

# Antarctica: An 18-Day Cruise With Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures



Jan. 18 – Feb. 4, 2020

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## Tour Highlights

- Take time to explore in Stanley on the Falkland Islands before cruising on to South Georgia
- See an old whaling camp on South Georgia, walking in Shackleton's footsteps
- Witness colonies of King, Magellanic, Adelie, Chinstrap, Gentoo, and Macaroni Penguins
- Look for Southern Elephant, Weddell, and Leopard Seals, as well as Humpback and Minke Whales, Orca, and more
- Enjoy sea kayak outings and paddle amid ice floes lit dramatically by the sun (additional cost)
- Photograph penguin rookeries backed by soaring, snow-covered peaks
- Cruise past huge icebergs in the icy Antarctic waters

## Tour Summary

18-Day / 17-Night Antarctic Wildlife Cruise

Starting at \$18,095 from Punta Arenas Airport is Presidente Carlos Ibáñez del Campo International (PUQ)

Join Naturalist Journeys for a far-reaching Antarctic cruise that includes visits to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, and the Antarctic Peninsula. The Falkland Islands and the stunning island of South Georgia are home to masses of unique wildlife and birds. These islands host penguin rookeries of more than 100,000 nesting pairs, while the beaches are littered with Antarctic Fur and Southern Elephant Seals. Seabirds, including many albatross species, nest and raise their young here in this wild and remote environment. Both the Falkland Islands and South Georgia Island feature a fascinating history and gorgeous scenery. Then, we venture south to the Antarctic peninsula, our final destination for this Antarctic nature tour.

Icebergs in other-worldly shapes and sizes fill the waters, and even more unique wildlife can be found in sizable colonies. The icy waters are full of life and we often see many whale species like Fin, Humpback, Minke, and Orca.

On this Antarctic cruise, we spend our days exploring ashore with expert guides, including naturalists, marine biologists, ornithologists, and adventurers, as well as with a resident professional photographer. Embarking and exploring on inflatable Zodiac boats is memorable. For the adventurous among us, there are plenty of opportunities to explore on long hikes. Sea kayaking is another option to explore these wild areas, at a supplemental cost.

We use time-saving flights at the beginning and end of the cruise to maximize your time in key locations.



## Pre-Cruise Options



### Option 1: Arrive Early!

You **do** need to arrive at *least* one night ahead of the cruise (by January 17), but we recommend coming in two nights early, which gives you a day to rest up and explore—you don't want to miss the boat! We suggest you book extra nights at our recommended hotel (additional cost). The group assembles for a welcome dinner (for those arriving in time) with your Naturalist Journeys host on January 17. (D)



### Option 2:

#### Torres del Paine Pre-Tour Extension, January 14 – 18, 2020

Why not arrive a bit earlier and explore one of South America's most stunning landscapes? Torres del Paine, with its colossal granite outcrops, is sheer beauty and a photographer's delight. Some call this one of the most beautiful mountain landscapes in the world. Aquamarine lakes reflect the spires, while specially adapted wildlife and birds are found along the open, wind-swept hills. We spend the first night in the arrival city of Punta Arenas to let you rest up, then two nights close to the park, acclimating ourselves to the onslaught of stunning scenery that prepares us for our journey to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and the Antarctic!

If you choose this extension, plan to arrive by NOON on January 14; we then set off on a 90-mile drive from Punta Arenas to Puerto Natales, a charming small town on the coast, where Black-necked Swan and other waterfowl abound. We explore here, both in the forest and along the coast, and in the evening enjoy a fine Patagonian dinner in town. We spend the next day exploring the park and its magnificence, with our Naturalist Journeys host and our local guide helping you find a number of the resident species like Andean Condor, Chilean Flamingo, Lesser Rhea, Guanaco, and South Andean Deer. It is also prime time for the Austral spring wildflower bloom, which just adds to your photo opportunities. All of this is found in four different plant communities that are a part of your introduction to the park. After spending time in Torres del Paine and Natales, you should be well-rested, filled with a sense of awe, and ready to meet our other guests the night of January 17 back at our hotel in Punta Arenas.

