

## Itineraries

# Antarctica

### Antarctica Dive & Photography Expeditions



For our dive and photography expeditions to Antarctica we have chartered ice-strengthened polar vessels well suited to our purpose. Our mission is the exploration of Antarctica's underwater environment, a truly unique experience for the advanced diver. You will see amazing ice formations and marine life seemingly from another planet, such as the Giant Isopods and salps. Seals race fearlessly by, graceful in a way not possible above the surface. Sunlight from above creates a stunning, ever-changing spectrum of color among the diverse benthos. Take your time to explore an environment few divers have ever experienced: the kelp walls, sea snails, crabs, sea butterflies, Shrubby horsetails, jellyfish, squid, Sea hedgehogs, starfish, krill and various Antarctic fish.

The waters of the Southern Ocean also support an economically important world fishery of fin fish, squid and krill, and the waters of the Southern Ocean affect all other world oceans. The beautiful surroundings of the Antarctic Peninsula is a paradise for all, divers, adventurers, naturalists and photographers with its amazing array of colours and moods and diverse wildlife. The opportunity to be in the company of thousands of penguins, watching whales and seals, and cruise around in our zodiacs between brilliant white icebergs and ice floes will amaze you with awe.

### Dates and Rates

10 Feb 2009	<b>Antarctica Dive &amp; Photography Expeditions</b> » M/V Grigoriy Mikheev	Twin Standard cabin	5750 US\$
19 Feb 2009		Twin Private cabin	6450 US\$
		Superior cabin	7550 US\$
		Dive package	1150 US\$
19 Feb 2009	<b>Antarctica Dive &amp; Photography Expeditions</b> » M/V Grigoriy Mikheev	Twin Standard cabin	5750 US\$
28 Feb 2009		Twin Private cabin	6450 US\$
		Superior cabin	7550 US\$
		Dive package	1150 US\$
28 Feb 2009	<b>Antarctica Dive &amp; Photography Expeditions</b> » M/V Grigoriy Mikheev	Twin Standard cabin	5750 US\$
10 Mar 2009		Twin Private cabin	6450 US\$
		Superior cabin	7550 US\$
		Dive package	1150 US\$

10 Mar 2009	21 Mar 2009	<b>Antarctica Dive &amp; Photography Expeditions</b> » M/V Aleksey Maryshev	Twin standard cabin Twin private cabin Superior cabin Dive package	6250 US\$ 6990 US\$ 8190 US\$ 1150 US\$
17 Feb 2010	27 Feb 2010	<b>Antarctica Dive &amp; Photography Expeditions</b> » MY Hanse Explorer	Double cabin the luxe with private facilities	10200 EUR
28 Feb 2010	10 Mar 2010	<b>Antarctica Dive &amp; Photography Expeditions</b> » MY Hanse Explorer	Double cabin de luxe with private facilities	10200 EUR
02 Mar 2010	12 Mar 2010	<b>Antarctica Dive &amp; Photography Expeditions</b> » M/V Professor Molchanov	Triple Cabin Twin Standard Cabin Twin Private Cabin Superior Cabin Suite Dive package	3950 EUR 4650 EUR 5350 EUR 6150 EUR 6650 EUR 825 EUR

**Rates include**

Full board and shipboard accommodation in your choice of cabin occupancy and category;  
Coffee, tea, snacks and bottled water;  
All dives, shore landings and excursions by Zodiac according to the daily onboard program;  
Dive compressor, tanks, weights and belts (you need to bring your own personal dive gear.);  
Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Leader and Polar Dive Master;  
All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme.

**Rates do not include**

? Your personal dive equipment;  
? Airfare & Airport tax and arrival/departure taxes ;  
? The customary gratuity to the ship's crew;  
? Excess baggage;  
? Pre-and post voyage packages with air, hotel are available upon request.

## Detailed Itinerary

We advise you to arrive one day before departure to arrive in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. This will help you to acclimatize to time difference and relax after your long flight from Buenos Aires, Argentina, or Santiago, Chile. Ushuaia is the Southernmost city in the world located in the shadow of the Andes, right at the Beagle Channel shore, one of world's most stunning locations. Expect wonderful views of the Beagle Channel, and the peaks of the Five Brothers from the airplane on its descent. The airport in Ushuaia is small. Taxicabs are easy to find for the transfer to your hotel. Your hotel is not far from the airport and the taxi fare is reasonable.

Please contact us for assistance with your flight and hotel arrangements.



### Day 1

In late afternoon you make your way to the pier in Ushuaia to board the ship. Have your identification on hand, because you must pass through security.

Our staff on board will assist to find your cabin and where to store your dive gear. Take only your regulator with you in your cabin. Every diver is expected to prepare his own equipment well in advance prior to each dive. Bring your own spare parts for your regulators and dry suit in case of leakage or damage.

When the Argentine authorities complete immigration, customs and other procedures, the sailing through the scenic waterway of the Beagle Channel begins.



### 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. The Drake Passage is notorious for high winds and rolling seas. Traversing the Drake is as much a part of the Antarctic experience as penguins and krill. With the right weather conditions your passage will be relatively easy. After breakfast, the education program commences with a presentation that could be about seabirds of the Southern Ocean. 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. 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

A typical itinerary in the Antarctic Peninsula could be as follows. This is a sample only, the final itinerary will be determined by the Expedition Team and is influenced local conditions, like ice and weather.

We start our first day in Antarctica with a mandatory check-out dive at an easy accessible site to get accustomed to the cold water and adjust your weights. Our dive guides will be with you in the water to assist you with your equipment. Diving in Antarctica is serious stuff and safety is our first priority. Being comfortable in the water with your equipment is essential.

We may make our first landing at Deception Island, 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. When sailing to Paradise Bay, with its myriad icebergs and deep cut fjords, we will have the opportunity for zodiac cruising and diving between the icebergs in the inner parts of the fjords. Here we will also have one of the most spectacular wall dives in the Antarctic. The wall drops down to 75m. Thanks to the nearby Shag colony, there is an abundant marine life.



We will sail through the Lemaire Channel, famous for its beautiful scenery and great dive sites, to Pleneau and Petermann Island where we can find Adelie Penguins and Blue-eyed Shags. We will visit one of the scientific stations in Antarctica, Vernadsky, which will give you an insight

about the life of modern Antarcticans working on the White Continent. The diving around the station is known to be among the best in the area. Kelp walls and lots of marine life with sponges, anemones, sea-stars, isopods and possibly Antarctic Cod.

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. In this area we have good chances to see Humpback Whales and Minke Whales.



## Day 9 & 10

On our way back in the Drake Passage we have again a chance of seeing many seabirds and to take advantage of the knowledge of our lecture team. You can count on the education program continuing. Learn more about the seabirds that escort the ship as it crosses the Drake Passage. With the help of the Expedition Team you gain the necessary knowledge to identify birds on the wing. Do not forget to pack your binoculars, they come in handy as you stand watch for whales and albatrosses.

In the morning the ship will arrive in Ushuaia. After a farewell breakfast you will disembark the ship.