

Wild Antarctica

Aboard *Sylvia Earle* | 05 – 15 February 2023





Frei Station, King George Island

DAY 1 | Sunday 05 February 2023

Position at 0800 on Feb 05

Latitude: 62°12'S

Longitude: 058°56'W

Course: Anchor at Frei Station

Speed: Anchor at Frei Station

Wind Speed: WNW

Barometer: 976

Air Temp: 5°C

Explore. Dream. Discover.

—Mark Twain

After months of planning, weeks of anticipation and long-haul flights from around the globe, we finally arrived at Punta Arenas, raring to begin our adventure.

Tonight we gathered at the Hotel Dreams and were met by Tomas Holik – Aurora's Operations Manager. We were informed about our flight the following day to King George Island in the South Shetland Islands, where Lelia led us through the IAATO guidelines (International Association of Antarctic Tour Operations) that we need to follow. Lelia also spoke about the careful measures we need to take, to make sure we are able to maximise our experience in Antarctica, whilst also making sure we give wildlife the right of way.

The following afternoon, we transferred to Punta Arenas airport where we checked in, for our flight to King George Island. Flying across the Southern Ocean we were treated to a 2 course dinner, it was enticing to imagine the many expeditions that have journeyed across this rough stretch of ocean in centuries' past.

Landing in King George Island we board buses to transfer us to the ship, where we are greeted at the shoreline by the Aurora team. We make our way onboard where the hotel staff are waiting to escort us to our cabins. Then it was time to explore our new home-away-from-home, the *Sylvia Earle*.

Onboard we total 108 Expeditioners with nationalities representing Australia (19), Canada (3), Germany (1), Ireland (1), Malta (2), Singapore (2), UK (17), USA (62), along with 21 Expedition team and 86 Ship's crew from around the world.

We had time to unpack, settle into our cabins and enjoy a delicious first supper before Expedition Leader Roger, called us together to welcome us aboard the *Sylvia Earle*, followed by our lifeboat and safety briefing and the abandon ship drill.

The sound of seven-short-one-long rings from the ship's signal system was our cue to don warm clothes, bulky orange lifejackets and gather at the muster station to sample our safety gear.

While some enjoyed a (very late!) nightcap at the Tektite bar, the rest of us made our way to cabins for a much-needed sleep as we began our adventure in the Weddell Sea.



At Sea, Paulet Island

DAY 2 | Monday 06 February 2023

Position at 0800 on Feb 06

Latitude: 63° 15.29' S

Longitude: 056° 58.07' W

Course: 138°

Speed: 10 knots

Wind Speed: ENE

Barometer: 987

Air Temp: 4°C

Antarctica is a separate world. One can feel its presence in the approaches, sailing south from more temperate climates. Standing on deck, one may follow the reeling albatross, feel the drop in temperature, the bite of the wind and the motion of the waves. Yet it is the presence of ice, from the first occasional fragments, escalating in shape, form, and frequency, and finally dominating all else, that brings assurance of arrival in Antarctica.

—Mark Jones, *Wild Ice: Antarctic Journeys*, 1990

Good morning, Antarctica! Here we are! What a marvelous feeling it is to wake up to this amazing landscape. Close your eyes, breath in, and open again. The fresh air of the sea in our faces, as well as beautiful icebergs. A wonderful Monday morning.

We went for breakfast, and after a while we started the activities on board. Yes, lots of things to do. Briefings on how to behave in Antarctica when visiting colonies, how to get on board Zodiacs, etc. We also took care of biosecurity and thoroughly cleaned each of the items we were to use during the landings. We even passed our COVID test... Phewwww, what a relief! We all tested negative!

Finally, we were there, right in front of Paulet Island, ship anchored, and totally ready to visit our first penguin colony. There was an announcement over the speakers saying that the beach was too crowded with penguins and seals and we could not land at the site. Instead, we would be doing a Zodiac cruise. Not sure what to expect, we ventured to the mudroom to gear up and get into the Zodiac.

Cruising along Paulet Island was an outstanding experience! We spotted Fur seals swimming and playing in the water and others resting on land. We also saw Weddell Seals that looked like huge sausages laying on the pebble beach. At one point, a giant petrel flew very close to the boats - what a big bird it is! This amazing landscape of basalt rocks was also harbouring some cape petrels, Wilson's storm petrels and kelp gull chicks that camouflaged perfectly.

We continued our Zodiac cruising along the beach until we reached an area of nesting penguins, and there the fun began. What an incredible number of penguins there were!!

We could tell why it was not possible to land at this site. Adelie penguins fledged, hanging in the water, while adults came into shore and others went out to sea. Up in the colonies, fluffy chicks chased their parents, asking for food. There was also an Antarctic cormorant colony, with many fledged chicks learning to fly and adults flying in

and out, passing very close to our Zodiacs. There were many awesome icebergs in the water, some of them with Adelie's on top - so picturesque. It was very fun to see the penguins hopping out of the water and climbing all the way up the icebergs, as well as some jumping from the icebergs into the water. What a spectacular afternoon - so calm, yet full of amazing things happening everywhere!

When we got back to the ship it was getting a bit cold. The afternoon could not have been better. We had the captain's welcome drinks, then we went for dinner with a wonderful setting as we sailed down south along the Weddell Sea.

Some of us went to bed early, since an early morning awaited us.



The Naze, Snow Hill Island

DAY 3 | Tuesday 07 February 2023

Position at 0700 on Feb 07

Latitude: 63° 50.26' S

Longitude: 057° 13.72' W

Course: 236°

Speed: 8 knots

Wind Speed: ENE

Barometer: 981

Air Temp: 5°C

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

—Otto Nordenskjöld

This morning we awoke to a land of icebergs, a slight mist and a few whales spotted from a distance. We were on our way to The Naze on James Ross Island in the Weddell Sea. This site is named after James Clarke Ross, a British sailor who discovered the Ross Ice Shell and explored the Weddell Sea. The Ross Seal is also named after him. On shore, we saw some Weddell seals, crab-eater seals and fur seals, as well as a few Adelie penguins. We were all amazed by the abundance of fossils, which included ammonites, amber, molluscs, plants, a giant dinosaur tooth bone and all sort of intrusion in the rocks.

Our snorkellers had a lovely exploration snorkel along the coast of the islands, and a couple of Weddell seals came to check them out as they were snorkelling. The area being explored had a rocky bottom and some worms and gastropod were spotted! They even got up close to a small iceberg. The snorkellers all felt really comfortable in their space suits, more commonly known as dry suits!

Our Kayakers did their first paddle in Antarctica. The excitement was high for everyone. During their paddle amongst icebergs, they found some black ice, which is the purest ice you can find. Their paddle was followed by a quick walk on land to check out the fur seals.

