

ARCTURUS

THE POLAR ARM OF FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL



**VOYAGES AND EXPEDITIONS
2016-2017**



ARCTURUS

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Welcome to our 2016-2017 brochure for Arcturus, the polar arm of Far Frontiers Travel.



This year we're bringing you some exciting new land-based trips in **Greenland, The Faroes** and **Iceland** and extending our range of **Arctic** and **Antarctic** voyages. Late bookings are still popular, so we've included winter 2015-16 Antarctic voyages as well as dates for the 2016-17 season.

Our expertise in tailor-making itineraries means that we can also advise on how you can extend your voyage to build an exciting grand finale into your trip.

This brochure can only give you a taster of our portfolio of journeys for the months ahead. There's more on our website and we have excellent trip dossiers for all our voyages and expeditions. When you make an enquiry, we will send you a detailed itinerary, and, if it doesn't answer your questions, please do please call us. As our regular clients know, we are always ready and willing to discuss any aspect of your plans.

Once again we are delighted that **Dr. Lorraine Craig** continues to assist us with her expert advice on polar matters.

Fiona Brijnath, Director

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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. Owned by and operating as the polar division of Far Frontiers Travel Limited, Arcturus was, in its early days, one of the pioneers of wildlife tours in the Arctic, and our itineraries have their genesis in years of local research and experience. 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!

We arrange our own land-based 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.

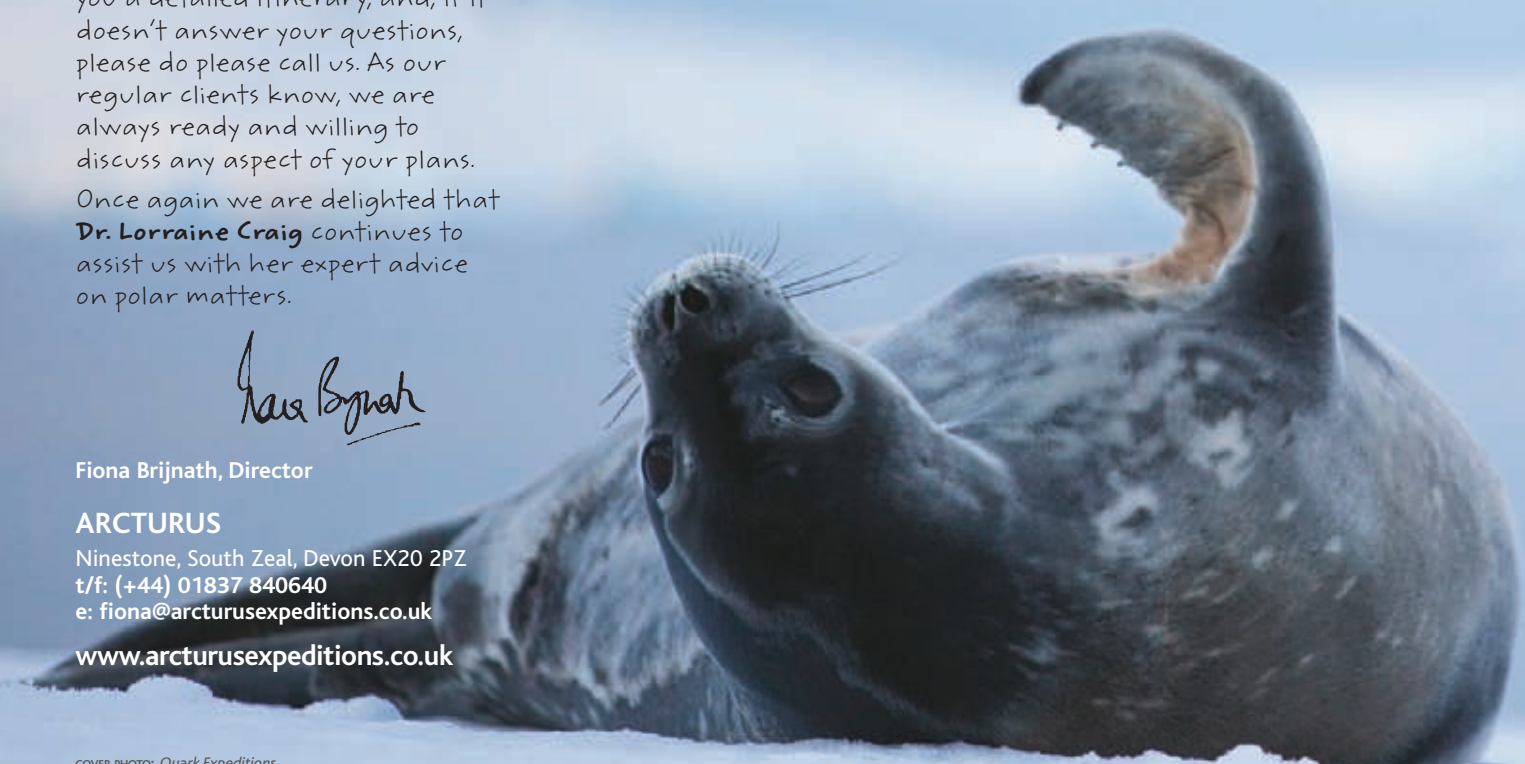


Fiona's travel to remote destinations has equipped her with unrivalled expertise. You are unlikely to find anyone who gives more attention to personal service and detail or who is better equipped to advise on how to make yours the trip of a lifetime.

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: Quark Expeditions
PHOTOS PAGES 2 & 3: Arcturus Expeditions; Quark Expeditions; Aurora Expeditions; Heritage 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.

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, Peru 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**?

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Arcturus is owned by Far Frontiers Travel which 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, South America, Japan and Australia. We pride ourselves on providing a friendly and professional service at all times.



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- 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

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Please do call us to discuss your individual requirements.

Expeditions

Exhilarating adventures
in small groups – hike,
snowshoe, ski, dog sledge
or snowmobile

ARCTIC NORWAY AND

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.

The Kings Way: Crossing Norway into Sweden | 8 days

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.

