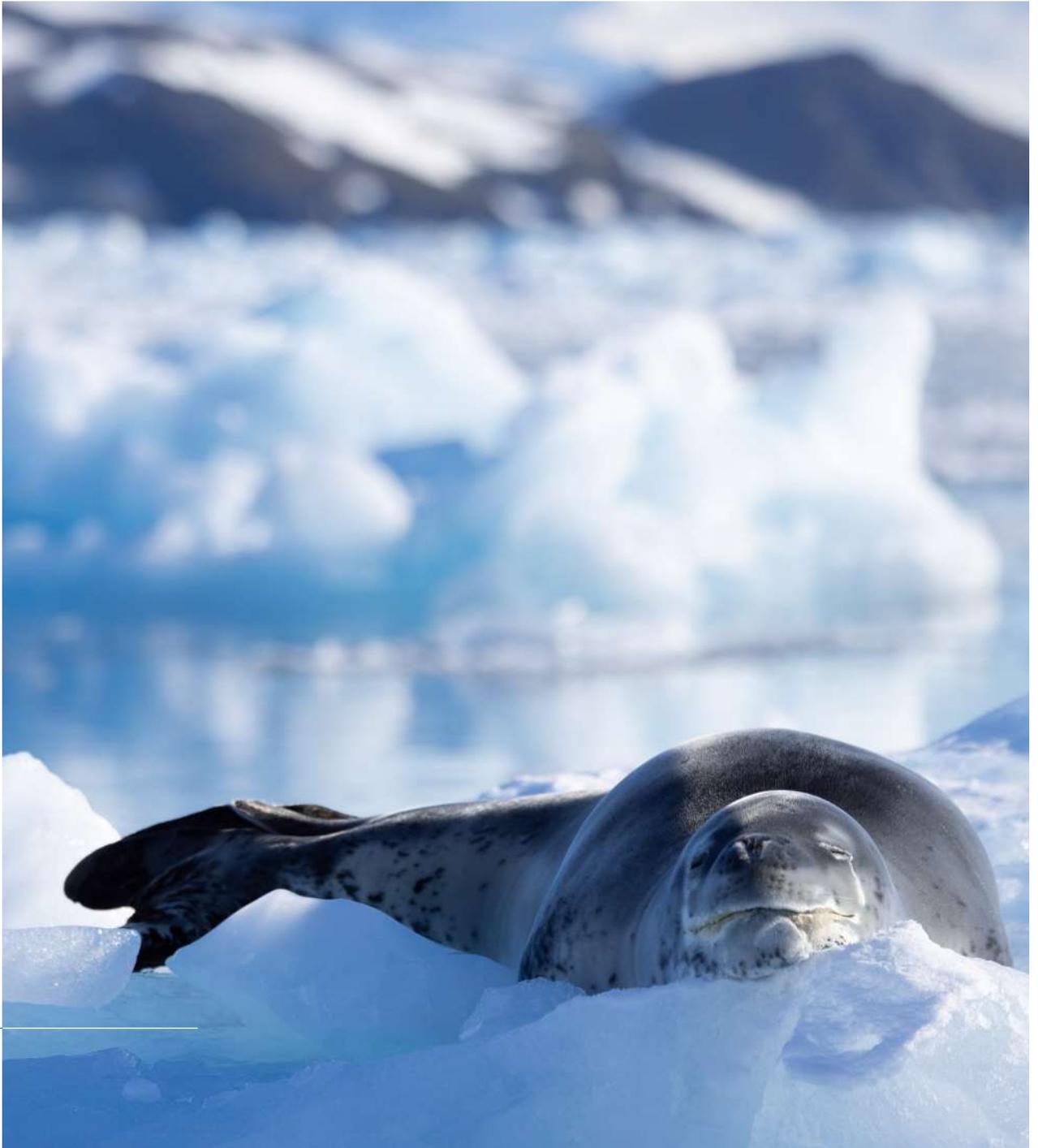


Antarctic Explorer

Aboard *Sylvia Earle* | 20 February – 3 March 2025





Antarctic Explorer

20 February – 3 March 2025

Ushuaia

DAY 1 | Friday 21 February 2025

Latitude:
54°48.1' S
Longitude:
68°16.2' W

Course:
Alongside
Speed:
0 knots

Wind Speed:
6 knots
Barometer:
986 hPa

Air Temp:
14°C

We spent a pleasant embarkation day in Tierra del Fuego. Our adventure began with a beautiful catamaran cruise into the Beagle Channel to a rocky islet called Faro Les Éclaireurs. The scenery was breathtaking.

At 4.00pm, we made our way to the *Sylvia Earle*. We settled into our cabins before we gathered in the lecture theatre to meet our Expedition Leader, Christian, the Expedition Team, as well as some of the ship's hotel team. A man-overboard briefing was followed by a lifeboat drill. After this, we cast off and headed out into the Beagle Channel. As the light faded, along the Chilean and Argentinian coast we could see small 'ranchos' on the rolling hillsides. We spied many seabirds, including some magnificent black-browed albatrosses, several species of gull and many rock.

