

As of June 3, 2008

EMPEROR PENGUINS: SNOW HILL ISLAND SAFARI

- 14 days
- 3 departures – October 10 – 23, October 22 – November 4, November 3-16, 2009
- Start and Finish: Ushuaia
- Embarkation and Disembarkation: Ushuaia
- Icebreaker adventure

Important reminder: Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy – and excitement – of expedition travel. There are no guarantees that we can achieve everything we set out to accomplish. A measure of flexibility is something all of us must bring to a polar expedition. In 2007, visitors to the rookery saw Emperor chicks, many sitting on the feet of the adult caring for them. We hope to repeat that unique opportunity in 2009. Helicopters will be used to ferry adventurers to a landing site about 2 km (1.2 miles) or more from the rookery. You'll walk a well-marked path through a sculpture garden of towering ice. Adult Emperors tobogganing to the sea to feed have the right of way!

ITINERARY

DAY 1–2

Day 1: Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.

Ushuaia is a picturesque community with excellent restaurants and intriguing museums. You'll spend the night at our host hotel.

Day 2: Embarkation day.

You'll have time to explore before boarding in the afternoon. The icebreaker follows the Beagle Channel into the open waters of the Drake Passage.

DAY 3–4

Crossing the Drake Passage.

Emperor Penguins will be on your mind while you cross the Drake Passage. En route, our ornithologist will make presentations on the biology, habitat and behavior of Emperors. Our photographer-in-residence will prepare you for the special lighting conditions you will encounter during your visit to the rookery.

DAY 5–7

Unparalleled Wildlife Viewing

Reaching the Snow Hill rookery under the best possible conditions is the goal of the expedition. The Captain and Expedition Leader consult charts, weather bulletins and satellite images to determine where to park the icebreaker for efficient helicopter flights to the rookery. Our plan is to spend three days at the rookery to provide an unparalleled in-depth experience.

DAY 8–11

The Peninsula

While the Emperors are our priority, we also plan to visit the Antarctic Peninsula. Our exact route will be determined by local conditions. We plan to sail Iceberg Alley. Use your newly acquired photographic skills to snap pictures of massive tabular icebergs until your camera beeps a warning that the memory is full. While passing through Antarctic Sound, you will see more fantastic ice sculptures, from pure white to deep blue. A soulful silence may engulf you, unless a glacier calves or an iceberg overturns – then suddenly, everything is noise and waves.

While visiting the Peninsula, we hope to explore penguin rookeries under construction. Adélie, Chinstrap and Gentoo Penguins court, lay eggs and raise their young during the austral summer. Your voyage takes place at a time when these smaller penguins are selecting nesting sites and choosing partners.

You'll be hungry after each day's activities – but only for a moment. The Hospitality Team prides itself on satisfying your hunger as well as the Expedition Team satisfies your craving for adventure.

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DAY 12-14

The Triumph of Life

You'll be recalling the details of the voyage, as you cross the Drake Passage once again. These memories will stay with you, as clear and powerful as the day they were formed. The existence of the Emperor Penguin is more than a story of survival and endurance. It is the triumph of life itself.

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EMPERORS & KINGS: SNOW HILL & SOUTH GEORGIA

- 22 days
- November 15 to December 6, 2009
- Start: Ushuaia, Argentina
- Finish: Santiago, Chile
- Embarkation: Ushuaia, Argentina
- Disembarkation: Stanley, Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)
- Icebreaker expedition

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TENTATIVE EXPEDITION SUMMARY

Day 1: Overnight in Ushuaia, Argentina.
Day 2: Embarkation day.
Day 3-4: Crossing the Drake Passage
Day 5-6: Antarctic Peninsula
Day 7-9: Visiting the Snow Hill Island Emperor Penguin rookery
Day 10-11: Sail to South Georgia across the Southern Ocean
Day 12-16: Visit King Penguin colonies on South Georgia
Day 17-18: Sail to the Falkland Islands
Day 19: Wildlife stops in the Falkland Islands
Day 20: Fly from Stanley to Santiago, Chile
Day 21: Overnight Santiago
Day 22: Depart for home.

