

**Dive Team on the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica Hondius 29.**

**Dive team leader: Michael Green assisted by dive guides Sid Dewfall, Nicki Meharg, Lorenzo Begaud.**

**Divers.**

**Sachio Ochiai, Tomoomi Murai, Yutaka Mochizuki, Mathew Dean Brian Argame, William Mattson, Cassra Alexander Assemi Kabila, Claudia.Therese Ligner, Michael Tuma, Marcela Tume.**

**Falklands Islands.**

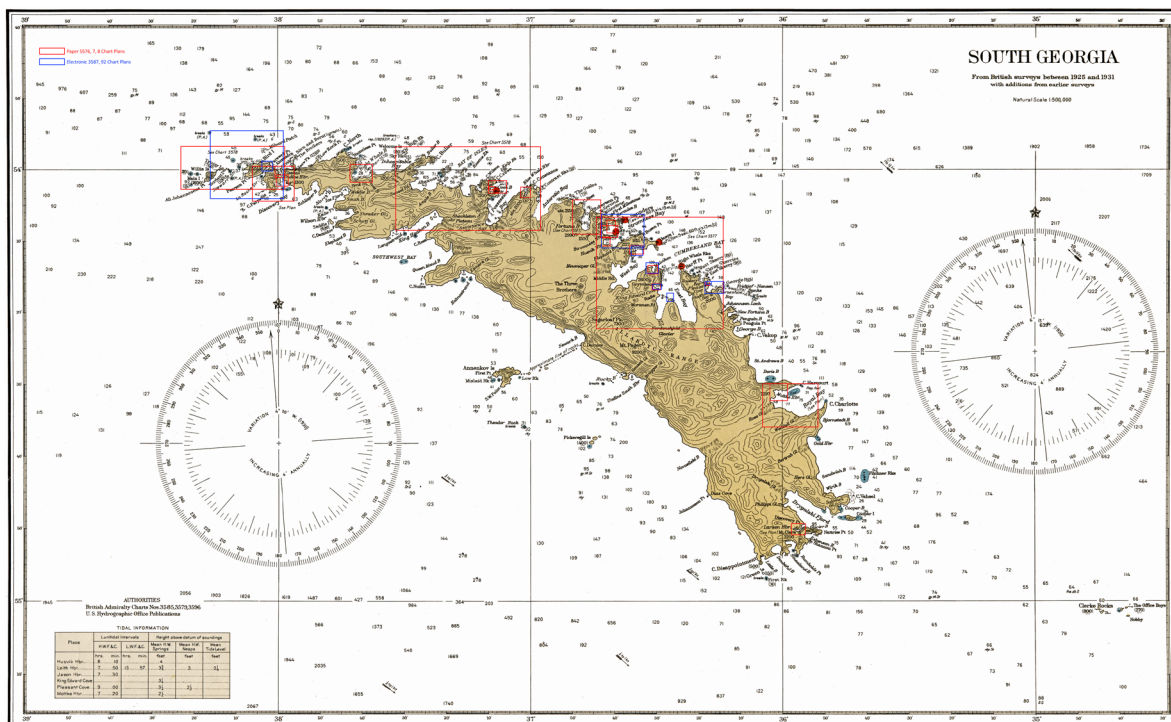


### **Dive 1 3rd February 2025 New Island Falkland Islands.**

Following a day at sea we made the check dive at this wonderful place. Our kit had travelled well and we had weights from the dive team to trim our buoyancy. Then we made a dive and saw the life living on the kelp around the wreck of an old whaler. The dive team had no problem finding this wreck as it breaks the surface. The small life on the timbers were amazing with snails, shrimps and limpets covering the woodwork. Algae grew on everything and the kelp formed a forest around the old ship. The water temperature in the water was 6 degrees centigrade. Above the surface we saw many Blue Eyed Shag and other seabirds, with upland geese flying over the site. Soon it was time to go to the surface at the end of the first dive of our trip. After the dive we made a shore landing to walk to the Albatross colony on the far side of the island. We returned to the ship where the dive team filled cylinders and we went to lunch ready for the afternoon dive.

