Antarctica – 'Off the Beaten Track'

ENJOY THE ULTIMATE ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE!

Early season is a time of intense activity in Antarctica. The wildlife migrations have commenced and the sea ice is quickly receding, allowing access to locations which have been ice choked since winter. We anticipate exciting ice navigation on the ship and will be among the first to visit many of the well-known sites this season. For all these reasons, it’s one of our favourite times of the year to visit Antarctica. What makes this journey so special is the enhanced program of off-ship activities offered on this departure. Taking advantage of optimal snow and ice conditions in November, we offer a range of additional activities which complement our regular programming.

For those with some technical ability and experience, we offer back-country ski touring. Snow-shoeing is another exciting option. If you have some experience sea kayaking, why not enjoy this unique activity? Accompanied by a small group of paddlers, your expert guides will allow you to experience Antarctica in a very different way. All this is complemented with a fascinating series of onboard presentations, led by adventurers, marine biologists, naturalists, glaciologists, historians and our onboard photographer.

This voyage has been designed for outdoor enthusiasts and adventure lovers. Yet it has great appeal to those who wish to experience Antarctica at a magical time of the season. Several additional days of exploration in Antarctica compared to the 10-night voyages is an added bonus.

Expedition Highlights

› Outstanding wildlife observation on shore, while Zodiac cruising and from the ship

› In-depth exploration of the Gerlache coastline and Antarctic Peninsula

› Visits to historic sites and science stations

› Learn about the environment, wildlife and ecology of Antarctica from polar experts
ON THIS TRIP

- Zodiac excursions
- Onshore hiking options
- Wildlife observation
- Photographer-in-Residence
- Sea Kayaking Program
- Snow Shoeing
- Backcountry Ski Touring
- Camping on shore
- Educational presentations
- Active Cruising & Wellness

IMPORTANT VOYAGE LOGISTICS

This trip commences in Santiago – Chile’s elegant capital city. We recommend you arrive in Santiago at least one day prior to the schedule voyage departure date. This gives you a buffer in the event of any unexpected travel delays between home and trip departure time. From Santiago we fly south to Punta Arenas, Chile via a special charter flight service. We transfer into town and have time to explore prior to ship embarkation.

At the conclusion of the trip, we fly from Stanley back to Santiago. A transfer is provided from the airport to a central downtown location. This return flight arrives in the late afternoon and onward international flight connections may be possible.

Full joining instructions are provided in your final travel documentation. If you have questions before this time, please ask us.

YOUR DAY-BY-DAY EXPEDITION ITINERARY

DAY 1 / SANTIAGO (CHILE) TO PUNTA ARENAS (CHILE) – (THURSDAY, 21 NOVEMBER, 2019)

We depart this morning on our special charter flight direct to Punta Arenas, Chile. We are met on arrival and transfer from the airport into town for free time to explore. Later in the afternoon, we make our way to the port, board our expedition ship, RCGS Resolute in the afternoon. 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 cast off to explore one of the most remote regions on Earth.

DAYS 2-3 / AT SEA – TOWARDS ANTARCTICA

We chart a southerly course for Antarctica. This stretch of the South Atlantic is rich in its bio-diversity and showcases an abundance of wildlife. We will be joined by hundreds of seabirds including the wandering albatross. Giant petrels and smaller Cape petrels are also constant companions as we make our way south. Photography these magnificent birds takes patience and skill and our photography expert will be on hand to show you the best techniques. Join the ship’s Captain on the bridge and learn about the operations of our modern research vessel. Throughout the day our onboard experts educate us with a series of presentations about the environment, the wildlife and history and the locations we hope to visit in the coming days. As we approach the coastline of Antarctica, we anticipate an increase in whale sightings.

