

EXPLORE!

Polar

voyages



It's fantastic that our trips are up and running again and we're delighted to be getting our customers away on their incredible voyages.

Visiting the polar regions is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience and although these spaces are far more accessible than they once were, they remain relatively untouched as one of the last true wilderness areas on earth. For the privileged few that make the journey in the short tourist season, a wealth of wildlife, awe-inspiring scenery and a history rich in polar exploration awaits.

There will be plenty to inspire you in the pages to follow and we hope that you enjoy the contributions from our polar experts and taking a peek at a handful of the many voyages that we offer to these regions.

Our polar team are on hand to help you arrange your perfect trip and we look forward to planning your next polar adventure!

Vanessa Fowler
Polar Product Manager





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Why Explore?

We've been pioneering adventure trips for more than 40 years. Our polar travel experiences immerse you in the wildlife and wilderness of these extraordinary destinations. There's a reason 98% of customers say they'd book with us again.



Expert knowledge

All of our polar ships have an on-board team of highly experienced expedition crew and naturalist guides. They're there to share their knowledge and enthusiasm, and help create lifelong memories that stand the test of time.



Unforgettable experiences

Our aim is to maximise your time spent off the ship, seeing amazing landscapes and wildlife up-close. Excellent Zodiac boat operations, make it as quick and easy as possible to get on and off the ship. Most of our trips offer a choice of walks on the landings and a few have extra hiking options. Kayaking and camping are also available on some of our voyages and can be organised in advance.

“By travelling with us, you will also be contributing to vital projects to aid polar conservation.”

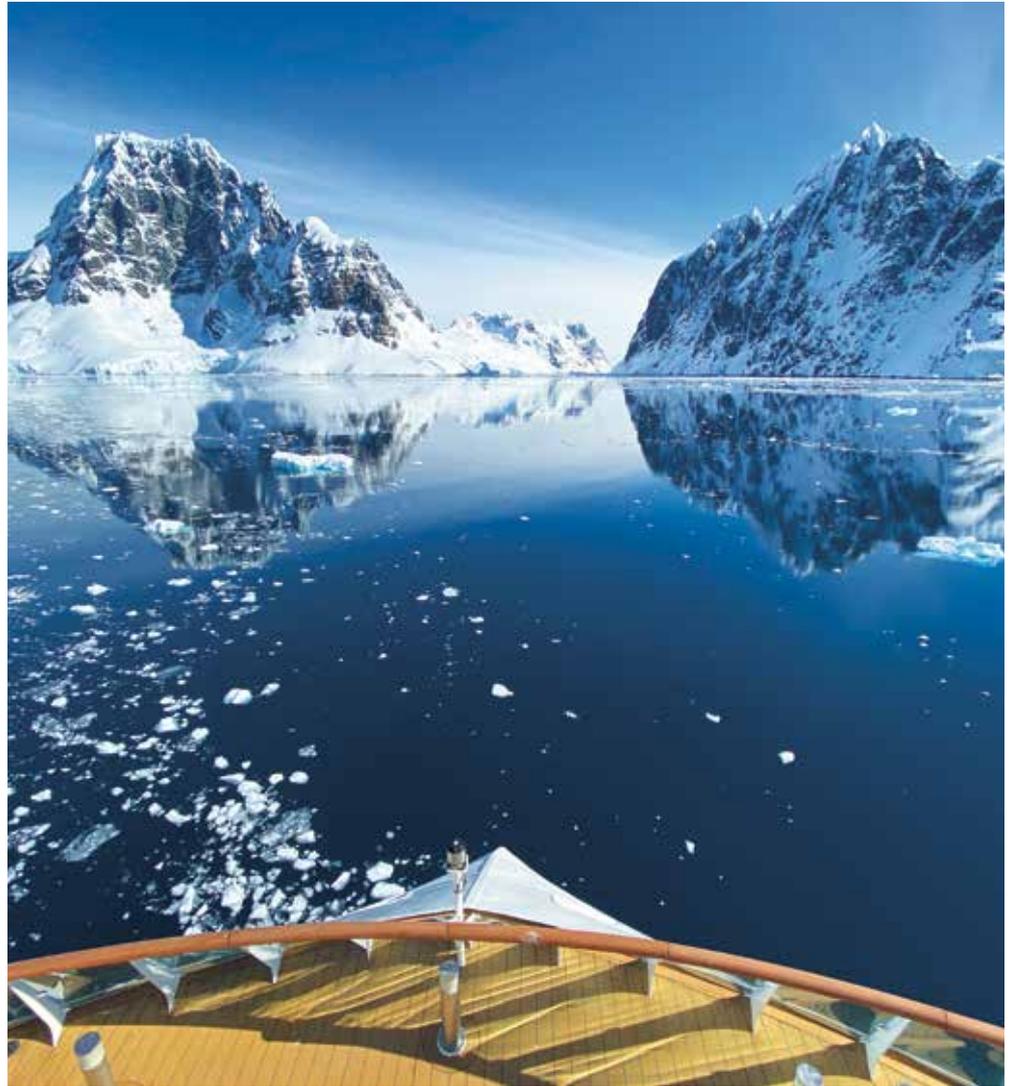




Small ships

Most of our ships carry between 65–200 passengers. Travelling on a small ship means you'll spend less time waiting to embark or disembark and can get much closer to the shoreline. Life on board is relaxed and informal; you'll receive a more personalised service from expert guides and get to know your fellow like-minded passengers.

“Our aim is to maximise your time spent off the ship, seeing amazing landscapes and wildlife up-close.”



Responsible at heart

Our sustainable approach and flexible booking policies set us apart. We're committed to reducing our impact on the planet and working towards a sustainable future. Every single one of our trips now has a carbon label. We select partners who subscribe to the highest environmental and safety guidelines. So by travelling with us, you will be contributing to vital projects to aid polar conservation.

We've always had flexible booking conditions and were praised for doing the right thing throughout the pandemic, so you can continue to book with confidence. To find out more, visit exploreworldwide.com.au/flex.

The Explore loyalty club

To thank you for your ongoing support you can now be part of the Explore loyalty club after your very first trip.

Climb quickly through the levels, unlocking trip discounts and early access to new trips and promotions. You'll also get access to exclusive offers and partner discounts, plus big savings when you recommend a friend to Explore.



	 Bronze Explorer after completing your 1st trip	 Silver Explorer after completing your 2nd trip	 Gold Explorer after completing your 4th trip	 Platinum Explorer after completing your 9th trip
VIP Benefits				
Trip discount Your welcome home offer		5% off third and subsequent bookings*	7% off fifth and subsequent bookings*	10% off tenth and subsequent bookings*
Save money off your next trip when you refer friends	✓	✓	✓	✓
Get early access to discounts and special offers	✓	✓	✓	Priority access
Receive exclusive discounts with select partners	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dedicated priority phone line		✓	✓	✓
Early access to new trips		✓	✓	Priority access
The chance to provide input on new itineraries				✓
Access to exclusive events				✓
A tree planted in your name after your 10th trip				✓

* A different loyalty scheme applies for Family Adventures. The welcome home discount applies to the trip only element of your booking and excludes flights. For full Ts&Cs see [change to exploreworldwide.com.au/loyalty](http://exploreworldwide.com.au/loyalty)

Recommend a friend and receive \$175 credit

If you know someone who would enjoy our trips as much as you have, why not introduce them to Explore? For every friend who books, we'll give you (and them!) a \$175* credit as a thank you.

*See exploreworldwide.com.au/recommend-a-friend for full terms.

NEW! Switch and save

Loyal to another adventure brand? We're so sure you'll love our trips that we REALLY want you to try them. Book your next trip with Explore and we'll reward your previous loyalty... even if it wasn't to us!

Find out how to switch your loyalty at [change to exploreworldwide.com.au/loyalty-switch](http://change.to.exploreworldwide.com.au/loyalty-switch)

NEW! Pass It On

Extend your loyalty membership to your family with our new Pass It On scheme! Share your loyalty benefits with up to five members of your family. So, whatever discount you get on our trips, they'll get too! The perfect way to introduce your family to your favourite way of travelling the world.

It's really easy, just go to exploreworldwide.com.au/pass-it-on

News

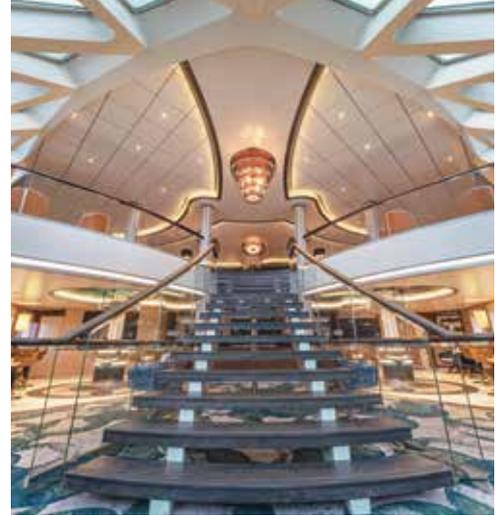
Sylvia Earle's inaugural voyage

We are excited to share that the brand new *Sylvia Earle* launched her inaugural season to Antarctica in December 2022.

Certified 100% Climate Neutral, with a fully equipped Citizen Science Centre, expert lectures and participative Citizen Science programmes, *M/V Sylvia Earle* is a floating ambassador for the conservation of the planet.

Can't wait to voyage on the *Sylvia Earle*? We have three brand new trips that let you experience the highlights of both the Arctic and Antarctica on the newly launched vessel.

“M/V Sylvia Earle is a floating ambassador for the conservation of the planet.”



Northwest Passage in Depth

Take an epic 30-day voyage, following in the path of historic adventurers, as we attempt to sail the full length of the fabled Northwest Passage. Along the way, look out for polar bear on the shorelines and beluga whale, walrus and maybe even narwhal in the waters around you.

➤ exploreworldwide.com.au/SENI

Svalbard in Depth

Deep-dive into the magical region of the Svalbard Archipelago. Take your time to explore the flora and fauna of this truly remote place. As the days pass by, Svalbard will provide unforgettable Arctic experiences on and off your expedition vessel.

➤ exploreworldwide.com.au/SESI

Deep into the Weddell Sea

Explore both sides of the Antarctic Peninsula on this two-week polar expedition. Enter Shackleton's domain, the Weddell Sea, on the lesser-visited eastern side of the Peninsula and witness huge tabular icebergs and prolific wildlife. Spot Weddell seal and mingle amongst the Adélie along the shoreline.

➤ exploreworldwide.com.au/SEDW

The definition of Endurance

Known as the 'Indiana Jones of the Deep', maritime archaeologist **Mensun Bound** has been excavating, evaluating and recording shipwrecks for decades. He was Director of Exploration for the project that found the *Endurance*, 10,000ft below the surface of the Weddell Sea. It was his most significant discovery yet. >



Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust

Your search for Sir Ernest Shackleton's lost ship *Endurance* was the culmination of years of research and dedication. What is your connection to this particular wreck?

I come from the Falkland Islands, where Shackleton stayed three times. My father had his books and he actually stayed in our family lodgings on the waterfront in Port Stanley when he visited. We still have the visitor's book in the family, with Shackleton's signature. I could never escape the connection.

You journeyed to Antarctica on a mission to find *Endurance*, which sank in 1915. How did being there, in challenging weather conditions, impact you?

You empathise with Shackleton and the team and their situation on the ice. We were facing temperatures of -40° which is seriously dangerous. It's enough to freeze mercury, or in my case, to pop my fillings! All the crew had, when the ship sank in 1915, was a linen tent, and it was so thin you could see the moon from inside.

Describe the moment you knew you'd found the wreckage.

We'd come through a really brutal period of weather, white-outs and crushing ice. The ship was stretched to the limit, the only one left on the Weddell Sea. I was just getting out of my polar gear, trying to warm up, when a young cadet appeared and said that the captain required our presence on the bridge immediately. We had a really bad season in 2019 where we lost our search vehicle. I had bad memories and I hoped to God we hadn't lost it again. We burst on to the bridge and project manager Nico Vincent thrust his phone in my face. There was an amazing sonar image of a wreck on it and he said: "Gents, let me introduce you to the *Endurance*!" It was just a moment of incredible joy, just utter undiluted happiness. I felt like I had the breath of Shackleton himself on the back of my neck.

What were the first things you noticed about the ship?

Everywhere I looked I was reminded of people. When we came up over the stern of the ship, the paintwork intact, I saw the ship's wheel. There's a bit of film by ship photographer Frank Hurley of expedition geologist James Wordie sailing the ship, so at that point, I thought of him. Just behind is a companionway down to the accommodation deck and there's a famous photograph of Hussey, who played the banjo, standing in the doorway. Seeing the door, I immediately thought of him. Up on the poop deck, there's a wonderful bit in Shackleton's book where he talks about looking down the engine room skylight and seeing the engines being shifted over to one side because of the damage that was occurring. When I saw that, I thought of him. I can count off all of the cabins on the ship and I know who was in them; I read every diary. It's a very human experience. It's not just a technical construct, it's a construct full of people with all of their extraordinary merits and quibbles, infatuations and pettinesses!

Were there any surprising finds aboard?

We found a roll of linoleum! That might not sound too exciting, but seeing the patternwork, identical to the photograph we have of men scrubbing the winter quarters, was a moment. When I saw the portholes to Shackleton's cabin, it was intoxicating. I knew that between the portholes, Rudyard Kipling's poem 'If' would be in a frame, screwed to the wall. Little things like that just electrify – we were completely high on what we were seeing.

“Gents, let me introduce you to the *Endurance*!”. It was just a moment of incredible joy, just utter undiluted happiness.”

How did *Endurance* compare to what you'd imagined she'd be like?

I've done a lot of very deep ocean work so I made four predictions when we launched the project in 2019 and all of them were correct – I was quite proud of that. I said that the ship would be upright on the seabed, that she'd be proud on the seabed and not below the mud and that she'd be in a great state of preservation because it'd be too cold in the Weddell Sea for ship worms. I also said she'd be largely intact, which she was. I knew how incredibly strong she was built because I'd seen the plans.

You've been excavating shipwrecks with your wife Jo since the early 1980s. How did you tell her you'd found *Endurance*?

Jo and I had a code that we'd agreed on. If we found the ship, I'd message 'bingo'. If there were multiple underlinings, it'd mean she was in incredible condition and if I added multiple exclamation marks, it'd mean she was just knock-your-socks-off beautiful beyond words. So I sent 'bingo' with the lines and exclamation marks! She was sobbing with happiness. That's how it felt on the ship for us too, a feeling of pure euphoria. At last, we had succeeded! ■

*Mensun's book, *The Ship Beneath The Ice*, is out now via Pan Macmillan. The blow-by-blow account of his two expeditions to find the *Endurance* can be found now where all good books are sold, including on Amazon Kindle.*

Trip feature

Join an Explore voyage to the Weddell Sea and follow in the footsteps of Shackleton and his men who fought for survival in one of the most challenging places on earth. Visit exploreworldwide.com.au/Antarctica to plan your adventure.



Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust

The warmer pole, the Arctic, has a long cultural history of human life at the northernmost edge. Wild flowers bejewel a rugged terrain, where polar bears roam.

Poles





apart

In a region where people have never permanently settled, turquoise glaciers dominate the southernmost landscape, a challenging place that offers bountiful natural rewards for bold explorers. >

For those who only consider the very low temperatures of the poles, picturing the ice that caps and packs the extreme ends of the earth, it's an easy assumption to make that both regions are inhospitable landscapes – but it's an incorrect one. Antarctica certainly may be a lesser-explored area of thrilling challenges and heroic tales of early (and relatively recent) exploration, but the Arctic is marginally less cold, with plants, rivers, lakes, hills and mountains spread over the eight countries that make up the Arctic; Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, the United States, Canada, Denmark (Greenland) and Iceland. Sure, the Arctic has its frosty plains and tundra, but life has found a way here and it's colourful and fascinating, from the wild flowers to the textiles weft by indigenous people. People have lived in the Arctic for generations; including the Inuit, Chukchi, Sami, Yupik and Inupiat. The Inuit communities of the Arctic welcome you to villages on Baffin, Canada's largest island, where we learn of traditional arts, crafts, hunting and more. Hearing their perspective makes for a culturally enriching experience that only the Arctic can provide. We learn more about their lives, hearing stories of resilience and discovering what it's like to co-exist alongside the extraordinary creatures that share this remote place, including Arctic foxes, seals, 17 species of whale and an abundance of birdlife.

Then, of course, there's the mighty polar bear, which can only be found on this northernmost edge of the world. Watching from afar as these glorious carnivores roam the ice is often a bucket list experience for travellers who journey to see them and who find much more than they bargained for. Choosing a trip here often depends on your schedule; we visit when the average summer temperature hovers somewhere around 0°C, so expeditions are best from May to September. While that does leave ample opportunity to see the botanical delights of the Arctic, you'll also see icebergs dramatically calve off the Greenland Ice Sheet. Paddling along in a kayak, a flask of hot chocolate to warm you up, you'll pass nesting bird colonies, keeping your eyes peeled for seals and whales. Few moments compare to spotting a pod of orca, the horizon scattered with glaciers. A flash of white may not necessarily be ice, however; mythical-looking narwhals play here too, and you can capture your most precious encounters on camera. Award-winning fine art wildlife, nature and underwater photographer Scott Portelli joins us on board on selected journeys, sharing his knowledge of the polar light and the behaviour of Arctic creatures to ensure you document the magical moments – memories to keep as a reminder of what is, for many, a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

The Arctic

Unlike the Antarctic, first discovered in 1820, the Arctic has a storied human history of surviving, and thriving, for thousands of years.



