

# Wild Antarctica

Aboard *MV Greg Mortimer* | 16 – 25 February 2022









# Punta Arenas

DAY 1 | Wednesday 16 February 2022

Position at 2100

Latitude: 53°13.614'S

Longitude: 070°51.929'W

Course: 012.3°

Speed: 3.9 knots

Wind Speed: 14 knots, moderate breeze from W

Barometer: 1018

Air Temp: 4°C

A wonderful feeling to be able to cast off and head for our goal at last.

—Roald Amundsen, *The Amundsen Photographs*, edited by Roland Huntford, 1987

Welcome aboard! After spending a few short hours on land in Punta Arenas, we were transferred by bus to our home away from home for the next ten days, the *Greg Mortimer*.

Walk off the buses, portrait photos taken then up the gangway where the welcoming team escorted us to our luxurious staterooms, our luggage already there awaiting us.

Together we total 46 passengers, along with 15 Aurora Expeditions team and 82 crew from around the globe.

Enjoying a delicious afternoon in the afternoon in the Elephant Bar as we set sail in cool calm conditions, within ten minutes an announcement from the Expedition Team, a pod of sei whales had been sighted. Captain slowed the ship and followed them, giving great views and an amazing photo opportunity. The whales moved away from the ship after fifteen minutes and we were back on course making our way along the Strait of Magellan, first discovered in 1520 by Spanish Explorer, Ferdinand Magellan. The strait separates the mainland of South America with the island Tierra de Fuego.

Pre-dinner drinks in the Elephant Bar and you could feel the buzz amongst our group of in anticipation of the adventure we were all embarking on. Friendships are already being made, our adventure guides are meeting some of the passengers in their groups, everyone is excited!

As we enter the dining room for dinner we are shown out designated tables for the duration of the voyage, allowed by delicious food and wonderful service from all the staff. Some finished the evening with a relaxing drink in the Elephant Bar, while others, tired after a long day, retired for their cabins and were rocked to sleep by the movement of the sea all around us, dreaming of the adventure that awaits us.





# Chilean Fjords, Beagle Channel

DAY 2 | Thursday 17 February 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 54°43.611'S

Longitude: 071°22.362'W

Course: 093.3°

Speed: 9.7 knots

Wind Speed: 30 knots

Barometer: 1007

Air Temp: 9°C

Birds have it better than we do, in many ways, and here are three, with wings they fly by day and night, and never have a cancelled flight, with feathers they have clothes that always fit, in styles that never change a bit, and what we envy most, I'd say, with bills they never have to pay.

—Anonymous

We awoke this morning and found ourselves cruising through the beautiful Chilean Fjords. Surrounded by craggy peaks, snow covered mountains, forest and so many glaciers. From early morning, wandering and black browed albatross could be seen gracefully gliding along the fjords close to the ship.

A busy morning of mandatory briefings in the lecture theatre, preparing us for when we reach the Antarctic Continent. The IAATO briefing, teaching us the do's and don'ts of what is allowed in regards to distance from wildlife, historic sites, safety and respect for the environment. Following this came the zodiac briefing, informing guests on the trusty vessels we would be using for cruising and transferring us from ship to shore. Finally, the biosecurity check or what is sometime called the vacuuming party. All our outer items of clothing had to be thoroughly checked for dirt, seeds, dust, and if any was found, out came the vacuum cleaner - it is so important we do not leave any foreign matter on the continent.

Time for a well-deserved lunch. Another delicious buffet was on offer including salads, cheeses, a selection of hot food, vegetables, soup and of course several desserts. I'm sure Miguel and his team will have us taking home a few extra pounds on our waistline.