DAY 4 / SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS & ANTARCTICA

We awaken today and the magnificent snowy peaks of the South Shetland Islands are laid out before us. We are now heading north towards Antarctic Sound – the gateway into the icy Weddell Sea. Along the way we hope to make a planned visit at Deception Island. If weather conditions permit, we sail the ship right into the middle of a volcanic caldera. History is all around us as we explore the old whaling station, with the rusted relics and old wooden structures. At the far end of the beach is an old aircraft hangar. This is where Australian, Sir Hubert Wilkins made the very first flight in Antarctica in 1928. There is an outstanding hike here to a location known as ‘Neptune’s Window’ – high up onto the rim of the crater.

DAYS 5-8 / GERLACHE STRAIT (ANTARCTICA)

Heading south along the coastline of the continent, our busy program of activities will now be in full swing. Our days are spent exploring on and off the ship. Popular activities include guided hikes on shore and visits to wildlife colonies with our expert naturalist guides, while the historic huts and science stations provide a fascinating glimpse into the past and the present. Zodiac cruising among the ice is always a memorable activity.

Based on site characteristics, the ski-touring group may set off to explore the pristine terrain and range several kilometres inland with our experienced mountaineering guides. What a unique thrill it is to carve ‘fresh tracks’ in the virgin snow of Antarctica. The expedition snowshoe group may follow in the tracks of the skiers, climbing to high points which afford breathtaking views. If you are not up to the more strenuous snow shoeing program, you will be able to try this unique activity at many of our landing sites.

Our expedition sea kayakers will head out on excursions which may last all day. An overnight kayak/camping excursion is available to the more adventurous in the group. Everyone aboard will have an opportunity to camp onshore for the night in Antarctica if the weather conditions co-operate. We have all the gear to keep you warm, dry and as comfortable as possible. Photography enthusiasts will enjoy the chance to spend an entire day with our expedition photographer, on an all-day field workshop.

Encounters with huge glaciers and penguin colonies occur as we navigate the narrow channels of the area. The stunning views of Gerlache Strait and the peninsula coastline are impressive, and cruising in Wilhelmina Bay offers a likely opportunity for whale sightings. As we cruise the rock arches and narrow canyons of Spert Island, the exposed and rugged
area allows for interesting scenery and photography, and a day spent at the tip of the peninsula and beyond reveals an abundance of Adelie penguins preparing their nests and a historic monument located on d'Urville Island.

DAYS 9-10 / DRAKE PASSAGE – TOWARDS THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

Making our way back to South America, the educational presentations continue and we enjoy a memorable voyage recap by our Expedition Leader. Join our photography experts in the multimedia room and download and back up your precious images. Approaching the coast of the Falkland Islands in the early evening light, we enjoy a special dinner attended by the Captain of the ship.

DAY 11 / ARRIVE STANLEY (FALKLAND ISLANDS) – VOYAGE CONCLUDES – FLY BACK TO SANTIAGO (CHILE) (SUNDAY, 01 DECEMBER, 2019)

This morning we find ourselves in the port of Stanley. We say goodbye to our crew and after some free time in town, make our way to the airport for our return charter flight to Santiago. On arrival in Santiago our journey comes to an end. Onward regional and international flight connections may be possible this evening. Discuss the options with your booking agent. A transfer is provided to a downtown location for those choosing to stay and explore Santiago and the delights of Chile.

ABOUT OUR ITINERARY: Polar exploration can be unpredictable. Specific sites visited will 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.

Special Activities on this voyage Price
Expedition Sea Kayaking US$795
Overnight Sea Kayaking Option US$300
Backcountry Ski Touring US$750
Expedition Snow Shoeing complimentary
Overnight Camping complimentary
Onboard Photography complimentary

IMPORTANT NOTES:
Expedition Sea Kayaking is limited to 30 paddlers.
Overnight Sea Kayaking is an option for those already enrolled in the regular Sea Kayaking program and is limited to six paddlers.
Backcountry Ski Touring is limited to 12 skiers. You will need to supply your own ski gear and must have suitable backcountry ski touring experience. See additional notes on page 5.
Expedition Snow Shoeing is available to all guests who wish to try this unique activity which will be offered on several occasions over the duration of the voyage.
Overnight Camping is always dependent on favorable weather and ice conditions on shore.
Onboard Photography: All guests will have access to our Resident Photography expert over the duration of the voyage.
YOUR EXPEDITION INCLUDES:

