



Wild Antarctica



4 – 15 March 2020 | *Greg Mortimer*

About Us

Aurora Expeditions embodies the spirit of adventure, travelling to some of the most wild and remote places on our planet. With over 29 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 | Wednesday 4 March 2020

Frei Station, King George Island

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|----------|------------|-----------------|-----------|-------|
| Position: | 06:14 hours | Wind Speed: | 11 knots | Barometer: | 997 MB & steady | Air Temp: | -1° C |
| Latitude: | 62°12.15' S | Wind Direction: | ESE | | | Sea Temp: | 2° C |
| Longitude: | 58°56.2' W | | | | | | |

Dare to live the life you have dreamed for yourself. Go forward and make your dreams come true. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Our dreams and plans of visiting Antarctica culminated today and finally, here we are on the *Greg Mortimer*. Oh, what a feeling! Until you are on board the ship, you are never totally guaranteed you're going to make it. So many things have to line up – you have to stay healthy enough to travel, then you have to make the journey from home to Punta Arenas without significant delays, the ship has to be ready and waiting at the other end, and then the weather in both Punta Arenas AND King George Island has to be suitable for flights to take off and land in a certain weather window. And we have all heard about the weather in Antarctica - it's not known for being clement. After a week of cancelled flights, we got very lucky. The clouds lifted, the wind dropped, and the sun even shone for a brief moment!

After our two-hour flight from Punta Arenas we landed post-lunch and were transferred to the waiting Zodiacs which whisked us across the seas to the *Greg Mortimer* where we rapidly met several of the crew and expedition team including the sailors who helped us from the Zodiac to the back deck, Photographer Jared who took our happy snaps for the ID board, Reza who signed us onto the ship and later sorted out our new blue and grey Aurora

jackets, Ian and Toby who showed us to our mud-room lockers, the reception staff who gave us the keys to our comfortable new cabins where we were reunited with our bags, and then finally and happily, the food and beverage staff. It was starting to feel like we had come home, whilst at the same time beginning an intrepid expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula aboard a magnificent, almost futuristic ship, still in her maiden season.

There is a lot of necessary information that must be taken in on a trip like this, so we soon were beckoned to the lecture theatre where we practiced the mandatory lifeboat drill which went very smoothly. Shortly after we adjourned to the lecture theatre for the welcome briefing where we were given an idea of what lay ahead by Christian, our expedition leader, and introduced to the expedition team who have many years of Antarctic experience between them.

Finally it was dinner time – the first of many delicious meals and an opportunity to get to know our fellow travellers a bit better – and then bed time. Worn out after a busy day, we fell asleep to the motion of the ocean, dreaming of all that lies ahead...







DAY 2 | Thursday 5 March 5 2020

Foyn Harbour, Enterprise Island

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------|------|-----------------|---------|------------|------------------|
| Position: | 06:30 hours | Course: | 193° | Wind Speed: | 5 knots | Barometer: | 993 MB & falling |
| Latitude: | 64°03'S | | | Wind Direction: | NE | Air Temp: | 2°C |
| Longitude: | 61°18.2'W | | | | | Sea Temp: | 2°C |

Glittering white, shining blue, raven black, in the light of the sun, the land looks like a fairy tale, pinnacle after pinnacle, peak after peak – crevassed wild as any land on our globe, it lies, unseen and untrodden. — Roald Amundsen

‘Through the Antarctic Night’ was the title of Frederick Cook’s book about the first (unplanned) overwintering, but our first Antarctic night was, by contrast, a dream of comfort and delight. A calm passage from King George Island in the South Shetlands, where we landed yesterday, across the Bransfield Strait lulled us in our sleep on soft pillows, until we awoke this morning to find ourselves sailing amongst the islands and channels of the Antarctic Peninsula. But it was mysterious, with a calm grey sea and misty grey sky offering glimpses of white-capped peaks. Icebergs and bergy bits floated by. Kelp gulls hung in the air beside our picture windows on the look-out for breakfast, while a snow petrel flitted past in its perfect whiteness. We were entering the De Gerlache Strait, a beautiful passage discovered in 1898 by the Belgica Expedition under its leader Adrian de Gerlache.

After breakfast, and some mandatory briefings to prepare us for our adventures to come, our ship navigated the Graham Passage, an exquisite narrow channel between Murray Island and the Continent, with close-up atmospheric views of glaciers, icecaps and icebergs.

The culmination of the day, however, was our first Zodiac cruise, at Foyn Harbour and Enterprise Island. Undeterred by looming sleet, we were thrilled to find groups of humpback

whales feeding close to the ship. Icebergs in shades of blue and white adorned the bay. Antarctic terns zoomed overhead, their characteristic sharp cries piercing the air. From a rocky prominence a lone fur seal made a majestic silhouette against the sky. On another, Antarctic cormorants were flying in to feed their waiting chicks, now almost fully grown and soon to be independent of their parents.

Enterprise Island lies immediately to the north of the larger Nansen Island. The youthful Roald Amundsen named this island after his polar hero in 1898, but in the early decades of the 20th century, this area served as a base and harbour for the Norwegian whaling industry. Fleets of whalecatchers went out hunting many species of whale, and brought them back for processing to a factory ship, supported by small wooden waterboats. We saw the decaying remains of some of these boats, left abandoned on the shore, and finally the factory ship itself. In 1915, after a successful season of processing 530 whales, a night of celebration ended in a disastrous fire, leaving the wrecked ship grounded and burnt out, the cargo lost and the sailors to be rescued by other whalers.

Our epic first day ended with an evening ship cruise in the still, still waters of Wilhelmina Bay under amazing light, and ever more pods of humpback whales, our theme for the day, feeding, fluking and filling our hearts with Antarctic joy.



DAY 3 | Friday 6 March 2020

Port Charcot, Argentine Islands

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------|------|-----------------|---------|------------|------------------|
| Position: | 07:00 hours | Course: | 178° | Wind Speed: | 3 knots | Barometer: | 988 MB & falling |
| Latitude: | 65°05'S | | | Wind Direction: | NE | Air Temp: | 1°C |
| Longitude: | 64°01.2'W | | | | | Sea Temp: | 2°Ct |

Who would believe in penguins unless someone had seen them?
— Connor O’Brien

A day packed with varied activities and the full range of Antarctic weather. As the day started the ship was approaching Lemaire Channel – perhaps one of the most photographed bits of the Antarctic. Unfortunately, the lofty peaks bordering the narrow channel were hidden in the clouds, but we were still able to enjoy the incredible ice cliffs and jumbled seracs that form the waterline. At the narrowest part of the 11 km-long channel a huge iceberg blocked our way, but Captain Joachim skilfully manoeuvred the *Greg Mortimer*, wiggling between the ice and the rocky cliff.

During breakfast the ship moved to the west side of Booth Island where we did our first Antarctic landing at Port Charcot. Here, in 1904 the famous French Explorer Jean Charcot spent a winter with his ship, the *Francais*, locked in the ice. High on the hill remains the cairn that his team built and we discovered the remains of his magnetic hut – now just a pile of stones and faded timber. As the snow fell we enjoyed some memorable wildlife encounters. Gentoo penguins are nearing the end of their summer breeding season, but there were still some large chicks around, soon to depart for the sea. Other gentoos were moulting – standing quietly to conserve energy as they shed their old feathers and grew new ones. We encountered three species of seals: a yearling elephant seal, far south from the normal range of this species; a couple of young Weddell Seals snoozing on the rocky beach; and several male fur seals, frolicking in the sea and having endless play-fights on the shore.