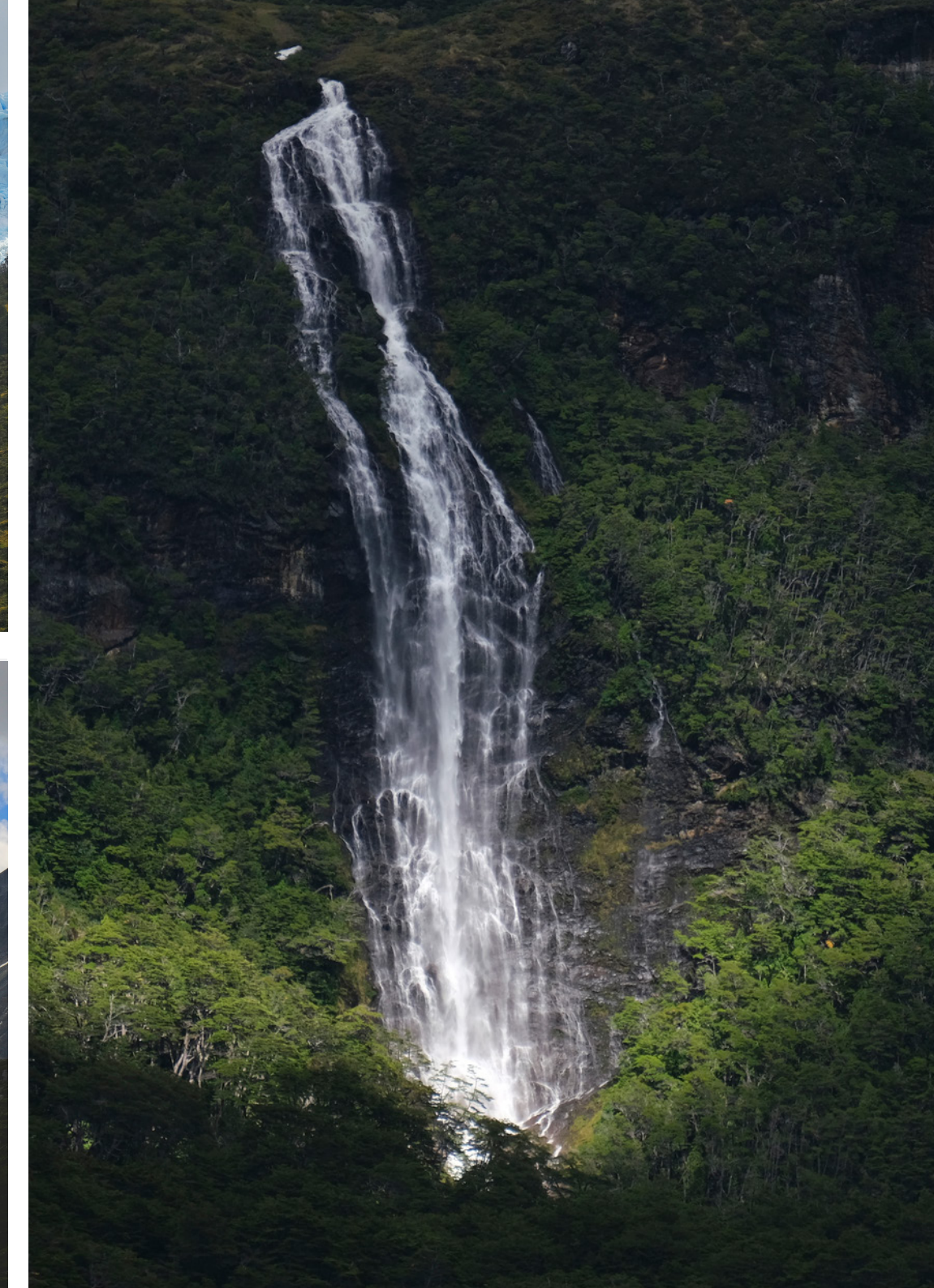
No time to relax, we are here for an expedition! Our first Citizen Science project was underway, several of us gathered in the Observation Lounge where Expedition Team member John explained the bird counting project. We then put on our layers of clothes and braved the elements on the outer decks for thirty minutes identifying and counting the number of birds we could see.

Others interested in snorkelling in the chilly Antarctic waters gathered in the lecture theatre for a briefing on safety, gear and covering all the requirements of this activity with our two snorkel guides Liz and Pete. Then it was time to go down to the mudroom for a dry suit fitting.

Captain's Welcome preceded dinner, drinks and canapes in the Elephant Bar, then we all gathered in the lecture theatre for an introduction to the captain and the ships officers, each introducing themselves with their role onboard and where they are from. A true League of Nations from Russia, Georgia, Philippines, Honduras, Peru,

Austria and the Netherlands.

Another delicious dinner, some guests then chose to relax in the Elephant Bar, others retired for the evening. Either way we are all prepared for the Drake Shake!





# Drake Passage

DAY 3 | Friday 18 February 2022

Position at 0600  
Latitude: 56°00.908' S  
Longitude: 066°20.925' W  
Course: 1147.5  
Speed: 12.3 knots

‘The winds were such as if the bowels of the earth had set all at liberty ... anchors gave over their holdfast ... committing the distressed ship and helpless men to the uncertain rowling seas, which tossed them, like a ball in a racket’

—(Francis Fletcher with Drake in 1578)

The *Greg Mortimer* certainly handled the rolling seas of the Drake Passage much better than Drake’s vessel centuries before. However, during the night as we sailed out to sea, we felt our ship move around more than when it was safely protected in the Beagle Channel. Those of us awake at dawn watched the sun rise through broken cloud to reveal large swells rolling from starboard to port. For a few hours in the morning, the Drake quickstep was the dance of the day.

The staff had set up early morning coffee for the enthusiasts and many turned up for breakfast a bit later.

Steve kicked off the lecture series with a general introduction to Antarctica, describing the geography of this enormous continent, showing us images of some of the amazing wildlife we’ll see and explaining the varied human responses to life in the south.

By the time Steve’s talk had finished the swell had begun to drop in intensity and by the time we sat down to lunch, life was much more stable.

Afterwards, those outside felt the bite of the wind and watched the seabirds, others rested while digesting lunch, one or two had massages in the wellness centre, or shopped and then listened to John’s bright and informative lecture about the seabirds we’ll see on our trip. From albatross to sheathbill’s, petrels to pintados, we’ll see a wonderful range of birds. His lecture finished with a brief explanation of the success of the long line mediation program, a set of practises that involved fisherfolk and scientists working together to devise ways of reducing the shocking death of seabirds which were caught on the long lines of hooks set from fishing boats to catch fish.

Cocktails in the bar and dinner followed. By evening, the rhythms of the Drake had softened and the quickstep passed into a leisurely stroll.

Wind Speed: 25 knots, strong breeze from SW  
Barometer: 1013  
Air Temp: 5°C





# Drake Passage

DAY 4 | Saturday 19 February 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 60°18.880'S

Longitude: 061°39.922'W

Course: 150.6°

Speed: 13.6 knots

Wind Speed: 30 knots, near gale from SW

Barometer: 1018

Air Temp: -2°C

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

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

Today, we continued our journey across the famed Drake Passage. Apparently, the tumultuous seas that we experienced were only slightly worse than average, which is hardly reassuring to those of us suffering the ill effects of the constant movement.

