



Polar Circle - Deep South Discovery

Ushuaia – Ushuaia

10 March - 21 March, 2025

On board *m/v Ortelius*

DIVELOG OCEANWIDE EXPEDITIONS



DIVE TEAM LEADER: Tanja Bayer

DIVE GUIDES: Clara Iachetti, Dimitrios Sotirakis, Duncan McGregor

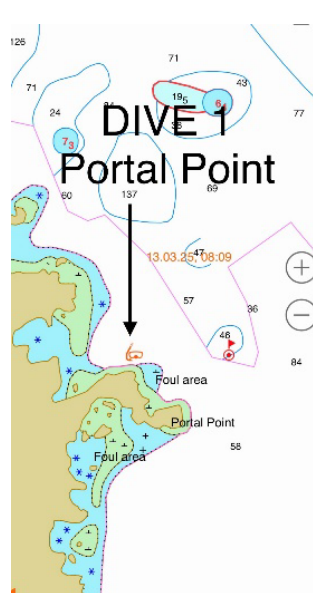
DIVERS: Elizabeth, Christine, Adrianna, Michele, Azadeh, Beatriz, Cynthia, Lourdes, Venetia, Kristin, Tim, Chad, Yuriy, John Lumb, Rolf, Guillermo, Eeckehardt, Ricardo, Jose, Travis, Jared, John Beltramo

Day 1-3 – Monday 10 – Wednesday 12 March. Ushuaia, embarkation day and days at sea

After boarding the ship, we first had to get our Safety Briefing followed by an Emergency Exercise. Our Expedition Leader Sara informed us about the plans of the trip and then we had a toast on our voyage with the captain. The next day we spent at sea and had enough time to do the mandatory briefings including our dive briefing. Because of the rough sea, we did not assemble our gear. This was done in the afternoon of the 12th.

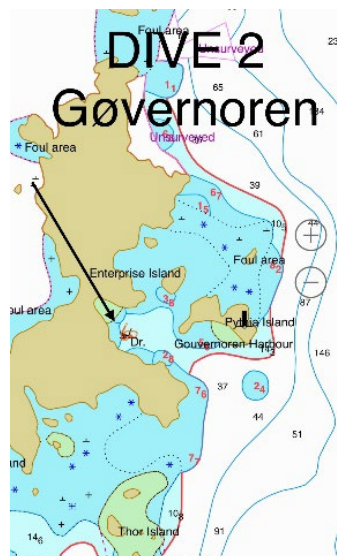
Day 4 – Thursday 13 March. Morning - Dive 1 Portal Point

GPS Position: 64° 29.864' S / 061° 46.029'W • Water temperature: -1-2°C



After reaching Antarctica in the middle of the night, we went further south to do our first dive at Portal Point, a continental landing. Portal point has a small and a higher Snowdome. We chose the rocky beach of the higher snowdome to do our Check-Dive. A nice and gentle rocky slope seemed to be a good place to check all the equipment and the buoyancy. We dived north of the landing site. Some smaller problems had to be solved, but almost everybody enjoyed the first dive in Antarctica. Visibility was more than 5 m and besides the pink algae on the rocks, a lot of limpets with isopods on

Day 4 – Thursday 13 March. Afternoon - Dive 2 Foyn Harbour - Governoren



GPS Position: 64° 32.475' S / 061° 59.750'W • Water temperature: 1-2°C

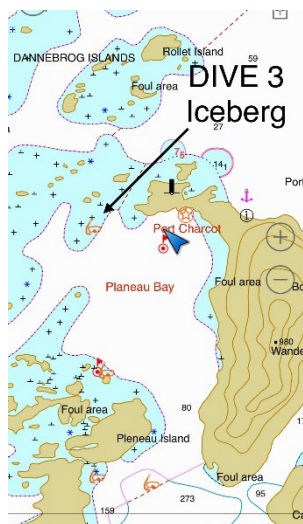
The wreck of the Governoren is one of the Highlight Dives in Antarctica. The Governoren was a Norwegian whaling ship that met its fate in 1915 when a fire broke out on board. The crew abandoned ship, and the vessel eventually sank in the shallow waters off Enterprise Island. The ship's remains, visible just below the water's surface, provide a fascinating glimpse into the industrial history of the early 20th century and the perils faced by those who worked in these remote and dangerous environments. A very good

visibility and lots of life around the wreck made all divers happy! On the haul of the wreck yellow sponges and pinkish anemones were found. The whale bones on the side of the sunken factory ship were impressive. We saw lots of nudibranchs, worms and also the impressive propeller and rudder of the ship. On the way back to Ortelius, we saw some water boats, fur seals and blue eyed shags. Around the ship were also many humpback whales between the ice. What a beautiful day in Antarctica.