### **Dive 2. 3rd February 2025 New Island North.**

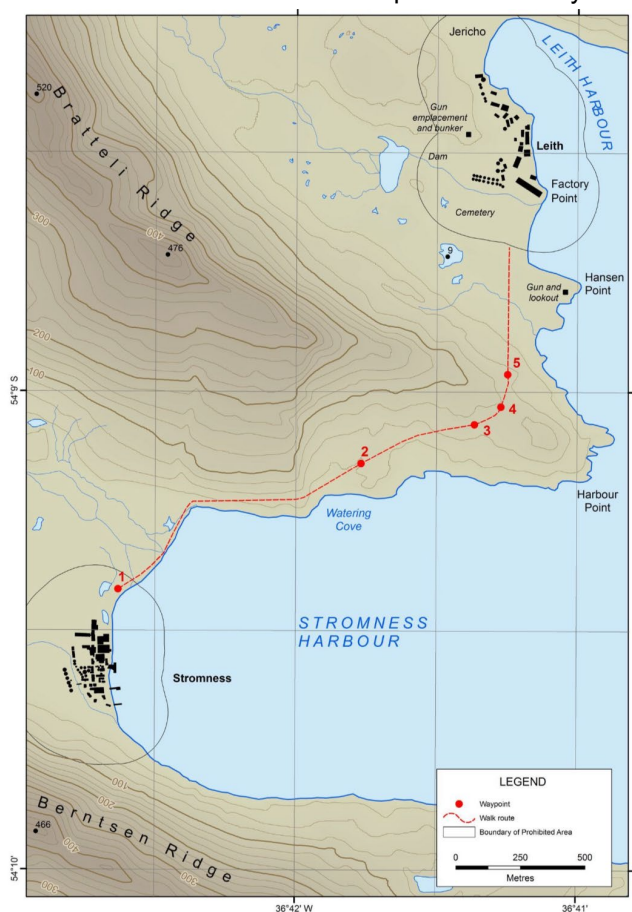
The ship moved position over lunch and we were soon back on the zodiac heading out to our second site of the day. We entered the water which had 5-8m visibility with kelp all around us. After a short struggle we descended and found a watery jungle below. Lots of crustaceans on the Kelp with tiny crabs and shrimps all around. The water was once again 6 degrees and very blue with light coming through the kelp like the light in a church. Small fish hunted around the holdfast and at the end of an enjoyable wonderful experience we rose to the surface where the Dive team took us for a zodiac cruise to enjoy the scenery of the Falkland Islands.



## South Georgia.

### Dive 3 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025 Stromness, South Georgia

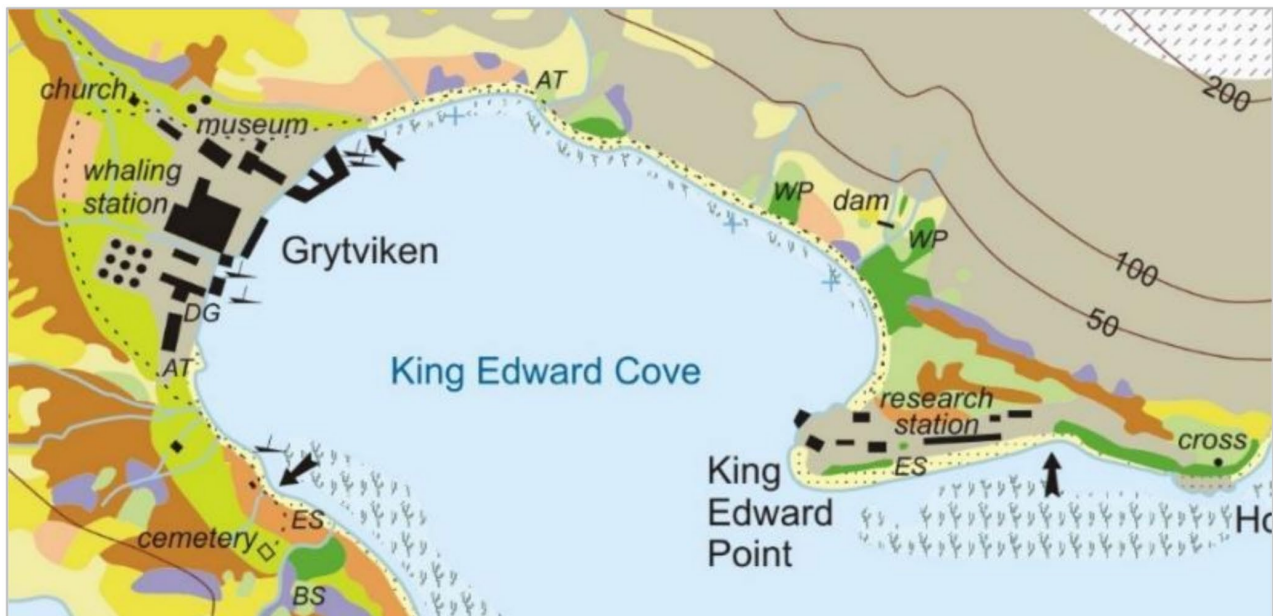
We were awestruck diving around this historic place where Shackleton finished his epic walk across South Georgia. The team took us 250 metres off shore to show us the house he arrived at. Then we crossed the bay away from the glacial run off that swept across the harbour. Finding a spot with blue water and the best visibility available we soon entered the water to dive with Penguin and Seals. We spent time searching the seabed for small animals and saw isopods and comb jellies with their rainbow coloured filaments and clear bodies. The seabed sloped down gently to 16m allowing for some underwater exploration. There was more kelp forests to explore we were impressed to learn of the growth rate of this aquatic algae at Andi's recap later. Returning to the surface the team took us ashore to explore the history of this place.





