

Wild Earth Travel

Small Ships, Big Adventures



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info@wildearth-travel.com

SPIRIT OF ANTARCTICA - CLASSIC 12 DAY EXPEDITION

Embrace the spirit of polar exploration on this classic expedition to the coveted white continent. Sail across the famed Drake Passage, admiring spectacular seabirds and approaching the ice as the explorers of old did: by sea. With a chance to Zodiac-cruise through pack ice, set foot on the continent, choose from a range of adventure options and even perhaps camp under pastel polar skies, this is the quintessential Antarctic voyage for adventure lovers.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrival airport transfer and overnight in Ushuaia

Arrive in Ushuaia, where you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and transferred to your group hotel (preferred flights only). Upon arrival at your included hotel, kindly remind hotel check-in staff to provide you with Aurora Expeditions cabin tags. Please clearly label the tags with your name and ship cabin number.

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0800 945 3327 (within New Zealand) | +64 (0) 3 365 1355 | **1800 107 715** (within Australia)

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Day 2 Embarkation Day

This morning, please ensure your cabin luggage is fitted with cabin tags clearly labelled with your name and cabin number. Please take your cabin luggage down to hotel reception by 8.00 AM. Your luggage will be collected from your hotel and transferred directly to port for clearance and delivered to your cabin ahead of your arrival on board. Keep any valuables or personal items with you throughout the day. Once you have checked out of your hotel by 11.00 AM, you have free time before meeting back in the hotel lobby at 2.00 PM to commence a tour of Ushuaia. Alternatively, enjoy time at leisure and make your own way to Prison Museum carpark by 3.45 pm to rejoin the group and transfer to the pier for embarkation. Ushuaia, capital of Tierra del Fuego is located at the shores of the Beagle Channel and surrounded by the Martial Mountains giving you a unique landscape in Argentina, which is the combination of mountains, sea, glaciers and forests. On this introductory tour, you will visit "La Mision" neighbourhood, the old Government House, and the upper area of the city, which offers beautiful panoramic views of Ushuaia and the Beagle Channel. During the excursion you will see the antique houses that belonged to the first families settled in Ushuaia. The excursion ends with a visit to the Old Prison Museum before transferring to the pier for embarkation at approximately 4.00 PM. After embarkation, you'll have time to settle into your cabin before our important mandatory briefings. As the ship pulls away from port, we'll gather on the deck to commence our adventure with spectacular views over Ushuaia and Tierra del Fuego. This evening, get to know your fellow expeditioners and friendly expedition team and crew at a welcome dinner. (Breakfast and dinner included. Lunch is at own expense)

Day 3 Drake Passage Crossing

As we commence the Drake Passage crossing, we make the most of our time getting comfortable with the motions of the sea. Our expedition team prepare you for our first landing with important wildlife guidelines and biosecurity procedures, and start our lecture program to help you learn more about Antarctica's history, wildlife and environment. Our wildlife experiences begin as we enjoy watching and photographing the many seabirds, including majestic albatrosses and giant petrels following in our wake. They rise and fall skilfully, using air currents created by the ship to gain momentum.

Day 4 Drake Passage & South Shetland Islands

Nearing the South Shetland Islands and the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula on day four, the excitement is palpable with everyone converging on one of the observation decks, watching for our first iceberg. The ocean takes on a whole new perspective once we are below the Antarctic Convergence and are surrounded by the surreal presence of floating ice sculptures. The memory of your first big iceberg sighting is likely to remain with you for a lifetime. Weather permitting, we may attempt our first landing in Antarctica by late afternoon.

