

Antarctica Complete

Aboard *MV Greg Mortimer* | 15 March – 05 April 2022





Punta Arenas

DAY 1 | Tuesday 15 March 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 53°10.195'S

Longitude: 070°54.415'S

Speed: 0.0 knots

Wind Speed: 25 knots, strong breeze from W

Barometer: 1007

Air Temp: 9°C

Believe me my young friend, there is nothing, absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats... simply messing.

—Water Rat to Mole from Wind in the Willows

We made It! After all the preparations, shopping, tests and travel we finally made it aboard the Aurora Expeditions ship *Greg Mortimer*. In this season of confused expectations and altered routines, it's a relief to be on board and settled into the cabins. We are divided into two colour groups, Blue/Red and Yellow/Green. We are from many nations, including Australia, the United States, United Kingdom and Taiwan, all looking forward to enjoying this unique voyage together.

After getting off the buses, we were welcomed by the wonderful staff who will be looking after us for the voyage, as well as the Expedition Leader Ashley Perrin, Assistant Expedition Leader Daniel Stavert and the team. There are several of us who will be kayaking (9), snorkelling (7) and others making landings onto the continent, onto South Georgia and then the Falkland Islands – always within the conditions 'weather permitting'. This is the trip to see three different southern ecosystems, and the changes in wildlife and landscape as we move north. At sea there will be graceful birds and perhaps great whales. This is the trip to go with the flow.

After the greetings there was time for the abandon ship drill and then dinner in the restaurant. We are thankful and appreciative that we are here, on the *Greg Mortimer* and about to complete our trip to the far south.



Beagle Channel

DAY 2 | Wednesday 16 March 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 54°43.933' S

Longitude: 071°19.013' W

Course: 116°

Speed: 14 knots

Wind Speed: 5 knots, light breeze from W

Barometer: 1002

Air Temp: 6°C

“The natural history of this archipelago is very remarkable; it seems to be a little world within itself.”

—Charles Darwin, Voyage of the Beagle

Our first full day at sail... and what a cracker of a day it was! Majestic snow dusted mountains, breathtaking gnarled blue glaciers, raging waterfalls, and wildlife every way you turn.

If you were wise today, you spent all the time you could out on deck or up in the observation lounge. Whether you were out during the Seabird Surveys with Naturalist John, the Cloud Observations with Assistant Expedition Leader Dan, or just on your own personal time, people saw all sorts of wildlife in the air and in the water today. Magellanic penguins, giant petrels, black browed albatross, porpoising sea lions, fin whales, and humpbacks were all seen to name.

The moody sky only added to the dramatic fjords today. The sun was coming in and out, small storm cells of rain and snow could be seen in the distance, and the wind whistled by at times. When you sail through the Beagle Channel and the Chilean Patagonia you understand why Charles Darwin spoke so fondly of the area.

Back indoors, Expedition Leader Ashley jam packed as many briefings and lectures into our day as she could to get things rolling before we hit the notorious Drake Passage tonight. The kayakers seemed to have instant chemistry as a group, and the snorkellers got the show rolling with their fearless leader Liz. What an amazing time both crews are set up to have. Just before dinner we were graced with the warm welcome from our Captain Oleg Klaptenko and his senior officers. You could tell that as everyone headed back to their cabins after another lovely dinner tonight, their brains were a little swollen with information, but bursting with excitement for the days to come.



Drake Passage

DAY 3 | Thursday 17 March 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 57°25.876' S

Longitude: 066°47.383' W

Course: 186.7°

Speed: 12 knots

Wind Speed: 5 knots, light breeze from SW

Barometer: 1015

Air Temp: 1°C

Just about the time when things looked their very worst the sky was like ink and water was everywhere and everyone was as wet inside their oilskins as the skins were wet without there came out a most perfect and brilliant rainbow for about half a minute or less and then suddenly and completely went out. If ever there was a moment when such a message was a comfort it was just then: it seemed to remove every shadow of doubt not only as to the present but as to the final issue of the whole expedition. And from that moment matters mended, and everything came all right.

—Edward Wilson

“T”was certainly smooth sailing last night ” an early riser said as we watched the sunrise on our port side.

In the Drake Passage surrounded by hues of greys and blues, the oranges, reds and pink shades of the sunrise were a beautiful contrast.

Green was one colour not seen outside the ship this morning. As people started emerging from their cabins, we saw many shades of green on display. It was indeed a wee nod to St Patrick’s day that was happening out there in half the world somewhere. As was our Irish themed wake up call, Liz with her lovely Aurora Antarctic version of “Danny Boy”.

For us, today was dedicated to crossing the impressive Drake Passage. A body of water that separates continents, where oceans and winds meet, sometimes resulting in furious weather. Today though, not many expeditioners or crew were disappointed that it was such a smooth, gentle swell for us, the *Greg Mortimer* slicing almost effortlessly through, or sometimes over the waves.

Seabirds however, glided past the ship even more gracefully and efficiently, using the swell of the ocean to surf the air between waves.

Albatross, petrels, fulmars all so far from land now visit us while John K presented a lecture on these magnificent birds.

Briefings continued today on IAATO protocols and Zodiac safety. Equipment was checked, cleaned and fitted so we will all be ready and informed for our first landings.

Today’s lectures delivered by Annette on the fascinating world of whales left us in awe and often peering out the window while there was still enough light.

The historic yet very comical film “Around Cape Horn” was played and we all admired the grit and resilience of those early sailors from the comfort of our beautiful ship.

Around 4pm we officially pass into Antarctic waters (the polar confluence) crossing the 60th south latitude. From here on it will get colder and the wildlife more polar. Will we see our first iceberg tomorrow?

We finish the day with an inspirational talk by Massimo telling us about his exciting career travelling the globe as a photographer for National Geographic.



Drake Passage

DAY 4 | Friday 18 March 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 62°23.263'S

Longitude: 068°01.977'W

Course: 187°

Speed: 12.6 knots

Wind Speed: 20 knots, fresh breeze from SSW

Barometer: 1022

Air Temp: -3°C

What a beautiful sunrise for our first official day in the Southern Ocean and Antarctica! With the calm seas and a sunny day, everyone is out and about filling their mugs with coffee, tea, and maybe a bit of whiskey left over from their Irish coffees yesterday. Taking a look at our Daily Plan, we have a day jam packed with lectures, Citizen Science, and movies.

Starting the morning out strong, Steve stepped up to the lectern and gave a well-received Introduction to Antarctica, filling our brains with facts about the icy continent, that is, until he was interrupted by Dan making an announcement. No worries though, Steve got him back by telling everyone he used to be a punk rocker (truth) and watching the random questions towards Dan unfold throughout the day. Shortly afterwards, Dan gave us a very cool talk on ice and glaciers (now you know why the ice is blue), until he was interrupted by John making an announcement thinking he was late for his Citizen Science briefing, but come to find out, he was 30 minutes early, phew, we didn't miss it and our seabird and cloud surveys were a success!

Break for lunch, fill up on spring rolls, and then rinse and repeat for the afternoon. Oh no, another interruption, six fin whales spotted ahead in front of the ship! A very worthy interruption indeed, thanks for keeping watch Lauren!

Toasting our fin whale sighting at the Elephant Bar, the movie's about to begin. I mean, who doesn't love a movie about the 1950s '67S base Y in the 1950s' anyone? Yes, almost everyone, especially when it's being introduced by our awesome Expedition Leader, Ashley. Who knew she had a similar experience almost 60 years later and all the 'canoodling' that was done at Base Y.

Dinner and a fireside chat with Massimo about his years as a National Geographic Photographer round out our evening, while rumours of our first excursion in Antarctica spread around the ship. With visions of glaciers and blue icebergs in our heads, we gather at the bar for one last night cap and to toast our day at sea!



Prospect Point, Antarctic Circle

DAY 5 | Saturday 19 March 2022

Position at 0600
Latitude: 66°01.634'S
Longitude: 065°46.174'W
Course: 098.2°
Speed: 4.4 knots

Wind: Calm
Barometer: 1015
Air Temp: -1°C

Yet I believe firmly there is a tract of land near the Pole, which is the source of all the ice spread over this vast Southern Ocean.
—Captain James Cook, January 1775

Waking up to an extraordinary view outside our windows; after several days of no ice, suddenly we were surrounded by it! Prospect Point in the Fish Islands at 66°00.4S and 65°20.3W. How few people in the world are able to explore what we saw today - life is amazing.

The *Greg Mortimer* looked majestic at anchor under a sky that was cloudy yet very forgiving; the sun poked out from time to time and it was simply a perfect morning for exploration. The kayakers took off from the aft of the ship and paddled through calm water to get up close and personal with some icebergs. Listening to the sound of the boats slicing through the water as ice was pushed out of the way was simply magnificent; you could look down to the water level and see the stunning colours – and even some very unusual icicle formations on the bergs.

Zodiacs zipped all around the area giving everyone an up close and personal look at the stunning colours and formations of the creations made by Mother Nature. It was so fun to land on the ice floes, do headstands, throw snowballs and just laugh and enjoy being.

Snorkellers had a great visit ashore and then time in the water to explore below the surface. Starfish and sea urchins were seen, and the experience was one of a lifetime for several – although yes, it was cold. When asked if they were excited to do it again, the answer was a resounding yes.

Absolutely adorable moulting Adélie penguins greeted us as we landed ashore; little tufts of fur clung to their black and white bodies; they looked like punk rockers trying to find a party. They would plop down on their bellies to cool themselves and generally just chill as they prepare to finish moulting and return to the sea to feed. Nobody can ever get enough of penguins. Remnants from a British Base from 1957-1959 are also found here.

A serious highlight of today happened at 5:15 when we crossed the Antarctic Circle. Did you feel the bump? For travellers and geography junkies, this is a massive milestone and all gathered on top deck (a few in the jacuzzi) to celebrate and savour the moment. Appropriately enough it was snowy and windy; the ship's whistle sounded, and flares went up to mark the moment.



