

Logbook

HAN 1601

Expedition Antarctica

The World's Southernmost Nursery

USHUAIA – USHUAIA

10th – 28th January 2016

aboard **MS HANSEATIC**



South Georgia Island (Mount Paget is the rounded dome on the left, Grytviiken is hidden out of sight in a harbor; photo January 2014).

Text: Richard MacDonald

Photographs: Richard MacDonald

& lecturer staff



“One hand for the boat.”



MS HANSEATIC



MS Hanseatic anchored New Island, Falkland Islands, 12 January 2016.

Built:	March 1993
Registered Port:	Nassau
Flag:	Bahamas
Weight:	8,378 GRT
Overall length:	122.80 m/403 ft
Beam:	18 m/59 ft
Draught:	4.91 m/16 ft
Main Engines:	2 MAK 8M453 C 2 x 2,940 kW 2 Propellers CP, 300 cm
Speed:	16 knots
Complement:	171 passengers 125 officers and crew

DECK & ENGINE CREW

Ship's Officers

Captain:	Thilo Natke
Chief Officer:	Nicole Schnell
Chief Engineer:	Giulio Vlacic
Hotel Manager:	Doris Adler
Maître d'hôtel:	Mirko Kirchhöfer
Ship's Surgeon:	Dr. Ursula Bellut
Chief Purser:	Hendrik Fongern
Chief Chef:	Udo Grigas

Pianist

Magdalena Majerová



The shore party prepares to greet the first Zodiac of passengers landing at Whaler's Bay, Deception Island, Antarctica.

HOTEL & EXPEDITION STAFF

Cruise Director:	Ulrike Schleifenbaum
Hostess:	Bettina Schlennstedt
Cruise Sales	Birgit Volberg
Zodiac driver:	Claas Stanko
Expedition Leader:	Dr. Arne Kertelhein
Lecturer (climate & glaciology):	Dr. Gerit Birnbaum
Lecturer (geology):	Heike Fries
Lecturer (polar history):	Dr. Arne Kertelhein
Lecturer (polar history):	Dr. Hans-Joachim "HaJo" Lauenstein
Lecturer (biology):	Richard MacDonald
Lecturer (biology):	Sylvia Stevens



Your Expedition Lecturer Team for Hanseatic Cruise 1601 (from left to right): Sylvia Stevens, Gerit Birnbaum, Heike Fries, HaJo Lauenstein, Richard MacDonald, and Arne Kertelhein.

BIOGRAPHIES



Thilo Natke – Captain

Captain Thilo Natke, who resides in Lower Saxony, has the sea in his blood. At the beginning of his career, he worked on cargo ships. In 1993, he became the Chief Officer of Hapag-Lloyd’s variously on the *Bremen*, *Hanseatic*, and *Columbus*. In 1997, he became Captain of the *Bremen* and since 1999 has been captained the *Hanseatic* on worldwide expeditions. The polar areas are his favorites and he has made over 80 expeditions to the Antarctic. On vacations, Captain Natke likes to take long hikes.



Nicole Schnell – Chief Mate

For many years, Nicole Schnell has worked on the ships of Hapag-Lloyd Adventure Cruises. On the MS *Hanseatic*, she was first Security Officer and eventually made Chief Mate. As the “right hand” of the captain, Nicole is “Admiral” of the fleet of Zodiacs. She always has the safety of guests and drivers clearly in her view.



Giulio Vlacic – Chief Engineer

As senior engineer, Giulio Vlacic and his team are responsible for keeping the ship and all its systems running smoothly and seamlessly. On his first trip with Hapag-Lloyd Giulio went to Antarctica and, like so many, he fell in love with the Earth’s polar regions. So, whenever it is possible, you will find the Chief Engineer traveling in these cold regions. Giulio lives with his family in Rijeka, Croatia, on the beautiful Adriatic coast.



Doris Adler – Hotel Manager

The guests went to explore the world of penguins, icebergs, and glaciers on a Zodiac tour. Back aboard, they have come to expect fragrant pastries, hot tea, and a beaming smile. All of this is made

possible thanks, in large part, to the efforts of Doris Adler, our hotel manager, and her wonderful staff.



Ulrike Schleifenbaum – Cruise Director

Ulrike Schleifenbaum lives in her native Hamburg and is responsible for the daily program and coordinating between departments. She has extensive experience in Germany, France, North Africa, Spain, Cuba, the Maldives, and the Caribbean. Spring 2000 saw her first cruise on the *Columbus*; she has since traveled on most Hapag-Lloyd ships. Her favorite destinations include the Arctic, Antarctic, and the Mediterranean in late autumn.



Bettina Schlennstedt – Hostess

Bettina always wanted to travel and work with people—this she has done since 1985. Having previously sailed on several 5-star ships, in 1993 she joined the *Hanseatic* on her maiden voyage. For nearly 10 years she has acted as tour manager, hostess, and cruise director, with a particular passion for the north and south polar regions. Later, she sailed on ice-breakers, river cruise ships, and sailing ships. After some years ashore, Bettina is pleased to be working again for Hapag-Lloyd, accompanying special programs, and now, to be sailing on "her" ship, this time as hostess.



Birgit Volberg – Cruise Sales

Birgit Volberg is your cruise consultant, responsible for advising, planning, and booking your future cruises with Hapag-Lloyd. A qualified travel agent, she has spent 20 years in some of the most beautiful regions of the world, always looking for unique places for guests on the go. Birgit is particularly fond of cruise ships, having accompanied many group trips. She has now come to the *Hanseatic* to share with you this wonderful way of traveling.



Claas Stanko – Zodiac Driver

Claas grew up in beautiful Ammerland. After high school and then military service, he completed a commercial apprenticeship as a forwarding merchant. In 1996, Claas entered the cruise industry working in the “shore excursions” department, awakening his passions for the industry. Since 1998, he has been active worldwide aboard the *Hanseatic* as trip leader and Zodiac drive.



Dr. Arne Kertelhein – Expedition Leader; Lecturer

Arne Kertelhein hails from Hamburg where he also earned a Ph.D. in Scandinavian history in Hamburg. Over the years, he has worked for museums, archives, and has written travel guides. Polar exploration being a long-time, Arne now works year-round on vessels in the polar regions, both lecturing and serving as Expedition Leader. “Sometimes” he lives near Würzburg, Germany.



Dr. Gerit Birnbaum – Lecturer (climate & glaciology)

A native of Berlin, Dr. Gerit Birnbaum has studied the interactions between polar atmosphere and oceans. Since 2000, she has been working at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research in Bremerhaven. She has served aboard the research vessel *Polarstern*, worked at the German Antarctic research station Neumayer, and taken part in a three-month expedition onto the Antarctic ice sheet to drill ice cores. Since 2004, Gerit has lectured on various Arctic and Antarctic expedition cruises.



