

OTL32 14/03/2018 to 28/03/2018.

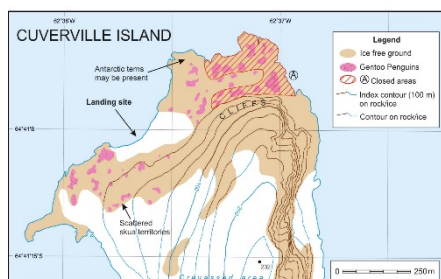
Antarctic Polar Circle, Whale Watching and Diving.

Dive Team Leader Jerry Sutton, Dive Guides Peter Webster and Michael Green. Dive Team Irfan Güray, Dhritiman Mukherjee, Jing Pan, Xiaoguang Wang, Ming Xie, Chen Chen Christopher Wojcik.

Dive Log.

Dive One

17th March Cuverville Island.



We did the check dive on this amazing island. The dive team kitted up and checked their weighting. Once the team

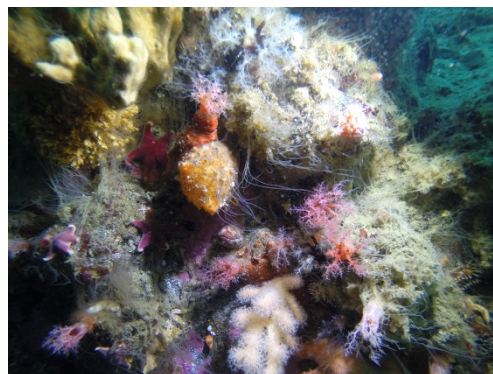


were happy they made a dive with cameras and enjoyed all the small creatures that live amongst the rocks. After the dive the team went ashore for their first penguin encounters. Gentoo's played on the shore. We watched a leopard seal hunt and kill a penguin. Cruel but amazing to watch. We then went ashore for a short landing before returning to the ship. To get warm with a Hot Chocolate and lots of talk of the exciting things to come.

Dive Two

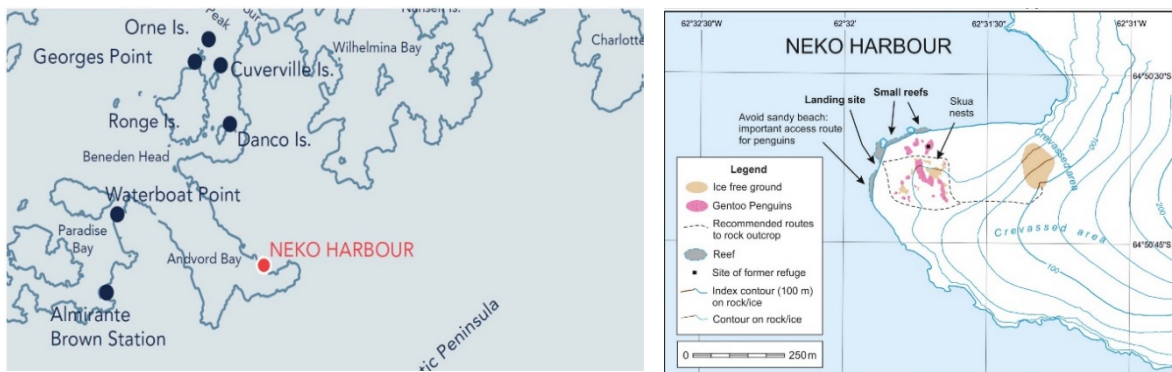
17th March Paradise Harbour/Brown Base.

On arrival we saw the Greenpeace ship Arctic Princess it was nice to pass close by to this vessel. We made a dive under Shag Rock just to the side of the base. We saw starfish, small fish and many sponges. The ice was quite thick around the site so care had to be taken on ascent. After the dive we went ashore and visited the base which belongs to Argentina. No one was home so we wandered and wondered about the way people live here in Antarctica. Soon it was time to return to the ship after a great first day.



Dive Three

18th March 2018 Neko Harbour

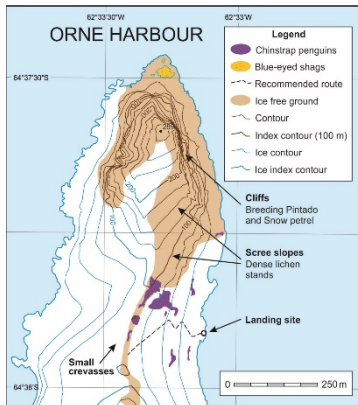


We awoke this morning to find 33kt winds and lots of ice. The weather improved a lot but the temperature stayed around freezing. We kitted up and went to dive on an iceberg. The ice was spectacular like a cathedral with light streaming down. We were joined by three crabeater seals who stayed around and posed for our cameras. The water was very cold but we still managed to endure a shore landing before returning to the ship for lunch.