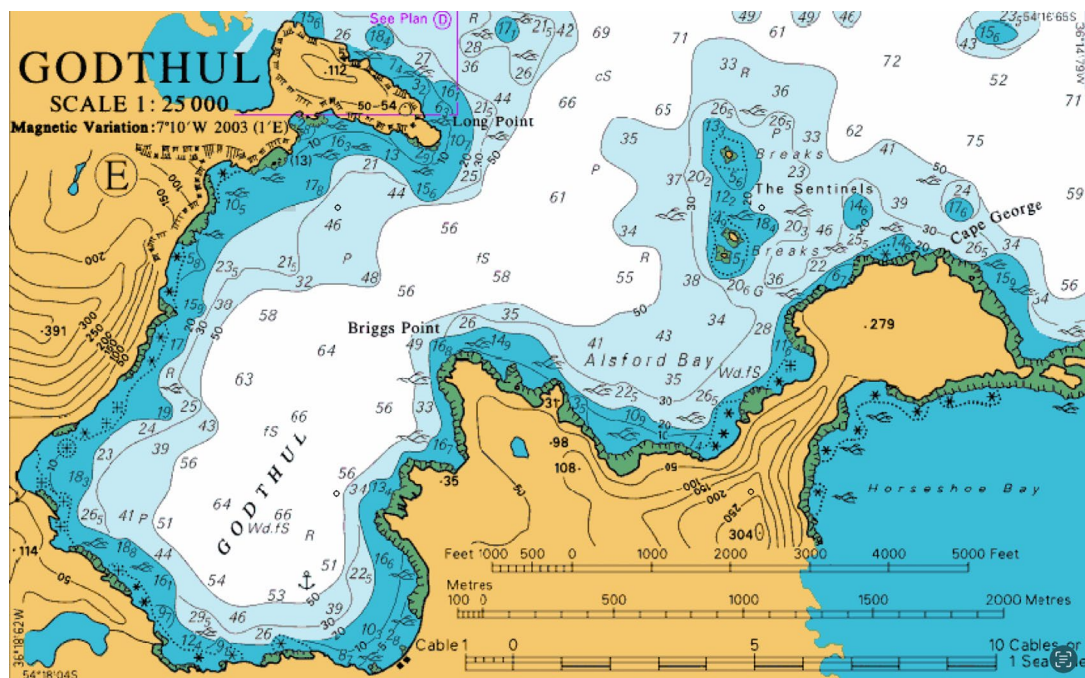
#### **Dive 4 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025 Hope Point Grytviken, South Georgia**

We arrived for inspection by the government officers and were pleased to obtain 100% on our inspection. After clearance from the officers we kitted up and jumped in the Zodiacs to make a dive on Hope point. We dived under the memorial for Sir Ernest Shackleton a rare privilege awarded to us by the weather. We dived in the kelp under the headland where we found more small animals to make macro shots. There was lots of life in between the rocks and in the fissures around the sites. The teams advice to look in the nooks and crannies for life proving to be sound advice. When we surfaced the team took us first to Shackletons Grave and then we explored the whaling station before returning to the ship after a pleasant morning diving and sight seeing some even venturing to the church to ring the bell. The station was filled with fur seals with some king penguin standing on the beach. The shop and post office proved good places to visit for sending cards home and buying souvenirs. A most enjoyable morning for many varied reasons.



#### **Dive 5 9<sup>th</sup> February, Godthul, South Georgia.**

The dive briefing described this wonderful place with its good visibility and interesting topography. The team took us out and we were soon in the watery realm again. Descending the kelp to the seabed we discovered many creatures only to be found in this region. Strange fish with comic character and crustaceans galore, the kelp again concentrating the life. The water was very blue and the sunshine penetrated down into the water column. Making for a pleasant and rewarding dive. Again an historic place with a history of early sealing and some whaling. With artefacts on the beach from the industry carried out upon the beach. Following a forty minute dive we surfaced and then team took us on a zodiac cruise around the bay on which we saw many seals both fur and elephant with numerous weeners and some adults. We toured the full bay and enjoyed several moments of silence sat on the zodiac listening to the wonderful sounds of nature. Giving us the