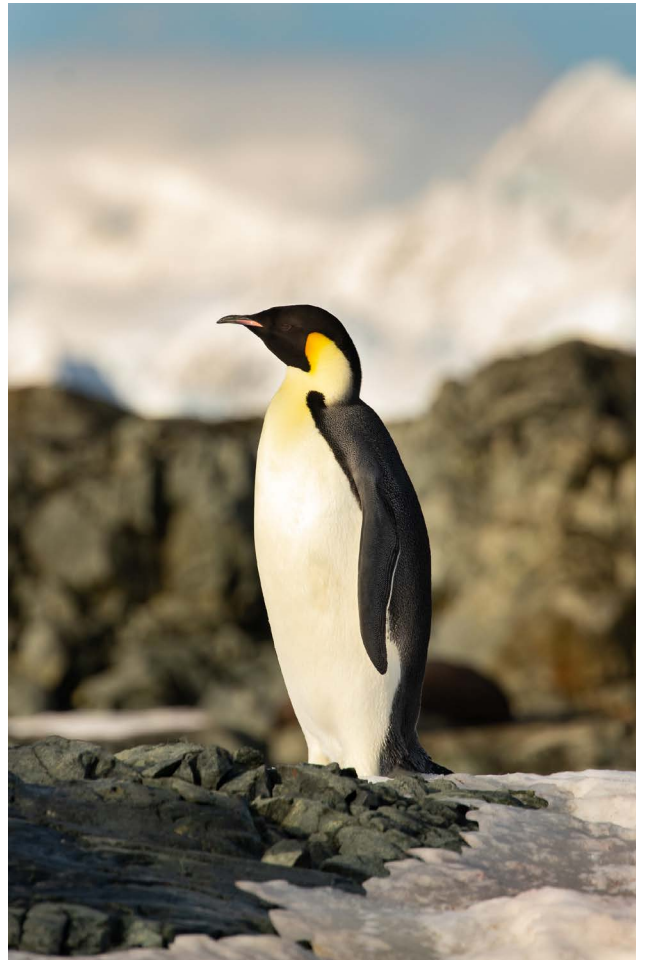
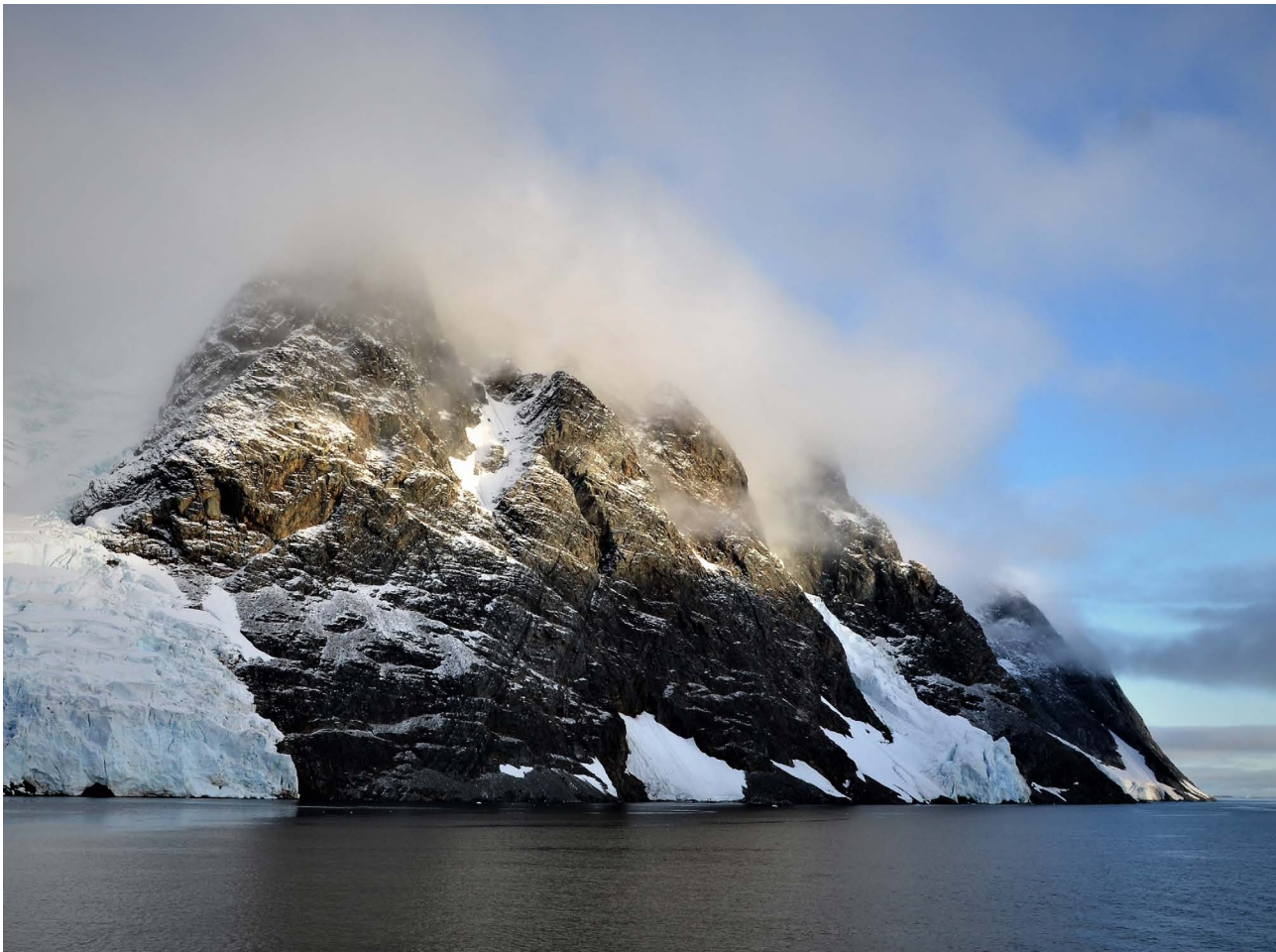
With chilled fingers we were glad to get back to the ship in time for the excellent lunch fare.

After lunch, in improving weather, we did a Zodiac cruise around the Argentine Islands archipelago. We passed Vernadsky Station, originally the British base Faraday, but since 1966 the Ukrainian Antarctic base. Around the corner we went ashore to visit Wordie Hut. Built in 1947 to replace an earlier hut that was swept away in a tsunami, this is now a museum and a legacy of the 1950s style of British Antarctic living.

As we cruised around icebergs and mossy outcrops, we encountered more species of penguins. First, some Adélies, sitting quietly while they grew new feathers to replace the faded, worn ones. Then, the best prize of all, an immaculate emperor penguin, the biggest of all the penguins. Standing on a snow bank, this magnificent bird demanded many megabytes of photo images. A few lucky expeditioners were there when the snow stopped, the sun came out and the emperor walked over to within a few metres of the clicking cameras. Wow!! Finally, a king penguin, hidden deep within an icy cove. Looking a bit ragged as it moulted, this was still an exciting find.

The finale of the day was a return through Lemaire Channel – this time in sunshine and spectacular views of the 900 metre high mountains on either side. Our day ended with a final nod to Charcot – seeing Mount Francais, the highest peak in this part of the Antarctic, bathed in the setting sun.







DAY 4 | Saturday 7 March 2020

Neko Harbour, Paradise Harbour

Position: 07:00 hours
Latitude: 64°48'S
Longitude: 62°43.2'W

Course: 342°
Speed: 4.6 knots

Wind Speed: 3 knots
Wind Direction: NE

Barometer: 994 MB & falling
Air Temp: 0°C
Sea Temp: 0°C

*I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship, and a star to steer her by.*
— John Mansfield

The amazing weather continues. As we were woken from our slumber this morning, we were greeted with radiant sunshine reflecting off the still surface of the mysterious dark waters of Neko Harbour. It felt like Antarctica was smiling at us. It's hard to imagine how such a glorious place has such a dark history. Neko Harbour is named after one of two whale processing ships of the Norwegian businessman Salvesen . The Neko was wrecked off the coast of Brazil on it's return at the end of the whaling season in 1924.

We were surrounded by high, snow covered rocky mountain peaks and glacial fronts, the sun highlighting the many shades of white and blue contrasting with the brown of the rock. For some, the landing on the continent of Antarctica at Neko Harbour completed the challenge of stepping on all seven continents in the world and Jared was on shore to document our achievement.

We were offered an opportunity to stretch our legs by climbing to the saddle behind the main rocky outcrop overtaken by nesting gentoo penguins, but our endeavour was thwarted by mother nature as the icy slopes became treacherous underfoot once the sun reached the westerly slopes and melted the crusty surfaces. So we satisfied ourselves with sitting or standing on the rocky foreshore watching the groups of newly moulted baby penguins, gathered in their creche groups, exploring the shore stranded bergy bits of ice or paddling in the new world of water in which they are destined to spend much of their time on earth. Up to now in their short lives they have stumbled and waddled awkwardly on land but with their coats of new waterproof feathers they are able to be submerged in the water for the first time and discover the environment for which they were truly made.

What better way to finish a perfect start to the day other than a plunge into the crystal waters of the harbor with the backdrop of the glacier. Some 37 passengers took leave of

their senses and stepped off the back of the ship into the icy water with most climbing out almost faster than they went in.

During lunch we weighed anchor and left Neko the distant mist surrounding the ship reducing visibility to a few feet, and following us as we travelled through canal Aguirre to the location of our afternoon zodiac cruise.....Paradise Harbour.

And paradise it was. The mist miraculously lifted as we anchored revealing yet more snow-covered peaks interspersed with glaciers flowing down to the waters edge. Hump back whales were lazily logging on the surface and diving, tantalizing us with a view of their flukes before they disappeared into the water. A low band of mist persisted above the water creating a mysterious illusion that appeared in our photos like a smudge of grey through the middle of the picture. The mist flirted with our view of the surrounding peaks at times hiding them from view and at times revealing them.

We lazily cruised in our Zodiacs or kayaks in the sunshine across the calm smooth waters of Paradise disturbing the reflections of our surrounds with our passage, marvelling over the scenery or observing the crab-eater and leopard seals equally lazing on ice floes and bergy bits in the warmth of the sun.