Heike Fries – Lecturer (Geology)

Heike Fries grew up in the Eifel Range in West Germany, where she developed an interest in the geology of that old mountain range. With a degree in geography and geology from the University of Cologne, her main interest is in the interdisciplinary aspect of natural sciences. Heike is involved in the study of threats to the

ecosystem, especially as it relates to climatology. For seven years Hieke has been accompanying passenger on expedition vessels.



Dr. Hans-Joachim Lauenstein – Lecturer (history)

Born in Bremen, growing up in rural northern Germany, Hans-Joachim “Hajo” Lauenstein has lived and worked in Namibia, Peru, Brazil, and parts of Asia working as both geologist and tour guide. Since 2007, HoJo has been lecturing for Hapag Lloyd cruises and jet journeys. When not lecturing, he enjoys further travels, hiking, photography, and cooking South American cuisine.



Richard MacDonald – Lecturer (Birds & Biology)

Richard hails from Bar Harbor, Maine, in northeastern USA, where he has studied birds and terrestrial ecology since 1986. Today, he leads nature and adventure tours across the Northern Hemisphere, specializing in birds and marine mammals, as well as conducting research into topics such as heavy metal contamination in songbirds and the productivity of northern seabirds. He is also an outdoor leader and educator, having led major sea kayak expeditions. This is his third cruise with Hapag-Lloyd.



Sylvia Stevens – Lecturer (biology)

Born in Glasgow, Sylvia Stevens now resides in San Diego, California . . . that is, when she is not lecturing on a Hapag Lloyd expedition. Her graduate work was in both the arts and business has stood her well these past 22 years in her professional pursuits on adventure cruise ships. Over the years, Sylvia has spent much time working with injured and endangered animals, including seals in Greece, Hawaii, and California, eagles and otters in Alaska in the aftermath of the infamous Exxon Valdez oil spill, and penguins in Patagonia. She is fluent in English, German, and French and is a passionate photographer.

Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
54° 49'S	068° 18'W	1005.5	10° C	8° C	SW / 6	partly cloudy	0 NM
Sunrise: 05:12 hrs				Sunset: 22:07 hrs			

Today, we came together as a group. While some travelled together from England, others met for the first time in Buenos Aires; and yet others met for the in Ushuaia on the *MS Hanseatic*.

An early morning charter took most of us from Buenos Aires National Airport to Ushuaia, the southern-most city in the world, where we were then taken into Tierra del Fuego National Park. Metamorphic formations rise thousands of feet, lush valleys carpeted in peat moss, and dramatic vistas of the southern terminus of the Andes were there to greet us. Lunch afforded panoramic views of Ushuaia!



Mount Condor, Tierra del Fuego National Park.



Beginning 16:00, we boarded the *Hanseatic*, our home for the better part of the next three weeks. We quickly settled into our cabins, perhaps taking a well-deserved shower to wash away the grime of travel, or a catnap to compensate for the oh-my-god-its-early departure.

During the course of the day, beginning with our tour of the national park, we began our species list: 22 species tallied; highlights included Black-necked Swan, Northern Giant-Petrel, and Dolphin Gull.

As is often the case in this part of the world, winds were stiff. However, thanks to the skill of Captain Natke and his excellent crew, we cast off the mooring lines at 22:00 and put Ushuaia in our wake.

A day cruising at sea is in store for our second day....

Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
54° 08' S	064° 09' W	989	8° C	8° C	SW / 5	overcast	179 NM
Sunrise: 05:04 hrs				Sunset: 21:32 hrs			

It was a busy day for a day at sea, filled with activity: Zodiac briefing by Chief Officer Nicole Schnell, cruise director Ulrike Schleifenbaum’s “Welcome on Board!” where she introduced the lecturers, Falkland Islands precap by Arne Kertelhein, distribution of parkas and rubber boots, bird- and nature-watching with the lecturers, Sylvia Steven’s lecture on the Falkland Islands, and Captain Thilo Natke’s welcome cocktail. Of course, all of this was just punctuation to meals worthy of J.R.R. Tolkien’s famed Hobbits.

A goodly number of you proclaimed: I want to see an albatross! Fortunately, your native-English-speaking lecturer was an ornithologist and passionate bird-watcher! On several occasions, Richard was pleased to reply, “Okay, follow me and I will show you one right now.”



Black-browed Albatross.

During his seabird transects, half-hour surveys tallying all the birds he could find and identify, Richard counted in excess of 100 Black-browed Albatross. Other birds observed in abundance included Northern Giant Petrel, Cape Petrel, Antarctic Prion, Sooty Shearwater, and Wilson’s Storm-Petrel. A few of us even saw a Wandering Albatross, those avian behemoths with the eleven-foot wingspan.

The international cuisine that is the typical fair of the Marco Polo Restaurant was a wonderful way to conclude the day with new friends and excellent conversation.

Tomorrow: Falkland Islands....

Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
51° 44' S	061° 17' W	998	5° C	5° C	SW / 5-6	partly cloudy	359 NM
Sunrise: 05:03 hrs				Sunset: 21:11 hrs			

Beaufort scale force 8 winds kept us aboard ship in the morning. And then, unfortunately, we learned one of our number had a medical emergency and had to be evacuated by helicopter. We send our best wishes for a full recovery (we later learned he was safely in the hospital in Stanley and in stable condition).



Female Kelp Goose and Magellanic Oystercatcher.

Perambulation following our first Zodiac rides and a squall of graupel (snowflakes coated in rime ice) was the order of the day, first with a morning walk to the amazing New Island seabird colony, then a 5-kilometer walk across West Point Island.

The beginning of our New Island walk took us along a grassy lane bordered by gorse for the first few hundred meters—likely brought over by early British settlers (either intentionally or as hitchhikers on livestock)—and now home to numerous Brown Hare (another species introduced from Europe). Upland Geese were abundant on the hillside. And then we were at the colony.

To experience a bird colony is to test all of our senses. Our approach was scented with an aroma heavy on ammonium (a by-product of the



Rockhopper Penguin.

prodigious guano), although the strong winds helped dissipate the odor. Then there was the sound of thousands of birds croaking and cronking, begging and squealing. And, of course, there was the feel of the wind in your face, sometimes from the wings of a Black-



Sei Whale.

browed Albatross flying so close.

Not long after leaving New Island, Sylvia announced, "Whale!" Two 45° angle blows meant Sperm Whales! At least eight other blows were observed, most of which were too far away to identify, but one Sei Whale was photographed.

