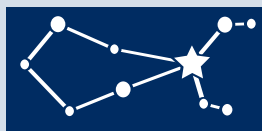


ARCTURUS

THE POLAR ARM OF FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL



**VOYAGES AND EXPEDITIONS
2014-2015**



ARCTURUS

THE POLAR ARM OF FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL



Welcome to Arcturus, the polar arm of Far Frontiers Travel, and our 2014-2015 catalogue.

This year we continue to offer our land-based trips in Greenland, Kamchatka and Norway and to extend our range of ship voyages to the Arctic and Antarctic. The trend for late bookings continues, so in order to assist those still keen to book an Antarctic voyage for winter 2013-14 we have included many of these departures as well as those for the 2014-15 season.

All our voyages and expeditions are accompanied by excellent trip dossiers, so here we just give you a taster of what we will be running over the next twelve months. Our expertise in tailor-making itineraries means that we can also advise our clients on extending their voyages to create an exciting grand finale to their trip.

Upon enquiry, we will send you a detailed itinerary which should help to answer any questions you may have – but as our regular clients know, we are always ready to discuss any aspect of your plans so do call us for a chat.

We are also delighted that Dr. Lorraine Craig continues on board to advise on polar matters.

Fiona Brijnath, Director

About us

Arcturus, based in Devon, is a small niche travel company specialising in polar tours. The company has been operating for over 30 years and, as one of the foremost operators to the polar regions, we offer an unparalleled selection of extraordinary expeditions and voyages to the Arctic, Antarctic, Norway, Greenland, Iceland and some of the remotest parts of Russia. Now owned by and operating as the polar division of Far Frontiers Travel Limited, the company was, in its early days, one of the pioneers of wildlife tours in the Arctic. Our itineraries have their genesis in years of local research and experience and many of the contributions to the programmes we offer today were made by early travellers to these regions for scientific research, expeditions or simply for pure pleasure!

At Arcturus, we arrange our own expeditions, mostly camping, walking, dog-sledging and skiing, with an emphasis on enjoying wildlife and scenery in remote places. We also act as agents for selected operators for adventure voyages in the Antarctic and the Arctic.

The company is run by Fiona Brijnath who, with her life-long career in the travel business, has developed tailored travel itineraries for over 20 years, many of them for clients who return time and again. She will be your first point of contact, ably assisted by Dr. Lorraine Craig PhD who was previously Head of Research and Higher Education at the Royal Geographical Society and Director of the Cambridge Arctic Shelf Programme. In addition to being past president of the Arctic Club,



Lorraine has led walking and skiing expeditions for Arcturus in West and North East Greenland. She is currently based at the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College London and, when she is not lecturing, advises on all polar matters, leads tours and helps to develop new destinations.

Fiona's travel to remote destinations has equipped her with unrivalled expertise. You are unlikely to find anyone who gives more attention to personal service and detail or who is better equipped to advise on how to make yours the trip of a lifetime.

“ Travel is my great love, but I can't be out and about all the time so I relish the chance to pass on my best experiences to those explorers with a true desire to discover the world. ”

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Give us a call... There is only so much space in a brochure to give you a feel for what's possible on an Arcturus expedition or voyage. If you find something that interests you, we'd love you to call to discuss your ideas.

Have a look... at www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk where you will find fuller itinerary descriptions, maps, Fiona's trip reports (and those of her clients), many more photographs – including cabin shots of the ships – client feedback and more!

Sign up... Finally, let us know if you would like to receive our regular Dispatches e-newsletter – all we need is your email address.



COVER PHOTO: Joerg Ehrlich, Oceanwide Expeditions.
PHOTOS PAGES 2 & 3: Arcturus; Andrew Halsall, Aurora Expeditions;
Rual Kemp, Aurora Expeditions; Polar Latitudes; K Orsyankova,
Heritage Expeditions and Mark Jones, Aurora Expeditions.
WATERCOLOUR MAPS THROUGHOUT: Claire Baker.



Prices

All the guide prices quoted here include international flights from London in economy class, internal transport, transfers to the embarkation point where it is possible to pre-book and accommodation based in twin rooms with meals as specified. Guide prices for voyages are based on twin cabins with shared or private facilities and we can provide prices for single occupancy, triple, quadruple and superior cabins and suites (where available) on request. Trips are fully-guided either from the UK or locally. We also include fuel surcharges known at the time of going to print. Please note however, that in a climate of fluctuating fuel prices, we are bound to pass on any additional surcharges as we are informed of them.

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e: fiona@arcturusexpeditions.co.uk **w:** www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk

Pre and post-tour arrangements

Because we specialise in tailor-making holidays all over the world we are more than happy to make additional pre and post-tour arrangements on your behalf. For example, we can suggest some fantastic extended trips to Chile, Argentina or Ecuador and The Galapagos for those on Antarctic voyages. If you are visiting Arctic Russia, you could begin or end the trip marvelling at the fabulous sights in Moscow and St. Petersburg or why not explore Iceland before or after your voyage to Greenland?

Please do call us to discuss your individual requirements.

Your financial protection

All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this brochure are financially protected by the **ATOL** scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate.

Total Payment Protection (topp) Policy cover: In compliance with the UK Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 an insurance policy has been arranged with Travel & General Insurance Company plc, authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority, to protect customers' prepayments in the unlikely event of our financial failure and paid in respect of:

- non-flight inclusive packages commencing and returning to the UK
- the ground handling aspects of packages where the customer is responsible for arranging travel to the destination offered in this brochure (subject to the terms of the insurance policy), for:
- a refund of such prepayments if customers have not yet travelled, or
- making arrangements to enable the holiday to continue if customers have already travelled.

Customers' prepayments are protected by a topp policy. In the unlikely event of financial failure please contact the claims helpline on 0870 0137 965. A copy of the policy is available on request.



Far Frontiers Travel specialises in tailor-making bespoke travel to Central Asia, China and Mongolia, the Far East, Indian Subcontinent and the Himalayas, Indochina, Myanmar, Middle East, North Africa and Europe, Russia and South America. We pride ourselves on providing a friendly and professional service at all times.



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Arcturus has over 30 years' experience in leading expeditions for small groups of people and can cater for varying levels of fitness. By day we take long or short hikes on foot, snow shoe or ski or explore by boat, and at night we camp in comfort. You will make friends and share priceless experiences to treasure for a lifetime.

» itineraries «

Dog-sledging in mainland Norway

Explore Dividalen – drive your own dogs | 6 days

Everyone agrees on how exhilarating it is to explore by dog sledge, standing on the runners whilst the dogs take the strain. Snow and weather conditions permitting, you will make daily trips through beautiful snowscape. After a day on the trail relax around a log fire. Your hosts have a fund of stories about life in the north. They are excellent cooks and their menus feature locally caught reindeer, elk and salmon. There's usually the chance to enjoy a sauna or hot tub before you fly home.

- » dates « 28 February – 5 March 2014
- » price « £1,750 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4-6. Accommodation in cosy cabin. No previous experience required

Mountain dog sledging hut to hut | 8 days

Combine extensive exploration of Dividalen's dramatic scenery of mountains, lakes and high plateaux with the luxury of spending each night in a different mountain hut. Our route will depend on the weather and snow conditions but in the evenings we shall relax in comfort over meals made with local produce, discussing the day's journey.

- » dates « 16-23 March 2014
- » price « £2,495 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4-8. Accommodation in mountain huts. Some previous experience required

The Kings Way: Crossing Norway into Sweden | 8 days

NEW
FOR 2014

This dog-sledging expedition takes us along the **King's Way** from the dramatic high peaks and rock faces of **Norway** to the vast open plateaux and lakes of **Sweden**. There will be opportunities for dog-sledging along frozen rivers and lakes and exploration of the varied countryside around **Kiruna**. The expedition ends near **Jukkasjarvi** where the famous **Ice Hotel** is located. Made using ice from the **Torne River**, it is the largest igloo in the world and features ice sculptures, a cinema and the **Absolut Ice Bar** carved entirely from ice. We can organise a night or two in the hotel for those who want to experience this unique accommodation.

- » dates « 15-22 April 2014
- » price « £2,625 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4-8. Accommodation is in mountain huts and our journey may involve some camping and long days of sledging. Previous experience required

PHOTOS: Basecamp Explorer and Basecamp Spitsbergen.



ARCTIC NORWAY AND SPITSBERGEN

Early spring when the days are rapidly lengthening is a beautiful time of year in the Arctic and travelling by dog-sledge is to experience its true spirit. These expeditions in the mountains and high plateaux of **Northern Norway** have been organised and led by our Norwegian friends for many years. We can arrange short trips and extensions such as a visit by skidoo to the **Sami (Lapp)** people in their summer or winter camps, to **Summer Island** or the picturesque **Lofoten Islands** or a day visit to **Tromsø** and its **Polar Museum** and **Northern Lights Planetarium**. For all trips you will drive your own dog team.

