



Welcome!
We look forward
to exploring the
Antarctic Peninsula,
South Georgia &
Falkland Islands
with you!



Cape Horn

Cape Horn is the southernmost tip of the American continent. It was discovered in 1616 by the Dutch sailor Willem Schouten, along with Jacob Lemaire. In the days of sail, rounding the Horn from east to west was a major event. It usually meant a dramatic shift in sea and weather conditions as the ship moved from one ocean system to the other. The meeting point of the Atlantic and Pacific breeds violent and unpredictable weather. A Chilean naval detachment is stationed at the Horn, manned by officers posted from their normal base of Puerto Williams in the Beagle Channel.

Position at 0700 on Mar 14

Latitude: 54°48.60.' S

Longitude: 068°11.9' W

Course: @anchor°

Speed: @anchor

Barometer: 988

Wind: ENE 2 knots

Air: 9°

PENGUIN POST

Ushuaia

Tuesday 14 March 2023 aboard the *Sylvia Earle*

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 1600, 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 *M/V Sylvia Earle*.

Onboard we total 93 Expeditioner's 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.

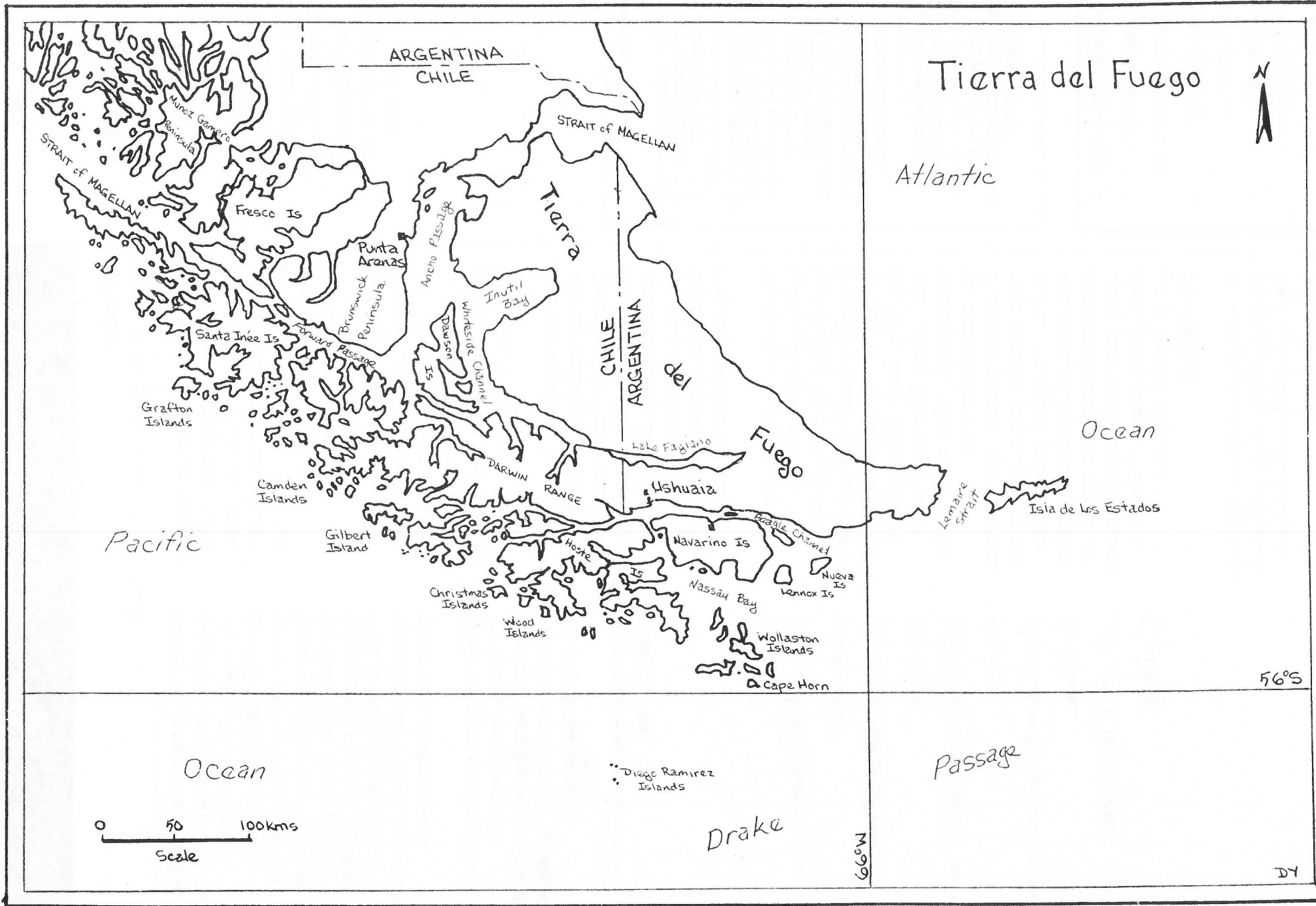
By 7:30 pm it was time to head into the dining rooms where a delicious meal was served complete with a delectable dessert.

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.

Written by onboard expedition manager Anne.

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'





FUN CHALLENGES DURING OUR VOYAGE!

- Polar plunge!!
- Go tech free for 24 hours
- Play the piano in the bar
- Contribute your favourite photos to our end of voyage slideshow!

Light:

Whether you're photographing amazing icebergs, arctic foxes or your adventurous travelling companion, photography is all about light. Wherever possible position yourself to have the sun behind you with your subject illuminated by the sun. Overcast days present optimum conditions for photographing your subject, with even diffused light which can create a greater sense of mood or drama.

Position at 0700 on Mar 15

Latitude: 56° 27.7' S

Longitude: 060° 29.5' W

Course: 186°

Speed: 12 knots

Barometer: 997

Wind: NW 4

Air: 8°

PENGUIN POST

Day at Sea, cruising through the Drake Passage

Wednesday 15 March 2023 aboard the Sylvia Earle

Today our first full sea day, we made good progress south across Drake's Passage despite the heavy weather. In the morning we had two meter swell on our starboard bow and winds on occasion that 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. We all then had an antigen test which meant later we no longer had to wear masks. This was followed by the bio security exercise which involved examining our used 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 outer wear.

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 Wandering 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. Max presented his invaluable *Smart Phone Photography Tips* late afternoon to help us make 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 km 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 5 degrees F, 3 degrees C. We have now crossed into Antarctica according to the ecological definition.

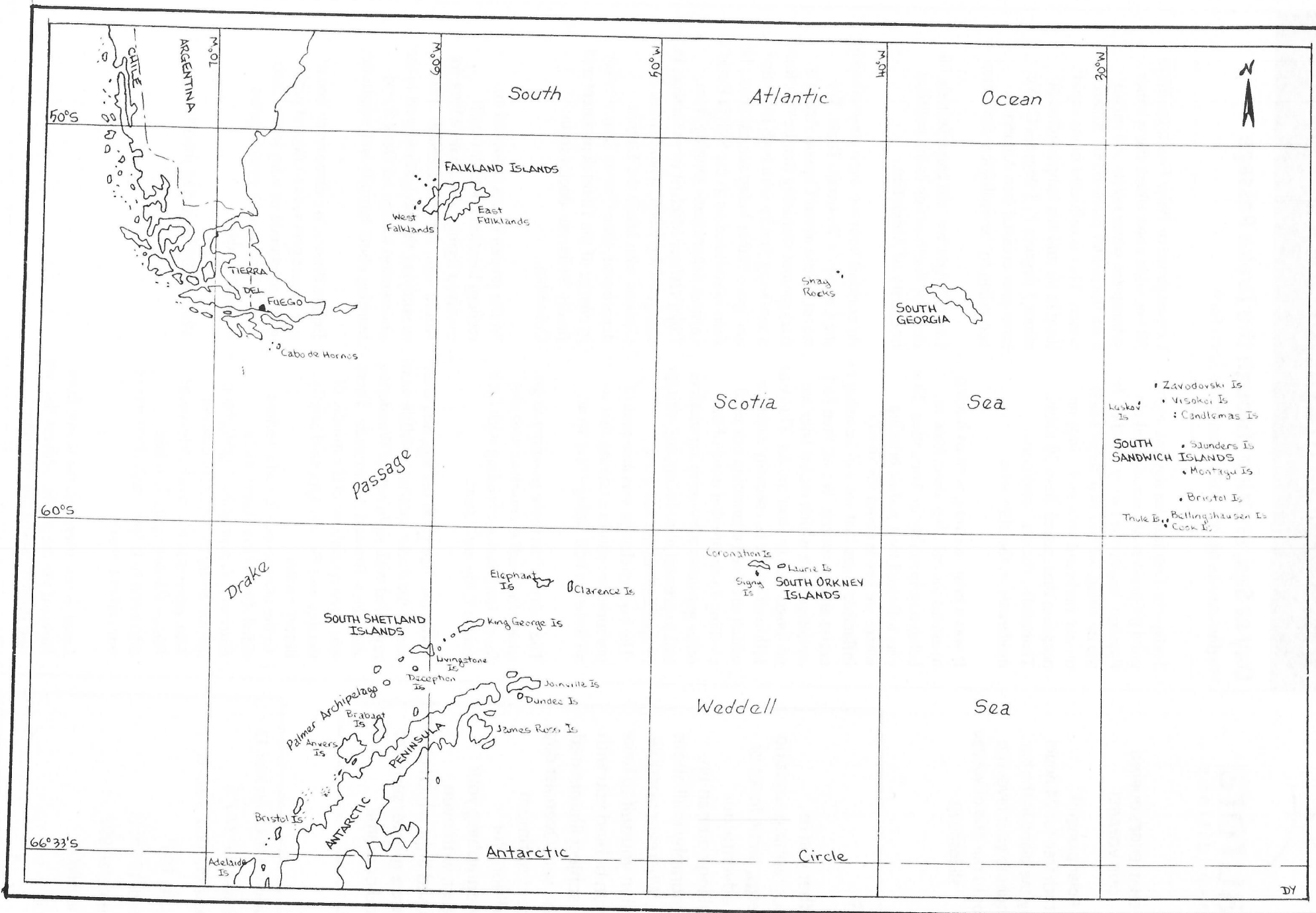
Later tonight we will cross latitude 60 degrees South which is the political boundary of Antarctica.

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, from 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!

Written by historian Jonathan





aurora
expeditions

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*

Family names of penguin genera

Aptenodytes: wingless diver

King, emperor

Pygoscelis: brush-tailed

Adelie, gentoo, chinstrap

Eudyptes: true diver

Rockhopper, macaroni, royal, snares-crested, erect-crested, fiordland-crested

Megadyptes: big diver

Yellow-eyed

Eudyptula: little true diver

Little blue

Spheniscus: little wedge

Magellanic, African, Humboldt, Galapagos

Position at 0700 on Mar 16

Latitude: 61°.43.20' S

Longitude: 067°30.10' W

Course: 186°

Speed: 13.6 knots

Barometer: 989

Wind: ESE 2 knots

Air: 4°

PENGUIN POST

At Sea

Thursday 16 March 2023 aboard the *Sylvia Earle*

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!

