



# Across the Antarctic Circle



19 February – 02 March 2019 | Polar Pioneer





# About Us

Aurora Expeditions embodies the spirit of adventure, travelling to some of the most wild and remote places on our planet. With over 27 years' experience, our small group voyages allow for a truly intimate experience with nature.

Our expeditions push the boundaries with flexible and innovative itineraries, exciting wildlife experiences and fascinating lectures. You'll share your adventure with a group of like-minded souls in a relaxed, casual atmosphere while making the most of every opportunity for

adventure and discovery. Our highly experienced expedition team of naturalists, historians and destination specialists are passionate and knowledgeable – they are the secret to a fulfilling and successful voyage.

Whilst we are dedicated to providing a 'trip of a lifetime', we are also deeply committed to education and preservation of the environment. Our aim is to travel respectfully, creating lifelong ambassadors for the protection of our destinations.





DAY 1 | Tuesday 19 February 2019

# Ushuaia, Beagle Channel

**Position:** 22:25 hours

**Latitude:** 54°55’S

**Longitude:** 67°24’W

**Course:** 83.7°

**Speed:** 10.9 knots

**Wind Speed:** 5 knots

**Wind Direction:** W

**Barometer:** 1009.3 hPa & rising

**Air Temp:** 9°C

**Sea Temp:** 8°C

After months of preparation, weeks of anticipation and long-haul flights from around the globe, we finally arrived at Ushuaia, known locally as el fin del mundo (the end of the world), raring to begin our Antarctic adventure.

At 1600 we walked along the dock to find our ice strengthened ship Polar Pioneer waiting patiently for our arrival. With no hesitation we handed our passports over to Howard and Elena, followed by a smile to the camera for Gary and Kathrine. The rest of the Aurora team were onboard ready to show us to our cabins, our cosy new home for the next 12 days. Onboard we total 53 adventurers with nationalities representing Australia (27), Ireland (1), Italy (1), Germany (1), Netherlands (2), Taiwan (1), United States (17) United Kingdom (3), 8 Aurora Expedition and Waterproof staff, 22 Russian crew and 3 Filipino hotel staff. Half unpacked and slightly settled in, it was time to investigate the ship’s many staircases.

Some ventured down to the dining rooms for afternoon tea, others aimed skyward for the flying bridge, returning to the Bar when Expedition Leader Howard called us together to introduce the Aurora team and give a lifeboat and safety briefing.

The sound of seven-short-one-long rings from the ship’s signal system was our cue to don warm clothes, bulky orange lifejackets and gather at the muster stations to sample the ambience of a Polar Class life vessel. Even without a full complement of Russian crew, the seating arrangements in the two lifeboats proved cosy.

Before dinner Alex gathered our nine kayakers in the lecture room for their first fitting of kayak gear. Dry suit, bootys, life jackets, the works! The rest of us became acquainted with the onboard beer selection and awesome Anne at the bar. After a tasty dinner prepared by our chefs Al and Bert, snorkelers and divers met with Pete and Birgitta in the lecture room for their various briefings.

With all water and supplies for the voyage ahead finally onboard, we were prepared to leave. At 2200 we cast off our lines and steamed east along the beautiful Beagle Channel. The twinkling town of Ushuaia gradually receded as we made our way past mountain ranges brilliant against the evening light. To our portside the snow-capped peaks of Argentina; Chile to our starboard.











DAY 2 | Wednesday 20 February 2019

# Drake Passage

<b>Position:</b>	20:30 hours	<b>Course:</b>	132.8°	<b>Wind Speed:</b>	33 knots	<b>Barometer:</b>	993.3 hPa & steady
<b>Latitude:</b>	57°03’S	<b>Speed:</b>	7 knots	<b>Wind Direction:</b>	SW	<b>Air Temp:</b>	7°C
<b>Longitude:</b>	64°44’W					<b>Sea Temp:</b>	3°C

The infamous ‘Drake Shake’ made its appearance around 4 am and we were tossed and turned in our bunks as the Polar Pioneer ploughed her way through the waves outside. Those of us who braved an upright position and waltzed down to breakfast enjoyed a lively morning meal that included cartwheeling cutlery and spinning seats. Dr. Lesley made her morning rounds, a colourful bag of magic drugs in tow. Besides sedation, the second-best remedy for this raucous mal de mer is maintaining a horizontal condition in ones bunk.

Gary began our educational programme for the voyage as he regaled us with all things regarding seabirds. He illustrated the majestic wandering albatross, the largest flying bird. With a wingspan of 3 metres this incredible bird lives at sea for seven years after fledging until it returns to land to make a nest of its own. With a very long breeding cycle, pairs can only breed every second year. Wanderers also have one of the longest lifespans of any bird (over 60 years and probably up to 80 years for those who survive long line fishing) and most only start breeding when aged 10 years or older.

Up to the bridge we bounced to watch our progress in action. Mesmerizing waves rolled toward us, breaking with white foam splash that framed the bow. Second Captain Vlad estimates the maximum wave height was 6.5 metres with an average of 4.5. With the wind at 40 knots, spray broke across the peaks and troughs creating veritable valleys of water along the horizon before us.

The true heroes of the sea days -our chefs! While pots and pans were sliding to and fro in the galley, Al and Bert prepared a delicious lunch of spaghetti bolognaise. Our lovely stew-ardesses Anna and Alina performed the most precarious and balanced act of delivering our meals safely to our settings. Back to the bunks for our post-prandial snooze. Was it the motion of the ocean or Lesley’s mandatory sedation that causes our eyes to close involuntarily today?

A most poignant documentary played in the lecture room in the afternoon. Ice and the Sky tells the story of the French glaciologist Claude Lorius’ work in Antarctica over a period of 30 years. Traveling to Antarctica first when he was 23 years old, it was an adventure that changed the course of his life. His induction to the polar regions began when he was 23 during the International Geophysical year when “men had joined forces to take the pulse of the planet with no regard for race or nationality”. Collecting ice core samples that date back to 400,000 years, Lorius shows the evolution of climate and human’s undeniable impact.

Not too long afterwards, we were beckoned to the lecture room once again hear about the largest of the marine mammals, whales! We saw the difference between two of the types of whales: Mysticete and Odontocete or toothed and baleen whales. We also learned some tips and tricks to identify different whales throughout the voyage. Look for the blow and dorsal fin! The day ended just as rowdy as it began as the Southern Sea tipped our ship side to side as we sailed south.





DAY 3 | Thursday 21 February 2019

# Drake Passage

<b>Position:</b>	21:30 hours	<b>Course:</b>	186.4°
<b>Latitude:</b>	61°25'S	<b>Speed:</b>	11.5 knots
<b>Longitude:</b>	63°43'W		

<b>Wind Speed:</b>	10 knots	<b>Barometer:</b>	993.6 hPa & falling
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	NNE	<b>Air Temp:</b>	3°C
		<b>Sea Temp:</b>	3°C

The tempestuous seas calmed overnight and we awoke to a mild roll. Many more faces appeared at the breakfast tables, many with renewed gratitude to simply sit upright without having to hold on for dear life. In recognition of the fast-changing nature of Antarctica, we began our education about biosecurity precautions we must take before stepping onto land. Gary explained how we can minimize our impact on the wildlife and vegetation of the Antarctic Peninsula. A lovely movie illustrated with wooden silhouettes showed just how much care is needed to protect this natural hot-spot. As privileged visitors, we all play a part in keeping it pristine and wild.