The Antarctic

The coldest place on planet Earth, the Antarctic is often unpredictable, a pristine environment at the mercy of the elements. As such, it provides the most thrilling expeditions.



Given the Antarctic was only discovered 200 years ago, there's still so much about it that we can learn on every journey south. While guides, such as ornithologist and marine mammal expert Dr Alex Cowan (read more about his adventures on page 17-19), have observed the wildlife here for years, studied the weather and traversed the most challenging channels, every excursion offers plenty of opportunities to experience something extraordinary. Nothing is guaranteed on these trips, not even our itineraries, so we surrender to the elements and let Antarctica take the lead. The weather is extreme, colder than the north, and so you won't find communities of people living off the land, we can only visit this complete continent during Antarctic summer; it's unreachable for half of the year. But just because people haven't set up home here, doesn't mean that the region is devoid of life – quite the opposite is true. Eight species of penguin visit in pairs to nest in the open, huddled in their millions on the white, pristine wilderness. Gentoo, Adélie, chinstrap, king, rockhopper, Magellanic and macaroni species can be found across the peninsula, as can the more elusive (and rarely seen) emperor. This region is perfect for budding ornithologists too, with migrating species in vast numbers offering prolific bird spotting opportunities;

wandering albatross, skua and storm petrels are real highlights. Unlike the Arctic, there's little in the way of vegetation to see, with mountains, glaciers and sheet ice that stretch for miles on the horizon. With much frostier temperatures, compared to the Arctic, there's lots to learn about the brave voyagers who risked life and limb to first venture to the southernmost pole. Consider Sir Ernest Shackleton and his men, whose ship *Endurance* was crushed by ice and plummeted into the blue back in 1915 as they endeavoured to explore a new world (read more about that on pages 9-11). The sheer will to survive took the band of adventurers on an extraordinary journey back to civilisation and it's one we regularly follow, a chance to connect with the past. In the present, whales migrate to Antarctica to hunt for krill in November and December; later in the season, you'll become accustomed to spotting humpback flukes rising and disappearing beneath the surface of the cold water. Then there are the five seal species, rolling in the waves; the Antarctic fur seal, Weddell, crabeater, leopard and elephant. We stay on polar ships when we visit, remaining ever in the heart of Antarctica. Aboard, we have the chance to reflect and learn more from the experts that know this place best, logging our findings and contributing to the research of a region that still has so many mysteries to be unveiled. ■

Ask our expert

A trip to the polar regions requires the careful planning that comes from experience. Let our expert be your first guide.



Jenifer Costello, Explore's Polar Expert, is an experienced traveller who has explored icy tundras in search of wildlife and wonder herself. Here, she shares advice to help you plan your polar trip.

01.

How fit do I have to be to go on a polar expedition?

Sometimes you'll need to walk over rocky terrain, or venture out in a Zodiac in choppy waters, so it's worth taking that into consideration when assessing your own abilities. Our ship doctor will review the medical form you fill out in advance and they'll talk through any concerns with you.



02.

What are the age ranges like on Polar trips?

We have a real mix, from explorers in their 20s to people in their 80s. On average, we'd say somewhere in the region of 45-65, but that always seems to fade into insignificance when like-minded people come together on a trip to experience magical, once-in-a-lifetime moments together.



03.

Why is the itinerary changeable?

As Polar Explorer Dr Alex Cowan explains on page 17-19, weather and ice conditions can change the course of our expeditions; we have a base plan but our experienced crew keeps things flexible. It might mean being woken up at the crack of dawn to see a whale breach, or a new landing spot.



04.

Do I need my own jacket and boots/wellies?

Don't worry about that – all of our ships have waterproof welly-type boots for you to use, so just let us know if you need a particularly large or small size so we can ensure you're covered. Most ships supply waterproof jackets that you can borrow while on board, or keep afterwards.



05.

I've heard about the Drake Passage – what is it really like?

This can vary between a calm 'Drake Lake' or a more turbulent 'Drake Shake', but often it's somewhere in between. Our on-board doctor and crew can offer support if you feel seasick, but our polar ships have built-in stabilisers to make things as smooth as possible. We have fly-cruise options that cut the Drake Passage out altogether if you're worried.

06.

Will I be travelling with other Explore travellers?

Some, but not solely. Our polar trips are aboard small ships that are operated by our carefully-selected partners. There are fewer passengers aboard so, if you wish, you can get to know like-minded travellers and expert guides easily, whether they booked with Explore or another company.

07.

I'm travelling solo, do I have to pay a single supplement?

This depends, some ships have single cabins, while others charge a supplement to have sole occupancy of a twin or double. Look out for promotions where that fee is scrapped, as they do come up. If you book a Quad, Triple or Twin share cabin, the ship will allocate you a spot with other passengers of the same sex.

Feature

Meet the explorer

An icy wilderness? Antarctica is much more than that, says Polar Explorer and *Ocean Endeavour* Expedition Leader, **Dr Alex Cowan** >



“There’s something about it that just feels magical”

As a child, Dr Alex Cowan would dream of the polar regions, his imagination fuelled by tales of brave explorers and wild expeditions to remote, icy landscapes. Now, he leads expeditions of his own, spending seasons in Antarctica on the *Ocean Endeavour*, searching the horizon for pods of whale and observing colonies of penguins as they fight for survival in an unpredictable wilderness. Here, he talks to Explore about a beautiful life spent in one of the world’s last remaining uninhabited places.

When we asked Alex Cowan how many times he’d been to the polar regions, he took a good while to think about it. “I wish I knew, so I could celebrate my one hundredth trip! But I haven’t been keeping track – it’s close!” While Alex has spent countless frozen seasons in Antarctica, he talks about it as though he’s just fallen in love with it, talking of its beauty with a passion that seems to have only deepened with time.

“I’ve always had an interest in the polar regions. As a child I was fascinated with the Robert Falcon Scott and Roald Amundsen expeditions,” he says. “More than ten years ago, I had the opportunity to go to the Arctic and I’ve been returning ever since.”

“The very first time I landed in Antarctica, it wasn’t what I expected – I pictured a great, white wilderness, but it’s more complex than that. The mountains are grey in the South Shetland Islands; low storm-battered rocks covered in penguins and seals. It wasn’t until my second day that I truly realised where I was, when suddenly these vertical cliffs of ice and thousand-metre high mountains rose straight out of the sea.”

Since then, Alex has been exploring the Peninsula, now taking groups of travellers with him. “I have a fair idea of what is on most people’s tick list when they visit the polar regions,” Alex says. “Often it includes penguins, whales, icebergs and to land on mainland Antarctica. I know the Peninsula very well, so I organise a trip that I think will tick off as many of those things as possible, as well as my own favourites!”

One of those is the Penola Strait, just south of the Lemaire Channel. It has to be seen, and felt, to be understood. Alex explains: “There’s something about it that just feels magical. The light changes as you go through the Lemaire, and it’s less windy. It has its own microclimate and the sun seems to shine more. It’s just really beautiful.”

Alex takes travellers on Zodiacs around the Peninsula. Almost every trip leads to poignant

moments with wildlife. Alex says: “Seeing orca cruising down channels, watching seals attacking penguins, penguins bringing krill back from the sea to feed their chicks or chicks going into the sea for the first time to swim. They’re all beautiful things, like a wildlife documentary!”

Encounters with these creatures is something that Alex hopes will stay with visitors when they return home from a trip. “I hope visiting shows travellers that Antarctica is special, and it deserves to be protected, not only for other people, but in its own right,” says Alex. “It’s easy to see these places and it’s almost like watching a documentary – once it’s switched off it doesn’t exist anymore. But I hope they understand that all of the incredible, crazy things they saw are still happening all the time.”

Those ‘crazy things’ can be easily missed by adventurers when they’re aboard the ship. Alex says: “It’s easy to get into a routine of going out to explore, but you have to remember you’re still in Antarctica! Look out of the windows, or go out on the *Ocean Endeavour*’s deck. There could easily be something going on outside that no one is noticing. I’ve had guests show me incredible pictures of orca that they’ve seen as we’ve been sailing by – everyone else in the group missed them.”

Orca are some of Alex’s favourite creatures to see when he’s out exploring: “We don’t see them every time but it’s so wonderful when we do,” he says. “They’re enigmatic animals that travel in family groups. Some of their behaviour is a mystery to us, so it’s always magical.”





Just as the appearance of orca is unexpected, life in Antarctica can be unpredictable too. Plans can change when the weather turns, but experience allows Alex and the experienced team on the *Ocean Endeavour* to make better calls for their passengers. "I've seen and done so much that I have an instinct of what's the right thing to do," he says. "Each trip feels better than the one before. I keep going back as I have a fear of missing out! Who knows if this is the year you see orca killing a blue whale! I don't want to miss a thing."

Even when he's back home, the polar regions are never far from Alex's mind. "We're very careful when we travel to have as little impact as possible. The biggest threat to Antarctica is how we live our lives at home," he says. "We consume a lot, and use a lot of energy, and that's contributing to changes on our planet, whether that's via pollution or climate change. Educating people is important."

Alex is a founding member of the Polar Citizen Science Collective, working to educate polar travellers on the importance of protecting the polar regions. On his trips, Alex hopes to bridge the gap of understanding. "What the polar regions have made me realise is that these almost alien-like, faraway places are all part of our earth, and there's so much diversity and variety, all happening right now," he says. "If people are thinking of visiting, the thing I hear most is that people had high expectations and the team on the *Ocean Endeavour* exceeded them. But it's not us that did that, it's Antarctica. It's impossible to be disappointed by it. We don't always know where we'll go or what we'll see, we just know that it'll be amazing when we see it!" ■

Alex's trip suggestions

The Antarctic Peninsula and the Weddell Sea

"The history here is special so it's a good one for polar history buffs. It's where *Endurance* sank and where Shackleton and his men escaped from on their way to Elephant Island. There's other famous expeditions, such as the Nordenskjöld expedition, where explorers were stranded in the sea. In the Weddell Sea we see tabular icebergs which are unique to Antarctica, so you see something that's very, very Antarctic! It's also a really good place for Adélie penguins, which are the hardest for us to see on our trips on the Peninsula. They're in great numbers in the Weddell Sea."

► exploreworldwide.com.au/OEWS

Antarctica, Falklands and South Georgia

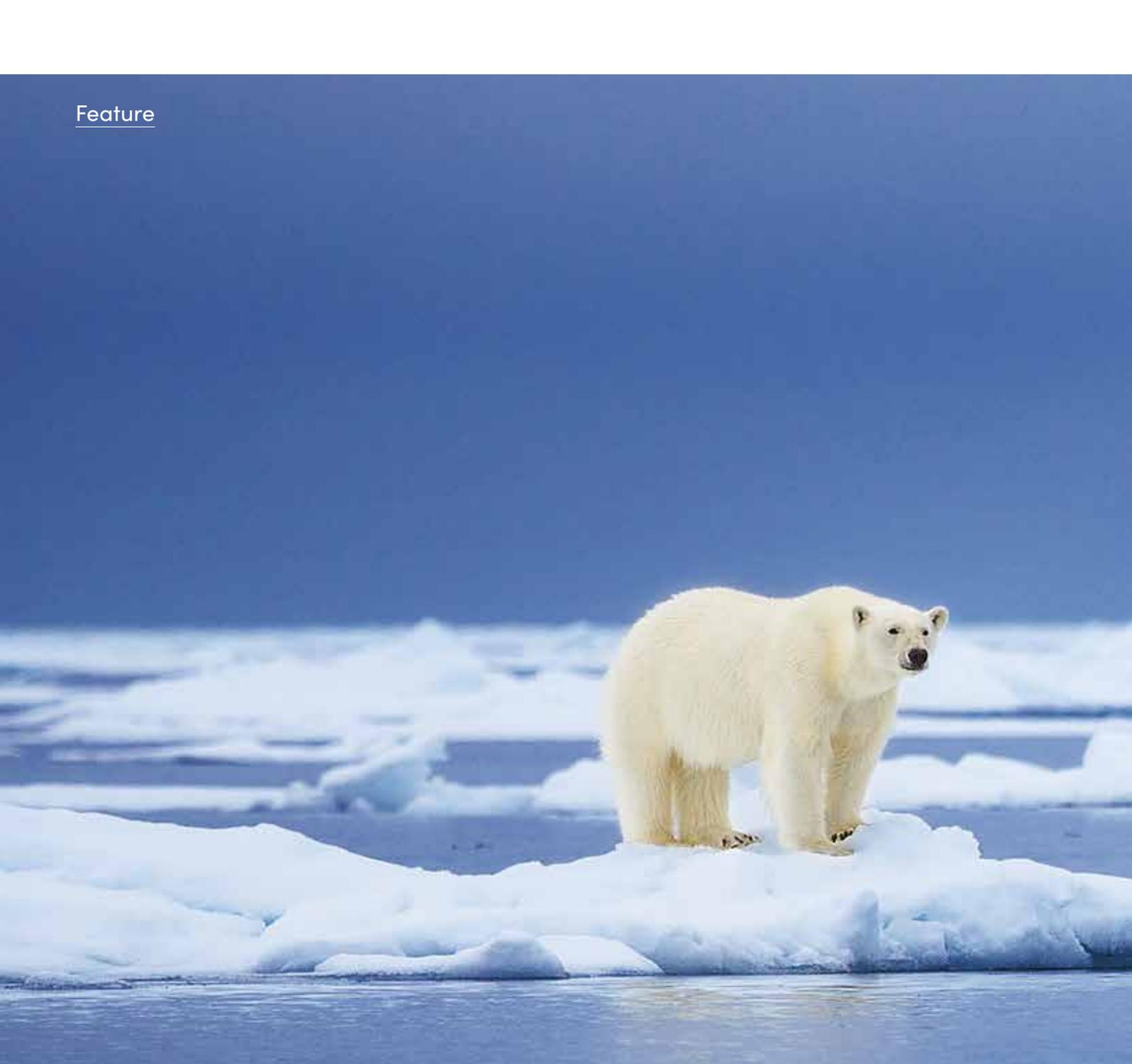
"The Falklands and South Georgia are amazing destinations in their own rights. The Falklands have fantastic penguin life and you can get really amazing dolphin and seal action there. What's really great is that you can see a lot of nesting albatross there too. South Georgia is another world, sitting right at the meeting point of several ocean currents, each of which brings nutrition. The sheer biomass on shore is unbelievable, tens of thousands of king penguins, millions of macaroni penguins, thousands upon thousands of elephant seals or fur seals depending on the time of the season. Sometimes, you arrive at a landing site and you physically cannot get ashore, you just have to stay on the boat and watch from the water as there's just so much going on."

► exploreworldwide.com.au/OESG

Classic Antarctica

"Once you arrive in Antarctica, you'll have breakfast and we'll head out from the *Ocean Endeavour* ship or on Zodiacs to explore. We might go ashore for a hike to see a penguin colony or seals, while others head out in kayaks. During lunch, we'll move the ship to a different part of the Peninsula and head out in those small boats again, going ashore to hike, in search of wildlife. On board, life is relaxed and comfortable, unpretentious, with plenty of good food to eat and amazing wildlife can be seen from the deck, following the ship as it sails around the Peninsula."

► exploreworldwide.com.au/OECA



Once in a lifetime



Polar bears, walruses, whales and more than 160 exquisite flowering plants... the Arctic is filled with surprises. When seasoned travellers **Keith Coleman** and **Sarah Hucker** planned a trip to the Arctic, their hope was to see a polar bear in the icy wild. Travelling through the freezing waters and icy plains on board the *Greg Mortimer* expedition ship, they soon found the majestic creatures of the region calling out to them – literally! ➤

Left
A polar bear stands on the edge of an ice floe in the Svalbard Archipelago.

“We saw glaciers calve into icebergs which is so spectacular, it sounds like thunder... it was incredible.”



Matt Horspool @Etchd Photography

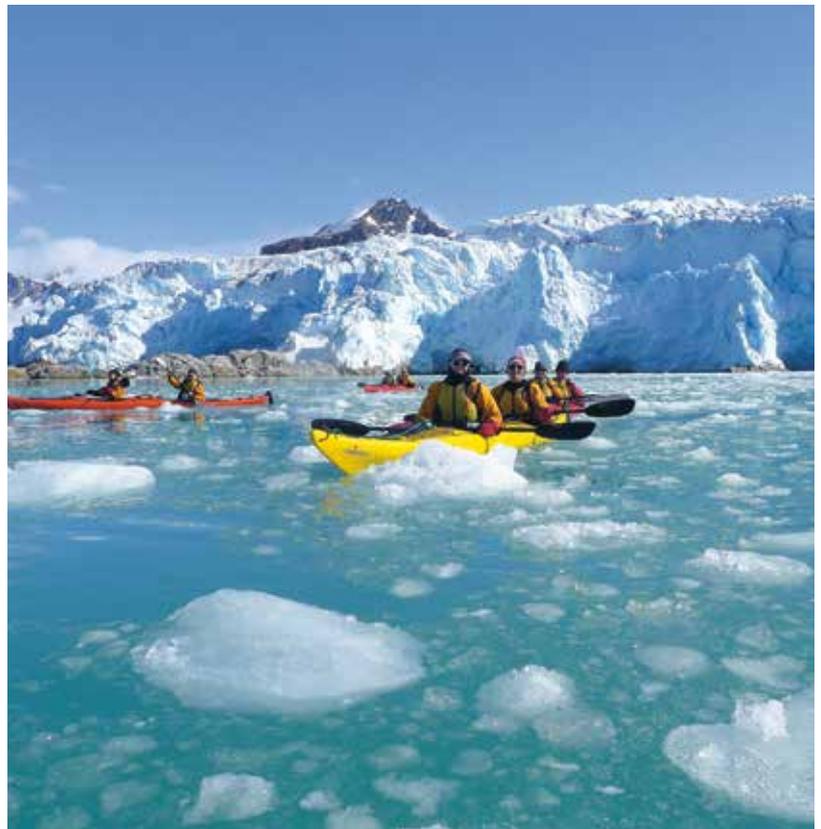
We're really big wildlife fans and we always go on adventure trips, having taken more than 30 trips with Explore, including to Africa, Asia and the Galapagos," Keith explains when we ask him to take us back in his mind to their Realm of the Polar Bear voyage. "I have a lifelong love of animals and love to spend vacations in search of them. This time we chose the Arctic."