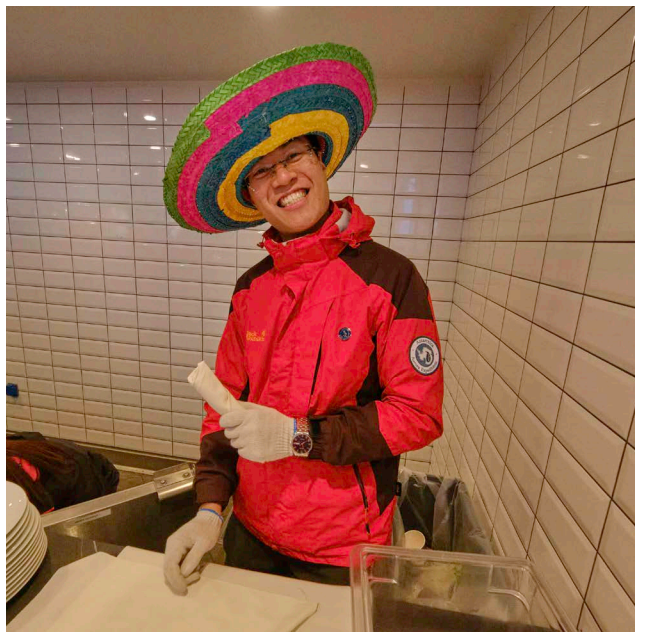
In our daily recap we had a quick overview of the nomenclature of the varieties of penguins we have and are likely to see during our trip, a quick lesson on those funny jellyfish like "Salps" and the now familiar review of the weather forecast and plan A for the next day.

After the recap we followed the delicious aroma up the stairwell to the 8th deck where dinner was served outside – a BBQ! The mist closed back in and shrouded the ship as we donned funny hats, drank Gluhwein, jived to the music and enjoyed the delicious fare prepared by our chefs.

Another superb experience in Antarctica draws to an end, how can our Expedition leader possibly top such a perfect day?







D’Hainaut Island, Spert Island

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------|-----------|
| Position: | 07:30 hours | Course: | 60° |
| Latitude: | 63°58’S | Speed: | 7.1 knots |
| Longitude: | 60°57’W | | |

I felt as though I had been plumped upon another planet or into another geologic horizon of which man had no knowledge or memory.
— Admiral Richard E. Byrd, 1938, Alone

We awoke to a crisp day. Calm winds and low scattered cloud that cleared during the late morning. Overnight we travelled from Paradise Harbour north along the Gerlache Strait to Trinity Island. Its coastline of arcuate bays provided us with a day of exploring small islands, beaches, rock stacks and towering cliffs, and tumbling ice falls and crevassed slopes.

Trinity Island is the volcanic remnant of an island arc stretching north east towards the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. The island arc formed about 20 million years ago when the seafloor spreading was separating Antarctica from South America and creating the Drake Passage. This was contemporaneous with the time when the first glaciers were forming in the mountains of interior Antarctica.

The morning excursion focused on Mikkelsen Harbour and a landing on the small island of D’ Hainaut. The approaches to the island are extremely shallow and we cautiously navigated our way to the beach on the northern shore, guarded by groups of Gentoo penguins.



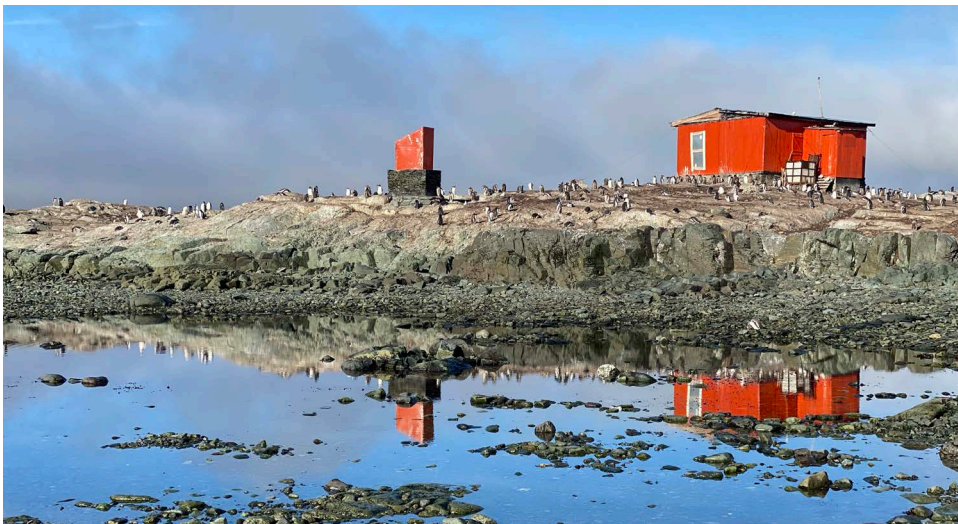
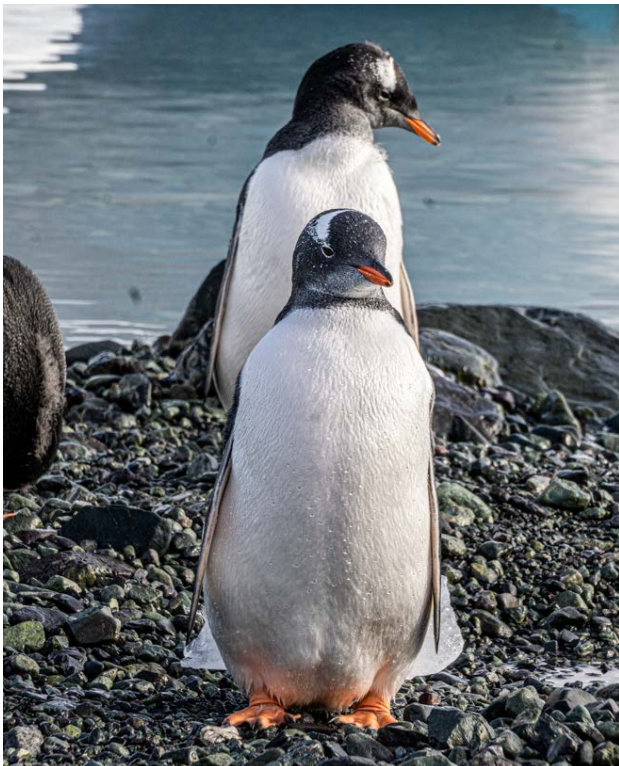
| | | | |
|-----------------|----|------------|-----------------|
| Wind Direction: | NE | Barometer: | 996 MB & steady |
| | | Air Temp: | -1°C |
| | | Sea Temp: | 1°C |

The shore was peppered with small bergy bits that looked like translucent lava lamps. Whale bones littered the beach berm. These bones were massive in scale and most likely were the bones from large blue whales slaughtered during the early 1900’s by the whalers. These whales may have been over a hundred years old when they were slaughtered. A muddy trail in mostly penguin guano led us to many groups of penguins, fur seals and Snowy Sheathbills. A pesky leopard seal made an appearance and chased the kayak zodiac surprising Toby.

The ship repositioned during lunchtime to anchor off Farewell Rocks at the south-west extremity of Trinity Island. Our zodiac cruise during the afternoon was made under overcast skies and a low south-west swell. We snaked our way between towering rock stacks, iceberg blocked passages and through vaulted arches and caves. Surging swell and opposing currents made the zodiac trip full of surprises. The cliffs are formed in columnar basalts and pillow lava flows. The jointed, fractured and hexagonal columns of basalts resembled a scene from Hitchcock’s film ‘The Birds’ with seabirds swirling overhead. Turquoise blue icebergs were a contrast to the sobering black basalt cliffs.

The day culminated with a cracker talk by Carol for International Womens Day.





DAY 6 | Monday 9 March 2020

Brown Bluff, Paulet Island

Position: 07:00 hours
Latitude: 63°13'S
Longitude: 57°03'W

Course: 126°
Speed: 10.2 knots

Wind Speed: 6 knots
Wind Direction: NNW

Barometer: 1004 MB & rising
Air Temp: -4°C
Sea Temp: 1°C

A first walk in any new country is one of the things which makes life on this planet worth being grateful for. — Charles William Beebe

This morning Christian’s voice woke us up at 7 o’clock - as we already know by now, we are on an expedition, not a holiday! We arrived in the Antarctic Sound and the surrounding scenery was stunning, we’ve seen our first tabular icebergs, the water was flat and calm and the sun peaked through here and there! For this morning, we planned to do another continental landing on the peninsula. Around 9 o’clock we arrived then at a descriptively named place called Brown Bluff. A towering rust-colored and ice-capped 745 meter bluff dominates the landscape, which is the exposed portion of a glacial volcano, and its tuff cliffs are embedded with many lava “bombs”.