Peltier and Lemaire Channels

DAY 6 | Sunday 20 March 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 64°57.959'S

Longitude: 064°15.293'W

Course: 061.8°

Wind Speed: 30 knots, near gale from NNW

Barometer: 1002

Air Temp: -2°C

There are other places in the world where nature stuns, amazes or utterly dominates man's achievements, but there are few places where all these forces combine. Antarctica is a continent that continually humbles man and not least man's greed.

—HRH Prince Edward, Foreword, Wild Ice: Antarctic Journeys, 1990

This morning's Zodiac cruise in the Peltier Channel was a real Antarctic experience, complete with snow, sleet and a stiff breeze. The narrow channel afforded us some protection from the winds, and this enabled us to board the Zodiacs and set off for adventure. Above us, the rocky peaks of the seven sisters mountains faded into the ethereal mists, leaving us to guess just how high they went.

Wildlife highlights of this cruise included a lone elephant seal, a giant petrel feeding on a penguin carcass and of course several groups of gentoo penguins gathered together along the shore to moult. Meanwhile, the Citizen Science Zodiac conducted some water quality measurements and towed a plankton net to collect phytoplankton for the Fjord Phyto project. These microscopic algae form the base of the Antarctic food chain, providing food for the krill which are then the primary food source for the whales, seals and penguins that we all love to see.

Another highlight of this cruise was the mysterious 'HC' Zodiac that people kept talking about on the radio. When we approached this Zodiac, we were offered the treat of some lovely hot chocolate, which provided a lot of inner warmth to help sustain us on a cold, wet morning.

After Peltier Channel, we cruised south towards and then along the famous Lemaire Channel. This proved to be an adventurous cruise as the captain navigated us along the narrow channel and between some large icebergs. Along the way, we watched a mini avalanche tumbling snow into the channel, and spied two minke whales passing quickly by.

South of the Lemaire, we cruised amongst some magnificent icebergs as we approached the Argentine Islands, home of the Ukrainian Antarctic base, Vernadsky, and historic Wordie House. Vernadsky was previously known as Faraday Station, and it was here that British scientists first discovered the ozone hole in Earth's atmosphere. We could not visit Vernadsky due to Covid restrictions, but we were able to visit the charming, historic Wordie House. This tiny timber building gave us an idea of how the young men of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Service (now British Antarctic Survey) lived their lives in the 1940's.

After visiting Wordie House, we had time for a memorable Zodiac cruise along the spectacular coast and amongst the icebergs. Many more Gentoo penguins had come ashore here for moulting, and some of those became the unfortunate victims of a hungry leopard seal. We watched in awe as this efficient predator quickly disposed of two penguins and devoured them.



Paradise Harbour, Cuverville Island

DAY 7 | Monday 21 March

Position at 0600
Latitude: 64°48.584' S
Longitude: 063°08.404' W
Course: 032.2°
Speed: 7.7 knots

Wind Speed: 30 knots, near gale from NW
Barometer: 975
Air Temp: -3°C

There are several theories on the derivation of the word penguin. One of the more plausible is that it came from the Welsh 'pen-gwin', meaning 'white-head', a name originally given to the flightless great auk, a Northern Hemisphere bird that became extinct in 1844.

After a night of cruising the Gerlache Strait in high winds, we all felt the relief of entering the calm waters of Paradise Harbour. Named by sailors appreciating the protection that the bay offers, Paradise Harbour provided us with comfortable conditions for a Zodiac cruise.

As we set out, we were greeted by gentoo penguins on the shore and in the water. We admired the birds swimming and diving next to our Zodiacs, just below Amirante Brown Base.

As we cruised around the corner of the station buildings, we identified green streaks of copper in the cliffs above our Zodiacs, reminding us of the complex geological history of the Antarctic Peninsula. Just a few metres further on we observed a colony of Antarctic shags in a cliff high above our heads.

We then moved further into the bay towards Skonthorp glacier to admire its mighty ice cliffs. Here we got a glimpse into the different layers of a glacier, from younger ice on the top to old ice at the bottom.

Back at the ship it was time for the polar plunge, long awaited by some of our fellow passengers. To the cheering of passengers and the expedition team, those brave enough plunged into the icy polar waters from the marina platform of the *Greg Mortimer*. Sambuca shots after the plunge provided a welcome warming and made the way to the hot shower appear a little shorter. A highlight was the joint jump of Reza and Anna, at the very end of the plunge.

While we warmed up, the ship moved along a stunning route of high mountains, glaciers and icebergs to Cuverville Island. The landing site was located on a beach rising just a few metres above the ocean, leading us directly onto the snowy area where large numbers of Gentoo penguins in their rookeries. We observed almost fledged penguin chicks chasing their parents for more food, moulting penguins sitting quietly on the stones and skuas and giant petrels circling the sky in the constant search for prey. Enchanted, we immersed ourselves into the scenery of wildlife, mountains, waves breaking onto the beach and uncountable icebergs grounded in the adjacent bay.

Our citizen science team lead by John carried out a microplastics survey on the beach of Cuverville Island. We are very happy to report that Cuverville beach is free of microplastics contamination. May the pristine Antarctic environment stay clean for a long time!



Polar Plunge

DAY 7 | Monday 21 March





Neko Harbour, Port Lockroy

DAY 8 | Tuesday 22 March 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 64°41.865'S

Longitude: 062°37.189'W

Course: 112.9°

Speed: 0.2 knots

Wind Speed: 3 knots, light air from SE

Barometer: 985

Air Temp: -3°C

Penguins are beautiful, interesting and funny. They are a pleasure to watch even though they do smell and their voices are not melodious.

—George Gaylord Simpson, *Penguins Past and Present, Here and There*

Somehow Ash had worked her magic again and she crafted a wonderful day. The morning was a continental landing at Neko Harbour in a soft light that allowed the ice to glow. There were gentoos still at the colony and we could see them on shore and farther up the hillside, moulting, waiting for the time to leave, which surely must be close as the winter begins to close in. Sea ice formed and broke up as we watched, humpback whales and minke whales cruised through the ice, blowing noisily.

A large piece of ice broke from the glacier and crashed into the water. The logging humpbacks breached, penguins ran for higher ground and an adolescent Weddell seal rushed out of the shallows onto safer land. The calving generated only a small set of waves, but it was enough to experience the potential power of the constantly moving glacier. The animals knew and took no chances.

Kayakers paddled and snorkellers snorkelled by the shore, enjoying their surroundings.

During lunch, Ash presented her experiences as a worker at Fossil Bluff and Steve introduced a short film about the story of Port Lockroy.

The afternoon was planned as a combined Zodiac cruise, landing and post office experience. We landed at Damoy hut, and after a quick inspection walked around the snow to a picturesque view and then back to Zodiacs for a cruise, bracing ourselves against the deteriorating weather, to leave the postcards at Port Lockroy, one of the southernmost post offices in the world. As we approached the rocky landing laced with chains left from the whaling days of the early 20th century, we saw Ash emerge in her new role. She had temporarily changed hats and was now postmaster accepting our cards. They will overwinter here and be sent off to their destinations as soon as the as the first ship arrives next spring.

We couldn't land at Port Lockroy due to covid regulations. The team there was packing up to leave and their relief vessel the Protector was anchored nearby. We saw it emerge and disappear in the fading light and showers of sleet. They too knew that the season was coming to a close.

Our Zodiac ride back to the ship was invigorating, exciting and another small taste of Antarctic weather. It was enjoyable, up to a point, the comforts of the *Greg Mortimer* a relief after the experience outside.



Lindblad Cove, Charcot Bay & Astrolabe Island

DAY 9 | Wednesday 23 March 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 63°45.986' S

Longitude: 060°00.206' W

Course: 062.1°

Speed: 9.9 knots

Wind Speed: 30 knots, near gale from SW

Barometer: 992

Air Temp: -4°C

Infinite in variety, widely distributed, ever-changing in shape, size and colour, icebergs have long inspired and terrified the voyagers of the Southern Ocean.

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

Overnight we moaned and groaned with the increasing roll as *Greg Mortimer* journeyed north along the Peninsula and quietly thanked our stabilisers for the good work they were doing. As we cast our curtains aside, relief set in that yesterday's sideways snow had given way to blue skies. Over breakfast we navigated deep into Charcot Bay, discovered by the Swedish Antarctic Expedition (1901–04) under Otto Nordenskiöld and named for Jean-Baptiste Charcot (1867–1936), a French medical doctor and polar scientist who charted much of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Our sturdy ship with her sleek bow sliced between growlers, bergy bits and newly formed pancake sea ice, not to mention a thick slush filling every possible gap over the dark sea which lay beneath it. The ice landscape we found ourselves in was so densely packed we quickly determined it would not be possible to lower our fleet of Zodiacs, let alone manoeuvre them. We opted instead for a ship cruise, utilising *Greg Mortimer* like one large Zodiac as we navigated back and forth, deeper into the bay, observing the ice slide along our hull from the Deck 5 observation wings. Nearby, logging humpback whales created their own polynyas (open areas of water) within the brash. We surprised a lazing leopard seal who thankfully remained steady on its chosen floe. The expedition team offered interpretation over the announcement system covering everything from history to geology, glaciology and photography and we were impressed to learn of FIDASE, the robust glacial-tracking aerial photo project spanning the past 70 years which has given us an idea of the advance and retreat of the Lindblad and McNeile glaciers.

As late morning wore on, we navigated out of Charcot Bay and northeast towards Astrolabe Island, discovered by the French expedition (1837–40) under Captain Jules Dumont d'Urville and named by him for his chief expedition ship, the *Astrolabe*. On our way we viewed the mandatory South Georgia briefing video narrated by none other than Sir David Attenborough, which adequately prepared and excited us for what lay ahead in our expedition together. We were only mildly optimistic Astrolabe would provide operational conditions so were not unsurprised when winds increased to a gusting 50 knots on approach. We enjoyed views of the Dragon's Teeth, the steep pyramid peaks extending from the northeast of the island from our warm Observation Lounge, with sun pouring through the panoramic windows.

Having fit 9 excursions into the past 5 days, we were all amenable to a quiet afternoon on board and a chance to edit photos, squeeze in a nap or view the 'Secrets Beneath the Ice' film shown in the Lecture Theatre.



