

Antarctica Expedition cruises 2009 / 2010

Antarctic Peninsula - Falkland Islands - South Georgia - Atlantic Odyssey
Day by day itineraries

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice and weather conditions and in order to take advantage of opportunities to see wildlife. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. Taking the exorbitant high fuel prices into account, it is agreed that the operator has the right to reduce the speed of the engines (incl. sailing on one engine) wherever possible, unless this affects the character of the intended voyage substantially and jeopardizes the safety of the vessel, its crew, staff and passengers.

Falkland Islands - South Georgia - Antarctic Peninsula

Ushuaia - Ushuaia

MLT21	Nov 03 – Nov 22	19 nights	aboard Professor Multanovskiy
PLA23 B	Dec 03 – Dec 21	18 nights	aboard Plancius
PLA24	Dec 21 – Jan 08	18 nights	aboard Plancius
MOL25	Jan 05 – Jan 23	18 nights	aboard Professor Molchanov
MLT25	Jan 06 – Jan 24	18 nights	aboard Professor Multanovskiy
PLA25	Jan 08 – Jan 26	18 nights	aboard Plancius
MOL28	Feb 12 – Mar 02	18 nights	aboard Professor Molchanov

Day 1

In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world located in the shadow of the Andes and right at the Beagle Channel shore. We'll sail through this scenic waterway during the afternoon (Puerto Madryn on MLT21).

Day 2 (day 2 & 3 on MLT21)

At sea, in the wester lies the ship is followed by several species of albatrosses, storm petrels, shearwaters and diving petrels.

Day 3

In the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) we plan to spend the whole day on the fascinating western side of the archipelago. A hike along the shore of Carcass Island will give us instead views of Magellanic and Gentoo-Penguins, as well as close encounters with water fowl and Night herons. In addition, on Saunders we will be able to observe Rockhopper Penguins, Black-browed Albatrosses and King Cormorants.

Day 4

In Stanley, the capital of the Falklands, we can experience Falkland culture, which has some South-American characteristics as well as Victorian charm. In Stanley and surrounding area we can see a quite important number of stranded clippers from a century ago. Especially for the birders, we will also offer a three hours excursion outside Port Stanley.

Day 5 & 6

At sea, on our way to South Georgia we will cross the Antarctic Convergence. Entering Antarctic waters, the temperature will drop as much as 10 degrees C in the time span of only a few hours. Near the Convergence we will see a multitude of southern seabirds near the ship; several species of Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrels, Prions and Skuas.

Day 7- 10

In South Georgia we shall visit the bay of Elsehul, with it's very active fur seal breeding beach, and then take course to Right Whale Bay, Salisbury Plain, Gold Harbour and Cooper Bay to give you a good opportunity to see a wide spectrum of landscapes and wildlife, like the introduced Reindeer, Elephant seals, King and Macaroni Penguins. At Fortuna Bay we might try to follow in the footsteps of the great British Explorer Ernest Shackleton and hike over to Stømness Bay. There and at Grytviken we'll see and abandoned whaling village, where King Penguins now walk in the streets and seals have taken over the buildings. At Grytviken we'll also offer a visit to the Whaling History Museum as well as to Shackleton's

grave near by. One of the highlights might be our visit to Prion Island, where we will witness the breeding efforts of the huge Wandering Albatross and enjoy watching their displays.

Day 11

At sea, where the ship is again followed by a multitude of seabirds. At some point we might encounter sea-ice, and it is at the ice-edge where we might have a chance to see some high-Antarctic species like the Maccormick Skua, Snow Petrel and the elusive Emperor Penguin.

Day 12

We are aiming for a visit at Orcadas station, an Argentinean base located in the South Orkney Islands. The friendly base personnel will show us their facilities and we can enjoy the wonderful views of the surrounding glaciers.

Day 13

At sea

Day 14 - 16

We will sail into the Weddell Sea through the ice-clogged Antarctic Sound. Huge tabular icebergs will announce our arrival to the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. We plan to visit Paulet Island with a million pairs of Adelie Penguins and the remains of the Nordenskiöld expedition. At Brown Bluff we can put our feet on the continent.

At Deception Island, we will try to land at Baily Head home to a colony of ten thousands of Chinstrap Penguins. Deception itself is a sub ducted crater, which opens into the sea, creating a natural harbour for the ship. Here we find hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, thousands of Cape Pigeons and many Dominican Gulls, Brown and South Polar Skuas and Antarctic Terns. Wilson's Storm Petrels and Black-bellied Storm Petrels nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay. Good walkers may hike from Baily Head over the ridge of the crater into Whalers Bay, while our ship braves its entrance into the crater through the spectacular Neptune's Bellow into the ring of Deception Island. In the afternoon we may land at Half Moon Island, where we can observe Elephant, Weddell and Fur Seals as well as Chinstrap Penguins, Blue-eyed Shags, Wilson's Storm Petrels, Kelp Gulls, Snowy Shearwaters, Antarctic Terns and Antarctic Brown Skuas.

On our way West, we sail to Cuverville Island, a small precipitous island, nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula. It contains a large colony of Gentoo Penguins and breeding pairs of Brown Skuas. From there we sail to Neko Harbour in Andvord Bay and through Paradise Bay with its myriad icebergs and deep cut fjords, while having chances of seeing large Whales. We will have opportunities for zodiac cruising between the icebergs in the inner parts of the fjords.