Please note that the itinerary description will be released by June 20, 2009.

Special Guests:

Making an already rare adventure unforgettable are special guests Robert Bateman and Birgit Freybe Bateman. The Batemans have earned international reputations as artists and conservationist. They will share a lifetime of experience during two onboard presentations.

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EPIC ANTARCTICA via the Phantom Coast and the Ross Sea

- 31 days
- December 4, 2009 to January 3, 2010
- Start: Santiago, Chile
- Finish: Christchurch, New Zealand
- Embarkation: Stanley, Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)
- Disembarkation: Lyttelton, New Zealand

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During this 31-day voyage we plan to visit the Phantom Coast. Ours is the only passenger expedition to explore the seldom-visited region in 2009-2010. For two centuries, the ice-locked coastline defied the efforts of explorers to chart it. Exploring the Phantom Coast is still a challenge for all but the toughest vessels.

ITINERARY

DAY 1

Arrival in Santiago, Chile, where you spend the night at our host hotel.

Day 2

Fly to Stanley, Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas).

In the late afternoon, you will board the icebreaker for the voyage to Antarctica.

DAY 3– 8

South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula.

Seabirds accompany the ship across the Drake Passage to the first landfall in Antarctica. We plan to visit penguin rookeries and to cruise among ice floes where seals lounge in the Antarctic summer sun.

Pushing southward, we cross the Antarctic Circle, to enter a world of continuous daylight. We'll explore bays ringed by glaciers, where penguins and seals co-exist in relative harmony. From Marguerite Bay, we'll enter the Bellingshausen Sea.

DAY 9–16

The Phantom Coast and Amundsen Sea.

As we follow the Phantom Coast, we expect to visit Peter I Island. In 2006, the last time we landed successfully, our historian noted that only 800 people in all human history have been known to visit the island. Look forward to several adventurous days of breaking through the Amundsen Sea pack ice. We'll deploy our helicopters so you can witness the power of the icebreaker from the air.

DAY 17–21

Ross Ice Shelf, Ross Island and McMurdo Station.

Be on the alert for Emperor Penguins. The water around the Ross Ice Shelf is known to be the habitat of the largest species of penguins. Ross Island is home to the U.S. research base McMurdo Station and to Scott Base, New Zealand's research station. Nearby is Robert Falcon Scott's *Discovery* Hut (1901–04). Our planned visit is carefully controlled to ensure that the impact of our exploration is negligible.

DAY 22–24

Cape Royds and Cape Evans.

At Cape Royds, we'll visit Ernest Shackleton's *Nimrod* Hut (1907–09). At Cape Evans, we'll visit a hut associated with Shackleton and Scott. A century after its construction, the Cape Evans hut is considered one of the ten most-endangered monuments in the world. The Antarctic Heritage Trust (UK and NZ) are

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raising funds for its restoration. Quark Expeditions supports the project through onboard charity auctions, visitor admission fees and corporate donations.

DAY 25–30

Southern Ocean, Campbell and Enderby Islands.

Heading north, we pause to visit Campbell Island, a nature preserve where Royal Albatross nest. You'll follow boardwalks through lush greenery to observation points, from which you can photograph wildlife. Yellow-eyed Penguins, Royal Albatross and New Zealand sea lions share Enderby Island with Red-crowned Parakeets. If the conditions are right, we'll go ashore to explore the protected environment.

Day 31:

Upon disembarking in Lyttelton, New Zealand, we will transfer our travelers as a group by motor coach from the dock to the Christchurch airport.

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ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE: ACTIVELY EXPLORING THE PENINSULA

- 12 days
- Multiple departures
- Start and Finish: Ushuaia, Argentina
- Embarkation and Disembarkation: Ushuaia
- Adventure Ship expedition

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ITINERARY

DAY 1–2

Day 1: Tierra del Fuego, a fiery beginning.

