

Antarctica Complete

Aboard *Sylvia Earle* | 14 Mar – 04 Apr 2023





Ushuaia

DAY 1 | Tuesday 14 March 2023

Position at 0700 on Mar 14

Latitude: 54°48.60'S

Longitude: 068°11.9'W

Course: Anchor

Speed: Anchor

Wind Speed: ENE 2 knots

Barometer: 988

Air Temp: 9°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'

After months of planning, weeks of anticipation and long-haul flights from around the globe, we finally arrived at Ushuaia, known locally as el fin del mundo (the end of the world), raring to begin our Antarctica adventure.

At 4 pm, we clambered up the gangway where the Aurora Team and onboard hotel staff showed us to our cabins. Then it was time to explore our new home-away-from-home, the *Sylvia Earle*.

Onboard we total 93 Expeditioners with nationalities representing Australia (44), Canada (6), France (2), Ireland (2), Netherlands (4), New Zealand (6), Spain (2), UK (9), USA (18) along with 21 Expedition Team and 84 ship's crew from all over the world.

We had time to unpack, settle into cabins and enjoy delicious embarkation refreshments before Expedition Leader Howard called us together to welcome us aboard the *Sylvia Earle*. Afterwards, we received our lifeboat and safety briefing and readied ourselves for 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. Our safety officers and crew guided us up to lifeboats to get us familiar with their whereabouts.

By 7:30 pm it was time to head into the dining rooms where a delicious meal was served complete with a delectable dessert.

During our meal we steamed east along the beautiful Beagle Channel. The bustling town of Ushuaia gradually receded as we made our way past slopes forecasted with beech and snowy slopes brilliant in the steely light. To our portside the snow-capped peaks of Argentina; Chile to our starboard. We saw a veritable spate of birds as we sailed closer to the Drake Passage.

While some enjoyed a nightcap at the Tektite bar, some of us wandered the outer decks while the rest of us made our way to cabins for a much-needed sleep.



Drake Passage

DAY 2 | Wednesday 15 March 2023

Position at 0700 on Mar 15

Latitude: 56° 27.7'S

Longitude: 060° 29.5'W

Course: 186°

Speed: 12 knots

Wind Speed: NW 4

Barometer: 997

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

Today our first full sea day, we made good progress south across Drake's Passage despite the heavy weather. In the morning we had a two-metre swell on our starboard bow and winds that on occasion gusted 20 to 30 knots. Thankfully, the sea conditions moderated in the afternoon.

It was a busy morning with us having to attend the briefing about how to behave responsibly in Antarctica. This was followed by a Zodiac briefing where we learnt about the sturdy inflatable boats that we will be using to cruise and go ashore. This was followed by the biosecurity exercise which involved examining our clothing to ensure that none of our outer garments were carrying seeds or soil to prevent introducing any viruses or species into the Antarctic.

The boot exchange was also part of our morning chores ensuring that we all have the best fitting outerwear.

The "snorks", as those planning to go snorkelling call themselves, also met for an introductory briefing with their guides Eddy and Lucas.

Those that had good sea legs and were out on the decks spotting wildlife were rewarded with sightings of qandering and black-browed albatrosses. There was even a rainbow in the middle of the day and the sun appeared briefly before dinner.

In the afternoon, we had a lecture titled Antarctica Continent of Extremes, Geographic Highlights of the Far South by Jonathan Chester. Afterwards, Max presented his invaluable Smart Phone Photography Tips to help us make the best use of our camera phones.

Later in the afternoon, we learnt from Howard via the public address that we had indeed passed the Antarctic Convergence or Polar Front, the 20 to 30 kilometre-wide zone where the warmer subtropical water meets and mixes with the colder more saline Antarctic water. This is reflected in the rapid drop in air and sea temperatures of about 3 degrees Celsius (5 degrees Fahrenheit). We have now crossed into Antarctica according to the ecological definition.

Later tonight we will cross Latitude 60 degrees South which is the political boundary of Antarctica.

At cocktail hour we were entertained at the Captain's Welcome Toast. We learnt a little about Captain Artem's background including that he was from a seafaring family with both his father and grandfather being sea captains. He then introduced us to the *Sylvia Earle's* various departments ranging from, Chief Officer Mikhail from Greece, in charge of the Deck, Ruslan from Ukraine, who heads the Engine department, then Osman from Turkey, in charge of the Hotel department and finally Sofia, our doctor from Colombia.

At the precap, Lucas launched an iceberg location contest, which involved trying to estimate where we would sight our first iceberg. This led to studying the navigation chart in the observation lounge on Deck 8 and learning about latitude and longitude.

Before dinner, we discovered one of our passengers was a talented pianist who entertained us with some Elton John's hits. It was another great expedition day!



At Sea

DAY 3 | Thursday 16 March 2023

Position at 0700 on Mar 16

Latitude: 61°43.20'S

Longitude: 067°30.10'W

Course: 186°

Speed: 13.6 knots

Wind Speed: ESE 2 knots

Barometer: 989

Air Temp: 4°C

The first view of Antarctica is always an iceberg. It may be a monolith hovering on the horizon, a barely discernible spectre looming out of the mist, or perhaps a sun-spangled, dazzling icon marking the gateway to this new world. It will undoubtedly be icebergs that leave the most lasting impressions on the imagination of visitors.

—Mark Jones, *Wild Ice*

On a second day of our navigation through the Drake passage the weather became really calm. The sun was shining, the wind dropped down to 13 knots and the swell wasn't moving the ship as much as on previous day. Experienced sailors would call this a "Drake Lake"!

Despite the fact that we spent the whole day at sea, it was full of remarkable events that were building up our excitement as we were approaching Antarctic peninsula.

After delicious breakfast, our naturalist Vicky gave us a lecture about seabirds. We got so much information about different bird species of Antarctica, how they feed, breed, and migrate. From giant Wandering Albatrosses to tiny Wilson Storm Petrels – it is amazing how these creatures adapt to harsh environments in different ways.

For example, Albatrosses can fix their shoulders and soar in the wind without wasting energy and penguins are very good divers - there are registered records of Adelie penguin diving to 180m, King penguin – 343m and Emperor penguin – 565m!

After lunch our geologist Stephi did an amazing lecture on geology. Antarctica is not only about ice and wildlife – we got convinced that rocks are also really interesting! Studying Antarctica's geology led us to many important insights: in a distant past this continent used to be a part of the ancient supercontinent Gondwana. There are lots of fossils have been found here in numerous expeditions – fossil leaves and wood point to the existence of extensive forestation in earlier geological periods. Dinosaurs used to roam across this surface!

During the recap our naturalist Julia introduced the Citizen Science Program. There are different ways for us to help scientists make their researchers in Antarctica. Identifying and tracking whales, cloud observations for NASA, seabird surveys, zooplankton observations and more. We also have an amazing Citizen Science lab on Deck 5 with cool microscopes – we can't wait to start using them!

There was a remarkable accident during the dinner. The ship suddenly tilted to the portside, there was a sound of breaking dishes - the restaurant was not ready for a strong pitching. Then the ship went back to its normal

position. That was quite unusual, so everyone was curious what happened. Shortly Expedition Leader made an announcement – we just dodged a whale that suddenly came up on a surface right in front of the ship! That was a perfect example of the fact that you never know what will happen next and what is waiting for you around the corner in Antarctica.

In the night we are going to cross the Antarctic Circle.

Looking forward to adventures ahead!



Crossing the Antarctic Circle, Horseshoe Island

DAY 4 | Friday 17 March 2023

Position at 0700 Mar 17

Latitude: 66°54.0'S

Longitude: 067°14.8'W

Course: 108°

Speed: 10.6 knots

Wind Speed: SSE 6 knots

Barometer: 90

Air Temp: 2°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*

As we crossed the Drake Passage over the past few days, the anticipation of our impending adventures built slowly like the ocean swell that has been gently tossing our ship during our transit.

With every gliding albatross on our stern and every cape petrel that glided past our salt-sprayed windows, we knew one thing. We were getting close. But close to exactly what is something that only time would tell. Every journey to Antarctica is different, so what would ours bring?

The day started humbly enough at 4:53am in the pitch-black Antarctic night, as the *Sylvia Earle* carried us across 66°33' S, which marked our entrance into the Antarctic Circle. Over 250 years after the first recorded transit into the circle by Captain James Cook, we would soon be within view of a continent that Captain Cook never got to see himself. As the sun rose and shed light on our frozen surroundings, we were expertly navigated through Gunnel Channel into "The Gullet", a narrow channel first charted and explored by Jean-Baptiste Charcot, that lies between Adelaide Island and the West Coast of Graham Land. The raw beauty of the peaks and ice that surrounded us in the channel was a stunning welcome into a continent that has captured the imaginations of several generations.

After completing our transit through the channel, we gathered on the outside deck to toast to the words of Captain James Cook as we stamped ourselves with circles to celebrate joining the estimated 1% of Antarctic tourists each year who get the privilege of crossing into the circle.

With excellent timing, it was no more than five minutes after the ceremony that the ship was greeted by several orcas within twenty metres of the ship. The encounter was a rare one, and one that expeditioners excitedly recounted and swapped pictures of as lunch was served. As these stories and photos were being traded, loud exclamations were heard in the dining area as every head swivelled towards the window to view a humpback whale breach no less than seven times. From humble beginnings crossing into the circle in the dark in the early morning, it was clear that we were no longer close. We were here. The unpredictable magic of Antarctica was now all around us and we had not even made a landing yet.

Shortly after the second whale viewing of the day, we piled into Zodiacs and navigated amongst icebergs towards Horseshoe Island. We enjoyed the history of the hut as well as a hike to a stunning viewpoint which boasted breathtaking views.

To cap off an amazing day, we then plunged ourselves into two-degree waters in an invigorating ritual that fully cemented us as explorers of the area.

What the following days will bring, we do not know, but the splendour of the area was made abundantly clear as we sailed away from Horseshoe Island that evening, with new life-lasting memories in our heads.



Polar Plunge

DAY 4 | Friday 17 March 2023







Prospect Point

DAY 5 | Saturday 18 March 2023

Position at 0700 on Mar 18

Latitude: 66°41.10'S

Longitude: 068°27.40'W

Course: 038°

Speed: 13.4 knots

Wind Speed: 5/6 knots

Barometer: 980

Air Temp: 2°C

Antarctica is a separate world. One can feel its presence in the approaches, sailing south from more temperate climes. 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

The morning was a relaxed start as we needed to sail north along the peninsula to our next location and potential landing site – our first and maybe only chance to set foot on the Antarctic continent as opposed to landing on an island.

The morning glided by, we had calm winds and a following sea which pushed us along and for the most part, the *Sylvia Earle* was doing over 14 knots. That is impressive!