The sea rose to meet us in long gentle swells, while the stiff breeze brought with it more pelagic species: the giant petrel, Antarctic prion and the grey-headed albatross. Sometime before midnight the *Sylvia Earle* turned due south with Isla Nueva on our starboard. Isla Deceit hid in the lee of Isla Hornos to the southwest, which features the historic and notorious Cape Horn that marks the tempestuous northern border of the Drake Passage.

We had a total of 120 Expeditioners, representing: Andorra (1), Australia (30), Canada (9), China (6), Italy (1), Ireland (1), Netherlands (2), Poland (1), United Kingdom (7), United States (63), along with 20 Expedition Team members and 84 ship's crew from all over the world.

Drake Passage

DAY 2 | Saturday 22 February 2025

Latitude:
52° 36.170' S
Longitude:
64° 22.10' W

Course:
170°
Speed:
13 knots

Wind Speed:
11 knots
Barometer:
980 hPa

Air Temp:
3°C

The rhythm of the ship settled into a steady, rolling pulse as we woke to our first full day at sea. Outside, a vast expanse of blue stretched to the horizon, broken only by the graceful arcs of passing albatross and petrels.

We gathered in the morning for mandatory briefings, learning the ropes as we practised the sailor's grip, an essential skill for safely boarding and disembarking the sturdy Zodiac boats that will soon take us to shore.

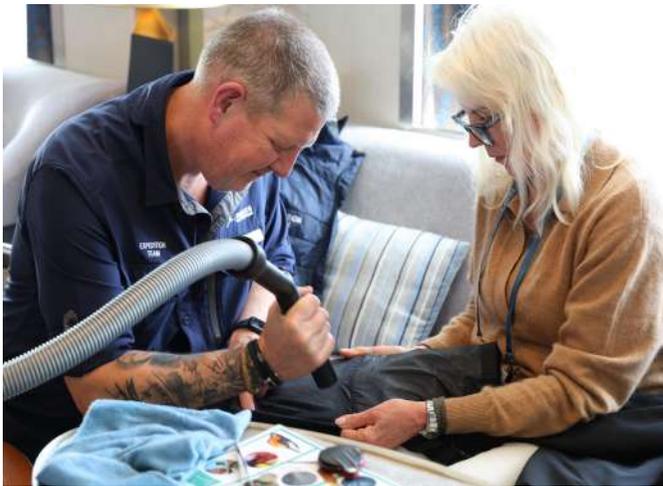
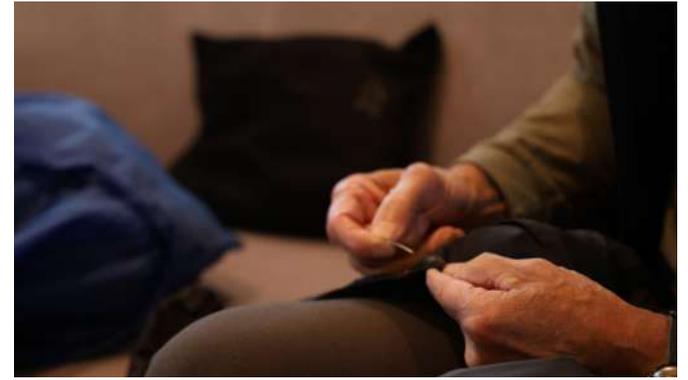
After lunch, it was time for biosecurity checks, a crucial step in protecting Antarctica's fragile environment. The afternoon's lecture brought us deep into Antarctica's past, as Heather unravelled the continent's extraordinary

geological history. Dinosaurs once roamed the forests that thrived here before ice claimed the land, and fiery volcanoes shaped the very islands we will soon explore.

As the sun dipped, we gathered for our first recap of the voyage, swapping stories and soaking in the growing excitement. Dinner followed, and then, under a darkening sky, we delved into the cosmos with guest lecturer Keith, who guided us through the wonders of the night sky.

By the time we turned in for the night, it was clear—we had crossed the Antarctic Convergence. The air had a new bite to it, and the water ran colder. Tomorrow, we expect our first icebergs.





At Sea & Snow Island

DAY 3 | Sunday 23 February 2025

Latitude:
62°34.97' S
Longitude:
62°06.84' W

Course:
150°
Speed:
10.5 knots

Wind Speed:
11 knots
Barometer:
975 hPa

Air Temp:
5°C

A gentle wake-up call this morning informed us that we had officially entered the realm of Antarctica. At 62 degrees south, we were well inside Antarctic waters. Some early risers had spotted whales not far from the ship. Around 10.13am, a huge iceberg emerged from the mist ahead of us.

We had plenty of citizen science activities before lunch. Leo, Lianne, Elena, and Heather presented some of the activities we would be doing to contribute to science.

