

A photograph of an Antarctic landscape. In the background, dark, jagged mountains are partially covered in snow. A large, white glacier or ice shelf hangs down from the mountains towards the water. In the foreground, the dark blue water of the sea is calm, reflecting the sky and the ice. Several icebergs of various sizes are floating in the water. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

ANTARCTICA

As Seen by Twenty-four
Adventurers in
February, 2007



We assembled from all over!

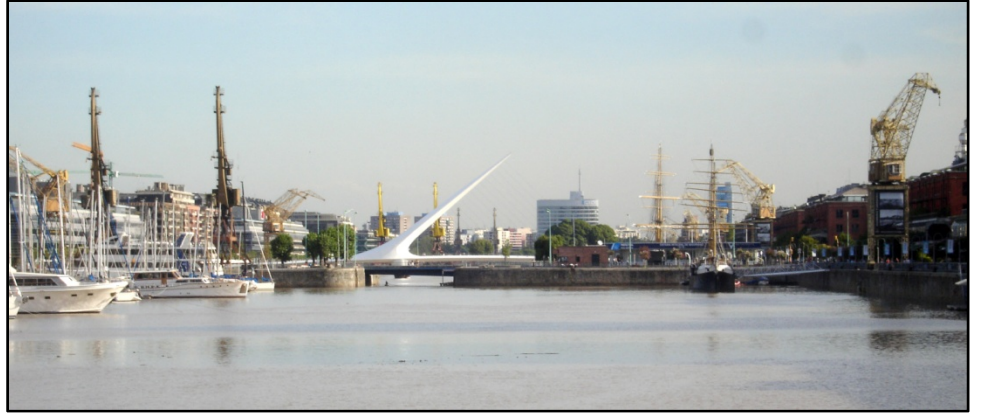
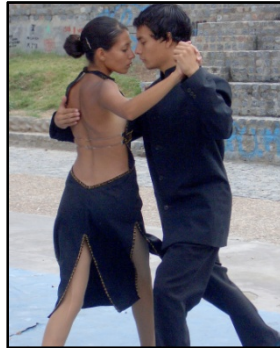
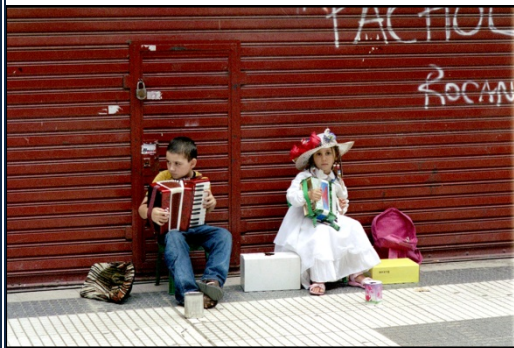
On or about the 3rd of February, we left Seattle, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Indianapolis, Miami, Colorado Springs, Denver and Loveland for the big trip south. Assembling in Buenos Aires, we gave every appearance of looking forward joyfully to a great visit to the Seventh Continent. The Sheraton Hotel located across from San Martin Square was home, and then we checked out the town with a city tour, and whatever. Adjacent to the tower was the railroad station, shown.











Ushuaia and Tierra de Fuego

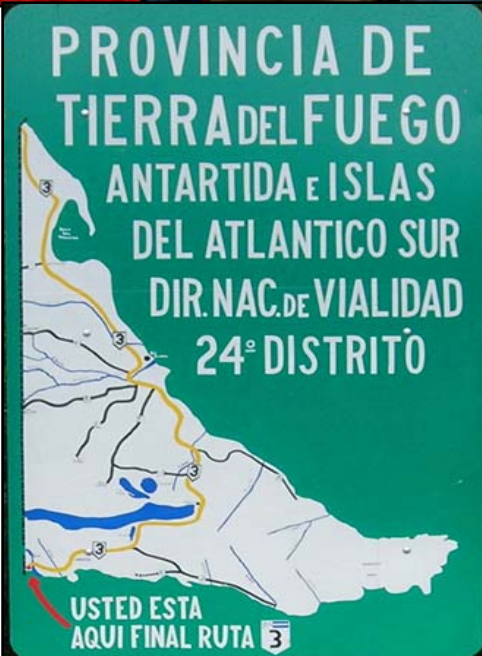


We arrived in Ushuaia on Feb 6—a weather day! The wind was fierce out of the west, and the mountains were covered with fresh snow in frequent flurries. After spending the night on the ship we awoke to a fine day, and made our trip to the “end of the world”, the National Park celebrating a very special place on the earth’s surface. (For one thing, the terminus of the Pan American Highway.)