## Itinerary

### Sat., Jan. 18 Punta Arenas | Port Stanley, Falkland Islands

Our journey begins this morning in the southern Chilean city of Punta Arenas. We gather at the airport with pick-ups at local hotels, and fly on the scheduled service to Stanley in the Falkland Islands (this



flight is included in the price of your voyage, and saves us almost two days of sea crossing). After a short 90-minute flight, we are met on arrival and transferred to the pier. You can't miss the British influence, as a red phone booth stands ready for use and Guinness is on tap at the pub! Stanley is currently home to just over 2,000 residents and is reminiscent of a rural town in coastal England or Scotland. It is charming, with brightly colored houses, flower-filled gardens, a quaint cathedral, and several local pubs. The waterfront memorial, built to commemorate the lives of the servicemen lost during the Falklands War in the early 1980s, is a sobering reminder of recent history.

We have time to explore town before heading to our ship. Then, after settling into our cabins and exploring the ship, we meet our expedition team and fellow passengers. Excitement is in the air as we enjoy a welcome cocktail and dinner, then cast off for the adventure of a lifetime. Tonight, we cruise down the coast of the Falklands. (D)



### Sun., Jan. 19 Sea Lion Island & Bleaker Island

Having cruised down the eastern coastline of the Falkland Islands overnight, we awake at the far southern end of the archipelago. Here we find remote Sea Lion Island, a barren and windswept landscape. We launch our Zodiacs and go ashore to view the wildlife colonies found here. The Falklands are home to five species of penguins, three of which nest here (Gentoo, Magellanic, and Rockhopper), while Southern Elephant Seals and South American Sea Lions are hauled out on the beaches. Once ashore we also look for King Cormorant and Striated Caracara (Johnny Rooks!). The Flightless Steamer Duck is another known resident and one of the island's 220 bird species. If good weather conditions prevail, we may have time to visit neighboring Bleaker Island, another settlement on this remote eastern coast of the Falklands. After our first exceptional day ashore, the evening finds us pushing out into the Scotia Sea, destination: South Georgia. (B,L,D)

### Mon., Jan. 20 & Tues., Jan. 21 At Sea — Towards South Georgia Island

We chart a southeasterly course bound for South Georgia Island with seabirds joining us the moment we leave the Falklands. Spend time on the outer decks watching for some of the giant albatross species along with numerous species of petrels and prions as they duck and weave on the winds of the South Atlantic. Our educational presentations commence and are always popular. History is a key theme of this voyage and the epic story of Sir Ernest Shackleton and the *HMS Endurance* expedition is central to



any trip to South Georgia. For the photographers among us, be sure to pick up some valuable tips from our onboard photographic guide, learning about image composition, the subtle polar light, and all the basics of good camera operation. We also learn about polar conservation, a theme particularly close to the hearts of our operator's guides and crew. Current research topics include the challenges of albatross foraging, the dynamics of krill, future wildlife management at South Georgia, and more. *(B,L,D)*

### **Wed., Jan. 22 – Sat., Jan. 25 Exploration of South Georgia Island**

South Georgia has often been called the Serengeti of the Southern Ocean—as we approach the deep bays of this rugged, rocky outcrop today, you begin to see why. South Georgia is one of the top wildlife experiences in the world! To stand on the ship's bridge as it motors into the waters off the Salisbury Plain and view hundreds of thousands of nesting King Penguins, and a beach littered with thousands of Antarctic Fur and Southern Elephant seals, is just awe inspiring. You will never forget this view.

