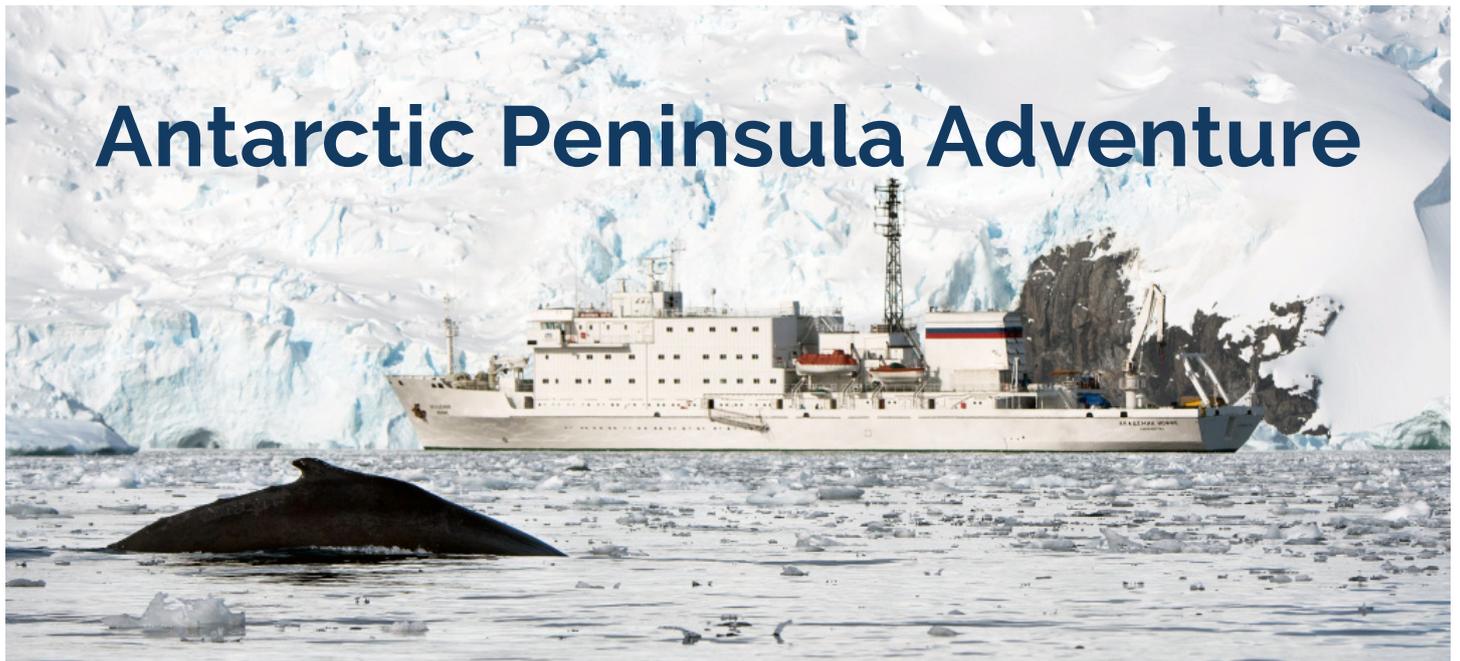


# ANTARCTICA: 2018/19

## TRIP NOTES



# Antarctic Peninsula Adventure



04 MAR 2019 – 14 MAR 2019



10 NIGHTS / 11 DAYS



STARTS USHUAIA

## THIS 10-NIGHT EXPEDITION OFFERS THE QUINTESSENTIAL ANTARCTIC EXPERIENCE

Towering glaciers, amazing wildlife encounters, snow-covered landscapes, massive icebergs and the option to choose your favourite activities every day make this voyage the perfect introduction to the white continent.

In the waters of the Antarctic Peninsula, we spend our days off the ship exploring by Zodiac boat, making shore landings in the company of our expert guides. By breaking into small special interest groups, we discover Antarctica and its remarkable wildlife through photography, Zodiac excursions, hiking onshore, and for the more adventurous, camping and sea kayaking. Visits to historic huts and working research bases add another dimension to the voyage.