West Point Island presented our first physical challenge . . . but it also spoiled us. For some, the 5-kilometer hike to the nesting colony of Black-browed Albatross and Rockhopper Penguin felt as though it was an uphill hike both ways. That said, it may have well been worth the effort as we were afforded what may prove some of the most amazing, close-up wildlife experiences of the trip. Being, in some cases, less than a meter from the magnificent Black-browed Albatross was truly an amazing experience (that said, we need to remember the more typical 5-meter rule). Tea and sweets proffered by our island hosts was further icing on the cake.



Black-browed Albatross feeding its chick.

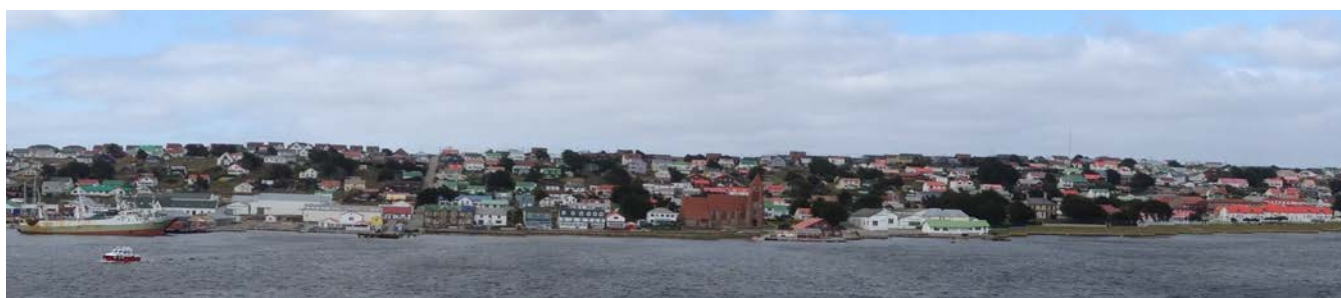
That evening we were treated to a round-table dinner with Captain Natke, some of the officers, and biology lecturer Richard MacDonald. Based on the voluble mirth emanating from various tables, it seems we all managed an excellent evening between fabulous courses.

All too soon we were back on the ship. Next stop: Port Stanley....

Wednesday, 13th January 2016

Stanley, Falkland Islands

Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
51° 41' S	057° 51' W	1000	6° C	9° C	SW / 6-7	clear	550 nm
Sunrise: 04:54 hrs				Sunset: 21:02 hrs			



Civilization! Not that we did not experience civilization at New Island, West Point Island, or even aboard the *Hanseatic*, but it was quite pleasant to be in the capital of the Falkland Islands, going on walk-about, visiting the Falklands Museum, doing a bit of shopping, and having a proper fish & chips (even if it was “a bit rubbery” as I heard it described; for me, it was the best fish & chips of the day!) and a Spitfire Beer (“The

Bottle for Britain”) at the Victory Pub. Although we were pelted with graupel once again, all in all, it was a lovely day.



What a warm welcome we had. The people of Stanley were friendly and gracious. We each had our own experience—some took excursions to Gypsy Cove, one couple even walked there

and back—and Stanley and the Falkland Islands will remain a highlight.

Two days cruising, then: South Georgia Island....

Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
52° 31' S	050° 41' W	995	7° C	5° C	SW / 5-6	partly clear	822 nm
Sunrise: 04:42 hrs				Sunset: 20:37 hrs			

One of the many components of a cruising expedition such as ours is education. And a day at sea meant lectures: six of them, many concurrent, afforded opportunity to learn about Sir Ernest Shackleton, perhaps the most famous of Antarctic Explorer’s (ask anyone about Antarctic exploration and, inevitably, the name Shackleton rises to the surface), those pelagic seabirds that spend the majority of their lives at sea, and the geology of South Georgia Island (even if those darned pesky birds do get in the way).

Anyone venturing to the deck (heck, anyone looking out a window) may have been fortunate enough to see a “great albatross.” A number of Wandering Albatross, with their wingspan approaching four meters, were observed. Size is difficult to gauge on the high seas, but when one of these winged behemoths appears, you begin to sense just how enormous they are, especially in comparison to other seabirds. And for those who joined us for some bird-watching on the Bistro LeMaire aft deck, we were fortunate enough to see not one, not two, not three, but FOUR Wandering Albatross!



Wandering Albatross.

We were fortunate in a run of relatively good weather. Clear skies means sun, but sun means winds. And winds mean waves. All day, seas ran four to five meters, with the occasional six-meter swell causing the ship—and us—to lurch unexpectedly.

The end of the day saw a precipitous drop in water temperature, from 5° C to 2° C, thus marking our transition across the Antarctic Convergence, entering the Antarctic.

Friday, 15th January 2016

At sea en route South Georgia Island

Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
53° 25' S	042° 56' W	990	4° C	2° C	SW / 5-6	partly cloudy	1108 nm
Sunrise: 05:11 hrs				Sunset: 21:09 hrs			



Another day at sea meant another day of lectures and briefings. The first order of business was an International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators briefing on the ten rules for treading lightly on this magnificent yet sensitive landscape. These revolve around respect and leaving it at least as good as we found it. It also involved a biosecurity check to minimize the risk of bringing in non-native seeds. And interspersed throughout the day were lectures on climate and Sir Ernest Shackleton.



South Georgia Shags.

As important and intriguing as those things are, perhaps the true highlights of the day were the emergent natural features. Vast tabular icebergs, with only 10% of their bulk above the surface, surrounded Shag Rocks in sentry-like fashion.

Shag Rocks made its appearance in a snow squall. As mariners are wont to say, “If you don’t like the weather, wait five minutes.” Sure enough, in short order, the squall



Gentoo Penguins "porpoising" at Shag Rocks.

Storm-Petrels, and more than a few Black-browed and Wandering Albatross and White-chinned Petrels graced the air. A Southern Right Whale offered fleeting glimpses, but the lack of dorsal fin made its identification clear.

Tomorrow we set foot on South Georgia and the true Antarctic experience begins...

blew through and the sun shone. These six volcanic seamounts rise quickly from the depths of the Scotia Sea, over 1,000 meters deep.

The wildlife was equally impressive with thousands of South Georgia Shags nesting on these pinnacles. Countless dozens, if not hundreds, of prions, Black-bellied



Black-browed Albatross.

Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
54° 03' S	037° 16' W	985	4° C	1° C	SW / 3	flurries; cloudy	1,324 NM
Sunrise: 04:24 hrs				Sunset: 20:51 hrs			



Our chariot to shore: the indefatigable Zodiac.