The Adélie penguins which inhabit this place have already left, except a few single birds here and there, but there were still plenty of gentoo penguins. After we visited the penguins and had a look at the volcanic rocks, most of us went for a hike up on the side moraine of the nearby glacier and could actually step on the glacier where we enjoyed a fantastic view. Just as we were all back on board, the fog came in and we moved towards our afternoon landing place, called Paulet Island. Before we went out again, Peter Eastway gave us a lecture about

Photography, Lightroom and Postproduction. We learned some nice tips and tricks how to work on your pictures!

In the afternoon we went out at Paulet Island further in the Antarctic Sound, which was discovered by nobody else than Sir James Clark Ross and he named it for a fellow Royal Navy captain. Paulet Island has a lot of history, as it is home to the remains of a hut built by the shipwrecked crew of the ship Antarctic, in order to survive the winter of 1903.

Captain Carl Larsen, 19 of his men and the ship’s cat from Nordenskjöld’s expedition were marooned here for a winter after their ship Antarctic sank 40 kilometres away. And you can also find the grave of the seaman Ole Kristian Wenersgaard, a lone casualty from this expedition. But beside the history, Paulet is of course known for the nesting Adélie penguins, as it is one of the biggest colonies in Antarctica, and for the blue-eyed shag colonies. The weather conditions were perfect, we still found a few Adélies on the shoreline and loads of shags on the hill. Some of us went on a hike and the rest of us spent the sunny afternoon strolling along the beach, where some Weddell seals were lying, and fur seals and a leopard seal were swimming in the water. A perfect day in the Weddell Sea!







DAY 7 | Tuesday 10 March 2020

Weddell Sea, Snow Hill Island

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------|------------|-----------------|----------|------------|------------------|
| Position: | 07:00 hours | Course: | 212° | Wind Speed: | 12 knots | Barometer: | 1010 MB & rising |
| Latitude: | 63°45'S | Speed: | 10.4 knots | Wind Direction: | E | Air Temp: | -4°C |
| Longitude: | 56°38'W | | | | | Sea Temp: | 0°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

When we think that we’ve seen everything the Antarctic has to offer, this wild place brings up something new. Not only did we wake up on the other side of the Antarctic Peninsula – a different place from where we have been exploring - but upon peering out our windows during breakfast, Orcas and a snow petrel graced us with their presence. Slicing through the still waters of the Weddell Sea, a pod of over 30 killer whales ease their way through and around the plethora sea ice surrounding the ship.

Captain Saterskog expertly navigated the *MV Greg Mortimer* through the myriad sea floes dotting the horizon. Our day’s objective was a single-minded endeavour. Snow Hill or bust! As our ship steered slowly and delicately further south, Carol regaled us with the exciting, serendipitous and in the end, successful, expedition of the Swedish Antarctic Expedition of Otto Nordenskjöld. This took place in the very region we were traveling.

The Heroic Age of exploration took place from 1897 -1923, catalysed by the meeting of the Sixth International Geographical Congress in London where a general resolution was passed in order to promote the cause of Antarctic exploration, as it was the last unexplored

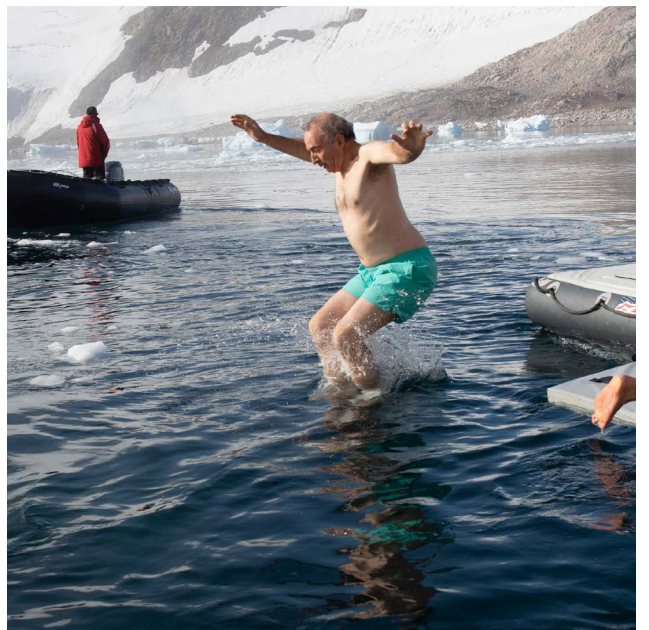
area on earth. Nordenskjöld was a geologist and wanted to explore the geologic history of Antarctica. He led the Swedish Antarctic Expedition from 1901 – 04. An adventure as exciting, and considerably more successful, than that of the well-renowned Shackleton.

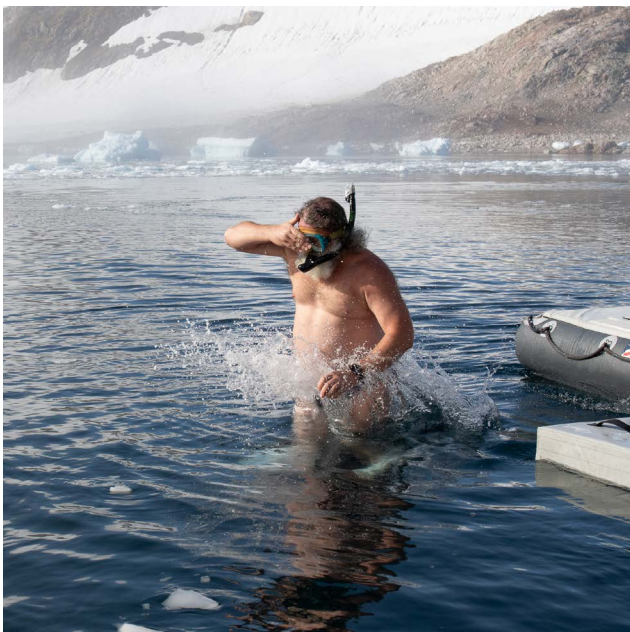
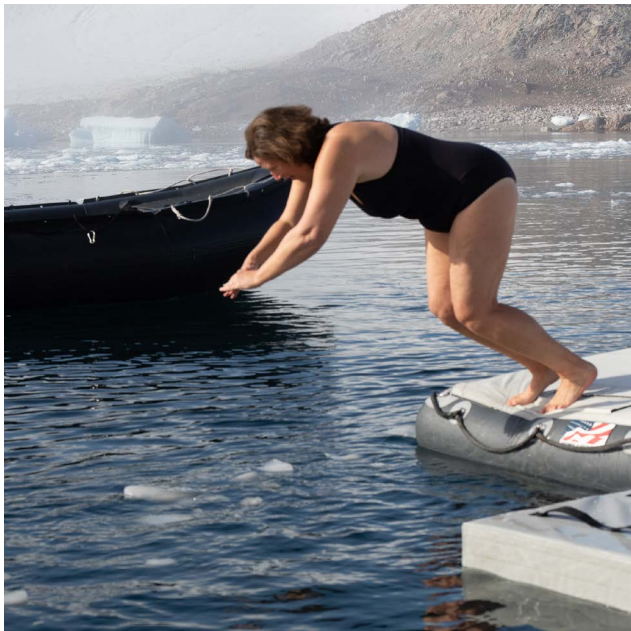
On Snow Hill Island stands a historic hut in which Nordenskjöld and five other members of his team spent two winters. Despite staying longer in Antarctica than initially planned, as well as a fateful rescue in the end, the expedition scientists had gathered much valuable scientific information and published reports that set the standard for subsequent expeditions. The expedition also made significant contributions to exploring the geography of the Antarctic Peninsula. These things were accomplished while overcoming formidable obstacles requiring courage and tenacity by all to survive the events of the expedition.

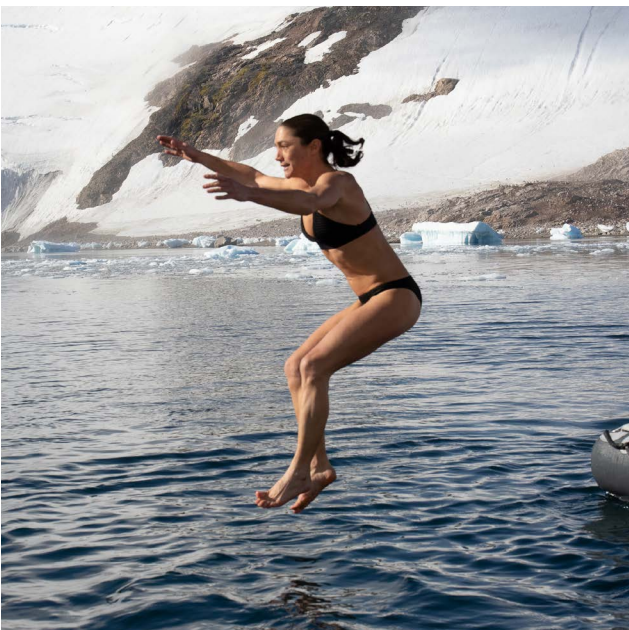
Walking into this hut, so well-preserved after over a century was humbling for many. The smell of a rustic wood cabin and the quaint wood-stove made one think that it might not be so horrible to spend a winter in Antarctica.