- » when « 15-22 April 2016
- » price « £2,735 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4. Accommodation in mountain huts, may involve some camping and long days of sledging. Previous experience required

» 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 a 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.

- » when « 16-21 February 2016
- » price « £1,845 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4. Accommodation in rustic/simple but 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.

- » when « 29 February – 6 March 2016
- » price « £2,595 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4. Accommodation in mountain huts. Some previous experience required



Northern Lights long weekend | 4 days

Winter in Northern Norway brings the opportunity of witnessing the extraordinary Northern Lights (*Aurora Borealis*) dancing in the sky. The phenomenon is caused by electrical particles from the sun which can suddenly appear and disappear again just as swiftly. We recommend our tailor-made weekends for private groups of four or more. You'll fly to Bardufoss in Arctic Norway and we will take you to your simple cosy accommodation for three nights. Try your hand at dog sledging or cross-country skiing, take a sauna or enjoy a hot tub under starry skies. We can see the *Aurora Borealis* around half of all clear weather nights during the winter, so your chances increase with the length of your stay.

- » when « To suit
- » price « £1,395 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4. Tailor-made for individuals or small parties. Accommodation in rustic/simple but cosy cabin

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)!

Tailor-made dog sledging for private groups

Why not let us 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.

For the more adventurous we can plan a mountain route from hut to hut along remote trails. From mid-September to mid-April you may be lucky enough to see the Northern Lights dancing in the sky.



SPITSBERGEN

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.

- » when « Weekly from 1 March – mid May 2016
- » price « £3,165 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Drive your own dogs. All equipment provided and all necessary training given

Arctic luxury – Isfjord Radio | 6 days

Join a snowmobile expedition to beautiful **Isfjord Radio** at **Cape Linnè**. This remote and unique boutique hotel, situated about 90 km west of **Longyearbyen** provides quality and comfort unexpected in the wilderness. You'll ride over glaciers, mountains and frozen fjords, and visit thrilling historical sites. There's a stillness and a light that is difficult to find elsewhere, and, if you are lucky, you might even glimpse a polar bear.

- » when « Departures on 3, 17, 31 March, 14 April and 5 May 2016
- » price « £2,555 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Minimum 4 people, private groups can also be arranged

Footprints from Nordenskiöld | 8 days

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

- » when « Departures on 1, 4 and 9 May 2016
- » price « £3,850 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Suitable for those who don't want to camp. Sledging kit provided



East to West skiing | 12 days

This superb skiing experience starts out with a snowmobile journey to the east coast. The starting point of the trip will be the **Bay of Agardh**. From here the group will aim to ski 20km each day and set up camp each night. It's a true expedition – you'll join in practical camp tasks such as melting water, making food and digging lavatories. After six days we hope to meet our goal – the last outpost to the west – **Isfjord Radio** where a comfortable bed awaits before the return to **Longyearbyen**.

- » when « Departures 24 April and 9 May 2016
- » price « £3,695 per person
- » leader « Experienced local leader
- » key info « Minimum 4 people. You need to be in good physical shape and have experience including skiing and pulling ski-pulkas. All necessary safety and camp equipment provided

Adventure week at Nordenskiöld Lodge | 7 days

This trip casts you far from **Longyearbyen**, right into the heart of the Arctic, to **Basecamp Nordenskiöld**. Accessed by boat, it's a true expedition lodge in front of the magnificent **Nordenskiöld Glacier** offering modern comforts without running water or electricity. We use wood to heat up the cabin and fetch our drinking water from the melting glacier. There are five bedrooms, an indoor toilet and a traditional sauna. The adventure week will include several full day trips, planned daily according to the weather.

- » when « Weekly departures July to August 2016
- » price « £2,995 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Minimum of 4 people. You need to be in fairly good physical condition to take part. Not recommended for those with back pain.



Land of pointed mountains, deeply etched fjords and the glorious clear sparkle of the Arctic summer



Thrilling options for adventures in Spitsbergen

If you would prefer a **private** dog sledging adventure with a local family to an organised group tour, our partners in **Spitsbergen** 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. 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 off what they can do.

Magic of the Arctic – Summer Spitsbergen | 6 days

Join us on our summer adventure to **Basecamp Isfjord Radio** at **Cape Linnè**. 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.

- » when « Weekly departures June – September 2016
- » price « £2,310 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « All equipment provided. Not suitable for those with lower back pain

If the expeditions mentioned here don't quite hit the mark, do ask us for other suggestions. We have over 25 different organised adventures involving dog sledging, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and polar nights, as well as some wonderful summer experiences which range from a few days to nearly two weeks.

ICELAND, GREENLAND AND THE FAROES

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 natural history sites 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 «

Drive around Iceland | 8 days

This tailor-made self-drive package will take you all around Iceland. Highlights of this magnificent tour include the geyser area, dramatic waterfalls at **Skógafoss**, **Seljalandsfoss**, **Gullfoss** and **Goðafoss**, **Skaftafell National Park** and **Jökulsárlón** glacial lagoon. You'll enjoy panoramic views of **Vatnajökull** glacier and then head north to **Lake Mývatn**, **Akureyri** and **Eyjafjörður**. Your epic journey will end back in Reykjavik with its wealth of delightful hotels and restaurants. Additional activities can be added to the programme such as riding, sea-kayaking, river rafting, whale watching, glacial hiking, caving and sightseeing flights.

- » when « Tailor-made to suit
- » price « From £1,645 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

Icelandic adventure up west | 9 days

NEW FOR 2016

This tour is a well-balanced pace of activity and relaxation giving insights to Icelandic life in the **West Fjords**. Highlights include **Borgarfjörður**, the highest Icelandic waterfall, **Glymur**, **Snæfellsnes National Park**, the fishing village of **Stykkishólmur**, bird watching at **Latrabjarg** and the nature reserve of **Vatnsfjörður**. You will also hike up to **Mt Bolafjall**, spend two nights in the beautifully located **Þverá** house, overnight in **Isafjörður** and enjoy **Haukadalur Valley** and the old farmhouse of Erik the Red.

