

# HDS 29 Mountaineering Activity Day Trip Log

Your Mountaineering Guides were: David McKinley, Richard Mansfield, David Gladwin and Owain Jones.

## 23/02/23 AM – DANCO ISLAND ASCENT

Our first mountaineering group and we enjoyed a rising counterclockwise snowshoe journey to the highest point of Danco Island. On the descent we rejoined the marked pathways around the fabulous Gentoo Penguin rookeries. To cool down after our exertions, our hardy mountaineers enjoyed an exhilarating polar plunge into the icy Antarctic waters.



### **23/02/23 PM – RONGE ISLAND/GEORGE POINT ASCENT**

On this ascent to a fine col, we experienced good snow conditions and perfect weather, affording us great views of our distant ship and a sky view of Humpback Whales out in the open waters below.



### **24/02/23 AM & PM HOOVGARD ISLAND ASCENT**

A turbo charged day with our morning and afternoon groups discovering fantastic underfoot conditions, enabling speedy team ascents. Hoovgard is quite a hike with a summit that plays tricks on your eyes, remaining 'elusive' and always just that bit further!! The mountain guide team were seriously impressed with the efficiency and fitness of our climbing teams.



## **25/02/23 AM - DAMOY BAY ICE CLIMBING -SKILLS AND THRILLS!**

A morning of dangling from our ice axes and tiptoeing on our crampon front points as we enjoyed four ice climbing lines straight from the beach, where the vast glacial plateau falls into the sea. Our intrepid climbers proved an impressive sight for the passing Zodiac cruisers.



### **25/02/23 PM – CUVERVILLE ISLAND ASCENT**

We encountered late season conditions and a steeper ascent than anticipated. Our climbing teams impressed the mountain guides with their competence and efficiency on the steep terrain and cool headedness in an exposed and wild setting!



### **26/02/23 PM - JABET PEAK COL ASCENT**

A big hike and climb to a magnificent col with its spectacular views down to Port Lockroy. Super windy on our arrival at the high point, we gathered briefly for photos and to simply 'take it all in'.





### **27/02/23 PM - NEKO HARBOUR ASCENT**

A straightforward snowshoe ascent in one of the most stunning settings you could ask for. Calving glacial cliffs, shearing and falling into the calm waters of this sheltered harbour, reminding us of the spectacular reality of our location!



### **28/02/23 PM – FOYNE HARBOUR ASCENT**

Our final climb presented the us with the need for sound mountaineering judgement and 'gut feelings' about safety. We encountered open crevasses and increasing snowfall and resulting poor visibility. Turning away from our original objective we climbed a lesser summit, returning safely with 'hands on' experience of decision making in the mountains.