The morning lecture was very well attended, it was all about plankton. Everyone was entertained by Russell's animated talk. Amazing to learn that 50% of the oxygen we need on the planet comes from plankton. So important to be aware of this as we generally only hear about the impact of the trees and deforestation.

Early on there was quite a covering of snow on the X-BOW® windows, but the improving weather and sea state was encouragement enough for the kayak team and they soon started signing up, and before lunch the board was full, everyone keen to get back out on the water having been enthused by yesterday's amazing adventure.

The location for today was Prospect Point and it was just stunning - amazing glaciers coming down to the sea, fantastic icebergs in the bay and lots of brash ice to entertain us kayakers as we ventured forth to explore. The mountainous backdrop that loomed in and out of the mist was extremely dramatic.

Although the kayakers launched from the ship in snow and mist, the sun soon came out and the light was simply perfect for photography. I just wish I knew how to use my camera better.

We kayaked around some of the Fish Islands, passing between amazing ice sculptures, some of which could have come straight out of an art gallery. It was all incredibly special and being on the water, so close to it in our kayaks, really gave us the best experience.

The kayak team were obviously keen to land so while there was still time we decanted from the kayaks into our

two support Zodiacs, leaving the kayaks gently bobbing amongst the ice and motored through the ice to the landing point.

The ice had drifted and was packed in tight to the shore, so a kayak landing was not an option – we needed that 60 horsepower to force our way to shore.

The kayaks were later recovered, and we all re-joined the ship for a welcome hot shower, warm drink and another great meal.

A very memorable day and an experience never to be forgotten.



Yalour Islands, Plenaeanu/Port Charcot

DAY 6 | Sunday 19 March 2023

Position at 0700 on Mar 19

Latitude: 65°18.2'S

Longitude: 064°17.8'W

Course: 023°

Speed: Drifting

Wind Speed: E 3 knots

Barometer: 975

Air Temp: 2°C

All the world loves a penguin: I think it is because in many respects they are like ourselves, and in some respects what we should like to be. Had we but half their physical courage, none could stand against us. Had we a hundredth part of their maternal instinct we should have to kill our children by the thousand. Their little bodies are so full of curiosity that they have no room for fear. They like mountaineering, and joy-riding on ice floes: they even like to drill.

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

As people woke this morning the weather was not looking too inspiring. There was a choppy breeze and low visibility. Regardless, we still set off for a Zodiac cruise in the small archipelago of the Yalour Islands. As the Zodiacs were being lowered into the water the wind began to die down and the weather seemed to be turning for the good. Everyone jumped in boats and we set off for some exploring to see what creatures and wonders we could find!

Right off the bat, a group of three or four humpbacks were spotted by the snorkellers so a few boats joined and got to watch some of the most magnificent animals on earth relax on the surface of the sea. Next up a couple of Zodiacs got up close and personal with a healthy leopard seal as it did some swim-bys underneath their boats! As the weather continued to improve the sun eventually popped out a few times making for some amazing views across the Penola Strait to the mountains of the Peninsula. Most Zodiacs from here headed across to the Argentine Islands to take a look at the rather large Ukrainian research station, Vernadsky, as well as a surprise stopover at Wordie Hut! Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves this morning.

Back on board, it was lunchtime and what a lunch it was. Pizza day, chicken cordon bleu, sushi, and so many more options! How could one choose what to consume?? I know I had a tough time and ended up eating way too much.

After lunch, we quickly rolled into our next outing at the stunning Port Charcot. What a lovely spot for a walk to stretch our legs up to the viewpoint with Charcot's cairn, and also super cool for everyone to get to hang out with a bunch of gentoos for the first time. The Zodiac cruise that followed was also rather spectacular with huge building-sized icebergs, stunning light coming through the clouds, and crabeater seals.

The kayakers and snorks got out and about all day today, having some really cool paddles and swims with penguins and seals!

Just before recap, everyone headed up to Deck 8 to watch as we sailed through the breathtaking Lemaire



Goudier Island/Jougla Point, Neko Harbour

DAY 7 | Monday 20 March 2023

Position at 0700 on Mar 20

Latitude: 64°49.7'S

Longitude: 053°31.7'W

Course: Anchor

Speed: Anchor

Wind Speed: Light air 2 knots

Barometer: 868

Air Temp: 3°C

Beauty and grace are performed whether or not we will or sense them. The least we can do is try to be there.

—Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

This morning, the rocks of the Antarctic Peninsula lay patiently waiting for the humans of the *Sylvia Earle* to awake from their mortal slumber.

In the blink of a (geological) eye, the humans had had coffee and breakfast and were boarding Zodiacs to explore the surrounding area. There was some inclement weather limiting visibility, but many rocks were peering down from the grand and lofty heights of Mount Luigi and the Seven Sisters with interest and intrigue.

Arriving first into Port Lockroy on Goudier Island, the blocky, jointed, intrusive granite rocks had been expertly polished by the action of glaciers to provide mostly perfect (if somewhat slippery) steppingstones for the humans to disembark their small inflatable boats. As the humans became more intermediate (i.e. darker and with less silicate) and some even had minor volcanic dikes cutting through them. The rocks provided a great platform for both breeding gentoo penguins as well as buildings of what the old British science humans used to call Base A.

Over on Jougla Point, the rocks provided a similar historical display of the roots of volcanoes that erupted around the time that Gondwana was breaking apart, less than 200 million years ago. The diorite had many crystals visible and sometimes inclusions of older rock fragments enveloped into viscous, cooling magma. The snow and penguin poop tried to steal the show this morning by obscuring the rocks from view – very rude. There were also some strange flying penguins nesting on the rocks too.

As the *Sylvia Earle* headed north through the Neumayer Channel, some expeditioners spotted some vibrant green on Anvers Island. The precious mineral malachite shone down from the rocky mountainside as the skies cleared and the sun came out. Some humans took many pictures of smaller mountains while trying to catch a glimpse of Mount Francais, the tallest mountain on the northern Antarctic Peninsula (2825 metres -ish).

Arriving at Neko Harbour, the brash ice slowed the ship so that the expeditioners could get a good view of the amazing geological diversity ahead. Stepping on to Neko Harbour, the pink of the potassium feldspar in the granite underfoot caused many to stop in their tracks for a closer look. Hiking up the hill and looking deeper into



Hydrurga Rocks, Recess Cove

DAY 8 | Tuesday 21 March 2023

Position at 0700 Mar 21

Latitude: 64°13.7'S

Longitude: 061°34.7'W

Course: 040°

Speed: Drifting

The great hurrah about wild animals is that they exist at all, and the greater hurrah is the actual moment of seeing them. Because they have a nice dignity, and prefer to have nothing to do with me, not even as the simple objects of my vision. They show me by their very wariness what a prize it is simply to open my eyes and behold.

—Annie Dillard - Pilgrim at Tinker Creek

Another glorious start to the day!

The sea was calm, the sun shining and very little wind. It was a longer Zodiac ride this morning but a very pleasant one as we headed out for our first adventure of the day; a landing at Hydrurga Rocks.

They were named after the Latin name for the leopard seal as a large number of them were sighted here in the past. Today, we were greeted on the beach by a dozing southern elephant seal. As we clambered over the slippery rocks, the effort was well worth it as we sighted a different species of penguin, the chinstrap penguin. Further along, on the rocks, were male Antarctic fur seals tussling with each other in the morning sunshine.

A lone Weddell seal was also hauled out and sleeping in a depression in the snow. It seemed very happy and would occasionally stretch its flippers, roll over slightly and have the odd scratch now and then. The sounds we were hearing were wonderful too – the chinstrap penguins stretching up their heads as they called and shaking their heads from side to side as they did so, the fur seals were whimpering and every now and then, the Weddell seal would make a thumping sound in its throat.

Those of us that ventured over to the other side of the island were rewarded with the sight of blue-eyed shags high up on the cliffs of the neighbouring isle.

The afternoon was a little different. The sky was overcast but it gave us a sense of the changeable nature of the Antarctic. The wind had picked up a little but it was still a smooth Zodiac ride over to another continental landing at Recess Cove.

Many ventured up the steep snowy slope to a magnificent viewpoint over the bay and the neighbouring glacier. It was spectacular! There were some crevasses visible in the distance and icebergs of all shapes and sizes in the water below. I read recently someone's description of icebergs – "the artwork of the ocean". A very apt description.

Wind Speed: SE 3 knots

Barometer: 984

Air Temp: 6°C

Following the landing, everyone was taken on a Zodiac cruise in the bay. As always, time went by so quickly. There is just so much to see, hear and experience in this remote and rugged place.

After everyone had returned to the ship, we set sail for our next destination and fog started to set in.

We have been really lucky with the weather so far, fingers crossed our luck holds!



Mikkelsen Harbour

DAY 9 | Wednesday 22 March 2023

Position at 0700 on Mar 22

Latitude: 63°57.1'S

Longitude: 069°48.0'W

Course: Drifting

Speed: 3.2 knots

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

—Anonymous

Antarctica has been showing us all her faces on this voyage.

There's been a few days of fresh snow mornings and bluebird skies (what the old FIDS stationed at those British bases we visited would call a "dingle-day"), followed by golden afternoons, and fairytale sunsets. Those sunsets! The sky manages to be all of the colours simultaneously, but not anyone specifically, lemon yellow, bright apricot, burnt gold, mint green, deep amber, powder blue and rose pink fading into deeper, more velvety tones as the night creeps over and stars start to appear.

We passed the equinox just the other day and tilted into the southern autumn. At this moment of balance between night and day, other things are out of kilter, and swirling storm systems are approaching from the west.

Weather updates reveal a series of challenging weather systems making their way through the Drake Passage, with wind speeds in excess of 50 knots, with tails licking down into the waters around the Antarctic Peninsula and stirring up the sea state in the Bransfield Strait.

The old maxim that nothing in Antarctica is predictable except the unpredictability of Antarctica was ringing true. The predicted sea state charts show a whirling mass of bruised purple and luminous magenta, indicating the potential for an uncomfortable few days at sea to reach the planned landings.

However, combining the skills of Captain Artem and his team, and the experience of our Expedition Leaders, a new plan was devised to make the most of the possibilities for our final few stops in Antarctica.

We arrived in Mikkelsen Harbour after a bumpy night, on a morning of wind-blown sleety snow, reduced visibility and colder temperatures, something quite like what the FIDS might describe as "manky" weather. But the opportunity for Zodiac cruising was not to be missed. I quite enjoy days like this on the water, where the distraction of a spectacular backdrop is removed, and your sensory focus is drawn close, to notice the luminous

Wind Speed: ENE 3

Barometer: 953

Air Temp: 5°C

blue glow that comes from the ice, the deep inhalations of surfacing whales, the sting of sharp icy, wind on your skin. Another face of Antarctica.

