

# Across the Antarctic Circle

Aboard *Greg Mortimer* | 24 February – 7 March 2025

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# Ushuaia

DAY 1 | Monday 24 February 2025

**Latitude:**

54°51.0' S

**Longitude:**

68°06.6' S

**Course:**

88°

**Speed:**

14.1 knots

**Wind Speed:**

5 knots SW

**Barometer:**

1005 hPa

**Air Temp:**

5°C

Today we explored the charming town of Ushuaia, known as 'the end of the world'. Some spent the morning exploring before joining an optional catamaran cruise through the Beagle Channel in the afternoon. We sailed past the Les Eclaireurs Lighthouse and enjoyed views of the surrounding mountains and local wildlife.

On arrival at the *Greg Mortimer*, we were welcomed by our Onboard Expedition Manager, Heidi, and expedition photographer, Stas, who checked us in and took our photo for the photo board. After welcome refreshments in the Elephant Island Bar, we were shown to our cabins.

Later, Expedition Leader, Dan, welcomed us in the lecture theatre and introduced our multi-skilled Expedition Team.

Heidi and hotel director Alex explained life on board, and Doctor Javier shared advice on staying healthy during the voyage. After settling into our cabins, we completed the mandatory lifeboat drill and enjoyed dinner prepared by the galley team.

Together we total 122 expeditioners from Australia (33), Canada (4), China (14), Germany (5), Greece (1), India (2), Ireland (1), Italy (1), Mexico (2), Netherlands (1), New Zealand (5), Poland (2), South Africa (2), UK (11), USA (39) along with 84 crew from all around the globe. Our 21 Expedition Team members specialise in various fields including marine mammals, history, ornithology and kayaking. After hours of travel, it's time to relax, breathe in the sea air, and get excited for the adventures ahead!





# Drake Passage

DAY 2 | Tuesday 25 February 2025

## Latitude:

55°01.7' S

## Longitude:

66°45.4' W

## Course:

120°

## Speed:

12.7 knots

## Wind Speed:

8 knots

## Barometer:

1012 hPa

## Air Temp:

3°C

We departed the Beagle Channel overnight, entering the infamous Drake Passage with swells reaching 4–6 metres. Calm seas may be easier on the stomach, but the rolling waves, peaking between 4–6 metres, added drama to the experience.

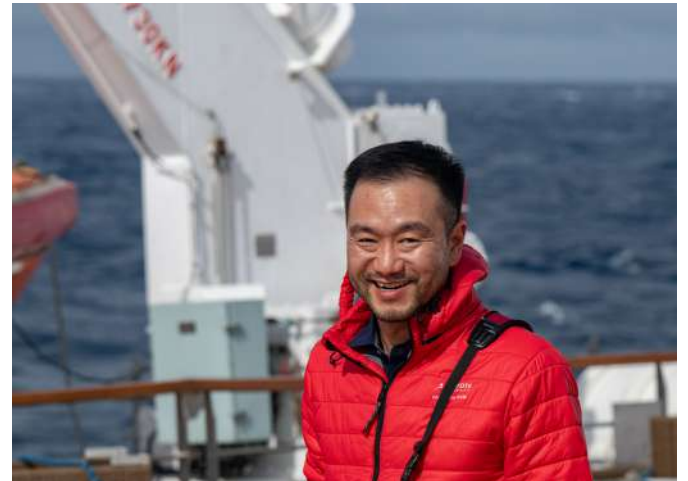
Daniel's morning update announced 60-knot winds. Some gathered at breakfast to watch waves crash while attempting to hold onto coffee cups. Navigating the corridors proved challenging, but many still made it to Ed's talk on seabirds, although our bird survey was wisely postponed until the afternoon.

Many spent time on deck, watching the raw power of the ocean and the seabirds soar effortlessly in the gale. In the afternoon, Stas gave an introduction to photography, followed by Avi's lecture on the history of the South Pole. Our first Citizen Science seabird survey took place later in the day, marking the beginning of our research contributions.

Dan's evening briefing outlined the voyage ahead, as much as can be predicted in these conditions.

With the ship rolling and the wind howling, we ended the day feeling a little more weathered, better informed and, most importantly, fully immersed in the adventure.





# Drake Passage

DAY 3 | Wednesday 26 February 2025

**Latitude:**

59°16.5' S

**Longitude:**

64°43.0' SW

**Course:**

180°

**Speed:**

12 knots

**Wind Speed:**

5 knots SW

**Barometer:**

1019 hPa

**Air Temp:**

5°C

Overnight the seas calmed, and we woke to gentler motion as we continued south through the Drake Passage. After breakfast, the Expedition Team gave our mandatory IAATO and Zodiac briefing. We learned how to minimise impact in Antarctica, how to dress appropriately, and how to embark and disembark a Zodiac using the sailor's grip.

We prepared and cleaned our outer gear, vacuuming layers to avoid transferring seeds or foreign material ashore. In the mudroom, we tried on Muck Boots and lifevests, and disinfected any equipment that may come into contact with the ground.

In the afternoon, Ben gave an introduction to Antarctic

geology, from continental drift and tectonics to identifying different rock types. Following afternoon tea, we heard from visiting whale scientists about their planned fieldwork, including biopsy collection. We were even shown one of the biopsy arrows to be used—a rare treat. Ryan answered questions about whale biology and research in the region, and we left the lecture theatre with some new insights into whales and whale research.

In the evening, the Captain welcomed us on board with complimentary drinks and introduced the senior officers. The Citizen Science Program was also introduced, followed by short talks on the Drake Passage and having mindful presence in Antarctica.





# Yalour Islands

DAY 4 | Thursday 27 February 2025

**Latitude:**

64°10.9' S

**Longitude:**

64°47.1' W

**Course:**

157°

**Speed:**

13.2 knots

**Wind Speed:**

3 knots S

**Barometer:**

1006 hPa

**Air Temp:**

1°C

Today brought glorious sunshine and clear conditions for our first landing of the voyage. As the *Greg Mortimer* cruised through Penola Strait, Annette gave a lecture on penguins before we reached the Yalour Islands.

As we made our way to the Yalour Islands, a group of humpback whales surfaced near the ship, their massive bodies gracefully gliding through the water, some showing their flukes, providing great photo opportunities.

At the landing site, we enjoyed numerous Adélie penguins gathered near their colonies. Some waddled comically across the ice, while others slid on their bellies with surprising speed. The snorkellers suited up and plunged into the cold waters to explore the underwater world. They reported seeing starfish and many limpets while

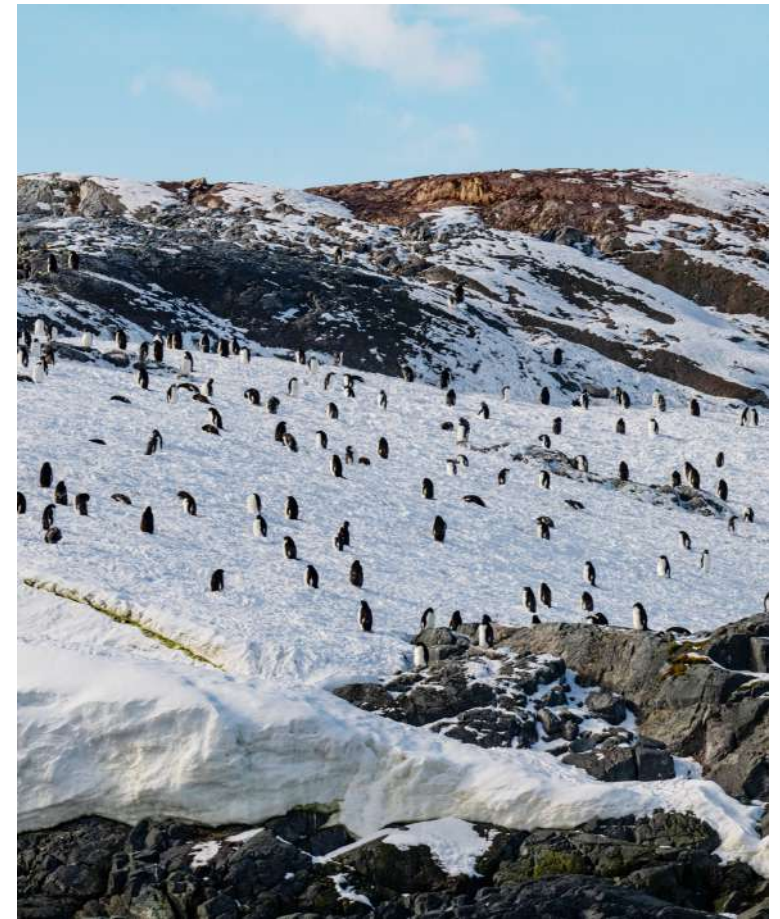
on their swim in the very clear water of Antarctica. Kayakers and paddlers enjoyed perfectly calm conditions, weaving between icebergs, offering a surreal and intimate perspective of the beauty of the Antarctic landscape.

The day was immersed in nature, with each moment offering something new and exciting. The sense of adventure was palpable, and it felt like we were witnessing some of the last true frontiers of our planet. An extraordinary day in one of the most remote and beautiful places on earth.

The sun stayed west in the sky and the icebergs around us caught the light while we sailed south towards the Antarctic Circle. We returned to our ship exhausted but exhilarated, grateful for such an amazing day.











