Fournier Bay, Antarctic Peninsula  
5.1km

Our very first kayaking outing began with towing our boats from the ship, easing into the rhythm of life on the water. Liam and Vanja were out paddling, with Liz nearby in the safety Zodiac as we got comfortable with the basics—learning how the rudders respond and dialing in a few simple paddling techniques.

The conditions greeted us with rain and fog, but it only added to the atmosphere. Warm and dry in our drysuits, we embraced it all. Before long, the wildlife began to appear—our first gentoo penguins, humpback whales, and, most special of all, fin whales feeding close to our kayaks.

What an incredible way to begin.

16 March 2026, AM

Cuverville Island, Antarctic Peninsula  
6.4km

Today we launched from the marina

and set out toward Cuverville Island, splitting into two groups—those keen to combine paddling with a landing, and those happy to stay on the water. Vanja and Liz guided the kayaks, with Liam nearby in the safety Zodiac.

Following Liz, one group completed a full circumnavigation of the island, tracing the rugged coastline and soaking in the scenery. Both groups eventually made their way toward the penguin colony on the northern shore, hugging the shoreline as we went.

Along the way, we were treated to breathtaking landscapes—dramatic rock formations with striking colour contrasts—and an abundance of wildlife: Gentoo penguins, juvenile Antarctic terns, fur seals, and skuas.

16 March 2026, PM

Neko Harbour, Antarctic Peninsula  
4.76km

After loading at the ship, we set off by Zodiac, weaving deeper into the ice. Within 200 metres, we were forced to stop abruptly—just ahead lay a sleeping

**Number of Kayakers:** 20

**Total Outings:** 10

**Total Distance Kayaked:** 52.4 km

**Kayakers:**

Tabitha Allen

Rosanna Avenia

Lee Eiszele

Sean Foo

David Griffith

Sarah Kippen

Kent Leighty

Anne Love

Louise Marr

Kate McCoy

Erica Meggit

Britta Mortensen

Janella (Jello) New

Lou Ryan

Jasmine Sawyer

Peta Sawyer

Mavis Vaz

Ian Whish-Wilson

Jeanne Williams

John Williams

whale, perfectly concealed among the floes. After carefully rerouting, we found a suitable landing and unloaded the kayaks. Almost immediately, two whales surfaced quietly beside us, their presence both startling and serene. They drifted between rest and slow, graceful movement, their powerful blows echoing across the stillness.

After spending some time observing them, we continued onward, pushing into a denser field of brash ice. The paddling quickly turned into a satisfying workout as we nudged and broke our way through the thicker patches. Penguins dotted the ice around us, and in nearly every direction, more whales rested—some audibly snoring, adding a surreal soundtrack to the landscape.

We looped around towering icebergs, their scale and beauty overwhelming. Eventually, most of the group chose to head ashore, eager to step onto the continent. Two of us remained on the water with Liam, paddling closer toward the glacier. There, we were approached by a large female whale. She came far nearer than expected, circling slowly with what felt like curiosity, her eye seemingly fixed on us. It was an

intimate, humbling encounter—one that brought a quiet stillness and a deep sense of connection to the wild surroundings.

**17 March 2026, AM**  
**Hydrurga Rocks, Antarctic Peninsula**  
**4.5km**

Liam and Vanja led the group on the water, with Liz nearby in the safety Zodiac. Setting off from the ship, we paddled into a foggy, almost mystical landscape, heading toward the southeast side of the island and hugging the coastline as we began our circumnavigation.

Partway through, some chose to break off for a landing, while others continued on. The route brought us through a few shallow sections, but with a bit of teamwork and guidance, everyone made it through smoothly. Along the way, bold fur seals kept us on our toes, approaching curiously and adding to the excitement.

Near the landing site, we paused to take in the wildlife—shags perched along the rocks, chinstrap penguins moving along the shore, and seals

resting nearby. After half the group transferred to the Zodiac, the rest of us carried on around to the west side of the island, where we were rewarded with a playful stretch of brash ice.