- » when « Weekly departures mid June to mid August 2016
- » price « From £2,995 per person
- » key info « Guided tour in 4WD vehicle with professional English speaking driver/guide, very simple accommodation, shared facilities at farmhouses, most meals included

Best of North and South | 14 days

NEW FOR 2016

With guided day tours from **Akureyri** in the north and **Hella** in the south you stay in only two hotels which means less packing and unpacking and more free time to enjoy yourself. With a good choice of accommodation, we can tailor you the perfect stay in Iceland. The day tours offer breathtaking experiences at exceptional value. Highlights include **Hraunfossar Waterfalls**, **Glaumbær Turf Farm**, **Akureyri**, **Lake Mývatn**, **Jökulsárgljúfur National Park**, the **Kjölur** highland road, the hot springs of **Hveravellir**, the **South Shore**, **Volcano Hekla**, the **Westman Islands** and last, but certainly not least, the **Golden Circle**.

- » when « Weekly departures mid June to mid August 2016
- » price « From £2,455 per person
- » key info « Tours are guided on a daily basis. Rooms with private facilities. Optional tours include Hrisey by ferry and whale watching from Husavik

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 **Solheimajökull 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.

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

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



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.

» itineraries «

Liverpool Land | 10 days

NEW FOR 2016

There are a few areas in Greenland where the Inuit still use the dog sledge as their means of winter transportation and the most isolated village community, **Ittoqqortoormiit (Scoresbysund)** in the north east is one of them. Situated on the northern shore of the world's largest fjord, its inhabitants have a long tradition of hunting and travelling on the pack-ice as well as on land.

Ours is the very first effort to develop small scale tourism in co-operation with the people of **Ittoqqortoormiit**. These traditional dog sledging trips are made on the spectacular coast of **Liverpool Land** where the original Greenlandic way of hunting is still the basis of existence. Highlights include flights in Twin-Otter aircraft and helicopter, a few days in charming **Ittoqqortoormiit** village, wild arctic paradise and four days of camping and travelling with dog sledges.

- » when « Weekly departures March – May 2016
- » price « £3,995 per person
- » key info « Accommodation in guest houses and tents

Highlights of South Greenland

| 10 days

Experience life in the pretty towns of **Narsaq**, which lies among luxuriant hills surrounded by glacier ice, and **Qaqortoq**, a charming mix of old colonial houses and young students. They provide a contrast to the delightful, quiet warmth of **Igaliku** village. You will also have time to visit the historic site of **Brattahlíð** and take a boat cruise among the amazing blue icebergs of the **Qooroq Ice Fjord**.

- » when « June – Sept 2016, tailor-made to suit
- » price « £2,750 per person



Remote, magical lands of midnight sun and the ethereal *Aurora Borealis*

Fiona's travel tips

BEST TIME TO GO: Spring for Greenland sledging, summer for wonderful hiking.

READ: *Sirius Patrol* by Peter Schmidt Michelson.

Majestic mountains,
breathtaking fjords,
icebergs and communities
with enduring lifestyles

Gateway to East Greenland | 6 days

Kulusuk, a village of about 375 inhabitants, is a small settlement which provides an excellent insight into life in Greenland today. Traditional hunting and fishing are still essential sources of income, though tourism is becoming increasingly important.

Combine your trip with Tasiilaq, just south of the Arctic Circle, the largest town in East Greenland. The 10-minute helicopter ride from Kulusuk is one of the most scenic expeditions imaginable, as you cross the ice-filled sea separating these two mountainous islands. Tasiilaq boasts long hours of daylight in the summer, and the splendour of the Northern Lights in winter.

- » when « June – August 2016, tailor-made to suit
- » price « £2,260 per person

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.

- » when « June – August 2016, tailor-made to suit
- » price « £4,995 per person
- » leader « Local Greenlander
- » key info « Accommodation is limited so it is a good idea to book early

Kap Tobin Arctic wildlife safari | 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 oversee your trip and cook for you at night. Enjoy dog sledging and snowmobiling the local environs for fantastic views and hot springs. During your time with local hunters you will observe them checking their seal holes and be on the lookout for polar bear, seals and narwhales.

- » when « March – May 2016, tailor-made to suit
- » price « £5,775 per person
- » leader « Icelandic local expert
- » key info « Group size 4 minimum. Helicopter, snowmobile and dog sledge transport. Once you arrive, you'll feel more like a house guest than a visitor



Thrilling experiences in a rugged environment

Faroe Islands deluxe self-drive | 8 days

NEW FOR 2016

Your splendidly scenic self-drive tour starts in Vágur, heading by ferry to Mykines before the drive to Gjøgv, famous for its long canal. En route, stop in Vestmanna for a boat trip to the bird cliffs or visit the beautiful small villages of Saksun and Tjørnuvik. Continue north to the little settlements of Eysturoy and Klaksvik, the second largest town of the Faroes. We recommend a stop in Leirvík to see the Viking ruins on the way. You'll have time to include villages on Vidoy, Kunoy and Bordoy before your final destination, Torshavn, the islands' capital. From here travel by ferry to the little island of Nólsoy, where time stands still, before ending your adventure back at Vagar.

- » when « June – August 2016, tailor-made to suit
- » price « From £1,795 per person
- » key info « You can experience four seasons in one day. Average temperatures are 11°C in summer

THE FAROE ISLANDS, midway between Norway and Iceland, poke out of the Atlantic Ocean like hardy little flowers. The landscape is one of steep cliffs rising from the open sea, narrow straits and natural harbours surrounded by small villages. This nation of 18 small islands, all but one of which are inhabited by less than 50,000 people and more than three million sea birds, is a dream for ornithologists and nature lovers.

The Faroese are a proud people who, due to their remote location, have been able to preserve their own culture, traditions and language with its roots in the Old Norse.



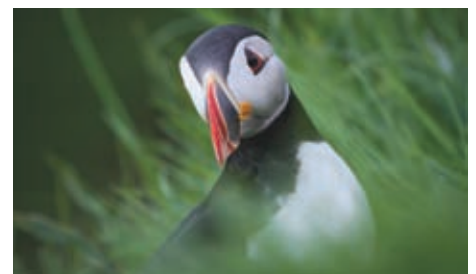
For map of Faroe Islands see our website and for map of Iceland see page 10.