After battling the mud on our muck-boots with brushes before loading the Zodiacs, we made our way back to our cosy floating home-away-from-home where the bar and coffee-station welcomed us as we let the days activities sink in. Weddell Sea wonder, you do deliver!











DAY 8 | Wednesday 11 March 2020

Weddell Sea

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|------------|-------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| Position: | 07:00 hours | Course: | 259° | Wind Speed: | 2.3 knots | Barometer: | 1013 MB steady |
| Latitude: | 63°43'S | Speed: | 9.3 knots | Wind Direction: | SE | Air Temp: | -6°C |
| Longitude: | 56°54'W | | | | | Sea Temp: | 0°C |

*The ice was here, the ice was there, the ice was all around;
It cracked and growled, and roared and howled, like noises in a swound*
— Samuel Taylor Coleridge, from ‘Rime of the Ancient Mariner’

Such a beautiful and intense sunrise we woke up to today. In the early morning light, the Weddell Sea shows off again with its many impressive icebergs and several feeding humpback whales. There is for sure something magic with these early mornings in Antarctica. While enjoying yet another tasty breakfast buffet, *Greg Mortimer* continues to safely navigate us through the picturesque scenery surrounding us. Today we are on a mission, which is to find an ice flow big enough for us all to land on. It does not take long until the prefect ice for the activity is spotted and it is then time to get ready for the zodiacs. The sun smiles big and strong when we enter the zodiacs for the short ride over to the chosen ice. Zodiac driving up onto the ice flow shows up being a fun and exciting activity in itself! Shortly thereafter, we all find ourselves walking on the frozen water. How exciting as most of us has never been walking on sea ice before! With its many formations and miniature hills, the ice flow is like a landscape in itself and a fun place to roam around and explore. The napping crabeater seals also seem to fully enjoy their relaxed time on this nice piece of floating ice.

After a scenic paddle, the kayakers join the team on the ice and we get the perfect opportunity to take a group photo, or more correctly many of them! Such a good atmosphere with never ending smiles all around, the sea ice certainly brings joy to us all. Time flies when having fun and it is so time to head back to the ship, where champagne and mingle in the sun on deck 7 awaits us. Another group photo is taken before *Greg Mortimer* continues the northbound voyage. The chill from the increasing wind makes perfect timing to get inside for a tasty and warming lunch.

The big windows in the dining room are highly appreciated among us all. It does not matter in which direction we look, the many huge and impressive ice bergs are everywhere. And so the scenic ship cruise continues through the icy water of the Weddell Sea. More humpback whales and seals are seen from the bridge and observation lounge.

We learn more about these fascinating marine mammals, living in this freezing, cold environment, during Alan’s afternoon lecture about whales and seals in Antarctica. Tasty sweet bites are served in the lecture theatre and we have time to enjoy the ship cruise even further, before it is time for the daily recap and information about tomorrow’s plan. The evening continues with a delicious dinner followed by beer and cocktail specials to enjoy in the Jacuzzi. What an amazing and unforgettable day in Antarctica we yet again had!







DAY 9 | Thursday 12 March 2020

Walker Bay/Hannah Point & Drake Passage

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------|------------|-----------------|---------|------------|----------------|
| Position: | 07:00 hours | Course: | 336° | Wind Speed: | 7 knots | Barometer: | 1015 MB steady |
| Latitude: | 62°58'S | Speed: | 11.6 knots | Wind Direction: | NW | Air Temp: | -1°C |
| Longitude: | 60°36'W | | | | | Sea Temp: | 1°C |

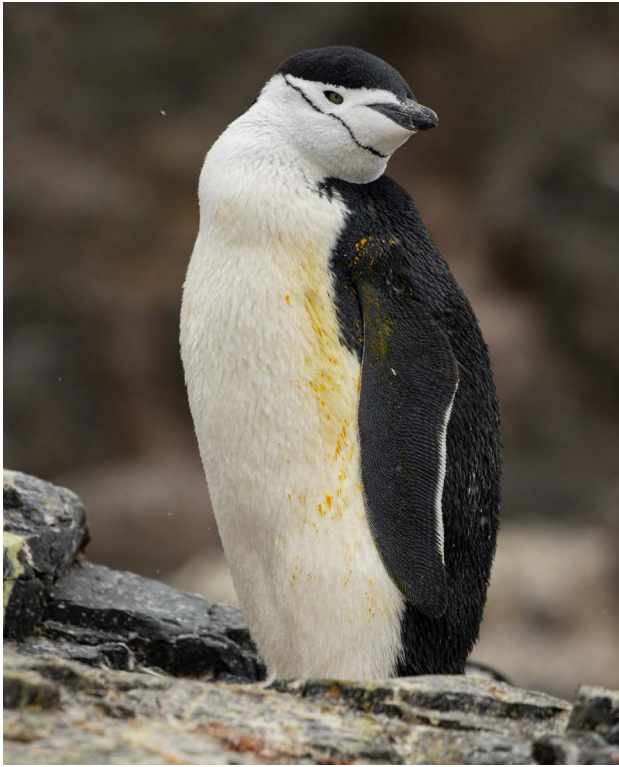
The land was gone, all but a little streak, away off on the edge of the water, and down under us was just ocean, ocean, ocean – millions of miles of it, heaving and pitching and squirming, and white sprays blowing from the wave-tops, and we had the sky and the ocean to ourselves, and the roomiest place I ever did see and the loneliest — Mark Twain, Tom Sawyer Abroad

The dawn sky was still dark as Christian roused us from our bunks as the ship approached Deception Island. As we sipped our morning coffee the *Greg Mortimer* slipped through the narrow passage of Neptune’s Bellows, just 230 m wide. On our port side we spotted the hulk of a British whale-catcher that hit a rock mid-way in the channel on New Year’s Eve 1957 and we remembered that the best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men gang aft a-gley. Around the corner we entered Whaler’s Bay – for many decades a favourite anchorage for whale-processing ships and the site of a major shore-based whale processing factory between 1912 and 1931. The huge storage tanks remain – some for ships’ fuel and some for whale oil. Further up the shore are the sagging remains of the British base, abandoned in 1969 after a series of volcanic eruptions in 1967 and 1969. On the far left of this settlement is the big hangar where British aircraft were based in the 1960s for photo-mapping the Peninsula.

Continuing in to the caldera, we marveled at the many colours of the volcanic ash, lava and tuff. Even Captain Joachim was out on deck taking photographs. Hundreds of Kelp Gulls lined the beach in one section – probably enjoying a feast of par-boiled krill, killed by the warm waters emerging from this still-active volcano. As we rounded the shore, we spotted the Argentinian base, with no-one home, and the Spanish base, still active.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times – elation for completing an excellent voyage to a place most of us have longed to visit, but sadness as our Antarctic excursions came to an end. At Walker Bay next to Hannah Point the kayakers had yet another scenic paddle in perfect conditions – Livingstone Island providing shelter from the wind and choppy seas. For the landing party there was much to savour. Groups of hefty elephant seals cuddled up together at each end of the beach and several fur seals cavorted in the waves and along the shore. Although these elephant seals, all males, looked big, they were mostly sub-adults and too lightweight to challenge the really big boys during the spring breeding season. So they lie in a smelly heap, snorting and scratching, and occasionally bashing each other as they shed their old skin and fur. On Hannah Point hundreds of Chinstrap and Gentoo penguins stood quietly moulting their faded old plumage. High on the ridge we could see a dozen or more grey fluffy Southern Giant Petrels nestlings.

All too soon we were back on board and, after an excellent lunch, enjoyed our last views of the Antarctic as we cruised between Snow and Smith Islands and eventually watched the South Shetland Islands disappear behind us. A group of Fin Whales gave us fleeting glimpses. The first pelagic seabirds started appearing – Black-browed albatross, white-chinned petrel and black-bellied storm-petrel. Lectures by Mattias (The Race for the Pole) and Ian (Traversing the East Antarctic Ice Cap) provided the educational component of a busy day. The *Greg Mortimer* rocked us gently to sleep as we began our crossing of Drake Passage.



DAY 10 | Friday 13 March 2020

Drake Passage

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------|----------|
| Position: | 07:00 hours | Course: | 340° |
| Latitude: | 60°32'S | Speed: | 13 knots |
| Longitude: | 65°00'W | | |

*I must go down to the sea again, to the vagrant gypsy life,
To the gulls way and the whales way where the wind's like a whetted knife...*
— John Mansfield

On the Drake Passage. It was an abrupt change in ship motion last night as we left the South Shetland Islands behind and cruised into a building swell. It required a quick acclimatisation and unfortunately many of us were forced to rest. Grey seas and grey skies dawned this morning. The ship was making good speed at 11 knots punching into a lumpy swell. Two wandering albatrosses followed in the ship's wake and was possibly joined by a royal albatross.

