

Spirit Of Antarctica

Aboard *MV Greg Mortimer* | 7-18 November 2022





Ushuaia, Argentina

DAY 1 | Tuesday 8 November 2022

Position at 1600 on 8 Nov

Latitude: 54°52.0'S

Longitude: 067°59.9'W

Course: Docked

Speed: 0 knots

Wind Speed: W F4

Barometer: 1007

Air Temp: 8°C

Explore. Dream. Discover.

—Mark Twain

Here we are in the stunning town of Ushuaia, “el fin del mundo”, the end of the world.

The wharf was abuzz this afternoon with arrivals, departures, fishing vessels unloading their catch, and all sorts of activity. The expeditioners were met by the Aurora team and had their photos taken for the “photoboard” to help the team learn each passenger’s names. Drinks and a buffet await at in the Elephant Island Bar, where the hotel team assisted passengers in finding their cabins and settle into their, “home away from home”. It had been a long couple of days of travelling, and many of us probably wanted to crawl into the comfort of our beds.

A welcome briefing was given by Flo the Expedition Leader, followed by an introduction from Dr Andres and the Hotel Director Ulises. Rosie then provided us with some handy hints about life onboard.

Then the all-important safety drill commenced. The sound of the ship’s horn signalled for all of us to put on lifejackets and muster into the lecture theatre. We then followed the our crew up to Deck 7, where the polar class life are located (each vessel holds 136 passengers each, for 5 days). With the safety drill completed, everyone is cleared to begin our journey.

As the *Greg Mortimer* set sail, we all made our way to the dining room to enjoy a delicious dinner, prepared by the talented galley team and served by welcoming wait staff.

As the ship departs we get a last glimpse of town life, knowing that from now on the scenery will change and it is more likely to see a colony of penguins than a crowd of people.

There is a total of 57 passengers on board (27 Americans, 18 Australians, 4 Canadians, 2 from the UK, 2 Bahamians, 2 Brazilians, 1 Japanese and 1 New Zealander) along with 78 crew from all around the globe.

The 20 on board Expedition Team have a variety of specialities including polar exploration, mountaineering, skiing, glaciology, geology, history, marine and terrestrial biology, ornithology, photography, medicine, and kayaking.

After embarking on board the *Greg Mortimer*, it’s time to kick back, breathe in the sea air, and get excited for the next 10 days of adventure!



Drake Passage

DAY 2 | Wednesday 9 November 2022

Position at 0700 on 9 Nov

Latitude: 56°37.4'S

Longitude: 065°09.7'W

Course: 134°

Speed: 12.4 knots

Wind Speed: F6 W

Barometer: 1007

Air Temp: 3°C

The demand of science, that no part of the globe shall remain untouched by the hand of investigation was the force that drew our little band to the land of the farthest south.

—Otto Nordenskjöld

At the time of our morning wake-up call the ship has already reached 90 nautical miles south of Cape Horn, and making excellent progress toward the Antarctic Peninsula in relatively smooth Drake conditions.

After breakfast, we scan our Orca Cards for Flo's introduction to the voyage itinerary and the mandatory IAATO briefing. Here the 20 members of the Expedition Team are introduced, this veteran team combined has almost 200 seasons of diverse Antarctic exploration under their belts, capped by Dr John Dudeney's extraordinary 56 years of adventures on the Frozen continent.

The Citizen Science co-ordinator, Dani, gave us a quick briefing on the projects Aurora participates in onboard. These programs enrich the experience, knowledge and understanding of the places we travel to, and help contribute to the scientific understanding of this magical region.

Immediately after the IAATO briefing we participated in a biosecurity cleaning and vacuuming of our outdoor clothing and backpacks to ensure no foreign or invasive species are introduced into the pristine Antarctic ecosystem. In preparation for the first landing in the coming days, we tried on our muck boots and were fitted with our lifejackets.

Just as the biosecurity check was coming to an end, we were treated to the beautiful sight of one solitary hourglass dolphin surfing alongside the bow of the ship.

Shortly afterwards, our highly talented expedition photographer Max Seigal, kicked off the lecture program with a very informative workshop on iPhone photography. Attendees learnt some inventive phone photography tricks and techniques including taking photos through binoculars. Max also taught us the potential of 'live photo' mode, long exposure, slo-mo and timelapse, and how to retain better quality images by using the crop function rather

than the digital zoom.

Delicious burritos and a smorgasbord lunch replenished our energy for two more informative talks in the afternoon. Snowy, our resident ornithologist, gave us a beautiful lecture on the seabirds of the Southern Ocean, and by way of cementing our passengers' new-found knowledge, Snowy and Dani conducted a very rewarding e-Bird survey on the upper Deck immediately after the talk. Those that attended were rewarded by spotting a handful of Macaroni penguins swimming alongside the ship. As well as witnessing blue petrels, lots of black-browed albatrosses, grey-headed albatrosses, and plenty of cape petrels.

Our esteemed onboard Historian, Dr John, hosted the next lecture on the early exploration of the Antarctic Continent. For many passengers it was eye-opening to learn about explorers other than Shackleton, Scott and Amundson, and was an introduction to names they will soon become more familiar with as we venture further south: Weddell, Bransfield, Larsen, Gerlache, Nordenskjöld, & Charcot to name a few.

Finally, to celebrate our first full day aboard we had the honour of being introduced to our wonderful and very modest Captain Maxim Makavoroskiy, who toasted to our ship – the *Greg Mortimer* – and a safe and successful expedition.



At Sea, Yankee Harbour

DAY 3 | Thursday 10 November 2022

Position at 0700 on 10 Nov

Latitude: 61°27'6" S

Longitude: 060°36'3"W

Course: 154°

Speed: 13.7 knots

Wind Speed: F4 W

Barometer: 1007

Air Temp: -3°C

They are extraordinarily like children, these little people of the Antarctic world, are either like children, or like old men, full of their own importance and late for dinner, in their black tail-coats and white shirt fronts - and rather portly withal.

—Apsley Cherry-Garrard, *The Worst Journey in the World*

After a couple of relatively calm days in the Drake Passage, the wind started to pick up. As we were moving closer to the South Shetland Islands it was gusting up to 50 knots. After a beautifully served breakfast, we enjoyed Snowy's lecture about brushtail penguins of Antarctica and their breeding cycles. The lecture was followed by the Zodiac briefing which was just on time – despite the rough weather conditions we kept our fingers crossed that there would be shelter at Yankee Harbour (Greenwich Island) and we could do our first, and "bonus" landing.

After lunch we finally got a chance to go ashore! The wind was blowing a stable 20 knots, sometimes gusting hard and the swell was choppy, between 1-1.5 metres. Luckily the landing site was relatively protected by a long cape. It was a bit challenging to drive Zodiacs in these conditions – on the way to shore we are going downwind, trying to go with the waves and surf them. Although on the way back to the ship we are pushing against the wind and waves, so it is a little bumpy and splashy. The key is not to gain too much speed to prevent zodiac jumping from the top of the wave. You want to control your speed so that the Zodiac slowly crawls the wave and neatly gets over the top. We are very proud of our highly experienced Zodiac drivers!

On shore we enjoyed the view of a large colony of gentoo penguins – these are the first penguin sightings of this trip! We also saw Weddell seals chilling on the beach. We encountered the whale bones and an old whalers trypot used back in the day to boil blubber. It is great that those days of killing whales are over, and people do not threaten whales in Antarctica anymore – today we saw Humpbacks and Fin whales.

Meanwhile, snowshoers and skiers had their first outing and got onboard the ship at the very end of operation with smiles on their faces – they had a good time for sure!

In the evening Florence our Expedition Leader, recapped the days experiences and discussed plans for the next day – we are going to Enterprise Island and Neko Harbour. Hilary & Kevin, our mountaineers, also demonstrated how they "rope-up" to travel across glaciated terrain.