Day 5-9 Antarctic Peninsula

It's almost impossible to describe the feeling of arriving in Antarctica. Spotting your first iceberg and taking a deep breath of some of the most fresh, crisp air on earth is an experience that will stay with you forever. Once we arrive, the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands are ours to explore, and we have a host of choices available to us. Because we are so far south, we will experience approximately 18-24 hours of daylight and the days can be as busy as you wish. Your experienced expedition team, who have made countless journeys to this area, will use their expertise to design your voyage from day to day, choosing the best options based on the prevailing weather, ice conditions and wildlife opportunities. We generally make landings or Zodiac excursions twice a day. You'll want to rug up before joining Zodiac cruises along spectacular ice cliffs or among grounded icebergs, keeping watch for whales, seals and porpoising penguins. Zodiacs will also transport you from the ship to land, where you can visit penguin rookeries, discover historic huts and explore some of our favourite spots along the peninsula. While ashore we aim to stretch our legs, wandering along pebbly beaches or perhaps up snow-covered ridgelines to vantage points with mountains towering overhead and ice-speckled oceans below. If you have chosen an optional activity, you'll have the option to do that whenever conditions allow, and of course keen polar plungers will have the chance to fully immerse themselves in polar waters - conditions permitting! In addition to Zodiac cruises and shore excursions, we may ship cruise some of the narrow, dramatic straits separating offshore islands from the mainland, or linger in scenic bays to watch whales travelling or feeding. This is a great time to enjoy the observation lounge or make your way to the bridge for uninterrupted views of Antarctica in all its splendour. Keep an ear out for the creak and deep rumble of glaciers as they carve their way from summit to sea, and take a quiet moment to experience the wonder of this incredible white continent.

Day 10-11 Drake Passage crossing



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Today, our landings come to an end as we enter the Drake Passage for our return journey to South America. With lectures and film presentations to complete our Antarctic experience, there is still plenty of time to enjoy the magic of Southern Ocean and the life that calls it home. There is time for reflection and discussion about what we have seen and experienced, and the impact this voyage has had on our attitude to life. As we approach the tip of South America, our Captain may sail close to legendary Cape Horn, weather and time permitting.

Day 12 Disembark Ushuaia

During the early morning, we cruise up the Beagle Channel, before quietly slipping into dock in Ushuaia, where we will be free to disembark around 8.00 am. Farewell your expedition team and fellow passengers as we all continue our onward journeys, hopefully with a newfound sense of the immense power of nature. A transfer to downtown Ushuaia before continuing to the airport is included in the cost of the voyage. NOTE: At the conclusion of the voyage, we do not recommend booking flights departing Ushuaia prior to 12.00 pm on the day of disembarkation in case there are delays.

Please Note:

In true expedition style we encourage exploration and adventure, offering flexibility in challenging environments in a way that puts you among the action to see and do as much as possible. This itinerary is only a guide and subject to change due to ice and weather conditions.



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YOUR SHIP: DOUGLAS MAWSON

YOUR SHIP: **Douglas Mawson**

VESSEL TYPE: **Small Ship Expedition**

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY: **154**

BUILT/REFURBISHED: **2025**

Length: 104.4 m

Setting sail in 2025, the Douglas Mawson is the latest addition to Aurora Expeditions' fleet of purpose-built small ships, designed for global discovery and adventure in comfort. Named after the pioneering Australian geologist and explorer, this state-of-the-art vessel combines cutting-edge technology with elegant design, featuring the revolutionary Ulstein X-BOW® for smoother sailing and enhanced sustainability. With space for up to 154 guests (130 on expedition voyages), it offers an intimate and environmentally conscious cruising experience. Multiple observation areas, a heated pool, Jacuzzis, and a sauna ensure guests enjoy both exploration and relaxation in equal measure. On board, passengers can delve deeper into their destinations through engaging lectures in the theatre, hands-on learning in the Citizen Science Centre, and peaceful moments in the library or observation lounge. Dining is relaxed and sociable, with open seating, hearty cuisine, and complimentary beverages with dinner. Accommodation options range from luxurious suites with private balconies to well-appointed solo staterooms, catering to every traveller's style and comfort. Whether navigating the polar regions or exploring the British Isles and Mediterranean, the

Douglas Mawson delivers the perfect balance of adventure, discovery, and refined small-ship luxury.