We then learned the ‘Zodiac three-step’ thanks to Howard and Elena. The Zodiacs, fabulous rubber dinghies, will carry us to and from (and throughout) the adventures to come. Satiated after a delicious lunch from Al and Bert, our bunks beckoned (most of us) for an afternoon lie-down.

As the afternoon progressed, snorkelers and divers convened in the lecture room where Pete and Birgitta continued to prepare them for the cold-water immersion ahead. The purring of vacuum cleaners filled hallways as we hauled our gear to the bar, lecture room and clinic to clean whatever organic matter we could find from our clothes and equipment. Nozzles searching pockets and corners of our packs became the day’s special entertainment. We scoured Velcro and gumboot soles in search of sneaky seeds and unruly hitchhikers. We signed the requisite paperwork and then, phew! We were free to enjoy the rest of our day at sea.

Now with the ability to walk the corridors without being thrown side to side, we explored our new home away from home. We clambered up to the bridge to meet the officers and able seamen. The ship’s crew work on a four-hour watch, with three, two-man shifts in every 24 hours. With the weather significantly improved from the day before, we rugged up in our shiny new Aurora jackets and took to the outer decks to feel the sea spray on our cheeks. A wandering albatross joined us for a while, soaring over the waves, graceful and precise.

The sun broke out from the clouds and glimmered across the subdued sea. Wilson’s storm petrels flitted across the waves, fin-whales were spotted and even a pod of dolphins porpoised by.

We were summoned to the bar for our Captain’s Welcome Cocktails where we met our fantastic Captain Sasha who will safely guide us through the ice in the week to come. He spoke briefly of the 22 Russian crew who work onboard, from the engineers to the stewardesses to the officers on the bridge they constantly strive to make our trip of a lifetime possible.

Kathrine’s fruit punch invigorated us and before we knew it, meal time arrived once again. After dinner, Alex entertained us with stunning photos and tips and tricks for the photography extravaganza to come.











DAY 4 | Friday 22 February 2019

# Almirante Brown Station, Paradise Harbour, Skontorp Cove

<b>Position:</b>	20:45 hours	<b>Course:</b>	317°	<b>Wind Speed:</b>	6 knots	<b>Barometer:</b>	998.9 hPa & steady
<b>Latitude:</b>	64°56'S	<b>Speed:</b>	5.1 knots	<b>Wind Direction:</b>	E	<b>Air Temp:</b>	3°C
<b>Longitude:</b>	63°32 W					<b>Sea Temp:</b>	1°C

Today was the day, finally! After years of planning, months of preparation, days of travelling, then surviving a storm through the Drake Passage, we would at last reach the white continent. The serene seas barely rocked us as we steamed south. Eager faces around the breakfast table revealed our readiness to explore Antarctica. Gary helped distract us from our anticipation as he told us about the flightless birds we will be seeing in the days to come. Awkward on land, these birds were built for ‘flying’ through water. With feathers especially adapted for this environment, they take great care in preening and have a catastrophic moult each year - they lose all their feathers and grow an entire set of new ones.

As we devoured our lamb curry, Howard’s voice came over the PA system “today is not a day to tarry in the dining rooms...take a look outside!”.

And up to the outer decks and bridge did we scurry to revel in the blue bird day outside. An endless vista of glaciated peaks beckoned. Glassy water reflected perfect imitations of the mountains above. Who knew there could be so many and varied hues of white and blue? The array of subtle shades overwhelmed. Spectacular, mesmerizing, gob-smacking, breath-taking... we all tried to put words to the panorama before us, without luck. Similarly, we snapped away attempting to capture the magnificence, but our digital-attempts fell short. All that was left for us was to look on in wonder.

Finally, it was time to perform the ‘Zodiac three-step’, as we clambered down the gangway to our waiting chariots. A still day spread out before us. We zoomed over to a precipitous overhang that sheltered a bevy of cormorant nests. Nearly fully fledged, fluffy black chicks stretched their wings and called to their parents.

Base leader Maria welcomed us at the Argentinean station Almirante Brown. Only occupied during the summer months, 11 scientists live and work and study glaciology and fish biology December through March.

We trundled past the gentoo penguins and chicks and up a steep hill overlooking the spectacular bay below. 360-degree views were almost too much to take in – glaciers, mountain peaks, floating brash ice on the water below, kayakers paddling, divers and snorkelers bobbing below...a day in paradise. “Wheee!” a cry of excitement rang out as our first bum-sliders made their way down the snowy slope.

Back into the Zodiacs we tumbled, exhilarated and excited for our next sojourn. The afternoon did not disappoint. Crabeater seals dotted ice floes, a couple of massive female leopard seals lolled about, occasionally opening their impressive jaws. Three slinky minke whales played about our boats, their delicate and sharp dorsal fins giving them away.

Skontorp glacier cascaded down the valley ending at the water line below tumbling seracs reminiscent of an ice queens castle. A colourful flotilla of paddlers pushed their way through the brash ice, working a bit harder than the rest of us thanks to our trusty Yamaha motors. Not ready for this day to end, a rose-hued sunset silhouetted Cape Renard and Una’s...Peaks as we sailed through Ferguson Channel.

Welcome to Antarctica!







DAY 5 | Saturday 23 February 2019

# Grandidier Channel

**Position:** 19:30 hours  
**Latitude:** 65°40'S  
**Longitude:** 64°54'W

**Course:** 66.2°  
**Speed:** 37 knots

**Wind Speed:** 4 knots  
**Wind Direction:** NE

**Barometer:** 1006.6 hPa & steady  
**Air Temp:** 1°C  
**Sea Temp:** 0°C

Tousled travellers tumbled out onto deck this morning for Howard’s special moonlit, pre-dawn cruise through the fabled Lemaire Channel. Our ice-strengthened ship sidled through this seven-mile channel with Captain Sasha’s expertise threading a path through large, ice-threatening to block the one-mile width. Poor Frenchman Charcot, who discovered the Peninsula, stayed too long from home and was divorced by his first wife, but quickly found another!

John Rymill, an Australian farmer who used dogs, tractors and aircraft to explore this area named our next waterway, the Penola Strait after his family farm. Like light blushing through a baby’s ear, morning alpenglow bathed the southernmost bastion of gentoos in the Argentine Islands, while Adélie penguins on Petermann Island regarded our passage with interest.

Basking leopard seals on floes, crabeaters swimming synchronously, sleeping humpbacks and a fleeting minke whale accompanied us as we strived towards the circle. Framed by lichen-covered rock and ice cliffs, Vernadsky Station, previously the British Faraday Base, is scientifically important, as it’s here that the hole in the ozone layer was detected thanks to the Dobson spectrometer, and prompted the regulation of use of aerosol gases. With castellated, arched cathedrals, including the Sydney Opera House and an icy Uluhru, the freezer was churning out bergy bits, frazzle, growlers ...and pancakes... stimulating our gastric juices for breakfast.