The next couple of days ahead take us out into the Scotia Sea on our passage to South Georgia, to the wildness of the open ocean and the realm of the albatrosses. We'll be closing the book on the Antarctic chapter of our expedition, in anticipation of new experiences yet to come, but this part of the voyage is an opportunity to reflect on the encounters and insights we've gained here in Antarctica.

We've had the extraordinary privilege to make close acquaintance with this otherworldly place, and now it's time to think of how to tell her stories and use our voices to be her biggest advocates.



Brown Bluff

DAY 10 | Thursday 23 March 2023

Position at 0700 Mar 23

Latitude: 63°26.25'S

Longitude: 056°51.1'W

Course: Drifting

Speed: Drifting

Wind Speed: SW 6

Barometer: 971

Air Temp: 2°C

We had lived long amid the ice, and we half-unconsciously strove to see resemblances to human faces and living forms in the fantastic contours and massively uncouth shapes of berg and floe.

—Sir Ernest Shackleton, South, 1919

It's our last day in Antarctica before heading north to South Georgia and what an incredible day it has been.

We woke up with expectations of dark, stormy skies after battling through the storm all afternoon yesterday but to our surprise, we had an absolutely stunning morning with sunshine, light winds, and calm seas.

Our day started out with a delicious breakfast and some of the Expedition Team took a Zodiac to shuttle Howard (our Expedition Leader) to shore at the Esperanza base to get checked out by their doctor. After a minor fall, we wanted to make sure he was all OK before we make the long journey up to South Georgia, where there are no medical facilities.

After breakfast, our Citizen Science coordinator and Marine Biologist Julia gave a fabulous presentation on the social interactions and intelligence of whales and dolphins. It was a great insight into the world of these marine mammals and many of the behaviours they exhibit. We've been fortunate throughout this trip to have some incredible whale sightings, so it was very interesting learning more about their social interactions, some of which we've even experienced during our time here in Antarctica.

During Julia's presentation, the ship repositioned to a nearby location called Brown Bluff. The Expedition Team went out to scout the landing sight but unfortunately, there was too much swell to safely take expeditioners to shore, so we ended up changing the plans and offering a Zodiac cruise instead. It turned out to be a fabulous day to be out on the water, the sun was shining and the wind was very light which made for perfect conditions to be on the Zodiacs. There were several sightings of leopard seals throughout the bay, and several massive icebergs floating around which made for great photo opportunities. There were also large groups of porpoising penguins returning to shore from the sea, which was very entertaining to watch. We even witnessed a massive calving at the nearby glacier, which added some excitement to the cruise!



After a beautiful morning, we all waved goodbye to Antarctica and set our sights north for South Georgia. We've been extremely fortunate with the weather throughout the week, with sunshine almost every day so far and calm seas from day one. Crossing our fingers that our luck continues as we continue our journey!

After lunch, our expedition guide Vicky gave a lecture on her time spent at Port Lockroy and her experiences managing heritage sites in Antarctica. It was a fascinating account of her time at the base and what life is like when you live on the Antarctic Peninsula.

Finally, in the evening we had a great presentation from Russel about his experience kayaking from Brazil to Florida before heading off to bed.

Here's to our last day in Antarctica, and what an amazing journey we've all had so far!



At Sea

DAY 11 | Friday 24 March 2023

Position at 0700 Mar 24

Latitude: 61°09.5 'S

Longitude: 051°38.4 'W

Course: 053°

Speed: 13.2 knots

Wind Speed: WNW 6 knots

Barometer: 992

Air Temp: 3°C

There is only one short link in the food chain between a diatom and a one-hundred-ton blue whale – between one cell and the largest of all animals – and that link is the Antarctic krill.

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

We gently woke to a foggy seascape this morning. Much to our relief ocean conditions were relatively calm with a small following sea. Unbeknown to most of us slumbering away some keen photographers had been out on deck at midnight capturing a very faint (to the naked eye but caught on the digital lens) Aurora Australis

Wondering the decks people were up and about for a relaxed breakfast or in the gym for a quick workout. Many were enjoying the bow viewing area, watching seabirds glide effortlessly in the wave peaks and around the ship. With binoculars at the ready there was a large variety to be seen. From cape, blue and Antarctic petrels to sooty, grey headed and one special kerguelen albatross, from Antarctic prions to sooty shearwaters.

There was action at the chart table also on Deck 8, as we are now on the move north bidding a fond farewell to the Antarctic Peninsula and setting our compass bearing toward our much-anticipated South Georgia visit. The conversation eventually drifted to Shackleton's Expedition and the amazing feat of leadership, seamanship and survival that he and his men endured. Gazing out to sea from the warmth and comfort of the *Sylvia Earle* it is hard to imagine what life would have been like for Shackleton and his men navigating in their small 6.7 metres (22 foot) long lifeboat "the James Caird", across this vast stretch of sea and ice.

Later in the morning, as our ship passed by Elephant Island, it was timely to attend historian Jonathon Chester's wonderful lecture on Shackleton's story entitled *Crowning Achievement, Epic Failure*".

Jonathan's photographic account brought to life the adventures of Shackleton and his incredible tale. Shackleton was noted as having a poem for every occasion. He has been known to quote this exert from St John Lucas's poem "The Ship of Fools", a very fitting paragraph indeed...

"We were the fools who could not rest
In the dull earth we left behind
But burned with passion for the South
And drank strange frenzy from its wind
The world where wise men sit at ease
Fades from our unregretful eyes
And thus across unchartered seas
We stagger on our enterprise"

After lunch the Aurora Citizen Science project was in full swing, with cloud and bird surveys being conducted and recorded. These important statistics go to help track species movements and behaviours as well as helping contribute to satellite image accuracy.

The afternoon photography session by Richard on Creating Great Photography was a huge hit. With so many of us chasing that perfect picture from our journey it was fantastic to get some tips from the pros.

We settled in for a lazy afternoon cruising the high seas and enjoyed the recap and plan for the next day in our journey. Another fantastic day in the deep south.

At Sea

DAY 12 | Saturday 25 March 2023

Position at 0700 on Mar 25

Latitude: 58°62.05'S

Longitude: 045°23.3'W

Course: 053°

Speed: 13.2 knots

Wind Speed: NW 6/7

Barometer: 993

Air Temp: 4°C

Shackleton's resting place

The graveyard is a simple little place. An ideal resting-place this for the great explorer who felt, more than most men, the glamour of such surroundings.

—Frank Wild, 1923

Yesterday started as most days do, with a reset of our daily steps and an attempt to observe the southern lights; unfortunately, despite our best efforts, it was too cloudy.

In the morning, before breakfast, our fearless birders located and saved a little petrel that had landed on the ship and couldn't fly away. The release of the bird was a relatively straightforward affair compared to the lengthy discussion of the classification of the petrel. After deep research, the consensus was reached, just in time for breakfast, that it was a kerguelen petrel.

After breakfast, Stephi shared her passion for her inanimate friends; this time, it was not rocks but ice! This fun and informative lecture showed the extent and the seasonal melt of the sea ice and the yearly decrease. We analyzed the different kinds of floating ice, their shape, colour, and texture ... Now we can better understand the pictures we have taken. It turns out that not all floating ice is an iceberg! And yes, bergy bit is a technical name!

Later, Sir David Attenborough himself gave us a quick introduction to South Georgia, its history and nature, and why it's essential to follow thorough biosecurity procedures. Don't disappoint the cute baby fur seal; clean all your outdoor gear!

After a great lunch and an even better short siesta, Daniel gave us a presentation. He talked about his three decades working with Greenpeace and showed some fantastic pictures of terrible things. We got to know the stories behind the photographs and their powerful message. Despite the nature of the portrayed topic, the message was that of optimism; our planet is something we can fight for. Climate disaster is not yet inevitable, but we must all work together!

After the day's cocktail at the Tektite bar, we learned how the bar got its name. At the beginning of the recap, Jonathan talked about the women the different decks and Zodiacs are dedicated to—incredible women

scientists who still do great things for our world. You can read more about them on the decks and next to the expedition map beside the bar.

Then we got an update on the weather and our journey. We closed into South Georgia, just ahead of a massive storm. For this reason, our visit to the region will be a bit shorter than planned but gaining extra time in the Malvinas.

Dinner was served, and it was time to sit by the fireplace to listen to the inspirational Emma. Through her personal life experience, she reminded us, in a very moving way, that we not only mustn't lose passion for life but also appreciate what we have. Happiness is an attitude, not something that happens to you! (But being in South Georgia definitely helps!)



Gold Harbour, Godthul

DAY 13 | Sunday 26 March 2023

Position at 0600 Mar 26

Latitude: 55°01.65'S

Longitude: 036°05.5'W

Course: 053°

Speed: 12.6 knots

Wind Speed: NW 7 knots

Barometer: 995

Air Temp: 5°C

Some of us are over the seasick stage and no longer want to die.

—Hartford, after ten days aboard Nimrod, with Shackleton

This morning, after two rather foggy days out on the open sea, we woke up to the most spectacular scenery with a beautiful sunrise and the majestic mountains of South Georgia just in front of us.

The rising sun rays provide the already magical scene with a warm and picturesque touch. How beautiful it is and so exciting!

We get closer to this scenic island as we eat our delicious breakfast.

All very eager, we are soon ready to get out in the Zodiacs to explore our first landing spot, Gold Harbour.

It does not take long before we are in the inflatables heading towards the beach, where an overwhelming amount of king penguins welcome us with their highly elegant appearance.

In addition to the countless amount of King penguins, there are also gentoo penguins and several southern elephant seals and Antarctic fur seals on the beach. The mountainous scenery and all the alluring wildlife make this place feel like it's taken from a fairytale, it is so impressive, and we are all blown away by its extraordinary beauty.

Back onboard our comfortable expedition ship, we enjoy a tasty lunch to soon thereafter be ready for the afternoon landing at Godthul.

Ready in the Zodiacs again, we are only a short ride away from the landing spot where young fur seals, kelp gulls and gentoo penguins meet us at the small beach from where the tussock grass invites for a "jungle-like" hike up the hill.

As we carefully walk through the high grass, we get both surprised and charmed by the numerous cute, young fur seals we meet along the way. The kayakers enjoy their paddle in the caldera-like bay, where a small waterfall and caves are found.



Also the good visibility in the water invites the snorkellers for a lovely exploration among the appealing kelp forest.

Yet again, another magical place hard to describe, but where it feels like time stands still.

As the sun starts to set and the wind increases it gets time for us to head back to the ship. The incoming stormy weather, unfortunately, forces a drastic change of our original schedule. Not to get caught in the storm we need to continue our voyage already this evening.

