

ANTARCTICA: 2019/20

TRIP NOTES



Marine Mammals of Antarctica



05 MAR 2020 – 15 MAR 2020



10 NIGHTS / 11 DAYS



STARTS USHUAIA

VIEW ANTARCTICA'S WHALES IN CLOSE PROXIMITY ON THIS UNIQUE EXPEDITION

March is a time of great activity in Antarctic waters and historically we encounter a higher concentration of whales during this period. They are busy feeding prior to their annual migrations to tropical waters. However, scientists are now discovering that some whale species remain in the ice-free sections of Antarctica over winter.

On this voyage we plan to visit several known locations along the Antarctic Peninsula that are the focus of long-term research projects by esteemed academic institutions including University of California (Santa Cruz), California Ocean Alliance and the Australian Antarctic Division's Marine Mammal Centre. We are joined on the ship by several world-renowned cetacean (whale) experts and observe their important scientific fieldwork in close proximity. They share with us unique underwater footage and scientific data and interpret the behaviour, migration characteristics and feeding patterns of adult whales and their calves. Their participation on our voyage is greatly valued and provides a fascinating glimpse into cutting-edge Antarctic research.

Antarctica's seals are also found in sizable numbers late in the season, resting and storing energy that will sustain them over winter. For those with a passion for Antarctica's marine mammals, this unique voyage should not be missed. Oh, and did we mention it's also our favourite time of the year for blazing orange and pink Antarctic sunrises and sunsets?



Expedition Highlights

- > Encounter large numbers of whales and observe important scientific field research
- > 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
-  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) (THURSDAY, 05 MARCH 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. This stretch of the South Atlantic is rich in its bio-diversity and showcases an 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 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 research 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 anticipate an increase in whale sightings.

DAYS 4-7 / GERLACHE STRAIT AND THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA REGION

We awaken today, and the magnificent snowy peaks of continental Antarctica are laid out before us. Even our experienced expedition staff, some with more than 100 journeys south, will take a moment to pause and reflect on the immense power of Antarctica. Take a deep breath – you have arrived. The waterways of the Antarctic Peninsula are home to deep bays, pristine coves and inlets and numerous islands. The landscape features heavily glaciated mountains permanently covered in ice and snow. Rocky outcrops, known as 'nunataks' are home to gentoo, Adelie and chinstrap penguin rookeries and the waters are rich in marine life.

We frequently encounter seals, including the powerful leopard seal, often found relaxing on an ice floe. Curious humpback whales and the smaller minke whales are found in sizeable numbers in this region. Sightings of orca are not uncommon. Fournier Bay is a known whale 'hot-spot' and ice permitting, we explore in Zodiacs hoping to encounter pods of whales.

The science team hope to deploy non-invasive tracking devices on the whales to collect data on dive and feeding patterns. Observation and photography of whale flukes (tails) is something everyone is encouraged to participate in both from the ship and while Zodiac cruising. Whale flukes are unique identifiers of particular animals, in much the same way as a human finger print. Collecting and analysing this data is vital to our understanding of whale migration patterns and social behaviour.

In addition to our whale encounters, we enjoy a regular program of exploration on and off the ship. Popular activities include guided hikes on shore and visits to wildlife colonies with our expert naturalist guides, while the historic huts and science stations provide a fascinating glimpse into the past and the present. Zodiac cruising among the ice is a memorable activity and our sea kayakers may range several miles from the ship. Our photography guide will be on hand to help you with your camera handling, image composition and the peculiar light found in Antarctica.

Planned excursions could include Cierva Cove, Danco Island, or a cruise through the Errera Channel to visit the penguin rookeries at Cuverville Island. Wilhelmina Bay never disappoints and is another important location where the scientists hope to deploy their research tools. Neko Harbour is yet another highlight and offers an excellent hiking route providing stunning 360-degree views.



After several busy days of exploration along the Peninsula, we head north across the Bransfield Strait, bound for the South Shetland Islands. This is an important whale migration corridor and frequent sightings can be expected of humpbacks and even the fast-moving orca.

DAY 8 / SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS

By morning 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, high up onto the rim of the crater.

After leaving Deception Island, we cruise along the coast of Livingston Island which on a sunny day is a memorable experience. There are several other landing sites in the South Shetland's 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. Hannah Point, with its elephant seal colony and nesting Antarctic petrels - is another possibility. In the evening, we navigate north through the McFarlane Strait and into the Drake Passage, charting a course for South America.

DAYS 9-10 / 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 is 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 11 / ARRIVE USHUAIA (ARGENTINA) – VOYAGE CONCLUDES – (SUNDAY, 15 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.

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 11
- ✓ 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.

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 \$US795 per participant. You cannot 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.



8 The Strand, Penshurst NSW 2222,
AUSTRALIA
Call: 1300 738 168
Look: www.forwardtravel.com.au
Email: enquiries@forwardtravel.com.au

Trip Note Updated: 24JUL18 - RC