Boarding the premium *Greg Mortimer* ship in Longyearbyen, one of the world's northernmost settlements, Keith and Sarah began an adventure around Spitsbergen in search of the polar bears they'd dreamt of seeing. It didn't take long – by day two the encounters had begun.

"We went out on Zodiacs every day. I'm not a good sailor but I was glad to get closer to glaciers and bird colonies," Sarah said. "The only time we couldn't take the Zodiacs ashore was when they'd spotted a polar bear! We saw our first on day two. In total we saw about ten! To see so many was magical."

Spending time with an expedition team of experts gave the pair an insight into the life that thrives in the Arctic. Sarah said: "The team was fantastic, and they made the trip so much better than we'd imagined. If I had a question about anything, they were always on hand to help. Howard Whelan, who was the expedition team leader, is a true explorer – he was part of the first Australian team to climb Everest. Every single leader had expert knowledge and they were so enthusiastic! Howard was always communicating with the captain of the boat, getting us to the best places. We also had a botanist with us, Joselyn, who was able to share everything about the plant life in the Arctic and an ornithologist was able to share information about the bird life, guillemots, kittiwakes and fulmars – it's a bird-watchers paradise."

One animal in particular showed great interest in us. Keith laughs recalling: "Though we went there to see the bears, we found we just fell in love with the walruses. There were hundreds of them! When we were out on the Zodiacs, they were so curious, as though they were daring each other to get closer and closer to us! They make the most extraordinary noise, barking like huge dogs. And then all of a sudden, they'd disappear beneath the water, popping up somewhere else. They're so full of character."



“We took photographs as we went, but we found that they couldn't possibly convey how beautiful the Arctic really is.”

Other, much bigger creatures were breaching the water too. "From aboard the ship, we saw a blue whale. On the top deck there's an observation lounge that offers panoramic views and there are hydraulic platforms that come down on either side of the boat so you can walk outside to watch as the ship carves through the ice."

The ice itself provided a spectacle too. They said: "We took photographs as we went, but we found that they couldn't possibly convey how beautiful the Arctic really is. We could watch glaciers calve into icebergs which is so spectacular, it sounds like thunder and as ice broke away, waves would ripple out towards us. It was incredible."

Travelling carefully and with consideration for the environment was important to the crew on board, and Keith and Sarah were able to get hands-on with the efforts to protect it. Keith said: "We learnt all about the attitude towards the polar bears on the island, and the conservation efforts to protect them. On one day, we did a beach clean to tidy up the plastic that had washed ashore. We then took it aboard so that the expedition team could do an analysis to find out where it had come from, so it could be reported to the authorities."

The pair loved the adventure so much that they're returning to the *Greg Mortimer*, this time to sail around the Antarctic Peninsula and the Subantarctic Islands. Keith said: "I really feel that trips to the polar regions are trips of a lifetime and they've been wonderful retirement gifts to ourselves. We've seen videos where orca have been chasing penguins in the Antarctic and the penguins have jumped into the Zodiac! We can't wait to see elephant seals in South Georgia." ■



Find out more

Keith and Sarah's trip,
Realm of the Polar Bear:
exploreworldwide.com.au/GMSO

Wildlife calendar

Whether in the Arctic or Antarctic, you're sure to be wowed by the wildlife. But what you'll see can vary considerably at different times in the season.

JANUARY

Penguin chicks in Antarctica

In January most gentoo, Adélie and chinstrap chicks have hatched and are enthusiastically chasing their parents around for food as they grow stronger. Visit the Antarctic Peninsula in January for sightings of the cute and fluffy penguin chicks as you walk among their bustling colonies.



APRIL

In between seasons

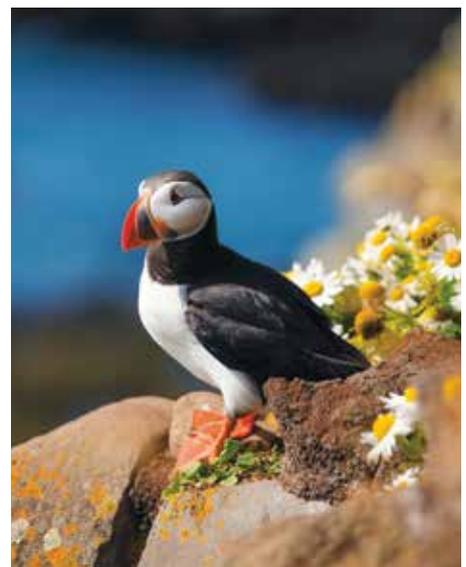
With the last trips to the Antarctic finishing earlier in the month most of April is off season for polar voyaging. There is too much sea ice in the Arctic still and it's the start of winter in Antarctica, signalling the end of the tourist season.



FEBRUARY

Birds in Antarctica

The skies are full in Antarctica and the Drake Passage in February as most seabird chicks have fledged. Watch skua skipping around among the penguins during your landings ashore, and spot albatross and petrel soaring just above the water from your ship as you cruise the Peninsula.



MAY

Puffins off the UK coastline

There are chances to see polar wildlife in other parts of the world. Join our Jewels of the UK expedition and spot puffin in several places around the coastline, including the Isles of Scilly and Skomer Island in Wales.

MARCH

Whale in Antarctica

March is peak time for whales in Antarctica, with humpback, minke and southern right whales all in the area for feeding. You're likely to spot whales from your ship and if you're lucky, get up close to them in your Zodiac or kayak. Watch in awe as the whale dives deep, offering a glimpse of its trademark fluke, before it disappears.



JUNE

Polar bear in the Arctic

Head to Svalbard in June for some of the best chances to see the polar bear, the King of the Arctic. The polar bears are on the hunt, and your expert guides will do their best to track them and get you safely in place to watch these majestic creatures from your ship or Zodiac.



OCTOBER

In between seasons

There are few trips running to the polar regions during October. Ships start to arrive in Antarctica at the very end of the month or in early November as the season starts. In the Arctic, the sea ice is too thick and the daylight hours too few to operate tours.



JULY

Walrus in Svalbard, Arctic

In July in Svalbard, huge groups of walrus gather together in 'haul-outs' for safety during the polar bear feeding season and can be easily spotted along the coastline. Hundreds of these enormous mammals together, each with long tusks and weighing up to two tonnes, is a sight to behold.



AUGUST

Humpback and beluga whale in the Northwest Passage, Arctic

Cruise the fabled Northwest Passage and you're in for a chance of seeing some of the most unique and unusual ocean mammals. Beluga whales can be seen in pods in inlets and shallow bays and if you're really lucky, you may even spot the unicorns of the sea, the narwhal, at the edge of an ice floe.



NOVEMBER

Elephant seal in South Georgia

The breeding season for elephant seal peaks in mid-November in South Georgia, meaning the beaches are busy with bulls loudly fighting for their harems of females, much smaller in size in comparison to the colossal males. You may also see some pups from those that bred early in the season.



SEPTEMBER

Arctic Fox in Greenland

In summer the Arctic fox has a brown coat but in September, as winter approaches, it starts to turn into its luxurious and thick white coat. Look out for these curious furballs scurrying around the rocks and rubble of the Arctic tundra.



DECEMBER

Seal in Antarctica

Take a trip out by Zodiac from your ship in Antarctica in December and you'll likely come across seal. Groups of crabeater or Weddell seals can often be spotted lazing on ice floes and fur seals play along the coastline. The more solitary leopard seal can sometimes be spotted in the water or on the ice.



The Arctic



Abundant in natural, rugged landscapes and unrivalled wildlife encounters, the Arctic offers once-in-a-lifetime expeditions in the northernmost region on earth.

From the comfort of a purpose-built expedition ship you'll get to know the heart of this rugged region, covering around a sixth of the globe. From vast tundra to glimmering icebergs there's plenty to see from on-board this safari-like experience. Keep your eyes peeled for whale breaching the surface of the waves, and seabird swooping from dramatic cliffs.

The excitement intensifies as you climb aboard a Zodiac in search of the largest land carnivore in the world. Accompanied by a team of expert crew and naturalists, you'll weave your way around drifting pack ice, looking for polar bear in their natural habitat. Wherever possible, the Zodiac will land ashore to allow you to get up close to the flora and fauna of the Arctic. ▶

Choose your Arctic voyage



The Northwest Passage Page 51

Sail the Northwest Passage, carving through the labyrinthine maze of waterways that hug the islands of Arctic Canada.



Polar Bears in Churchill (photography-focused itineraries available) Page 48–49

Board a Polar Rover, a specially-designed vehicle to watch the bear in their natural habitat. On photographic departures you'll be accompanied by an expert photographer.

Baffin Bay

Davis Strait

LABRADOR SEA

CANADA



Spitsbergen, Greenland and Iceland

Page 46

Explore the “jewels of the Arctic” on this in-depth expedition featuring unique wildlife, remote communities and stunning scenery.



Realm of the Polar Bear in Depth

Page 34

A voyage into the kingdom of the polar bear; set amongst Svalbard’s striking glaciers, tundra and fjords.

NEW Svalbard in Depth

Page 37

This 15-day voyage gives you extended time in the Svalbard Archipelago, giving you the chance to really discover all the region has to offer.

GREENLAND

East Greenland Explorer

Page 44

See the spectacular, sculptural icebergs of Scoresbysund and visit Ittoqqortoormiit, one of the most remote settlements on earth.

Arctic Complete

Page 40

Embark on an all-encompassing 24-day Arctic voyage, from Iceland to Greenland to Svalbard.



Across the Arctic Circle

Page 39

Venture across the Arctic Circle. Discover Stone Age structures in the Orkneys, spot sea otter off the Norwegian Coast and then sail up to the frozen region of Svalbard, famous for polar bear.

Iceland Circumnavigation

Page 41

From the black sand beaches to the explosive geysers, explore the best of the Land of Fire and Ice.

NEW Coastal Jewels of the UK

Page 36

Discover some of the UK’s most historically significant and wildlife-rich destinations on this voyage, travelling from Portsmouth to Aberdeen.



NEW Northern Lights Explorer

Page 42

By day explore remote islands, discover spectacular icebergs, and walk through breathtaking scenery. As night falls, look skywards hoping to catch the magic of the Northern Lights.

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

What to expect from an

Arctic expedition



Explore the Arctic and you'll discover a vast history, rich cultures and unforgettable wildlife experiences that you won't see anywhere else. Find out what to expect from your Arctic voyage.



Locally-sourced food

Inspired by local and European dishes there will be plenty of options on board to suit all palates. For those looking to extend their trip, you'll have the opportunity to try locally-sourced food such as snow crab, a hearty traditional Norwegian stew, and *seifilet fersks* (fresh fillets of fish that are steamed, grilled or poached). Quench your thirst with beer brewed in Spitsbergen's remote and icy capital, Longyearbyen.



Ever-changing weather

The Arctic covers a large distance, with temperature and weather changing dramatically depending on where you are. In early summer the Arctic is awash with long periods of sunlight, bringing flocks of seabird to the cliffs. By mid-summer you may see dramatic glacier collapsing so keep your camera close by. The tundra will also flourish with pastel-coloured wildflowers, making it a fantastic time of year for hiking. But don't forget to stay wrapped up – weather patterns shift hour to hour, from sunshine to snow. ➤



Abundant wildlife

The Arctic is renowned for unrivalled wildlife experiences, and you can expect to spot mammal and marine life that you won't find anywhere else. Keep your eyes peeled for the largest land predators on earth – polar bear – who are only found in the Arctic. You may also spot solitary seals lazing on pack ice, and a variety of whale such as orca and humpback, especially during the summer.

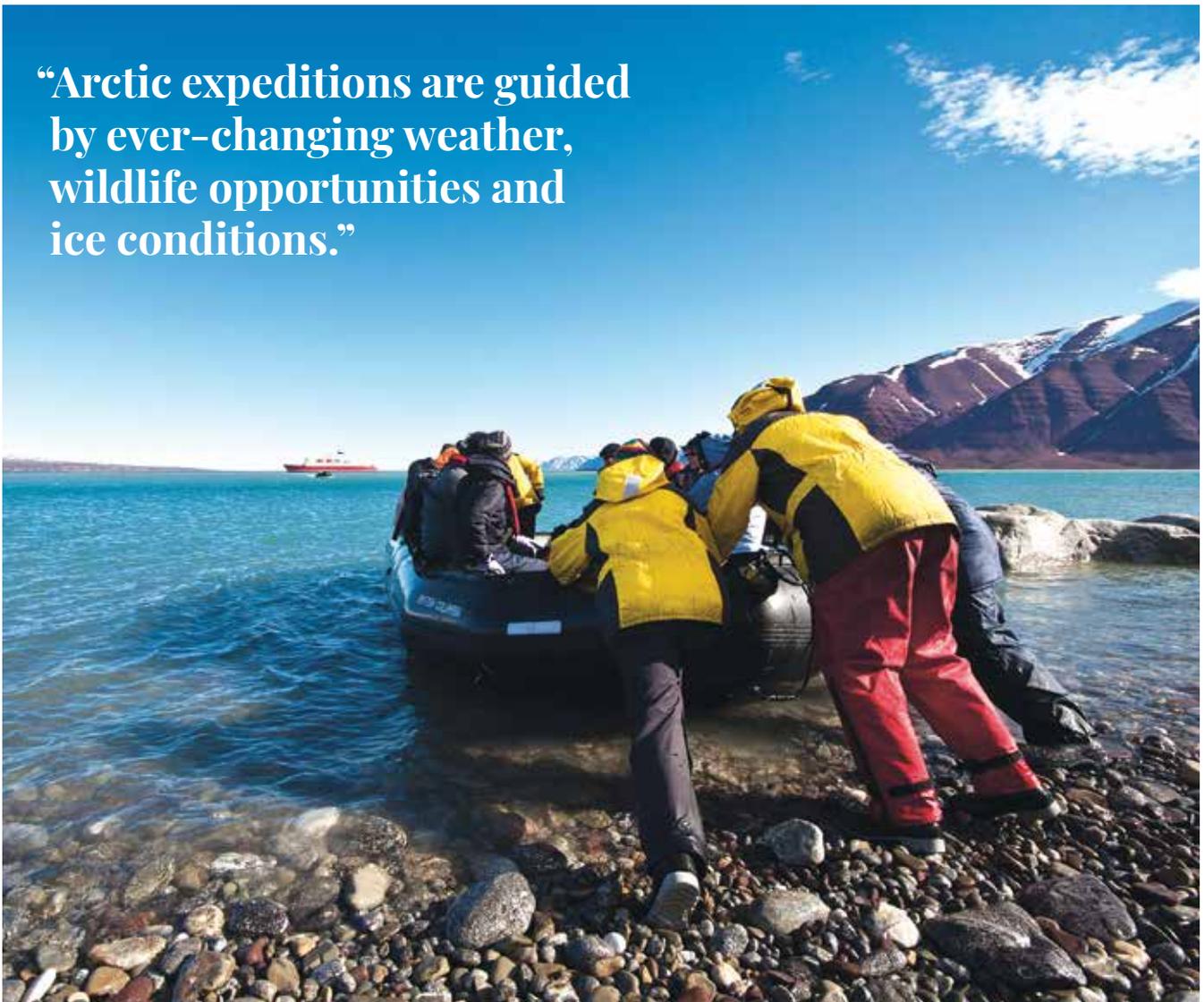
Specialist ships

Polar vessels are unlike any other ship you'll have seen before. Small enough to work their way around ice but strengthened to withstand extreme conditions, these ships boast cutting edge technology. You'll find launching platforms from which you'll board a Zodiac to explore ashore, or take part in additional activities such as kayaking. While on-board, there's no shortage of lounge space to simply relax and watch the icy landscape pass by.

Expect the unexpected

Arctic expeditions are guided by ever-changing weather, wildlife opportunities and ice conditions. Like a safari, itineraries can be flexible to ensure you get the most out of your trip. Wherever possible your captain will steer you towards a calving glacier or a pod of whales, highlighting the best photo opportunities. Because of the unpredictable nature of wildlife, every Arctic voyage is unique and certainly unforgettable. ■

“Arctic expeditions are guided by ever-changing weather, wildlife opportunities and ice conditions.”





Patrick Mitchell-Jones

Arctic trips

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- 36 **NEW Coastal Jewels of the UK**
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- 37 **NEW Svalbard in Depth**
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These are just some of our Arctic trips, to see them all go to exploreworldwide.com.au/arctic



Trip

Realm of the Polar Bear in Depth

Embark on a voyage into the kingdom of the polar bear, exploring the striking glaciers, tundra and fjords of the Svalbard archipelago. Keep your eyes peeled for beluga whale breaking the surface and walrus lazing on the pack ice, as migratory birds call overhead.

