

ANTARCTICA, SOUTH GEORGIA & FALKLAND ISLANDS

20th January – 10th February 2024



FROM
£10,150
PER PERSON

Tour Leader: Alastair Fothergill


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY

JOIN US ON AN ENCHANTING EXPEDITION TO THE GREAT WHITE CONTINENT

On this extraordinary 19-day voyage, follow in the wake of courageous explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton to Antarctica and the South Shetlands before heading via Antarctic Sound and Weddell Sea to South Georgia and Falkland Islands, on board Ocean Victory with Albatros Expeditions.

Departing Ushuaia in Argentina, we cross the mighty Drake Passage en route for the South Shetland Islands. Here we will make Zodiac landings at penguin rookeries, research stations and fascinating lookouts, also getting a chance to get close to magnificent whales. Continuing southward, we will explore the Antarctic Sound with its mighty tabular icebergs and enter the Weddell Sea in search for wildlife.

Sailing onwards between Elephant Island and South Georgia offers a small glimpse into the passage made famous by Shackleton 100 years ago, when he navigated the 1300 km course through open seas of Drake Passage in an effort to save his stranded crew. South Georgia is one of world's greatest natural wonders. Wildlife-packed beaches, active research stations, former whaling stations and a visit to Shackleton's final resting place are on our agenda.

On our last leg towards Argentina, we will pay a visit to the fascinating Falkland Islands. The capital of Port Stanley with its quaint English architecture will be our first call before venturing further west for Zodiac landings and wildlife observations on pristine and sheltered beaches.

After leaving the Falklands, the last seadays can be spent bird watching from the top deck and attending lectures, workshops, and photo re-caps in one of the ship's lounges.



21-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 20 JANUARY 2024

20 January London / Buenos Aires

Flight from London Heathrow to Buenos Aires (timings yet to be confirmed).

21 January Buenos Aires / Ushuaia

Arrival in Buenos Aires. Domestic flights to Ushuaia. Dinner and Overnight Ushuaia (hotel yet to be confirmed)

22 January Embarkation In Ushuaia

Arrive and embark in Ushuaia, Argentina - the world's southernmost town. Explore the quaint city or local countryside. Alternatively, consider a day trip off the beaten path to the raw, natural archipelago of Tierra del Fuego. It's a hiker's paradise with rugged snow-capped mountains, glaciers, flower-filled meadows, and boggy quagmires. In the afternoon, we board our ship. Our journey begins as we navigate through the calms of Beagle Channel, a strait in the Tierra del Fuego Archipelago.

23 – 24 January At Sea. Drake's Passage, King George Island

Sailing onward, we cross the famed Drake Passage - a body of water that marks the intersection of the cold Antarctic with the warmer Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Drake Passage is known for strong westerly winds, heavy sea, and its nickname 'The Roaring Fifties'. While this passage may be challenging, you can rest confidently aboard our expedition vessel, Ocean Victory, which is purpose-built with stabilizers, powerful engines, and a highly qualified crew. The most spirited sailors consider Drake Passage a lifetime achievement – and soon you can tick it off on the list yourself! In the Drake, the excitement builds as Antarctic wildlife comes into view with our first sight of seals, penguins, and albatrosses. Having crossed the Drake, we will explore the sub-Antarctic islands of the South Shetland chain and be marveled by the captivating landscapes we will encounter along the way. Weather permitting, we hope to make our first landfall on King George Island before continuing

further south to the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula.

25 – 28 January Antarctic Sound And Weddell Sea

Over the coming days, we will begin the exciting Antarctic experience at the very tip of the Continent. During these days in the Antarctic Sound, named in 1902 after the Swedish vessel Antarctic, the captain and the expedition team will keep a watchful eye on the mighty tabular icebergs, born from the floating Larsen Ice Shelf further south. We aim to have both continental and island landings on the shores of Antarctic Sound and Weddell Sea, always on the lookout for some of the unusually large penguin colonies, which have recently been observed.