Elephant Island

DAY 10 | Thursday 24 2022

Position at 0600			
Latitude: 61°17.523'S	Course: 033.1°	Wind Speed: 30 knots, near gale from NW	Air Temp: -1°C
Longitude: 055°04.943'W	Speed: 6.1 knots	Barometer: 1015	

The hut grows more grimy every day. Everything is sooty black. We have arrived at the limit where further increments from the smoking stove, blubber lamps, and cooking gear are unnoticed. It is at least comforting to feel that we can become no filthier...from time to time we have a spring cleaning, but a fresh supply of flooring materials is not always available, as all the shingle is frozen up and buried by deep drifts. Such is our Home Sweet Home.

—a crew member writing about living conditions at their Elephant Island camp

And finally, as promised, The Boss came back for them.

They were there, on the same beach where he had left them.

Frank Hurley immortalised the most famous farewell in the history of exploration with his view camera. Twenty-two arms raised looking towards little James Caird as he took to the sea. It was a farewell to what seemed like a hopeless undertaking. But he, The Boss, had taught them that optimism and tenacity can overcome any adversity and so, while the six of them faced the howling winds on a seven-meter tub, the rest camped at the best on the Elephant Island, little more than a large rock covered in snow and ice. Ready to resist because he had told him: "I'll be back".

And it is with this spirit that this morning, the first thought of some on board was of disbelief: "Here is Shackleton Island. But have they found refuge on this inhospitable land? How could they resist here?"

As much as we have heard and read about it, seeing the island live has a certain effect. From whichever side you want to see it, it is not a paradise of hospitality. And even this morning, the sad fame of the island is confirmed. The sky is gray, the wind blows relentlessly, and the sea is, at times, covered with foam.

But there is a side that seems more favourable, and we cannot resist the temptation to disembark. The idea of touching Shackleton's land is stronger than wind and waves. Excitement runs through everyone. We cannot wait. We get on board and approach the shore. But the fame remains so, the wind picks up and the waves rise, Elephant Island rejects us. We decide for a Zodiac cruise between chinstrap and leopard seal hunting, better than nothing. At least we can see the island up close.

But the wind still picks up and the return becomes more adventurous. We are compressed into 11 on a Zodiac, sit inside for added safety. The only one standing is our Zodiac Captain, Steve. A historian who will make our history and future tales, bringing us to safety on *Greg Mortimer*.

And our arms are raised high, as a sign of thanks to the Captain and greeting the Elephant. We'll be back. And it's more than a promise.



Scotia Sea

DAY 11 | Friday 25 March 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 59°18.000'S

Longitude: 049°00.804'W

Course: 058.6°

Speed: 10.3 knots

Wind Speed: 25 knots from W

Barometer: 1016

Air Temp: -2°C

It falls to the lot of few men to view land not previously seen by human eyes.

—Ernest Shackleton, 26 November, 1908

Today we were awoken by Steve's dulcet tones in the relatively calm waters of the Scotia sea. No rushing around for us today getting dressed for landings or a Zodiac cruise. The first of our peaceful days at sea on our way to South Georgia.

We had our appetites whetted for our next destination by Steve's lecture introducing South Georgia. Discovered in 1675, sealing began there in 1786, and then whaling in 1904. By the time whaling ended in 1966, 175-250 whales had been slaughtered. Sadly, the largest animal ever recorded, the majestic blue whale, at 33.5m long, met it's bloody end at Grytviken. There also, in the centenary year of his death on 5th January 1922, we hope to visit Shackleton's grave.

Massimo's lecture later in the morning started with discussing the rule of thirds in photographs – it is tempting to put the subject in the centre, but this does not always make the most appealing photo. Always try to tell a story was his key message instead of taking many photos of the same image. Our memories will fade, but our photos will not.

Other crowd pleasers to keep us happy were lectures covering Marine dynamics - from oceanography to marine predators, and It's a little bit windy – understanding the weather of the Southern ocean.

Biosecurity for South Georgia continued following an absolutely marvelous short film with narration by Sir David Attenborough. We are now determined to keep the island pristine and free of the pests that have plagued it in the past, including the rats which have only recently been eradicated. Even the dandelions on the island are not native – the seeds were brought there by whalers from Norway to remind them of home.

The 'seals and diving into King Penguin science' lecture by John and Annette was most informative. We look forward to seeing elephant seals. The male attains the status of beachmaster with his harem of up to 160 females for only a year before he becomes exhausted by constantly fighting off his opponents and going out to sea to die. Annette's research into King penguins was fascinating, showing the potential impact of climate change affecting the penguin population. These penguins are particularly vulnerable as they only breed twice in 3 years.

The day's entertainment ended with the second half of the Shackleton movie, focusing on his epic voyage and how he built up the fierce loyalty of his men.



Scotia Sea

DAY 12 | Saturday 26 March 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 56°55.745' S

Longitude: 043°16.332' W

Course: 050.6°

Speed: 10.5 knots

Wind Speed: 28 knots, near gale from WSW

Barometer: 1024

Air Temp: 0°C

For speed and efficiency of travel, give me Amundsen; for scientific discovery, give me Scott; but when all hope is lost get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton

—Sir Edmund Hillary

What a special way to wake up this morning! We started the day with a song from Russell, specially written for our approach to South Georgia. We all love this private concert in our cabins.

After enjoying a late breakfast, we started another day of learning and preparing ourselves for the next part of our journey.

In the past few days, we have had first-hand experience of the strong polar winds, and today Dan presented an in-depth insight into why it is so windy in this part of the world. Steve also presented his Introduction to South Georgia.

Annette and John continued to teach us about the wildlife we are going to see very soon. John introduced us to the animals waiting for us on the rocky beaches, with Annette showing us how crucial the link between the dynamic oceanography and the success of the marine wildlife is.

Some brave expeditioners joined the bird survey of the day, despite the cold and the wind outside on deck. Today we spotted some giant petrels, soft-plumaged petrels and blue petrels. The highlight of the survey was seeing our first king penguin surfing beside the ship. What a treat!

Once again Massimo shared his experience and passion of photography with us. He reminded us to be patient and creative and to try to tell a story through our pictures. It will be a great way to capture the memories and share the beauty of what we have seen.

This evening was Prize Night! It was very difficult to guess where the first iceberg would be seen, but Carolina was the closest. She got the first prize as her entry was only 22 nm away.

After much voting in a close competition, Bruce got the Gold Medal for his amazing picture of the Grey-headed Albatross mid-flight.

Congratulations to all Polar Plungers for their crazy choice to jump into the freezing Southern Ocean. They are all part of an exclusive club of 'Polar Plunge Survivors', and earned a well deserved certificate and t-shirt as proof of their bravery. Well done everyone!

The Antarctic Peninsula is still a vivid memory and experience that we will always treasure. Now we are ready and excited to discover the wonderful remote island in front of us.

South Georgia... allá vamos!!!



Cape Rosa, Peggotty Bluff

DAY 13 | Sunday 27 March 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 54°13.375' S

Longitude: 037°32.653' W

Course: 051.1°

Speed: 6.6 knots

Wind Speed: 15 knots, moderate breeze from NW

Barometer: 1029

Air Temp: 0°C

Frank Wild is not a big man, but for sheer grit, tenacity of purpose and comradeship he would be difficult to match.

—Frank Hurley, Shackleton's Expedition Photographer, 1925

After two days at sea, we awoke at 6:15am to the most extraordinary of South Georgia greetings.

Following the fabled Shackleton route, we began our approach into King Haakon Bay. Towering glaciated mountains erupt steeply from the placid sea, with the warm glow of sunrise igniting their jagged peaks. Albatross playfully swoop around the ship, and the expeditioners out on deck were treated to a warm welcome from the cormorants, who were intrigued by our presence and trailed us through the inlet. To the port side, we spot acrobatic displays from humpback whales and can hear distant calls of seals and penguins echoing through the bay. We have arrived in heaven on earth - Welcome to South Georgia!

After breakfast, the calm seas are energised by katabatic winds. The blue & red groups enjoy a Zodiac cruise across the choppy azure waters to see Cape Rosa on the south side of the Bay. Cape Rosa is infamous for being the location where Shackleton first landed in South Georgia on 10th May 1916, after his perilous crossing of the Scotia Sea.

Cruising along the shoreline, we admire the seabirds nesting amongst the lush tussock grasses. We spot many fur seals, including an unusual blonde-fur variant. This must be our lucky day, with a 1 in 1000 odds of spotting one of these chaps!

Back on the *Greg Mortimer*, the Captain navigates us to the far end of King Haakon Bay. We enjoy a sumptuous BBQ lunch out on deck admiring the dramatic scenery, with the phantom DJ spinning '80s classic tunes for company, much to the pleasure of the seals and penguins on the nearby beaches who love a bit of 'Wham!'

In the afternoon, we are all thrilled to be making our first landing in South Georgia, at Peggotty Bluff, where Shackleton set off on his overland expedition to Stromness on 19th May 1916.

We spot our first king penguins ashore, who are proud to show off their striking yellow plumage. A female elephant seal basks lazily, whilst young fur seal pups play-fight with each other amongst the tussock. Another highlight was the dozens of Antarctic terns which seemed to defy the laws of gravity, hovering above the glacial

meltwater to forage. Meanwhile, the 'snorks' got to swim amongst the seals in the kelp, and the kayakers explored a spectacular glacier front on the south side of the inlet.

As we return to the ship to enjoy a warming glühwein, a spectacular rainbow spans the bay, bringing this astonishing day of adventure to a fitting conclusion.



Jason Bay, Grytviken

DAY 14 | Monday 28 March 2022

Position at 0600			
Latitude: 54°05.037' S	Course: 117.2°	Wind Speed: 12 knots, moderate breeze from ENE	Air Temp: 4°C
Longitude: x 036°44.825' W	Speed: 5.8 knots	Barometer: 1013	

The vicinity of Grytviken and King Edward Point is by far the best site on the island for habitation. C.A. Larsen, the founder of Grytviken, selected it following two visits to South Georgia. It has a well sheltered harbour, a bay within a bay (which is of good depth and size), sufficient flat land suitable for the erection of buildings, and abundant supplies of fresh water. It occupies a central position, and is in the most climatically protected region of the island. No other site on South Georgia has all of these advantages.