Day 17- 18

On our way north we are again followed by a great selection of seabirds while crossing the Drake Passage.

Day 19 (day 20 on MLT21)

We arrive in the morning in Ushuaia and disembark.

N.B.: On voyage PLA23 we will offer an exclusive programme for birders. This voyage is also suitable for non-birders, but the cruise schedule has been primarily designed to meet the requirements and demands of birders.

Day 1

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Day 2

At sea, in the wester lies the ship is followed by several species of albatrosses, storm petrels, shearwaters and diving petrels.

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Day 4

In Stanley, the capital of the Falklands, we can experience Falkland culture, which has some South-American characteristics as well as Victorian charm. In Stanley and surrounding area we can see a quite important number of stranded clippers from a century ago. Especially for the birders, we will also offer a three hours excursion outside Port Stanley.

Day 5 & 6

At sea, on our way to South Georgia we will cross the Antarctic Convergence. Entering Antarctic waters, the temperature will drop as much as 10 degrees C in the time span of only a few hours. Near the Convergence we will see a multitude of southern seabirds near the ship; several species of Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrels, Prions and Skuas.

Day 7- 10

In South Georgia we shall visit the bay of Elsehul, with it's very active fur seal breeding beach, and then take course to Right Whale Bay, Salisbury Plain, Gold Harbour and Cooper Bay to give you a good opportunity to see a wide spectrum of landscapes and wildlife, like the introduced Reindeer, Elephant seals, King and Macaroni Penguins. At Fortuna Bay we might try to follow in the footsteps of the great British Explorer Ernest Shackleton and hike over to Stømness Bay. There and at Grytviken we'll see and abandoned whaling village, where King Penguins now walk in the streets and seals have taken over the buildings. At Grytviken we'll also offer a visit to the Whaling History Museum as well as to Shackleton's grave near by. One of the highlights might be our visit to Prion Island, where we will witness the breeding efforts of the huge Wandering Albatross and enjoy watching their displays.

Day 11

Our vessel now takes us to the South Sandwich Islands.

Day 12 – 13

At the rarely visited and uninhabited South Sandwich Islands (British Territory), where we will try to land on Zavodovski Island, home to over a million pairs of breeding chinstrap penguins, making it one of the world's largest penguin colonies. Other landings will be pursued on the steep-sided Candlemas Island, Saunders Island, Montague Island and/or Southern Thule, depending on weather and landing conditions. These volcanic islands, discovered by James Cook in 1775, with an ice cap on the top, are windswept and often shrouded in mist and fog, but do offer subtle pleasures. There is a nice variety of flora (mosses, lichens and flowering grasses) and fauna, such as Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins and Southern Giant Petrels. Elephant Seals and Fur Seals also haul out at the beaches.

Day 14

At sea, where the ship is again followed by a multitude of seabirds. At some point we might encounter sea-ice, and it is at the ice-edge where we might have a chance to see some high-Antarctic species like the Maccormick Skua, Snow Petrel and the elusive Emperor Penguin.

Day 15

We are aiming for a visit at Orcadas station, an Argentinean base located in the South Orkney Islands. The friendly base personnel will show us their facilities and we can enjoy the wonderful views of the surrounding glaciers.

Day 16

At sea

Day 17 - 19

We will sail into the Weddell Sea through the ice-clogged Antarctic Sound. Huge tabular icebergs will announce our arrival to the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. We plan to visit Paulet Island with a million pairs of Adelie Penguins and the remains of the Nordenskiöld expedition. At Brown Bluff we can put our feet on the continent.

At Deception Island, we will try to land at Baily Head home to a colony of ten thousands of Chinstrap Penguins. Deception itself is a sub ducted crater, which opens into the sea, creating a natural harbour for the ship. Here we find hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, thousands of Cape Pigeons and many Dominican Gulls, Brown and South Polar Skuas and Antarctic Terns. Wilson's Storm Petrels and Black-bellied Storm Petrels nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay. Good walkers may hike from Baily Head over the ridge of the crater into Whalers Bay, while our ship braves its entrance into the crater through the spectacular Neptune's Bellow into the ring of Deception Island. In the afternoon we may land at Half Moon Island, where we can observe Elephant, Weddell and Fur Seals as well as Chinstrap Penguins, Blue-eyed Shags, Wilson's Storm Petrels, Kelp Gulls, Snowy Shearwaters, Antarctic Terns and Antarctic Brown Skuas.

On our way West, we sail to Cuverville Island, a small precipitous island, nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula. It contains a large colony of Gentoo Penguins and breeding pairs of Brown Skuas. From there we sail to Neko Harbour in Andvord Bay and through Paradise Bay with its myriad icebergs and deep cut fjords, while having chances of seeing large Whales. We will have opportunities for zodiac cruising between the icebergs in the inner parts of the fjords.

Day 20- 21

On our way north we are again followed by a great selection of seabirds while crossing the Drake Passage.

Day 22

We arrive in the morning in Ushuaia and disembark.

Day 1

In the afternoon, we embark Port Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands and sail at 18.00 hours to South Georgia.

Day 2 & 3

At sea, on our way to South Georgia we will cross the Antarctic Convergence. Entering Antarctic waters, the temperature will drop as much as 10 degrees C in the time span of only a few hours. Near the Convergence we will see a multitude of southern seabirds near the ship; several species of Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrels, Prions and Skuas.