Our classic 10-night expedition features many of the well-known landing sites such as Neko, Paradise and Orne Harbours', Cuverville Island and the Errera Channel - and ice conditions permitting, we hope to transit the spectacular Lemaire Channel. Pleneau Island, Petermann Island and the iceberg-filled Penola Strait are all possibilities below the Lemaire. A further highlight will be a visit to the enchanting South Shetland Islands. Here, we hope to visit Deception Island and other nearby locations such as Half Moon Island, Hannah Point or Yankee Harbour. Returning to South America we have one final thrill - rounding the legendary maritime landmark of Cape Horn.



## Expedition Highlights

- > Outstanding wildlife observation on shore, zodiac cruising and from the ship
- > In-depth exploration of the Gerlache coastline and Antarctic Peninsula
- > Visits to historic sites and science stations
- > Learn about the environment, wildlife and ecology of Antarctica from polar experts

## ON THIS TRIP

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

## IMPORTANT VOYAGE LOGISTICS

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

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

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



## YOUR DAY-BY-DAY EXPEDITION ITINERARY

### DAY 1 / USHUAIA (ARGENTINA) (MONDAY, 04 MARCH, 2019)

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

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

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

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

We awaken today and the magnificent snowy peaks of continental Antarctica are laid out before us. Even our experienced expedition staff, some with more than 100 journeys south, will take a moment to pause and reflect on this incredible sight. Take a deep breath – you have arrived. This is Antarctica.

The waterways of the Antarctic Peninsula are home to deep bays, pristine coves and inlets and numerous small islands. The Gerlache coastline features heavily glaciated mountains permanently covered in ice and snow. Rocky outcrops, known as 'nunataks' are home to gentoo, Adelle and chinstrap

penguin rookeries and the waters are rich in marine life. We frequently encounter seals, including the powerful leopard seal, usually found hauled out on an ice floe. Curious humpback whales and the smaller minke whales are present much of the time as they feed on the vast schools of krill. Sightings of orca are not uncommon.

Our activity program is in full swing and we encourage all guests to choose how their adventure unfolds. Every day we plan an exciting range of activities, including guided hikes on shore (both short and long), visits to wildlife colonies with our expert naturalist guides. The historic huts and science stations located along the peninsula provide a fascinating glimpse into the past and the present. Zodiac cruising among the ice searching for seals and whales is a memorable activity. Meanwhile, our sea kayakers may range several miles from the ship experiencing Antarctica from an entirely different perspective. Our resident photography guide will be on hand to help you with your camera handling and image composition. Maybe what you really want to do is sit on a rock, simply watching the penguins come and go from the water? Make yourself comfortable and enjoy the show.

Planned excursions along the Antarctic Peninsula could include Cierva Cove or Mikklesen Harbour, Danco Island, the Melchior Islands and Fournier Bay - or a cruise through the Errera Channel to visit the gentoo penguin rookeries at Cuverville Island. Wilhelmina Bay is another favourite location and one where we frequently encounter playful humpback whales. Nearby Paradise Harbour is a particular highlight and offers an excellent hiking route to a viewpoint providing expansive views. Andvord Bay and Neko Harbour provide yet another continental landing opportunity.

After several busy days of exploration along the Peninsula, we head north across the Bransfield Strait, bound for the South Shetland Islands. This is an important whale migration corridor and can expect sightings of humpbacks, or the resident pod of Orca that inhabit this stretch of water.



#### DAY 8 / SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS

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

After leaving Deception Island, we cruise along the coast of Livingston Island which in a sunny day is a memorable experience. There are several other landing sites in the South Shetland's including Half Moon Island, or the broad pebbly beach at Yankee Harbour, where we sometimes encounter Weddell seals sunning themselves. This is another great spot for a hike or a zodiac cruise. Hannah Point, with its elephant seal colony and nesting Antarctic petrels - is another possibility. In the evening, we navigate north through the McFarlane Strait and into the Drake Passage.

#### DAYS 9-10 / DRAKE PASSAGE – RETURN TO SOUTH AMERICA

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

#### DAY 11 / ARRIVE USHUAIA (ARGENTINA) – VOYAGE CONCLUDES – (THURSDAY, 14 MARCH, 2019)

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

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS FOR 'ANTARCTIC PENINSULA ADVENTURE':** There are two additional sailings of this popular voyage (November 2018 & March 2019). Or consider the 10-night Marine Mammals departures which follow a similar itinerary to the Antarctic Peninsula Adventure. See the website for details.

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