Dive Four

18th March 2018 Orne Harbour.



After lunch we made a dive on a wall in this beautiful setting. The wall was covered in Anemone and starfish of all colours. The water was clear but quite cold the fingers reminded us just how cold. We saw chinstrap penguin on the walls above the site and seals and whales languished in the bay. The weather held up and we had beautiful sunshine for the dive. Upon surfacing we went for a short Zodiac cruise around the bay. Chinstraps, Seals both fur and Crabeaters were the highlights. Along with a brief visit from a Leopard Seal. It didn't stay around long as it was hunting for its dinner. Penguin were far more interesting than us divers.



19th March 2018 Antarctic Polar Circle Crossing.

We travelled overnight hoping to dive at the Fish Islands. However, the weather proved too rough for any activities. So, we ship cruised into area looking for Ice. We did cross the Polar circle in mid-afternoon and enjoyed a crossing the line party onboard. It was nice to have a rest after a couple of exciting days previously.

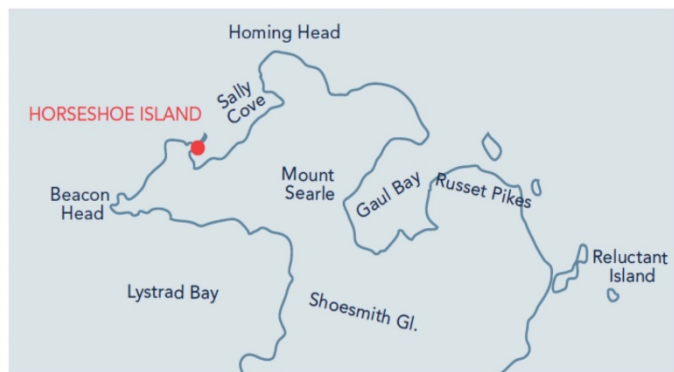
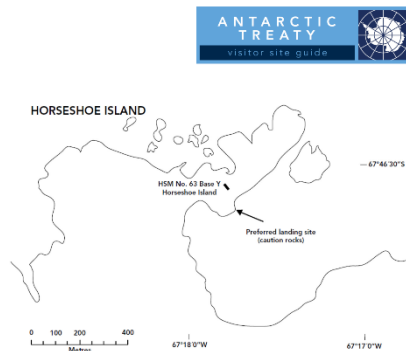
Dive Five

20th March 2018 Anchorage Island.

After a very snowy and windy morning in which we could see our planned landing site of Jenny Island. We went close to Rothera Base which is a British all year base. We found a good-looking site on Anchorage and the team kitted up and entered very clear water which was a delightful blue. They saw lots of small creatures in amongst the rocks which had been scrubbed clean by ice. On surfacing some of the team did a surface swim with seals in a shallow cove, The Crabeater was



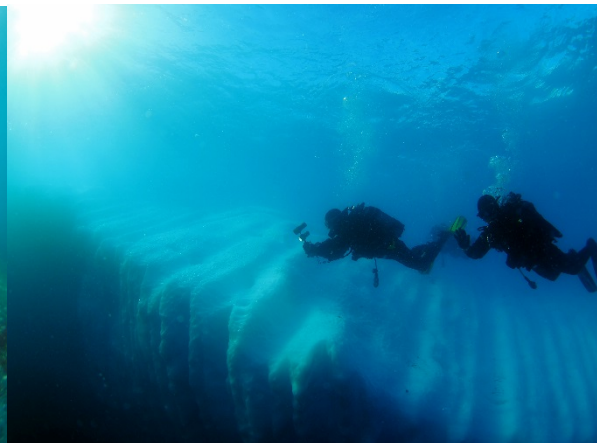
extremely friendly and stayed around for a while. Soon it was time to return to the ship after another great day in the South.



Dive Six

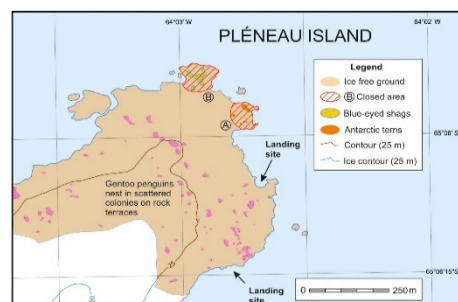
21st March 2018 Horseshoe Island.