# Detaille Island

DAY 5 | Friday 28 February 2025

**Latitude:**  
66°36.8' S  
**Longitude:**  
67°21.0' SW

**Course:**  
Variable  
**Speed:**  
5 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
4 knots SSW  
**Barometer:**  
1010 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
-4°C

Daniel's cheerful greeting at 5.23am marked our official crossing of the Antarctic Circle. Ice scraping against the hull added to the excitement of achieving a rare milestone. The golden morning light and the high-latitude shadows created a dreamscape—an indescribable beauty in all directions allowed us to comprehend the drive of the early explorers to know what lies beyond.

We landed at Detaille Island and visited Detaille Hut (Base W), a 1950s time capsule. Everything remained in place, as if the occupants had simply stepped out. Zodiac cruises revealed surprises: a chinstrap penguin among Adélies, and a fur seal searching for a haul-out. Kayakers circumnavigated the island, navigating through brash ice, while snorkellers explored alongside small growlers.

A minke whale surfaced beside the ship, delighting all and surprising even the whale research team, who had collected a biopsy earlier.

Slow-going through pack ice meant plans shifted, but expert navigation allowed continued progress. We learned the difference between sea ice and glacier ice while observing crabeater seals slithering across the flats, leaving sinuous tracks in all directions. Snow petrels graced the airspace as a Wilson's storm petrel danced during an eBird survey. Avi explained black ice versus white glacial ice, and Ben followed up by explaining the big picture of glacial landscapes and nunataks.

Southernmost position reached at Lat 66°51.1'S, Long 66°48.4' W







# Prospect Point

DAY 6 | Saturday 1 March 2025

**Latitude:**

66°01.4' S

**Longitude:**

65°34.4' W

**Course:**

92°

**Speed:**

5 knots

**Wind Speed:**

3 knots SE

**Barometer:**

1013 hPa

**Air Temp:**

-2°C

After crossing the Antarctic Circle, it was time to head north along the Antarctic Peninsula. Again, the morning started with perfect weather: clear skies, sunshine and no wind.

It was an early start to take advantage of the visibility and the spectacular views of mountains, glaciers, and the transparent water—truly a vast landscape. The morning exploration was by Zodiac, observing Adélie penguins, Weddell seals, crabeater seals, and a curious leopard seal on an ice floe and in the water.

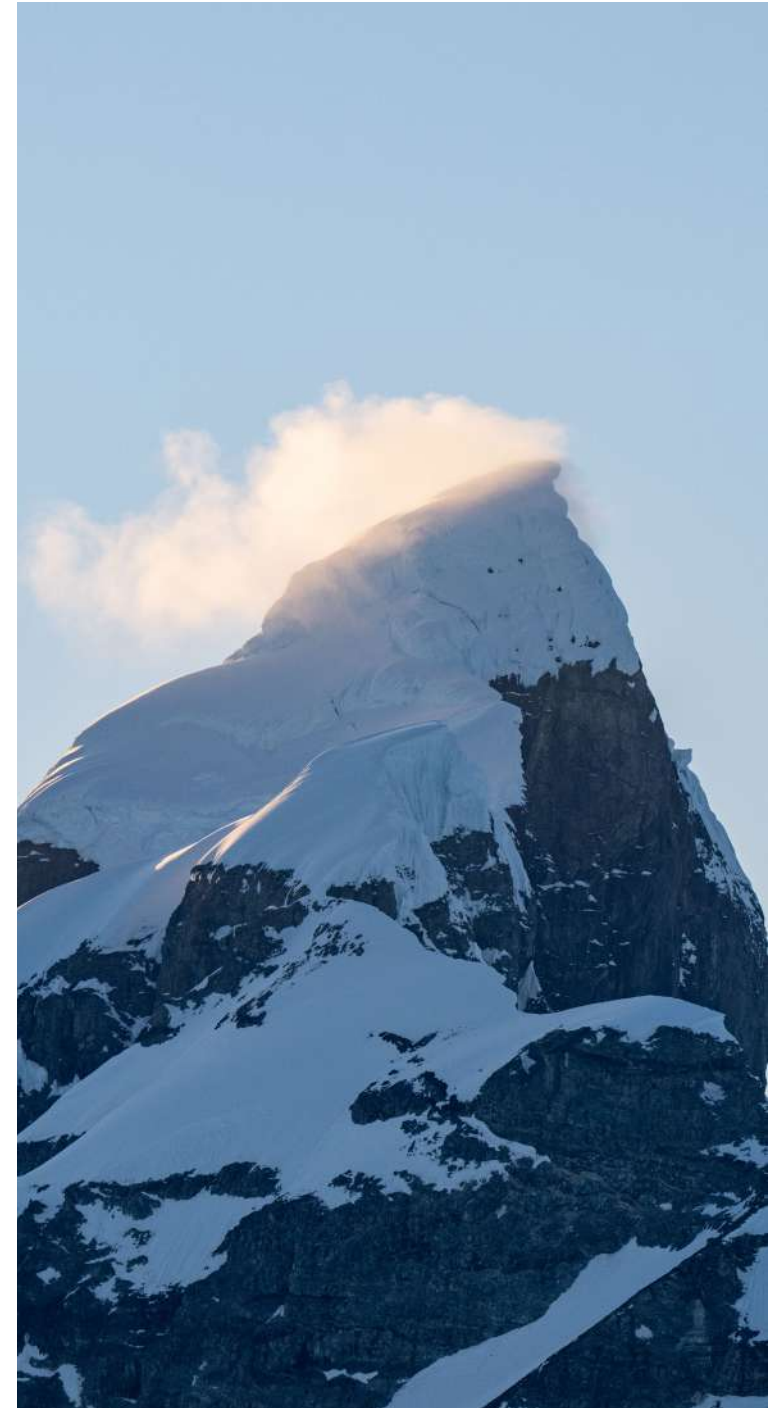
Back aboard, we photographed icebergs, learned about the region's early exploration and bases from the Expedition Team, and discovered, through geology, how this extraordinary place was formed. At Prospect Point, we

made a continental landing on a small peninsula. A highlight of the day included landing on an ice floe—a rare and unforgettable experience of standing on sea ice surrounded by the ocean. The activities offered intimate ways to connect with the environment. Snorkellers observed the underwater world, its colours and icy dimensions. Kayakers enjoyed calm waters and wildlife, sliding onto the floe like seals.

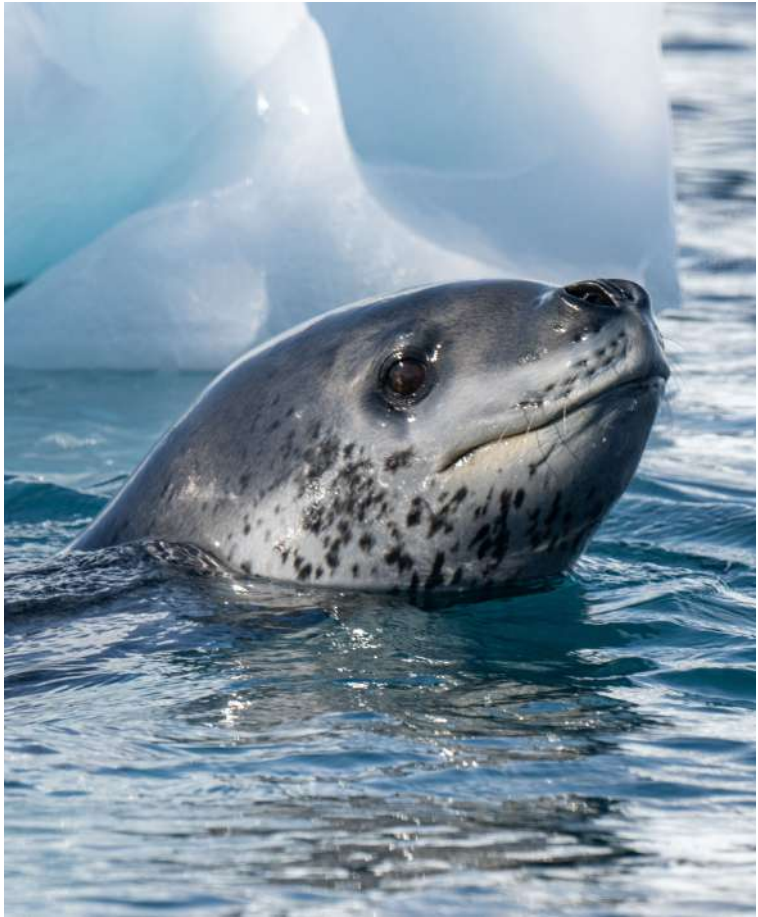
After lunch, we relaxed aboard—whale watching, napping, or attending Ryan's lecture on whale sensory systems. Our whale researchers collected significant new data.

We navigated through Crystal Sound under a thin cloud layer, perfect for a Cloud Survey as part of our Citizen Science Program. A long sunset and whale blows visible from the windows capped off another unforgettable Antarctic day.









# Pléneau & Petermann Islands | Lemaire Channel

DAY 7 | Sunday 2 March 2025

## Latitude:

65°12.0' S

## Longitude:

64°11.8' W

## Course:

Ice navigation

## Speed:

5.3 knots

## Wind Speed:

3 knots SE

## Barometer:

1014 hPa

## Air Temp:

-2°C

We woke to one of the most beautiful locations of the Antarctic Peninsula: the southern entrance to the Lemaire Channel, near Pléneau Island. Surrounded by towering cliffs, massive glaciers and majestic icebergs, the scene was breathtaking.