Written by kayak guide Ivan

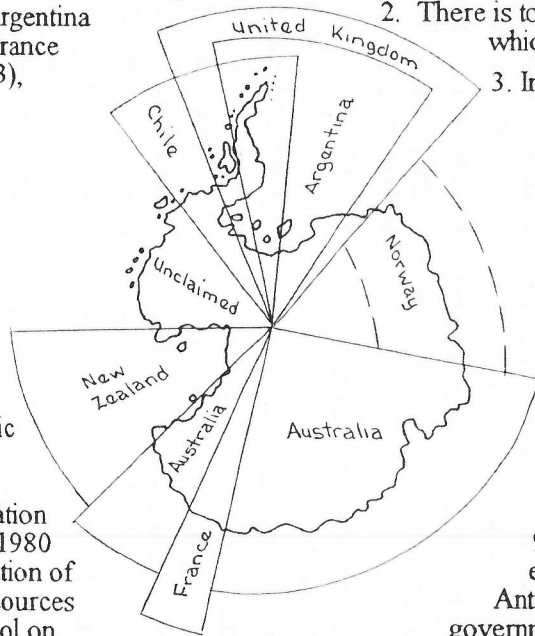
THE ANTARCTIC TREATY

Many countries have made territorial claims to Antarctica over the years based upon discovery, occupation and geographical contiguity. Today, seven countries still maintain official claims upon parts of Antarctica: Argentina (1943), Australia (1933), France (1924), New Zealand (1923), Norway (1939), and the United Kingdom (1908).

On 1 December 1959 the Antarctic Treaty was signed by the 12 nations which operated scientific stations during the International Geophysical Year of 1957-58.

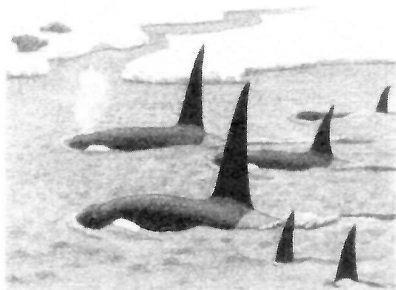
The Antarctic Treaty System includes the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), 1972 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (CCAS); 1980 Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR); & 1991 Protocol on Environmental Protection.

Current signatories to the Antarctic Treaty are: Argentina; Australia; Austria; Belgium; Brazil; Bulgaria; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Cuba; Czech Republic; Denmark; Ecuador; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Guatemala; Hungary; India; Italy; Japan; Nth Korea; Sth Korea; Norway; Netherlands; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Poland; Romania; Russia; Slovakia; Sth Africa; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Ukraine; United Kingdom; USA; Uruguay.



The Treaty consists of 14 Articles:

1. Antarctica shall be used for peaceful purposes only (no military bases, fortifications, maneuvers or weapons testing are permitted), but military equipment and personnel may be used to assist in scientific and other peaceful purposes.
2. There is to be a freedom of scientific investigation and any international co-operation which may be needed toward that end.
3. Information regarding Antarctic scientific programs, as well as scientific personnel and the results of scientific work, will be exchanged to permit maximum co-operation, efficiency and economy of operations.
4. This Treaty is not to be interpreted as a renunciation by any signatory nation of previously asserted rights or territorial claims, and no new such claims may be made while the Treaty is in force.
5. Nuclear explosions and the disposal of nuclear wastes are prohibited in Antarctica.
6. The provisions of this Treaty apply to the areassouth of 60 S Latitude (except where precluded by the international law of the sea).
7. Any signatory may designate observers to inspect the activities, stations, equipment, vessels, etc., of any signatory state at any time or place.
8. Designated observers and scientific personnel in exchange programs come under the jurisdiction of their respective governments.
9. Representatives of all signatories shall meet at suitable intervals and places to exchange information, consult upon matters of common interest regarding Antarctica, and make recommendations concerning those matters to their respective governments.
10. Appropriate efforts will be made to ensure no one engages in activities contrary to the principles or purposes of this Treaty.
11. It is the responsibility of any the signatories involved in a dispute regarding this Treaty to consult among themselves peacefully in an attempt to resolve said dispute, and if this is not possible the matter is to be referred to the International Court of Justice for arbitration.
12. This Treaty may be modified or amended at any time by unanimous agreement of the signatories.
13. this Treaty is subject to ratification by all signatories, and is open for accession by any state which is a member of the United Nations, or any other state only by consent of all signatories.
14. This Treaty is written in English, French, Russian & Spanish, and these equally authentic versions are to be desoposited in the Archives of the U.S. Government.



Why is that iceberg so blue?

Blue ice can be indicative of very old glacial ice. As more layers of snow are deposited onto a glacier, the snow beneath gradually transforms into ice. The sheer weight of the upper part of the glacier slowly squeezes air bubbles from its lower levels of ice to form clear ice. Light penetrates deeper into clear ice and all but blue wavelengths of light are absorbed. This results in an iceberg with a luminous blue appearance.

Deep blue streaks and lines within icebergs may also result from melt water that drained into crevices within the glacier or iceberg and later refroze.

Position at 0700 Mar 17

Latitude: 66°54.0' S

Longitude: 067°14.8' W

Course: 108°

Speed: 10.6 knots

Barometer: 990

Wind: SSE 6 knots

Air: 2°

PENGUIN POST

Crossing the Antarctic Circle, Horseshoe Island

Friday 17 March 2023 aboard the *Sylvia Earle*

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 were 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 meters 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 of 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.

Written by zodiac manager Zak



CAPTAIN COOK'S OATH

On the 17th January 1773, 250 years ago plus 59 days to this day, Friday March 17th 2032, Captain James Cook pioneered the first crossing over the Antarctic Circle with his two trusty ships, Resolution and Adventure.

His profound and exceptional skill of navigation in the icebound waters of the Antarctic has given us the opportunity to follow in his footsteps and in the trails of his mighty comrades.

Not only are we celebrating Captain James Cook's feat, we are honouring a long and intrepid line of historic explorers: Englishmen Sir Ernest Shackleton and Robert Falcon Scott, Norwegian explorers Roald Amundsen and Fridtjof Nansen, and of course the great Australian Sir Douglas Mawson, to name a few.

With an ongoing thirst for more discovery, polar travel and scientific research, we now will take the pledge that all our fellow expeditioners here today, on our trusty steed Sylvia Earle, have become true ambassadors to the Antarctic Continent and its surrounding waters:

WE WILL KEEP ANTARCTICA PRISTINE AND UNTOUCHED FOR
PEACE, HARMONY AND NATURE.

SO BE IT!



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

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

Position at 0800 on Mar 18
Latitude: 66°41.10' S
Longitude: 068°27.40' W
Course: 038°
Speed: 13.4 knot
Barometer: 980
Wind: SW 5/6 knots
Air: 2°

PENGUIN POST

Prospect Point

Saturday 18 March 2023 aboard the *Sylvia Earle*

I have spent many years guiding kayak expeditions in East Greenland, but this is my first time in Antarctica. This is the last of three voyages I will be doing with Aurora this season.

Well, I can tell you today was the best day I have had down here since I arrived in February.

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 kts. That is impressive!

The morning lecture was very well attended, it was all about Plankton. Everyone was entertained by Russel'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 trees and deforestation and the impact that has.

Early on there was quite a covering of snow on the Xbow 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 ice bergs 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 hp to force our way to shore.

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

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

Written by kayak guide Martin



Blue



Fin



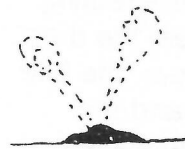
Humpback

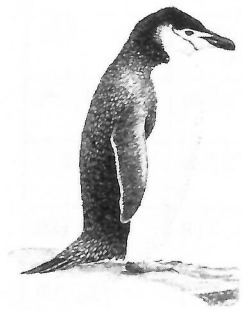


Sperm



Southern right





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*

Position at 0700 on Mar 19

Latitude: 65°18.2' S

Longitude: 064°17.8' W

Course: 023°

Speed: Drifting

Barometer: 975

Wind: E 3 knots

Air: 2°

PENGUIN POST

Yalour Islands, Plenaeanu/Port Charcot

Sunday 19 March 2023 aboard the Sylvia Earle

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 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 3 or 4 Humpbacks were spotted by the snorkelers 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 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 stop over at Wordie Hut! Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves this morning.

Back on board it was lunch time 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 snorkers 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 Channel. Such crazy walls of ice and rock that feel like they are literally hanging right on top of us! Once at recap we were educated on Humpbacks by Julia and primed and psyched for tomorrow by Howard. Antarctica is certainly not disappointing us so far!

Written by expedition guide Russell

BEAUFORT SCALE OF WIND

Beaufort Number	Descriptive Term	Mean velocity		SPECIFICATIONS	Probable wave height* in metres	Probable wave height* in feet
		Knots	m/s			
0	Calm	<1	0-0.2	Sea like a mirror	—	—
1	Light air	1-3	0.3-1.5	Ripples with the appearance of scales are formed, but without foam crests	0.1 (0.1)	¼ (¼)
2	Light breeze	4-6	1.6-3.3	Small wavelets, still short but more pronounced; crests have a glassy appearance and do not break	0.2 (0.3)	½ ½ (1)
3	Gentle breeze	7-10	3.4-5.4	Large wavelets; crests begin to break; foam of glassy appearance; perhaps scattered white horses	0.6 (1)	2 (3)
4	Moderate breeze	11-16	5.5-7.9	Small waves, becoming longer; fairly frequent white horses	1 (1.5)	3½ (5)
5	Fresh breeze	17-21	8.0-10.7	Moderate waves, taking a more pronounced long form; many white horses are formed (chance of some spray)	2 (2.5)	6 (8½)
6	Strong breeze	22-27	10.8-13.8	Large waves begin to form; the white foam crests are more extensive everywhere (probably some spray)	3 (4)	9½ (13)
7	Near gale	28-33	13.9-17.1	Sea heaps up and white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks along the direction of the wind	4 (5.5)	13½ (19)
8	Gale	34-40	17.2-20.7	Moderately high waves of greater length; edges of crests begin to break into the spindrift; the foam is blown in well-marked streaks along the direction of the wind	5.5 (7.5)	18 (25)
9	Strong gale	41-47	20.8-24.4	High waves; dense streaks of foam along the direction of the wind; crests of waves begin to topple, tumble and roll over; spray may affect visibility	7 (10)	23 (32)
10	Storm	48-55	24.5-28.4	Very high waves with long overhanging crests; the resulting foam, in great patches, is blown in dense white streaks along the direction of the wind; on the whole, the surface of the sea takes a white appearance; the tumbling of the sea becomes heavy and shock-like; visibility affected	9 (12.5)	29 (41)
11	Violent storm	56-63	28.5-32.6	Exceptionally high waves (small and medium-sized ships might be for a time lost to view behind the waves); the sea is completely covered with long white patches of foam lying along the direction of the wind; everywhere the edges of the wave crests are blown into froth; visibility affected	11.5 (16)	37 (52)
12	Hurricane	64 and over	32.7 and over	The air is filled with foam and spray; sea completely white with driving spray; visibility very seriously affected	14 (—)	45 (—)

* This table is only intended as a guide to show roughly what may be expected in the open sea, remote from land. It should never be used in the reverse way; i.e. for logging or reporting the state of the sea. In enclosed waters, or when near land, with an off-shore wind, wave heights will be smaller and the waves steeper. Figures in brackets indicate the probable/maximum height of waves.

