

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 FRIDAY, THE 6TH OF FEBRUARY 2009

DANCO ISLAND, NEKO HARBOUR AND THE LEMAIRE

"The world is a book, and those who do not read are illiterate." – St. Augustine

- ± 0500 We will be in the Southern Gerlache Straight, one of the most scenic areas in Antarctica. Early birds will not be disappointed...
- 0700 Wake up call
- 0730 Breakfast is served
- We hope to offer you a landing on a small island called **Danco** in the middle of the Errera Channel.

Danco Island is a one mile long island in the southern part of the Errera Channel. It was first charted by Gerlache and is named for the geophysicist who died during the *Belgica* expedition of 1897-9. There is an abandoned British Antarctic Survey hut here, as well as a large colony of gentoo penguins, snowy sheathbills, kelp gulls and blue-eyed shags. A good walk to the very top of Danco is sometimes possible, you know you want to try, as the view over the surrounding area is nothing short of sensational and the |Colorado Mountain Goats will be impressed

- 1230 Lunch is served on board
- ±1330 Please join us as we head up the incredible Andvord bay towards the site of our afternoon landing, **Neko Harbour** (another CONTINENTAL LANDING)...

This site is named for the floating whale factory ship *Neko*, which operated in the south Shetlands and Antarctic Peninsula from 1911 to 1924, and often used this bay. There is an unmanned Argentine refuge on site. This is also a good place to watch for whales. This is a really good place to be totally still and watch and listen for stomach rumblings and glacier calvings.

- 1800 Please join the staff for a recap and plans for the next day
- 1900 Dinner is served, please enjoy.
- ±2100 We approach the incredibly scenic **Lemaire Channel**. Please view this supernarrow channel and our sail through it from the decks... stand by for announcements.

The Lemaire Channel is a seven mile long and one mile wide passage running northeast to southwest. It separates Booth Island from the Antarctic Peninsula. It was discovered by Dallmann's German Expedition of 1873-4 and was first navigated by Gerlache in 1898. Gerlache named the channel for Charles Lemaire who was a Belgian explorer of the Congo.