Dog-sledging in Spitsbergen

Winter dog sledge to basecamp ship in the ice | 6 days

Travelling in the footprints of Fritjof Nansen, you'll head out from **Longyearbyen** in **Spitsbergen** to beautiful **Tempelfjorden**, mushing your own dog team of Alaskan huskies to your base for two nights – a well-appointed ship frozen into the pack ice. The boat has 10 comfortable two-bed cabins, and there are good on-board facilities. Enjoy delicious meals and return home with the knowledge of the special relationship between a man and his dog in the Arctic.

- » dates « Weekly from 1 March – mid May 2014
- » price « £3,290 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Drive your own dogs. All equipment provided and all necessary training given



SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO (SPITSBERGEN)

BEST TIME TO GO: January to early April for good snow conditions for sledging.

TOP TIP: We provide superbly warm sledging suits and thick felt-lined boots so you will never be cold.

DON'T MISS: The polar museum in Tromsø – it has wonderful atmosphere.

WHAT TO EXPECT: Stunning displays of the Aurora Borealis in the night-time sky in the depths of winter (if you're lucky)!



NEW FOR 2014 – Two unique lodges ideal for private parties



Isfjord Radio

Situated about 90km west of Longyearbyen, the remote Isfjord Radio station was, until a few years ago, an important telecommunications link between the Norwegian mainland and the inhabitants of Svalbard. Tastefully renovated, it now operates as a wilderness station with modern comforts and has 23 rooms with 49 beds in four buildings with shared facilities. The dining room has breathtaking views over Isfjorden towards Greenland.

Footprints from Nordenskiöld | 7 days

NEW
FOR 2014

This is for those wanting to experience a long dog sledging expedition into the true Arctic land, but not to sleep in a tent! The expedition starts from Longyearbyen, continuing northwards to Tempelfjorden and to the unique Basecamp ship in the ice. Spend the night on the 100 year-old schooner before continuing deeper into the north towards Nordenskiöld Glacier and Basecamp Nordenskiöld. This is your base for the next two nights from where you'll make dog sledging forays over sharp mountains, shiny glaciers and frozen fjords before returning to Longyearbyen.

- » dates « 8-14 May 2014
- » price « £3,295 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Suitable for those who don't want to camp. Sledging kit provided

Oscar II Land – cross-country skiing | 7 days

Oscar II Land is one of the most beautiful areas on Spitsbergen, with its black and sharp mountain peaks that rise up through white glaciers, surrounded by the blue sea. In the midst of all this lies Trollheimen – home of the Trolls.

We arrive by boat from Longyearbyen and don our skis right on the beach. The winter conditions in the Svalbard Archipelago in May are still fantastic – the temperature seldom drops below minus five degrees Celsius (23°F) and the sun won't set for another three months! The entire 80km route is on glaciers, and we haul our equipment on sleds. Nights are spent in warm sleeping bags inside our expedition tents.

This is a challenging expedition with five days of skiing and four nights in a tent. You may experience all kinds of weathers, from snowstorm to sunshine.

- » dates « 25-31 May 2014
- » price « £2,710 per person
- » leader « Experienced local leader
- » key info « Minimum 4 persons. You need to be in good physical shape and have experience including skiing and pulling ski-pulkas. All necessary safety and camp equipment provided



Nordenskiöld Lodge

The northernmost cabin for commercial trips on Svalbard, with no running water or electricity, Nordenskiöld Lodge is a true expedition lodge in the middle of the Arctic. We use wood to heat up the cabin and fetch drinking water from the melting glacier. There are five large bedrooms with fantastic Arctic views, 11 comfortable beds, an indoor toilet and a traditional Finnish sauna. It's modern and comfortable with big windows looking out at the mighty Nordenskiöld Glacier.

Both lodges are accessed by boat in summer and, during winter, by dog sledge or snowmobile.

Tailor-made dog sledging for private groups

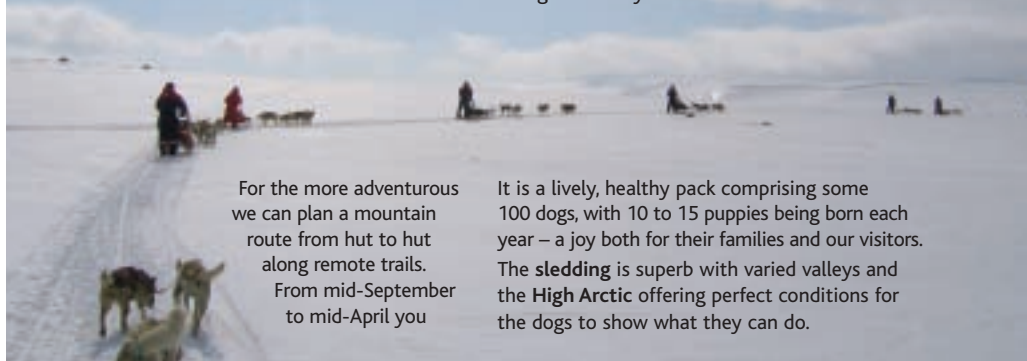
Don't forget that we can tailor-make a private dog-sledging experience exclusively for you and your family, or a small group of friends. Expeditions can be in summer or winter, from three hours to a journey of up to three weeks.

In Northern Norway, you'll be guests of our old friends who work their dog team out of a comfortable cabin at Øverbygd at latitude 69N. Enjoy convivial, cosy evenings, perhaps with a delicious reindeer stew round the fire, or a glass of wine under the stars in the hot tub.

may be lucky enough to see the Northern Lights dancing in the sky.

In Spitsbergen, our partners run their family-owned business from Bolterdalen, a valley 10km from the main town of Longyearbyen. They have many years of combined experience derived from the Elite Military Sled Patrol (Sirius, Greenland and Svalbard).

The dog team is made up of Greenland dogs thought to be directly descended from huskies brought there by the first Inuit settlers.



For the more adventurous we can plan a mountain route from hut to hut along remote trails. From mid-September to mid-April you

It is a lively, healthy pack comprising some 100 dogs, with 10 to 15 puppies being born each year – a joy both for their families and our visitors. The sledging is superb with varied valleys and the High Arctic offering perfect conditions for the dogs to show what they can do.

Magic of the Arctic – Summer Spitsbergen | 6 days

NEW
FOR 2014

Join us on our summer adventure to Basecamp Isfjord Radio at Cape Linné. After two nights in Longyearbyen we head out to Isfjord by boat. On our way we will have time to enjoy the fantastic fjord, the bird cliffs and the animal wildlife. Far away from civilization you'll discover the history, biological diversity and geological conditions which make this a fascinating place to visit. The former radio station is situated at the outermost part of the Isfjord with majestic mountains overlooking the Arctic Ocean - unique accommodation of unexpected quality and comfort so deep into the wilderness.

- » dates « Weekly from June – September 2014
- » price « £2,370 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « All equipment provided. Not suitable for those with lower back pain

Week-long dog sledge expedition to Basecamp Isfjord Radio | 7 days

If you like walking in the mountains this expedition gives you the chance to explore Arctic landscapes and nature, and find out more about yourself in the process, together with a friendly dog team.

The expedition is challenging with two nights in tents and two at Isfjord Radio. You might have blizzards, fog or sunshine for 24 hours. You will be best prepared if you already have dog sledging experience, but it's easy to learn and enjoy and most of all you must be fond of dogs!

- » dates « 14-20 April 2014
- » price « £3,695 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Includes two nights camping. The snow can be wet and heavy and it might get freezing cold so it is not for everyone and demands a sufficient level of fitness. All equipment provided

PHOTOS: Basecamp Spitsbergen; Norquest.

ICELAND AND GREENLAND



Greenland remains a popular destination for our expeditions. If you are joining a ship in Iceland, it is well worth adding a few days to your trip pre or post voyage or considering a stand-alone holiday.

Iceland in summer is a land of midnight sun, whilst in winter you may be lucky enough to witness the Aurora Borealis in all its glory. It beckons the visitor with a network of hauntingly scenic routes and many of its natural history sites are well-marked and close to the road. We highly recommend self-drive itineraries by car or four-wheel drive or, for the more cautious, we have various chauffeur-driven options to suggest.

» itineraries «

Dog sledding around Liverpool Land with Inuit hunters | 10 days

Leaving the small hunting village of **Ittoqqortoormiit (Scoresby Sund)** we head due north to explore **Liverpool Land** where sheer cliffs drop down to meet the sea ice and deep valleys beg to be explored. To the west lies **Jameson Land** and, to the east, **Liverpool Land** where it's mostly glaciated land breeding icebergs. We should see countless signs of snow hares, lemmings and polar foxes and we may be lucky enough to see polar bear.

