

# ANTARCTICA: 2019/2020

## TRIP NOTES



# Antarctica - 'Deep South'



21 FEB – 05 MAR 2020



13 NIGHTS / 14 DAYS



STARTS USHUAIA

## AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION BELOW THE ANTARCTIC CIRCLE AND THE PENINSULA

This special journey takes us further south than at any other time in the season. Additional days on board allow us to venture as far south as ice conditions permit. Here we witness stunning landscapes, sizable Adelie penguin rookeries and large flat-topped tabular icebergs that drift north from the Bellingshausen Sea. With favourable weather and ice conditions we hope to reach - Marguerite Bay. This is a spectacular location reached by just a handful of ships each season. We always anticipate exciting ice navigation when pushing this far south.

Having reached our objective of the Antarctic Circle, we return to the north, navigating along the glaciated coastline of the Antarctic Peninsula passing through the Argentine, Fish and Yalour Island archipelagos while exploring the Gerlache Strait region. There are several important scientific stations here and a number of significant historic sites we hope to investigate. A transit of the Lemaire Channel is another goal on this voyage and always a highlight.

Every day we explore off the ship in the company of our expert guides, enjoying shore visits and Zodiac cruises that may last up to three and four hours at a time. For those with an adventurous streak why not spend a night ashore camping like the early Antarctic explorers? This trip is ideal for those who love the excitement and spontaneity of small ship exploration in the most remote locations on the planet.



## Expedition Highlights

- > Fantastic glaciated scenery of the Antarctic Circle and Gerlache coastline
- > Outstanding wildlife observation on shore, Zodiac cruising and from the ship
- > Visits to historic sites and science stations
- > Learn about the environment, wildlife and ecology of Antarctica from polar experts

## ON THIS TRIP

-  Zodiac excursions
-  Onshore hiking options
-  Wildlife observation
-  Photographer-in-Residence
-  Sea kayaking available
-  Whale watching
-  Camping on shore
-  Educational presentations
-  Active Cruising & Wellness

## IMPORTANT VOYAGE LOGISTICS

This trip commences in Ushuaia (Argentina). We recommend arriving in Ushuaia at least one day prior to the scheduled voyage departure. This gives you a buffer in the event of any unexpected travel delays between home and voyage embarkation and departure. Here we board our expedition ship, charting a course down the Beagle Channel and into the Drake Passage towards Antarctica.

Our voyage is complete when we arrive back into Ushuaia. A transfer from the ship to the airport, or local hotels is provided upon disembarkation. We advise booking your flights out of Ushuaia from mid-morning onwards. Or consider spending a night in Ushuaia at the conclusion of your voyage.

Full joining instructions will be provided in your final travel documentation. If you have questions before this time, please ask us.



## YOUR DAY-BY-DAY EXPEDITION ITINERARY

### DAY 1 / USHUAIA (ARGENTINA) (FRIDAY, 21 FEBRUARY, 2020)

Our journey to Antarctica commences this afternoon in Ushuaia, in southern Argentina. We gather at our central meeting point and transfer to the pier and embark our expedition ship. After settling in to our cabins and exploring the ship, we meet our expedition team and fellow passengers. Excitement is in the air as we enjoy a welcome cocktail and dinner and cast off, bound for Antarctica and the adventure of a lifetime.

### DAYS 2-3 / AT SEA – TOWARDS ANTARCTICA

We chart a southerly course for Antarctica. The Drake Passage is rich in bio-diversity and showcases a great abundance of wildlife. We will be joined by hundreds of seabirds including the wandering albatross. Giant petrels and smaller Cape petrels are also constant companions as we make our way south. Photographing these magnificent birds takes patience and skill and our photography expert will be on hand to show you the best techniques. Join the ship's Captain on the bridge and learn about the operations of our modern expedition vessel. Throughout the day our onboard experts educate us with a series of presentations about the environment, the wildlife and history and the locations we hope to visit in the coming days. As we approach the coastline of Antarctica, we encounter more icebergs and anticipate our first whale sightings.

### DAYS 4-6 / BELOW THE CIRCLE – DETAILLE ISLAND, MARGUERITE BAY & LOWER ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Given optimal ice conditions, we aim to sail south of the Antarctic Circle. A favoured landing site here is Detaille Island, home to an abandoned British science hut. 'Base W' was established in the 1950s and is in a remarkable state of preservation. For the history buffs this is a fascinating place, providing a glimpse into the harsh life of early Antarctic scientists and researchers.

This far south, we are always at the mercy of prevailing ice conditions. Years of experience pushing this far to the south, indicates that late February gives us our best chance of reaching Marguerite Bay.

We may take the 'shortcut', through a narrow channel known as 'the Gullet' if the passage is ice-free. Otherwise, we could navigate around the outside of Adelaide Island - which will take more time, yet bring us to the same destination.