As we pass Grytviken, Jonathan invites us for a memorial and whiskey toast for Shackleton.

A delicious a la carte dinner concludes this experience-filled day. Most likely many of us will dream about graceful penguins and baby seals as the increasing sea rocks us to sleep.



At Sea

DAY 14 | Monday 27 March 2023

Position at 0700 on Mar 27

Latitude: 52°17.6'S

Longitude: 037°50.4'W

Course: 337°

Speed: 10.4 knots

Wind Speed: WSW 7

Barometer: 994

Air Temp: 5°C

The three great elemental sounds in nature are the sound of rain, the sound of wind in a primeval wood, and the sound of outer ocean on a beach. I have heard them all, and of the three elemental voices, that of the ocean is the most awesome, beautiful and varied.

—Henry Beston

Today is our first full sea day since leaving South Georgia. We soon departed the North Scotia subsea ridge. This rise is but a small section of the sweeping circular plate edge that also is responsible for the chain of islands known as the South Sandwich and South Orkney islands far to the east.

We immediately headed almost due north across the 3000 metre deep Falkland Trough to skirt around a big storm system that had been bearing down on South Georgia. Though it was now skirting the south coast, seeing wind speeds of over 80 knots on the “Windy app” made us appreciate that the force of this tempest and the resulting swell would have severely curtailed our activities on the north coast of South Georgia.

Howard’s and Captain Artem’s plan to give us and the ship a more comfortable ride with this diversion will hopefully also lead to additional landings in the West Falklands.

Thankfully, the memories of our superb morning landing at Gold Harbour with its teaming wildlife, then the afternoon opportunity to stretch our legs as we ascended the tussock slopes at Godthul, with the resulting great views were more than sufficient to help us appreciate the majesty of this remote island. The so-called “Himalaya of the Southern Ocean” with its dramatic panorama of jagged icy Salvesen Range peaks kept many of us on deck as we transited north.

In the morning Howard and Jonathan also entertained us with a presentation about their roles in the making of the Kennedy Miller Academy award-winning animated film, *Happy Feet*. Though it was two decades ago that they led expeditions to the Antarctic to capture images to be used by the animators, the quality of their work and that of the entire 1000-strong production team was born out in our after-dinner viewing. The entertaining script, music score and messages the film conveys are as powerful today as when it was first released in 2006.

In the afternoon Julia led a 30 minute Citizen Science bird count session, seeing mighty albatrosses and numerous white chined and diving petrels.

Our Kiwi medic, Dave entertained us with “Fire and Ice”: stories of his time working first as a carpenter at Scott Base and then as a firefighter for the Americans at McMurdo Station, which included a six-week stint at the South Pole.

Later Russel led a very entertaining game of “How Big Is It” where we had to guess the length of various aspects of the creatures in the polar realm and translate those into distances along a piece of string.

At the recap, the ever-creative Max demonstrated in a very entertaining fashion how penguins find their mates using calls. Steffi then treated us to a 30-year photographic review of the retreat of the Bertrab Glacier above Gold Harbour, and we learnt from Viki about the successful recovery of the South Georgia Pipit following the eradication of rats from South Georgia.

It was a relaxing but very stimulating day aboard the *Sylvia Earle*.



At Sea

DAY 15 | Tuesday 28 March 2023

Position at 0700 Mar 28

Latitude: 49° 50.8'S

Longitude: 042° 14.1'W

Course: 264°

Speed: 8.5 knots

Wind Speed: NW 7/8 knots

Barometer: 993

Air Temp: 11°C

In intense excitement we watched the chronometer for seven o'clock when the whalers would be summoned to work. Right to the minute the steam whistle came to us, borne clearly on the wind across the intervening miles of rock and snow. Never had anyone of us heard sweeter music. It was the first sound created by outside human agency that had come to our ears since we left in December 1914.

—Ernest Shackleton, from his journal, May 1916, on the last leg of his South Georgia alpine crossing at Fortuna Bay (quoted in Shackleton by Roland Huntford)

Tuesday 28th March 2023 – day 427 at sea. Provisions running low – only enough rations for opulent breakfast and lunch buffets, mid-morning cookies, afternoon tea, and three-course a la carte dinner and bottomless wine. Scurvy is on the horizon. Spirits were surprisingly high despite the hardship. Some were questioning how the lettuce is still edible – sorcery suspected.

Sea state is moderate with some bigger swells helping perfect the onboard penguin walk. Storm avoidance going well but the possibility that we might cut and run to the Equator. Apparently, some penguins live on the other side of the Panama Canal. Multiple seabirds are tailing the ship; black-browed albatross, petrels, the other ones that look like petrels, and, unusually, great egrets. Unfortunately, also known as the common egret.

A divide emerges between those who secretly use the gym and others who pretend not to. Some resort to extreme egg and spoon races to produce endorphins.

Leo showed us his holiday snaps from Costa del Marambio – many tough-skinned visitors seem to have mysteriously perished on the beach. Note to self: take snacks if ever venture into those parts.

The E-Team completed first aid training and scenarios under the guidance of Dave from Dunedin and Russel the paramedic. All patients recovered well and Leo won the prize for best actor.

Dee told us about life at Grytviken and shared some pictures of the local residents. They seem to have been there for a very long time – long whiskers and unkempt body hair.

The competitive Scrabble games continue – rumours are that tensions are rising between players. Foul play is suspected.

Some would-be Scrabble players avoid the conflict by taking up a new hobby: writing Haiku.

Perhaps at sea we
Go a bit crazy so we
Write bad poetry

The beginning of the “rock paper scissors” show down sparked excitement and high tension! Shock news; the creator of game out in the first round. Aussies gambling on the winner – rumour is that Julie is tipped to win.

The young folks are rumoured to be producing a publication under the ghost-writing name of “Scott Shackleton”, hoping to create a passive income stream to support the endless purchases of avocados. Watch out for the Instagram posts soon.

After a light dinner, Sebastian told us of the time he went on holiday for a year. #bucketlist



At Sea

DAY 16 | Wednesday 29 March 2023

Position at 700 on Mar 29

Latitude: 49° 58.3' S

Longitude: 047° 12.12' W

Course: 264°

Speed: 9 knots

Wind Speed: N3/4

Barometer: 997

Air Temp: 10°C

The outlook upon island and islet, embosomed in the waves—then stretches of silver sand fringed with crashing surf—upon graceful bay and deep fjords leading up to quaint homesteads with their pastoral wealth, inspires the heart at time with exquisite delight. The climate is boisterous but exhilarating.

—Bishop Stirling, 1891

After a relatively easy swell during the night, we awoke to an overcast sky with a 20-knot breeze, the sun broke through around 08.45 am.

The “rock paper scissors” competition got underway during breakfast with some very serious competitors and a great deal of laughter.

A great deal of birds gathered around the ship on the bow and stern, there were many black-browed albatross and great shearwaters. A few wandering albatross, white-chinned petrel, prions, wilson storm petrels and great egrets.

The morning talk was presented by Russell on Wildlife on the Falklands. Penguins that can be seen here, rockhopper, king, gentoo, macaroni and the magellanic penguin, make burrows to nest. Some of the birds we may see are steamer ducks, kelp geese, ruddy headed geese, upland geese, striated caracara, sooty shearwater and cobb's wren.

There are three types of seals that call the Falklands home, the southern sea lion, the southern American fur seal and the southern elephant seal.

In the afternoon we had the ship's virtual tour hosted by the Captain and his officers. The Captain described the bridge, engine room, the X-BOW® and stabilizers.

Jonathon spoke of his adventures in the Southern Ocean and Antarctica starting with his sailing to Heard Island to climb Big Ben on Mawson Peak.

Jonathon went on to discuss his involvement in the making of a movie about the last huskies with the Australian

Antarctic Division at Mawson Station. Fortunately for the huskies that served at the Australian Base for so long they were taken by sea, air and road to a new home in Ely, Minnesota in the USA, in 1993.

At recap, we heard the haiku finalists and got to vote on them with the winning one being from Zac.

Eamon treated us to fun facts on the Falkland Islands, including the high percentage of gun ownership and the fact that the Falklands are made up of 740 islands.

The evening was finished off with the showing of the movie “The Last Husky”.

The winning Haiku:

At sea, far from land
Will we make a landing soon?
Weather dependant.
Zac

At Sea

DAY 17 | Thursday 30 March 2023

Position at 0700 on Mar 30

Latitude: 49° 58.3' S

Longitude: 047° 12.2' W

Course: 264°

Speed: 9 knots

Wind Speed: N 3/4

Barometer: 997

Air Temp: 10°C

During the day we were visited by numbers of seabirds which seemed to be in no way perturbed by the high winds: albatross, whale birds, Mother Carey's chickens, Cape pigeons and a Cape hen. It was cheering to see them again, these old friends of ours, and to watch their flight as they sailed cleverly from the shelter of one wave to another, rarely meeting the full force of the gale.

—Frank Wild, 1923, Shackleton's Last Voyage

Day 4 at sea... Nearly there! Four days ago, nearly everyone was dreading this crossing and the expectant monotony ahead. Yet here we are, and I dare say, we the people of the *Sylvia Earle* are thriving! Yes, it is difficult to remember life on land, and yes we are all itching to get off the ship but hot damn, I think we've crushed this crossing!

Today was loaded with some really cool chats and presentations. First up was our smooth speaking, down-to-earth, for the earth, in-house scientist, Stephi. She chatted about how our changing climate is and will continue to affect the ice of Antarctica and what that means to this blue planet we call home. She explained things so tactfully and simply that it was impossible to ignore her point. If we do not change our ways as humans on this planet now there is going to be a catastrophic mass extinction of most, if not all humans and animals. It was an outstanding lecture.

After Stephi's chat, we were graced with an incredible bird-watching hour. Wandering albatrosses were flying within arm's reach of the port side of the ship. Moving at almost the same speed as us, it looked as if they were levitating. There were at least four wanderings, a couple of sooty's, and probably a dozen black-browed albatross all scattered around the ship. It was awesome.

After lunch, we had a really interesting interactive presentation with Lucas, our handsome snorkel guide. He trained as a professional free diver and runs free diving schools, so he spent two hours with us talking about the art of breath-holding. We learned about the dive reflex, tricks to push further, and how to ease the tension in our bodies. Super cool!

Then Stephi was back on the mic but this time only as a host, for “Humans of the *Sylvia Earle*”. This was a lovely hour where we heard from brave passengers who dared to take on Stephi's “5-minute challenge”. Wow. What an amazing group of passengers we have! From Hannah's chat on body positivity to Han's story on language in Bonaire, the ten speakers were diverse, inspirational, funny, and heart-warming. This was incredible.

