

16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 Damoy Bay

The first day of our Antarctic experience and the lucky first crew were at Damoy Bay on the glacier up past the historic airstrip. A sublime glacial trek on this expansive plateau of land close to Port Lockroy. Accessing our trek from Damoy Bay we took a clockwise tour passing beneath the towering Jabet Peak. Amazing to note that this site was historically used as a makeshift runway for flights transporting personnel and equipment to nearby research stations!

Atmospheric conditions with overcast skies and stunning rays of sunshine pulsing through.



17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015

Hovgaard morning and afternoon

This Island is located close to the Lemaire Channel, southwest of Booth Island in the Wilhelm Archipelago. A great journey up the long spine of this narrow 3.5-mile-long island.

Both teams today made it to the high Col overlooking the Lemair and Errera Channels giving spectacular views west to the Iceberg graveyard beyond Plennau Island and east and south into the channels.

A few flakes of snow didn't detract from the views and both teams got a bonus adventure with navigating through quite large "Brash" Ice on the exit.





18<sup>th</sup> February, Hovgaard AM

Once more we tackled the mighty Hovgaard and succeeded in attaining the high Col. However on today's excursion, all the great views were lower on the peak as we ascended up into the clouds.

For many including the Guides and Drivers, one of the highlights was the 15min, sometimes high speed Zodiac transit to the landing. Icebergs in the fog, Minke whales and crabeater seals. Ticking a lot of boxes. One of the Zodiacs got a close encounter with a Humpback on the way back too.

18<sup>th</sup> February, Petermann Island PM

Petermann Island is a unique small island with both Gentoo and Adele penguin colonies. It is the site of early exploration by Charcot onboard the “Porque pas” (why not?). He carved the initials PP into the rock at the harbour entrance. Today we discourage graffiti.

It was also the tragic scene of the loss of a group of more recent scientists more on ice flows. Their fate remains a mystery.

Today’s mountaineering group cut cross country across from the colony through treacherous penguin poop encrusted rocks – one slip and you’re in the s%\$#

We then cramponed up for the steep head wall to the southern end of the island and roped up. Underfoot conditions were good with firm snow under a thin layer of snow up a narrow corridor between a cliff and an obvious crevasse.

Unfortunately, we the found several less obvious crevasses three quarters of the way up, the last of which being too wide to get across. A turn around was required but an adventure was had and enjoyed by all.



20 February Danco Island AM

Danco Island is a small island close to Cuverville and Ronge islands. An active Gentoo colony with great 360deg views from the broad summit.

Today, however the mountaineering team took advantage of an ice cliff one bay over from the normal landing that enabled us to play on 25-30m high ice cliffs directly off the beach and dutifully patrolled by a couple of inquisitive penguins.

Great ice conditions, great views and a small team enabled a more bespoke experience.



20 February Niko Harbour PM

Neko Harbour is an inlet on the Antarctic Peninsula in Andvord Bay on the west coast of Graham Land. Often inaccessible due to Brash ice and the proximity of great cliffs of calving ice. Luck was on our side for this landing and our intrepid mountaineering teams enjoyed great underfoot snow conditions and good visibility.

Fantastic lighting with sunshine and snowflakes, spectacular glacier calvings way below us causing large waves to sweep the landing zone. What a day!



21<sup>st</sup> February Foyn Harbour, Enterprise Island AM

Foyn Harbour, Enterprise Island off the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. Our mountaineers explored the flanks of the harbour itself, renowned for the wreck of the whaling ship Governoren.

What a spot! Fantastic views, lovely weather and a panorama on both sides of the island to die for! The “moment of silence” on the summit was a firm favourite of many.

The adventure continued with a surprise and very abrupt emergence of a territorial fur seal. Literally lunging out of the sea right next to us and our gear stash. Want to see Guides run (& shriek!) – this will do it.