Marguerite Bay is home to several important science bases - Rothera (UK), San Martin (Argentina), Carvajal (Chile). We hope to make a visit to at least one of these locations. The area is full of history and the British Graham Land Expedition (BGLE) of the early 1930s - led by intrepid Australian explorer, John Rymill, established their southern base in this area. They explored and surveyed large areas of the Antarctic Peninsula by airplane, establishing the Antarctic Peninsula was indeed connected to the main continental landmass - and not just a series of off-shore islands as earlier believed.

### DAYS 7-8 / LOWER ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

This vicinity marks our turnaround point and from now on, we cruise in a northerly direction exploring the dramatic coastline of the Antarctic Peninsula. There are several locations in the Fish and Argentine Island archipelagos which allow for Zodiac cruising and potential shore landings. We hope to visit a working scientific base to learn of the important climate-related research happening here. A hike over the snowy saddle of nearby Winter Island allows us to stretch our legs and explore the old British Antarctic Survey hut.

Petermann Island is home to a sizable Adelie penguin rookery. Adelies - the smallest of the Antarctic penguins nest here and share the location with Gentoo penguins and Imperial cormorants. The view to the north of Mount Shackleton and Mount Scott is impressive. These towering granite sentinels mark the southern entrance to the Lemaire Channel. Nearby Pleneau Island offers more opportunities for shore landings. Just off shore, in the shallow waters of the Penola Strait, massive icebergs run aground. Constant wind and wave action sculpt these gargantuan chunks of ice into fantastic shapes, revealing more shades of blue than you could ever imagine. For many, a zodiac cruise here will be a highlight of the voyage.



### DAY 9-10/ GERLACHE STRAIT AND ANTARCTIC PENINSULA EXPLORATION

We aim to transit the Lemaire Channel on our way north towards Paradise Harbour. This may be the first opportunity to step foot on the continent of Antarctica proper. Nearby Neko Harbour offers another continental landing. Both locations offer terrific hiking opportunities up to panoramic view points. Expect to be in full sensory overload by this time of the voyage. The good news is, our adventure is not over and we still have several days of exciting exploration ahead.

Orne Harbour is another spot we hope to visit and the hike up to a rocky knoll provides great access to a chinstrap penguin rookery and jaw-dropping views over the Gerlache Strait. At Cuverville Island, there is a large Gentoo penguin colony which we observe at close quarters. Leopard seals are often sighted cruising the shallows along the landing site. For the kayakers, a full circumnavigation of the island is a real possibility. It is somewhere in this vicinity we hope to spend a night ashore camping if weather conditions permit. We have all the gear and an expert team to make this unique experience happen.

We are now at our most northern point on the Peninsula. Additional visits may include Mikkelson Harbour or nearby Cierva Cove, rounding out what has been a comprehensive exploration of the Gerlache coastline. Tonight, leaving the continent in the soft twilight, we reflect on an incredible 10-days of exploration south of the Circle and the Antarctic Peninsula.

### DAY 11 / SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS

Having crossed the Bransfield Strait overnight, we arrive in the South Shetland Islands. The adventure is not over and if the weather conditions allow, we sail the ship into the flooded volcanic caldera at Deception Island. This is a very dramatic place and history is all around us as we explore the old whaling station, with the rusted old boilers and dilapidated wooden huts. At the far end of the beach is an old aircraft hangar. This is where Australian, Sir Hubert Wilkins made the very first flight in Antarctica in 1928. There is also an outstanding hike here, high up onto the rim of the crater.



On a sunny day, cruising along the coast of Livingston Island is a memorable experience. There are several other landing sites in the vicinity including Half Moon Island, or the broad pebbly beach at Yankee Harbour, where we sometimes encounter Weddell seals sunning themselves. This is another great spot for a hike or a Zodiac cruise.

### DAYS 12-13 / DRAKE PASSAGE – RETURN TO SOUTH AMERICA

As we make our way back to South America, the educational presentations continue and we enjoy an entertaining and memorable voyage recap by our Expedition Leader. Join our photography experts in the multimedia room and download and back up your precious images. If weather conditions allow, we hope to make a rounding of Cape Horn. This fabled stretch of water is home to legendary tales of exploration and early navigation. It's a fitting place to reflect on a wonderful expedition. Approaching the entrance to the Beagle Channel in early evening light, we enjoy a special dinner attended by the Captain of the ship.

### DAY 14 / ARRIVE USHUAIA (ARGENTINA) – VOYAGE CONCLUDES – (THURSDAY, 05 MARCH 2020)

In the early morning, we arrive into Ushuaia, Argentina. It is time to say farewell to your crew and fellow travellers. Guests will be transported to their hotels or to the airport for return flights home. It will be possible to connect to flights through to Buenos Aires or other destinations in South America. Otherwise enjoy a night in town or venture further afield to explore the highlights of Patagonia.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS FOR ANTARCTICA 'DEEP SOUTH' AND CROSSING THE CIRCLE:** Seven other departures in season 2019/20 will cross the Antarctic Circle. Options include voyages lasting from 10-nights to 13-nights. There are several that commence in the Falkland Islands, while several departures offer a 'fly/cruise' alternative. See the website for details.

