



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA (PLA26) Kayaking Log 28th JANUARY - 7th FEBRUARY 2019

Kayak Guide – Alexis Bellezze (AR)



Participants:

Ryan	Megan	Wilda	Petrus
Hannah	Jeffrey	James	Jon
Thomas	Arnout	Alexander	Leslie
Sidney	Andrew		

Cuverville Island

31st January 2019 (AM)

The kayakers first opportunity to get onto the water came about during the expeditions first landing on Antarctic Peninsula at Cuverville Island. It was a full zodiac of all 14 kayakers plus Alexis Bellezze (guide), Françoise (Chief Officer and proactive Zodiac Cruise Driver) and Ferdinand (Zodiac Cruise driver).

We had the best weather conditions, we were able to do a nice trip around the bay, had a nice chat with a Finland couple who were travelling the world on the Saruma Sailing boat. Was a nice first contact with Antarctic waters and was super fun and we did it well. The highlight of the day: we were able to see from very close and quiet a sleeping Humpback whale.

Everybody was happy with the first experience.



Damoy Point – Port Lockroy visit 31st January 2019 (PM)

Beautiful weather conditions. Second chance to appreciate the beautiful landscape of one of the most visited places, Port Lockroy (known as Base A by the British Antarctic Survey). Now is a small museum with a post office. Hundreds of Gentoo penguins around.

We paddled in a complete quiet Bay, looking for this particular sea birds that are in the middle of the breeding season feeding the chicks. Kayakers started to feel more comfortable with the paddle techniques and inside the cockpit and the gear.





**Petermann Island – Lemaire Strait Crossing
01st January 2019 (AM)**



Definitely the group had a fantastic kayaking experience. The weather was excellent but we had 15 knots of wind which is the top of the safety standard at the beginning. We face that and we did it well. Was our first contact with ice packs surrounding us and we managed alright.

After an hour of paddling close to the shore the weather conditions get better and receive the permission to cross the Lemaire Channel to our vessel, the MV PLACIUS. We were excited and we did it all together, as a solid group of beginners kayakers in one of the most beautiful landscapes to do it.

Was a glorious morning.

Damoy Point – Dorian Bay 2nd January 2019 (AM)







This time we decide to do a navigation in more dense ice packs and in between stable icebergs that were in other part of Damoy. We had the opportunity to stay very close to another Humpback whale but she was moving away from us so we decided to see her from far. A flock of penguins was jumping in between. The Planet Nine, a beautiful ship, was very close too and at the end we go back to the mothership to have a time of relax after this emotive second whale encounter.

Paradise Bay – Argentinian Brown Station 2nd January 2019 (PM)





Another visited site full of beautiful icebergs, nice place to enjoy the silence of this kind of bay. Calm waters, different ice shapes, lights emerging from them giving us the most incredible views.

We've been paddling for more than an hour in absolutely peaceful environment. After that, we visited the Base. And of course, the guide shared a mate with the Base Doctor.

Danco Island

3rd January 2019 (AM)

Sunny morning in Antarctica.

We did a completely different trip. Heading to the southern part of Danco, we saw the crevasses at the top of the island and many of big icebergs in a clear blue sea.

We stop paddling to see how the melting iceberg succumb at the burning sun of the morning.

Was no wind, not even cold. We were delighted for this delicate and pristine environment.





**Portal Point – Charlotte Bay
4th January 2019 (AM)**





Everybody was ready at the early wake up that Ali, our EL, set specially for this morning. Of course, kayakers were ready at six am to start an amazing trip at Charlotte bay with the most beautiful grey light of the morning.

Icebergs bigger than our ship surrounding us, a fur seal waiting for this curious paddlers let us keep very close from her.

More seals in our way back of the ship visiting some beautiful of this ice moving sculptures in the meantime. Was simply wonderful, breath taking.

I hope you have enjoyed this trip and remember, you are Antarctic Ambassadors now. And more important, you know now that it's our major responsibility be eco friendly with our planet. It depends on us.

Thank you to let me share this amazing experience with all of you. Keep in touch!

Best wishes

Alexis (OEXP Kayak guide)