The itinerary and activities over the next few days depend on weather and ice conditions. The route and shore landings will be determined by the Captain and Expedition Leader and communicated to the guests through regularly scheduled briefings.



29 January – 3 February Drake Passage And South Georgia

From the Weddell Sea we continue our journey into the open sea, just as Ernest Shackleton and his men did more than hundred years ago. Having lost their ship Endurance deep south in the Weddell Sea they moved slowly north on ice floes and later in open lifeboats until they reached Elephant Island. From here started one of the most remarkable boat journeys in the polar history, when Shackleton and five of his men for two weeks navigated the 720 nautical miles to South Georgia to call for recovery of the stranded crew on Elephant Island. We on the other hand will reach the mighty South Georgia after just a few days at sea!

South Georgia offers stunning wildlife experiences with a wealth of breeding penguins, sea birds, sea lions and seals, all seeking shelter in this oasis amidst the roaring Southern Ocean. Previous whaling history pops up in most of fjords we will explore – not least in Grytviken the only inhabited settlement on this mountainous island. Grytviken is also the last resting place for

Ernest Shackleton, after he died on yet another Antarctica voyage in 1922. We will explore the fjords of the north coast for 2-3 days and take as many shore landings as time and the swelling sea will allow us.

4 – 5 February South Atlantic, Approaching Falkland Islands

Days at sea are great for participating in lectures and other activities hosted by the expedition team, reading books in the ship library, and watching the ubiquitous storm petrels and albatrosses from top deck. Or just to relax.

6 – 7 February Port Stanley And Falkland Islands

During the morning we approach the Falkland Islands and in the early afternoon Ocean Victory will cast anchor the sheltered natural harbor of Port Stanley. Utilizing our Zodiacs, we will land in the town center, and take a leisurely stroll through the streets of Stanley.

On the following day we will make landings – weather permitting – at two of the islands' many magnificent wildlife spots.

8 – 9 February At Sea Toward South America. Ushuaia / Buenos Aires

We are now into the last leg of this adventurous voyage, heading back to Ushuaia. After a hearty farewell to the vessel and crew, we disembark in the morning after breakfast. Fly from Ushuaia to Buenos Aires. Overnight Buenos Aires, (hotel yet to be confirmed)

10 February Buenos Aires / London

International flight from Buenos Aires to London (timings yet to be confirmed).



M/V OCEAN VICTORY



The strong, ice-classed expedition vessel provides real comfort in rough weather and high waves, whilst also being able to get close to Antarctica's dramatic coastlines. It's one of the most modern small ships in its class - a brand-new generation of low-energy vessels with excellent environmental credentials. Its guest cabins are designed with a touch of sophistication, and many have private balconies for admiring the ocean views. Other standout features include several restaurants, an inviting Nordic Bar, a dedicated wellness area and an open dining deck - all designed for absolute comfort as you delve into the wonders of Antarctica.

TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

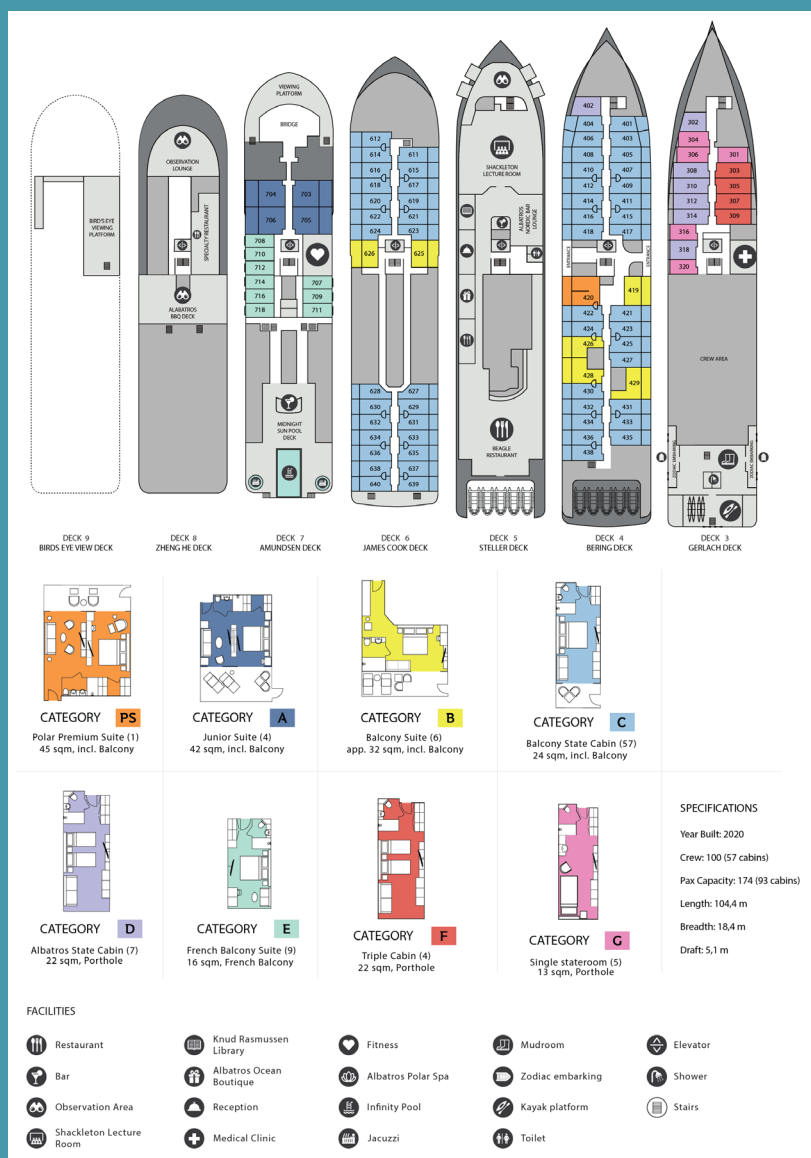
Category G Single Cabin	£17,180
No more singles available	
Category F (Triple)	£10,150
Category E	£13,665
Category D	£13,275
Category C	£15,227
Category B Balcony Suite	£16,868
Category A	£23,430
Premium Suite	£25,773

PRICE INCLUDES

- 9 – 17 Nights voyages according to the program
- Accommodation in shared outside rooms
- English speaking expedition team
- Shore landings by Zodiac
- Information briefings and lectures by the expedition team
- Full board on the ship
- Free coffee and tea on the ship
- Boots in assorted sizes, suitable for shore landings
- Port fees, IAATO fees, taxes, and tariffs
- Parkas for all guests (excluding South American Voyages)

PRICE EXCLUDES

- International and domestic flights
- Hotel accommodation in Ushuaia
- Travel insurance
- Cancellation insurance
- Extra excursions and activities not mentioned in the itinerary
- Single room supplements and room upgrades
- Meals not on board the ship
- Any other beverages
- Tips for the ship crew (approx. \$14 per person per day)
- Kayaking \$ per trip, Snowshoeing \$150 per trip, camping US \$350 (Until 31st Jan 2024)
- Excess baggage charges





TOUR LEADER



ALASTAIR FOTHERGILL

Alastair Fothergill joined the BBC Natural History Unit in 1983 and worked on a wide range of the department's programmes, including the BAFTA award winning *The Really Wild Show*, *Wildlife on One*, *The Natural World* and the innovative *Reefwatch* before working on the BBC1 series *The Trials of Life* with Sir David Attenborough. From here he went on to produce *Life in the Freezer*, *The Blue Planet*, *Planet Earth* and *Frozen Planet* before leaving the BBC in 2012 to set up his own production company Silverback Films. In 2015, Silverback Films completed a new landmark series for BBC 1, *The Hunt* before producing the first landmark natural history original series for Netflix, *Our Planet*. Alastair is also fellow of the Royal Geographic Society, who awarded him their gold medal in 2012, and currently resides in Bristol with his wife Melinda, two sons and three Jack Russells.



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