We wove our way through it on the return to the ship, ending the paddle on a true high.

**17 March 2026, PM**  
**Cierva Cove, Antarctic Peninsula**  
**6.48km**

Following Liz through the brash, we punched our paddles through the maze of ice—cracking, sliding, and shuffling pieces aside. Some bits were delicate as glass, others more stubborn that made you earn every meter. We love brash, yes we do... it's so fun to paddle through!

Around us, glaciers spilled down from the continent in frozen rivers, towering and timeless. Then—whoooosh—a humpback's breath. Deep, steady, almost sleepy. We drifted, listening, and they kept delivering, each exhale echoing across the cove like a slow heartbeat.

Rounding Penguin Island brought a different kind of magic. The chinstraps were mid-moult—scruffy, awkward, and wonderfully unbothered, standing around like they'd forgotten how to penguin. Just offshore, grounded icebergs rested like frozen sculptures, tilted and glowing.

Ice crunching, whales breathing, moulting penguins loafing—it was the perfect, joy-filled Antarctic finale.

**18 March 2026, AM**  
**Bailey Head, Antarctic Peninsula**  
**4.15km**

Bailey Head brought out the sporty side of things—one of those rare sessions where everything lines up just enough to say, let's go for it. Slipping through the Needle and weaving between towering sea stacks, we rode a playful swell that kept us on our toes and grinning the whole way. Timing mattered—sets rolling through, a quick push, a clean glide, and suddenly we were in it, moving through one of the wildest little corridors in Antarctica.

Chinstraps lined the rocks in chaotic colonies, their calls echoing off the



cliffs, while fur seals ruled the water—zipping past, popping up beside us, equal parts curious and unimpressed. It felt alive, dynamic, just the right amount of spicy. Above it all, the sun slowly burned through the cloud, lighting up the stacks and turning the whole place golden. What started as moody and grey shifted into something almost surreal.

A rare window, a perfect run, and one of those sessions you wish you could hit replay on.

### 22 March 2026, AM Gold Harbour, South Georgia 4.4 km

The anticipation for our first kayak outing in South Georgia was unmistakable, with a buzz of energy filling the Zodiac as we crossed the bay. We landed among thick seaweed beds and launched quickly, paddling toward shore. Within minutes, king penguins streamed past us in the water, their vivid orange markings glowing against the grey sea. Along the rocky coastline, fur seals crowded every available space, their deep, guttural

calls echoing loudly across the bay. As we moved deeper into the sheltered area, we found ourselves surrounded by wildlife. Seals slipped effortlessly through the water around us, surfacing nearby to inspect us with curious glances. Penguins stood in clusters along the rocks, some appearing to pose as we drifted past. Fur seals swam in all directions, often approaching close enough to sniff at our kayaks. One particularly inquisitive penguin made the rounds, attempting to hop onto the bows of several boats.

Continuing along the shoreline, the low cloud began to lift, revealing the dramatic hanging glacier towering above Gold Harbour. The combination of ice, ocean, and dense wildlife was mesmerizing. We paddled to the far end of the bay and rode small surging waves into a quiet lagoon. There, hundreds of giant petrels waited, watchful and still. In the calmer water, we paused to take in the scene, surrounded by penguins, seals, and birds. Even as we packed up, it was hard to look away from the glacier dominating the landscape.

### 23 March 2026, AM West Cumberland Bay, South Georgia 3.5 km

A short but sweet paddle, hugging the coastline from west to east. With just an hour on the water, we made the most of every moment. Vanja and Liz led the way in kayaks, with Liam nearby in the safety Zodiac.

We set off in glassy, calm conditions, even sharing the water with an elephant seal cruising alongside us. As we progressed, the wind began to build—mostly at our backs—until we rounded a corner into a cove and met it head-on. It turned into a solid workout, but the kind that reminds you you're fully alive out there.

