

IN THE WAKE OF SCOTT & SHACKLETON

on board HERITAGE ADVENTURER

10 January- 6 February 2026



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Day 1

Saturday 10 January 2026

Queenstown

Our adventure, following ‘In the Wake of Scott and Shackleton’, began in Queenstown, New Zealand’s world-famous alpine resort. Guests arrived from all corners of the globe, checked into accommodation at the Holiday Inn Remarkables, and mingled with fellow travellers and members of the expedition team in the lobby. That evening, we gathered for dinner in the Te Awa room with strangers we hoped would soon become friends—our fellow adventurers.

Day 2

Sunday 11 January 2026

Queenstown to Bluff and departure

At breakfast, we had the chance to reconnect with fellow travellers we had met at dinner or meet new ones—before heading out to Ayrburn for wine tasting and then

to explore the historic and picturesque Arrowtown. After lunch, we boarded coaches for a scenic transfer through the pastoral countryside of Southland to Bluff Harbour, where we would meet our beautiful new home for the upcoming expedition: *Heritage Adventurer*.

Once on board, we scattered to explore our expedition vessel before gathering for the lifeboat drill and introductory briefings. Hotel director Greg introduced us to life on board, while expedition leader Christian outlined what to expect on our excursions and demonstrated the use of the Zodiacs.

Shortly thereafter, we had our first opportunity to enjoy the culinary delights prepared by the galley and dining room staff. It was during dinner that we set off, sailing into the open ocean. Overnight, the sea state brought swells of about four metres – our first taste of the Southern Ocean.



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Day 3
Monday 12 January 2026
Snares Islands

We awoke to glorious sunshine and blue skies on the eastern side of Northeast

Island in the Snares, though strong winds and significant swell greeted us. *Heritage Adventurer* was carefully manoeuvred into the most sheltered spot, and the anchor was dropped.

We watched as the gangway was rigged and the Zodiacs lowered to assess conditions. It quickly became clear that the two-plus-metre swell would not allow us to Zodiac cruise today. Instead, 'The Captain's Big Zodiac' took us on a ship's cruise near the coast, and particularly to the famous Penguin Slide.

In the sunny conditions, we enjoyed stunning views of the Tree Daisy forest and the remarkable wildlife. Endemic Snares Crested Penguins busily moved to and from their nests tucked in the forest. The air was alive with birds, including Buller's Albatross, Sooty Shearwater (Titī), Cape Petrels, Antarctic Terns, and Brown Skuas.

We then cruised around the Western Chain before heading back into the open ocean, where moderate to large swells set our course for Enderby Island. Preparing for our first landing there, we meticulously cleaned all outerwear, which was inspected by the expedition team to ensure we didn't bring pests or risk spreading disease.

The evening's highlight was the Captain's Welcome Cocktails, where Captain Jacek introduced the heads of *Heritage Adventurer's* departments and hotel team, and Christian introduced more than 20 expedition experts who would guide us throughout the voyage. The Captain's toast, "to the weather", reminded us that while we were responsible for the skies, the crew would handle everything else. This was followed by a special Captain's Welcome Dinner in the dining room.



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Day 4
Tuesday 13 January 2026
Enderby Island

The morning found us in the lee of Sandy Bay on Enderby Island in the Auckland

Islands. At the briefing, we were presented with our activity options and made our selections. The all-day walkers collected their lunches and were the first to land, followed by the kayakers, and then the largest group—the Zodiac cruisers.

The Zodiac cruise took us along the basaltic cliffs and columned caves of Enderby Island, with excellent sightings of many species, including Hoiho/Yellow-eyed Penguins, Auckland Island Shags, Flightless Teal, and Antarctic Terns. The kayakers explored a similar area, with a particular highlight being a paddle through a large cave into a lush fern garden.

Onshore, our first challenge—and delight—was navigating the Penguin Highway, making sure to give the Hoiho/Yellow-eyed Penguins the right of way. Once across, we reached a vantage point overlooking the beach, where the New Zealand Sea Lion colony was in full breeding mode. The pups were playful in their creches, while the bulls were busy protecting, or attempting to invade, the harems of females.

We all had a turn on the boardwalk, observing several Southern Royal Albatross nesting nearby, while others soared overhead in the increasingly strong wind. At the cliffs, the wind truly howled, but it brought us closer to the magnificent megaherb gardens, where *Anisotome Latifolia* was especially prominent.

Our busy day continued as *Heritage Adventurer* relocated further south into Port Ross. We stepped ashore at the site of the 1850s Hardwicke Village and walked through the Rātā forest to the cemetery and the historic Victoria Tree—a place steeped in history and atmosphere.



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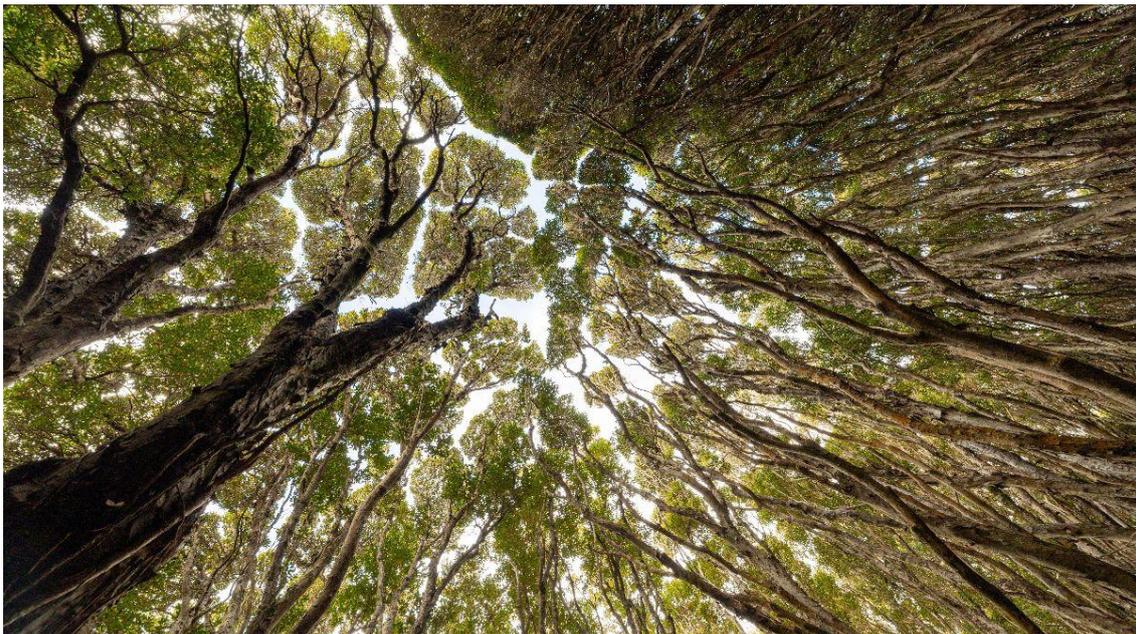
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Day 5

Wednesday 14 January 2026

At Sea en route to Macquarie Island

After a relaxed start to the day, the education programme kicked off with a recap

covering the history, geology, cetaceans, and a potential pest eradication project on the Auckland Islands. As *Heritage Adventurer* continued our journey, Cathy guided us in improving our photo composition skills.

