



OCEANWIDE

EXPEDITIONS

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA BASE CAMP

Kayaking Log

18th - 28th FEBRUARY 2019

Kayak Guide – Alexis Bellezze (AR)



ORNE ISLAND

20th February 2019 (AM)

Our first experience on cold waters. Orne offered us a unique landscape and our first close contact with a leopard seal who was chasing us for a fifteen minutes very close swimming near to the kayak guide and in between other kayaks. We paddled in complete silence, having the sensation to be in a kayak in one of the most wild places on earth. Icebergs rolling in the distance, no wind at all... perfect conditions!









PARADISE BAY

21th February 2019 (AM)

This morning was amazing, no wind, no waves, not even cold. Everyone together enjoyed the most beautiful landscape, hanging glaciers, and icebergs calving around us as they broke the silence with the light storm sound of the crack. The group was solid even though for many of them it was their first kayak experience—a unique time for all!





DANCO ISLAND

21th February 2019 Afternoon



A special afternoon. Again! Perfect weather conditions. It took minutes to be ready and go for a lifetime experience. We were able to paddle in between packs of ice, icebergs all around, and see wildlife and many different shapes of ice.



The group was easy to guide. All were happy with the feeling of being in a middle of a beautiful bay full of penguins on shore and calm waters. On our way back we were followed for a curious and persistent Leopard seal. Thank you!





BROWN STATION

22nd February 2019 Morning

Definitely, the highlight of this kayak trip was the close encounter we had this morning with this beautiful minke whale. So peaceful. So close. So quiet. How incredibly friendly this large mammal could be. She left us thinking about simple and beautiful things.





After this encounter we did a full circumnavigation of the bay close to icebergs and we compared different colours and shapes of these beautiful changing sculptures. Afterwards we took a moment towards land and visited Base Brown Bay.



PETERMANN ISLAND

23th February 2019 Morning

We saw how it's possible for the wind to compress the brash ice and as the wind increased we moved here and there in different directions to avoid getting stuck.

The view of the M/V PLANCIUS drifting while we were paddling in such a dramatic scene was an added value for the impressive feeling of being a small part of all of this dramatic nature.

We twice crossed the Lemaire Channel, enjoying the feeling of freedom and the wind force against us. We were close to some humpback whales but they moved away from us. Regardless, our experience was fantastic!





PORT CHARCOT

23th February 2019 Afternoon

We were able to paddle in windy conditions between icebergs, big walls of beautiful white ice, which showed us the most incredible colours that can be reflected. The area was full of crabeater seals, some leopard seals, and big icebergs moving from one area to another one in the invisible but steady currents under the water surface. We celebrated the Estonian national day, and we had a great experience paddling all together in a solid group of friends. Thank you guys!

ORNE HARBOUR

24th February 2019 Afternoon







Last paddling. Many emotions. Wind, waves, searching for humpback whales ending in a beautiful encounter, feeling again how small humans are. Chinstraps on shore, skuas flying over us, ice moving in a constant flow, people smiling, humpbacks again, and more! For sure, more than we can possibly explain with words. Today's session was an epic was to end. This group of unknown persons on a ship became a group of friends, kayakers, mountaineers, campers... but more than anything Antarctic Ambassadors. Thank you guys!

