Dear All

It is an expedition and not a cruise. We are dependent on things beyond our control. In this case the weather. We are not going out this morning. Pressure has taken a dip again and the wind is too strong. Sensible decisions are made to keep us safe which we are of course glad of and depend on, but it is disappointing. It is rainy, windy and rather foggy. We have seen some blue ice bergs but not yet the deep cobalt blue translucent ones that I really am hoping for. They are spectacularly rectangular though having just come off the ice sheet.

There are a few fur seals in the water by the ship.

We are now going through the Antarctic Sound to the west and into the Weddell sea and hope to get to Paulet Island before coming back to Brown Bluff for all you interested parties who are following us on a map.

Watch this space

Lecture on photo editing instead. I now am using P!

We arrived at Point Wild on Elephant Island at 07:30. Sea is much calmer. Visibility is not great and it is spotting with rain.

There is a lot of brash ice in the sea that has fallen off the numerous glaciers that are here. We stopped at Pt Wild for 30 minutes to take photos and we are now moving round to the south side of the Island for a zodiac cruise after breakfast. On the way we are seeing some huge icebergs.

**Elephant Island**

"A curious spectacle met my eyes…Some of the men were reeling about the beach as if they had found an unlimited supply of alcoholic liquor on the desolate shore. They were laughing uproariously, picking up stones and letting handfuls of pebbles trickle between their fingers like misers gloating over hoarded gold." - Ernest Shackleton in 'South', describing his men's behaviour upon landing at Elephant Island, their first encounter with land in 497 days

0800 - 0900 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3)

TBA We plan to explore **Elephant Island**

Elephant Island is a small, steep and desolate island, which is situated in the northeast of the South Shetland Islands off the Antarctic Peninsula. Shackleton's party of 28 men landed here after the Endurance sank in the Weddell Sea, and 22 men, under the command of Frank Wild, remained here while Shackleton and five companions sailed aboard James Caird for South Georgia. After four months living under the two remaining boats at what is now known as Point Wild, the Chilean rescue vessel Yelcho was sighted. Shackleton counted his men from the approaching vessel and discovered that every one of them had survived, and all were rescued on the 30th of August, 1916.

**1st Disembarkation: Amundsen & Scott**

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

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

1400 Presentation: **'The Unseen Antarctic World'** will be presented by **Ema** in the Main Lounge

1515 Please join **Lynna** for **Restorative Yoga** in the Main Lounge

1600 **Afternoon tea** is served in The Club (Deck 4 aft)

1630 Presentation: **'The Penguin Factory - a Tour of the South Sandwich Islands'** will be presented by

our Penguinologist **Tom** in the Main Lounge

1800 Join the **Expedition Team** for a **Recap & Br iefing** in the Main Lounge

1900 - 20:30 **Dinner** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3)

Dear all,

We are continuing south towards the Antarctic Peninsula - the most northern part of it is at 63S. We should get there in a couple of hours. We have seen penguins and seals on the way and also a number of birds. At lunchtime there were a group of 6 fin whales blowing about 800 yds from the ship.

The Peninsula is the northern most part of the Antarctic Continent and is surrounded by islands to the east in the Weddell Sea and the west in the Southern Ocean.

We seem to have been at sea for a long time. It was Saturday afternoon when we last stepped ashore on Salisbury Plain in S. Georgia. Hopefully on Wednesday we will get our boots dirty once again.

The ship is heading for the Antarctic Sound this evening and we plan to visit Paulet Island and Brown Bluff on Wednesday. But we wait to see what the weather brings.

That's all for now …..

**Paulet Island and Brown Bluff**

"Most people might be oppressed by such surroundings, with its silence and inhuman expanses… But he who seeks peace and quiet in Nature, undisturbed by human activity…will find here what he seeks… even although, beset in the ice, one is a plaything of the forces of Nature." - Fridtjof Nansen

0730 - 0830 **Breakfast** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3)

TBA We plan to explore **Paulet Island**

Paulet Island lies south of Joinville and Dundee Islands, in the Weddell Sea. The island has a distinct volcanic cone, reaching 353 metres (1,158 ft) above sea level. It is home to more than 100,000 breeding pairs of Adélie penguins, making it one of the biggest colonies in Antarctica. Sheathbills, skuas and blue-eyed shags also breed at this site, while fur seals and Weddell seals can be encountered on the beach.

The remains of a historic hut are also found at Paulet Island. Captain Carl Larsen, 19 of his men and the ship's cat from Nordenskjöld's 1901-4 expedition were marooned here for a winter after their ship Antarctic sank 40 kilometres (25 mi) away. The hut was made from stones found on shore and measured 20 by 7 metres (65 by 23 ft). They stockpiled penguins for food and lived off this supply over the winter.

**1** **st Disembarkation: Amundsen & Scott**

**2nd Disembarkation: Shackleton & Wild**

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

TBA We plan to land and zodiac cruise at **Brown Bluff**

Brown Bluff lies on the eastern side of Tabarin Peninsula overlooking the Antarctic Sound. It is an ice-capped, flat-topped mountain (745m or 2400ft) with a prominent cliff of reddish-brown volcanic rock on the north face. Brown Bluff hosts around 20,000 breeding pairs of adelie penguins and about 600 gentoo penguin pairs as well as nesting kelp gulls and snow petrels. The descriptive name was applied by the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (FIDS) following their survey in 1946.

**1st Disembarkation: Shackleton & Wild**

**2nd Disembarkation: Amundsen & Scott**

1830 Join the Expedition Team for a **Recap & Briefing** in the Main Lounge

1930 - 2130 Dinner is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3)

After Dinner Join **Jean** in the Main Lounge for a casual bar talk "**The Joys and Misery of Working in**

**Antarctica"**