Also, kayak guide Russel and photography guide Max hosted a trivia night in the bar on Deck 8. There were lots of smiles, laughter, and beers. What a glorious day!



Enterprise Island, Neko Harbour

DAY 4 | Friday 11 November 2022

Position at 0700 on 11 Nov

Latitude: 64°29'2" S

Longitude: 061°57'8" W

Course: Docked

Speed: 0 knots

There is only one short link in the food chain between a diatom and a one-hundred-ton blue whale – between one cell and the largest of all animals – and that link is the Antarctic krill.

—David G. Campbell, *The Crystal Desert*, 1992

Where woken by the sound and vibration of the ship moving slowly through light pack ice in the Gerlache Strait on a wonderful, clear, calm but overcast morning. The view was a spectacular symphony in monochrome of mountains, glaciers and ice floes. We have arrived at the Antarctic Peninsula! Our first port of call is Foyn Harbour at Enterprise Island, noteworthy for being the centre for whaling in the early part of the last century, providing a safe anchorage for whale factory ships to carry out their grizzly business. The island was first mapped by Adrien de Gerlache on the Belgian Antarctic Expedition in 1898. The harbour is named after a whale factory ship Svend Foyn, itself came from the Norwegian inventor of the explosive harpoon that revolutionized the whaling industry. The harbour is known for the wreck of the whale factory ship, *Governøren* that caught fire in 1915 as a result of a rather boisterous end of season party where an oil lamp was knocked over. In an attempt to save the cargo of 16,614 barrels of oil the ship was deliberately sunk by firing two explosive harpoons into the hull, but to no avail. We were able to enjoy a splendid morning excursion with some snowshoeing passengers on the island, others skiing, kayaking or enjoying a Zodiac cruise in amongst the pack ice were crabeater seals and a solitary leopard seal were seen. Also lurking amongst the floes was a "hot chocolate" dispensing Zodiac where the "Dude" provided a short historical narrative of the area, while that warming beverage was consumed. The water was as clear as the annual algal bloom had not yet started, providing spectacular views of the seabed, krill and the submerged part of the wreck.

We enjoyed some relaxation and lunch as the ship repositioned, for our afternoon excursion at Neko Harbour in Ardvord Bay. Neko Harbour was also first seen by de Gerlache and was subsequently notable as a centre for whaling, being named after the whale factory ship *Neko*, which operated from there in the early part of the last century. For us it was considered as the place where we set foot on the Antarctic Continent, and for some of us making it to the seventh continent! The weather was calm but overcast, with lightly falling snow and some light pack ice to navigate to get to the landing site. And there we were greeted by the inhabitants - gentoo and Adelle penguins, as well as a lot of soft snow. Passengers were soon off snowshoeing, skiing, kayaking and just generally soaking up the spectacular scenery (as glimpsed through the snow showers). A grand adventure, one that became somewhat more exciting as the weather suddenly changed to a gale with heavy snow to send us on our

Wind Speed: F1 SSE

Barometer: 1004

Air Temp: -3°C

way back to the ship. The afternoon provided clear demonstration of how unpredictable and harsh Antarctica can be, although gave us the unforgettable chance to step on the seventh continent!

The day was rounded off with cocktails and canapés, after which Flo briefed us on tomorrow's possible adventures and shared her passion for Jean-Baptiste Etienne Auguste Charcot, leader of the French Antarctic expedition of 1903-1905.



Port Charcot, Petermann Island

DAY 5 | Saturday 12 November 2022

Position at 0700 on 12 Nov

Latitude: 65°04'2" S

Longitude: 064°02'5" W

Course: 213°

Speed: 11.3 knots

Wind Speed: F3 WSW

Barometer: 1005

Air Temp: -3°C

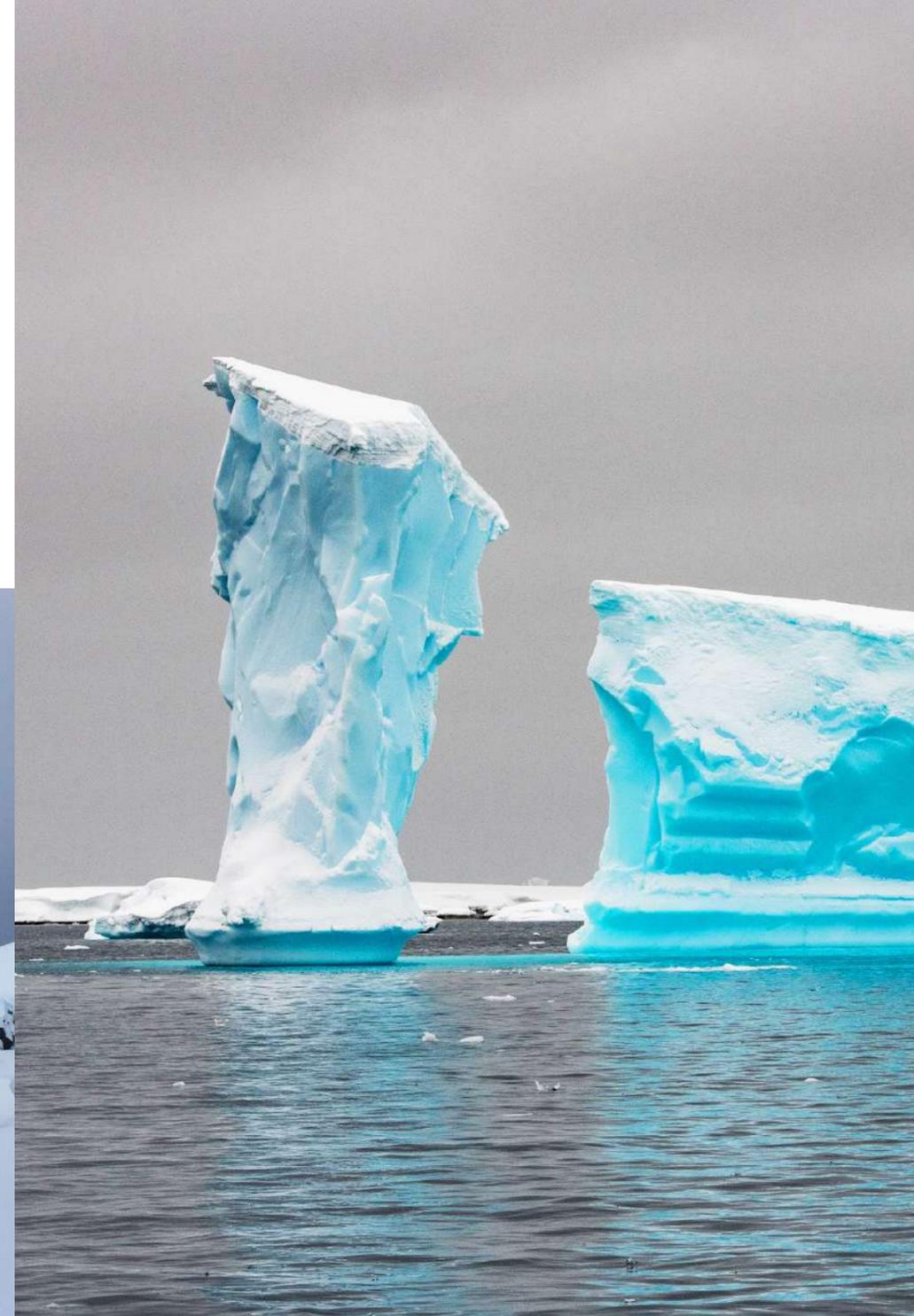
The cold, dry climate and dust-free air of Antarctica mean that there is a complete lack of haze. In such conditions, as many explorers have discovered to their cost, distant objects seem close and mirages are common.