Our second day at sea was punctuated by a series of entertaining and informative lectures on wildlife, ice and photography. Who knew that there are so many different types of ice or that glaciers could be so fascinating? Who knew how much more interesting your photographs can be if you use the rule of thirds, lead the eye through the picture and tell a story with your pictures?

Immediately after Massimo's lecture on photographic composition, Flo announced over the intercom that we were approaching the South Shetland Islands: a dramatic chain of volcanic islands separating Drake Passage from the Bransfield Strait. We will be back to visit these islands before we depart Antarctica. About halfway through our passage through the South Shetlands, we reached a point where seas from two different directions collided in a maelstrom of clashing waves. There we saw tiny Wilson's storm petrels dabbling at the water's surface, swooping giant petrels gliding by with apparent ease and a flock of Cape petrels whirling and playing in the skies close to the ship. It is a mystery just how these birds can go about their normal lives in such screaming winds and wild seas.

We also saw our first Antarctic penguins there and most exciting of all, two enormous whales. These giants only provided us with fleeting glimpses of their backs as they quickly disappeared beneath the waves: long enough for us to see that they were either fin or sei whales, but not long enough for a definite identification.

Soon after this, Chief Officer Alex Taraoi spotted our first iceberg on the horizon and duly recorded its position and the time of sighting. Now it's time to enter all of the carefully considered Great Antarctic Iceberg Competition entries into the ship's super-computer, which should be able to spit out a result by the end of the voyage. For your interest, Alex drives the ship from 4-8 am and 4-8 pm, Safety Officer Goran Goles drives the ship from

8 am-12 noon and 8 pm- midnight, and 2nd Officer Sergei Voina drives the ship from noon-4 pm and midnight-4 am. These are just some of the people 'behind the scenes,' who get us to and from Antarctica safely.

Speaking of getting to Antarctica, we will be landing there straight after breakfast tomorrow. This landing, at Brown Bluff, will be on the Antarctic continent itself. Here, passengers can bag their seventh continent; or whatever number each person is up to. Brown Bluff is the eroded edge of a volcano that provides a dramatic backdrop to rookeries of Adélie and gentoo penguins. Our afternoon landing at Paulet Island is a great wildlife destination as well as a historic site. There, a large Adélie penguin rookery has taken over the ruins of a stone hut in which the crew of the ship Antarctic spent the winter of 1903 after their ship was crushed in the ice of the Weddell Sea.





# Brown Bluff, Paulet Island

DAY 5 | Sunday 20 February 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 63°26.977'S

Longitude: 056°51.379'W

Course: 179.9°

Speed: 5.9 knots

Wind Speed: 6 knots, light breeze from N

Barometer: 1018

Air Temp: 0°C

‘Many hundreds of dreams have been dreamed on our island, but I do not know if they helped to brighten our existence... we could dream through a whole dinner, from the soup to the dessert and waken to be cruelly disappointed. How many times did we see the relief vessel...’

—Carl Skottsberg while isolated on Paulet Island

The morning light came clear and cold as the *Greg Mortimer* sailed into the Antarctic Sound. The still water and calm seas a welcome gift after a true Drake Passage.

With staff on shore waiting, expeditioners came down to the mudroom, donning boots and jacket, and boarded the Zodiacs for the first time. Ahead on the beaches of Brown Bluff, sleeping fur seals and hundreds of inquisitive gentoo penguins awaited.

Landing amongst these living creatures the expeditioners were able to walk for the first time on the Antarctic Continent itself. If one had skis, food, (and sufficient lack of an instinct for self-preservation) you could ski all the way from the beach to the south pole without crossing water. It might take you some time.

The antics of the penguins and the sleepy outrage of the fur seals was enough of an entertainment for many of the landing people, some choosing to find a rock to perch on, others hiking up higher to see nesting snow petrels. Nesting as far as 300 kilometres inland, they are the world’s most southerly breeding animal.

The kayakers were out as well, enjoying their first paddle in the glassy waters of the Antarctic Sound. Cruising amongst ice and fur seals they too came ashore to enjoy a landing on the continent.

The three hours on shore flew past, and soon all travellers were back on board and enjoying a steady ship and a well deserved meal.

By two o’clock the ship had headed deeper in the Antarctic Sound and into the mouth of the Weddell Sea itself. Here lay Paulet Island, site of the dramatic events of the Noredenskjold expedition where Captain Larsen and his men made their home for a year, hoping for rescue.

Arriving on shore we were able to walk up to their hut, past throngs of dozing Antarctic fur seals, and ever busy gentoo penguins. There Stephen told us their remarkable story, its dramatic events made all the more vivid by the wild volcanic landscape, the peaceful drifting ice, and the clear skies of the Antarctic Day.

With that day drawing to a close, we returned to the waiting *Greg Mortimer*, zooming home in our Zodiacs past elephant seals and icebergs to climb back onboard and up into the warmth of the ship.

To add one final layer of beauty to the day, two humpback whales cruised gently pass our bow, with their lazily rolling backs and high arcing tail fins - this was a beautiful way to finish our first day in the Antarctic.





# Snow Hill Island, James Ross Island

DAY 6 | Monday 21 February 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 64°18.288'S

Longitude: 057°00.939'W

Course: 165.5°

Speed: x

Wind Speed: 6 knots, light breeze from NW

Barometer: 993

Air Temp: 3°C

Old iceberg on the shelf

Blue white, quiet: ornamental

Are you still dreaming ?