- Comprehensive pre-voyage information package including details to help you prepare for your trip
- Transfers from a central meeting point in Punta Arenas, Chile on Day 1 and from the port to the airport (or a downtown hotel) at the conclusion of your voyage on Day 14
- Shipboard accommodation in your selected cabin category with daily housekeeping. Cabins feature outside views with windows or portholes
- All breakfasts, lunches and dinners on board throughout your voyage with daily afternoon tea
- 24-hour tea, coffee, hot chocolate in bar/lounge plus in-cabin tea and coffee making facilities
- Experienced Expedition Leader and professional expedition team of marine biologists, naturalists, historians, adventure guides and photographers
- Daily off-ship excursions by Zodiac boat breaking into small groups for shore landings
- Guided hikes and walks on shore of various durations for guests of all abilities
- Visits to wildlife colonies, historic sites, places of outstanding natural beauty and science stations
- Educational presentations and talks by polar experts in their field (i.e. marine biologists, naturalists, historians etc). On board or on shore
- Resident photography guide available to assist all guests plus access to computers in the multimedia lab for image downloads, file back up and management
- An emergency trained medical physician on board every voyage
- Dedicated hospitality team including Hotel Manager, four chefs, professional bar staff and Adventure Concierge staff
- Onboard sauna, plunge pool, Jacuzzi and fitness centre including massage options (charge applies for massage and treatments)
- Sea Kayaking program available (additional charge of US$795pp) – must be reserved at the time of booking your voyage and you must have some prior paddling experience
- Access to well-stocked library full of polar reference books
- End of voyage video, photos and take-home USB
- Port fees and all permits to access visited areas

The right gear for your trip – included

When you travel with One Ocean Expeditions, you have the use of an expedition gear package free of charge. Containing around US$900 worth of essential equipment, this kit includes a quality waterproof/windproof jacket and bib-pants plus insulated rubber boots designed for extended walking. We also include a set of binoculars and a Nordic trekking pole for use when on shore. A waterproof backpack completes your package. This kit saves you buying expensive clothing and equipment you may only ever use once. It also eliminates the need to carry such cumbersome gear to the ship (total weight around 8kg/17lbs).

The Expedition does not include:

- Any international or local airfare unless otherwise specified in the voyage itinerary
- Visa and passport expenses
- Pre or post-cruise hotel accommodation unless otherwise specified in the itinerary (or pre-arranged)
- Pre or post-cruise transfers unless otherwise specified in the itinerary (or pre-arranged)
- Personal expenses on board such as alcoholic beverages, bar charges or laundry expenses
- Telecommunication charges (i.e. email, satellite phone)
- 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 – US$15-20 per day)
RCGS Resolute offers exceptional onboard facilities and provides an ideal platform for exploring Antarctica. She features the highest ice classification of any passenger vessel in the world. Outstanding observation areas both inside and from the outer decks allow you to be completely absorbed by the coastal landscapes along the way. Our priority is to craft specially designed itineraries that provide you with maximum time in the pristine locations we visit. The vessel has capacity of just 146 guests and we are able to achieve our daily goals by breaking into smaller special-interest groups. There are hiking options onshore, visiting penguin rookeries and wildlife colonies, historic sites and science bases. Cruising in the Zodiacs photographing the icebergs, or observing marine life is a highlight for many. For the more adventurous, sea kayaking is another memorable Antarctic experience. To learn more about this exceptional vessel, request a copy of the Ship Fact Sheet containing detailed specifications and additional information about cabins and other facilities.

IMPORTANT:
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. If you have any queries, please contact your voyage booking agent or our office. We are here to help you.

COMPREHENSIVE PRE-VOYAGE INFORMATION

Upon receipt of your deposit and booking forms, a detailed booklet will be sent to you providing additional information to help you prepare for your voyage. This resource is full of useful facts and covers practicalities such as suggested clothing, life on board the ship, wildlife, geography and history as well as details about the activities available throughout your voyage. Information regarding passports and visas, budgeting, as well as travel insurance requirements are also found in this helpful document.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

On all One Ocean Expeditions’ voyages, you must have comprehensive travel insurance. Your booking agent can recommend a policy designed to cover participants on these voyages. Your policy must provide coverage for your medical costs in case of hospitalization, emergency travel and repatriation.