Early in the afternoon, we listened to a very interesting talk on Dr Otto Nordenskjöld shared by Jack. He spoke about Nordenskjöld's crazy expedition to the Weddell Sea in 1902, onboard the Antarctic. Nordenskjöld initially intended to overwinter in 1902 with five men. However, Larsen, his captain, along with 20 members of his crew, were marooned on the sea ice south east of Paulet Island the following year, after the Antarctic sank, which forced Nordenskjöld to overwinter a second time, and the crew of the Antarctic to undertake a mammoth journey across the sea ice to Paulet Island.

We felt very fortunate to be able to visit Snow Hill Island as the weather is usually unfavourable to do any landing there. It was a privilege to step foot on the island, to be able to follow in Otto Nordenskjöld's footsteps, visit his hut and get an inside look into how he and his men lived.

Our snorkellers went for an adventurous snorkel around an iceberg a little further away from the landing site.



Devil Island, North through the Weddell Sea

DAY 4 | Wednesday 08 February 2023

Position at 0700 on Feb 08

Latitude: 63°45.23'S

Longitude: 057°07.20'W

Course: 253°

Speed: 4.1 knots

Wind Speed: SE

Barometer: 999

Air Temp: 2°C

We gazed with feelings of indescribable delight upon a scene of grandeur and magnificence far beyond anything we had before seen or could have conceived.

—Captain James Clark Ross, on seeing the Ross Ice Shelf for the first time.

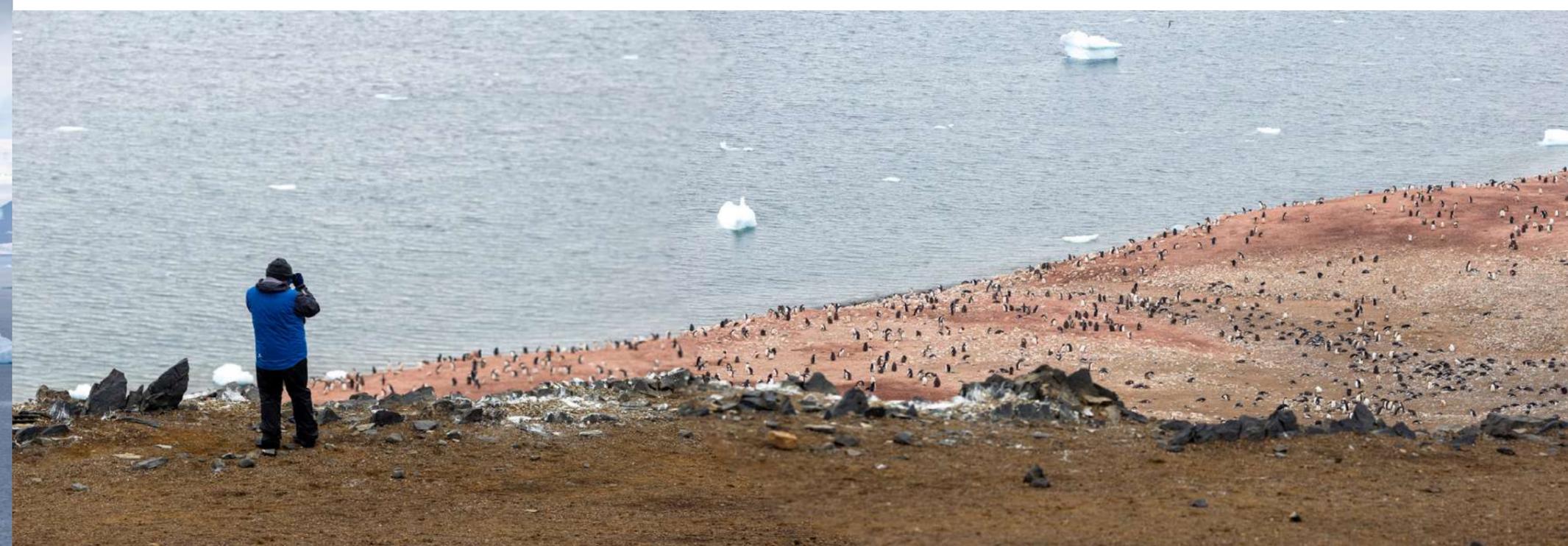
When we were woken up with Roger's "good morning, good people", the ship was travelling along the eastern side of Vega Island. By the time we sat down to our hearty breakfast, we had reached our destination – Devil Island in the Erebus or Terror Gulf. This narrow 2 kilometres long island is named after the two peaks located at either end of it that create a horned effect. The island is home to confirmed breeding ground of Adelie penguins and skua. Fur seals, leopard seals, kelp gulls, snowy sheathbills, and Wilson's storm petrels can also be found.

From the ship, we could see the Adelie penguin colonies' characteristic brown guano. As soon as the Zodiacs had travelled halfway to shore, the distinctive smell of their guano also reached our nares. The snorkellers came ashore first, while the kayakers started their 6.2 kilometres circumnavigation of Devil Island, before coming ashore. The rest of us were met on shore by expedition staff who accompanied us along a narrow path through the colony of Adelie penguins, where we were then allowed to relax and enjoy watching the show. There were many Adelie chicks in the creche stage that were madly chasing the adults to get fed. There were also a few adults that were starting their moulting stage. A few hardy explorers made the nearly 3-mile return hike up to the peak on Devil Island, where they were rewarded with amazing panoramic views. Also, from the summit we could see the kayakers on the back side of the island.

At lunchtime, we pulled up anchor and headed north out of the Weddell Sea. During the afternoon, as we transited through the Antarctic Sound, Jack continued his story of the 1901 Swedish Antarctic Expedition. We learned about the outcome of Nordenskjold, Larsen and Andersson, and the final resting place of the three masted ship Antarctica. Before Annette's lecture on penguins, some of us joined Natalia on the observation deck and spotted giant petrels, cape petrels, skuas, humpback and minke whales. Others joined Paulina and her NASA Citizen Science Cloud Observation project on Deck 8. Expeditioners were rewarded for participating in the project when Paulina notified them, that they can now boast about having done research for NASA.

At teatime, Annette educated us on the fascinating world of penguins. As the ship passed by massive tabular shaped icebergs, we learned the importance of stones for penguins and that one in every 10 stones in a penguin's nest is stolen from another nest. Who knew that penguins were so cheeky?

By the time our heads hit our beds we had safely transited out of the Antarctic Sound and started heading southwest down the Bransfield Strait, heading towards new explorations.



Bransfield Strait, Spert Island

DAY 5 | Thursday 09 February 2023

Position at 0900 on Feb 09

Latitude: 63°33'S

Longitude: 060°34.6'W

Course: 246°

Speed: 5.3 knots

Wind Speed: E

Barometer: 981

Air Temp: 5°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

Today started with some swaying in the ship as we made our way along the Bransfield Strait towards Spert Island. We had travelled all night long from the Weddell Sea, trying to avoid bad weather. Luckily, our Capitan is very experienced, and the design of *Sylvia Earle* reduces turbulence. Most of us had a good night's sleep, after some seasick pills courtesy of the reception desk.