The recap was then upon us, where we learned about bird vomit from Vicky (love Vicky), Max talked about something as always, and our new historian informed people on some important “rock paper scissors” history.

After dinner we had passenger Neil do a fireside chat on Climate Action. He facilitated a chat about what steps we can take, but more so what our nations need to take to save humanity and the world as we know it.

Something interesting that's become more and more noticeable in the last few days is this sense of community that's grown amongst us. We've all been on the ship together for 17 days now and something is really starting to click! It's amazing to see and warms my heart to hear everyone laughing communally and sharing their precious time onboard here with one another. I can foresee some tears when we get to Ushuaia in a few days' time and we all have to say bye to one another.

But, for now, onwards to the Falkland Islands and Stanley tomorrow!



Stanley

DAY 18 | Friday 31 March 2023

Position at 0700 on Mar 31

Latitude: 51°39.7'S

Longitude: 057°45'W

Course: 258°

Speed: 8.5 knots

Wind Speed: WSW 4

Barometer: 1013

Air Temp: 8°C

Often I feel I go to some distant region of the world to be reminded of who I really am. There is no mystery about why this should be so. Stripped of your daily routines ... you are forced into direct experience. Such direct experience inevitably makes you aware of who it is that is having the experience.

—Michael Crichton

'Twas the night before landing and all through the ship, not a joint was a groaning, not even a hip. Three days of tick-tocking, big seas and boat rocking, for the promised Falkland Islands, and a 'weather-permitted' trip.

Stanley and its history would be part of the mystery, and all gathered 'round as eager feet touched the ground. The ocean behind us, the town to our right. Walk, run, childish fun, pubs, gnomes and a bite.

A tale of pain was our heart-felt lecture, with Jonathon's talk on the walk missing conjecture; young men, brave souls, dark nights, brutal goals. A tale of two countries, war and annexure.

For others; six miles, to wild Gypsy Cove, showcased diddle-dee and tussock grass, where magellanic penguins rove. Necks craned, brains strained at the birds in their burrows. Aching knees, tired legs, faces happy, but with furrows.

The hulks of the harbour rusted shells of past glory, whispered "conquest" and "sovereignty" at the whims of a Tory. This sheep farming island, with hedges and prized squid, offered comfort and learning for those with a quid.

We rested in pubs, on sea-weary laurels, a rock-hopper in hand, and we wondered at quarrels. Onboard, we had people, both Argentine and Brit, great mates, great people our friendships tight-knit.

Leaving this island, we reflected on the past. But before us was adventure, hiking, snorkelling, kayaking, at last.



Carcass Island, Saunders Island

DAY 19 | Saturday 01 April 2023

Position at 0700 on Apr 01

Latitude: 51° 20.7' S

Longitude: 060° 25.6' W

Course: 231°

Speed: 6.9 knots

Wind Speed: NNW 6/7

Barometer: 1003

Air Temp: 12°C

This we know: the Earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the Earth. All things are connected like the blood which unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.

—Unknown

There was no sunrise to wake us up this morning, it was overcast and cloudy.

The sea was wild and the wind was strong. It was looking doubtful that we could even land anywhere, but Howard and our Captain Artem found a sheltered bay at Carcass Island. The wind was still strong, but the closer we got the calmer it became.

Even the kayakers managed to find somewhere to paddle out of the wind, close to the coast.

As soon as we landed we meet a friendly cinclodes singing a song to greet us, and a group of proud cormorants posing for a picture with the *Sylvia Earle* in the background.

Almost everyone was keen to hike all the way to Leopard Beach across the hills where we found magellanic and gentoo penguins, some trusting caracaras and a few crested ducks.

Meanwhile in another part of the bay snorkellers were exploring deep kelp forests full of colour. They spotted purple and pink starfish as big as your hand, crabs, and seaweed plants in orange and bright blue colours.

It was a short, but windy return to the ship where a warm lunch was waiting for us.

In the afternoon, we headed to nearby Saunders Island. At the white sandy beach, Susan and Dave greeted us, home for them is this rugged corner of the world.

This part of Saunders is called the Neck, and it is full of a variety of birds. During our 30-minute walk across the island we saw big groups of gentoo penguins and several king penguins with chicks. There were upland geese in the grass hills next to sheep, magellanic penguins hidden in their burrows, but what everyone was keen to see was waiting for us at the end of the trail: a mixed colony of cormorants, black-browed Aalbatross and rockhopper penguins. It was a joy to finally encounter them!



West Point

DAY 20 | Sunday 02 April 2023

Position at 0700 on Mar 02

Latitude: 51°19.75'S

Longitude: 060° 35.7'W

Course: 299°

Speed: 5 knots

Wind Speed: SSW 7

Barometer: 1005

Air Temp: 9°C

So we arrived and we were able to plant our flag at the geographical South Pole. God be thanked!

—Roald Amundsen

Today is bittersweet for all of us on the *Sylvia Earle* – it's our last day of outings on this incredible voyage we've been on and our final day in the Falkland Islands.

We started the day out with a visit to West Point Island and we were all pleasantly surprised that the sun was shining and the winds were light.

After two extremely windy days on the Falklands, this was a very welcoming surprise. After being shuttled to the jetty and meeting Thies and Kicki, the wonderful couple who live full time on the island, we began walking up the hillside to a black-browed albatross colony. It was a great stretch of the legs before our upcoming sea day, so most of us opted to make the long trek.

This was the best look we've had at an albatross colony and we were able to get close-up views of the chicks (almost grown up now) resting on the nests. A handful of times, we even had the pleasure of watching one of the parents fly back from sea and feed their youngster. It was a great opportunity for photography, and those who hiked their camera gear up the hill were rewarded with beautiful shots of the albatross colony with the dramatic seascape in the background.

A large group opted to take the long walk back to the landing site, which ended up being a fantastic 8-kilometre (5-mile) trek around to the backside of the island.

Once back onboard, we had yet another delicious meal and made our way out to sea to head back to Ushuaia. Just as we finished with lunch, our naturalist team spotted some whales on the horizon, so we changed course and headed over for a closer look.

It turned out to be a pod of sei whales, the third largest whale here in the Southern Ocean, and we spent the better part of an hour watching them. The sun was shining and many of us were outside in t-shirts enjoying the summer temps as we watched these massive marine mammals. We could see spouts in almost every direction, suggesting that there were several whales spread out and made for a great encounter.



Eventually, we had to leave the whales behind to keep on track with our timeline, so we continued out to the open ocean. In the afternoon we had a lightroom photography workshop by our special guest photographer Richard. This was a great time in the trip to learn all about tips and tricks for editing photos as many of us have thousands of images to sort and edit after such a long and incredible voyage through Antarctica, South Georgia, and the Falklands.

It's been a fantastic last day here in the Falkland Islands, and after two wet and windy days, we were extremely fortunate to have a beautiful sunny day to wrap up this portion of our trip.

We continued to have whale encounters through the evening, and it made for a great send-off from this beautiful country.



At Sea

DAY 21 | Monday 03 April 2023

Position at 0700 on Apr 03

Latitude: 53°25.8'S

Longitude: 063° 26.2'W

Course: 215°

Speed: 9.9 knots

Wind Speed: N 5/6

Barometer: 1008

Air Temp: 11°C

The land was gone, all but a little streak, away off on the edge of the water, and down under us was just ocean, ocean, ocean – millions of miles of it, heaving and pitching and squirming, and white sprays blowing from the wave-tops,and we had the sky and the ocean to ourselves, and the roomiest place I ever did see and the loneliest

—Mark Twain, *Tom Sawyer Abroad*

A mere three weeks ago, we set out into the waves together as strangers from all corners of the Earth and all walks of life not knowing exactly what to expect. Some were in search of wildlife, some in search of the perfect photo and some in search of a connection to the accomplished explorers of yesteryear whose names still live on as places in the region.

Whatever your idea of the “perfect trip” was, you boarded the *Sylvia Earle* 21 days ago because you were excited to create memories. From hearing the blow of a whale pierce the white silence of your surroundings, to dunking your unclothed body into the frigid Antarctic waters, these memories would not only be your own, but they are also now those of newly made friends, fellow expeditioners, and crew alike.

As we headed further from the Falklands Malvinas with these newly created memories still fresh in our minds, we did not mourn the end of the trip, but rather we celebrated the experience that we were lucky enough to share together.

The morning started with an inspirational and gripping account of the first successful summit of Mount Minto, completed by none other than our own Jonathan Chester, Aurora founder Greg Mortimer, and others. It was a tale of determination, an out-of-place 21-metre fishing trawler, and a lost Skidoo. The group beat the odds (and the weather) to successfully climb the mountain and live to tell the tale.

After being regaled with this epic tale, we learned more about Ushuaia from Eddie and Ari in the afternoon. They covered everything from the museums to the eateries, ensuring that any expeditioner who chose to explore Ushuaia would have a great time and be able to enjoy the ‘fin del Mundo’ to the fullest.

In the evening, our ongoing “rock paper scissors” tournament would come to a dramatic conclusion. The fight went the full three rounds leaving expeditioners nearly breathless as Ari squeaked out the victory in a match that

could have gone either way. She left the lecture hall with a smile on her face, a trophy in her hands, and the true glory of a champion that she rightfully earned.

After dinner, we joined together for one last time to enjoy the photo slideshow of the trip, a visual reminder of the memories we all came to create.



Ushuaia

DAY 22 | Tuesday 04 April 2023

Position at 0700 on Apr 04

Latitude: 54°48.7'S

Longitude: 068° 17.3'W

Course: Wharf

Speed: Wharf

Wind Speed: NW 3

Barometer: 1000

Air Temp: 10°C

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 good 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.



Kayaking Log

Kayak Masters: Ivan, Hodei, Tracy, Martin, Eamon

Number of Paddlers: 21 Total Paddle Outings: 10 Total Distance Paddled: 59.5km

Paddlers:	Carol Danyluk	Neil Pharaoh	Simon Brindley
Dave Crabtree	Steve Hall	Sebastian Modak	Richard l'Anson
Stephen Wilton	Lesley Hall	Aart Buiter	
Gregory Newman	Malcom Thompson	Maureen Hertog	
Susan Wells	Rosemarie Jundt	Justin Yarusso	
Gary Curcio	Jean-Philippe Cetre	Adelle Kopp-McKay	
Patricia Danyluk	Maria Nenova	Julie Keast	

17 March 2023, AM: Horseshoe Island - 5.3km

The crossing of the Drake Passage was not so bad, others may disagree. However, waking up that first morning in Antarctica was beyond words, breathtaking. It was an amazing morning and promised to be a great first kayak. Horseshoe Island is below the polar circle and a beautiful destination it was. Getting there was spectacular. Our first paddle was lovely, we had calm seas and some icebergs to avoid, there were curious fur seals and a picturesque coastline to paddle alongside. We could see our people walking on the high points no doubt admiring the kayakers below. We made a landing here because the historic trust hut (British Base -Y) is well worth the visit and the malachite in the rocks is very special. We could not have asked for a better start to our kayaking down south.