—Bob Headland, The Island of South Georgia

Rise and shine for a full expedition day on the east coast of South Georgia! Our first attempt was Hercules Bay, where 2 metre swell at the side gate signalled it was time to move on. We repositioned to nearby Jason Harbour; protected from the northerly swell, this gorgeous bay offered us a landing on a gravel beach with fur seal pups snoozing on a rocky outcrop next to camouflaged elephant seal weaners. We were able to peek inside a red hut used as a mail drop by the whaling stations of the bay to the north, with an etched table and visitor's book of many modern day explorers' escapades across the island. Our paddlers and snorks also made the most of the calm weather and explored our marine environment, navigating the thick kelp beds and the shallow lagoon to the west, known as Little Jason Lagoon.

Over lunch we made our way to Maiviken at the entrance to Cumberland Bay, an impressive amphitheatre with waterfalls cascading into the near-turquoise sea. Here we dropped off over 50 intrepid hikers who set off for a steep, wet slog through tussac and over shingled rock.

Our hikers joined us as Grytviken in Cumberland East Bay, home of the Government Office, King Edward Point scientific base and the South Georgia Heritage Trust team. Here we visited the museum, as well as the James Caird replica and spent a few moments at the Whalers' Church with the sweetest little polar library. We strolled amongst the ruins of one of the world's most famous whaling stations, lined with rusted chains and massive tanks for storing processed oil. Some felt it was eerie, others spiritual as we imagined the community that once called this place home. Towards the end of our afternoon, we made our way along the coast to the cemetery where Ernest Shackleton was buried after a heart attack in 1922. He rests facing his beloved south with Frank Wild, his right-hand man beside him. Those that stayed until the end enjoyed a shot of whisky and a toast to "the Boss" led by our historian Steve. Low misty cloud shrouded *Greg Mortimer* upon our return as we lost our last light.

Following a full day, we gathered in the Lecture Theatre for a briefing on our plan for tomorrow as well as an introduction to the crested penguin, a deeper dive into South Georgia's whaling history and expedition leader Ashley's account of the science work she undertook while living at King Edward Point.



Cooper Bay, Gold Harbour

DAY 15 | 29 March 2022

Position at 0600
Latitude: 54°39.697'S
Longitude: 035°42.548'W
Course: 167.1°
Speed: 7.9 knots

“Here is scenery which, on a crystal-clear day, must hold its own with any in the world. We gaze and drink it in; there is a hush as we who have not seen it before standing as group and watch it unfold.”

—Sir Alister Hardy, Great Waters, 1967

We awoke in the southeast corner of South Georgia island this morning to an oasis of greenery and blue sky as far as the eye could see. John was not lying in his wake-up call when he said it’s not a day to sleep in, its gorgeous outside!

The mountains off the starboard side were aluminate in a rose-pink hue, accompanied by a breathtaking landscape that has been sculpted from rock and ice over the last 5,500 years of glacial retreat. The large outwash plain in ‘Centre Cove’ may have formed in the early stages of this retreat, and the Quensel Glacier is the final remnant of ice from this era.

Zodiacs, kayaks and snorks left the ship enjoying calmer seas across the turquoise bay thanks to the ice-clad summits of the Salvesan Range.

Albatross Cove at the northeast corner was at the top of the list for our first encounter of macaroni penguins perched on the steep tussac slopes. The wildlife mecca continued as we idled along, peaking our Zodiacs into beaches filled with elephant seals, fur seals, king penguins, gentoo penguins, chinstrap penguins, giant petrels, skuas, pipits, Antarctic terns, cormorants, talk about spoilt!

At the southern point of the island, two leopard seals played in the water as cameras from Zodiacs tried to follow their movements.

Back onboard we had time for a quick cuppa, delicious lunch, rapid antigen test and then it was off to our next stop, Gold Harbour.

Our shore team greeted us at the northeast beach, ready to spin our boats safely and give us a quick briefing of this remarkable site. We were in utter amazement.

Thousands of king penguins shared the beach with gentoos, giant petrels, fur seal pups, and a wallow of male elephant seals who enlightened us with their behaviour of belching, farting, scratching, and bickering.

Wind Speed: 6 knots, light breeze from N
Barometer: 1005
Air Temp: 4°C

The amphitheatre of hanging glaciers, vertical cliffs and towering snow-covered peaks created an unforgettable backdrop. Truly an afternoon we will never forget.

The early evening invited many to the bar where we exchanged photos and stories of our favourite memories from the day. By groups Ashley gave us an update on the plan for the days ahead, then it was off to dinner for an early night for all.

Thank you for an incredible day South Georgia.



Salisbury Plains, Prion Island

DAY 16 | Wednesday 30 March 2022

Position at 0600
Latitude: 54°03.136' S
Longitude: 037°19.315' W
Course: 002.7°
Speed: 0.7 knots

Wind Speed: 10 knots, gentle breeze from SW
Barometer: 1003
Air Temp: 2°C

I now belong to the higher cult of mortals, for I have seen the albatross.

—Robert Cushman Murphy

Today was unique, breathtaking, and exhausting, a perfect day in my opinion!

Storms coming in in the next few days lead Expedition Leader Ashley to make the strategic decision to get us all up at an ungodly hour this morning. It was a fantastic plan to get us all out off the ship twice more before having to make a break for the Falklands. So, when our alarms went off around 4:30 a.m, although quite groggy and maybe slightly disgruntled, we all knew it was for the best and would be well worth it in the end. Sunrise at Salisbury Plain, what an experience that was. Once on shore you could immediately hear the ruckus in the distance from the colony of roughly 60,000 king penguins. A short walk across the plain and passengers were immersed in the noise, the smell, and the truly awesome sight of a world never before seen by most of them. With the swell picking up, things were a little spicy for a few boats leaving the beach but thanks to the E-Team spinning boats and the skilled Zodiac drivers, everyone made it back on board okay (although maybe a little wet).

By 8 o'clock we were all back on the ship, and still had yet to have breakfast! Franz, Miguel and the kitchen staff all worked hard to get things ready early and we were eating in no time. So satisfying doing something before breakfast!

Once fed, there was no time to relax, we were already at Prion Island ready for a Zodiac cruise. Except for a few sleepy passengers that stayed on board, everyone else rallied, rugged up, and went searching for the magnificent wandering albatross. The rugged coastline of this little island is riddled with caves and channels that were fantastic to explore in our Zodiacs while the drivers did their best to avoid all the kelp. And did we see Wanderer's? Heck yeah we did! With a wing span of up to 3.7 metres across, these giant birds skimmed the ocean's surface all around us before soaring up above their little island to enjoy the winds of the day. As we watched these birds with the largest wingspan on the planet, other birds also joined the show. South Georgia pipits, brown skuas, sooty albatross, kelp gulls, and prions were all seen, just to name a few. It was truly a birder's and photographer's paradise.



Scotia Sea

DAY 17 | Thursday 31 March 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 53°18.899'S

Longitude: 043°23.650'W

Course: 284.1°

Speed: 12.7 knots

Wind Speed: 47 knots, strong gale from S

Barometer: 998

Air Temp: 4°C

It was a rock and roll day on the Scotia Sea as announced, with swells that buffeted the ship on our Port side as we headed north to the Falkland Islands. With such an action-packed morning yesterday, it was a well-earned rest today. Still, the day was packed with knowledge and storytelling. Steve spoke to a group about the Falkland Islands and what we might expect to see in the next few days.

Lauren entertained us with 'Cold as Ice', a collection of a few crimes committed over the years in Antarctica. Who knew that chess boards were supposedly banned from Russian research stations, because of a fight that ended with an ice axe attack - crazy!

John explained the relationship between the changing climate and the effect it has on penguin colonies and behaviour. John and his brother Roger have both done years of hands-on research in the field. Also no stranger to field work and research, Ashley spoke about the massive and successful rat eradication programme that was undertaken on South Georgia. Without this, we would not have seen the lovely little pipits that hopped around the rocks and beaches - rewarding work.

Russell H amazed and impressed us with a tale of his epic journey paddling in sea kayaks from Brazil to Florida with his brother. Incredible! Some crossings between the Island nations were up to 150 km non-stop.

Ashley reminded us of a darker time in the history of the Falklands, sharing a story of her husband's experiences of it, working on the QE2. He was able to answer our questions over the phone from Cape Town.

It was a prime day for seabirds, and they easily outnumbered the people in John's midday survey session. Many wandering albatross graced the skies around us, along with black browed albatross and giant and smaller petrels.

The strong winds and substantial waves were not enjoyed by all of us mere humans aboard of course. Luckily, they did ease later in the day to give us a calmer evening, the restaurant and bar coming alive with games and laughter amongst groups of expeditioners who are now good friends.

"I love days like these.

When the sea shapes up just right for me

The slow build of the wave gives me time, gliding into it

Picking up speed, carving a perfect turn

Now rising on the wall of water, slowing over it

Arcing high, circling, floating

Picking my next wave, I see a Ship, swaying

It cuts its' own path through the wind and sea

I see them inside; I hope they see me. I soar."



Scotia Sea

DAY 18 |Friday 1 April 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 51°18.915'S

Longitude: 060°15.012'W

Course: 188.9°

Speed: 0.6 knots

Wind Speed: 20 knots, fresh breeze from SW

Barometer: 1009

Air Temp: 7°C

I cannot call to mind any other settlement (except perhaps Tristan da Cunha) more dismal, miserable, and devoid of all interest than this at the Falkland Islands—the geese were so tame that we had to give up shooting them.

—W. J. J. Spry, RN, HMS Challenger, 1876

Waking up this morning, we knew something felt different. The sun was warmer, the seas were calmer, and we were on our way to the Falkland Islands. Our buffet breakfast went off without a hitch as our restaurant crew welcomed us with a song and dance!