After our most important meal of the day, we made our way to the luxurious Lecture Theatre to hear Paulina's presentation, "fifty shades of ice". Some of us watched the lecture from our room because the movement of the ship. Her lecture was awesome – she talked about how glaciers are formed, how snow becomes part of an iceberg, types, colours, shapes, and she also showed us some pictures of her adventures inside crevasses in Iceland, the country she calls home.

Then, it was question and answer time with our photographer, Pia. We all went up to the Observation Deck together, the place with the best views from the ship. Pia is marvellous, with so much patience in sharing her passion about photography, she helped us to configure our cameras and cellphones, not just for the more professional photographers, but for amateurs as well.

Later on, one of our talented naturalists, Annette, gave us a fantastic lecture about whale encounters. Whales are one of the animals that Annette, as a marine biologist, has been studying. She not only taught us how to identify every species in Antarctica, but she also played some of their mesmerising calls and taught us the similarities between them. Did you know that whales originate from land animals? And, they have finger bones! That is just mind-blowing.

Following lunch, we prepared for our adventurous afternoon. Spert Island, with its towering volcanic rocks, lies off the western extremity of Trinity Island in the Palmer Archipelago. It was charted by the Swedish Antarctic expedition under Nordenskjöld which went from 1901-1904.

As the wind increased, along with the swell to the northwest of the Island, we split up into two groups: the "open ocean" group and the "calmer cruising" group.

The open ocean group went where the wind and swell was a bit choppier and challenging. It was a vigorous

adventure. We went through some impressive channels, and it was so much fun! We saw an amazing volcanic rock arch and a leopard sea on the water, which followed one of our Zodiacs for a while.

The calmer cruising group stayed in the protected bay near the ship. We saw fur seals on land and in the water, Antarctic terns, blue-eyed shags, chinstrap penguins, south polar skuas, and what we thought may be Arctic terns or perhaps young Antarctic terns. We made a mental note to discuss it with our bird specialist, Natalia. We also learned about phytoplankton during our Citizen Science session, where we dropped a secchi disk to measure the water transparency. We recorded visibility to 8.8 meters.



Damoy Point, Port Lockroy and Jougla Point

DAY 6 | Friday 10 February 2023

Position at 0800 on Feb 10

Latitude: 64°47.56'S

Longitude: 063°29.23'W

Course: Anchor at Damoy Point

Speed: Anchor at Damoy Point

Wind Speed: 12 knots NE

Barometer: 986

Air Temp: 6°C

In many ways, the Antarctic is a world of suspended animation. Suspended between outer space and the fertile continents. Suspended in time – without a local civilisation to make history.

—Diane Ackerman

We started with an early morning as the *Sylvia Earle* made her way through the Neumayer Channel, a narrow passage between steep cliffs. With hot coffee in hand up in the Observation Lounge, we admired the reflections of dark cliffs and shining ice in the calm waters of the protected channel.

After the ship had anchored in Dorian Bay just at the end of Neumayer Channel, we prepared for our landing at Damoy Point. Damoy Point is a designated Historic Site and holds a small British Hut, containing scientific equipment and other artifacts. It was built in 1973 and used for several years as a British summer air facility and transit station for scientists flying south to Rothera Station. The hut was last formally used in 1993 and has now been converted into a small museum. Bahia Dorian, the even smaller Argentine refuge just next to the British hut was built in 1953.

When stepping on land we were greeted by several gentoo penguin colonies sitting on rocky elevations, sprinkled throughout the snowy white landscape. Gentoo penguins are the third largest penguin species after the Emperor and King penguin, and breed in large numbers between the Antarctic Peninsula and the sub-Antarctic islands. We observed several penguins still sitting on their small chicks, a significant difference to the almost grown-up Adelie penguin chicks that we had encountered in the Weddell Sea at sites with less snow cover.

After this beautiful landing we engaged into the Polar Plunge straight away after coming back to the ship, taking advantage of the bright blue sky and warm sun, surrounded by the majestic ice-covered mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula. Can you imagine a better setting for dipping into the icy Antarctic waters?

In the afternoon we had a double landing at Port Lockroy and Jougla Point.

Port Lockroy is a natural protected harbour on Goudier Island, named by the French expedition under Jean – Baptiste Charcot in 1903 – 05. In 1944, the British Operation Tabarin established their Base A, which continued to operate as a British research station until 1962. Today, Port Lockroy hosts the most southerly operational post office in the world as well as a museum which are both operated by the British Heritage Trust. Port Lockroy is

staffed during the Antarctic summer between November – March.

After visiting Port Lockroy, we landed at Jougla Point, just a few minutes of Zodiac drive away from Port Lockroy. After successfully climbing over the rocks upwards from the landing site, we admired numerous gentoo penguins in their nesting areas high up on rocky terrain. As penguins were crossing our path from the left and right, we happily took some breaks on our way over the rocks to observe these incredible animals jumping up and down the rocks and sliding into the crystal-clear waters all around us.

Back onboard we enjoyed the well-deserved cocktail hour and dinner, and the adventurous ones ventured to the upper bar on Deck 8 for the whisky tasting. With a glass of single malt and the rain and wind all over the windows we exchanged our adventurous stories of another incredible day in Antarctica.



Polar Plunge

DAY 6 | Friday 10 February 2023







Recess Cove & Mikkelson Harbour

DAY 7 | Saturday 11 February 2023

Position at 0700 on Feb 11

Latitude: 64°27.46'S

Longitude: 061°41.10'W

Course: Navigation in Recess Cove

Speed: 7.7 knots

Wind Speed: ENE

Barometer: 984

Air Temp: 4°C

Antarctica is the windiest place on earth. Wind dominates all activity, sets schedules, imperils lives, makes one a hostage indoors.

—David G. Campbell

Another fantastic day in Antarctica! Started off the morning by sailing in towards Recess Cove, surrounded by humpbacks! Many of us were whale watching before our morning outing, what a treat! Then a rainy morning continental landing, we can all say we are incontinent now!

For many of us our final 7th continental landing, and what a beautiful spot for it, we can die happy! Surrounded by a massive glacier and lots of beautiful icebergs we all stepped on land and then went for a Zodiac cruise. We cruised by an Imperial Shag colony or Cormorant colony depending on where you are from. Sometimes called the Blue-Eyed Shag because they have a ring of blue skin around the eye. These birds usually eat fish and crustaceans and catch their prey by diving from the surface and swimming underwater. They usually dive less than 50m but are known to dive over 110m! We saw a great big colony and then continued to cruise amongst the ice. After a lot of Antarctic rain, it was time to get back to our floating home and into the warmth.