18 March 2023, PM: Prospect Point (Fish Islands) - 6.4km

This afternoon there was snow to begin with, then glassy calm and sunshine took over for the remainder of the outing. This area was full of icicles dripping off rocks and bergy bits. The sun on the icebergs was spectacular. We all paddled in awe as we rounded little Flounder Island. Snaking back through so much brash ice, we made a short landing at the end. A continental landing! It's the site of an old British Base J- (Penola Hut) now removed to Falklands. The group took a short walk up to views of where we had just paddled. Beautiful.

19 March 2023, AM: Yalor islands - 8km

The kayak guides looked at the wind from Deck 8 and decided it was worth it to face a bit of wind, if we could find some shelter exploring the Yalour islands. It is a kayaker's dream to be lost in a maze of these rocky islands. Well, not completely lost. We towed our kayaks to a sheltered spot and the first thing we encountered was a leopard seal on ice. It was a paddle of discovery from then on, weaving through the islets, spotting fur seals and penguins. Towards the end, some humpbacks were sighted and we kayaked out to meet them. They had their own agenda though, so we headed back to the ship which, was further than we thought. We earned our desserts today.

19 March 2023, PM: Port Charcot - 5.2km

This place is famous for two main things, the historic overwintering of the French expedition led by Jean-Baptiste Charcot and the awesome icebergs it gathers in the large but shallow bay here. We would enjoy both today. It was yet another still and calm outing with an eery feeling amongst the colossal icebergs. Because a lot of the bergs get grounded and have been resting here for a long time, they are always of an interesting shape, huge ice sculptures. To set the scene it also snowed on us gently. Most of the group chose to land on the historic island, but not all. Three brave souls and Ivan stretched their paddle legs and headed off into the sunset...literally.

20 March 2023, AM: Port Lockroy - 5.5km

Again the kayakers were blessed with very calm seas. There was not a breeze as we drifted out from the ship. It was so still the little circles of sea ice were beginning to freeze, frazzle, almost like pancakes of ice. We could just see the Damoy runway through the mist, which made it even more daunting looking. The mountains that surround Lockroy appeared and disappeared just as quickly into a snow cloud. It snowed on us lightly. There was enough resting snow on the brash ice for on-water snow fights between kayaks and between kayakers and snorkellers. We ended with a rocky landing at Jougla Point amidst the whale bones. The kayakers would go from there over to the excellent museum at Lockroy Base. Best of everything on this outing.

20 March 2023, PM: Neko Harbour - 5km

Neko is well known for harbouring a lot of ice. Brash ice gathers in this area and decides to stay. It was glassy calm for us this afternoon, so everyone was keen to paddle. We set off in the opposite direction to the landing site as there was a clear path that we could paddle in. Soon the ice opened out and it was an easy maze of small bergy bits to negotiate. Somewhere in the distance, we could hear the breathing sounds of a whale, but alas could not see it. The whole area is surrounded by spectacular mountains and glaciers, which is what gave us such protection from the winds. Paddling back towards the ship we saw parts of a glacier break away and slide into the bay. Only at the very end did we spot a leopard seal lazing on a piece of ice only 2200 metres from the ship. Always a surprise with every outing.

21 March 2023, AM: Hydruga Rocks - 7.9km

There was a little bit of swell off the back of the ship which made launching a little tricky, but I knew we would have shelter and calmer water once we got across to Hydruga Rocks. More than just Rocks these islands were home to a colony of chinstrap penguins, fur seals, and a variety of seabirds big and small. There are two main islands that we could paddle between and several rocky outcrops and reefs to avoid. In a sheltered cove we saw young fur seals playing and curious of the snorkellers. Tiny wilson's storm petrels danced on the water and terns darted above us. The chinstraps were in the last stages of moulting mostly. It was a good place to circumnavigate and explore along the coastline full of life. The group split as some landed onshore and Ivan took a few people to explore the nearby (5 kilometres) islands in Zodiac for a potential future paddling.

21 March 2023, PM: Recess Cove - 6.2km

The clouds seemed to be closing in on us at Recess Cove. The wind on the cruise in was strong but we could see calmer waters deeper into the cove, so we towed the kayaks to shore. The landing site was small but with a good view. So, our kayakers went to shore initially and then re-joined us at the kayaks on a rocky beach. We were not alone, above us on the ice was a beautiful and big Weddell seal. It was at least 100 metres or more from the kayaks and was not at all concerned, it looked like it was dreaming. From here we paddled off the continent and weaved our way through sculptural bergs. We went inside a rocky channel and the water was so clear we could see down very deep. Then as we were about to call for a Zodiac taxi, we saw humpback whales in the distance. Lots of them. We increased our pace and tried to close the gap, but they were miles away. We embarked onto two Zodiacs and had a closer look. So Majestic, feeding and diving. We could have stayed for hours but we knew we had to go. The ship was further than it seemed, but we were not the last ones back even with towing kayaks.

26 March 2023, PM: Godthul - 6km

This large bay provided a nice, sheltered kayaking location. Wind was blowing about 5-10 knots inside the bay but the fetch was minimal, so water conditions were relatively smooth. With only seven people signed up we had a fantastic slow cruise along the shoreline playing with fur seal pups (well the pups played with us). There were over 50 fur seal pups just being silly around the shore and swimming in large groups together. They were very curious and would come up to the kayaks. One even took a little sniff and a nibble on Hodei's paddle blade. Some of the group decided to go to the landing site and three wished to keep paddling with us. We paddled past kelp forests to the point where the wind became too much and we turned around to retrace our paddle strokes back past the seal colony in the fading light. A really nice way to finish our day in South Georgia.

01 April 2023, AM: Carcass Island - 4km

The weather and sea as we approached Carcass Island was foul. It was almost assumed we could not paddle here. However, we could see a slither of sheltered water behind the kelp beside the coast. It would be a short kayak, but we made it happen. We shuttled the crafts to the little beach and instructions were to stick close to the coast lest you be blown out to sea.

Walkers were heading the same way but we zoomed past them. The kelp here is thick and interesting but hard to paddle in sometimes. Our destination was a sandy beach which had an exciting small wave to ride in on. The guides assisted everyone as they surfed in, to avoid potential chaos. There was no way we could or wanted to paddle back against the winds. Tracy led the team on an exploratory walk across to the beach on the other side; Leopard beach. No leopards were spotted but plenty of magellanic penguins and some black-browed albatross. A Zodiac ride back to the ship against the wind and we saw the kayaks still slowly being towed back as well.





Citizen Science Log

Project Name	How many times was this project done during this voyage?
Happywhale	3
Secchi disk	2
Cloud survey	3
Bird survey	3
Falklands Sei Whale project	2

Some of the Citizen Projects are dependent on the tide, location, water currents and satellite flyover times, as well as the general operations of taking passengers ashore and on Zodiac cruises. This meant that the opportunities to conduct some of the Citizen Science programs were limited. We were unable to run any projects in South Georgia due to us only having one day there instead of four.

As we were sailing from the Falkland Islands to Ushuaia, we had two encounters with sei whales including a large group of approximately 25 whales. The Falklands is the only known hotspot for Sei whales so it was exciting to see such a large group in one area, especially as they are very elusive animals and little is known about them. The sighting has been reported to the Falklands Conservation Project.



Snorkel Log

Snorkel Guides: **Eddie Hauzer, Lucas Hanley**

Number of Snorkels: 11 Total Outings: 9

Snorkellers:	Emma Gray	Marilyn Townsend Majors
Andrew Lethbridge	Emma Carey	Mark Burns
Nathaniel Thomson	Hannah Watts	Dianne Burns
Tyson Mayr	Megan Pate	Paul Prachyl

17 March 17 2023, Horseshoe Island

What a day!!!

A call to the observation deck at 6:00 am rendered an incredible sight. A sunrise, illuminating ice-clad, rocky monoliths with linings of silver, rose and gold. Our ship approached a narrow passage, undetected by eyesight until we were virtually within its embrace. Gusts of winds over 40 knots brought icy chills to cheeks, ears and eyes; and while sensible minds were tempted to retreat to warmer shelter, the deck was alive with the excitement of reaching Antarctica.

The passage, “The Gunnel” lead to “The Gullet,” a path-less-travelled which would eventually deliver us to Horseshoe Island, located within Marguerite Bay. Before we did though, we were treated to another rare Antarctic treasure. A pod of orca, possibly type B, with more than 15 individuals scattered throughout the surrounding sea, approached the ship. In groups of three and four, they rolled and played under Sylvia Earle’s stationary hull. Fur seals, their fear temporarily absent, and a humpback whale joined the whirl of activity and all the while, the sun kept beating down upon our back. This was the moment we celebrated crossing the Antarctic Circle.

When we landed on Horseshoe Island, the team were given 45 minutes to wander through the remains of the old English research hut (Base Y), and the malachite imbued, basaltic headlands, before taking to the water.

On ice flows, we saw crabeater seals and an adolescent leopard seal, and after selecting a bay to do our snorkel shakedown everyone got a chance to check their valves, test their seals, and feel the Antarctic water for the first time. Within the bay were two ice flows, with two crab eaters and a fur seal, which entered the water as we were donning our fins. Some keen-eyed snorkellers saw a sea angel, and most enjoyed the ice, clear water and attempted forward flips.

Some masks need to be treated to reduce fogging, however all had a fantastic time and would have stayed in far longer if given the chance. It was polar plunging time, so back to the ship.

18 March 2023, Prospect Point

Once Zodiacs hit the water, the team piled in and we quickly zipped further to the south, passing Perch Island and heading to the minnows, a small chain of rocks to the east of Flounder, Plaice, Mackerel, Trout and Salmon Islands (collectively known as the Fish Islands).

We scouted an adelic penguin colony and caught a fleeting glimpse of a leopard seal, devouring its ‘yet to be determined’ catch. A snowstorm kept everyone entertained, with thick ‘Disney-style’ flakes falling onto expecting tongues. The visibility, inversely proportional to the fun, dropped significantly as the team made way for the continent and an official tick for some expeditioners’ seventh continent.

A shout-out is in store for the icebergs, which had an incredible day of activity. Waiting, not far from the landing site, a berg split a section off its facing side, and we watched in awe as the icy, five-storey high, weather-sculpted iceblock; flipped, rolled and protested its new balance sheet.