—John May, *The Greenpeace Book of Antarctica*, 1988

Greg Mortimer sailed slowly and quietly through the night, as we did not have much farther south to go to reach our destination this morning. A wakeup call at 0615 alerted us to our arrival at the northern entrance of the Lemaire Channel. Those eager and ready rushed up to Deck 8 for the best views; known as Kodak Alley, it is almost 11 km long between Booth Island and the Peninsula and has spectacular scenery that is best viewed from the outside decks. Today there was no ice clogging the narrow waterway, and a low cloud layer hid the mountaintops from view (and brought quite a bit of snow down onto the outside decks).

The morning had us landing on the west side of Booth Island at Port Charcot – the location of Jean-Baptiste Charcot's first overwintering expedition in 1904. We apparently landed at the same time as hundreds of gentoo penguins were heading towards their snow-covered nesting sites. Snowshoers made it to the top of a peak with a cairn dedicated to the first Charcot expedition, and skiers headed south to Hovgaard Island for a morning of exploration on pristine slopes. After the landing was over, we got into Zodiacs for a mesmerising cruise through an "iceberg graveyard" near the anchorage. Here the water is shallow enough for large icebergs to get stuck, we were able to weave our way through a maze of white and blue, to discover incredible shapes and a beautiful ice arch that are amazingly all made by nature. As a surprise, Rosie announced once we were all back onboard that we were in the perfect place for a Polar Plunge! So many passengers jumped off the kayaking platform into the icy water, including a large group of the Expedition Team.

In the afternoon, we were at the southernmost anchorage for our expedition. At Petermann Island, we went ashore at Port Circumcision (named after a Catholic holiday during the second Charcot expedition). Walking around gentoo colonies, we saw a small Adelie colony isolated on a small cliff peak nearby. Kayakers circumnavigated the island, riding some decent waves with the swell on the exposed outside of Petermann Island. When it started to snow sideways, we all headed back to the ship to warm up with coffee, tea, or something stronger. After dinner, some passengers went up to the observation lounge to learn about charting and route planning in "Chart Chats with Dave and Cat". Another fantastic Antarctic day in the books!



Polar Plunge

DAY 5 | Saturday 12 November 2022





Paradise Harbour & Danco Island

DAY 6 | Sunday 13th November 2022

Position at 0700 on 13 Nov

Latitude: 64°53'2" S

Longitude: 062°52'0" W

Course: Variable

Speed: 0.1 knots

Wind Speed: F2 SW

Barometer: 998

Air Temp: -3°C

To dine with a glacier on a sunny day is a glorious thing and makes feasts of meat and wine ridiculous. The glacier eats hills and drinks sunbeams.

—John Muir

On the morning of the 13th November, the *Greg Mortimer* arrived at Brown station in Paradise Harbour to an overcast sky with snow falling. The temperature was only minus three degrees Celsius.

Brown station is an old Argentine station established in 1951, named after Admiral William Brown, father of the Argentine navy. The station has an interesting history, Brown station's original facilities were burned down by the station's doctor in 1984, after he was ordered to stay for the winter. Station personnel were rescued by the ship USS Hero and taken to the United States' Palmer Station. As at 2014, it is one of 13 research bases in Antarctica operated by Argentina.

The snowshoeing group went ashore to join activity guides Hilary and Kevin, who had done a great job cutting steps at the steep landing point. The snowshoers then helped compact the short trail out to the point for the rest of the expeditioners.

The kayakers paddled in Paradise Harbour amongst the bergs and porpoising gentoo penguins in the calm waters near Brown Station.

In the afternoon we visited Danco Island which is 131 metres high and two Kilometres long, lying in the southern part of Errera Channel.

At Danco Island, the kayakers made a circumnavigation of the island and paddled toward the Chilean base at Water Boat Point, during which they saw Weddell seals amongst the many grounded growlers.

The snowshoe group summited Danco Island and found a new way down as they traversed the island.

The Skiers headed off from Danco Island in two Zodiacs, with a 12 kilometre journey to Selbic Cove in the afternoon to ski Spiggot Peak. They made a short ascent up a ridge with chinstrap penguins, who by all accounts were excited to see the skiers. The penguins made use of the skiers tracks to ascend the ridge as well as belly sliding down them. The snow conditions were heavy, although our happy skiers were rewarded with views over Orne Harbour.



Cierva Cove & Mikkelsen Harbour

DAY 7 | Monday 14th November 2022

Position at 0700 on 14 Nov

Latitude: 64°07'7" S

Longitude: 060°57'9" W

Course: 122°

Speed: 4.9 knots

Wind Speed: F2 SW

Barometer: 1002

Air Temp: -3°C

I do so wish sometimes, that I could just pop home for an hour or two as easily in the flesh as in the spirit. No doubt the explorers of 2015, if there is anything left to explore, will not only carry their pocket wireless telephones fitted with wireless telescopes but will also receive their nourishment and warmth by wireless... and also their power to drive their motor sledges, but, of course, there will be an aerial daily excursion to both poles then, and it will be the bottom of the Atlantic, if not the centre of the earth that will form the goal in those days.

—Orde-Lees, a member of Shackleton's Endurance expedition, 10 January 1915

After a busy week of shore landings and activities, and a late night enjoying the BBQ (and the dancing that followed), we had a nice slow start to the day. In Cierva Cove we all had a relaxing Zodiac cruise in fantastic conditions. The only activity that went out was the kayak team, and they enjoyed a beautiful paddle around Cierva Cove with flat calm waters and light winds, while the rest of the ship went out to explore the area on Zodiacs. Dani led a Citizen Science excursion by boat and did a plankton tow along with measuring various things like water clarity, while Max took out a group of photographers by Zodiac for a specific photo cruise. Don't forget your photography tip of the day, putting people in your images for perspective! Last night Max gave a brief recap on including people in your images to give perspective, especially as it is hard to convey the scale in Antarctica, where the icebergs, glaciers, and mountains are enormous! This morning we were all able to put those tips into practice. It was a wonderful morning as we all got out on the water, surrounded by beautiful blue icebergs and breathtaking scenery. The ice was extremely thick and was a new experience for all of us to be surrounded by brash ice in the Zodiac, what a unique morning!

In the afternoon we visited Mikkelsen Harbour, a quaint little island with a colony of Gento penguins, and an Argentinean hut. There were a few Weddell seals just next to the landing, a great welcome to the island and one of our best views of seals on the trip so far. There were small bits of glacier ice scattered around the beach where the Zodiacs dropped us off, a beautiful sight when we arrived. We spent some time exploring the island and admiring the penguins before returning to the ship.