Around 9:00, Reza called for back-up due to a frenzy in the ship shop, and Eamon arrived minutes later to total chaos. Fellow expeditioners were grabbing, pulling, and selling Reza out of every last pair of penguin leg warmers in anticipation of Steve's Sweating to the Oldies aerobics class! Without a single pair of leg warmers left at the shop, John started cutting off the legs of his thermals. Space was limited as the yellow and green groups started piling into the lecture theatre to the sounds of Irene Cara's What a Feeling filling up the room. In true Richard Simmons fashion, Steve emerged from behind the lectern dressed in a gold glitter tank top, mic'd up to a headset, and ready to get our bodies moving... what a feeling!

As the yellow and green group made their way out of the lecture theatre, the red and blue groups were up next for Lauren's Dance Off competition. Inspired by Derek Zoolander and Hansel's 'walk-off', rivalries formed between red and blue whilst Lauren explained the rules — one team dances down the middle of the room, and then the other team has to imitate that same dance move. The first team to fail copying the other team's dance moves, loses. As the music played, the red group busted out old school disco moves, whilst the blue team fought back with the caterpillar! Both teams showed up to win, but in the end, it was a draw when both teams collapsed in exhaustion, whew!

Working up an appetite, we made our way to lunch where Chef Paolo celebrated our morning with a huge pizza party. It seems as though he did find all that extra flour!

Heading into the afternoon, Russell hosted a songwriting workshop inspired by our long journey together, whilst John hosted Citizen Science in the Observation Lounge, calculating just how many eggs we've consumed on our voyage (results are being processed in the super computer). Towards the end of the day, we all gathered into the Observation Lounge for a sunset sing along with Russell. As the sun began to drop below the horizon colouring the sky, we toasted the end of our unexpected day at sea on board the Greg Mortimer.

A Haiku by Liz MacNeil

What a day at sea!

Expect the unexpected

Happy April Fools! :)

In real news, our onboard auction for the South Georgia Heritage Trust was a huge success. Together we raised 3,175 pounds – amazing effort!



Grand Jason

DAY 19 | Saturday 2 April 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 51°10.676'S

Longitude: 058°56.144'W

Course: 283.5°

Speed: 13.3 knots

Wind Speed: 4 knots, light breeze from W

Barometer: 1014

Air Temp: 7°C

When I first set eyes on the Falkland Islands, on Christmas Eve, 1959, I instinctively knew that I had found a very special part of this earth and that I was going to make it my home. I had a passion for nature and wilderness and the islands were to develop that even more, for nature here is quite unique.

—Ian Strange, Field Guide to the Wildlife of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia

Last night's South Georgia Heritage Trust auction was a huge success and many of us continued to celebrate into the wee hours. Thanks to Liz and Russell for putting on such an entertaining event, and thanks to all the participants for generating so much energy, fun and laughter.

This morning started on a more subdued note, as we awoke to Lelia's gentle voice. The morning was full of anticipation as we rounded the northern shores of the Falkland Islands and headed towards our afternoon landing at Great Jason Island. Nobody on board had ever visited this remote island before, so we had to resort to guidebooks and maps to give us an idea of what to expect.

We were introduced to the Wildlife of the Falkland Islands during a lecture by Annette and John in the morning. The birds, mammals and plants of the Falklands are a mix of sub-Antarctic and South American species, with the addition of a few species found nowhere else on Earth.

On our arrival at Grand Jason Island, we were met by a welcoming party of inquisitive Striated caracaras. These birds of prey seemed almost friendly as they followed us about the island. Some Zodiacs were also escorted to the landing by a pod of Peale's dolphins, which rode the bow wave of the Zodiac. Once ashore, we had the option of walking west to visit a rookery of black-browed albatrosses, or east with the aim of visiting rockhopper penguins. Unfortunately, the rockhoppers were not where we expected to see them, but we did find plenty of them amongst the nesting albatrosses. We also saw a huge diversity of other birds, including Upland geese, a night heron, several species of duck, some Magellanic oystercatchers and a Magellanic snipe. Amongst all of these strange and exotic birds, a rather plain, small, dark bird stood out as being particularly charming: the Blackish cinclodes or tussac bird.

Great Jason Island is a wildlife refuge that is owned and protected by The Wilderness Conservation Society of New York. This protection has allowed the tussac grass to recover over much of the island, after once being almost wiped out by grazing and deliberate burning. We did find some burnt-out areas of tussac, but those were caused by lightning strikes and not human interference.



Saunders Island, West Point

DAY 20 | Sunday 3 April 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 51°18.915'S

Longitude: 060°15.012'W

Course: 188.9°

Speed: 0.6 knots

Wind Speed: 20 knots, fresh breeze from SW

Barometer: 1009

Air Temp: 7°C

I cannot call to mind any other settlement (except perhaps Tristan da Cunha) more dismal, miserable, and devoid of all interest than this at the Falkland Islands—the geese were so tame that we had to give up shooting them.

—W. J. J. Spry, RN, HMS Challenger, 1876

Today we had a full day to experience the beautiful Falkland Islands. Our first landing took us to Saunders Island where we were greeted on the beach by the farmers living on the island. When stepping onto the white sand, our eyes were immediately caught by several penguin colonies sitting on the sandy elevations just past the beach. Saunders Island is home to four penguin species, the gentoo, Magellanic, rockhopper and king penguin, and we saw all of them next to each other. A whale skeleton washed up on the beach, presumably from a minke whale or juvenile larger baleen whale, reminded us again of the rich biodiversity that the ocean around us is hosting.

Walking past gentoo and king penguins on the beach and Magellanic penguins in their burrows further up on the grassy slope, we soon reached the colony of black browed albatrosses on the cliffs above the ocean. What a view! The nests were almost exclusively populated by juvenile birds, characterised by their grey beaks, who were waiting for their parents to return with food from the ocean. These juveniles were just getting ready for their first flights, spreading and flapping their immense wings on the nest, testing the wind. Sprinkled between the albatross nests were rockhopper penguins, forming an unexpected yet not unusual neighbourhood for protection from avian predators.

Back on the beach, a microplastic survey carried out by John and a group of citizen scientists revealed that there was no microplastic present in the sand of Saunders Island, surprising but certainly good news given the two large bags of plastic items collected during the beach cleanup.

In the afternoon we landed at West Point in a lovely sheltered bay where the inhabitants Thies and Kicki waited for us on their jetty. Their sailing boat moored just off the jetty had adventurous stories to tell about sailing the Southern Ocean waters and wintering at South Georgia. A beautiful stroll over gentle hills with lush vegetation took us to the other side of the island. The walk was well worth it, leading us to a colony of black browed albatrosses and rockhopper penguins between the tussock grass decorating the steep cliffs towards the ocean. We quietly and gently found our way through the maze of the tussock grass to marvel at albatrosses and penguins, with plenty of occasions for extended observations from small natural viewpoints of rocks and elevated grass.

Those with tired legs had the option to take a landrover ride back to the jetty, where delicious afternoon tea was waiting to replenish our energy reserves and give an appropriate ending to this exceptional landing.

We embarked on our last Zodiac ride of this voyage back to the ship, taking the last sunrays of the day and a few sprinkles of salt spray with us as we stepped back onto the *Greg Mortimer*, filled with the emotions and smiles of an amazing adventure.



At Sea

DAY 21 | Monday 4 April 2022

Position at 0600			
Latitude: 53°02.353' S	Course: 217.8°	Wind Speed: 36 knots, gale from WNW	Air Temp: 4°C
Longitude: 062°56.320' W	Speed: 10.8 knots	Barometer: 1004	

Little do you know your own blessedness; for to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive, and the true success is to labour.

—Robert Louis Stevenson, Virginibus Puerisque, 1881

Suddenly it's the last full day. One full of memories and changes – what a trip. We completed over 20 activities in nearly three weeks, landings, Zodiac cruises, snorkelling and kayaking. It hardly seems real that it's coming to a close. Now, all the photographs and memories are settling into a more personal record of the trip.

At the Captains Farewell, a small, emotional ceremony among people who have become travel companions and friends, Captain Oleg was visibly moved when he told of his many years with Aurora and of his own first landing at Cape Rosa, where Shackleton and his men first landed on South Georgia after the epic open boat journey across the Scotia Sea from Elephant Island. Even the E-Team had unique experiences in this Antarctica Complete.

From the Antarctic Circle to the Falklands, and such a change in scenery and wildlife. From Adélie penguins in the ice to Magellanic penguins in their burrows, from freezing seas to comersol dolphins gliding in the surf at Saunders Island, from the ice-covered mountains of the Antarctic to the tussock covered hillsides of West Point. We saw penguins moulting, waiting before they took to sea in their new plumage, to black browed albatross chicks nearly ready to fly out from their colonies to spend years in the air above the oceans.

And the weather. From storm tossed oceans – remember the Drake, to the calm bays of the Falklands, and yes even the swells of South Georgia. Remember the wildlife covered beach at Gold Harbour? A stretch of black sand that was home to king penguins, elephant seals, fur seals, giant petrels, sheathbills and so much more. All set against that background of tussock greenery and a hanging glacier.

We visited the places of human occupation from the far south to the cosy, if isolated 'settlement' at West Point Island. How did these people live in such situations and how wonderful that they survived and made homes in these environments.

All of this in the *Greg Mortimer* and supported by the staff of the ship, Captain Oleg and his officers, and the extraordinary E-Team, led by the passionate Ashley, full of zeal and knowledge of one her favorite playgrounds.

It was a trip of curiosity and wonder – maybe we should do it again!



Puerto Williams

DAY 22 | Tuesday 5 April 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 54°55.35'S

Longitude: 067°28.80'W

Speed: 0.6 knots

Wind Speed: 25 knots, strong breeze from WSW

Barometer: 1003

Air Temp: -1°C

Explore. Dream. Discover.

—Mark Twain

And so the final day arrived. We came alongside the pier in Puerto Williams around 0800 after breakfast had been eaten, accounts settled., swapping of contact details completed.

Some may be regretting the late night in the bar, but what a fantastic three weeks we have had and what a great team we have become.