Back on board, as we waited for our group photo to be taken, we observed another group of humpback whales feeding right next to our ship! What a sight! These whales were feeding in groups at the surface and some of us saw them bubble netting krill! Bubble netting is when whales dive deep below schools of krill and use bubbles blown from their blowholes to stun and trap the krill closer to the surface. One whale generally leads the effort followed by the rest of the group. The leader will usually be responsible for blowing the bubbles and the others will surround the krill, following them to the surface by swimming in spiral patterns to keep them trapped. When they get to the surface, we saw them open up their massive jaws and take in all the krill. We actually saw a big orange swarm of krill at the surface, what a site! In the afternoon the plan was to land at Sprightly Islands but unfortunately the swell was too big, so we repositioned to Mikkelson Harbour. Another beautiful landing site and some more Antarctic rain and lots of molting gentoo penguins.

To end our last day on the Antarctic Peninsula we enjoyed a buffet BBQ up in Deck 8 with fancy hats and dancing to all hours of the morning. One of those days you will never forget!



Whalers Bay; Deception Island, Half moon Island

DAY 8 | Sunday 12 February 2023

Position at 0700 on Feb 12

Latitude: 62°59.44'S

Longitude: 060°34.29'W

Course: 358°

Speed: 4.4 knots

Wind Speed: 10 knots NNW

Barometer: 981

Air Temp: 4°C

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

—T. S. Eliot, 'Little Gidding'

The day started at 6:20 am with Roger's voice over the PA system waking us with his classic "good morning, good people" and letting us know that in 15 minutes we were going to be going through Neptune's Bellows.

It was a grey, misty morning with the sun peeking out below low clouds in the distance. As we were approaching Deception Island, with its active volcano, we began to see the features of Whalers Bay, where we were going to land that morning.

We all landed safely at Whalers Bay and were welcomed by fur seals on the beach. Some of us headed straight to Neptune's Window for the breathtaking view, while others headed for the whaling station and the "airport". Close to the cemetery we spotted skuas with chicks. Since we were on a beach, Nati conducted the Microplastic Citizen Science project together with some keen expeditioners. Thank you so much to all who participated.

Whalers Bay is now classified as a historic site and monument. The whaling station was occupied in the period 1906 - 1931 and approximately 150 people stayed there during the summer months.

Some of our expeditioners were not impressed by the fact that the whaling nations never cleaned up the remains of the industry, while others found it satisfying to see nature doing its job by slowly erasing the whaler's existence.

Did you know that Baily Head on Deception Island holds the largest Chinstrap Penguin colony in the Peninsula? Thanks for info Roger.

Kayakers did an amazing job paddling through Neptune's Bellows around to the bay on the outside of Neptune's Window, admiring all the seals on the beach under the window, before heading out to Baily's Head to get a Zodiac uber back to the ship. All in all, 4.95km of kayaking was recorded from this outing.



In the afternoon, we went cruising through the fog up to Half Moon Island. The island slowly revealed itself as we approached, which was a spectacular sight to behold. As operations started, the sun had taken over completely, and we could enjoy the glaciers of Livingston Island in the distance.

Kayakers had an amazing adventure this afternoon, putting all the experience gained so far to the test by pushing each and everyone's limits in the rock gardens of Half Moon. There were a few young male fur seals that were very playful and inquisitive, which provided great entertainment. Finally, after paddling 5.38 kilometres, our kayakers landed onshore with the rest of the expedition.



Drake Passage

DAY 9 | Monday 13 February 2023

Position at 1300 on Feb 13

Latitude: 53°28.0'S

Longitude: 062°52.9'W

Course: 339°

Speed: 12.8 knots

Wind Speed: 9 knots NE

Barometer: 982

Air Temp: 8°C

The Antarctic Convergence is perhaps the longest and most important biological barrier on earth, as formidable as any mountain range or desert. It is an obstacle to the dispersion of birds, fish, and, most important, plankton.

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

The ship was covered by a mysterious fog as we headed through the Drake Passage towards Cape Horn. It was the calmest passage of the season in terms of sea state – experienced sailors would call it a “Drake Lake”. The ship was still swaying a bit on a long 1–2-meter swell, but at some point, we could actually go out onto Deck 8 wearing t-shirts!

Sea days like this are a perfect time to have a good rest and reflect on all of the adventures recently experienced. Nevertheless, the day was full of remarkable events.

After a late breakfast, our marine biologist Annette, gave a lecture about oceanography and the Southern Ocean. From global ocean currents to mesoscale structures like eddies, we discovered lots of interesting details! Annette also explained how scientists study ocean waters with different sophisticated tools.

At 3 pm, all keen photographers gathered in the Observation Lounge to attend a workshop with our expedition photographer Pia. All those hundreds of photos that were taken during the voyage need some editing, and Pia gave lots of useful advice about how to work on them and let them tell their stories. Another topic of the workshop was responsible social media posting – even though we always do everything we can to maintain the correct distances from wildlife, some photos make it look different to people who weren't there with us. We take lots of pictures from different perspectives, sometimes with people and Zodiacs in the frame, and we want to make sure that everything we post shows respect to Antarctic wildlife and nature.

Some people also submitted their photos of whale flukes for the Happy Whale project, which will help to identify those whales and track their routes in the oceans.

The next interesting event was a microscope session with Annette and Eddie, where we studied krill and a brittle star. The high-quality equipment of our Citizen Science Centre allowed us to zoom in on these tiny creatures and see every single detail of their bodies. This was a fantastic visual journey into the beautiful microworld that we usually can't see. It was so much fun to see everyone so excited, gathering around microscopes like many of us used to do when we were studying in schools and universities!

That evening we had the captain's farewell drinks, during which the captain made a touching speech with lots of funny jokes about his profession! This was followed by a delicious dinner with an amazing sunset visible through the restaurant windows on the portside of the ship.

For the day's finale, we had a movie night with popcorn! We watched “Around Cape Horn”, a film that was shot by Captain Irving Johnson using a hand-held black and white camera in 1929, during the last days of commercial sailing on the four masted barque named Peking. Captain Irving Johnson also provided narration for this film, which was added many years after the initial filming. It was amazing to see brave men sailing in extremely harsh conditions while we were at that moment travelling relatively close to the area that was being shown in the film. We definitely appreciated the comfort of our X-BOW® vessel while watching those sailors climb to the topsails of their ship in a roaring storm.

What a glorious day at sea!



Drake Passage, Beagle Channel

DAY 10 | Tuesday 14 Feb 2023

Position at 0800 on Feb 14

Latitude: 55°38.59'S

Longitude: 065°52.84'W

Course: 333°

Speed: 14.1 knots

Wind Speed: 6 knots SSW

Barometer: 990

Air Temp: 6°C

As we sailed North towards the port of Ushuaia, it was a bittersweet moment for all of us onboard the magnificent *Sylvia Earle* – both the conclusion of a surreal adventure around the frozen continent and yet the beginnings of more adventures to come for all of us.