A sunrise to greet the lucky, pink clouds, orange cloud, yellow lined charcoal clouds, pink faced icebergs, white ice that glowed on indigo seas. And the quiet of a windless dawn. We were charmed for what seemed like hours.

But there were things to do, and after breakfast we went ashore to see the Snow Hill Hut of the Swedish Antarctic Expedition 1901-1904. A prefabricated and tidy black building, perched high on a rise in muddy washes and banks, the hut was home and main base of the expedition. It had recently been cleaned up by Argentine curators and we were the first to visit the small hut after their departure. Five at a time, we stepped into history and imagined the joys and tedium and hard work of the men who lived here through two winters, who included Jose Maria Sobral, the Argentinian scientist later to become influential in Argentinian Antarctic affairs.

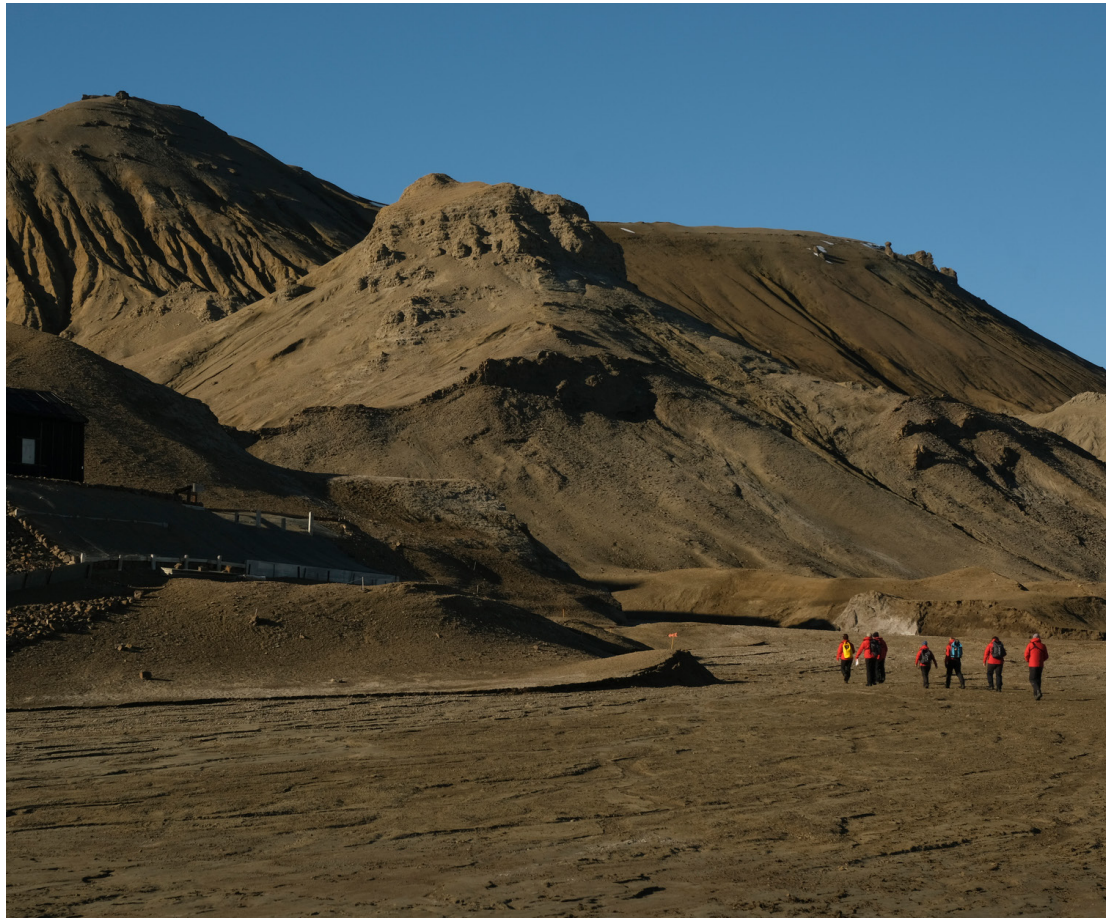
After visiting the hut, groups walked into a charming valley and searched for fossils. Easily found in the loose gravel and dirt, the ammonites, fossilised wood, bivalves and more were examined and left for others to enjoy. Guests enjoyed a brief Zodiac cruise before returning to the *Greg Mortimer*.

Others dived, the best yet, or kayaked slowly around the ice and bergs before landing briefly, visiting the hut and then returning to their favoured mode of transport.

Captain Oleg took the ship down to James Ross Island cruising past icebergs. Although the wind had pricked up a little, the skies were clear and the light on the snow-covered hills was bright and strong. Later, at the island and in the shadows of giant brown mesas, whose slopes were often decorated by glaciers and snowfields, we cruised in Zodiacs around fantastically shaped grounded icebergs checking out the colours of the old, decaying ice. Weddell seals lay basking on floes, Antarctic terns flew overhead.

The weather remained fine and after all of us had rejoined, the ship's 32 hardy souls (26 guests, 4 Expedition Team and 2 crew), watched by crowds cheering from the decks, jumped off the back platform into the sea, thus joining a select band of Polar Plungers. We hope that you are now warm.

A second glorious day.





