

Across The Antarctic Circle

Aboard *MV Greg Mortimer* | 17 – 28 December 2022





Ushuaia, Argentina

DAY 1 | Saturday 17 December 2022

Position at 1600 on 17 Dec

Latitude: 54°50.7'S

Longitude: 068°07.2'W

Course: Docked

Speed: Docked

Wind Speed: NE 2

Barometer: 1006

Air Temp: 8°C

Explore. Dream. Discover.

—Mark Twain

Here we are in the stunning town of Ushuaia, “el fin del mundo”, the end of the world.

The wharf was abuzz this afternoon with arrivals, departures, fishing vessels unloading their catch, and all sorts of activity. Our expeditioners were met by the Aurora team and had their photos taken for our “photo board” to help us learn each other’s names. Drinks and a buffet awaited us in the Elephant Island Bar, then our hotel team helped us navigate the decks to our staterooms and settle into our “home away from home”. It had been a long couple of days of travelling, and many of us probably wanted to crawl into the comfort of our beds, but there was no time to rest just yet!

After a welcome briefing from our Expedition Leader Dan and a quick intro from Medic Mari and Hotel Director Ulises, Anne then gave us some handy hints about life onboard.

Finally, the all-important safety drill. The sound of the ship’s horn signalled us to don orange lifejackets and muster in the lecture theatre. We followed our crew up to Deck 7 where the polar class life vessels sit (they can hold 136 people each, for 5 days). With the safety drill completed, we were cleared to begin our journey.

The last task was a jacket swap, so that we are prepared for whatever weather Antarctica decides to bring us.

We made our way to the dining room to enjoy a delicious dinner, prepared by our talented galley team and served by our smiley and welcoming waiting staff.

So, we’d had our last glimpse of town life, knowing that from now on we are more likely to see a colony of penguins than a crowd of people.

Together we total 103 passengers (64 Americans, 10 Australians, 2 Canadians, 13 from the UK, 3 Germans, 1 Indian, 1 from Singapore, 3 from China, 2 from Israel, 1 from Malaysia, 3 from Spain, 1 from Portugal) along with 102 crew from all around the globe.

Our 23 Expedition Team have variety of specialities including polar exploration, mountaineering, skiing, glaciology, geology, history, marine and terrestrial biology, ornithology, photography, medicine, and kayaking.

After the journey to reach the *Greg Mortimer*, it’s time to kick back, breathe in the sea air, and get excited for the next 10 days of adventure!



At Sea

DAY 2 | Sunday 18 December 2022

Position at 0700 on 18 Dec

Latitude: 57°03.6'S

Longitude: 065°40'W

Course: 169°

Speed: 13.9 knots

Wind Speed: W 6

Barometer: 1008

Air Temp: 5°C

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

—Otto Nordenskjöld

Ploughing across the infamous Drake all night, with a moderate roll on, our first expedition morning (sunrise around 4.10 am) arrived with a classic cerulean blue Southern Ocean, and an occasional whale sighting. A great introduction to life in board the *Greg Mortimer*.

First up it was our mandatory IAATO briefing, which concluded with a discussion on the danger of avian flu decimating penguin colonies and other birdlife in Antarctica. Climate change and the warming of Antarctic Peninsula also present bio-security hazards, with increasing areas of ice-free land implying a danger of bringing seeds and other foreign matter into Antarctica. With these factors in mind we carefully inspected and cleaned the outdoor gear we are planning to use when we go ashore in Antarctica.

Our morning of preparation closed with Dani introducing the onboard Citizen Science programs, which have the aim of increasing our knowledge of many aspects of the environment of the Peninsula.

After lunch, Ryan's lecture on 'Birds of the Southern Ocean' introduced us to the foundational position of Antarctic krill (*Euphausia superba*) at the base of the Southern Ocean food chain. We learnt that there are about 30 common species of seabird that we can expect to see on our transit across the Drake Passage and discovered ways to identify them on the wing. As many of these species were flying all around the ship, mid-afternoon our Citizen Scientists were out on deck doing a Seabird Survey to contribute to the global eBird survey.

Around the ship the most iconic of the Southern Ocean seabirds – the wandering albatross – soared majestically and effortlessly. Wilson's storm petrels also appeared around the ship, and this remarkable bird – tiny, all fluff and bones – has the most widespread global distribution of all seabirds found in Antarctic waters.

As well as being all around the Southern Ocean, their range extends into the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, and have been recorded as far north as Labrador, Persian Gulf, the Marshall Islands, coastal Americas and Japan.

Jamie's lecture later in the day introduced us to the techniques of successful seabird photography.

The events of the day concluded with a most humorous and warm welcome delivered by Captain Vadym, and where we heard from some of the principal officers in charge of different departments on the ship.

Finally the members of the Expedition Team introduced themselves, as we crossed the Antarctic Convergence, that biogeographical line where cold polar waters upwell and mingle with warmer waters from the north.

Shortly after another excellent dinner from our friends in the kitchen and on the floor, we crossed the 60 degrees south latitude – and were officially in Antarctic waters.



At Sea

DAY 3 | Monday 19 December 2022

Position at 0800 on 19 Dec

Latitude: 61°55'5" S

Longitude: 063°57'2"W

Course: 170°

Speed: 10.3 knots

Wind Speed: NW7

Barometer: 999

Air Temp: 1°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

We awoke this morning to gently rolling seas with just enough swell to make sure we are reminded that we are traversing the infamous Drake Passage. Historically and to this day, this name would send chills down the spines of the boldest of sailors. To cross these waters requires a strong vessel and a hardy team and both of these we have in the *Greg Mortimer*. When accompanied by 25 knot winds out of the northwest, the 4 metre seas following the ship makes for a very comfortable ride and we should count ourselves lucky to experience this infamous water in such a state. The Drake was originally considered a connective land mass joining South America with the Great Southern Continent and thus the rounding of Cape Horn was not explored as an alternative to the straits of Magellan until as late as 1819. It was then that William Smith is credited with the first crossing of the Drake Passage. What an incredible place to be in such comfort.

The days at sea are a great opportunity to cultivate anticipation and excitement around what we are about to experience on the Antarctic Peninsula. We get a real sense of the effort and work that goes into visiting this rare and special place as it's not possible to just 'pop down', though it is affectionately referred to as such. It's a long way to go and not such a privilege to have this, to have this opportunity to see this wild place firsthand. Thankfully the seas started to relax a little as we got closer to the shelter of the Peninsula.

Most of us passed the day with a relaxing itinerary of informative lectures and some of our first wildlife encounters. Whales are the theme of the day with a few humpbacks starting to show themselves. Continuing the whale theme we had lectures on the brutal industry of whaling by resident historian Ben and the lighter side of whale life with Dani's biological whale briefing on what species to expect and which ones to pray for the chance to see.