Launching the Zodiacs, we start our exploration of the island. Large numbers of Fur Seals and the much larger Elephant Seal line the dark, volcanic sand beaches. Living beyond the tussock grass, King Penguins and their chicks number up over 100,000 in some locations, including Salisbury Plain, St. Andrews Bay, and Gold Harbour. The island is also home to large numbers of nesting albatross species and they fill the skies above, coming and going from their nests.

The scenery is spectacular and the snowy peaks of the island make us pause to consider the incredible feat of mountaineering when Shackleton and his exhausted companions traversed the island from the wild south coast in 1916. They arrived into Stromness whaling station, having crossed from King Haakon Bay, to raise the alarm that eventually led to the rescue of his men on Elephant Island in Antarctica 100 years ago.

South Georgia is also a thrilling location for the history buffs among us; rusting relics of the early whaling industry abound. We hope to observe several of the old stations at Leith, Husvik, and Stromness. A



highlight is a visit to Grytviken, the largest of the whaling stations, situated at the head of Cumberland Bay. It is here that we visit the gravesite and share a toast to Sir Ernest Shackleton and his right-hand man Frank Wild. For many of us, being in the presence of this great explorer is a highlight of the trip.

There's an excellent museum at Grytviken, maintained by South Georgia Heritage Trust, and the restored church, built by original Norwegian whalers, offers a fascinating glimpse into the past. (B,L,D)

### Sun., Jan. 26 – Tues., Jan. 28 At Sea—Towards Antarctica

Weather and ice dictate our crossing of the Scotia Sea from South Georgia to Antarctica, leading us perhaps to the South Orkney Islands or Elephant Island. As with all of our itinerary planning, our Expedition Leader and Captain make a decision based on the conditions at the time. The southern tip of South Georgia has some of the richest seabird concentrations known, and you have time to study prions, petrels, and albatross in detail as we head out to sea. With luck, we may find the world's southernmost songbird, the South Georgia Pipit, in a quiet cove. The lovely Snow Petrel vies with the Pintado for beauty in flight; both a sign we are heading south.

The South Orkney Islands represent the peaks of a submarine mountain range called the Scotia Arc, connecting South Georgia to the South Shetland Islands. Often shrouded in fog and surrounded by ice, a chance to visit these islands doesn't come often.

As we edge ever closer to the frozen continent, large icebergs announce our arrival in Antarctic waters. If conditions allow, we hope to see the dark cliffs of Elephant Island appear on the horizon. Shackleton and his men were encamped here for many months, having lost the *HMS Endurance* in the thick sea ice, far to the south in the Weddell Sea in 1915. They ate penguins, and slept on their reindeer hides, hoping a ship would pass by. When none did, and hope was almost gone, Shackleton and six companions set off from the tiny beach at Point Wild on a rescue mission to South Georgia, aboard the tiny lifeboat, *James Caird*. To this day, the epic ocean crossing is considered one of the greatest sailing feats in history. If conditions allow, we attempt to land at Point Wild on Elephant Island. (B,L,D)





## Wed., Jan. 29 – Sun., Feb. 2 South Shetland Islands & Antarctic Peninsula

About 60 miles off the coast of the Antarctic mainland, we find the South Shetland Island chain. Possible landing sites could include King George Island, Half Moon Island, Yankee Harbour, or

Hannah Point. Weather permitting, we sail the ship into the flooded volcanic caldera of Deception Island, another former whaling site. There are some outstanding hikes at these locations and the old whaling station and aircraft hangar at Deception Island beg further exploration as we walk around nesting Antarctic Tern sites.

After so much anticipation, we enter the icy waters of the Antarctic Peninsula in the vicinity of Mikkelson Harbour or Cierva Cove. Snow covered mountains soar from the dark, phytoplankton-filled waters. Along the shoreline in the bays and harbors of the peninsula lives an incredible abundance of wildlife. The remaining Austral winter snow concentrates the penguins and other pelagic bird species that use the continent for nesting. Glacial moraines are packed with penguins as they become the first areas to be snow-free. Exposed rocky pinnacles provide nesting habitat for different albatross and Giant Petrel, while exposed cliff faces are the nesting sites for prions and smaller petrels. Large rookeries are home to Chinstrap, Gentoo, and Adelie Penguins. Seals live on the ice floes, including the powerful Leopard Seal, most penguins' primary predator. Gulls, skuas, and cormorants also nest and feed at many sites along the Antarctic Peninsula.

