

HDS 29 Kayaking Activity Day Trip Log

Your Kayak Guides were: Erin Bastian and Keiron Tastagh

Danco Island – 23rd AM

Calm sheltered waters around Danco Island as we explored the many huge icebergs floating in the bay.



For our very first team on the water, we were truly spoiled with incredible wildlife experiences. Firstly, surrounded by proposing penguins, coming to and fro from the nesting sight. As we explored the icebergs in the bay, we came across a beautiful resting leopard seal and on our way back to the ship we were greeted by a curious humpback whale.



Orne Island – 23rd PM

Blue skies and a gentle breeze. Perfect weather for kayaking!

Our trip took us on a journey around Orne island. With such perfect conditions we were able to circumnavigate the island and enjoy all the wildlife nesting and feeding in the area.



On our adventure we watched the Gentoo penguins entering and exiting the water. There were several Fur Seals sunning themselves on the rocky shoreline with the occasional Weddell seal. Just before returning to the ship, we came across a Leopard Seal resting on an iceberg.



Pleneau – 24th AM

We couldn't ask for better kayaking conditions for Pleneau Bay. We had a gentle wind coming off the sea but the huge icebergs and rocky islands gave us all the shelter we needed.



Navigating through the icebergs in our kayaks we enjoyed the textures of the ice and the amazing colours up close. These towering bergs can make you feel very small!



The icebergs had such incredible shapes, with towering pinnacles, sea arches, and hollows to enjoy.

Peterman Island – 24th PM

A little more exposure to the open ocean, we had choppy sea conditions giving us a little more challenging paddling conditions.

We used a sheltered bay to transfer from the Zodiac into the kayaks. We spent a little time to learn how to navigate our kayaks, this is a bit trickier in the wind and waves. All around us there were penguins entering and exiting the water.



Starting on the northeast corner of the island we kayaked downwind along the coast, keeping our distance from the waves breaking on the rocks. The wind gave us a helping hand so we soon we reached the southern tip of Peterman Island, choosing to cross a choppy channel to explore the rocky islands. Here we found Fur and Weddell Seals and watched a skua attacking a young penguin.



Damoy – 25th AM

What a fabulous morning for kayaking. Calm water in the bay and plenty to explore.

Padding below the glaciers calving edge, we soon found the mountaineers scaling an ice cliff.



Our journey took us through a shoreline of washed-up icebergs, which was a lot of fun to weave through in our kayaks. We decided to head out and around a rocky island full of penguins and sunbathing Weddell Seals. We floated here for a short while taking it all in.



Cuverville – 25th PM

Cuverville had a strong sea breeze blowing in, creating a challenging, choppy sea for us. Seeking out shelter behind the large icebergs and island, we found calm water to climb into our kayaks.



Exploring the iceberg graveyard, we found sleeping seals, and a shoreline full of penguins. The shapes and textures of the ice was beautiful.

After weaving our way through the maze of bergs, we headed around the southern corner of Cuverville. Finding sleeping seals and all the while keeping our fingers crossed and eyes peeled for a Humpback Whale sighting.



Paradise Bay – 26th AM

Wow.....what perfect conditions for Paradise Bay. The bay was mirror calm and full of ice.



The calving glaciers in the bay were really active; in the kayaks we needed to keep our distance. This meant we headed out into the middle of the bay towards some of the larger icebergs. We found a seal hunting amongst the ice, and penguins bathing in the calm water. The ship relocated in the bay so we enjoyed an A-B journey in our kayaks.



Port Lockroy – 26th PM

The wind picked up this afternoon for our paddling at Port Lockroy. We started our journey battling up wind between the islands.



Passing the penguins and the whale bones at Jougla Point we headed towards the calving face of the glacier. The wind picked up a little more and we decided to join it rather than fight it. Soon we were cruising down wind towards the post office, where we found a couple of resting seals and many more penguins.



NEKO HARBOUR – 27TH PM

After a windy morning on board Hondius with Orca sightings, we pulled into Neko Harbour to find gorgeous paddling conditions. Ice everywhere and mirror flat water. We could hear the Humpback Whale blows, but with so much ice floating the bay they were tricky to see.



A Leopard Seal swam across the front of the group as we paddled deeper into the brash ice. Keeping an eye on the carving face of the glacier, we could hear it regularly rumbling in the background. As we were making our way back towards the ship we found the Humpbacks!! We spent 15 fabulous minutes or more surrounded by these ocean giants.



FOYN HARBOUR – 28TH PM

A lucky day for the lottery winners. We had calm water with a little tail wind assisting us and some heavy snow which made the paddling very atmospheric. We paddled through the rocky islands and found many seals resting on the rocky shores.



We could feel the cold on our hands but this didn't stop us having an adventurous paddle. Our journey took us to an old shipwreck (The Govenoran), run aground in 1915. It was in amazingly good condition for a wreck over 100 years old! The mountaineers threw snowballs at us as we passed them on the shore. Finally, the cold seeped in a little too much so we headed back to Hondius for a hot chocolate.