On the return to the ship in the Zodiac, the weather shifted quickly, with gusts climbing close to 40 knots. Timing was on our side—we made it back just in time.

### 24 March 2026, PM Stromness, South Georgia 6.3km

Baby fur seal soup for all to enjoy! Splitting into cruisers and chargers, we set off in our separate directions... the chargers circumnavigated Grass Island, weaving through thick kelp that did exactly what it's meant to—softening the wind and swell. It made for a playful, dynamic ride as we worked our way around the island. The cruisers tucked into the lee, gliding along at an easy pace, spending time with the baby fur seals and their endlessly curious antics.

Along the shoreline, we drifted past elephant seals, waterfalls cascading from above, and eventually over to the haunting remains of Stromness Whaling Station—the very place where Shackleton found salvation after 497 days.

Meanwhile, the chargers picked up a particularly curious fur seal—affectionately (and unofficially) named Doug—who tagged along all the way back to the ship. Back on board, we came together as a team, swapping stories, sharing laughs, and celebrating a day full of adventure... and, of course, plenty of baby fur seal soup.



25 March 2026, AM  
Salisbury Plains  
6.8km

As soft light filtered through the fog, the vast expanse of Salisbury Plain gradually emerged into view. Despite the dreary rain, a small group of us set out, eager to explore. We began by paddling around a western point, where we were immediately greeted by a South Georgia pipit, giant petrel chicks, and numerous seals. At one point, we observed a group of petrels preying on a baby fur seal—a stark and unsettling reminder of nature’s raw reality.

Continuing into a small bay, we spotted several pintail ducks and paused briefly to admire the stunning glacier that formed a dramatic backdrop to the plains. We then turned back toward the point. Liz paddled ahead to scout the entrance into “Penguin Soup cove,” ensuring it was safe before signalling us to follow.

Inside the sheltered cove, we were met with an extraordinary scene. Fur seals and penguins filled the water, splashing and surfacing in every direction. The kelp seemed alive with movement, and the animals showed as much curiosity toward us as we did toward them. Seals swarmed around us, some even climbing onto our kayaks, creating an unforgettable and immersive experience.

All too soon, it was time to leave. We exited the cove and paddled along the shoreline of Salisbury Plain. Towering peaks and glacier tongues loomed faintly through the fog, while thousands of king penguins crowded the beach. We followed the length of the shore before finally turning back toward the ship.