Puerto Williams is a town on Navarino Island in the Beagle Channel in Chile's far south. Part of the Tierra del Fuego archipelago, it's known as a starting point for trips around Cape Horn. It's also a gateway to trails around the jagged peaks of the nearby Dientes de Navarino. In town, the Martin Gusinde Anthropological Museum traces the history of the region's former inhabitants, the indigenous Yaghan people, whose population is just under 3000.

After a bit of a delay with Chilean Customs coming onboard, the airport buses arrived and Team Blue & Red set off for the small airport where the two charter planes were awaiting. The same buses returned for Team Yellow & Green as well as 11 of the 16 strong Expedition Team.

So it was a rather depleted Expedition Team of five left waving the last bus goodbye.

Aurora Expeditions thanks you for joining us aboard MV *Greg Mortimer* to Antarctica. We hope to see you on the high seas again someday!



Kayaking Log

By Eamon Larkin and Russell Henry

Kayak Masters: Russell Henry & Eamon Larkin

Number of Paddlers: 10 Total Paddle Outings: 8 Total Distance Paddled: 16 nautical miles

Paddlers:	Maria Nelson Van Den	Georgie Linford	Jennifer Reynolds
Wade Eastburn	Bussche (Carolina)	Russell Linford	Tim Seller
Jane Eastburn	Maury Bedoni (Polo)	Allen Lewis	Tyson Mayr

Day 2 am: Beagle Channel & Drake Passage

Today we officially got together as a group of kayakers after all our mandatory briefings. We met in the library, presented the kayak program and went over all the gear we would provide.

Shortly after we made our way to the mudroom to try on the gear and talk about the kayaks. A productive day and an excited bunch of paddlers.

Day 5 am: Prospect Point, Fish Islands

We awoke to a spectacular day just above the Arctic circle but surrounded with brash ice. We used a Zodiac to launch due to the amount of ice moving past the ship. A slow paddle past bergy bits with icicles. We found a solid suitable ice floe and pulled the group onto it. They loved it! Then a short paddle to the landing site near old hut at Prospect, where we landed and saw several Adélie penguins. There was a lot of snow to walk on and a great view. Instead of a direct route back to the ship, we weaved our way through some smaller growlers and bergy bits until it was clear we would have to retreat. The clear water was close, so Eamon attempted to force a path in the frozen brash. Unfortunately, after a few whacks with the paddle, Eamon went over in the brash. All OK and Russell in the Zodiac soon arrived to fish him out. A quick swap and Russell led the team back to the ship. A great first outing despite the capsized!

Day 6 am: Peltier Channel

This morning the group joined a Zodiac cruise with the rest of the ship. The wind was strong in the channel, and it was snowing substantially. It was Antarctic weather, made better with a hot chocolate and some good wildlife encounters.

Day 6 pm: Wordie Hut, Argentine Islands

The snow-covered Argentine islands looked amazing just off the stern of the ship. To get to them, the group had to negotiate some wind and swell until they reached the shelter of the channels. Luckily both wind and swell were in their favour and they made it safely into a narrow-protected channel with cliffs looming above them.

Wordie hut is situated in the middle of the Argentine islands and is an amazingly preserved museum-like hut of a British research station built in the 1950's. With one of the channels blocked with frozen sea ice, the group ventured down the other leading out towards Verdansky station, a Ukrainian base. From there the group kept exploring the maze of channels, finding more wildlife and beautiful icebergs along the way. Back to the hut for a landing and a relax on shore until everyone was whisked back to the ship on a Zodiac with kayaks in another.

Day 7 am: Paradise Harbour

We were all geared up and keen to paddle again. However, after one double boat and Eamon paddled off the marina the wind decided to pick up quickly. It became apparent that the weather was deteriorating. We decided, sadly, to abort the mission. The group was thankful as the wind increased and snow was coming in sideways. We all jumped in a Zodiac and had a great cruise as a group with lots of laughs and good information...maybe.

Day 7 pm: Cuverville Island.

The wind and swell at the back of the ship was too intense to paddle this afternoon. The group joined the general landing party and enjoyed the gentoo penguin colony.

Day 8 am: Neko Harbour

Probably the most spectacular day I have seen at Neko. Within 10 minutes of leaving the ship, the group was watching a couple of Humpback whales logging from a safe distance. The whales were very content and even approached the still group of kayaks a bit closer. With the backdrop of the glaciers and cliffs around Neko it was a breathtaking sight, and magical experience. Leaving the whales in peace, the group paddled through some broken brash ice to the Neko landing site, but everyone was keen to stay in their kayaks and watch the penguin antics from the water. A short time later, the group was visited by a few curious Minke whales. Satisfied, we returned to the ship ready to embark, when a sizeable calving of the glacier happened. The kayakers had the best view, and the awesome site of the collapse may have triggered the two humpbacks to breach out of the water in front of us. Wow. The waves caused by the calving were smooth, rounded but sizeable - enjoyable more than concerning. What a morning. Big smiles all round.

Day 8 pm: Damoy Hut

The afternoon was like a totally different day. The wind had picked up, the clouds had lowered and light snow was blowing in the cold air. Still, the brave kayakers ventured out regardless. We had four new paddlers join us, not the perfect conditions of the morning but still enjoyable.

With the wind at our backs, we cruised to the small rocky island off Damoy point and found shelter on the leeward side. Paddling along the coastline into Damoy cove, the Hut was a welcome sight. The group visited the historic hut and it was decided we would use the support Zodiac to transport the kayakers and their boats safely back to the ship, where hot chocolates and other warming drinks awaited them. A wintery paddle outing, but an exciting one.

Day 9 am: Linblad Cove, Charcot Bay

We were excited to paddle as the area looked beautiful and the sun was out in a blue sky. Unfortunately, the cove was completely full of ice and freezing seawater. The ship could not anchor so we enjoyed the scenery from the decks, not the kayaks.

Day 10 am/pm: Elephant Island ship cruise

Due to increasing wind gusts our group stayed onboard, and we viewed Elephant Island from the safety of the ship.

Day 13 am: King Haakon Bay, Cape Rosa

Anchored in the mouth of King Haakon Bay, the swell was too big to even consider launching kayaks, though we did consider it. The group, already in drysuits though, all jumped into Zodiacs for a windy, splashy ride to see Cave Cove where the six men of Shackleton's party first landed.

Day 13 pm: Peggotty Bluff

The ship had moved further into Haakon Bay, yet still the swell proved a challenge along with the strong wind coming off the Glacier and hills nearby. Russell, Liz and I were sure there was some sheltered water across the way that we could snorkel and kayak in, so we took the first Zodiac and quickly scouted an area under the cliffs to our starboard side.

Getting the kayaks off the ship was the next challenge. While the group was on land admiring a bunch of King penguins at Peggotty Bluff, we unloaded the kayaks off the ship and met the group in calmer waters. It was worth it. We paddled under the cliffs in the calmer waters amongst beds of giant kelp, while being followed by many curious Antarctic terns that hovered overhead.

Rounding a corner, the group discovered a completely sheltered bay. Two glaciers fed into it and our first pipits greeted us when we landed. A fur seal pup popped onto the beach and seemed surprised to see kayaks on his little beach. A short but rewarding paddle in South Georgia.

Day 14 am: Jason Harbour

An ideal location for Kayaking was this sheltered little harbour. Attached to Jason Harbour is a lovely round lagoon with a narrow, shallow entrance. The group headed from the ship to the lagoon, negotiating the waves at the entrance easily. Once inside we saw that it was populated by many fur seals, mostly juveniles and some pups. It was a seal nursery. Seals stared at us from the rocky edges and swam swiftly around us, while on the far side of the lagoon a small elephant seal moved only occasionally. Hundreds of juvenile seals played in the waters, at first unaware of our presence.

After exiting the lagoon, we paddled past a rocky headland, passing giant petrels in the water to reach the main beach. One large elephant seal and no more than twelve King penguins lay claim to the rocky beach. A very small hut was built here as a mailing station for the nearby whaling stations, and it still stands today.

Day 15 am: Cooper Bay

Across from Cooper Island was the rugged coast of Cooper Bay. At first, Russell and Eamon called off the paddle due to heavy swell on the back of the ship, but then after some thinking they devised a new plan to get everyone safely in their kayaks. Tossing the kayaks one at a time into the ocean and then everyone loading a Zodiac to get out to them was the ticket for launching. For getting back on board everyone got in a Zodiac, we towed the boats, and then once at the ship, Russell got in the furthest back boat of the line, while everyone helped pull the boats one at a time onto the ship. It worked! The paddling itself was a little more dynamic this day than usual, with a lot of exploring around the rocky coast. A colony of macaroni penguins extended from the shoreline to a couple of hundred metres uphill. A few elephant seals were resting on the pebbled beach, unmoving. Moving around the headlands of the bay, the sea became more confused and the swell increased.

Day 15 pm: Gold Harbour

The location lived up to its name, as it was golden paddling this afternoon. The harbour was calm with only a gentle swell. The entrance to a lagoon was washed out with a wave breaking on hidden rocks. It was okay because the waterfall and hanging glacier on top of the cliff was spectacular from our safe distance. We cruised alongside the beach, which was inundated with King penguins and their chicks - the noise was intense! At the northern end, we landed and walked around the huge colony. We were surprised to see a blubber mountain of huge male elephant seals. The sound and smell was fascinating, but not pretty!

Day 18 pm: Grand Jason

The ship was anchored a fair way away from the landing site at Grand Jason. It was gusting over 20knots at anchor, and it looked to be windy along the rocky coastline of GJ. The group agreed that walking up to the nesting site of 100,000 pairs of black browed albatross was the better option. The rockhoppers and albatross were majestic and so peaceful, all nesting together on the hillside. The walk was also a nice change, and offered a good stretch of the legs.

Day 19 am: Saunders

It was blowing a consistent 20 knots at our backs, so we decided to get out for one last paddle all together. The paddle was short but exciting as we headed to the shore on the west side of the bay, and then surfed downwind to the beautiful beach. Small waves were coming in but everyone managed to surf their boats in safely, except for Wade who took a quick dip in the surf. As everyone wandered into the colonies of penguins, Eamon and Russell got all the kayaks back to the ship via Zodiac with help from some other E-Team. Despite the short paddle and bumpy conditions, everyone was really happy we got out together one last time.