After lunch, we began to approach Snow Island. On the north-eastern side is President Head — this would be the site of our first outing. Jagged rock stacks rose out of the sea, and behind some small islands was a long, rocky beach teeming with elephant seals. Lots of juveniles and

females, and the occasional large male, lay in cosy clumps. A few seals were bobbing about in the water, watching us with huge eyes. A curious leopard seal was seen patrolling the bay. On the water, kayakers and paddlers cruised past, exploring the channels and coves. In one narrow channel, brave snorkellers took the plunge.

On land, people reported fur and Weddell seals, gentoo and chinstrap penguins, and a variety of seabirds, including giant petrels with their chicks.

Back at the ship, we were inspired by Natalie's amazing photos, educated by Heather's essential world of lichens, and Piotr gave us a brief history of tomorrow's destination.





Portal Point, Foyn Harbour & Enterprise Harbour

DAY 4 | Monday 24 February 2025

Latitude:
64°24.13' S
Longitude:
61°55.56' W

Course:
41°
Speed:
6 knots

Wind Speed:
5 knots
Barometer:
980 hPa

Air Temp:
6°C

We awakened to an eerie stillness, with the ship now safely within the Gerlache Strait. The majesty of the Antarctic Peninsula surrounded us, with towering peaks of rock and ice providing a dramatic backdrop, and an infinite variety of icebergs in the foreground. The stars of the morning were the many humpback whales, welcoming us.

The first stop of the day was Portal Point. First used by the British in 1956 as a refuge station on the west coast of Graham Land, it served as a gateway for scientific exploration. The landing led us on a short walk up to a vantage point, where we could take in the grandeur of the bay and the jagged skyline surrounding us.

The snorkellers managed to get front-row seats from their Zodiac to a fantastic humpback show. The whales, in a playful mood, seemed to be showing off to the audience—rolling and blowing close by. The kayakers similarly enjoyed an amazing paddle among the ice, interspersed with some incredible whale action.

The afternoon was spent at Enterprise Island, exploring the coastline and ice cliffs by Zodiac on the mirror-like sea. One of the highlights was being able to circumnavigate one of the only visible shipwrecks on the peninsula.

An incredible day was finished off by our special guest astronomer, Keith, who gave an inspiring talk on the zodiac in the night sky above us.





Cuverville Island & Paradise Harbour

DAY 5 | Tuesday 25 February 2025

Latitude:
64°43.8' S
Longitude:
62°37.3' W

Course:
214°
Speed:
6 knots

Wind Speed:
5 knots
Barometer:
990 hPa

Air Temp:
4°C

An orange-pink hue of alpenglow sunrise, which crept along the glaciated shores of the Errera Channel, welcomed us this morning. Overnight, we had transited south along the Gerlache Strait and now found ourselves in front of Cuverville Island. Humpback whales lazily fed around the ship, and flotillas of upwards of 30 Gentoo penguins bathed and swam.

Cuverville Island is home to the largest Gentoo penguin colony on the Antarctic Peninsula, with over 5,000 nesting pairs during the breeding season. The chicks we saw onshore today are nearing the end of their fledging cycle. A few fluffy teenagers were still chasing after their parents, begging for more food. Some adults waited patiently for their

four-week moult before returning to sea to feed for the winter.

The afternoon brought us into Paradise Harbour. Humpback whales greeted us as we sailed in, complemented by a gallery of ice sculptures to behold.

We passed the Argentine station, Base Almirante Brown, and continued on to a cliff where nesting Antarctic cormorants were feeding their chicks. Passing a green smear of malachite on the cliffs, our Zodiacs meandered around Skontorp Cove, past the towering seracs of the glacier and through the brash ice. We encountered leopard, crabeater, and Weddell seals—each enjoying a snooze on ice or snow. The humpbacks, and even a slinky minke, joined some of us on our ramble through the ice.





Lemaire Channel, Petermann Island & Port Charcot

DAY 6 | Wednesday 26 February 2025

Latitude:
65°05.96' S
Longitude:
63°58.85' W

Course:
211°
Speed:
4 knots

Wind Speed:
6 knots
Barometer:
990 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

Our day began early at 06.00am as we navigated the narrow, ice-filled Lemaire Channel, situated between Booth Island and the Antarctic Peninsula. We made our way to Petermann Island, where, in 1909, the French Antarctic Expedition led by Jean-Baptiste Charcot overwintered. The island, home to a variety of wildlife, was teeming with moulting Adélie and gentoo penguins, as well as their young chicks. From here, we enjoyed breathtaking views of the Penola Strait, with its dramatic landscapes stretching out before us.

After returning to the ship, we set sail northwards towards Port Charcot but were blocked by enormous icebergs, preventing us from landing at the site.

We re-positioned the ship to Girard Bay, known for its striking Leay Glacier, which gracefully slopes into the bay's waters. We explored the bay, its brash ice and uniquely shaped icebergs offering an incredible backdrop to the day's adventure. We were fortunate to witness minke whales swimming by, along with Gentoo penguins, Weddell seals, Antarctic terns, and Wilson's storm petrels. Even a humpback whale made an appearance, displaying its fluke.