For most it was a day to take stock of the adventure they had experienced amongst the mountains, glaciers and fjords of the Antarctic Peninsula. As the ship motored towards the

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| Wind Speed: | 16 knots | Barometer: | 1005 MB & falling |
| Wind Direction: | NE | Air Temp: | 4°C |
| | | Sea Temp: | 1°C |

Antarctic Convergence and Polar Front, the skies became grey and gloomy, whilst the swell abated somewhat. To while away the hours some of us attended lectures on seabirds, the history of the Belgica expedition, and the evolution of the Antarctic ice sheet and shelves. By the middle of the afternoon we had crossed the convergence and warmer climes were ahead. Blue sky beckoned us northward towards Tierra del Fuego.

The evening started with the Captain's farewell drinks followed by a sensational dinner, and the photo evening hosted by our photographers Peter Eastway and Jared Hobbs. As the seas become lumpy again we are no thinking about the verdant green landscape in the Beagle Channel tomorrow afternoon.



DAY 11 | Saturday 14 March 2020

Drake Passage, Beagle Channel, Ushuaia

*Antarctica left a restless longing in my heart beckoning towards an
incomprehensible perfection forever beyond the reach of mortal man.
Its overwhelming beauty touches one so deeply that it is like a wound.*
— Edwin Mickleburgh, Beyond the Frozen Sea

This morning we woke after a peaceful slumber at wharf in Ushuaia on our good ship *Greg Mortimer*. It has been an amazing voyage.

Aurora Expeditions send out a big thank you to you all for your great humour, infectious enthusiasm and smiling faces. It was a pleasure having you all on board and being able to share some of the pleasures that the icy south has to offer. May your memories live long and bright.



Kayaking Log

Kayaking Masters: Toby Story, Eamon Larkin, Daniel Stavart,
Mattias Horntrich, Zet Freiburghaus

Total Distance Paddled: 66.5

Kayakers:

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| David Jones | Sue Pentelow | Paul Cook |
| Pier Wernigk | Julie Wernigk | Berverly Webb |
| Russell Webb | Chris Sorenson | Jenny Sorenson |
| Kathryn Ennis | Georgina Ennis | Margaret Ennis |
| Maya Tiomkin | Susan Rodger | John Culley |
| Graeme Thomas | Kim Strutt | Nick Wilkes |
| Sue Stafford | Marie Panaleon | Paul Quirk |
| Mindy Poder | Joshua Fhima | |

DAY 2: PM – Foyn Harbour – Distance: 7 km

It was directly into the action on our first day on the water. No soon had the kayaks left the pontoon than we were visited by a couple of cruising humpback whales. They surfaced and then dived only meters from our kayaks with whoops of excitement all around. After some gentle paddling through the low rocky islets, all the kayakers re-grouped beside the wreck of the Governor for a group photo. Paddling on we passed many small islets with more remnants of the whaling era before making our way back to the ship against a light headwind.

DAY 3: AM – Port Charcot – Distance: 4-6 km

The light rain that was falling as we began our operations at Port Charcot, quickly morphed into large flakes of snow. As we launched a towering iceberg dropped a few tonnes of ice with a mighty crash nearby. Once again we split into two groups on the water and both groups paddled off into the mist amongst the towering, grounded icebergs. It was eerily calm as the kayakers paddled through the falling snow behind the ice and out of sight of the ship. After an hour and a half, while some decide to return to the warmth of the ship, a hardy few emerged from their snow-covered kayaks and made a landing at the historic site. A truly Antarctic experience.

PM – Vernadsky – Distance: 6-8km

There was light wind and a gentle swell rolling in from the sea as we launched from the *Greg Mortimer* a short distance from the Argentine Islands. After a quick pause beside the Argentine station Vernadsky, mostly to photograph the many Gentoo penguins which also call it home, the group split. The more active group began paddling to the south to see how far they could go, while the others stayed in the shelter of the islands. Shortly afterwards a call came over the radio from Zet and Eamon that they had discovered an Emperor Penguin! Both groups quickly converged and made a short landing to observe the largest and certainly the most majestic, of the penguins. Elated, we paddled off. Some went directly to investigate the remains of Wordie House, a British base established in 1947, while others paddled on to investigate yet another of the world’s largest penguins, the king penguin. As the groups began returning home to the *Greg Mortimer*, the low cloud cleared, revealing the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula glistening with fresh snow. There could be no finer finish to an outing at the most southerly location for our trip.

DAY 4: AM – Neko Harbour – Distance: 5 km

Once again we were blessed with smooth and spectacular paddling conditions. We set out from the *Greg Mortimer* gliding effortlessly on the still seas and paddled into the bay to investigate the endless chunks of ice. Multiple glaciers spill into Neko Harbor although today their sources at the mountain tops disappeared into the mist. Occasionally, the sounds of ice falling from high in the mountains or crashing into the water from a glacier could be heard, although most went unseen. A couple of Minke whales got our attention and we paddled deeper into the bay in the hope that our paths would cross. We past numerous icebergs as we paddled into the bay. One with a bright blue archway was particularly enticing and made for a worthy detour. While the Minke whales sped on, we were lucky to come across two humpback whales heading in our direction. We paddled beside them until they dived and then headed to shore for our first landing on the Antarctic continent. While the paddlers relaxed ashore with the Gentoo Penguins, the guides towed the kayaks back to the ship via Zodiac, getting everyone back just in time for the polar plunge. A very smooth morning for all.

PM – Paradise Harbor – Distance: 6 km

Paradise Harbor certainly lived up to its name today. The paddling conditions were glorious and it was a glassy calm, sunny morning as we left the ship. We first paddled through some thick brash ice before spying some resting weddell seals on the rocky shoreline. As we cruised past the small Argentinian scientific base, Base Brown, we came across a small colony of Blue eyed shags nesting on a cliff face. Around another corner was a small ice floe drifting amongst bigger bergs with three Crabeater seals enjoying the sun. Then we heard it. The sound of a whale blowing in the area. A humpback! We slowly approached and admired (from a safe distance) the now 3 humpbacks feeding and logging before us. They dived and minutes later one resurfaced fairly close to a group of kayaks, a special moment for sure. All too soon, it was time to return to the ship after another great outing.

DAY 5: AM – Mikkelsen Harbour – Distance: 6 km

With the *Greg Mortimer* anchored serenely in Mikkelsen Harbour the paddling team set out to explore its reaches. We were welcomed by glassy calm conditions although that shifted to a cold easterly wind almost as soon as we launched. Whilst not hindering the paddling, the cold wind certainly gave a chill and Antarctic atmosphere to the day. Heading south to the distant islands of Mikkelsen’s shoreline, we found fur seals curled up on a raised beach, and rocky towers of stone festooned with curious penguins and shags. A landing on a cobbled beach allowed for a closer look and revealed that these were chinstrap penguins. A noisy chaotic rookery whose scent was even more impactive than their sound. Soon we took our cold hands back to the warmth of the kayaks for a quick return to the shelter of the harbour. There, with the sun coming out and the wind dropping down, the team could soak up the warmth and beauty of Mikkelsen harbour before returning to the ship.

PM – Spert Island – Distance: 5.5 km

The calm conditions continued as the *Greg Mortimer* steamed the short distance west to Spert Island. With such smooth seas, we were lucky to be able to have the incredibly rare chance to paddle in amongst the extraordinary rock architecture of the Island. Entering into the maze of channels, we found icebergs drifting serenely in the boom and crash of

the waves. Their blue depths rolling and rumbling in the surging swell. Above, the sheer walls of the island reared. Split by the cooling of the volcanic rock over twenty million years ago, and carved out by the never ceasing sea. Paddling further into the islands shelter, the kayaker's playground continued with arches and tunnels, surging channels and truly amazing icebergs. With time running out we turned our noses for home. Negotiating the return journey was just as exciting as the beginning, with shifting ice blocking channels and the noisy swell adding atmosphere to every paddle stroke. With a final stretch of smooth water to cover from the island back the ship, we were able to let the noise and excitement fade behind them. Another great paddle in Antarctica in truly dynamic conditions.

DAY 6: AM: Brown Bluff – Distance: 4.5 km

With more glassy conditions, there was no doubt in anyone's mind that today was another perfect opportunity to kayak. We left the *Greg Mortimer* and paddled to the shore to investigate the volcanic landscape, keeping a close lookout for wildlife among the stranded pieces of ice. Today was the first time we had paddled amongst sea ice, a very different type of ice from the glacially formed ice we had become accustomed to. Much of the stranded ice was very thick, indicating that it was ice that has survived for many years floating on the sea. It was a fabulous precursor to what we could expect from the Weddell sea which is infamous for its thick sea ice. We were lucky again with our wildlife encounters and managed to spot all three brushtail penguins including chinstraps, gentoos and adelines in addition to leopard, fur and Weddell seals. We finished off our outing with a short stop and a walk on the edge of a glacier.