And so we ploughed on further south through the Grandidier Channel, wondering about the source of this wondrous ice. Glaciers, rivers of snow compressed to ice, are squeezed by mountains to funnel to the sea. How descriptive was Frank Wild, Shackleton’s right-hand man on

Endurance – he saw a gondola steered by a giraffe, then a duck sitting on a crocodile’s head! These fantastically-shaped icebergs are born on land from fresh water while tabular icebergs, more cubist in composition, shatter from land-locked, ice shelf extensions.

If we took moment to gaze beneath the surface, we’d see phytoplankton under ice floes representing the pasture that feed krill and salps, which are the grazing animals of the sea. Everything else depends on the krill who paddle furiously and continuously to stay afloat – a bit like Alex and his happy kayakers!

With the white expanse beckoning, the compulsion was too great and Howard gave us a 15-minute call to get iced! Zodiacs zipped off to taste icicles garlanding a dense blue bergy bit. Some dirty ice with phytoplankton hue was bathed in sparkling shards of sunlight, then we flushed out a little peddling krill. Kayakers hoisted their paddles on a floe, while expeditioners were abandoned on theirs. Divers struggled bravely to prevent their iceberg being crushed by the floe. Candid crabeaters flopped around their audience and one Zodiac-er even tried a baby plunge from the Zodiac pre-empting our next excitement.

29 hardy souls coupled, quadrupled and in Mary’s case, beautifully and elegantly, dived into the water alongside ice floes and with a hungry seal waiting nearby. Even the staff joined the jubilation of a polar plunge only a whisper north of the Antarctic Circle. What a wonderful day in nature’s ice garden.









DAY 6 | Sunday 24 February 2019

# Crossing the Antarctic Circle, Detaille Island

<b>Position:</b>	22:15 hours	<b>Course:</b>	335.2°	<b>Wind Speed:</b>	4 knots	<b>Barometer:</b>	1006.6 hPa & falling
<b>Latitude:</b>	66°38'S	<b>Speed:</b>	5 knots	<b>Wind Direction:</b>	WNW	<b>Air Temp:</b>	-1°C
<b>Longitude:</b>	67°00'W					<b>Sea Temp:</b>	0°C

Overnight we motored north through the Grandidier Channel, out the Southwind Passage and headed back south along the west coast of Renaud Island. Clear skies awaited us to the south and the view from our portholes was of a blue horizon punctuated by fantastically glaciated peaks. We spent the morning captivated by this surreal landscape as Captain Sasha steered our sturdy ship. Fields of convoluted ice mazes spread out before us, slowing our speed towards the Antarctic circle. Gary initiated us into the kingdom of ice with his morning lecture Ice is Nice. Frazil, grease, nilas, serac, bergschrund – our vocabulary of frozen water expanded ten-fold while we were mesmerized by fabulous photos of different icy phenomenon.

Post-lunch, we gathered on the bow to mark our crossing the Antarctic Circle at 66°33.7' S. Hooray! The ship's horn shook us to our boots as we toasted our crossing. Howard gave Captain Cook's Oath, before Elena ceremoniously marked our foreheads with the official Antarctic Circle stamp (aka the sacred sink plug). Two sleeping hump-back whales joined us for the memorable celebration.

Back on the bridge, the captain and his officers practiced Zen and the art of ice navigation. Floes and bergs could be seen stretching to towering white peaks, distant mountain ranges reaching up to the misty sky. Although we had crossed the Circle, our true objective lay further south. Detaille Island was a another 30 miles on through the ice. Captain tightened the pitch of our prop and powered ever onward. An important historic site, Detaille Island, also known as Base W, is a former British research station established in 1956 during the International Geophysical Year. Only occupied until 1959, scientists studied meteorology, topographical survey and geology.

The winter freeze in 1958 produced solid sea ice that could not be broken by the re-supply ship due to arrive in summer. The decision was made to abandon the base. The scientists secured the building and sledged across 25 miles of sea ice to reach the rescue ship.

The true hero of the story however, is one of the sledge dogs, named Steve. Upon reaching the rescue ship, Steve broke loose and ran back across the ice to Detaille Island. The men, heart- broken at losing one of their favourite dogs tried to follow him to no avail. They had to leave before the ice moved in, marking Steve as a lost cause. Steve returned to Detaille and foraged on penguins for three months until he made his way 60 miles south-east to Horseshoe island where he was rescued by those stationed there. A happy ending for the lucky pup!

Fortune continued to smile on us as we were able to reach Detaille Island in the late-afternoon sun. We zig-zagged through floes and bergs on our way to shore, we relished the glorious day. Stepping into the hut, we were transported back in time. There were signs that the men had just left for the afternoon, out to collect data, and would be back soon. Grape-nuts, Dollar Scotch-oats, HP-sauce, gave us a peek into the diet of Brits doing research in Antarctica 50-plus years ago. Our divers explored a rocky slope and found krill! The snorkelers bobbed and dipped and our kayakers paddled through the serene setting.

We returned to the ship with full hearts and memory cards. Congratulations to all, (including Captain Sasha and his crew!) for fulfilling our wish to reach south of the Antarctic Circle.





DAY 7 | Monday 25 February 2019

# Petermann Island, Pleneau Island

Position:	22:25 hours	Course:	210°	Wind Speed:	Calm	Air Temp:	0°C
Latitude:	65°62'S	Speed:	4.1 knots	Barometer:	994.6 hPa & steady	Sea Temp:	1°C
Longitude:	63°54'W						

Our good luck with the weather continued yesterday as the morning dawned clear and calm. With the peaks of the Antarctic Peninsula to starboard, we steamed north intent on escaping the clutches of ice in Crystal Sound.

In the lecture room, Gary waxed lyrically about seals of the Southern Ocean – pinnipeds! Separated into three families, (Phocidae, Otariidae and Odobenidae) it's the see seals from the the first family, otherwise known as 'true seals' that we mostly see. Crabeater, Weddell and leopard seals slot into this category and can be identified due to visible ears and front flippers that are incapable of rotating like those of a fur seal. We also learned about the delayed implantation in the seals' breeding cycle, as well as the incredibly quick weight gain that pups go through shortly after birth. Mother seal milk contains 60 per cent fat, so does the trick!

The afternoon saw us anchored in front of Petermann Island, home to both Adélie and gentoo colonies. We scattered like penguins once on shore. Blue jackets could be seen wandering every which way intent on viewing various cosmopolitan penguin communities.

Not only is this area rich in wildlife and panoramic beauty, but there is exciting human history as well. In 1908 Jean-Baptiste Charcot overwintered in the very bay where we landed. He was leader of the second French Antarctic Expedition on board his ship, Porquoi Pas? This translates into, 'Why Not?'. A sentiment that many of us are becoming familiar with.

Under Alex's measured guidance, our intrepid paddlers hopped into their boats after a visit to Petemann Island, then kayaked an impressive five nautical miles to our late afternoon destination near Pleneau Island.

Once the rest of us were dropped back onboard to enjoy a quick cuppa, we were called back into our Zodiacs for a cruise around the exquisite 'Iceberg Garden'.

Who would have imagined that ice could captivate, entrance and seduce us as those we encountered? Glistening icicle veils adorned immense bergs, myriad textures swathed bluer and white canvases and crabeaters awaited as we noodled through iceberg labyrinths. A languorous leopard seal nipped and rolled, causing a frisson of excitement for close to hand. Most of all, we marvelled at the infinite way that ice can be shaped by wind, water, tide and time. Truly a magical afternoon.