Day 4- 10

In South Georgia we shall visit the bay of Elsehul, with it's very active fur seal breeding beach, and then take course to Right Whale Bay, Salisbury Plain, Gold Harbour and Cooper Bay to give you a good opportunity to see a wide spectrum of landscapes and wildlife, like the introduced Reindeer, Elephant seals, King and Macaroni Penguins.

We will also land on Prion Island to witness Wandering Albatrosses.

At Fortuna Bay we might try to follow in the footsteps of the British Explorer Ernest Shackleton and hike over to Stømness Bay. There and at Grytviken we'll see an abandoned whaling village, where King Penguins now walk in the streets and seals have taken over the buildings. At Grytviken we'll also offer a visit to the Whaling History Museum as well as to Shackleton's grave near by.

On St. Andrews Bay and Gold Harbour we have again the possibility to see ten thousands of King Penguins. After a visit to Cooper Bay, Will Point and / or Brisbane Point, we set course to the beautiful Drygalskiy Fjord.

South Georgia offers a variety of landscapes (fjords, mountains and glaciers) and at the same time a wide variety of wildlife, with bird species such as King, Gentoo and Macaroni Penguins, Wandering, Black-browed, Grey-headed and Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses, various Petrels such as South Georgia Diving Petrel, Southern and Northern Giant Petrels, Blue-eyed Shags, South Georgia Pintail, South Georgia Pipits. Common sea-mammals are the Antarctic Fur Seal and Southern Elephant Seal.

Day 11

At sea, where the ship is again followed by a multitude of seabirds. At some point we might encounter sea-ice, and it is at the ice-edge where we might have a chance to see some high-Antarctic species like the Maccormick Skua, Snow Petrel and the elusive Emperor Penguin.

Day 12

When weather and ice conditions allow us, we are aiming for a short visit at Orcadas station, an Argentinean base located in the South Orkney Islands. The friendly base personnel will show us their facilities and we can enjoy the wonderful views of the surrounding glaciers. The island offers Antarctic species.

Day 13

At sea.

Day 14

Although landings are difficult, when weather and ice conditions are favourable, we will try to set foot on Elephant island, an ice-covered, mountainous island in the northern tip of the South Shetland Islands (Sub-Antarctic region). The island is most famous for the epic rescue boat trip of Explorer Ernest Shackleton. After he and his crew lost their exploration ship Endurance in Weddell Sea ice in 1916, Shackleton and his men sailed in an open life boat back to South Georgia and from there to Elephant Island. In the early afternoon we depart and sail back to Ushuaia, Argentina.

Day 15- 16

During these two full days we sail across the Drake Passage and may see 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.

Day 17

We arrive in the morning in Ushuaia and disembark.

During this exploration voyage we will offer landing sites that have never been offered before by Oceanwide Expeditions and in some occasions (probably) by none of the Antarctic ship operators. Flexibility is the key-word during this thrilling expedition. As information about most of the landing sites is limited or “unknown”, the target itinerary can only mention the scheduled landing sites and some general – but very basic - information. But this can't be a surprise, as said, this is “unknown” Antarctica. Join us for an exciting exploration voyage aboard Professor Molchanov.

Day 1

In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world located at the Beagle Channel and sail through this scenic waterway for the rest of the evening.

Day 2 & 3

During these two days we will sail across the Drake Passage. When we cross the Antarctic Convergence, we arrive in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. In this area we may meet 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.

Day 4

We intend to explore Low Island, an island 9 miles long and 5 miles wide, situated ca. 14 miles south east of Smith Island, in the South Shetland Islands. As the name already suggests, the island has a low elevation and is inconspicuous. The island was known to sealers as early as the beginning of the 19th century.

Day 5

We will sail along the Wright Ice Piedmont at the Antarctic Continent at Graham Land, mapped in the fifties of the last century based on photographs taken between 1955-57. The piedmont was named after the brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright who made the first flight with an aero plane in December 1903.

Exploration of Roe Island, an island lying in the entrance of the Curtiss Bay, just about 2 miles west of Graham Land (Antarctic continent), named after the British pioneer aircraft designer Alliott Verdon-Roe, who made aircrafts since 1908.

Seaplane Point is situated a few miles off Roe Island at the Antarctic Continent. It was named in association with Curtiss Bay, after Glenn Curtiss, an American engineer who pioneered sea-planes from 1911.

Day 6

We stay on the west coast of Graham Land and reach Valdivia Point, named after the German ship “Valdivia”, by the Swedish Antarctic Expedition of Nordenskjöld. Further west we will call Challenger Island and Bluff Island.

Day 7

We reach the western side of Brabant Island and will explore Avicenna Bay, Buls Bay and Freud Passage.

Day 8

At the north east coast of Anvers Island we will visit Fournier Bay, probably first sighted by a German expedition under the command of Dallmann in 1873-74, chartered by the French Antarctic expedition under Charcot (1903-05) and named after the French navy admiral Ernest Fournier.

In Inverleith harbour (also on the north east coast of Anvers), we will make a landing and can spot an Antarctic Tern colony and may observe Weddell Seals.

Day 9

We will explore the Flandres Bay along the west coast of Graham Land (Antarctic Continent), explored by the Belgian Antarctic Expedition in 1898 under Gerlache.

