

# ANTARCTICA & THE HIGH ARCTIC

INCLUDING THE ROSS SEA, SOUTH GEORGIA & FALKLAND ISLANDS



**LUXURY &**  
EXPEDITION CRUISES  
BY TAILOR-MADE JOURNEYS

INCLUDING EXPEDITION CRUISES TO  
**BRITISH ISLES, THE KIMBERLEY, GALAPAGOS & AMAZON**



# ANTARCTIC & ARCTIC SPECIALISTS

Antarctica & Arctic Luxury & Expeditions Cruises is the specialist Polar arm of Tailor-Made Journeys (formerly South America Travel Centre – since 1995). We are a wholly owned Australian company.

We are an associate member of the **International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO)** and an affiliate member of the **Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO)** as well as an **ATAS** accredited member of **AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents)**.

As an Independent agent, unlike a cruise/ship operators, we're not tied to selling particular ships; we have hand-picked a number of smaller vessels (with less than 200 passengers) and Antarctic and Arctic operators who we know well and can trust to provide you with a holiday of a lifetime.

We also have significant first-hand experience of a wide range of ships and operators.

As a result we can select a ship, operator and an itinerary that best suits your personal requirements.

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SPITSBERGEN - HIGH ARCTIC



## PASSIONATE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE EXPERTS

With many years of first-hand experience in Antarctica and the High Arctic upon which to draw, we are eager to pass on our knowledge and enthusiasm. It was 2001 when I undertook the first of numerous voyages to Antarctica and the Arctic. The 'White Continent' became my passion, along with the Falkland Islands and - my outright favourite - the wild and magnificent island of South Georgia home to over 100,000 pairs of king penguins as well as (in my opinion) the world's most beautiful bird, the wandering albatross. In the North (the Arctic) it's the archipelagos of Svalbard and Franz Josef Land and the incredible wildlife that draws me back. More recently a voyage to the top of the world, the North Pole (2018) fulfilled a long-held ambition.

My team and I have first-hand experience and knowledge of six Polar operators which enable us to offer the expert advice that will ensure your journey to the Polar regions is not only your trip of a lifetime but an 'experience of life' you will never forget.



*Alex Burridge*  
Managing Director



## THE ANTARCTIC SEASON

In simple terms the Antarctic Peninsula, Falkland Islands and South Georgia open up for exploration in late October and early November and the season runs through until March when the shortening days and encroaching sea ice close this magical place to all but the hardest visitor. Voyages to the Ross Sea operate in January and February.

**November:** If you would like to witness the dominant bull elephant seals battling for control of a harem of females on the beaches of South Georgia, you must take an early season voyage – leave it too long and the bulls will have headed out to sea. On the Peninsula the penguins are arriving and beginning their courtship displays.

**December:** The daylight hours are long and the beaches and hillsides are now hectic with tens of thousands (sometimes more) of courting penguins.

**January:** After a relatively brief period of calm while both parents are incubating the eggs, the penguin colonies erupt into activity once again and feeding newly hatched, hungry and fast-growing chicks becomes a full time job.

**February:** Seals, skuas, petrels and penguins are all busy attending to their sub-adult young and the 'summer' will soon be over. Penguin chicks slowly lose their down, to be replaced by their adult feathers.

**March:** Whales, who have been busy feeding throughout the Antarctic summer, seem to have more time now to investigate their visitors (us!); leopard seals have an easy time catching juvenile penguins who are taking their first swim – and then the brief season abruptly comes to a close.

## WEATHER

Antarctic weather is unpredictable. Surprisingly it's generally not that cold. Any voyage can experience extreme conditions, shortly followed by beautiful clear days – in fact the best weather very often follows a storm. Calm conditions will often lead to low cloud or fog. The infamous Drake Passage can be the "Drake Lake" or the "Drake Shake" and there's no certainty as to which one you'll experience (for those who simply don't want to consider crossing the Drake Passage, a Fly-Cruise voyage is the answer). We suggest you 'pack' a 'flexible attitude'.

## SITES

There are over 100 sites to visit on the Antarctic Peninsula, some more renowned like Deception Island and the Lemaire Channel, others less well known but equally beautiful, like Cierva Cove and Spert Island. On the Falkland Islands and South Georgia there are another 50+ sites of interest. The problem is less which sites to choose than which ones there is simply not enough time to include.

No two voyage itineraries will be the same, even with the same ship and the same operator. There are many factors that influence the itinerary and the three major considerations are:



» **Selection of sites** occurs only three months before the particular season commences and is governed by the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO – see page 49) to ensure ships and their passengers are evenly

distributed among the many sites and you don't end up with several ships queuing at one site to go ashore.

» **Weather conditions** – in particular heavy seas when crossing from Ushuaia to the Peninsula or to the Falklands and South Georgia.

» **Local conditions** at each site – sea ice can block entry to many sites, particularly early in the season (both the Lemaire Channel and Deception Island can be 'closed' for this reason). Strong winds, fog, and a large swell can also prevent the use of the Zodiacs (rubber inflatable boats) needed to visit the majority of sites. We mention this to prepare you and request, when travelling, to bring along a flexible attitude, a degree of patience, and an understanding that, in the face of the powerful forces of nature, we don't set the agenda and changes may be necessary. The wonderful thing is that very often the 'replacement' site turns out to be even better than the original choice for that day.



# ANTARCTIC PENINSULA & SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS



The Peninsula is the most northerly part of the mainland of Antarctica, lying only about 1,000km across the Drake Passage from Tierra del Fuego, South America's southernmost tip. It is one of the continent's richest breeding grounds for penguins, seals and seabirds. And to its north-west stretches a 540km-long chain of four groups of volcanic islands that together make up the South Shetlands.

## DECEPTION ISLAND

The island is the flooded caldera of an active volcano, creating a natural harbour accessed through a narrow gap known as Neptune's Bellows. The volcano, an abandoned whaling station, and an old airstrip are three of the interesting features of this site. For those so inclined there are some great hikes and, on a clear day, some stunning views.



## LEMAIRE CHANNEL

Just 1600m wide at its narrowest point and hemmed by steep cliffs, this is an 11km-long strait between the Antarctic continent (Graham Land) and Booth Island with its 1000m-high peaks. The channel's protected waters are often as still as a lake, a relatively rare occurrence in the Southern Ocean, and provide incredible photographic opportunities of nature at its best. The principal difficulty encountered is that icebergs may fill the channel, especially early in the season.



## WILHELMINA BAY

This 24km wide, glaciated bay along the west coast of Graham Land was discovered by Gerlache during the Belgian Antarctic Expedition of 1897-99 and named for the young Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands. Mountains and high glaciers surround the bay which is a bountiful feeding ground for whales and seals – and was therefore a prolific hunting ground for whalers of the past; the wreck of the whale factory ship "Gouvernøren", sunk in 1916 after a fire, can still be seen.

## PARADISE HARBOUR

Surrounded by ice cliffs and heavily glaciated mountains that are reflected back by the calm waters, this bay is undeniably beautiful and was named by the whalers of the early 1920s in recognition of its splendour. It is home to an abundance of seals, penguins, cormorants and petrels, and also a popular destination for those wanting to witness huge ice calving from the glacier at the head of the bay.



## HALF MOON ISLAND

This small, crescent-shaped rocky island in a bay on the eastern side of Livingston Island was known to sealers as early as 1821, although perhaps to no one else. Its creviced cliffs are home to a large rookery of chinstrap penguins as well as nesting Antarctic terns and kelp gulls; whales are often seen patrolling the shores and several species of seals are regular visitors. The Argentine navy has maintained a small summer only research station here since 1953.



# EXPLORING THE PENINSULA



To gain the most from any voyage it's essential to have a variety of excursions. Some areas are best appreciated from the vantage point of the ship, others discovered in the Zodiacs, and still others explored on foot.

## ZODIAC CRUISING

With an expert guide to navigate, Zodiac cruising offers access to places that may otherwise be out of reach. And the inflatable get you closer to icebergs, to seals and occasionally 'spy hopping' whales, and to sites where landing is not possible. Reminding you to "dress warmly" may seem ridiculous but is relative to where you are, and on a Zodiac excursion you must ensure you have extra layers because you're sitting for some time (not moving around and creating your own body heat) and this, together with the wind chill, keeps temperatures low.



## LANDING ON THE 7TH CONTINENT!

It is always the intention on every voyage that you actually set foot on the continent of Antarctica (not on a nearby island). There are several ideal landing places and, given the relatively protected nature of the western side of the peninsula, you will realise that dream.

## ANTARCTIC PENINSULA WILDLIFE

Reaching further north than any other part of Antarctica and having land free of permanent snow and ice means the peninsula has a concentration of wildlife found nowhere else on the continent.

**Penguin species** found on the peninsula, especially near the tip and on surrounding islands, include: chinstrap, gentoo and Adélie (and, very occasionally, emperor). Some colonies have just a few hundred pairs, while other populations number more than 10,000.

**Seals** include: Leopard, Weddell, southern elephant seal and crabeater, the most populous seal, with tens of millions of these krill (not crab) -eating animals.

**Seabirds** of the Southern Ocean and on the peninsula include: Fulmar, giant petrel, cape petrel, snow petrel, Wilson's storm petrel, Imperial shag, snowy sheathbill, skua, prion, Antarctic tern and wandering albatross.

**Whales include:** Minke, humpback, sei, fin and orca who all head south for the summer. For the incredibly fortunate, blue whales are occasionally seen, perhaps when crossing the Antarctic Convergence (roughly around latitude 55° South) where the cold, nutrient-rich waters of the Antarctic circumpolar current meet and mix with warmer waters to the north - the result is a high concentration of krill and therefore the animals that feed on krill.





