

ANTARCTICA

PENINSULA, SOUTH GEORGIA,
AND FALKLAND ISLANDS

CHEESEMAN'S' ECOLOGY SAFARIS EXPEDITION LOG 2014-2015



EXPEDITION LOG

CHEESEMANS' ECOLOGY SAFARIS

**Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia and Falkland Islands
15 December 2014 to 8 January 2015**



Designed by Teresa Floberg
Edited by Nan Eagleson
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Images by Passengers and Staff as credited



Cover Photo
Gentoo Penguin in Antarctica
By John McGarvey

Back Cover Photo
Frozen waves
By Martin Grosnick

Title Page Photo
Gentoo Penguin on a wave
By Tonya Nilsson

This Page Photo
Moon rising
By Alan Jones

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"Thank you, for your enthusiasm, commitment to preserving the wild places we visited, your flexibility when nature and weather dictated last minute changes in our operations and your general good cheer... What a fantastic group!"

Hugh Rose
Expedition Leader

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Aboard		2	Antarctic Peninsula		36
The Expedition		4	Elephant Island	30 December	38
Tierra del Fuego and Embarkation	15 December	6	Brown Bluff	31 December	40
At Sea to Falkland Islands	16 December	8	Antarctic Sound South	1 January	42
Falkland Islands		10	Cierva Cove and Cuverville Island	2 January	44
New Island & The Settlement	17 December	12	Grandidier Channel and Petermann Island	3 January	46
Steeple Jason Island	18 December	14	Yalour Island and Port Lockroy	4 January	48
Sea Lion Island	19 December	16	Neko Harbour and Danco Island	5 January	50
At Sea to South Georgia Island	20 December	18	Half Moon Island	6 January	52
At Sea to South Georgia Island	21 December	19	At Sea to Ushuaia	7 January	54
South Georgia Island		20	At Sea to Ushuaia for Disembarkation	8 January	55
Arrival at South Georgia	22 December	22	Expedition Staff		56
Salisbury Plain, Fortuna Bay and Stromness	23 December	24	Expedition Participants		57
Hercules Bay and Grytviken	24 December	26	Photo Montage 1		58
Godthul and St. Andrews Bay	25 December	28	Photo Montage 2		60
Gold Harbour	26 December	30	Species List by Date		62
Cooper Bay	27 December	32	The Many Faces of Nature		65
At Sea to the Antarctic Peninsula	28 December	34	Friends of South Georgia Island		66
At Sea to the Antarctic Peninsula	29 December	35			

WELCOME ABOARD

By Hugh Rose, Expedition Leader

A FANTASTIC VOYAGE

Greetings and thank you, to all of my fellow Southern Ocean Adventurers for choosing to join Cheesemans Ecology Safaris on another fantastic voyage to the bottom of the world! Once again, it's that time of year to reflect back on our amazing adventure. While writing an introduction to the log, I know that I may have said this in the past, but this was "One of the best voyages ever!" As I sit in my office in Fairbanks, Alaska, at the other end of the world from Antarctica (our Latitude in Fairbanks is the same as Petermann Island except with an "N" at the end of it, I couldn't get much farther away geographically!) and relive the many highlights of our

trip, I'm struck by the many Southern Ocean "best ever" experiences for me. There are too many to list them all, but a few that come to mind are; tens of thousands of Black-browed Albatross in the air at Steeple Jason, Christmas Eve at Grytviken, a golden day at Gold Harbour, New Year's Eve in the ice in Antarctic Sound, friendly Humpbacks at Cierva Cove, pirouetting Leopard Seals at Booth Island and leaping Gentoos at Danco Island! And these are just a few of the many amazing encounters we all experienced on our voyage south. Once again, we were fortunate to have the very capable *Ortelius*, commanded by Captain Barria with his great officers, crew and always-smiling hotel staff (Thank You Michael, a beautiful good morning to you!), as our platform

for this adventure. We definitely experienced our weather moments (just think back to Steeple Jason and the navigation from South Georgia to the Antarctic Peninsula), but this allowed everyone to experience the true fury of the Southern oceans...from the safety of the stable *Ortelius*! Overall, Mother Nature smiled on us with sunshine and calm winds when we most needed them and the wildlife, icebergs and scenery of Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falklands did not disappoint! The Cheeseman expedition staff worked tirelessly to get everyone safely ashore and back to the ship, and helped to interpret the show of nature we were all so fortunate to experience. And finally I could not ask for a better group of fellow passengers to travel all those nau-



Hugh Rose, Expedition Leader

Michael Pollack



Fellow passengers



Tom Rivest

Satff: Joe Kaplan

Marybee Kaufman

WELCOME ABOARD



Satff: Elise Lockton

Marybee Kaufman



Satff: Sadie Youngstrom

Marybee Kaufman



Satff: Nick Mooney

Fiona Taylor



Satff: Steve and Marybee Kaufman, Artist-in-Residence

Marybee Kaufman



Satff: Nan Eagleson

Marybee Kaufman

tical miles with! Thank you, for your enthusiasm, commitment to preserving the wild places we visited (we raised a record amount of money at our fundraising auction for the rat eradication project on South Georgia, which is now completed in part due to your generous contributions!), your flexibility when nature and weather dictated last minute changes in our operations and your general good cheer during all of our landings, Biosecurity and our last minute gangway changes! What a fantastic group! Now, as I watch spring flood

across the land outside my window and I begin to look forward to the summer season in the Arctic, all I have to do is conjure up the image of the Leopard Seals swimming circles under our Zodiacs against the electric blue iceberg backdrop at Booth Island or recall the comical scene of Gentoos bouncing off the lip of the iceberg at Danco Island and I smile and think, I can't wait to head south again next year!

Tough

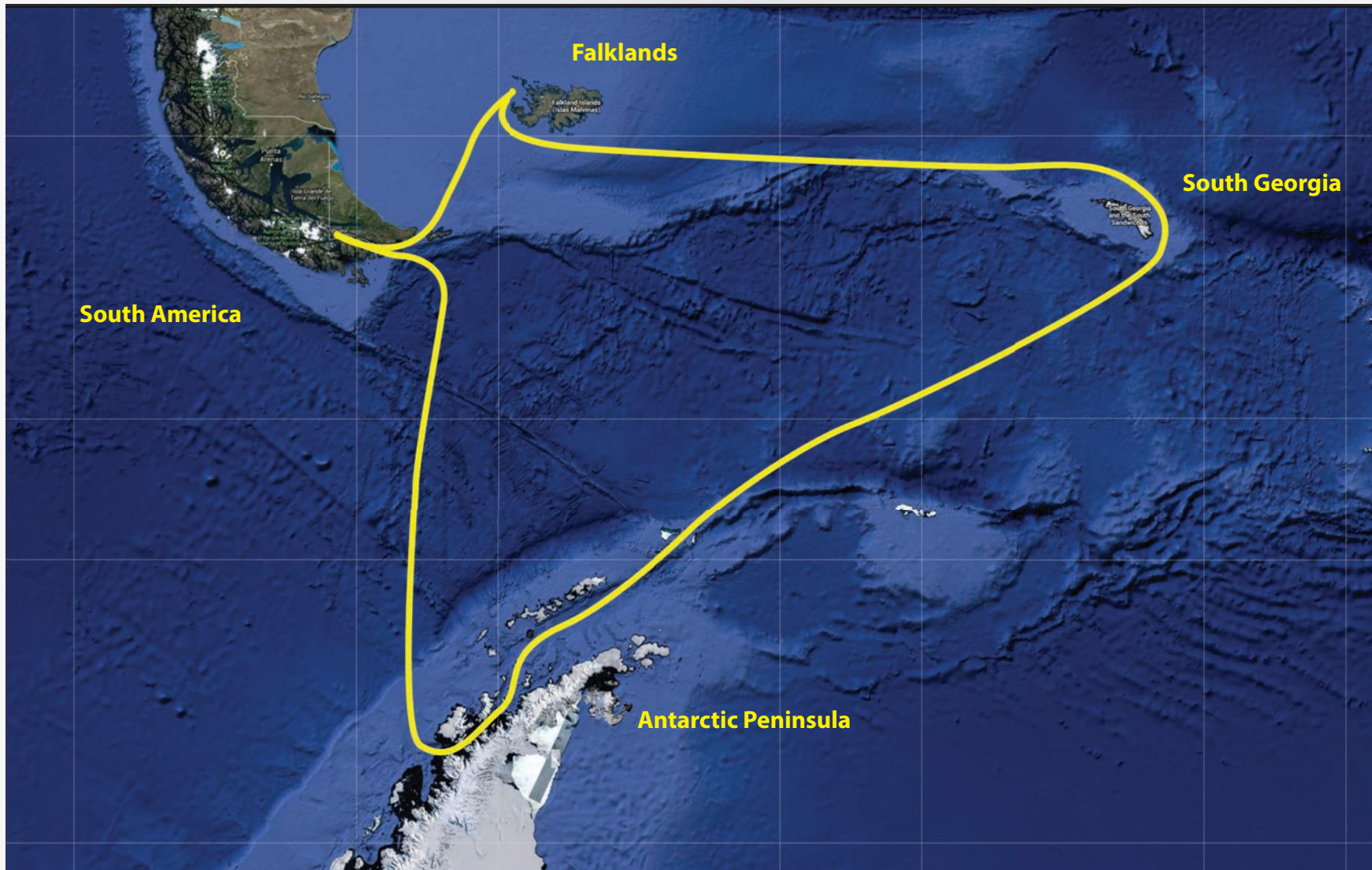
THE EXPEDITION



Antarctic Fur Seals, *Ortelius* in background

Uwe Haller

THE EXPEDITION



By Julianne Restani

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

Humans mark time by the years an important event took place. We place time markers to years when something big happened in our lives: 'the year I graduated from high school' or 'the year we got married' etc. Now we will add another marker to our lives: the 'Cheesemans' trip to Antarctica.'

TIERRA DEL FUEGO NATIONAL PARK

Our year mark voyage began in the colorful city of Ushuaia, the capital of Terra Del Fuego.

Like school children on an outing, we got to know each other better by riding Pullmans to Tierra del Fuego National Park. Three buses divided passengers by passions: bird watchers, photographers and sightseers. The park was created in 1960 and protects 16,000 acres of stunning shoreline, woods and peat bogs. While a few miles of the park is available for camping and sightseeing, the rest of the pristine habitat is closed and home to 20 species of mammals such as Fuegian Fox and Southern Sea Otter. Birders caught sight of a few of the park's 90 species of birds including the Magellanic Woodpecker, Great Grebe,



The adventure awaits

Allison Chin

Rufous-collared Sparrow, Tufted Tit-Tyrants and three different species of geese: Upland, Kelp and Ashy-headed. Beautiful weather and sun dominated the skies during the day giving photographers perfect light to capture the shallow shore waters and surrounding Andes Mountains.

BOARDING THE ORTELIUS

Returning to town we made time for a quick stop to buy odds and ends or visit the End of the World Museum to see artifacts related directly to the history of the city and surrounding area.

Only a short walk from the museum sat our ship, our home for the next three weeks, the *Ortelius*, named after a 15th century cartographer, her decks aflutter with crew, staff and sailors.

Ten passengers were checked in at a time as to not overwhelm our amazing ship/hotel manager, Michael Frauendorfer, followed by a warm greeting by Expedition Leader, Hugh Rose, and introductions to his staff.

We set sail into The Beagle Channel toward, for many of us, the voyage of a lifetime.



The End of the World Post Office

Lorraine Reilly



Kate Mulligan

Marybee Kaufman



Evacuation practice

Oliver Strimple



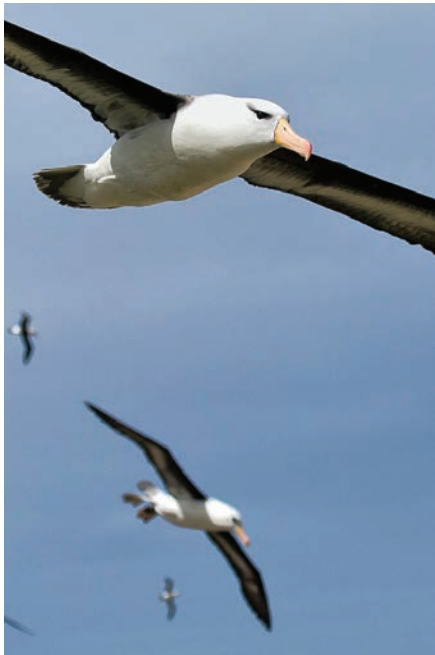
Imperial Shag

Mary Schafer

By Julianne Restani

SAILING EAST

Sometime during the night the ocean changed—a dip, a roll and then we all knew—we’re really “out there.” Our Captain, Ernesto Berria, graciously allowed passengers onto the bridge for a birds’ eye view of how he and his crew sail through difficult passages and straights. We are sailing east to the Falkland Islands, known as Islas Malvinas on Argentine maps. Some of the most iconic bird species of the region were seen from the bridge today: the sleek Black-browed and Royal Albatrosses, Giant, White Chinned, Pintado, Southern Giant and Wilson’s Storm Petrels, Great and Sooty Shearwaters, all spotted by passengers and



Black-browed Albatross

Martin Grosnick

DAY 2 AT NOON

Location	At Sea
Latitude	54°02.5’ S
Longitude	64°00.6’ W
Total Sailed	183 miles
Wind	45 knots WNW
Air Temperature	8°C
Weather	Partly Cloudy

our in-residence staff birders: Joe Kaplan and aptly named, Nan Eagleson.

LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

Being at sea was the perfect opportunity to learn more about the voyage ahead of us. The information-packed day included Joe’s lecture, “Natural History of the Falklands/South Georgia’s Wildlife/Southern Ocean” followed by Hugh’s “Zodiac Safety” and Marco’s talk, “Sustainability: Tourism in the Subantarctic/Antarctic.” Next came a workshop on how to correctly set up cameras and the basics of nature photography by wildlife photographer Ron—followed by hands-on help from the rest of our professional photographers: Tom, Steve and Hugh.

Other activities today included muck boot fitting for passengers—sorry fashionistas—boots come only in black and green. Our artist-in-residence, Marybee, gave out art supplies and talked about the ins and outs of wildlife illustration. Wrapping up the day, Hugh and Ron presented “Introduction to the Falklands: Photos, Tips, Tour Ethics, and Natural History” followed by Tim and Pauline Carr’s lecture, “Last Port of Call: Falklands from the Maritime Perspective.”

WAVES OF “MAL DE MAR”

Many of us, unfortunately, spent the day dealing with waves of mal de mar, but lucky for us, Dr. Lynn Hoole helped ease our suffering with kind



Aspiring photographer

Jennifer Zhou

words and even kinder medications.

“One hand for the ship” was our constant reminder when moving around the decks and stairs because the *Ortelius* began listing and rocking while going through the Southern Ocean. Why is it that babies enjoy being rocked in a cradle while we grown-ups find it nauseating?

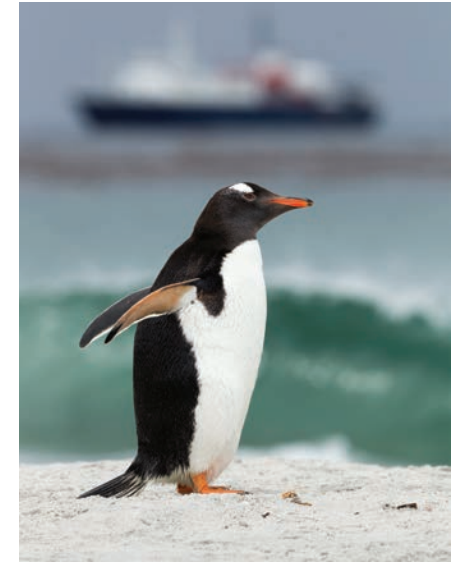
What led you to take this trip?

“We chose Antarctica as a destination because it is a wonder, a magical place, a moonscape, intriguing—a place we had not yet experienced with potential of being the trip of a lifetime.”

- Judy Moon and Bob Otness



The Ortelius



Gentoo Penguin

Michael Pollack



Many different vessels in the sea that day

Marc Meijlaers



Giant-Petrel

Tonya Nilsson

FALKLAND ISLANDS



Falkland Islands

Mary Schafer

FALKLAND ISLANDS



Imperial "Blue-eyed" Shag

Virginia Robbins



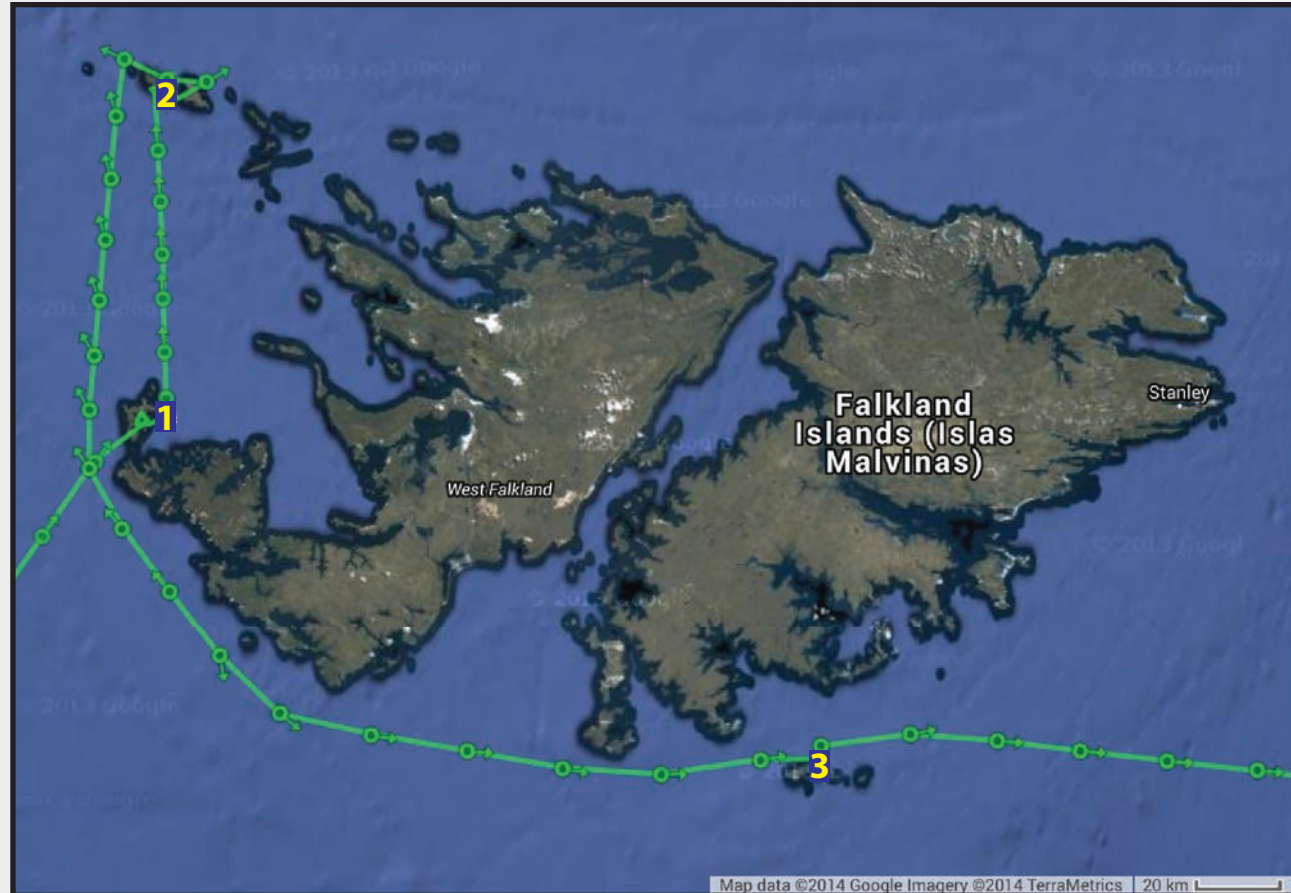
Black-browed Albatross

Michael Viljoen



Gentoo Penguin

Joseph McKenna



Footprints

John Salmon

Point	Landing	Date
1	New Island & The Settlement	17 Dec
2	Steeple Jason	18 Dec
3	Sea Lion Island	19 Dec



Gentoo Penguin

Robyn Woodward



Killer on the beach

Michael Pollack

By Julianne Restani

NEW ISLAND

We arrived at New Island in excellent time after leaving port in Ushuaia—400 miles under our belts. We spent the day on New Island, a narrow island whose outline resembles a Rorschach blot, located at the very southwest corner of the Falkland archipelago. Purchased in 1972 by naturalist Ian Strange—who came to the island originally to raise minks for the Hudson Bay Company—he then turned the island into a permanent nature/wildlife reserve now run by the New Island Conservation Trust.

Today was our first day on the Zodiacs and first landing day! We all tried to remember our Zodiac rules: both hands on the gangway (not gangplank) descent, use sailors' grip, one foot on Zodiac side, slide down toward transom, don't stand etc. Do we have our life jacket, dry bag, sunscreen, the correct footwear, hat, gloves, etc.? Did we tell Julianne our names as she counted us off? Did I flip my tag? So much to remember!

A BIRDER'S PARADISE

After a relatively easy Zodiac ship launch and beach landing, thanks to perfect weather, we found ourselves



Sharing the sand with a Striated Caracara Hugh Rose

on a small New Island beach. Passengers could take Zodiacs to the north end of the island to see the Black-browed Albatross colony—where many of us realized the power of the area winds. Hold on to your hats and any other loose garments! A short walk led us to a crystal white beach where a Gentoo colony lazed in the warm sand. Out of the peaceful blue waters—killer on the beach—a prowling Elephant Seal swiftly snatched, killed and ate a hapless Gentoo right in front of us!

For passengers wanting to stretch



There must be something more interesting in the water than penguins

Martha Robbins

What led you to take this trip?

"My great uncle gave me a copy of Endurance when I was 13. I read it in one night and then read it at least 25 more times over the years. I wanted to see what he saw. That's why I'm here, and every sight I've seen overwhelms me."

- Anon

their legs—a nearly 4-½ mile hike that rolled through the hills and featured plenty of Magellanic Penguin burrows and a stunning view of the South Harbor. An additional mile took us to the rookery of Rockhopper Penguins. Many of us saw the true nature of Southern Caracaras—their endless curiosity with our hats, shoes and anything not nailed down.

Sheathbills, Blackish and Magellanic Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons, Blackish Cinclodes and Dark-faced Ground-Tyrants.

DAY 3 AT NOON

Location	New Island
Latitude	51° 42.4' S
Longitude	61° 16.8' W
Total Sailed	363 miles
Wind	35 knots W
Air Temperature	7°C
Weather	Partly Cloudy

What a day for birders! Today's sightings topped thirty new species. We were graced by the presence of Falkland Steamer and Crested Ducks, Rock Cormorants, Turkey Vultures, Snowy



Gentoo Penguin

Siu Kwok

DAY 4 AT NOON

Location	Steeple Jason
Latitude	51°02.7' S
Longitude	61°13.6' W
Total Sailed	463 miles
Wind	50-75 knots NNW
Air Temperature	7°C
Weather	Cloudy

What led you to take this trip?

"The overall intensity of the itinerary and the time off the boat. The staff was perhaps most impressive in the quality of the lectures and their ability to tough-it-out in the surf and handle the Zodiacs."

- Dick Benoit



Striated Caracara

Anthony Yau



Persian tapestry

Alan Jones



Black-browed Albatross colony

Alan Jones

By Julianne Restani

STEEPLE JASON

Today we sailed fifty miles directly north to land on Steeple Jason—the most awe inspiring of the Falkland Island chain since it is home to the largest Black-browed Albatross colony in the world. Over 200,000 breeding pairs crowd along a three-mile stretch of Steeple Jason's coastline. New York resident and philanthropist, Michael Steinhardt, gifted the island to the NY

Zoological Society/Wildlife Conservation Society Bronx Zoo, which maintains a small research station on the island.

At 4:15 a.m. thirty-five intrepid souls heeded the wake-up alarm, wolfed down a bar breakfast of pastries and coffee and hit the Zodiacs by 5:00 a.m. This was not a breezy beach landing but a tricky, slippery rock landing where staff lined up to hold out a helping hand to get each passenger onto



Nesting mother

Cheryl Stewart



Gentoo penguins emerging

Michael Viljoen

the island. Caracaras appeared immediately, excited at our arrival—giddy at the possibility of stealing hats and ripping up flags. A short hike took us up to the albatross colony—what a sight to behold!

ALMOST STRANDED

Meanwhile, Zodiac drivers managed to get twenty-two additional passengers still on the ship, ashore, in the moments before the winds picked up to 77 knots—thus stopping all pick up

and drop-offs. To avoid the wind and white caps, the captain relocated the *Ortelius* to the north side of the island. From the ship we could see our shipmates on the Island actually basking in the sun while waiting a ride back to the ship. Time ticked by—would the 53 passengers on shore have to spend the night on the island? Thoughts of calling the Zoological Society to ask for use of their research station as shelter were considered. Is the key under the matt?

Finally around 8 p.m. a last attempt to launch Zodiacs went on and Greg, Tom, Nick, Hugh, Joe and Ron managed to dodge through high winds and thick kelp beds to retrieve tired, hungry and yet happy passengers, some of whom spent around 13 hours on shore! Around 8:30 p.m., with everyone safe aboard, winds grew to over 100 knots and the ocean began tossing the *Ortelius* around like a wet football.