# Bird & Mammal Sightings

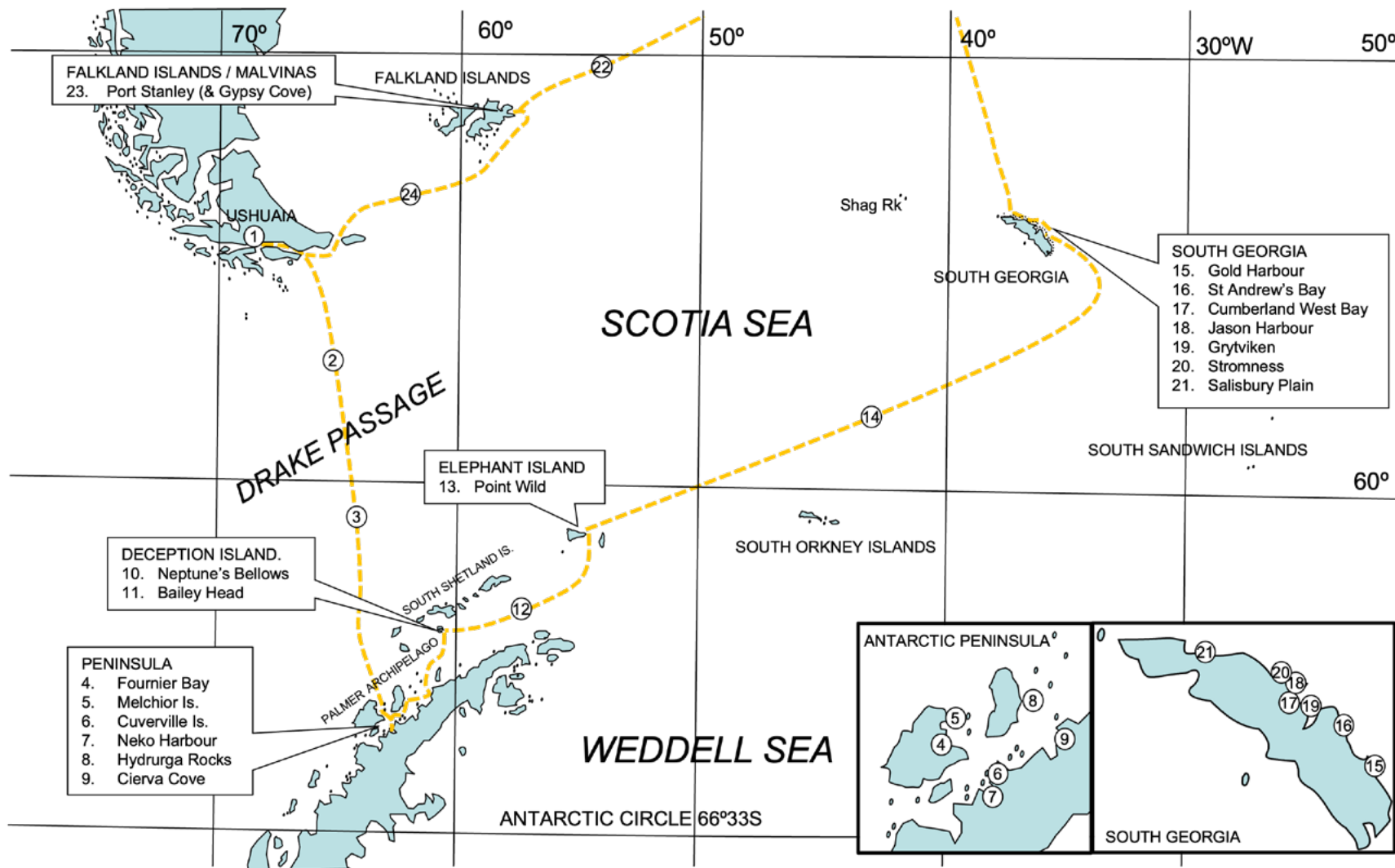
Bird Species	March														April						
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	01
Gentoo Penguin				•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•							
Chinstrap Penguin				•		•	•	•													
King Penguin											•	•	•	•							
Magellanic Penguin																					•
Wandering Albatross			•							•				•		•					
Grey-headed Albatross															•						
Black-browed Albatross		•	•		•			•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross				•					•												
Southern Fulmar				•				•	•												
Northern Giant Petrel												•	•	•	•						
Southern Giant Petrel		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•
Atlantic Petrel																					
Cape Petrel								•	•	•	•				•						
Blue Petrel											•										
Soft-plumaged Petrel															•	•	•	•			
White-headed Petrel			•																		
Spectacled Petrel																					•
White-chinned Petrel									•	•		•	•		•		•	•			
Black-bellied Storm Petrel								•	•												
Wilson's Storm Petrel				•	•	•	•	•	•						•						







