



NATURAL HABITAT ADVENTURES AND
WORLD WILDLIFE FUND ONBOARD THE
M / V OCEAN NOVA

The Antarctic Chronicle



An Expedition to the Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica
THURSDAY, THE 5TH OF FEBRUARY 2009

BROWN BLUFF AND ASTROLABE ISLAND

*"An Antarctic Expedition is the worst way to have the best time of your life."
Apsley Cherry-Garrard (Scott's Expedition 1910-1913)*

- 0500 Gentle wake up call. Please enjoy a coffee / tea in the lounge
- 0530 We hope to offer you a **CONTINENTAL LANDING** at Brown Bluff, a very imposing and spectacular site on the Tabarin Peninsula, almost at the very tip of the Antarctic peninsula.
The towering cliffs behind **Brown Bluff** dominates this landing, with a lovely long beach at its fore. Fascinating geology shows that this area is an exposed glacial volcano. Adelie penguins are the order of the day, often with leopard seals offshore. There may be an opportunity to be able to do a relatively good walk, part of which is on the edge of a glacier! Lots of lichens are present on the rocks, including *Xanthoria* (the very obvious orange lichen), *Caloplaca* and others. The mountain behind is 800m high, and this is the start of the Antarctic plateau (which averages 2000m, making Antarctica the highest continent on Earth)
- 0930 The '**Antarctic Sighted**' **Brunch** is served. We make our way through the ice-strewn Antarctic Sound northwards, one of the most spectacular areas in Antarctica
- ±1400 Please join us as we hope to offer a rare zodiac cruise of **Astrolabe Island**.
Astrolabe Island is a rarely visited island just north of Palmer Land, and is famous for its jagged edges and narrow channels, allowing for great zodiacing if weather conditions allow. Nesting Chinstrap penguins and Antarctic cormorants are found, as well as Leopard seals and the nesting Antarctic fulmars.
- 1600 The Sandwich and Cake Bar opens in the Panorama Lounge. At this stage we will be making our way steadily southwards, into the scenic **Gerlache Strait**
- 1800 Please join the staff for a recap and plans for the next day
- 1900 Dinner is served, please enjoy.
- 2030 The *M/v Ocean Nova cinema* presents a Mike Nichols film classic: **Regarding**

Henry with Harrison Ford and Annette Benning