Black-browed Albatross pair

Kieran Baxter

By Julianne Restani

SEA LION ISLAND

The weather held us back today and we didn't get out to Sea Lion Island until late in the afternoon. During most of the 20th century the island was used to raise sheep but in 1990 the island was purchased by the Falkland Island Development Corporation, who in turn removed the sheep and planted 60,000 stands of tussock grass—which the sheep had nearly eradicated.

A gentle rain landed while we spread out along the beach to watch for ag-

gressive Southern Fur Seals—we learned to gently brush the seal's whiskers—to stop them in their frippery tracks. Get out your bird book! Our birding experts Joe and Nan took another group out to see the diversity of birds which include Magellanic Oystercatchers—instantly recognizable with brilliant dark orange bills, White-rumped Sandpipers, Two-banded Plovers and the endemic subspecies of Sedge Wren (locally known as Grass Wren) and the endemic Cobb's Wren (a bird found only in the Falklands). There were many Southern Giant Petrels sitting stock still on their nests—we gave them a wide berth.

DAY 5 AT NOON

Location	Sea Lion Island
Latitude	52°24.5' S
Longitude	58°03.7' W
Total Sailed	599 miles
Wind	13 knots W
Air Temperature	7°C
Weather	Partly Cloudy

ACTIVITIES FOR ALL

A change in weather allowed for activities on the beach. Tim and Greg led a six-mile hike to seek out a Rockhopper Penguin colony while Elise and Pauline took plant lovers into the wilds of the island for a natural history walk. Staff member Sadie spoke about seals and their behavior. A running question from passengers (pun intended) was about the running mucus coming



Snowy Sheathbill

Joseph McKenna



Southern Elephant Seal

Joseph McKenna

out of seal snouts. Marybee got people drawing and sketching—all while keeping an extra eye out for curious seal pups—many of whom fell asleep on our dry bags.

The earlier beach landing was calm but as we began to pack up our cameras and dry bags, the wind rose and the waves started crashing into the Zodiacs. We all were having a tough time getting our bottoms up and on the sides of the Zodiac. All elegance is lost when some of us ended face down or bottom side up in the boats. Back at the ship it was time to pull anchor and head out toward South Georgia.



Gentoo Penguin

Ty Smedes



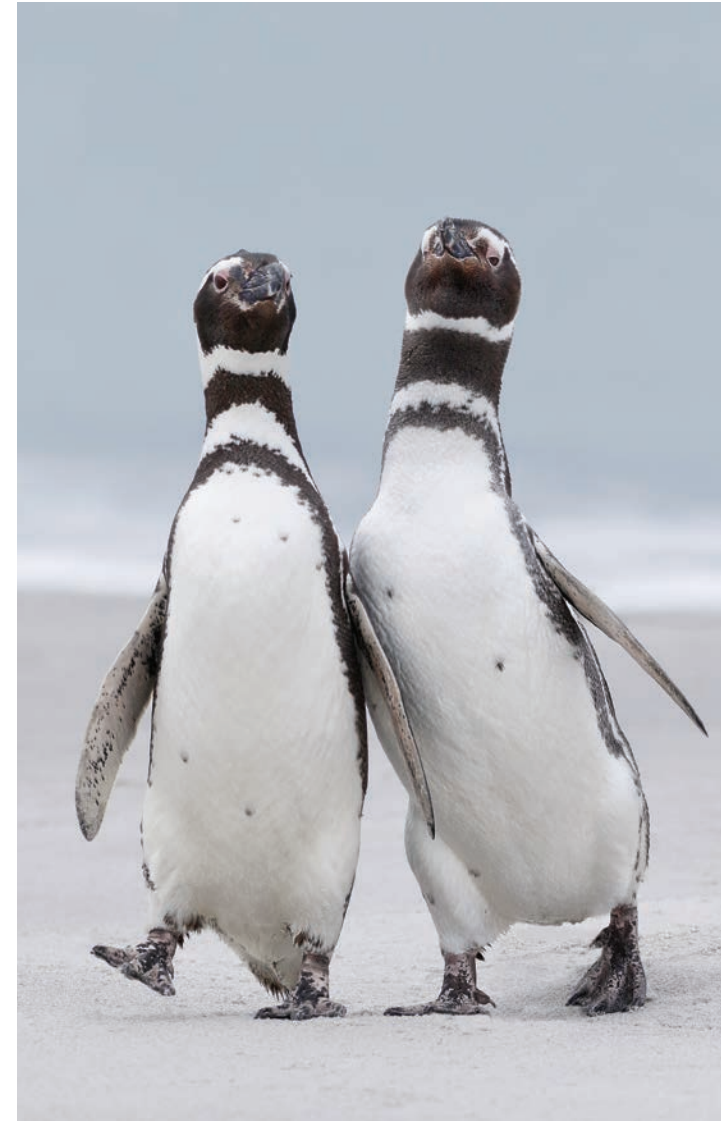
Southern Elephant Seal "Weaner"

Van Miller

What led you to this trip?

"When we started dating, Vernon mentioned that he had a few goals. I can remember two of his goals: to see six hundred birds in the US and Canada and to go to Antarctica. We retired in June 2014 and just six months later, we're standing on the Salisbury Plain with thousands of King Penguins. Life doesn't get much better than that!"

- Winona Howe



Magellanic Penguin love

Michael Viljoen

DAY 6 AT NOON

Location	Scotia Sea
Latitude	52°40.8' S
Longitude	54°00' W
Total Sailed	820 miles
Wind	24 knots WSW
Air Temperature	6°C
Weather	Cloudy

By Julianne Restani

BIO-SECURITY

Steaming towards South Georgia, we began our two-day long, by appointment only, Bio-security inspection.

"...I first landed in Antarctica on board the Calypso. A serene sun shone upon a dusting of snow that had fallen over-

night. Heart pounding, I took my first steps but a squeak made me go back. My footprints were smeared with a little grease that contrasted with the blinding whiteness of everything around me. Naively, I felt a rush of shame for failing to clean my boots." Jacques-Yves Cousteau.

To avoid feeling like Cousteau and

staying in accordance with South Georgia laws, we began Bio-security, also known as getting the staff to clean your camera bags! Inspected: pant legs, pockets, hats, socks, gloves, kneepads, coats, binocular bags and every strip of Velcro in the ship. Besides finding seeds such as dandelion, sunflower, grape and millet—search-



Southern Elephant Seals

Jennifer Zhou



Humpback Whale

Beverly Houwing



Porpoising South American Sea Lion

Jennifer Zhou

ers found a couple of lost keys, change and some paper money and pockets in clothing and packs that owners never new existed. Will any of us look at tweezers the same after two hours of bio-security?

LECTURES

Being at sea allows the staff to lecture further on their areas of exper-

tise. Today's lectures included Sadie's "Southern Ocean's Marine Food Web" followed by Marco's "Dynamics of Seabird Flight," which explained how seabirds fly in the harshest weather conditions on earth. Nick tied up the morning with a talk, "Slippery When Wet: Aquatic Adaptation of Marine Mammals/Birds." Right after lunch Ron taught passengers more advanced

techniques on how to use their cameras and shooting video in this part of the world—another theme picked up by Tom as he explained Lightroom and shooting raw. Our explores in residents, Tim and Pauline Carr, rounded out the evening with their talk about the their times traveling on the *Curlew*—the sailboat where they spent more than a quarter of their lives.

During the day out on the deck, denizens racked up a nice list of sea birds including our first glimpses of Grey-headed Albatrosses, Soft-Plumaged Petrels, White-headed Petrels, Black-bellied Storm Petrels and our first whale sighting, a short glimpse of a Southern Bottlenosed Whale and an Hourglass Dolphin!

DAY 7 AT NOON	
Location	Scotia Ridge
Latitude	53°09.7' S
Longitude	46°58.7' W
Total Sailed	1077 miles
Wind	25 knots WSW
Air Temperature	7°C
Weather	Cloudy



Northern Giant-Petrel *Joseph McKenna*

What led you to take this trip?

"The prospect of being on an expedition that would put me in meaningful touch with the land and wildlife of Antarctica and South Georgia."

- Frank Williams



Wandering Albatross *Alan Jones*



Sunset *Jessi Van Dijk*

SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND



King Penguins, South Georgia Island

Cheryl Stewart

SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND



Oakum Boy (King Penguin juvenile)

Kieran Baxter



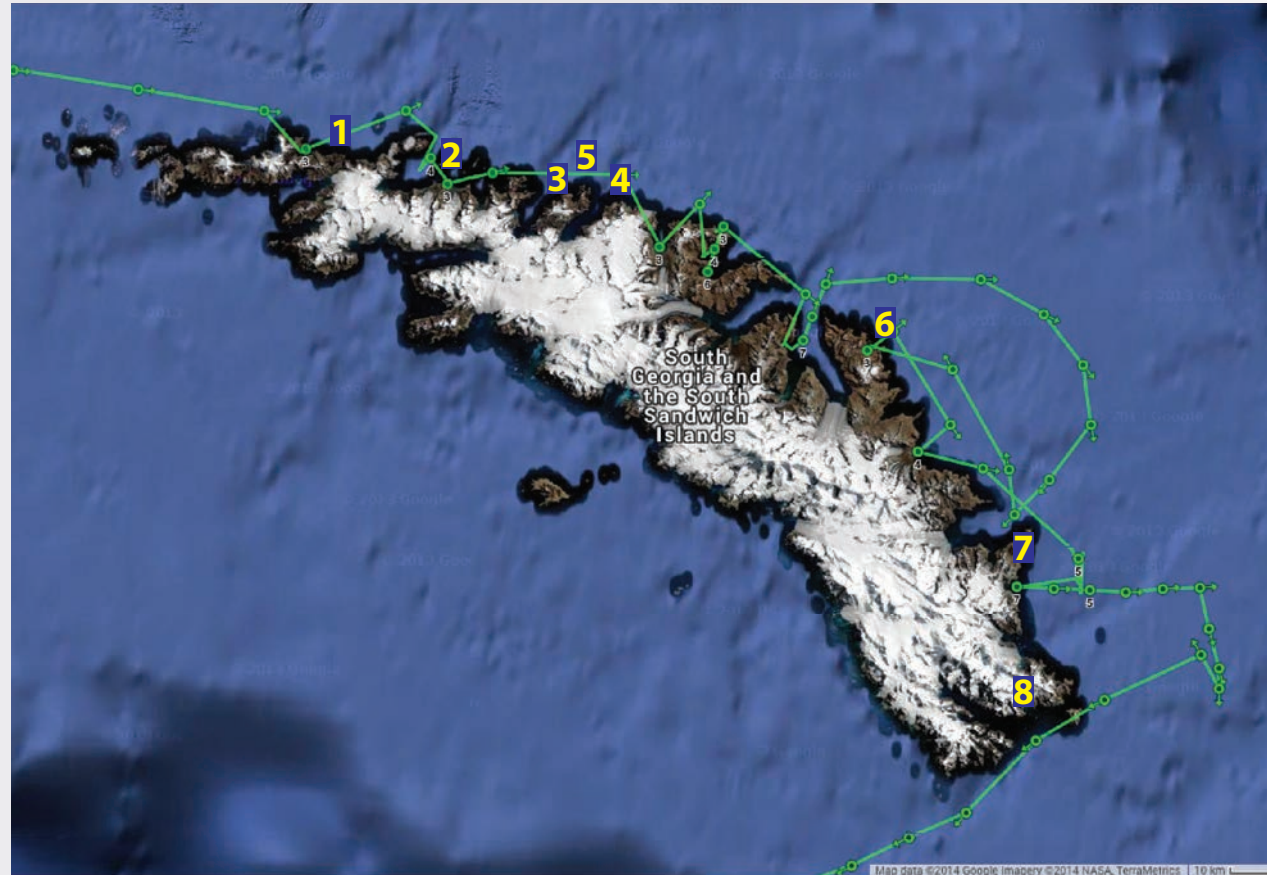
Southern Elephant Seal

Cheryl Stewart



Antarctic Fur Seal pup

Cheryl Stewart



Point	Landing	Date	Point	Landing	Date
1	Right Whale Bay	22 Dec	5	Hercules Bay and Grytviken	24 Dec
2	Salisbury Plain	23 Dec	6	Godthul and St. Andrew's Bay	25 Dec
3	Fortuna Bay	23 Dec	7	Gold Harbour	26 Dec
4	Stromness	23 Dec	8	Cooper Bay and Drygalski Fjord	27 Dec

By Julianne Restani

RIGHT WHALE BAY

One last day sailing—the weather was incredibly sunny and hardly any wind—some of the ocean flying birds actually had to flap their wings to keep aloft. Early in the morning the bridge crew sighted 39 whales and numerous Southern Fur Seals. As we get closer to South Georgia, the number of birds flying near the ship will increase. Many of these species feed in the evening hours. To avoid colliding with the *Ortelius*, we will ‘blackout’ lighted portholes and windows for the next seven days. Light from the ship can disorient the birds, especially in foggy or snowy weather conditions.