The morning began with a Zodiac cruise. We explored icebergs of various shapes, colours and sizes—from snow white to deep blue to transparent black. A large colony of red-beaked gentoo penguins marked our first proper sighting of the species on this trip. We observed various behaviours, before a group of gentoos approached us in the water.

Then came a magical moment: a group of humpback whales surrounded our Zodiacs, curious and close. A

couple of minke whales were also nearby. We observed and listened to their breathing for a good half an hour.

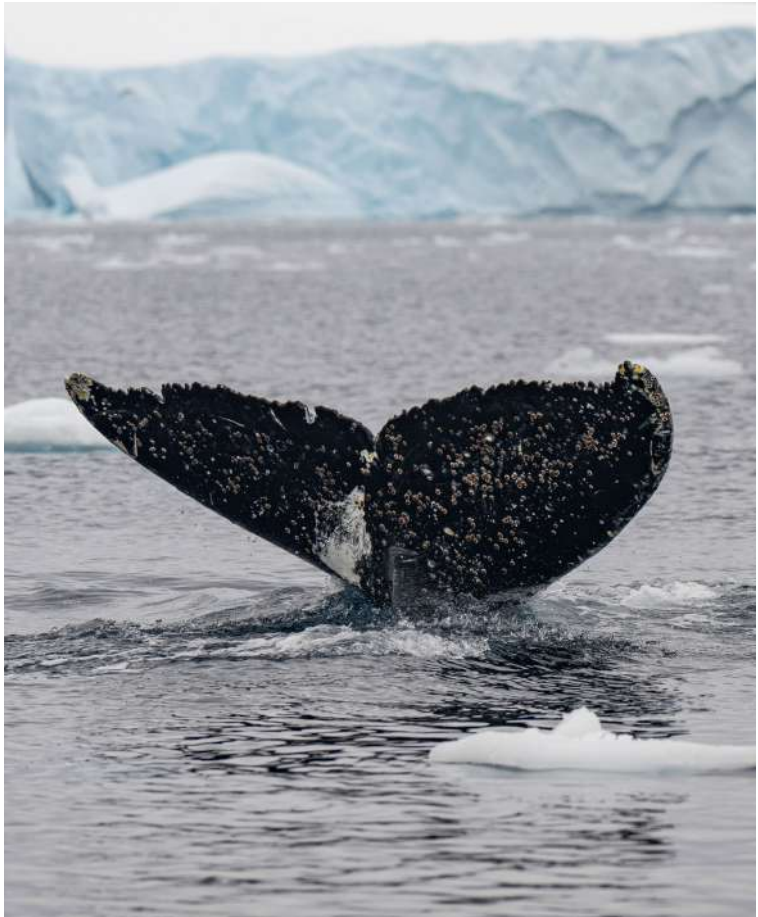
In the afternoon, we landed on Petermann Island, home to over 3,000 breeding pairs of gentoo penguins. We explored the site and saw the historical engraving 'PP' (for *Pourquois-Pas*, the ship of the French Antarctic Expedition led by Charcot) and a memorial cross for three members of the British Antarctic Survey.

After a relaxed two-hour hike, the Expedition Team returned us to the ship. We then transited through the Lemaire Channel, enjoying a deck BBQ, with festive hats and music as the sun set behind us, lighting the sky with spectacular colours.









# Enterprise Island & Portal Point

DAY 8 | Monday 3 March 2025

**Latitude:**  
64°30.0' S  
**Longitude:**  
62°09.0' W

**Course:**  
61°  
**Speed:**  
5.4 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
3 knots WSW  
**Barometer:**  
1012 hPa

**Air Temp:**  
3°C

If you picture the perfect image of Antarctica, you'll likely see clear skies, calm water, icebergs and humpback whales. Enterprise Island was as picturesque as it gets. Zodiacs were launched to explore the pristine wonderland. Only the first two were in the water when a humpback whale surfaced near the ship, feeding. And it wasn't alone; sunlit humpback blows illuminated the entire bay.

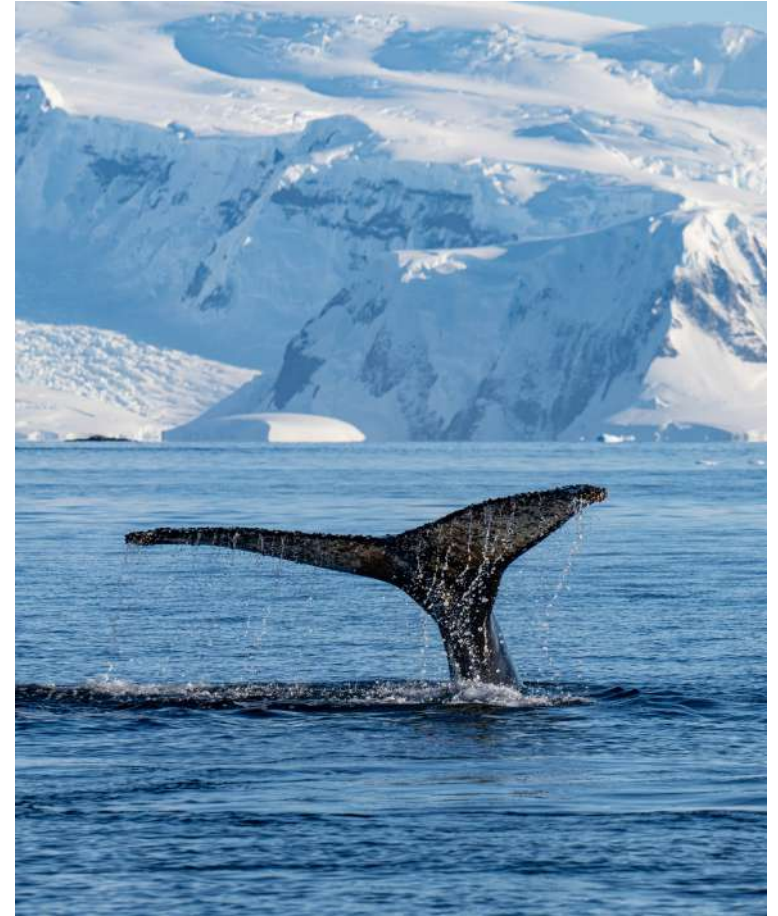
While whales stole the show, there was more: a beautiful colony of Antarctic shags, fur seals, and a lucky few even caught a glimpse of a southern elephant seal basking in the sun on the rocks near the discarded remains of the whaling ship *Guvernøren*.

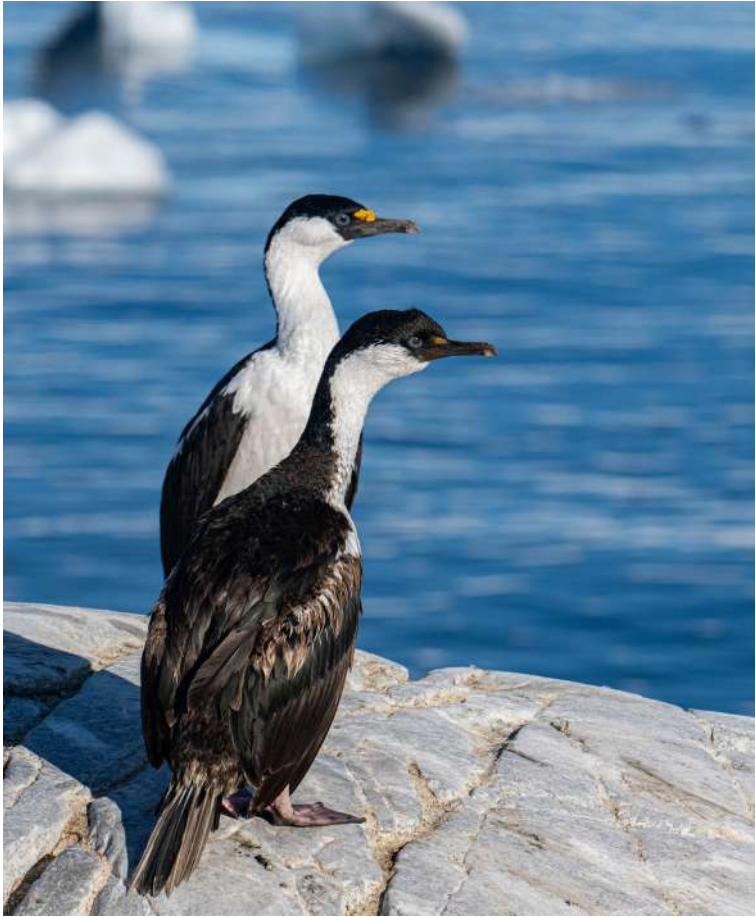
The morning concluded with a polar plunge, executed against the most awe-inspiring backdrop of Antarctic mountains and ice, with not a cloud in the sky. Fifty-five expeditioners donned their swimwear to join that exclusive club.