Following lunch, and between our landings at Enderby and Macquarie Islands, we carefully cleaned and checked all our gear for biosecurity reasons, ensuring it passed inspection. Later, Toby shared his personal experiences in a talk on sea lions, providing fascinating insights into their former range, biology, and current threats.

The day concluded with a recap and briefing on our plans for 'Macca'. With our day of 'rest' complete, we enjoyed dinner and made sure to be well rested for the adventures awaiting us tomorrow.

Day 6

Thursday 15 January 2026

Macquarie Island

We arrived at The Isthmus, Macquarie Island, just as breakfast finished. In groups of 10, we went ashore under nearly ideal conditions—moderate wind, overcast skies with occasional sunshine. We were greeted by the station leader and set out to explore, from climbing Razorback Ridge to visiting the historic digesters, the research station, and the wild west coast beach.

Our track took us past many moulting Southern Elephant Seals. On the west coast beach, Gentoo Penguins were abundant, and groups of curious King Penguins wandered over to inspect us at the landing. We noticed the unusual rocks of Macquarie Island, formed from oceanic crust. Light-mantled Sooty Albatross soared along the cliffs as we admired the view and the lush Megaherbs from Razorback, while Giant Petrels, Macquarie Island Shags, and Brown Skuas patrolled the coast.

Near the landing, a few Subantarctic Fur Seal pups greeted us—utterly adorable and a hopeful sign of Fur Seal repopulation after they had been wiped out in the early 1820s and absent for 135 years. It was a magnificent morning.

After a quick lunch and relocation south, we reached Sandy Bay. Walking up the beach was like entering a strange new world and experiencing a complete sensory overload. We were surrounded by colour, life and noise, and never knew where to look next. Turning to the right led past the rocky lagoon and into the court of the

King Penguins. We followed the coast to reach the colony with many birds having brood pouches over their feet, and a few chicks in the mix. Some of the remainder were a bit scruffy due to moulting, but others were in full, colourful plumage. They were truly living works of art.

Everywhere we looked were piles of Elephant Seals mingling with King and Royal Penguins on the landing beach. We carefully crossed the Royal Penguin highway, laughing at the busy little birds as they went about their daily business. At the far end of the beach, we climbed onto the foreshore for a panoramic view of the bay and the field of flowering *Pleurophyllum hookerii* megaherbs. Time seemed to fly. Meanwhile, the kayakers had explored the beach from the sea, weaving through kelp-covered rocks with porpoising penguins alongside, all the way south to the Eastern Rockhopper colony nesting on the cliffside.

Dinner buzzed with energy after a fabulous day, but Christian's announcement over the PA reminded us that we weren't done yet. We had the chance for an after-dinner Zodiac cruise at Lusitania Bay. Conditions remained ideal, allowing us to approach the largest King Penguin colony on the island. The birds were all around us in the water and near *Heritage Adventurer*. Seeing the rusting digesters surrounded by this thriving colony felt like witnessing history fully reconciled with the present.

After a few beverages in the lounge, we retired for a well-deserved rest.



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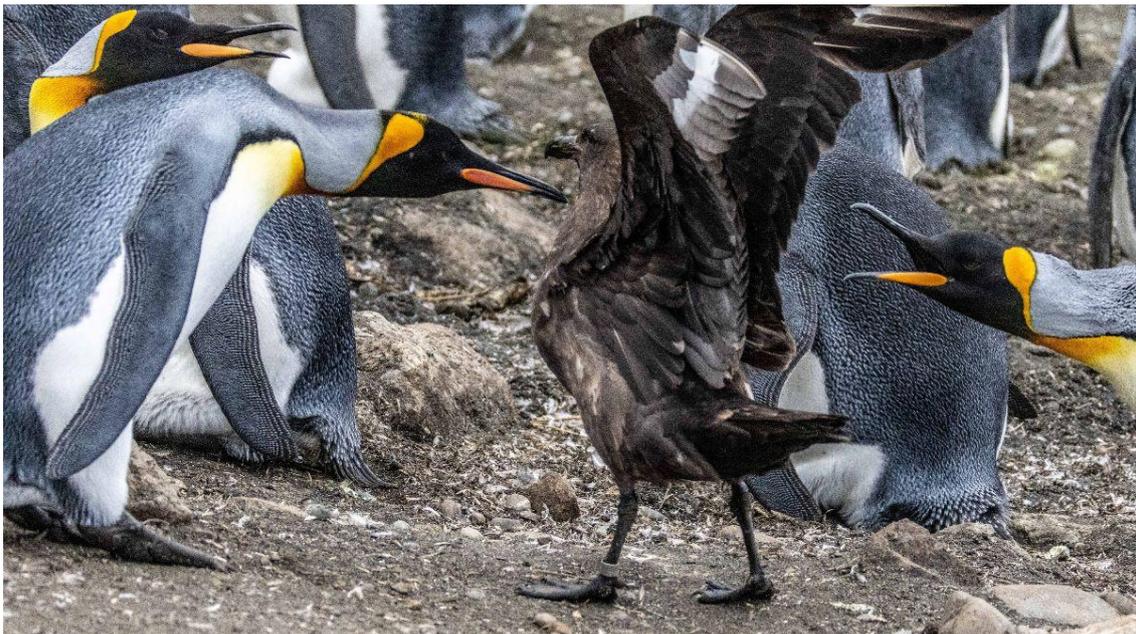
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Day 7

Friday 16 January 2026

At Sea en route to the Ross Sea

For many, the rest extended into a welcome sleep-in as we began the first sea day of our southbound transit. With the shift in place came the perfect opportunity to immerse ourselves in our education programme.

