



Sightings Record

Viking Sun World Cruise 2019

Buenos Aires to Valparaiso



As the Chair of Trustees of the Sea Watch Foundation it is my great pleasure to share with you the sightings from this sector of the Viking Sun World Cruise 2019, Buenos Aires to Valparaiso. The report also includes a few of the photographs Kris and I have taken. These sightings will be used to help us understand the distribution of marine wildlife around the world.

Sightings Records for each sector of the cruise, and my previous voyages, are available as free pdf downloads from my website – www.TheWhaleandDolphinMan.co.uk

Sea Watch Foundation is the leading UK cetacean research charity and has been collecting sightings data since the 1970s to create Europe's biggest whale, dolphin and porpoise sightings database. This is used to inform EU and national governments, scientific and environmental agencies and NGOs, as well as independent research scientists who have an interest in studying and protecting cetaceans and the marine environment.

We were proud to be involved with the first part of the inaugural Round the World voyage in 2018, from Miami to Auckland, and we are delighted to be able to let you know that we will be onboard for a significant part of the next World Cruise too, all the way from Los Angeles to London! We look forward to seeing some of you again in 2020!

If you've enjoyed the photography from the voyage, as seen in my talks and as included in this report, I will be creating a DVD of my final "wildlife slideshow". This will include some added scenery shots to provide context and will be available for around £25 to UK customers and £30/\$40 to the US, including P&P and a donation to the Sea Watch Foundation.

A DVD of the 2018 voyage, and another of my Amazon cruises, can be found in the shop onboard. A number of photopacks of whales, dolphins and seabirds, in 6x4" or 7x5", are also available, including those from this report. Alternatively, order through my website, **TheWhaleandDolphinMan.co.uk**, where you can also make donations to the charity.

Thank you again for your interest and I hope to sail again with you sometime, somewhere!

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wolfgang".

World Cruise Sightings Record

Buenos Aires to Valparaiso 2019

25 Jan 2019 – LEAVNG BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

Neotropic Cormorants, Kelp Gulls, Swallows and Martins around the port and river during sail-away.

26 Jan 2019 – PUNTA DEL ESTE, Uruguay

Hundreds of South American Sea Lions and Fur Seals on “Sea Wolves Island” (*right*) as well as a couple of unexpected Elephant Seals (*below*)! More Sea Lions being fed by the fishermen in the harbour (*below, right*) as well as Kelp Gulls and Neotropic Cormorants



27 Jan 2019 – AT SEA, South Atlantic Ocean

c.0730 Large pod of Dolphins (or 6-10?) reported to port by guests

0805-0830 20-30+ Southern Right Whales seen and photographed by guests, spread out towards the horizon. Some very close to the ship including a calf (*right*) and adult breaching!



This is an interesting sighting, reported to researchers in S America (*Photographs by Bruno Erelis*)



Numerous birds were seen throughout the morning, including Scopoli's Shearwater (*below left*), Great Shearwater (*below right*) and Atlantic Petrel



- 1446 2 large fish close to port, possibly Sharks, reported by guests
- 1513 Ocean Sunfish, *Mola mola*, close to starboard (*right*, 5-6ft length). A few Fur Seals (and/or Sea Lions) were seen around the ship, some "porpoising" some diving, some lazing
- 1530 Another *Mola mola* this time to port (4-5ft length) During my lecture, Kris photographed a distant bird, later identified as a Wandering Albatross



28 Jan 2019 – AT SEA, South Atlantic Ocean

Mainly seabirds, Petrels and Shearwaters, with a few patches of weed! Very foggy this morning and F7 (30kt) winds all day!

- 1729 1, perhaps 2, whales blowing to starboard – *Joan and Bruno*

29 Jan 2019 – PORT STANLEY, Falkland Islands

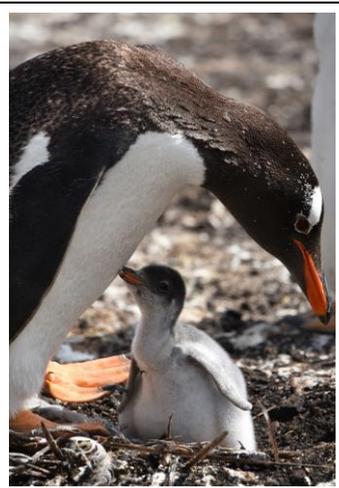
South American Terns dipping for fish around the ship all day, often with Magellanic Penguins (*right*) beneath! Commerson's Dolphins sometimes rode with the tenders and foraged in the harbour area. Rock Shags and King Cormorants, (*below*), Falklands Steamer Ducks (*below right*),



Kelp Geese (*below left*) and Dolphin Gulls (*below right*) were also recorded.