WAVES

DESCRIPTIVE TERMS REFERRING TO WAVES

(A) For length of SWELL waves:

	Length in feet	Length in metres
Short	0-300	0-100
Average	300-600	100-200
Long	over 600	over 200

(B) For height of SWELL waves:

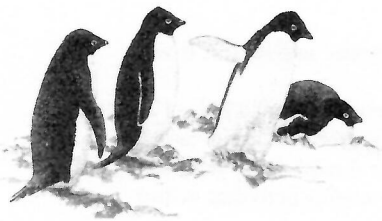
	Height in feet	Height in metres
Low	0-7	0-2
Moderate	7-13	2-4
Heavy	over 13	over 4

(C) For height of SEA waves:

Code Figure	Height in feet	Height in metres*
0. Calm—glassy	0	0
1. Calm—rippled	0-½	0-0.1
2. Smooth—wavelets	½-1	0.1-0.5
3. Slight	1½-4	0.5-1.25
4. Moderate	4-8	1.25-2.5
5. Rough	8-13	2.5-4
6. Very rough	13-20	4-6
7. High	20-30	6-9
8. Very high	30-45	9-14
9. Phenomenal	over 45	over 14

*The average wave height as obtained from the large well-formed waves of the wave system being observed.

Note—In all cases the exact bounding length or height is included in the lower category, e.g. a sea of 13 feet is described as "Rough". Some authorities may give the height of the waves in feet or metres instead of the above descriptive terms.



The Southern Ocean formed after Australia broke away from eastern Antarctica 42–38 million years ago, and the Drake Passage opened up between the Antarctic Peninsula and South America 30–34 million years ago. Prior to this time, sub-tropical currents circulated down along the Antarctic coastline, keeping it warm and vegetated.

Position at 0700 on Mar 20

Latitude: 64°49.7' S

Longitude: 053°31.7' W

Course: @anchor

Speed: @anchor

Barometer: 868

Wind: Light air 2 knots

Air: 3°

PENGUIN POST

Goudier Island/Jougla Point, Neko Harbour

Monday 20 March 2023 aboard the *Sylvia Earle*

On the morning of the 20th of March 2023, the rocks of the Antarctic Peninsula lay patiently waiting for the humans of the *MV 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 ascended the small island, the rocks became more intermediate (ie. 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 human 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 humans 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 (2825m, ish).

Arriving into Neko Harbour, the brash ice slowed the ship so that the humans 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 Anvord Bay was like looking back in time – the humans noticed layers and bedding in the rocks beyond. These sedimentary rocks are the oldest on the peninsula, telling the story of sediments layered down in shallow basins as the volcanoes of Gondwana were being eroded over 250 million years ago.

The horizontal late evening light celebrated the rocks in all their splendour and provided a perfect setting for the humans to eat delicious BBQ things outside and dance the night away. Another magnificent day in the long passage of geological time.

Written by geologist Stephi

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*

Antarctic Heritage Trust Information Sheet

Port Lockroy, Base A

Goudier Island, Wiencke Island 64°49'S, 63°29'W

Historic site and Monument No 61

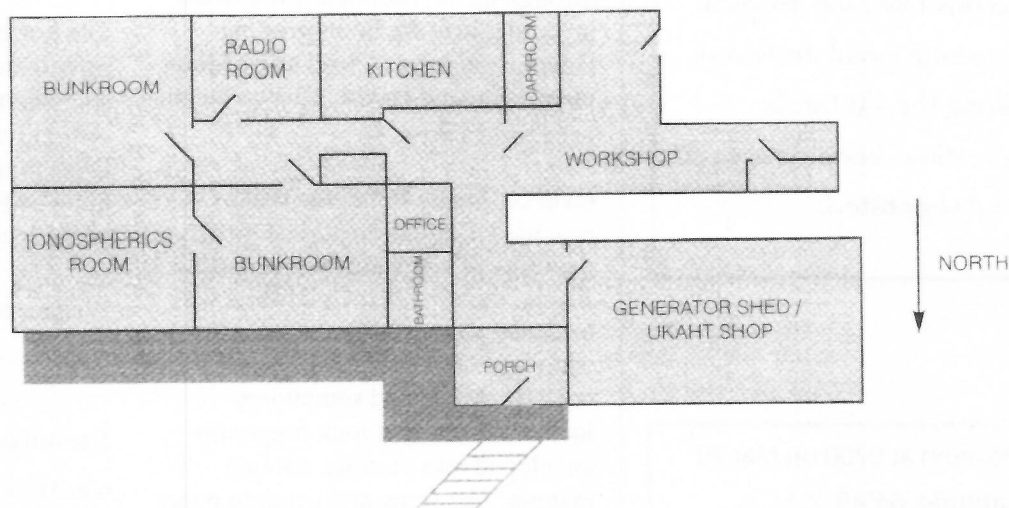


History of site

- Discovered in 1904 by Jean Baptiste Charcot, captain of the 'Francais', during the first French Antarctic expedition. It was named after a French politician who helped fund the expedition.
- The Port became known as a safe harbour and secure anchorage and was used by the whaling industry from 1911 - 1931. In those days they needed a good supply of fresh water to process the whales so proximity to the glacier was important.
- The base at Port Lockroy was established in 1944 during 'Operation Tabarin', a British World War II expedition (named after a famous Parisian nightclub of the time). The purpose of the Operation was to observe wartime enemy activities in and around the Peninsula.
- Following the end of the war the base was handed over to science. The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) operated the base as a science research station until 1962.
- The primary scientific work at Port Lockroy was ionospheric research (the study of the upper atmosphere) which was critical in understanding high frequency radio. Other scientific work included the study of how lichens, birds and mammals survived the harsh conditions of the Antarctic.
- The base closed in 1962 as the British had established other stations along the Peninsula.
- Port Lockroy's historical importance was recognised in 1995 when the Antarctic Treaty designated the site as Antarctic Historic Site and Monument (HSM) No 61.
- In 1996 a small team of four carpenters spent two to three months restoring the base as much as possible to its 1962 condition.
- The United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) took over management of Port Lockroy in 2006 and maintains the base on behalf of the UK.
- The UKAHT, a not-for-profit charity, employs a small team during the summer months to operate the base and welcome visitors. It is operated as a museum and representative British Antarctic base from the 1950s. The small gift shop and post office help to finance the operation of the museum, ongoing maintenance work to the buildings at Port Lockroy and all the conservation work that is carried out at other Historic Sites and Monuments on the Peninsula.

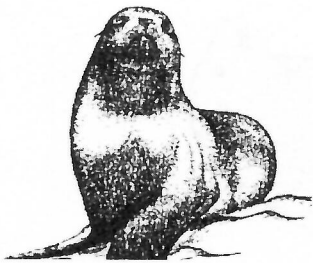
Building and structures Guide

- The main base building is Bransfield House constructed in 1944. It was enlarged in 1952 and 1953. In 1958 the generator shed was added to the main building.
- Today the generator shed houses the gift shop and post office that funds the UKAHT. The whole building is operated as a museum and as a representative British science base from the 1950s. Visitors are encouraged to explore the building. A number of interpretation posters are on site and the Port Lockroy team are on hand to answer any questions.
- The smaller structure to the north of the island is the boatshed, constructed in 1958. Nowadays it is used for storage.



Nissen hut (staff accommodation)

In 1944 a Nissen hut was built at Port Lockroy and used (for storage) throughout the bases operation. The original building collapsed sometime in the 1990s. The Nissen hut now on site is a replica of the original and was reconstructed in 2010 as accommodation for the seasonal staff. It is not part of the museum and therefore there is no entry to visitors. We ask that you please respect the privacy of the team.



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.

Position at 0700 Mar 21
Latitude: 64°13.7' S
Longitude: 061°34.7' W
Course: 040°
Speed: Drifting
Barometer: 984
Wind: SE 3 knots
Air: 6°

PENGUIN POST

Hydrurga Rocks, Recess Cove

Tuesday 21 March 2023 aboard the Sylvia Earle

Another glorious start to the day!

The sea was calm, 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 Antarctic. The wind had picked up

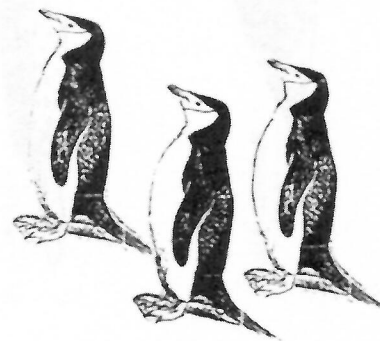
a little but it was still a smooth zodiac ride over to another continental landing at Recess Cove. Many ventured up the steep snowy slope to a magnificent viewpoint over the bay and the neighbouring glacier. It was spectacular! There were some crevasses visible in the distance and icebergs of all shapes and sizes in the water below. I read recently someone's description of icebergs – "the artwork of the ocean". A very apt description.

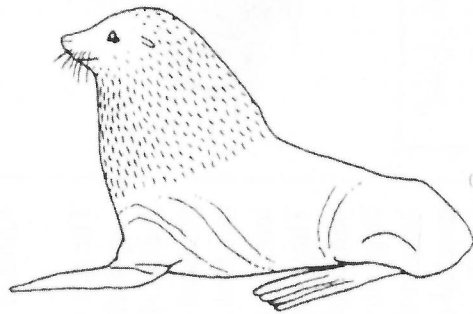
Following the landing, everyone was taken on a zodiac cruise in the bay. As always, time went by so quickly. There is just so much to see, hear and experience in this remote and rugged place.

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

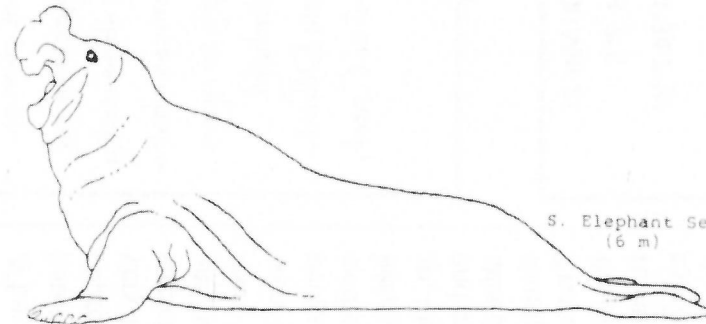
We have been really lucky with the weather so far, fingers crossed our luck holds!

