



Travel Report: **Antarctica with Visionary Wild** **January 2023**

A dream journey is behind us. After two years of corona pandemic, it could finally start. The photographic travel company Visionary Wild from the USA under the direction of Lena and Justin Black had offered the trip for ambitious and enthusiastic photographers. With the help of a German travel agency, we were able to book a cabin two years ago. Antarctica is not a classic tourist resort. It requires high demands of the organization of the trip and preparation of travelers, and this was done perfectly by Visionary Wild. Not only in terms of equipment and clothing, but also important tips for photo equipment were given. At a Zoom meeting, the participants were able to get to know each other and ask questions about the trip. Everyone was picked up from the airport in Punta Arenas. We were the only Germans, the others came from all parts of the USA. Our tour guides were Justin Black, an excellent photographer, Chris Eckström a very well-known writer and videographer, and Frans Lanting, one of the best landscape and wildlife photographers of our time.



The journey started from Punta Arenas in the south of Chile. In the hotel in Punta Arenas the last instructions were provided before we flew by plane to King George Island, thus avoiding the dreaded rough seas of the Drake passage. Two Zodiacs took us out to our private ship, the Hans Hansson – ice class, 27-meters long, and 11 knots fast. She has 6 cabins for guests on 2 decks.



The crew consisted of 7 people, the captain, 3 helmsmen, 1 engineer, 1 stewardess, and the chef in the galley. Due to the size of the ship, we were able to anchor overnight in the shelter of small bays. Two to four times each day, we were brought ashore with the two Zodiacs to make extended photo excursions led by Frans, Chris, and Justin.



The scenery and wildlife were overwhelming. Trips to the icebergs were also undertaken. The crew was very helpful and always concerned about our safety.

So we were able to experience Antarctica up close.



The daily program was discussed in detail every day with a briefing and tips for the photo equipment were given.



Periodically, we had the opportunity to download and review the pictures. Several times, a selection of pictures by each participant were discussed and constructively critiqued by Justin Black and Frans Lanting, with very good tips. Justin Black also gave very interesting lectures on recording and image processing techniques. So we also received very good training. During the day there was breakfast, usually at 7 o'clock to make the most of the day, at noon and in the evening a warm meal, which was very tastily prepared by the English cook with love



Thanks to the great organization and support of Visionary Wild, this trip was an absolute highlight and will remain unforgettable. In addition to the great team, special thanks to Justin Black, Chris Eckström and Frans Lanting !

Agnes and Diether Schenkel



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