This final stretch of water has a very storied past, having many famous characters of days gone by sail its hazardous waters. Named after Sir Francis Drake, who was a heroic privateer in the eyes of the English and a bastard in the eyes of the Spanish, due to the fact that he stole every ounce of gold he could get his hands on. In the 1577, Sir Francis Drake became the second man to circumnavigate the world. The first to accomplish this was Ferdinand Magellan's voyage. The Strait of Magellan, where Punta Arenas is located, is named after him. The Drake Passage connects the southwestern part of the Atlantic Ocean with the southeastern part of the Pacific Ocean and it is well known to have some of the most treacherous waters in the world. Having no landmasses around to offer protection from incoming storms, waves can quite often reach heights of up to 10 metres (30ft). From the comfort of our modern vessel, it is difficult to imagine the bravery and courage seafarers of old had to muster as they battled through these waters on wooden ships.

Our journey en route to the bottom of Argentina finally brought us to the mouth of the Beagle Channel, and after around 100 nautical miles of navigation, we finally made our way towards firm land. The Beagle Channel itself is named after HMS Beagle which, under the command of Robert Fitzroy, conducted hydrographic surveys of the southern coastlines of south America from 1826 until 1830. These three passages, including the Strait of Magellan, the Beagle Channel and the Drake Passage, form the three main waterways used by commercial shipping before the Panama Canals were constructed. Throughout our voyage together, we have followed in the footsteps of explorers who have become famous in history. This history is now part of all of us – between our explorations in the Weddell Sea, orca and whale sightings, the sights and smells of penguin colonies, the many historical sights and even more smiles, we have learned that although we can look back on the history of Antarctica fondly, it is so important to live in the present moment and appreciate the sights, smells and feelings this glorious planet can offer us. Thank you to everyone for an incredible voyage – the many smiling faces and adventurous spirits that have graced the decks of the *Sylvia Earle* throughout this expedition are now part of Antarctic history. May there be many more adventures for each and every one of us.



Ushuaia

DAY 11 | Wednesday 15 Feb 2023

Position at 1300 on Feb 15

Latitude: 54°48' S

Longitude: 068°17' W

Course: In port Ushuaia

Speed: In port Ushuaia

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

—Edwin Mickleburgh, Beyond the Frozen Sea

As we entered the Beagle Channel, the atmospheric landscapes of the Islas Fueguinas stood out as we sailed towards Ushuaia. So many memories and friendships made. We will miss Antarctica, but that's exactly what the Voyage Logs are for: to bring back those great memories again and again.

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

Wind Speed: 2 knots NW

Barometer: 1000

Air Temp: 8x°C



Kayaking Log

Kayak Masters: Vanja Davidsen, Sigurd Davidsen, Eamon Larkin & Ivan Klochkov

Number of Paddlers: 19 Total Paddle Outings: 7 Total Distance Paddled: 36.3 kms

Paddlers:	Irwin Gross & Martha Fogler	Jane Warner & John Hegener
Amanda Ferguson & Davis Smith	Aron & Lennie Ross	Sheona Devin
James Laurance	Laure Weber	Jayne Shaw
David Miller	JP Els & Julia	
Carol Schneider	Michael Capozza & Sonya	
Jay Naylor	Rosenfeld	

7th Feb 2023, AM: The Naze – Distance - 3.7 km

Our first paddle outing did not disappoint. After fitting everyone into their kayaks and launching we were finally ready to paddle. The Naze is a dry rocky peninsula that juts out sharply from the island. We set our sights on the huge icebergs that had collected in the shallow bay just off the Naze. It was a cold outing and we were glad we had layered up onboard even though it was warm work in the mudroom. We stopped and admired the beauty of the icebergs and heard a little about how the marks on them tell their stories. Some fur seals surfaced and watched us curiously. We turned to head to a stretch of rocky beach and set our first foot on land from out of the kayaks. We had landed on the Naze. From here we would Zodiac back onto the ship and the kayaks were towed behind us. A good first outing.

7th Feb 2023, PM: Snow Hill – Distance: 4.8 km

It was a long journey south to get to Snow Hill and we did not know how the Sea ice would be. Relieved on our arrival to anchor off the mammoth mountains that sheltered the Snow Hill hut. We had some big icebergs to paddle past on our way into the Landing site. As we approach the the dry brown cliffs in front of us it was like a scene from Game of Thrones. The island loomed ominously above us. We stopped for some paddling skills instruction before beaching at the site of the historic hut. Outing number two complete.

8th Feb 2023, AM: Devil Island – Distance: 6.2 Km

Circumnavigation was the plan for Devil Island. While the landing expeditions hike high up on the island, we paddled around it. They could admire us from up high. Shortly after leaving the ship, we spotted a leopard seal lazing on some ice. Icebergs with iridescent blue in them surrounded the island so we hoped from one to another.

Devil Island is a steep rocky island with two peaks or horns, giving it the name. On the far side of the island we sidled up to another leopard seal on a smaller piece of ice, she was beautiful, and posed for us occasionally. Taking a moment to take in all this beauty in, as we continued. On rounding the final steep corner, we could paddle where no Zodiac could go. A short landing at the site and a walk up to the view, the kayak group got the best of

it all today.

9th Feb 2023, AM: Damoy Hut – Distance: 5.8 km

We had not seen Gentoo Penguins until this outing. The wind was up a little leaving the ship but we knew we could find calm waters behind the rocky islets off Damoy. These islets proved to be a haven too for a group of Gentoos and a few fur seals. It was a lovely spot, the water so clear we could see penguins darting below and around us. Damoy is a hut that serviced a snowy runway, and beyond the runway the landscape was the most spectacular we had seen so far. As we cruised along the penguin colony and beautiful icebergs, we were reluctant to finish. Finally landing at the site of the hut our paddlers went for a short walk while we returned with the kayaks to the *Sylvia Earle*.

10th Feb 2023, AM: Recess Cove – Distance: 4.5 km

It was picture postcard weather this morning at Recess Cove. Even before we left the ship we could see and hear that the Glacier was active here. The bay was full of brash ice and beyond some spectacular small and medium icebergs. We took the kayaks over to a small island and started from there. It is a quick way for everyone to get onto the water efficiently. The Icebergs here were a good variety of shapes and sizes, all telling a unique story of their movements since leaving the glacier. We cautiously paddled amongst them keeping our distance. At one spot we rafted up and had a moment of silence and thought about where we were and how each of us got here, or simply just to be present and listen to the ice crackling. Recess Cove is part of the Peninsula so we could make a continental landing. I led the group to a rocky beach on a headland and we celebrated setting foot on Antarctica ! Only to discover it was an island. Rodger collected our paddlers and went to the real landing while us guides collected the boats.