The evening sees us sitting down with cocktail in hand listening to a recap of the day and hearing about our plans for landing and activities planned for tomorrow. We enjoyed great dinner service from the amazing hospitality team, so enthusiastic and passionate for what they do. It's clear to see they are committed to ensuring

everyone on their ship has an exceptional experience while they are touring Antarctica. Some of us then spent the evening watching land coming into view around 8:45pm and our first vistas of the Antarctic Peninsula around the Melchoir islands. The Iceberg Spotting Contest was also closed out with a sighting of a large tabular berg at 9:15pm. The Melchoir region is known for its abundance of whales and beautiful tidewater glaciers calving into the ocean along the coast making for good iceberg spotting.



Cuverville Island | Port Lockroy/Jougla Point

DAY 4 | Tuesday 20 December 2022

Position at 0600 on 20 Dec

Latitude: 64°39'3" S

Longitude: 061°37'0" W

Course: At anchor

Speed: At anchor

Wind Speed: N4

Barometer: 1001

Air Temp: -1°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

What a fantastic first Antarctic day! We awoke early in the morning off the coast of Cuverville Island with tranquil water and stunning mountain and glacier views. After breakfast we boarded our trusty inflatable Zodiacs for the voyage's first outing and practiced moving safely onto these little boats in anticipation of rougher conditions later in the trip. After quick safety briefings from our drivers we cruised the shoreline amidst towering icebergs that blocked the path to a potential beach landing site on the island.

Keen observers noticed the discoloured patches on the snow before we were close enough to see our first penguin colonies – gentoo penguins – but not before most of the passengers caught a whiff of these somewhat odiferous birds. Gentoo penguins are generalist feeders and (unlike adeliie penguins) are not dependent on sea ice, so in the northern Antarctic Peninsula they have been expanding to fill many locations where adeliie penguins once occurred. By this time of year gentoos would typically have eggs that were about to hatch, or even young chicks, but this has been a very snowy year on the Peninsula and so egg laying was delayed as the birds waited for the snow to melt in many of their colonies.

As we viewed the colonies from just offshore, we watched penguins rest and preen in the intertidal zone. Some, just leaving after days of incubating their eggs, were very dirty from life in the colonies, whereas clean and shiny feathers identified those that just returned from a foraging trip. As we circled the island, other creatures were taking a rest from life in the ocean as well. A crabeater seal rested on an iceberg, and several weddell seals slept on a snow patch on land. Both dive deeply to feed on fish and krill, with the crabeater (despite its name) being highly specialized on Antarctic krill.

Less restfully, Antarctic terns harassed brown skuas and kelp gulls near their nests while snowshoers climbed the ice and snow on the island, kayakers paddled nearby, and snorkelers tested their gear and felt the Antarctic water on their faces. Several Zodiacs also spotted a young humpback whale as it dove and fed in the lee of the island.

After our morning outing and a well-deserved lunch, we transited through the Neumayer Channel. Passengers and crew alike enjoyed views from the bow, including several humpback and minke whales spotted near the



Across The Antarctic Circle

DAY 5 | Wednesday 21 December 2022

Position at 0700 on 21 Dec

Latitude: 66°00'2" S

Longitude: 065°26'3" W

Course: 073°

Speed: 10.2 knots

Wind Speed: NNE 5/6

Barometer: 998

Air Temp: -3°C

The cold, dry climate and dust-free air of Antarctica mean that there is a complete lack of haze. In such conditions, as many explorers have discovered to their cost, distant objects seem close and mirages are common.

—John May, *The Greenpeace Book of Antarctica*, 1988

Morning welcomes us with a realization that we might have done something to anger the Weather Gods. Did the Expedition Leader not raise enough prayers to them for sunshine and glassy waters? Did the Expedition Team miss some long-forgotten ritual to guarantee success on our journey? Whoever is to blame, the sea state doesn't resemble the calm of yesterday. As the wind dances aggressively on the ocean's surface, Prospect Point, our destination for the morning venture, awaits us in the distance. But the hope of making a landing slowly dissipates with every gust blowing our way. The howling 40 knot winds makes it impossible to drop the anchor and the Captain decides that today is not the day we will get to see this part of the Graham Coast.

We move away from Holtedah Bay and instead we head further south towards Crystal Sound, the channel between the southern part of Biscoe Islands and the coast of Graham Land. Named to commemorate the scientist researching the structure of ice crystals, it seemed to be very fitting as the low clouds, falling snow and occasional icebergs invite us into even more remote areas of the Antarctic Peninsula.

As we move towards the Antarctic Circle, we dive into the entertaining and informative lecture from Ben about the Belgica Expedition wintering below it. Both the horror and the humour of the journey helps us imagine how the pioneers, explorers and adventures alike sail through the same waters centuries ago.

Some of us even hope to experience a night under the open Antarctic sky. With those committed, the Team shared details about the potential camping opportunity during our first continental landing in the upcoming days.

Exactly at 1:30pm today, we cross the Antarctic Circle at 66°33'S the only expedition ship in the area this far south. What makes it even more significant is the fact we are doing it on the day of the southern summer solstice. The Expeditioners, Expedition Team and the Captain himself gather on the other deck to celebrate crossing the invisible, yet so significant milestone during our trip. The ship calls out in celebration in three long blasts as we raise our cups of hot chocolate in toast.

We continue sailing south, beyond the fog, to where many of us haven't been before.



Stonington Island

DAY 6 | Thursday 22 December 2022

Position at 0600 on 22 Dec

Latitude: 68°13'7" S

Longitude: 067°07'6" W

Course: 113°

Speed: 11.2 knots

To anyone who goes to the Antarctic, there is a tremendous appeal, an unparalleled combination of grandeur, beauty, vastness, loneliness, and malevolence — all of which sound terribly melodramatic — but which truly convey the actual feeling of Antarctica. Where else in the world are all of these descriptions really true?

—Captain T.L.M. Sunter, 'The Antarctic Century Newsletter'

You could be forgiven for thinking the men stationed at the British base on Stonington Island would have spent their long winter nights reading classics. Instead, expedition team members entering their old hut were surprised to find shelves of the small library instead filled with titles that ranged from trashy and titillating. Instead of Moby Dick there was The Stone Of Chastity, where War and Peace should have sat there was Dead Men Don't Ski.

The former Base E has stood empty for 50 years now and as the guestbook inside showed, very few people make it this far south to visit. Passengers from the *Greg Mortimer* were the first names there since sailors aboard the British Royal Navy's HMS Protector had visited in March. The main reason for this scarcity of visitors is the island's extraordinary latitude — at over 68 degrees south, it is as far as the majority of cruise ships can visit on the Antarctic Peninsula. Only a couple of the expedition team had ever made it here in the past.

The plan for the morning included exploring the two-storey British base, but also pushing over to an old American base on the southern shore, too. A much older and unsurprisingly more primitive structure, it dated back to the 1940s and though it was only used for a few years, had some remarkable history of its own. It was a little hard to imagine given the empty and almost haunted feeling around some of the buildings, but at one time the island would have been full of life — the scientists had up to 150 dogs on Stonington with them and, improbably, even an airstrip.

It was also here in 1947 that Jackie Ronne became the first woman to spend a year in Antarctica. She travelled then to be an active part of the US team with her husband, Commander Finn Ronne, and 25 years later, returned to visit the continent as a tourist.