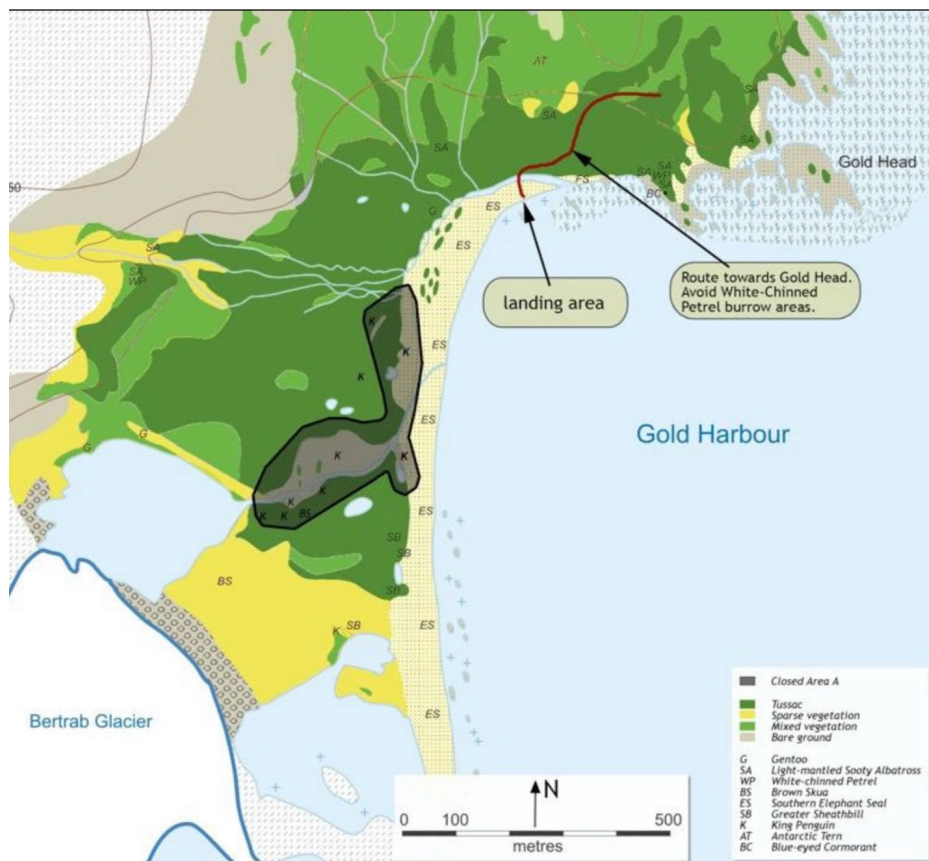
opportunity to re-connect with nature. This moving experience will stay with us for a lifetime. Too soon it was time to return to the ship for our dinner and some well earned rest

### **Dive 6 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025, Hercules Bay, South Georgia.**

This place is named for a whaling ship that anchored here in whaling times and is formed by a small picturesque cove with a waterfall at the end of the cove. The team took us into a cove to make a dive, the visibility once proved to be good and we had sea angels swimming amongst the kelp with crustaceans and limpets again living on the fronds. The light penetrated the kelp to the seabed and illuminated more life on the seabed with starfish and jelly's around us. Seals were around us playing, darting in amongst the kelp but not bothered by our presence our bubbles arousing their curiosity. The swell moved us gently back and forth allowing us to conserve our air as it transported us across the seabed. After 40 minutes we surfaced and the team took us around the bay for a zodiac cruise upon which we marvelled at the macaroni penguin on the rocks and the seals enjoying the sunshine under the waterfall. Our zodiacs manoeuvred close to the shore to give us the best views possible within the realms of safety, whilst taking care not to disturb the animals. We finished with a transit back to the ship where we enjoyed the BBQ and the Super Bowl before retiring in preparation for an early start in the morning.

### **Dive 7 10<sup>th</sup> Gold Harbour, South Georgia**

After our sunrise activities we made a dive under the Golden rocks of the bay. Leaving shortly after breakfast we sped around the bay passing majestic icebergs filled with azure blues and the brightest whites. One had a hole in it from which the sea spurted every few moments whilst making a whoosh and a bang every time a wave splashed home. Then the team sped across the bay through a passage and into a second bay to make a dive. We enjoyed the kelp on the rocks and the life living all the cracks and crannies the team told us about. All the life hides from the ice which passes along it and also the life which tries to eat from it. We were buzzed by fur seals several times throughout the dive, enjoying a close encounter with an elephant seal at the end of the dive. Returning to the ship via the beach we visited earlier trying to see the Black penguin which kept appearing on the beach.