During lunch, the ship repositioned to Portal Point, and the scenery remained stunning. A Weddell seal greeted us at the landing. Avi spoke on the site's history, and we saw foundations of a dog-sled refuge hut used by dog-sledding teams in the 1950s. A short hike up the hill rewarded us with the most spectacular view out to sea, where the *Greg Mortimer* was anchored, surrounded by icebergs and humpback whales.









# Peninsular Hall, Snow Island & Hannah Point, Walker Bay

DAY 9 | Tuesday 4 March 2025

Latitude:  
62°53.8' S  
Longitude:  
61°09.2' W

Course:  
10°  
Speed:  
8.3 knots

Wind Speed:  
5 knots E  
Barometer:  
998 hPa

Air Temp:  
2°C

The rising sun covering everything with a beautiful light as we were approaching the South Shetland Islands. The landscape was significantly different – there were more snow-free areas and even some green!

After breakfast, we landed at Peninsula Hall, eastern Snow Island. Conditions were rougher than earlier days, with bigger waves, but the Expedition and deck teams ensured safe Zodiac transfers. At the landing site, we walked along the beach among elephant seals, gentoo and chinstrap penguins, and fur seals. Kayakers paddled along the coast, enjoying the swell.

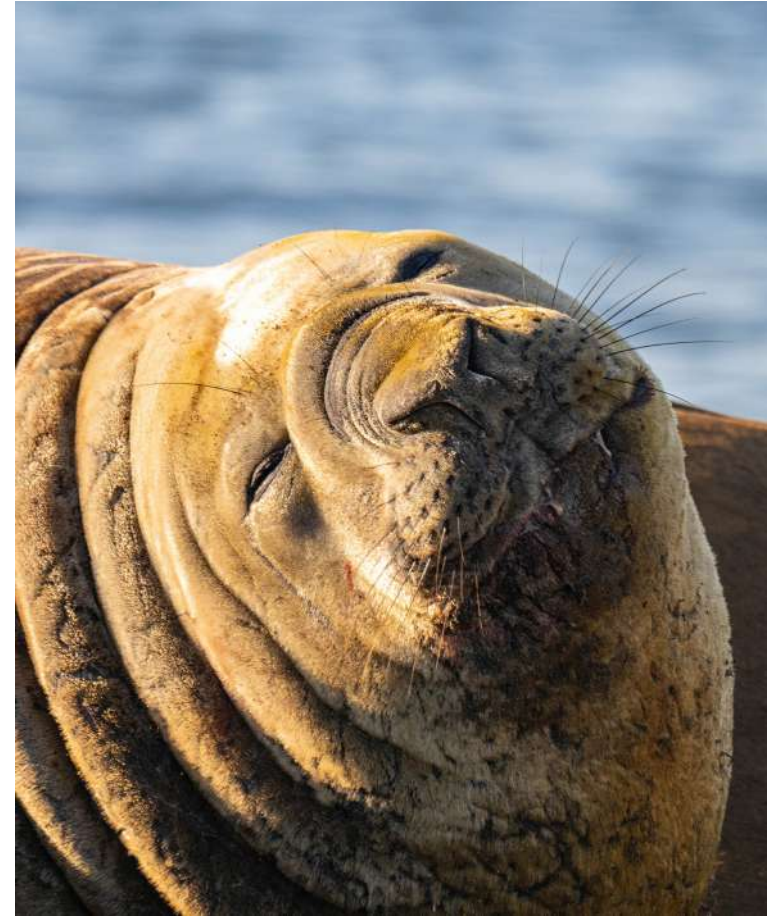
Kayakers had a great paddle exploring the coastline and playing with a little bit of swell. After a joyful and a bit

challenging Zodiac ride back to the ship, the lunch tasted just fantastic! While we rested, the ship repositioned to our final destination: Hannah Point, Walker Bay. In contrast to the morning, conditions were calm. Sunlight danced on glassy water as two whales surfaced nearby.

We enjoyed the sunny weather while walking along the beach, watching the wildlife and enjoying our time in beautiful Antarctica! Back aboard, we received a briefing and our return via the Drake Passage. Daniel showed us weather maps, indicating a reasonably smooth crossing.

After dinner, we enjoyed a movie night: *Happy Feet* and popcorn—a cheerful start to the journey home.









# Drake Passage

DAY 10 | Wednesday 5 March 2025

**Latitude:**  
61°32.5' S  
**Longitude:**  
62°42.2' W

**Course:**  
324°  
**Speed:**  
12.4 knots

**Wind Speed:**  
5 knots NW  
**Barometer:**  
1002 hPa

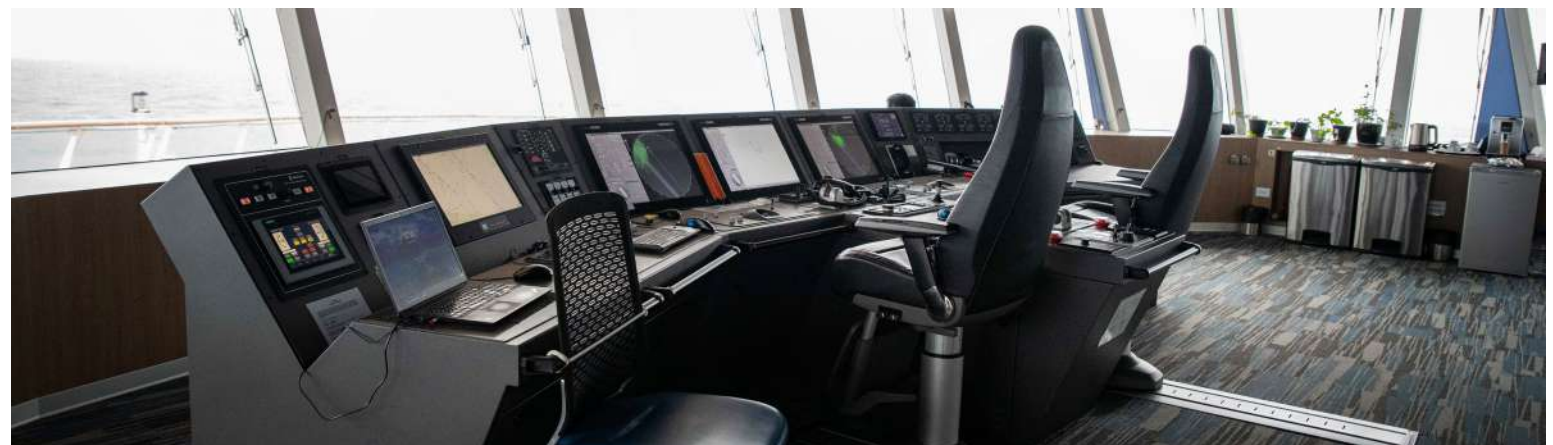
**Air Temp:**  
4°C

As we continued north, we were fortunate to experience a calm Drake Passage—the 'Drake Lake'. Without the roaring winds and high seas of the journey south, today offered a peaceful opportunity to reflect on our expedition.

The day was filled with learning and inspiration. Annette shared insights on the Southern Ocean's currents, the global conveyor belt, and the interconnectedness of ocean life. Ted's workshop invited us to become citizen scientists via Happywhale, showing how our photos help identify and track whales globally. Ted and his team had gathered over 50 whale biopsies during the voyage, contributing to invaluable research on these gentle giants.

Ben then took us far inland through stories and photos of Antarctic crossings—by snow groomers, Hilux utes and skis—highlighting the extreme conditions, perseverance, and ingenuity required to navigate the white continent.

Liz hosted a hilarious and energetic 'How Big is It?' game, which was followed by the privilege of visiting the bridge, where the Captain and crew welcomed us, giving us a firsthand look at the skill and teamwork that have kept us safe on this incredible journey. Eddie shared the vital importance of krill, the foundation of the Antarctic food web, while Annette transported us to the remote Crozet Islands to explore the life of a penguin researcher.



# Drake Passage

DAY 11 | Thursday 6 March 2025

<b>Latitude:</b> 57°07.4' S	<b>Wind Speed:</b> 7 knots NW	<p>It was our final day at sea as we steamed closer to the sheltered waters of the Beagle Channel. By now we were familiar with the fearsome Drake Passage, but this time we only experienced a gentle swell, still reminding us we were still on the ocean. We appreciated today's calm even more when casting our minds back to the journey south.</p> <p>After breakfast, we got another chance to visit the bridge. There, we viewed the sophisticated charts, radars and technology used to control the movements of the <i>Greg Mortimer</i>. The small joysticks and dials were more reminiscent of a PlayStation than the large steering wheel many imagine.</p>	<p>Heidi then gave our disembarkation briefing, so we knew the order of events for tomorrow's arrival in Ushuaia—what bus we're on and which colour label to use for luggage. Eddie followed with a lecture about Antarctic fish—fascinating creatures with antifreeze in their blood.</p> <p>This afternoon, Elo spoke about elephant seals. Just two days ago, we stood watching these enormous marine mammals sleeping, play-fighting and throwing sand over their bodies. Despite their cumbersome appearance, they are remarkable divers, reaching depths of 2,390 metres!</p> <p>Later, we enjoyed waffles at the bar before the Captain's Farewell and slideshow of our incredible journey, followed by dinner and a hotel crew parade.</p>
<b>Longitude:</b> 65°19.5' W	<b>Barometer:</b> 1020 hPa		
<b>Course:</b> 314°	<b>Air Temp:</b> 5°C		
<b>Speed:</b> 10.8 knots			

# Ushuaia

DAY 12 | Friday 7 March 2025

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Latitude:

54°48.6' S

Longitude:

68°19.7' W

Course:

At anchor

Speed:

At anchor

Wind Speed:

5 knots SE

Barometer:

1021 hPa

Air Temp:

8°C

We arrived alongside the wharf in Ushuaia in the early hours of the morning, enjoyed a final breakfast aboard and disembarked the vessel 8.00 am.