The Ronnes' would have been an extraordinary relationship, but love, Antarctica and uniting the two were on the minds of some of our party long before reading about the island's former residents. As improbable as anything on the continent, Snowy had been registered to officiate a wedding for two of the guests. Caius and Rosie

Wind Speed: SSW 3

Barometer: 991

Air Temp: -2°C

had decided to get married in this extremely remote location, a genuinely singular decision — not only was it almost certainly the southernmost wedding in the world that day, but no nuptials had ever been exchanged on Stonington before. The couple had created history for themselves, but a little bit for Antarctica, too.

There was a small, heartfelt ceremony on a granite outcrop overlooking both former bases, and beyond icebergs, glaciers and mountains. It was hard to imagine a more perfectly Antarctic scene, nor one more suited for an unforgettable day.



Yalour Islands | Pleneau/Port Charcot

DAY 7 | Friday 23 December 2022

Position at 0700 on 23 Dec

Latitude: 65°06'9" S

Longitude: 065°06'1" W

Course: 062°

Speed: 13.5 knots

Wind Speed: SW 4

Barometer: 1013

Air Temp: 1°C

I do so wish sometimes, that I could just pop home for an hour or two as easily in the flesh as in the spirit. No doubt the explorers of 2015, if there is anything left to explore, will not only carry their pocket wireless telephones fitted with wireless telescopes but will also receive their nourishment & warmth by wireless ... and also their power to drive their motor sledges, but, of course, there will be an aerial daily excursion to both poles then, & it will be the bottom of the Atlantic, if not the centre of the earth that will form the goal in those days.

—Orde-Lees, a member of Shackleton's Endurance expedition. 10 January 1915

When it comes to penguin PR, no species gets an easier ride than the emperor. They get to stand for all that is noble and wild and pure in Antarctica, rarely seen and yet seemingly cherished by everyone. It's a wonder that the diminutive adelic penguin only gets a fraction of the attention and love – perhaps people are simply heightist, but these little birds are true Antarctic animals, too, capable of feats of endurance to rival their larger cousins.

Because they breed in the deep south, they are the most elusive of the continent's three brush tail penguins. Until we reached the Yalour Islands, they had only been spotted at distance from lucky Zodiacs. Many trips to the Peninsula can go whole weeks without seeing them at all. Happily this wasn't the case during our landing – there were hundreds of the tough adelies dotted across several rookeries, their very particular eye markings giving an impression that they were glaring at us visitors.

Eagle-eyed passengers may have also noticed that in among the breeding pairs, there were eggs and even some newly hatched chicks sitting under their protective parents. Brown skuas waited nearby for the merest lapse in attention. Also among the colonies were chinstrap penguins, while those leaving the shore last were treated to the sight of a gentoo, meaning all three of the brushtail group were represented on the Yalours.

The afternoon at Port Charcot offered more sensational scenery in the sunshine, with snow-capped mountains and hulking glaciers providing a magnificent backdrop for the *Greg Mortimer*. A combination of racing currents and heavy ice in the bay made initial attempts at a landing impossible, but before long a Zodiac cruise was adapted to include a snowy hike to a monument erected for the remarkably successful French Antarctic campaigns which were based here in the early years of last century.

Commandant Charcot lead two quite brilliant expeditions to the continent, each laden with music and French wine, yet remarkably unburdened by the dramas and calamities that stalked so many of the more famous names of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration.



Breakwater Island | Fournier Bay

DAY 8 | Saturday 24 December 2022

Position at 0700 on 24 Dec

Latitude: 65°00'2" S

Longitude: 063°97'7" W

Course: 029°

Speed: 11.9 knots

Wind Speed: E 6

Barometer: 1010

Air Temp: 0°C

To dine with a glacier on a sunny day is a glorious thing and makes feasts of meat and wine ridiculous. The glacier eats hills and drinks sunbeams.

—John Muir

The intrepid campers among us were woken early at Pleneau Island by the calls of the penguins and the cracking of the ice. Unbeknownst to us, the *Greg Mortimer's* brand new sister ship the *Sylvia Earle* had passed us quietly in the night – the first meeting of these two vessels! An early morning Zodiac cruise back to the ship had us joining our fellow expeditions for a pre-breakfast cruise through the Lemaire Channel – also known as Kodak Crack in reference to the stunning scenery and photo opportunities of the towering peaks dropping down to the calm, ice-studded water and the clear blue glaciers hanging above us. On leaving the channel, a lone humpback gave us a farewell salute as its tail rose above the water then quietly slipped into the depths.

The morning continued in true expedition style as we delved into the unknown and explored the Breakwater Islands. The water was like glass and as we were leaving the ship another humpback came to greet us and from the Zodiacs we were able to watch it feeding on the surface. It was on a mission though, in hunt of krill and so we parted ways and ventured inshore to see what we could find around the islands. A large gentoo colony was nesting on the cliffs above us – what a view they have! Kelp gulls, Antarctic cormorants and snowy sheathbills could also be seen amongst the penguins. The water was so calm we had a great view of the boulders and coloured seaweed on the bottom of the ocean. Around the corner we came and found a rocky spit where we landed briefly – the first people (we believe) to land on this little corner of the planet!

After lunch on board and an afternoon siesta, we ventured out for another Zodiac cruise at Fournier Bay. We experienced true Antarctic weather! The snow was pouring down around us and settling on the surface of the ocean, forming ice-like pancakes we were cruising in an icy wonderland. Snowballs were thrown and Christmas cheer scribbled in the snow and on the sides of the Zodiac. The wind had dropped and it was almost completely silent with barely a bird's call breaking the silence and just the occasional cracking and creaking from the giant ice-cliffs at the back of the bay. Many a seal was sighted – but alas they all turned out to be the rock-kind. Nevertheless we had a delightful cruise in the snowy conditions which made it the first White Christmas for a number on board.



Polar Plunge

DAY 8 | Saturday 24 December 2022







Enterprise Island | Portal Point

DAY 9 | Sunday 25th December 2022

Position at 0300 on 25 Dec

Latitude: 64°32'1"S

Longitude: 061°58'3"W

Course: 162°

Speed: 4.9 knots

Wind Speed: SSN 2

Barometer: 996

Air Temp: 0°C

I now belong to the higher cult of mortals, for I have seen the albatross.

—Robert Cushman Murphy

It was a Christmas to remember as we spent our final day in Antarctica.

Both the weather, sea conditions and surrounding environment aligned to provide us with a fully loaded programme of memorable gifts.

As we were going to get squeezed by the weather later on in the day, the ambitious plan was to complete a full day's operations by lunchtime.

Those who had been camping the previous morning, it was the second day in a row that the alarm went off somewhere in the 4am hour.

As Daniel made the early morning wakeup call, most on board happily embraced the unsociable hour to participate in the first morning's outing – a Zodiac cruise around Enterprise Island.

A handful of keen snorkellers and kayakers put the extra effort in to jam themselves into their gear, and were rewarded with a great outing around the old ship wreck *Guvenoren*.