More informative lectures followed: Hugh’s talk on “Plate Tectonics and South Georgia Geology,” plus others on “South Georgia Photo Tips” and “Natural History.” Afterwards, we all gathered in the lecture room to view the group slide show. We then relived our trip to the Falklands with an excellent show of guests’ photos—a wonderful compilation of wildlife and the beauty of the area.

We all gathered in the ship’s bar to view the mandatory pre-landing video provided by the South Georgia government to ready ourselves for



Grytviken, South Georgia

Celie Placzek



Right Whale Bay

Brad Quaderer



Crossing the river (with company)

Hugh Rose

our arrival—at 5 p.m. we could see thousands of Southern Fur Seals along Elsehul Bay.

NEW SPECIES SIGHTINGS

Today brought us more new species: Yellow Billed Pintails, King Penguins, Macaroni Penguins, South Georgia Shags and Antarctic Terns. Our first Humpback Whale made an appearance today too, while a short glimpse of an Orca was seen by a few of us.

Our day ended with Hugh’s announcement that we will be landing ashore tomorrow—which was greeted with cheers, he then added that we will begin at 4:30 a. m. and cheers tapered off...



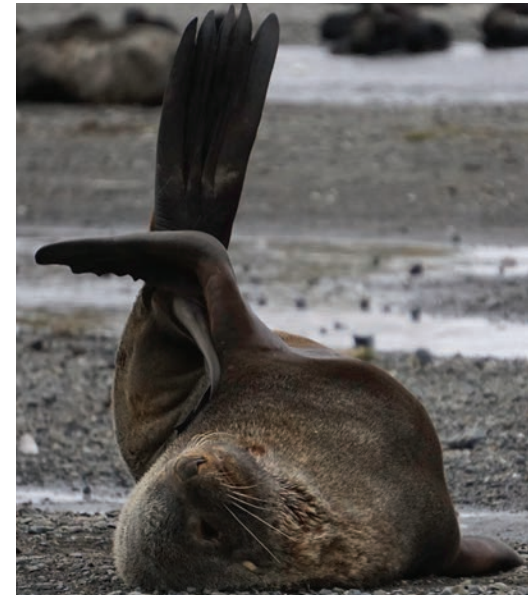
Sadie and curious Kings Tom Rivest

DAY 8 AT NOON	
Location	South Georgia
Latitude	53°46.7' S
Longitude	39°38.4' W
Total Sailed	1345 miles
Wind	10 knots W
Air Temperature	6°C
Weather	Sunny

What brought you to this trip?

“Antarctica has always been one of my two dream destinations, and over the years I also learned that South Georgia Island was a “Don’t miss destination in the same neighborhood.”

- Ty Smedes



Antarctic Fur Seal Judy Moon



Southern Elephant Seal Judy Moon



Antarctic Fur Seal pup Judy Moon

What has impressed you the most so far?

"At first thought—visions of flowing blue ice danced in my head, bloody mouthed snoozing Leopard Seals and the silly alchemy of the hairy Oakum Boys' scruffy transformation into sleek, aloof elegance. My fellow travelers transformed me—their energy, exuberance, their passion for expression with photography, drawing and birding. Their ready generosity and sympathetic support when I had camera problems!"

- Mary Schafer



Ready to be photographed

Beverly Houwing

DAY 9 AT NOON

Location	Salisbury Plain
Latitude	54°08.8' S
Longitude	36°48.2' W
Total Sailed	1472 miles
Wind	19 knots W
Air Temperature	5°C
Weather	Partly Cloudy

By Julianne Restani

SALISBURY PLAIN

We landed on the indescribable Salisbury Plain with its incredible King Penguin colony. Here around 500,000 King Penguins nest while sharing the beach with molting Southern Elephant Seals and Southern Fur Seals. The beauty of the place is intensified by the nearly 4,000-foot Mount Ashley and the vivid Grace Glacier. Trying to capture the immensity of this penguin colony with a single photo is impossible—many photographers tried by hiking up and shooting from an overlook. The colony truly seemed never ending; King Penguins and their brown-robed offspring, Oakum Boys, seemed to melt into the distance in an unending gold, black, white and tan ribbon.



King Penguin colony

Andy Lee

FORTUNA BAY

We headed back onto the *Ortelius* to sail off to Fortuna Bay, on our way to the whaling station at Stromness. The beach's surrounding hills, dotted with tussock slopes, hid more than a few Southern Fur Seal pups, something to be extremely cautious of. Many folks followed in the footsteps of the *HMS Endurance's* captain, Ernest Shackleton, and his first mate, Thomas Crean, and Frank Worsley—who hiked 32 miles on ice and snow, to save themselves and eventually the rest of the crew.

Our portion of the hike is just 3.2 miles. Parts of the trek were exceptionally steep—wet and slippery shale rocks made for slow moving—but keeping in mind what Shackleton and his crew had experienced before even arriving

on South Georgia, crossing eight hundred miles of open ocean, in the tiny lifeboat, the *James Caird*, while wearing rotting clothing, in need of rest, and starving—none of us complained. Upon reaching the 1200-foot summit, we could take in the amazing views of the bay behind us and the Shackleton Valley in front of us.

STROMNESS

The hike finishes at the crumbling and abandoned Stromness Whaling Station—Shackleton's sole goal when arriving on land. One can only imagine hearing a knock at the station manager's door—here in truly the middle of nowhere—to find three unrecognizable explorers of whom no one had heard from in nearly three years.

Today we also saw a South Georgia

Pipet, the world's most southern passerine—an amazing sight since, until recently, the pipet was driven to near

extinction by the accidental introduction of the Brown Rat during whaling days.



Hiking to Stromness Whaling Station

Allison Chin



Antarctic Fur Seal pups

Heike Dietzmann



"Weaners" Southern Elephant Seals

Julianne Restani



Greetings

Polly Tsai

By Julianne Restani

HERCULES BAY

The order of the morning was Zodiac cruising in the shadows of the magnificent cliffs of Hercules Bay. Our Zodiac drivers took us from one amazing sight to another: plunging waterfalls and colonies of Macaroni Penguins in their mountainside nests. Watching them waddle then “leap” from stone to rock had us all holding our breath in hopes they wouldn’t fall. Fur seals occasionally popped their heads out of the water to give us a look. We spied more pipets and watched a gang of Southern Giant Petrels in the water trying to break through the skin of a dead fur seal. One group was treated to a Humpback Whale sighting—ah, the luck of the Zodiac draw!

GRYTVIKEN

On ship we headed for Cumberland Bay and anchored in the former whaling station of Grytviken—it now is the administrative center of South Georgia at Hope Point. South Georgia Heritage Trust representative, Sarah Lurcock, boarded the *Ortelius* to welcome us and to talk about South Georgia’s formidable rat eradication project and how the pipet populations have finally rebounded since the beginning of the project.

We were able to land at the former whaling station in the brilliant afternoon sun. While there, we toasted to “the Boss”, Ernest Shackleton, who is buried in the island’s cemetery. Pauline read the famous Sir Raymond Priestly quote, “For scientific discovery give me Scott; for speed and efficiency of travel, give me Amundsen; but when you are in a hopeless situation, when you are seeing no way out, get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton.”

The skeletal remains of what was once a thriving whaling station are everywhere: abandoned propellers, huge anchors, processing machinery and the rusting carcasses of whaling ships. Looking around, it’s difficult to imagine that during 60 years in operation some 54,000 whales were brought in, to be butchered for their oil, blubber and bones.

A small museum, run for twelve years by staff members Pauline and Tim, holds incredible taxidermies of marine mammals and birds from the area.



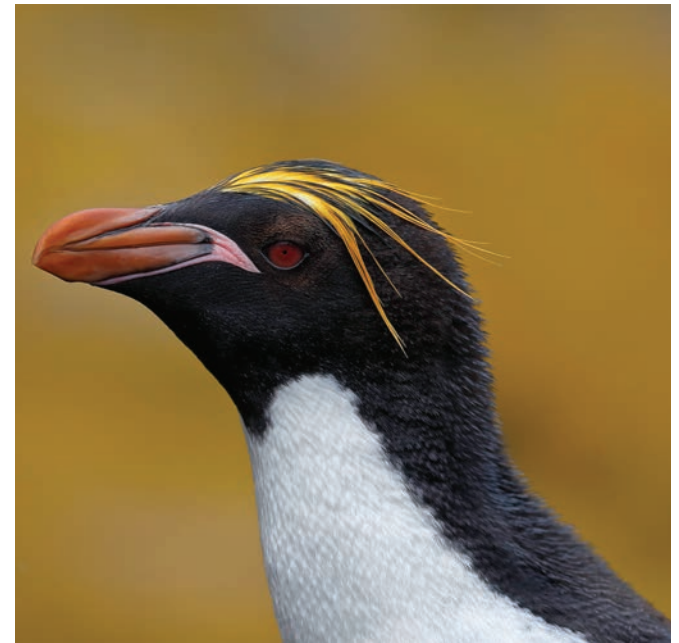
Cruising Hercules Bay

Ellen Gilkerson



Anchored in Grytviken

Allison Chin



Macaroni Penguin

Arthur Morris

DAY 10 AT NOON

Location	Hercules Bay
Latitude	54° 36.3' S
Longitude	39° 36.0' W
Total Sailed	1509 miles
Wind	5x knots Light Air
Air Temperature	5°C
Weather	Overcast

CHRISTMAS EVE BBQ

In the evening we invited the population of Grytviken to join us for an open deck Christmas' Eve barbeque, with grilled beef, chicken, sausages and hot wine sweetened with strawberries. We dined at picnic tables, all the while surrounded by the beauty of South Georgia in the waning daylight.

What impressed you the most so far?

"Most of our Zodiac drivers had previously worked with Hugh and it showed. The experience of the drivers was important for sure, especially on the cruises; but an equally important part of the team were the folks who made sure we experienced safe and stable arrivals and departures. We learned that penguins are most vulnerable during the transition from water to land—the same could be said of us."

- Robert Thompson



Antarctic Fur Seal

Mary Schafer



Antarctic Tern

Virginia Robbins



Macaroni Penguins in Hercules Bay

Chris Clark



Christmas Eve Barbeque

Van Miller

By Julianne Restani

GODTHUL

Getting to Royal Bay was today’s goal, but the weather turned on us, so we landed on Godthul and made our way through the Gentoo colony. While there, Nick and Joe found a fur seal entangled in a piece of fishing net. Nick cut the net off the seal while Joe kept the seal in a firm grasp, all the while explaining to the seal that they weren’t going to hurt him.

ST. ANDREWS BAY

Our second landing of the day was the magnificent St. Andrews Bay—three magnificent glaciers ring the beach: Cook, Buxton and Heaney. The dark-

grey sandy beach is divided by the receding glacial runoff—a run that today was a raging river. Ron, Bill and Hugh guided those who were determined to cross through the freezing, waist-deep waters—a sideways-walking human chain. Others hiked the length of the river to its source—the snout end of the Cook Glacier.

It’s molting and fasting time for King Penguins and around 200,000 lazed around the beach, basking in the brilliant sun—their calls and trumpeting was all anyone could hear.

The surrounding cliffs, just slightly obscured by blowing snow—was the perfect spot for another drawing workshop with Marybee.

Special thanks to Marybee Kaufman, Expedition Artist-in-Residence, for conducting drawing and sketching classes on board and in the field.



Drawing Group



Marybee Kaufman

Tonya Nilsson

Marybee Kaufman



Antarctic Fur Seal in trouble

Andy Lee



Zodiac

John McGarvey



Crossing through freezing waters

Dick Benoit

What has impressed you the most so far?

“I was so surprised to be able to get on an iceberg and have my picture taken. I was also surprised by the weather—I was not expecting it to be so nice.”

- Kay Emerson

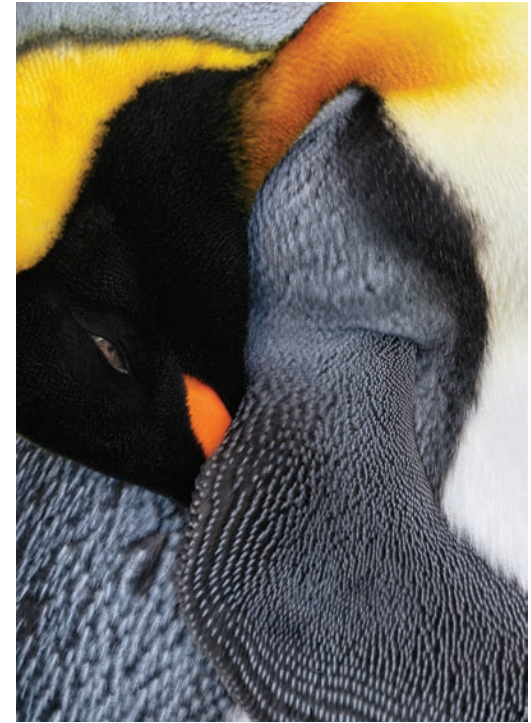
CHRISTMAS DINNER

We returned from the trip to enjoy a lovely Christmas dinner of turkey with all the trimmings! The hotel staff put up a tree with decorations and even a manger scene complete with robed penguins as the occupants of the stable. The staff and the head chef, Christian Gossak, were incredible in making dishes that reminded many of us of home-cooked meals. We were treated to fantastic soups, freshly baked bread and divine desserts. If you'd like to reminisce and hear Michael's voice again—simply go to YouTube and type in Michael's *Ortelius* Morning Greeting and enjoy (thank you Tish Tyson and Mark Gionet for that recording!).



