**We Skipped Friday the 13th!**

Friday the 13th is an ill-fated day for the superstitious. Rather than bother with worrying, we just skipped Friday the 13th altogether. Thursday night after 11:59 pm we advanced one day to Saturday, January 14 at 12:00 am.

How could we do such a thing?

Our date change happened because we crossed the International Date Line, which is an imaginary line on earth that separates two calendar dates. This happens because of earth’s rotation - when it’s daytime on one side of earth, its nighttime on the other side. The portion of earth to the east of the Date Line is one day ahead of the portion to the west.

Actually, there’s a little bit more to it. You also have to take into account the time zone. For every 15° of longitude crossed, the time zone shifts an hour. Eastward travel gains an hour and westward travel loses an hour each time you cross a time zone.

I live in the Eastern Standard time zone. When we got to Chile, we had only moved forward 1 time zone. After we set sail, however, we then moved 8 time zones backward over the course of two weeks. For the rest of the cruise, we will remain at 6 time zones behind Eastern Standard.

I’m sure you’ve experienced the strange feeling that sometimes accompanies time zone shifts. It can mess with your sleep schedule and cause a bit of confusion. Our time zone shifts were even more peculiar because they were accompanied by 24 hours of sunlight. Imagine trying to convince your brain that it’s time for bed when it’s sunny outside and your internal clock thinks it’s actually time to wake up!

If you’ve ever considered trying to skip over a Friday the 13th, just take a trip to Antarctica or another place near the International Date Line.

And because I know you love them, here are some recent wildlife photos.