11th Feb 2023, AM: Deception Island – Distance: 5.9 km

All of the kayak guides and some of the group were out on Deck 8 this morning, as we sailed through the Bellows of Deception Island. We were excited because the Sea was gentle today and we all agreed we could safely paddle back out through the entrance. It would be a great paddle but unfortunately heading away from the Historic Whaling station. So, we had options, and all decided to join us on this rare chance to paddle outside of Deception Island. The cliffs loomed above us in the Bellows. As calm as it was a bit of rebound swell was unavoidable, but enjoyable. Our skills have come a long way in the last week. A giant sea-stack awaited us as we exited. A small beach below Neptune's window was littered with fur seals, so there was no landing there. We could see the expeditioners at the lookout, and they took some great photos from high above. We finished by paddling further away from the Island into the misty calm waters. A Zodiac was soon there to collect us and taxi us back to the ship. A magic outing.

11th Feb 2023, PM: Half Moon Island – Distance: 5.4 km

This would be our final outing and it did not disappoint. The weather was clear and calm and the landscape behind Half Moon isl was nothing short of grandiose. With gentle seas we took the opportunity to explore some of the gaps and channels through the rocky shore. Surprised fur seals watched as we glided past. Some of the channels had moving water and rocky obstacles, but we had been paddling for a week now and everyone's confidence and skill had strengthened. As we navigated our kayaks around the last headland, we were greeted by adolescent fur seals spying on us and showing off their skills in the water. A lovely way to finish our Kayak program we savoured every stroke of the blade before finally landing. Further down the rocky beach was a few elephant seals, basking and looking huge. A big thank you to all, it was a pleasure to kayak with you.





Citizen Science Log

Project Name

How many times was this project done during this voyage?

Secchi Disk	10
Cloud Survey	3
Zooplankton dragnet	2
Microplastic Survey	1
eBird Seabird Survey	1

Happy Whale
 1 Happy Whale Photo ID workshop onboard,
 8 photos of Humpback whale flukes collected,
 4 passengers signed up to Happy Whale, 14
 subscribed to the list to be associated with the
 voyage via the Aurora Account



Snorkel Log

Snorkel Guide: Anais Poulalion, Eddie Hauzer and Edwin Sargeant

Number of Snorkels: 13 Total Outings: 10

Snorkellers:	Bob Rowland	Jeff Holtz
Steve Tietsworth	Anne Rowland	Jenny Agustin
Renee Tietsworth	Alannah Mc Tighe	Jennie Anderson
Stanly Peterson	Elizabeth Ford	

6th Feb 2023, PM: Paulet Island

What a great first day! We got all our meetings and biosecurity out of the way and then we were ready for our first snorkel meeting! We gathered in the Citizen Science Centre, a beautiful location at the bow of the ship. Ana, Eddie and Edwin talked to us about the snorkelling program, what we can expect, wildlife, safety and so on.

After lunch we went to the mudroom to fit our gear. Lots of equipment! Putting on a dry suit is not easy for the first time, but the guys told us with practice and time, we will master the art.

It took us a while to get ready and familiarised but finally Edwin and Ana were ready to pick us up in our Zodiac while Eddie was helping us with all the gear.

Paulet Island was full of Adelie Penguins, Fur Seals and Weddell Seals, it was amazing how densely packed the island was, so much so that we couldn't land and Roger our expedition leader said "let's go Zodiac cruising instead". What a fantastic first cruise, we saw penguins on icebergs, on land and in the water and seals on land and swimming all around us.

Later on our team chose a spot and we geared up to start this adventure. When ready we jumped in one by one in buddy teams to start our first snorkel. We felt the cold water on our face and the feeling of water between our dry suit and boots was totally new. Some of us spent more time than others in the water and during that time suddenly two fur seals approached us and they swam around us, that was mind blowing!

Time to get out of the water. We reckon, this was the hardest part, but Eddie, Ana and Edwin promises us that during the upcoming days we will keep practicing our kick to return to the Zodiac using the "Whale-seal method".

Great day, let's see what these three water musketeer have for us.

7th Feb 2023, AM: Naze Island

Good morning, good people! We woke up with the voice of Roger, telling us it's snowing outside! We arrived at The Naze, an island with really interesting volcanic rocks and fossils.

After our landing Eddie, Ana and Edwin pick us up and take us to the opposite bay to start our snorkel. We swam

around little growlers and saw worms, gastropods and a lot of krill.

As the beach was near and shallow, we took off our fins and walked back.

Back on board the *Sylvia Earle* to have a nice lunch and sailing to Snow Hill Island for our afternoon outing.

7th Feb 2023, PM: Snow Hill

During the afternoon we went to Snow Hill Island, all of the staff were excited about this place as it's a rare spot to get to. This is because the Weddell Sea is often covered with ice and Snow Hill Island is quite far south in the scheme of things. There is a wooden hut built in February 1902 by the Swedish South Polar Expedition party, led by Otto Nordenskjöld.

When we got to land we met a group of five Argentinean men that were camping for two months with one more to go. They were doing some research about oceanography, penguins and doing maintenance on the ground near the hut. Our expedition team gave them some fresh fruit and vegetables and took their phone to the ship to connect them to the internet and download messages from the last two months away.

Edwin, Eddie and Ana collected us after a lovely walk to the hut and found many fossils, all over the place and different volcanic rocks. They drove to a little iceberg with a Blue-eye Shag on top. After the briefing we put our fins in the water and we swam around. Deep water, different salinity of the water, that was pretty magical. We took some pictures and we had a really amazing time together.

8th Feb 2023, AM: Devil Island

Devil Island sounds dark and terrifying, but was named because of the two peaks located at either end of the island separated by a low lying valley creating a horned look. This place was fantastic. We got to go ashore and walk around a massive Adélie penguin colony. After our walk on penguin poop our snorkelling guides picked us up and took us to a reef by the North-Eastern part of the island. Seeing penguins from the water is really special, we saw penguin bones and some fresh carcasses, part of their bodies still had the feathers attached.

10th Feb 2023, AM: Damoy Point

This morning was a dream morning, we had sunshine and almost no wind. Before starting to prepare ourselves for our outing we had a special visit from Jo, from the British Heritage Trust. Jo came on board to talk to us about what they have been working on this summer. They are working on the hut at Damoy Point, stripping the old paint and giving it a fresh orange coat as well as doing some maintenance. As the hut is a heritage hut, they aren't allowed to stay in it and they are camping next to the hut instead. It is really amazing to think all they are going through camping for so long.