Spend the night in our host hotel in Ushuaia, on the island of Tierra del Fuego, at the tip of South America.

Day 2: Embarkation day.

By late afternoon, you'll be sailing the Beagle Channel toward the Drake Passage.

DAY 3–4

A passage to adventure.

Anticipation mounts crossing the Drake Passage. Participate in briefings and presentations on the Antarctic ecosystem. Watch for seabirds and marine mammals from the Bridge or the deck, surrounded by the majesty of the Southern Ocean.

DAY 5–9

Everything for the ambitious adventurer.

Many factors play a role in shaping the expedition's progress. We attempt to leave the ship to explore at least twice a day. Perhaps, you'll feel salt spray on your face as the Zodiac weaves in and around grounded icebergs. You could scramble to the top of a craggy hill for an unforgettable view of an icy chasm. Strap on a harness for a polar plunge into frigid Antarctic waters.

The cycle of life.

Over the course of the austral spring and summer, the sun lingers longer and longer, melting snow and ice. Wildlife abounds: chicks hatch and fledge, and pods of whales breach in a deep bay where a calving iceberg has churned up krill, the local delicacy. The natural cycle of life ensures that every expedition is different. And that every expedition is full of surprises!

The sound of silence.

In Antarctica, silence is so complete that interruptions become indelible memories: noisy penguins squabbling over prized pebbles, the boom and crack of a calving glacier in Neko Harbor or Paradise Bay. Then there is the sound of breathing as your arms pump and your legs power you up an incline on cross-country skis. As you sail from island to shore to bay during four days in the Peninsula, the Expedition Team provides opportunities to test your endurance and engage your curiosity.

DAY 10–12

Back across the Drake to Ushuaia.

You'll return via the Drake Passage to Ushuaia, having walked in the path of the great Antarctic adventurers. As Cook, Ross, Scott and Shackleton did, you've stared at the same skies and wondered at the same vast landscapes. And now, like them, you understand the enduring lure of Antarctica.

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CROSSING THE CIRCLE: SOUTHERN EXPEDITION

- 15 days
- Multiple departures
- Start and Finish: Ushuaia, Argentina
- Embarkation and Disembarkation: Ushuaia, Argentina
- Adventure Ship expedition

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ITINERARY

Day 1: Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.

Arrive at our hotel in scenic Ushuaia and spend the remainder of the day exploring the colorful port town.

Day 2: Embarkation day.

Transfer to the quay to join other adventurers on deck as we sail in the late afternoon through the scenic Beagle Channel.

DAY 3–4

The Drake Passage.

The Drake is legendary for its high winds and rolling seas, but you may be lucky and get calm weather. We'll keep you busy on deck, on the Bridge and in the presentation room. We prepare you for boarding Zodiacs, shore landings and, if you dare, polar dips. En route to Antarctica, you may find that delicious three-course meals are made even more interesting by the occasional shout of "Whales off the port side!"

DAY 5–8

Exploring the western shore.

The Expedition Team launch the Zodiacs as often as possible. You will skim across the water to go ashore, or drift silently while you watch whales feed or penguins jump aboard ice floes. Wildlife in the Antarctic is refreshingly unafraid of humans, making each visit feel like a trip to another planet.

Kayaking and Camping.

Every kayaker or camper seeks that one perfect moment that they will relive for the rest of their lives. Perhaps you'll find that moment in Antarctica. Optional adventures are available on a first-come, first-served basis. See the dates and rates panel for details.

DAY 9–10

The Antarctic Circle. A celebration is in order.

Crossing the Antarctic Circle is still an impressive achievement. Celebrate with a well-earned glass of champagne, raising your glass to the intrepid explorers who have gone before.

DAY 11–12

Another fascinating coast, another incredible story.

During the voyage, your Expedition Team will keep you informed about the fabled history of each area we visit. There's a story to tell for every name on the map of Antarctica. Many of the French names that appear are the legacy of Jean-Baptiste Charcot, physician, yachtsman, and explorer. He, like you, lived for adventure.