The Lemaire Channel is not “unknown”, but we will sail through this channel in a different way; with zodiacs ahead of the mother vessel. We will also make a landing on Deloncle Bay in the Lemaire Channel.

Day 10

We make a final landing at the continent at Waddington Bay, offering a beautiful scenery and we may observe Crabeater Seals and Weddell Seals on the ice-floes and possibilities to spot Minke Whales and we sail through the French Passage, heading for Ushuaia, Argentina.

Day 11 & 12

Two full days in the Drake Passage, where we have again a chance of seeing many seabirds and to take advantage of the knowledge of our lecture team.

Day 13

We arrive in the morning in Ushuaia and disembark the vessel.

An Emperor Penguin rookery, is situated south of Snow Hill Island. Although we will not be able to reach that far through the ice, we will try to sail between Snow Hill Island and James Ross Island close to the ice-edge and observe the young Emperor Penguins on their way to the open water. If the weather and /or ice-conditions are adverse, we will try again the next day. If on the other hand the weather is great, but we can not find any Emperor Penguins, our programme would still unfold on Snow Hill Island with a visit to the historic hut of the Swedish Nordenskjöld Expedition and a visit to Seymour Island in order to see fossils.

Day 1

In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world located at the Beagle Channel and sail through this scenic waterway for the rest of the evening.

Day 2 & 3

During these two days we will sail across the Drake Passage. When we cross the Antarctic Convergence, we arrive in the circum-Antarctic up welling zone. In this area we may meet 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.

Day 4

We will sail into the Weddell Sea and if the Antarctic Sound is accessible and the ice does not prevent us to sail further, we might see the huge tabular icebergs that announce our arrival to the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. We plan to visit Paulet Island with a million pairs of Adelie Penguins. In the afternoon we visit Snow Hill with the remains of the Nordenskiöld expedition.

Day 5

Between Snow Hill Island and James Ross Island we will make our first attempt to observe Emperor Penguins on the ice-edge making their way to open water. In case this should fail we will try again on day 6. We might also visit Seymour Island, where many fossils can be found, and the Argentinean station Esperanza on the Antarctic Continent, where we can observe Adelie Penguins, Cape Petrels, Pale-faced Sheathbills, Skuas, Kelp Gulls and Antarctic Terns.

Day 6

If the ice allows us to go further into the Weddell Sea area we will visit Devil Island and Vega Island with a large colony of Adelie Penguins and a magnificent view for those hikers who can make it to the top of the hill. Melting ice sometimes provides spectacular waterfall from the cliffs close to point 'Well-Met'.

Day 7

On our way north through the Antarctic Sound we might pay a visit to the Argentinean station Esperanza on the Antarctic Continent. We will still look out for Emperor penguins on the ice-floes. In the afternoon we may visit Gourdin Island, with three penguin species; Chinstraps, Gentoo and Adelies.

Day 8

In the morning we have planned to visit Half Moon Island where we can see Chinstrap and Gentoo Penguins, various other bird-species and Southern Elephant Seals and Weddell seals. Early in the afternoon we will sail to Deception where we have the last landing of our voyage at Pendulum cove.

Day 9 & 10

In the Drake Passage we have again a chance of seeing many seabirds and to take advantage of the knowledge of our lecture team.

Day 11

We arrive in the morning in Ushuaia and disembark.

PLA20	Nov 05 – Nov 14	09 nights	aboard Plancius
PLA21	Nov 14 – Nov 23	09 nights	aboard Plancius
PLA22	Nov 23 – Dec 03	10 nights	aboard Plancius

Day 1

In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world located in the shadow of the Andes and right at the Beagle Channel shore. We'll sail through this scenic waterway during the afternoon.

Day 2 - 3

During these two days we sail across the Drake Passage. When we cross the Antarctic Convergence, we arrive in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. In this area we may see 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. Near the South Shetland Islands, we glimpse at the first icebergs.

Day 4- 8 (Day 4 – 7 on voyages PLA20 and PLA21)

A typical itinerary in the South Shetlands and Antarctic Peninsula could be as follows. This is a sample only, the final itinerary will be determined by the Expedition Leader on board.

We start our first day in the South Shetland Islands with a landing at either Half Moon Island or Hannah Point, where we will find a nice variety of Gentoo Penguins, Chinstraps and southern Giant Petrels, as well as Weddell Seals and Elephant Seals hauling out on the beach.

Later that day, we will try to land at Baily Head on the outer rim of Deception Island with a colony of ten thousands of Chinstrap Penguins, and we will attempt to make the exciting hike to Whalers Bay.

Deception Island is a huge volcano of which the crater opens into the sea, creating a natural harbour for the ship. Here we find hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, thousands of Cape Pigeons and many Dominican Gulls, Brown and South Polar Skuas and Antarctic Terns. Wilson's Storm Petrels and Black-bellied Storm Petrels nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay.

On our way further South we will sail to Cuverville Island, a small precipitous island, nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula and Danco Island. It contains a large colony of Gentoo Penguins and breeding pairs of Brown Skuas. In Neko Harbour we will have the opportunity to set foot on the Antarctic Continent in a magnificent landscape of huge glaciers. On Danco Island we can observe Chinstrap Penguins and possibly Weddell and Crabeater Seals. In Neko Harbour we will have the opportunity to set foot on the Antarctic Continent in a magnificent landscape of huge glaciers, other continent landings are for example possible on Portal Point. During the cruise we will also offer zodiac cruises such as near Foyen Harbour on Nansen Island and Neko Harbour.