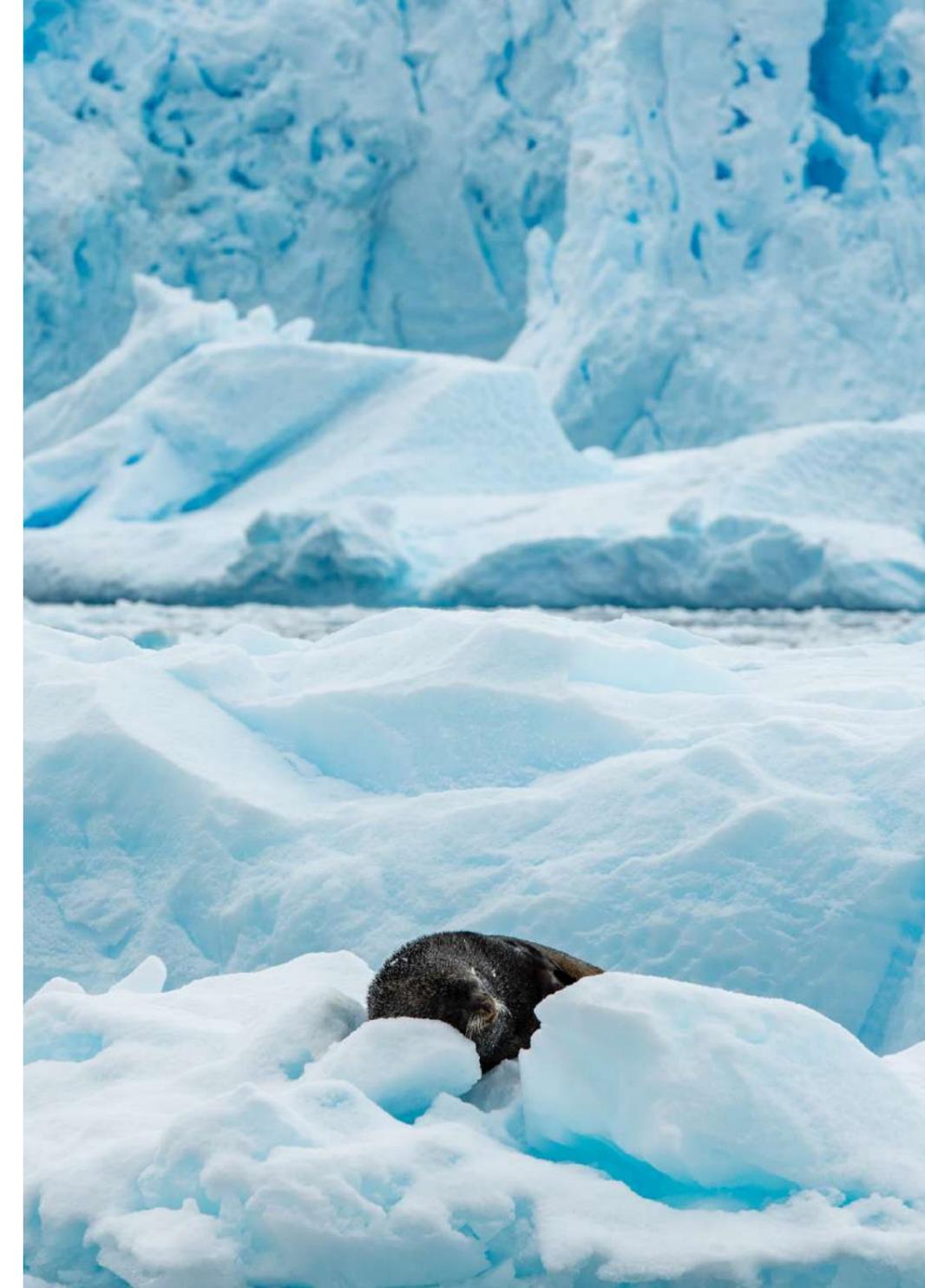
In our evening recap, Russell shared the history of kayaking, and some of the absolutely crazy things that some "yakers" get up to – like paddling straight off a towering waterfall. Melina spoke about the fascinating history of the Argentinean huts we have been seeing.

Max and Russell then conducted an experiment using expeditioner couple Mari & Chris, to see if Chris could identify Mari's voice in a noisy crowd of humans. The experiment was a success! A blindfolded Chris was easily

able to identify Mari's voice, just as if they were penguins re-uniting on the ice after many months apart – a great way to show that although we may think all penguin individuals sound the same, to the penguins, their partner's "locator calls" are unmistakable. Awww, how sweet!

After dinner, our historian John gave a fabulous lecture on the Shackleton expedition, to round out our trip to Antarctica.

It was yet another amazing day here in Antarctica, and we all look forward to one last full day down here in the peninsula before heading back up the Drake Passage towards Ushuaia!



Whaler's Bay & Halfmoon Island

DAY 8 | Tuesday 15th November

Position at 0700 on 15 Nov

Latitude: 63°33'4" S

Longitude: 060°35'2" W

Course: 022°

Speed: 6.2 knots

Wind Speed: F4 NW

Barometer: 1001

Air Temp: -3°C

We find ourselves on the last day of our amazing expedition, before heading out to sea again and to the famous Drake Passage. Today we had a beautiful itinerary waiting for us.

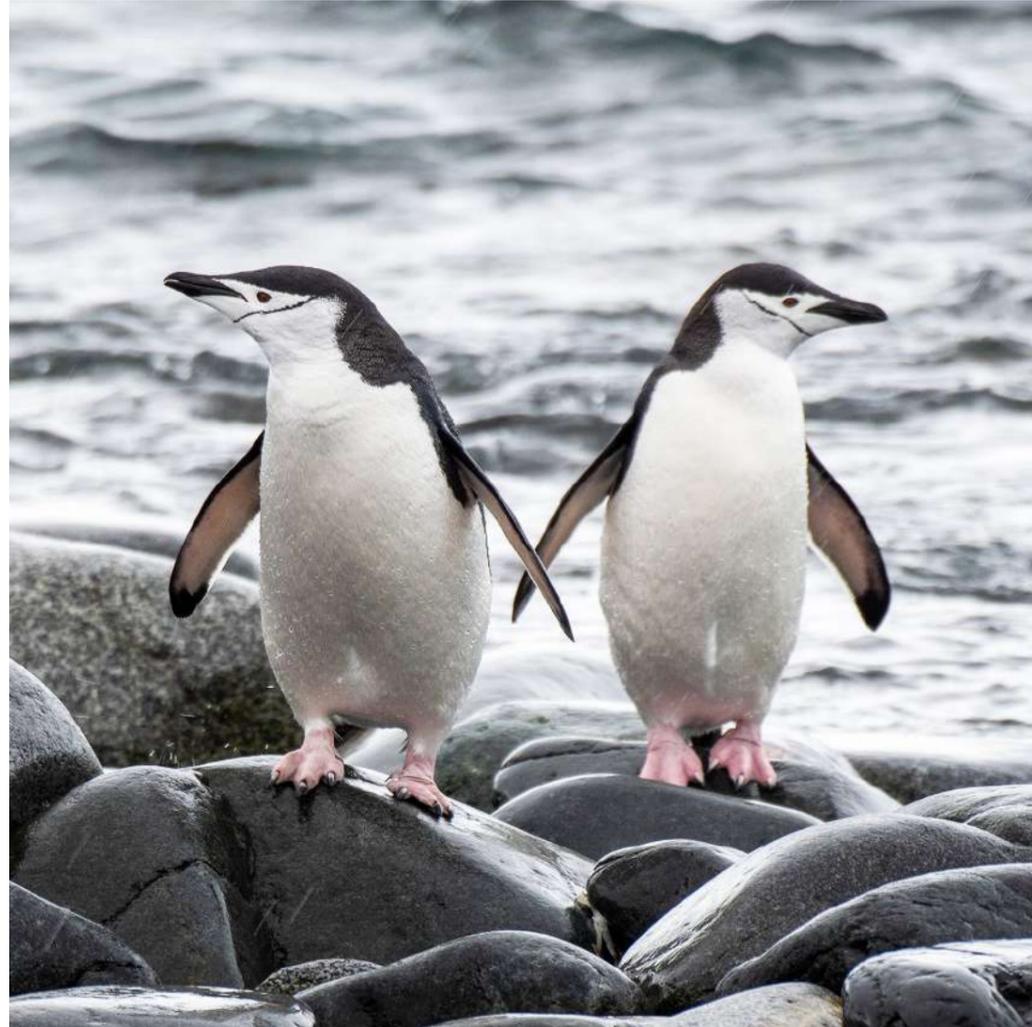
We started the day cruising through the magnificent Neptune's Bellows at the entrance of Deception Island. The bellows is named after the Roman Sea god Neptune, because of the strong gusts that blow through this narrow channel (American sealer, 1822). Entering this channel is a challenging navigation due to Raven's Rock that lies 2.5 metres below the water in the middle of the channel.