Kate opened the day with an introduction to how our photographs could contribute to citizen science projects, followed by Casey's engaging overview of the pinnipeds of the Southern Ocean. After lunch, Peter continued with *The Fascination of Seabirds*, and John shifted our gaze further south with his compelling presentation, *Antarctica Unveiled*.

At the evening briefing, Christian explained that several sea days lay ahead as we navigated carefully between storm systems, maintaining the now-familiar four metre swells that have been a steady feature of the voyage so far. Heidi then introduced the Iceberg Spotting Competition, inviting us to predict the time we would sight our first iceberg, defined as 'bigger than a double-decker London bus.'

Anticipation was beginning to build.

Day 8

Saturday 17 January 2026

At Sea en route to the Ross Sea

The night was action-packed. The sun barely set – one of the last true sunsets we would experience before entering the realm of 24-hour daylight. We crossed the 60th parallel of latitude, the political boundary of Antarctica, and began our transit of the Antarctic Convergence, its biological boundary.

In the small hours, the first iceberg was sighted, ending the competition before it had officially begun. After a leisurely sleep-in and breakfast, our programme resumed with Coleen's fascinating presentation, *Invisible Ocean*, exploring the microscopic life that underpins this vast ecosystem. Soon after, we were advised to dress warmly and make our way to the outer decks for our first observation of an iceberg. In air temperatures of 2°C, we circumnavigated an enormous ice castle—an awe-inspiring and unforgettable welcome to Antarctica, perfectly timed ahead of Alice's *Introduction to Antarctica*.

Following lunch, the welcome continued as the blue parkas—our new armour against the cold—were distributed. Christian and Samuel then introduced us to the reading of ice charts, reminding us that the extent and movement of sea ice would play a key role in where we can travel. John carried the narrative forward with a presentation on the *Discovery Expedition*, continuing the story of the Heroic Age of Exploration.

The sea shop opened for supplies and souvenirs before we settled into the familiar rhythm of recap, briefing, dinner and dessert. Later, we gathered for Episode 1 of *Forgotten Polar Hero*, a Norwegian documentary about Carsten Borchgrevink and the Southern Cross Expedition, which also highlighted the conservation work of the Antarctic Heritage Trust (AHT) at Cape Adare.

The anticipation continued to build.



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Day 9

Sunday 18 January 2026

At Sea en route to the Ross Sea

The moderate swell continued overnight and throughout the day. Both the education programme and mealtimes were well attended – nourishing both body and mind alike.

We began with Steve E.'s engaging *Introduction to Antarctic Penguins*, offering insight into our tuxedoed companions of the south. Samuel followed with a comprehensive overview of the Ross Sea, setting the geographic and ecological stage for what lay ahead.

At midday, we gathered on the pool deck to mark our crossing of the Antarctic Circle—the geographical boundary of Antarctica. Together, we took the pledge affirming our commitment to protecting the wild south and received the 'Mark of the Penguin' just as *Heritage Adventurer's* horn sounded. With the formalities complete, celebration began: polar pool plunges followed (Captain Jacek leading the way), accompanied by champagne toasts and much laughter.

After lunch, we attended the mandatory International Association of Antarctica

Tour Operators (IAATO) briefing to ensure we were fully prepared for responsible exploration, followed by the now-familiar biosecurity inspection. John continued the Heroic Age series with *The Nimrod Expedition*, adding another chapter to the unfolding story of Antarctic exploration.

At the evening briefing, we learned that we would reach the pack ice the following morning—news that sparked animated dinner conversations. Later, Episode 2 of *Forgotten Polar Hero* rounded out the day.



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Day 10

Monday 19 January 2026

At Sea en route to the Ross Sea and the Pack Ice

The early morning revealed the same moderate sea state—this time scattered with chunks of floating ice and accompanied by numerous Snow Petrels sweeping past *Heritage Adventurer*. John continued the history series with *The Race to the Pole – Part 1*, followed by Alice’s insightful presentation on sea ice. Right on cue, as she concluded, our first bands of sea ice came into view. Welcome to the Ross Sea, Antarctica.

We spent the remainder of the morning on the outer decks scanning the horizon and were rewarded with sightings of whales and penguins. Over lunch, we approached the immense Iceberg B22A – the largest remaining fragment of a berg that had calved from the Ross Ice Shelf. *Heritage Adventurer* made a pass along its approximate 25-metre cliffs, knowing that more than 200 metres of depth of the vast, tabular iceberg lay hidden beneath the surface. Throughout the afternoon, the panoramas shifted constantly—pack ice giving way to open water, colossal bergs punctuating the horizon, sometimes distant, sometimes towering close at hand.

To replenish our energy and stoke our inner furnaces against the Antarctic chill, the galley team presented a sumptuous high tea on the high seas. Later, Kate expanded our avian knowledge with *Non-Penguin Birds of the Ross Sea*, sharpening our identification skills for the days ahead.

There was still time before the recap and briefing for more wildlife sightings. During the recap, we learned that iceberg B22A had calved from the Thwaites Glacier—often called the ‘Doomsday Glacier’—in 2002 and contains enough fresh water to supply three litres per day to the entire human population for more than 30 years. After dinner, Part 3 of *Forgotten Polar Hero* concluded the day’s programme.

Our expectations for the beginning of our Antarctic journey had been fully realised. Yet even as we celebrated, anticipation for our first landing on the continent continued to build.



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Day 11

Tuesday 20 January 2026

At Sea en route to Cape Adare, Cape Adare

Happy Penguin Awareness Day! We had travelled east to the 180th meridian, briefly entering the Western Hemisphere, as we searched for and found the gap in the pack ice that would allow us to head south into the Ross Sea. Turning west back into the Eastern Hemisphere, we cruised through the much smoother seas south of the pack ice, steadily making our way toward the continent.

That morning, Toby gave us an overview of the whales and dolphins of the Southern Ocean in his talk on Cetacean, followed by Steve E., who shared insights from his research on *Adélie Penguins —Past, Present and Future*—preparing us for our approach to the enormous colony at Cape Adare.

Throughout the morning, the high peaks of the Transarctic Mountains — Mount Minto and Mount Sabine in particular—appeared on the horizon, growing larger as we drew nearer. By mid-afternoon, we began planning our first activity upon arrival at Cape Adare. Dinner was brought forward, and Christian briefed us on the operational requirements for managing numbers in the Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) and the historic hut. He cautioned that ice on the beach or moving in the current could still prevent a landing. With a mixture of nervous hope and excitement, we took in the sights: grounded icebergs, rugged volcanic

landscapes, and countless Adélie Penguins as Robertson Bay and Ridley Beach came into view. To our delight, the seas were glassy, and the beach offered ample access. Following announcements, we embarked on a full programme of activities in absolutely perfect conditions.