Back onboard, the BBQ was fired up as Al and Bert busily prepared our evening meal. On the back deck, we enjoyed Kathrine's delicious gluhwein, ate, danced and made merry as our ship sailed north through the imposing Lemaire Channel.











DAY 8 | Tuesday 26 February 2019

# Cuerville Island, Melchior Islands

<b>Position:</b>	20:45 hours	<b>Course:</b>	29°	<b>Wind Speed:</b>	13 knots	<b>Barometer:</b>	987.9hPa & rising
<b>Latitude:</b>	64°02’S	<b>Speed:</b>	12.2 knots	<b>Wind Direction:</b>	Calm	<b>Air Temp:</b>	4°C
<b>Longitude:</b>	62°52’W					<b>Sea Temp:</b>	1°C

Bleary-eyed breakfasters convened for our morning meal with echoes of tunes from the evening before still playing in our heads. We eased into the day ahead and sailed through the stunning Errera Channel on the way to our morning landing site. Cuerville Island appeared as a rocky mound on the horizon, with neon green accents of moss and lichen highlighting the hillside.

Curious penguin antics consumed our morning ashore. Near the waterline, flotillas of penguin bathed in the water, splashing and rolling as they preened and cleaned their precious feathers. In the raucous maroon-tinged colonies, nearly fledged chicks, or ‘chickie chasers’, chased adults to and fro, hoping for just one more snack. Inquisitive and unafraid, gentoo penguins waddled up to us and picked at our boots as we snapped photos from above.

As usual, our Zodiac cruise featured an epic backdrop – this time with couloirs of ice hanging beyond their angle of repose. icebergs floated serenely in the calm waters bathed in grey light, while the cracks glowed a deep azure-blue. Whales were seen dotting the surface of the Errera Channel, their blows punctuating the cool morning air. A curious leopard seal paid heed to several Zodiacs, saving special attention for the arrival of the kayakers. She swam under the boats, displaying a silver belly with black and grey spots flecked along her sinuous body.

The afternoon found us at the lovely Melchior archipelago where each island is named after a different letter of the Greek alphabet. We zoomed in and out of the channels between islands, where Weddell seals, fur seals, Antarctic terns, and even a few chinstrap penguins inhabited the shores.

Off the western sides of Lamba, Theta and Gamma islands humpback whales were putting on a show. A mother and calf waved their fins and dove with graceful elegance, then lunged their mouths to the surface, revealing their barnacle-encrusted rorquals. Yet another fantastic day in Antarctica.

Back onboard the bar was buzzing as many of us sampled Kathrine’s delicious ‘Adelie Pisco’ before trundling down to the dining rooms for dinner.







# South Shetland Islands: Whalers Bay, Hannah Point

<b>Position:</b>	21:00 hours	<b>Course:</b>	239°	<b>Wind Speed:</b>	20 knots	<b>Barometer:</b>	1003.9hPa & steady
<b>Latitude:</b>	62°53’S	<b>Speed:</b>	12.8 knots	<b>Wind Direction:</b>	SW	<b>Air Temp:</b>	1°C
<b>Longitude:</b>	61°12’W					<b>Sea Temp:</b>	1°C

The slightly unexpected, rocking swell of the Bransfield Strait surprised some slumberers! Snow-rimmed vistas welcomed us to the South Shetland Islands. Early whalers were perplexed by the entrance to Deception Island, but today, the southern approach was the ticket. The remains of an exploding volcano, the tufa was dusted with icing sugar. Being only one of three calderas in the world that are ship navigable, the concentration on the bridge was palpable as Captain Sasha navigated Raven Rock (at only 7.5 m depth), which guarded Neptune’s Bellows.! A cheek-blasting ride to shore found us on a beach decorated with historical remnants of this portal to the Peninsula.

A tonal scene of volcanic flows surrounded the industrial detritus of whaling days of the 1900s – boilers being reclaimed by gull chicks, blubber tanks ideal for human song and a landscape of water boats and barrels now being sucked back into a landscape of fur seals wearing snowy hoods.

Explorers trudged through the scalloped sludge with tasty, cooked krill and brittle stars on the shore, to scale Neptune’s window and imagine the first sighting of the Antarctic peninsula. Snorkelers bravely tried to engage the fur seals in water aerobics and the divers meandered along the caldera’s tufa floor, finding whale bones and hoping that today was not the day for an eruption (although a warm vent would have been welcome!).

Antarctic weather was challenging today as our afternoon adjusted from Elephant to Hannah Point. With towers of volcanic plugs, a pebbly beach busy with gentoo penguins laundering their feathers and chicks losing their baby coats, chirpy chinstrap penguins posed amongst the lichens then squawked madly when an outlier tried to penetrate the moulting group.

Fluffed up giant petrel chicks popped heads and wings out of nests on the ridge and elephant seals wallowed in an odiferous hollow. With destination set as the beach of Walker Bay, a conga line headed off to fossick for fossils and play with a baby elephant seal. Shards of light suddenly highlighted the ice shelf and the glacier-front seracs.

Howard encouraged a few to follow on his ice trek and the multitude of blue hues were stunning. The mood turned mellow as Antarctica wished us farewell, but the Zodiacs waiting at the surging beach challenged our newfound skills lolling and rolling on our return to the ship. Luckily, those elephant seals had taught us well!

Gary promised a memory challenge at the recap and the wonderful days of our Antarctic Circle trip gradually evolved to enchant us in all their magnificence - new friends, amazing wildlife and a whole family of expeditioners who have shared unique times together.









# Drake Passage

<b>Position:</b>	20:20 hours	<b>Course:</b>	335°	<b>Wind Speed:</b>	22 knots	<b>Barometer:</b>	1007.9 hPa & steady
<b>Latitude:</b>	58° 43' S			<b>Wind Direction:</b>	NE	<b>Air Temp:</b>	4°C
<b>Longitude:</b>	65° 06' W					<b>Sea Temp:</b>	2°C

Remember those fabulous multiple-choice postcards from the 70's and 80's? While we don't have the cheesy images to go with it, the style of today's *Penguin Post* harks back to those days, and is somewhat interactive...see how you go.

**1. This morning at breakfast:**

- a) I ate porridge.
- b) My hard-boiled eggs ended up on the floor.
- c) I quarrelled with my fellow diners over who had the Vegemite.
- d) I was in my bunk zonked out on Phenergan.

**2. During Gary's lecture about living and working in Antarctica:**

- a) I learned that the sun can look green when it sets, and vicariously experienced the 'green flash' through Gary's photo.
- b) A healthy sense of creativity and motivation, as well as being multi-talented is a huge asset to folk over-wintering in Antarctica.
- c) I had a great nap and dribbled on the shoulder of my friend.
- d) I was in my bunk zonked out on Phenergan.

**3. During the day:**

- a) I scrubbed penguin poo off my clothing.
- b) I braved it on the bridge, fancying myself as a true salty seadog.
- c) I worked on my Drake Passage sun-tan on the outside decks.
- d) I reviewed my photos and wished that we could turn around and do it all over again.
- e) All of the above.