# Polar Plunge

DAY 6 | Monday 21 February 2022





# The Naze, Devil Island

DAY 7 | Tuesday 22 February 2022

Position at 0600  
Latitude: 63°56.564' S  
Longitude: 057°15.506' W  
Course: 271.6°  
Speed: 3.4 knots

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.

We began our day at the very northern tip of James Ross Island, a spit of land known as "The Naze." Increasing winds offered texture to the calm seas we had been getting used to. After breakfast, we journeyed to shore for a leg stretch on this most dramatic peninsula. We were greeted by lazing fur seals and kelp gull adults keeping a close eye on their chicks. Boulders of ice lay grounded along the beach where 3 fully fledged Adélie penguin chicks preened under the close eye of our camera lenses. Our kayakers and divers also enjoyed a paddle and underwater exploration in the iceberg lagoon which lay just to the south. On our return, our intrepid explorers viewed 8 snoozing Weddell seals hauled out on a shallow beach and then endured a bounce and a splash on our way back to *Greg Mortimer*.

Over lunch we repositioned to the northern coast of Vega Island and anchored just off Devil Island. On approach, a light dusting of snow began to fall and we all wondered what the afternoon might bring. None of us could have imagined the delights Antarctica had in store for us. A few keen hikers headed off with Dot and Dean for a steep climb on Devil Island and while getting some good exercise, crossed paths with dozens and dozens of Adélie penguins. Another group went off for a snorkel with Liz and Peter while a few kayakers prepared for a truly memorable paddle. The rest of us set out in Zodiacs to see what the area had to offer. Groups of humpback whales and too many fur seals to count had been spotted on our approach to Vega Island, so we were feeling lucky. Several boats were in for a real surprise with the curiosity and playfulness of the whales who spent over 90 minutes with our fleet of small boats and kayaks. So close we could smell their breath and feel the spray of their blow, being within metres of these magnificent giants is an experience we won't soon forget. Fortune came to another Zodiac with fantastic views of penguins and seals both on shore and on ice and time spent at the nearby glacier, truly spectacular with snow falling all around us. The 'snorks' were treated to a playful fur seal and had the opportunity to climb onto a piece of ice. A safe one, of course!

Back on board we could feel the buzz of adrenaline with the swapping of stories over a cocktail at the Elephant Bar. Up on Deck 8, we were treated to a BBQ feast courtesy of our galley and dining team, an absolutely perfect ending to yet another expedition day in the Weddell Sea.

Wind Speed: 20 knots, fresh breeze from W  
Barometer: 995  
Air Temp: 0°C





# View Point, Duse Bay

DAY 8 | Wednesday 23 February 2022

Position at 0600  
Latitude: 63°41.258' S  
Longitude: 057°15.184' W  
Course: 016.4°  
Speed: 11.1 knots

Oh, the Weddell Sea!  
We saw some penguins and whales...  
And lots of fur seals!  
—A Weddell Haiku by Liz.

It's a beautiful day in the neighbourhood! Waking up to sunny skies was an early morning mark in the win column as we headed through the Duse Bay on our way towards View Point. Coffee was poured, breakfast was devoured, and the stoke level was high as the sun, ice, and glassy waters guided us towards a destination new to us all.

Our Expedition Team was deployed to assess the landing site as we eagerly awaited going ashore to stretch our legs and take in the views. After our Zodiac cruise through the ice, we reached the shore where we were greeted by our friends, the fur seals, and to our delight, gentoo penguins. Walking around the point was phenomenal! Everywhere we looked, there was a beautiful vista or wildlife to view... View Point definitely lived up to its name! Luckily, Dot and Liz ice dozed the landing site while we were on shore, otherwise we could have had our own Shackleton moment. To our surprise, we did have our own mini Shackleton moment on the ice as each of us had a chance to get out onto an ice flo and have our photos taken by the amazing Massimo! Truly, an unexpected end to a beautiful morning!

In true expedition style, we decided to stay where the weather and views were phenomenal and ventured out for an afternoon of fun in the sun. Some went for a Zodiac cruise through the ice while others kayaked or snorkelled... we were even able to get some of our crew out for the afternoon. The kayakers came back with stories of leopard and fur seals, the cruisers navigated through sculptures of ice, while the snorkellers (and some crew) launched themselves into the icy waters of the Weddell Sea (but this time, with a dry suit). Needless to say, a beautiful day was had by all as we said goodbye to the Weddell Sea and set our bearing for the Bransfield Straight and the South Shetland Islands... and cue the breaching whales... does it really get much better than this?

Gathering for dinner, we filled our bellies with Chef Paolo's amazing cuisine, sharing our stories and photos of the day's adventures. With visions of ice and fur seals swimming through our heads, we gathered at the bar for one last drink to toast our extraordinary day.

Wind Speed: 15 knots,m oderate breeze from W  
Barometer: 1006  
Air Temp: -3°C





# Whalers Bay, Halfmoon Island

DAY 9 | Thursday 24 February 2022

Position at 0600  
Latitude: 63°00.469 S  
Longitude: 060°21.699 W  
Course: 281.2°  
Speed: 9.3 knots

I have often had the impression that, to penguins, man is just another penguin – different, less predictable, occasionally violent, but tolerable company when he sits still and minds his own business.

—Bernard Stonehouse, Penguins

The weather this morning was grimmer than we'd experienced. The clouds were low and the wind cold. But we headed for the small entrance into Deception Island determined to make this day as good as the previous ones. Captain Oleg skilfully put the ship through Neptune's Bellows, the narrow entrance and into the flooded caldera where he anchored the *Greg Mortimer*.

