Dear all,

We have had a great day. We were up at 6am to see the spectacular scenery as we passed through the Antarctic Sound.

The sun shone in the morning and the winds were low. More ice than we had expected. And there were many penguins and seals to watch - and a few whales blowing in the distance.

A day with lots of huge Ice Shelf Bergs and lots of sea ice to negotiate. At times the sea ice has slowed our progress as the ship slows to a walking pace to go through the accumulations that are blown around in the wind. It is all on the move and difficult to predict where it will be. The blowing ice also stopped us going ashore at Brown Bluff.

This morning we went ashore at Paulet Island. The sea was almost calm. On the beach we were met with a strong smell of penguin poo. Penguin poo is a shocking pink - that is because the krill they eat have a red colour. In large accumulation s (like on the island) the poo has a strong smell. I wish we had smelly vision so that you could participate in what we experience. Indeed having spent 90 minutes ashore and then another 60 minutes on a zodiac cruise our outer clothes still ponged of penguin poo when we got back to our cabin even though we had not touched it.

During lunch and early afternoon we moved back up the Antarctic Sound. There were lots of these huge tabular icebergs to be seen. They are tabular because they have calved from the thick fast ice that is connected to the land. They are also very rectangular in shape - many with 90 degree vertical sides and flat tops.

We arrived at Brown Bluff to find the bay where we should land to be full of moving ice. The sea was flat calm and great for a zodiac trip - the kayaks also went out for their second time this trip!! Good job we didn't pay to do this option - it seems to much trouble and expense to go through - and they often get cancelled because of poor weather.

There was no way that we could get to the beach at Brown Bluff. So we cruised round in zodiacs - first looking at some of the big tabular icebergs near the ship and later closer to the pack ice and shore where we saw lots of penguins either going out to get food or returning from a fishing trip.

The zodiacs can travel very fast and it is exhilarating - but the speed comes with a big wind chill effect. In fact it is about 4C air temperature here today - which is warmer than in the UK ;-) At 30+ mph close to all that ice it is a different story.

We are now leaving the Antarctic Sound and heading back out to sea. We will turn left and head south down the peninsular for a 100 miles or so. Plan for Thursday is to stop a couple of times after breakfast and lunch for walks ashore and zodiac cruises if the conditions allow.

Bye for now …

It is 07:30 and we have just anchored in a sheltered bay. Weather is 0C, wind at 25 mph, snow flurries and poor visibility. No kayaking this morning and we are going ashore at 08:45.

Good morning!

**D'Hainaut Island & Cierva Cove**

"The wonderfully clear days, the sight of a new rock beyond the snow rise, the tremendous feeling of freedom among the mountains and glaciers, the close comradeship which develops in isolated groups from shared experience and the growth of mutual confidence: these are the lasting memories." - V.E. Fuchs 'Of Ice and Men'

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

TBA We plan to land and Zodiac cruise at **D'Hainaut Island**

D'Hainaut Island is a small, largely flat & rocky island (less than 1km2) that lies within Mikkelsen Harbour on the southern coast of Trinity Island. The area was first charted by Nordenskjöld's Swedish Expedition, and later used by whalers as a mooring point for factory ships each season from 1910-1917. The remains of wooden casks, water boats and whale carcasses dating to this period can be seen at the landing beach, and there is a semi-derelict Argentine refuge hut that was established in 1954.

**1st Disembarkation: Amundsen & Scott**

**2nd Disembarkation: Shackleton & Wild**

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

TBA We plan to Zodiac cruise at **Cierva Cove**

Cierva Cove lies on the south side of Cape Herschel, within Hughes Bay. It was named after Juan de la Cierva, the inventor of the autogiro (the precursor to the helicopter, first flown in 1923). The cove is surrounded by glaciated peaks and valleys up to 2000m in height, is known for its stunning icebergs, and is also home to Primavera, an Argentinian summer research station.

**1** **st Disembarkation: Shackleton & Wild**

**2nd Disembarkation: Amundsen & Scott**

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

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

After Dinner - Join **Liliana** in the Club for a casual bar talk **Pantry Essentials for a Polar Scientist …**followed by an evening of Classic Rock n' Roll!