When sailing to Paradise Bay, with its myriad icebergs and deep cut fjords, we will have the opportunity for zodiac cruising between the icebergs in the inner parts of the fjords. In this area we have good chances to see Humpback Whales and Minke Whales.

After sailing through the Neumayer Channel, we visit the British research station and post office Port Lockroy on Goudier Island. Close to Port Lockroy we can also offer a landing on Jougla Point with Gentoo Penguins and Imperial Shags.

Sailing north, we arrive at the Melchior Islands with a very beautiful landscape and again possibilities for zodiac cruising among the icebergs, where we may encounter Leopard Seals, Crabeater Seals and whales.

Day 9 - 10 (Day 8 and 9 on voyage PLA20 and PLA21)

Back in the Drake Passage our way to Ushuaia.

Day 11 (Day 10 on voyage PLA20 and PLA21)

We arrive in the morning in Ushuaia and disembark.

N.B.: all mentioned voyages also offers kayaking for a maximum of 15 kayakers.

MOL26	Jan 23 – Feb 02	10 nights	aboard Professor Molchanov
PLA26	Jan 26 – Feb 05	10 nights	aboard Plancius
MOL27	Feb 02 – Feb 12	10 nights	aboard Professor Molchanov
MLT27	Feb 04 – Feb 14	10 nights	aboard Professor Multanovskiy
MLT28	Feb 14 – Feb 24	10 nights	aboard Professor Multanovskiy
MLT29	Feb 24 – Mar 06	10 nights	aboard Professor Multanovskiy
MOL29	Mar 02 – Mar 12	10 nights	aboard Professor Molchanov

Day 1

In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world located in the shadow of the Andes and right at the Beagle Channel shore. We'll sail through this scenic waterway during the afternoon.

Day 2 & 3

During these two days we sail across the Drake Passage. When we cross the Antarctic Convergence, we arrive in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. In this area we may see 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. Near the South Shetland Islands, we glimpse at the first icebergs.

Day 4- 8

A typical itinerary in the South Shetlands and Antarctic Peninsula could be as follows. This is a sample only, the final itinerary will be determined by the Expedition Leader on board.

We will sail directly to "High Antarctica", passing the Melchior islands and the Schollaert Channel between Brabant and Anvers Island. On Cuverville Island, a small precipitous island, nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula and Danco Island, we will find a large colony of Gentoo Penguins and breeding pairs of Brown Skuas. On Danco Island we can observe Chinstrap Penguins and possibly Weddell and Crabeater Seals. In Neko Harbour we will have the opportunity to set foot on the Antarctic Continent in a magnificent landscape of huge glaciers, other continent landings are for example possible on Portal Point. During the cruise we will also offer zodiac cruises such as near Foyen Harbour on Nansen Island and Neko Harbour.

When sailing to Paradise Bay, with its myriad icebergs and deep cut fjords, we will have the opportunity for zodiac cruising between the icebergs in the inner parts of the fjords. In this area we have good chances to see Humpback Whales and Minke Whales.

After sailing through the Neumayer Channel, we visit the British research station and post office Port Lockroy on Goudier Island. Close to Port Lockroy we can also offer a landing on Jouglia Point with Gentoo Penguins and Imperial Shags.

We sail through the spectacular Lemaire Channel to Pleneau and Petermann Island where we can find Adelie Penguins and Blue-eyed Shags. In this area there are good chances to encounter Humpback Whales, Minke Whales and Fin Whales. A visit to one of the scientific stations in Antarctica will give you an insight about the life of modern Antarcticans working on the White Continent.

Further south we may visit the Ukrainian Vernadsky Station, where we will receive a warm welcome from the station crew.

Sailing north through Neumayer Channel we arrive at the Melchior Islands with a very beautiful landscape and again possibilities for zodiac cruising among the icebergs, where we may encounter Leopard Seals, Crabeater Seals and whales.

Day 9 - 10

In the Drake Passage we have again a chance of seeing many seabirds and to take advantage of the knowledge of our lecture team.

Day 11

We arrive in the morning in Ushuaia and disembark.

Weddell Sea and Antarctic Peninsula - *Walking expedition voyage Ushuaia - Ushuaia*

MOL31 W Mar 23 – Apr 02 10 nights aboard Professor Molchanov

Day 1

Embark in Ushuaia.

Day 2 & 3

At sea.

Day 4 & 5

At Brown Bluff we land at the Antarctic Continent, near the young of an Adelie Penguin colony, which have not left for the sea yet. We walk along the coast and try to climb along a gentle slope to above the rim of the cliffs.

At southeast Dundee Island, we walk to a landing strip for planes, used by the American explorer Ellsworth, for the first over flight of the Antarctic Continent in 1935. Here, there is an area where we can make an extensive walk along the coast without disturbing the animals.

Another historic place is Paulet Island, where members of the Swedish Nordenskiöld Expedition built a stone emergency hut in 1903.

Day 6

In the Weddell Sea, at Snow Hill Island we land near another Swedish cabin from 1902.

