

Dive Log PLA31-25 / 09.03.2025 – 23.03.2025

On March 9th 2025, a trip to Antarctica with 9 divers from across the globe started in Ushuaia. During the voyage, the divers had the chance to dive in 10 unique spots in Antarctica, discover the local marine life and explore the coldest continent from below the surface. Dressed in their warm dry suits, they were able to stay underwater for 20 to 40 minutes and also experience zodiac cruises and landings after the dives. The coldest water temperature was -1° and the warmest 1°. Maximum depth in Antarctica is due to safety reasons 20 meters, however most of the dives were between 6 to 12 meters.



Dive Log:

Date	13.03.2025
Dive No.	1
Dive Site	Brown Bluff
Coordinates	S 63° 31' 11.27" W 56° 53' 15.93"
Entry Time	10:00
Max. Depth	4.4 meters
No. of Divers	9
The first dive of the trip is a mandatory check out dive for every diver. This way, the diver can get used to the new environment and the special conditions, for example the amount of weight or the cold water. The check dive was conducted in Brown Bluff - a perfect place for a first dive as the water is shallow. During the dive, they had a kind of special wildlife encounter. They found a penguin carcass, it's fluffy skin ripped off, lying on the ocean floor. The suspect was found soon after, upon surfacing, a leopard seal came by to say hello.	



Picture by Serena Zheng

Date	14.03.2025
Dive No.	2
Dive Site	Cierva Cove - Penguin Island
Coordinates	S 64° 10' 25.39" W 61° 5' 15.24"
Entry Time	10:07
Max. Depth	13 meters
No. of Divers	9

On the second day, the divers were supposed to do a wall dive close to Cierva Cove. However, a large iceberg by the dive site forced them to reconsider. Whenever floating icebergs are nearby, dives should either not be attempted or only done so with the utmost care. Another dive site was quickly found, which was Penguin Island. Contrary to its name, there were no penguins around. However, the divers got lucky, and a leopard seal swam by. It wasn't too curious and therefore didn't come up close, but it was still amazing seeing that animal gracefully swimming through water.



Picture by Serena Zheng



Picture by Valérie Springmann

Date	14.03.2025
Dive No.	3
Dive Site	Palaver Point
Coordinates	S 64° 8' 4.29" W 61° 44' 55.34"
Entry Time	16:20
Max. Depth	8 meters
No. of Divers	9

As there were no penguins around during the morning dive, we tried to find them in the afternoon at Palaver Point. And we found them! The divers were lucky to dive with a lot of penguins around. Some great videos have been shot and the divers surfaced with a smile on their face. There were just some complaints that the penguins didn't pose properly in front of the camera. Also Jackie said, that she didn't see a lot of penguins. However, if you look closely at her picture, you can see them in the back. Never forget to look around you!