Written by marine biologist /
citizen science coordinator Julia

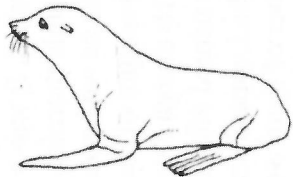




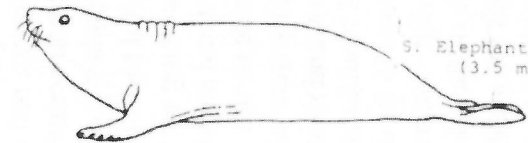
Fur Seal ♂
(2 m)



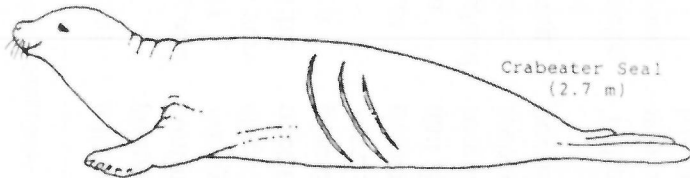
S. Elephant Seal ♂
(6 m)



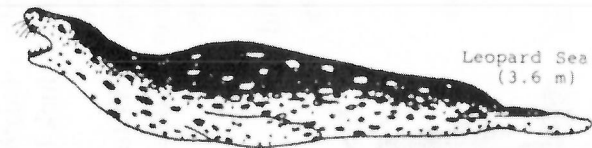
Fur Seal ♀
(1.5 m)



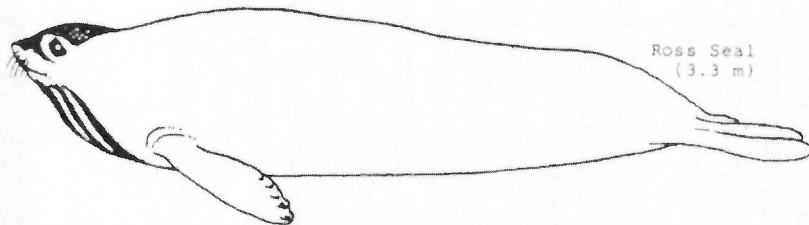
S. Elephant Seal ♀
(3.5 m)



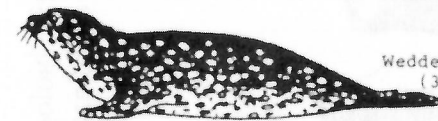
Crabeater Seal
(2.7 m)



Leopard Seal
(3.6 m)



Ross Seal
(3.3 m)



Weddell Seal
(3 m)



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

Krill

Krill spawn during the southern summer — December to March — with each female laying several thousand eggs in the upper layers of the ocean. The eggs sink for 10 days, then hatch as 'nauplii,' up to one kilometre down. The nauplii develop through various larval stages to adulthood.

Position at 0700 on Mar 22

Latitude: 63°57.1' S

Longitude: 069°48.0' W

Course: Drifting°

Speed: 3.2 knots

Barometer: 953

Wind: ENE 3

Air: 5°

PENGUIN POST

Mikkelsen Harbour

Wednesday 22 March 2023 aboard the Sylvia Earle

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 any one specifically, lemon yellow, bright apricot, burnt gold, mint green, deep amber, powder blue, 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 way through the Drake Passage, with windspeeds 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 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.

Written by naturalist Vicky

THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

The Southern Ocean consists of a broad band of generally turbulent water surrounding the continent of Antarctica. The northern limit of this ocean is about 40° S latitude. Westerly winds and the associated West Wind Drift, or Antarctic Circumpolar Current, are outstanding features of the Southern Ocean. They cause massive amounts of water to move constantly from west to east around Antarctica. This involves water from the surface down to about 3,000m stretched over a distance of some 24,000 kms. This averages some 130 million cubic meters of water per second continuously on the move.

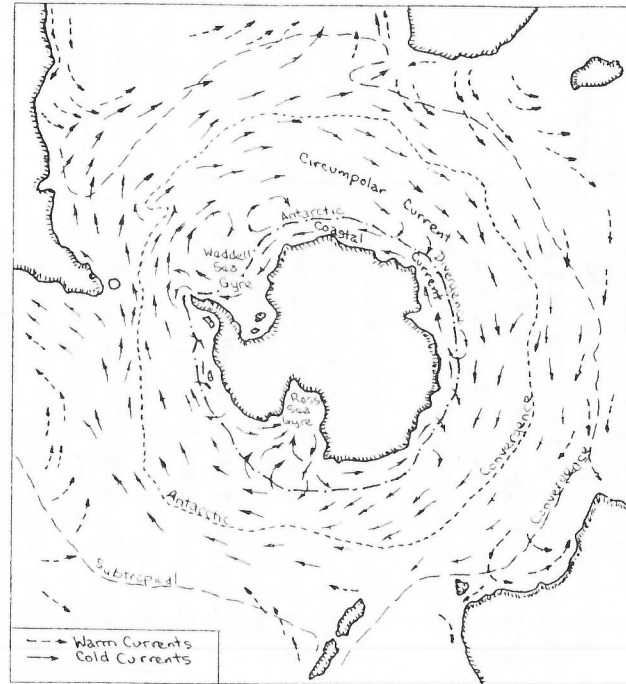
Farther south, however, easterly winds cause a westward-flowing current close to the continent – the East Wind Drift. Along much of the coast, particularly East Antarctica, this is a relatively narrow band, but where deflected by deep embayments, such as the Weddell, Bellingshausen and Ross Seas, it circulates in the form of clockwise gyres.

A ship sailing south to Antarctica will encounter a sharp drop in temperature between 49 and 55° S latitude. At this point one can detect subtle changes in both the ocean and the atmosphere. This delineates the "Antarctic Convergence", a zone that surrounds the continent.

Antarctic Convergence

The Antarctic Convergence is a natural boundary between the relatively warm Subantarctic Surface Water and the cold Antarctic Surface Water. The location of the convergence is not a precise line, but varies slightly throughout the year or from year to year, or even century to century. This zone of the convergence is an important and distinctive biological phenomenon influencing the distribution of plankton, fish and birds. The species found are quite distinct as one travels across it.

The water south of the convergence is often referred to as the "Antarctic Ocean". This covers an area of about 35,000 square kms, or 10% of the world's oceans. It contains the coldest and densest water on earth and is notable for its high biological productivity. It plays a major role in influencing oceanic circulation in the southern hemisphere, and indeed in governing the climate of the planet.



Antarctic Ocean

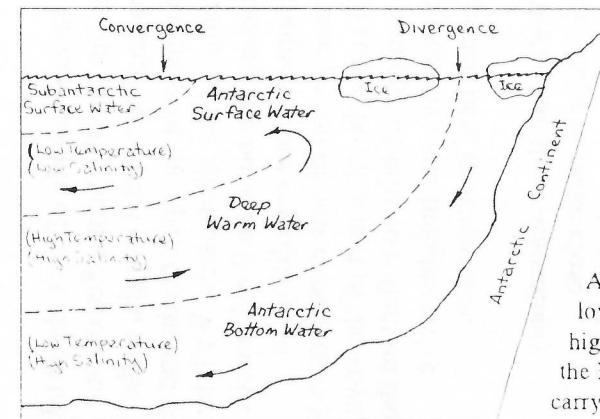
The Antarctic Ocean is made up of three distinct layers of water masses which differ in their temperatures, salinity and directions of flow. The three sandwiched layers are driven by westerly winds in constant, eastward-flowing spirals around Antarctica. The upper and lower layers also move gradually northwards, carrying cold waters from the Antarctic to the tropics, while the middle layer flows southward bringing nutrients and warmer water from temperate and tropical regions.

Antarctic Surface Water

The top layer or Antarctic Surface Water most directly affects Antarctic plant and animals. It originates at the Antarctic Divergence, a narrow zone closest to the continent. This layer is constantly chilled by ice and cold air from the continent and is characterised by low temperature and low salinity caused by the melting of sea ice and icebergs. At the Antarctic Convergence this water sinks below the warmer, saltier Subantarctic Surface Water and continues spiralling northward as the Antarctic Intermediate Current. This current cools the coasts of New Zealand, southern Australia and many oceanic islands. It is still detected north of the equator in the Atlantic Ocean.

Warm Deep Water

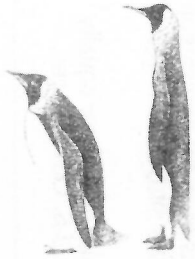
This middle layer is a southward flowing water mass originating from the surface waters of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. This current wells up at the Antarctic Divergence, characterised by high salinity and relatively high temperature. Some of this water takes on a lower salinity and moves northwards as the Antarctic Surface Water.



Antarctic Waters

Antarctic Bottom Water

The remainder of the Warm Deep Current is pushed towards the continent, becoming colder and sinking down along the continental slope and along the ocean floor in a northward direction. This Antarctic Bottom Water has a low temperature (-0.5°C) and high salinity. It spreads far into the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans carrying south polar water into the northern hemisphere.



King Penguins

It takes almost one year to raise a king penguin chick, so the kings have a unique reproductive cycle of rearing two chicks in a three-year period. After kings have finished moulting in November the so-called 'early breeders' begin courtship. A single egg is laid in December and incubated on the adult's feet, hatching in late January. At 6 weeks of age the chicks gather in crèches while both adults forage out at sea to provide large feeds for their chick. By the end of summer, the chick has a fat reserve and downy brown coat sufficient to survive the lean winter months when meals are sparse. With the return of spring the chick is well fed until fledging begins in December. The parents then take a three-month break before laying their next egg at the end of summer. Chicks of these 'late breeders' may struggle through the winter starvation period but those who survive will fledge at the end of the following summer.

Position at 0700 Mar 23
Latitude: 63°26 .25' S
Longitude: 056°51.1' W
Course: Drifting
Speed: Drifting
Barometer: 971
Wind: SW 6
Air: 2°

PENGUIN POST

Brown Bluff

Thursday 23 March 2023 aboard the Sylvia Earle

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 shore 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 guests 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 a number of massive icebergs floating around which made

for great photo opportunities. There were also large groups of porpoising penguins returning to shore from 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!

Written by expedition photographer Max

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

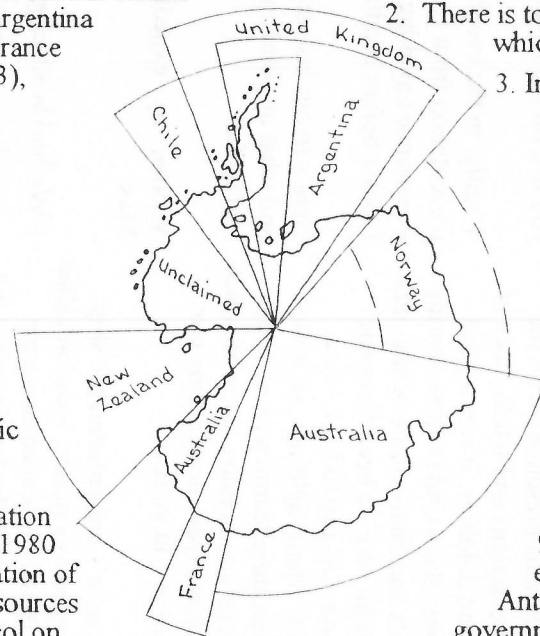
THE ANTARCTIC TREATY

Many countries have made territorial claims to Antarctica over the years based upon discovery, occupation and geographical contiguity. Today, seven countries still maintain official claims upon parts of Antarctica: Argentina (1943), Australia (1933), France (1924), New Zealand (1923), Norway (1939), and the United Kingdom (1908).

On 1 December 1959 the Antarctic Treaty was signed by the 12 nations which operated scientific stations during the International Geophysical Year of 1957-58.

The Antarctic Treaty System includes the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), 1972 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (CCAS); 1980 Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR); & 1991 Protocol on Environmental Protection.

Current signatories to the Antarctic Treaty are: Argentina; Australia; Austria; Belgium; Brazil; Bulgaria; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Cuba; Czech Republic; Denmark; Ecuador; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Guatemala; Hungary; India; Italy; Japan; Nth Korea; Sth Korea; Norway; Netherlands; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Poland; Romania; Russia; Slovakia; Sth Africa; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Ukraine; United Kingdom; USA; Uruguay.