We explore by Zodiac boat and ashore, where a range of wonderful activities await. Locations we hope to visit include Wilhelmina Bay, Orne Harbour, Cuverville Island, and the Errera Channel. Join our photographic guide to take intimate photos of penguins and the impossibly blue ice. Enjoy a hike to the top of a snowy mountain saddle with one of our adventure guides. If the opportunity presents itself, visit a science base or an old historic hut. Those that have signed on to sea kayak may range up to several miles from the ship for a truly memorable experience. Each and every day, we have a range of great choices. *(B,L,D)*

## Mon., Feb. 3 King George Island (Antarctica) | Flight to South America | Overnight in Punta Arenas

This morning we say goodbye to our expedition team and transfer ashore by Zodiac. We walk from the shore landing site past the Chilean research station and up towards the airstrip where we board our special charter flight. This flight takes a little over two hours and is included in the price of your voyage. Upon arrival into Punta Arenas, a transfer from the airport into town is provided. Included tonight is a complimentary post-voyage hotel night in Punta Arenas. This evening is at your leisure. Punta Arenas is

home to cozy restaurants, cafes, and bars, including the historic “Shackleton Bar” at the Hotel José Nogueira—a fitting location to reflect on your journey to Antarctica. (B,L)

## Tues., Feb. 4 Departures

Depart at your leisure today, though we recommend you book flights out after mid-day to give yourself a relaxed morning.

### Ship Details: *Akademik Ioffe*



The *Akademik Ioffe* is the perfect size ship for visiting Antarctica. She carries no more than 96 passengers. This is under the maximum number of people allowed on shore (100), as mandated by the regulatory organization for tourism activities in Antarctica (IAATO). Being under this limit means you will spend the maximum amount of time on shore, on every excursion. We do not need to operate shuttles to and from the ship or run hurried excursions. This is the reality of a visit to Antarctica on a larger capacity vessel. Once on shore, we break up into smaller, special interest groups with several hiking options, perhaps a visit to a penguin rookery, a historic site, or a quiet stroll along the shoreline contemplating the magic. You decide how your day unfolds. Your time in Antarctica is precious and we aim to maximize your experience at every opportunity.

#### Specs

**Launched:** 1989, Hollming Shipyards, Rauma, Finland  
**Length:** 117 metres  
**Beam:** 18.2 metres  
**Draught:** 6 metres  
**Gross Tonnage:** 6230  
**Speed (Max):** 14.5 knots  
**Cruise Speed:** 13.5 knots  
**Passengers:** 96  
**Staff & Crew:** 65  
**Zodiac Boats:** 10 Zodiacs onboard  
**Electrical Supply:** 220 Volts/European Pin  
**Hull Classification:** Ice Strengthened  
**Ice Class:** Lloyds 1A  
**Vessel Stability:** Internal 450t water ballasted stabilizer system  
**Bow Thrust:** Bow thrusters + multi-directional stern thruster



## Cabin Categories

(Category Colors Matches with Deck Plan)

### One Ocean Suite | \$28,295

Located on deck 5 this cabin is separated into two very spacious rooms. A spacious lounge area is perfect for relaxation and features a sofa (convertible to bed), large table, writing desk, ample storage, plus large pictures windows overlooking the bow (forward facing) that can be opened. The separate bedroom features a double bed with upgraded linen/pillows, night light, and windows over the port side of the ship. The bathroom has a bathtub and shower. There is also a region-specific iPad, mini stereo, capsule coffee maker, fully stocked mini bar, iPod alarm clock with audio line, and several arms chairs.