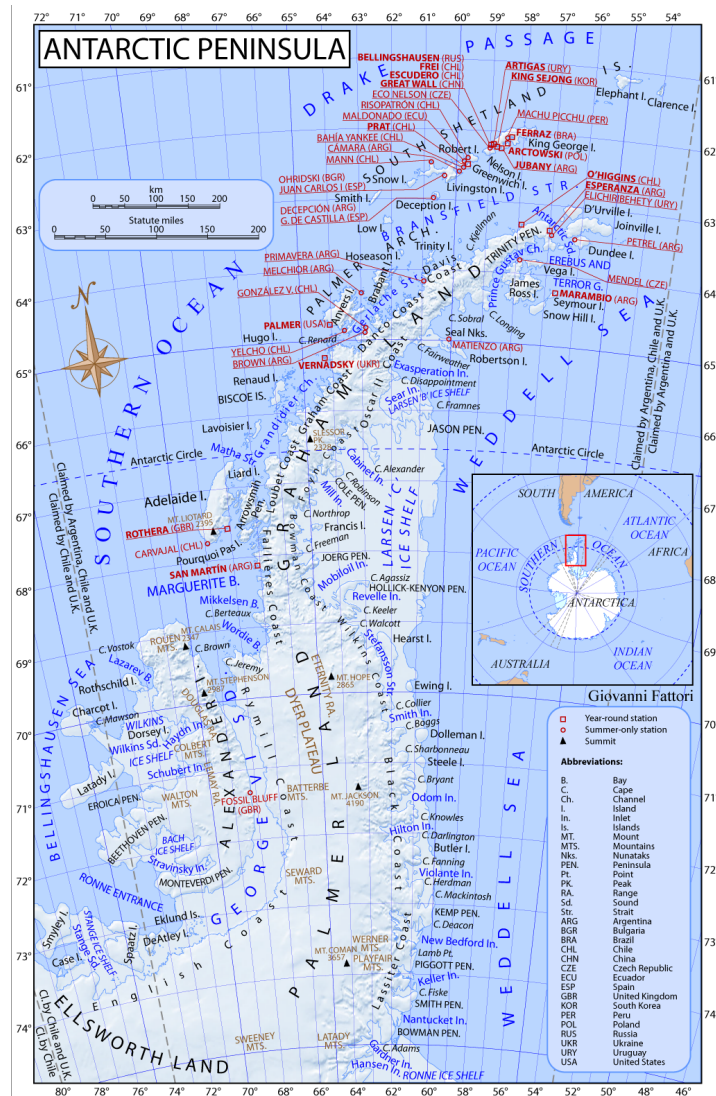


### **Dive 8 February 13<sup>th</sup> Point Wild, Elephant Island.**

Following two rough days at sea we were glad to arrive at Elephant in stunning conditions with little wind and swell and good ice conditions. The divers eagerly kitted up to make a dive at this rarely dived site. The divers entered the water just off the beach where Sire Ernest Shackletons crew spent three months living in an upturned boat on the beach. Unfortunately nothing remains on land or in the sea from the Endurance expedition however, it was a treat to get in the water at such a place. The divers enjoyed twenty minutes in the frigid water

at around 8m. With kelp and small animals being the highlight. The surface water was milky with glacial water but cleared at around 2m allowing for better visibility. When the divers surfaced the dive team put us ashore again a rare treat and we walked on the land that Shackleton and his men walked upon whilst admiring the calving glacier. Too soon it was time to return to the ship for the South Georgia auction. This was a memorable day.