The morning was full of activities at Whaler's Bay, with ski, snowshoes and kayak going on along with the landing. The bay is located east of Port Foster, and was named by the French Antarctic Expedition lead by Charcot in 1908-1910 for its use at that time for the whaling industry. This is now a Historic Site or Monument (HSM71) included in the Antarctic Treaty. Host of pre 1970 remains of the whaling period, this mysterious place includes artifacts and old structures of the station, now partially or completely devastated by the severe weather and volcanic activity of the area. Deception Island is the exposed portion of an active shield volcano with a 30 kilometre basal diameter. This volcano (largest in Antarctica) is associated with the "recent" Bransfield Strait seafloor spreading over the last 2.6 million years. The caldera collapse of Deception Island Volcano, Antarctica, was comparable in scale to some of the largest eruptions on Earth over the last several millennia. Despite its magnitude and potential for far-reaching environmental effects, the age of this event has never been established, with estimates ranging from the late Pleistocene to 3,370 years before present. The newly constrained caldera collapse is now the largest volcanic eruption confirmed in Antarctica during the current epoch. The widespread footprint suggests that this eruption would have had significant climatic and ecological effects across a vast area of the south polar region.

Around mid-day we started our way out of Deception Island. The *Greg Mortimer* was now en route towards Half Moon Island, also part of the South Shetlands. This site has been identified as an important bird area, a remote and beautiful place that holds a colony of chinstrap penguins, and basaltic/andesitic rocks bursting with lichens & mosses. We also observed an Argentinian station, named Camara, that is open during the summer for scientific research. The activity groups enjoyed some beautiful snowshoeing and kayaking in the afternoon.

After dinner we enjoyed a crazy jam session at the bar to celebrate the end of our amazing journey. It was so much fun to sing along with the talented musicians we have onboard.

Now it's time to start cruising back to Ushuaia. Drake Passage, here we come.



Drake Passage

DAY 9 | Wednesday 16th November

Overnight we had made steady progress north across the Drake passage, heading for Ushuaia. It was a gentle quiet start to the day with the absence of Flo's usually enthusiastic wake up call.

For our first full day back at sea, conditions were a little bumpy, although a little too sporty for some, it was good to see people enjoy a hot drink with new friends and reminisce over the last few days of shared activities and experiences.

This morning's lecture was about "Seals of Antarctica" by Jill our marine biologist, she did a great job sharing the seals habitats, lifecycle, and place in the world.

The day was also time for some of the e-team activity guides to spend this time collecting, washing and checking all the equipment, ensuring it is all accounted for and functioning correctly and safely, ready for the next voyage.

At lunch some larger waves started to pitch the ship up and down a little, which slowed down the progress to ensure the comfort of passengers was as good as can be, thanks to the modern ship with its X-BOW® and stabilisers, keeping the rolling to a minimum. These waves were the theme of the day, it is impressive how the ship's crew seem to be able to carry on, keeping to task in all conditions.

Melina gave an interesting and informative afternoon talk on Antarctic geology and the history of Gondwana and continental drift theory, the fossil record and how the climate shaped what happened to these species.

We all enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea of crepes and ice cream, perfect timing for the snowshoers and ski tourers to settle into a slideshow of their activities accompanied with a glass of champagne.

Later that afternoon, The "Dude" followed with an entertaining talk titled "Footsteps in the Snow" a snapshot of his soon to be released autobiography, which is his personal account of 56 years of living and working in Antarctica. He shared some of his lifetime of challenges, achievements, death defying moments and simply the awe and wonder in and about Antarctica. What a remarkable life!

Evening cocktails were shared at the Elephant Island bar, before a recap and briefing by Flo.

We shared yet another sumptuous dinner before we were rocked to sleep again by the waves.



Drake Passage & Cape Horn

DAY 10 | Thursday 17th November

We woke this morning to dull, grey skies, but thankfully slightly calmer conditions for our second full day on the Drake. And as our journey takes us closer to the southern islands of South America through the course of the day, things were only likely to get calmer and calmer, to the relief of many expeditioners.

First up in the morning was a presentation by The "Dude" about who owns and who governs Antarctica. It was an interesting story about the origins of the Antarctic Treaty and how the continent is managed cooperatively by the many nations of the world rather than as a sovereign nation.

A little later it was time for Dani to tell us more about the lives of whales and dolphins, many of which we've been lucky enough to see throughout our journey. Thankfully, since the demise of the commercial whaling industry we are starting to see a recovery in the numbers of whales in the Antarctic and other parts of the world.

Just after our last delicious lunch onboard, Flo announced that we were approaching 3 miles from the infamous Cape Horn, the southernmost tip of Chile and the South American continent. At that distance we could see the buildings and lighthouse beneath the Chilean flag, as well as a glimpse of the albatross monument erected in memory of sailors lost rounding the Horn.

Later, Dave from Dunedin told us about his adventures with the New Zealand and US Antarctic programs, more than 25 years ago. Starting out as a maintenance carpenter at Scott Base, he later returned as a firefighter at McMurdo and eventually spent time at Scott-Amundsen Base right at the South Pole. He is now a Zodiac driver and expedition medic on our team - what an amazing guy.

Before dinner we all gathered for drinks and to say thank you and farewell to Captain Maxim and his Officers, as well as the Expedition Team. We were in the mouth of the Beagle Channel and the water was glassy calm and the sun was shining for the first time in a few days, which made for a memorable evening.

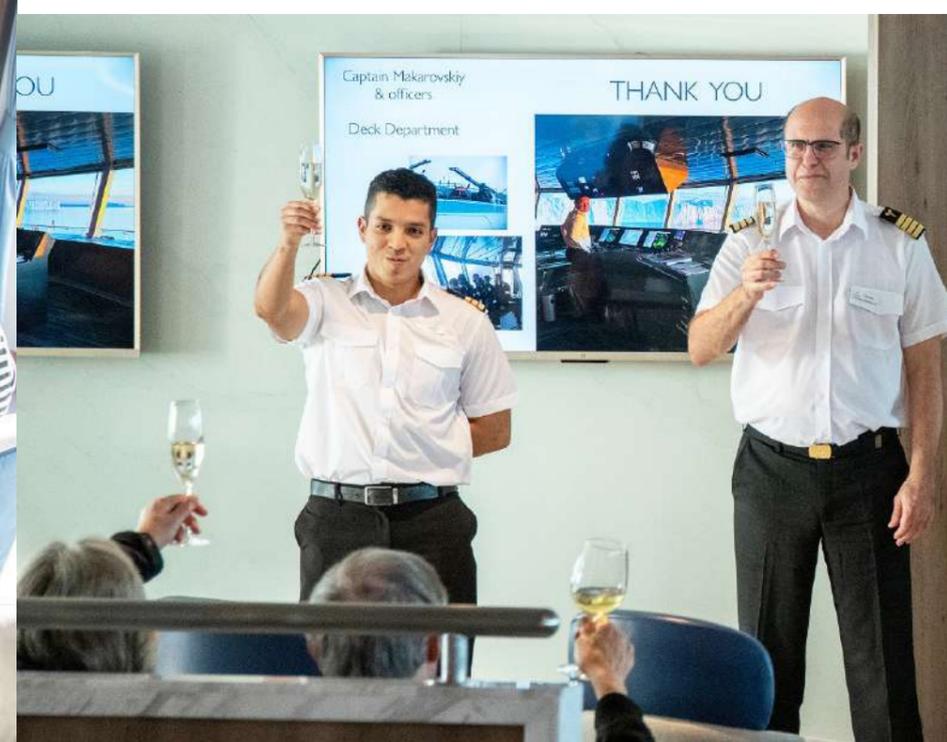
After dinner there was just one last event as Max presented his slide show of everyone's photos throughout the voyage. It really showed what an amazing and varied journey we had and just how much of Antarctica we managed to take in over the past ten days.



