

## Kayak Trip Log

Our journey began in the heart of Antarctica's breathtaking landscapes, surrounded by towering icebergs and the ever-curious gentoo penguins of Danco Island.

The silence was profound, broken only by the distant crackling of shifting ice. As we gigled through the frigid waters, the sheer isolation and beauty of the continent set the tone for the adventure ahead.

The winds picked up as we navigated the rugged waters around Orne Island, home to colonies of Chinstrap penguins, fur seals, and lounging seals. Waves crashed against our kayaks, reminding us of nature's power and unpredictability. Yet, in this raw environment, we felt more connected to the wild than ever before.

A day of extremes took us to Jougla Point. As we paddle through rough conditions, we found shelter in a hidden bay near the remains of a whale. The glaciers loomed ever closer, and the sight of Gentoo penguins marching along the icy shore was a stark contrast to the relentless forces around us.

The approach to Port Lockroy Museum and Station was nothing short of surreal. The massive amount of ice surrounding us made each stroke through the water feel like an expedition into the unknown. Blue eyed Antarctic Shags glided beneath us, while a lone Weddell seal rested on the ice. I felt as if time had stopped in this frozen Paradise.

Stoncorp Cove offered us a rare moment of absolute silence, only interrupted by the distant thunder of glaciers claving into the sea. The magnitude of the icy walls surrounding us was humbling, a reminder of nature's untouched grandeur.

Whales. Everywhere. As we ventured into Paradise Bay close to the Argentine Brown Station stood as testament to human endurance in this extreme environment. Through Lemaire Channel.. we found ourselves in the company of these majestic creatures. The icefalls cascading from the towering cliffs above made for an awe-inspiring passage.

A thrilling encounter awaited us at Port Charcot. As we explored the iceberg-dotted waters, a Leopard seal emerged from the depths, trailing our kayaks for over 300 meters. The anxiety of being pursued by one of Antarctica's top predators was unforgettable, yet it was also a rare and exhilarating moment of true wilderness interaction.

Neko Harbour was a labyrinth of ice, making progress difficult yet rewarding. Weddell seals rested undisturbed, while Minke and Humpback whales surfaced just a few hundred or less meters away. The fog thickened, amplifying the echoes of ice breaking in the distance. By the time we reached Challenger Island, we were surrounded by an ever-changing sculpture garden of towering blue icebergs.

Nine days of unparalleled adventure, close wildlife encounters, and the humbling force of nature. Each stroke of the paddle took us deeper into one of the most remote and awe-inspiring places on Earth. This was more than a trip- it was a true expedition, a reminder of our small place in this vast, frozen world.

For those seeking the ultimate adventure, the Arctic beckons next.

The journey continues.