The Treaty consists of 14 Articles:

1. Antarctica shall be used for peaceful purposes only (no military bases, fortifications, maneuvers or weapons testing are permitted), but military equipment and personnel may be used to assist in scientific and other peaceful purposes.
2. There is to be a freedom of scientific investigation and any international co-operation which may be needed toward that end.
3. Information regarding Antarctic scientific programs, as well as scientific personnel and the results of scientific work, will be exchanged to permit maximum co-operation, efficiency and economy of operations.
4. This Treaty is not to be interpreted as a renunciation by any signatory nation of previously asserted rights or territorial claims, and no new such claims may be made while the Treaty is in force.
5. Nuclear explosions and the disposal of nuclear wastes are prohibited in Antarctica.
6. The provisions of this Treaty apply to the areassouth of 60 S Latitude (except where precluded by the international law of the sea).
7. Any signatory may designate observers to inspect the activities, stations, equipment, vessels, etc., of any signatory state at any time or place.
8. Designated observers and scientific personnel in exchange programs come under the jurisdiction of their respective governments.
9. Representatives of all signatories shall meet at suitable intervals and places to exchange information, consult upon matters of common interest regarding Antarctica, and make recommendations concerning those matters to their respective governments.
10. Appropriate efforts will be made to ensure no one engages in activities contrary to the principles or purposes of this Treaty.
11. It is the responsibility of any the signatories involved in a dispute regarding this Treaty to consult among themselves peacefully in an attempt to resolve said dispute, and if this is not possible the matter is to be referred to the International Court of Justice for arbitration.
12. This Treaty may be modified or amended at any time by unanimous agreement of the signatories.
13. this Treaty is subject to ratification by all signatories, and is open for accession by any state which is a member of the United Nations, or any other state only by consent of all signatories.
14. This Treaty is written in English, French, Russian & Spanish, and these equally authentic versions are to be desposited in the Archives of the U.S. Government.

At Sea

Friday 24 March 2023 aboard the Sylvia Earle

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. 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 22ft 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 uncharted seas
We stagger on our enterprise"

After lunch the Aurora Citizen Science project was in full swing, with cloud and bird survey's 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 pro's.

We settled in for 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.

Written by kayak guide Tracy

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

Icebergs

Up to 4 billion tonnes of ice is released from the icecap into the Southern Ocean every year. white, slab-like 'tabular' icebergs, which form from ice shelves, can be several hundred kilometres long. Bergs from valley glaciers are smaller, denser and contain ice that's flowed under pressure from distant inland sources, having taken many thousands of years to reach the sea. the age of air trapped in bergs when the ice formed can be calculated from the flow rate of the parent glacier. Scientists analyse this air to chronicle changes in atmospheric gases over the millennia.

Position at 0700 Mar 24

Latitude: 61°09.5 ' S

Longitude: 051°38.4 ' W

Course: 053

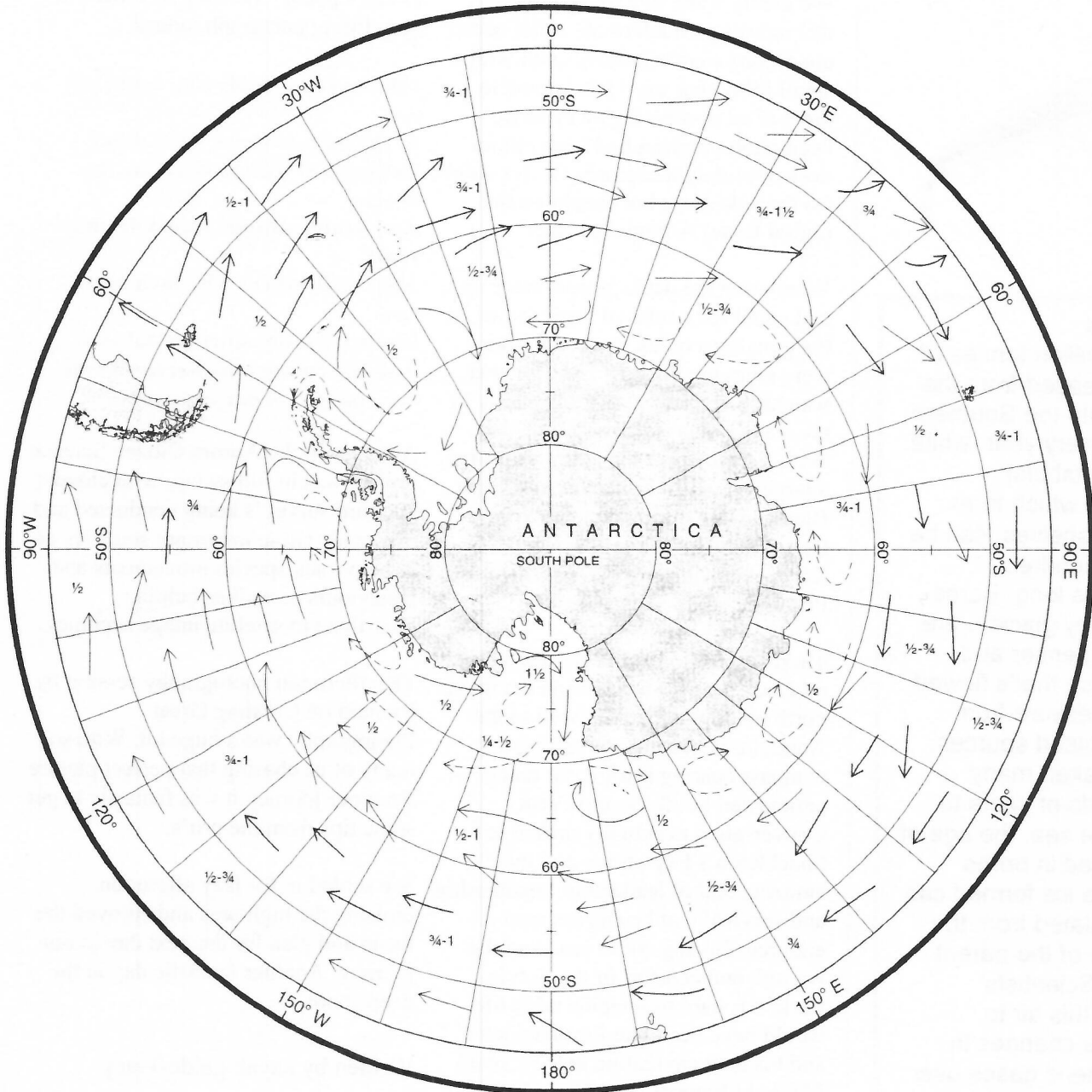
Speed: 13.2 knots

Barometer: 992

Wind: WNW 6 knots

Air: 3°





General water circulation (1.47)

KEY

Average rate in knots is indicated in figures.

Arrows indicate the predominant direction.

The constancy of a current is indicated by the thickness of the arrow thus:

- > High constancy >75%
- > Moderate constancy 50%-75%
- > Low constancy <50%
- - - - -> Probable direction when observation count is low

(see 1. for definition of predominant direction and average rate)



Discovery of South Georgia

Captain James Cook with HMS *Resolution*, and HMS *Adventure* under the command of Captain Tobias Furneaux, was commissioned to search for Terra Australis Incognita. Cook sighted the Willis Islands, close to the north-west tip of South Georgia, on 14 January 1775. Three days later he landed in a bay which he named Possession Bay: 'I landed in three different places, displayed our Colours and took possession of the country in his Majesty's name under a discharge of small Arms.'

Position at 0700 on Mar 25

Latitude: 58°62.05' S

Longitude: 045°23.3' W

Course: 053

Speed: 13.2

Barometer: 993

Wind: NW 6/7

Air: 4°

PENGUIN POST

At Sea

Saturday 25 March 2023 aboard the *Sylvia Earle*

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, color, 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.

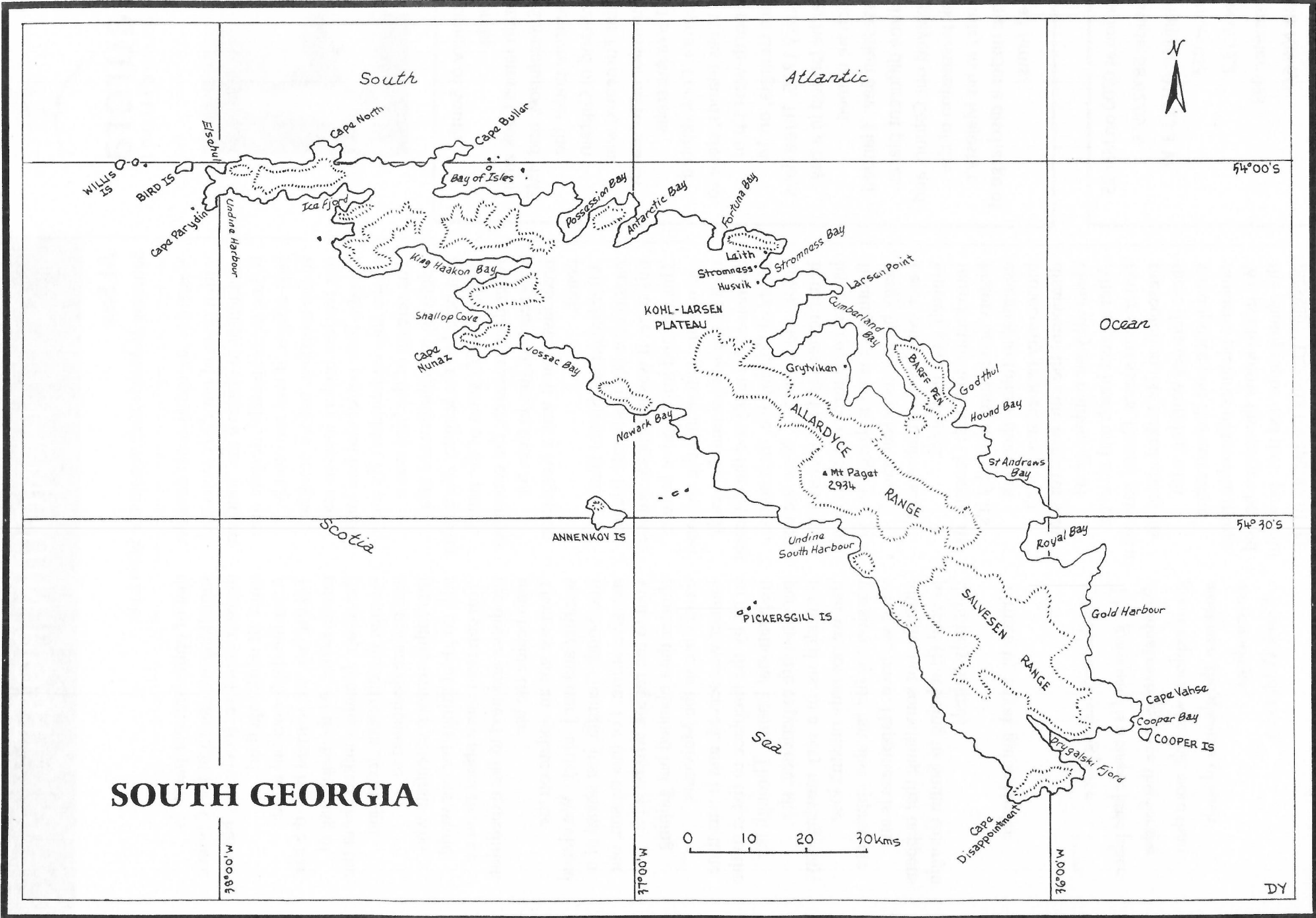
Then we got an update on the weather and our journey. We closed into South Georgia, just ahead of a massive storm. For this reason, our visit to the region will be a bit shorter than planned but gaining extra time in the Malvinas. Dinner was served, and it was time to sit by the fireplace to listen to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

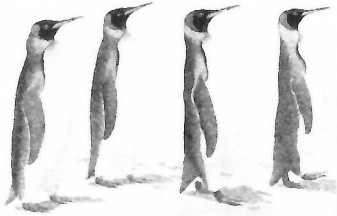
Written by kayak guide Hodei

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





Magnetic Pole Firsts

The North Magnetic Pole was first visited in 1831 by James Clark Ross (discoverer of the Ross Sea in 1841). The South Magnetic Pole was first visited in 1909 by Edgeworth-David, Mawson and Mackay, members of Shackleton's Nimrod Expedition.