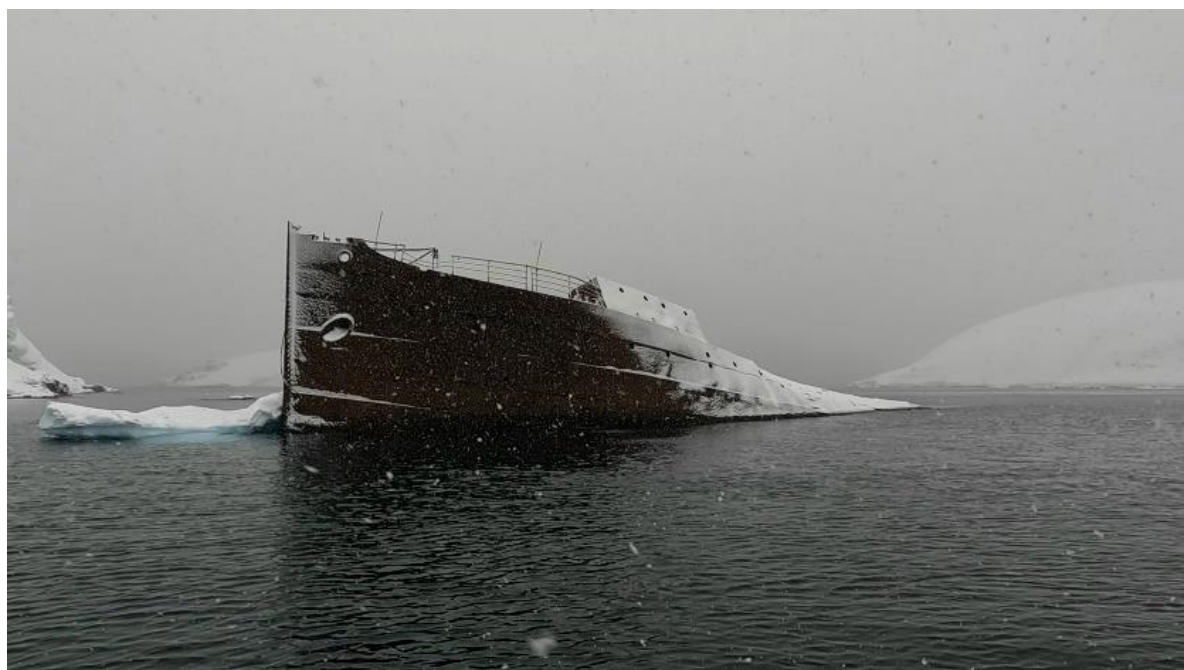
Pictures by Kevin Verbist



Picture by Serena Zheng

Date	15.03.2025
Dive No.	4
Dive Site	Enterprise Island – Governoren Wreck
Coordinates	S 64° 32' 24.68" W 61° 59' 48.20"
Entry Time	09:23
Max. Depth	20 meters
No. of Divers	8

In 1915, a whaling mission came to an end and the crew threw a party. During this party, a lamp got knocked off a table and the ship caught fire. As the ship was full of whale oil, the fire got quickly out of control. The captain then decided for everyone to leave the ship and the Governoren was grounded at Foyn Harbour. This is nowadays probably the southernmost diveable shipwreck and the divers have got the opportunity to do so. Even if the historical wreck is interesting to dive, the highlight of the day was probably the zodiac cruise afterwards, where some humpback whales came super close to the zodiac, putting their heads up to us saying hi. They even stayed while getting back on Plancius and even during the refilling of the tanks. What a morning!



Picture by Angela Buschor

Date	15.03.2025
Dive No.	5
Dive Site	Danco Island - Iceberg
Coordinates	S 64° 43' 30.85" W 62° 37' 13.32"
Entry Time	16:00
Max. Depth	20 meters
No. of Divers	6

The afternoon dive was meant to be the first iceberg dive. To dive an iceberg, you must make sure that it is safe. For example, the iceberg should not move in the water or it should not have some ice formations that could fall down. The iceberg was considered safe, however, there was a down current, which had not been seen from the surface. Without knowing it, the divers went in. They quickly realized the current and the dive ended shortly afterwards. Serena and Valerie gave it another try and went down again to take some pictures. As another iceberg was slowly drifting towards the place where the divers were, they have been recalled. At least, Serena got a nice picture in front of the iceberg. After the dive, some brave divers joined the land excursion and went for a polar plunge. Great job dive team!



Picture by Valérie Springmann on Serena's Camera

Date	16.03.2025
Dive No.	6
Dive Site	Pléneau Island
Coordinates	S 65° 6' 20.01" W 64° 2' 50.34"
Entry Time	09:20
Max. Depth	7 meters
No. of Divers	4 Divers / 1 Snorkeler

We tried for another lovely penguin dive, so the dive guides scouted the area for a Gentoo penguin colony close to shore. They found one and brought the few divers over there. Unfortunately, none of the penguins intended to go into the water while the divers were below the surface. It was probably too early for them. But there were quite a few pink sea stars around, which were also nice to look at.