King (*below left*) and Gentoo (*below right*) Penguins were photographed at Bluff Cove, as well



as Falklands (Brown) Skuas (*below left*) and Dolphin Gulls. Magellanic and King Penguins were seen by guests on other tours, as well as Upland Geese. South American Terns (*below right*) continued to fish around the ship until sailing.



30 Jan 2019 – AT SEA, South Atlantic Ocean

0942 3 Large Whales blowing, both sides of the ship, recorded again at 0945 & 0950

Many interesting birds recorded during the morning, including Black-browed Albatross (*right*), Southern Royal Albatross, Southern Giant Petrel, Sooty Shearwater, Slender-billed Prion and numerous other Petrels and Shearwaters



1345 2 Dolphins reported by a guest, starboard side

31 Jan 2019 – AT SEA, Beagle Channel, Sailing to Ushuaia

0635 Dolphins reported by guests

0645 2 Humpback Whales blowing, surfacing and “fluking up” (tail up, diving)! Possibly one or more additional whales in attendance.

Many Magellanic Penguins on the surface, numerous Kelp Gulls as well as Imperial/King Cormorants, Rock Shags, immature and adult Giant Petrels and South American Terns.

0700+ A few Sea Lions (or Fur Seals?) spotted, some quite close to the ship

0930 Whale, starboard side aft, spotted by Kris

1036 Bottlenose Dolphins ½ mile ahead and then to starboard, as we approached the port

1 Feb 2019 – USHUIAIA, Argentina

On the tour to the penguin islands, guests reported 2 King and a few Gentoo Penguins amongst many, many Magellanics! Two Humpback Whales were also seen and there was even a report of Orca!

King (*below left*), and possibly Imperial, Cormorants and Rock Shags (*below right*)

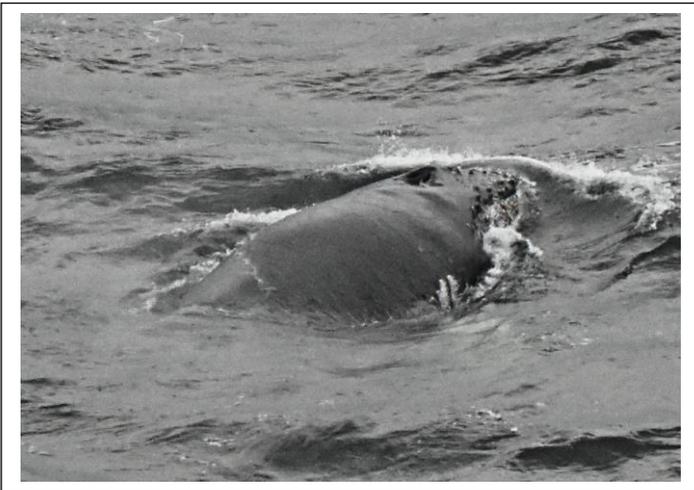


were abundant on our tour, along with Kelp Gulls, Southern Giant Petrels (*below left*), South American Terns and South American Sea Lions (*below right, Kris*)



1901-1907 2 (maybe 3) Sei Whales seen initially at 1½ miles, fine on the starboard bow, and finally starboard aft.

2035 Humpback Whale mother and calf blowing, surfacing and the calf breaching near Puerto William (-54.914732, -67.544838) during customs clearance and then close to starboard on departure. At least one other whale in attendance.



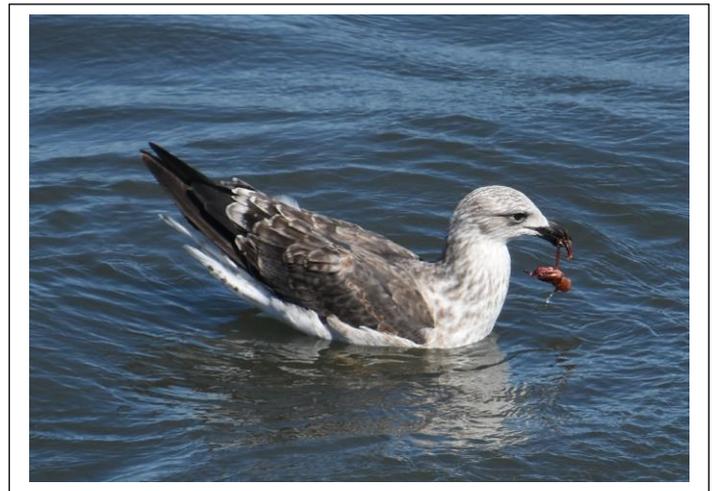
2 Feb 2019 – AT SEA, Cape Horn and Beagle Channel

Many Black-browed Albatross, Southern Giant Petrels, Kelp Gulls, King/Imperial Cormorants, and other species around Islas Hornas

- 1158 Dolphins 1 mile+ to port and then at 1203 one surging briefly close to port
1220 Possible Dolphins 2 miles+ off starboard bow but quickly disappeared!
1345 Dolphins 1 mile to port, “Lag” type (Peale’s, Dusky or Hourglass)
1356 4 Humpback Whales, 1 mile+ to port then astern. Lunge feeding observed, pectoral fin waving and “fluking up” (diving with tail up)!
- Bird activity continued throughout the afternoon, most spectacularly at 1722 when 75+ Black-browed Albatross and Giant Petrels (as well as possibly a few “Great Albatross” left the water to fly around the ship before settling again astern!
- 1905 Whale tail lifted, ½ mile or more behind the ship, probable Humpback reported by guest
Later that evening we spotted another Humpback to port, whilst enjoying a cuppa!