Historian and on board spiritual master Ben offered up another activity, potentially something of a first for Aurora – a 'zen Zodiac' – with the purpose of finding a quiet space to engage with the surroundings. A sheltered cove provided the ideal setting to switch off the engine, switch off the cameras and phones, and tune into simply being present in the environment without distractions.

It was a powerful experience for all those who participated, taking away a part of the silence that makes Antarctica magical.

Breakfast came and went in a blur of enthusiasm as we geared up for our second and final landing for the voyage.

The location was Portal Point, historically a place where expeditions would depart for the interior and onto the South Pole. The snowshoers and alpine trekkers completed the first couple of kilometres of that journey, as everyone who went ashore set foot on the Antarctic continent.

The water activities continued, with the kayakers finding their groove as a solid team and stepping up the travel speed and distance.

For all of us it was as if we were walking (or paddling) around in a painting – towering landscape, sunlit icebergs, terminal mountains and glaciers under a brooding lenticular filled sky, all providing a quintessential Antarctic setting as we began our voyage north.

Ben provided us with an enlightening perspective on Christmas in Antarctica from 100 to 150 years ago, during the age of the early explorers. With the lack of female companions, cross dressing it seemed was a regular feature of celebrations.

Soon the roll of the swell made its presence felt as we merged out into the open water.

The Chief Engineer spotted some orca, who conveniently swam past both sides of the ship, enabling many on board to add another Christmas memory to the bank, care of the Southern Ocean.

At recap we heard from the various activity groups, all having experienced Antarctica in a unique way, as we all reflected on the collective experience we'd had as a group, sharing Christmas with our onboard family.

With best wishes and happy memories.



At Sea

DAY 10 | Monday 26 December 2022

Position at 0700 on 26 Dec

Latitude: 64°10'6" S

Longitude: 061°50'4"W

Course: 351°

Speed: 12.4 knots

Wind Speed: W 6

Barometer: 997

Air Temp: -1°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

After several days of non-stop activity and constant excitement, the ship felt unusually calm and serene on our first sea day on the journey back to Ushuaia. Despite the terrifying colours on Daniel's forecasts, we had a remarkably stable sailing, thanks to strategic planning and a Captain who clearly knows how to dodge a storm! Decks 5 and 8 were abuzz all day with people enjoying the rolling swell and spotting sea birds – we've seemingly developed stronger stomachs since our first voyage across the Drake, which seems like another lifetime. Now we return, rich with experiences and memories, changed by our encounters with a place that will hold a special place in our hearts forever. There was a palpable tranquility on board, as we individually processed the last week of our lives, looked through our pictures, and spent time with our new friends and fellow travellers.

We attended two fantastic lectures today. In the morning, Snowy gave us a peek into the lives of penguins. It's extraordinary to think about the complex evolutionary path that these remarkable creatures have undergone over millions of years. Polar explorer Apsley Cherry Garrard once described penguins as "either like children, or like old men, full of their own importance and late for dinner, in their black tail-coats and white shirt-fronts." Penguins are so easily seen as comical little dinner guests, but Snowy's lecture gave us insight into their sophistication and remarkable adaptation to an incredibly harsh environment.

Then, Leo gave a fascinating lecture about his research expeditions studying Antarctic seals. He shared many photos of his adventures of sustained camping in the Antarctic, and the work that he conducted with the seals themselves. Leo was dedicated enough to his research that he anaesthetized most seals himself, and even got a chunk bitten out of his butt for his efforts! He certainly earned his claim to fame in the Fieldwork Fails book. From photographs of weighing female elephant seals, to rolling leopard seals over, and comforting seal pups, this lecture was a captivating insight into what it's like to conduct research in one of the most remote locations on Earth.

After a cozy day of contemplation and learning, we continue to meander back to civilization. With our impending disembarkment, every remaining moment feels sweeter: dinner is especially delicious, conversations are deeper,



and each seabird soaring overhead seems more special. Our experiences have brought us together, and we have one more day to savour the world in which we've been living for the past eleven days. The impending prospect of telling our family and friends about our travels can feel like an impossible task. An Antarctic surveyor, Wally Herbert, did his best to describe the indescribable: "We became aware how silent the night was, almost as if nature itself had stopped breathing – a snatch of breath which she held for a moment in her year-long cycle of roaring and screeching – a gasp and a pause as she looked with amazement at her own sublime beauty."



At Sea

DAY 11 | Tuesday 27 December 2022

Position at 0700 on 27 Dec

Latitude: 56°06'9" S

Longitude: 065°53'0" W

Course: 338°

Speed: 13.3 knots

Wind Speed: WSW 7

Barometer: 1006

Air Temp: x°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 we awoke again to the open seas of the Drake Passage, with slightly windier conditions than the previous day. However, thanks to our Captain and crew's well-timed navigation between the weather windows, and the innovative design of our vessel, conditions were still comfortable.

By 10:00am, land was sighted again as we approached Isla Lennox and Isla Nueva on our way towards the Beagle channel. It is truly remarkable the feelings that are evoked upon sighting land after an ocean passage. You feel a change in the sea and swell conditions, you can smell the fresh scent of the vegetation on land, and you feel an overwhelming sense of security knowing that you will soon again be in sheltered waters. You can only imagine how much more significant this feeling would have been for voyagers of old, who relied on far less technology and forecasting ability than we have in this modern age.

For the morning lecture, Daniel regaled us with a wonderful presentation on Ice, and we learned about the full life cycle of the ice we were seeing during the voyage, from snowflake to glacier to melting iceberg.

By lunchtime we had entered the Beagle Channel and were finally out of the swell and back in sheltered seas. This brought an end to our second crossing of the Drake Passage. We were very lucky on our voyage to experience only moderate but still comfortable conditions on both crossings. Being close to land, more birdlife was sighted around the vessel, with black browed albatross, imperial cormorants, giant petrels and Chilean skuas being commonly spotted.

Around 3pm, we passed the pilot station and picked up the pilot to safely navigate the ship into the port of Ushuaia. At the same time, Conrad presented us with an in-depth lecture on bird migration and movement, while expertly describing the variety of birds that we encountered during our voyage. It is incredible to note that we have seen 26 species of birds during this trip as well as seven species of marine mammal. A testament to the diversity of life in the Southern Ocean.

At 6pm we enjoyed a farewell cocktail with our Captain and were alongside the wharf in Ushuaia shortly afterward. After a delicious farewell dinner, it was time to hit the town for some of us, while for others it was time to get a good night's sleep before our early departure the following day.



Reflecting back on the trip, it is amazing to think of what we all have experienced over the last 12 days. We have been the furthest south of any Antarctic Peninsula vessel this season; we plunged into the freezing waters of the Gerlache Strait; we camped, paddled, snorkelled, snowshoed and landed at so many unique places; and we all shared in the camaraderie and spirit of adventure that goes with a voyage down to the mighty frozen continent of Antarctica! This adventure is something that I am certain we will all remember for the rest of our lives.



