It is currently 10pm local time on Saturday= 1am Sunday in UK.

We are currently at sea having travelled about 3/4 of the way to the Falklands. The sea has been reasonably OK for the transit since we left Ushuaia at 6pm last night. We are OK and not suffering sea sickness.... so far - fingers crossed.

We spoke with the on-board trip doctor last night and she gave us some anti-seasickness pills which seem to be working. However the sea has been quite calm with some winds around 20 mph. A bit lumpy at times - but nothing serious. Currently as we get ready for bed on Day 2 the sea is calming down and we are approaching the Falklands. There is a rainbow.

Our day at sea has been full of equipment provision - our yellow jacket s and welly boots - and regular lectures.

The ship has been followed by Giant Petrels and Albatrosses who effortlessly glide by the ship.

We have had numerous briefings - about bio-security (how not to spread bad things like seeds between the islands); the birdlife we will see; the geology; how to use the Zodiac boats; and our outer kit has been vacuumed to remove any seeds etc.

The crew have been very good - especially in the restaurants. The expedition staff are multinational and very skilled in what they do. We have talked with the 2 UK guys who are Penguin experts for 10 or more years and travel down here. Good input from the professional photographer on board on how to take great pics! Loads of other experts on the wildlife etc are here to explain all. The bridge is open 24hrs/day to visitors - which we plan to do soon.

Just had the Captain's welcome and cocktails (fizzy wine) - followed by the Captain’s dinner. He couldn't do it yesterday as he was with the pilot as we transited the Beagle Channel.

Food on board is excellent - we will not be starving ;-) Also wine with dinner is good quality - and free. Beer in the bar is rubbishy international crap - not like the Cape Horn and Beagle beers we had in Ushuaia. So beer is off the menu for the time being!! Maybe local beer in Stanley on Monday.

Sunday we hope to go ashore in West Falklands. In the morning to Saunders Island where there are penguins and Albatrosses. After lunch on board we go ashore again nearby to Carcass Island for more trekking and bird watching.

Monday we are not sure what will happen. The weather is looking to get windy and so zodiac trips may be curtailed. We expect to go to Stanley - but watch this space.

More to come....

Love Ruth & Peter

xx

PS if you wish to message us then you can send TEXT ONLY messages to this email address - do not attach anything. In the same we can only send text messages - so you will not get any photos - unless we get wifi from the pubs in Stanley on Monday.

dia+432ruth@quarkatsea.com

2nd email received at the same time :

From Ruth and Peter:

at 6am, breakfast at 7am and going ashore at 8.30.

Sea calm now that we are inside the islands. Not anchored yet. Moving very slowly so boat is stable and quiet.

There is a big island outside with hill up to 300ft covered in grass with lots of rock. We are less than 800yds off shore. Shore is rocky and cliffs - so cannot land here. We are going to a sheltered sandy bay for our landing.

**Saunders Island & Carcass Island**

"I now belong to a higher cult of mortals for I have seen the albatross." - Robert Cushman Murphy

0645 Wake-up call - just had it. we have now anchored.

0700 - 0800 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3)

TBA - We hope to land at **Saunders Island.**

Saunders Island was the site of the first British settlement on the Falkland Islands,

established in 1765, and is the second largest offshore island within the Falkland Islands

archipelago. The island is home to a rich diversity of wildlife, notably 11,000 breeding

pairs of black-browed albatross and four different species of penguins: Magellanic,

Gentoo, Rockhopper and King.

1st Disembarkation: Groups Shackleton & Wild

2nd Disembarkation (app rox. 20 minutes later): Groups Amundsen & Scott

1230 - 1330 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3)

TBA - We hope to land at **Carcass Island**

Carcass Island lies to the northwest of West Falkland and takes its name from HMS

Carcass, which visited in the late 18th century. The 1,894 ha (4,680 acre) island was

established as a sheep farm in the late 1800's by legendary Danish seaman and sealer

Charles Hansen. Hansen built the settlement, fenced areas for livestock and planted

large areas of tussock to provide a winter grazing area for his animals. The presence of

this tussock plantation and a historical absence of cats, rats and mice on this island has

resulted in large populations of small birds. Carcass Island is presently owned by Rob

and Lorraine McGill, who have lived on the island for over 30 years.

1st Disembarkation: Groups Amundsen & Scott

2nd Disembarkation (approx. 20 minutes later): Groups Shackleton & Wild

18:00 Join the **Expedition Team** for a **Recap & Briefing** in the Main Lounge (Deck 5)

1930 - 2100 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3)

After Dinner join **Tom** in the Main Lounge for a casual bar talk - **Life in the Field -** with the Penguins