Our guides are local mushers with a wealth of knowledge about the area and how to not just survive the cold but to fully enjoy it. Two nights are spent in a local guest house in Ittoqqortoormiit and the rest in tents or local huts.

- » dates « Tailor-made to suit
- » price « £2,970 per person
- » leader « Local Greenlander
- » key info « Weather and snow conditions will determine final itinerary. All equipment provided. Price based on two travelling. Two guests per sledge, overnighing in tents or cabins

At home in Kap Tobin | 7-10 days

This is a truly unique trip based close to **Scoresby Sund** on **Greenland's** east coast. You'll stay in a privately owned home where the owner will guide you by day and cook for you at night. Enjoy a two-day dog sledge trip to **Kap Heogh** on the coast of **Liverpool Land** as well as snowmobile day trips to **Kap Hope** and **Apuseq Glacier** for fantastic views up the north coast. During the two days you spend with local hunters you will observe them checking their seal holes and be on the lookout for polar bear, seals and narwhales.

- » dates « Group dates Spring 2014 upon request, tailor-made to suit
- » price « Price on request
- » leader « Icelandic local expert
- » key info « Group size 4-5. You'll feel more like a house guest than a visitor. At Kap Heogh overnight in tents or a basic hunter's cabin

Icebergs of West Greenland | 10 days

Our suggested itinerary for individuals incorporates boat trips among the spectacular grounded icebergs of the fjord at **Illulissat** and some easy walking in this third largest settlement in Greenland. A few days should be spent on **Disko Island** with time to visit the research station and walk among the basaltic lavas. After a boat trip to **Port Victor** you'll visit local viewpoints to see the glacier front and, hopefully, calving icebergs. One more challenging walk enables you to get up close to the inland ice.

- » dates « Tailor-made for two people to suit
- » price « £4,165 per person
- » leader « Local Greenlander
- » key info « Accommodation is limited so it is a good idea to book early

The world's largest fjord system by schooner | 10 days

NEW
FOR 2014

Experience the **High Arctic** on board the schooner **Hildur**. The great fjord system of **Scoresby Sund** extends 350km inland and is a perfect setting for exploring this remote, fascinating region. The enclosed waters of the sound are calm and many of the fjords have sheer cliffs plunging to depths of more than 3,000 metres. Highlights of this unique voyage include the granite cliffs of **Milne Land**, trekking the **Hjørmedal**, scouting for musk oxen, catching Arctic char and hiking with views of the inland ice and old Inuit settlements.

- » dates « Dates on request
- » price « Prices on request
- » leader « Expert in sailing and wildlife of Greenland
- » key info « Local weather conditions determine final itinerary. Accommodation is in made up bunk/beds with shared facilities and all meals are on board the schooner

TAKE WITH YOU: A bathing suit as you can swim year-round in countless geothermal pools and lagoons with a typical temperature of 25-28°C.

READ: *Sirius Patrol* by Peter Schmidt Michelson.



Iceland bespoke

Be it self-drive, super jeep, private tour or small escorted group, ask our help to dovetail these options into your itinerary or combine them into a stand-alone **Iceland** holiday.

Golden Circle – This classic nature tour of south west Iceland includes the spectacular waterfalls at **Gullfoss**, **Pingvellir National Park** (now a UNESCO World Heritage site) and the bubbling geothermal area of **Geysir**.

The Blue Lagoon – Visit the geothermal field on the **Reykjanes Peninsula** to relax in its hot therapeutic waters and peaceful surroundings.

Black lava riding – An unforgettable half or full day in the saddle on a sturdy Icelandic pony.

South coast and waterfalls – Don't miss the dramatic **Seljalandsfoss** and **Skógafoss** waterfalls, walking to the snout of the **Solheimajokull Glacier**, black sand beaches and quaint villages.

Whales, puffins and sails – Tour the north coast on board a classic 19th century style schooner for whales and puffins at **Lundey Island** from June to mid-August.

Snaefellsness Peninsula – This national park offers vast lava fields, rugged coastline, pebble beaches, sea stacks, a profusion of sea birds and gorgeous fishing villages.

Myvatn and the north – Visit the majestic **Godafoss Waterfalls**, the **Hverarönd solfataras** (boiling sulphur mud pits) and **Lake Myvatn** – Europe's largest bird sanctuary.

Drive around Iceland | 8 days

NEW
FOR 2014

This tailor-made self-drive package will take you all around **Iceland**. Along the route you'll be able to stop at many spectacular and extraordinary natural attractions (see above).

- » dates « Tailor-made to suit
- » price « From £1,825 per person
- » key info « You drive yourselves – easy to do and we give plenty of advice. **Reykjavik** has lovely boutique hotels we can suggest as an upgrade



For map of Greenland see page 9

PHOTOS: Artcurus.



ARCTIC AND FAR EAST RUSSIA

Much of **Arctic Russia** is tundra dotted with countless lakes and pools through which the vast north-flowing rivers wend their way to the Arctic Ocean. During the short, intense summer these areas are the nesting sites for numerous birds, including the red-breasted goose, Siberian crane and Ross's gull. Wild flowers brighten the ground and musk oxen, bears, reindeer, lynx, wolverine, wolves and foxes roam.

The **Kamchatka Peninsula** in the Russian Far East is home to the Itelmen, Eveni and Koryaks, some of whom live by their traditional ways of hunting, fishing, reindeer-herding and gathering wild plants. You will feel privileged to be gaining an insight into their very different way of life. Kamchatka is also the home of Russia's largest brown bear. The rivers teem with at least five species of spawning salmon and its rugged coastline accommodates thousands of seabirds as well as seals, sea lions and sea otters. In the valleys plants grow at an incredible rate during the summer due to the volcanically-warmed and minerally-enriched soil.

» itineraries «

Dog sledging with the reindeer herders and native people | 15 days

Our route takes us over the pristine snow-covered mountain passes, high plateaux and valleys close to the volcano **Ichinskiy** in central **Kamchatka**. This area is the traditional home of some of the native peoples and we shall stay at an Eveni reindeer herder's winter camp and the wilderness home of a family of Koryak fishermen.

Nights are spent in huts or yurts (large, heated tents). In the village of **Esso** we will visit the museum, bathe in a hot pool, meet the local people and learn about their culture. If our visit coincides with the 'Beringia' dog sledge race we may be able to watch some of it and meet the competitors.

- » dates « 10-24 February 2014
23 February – 9 March 2014
- » price « £4,995 per person
- » leader « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » key info « Group size: minimum 4, maximum 8

Dog sledging to Nalycheva Valley | 11 days

This exciting dog sledging expedition will take us to the centre of the **Nalychevo National Park** which lies to the north of **Petropavlovsk**. The park is in a magnificent setting surrounded by nine volcanoes, some of them still active. The valley has many fascinating geothermal areas to explore and spectacular scenery. Our nights will be spent in comfortable huts and we shall have plenty of opportunities to enjoy bathing in the hot springs.

- » dates « 9-19 March 2014
- » price « £4,195 per person
- » leader « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » key info « Group size: minimum 3, maximum 8

Bears, volcanoes, native people, reindeer herders, autumn colours | 18 days

In order to experience the richness of the region's flora, fauna and geology, its scenery and autumn colours, we plan to visit as many habitats as possible including the central valley with the **Kamchatka River**, **Tolbachik**, **Kzudach**, **Mutnovsky** and **Vachkazhets** volcanoes, **Kurilskoe Lake** and the hot **Khodukta River** in the southern tundra. **Kurilskoe Lake**, part of a nature reserve, is one of the best places on the peninsula to see brown bears and Steller's sea eagles. Moving around by helicopter and truck we will watch bears feeding on berries and salmon spawning, swim in hot rivers, meet the locals in the settlement of **Esso** and stay overnight with the nomadic reindeer herders in their summer mountain camp.

- » dates « 24 August – 10 September 2014
- » price « £4,890 per person
- » leader « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » key info « Based on a group size of 10-14. The pace will be leisurely. The walks are not difficult and are entirely at the discretion of the individual



For map of the Russian Far East
see page 12



TEMPERATURE: We should warn that winter dog sledging expeditions are for the hardy as it can be extremely cold!

BEST TIME TO GO: June to September for summer adventures, January to March for winter activities.

DID YOU KNOW: The Solovetski Islands boast over 170 architectural and archaeological monuments, including 33 mysterious stone labyrinths dating back around 3,000 years.



Solovetski Islands and the White Sea | 12 days

Situated in the **White Sea**, 150km south of the Arctic Circle, the **Solovetski Islands** were first settled by monks in the 1430s. The archipelago has six large and nearly 100 smaller islands which abound with lakes, wildflowers and nesting birds and, in summer, beluga whales gather to calve in the shallow waters.

On the largest island, surrounded by enormous stone walls, stands the legendary 16th Century **Solovetski Monastery**, which in the 20th Century was one of the most feared and infamous prison camps or 'gulags'. Now that the monks have returned, you can visit the beautiful cathedral, church, refectory and other buildings enclosed by the great 'kremlin' or fortification.