After we walked around the place, visited the huts and some penguin rookeries, we got picked up to enjoy the sun and the calm water. We swam along the small reef of rocks and saw a lot of krill and different types of seaweed. Eddie found a Ctenophore while we were snorkelling and during recap told to us all about this incredible creature!

10th Feb 2023, AM: Port Lockroy – Jougla Island

The excitement was high on this day as we had two landings and a snorkel planned. After lunch, Lucy from Port Lockroy gave us a briefing about what they do and how they manage to spend the entire summer on the base taking care of the museum and the shop. Yes, there is a shop in Antarctica! They have many things on offer and they use the profits from the shop to keep the base running as well as fund other projects. There is also a post office on site, the Penguin Post Office, which is the southernmost post office in the world, where many of us sent post cards to our loved ones.

After Port Lockroy, we visited Jougla Point. There, we found big whale bones and Gentoo penguin colony with nesting penguins.

To end our excursion Edwin, Eddie and Ana took us to a little bay next to the landing site, where we could swim with penguins! They were all around us, it was so magical! This was an amazing moment, it felt like the whole place was just for us.

11th Feb 2023, AM: Recess Cove

A rainy and overcast morning, full of mystery and good energy. Today was a special day for everyone, considering we went to a spot where none of us had been before, neither our expedition leader or any of the expedition team. Our fist continental landing of the trip!

We arrived at Recess Cove and jumped into our Zodiacs to take a little Zodiac cruising before stepping on the continent, what an emotional moment, for some us this is our 7th continent.

We had a brash ice snorkel following the landing, with a stunning view of a massive glacier that was continuously calving. Water was 0.5°C crazy but really fun, hearing the sound of the air bubbles popping as the ice melt, the small pieces crashing slowly and we saw a school of fish, very cool and very cold!

11th Feb 2023, PM: D'Hainaut Island, Mikkelsen Harbour, Trinity Island

This was a wet day, but it did not stop us intrepid snorks! We visited a small landing site named Mikkelsen Harbour at the bottom of Trinity Island which was lined with ice cliffs. We saw some Gentoo penguins, Fur seals and Weddell seals, so nice see them sleeping peacefully. There were huge whale bones and the remains of on old wooden whaler's boat.

After having a lovely wander around, Eddie, Edwin and Ana picked us up to go to the other side of the site for snorkelling. We went over to a small bay right below the Weddell seals. We could see salps, starfish and isopods, a ton of krill (many different types of them).

It was raining throughout the whole of our operation. What a great afternoon, back on the ship there was a delicious BBQ waiting for us.

12th Feb 2023, AM: Whalers bay / Deception Island

Who would have thought that someday in our lives we would be swimming in the caldera of an active volcano in Antarctica? Well, we did it!

Deception Island is not like any other place we have visited. It is full of history of the whaling era gone by. On our way to the landing site we could see the steam rising on the beach and detect the smell of sulphur.

The building, silos and wreck of small boats were impressive. We could walk up to Neptune's Window, which was a beautiful vantage point!

One hour later, Eddie, Ana and Edwin collected us to show us the place they had found for us. Every day while we enjoy the landing they were off exploring and searching for the best snorkelling place for us. Today was a pretty special, not only because we could see the remnants of the whaling era on land, but also because we could see it under water! We snorkelled over whale bones, and we could observe the interesting variety of rocks – the geology of the place was awesome and a plus was that the water temperature was 5 °C, a piece of cake for us after the last few days!

12th Feb 2023, PM: Half-Moon Island

Our last session of snorkelling was the cherry on top. We swam around a rock full of life, opposite the landing site of Half Moon Island, which gets its name because it looks like a half-moon in front a massive glacier – so spectacular.

Before putting our fins in the water, we stopped by the landing site to see some chinstrap penguins, skuas, Antarctic terns and a lot of fur seals.

There we were in our Zodiac, our personal and private Zodiac with Ana and Eddie and Edwin, they had everything ready for our last dip.

The different types of seaweed flowing back and forth with the swell was magic to watch, but the dancing fur seals were the stars of the show. We felt like we were part of the Southern Ocean. It was magic!

This program went well above our expectations. We learnt how to suit ourselves up on our own, enhanced our own knowledge, we felt the cold water on our faces and figured out how to kick ourselves out of the water to get into the Zodiac. Now we know a little bit more about what is under the surface of Antarctica's waters and all the small things that we can see when we focus our sight, train our eyes, relax, and simply enjoy the wonders of snorkelling.

We are very happy to have been able to share this trip with you all – you really rocked in improving your techniques and we hope that now you are going home as Antarctic Underwater Ambassadors. Keep snorkelling and finding new exciting and colourful creatures.

Thanks for letting us be part of your Antarctic Voyage.



Bird and Mammal Sightings

Bird Species

February

	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Gentoo Penguin		•			•	•		•			
Chinstrap Penguin		•			•			•			
Adelie Penguin		•	•	•							
Magellanic Penguin										•	
Wandering Albatross									•		
Black-browed Albatross				•	•			•	•	•	
Grey-headed Albatross									•		
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross										•	
Giant Petrel		•	•	•				•	•	•	•
Cape Petrel		•		•	•				•		
Snow Petrel						•	•	•			
Antarctic Fulmar (Southern)					•	•					
Sooty Shearwater				•							•
Wilson's Storm-petrel		•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Imperial Cormorant (blue-eyed)		•		•	•	•	•	•		•	
American Sheathbill (Snowy)		•			•	•		•			
Skua (Brown and/or South Polar)		•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Kelp Gull		•	•	•	•		•	•			
Tern (probably mostly Antarctic)				•	•	•	•				
Antarctic Prion				•							

Mammal Species

February

	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Antarctic Fur Seal		•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Southern Elephant Seal									•		
Weddell Seal		•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Leopard Seal		•		•		•					
Minke Whale		•	•	•							
Humpback Whale		•		•	•			•			
Orca (Type B)		•		•							
Unidentified Whale										•	
Dusky Dolphin											•



Poems and Artwork

Ode to A Lovely Person

There was a great leader from Australia
Who for 23 years roamed Antarctica
While known for being heroic
He's actually quite laconic
His talks always sprinkled with laughter

His zodiac skills are quite legendary
His outboard motor stance so exemplary
But when push comes to shove
He's way, way above
And he never seems to be in a quandary

As an Aussie he loves a good laugh
A challenge or three's made him tough
Though soft on the inside
We've been glad he's on our side
For his expedition, he can never do enough

Our leader is definitely no fool
To his team a wonderful jewel
Although he's direct
We're full of respect
And for a scientist he's actually quite cool!

Every day's been made to enthral
Separated only by his special wake up call
It may seem too early
But we add to our story
And when we've left we'll be dreaming for more...

