

Wild Earth Travel

Small Ships, Big Adventures

wildearth-travel.com

info@wildearth-travel.com

SPIRIT OF ANTARCTICA - CLASSIC 11 DAY EXPEDITION

Welcome to Aurora Expeditions' Spirit of Antarctica expedition.

Embrace the spirit of polar exploration on this classic expedition to the coveted white continent. Sail across the famed Drake Passage to and from Antarctica, 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 Ushuaia

Arrive in Ushuaia, where you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and transferred with your fellow expeditioners to your assigned pre-voyage hotel. If you are already in Ushuaia, we ask you to make your way to your hotel. Check-in is from 3.00 pm. This afternoon, visit the Aurora Expeditions hospitality desk in the hotel lobby, between 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm, to collect your luggage tags, and confirm if you wish to join our Lake

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Escondido pre-embarkation tour tomorrow. Our team will confirm details regarding your embarkation day, answer any questions and provide you with information on where to dine or purchase last minute items.

Expeditioners arriving after 7.00 pm will find a welcome pack waiting for them at check-in. We ask you to visit our hospitality desk tomorrow between 8.00 am - 10.00 am.

The remainder of your time is at leisure. All meals today are at your own expense.

Assigned accommodation: To be advised

Day 2 Embarkation

This morning, enjoy breakfast and check-out. Please ensure your cabin luggage is fitted with cabin tags clearly labelled with your name and cabin number. Take your cabin luggage to hotel reception, prior to, or at check-out. Your luggage will be stored and transferred directly to the port for clearance, to be placed in your cabin ahead of your arrival on board. Please keep any valuables or personal items with you throughout the day.

Those wishing to join our Lake Escondido tour today, please meet in the hotel lobby at 8.45 am. This tour offers us an unforgettable panoramic drive through big valleys of glacial origin, evergreen and deciduous forests, waterfalls and rivers, in the vastness of the Andes Mountain Range. We will leave Ushuaia city to the northeast of Tierra del Fuego, driving through peat bog valleys to reach Garibaldi Pass, only accessible by a winding road that will take us to a panoramic point. From here we will have amazing panoramic views of Lake Escondido and, if weather conditions allow, of Fagnano Lake. We will start our descent towards the northeast to reach Fagnano Lake's shore where we will visit a local ranch. After appreciating the landscape, you will have the chance to enjoy the typical Fuegian Lamb barbecue. Enjoy some free time there before returning to Ushuaia for ship embarkation.

Alternatively, enjoy your day at leisure and meet at your hotel lobby or from the meeting point at the parking lot near the pier (details will be given by our ground staff at the hotel), to be transferred to the pier for embarkation.

Once onboard, 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 to celebrate the start of a thrilling adventure to Antarctica.

Day 3-4 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 our vessel. On sea days, you may enjoy the facilities on board the vessel including the gym, wellness centre or the relaxing in one of the observation lounges.

Nearing the South Shetland Islands and the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula on the afternoon of 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.

Time and weather permitting, we may attempt our first landing in Antarctica by late afternoon.

Days 5-8 Antarctic Peninsula

It is 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

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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 will 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 will have the option to do participate in the activity whenever conditions allow, and of course keen polar plungers will have the chance to fully immerse themselves in polar waters - conditions permitting! The polar plunge can take place at any time during the voyage, so listen out for the announcement from the expedition team and get ready for the most exhilarating dip of your life!

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 (open at the captain's discretion) for uninterrupted views of Antarctica in all its splendour. Listen out for the creak and deep rumble of glaciers as they carve into sea. Take a quiet moment to experience the wonder of the pristine paradise of the splendid white continent.

Days 9-10 Drake Passage Crossing

Enjoy a final morning landing in the South Shetland Islands before we re-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 the Southern Ocean and the life that calls it home. There is time for reflection and discussion about what we have seen and experienced. We hope you become ambassadors for Antarctica telling your family, friends and colleagues about your journey to this magical place, advocating for its conservation and preservation so that they might one day visit the region to experience what you have been lucky to see and do here.

As we approach the tip of South America, our Captain may sail close to legendary Cape Horn, weather and time permitting.

Day 11 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.

