

ANTARCTICA, SOUTH GEORGIA & THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

2nd - 22nd November 2019 on board *Hebridean Sky*


PolarQuest

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPEDITION CRUISE ON BOARD HEBRIDEAN SKY

This expedition cruise starts in Puerto Madryn, Argentina. Followed by sea birds we sail to the remote Falkland Islands, rich in history and home to charming penguins and graceful albatrosses. Our next stop is the wonders of the subantarctic island of South Georgia – a haven for anyone interested in nature and wildlife. The coastline harbours millions of breeding penguins, seals and seabirds. We then continue south towards the world's most remote continent, Antarctica, which offers dramatic landscapes, gigantic icebergs, scenic channels and an abundance of wildlife. Join this extraordinary adventure on the comfortable expedition ship *Hebridean Sky* and sail into a fairy-tale world!

Day 1: Puerto Madryn, Argentina

Our trip starts in Puerto Madryn, in beautiful Patagonia, where we stay the night at a centrally located hotel.

Day 2: Peninsula Valdés, Argentina

Today we visit Peninsula Valdés, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The peninsula is a significant maritime habitat and home to sea lions and Magellanic penguins. During a boat excursion we hope to see the magnificent southern right whale. The world's largest population of southern right whales congregates here every year during their birthing season. In the afternoon we embark the *Hebridean Sky*, settle into our spacious cabins and sail seaward. On board we are greeted by our Expedition Team and ship's officers at a safety

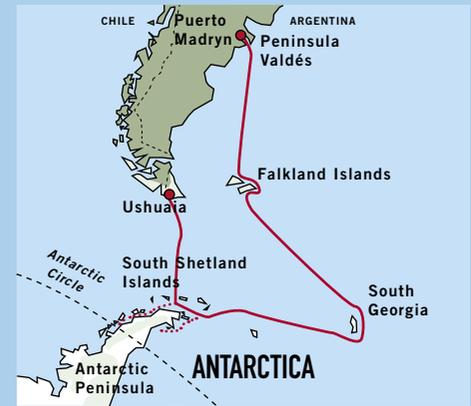
and orientation briefing followed by the Captain's welcome dinner – the expedition has started!

Day 3 - 4: Southern Ocean

Among the wildlife spotting opportunities as we sail south, are the albatrosses, prions, and petrels that frequently and curiously follow the ship. Together with our Expedition Team we will all be out on deck looking for the whales and dolphins that can be seen in the area. Our experts will begin their presentations with informative and entertaining talks on the wildlife, history, and geology of the Falkland Islands and Southern Ocean.

Day 5: West Falklands

The westernmost settled outposts in the Falklands are remote farms that have been family-owned for many generations. The islands are windswept but



a great haven for wildlife. Weather permitting, we hope to go ashore and explore Saunders Island. Here we can find albatross colonies alongside rockhopper, king, and Magellanic penguin rookeries while striated caracaras patrol overhead and upland geese graze at the water's edge.

Day 6: Stanley, East Falklands

Chosen for its sheltered harbour and access to abundant fresh water and peat for fuel, Stanley is easy to discover on foot as most shops and services are centred on the port. The museum, the post-office featuring first day covers, plenty of shops with locally made wool items, and





Stanley's lively pubs will all be available.

Day 7 - 8: Southern Ocean

We keep a lookout for wildlife as we make our way east across the Antarctic Convergence and officially enter Antarctic waters. Shipboard presentations will continue, featuring the exciting history and abundant wildlife of South Georgia.