OUR SHIP, THE DISCOVERY

On the preceding page our ship is shown as we first saw it. It seemed very large, but the interior seemed quite manageable. We were mostly housed in the highest deck with portholes. However, in the Drake Passage high waves frequently washed over our portholes! The Lido deck, deck 11, was the place we ate mid-day, mostly, and sometimes that was where we had breakfast also.



We also spent time there, sometimes watching for whales. (See Jeanne's face!)



The dining room hosted us at the early seating, and was elegant, especially for the "party" nights. A sculptor's works were being sold in one of the ship's stores, and we recommended Loveland to him.



Game rooms were an attraction, as were the theaters and show lounges.



Two lectures in the Carousel Lounge (not shown) were “home grown” with RRB doing the honors.



Two nights were declared "formal" in the dining area, and we responded!



ICEBERGS WERE A BIG THRILL

We believe that it is not true that if you have seen one iceberg, you have seen them all. More likely it takes THREE of them! The first type comes from a slow moving glacier. It is flat on top, and may be huge indeed. A second is one that has lots of color. It has spent hundreds and most likely thousands of years deep within a glacier, and the long-time pressure has caused a crystalline structure that favors reflecting shorter wavelength light. A third type is one of perhaps more recent origin—it is very white, not so dense and has many shapes. It may result from ice falls into the sea, and comes in many sizes. Because the water in the vicinity of the Antarctica Peninsula is 31 degrees—colder than freezing(!)—it is likely that in summer anyway the ice exposed to the air will be melting faster than that in the water. But it is also true that every berg will become unbalanced in one way or another, and then overturn. This may happen all at once or it may occur in little bits, as some of our pictures demonstrate.



Here is a example of “type one”



In 2004 RRB measured one of this type that was 8 miles long.

“Type Two” HAS REAL COLOR



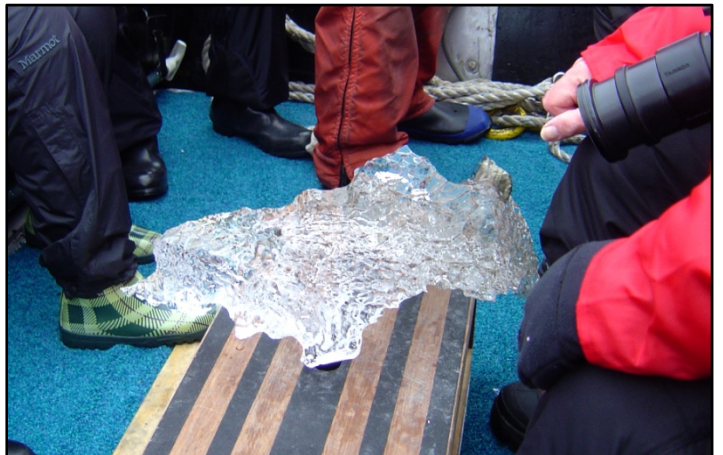
This one has a certain “hound dog” look!





This piece of ice was fished out by one of the Zodiac boat drivers. It has had a peculiar history, indeed.

One discovers that looking out of the porthole is a very good practice!



Here is a berg that has overturned.



These guys were pretty amusing!

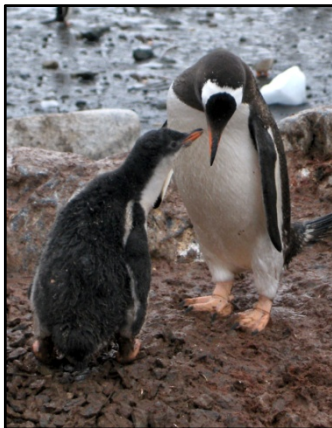


This one is in a category all its own. Notice the rock!