Before Constantine John Phipps sailed towards the North Pole in 1773, no scientific descriptions of a polar bear had ever been logged. The explorers didn't know that the spectacular beasts could weigh as much as ten men, or that the marine mammals could swim, without a break, for days at a time. While the Royal Navy expedition was scuppered by ice in Svalbard, putting an end

to plans to make it to the pole, it must have been extraordinary for the sailors to glimpse a precious polar bear for the very first time. While we might know much more about them today, allowing us to do more to protect them, the feeling of seeing one in a frosty landscape that is also home to walrus, whales, puffins and Arctic terns, is as awe-inspiring as ever.

Duration: 12 days

Ship: *M/V Greg Mortimer*

Depart: May – August

Prices from: AUD \$14,750pp
NZD \$15,300pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint: 2,119kg CO₂e
(average pp)



“It must have been extraordinary for the sailors to glimpse a precious polar bear for the very first time.”

Itinerary

- Day 1** Trip starts in Longyearbyen
- Day 2** Embark the *M/V Greg Mortimer*
- Day 3** Visit Magdalenefjorden
- Days 4-7** Explore Spitsbergen's Northwest Coast
- Days 8-9** Discover Hinlopen Strait and Alkefjellt
- Day 10** Cruising around South Cape
- Day 11** Sail towards Hornsund and Bellsund Fjords
- Day 12** Trip ends in Longyearbyen

Optional activities

Kayaking

Add on experiences in Longyearbyen (pre/post trip):

- Dogsledding on wheels
- Electric bike sightseeing
- Wilderness evening
- Kayak tours



► Find out more
exploreworldwide.com.au/GMSO



NEW Coastal Jewels of the UK

Explore the cliffs and coastlines of the UK, sailing from Portsmouth to Aberdeen. Visit the protected Pembrokeshire Islands, home to a famous gannet colony, as well as dolphin and grey seal. Spot puffin pottering on the rugged island of Staffa, while at St Kilda, enjoy Europe's most important seabird colony.

Duration: 14 days

Ship: *M/V Greg Mortimer*

Depart: May

Prices from: AUD \$14,910pp
NZD \$14,500pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint:
2,353kg CO₂e (average pp)

Itinerary

- Day 1** Trip starts in London
- Day 2** Board the *M/V Greg Mortimer* in Portsmouth
- Day 3** Fowey, Cornwall
- Day 4** Tresco, Isles of Scilly
- Day 5** Penzance, Cornwall
- Day 6** Lundy Island, England
- Day 7** Pembrokeshire Islands, Wales
- Day 8** Holyhead, Wales
- Day 9** Douglas, Isle of Man
- Day 10** Islay, Scotland
- Day 11** Staffa and Iona, Scotland
- Day 12** St Kilda, Scotland
- Day 13** Fair Isle and Papa Westray, Scotland
- Day 14** Trip ends in Aberdeen



Optional activities

Kayaking
Scuba diving



Special guest: Miranda Krestovnikoff

Wildlife TV presenter and conservationist Miranda Krestovnikoff will be travelling on this trip and will provide on-board lectures.



Adam Fradley

➤ Find out more
exploreworldwide.com.au/GMUK





Trip

NEW Svalbard in Depth

Dive into the magical region of the Svalbard Archipelago in depth, with extended exploration time in wild and remote places. From an abundance of wildflowers across the tundra to bearded seals breaking the surface of the water, Svalbard provides unforgettable Arctic experiences.



Duration: 15 days

Ship: *M/V Sylvia Earle*

Depart: June

Prices from: AUD \$19,980pp
NZD \$20,730pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint:
2,444kg CO₂e (average pp)

Itinerary

- Day 1** Trip starts in Longyearbyen
- Day 2** Embark the *M/V Sylvia Earle*
- Days 3-14** Explore Svalbard
- Day 15** Trip ends in Longyearbyen

Optional activities

Kayaking

Add on experiences in Longyearbyen (pre/post trip):

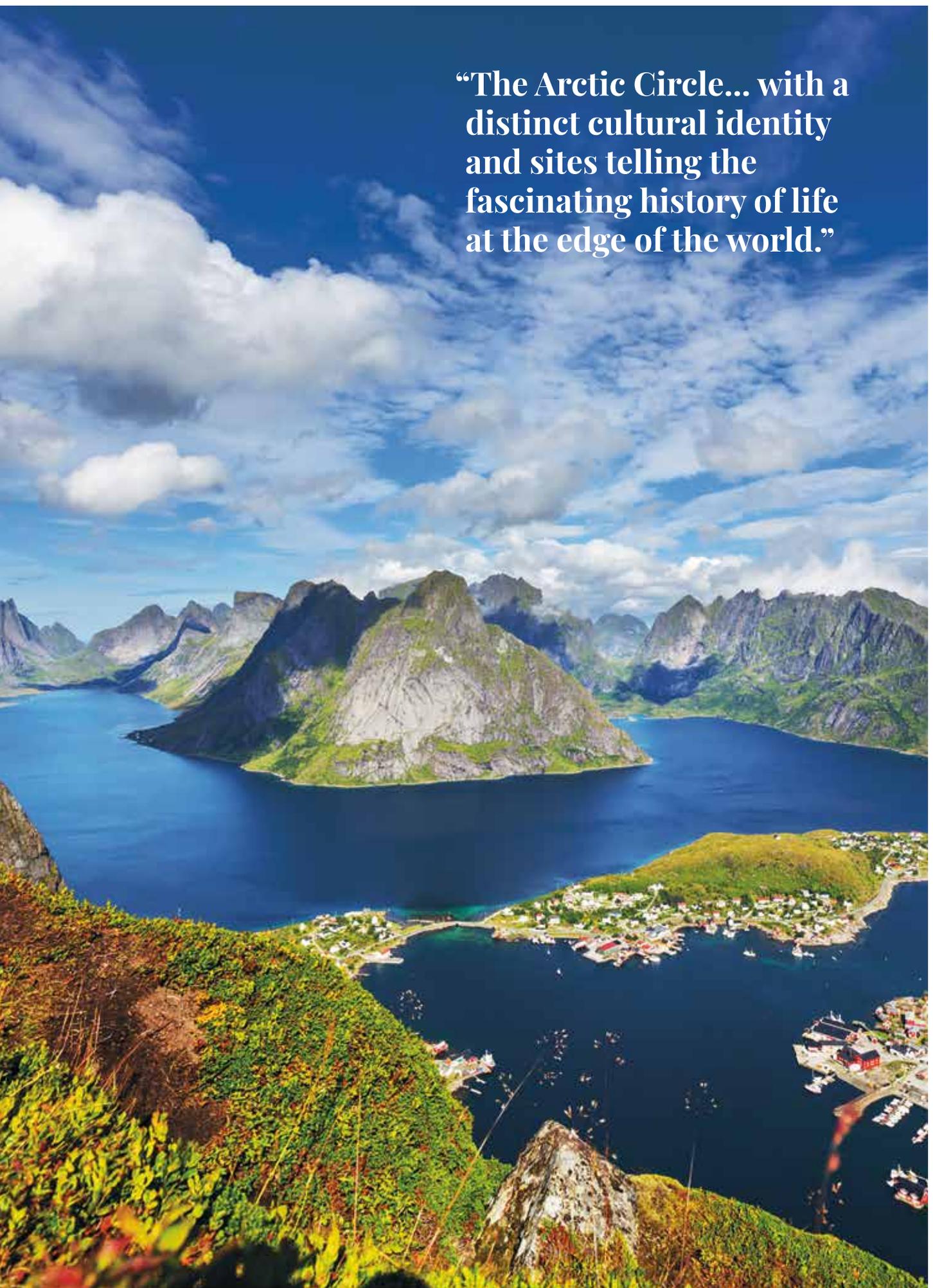
- Dogsledding on wheels
- Electric bike sightseeing
- Wilderness evening
- Kayak tours



Find out more
exploreworldwide.com.au/SESI



“The Arctic Circle... with a distinct cultural identity and sites telling the fascinating history of life at the edge of the world.”



Trip

Across the Arctic Circle

Experience the highlights of three epic worlds as you venture across the Arctic Circle. Step back in time to Stone Age structures on the Orkney and Shetland Islands, while the Norwegian coastline is home to reclusive sea otter, kittiwake and even blue whale. The frozen region of Svalbard is the perfect way to round up this Arctic adventure.

Within the 7.7 million square miles of the Arctic Circle are eight countries, each with a distinct cultural identity and sites telling the fascinating history of life at the edge of the world. In the Orkney Islands, 5,000-year-old World Heritage Neolithic sites and Viking relics transport you on a journey through human history. In the Shetlands, prehistoric stone brochs tower into the sky, their

original purpose a mystery lost in time. In Norway, we learn more of how the landscape has sparked lore, troll-hunting near Torghatten, a granite mountain pierced with a hole that locals say was made by a flying arrow. Tales of trapping and hunting, whaling and mining will be shared en route to Svalbard as you survey the seas to glimpse polar bear, humpback whale and seal.



Duration: 15 days

Ship: *M/V Greg Mortimer*

Depart: May – June

Prices from: AUD \$19,480pp
NZD \$17,850pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint: 2,426 kg CO₂e
(average pp)

Optional activities

Kayaking



Add on experiences in Longyearbyen (pre/post trip):

Dogsledding on wheels
Electric bike sightseeing
Wilderness evening
Kayak tours

Special guest: Greg Mortimer OAM

Greg will be joining the 2023 sailing of Across the Arctic Circle, as Expedition Leader.



Itinerary

- Day 1** Trip starts in Aberdeen
- Day 2** Board the *M/V Greg Mortimer*
- Days 3-4** Orkney Islands
- Day 5** Shetland Islands
- Day 6** At sea
- Days 7-10** Norwegian Coast
- Day 11** Bear Island and Svalbard
- Days 12-14** Svalbard
- Day 15** Trip ends in Longyearbyen

➤ Find out more
exploreworldwide.com.au/GMCI





Trip

Arctic Complete

Embark on an all-encompassing Arctic voyage, from Iceland to Greenland to Svalbard. As seabirds trail the ship keep your eyes peeled for whale blows on the way to the stunning fjords and glaciers of East Greenland. On hikes across the tundra you might spot musk ox, Arctic hare and reindeer grazing on this vast landscape.



Duration: 24 days

Ship: *M/V Greg Mortimer*

Depart: July

Prices from: AUD \$32,050pp
NZD \$33,250pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint:
4,193kg CO₂e (average pp)

Itinerary

- Day 1** Arrival Reykjavik
- Day 2** Embark the *M/V Greg Mortimer*
- Day 3** Denmark Strait
- Days 4-10** Explore Eastern Greenland
- Days 11-12** Cross the Greenland Sea
- Days 13-23** Explore Spitsbergen
- Day 24** Trip ends in Longyearbyen

Optional activities

Kayaking

Add on experiences in Longyearbyen (pre/post trip):

- Dogsledding on wheels
- Electric bike sightseeing
- Wilderness evening
- Kayak tours



➤ Find out more
exploreworldwide.com.au/GMAC



Trip

Iceland Circumnavigation

From the glittering black sand beaches to the explosively exciting geysers, explore the best of the Land of Fire and Ice on an Iceland Circumnavigation. Spot whales breaching the waves in Húsavík, hear birds calling from the cliffs of Látrabjarg, and marvel at the beloved Mjóifjörður fjord.



Duration: 11 days

Ship: *M/V Sylvia Earle*

Depart: May – June

Prices from: AUD \$14,190pp
NZD \$14,720pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint:
1,692kg CO₂e (average pp)

Itinerary

- Day 1** Arrival Reykjavik
- Day 2** Embark the *M/V Sylvia Earle* and sail to Hvalfjörður
- Day 3** Stykkisholmur and Snæfellsnes Peninsula
- Days 4-6** Westfjords
- Day 7** Grimsey Island
- Day 8** Hjalteyri
- Day 9** Seydisfjörður
- Day 10** Westman Islands
- Day 11** Disembark in Reykjavik

Optional activities

- Kayaking
- Scuba diving
- Polar plunge



► Find out more
exploreworldwide.com.au/SEIC





Trip

NEW Northern Lights Explorer

Witness the spectacular performance of the Northern Lights as you follow the coastlines of the Arctic Circle. Hop aboard a Zodiac to cruise through the narrow passages of Trollfjord, before strolling around scenic villages in the Lofoten Islands. Look to the skies at night and keep your fingers crossed for sightings of blue, green and pink.

You can't time your watch by the elusive Aurora Borealis, which makes the hunt for a good view of it even more thrilling. We've been seeking out the natural phenomenon for so long that we know how to improve our chances of catching it; as night falls in high latitude destinations. On this new trip, we don't just sit and wait for it to appear; we're heading out by boat, scanning the

sky for signs. We know that the cascading colours are caused by electrically-charged particles from the sun reacting with the gases in our upper atmosphere, but it's hard to accept that it's anything less than magic when it's shimmering above you. It's the only thing that can make the incredible beauty of the surrounding landscapes fall into momentary insignificance!





“It’s hard to accept that it’s anything less than magic when it’s shimmering above you.”



Duration: 22 days

Ship: *M/V Greg Mortimer*

Depart: September

Prices from: AUD \$24,890pp
NZD \$25,820pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint:
3,907kg CO₂e (average pp)

Itinerary

- Day 1** Join trip in Kirkenes
- Day 2** Embark the *M/V Greg Mortimer*
- Days 3-6** Norwegian Coast
- Day 7** At sea
- Day 8** Jan Mayen, Norway
- Day 9** At sea
- Days 10-13** East Greenland
- Day 14** At sea
- Days 15-17** Iceland
- Day 18** At sea
- Days 19-20** Faroe Islands
- Day 21** At sea
- Day 22** Trip ends in Bergen

Optional activities

Kayaking



➤ Find out more
exploreworldwide.
com.au/GMNL





Trip

East Greenland Explorer

From the world's largest fjord system to the most remote inhabited settlement in Greenland, there's plenty to discover as you explore this icy wonderland. Witness the dazzling, sculptural icebergs of Scoresbysund by Zodiac, and trek across the Arctic tundra as you search for musk oxen and Arctic fox.

Duration: 14 days

Ship: *M/V Greg Mortimer*

Depart: August

Prices from: AUD \$18,960pp
NZD \$19,670pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint:
2,251kg CO₂e (average pp)

Itinerary

- Day 1** Trip starts in Reykjavik
- Day 2** Embark the *M/V Greg Mortimer*
- Day 3** At sea
- Days 4-12** East Coast of Greenland
- Day 13** Sail the Denmark Strait towards Iceland
- Day 14** Disembark in Reykjavik



Optional activities

- Kayaking
- Rock climbing



Find out more
exploreworldwide.com.au/GMEG



Trip

Greenland Odyssey

Witness the majesty of Greenland's glaciers, spotting elusive Arctic fox and ringed seal resting on ice floes. Climb aboard a Zodiac to get up close to the icebergs of Prins Christian Sund. The town of Nanortalik will give you a warm welcome, before you move on to the ancient Norse ruin of Hvalsey Church.

Duration: 17 days

Ship: *M/V Sylvia Earle*

Depart: July

Prices from: AUD \$23,090pp
NZD \$23,960pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint:
3,213kg CO₂e (average pp)



Itinerary

- Day 1** Trip starts in Reykjavik
- Day 2** Reykjavik, Golden Circle tour. Embark the *M/V Sylvia Earle*.
- Day 3** At sea
- Day 4** Kangertivitvatsiaq Fjord
- Day 5** Tasiilaq, Sermilik Fjord
- Day 6** Skjoldungen Island
- Day 7** Prins Christian Sund
- Day 8** Tasermit Fjord, Klosterdal, Nanortalik
- Day 9** Hvalsey, Qaqortoq
- Day 10** Paamiut
- Day 11** Nuuk
- Day 12** Sisimiut
- Day 13** Ilulissat
- Day 14** Eqip Sermia
- Day 15** Eternity Fjord
- Day 16** Disembark in Kangerlussuaq. Fly to Toronto.
- Day 17** Trip ends in Toronto



Optional activities

Kayaking



➤ Find out more
exploreworldwide.
com.au/SEGO





Trip

Spitsbergen, Greenland and Iceland

Explore all of the “jewels of the Arctic” on this in-depth expedition featuring unique wildlife, remote communities and stunning scenery. Spot walrus, puffin and, if you’re lucky, polar bear in Svalbard before sailing towards Greenland and the massive glaciers and icebergs of Scoresbysund.

On the east coast of Greenland, the 500-strong Inuit community of Ittoqqortoormiit live alongside polar bears, millions of nesting seabirds, seal and musk oxen, using ancient traditions to hunt. We visit their colourful home on this tour of three islands, learning more about those who thrive on the tundra. Meet trappers and playful children who come to peek at us from beneath their

fur jackets. Taking the time to explore ancient grave sites and villages that were occupied by pre-Inuit 3,000 years ago allows us to better understand the people who live in this beautiful corner of the world, and the balance they’ve struck with the extraordinary wildlife they share their home with. Extend your stay in the Icelandic capital Reykjavik for an entirely different cultural experience.