Day 9 - 12: South Georgia

In the middle of the Southern Ocean lies the subantarctic island of South Georgia. With nearly 3 000 meter high mountain peaks, impressive glaciers and a rugged coastline punctured with icebergs, the island invites its visitors to some of the world's most magnificent sceneries. South Georgia's unique position inside the Antarctic Convergence makes it home to breeding penguins, seals and seabirds. We hope to visit places such as Salisbury Plain, St. Andrews Bay and Gold Harbour, where thousands of curious king penguins greet us. It is an incredible experience to stand among all these curious individuals. Huge elephant seals lounge on sandy beaches and this time of the year we may see the dramatic fights for a position as the king of a harem. A male elephant seal can weigh as much as four tons and have over 200 females in one single harem! The lush coastline is also home to fur seals, albatrosses, Gentoo penguins, petrels, skuas, and gulls. Hopefully, we will have the chance

to make a landing on Prion Island and witness the huge wandering albatrosses breeding. We also plan to visit historic Grytviken whaling station, where we find a whaling museum, a Norwegian seaman's church and a tiny graveyard where the great Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton is buried.

Day 13 - 14: Scotia Sea

We now set sail towards the world's most remote continent – Antarctica. Heading south, we listen to our polar experts' informative presentations and watch the many sea birds that faithfully accompany us on our adventure. We also keep our eyes open for the first iceberg, which may appear on the horizon at anytime now!

Day 15 - 18: The Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands

On our way to the Antarctic Peninsula we may explore Elephant Island, where Shackleton and his crew took refuge after their ship was destroyed by pack ice in the Weddell Sea in 1916. In the waterways of the Antarctic Peninsula, we hope to make as much time as possible to explore by our Zodiac boats and marvel up close at nature's glory. Our Expedition Leader and Captain will create a flexible itinerary based on weather, ice, and opportunity. We will aim for the most scenic bays and channels of the Peninsula with stops at penguin rookeries, seal wallows and bird colonies as

well as sites of historic and scientific interest. Our experienced officers navigate us amongst icebergs and on some of them we may see a few penguins, looking curiously at us. Adelie, chinstrap and gentoo penguins abound, and Weddell, crabeater and elephant seals are often found hauled out to rest along with predatory leopard seals and the assertive Antarctic fur seal. Just off the Antarctic Peninsula we find the South Shetland Islands. Hopefully, we will have the chance to sail into the flooded volcanic caldera of Deception Island.

Day 19 - 20: Drake Passage

As we leave this magical place and make our way north, heading again across the Antarctic Convergence and the Drake Passage, we will continue our presentation series and wildlife spotting. Sailing back to Ushuaia through the Beagle Channel, we celebrate the conclusion of our expedition with a last dinner on board.

Day 21: Ushuaia

In the morning we take farewell of our ship, disembark and continue home or on to further adventures.

***Please note:** The exact route will depend on ice, weather conditions and wildlife. We always strive to maximize your experience. Please remember that flexibility is the key to a successful expedition!*





EXTRA OPTION: SEA KAYAKING

For those of you who have experience of sea kayaking it will be possible to enjoy Antarctica in a unique way. Pre-booking is necessary, to a price of USD 695 per person. Maximum 8 participants.

THE ZODIACS

One of the key assets behind a successful expedition cruise is the Zodiacs. With these safe and sturdy rubber boats we are able to get ashore to experience the unique nature. On board *Hebridean Sky* there are 10 Zodiacs.



PRE AND POST CRUISE EXTENSION IN BUENOS AIRES AND USHUAIA

For those of you who want to experience the highlights of Buenos Aires we offer a pre and post cruise extension. You travel independently to Buenos Aires and meet up with the group and your PolarQuest tour leader at a central four star hotel. In the evening we enjoy a delicious dinner and a spectacular tango show. The following day we explore this lively capital together with our PolarQuest Tour Leader and a local guide. After an Argentinean lunch we fly to Puerto Madryn and join the program as described in this brochure. When we return to Ushuaia after the expedition we explore this quaint little town or visit the National Park Tierra del Fuego, depending on time, before we continue by air to Buenos Aires, where we enjoy a hearty farewell dinner. We stay the night at a four star hotel. The following day we continue home independently. Please contact us for a more detailed program.