In some places, using small boats and wooden rakes, men still collect seaweed to be made into local products. Accommodation here is simple – family-owned comfortable small hotels with delicious food. It's an excellent place for walking in summer.

- » dates « 8-19 June 2014
or we can tailor make to suit
- » price « £2,895 per person
- » leader « Local English speaking Russian leaders
- » key info « Group size 6 minimum. Weather may be variable with temperatures ranging from 5-20 degrees C. The pace will be leisurely, easy walking and entirely at discretion of the individual

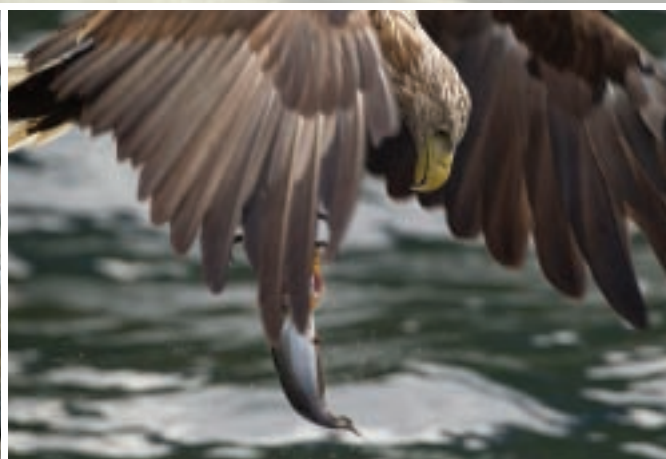


DON'T MISS: The exquisite art and architecture of Moscow and St. Petersburg would make a memorable beginning or end to your Russian Arctic exploration.

PHOTOS: G Breton and K Ovsyanikova, Heritage Expeditions.

Many of our clients are drawn back time after time to visit different areas of the High Arctic. We offer a variety of voyages, some geared towards active exploration with walking, kayaking or skiing, others for those who want a more leisurely pace in comfortable vessels. Whichever you choose, the memories of this dramatic wilderness will stay with you always.

Voyages – THE ARCTIC



The unimaginable majesty of the Arctic, a vast ice-encrusted ocean ringed by islands, casts a spell on all who visit.

» new for 2014 «

- » New ship, new voyages – all-suite ship **Sea Explorer** in the **Canadian Arctic**
- » **Spirit of Enderby** visits annual **Beringia Festival** with **Chukotka – Where Russia's Day Begins**
- » **Commander Islands** special conservation voyage with **Spirit of Enderby**
- » New itineraries for **Ortelius – Bear and Hopen** islands in June and **83 North** in August

Several of our voyages are around **Spitsbergen**. Dutch for 'pointed mountains', this is an evocative name for the largest island of the **Svalbard Archipelago** in the High Arctic, 1,300km from the North Pole. It has a fascinating history of Arctic exploration and whaling. The scenery is dramatic – snowy peaks rise majestically through huge ice-caps, glaciers creep down valleys to the sea and sparkling ice walls enclose deep fjords. All this is surrounded by the glistening pack-ice as we walk along rocky shores. Since the banning of hunting in the 1970s, the populations of bears and walrus have dramatically increased and you are almost certain to see these magnificent creatures on your voyage.

East Greenland is one of the least visited places in the High Arctic since permission to land on the coast of the National Park is granted to very few operators. Our voyages to East Greenland cover the beautiful fjord system of **Scoresby Sund** and the scenically spectacular south east coast, while **West Greenland** reveals its glorious shores from **Ilulissat** to **Thule**. Since they take place towards the end of the Arctic summer when the ice has receded, the autumn colours should brighten the tundra and there is an excellent possibility of seeing the Northern Lights.

We also sail to the **Scottish Islands**, **Russia**, the **Canadian Arctic** and the **High Arctic**.



The descriptions in the following itineraries are a guideline only, since the routes taken and the landings made will be dependent on ice and weather conditions. We are happy to supply you with more detailed descriptions, day-by-day itineraries and reports of similar voyages in previous years on request.

Where activities are available on certain voyages they are shown here. These are optional, for which a supplement is usually payable.

PHOTOS: Caroll Hall and Al Bakker, Aurora Expeditions; Meghan Kelly, Heritage Expeditions and Yathin, Oceanwide Expeditions.



SCOTTISH ISLANDS, SPITSBERGEN AND GREENLAND

» itineraries «

Fair Isle, Jan Mayen, Spitsbergen | 10 days

This voyage works well for those who want to start out from **Scotland** and end in **Spitsbergen**. It leaves **Aberdeen** and journeys to **Fair Isle** and the rarely visited volcanic island of **Jan Mayen** before travelling north to **Longyearbyen**.

- » ships « **Ortelius, Plancius**
- » when « 30 May – 8 June 2014, 8-17 June 2014
- » guide price « **£2160** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Snow shoeing

Wild Scotland | 9-12 days

A journey from **Oban** to **Aberdeen** among the remote islands north and west of Scotland revealing hidden lochs, diverse wildlife, picturesque villages and a jagged coastline steeped in Neolithic history.

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 15-26 June 2014
- » guide price « **£5,195** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)
- » activities « Kayaking

Introduction to Spitsbergen | 10 days

**NEW
FOR 2014**

This voyage provides the opportunity to experience everything **Spitsbergen** has to offer, including polar bears and walrus, all in spectacular scenery. On board the luxurious **Sea Spirit**, you'll be treated to daily presentations by your expedition team with daily wildlife sightings on land. Hike, explore and enjoy the beauty of the Arctic.

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 1-10 June 2014, 29 June – 8 July 2014
- » guide price « From **£4,595** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Kayaking

Spitsbergen explorer | 12 days

**NEW
FOR 2014**

This tour is perfect if you prefer short sea voyages with frequent shore landings and Zodiac cruises. Here you'll find enough polar bears, reindeer, walrus and whales to keep your camera constantly clicking as well as a bounty of seabirds, including Arctic tern, skua, barnacle geese and snow bunting.

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 9-20 June 2014, 19-30 June 2014
- » guide price « From **£6,110** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Kayaking

Spitsbergen circumnavigation | 14 days

A complete circuit of **Spitsbergen**, one of the longest voyages of its kind. Numerous visits are made to outlying islands where you'll see scores of nesting seabirds, walrus lolling on the shores, and polar bear prowling the ice edge. In this remarkably diverse landscape you can explore everything from jagged mountain peaks to sweeping polar deserts.

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 7-20 July 2014, 19 July – 1 Aug 2014
- » guide price « **£7,085** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Kayaking

Scoresby Sund Basecamp Ortelius | 10 days

By early autumn the ice floes have usually dispersed and it is possible to enter the fjords of **East Greenland**. The days are still long, but temperatures can drop below freezing and the scenery of stark ice contrasts with the rich autumnal colours of the tundra. We visit a modern settlement and witness traditional Greenlandic culture. We should see birds moving south on migration, musk oxen, seals and possibly narwhals. On clear nights we hope to see the **Aurora Borealis**.

- » ship « **Ortelius**
- » when « 5-14 September 2013
11-20 September 2014
- » guide price « **£4,295** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Diving, hiking, kayaking, photography

North East Greenland | 15 days

Between the high ice-cap of **North East Greenland** and the sea is a broad strip of low country that is free of snow in summer and covered in places with rich vegetation that supports much wildlife. Some of the people of **Ittoqqortoormiit**, the main settlement in the region, still make a living hunting polar bears, musk oxen, seals, whales and seabirds.

Crossing from **Spitsbergen** we keep watch for fin, humpback and minke whales and approach East Greenland, landing at **Myggebogten**. Moving south to **Scoresby Sund** we land near a glacier and encounter huge icebergs before disembarking finally in **Akureyri** in North Iceland.

- » ships « **Ortelius, Plancius**
- » when « 30 August – 13 Sept 2014 (Ortelius)
24 August – 7 September 2014
5-19 September 2014*
- » guide price « **£6,495** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- * Operates in reverse



North/around Spitsbergen | 9-12 days

We head north along the west coast of **Spitsbergen** up to **Ny Ålesund**, the world's most northerly settlement, once a mining village and now a research centre. Depending on weather, we may go ashore on **Andøya** where common eiders and pink-footed geese nest, and sail into **Liefdefjorden**, cruising near the 5km long face of the **Monaco Glacier**. We continue into the **Hinlopen Strait**, where we will attempt a landing at **Nordautlandet**. On to **Phippsøya** and, pack ice conditions permitting, to **Laagøya**, a low island where walrus congregate. We'll navigate the ice floes of **Lomfjordshalvøya** by Zodiacs and explore the bird cliffs and, in **Freemansundet**, plan to land on **Barentsøya** to visit an old trapper's hut. Then south to **Edgeøya** landing on a beach littered with whale bones and tree trunks which have drifted over from Siberia. Our voyage ends in the spectacular **Hornsund** area. Depending on ice conditions early season voyages may only cover the west side of Spitsbergen.