According to Elijah, the kayakers may have been the first group ever to paddle at Cape Adare. They flowed with the current, weaving through icebergs and spotting seals and penguins from their kayaks. The Zodiac cruise brought encounters with Weddell and Crabeater Seals, a lone Leopard Seal, and countless penguins. The landing at the world's largest Adélie Penguin colony was a flurry of activity.

Chicks struggled with the relative heat, while adults busily moved about, often pausing to pose for our enjoyment. We witnessed feeding chases, sky-pointing calls, curious approaches, and endless moments of laughter.

Amid this vibrant wildlife, the historic hut stood in quiet testament to the struggles of the 10 men of the Southern Cross Expedition, who built it and endured the first winter on the continent in 1899. Inside, tiny bunks, evocative drawings, and graffiti offered only the smallest hints of their hardships.

Our expedition team had prepared us for Cape Adare as the most difficult landing in the Ross Sea. We felt profoundly grateful and exhilarated to have spent our first evening in Antarctica soaking in the sights, sounds, and smells of this extraordinary place, creating memories that will last a lifetime.



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Day 12

Wednesday 21 January 2026

Robertson Bay, Possession Islands

Sleep was difficult for many of us, with the vivid impressions of Cape Adare

continuing to flood back overnight. Nevertheless, the expedition pressed on, making the most of the exceptional conditions.

Heritage Adventurer spent the sunny overnight hours cruising south into Robertson Bay. Upon waking, we were greeted with dramatic views of the glaciers, cliffs, and mountains, revealing the distorted and folded layers of the rock. With patches of blue sky and sunlight breaking through, it was a paradise for photographers.

After breakfast, we returned to the kayaks and Zodiacs for another paddle and cruise, with the option of a landing on the rocky shore. From there, a steep ascent took us past curious Weddell Seals and Adélie Penguins to a breathtaking vantage point overlooking our beautiful floating home, nestled in the dramatic land-and-seascape.

Back aboard, we set course north, then circled the cape and returned to the Ross Sea, trying to absorb all that we had seen and done in our first few hours in this wild and wonderful place.

As we turned south, flocks of Antarctic Petrels escorted us to the Possession Islands, before arriving during dinner. Surrounded by an expanse of pack ice, our activity was a ship's cruise in the Captain's Big Zodiac. Unlike our earlier journey in the Ross Sea, where we had mostly avoided the pack ice to speed our progress, this time we intentionally ventured deep into it. Embedded within the ice were several massive icebergs, including one that calved impressively right before our eyes. The evening light was golden, the bow was opened for viewing, and once again, we experienced a truly magical evening. With no sunset to signal bedtime, many lingered long into the night.



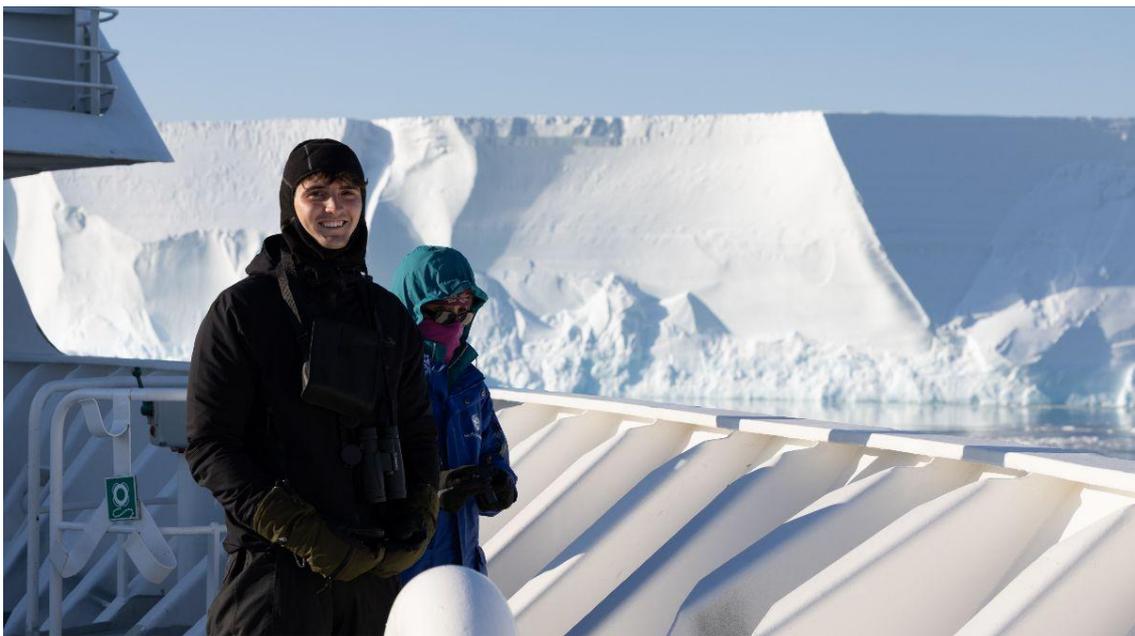
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Day 13

Thursday 22 January 2026

Cape Hallett, Coulman Island

The Bing Bong woke those of us who were asleep just after 0400 hours. The conditions were still perfect, and *Heritage Adventurer* had reached Cape Hallett. On a Heritage Expeditions Ross Sea voyage, perfect conditions are never wasted. We were offered a rare landing, a Zodiac cruise, and a kayak paddle. For the landing, we crossed the bouldery beach and walked a few steps up the slope to the edge of the Adélie Penguin colony. ASPA regulations limited us to the beach, so we didn't travel far, but the time we had was magical. We strolled quietly, observing the constant activity in the colony, the sea, and the adjacent ice floes.

As the sun slowly cleared the clouds, it revealed rugged mountains across the bay before finally reaching our beach—a perfect moment for some personal reflection and immersion in nature. The cruise and paddle took us along the edge of the sea ice, passing some large grounded tabular icebergs. The kayakers even made a brief pit stop on a sea-ice floe, an exhilarating moment to step out of the kayak and drift among ice, glassy ocean, and mountains in every direction.

After breakfast, most of us took the chance for a nap—some interrupted only by the final episode of *Forgotten Polar Hero*.

We awoke to be on deck as we approached Coulman Island. The nearby sea ice is home to one of the largest Emperor Penguin colonies, so binoculars were quickly deployed. Soon, an Emperor Penguin was spotted on the starboard. *Heritage Adventurer* made a loop, allowing us a close view before the bird dove gracefully into the sea. We continued through the channel between the island and the mainland until fast ice blocked our path. The Captain skilfully positioned our trusty expedition vessel, giving us remarkable views over the icy plain to the cliffs.