DAY 13–15

Whales below, birds above, memories ahead.

While crossing the Drake once again, stay up late with new friends as the lingering twilight of the southern summer fades. Trade memories that will last forever while you puzzle over the mystery that is Antarctica.

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ANTARCTIC QUEST VIA THE FALKLANDS (MALVINAS) AND SOUTH GEORGIA

- 20 days
- Multiple departures
- Start and Finish: Ushuaia, Argentina
- Embarkation and Disembarkation: Ushuaia
- Adventure Ship expedition

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ITINERARY

Day 1

This extended adventure begins at the tip of South America, with a night at a local hotel.

Day 2: Embarkation day.

Charles Darwin was the first to identify the indigenous trees in the region. Ushuaia is situated on a channel named for the ship that brought him there, HMS *Beagle*. You'll sail the channel after boarding in the late afternoon.

DAY 3–5

The evolution of adventure

En route to the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), you learn more about Darwin. The shipboard education program introduces the flora and fauna that you can expect to encounter during landings. Properly prepared, you are zipped from the ship to shore in a Zodiac to hike to a plain where geese graze and Magellanic Penguins guard their burrows. You'll comb beaches and socialize with local residents. There are activities for a diverse range of interests – historical, natural and physical.

DAY 6–11

Paradise lost and found

The published account of James Cook's voyage to South Georgia brought fortune seekers to the island for nearly two hundred years. Now, there are only a handful of scientists studying the abundant bird life and the glaciers that cover the island. The Expedition Team plans a series of landings including King Penguin rookeries, abandoned whaling stations and the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton. Different activity levels will be accommodated during the landings. You can be as active as you like.

DAY 12–17

Antarctic endurance

As the ship sails south and west, watch for tabular icebergs, as now you will be in Antarctic waters. Landings in the South Shetland Islands are planned. The northernmost island in the archipelago is Elephant Island, where the crew of *Endurance* waited for rescue. While a landing there is not likely, no exploration of the Antarctic is complete without hearing of the exploits of Shackleton and his crew.

Adventure is a priority

You'll be off the ship at least twice a day, to climb craggy hills, or cruise in Zodiacs along granite beaches choked with brash ice. Perhaps, you'll take a polar plunge. Wildlife viewing will be a priority ashore and from the deck. The optional activities – camping or kayaking – are planned also. For all activities, included and optional, the Expedition Team consults weather reports and marine charts to find the best sites for a memorable experience.

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DAY 18–20

The Drake Passage. Lake or shake?

This famous passage is notorious for its high winds and rolling seas. Crossing it is as much a part of the Antarctic experience as penguins and krill. All the great explorers have braved the Drake Passage. It is a most fitting end to your Antarctic quest.

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CLASSIC ANTARCTICA: DISCOVERING THE PENINSULA

- 11 or 12 days
- Multiple departures
- Start and Finish: Ushuaia, Argentina
- Embarkation and Disembarkation: Ushuaia
- Expedition Ship adventure

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ITINERARY

Day 1: Ushuaia, Argentina.

Ushuaia sits at the foot of the Andes, in a beautiful setting. Relax at a sidewalk café and soak up the “end of the world” feeling of this frontier town, before spending a night at our host hotel.

Day 2: Embarkation day.

Board the ship in the late afternoon for the voyage through the Beagle Channel to the Drake Passage.

DAY 3–4

The Drake Passage.

Among the many unforgettable experiences you’ll have on your journey, food will certainly be one of them. It may seem as if you are dining in one of the finer restaurants in the world, with one exception: other restaurants would never interrupt you with shouts of “whales off the starboard bow.”

You’ll be properly prepared for wildlife sightings, because our Expedition Team delivers an incomparable education program as you cross the Drake Passage en route to Antarctica.

During your four days exploring the Peninsula, you’ll make new friends over a game of cards in the lounge or a beverage in the bar. Don your parka and join fellow travelers on the deck as you sail through the Gerlache Strait or along the Danco Coast, past towering glacier covered mountains that shoot to the sky.