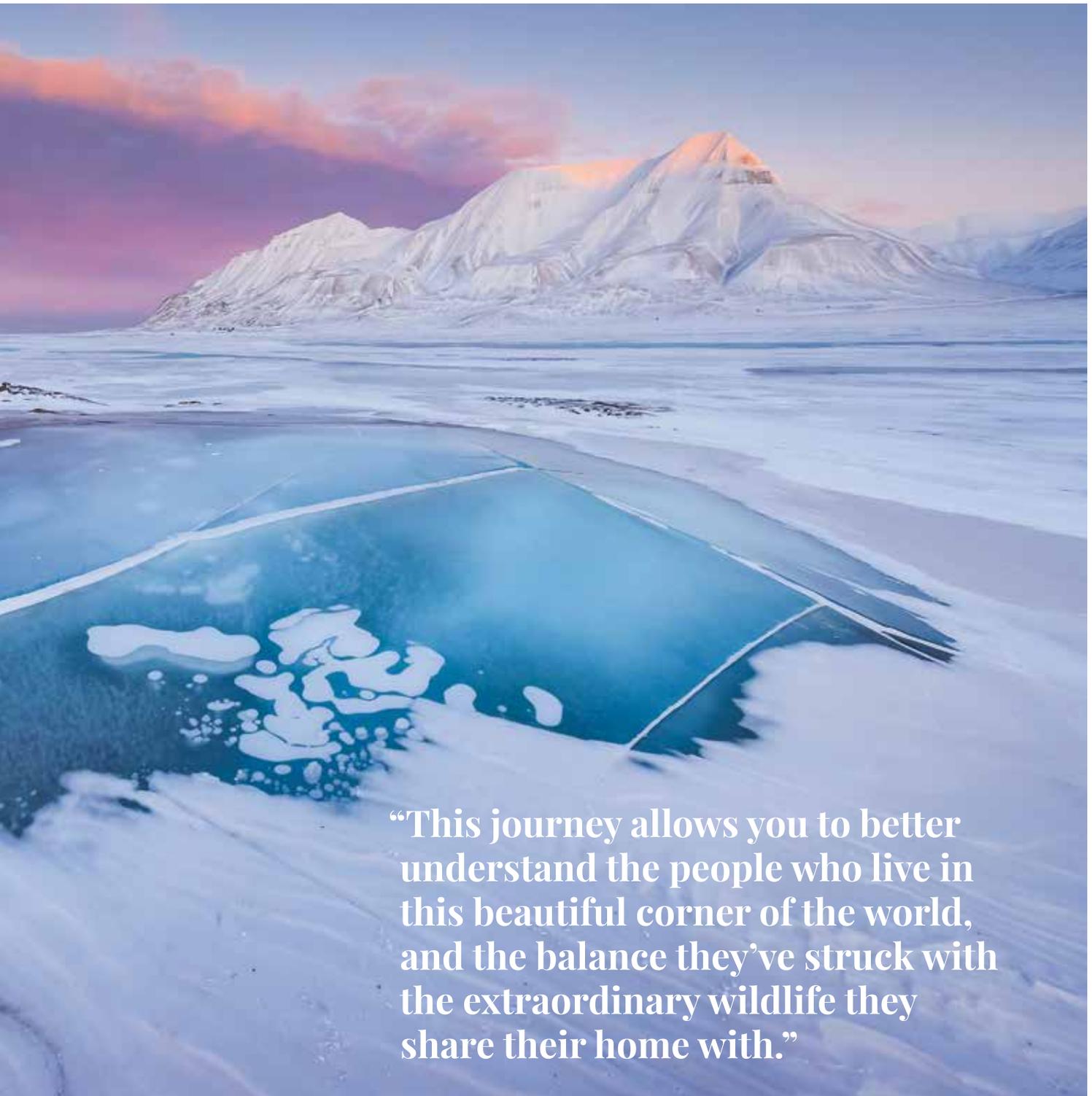
Duration: 15 days

Ship: *M/V Greg Mortimer*

Depart: June – August

Prices from: AUD \$19,480pp
NZD \$20,210pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint: 2,686kg CO₂e (average pp)



“This journey allows you to better understand the people who live in this beautiful corner of the world, and the balance they’ve struck with the extraordinary wildlife they share their home with.”

Itinerary

- Day 1** Trip starts in Longyearbyen
- Day 2** Embark the *M/V Greg Mortimer*
- Days 3-4** Explore Spitsbergen
- Days 5-6** Cross the Greenland Sea
- Days 7-13** East Coast of Greenland
- Day 14** Sail the Denmark Strait towards Iceland
- Day 15** Trip ends in Reykjavik

Optional activities

Kayaking

Add on experiences in Longyearbyen (pre/post trip):

- Dogsledding on wheels
- Electric bike sightseeing
- Wilderness evening
- Kayak tours



► Find out more
exploreworldwide.com.au/GMGI





Trip

Polar Bears in Churchill

Go in search of the majestic polar bear in Churchill, home to the world's greatest concentration of polar bear. Board a Polar Rover, a specially-designed vehicle to watch the bear in their natural habitat and safely watch them interact, and learn of their behaviour from the expert guides.

Duration: 6 days

Transport: Polar Rover

Depart: October – November

Prices from: AUD \$13,940pp
NZD \$14,460pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint:
478kg CO₂e (average pp)

Itinerary

- Day 1** Trip starts in Winnipeg
- Day 2** Winnipeg to Churchill – evening on the tundra
- Days 3-4** Polar bear viewing
- Day 5** Explore Churchill. Fly to Winnipeg.
- Day 6** Trip ends in Winnipeg



› Find out more
exploreworldwide.com.au/CHPB



Trip

Polar Bears in Churchill Photo Adventure

Join an expert photographer-naturalist on this exciting trip designed to capture the magnificent polar bear in their Arctic tundra habitat. Spend three full days photographing the bear and other Arctic wildlife from the bespoke Polar Rover vehicle that allows you to safely get up close.

Duration: 7 days

Transport: Polar Rover

Depart: October – November

Prices from: AUD \$17,470pp
NZD \$18,130pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint:
500kg CO₂e (average pp)

Itinerary

- Day 1** Trip starts in Winnipeg
- Day 2** Winnipeg to Churchill
- Days 3-5** Polar bear photography
- Day 6** Churchill to Winnipeg
- Day 7** Trip ends in Winnipeg



► Find out more
exploreworldwide.com.au/CHPH





“Add your name to the list of explorers that have travelled the Northwest Passage, including Franklin, Amundsen and Larsen.”

Trip

Northwest Passage

Learn of the fascinating, rich history of the Northwest Passage as your sturdy ship weaves through its icy labyrinth of channels. Meet the indigenous people who call this remote region home and watch for wildlife like walrus, beluga whale, polar bear and maybe even the elusive narwhal.

If you're filled with the spirit of adventure and you wish to sail through pack ice in a place which has been luring pioneers for centuries, then the legendary Northwest Passage is calling. This is an expedition in the truest sense, taking you along the treacherous passage that has for centuries caused hopeful travellers to come unstuck. To this day, it challenges our ship's captain, thanks to

unpredictable weather conditions. Add your name to the list of explorers that have travelled it, including Franklin, Amundsen and Larsen. Franklin's ship was lost with 120 people aboard and others got into difficulty trying to find them. Ice still threatens to halt our progress through the frozen labyrinthine channels, but it wouldn't be a true polar journey without the thrill of adventure!



Duration: 17 days

Ship: *M/V Sylvia Earle*

Depart: July – August

Prices from: AUD \$26,140pp
NZD \$27,120pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint: 3,716kg CO₂e
(average pp)

“This is an expedition in the truest sense.”

Optional activities

Kayaking



Itinerary

- Day 1** Trip starts in Toronto
- Day 2** Embark the *M/V Sylvia Earle* in Kangerlussuaq
- Day 3** Sisimiut
- Day 4** Ilulissat
- Day 5** Qeqertarsuaq (Disko Island)
- Day 6** At sea and Baffin Island
- Day 7** Isabella Bay
- Day 8** Sillem Island
- Day 9** Pond Inlet and Bylot Island
- Day 10** Devon Island
- Day 11** Beechey Island
- Days 12–15** The Northwest Passage
- Day 16** Disembark in Cambridge Bay. Fly to Calgary.
- Day 17** Trip ends in Calgary

► [Find out more exploreworldwide.com.au/SENW](https://www.exploreworldwide.com.au/SENW)



The Antarctic





Travel to a place like no other on the ultimate once-in-a-lifetime expedition, to the icy landscapes of Antarctica.

A voyage to Antarctica rewards the few who travel there with breath-taking views of an expanse of scenery untouched by civilisation and unique wildlife experiences. Icebergs the size of buildings boggle the mind and the near-silence provides a sense of peace and calm. Whale flukes slip quietly beneath the water's surface, seals glide between the ice and penguins shuffle up and down their penguin highways, all creating scenes to be captured by the eye and never forgotten.

Read on to discover the voyages to Antarctica for 2023/24. Opt for an expedition to take in the Antarctic Peninsula in all its magic, or expand your bucketlist trip to include the wildlife-filled islands of South Georgia or the Falklands. Whichever you choose, you're guaranteed an adventure of a lifetime. >

Choose your Antarctic voyage

ARGENTINA
CHILE
Punta
Arenas
Ushuaia



Classic Antarctica Page 62

Visit vast penguin colonies, learn the history of early explorers and look out for seal lazing on ice floes as you head out on Zodiacs.

Drake Passage

SOUTHERN
OCEAN



Antarctic Circle Page 66

Discover the Antarctic and its unique wildlife. Join a Citizen Science project and let your voyage contribute to vital polar research.

ANTARCTIC
PENINSULA

FALKLAND ISLANDS



Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Page 65

Follow in Shackleton's footsteps and voyage to the Antarctic Peninsula and the Subantarctic Islands on this epic voyage.

SOUTH GEORGIA

KING GEORGE ISLAND



Classic Antarctica Fly & Cruise

Page 68

Avoid the Drake Passage by flying into King George Island before embarking on an epic journey along the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula.



Antarctica & South Georgia

Page 63

Combine the Antarctic Peninsula with South Georgia and discover some of the largest king penguin colonies in the world.



NEW Deep into the Weddell Sea

Page 60

Travel deep into Antarctica and the Weddell Sea; not only will you sail along the western shore of the Peninsula, you'll also venture to the lesser-visited eastern side and the Weddell Sea.

WEDDELL SEA

What to expect from an

Antarctic expedition





An expedition to Antarctica is a trip unlike any other, with remote scenery, distinctive wildlife and gourmet food on board your small ship. Find out what to expect from your Antarctic voyage.



Unique wildlife

Visit early in the season to see penguins building their nests, or if you want to see chicks, time your visit for around December and January. Later in the season the fluffy chicks are starting to walk, adding much more noise to the bustling rookeries. You'll likely see many types of seal and seabirds no matter when you visit. Go later in the season to spot whale, as they'll be in the area for feeding.

Ever-changing weather

The weather in Antarctica is changeable and at times unpredictable, often quickly changing between grey skies and blue. Earlier in the season it's colder and you're more likely to experience snow and be rewarded with snowy landscapes and large icebergs. Later in the season the snow is melting off, making it a little easier underfoot at landing sites, and as temperatures increase, elegant ice-shapes emerge in the water and penguin chicks become even more playful. ➤



“Visitors are treated to a true remote wilderness with no civilisation in sight.”



True Remoteness

Unlike pretty much anywhere else in the world, Antarctica has no local people or communities. As a result, visitors are treated to a true remote wilderness with no civilisation in sight, other than the occasional hut used for research by scientists, or shipwrecks from historic whaling times. To go as south as you can go for real remoteness, join a voyage to cross the Antarctic Circle later in the season when sea ice allows.

Delicious food

No matter which Antarctica trip you join you're guaranteed delicious and nourishing food on board. Substantial breakfasts and lunches set you up for a day exploring, while sit-down dinners offer a sophisticated treat as evening arrives. And with freshly-made biscuits and cakes when you return from landings, you'll never go hungry. Gourmet chefs use ingredients that are sourced as locally as possible and can cater for any dietary requirements, just let us know in advance. ■



TomArbantPhotography



Antarctic trips

-
- 60 **NEW Deep into the Weddell Sea**

 - 62 **Classic Antarctica**

 - 63 **Antarctica & South Georgia**

 - 64 **Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica**

 - 66 **Antarctic Circle**

 - 68 **Classic Antarctica Fly & Cruise**

 - 69 **Antarctic extensions**



These are just some of our Antarctic trips, to see them all go to [exploreworldwide.com.au/antarctica](https://www.exploreworldwide.com.au/antarctica)



“The 2022 discovery reminds us of just how much more there is to discover in Antarctica.”

Trip

NEW Deep into the Weddell Sea

Explore both sides of the Antarctic Peninsula on this two-week polar expedition. Cross the Antarctic Sound to the lesser-visited eastern side of the Peninsula and explore Shackleton’s domain, the Weddell Sea, with its huge tabular icebergs and prolific Adélie colonies.

Some 107 years after it sank, thrusting one of history’s greatest explorers into the unknown, the lost vessel of Sir Ernest Shackleton was discovered at the bottom of the Weddell Sea in Spring 2022. *Endurance* lay 10,000ft down for more than a century before marine archaeologist Mensun Bound (who we interviewed on page 9–11) finally uncovered its resting place. It remains in remarkably good condition, living

up to its name and enduring, even below the waves, with the ship’s name still visible on the stern. It was a life-changing discovery for Mensun, who had dreamt of finding *Endurance* for much of his 50 year career. Crossing the Weddell Sea, knowing of the challenges and difficulties faced by Shackleton and his men, is humbling. The 2022 discovery reminds us of just how much more there is to discover in Antarctica.

Duration: 14 days

Ship: *M/V Sylvia Earle*

Depart: March

Prices from: AUD \$22,780pp
NZD \$23,630pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint:
2,158 kg CO₂e (average pp)



Itinerary

- Day 1** Join trip in Ushuaia
- Day 2** Embark on the *M/V Sylvia Earle*
- Days 3-4** The Drake Passage
- Days 5-11** Weddell Sea region & Antarctic Peninsula
- Days 12-13** The Drake Passage
- Day 14** Trip ends in Ushuaia

Optional activities

- Kayaking
- Polar plunge
- Scuba diving



► Find out more
[exploreworldwide.
com.au/SEDW](https://exploreworldwide.com.au/SEDW)



Classic Antarctica

Voyage to Antarctica aboard the *Ocean Endeavour*, accompanied by expert naturalist guides. Set foot on the Antarctic Peninsula and visit vast penguin colonies and learn the history of early explorers. During trips out by Zodiac boat, spot seal lazing on ice floes and the flukes of humpback whale.

Duration: 11 days

Ship: *M/S Ocean Endeavour*

Depart: November – March

Prices from: AUD \$10,860pp
NZD \$11,260pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint:
1,619kg CO₂e (average pp)

Itinerary

- Day 1** Join trip in Ushuaia
- Day 2** Embark on the *M/S Ocean Endeavour*
- Days 3-4** The Drake Passage
- Days 5-6** Antarctic Peninsula & the South Shetland Islands
- Days 7-8** Antarctic Peninsula
- Days 9-10** The Drake Passage
- Day 11** Trip ends in Ushuaia



“Set foot on the Antarctic Peninsula and visit vast penguin colonies...”

Optional activities

- Kayaking
- Camping
- Photography programme



➤ Find out more
exploreworldwide.com.au/OECA





Trip

Antarctica & South Georgia

Voyage to South Georgia and the western Antarctic Peninsula, exploring Elephant Island along the way. Follow in the footsteps of world famous explorers as you take in the remote landscapes, home to some of the largest penguin colonies in the world. With expert guides on hand to enhance your journey, you'll get right to the heart of the Antarctic.



Duration: 17 days

Ship: *M/V Magellan Explorer*

Depart: November

Prices from: AUD \$29,770pp
NZD \$30,880pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint:
2,792 g CO₂e (average pp)

Itinerary

- Day 1** Join trip in Ushuaia
- Day 2** Embark on the *M/V Magellan Explorer* and sail towards South Georgia
- Days 3-4** At sea
- Days 5-8** Explore South Georgia
- Days 9-10** Sail to the Antarctic Peninsula
- Day 11** Elephant Island
- Days 12-15** Explore Antarctica
- Day 16** Antarctica and scheduled flight to Punta Arenas
- Day 17** Tour ends in Punta Arenas

Optional activities

- Kayaking
- Hiking
- Snowshoeing



➤ Find out more
exploreworldwide.com.au/MEAS





Trip

Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica

Take an epic voyage to the Antarctic Peninsula and the Subantarctic Islands. Follow in Shackleton's footsteps in South Georgia, visiting one of the largest king penguin colonies on earth, watching fur and elephant seal on the beaches and learning the history of the whaling stations.

Like Roald Amundsen and other great men of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration, Sir Ernest Shackleton spent much of his life in pursuit of answers to the mysteries of the South Pole. His passion was ignited in 1901 when he sailed aboard the ship of Captain Robert Falcon Scott. By 1907, Shackleton was leading his own expeditions, first on the *Nimrod* and then, in 1914, aboard the ill-fated *Endurance*.

The mission to cross from the Weddell Sea to the Ross Sea proved impossible. *Endurance* became locked in ice in January 1915 and over nine months, the elements crushed it. Camping on an ice drift, the 28 men were soon forced to take their boats into dangerous conditions. We follow their path, first journeying to Elephant Island and then the 800 miles to South Georgia.