# THE FALKLAND ISLANDS



BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS



ROCK-HOPPER PENGUIN



LONG TAILED MEADOWLARK

A trip to the Falkland Islands will be part of most longer voyages (15 nights or more) and, far more than just a convenient break en route to South Georgia, it can be a highlight of these trips. The birdlife is really quite spectacular, while the rugged landscapes offer some great hikes and excellent photographic opportunities. Add the history of the 1982 Falklands War, referred to locally as 'the conflict', and you begin to get an idea of how much interest the Falklands has to offer – particularly when in combination and contrast with both South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula.

## SAUNDERS ISLAND

Lying north-west of West Falkland is the stunning Saunders Island, the fourth largest of the Falkland Islands; it boasts three small peaks and is run as a sheep farm. Birds of which the island is of conservation significance include the Falkland steamer duck (250 breeding pairs), ruddy-headed goose, gentoo penguin (6,700 pairs), rock-hopper penguin (6,900 pairs), macaroni penguin (4,200 pairs), and black-browed albatross (11,000 pairs).

## WEST POINT ISLAND

Only 6km long with a maximum width of 4km, the main destination on this tiny island is Devil's Nose, a rocky promontory with over 2,000 pairs of black-browed albatrosses and about 500 pairs of rock-hopper penguins. The hike from the landing point is not too demanding and affords incredible views as well as good proximity to the albatross colony. Often completing the visit is an invitation to enjoy some Falklands hospitality with home-baked cakes and a welcome cup of tea.

## PORT STANLEY

The small capital of the Falklands, with around 3,000 people, offers many activities and the choice is yours. You can wander around the town, visit the excellent museum and small galleries showing locally produced artwork, or enjoy a pint in one of the three pubs. A regular option is to visit nearby Gypsy Cove, either by vehicle or on foot (6km), while the wreck of the iron barque 'Lady Elizabeth' that has lain in Whalebone Cove since 1936 will offer more great photographic opportunities.

## WILDLIFE

The Falkland Islands are a birder's paradise with two endemic species – the Falklands flightless steamer duck and Cobb's wren – as well as a number of others unlikely to be seen anywhere else, with over 220 different bird species having been recorded here. As well as five species of penguin (gentoo, macaroni, rock-hopper, Magellanic and king - low numbers), the islands are home to 60% of the world's breeding black-browed albatross. Commerson's and Peale's dolphins are also quite common, the former often seen riding the bow wave of Zodiacs as you go ashore.



# SOUTH GEORGIA



South Georgia is one of the most stunning places on earth. This small archipelago rears up from the Southern Ocean to a height of almost 3,000 metres. The rugged landscape forms a dramatic backdrop to the many beaches and coves which are home to millions of penguins and petrels, thousands of elephant and fur seals and hundreds of albatrosses.

## SALISBURY PLAIN

This wide coastal plain within the Bay of Isles on the north coast of South Georgia is flanked by the mouths of two large glaciers, Grace and Lucas. It is legendary as the breeding site for as many as 200,000 king penguins - words cannot do justice to the sight and sound of tens of thousands of birds dotting the plain and lining the rivers and streams. The beaches also throng with elephant seals and southern fur seals. In 1912-13, the American ornithologist, Robert Cushman Murphy, was first to make a detailed study of the birds in the area (he also famously wrote "I now belong to a higher cult of mortals, for I have seen the albatross!")



## GRYTVIKEN

Established in a natural harbour, Grytviken is the final resting place of the great polar explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton. After the loss of their ship in the Weddell Sea, Shackleton, Frank Worsley and Tom Crean crossed 1,500km of the roughest seas in the world from Elephant Island in the 8m-long open boat 'James Caird', then traversed uncharted glaciers and mountains that form the backbone of South Georgia, from King Haakon Bay to Stromness. From here Shackleton made his way to Buenos Aires and finally back to Elephant Island to rescue all of his men. You can visit his grave in Grytviken and also explore the old abandoned whaling station, and a fascinating museum, and hike up on to the surrounding cliff tops.



## PRINCE OLAV HARBOUR

The site of one of the island's seven main whaling stations established by the Norwegians in 1911, it was initially a floating factory site before a shore station was set up in 1916 and continued until March 1931.

## WILDLIFE

South Georgia is like the Serengeti of the sub-Antarctic islands but instead of wildebeest, there are hundreds of thousands of king penguins. The archipelago is also home to two endemic birds, the South Georgia pipit and pintail. Four species of albatross make South Georgia home: wandering, grey-headed, light-mantled sooty and black-browed.

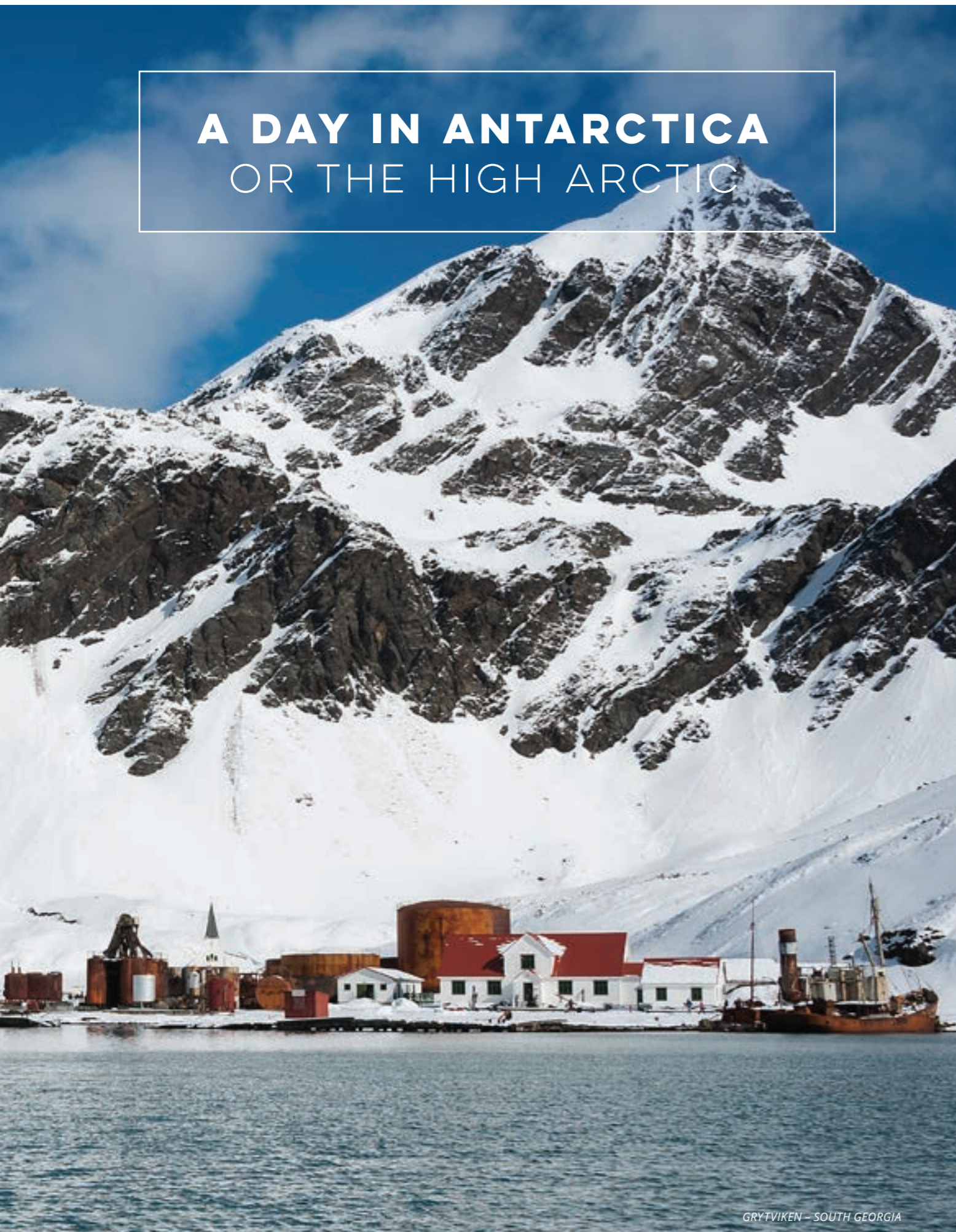


## ELEPHANT SEALS

The giants of South Georgia, male elephant seals are a spectacular sight. To see them in action you must head to the island on the first voyages of the season (November). The dominant bulls, or 'beachmasters', fight to control an area with tens, occasionally hundreds, of females. Elephant seals are great examples of sexual dimorphism with males being more than five times the size of the females.



# A DAY IN ANTARCTICA OR THE HIGH ARCTIC



GRYTVIKEN - SOUTH GEORGIA



In many ways it can be said there is no 'typical' day, as no two days are ever alike. You may be woken by the announcement that breakfast will be served in half an hour - or that there is a pod of orcas off the starboard bow! If there were a typical day, it might unfold something like this:

7:00AM

Many guests will rise some time before breakfast to soak up the views from the bridge, the lounge or out on deck (the more time you spend looking, the more you will see).

10:30AM

After a hearty buffet breakfast there's usually a briefing about the morning's activity. Armed with the knowledge of what to expect, you'll be given adequate notice to get ready and, once the ship is anchored, it's time to climb into the Zodiacs and set off.

1:00PM

After exploring either by Zodiac or on foot, it's back to your floating hotel, perhaps for a shower, then a warming drink and later lunch. Depending on the locality of the next site, there may be time for an absorbing presentation, time to socialise in the ship's lounge, or to review your images taken on the morning's excursion.

3:30PM

With batteries recharged (your own and your camera's), if the next site is not too far away, you'll don your gear once again and venture out in the mid-afternoon or early evening for further exploration. Maybe you'll cruise past thousand-year-old icebergs, or visit penguin colonies that number in thousands; on another day it could be an impromptu stop to enjoy whales spy-hopping (where they raise their heads straight up out of the water to check out their visitors). Excursions can last anywhere from 1-3 hours.