South Georgia at last! South Georgia at last!
Thank God almighty we have reached
South Georgia at last!

If the Falklands were great, it is quite possible that South Georgia is beyond superlatives. This may be where the “adventure” in Hapag-Lloyd Adventure Cruises really kicked in. We saw a multitude of King Penguins! By one

accounting, the Salisbury Plain population is in the neighborhood of 250,000. There were so many penguins that it was difficult to take it all in. And then there was all of the other wildlife.

Fur seals, elephant seals, and skuas, oh my! Yes, they too, were everywhere. We learned to be both respectful and yet stand firm in our approach to the often aggressive Antarctic Fur Seals. The Brown Skuas and Southern Giant Albatrosses were unperturbed by our presence; in fact, the former often sized us up as a prospective meal. And the few Southern Elephant Seals could not be bothered to wake up to take notice of us, no matter how close we approached.



Brown Skua surveying the King Penguin colony.



A view of Possession Bay.

After our incredible morning tour of Salisbury Plains, we repositioned the ship not a far sail to the east to Possession Bay. There, at the head of the bay, surrounded by jagged peaks rising a thousand meters and more from the sea, we landed on a beach, a glacial terminal moraine. Here, although there were fewer penguins, the Antarctic Fur Seal colony seemed in more robust shape.

Upon landing, a lone Gentoo Penguin greeted early arriving passengers.

A total of seventeen South Georgia Pintails, one of two local endemic species, flew in and out of view during the day—the pintail is a yellow-billed, carrion-eating duck. (The other endemic, the South Georgia Pipit, we found at Salisbury Plains in the morning.)



South Georgia Pintails.

Among the highlights of the day were many. For some, it was being present in this wilderness, letting all of our senses take in the experience: the sights of a majestic landscape, the sound of wind and wildlife, the feel of the unceasing wind in our face, the smell of life

and death which are seamlessly intertwined. For others, it was walking nearly to the foot of the Purvis Glacier.

Tomorrow we walk in the footsteps of a true leader: Sir Ernest Shackleton....



A view from the ship as we depart Possession Bay: White-chinned Petrel against the backdrop of the mountains of Possession Bay.

Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
54° 10' S	036° 42' W	988	8° C	2.5° C	WNW / 4	partly cloudy	1,411 nm
Sunrise: 04:23 hrs				Sunset: 20:48 hrs			



Beginning of the "Shackleton Walk" in Fortuna Bay.

The morning saw us in Fortuna Bay. Sixty passengers disembarked for the "Shackleton Walk," retracing some of the footsteps of Sir Ernest Shackleton, Frank Worsely, and Tom Crean as they made their way across South Georgia Island in search of rescue. The walk took us up 350 meters to a plain of fractured glacial

rubble, a landscape seemingly devoid of life.

Surprisingly, at least two pair of Arctic Tern flitted about, screaming their alarm calls. Clearly they had nests in the vicinity. A lone Wilson's Storm-Petrel at the top may suggest a nest burrow nearby. Not surprisingly, a variety of lichens and moss could readily be found.



"Troll bread," an actual geologic name for the manner in which rocks are ice-fractured into slices.

Those that opted to remain aboard cruised east to



Humpback Whale and Cape Petrel observed en route to Grytviiken.

Stromness Bay and made a slow and close pass of the historic Leith whaling station. Later, we were all re-united at Stromness, the whaling station where Shackleton and crew found salvation.



The abandoned whaling station-cum-museum and research station, the burial ground for Sir Ernest Shackleton—the man who not only survived, but led ALL his men to safety

during the failed Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914-1917—is a time capsule, albeit one where water got in and damaged much of the contents, but not so bad as to stop you from imagining what once was. And in some cases, what still is. The chapel has occasion to host services and events, as it did for us with our very own Magdalena Majerová giving a concert.



The actual museum walks the visitor through the past two hundred years and more, from Cook's discovery, through the eras sealing and whaling, to contemporary efforts to completely eradicate the non-native Norway Brown Rat from the island (a significant boon to nesting seabirds).

For an infinitesimally small territory with only twelve year-round inhabitants, they do have a remarkable collection of postage stamps. A postcard home and we were off: some on a short cruise to Maiviken, others on a two-hour hike to meet the *Hanseatic*.



On the trail between Grytviken and Maiviken.

Monday, 18th January 2016

Gold Harbor & Drygalski Fjord, South Georgia Island

Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
54° 39' S	035° 45' W	988	2.5° C	1.5° C	S / 2-3	clear	1,495 nm
Sunrise: 04:18 hrs				Sunset: 20:50 hrs			



In the morning, we arrived at Gold Harbor, so named for the appearance of gold in the glacial till. Alas, it was mere pyrite, “Fool’s Gold.” Many of our friends were present: King Penguin, Southern Giant-Petrel, and Antarctic Fur and Southern Elephant seals. It was here that we caught surprising glimpses of the infamous Snowy Sheathbill, working the King Penguin crowds looking for some yucky morsels.

Virtually no swells meant our afternoon Zodiac cruise of Cooper Bay afforded us



Cooper Bay Chinstrap Penguins.

opportunity to tuck into narrow coves nestled between towering gneiss ramparts. Fur seals frolicked in the kelp forests waving in the modest swell; elephant seals sleepily eyed us while barely flickering a muscle; Light-mantled Albatross wheeled overhead, perhaps wishing for more wind to aid their landing among the

cliff-top Tussac Grass. We saw our first Chinstrap and Macaroni Penguins. And South Georgia Island's two endemic avian species made appearances.

Before we bade adieu to South Georgia Island, we steamed up the Drygalski Fjord, battling a stiff breeze that quickly chilled those standing outside. Seabirds in great numbers effortlessly plied the winds at the mouth. All-white Snow Petrels ghosted by the *Hanseatic*.



And so it was that, while we left the magnificent South Georgia Island behind, we were eager for the next phase of our Antarctic adventure.

Next: A day at sea as we make our way south to the Antarctic mainland...

Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
57° 55' S	040° 30' W	992	1° C	1° C	SW / 5-6	overcast	1,769 nm
Sunrise: 04:17 hrs				Sunset: 21:33 hrs			



The view from the bridge.

A good day at sea and most of us had our sea legs (or, at the very least, our prophylactics were working). As we make our way south, our daily program was much more relaxed, perhaps a welcome respite. Southwest winds blowing 5-6 on the Beaufort scale meant waves in the 4-6 meter range. Fortunately, they were bow

on, which meant far less rolling than we experienced during our previous days at sea.