Now inspired, we picked up our resolve and ventured out on to the beach of Whaler's Bay, a black sand beach that steamed in the low tide. It's a volcano after all. The ruins of many years of human occupation of this now empty place lay along the beach from the hanger at one end to the track up to Neptune's Window at the other. On landing we separated into groups, one walked with Dot up the ridge behind the hanger and the other joined Steve for a history walk around the historic whaling station. Its hard to imagine that the Bay was once full of whaling ships, as many as 24 at a time and the buildings behind the beach were a noisy, smelly factory in which whale blubber was rendered down to the lucrative oil. The beach is notable for other reasons. From an airfield just beyond the hangar (erected by the British in the 1950s), Australian Sir Hubert Wilkins made the first aeroplane flights in Antarctica. We had enough time to complete all walks and some finished their day with a brisk trek up to the gap in the volcano wall called Neptune's Window. It's said that on a clear day, one can see the continent from this vantage point.

Revived by lunch we were ready for the afternoon's landing at Half Moon Bay, where gatherings of moulting chinstrap penguins stood patiently waiting for their time to get back into the water with a new coat of feathers. The weather cleared a little and the thin sun brought out the wonderful colours of the lichens on the towers of rock that make the landscape of Half Moon Island so dramatic. Late in the afternoon, some watched as a leopard seal caught and ate a luckless penguin.

Another great day in Antarctica and as the final landing drew to a close, we began to realise what a wonderful trip we'd had. Luck and fair weather joined us all the way, ably supported by the decision making of Expedition Leader Flo and Captain Oleg. That night at Captain Oleg's farewell, all on board celebrated the success of the journey with Aurora Expeditions.

Wind Speed: 25 knots, strong breeze from NW  
Barometer: 997  
Air Temp: 0°C





# Frei Station, Maxwell Bay

DAY 10 | Friday 25 February 2022

Position at 0600

Latitude: 62°12.197'S

Longitude: 058°55.716'W

Course: 241.7°

Speed: 0.1 knots

Wind Speed: 12 knots, moderate breeze from W

Barometer: 1004

Air Temp: 1°C

Explore. Dream. Discover.

—Mark Twain

What a morning! After an exciting week or so in the south, we finished with an early start, and a quick breakfast while the bags were collected and taken away to the beach on King George Island. The anxieties of travel receded as test results came back in the form of certificates, and news came through of the departure of our planes from Punta Arenes. Now it looked as if our hopes of a smooth departure were coming true.

There was time in the rush to think of the trip. Wonderful weather, enjoyable, peaceful landings in wild Antarctica. The penguins, whales, walks and views. The time warped visits to fragile huts. And the unique experiences of the kayakers, divers and snorkellers. And those photos. A fabulous trip.

Then the call to board zodiacs followed by the trip to the beach where for the final time we pulled off the muck boots, left the lifejackets in bins and walked, perhaps with seafarer's balance, up the road through the Antarctic township to the 'totem pole', to the airport and onto the plane.

On the flight home we rested, and in the time and space of this familiar mode of transport reflected fondly of our trip to the magnificent continent with Aurora Expeditions.

Perhaps we'll do it again.

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 Frank Witter

Kayak Masters: Frank Witter & Daniel Stavert

Number of Paddlers: 10      Total Paddle Outings: 8      Total Distance Paddled: 44.9 kms

Paddlers:

Oliver Harris	Kyle Ingalls	Elizabeth Kliss	Jay Johnson
Lauren Woosey	Katherine Stern-Landy	David Upshut	
Lennea Wendland	Michael Bilheimer	Dani Johnson	

## Day 4 am: Brown Bluff 5.6 kms

After two days on a successful and good Drake shake we arrived at Brown Bluff. The conditions outside made us forget the Drake Passage instantly. The sun was out and the water was as flat as can be with no wind in sight. The perfect time for our first outing. Suiting up and getting ready the first time is never easy, but everyone managed in good form. We were on the water, paddling in the Antarctic. It seemed unreal for some of us. We started off by going to the right hand side of the bluff in the direction of the glacier. Getting closer to shore, weaving in and out of bergy bits we started to see movement on the beach. First just one or two fur seals but upon closer inspection we saw up to 15 fur seals and Adélie penguins in between the rocks.

We paddled back towards the landing site and the main colony. Stepping ashore was a must for us as this was the first continental landing. After 45 minutes on shore marveling at gentoo, chinstrap and Adélie penguins we paddled back to the ship.

## Day 4 pm: Paulet Island 5.2km

Our second outing with equally good conditions as the first one this morning. Paulet Island with its amazing rock formations and their hut from the Swedish expedition was a real treat. Our group managed to get halfway around it, paddling past countless fur seals perched on the beach and playing in the waters around us. A visit to the hut is a must at this location. To maximise our time on shore we went for a walk and took the Zodiac back to the ship.

## Day 5 am: Snow Hill Island, 5.5km

A clear and calm morning greeted us when we arrived at Snow Hill Island. To our surprise we didn't encounter much ice around us, and we were able to go for a morning paddle. The first part just took us from the ship to the shore, as we were keen on visiting the little restored hut and see the fossils. On the second part of our morning we sought out some amazing icebergs and meandered in between them, taking the opportunity and the calm weather to take some pictures with everyone.