As the weather cleared, we returned to the ship for the thrilling polar plunge. After dinner, we started making our way north, as it was time to set course for the South Shetland Islands.





Börngen Bay & Neko Harbour

DAY 7 | Thursday 27 February 2025

Latitude:
64°44.2' S
Longitude:
62°50.5' W

Course:
102°
Speed:
9.3 knots

Wind Speed:
4 knots
Barometer:
989 hPa

Air Temp:
1°C

The expedition day brought a mix of light snow, cold winds, and brilliant sunshine! The wildlife kept coming, with minke whales; playful, curious crabeater seals spotted by hardy kayakers; leopard seals patrolling penguin colonies, ice floes and landing sites; and Gentoo penguins entertaining with their launching and landing skills.

In the morning, Zodiac exploration, paddling, and kayaking were on offer. The setting was atmospheric as groups made their way up the Neumayer Channel, surrounded and dwarfed by glaciers and towering mountains.

Later, a stop at Neko Harbour provided an opportunity to stretch the legs and walk, initially in the company of penguins, then up and up through the snow to high points

offering panoramic views of the bay, with impressive mountains and glaciers all set against a bright bluebird sky and bathed in sunshine.

Nightly Recap – Highlights & Tips:

1. Keith reminded us to mark 8 September 2040—a planetary alignment in the western skies!
2. Natalie shared her day's photos and tips—use odd numbers, try reverse slow-mo, and don't be afraid to break the rules.
3. Heather's glacier chat included a tasty Mars bar analogy!
4. Piotr told tales from the Charcot expeditions—featuring a pig, a lucky rat, and the 'spirit' of *Pourquoi Pas?*



Hydrurga Rocks & Cierva Cove

DAY 8 | Friday, 28 February 2025

Latitude:

64°07.7' S

Longitude:

61°18.4' W

Course:

23°

Speed:

9.5 knots

Wind Speed:

6 knots

Barometer:

995 hPa

Air Temp:

5°C

As wondered from the perspective of a minke whale

I first glimpsed the *Sylvia Earle* approaching Hydrurga Rocks. I wondered if they knew how busy we'd been last night, feasting. Who says I'm not an apex predator? My krilling skills are impeccable.

The ship amazes me, effortlessly releasing her black mini-ships each time the mother stops. They're mostly well behaved—but so noisy. It excites me when they come out. So many eyes, so many sounds. Yet they can't dive. How do they feed? Do they feed?

The chinstraps say the up-righters move like awkward penguins but with gripping feet, and some of them have

extendable noses that they point at them. Are they smelling the chinstraps? Why smell a chinstrap's pungent aroma with such eagerness?

The furry seals say the noses freeze time for keepsakes. I'd freeze time under a bioluminescent sky, when the surface world darkens.

I followed *Sylvia* after she gathered her young. The humpbacks waved her off, too busy feeding. At Cierva Cove, the crystal surface sparkled. A perfect day—penguins swam, leopard seals rested, and I delighted in watching the black mini ships and up-righters stretch their noses. I love sneaking up behind them. They muse over me.





Half Moon Island & Yankee Harbour

DAY 9 | Saturday 1 March 2025

Latitude:
62°31.82' S
Longitude:
54°48.31' W

Course:
121°
Speed:
1 knot

Wind Speed:
7 knots
Barometer:
998 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

Our final day of exploration brought us to the stunning shores of Half Moon Island, where Antarctica gifted us a perfect morning. As we stepped ashore for one last landing, we took in the beauty of the breathtaking mountain views of this remote island.

Fur seals dotted the beach, some sprawled out, soaking up the sun, while others engaged in playful wrestling matches. Gentoo penguins scurried about, their sleek forms beautifully framed against the backdrop of towering glaciers. A few Weddell seals lay hauled out. But the true stars of the morning were the chinstrap penguins, whose colonies filled the rocky slopes. Some stood still as they endured their annual moult, while others attempted to scale the snowy hills—slipping, sliding, and flapping in sheer determination.

By afternoon, the rough seas and strong winds prevented us from making another landing. Instead, we visited the ship's bridge, where we got a behind-the-scenes look at the incredible navigation skills. From monitoring shifting icebergs to adjusting course for changing winds, the officers showed us how they work tirelessly to keep us safe and on course. It was a fascinating glimpse into the heart of the ship's operations.

As evening fell, we gathered for the Captain's Farewell Dinner, raising a glass in celebration of the journey we've shared. It was followed by a slideshow—a collection of unforgettable moments captured throughout our adventure—a visual story of a truly remarkable expedition.