Still, a day at sea meant a day for choices. Many attended the various educational programs, the offerings of which included:

- ✓ Richard lecturing on whaling, including an eight-minute video of footage shot in 1936 by the late father of a previous passenger.
- ✓ Heike's riveting discussion on Antarctic archaeology, including examples of its long-lost botany and an excellent graphic demonstrating plate tectonics.
- ✓ A precap by Arne, introducing us to the Orcadas Argentinian research station in the South Orkney Islands, delivered in his typical light-hearted style.

How we managed to fit in meals between all of these wonderful educational opportunities may remain a mystery, but the haute cuisine, as always, was superb. And who would have guessed that Sir Ernest Shackleton would be greeting us at dinner?

Wednesday, 20th January 2016 Orcadas Station, Laurie Island, South Orkney Islands

Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
60° 49' S	044° 59' W	995	1.5° C	-1° C	SE / 5	overcast	1,993 nm
Sunrise: 03:18 hrs				Sunset: 21:17 hrs			



During yesterday's precap, Arne informed us about the Orcadas Base on Laurie Island in the South Orkney Islands, telling us that it has the unique distinction of being the least sunny place in the world. And so it was that we awoke this morning to gray skies, low cloud ceiling, and cold winds . . . and we were not phased in the least. Nonetheless, we had an absolute joy of a day at Orcadas Base.

Our Argentinian hosts displayed traditional Latin American hospitality, shaking hands with each and every one of us, exchanging gifts, and leading us on an intimate tour of their enticing and historic base. We started with a walk through of the museum, seeing life at a 1950s research station. Next up was a visit to the remains of Omand House, established in 1903 by Dr. William S.



Museum mounts were better than we feared.

Bruce's Scottish National Antarctic Expedition (control of the base was transferred to Argentina the next year and they have been a year-round presence ever since). Lastly,

we took full advantage of our hosts' hospitality and a gustatory selection of cookies, pastries, coffee, and dark (very dark, according to some) tea.

Meanwhile, we saw our first Chinstrap Penguin colony of the trip. There was even an Adelie Penguin who must have been wondering how it managed to wander so far north. And it was certainly refreshing to see Antarctic Fur Seals that were not intent on removing a pound of flesh. No, these were males, likely traveled south from South Georgia Island, here to regroup and recover after the rigors of establishing territories, mating, building harems, and defending their ephemeral interests.

Our time ashore at an end, we retraced our way back through Washington Strait, then followed the shoreline of Coronation Island east. It was a toss-up as to what was better, a sea stippled with icebergs of every conceivable shape or the six Humpback Whales, including a calf and an adult that put on quite a show of flipper-flapping (your dear author himself observed an additional Fin Whale and Sei Whale).



Humpback Whale “fluking up” as it dives.

More Germans participated in “Meet the Experts” than us native English-speakers; but on the other hand, our small numbers make for more regular contact. Still, a few partook.

The movie, *Shackleton’s Antarctic Adventure*, hosted by Hajo, was a moving documentary blending Frank Hurley’s photography and re-creation of many of the great moments of the British Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition.

We retired this evening, looking toward tomorrow and the hopes of glimpsing Elephant Island and Point Wild, the site where Sir Ernest Shackleton’s men survived four months while awaiting rescue.



Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
60° 59' S	054° 02' W	999	2.5° C	0° C	W / 5-6	overcast	2,287 NM
Sunrise: 03:41 hrs				Sunset: 21:47 hrs			



A surprisingly uneventful passage from Laurie Island had us arrive at Elephant Island early afternoon. Before our arrival at Elephant Island, morning lectures revealed some of the secrets of the life as an Antarctic researcher and the biology of seals. An early afternoon PRECAP laid out our anticipated itinerary for

the next day. Then we were at Point Wild.

Although swells were running too high for a Zodiac tour, the Captain nosed the ship into the small bay, then opened the bow, affording us optimal viewing opportunities.

After a morning of gray seas and patchy fog, the sky cleared and the sun shone—it was as though the gods of history and adventure wanted us to pay homage to the memory of Frank Wild and his compatriots. Seeing the cobble shelf where most of Shackleton’s party spent four long, cold, miserable months gave pause for reflection on the constitution of these hardy souls. This most certainly brought to mind a quote from Apsley Cherry-Garrard: “For scientific discovery, give me Scott; for speed and efficiency of travel, give me Amundsen; but when disaster strikes and all hope is lost, get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton.”

After a time taking in the scenic vista, we continued our way, heading clockwise, first east, then south, around Elephant Island. Seabirds were in abundance, a Light-mantled Albatross crossed our bow, Chinstrap Penguins porpoised along side the ship, or else were taking iceberg taxis, and four whale spouts were seen in the distance.

Tomorrow, weather permitting, we explore Paulet Island....

Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
63° 35' S	056° 05' W	988	2° C	0° C	W / 1	clear	2,521 nm
Sunrise: 03:54 hrs				Sunset: 22:11 hrs			



This day we sighted the Antarctic continent! And that was just one of many highlights in an eventful day.

The morning saw us working through patches of pack ice in the Antarctic Sound. The *Hanseatic* made safe-but-slow progress, the sound of bergy bits and panne ice resounding as the bow plowed a path. Dense pack ice prevented our landing on Paulet Island, so we toured the ice field by Zodiac, then landed on football pitch-sized panne for champagne.

We were not alone on the panne: several Adelie Penguins jumped out of the water, joining the funny cousins in



red. Alas, our frozen float drifted too close to the other flows, necessitating cutting time short for the final group.





Killer Whales in the Antarctic Sound.

Back aboard the *Hanseatic*, we toured the Antarctic Sound. *Thar she blows!* A pack of five Killer Whales swam across our bow! Captain Natke opened the bow while slowly circling the area where the whales dove. And cooperate they did, giving us a show for the next 15 minutes. Penguins swam nervously to safety, not wanting to become the next

meal for *Orcinus orca*. Nearby, a Humpback Whale spouted several times, then fluked up in a terminal dive.

Moving on, we observed a total of eight Killer Whales. Coupled that with six Humpback Whales, six Leopard Seals (mostly hauled out on the ice, although one was swimming, perhaps prowling), and a number of Weddell Seals taking the iceberg taxi while they molt their pelage, and it is clear we had an excellent day!



Leopard Seal on an pack ice next to the ship.

As if the day couldn't get any better, tabular icebergs towered above our ship. And then we concluded the day with a cocktail reception honoring 125 years of Hapag-Lloyd offering cruises. Happy anniversary!



Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
62°36' S	059°54' W	995	6° C	2° C	variable / 2	partly cloudy	2,700 nm
Sunrise: 04:02 hrs				Sunset: 22:27 hrs			

After an early morning detour to the Russian base on King George Island where one of the crew had to disembark to return to South America to attend to emergency dental work, we anchored off Half Moon Island. This small island is nestled in a bay at the eastern end of Livingston Island and is small enough that a brisk walker could traverse it end-to-end in ten minutes.



Chinstrap Penguin colony on Half Moon Island.

Here we walked to a colony of Chinstrap Penguins, then strolled across the island, following the shore to find several Weddell Seals—13 to be precise. Did you notice that Weddell Seals appear to have disproportionately small fore-flippers and head in comparison to their rather large body? These are “true seals.” And to make sure we do not become too complacent with

Nature’s majesty, a lone Antarctic Fur Seal kept us on our toes.

Next up was Deception Island, the remnants of an ancient volcano. One wall of the caldera has long since collapsed, allowing egress into the 9-kilometer-long central pool. We entered the caldera through Neptune’s Bellows, the wall being, quite literally, within throwing distance. Two hours afforded us time to explore the former Whaler’s Bay whaling and research station, which has long since succumbed to the combined forces of a 1970 volcanic mudslide and the elements.

Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
61° 55' S	062° 53' W	991	8° C	1° C	light winds	clear	2,883 nm
Sunrise: 03:59 hrs				Sunset: 22:51 hrs			

Early morning found us in Paradise Bay, rimmed by glacially-clad mountains. Here we set foot upon the Antarctic mainland, amidst a small Gentoo Penguin colony, a site also doing double duty as the Almirante Brown Argentinian research base. A strenuous uphill hike may have been just the ticket to work off some of the delicious food we have been eating. Our eyrie vantage, affording views of Almirante Brown and our cruise ship some 100 meters below, showed us just how small our footprint is here in the vastness of Antarctica.



Almirante Brown Base, Laurie Island.

Afterward, cruising Paradise Bay by Zodiac turned up a number of treats:



Crabeater Seals on an ice flow in the LeMaire Channel.

- ✓ The rich blues of aged and compressed ice reflecting the one color that imparts such luscious hues.
- ✓ The regular basso rumbling of glaciers ever-so-slowly yet inexorably making their way to the see as they grind over the long hidden terra firma.
- ✓ Gentoo Penguins swimming

in military formation as they hunt for prey.

✓ Crabeater Seals in repose on a panne of pack-ice.

Back aboard, a Pool Party seemed a perfect (if slightly incongruous) afternoon event: beer, vodka, hotdogs, waffles, waffles with rum. YUM!

During the party, someone commented about there being whales in the distance. Sure enough, three Minke Whales—a species whose modest blow is only visible in cold weather—were working the edge of a glacier.

Approaching the LeMaire Channel, we encountered pack ice. A LOT of it! This made for slow going through the steep-sided LeMaire Channel. Seven nautical miles long, less than one nautical mile wide, this was an amazing experience! The absolute calm was a blessing for Captain Natke and crew as they masterfully navigated our passage, both south for us to scout Petermann Island (alas, we were unable to land) and back north again.

Tomorrow: Cuverville Island and Port Lockroy.



Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
64° 46' S	062° 52' W	993	5° C	1° C	calm	clear	3,000 nm
Sunrise: 04:03 hrs				Sunset: 22:38 hrs			



Cuverville Island is home to a sizeable colony of Gentoo Penguins, complete with four-lane penguin highways. According to Sylvia Stevens, a survey did about eight years ago tallied approximately 4,000 nests. There was also an incredible abundance of South Polar Skuas (at one point, at least 22 were wheeling overhead).

Clear skies made for stunning panoramas. We have had such incredibly mild weather this journey (we can only imagine what it must be like when is not so pleasant), it has been a figurative rainbow over the *Hanseatic*. We could only hope this was a portent of good fortune . . . although maybe the fortune was the good folks of the Antarctic Heritage Trust at Port Lockroy in the form of the pot of gold we collectively left behind as we went on a shopping spree.



Gentoo Penguin.

That is getting ahead of ourselves. The activity of this landscape is not limited to birds and whales, the glaciers are all moving, too; just at a (pardon the pun) glacial pace. We heard quite a lot of grumbling and sharp reports as the glaciers proved they are anything but static.

Departing Cuverville Island, we made our way through the Errera to the Gerlache Strait, then on to the Neumayer Channel. More stunning scenery occupied our senses. For that matter, we never tired of whales during this journey and the three



Cruising the Neumayer Channel.

Humpback Whales and lone Minke Whale were welcomed, as always.

And then it was Port Lockroy! The Queen’s flag waving over the southernmost shopping center and post office did, indeed, presage the proverbial a pot o’ gold for someone. Coffee mugs, t-shirts, postcards, and refrigerator magnets were all the rage by the looks of everyone’s grocery bags.

This tiny little outpost, once a research station investigating the earth’s magnetic field, is now a museum. How fascinating it was to get a glimpse into the lives of 1950s era field researchers.

Gentoo Penguins were everywhere, sometimes almost literally underfoot. Snowy Sheathbills were busy in their role of janitor, cleaning (a polite term for eating) guano from the rocks. South Polar Skuas, patrolling for weakness...and a meal...were regularly harassed by Antarctic Terns; they may be small but they seemed a match for the skuas.

Back on the *Hanseatic*, as the day wore on, the side gate was blocked by ice, so Captain Natke had to reposition the ship. In response to Arne’s query about sending a Zodiac to pick up the shore party, the Captain replied, “We are leaving now and will pick you up in three weeks.” (We knew he was joking when the Zodiacs finally did come pick us up.)

With the day’s waning hours, the surrounding landscape was bathed in alpenglow—a perfect ending to about as perfect a day as you can get! The Captain’s forecast for crossing the Drake Passage—light winds and two-meter swells—may very well have relieved many a prematurely queasy stomach as it doesn’t get much better than that. We hoped the Captain’s forecast holds.

Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
61° 01' S	064° 19' W	998	2.5° C	1.5° C	NN / 5-6	overcast	3,277 nm
Sunrise: 04:43 hrs				Sunset: 21:48 hrs			



As our three-week adventure winds down, we were in the first of our two-day crossing of the Drake Passage. Light winds meant for modest (by Drake Passage standards) swells.

Anyone feel particularly tired yesterday? It may be the action-packed schedule of the past 18 days; or our bodies digesting all the wonderful food we have been served. More

likely, the perpetual motion of ship means continual compensating, flexing and extending of muscles, whether sitting or in repose, compensating to keep our internal gyroscopes balanced. Without our realizing it, we are getting day-long workouts.