Ushuaia

DAY 12 | Wednesday 28 December

Position at 0500 on 28 Dec
Latitude: 54°48.6" S
Longitude: 068°16'8" W

Course: Docked
Speed: Docked

Wind Speed: SW 2
Barometer: 1015

Air Temp: 5°C

Disembarkation day.

The entire Aurora Team thanks you for joining us on this adventure, and we hope to see you on the high seas again!



Kayaking Log

Kayak Masters: Ivan Klochkov, Anula Jochym, Erin Scott

Number of Paddlers: 20 Total Paddle Outings: 7 Total Distance Paddled: 30.75km

| Paddlers: | | |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Caius Freeman | Elisa Whitwell | Jay Chen |
| Rosie Payne | Phil Whitwell | Jiehua Zhou |
| Robert Hansen | Tiffany Albrecht | Paul Bao |
| Laurie Hansen | Bryce Klaput | Xiao Ping Bao |
| Connor Hansen | Nadine Keller | Joel Tilleson |
| Darcy Hansen | Leslie Goode | Madeline Campbell |
| | Susan Brown | Antony Torresan |

20 December 2022, AM: Cuverville Island - Distance: 5.4 km

Our first paddle of the trip. What a great introduction to the group and to the Antarctic waters. Once we had all settled into our boats, we embarked to Cuverville Island to see our first gentoo penguin rookery. Everyone had wide smiles, in spite of the concentrated scent wafting from the island, we begun to understand that in spite of their many endearing qualities, that penguins are also very stinky and chatty. Conrad took some fantastic photos of penguins porpoising in the water all around us as we paddled along the coastline. In addition to the penguins, we also saw many Antarctic terns, which cried as they circled around us, contemplating whether anyone in our party was edible. We paddled beneath Cuverville's soaring cliffs, which emerge dramatically from the sea, and admired the glaciers faces that nearly surrounded us. The Zodiacs were not able to land at this site due to accumulation of icebergs, which made for an interesting vista as we returned to the ship, full of anticipation for the days to come.

22 December 2022, AM: Stonington Island - Distance: 4.5 km

How many of us in the past even imagined paddling below the Antarctic Circle? Yet here we were, on a truly gorgeous day at Stonington Island - a piece of rock sitting just below the mountains and glaciers of the magnificent Fallieres Coast. Glassy conditions, sunshine, and floating icebergs were the only suggestions we needed to get back in our boats. The spectacular Northeast Glacier, which used to bridge the gap between the island and the Peninsula, delivered some fantastic forms of ice sculpture. Without a doubt most of us were really tempted to paddle under these otherworldly ice archers, so peacefully bobbing in the lagoon. But as confirmed by Bryce's photograph, that would have proven to be a deadly idea, as one of the stunning icebergs crumbled within the next hour or two, to our surprise. But witnessing dramatic changes in ice was not the highlight of the day. Rosie and Caius, who we dearly missed on our paddle that day, had a more important thing to do: get married! These two chose this exceptional location for their wedding, being the only known couple to do so on Stonington Island, adding to the fantastic history of the place. After we landed, we went to explore the British scientific base 'E' and its over 50-year-old (yet newly updated) history.

23 December 2022, AM: Yalour Islands - Distance: 3.85 km

It was sunny and a bit windy this morning as we dropped an anchor near Yalour Islands. We were super excited to paddle there – the site looked just amazing with all those little skerries and small protected bays for us to explore. We had to push through the wind and little choppy waves before we made it into the shelter of the islands. Once we approached the rocky coastline, we saw lots of different penguins – it was unusual to see gentoos, adelies and chinstraps on the same rocks, really close to each other. We also saw some Weddell seals chilling on the ice. The landing site was not comfortable to land with kayaks, so we decided to spend more time exploring sheltered passages among the rocks. We had an amazing time playing in shallow waters and eventually circumnavigated the main island and went back to the ship with a little help the wind that was blowing towards it. Once we got back to the ship, we noticed that the beautiful cathedral-like iceberg that we were observing on the way to the islands collapsed – more evidence of how unstable ice can be. What a glorious paddle.

23 December 2022, PM: Port Charcot - Distance: 5.5 km

At Port Charcot, we experienced ice like we hadn't before on this trip. Due to geographical constriction and current patterns, this area accumulates icebergs and creates a bizarre but amazing 'graveyard' or 'city' of ice. As we paddled out from the ship, we felt what it was like to move our boats through brash ice, and also to see how quickly the ice can move around us. We realise in times like these how small we are on the water, weaving through these massive sculptures that each have their own form and characteristics. The sun shone and the wind was light on this beautiful day, so we paddled west past Hervéou Point as far as we could before towing the kayaks back with the Zodiac, and cruising back to the ship. Our turnaround point was marked by a mysterious seal which evaded firm identification on the water, but was later confirmed by Caius's photos to be a leopard seal. We watched the seal languish on a patch of snow with an oddly calm penguin laying right nearby. Eventually another seal approached in the water, surprising us with a sudden snort out of the water behind us. Our original specimen then flopped spectacularly into the water, making a great ending to a very cool paddle, unlike any other so far.

24 December 2022, PM: Fournier Bay - Distance: 3 km

Experiencing a snowy Christmas Eve in a kayak in Fournier Bay is an outing not to forget. There was something unbelievably exhilarating about setting off into big flakes of falling snow that were slowly covering our boats. As we paddled away from the ship and the noise of the Zodiacs, we entered a different landscape: the ice cliffs towering over the bay came into focus and with that the realization of the magnitude of the coastline. Our photographer Jamie made sure to freeze this memory in time by taking some fantastic photos of us while we were making our way through the brash ice. We had to hurry as the channels in that floating ice field would close up surprisingly quickly. As the snow got thicker our excitement grew too; without a doubt, Ivan's display of neat dance moves as he was cruising in a Zodiac alongside was the best proof of that. With the ship almost out of sight, we decided to stop and take it all in. That moment of meditation made it very apparent that we are not at all in a quiet place - the crispy sound of snow hitting the surface of the water, icebergs and ice floes pushing each other out of their way, the sounds of the breathing glacier and the calvings far in the distance... Antarctica was speaking to us and we were finally able to listen. But our time on the water was coming to an end and Nadine seemed to sense it - with a casual but insistent cough, she signalled it was time to head back. We left the sound of silence behind us as we cruised back to the ship where warmth and Christmas were awaiting us.

25 December 2022, AM: Enterprise Island - Distance: 4.5 km

This outing was a special one. We had a stand-by time at 5.00am, which only of the two keenest paddlers decided to attempt! Early morning outings are always special, and this one was no exception. It is hard to describe the beauty of dawn skies in Antarctica. And even though that morning wasn't sunny, we observed beautifully coloured clouds that add so much dynamic perspective and drama to the surrounding landscape, which was already beautiful, itself! A small team moves fast, so we explored lots of hidden bays of Enterprise Island and finally got to its main attraction – the *Governoren* shipwreck at Foyn Harbour. The story of this Norwegian vessel is remarkable: back in 1915, it was the largest whaling factory ship operating in Antarctica, producing over 83,000 litres of oil. On January 27, 1915, the crew was wrapping up the whaling mission with a huge party. At some point the party went so wild that someone (perhaps dancing too maniacally) knocked the lamp off the table and accidentally set the ship on fire. The oil she was carrying further fuelled the fire and it went out of control. The captain managed to set the vessel aground and entire crew of 85 people were able to escape to be rescued by another whaling ship. So, to this day we can observe the traces of the huge and quite expensive party that went too far. The end of the paddle was easy – we jumped in a Zodiac, dragged our kayaks on top of it and drove back to the ship, seeking coffee and a good breakfast.