The gangway was lowered, and the Expedition Team tested the ice. Their verdict: the surface was strong enough for a landing! We ventured out, walking through soft snow to the bow. The snow was slushy in places, but perfect for snowball fights and snow angels—a joyful first snow experience for many of our adventurers, shared with the Heritage Expeditions teams.

As our expedition vessel reversed, and we were heading for dinner, a group of Emperor Penguins was spotted. *Heritage Adventurer* manoeuvred closer, and we enjoyed an excellent sighting of nine birds walking and tobogganing across the ice—a thrilling and unforgettable moment.

Dinner was a wonderful opportunity to share stories from this extraordinary day, which is just one highlight of our incredible voyage. We have been incredibly fortunate with the conditions and the opportunities presented. After such a day, a long and deep sleep awaited us all.



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Day 14

Friday 23 January 2026

Terra Nova Bay

Pity the poor log writer who must find different superlatives for our continuing extraordinary luck with conditions. Once again, smooth seas, light winds, and sunshine greeted us — remarkable in one of the windiest places on Earth.

We spent the morning cruising south into Terra Nova Bay, waving to the Chinese researchers at the Qinling Station as we made our way to Inexpressible Island. There, we landed and walked over the rocky terrain to the site of the snow cave where Scott's Northern Party had spent the winter of 1912—the very group who gave the island its name. Standing there, we struggled to find words for our feelings as we reflected on their experiences. The bay provided spectacular wildlife and scenery for paddlers and Zodiac cruisers following the fast ice edge. A resting Leopard Seal and numerous Weddell Seals, both adults and pups, lay on the ice, while penguins leapt joyfully into and out of the water, amusing everyone on the Zodiacs.

Over dinner, we made the short passage north to the German Gondwana Station, this time waving to the Italians at Mario Zucchelli Station and anchoring just offshore from the Korean Jang Bogo Station. Our walk here was over gentler, gravelly terrain, patrolled by South Polar Skuas guarding their chicks. The gentle

slope allowed many of us to climb high enough for expansive views, while the beach hosted several Weddell Seals. Free to explore at our own pace, we found time for reflection, soaking in the journey we had undertaken so far.



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Day 15
Saturday 24 January 2026
At Sea, headed South

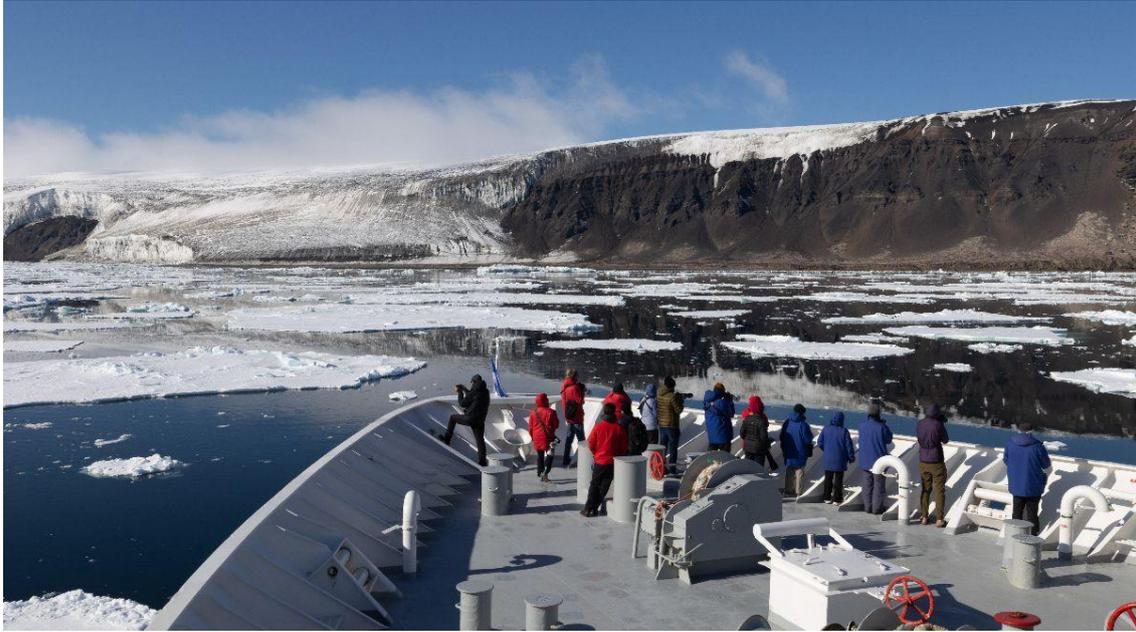
After a welcome rest, we awoke to see the Drygalski Ice Tongue to starboard. The

katabatic winds had begun to build, producing (gasp) moderate waves in the sea. We enjoyed the view over breakfast and then settled into small groups in the lounges to catch up with our new friends, review photos, and recharge. In the late morning, the Captain retracted the stabilisers as we crossed a band of sea ice. The motion of the waves and the bobbing ice floes offered yet another perspective on this unique environment. A lone Emperor Penguin was spotted within the pack, adding a touch of magic to the scene.

As we approached Franklin Island, thick drift ice surrounded the island. The Captain skilfully navigated around it, bringing *Heritage Adventurer* near the beach that held an Adélie Penguin colony. We could see that the colony stretched far above the beach, high onto the cliffs beside dramatically stained glacier ice. Once again, our luck with the weather held: smooth seas, ice floes, Adélies, and sunshine with light winds. On a Heritage Expeditions voyage, perfect conditions are never wasted, so we eagerly took to the Zodiacs for a cruise among the floes and birds. As the wind picked up while we were out, it provided a perfect excuse for a warming beverage before dinner as we set course for McMurdo Sound.



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Day 16

Sunday 25 January 2026

Cape Evans

The early morning found us at anchor near the beach and Scott's Hut at Cape Evans. The conditions, as so often on this voyage, were perfect. We had been briefed on a busy day of kayaking, Zodiac cruising, and a landing to visit the hut and its surrounding outbuildings and artifacts.

This is the hut built for Scott's ill-fated *Terra Nova* expedition—the starting point for his journey to the South Pole, from which he and four companions never returned. It had been the focus of intensive conservation efforts by the Antarctic Heritage Trust, and now we had the rare chance to experience it for ourselves.