Day 5 – Friday 14 March. Morning - Dive 3 Pleneau Bay - Iceberg

GPS Position: 65° 04.253' S / 064° 03.889'W

Wind: Variable force 4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Snow • Water temperature: 0°C



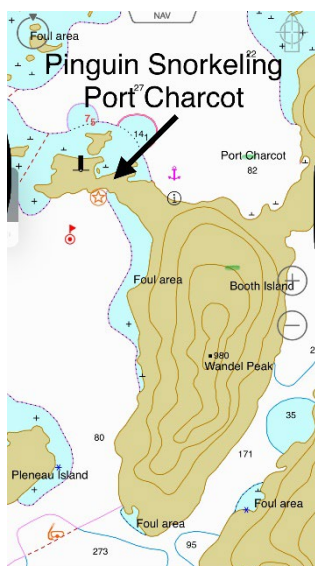
We had a great Zodiac cruising in the morning, saw lots of big floats of penguin and whales in between that.

Now we searched for a nice and stable iceberg to dive on. We found 2 icebergs which were grounded in about 22m. In the briefing Tanja emphasized on the difference of buoyancy in the melting fresh water of the iceberg and the salt water of the ocean. And this happened. It is unpredictable where the fresh water stops, and the saltwater starts. The shape of the iceberg, the current, the waves influence that. It was not an easy dive, but everybody was really impressed by the size of the iceberg under water and the different patterns of the “white wall”.

Day 5 – Friday 14 March. Afternoon - Snorkelling – Charcot Point

GPS Position: 65° 04.102' S / 064° 01.771'W

Wind: Variable force 4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Snow • Water temperature: 0°C



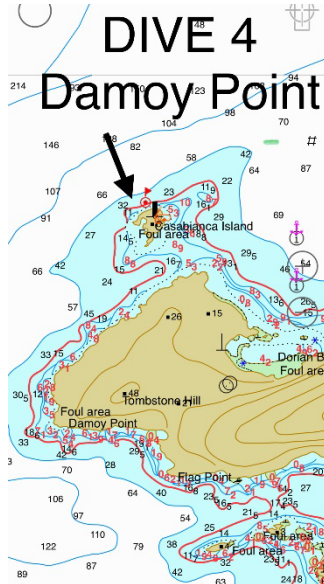
After the dive we had enough time to head to the landing site. Some divers went ashore, and a lot went for a snorkel around the rocks just off the entry and exit point of the penguins. They had a wonderful time with all this penguins swimming and diving around them. After 30 min. their hands were nearly frozen, and everybody left the water. Some did a short landing, others went back to the ship.

What a great day with a lot of activities!

Day 7 – Sunday 16 March. Morning - Dive 4 – Casabianca Island

GPS Position: 64° 48.655' S / 063° 30.592'W

Wind: Variable force 4 • Sea: Calm • Weather: Snow • Water temperature: 1°C

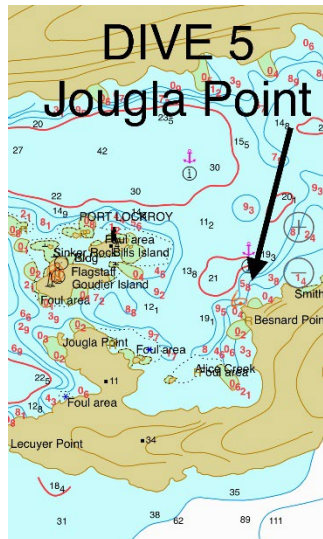


We crossed the circle on the 15th of march, but we were not able to do a dive south of the circle. Detaille island was covered with fog and windspeed was about 60 knots. We made our way back north and did our next dive at Casabianca island. On the western side this island has a nice wall with kelp. In between the divers found the famous sun star with his 50 arms, other sea stars, limpets, small silverfish, sponges and anemones. Evers now and then some penguins came passed by.

After the dive was enough time to land at Damoy Point and stretch the legs after one day at sea.