At most any point during the day, a walk around the deck, or a quick look out any window, may have revealed our escort of dozens of Cape Petrels had returned. Their habit of frequently following ships gives the impression that their natural habitat is the open ocean . . . which it is, excepting nesting season, when they come to shore.

As with every day at sea, our time was filled with educational opportunities: a RECAP revisiting our foray to the Antarctic Peninsula, Sylvia's gentle giants lecture, and an opportunity to sit and meet with the lecturers.

Our day was concluded with social activities. The Farewell Cocktail enabled us to thank the officers and crew for a memorable journey. Intimate conversations in the Marco Polo Restaurant. And a final bid adieu by the *Hanseatic* Crew Choir (during which rising water temperatures marked our official crossing of the Antarctic Convergence, which means we left Antarctic waters).

Position at midday		Pressure (hPa)	Temperature		Wind dir./ Beaufort	Weather	Distance travelled
Latitude	Longitude		Air	Water			
55° 26' S	066° 15' W	1000	12° C	9.5° C	NNE / 3-4	partly cloudy	3,619 nm
Sunrise: 05:03 hrs				Sunset: 21:40 hrs			

Our final day at sea and Neptune seems to have smiled upon us once again! The seas were calm—even calmer than yesterday, with long-period swells running less than two meters—the skies are offering a textured mosaic of clouds.

During the morning of our last day, a Sperm Whale surfaced very near our ship. It was clearly identified by its 45° angle spout, the small and rounded dorsal fin, and its unique, dual-lobed fluke.



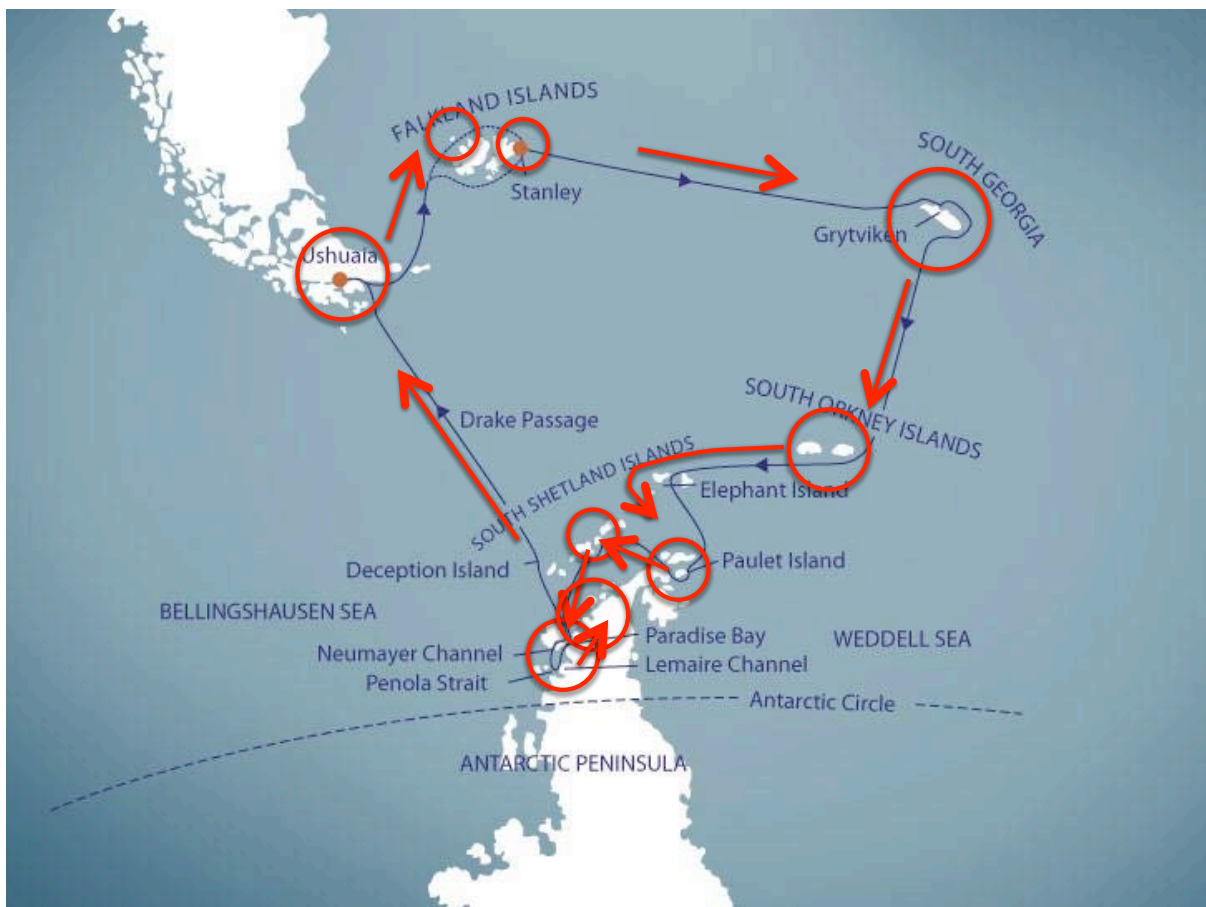
This day's educational offerings were compliments of Heike Fries, sharing her passions for geology: a morning lecture on Antarctic volcanism and an afternoon show-and-tell with some of her impressive rock collection. Otherwise, our day was interspersed with packing, time to reflect on our wondrous journey, and, of course, there was the wonderful meals; today's feature: Bavarian and Austrian specialties.

On a personal note, for me, your native English-speaking lecturer, this day is both a bit melancholy and joyous. I have made many new friends on this journey and have enjoyed many conversations on a broad range of subjects, many not related to our present endeavors here in the Southern Hemisphere. Thank you one and all for a most memorable journey. I wish you fair winds and smooth seas.

Our route

From 10-28 January, we traveled a great route following a vaguely circular course, logging in excess of 3,700 nautical miles. This map, coupled with the preceding logbook entries, chronicles our three-week Antarctic adventure.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 10 January – Depart Ushuaia | 20 January – Orcadas Base; cruising Washington Strait |
| 11 January – At sea | 21 January – Point Wild, Elephant Island |
| 12 January – New Island and West Point Island, Falkland Islands | 22 January – Weddell Sea Zodiac tour; cruising Antarctic Sound |
| 13 January – Stanley, Falkland Islands | 23 January – Half Moon Island; Deception Island |
| 14-15 January – At sea; Shag Rocks | 24 January – Paradise Bay, LeMaire Channel |
| 16 January – Salisbury Plain and Possession Bay, South Georgia Island | 25 January – Cuverville Island; Port Lockroy |
| 17 January – Fortuna Bay, Shackleton Walk, and Grytviken, South Georgia I. | 26-27 January – At sea |
| 18 January – Gold Harbor, Cooper Bay, and Drygalski Fjord, South Georgia I. | 27 January, evening – Return to Ushuai |
| 19 January – At sea | |



Wildlife list

The following is a list of wildlife observed during our adventure. This list includes species observed in Ushuaia and Tierra del Fuego National Park by the author of this logbook. In recent decades, taxonomy has been in a state of flux. Still, following an accepted hierarchical ordering is useful for the purpose of maintaining a checklist. To that end, the order of marine mammals follows the widely accepted work of D.W. Rice (1998) *Marine Mammals of the World: Systematics and Distribution*, Special Publication No. 4, Society for Marine Mammology. Meanwhile, the ordering of birds follows that set out by James Clements and updated by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. (Please accept the author's apologies for any omissions; they were not intentional.)