Southern Elephant Seal staying cool

Jessi Van Dijk



King Penguin

Arthur Morris



Christmas Staff

Tish Tyson



Joining the group

Lorraine Reilly

DAY 11 AT NOON

Location	Godthul
Latitude	54°17.6' S
Longitude	36°17.7' W
Total Sailed	1604 miles
Wind	19 knots WNW
Air Temperature	5°C
Weather	Sunny



King Penguin & Elephant Seals

Van Miller



King Penguin colony

C. Fields & C. Sinden



Pauline Carr and an Oakum Boy

Andy Lee



Curious "Weaner"

Sandy Pokorny



Light-mantled Albatross

Chris Clark

By Julianne Restani

GOLD HARBOUR

Our last full day in South Georgia ends with an all-day visit to Gold Harbour, which is literally teeming with more diverse species of animals in one area than we have witnessed to date: 80,000 King Penguins, Gentoo Penguins, Antarctic Terns, White-chinned Petrels, nesting Light-mantled Al-

tross, Southern Fur Seals and those non-moving, sleepy Southern Elephant Seals and more. All within the backdrop of the Bertrab Glacier.

OBSERVING, PHOTOGRAPHING, EXPLORING

Here the day could be spent hiking or simply wallowing in the sand while King Penguins gently waddled past. The younger penguins found us decid-



Peak of Gold Point

Dick Benoit



Brown 'Subantarctic' Skua

John McGarvey

What has impressed you the most so far?

"How the physical appearance of the penguins and their behavior kind of match. I mean Rockhoppers have sort of a wild disheveled look to them and when they do their ecstatic displays they shake their heads and flippers wildly. The Kings look sleek and elegant and when they display they move in a stylized and smooth manner. Gentoos are kind of simple, basic penguins and they do short, simple displays."

- Virginia Robbins

DAY 12 AT NOON

Location	Gold Harbour
Latitude	54°37.7' S
Longitude	35°55.9' W
Total Sailed	1673 miles
Wind	5 knots W
Air Temperature	5°C
Weather	Variable



Southern Elephant Seals

C. Fields & C. Sinden



Oakum, Kings and Skua

Judy Moon



Gold Harbour

Michael Viljoen

edly more interesting than the adults in the colony and many stopped to see if we could communicate and to check out our camera equipment.

While on the beach Ron and Sadie gave lectures on photography and seal behavior. Many set off with Tim, Greg and Bill to climb the peak of Gold Point—called so because the sun's rays make the cliffs glow yellow in the morning and evening hours. Ringing

the beach are tufts of Tussock grass, which grows in soil derived from dead roots, decaying moss and foliage.

Photographers didn't know where to point cameras; every inch of the landscape is asking to be photographed. "You simply can't take a bad photo here." Exclaimed an exhausted traveler at end of the day. "I know, I took 3000 photos today." Added another.

DAY 13 AT NOON

Location	Scotia Sea
Latitude	55°02.9' S
Longitude	36°28.2' W
Total Sailed	1753 miles
Wind	70 knots NW
Air Temperature	5°C
Weather	Cloudy

By Julianne Restani

SHIP-BOUND

We had hoped to land at Cooper Bay and tour Drygalski Fjord today, but “wow” to use a favorite word of Hugh’s, the winds topped 95 knots (110 mph) causing us to cancel our plans of a

morning Zodiac cruise and landings. The weather kept us at bay—literally our speed was no match for the high winds and toppling surf surges. Once again passengers began feeling a bit woozy with what Charles Dickens once said about seasickness “. . . not ill, but going to be.”

PASSING THE TIME

This was a good day for many to get their laundry sorted and washed. Many passengers found that the bar was the best place to hang out between landings. There we could find plenty of outlets, room to spread out, lots of natural light and a direct door



Cooper Bay

John McGarvey

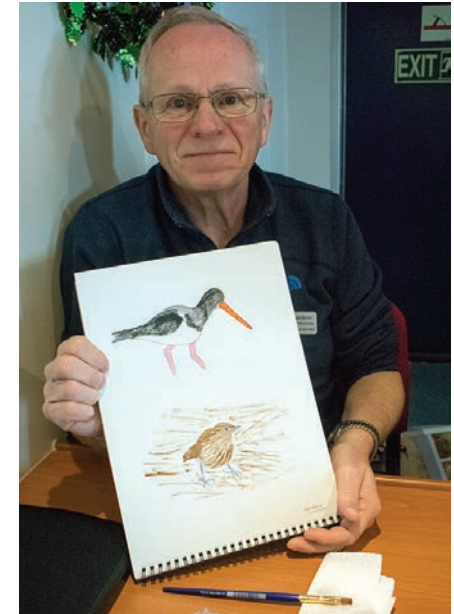
right to the deck in case of impromptu whale sightings. The luxury of having a coffee, cocoa, cappuccino, espresso was not lost on most and the basket of cookies nearby was always a nice treat. People whiled away their time knitting, sharing photos, chatting, reading or just sipping tea and looking at the sea.



On the deck *Ken Moyle*



Rough seas *Uwe Haller*



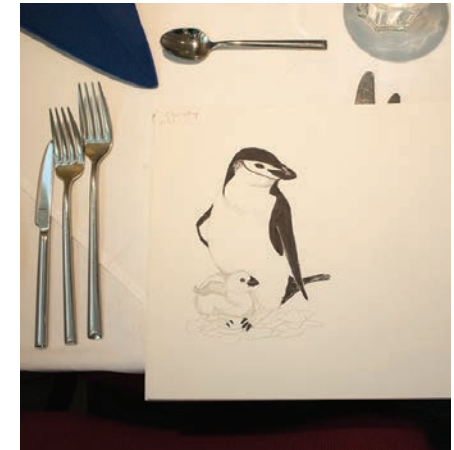
Brad Quaderer *Marybee Kaufman*



Canon promo *John Salmon*



Tonya Nilsson *Marybee Kaufman*



Penguin drawing *Marybee Kaufman*

By Julianne Restani

ROUGH WATERS

Another day at sea—the bridge was the best place to view the rough waters as the *Ortelius* got her decks cleaned today as monster swells rolled up and over her hull. The decks were closed for fear of someone being washed over board.

Today another round of Bio-security in the ship’s bar took place but inspection went much quicker now that every one knows what might be hiding

in their Velcro, hidden pockets and pant cuffs.

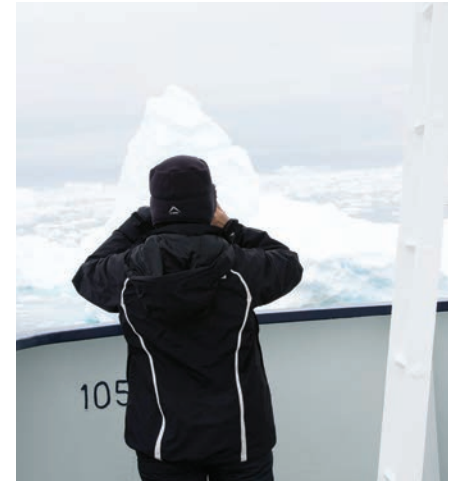
STORIES FROM THE CREW

Ron and Tom accepted South Georgia photos for our next slide show. Tim and Pauline spent some time telling us of the adventures in their lecture “Sailing South.” Nick Mooney then took the helm to explain how penguins got their shapes: “Footprints of the South: Penguins, Essential Structure and Function of an Iconic Form.” After lunch Elise retold the tale of Shackle-

ton’s epic journey. The day ended with Sadie giving us some excellent advice on how to identify whales.

DAY 14 AT NOON

Location	Scotia Sea
Latitude	56°38.4' S
Longitude	39°21.0' W
Total Sailed	1895 miles
Wind	45 knots W
Air Temperature	5°C
Weather	Snowy



On deck

Celie Placzek



Leopard Seal

Anthony Yau



Ice sculpture

Joseph McKenna

Ice Cap**By, Oliver Strimpel**

Where I live, snow falls on ground,
Puffing it up
Like a down parka.

In Antarctica, snow falls on ice,
Building its bulk
Into arcing horizons of white.

I know it is all there –
Valleys, once fertile,
Blue time-capsule lakes,
And Gondwana's fossils.

But snow upon snow
Begets ice upon ice,
Mountain-thick,
That flows north,

Befuddling my eye,
Gazing where sky and cloud belong,
And seeing incandescent Elysian meadows,
Ethereal, on high.

||

More people, and more,
A million more by Sunday,
Drive a billion cars,
Exhaling invisible tons

Thickening the planet's sheath.

Degree by inexorable degree,
I too warm the Earth.
Melt trickles down,
Oiling the flow,
As ice rushes to the sea.

Until snow falls on ground,
To cast just a fleeting veil
On what lies below.

No!
Inhale that gas,
Till the greenhouse wanes.

And the glistening heights
Grown over an age
Remains.

DAY 15 AT NOON

Location	Scotia Sea
Latitude	58°05.8' S
Longitude	43°56.9' W
Total Sailed	2070 miles
Wind	24 knots WNW
Air Temperature	5°C
Weather	Overcast



Ice formations

Kieran Baxter

*By Julianne Restani***ANOTHER DAY AT SEA**

The sea finally calmed down enough to let us cruise across the Scotia Sea and head to Elephant Island. Unfortunately, Mother Nature wins out today—too much ice is surrounding the South Orkney's and Elephant Island, so much so that we are being rerouted to the Antarctic Sound. Another day shipbound but passengers while away time by editing and talking about photos, napping, reading and relaxing. Many of us find ourselves simply

staring out a window—captivated by the waves and swells.

LESSONS ON BOARD

Today Nick's lecture, "Long Lines: Short Lives," explained how the use of this fishing practice leads to thousand of bird deaths. Afterwards, Steve lectured on taking photos of wildlife in his backyard of Alaska.

Finally finishing bio-security, Tom and Ron led a rousing photo critique where they gave advice on how to enhance photo techniques.

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA



Humpback Whale in Antarctica

Kieran Baxter

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA



Gentoo Penguins

Beverly Houwing



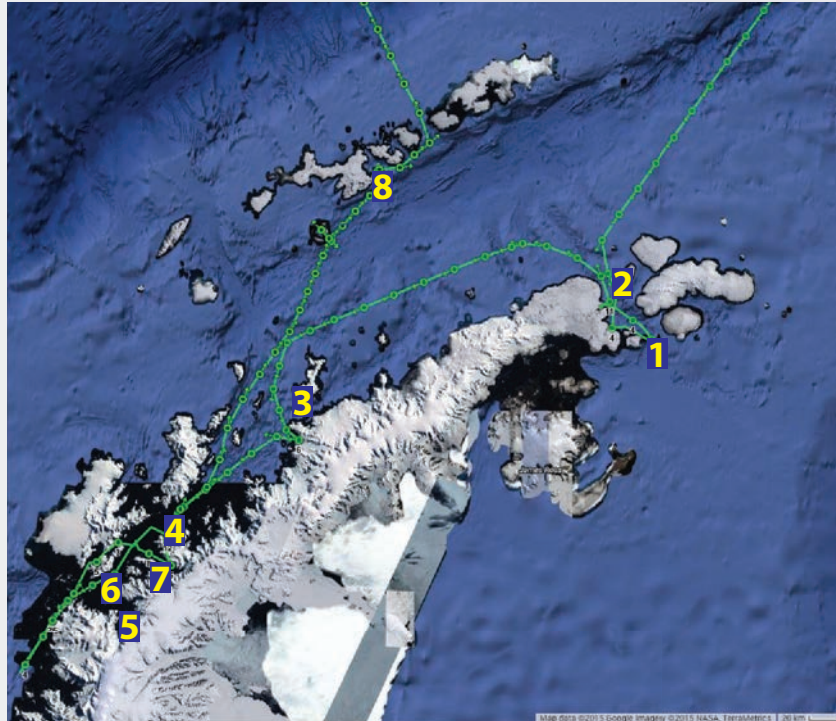
Icicles

Beverly Houwing



Weddell Seal

Beverly Houwing



Point	Landing	Date
1	Brown Bluff	31 Dec
2	Hope Bay	1 Jan
3	Cierva Cove	2 Jan
4	Cuerverville Island	2 Jan
5	Petermann Island	3 Jan
6	Yalour Island & Port Lockroy	4 Jan
7	Neko Harbor & Danco Island	5 Jan
8	Half Moon Island	6 Jan



Dramatic landscape

Cheryl Stewart



Reflection

Cheryl Stewart



Porpoising Adelies

*Heike Dietzmann**By Julianne Restani***ARRIVAL TO ANTARCTICA**

The decks opened for us once again! We had a mandatory meeting regarding Antarctica regulations—no food allowed on land and any bathroom breaks must be done in the surf. Today we crossed the 60th south latitude on our way to Elephant Island. Below this line all territorial claims are deferred and lands are governed by a truly one of a kind treaty, The Antarctic Treaty, which is run by unanimous consent among treaty partners. This allows for only the barest of governance to occur. The current and only denizens of the region are fine with this type of government—as long as they can sleep, eat and reproduce at will—they are content to live and be left to live as they have for thousands of years.