Dressed in dry suits, eight excited snorkellers ascended the snowy slopes of the Antarctic continent. After seeing the site of the historical Hut J, there was only one thing left to do... snorkel.

A cool 3 metre visibility greeted our aquanauts, as they took the plunge next to a ‘black-ice’ berg. Marvelling at the clarity of the ice (not the water) the team saw teaming krill, limpits, isopods and a rogue starfish. Thoroughly thrilled with the underwater wilds, the team jumped aboard, scooped up some ancient glacial ice for a bit of taste testing and it was a dash back to the ship, landing not a minute late for the ‘last boat call’ and a well earned glass of whiskey in the hot tub, cooled over 10,000-year-old glacial cubes.

19 March 2023, Port Chacot/ Pleneau

After a morning exploring the Yalour Islands and Wordie House, we cruised through to Port Charcot and Pleneau. Conditions were perfect.

Giant petrels fought over a newly killed gentoo penguin and team snork watched the gory event unfold from the bottom of the slope. A quick hike up the snowy terrain to the monument gave everyone a great view of the natural harbour, and vision of our snorkelling site to be... Pleneau.

Pleneau hosts a very large gentoo colony, with congregations on both sides of the island. A quick scout of a shallow passage yielded a sheltered embayment with good numbers of gentoo, and an iceberg, which melted with the inspiration of a wagon wheel. Caution was thrown to the wind and the team decided to throw fate a chance on the other side of the island. A small passage to the main colony was covered in large bergy bits, grounded in super clear water right at the mouth of the entrance. After organising the team to hide amongst the ice, or against the rock, many were treated to the sight of penguins returning to their ice-clad rookery. By hiding amongst the structures, snorkellers learned that they could easily view the animals, stayin still so as not to alert them to our presence.

A curious Weddell seal joined the activity, and nearly everyone was able to watch its sleek form, curiously weaving routes around the icy obstacle course.

A fantastic dive; one for the memory banks for sure.

20 March 2023, Port Lockroy / Jougla point

After visiting both Port Lockroy and Jougla Point and narrowly surviving a vicious and brutal snowball fight; one sole survivor braved the wintry waters of Jougla and Port Lockroy.

Treated to scenes of whalebones left from the port’s historical past, our sole snork saw schools of isopods, amphipods and krill. After a quick change of location (and the addition of snorkel guide Eddie) both found themselves in penguin bathwater. Up to ten gentoo penguins playfully splashed around the snorkellers, fluffing their feathers and playing in the shallows. The lack of visibility did not take away from the feather-filled experience.

20 March 2023, Neko Harbour

We had a lot of glacial activity throughout the afternoon, with calving happening on the face and also at higher elevations toward the northern peaks. During the snorkel, we had a large calving episode occur around the point from the snorkellers with waves created that refracted around to meet those of us, snorkelling on the beachfront. A pulse of approximately 50 centimetres high surges washed along the shore which was a new and fun experience.

We saw a couple of penguins coming ashore, but the real winner for the day was the incredible sunset. As we made our way back to the ship, the light was incredible. The surface of the water reflected the same pinks and oranges which now illuminated the snowy crags above us.

21 March 2023, Hydrurga Rocks

We had the team back together today, with noine snorkellers keen to jump in the water. After a brief landing (seeing our first elephant seal), the team began to cross the rocks. Only 15 minutes into the walk, the snorkers were called to jump in the Zodiacs as a flotilla of seals was playing in a nearby bay, which meant an opportunity to swim with them.

A quick (or not so quick) impromptu Zodiac entry was performed, and soon all nine fluoro vests were bobbing in the water. The seals, not as enthusiastic as the snorkellers to perform summersaults, conducted a preliminary investigation before retiring to the rocks to continue observing the spectacle. When everyone was back on board, most had managed fleeting glimpses of the Antarctic fur seals, and were happy to have been able to at least share the same space with them in the water.

26 March 2023, Godthul, South Georgia

After the excitement of Gold Harbour this morning and the anticipation of more stunning scenery, it was fantastic to be greeted with calm, clear water and the elegant underwater forests of Godthul Harbour. We entered the water not too far from a waterfall, which had its origins in a freshwater lake in the cliffs above. Immediately, those who chose to snorkel saw long strands of giant kelp disappearing into the depths. An estimate of 12 metres of visibility meant that the forests we swam in were at least 15 metres tall, as no discernible bottom was in sight. We saw small fish weaving through the fronds, and some saw nudibranchs, a delight for inquisitive eyes. On the rocks above, our playground was overseen by a rookery of blue-eyed cormorants, and on the rocky foreshore the pups of Antarctic fur seals.

The landing, as we later found out, was the playground of scores of playful pups and everyone had an incredible time listening to their playful squeals and chirps and feigning terror at their cute little growls. A climb to the top of the hill, past the historical wreckage topped off the day, with the sight of a melastic seal pup, and a black-browed albatross chick.

What. A. Day. South Georgia, you really delivered; although it was brief, you will be in our memories for a lifetime.

01 April 2023, Godthul, South Georgia

After a quick walk around the settlement at Carcass Island, we beached the Zodiacs and transferred the snorkel gear to eager hands. On our first beach entry, there were some interesting walking techniques for getting out to deeper water. While the snorkers took to the sea, we had a bit of a time spinning the Zodiacs to make it back over the shallow bay sand.

Amongst the kelp forests we saw our first schools of fish, with some people describing a shoal of the local smelt. Crabs were found clinging to kelp fronds and giant colourful starfish were perfectly placed amongst the stalks. The visibility was on par with Godthul, which was a delight for those who missed out on this dive.

Exiting back into the Zodiac in high winds, within the kelp forests was a challenge that was new to most so we opted to re-beach the Zodiacs in a calm patch and helped everyone back aboard. Schools of fish, starfish and crabs were in clear water amongst the kelp; a great snorkel.

02 April 2023, West Point Island, Falkland Islands

At first, we weren’t sure about whether the snorkel would go ahead. The kayakers had cancelled because of the wind, so it was only the sheer bravery of the snorkers that lead to our underwater adventure. We knew at that moment we had separated the men from the mice, the lions from the sheep, the wheat from the chaff, the mighty from the minuscule... I could go on... but we have an adventure to describe.

Team snork assessed the wind and the channels between the kelp that would lead to successful deployment and eventual extraction. The directions set; the wind drift factored in; the team moved swiftly into position. Like giant fluoro green marshmallows, blowing in the breeze, the team expertly floundered toward the shoreline. Overseen by a hillside of magellanic penguins, the team clawed and crawled across rafts of tangled stalks.

Shoals of silverfish and smelt were sighted and what may have been the local ‘mullet.’ The pick-up point was navigated with precision only to be expected by such an experienced team.

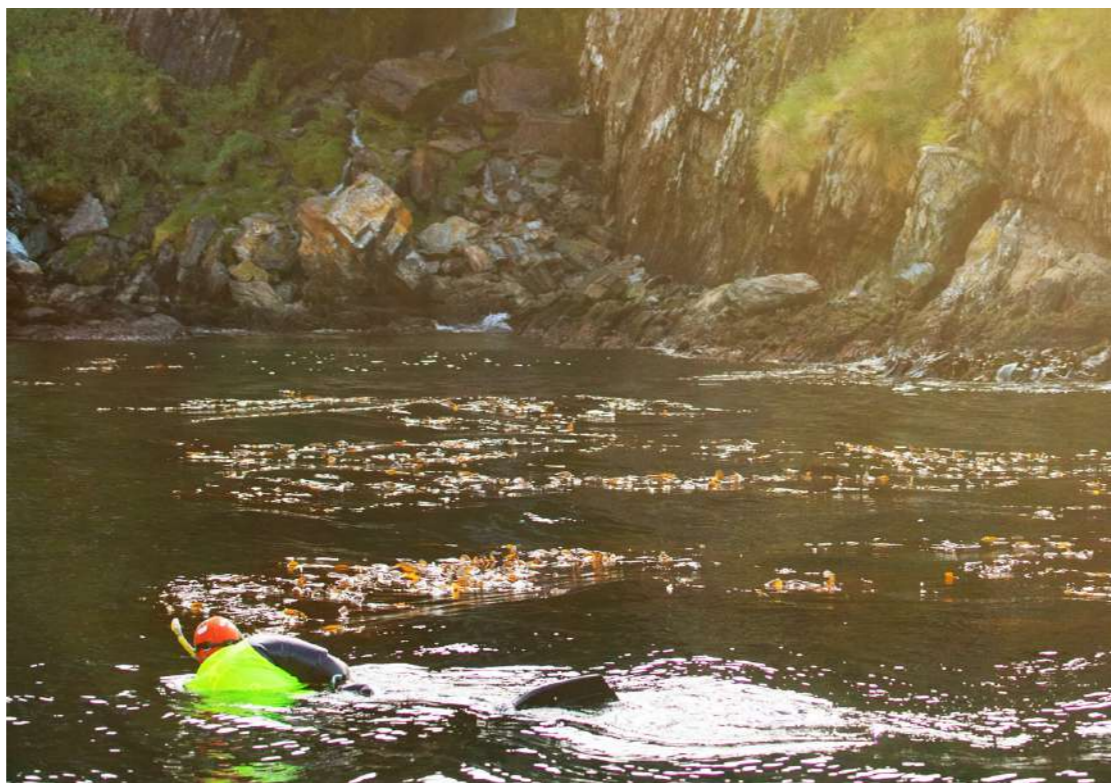
Eddie and Lucas ‘beached’ the Zodiacs on a raft of kelp, holding position against the elements, while snork after snork elegantly climbed aboard.

A wet, watery and wild way to end our snorkel at West Point Island and the team were now ready to explore the albatross colonies of the mountains above.