Marine Mammals: (15 species)

- Antarctic Fur Seal *Arctocephalus gazelle*
- South American Fur Seal *Arctocephalus australis*
- Southern Elephant Seal *Mirounga leonina*
- Weddell Seal *Leptonychotes weddellii*
- Crabeater Seal *Lobodon carcinophaga*
- Leopard Seal *Hydrurga leptonyx* (at least 11 observed)
- Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* (at least 46 observed)
- Antarctic Minke Whale *Balaenoptera bonaerensis* (at least 5 observed)
- Sei Whale *Balaenoptera borealis* (at least 2 observed)
- Fin Whale *Balaenoptera physalus* (at least 2 observed)
- Sperm Whale *Physeter macrocephalus* (at least 4 observed)
- unidentified whales (at least 26 observed)
- Peale's Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus australis*
- Hourglass Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus cruciger*
- Killer Whale *Orcinus orca* (at least 8 observed)
- Long-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala melas*

Birds: (77 species)

- Black-necked Swan *Cygnus melancoryphus*
- Coscorba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba*
- Upland Goose *Chloephaga picta*
- Kelp Goose *Chloephaga hybrida*
- Ashy-headed Goose *Chloephaga poliocephala*
- Ruddy-headed Goose *Chloephaga rubidiceps*
- Flying Steamer-Duck *Tachyeres patachonicus*
- Falkland Steamer-Duck *Tachyeres brachypterus*
- Crested Duck *Lophonetta specularioides*
- Yellow-billed (South Georgia) Pintail *Anas georgica*
- Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*
- King Penguin *Aptenodytes patagonicus*
- Adelie Penguin *Pygoscelis adeliae*
- Gentoo Penguin *Pygoscelis papua*
- Chinstrap Penguin *Pygoscelis antarcticus*
- Magellanic Penguin *Spheniscus magellanicus*
- Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolophus*
- Macaroni Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolome*
- Gray-headed Albatross *Thalassarche chrysostoma*
- Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*
- Light-mantled Albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata*
- Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*
- Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*
- Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli*
- Southern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*
- Antarctic Petrel *Thalassoica antarctica*

- Cape Petrel *Daption capense*
- Snow Petrel *Pagodroma nivea*
- Blue Petrel *Halobaena caerulea*
- Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata*
- Slender-billed Prion *Pachyptila belcheri*
- White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*
- Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*
- Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*
- Common Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix*
- Magellanic Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides magellani*
- South Georgia Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides georgicus*
- Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*
- Gray-backed Storm-Petrel *Garrodia nereis*
- White-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregatta grallaria*
- Black-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregatta tropica*
- Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*
- Magellan Cormorant, or Rock Shag *Phalacrocorax magellanicus*
- Antarctic Shag *Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis*
- South Georgia Shag *Phalacrocorax georgianus*
- Imperial Cormorant, or Blue-eyed Shag *Phalacrocorax atriceps*
- Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
- Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*
- Variable Hawk *Geranoaetus polyosoma*
- White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera*
- Snowy Sheathbill *Chionis albus*
- Blackish Oystercatcher *Haematopus ater*
- Magellanic Oystercatcher *Haematopus leucopodus*
- Chilean Skua *Stercorarius chilensis*
- South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki*
- Brown Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus*
- Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicapillus*
- Dolphin Gull *Leucophaeus scoresbii*
- Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*
- Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*
- South American Tern *Sterna hirundinacea*
- Antarctic Tern *Sterna vittata*
- Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*
- Striated Caracara *Phalcoeboenus australis*
- Southern Caracara *Caracara plancus*
- Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango*
- Blackish Cinclodes, or Tussacbird *Cinclodes antarcticus*
- Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola maclovianus*
- Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta meyeni*
- Cobb's Wren *Troglodytes cobbi*
- Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis*
- Austral Thrush, or Falkland Thrush *Turdus falcklandii*
- Correndera Pipit, or Falkland Pipit *Anthus correndera*
- South Georgia Pipit *Anthus antarcticus*
- Long-tailed Meadowlark *Sturnella loyca*
- Black-chinned Siskin *Spinus barbatus*
- House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Contact

Many of you expressed interest in contacting me upon the conclusion of our great adventure together, whether to simply send greetings or ask assistance identifying wildlife in your photos. I am always happy to help. If sending photos, please reduce their size to approximately 1 MB or less; better yet, post them on-line and send me the link. And if you ever find yourself in my lovely corner of the world, my business, The Natural History Center, offers a variety of nature and adventure tours. Or just drop a line to say hello. Should you be interested, I have posted a selection of photos on the Facebook page of The Natural History Center. The following is my complete contact information, including Facebook page:

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Richard on the bow of the Hanseatic off Point Wild, Elephant Island.

Acknowledgements

My sincere thanks to the crew aboard the *MS Hanseatic* for allowing me to join their team on this Southern Ocean adventure. More importantly, a sincere thank-you to Captain Thilo Natke for being a consummate mariner, guiding us through weather both fair and foul, enabling us to make far above the average number of landings. And equally importantly, thank you to the entire crew of the *Hanseatic* for their professionalism and courtesy, which is second to none. They have greatly helped in making our journey so truly memorable.

This logbook would not have been possible without the support of my fellow lecturers who shared their experiences, their anecdotes, and, photos and biographies of the officers and crew.

Thank you to the Zodiac and shore party crews for making our transit between the ship and the wide array of landing sites safe and comfortable.

Finally, my heart-felt thanks to all of the passengers who made this adventure so enjoyable: I arrived on board a stranger, I return to my modest Maine home in the northeastern-most United States far richer for all of the new friends I have made and the adventures we have shared. I wish you fair winds and smooth seas! Bon Voyage!

Richard MacDonald
MS Hanseatic, 27 January 2016



Our ship, MS Hanseatic, as viewed from Orcadas Base.

