

Post-Expedition Report
Jason Roberts Productions a/s
“Penguin Island 3D”
South Georgia, 2011

Introduction

Our expedition consisted of two filming trips to South Georgia with a film team of 5 and an expedition team of 2, supported by the motor yacht “Australis” and its crew of 3. Our first trip arrived in South Georgia (SG) waters on 19/01/2011 and departed on 25/02/2011, while the second trip arrived on 01/04/2011 and departed on 07/05/2011. During both trips, the film & expedition team established base camps ashore on selected locations, which were only used as setup area and break room during the first trip, while part of the team also camped ashore for extended periods during the second trip to increase flexibility of the filming schedule. On both trips, the predominant part of filming was done ashore, but some sequences were also recorded from the support vessel or its tenders as well as under water with an underwater camera team.

Expedition Objectives

The aim of these two trips was to record mostly King penguins but also some of the surrounding wildlife with the use of state-of-the-art 3D filming equipment in their natural environment, in order to provide material for a penguin feature film scheduled to appear on Sky TV in autumn/winter of 2011.

Several different 3D rigs were deployed successfully in this challenging environment, including underwater sequences, and all expected sequences and ranges of behaviour in penguins, fur and elephant seals, giant petrels, and wandering albatrosses as well as stunning scenery were recorded on several locations along the northern coast of SG.

Reports on Activities

For the first trip the expedition team consisted of *Jason Roberts Productions* logistical staff: Rupert Krapp and Oskar Ström, while on the second trip, Martin Enckell replaced Rupert. The film crew for both trips consisted of Simon Niblett (Director & 2D camera), Williams (Cameraman), Hugh Miller (u/w cameraman), Danny Spencer (3D rig technician) and Kevin Zemrowsky (D.I.T. technician).



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Trip One

The majority of our time ashore was spent in the Bay of Isles area with a main basecamp on Salisbury Plain and safe overnight anchorage at Prince Olav Harbour. We established the basecamp there on 20/01/2011 and departed from the area on 10/02/2011. The remaining time of trip one was spent around Hercules Bay/Hercules Point, Grytviken, St. Andrews and Gold Harbour.

During scheduled visits of cruise ships landing passengers, we adjusted our work schedule to either work on a neighbouring site during their landing, or by taking rest days. Only on two occasions, our filming coincided with a cruise ship landing, once at Salisbury Plain (with Sea Spirit) and once at KEP (with Akademik Ioffe). Both times the vessel captains and EL's as well as the GO at KEP had been notified well in advance and had consented, and filming locations were then set up well away from their landing sites.

Trip Two

On the second trip, the location of our main activities and the site of our main basecamp was Gold Harbour. The film and expedition team established the basecamp there on 03/04/2011 and departed from the site on 29/04/2011. During that period, part of the team formed a shore party and worked around the basecamp, while the rest stayed on board the support vessel, which relocated to nearby dive sites for underwater recordings. Both teams stayed in regular contact with each other and with KEP and rendezvoused regularly to allow the shore party access technical equipment, and to schedule team meetings, hot showers etc.

Safety Plan

Our safety routines and plans worked out as expected, shore safety equipment was deposited on all filming locations, but none had to be used in earnest. We stayed in regular contact with KEP and with the ship's crew to stay abreast of weather updates, as well as the sailing schedules of any nearby vessels. The only support required from other vessels were two deliveries of technical equipment replaced due to damaged in adverse conditions.

Environmental Plan

Throughout both trips, utmost care was given to all surrounding wildlife and all filming locations and basecamps were carefully positioned, established and operated, and finally thoroughly removed and cleaned up to ensure that there was no disturbance and no traces left behind.

Expedition Application and Processing

The expedition application process worked well and we had no problems with meeting and exceeding the required safety standards. However, we had the impression that there was a certain level of redundancy between the visit permit application, filming permit application and expedition application.

Summary

Overall the expedition was a complete success, and despite the challenging conditions and partly adverse weather conditions, we managed to record South Georgia's wildlife in high-quality 3D format for the very first time.