Duration: 21 days

Ship: *M/V Sylvia Earle*

Depart: November – January

Prices from: AUD \$38,110pp
NZD \$39,530pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint: 3,347kg CO₂e
(average pp)

Optional activities

Kayaking
Snowshoeing
Polar plunge



“Follow in Shackleton’s footsteps in South Georgia”



Itinerary

- Day 1** Join trip in Ushuaia
- Day 2** Embark on the *M/V Sylvia Earle*
- Day 3** Drake Passage
- Day 4** Drake Passage and South Shetland Islands
- Days 5-7** Antarctic Peninsula
- Day 8** Elephant Island
- Days 9-10** Scotia Sea
- Days 11-15** South Georgia
- Days 16-18** At sea
- Day 19** Falklands
- Day 20** At sea
- Day 21** Trip ends in Ushuaia

➤ Find out more
exploreworldwide.
com.au/SEFS





Trip

Antarctic Circle

Take a voyage to the southernmost region on earth, deep into the Antarctic Peninsula and across the Antarctic Circle. Join wildlife experts on board the *Ocean Endeavour* in search of penguins, seals and whales, and celebrate with your fellow passengers as you reach 66°33' S.

Participatory Citizen Science programmes are available on every departure aboard the *Ocean Endeavour*. By taking part, you'll be helping to collect and contribute vital data to a variety of scientific research projects. One of these projects is "Happywhale". Every passenger on board is encouraged to take photos of whale sightings and

upload them online; scientists can identify the whales by their unique markings and are then able to track them around the globe. There are approximately 43,000 individual humpback whales known globally and, once you've submitted your photo, you'll find out whether you've spotted a known whale or even identified a new whale.





“...celebrate with your fellow passengers as you reach 66°33’ S.”



Duration: 14 days

Ship: *M/S Ocean Endeavour*

Depart: February

Prices from: AUD \$17,500pp
NZD \$18,160pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint:
2,135kg CO₂e (average pp)

Itinerary

- Day 1** Join trip in Ushuaia
- Day 2** Embark on the *M/S Ocean Endeavour*
- Days 3-4** Drake Passage
- Days 5-6** Drake Passage and the South Shetland Islands
- Days 7-8** Antarctic Peninsula
- Days 9-10** The Antarctic Circle
- Day 11** Antarctic Peninsula & the South Shetland Islands
- Days 12-13** Drake Passage
- Day 14** Trip ends in Ushuaia

Optional activities

- Kayaking
- Camping
- Photography programme



➤ Find out more
exploreworldwide.com.au/OEAC





Trip

Classic Antarctica Fly & Cruise

Avoid the rough seas of the Drake Passage by taking a flight to King George Island in the South Shetland Islands. Here you'll board your ship and head towards the Antarctic Peninsula, where an unforgettable landscape of towering icebergs and polar wildlife awaits you.

Duration: 8 days

Ship: *M/V Magellan Explorer*

Depart: November – March

Prices from: AUD \$27,870pp
NZD \$28,910pp (trip only)

Carbon footprint:
1,324kg CO₂e (average pp)

Itinerary

- Day 1** Join trip in Punta Arenas
- Day 2** Fly to King George Island, embark on the *M/V Magellan Explorer*
- Days 3-6** Explore Antarctica
- Day 7** Fly to Punta Arenas
- Day 8** Trip ends in Punta Arenas



Optional activities

- Kayaking
- Hiking
- Snowshoeing



➤ Find out more
exploreworldwide.com.au/MECA



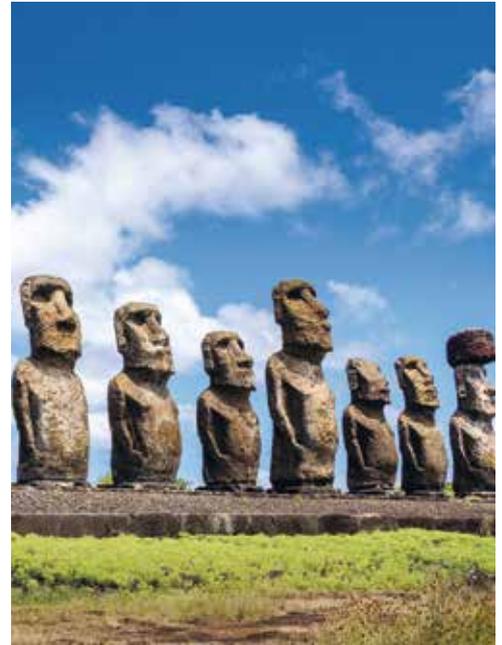
Antarctic Extensions

Have you decided on your Antarctica trip but would like to make the most of travelling via Latin America? Why not add a couple of days at the start or end of your polar voyage and extend your adventure to the Southern Cone. The south of Latin America offers a wide range of unique experiences; discover breathtaking wonders of nature, immerse yourself in the diverse cultures, their history and spice up your trip by discovering the countries culinary treats.



Iguazu Falls

Cascading down the Iguazu River, the Iguazu Falls, one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World, are situated on the border of Brazil and Argentina. The river emerges from thick jungle only for its wealth of water to crash down in one of the most dramatic displays of nature's beauty and power. The sheer height and thundering noise of the water will take your breath away.



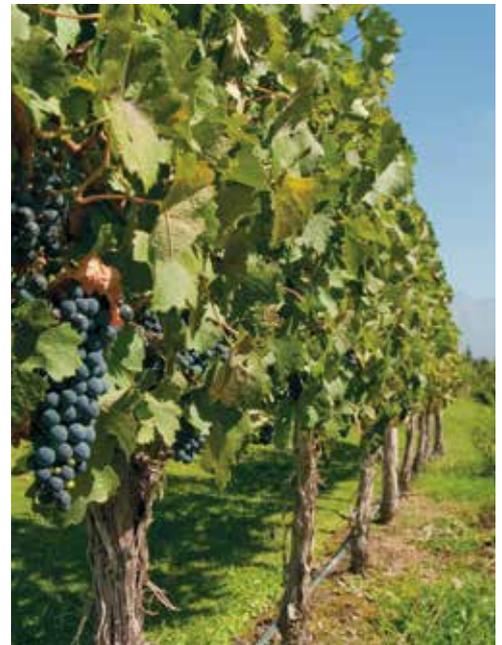
Easter Island

Easter Island is the most remote inhabited island in the world. Isolated in the Pacific Ocean, much of the island is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is famous for its archaeological sites. Visit the island to learn more about its unique history and discover the moai, almost 900 mysterious monoliths carved by the Rapa Nui people. Look up at the massive heads and marvel at the creative and physical feat of the inhabitants who built them.



Falklands Island Hopper

Mainly known to the world as the site of the 1982 Falklands War, there is much more to this unique archipelago. While hopping between different islands you will discover a huge variety of wildlife, landscapes and a fascinating combination of the traditions of the United Kingdom and South American settlers. Keep your eyes peeled for the Falklands Steamer Duck and don't forget to try a traditional Falkland mutton chop breakfast.



Mendoza

In the eastern foothills of the Andes, Mendoza is at the heart of South America's largest wine-producing area. The famous Malbec wines originate from Mendoza's high-altitude wine regions Lujan de Cuyo and the Uco Valley. Enjoy a fine food tour around the region's many wineries (bodegas) and clink glasses while staying at a traditional estancia (a working cattle ranch) with the majestic Andes Mountains as a backdrop.



All Aboard

The only real way to discover the polar regions is by expedition ship, much as did the great explorers of the past. Nowadays the ships combine state of the art design and technical skill with on-board experts and a few creature comforts.



“You remain ever in the heart of the action, with extraordinary moments taking place all around you.”

Once you've spent the day skimming the top of the icy waters aboard a Zodiac, scanning the waves for the mist from a whale surfacing or wandering along a frozen track in search of penguins, the warmth of your ship cabin feels well-earned and comforting. But, as *Ocean Endeavour's* on-board expert Dr Alex Cowan explains on page 17–19, you might retire to the vessel that is your home for the duration of your expedition, but you remain ever in the heart of the action, with extraordinary moments taking place all around you, all the time, if only you stop and look. From a comfortable seat on the *Greg Mortimer*, you can sip a cocktail and watch migrating seabirds fly by, while on the panoramic viewing deck aboard *Ocean Endeavour*, you may find you're the only one who encounters orca as they travel in their family pods. A chance occurrence can turn an already extraordinary adventure into something words simply cannot describe, a precious personal moment between you and nature.

You sail with expert naturalist guides who have dedicated their lives to researching and exploring the Arctic and Antarctic. Imparting insight into the way ice calves from glaciers to the feeding habits of blue whales and the blooms of wild flowers, they're happy to share all they know. Moreover, you don't just hear about their research and conservation efforts in the lecture programmes and talks they host, you're invited to join in with their important work, playing your part in engaging with the natural world around you in a meaningful way; whether it's tracking the speed of a whale or assessing beach litter to identify its origin, combating ocean pollution, hands-on.

There are the other creature comforts that polar ships allow; warming your toes on heated floors, sumptuous meals while reflecting on the day with other adventurers, unwinding in a spa or spending time learning in the library. But it's the immersion into your surroundings that makes life aboard so unique, even if that does mean a choppy journey through frozen channels like the intrepid sailors of the past! ■

What sets our ships apart?

It's important that you choose the right expedition vessel for your journey to the Arctic or Antarctica. Explore has done the work for you and hand-picked a selection of ships that will take you to see the very best of the polar regions.



Flexibility and Freedom

All itineraries are designed to be adaptable to changing weather or sea ice or unexpected wildlife encounters! No matter where you are, the ships encourage a true sense of exploration. The crew are always looking for new places to explore by Zodiac and will adjust the schedule to make sure you get the most out of your expedition.

“The crew are always looking for new places to explore.”

All our ships are small

Most of our ships carry between 65–135 passengers and none of our vessels are over 200 in capacity. This means you can join every excursion and more shore landings are possible. You'll spend less time waiting to board Zodiacs, so you spend more time off the ship discovering the landscapes and wildlife. Smaller ships are more manoeuvrable, getting you much closer to the shoreline. You can also enjoy extra kayaking and camping activities with a small group of people. A low staff-to-passenger ratio means more one-on-one time with your expert expedition team.

“...you spend more time off the ship discovering the landscapes and wildlife.”



Safe and steady

Built to world-class polar standards, all ships have been designed in close consultation with expedition specialists and are capable of negotiating the strongest winds and waves (even the notoriously famous Drake Passage – read more on page 16). All the ships also have ice-strengthened hulls, enabling them to manoeuvre safely in the ice.



Expedition setup

All of the ships are comfortable and sensibly kitted out for expedition voyages in polar conditions. Whichever ship you choose, you will enjoy a warm, friendly atmosphere on-board – and the chance to witness some of nature's most extraordinary sights up-close, thanks to plenty of dedicated observation spaces.

“Life on board is relaxed and informal; which means you’ll receive a more personalised service...”



An expert crew

The ships are captained and crewed by some of the top experts in their field. They love sharing tales of adventure with fellow like-minded people who love to connect with the natural world. Life on-board is relaxed and informal; which means you’ll receive a more personalised service from the expert guides and they will ensure your time spent with them is interesting and educational.

Aboard

M/S Ocean Endeavour

Boasting plenty of contemporary space for just 200 passengers, the *M/S Ocean Endeavour* brings you to the heart of Antarctica in maximum comfort.

Length: 137m

Passengers: 200

Breadth: 11m

Staff and crew: 124m

Draught: 5.6m

Cruising speed: 15 knots

Ice Class: 1B

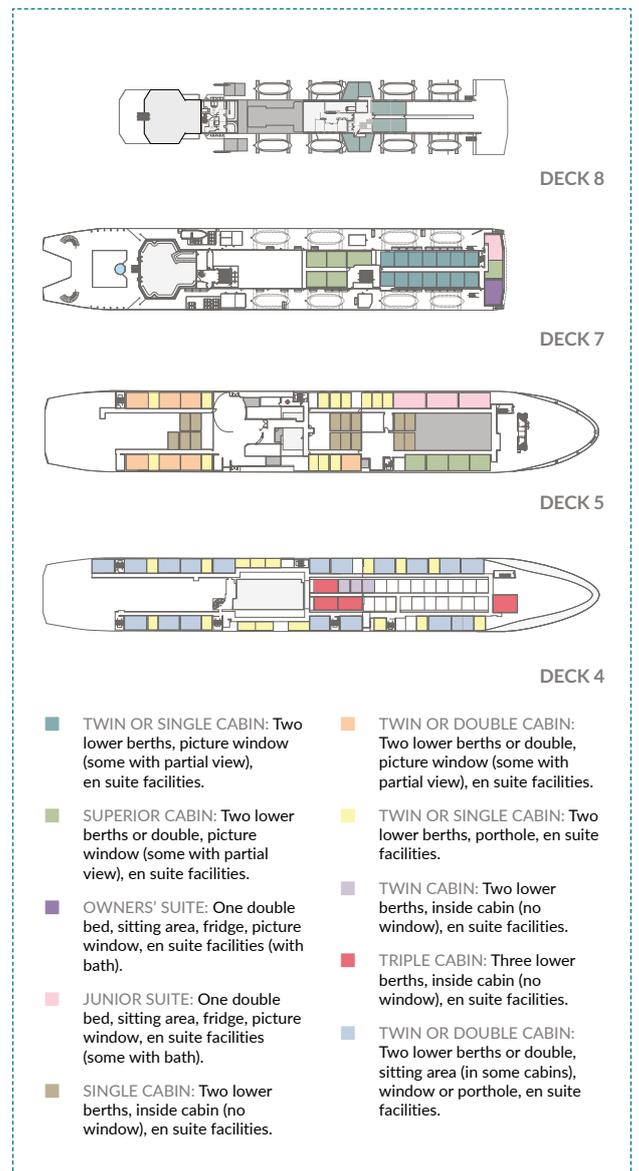




Step on-board the *M/S Ocean Endeavour* and you'll find the perfect setting to voyage the Antarctic. In addition to an ice-strengthened hull and advanced navigation system, this vessel boasts fantastic stability and comfort in the polar regions while operating to the highest environmental standards. With an 8:1 passenger to expedition crew ratio, dedicated expedition teams will spend quality time with you, ensuring you get the most out of the destinations along the way. The large expedition team and 22 zodiacs allow the *Ocean Endeavour* to have some of the fastest operations in Antarctica, so more time can be spent off the ship and exploring on land and by Zodiac. Whether you're cruising past sparkling icebergs on-board a Zodiac or participating in a Citizen Science programme, you'll come away with unforgettable memories as well as hands-on knowledge.

In between embracing this icy wonderland, focus on your wellness through a range of facilities and activities on-board *M/S Ocean Endeavour*. Take advantage of the fitness centre and juice bars before soaking in the heated salt water pool, or warming up in the 'his and hers' saunas. Relax in a lounge as you pore over your photos from an exciting day on the ice. In addition, the open-seating dining room with large windows means you'll never miss a minute of the wildlife action, even while enjoying a fresh chef-prepared meal. From the flydeck, enjoy a front row seat with 360 degree views of the Antarctic. And, for solo passengers who would prefer not to share, the *Ocean Endeavour* offers three single occupancy cabin categories with low single supplements.

“You'll never miss a minute of the wildlife action, even while enjoying a fresh chef-prepared meal.”



Aboard

M/V Greg Mortimer

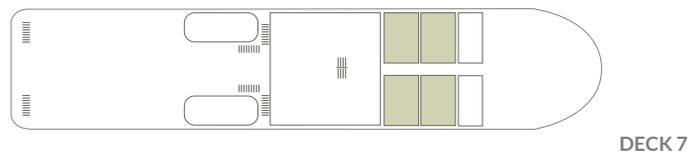
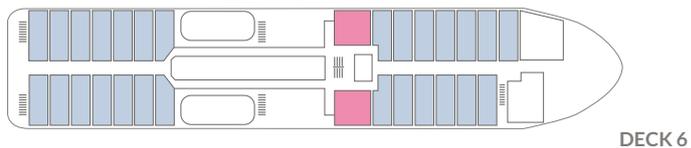
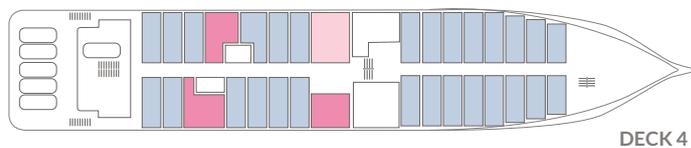
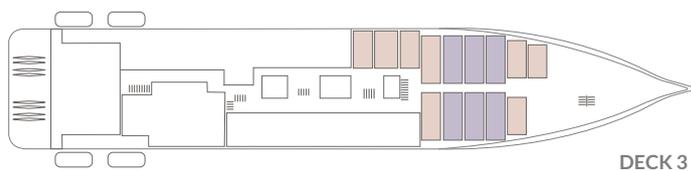
From the remote historical islands of Antarctica to the far north of the Arctic, the *Greg Mortimer* is the perfect vessel to voyage the polar regions.

Length: 104.4m **Passengers:** 132
Breadth: 18.2m **Staff and crew:** 61
Draught: 5.3m **Cruising speed:** 12 knots
Ice Class: 1A

Featuring revolutionary design and technology, the *Greg Mortimer* is purpose-built to voyage some of the most remote and rugged destinations on earth. The unique streamlined bow slices smoothly through swell, meaning you'll feel fewer vibrations from the icy waves. The cutting-edge dynamic stabilisers also provide fantastic stability as you cross the ocean, while also reducing fuel consumption. Your greatest adventures will launch from four dedicated Zodiac launching platforms, sending you right to the heart of the polar regions safely and efficiently. You'll also find an activity platform for thrilling add-ons, such as kayaking, diving and ski touring. Whether you're paddling past majestic glaciers or simply admiring unrivalled views from dedicated vantage points, you'll remember every moment on-board the *Greg Mortimer*.

