



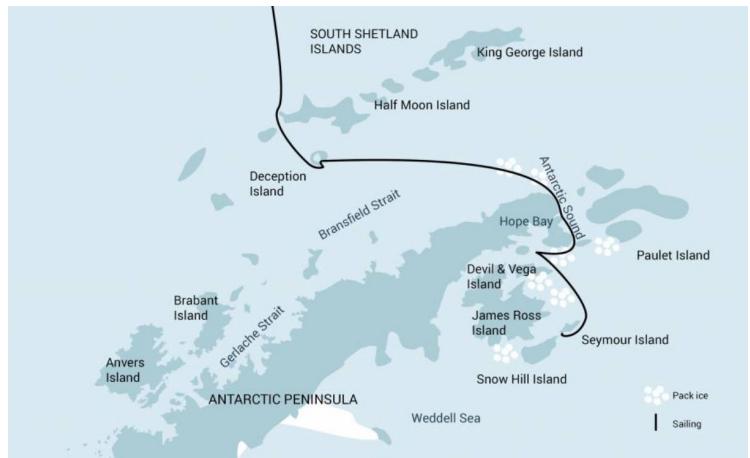
[wildearth-travel.com](http://wildearth-travel.com)

[info@wildearth-travel.com](mailto:info@wildearth-travel.com)

## ANTARCTICA - EMPERORS & SNOW HILL ISLAND - HELICOPTERS

A true expedition, our Weddell Sea cruise sets out to explore the range of the Emperor Penguins near Snow Hill Island. We will visit the area via helicopter and see a variety of other birds and penguins including Adelies and Gentoos. You may sail into the Weddell Sea via the Antarctic Sound. Here huge tabular icebergs herald your arrival to the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. During this part of the cruise, the search is on for emperor penguins. Using both the vessel and helicopters, there's a good chance you'll find them. You might also enjoy scenic flights, and if conditions allow, helicopter landings in locations otherwise out of reach this time of year. Helicopter flights are a true trip changer, and may include: The west slopes of the Antarctic Sound - The western side of this area is only rarely seen from the air, though the landscape is truly worth the flight: Layered sandstones, lava flows, glaciers, icebergs, and pack-ice extend as far as the eye can see. There are often individual emperor penguins and Adelie penguins on the ice floes, as well as kelp gulls, skuas, and various breeds of petrel. Jagged mountain peaks stab through the snow, and enormous walls of ice lie shattered on the slopes below. Duse Bay - A soaring helicopter flight may deposit you on a rocky hillock close to an old refuge hut overlooking this bay. There's still a lot of snow and ice this time of year, but much of the walk in this location is over frost-shattered rock covered with lichen of all shapes and colors. Seymour Island - This is where the Swedish Antarctic Expedition of 1901 - 4 wintered under harrowing polar conditions. Sedimentary rock, fossils, and expansive views define this location. If conditions allow for deeper ventures into the Weddell Sea, Zodiac trips may include: Devil Island - Home

to a large colony of Adelie penguins, this island offers a magnificent vantage point for hikers willing to foot it to the top of the hill. Melting ice sometimes forms a waterfall dropping from the cliffs close to Cape Well-met. Brown Bluff - Maybe the most scenic location in the entire northern tip of the Antarctic Continent: sheer canyon walls, fallen boulders, beautiful volcanic creations capped with ice. A large Adelie penguin rookery lives here, with gentoo penguins and nesting snow petrels also to be found. Gourdin Island - Chinstrap, gentoo, and Adelie penguins love this island, which is yet another landing option for your continuing Antarctic adventure. Esperanza Base - This Argentine research station, which operates year-round and is one of only two civilian settlements in Antarctica, could serve as an alternative landing site.



nding site.