Don’t forget to pack your binoculars. There may be seals sunning on an ice floe or a raft of penguins feeding as you sail past. History, wildlife, scenery – Antarctica has it all. During the in-depth education program, the historian will recount the development of the region, pointing out the remains of buildings where explorers subsisted on hope and seal blubber. The ornithologist will take you ashore and help you identify different species of birds. You could cruise with a glaciologist through a bay filled with fantastically colored icebergs.

DAY 5–8

Antarctic Peninsula discovery.

You have arrived in Antarctica! The Expedition Team will attempt to arrange frequent activities off the ship. Many factors influence the daily program, such as prevailing wind, ice, weather conditions and wildlife behavior. During the voyage, our onboard fleet of Zodiacs will transfer you to penguin rookeries, where you are welcomed by a committee of chattering birds. There will be leisurely Zodiac sightseeing cruises past icebergs or wildlife on the rocky shoreline.

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DAY 9-11

A reluctant farewell.

Returning to Ushuaia across the Drake Passage, you know you are privileged to have set foot on Antarctica. The adventure will be with you forever. You may already be thinking of a return trip – as many have found before, the lure of Antarctica is a strong one.

Departures of 12 days in duration will spend an extra day in the Antarctic Peninsula.

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EXPLORERS' ROUTE VIA THE FALKLANDS (MALVINAS) AND SOUTH GEORGIA

- 20 days
- Multiple departures
- Start and Finish: Ushuaia, Argentina
- Embarkation and Disembarkation: Ushuaia
- Expedition Ship adventure

Please note that some of the departures may be operated in reverse.

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ITINERARY

DAY 1–2

Day 1: Your journey begins at the foot of the Andes. This extended adventure begins at the tip of South America, in Ushuaia, Argentina, with a night at a local hotel.

Day 2: Embarkation day.

After boarding the ship in the late afternoon, sail the Beagle Channel to the open waters of the southern Atlantic Ocean.

DAY 3–5

Islands of the Southern Ocean

En route to the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), you learn about Charles Darwin, who visited the islands in 1833. Join your fellow adventurers for an in-depth education program introducing the flora and fauna that you can expect to encounter while visiting the archipelago. Properly prepared, you cruise safely from the ship to shore in a Zodiac to stroll the streets of Stanley or wander through the nesting grounds of the Black-browed Albatross. Sip a leisurely cup of tea with local residents, before you depart for South Georgia.

DAY 6–11

South Georgia idyll

On landing in Grytviken, South Georgia, history is on our minds. South Georgia is synonymous with Sir Ernest Shackleton's rescue of the crew of *Endurance*. In 1904, Grytviken was established as a whaling station. Your exploration includes a visit to the chapel and museum that depict how life was lived in this sheltered cove until it was abandoned in 1966.

DAY 12–17

Amundsen's fairy tale

As the ship steams south and west, watch for tabular icebergs. When you arrive in the South Shetland Islands, the Expedition Team will attempt an average of two landings a day, subject to permissions, weather, wind and ice conditions, of course. It is here that you may visit an active research station, where scientists track the life cycles of birds and icebergs. You'll walk with penguins at a rookery, and cruise rocky coastlines where birds rest after a day on the wing.

"This land feels like a fairy tale." Amundsen's quote captures the majesty of Antarctica quite nicely. It is vast, pristine and glorious. Massive glaciers, some covering an area equal to that of a small city, are reflected in still, black water. The sheer scale is humbling.

Setting foot on the Peninsula, remember the brave and determined explorers that have preceded you – Ross, Scott, Shackleton and Amundsen. They too were captivated by the antics of penguins, the curiosity of seals, and the grace of whales.

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DAY 18–20

A fitting end.

Crossing the Drake Passage is a fitting end to this voyage that followed in the wake of Antarctic explorers, who braved the elements to add to humankind's knowledge of the polar regions. As they were, you will be transformed.