Please check the terms of your policy carefully, particularly with regard to limits of cover. Also ensure you are familiar with the procedure for making claims. Once you have paid your deposit or full payment, certain fees will apply if you have to cancel your holiday (see the cancellation provisions in our booking terms and conditions). For this reason you should take out travel insurance at the time of paying your deposit, which should then protect you in such a situation. You will be required to send us travel insurance policy details prior to your voyage.

SKI TOURING

Previous backcountry ski touring experience is essential. This discipline is very different from classic 'cross-country/Nordic' skiing. This activity is not suitable for beginners. You will need to complete a detailed questionnaire at the time of booking and you may be contacted by our Ski Touring Guides to discuss your prior experience and the equipment you will need to bring with you. We do not supply any gear or equipment for this activity. Maximum number of ski touring participants is 12 (minimum 6).

PASSPORTS & VISAS

You will need a valid passport with you throughout the journey. Some nationalities will be required to pay a ‘reciprocity fee’ for entering Argentina and/or Chile. It is important that your passport is valid for at least six months AFTER the expected finish date of your voyage.

SEA KAYAKING

The sea kayaking program is directed at any passenger with an adventurous spirit and some prior paddling experience. This option MUST be reserved at the time of booking and attracts an additional charge of $US795 per participant. You cannot book sea kayaking on board the ship. You will need to complete a special questionnaire outlining your previous kayaking experience. Ask your agent, or our office for a copy of this document if you are interested in joining the sea kayaking program.

THE ONE CLUB – EXPEDITION ALUMNI

Come as a passenger, leave as a friend. Once you have experienced one voyage with us, it’s likely you will want to experience another. Your commitment to travel with us is rewarded with our commitment to you, our valued guest. As members of the One Club Expedition Alumni, your loyalty is rewarded with a range of great travel benefits when you return for your next voyage — no matter the destination. Ask your booking agent for details.
Supporting Polar Science
One Ocean Expeditions collaborates with various research partners, who are executing important and relevant projects while on-board our expeditions. These projects are funded and assisted by One Ocean Expeditions and our guests. Research may range from collecting data for critical oceanographic studies, to the tagging and tracking of migrant whale populations for universities and science institutions.

World Leading - the World Over
For several years One Ocean Expeditions and The Royal Canadian Geographical Society have maintained a collaborative relationship grounded in geographical education, exploration, science, social and economic community development, Canadian national identity and experiential travel. We are proud to be the exclusive marine travel partner of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society and affiliates.

The Right Team
Fewer than 100 guests on the ship doesn’t mean fewer staff. Quite the opposite. You will come to appreciate the dedication of our expedition team when onboard the ship. The highest staff to guest ratio in the industry (1:2) allows you to experience the broadest range of activities possible, catering to all interests and abilities. We are known for our flexible, yet professional approach and an ability to ‘make it happen’.

INTERESTED IN THIS EXPERIENCE?

When choosing to travel with One Ocean Expeditions we ensure your
Start by customizing your journey and mapping out the trip ahead.

If this sounds like the right trip for you, please discuss your ideas and plans with your preferred booking agent. They will reserve a cabin for you on your chosen voyage. This provides time to book flights to the embarkation points of this voyage and to plan other pre or post voyage travel requirements. Please remember that you will require comprehensive travel insurance to join our voyages. This is best arranged at the time of booking. Following confirmation of your reservation, you will need to complete a detailed One Ocean Expeditions Booking Package plus other pre-voyage documentation to accompany your deposit. At this point your voyage of discovery is underway.

Take advantage of our experience, which spans decades of expedition travel in the Polar Regions. Should you have any questions, we are here to help at any time.

YOUR NOTES:

Trip Note Updated: 08OCT19 - JM