### ITINERARY

# Wild Earth Travel

*Small Ships, Big Adventures*



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## 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 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 - 7: Entering Antarctica

You may sail into the Weddell Sea via the Antarctic Sound. Here huge tabular icebergs herald your arrival to the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. During this part of the cruise, the search is on for emperor penguins. Using both the vessel and helicopters, there's a good chance you'll find them. You might also enjoy scenic flights, and if conditions allow, helicopter landings in locations otherwise out of reach this time of year. Helicopter flights are a true trip changer, and may include: The west slopes of the Antarctic Sound - The western side of this area is only rarely seen from the air, though the landscape is truly worth the flight: Layered sandstones, lava flows, glaciers, icebergs, and pack-ice extend as far as the eye can see. There are often individual emperor penguins and Adelie penguins on the ice floes, as well as kelp gulls, skuas, and various breeds of petrel. Jagged mountain peaks stab through the snow, and enormous walls of ice lie shattered on the slopes below. Duse Bay - A soaring helicopter flight may deposit you on a rocky hillock close to an old refuge hut overlooking this bay. There's still a lot of snow and ice this time of year, but much of the walk in this location is over frost-shattered rock covered with lichen of all shapes and colors. Seymour Island - This is where the

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## Day 8: Drake via Deception Island

In the morning, you sail to Deception Island for the last landing of the voyage, either at Pendulum Cove or Whalers Bay. Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.

## Day 9 - 10: 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 11: 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.

## Day 5 - 6: (Alternate program if the route to Snow Hill Island is free of multi-year pack ice - less than 50 % probability)

Helicopters provide an advantage in reaching the emperor penguin colony, but

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nature makes the rules in Antarctica. If conditions are favourable, you'll spend the first two days at the penguin rookery. The helicopter operation takes a full day, and the flight duration is approximately 15 minutes. Each helicopter can accommodate 4 - 6 passengers per flight, and the landing site is carefully chosen so that the penguins are not disturbed. Upon arrival to the site, it is about a 45-minute walk to the rookery. Please keep in mind that you are in the world's most remote area: There are no guarantees. Conditions may change rapidly, which can have a profound impact on our helicopter operations. It is important to understand and respect this. Safety is our greatest concern, and no compromises can be made.

**Please Note:**

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. The on-board expedition leader will determine the final itinerary. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises.

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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.

embellishment.

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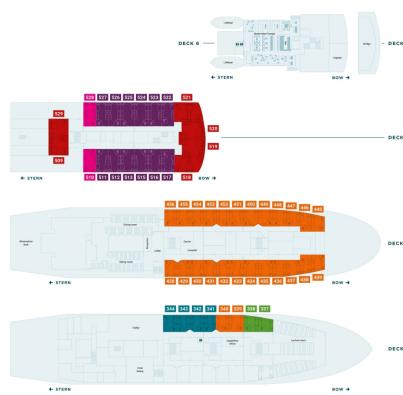


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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP

M/V ORTELIUS DECK PLAN



Quadruple Porthole



Superior



Twin Deluxe



Twin Porthole



Twin Window



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## PRICING

**15-Nov-2026 to 25-Nov-2026**

Quadruple Porthole	13450 USD pp
Twin Porthole	15450 USD pp
Twin Window	16000 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	17450 USD pp
Superior	17950 USD pp

**29-Nov-2027 to 09-Dec-2027**

Quadruple Porthole	14700 USD pp
Twin Porthole	16850 USD pp
Twin Window	17400 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	19200 USD pp
Superior	19600 USD pp

**25-Nov-2026 to 05-Dec-2026**

Quadruple Porthole	13450 USD pp
Twin Porthole	15450 USD pp
Twin Window	16000 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	17450 USD pp
Superior	17950 USD pp

**05-Dec-2026 to 15-Dec-2026**

Quadruple Porthole	13450 USD pp
Twin Porthole	15450 USD pp
Twin Window	16000 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	17450 USD pp
Superior	17950 USD pp

**09-Nov-2027 to 19-Nov-2027**

Quadruple Porthole	14700 USD pp
Twin Porthole	16850 USD pp
Twin Window	17400 USD pp
Twin Deluxe	19200 USD pp
Superior	19600 USD pp