25 December 2022, AM: Portal Point - Distance: 4 km

We couldn't have asked for a better paddle to wrap up the expedition. After an early start at Enterprise Island, we somehow still had great energy and enthusiasm for an exploration of Portal Point and into Charlotte Bay. We took off at record speed from the ship, showing how far our paddling abilities had evolved since our first outing at Cuverville Island, seemingly ages ago. We were a cohesive group, with everyone helping and looking out for each other. While the forecast warned of some gusting winds, the bay was protected, and we enjoyed near-glassy conditions and sunshine peeking through dramatic clouds. Once rounding the point, we followed a spectacular glaciated coastline, and explored the skerries and shallow waters of Charlotte Bay, encountering a few sleepy Weddell seals along the way. We took a great group photo and selfie with Anula in the Zodiac to commemorate the journey we've been on together, before heading towards our landing site and setting foot on the Antarctic continent! For many, it was the seventh and final continent they visited, and there were celebratory photos to be had for this achievement. We were able to then climb up the snowy staircase left by the groups before us (we kayakers work smarter, not harder!), and explore the area before catching a Zodiac back to the ship, full of memories and Antarctic magic.





Alpine Activities Log

Alpine Guides: Jane Morris, Dan Phillips, Penny Goddard

Number of Snowshoers: 12

Number of Trekkers: 1

Total Outings: 3

Snowshoers:

Maritza Content

Viri Santos Costa

Amber Sprague Costa

Emmanuel Daniel

Beverly Goh

Sean Fisher

Jodi Greve

Suryaveer Lodha

David Richardson

Jeremy Schultz

Sam Schultz

Aijia Yan

Trekkers:

Gareth Phillips

18 December 2022: Drake Passage

At sea in the Southern Ocean, as a relatively benign crossing of the infamous Drake began. We were blessed with a strong wind off the starboard quarter, which kept the ship tracking efficiently at 14 knots in relative comfort.

We gathered as a group in the Library for our first briefing, and an insight into what lay ahead. A great turnout with everyone being present, despite some rolling sea swell.

20th December 2022: Cuverville Island

As icebergs began crowding out the landing zone, we were able to just sneak in for a drop off as a group of snowshoers, with Gareth our alpine trekker. We then found ourselves in the fortunate position of having the island to ourselves, as Gareth and Jane headed off, with us following, up to the top of the domed summit, all .232 metre of it, snowshoes essential all the way.

The snowshoe group traversed across a broad rib, with small gentoo penguin colonies dotted amongst the landscape, to an alternative pick up on the other side which was ice free. With light winds and atmospheric low clouds all contributing to a superb first outing in Antarctica.

22nd December 2022: Stonington Island

A small rocky knoll of land just off continental Antarctica provided the mornings excursion. Two old historic British and American bases provided a glimpse of an era past, as the team of snowshoers were on track maintenance duty. We stomped out a path in the snow for other passengers to travel more easily around in their muckboots, before we cut loose and free roamed around the island.

A Weddell seal lazed on the foreshore, in front of the terminal face of a large glacial mass spilling from mainland Antarctica, a magical backdrop to the already magical landscape.

25th December 2022: Portal Point

The main mornings outing was a continental landing at Portal Point – our first of such nature and the last excursion for the trip.

Gareth headed off with Penny and Dan up onto the broad ridge behind the landing – perfect alpine wandering terrain.

Monika and Jane enjoyed a great last outing with the group, as we headed up as far as time would allow, to give us an amazing panorama out over the bay, dotted with sunlit icebergs.

It was one of those magical moments where Antarctica was really bringing her best performance, with atmospheric clouds, towering landscape and a world of beauty around us. A great way to conclude our adventures.

And the Christmas Special kept on delivering, with some orcas joining us for our entry back into the Southern Ocean, and northbound to Ushuaia.





Snorkel Log

Snorkel Guide: Hannah Cowley, Patrick Horgan, Andrew Palma

Number of Snorkels: 9

Total Outings: 5

Snorkellers:

Angela Jezard

Ashley Steel

Damon McDonald

Dianne Carrington-Plano

Eric Mishke

Genetra Aaron

Genevieve Pritchard

Joseph Plano

Mikolai Pritchard

20 December 2022, AM: Cuverville Island

A beautiful Antarctic morning greeting us for our first outing with a slight chill in the air. We had planned to land on the rocky beach below the gentoo colonies on the western side of the island for a check-out snorkel from the shore. The northeasterly wind had filled the small bay with bergy bits and growlers making the landing near impossible. Instead, we joined the rest of the expeditioners on a Zodiac cruise along the ice-covered western side of the island, with the early morning sun refracting its many colours off the larger icebergs. On our journey we encountered numerous gentoo penguins in the water, crabeater seals hauled out on the ice and a solitary humpback having a leisurely swim.

20 December 2022, PM: Goudier Island & Jouglar Point

After a warming coffee and another sumptuous lunch, it was time to don the suits once again and get that check-out snorkel ticked off. But first, a quick landing at Port Lockroy, where the expeditioners were warmly greeted by the station staff before enjoying the living museum and a quick spot of shopping. Into the Zodiac with their souvenirs for the quick shuttle ride across to Jougla Point, a shallow rocky ledge, adjacent to the gentoo penguin colony. Hood on, gloves on, mask on, it was time to get wet. Looking like giant red and blue penguins but feeling like navy seals, we marched bravely side by side into the chilly waters of Antarctica. The water was crisp and clear, with the rocky sea floor scattered with whale bones, remnants of a bygone era. The snorkellers were overjoyed by the penguin interactions they were lucky to have, with a number of curious gentoos approaching them underwater. It was the perfect introduction to polar snorkelling!

22 December 2022, AM: Stonington Island (British Base E and US Base East)

We woke up to a moody, grey sky and jagged mountain peaks amongst the ice and snow. Well below the Antarctic Circle, we ventured out to snorkel where very few people have snorkelled before. Everyone headed ashore to explore the British and US bases on the island. Neither base is in use by either country, but it is very cool to see some of the oldest scientific bases on the peninsula. We had hoped to head around to the western side of the islands but it was quite choked with ice and bergy bits, and the visibility looked quite poor. Once we had everyone back on board we headed to our scouted site, which lie to the northeast of the landing site. In the water, the bottom was rubbly with kelp across the sea floor and we were able to swim amongst larger bergy bits

and see what the ice looks like below the surface. Several sea butterflies, limpets and krill were sighted. It was a great snorkel and gave everyone the bragging rights forever "I snorkelled below the Antarctic Circle".

