

DC4: We headed south over the tumultuous 850 Km wide Drake Passage to land four hours later on the continent's only earthen airstrip on King George Island. We were only at the "tip of the iceberg".

From there we prepared ourselves for a wildlife-viewing "Ski safari". We boarded a ski equipped Twin Otter and headed south, straight over Deception Island. The plane broke over the rocky rim of a caldera, and suddenly we were suspended above the huge salt water lake that has formed in the maw of an ancient volcano.

More low flying took us to a glacier camp on Adelaide Island, where maritime summer temperatures rarely fall below -10C. Our large communal cook tent was a comfortable refuge when the sky was overcast, and several smaller sleeping tents gave us our privacy. Food that has been pre-cooked and frozen in Punta Arenas was thawed for the main meals, and robust Chilean wine washed it down. Walking on skis with flexible Berwyn bindings that fit ordinary insulated Sorrel boots, we enjoyed brief impromptu visits with both the British Antarctic Survey and Chilean Carvajal Bases.

Not so coincidentally, there are penguins and seals strewn out on the rocky beaches near the bases (both life forms compete for space on the precious few exposed rock outcrops at sea level). In the water two nearly transparent jellyfish provided the incongruity that makes the charm of this icy continent so irresistible. Who would think that such treasures could exist in this ice-shrouded place? Overhead, the skuas cruised back and forth, on the prowl for penguin eggs.

Feeling a peculiar human need to embrace nature, I knelt down beside a sleeping 100 Kg Weddell seal pup. I aimed for the soft fur at the base of its flipper when it began scratching itself, like a dog. Then it slowly woke up. Realizing it was being accosted by some strange beast from out of a daydream, its mouth gaped open to display its stunted teeth. Within second it wore itself out with the effort of frightening me away, lost interest, and dozed off again.

If anyone were to ask me for a definition of the TOTAL ski experience, I would have to describe that trip to Antarctica.

## **In giro per il mondo con le diapositive di Pat Morrow**

Giovedì sera alle 9,00, presso il cinema Lux - vicino alla chiesa - Pat Morrow mostrerà alcune delle sue bellissime diapositive scattate in giro per il mondo in sci da Telemark. La serata durerà un'ora. Ancora una volta ci renderemo conto della potenzialità del Telemark come mezzo per vivere l'avventura.

## **Around the world with Pat Morrow' slide on Telemark skies**

Thursday at 9,00 PM at the Cinema Lux - near the church - you will have the opportunity to see some among the best slides about Telemark you can see. During one hour we shall be brought in the most beautiful corners of this word by Pat his slides and his Telemark skies.



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