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

BBQ



# Polar Plunge





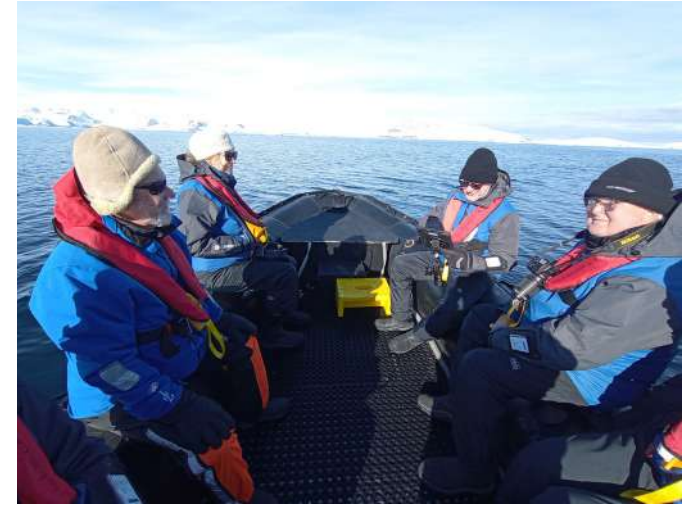
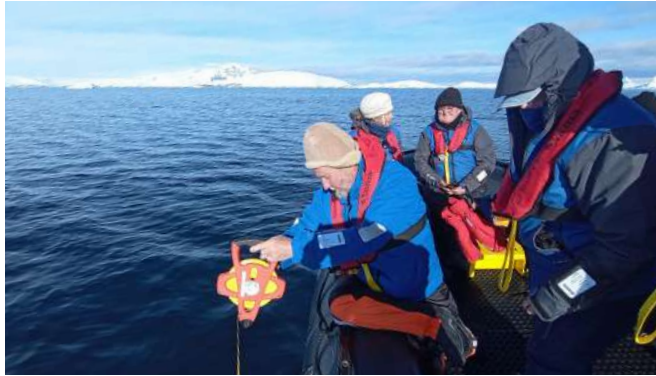








# Citizen Science





# Kayaking Log

Guides: Elo Berrier, Hodei Orueta, Liz MacNeil, Pablo Passera, Ivan Klochkov

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## 27 February 2025, AM: Yalour Islands 5.3km

Our first outing in Antarctica was absolutely thrilling! The sun was shining, and the conditions couldn't have been better at Yalour Islands. We hopped in our kayaks and paddled out, surrounded by icebergs that glistened in the light. The excitement grew as we spotted peaceful seals resting on top of some icebergs. We paddled nearly 5 kilometres, our hearts racing with the adventure of it all. It was a great chance to play and test our skills with the kayaks as we navigated through the channels. Afterwards we set foot on the island itself – a dream come true – and we spent some time visiting the Adélie penguin colony! The frozen landscape stretched endlessly around us, and the sheer beauty of it all left us speechless. What a magical start to our journey!

## 28 February 2025, AM: Detaile Island 3.5km

Another beautiful sunny day as the bridge team navigated us through the icy expanse on our way to Detaile Island. What a beautiful kayak session to have below the Antarctic Circle! As we got into our drysuits and loaded into the Zodiacs, we saw two humpback whales welcoming us. Loading into the kayaks, we joined Ivan and Liz on the water and started weaving our way through the channels and ice. Brash, growlers, bergy bits, and icebergs were shining sculptures surrounding us as we made our way around the island. Circumnavigating, we saw Adélie penguins, blue-eyed cormorants, and 30-million-year-old volcanic rock. We completed the circumnavigation and went ashore for the beautiful viewpoint and historic hut visit! What an amazing morning!

Number of Kayakers: 20

Total Kayak Outings: 9

Total Distance Paddled:  
44.4 km

Kayakers:

Janette Jensen

Murray Jensen

Klaus Alexander Maier

Christopher Maier

Alex Schwartz

Kari McCallie

Marjorie Wallman

Jonathan Wallman

Robert Hill-Smith

Annabel Hill-Smith

Vanessa Lemahi

Jim Tan

William Chen

Glenn Salkeld

Marian Spataru

Lea Elverd

Chris Anderson

Deborah Kong

Susan Marston

Mike Marston

### 1 March 2025, AM: Prospect Point 4.3km

Another sunny day with almost no wind. We had great views of Graham Land and the infinite horizons. We boarded the kayaks close to Perth Island and, with Pablo and Hodei, paddled around the island – first to the east, and then around to the south. Surrounded by sea ice and icebergs, we stayed close to shore and were lucky to watch Adélie penguins, a Weddell seal, and an antarctic skua. We turned back towards the sea ice with the intention of making an ice landing, which we did after moving our bodies like seals in order to exit the kayaks at the edge of the ice floe. We were very happy to experience this unique opportunity to be on top of the sea ice. After some photos and a bit of relaxing, we boarded the Zodiac to go ashore at Prospect Point, where we did a continental landing before heading back.

### 2 March 2025, AM: Pléneau Island 5.6km

The morning dawned cloudy and dark. After several days of sunshine, a touch of truly Antarctic weather accompanied us. Among massive icebergs, we explored Pléneau Island by kayak. The island was charted by the French Antarctic Expedition of 1903–1905, led by Jean-Baptiste Charcot, and named after his expedition photographer and good friend.

Kayaking was calm, allowing us to enjoy a lengthy encounter with two humpback whales exploring the coastline.

The kayaks allowed us to enter a very shallow bay and observe gentoo penguins for a while, without them even noticing our presence. Then, we paddled back to the ship among towering icebergs.

### 2 March 2025, AM: Pléneau Island 7.4km

We launched from the Zodiac near the *Greg Mortimer*, ready for a longer paddle and aiming to keep moving to stay warm under the cloudy sky. We were very aware of the large icebergs and the distance we needed to maintain. We kayaked in the direction of the eastern point of Pléneau, where the gentoo colony is abundant. We pushed through some ice to make our way into shallow waters, to observe these amazing birds as they moulted and, behaved on land and in the water.

After more exploration on the northern side – where we spotted a fur seal on the rocks – we had a magnificent encounter with humpback whales, which we observed diving and taking deep breaths. We returned to the southern channels, where we recorded snow algae on the slope and used an app to contribute to Citizen Science.

### 2 March 2025, PM: Petermann Island 4.3km

This afternoon, we also had the chance to go out, but a few decided to take a break while the rest explored the coast of Petermann Island by kayak. We took a slower pace, soaking in the peaceful beauty around us. Gentoo penguins zipped playfully beside our kayaks, popping up with curious glances before diving again. Later, we also watched them on land, waddling and pecking at each other playfully.

We spotted the historic 'PP' and the tide marks engraved by Charcot in 1909 – a quiet reminder of past explorers. Some stretched their legs on land before returning to the ship, while others stayed on the water and ventured around the ice, seeing more penguins and whales.



### 3 March 2025, AM: Enterprise Island 4.8km

The weather couldn't have been better—calm seas and bright sunshine lit up the icy landscape. To immerse ourselves in the adventure, we split into two groups. One group kayaked around the little islands in front of Enterprise Island, spotting fur seals lounging on the rocks and blue-eyed shags soaring above. Later, we headed towards the rusted remains of *Guvernøren*, the legendary floating whaling factory – its eerie skeleton just beneath the surface. The other group took the reverse route. We all returned to the ship, but the adventure wasn't over yet – next up was the polar plunge!

### 3 March 2025, PM: Portal Point 3.5km

It's always sunny in Antarctica (not really though), but we lucked out with the weather and the glassy water! We loaded our kayaks, broke into two groups, and headed for the icy bay behind the point.

How much fun did we have? So much! We weaved through brash ice, growlers and bergy bits, powering through the sea ice like true icebreakers. We kayaked past a curious Weddell seal hauled out on ice, and came into an open area where we were surrounded by icy sculptures reflecting our bluebird day – a perfect spot to have a moment of Zen and take in all the wonder and magic of Antarctica. Landing on shore, we walked to a beautiful viewpoint before loading back into the Zodiacs to return to the ship.

### 4 March 2025, AM: Hull Peninsula 2km

Already dressed for kayaking, the day started with a landing. In the shelter of the north side of the Hull Peninsula, we were able to board the kayaks and paddle along the coast, watching some elephant seals and gentoo penguins while being mindful of the swell and waves along the shore.

We kayaked until the point where conditions started to become rougher, then turned around to cross the channel into the more sheltered side of the peninsula. We returned and boarded the Zodiac. It was a short outing, but with more challenging conditions – and Ivan, Hodei and Pablo made the challenge enjoyable.

### 4 March 2025, PM: Hannah Point/Walker Bay 3.7km

Our last kayaking trip was spectacular, with a great combination of peaceful moments observing elephant seals, gentoo and chinstrap penguins, and giant petrel chicks – along with a bit of adrenaline as we challenged our limits and played with the kayaks among the rocks, channels, and swell.

