SNOW HILL TO THE PENINSULA: SHACKLETON'S EMPERORS SMALL SHIP CRUISE

We created our 18-day "Snow Hill to the Peninsula: Shackleton's Emperors" itinerary for those who dream of witnessing the legendary Emperor penguin colony at Snow Hill Island--and are also drawn to the austere beauty of the remote Weddell Sea, as well as the rarely visited east coast of the Antarctic Peninsula.

The crown jewel of this unique expedition, of course, is the rare opportunity to visit the storied colony of approximately 4,000 pairs of breeding Emperor penguins and their adorable chicks at Snow Hill. These ice-dwelling penguins--which captivated early explorers like Sir Ernest Shackleton--thrive in temperatures as low as-50C. They're the largest and most beautiful of all penguin species.

On this expedition, you will spend five days exploring this iceberg-choked paradise by ship, helicopter and Zodiac before exploring along the east coast of the Peninsula. This is the only itinerary in the polar industry that enables guests to spend this amount of time totally immersed in the spell-binding wonders of the eastern coast--vast stretches of which resemble the planet Mars.

A special feature of this voyage: we'll be joined by Paul Goldstein, winner of the Black & White category in the 2024 Nature Photographer of the Year Awards, who has shared his passion for polar photography on 30 expeditions to the Antarctic and Arctic. Goldstein, who first explored the Weddell Sea in 2005, considers his two previous Emperor expeditions to be among the top highlights of his 40 years of travel. Guests will have hands-on opportunities to hone their wildlife photography skills throughout the voyage.

You will sail on the technologically-advanced Ultramarine--the same ship that brought our guests to Snow Hill on two separate voyages in 2023. Ultramarine's two helicopters will enable you to explore in ways no one else can. And, with a maximum of 150 guests, you can expect an intimate on-ship experience. Prepare to be captivated--just as Shackleton and his companions Worsley, Crean and Wild were a century ago--by the sight of Emperors as they scale the cobalt-blue icebergs before plunging into the depths of the Weddell Sea in their relentless hunt for food.

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ITINERARY

Day 1 - Arrive in Buenos Aires

Upon arrival in the vibrant Argentine capital, known for its European-style architecture, rich culture and lively neighborhoods, you will independently transfer to your included hotel.

Day 2 - Fly to Ushuaia and Embark

After a complimentary early breakfast at the hotel, your group will transfer to the airport to board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, at the southern tip of Argentina. Upon arrival, you will be transferred from the airport to a central downtown location to explore quaint Ushuaia on your own before making your way to the pier. After a late afternoon embarkation, you will sail along the historic Beagle Channel, which transects the Tierra del Fuego archipelago in the extreme southern part of South America. Embrace the air of anticipation as you depart--the next land you see will be the Antarctic.

Days 3 and 4 - Crossing the Drake Passage

The storied Drake Passage, the 800-kilometer waterway between the southern tip of South America and Antarctica, is an adventure unto itself. Its position at the confluence of the Pacific, the Atlantic and the Southern oceans can mean either a turbulent or calm passing. While under the attentive care of our expert staff and expedition team, you'll have plenty of time to gaze out at the expansive ocean waters, photograph seabirds as they swoop down around the ship, and get to know your Expedition Team and fellow travelers.

Day 5 - Navigating into the Weddell Sea

We begin our passage through Antarctic Sound. This stretch of water separates the northern tip of the peninsula from the Weddell Sea. This historic sound is notorious for being filled with massive ice chunks which originate from the Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf--so have your cameras and binoculars ready. The onboard team will teach you everything about ice, as the Weddell Sea boasts the world's most impressive floes and tabular icebergs. The captivating flat-topped icebergs you'll see on this eastern side of the Peninsula are known to be exponentially bigger and more visually impressive than those observed off the western coast. Onboard experts will enrich your polar quest during daily presentations. You'll hear what it was like a century ago for the brave polar heroes who embraced the unknown. Expect a fascinating deep-dive into the world of ice-dwelling Emperor penguins.