Mammal Sightings

Mammal Species	March																	April				
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Antarctic Fur Seal				•		•	•	•	•	•			•									
South American Fur Seal																					•	
Southern Elephant Seal									•					•								
Crabeater Seal				•	•	•																
Weddell Seal				•	•	•	•	•	•													
Leopard Seal				•	•	•				•	•											
Minke Whale								•														
Sei Whale																					•	
Fin Whale														•								
Humpback Whale				•		•	•	•	•													
Orca				•																		
Unidentified Whale			•													•		•		•	•	
Peale's Dolphin																		•				
Commerson's Dolphin																			•			



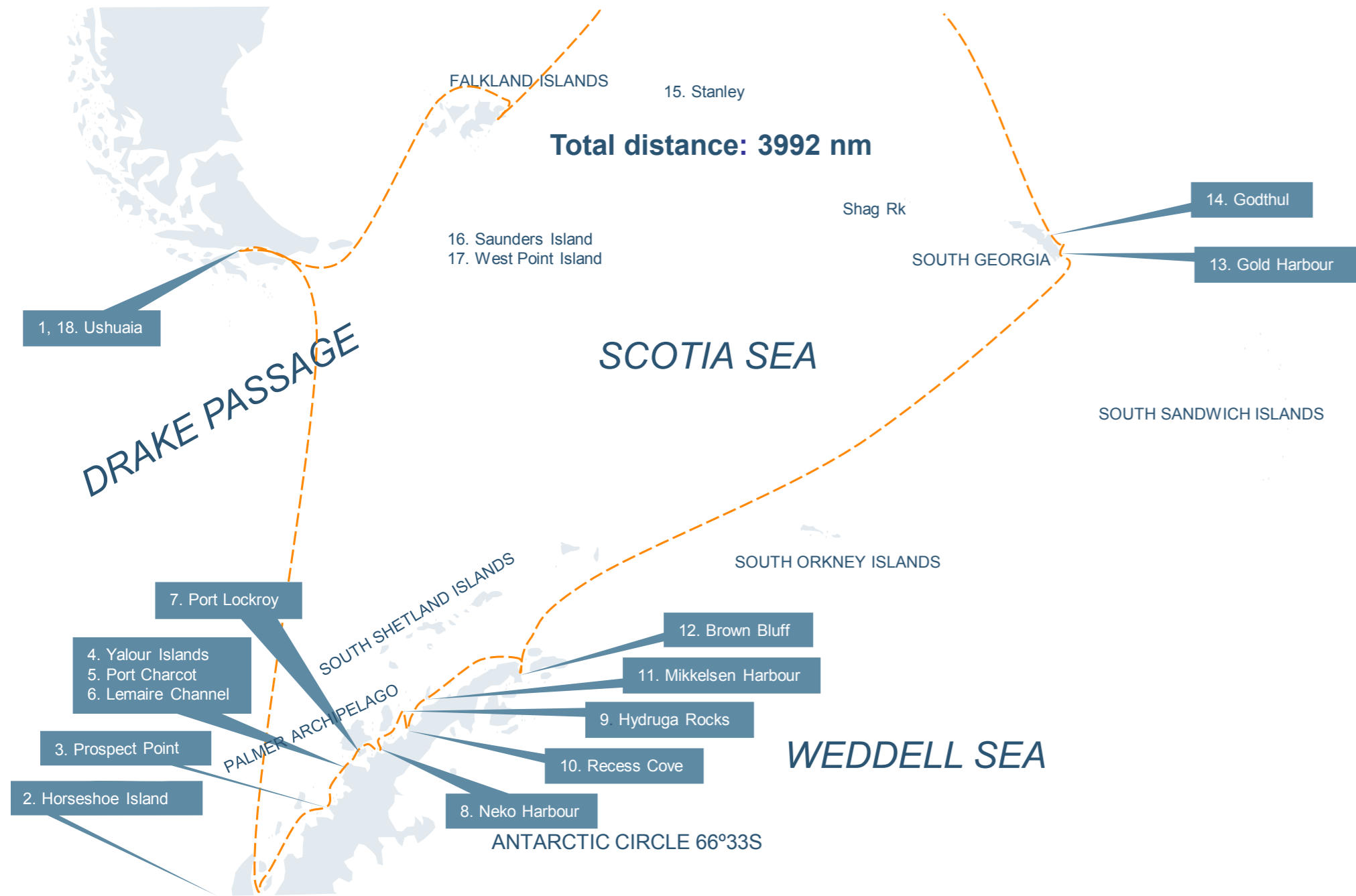
Bird Sightings



Bird Species	March							April														
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Gentoo Penguin						•	•		•				•						•			
Chinstrap Penguin					•	•		•	•		•		•									
Adelie Penguin				•	•	•				•												
Magellanic Penguin																		•	•			•
King Penguin													•						•			
Southern Rockhopper Penguin																			•	•		
Wandering Albatross			•													•	•					
Black-browed Albatross	•	•	•						•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	
Grey-headed Albatross		•	•							•	•	•	•		•						•	
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross			•							•	•						•					
Giant Petrel	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•							•	•	•	•	•	
Antarctic Petrel			•	•	•					•	•											
Cape Petrel			•	•	•					•	•										•	•
Snow Petrel			•																			
Blue Petrel		•	•							•			•	•	•							
Grey Petrel				•						•					•							
White-chinned Petrel			•		•							•	•	•	•							
Kerguelen Petrel										•	•	•										
Atlantic Petrel															•							
Prion sp. (probably mostly Antarctic)		•	•	•						•	•	•	•		•	•						
Antarctic Fulmar (Southern)			•	•	•		•		•													
Sooty Shearwater																	•	•				
Great Shearwater		•	•							•						•	•	•			•	
Wilson's Storm-petrel	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•				•	
Black-bellied Storm-petrel			•							•	•				•							
Skua (Brown, South Polar)				•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•							•			
Kelp Gull	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•						•	•	•		•
Dolphin Gull	•																	•	•	•		•
Tern (probably mostly Antarctic)				•	•		•	•				•										

Bird Species	March							April														
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
South American Tern	•																					•
Kelp Goose																		•	•	•		
Upland Goose																		•	•	•		
Ruddy-headed Goose																			•	•		
Falkland Steamer Duck																		•	•	•		
South Georgia Pintail													•									
Yellow-billed Teal																		•	•			
Crested Duck																			•	•		
Blackish Cinclodes (Tussock Bird)																		•	•	•		
Austral Thrush																		•	•	•		
Long-tailed Meadow Lark																		•	•	•		
Dark-faced Ground Tyrant																		•	•	•		
Siskin																			•	•		
White-bridled Finch																			•	•		
Cobb's Wren																			•			
South Georgia Pipit														•								
Correndera Pipit																		•	•	•		
Striated Caracara (Johnny Rook)																		•	•	•		
Turkey Vulture																		•	•	•		
Variable Hawk																					•	
Imperial Cormorant (blue-eyed shag)														•	•				•	•	•	
Magellanic Cormorant (rock shag)	•																		•	•	•	•
Diving Petrels																			•	•		
Snowy Sheathbill																			•			
Blackish Oystercatcher																			•	•	•	
Magellanic Oystercatcher	•																		•	•	•	•
Two-banded Plover																			•			
Black-crowned Night Heron																			•		•	
Egret (possible Cattle Egret)																				•		







Expeditioners:

Avril Adams

Daniel Beltra Brotons

Catherine Bills

Richard Bills

Martin Bird

Barbara Bird

Merryn Boan

Jennie Brindley

Simon Brindley

Aart Buiters

Mark Burns

Dianne Burns

Emma Carey

Jean-Philippe Cetre

Joanne Costanzo

Ally Crabtree

David Crabtree

Gary Curcio

Pat Daniels

Patricia Danyluk

Carole Danyluk

Steve Davey

Heather Fanthome

Emma Gray

Cecilia Griffin

Steve Hall

Lesley Hall

Sue Harriman

Maureen Hertog

Alice Hodgson

Mark Hodgson

Michael Holics

John Howie

Maxine Howie

Alan Huse

Catherine Huse

Phillip James

Elizabeth James

Sue Jarratt

Jeff Jarratt

Bernadette Jess

Rosemarie Jundt

Julie Keast

Adelle Kopp-McKay

William Kuhn

Tycho Leathbridge

Richard l'Anson

Patty Mack

Mike Mack

Townsend Majors

Tyson Mayr

Anne Mc Carthy

Ian McCarthy

Beth Michell

Gregory Michell

Sebastian Modak

Michael Moir

Mary Morgan

Pete Muncie

Janet Muncie

Maria Nenova

Gregory Newman

Garth Newton

Marcus O'Brien

Andrew Pascoe

Megan Pate

Neil Pharaoh

Paul Prachyl

Maria Saluta

Luis Sanchez Davilla

Gayle Sargeant

Phil Seager

Fiona Seager

Kay Sowerby

Nicola Stuart

Richard Sullivan

Malcolm Thompson

Nat Thomson

Dot Trengove

Han van der Mijl

Kees van der Post

Alan Veal

Melissa Walker

David Ward

Hannah Watts

Susan Wells

Donna Weston Ward

Phil Willshire

Steve Wilton

Barbara Wilton

Justin Yarusso

John Youngblood

Kathy Youngblood

Expedition Team:

Expedition Leader: Howard Whelan

Assistant Expedition Leader: Leo Soibelzon

Onboard Expedition Manager: Anne Oeyasaeter

Geologist: Stephanie Walker

Marine Biologist/Citizen Science: Julia Benson

Historian: Jonathan Chester

Naturalist: Vicky Inglis

Photography Guide: Max Seigal

Expedition Guide: Russell Henry

Expedition Medic: David Palmer

Expedition Guide: Birgitta Mueck

Kayaking Master: Eamon Larkin

Kayaking Guide: Martin Rickard

Kayaking Guide: Tracy Gibson

Kayaking Guide: Ivan Klochkov

Kayaking Guide: Hodei Orueta

Snorkel Master: Eddie Hauzer

Snorkel Guide: Lucas Handley

Zodiac Manager: Zak Hinkley

Mudroom/Shopkeeper: Ari Benzo Ciria

Senior Officers & Heads of Department:

Master: Artem Kolmykov

Master: Arsen Prostov

Chief Officer: Michail Kappas

Second Officer: Raymer Rosario Fernandes

Safety Officer: Sergio Enrique Saldana Hernandez

Bosun: Leo Francis Magnaye Marzan

Ship Doctor: Sofia Cocunubo Castellanos

Chief Engineer: Ruslan Rotar

First Engineer: Alexandru Lazar

IT Officer: Nathaniel Buhain Vibares

Hotel Director: Osman Ozpolat

F&B Service Manager: German Orlando Cayasso Wilson

Head Bartender: Rajesh Sugreev Mura0

Chief Purser: Liza Merillo

Executive Chef: Suresh Pai Karkala

Sous Chef: Vinay Kumar Singh

Sous Chef: Hubert Ramiro Barreto

Hotel Controller: Rey Nolasco

Receptionist: Kateryna Tauzhnianska

Receptionist: Jaypee Alota Abonitalla

Head Stateroom Attendant: Sotero (Terry) Agtagma

Bosun: Leo Francis Magnaye Marzan

Able Seaman: Anthony John Narvaez Brosas

Able Seaman: Eduardo Caranoo Aloyan

Able Seaman: Nestor Fernandez Arangorin

Able Seaman: Rene Balsomo Casipe

Able Seaman: Luis Fernando Alvarez Santos

Photography thanks to:

Max Seigal

Ivan Klochkov

Martin Rickard

Lucas Handley

Tracy Gibson