**ABOUT OUR ITINERARY:** Polar exploration can be unpredictable. Specific sites visited will depend on prevailing weather and ice conditions at the time of sailing. The above itinerary should be read as a 'guide only' and may change. The ship's Captain in conjunction with the Expedition Leader continually review the sailing plan throughout the voyage, making adjustments to the itinerary along the way to take advantage of optimal weather and ice conditions or to maximize our encounters with wildlife. Decades of experience spent exploring these waterways mean we have a large number of outstanding landing sites and Zodiac cruising locations to consider, even when the weather conditions may not be ideal or when heavy ice may hinder our planned route. A flexible approach is something we encourage you to bring to the ship.

## YOUR EXPEDITION INCLUDES:

- ✓ Comprehensive pre-voyage information package including details to help you prepare for your trip
- ✓ Transfers from a central meeting point in Ushuaia on Day 1 and from the port to the airport (or a downtown hotel) at the conclusion of your voyage on Day 14
- ✓ Shipboard accommodation in your selected cabin category with daily housekeeping. Cabins feature outside views with windows or portholes
- ✓ All breakfasts, lunches and dinners on board throughout your voyage with daily afternoon tea
- ✓ 24-hour tea, coffee, hot chocolate in bar/lounge plus in-cabin tea and coffee making facilities
- ✓ Experienced Expedition Leader and professional expedition team of marine biologists, naturalists, historians, adventure guides and photographers
- ✓ Daily off-ship excursions by Zodiac boat breaking into small groups for shore landings
- ✓ Guided hikes and walks on shore of various durations for guests of all abilities
- ✓ Visits to wildlife colonies, historic sites, places of outstanding natural beauty and science stations
- ✓ Educational presentations and talks by polar experts in their field (i.e. marine biologists, naturalists, historians etc). Onboard or on shore
- ✓ Resident photography guide available to assist all guests plus access to computers in the multimedia lab for image downloads, file back up and management
- ✓ An emergency trained medical physician onboard every voyage
- ✓ Dedicated hospitality team including Hotel Manager, four chefs, professional bar staff and Adventure Concierge staff
- ✓ Onboard sauna, plunge pool, Jacuzzi and fitness centre including massage options (charge applies for massage and treatments)
- ✓ Sea Kayaking programme available (additional charge of US\$795pp) – must be reserved at the time of booking your voyage and you must have some prior paddling experience
- ✓ Access to well-stocked library full of polar reference books
- ✓ End of voyage video, photos and take-home USB
- ✓ Port fees and all permits to access visited areas

### The right gear for your trip – included ✓



When you travel with One Ocean Expeditions, you have the use of an expedition gear package free of charge. Containing around US\$900 worth of essential equipment, this kit includes a quality waterproof/windproof jacket and bib-pants plus insulated rubber boots designed for extended walking. We also include a set of binoculars and a Nordic trekking pole for use when on shore. A waterproof backpack completes your package. This kit saves you buying expensive clothing and equipment you may only ever use once. It also eliminates the need to carry such cumbersome gear to the ship (total weight around 8kg/17lbs).

### The Expedition does not include:

- › Any international or local airfare unless otherwise specified in the voyage itinerary
- › Visa and passport expenses
- › Pre or post-cruise hotel accommodation unless otherwise specified in the itinerary (or pre-arranged)
- › Pre or post-cruise transfers unless otherwise specified in the itinerary (or pre-arranged)
- › Personal expenses on board such as alcoholic beverages, bar charges or laundry expenses
- › Telecommunication charges (i.e. email, satellite phone)
- › Baggage, cancellation or medical travel insurance related expenses (travel insurance is mandatory on all voyages)
- › A voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for expedition staff and ship crew (suggested amount – US\$15-20 per day)

# THE RIGHT SHIP = THE BEST EXPERIENCE



**One Ocean Voyager**  
(Akademik Sergey Vavilov)

*Akademik Sergey Vavilov* is the perfect size ship for visiting Antarctica. She carries no more than 92 passengers. This is under the maximum number of people allowed on shore (100), as mandated by the regulatory organization for tourism activities in Antarctica (IAATO). Being under this limit, means you will spend the maximum amount of time on shore, on EVERY single excursion. Once on shore, we break up into smaller special interest groups, with several hiking options, perhaps a visit to a penguin rookery, a historic site or a quiet stroll along the shoreline contemplating the magic. You decide how your day unfolds. Your time in Antarctica is precious and we aim to maximize your experience at every opportunity. To learn more about this exceptional vessel, request a copy of the **Ship Fact Sheet** containing detailed specifications and additional information about cabins and other facilities.