Atlantic nature – Vagar and Streymoy | 8 days

NEW FOR 2016

For those who don't want to drive themselves, we've an eight day tour with three nights in Vagar and four nights in the capital Torshavn. With a great variety of guided day trips to choose from, we can tailor-make your stay to include bird cliffs, boat and ferry trips, ancient turf farmhouses, historic churches, a whaling station, Viking settlements, waterfalls and riding in spectacular scenery. Nature lovers will adore the wealth of birdlife including puffins and gannets.

- » when « June – August 2016, tailor-made to suit
- » price « From £1,645 per person
- » key info « Flights, hotels and transfers included. Optional guided trips can be added



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 «

Rugged snow-capped volcanoes, lava fields, geysers, fast flowing rivers, vibrant tundra and abundant wildlife



Dog sledging with the reindeer herders and native people | 16 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.

- » when « 9-24 February 2016
22 February – 9 March 2016
- » price « £4,990 per person
- » leader « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » key info « Group size: minimum 4, 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.

- » when « 24 August – 10 September 2016
- » price « £5,275 per person
- » leader « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » key info « Based on a group size of 10-16. The pace will be leisurely. The walks are not difficult and are entirely at the discretion of the individual



For map of Russian Far East see page 14



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.

- » when « 5-16 June 2016
or we can tailor-make to suit
- » price « £2,725 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.

PHOTO: Heritage Expeditions.

Voyages – THE ARCTIC

A wilderness of drama enticing you to explore at an active or leisurely pace

» new for 2016 «

- » Sea Adventurer and Sea Spirit combine Spitsbergen and Franz Josef Land in July
- » Sea Spirit heads to Jan Mayen en-route from Iceland in June
- » New Baffin Island voyage on Akademik Ioffe
- » Ocean Nova offers fly sail Arctic express possibilities in Greenland
- » Sea Spirit has early season voyages to Disko Bay and South and West Greenland
- » Expanded sailing programme in Greenland, Spitsbergen and Lofotens
- » New Canadian Arctic programme includes Sable Island and Newfoundland with Ocean Endeavour
- » Kapitan Khlebnikov returns for a series of challenges including a full Arctic circumnavigation
- » New land-based ice camp at 89 degrees North



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 increased dramatically and you are almost certain to see these magnificent creatures.

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**.

PHOTOS: Poseidon Expeditions; Alexandra Prokopyeva, Poseidon Expeditions; Amos Nachoum, Oceanwide Expeditions.



Certain voyages offer exciting optional activities for which a supplement is usually payable. Do call us for more information, detailed itineraries and reports of previous similar voyages.

The itineraries which follow are a guide only, since routes and landings will be dependent upon ice and weather conditions.



SCOTTISH ISLANDS, ARCTIC NORWAY AND ICELAND

Astonishing landscapes, timeless traditions and a profusion of whales and seabirds

» itineraries «

Wild Scotland | 11 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 « 13-23 June 2016
- » guide price « **£4,860** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Scotland to Spitsbergen crossing the Arctic Circle | 15 days

This mystical expedition cruise of the northern Atlantic offers rich culture and wildlife experiences. We'll explore the medieval art and archaeology of the Orkney and Shetland Islands before heading east to the picturesque port of Bergen. Continuing northwards into the Norwegian Sea, we'll discover the UNESCO-protected Vega Island – an ornithologist's dream – and call in at the Lofoten Islands. The voyage starts from Edinburgh and concludes with four days exploring the southern shores of Spitsbergen.

- » ship « **Ocean Nova**
- » when « 29 May – 12 June 2016
- » guide price « **£7,595** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Tromsø, Bear Island and Spitsbergen | 12 days

Venture from Tromsø deeper into the Arctic Circle, past iconic fjords towards the usually ice-bound Svalbard Archipelago. We'll discover the rarely-visited Bear Island, an important bird area. We'll explore the wildlife haven of Spitsbergen – a rugged land of deep fjords, mountains and ice sheets – and search for walrus, seals, reindeer, Arctic fox and the illusive polar bear.

- » ship « **Sea Adventurer**
- » when « 31 May – 11 June 2016
- » guide price « **£6,430** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

 For map of Spitsbergen see page 5

North/around Spitsbergen | 9-11 days

We head north along the west coast of Spitsbergen up to Ny Ålesund, the world's most northerly settlement. 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 Nordaustlandet. 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, ending in the spectacular Hornsund area. Depending on ice conditions early season voyages may only cover the west side of Spitsbergen.

- » ships « **Akademik Sergey Vavilov, Ortelius, Plancius**
- » when « Numerous departures
June – August 2016 (see box below)
- » guide price range « **£4,335 – £5,335** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

» options « **Polar Pioneer** offers two 12 day **Spitsbergen Odyssey** departures: 17-28 July and 27 July – 7 August 2016 for those wanting a more intimate ship experience.

» guide price « From **£5,525** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Ortelius and **Plancius** each have several voyages in June and August designated 'polar bear specials'. Early July 2016, **Ortelius** will operate **Basecamp Ortelius** with free activities. **Plancius** visits **Kvitøya** in August 2016.

Spitsbergen circumnavigation | 12-14 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 « **Ocean Nova, Sea Adventurer, Sea Spirit**
- » when « Six voyages June/July 2016
- » guide price « From **£5,495** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)



Spitsbergen and Franz Josef Land | 14-15 days

NEW VOYAGE

The archipelago of Franz Josef Land in Russia's far north is one of the most remote and raw locations in the world, discovered less than 150 years ago. It comprises 192 islands rich in birdlife and animals such as walrus, polar bear, seal, arctic fox and beluga whales. Now considered a nature reserve within the Russian Arctic National Park administration, it is visited by few people, and the landscape of its islands is still dotted with relics from famous explorers of the past. **Sea Adventurer** combines Franz Josef Land with a circumnavigation of Spitsbergen whilst **Sea Spirit** spends more time at Franz Josef Land.