Thanks to Roger Kirkwood

From Peter Jensen
Adelaide, South Australia

Good Morning Good People

"Good morning good people" in a soothing dulcimer tone,
Greeted us each morning as we cruised along.
Our good ship was the beautiful Sylvia Earle,
She sliced through the water of a magical world.
The good Captain and crew were second to none,
Our expedition team was knowledgeable and made learning fun.

We saw penguins and seals and cormorants galore,
Eking out a living in this harsh and delicate world.
The early explorers risked life and limb,
Sadly what followed was unimaginable exploitation.
Seals, whales and penguins met their demise,
Their bodies feeding a demand that was never satisfied.
Fortunately conservationists ended the slaughter,
Allowing us to behold the species still trying to recover.

We had different reasons for visiting this continent so vast,
We all shared the same concern that it's changing so fast.
Our role in this change is now undeniable,
Still far too many in power believe the data is unreliable.
Or they simply lack the courage to initiate change,
For fear they won't get elected again.

Over population and over consumption,
Are a recipe for disaster and certain destruction.
Our species suffers from being shortsighted,
Can we rise to the challenge and get our ship righted?
To fix the problem there is no easy solution,
It will require nothing short of a revolution.
People and nations must change their behavior,
We cannot afford to let our determination waiver.
Species like ours have an unfortunate distinction,
Not living in harmony with nature usually results in extinction.

We may have had different reasons for our Antarctic exploration.
But we all recognize the incalculable importance of its preservation.
You are all ambassadors with powerful tools,
You can effect the necessary changes by voting out the fools.
The fate of our planet is in our hands,
We need courageous leaders who can meet the demands.
There are many reasons to be optimistic,
As long as our species can be more altruistic.
We borrowed this planet from the next generation,
Returning it in good condition is our sacred obligation.

By Larry Weiner
February 14, 2023







Expeditioners:

Carolyn Abraham	Steve Cozad	Jeff Holtz	Barbara Miller	Ken Shoemaker
Jenny Agustin	Sheona Devin	Timothy Holzgrefe	Suzanne Morphet	Belinda Shoemaker
Audrey Aimoto	Leslie Dicou	Kylie Ann Holzgrefe	Jay Naylor	Davis Smith
Alvin Aimoto	Mike Dicou	Kerri Hu	Michael Norvill	Kit Spence
Jennie Anderson	Max Ellis	Michael Jacobson	Andrew Okely	Emma Stibbon
Jay Apt III	JP Els	Kirsten Jacobson	Holly Orlovski	Cherylle Stone
Joanne (Smitty) Balella	Joani Epstein	Lynn Jeffery	Michael O'Shea	Mark Stratton
George Balella Jr	Richard Epstein	Peter Jensen	Elizabeth O'Shea	Renee Tietsworth
Robert Blasberg	Amanda Ferguson	Richard Kastin	Iryna sOvchar	Steve Tietsworth
Brooke Blasberg	Bob Fisher	Marne Kelleher	Stanley Peterson	Scott Trochim
Craig Botwin	Martha Fogler	Brian Kelleher	Carol Robinson	Diane Trochim
Vanessa Bourke	Elizabeth Ford	Rosie King	Sonya Rosenfeld	Jane Warner
Jeremy Bourke	Mike Friess	Cindy Lathlean	Lenny Ross	Laure Weber
Johnna Margaret Bowles	Elgin Gillespie	Stephen Lathlean	Ari Ross	Larry Weiner
John Bowles	Roderick Gillespie	Anne Laurence	Bob Rowland	Andrew Whitehouse
Angela Bowles	Barbara Grimm-Crawford	Jim Laurence	Anne Rowland	Ginny Whitehouse
Andrew Cairns	Irwin Gross	Jeff Markel	Luisa Saiter Lins	David Wilson
Suzanne Cairns	Carol Healy	Trent Matthews	Barbara Salgado Zepeda	Gary Yonemoto
Michael Capozza	Don Heffernan	Rachel Matthews	Carol Schneider	Toy Yonemoto
Maritza Castro	Barbara Heffernan	Kevin Matthews	Jayne Shaw	Arturo Zepeda
Royce Choo	John Hegener	Alannah Mc Tighe	Quentin Shaw	
Angela Cozad	Sing Eng Heng	David Miller	Anthony Shaw	

Expedition Team:

Expedition Leader: Roger Kirkwood
Assistant Expedition Leader: Dot Robertson
Onboard Expedition Manager: Justine Bornholdt
Onboard Expedition Manager Trainee: Samantha Deer
Marine Biologist/Citizen Science Coordinator: Annette Scheffer
Naturalist: Natalia Rosciano
Historian/Expedition Guide: Jack Alscher
Geologist/Naturalist: Paulina Pierzak
Biologist: Haning Wang
Photography Guide: Pia Harboure
Expedition Medic: Belinda Denchfield
Expedition Guide: Tamsin Both
Kayaking Master: Eamon Larkin
Kayaking Guide: Sigurd Davidsen
Kayaking Guide: Vanja Davidsen
Kayaking Guide: Ivan Klochkov
Snorkel Guide: Ana Poulalion
Snorkel Guide: Eddie Hauzer
Dive Master: Edwin Sargeant
Zodiac Manager: Sergei Andronov
Zodiac Master: Jeb Pearce
Mudroom/Shopkeeper: Reza Rusooly

Senior Officers & Heads of Department:

Master: Artem Kolmykov	Executive Chef: Allan Estoque
Chief Officer: Gabriel Eduardo Centella Molina	Sous Chef: Vinay Kumar Singh
Second Officer: Annika Yaneth Bulgin Nuñez de Zinkovskyy	Hotel Controller: Reynaldo Hernandez Cañeda
Safety Officer: Sergio Enrique Saldana Hernandez	Receptionist: Kateryna Tauzhnianska
Bosun: Leo Francis Magnaye Marzan	Receptionist: Jaypee Alota Abonitalla
Ship Doctor: Sofia Cocunubo Castellanos	Head Stateroom Attendant: Sotero (Terry) Agtagma
Chief Engineer: Praveen Kumar Kaushal	Bosun: Leo Francis Magnaye Marzan
First Engineer: Kristofer Al Carpio La Torre	Able Seaman: Raju Choudhary
IT Officer: Nathaniel Buhain Vibares	Able Seaman: Imam Santuso
Hotel Director: Osman Ozpolat	Able Seaman: Nestor Fernandez Arangorin
F&B Service Manager: Balvant Singh	Able Seaman: Rene Balsomo Casipe
Head Bartender: Rajesh Sugreev Murao	Able Seaman: Vladyslav Sinko
Chief Purser: Liza Merillo	Able Seaman: Dragan Zivkovic

Artwork thanks to:

Emma Stibbon

Poems thanks to:

Peter Jensen and Larry Weiner

Photography thanks to:

Sigurd Davidsen	Eamon Larkin
Vanja Davidsen	Ana Poulalion
Eddie Hauzer	Pia Harboure