PM – Paulet Island – Distance: 8 km

With more glassy conditions in the afternoon, we chose to do a circumnavigation of Paulet Island. Several of the kayak team tested their paddling skills and tried to paddle over some of the smaller bergy bits as we made our way around the island. We passed many fur seals cleaning themselves in the shallow waters beside Paulet as well as a weddell seals investigating us both from land and the water. After a little bit of a headwind we ended our kayaking outing with a short landing at the historic hut on Paulet Island. We were even treated to a brief overview of the history of the Nordenskjold's ill-fated but fortuitous expedition by our expert historian, Carol Knot before a speedy return to the ship.

DAY 7: PM: Snow Hill Island – Distance: 3.5 km

After a morning of sailing southwards amongst the pack ice, the *Greg Mortimer* arrived at Snow Hill Island; the iconic base of Nordenskjold's Swedish Antarctic Expedition and the site of so much drama over a hundred years ago. There we took to the water to explore this famous and rarely visited part of the world. After entering into the pressing pack ice that bordered the island, we found ourselves in a swirling labyrinth of white; small icebergs caught up in the current and gnarled multi-year sea ice floes; frozen, melted, and refrozen for years in the giant spiral of ice that is the Weddell Sea. Soon, Mathias spied a flat floe of ice and with grace and style the whole team was soon standing on the frozen ocean. There we could step out of our kayaks and walk on the frozen whiteness with the seemingly infinite darkness of the depths beneath. With the team gathered on the ice, we opened the Antarctic ice bar and toasted to a truly unique and beautiful moment in one of the most remote places on the planet. A quick slide into the sea off the ice, lead to a paddle back to the ship and finally a landing on the beach of Snow Hill Island. There we were able to walk up along the fossil strewn river bed and to the hut in which Nordenskjold and his crew spent two long Antarctic years.

DAY 8: AM: Weddell Sea – Distance: 3 km

As we launched for the second time on the icy waters of the Weddell sea we spotted a couple of humpback whales swimming beside a tabular iceberg. Once on the water, we played catch the whale and although we got closer, it was hard to keep up with these magnificent mammals. The tabular iceberg that we paddled beside seemed like a shoreline, and although only 15-20mts high was more than 2-3kms long. After giving up on the chase, we turned our kayaks downwind and aimed for a large ice floe where the whole group from the *Greg Mortimer* had landed. We paddled speedily onto the ice and joined the other expeditioners along with 3 crab eater seals who seemed completely unfazed by our arrival. Toby and Zet entertained us with a display of skill, by taking a double kayak out and eskimo rolling it. We then took our photos and then our leave, sliding carefully back off the ice and heading home to the ship.

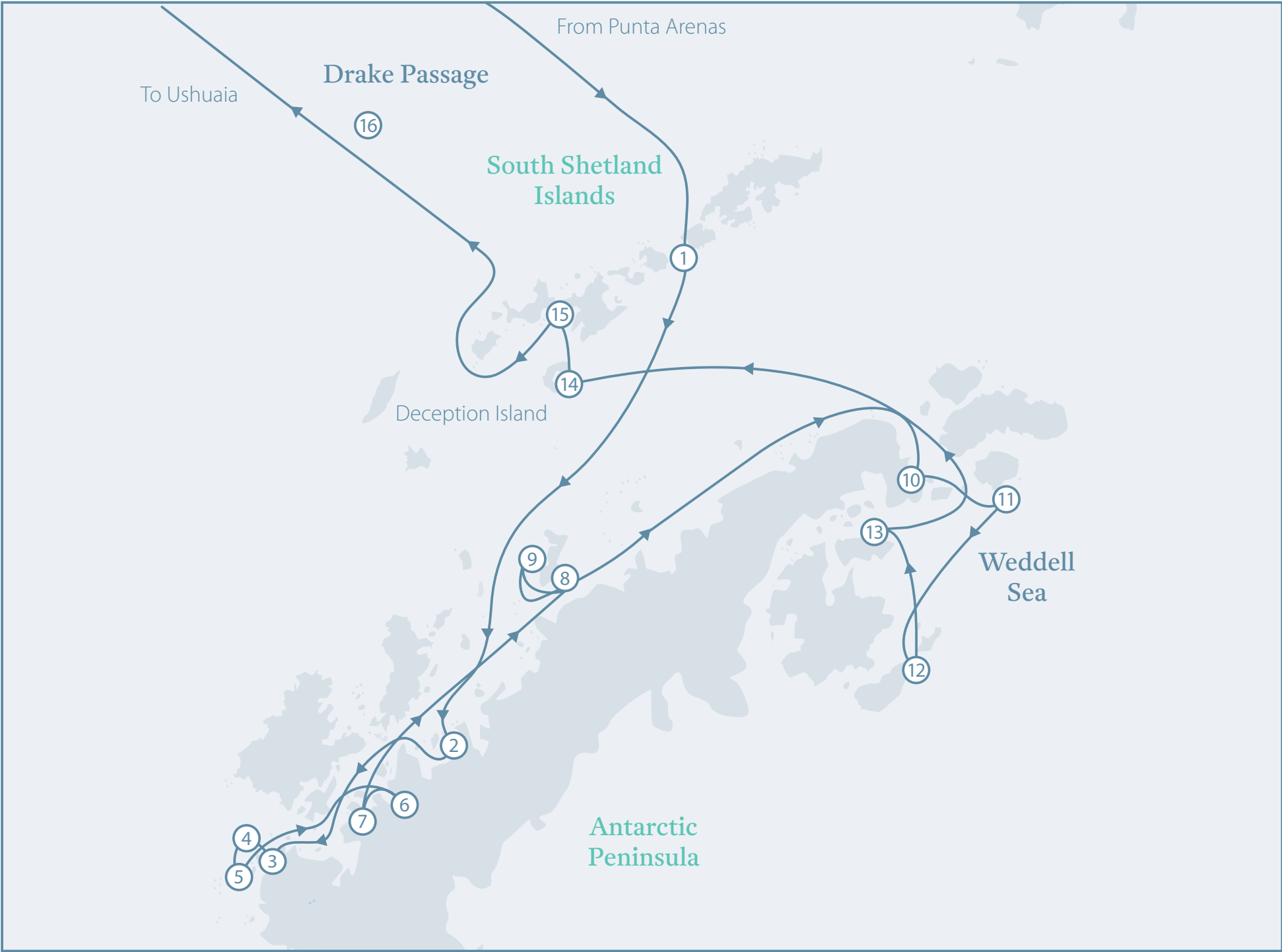
DAY 9: AM: Hannah Point – Distance: 4 km

Like every other day in Antarctica it would seem, today had nearly perfect conditions for kayaking. It was our 10th and final outing of the trip and it should be noted that very few trips in history have we been able to go kayaking every single time there has been an outing from the ship. We divided into two groups on the water, the relaxed and more adventurous one. Both groups kayaked around Hannah Point and made two landings, the more adventurous group definitely having the more exciting landing of the two groups. Both groups stopped onshore to get a closer look at the biggest seal in the world, the elephant seal. We all saw both chinstrap and gentoo penguins moulting and jumping in and out of the water on our second stop at Hannah Point. We all regrouped at Hannah point and before returning to the ship, we lined up together and looked out over the sea to breathe in the salty Antarctic air for one last time from shore. Back onboard we topped off the day with a final toast and a last surprise from Dan the man who presented a great slideshow of images from our grand adventure.



Wild Antarctica

3 – 15 March 2020 | Distance Travelled: 1,488 nautical miles (2,755 kilometres)



Destinations

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Frei, King George Island. | 5. Argentine Islands. | 9. Spert Island. | 13. Erebus & Terror Gulf. |
| 2. Enterprise Island. | 6. Neko Harbour. | 10. Brown Bluff. | 14. Deception Island. |
| 3. Lemaire Channel. | 7. Paradise Harbour | 11. Paulet Island. | 15. Walker Bay. |
| 4. Port Charcot. | 8. Mikkelsen Harbour | 12. Snow hill Island. | 16. Drake Passage. |



Bird Species Log

| Bird Species | March | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | |
| King Penguin | | | x | | | | | | | | | |
| Emperor Penguin | | | x | | | | | | | | | |
| Gentoo Penguin | x | x | x | x | x | x | | x | x | | | |
| Chinstrap Penguin | | | | | x | x | | x | x | | | |
| Adelie Penguin | | | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | |
| Magellanic Penguin | | | | | | | | | | | | x |
| Royal Albatross | | | | | | | | | | x | | x |
| Wandering Albatross | | | | | | | | | | x | | x |
| Black-browed Albatross | | | | | | | | | x | x | | x |
| Grey-headed Albatross | | | | | | | | | x | | | |
| Northern Giant Petrel | | | | | | | | | x | x | | |
| Southern Giant Petrel | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Cape Petrel | | | | | x | | | x | | x | | x |
| Snow Petrel | | x | | x | | | | | | | | |
| Antarctic Fulmar | | x | | | x | | | | | | | |
| Antarctic Prion | | | | | | | | | | x | | |
| White-chinned Petrel | | | | | | | | | x | x | | x |
| Sooty Shearwater | | | | | | | | | | x | | |
| Greater Shearwater | | | | | | | | | | | | x |
| Wilson's Storm-petrel | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | |
| Black-bellied Storm-petrel | | | | | | | | | x | | | |
| Antarctic Blue-eyed Cormorant | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | |
| Pink-faced Sheathbill | | | x | x | x | x | | | x | | | |
| Antarctic (Brown) Skua | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | |
| Kelp Gull | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | |
| Antarctic Tern | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | |
| South American Tern | | | | | | | | | | | | x |
| Dolphin Gull | | | | | | | | | | | | x |