Frei Station, King George Island

DAY 10 | Sunday 2 March 2025

Latitude:
62°12.1' S

Longitude:
58°56.1' W

Course:
At anchor

Speed:
0 knots

Wind Speed:
12 knots

Barometer:
1000 hPa

Air Temp:
2°C

Aurora Expeditions extends a heartfelt thank you to each of you for your wonderful sense of humour, boundless enthusiasm, and ever-present smiles. It has been an absolute pleasure having you on board, and we're grateful to have shared with you some of the incredible wonders of the icy South. May the memories of this journey stay with you, shining brightly for years to come.

Together, we've sailed 1,190.7 nautical miles.

Until we meet again, safe travels.

BBQ



Polar Plunge





Citizen Science





Kayaking and Paddling Log

Guides: Gareth, Vanja, Eamon & Matt

23 February 2025, PM –
President Head, Snow Hill 3.1
km kayak / 3.1 km paddle

Our first outing commenced with a scan of the rocky coast for a good, calm spot to launch into our kayak. After being followed by a leopard seal, we entered our kayaks. We rounded the steep corner and passed a large swimming fur seal. We skipped around the rocky point and saw the landing site. We could hear the elephant seals before we could see them; they are so camouflaged amongst the rocks on the beach. We cruised by the beach and admired them lying next to and on top of each other. A few elephant seals were in the water, eyeing us cautiously. We gave them a wide berth; they are huge animals. The weather started to turn foul, so we retreated to the ship.

24 February 2025, AM – Portal
Point 3.9 km kayak / 3.2 km
paddle

The kayakers were able to launch from the ship this morning and then head towards the nearby icebergs. The paddle team got into their boats a bit further north. It was not long before the spray and sound of a few whales were heard. The groups watched these majestic creatures feeding and resting for a while before moving on through the gallery of iceberg sculptures. The shapes, textures and colours of these ice giants changed as we saw them from different angles. Spectacular. Portal Point is on the continent of the peninsula, so everyone wanted to set foot on land. After a smooth exit and drop-off, we walked on the snowy point to a lookout; we could see the amazing scope of today's journey.

Number of Kayakers: 21

Total Kayak Outings: 14

Total Distance Paddled: 59.8km

Kayakers:

Jessica Tinker

Alexander Tinker

Gemma Clifton

Stephanie Dixon

Henriette Van der Stouwe

Atse Blei

Mark Needham

Eileen McGrath

Bruce Dunster

Deborah Dunster

Michael Thiele

Jane Thiele

Adam Lewis

Susan Lewis

Joanne Pigott

Steve Pigott

Christine Burt

Staci Quinlan

Renner St. John

Lisa Friebl

Pintip Suthayakhom

24 February 2025, PM – Foyin Harbour, Enterprise Island 5.5 km kayak / 3.9 km paddle

The paddle group towed a short distance from the ship in the shelter of one of the many islands here. A lovely Weddell seal was resting on the next corner. The kayak group launched from the ship and soon caught up. We all were aiming for the old whaling shipwreck, the Gobernoren. This iconic wreck is situated in a small harbour with an impressive ice cliff backdrop. Nearby, there are also remains of the old wooden water boats. On the icy walls, we saw striking blue lines and the colours of the green and pink, red algae. A whale was spotted swimming towards the ship. We tried to get a little closer, but it was on a mission to get somewhere and we could not keep up. Satisfied with the outing and a big day, most of us returned to the ship, while four kayakers stayed for another hour.

25 February 2025, AM – Cuverville Island 5.3 km kayak / 5 km paddle

It is not often that the wind allows us to explore all sides of Cuverville Island. Today, we were in luck. Both the paddlers and kayakers set off near the landing site at the northern end. With such calm conditions, we were able to get close to the rocky coast and watch the antics of the penguins jumping in and out of the water. A fur seal and crabeater seal were spotted resting in a bay. Along the eastern and southern side of the island, we admired all the different colours of mosses and algae. As we rounded on to the western side, we saw a multitude of large icebergs in all shapes. To finish, we watched as rafts of penguins swam past us, heading for the colony on land. A perfect outing.

25 February 2025, PM – Paradise Harbour 4.2 km kayak / 3.7 km paddle

It is often protected here, and today, it was especially calm. As soon as we left the ship, we saw a humpback whale feeding and swimming in front of the glacier. It was our first encounter with a whale from our kayaks, but it would not be our last. We left the whale and cruised past the Argentine base, Almirante Brown.. A spectacular view awaited us around the next corner in Skorntorp Cove. Huge mountains with hanging glaciers towered above us. Another whale and calf entertained us on all sides. We were speechless. After a while, we returned to the ship, passing some icebergs and with big smiles on our faces.

26 February 2025, AM – Petermann Island 6.8 km kayak / 4.8 km paddle

After an amazing cruise through the Lemaire Channel, we were keen to get out into the kayaks. The paddlers went to land first. The kayak group headed south and soon encountered a leopard seal in a small cove; then we found a channel that was almost blocked with icebergs. The colours of the bergs above and below the water were stunning. As we rounded the island, we realised that we could actually circumnavigate it as it was so calm. On one side, there were steep cliffs topped with a cap of ice. Enormous icebergs trailed off into the distance. The last side of the island was much more colourful, with red, yellow algae and green moss on the rocks. Some landed, but most were happy to stay in the kayaks and enjoy this magic outing.