- » ship « **Sea Adventurer, Sea Spirit**
- » when « 4-17 July 2016 (Sea Adventurer)
6-20 July 2016 (Sea Spirit)
- » guide price « From **£6,635** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Iceland, Jan Mayen and Spitsbergen | 13 days

NEW VOYAGE

Embark in Reykjavik before heading north to Ísafjörður and Iceland's western fjords, with the most beautiful scenery shaped by basaltic flows. After a day at sea and crossing the Arctic Circle we stop at Jan Mayen Island, with its landscape of awesome beauty and the northernmost subaerial active volcano on the planet – the **Beerenberg**. We have our first Spitsbergen landing at Hornsund, and then explore the history of whaling activities dating back to the 17th century at Gashamna. The voyage heads up the west coast of Spitsbergen as far as the world's most northerly settlement, Ny Ålesund, and the spectacular Monaco Glacier near Liefdefjorden before disembarking at Longyearbyen.

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 15-27 June 2016
- » guide price « **£5,875** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)





Adventures among awesome glaciers, icy fjords, Inuit people, polar bears, walrus and seals

GREENLAND

» itineraries «

Spitsbergen and 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** 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 **Myggebugten**. Moving south to **Scoresby Sund** we land near a glacier and encounter huge icebergs before disembarking finally in **Akureyri** in North Iceland.

- » ship « **Plancius**
- » when « 5-19 September 2016
- » guide price « **£6,440** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

East Greenland, Scoresby Sund and Aurora Borealis | 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 « 13-22 September 2016
- » guide price « **£4,225** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

- » options « **Sea Spirit** spends five days in **Greenland National Park** searching for narwhals and musk oxen. A landing is also planned at the camp of the elite Danish Navy Unit, the **Sirius Patrol**, before heading south to **Scoresby Sund**.
- » when « 12-24 September 2016
- » guide price « **£4,975** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)



Greenland's Northern Lights – cruise north, fly south and vice versa | 13 days

NEW VOYAGE

Scoresby Sund, the world's largest fjord system, beckons you to explore **Greenland**. Enticing you with some of the world's best displays of Northern Lights, the Inuit settlement of **Ittoqqortoormiit** and its inhabitants offer you a rare connection to the past, living off the land just as their ancestors did hundreds of years ago.

Iceberg-choked fjords, tundra hikes and the arctic wildlife of **Greenland National Park** create picture-perfect scenes every day. This is one of our most active expeditions, where you can climb atop mountains and watch herds of grazing musk oxen. It is pure wilderness at its finest – the untouched Arctic as it was thousands of years ago. The first voyage embarks in **northern Iceland**, cruising across the **Denmark Strait** to Greenland and makes its way south to **Constable Point** for the flight back to Iceland. A second voyage flies into **Constable Point** returning by sea to Iceland. If you're short on time, there's a third express voyage with flights both ways.

- » ship « **Ocean Nova**
- » when « 27 August – 8 September 2016
20 September – 2 October 2016
- » guide price « **£6,640** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities). Fly both ways – two departures in Sept 2016 price **£5,340** per person

Three Arctic islands – triple the adventure | 15-16 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**. Icy fjords, the rugged coastline and massive glaciers will astound you and you'll see plenty of Arctic wildlife, including musk oxen, polar bears, walrus and seals.

- » ships « **Ocean Nova, Sea Adventurer, Sea Spirit**
- » when « Three departures in July, August and September 2016
- » guide price range « From **£6,895** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Jewels of the Arctic | 16 days

Northeast Greenland is the world's largest national park with elusive wildlife – polar bear, walrus, Arctic hare, musk ox and many kinds of seals. 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 « 6-21 August 2016
19 August – 3 September 2016
- » guide price « From **£6,640** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Greenland to Canada: Inuit, icebergs and wildlife | 14 days

NEW VOYAGE

Flying into **Ottawa**, you'll take a charter flight to **Kangerlussuaq** for this exploration of historic Canadian and Greenlandic sites in the Arctic, combined with abundant wildlife and Inuit culture. This in-depth adventure with tundra-hiking and zodiac cruising provides fantastic opportunities for seeing all the Arctic's iconic creatures, including polar bears, whales and walrus. The voyage ends in **Baffin's Iqaluit** before the charter flight back to **Montreal** and home.

- » ship « **Sea Adventurer**
- » when « 11-24 September 2016
- » guide price « **£6,295** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

South and West Greenland | 13 days

NEW VOYAGE

Embarking in **Reykjavik**, we spend two days at sea to round **Cape Farewell**, the southernmost point in **Greenland**. We visit its most southerly town, **Nanortalik** lying at the mouth of beautiful **Tasermiut Fjord** and surrounded by steep mountains that flank an intricate fjord system. During the next five days we go north, visiting some of the enchanting tiny settlements: **Qaqortoq** and its Viking history; **Hvalsey's** 14th century church and **Qassiarsuk** with the remains of Eric the Red's manor house. We'll see the famous **Qilakitsoq** mummies in Nuuk before disembarking at **Kangerlussuaq**.

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 19-31 May and 5-17 June 2016
- » guide price « **£5,675** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Disko Bay | 10 days

NEW VOYAGE

Embarking and disembarking in **Kangerlussuaq**, Western Greenland, whales, nature, and cultural exploration will astonish you over the next six days in this iceberg paradise. At **Eivghedsfjorden** we hike among the majestic mountain peaks for an incredible 360 degree panorama of the surrounding fjords. We visit **Sisimiut**, 40 km north of the **Arctic Circle** and **Ilulissat** with its marvellous gallery of icy sculptures, where hiking in the surrounding hills reveals awesome views. Humpback whales abound in the nearby fjords. We plan to hike in the **Eqip Sermia** area to witness the icebergs calving. The bergs in **Disko Bay** come from the **Jakobshavn Glacier**, the world's fastest, which advances 40 metres a day. Spring offers good opportunities to spot bowhead whales which are still in the bay before heading west.

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 29 May – 7 June 2016
- » guide price « **£5,110** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)



For map of Greenland see page 7

PHOTOS: Aurora Expeditions, Camilla Hylleberg, Oceanwide Expeditions.