## Day 5 pm: James Ross Island, 5.1km

After our glorious morning paddle at Paulet Island we were on the search for a spot with no wind and found one

in a bay on the southern end of James Ross Island. Our spot was filled with stranded icebergs and provided an amazing maze to paddle through. The sunshine and no wind made the excursion exceptional. Weaving in and out of icebergs and little channels, we found a chinstrap penguin high up on an iceberg sharing it with a sleepy Weddell seal. We headed back to the ship to get ready for our polar plunge into the icy waters of the Antarctic.

## Day 6 am: The Naze, 7.5km

Again we searched for locations with the least amount of wind and found that the Naze offered us a good opportunity for our morning paddle. We had light tail winds to start and made it to the far side of the spit, getting to look at the rusty looking cliffs and marvel at the icebergs captured and stranded in the shallow bay. The wind started to pick up a little and we made our way to the shore to be able to look at a few Adélie penguins the shore part found. Once on shore everyone was a bit tired of the headwind we now faced and we collectively decided it would be best to take the Zodiacs back to the ship after a short walk on land.

## Day 6 pm: Devil Island, 3km

The weather had turned slightly, and we weren't sure if we could go out for a paddle at Devil Island. Approaching the anchorage didn't look promising. The cloud ceiling was very low, almost foggy, it started snowing and there was some wind. On anchor, the wind looked pretty good. We decided to go for it and chance some of the humpbacks we saw on our way in. Straight ahead of the ship, roughly 1km away, we spotted humpbacks. The paddlers arrived just shortly after some of the Zodiacs and were given the show of a lifetime. Breaching, showing flippers and tails, floating belly up and just showing an actual interest in the kayaks. The show lasted for more than 45 minutes. The humpback just stuck around and kept on showing off. Finally we started returning to the ship and the whale even followed us for a short while to see us off. It was, to put it mildly, an unreal experience.

## Day 7 am: View Point, 6km

The morning found us dropping anchor in another ice choked landscape, surrounded by snow covered mountains and icebergs. Icebergs floated by the marina at the back of the ship while we were in the process of getting into our kayaks. Just a few hundred meters away from the ship we managed to find a flat ice floe to get up onto. What a cool experience standing on an iceberg. Due to the tides that morning, the ice was moving around a fair bit and we had to watch and pay attention on where to paddle to. Following the shore line worked out quite well and we saw a small minke whale for a few seconds before it disappeared. Near the landing site and the emergency hut we were able to watch a few fur seals play in the water. Later on in between icebergs we found a leopard seal laying on a bergy bit, letting us watch it for a while before returning to the ship.

## Day 7 pm: Bay, 7km

Due to weather, we stayed at the same location as in the morning. The bay offered lots more opportunities to explore so everyone was quite keen to go out again. The weather was still sunny with light winds. Exploring along the shoreline and in between the many icebergs. We encountered numerous fur seals sleeping on small icebergs and even another Leopard Seal. To top it all off, our two guides managed to serve us some hot chocolate on the water, what a treat. Shortly after that we returned to the ship to lift anchor and sail back to the South Shetland Islands.





