

Wild Earth Travel

Small Ships, Big Adventures

wildearth-travel.com

info@wildearth-travel.com

ANTARCTICA - BEYOND THE POLAR CIRCLE - WHALE WATCHING CRUISE

This Polar Circle and Antarctic Peninsula cruise passes through waters travelled by Humpback, Minke and Fin whales. Anchoring in various spots around the region, the expedition offers the chance to dive in the iceberg-heavy waters.



ITINERARY

Day 1: End of the world, start of a journey

Your voyage begins where the world drops off. Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet, is located on the far southern tip of South America. Starting in the afternoon, you embark from this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego, nicknamed "The End of the World," and sail the mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the remainder of the evening.

Day 2 - 3: Path of the polar explorers

Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you enjoy some of the same experiences encountered by the great polar explorers who first charted these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale spouting up sea spray. After passing the Antarctic Convergence - Antarctica's natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer sub-Antarctic seas - you are in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. Not only does the marine life change, the avian life changes too. Wandering albatrosses, grey-headed albatrosses, black-browed albatrosses, light-mantled

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sooty albatrosses, cape pigeons, southern fulmars, Wilson's storm petrels, blue petrels, and Antarctic petrels are a few of the birds you might see.

Day 4 - 10: Sights of late summer Antarctica

Options for Antarctic Peninsula activities are many, and no less great during the late summer. Humpback whales are prolific in this region, gorging themselves on krill before their migration north. The penguin chicks are also fledging, stirring up activity on the beaches while sleek leopard seals lie in wait, poised to attack the less fortunate ones.

Sites for your Antarctic adventures may include:

Livingston Island - Here you find a wide variety of gentoo and chinstrap penguins on Hannah Point, as well as southern giant petrels and elephant seals hauling out onto the beach.

Deception Island - Actually a subducted crater, this island opens into the sea and creates a natural harbor for the ship. An abandoned whaling station, and multiple bird species - cape petrels, kelp gulls, brown and south polar skuas, and Antarctic terns - can be seen here. Wilson's storm petrels and black-bellied storm petrels also nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay.

Cuverville Island - A small precipitous island nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula and Ronge Island, Cuverville houses a large colony of gentoo penguins and breeding pairs of brown skuas.

Neko Harbour - An epic landscape of mammoth glaciers and endless wind-carved snow, Neko Harbour offers opportunities for a Zodiac cruise and landing that afford the closest views of the surrounding alpine peaks. You might also be able to set foot on the continent here.

Paradise Bay - You could take a Zodiac cruise in these sprawling, ice-flecked waters, where you have a good chance of seeing humpback and minke whales.

Pleneau & Petermann Islands - If the ice allows it, you may sail through the Lemaire Channel in search of Adelie penguins and blue-eyed shags. There's also a good chance you'll encounter humpback and minke whales as well as leopard seals.

Crystal Sound - Your journey takes you south along the Argentine Islands to

this ice-packed body of water, and from here across the Polar Circle in the morning.

Detaille Island - You may make a landing at an abandoned British research station here, taking in the island's lofty mountains and imposing glaciers.

Fish Islands - Further north you encounter one of the southernmost Adelie penguin and blue-eyed shag colonies in the Antarctic Peninsula.

Melchior Islands - These islands offer a beautiful landscape rich with icebergs. Leopard seals, crabeater seals, and whales are found here, and there are excellent opportunities for kayaking and diving.

Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.

Day 11 - 12: Familiar seas, familiar friends

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, you're again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.

Day 13: There and back again

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. It's now time to disembark in Ushuaia, but with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



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YOUR SHIP: ORTELIUS

YOUR SHIP:	Ortelius
VESSEL TYPE:	Expedition
LENGTH:	91m
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	108-123
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	

Built / Refurbished : 1989 / 2015

Ortelius is a fully ice-strengthened Polar Class UL1 vessel built for demanding expeditions in one-year and multi-year sea ice. Originally constructed in 1989 for the Russian Academy of Science, its robust engineering and wide open-deck spaces make it well suited to deep-field exploration in the Arctic and Antarctica. The ship carries 108 passengers and operates with a substantial team of nautical crew, hotel staff, expedition leaders, and lecturers, supported by a fleet of ten Zodiacs for frequent shore landings and wildlife access. Interiors are functional and comfortable, offering standard hotel amenities alongside a lecture room and bar.

The vessel is designed for maximum time ashore and flexible routing, prioritising nature observation over traditional cruise programming. Some cabins may have partially obstructed views due to structural requirements, but the best vistas are always outside on deck or from the bridge. Ortelius offers stable performance, reliable ice navigation, and a straightforward, expedition-focused environment, making it a strong choice for travellers who want direct contact with polar landscapes without unnecessary embellishment.



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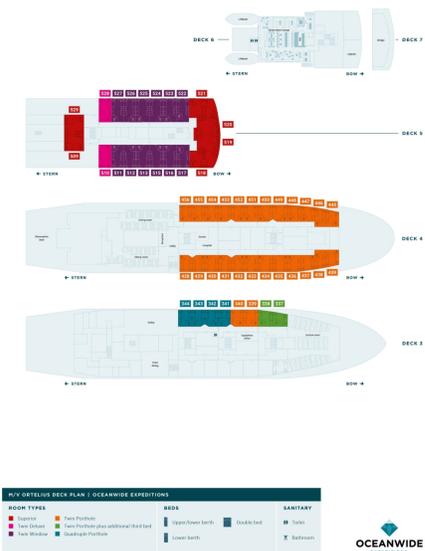


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INSIDE YOUR SHIP

M/V ORTELIUS DECK PLAN



Quadruple Porthole



Superior



Triple Porthole



Twin Deluxe



Twin Porthole



Twin Window



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PRICING

11-Mar-2028 to 23-Mar-2028

Quadruple Porthole	12000 USD pp
Triple Porthole	13550 USD pp
Twin Porthole	14800 USD pp
Twin Window	15350 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	17100 USD pp
Superior	17950 USD pp

Optional extras & upgrades

Diving

Diving is an optional activity. Experience with cold-water diving and dry-suit dives (at least 30) is a must!

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