It was beautiful to see how everyone had fun and enjoyed this final outing with great confidence in themselves on the kayaks and true team spirit. Thank you for this wonderful journey together.











# Paddling Log

Guides: Elo Berrier, Hodei Orueta Ruibal, Liz MacNeil,  
Pablo Passera, Ivan Klochkov

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## 27 February 2025, AM: Yalour Islands 2.1 km

The day had arrived for our first outing in Antarctica, and the weather couldn't have been better. We left the ship aboard Zodiacs, towing sit-on-tops behind us, and soon spotted a leopard seal resting on a small iceberg. Closer to shore, we settled into our sit-on-top kayaks, getting a feel for them before paddling through dense ice. As we approached land, gentoo and Adélie penguins appeared, darting playfully along the shore. We paddled shallow channels, with crystal-clear water revealing the pristine seabed beneath. After a peaceful paddle, we went ashore for a chance to walk among the penguins before heading back to the ship.

## 28 February 2025, AM: Dettale Island 2.3 km

Probably our southernmost paddle of the entire trip! In the morning, we had the amazing opportunity to explore Dettale Island. We paddled through channels, spotted several seals and beautiful icebergs, and at the end of our journey, we went ashore to visit Wordie House—and the viewpoint!



Number of Paddlers: 8  
Total Paddle Outings: 8  
Total Distance Paddled:  
28.5 km + Petermann Island

Paddlers:  
Tim Broeder  
Nadine Stryewski  
Hannah Jones  
Claire Witham  
David Williams  
Kathleen Payne

Roger Payne  
Rex Brown

### 1 March 2025, AM: Prospect Point 5.2 km

It was a morning full of surprises! Disembarking the ship, Daniel dropped us off on a beautiful ice floe—what a great way to start our excursion, drifting like the explorers of old. After many new profile shots, we launched our kayaks from the floe. The water was glassy, the sun was shining, and we navigated into the heart of the Fish Islands, where Adélie penguins were moulting and moving to and from the ice. They watched us curiously, probably wondering what we were. After our longest paddle yet, we landed on the continent—our seventh landing for some! A wonder-filled morning we won't forget.

### 2 March 2025, AM: Pléneau Island 5 km

An adventurous outing! We paddled around the island's northern side under overcast skies that revealed stunning blue tones in the surrounding icebergs. Finding a safe passage through the ice, we reached the other side of the island—where we encountered humpback whales! We rafted up and enjoyed an incredible close encounter. At one point, Rex nearly fell out of his kayak trying to capture the perfect footage. On our way back, we found a channel blocked by ice and had to transfer back into the Zodiac. Just then, we spotted a few fur seals—a new species for us! Navigating back to the ship was tricky; we ran aground briefly and Ivan had to get in the water to help, but thanks to Hodei's expert driving, we returned cold but elated.

### 2 March 2025, PM: Petermann Island 4.7 km

Another spectacular outing, blending peaceful observation with a touch of history. We enjoyed watching seals, icebergs, and penguins, but also visited remnants of the second Charcot expedition, including a tide mark and the initials "PP" engraved in stone—easily accessed by kayak. We ended with a walk on land at the landing site, a fantastic combination of nature and history.

### 3 March 2025, AM: Enterprise Island 5 km

Perfect weather—zero wind and bright sunshine. We started our session near the ship with a close encounter with a humpback whale. Paddling along the east side of Enterprise Island, we saw fur seals, a Weddell seal, and more humpbacks calmly surfacing in the still water. Gentoo and chinstrap penguins made brief appearances. Later, we explored the wreck of the *Guvernøren*, an old whaling ship, and learned more about Antarctica's whaling history. Before returning to the *Greg Mortimer*, we visited a bay with striking orange lichens and mosses. Whale blows and flukes were a constant backdrop in this spectacular morning paddle.

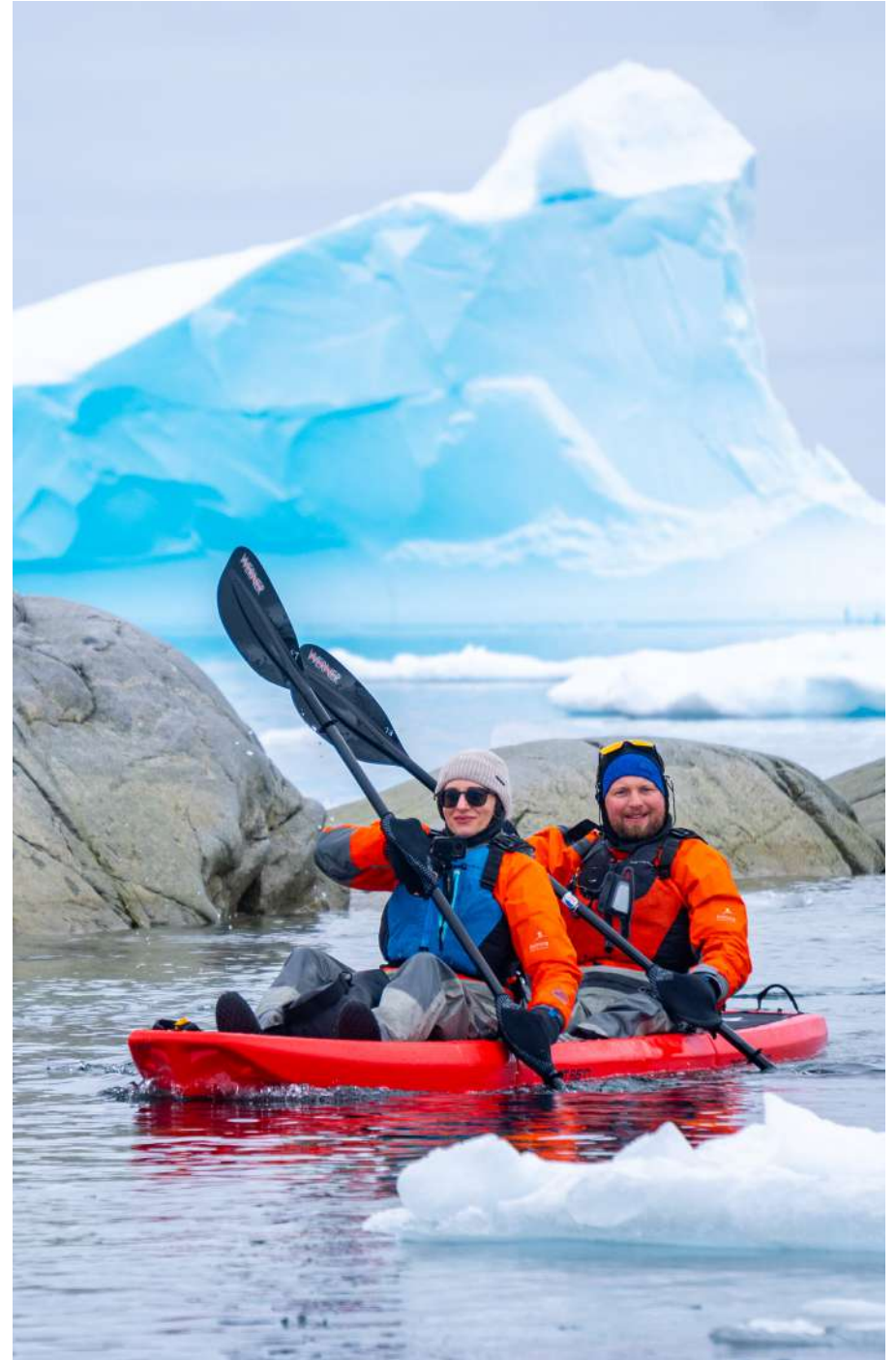


3 March 2025, PM: Portal Point  
1.7 km

The weather remained stunning—calm seas, sunshine, and dazzling ice. As we paddled along Portal Point's coast, massive blue icebergs surrounded us. The highlight was weaving through sheets of sea ice, occasionally getting stuck, and breaking through as we glided forwards. The water was so clear we could see limpets, starfish, and krill larvae beneath. Just before returning to the Zodiac, we spotted a Weddell seal peacefully dozing on an ice floe—a perfect farewell to a magical outing.

4 March 2025, PM: Hannah  
Point/Walker Bay 2.5 km

Our final paddle—and what a cracker! The sun was shining (as always in Antarctica!), and Hannah, Claire and Liz set off to explore the rocky shoreline of Hannah Point. A playful fur seal swam around our kayaks, joining the fun. Penguins popped up constantly, cooling off in the water. On shore, moulting gentoo and chinstrap penguins sought shade, while elephant seals lay in massive heaps, snorting and flinging sand. As we glided past, their sounds echoed through the bay. Never a dull moment on this wild and wonderful last paddle!













# Snorkelling Log

Guides: Rosie Leaney, Eddie Hauzer & Thomas Gov

## 27 February 2025, PM: Yalour Islands

Our first snorkelling outing in Antarctica was a thrilling introduction to the icy waters of the Southern Ocean. Suited up in floaty, seal-tight drysuits, we felt slightly awkward in this bulky gear. After an inspiring walk on the main island of the Yalour Archipelago, we boarded our Zodiac and travelled to a narrow channel, eager to explore. Visibility was stunning—brightly coloured sea stars clung to rocks, and delicate limpets dotted the seabed. A highlight was discovering our first piece of ice, its smooth surface glinting underwater. The current made the swim both invigorating and demanding. Cheeks flushed, we returned to the Zodiac, smiling from a successful first Antarctic snorkel.