Days 6 to 10 - Quest to Land at Snow Hill Island: Emperor Penguin Colony

The journey toward Snow Hill Island will put you in explorer mode as the

captain and Expedition Leader keep you updated through weather briefings, as well as meteorological and sea ice condition reports. The thickness of ice will determine how close Ultramarine can get to Snow Hill Island, at which point the ship's twin-engine helicopters will take over. Like summitting a mountain from base camp, parties set out from Ultramarine towards the Emperor penguin colony. As experienced by all of our guests who visited Snow Hill Island with us in November 2023, the adventure begins with an extended helicopter transfer that will reveal a landscape of snow-capped peaks and apartment-building-sized tabular icebergs. As seasoned polar explorers can attest, these mammoth, flat-topped icebergs will captivate you with their majesty. The colony itself is located on the sea ice off the south coast of Snow Hill Island, and we will land as close to the penguins as possible, yet at a safe distance to avoid disturbing the birds. Upon landing, your party will walk across the ice to the fabled Emperor penguin colony. Your auditory senses will be on high alert: the non-stop Antarctic wind, the crunch of the ice beneath your feet, and, of course, the chatter of thousands of Emperor penguins. On your guided walk to the colony, you may be surprised to find yourself walking next to paths in the snow carved< by penguins that waddled by before. As with all of our off-ship excursions, native wildlife and their habitat always take priority. We do everything possible to minimize any disturbance to their environment. The singular sounds of the flightless birds gets louder as we march toward one of the rarest wildlife scenarios on the planet: the colony of 8,000 rarely seen Emperor penguins. Our plan is to ensure that every guest visits the remote colony during the voyage, the possibility of an additional visit will be dependent on conditions. The Expedition Team and special experts will stay close so they can answer your questions and help you take it all in. You'll observe how the Emperors behave as a tight-knit community, how they care for their young--with male and female adults sharing parental duties--and how they body surf across the ice in a way that can only be described as quirky yet efficient. While at base on Ultramarine--in the heart of the Weddell Sea--you can look forward to Zodiac cruising among the icebergs and kayaking. We also plan to offer each guest a heli-flightseeing adventure--included in the cost of the voyage--during this segment of the itinerary. Each day our polar experts, who include penguin scientists, glaciologists, biologists and polar historians, will present on various aspects of Emperor penguins and their behaviors, ice formations such as the breathtaking tabular icebergs visible from the deck of the ship, and the experiences of polar explorers who braved the Weddell Sea over a century ago. Or you may, on one of the days, decide to take the polar plunge, or test your balance on a stand- up paddleboard. Or pamper yourself at Ultramarine's Tundra Spa, the sauna with floor-to-ceiling windows, fitness room, or yoga space. However you spend your time immediately following your visit to the legendary colony, we invite you to take some time to reflect on everything you've witnessed, and appreciate that you are one of the few humans to have experienced the rare wildlife spectacle at Snow Hill.

Days 11 to 15 - The Rarely Visited Eastern Coast of the Peninsula

The next stage of our specialized itinerary focuses on the rarely visited east side of the Antarctic Peninsula--where few operators visit. We will spend time each day in stunning locations that allow us to enjoy off ship opportunities shaped by the weather. Our ultimate goal is to maximize your experience of Antarctic wildlife, ice and landscapes. Our time exploring the Antarctic Peninsula will showcase the flexibility and technical prowess of our industry-leading expedition team, pilots and crew. They will look for opportunities to experience Antarctica beyond the coast and over the expansive glacial terrain of the last great wilderness. Much of this will be achieved on helicopter flightseeing excursions, which are included in your trip. These heli-flightseeing experiences differ from the helicopter ride that transported you between the ship and the Emperor penguin colony at Snow Hill Island. Helicopter flightseeing enables you to soar freely among the icy peaks of Antarctica while looking out over vast expanses of ice, rock, coast and sea. Within the eastern Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctic Sound, Erebus and Terror Gulf, and the northwestern Weddell Sea are the main theater for this venture. As we sail though Antarctic Sound, pausing to view stunning fields of tabular icebergs, we'll set our sights on visiting Paulet Island, located in the Weddell Sea. This small, circular island is home to a large Adelie penguin colony. The iconic cone rising up 353 meters (1,158 feet) is a reminder that Paulet Island was once home to active volcanoes. In addition to penguins, you may be interested in visiting the historic hut built by members of the Swedish Antarctic Expedition of 1901-04. Shackleton was aware of this hut--and of the provisions stored there. When he and his crew were forced to abandon the Endurance, Shackleton's objective became clear: to reach the safety, shelter and supplies at Paulet Island. Alas, as history attests, the ice and current of the Weddell Sea had other plans. We will visit two towering geological features: Madder Cliffs on Joinville Island, and Brown Bluff on the most northerly tip of the Antarctic continent where we plan to set foot. Brown Bluff is believed to be an exposed volcano that once erupted beneath the glacial ice, causing the lava to spread laterally and create the stunning geological layering that's visible on the imposing 745-metre bluff walls. The base of the bluffs is home to rookeries of both Adelie and gentoo penguins, which number in the thousands. During our standard excursion days, we aim to offer a variety of off-ship experiences tailored to the location and weather. These include Zodiac cruises, shore landings on islands and the continent, as well as our paddling programs. Also featured in this portion of the itinerary: the James Ross Island archipelago, adjacent to Erebus and Terror Gulf, which is highly valued geologically. On these islands we'll find fossilized specimens, ventifacts (ancient rocks polished smooth over time by wind and grains of sand), and the

