

Day 5 - Jan. 28th - At Sea all day

Happy Birthday Debi!

10:00 AM

Position:

50 degrees 51.57 South

73 degrees 56.83 West

This morning we awoke at 6:30 am for our morning walk around the ships track. Because the boat moves at 20 knots per hour and goes all night long, you really notice a difference in your environment when you step outside in the morning. This morning we found ourselves face to face with the Amalia glacier. It felt a bit gloomy In this area they call "Canal Esteban." The shores are high and abrupt with peaks and headlands all around. There's a slight foggy mist in the air along with a few raindrops falling from the sky. In some areas the channels are 900 feet wide and some of the highest cliffs rise to 4,000 ft. The Captain said we should be entering the Straits of Magellan just before sun-set. I haven't seen any penguins this morning and the ones I saw yesterday hardly counted because they were so small and never got out of the water. I'm really looking forward to seeing Penguins standing on icebergs!

Have you ever thought about being an Ice Pilot?

Our ship has a specialized ice Pilot who is trained to navigate ships through ice. In the past he served as navigating officer aboard ice-breakers in eastern Canada and the Canadian Arctic. He commanded 9 different Coast Guard ice-breakers in the Great Lakes and Eastern Canada. He also does expedition cruises to the Siberian Arctic, the North Pole, the Canadian Arctic and all around Antarctica aboard Russian ice-breakers. He and his wife have 6 children and two of his daughters also work for the Canadian Coast Guard! This guy will take charge of our boat as soon as we enter the ice fields and iceberg areas.

Birds

Did you know there are some amazing birds in the southern hemisphere?
One is the Sooty Tern.

It can fly for the first 9 years of it's life before having to set down
on land to mate. While in flight it picks up

it's food from the surface of the water. This bird can sleep when it's
flying!!!

Where are we now? Jan. 25th-- Position at 8:00 pm
52 degrees 50.71 South 74 degrees 06.96 West
The Seas are calm; it's been cloudy all day.

At this very moment we are entering the Strait of Magellan. Magellan discovered this strait in 1520. This narrow passage made for a great short cut when going from the Atlantic to the Pacific. With this new route that Magellan discovered, sailors no longer had to sail around the turbulent waters off the the tip of South America! It may have been a short cut, but it was still very difficult. Their boats didn't have engines, only sails and wind to keep them moving. With the prevailing north west winds on their nose, they had to tack back and forth in a narrow channel . It took Magellan 38 days to go through this strait and for us, at a speed of 20 knots, it will probably take 10 hours. We won't be going completely through the strait. We'll stop in a little town called Punta Arenas for the day and then head south through another channel called the Beagle Channel that will take us to the END OF THE WORLD! Ushuaia, which is the last city in South America! In just a few days we'll be rounding Cape Horn and then heading to the Antarctic Sound!

Love to all,

Susie