Ushuaia, Argentina

DAY 11 | Friday 18th November

Thank you all for joining us on this amazing adventure. We hope to see you again on the high seas soon!



Kayaking Log

By Peter Wainwright

Kayak Guides: Peter Wainwright, Russell Henry, Ivan Klockhov

Number of Paddlers: 12 Total Paddle Outings: 10 Total Distance Paddled: 63.6 km

Paddlers:	Scott McDougall	Alexander Russell	Laura Weisberg
Dewey	Flavio Newlands	John Russell	
Ricky Lindsey	Tatiana Nogueira	Thien Thi Russell	
Sandra McDougall	Ericka Roman	Kaitlyn Weimer	

Day 4 – Friday November 11, 2022

AM: Foyr Harbour, Enterprise Island - Distance: 4.4 kms

It was a quintessential Antarctic morning, glassy smooth seas, light snowfall and lots of icebergs and floes. Almost too many icebergs – we had to launch from a Zodiac at the marina, and even then the odd growler and bergy bit hampered our launching operations. After a quick coaching session on some kayaking basics on the water we paddled through the floes over to Foyr Harbour on Enterprise Island. Inside the shelter of the harbour we found a leopard seal thankfully lounging on an ice floe and not the least interested in us! We then explored the wreck of the burnt-out factory whaling ship the M/V Governøren that the Antarctic ocean is slowly devouring. From there it was a quick loop back to the ship - a fantastic first paddle.

PM: Neko Harbour - Distance: 2.7km

We couldn't resist the lure of the penguin colony onshore so we Zodiac'd the short distance from the ship to the beach to spend some time with the penguin's. We even had an Adelle penguin that seemed to take a distinct interest in our chosen method of travel. There was a blanket of 10 centimetre of fresh snow overlying the beach, and it felt very wintery on the glassy smooth water. Once launched in our kayaks we began paddling deeper into the ice of Andvord Bay. The grease ice began to get thicker and thicker around us with the ever-falling flakes of snow and we looked for open leads through the blizzard. All of a sudden the wind switched direction and slammed into our flanks. With impressive ferocity it ramped up to 30+ knots and began pushing the icefloes in a tightening pack around us, threatening to trap us. We weaved and fought our way into the more open water with a few of us opting to bail into the Zodiac – still no easy feat in the intense winds and blowing snow. We sprinted back only just making headway to the safety of the ship. An interesting paddle and a renewed respect for paddling in Antarctica

Day 5 – Saturday November 12, 2022

AM: Port Charcot - Distance: 5.3km

What a stunning paddle. With glassy conditions we paddled directly from the ship and briefly checked out the snowy landing to the cairn – and admired the procession of gentoo penguins working their way up the slope in a column of several hundred birds. We then made our way into the iceberg graveyard – an area of shallower water and reefs where large icebergs are frequently grounded until they break up into smaller growlers. We saw large groups of gentoos porpoising out of the water on their hunt for krill. We found a couple of very aesthetic icebergs including a slender, top heavy 15 metre column of ice and as a spectacular finale to a wonderful paddle we found the mother of all ice arches – a delicate bridge defying gravity. Who knows how long before it collapsed – hours, a day?...hard to believe more than a week. We Zodiac towed back to the ship, just in time for an epic Polar Plunge.

PM: Petermann Island - Distance: 5.5kms

We had four intrepid paddlers join us for this rough-water paddle. Despite the swell we launched successfully from the back of the marina and paddle into the wind along the east of the island. As we rounded the North end the swell became considerably more noticeable, we would intermittently lose sight of Ivan in the alternating crests and troughs. We gave the surging waves a healthy breadth as they crashed into the rocks and bounced our way through the clapotis. At the south end of the island, a number of large bergs were being jostled against the rocks, and we weaved our way through some narrowing channels into the refuge of the lee of the island. It seemed like we had just kayaked through a portal; a weddell seal lounged on a snow bed and the warm ship was just a few hundred metres away. A well-earned circumnavigation of Petermann Island.

Day 6 – Sunday November 13, 2022

AM: Paradise Harbour - Distance: 5.9 kms

Paradise Harbour was named by the whalers and sealers that sought shelter in this huge bay. And aptly conditions were mirror calm. We checked our Almirante Brown station draped in several metres of snow and admired the steep steps the shoreparty had carved into the snow. We paddled on between towering glacier fronts and big tabular bergs. With steady snow, slush ice was continuing to form on the surface and making the paddling increasingly sluggish, so we ventured out into more open water and enjoyed the silence and tranquility of slicing a path through the veneer of grease ice forming. We opted to continue on a linear paddle and made it pretty far towards Lemaire Island and Waterboat boat before having to jump into the Zodiac and make a chilly dash back to the ship.

PM: Danco Island - Distance: 10.5kms

Another candidate for best paddle. The Ererra channel is a stunning passage with steep mountains draped in cascading blankets of ice. Colossal icebergs compete with rock cliffs for grandeur, and Danco island sits slap-bang in the middle of this epic scene. Our team allowed the wind to assist our progress on the open side and then we paddled in the wind shadow bathing in the glorious views. At the north end of the island we thought our progress might be thwarted by a sea of grounded growlers and bergs but we were able to sneak a path through the maze, passing by some comatose weddell seals on the way. Not wanting the paddle to end we kept exploring the icebergs, eventually turning around and running with the wind back to the ship. An amazing trip and another coveted circumnavigation.

Day 7 – Monday November 14, 2022

AM: Cierva Cove - Distance: 5.1kms

Extensive brash ice added an unusually challenging element to this paddle. The swell around the ship and the sharp fragments of ice made a menacing spectacle while trying to get in the kayaks. Once afloat we headed towards the north end of the bay where the swell was dramatically crashing around some reefs that allowed us to get a bit closer to some tidewater glacier faces that would otherwise be too dangerous to approach. From there we paddled deeper into the harbour and around a small granite island where we laid eyes on some moss – the first greenery in a week! Rounding the island we realized a swath of brash ice had been pushed between us and the ship and we had to plough our kayaks through soup of ice chunks.

PM: Mikkelson Harbour - Distance: 7.9kms

Another great outing. The low-tide made it even more interesting – we were able to approach closer to several glacial faces, protected by the exposed terminal moraine reefs. We paddled around edge of the bay before making a landing on D'Hainault just as the last expedition team members were leaving and had the island to ourselves. We wandered past three snoozing weddell seals and up passed a groups of nesting penguins although, the cold wind and wet snowflakes bought us quickly back to our kayaks. All that remained between us and warm showers was paddling over a reef with small incoming breaking waves. A few lucky paddlers had a wave crest and break just before they made it over and got a face full of icy Antarctic water to freshen them up.

Day 8 – Tuesday November 15, 2022

AM: Deception Island - Distance: 7.2kms

Guides were quite excited to see there was little swell breaking on the cliffs guarding Neptune's Bellows. It's unusual to say the least, to be able to paddle on the outside of Deception Island. Despite gusts of up to 30 knots through Neptune's Bellows, everyone in the group was keen to venture out through the gap in the cliffs. We would not have done this on the first day! But with the confidence and skills we had seen everyone demonstrate we quested out around the outer coast of the caldera. Paddling between the sea stacks and the mudstone and basalt cliffs was an intense and unique kayaking experience. We paddled below other passengers looking down at us from Neptune's window, and then Scott quickly spotted a humpback whale, which we were able to track for quite a while. The swell kept us constantly alert and Flavio and Tatiana had a seal stalking them for about five minutes. From our furthest point we Zodiaced back into the caldera and got dropped off at the whaling station for a quick historical walk in Whaler's Bay. What an outing!

