

Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica

20 days

This is a truly epic adventure through the remote Falkland Islands, the wildlife paradise of South Georgia and the extraordinary landscape of the Antarctic Peninsula. You'll enjoy unforgettable encounters with untamed wildlife in a vast, dramatic and spectacular setting; you'll take a step back in time at historically significant sites; and you'll be mesmerized by the rich diversity and contrasts that make these regions so captivating and unique.

Watch a wild, isolated and extreme world come to life as scores of penguins dive for food, herds of elephant seals bathe in the sun, and pods of orcas pass you by. You'll be transported to your own wildlife documentary, staged in a magnificent setting of mountains, sea and ice.

Day-by-Day Expedition in Brief

- Explore the Antarctic Peninsula, the northernmost tip of the world's 7th continent, by ship, Zodiac and foot
- Learn about Antarctica's unique geology, history and wildlife with our expert team of on-board lecturers
- See South Georgia's incredible wildlife, including 30 breeding bird species and four penguin species
- Follow in the footsteps of Sir Ernest Shackleton's perilous voyages to South Georgia and pause for a moment at his gravesite
- Wander the quaint British town of Stanley in the Falkland Islands



25th January - Day 1 — Ushuaia, Argentina

Your gateway for this expedition is Ushuaia, Argentina. Nestled within the Tierra del Fuego archipelago, Ushuaia has a small-town feel yet also has many shops, museums, cafés and restaurants that you can enjoy before your voyage. If you're feeling adventurous, the nearby national park and Martial Glacier offer plenty of outdoor activities, such as hiking.

Day 2 — Embarkation Day

As you embark, the anticipation grows. Trade your land legs for sea legs, meet and greet your fellow travelers and get acquainted with your ship. Since every Antarctic adventure presents new opportunities and experiences, embarkation day is just as exciting for your Expedition Team as it is for you. On board to ensure your comfort and safety, your team will also help make your wildlife dreams come true.

Day 3 — At Sea

There are many activities to keep you engaged while you are at sea. Learn to identify seabirds that glide alongside the ship, or attend dynamic presentations by your Expedition Team. You will be prepped on safety procedures for Zodiac cruises and shore landings.

Days 4 and 5 — Falkland Islands

Upon your arrival in the Falklands your camera will get its first real workout capturing the abundant wildlife and rugged feel of this region. The archipelago contains two main islands—East Falkland and West Falkland—which you will explore during Zodiac excursions and daily landings.

Stanley, also known as Port Stanley, is often a favored landing site, as the town offers a unique British outpost feel, complete with eclectic charm. You'll be free to explore, grab a pint at the local pub or visit numerous churches and museums.

In terms of wildlife, the archipelago is home to Magellanic, gentoo and rockhopper penguins. If you're lucky, you may even spot king penguins here as well! You can expect to see black-browed albatross, plus two endemic bird species—Cobb's wren and the Falkland's flightless steamer duck.

Your team of lecturers and specialists will be sure to educate you on the local flora and fauna, making the most out of your time in the Falklands.

Days 6 and 7 — At Sea

Sailing south, you'll officially enter Antarctic waters once you cross the invisible biological boundary called the Antarctic Convergence. Encircling the continent, cold Antarctic waters meet and mix with the warmer waters of the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, creating an abundance of krill and marine life that attracts whales and seals to this part of the world. Your

Expedition Team will be sure to keep you posted when you cross this invisible yet important line.

Days 8 to 11 — South Georgia

This remote outpost was a popular stop for many historic Antarctic expeditions and was once a haven for hunting whales and elephant and fur seals. Today, island wildlife populations have rebounded, but you'll still see remnants of old whaling stations and other abandoned outposts.

One significant and historic site that will be of interest is the grave of the great explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. You can visit his grave at the settlement of Grytviken, which is also home to an old whaling station, a museum, a gift shop, a church and a small research station.

Although South Georgia's history is an important attraction to the island, it is the wildlife that you and your shipmates will surely find most captivating. Often referred to as the Galapagos of the Poles, each landing you make on South Georgia will open your eyes to a new wonder of wildlife.

One day you may see rookeries with hundreds of thousands of pairs of king penguins waddling on a beach, and the next day you may visit another beach dotted with thousands of fur or elephant seals. The grasses, mountains and beaches of South Georgia all play an important role in the breeding and survival of different species on the island. This fragile and symbiotic relationship is something that your Expedition Team will explain to you during your time here.

Days 12 and 13 — At Sea

Say goodbye to the king penguins, as your next destination is Antarctica! Your days at sea are filled with presentations, lectures and workshops led by your Expedition Team, who will prepare you for the wildlife that will greet you upon your arrival. In between presentations, spend time chatting with your shipmates over a drink at the bar.