## 28 February 2025, AM - Detaille island

Today marked our second snorkel and the southernmost of the trip. We arrived early in Crystal Sound and suited up in drysuits. Rosie and Thomas briefed us before launching the Zodiacs and we made our way to our first exploration site, Eddie Base W. We took a short walk in the breathtaking surrounds before entering the water in a nearby bay. Underwater, we saw fascinating rock formations, clusters of limpets with intricate shells, and salps drifting through the water. Conditions were perfect—calm and clear. The cool, crisp water was invigorating, and the unique underwater landscape made the snorkel unforgettable. It was a truly unique snorkelling adventure; one that left us in awe of the wonders of this remote and untouched part of the world.

Number of Snorkellers: 14  
Total Snorkel Outings: 7

Snorkellers:  
Dennis Murphy  
Charlotte Birkmanis  
James Birkmanis  
Matthew Coelho  
Santiago David Garfias Turok  
Sharon Wosk Nieto

George Chunn  
Debbie Amable  
Mary Fermina Tan  
Justin Ewin  
Andrew Cotter  
Julie Marlton  
Simon Tabberer

Brantley Gaitan

### 01 March 2025, AM: Prospect Point

Today brought a milestone—our first step on the Antarctic continent. After a quick landing and scout for a snorkel spot, we heard reports of two leopard seals nearby. Pablo paddled past and directed us to the area. Soon, a leopard seal surfaced, eyeing us with curiosity. Observing its playful yet assertive behaviour, we wisely chose to remain in the Zodiacs. The seals' sleek movements and occasional glances in our direction made for a mesmerising sight. Later, we spotted a long chain of salps beneath the surface. Another highlight was a Zodiac manoeuvre onto an ice floe, allowing us the surreal opportunity to walk on the ocean.

Standing on the ice, surrounded by vast seascapes and silence, was a moment that will be etched in our memories for years to come.

### 02 March 2025, AM: Pléneau Island

The morning was bitterly cold, the wind stinging exposed skin. Despite this, the scenery was breathtaking. The dark sky and waters formed a stark contrast to the vivid blue of the icebergs, creating a surreal landscape. As we navigated narrow channels, we spotted two humpback whales gliding along the shore. They led us to a hidden bay, an ideal spot to slip into the water. As we entered, we were delighted to find ourselves in the company of gentoo penguins, their sleek bodies darting in and out of the water with surprising agility.

The water was crystal clear, offering incredible views of these comical seabirds. We floated quietly, savouring the rare opportunity to share the sea with them, watching groups pass by with the elegance of seasoned acrobats.

### 02 March 2025, PM: Petermann Island

The afternoon brought sunshine, lifting our spirits as we explored Petermann Island. After an hour on land among gentoo penguins, we boarded Zodiacs for a nearby bay. The water was bustling with penguins diving around us. In the water, they zipped past effortlessly, their energy contagious. After 45 minutes of snorkelling, we reluctantly headed back, but our journey was soon interrupted by an unforgettable surprise—a group of humpback whales appeared nearby, feeding. We paused, awestruck, watching these majestic marine mammals dive, their massive tails slicing through the water. After lingering to take in the scene, we finally made our way back to the ship, hearts full and memories made. The Antarctic never ceases to amaze.

### 03 March 2025, AM: Enterprise island/Foyn Harbour

Before our snorkel, we enjoyed an unforgettable whale encounter. Rosie, Thomas and Eddie guided us east of Enterprise Island, where the waters seemed to come alive with the sheer number of whales surrounding us. We spotted dozens gliding effortlessly through the sea. The highlight was undoubtedly when one breached right before our eyes, leaving us speechless. Our next adventure was exploring the famous *Guvernøren* shipwreck. Our guides shared the history of this whaling factory ship. Visibility was excellent—we could see the hull, deck and machinery beneath marine growth. Swimming alongside the wreck felt like diving through history. The combination of breathtaking whale encounters and the eerie beauty of the wreck made today's snorkel one of the most memorable of the trip.