**4. When looking out to sea, I saw:**

- a) Beautiful light streaming through the clouds and gleaming off the ocean.
- b) Storm-petrels flitting and darting across the ocean.
- c) Lots and lots and lots of water.
- d) A bright blue Phenergan fairy dancing before me

**5. Whilst Lesley talk about Medical Mysteries of Antarctica:**

- a) I was aghast at the seemingly gory beginning slide of a blood-soaked glacier until I learned that it was not blood, just a natural phenomena involving hyper-saline water in the Dry Valleys of the Transantarctic Mountains.
- b) My stomach rumbled and I was cranky and thus began to wonder if I might have scurvy.
- c) I became a hypochondriac when seeing the long list of maladies and symptoms of scurvy.
- d) Lesley had strategically drugged me up beforehand and I slept through her lecture

**6. At cocktail hour in the bar:**

- a) I sampled another one of Kathrine's delectable concoctions: Sea-Day Spritz.
- b) I placed bets with my fellow shipmates on what my bar tab would be.
- c) I was packing in my cabin.
- d) The Phenergan fairy got me again.

**7. My evening consisted of:**

- a) Making merry in the bar with my old and new friends.
- b) Watching the roll and vastness of the Drake Passage.
- c) Watching penguins sing and dance.
- d) Attempting to spill as little popcorn as possible on the lecture room floor.









# Cape Horn

The Albatross  
By Sarah Vial

*I am the albatross that awaits you  
at the end of the world.  
I am the forgotten soul of the dead mariners  
who passed Cape Horn  
from all the seas of the world.  
But they did not die  
in the furious waves.  
Today they soar on my wings  
towards eternity  
in the last crack  
of the Antarctic winds.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Cape Horn was discovered on January 29, 1616 by Dutch sailors and recently celebrated its 400th anniversary with a ceremony attended by Dutch and other international officials.
- The waters around the Cape have claimed more than their fair share of sailors: between the 16th and 20th centuries it is estimated that at least 800 ships were shipwrecked, causing the deaths of over 10,000 seamen.
- An albatross in flight is the symbol of the souls of the sailors lost at sea.
- Traditionally, sailors who successfully rounded the horn would celebrate this feat by smoking cigars and pouring alcohol into the ocean. The latter was intended to thank Neptune, the Roman god of the sea, for their safe passage and to toast their fellow seamen who had been less fortunate.
- Custom dictated that only sailors who had rounded the horn were allowed to wear a gold hoop earring in the ear that passed closest to island – a sign marking their courage as a seaman.











DAY 12 | Saturday 2 March 2019

# Southern Ocean, Beagle Channel, Puerto Williams

The sleepy town of Puerto Williams welcomed us as we eased into the wharf early this morning. An overcast day back on land, we could barely see the lightly-dusted Dientes mountains receding into the clouds. Already our Antarctic adventure has come to an end. As we placed our luggage outside our cabins and headed down to our last breakfast, hearts, and memory cards, were full with the experiences over the last few weeks.

We have transited the southern-ocean to reach far flung destinations, shared our experiences, whether we be walkers, kayakers, history buffs or naturalists. Different viewpoints of the same experience, just as each and every one of us will take away our own unique lived experience from our marvelous time aboard.

A privilege to witness these untouched, remote places of beauty and serenity, we hope that you are able to carry that peace with you in your heart when you return home. Last night our trip of a lifetime ended as it began, with a cocktail in hand at our Captain's Farewell Drinks, we toasted our voyage and our new friends. From all the Aurora and Waterproof staff, a big thank you, to all expeditioners for sharing this journey with us. Thank you also for your great humour, enthusiasm and adventurous spirit. May your memories live long and bright!















# Kayaking Log

By Alex Chavanne

**Kayaking Guide:** Alex Chavanne

**Kayakers:**

Simon Hyde	Sally Cornish	Elke Press
Clare Hicks	Ronald Pagano	Anita Drew
Venkata Cherukumili	Chiara Ennas	Sally Maloney

**DAY 4: Paradise Bay** – Distance: 7.1 km

After a good storm the first day on the Drake, we had a calm second day and a half at sea on approach to the Antarctic. On the morning as we arrived amid the glaciated mountains of the Antarctic, it was calm enough to get out and orient ourselves with the kayaks, and finish kitting ourselves out for our upcoming trip. We sailed in with blue skies and calm conditions, and remarkably, we could see mountain peaks stretching up and down the Peninsula. Filled with enthusiasm the kayakers assembled on the back deck, dressed in layers, ready for the premier paddle. We all gracefully entered our kayaks in perfectly calm conditions and worked out a few steering kinks on our way out to a large iceberg. As we got to know our partners and kayaks we set off for Skontorp Cove, with it’s towering glacier and lots of brash ice in the bay. We pushed through the brash and were met by a minke whale that hung around for a few minutes before moving on through the ice itself. We took a Zodiac-free moment to enjoy a few minutes of silence in this gorgeous scenery with only the screeches of terns, the rumble of avalanches and the popping of ice around us. Paddling on we found a relaxed leopard seal on an ice floe barely large enough for itself, and then went on to make a continental landing. After relishing the first solid land under our feet in several days we jumped back in the boats to paddle into the setting sun. A few more minkes passed us by, and then right before returning to the ship a sleepy humpback graced us with it’s presence before diving and fluking. Returning to the ship we all made a (pretty) smooth re-entry onto the Zodiac and back onboard for a spectacular first paddle.

**DAY 5: Grandidier Channel** – Distance: 3.2 km

After pushing our way steadily south all day long, aiming for the Fish Islands, the Captain finally said “No more, too much ice”, and we turned north. Before starting our way back through the ice, we paused for a quick outing, and most of us jumped in our kayaks at the chance to paddle among thick ice and blue skies. There was not a whiff of wind, and we all layered on the sunscreen with a splendid outlook. With the words, “Stay close and in open water”, we got on the water and started breaking ice away from the ship. We didn’t get far before a perfect ice floe presented itself, and we all got off for a sea ice landing. Like seals, we flopped on the ice and then posed for pictures with sunshine, our kayaks, and the ship in the background. Soon enough we were back in the boats, breaking thin ice in a large circumnavigation of the ship, always careful to have an avenue back in case the ice closed in. After paddling for an hour and a half we heard that the time was up, and we needed to come back so that we could make it across the circle tomorrow. We crunched back to the ship and exchanged a few snowballs with the incoming Zodiacs before coming back onboard for the polar plunge.

**DAY 6: Dettalle Island** – Distance: 5.7 km

After a day of sailing south, crossing the circle around noon, we made it to a small island in the middle of a field of ice. The conditions were again idyllic, and all the paddlers joined for a splendid late afternoon paddle around the island. We set off, with the first question, “will there

be as much ice as yesterday, or will there be some water to paddle in?”. We got enough water in between the ice floes, and were able to snake our way through ice to get up close to Dettalle and watch as Adelie Penguins finished their moult. After being observed by the penguins, we continued on and paddled among bergs and brash in mirror calm conditions and beautiful Antarctic sunshine. We made it around the island with time to spare, and were able to make a quick landing to see the old Base W onshore before heading off back to the ship to catch a beautiful sunset.