7:00PM

Back aboard ship, with time to change and warm up before dinner.

9:00PM

After dinner the time is yours - simply to take it easy, chat with your fellow passengers, or to join some of the expedition crew in the bar or lounge for a relaxed but informative discussion about Shackleton, or whaling, or albatross conservation...

## DAYS AT SEA

Time at sea is put to very good use. A series of on-board presentations by the assembled experts (expedition staff) will have you well informed and prepared for your trips ashore, as well as equipping you to return home as ambassadors for the marvellous places you have visited. Petrels, prions, shearwaters and particularly albatrosses accompany the ships on the longer sea crossings. Whales can be spotted at any time, especially as you cross the Antarctic Convergence, where the cold nutrient-rich waters of the Southern Ocean meet the warmer waters of the Atlantic Ocean.





# EXPLORING ANTARCTICA

Broadly speaking, voyages can be divided into five categories:

~ FLY-CRUISE ~

~ ANTARCTIC PENINSULA ~

~ ANTARCTIC PENINSULA INCLUDING ANTARCTIC CIRCLE ~

~ FALKLAND ISLANDS, SOUTH GEORGIA AND ANTARCTIC PENINSULA ~

~ SOUTH GEORGIA ~

The following pages will provide an example of each of the above.

## FLY-CRUISE VOYAGES

If you want to maximise your time in Antarctica, as well as avoiding the long sea crossings of the Drake Passage, then flying between Punta Arenas in Chile to King George Island in Antarctica's South Shetland Islands is a perfect solution. Some ships offer this option for one of the Drake Passage crossings (i.e. cruise one direction and fly the other).

*Note: Weather conditions need to be suitable for landing and take-off in Antarctica and you must understand that delays could occur – that said, most voyages depart and return as planned and, with many years of experience in the coordination of air and sea operations, the operators do all they can to ensure delays are minimised.*



## CLASSIC ANTARCTICA FLY-CRUISE

### DAY 1 PUNTA ARENAS

Arrive in Punta Arenas, Chile, where you are welcomed and transferred to your hotel. In the afternoon, attend a briefing that provides important information about your voyage and reviews the essential guidelines for Antarctic visitors. Later, gather for a welcome dinner and meet your fellow adventurers while enjoying a typical regional menu.

### DAY 2 FLY TO ANTARCTICA

Your Antarctic adventure begins with a 2-hour flight from Punta Arenas to King George Island in the South Shetland Islands. As you exit the airplane, the clear Antarctic air fills your lungs for the first time. Explore the area surrounding Chile's Frei Station and Russia's Bellingshausen Station before boarding a Zodiac to embark your expedition vessel Ocean Nova.

### DAYS 3-6 ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Cruise between the South Shetlands and the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, sailing along ice-filled fjords and among spectacular icebergs while enjoying the company of sea birds, penguins, seals and whales. Each day disembark by Zodiac and explore the landscape with your expert polar guides.

### DAY 7 DEPART ANTARCTICA

Return to King George Island and bid farewell to Antarctica before boarding the flight back to Punta Arenas. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel for overnight.

### DAY 8 DEPART PUNTA ARENAS

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your onward flight. Pre- and post-voyage nights in Punta Arenas are included as indicated. In part this makes good sense and affords maximum flexibility as there are often quite small weather windows in which to fly and the operator will know where all passengers are and can quickly respond.

## POLAR CIRCLE FLY-CRUISE

For the more adventurous traveller, this expedition extends your time on the Antarctic Peninsula by 2 additional nights, with the goal of sailing farther south in an attempt to reach the Antarctic Circle (66° 33' S).

SHIPS OFFERING FLY-CRUISE VOYAGES:

#### Expedition/Luxury

Magellan Explorer, Ocean Albatros

#### Expedition

Ocean Nova, Ocean Adventurer



# ANTARCTIC PENINSULA VOYAGES



A great introduction to Antarctica, exploring the world's last great wilderness.

## DAY 1 USHUAIA

Today is the first day of your adventure when you board your vessel in Ushuaia, the world's Southern most city at the tip of Argentina. In the early evening the ship sets sail on its voyage, leaving the city behind and charting a course through the Beagle Channel.

## DAYS 2-3 DRAKE PASSAGE

Crossing the Drake Passage, there is much excitement in the air as you make your way ever closer to the White Continent. Everyone eagerly soaks up the friendly atmosphere aboard as the numerous Polar experts prepare you for your adventures with presentations on everything Antarctic, from wildlife to history. As you cross the Antarctic Convergence, you will notice a distinct drop in temperature when you enter the waters of the Antarctic Ocean. Along the way, you will witness many spectacular sights, from icebergs to an array of seabirds and even several whale species, among them blue, sei, humpback and fin whales.

## DAYS 4-8 ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

In the waterways of the Antarctic Peninsula, it is hoped to make as much time as possible to explore by inflatable Zodiacs and marvel up close at nature's glory. Planned excursions might include Neko Harbour, Wilhelmina Bay, and even the southerly Petermann Island, where you will see Weddell, crabeater and elephant seals, skuas and other seabirds, as well as a stunning abundance of penguins including some very large colonies of the comical Adélie penguin. At Half Moon Island you can see a breeding colony of chinstrap penguins that share their territory with fur seals and blue-eyed shags. With luck you might also see the gentle humpback whale dining on krill in its feeding grounds and possibly have an opportunity to observe orcas and minke whales as you go. Finally, perhaps at Paradise Harbour, Hope Bay or Neko Harbour, you will arrive on the continent of Antarctica. Prepare to be dazzled by your first glimpse of the continent as the scenery here is amazing. In particular you will be struck by the oddly-shaped icebergs that look as if they've

been sculpted, as well as the colossal tabular icebergs that break away from the continent's ice shelf. If the weather is mild enough, you will all set foot on the White Continent itself.

## DAYS 9-10 DRAKE PASSAGE

As you leave this magical place and make your way north, heading again across the Antarctic Convergence and the Drake Passage before rounding Cape Horn, there is no doubt that time will be spent sharing and reflecting on the wonderful experiences of the last few days. Sailing up the Beagle Channel, you will celebrate the conclusion of your polar expedition at a special dinner.

## DAY 11 USHUAIA

In the early morning, arrive back in Ushuaia. It is time to say goodbye to your crew and fellow travellers. You will be transferred to your hotel or to the airport for your onward flight. Note: Sites mentioned will vary by ship, voyage and time of year.

SHIPS OFFERING SIMILAR ITINERARIES:

### Luxury Ships

Silver Cloud (200), Silver Wind (200), L'Austral (200), Le Boreal (200), Le Lyrial (200), Le Soleal (200), National Geographic Orion (102)

### Expedition/Luxury Ships

Greg Mortimer (130), Sea Spirit (114), World Explorer (176), Hondius (176), Ultramarine (200), Hanseatic Inspiration (199), National Geographic Explorer (148), National Geographic Endurance (126), Island Sky (114), Sylvia Earle (132), Seaventure (149), Ocean Victory (189), Janssonius (170)

### Expedition Ships

Ocean Adventurer (132), Ocean Endeavour (199), Ocean Diamond (189)



# ANTARCTIC CIRCLE VOYAGES



LEMAIRE CHANNEL

These longer Antarctic Peninsula voyages operate from late December as the ice recedes and vessels can usually push a little further south, with the goal of crossing the Antarctic Circle. They are a great option for maximising your time on the Antarctic Peninsula, more wildlife and more amazing polar scenery.

## DAY 1 USHUAIA

Upon embarking your vessel in the afternoon and being welcomed aboard by your crew, there will be time to settle in before departing Ushuaia and charting a course through the Beagle Channel.

## DAYS 2-3 DRAKE PASSAGE

The crossing of the infamous Drake Passage could be a challenging or a tranquil introduction to your Antarctic adventure but either way will certainly be exciting. Your expedition team will be on deck looking out for whales and identifying seabirds, or preparing you for the wonders that await with informative presentations on everything from wildlife to history.

## DAYS 4-10 ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

On reaching the waters around the Antarctic Peninsula, the first goal will be to head directly south to the Antarctic Circle (66° 33' S) and into Matha Strait or Marguerite Bay. The farther south you go, the more sea ice is found and the aim is to cross the circle before getting stopped by this ice. Few ships venture this far south and you will be able to take full advantage of being on a modern, ice-strengthened vessel of this calibre. Given favourable conditions, the ship will push its exploration even

further southward, looking for historic and wildlife sites. From its most southerly point (south of the circle) it will then make its way north, cruising through the narrow waterways and channels of the Antarctic Peninsula. Spectacular waterways such as Crystal Sound, the Lemaire Channel, the Neumeyer Channel and the Gerlache Strait will all feature in your itinerary. Landing sites might include Neko Harbour, Wilhelmina Bay, Petermann Island and the Yalours, where you can observe Weddell, crabeater and elephant seals, skuas and other seabirds, as well as an abundance of penguins including some very large colonies of Adélies. Sharing territory on Half Moon Island with fur seals is a breeding colony of chinstrap penguins, and as you proceed along the peninsula you may spot orcas and minke whales and perhaps gentle humpbacks. The expedition team will plan on walking ashore on the mainland of Antarctica at Paradise Harbour or Neko Harbour. Although it will not be your first glimpse of the Antarctic, a walk ashore among its breathtaking scenery will evoke emotions you will carry with you for the rest of your life - in particular the sight of the weather-sculpted icebergs and the immense tabular icebergs that have broken away from the continent's ice shelf. Some passengers may wish to camp ashore overnight. Whatever your vantage point, whether it is on board or ashore, expect to feel transformed as you experience twilight from the very bottom of the planet.



## DAYS 11-12 DRAKE PASSAGE

Reluctantly leaving this extraordinary place and heading north, once again crossing the Drake Passage, the ship will round Cape Horn before turning towards Ushuaia. As you sail up the Beagle Channel, you and your fellow explorers will reflect on your wonderful polar experiences as you share a celebratory dinner.