3 Feb 2019 – AT SEA, Scenic Cruising to PUNTA ARENAS, Chilean Fjords

Many Sea Lions, Black-browed Albatross, Southern Giant Petrels, Kelp Gulls (*adult below left, immature below right*), Brown-hooded Gulls and other seabirds seen throughout the morning.



- 1215 2 Humpback Whales close to port, seen by guest in the World Café.
1405 Whale seen to starboard by a guest.
1406 Whale with curved fin, possibly Minke or a larger species, seen briefly by Kris, very close to port.
1511 Sei Whale blowing strongly and surfacing 4 times, ½ mile starboard aft as we approached the pier. Guests in Explorers’ reported having seen 2 ahead initially.
1515 3-4 Dolphins near port bow, reported by guests walking Deck 2
2057-2106 6-8 Peale’s Dolphins photographed feeding and working across the bay from port to starboard aft with some leaping and surging

4 Feb 2019 – PUNTA ARENAS and sail-away, Chile

- 0900 Dolphins, probably Peale’s, out in the bay and seen by guests
The ship’s tour to Penguin Island produced sightings of 12-15 Sei Whales on the voyage there and again on the return, including 2 pairs clearly feeding only 2 or 3

miles from the harbour area (*right*). Distant Southern Right Whale Dolphins were also photographed 4 or 5 miles to port. Black-browed Albatross, Southern Giant Petrels,



King/Imperial Cormorants, Kelp Gulls, Brown-hooded Gulls and South American Sea Lions were also seen and around the island were Magellanic Penguins (*left*), many young and adult Kelp Gulls and quite a few predatory looking Brown Skuas!



- 1730 6-8 Peale's Dolphins, crossing the bay from port aft and passing close to the stern. Also Kelp Gulls, Sea Lions, King Cormorants and a smaller gull species seen
- 1843 10+ Peale's Dolphins photographed close to starboard, some leaping (*below, Kris*)



- 1845 3+ "Lag" Dolphins, probably Peale's, port aft and surging in the wake
- 1848 6+ "Lag" Dolphins, probably Peale's, quickly to the port bow and away
- 1854 Dolphins spotted ½ mile to starboard
- 1932 1, possibly 2, Sei Whales, ¾ mile to starboard
- 1945 2 probable Sei Whales, ¾ mile to starboard
- 1948 Huge blow 5-6 miles off port quarter, probable Blue or Fin Whale
- 1954 Whale blowing 2 miles to starboard
- 1956 2 Whales blowing 1½ miles to starboard
- 2030 Sei Whales, probably mother and calf/juvenile ¾ mile to starboard

5 Feb 2019 – AT SEA, Chilean Fjords – Sarmiento Channel

One guest reported seeing an Andean Condor over the hills!

Otherwise a quiet morning! One or two Sea Lions, numerous Terns, a few Brown Skuas and a Black-browed Albatross. A flight of 3 Imperial or King Cormorants flew alongside and over the bow at 1110.

- 1435 5-6 Dolphins reported by guests off the starboard bow, probably "Lag" type
1525-1530 5 "Lag" Dolphins seen around the ship, near the "Skua" glacier, probably Peale's

6 Feb 2019 – AT SEA, Chilean Fjords and Pacific Ocean

- 0835 8 Black-browed Albatross, 1 Southern Giant Petrel, 2 Brown Skua flying with the ship and 20 Black-browed Albatross flying up from the water off the starboard bow

- 0853 50+ Black-browed Albatross swimming ¾ mile to port

- 0955 6-10 Sea Lions (or Fur Seals?) "porpoising" off the starboard bow

- 1051 7-8 Orca, including 2 males, ½ mile to starboard aft, swimming towards the wake (*right*)



- 1110-1113 2 Whales blowing 2 and 4 miles off starboard bow

- 1115-1118 4 Whales blowing, 1-2 miles off starboard bow, possibly in pairs

- 1120-1130 2 probable Fin Whales close to port, 2 Sei Whales together fine on the port bow and 4 other whales ahead, 1-2 miles off the port bow

- 1130-1140 2 Sei Whales off the port bow, 2 Sei Whales to starboard, each pair closely associated

- 1142 2 Sei Whales 1 mile ahead then close to port (*right*)



Large Whale blowing 2 miles off the starboard bow

- 1200-1202 2 Sei Whales ahead then close to port side

- 1222 2 Sei Whales off port bow, then close to port, in close association

- 1232 Probable Fin Whale partial breach or head slap to port

That's 28 large baleen whales and 7-8 Orca before lunch. Not too shabby!