As the team awoke this morning they were greeted by a magnificent sunrise. Pink and orange filled the sky around icebergs and the majestic scenery. We had breakfast and then headed to the island to dive. The team dived on a mix of Ice and a rocky seabed. They didn't see much life on the dive just some limpets and a few sea spiders. The ice though was dynamic with beautiful blues and green filtering through the water. The poor visibility above the surface made for an interesting return to the ship. The snow gave a proper polar adventure feel to the end of the morning. The team returned to the ship beaming with delight.



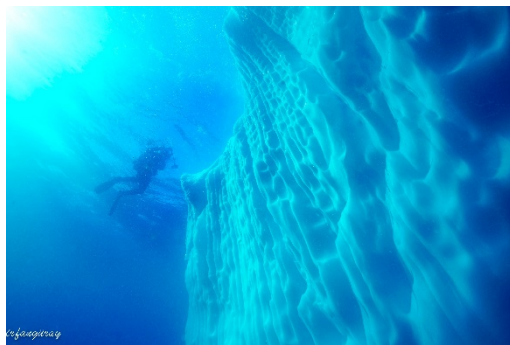
Dive Seven

23rd March 2018 Pleneau Island.



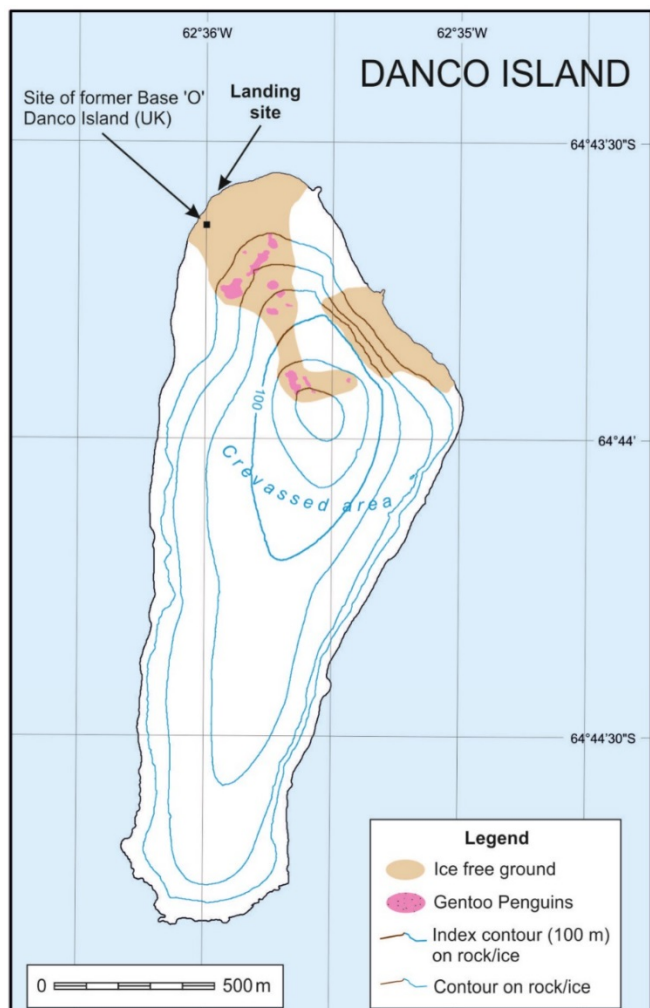
After another hearty breakfast we launched the Zodiacs in a gusty breeze. We went along the shore and chose a nice piece of Ice to dive on, the team kitted up and entered the water near the shore and navigated the short distance to the ice. We marvelled at the magnificent piece of ice in front of us. We were lucky as the sun came out and illuminated the ice with magnificent blues highlighting

the white of the ice. After 30 minutes the team surfaced and enjoyed a landing at this historic and beautiful place.



Dive 8 Danco Island.

After breakfast the divers kitted up and got ready to board the Zodiacs for what turned out to be the last time for this trip. Upon inspection of the site and the water we headed South past the ice cliffs and skirting around the ice we saw a couple of Leopard Seals both on the ice and in the water. The one in the water had a freshly caught penguin. We were mesmerised as he ate his breakfast. Kitting up quickly we entered the water and it didn't disappoint making several passes allowing for a few photos to be taken. Too soon it was time to surface. We went back onboard and the weather deteriorated to such a degree that the ship headed off to Ushuaia and home. A great end to a great trip.



**Thank you for diving with Oceanwide Expeditions.
We hope to see again soon!**