Day 19 pm: West Point

Everyone went to shore in the Zodiacs here so they could enjoy the walk across the island to the albatross and rockhopper colony. It was really nice to get up high and see some distant views of different island and sea. The GM crew brought afternoon tea and treats to shore for everyone to enjoy before they headed back to ship from the last landing! Afterwards, all the kayakers minus Allen enjoyed a private Zodiac cruise with Russell and Eamon which they had won at the South Georgia Heritage Trust Auction. They got to explore the coastline while enjoying wine and treats. It was full of laughter and a perfect final outing together as the kayakers.



Snorkel Log

By Liz MacNeil

Snorkel Guide: Liz MacNeil

Number of Snorkels: 10

Total Outings: 9

Snorkellers:

Brad Stolshek

Stewart Akahoshi

Lily Bunker

Stephen McCarthy

Tyson Mayr

Tim Seller

Peter Watts

Andrew Conway

Helen Cox

Delphine Zebouloun

Day 5 am: Prospect Point & the Fish Islands, Antarctic Peninsula

After days of making our way down towards the Antarctic Circle, it was great to have our first excursion off the ship. In typical SNORK fashion, we went for a zodiac cruise checking out the Adélie penguins and ice and found some other ways to pass the time, like getting out on an ice floe! Standing on a huge piece of sea ice, we had a snowball fight, and felt like Shack-leton for a moment. Embarking the Zodiac once again, we navigated our way to the shore where we were greeted by Ashley. Stepping off on to Prospect Point, at this moment, many of us were able to cross off our 7th continent. From there, we geared up and entered the wa-ter for our check-out snorkel. The ice and its different hues were beautiful, and from explor-ing under water to climbing up on the growlers, it was truly a mind-blowing experience – it feels good to be a SNORK!

Day 6 pm: Wordie Hut & Skua Island, Antarctic Peninsula

What a beautiful day in the neighbourhood. The sun was out, and there was so much to ex-plore during our Zodiac cruise. Being the first Zodiac out, we were able to explore around the ice and all the channels Skua Island had to offer on our way to Wordie Hut. The Ukranian base, Vernadsky Station, was on the point and sea ice had started to form, blocking some of the channels towards the hut. No worries though, just took another route! Checking out the hut for a few minutes took us back in time, and on our way to the snorkel spot, we came across a leopard seal feasting on a few Gentoo penguins – three actually. Well, as John Kirkwood says, “nothing dies of old age in Anarctica”... isn’t that the truth! Our snorkel spot was in a little protected cove outside of the channel, where Gentoo penguins were swimming and making their way in and out of the water. They saw us as predators, so they avoided us, but nevertheless, the sun was shining and it was a gorgeous afternoon to be in the water.

Day 7 Pm: Cuverville Island, Antarctic Peninsula

Well, we said it from the beginning - sometimes Plan B can be more amazing than Plan A, and an afternoon that started off super windy, ended up being fantastic! Crabeater seals, a Gen-too penguin colony, and an iceberg graveyard, which did not disappoint! Smiles all around as we snorkelled around the ice and climbed up on some grounded growlers. The water was clear and the beach was home to a few swimming Gentoos, which some of us were lucky enough to see swimming under the water. The stoke level was high making our way back to the ship, with smiles all around.

Day 8 am: Neko Harbour, Antarctic Peninsula

What a whale of a morning! On the lookout for humpbacks, we had a beautiful Zodiac cruise amongst the ice. There was absolutely no wind, the sea was glass, and all of a sudden, we came across a sleeping humpback. Not wanting to wake it from its slumber, we explored around the bay a bit more, and minutes later, a Minke whale came up right behind our Zodiac - incredible. We navigated towards through the brash ice and towards the shore for another continental landing. As we explored the Gentoo colony, Liz found a spot where they were swimming, so we were taken there for a snorkel. Watching the penguins swimming around was a pretty special sight – they’re so awkward on land, yet move so gracefully under the water. All of a sudden, the humpback came up and everyone quickly got back into the Zodi-ac with hopes to see it! As we made our way through the brash, the glacier calved and all of a sudden we saw a double breach – our minds were blown!

Day 8 pm: Damoy / Port Lockroy / Jougla Point, Antarctic Peninsula

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! What a change from the calm waters at Neko. Snow, wind, waves, and we really weren’t sure if we’d be able to find a good spot to snorkel this af-ternoon. After searching for a calm spot and making our way onto land, four intrepid snorkel-ers made their way towards Jougla Point to see what lay below. Around the whale grave-yard we found a spot calm enough to enter the water, but by that time, four had turned into two, and the water was warmer than the air temperature. Stewart and Stephen did their first back roll entries and explored the sea below whilst the snow was falling around them. Whale and penguin bones, limpets and kelp lined the sea floor. Getting out of the water and back to the ship was going to be a cold one, through the wind, waves, and snow, as quickly as pos-sible! Yee Haw!

Day 13 pm: Peggotty Bluff, South Georgia

Our first snorkel at South Georgia did not disappoint, and starting off Zodiac cruising along the glacial fjord was magical as a flock of Antarctic terns flew above our heads, welcoming us into the fjord. Next stop, Peggotty Bluff where Shackleton started his trek across the island, and just like back then, we too were greeted by king penguins and fur seals. Given the windy conditions, finding a snorkel spot was challenging, however, amongst the kelp beds, the wa-ters calmed and the fur seals were plentiful. Into the water we went, and whilst we were checking out the kelp forests, the sun starting to soften through the clouds, and we had terns above and seals below, enchanting us with their presence. As we made our way back to-wards the ship, a rainbow emerged, blessing us with its colours after a fantastic afternoon.

Day 14 am: Jason Harbour, South Georgia

You know how we said Plan B can be better than Plan A? Well, Jason Harbour delivered ba-by fur seals! Although we didn’t have time for a real Zodiac cruise, we found an amazing spot to get into the water with baby fur seals.

The fur seals were all along the rocks and curiously started swimming towards us once we were in the water. The glacial sediment made the vis-ibility quite low, so we weren’t sure where the baby seals were going to pop up and say hello, but we’re glad they did!

Day 15 am: Cooper Bay, South Georgia

Another beautiful day in the neighbourhood. Sunny skies greeted us as we made our way through Cooper Bay on the lookout for Macaroni penguins. The tide was high and the swell was fun as we made it through the channels. Macaronis, Chinstraps, Kings, and Gentoos littered the bay, along with elephant and fur seals hauled out amongst the rocks and beaches. Leopard seals were hunting for Macaronis and this was all before we even got into the water! Making our way closer towards the ship, we readied ourselves for another snorkel with baby fur seals - absolutely amazing!

Day 16 am: Salisbury Plain, South Georgia

Sunrise session and we’re RTG! Making our way towards shore, it was awesome to see all of the King penguins and baby fur seals swimming in and out of the water in large concentra-tions. Unsure we’d be able to find a spot out of the wind near the penguins, Liz scouted the sites to find somewhere epic to snorkel! In the corner of the next bay over, we were able to find a spot with King penguins and seals - WOW...this is what we’d been waiting for! Sur-rounded by penguins and baby fur seals in the waters of South Georgia...and to have the snorkel end with a surprise visit from a leopard seal. With the exhilaration off the charts, we were all buzzing on the way back to the ship. What a morning!

Day 19 pm: Grand Jason, Falkland Islands

Starting our excursion, we weren’t sure what to expect. No one had ever been to the island because of its rough, exposed position in the northwest corner of the islands, but we had ide-al conditions. Cruising along the shoreline, the volume of birdlife was overwhelming – from Black-browed Albatross and Rockhopper penguins to American oystercatchers and Caraca-ras, we had everything flying around us! Not only were we looking up, but we were also look-ing down at the sea lions and Peale’s dolphins welcoming us to our landing site. After a wan-der around the island, we had three intrepid snorkellers dip into the water, hoping the dolphins would return. Our first and only snorkel in the Falklands ended up having the best visibility and the kelp beds offered us sights of sea stars, mussels, and views down to the sea floor. The water was much warmer, so it became our longest snorkel as we made our way to-wards the penguins, hoping to get one last glimpse of them swimming in the water. As time ran out, we made our way back to the ship. The first Zodiac out and the last Zodiac in...yes, it’s true, SNORKs do have the most fun! s







Bird Sightings

Bird Species	15 March – 05 Apr 2022																						
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	
Gentoo Penguin						•	•	•		•				•	•	•				•			
Chinstrap Penguin										•					•								
Adelie Penguin					•																		
Macaroni Penguin															•	•			•	•			
Magellanic Penguin		•																	•	•		•	
Wandering Albatross			•													•	•	•		•	•		
Black-browed Albatross	•	•	•	•							•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Grey-headed Albatross			•	•					•														
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross			•								•		•			•							
Giant Petrel sp. (Northern or Southern)		•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
Cape Petrel				•			•				•											•	
Snow Petrel								•	•														
Antarctic Petrel										•													
Antarctic Fulmar (=Southern)				•	•						•												
White-headed Petrel																		•					
Soft-plumaged petrel				•							•						•						
Antarctic Prion			•										•	•		•	•	•					
Blue Petrel			•									•											
White-chinned Petrel											•		•				•				•		
Great Shearwater																		•					
Sooty Shearwater		•																				•	
Wilson's Storm-petrel			•	•	•		•	•			•		•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	
Black-bellied Storm-petrel				•												•					•		
Grey-backed Storm-petrel																			•	•			
Diving Petrel														•									
Antarctic Cormorant					•	•	•	•															
South Georgia Cormorant													•	•	•	•							
Imperial Cormorant (= South American)																			•	•	•	•	
Rock Cormorant																				•	•		