Picture by Valérie Springmann

Date	17.03.2025
Dive No.	7
Dive Site	Lallemand Fjord - Iceberg
Coordinates	S 67° 9' 29.25" W 66° 40' 7.42"
Entry Time	15:10
Max. Depth	12 meters
No. of Divers	7

After the last-minute cancellation of the morning dive, the divers were happy to be able to go for a dive in the afternoon, where they got a second chance for an iceberg. As we also crossed the Antarctic Circle the night before, this dive was also the southernmost dive for the team. Diving an iceberg can be challenging, as it's floating in salty water but the melting water from the iceberg is freshwater. Keeping the buoyancy next to them is not easy, as the divers had to learn. The visibility was also not the best, but they still enjoyed being next to this impressive mass of ice. After the dive, there were some whales and orcas around, so everybody came back with a huge smile.



Picture by Mike Pumm



Picture by Kevin Verbist

Date	18.03.2025
Dive No.	8
Dive Site	Damoy Point – Casabianca Island
Coordinates	S 64° 48' 42.36" W 63° 30' 46.63"
Entry Time	14:05
Max. Depth	15 meters
No. of Divers	4

During the night the ship headed back north and stopped at Damoy Point. The dive itself didn't sound that exciting. In the end however, it turned out to be one of the favorite dives for everyone. The dive site was like a wall, fully covered with kelp, where you could find lots of marine life in between, like the Antarctic Sun Star (see picture below). The highlight of the dive was in the shallows, where a lot of Gentoo penguins visited the group. Everybody was so excited, they almost didn't want to leave the water, except for Angie, who flooded her drysuit.



Picture by Valérie Springmann



Picture by Kevin Verbist

Date	19.03.2025
Dive No.	9
Dive Site	Paradise Harbor – The Shag Wall
Coordinates	S 64° 52' 49.70" W 62° 50' 44.94"
Entry Time	17:00
Max. Depth	14 meters
No. of Divers	6

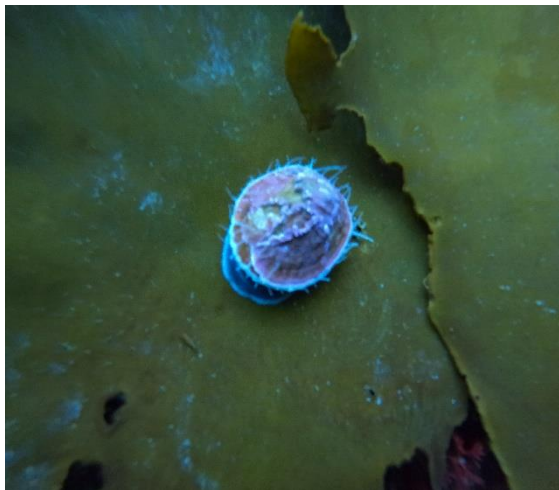
The Shag Wall got its name from Shags, which are nesting on the cliffs above the dive site. It's one of the most spectacular wall dives in Antarctica, on which different marine life, like sea stars, nudibranch or limpets, can be found within the kelp. As the dusky light was penetrating the surface of the water, it lit up a moment of calmness and tranquility. Except for our German Divers René and Detlef, they could probably win an award for being the fastest divers. After surfacing, our experienced zodiac driver Kevin picked them up safely and brought them onshore for the last landing in Antarctica.



Pictures by Valérie Springmann

Date	20.03.2025
Dive No.	10
Dive Site	Buls Bay – Buls Island
Coordinates	S 64° 25' 11.91" W 62° 17' 8.66"
Entry Time	08:20
Max. Depth	12 meters
No. of Divers	5 Divers / 3 Snorkeler

The final day has already arrived – after 9 full days in Antarctica, the adventure comes to an end and the divers were preparing for their last dive. The conditions in the morning looked good and the dive team headed to Buls Island to drop the divers. Down there the divers found a slope wall, covered with kelp, where again, different small marine life could be found. It is also worth mentioning that this was Jackies 200st dive. As the divers were enjoying their dive, the conditions changed and it got more windy. Therefore, everything had to go quickly as they surfaced, to bring them back to the zodiac and return to Plancius safely. Afterwards, the divers had to clean their equipment, bring back the weights and store the equipment for drying. Herewith, another amazing trip comes to an end and there are 9 more divers who experienced this continent from below the surface.



Pictures by Kevin Verbist