# Map



## Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctic Peninsula

12 March – 1 April 2026



# Our Expeditioners

Rosanna Avenia

Margaret Bird

Christine Brackin

Bob Brackin

Trevor Burns

Randy Burns

Shannon Burns

Gloria Camara Creixell

Juan Carlos Camara  
Creixell

Martin Carter

TylerCave

Elizabeth Cochrane

Corelle Coleman

Graeme Coleman

Maria Consuelo Sierra  
Serrato

Tanya Cooper

Valerie Curtis

Gregory Curtis

Micheal Dal Bello

Jillian Dal Bello

Sandy Davidson

Sue Drogemuller

Irma Echeagaray  
Guerrero

Lee Eiszele

Vicente Fernandez  
Garcia

Vicente Fernandez  
Gomez Sainz

Renata Fernandez  
Gomez Sainz

Sean Foo

Monica Gomez Sainz  
Vega

Sue Goodman

Karen Gouge

David Griffith

Penny Griffith

Jorge Gutierrez Helusky

Eduardo Gutierrez  
Helusky

Alice Gutierrez Luna

Steve Hart

David Ishida

Ronna Ishida

Gwenyth Jordison

Sarah Kippen

Richard Kirby

Anton Kniazhev

Dariana Kniazeva

Kent Leichty

Bryan Lorber

Leslie Lorber

Anne Love

Alicia Luna Rodriguez  
Bucheli

Donald MacAskill

Aga MacAskill

Santi Maciel Camara

Poncho Maciel Morfin

Dale MacMaster

Louise Marr

David Mason

Kate McCoy

Erica Meggitt

Jane Meggitt

Meredith Mooi

Britta Mortensen

Janella New

Ella Nicklin

Cindy Okerson

Jason Okerson

Jesika Okerson

Anne O'Reilly

Mark O'Reilly

Catalina Popa Wilf  
Powell

Fiona Robertson

Lou Ryan

Jasmine Sawyer

Peta Sawyer

Robyn Stanhope

Jon Stanhope

Francesca Sternberg

Tabitha Sternberg Allen

Rachael Tancock

Paul Turner

Jennifer Valentine

Mavis Vaz

Gloria Vranjican

Sally Whish-Wilson

Ian Whish-Wilson

John Williams

Jeanne Williams

Robyn Wood

## Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Isabelle Howles  
Assistant Expedition Leader: Dan Stavert  
Onboard Expedition Manager: Anne Oeyasaeter  
Shop Manager: Ana Prado  
Geologist / Glaciologist: Melina Pelzmajer  
Historian: Ed Nolan  
Marine Biologist & Citizen Science Coordinator: Dani Abras  
Ornithologist: Graeme Snow (Snowy)  
Expedition Medic: Adrian Castellote Tena  
Lead Senior Kayak Guide: Liz MacNeil  
Senior Kayak Guide: Liam Hopkinson  
Senior Kayak Guide: Vanja Davidsen  
Zodiac Master: Sergei Androvov  
Alpine Specialist: Dave Henley

## Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Artem Kolmykov  
Staff Captain: Bogdan Shmalko  
Safety Officer: Yevhenii Jalandoni  
Second Officer: Barbara Sylvine Clerc  
Second Officer: Marc Vicent Yap Jalandoni  
Ship Doctor: Alejandro Levin Viner  
Ship Doctor: Jacobus Viljoen  
Chief Engineer: Volodymyr Butsmai  
Staff Chief Engineer: Denis Musaev  
Staff Chief Engineer: Ivan Mitaki  
IT Officer: Ronaldo Jamero  
Hotel Director: Villamor Ignacio  
F & B Service Manager: Rajesh Murao  
Chief Purser: Erliza Balagot  
Executive Chef: Pratik Ekoskar  
Hotel Controller: William Ajes

Sous Chef: Vinay Kumar Singh  
Sous Chef: I Gusti Purnawirawan  
Head Bartender: Alan Fernandes  
Head Waiter: Allan Liscano  
Head Waiter: I Wayan Widana  
Head Steward: Sotero Agtagma  
Receptionist: Johnny Valdez  
Receptionist: Jelyn Merilo  
Bosun: Aldus Brian Francis  
Able Seaman: Christian Talavera  
Able Seaman: Jovito Sagusay  
Able Seaman: Joseph Lyndon Baid  
Able Seaman: Jerome Mendez Castillo  
Able Seaman: Joby Cheruparambil  
Able Seaman: Jefferson Samiano Caluya

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