

Day 8

Sunday Morning Feb. 1st

65.01.60 South 063.00.96 west

35 degrees F

So far we've traveled 3,186 miles!

Sunrise: 5:00 am Sunset 10:00 pm

Dear Friends;

I could hardly sleep last night just knowing that in the morning I'd be in Antarctica! It reminded me of the anticipation I felt as a child on Christmas Eve. It's was so comforting to slip under my blankets without a worry and leave the driving up to Patrick the Ice pilot! Now that I've met him, I don't worry about a thing. He said this boat can handle any type of weather, it's the people that can't handle it. If they have to turn the boat around, it's not because of the boats discomfort, but the passengers. Luckily, the Drake Passage became only calmer as the late night drifted into early morning.

At 6:30 am I heard an announcement on the loud speaker....I wasn't sure what the captain said but it got me out of bed and onto the deck in no time. When I opened the double doors that lead to the outside deck, I couldn't believe what my eyes were seeing. I was in a winter wonderland and just to make it perfect, a big humpback whale broke the surface of the water and rose to greet me just as I approached the rail. The timing could not have been more perfect. I heard him exhale and could see the steam of his breath rise to meet mine in the cold, early morning, Antarctic air. It was better than any Christmas morning I can remember! The channel we were in was surrounded by high, snow covered mountains that reached up to meet the early morning sky. Icebergs were scattered in the narrow channel; floating as if they were their own little ship. They rose and fell with the rhythm of the sea, just as we were. Everything was quiet and peaceful; I felt as though I were in a different world. For the next 10 hours, we spent our time observing the beauty of the Antarctic peninsula. Here are a few pictures that will give you an idea of just how enchanting it was.

Sunday Morning at the Antarctic Peninsula.

Check out the Singing Icebergs!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45Y2FLxYK80&feature=related>

Love,

Susie