## DAY 13 USHUAIA

Arrive back in Ushuaia in the early morning and farewell your crew and new friends before being transferred to your hotel or to the airport for your onward flight. Note: Sites mentioned will vary by ship, voyage and time of year.

This itinerary is just an example and durations for Antarctic Circle voyages may vary from 12 - 14 nights, depending on the season, the ship and the operator, and whether pre-voyage accommodation is included.

Please refer to the insert for all dates, durations and cabin prices, or go to our website where you can see each ship's detailed itineraries: [www.antarctictravelcentre.com.au](http://www.antarctictravelcentre.com.au). Even better, call one of our specialists on 1300 668 112 and they'll be pleased to help you select the best option.



## SHIPS OFFERING SIMILAR ITINERARIES:

### Luxury Ships

Silver Cloud (200), Silver Wind (200), L'Austral (200), Le Boreal (200), Le Lyrial (200), Le Soleal (200), National Geographic Orion (102)

### Expedition/Luxury Ships

Greg Mortimer (130), Sea Spirit (114), Sylvia Earle (132), Seaventure (149), World Explorer (176), Hondius (176), Ultramarine (200), Ocean Victory (189), Janssonius (170), Hanseatic Inspiration (199), National Geographic Explorer (148), National Geographic Endurance (126), Island Sky (114),

### Expedition Ships

Ocean Adventurer (132), Ocean Endeavour (199), Ocean Diamond (189), Ortelius, Plancius



# ANTARCTICA, FALKLAND ISLANDS & SOUTH GEORGIA VOYAGES



If your time and budget will stretch to a longer trip, these voyages offer an incredible experience of the sub-Antarctic islands as well as the Antarctic Peninsula. Be warned – many people choose a shorter voyage, only to find themselves travelling back to Antarctica on a second trip to include the fascinating Falkland Islands and South Georgia, with all its stunning wild beauty and accessible wildlife.

## DAY 1 USHUAIA

The excitement of the journey ahead begins as soon as you have been assigned your cabin aboard and the ship anchor to enter the Beagle Channel, quickly leaving the world's southernmost city receding into the distance.

## DAY 2 AT SEA

As you head towards the Falklands, there is plenty of time to spend with the on-board polar experts who will be pleased to educate you about the wonders of Antarctica. Sailing northeast, you'll likely be joined by swooping seabirds including the wandering albatross that you'll come to know well on this journey.

## DAYS 3-4 FALKLAND ISLANDS

Reaching the Falklands overnight and eager to make a first shore excursion, the plan is to explore the islands of the West Falkland archipelago, home to a profusion of seabirds and migratory birds. The first penguin sightings will be on the island of West Point with its bustling rookeries of rock-hoppers, alongside a great colony of black-browed albatrosses. On Saunders Island, you will see nesting macaroni penguins along with oystercatchers, geese and flightless steamer ducks that are permanent Falkland residents. Next day make a stop in the capital, Port Stanley, on East Falkland Island and wander the streets of brightly painted houses, perhaps visiting the memorials of the 1982 British-Argentine conflict.

## DAYS 5-6 AT SEA

The ship turns south-east and heads for South Georgia and, when you're not scanning the horizon in search of whales and seabirds, the on-board experts will tell you tales of the whalers and sealers who reached this wild island, and fill your minds with heroic stories of the polar explorers, including Shackleton's epic feat of courage.

## DAYS 7-9 SOUTH GEORGIA

Majestic snow-covered mountains greet you on South Georgia, the most rugged island in this region. You will cruise the protected waters of the eastern coast looking for suitable landing spots, like Salisbury Plain and St Andrews Bay. The highlight of both these excursions is the mind-boggling numbers of king penguin adults and young that live in these locations by the hundreds of thousands, covering every inch of the shore. But that is not the only wildlife on display; fur seals can be seen poking their heads above the water, skuas and giant petrels swoop in the skies above, while the albatross, your constant companion, is never far away. South Georgia is also home to roughly 300,000 elephant seals and an estimated 5 million macaroni penguins. It is also hoped to explore the old whaling station at Grytviken and visit Sir Ernest Shackleton's grave.

## DAYS 10-12 AT SEA & SOUTH ORKNEYS

As the ship crosses the Scotia Sea, sailing ever closer to Antarctica, a visit is planned to the South Orkney Islands\* which are linked to the Antarctic Peninsula by an enormous submarine mountain range, the often mist-shrouded islands protected by large icebergs and sea ice. \*On early season voyages pack ice has not melted sufficiently to allow access.

## DAYS 13-16 SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS & ANTARCTIC MAINLAND

Next you will spend some time cruising among South Shetland's islands that frame the north-west edge of the Antarctic Peninsula, providing some shelter from the winds. Dazzling wildlife sightings await on your excursions to some of these islands that may include King George, Half Moon, Barrientos or Livingston. Adélie, chinstrap and gentoo penguins thrive here as do several species of seals, and you may see yet more whales. If the weather allows, you might visit the flooded volcanic caldera of Deception Island. For those wanting to stretch their legs, a spectacular hike to the crater rim offers a challenge. Finally, after so much anticipation, you will arrive at the Antarctic mainland in Paradise Harbour or Hope Bay. The scenery here - from the colossal icebergs to the seemingly endless Antarctic ice sheet - is truly astounding. Conditions permitting, you will undertake a shore excursion and set foot on the White Continent itself.

## DAYS 17-18 DRAKE PASSAGE

The ship's bow turns north towards South America and you may look back with some sadness as Antarctica is left behind. But the sights and experiences of the past days will live long in your memory and the completion of your journey is celebrated at a final dinner.

## DAY 19 USHUAIA

Having sailed up the Beagle Channel through the night, the early morning arrival at Ushuaia becomes a flurry of activity and there is a rush to farewell your crew and companions as you disembark and transfer to your hotel or the airport for your onward flight.

Note: Sites mentioned will vary by ship, voyage and time of year. This itinerary is just an example and durations for Antarctica, Falkland Islands & South Georgia voyages may vary from 18 – 22 nights, depending on the season, the ship and the operator, and whether pre-voyage accommodation is included.

Please refer to the insert for all dates, durations and cabin prices, or go to our website where you can see each ship's detailed itineraries: [www.antarcticatravelcentre.com.au/voyages](http://www.antarcticatravelcentre.com.au/voyages).

Even better, call one of our specialists on 1300 668 112 and they'll be pleased to help you select the best option.

### SHIPS OFFERING SIMILAR ITINERARIES:

While these are among our featured vessels, there are other ships operating this route and we would be happy to discuss them with you.

### Luxury Ships

Silver Cloud (200), Silver Wind (200), LAustral (200), Le Boreal (200), Le Lyrial (200), Le Soleal (200),





## ROSS SEA

Few places in the world remain as pristine, untouched and rugged as the Ross Sea region of Antarctica. Unharmed by human activity, a voyage to this area is simply incomparable. With ice strengthened ships equipped to make their way through the pack ice in a safe and comfortable manner, this region should be added to the list of any traveller seeking an opportunity to explore less visited, uncharted territories. Marvel at the beauty of the surrounding mountains towering above you along with glacial ice tongues, vast ice shelves, mystical icebergs and drifting sea ice. Take a visit to the various penguin rookeries and witness the beauty of the seals and whales as they swim around you.

As a region flooded with wildlife and beautiful scenery, it's no surprise that slowly more and more ships are making their way down to the unique destination. This being said, only a handful of expedition ships taking travellers are allowed to visit each season. To experience untouched scenery and protected nature in this magnitude is truly a unique experience and one that simply cannot be put into words.

#### SHIPS OFFERING THIS DESTINATION:

Ortelius (108) and Heritage Adventurer (140)



## AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND SUB-ANTARCTICA ISLANDS

Located in the remote Southern Ocean (south of New Zealand) lie the untouched, rugged and wild paradise of Australia's and New Zealand's Sub Antarctic Islands (including Macquarie, Auckland, Snares, Enderby, Chatham and Stewart). Sometimes referred to as the 'Galapagos of the Southern Ocean' from the moment you set foot on the first island, it won't take you long to realise why. Often overlooked or forgotten as a cruising destination, these islands are home to an abundance of wildlife – some not found anywhere else in the world.

Drop anchor near Campbell Island, where Southern Right Whales come to calve and Campbell Island Shags and Light-mantled Sooty Albatross roam the skies. Experience the abundance of wildlife on Macquarie Island, home to thousands of seals and millions of penguins along with many species of birds, plants and invertebrates found nowhere else in the world. What seem to be just specks of land in the Southern Ocean are all deemed UNESCO World Heritage sites and protected by both Australia and New Zealand for their committed wildlife refuges. These islands can be visited on board a cruise just on their own or on the way to the Ross Sea region of Antarctica. There is a strict management plan for the conservation and protection of the islands, which restricts the number of people allowed on shore each year.

#### SHIPS OFFERING THIS DESTINATION:

Ortelius (108) and Heritage Adventurer (140)



## ACTIVITIES: KAYAKING & CAMPING



### KAYAKING

#### ANTARCTICA AND HIGH ARCTIC

Kayaking in Antarctica or the Arctic is probably one of the most intimate and inspiring ways you can explore these incredible regions, gliding through the silent waters, taking in its magnificent beauty, and perhaps experiencing close encounters with wildlife. Kayak excursions will be offered in conjunction with the Zodiac excursions whenever weather conditions permit. The choice of activities at each landing site will be explained to help you decide what to participate in, based on your own interests.

#### WHO CAN DO IT?

Again, programmes are aimed at any adventurous passenger with a basic paddling ability. The guides are experienced instructors and will help you with any additional skills you might require. In addition, they will tailor the kayak excursions to your skill level and advise when you should or shouldn't be paddling.