SAIL NORWAY, SPITSBERGEN, LOFOTENS AND GREENLAND



Watch whales and polar bears and visit remote settlements where the way of life has changed little over centuries

» itineraries «

Sail around Spitsbergen | 17 days

Sail Lofotens – Aurora Borealis

| 8 days

This year we visit the **Lofotens** in spring. Embarking in the harbour at **Lødingen** we sail for **Tysfjord**, planning to land at **Musken**, a Sami community, and later visit the wilderness area of **Hellemobotn**. We visit **Leiknes**, **Skarvberget**, **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 « Six departures March – April 2016
- » guide price « **£1,895** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Sail North Spitsbergen | 13 days

Embarking at **Longyearbyen** 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 **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**, and then **Raudfjord** on the north coast and we may be able to land on the northern side of **Reindyrfla** where reindeer graze on the tundra.

We turn south after **Smeerenburg** – once the largest whaling settlement. If we can gain permission, we will land on the island of **Danskøya**, with its remains of the failed expedition by **SA André** and his two fellow explorers who tried to reach the **North Pole** by hydrogen balloon.

- » ship « **Noorderlicht**
- » when « Three departures in June 2016
- » guide price « From **£3,895** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Sail South Spitsbergen – Aurora Borealis | 9 days

These journeys cover the western half of **Spitsbergen** in late spring and early summer, an ideal time for observing the **Aurora Borealis**.

- » ship « **Noorderlicht**
- » when « Five departures May – early June 2016
- » guide price « From **£2,690** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

We aim to circumnavigate **Spitsbergen**. The first itinerary 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 « 25 July – 10 August 2016
24 August – 9 September 2016
- » guide price « **£4,795** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Sail central Spitsbergen

| 9 days

NEW VOYAGE

The autumn **Spitsbergen** voyages are ideal for observing the **Northern Lights**. We will concentrate on the fascinating geology of **Bellsund** and its abundant wildlife which attracted hunters for hundreds of years. We visit **Recherchefjord** with its historic sites and watch for polar bear. **Beluga** whales have also been spotted here. We sail into the inner reaches of the **Isfjord** system where, on clear nights, new ice is forming on the heads of the fjords as winter approaches.

- » ship « **Noorderlicht**
- » when « Five departures Sept – Oct 2016
- » guide price « **£2,545** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Sail South Greenland

| 10 days

NEW VOYAGE

We arrive at **Narsarsuaq** by plane from **Reykjavik** and board the ship. In **Nordre Sermilik (Isafjord)** we are surrounded by mountains of over 1,000 metres. We land on **Eqaluit qeqertat**, an old Thule settlement, and push as far as the icebergs allow us, to the glacier front of **Eqalorutsit Kangidlit Sermiat**. At **Qoornooq**, we land in an area with remains of houses from the Thule era. Later we sail to the glacier fronts of **Qaleralik Sermia**, a good area for white-tailed eagles. **Lichtenau** is a nearly deserted village, and we try to visit **Uunartoq** to bathe in a large hot spring surrounded by icebergs. Our landings end with **Vagar**, **Herjolfnes (Ikigait)** – the first landfill site for the Vikings, and **Hvalsey's** famous medieval Norse Cathedral.

- » ship « **Rembrandt Van Rijn**
- » when « Three departures in July 2016
- » guide price « **£3,830** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

» options « **Rembrandt Van Rijn** runs an 11 day **South to East Greenland** voyage starting in **Narsarsuaq** on 23 July 2016 and ending in **Kulusuk** – perfect for those wanting to round **Kap Farval**.

Sail North Norway whale safari | 8 days

NEW VOYAGE

These exploratory voyages will focus on encountering orcas and humpback whales which feed on the wintering herring in the fjords of **Troms**. Flying to **Evenes**, we embark at **Harstad (Vesterålen)** and head to the western fjords of **Kvaløya** for whales and white tailed eagles. Landings continue at **Håja**, **Sommarøy** and **Esfjordsbotn**. During the final days of the voyage we work our way south through **Gisundet** to **Tranøya** – now deserted, but still with its 18th century wooden church.

- » ship « **Noorderlicht**
- » when « Five departures October – December 2016
- » guide price « **£1,895** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Sail Disko Bay bowhead whale safari | 10 days

NEW VOYAGE

Starting and ending in **Aasiat**, this voyage examines the stunning **West Greenland** area of **Disko Bay** whose rich waters attract both seabirds and Greenland whales. These early season voyages might remain in the bay due to ice conditions. We look for long-tailed skua, turnstone and grey phalarope which breed on the tundra landscape dotted with turf dwellings against a backdrop of basalt cliffs. By mid-June the bowhead whales have left **Disko Bay** and we move on to pastures new.

- » ship « **Rembrandt Van Rijn**
- » when « Three departures May – June 2016
- » guide price « **£4,055** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Sail East Greenland

| 10 days

NEW VOYAGE

These **East Greenland** voyages start and end in **Kulusuk**. After sailing parallel to the coast we reach **Umivik**, where **Nansen** began his crossing of the **Greenland ice-cap** in 1888. We work our way into several fjords back to the north, and visit **Isortoq** with its population of less than 100. We will see how far we can get into the famous **Sermilik Fjord** and **Johan Petersen Fjord** with its steep glaciers and end with a day in **Tasiilaq**.

- » ship « **Rembrandt Van Rijn**
- » when « Three departures in August 2016
- » guide price « **£3,895** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Sail Scoresby Sund – Aurora Borealis | 10 days

NEW VOYAGE

We embark at **Nerlerit Inaat**, at the head of **Hurry Inlet**. The plan is to sail along the ragged and glaciated **Volquart Boons Coast** landing on **Danmarksø** with the remains of an Inuit settlement and at **Cape Hofmann Halvø**, a reliable spot for viewing musk oxen. On our way to **Sydkap** in **Scoresby Land**, we encounter gargantuan icebergs. We land on **Jameson Land** where musk oxen and collared lemming survive on the meagre vegetation. Geese and waders collect near a lagoon a little way east of **Kap Stewart**. We will visit **Ittoqqortoormiit** before returning home.