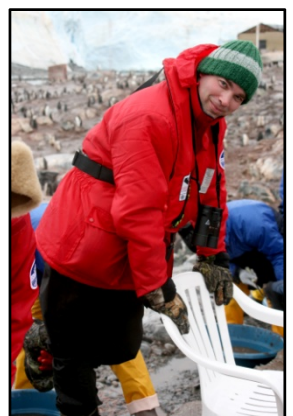
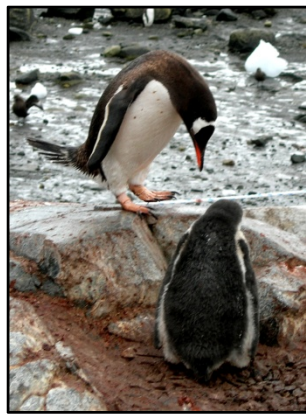
We made two landings. The first was on King George Island.

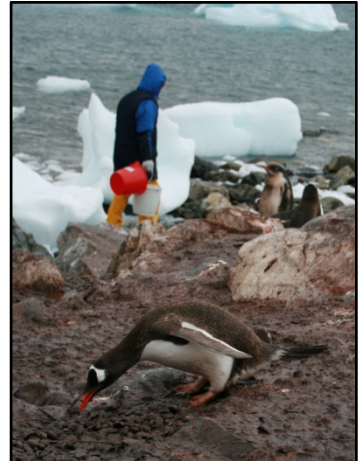
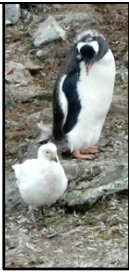


Our second landing was at Paradise Harbour, on the Peninsula.

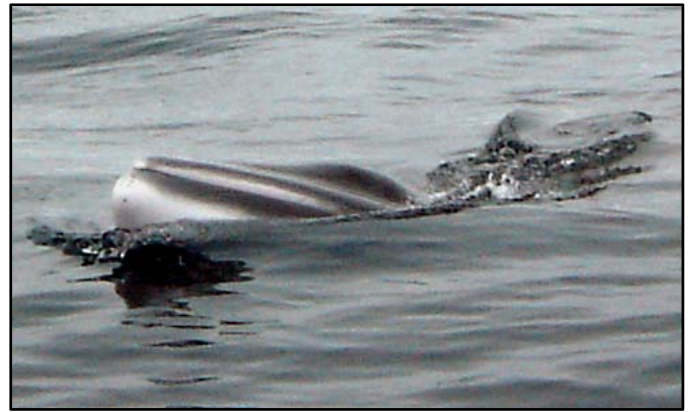








After leaving Paradise Harbour, we cruised up and down the peninsula, and a third landing was cancelled. It was during this time that we saw lots of whales, and we enjoyed every moment.