- » ships « **Ortelius, Plancius, Polar Pioneer**
- » when « Numerous departures
June – August 2014 (see box below)
- » guide price range « **£4,445 – £7,225** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Diving, kayaking, hiking, basecamp voyages, snow shoeing, photo workshop

» options « **Ortelius** has a voyage which includes **Bear Island, Svalbard's** southernmost island, from 7-16 June 2014. **Ortelius** and **Plancius** each have two June voyages designated Polar bear specials and **Ortelius'** August polar bear special hopes to reach 83 degrees North. **Ortelius'** 13-24 August 2014 and **Plancius'** 14-25 August 2014 departures hope to make it to rarely-visited **Kvitøya**, far to the west, close to Russian territory. **Plancius** will operate **Basecamp Plancius** with a departure in early July 2014.

Polar Pioneer offers two 13 day **Spitsbergen Odyssey** departures 19-31 July and 29 July – 10 August 2014 for those wanting a more intimate ship experience.



For map of Spitsbergen see page 4

PHOTOS: Al Bakker, Aurora Expeditions.

SAIL SPITSBERGEN, LOFOTENS AND GREENLAND



» itineraries «

Sail North Spitsbergen | 12-13 days

Embarking at **Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen's** administrative capital, we sail through **Isfjorden** to **Trygghamna** to visit the remains of a 17th century English whaling station. Weather permitting we will go ashore at **Fuglehuken**, where the expedition of Willem Barentsz landed and **Ny Alesund**, the northernmost permanent settlement in the world. Sailing from here to **14th July Glacier** we take Zodiacs to the breeding site for Brunnich's guillemots, little auks and puffins. On to **Magdalenafjord** and **Ytre Norskøya** which was used as a lookout point for Dutch whalers. **Raudfjord** on the north coast offers good chances for spotting polar bears and belugas and we may be able to land on the northern side of **Reindyrfla** where reindeer graze on the tundra.

We turn south after **Smeerenburg** which was the largest whaling settlement on Spitsbergen. If we are able to make land on the return journey, fit walkers can take the six-hour walk from **Colesbukta** to Longyearbyen.

- » ship « **Noorderlicht**
- » when « May – July 2014
- » guide price « From **£3,995** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Sail around Spitsbergen | 17 days

We aim to circumnavigate **Spitsbergen**. Early itineraries might cover the North Spitsbergen route depending on the condition of the pack ice. Later in the summer when the ice has cleared we sail through the **Hinlopen Strait** and visit **Nordautlandet** and **Edgeøya**. This route provides the greatest chance of seeing Greenland whales.

- » ship « **Noorderlicht**
- » when « July – September 2014
- » guide price « **£4,970** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)



“ For weeks after coming home I felt homesick (even physically) for all I experienced on these voyages – the beauty, the ruggedness, the quiet, the cleanliness, the fauna & flora, the life on board, my fellow passengers, the staff and crew... ”

Janice Hinlopen,

Spitsbergen circumnavigation and North East Greenland back-to-back voyages, July 2012

Sail North, South or West Spitsbergen – Aurora Borealis | 8-11 days

These journeys cover the western half of **Spitsbergen** in September and October, just before the onset of winter, an ideal time for observing the **Aurora Borealis**. During nights with open skies we could experience temperatures of -10°C and new ice will be forming on the heads of the fjords.

- » ship « **Noorderlicht**
- » when « September, October 2014
- » guide price « From **£2,495 – £3,200** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Sail Lofotens – Aurora Borealis | 8 days

In the autumn the days are getting shorter in northern Norway but the daytime colours are beautiful. Expect the first snow showers, and temperatures just above freezing. At night we may be able to admire the **Aurora Borealis**. Embarking in the harbour at **Lødingen** we sail for **Tysfjord**, planning to land at **Musken**, a Sami community, and later visit the untouched wilderness area of **Hellemobotn**. We visit **Leiknes**, **Skarverberget**, **Tranøy** and **Skrova**, a small, rugged island where the locals still hunt minke whales. We end our voyage at **Vestbygd** before returning to **Lødingen**. The weather can be quite rough, so the itinerary is provisional.

- » ship « **Noorderlicht**
- » when « Numerous departures Oct – Dec 2014
- » guide price « **£1,930** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)



West Greenland ski and sail | 10 days

NEW FOR 2014

These are voyages for experienced ski mountaineers who like to climb snow-covered alpine mountains and ski downhill. During the voyage you'll cover the area between **Nuuk** and **Manitsoq**. Non-skiers may explore the valleys and lower peaks by snowshoe and we'll all have the opportunity to see wildlife at sea and on shore from the ship. The last voyage looks out for bowhead whales en-route to **Aasiaat**.

- » ship « **Rembrandt Van Rijn**
- » when « April, May 2014
- » guide price « from **£4,195** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Snow shoeing, mountain skiing

Sail Disko Bay, Umanak and Thule | 10-20 days

NEW FOR 2014

Our voyages vary in length, start and end in **Aasiaat**, and include **Jakobshavn Glacier**, **Hunde Eijland** and the **Kronprinsens Eiland** archipelago. We sail to **Flakkerhuk** on the east side of **Disko Island**, past huge icebergs, observing species such as long-tailed skuas, turnstones and grey phalaropes. Good walkers may walk to **Skansen** to rejoin the ship. At **Naajat**, we sail with Zodiacs along a kittiwake colony of more than 10,000 breeding pairs. Sailing through **Ata Sund** we reach the **Eqip Sermia** – a great glacier front, where the French explorer **De Quervain** built his station and ascended to the ice-cap before returning to **Aasiaat**. Longer voyages in June and July head north of the **Nuussuaq Peninsula** to circumnavigate **Upernavik**.

- » ship « **Rembrandt Van Rijn**
- » when « May – September 2014
- » guide price « Ranges from **£4,160 – £6,295** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Sail Disko Bay, West and South Greenland | 10 days

NEW FOR 2014

These four voyages sail in week-long stages from **Aasiatt** to **Kangerlussuaq**, to **Nuuk** and, lastly, **Narsarsuaq**. The last voyage of the season in early October covers the southern tip of Greenland and there will be good chances to see the **Aurora Borealis**.

- » ship « **Rembrandt Van Rijn**
- » when « September, October 2014
- » guide price « From **£3,585** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)



For maps of Spitsbergen and Greenland see pages 4 and 9

PHOTOS: Jan Belgers, Kees Beekman and Ella Groedem, Oceanwide Expeditions and Malcolm Mundy.

ICELAND, GREENLAND, HIGH ARCTIC AND CANADIAN ARCTIC



Three Arctic islands – triple the adventure | 15 days

This award-winning expedition voyage takes you high above the Arctic Circle in Spitsbergen to the Northeast coast of Greenland and across to Iceland. The magnificent Northeast coast of Greenland will astound with its icy fjords, rugged coastline and massive glaciers. Along the way you'll see plenty of Arctic wildlife, including musk oxen, polar bears, walrus and seals.

- » ship « Sea Spirit
- » when « 31 July – 14 August 2014
- » guide price « £7,535 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Kayaking

Jewels of Northeast Greenland | 16 days

Northeast Greenland is the world's largest national park with shy and elusive wildlife – home to polar bear, walrus, Arctic hare, musk ox and many kinds of seals. Ice conditions are unpredictable, often creating new opportunities to explore. If the pack ice allows, we'll attempt to reach the rarely visited Kaiser Franz Josef Fjord, possibly sighting seals along the coast. The first voyage spends two days in Spitsbergen and ends in Iceland. The second operates in reverse.

- » ship « Polar Pioneer
- » when « 8-23 August 2014
- » when « 21 August – 5 September 2014
- » guide price « £7,220 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)
- » activities « Kayaking

Arctic quest – Greenland to Churchill | 17 days

NEW
FOR 2014

Explore the best of Greenland's west coast on this new voyage including Ilulissat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the fastest and most active glaciers in the world. Also explore Beechey Island, landing site of the Franklin expedition and the most notable landmark of the Canadian Arctic.

- » ship « Sea Explorer
- » when « 29 July – 14 August 2014,
- » when « 11-27 August 2014
- » guide price « £8,995 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

In the footsteps of Franklin – Greenland and Canadian High Arctic | 14 days

NEW
FOR 2014

This voyage ventures into the far reaches of the Arctic, home to polar bears and walrus, where Inuit communities still maintain their traditional ways of life. Explore the fjords of Greenland by ship and navigate Canada's historic Northwest Passage following in the footsteps of past explorers.