Emperor Penguins



Gentoo Penguin



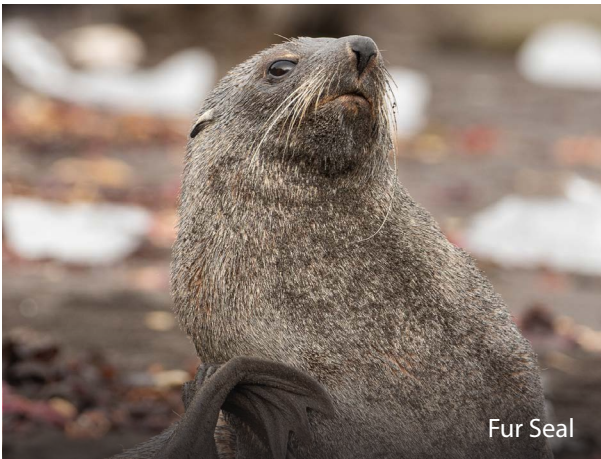
Antarctic Tern



Chinstrap Penguin

Mammal Species Log

| Mammal Species | March | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| South American Fur Seal | | | | | | | | | | | x |
| South American Sea Lion | | | | | | | | | | | x |
| Antarctic Fur Seal | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | |
| Southern Elephant Seal | | | | x | | | | | x | | |
| Crabeater Seal | | | | | x | x | | x | x | | |
| Weddell Seal | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | |
| Leopard Seal | | x | | x | x | x | | | | | |
| Peale's Dolphin | | | | | | | | | | | x |
| Minke Whale | | x | x | x | | x | x | | x | | |
| Fin Whale | | | | | | | | | x | | |
| Humpback Whale | x | x | x | x | x | | x | x | | | x |





Expeditioners

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Cathy Baker | Barbara Cook | Gary Freeman | Lyn Jones | Mindy Poder | Fifi Stamos | Corrie Wedel |
| Jan Biven | Kate Coote | John Ginivan | Renata Kaminski | Eric Pohlman | Ivan Starceвич | Bonnie Wedel |
| Mark Biven | Bob Coote | Rory Graham | Anne Kean | Katie Punter | Julie Starceвич | Julie Wernigk |
| Steve Blander | John Culley | Chris Graham | David Lloyd Jones | Paul Quirk | Jay Stricker | Pier Wernigk |
| Marian Blander | Simon Dalgarno | Janine Guymer | Leah Lopez | John Rafferty | Kim Strutt | Nick Wilkes |
| Mireille Borelli | Trish Drury | John Guymer | Aurora Milentis | Rosie Rafferty | Michele Sutherland | Georgia Wilson |
| Barb Breed | Margaret Ennis | Alek Halas | Chris Milentis | Bronwyn Raphael | Paul Tarjan | Graeme Wilson |
| Robert Breed | Phillip Ennis | Dawn Halas | Mario Monico De | Bryan Raphael | Graeme Thomas | Dave Woods |
| Daniela Cajiao Vargas | Kathryn Ennis | Vesna Hatezic | Carvalho Alcantara | Kate Ribot De Bressac | Steph Thomson | |
| Margaret Callaghan | Georgina Ennis | Margi Hatezic | Paula Moreira Da Rocha | Michael Ribot De Bressac | Stu Thomson | |
| Nicholas Carne | Greg Fell | Michael Hermans | Peixoto Alcantara | Sue Rodger | Maya Tiomkin | |
| Dan Carpenter | Leila Fell | Bruno Hermans | Moira Noronha | Norm Shepherd | Nicole Turner | |
| Karen Carpenter | Josh Fhima | Tomas Holik | Alasdair Norton | Rodney Shepherd | Ron Van Damme | |
| Arlie Carter | Ken Fiorelli | Carl Hughes | Natasha Norton | Jenny Slade | Philip Walters | |
| Robyn Carter | Debbie Fiorelli | Robyn Jack | Michael O'donoghue | Keryn Smith | Lucie Walters | |
| Saz Chowdhury | Anne Foston | Marek Jendryczka | Marie Pantaleon | Judith Smith | Susan Ward | |
| Johanna Churchill | David Franks | Pete Jones | Mark Penny | Chris Sorensen | Gordon Ward | |
| Tom Clair | John Franks | Clare Jones | Sue Pentelow | Jenny Sorensen | Russell Webb | |
| Paul Cook | Trish Freeman | Steve Jones | Helen Phelan | Sue Stafford | Bev Webb | |



Expedition Team

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Expedition Leader: | Christian Genillard | Kayaking Guide: | Zet Freiburghaus |
| Deputy Expedition Leader: | Flo Kuyper | Kayaking Guide: | Mattias Horntrich |
| Assistant Expedition Leader: | Elena Wimberger | Kayaking Guide: | Dan Stavert |
| Assistant Expedition Leader: | Therese Horntrich | Photography Guide: | Jared Hobbs |
| Expedition Coordinator: | Justine Bornholdt | Guest Photographer: | Peter Eastway |
| Naturalist: | Birgitta Mueck | Expedition Doctor: | Judy Braga |
| Naturalist: | Alan Burger | Zodiac Master: | Sergei Andronov |
| Naturalist/Glaciologist: | Ian Goodwin | Mudroom/Shopkeeper: | Reza Rusooly |
| Historian: | Carol Knott | | |
| Kayaking Master: | Toby Story | | |
| Kayaking Guide: | Eamon Larkin | | |

Photograph Thanks

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Jon McCormack | Carl May | Jo Wilson |
| Sue Belk | Steve Traynor | David Berman |
| Ross Hansen | Andreas Antony | Peter Berman |
| Ayden Nicoll | Marla Clayton | Georgia Wilson |

Greg Mortimer Crew

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Master | Joachim Saterskog | Sous Chef | Allan Estoque |
| Chief Officer | Arsen Aystev | Hotel Controller | Rohmat Nurhidayat |
| Second Officer | Andrei Valeahu | Receptionist | Mary Sarah Baldovino |
| Deck Cadet | Genadi Hristov | Receptionist | Mary Jane Lacerna |
| Safety Officer | Lukasz Zuterek | Head Stateroom Attendant | Elieser Nuñez |
| Bosun | Duglas Garay | Spa Manager | Grace Tembo |
| Ship Doctor | Mauricio Usme | Able Seaman | Khennette Verzova |
| Chief Engineer | Marinko Hrabar | Able Seaman | Samuel Ricafort |
| First Engineer | Ruslan Rotar | Able Seaman | Junar Gorecho |
| IT Officer | Michael Reyes | Able Seaman | Leo Marzan |
| Hotel Director | Franz Wusits | Able Seaman | Bobby Payumo |
| F&B Service Manager | Serdar Guntekin | Able Seaman | Mickey Ledonio |
| Head Bartender | Richard Gache | Ordinary Seaman | Anatoli Kornichuk |
| Chief Purser | Yuliya Sedachova | Ordinary Seaman | Alfredo Murillo |
| Executive Chef | Michael Siebold | | |

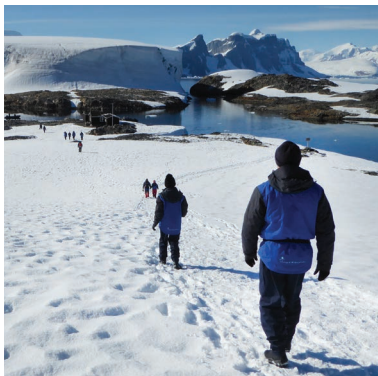
Ship's log written by Expedition Team members & compiled by
Elena Wimberger & Therese Horntrich



Paper made from 100% recycled material.



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The Arctic

Polar bears roam pack ice for seals, walrus and whales. Deep fjords and towering icebergs meet colourful tundra and fossil-rich plains.



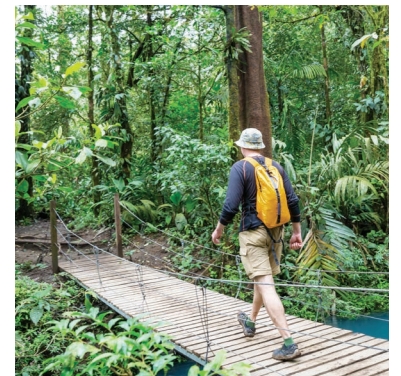
Scotland

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