Nearby Seymour Island, is completely ice-free, and famous for its fossils. We will make a walk of about six hours along the coast from the southern tip to the Argentinean Base Marambio. We will have a fantastic view of the table icebergs in the Weddell Sea, while we get a glimpse into Antarctica's much warmer past (fossils of leaves).

Day 7

On Devil's Island with penguin colonies, we walk around the island and also climb to the middle ridge of just above 200 m.

An alternative for this walk is the 8 km long and 300 m high Beak Island in Dusen Bay, which is also ice-free and close to the continent. Later on in the day we will have a zodiac excursion along a glacier front on the Tabarin Peninsula.

Day 8

We land at Baily Head (Deception Island) near a Chinstrap Penguin colony, and walk to from there, in six hours to the deserted whaling station in Whalers Bay.

If we cannot land at Baily Head due to high seas, we will directly sail to Whalers Bay and walk from Fumarole Bay to a Chinstrap colony at Vapour Col and back.

We conclude the day with a bath in the warm sea at Pendulum Cove, where volcanic vents heat the water.

Day 9 & 10

At sea.

Day 11

Disembark in Ushuaia.

N.B.:

All passengers should be aware of the fact that during this voyage we will offer longer hikes of ca. 3 to 6 hours.

Day 1

In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world located at the Beagle Channel and sail through this scenic waterway for the rest of the evening.

Day 2 & 3

During these two days we will sail across the Drake Passage. When we cross the Antarctic Convergence, we arrive in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. In this area we may meet 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. If the winds are favourable we might do our first landing in Antarctic waters in the evening of the third day at Aitcho Island or Penguin Island at the South Shetlands.

These volcanic islands are windswept and often shrouded in mist and fog, but do offer subtle pleasures. There is a nice variety of flora (mosses, lichens and flowering grasses) and fauna, such as Gentoo Penguins, Chinstrap Penguins and southern Giant Petrels.

Day 4 – 9

We will sail into the Weddell Sea through the ice-clogged Antarctic Sound. Huge tabular icebergs will announce our arrival to the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. We plan to visit Paulet Island with a million pairs of Adelie Penguins and the remains of the Nordenskiöld expedition, Seymour Island, where many fossils have been found, and Snow Hill Island, where polar expeditions as early as 1902 wintered. We might also visit Brown Bluff and further into the Weddell Sea area we may visit Devil Island and Vega Island with a large colony of Adelie Penguins and a magnificent view for those hikers who can make it to the top of the hill. Melting ice sometimes provides spectacular waterfall from the cliffs close to point 'Well-Met'.

Back through the Antarctic Sound we may visit the Argentinean station Esperanza on the Antarctic Continent. Watch out for stray Emperor penguins. There might be a chance to see one on an ice-floe.

Onward to the West we'll sail south and plan to offer a zodiac cruise around the rarely visited Astrolabe Island where Antarctic Fulmars, Chinstrap Penguins, Brown Skuas and Blue-eyed Shags breed and Weddell Seals and Antarctic Fur Seals haul out.

In Neko Harbour and Paradise Bay we reach the southernmost area of our voyage, where we have again the opportunity to set foot on the Antarctic Continent in a magnificent landscape of huge glaciers. In this area we have good chances to see Humpback Whales and Minke Whales.

At Deception Island, we will try to land at Baily Head with a colony of ten thousands of Chinstrap Penguins. Deception Island is a huge volcano of which the crater opens into the sea, creating a natural harbour for the ship. Here we find hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, Cape Pigeons and Dominican Gulls, Brown and South Polar Skuas and Antarctic Terns. Wilson's Storm Petrels and Black-bellied Storm Petrels nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay. We continue to Hannah Point, which has a very rich wildlife featuring Elephant Seals, Cape Pigeons, Southern Giant Petrels, Macaroni Penguins and Gentoo Penguins.

Day 10 & 11

In the Drake Passage we have again a chance of seeing many seabirds.

Day 12

We arrive in the morning and disembark in Ushuaia.

MLT30 D	Mar 06 – Mar 17	11 nights	aboard Professor Multanovskiy
MOL30 D	Mar 12 – Mar 23	11 nights	aboard Professor Molchanov
MLT31 D	Mar 17 – Mar 18	11 nights	aboard Professor Multanovskiy
PLA30	Mar 17 – Mar 28	11 nights	aboard Plancius

Day 1

In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia and sail through the Beagle Channel.

Day 2 & 3

During these two days we will sail across the Drake Passage. When we cross the Antarctic Convergence, we arrive in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. In this area we may meet 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.

If the winds are favourable we might do our first landing in Antarctic waters in the evening of the third day at Aitcho Island or Penguin Island at the South Shetlands.

These volcanic islands are windswept and often shrouded in mist and fog, but do offer subtle pleasures. There is a nice variety of flora (mosses, lichens and flowering grasses) and fauna, such as Gentoo Penguins, Chinstrap Penguins and southern Giant Petrels.