- » ship « Sea Explorer
- » when « 24 August – 6 September 2014
- » guide price « £7,225 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Kayaking

Epic High Arctic – Baffin via Fury and Hecla | 14 days

NEW
FOR 2014

Follow a truly epic route explored by very few on this High Arctic voyage that navigates the challenging Fury and Hecla Strait between Resolute and Iqaluit. An exploration of historic Canadian sites in the Arctic combined with abundant wildlife makes for a special expedition. This in-depth adventure provides fantastic opportunities for seeing all of the Arctic's iconic creatures, including polar bears.

- » ship « Sea Explorer
- » when « 3-16 September 2014
- » guide price « £6,920 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Kayaking

Epic High Arctic | 13 days

This voyage from Resolute to Kangerlussuaq takes you to the top of the world. Travelling well beyond the Arctic Circle and into the far North, we explore Western Greenland, eastern Baffin Island and the route to the North Pole. This expedition features some of the most breathtaking scenery in the Arctic – towering ice capped mountains, fjords, and glaciers. Weather and wildlife encounters are less predictable than elsewhere in the North, but sightings of polar bear, walrus and bowhead whale are not unusual.

- » ship « Sea Adventurer
- » when « 1-13 August 2014
- » guide price « From 7,890 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Into the Northwest Passage | 19 days

We start with a monumental voyage along one of Greenland's longest fjords, 168km out to Davis Strait as we cross into the Arctic Circle. Turning the corner, the ship heads north, with stops along the Sisimiut coast, and at Ilulissat where we marvel at the vast ice fields. At Karat Fjord, we'll hike through the tundra, and after Upernavik cross the Davis Strait to Nunavut. From here we sail into the famed Northwest Passage, looking for narwhal and bowhead whales before landing on Devon Island and Beechey Island to visit the chilling site of the lost Franklin Expedition. Finally we enter Bellot Strait and Queen Maud Gulf, before arriving in Kugluktuk.

- » ship « Sea Adventurer
- » when « 11-29 August 2014
- » guide price « From £10,625 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

The North Pole ultimate Arctic adventure (by icebreaker) | 14 days

From Murmansk we cross the Barents Sea towards Franz Josef Land, where shore landings are planned and at 90 degrees North, the top of the world. Stand on the North Pole and hike on the expansive ice before continuing with a watchful eye for polar bears to Franz Josef Land. Sightseeing by helicopter gives you an unforgettable aerial view of the ship crushing its way through the Arctic Ocean pack ice on this most memorable of journeys.

- » ship « 50 Years of Victory
- » when « 19 June – 2 July 2014
- » when « 30 June – 13 July 2014
- » when « 14-27 July 2014
- » when « 25 July – 7 August 2014
- » guide price « £17,210 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)



For maps of Iceland and Greenland see pages 6 and 9

FOR THE ACTIVE: Pick the hiking-focused voyages – you can do some great walks of 6-7 hours on selected days.

TOP TIP: Book a Scotland to Spitsbergen voyage and then the consecutive North Spitsbergen one. It's fun to leave the UK by ship and you will get a discount off the second voyage.

PHOTOS: 123RF Stock Photo; Adventure Canada and Carroll Hall, Aurora Expeditions.



An exquisite land of snow covered volcanoes, lava fields, hot springs, geysers, lush valleys, tundra, fast flowing rivers and rugged coastline, Russia's Arctic Far East simply cries out to be discovered. Early summer is the best time to see migrating and breeding birds, land and sea mammals and wild flowers.

» itineraries «

Chukotka – where Russia's day begins | 17 days

NEW FOR 2014

This very new voyage starts and ends in **Anadyr** and aims to view both brown and polar bears in one trip. We hope to attend the annual **Beringia Regatta and Cultural Festival** and watch 'the locals' using their traditional *baydara* boats. You'll meet the people, hear their stories and learn of their love for and strong connection with the land and the sea.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 10-26 July 2014
- » guide price « **£8,850** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Sea of Okhotsk | 15 days

Journeying from **Sakhalin** to **Magadan**, this voyage visits the **Sea of Okhotsk** or the 'Sea of Hunters', yet despite the hunting that has gone on over the years, this sea remains one of the richest in the world. Little, however, is known about it – the freshwaters of the **Amur River** flow into the vast, naturally-sheltered sea and freeze into ice-floes that make it impassable for much of the year.

A centre for 19th century whalers, whale numbers are recovering and we hope to see a number, including a rare western population of grey whale, as well as bowhead whales. Ribbon seals and tufted puffins are also on our list as well as wolves, Arctic fox and the Kamchatka brown bear.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 10-24 June 2014
- » guide price « **£6,930** per person per person twin cabin (shared facilities)

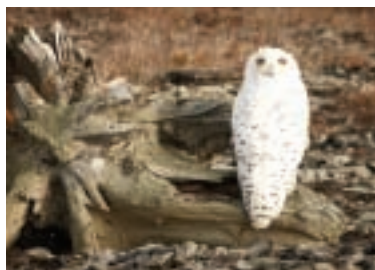
Across the top of the world | 18 days

Discover the north eastern part of Eurasia (**Chukotka**) in a way that has never been possible before. On this expedition we cruise across the **Arctic Circle** through the **Bering Strait** and into the **Arctic Sea**. It will be midsummer with 24-hour daylight and the ice will have retreated. On shore you will meet the Chukchis, who have learned how to live in one of the harshest environments on the planet. We plan several days at **Herald Island** and **Wrangel Island**, a world class nature reserve, often referred to as the 'polar bear maternity ward'.

Ask for details of the **Wrangel Island traverse** – an optional three day crossing.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 6-23 August 2014
20 August – 6 September 2014
- » guide price « **£10,375** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

ARCTIC AND FAR EAST RUSSIA



Jewel of the Russian Far East | 15 days

This unique expedition offers an excellent overview of the entire region and coincides with generally more settled autumnal weather and colours along the coast. Along with the **Kamchatka Peninsula** and the **Commander Islands** we will explore the **Chukotka** coastline of Siberia, one of the world's last untamed wildernesses, and will have the opportunity to meet local people and learn of their history.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 3-17 September 2014
- » guide price « From **£6,995** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Commander Islands conservation cruise | 12 days

NEW FOR 2014

This voyage starts and ends in **Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy** and provides a unique opportunity for passengers actively to assist researchers by undertaking shore and ship-based wildlife surveys.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 18-29 May 2014
- » guide price « **£4,455** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Russia's Ring of Fire – birding the Russian Far East | 16 days

Commencing in **Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy**, this voyage covers the the **Kuril Island** and **Kamchatka** region with its stunning volcanoes and wide diversity of birds. The **Kuril Island** chain comprises 32 islands that stretch between Russia and Japan across the **Bering Sea**.

The larger islands are inhabited, and most people still make their living from the sea. Here you will see gigantic herbs as well as bear, foxes, seals, sea lions, fur seals and otters. The **Kamchatka Peninsula** is a land of bays and snow-capped volcanoes, alpine meadows and lowland forests. The seas washing their coasts are among the world's most productive and the area teems with birds and marine mammals, as do the remote **Commander Islands**, which we also visit.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 27 May – 11 June 2014
- » guide price « **£7,215** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

PHOTOS: K Ovsyanikova, E Bell and M Baird, Heritage Expeditions and Arcturus.

Voyages – THE ANTARCTIC



The Antarctic, particularly the peninsula or 'White Continent' has an incomparable and irresistible beauty – this magical frozen land with its awe-inspiring glaciers and rich diversity of bird and wildlife resonates with the history of intrepid explorers and epic struggles for survival. We offer a range of voyages on icebreakers and expedition ships that is continually changing, so if you cannot find exactly what you want here we will happily make suggestions on places and optional activities to suit your requirements.



Most of our voyages depart from **Ushuaia** at the southern tip of South America and cross the **Drake Passage**, spending several days visiting the **South Shetland Islands** and the **Antarctic Peninsula**. A few voyages embark in the South Shetland Islands (utilising a flight from **Punta Arenas**) thereby avoiding the infamous Drake Passage Crossing. The peninsula is a spectacular chain of mountains and glaciers and is the richest part of Antarctica for wildlife. The waters are sheltered by islands which makes for comfortable sailing and easy landings. Some of these voyages also visit **South Georgia** and the **Falkland Islands**.

South Georgia is a 100-mile long island with mountains and glaciers that equal the grandeur of Antarctica. There is also a green fringe of vegetation that supports a greater variety of wildlife, including the magnificent king penguin and wandering albatross, many smaller birds such as the endemic pintail and pipit, as well as teeming colonies of fur seals. For those interested in its history, many voyages visit the scene of Shackleton's epic crossing of the island.

The Falkland Islands are different again: An archipelago of large and small islands with an even more varied wildlife and relaxed lifestyle among the human inhabitants.