23 December 2022, AM: Yalour Islands

A crisp, bright blue sky and sunny morning felt warmer than the forecast minus one degree Celsius. A quick landing and march up the hill. Three different species of penguin in one spot – adelie, gentoo and chinstrap. Across from the landing area there is a line of rocks marking the opposite side of the channel. We travelled to the northern end then did a U-turn to our starboard to come back behind those rocks into a hidden bay with crystal clear shallow water and protection from the wind. A pebbly bottom with weed, starfish, limpets, and an unidentified small green fish were sighted here. Quite a few inquisitive penguins kept an eye on us from the rocks. A few small groups bathed and cleaned themselves in the bay. They tended to be less cautious of the Zodiac than the snorkellers with an occasional fly-by. A nice start to the day and great to be back in the water.

23 December 2022, PM: Point Charcot

With the primary landing site inaccessible due to brash ice and very few acceptable icebergs in the bay, we thought we would be kept out of the water. The waters to the west of the point seemed clearer and although there was a strong southerly current and a few eddies, the penguins were plentiful in large groups. Around the corner to a bay, on the north side of the island, we found clear shallow waters to the west of the landing site for the rest of the expeditioners. A short trek onto a flat part of the island saw the passengers have a nice walk and then back down for a snorkel. A rock bottom with weed, some starfish (pink/red), with a depth range from 1 metre to 8 metre as we moved away from the rocks. Penguins, penguins, penguins swimming on and off the rocks past the snorkellers. A solitary humpback made its way down the channel. Back into the Zodiac and a leisurely cruise back against the current making a few stops to watch the groups of penguins we had passed on the way up.

25 December 2022, AM: Pre Breakfast - Enterprise Island

I don't think anyone in the group would have thought they'd be awake at 4am on Christmas Day, donning their drysuits and getting ready to snorkel a shipwreck. But that's precisely what we did, and set off from the ship before 5am, across the bay to where the *Gubernuran* has laid on the shore for over 100 years. It was a beautiful white Christmas morning, with a light breeze and snow flurries around us as we slipped into the water and explored the wreck. We had a crabeater seal swim by the snorkel site, but no sightings underwater of our curious friend. Fortunately, we were able to include Katie and her partner for a morning snorkel, their first, and they didn't want to get out of the water.

Overall it was an incredible morning, and our final snorkel of the voyage, an incredible, unique place to round out our intrepid adventure both in and on the icy waters of Antarctica. The whole group were thrilled with the experience and couldn't wipe the smiles off their frozen faces.

25 December 2022, AM: Post Breakfast - Portal Point

Portal Point was our continental landing of the voyage, and it was decided to focus our attention and time on the landing site, offering the expeditioners the chance to soak in the once-in-a-lifetime experience that the trip has been. Everybody came ashore and marveled at the mountains and glaciers surrounding the snowy outcrop on which we stood, and watched the icebergs move gently through the bay. It was a humbling, reflective time, which was appreciated by all.





Bird and Mammal Sightings

Bird Species

December

| | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
|-------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Gentoo Penguin | | | | • | | | • | • | • | | | |
| Adelie Penguin | | | | | | • | • | • | | | | |
| Chinstrap Penguin | | | • | • | | | • | • | • | | | |
| Magellanic Penguin | • | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wandering Albatross | | • | • | | | | | | | | | • |
| Royal Albatross | | • | | | | | | | | | | • |
| Grey-headed Albatross | • | • | • | | | | | | | | | • |
| Black-browed Albatross | • | • | • | | | | | | | | • | • |
| Light-mantled Sooty Albatross | | | • | | | | | | | | | |
| Southern Fulmar | | | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | | |
| Northern Giant Petrel | • | • | • | | | | | | | | | • |
| Southern Giant Petrel | • | • | | • | • | | | • | | | | |
| Cape Petrel | | • | • | • | • | • | | | | | | |
| Blue Petrel | | • | | | | | | | | | • | |
| White-chinned Petrel | | • | | | | | | | | | | • |
| Wilson's Storm Petrel | | | • | • | | • | • | • | | • | • | |
| Magellanic Diving Petrel | | | | | | | | | | | | • |
| Common Diving Petrel | | • | | | | | | | | | | |
| Antarctic Prion | | • | | | | | | | | | | • |
| Antarctic Tern | | | | • | | • | | • | • | | | |
| South American Tern | • | | | | | | | | | | | • |
| South Polar Skua | | | | | | | | • | | | | |
| Brown Skua | | | | • | • | • | | • | • | | | |
| Chilean Skua | • | | | | | | | | | | | • |
| Dolphin Gull | • | | | | | | | | | | | • |
| Kelp Gull | • | | | • | | | • | • | | | | • |

Bird Species

December

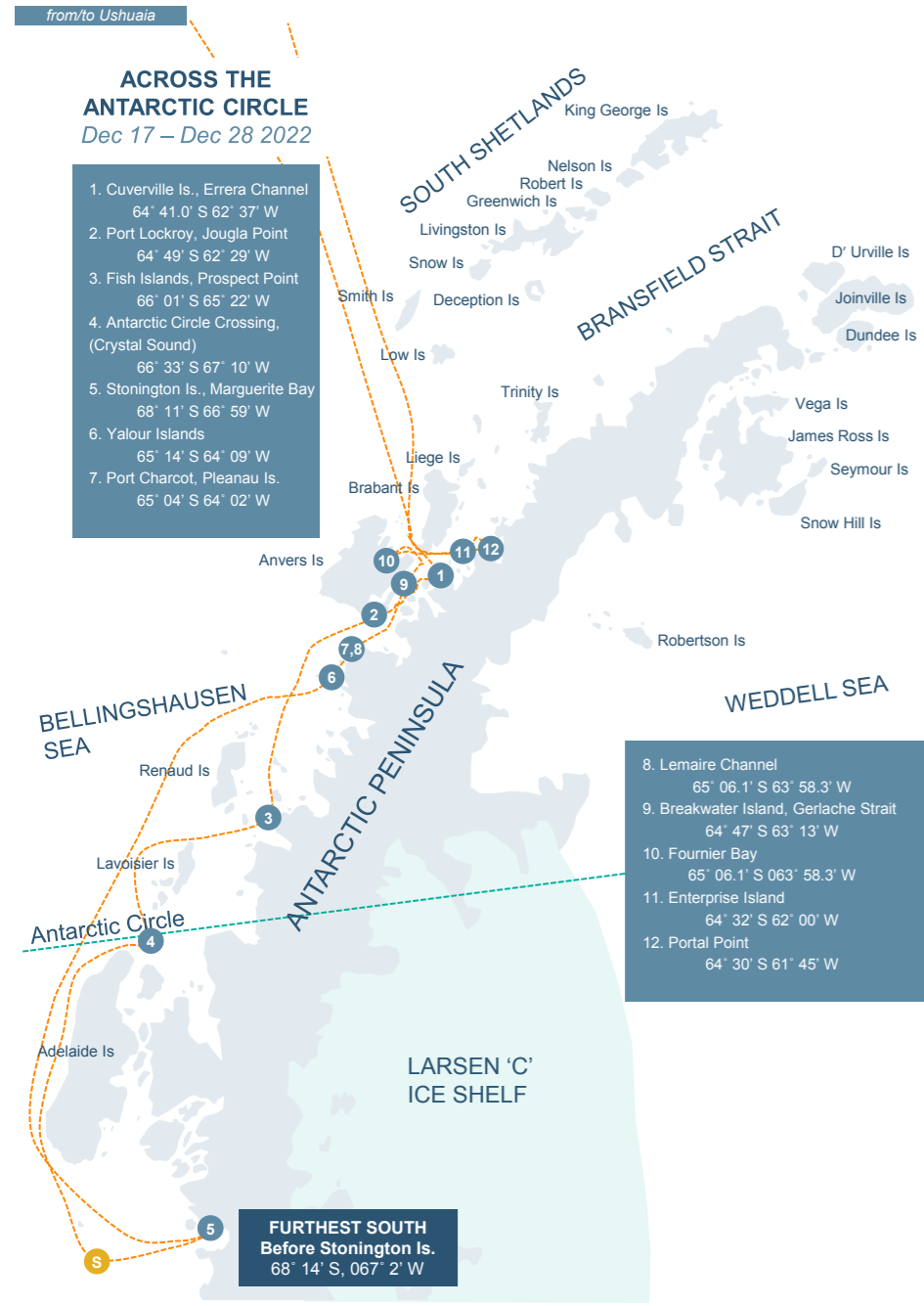
| | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Sooty Shearwater | | | | | | | | | | | | • |
| Snowy Sheathbill | | | | | | | | | • | | • | |
| Antarctic Shag | | | | | | | | | • | • | • | |
| Imperial Shag | | | | | | | | | | | | • |
| Rock Shag | | | | | | | | | | | | • |
| Turkey Vulture | | | | | | | | | | | | • |

