

Crossing the Scotia Sea

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Antarctica is starting to show us her beauty as we pass this tabular iceberg. Photo by Rich Kirchner



Expedition leader

Doug Gould prepares the IAATO briefing, outlining the guidelines our guests need to know before their visit to Antarctica.



The expedition staff assists our guests with bio-security.



From pockets to velcro, every nook and cranny of our outer clothing is inspected and cleaned.



Captain Martin Graser teaches us what it takes to navigate an expedition ship in the icy waters around Antarctica.



Every day, three times a day, no matter the wind or the waves, our chefs make us healthy and incredibly tasty meals.

Our second day crossing the Scotia Sea, as we make our way towards Antarctica, is by no means an empty day. The windy weather kept us mostly indoors but from time to time we would see evidence of the white continent as we passed massive tabular icebergs -a sign of things to come. We kept a full schedule of lectures starting with an overview of the history of how Antarctica was finally discovered. Later, our Captain Martin Graser also gave us a detailed overview of ice navigation by sharing with us stories and photos from his 25 years of doing just that.

Of course, things can't always be fun and games when on an expedition. Antarctica is a special place and needs to be treated with care, as expedition leader Doug Gould illustrated while going over a mandatory IAATO briefing before a complete bio-security of all our field gear. We certainly do not want to transport any invasive species from South Georgia to Antarctica. During the evening, after yet another amazing meal, we treated ourselves to popcorn as we watched the 1st episode of the recreation of the incredible voyage of the *James Caird* from Elephant Island to South Georgia. An interesting viewing, as we are in the same sea as Shackleton and his men when they made their journey to safety.

About the Author



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Having grown up in the wilds of Northern Minnesota, Eric's lifelong love of nature and a desire to explore was a forgone conclusion. His childhood summers were spent canoeing the lakes of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and his winters were spent exploring those frozen lakes on skis. It was no surprise when he decided to spend his summers working in Alaska's fishing industry on a four-person commercial salmon fishing boat in Prince William Sound while attending the University of Minnesota. He did take a break to study abroad for a year in Helsinki, Finland.