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

—Hartford, after ten days aboard *Nimrod*, with Shackleton

Position at 0600 Mar 26
Latitude: 55°01.65' S
Longitude: 036°05.5' W
Course: 053
Speed: 12.6 knots
Barometer: 995
Wind: NW 7 knots
Air: 5°

PENGUIN POST

Gold Harbour, St Andrews Bay

Sunday 26bMarch 2023 – New Years Day aboard the *Sylvia Earle*

This morning, after two rather foggy days out on the open sea, we wake 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 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 snorkelers 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 rock us to sleep.

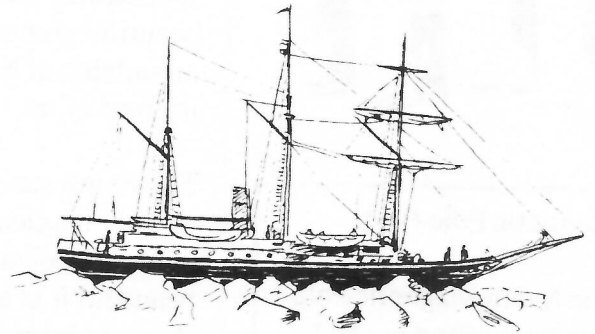
Written by expedition guide
Birgitta



Journal Entries

"This is not a pleasant job. We have to dig a hole down through the coal while the beams and timbers groan and crack all around us like pistol-shots. The darkness is almost complete, and we mess about in the wet with half-frozen hands and try to keep the coal from slipping back into the bilges. The men on deck pour buckets of boiling water from the galley down the pipe as we prod and hammer from below, and at last we get the pump clear, cover up the bilges to keep the coal out and rush on deck, very thankful to find ourselves safe again in the open air."

—Frank Worsley, writing about having to go down in the bunkers of the *Endurance* and clear ice from the bilge pumps a few days before the crew was forced to abandon the ship (1)



The *Endurance*

"In addition to the daily hunt for food, our time was passed in reading a few books that we had managed to save from the ship. The greatest treasure in the library was a portion of the Encyclopædia Britannica. This was being continually used to settle the inevitable arguments that would arise. The sailors were discovered one day engaged in a very heated discussion on the subject of Money and Exchange. They finally came to the conclusion that the Encyclopædia, since it did not coincide with their views, must be wrong."

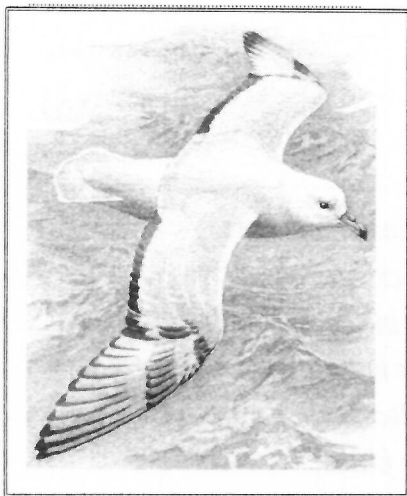
—Shackleton, describing an occurrence at Ocean Camp in his memoir of the *Endurance* voyage (2)

"There are no spoons, etc., to wash, for we each keep our own spoon and pocket-knife in our pockets. We just lick them as clean as possible and replace them in our pockets after each meal. Our spoons are one of our indispensable possessions here."

—A crew member writing about daily rituals at Ocean Camp (3)

At Sea

Monday 27 March 2023 aboard the Sylvia Earle



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

Position at 0700 on Mar 27

Latitude: 52°17.6' S

Longitude: 037°50.4' W

Course: 337°

Speed: 10.4 knots

Barometer: 994

Wind: WSW 7

Air: 5°

Today 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 Orkneys islands far to the east.

We immediately headed almost due north across the 3000m 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 winds speeds of over 80 knots on the “Wind 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 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 teeming 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 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 min 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 then as a fire fighter for the Americans at McMurdo Station which included a six-week stint at the South Pole.

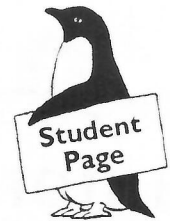
Later Russel led a very entertaining game “How Big Is It” where we had to guess the length of various aspects of or creatures in the polar realm and translate those into distances along a piece of string.

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 photograph 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.

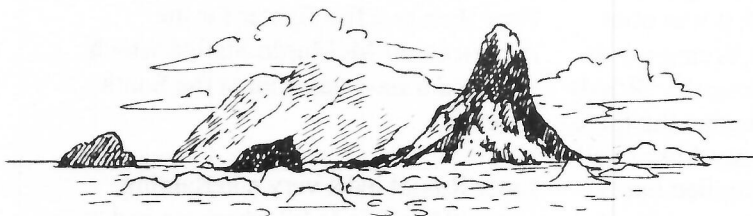
Written by historian Jonathan

******Please check your transfer details for Ushuaia 04 April on the whiteboard next to reception and note any changes by 1900 02 April******



"It's a hard, rough, jolly life, this marching and camping; no washing of self or dishes, no undressing, no changing of clothes. We have our food anyhow ... sleeping almost on the bare snow and working as hard as the human physique is capable of doing on a minimum of food."

—A crew member recording what it was like to leave the tedious life of Ocean Camp and begin a march toward open water (4)



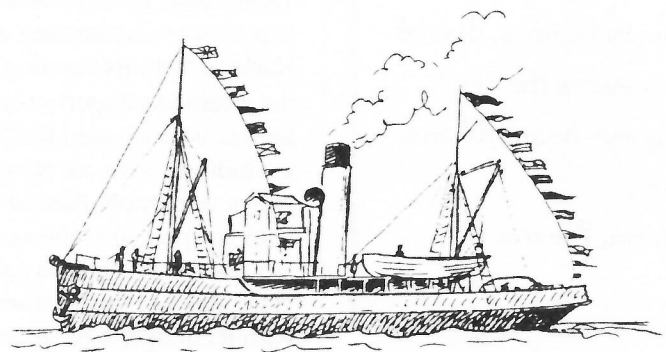
Elephant Island

"The hut grows more grimy every day. Everything is sooty black. We have arrived at the limit where further increments from the smoking stove, blubber lamps, and cooking gear are unnoticed. It is at least comforting to feel that we can become no filthier. ... From time to time we have a spring cleaning, but a fresh supply of flooring material is not always available, as all the shingle is frozen up and buried by deep rifts. Such is our Home Sweet Home."

—A crew member writing about living conditions at their Elephant Island camp (5)

"It had been arranged that a gun should be fired from the relief ship when she got near the island. Many times when the glaciers were 'calving,' and chunks fell off with a report like a gun, we thought that it was the real thing, and after a time we got to distrust these signals. As a matter of fact, we saw the Yelcho before we heard any gun. It was an occasion one will not easily forget."

—Second-in-Command Frank Wild, recounting the crew's rescue from Elephant Island, more than four months after Shackleton and five others had left the island to secure rescue (6)



The Yelcho

Sources

- (1) Shackleton, Ernest. *South: A Memoir of the Endurance Voyage*. New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, Inc., 1998, 73. (2) Shackleton. *South*, 93–94. (3) Shackleton. *South*, 93. (4) Shackleton. *South*, 104–105. (5) Shackleton. *South*, 231. (6) Shackleton. *South*, 222–223.



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)

Position at 0700 Mar 28
Latitude: 49° 50.8' S
Longitude: 042° 14.1' W
Course: 264°
Speed: 8.5 knots
Barometer: 993
Wind: NW 7/8 knots
Air: 11°

PENGUIN POST

At Sea

Tuesday 28 March 2023 aboard the *Sylvia Earle*

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 3-course a la carte dinner and bottomless wine. Scurvy on the horizon. Spirits surprisingly high despite the hardship. Some questioning how the lettuce is still edible – sorcery suspected.

Sea state moderate with some bigger swells helping perfect the on board penguin walk. Storm avoidance going well but possibility that we might cut and run to the Equator. Apparently some penguins live on the other side of the Panama Canal. Multiple seabirds tailing the ship: black-browed albatross, petrels, the other ones that look like petrels, and, unusually, Great Eegrits. Unfortunately, also known as the Common Eegrit.

A divide emerging between those who secretly use the gym and others who pretend not to. Some resorting 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.

E-team completed first aid training and scenarios under 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.

Competitive Scrabble games continue – rumours are that tensions are rising between players. Foul play suspected.

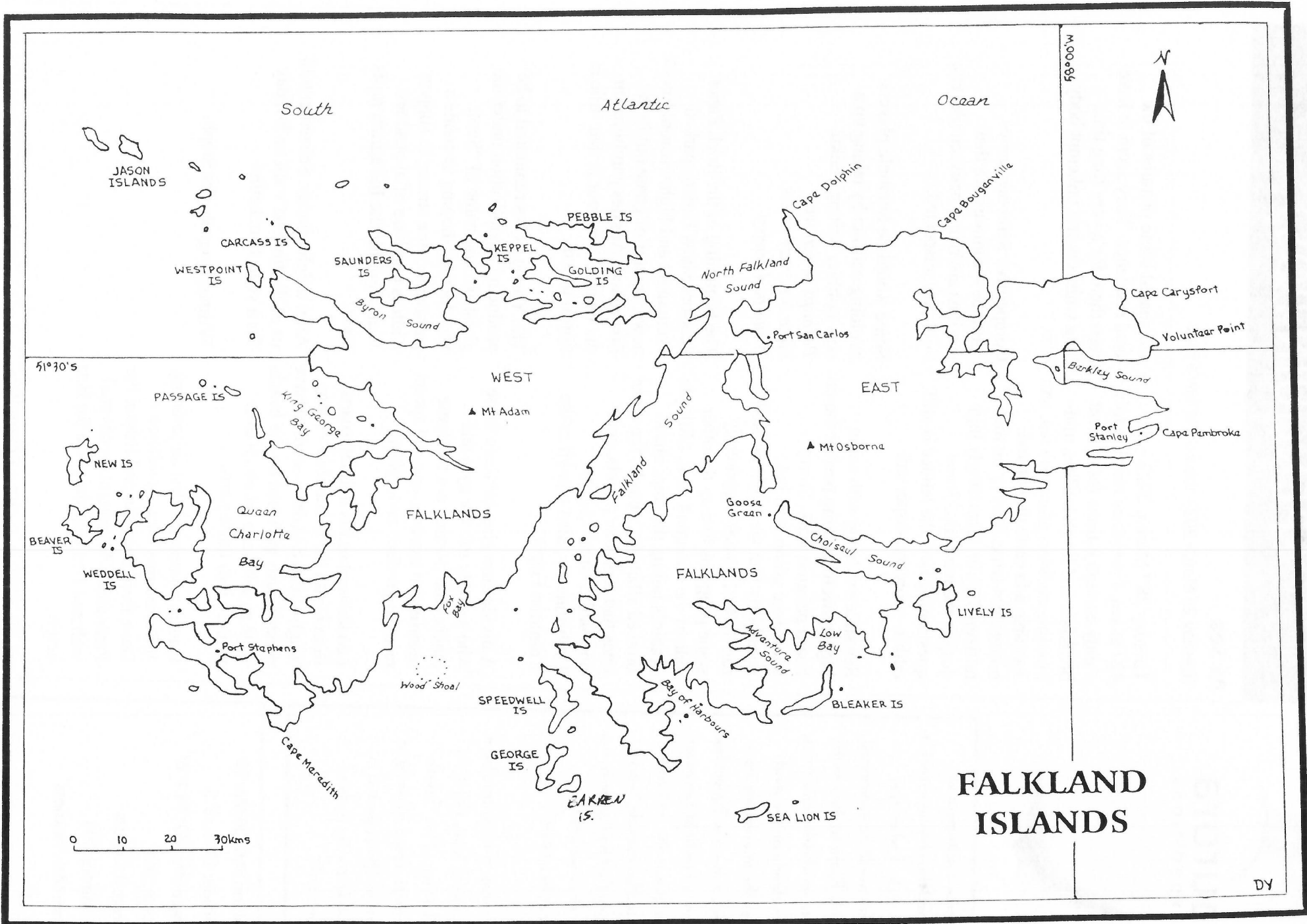
Some would-be Scrabble players avoiding conflict by taking up a new hobby; writing Haiku.
*Perhaps at sea we
Go a bit crazy so we
Write bad poetry*