- » ship « **Rembrandt Van Rijn**
- » when « Four departures in September 2016
- » guide price « **£3,835** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)



For maps of Spitsbergen and Greenland see pages 4 and 7

PHOTO: Arjen Drost, Oceanwide Expeditions.



CANADIAN AND HIGH ARCTIC

Iconic itineraries in historic territories, welcoming people, wild horses and cliffs teeming with birds

» Itineraries «

Into the Northwest Passage | 20 days

Mighty St. Lawrence | 13 days

Heart of the Arctic | 16 days

NEW VOYAGE

This journey embraces the heart of the Arctic from Kangerlussuaq on Greenland's western coast to Canada's newest territory, Nunavut on Baffin Island, ending at Nunavik in Northern Quebec. We'll travel just after the summer solstice, visiting Inuit communities, when the chances of seeing polar bears, walrus and musk oxen are excellent.

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 10-25 July 2016
- » guide price « £8,755 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Arctic safari | 15 days

NEW VOYAGE

This classic expedition begins by exploring Greenland's great ice fjord at Ilulissat, source of the majority of the icebergs in the North Atlantic. Across the Davis Strait in Nunavut, the Canadian Arctic brings opportunities to see polar bear, whales, and musk oxen on Devon Island, while Prince Leopold Island is one of Canada's best birding areas. Abandoned RCMP and HBC posts offer a haunting glimpse into the region's history of exploration and trade.

At Beechey Island, we'll pay our respects at the graves of three of Sir John Franklin's men, and at Resolute Bay, honour the courage of the Inuit of Canada's Arctic.

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 3-17 August 2016
- » guide price « £9,795 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

» options « Ocean Endeavour's 15 day Arctic Explorer itinerary 14-28 August 2016 operates the Arctic safari in reverse, omitting Broughton Island but including Ikpiarjuk (Arctic Bay) instead. Guide price £9,795 based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Baffin Island | 16 days

NEW VOYAGE

A new, exploratory voyage of this breathtaking wilderness with unique access to two national parks thanks to close links with Parks Canada. We will cover the wild east coast of Baffin Island and Lancaster Sound starting in Iqaluit and sailing across the Arctic Circle up to Resolute.

- » ship « Akademik Ioffe
- » when « 31 July – 15 August 2016
- » guide price « £9,285 per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

On this tour, the pinnacle of Arctic exploration, we'll explore the villages, fjords and glaciers of Greenland, working our way north to spectacular Kap York. Crossing Smith Sound we'll visit Ajuittuq (Grise Fiord), Canada's northernmost community. The bird cliffs at Coburg Island National Wildlife Area teem with kittiwakes and murre. At Beechey Island, the Franklin expedition gravestones stand watch. Melville, Banks and Devon Islands offer opportunities for Peary caribou and visits to ghostly RCMP and Hudson's Bay Company posts.

Prince of Wales Strait affords a striking, narrow passage to Amundsen Gulf and to Kugluktuk (Coppermine), the end to our epic journey.

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 25 August – 13 September 2016
- » guide price « £12,375 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

» options « Sea Adventurer offers a slightly longer itinerary which crosses Baffin Bay to Pond Inlet and on to Beechey Island – 21 days from 9-29 August 2016. From £12,210 per person.

Akademik Ioffe sails Iqaluit to Cambridge Bay, 11-26 August 2016. Prices from £9,620 per person twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

Out of the Northwest Passage | 19 days

NEW VOYAGE

Heading east from Kugluktuk, much of this journey is the reverse of Into the Northwest Passage above. There are much fuller details of these itineraries on our website.

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 10-28 September 2016
- » guide price « From £12,225 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

» options « Sea Adventurer offers a 21 day voyage Out of the NW Passage which navigates the challenging Fury and Hecla Strait – 26 August – 15 September 2016.

Guide price from £12,450 per person, twin cabin (private facilities).

Akademik Sergey Vavilov sails Cambridge Bay to Iqaluit 27 August – 11 September 2016. Price from £9,620 per person, twin cabin (semi-private facilities).

Akademik Ioffe offers a 12 day NW Passage Finding Franklin itinerary which transits the Victoria Strait, resting place of the recently found HMS Erebus. 19-30 August 2016. Guide price £7,285 per person, twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

This voyage incorporates the stunning coastal regions of Quebec's North Shore, the Gaspé, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Magdalene Islands. Some of the best whale watching in Canada is to be had between the high cliffs of Saguenay Fjord. We end at Saint Pierre, the last remaining outpost of New France, which offers fine wine, cheese and French fashion just off the Newfoundland coast.

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 31 May – 12 June 2016
- » guide price « £5,995 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Sable Island | 11 days

NEW VOYAGE

Sable Island's charismatic wild horses are among much to discover on this remote sand island off the coast of Nova Scotia. The world's largest colony of grey seals breeds here, as do the rare roseate tern and the endemic Ipswich sparrow. Amid the island's 42 km of beaches, dunes and bogs you'll find a plethora of plants and wild berries. Whales and sharks ply the nearby waters.

The island's history includes shipwrecks, seal and walrus hunting and rescue and research.

This voyage can be booked consecutively with Mighty St. Lawrence.

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 10-20 June 2016
- » guide price « £4,895 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Newfoundland circumnavigation | 13 days

NEW VOYAGE

This summer sailing is ideally timed for whales, icebergs, and breeding seabirds. At Gros Morne, you'll see fjords that could be in Norway; on the Avalon Peninsula, a chunk of what was once Africa meets remnants of the Appalachian Mountains. We will visit Red Bay, learn about Viking history in North America at L'Anse aux Meadows, and visit the legendary French Shore Tapestry at Conche.

Starting and ending in historic St. John's, we experience Newfoundland's lively, welcoming culture and dramatic scenery in daily expedition stops. A visit to the French island of Saint-Pierre caps the adventure.

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 18-30 June 2016
- » guide price « £6,565 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)



For maps of Iceland and Greenland see pages 10 and 7

PHOTO: Dennis Minty, Adventure Canada.