PM: Halfmoon Island - Distance: 9.1kms

For our final paddle we had two options on the cards: A short paddle with an extended walk among the chinstrap colony or a circumnavigation of Halfmoon Island. Ericka and Kaitlyn chose the first and had a very enjoyable paddle with Russell. The others set off around the island. We soon spotted a minke whale cruising back and forth, and we had great views of Livingston Island in the background. As we neared three quarters of the way around the wind suddenly picked up, somewhat conveniently forcing us to stop and check-out the chinstrap penguin colony. Fortunately it was a bit of a squall and it abated just enough for us to re-launch and just finish the circumnavigation in time to jump back onboard before the ship began the Drake crossing northbound. A stunning and satisfying last paddle to a very successful kayaking expedition.



Snowshoeing Log

By Hilary Cave

Snowshoe Guides: Hilary Cave

Number of Snowshoers: 9

Snowshoers:

Julie McIntosh

Judy Kobelke

Paul Kobelke

Catherine Carmichael

Tony Carmichael

Tom Michilis

Suse Michilis

Jane Owen

Nicholas Owen

9th November 2022

The briefing in the lounge gave passengers an idea of what we were about to experience – snowshoes, harnesses, ropes and crevasses – however the reality was...

10th November 2022

We began our Antarctic snowshoeing adventure at Yankee harbour in the South Shetland Islands only 48-hours after leaving Ushuaia, a beach landing, fiddling with snowshoe lacing straps, pole lengths and gloves, our first gentoo penguins making their nests. A gentle beach stroll transitioned to a firm glacier and we began to understand the use of the harnesses and 'roping up' trying to stay 110 metres away from the person in front of us. We divided into a 'forge to the top' group and a 'more gentle start' group. Both rewarded with glacier and sea views.

11th November 2022

Day two saw us climb an airy, snowy Enterprise Island, our group of intrepid explorers alone in Antarctica. We were treated to magnificent views across the choppy Gerlache strait and to the ski party, tiny dots high up on Nansen Island across the bay. This was milestone for some of us.

In the afternoon we were buffeted by a true Antarctic blizzard as we descended from the glacier viewpoint at Neko Harbour, our first continental landing. We were glad our experienced guides Kev and Tarn had their GPS routes and tight ropes to get us safely back to the shore and a wet Zodiac drive to the ship.

12 November 2022

Early on day three we sailed south through the Lemaire channel to explore Port Charcot. We climbed up and around the headland to the historic Charcot cairn on top. Gentoo penguins were leaping ashore in their hundreds and entertained us by using our snowshoe track to access their rookery sites, high fiving as they passed each other along the way.

The afternoons' walk was a shared adventure on Peterman Island, grounded icebergs and Adelie penguins a highlight here.

13th November 2022

The snow continued to fall on day four, our hardy snowshoers were beginning to tire, and most chose a Zodiac cruise at Brown station, Paradise harbour. Some of us climbed to a glacier topped headland circuit, the photographers in their Zodiacs way below us marveling at our ridgetop viewpoints. Different ice types were the theme of the day. Uli our glacier expert photographed sea ice, glacier ice, brash ice, grease ice, fast ice and ice bergs all in one shot.

From Paradise Harbour we travelled to Danco Island and enjoyed a late afternoon circuit and ascent around the nesting penguins. Ricardo serenaded the penguins with his ukulele and sang 'Raindrops keep falling....!' we wondered if the choice of lyrics would be bad luck for the weather Gods for tomorrow....

14th November 2022

... this proved to be true – it rained. On day six we Zodiac cruised at Cierva cove in the morning, then were thwarted by bergy bits and shallow reefs in our attempt to find a snowshoeing spot at Mikkleson Harbour in the afternoon.

15th November 2022

Our final morning saw us back in the South Shetlands' snowshoeing through dust covered snow on the volcanic Deception Island. A final shared viewpoint on Ronald Hill, overlooking Port Foster and the resting relics of Whalers bay.

The afternoon at Half-moon Island was wet and windy yet provided an opportunity to visit nesting chinstrap penguins and a final stretch of our legs before crossing of the Drake passage.



Ski and Snowboard Touring Log

By Tarn Pilkington

Guides: Kevin Nicholas, Marius Bron, Hilary Cave, Tarn Pilkington , Alison Cardinal

Expeditioners:	Christine Haungs	Durland McCaslin
Robert Duncan	Mari Ciana	Jeff Rosen
Alana Byrnes	Chris Ciana	Rob Dalhenty
Kristen Bell	Megan Waedekin	

Day 1: 8th November 2022

Ushuaia, Argentina

The ski and snowboard team boarded the *Greg Mortimer* in the late afternoon. A casual drink was enjoyed after the formalities of Life Boat drills and some E-Team introductions. Tarn laid out the plan for the next few days including cabin gear checks and a formal briefing about how this whole expedition was to be run. As we cruised southwards down the Beagle Channel Antarctic bound the excitement grew.

Day 2 - 9th November 2022

At Sea

At Sea in the Southern Ocean – Fair winds saw the *Greg Mortimer* make good progress at over 13 knots southwards. This was a good start although some of the team suffered the misery of seasickness as we plowed our way towards the South Shetlands. Gear checks and briefings were attempted with some laying up in their beds unable to move. This included one or two of the guides! Some green faces were present at the briefing along with fatigued brains due to the medications consumed.

Day 3 – 10th November 2022

Yankee Harbour

It is extremely rare to make a landing in the early afternoon of the second day but that is exactly what happened! We arrived early at Yankee Harbour to reasonable conditions and to start the first days touring. Excitement grew as we loaded skis and boards and jammed ourselves aboard for a short transit to the inside of the spit at Yankee Harbour. Gentoos were landing in their dozens around us and it wasn't long before we were skinning towards our first run in the "Yankee Bowls". Tarn and Alison ran an avalanche safety briefing – probes shovels and transceivers were brandished and we honed our skills and impressed each other with our fast learning and pointed questions to Tarn – his poker face was hard to read but somewhere in there was a glimmer of faith! A short ascent to the upper bowl saw us transition from climb to down mode and off we went at pace towards the beach. A short walk (for the snow boarders) and a few photos with penguin backdrops saw us back at the Zodiac. Day 2 at sea was a complete success.

Day 4 – 11th November 2022

Enterprise and Nansen Island and Neko Harbour

Tarn, Alison and Marius were keen to try a new landing on Nansen Island, so we got off to an early start and a Zodiac cruise through the ice surrounding Enterprise Island. After scoping the landing Marius shot up a steep slope setting a snow anchor and securing a rope down wards to above the landing. One by one we climbed what looked like a very steep slope to come out at a great looking slope climbing to peaks in the distance. The powder was deep and we climbed for an hour to reach our high point. Fantastic snow was enjoyed back to the landing for a pick up from Jill and Nacho.

Day 5– 12th November 2022

Port Charcot, Hoovgard and Peterman Island

Another great start to the day as we cruised through the Lemaire Chanel. Our plan was to cruise in Zodiacs for several miles to the north end of Hoovgard Island. The landing was dispatched with and we were climbing again in overcast weather towards the summit cloaked in cloud. We were under some time pressure to return for the Polar Plunge at 12 pm, so down we went in good but heavy snow back towards the landing. And then the craziness of Polar Plunging ensued!

Tarn had a plan to ski from the south end of Hoovgard Island but low cloud and a swell saw us abandon plans and go instead on one of his "reccies" to scope out future possibilities. We were dropped off at Peterman Island to enjoy a landing with the other passengers as Tarn and Alison headed off into the cloud looking for future ski lines.

