

Snowy Waring's Travel Blog – 30th March 2023

Hello everyone, Snowy the Antarctic explorer here!

It is hard to believe that I have been at Rothera for 2 weeks already, the time has gone very quickly. I am missing you all and hope everyone is doing OK and that you are all enjoying my travel blog and the photos. This week I have been super busy with the BAM construction team but have also been enjoying some new recreational activities.



BAS operates 5 planes from Rothera to allow scientists to fly further into Antarctica to carry out experiments to learn more about our amazing planet. The flying season has now finished, and the planes have flown back to Canada, but I visited the Operations Tower which is used to communicate with the pilots when they are in the air and also to speak to the scientists who are working in the field. It must be a very busy place during the flying season as there are many screens, radios, computers displaying all sorts of information to safely manage all of BAS's activities.



I have also been out on site with BAM and got the chance to ride in the cab of one of the big dump trucks that are used to move rock around the construction site. They are HUGE things, much bigger than any cars I have been in before. See if you can see me in the photo below.....Where's Snowy??? 😊



As well as the big trucks there are 2 big yellow cranes that lift all sorts of things that are needed to put together the new building for BAS. One of the crane drivers is from Belfast and he was kind enough to let me sit in his seat as he explained how the crane works and what all the levers and buttons are for. We had a brilliant time as you can see!



The construction team all work for 12 hours a day, 6 days a week due to the short Antarctic Summer season and typically have their day off on Sunday. This is chance for them to relax and catch up on their sleep, watch movies or read books and to recharge their batteries after a tiring week of work.

Alternatively, if the weather is good, then for those like me with boundless energy, it is time for some recreation and adventure. Last Sunday Billy took me on the most amazing day out ever as we headed away from the base on a SkiDoo, which is like a motorbike for travelling on snow and ice. It was so much fun, zooming about with the wind in my fur. #

We travelled to a part of BAS's recreation area called Vals, about 2 miles away from the research station, where I learnt to ski. It was an unforgettable experience, with such beautiful mountains, snow and ice in all directions and oh so quiet, except for my roars of delight as I played in the powdery snow!!



After all that exercise we had a lovely cup of hot chocolate in a bright red cabin at the bottom of Vals called the Caboose. We melted the snow on a little stove and sat inside the Caboose on sheep skin rugs, it was very cosy indeed and I definitely needed the rest. The Caboose is used for escaping the weather and having a drink and maybe something to eat. You can even stay inside it overnight which would be incredible but that will have to wait for another time, perhaps!



Phew, what a tiring few days for such a little bear. Time for me to go and recharge so I am ready for all of next week's fun and excitement in Antarctica.

Keep safe and well.

Snowy.