### Shackleton Suite | \$26,295

Located on decks 4 and 5 these cabins are separated into two spacious rooms, one that is ideal for relaxation with a sofa (convertible to bed), large table, writing desk, chair, ample storage, and a large window that can be opened. A separate private bedroom has a double berth with upgraded linen/pillows, night light, private facilities, iPad loaded with region specific material, mini stereo, capsule coffee maker, fully stocked mini bar, iPod alarm clock with audio line.

### Superior Cabin | \$24,395

These very large cabins are located on deck 6, and feature two lower berths, a loveseat, writing desk and chair, ample storage, and private washroom facilities. All cabins have a window that can be opened. These cabins provide great access to the outer observation decks and ship's bridge.

### Twin Private Cabin | \$22,795

Located on decks 4 and 5 these spacious, well-appointed cabins feature two lower berths, with private washroom facilities (sink, shower, toilet, and bathroom cabinet). There are tall wardrobes with internal shelving for storage, a writing desk, chair, bookshelf, and a window that can be opened.

### Twin Semi Private | \$20,595

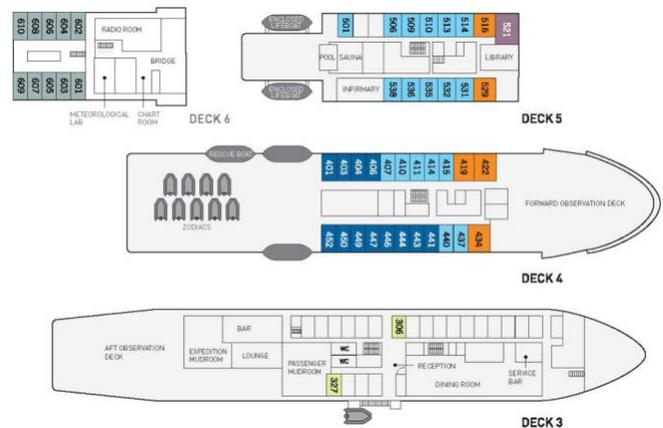
Located on deck 4 these cabins have two lower berths, one of which can be converted to a sofa during the day. These cabins have tall wardrobes with internal shelving for storage, a writing desk, chair, bookshelf, and a window that can be opened. Facilities are semi-private — meaning you share the washroom with the adjacent cabin.

### Main Deck Triple | \$18,095

Located on deck 3 these cabins feature two lower berths and one upper berth. One lower berth can be converted to a comfortable sofa during the day. Washroom facilities are shared. There is a washbasin in

## Features

- Superior Comfort and Stability
- Highest standards of Marine Safety
- Comfortable Bar
- Bridge
- Communications
- Dining Room
- Fitness and Fitness Room
- Gift Shop
- Wellness Centre
- Presentation Room
- Top Deck and Observatory
- Multimedia Room



the cabin, a writing desk and chair, and ample storage for all cabin occupants. These cabins are efficient and well-appointed with two portholes with the option to open one.

## Please Note

Polar exploration can be unpredictable. Specific sites visited depend on prevailing weather and ice conditions at the time of sailing. The above itinerary should be read as a “guide only” and may change. The ship’s captain, in conjunction with the expedition leader, continually review the sailing plan throughout the voyage, making adjustments to the itinerary along the way to take advantage of optimal weather and ice conditions or to maximize our encounters with wildlife. Decades of experience spent exploring these waterways mean we have a large number of outstanding landing sites and zodiac cruising locations to consider, even when the weather conditions may not be ideal or when heavy ice may hinder our planned route. A flexible approach is something we encourage you to bring to the ship.

## Cost of the Journey

### Plan Ahead!

Protect yourself with Allianz Travel Insurance. As of January 2017, Naturalist Journeys pays 100% of your flight carbon offset.