If conditions allow, we may attempt landfall on the South Orkney Islands, our first official stop in Antarctica.

Days 14 to 17 — South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula

The most common reaction upon reaching the White Continent is a sense of reverence and awe. The experience is hard to put into words, since few places are as untouched, unique and enduring as Antarctica.

You will discover that Antarctica is a land of extremes. At one moment you'll be overcome with a feeling of complete desolation and silence, and at the next moment you'll be inspired by nature as a calving glacier crashes into brilliant blue sea or a penguin waddles by to inspect your footwear.

Your Expedition Team will take care of you at each landing, whether you are trekking up a glacier, visiting a research station or consorting with penguin colonies. Chinstrap, Adélie and gentoo penguins are found here, along with Weddell, fur, crabeater and leopard seals.

Curious whales, such as minke, are often attracted to our Zodiacs, giving you a chance to get within reaching distance of these majestic animals. Each day and each landing will present a new collection of creatures to entertain you and keep your camera busy.

As exciting as the Zodiac excursions and landings are, perhaps you'll treat yourself to an extra-special Antarctic experience by partaking in an optional (extra cost) kayaking excursion or going for a swim in Antarctic waters!

Days 18 and 19 — Crossing the Drake Passage

After more than two weeks of endless wildlife encounters, your journey home begins. Crossing the Drake is your unofficial rite of passage, completing your Antarctic adventure.

Enjoy your final moments mingling with your fellow shipmates. The noisy, busy, populated world awaits your return, so savor the silence of the sea as long as you can.

13th February - Day 20 — Disembarkation in Ushuaia

After breakfast aboard the ship, it is time to part ways and say goodbye to your Expedition Team. Airport transfers will be provided for those departing on the first homeward flights. Other guests will be transferred to town.

Important reminder: Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy – and excitement – of expedition travel. There are no guarantees that we can achieve everything we set out to accomplish. A measure of flexibility is something all of us must bring to a voyage. There are nearly 200 recognized sites in the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetlands and the places mentioned above may be changed to others equally as interesting.

Ocean Diamond



The *Ocean Diamond* is a modern, stable super-yacht, and one of the largest of our small expedition ships. Carrying a maximum of 189 passengers, and with two stabilizers and an ice-strengthened hull, this outstanding vessel is ideal for polar expeditions.

As one of the fastest, and most eco-friendly ships in Antarctica, it is also one of the most comfortable. There are 101 elegantly designed cabins and suites, all with exterior views, and expansive common spaces, a club lounge, and a spacious restaurant. The ship offers numerous adventure options, plus on-board features such as interactions with photography instructors. After a full day of exploration, passengers can relax, browse books or DVDs in the well-stocked polar library, or enjoy stunning polar scenery from the sun-lit, panoramic observation lounge.

Ship Specs

- Staff and Crew 144
- Guests 189
- Length 124 metres
- Breadth 16 metres
- Draft 4.9 metres
- Propulsion 2 Wichmann Engines, 7375 horsepower
- Ice Class 1D
- Cruising Speed 15.5 knots
- Registration Nassau, Bahamas
- Lifeboats 2 fully enclosed

Ship Amenities

- Elevator accessing all decks
- Bar staffed by a professional bar tender (drinks added to ship board account)
- 24 hour tea and coffee available
- Theatre style auditorium for presentations
- Polar library containing the largest collection of Polar books and DVD's afloat
- Clinic with licensed Doctor
- Wifi in certain public areas (data usage charges apply)
- Optional webmail account for email (charges apply)
- Ship to Shore telephone communications (charges apply)
- Polar boutique selling essentials, souvenirs and clothing
- On board laundry service (charges apply)
- Gym with a selection of fitness equipment

Cabin Amenities

- All cabins have ensuite facilities
- All cabins have external views
- Cabins serviced daily
- In room refrigerators
- Flat Screen TV's and DVD players
- Hairdryer
- Bathrobes
- Shower gel and shampoo provided

- In room safe
- Climate control
- Electrical current 220 volts. Plugs are standard European two round pin plugs

Other Inclusions on the Ocean Diamond

- Expedition Parka to keep
- Expedition boots on loan
- Downloadable Photographic journal documenting your voyage
- Presentations by the Expedition team and onboard experts
- All meals and snacks on board
- All shore landings and zodiac cruising according to the daily programme
- All luggage handling on board the ship
- All port charges and taxes
- Emergency evacuation insurance to a maximum of US\$100,000 per person