The impression made by the hut was powerful. Every corner spoke of history. Thousands of artifacts had been arranged to bring the story of these men and their stay vividly to life. Each of us found particular favourites, from the Emperor Penguin on Scott's desk to the penguin eggs in the stables.

The walk around the hut took us past scattered packing crates and other expedition remnants, including a recently revealed pile of sheep skeletons uncovered as the snow retreated. At the top of the climb, we reached the cross erected in memory of the three men who perished during the Trans-Antarctic

Expedition.

Meanwhile, the kayakers ventured out to circumnavigate Inaccessible Island. With glassy conditions in McMurdo Sound, they made their first ocean crossing to the Island, the mountains reflecting perfectly in the calm water. They returned to West Beach for an icy swim in their dry suits, with Mount Erebus watching over them.

As if the day weren't already enough, the Polar Plunge followed. The brave, or perhaps the foolish, among us leapt into the below-freezing sea. No one stayed in for long, and the whirlpool bath and sauna were popular refuges afterward. The energy and buzz among everyone was palpable.

Dinner was a barbecue on the aft deck in the sunshine, after which we had the opportunity for a return visit to the hut. Those who had found the initial visit too brief could now enjoy a relaxed, extended, and deeply personal experience.



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Day 17
Monday 26 January 2026
Cape Royds

After a peaceful night at anchor, Mount Erebus came into view as we sailed into

Backdoor Bay at Cape Royds to visit the hut that Ernest Shackleton built for the 1907 *Nimrod* expedition. We landed on a small beach and walked across sparkling black lava hills in the bright morning sun toward the hut, tucked into a sheltered valley beside Pony Lake. The setting was beautiful—though it was easy to imagine the effort required for the original expedition members to haul all their supplies up to this remote site. Nearby, the Adelie Penguin colony was bustling with the breeding season in full swing. Even so, a few curious birds waddled over to greet us.

Inside the hut, reminders of the expedition were everywhere: Shackleton's signature, the Mrs. Sam stove, a stack of food tins - some more appetising than others - woolly socks, and countless other artifacts. Like Cape Evans, it felt suspended in time, a vivid window into the Heroic Age of Antarctic exploration.

With a fresh northeast wind of 15 to 20 knots, the kayakers opted for a more adventurous outing. They paddled along Ross Island's volcanic coastline, towering basalt columns, and past an icy waterfall, before being picked up by a Zodiac at the edge of the Barnes Glacier. The tow back to *Heritage Adventurer* made for a bracingly cold ride.

Over lunch, we continued south to the edge of the sea ice, where wildlife was abundant. We passed several groups of Emperor Penguins—more than 20 birds in some gatherings—while pods of Orca patrolled the waters nearby. Beneath the glow of the midnight sun, we lingered there late into the night, soaking in the extraordinary scene.



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Day 18

Tuesday 27 January 2026

Ross Ice Shelf

We reluctantly turned in for the night as *Heritage Adventurer* repositioned North

and West, delivering us to Cape Crozier and the edge of the Ross Ice Shelf by morning. Along the way, we passed numerous tabular icebergs, likely freshly calved from the ice shelf. As we navigated deep into a vast crack in the ice, it was easy to understand why early explorers called it ‘The Barrier’. It felt immense and imposing. By happy coincidence, we were there on the 185th anniversary of James Clark Ross’s 1841 discovery of Mount Erebus, Mount Terror, and ‘The Barrier’ itself. We enjoyed sweeping views of the vast Adélie Penguin colony and reflected on our proximity to the Emperor Penguin colony—destination of the harrowing journey immortalised in *The Worst Journey in the World*.

In the afternoon, we rounded the northern tip of Ross Island and approached Cape Bird. Aptly named by Ross for Lieutenant Bird of the *Erebus*, the site hosted another thriving Adélie colony. During our landing, we were careful not to disturb the many South Polar Skua chicks, closely guarded by attentive parents. Most of us climbed to the small research hut, and several continued up to the ridge for expansive views across McMurdo Sound. Knowing this would likely be our final visit to a penguin colony, we lingered, taking extra time to watch and appreciate these busy, charismatic birds.

Back aboard, we set course south once more, passing Cape Royds and Cape Evans as we checked for changes in the sea ice—hopeful for a chance to edge closer to Hut Point.





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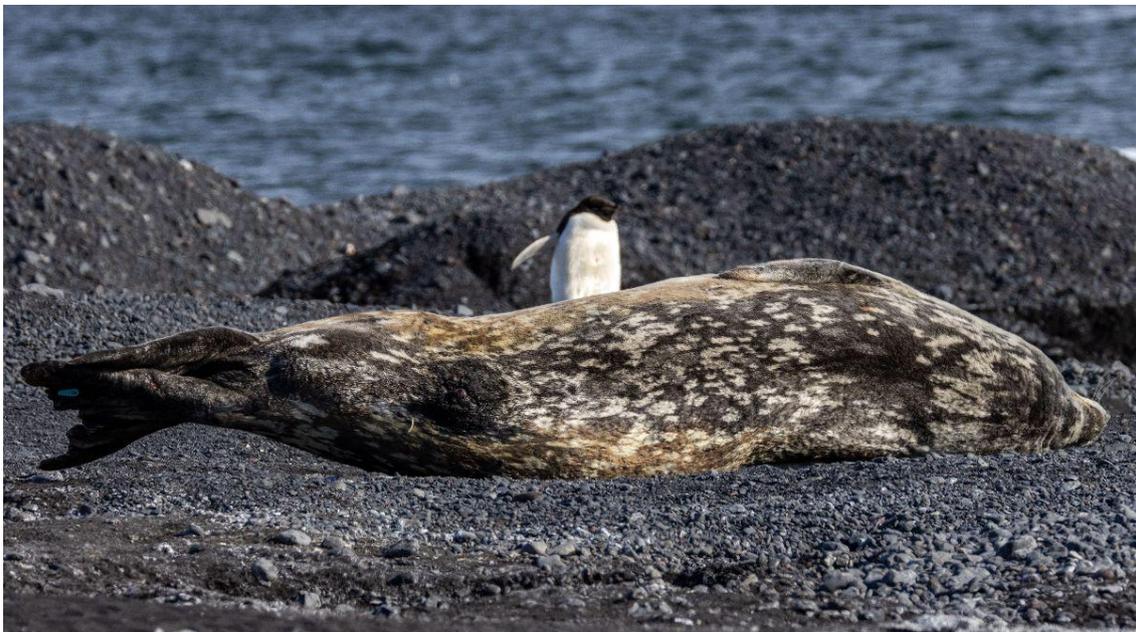
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Day 19

Wednesday 28 January 2026

McMurdo Sound

While we slept, *Heritage Adventurer* waited patiently. The morning wake-up call came just as the United States icebreaker *Polar Star* entered the sea ice to begin her annual escort duties, guiding the tanker and freighter delivering supplies to McMurdo and Scott Base. We watched the operation unfold before turning west along the sea ice edge.

