

Gerlache Strait, Port Lockroy

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A killer whale surfacing as it comes alongside the ship in the Gerlache Strait. These impressive dolphins are one of several types of “killers” in the area around the Antarctic Peninsula.



Close-up of a female killer whale pushing a glass-like bow wave as she surfaces right next to the ship.



A pair of Type B killer whales chasing after a lone penguin as it tries desperately to get away from these incredible "hunting machines!" In the end, it lost the battle!



At Jouglia Point there is a small colony of nesting Antarctic shags. This adult is taking off right after feeding its chicks. It needed to return to get more food for these large, nearly fledged young!



An Antarctic shag feeds its chick at Jougla Point. The head of the chick is almost entirely inside the mouth of the adult bird as it feeds!

Early in the morning the call came to our cabins “we have killer whales ahead, it’s a good sized pod!” So as most of us scrambled to get dressed, grab cameras and binoculars, and rush to the outside decks, *National Geographic Orion* slowly worked its way to a closer range. Soon the ship was surrounded by the animals, and they approached us to get a look, some swimming right under the bow! The highlight, however, was when the group cased and killed a penguin right next to the ship; amazing. Later we did a Zodiac cruise in Borgen Bay, followed by an afternoon landing Port Lockroy and Jougla Point.

About the Author



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Rich Kirchner has worked as a naturalist in Antarctica, Alaska, the Bering Sea, Baja and the High Arctic, including Greenland, the Canadian Arctic and Iceland. His 25 years as a professional wildlife photographer has granted him international publication credits included in magazines such as *Geo*

Germany, Geo France, Natural History, Audubon, National Wildlife and Ranger Rick, as well as more than a hundred books.