**DAY 7: Petermann Island to Pleneau** – Distance: 13.4 km

A light southerly wind had blown all day we were past the circle, and had pushed a lot of ice into our return path north. Because of this we arrived after lunch at our planned first landing back in the northern area of the Peninsula, Petermann island. In an attempt to get both a good penguin landing in and a paddle, we decided to land for two hours, then paddle to our next landing site of the evening, Pleneau. We set off after a good landing, and with a light breeze at our backs, and the ship sailing away, we paddled up Penola Strait. Icebergs dotted our path, and we all spread out and paddled, finding a rhythm while admiring the Antarctic Landscape. It almost felt like we were alone, discovering a new and wild part of the world by kayak. Arriving to Pleneau Island, we paddled amongst beautiful icebergs, while admiring Gentoo penguins from our boat with a drink in hand. As we got cold, and the water on our kayaks froze, we paddled to stay warm, then back to the ship to warm up and enjoy a barbecue.

**DAY 8: Cuverville Island** – Distance: 6.3 km

The day dawned calm and grey, but as the Polar Pioneer sailed through the still waters of the Errera Channel, the icebergs glowed a deep blue as we pulled up alongside Cuverville Island. All the kayakers joined this morning for a beautiful paddle and we set out in search of whales we had seen from the ship. The whales had dispersed, but we were called in to watch a leopard seal, who with the arrival of the kayaks, left the Zodiacs to come investigate. The large seal did backflips and gracefully spun underneath our boats in clear water, and several times came to investigate Alex’s boat and paddle. It finally moved on, and the kayakers moved on to watch more icebergs in calm, mirror like conditions. As penguins porpoised, we paddled amongst the large bergs, and then dropped off a few paddlers who wanted some shore time. The rest of the paddlers stayed out watching icebergs and penguins from the boats. After some time, we went back to retrieve the kayakers on shore and took a few more turns around other large bergs before returning to the ship.

**Melchior Islands** – Distance: 9.2 km

On arrival at the Melchior Islands, the kayakers took off with the zodiacs to explore the myriad channels between the scattered island group. In calm water, we paddled through glacier topped islands, between narrow channels and out towards open water where a hidden swell crashed over rocks. Stopping along the way for fur seals, terns, and our first chinstrap penguins, we laced our boats through rocky inlets and found ourselves at the Argentinian Base Melchior. Stopping in for a look, we took stock of what we could utilize should we ever be stranded in the area. We locked the place back up and took to our kayaks again for a short trip to finish what would be our last paddle in the Antarctic.

**Total paddle outings:** 6

**Total distance paddled:** 44.9km







# Scuba Diving and Snorkelling log

By Pete Shaw

**Scuba Guide:** Pete Shaw  
**Snorkel Guide:** Birgitta Mueck

Divers:	Divers:	Divers:
Nick Wheeler	Robert Gallagher	Mary McCauley
Elvina Payne	David Niederer	Timothy Dickinson
Merrill McCauley	Clayton Black	Ross Mahon
Gary Lindenbaum	Verona Chadwick	Wendy Mahon
Kristiane Heidrich		
Will Akerlof		

## DAY 1: Ushuaia

Our passengers all arrive at the Polar Pioneer at 1600; the luggage has been sent ahead and is already stored in their cabins by the ship’s crew and expedition staff. After some exploration, everyone gathers for introductions, safety and lifeboat briefings, followed by a lifeboat drill. Shortly after dinner we slip our moorings and glide into the Beagle Channel, the lights of Ushuaia twinkling over our wake. Back inside the ship, divers and snorkelers gather in the lecture room for safety and operational briefings, a Q&A session and the issue of equipment for the snorkelers.

## DAY 2: Drake Passage

The Polar Pioneer emerged from the lee of Cape Horn in the early hours of this morning to encounter strong headwinds and ocean swells of 8m and rising; someone once said that you don’t just travel to Antarctica, you have to fight your way in. We may have it easier than the pioneering men and women who first explored the continent, but this is where the expedition starts for real. Today we have two lectures, one on the seabirds and one on the whales of the Southern Ocean; this evening a poignant and thought-provoking film called Ice and Sky is showing. For most passengers, this is a day of slowly acclimatizing to the ship and the motion of the waves as we make our way South towards the Antarctic Peninsula.

## DAY 3: Drake Passage

Today the seas are calmer, the 52 knot winds of yesterday died away through the night and the swells slowly ease away as the morning progresses. This is our last day of preparations before we make landfall with the seventh continent some time tomorrow, so mandatory IAATO and Zodiac briefings are held, clothing and equipment biosecurity screened, and the snorkelers and divers meet in the lecture room to chat about operating procedures and our first dive and Zodiac cruise planned for tomorrow. We also finish paperwork and Pete gives a presentation on the seals we are likely to encounter on, in and around the peninsula. Early in the evening we have our first encounter with dolphins, playing on our bow wave as we continue South.

## DAY 4: Almirante Brown, Paradise Harbour, Skontorp Glacier

Today was our first opportunity to disembark from the Polar Pioneer and what a day it was! Early in the morning we saw our first massive tabular iceberg, some 14km off our port bow, the Captain estimated its height to be around 80m, so another 400m below the waterline. From the bridge we also saw minke whales, penguins, albatross and at least one seal.

Late morning Pete and Birgitta helped the divers assemble and test all of their scuba gear in preparation for the afternoon. Shortly after lunch we loaded our equipment in to the Zodiacs and headed off; our first stop being the Argentine Almirante Brown station and a chance for us all to set foot on the Antarctic mainland. Back in the Zodiacs we cruised round to Skontorp

glacier; the scenery here is almost impossible to describe, the glacier face is vast, sat in the distance across a glassy sea filled with icebergs; if you ever watched Game of Thrones, take The Wall, put it on a mystical coastline and you’re 10% of the way there. Back to the cliff known as Shag Wall and snorkelers and divers slipped into the glassy sea to explore the periphery of an iceberg shimmering with iridescent blues.

Safely back into the Zodiacs we paused to watch minke whales gliding through the water, the sound of their blows cutting through the silent air. As a finale, a humpback whale raised its flukes high into the air before diving into the icy depths. Just the perfect end to a perfect day.

## DAY 5: Lemaire Channel and Points South

An early-morning pipe from Howard, our Expedition Leader, brought us all to the upper decks at half past four this morning to watch in awe as we picked our way through the icebergs in the Lemaire Channel whilst on either side of us, cliffs towered 900 metres into the sky and as we proceeded South, the channel narrowed to less than 500 metres across. Down the Penola Strait past Petermann Island, Verdansky Station and on into the Grandidier Channel until we are finally beaten by the ice around 65 047’ S.

We backtrack to Pilot Peak and head out, some to explore the ice, some for a longer exploration around a large iceberg. The current is packing the surface ice into large sheets, so Pete works the Zodiac to keep the water around the ‘berg free until, some 30 minutes later, our expeditionary divers emerge from the myriad shades of blue in the depths.

## DAY 6: Across the Circle and Detaile Island

Overnight we steam North, West and then South again, taking the ‘outside’ route down to Crystal Sound. The weather is perfect, the ice kind, so we decide to push for Detaile Island, British Base W from the 1956 Geophysical Year. Just after lunch we cross the Antarctic Circle at 66° 33’S; 67° 07’W. We hold a ceremony, celebrate with a toast, listen to a reading of Captain Cook’s Oath and then continue South.