DATES & PRICES



THE EXPEDITION SHIP HEBRIDEAN SKY

Experience this great adventure on board one of the finest small expedition ships in the world! *Hebridean Sky* was built in Italy in 1992 and in the spring of 2016, she underwent a million dollar refit, transforming her into the safest and most comfortable ship in her class. She takes 114 passengers in 58 comfortable and spacious suites, located on five decks. All suites are 220 square feet (20 m²) or more and have exterior views, sitting area with sofa or side chairs and table, TV, telephone, hair dryer and private bathroom. The Owner's suite has also a separate sleeping area. The Owner's, Penthouse and Veranda suites have private balconies, the Deluxe suites have bow and side windows, the Promenade, Window and Triple suites all have windows and the Porthole suites have portholes. An elevator serves all passenger decks. In the

ship's dining room, hosting all passengers in a single seating, we are treated to delicious meals between the excursions. The combined bar and lounge, as well as a library provide ideal places to have a cup of coffee, relax or catch up on some reading. The bar/lounge occasionally offers live music. There is also a presentation room, seating all passengers. Here, our polar experts entertain and educate us with lectures on the area's fauna, geology and history. Other facilities on board include a sundeck, DVD Movie Library and Wi-Fi Internet. The ship has spacious outer decks and a panoramic top deck observation platform, from where you can enjoy the beautiful polar sceneries. Travelling with this small expedition ship offers an entirely different experience than you can get on a more conventional cruise ship.



Penthouse suite.



Enjoy the magnificent sceneries!

ANTARCTICA, SOUTH GEORGIA & THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

Duration: 21 days. **Dates:** 2nd - 22nd November 2019.

Group Size: Maximum 114 passengers.

(PolarQuest will be a group on board.)

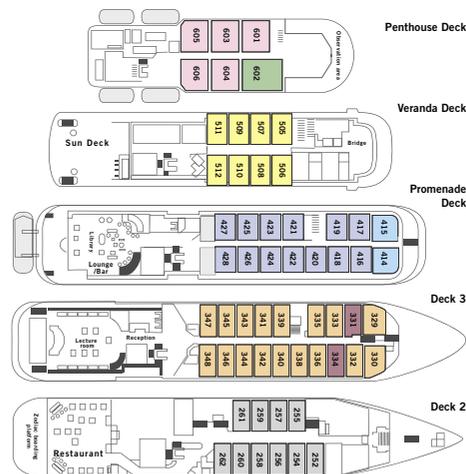
Accommodation: Hotel in Puerto Madryn, cabin on board the expedition ship *Hebridean Sky*.

Transport: Expedition ship, Zodiacs.

Price: From USD 14 795 per person.

RATE INCLUDES: 1 night in hotel in Puerto Madryn · Transfer from the hotel to the ship in Puerto Madryn and from the ship to the airport in Ushuaia · 19 nights on board *Hebridean Sky* · All meals on board, House wine/beer/soft drink with dinner · Coffee/tea/cocoa 24 hours daily · All landings and excursions · An experienced Expedition Leader and knowledgeable guides/lecturers · A Tour Leader from PolarQuest · An expedition jacket to keep · A pair of boots for use during the voyage · Wi-Fi from the public computers in the library · 100 minute Wi-Fi card (for use on your personal devices) · Comprehensive pre-departure material · An illustrated post-expedition logbook

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare to Puerto Madryn and from Ushuaia, Argentina · Airport taxes · Travel and cancellation insurance · Kayaking (conditions permitting) · Laundry and personal expenses incurred on board · On board communication charges · The customary gratuity to the ship's crew



Cabin categories	Price per person in USD
Triple suites (3 lower beds or 1 single & 1 double bed)	14 795
Porthole suites (2 lower beds or 1 double bed)	17 495
Window suites (2 lower beds or 1 double bed)	19 495
Promenade suites (2 lower beds or 1 double bed)	19 795
Deluxe suites (2 lower beds or 1 double bed)	20 295
Veranda suites (2 lower beds or 1 double bed)	22 495
Penthouse suites (2 lower beds or 1 double bed)	25 095
Owner's suite (separate sleeping area with 1 double bed)	28 295

PolarQuest

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 PolarQuest

 PolarQuest Expeditions

POLARQUEST IS ONE OF THE PASSIONATE SPECIALISTS
WITHIN UNLIMITED TRAVEL GROUP



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