

Antarctic Sound/ Brown Bluff

Feb 10, 2018 - National Geographic Orion



A juvenile adélie penguin investigates the kayaks as they are set up on a large ice floe.



Guests from National Geographic Orion kayaking amongst the ice in the Antarctic Sound.



A Zodiac full of guests is dwarfed by a large tabular iceberg most likely broken off from the Larsen Ice Shelf in the Weddell Sea.



A lone adelic penguin pokes its head up over the ice to see what might be making noise on the other side.



A large tabular iceberg is highlighted in the distance as the sun sets in the Weddell Sea.



Undersea specialist Peter Webster at the controls of the ROV, capturing video of the sea floor in order to share with the guests what lies in the depths just offshore of Brown Bluff.

We started the morning cruising amongst the fantastic tabular bergs that litter the Antarctic Sound. The waters were calm and the sun was shining as we searched for the best spot to land this morning. During our transit, we came across numerous humpback whales scattered throughout the sound, likely in search for food. However, the ice proved too thick for us to reach our intended destination so we opted to kayak in these tranquil waters. Those that chose not to paddle under their own power opted to get more up close and personal with some of the larger bergs in our Zodiacs.

Once back from all of our floating adventures, we motored back north to where we would finally set foot on the actual continent of Antarctica to a location called Brown Bluff. We were greeted by dozens of juvenile adelie and gentoo penguins, shedding their downy coats and getting ready to venture out into the great blue sea and begin their lives as penguins. While most of us were ashore enjoying the colony that lies below the cliffs of Brown Bluff, the dive team took out the remotely operated vehicle to record what lies in the depths, underneath the floating behemoths that litter the area.

About the Author



Robert Alexander· Naturalist/Expedition Diver

Robert Alexander has quenched his thirst for exploring the world's flora and fauna by captaining, interpreting natural history, and conducting research aboard ships. He particularly developed a passion for the marine life below the water's surface while attending the University of Oregon and becoming involved with their diving program. The rich waters of the Pacific Northwest led Robert to change career paths, and locales, as a SCUBA Instructor based primarily out of Maui. Utilizing any means of floating vessel, from kayaks and catamarans to small passenger boats and Zodiacs, Robert became a captain as he explored the behavioral patterns of the captivating marine megafauna throughout the world. In between being a captain and naturalist, he strives to conserve and preserve all forms of life- be it our very own species as a firefighter and EMT, assisting in shark-tagging projects for NOAA, or researching hawksbill turtle populations with the Hawaii Wildlife Fund.

About the Photographer / Videographer



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