The sea was ‘whale soup’—alive with Minke Whales—and pods of Killer Whales feeding and spy-hopping in the rich waters. At the ice edge, Emperor Penguins stood in stately groups, presiding over the scene. Along the way, we reached the southernmost point of the voyage: 77°49.31’S.

We continued patrolling the ice edge through a pizza buffet lunch and soon spotted *Polar Star* again, this time leading the tanker *Stena Polaris* out through the newly cleared channel. As they emerged into open water, the Captain took the opportunity to edge briefly into the brash ice. Orcas and Skuas took full advantage of the churned-up feast in the wake, while we enjoyed our closest views yet of McMurdo Station—and of Hut Point, so near and yet still out of reach.

The rest of the day was spent exploring McMurdo Sound, heading north, south, east, and west along the shifting ice boundaries. Everywhere there was life: Minke Whales, penguins, skuas, and above all, Orcas. The productivity of these waters was unmistakable. The afternoon concluded with one final transit of the icebreaker channel, marked by a shared toast of hot cocoa—fortified with whisky or Baileys, for those inclined.

Over dinner, we began our northbound journey, facing several days at sea. Mount Erebus and Ross Island lingered off the starboard beam as we offered a reluctant but inevitable farewell to the far south.



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Day 20

Thursday 29 January 2026

At Sea en route to Campbell Island

Still deep in the Ross Sea, we began to sense the shift. A strong southerly wind carried us steadily north, lifting a moderate swell and reminding us that the Southern Ocean lay ahead. It was time to secure our rooms and adopt the familiar ‘one hand for the ship’ rule as we moved about.

The sea days also marked the rest of our education programme. John concluded his series on the Heroic Age with a presentation on the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, focusing on the often-overlooked Ross Sea Party. Samuel followed with insights from his own fieldwork during his presentation, *The Life and Biology of Emperor Penguins*, sharing both science and personal stories from the ice. After lunch, Steve E. spoke about his experiences and traced the *Evolution of Antarctic Research Stations*, while Nathan rounded out the afternoon with *Heritage Expeditions – The Story So Far*, weaving in more personal reflections from his time in the field.

As the day wore on, clouds descended and brought a new experience for this voyage: snow. A few centimetres of soft, powdery white settled on the outer decks,

quickly making the lounges the most popular spots on board—especially as the cold wind strengthened and the swells continued to build.

Day 21

Friday 30 January 2026

At Sea en route to Campbell Island

We continued making good progress north through moderate seas. By this point, we had learnt that this Ross Sea Antarctic voyage would keep us busy even while at sea. There was plenty to occupy our time, starting with Glenda's lecture on the geology of Antarctica. Outside, we passed through a band of sea ice. For this passage, the stabilisers were retracted, providing a clear demonstration of their effectiveness in countering *Heritage Adventurer's* rolling and pitching. We admired the beauty of the pack ice, watched for seabirds, and enjoyed the gentle swells. Emerging back into open water, we were greeted by pods of Humpback Whales and continued to savour the serene views over lunch and into the afternoon.

The wildlife encounters continued with sightings of Fin Whales among the sculpted icebergs, followed by Samuel's talk on the exploration of this region by James Clark Ross and the British Antarctic Expedition.

Later, John and Alice invited us to experience *A Taste of the Heroic Age*. They showed a short clip of Scott and his polar party manhauling and preparing dinner in their tent, before we sampled foods made from authentic Antarctic recipes – fruit cake, sledging biscuits, pâté and hoosh. We also tested our strength by stepping into replica manhauling harnesses and dragging heavy weights to the pole and back. A replica copy of *Aurora Australis*, the book printed by the *Nimrod* expedition at the Cape Royds hut, was available for inspection, and we toasted to 'The Boss' with a replica of the Shackleton whisky still, buried beneath the hut's floorboards.

After another action-packed day and another delicious dinner, the documentary *Erebus: Operation Overdue* was screened.



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Day 22

Saturday 31 January 2026

At Sea en route to Campbell Island

From the dining room window at breakfast, we gazed out over relatively smooth seas, with icebergs scattered across the horizon. The day's lecture programme began with Robert explaining the use of the compass, sextant, and sledge meter on polar journeys in *Navigation 100 Years Ago*. Guest speaker, Katherine MacInnes, then delivered a truly captivating talk, *Snow Widows*, sharing the remarkable stories of the five women who supported the men of the British polar party.

After lunch, we returned to our familiar tasks of bio-security in preparation for a landing at Campbell Island. Toby then guided us into the fascinating world of krill, a cornerstone of the Antarctic marine ecosystem.

The moderate swell and winds persisted as the icebergs gradually disappeared, and we continued our northward journey. In the late afternoon, we gathered for an auction of items destined to become treasured mementoes. Amid laughter and

friendly competition, we bid generously to support three worthy causes. By the end, we were proud to have raised US\$8,445 for the Antarctic Heritage Trust, US\$450 for the Chatham Island Taiko Trust, and US\$10,000 for Crew Welfare.



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Day 23

Sunday 1 February 2026

At Sea enroute to Campbell Island

We were rocked in our cradles overnight as the sea state built slightly, but still managed a good turnout for Coleen's presentation, *Life Without Sunlight in the Deep Ocean*. Peter followed with a captivating account of three months at sea on a research vessel in *Circumnavigating Antarctica*.

After lunch, it was sadly time to return our trusty, warm blue parkas—a tangible reminder that we were moving farther from Antarctica toward the Subantarctic. Samuel shared another personal story of science in action with *An Overwintering at the French Dumont d'Urville Station*. Casey then added some playful fun, forming teams to guess the sizes of Antarctic wildlife in 'How Big?'.

The moderate swell continued through dinner, which made the return to the lounge—affectionately dubbed the Royal Terror Theatre for the farcical comedy, *A Ticket Of Leave*—even more entertaining. The rolling stage added to the hilarity as the expedition team portrayed the original *Discovery* crew with delightfully silly costumes and exaggerated antics. Laughter filled the room. Afterward, we danced and danced, watching the sun set over the gently rocking sea.



