

REVIEWS

CAPE HORN AND ANTARCTIC WATERS: Including Chile, the Beagle Channel, Falkland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula – Paul Heiney. Published in hard covers by Imray, Laurie, Norie & Wilson [www.imray.com] at £60. 210 A4-size pages in full colour throughout. ISBN 978-1-8462-3836-9

I am not sure that anyone could, or even should, attempt to produce a comprehensive cruising guide to these remote and challenging cruising grounds. In compiling this latest RCC Pilotage Foundation title, Paul Heiney makes it very clear that it provides only an overview of what lies in store for the more adventurous.

The notes on preparation have been culled from many experienced sailors who have gained these insights first-hand and over many years, and I would urge anyone considering venturing this far south to read and re-read Section 1. *Preparing for the Extremes* – in which the author highlights some of the many personal skill-sets, equipment, techniques and the high levels of boat preparation required – well before departure.

There is much to be gained even by experienced sailors, and I successfully used the advice on tandem anchoring techniques (reprinted in this guide) gleaned from the RCCPF's Chile guide by Andy O'Grady* before my own adventures in Chile, South Georgia and Antarctica. There is a good sub-section on the fascinating wildlife to be found in the area, but I would recommend that anyone visiting these waters add specific books on the wildlife to be seen beneath and above the waves.

* *CHILE: Arica Desert to Tierra del Fuego*, third edition revised by Andrew O'Grady. Reviewed in *Flying Fish* 2015/2.

Section 2 provides advice and information on how to get there, in itself a challenging proposition, but the book outlines the various route options, distances, weather, currents and possible anchorages, plus what can be expected from the locals if you stop along the way! Whilst some things never change others are a moving feast. Harbours get developed, formalities are changed (sometimes for the better) and it is always a good idea to obtain the latest information – eg. the marina in Piriapolis has been extended to accommodate up to 100 boats and there is now an immigration office directly behind the marina.

Section 3 covers Chile from Valdivia to the Beagle Channel and Magellan Strait, and provides a good overview of what is to be found in these amazing cruising grounds. Once again there is plenty of background information on formalities, charts, weather and the key harbours where fuel and provisions are available, plus details of just a

handful of the many anchorages that can be explored along the way, all supported by detailed chartlets and stunning photographs to whet the appetite.

The same format covers the subsequent sections on the Beagle Channel and Cape Horn, the Falkland Islands including South Georgia, and the Antarctic Peninsula, each with information specific to the area. Here things get even more adventurous and the book provides links to other, more detailed cruising guides for each area, lists charts required, etc. Permits for South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula are getting more difficult to obtain and the rules and regulations are getting ever more stringent, but the links provided will help you find a route through these bureaucratic minefields.

As with all RCCPF guides, the quality is excellent and there are lots of top-class photographs. It achieves its aim of providing adventurous yachtsmen and women with a sufficient understanding of what can be expected when venturing south into these vast, exciting and challenging cruising grounds.

Steve Brown