Upon disembarkation, for those continuing their travels in the region, transportation to the hotel will be arranged exclusively for guests who have booked their accommodations through Aurora or for those staying in downtown areas near the port. Expeditioners departing on flights prior to 14:30 pm will be directly transferred to Ushuaia Airport, those with flights after 14:30 pm will have the opportunity to explore Ushuaia before an afternoon airport transfer, and the transfer procedures and details will be communicated onboard before disembarkation.

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 the spirit of expedition travel, we encourage you to adopt a flexible and adventurous attitude when joining our voyages. This itinerary is a guide only and is subject to change due to weather, sea state and other conditions beyond our control.

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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

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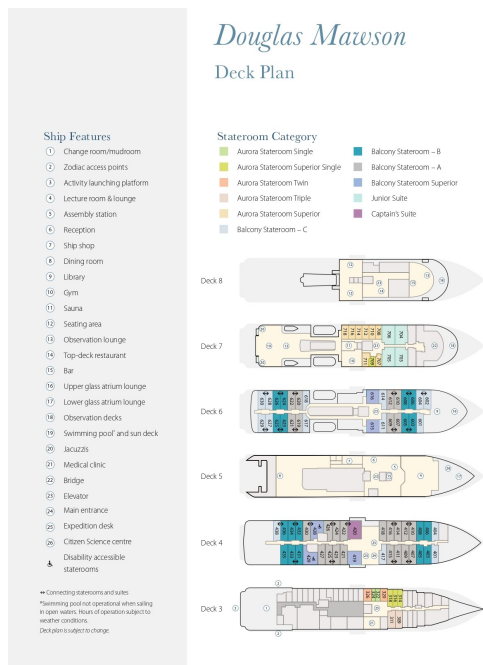
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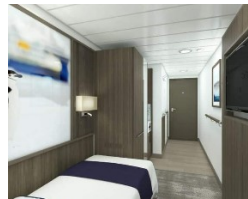
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Aurora Stateroom Single



Aurora Stateroom Superior



Aurora Stateroom Superior Single



Aurora Stateroom Triple



Aurora Stateroom Triple Share



Aurora Stateroom Twin



Balcony Stateroom - A



Balcony Stateroom - B



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PRICING

12-Nov-2027 to 22-Nov-2027

Aurora Stateroom Triple	29349 NZD pp
Aurora Stateroom Twin	30223 NZD pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior	31971 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category B	34417 NZD pp
Aurora Stateroom Single	35291 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category A	37038 NZD pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior Single	38786 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom Superior	40533 NZD pp
Junior Suite	48222 NZD pp
Captain's Suite	55212 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category C	0 pp

12-Dec-2027 to 22-Dec-2027

Aurora Stateroom Triple	31272 NZD pp
Aurora Stateroom Twin	32145 NZD pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior	34068 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category C	34941 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category B	36689 NZD pp
Aurora Stateroom Single	37737 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category A	39485 NZD pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior Single	41407 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom Superior	43155 NZD pp
Junior Suite	51368 NZD pp
Captain's Suite	58707 NZD pp

12-Jan-2028 to 22-Jan-2028

Aurora Stateroom Triple Share	31796 NZD pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior	34592 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category C	35640 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category B	37388 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom Category A	40184 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom Superior	44028 NZD pp
Junior Suite	52416 NZD pp
Captain's Suite	59930 NZD pp

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PRICING

20-Jan-2028 to 30-Jan-2028

Aurora Stateroom Triple	31796 NZD pp
Aurora Stateroom Twin	32844 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom - C	35640 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom - B	37388 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom - A	40184 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom Superior	44028 NZD pp
Junior Suite	52416 NZD pp
Captain's Suite	59930 NZD pp

09-Feb-2028 to 19-Feb-2028

Aurora Stateroom Triple	31796 NZD pp
Aurora Stateroom Twin	32844 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom - C	35640 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom - B	37388 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom - A	40184 NZD pp
Balcony Stateroom Superior	44028 NZD pp
Junior Suite	52416 NZD pp
Captain's Suite	59930 NZD pp

Optional extras & upgrades

Camping, Snowshoeing, Sea Kayaking, Paddling in Antarctica

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