**South Georgia Expedition:**

**Expedition Members:** Sebastián Álvaro, Juanjo San Sebastián, Ramón Portilla, Mariano Izquierdo, José Manuel Fernández, Luis Heras, David Pérez y Remedios Morán.

**Date**: 2013. October the 3rd to November the 25th.

**Place:** South Georgia

**Activities done:**

**Navigation from Falkland Island to South Georgia, go and back.**

Navigation along the east coast of the island, from Right Whale Bay to St Andrew Bay, stopping in Right Whale Bay, Bay of Isles, Rosita Harbour, Salisbury Plain, Isla Prion, Prince Olav Harbour, Possesion Bay, Blue Whale Harbour, Antartic Bay, Fortuna Bay, Stromness Harbour, Husvik Harbour, Carlita Bay, Grytviken, Cumberland East Bay, Cobblers Cover, Ocean Harbour and St Andrews Bay.

**Regulator summit:**

In October the 12th, early in the morning we landed from Le Sourire at Right Wale Bay. We used sleds, skis, and backpacks with all tech gear. The goal is to test the expedition gear, and ourselves but just to see the Regulator Mountain we decided to climb it. We went through a channel between big rocks full of snow, and then we leave the sleds in a secure place and we continued using the crampons and snow axes. It’s really a beautiful mountain. First a 40º tilt, and then along a fantastic ridge very sharp. Finally we go to the summit roped. Great summit. Our altimeter indicates 745 mt, and we named the route “Ruta de los españoles”. Go back to the vessel for lunch. At the Grytviken museum we found a book where the mountain is registered, the name is Regulator, due to a whaler ship that sunk over there, the altitude in that book is 655 mt. coordinates 54º 00’ S and 37º 44’ W.

**Shackleton Route:**

October the 15th and 16th: With really bad weather we landed at Possesion Bay, 54º 07' 209 S and 37º 09' 641 W, Juanjo San Sebastián, Ramón Portilla, Mariano Izquierdo, José Manuel Fernández, Luis Heras, David Pérez and Sebastián Álvaro.

We headed to the Shackleton Gap 54º 08' 089 S & 37º 11' 904 W and 333 mt, from here, we went up till a group of rocks where we leave the sleds and then went down skiing till King Haakon Bay. We wanted to start really from the beginning, where Shackleton landed. After long time relaxing and finding the explorer soul we go back to the sleds and we mounted the tents. During the night strong winds forced us to go back to the vessel. We wait for a better weather forecast, but we finally did the traverse with even worst conditions, from the 24th o the 26th.

We must use the GPS due to the mist and snowstorm. We went from the vessel to the Trident pass, 54º 08' 720 S y 37º 05' 478 W, 425 mt.

After a terrible night, early morning we walked to the north pass of the Trident mountains, the good weather disappeared again, and the descent was really difficult, with snow hiding ice sheets till Murray Snowfield.

During 5 hours we walked using the GPS, otherwise it couldn’t be done, then the windstorm is so heavy that it obliges us to stop and to build an icewall to protect our camp site 54º 09’ 00,0” S & 36º 58’ 33” W. 424 mt.

Terrible night, tough wind, more than 100 km/h, we fight inside the tents to keep the tents alive and to avoid it breaks, but at the end, one of the tents “died”, then the snow went inside and everything was wet.

We must continued fighting against the strong wind and snow, we must use the GPS to be able to continue in the right direction; we must reach Fortuna bay today. Reaching Fortuna, the weather let us to see the sea for first time in 4 days. Finally we went to our vessel. 54º 09' 392 S & 36º 48' 598 W.

The 27th, bad weather, we surrounded the bay; we crossed a river and went up to the Stromness pass. Great team picture!! And then went down to the Stromness whaling station, 54º 09' 582 S & 36º 42' 639 W. We didn’t go inside the station due to the regulations.

Quite difficult to know the real distance covered by us due to the hills, zigzags, etc. but at least 60 kms. It seams not a huge distance, but the weather conditions and the wild territory makes it extraordinary tough. Shackleton really demonstrate his explorer skills crossing South Georgia and on top of this, after 18 months of ice at the Endurance and finally the navigation between Elephant Island and South Georgia makes his adventure really an epic one.

**Heaney and Nordenskjold glaciers crossing.**

From Sant Andrews Bay, Juanjo San Sebastián, Ramón Portilla, José Manuel Fernández y Sebastián Álvaro, did during the 20th and 21st the traverse of Glaciers Heaney and Nordenskjold. Day 20th, early morning landed in St Andrews and we carried all the expedition gear till the snow. We crossed several rivers created by the glaciar, then followed all the glacier till the mountains range. The weather as always really bad and it didn’t allow us any chance to see the sun. The wind becomes really tough. We fallen down due to the incredible wind power. We continued along the glacier till a big plato, and finally we reached the base of the Nordenskjold, one of the highest peaks and difficult in the area.

The snow started to fall down and we decided to mount the tent, one K2 for our 4. We invested 5 hours for just 14 kms. The snow didn’t stop during all the night and next morning we find more than 40 cm covering the tent. We had a light dinner, but good slipping.

The 21st was a sunny and no windy day. We decided to go down along the glacier Nordensjkold till Cumberland East bay. We had a short call with Hugo at the vessel to let him knows everything is fine and what was the plan. We went fast due to the good weather conditions and in 5 hours we reached the end of the glacier, we were lucky finding a good pass in the middle of the ice chaos.

Finally, we load all the gear in our backs and between elephants and icebergs walked for another hour till we found a great place to camp. Hugo cannot come to pick up due to the strong wind. We had a light dinner and good sleeping after a total of 40 kms during the 2 days.

The 22nd starts windy and cloudy. At 8 am we called to Hugo, he is coming to pick up us from the beach. The waves did it a little bit complicated, but Hugo is really an expert and he picked up us at the end of the bay, a place that is more protected.

**Pk1907 Summit:**

28th October. A great and sunny day, we decided to climb a beautiful peak that it dominates the entire bay. 1907 feet is its altitude on the map. It is the natural border between the Stromness and Husvik bays. On the other hand, Juanjo San Sebastian and Ramon Portilla will go with the skis to other peak, a little bit far away. Jose Manuel Fernandez, Luis Heras, Remedios Moran and Sebastian Alvaro using crampons and snow axes stars the ascent.

At 9:45 we started to walk. First we visited the cemetery and then we continued without going inside the whaling station because it is forbidden. At 10:15 we mounted the crampons on our boots. Juanjo and Ramon went to the other mount. A little bit west than the one we are going.

We started to ascend the mountain, easily at the beginning and then it started to be quite difficult. We roped ourselves to cross ice-passes and broken stones. We decided to go up to the ridge, very sharp, with incredible views. We advanced between 2 seas. Highest mountains appear in front of us, like the Paget (we did the summit in 2003), the Sugartop, the Admiralty, this one with a pyramidal shape, really nice. We did the summit at 1pm, 54º 09, 555 S & 36º 44, 704 W and 600 mt high. The last meter has been really complicated and we need all our attention to avoid any risk. On the other hand, Juanjo and Ramon are skiing down to the bay where the vessel is waiting for them.

The weather change really fast and a strong snowstorm made the descent really tough. We got Stromness and we wait for the vessel in the middle of the storm.

The 1st of November we started our journey back to Falkland Islands. The 14th we landed at Port Stanley. We flight back to Spain the 20th  and the second group the 25th.

**Note:** During all the expedition we keep all the security rules and advise about the animals and ecosystem. We washed our boots every time we landed and go back to the vessel.