

EXPEDITION ANTARCTICA

THE GREAT PENGUIN ADVENTURE 2021

9th - 29th November 2021 with *Ocean Nova*



PolarQuest

POLAR ADVENTURES SINCE 1999

For more than 20 years we have taken adventurous travellers to the Polar Regions. Every expedition with us is unique and our aim is that each passenger will have the trip of a lifetime. When you call our office, you will speak to members of staff, whom all have been on polar expeditions themselves and can answer all your questions about the big adventure. Sustainability is at the heart of everything PolarQuest does and all our trips are climate compensated. Welcome on board!

SMALL GROUPS – GREAT EXPERIENCES

We travel in small groups and strive to have minimal impact on the environment. A small ship such as *Ocean Nova* also offers a more relaxed atmosphere, greater focus on the destination and more time ashore, compared to a larger vessel. Most vessels that visit Antarctica take between 120 and 500 passengers, but to visit Antarctica in a group of merely 78 passengers invites to a more exclusive as well as a more sustainable experience. The *Ocean Nova* also has a very low fuel consumption per passenger, one of the lowest in the business.

THE ZODIACS – THE KEY TO INTIMATE EXPERIENCES

One of the secrets behind a successful expedition cruise is the Zodiacs. With these safe and sturdy rubber boats we can navigate among icebergs, cruise along glaciers and go ashore to get unique nature and wildlife experiences. Our ambition is to make landings or cruises every day.

WHAT MAKES SOUTH GEORGIA SO SPECIAL?

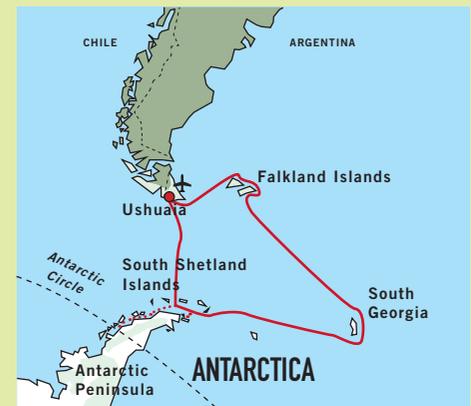
In the middle of the Southern Ocean lies South Georgia. With nearly 3000-meter-high mountain peaks, impressive glaciers and sandy beaches the island invites its visitors to some of the world's most magnificent sceneries. The wildlife here is truly extraordinary. Everywhere, on the beaches and rocks, in the water and the air, the wildlife is teeming. The sound of hundreds of thousands of king penguins is very powerful! It is an incredible experience to stand among all these curious individuals. Here, we also have chance to meet the huge elephant seals, which can weigh as much as four tons and have over 200 females in one single harem! The new-born seal pups have just started to explore the world and are keen on getting acquainted. Their immense, black eyes win every visitor's heart! With no land based predators on the island, the wildlife here have no fear of humans. This creates a truly magical setting to encounter the animals and watch them go about their day undisturbed.





AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPEDITION CRUISE ON BOARD OCEAN NOVA

Join PolarQuest on a magnificent Antarctica cruise with the possibility of sighting 7 different species of penguin! We are proud to once again sail off to Antarctica with the small polar expedition ship, *Ocean Nova*, carrying a maximum of only 78 passengers. We sail from Ushuaia in Argentina to the Falkland Islands, home to charming rockhopper penguins and graceful albatrosses. Our next stop is the remote island of South Georgia, a wildlife haven said to have more wildlife per square metre than any other place on the planet. To watch the huge elephant seals fight for their harems and be greeted by hundreds of thousands of breeding king penguins is a truly unbelievable experience. We continue to the most remote and isolated continent - Antarctica. Here we explore the dramatic landscapes with gigantic icebergs, scenic channels and bustling penguin colonies. Welcome on board!



Day 1: Ushuaia, Argentina

Our great Antarctic adventure starts in Ushuaia, beautifully surrounded by snow-covered mountains, where we stay one night at a centrally located hotel. This little town is also referred to as the "End of the World".

Day 2: Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

Today we visit the southernmost National Park in the world – Tierra del Fuego. We explore this thriving park, filled with dramatic sceneries of forests and mountains. The National Park is home to guanacos, Patagonian foxes and beavers, but also to many bird species such as Magellanic woodpeckers, condors and austral parakeets. In the afternoon, we embark our expedition ship and sail along the Beagle Channel. Our expedition cruise has started and we may see penguins straight away! Keep a lookout for Magellanic penguins swimming in the Beagle Channel.