## Antarctic Peninsula.

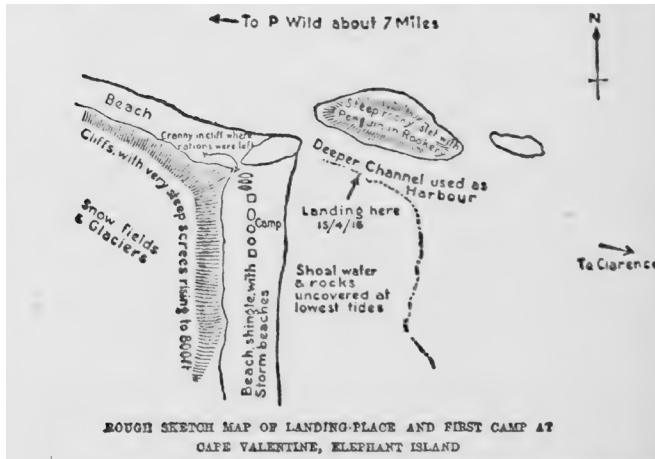


## Dive 9 February 15<sup>th</sup> 2025. Cierva Cove, Antarctica.

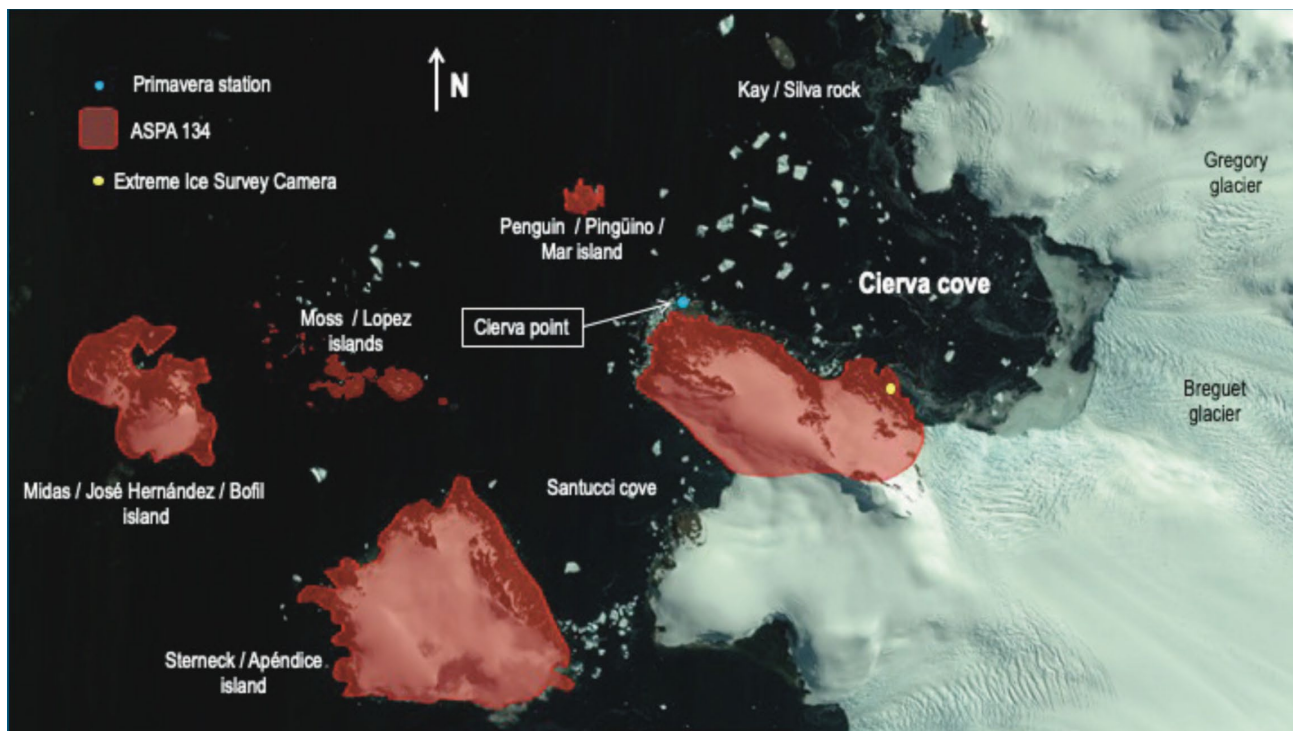
Entering this ice strewn bay was a splendid experience. At first no whales were visible but as the sun rose they began to quickly appear and soon were everywhere. The team took us on to the water after breakfast and we dived on two pieces of ice. The light was amazing and the visibility stunning. Krill grazed on the icy surface which felt weird to the touch even through our thick mittens. The ice clicked and groaned as it strained against



the seabed it was grounded upon. Azure blues and gleaming whites were created as the sun rose in the sky. Looking under the ice it was obvious the teams brief had been wise to warn us against venturing under the



ice. It's suction was powerful as it rose and fell in the water. However, the water was so clear we could see large chunks break off as the tip crashed into the bottom. Too soon it was time to surface and jump back into the zodiac to cruise the bay where we saw whales feeding



and penguin porpoising. Wonderful!

Dive 10 February 15<sup>th</sup> 2025. Palaver Point, Antarctica.