#### WHAT IS PROVIDED?

Drysuits, kayak-specific PFDs (personal flotation devices), neoprene booties, a waterproof deck bag, pogies, and many other vital paddling accessories.

Note: Kayaking is highly weather-dependent. Your kayak guides will always attempt to take you out as many times as is safe throughout your voyage. All operators charge a non-refundable fee for kayaking. There are very limited places on this option and it should be added at the time of booking - due to its great popularity, it is not available for booking on board the vessel.



### CAMPING

#### ANTARCTICA ONLY

Not very many people have the opportunity to say they've camped on the '7th Continent'. Picture it ... you are lying in your sleeping bag listening to the crackling and grumbling of glaciers, the splintering of icebergs and the soothing sounds of water and brash ice washing onto the beach. Who said that sleep would come easy? But when it does, you drift away knowing you are breathing pristine air and experiencing something very few others have. After your night ashore, you will be taken back to your expedition vessel so that you can enjoy a hot shower, perhaps a sauna, and then a delicious breakfast in the dining room.

#### WHO CAN DO IT?

Directed at any passenger with an adventurous spirit and an ability to "rough it" for a night, this activity has proven very popular. Sleeping under the midnight sun, ashore in Antarctica, is something to write home about. The experienced expedition team will select a camping site that is snow-covered and isolated from any breeding wildlife.

#### WHAT IS PROVIDED?

All of the camping gear required for your night ashore, including appropriately warm sleeping bags. Operators provide tents for use ashore, however for the 'true experience' some offer a bivvy bag - warmer than a tent and much easier to set up, the bivvy bag doesn't block out the incredible scenery all around you. Note: Camping is not available on all ships. Often only available on Antarctic Peninsula voyages and has a limited number of available places. It is complimentary on some vessels, at an extra cost on others - please check that with us. If you want to participate, please book along with your voyage.



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANTARCTIC TOUR OPERATORS (IAATO) & ASSOCIATION OF ARCTIC EXPEDITION CRUISE OPERATORS (AECO)

IAATO is the world-leading industry organisation with oversight of responsible private sector travel to Antarctica, and any high quality operator will be a member and operate within the IAATO guidelines. We are very happy to have been accepted as an associate member and all the vessels we work with are full members of IAATO.

It's worth making it clear at this point that in Antarctica and the High Arctic (Svalbard, Greenland, Canadian High Arctic), in respect of passenger numbers, "size matters":

## **Less than 100 Guests**

Ships carrying less than 100 can land the entire ship's complement at one site

## **Between 100 & 200 Guests.**

If the vessel you are aboard has more than 100 wishing to go ashore at the same site, some will have to wait. Expedition style operators tend to offer simultaneous excursions with 100 clients ashore and 100 enjoying a zodiac cruise which then swap around (and this option does not work at all sites).

Luxury operators are more inclined to offer the one excursion; either to shore or a zodiac excursion. As a result it is possible you'll spend less time ashore.

## **Over 200 Guests**

Ships carrying over 200 guests can only visit a handful of sites, and if all passengers have to visit the same site and to go ashore at the same time, you'll either spend less time ashore, or visit far fewer sites (compared to a 100 passenger vessel)

## **Over 500 Guests**

Ships with over 500 clients cannot land any passengers, meaning you will see the Antarctic Peninsula but will not experience it

IAATO & AECO share many of their core philosophies, including restricting the number of people ashore at any given site.

While different styles, all ships have key characteristics in common:

- All ships and their operators are well known by us and we know they will safely deliver a high-quality operation
- For the safety of the guests and crew and the safety of the environment, all vessels have two engines (or in the case of Ocean Nova an auxiliary engine that is capable of bringing the ship back to port)
- All are IAATO or AECO members (as is the Antarctica Travel Centre)
- All operate with a high ratio of crew to guests



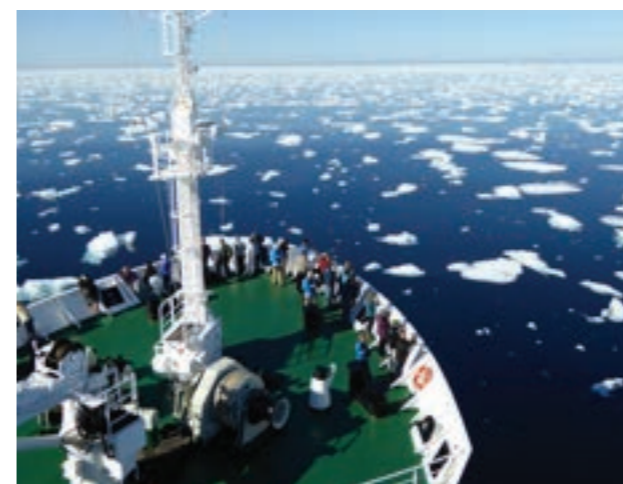


# ARCTIC

The High Arctic circles the top of the globe from Russia's Far East to Svalbard. Covered in sea-ice for most of the year, it is only during the short summer months (May to September) that it is possible to witness the stunning scenery, incredible and diverse wildlife and interesting indigenous communities the Arctic has to offer. Currently fewer Australians head north than to Antarctica: with which we have closer connections with. For those who do venture north they are exhilarated by their experiences, it's our strong recommendation it will be an equal, yet quite different, to a trip to Antarctica.

We have first-hand experience of the Arctic and can look after all aspects of your holiday; flights, pre and post voyage arrangements and of course your voyage, including the Canadian Arctic, Greenland, Svalbard (Spitsbergen) and the North Pole.

The High Arctic is best explored as the pack ice recedes and the temperatures rise and the race is on for all living creatures to make the most of the short summer. There's a lot to see; Polar bears, walrus, seals, Arctic foxes, millions of seabirds, remote villages, icebergs and magnificent scenery and historic sites all make for an unforgettable holiday.



## CHOOSING YOUR ARCTIC VOYAGE

### THE SEASON

High Arctic voyages operate during the Northern hemisphere summer, starting in May the season runs through until September when the shortening days and encroaching sea ice send most of its inhabitants (wildlife and humans) south to warmer climes.

These voyages are operating in the vast reaches of the Canadian, Scandinavian and Russian Arctic often high above the Arctic Circle with one to the 'Top of the World' – the North Pole.

**May:** Early in the season it's only the southern Arctic that is accessible, Norway's Fjords and southern Spitsbergen. Further north sea-ice prevents all but the Nuclear Powered 50 years of Victory from accessing the region.

**June/July:** The migratory birds have arrived on-mass and are in a hurry to breed, given the very short summer. Polar bears are roaming widely, as the sea ice breaks up finding their preferred prey, seals, becomes more of a challenge and their diet broadens to include birds eggs and chicks.

**August:** The bird cliffs and colonies are frantically feeding to ensure their young can fledge and migrate. Interestingly the young of guillemots are launched by their dads from their cliff nesting site out to sea (they can't fly – just glide – hopefully reaching the water) where they will continue to grow and finally fledge.

**September:** In Late August or early September most of the birds are already heading south. As the 'summer' ends the normally ice-choked waters of the fabled Northwest-Passage have become navigable for a short period of time, before winter takes over and the Arctic summer comes to a close.

### ASSOCIATION OF ARCTIC EXPEDITION CRUISE OPERATORS (AECO)

We are proud to have been approved as an Affiliate Member. AECO is to the Arctic that IAATO is to the Antarctic. AECO's objectives include ensuring that cruise tourism in the Arctic is carried out with the utmost consideration of the natural environment and local cultures. As in the Antarctic only 100 guests may go ashore at one time.

See page 29 for more information AECO & IAATO.

### WEATHER

Arctic weather is almost as unpredictable as that of Antarctica, perhaps lacking some of the extremes. Generally, it's not that cold, on clear still days it can be very pleasant. Most voyages will experience a range of conditions, foggy days are often followed by beautiful clear skies. Most of the sea days are close to one landform or another (Greenland, Baffin Island or Svalbard) and hence sailing conditions are relatively calm.

### SITES

There are hundreds of sites of interest throughout the Arctic region. In many ways the High Arctic has glacial scenery to match Antarctica, with massive glaciers and Icebergs found all through the region (in particular on Greenland, Svalbard (Spitsbergen) and Baffin Island). On Greenland there are several Inuit communities where we learn of the ways of these hardy folk.



## ARCTIC FAUNA AND FLORA

Here's where a trip to the Arctic is quite different to Antarctica, perhaps with the exception of South Georgia. In the Arctic there are far more species of fauna and, in particular, flora that you need to consider. It's a delicate environment, so please do all you can to leave it as close to the pristine condition you found it.

Birdlife is far more varied than in Antarctica with guillemots, razorbills, puffins, terns, gulls, geese, ducks, phalaropes, curlew, sandpipers, owls and falcons. Other wildlife includes: three species of seal, four species of whale, Arctic fox, Musk Ox, walrus, for the very fortunate Narwhal, and the stars of the show Polar bears.

### POLAR BEARS

Polar bears would have to be one of the most amazing creatures on earth. A true marine mammal, equally at home in the water as it is on land/ice, that over-winters in sub zero temperatures and roams widely in search of a variety of prey. Polar bears are found throughout the Arctic.

### WALRUS

Walrus are sensitive to boats and human presence, especially females with calves (quite understandable given they were hunted close to extinction in many places). Noises, smells and sudden movements can elicit a fright response. Your guides will ensure your approach is careful and does not frighten them and as a result you can often view them at quite close proximity. There are several well-known 'hall-outs' sites (on Spitsbergen, Franz Josef Land & Baffin Island) where you may find a few or perhaps 80 individuals.

