



NATURAL HABITAT ADVENTURES AND
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The Antarctic Chronicle



An Expedition to the Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica
SATURDAY, 31ST OF JANUARY 2009

ST ANDREW'S BAY AND GRYTVIKEN

"That was all the tangible things; but in memories we were rich. We had pierced the veneer of outside things. We had suffered, starved, and triumphed, groveled down yet grasped at glory, grown bigger in the bigness of the whole. We had seen God in his splendors, heard the texture that Nature renders. We had reached the naked soul of man."

Sir Ernest Shackleton from "South", crossing South Georgia on the "Shackleton Walk"

- 0500 A gentle wake up call, please enjoy coffee, tea, cakes and fruit in the Panorama
- 0530 We hope to offer a landing at **St Andrew's Bay**, the largest King Penguin rookery on South Georgia (and hence the world), a sight never to be forgotten, let us hope for the perfect sunrise and perfect conditions... Last zodiac time to be announced
- St Andrew's Bay lies around 30km southeast of Cumberland bay (where Grytviken is situated), and is very exposed. Landings are subject to great weather conditions and we will see what is in store for us today. If we do get ashore we will be maximizing our time on shore.
- 0930 **"The King Penguin" brunch** is served. Anchor up and we head for **Maiviken** a small inlet just to the north west of Grytviken. For those who are keen on a walk, we will let you walk to Grytviken from Maiviken (around 1.5. – 2 hours)
- 1030
- 1300 The walkers are dropped off at **Maiviken** for their walk across to **Grytviken**
- 1400 An afternoon at **Grytviken**. This is one of the most fascinating excursions we will be making in South Georgia. There is much to see and do. The museum, the church, post office, whaling station, Ernest Shackleton's grave and separate memorial, a good walk around shore to see what can be found in terms of wildlife etc. Please make most of your time at shore here as this is a fascinating place, and you have lots of time...
- Grytviken is virtually the most protected harbour in the whole of South Georgia, and has massive steep-sided mountains on all sides. On one end lies King Edward Point, the main station and offices of the government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. It has been the centre of activity for all explorers to the Antarctic since 1904, when Captain Larsen established the island's first proper whaling station. It was finally closed in December 1964, with a frightening reputation: over 50 years, over 160 000 whales were processed at Grytviken, and man became so efficient at processing whale, that an 80 ton Blue whale took just 45 minutes to process. Whaling is unfortunately part of mankind's history. The irony is that nature is taking back its possession: many fur seals and elephant seals are now hauled out on the beaches and even at the whaling station itself!

- 1530 **High tea and snacks** are served in the panorama bar
- 1830 Please join the staff for a recap and cocktail in the glass house.
- 1900 Dinner is served in the dining room