Through Citizen Science projects you'll be immersed in the biodiversity of the region both on and off the ship. Take part in surveys and listen to lectures by experts, naturalists and expedition leaders. From climate change to biology, these presentations will educate and entertain you throughout the journey. During your downtime, head to the on-board library to read up on the history of the Antarctic and Arctic regions, or simply watch the landscape pass by. For a healthy dose of wellness visit the on-board Wellness Centre, featuring a gym, sauna and spa, all with serene views out to sea. Meanwhile, for avid photographers, the multimedia room provides a space to admire and edit your photos after an unforgettable day of exploration.





- STATEROOM TRIPLE: Single beds, porthole, en suite facilities.
- STATEROOM: Twin or double bed, porthole, en suite facilities.
- BALCONY STATEROOM (A-C CABIN TYPES): Twin or double bed, private balcony, window, en suite facilities.
- BALCONY STATEROOM SUPERIOR: Twin or double bed, large private balcony, window, en suite facilities.
- JUNIOR SUITE: Twin or double bed, large private balcony, window, separate lounge area, en suite facilities.
- CAPTAIN'S SUITE: Twin or double bed, large private balcony, window, separate lounge area, en suite facilities.



“Dynamic stabilisers and the streamlined Ulstein X-BOW offer unrivalled stability and comfort”



Aboard

M/V Magellan Explorer

Intimately sized for a maximum of 73 passengers, *M/V Magellan Explorer* is purpose built for the Antarctic, featuring state-of-the-art equipment to enhance your polar experience.

Length: 90.7m Passengers: 73
Breadth: 16.2m Staff and crew: 60
Draught: 4.3m Cruising speed: 14 knots
Ice Class: 6

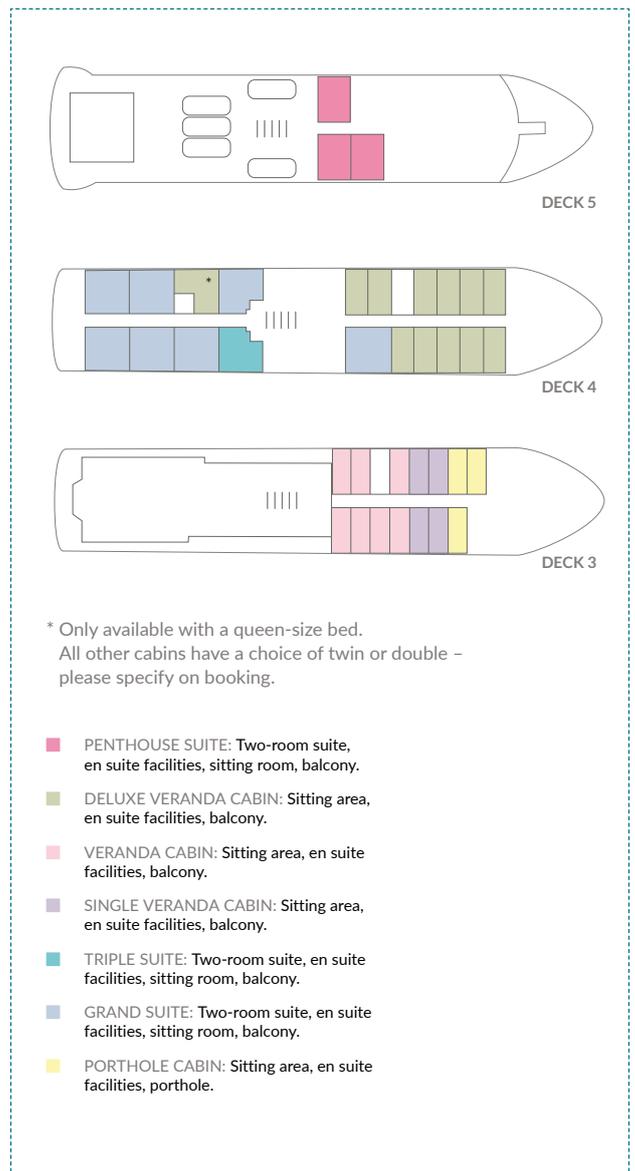




As the first custom-made small ship (under 100 passengers) built specially for Antarctic voyages, *M/V Magellan Explorer* boasts the perfect facilities to get the most out of this region. From a glass-enclosed observation lounge you'll never miss a minute of the icy landscapes passing you by – you may even spot marine wildlife such as whale and seal. Here you'll also find a presentation room, complete with state-of-the-art audio and visual equipment. Get to know the biology, history and wildlife of Antarctica through engaging presentations by experts and naturalists. Following briefings with the team, you'll board the fleet of Zodiac boats to get up close to this rugged destination, experiencing once-in-a-lifetime wildlife encounters along the way. To minimise fuel consumption throughout the journey, this vessel also features a waste heat recovery system to recycle and re-use the heat produced by the ship's engines.

Elsewhere on-board the *M/V Magellan Explorer* you'll enjoy numerous common areas to relax and unwind. The library is also well-stocked with books covering the history of great Antarctic explorers, giving you plenty of inspiration for the days ahead. Alternatively, the Zodiac embarkation area is where you'll begin your excursions as well as other exciting activities, including kayaking and snowshoeing. At the end of a long day exploring, the main dining room is the perfect place to recharge. Offering buffets as well as table service, lunch and dinner is accompanied by premium Chilean wines to add an authentic touch to your meal.

“The first custom-made small ship built specially for Antarctic voyages.”



Choosing your ship

Whether you're looking for the best viewing opportunities with the upmost comfort, or would like to get hands-on science experiences, discover the best ships for a polar voyage.



M/V Ushuaia Small traditional expedition ship Antarctica

Having been constantly modernised over eight years, the *M/V Ushuaia* is a fantastic small traditional expedition ship for up to 90 passengers per sailing. Due to the intimate size of this expedition ship, all passengers can disembark at the same time, meaning you'll enjoy longer landings on shore. From the ice-strengthened exterior to the ample deck space for witnessing unforgettable wildlife moments, this vessel boasts everything you need to explore Antarctica. Thanks to a knowledgeable team of naturalists, historians and geologists on-board you'll get to know the heart of this region while also learning how to protect it.



M/V Ocean Nova Exclusive Fly and Cruise format + dedicated single cabins

Antarctica

Having been completely refurbished in 2006, the *M/V Ocean Nova* is a fantastic expedition ship, renowned for her exclusive Fly and Cruise combination format, as well as dedicated single cabins. With capacity for up to 67 passengers, solo travellers will enjoy their own staterooms throughout their Antarctic voyage, complete with a sea view and private facilities. In addition, elsewhere on-board you'll find spacious observation decks, as well as a panoramic lounge complete with stunning views. Wherever you are on-board the *M/V Ocean Nova* you'll have the opportunity to witness unforgettable wildlife moments.



M/S Fram Spacious front deck for wildlife spotting

Arctic and Antarctica

Inspired by the original famous expedition ship, *M/S Fram* provides an outstanding base for you to explore the polar regions. While on-board, visit the expanded and improved Science Centre to discover more about the places you'll visit along the way, and enjoy engaging talks from the expedition team. However, *M/S Fram* is particularly favoured for her spacious front deck. Deck 7 boasts an exceptionally well-designed space for observing the icy landscapes as they pass you by. With floor-to-ceiling windows on three sides as well as front-row swivel seats, you'll never miss a minute of the action.





M/V Sylvia Earle
Glass-fronted atrium offering excellent viewing opportunities from inside the ship

Arctic and Antarctica

Launched in 2022, the *M/V Sylvia Earle* has been purpose-built for expedition travel, meeting world-class polar standards in the Arctic and Antarctica. With spacious stateroom cabins for up to 132 passengers, this ship boasts plenty of space to unwind during your time on-board. A particular favourite of the *Sylvia Earle* is the glass-fronted atrium, offering unparalleled viewing opportunities from the comfort of the ship. Thanks to the unique bow design, space is created for windows close to the water, meaning you'll get closer to the action than ever before. From whales breaching the surface of the water to spectacular glaciers passing by, the atrium offers endless views.

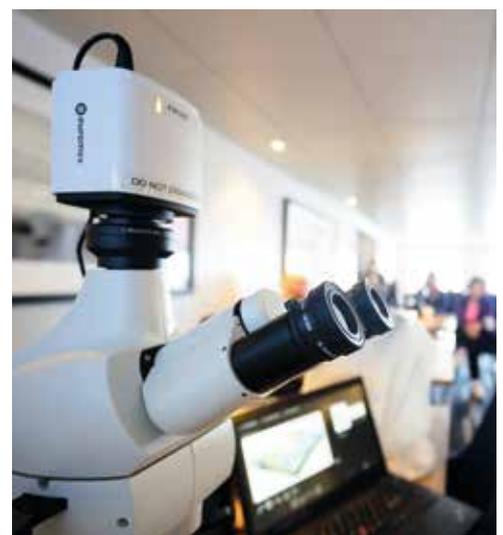
“Get to know the heart of the region while also learning how to protect it”



M/S Spitsbergen
Science Centre

Arctic

Following a complete reconstruction between 2015 and 2016, *M/S Spitsbergen* features a high standard of comfort to voyage the Arctic. With a fresh Scandinavian design this vessel accommodates up to 180 passengers, providing the perfect base to recharge after exploring on shore. However, even while you're on-board you'll find the learning never stops. The dedicated Science Centre is the core of the on-board experience, boasting state-of-the-art equipment and technology. You'll speak to crew, listen to lectures, and take part in workshops on photography, biology and more, to gain a deeper understanding of the Arctic.



Find out more

You'll find deck plans, photos and more detailed information about all of the ships on our website exploreworldwide.com.au/polarships



Essential Information about Explore Polar trips

Please carefully read through the following information about booking an Explore Polar voyage.

When you book (whether by phone, travel agent or online), you will be asked to confirm that you have read and understood these pages, as well as our Trip Notes and Booking Conditions (www.exploreworldwide.com.au/booking-conditions).

Travelling on an Explore Polar voyage

Your fellow passengers could be from anywhere in the world. Voyages are conducted in English, so most passengers tend to be from the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada or the US. These polar ships are not operated by Explore and are not exclusive to Explore customers. Everyone joining a polar trip arrives with slightly different expectations. The crew aim to ensure everyone's expectations are met. Voyage itineraries may vary from the published itinerary due to weather and ice conditions. Where possible, the crew will stick to a schedule to ensure that it all works logistically. It gets us off to a great start if everyone arrives on time, so please be prompt when joining your trip.

Age limits

The recommended minimum age on all of our expedition ships is 10 years old. Some ship operators will accept younger children, however 5 years old would be the absolute minimum and would depend on the individual ship operator. For our Churchill bears trips, the age is limited to a minimum of 12 years old. Under 18 year olds must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for all trips. We do not have a maximum age, however, we do recognise that at some point during our

customers' journey with us they will reach an age where we will have to review their fitness and ability to participate in the trips they've chosen to book. Should you be 80 or older at the time of travel, we will discuss the itinerary with you before booking you on the trip and may ask you additional questions about your health and fitness.

Fitness and trip participation

Although high levels of fitness are not necessary for most activities on our polar trips, some physical participation from passengers is required, for example climbing into and out of the Zodiacs and short walks ashore. If in doubt, please discuss with one of our polar team. It is your responsibility to let us know if you have any concerns about your ability to participate. If you have any medical condition or disability which may affect your trip arrangements in any way, you must provide us with full details at the time of booking. Each passenger must fill in a medical questionnaire before the booking can be fully accepted by the ship operator.

On our Polar trips there will be water-based activities. For your personal safety and enjoyment, an ability to swim is therefore strongly recommended.

Travel insurance and pre-existing medical conditions

Travel insurance is mandatory for all voyages. You must carry your insurance policy documents with you on the trip. Please ensure that your documentation shows you as the named policyholder and that the cover is valid for the entire period of travel. It must include cover for visiting polar regions as well as indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Please ensure that a 24 hour contact telephone number for your insurance company is written on your documentation in case of an emergency. If you are unable to provide this information at the start of the trip you will not be able to continue with us unless you purchase a suitable insurance policy. If you, your travelling companions, or anyone upon whom your travel depends (such as a friend or family member) has a pre-existing medical condition, you must disclose this to your travel insurer's medical screening helpline when you purchase your insurance policy. Failure to do so may result in your claim being declined. Please ensure that you receive written confirmation from your insurance provider that the medical condition is covered. You must take this written confirmation with you on the trip in

addition to the insurance policy itself. If you don't, you may not have appropriate cover. We reserve the right to cancel your booking at any point if you do not fully insure your pre-existing medical condition.

Itineraries

Polar voyage itineraries are best kept flexible: the weather or the ice conditions may require the captain to make itinerary changes. Itineraries can also be adjusted to take advantage of opportunities such as wildlife sightings. The maps provided are indicative only; each ship tends to follow its own preferred route, which may vary from one voyage to the next, depending on conditions. From time to time, some elements of the voyage may change from those that have been published. This could be the result of inclement weather, a change in the local political situation or other circumstances beyond our control. We will keep you as well informed as possible about these changes. Significant changes to your holiday will be notified as soon as we feasibly can. Minor amendments to your trip will be detailed on your final trip documentation, although our website will be regularly updated should you wish to check the information at any time.

Ship accommodation

Most cabins are based on two people sharing, however triples and quads are also available; some ships have a limited number of single cabins (see individual ship details). Double beds are available in some cabins, while most other cabins have twin beds. If you are travelling on your own you can choose to share a cabin with another solo traveller of the same sex (except on M/S Fram and M/S Spitsbergen) or pay a supplement for sole occupancy of a cabin, if single cabins are unavailable. Single rooms are available on our Churchill Bears trips, but due to the limited accommodation in Churchill, availability is also limited. If you are booking onto our Churchill trips as a single traveller, our operator will try to match you in a twin share. If they are unable to match you with the same gender, you will be obliged to pay half of the single supplement fee. We recommend booking early to avoid disappointment.

Onboard meals

All meals are included while on board and all the ships can cater for specific diets: please tell us about any dietary requirements when you make your booking.

Connecting flights and additional accommodation

You may require international flights or hotel accommodation before or after your voyage. This can be organised through Explore: when you make your enquiry your polar specialist will be happy to look at options with you. If you are planning on making your own connecting flight arrangements we strongly recommend you book flights that are flexible and refundable. Due to the nature of our polar trips, days of operation and itineraries can change. It is important that you are able to amend your connecting travel arrangements, should the need arise. Also, in the event of a trip being cancelled (for whatever reason), it is important that you are able to get your flight cost refunded. We regret we cannot accept liability for any connecting travel arrangements you make (including any cancellation or amendment charges) in the event of changes to or cancellation of our polar trip.

Seating on flights

Although it is possible to request specific seats from the majority of airlines, it's important to note that the carrier may ask you for an additional fee to pre-book your seats in advance. To ensure your request is fulfilled we recommend that you contact the airline directly via their website and use their 'manage my booking' facility. Although this facility will be available for the majority of flight bookings, there are some airlines that don't enable this option. If you find you're not able to access your booking directly through the airline website, then please contact Explore with your seating request and we'll submit it on your behalf. It's important to note that we are unable to guarantee your seating requests and that failure to grant your request will not be a breach of contract on our part. Sometimes seats are booked as part of a block booking (allocation) – the relevant airline will automatically allocate your seating and so it is possible that you might not be close to other members of your party. For these journeys you'll be unable to check in online and so we recommend arriving and checking in at the airport as early as possible so that you have a better chance of selecting alternative seats should the need arise. If you require specific seats because of a disability/reduced mobility/a medical condition, please make this clear at the time of booking. Subject to safety requirements and availability, EU airlines are required to make all reasonable efforts to arrange seating to meet the requirements of individuals with a disability or reduced mobility. You may be required to provide written confirmation of your disability, reduced mobility or medical condition and fitness to travel from your doctor.

In-flight meals

Although meals are still provided on most international flights, you should be aware that there is a trend towards them not being included on shorter flights, and particularly those within Europe. On many routes with connections within Europe, a meal will be provided on the inter-continental sector, but not on the sector between the UK and the connecting European airport. We cannot therefore guarantee that a meal will be provided on all flights. If you have a special dietary requirement, please let us know at the time of booking. We will send an automated request through to the airline. Please be aware that in most cases airlines do not confirm individual meal requests, so it is worth double checking that the meal has been ordered at check-in.

Changes to flight information

When you book a flight-inclusive trip with Explore, your holiday confirmation will contain provisional flight details. The timings, flight numbers or route could change several times before departure. We will confirm final timings with your final documents. We will notify you immediately of any significant airline schedule change which occurs after your tickets have been issued. We recommend that you defer booking any connecting travel to the airport or arrangements such as car parking or overnight hotels until you have received your final documents, with confirmed travel times. Where Explore are arranging domestic regional flights, these will be automatically rebooked to connect with your international flights. We strongly recommend that you do not purchase non-flexible, non-refundable connecting rail, air or bus tickets, as they usually incur cancellation or penalty charges in the event of a change to the departure time or date.

Aircraft weight restrictions

For the purposes of flight safety, it is essential that you adhere to the luggage weight restrictions imposed by the airline you are flying with, particularly when flying on internal flights on smaller aircraft.

Lost luggage

In the rare event that your luggage is either misplaced or damaged during a flight, a PIR (Property Irregularity Report) will need to be filed with the airline before you leave the airport to allow an insurance claim to be processed at a later date.