Day 4 – 9

We may start our first day in Antarctica with a landing at Hannah Point, where we will find a nice variety of Gentoo Penguins, Chinstraps and southern Giant Petrels, as well as Elephant Seals hauling out on the beach. At Deception Island, we will try to land at Baily Head home to a colony of ten thousands of Chinstrap Penguins. Deception itself is a sub ducted crater, which opens into the sea, creating a natural harbour for the ship. Here we find hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, thousands of Cape Pigeons and many Dominican Gulls, Brown and South Polar Skuas and Antarctic Terns. Wilson's Storm Petrels and Black-bellied Storm Petrels nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay. Good walkers may hike from Baily Head over the ridge of the crater into Whalers Bay, while our ship braves its entrance into the crater through the spectacular Neptune's Bellow into the ring of Deception Island. On our way further South we will sail to Orne Islands with large colonies of Chinstrap Penguins and a beautiful view across the Gerlache Strait or to Cuverville Island, a small precipitous island, nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula and Danco Island. It contains a large colony of Gentoo Penguins and breeding pairs of Brown Skuas. In Neko Harbour and Paradise Bay with its myriad icebergs and deep cut fjords, we have the opportunity to set foot on the Antarctic Continent. We shall have the opportunity for zodiac cruising between the icebergs in the inner parts of the fjords.

We sail through the spectacular Lemaire Channel to Petermann Island offering Adelie Penguins and Blue-eyed Shags. We also try to land at Pleneau Island with Elephant Seals and fair chances to encounter Humpback, Minke and Fin Whales.

We head south along the Argentine Islands to Crystal Sound, south of the polar circle. The landscape is very impressive with very high mountains and huge glaciers. At the Fish Islands we land at one of the southernmost Adelie Penguin and Blue-eyed Shag colonies in the Antarctic Peninsula.

A base visit will also be provided, to give you an insight about the life of modern Antarcticans working on the White Continent.

At Detaille Island, south of the Polar Circle, in Crystal Sound we reach probably our farthest south. Sailing north again through Neumayer Channel and Gerlache Strait, we arrive at the Melchior Islands with a very beautiful landscape and again possibilities for zodiac cruising among the icebergs, where we may encounter Leopard Seals, Crabeater Seals and whales.

Day 10 & 11

In the Drake Passage we have again a chance of seeing many seabirds.

Day 12

We arrive in the morning and disembark in Ushuaia.

N.B.

Voyages MOL30, MLT30 and MLT31 also offer a fascinating scuba diving programme for experienced dry-suit divers along sea ice and to explore the marine wildlife.

MOL32	Apr 02 – May 02	30 nights	Ushuaia – Ascension Island
MOL33	May 02 – May 09	07 nights	Ascension Island – Praia, Cape Verdes

MOL32:**Day 1** (April 02)

In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia and sail through the Beagle Channel.

Day 2 & 3

In the Drake Passage we witness a multitude of Albatrosses, Petrels and Fulmars.

Day 4

At Hope Bay and Brown Bluff we hope to set foot on the Antarctic Continent. In this area chances are good for encounters with Gentoo Penguins, Weddell Seals, Leopard Seals and Orcas.

Day 5

From Devil Island at the tip of the Weddell Sea is surrounded by huge table icebergs of the Larsen Ice Shelf. We will climb a hill with a gently slope from where we have a great view on the surroundings. At Paulet Island we will observe the last individuals of a large Adelie Penguin colony near the ruins of the Nordenskiöld Expedition from the beginning of the 20th century.

Day 6

At sea we will probably sail along the sea ice drifting north out of the Weddell Sea. On the floes we may see some juvenile Emperor Penguins.

Day 7

On our way north we plan to visit South Orkneys, where the Scotsman Bruce once wintered and where we now may visit the friendly people of an Argentinean base.

Day 8

At sea, on our way to South Georgia, we witness a multitude of Albatrosses, Petrels and Fulmars.

Day 9 – 11

In South Georgia we will pay visits to the abandoned whaling settlements Grytviken, where now the penguins walk through the streets, and King Edwards Point with the grave of Shackleton. We will walk near the big King Penguin colony on Salisbury Plain and the breeding Wandering Albatrosses on Prion Island in the Bay of Isles. The last day in South Georgia we will spend in Cooper Bay where we will observe Chinstrap Penguins and Macaroni Penguins and breeding Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses. Later we intend to sail to Gold Harbour to visit another King Penguin colony and to see many Elephant Seals and Fur Seals. It is a good area for long walks. We conclude our visit with zodiac excursions in the magnificent Drygalski Fjord and Larsen Harbour.

Day 12 - 16

In the westerlies we have a pleasant tailwind. On both sides of the Antarctic Convergence, we observe many species and great numbers of Antarctic and sub-Antarctic seabirds.

Day 17

Today we plan to approach the unique Gough Island for zodiac cruising around the island, as always weather permitting. In previous years we managed to circumnavigate all but four miles of the 33 mile circumference of the island in the ship, saw spectacular scenery and an unprecedented abundance of wildlife. We felt very privileged to be among the few visitors who have been able to experience Gough and in particular, to see it at such close quarters and in such favourable conditions. We hope to be lucky to repeat this unique experience with you.

Day 18 - 20

In the Tristan da Cunha archipelago we call at the settlement at the west side of the main island. We will also try to make landings at Nightingale Island with millions of seabirds ranging from Yellow-nosed Albatrosses to Brown Noddies. We allow one day in reserve for bad weather.

Day 21 - 24

At sea, we now enter sub-tropical waters with their own brand of seabirds and dolphins.

Day 25 - 27

St. Helena has a good anchorage and landing site. On this island, we will have ample opportunities to enjoy local culture, pleasant climate, and endemic plants and birds. We will visit the place where Napoleon lived in exile. There will be opportunities to explore the Island on your own and for snorkelling, in the shallow surf near a wreck we can find a lot of fishes.