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Day 24

Monday 2 February 2026

At Sea en route to Campbell Island

After a leisurely sleep-in, we awoke to a wet, cloudy morning – very much in keeping with the subantarctic mood. Lindsay kicked off the day with an account of the *Campbell Island Rat Eradication*, followed by Toby and John, who spoke on sharks and history. Christian then updated us on our expected arrival into Perseverance Harbour, planned for late afternoon, ideally to find shelter from a passing weather system. He also outlined the range of activities available for the following day.

After lunch, Peter introduced us to the largest of the seabirds in *Albatrosses – Icons of the Open Ocean*, while Moshe prepared us for the island's unique flora with his talk on megaherbs.

By mid-afternoon, land appeared across a sea of building waves. We made a pass north along the east coast in strong winds – perfect conditions for albatross

watching. At North Cape and Bull Rock, the air was alive with wings, as Southern Royal, Campbell, and Grey-headed Albatross, along with Sooty Shearwaters, glided gracefully by.

Everyone rushed on deck to admire and photograph these magnificent creatures. We approached close for spectacular views before *Heritage Adventurer* turned back down the coast. At the helm was Eddie, one of the auction winners, with the chance to navigate our trusty expedition vessel. Under Captain Jacek's guidance, Eddie guided us into Perseverance Harbour, battling gale-force winds to bring us safely to anchor off Beeman Base. Well done, Captain Eddie! After dinner, Robert captivated us with his tales of 'Life in the Freezer,' recounting 15 winters at the South Pole.



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Day 25
Tuesday 3 February 2026
Campbell Island

The morning was less windy, though still brisk, with occasional light showers.

Happily, as predicted, conditions steadily improved throughout the day, and everyone returned with smiles.

First off were the long walkers, heading to Northwest Bay and Mount Honey. Both groups relished the improving conditions as they covered the challenging terrain – reaching the beach at Northwest Bay and the summit of Mount Honey. Along the way they enjoyed the scenery, flora, and wildlife, spotting gamming Albatross, Snipe and Elephant seals.

Meanwhile, the kayakers and Zodiac cruisers explored every arm and cove of the harbour, encountering an impressive variety of wildlife: New Zealand Sea Lions, Flightless Teal, Antarctic Terns, Campbell Island Shags, Black-Backed and Silver Gulls, Giant Petrels, and a mature male Elephant seal. The kayakers also made a landing at the solitary Sitka Spruce, famously recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the world's loneliest tree.

Those stretching their legs along the boardwalk to Col Lyall were accompanied by numerous Pipits and, for the lucky few, a Snipe. At the top, they were greeted by nesting Southern Royal Albatross, with many birds soaring overhead or gathering for their afternoon display. The expansive views along the way were stunning, and for those who braved the climb and wind, the summit view rivalled the iconic image on the New Zealand \$5 note. Just below the viewpoint, near the bench where we paused to catch our breath, the Megaherbs were flowering abundantly.

Many returned to *Heritage Adventurer* just in time for dinner. Yet the day was not over. Captain Vijay (the other winner of the auction prize to navigate our trusty expedition vessel) guided us out of the harbour and north along the coast past North Cape and Bull Rock, home to a multitude of Mollymawks and Southern Royals.

We sailed from the lee of Campbell Island, still basking in the glow of an extraordinary day, ready for our passage across the Southern Ocean toward Stewart Island.



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Day 26

Wednesday 4 February 2026

At sea en route to Rakiura/Stewart Island

The final sea day of our voyage unfolded under a mix of sunshine and clouds, with moderate seas—perfect conditions for spotting seabirds from the aft decks. Our first presentation showcased the contrasting styles of our two on board artists, Tatyana and Grace. By sharing their work, they offered a fascinating glimpse of the creative outcomes that had emerged from our journey. Nathan followed with an in-depth look behind *the Scenes of the Ship*, exploring the equipment and the people who keep everything running smoothly.

After lunch, we prepared for our return to New Zealand by ensuring all biosecurity measures were in place. Glenda continued the preparation with her *Introduction to Rakiura/Stewart Island*. We also enjoyed one last opportunity for retail therapy in the shop before a final recap and briefing to complete our readiness for the morning.

Day 27

Thursday 5 February 2026

Rakiura/Stewart Island

The final day of our expedition brought an unplanned visit to Rakiura/Stewart Island. By taking the direct route through the narrow band of pack ice just northeast of Cape Adare, we had saved a sea day—an unexpected bonus. Unsurprisingly and to everyone’s delight, the day was glorious, with sunshine and light winds.

A variety of activities were on offer. Some opted for an all-day kayak paddle in sheltered waters. Many visited the town of Oban, where they shopped for gifts and souvenirs, explored the local museum, stretched their legs on a walk, or enjoyed a meal and drink at the South Seas Hotel. In the afternoon, we wandered the trails of predator-free Ulva Island, delighting in the rich birdlife and the ancient-growth forest.

The evening began with the Captain’s Farewell Cocktails, a chance to see and personally thank the teams who had served us so well. Later, the blinds were drawn, and the lights dimmed for Cathy’s wonderful Expedition Slideshow—how she had captured all the events and people of our In the Wake of Scott and Shackleton adventure so perfectly remains a mystery! It was a truly fitting celebration to mark the culmination of a marvellous expedition.

The special Captain’s Farewell Dinner was followed by one last gathering in the lounge before the inevitable need to pack and get some rest.



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Day 28

Friday 6 February 2025

Bluff

To borrow a line from Ernest Shackleton: “We have shot our bolt, and the tale is” —

28 days including 10 at sea; 14 landings; 9 Zodiac cruises; 11 kayak paddles; a furthest south of 77°49.31'S; 5,228 nautical miles travelled; 3 historic huts visited; a walk on the sea ice; 8 penguin species; 10 albatross species; 38 other bird species; 5 cetacean species; 7 pinniped species; superb weather; superb sea and ice conditions; exceptional companionship; and countless smiles, laughs, and gasps of amazement.

Today, we bid farewell to staff, crew, and fellow travellers after a marvellously intense journey through these remote southern islands. We exchanged contact details along with promises to share photos and stay in touch with our new lifelong friends. Sailing out of Bluff now felt like a lifetime ago, with so many unforgettable experiences, wildlife encounters, and moments of wilderness between then and now. The Heritage Expeditions team has loved sharing our passion and knowledge with you on this Ross Sea Antarctica In the Wake of Scott and Shackleton voyage. Thank you for travelling with us. We wish you safe onward journeys, joyful homecomings, and hope to see you on the high seas again someday.



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