## BEFORE YOU BOOK – IMPORTANT VOYAGE DETAILS

### COMPREHENSIVE PRE-VOYAGE INFORMATION

Upon receipt of your deposit and booking forms, a detailed booklet will be sent to you providing additional information to help you prepare for your voyage. This resource is full of useful facts and covers practicalities such as suggested clothing, life on board the ship, wildlife, geography and history as well as details about the activities available throughout your voyage. Information regarding passports and visas, budgeting, as well as travel insurance requirements are also found in this helpful document.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

On all One Ocean Expeditions' voyages, you must have comprehensive travel insurance. Your booking agent can recommend a policy designed to cover participants on these voyages. Your policy must provide coverage for your medical costs in case of hospitalization, emergency travel and repatriation.

Please check the terms of your policy carefully, particularly with regard to limits of cover. Also ensure you are familiar with the procedure for making claims. Once you have paid your deposit or full payment, certain fees will apply if you have to cancel your holiday (see the cancellation provisions in our booking terms and conditions). For this reason you should take out travel insurance at the time of paying your deposit, which should then protect you in such a situation. You will be required to send us travel insurance policy details prior to your voyage.

### PASSPORTS AND VISAS

You will need a valid passport with you throughout the journey. Some nationalities will be required to pay a 'reciprocity fee' for entering Argentina and/or Chile. It is important that your passport is valid for at least six months AFTER the expected finish date of your voyage.

### CAMPING IN ANTARCTICA

Spend a night on shore camping in Antarctica. Quality camping gear is provided for everyone to enjoy this unique experience. Camping is INCLUDED in the price of your expedition. You do not need to pre-book this activity. Sign up once onboard. NOTE: Camping is dependent on favourable weather conditions. This activity is not guaranteed on any voyage.

### SEA KAYAKING

The sea kayaking program is directed at any passenger with an adventurous spirit and some prior paddling experience. This option MUST be reserved at the time of booking and attracts an additional charge of US\$795 per participant. You can not book sea kayaking on board the ship. You will need to complete a special questionnaire outlining your previous kayaking experience. Ask your agent, or our office for a copy of this document if you are interested in joining the sea kayaking program.

### THE ONE CLUB – EXPEDITION ALUMNI

Come as a passenger, leave as a friend. Once you have experienced one voyage with us, it's likely you will want to experience another. Your commitment to travel with us is rewarded with our commitment to you, our valued guest. As members of the One Club Expedition Alumni, your loyalty is rewarded with a range of great travel benefits when you return for your next voyage — no matter the destination. Ask your booking agent for details.



**IMPORTANT:** The information provided here is given in good faith and has been compiled with all reasonable care. However, some of the information may become out of date. Please keep this in mind and check with us if you want to be sure about anything. The document was correct at time of printing. If you have any queries, please contact your voyage booking agent or our office. We are here to help you.



## Supporting Antarctic Science

One Ocean Expeditions collaborates with various research partners, who are executing important and relevant projects while on-board our expeditions. These projects are funded and assisted by One Ocean Expeditions and our guests. Research may range from collecting data for critical oceanographic studies, to the tagging and tracking of migrant whale populations for universities and scientific institutions.



## World Leading - the World Over

For several years One Ocean Expeditions and The Royal Canadian Geographical Society have maintained a collaborative relationship grounded in geographical education, exploration, science, social and economic community development, Canadian national identity and experiential travel. We are proud to be the exclusive marine travel partner of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society and affiliates.



## The Right Team

Fewer than 100 guests on the ship doesn't mean fewer staff. Quite the opposite. You will come to appreciate the dedication of our expedition team when onboard the ship. The highest staff to guest ratio in the industry (1:4) allows you to experience the broadest range of activities possible, catering to all interests and abilities. We are known for our flexible, yet professional approach and an ability to 'make it happen'.

## INTERESTED IN THIS EXPERIENCE?

**When choosing to travel with One Ocean Expeditions we ensure your experience from start to finish is straight forward and well organized.**

Start by customizing your journey and mapping out the trip ahead.

If this sounds like the right trip for you, please discuss your ideas and plans with your preferred booking agent. They will reserve a cabin for you on your chosen voyage. This provides time to book flights to the embarkation points of this voyage and to plan other pre or post voyage travel requirements. Please remember that you will require comprehensive travel insurance to join our voyages. This is best arranged at the time of booking. Following confirmation of your reservation, you will need to complete a detailed **One Ocean Expeditions Booking Package** plus other pre-voyage documentation to accompany your deposit. At this point your voyage of discovery is underway.

Take advantage of our experience, which spans decades of expedition travel in the Polar Regions. Should you have any questions, we are here to help at any time.



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