Day 28 - 29

At sea.

Day 30 – 31 (May 02)

Ascension Island is a dry volcanic island with a moist and richly vegetated top. The Sooty Tern (wide-awake) colony sometimes consists of more than 1 million breeding pairs. We will try to climb the moist summit of Ascension Island and make a zodiac-cruise around Boatswain Bird Island offering also great opportunities for snorkelling. We may witness egg-laying sea turtles coming ashore at night. Some of our passengers may disembark and fly with the scheduled RAF (Royal Air Force) flight to Brize Norton in Oxfordshire, UK. Others may proceed their voyage to Cape Verdes (voyage code: MOL33).

MOL33:

Day 1 (May 02)

In the evening the vessel will depart from Ascension Island.

Day 2 – 6

At sea, we witness the northbound spring migration of northern birds like Arctic Terns and Long-tailed Skuas join us to cross the Equator (“the Line”).

Day 7

We land at Fogo. This is the great vulcanological laboratory of the Cape Verde Islands. Here we shall see lava as fresh as is possible because it emerged from the ground within the last 10 years and with the dry atmosphere of the islands there is little weathering to take place. We shall land a short distance from the capital, Sao Felipe and shall take an excursion into the very crater to the village of Portela where the people, unbelievable as it seems, make wine. This is perhaps not, one of the greatest vintages of the world but it deserves tasting because of its curiosity. On returning to Sao Felipe we shall relax for a while before re-embarking for an early dinner after which we shall try an evening zodiac cruise in order to see the sea birds before dark.

Day 8 (May 09)

Praia on Sao Tiago, the main island of the southern group, has a character of its own. We shall make an excursion to Cidade Velha, steeped in history, and shall observe the massive fortress on the hill, built to deter English marauders in the period when the Crowns of Portugal and Spain were united and Portuguese possessions became as fair game to the likes of Drake and Raleigh as were Spanish ones. We shall see the ruins of the Cathedral, the oldest Christian Church in the tropics, and the slave whipping post in the main square. The village is well watered and there are plantations of sugar cane, which support a rum distillery, and several species of birds. We shall have another guided stroll around the City of Praia, which is the capital of the Cape Verdes, and which has given rise to a unique variety of folk music, which we shall hear as we pass the various bars!

Shortly after midnight (May 10) we fly to Lisboa in Portugal (not included in the cruise rate).

Passengers can also disembark in Praia, evening Day 8 and stay for a day or more in a hotel in Praia and take a later flight to Lisboa.

MLT32	Mar 28 – Apr 22	25 nights	Ushuaia – Cape Town
MLT33	Apr 22 – May 10	18 nights	Cape Town – Praia, Cape Verdes

MLT32**Day 1** (March 28)

In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia and sail through the Beagle Channel.

Day 2 & 3

In the Drake Passage we witness a multitude of Albatrosses, Petrels and Fulmars.

Day 4

At Hope Bay and Brown Bluff we hope to set foot on the Antarctic Continent. In this area chances are good for encounters with Gentoo Penguins, Weddell Seals, Leopard Seals and Orcas.

Day 5

From Devil Island at the tip of the Weddell Sea is surrounded by huge table icebergs of the Larsen Ice Shelf. We will climb a hill with a gently slope from where we have a great view on the surroundings. At Paulet Island we will observe the last individuals of a large Adelie Penguin colony near the ruins of the Nordenskiöld Expedition from the beginning of the 20th century.

Day 6

At sea we will probably sail along the sea ice drifting north out of the Weddell Sea. On the floes we may see some juvenile Emperor Penguins.

Day 7

On our way north we plan to visit South Orkneys, where the Scotsman Bruce once wintered and where we now may visit the friendly people of an Argentinean base.

Day 8

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Day 9 – 11

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Day 17

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Day 18 - 20

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Day 21 - 25

At sea, we now enter sub-tropical waters with their own brand of seabirds and dolphins. When we enter the rich relatively cold Benguela Current with its rich upwellings we will have a chance to wintering Northern seabirds, like Long-tailed Skua's and Arctic Terns.

Day 26 (April 22)

In Cape Town passengers can disembark the ship and fly home or passengers can stay on board to complete the ship's voyage to Praia, Cape Verdes (voyage code: MLT33).

MLT33:

Day 1 (April 22)

Cape Town passengers from the previous voyage (MLT32) explore Cape Town. New passengers embark in the afternoon. The ship departs in the evening.

Day 2 - 5

At sea, we sail through some of the richest sea-bird areas in the South Atlantic when we pass the upwellings of the Benguela Current, the Vema Sea Mount (11 m) and the Walvis Ridge (24 m) and enter tropical waters with their own brand of seabirds and dolphins.

Day 6 - 8

St. Helena has a good anchorage and landing site. On this island, we will have ample opportunities to enjoy local culture, pleasant climate, and endemic plants and birds. We will visit the place where Napoleon lived in exile. There will be opportunities to explore the Island on your own and for snorkelling, in the shallow surf near a wreck we can find a lot of fishes.

Day 9 & 10

At sea.

Day 11 & 12

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Day 19 (May 10)

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In late evening or the early the following day (Day 20, May 11) we fly to Europe or USA Lisboa in Portugal (not included in the cruise rate).