The beginning of the Rock Paper Scissors Show Down sparked excitement and high tension! Shock news; creator of game out in the first round. Aussies gambling on the winner – rumour is that Julie is tipped to win.

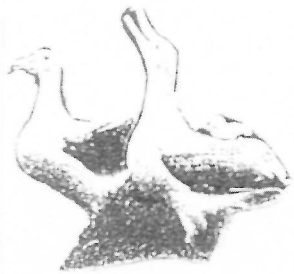
The Young Folks rumoured to be producing a publication under the ghost-writing name of “Scott Shackleton”, hoping to create a passive income stream to support endless purchase of avocados. Watch out for the Instagram posts soon.

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

Written by geologist Stephi



FALKLAND ISLANDS



Last laundry day 2 April by 1200. If you have not already done so, please advise Reception your credit card details

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

Position at 0700 on Mar 29
Latitude: 49° 58.3' S
Longitude: 047° 12.12.' W
Course: 264°
Speed: 9 knots
Barometer: 997
Wind: N3/4
Air: 10°

PENGUIN POST

At Sea

Wednesday 29 March 2023 aboard the Sylvia Earle

After a relatively easy swell during the night, we awoke to an overcast sky with a 20 knot breeze, the sun broke through around 0845.

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

After breakfast I reflected on Sebastian’s talk the night before “52 places in 52 weeks” many of his lessons learnt struck a chord with me.

I have experienced myself kindest from strangers who initially I had been suspicious of and it had turned out to have been a great experience and his lesson to “accept that some things are out of our control” echo’s our experience with the storm that has altered our voyage in the southern ocean.

A great deal of birds gathered around the ship on the bow and stern, there was 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 could be seen, Rockhopper, King, Gentoo, Macaroni and the Magellanic Penguin that makes 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 the Cobb’s Wren.

There is 3 types of seals that call Falklands home, the Southern Sea

Lion, the Southern American Fur Seal and the Southern Elephant seal.

In the afternoon we had the Ships 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 had served the Australian Antarcticans 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’s 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”

Written by expedition medic David

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

Zac

Runner up Haiku
Frozen land on ice
White expanse, external calm

Silent Symphony

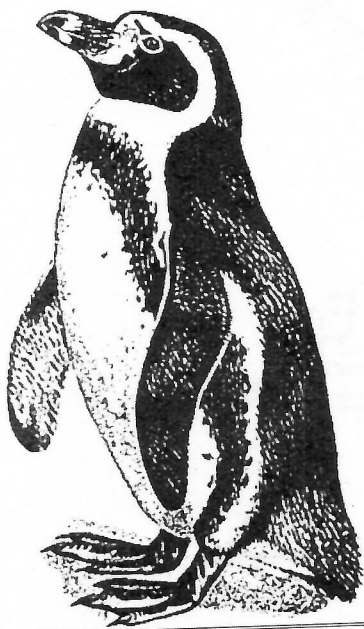
Neil Pharoah

Ice filled vistas; tears
Elephant memories. Fears
Joy, barely bounded.

Simon.

Huge waves, ship, pitch, roll,
Three-course meals feeling queezy
Pray hug toilet bowl
Steve Hall.

A mass of blubber
Wait. Movement. A head rises
Belch! Silence returns.



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

Position at 0700 on Mar 30

Latitude: 49° 58.3' S

Longitude: 047° 12.2' W

Course: 264

Speed: 9 knots

Barometer: 997

Wind: N 3/4

Air: 10°

PENGUIN POST

At Sea

Thursday 30 March 2023 aboard the *Sylvia Earle*

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 4 Wanderings, a couple 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 trains 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!

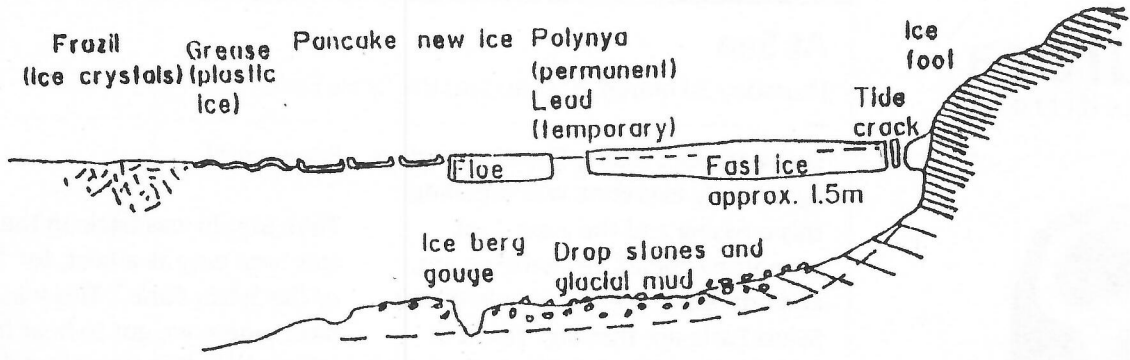
Then Stephi was back on the mic but this time only as a host, for "*Humans of the Sylvia Earle*". This was a lovely hour where we got to hear from brave passengers who dared to take on Stephi's "5-minute challenge". Wow. What an amazing group of passengers we have! From Hannah's chat on body positivity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

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.

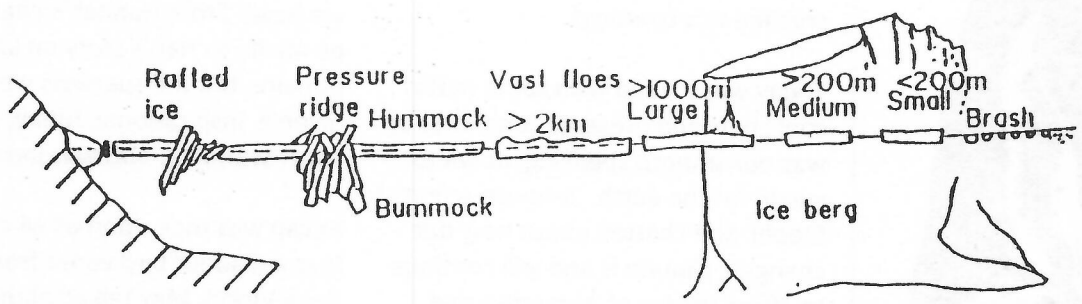
After dinner we had passenger Neil do a fireside chat on Climate Action. He facilitated a chat about what steps we can take, but more so what our nations need to take to save humanity and the world as we know it.

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!

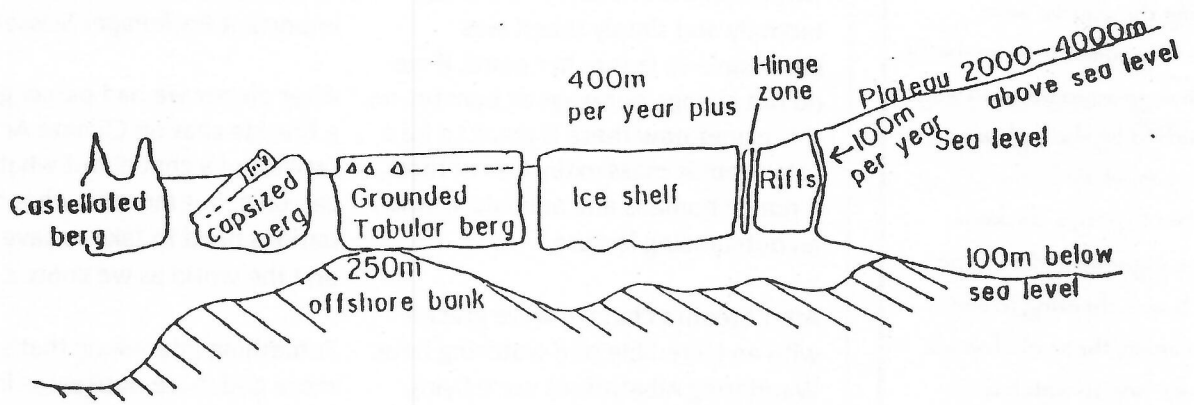
Written by expedition guide Russell



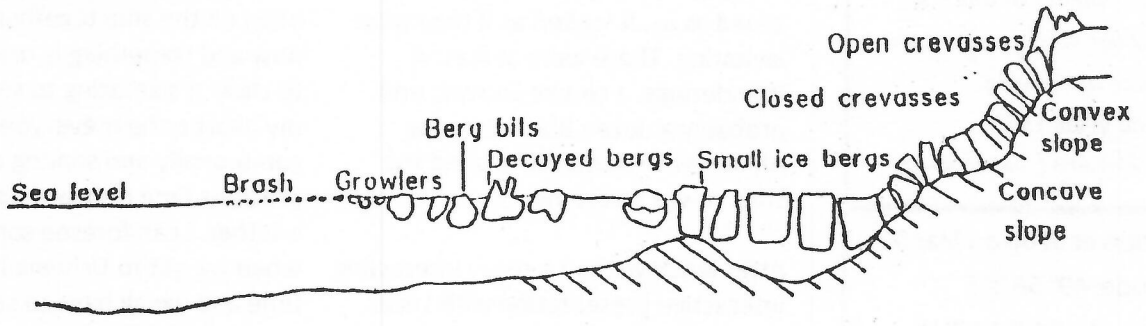
Sea ice formation



Sea ice break up and pressure

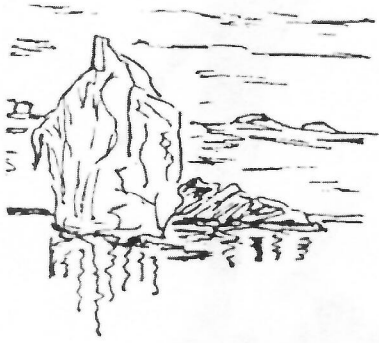


Ice cap and ice shelf



Valley glacier

(From ANARE Antarctic Field Manual)



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, 1988

Position at 0700 Mar 31
Latitude: 51°39.7' S
Longitude: 057°45' W
Course: 258°
Speed: 8.5 knots
Barometer: 1013
Wind: WSW 4
Air: 8°

PENGUIN POST

Stanley

Friday 31 March 2023 aboard the Sylvia Earle

‘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 given 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. Showed Diddle Dees 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.