Day 7 – Sunday 16 March. Afternoon – Dive 5 – Jougla Point

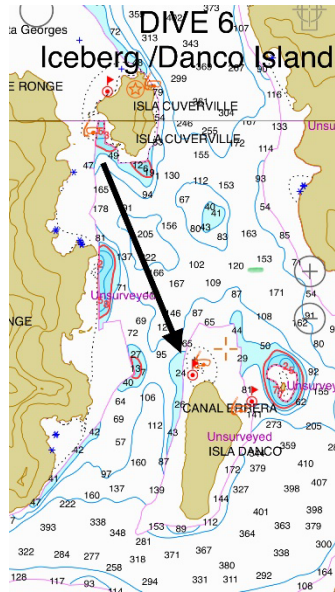
GPS Position: 64° 49.555' S / 063° 28.985'W • Water temperature: 1°C



For the afternoon dive we drove into the bay behind Port Lockroy. This bay used to be a natural harbour for the whaling ships. The divers went from Besnard Point to the north and found a lot of whale bones on the seafloor. Around the bones they found a lot of colorful invertebrates. Sea stars, anemones, limpets and lots of nudibranchs. During the dive a lot of brash ice came in the bay and the divers had to make their way to the surface. A leopard seal was playing around with a nearly dead penguin. All other zodiacs were following him out of the bay. Afterwards we had a look at Port Lockroy and then went back to the ship.

Day 8 – Monday 17 March. Morning – Dive 6 – Danco Island / Iceberg

GPS Position: 64° 43.507' S / 062° 36.012'W • Water temperature: 0°C



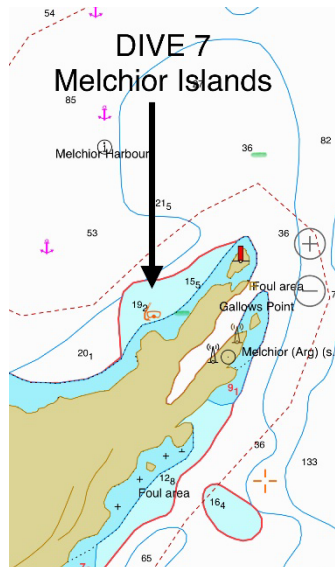
Danco Island is a great place to dive on an iceberg. We went out and looked for a nice iceberg. It was quite windy and also the incoming water brought a lot of brash ice in the bay. We found a nice long berg, which gave us some shelter and was grounded at 17m. Because of the wind we limited the dive to 30 min.

After the dive we found an ice sheet and put all the divers on. Sliding in the water was great fun.

On the way to shore we saw a leopard seal playing around with a penguin and stopped for some nice blue icebergs.

Day 8 – Monday 17 March. Afternoon – Dive 7 – Melchior Islands

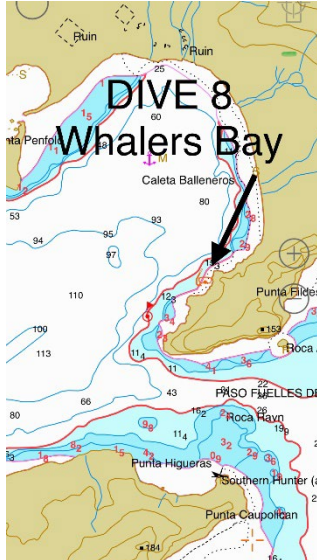
GPS Position: 64° 19.475' S / 062° 58.782'W • Water temperature: 1°C



This was wa sort of an exploration dive, because none of the dive team has dives here before. We chosse a rocky area to the west of the argentinean Melchior Station. Lots of fur selas were hanging around that place and the depth gauge showed a sloping ground down to 19m. The rocks were covered with kelp and all the creatures you can find between. Sea stars, small fish and nudibranchs. Some were lucky and had very playful fur seals around them.

Day 9 – Tuesday 18 March. Morning – Dive 8 – Deception Island / Whalers Bay

GPS Position: 62° 59.347' S / 060° 33.444'W • Water temperature: 2°C



Our last dive of the trip was at Whalers Bay /Deception Island. It was quite windy and the waves in the small bay in the southeast of our anchoring point were challenging. But it was worth it. In the black sand of the caldera anemones, tunicates, sea urchins and sponges built a great contrast. The red, orange and yellow colors were wonderful. A big contrast also to the large white whalebones! What a great last dive!

We would like to thank you for diving with us and wish you safe travels!

Hope to see you again on board!



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