Number of Paddlers: 8
Total Paddle Outings: 12
Total Distance Paddled:
40.4km

Paddlers:
Robin Weiner
Toby Myers
Tamara Gerrard
Paul Gerrard
Lauren Lomaka
Cooper McBride

Andy Baukol
Ursula Baukol

26 February 2025, PM – Girard Bay 3.3 km kayak

For once, the weather was not looking very inviting; in fact, it was cold and snowing, but still calm. After a big morning outing, a lot of the group took a rest. However, the two sisters, Alexandra and Jessica, braved the cold and snow and had this misty bay to themselves. Their dad, Brian, joined in the Zodiac and was very proud to be watching his girls glide through the ice. As often happens, the weather passed, and it turned out to be a lovely paddle, complete with a couple of minke whales.

27 February 2025, AM – Børgen Bay, Neumayer Channel 4.7 km kayak / 3.1 km paddle

Børgen Bay is a huge bay walled by glaciers on all sides. Behind these icy walls stands the highest mountain on the peninsula – Mount Français. This morning, we would chase the ship. That is, once we launched off the ship in the Zodiacs, it would reposition, and we would have to catch up to it. Gentoo penguins swam next to us, and we saw a group of them relaxing (without chicks) on a small ice floe. The ship passed us, and we were now in the Neumayer Channel. It was calm and beautiful on both sides. We wanted to paddle for hours and exit this grand channel, but alas, the ship wanted us back on board. A short, but sweet kayak and paddle.

27 February 2025, PM – Neko Harbour 5 km kayak

Only kayaking today, as the wind was gusting off the glaciers and into Neko Harbour. A group of brave kayakers did set off to find some sheltered place to launch. It was not an easy task. As we sat in the Zodiac behind a small iceberg, a group of six crabeater seals popped up to investigate us. At the next stop, a reasonably big leopard seal came to say hello. It was cruising around the brash ice. Eventually, we put in just a couple of kayaks, which were soon drifting to the landing site at high speed. The rest of the team headed to land and enjoyed amazing views from the hill. The sun came out and the wind eased off, as it often does. A short, but fun outing.

28 February 2025, AM – Hydrurga Rocks 6.7 km kayak / 4.8 km paddle

Often, Hydrurga Rocks has some swell on at least one side of it. It is a group of small rocky islands, fairly exposed. However, today it was calm all around. This meant we could paddle in close to the shore and watch the antics of the chinstrap penguins. There were also some fur seals, a Weddell seal, and lots of very quick and tiny Wilson's storm petrels. Towards the end of the outing, we all glided out into some brash ice. Before long, we were joined by a humpback whale cruising down the channel. Hydrurga Rocks was at its best today.



28 February 2025, PM – Cierva Cove 6.2 km kayak / 3.8 km paddle

The sun was out, and the ice was dazzling in the bay. Cierva Cove is often a resting ground for a lot of bergs. We towed away from the ship and began our paddle and kayaking near the Argentinian Base Primavera research station. Hundreds of gentoo penguins greeted us. The kayakers headed farther south into the cove, and the paddlers hugged the coast to the north. Either way, the rock formations and colours of the mosses and algae were spectacular. Some fur seals lazed on rocks and penguins swam alongside. The sun was out, and the backdrop of the mountains and glaciers was impressive. Towards the end of the paddle, both groups had amazing interactions with minke whales. A success all round and a beautiful day.

1 March 2025, AM – Half Moon Island 5.1 km kayak / 5 km paddle

We knew it was our last day on the water, so we made the most of it. Conditions were perfect again! They made it possible to paddle in close to the rocks and see deep into the clear water. A few fur seals were rolling and play fighting nearby, probably siblings. There are a few small channels and rocks to avoid here, which made it more interesting negotiating the shoreline. As we rounded the point, we could see no-one else for a while, and it was like we had the island to ourselves. Some Weddell seals were (as usual) lazing on the beach, barely lifting their heads as we passed. They were as relaxed as us. A perfect ending.













Snorkling Log

Guides: Pete & Katia

23 February 2025, PM – President Head, Snow Island

Our early arrival at the South Shetlands allowed us an outing in the afternoon to President Head on Snow Island, so we spent the morning gathering and fitting all our equipment.

President Head is a typical South Shetlands rocky island, but with large basalt stacks along the shoreline. We found a channel and an outcrop to snorkel in that was sheltered and had lovely clear water.

We watched a leopard seal playing before we went snorkelling; an elephant seal joined us in the water at the head of the canyon we were in, and we were also accompanied by fur seals. All our snorkellers stayed in the water for a solid 40-minute adventure – not a bad start to the expedition!