Day 3: At sea

We spend a day at sea followed by a range of sea birds such as petrels, fulmars and albatrosses that gracefully follow our ship. Whales and dolphins may also be seen in the surrounding waters and our polar experts start their exciting lecture program.

Day 4: West Falklands

Our plan is to explore the western islands of the archipelago, which are isolated and windswept but home to many seabirds and migratory birds including the black-browed albatross. We hope to land on Carcass Island, to encounter nesting Magellanic penguins along with oystercatchers and the flightless steamer duck who is a permanent resident. Weather permitting, we go ashore and explore Saunders Island, a penguin hotspot that is one of the only places on earth where 4 penguin species nest side by side. Here we can find gentoo, rockhopper, king and Magellanic penguin rookeries as well as nesting

black browed albatross. You can sit on the white sand beach watching the penguins come and go while the striated caracaras patrol overhead.

Day 5: Stanley, East Falklands

We visit Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. As we wander through the charming streets with small houses and learn how this quiet harbour was once a major port in the 19th century for ships attempting to round the waters of Cape Horn. We also make a stop in Stanley's famed philatelic museum with its impressive collection of historic stamps.

Day 6 - 7: Southern Ocean

We sail southeast, South Georgia bound. The anticipation grows especially when we cross the Antarctic Convergence and notice a dramatic drop in temperature. Shipboard presentations will continue, featuring the exciting history and abundant wildlife of South Georgia. Wildlife will guide us into the island; keep a lookout in the



ocean for whales, seals and penguins swimming and diving.

Day 8 - 11: South Georgia

Majestic mountains, mighty glaciers and beaches full of king penguins greet us on the island of South Georgia. We arrive in the beginning of summer when the peaks of the dramatic mountain ranges are still snow-covered. If you are interested in wildlife, South Georgia is a true oasis. Hundreds of thousands of penguins greet us at places like St. Andrew's Bay and Salisbury Plain. Huge elephant seals lounge on sandy beaches and this time of the year we may see dramatic fights for a position as the king of a harem. The island is also home to several other species of penguin such as macaroni, gentoo and chinstrap penguin, along with the playful and fiesty fur seals. South Georgia played a significant role in Shackleton's epic adventure. After his ship *Endurance* sank, he crossed the treacherous ocean in an open lifeboat to reach the islands. We hope to visit Shackleton's grave at Grytviken, once an active whaling station, which now houses a charming small museum.

Day 12 - 14: At sea

We now set sails towards the world's most remote continent – Antarctica, faithfully accompanied by many seabirds. Our polar experts continue to fill our minds with heroic stories of some of the earliest daredevils to explore Antarctica. We also

keep our eyes open for the first iceberg, which may appear on the horizon at any time now!

Day 15 - 18: The South Shetland Islands & the Antarctic Peninsula

This is a true Antarctic expedition cruise and our exact route the following days is subject to weather and ice conditions. Below are examples of places we may visit.

We hope to go ashore at Elephant Island, where we will learn more about the famous Antarctic adventures of Sir Ernest Shackleton. This island was a place of refuge in 1916 for Shackleton and his crew after his ship was destroyed by pack ice in the Weddell Sea more than 100 years ago. Following the loss of their ship the men reached Elephant Island after a harrowing ordeal on drifting ice floes. They established a camp at a place they called Point Wild, named after Shackleton's commander Frank Wild and now the home of nesting chinstrap penguins.

We will spend some time cruising among the South Shetland Islands just off the Antarctic Peninsula. Dazzling wildlife sightings await us on our excursions to some of the islands including King George, Half Moon, Barrientos or Livingston. Adélie, chinstrap and gentoo penguins thrive here, as do several species of seal. Hopefully, we will also have chance to visit the flooded volcanic caldera of Deception Island. Along the coastline of the South Shetlands we keep our eyes open for

humpback whales foraging for krill.

We continue south along the Antarctic Peninsula, where pack ice still covers large parts of the bays, and we watch the experienced officers navigate our ice-strengthened ship. We cruise through labyrinths of icebergs some of which may have resting penguins looking curiously back at us. In good ice conditions, we hope to set foot on the Antarctic continent in Hope Bay or Paradise Harbour. The scenery here, from the colossal icebergs to the seemingly endless Antarctic ice sheet, is truly breath-taking.