Wild Earth Travel attends the launch of this new expedition ship



dition ship

Wild Earth Travel

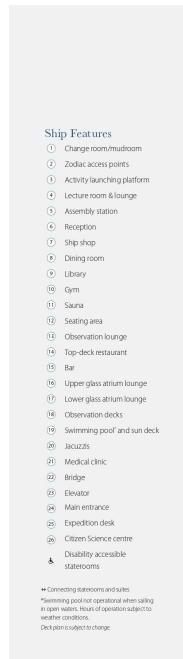
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP



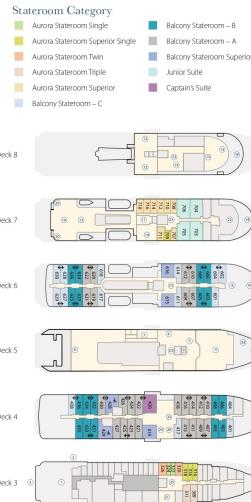
Douglas Mawson

Deck Plan

Ship Features

- ① Change room/mudroom
- ② Zodiac access points
- ③ Activity launching platform
- ④ Lecture room & lounge
- ⑤ Assembly station
- ⑥ Reception
- ⑦ Ship shop
- ⑧ Dining room
- ⑨ Library
- ⑩ Gym
- ⑪ Sauna
- ⑫ Seating area
- ⑬ Observation lounge
- ⑭ Top-deck restaurant
- ⑮ Bar
- ⑯ Upper glass atrium lounge
- ⑰ Lower glass atrium lounge
- ⑱ Observation decks
- ⑲ Swimming pool and sun deck
- ⑳ Jacuzzis
- ㉑ Medical clinic
- ㉒ Bridge
- ㉓ Elevator
- ㉔ Main entrance
- ㉕ Expedition desk
- ㉖ Citizen Science centre
- ㉗ Disability accessible staterooms

• Connecting bedrooms and suites
• Swimming pool not operational when sailing in open waters. Hours of operation subject to weather conditions.
• Jacuzzi subject to change.



Aurora Stateroom Single



Aurora Stateroom Superior



Aurora Stateroom Superior Single



Aurora Stateroom Triple



Aurora Stateroom Twin



Balcony Stateroom Category A



Balcony Stateroom Category B



Balcony Stateroom Category C



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PRICING

07-Dec-2026 to 18-Dec-2026

Aurora Stateroom Triple	18895 USD pp
Aurora Stateroom Twin	19495 USD pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior	20595 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category C	21195 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category B	22295 USD pp
Aurora Stateroom Single	22795 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category A	23895 USD pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior Single	24995 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Superior	26095 USD pp
Junior Suite	31095 USD pp
Captain's Suite	35595 USD pp
Special Departure	0 pp

Aurora Stateroom Triple	19195 USD pp
Aurora Stateroom Twin	19695 USD pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior	20895 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category C	21395 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category B	22495 USD pp
Aurora Stateroom Single	23095 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category A	24195 USD pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior Single	25395 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Superior	26495 USD pp
Junior Suite	31495 USD pp
Captain's Suite	35995 USD pp

29-Dec-2026 to 09-Jan-2027

Aurora Stateroom Superior	21695 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category C	22295 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category B	23495 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category A	25295 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Superior	27595 USD pp
Junior Suite	32895 USD pp
Captain's Suite	37595 USD pp

17-Feb-2027 to 28-Feb-2027

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PRICING

27-Feb-2027 to 10-Mar-2027

Aurora Stateroom Triple	18295 USD pp
Aurora Stateroom Twin	18895 USD pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior	19895 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category C	20495 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category B	21495 USD pp
Aurora Stateroom Single	22095 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category A	23195 USD pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior Single	24195 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Superior	25295 USD pp
Junior Suite	30095 USD pp
Captain's Suite	34395 USD pp

Snowshoeing

Snowshoeing makes walking up gentle slopes and across Antarctica's soft, powdery snow a breeze.

Snorkelling

Discover the underwater world of Antarctica and the Arctic! Witness wildlife and scenery unlike any other place on earth.

13-Mar-2027 to 24-Mar-2027

Aurora Stateroom Superior	18095 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category C	18595 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category B	19495 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category A	20995 USD pp
Balcony Stateroom Superior	22995 USD pp
Junior Suite	27295 USD pp
Captain's Suite	31195 USD pp
Whale Migration Cruise	0 pp

Optional extras & upgrades

Sea Kayaking

One of the most exhilarating ways to experience Antarctica, the Arctic or any of our global voyages.