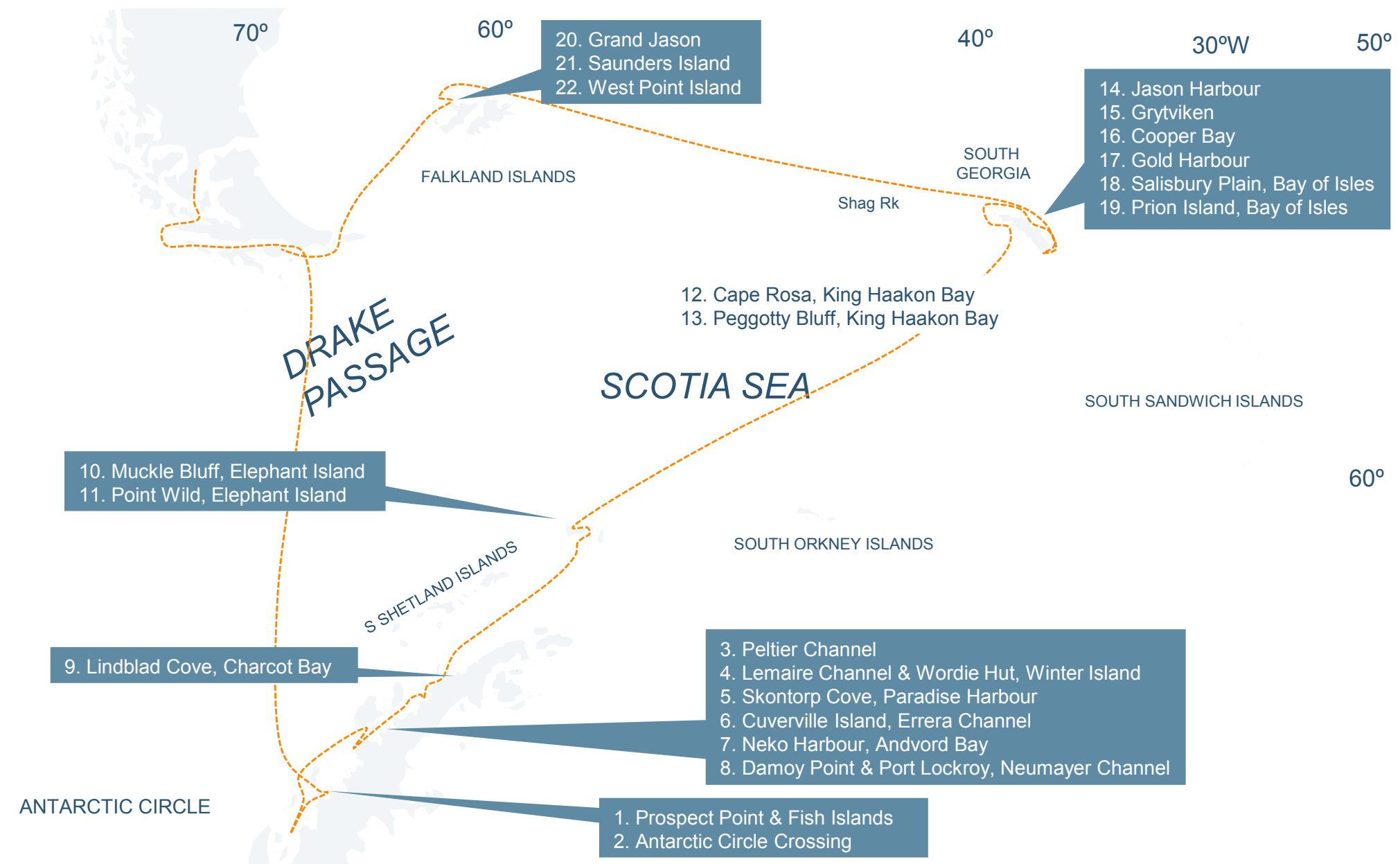
Bird Species	15 March – 05 Apr 2022																						
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	
Pale-faced Sheathbill (Snowy)								●							●	●							
Chilean Skua		●	●																			●	
Falkland Skua																			●	●			
Brown Skua						●	●	●	●				●	●	●	●							
South Polar Skua					●			●															
Kelp Gull		●	●		●	●	●	●	●						●	●							
Dolphin Gull		●																		●		●	
Tern (probably mostly Antarctic)					●	●	●	●	●														
South American Tern			●																●			●	
South Georgia Pipit													●	●	●	●							
Black-crowned Night Heron																			●				
Kelp Goose																			●	●			
Upland Goose																			●	●			
Ruddy-headed Goose																				●			
South Georgia Pintail Duck														●	●	●							
Falkland Steamer Duck																			●	●			
Chiloe Wigeon																			●				
Crested Duck																				●			
Speckled Teal																				●			
Blackish Oystercatcher																			●	●			
Magellanic Oystercatcher																			●	●			
Magellanic Snipe																			●				
Turkey Vulture																				●			
Striated Caracara																			●	●			
Falkland Thrush																			●	●			
Long-tailed Meadowlark																				●			
Dark-faced Ground Tyrant																			●	●			
Blackish Cinclodes (= Tussac Bird)																			●	●			



Mammal Sightings

Mammal Species	15 March – 05 Apr 2022																						
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	
South American Sea Lion	●																						
South American Fur Seal		●																				●	
Antarctic Fur Seal				●		●	●	●	●				●	●	●	●							
Southern Elephant Seal						●							●	●	●	●							
Crabeater Seal						●	●																
Weddell Seal								●															
Leopard Seal						●			●						●								
Minke Whale						●	●	●															
Sei Whale	●																						
Fin Whale		●		●																			
Humpback Whale		●				●		●	●														
Unidentified Whale																				●			
Hourglass Dolphin												●					●						
Peale's Dolphin																			●	●			
Commerson's Dolphin																			●	●			
Orca																							





Expeditioners:

Stewart Akahoshi	Wade Eastburn	Den Bussche	Andrew Terry
Annette Baggie	Glyn Evans	Carol Norbron	Lauren Terry
Polo Bedoni	Julianne Gazal-Rizk	Tricia Nutt	Julie Thompson
Helen Belencan	Peter Ibbotson	Phil Nutt	Nelun Tirimanne
Elisabeth Bennett	Debbie Ibbotson	Sue O'hara	Mahendra Tirimanne
Lily Bunker	Kathy King	Cindy O'hara	Jay Turner
Mollie Carter	Deborah Kohler	Patrick O'shea	James Vance
Stanley Carter	Jamie Lafferty	Tsai-Jie Pai	Amanda Vance
Cris Carter	Allen Lewis	Peter Pereira	Greg Vandygriff
Bruce Cleghorn	Russell Linford	Jocelyn Pride	Dennis Warrington
Andrew Conway	Georgie Linford	Jennifer Reynolds	Peter Watts
Jane Cook	Glen Lucken	Bill Rizk	Brenda Weatherhead
Helen Cox	Carol Lucken	Ruth Rowles	Garance Worters
Frank Crnkovich	Dianne Lumb	Ian Ruddick	Delphine Zebouloun
Pat Crnkovich	Rachelle Mackintosh	Tim Seller	
Kerrie Croft	John Maxfield	Andy Shetter	
Kevin Davis	Colleen Maxfield	Mary Shetter	
Mary Davis	Tyson Mayr	Malcolm Smith	
Rachel Delisser	Stephen Mccarthy	Gary Smith	
Liz Drever	Rene Mejia	Heidi Smithers	
Louise Drouin	Nancy Mejia	Bradley Stolshek	
Sophie Drouin	Yazmen Mitchell	Mark Stratton	
Jane Eastburn	Carolina Nelson Van	Carole Terry	



Expedition Team:

- Expedition Leader: Ashley Perrins
- Assistant Expedition Leader: Daniel Stavert
- Onboard Expedition Manager: Anne Oeyasaeter
- Naturalist: John Kirkwood
- Historian: Steve Martin
- Expedition Guide/Naturalist: Annette Scheffer
- Expedition Guide/Naturalist: Lauren Farmer
- Expedition Guide: Justine Bornholdt
- Expedition Guide: Lelia Cataldi
- Kayaking Guide: Russell Henry
- Kayaking Guide: Eamon Larkin
- Snorkelling Guide: Liz MacNeil
- Photography Guide: Massimo Bassano
- Medic: Mari Fleri
- Zodiac Master: Sergei Hincu
- Mudroom/Shopkeeper: Reza Rusooly

Senior Officers & Heads of Department:

- Master: Oleg Klaptenko

Master: Maxim Makarovskiy

Chief Officer: Alexandru Taraoi

Safety Officer: Andrey Zakalashnyuk

Second Officer: Sergii Voina

Second Office: Edgar De Venechia

Bosun: Oscar Antonio Castejon Torres

Deck Cadet: Sander Magi

Deck Cadet: David Bote Martin

Ship Doctor: Anzor Chomakhidze

Ship Nurse: Susara Hendrika Mostert

Chief Engineer: Dimitar Ivanov Vasilev

First Engineer: Ion Toma

Hotel Director: Franz Wusits

F&B Manager: Miguel Cabanillas Alvarez

Chief Purser: Liza Merillo
- Executive Chef: Pierpaolo Fadda

Sous Chef: Nellan Lewars

Hotel Controller: Rohmat Nurhidayat

IT Officer: Ihor Yesmienieiev

Receptionist: Kateryna Tauzhnianska

Receptionist: Marie Annecy Reynoird

Head Stateroom: Elieser Nunez Almendarez

Spa Manager: Alena Antonova

Able Seaman: Mohamed Elsayed Abdelhamid Rodes

Able Seaman: Bobby Penuliar Payumo

Able Seaman: Yevgen Kotuz

Able Seaman: Maksym Khlivniuk

Able Seaman: Joel Valdevieso Noble

Able Seaman: Giovanni Dela Torre

Photography thanks to:

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Andrew Conway | Elisabeth Bennett | Lily Bunker | Kerrie Croft | Patrick O'Shea | Jamie Lafferty |
| Brenda Weatherhead | Georgie Linford | Sophie Drouin | Louise Drouin | Russell Linford | Helene Smithers |
| Allen Lewis | Carolina Van Den Bussche | Peter Watts | Georgie Linford | Amanda Vance | |
| Ian Ruddick | Nelson | Jocelyn Pride | James Vance | Bruce Leghorn | E Team: |
| Wade Eastburn | Frank Crnkovich | Polo Bedoni | Malcolm Smith | Julianna Gazal-Rizk | Massimo Bassano |