More adventurous voyages head for the **Ross Sea**, sometimes called 'The Far Side of Antarctica' – on an icebreaker, to visit emperor penguin colonies and Scott's and Shackleton's huts. Because some of the vessels are comparatively small, early booking is recommended.



The descriptions in the following itineraries are a guideline only, since the routes taken and the landings made will be dependent on ice and weather conditions. We are happy to supply you with more detailed descriptions, day-by-day itineraries and reports of similar voyages in previous years on request.

Where activities are available on certain voyages they are shown here. These are optional, for which a supplement is usually payable.

» new for 2014/2015 «

- » Luxury ship **National Geographic Orion** heads to **South Georgia** and the **Falkland Islands**
- » New operator for **Antarctica** and **Antarctic Peninsula**, **South Georgia** and **Falklands** itineraries with luxury adventure ship **Sea Explorer**
- » Limited **Ross Sea** options for 2014 and 2015 mean that the 2015 season will be busy. We've published dates now for 2015 to encourage early booking.
- » We've included dates for **2013 – 2014 voyages** where there is still late availability

"In December 2012 I was able to fulfil my dream of setting foot on Antarctica despite my age (83 and eight months) and disability. Thanks to Fiona's meticulous planning and the resulting support of guides and the Plancius crew at every step en-route and on the boat, I was able to travel there and back alone, and to enjoy shore landings and zodiac rides. A truly stunning experience. I realise how blessed I was to have so much encouragement and help both from Fiona and the expedition team."

Dr Grete Gross,
Antarctic Peninsula voyage, December 2012

PHOTOS: Andrew Halsall, Aurora Expeditions; Adventure Canada; One Ocean Expeditions and Polar Latitudes.



“ As you know, I have waited 60 years for this and the whole Plancius experience on the exact centenary of Scott's last expedition was just magical. Absolutely brilliant. ”

John Sharples,
Antarctic Peninsula, January 2012

» itineraries «

Classic Antarctic Peninsula with South Shetlands | 13-15 days

These voyages offer the best introduction to the **White Continent**. They begin in **Ushuaia** and sail across the **Drake Passage** directly to the **Peninsula** providing good chances to see gentoo and adeliie penguins and humpback whales. In addition to seeing as much as possible of the peninsula's wildlife and scenery, some voyages also include the **South Shetland Islands** where you visit the abandoned whaling station on **Deception Island**. The return voyage is through the **Gerlache Strait**, home to leopard seals and blue-eyed shags, followed by a visit to a research station. Landings to view wildlife, historic sites and operational bases are usually made twice a day while Zodiac cruises offer an exciting alternative.

- » ships « **Ocean Diamond, Ortelius, Plancius, Polar Pioneer, Sea Adventurer, Sea Explorer, Sea Spirit**
- » when « Numerous voyages
November 2013 – March 2014
November 2014 – March 2015
- » guide price « From **£5,895** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Kayaking, snow shoeing, camping

Antarctic Peninsula Basecamp Plancius/Ortelius | 14-15 days

Basecamp voyages offer a different concept – where a selection of activities (such as kayaking, camping, hiking, soft mountain climbing and photo workshops) will be packed into one departure and included in the price of your voyage. The vessel will stay for two or three days at specific locations in order to allow more active passengers a comfortable hub for their wide-ranging pursuits.

- » ship « **Ortelius, Plancius**
- » when « 10-23 November 2013
23 February – 9 March 2014
2-16 March 2014
9-22 November 2014
19 November – 2 December 2014
1-15 March 2015
- » guide price « From **£6,925** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « All optional activities are free. Diving, kayaking, hiking (hikes of approx. 5-7 hours), snow shoeing, mountaineering, camping, photo workshop



FALKLAND ISLANDS, SOUTH GEORGIA AND ANTARCTIC PENINSULA



Falklands, South Georgia, Antarctic Peninsula | 20-24 days

These longer voyages visit the **Falkland Islands** calling at **Port Stanley**, then head for **South Georgia** spotting a great number of seabirds as we cross the **Convergence**. Three days are spent in **South Georgia** visiting historic sites and encountering fur and elephant seals, albatross and petrels. Then to the **Antarctic Peninsula** via **Orcadas Station** in the **South Orkneys** for three days around the **Peninsula** and **South Shetland Islands**. On the return trip to **Ushuaia**, a profusion of seabirds follows the ship.

- » ships « **National Geographic Orion, Ocean Diamond, Ortelius, Plancius, Polar Pioneer, Sea Adventurer, Sea Explorer, Sea Spirit**
- » when « October – December 2013 and 2014 and January – March 2014 and 2015
- » options « **Polar Pioneer** operates a slightly shorter **South Georgia/Antarctic Peninsula** option. **Sea Explorer** operates a slightly longer version of this classic itinerary with two voyages also incorporating **Buenos Aires**. Their first voyage embarks there, disembarking in **Ushuaia**, and the second runs in reverse.
- » guide price « From **£9,370** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Diving, kayaking

Shackleton's Centenary Voyage | 23 days

NEW
FOR 2014

The timing is perfect for **Sea Adventurer's** early season voyage to **Antarctica** as in 2014 we celebrate the 100-year anniversary of **Sir Ernest Shackleton's** famed **Endurance** expedition. Join us as we retrace the routes and landings of this epic adventure. From the tip of **Tierra del Fuego**, to the **Falkland Islands**, the **South Orkneys**, **South Georgia**, the ice shelves and the **Antarctic Continent** itself, this is a trip like no other. Explore untouched islands, beaches, mountains and ice throughout the polar South, hike portions of **Shackleton's** fabled trek over **South Georgia Island** and pay your respects at his grave in the former whaling station of **Grytviken**. In this pristine environment you'll encounter albatross, sea elephant, fur and leopard seals, whales galore, and literally millions of penguins! Photograph extraordinary landscapes, fascinating wildlife, and savour the century-old remnants of polar expeditions in the place where legends live on!

- » ship « **Sea Adventurer**
- » when « 16 October – 7 November 2014
- » guide price range « **£9,165** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)



DON'T MISS: Camping overnight on the **Peninsula** to experience **Antarctic** weather close up. It might seem tough at the time but you won't regret it! Don't forget to pre-book as it's popular.

READ: *Captain Scott* by Sir Ranulph Fiennes and *South* by Sir Ernest Shackleton.

MY BEST MEMORY: Leopard seals circling and diving under our **Zodiac** while hunting penguins.

TOP TIP: Dress in many layers – you will need them.

Antarctica with a difference

We can offer similar Antarctic voyages but with notable differences in on-board service, with fewer passengers and extra staff. Each passenger is assigned to an 'adventure concierge' – a concept unique in the polar expedition cruise world – so you will have someone on board looking after your individual needs as you sail. Having fewer passengers allows for more flexibility with adventure options and this is the only way to experience overnight kayaking in the Antarctic. Itineraries vary from 12 – 22 days and include the **Classic Antarctic Peninsula**; **Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula**; and **Polar Circle** voyages. In early November the 16-day **Off the beaten track voyage** allows for superb ski mountaineering and overnight kayaking.

- » ships « **Akademik Ioffe, Akademik Sergey Vavilov**
- » when « Between November 2013 – March 2014 and November 2014 – March 2015. Call us for details



» itineraries «

Weddell Sea and Antarctic Peninsula | 14-16 days

A tremendous sense of excitement spreads through the ship as we enter the **Weddell Sea** on this voyage to the **Antarctic Peninsula's** wild side. Ahead are the locations where Shackleton's and Nordenskjöld's polar survival epic were played out, astonishing vistas and some of Antarctica's greatest penguin rookeries – for example **Paulet Island** with around one million breeding pairs of Adélies. Depending on the conditions, **Ortelius'** captain will endeavour to get close enough to **Snow Hill Island** for us to take a ship-to-shore helicopter transfer to a point 45 minutes' walking distance from the emperor penguin rookeries.

- » ships « **Ortelius, Polar Pioneer, Sea Spirit**
- » when « 21 November – 4 December 2013
1 – 14 December 2013
23 January – 8 February 2014
26 February – 12 March 2014
23 November – 6 December 2014
3-16 December 2014
January – March 2015
- » guide price « From **£8,875** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Kayaking, camping, Ortelius has on-board helicopters



WEDDELL SEA, ANTARCTIC PENINSULA, ROSS SEA

South Georgia, Weddell Sea and Falkland Islands | 23 days

Celebrating one of the greatest survival stories in Antarctic exploration, we take you into the **Weddell Sea**, where Ernest Shackleton commenced the first crossing of Antarctica. We follow in his wake, albeit in comfort and safety, to **Elephant Island** and **South Georgia**, shining a light on his heroic voyage. In the Weddell Sea we attempt to visit fossil-rich islands, wildlife havens, remnants of historic explorers' huts, and even land on the Antarctic Continent itself. Famed for its abandoned whaling stations, South Georgia is home to millions of fur seals and penguins, wallows of elephant seals, herds of reindeer and nesting albatross.