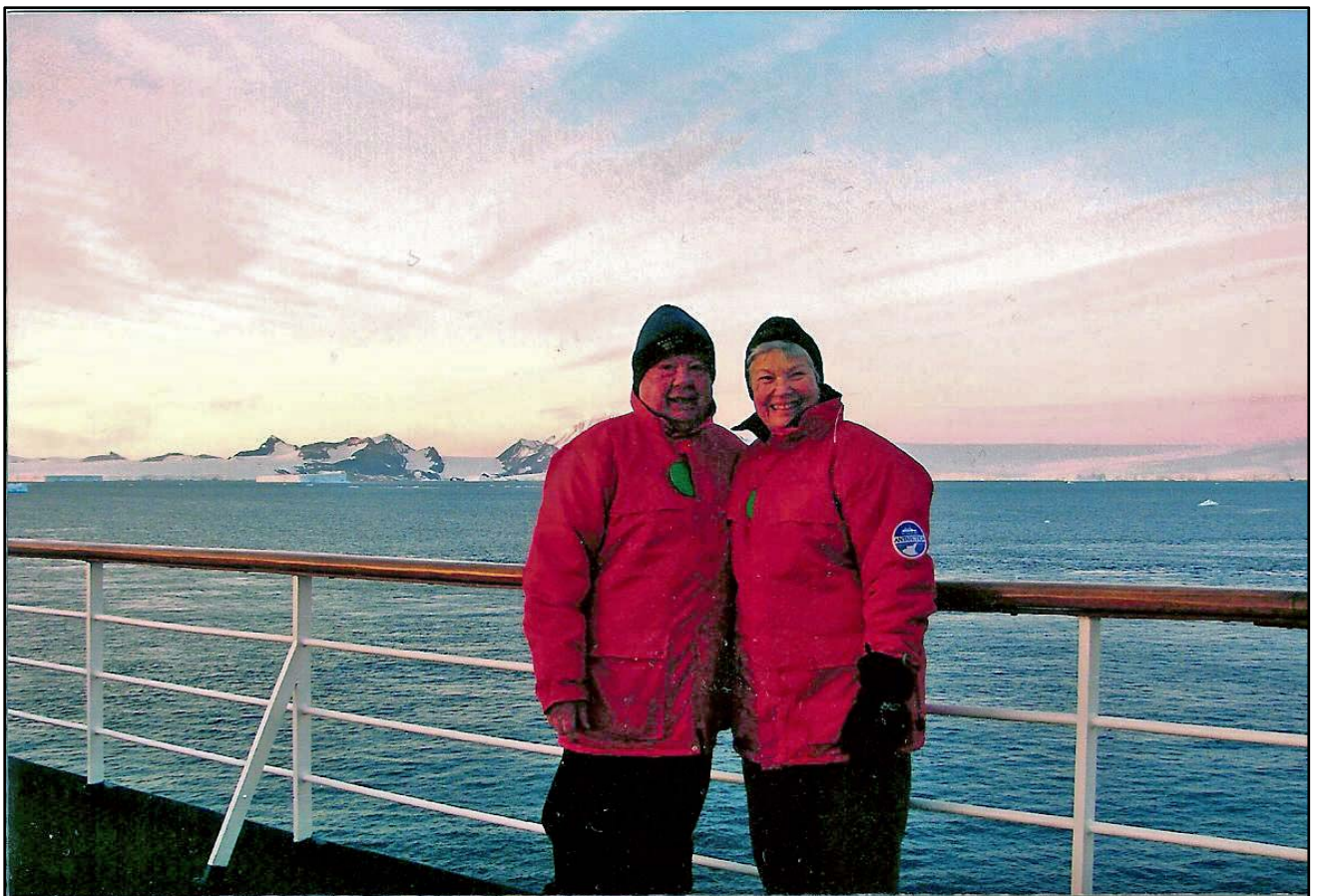


The above iceberg we have labeled "A Sleeping Crock, maybe"

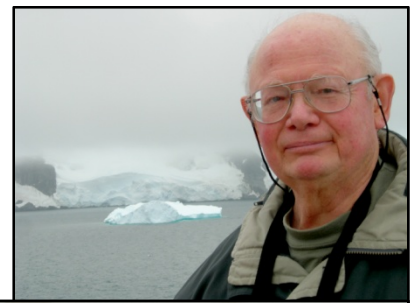


There were sunrises and sunsets at odd times of the day, and we needed to keep watch!













Tierra del Fuego was really cool!



And, so was Cape Horn



Jeanne's Close Encounter with a Whale













One of the last great achievements of this trip was to sail “round the horn”. This happened because the cancellation of our third landing gave the ship’s Captain enough extra cruise time that he could take us to the west of Cape Horn, and then sail around it. Furthermore, it was a spectacularly beautiful day (if windy)—and Cape Horn has only a few of those each summer.



Immediately to the east of Cape Horn sits the Chileans’ station as the “real” foot of the world. In the above picture you can see their flag and station. The islands that make up this part of the continent are really just an extension of the Andean mountain range, shown below.





Chile proudly shows ownership of Cape Horn. The above three pictures are of their station.

Take THAT, Argentina! (Chile and Argentina had a war about this, settled in modern times.)



For our last dinner aboard ship, we reserved the Yacht Club, and enjoyed our last moments together in this very special part of the world. Len Anthony, Addie Leah and Bob's dinner companion for the cruise, joined us on this occasion. He is from England, and he has set foot on his seventh continent, as has Wayne, Addie Leah, and Bob. Nancy and Chip now have six to their credit. The others will do so in due season.