### ARCTIC WILDLIFE VIEWING

Your guides will follow a 'no disturbance distance': the principle of avoidance of disturbing the animals, i.e. we don't move forward until we see a reaction, and then stop, we avoid provoking a reaction in the first place. In the event of a polar bear sighting, on land or on ice, from a zodiac, your guides will make sure that a safe distance is maintained at all times (at least 30 meters when in a zodiac and 200 metres from ships). The guides will still follow the 'no disturbance principal': if at that distance the bear shows any signs of stress they will retreat further. We explain this to help you understand that requests to move closer for a better photograph will be declined.

### FIREARMS

In Polar bear country it is a requirement for your guides to carry appropriate firearms and other 'bear deterrent devices'. There are very strict guidelines as to use of any device as well as stringent training required of the guides. The guns are there for your safety and the above guides are there to do everything possible to ensure that the guns are purely a precaution – the idea is not to use them. **It appears the training and adherence to the guidelines works well – so please don't be concerned.**







# SVAlBARD (SPITSBERGEN)

Archipelago of Svalbard (often referred to as Spitsbergen – which is the main Island) If wildlife is your major interest then Spitsbergen should be on your list. Spitsbergen’s wildlife is protected and has been for many years, as a result you have the chance to view the animals in their natural state and often in great abundance and usually reasonably close.

Spitsbergen, a Dutch word for ‘pointed peaks’, is one of the most beautiful wilderness areas in the world. The bird life is prolific, and with several well know ‘haul-outs’ for walrus there’s a good chance to see and photograph many of the Arctic’s most wonderful creatures.



BEARDED SEAL



ROALD AMUNDSEN  
1872 - 1928



## SPITSBERGEN ENCOUNTER (10-12 DAYS)

Days are busy with shore excursions to places of historic interest, visits to wildlife colonies, viewing the exquisite native flora and soaking up the stunning landscapes. A choice of a short or a longer hike are features of many Arctic voyages along with regular cruising in the Zodiacs.

### DAY 1 LONGYEARBYEN

Today we embark in Longyearbyen and sail out into Isfjorden during the early evening. With almost 24 hours of daylight at this time of the year, you enjoy the views from the outer decks of the ship as we depart.

### DAY 2 BOURBONHAMNA

Beluga whales are frequently seen as they transit the narrow sound near Bourbonhamna. It is estimated there are

approximately five to ten thousand belugas in the Svalbard population. On your shore excursion, an old hunting cabin and other artefacts are points of interest. You may also hope to catch a glimpse of dozens of reindeer that inhabit the area.

### DAY 3 LILLIEHOOK GLACIER

The Lilliehook Glacier is an incredible sight. The face stretches almost seven kilometres across and has a height of around 80-meters. Viewed from the ship or on a zodiac cruise you come to appreciate the enormous scale of our surroundings. The area is home to numerous bird colonies as well as bearded and ringed seals.

### DAY 4 MONACO GLACIER

No trip along the north coast of Spitsbergen would be complete without a visit to Monaco Glacier. A wide glacier face at the head of the fjord makes for spectacular kayaking and zodiac cruising. The coastal plain near the mouth of Liefdefjorden offer superb hiking and is often a great place to spot polar bears that come here to hunt for ringed seals or feed on birds’ eggs.

### DAY 5 PHIPPSOYA

At 81° north latitude, Phippsoya is just 540 nautical miles from the North Pole. Because of its proximity to the permanent Arctic ice pack, Phippsoya offers the potential for great polar bear viewing.

### DAYS 6 - 7 HINLOPEN STRAIT

The Hinlopen Strait has amazing ‘bird cliffs’ at Alkefjellet home to thousands of guillemots. The nearby Murchison Fjord is a wonderful place to kayak or zodiac cruise between the islands. There are also some excellent hiking routes which afford breathtaking views.

### DAY 8 FUGLESANGENOYA & SMEERENBURG

Fuglesangenoya is home to a large Little auk (dovekie) colony. Nearby is the old whaling station of Smeerenburg, literally translated as ‘Blubber Town’. As you hike the shoreline of the old station, you learn about the importance of whaling in the discovery and exploration of the Svalbard archipelago.

### DAY 9 PRINCE CHARLES ISLAND

You visit to a walrus haul-out on Prince Charles Island with the hope to see these odd looking animals ashore. Approaching from downwind will confirm that walrus are ashore – the smell of a walrus haul out is quite ‘unique’. Tonight you celebrate your journey with a special dinner attended by the ship’s Captain.

### DAY 10 LONGYEARBYEN

Arriving back into Longyearbyen this morning, your journey comes to an end..

#### SHIPS OFFERING SIMILAR ITINERARIES

**Luxury Ships**  
Le Boreal (200)

**Expedition/Luxury**  
Greg Mortimer (132), Hondius (176), Ultramarine (199), Ocean Victory (189), Sea Spirit (114)

**Expedition Ships**  
Ocean Nova (68)



# CANADIAN HIGH ARCTIC

We use the term High Arctic as the areas visited are a long way north: north of the Arctic Circle and most of Alaska. One of the gateways into this region, via a flight from Ottawa is the remote community of Resolute, there is a saying that 'Resolute is not the end of the world, but you can see it from here' that should give you an idea of location. It's likely the variety of scenery and wildlife as well as the knowledge that you're venturing where few people go that is the draw to this area. Baffin, Devon and Ellesmere Islands all offer incredible scenery; mountain, fjords, glaciers and pack ice that make up this wilderness area and provide homes for rare and interesting wildlife including: muskox, walrus, beluga whales and polar bear.

The Canadian High Arctic also offers history and culture of the region and a chance to follow in the wake of some of the most amazing and daring explorer's. There's also a chance to meet the Inuit, who carry with them the spirit of the North and who will enchant you with stories of life in the High Arctic.



## NORTHWEST PASSAGE

The Northwest Passage is a sea passage through the Arctic that connects the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. The search for this Passage claimed the lives of many, it is now a journey you can enjoy whilst your expedition's historian will help you discover the courage, misery and the incredible endurance of some of history's greatest explorers (Franklin in particular).

### DAY 1 TORONTO

Arrive in cosmopolitan Toronto and transfer to our group hotel. At this evening's voyage briefing, enjoy a welcome drink and meet your fellow expeditioners.

### DAY 2 KANGERLUSSUAQ

Transfer to the airport to board our charter flight to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. The sail out of Sondre Stromfjord, with its towering mountains on both sides, is magnificent.

### DAY 3 ETERNITY FJORD

Evighedsfjorden, or Eternity Fjord, is one of the more spectacular fjord complexes in west Greenland due to its forested landscape. Hike through a forested valley, witness hills become towering

snow-capped mountains as countless glaciers pour down from sheer cliff walls.

### DAY 4 ILULISSAT

Known as the 'birthplace of icebergs', this region produces some of the most dazzling icebergs found anywhere on earth. Hike to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Icefjord and stand in awe of its immensity. Jakobshavn Glacier is the most productive glacier – not only in Greenland but the entire Northern Hemisphere. It produces 20 million tonnes of ice each day, all floating into the Ilulissat Icefjord and Disko Bay.

### DAY 5 QEQERTARSUAQ (DISKO ISLAND)

On a guided hike, enjoy a diversity of arctic flora. Zodiac cruise in Disko Bay, a hotspot for marine life including humpback, fin, minke and bowhead whales.

### DAY 6 AT SEA, QIKIQTARJUAQ, BAFFIN ISLAND

Reaching the coast of Baffin Island, we may encounter Greenland's famous icebergs. Keep watch for humpback, sei, sperm and fin whales, as well as various species of seals such as ring and harp seal.

### DAY 7 ISABELLA BAY

Farther north along the east coast of Baffin Island we visit Isabella Bay, an important summer and autumn feeding ground for a large population of bowhead whales.

### DAY 8 SILLEM BAY

We sail around Sillem Island, with glacial features on all sides. A slow cruise offers the chance to see many glaciers, discharging cascades as well as a variety of seals and other arctic wildlife.

### DAY 9 POND INLET, BYLOT ISLAND

The picturesque hamlet of Pond Inlet, overlooking Eclipse Sound, is surrounded by scenic mountain ranges and numerous glaciers and fjords. Travellers come to marvel at the abundant wildlife hoping to see narwhals, beluga and orca whales, ringed and harp seals, caribou and the occasional polar bear.

A total of 74 unique species of arctic bird thrive on this island. Due to the richness of the wildlife and the beauty and diversity of the landscapes in the area, a large portion of the island was also included in the Sirmilik National Park, established in 2001.

### DAY 10 DEVON ISLAND

At a latitude almost 75° degrees north, we are now truly in the High Arctic. Here, nutrient-rich waters support an abundance of wildlife, giving the area the moniker 'wildlife super highway' of the Arctic. Devon Island is the largest uninhabited island on earth and features stunning geology, with flat-topped mountains and glacial valleys giving Devon Island its unique character. Dundas Harbour offers walks on undulating tundra and the area is great for birdwatching.

### DAY 11 BEECHEY ISLAND

At the western end of Devon Island lies Beechey Island. Named after Frederick William Beechey, the island is one of Canada's most important arctic sites and is a designated Canadian National

Historic Site. During the Franklin expedition of 1845–46, Franklin attempted to sail through the Northwest Passage with HMS Erebus and HMS Terror, with perilous results – three of his men died here. Roald Amundsen landed at Beechey Island in 1903, during the first successful voyage by ship to fully transit the Northwest Passage from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.

### DAYS 12–15 EXPEDITION CRUISING

Note: In true expeditionary style, our itinerary for the following days is heavily dependent on unpredictable sea ice. The following places are where we hope to visit.

Prince Leopold Island, Cunningham Inlet, Prince Regent Inlet, Fort Ross, Bellot Strait, Coningham Bay, & King William Island

### DAY 16 CAMBRIDGE BAY, CALGARY

In Cambridge Bay, farewell the crew and expedition team before a Zodiac shuttle whisks you ashore. Transfer to the airport for a charter flight to Calgary for an overnight stay.