24 February 2025, AM – Portal Point

A continental landing, front-row seats to an open whale buffet (and krill galore), and the most picturesque Antarctic snorkelling imaginable – with a blue sky and sunshine that mildly thawed out fingers and toes. The snorkel site was framed by bergy bits in all shapes and mostly grounded, with an array of seaweeds and limpets.

Salps started to pique people's interest, and the sounds of crackling satisfied the first official Antarctica snorkel.



Number of Snorkllers: 8
Total Snorkel Outings: 9

Snorkllers:
Zach
Mel
Noel
Osh
Juan
Christa

Tom
Carolyn

24 February 2025, PM – Foyrn Harbour

More whales... and the wreck.

Tom, Zach and Noel circumnavigated from bow to bow, enjoying the encrusting algae decorating the submerged hull of the burnt-out wreck. As for the time spent in the water, a solid 90 minutescruising had already cooled down our explorers; therefore, a simple look at the sunken ship was greatly enjoyed, grasping the novelty of lost human-made structures grounded and taken over by the sea.

25 February 2025, AM – Cuverville Island

We had one mission at the world's largest gentoo penguin colony: swim with penguins. Before we jumped into the water, we landed to assess the personalities of the penguins we could see.

We approached our snorkel site with great anticipation. Without any hesitation, the snorkellers popped on their gear and enjoyed the towering cliffside of Cuverville and patiently waited for the flightless birds to join them. The squeals of delight echoing from their snorkels were evidence enough of a fantastic official second day. Great rafts of gentoo penguins zoomed past and a fur seal lazily watched from the dry rock above.

25 February 2025, PM – Paradise Harbour

One snorkeller was dressed and ready in case we encountered some in-water action, however, as the temperature had dropped, we ended up enjoying a very exciting cruise instead. Our lone drysuit-outfitted Expeditioner was more than content to remain dry for the afternoon outing. The scenery was stunning – we watched whales bubble-netting and found seals on the ice.

26 February 2025, AM – Petermann Island

An almost complete glass-off today as we approached the potent aroma of penguin. Nestled between an iceberg graveyard and pink-stained boulders, the algae-encrusted lagoon was clear and mesmerising.

Snorkellers were teased by the cautious gentoos on the shorelines, and they were quick to pass when the snorkellers turned their heads away. Nice chunks of ice dotted about the cove that funnelled from half a metre until 10 metres. Our aqua enthusiasts enjoyed the diversity of seaweeds and array of limpets. It was astounding to be close to some bigger grounded ice, to see the vastness below the surface.



28 February 2025, AM – Hydrurga Rocks

The sky cleared brilliantly, letting the sun reach us unfiltered. With the slightest of wind coming from the west, finding a peaceful cove completely hidden from the gentle breeze was easy.

Hoping the handful of teenage fur seals and one overgrown juvenile elephant seal would join our snorkellers, we made haste after some whale watching to get them into the crystal-clear lagoon.

28 February 2025, PM – Cierva Cove

A complete glass-off again. Sparkly sapphire chunks of ice and huge rafts of penguins darting about the coast. We were fascinated by three different leopards snoozing on ice, stupendous views and a very curious minke whale.

Arriving back at the ship, we were unable to move our Zodiac due to the persistence of the minke whale. We were given an opportunity to slip into the water and had a moment to investigate the wonderful beast below the surface. Dreams definitely came true this day!

1 March 2025, AM – Half Moon Island

The 'balmy water' and serene sunshine extended the length of the last snorkel. Visibility in the bay was crystal clear, making viewing the myriad seaweed and algae hypnotic for the snorkel team. Limpets and starfish were beautifully lit as the sun's rays penetrated below the surface.

Happy snorkellers could be found everywhere as they adventured along the front side of the island, being watched by the chinstraps perched above. A wonderful finish to a very exciting week of Antarctic snorkelling.





Bird & Mammal Sightings

Bird Species	February – March								
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2
Gentoo Penguin	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Chinstrap Penguin	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	
Adélie Penguin					●				
Black-browed Albatross	●								
Giant Petrel sp. (Northern &/or Southern)	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	
Cape Petrel	●	●							
Snow Petrel					●				
Antarctic Fulmar (Southern Fulmar)			●			●			
Prion sp. (most likely Antarctic)	●								
White-chinned Petrel	●								
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	●	●	●		●	●	●		
Imperial Cormorant (Blue-eyed Shag)		●	●			●	●	●	
Kelp Gull		●	●						●
Skua (Brown or South Polar)			●						●
Tern sp. (most likely Antarctic)			●	●	●	●	●	●	
Snowy Sheathbill			●	●	●	●	●	●	
Sandpiper								●	

Mammal Species	February – March								
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2
Antarctic Fur Seal		●		●			●	●	
Southern Elephant Seal		●	●	●			●	●	
Crabeater Seal			●	●					
Weddell Seal		●	●	●	●		●	●	
Leopard Seal		●			●		●		
Minke Whale					●	●	●		
Fin Whale		●							
Humpback Whale		●	●	●		●	●		