Preparing for your holiday

Travelling to far-flung corners of the earth involves adapting to living conditions that are often very different from your own. Please be prepared for unusual situations, local differences and unpredictable events. The very nature of adventure holidays means your most enjoyable moments are likely to come from the unexpected. You need to be sure you are happy to swap luxury for experience when joining an Explore trip. If you are someone who prefers things to go as planned and enjoys some pampering along the way, then maybe think twice about an adventure holiday. You should also be aware that some countries around the world have security problems. Unsavoury characters are likely to be active in big cities and street markets and certain areas may be considered 'out-of-bounds' for tourists. However, most crime is opportunistic. Using your common sense will reduce the risks. Unfortunately, no destination can be guaranteed to be safe from terrorism. We constantly monitor the political situation in the regions we visit and will re-route or cancel a trip if we feel it is necessary. While we endeavour to provide as much information as possible in our brochure and individual Trip Notes regarding the areas our trips travel to, we would always recommend that you undertake some background research about the places you will be visiting and the type of climate and local conditions you can expect in order to get the most from your holiday.

Foreign Office travel advice

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Travel Advice Unit – www.dfat.gov.au/travel – provides detailed information about your destination including current entry requirements. We strongly recommend that you read their comments about the country you are planning to visit, both when you book and again just before you leave and that you sign up to the government travel alert service. The latest travel advice for all destinations can be found here: www.smarttraveller.gov.au/destinations. We monitor DFAT travel warnings and advice, and based on them, may cancel trips before departure, or re-route or make other changes to trips operating in or throughout the country concerned. Any decision we take about whether to operate or cancel a trip or make other changes will always be in the interests of your safety and security. We will make these decisions at least four weeks before departure, unless we believe that local conditions will improve before the start of the trip.

Consumer peace of mind

Explore are proud to be the first tour operator to be approved by Trading Standards.



The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for Explore Worldwide, number 5207, and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for: Non-flight packages.



ABTOT cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if transportation was included in your package. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Explore Worldwide.

In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call our 24/7 helpline on **01702 811397** and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company. You can access the The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2018/978011168479/contents.

Our prices

Prices shown in this brochure are per person in AUD and NZD. They represent the basic per person cost of the trip at the time of publication of this brochure. Prices may increase or decrease at any time during the life of the brochure. The price you pay may vary depending on when you book, as our operators occasionally run price promotions. The most current price for each polar trip can be found

at exploreworldwide.com.au/polar. The lead-in prices for our ship-based trips are usually based on quad or triple share. For our Churchill Bears trips, the lead-in price is based on twin share. Please contact our Polar Sales team to discuss cabin and room options.

What's included in the price?

See individual Trip Notes for detail on what is included in each trip. Normally all meals, Zodiac and Polar Rover excursions, and on-shore walks and hikes are included, but other activities must be pre-arranged and an extra charge will be made. Drinks and items of a personal nature such as laundry are not included in the voyage price. Tips for the crew are not included and are usually expected. Please note, all trips aboard the M/V Greg Mortimer and M/V Sylvia Earle, include gratuity payments in the voyage cost.

What's not included?

The price of the trip does not include: visa fees, vaccination charges, travel insurance premiums, passport costs, international departure taxes, excess baggage charges, optional tours and excursions, hotel porters or meals (other than those we list as included). We also do not include items of a personal nature; such as laundry, room service charges, drinks or phone calls. Tips for personal service are not included and are usually expected. If you book on trip/land only basis, we do not include flights from the UK or departure taxes.

NO SURCHARGE PRICE GUARANTEE

Once we have confirmed your booking we guarantee the price of your confirmed services won't change: we will not pass on surcharges of any kind. Unlike most other tour operators we will not pass on unexpected additional costs like fuel surcharges and tax increases.

Brochure / Website / Advertising material accuracy

The information contained in our brochure and website is believed to be correct at the time of printing or publication. However, errors may occasionally occur and information may subsequently change. You must therefore ensure you check all details of your chosen holiday (including the price) with us at the time of booking.

Thank you to all our Polar partners for supplying their images for use in this brochure.

Explore Worldwide Ltd.
Registered Office: Nelson House,
55 Victoria Road, Farnborough,
Hampshire, GU14 7PA, UK.

VAT No. 358 7552 13.

Passport, Visa and Entry Requirements

Passport information

Please note it is your responsibility to ensure you have the correct, current information in good time before departure and that you act on it. Please ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity and appropriate number of blank pages for your chosen destination. You must also have all visas and vaccination certificates that are necessary to enter or pass through any countries involved in the journey or trip.

Visas

Many countries require a visa to be obtained before travel or on arrival. A summary of requirements for British passport holders can be found on the individual Trip Notes but please note that visa and passport information is subject to change at any time. If required, visas can be obtained through a Visa Service or the relevant Embassy or Consular Office.

General Note

Some countries refuse admission to travellers not meeting their accepted standards of dress or appearance (even if they hold a visa). Entry may also be refused to some countries if your passport bears stamps or visas (valid or expired) from certain countries. Please bear this in mind when booking/travelling to these destinations as it can negatively affect your future travel plans. Further information can be found on our Trip Notes where applicable.

Travcour

We have partnered with Travcour; a company who specialise in visa processing. Please visit their website to download visa application forms, follow links to important embassy websites or make general enquiries about their visa service. For more information or visit www.travcour.com.

Entry Requirements

Covid 19 has led to many countries revising their entry requirements, often at short notice. Requirements can include the need to have received a full course of Covid 19 vaccine or proof of a negative test recognised by your destination country. We strongly recommend reviewing entry requirements frequently both for your destination and home country to ensure your travel plans run smoothly. Please note, all passengers will need to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19, before embarking their polar ship. Full details will be provided in your documentation.

Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to ensure you have the correct vaccinations required for all countries that you will visit on your trip. Explore Trip Notes detail the recommended vaccinations for each trip but you must consult with your doctor or a travel health clinic to ensure you have the most up to date advice.

Please note that some inoculation programmes require two injections, administered four weeks apart. You should leave plenty of time for this. As a general rule, please note that health requirements and recommendations may change and you must check the current requirements in good time before departure.

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Your Privacy

Explore takes your privacy extremely seriously. We are committed to doing everything we can to protect any personal information provided to us when you enquire about or book a holiday or another travel service with us, when you visit our website, or when you engage with us by other means. This equally applies if someone else makes arrangements on your behalf. For full details of what, why and how we collect and use your personal information, how we protect it and how you can contact us, see our online Privacy Centre at [exploreworldwide.com.au/privacy-policy](https://www.exploreworldwide.com.au/privacy-policy) or call us on **1300 439 756 (Australia)** or **0800 269 263 (New Zealand)** so that we can send the details to you.

If you handle the arrangements for other travellers, please ensure they are aware of the information contained within our Privacy Centre and they consent to you acting on their behalf in your dealings with us.

To enable us to make holiday arrangements for you, we may ask you to provide information such as:

- your name, gender, date of birth, contact details;
- your preferred rooming arrangements and other special requests (including special categories of personal data such as dietary requirements, which may disclose health matters or your religious or philosophical beliefs, and information about any disability or medical condition which may affect the chosen holiday arrangements);
- the name and telephone number of an emergency contact person (whom we will only contact in urgent circumstances while you are away);
- your passport and travel insurance details;
- details of your payment card or your bank account (this information is processed using a third party payment services provider and is not stored by us);
- when you call us or correspond with us about your booking, we may record the call for training and quality control purposes and/or keep information on why you contacted us, and the advice we gave you;
- on your return from holiday we email or post a satisfaction questionnaire to you. This gives us specific feedback on any issue you may have experienced, and statistical data we can amalgamate in order to monitor the quality of our holidays.

We will need to share your data with third party service providers, used in the delivery of your purchased holiday arrangements, some of which may be based outside the EEA. These providers include accommodation, restaurants and transport providers; local ground partners and agents, where we use them; equipment hire operators, including our polar voyage partners and guides, tutors and local attractions where booked on your behalf.

We keep the information related to your booking for a period which enables us to handle or respond to any complaints or

queries and to fulfil our obligations to our third party suppliers who provided your holiday arrangements. The information may also be retained so that we can continue to improve your experience with us while you engage with and purchase from us.

By law we have to keep basic information about our customers for legal and tax purposes for up to 7 years after they cease being customers.

If you fail to provide personal information

Should you fail to provide data required either by law, or necessary to provide your chosen travel arrangements, we will not be able to provide the services you have booked or are attempting to book. This may result in Explore being unable to process your booking and be forced to cancel the booking. In this case, we will treat this as a 'cancellation by you' in accordance with the relevant Booking Terms & Conditions and notify you accordingly.

Marketing communications

We may use your information to provide you with brochures, newsletters and other communications if you have provided your prior consent or we are permitted under an identified and assessed legitimate interest.

We sell our holidays directly to customers and so sending out brochures and other marketing communications by post from time-to-time is very important to the way we do business. We use data we have collected from bookings, brochure requests and other forms of engagement to decide what marketing information our customers may like to receive, and we have identified this as in our legitimate interest.

We do provide an opportunity to opt-out of this direct marketing during the booking or enquiry process and in subsequent communications, or you may contact us at any time to do so. We have found over the years that the majority of people welcome these communications and, those who do not are happy to let us know so we can ensure no more are sent.

If you ask us to stop sending marketing information, you may continue to receive communications for up to 4 weeks after your requested change while our systems are fully updated.

Images

From time-to-time, our staff, customers and suppliers may take photographs and video footage of trips in progress, including photos and video footage of our customers. You will be invited to sign a model release form to consent to this. These images may be used in future marketing materials and stored physically and digitally. If you do not wish to be filmed or for your picture to be taken or used in this manner, please advise your Explore Leader and/or the photographer at the start of your trip.

Website use

In order for us to provide you with the optimum service, we use 'Cookies' on our website. Cookies are small text files sent to your computer when you access our site. Cookies used on our site are anonymous and contain no personal information, but do identify your computer so that you can navigate our site more easily and our website can remember your preferences. For more information about what cookies we use and how to manage them please refer to our Cookie Policy at www.explore.co.uk/privacy/cookies.

Contact us

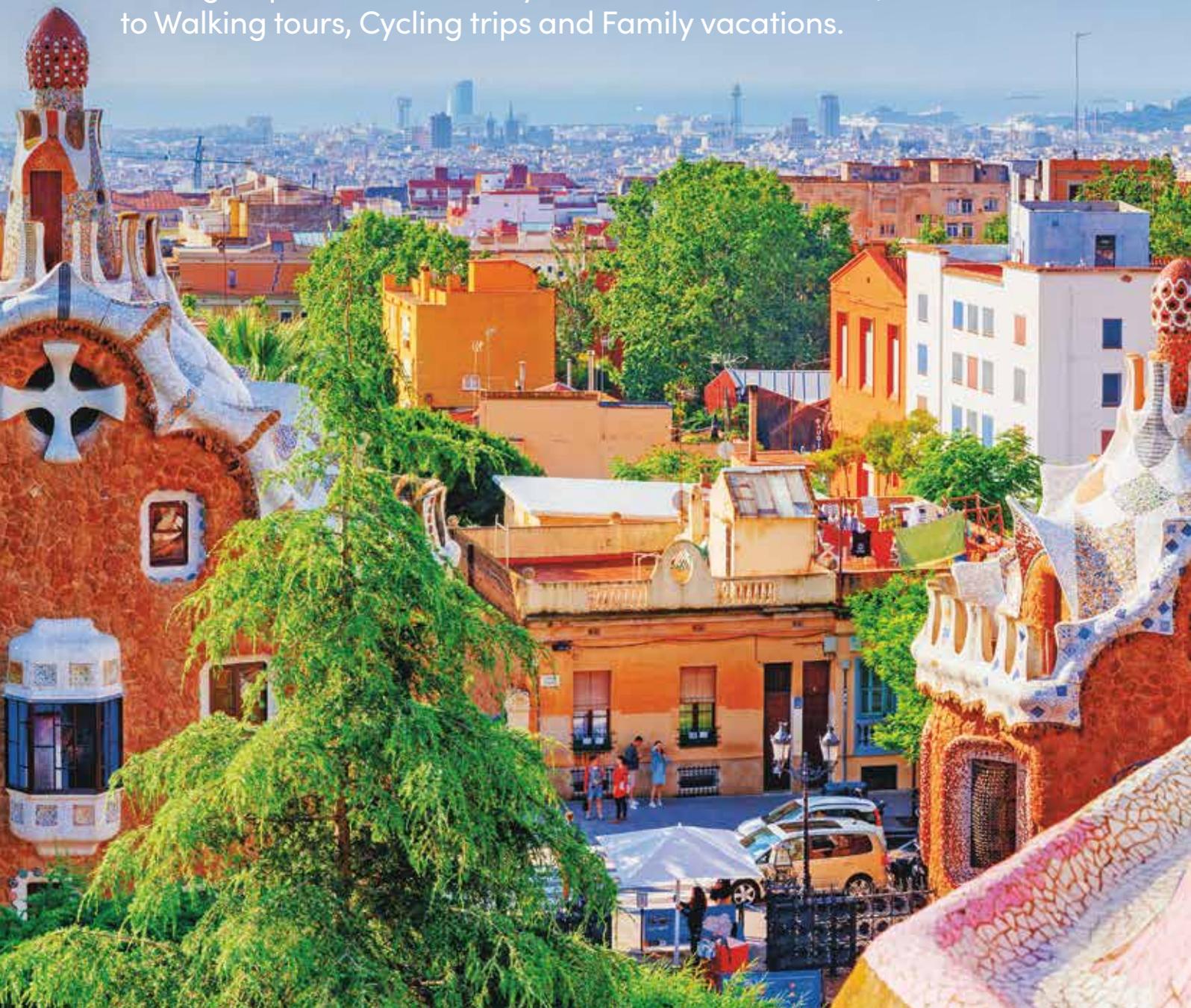
It is important that the personal data we hold about you is accurate and current. Please keep us informed if any of the details you provide to us should change during the course of your relationship with us. If you need further assistance, would like to make a comment or update your marketing preferences, you can contact us:

- By telephone on **1300 439 756 (Australia)** or **0800 269 263 (New Zealand)**
- By email: res@exploreworldwide.com.au
- By mail to **Explore Worldwide Australia Pty Ltd, Unit D, 107 Alfred Street, Fortitude Valley, QLD, Australia 4006.**

You also have the right to make a complaint at any time to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). You can contact them on **0303 123 1113** or go online to www.ico.org.uk/concerns.

We don't just offer polar voyages

If you visit our website, you can see our complete offering. There, you can choose from hundreds of trips to extraordinary destinations all over the world, from small group Classic Discovery and Wildlife adventures, to Walking tours, Cycling trips and Family vacations.





Here's a sample of tried and tested favourites from exploreworldwide.com.au. These suggestions are an excellent place to start looking for your next once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

For more amazing coastlines

Barcelona, Provence and the Italian Riviera

A Grand Tour through Spain, France and Italy that arcs around the Mediterranean coastline and brims with bucket-list stopovers. Kick things off in sun-soaked Barcelona, track north to France and finish your journey of discovery in Italy.

➤ exploreworldwide.com.au/BF

For more island hopping

Best of Greece

On this stunning two week trip, experience the cradle of western civilization as you visit Athens, Delphi, and Naflion. Explore ancient ruins, sample delicious Greek food and discover the best of the Cyclades Islands.

➤ exploreworldwide.com.au/GGI

For more wildlife encounters

Uganda Gorilla and Chimp Safari

A once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience the ultimate wildlife encounter: to get up close and personal with the endangered mountain gorilla in their natural habitat, Bwindi National Park. A perfect trip for wildlife lovers.

➤ exploreworldwide.com.au/UG

For more off the well-trodden path

Explore the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

There are few places that could be described as outside the reaches of tourism, and Saudi Arabia may be one of them. This trip will introduce a country with a history that spans prehistoric rock art, ancient spice trade and Lawrence's Arabian deserts.

➤ exploreworldwide.com.au/KSA

For more culture and history

Discover Darjeeling and Bhutan

Travel from bustling Kolkata and the nearby mangrove area of the Sundarbans, through Eastern India and into the fascinating Buddhist Kingdom of Bhutan. With the backdrop of the dramatic Himalayan Mountain range, discover relics of the Raj, ruined monasteries and ancient temples.

➤ exploreworldwide.com.au/BH

For more breath-taking scenery

New Zealand Explorer

Combining the best of New Zealand's North and South Islands, explore the land of giants on this epic bucket list journey. Marvel at the jaw-dropping scenery with new dramatic landscapes waiting around every corner and learn more about New Zealand's unique history and culture.

➤ exploreworldwide.com.au/NZL

For more colourful highlights

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, New Mexico and Eclipse

In a land where Native American culture, Route 66 Americana and Hispanic influence all blend together, New Mexico showcases the US melting pot to the full. Explore Santa Fe, visit the Taos Pueblo UNESCO Site and gaze skywards as hundreds of balloons sail across Albuquerque's pinky-red desert.

➤ exploreworldwide.com.au/NME

EXPLORE!

An adventure travel company you can trust

UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES | EXPERT KNOWLEDGE | SMALL SHIPS | RESPONSIBLE AT HEART

**More brochures available at
exploreworldwide.com.au/
brochures**

We have one combined brochure packed full of Classic Discovery, Walking and Cycling small group tours as well as a new Family adventures brochure available.

**We love nothing more than
talking about holidays!**

- › Australia 1300 439 756
New Zealand 0800 269 263
- › res@exploreworldwide.com.au
- › exploreworldwide.com.au
exploreworldwide.co.nz
- › Or contact your preferred travel agent.