7 Feb 2019 – PUERTO CHACABUCO, Eysen Fjord

Just a few Gulls and Turkey Vultures around the port area and Black Vultures seen inland in considerable numbers. Some guests may have seen Andean Condors but the groups of 5 or 6 large birds were definitely Turkey Vultures! Chilean Swallows were also observed along the Rio Simpson and Southern Lapwings and Black-faced Ibis were also spotted.

8 Feb 2019 – AT SEA, Canal Moraleda & Golfo Corcovado

- 1049 2 or 3 Whales blowing 1½ - 2 miles ahead, low but strong
1052 Blue Whale, probably one of the above, ½ mile to starboard and surfacing, blowing then diving with tail up (*below*)!



- 1311 Humpback Whale breaching 2 miles to starboard, possibly another smaller whale in company
1343-1348 Whale blowing, 3 miles from port bow
1359 Strong blow 2 miles ahead, then...
1405 Whale blowing 1½ miles to port
1415 2 Whales blowing 2 miles to starboard, reported by guests
1420-1428 2 Blue Whales, first seen 3 miles ahead and fine on the starboard bow then ¾ mile to starboard
1441 Whale blowing 2-3 miles ahead, fine on the port bow (then later to port)
1521 2 Humpback Whales, 3 miles off the starboard bow then 2 miles to starboard, one breaching and another diving with raised tail
This is an internationally important Blue Whale research area, with a population of 550-750 and other species including Fin, Sei and Humpback!
1952 4 "Lag" Dolphins, probably Peale's, approached the starboard side quietly

9 Feb 2019 – PUERTO MONTT, Chile

A Black-crowned Night Heron was photographed on an aft mooring line (*below left*) and an immature Caracara near the terminal (*below right*). Many seabirds were



seen during sail-away including Kelp Gulls, Brown-headed Gulls, Terns (species unidentified) and a few Sea Lions and guests at Chef's Table reported Dolphins at 1915

10 Feb 2019 – AT SEA, Chilean coast

- 0945 Whale reported by guests in Explorers', off the port bow
During the morning, Great Albatross (Wandering, Snowy or Royal), Pink-footed Shearwaters and at least two types of Petrels as well as Fur Seals were recorded
- 1122 2 Dolphins reported to port by guests
- 1141 Wandering Albatross passed close across the bow and away to port
- 1243 Southern Royal Albatross (*right*) photographed close to port
- 1400-1500 During the medevac, a number of Fur Seals were photographed in the vicinity but the splashing away to starboard was only waves on a rocky reef and not whales or dolphins sadly! Lots more Petrels and Shearwaters were seen during the afternoon, mainly in 2s and 3s but sometimes groups of up to 40
- 1822 Fur Seals photographed "sailing" with flippers in the air (*right*)!
- 1905 Small Whale reported by guests, blowing 3 or 4 times to starboard
- 1942 Large Whale, blowing to port, 1 mile away
- 1948 Two Whales blowing, possibly mother and calf, 1 mile to port then 3 miles aft Strong blows so possibly Fin or Blue Whale.
- 1955 Large Whale blowing to port, then port quarter aft, 2-3 miles away



11/12 Feb 2019 – VALPARAISO, Chile

Kelp Gulls, Brown-hooded Gulls, Neotropic Cormorants and Brown Pelicans around the harbour area and Sea Lions on the large mooring buoy!





Sightings Record

Viking Sun World Cruise 2019

Buenos Aires to Valparaiso

It was an amazing experience to be part of this second sector of the Viking Sun World Cruise 2019. I hope you enjoyed it as much as we have and we look forward to continuing the cruise onwards to Durban and hopefully meeting you again on a future cruise.

If you have enjoyed this report of the Buenos Aires to Valparaiso sector of the voyage, and the photographs I have included, please consider making a donation to www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk on the charity's website or via mine at www.TheWhaleandDolphinMan.co.uk

All these images, and many more, will be included in a 2019 World Cruise Wildlife DVD available for £25 (UK, PAL) or \$40 (US, NTSC) in late April 2019 (when I get home!) Keep checking my website for the final price and availability.

Various photopacks, as 6x4" or 7x5" prints, as well as selected images from this report, are also available on request from:

Robin Petch, aka TheWhaleandDolphinMan.co.uk

Thank you for your interest in my work, and the wonderful wildlife of our ocean world

Best Wishes