### DAY 17 DEPART CALGARY

Check out of your room and continue your journey.

### SHIPS OFFERING THIS OR SIMILAR ITINERARIES

**Luxury Ships**  
National Geographic Resolution (148)

**Expedition Ships**  
Greg Mortimer (132), Ultramarine (199)



# SHIPS

## OUR PREFERRED PARTNER SHIPS

We've selected the very best Polar ships (operators) to deliver you to these wondrous wilderness areas, classified in three categories; Luxury, Expedition/Luxury and Expedition.

A fourth category is possibly Fly Cruise; which is more about the operational style than the classification of the ship.

To explore our range of ships please visit:

### ANTARCTICA

[www.antarctictravelcentre.com.au/antarctic-cruise-ships/](http://www.antarctictravelcentre.com.au/antarctic-cruise-ships/)

### ARCTIC

[www.arctictravelcentre.com.au/ships/](http://www.arctictravelcentre.com.au/ships/)

OCEAN NOVA (68) - FLY-CRUISE ANTARCTICA



## FLY-CRUISE ANTARCTICA ONLY

BRITISH AEROSPACE 146 - KING GEORGE ISLAND



## NUMBER OF PASSENGERS

All vessels have less than 250 guests, several with a maximum capacity of close to 100.

The two key questions we recommend you ask when considering 'what's right for me?'

### 1. STYLE OF OPERATION:

What style of operation:

- Luxury
- Expedition/Luxury
- Expedition
- Fly Cruise ships/voyages afford a visit to Antarctica by maximising time in destination by overflying some of the Drake Passage, to land closer to the destination.

The next few pages take a look at these styles of ship and explain the benefits.

### 2. SIZE OF THE SHIP

IAATO & AECO regulations limit the number of guest going ashore at one time to 100. Hence ships with close to 100 guests can land everyone at one time.

Ships with up to 200 guests will, more often than not, have 100 guests waiting while the other 100 are ashore. The 150-200 guest Expedition style ships will often offer a zodiac cruise simultaneously to shore excursions (i.e. 100 guests ashore and 100 guests in zodiacs and then you swap over).

Ships with over 500 guests cannot land in Antarctica.

That's in addition to destination, timing, duration and budget preferences (i.e. Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctic Circle or longer voyages that also include the Falkland Islands and South Georgia).

### WHICH SHIP?

Perhaps the question should be 'What sort of experience am I looking for?'

- Do you want to maximise time ashore = ships with closer to 100 guests of Expedition style
- Do you want a good balance between excursions and activities = Expedition/Luxury less than 200
- Are your creature comforts, cuisine, and on-board facilities of slightly greater importance = Any size of luxury ship.

MAGELLAN EXPLORER



50 YEARS OF VICTORY (128) - ICE-BREAKER



## ICE-STRENGTHENED OR ICE-BREAKER

Only one of the ships is an Icebreaker - the 50 Years of Victory which offers the chance to reach the 'top of the world' the North Pole. A second Icebreaker is currently under construction: Le Commandant Charcot will start operating 2022.

All of the other ships are 'ice-strengthened', which basically means they have strengthened hulls that allow them to safely enter polar regions. Each ship will have its own rating, each captain their own view as to what they will do with their ship (experienced Polar captains are a must). Sadly as there are many ice-rating methods dependent on where the ship is registered, built or insured it's not possible to give a simple summary. Generally 1A is a higher/better rating than 1C, the reality is that if there is too much sea-ice blocking a ship's path the ship will need to amend its itinerary, whatever the class.

## FLY-CRUISE SHIPS

These ships/voyages maximise time in Antarctica, or the Falklands and South Georgia by overflying some of the longer sea crossings, including the Drake Passage, to land closer to the destination.

### OUR SHIPS OFFERING FLY-CRUISE VOYAGES:

**Expedition/Luxury:**  
Magellan Explorer (114 guests), Ocean Albatros (189 Guests)

**Expedition:**  
Ocean Nova (68 guests), Ocean Adventurer (132)

For more information on FLY-CRUISE operation see page 16.





# LUXURY SHIPS ANTARCTICA & ARCTIC

These ships combine more traditional-style of 'cruising' with an Antarctic or Arctic adventure. They offer large, very comfortable cabins with en-suite facilities and many suites have private balconies. The on-board service is excellent as is the cuisine. Most also offer wellness programmes, a spa and well-equipped gymnasium.

You will be accompanied by expert guides and knowledgeable expedition leaders occasionally with special guest escorts. Many of the ships in this category are larger (by small ship standards) vessels, several with up to 200 guests.

Zodiac dinghies and an expedition team enable you to explore the Polar regions and you come home to an exquisite ship.

On-board the larger luxury vessels there are limitations on the number of landings made as at most sites the limit of people ashore is 100.



OTHER LUXURY SHIPS: LE SOLEAL, LE BOREAL, LE LYRIAL, L'ASUTRAL, SILVER CLOUD, SILVER WIND, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC RESOLUTION, LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT.





# EXPEDITION/LUXURY ANTARCTICA

As the name suggests these Antarctic cruise ships are a hybrid of an Expedition Ship and a Luxury Ship. Some are small ships with close to 100 guests and can offer two landings a day and focus on maximising opportunities for exploring as on an expedition vessel but with the added comfort of having larger, more comfortable cabins and common areas. Those with up to 200 guests generally offer one off ship excursion a day (largely due to time factors associated with the 100 passenger ashore limit) and still have an adventurous soul. Some will operate a zodiac cruise whilst others ashore and then swap (and this can still impact time ashore). Generally, cabins are larger or perhaps the ship is newer than an Expedition ship. Meals are a mix of buffet and served courses and the cuisine is of a very high standard.



OTHER EXPEDITION/LUXURY SHIPS: GREG MORTIMER, SEA SPIRIT, MAGELLAN EXPLORER, HANSEATIC INSPIRATION, HONDIUS, WORLD EXPLORER, ULTRAMARINE, ISLAND SKY, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ENDURANCE, OCEAN VICTORY, JANSSONIUS, SYLVIA EARLE, HERITAGE ADVENTURER, SEAVENTURE





# EXPEDITION SHIPS

## ANTARCTICA

Generally Antarctica cruise ships that are expedition style have a greater emphasis on maximising time off the vessel or out on deck than on a larger more 'luxury' ship. It would also be fair to say they are often older vessels (many with a long heritage of Polar travel). This is often helped by having closer to 100 guests, hence all guests can go ashore at the same time. On most days an Expedition ship will offer two off ship excursions. The expedition team works closely with the ship's captain and crew to deliver a high level of service and a flexible approach which means they can react to local circumstances; like a group of feeding whales, if possible, they will stop and launch the zodiacs. The cabins are comfortable, the food of a very high standard. An expedition client is someone who wants to maximise their opportunities to get off the ship and learn. Guests on-board are of all ages however you will be physically able to climb some relatively steep stairs and get in and out of a Zodiac.



OTHER EXPEDITION SHIPS: OCEAN NOVA, OCEAN ADVENTURER, OCEAN ADVENTURER, OCEAN DIAMOND, PLANCIUS, ORTELIUS



OCEAN NOVA (68)





INKATERRA SACRED VALLEY - PERU



DELFIN I & II - AMAZON PERU



## PREPARING FOR YOUR VOYAGE

“There’s no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing”

We don’t need to tell you that it can be cold, wet and windy in Antarctica, and it is common to experience daytime temperatures below freezing. While expensive specialty gear is not required, make sure you are prepared with warm, water- and windproof clothing that will adequately protect you from the weather and wet conditions (sea spray is common aboard the Zodiacs). You will be travelling to the coastal regions of Antarctica (maybe Falklands and South Georgia) during the southern summer when conditions are mild but unpredictable; pack so you can dress in layers and be prepared for these rapid weather changes. Average daily temperatures during mid-season range between -4°C and +5°C, however wind-chill can make it seem a lot colder. Some operators have wet-weather gear available for rental or purchase aboard the ship (must be prearranged), while others include a waterproof parka as part of your cost, and/or will loan you rubber boots for the duration of the voyage.

We will ensure you know what is included and/or provided on your voyage and give you a detailed list of what you will need to take with you in order to be well prepared.

## JOINING YOUR VOYAGE

Please note that we require all clients to arrive into the starting point, depending on the cruise, no later than the night before the voyage departs.

## YOU ARE IN SAFE HANDS

### ANTARCTICA

South America Travel Centre has been creating tailor-made holidays throughout South America, Central America, Cuba and Mexico since 1995

### ARCTIC.

Having the two specialist teams under one roof means we are perfectly placed to coordinate your travel plans before and after your Antarctic adventure. As Antarctica is quite ‘a hard act to follow’, we would generally recommend that most additional arrangements are undertaken before you join your voyage. To inspire you, here are just a few suggestions – we can make very many more!

## SOUTH AMERICA

### SANTIAGO & BUENOS AIRES

International flights will usually take you first to Santiago where you can choose to break your journey in the Chilean capital or connect directly on to Buenos Aires. For those who stop over in Santiago there are several charming boutique hotels to choose from, among them enchanting Le Rêve in Providencia, inspired by the small hotels of Paris and surrounded by excellent restaurants, or, in the heart of bohemian Bellavista, the vivid crimson Castillo Rojo (Red Castle) with its restored and reimagined 1920s styling.

Argentina’s capital, beautiful Buenos Aires, is definitely worth 2 or 3 days, in part to recover from your long flight but also to experience the city’s seductive combination of old-world and contemporary, to discover the colour and character of the individual barrios (neighbourhoods) and to take in an energetic Tango show.

Perhaps stay at that icon of grand elegance, the historic Alvear Palace, or enjoy the impeccable sophistication of the boutique Hub Porteño, discreetly hidden in a quiet Recoleta side street.