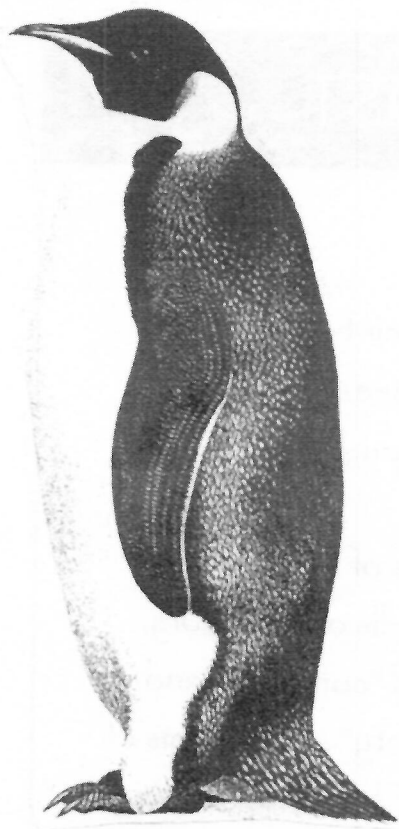
We rested in pubs, on sea weary laurels, a rock-hopper in hand, and we wondered at quarrels. On board we had people, both Argentine and Brit, great mates, great people our friendships tight-knit.

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

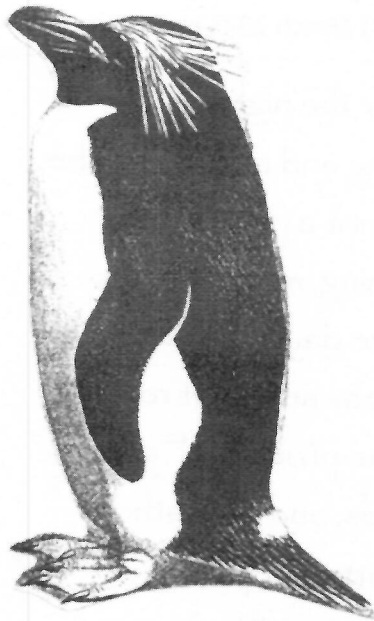
(weather permitting)

Written by snorks guide

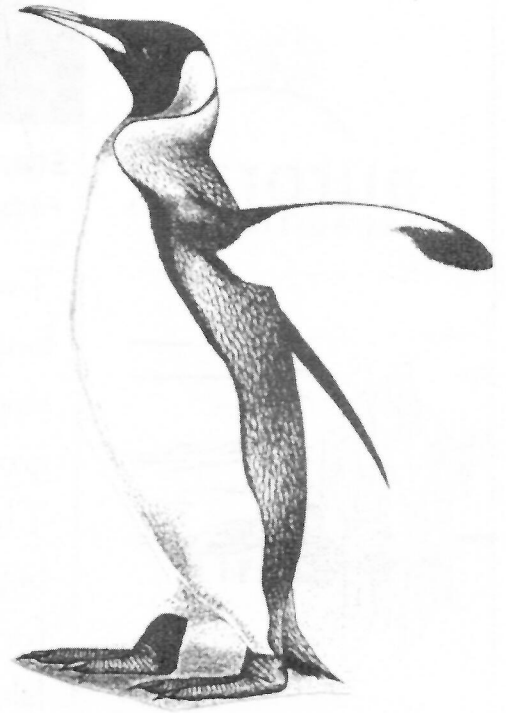
Lucas



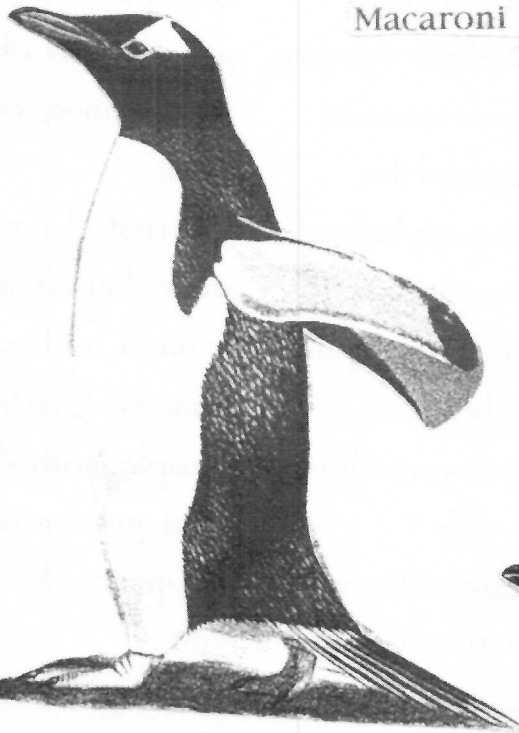
Emperor



Macaroni



King



Gentoo



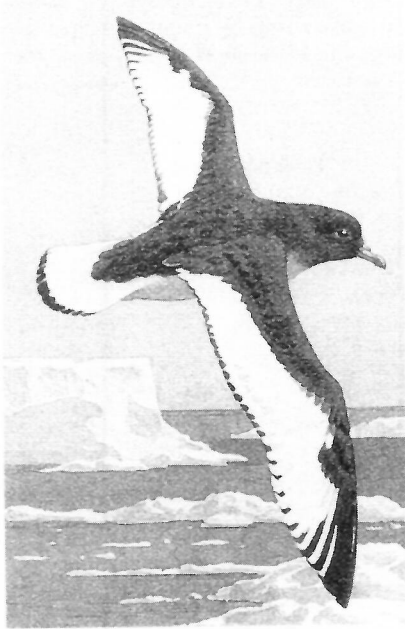
Magellanic



Chinstrap



Adelie



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

Position at 0700 on Apr 1
Latitude: 51° 20.7' S
Longitude: 060° 25.6' W
Course: 231°
Speed: 6.9 knots
Barometer: 1003
Wind: NNW 6/7
Air: 12°

PENGUIN POST

Carcass Island, Saunders Island

Saturday 01 April 2023 aboard the Sylvia Earle

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 snorkelers were exploring deep kelp forests full of color. 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. On our 30 min walk across the island we saw big groups of Gentoo Penguins and several King Penguins with chicks. 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 Albatross and Rockhopper Penguins. It was a joy to finally encounter them!

Recap today saw Eddie present an interesting study on fish in Antarctica.

Fascinating! Gracias Eddie!

One last treat before dinner was 20 or more Commerson's Dolphins swimming and playing at the stern off the ship, darting back and forth. A beautiful and a magic way to finish the day. We have seen so much wildlife today.

As we headed off to bed, once again we heard the talent of Alan on the piano, and lots of people stopped to sing along.

Again, we went to sleep happy.

Written by expedition guide Lelia and kayak guide Eamon

HISTORIC HUTS IN THE ANTARCTIC FROM THE 'HEROIC AGE'.

<i>Existing huts</i>				
<i>Location</i>	<i>Winter years</i>	<i>Expedition</i>	<i>Winter Leader Ship</i>	<i>Maintained by</i>
Cape Adare	1899	British Antarctic Expedition (1898-1900)	Carsten Borchgrevink <i>Southern Cross</i>	Antarctic Heritage Trust (N.Z.)
Hut Point	1902, 1903	British National Antarctic Expedition (1901-04)	Robert Scott <i>Discovery</i>	Antarctic Heritage Trust (N.Z.)
Snow Hill Island	1902, 1903	Swedish South Polar Expedition (1901-03)	Otto Nordenskjöld <i>Antarctic</i>	Instituto Antártico Argentino
Cape Royds	1908	British Antarctic Expedition (1907-09)	Ernest Shackleton <i>Aurora</i>	Antarctic Heritage Trust (N.Z.)
Cape Evans	1911, 1912	British Antarctic Expedition (1901-13)	Robert Scott <i>Terra Nova</i>	Antarctic Heritage Trust (N.Z.)
	1915, 1916	Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1914-17)	Æneas Mackintosh (1915) <i>Aurora</i>	
Commonwealth Bay	1912, 1913	Australasian Antarctic Expedition (1911-14)	Douglas Mawson <i>Aurora</i>	Mawson's Hut Foundation

Ruins (roofless)

Cape Adare	1911	British Antarctic Expedition (1910-13)	Victor Campbell <i>Terra Nova</i>	Antarctic Heritage Trust (N.Z.)
Paulet Island	1903	Swedish South Polar Expedition (1901-03)	Carl Anton Larsen <i>Antarctic</i>	Instituto Antártico Argentino
Hope Bay	1903	Swedish South Polar Expedition (1901-03)	Gunnar Andersson <i>Antarctic</i>	Instituto Antártico Argentino
Laurie Island	1903,	Scottish National Antarctic Expedition (1902-04)	William Bruce <i>Scotia</i>	Instituto Antártico Argentino
	1904 to 1914	Oficina Meteorologica Argentina (1904-used until at least 1914)		

Sites where huts were deployed but where they no longer exist

<i>Location</i>	<i>Winter years</i>	<i>Expedition</i>	<i>Winter Leader Ship</i>	<i>Reason for loss</i>
Iles Kerguelen	1902	German South Polar Expedition (1901-03)	Emil Werth <i>Gauss</i>	Dilapidation
Booth Island	1904	French Antarctic Expedition (1903-05)	Jean Charcot <i>Français</i>	Dilapidation
Petermann Island	1909	French Antarctic Expedition (1908-10)	Jean Charcot <i>Porquoi Pas ?</i>	Dilapidation
Bay of Whales	1911	Norwegian Antarctic Expedition (1910-12)	Roald Amundsen <i>Fram</i>	Calving of the Ice Shelf
Shackleton Ice Shelf	1912	Australasian Antarctic Expedition (1911-14)	Frank Wild <i>Aurora</i>	Calving of the Ice Shelf
Macquarie Island	1912, 1913	Australasian Antarctic Expedition (1911-14)	George Ainsworth <i>Aurora</i>	Dilapidation
	1914, 1915	Commonwealth Meteorological Expedition (1915-16)	Harold Power (1914) A. Tulloch (1915)	



aurora
expeditions

Society of Antarctic Plungers

This is to certify that

William Kuhn

has shown outstanding lunacy and disregard for frozen extremities by plunging into Antarctica's near frozen and definitely frigid waters at Horseshoe Island on the Antarctic Continent, south of the Polar Circle, at 67° 49' S, 067° 18' W and has therefore been accepted as a life member of SOAP on this day, 17th March 2023.

signed by

Howard Whelan, Expedition Leader

Artem Kolmykov, Captain