Mammal Species

December

| | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| South American Sea Lion | • | | | | | | | | | | | • |
| Crabeater Seal | | | | | | • | | | • | | | |
| Weddell Seal | | | | • | | • | | | • | | | |
| Leopard Seal | | | | | | | | • | | | | |
| Dusky Dolphin | | | | | | | | | | | | • |
| Hourglass Dolphin | | | | | | • | | | | | | |
| Killer Whale | | | | | | | | | | | | • |
| Antarctic Minke Whale | | | | | | • | | | | | | |
| Humpback Whale | | • | • | • | | | • | • | • | | | |
| Fin Whale | | | | | | | | | | | | • |







Expeditioners:

Genetra Aaron

Tiffany Albrecht

Nick Antonopoulos

Christian Bang

Paul Bao

Xiaoping Bao

Jay Bender

Patricia Berwick

Edward Berwick

Sue Brown

Madeline Campbell

Dianne Carrington-Plano

Jay Chen

Maritza Content

John Cowdry

LouAnn Cozzens Westall

Anne Cushman

Tom De Castro Ramis

Hui Xian Ding

Sean Fischer

John Frederick

Renee Frederick

Caius Freeman

Beverly Goh

Elisa Goncalves Whitwell

Leslie Goode

Geoff Grant

Oliver Grant

Avery Grant

Sherry Grant

Geoff Grant

Jodi Greve

Bob Hansen

Lauri Hansen

Connor Hansen

Darcy Hansen

Katie Havas

Sarah Hobson

Simon Hobson

Hou Hou

Keith Jelley

Sean Jelley

Angie Jezard

Nadine Keller

Bryce Klaput

Martina Koehler

Christoph Koehler

Dean Kopesky

Pete Kuhlman

Wendie Kuhlman

David Kuhlman

Liz Kuhlman

Cynaera Lewis

Shiwei Li

Jerry Lin

Andrew Lind

Suryaveer Lodha

Megan Matson

Caroline McIntyre

Damon McDonald

Mitch Mishke

Esther Mistarz

Thuan Nguyen

Rosie Payne

Gareth Phillips

Griffyn Pilcher

Joe Plano Jr.

Sally Potosky

Heidi Price

Anthony Price

Genevieve Pritchard

Mikolai Pritchard

Silvia Ramis Raubert

Esra Rice

David Richardson

Mike Roberts

Nancyann Ropke

Viri Santos Costa

Samantha Schultz

Jeremy Schultz

Amit Shilo

Ronen Shilo

Frank Smith

Connie Smith

Shona Spence

Amber Sprague Costa

Jennifer Staley

Mark Staley

Ashley Steel

Sara Stein

Cathy Sun

Joel Tilleson

Anthony Torresan

Doug West

Jennifer West

Roy Westall Westall

Phil Whitwell

Yeqiao Wu

Nancy Xu

Jean Xue

Aijia Yan

Shuxiaz Zhang

Jie Hua Zhou

Expedition Team:

Expedition Leader: Dan Stavert

Assistant Expedition Leader: Isabelle Howells

Assistant Expedition Leader Trainee: Andrea Herbert

Onboard Expedition Manager: Anne Oeyasaeter

Historian: Ben Maddison

Marine Biologist / Citizen Science Coordinator: Dani Abras

Naturalist: Graham "Snowy" Snow

Naturalist: Laura Williams

Naturalist: Leo Soilbelzon

Ecologist: Ryan Burner

Lead Sea Kayak Guide: Ivan Klochkov

Sea Kayak Guide: Erin Scot

Sea Kayak Guide: Anula Jochym

Lead Alpine Guide: Jane Morris

Alpine Guide: Dan Phillips

Alpine Guide: Penny Goddard

Alpine Guide: Monika Bischof

Snorkel Guide: Andrew Palma

Snorkel Guide: Hannah Cowley

Snorkel Guide: Pat Hogan

Expedition Medic: Mari Fleri

Photography Guide: Jamie Lafferty

Zodiac Master: Conrad West

Mudroom/Shopkeeper: Gabriel Hernandez

Senior Officers & Heads of Department:

Master: Vadym Tavrovetsky

Chief Officer: Alexandru Taraoi

Safety Officer: Alexandru Chiriac

Bosun: Giovanni Dela Torre

Deck Cadet: Miguel Delgado

Deck Cadet: Goncalo Alexandra Saraiva Aniceto Costa

Ship Doctor: Anzor Chomakhidze

Chief Engineer: Dimitar Vasilev

Hotel Director: Ulises Cantillo

Chief Purser: Willie Lirio

Executive Chef: Ron Reyes

Head Waiter: Allan Liscaro

IT Officer: Ihor Yesmieniev

Receptionist: Jeremiah Castillo

Receptionist: Pirma Pakpahan

Head Stateroom: Tyron Cayasso Hodgson

Able Seaman: Muhammad Karier

Able Seaman: Ramanda Vitrian

Able Seaman: Hardik Rao

Able Seaman: Ajay Fnu

Able Seaman: Andrii Mezentsev

Able Seaman: John Noble

Photography thanks to:

Jamie Lafferty