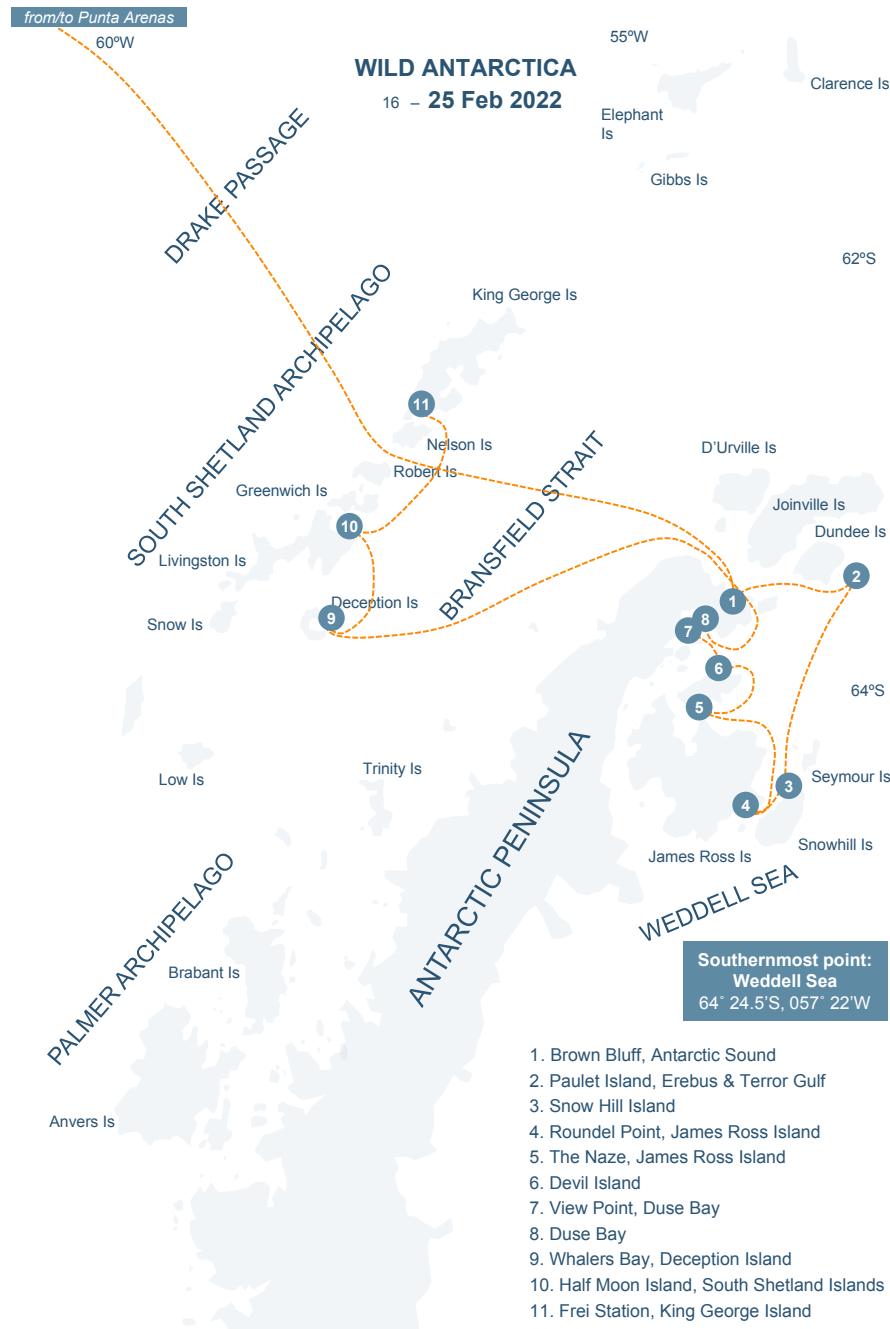
# Bird and Mammal Sightings

Bird Species	16 to 25 February 2022									
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Chilean Skua	•	•								
Brown Skua					•	•		•	•	•
South Polar Skua							•			
Kelp Gull	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•
Dolphin Gull	•									
Tern (probably mostly Antarctic)					•	•	•	•	•	•
South American Tern	•	•								

Mammal Species	16 to 25 February 2022									
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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		•			•	•	•	•		
Southern Right Whale										
Orca					•					
Long-finned Pilot Whale										
Unidentified Whale										
Hourglass Dolphin				•						
Peale's Dolphin										
Dusky Dolphin		•								















## Expeditioners:

Paul Ackerley	Rebecca Mamone
Clayton Anderson	Tony Mamone
Lisa Bertini	Sarah Marshall
Michael Bilheimer	Julie Miller
George Borovskis	Anisa Nwachuku
Randy Burbach	Amechi Nwachuku
Rob Clabbers	Paula Olymbios
Kathy Dietrich	Sarah Reid
Hadden Dietrich Jr	Steve Saunders
Daniel Geerah	Korena Sinnett
Alice Glasser	Ian Sinnett
Theresa Godchaux	Katherine Stern-Landy
Oliver Harris	Fran Stewart
Nancy Herbert	Tim Stewart-Page
Kyle Ingalls	Angela Sulser
Jay Johnson	Till Sulser
Dani Johnson	Cindy Unger
Elizabeth Kliss	Lennea Wendland
Connie LaJoie	Charlotte Williams
David Lauwers	Lisa Wilson
Adam Lerner	Laurence Wilson
Leo Lerner	Lauren Woosey
David Lipshut	
Glenn Little	

## Expedition Team:

Expedition Leader: Flo Kuijper
Assistant Expedition Leader: Isabelle Howells
Onboard Exp Manager/Expedition Guide: Justine Bornholdt
Onboard Expedition Manager Trainee: Anne Oeyasaeter
Naturalist: John Kirkwood
Historian: Steve Martin
Expedition Guide/Naturalist: Dot Robertson
Expedition Guide: Lauren Farmer
Lead Kayaking Guide: Frank Witter
Kayaking Guide: Dan Stavert
Snorkeling Guide: Liz MacNeil
Diving Master: Pete Szyszka
Photography Guide: Massimo Bassano
Medic: Dean Opie
Zodiac Master: Sergei Hincu
Mudroom/Shopkeeper: Reza Rusooly

## Senior Officers & Heads of Department:

Master: Oleg Klaptenko	Sous Chef: Nellan Lewars
Chief Officer: Alexandru Taraoi	Head Waiter: Narendra Seeram
Safety Officer: Goran Goles	Hotel Controller: Rohmat Nurhidayat
Second Officer: Sergii Voina	IT Officer : Ihor Yesmieniev
Bosun: Oscar Antonio Castejon Torres	Receptionist: Kateryna Tauzhnianska
Deck Cadet: Sander Magi	Receptionist: Marie Annecy Reynoidr
Deck Cadet: David Bote Martin	Head Stateroom: Elieser Nunez Almendarez
Ship Doctor : Ivan Savic	Spa Manager: Alena Antonova
Ship Nurse: Susara Hendrika Mostert	Able Seaman: Khenette Verzosa
Chief Engineer: Sergiy Melnyk	Able Seaman: Petko Vladimirov Petkov
First Engineer: Warlito B. Verzosa	Able Seaman: Yevgen Kotuz
Hotel Director: Franz Wusits	Able Seaman: Maksym Khlivniuk
F&B Manager: Miguel Cabanillas Alvarez	Able Seaman: Joel Valdevieso Noble
Chief Purser: Liza Merillo	Able Seaman: Giovanni Dela Torre
Executive Chef: Pierpaolo Fadda	

## Photography thanks to:

Tony Mamone	Angela Sulser	Expedition Team
Rebecca Mamone	Till Sulser	Massimo Bassano
David Lipshut	Hadden Dietrich Jr	Lauren Farmer
Daniel Geerah	Paul Ackerley	Peter Szyszka
George Borovskis		









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