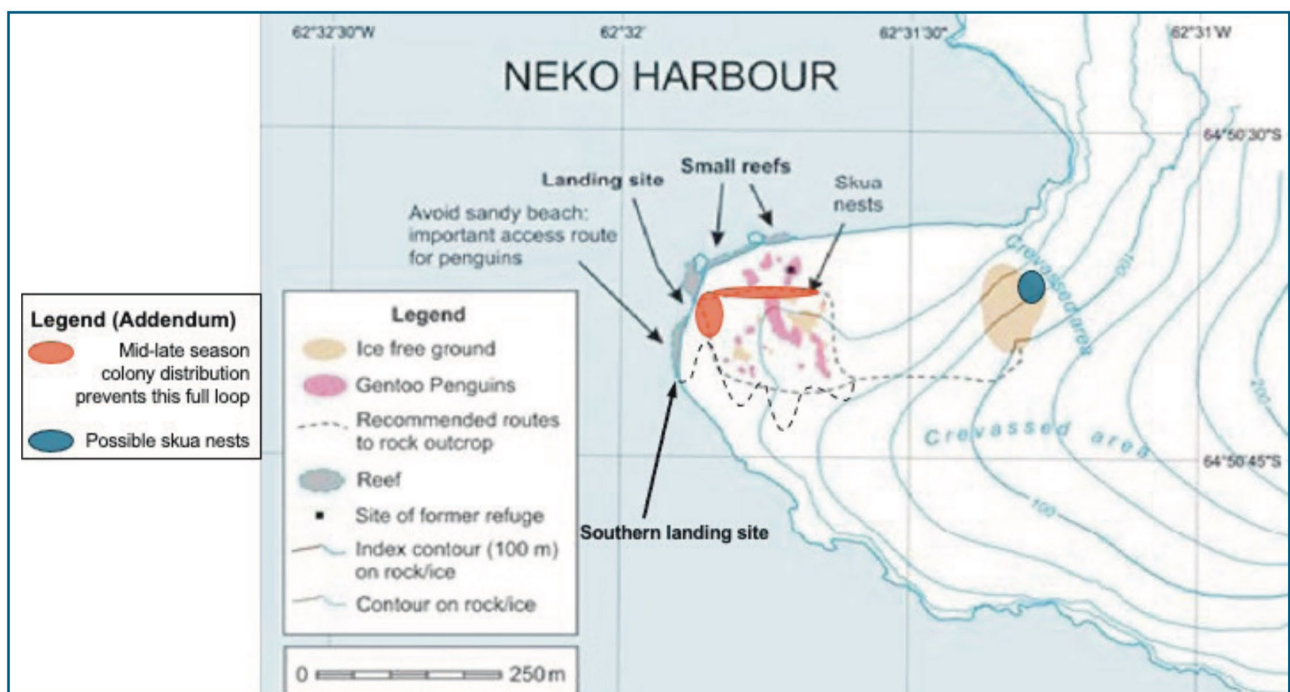
The team showed us around this stunning place looking for a suitable site for us to dive. Soon we descended onto the seabed at 15m enjoying seeing Krill and crustacean along with Penguin feeding. The visibility was extremely good with over 40m across the site. Fur seal basked on the shore whilst some played on the surface of the sea. Shag came across and were interested in our bubbles. The gaps between the rocks teemed with

life. Spending time looking was rewarding as the nooks and crannies were full of life not to be seen anywhere else on our planet. Too soon it was time to ascend and rejoin the team in the zodiacs to return to the ship.



Dive 11 February 16<sup>th</sup> 2025. Neko Harbour, Antarctica.

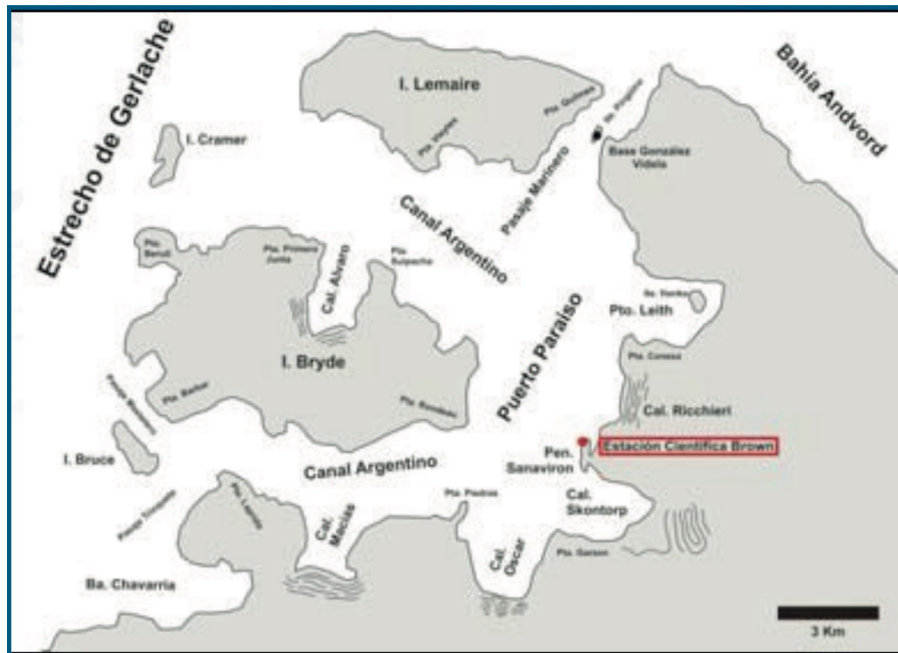
This stunning place has an active glacier at the end of the harbour, which kept calving large chunks of ice into the sea. To avoid the tsunami the team took us to dive on ice outside the bay. The water was turquoise and extremely clear. This made for an exceptional dive around the buttresses of the ice. The colours amazed us and the light was sublime, the ice filtering it like a church or temple. The azure ice shone and the shapes were like sculptures in a gallery. Forty minutes in the water passed in the blink of an eye. We ascended and the team took us out further looking for whales which were in abundance out in the Gerlache Strait. Following this we landed and stretched our legs up to the view point through many penguin scattered amongst the snow.