Map



Antarctic Explorer
20 February – 3 March 2025



Our Expeditioners

Andy Baukol	Dennis Conroy	Anita Gorwara	Lena Malik	Rose Passananti	Minkang Tang
Ursula Baukol	Joyce Norton-McCormick	Eileen Mc Grath	Buck Marcussen	Nadia Pawelczyk	Jane Thiele
Randy Beiner	Yvette Crabtree	Kate Horsburgh	Mary Marcussen	Elaine Peters	Michael Thiele
Katie Bell	Melissa Crouch	Carole Hunt	Hank Marcussen	Steve Pigott	Darren Thornley
Joel Bell	Carol Custer	Tanya Hurley	Nina Marks	Jo Pigott	Brian Tinker
Peter Bellden	Lisa Danforth	Anneke Irik	Jonathan Marks	Anna Babot Portell	Alexandra Tinker
Kerrie Bellden	Alex Davey	Tracey Irving	Cooper McBride	Ailin Qian	Jessica Tinker
Atse Blei	Stephanie Dixon	Tracey Jackman	Hugh McCormick III	Staci Quinlan	Keith Treschman
Sandae Bonare	Lyle Duncan	Paul Jackson	Hugh McCormick	Ocean Ramsey	Aman Uppal
Christine Bottrell	Deborah Dunster	Judith Jackson	John McCormick	Carolyn Ray	Henriëtte van der Stouwe
Bob Bown	Bruce Dunster	Renner St. John	Hannah McCormick	Caelan Rush	Mary-Jane Wagle
Jo Bown	Geoffrey Evans	Jenna Johnson	Noel McDermott	Mark Scorgie	Christa Weber
Jane Branneky	Lisa Friebel	Carol Kahn	Eric McDermott	Linda Seiersen	Robin Weiner
Owen Branstetter	Gail Garnas	Bernard Katz	Mike McDermott	Steven Seizer	Wyss Wyss
Chris Burt	Richard Garnas	Manpreet Kaur	Debra McDermott	Claudia Seizer	Minghua Xie
Ronnie Cai	Paul Gerrard	Lim Kim	Brook Mocha	Joe Silence	Brad Young
Doug Cheshire	Tamara Gerrard	Adam Lewis	Toby Myers	Roman Singh	Lyndall Young
Lisa Clarke	Zachary Goddard	Susan Lewis	Mark Needham	Tanya St Jean	Tom Zara
Gemma Clifton	Melanie Goddard	Brice Lin	Juan Oliphant	Strombom Strombom	Yue Zhou
Caroline Close	Suzanne Goegan	Lauren Lomaka	Aisha Oravec	Pintip Suthayakhom	Leona Zong

Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Christian Savegny
Assistant Expedition Leader: Mark Brophy
Onboard Expedition Manager: Lelia Cataldi
Onboard Expedition Assistant: Ari Benzo Ceria
Naturalist Guide/Ornithologist: Elena Wimburger
Geologist/Glaciologist: Heather Chrystie
Marine Biologist CSC: Leo Soibelzon
Photography Guide: Natalie Long
Expedition First Responder: Moniek Mestrom
Expedition Guide: Lianne Thompson
Expedition Guide/Historian: Piotr Damski
Lead Kayak Guide: Eamon Larkin
Senior Kayak Guide: Vanja Davidsen
Senior Kayak Guide: Tracy Gardner
Kayak Guide: Gareth Wheeler
Kayak Guide: Matt Barnes
Lead Snorkel Guide: Pete Shaw
Snorkel Guide: Darren Clarke
Snorkel Guide: Katia Benini
Zodiac Master: Ryan Kampf

Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Jorge Alexis Ferdinez
Chief Officer: Andrey Gilevskiy
Second Officer: Joseph Bryan Salem
Safety Officer: Costin Simion
Bosun: Leo Francis Marzan
Ship Doctor: Jose Alejandro Muller San Juan
Chief Engineer: Artem Vyshnevskiy
First Engineer: Warlito Verzosa
IT Officer: Rene Antoine Reyes
Hotel Director: Balvant Singh
Chief Purser: Caroline Sabrina Papenfuss
F&B Service Manager: Narendra Seeram
Head Bartender: Irene Gayta
Executive Chef: Ronaldo Reyes
Sous Chef: I Gusti Ketur Purnawirawan
Hotel Controller: Romat Nurhidayat
Receptionist: Angela Manuel
Receptionist: Erliza Mae Balagot
Head of Stateroom: Florante Lusong
Deck Cadet: Rodrigo Vigario Pinto
Able Seaman: Anthony John Brosas
Able Seaman: Muhammad Karier
Able Seaman: John Paul Sibug
Able Seaman: Eduardo Aloyan
Able Seaman: Ferdy Noel Diaz Roque
Able Seaman: Hardik Dipakbhai Rao

Photography thanks to:

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