Day 19 - 20: Drake Passage

As we leave this magical place, heading across the Drake Passage, time will be spent sharing and reflecting on the wonderful experiences of the last few days. As we approach the South American continent its possible to see whales, dolphins and seals. We celebrate our Antarctic expedition with a farewell dinner on board.

Day 21: Ushuaia, Argentina

In the early morning we disembark in Ushuaia and explore this quaint little town on our own.

Please note:

Our exact route will depend on ice and weather conditions. The planned itinerary will be updated throughout the voyage in order to take advantage of favourable conditions. Flexibility is the key to a successful expedition!



DATES & PRICES



THE EXPEDITION SHIP OCEAN NOVA

Ocean Nova (sister ship to our popular *M/S Quest*) was built in Denmark in 1992 and in 2006 she was completely refurbished and has now a career as a small and comfortable expedition ship. *Ocean Nova* takes up to 78 passengers in twin and triple cabins, all with exterior views and en suite facilities. In your cabin you also find a desk with a chair as well as storage space for clothes and equipment.

In the dining room you are treated to delicious meals and in the panorama lounge you can enjoy a drink with breath-taking views of the surrounding polar landscape.

This is where your guides entertain and educate you with lectures on the area's flora, fauna and history.

On board there is also a library with a collection of polar books and DVDs. You are welcome on the bridge around the clock and there is always something to see or search for from the spacious observation decks. The atmosphere on board *Ocean Nova* is relaxed and very friendly. Travelling with this small expedition ship offers an entirely different experience and perspective than you get on a larger and more conventional cruise ship.



Enjoy the magnificent sceneries!



The panorama lounge.



Twin cabin with lower beds.



The Zodiacs - the key to intimate experiences.

EXPEDITION ANTARCTICA

Duration: 21 days. **Dates:** 9th - 29th November 2021.

Group Size: Maximum 78 passengers.

Accommodation: Hotel in Ushuaia, cabin on board the expedition ship *Ocean Nova*.

Transport: Expedition ship, Zodiacs.

Price: From USD 13 990 per person.

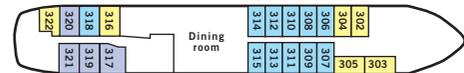
RATE INCLUDES: 1 hotel night in Ushuaia . 19 nights on board the expedition ship *Ocean Nova* . All meals on board . Wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks served with lunch and dinner on board the ship . Coffee, tea, cocoa, water and snacks on board the ship throughout the expedition . All landings and excursions . 8 polar expert guides . Guiding ashore and lectures on board . Loan of waterproof boots for landings and Zodiac cruises . Comprehensive pre-departure material . The trip is 100 % climate compensated

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare to and from Ushuaia, Argentina . Travel and cancellation insurance . Personal expenses on board such as in the bar, the shop or laundry service . The customary gratuity to the ship's crew

Bridge deck



Upper deck



Cabin categories

Cabin categories	Price per person in USD
Triple cabin (Bunkbeds)	13 990
Twin cabin (Bunkbed)	16 990
Twin cabin (2 lower beds)	18 790
Single cabin	32 290

PRE AND POST CRUISE EXTENSION

For those of you who want to experience the bustling city of Buenos Aires we offer a pre and post cruise extension, including two hotel nights, sightseeing, tangoshow and flight Buenos Aires – Ushuaia with return. Please contact us for more information.

PolarQuest



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 PolarQuest

 PolarQuest Expeditions

POLARQUEST IS ONE OF THE PASSIONATE SPECIALISTS
WITHIN UNLIMITED TRAVEL GROUP



PHOTO: ADAM RHEBORG (P. 3 UPPER NO. 5 & P. 4 UPPER NO. 1, NO. 4 & BACKGROUND), ADRIAN NORDEN-
BORG (P. 5 LOWER RIGHT), ANTARCTICA XXI (P. 5 UPPER LEFT), DAVID BERG (P. 2), BRUTUS ÖSTLING (P. 3
UPPER NO. 2), DAVID BERG (P. 4 UPPER NO. 2), ELKE LINDNER (P. 4 UPPER NO. 5), ERIK EDVARDSSON (P.
3 UPPER NO. 4 & P. 4 UPPER NO.3), INGMAR SKOGAR (P. 3 UPPER NO. 1), MARIE LANNBORN BARKER (P. 5
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