

Tuesday Morning -Jan. 27th- 7:00-10:00 am

## The Darwin Channel

Position; 45 Degrees 24.52 South

74 Degrees 35.76 West

The Darwin channel is a narrow passage that is surrounded by high mountains. The Captain likes to sail, when he can, inside these passages rather than out in the open waters of the Pacific because it's much calmer. We had beautiful mountains protecting us on both sides from the wind and swells.

Here's a little bit of information about the man this passage was named after.

Charles Darwin;

Charles Darwin was a Naturalist aboard the Beagle during it's 1831 world voyage. During that voyage he came up with a list of some very unusual animals that he discovered. He was born in England in 1809. They say he was widely misunderstood. Nowhere did he ever use the word "evolution." He was very careful to choose his choice of words for he knew the potential power his writings might spark. Nor did he ever suggest that species improve by changing. He merely pointed out that physical changes seem to emerge in populations over time in response to shifting environmental conditions.

Here's my list of animals that I saw for my very first time in the Darwin Channel which of course was named after him.

1. The Albatross are everywhere!
2. Imperial cormorants
3. Penguins (Very small....almost looked like a duck swimming in the water)
4. South American Sea Lions (Look and act just like North American Sea Lions)

## 5. Petrels (A bird)

Have you ever wondered why penguins are black on the top and white on the bottom? Birds of prey looking down at them from above see only the black side that blends in with the water. Predators from underneath looking at them from below see only the white that blends in with the light color of the sky. This is called camouflage, which is what protects them from becoming somebody's next meal!

Did you know there are no polar bears in the Antarctic? This makes it really nice for all the little water critters because they don't have to worry about being some land predators lunch! The only predators for them to worry about are birds.

We've been underway all day today in very calm seas with clear skies. The Captain said the lighting this morning while sailing through the Darwin Channel was the most beautiful he had ever seen! I've also heard about how rough it will be getting as we go further south. We will be in the Antarctic circle in just a few more days!

The speakers on this boat are very accomplished scientists who are now retired. I'm in heaven learning from them and feel very grateful that I have this opportunity. I feel like I'm on a floating college campus. I can't imagine a better way to be learning about this part of the world.

The highlight for me today was watching the Albatross Fly. I read a book years ago about an Albatross named Amelia. Scientists followed her for 2 years, just to learn about her and then they wrote the book. If you type in Albatross on google you too can learn about this amazing bird! You will only find them in the Southern Hemisphere.

Love to all,

Susie