Detaile is sheltering behind a large iceberg, but the waters surrounding the island itself are blue and shimmer in the bright sunlight; into our gear, and the snorkelling and dive teams are off! First stop a quick exploration of the base itself, a fascinating snapshot of life in the late 1950s. Back into the Zodiacs and both teams are soon in the water exploring a small rocky outcrop 100m NNE of the main island itself. Here there is a good wall dive with great snorkelling around the shoreline. The divers return with images of the aquatic life they’ve discovered in the chilly waters whilst the snorkelers chat about the penguins which almost joined them along the shoreline.

It’s late evening by the time we return to the Polar Pioneer and, whilst dinner is served, the ship turns and starts our journey North. As we slip away, we are treated to the most spectacular sunset, reflecting on the ice-covered mountains and icebergs shadowing our route. Our most Southerly position on this expedition has been 66o53’S; 66o48’W.

## DAY 7: Petermann Island / Port Charcot / Pleneau Islands

The morning was given over to land-based Penguin observation; it’s a good feeling to be able to walk around for a few hours. One intrepid snorkeler has the opportunity for some one-to-one in-water time with Brigitta and they play with the penguins amongst the ice and rocks in the harbour. In the evening, having moved North the Southerly end of the Lemaire Channel, we turn into the bay surrounding the Pleneau Islands and Port Charcot.

This area is sometimes called the ‘iceberg graveyard’ and is full of grounded ‘bergs sculpted into fantastical shapes by the wind and the waves. Most people elect for a long Zodiac tour, but







# Scuba Diving and Snorkelling log (cont.)

two go with Pete and Birgitta for a dive in the beautiful blue water around some of the icebergs and then have a tour between the whispering, imposing, multi-hued ice monsters; at the end of the tour, finding a group of seals on some sea-ice before returning to the Polar Pioneer to a surprise BBQ on the aft deck!

## DAY 8: Cuverville Island and Melchior Islands

As this will be our last opportunity for large-scale penguin spotting, this morning we decide to go ashore and mix with the Gentoo colony on Cuverville. On the Zodiac cruise back, Birgitta spots six humpback whales – in all, eight humpbacks and two leopard seals are sighted during the journey.

After lunch we arrive at the Melchiors, a group of medium-sized islands forming a nice circle with several protected harbours within them. Snorkelers and Divers set off to explore. The water appears to be very green – it is summer and the phytoplankton and algae which form the base of the food-chain for everything else are in full bloom. Undeterred we enter the water; the first few metres are indeed of ‘limited’ visibility (about half a metre) but deeper it clears to about 5-6m vis. Starfish, decapods, snails, limpets, kelp and bryozoans cover the rocky seabed in the deeper waters. Excellent video footage allows our resident naturalist Roger to help us identify our discoveries.

## DAY 9: Deception Island – Whaler’s Bay / Hannah Point

This morning is to be our last dive. We embark and head over to the shoreline within the caldera of this still-active volcano; the water’s edge steams with the heat from the volcanic gravel beach. Digging a few centimetres down in to the shingle and it’s too warm to keep our fingers there for long whilst across the beach, the wind whips lines of snowy spindrift into our faces. We explore the old whaling station, photograph the fur seals, soak up the haunting atmosphere and then head out again in our Zodiacs to the cliff walls. The bottom shelves into the depths where hundreds of whalebones can be found; the snorkelers share the rocky shore with fur seals and hunt for bright orange starfish in the shallows.

This afternoon we sort out our equipment, wash and dry it for the trip home. Snorkelling drysuits, hoods, boots, gloves and fins are returned to be cleaned, dried and stored by the team. Our outing this afternoon is on land and by Zodiac, our last chance to experience this magical part of our world.