remains of the KT Boundary, which marks the transition between the Cretaceous Period (dinosaurs and reptiles) and the Tertiary Period (mammals). Our goal is to provide opportunities for guests to see ventifacts up close, and to better appreciate the significance of wind erosion--by sand or ice particles--over long periods. Ventifacts provide valuable information about the climatic history and prevailing wind patterns of the region. A highlight of the eastern side of the peninsula is Devil Island, marked by its twin towering cones of ash and hardened lava that emerge from a bay on the north shore of Vega Island. At low tide, grounded bergy bits and sea ice reveal the extraordinary visual formations on the underside of the ice--shapes uniquely sculpted by brine channels and ocean waves. Before returning back across the Drake Passage, we intend to visit the wildlife- rich South Shetland Islands. As with any polar expedition, our team has devised multiple plans for our visit to this region. Our ultimate goal, however, is to set foot on Livingston Island, which showcases the most spectacular mountains of the South Shetland Islands, as well as the chinstrap penguin colonies along the rugged coast. The towering peaks you'll see are the Tangra Mountains (stretching 32 kilometers long by 8.5 kilometers wide), Mount Friesland (rising to a height of 1,700 meters/5,578 feet), Bowles Ridge (822 meters/2,697 feet), and Pliska Ridge (667 meters/2,188 feet). One other fascinating landing option is Deception Island. In addition to waddling penguins and lounging seals, visitors can also see the rusting remnants of long-abandoned whaling operations on the beach. We hope to offer guests longer walks leading to breathtaking viewpoints on Deception Island. The stark contrast between the snow and dark volcanic sand--with geothermic steam along the shoreline--creates a uniquely atmospheric feel. Additionally, Deception Island is home to one o the most renowned chinstrap penguin colonies in the world. Estimates range from 50,000 to 70,000.

Days 16 and 17 - At Sea: Sailing Across the Drake Passage

The journey back across the Drake Passage provides a final opportunity to enjoy the invigorating Southern Ocean air. Spend time on deck watching for seabirds and scouting for whales, enjoy presentations by your Expedition Team, and celebrate the experiences you've shared off the beaten track in remote Antarctica.

Day 18 - Disembark in Ushuaia and flight to Buenos Aires

You will arrive in Ushuaia in the morning and disembark after breakfast. The mandatory transfer package includes a tour of Tierra del Fuego National Park for a taste of Patagonia, after which you'll transfer to the airport for the return group charter flight to Buenos Aires.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

YOUR SHIP: ULTRAMARINE

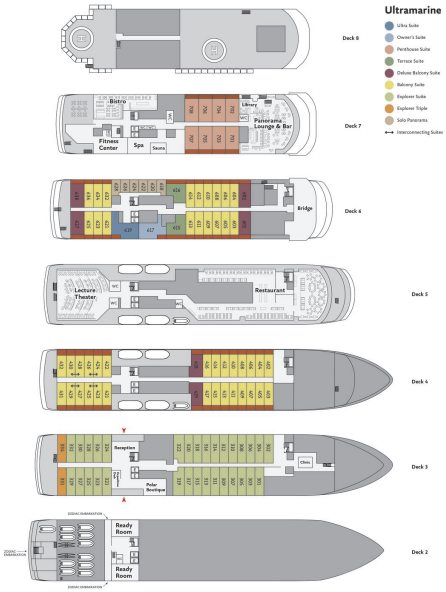
YOUR SHIP:	**Ultramarine**
VESSEL TYPE:	**Expedition Ship**
LENGTH:	**128 metres**
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	**199**
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	**2019-2020**

The Ultramarine is a next-generation polar expedition ship designed to push the boundaries of exploration and comfort. Carrying up to 199 guests, this advanced vessel features two twin-engine helicopters that open access to rarely visited polar regions and breathtaking aerial perspectives. With its expansive wraparound deck, spacious suites, and more outdoor viewing areas than any other ship in its class, Ultramarine offers an unmatched sense of connection with the surrounding landscapes. Its design balances adventure and elegance, featuring stylish lounges, an impressive theatre, two gourmet dining venues, a tranquil spa and sauna with panoramic windows, and a fully equipped fitness centre. Every detail of the ship is crafted for immersive, luxurious discovery in the world's most remote environments.

Setting a new standard in sustainable exploration, Ultramarine is equipped with cutting-edge environmental technology, including the Micro Auto Gasification System (MAGS), which converts waste into energy, and an industry-leading operational range of 40 days. With four embarkation points and an internal Zodiac hangar for faster landings, guests spend more time adventuring and less time waiting. From heli-hiking and exclusive landings to relaxed evenings in the glass-enclosed Panorama Lounge, Ultramarine combines thrilling exploration with exceptional comfort--delivering the ultimate polar expedition experience.

experience.

INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Balcony Suite

Deluxe Balcony Suite

Explorer Suite

Explorer Triple

Owner's Suite

Penthouse Suite

PRICING

30-Oct-2028 to 16-Nov-2028

Explorer Triple	**47595 AUD pp**
Explorer Suite	**55895 AUD pp**
Balcony Suite	**61595 AUD pp**
Deluxe Balcony Suite	**72695 AUD pp**
Terrace Suite	**75495 AUD pp**
Penthouse Suite	**81195 AUD pp**
Solo Panorama	**86095 AUD pp**
Owner's Suite	**100595 AUD pp**
Ultra Suite	**111795 AUD pp**

Optional extras & upgrades

Paddling Excursion

Glide through the pristine polar waters in a sit-on-top, two-person, inflatable kayak.

Stand-up Paddleboarding

Where surfing meets paddling. Enjoy the tranquil polar surroundings.