# LUXURY & EXPEDITION CRUISES BEYOND THE POLES

[www.luxuryandexpeditioncruises.com.au](http://www.luxuryandexpeditioncruises.com.au)



Whether you choose a luxury ship or a more modest (yet comfortable) ship it's all about up-close encounters with beauty, wilderness and the less often seen or experienced.

Expedition cruises are adventurous journeys where the ship effectively becomes a floating wilderness lodge enabling access (often by zodiac inflatable boats) to extraordinary places and experiences—designed with curious, inquisitive people in mind. Expedition cruises offer opportunities to explore otherwise inaccessible places (e.g. Antarctica) or destinations best discovered by ship (e.g. Galapagos Islands).

All of our chosen luxury and expedition cruise ships are small, with less than 250 guests, many have fewer than 100 guests (particularly in places like the Galapagos Islands and Amazon). Most ships will have a fleet of zodiacs to maximise opportunities for exploration and discovery. Given many of the places visited are remote, less visited, ecologically sensitive destinations limiting ship size is a fundamental necessity for the enjoyment of guests as well as protection of these wonderful places.

Discover many of the world's most beautiful places whilst travelling on-board a Luxury or Expedition ship. All of our expedition cruises and voyages are aboard small ships. We have hand selected ships and operators that offer unique experiences to their guests and deliver them with a high degree of professionalism.

Many ships offering expedition cruises are purpose built for their environment, and offer very specialist experiences and operate in remote regions of the world; like the Delfin and Aria ships in the Peruvian Amazon, the True North in Australia's Kimberley region and the Petrel in the Galapagos Islands. In addition to the ships being made for purpose your expedition staff are passionate experts, often with decades of experience which they share with you. On this site you will find a hand-picked selection of the best ships and operators, most of which we have been working with for at least the last 10 years.

Our history and involvement with Expedition cruising started long before in 2000.



## THE KIMBERLEY

The Kimberley coast of the Western Australian runs from the Northern Territory border to Wallal (300km south of Broome) a distance of 12,000km, with over 2,500 adjacent islands. The Kimberley region is over twice the size of Victoria and is made of ancient rocks that have been dissected by many mighty rivers; the Mitchell, King George, Hunter and Prince Regent to name just a few. The Kimberley was also very likely the place where Australia's earliest settlers arrived over 40,000 years ago. The Kimberley coastline is also subject to Australia's biggest tides; at times over 11 metres difference between high and low tide.

Early in the season (March-May) mighty waterfalls falls plunge over the edge of rocky plateaus. The high tidal extremes form the Horizontal Falls as well as causing a daily spectacle at the Montgomery Reef; where rivers, streams and mini waterfalls cascade off the 400 square kilometres of reef. Incredible rock formations are also home to some of Australia's finest Aboriginal Rock art. Throw into the mix some excellent fishing, walks to remote billabongs and the regions wildlife; salt water crocodiles, dugongs and from June to August a humpback whale migration and you'll see why a Kimberley Coast cruise is a must do trip.

## TRUE NORTH

The True North caters for a maximum of just 36 guests and allows discerning adventurers to experience wilderness in surroundings more akin to one of the world's most exclusive hotels. This purpose built (2005) ship offers a number of excellent vantage points including a sundeck, a forward observation lounge, a ship's lounge and an alfresco bar. The ship's naturalist presents interpretative information on wall mounted screens in the ship's lounge and, an internet café enables convenient communication with the outside world.

To add yet another dimension to adventure, most cruise options feature an on-board helicopter True North is able to explore the upper reaches of shallow river systems you need only step out of your cabin to experience wilderness and, the latest in computer controlled motion stabilizers ensures a comfortable ride.

### OTHER SHIPS OFFERING KIMBERLEY ITINERIES

Coral Adventurer, Coral Discoverer, Silver Explorer, Le Bellot





## INDONESIA

With over seventeen thousand islands making up the Indonesian archipelago there is a never ending abundance of culture and incredible landscapes to explore. As the largest country of Southeast Asia, with 7,000 uninhabited islands, the best way to experience the region is via a luxury or expedition ship, enabling you to be able to weave your way through these palm-fringed islets and seek to spot the unique wildlife that is hiding around each corner and below the oceans surface. Home to some of the worlds best reefs and most bio-diverse oceans on the planet, the surrounding waters of Indonesia are incomparable to other tropical destinations. The historically significant West Papua region of Indonesia offers opportunities to visit several tribal villages living the most traditional way of life.

### AQUA BLU

Specialising in the East Indonesian Archipelago, the Aqua Blu is a long-range explorer yacht offering world-class luxury in the most unique destinations. Built in 1968, converted in 2006 and refurbished in 2019 the Aqua Blu combines strong naval heritage with first class accommodation and service. Across five decks, 15 suites will accommodate up to 30 guests with generous and inviting indoor and outdoor social spaces. Boasting an indoor and outdoor dining area and bars, a lobby lounge and bar, an observation deck, outdoor jacuzzi with lounge day beds, library, exercise zone and spa there is no shortage of on-board entertainment when you aren't off exploring these incredible regions.

Whilst you will be able to enjoy all of the comforts of a modern super-yacht, the Aqua Blu is entirely equipped to enhance your experience off the boat. There is both diving and snorkelling equipment the help you explore the some of the most diverse and unforgettable marine sanctuaries in the world, including the Coral Triangle in Raja Ampat. Kayaks and stand-up paddle boards are also on-board for guests enjoyment. The attentive 25 member crew includes a cruise director, dive instructor and knowledgeable guides providing an almost 1:1 staff ratio.



## BRITISH ISLES

The British Isles provide their guests with a fantastic combination of history, wildlife and an abundance of cultural experiences. Consisting of the main islands of Great Britain and Ireland, and over 5000 smaller islands that make up the British Isles, most notably – the Hebrides, the Shetland Islands, Orkney Islands, Isles of Scilly and the Isle of Man. Explore areas that have been continuously inhabited for over 5,000 years with ancient Celtic, Viking and prehistoric influences. UNESCO World Heritage Sites are abound along with age-old villages shrouded in fascinating history. Structures of a bygone era offer a window into the past and open the eyes of those that are able to witness the majesty of these seldom-visited sites. Unique flora and fauna are guaranteed to reward those who venture to these remote lands on an expedition or luxury cruise

Often these voyages are operated prior to the start of the Arctic season.







The Amazon, and its many major tributaries, flows through Ecuador, Peru and Brazil. Despite the majority of the mighty Amazon's 6,400 km being found within Brazil, some of the best options for Amazon river cruising are found in Peru and Ecuador.

Notwithstanding their remote Amazon locations there are several luxury Amazon River cruise ships. They offer a excellent guides, gourmet cuisine and very comfortable accommodation. Ships like the Delfin I, II & III, MV Aria & MV Anakonda. Or the new to market in 2020 the Aqua Blu a beautiful new-build 20 cabin luxury boat.

These small expedition ships really are floating wilderness lodges from which you explore the Amazon and several of its major tributaries. Smaller 'skiffs' (dinghies) are often used either to go ashore or to explore smaller channels in search of the rich and varied wildlife of the Amazon.

Depending on water levels, most operators offer a high water and low water itinerary, you 'll not only make excursion by boat you'll also take walks in the rainforest and visit canopy towers: offering access into the canopy of the rainforest where you'll often observe monkeys and some of the amazon's most spectacular birdlife.



A Galapagos cruise is so many things rolled into one – a relaxing holiday, an adventure, and foremost, a wildlife extravaganza. It truly is the experience of a lifetime, not only for birdwatchers or wildlife obsessives but for every traveller who has any interest in seeing the incredibly diverse and often unique species of birds, reptiles and mammals. The isolation of the islands and the minimal contact with humans has made the wildlife almost totally unafraid and allows visitors to see them at closer quarters.

On a luxury or first-class Galapagos cruise you will visit many of the islands where you will participate in short walks, snorkelling, Zodiac (Panga) cruising and kayaking as well as visiting the Giant Tortoise Breeding Centre.

South America Travel Centre we will create a unique, tailor-made itinerary specifically for you including a Galapagos Island cruise and any additional exploration in Ecuador that suits your interests. This may include the Amazon rainforest, the cloud forest or a perhaps trip down the avenue of the volcanoes. Our expert travel consultants have firsthand experience and will create the perfect Galapagos holiday for you and your travel companions.







## HOW TO BOOK

### TALK TO US: 1300 784 794

We regularly have clients call who are quite confused by the options, the differences and benefits of each ship, season or voyage. Often within one phone call or one email we've removed any confusion and you're then left a reasonably simple (and exciting) decision. We can look after all aspects of your Antarctic and Arctic holiday, including your flights and travel insurance.

If there are any offers associated with the ship you choose we will always make sure you get the best deal.

We start by asking you lots of questions – where to, when, for how long, what standard and style of ship, what cabin type, and whether you have any particular personal interests that may direct the choice of voyage or ship. Once we have a good understanding of just what you're looking for, we can select the best voyage and ship/operator to meet your requirements and, most importantly, to deliver the interest and enjoyment that will make the experience one that exceeds your expectations.

We can hold a cabin (subject to availability) for up to 7 days, while other aspects of your holiday are put into place.

### PHOTO CREDITS

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### PLEASE BOOK EARLY:

Many of these ships book out 10-12 months in advance, particularly over the December/January period. Please also consider that there may be only a small number of cabins in the category you would prefer.

### VOYAGE SCHEDULES & PRICES

There are no dates or prices printed in this brochure. Please visit the ship specific pages of the relevant web sites for itineraries, dates and prices.

[www.antarcticatravelcentre.com.au](http://www.antarcticatravelcentre.com.au)

[www.arctictravelcentre.com.au](http://www.arctictravelcentre.com.au)

[www.luxuryandexpeditioncruises.com.au](http://www.luxuryandexpeditioncruises.com.au)

Click on the ships tab and then on the ship of interest; you'll find all the voyages and dates and cabin prices under each ship.







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