Dive 12 February 16<sup>th</sup> 2025 Base Brown Paradise Bay Antarctica.

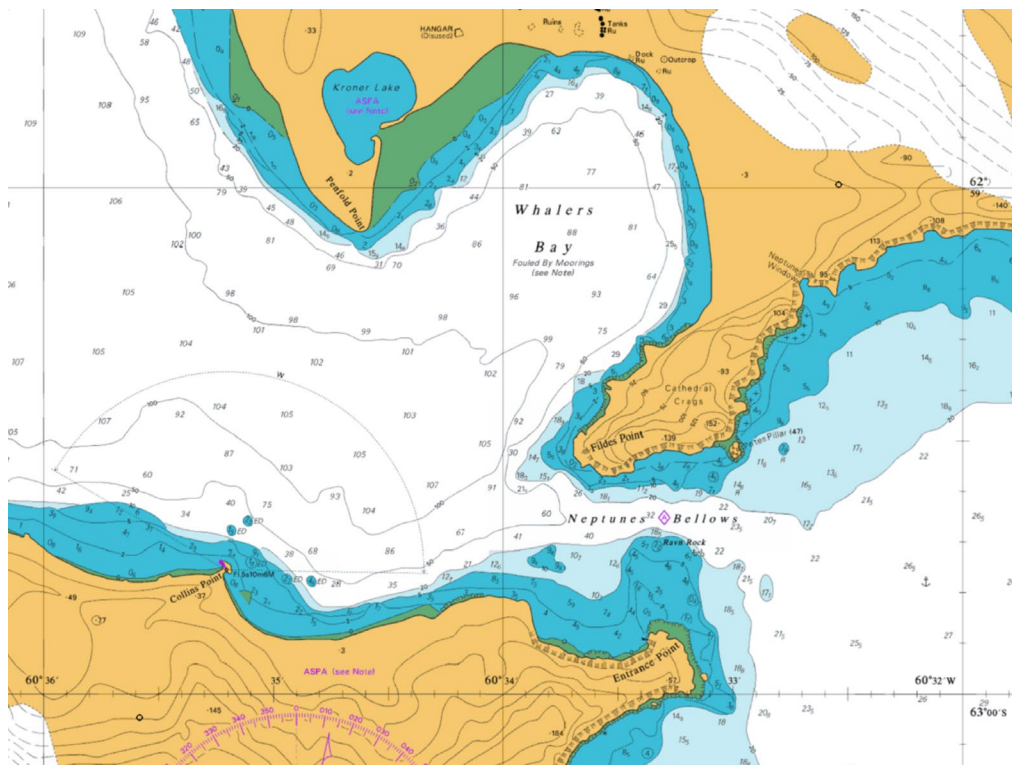
The team took us to dive under the majestic cliff at this beautiful place after cruising past Base Brown and along to Skontorp Bay which is filled with glaciers. Returning to the base of Shag Rock we saw Weddell seal and Crab-eaters hauled out onto the ice. We entered crystal clear water with many Salp and other small creatures in amongst the algae and rocks. We enjoyed 40 minutes searching the wall before ascending to return to the boats to cruise in the bay looking for whales. We enjoyed several close encounters with the many

Humpbacks . It is a majestic sight to see them dive, lifting their flukes as they leave the surface of the water to feed at depth. Penguin leapt from the water to climb on icebergs before sliding back into the water. We found the Captain serving tea laced with rum and enjoyed a warming drink before continuing our cruise. Two hours passed quickly and too soon we returned to the ship to enjoy another meal onboard



### Dive 13 February 17<sup>th</sup> 2025 Whalers Bay Deception Island.

Shortly after breakfast we jumped into the zodiacs for the last time to make a dive at this historical spot. The team scouted along the cliff under the window looking for visibility, after a short while we dived under the cliffs which were covered with Shags. Descending to the sea bed in a live volcano was a new experience for many of us. The sea bed was littered with whale bones covered with life. Seals played on the surface and Cape Petrels swam on the surface. This was a great end to a great trip, many a life long friendship has been forged upon our aquatic adventures. Following the dive the team landed us for us to make a walk before we returned to the ship to clean and dry our equipment before packing for home.







**From the Oceanwide Dive team onboard MV Hondius we thank you for diving with us and look forward to serving you again in the North or South on your future adventures.**