We had a great time viewing photos from our South Georgia landings—Thanks to Tom Rivest, who receives literally hundreds of photos from passengers, arranges them into a slideshow, and adds lovely music.

CAPE WILD AND SHACKLETON

Tonight we arrived between Clarence Island and Elephant Island. We saw Cape Wild—the tiny beach called Wild Point where Shackleton managed to



Ice, ice and more ice

Robert Clowers

Penguins floating on ice

Robert Clowers

land the Endurance's lifeboats. It was on that beach that Shackleton left 22 of his crew to live in overturned lifeboats for 134 days, awaiting their captain's eventual rescue. A story retold by Tim and Pauline in their talk and film, "The Boss, the Skipper and the Man: Shackleton."

DAY 16 AT NOON

Location	Scotia Sea
Latitude	60° 10.9' S
Longitude	51° 01.7' W
Total Sailed	2322 miles
Wind	20 knots WSW
Air Temperature	-1°C
Weather	Cloudy



Andy Lee



Anita & the Watsons

Tish Tyson



Hugh Rose with Leopard Seal's meal

Michael Pollack



Photography at sunset

Jessi Van Dijk

By Julianne Restani

SETTING FOOT ON ANTARCTICA

A brilliant sunny morning warmed the ship's deck. The sea was picture perfect, smooth and glowing in the morning sun.

Everyone was out taking photos of the ice! Icebergs of staggering masses came and went. Some were adorned with small groups of Adelies and another held just one lone Chinstrap, who did nothing but preen and give the *Ortelius* a momentary glance as we passed by. The ice managed to scuttle our plans for landing on Paulette Island but undeterred, we set out and landed on Brown Bluff—we are actually on the continent of Antarctica!

Under the towering 745-meter cliffs,



Brown Bluff

Kieran Baxter



Alison Pollak

Michael Pollack



Playful Adelie penguins

Joe Cummings



Ice fun

Dick Benoit

Adelies stretched as far as we could see! Twenty-thousand breeding pairs! Joe took passengers up to see a pair of nesting Snow Petrels whose nest was tucked under an enormous boulder. Once on the beach, we could get back into a Zodiac and cruise around the ice, allowing better views of the vast numbers of penguins on the beaches.

NEW YEAR'S EVE!

We returned to the ship to a phenomenal dinner of Lox, mushroom soup, tender and beautifully cooked roast beef served with both white and green asparagus and a berry soaked baked Alaska. Ocean Wide gave each diner an engraved napkin ring as a memento of our trip. Afterwards, we gathered out on the deck, under the supernal evening light, to ring in the New Year—Paris time! Champagne for all! Happy New Year!



Iceberg

Van Miller



Snow Petrel

Michael Pollack



A toast

Uwe Haller



Hello & goodbye

Fiona Taylor

DAY 17 AT NOON	
Location	Brown Bluff
Latitude	63°18.9' S
Longitude	56°49.1' W
Total Sailed	2600 miles
Wind	30 knots NW
Air Temperature	4°C
Weather	Sunny



Penguins on an iceberg

Michael Pollack

By Julianne Restani

SETTING FOOT ON ANTARCTICA

It was a relaxing morning of Zodiac exploring in and around Hope Bay, home to another astounding number of Adelie Penguins—a staggering 250,000 inhabit the eastern side of the Tabarin Peninsula.

Photographers caught sight of a sleeping Leopard Seal who was momentarily awoken when six Adelies sprang onto his icy platform—landing very nearly on top of him. No worries for the surprised penguins, Leopard Seals prefer to dine on penguins while both are swimming.

This encounter inspired Winona Howe's poem:

Pride of the Penguins Number 6

*Adelie Penguin and Leopard Seal
eye each other.*

One is suspicious

while the other is voracious.

One is fast while

the other is faster.

*One hesitates on the brink while
the other hauls out and snoozes . . .*

but only subsequent

to their brief encounter.



Adelie Penguins

Tonya Nilsson



Beauty in ice

Bruce Whittaker

This evening we cruised through the Trinity Peninsula's coast on our way to Cierva Cove.

DAY 18 AT NOON	
Location	Hope Bay
Latitude	63°23.3' S
Longitude	57°00.1' W
Total Sailed	2656 miles
Wind	4 knots ENE
Air Temperature	5°C
Weather	Overcast



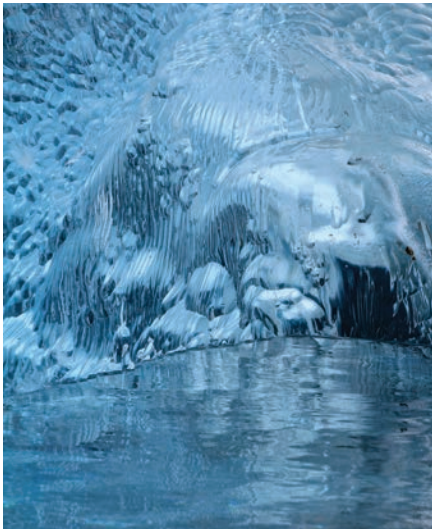
Crabeater Seal

Marc Meijlaers



Weddell seal

Micheal Viljoen



Ice crystals

Ellen Gilkerson



Retrospective

Chris Clark



Adelie Penguins

John McGarvey

By Julianne Restani

HUMPBACK SIGHTINGS

Cierva Cove, located on the continent of Antarctica in the Gerlache Strait, is also known to guide Ron as "Humpback Soup." Today the waters were filled with breaching Humpback Whales. As though on cue, one appeared before each Zodiac and one whale directly under Marco's boat! The whoops, ahs and gasps of passen-

gers and the sound of shutters winding and snapping away, accompanied every whale sighting.

CIERVA COVE

Cruising through this cove was like boating through a modern art exhibit. Every permutation of ice was sculpted into a formation of staggering grace and each piece seemed to glow from an inner light. Dipping gracefully around the ice were Leopard Seals,



Cuverville evening hike

Courtney Fields



Humpback says hello

Jessi Van Dijck



Whale watching

Michael Pollack



Ortelius through ice

Van Miller



Trekking up snow covered Cuverville Island

Uwe Haller



Zodiac cruising

Hugh Rose



Weddell Seal

Hana Moyle



Cuverville Island, Antarctica

Courtney Fields

DAY 19 AT NOON

Location	Cierva Cove
Latitude	64°09' S
Longitude	60°57.6' W
Total Sailed	2834 miles
Wind	4.2 knots NE
Air Temperature	4.5°C
Weather	Overcast

whose heads popped out of the water to give us a quick look and then dash away at lightning speed, while others lolled on their own ice pads and merely yawned at our cameras and us.

CUVERVILLE ISLAND

It was back to the ship for dinner and then out again to land on Cuverville Island or opt for Zodiac cruising. Get out those hand warmers! The waning light lit up the island—home to 5,000

Gentoo breeding pairs. The snow was deep and soft and before going ashore, we were taught how not to leave 'postholes,' or deep holes in the snow. These holes, caused by careless hikers, are deep enough to entrap a penguin if it toppled in headfirst.

We returned to the ship just before midnight—a beautiful, illuminated midnight!



Leopard Seal

Mary Schafer

DAY 20 AT NOON

Location	Petermann Island
Latitude	65°13.6' S
Longitude	64°10.5' W
Total Sailed	2987 miles
Wind	5.3 knots W
Air Temperature	5°C
Weather	Overcast

By Julianne Restani

ICEBERGS

We now are steaming south through the iceberg thick waters of Grandidier Channel—enough ice to block our passage to the Antarctic Circle and Detaille Island. The ice is truly tremendous. We pass a seven-mile tabular iceberg. Seven miles—or 112 American football fields, or 70 city blocks, or picture the entirety of New Orleans French quarter, resting on top, with room to park. Now remember we are seeing only 1/8th of this vast chunk of ice!

PENGUIN BUSINESS

In the afternoon, we landed on Petermann Island to be greeted by Gentoo, Adelie and Chinstrap Penguins, all going about their penguin business.

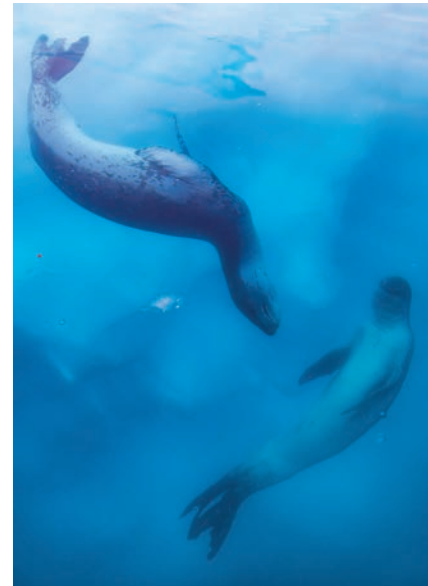
Popular photographer, Michael Aw, observed, “The similarities between us and penguins are uncanny—we stand upright, travel in groups, talk all the time and sort of waddle through life.” I think we resemble that remark!

Watching out not to leave postholes in the soft snow, we climbed a small hill and watched the Antarctic Shags feeding their chicks, whose beaks disappear down their mother’s neck to retrieve its food.



Zodiac cruising

Chris Clark



Leopard Seals water ballet

Hugh Rose



Waters thick with icebergs

Hugh Rose



Adelies, Gentoos and Shags on Petermann Island

Hana Moyle



Ice sculpture

Alan Jones

Penguin Guano—And How I Learned to Love it.

By Kate Mulligan

Surprise! Penguins are black, white and reddish pink. Their breasts, those smart white dress shirts, are smeared and blotched with pink. Small wonder that off Danco Island they seemed to relish vigorously bathing and preening. The rocky outcrops of the colonies are stained with pink; the penguin highways

are traced with it. Droppings, poop, feces, guano, whatever you want to call it, it is pink and it's everywhere—reflecting the importance of krill to their diets.

That pungent smell would suddenly assault our nostrils as our Zodiac approached a landing site—a rich, organic smell that meant we would soon be up close to the colonies and able to watch the intimate aspects of behavior and life. When returning to the ship the smell seemed to hang about our cabin,

despite our careful boot cleaning.

Back home in New Zealand, I could still smell it. How could that be? When I described the scrupulous nature of Antarctic Peninsula Bio-security requirements to the NZ Bio-security Officer at the Auckland airport and explained that we had scrubbed our hiking boots and dipped them in Vircon S before packing, he suddenly lost all interest in a visual inspection.

I washed our trousers, socks and gloves. I still smell the penguin poop. I washed everything again but I still get a whiff now and again.

Am I suddenly showing signs of OCD—sniffing my fingers, sniffing my gloves and looking around for other items to sniff? In the end, I welcomed the smell—it takes me back to those magical days. Maybe it was a memory, maybe imagination or a bit of both. And now, sadly I smell it less and less.