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 9-31 March 2014
- » guide price « From **£11,325** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)
- » activities « Kayaking, alpine crossing

Ross Sea, Antarctic Peninsula – Peter I Island – Ross Sea – Macquarie | 35-37 days

A true discovery voyage exploring the southern **Antarctic Peninsula**, the rarely visited volcanic **Peter I Island**, the outer fringes of the pack-ice in the **Amundsen Sea**, the **Ross Sea**, **Shackleton** and **Scott's huts**, **Mc Murdo Station**, the **Dry Valleys** and **Macquarie Island**. A spectacular expedition.

- » ship « **Ortelius**
- » when « 7 January – 12 February 2015
8 February – 14 March 2015
- » guide price « From **£23,570** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « On board helicopters enable you to reach otherwise almost inaccessible landing sites

Antarctica XXI | 11 days

Antarctica XXI is a unique air cruise to Antarctica. Avoid the notorious two day crossing of the **Drake Passage** and instead take a one and a half hour flight from **Punta Arenas** in Southern Chile to **King George Island**, the largest island of the **South Shetland Archipelago**, where you board your expedition ship. For the next five days you are on a **Classic Antarctic Peninsula** voyage. The first and last voyages of the season include a one way crossing by air.

- » ship « **Ocean Nova**
- » when « December 2013 – January 2014 and December 2014 – January 2015
- » guide price « From **£8,590** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Crossing the Polar Circle | 14-17 days

This expedition offers you truly in-depth exploration of the **Antarctic Peninsula**. Extended time in the region allows you to go beyond the peninsula and venture south of the Antarctic Circle. You'll enjoy more time for communing with penguins and visits to less-frequented landing sites.

- » ships « **Ocean Diamond, Ortelius, Plancius, Polar Pioneer, Sea Adventurer, Sea Spirit,**
- » when « 14-29 January, 8-21 February 2014
15 February – 3 March 2014
17 February – 2 March 2014
21 February – 9 March 2014
6-20 March 2014
January – March 2015
- » guide price « From **£7,415** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Diving, kayaking, camping

In the wake of Scott and Shackleton | 34 days

The **Ross Sea** is one of the most remote regions and is only accessible for two months each year when the ice thaws. It drew many of the most famous explorers and adventurers including **Scott**, **Shackleton** and **Amundsen**. We visit five historic huts and learn more of their history and the explorers' achievements. The **Ross Sea** region is the breeding ground for millions of adélie and emperor penguins and we regularly encounter both species. We have permits for landing in the sub-Antarctic islands **Auckland**, **Campbell** and **Macquarie**.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 8 January – 10 February 2014
5 February – 10 March 2014
9 January – 11 February 2015
7 February – 12 March 2015
- » guide price « From **£15,935** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

READ: *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage* by Alfred Lansing;
A First-Rate tragedy: Robert Falcon Scott & the Race to the South Pole by Diana Preston and *Mawson's Will* by Lennard Bickel.

LET US KNOW: If you have a connection with any of the polar regions we visit by ship. If you or a relative lived on one of the bases, or were a member of a past expedition, we can offer you the chance to share your experiences, diaries or photographs with others on your voyage. In the past we've even got the ship to make unscheduled visits to tie in with such an event.



Ships – A-Z OF THE SHIPS

Many of the vessels shown here offer a variety of cabins. Our guide prices are based on twin cabins with shared or private facilities, but we will be happy to quote for single occupancy, triple, quadruple or superior cabins and suites (where available) on request. Do visit www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk/ships to see more photographs (including cabins) and fuller information on each vessel.



50 Years of Victory

Nuclear powered polar-class icebreaker and the largest fitted for passenger travel to the North Pole.

- » **passengers** « 128 in 64 en-suite cabins of five categories, all with ocean views
- » **itineraries** « High Arctic
- » **operator** « Poseidon and Quark Expeditions



Akademik Ioffe

Sister ship to Akademik Sergey Vavilov. Comfortable, modern, ice-strengthened adventure vessel with the feel of a cruise liner. Equipped with zodiacs and kayaks.

- » **passengers** « 96
- » **itineraries** « Antarctic
- » **operator** « One Ocean Expeditions



Akademik Sergey Vavilov

Equipped with Zodiacs and kayaks. Highly manoeuvrable, her shallow draft permits passage through channels impassable by larger ships.

- » **passengers** « 92
- » **itineraries** « Antarctic
- » **operator** « One Ocean Expeditions



FORMERLY ORION

National Geographic Orion

Custom-built for expedition cruising in elegant and lavish comfort. More like a megayacht than a cruise ship with a crew of 75.

- » **passengers** « 106 in en-suite cabins
- » **itineraries** « Antarctic
- » **operator** « Lindblad Expeditions



Noorderlicht

Built in 1910 she was re-rigged and refitted as a two-masted schooner in the early 1990s. Would-be sailors can help the crew of five to sail her.

- » **passengers** « 20 in twin cabins (upper and lower bunks without ladder)
- » **itineraries** « Spitsbergen, Lofoten Islands
- » **operator** « Oceanwide



Ocean Diamond

Fast, super-yacht featuring numerous adventure options plus massage and wellness, photography programme, well-stocked polar library and expert in residence. All cabins have exterior views and en-suite facilities.

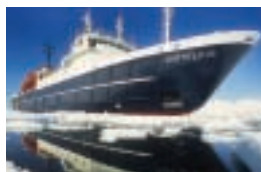
- » **passengers** « 189
- » **itineraries** « Arctic, Antarctic
- » **operator** « Quark Expeditions



Ocean Nova

Clean, crisp Scandinavian styling with a specially strengthened hull for parking on the ice!

- » **passengers** « 62
- » **itineraries** « Antarctic
- » **operator** « Antarctica XXI



Ortelius

Has the highest ice-class notation (UL1 equivalent to 1A) so very suitable to navigate in solid one-year sea ice and loose multi-year pack ice. Carries 11 Zodiacs. On board helicopter option.

- » **passengers** « 120
- » **itineraries** « Arctic, Greenland, Antarctic, Ross Sea
- » **operator** « Oceanwide



Plancius

Rebuilt in 2009. Comfortable, nicely decorated and well suited to exploratory educational voyages.

- » **passengers** « 110 – all cabins have private facilities in quadruple and twin formation, with portholes or windows
- » **itineraries** « Scottish Islands, Spitsbergen, North East Greenland, Antarctic
- » **operator** « Oceanwide



SMALL SHIP

Polar Pioneer

Refurbished in 2000. She has a bar/lounge/library area and a small fleet of Zodiacs.

- » **passengers** « 54 – all cabins have outside portholes and some have shared facilities
- » **itineraries** « Scottish Islands, Arctic, Greenland, Antarctic
- » **operator** « Aurora and Waterproof Expeditions (diving operator)



Rembrandt Van Rijn

Sailing ship: Although not ice-class, she has a reinforced bow and good open deck viewing areas. Rebuild and refurbishment completed in 2011.

- » **passengers** « 34 in mainly en-suite cabins, some with portholes
- » **itineraries** « Greenland
- » **operator** « Oceanwide



FORMERLY CLIPPER ADVENTURER

Sea Adventurer

An A-1 ice class expedition vessel in the style of great ocean liners. She has all new outside cabins with private facilities and a fleet of 10 Zodiacs.

- » **passengers** « 118
- » **itineraries** « Canadian Arctic, Antarctic
- » **operator** « Adventure Canada, Quark Expeditions



NEW for 2014-15

Sea Explorer

All-suite luxury expedition ship built in 1992 and refurbished in 2005. Ice class 1C vessel. All cabins with private facilities. Penthouse and Verandah suites have private balconies.

- » **passengers** « 114
- » **itineraries** « Canadian Arctic, Antarctic
- » **operator** « Quark Expeditions, Polar Latitudes

ARCTURUS works with almost all of the smaller ships currently operating in the Arctic and Antarctic. We navigate fjords, passages and ice floes and use Zodiac rigid inflatable boats guided by the ship's expedition staff for shore excursions.

All fitness levels are catered for and there is a comprehensive programme of lectures.

Because we specialise in tailor-making holidays all over the world we will be delighted to add on pre or post-tour arrangements as required.



Sea Spirit

Ice-class 1D vessel and remarkably comfortable. All cabins have private facilities and exterior views, flat screen TV and DVD player.

- » **passengers** « 112
- » **itineraries** « Antarctic, Arctic
- » **operator** « Quark Expeditions



SMALL SHIP

Spirit of Enderby

Fully ice-strengthened polar research vessel with comfortable accommodation. All voyages accompanied by experienced naturalists and guides.

- » **passengers** « 48
- » **itineraries** « Russian Far East, Antarctic, Ross Sea
- » **operator** « Heritage Expeditions



ARCTURUS

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