### Cost of the Journey

Pricing is by cabin, per person, based on double occupancy. Please note that many cabin levels sell quickly—this is a VERY popular cruise. Let us know your preference and we can help you choose. Semi-private rooms are two adjoining rooms that share a bath, a good value.

One Ocean Suite	Shackleton Suite	Superior	Twin Private	Semi Private	Triple Share
\$28,295	\$26,295	\$24,395	\$22,795	\$20,595	\$18,095

The earlier you sign on, the better the selection. Some categories are limited, and it is first come, first served for selection.

Tour price includes transfers in Punta Arenas to the airport on January 18 and from Punta Arenas airport (to a downtown hotel, included in cost) on arrival back from Antarctica on February 3, all meals on board the ship with daily afternoon tea and 24-hour tea, coffee, hot chocolate in bar/lounge plus in cabin tea and coffee making facilities, professional guide services, port fees and permits, and miscellaneous program expenses.

A sea kayaking program is available (additional charge of US\$795pp) and **must be reserved at the time of booking** your voyage (there are limited spots available) and you must have some prior paddling experience.

Tour cost does not include airfare to and from Punta Arenas, visa and passport expenses, pre- or post-cruise hotel accommodation unless noted in the itinerary, pre- or post-cruise transfers unless specified in the itinerary, personal expenses such as laundry, telecommunication (ie. email, satellite phone), drinks from the bar, and gratuities for luggage handling or other services, baggage, cancellation or

medical travel insurance related expenses (travel insurance is mandatory on all voyages), a voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for expedition staff and ship crew (suggested amount: \$US10 – 15 per day).

The pre-tour Torres del Paine extension cost is \$1595 DBL / \$1835 SGL and includes 4 nights' accommodations in double occupancy, all meals from dinner January 14 through lunch January 18, professional guide services, park and other entry fees, transportation, and airport greeting to match your flight.

## Travel Information

Arrival airport is Presidente Carlos Ibáñez del Campo International (PUQ) in Punta Arenas, Chile. For the main cruise, plan to arrive at a time convenient for you on January 17. Please plan departures on February 4, at your leisure. If you participate in the pre-tour Torres del Paine extension, plan to arrive no later than NOON on January 14. **We highly recommend using a travel agent to book your flights. This is a remote part of the world and, from past experience, we know that it can get tricky rebooking your flight if it is cancelled or there are significant delays. Please ask and we will connect you with our agent.**

*Our Cruise Operator and Expedition Staff are with One Ocean Expeditions, an outstanding company with impressive experience in the region. The information provided here is given in good faith and has been compiled with all reasonable care. However, some of the information may become out of date. Please keep this in mind and check with us if you want to be sure about anything. The document was correct at time of printing, but you can check online for the most up to date version. If you have any queries, please contact our staff. We are here to help you!*

## Photo Credits

Black-browed Albatross, Greg Smith (GS); Macaroni Penguins, GS; Gentoo Penguins, GS; Humpback Whale Fluke, GS; Elephant Seals, Peg Abbott (PA); Weddell Seal, GS; Striated Caracara, GS; Ice, GS; Snow Petrel, GS; Black-faced Ibis, GS; Guanaco, PA; Andean Condor, GS; Magellanic Woodpecker, Bud Ferguson (BF), Black-browed Albatross, GS; Striated Caracara w/ Orca Carcass, GS; Rockhopper Penguins, GS; Stanley, Naturalist Journeys Stock (NJS); Southern Elephant Seal, GS; St. Andrews Bay, NJS; Grytviken, GS; King Penguins, GS; Zodiac Ride, PA; Naturalist Journeys Group on Mainland Antarctica, BF; South Shetland Beach Walk, NJS; Antarctic Terns, GS; Shackleton's Beach on Elephant Island, PA; Penguin Welcome, NJS; Adelie Penguins, GS; Brown Skua Pair, GS; Emperor Penguin, GS; *Akademik Ioffe*, courtesy One Ocean Expeditions.

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