By Julianne Restani

PENGUIN POST OFFICE

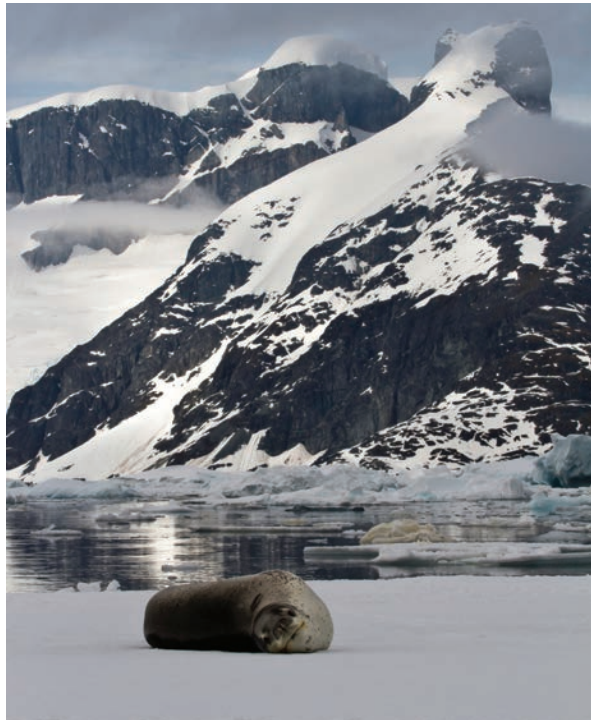
At 8 a.m. we motored to Yalour Island where half of us could land on a rocky shore or Zodiac around the island. Adelie Penguins and Antarctic Shags co-exist on the limited shore space. Meanwhile, two Weddell Seals slept close to the arranged bones of a Blue Whale. Then, on to the famous Port Lockroy—commonly known as the

Penguin Post Office. This once abandoned and now restored British Antarctic Survey base is the most visited landmark on Antarctica. No wonder—since its history is so intriguing: built as a secret base in 1942 to report on German activities, which never materialized, the base was abandoned in 1962. Restored by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, the base is now a post office and gift shop manned during the summer months by three hardy



Port Lockroy

Tish Tyson



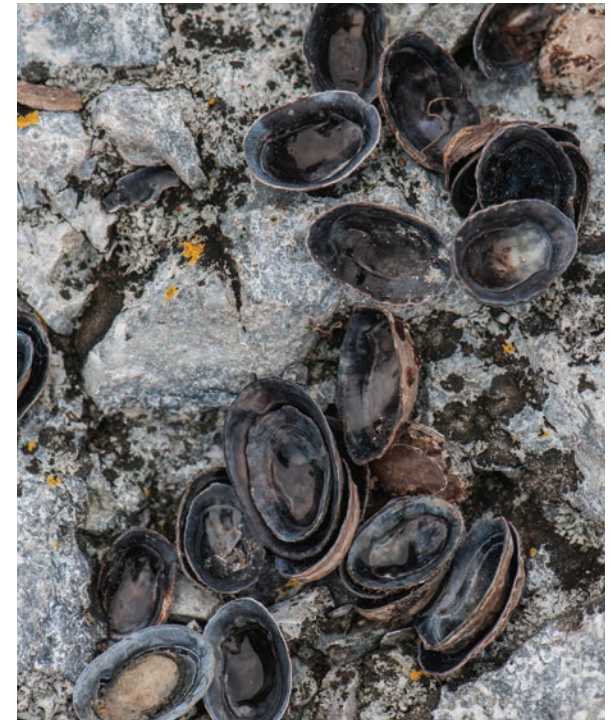
Leopard Seal

Joseph McKenna



Gento and chick

Chris Clark



Shells

Frank Williams

souls who have the task of sending out over 70,000 pieces of mail to over 100 countries. Are you interested in working there? Here is the link to put in your application! <http://www.ukaht.org/about-us/jobs>

The Port's Gentoo Penguin population carpets the area and they would likely nest in the post office if allowed. Gentoos are literally everywhere!

DAY 21 AT NOON

Location	Yalour Island
Latitude	65° 10.9' S
Longitude	64° 10' W
Total Sailed	3029 miles
Wind	9.8 knots SW
Air Temperature	4.2°C
Weather	Overcast



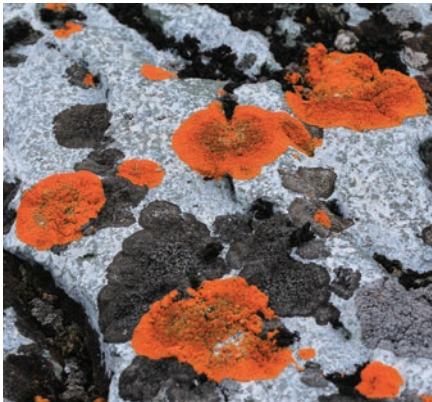
Adelie Penguins

Andy Lee



Chinstrap Penguins

Hugh Rose



Lichen

Ellen Glickerson



Calm waters

Courtney Fields



Blue ice

John McGarvey

By Julianne Restani

“NEW YORK” PENGUINS

Neko Harbour looks like an immense, ridiculously-over-the-top movie set come to life. Surrounding the harbour is the Deville Glacier, which occasionally rumbled and down came rocks and snow—but thankfully no full calving. This protected anchorage has over 1,000 breeding pairs of Gentoos, many of whom walked past us with less than a sidelong glance—rather like New Yorkers on the streets of New York City. The ice along the beach seemed placed there by an ice lecturer: “Bergy Bits are small continental ice chunks around one to five meters in height and of course, there is Brash ice—small pieces, less than



Zodiac fleet

Alan Jones



Head first

Hugh Rose



Courtney and Cameron

Cheryl Stewart



Joe goes 1st

Jessi Van Dijk

two meters and can come from continental or sea ice . . .” Tim took a group of hikers on a short steep climb to enjoy an overview of the glacier face and iceberg filled harbour.

POLAR PLUNGE

This was to be our last continental landing and we made the most of it! Swimming anyone? Twenty brave souls, the most to date, took the plunge and swam a few strokes before jumping back into clothes. The highlight of the swimming was Joe and Cameron’s pack ice dive! Dr. Lynn reminded swimmers that in this cold water, one doesn’t have to worry about hypothermia but drowning, since limbs will stop working in such incredibly cold water, thus making swimming impossible. Good to know!



Community diving board

Lou Newman



Gentoo Penguins

Ty Smedes



...and more Gentoo Penguins

Hugh Rose

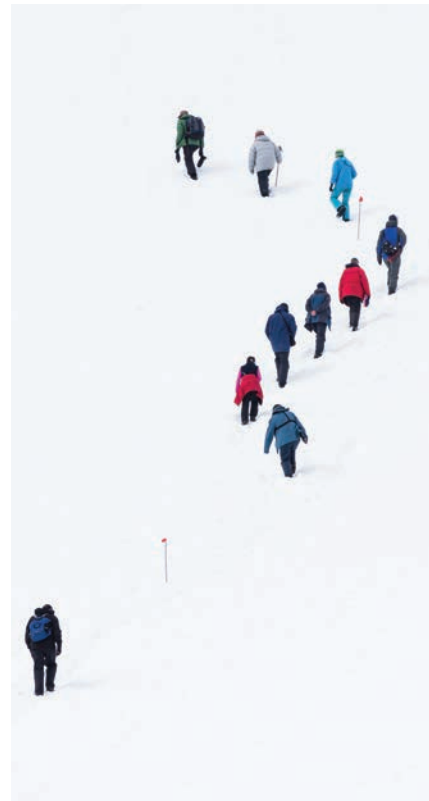


Glacier

Jennifer Zhou

ALL ICE AND ALL MOUNTAINS

We headed back to the ship to enjoy lunch, thaw out and get ready for Danco Island with more Gentoos and magnificent views of the *Ortelius* surrounded by impossibly beautiful icebergs. The scale of the ice and towering mountains made our big ship appear like a toy boat on a pond.



Danco Island

Marc Meijlaers



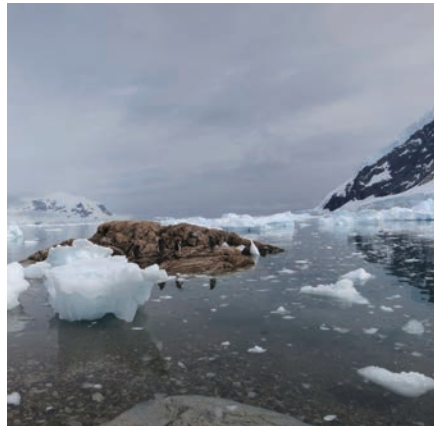
Headstand on ice

Hugh Rose



Southern Elephant Seal

Ken Moyle



Evening ice

Harriet Strimpel

DAY 22 AT NOON	
Location	Neko Harbour
Latitude	64° 50.7' S
Longitude	62° 32' W
Total Sailed	3103 miles
Wind	4 knots ESE
Air Temperature	10°C
Weather	Overcast



Seemingly stranded

Cheryl Stewart



Floating ice

Oliver Strimpel

DAY 23 AT NOON

Location	Half Moon Island
Latitude	62° 50' S
Longitude	60° 10' W
Total Sailed	3277 miles
Wind	50 knots ENE
Air Temperature	1°C
Weather	Fog



A perfect reflection

Marc Meijaers



Ship surrounded by ice

Peggy Pittaro

By Julianne Restani

LAST LANDING

Storms broadsided us this morning—the *Ortelius* heaved and rocked so much that our stop at Baily Head was cancelled—no worries, our fearless leader Hugh, determined to make another landing, decided on a snowy beach on Half Moon Island.

Today's weather and landing conditions reminded us all of the true power of Mother Nature as we experienced snow, rain, sleet and high winds. Today was the day that Gore-Tex was invented for! A few passengers watched others embarking on the Zodiacs and decided to return to the warmth of the ship and enjoy another cup of hot coffee.



South Polar Skuas

Siu Kwok



Chinstrap Penguin and its rock

Rick Pittaro



Wet ride

Marc Meijlaers



The ocean can make ships look miniature

Mike Thelen

By Julianne Restani

HEADING HOME

Now we are truly heading home. Many of us have already put away our warmest clothes—except the passengers who find it impossible to leave the deck.

LEARNING ON BOARD

Elise took us into the past with a retelling of the iconic story—“Race to the Pole: Scott vs. Amundsen.” Maureen and Catie gave us a background on the history of Oceanites and how their research from this trip will be used as the current inventory of penguin populations. Nan completed the morning lectures with “Climate Change: The Globe from the Bottom Up.”

AUCTION DAY

Auction Time! Thank you to everyone who generously gave items for the South Georgia Heritage Trust fundraiser! A total of \$20,000 was raised—more than any other expedition auction. And with items like Nick’s used, white rubber-fishing boots—no wonder!

We all trust that Joe has a career somewhere in the world of auctioneering.

DAY 24 AT NOON

Location	Drake Sea
Latitude	60°02' S
Longitude	61°40.8' W
Total Sailed	3486 miles
Wind	23 knots E
Air Temperature	6°C
Weather	Overcast



Waves sketch

Marybee Kaufman



Antarctic Tern

Elizabeth Neupert



Southern Giant Petrel

Siu Kwok



Cemetery

Ellen Gilkerson

Black-browed Albatross, adult and juvenile *Siu Kwok*By *Julianne Restani*

CALM SAILING

The morning temperatures were in the high 40's and the sun was out—a calmer sea couldn't be imagined, 'The Drake Lake.' Feeling that we are "out there" is now changing to "we're going back here."

Time to start packing, checking for errant penguin guano on shoes and clothing, sharing email addresses, photos and addresses. We settled up bills including laundry, bar and action items and figured out tips for our amazing ship's crew.

A FEW MORE LECTURES

Other day's activities include a flurry of lectures: Tim's lecture "Antarctica Under Oar and Sail" followed up by the king of lectures—Nick, with his talk

DAY 25 AT NOON

Location	Drake Sea
Latitude	56°13.9' S
Longitude	65°21.3' W
Total Sailed	3744 miles
Wind	27 knots SW
Air Temperature	8°C
Weather	Sunny

"It's Not All About Habitat; The Plight of the Tasmanian Devil." Joe's presentation "A Natural History of Loons in Michigan" followed by Steve's "Alaskan Photography Images From My Porch: Finding Beauty in Your Backyard"—and once again Nick graced us with another brilliant retelling of the devastating environmental disaster, "Big Ship: Little Penguin—The Iron Baron Oil Spill in Tasmania."

FINAL PHOTO CRITIQUE

The afternoon wrapped up with a rousing photo critique of photos captured around the last leg of our journey. After a farewell dinner where we said goodbye to all the staff, we all gathered around Captain Berria to toast our success and this incredible voyage.



Milky

Ellen Gilkerson

EXPEDITION STAFF



Pauline Carr
Waimate
New Zealand



Tim Carr
Waimate
New Zealand



Nan Eagleson
Denali Park AK
USA



Catie Foley
Port Jefferson NY
USA



Lynne Hoole
Mowbray
South Africa



Joe Kaplan
Escanaba MI
USA



Steve Kaufman
Cantwell AK
USA



Greg LaHaie
Denali Park AK
USA



Elise Lockton
Denali Park AK
USA



Maureen Lynch
Patchogue NY
USA



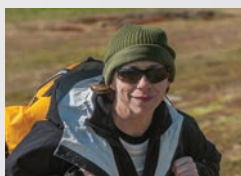
Bill Mohrwinkel
Palmer AK
USA



Nick Mooney
Richmond TAS
Australia



Ron Niebrugge
Seward AK
USA



Julianne Restani
Saint Joseph MN
USA



Marco Restani
Saint Joseph MN
USA



Tom Rivest
Port Hardy BC
Canada



Hugh Rose
Fairbanks AK
USA



Sadie Youngstrom
Girdwood AK
USA

EXPEDITION PARTICIPANTS



Expedition group at Ernest Shackleton's graveside, Grytviken, South Georgia

Hugh Rose

Ocean Wide provided us with an amazing hotel staff. Our waiters, Marvin and Joel, who expertly took our orders, carried trays full of plates in wild seas and knew us all by name by the second day of our journey! Noelle—had an amazing memory and patience in listening to drink and food orders. Raquel—who every morning cheerfully manned the slowest toaster in the world. A big thanks to the one and only Rowlando—our one and only bartender whose margaritas became so well-know that he ran out of tequila! Thanks to the kitchen staff who treated us to amazing dishes such as roasted duck, monkfish, various pastas and freshly baked bread—the staff also accommodated everyone from those who chose to eat quarter portions to those with special dietary needs. Thank you to our hotel service staff who worked every day to keep our rooms clean and tidy, closed our portholes, laundered our clothes and greeted us all by name!