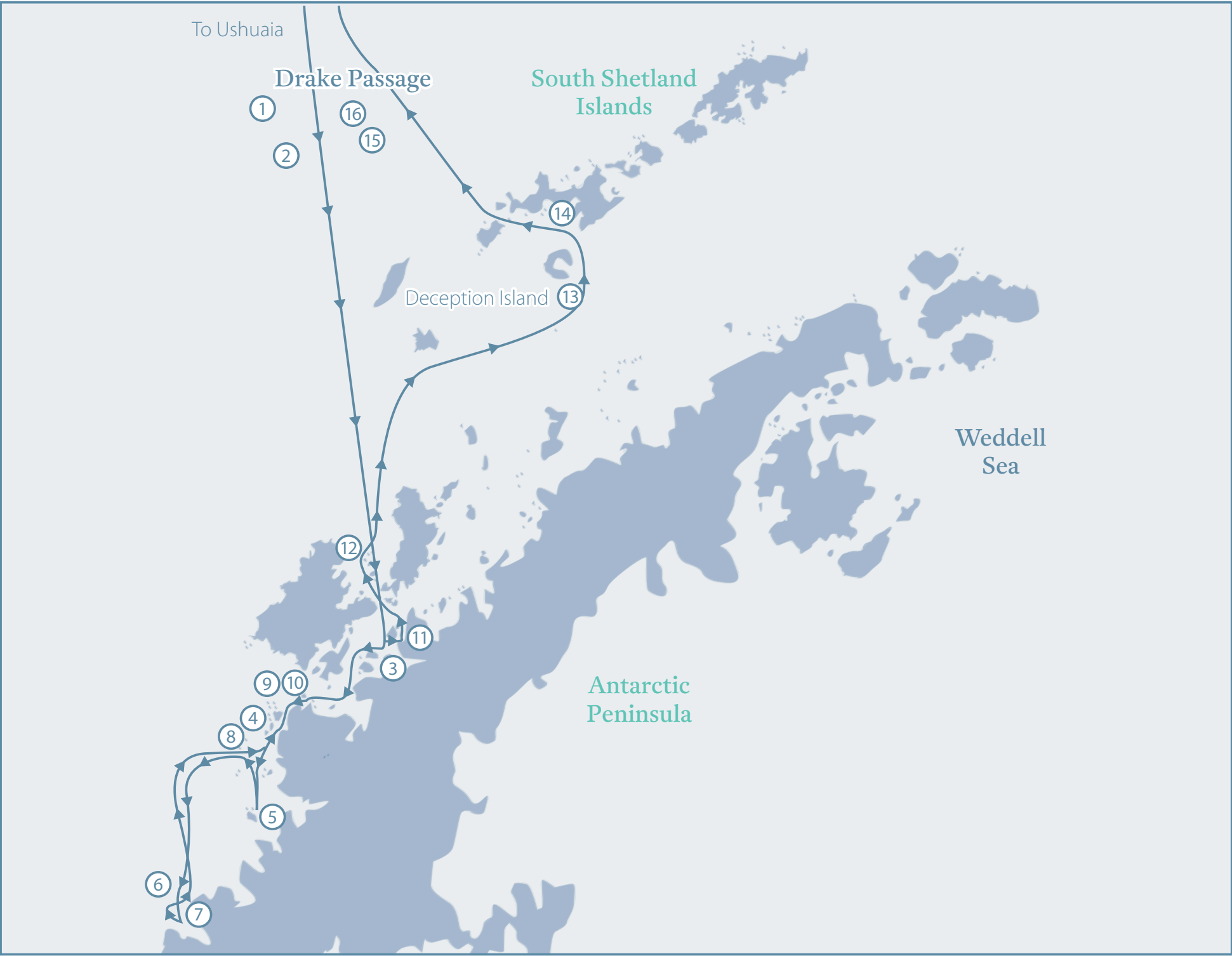




# Across the Antarctic Circle

19 February – 02 March 2019 | Distance Travelled: 2023.2 nautical miles

Southernmost point of voyage: 66° 53' S; 66° 48' W



## Destinations

- |                                  |                                     |                            |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Ushuaia                       | 5. Grandidier Channel Zodiac cruise | 9. Pleneau Iceberg garden  | 13. Whalers Bay, Deception Island |
| 2. Force 8 Gale in Drake Passage | 6. Crossing the Circle!             | 10. BBQ up Lemaire Channel | 14. Hannah Point-Walker Bay       |
| 3. Paradise Harbour              | 7. Detaille Island                  | 11. Cuverville Island      | 15. Cape Horn                     |
| 4. Dawn Lemaire Channel          | 8. Petermann Island                 | 12. Melchior Islands       | 16. Puerto Williams               |



















# Bird species log

BIRD SPECIES	FEBRUARY - MARCH											
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2
King Penguin												
Gentoo Penguin				X	X		X	X	X			
Adelie Penguin					X	X	X					
Chinstrap Penguin				X	X			X	X			
Macaroni Penguin												
Wandering Albatross		X	X							X	X	
Northern Royal Albatross												
Southern Royal Albatross												
Grey-headed Albatross												
Black-browed Albatross		X	X	X					X	X	X	
Light mantled Albatross			X									
Southern Giant petrel	X	X	X				X		X	X	X	
Northern Giant petrel												
Antarctic Petrel												
Cape Petrel		X		X					X			
Snow Petrel				X	X	X	X					
Antarctic fulmar				X		X	X	X	X			
Blue petrel												
Antarctic prion			X									
Slender-billed prion												
Fairy prion												
prion species (unidentified)												
White-chinned Petrel											X	
Sooty Shearwater											X	
Great Shearwater												
Atlantic petrel												
White-headed petrel												
Soft-plumage petrel			X								X	
Wilson's storm petrel		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Grey-backed storm petrel												
Black-bellied storm petrel												
White-bellied storm petrel												



Skua



Gentoo Penguin



Shags



# Bird species log

BIRD SPECIES	FEBRUARY - MARCH													
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2		
Magellanic diving petrel														
Common diving petrel														
Rock shag											X			
Imperial shag	X	X									X			
Antarctic shag				X	X	X	X	X	X					
Kelp goose											X			
Ruddy-headed Goose														
Pale-faced sheathbill				X					X		X			
Chilean Skua	X										X			
Brown skua				X				X	X					
South polar Skua					X	X	X	X	X					
Dolphin Gull	X													
Kelp Gull	X				X	X	X	X	X		X			
Brown-hooded Gull														
Antarctic Tern				X	X	X	X	X	X					
Arctic Tern														
South American Tern	X													
Striated Caracara											X			



Kelp Gull



Adelie Penguin



Giant Petrel



# Mammal species log

BIRD SPECIES	FEBRUARY - MARCH											
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2
South American Sea lion											X	
South American fur seal												
Antarctic Fur seal				X		X	X	X	X			
Southern Elephant seal									X			
Crabeater seal				X	X	X	X	X				
Weddell seal				X		X	X	X				
Leopard seal				X	X	X	X	X				
Blue Whale												
Fin whale			X	X								
Humpback whale				X	X	X	X	X				
Minke whale				X		X	X	X				
Killer whale												
Hourglass Dolphin			X									
Peale's dolphin											X	
Unidentified whale				X					X			







Humpback Whale













# Expeditioners

Emma Abdou  
Monica Akerlof  
Will Akerlof  
Derek Bird  
Lynda Bird  
Clayton Black  
Neil Blackburn  
Maya Oosterhoff Bongers  
Janet Brook

Verona Chadwick  
Chaitanya Cherukumilli  
Aurora Chien  
Karen Corcoran  
Sally Cornish  
Bronwyn Deutscher  
Henry Deutscher  
Tim Dickinson  
Graham Dow

Kelly Drew  
Chiara Ennas  
Mark Evans  
Wes Fuller  
Bob Gallagher  
Andrew Haughton  
Kristiane Heidrich  
David Heron  
Clare Hicks

Simon Hyde  
Marcia Keen  
Viktor Klapp  
Darren Lang  
Gary Lindenbaum  
Waverley Lynch  
Ross Mahon  
Wendy Mahon  
Sal Maloney

Mary Mc Cauley  
Merrill Mc Cauley  
John McKenzie  
Dave Niederer  
Jan Oosterhoff  
Ron Pagano  
Dan Parsonson  
Jim Patton  
Elvina Payne

Phong Van Pham  
Elke Press  
Michelle Rawlings  
Ron Thomas  
Jacinta Tori  
Nick Wheeler  
Robyn Wootton  
Amanda Zenger





## Expedition Team

Expedition Leader	Howard Whelan
Assistant Expedition Leader	Elena Wimberger
Naturalist	Gary Miller
Doctor:	Lesley Cadzow
Chef:	Allan Estoque
Second Chef:	Herbert Cruz
Hotel Manager:	Kathrine Ersando
Kayaking Master:	Alex Chavanne
Dive Guide:	Pete Shaw
Snorkel Guide:	Birgitta Mueck

## Polar Pioneer Crew

Captain	Aleksandr Evgenov	Able Seaman	Valerii Riabtcev
Second Captain	Vladimir Zimin	Able Seaman	Aleksandr Kiselev
Second Mate	Sergei Abramaov	Able Seaman	Rashit Ganiev
Third Mate	Evgenii Terentev	Motorman	Dmitrii Litvineko
Radio Operator	Dmitry Korchevskiy	Stewardess	Daria Boykova
Chief Engineer	Denis Strelkov	Stewardess	Alina Glazkova
Second Engineer	Pavel Voronov	Stewardess	Svetlana Fedora
Third Engineer	Britvin Maksim	Stewardess	Anna Plavina
Electrical Engineer	Viacheslav Deviatkin	Stewardess	Iliana Koval
Boatswain	Dmitry Belousov	Stewardess	Elena Liukshina
		Russian Crew Chef	Denis Zhenchevskii

## Photo Credits

Will Akerlof	Ross Mahon
Monica Akerlof	Wendy Mahon
Derek Bird	Sally Maloney
Lynda Bird	Mary McCauley
Clayton Black	Merril McCauley
Neil Blackburn	John McKenzie
Lesley Cadzow	Dave Niederer
Alex Chavanne	Maya Oosterhoff
Chaitanya Cherukumilli	- Bongers
Aurora Chien	Ron Pagano
Karen Corcoran	Dan Parsonson
Tim Dickinson	Elvina Payne
Mark Evans	Michelle Rawlings
Gary Miller	Jacinta Tori
Kristiane Heidrich	Howard Whelan
Nick Klapp	Elena Wimberger
Darren Lang	Robyn Wootton
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