Day 6 – 13th November 2022

Paradise Harbour, Danco Island and Spigot Bowls (Selvik Cove)

With high hopes of another outing we arrived in Paradise Harbour. Captain Maxim had taken the ship in close to the snowed in Almirante Brown Base. The weather looked slightly challenging with low cloud and snow, so skiing our first objective of Leith Peak looked unlikely. Kev, Alison, Marius and Hils went ashore to scope snow conditions and put in a track around the base. Word came back that the snow was too heavy for skiing, so we went ashore and enjoyed a fantastic snowshoe loop over the hill and back to the base.

A short ship transit and whilst enjoying a brief lunch, saw us enter the Errera Channel heading north. Tarn and Nacho provided Zodiac transport 11 kilometres north to Selvik Cove, which with some skill was negotiated for the drop off to tour into Spigot Bowls. Somehow Chinstraps want to hang out up here – they made for an entertaining side show. A quick transition saw us climb to ridgeline and take in the stunning view of Orne Harbour. An Instagram session ensued and we then enjoyed a couple of laps back down through heavy snow towards the landing.

Day 8 – 14th November 2022

Cierva Cove and Mikkleson Harbour Trinity Island

The ship had headed north through the night to Cierva Cove. The area was full of ice and we had a spectacular Zodiac cruise around bays and islands, until we headed out into the Bransfield to our next objective Trinity Island.

Mikkleson Harbour set in a large bay is spectacular, although the guides returned with sad news that the touring is cancelled due to rain and poor snow. Undeterred we rugged up for a trip ashore, D'Hainaut Island to the wintery and wet gentoo colony.

Day 9 – 15th November 2022

Whalers Bay, Deception Island – Half Moon Island

Durland had been looking forward to visiting Deception Island from Day 1. And here we were entering into the expansive caldera with views to the station buildings at Whalers bay. It was on! Glimpses of sunshine and the summit ridge beckoned as we came ashore and donned equipment to ascend upwards. An hour and a half later we arrived at the summit and enjoyed an incredible view of Bailey Head below. A quick group shot on the summit was followed by a descent back to the beach. We had time to explore the base and Neptunes Window, before heading out towards Half Moon Island.

Unfortunately the news from the guiding team was not good. Plan A of heading ashore at Livingstone Island was overturned by low cloud and light rain. Plan B, however was put forward as a snowshoe around the island to see Chinstrap penguins and the Argentinian Base.

Days 10 to 12 – 16th to 18th November 2022

At Sea to Ushuaia

Then it was time to return - we headed out to sea and north to Ushuaia. The seas were less stormy than on the way down, so quick time was made across the Drake to Cape Horn and the Beagle Channel. Slipping into the wharf early in the morning, was sadly the end of our expedition. We said our goodbyes and began our journeys home.





Bird and Mammal Sightings

Bird Species	November										
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Gentoo Penguin			•	•	•	•	•	•			
Adelie Penguin				•	•		•				
Chinstrap Penguin			•	•	•		•	•			
Macaroni Penguin		•									
Magellanic Penguin	•										
Wandering Albatross											•
Grey-headed Albatross		•									
Black-browed Albatross		•							•	•	
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross		•	•					•	•	•	
Southern Fulmar			•	•		•		•			
Northern Giant Petrel			•						•	•	
Southern Giant Petrel	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Antarctic Petrel			•								
Cape Petrel		•	•			•	•	•	•		
Snow Petrel				•	•	•	•				
Blue Petrel		•							•		
White-chinned Petrel			•							•	
Black-bellied Storm Petrel								•			
Wilson's Storm Petrel								•			
Antarctic Prion		•	•						•	•	
Antarctic Tern			•	•	•	•	•	•			
South American Tern	•										
Brown Skua			•	•	•	•	•	•			
Dolphin Gull	•										•
Kelp Gull	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•
Sooty Shearwater										•	
Snowy Sheathbill			•	•	•	•	•	•			
Antarctic Shag			•	•	•	•	•	•			
Imperial Shag	•									•	•



Mammal Species	November										
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
South American Fur Seal							•	•			
Crabeater Seal				•	•	•					
Weddell Seal			•		•	•	•	•			
Leopard Seal				•		•					
Southern Elephant Seal								•			
Hourglass Dolphin		•									
Dusky Dolphin										•	
Antarctic Minke Whale								•			
Humpback Whale			•	•			•	•			
Fin Whale		•									









Expeditioners:

Kristen Bell	Judy Kobelke	Louise Selmes
Grant Bevin	Ken Lee	Paul Selmes
Dori Bortniker	Nicila Lee	Gregoire Tremblay
Spencer Brewer	Ricky Lindsey	Maria Vecchiotti
Alex Burridge	Durland Mc Caslin Jr	Megan Waedekin
Alana Byrnes	Sandra McDougall	Kristen Wayne
Tony Carmichael	Scott McDougall	Kaitlyn Weimer
Catherine Carmichael	Julie McIntosh	Laura Weisberg
Chris Ciana	Suse Michilis	Sheena Ytil
Domini Clark	Tom Michilis	
Dewey	Flavio Newlands Moniz Freire	
Judy Doughty	Tatiana Nogueira da Gama Van Hemelryck	
Jeffrey Dryfoos	Jane Owen	
John Dudeney	Nicholas Owen	
Robert Dulhunty	Ricardo Pena	
Mari Duncan	Ulyana Pena	
Robert Duncan	Alicia Pettit	
Nigel England	Jim Pettit	
Ryan Gardner	Ron Richards	
Tony Gysen	Ericka Roman	
Phylese Hanna	Jeff Rosen	
Christine Haungs	Alexander Russell	
Dan Kammann	John Russell	
Paul Kammann	Thien Thi Russell	
Paul Kobelke		

Expedition Team:

Expedition Leader: Florence Kuijper
 Assistant Expedition Leader: Cat Ardagh
 Onboard Expedition Manager: Rosie Leaney
 Ornithologist: Graeme Snow
 Marine Biologist: Dani Abras
 Marine Biologist: Jill Niederberger
 Expedition Support: Justine Bornholdt
 Historian: John Dudeney
 Geologist: Melina Pelzmajer
 Zodiac Manager: Nacho Marino
 Lead Kayak Guide: Peter Wainwright
 Kayak Guide: Russell Henry
 Kayak Guide: Ivan Klochkov
 Lead Mountain Guide: Tarn Pilkington
 Mountain Guide: Hilary Cave
 Mountain Guide: Kevin Nicholas
 Mountain Guide: Alison Cardinal
 Mountain Guide: Marius Bron
 Expedition Medic: David Palmer
 Photography Guide: Max Seigal
 Special Guest Photographer: Richard l'Anson
 Ship Shop Manager: Gabriel Hernandez
 Spa Manager: Darja Vasiljeva

Senior Officers & Heads of Department:

Master: Maxim Makarovskiy
 Chief Officer: Alexandru Taraoi
 Safety Officer: Sergii Voina
 Bosun: Bobby Penuliar
 Deck Cadet: Miguel Delgado
 Ship Doctor: Andres Peralta
 Chief Engineer: Dimitar Vasilev
 Hotel Director: Ulises Cantillo
 Chief Purser: Willie Lirio
 Executive Chef: Ron Reyes
 Head Waiter: Allan Liscaro
 Hotel Controller: Richard Cayeta
 IT Officer: Ihor Yesmieniev
 Receptionist: Jeremiah Castillo
 Receptionist: Jelyn Merilo
 Head Stateroom: Liza Ortega
 Able Seaman: Muhammad Karier
 Able Seaman: Ramanda Vitrian
 Able Seaman: Hardik Rao
 Able Seaman: Ajay Fnu
 Able Seaman: Andrii Mezentsev
 Able Seaman: Giovanni Dela Torre

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Max Seigal