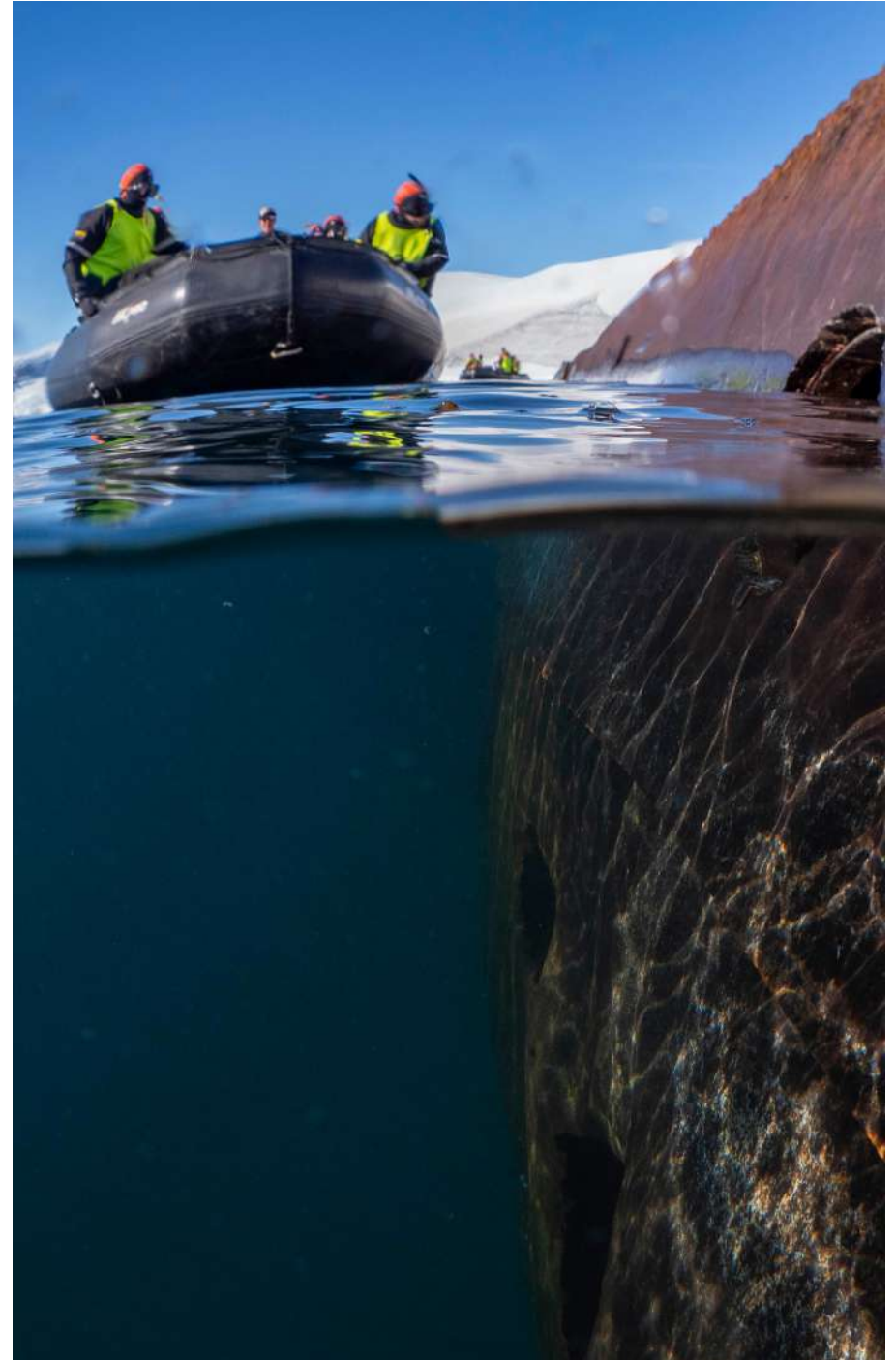


### 03 March 2025, PM: Portal Point

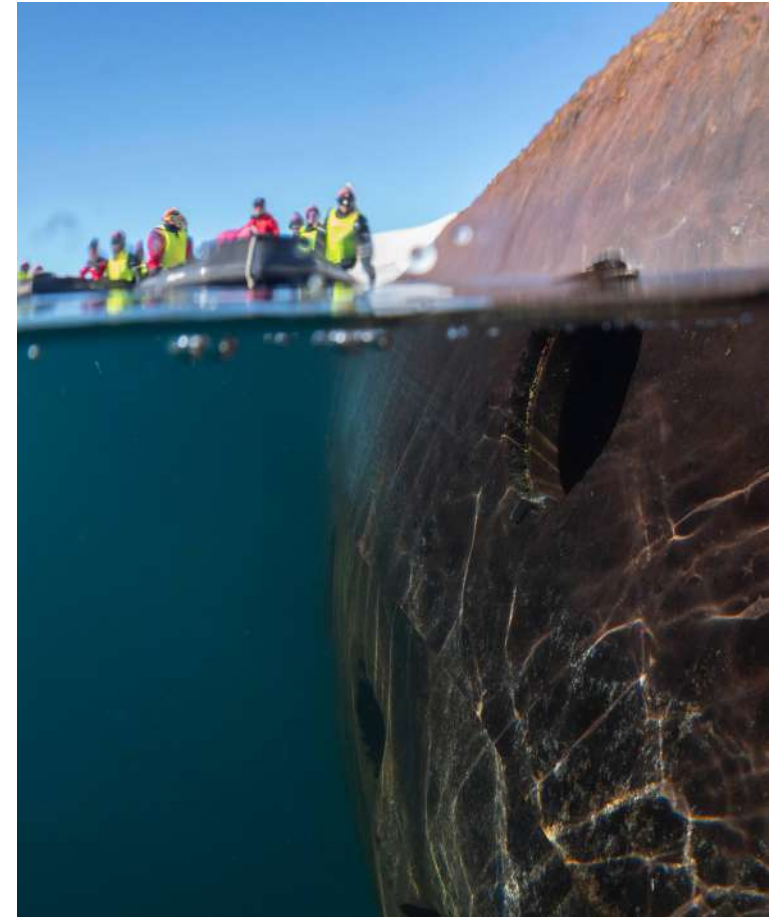
Today's snorkel took place right in the middle of the bay, offering us an experience that felt straight out of a dream. Our guides led us to a stunning blue iceberg, its brilliant blue hues shimmering beneath the surface. Swimming around it, we were mesmerised by streams of bubbles rising to the surface. We played with smaller ice chunks, using them like kickboards in pure, childlike fun. Exploring further, we saw delicate chains of salps and krill drifting in the current. Whales surfaced nearby, their dark silhouettes breaking the water with quiet power. Sharing these waters with such giants was both thrilling and humbling. The combination of icebergs, wildlife, and the sheer joy of being in such a pristine environment, made this snorkel unforgettable.

### 04 March 2025, PM: Walker Bay/ Hannah Point

The afternoon began with a beach stroll among gentoo and chinstrap penguins. Watching them waddle and interact was a heartwarming sight. Further along, we spotted fossils in the rocks, a glimpse into ancient history. A wallow of elephant seals sprawled across the beach, their deep, guttural calls echoing as they eyed us lazily. Soon after, our guides gathered us for our final snorkel of the trip. Although the visibility was lower in this more sub-Antarctic environment, the waters revealed a completely different world of marine life. The rocky seabed was covered with a vibrant array of algae, swaying gently with the currents, and invertebrates of all shapes and sizes clung to the rocks. We all stayed in as long as possible, savouring every last moment of this final snorkel. The mix of unique marine life and the bittersweet realisation that this was our last swim made it an experience to remember.







# Bird & Mammal Sightings

Bird Species	February - March										
	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6
Snowy Sheathbill						●	●		●		
South Polar Skua				●			●				
Brown Skua				●	●	●	●	●	●		
Kelp Gull				●	●	●	●		●		
Dolphin Gull	●										
Antarctic Tern			●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Gentoo Penguin				●			●		●		
Chinstrap Penguin					●			●	●		
Adélie Penguin				●	●	●					
Snowy Albatross		●	●							●	●
Northern Royal Albatross											●
Southern Royal Albatross	●									●	●
Black-browed Albatross	●	●	●	●						●	●
Grey-headed Albatross			●	●		●	●			●	
Northern Giant Petrel		●					●			●	
Southern Giant Petrel	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●
Southern Fulmar					●	●	●				
Cape Petrel			●							●	●
Snow Petrel				●	●	●	●				
Soft-plumaged Petrel		●								●	

Bird Species	February - March										
	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6
Prion (unidentified)		●	●								
White-chinned Petrel		●								●	
Wilson's Storm Petrel		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Black-bellied Storm Petrel			●								●
Antarctic Shag				●	●	●	●	●	●		
Imperial Cormorant	●										
Magellanic Cormorant	●										●

Mammal Species	February - March										
	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6
Antarctic Fur Seal				●	●		●	●	●		
Southern Elephant Seal								●	●		
Crabeater Seal				●	●	●	●				
Weddell Seal					●			●			
Leopard Seal				●	●	●					
Humpback Whale	●			●	●	●	●	●			●
Antarctic Minke Whale				●	●		●				

# Map

## Across the Antarctic Circle

24 February – 7 March 2025





# Our Expeditioners

Ian Alexander	Cheryl Coelho	Robert Hill-Smith	Jianqing Li	Kathleen Payne	Karen Teraci
Melinda Alexander	Stacey Collins	Andrew Hitchcock	Jianhui Li	Roger Payne	Stephen Teraci
Debbie Amable Chunn	Elizabeth Cotter	Karen Hitchcock	Dongmei Liu	Subha Premkumar	Deron Tessier
Chris Anderson	Andrew Cotter	Gina Ivanov	Maria Lupia	Jenny Ritchie	Ginny Tessier
Yun Bai	John Crippen	Caro Jardine	Alex Maier	Glenn Salkeld	Ferm Villasi
Deborah Bailey	Ramon Star Crippen	Roger Jardine	Christopher Maier	Tracey Salkeld	Anne Wallman
Nigel Bates	Anne Daly	Murray Jensen	Klaus Maier	Alex Schwartz	Jose Wallman
Geoff Bateson	Marivic David	Janette Jensen	Julie Marlton	Guoying She	Brittany Walters
Vishu Bennett	Stephanie Donini	Kate Joad	Susan Marston	Nandanam Singelee	Ying Wang
James Birkmanis	Kelsey Edlin	Hannah Jones	Michael Marston	Marian Spataru	David Williams
Charlotte Birkmanis	Lea Elverd	Bhavani Kanikaram	Kari Mc Callie	Betty Lou Stinemetz	Claire Witham
Lee Brewer	Justin Ewin	Mark Kondas	Kathleen McAlhaney	Nadine Stryewski	Carol Wood
Tim Broeder	Calvin Freisen	Deb Kong	Charles McDonald	Yanjun Sun	Sharon Wosk Nieto
Rex Brown	Brantley Gaitan	Satyen Kumar	Sue Muir	Li Sun Sun	Yang Wu
Michel Butyn	Jill Gardner	Sadhna Kumar	Dennis Murphy	Ulyana Szatkowski	Wei Xiao
Cindy Butyn	Santiago Garfias Turok	Glenn Lamping	Mark Niedzwiedzka	Peter Szatkowski	Yinghu Yang
Yifeng Chen	Rob Gotwals II	Barbara Lamping	Margaret Nowak-Niedzwiedzka	Dave Szkaradek	Kai Zhang
William Chen	Kaaren Gotwals II	Brigid Lavelle	Stella Papadopoulou	Jean Szkaradek	Cheng Zhang
George Chunn	Lis Graves	Neil Lawson	Jane Patrick	Simon Tabberer	
Becks Clarke	Philip Hare	Vanessa Lemahieu	Miles Patrick	Jim Tan	
Matt Coelho	Annabel Hill-Smith	Billie Lenz		Ed Tapley	

## Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Daniel Stavert  
Assistant Expedition Leader: Isabelle Howells  
Onboard Expedition Manager: Heidi Dohn  
Ornithologist: Ed Nolan  
Geologist: Ben Comeskey  
Historian: Avi Schluter  
Photography Guide: Stas Zakharov  
Marine Biologist: Annette Scheffer  
Expedition Guide: Tamsin Both  
Zodiac Master: Sergei Andronov  
Onboard Expedition Assistant: Reza Russera  
Mandarin Speaking Guide: Chen Zhongyuan  
First Responder: Hans Bruning  
Lead Kayak Guide: Elo Berrier  
Kayak Guide: Liz MacNeil  
Kayak Guide: Ivan Klochkov  
Kayak Guide: Pablo Passera  
Kayak Guide: Hodei Orueta  
Lead Snorkel Guide: Thomas Gov  
Snorkel Guide: Rosie Leaney  
Snorkel Guide: Eddie Hauzer  
Enrichment Specialist: Ted Cheeseman  
Enrichment Specialist: Michael Tepper-Rasmussen  
Enrichment Specialist: Ryan Jones

## Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Oleg Kapko  
Chief Officer: Andrey Zakalashnyuk  
Safety Officer: Sergei Abromov  
Bosun: Bobby Payumo  
Deck Cadet: Joao Varlos De Souza Lima Filho  
Ship Doctor: Javier Martinez Rodriguez  
Ship Doctor: Nicolas Diaz Rodriguez  
Chief Engineer: Branimir Ujević  
First Engineer: Iurii Peretiakia  
Hotel Director: Alex Barkar  
F&B Manager: Rajesh Murao  
Chief Purser: Pia Blanca  
Executive Chef: Edgar Mangalinao  
Sous Chef: Edgar Agnelo Xavier Pereira  
Head Waiter: Neelam (James) Lopes  
Hotel Controller: Christopher Santos  
IT Officer: Ihor Yesmieniev  
Receptionist: Jaica Puyod  
Receptionist: Jonathan Valdez  
Head Stateroom: Roniel Garcia  
Spa Manager: Hadas Gav  
Able Seaman: Angelo San Antonio  
Able Seaman: Roberto Ixtan Mejia  
Able Seaman: Nikola Georgiev  
Able Seaman: Noel Refugia  
Able Seaman: Joel Noble  
Able Seaman: Roberth Herman Presida Enitencio

## Photography thanks to:

Stas Zakharov and Special Activity Guides





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