



# OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

## Kayaking Trip Log

### 12<sup>th</sup> March Orne Harbour Morning Session

First session on the water for 14 people with Adams first time also in Antarctica. The group were all members of the Sierra Club and all knew each other. After getting our equipment on in the Lounge we embarked on the zodiac skippered by Ferdinand.



The location was Orne Harbour and gave us a fantastic sighting of two Humpback whales before we even got into the kayaks from

the Zodiac. The wind was an Easterly 10 knot wind so we quickly made our way onto the North point under the summit of Spigot Point (380m).

Here we saw both Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins and slowly moved back against the wind into bay. With less wind we were able to paddle between the ice and then before getting out of the kayaks we were greeted by another sighting of a humpback whale rubbing itself up against the ice.



The weather was overcast and with a cold wind a massive well done to everyone for managing to keep their hands moving and thanks for sharing my first Antartic paddle with me.

## 12<sup>th</sup> March Danco Island Afternoon Session

A change in the afternoon weather meant we were blessed with beautiful sunshine and very light winds at first. Launching from Plancius on the north side of Danco we had 13 people in kayaks this afternoon.



A short zodiac ride took us south past the Ice Climbers and we used the gentle Southerly wind coming off the glaciers to slowly move us up the west side of Danco Island. We could see the old foundations of base 'O' from the 1950s before we were then presently greeted by several Gentoo Penguins close to the shore.

The whole of Danco Island was covered in colonies of Gentoos and we were able to observe them moving up and down the 'Penguin Highways'. The large 'ugly' birds observed were Giant Petrels. The end of the kayaking session was finished off with moving up through the Bergs and Floating Ice with the occasional swimming Gentoos flying past us. Thanks to Ferdinand our Zodiac driver.



## 13<sup>th</sup> March Port Lockroy Morning Session

A windy day but with a full session of 14 people plus Nelleke the Ships Doctor. The sunshine was nice too and allowed us to creep along the edge of the coastline and into Port Lockroy. The Ice in the bay gave us a great opportunity for photos.



Towards the end of the session when hands were getting cold we jumped off at Port Lockroy and explored the museum and sent postcards. A fierce Leopard Seal was also in the bay but we missed it.

Our driver this day was Marlon



## 14<sup>th</sup> March Neko Harbour Morning Session

11 People joined us on the water with lighter winds than the day before. We had great shelter from the ice cliffs too and were able to make progress through the brash ice. We also had some whales in the distance before making the continental landing at Neko.



## 14<sup>th</sup> March Neko Outside Afternoon Session

Another session of light winds and glorious weather. We were treated to some great Brash Ice, before spotting distant whales and a few crabearer seals. The icebergs were very cool too but the highlight was certainly the very close interaction with the Humpbacks playing close to the kayaks and whilst we climbed back onto the zodiac.

Our driver this day was Ferdinand.





## **15<sup>th</sup> March Portal Point Morning Session**

A light wind morning but with snow falling all around made for a very special experience. We were treated to some close whale encounters and fantastic icebergs. Some of these were grounded whilst others were still floating. The colours were fantastic and made for great photos.

The swell amongst the rocks also allowed us to get close to the floating ice and play amongst them and the rocks but sadly because of the snow falling hands quickly became cold and the session was finished shortly just after an hour.



## **16<sup>th</sup> March Cierva Cove/Primavera Base Morning Session**

More Humpbacks in the bay and much bigger Ice Bergs today with wind moving them south, meant we were unable to get close to the Argentine Primavera Base from the Kayaks but we did get some fantastic Brash Ice to paddle through.





## 16<sup>th</sup> March D'Hainaut Island and Mikelson Harbour Afternoon Session

The last and final session was a circumnavigation of D'Hainaut Island and Mikelson Harbour in and amongst the surf.

This was a great end to the trip, sadly not too much ice around but the swell created some fantastic surf which meant for a tricky kayaking session but we were able to circumvent the island. We landed through a little ice before exploring the Fur Seal and Ancient Whale Boat Bones on the beaches.



This afternoon session completed all the kayaking whilst down in Antarctica with everyone who wanted to kayak getting a chance to have a go.