



KAYAKING LOG

OCEANWIDE EXPEDITIONS

NEKO HARBOUR

We got in the kayaks on a frosty and snowy morning, with calm waters.

A lovely kayak about amongst icebergs and ice floes, looking for Minke and Humpback whales. We have our first encounters with these beautiful marine mammals!

We enjoyed the morning paddle with bits and pieces of ice all around us. It was especially fun paddling through the brash ice, making crashing sounds when it hit our kayaks.



PARADISE HARBOUR

We paddled out after leaving the ship into the wide Paradise Harbour that was full of icebergs and brash ice. The weather was the best possible. No wind and lots of sun! We had great encounters with Crabeater seals and had a very close meeting with a Minke whale that swam under the kayaks. On the way back we saw a Leopard seal in front of the kayaks.

PETERMANN ISLAND

Today we had a great adventure in front of us. We were going to circumnavigate Petermann Island. The weather was quite calm but there was still a good swell on the outside of the island. After a while we started to hear strange loud sounds. A few minutes later we could hear the blow from whales. We got behind a corner suddenly had six humpbacks feeding in front of us while they slowly moved our way. At closest they were not more that 20 meters away from us. After our adventure we had time for a short landing and some even did the polar plunge.



PLENEAU

ICEBERGS ICEBERGS ICEBERGS. That is what what Pleneau is all about. All amazing formations. One is big, and another is more beautiful and the third is amazing. We ended by going close to the rocky beach and watched the Gentoo penguins get in and out of the water.





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PORT LOCKROY/JOUGLA POINT



Afternoon kayaking started in the outside of the bay. We didn't paddle long before we saw a logging humpback on our right side. When we started to paddle again we could see some activity in the water towards the Port Lockroy base. It was a leopard seal that was eating a penguin and around it it was skuas and Wilson storm petrels dancing on the water. Port Lockroy was closed for the season so we paddled deeper in to the bay and did a short landing from the kayaks to see the whale bones at Jougla Point. The afternoon adventure ended with a second Polar Plunge for Zet when he showed a how to roll without paddle.



CUVERVILLE ISLAND

Our plan this morning was to circumnavigate Cuverville Island. But before we got in to the kayaks we could hear blows and soon see humpback whales all around us. This turned out to be whale paradise. We had whales everywhere. We probably did not kayak more than two kilometres but we saw over 20 Humpback whales. Some as close as a few meters away from us. It was a smiling group of kayakers returning to the ship today.





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FOYN HARBOUR/GUVERNOREN

Even before we got into our kayaks we saw humpbacks around us. They were a bit too far to kayak over to see. But we felt that we had our piece of a whale experience after this morning. We paddled around Gubernoren, a Norwegian whaling vessel that sank here in 1915. We could almost get our kayaks up on the back deck and we saw all details of the rusted wreck up close.

WHALERS BAY

Early morning we are in the kayaks at 0800. We have become true masters in getting in and out of the kayaks fast by now. We started to kayak inside this active volcano. How many people have done that? By the sides of the shore we saw Fur

seals everywhere. When we were on our way out to the outside of the rim the weather changed in a minute. We got hit by a brief snow storm. We had to turn around with the swell of the big sea from one side and 25 knots winds hitting us from the other direction. After this we all knew how the fast the weather can change in Antarctica. We had the chance to do a short 20 minutes landing at the whaling station before we had to go pack to the ship for another delicious lunch.

HALF MOON ISLAND

It was our last kayak in Antarctica or in sub Antarctic waters this time. Six kayakers join for this beautiful day. The sun came out as soon as we were in the kayaks and the wind was at our backs when we followed the inner side of the island. We saw Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins hopping out of the water and back to their colonies. After one hour in the kayaks we decided that we had time for a short landing to visit the chinstrap colony.






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