This fascinating journey, exploring the beauty and diversity of the Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica, was made even more memorable by our fellow passengers. Our shared passion for this planet and its wild beauty made us all kindred spirits.

- Nan Eagleson





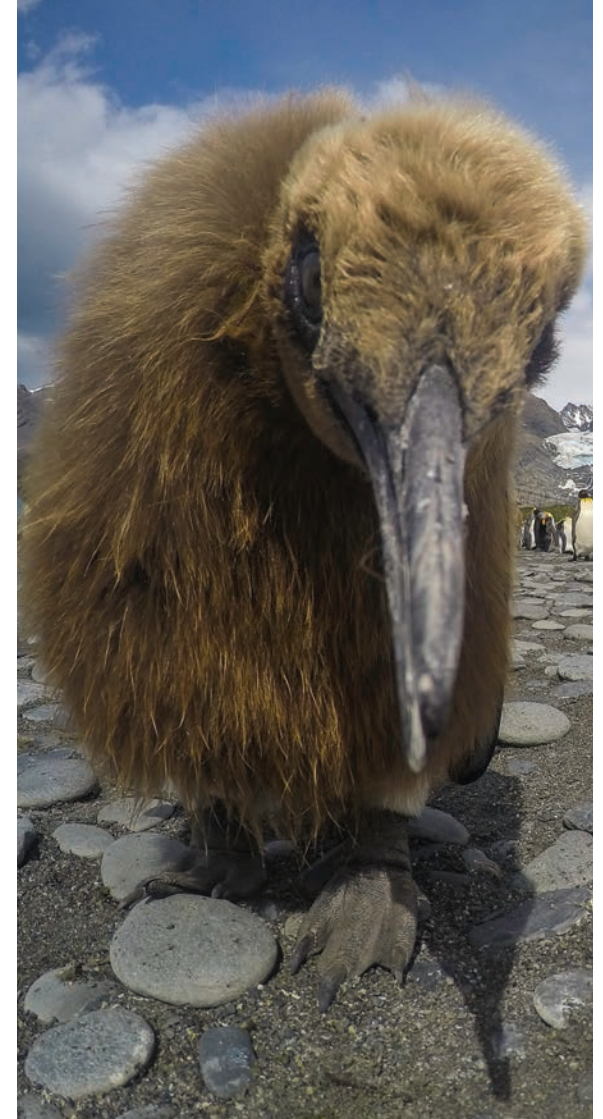




SPECIES LIST BY DATE (part 1 of 3)	15-Dec	16-Dec	17-Dec	18-Dec	19-Dec	20-Dec	21-Dec	22-Dec	23-Dec	24-Dec	25-Dec	26-Dec	27-Dec	28-Dec	29-Dec	30-Dec	31-Dec	1-Jan	2-Jan	3-Jan	4-Jan	5-Jan	6-Jan	7-Jan	8-Jan
BIRDS																									
Black-necked Swan	✓																								
Upland Goose	✓	✓	✓	✓																					
Kelp Goose	✓	✓	✓																						
Ashy-headed Goose	✓																								
Ruddy-headed Goose		✓	✓																						
Flying Steamer-Duck	✓																								
Flightless Steamer-Duck	✓																								
Falkland Steamer-Duck		✓	✓	✓	✓																				
Crested Duck	✓																								
Red Shoveler	✓																								
Yellow-billed Pintail								✓																	
Yellow-billed Teal	✓			✓																					
Great Grebe	✓																								
King Penguin								✓																	
Adelie Penguin																		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Gentoo Penguin			✓	✓	✓			✓										✓	✓	✓	✓				
Chinstrap Penguin																		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Magellanic Penguin	✓		✓	✓																					
Macaroni Penguin								✓																	
Rockhopper Penguin		✓		✓																					
Macaroni/Rockhopper Penguin		✓																							
Gray-headed Albatross								✓																✓	
Black-browed Albatross	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓															✓	✓
Light-mantled Albatross								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	
Royal Albatross		✓		✓	✓																				
Wandering Albatross					✓																			✓	
Southern Giant-Petrel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	
Northern Giant-Petrel								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										
Giant-Petrel unidentified																								✓	
Southern Fulmar																								✓	✓
Cape (Pintado) Petrel		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓
Snow Petrel													✓												
Soft-plumaged Petrel																									
White-headed Petrel																									
Blue Petrel								✓																✓	
Antarctic Prion								✓																✓	
Slender-billed Prion					✓																				
unidentified prion		✓																							✓
White-chinned Petrel	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓
Great Shearwater	✓				✓																				✓
Sooty Shearwater		✓			✓																				
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									✓	✓
Gray-backed Storm-Petrel																									

SPECIES LIST BY DATE (part 2 of 3)	15-Dec	16-Dec	17-Dec	18-Dec	19-Dec	20-Dec	21-Dec	22-Dec	23-Dec	24-Dec	25-Dec	26-Dec	27-Dec	28-Dec	29-Dec	30-Dec	31-Dec	1-Jan	2-Jan	3-Jan	4-Jan	5-Jan	6-Jan	7-Jan	8-Jan
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel						✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓									✓	
Common Diving-Petrel					✓	✓		✓					✓											✓	
Magellanic Cormorant			✓		✓																				
Antarctic Shag								✓												✓					
South Georgia Shag								✓																	
Imperial Cormorant	✓	✓																							
Black-crowned Night-Heron	✓		✓																						
Black-faced Ibis	✓																								
Turkey Vulture			✓		✓																				
Andean Condor	✓																								
Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle	✓																								
Snowy Sheathbill			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Blackish Oystercatcher			✓	✓																					
Magellanic Oystercatcher			✓	✓																					
Southern Lapwing	✓																								
Two-banded Plover				✓	✓																				
Greater Yellowlegs	✓																								
White-rumped Sandpiper					✓																				
South American Snipe	✓			✓	✓																				
Chilean Skua	✓	✓																						✓	
South Polar Skua																✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Brown Skua			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓								
South Polar/Brown Skua	✓						✓																		
Dolphin Gull	✓		✓		✓																				
Kelp Gull	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Arctic Tern (pending review)																									
South American Tern	✓				✓																				
Antarctic Tern								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Sterna (tern) unidentified											✓		✓												
Ringed Kingfisher	✓																								
Magellanic Woodpecker	✓																								
White-throated Caracara	✓																								
Striated Caracara			✓	✓	✓																				
Southern Caracara	✓																								
Chimango Caracara	✓																								
Peregrine Falcon																									
Austral Parakeet	✓																								
White-throated Treerunner	✓																								
Blackish Cinclodes																									
bar-winged cinclodes (sp.)	✓																								
Dark-bellied Cinclodes	✓																								
Thorn-tailed Rayadito	✓																								
Tufted Tit-Tyrant	✓																								
White-crested Elaenia	✓																								
Austral Negrito	✓																								
Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant			✓																						

SPECIES LIST BY DATE (part 3 of 3)	15-Jan	14-Jan	13-Jan	12-Jan	11-Jan	10-Jan	9-Jan	8-Jan	7-Jan	6-Jan	5-Jan	4-Jan	3-Jan	2-Jan	1-Jan	31-Dec	30-Dec	29-Dec	28-Dec	27-Dec	26-Dec	25-Dec	24-Dec	23-Dec	22-Dec
Fire-eyed Diucon																									✓
Chilean Swallow																									✓
House Wren																									✓
Cobb's Wren																					✓				
Sedge Wren																					✓				
Austral Thrush																						✓			
Correndera Pipit																						✓			
South Georgia Pipit																	✓								
Patagonian Sierra-Finch																									
White-bridled Finch																					✓				
Rufous-collared Sparrow																							✓		
Long-tailed Meadowlark																						✓			
Black-chinned Siskin																						✓			
House Sparrow																							✓		
MAMMALS																									
Fin Whale												✓													
Humpback Whale																									
Minke Whale																							✓		
Southern Bottle-nosed Whale																									
Orca																									
Long-finned Pilot Whale																									
Peale's Dolphin																							✓		
Hourglass Dolphin																									
Antarctic Fur Seal																									
South American Sea Lion																									
Weddell Seal																									
Crabeater Seal																									
Leopard Seal																									
Southern Elephant Seal																									
unidentified cetanean																									



Oakum Boy

Van Miller

THE MANY FACES OF NATURE



Southern Elephant Seal

Joe McKenna



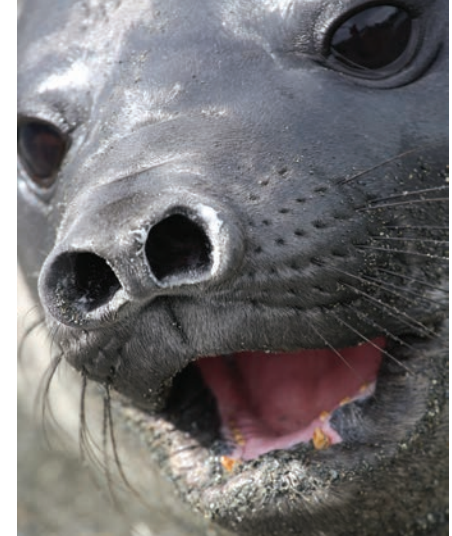
Southern Giant Petrel

Sadie Youngstrom



Chinstrap Penguin

Arthur Morris



Female Southern Elephant Seal

Robyn Woodward



Oyster Catchers

John McGarvey



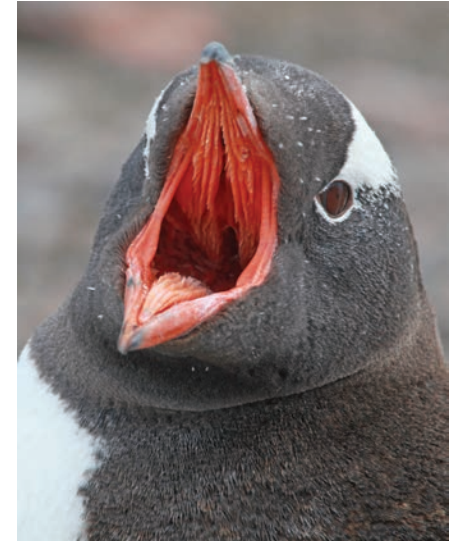
Leopard Seal

Ken Moyle



Antarctic Fur Seal pup

Ron Niebrugge



Gentoo Penguin

Heike Dietzmann



Crabeater Seal

Marc Meijlaers



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When you sponsor a hectare (or more) of South Georgia you help support work to conserve endangered and threatened wildlife and studies to help us understand how best to protect the island's wildlife.

Help give South Georgia back to its birds for only \$140 per hectare. All sponsors receive a certificate.

And remember...a hectare of South Georgia makes a unique and appreciated gift for anyone who cares about preserving our natural world.

I would like to sponsor (number) _____ hectares x \$140 each = Total value: _____

Name _____

Name(s) as you wish it to be on the certificate _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone # _____

Email address (please write clearly) _____

Please tell us where you obtained this form _____

Payment Options:

Wire Transfer (Preferred Method): Donations directly into our account should be sent to: Alpine Bank, 711 E. Valley Road Ste. 101, Basalt, CO 81621, USA. Bank phone: 970 927 3653. Account Name: Friends of South Georgia Island. Account Number: 55200008332. Routing number: 102103407.

Check: Please make payable to "Friends of South Georgia Island" and send it with this form to the address below.

Credit Card:

Name on Credit Card _____

Credit Card Number _____

Security Number (the last 3 digits on the back of your card) _____ **Expiration Date** _____ / _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Billing address & phone if different from above:

Street Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Billing Phone _____

Friends of South Georgia Island, 25 Dakota Meadows Drive, Carbondale, CO 81623

970 704 9178 (USA) / 970 948 0778 (USA) / +44 (0) 1382 229792 (UK)

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Friends of South Georgia Island is a US 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization dedicated to raising funds for the conservation of South Georgia.

**ANTARCTIC PENINSULA, SOUTH GEORGIA, AND FALKLAND ISLANDS
EXPEDITION LOG 2014-2015**



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