

Mountaineering Trip Log November 2019

6th November AM Orne Harbour/Spigot Peak –

Eight of us set off from Orne Harbour in two roped teams Wearing snowshoes we reached the col and the Chinstrap colony. Under blue skies and no wind, the chinstraps seemed happy to see us after 8 months with no visitors. Changing to crampons we climbed the steep and exposed ridge to the summit with stunning views. Care was needed on the descent with a big drop tugging at our heels to the left.

PM Cuverville Island –

Setting off in atmospheric light twelve of us wearing snowshoes and using ice axes climbed the steepening snow slopes until the angle eased and we reached the ice cap. Reaching the summit we soaked up the view on the other side of the island with a steep drop to the Ocean.

7th November AM Neko Harbour –

Landing at Neko Harbour twelve of us in two roped teams climbed up towards the precipitous cliffs and jumbled glaciers above, we travelled into the depths of the glacier passing large crevasses and avalanche debris. Another blue sky day to soak up the Antarctic Peninsula from up high.

PM Danco Island –

Ice Climbing ! Three top ropes were set up on the steep ice beside the sea in Danco Island. Using two technical ice tools and crampons twelve keen climbers tested themselves on the near vertical ice. All this to the backdrop of a calm sea in perfect weather.

8th November AM Dorian Bay/Damoy Point –

Leaving from the huts we climbed in our snow shoes towards the glacier and old runway leading up to the steep slopes of Jabet peak. Zig zagging up the steepening blunt ridge we entered a large crevasse where all twelve of us stood with a towering ice wall above us. After soaking up the views towards Port Lockroy we descended on our snowshoes to the shore.

PM Goudier Island –

Everyone came on a sea ice adventure passing the scene of some whaling history including some old graffiti and signs. We went back on the sea ice passing a spectacular ice cliff and a mother and pup Wedell seal.

9th November AM Pleneau Island –

On today's sea ice adventure we travelled over to a small island with the back drop of spectacular icebergs (the graveyard), coming back we spent some time with a Wedell

seal on the ice before finishing by climbing in our snowshoes to the highest point of the island.

PM Peterman island –

Passing Adelie Penguins our team of eleven headed for Circumcision cove and the steep icecap leading to the highest point of the island, the team gave it their best but sometimes turning back is the best option if conditions are not right. After soaking up the view over the cove we descended to see the Adelies.

