ARCTIC AND FAR EAST RUSSIA



Exquisite land of snow-covered volcanoes, lava fields, geysers, tundra, fast flowing rivers and rugged coastline

» itineraries «

Sea of Okhotsk | 15 days

Little-known outside Russia and seldom visited by westerners, the **Sea of Okhotsk** is a region with a very rich history and abundant wildlife. We aim to encounter Kamchatka brown bears, spectacular ribbon seals, breeding colonies of Steller sea lions, and, potentially, snow sheep and marmot. At **Talan Island** the sky darkens every evening as crested auklets mass offshore. The area is home to large numbers of Steller's sea eagles.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 7-21 June 2016
- » guide price « **£7,950** per person per person twin cabin (shared facilities)

Siberia's forgotten coast | 17 days

This expedition follows in the footsteps of Danish explorer **Commander Vitus Bering** along one of the most remote coastlines on earth. The journey is one of rich diversity and experiences – we hope to see Steller's sea eagles, Kamchatka brown bear, sea otter, Arctic fox and potentially Pacific walrus. Marine life is varied and sightings of beluga, blue, gray, humpback and sperm whales are all possible. This voyage is dedicated to looking for wildlife and birdlife, and we may even be lucky enough to see one of the most critically endangered birds in the world, the spoon-billed sandpiper.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 22 June – 8 July 2016
- » guide price « **£8,495** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Across the top of the world – Wrangel Island | 18 days

Journey through the **Bering Strait** and spend four to five days with local rangers around secluded **Wrangel Island**, where many polar bears are known to breed. We will also look out for Pacific walrus, gray whales, reindeer, musk ox and snow geese. This isolated nature reserve is a delight for those keen on a true wilderness experience.

Ask for details of the **Wrangel overland traverse** – an optional three days crossing the island.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 30 July – 16 August, 13-30 August, 27 August – 13 September 2016
- » guide price « **£10,425** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Jewel of the Russian Far East | 16 days

September is a beautiful time to explore **Russia's** eastern seaboard. The cooler temperatures encourage vibrant colours on the tundra-cloaked hillsides as fat Kamchatka brown bears soak up the last of the warm sun and reindeer and mountain sheep feed in preparation for the harsh winter. We also hope to see Pacific walrus as we travel south.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 10-25 September 2016
- » guide price « **£7,430** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Russia's Ring of Fire (cruise the Ring of Fire) | 16 days

Kamchatka is known as the 'land of fire and ice'. This voyage explores the **Commander Islands**, the **Kuril Islands** and the **Kamchatka Peninsula**. Learn about the intriguing history and spectacular wildlife of this area where the seas are rich with many species of seabirds and cetaceans.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 25 May – 8 June 2016
- » guide price « **£7,420** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

PHOTOS: G Tsidulko, R Lott and E Tan Heritage Expeditions.



ARCTIC ICEBREAKER EXPEDITIONS ON KAPITAN KHELEBNIKOV

Since 1992 **Kapitan Khlebnikov** has taken adventurers to inaccessible corners of the globe and in 1997, was the first ship ever to circumnavigate Antarctica with passengers. Two on-board helicopters and your ship's sheer icebreaking force combine to give you spectacular bird's eye views and take you to magnificent regions of the world where others dare not sail.

» itineraries «

Epic Northeast Passage | 26 days

NEW VOYAGE

On the fabled **Northeast Passage**, travellers will encounter thick pack ice, unique geological formations and the fascinating cultures of the indigenous peoples of the **Russian Arctic**. Your unforgettable journey will begin in **Anchorage**, before a charter flight to **Anadyr** in the far east of Russia for embarkation.

Follow the north coast of Russia via the **Chukotka Peninsula** and **Wrangel Island**, through the **Eastern Siberian Sea** to landings at **Severnaya Zemlya**, **Novaya Zemlya** and **Franz Josef Land**, well above the Arctic Circle, before you disembark at **Longyearbyen**.

- » ship « **Kapitan Khlebnikov**
- » when « 10 July – 4 August 2016
- » guide price « **£30,855** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Extreme Greenland | 23 days

NEW VOYAGE

In summer the lush tundra on remote and isolated **Northeast Greenland** supports herds of musk oxen, and shore landings offer excellent hiking and photographic opportunities. This voyage embarks in **Longyearbyen**, crosses to Greenland and runs the length of its east coast before ending at **Kangerlussuaq**. Highlights include an attempted landing at rarely visited **Cape Morris Jesup**, the most northerly point in Greenland. Several days will be spent in **Northeast Greenland's National Park** including **Station Nord**, a military and scientific station; **Danmarks Havn**, a small weather station operated by eight hardy souls and **Daneborg**, the headquarters of the **Sirius Patrol**. We will continue to **Ittoqqortoormiit**, and sail deeper into **Scoresby Sund**. Further down the coast we attempt a landing at **Ammassalik**. Rounding the southern tip of Greenland, we end by cruising north along the dramatic west coast.

- » ship « **Kapitan Khlebnikov**
- » when « 3-25 August 2016
- » guide price « **£25,195** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

PHOTOS: Dan Leeth, R. Lazurenko, Quark Expeditions.

ARCTIC ICEBREAKERS AND ICE LODGES



Epic voyages crashing through the ice, camping on a frozen campsite and exploring by helicopter and snowshoe

The North Pole ultimate Arctic adventure (by icebreaker) | 14-15 days

We are delighted to announce that **50 Years of Victory** will now continue as an expedition vessel in 2016.

From Murmansk we cross the Barents Sea towards Franz Josef Land, where shore landings are planned as well as at 90 degrees North. 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.

- » ship « **50 Years of Victory**
- » when « Five departures between June and August in 2016 and 2017
- » guide price « From **£18,995** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Best of the Canadian High Arctic | 19 days

NEW VOYAGE

Access remote ice-choked regions between **Kangerlussuaq** and **Resolute**. From quiet coastal towns to authentic Inuit communities and awe-inspiring **Ilulissat**, this voyage is an in-depth expedition to the less discovered areas of the Arctic. Truly off the beaten path.

- » ship « **Kapitan Khlebnikov**
- » when « 22 August – 9 September 2016
- » guide price « **£20,865** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Ultimate Northwest Passage | 19 days

NEW VOYAGE

On this special icebreaker expedition of the **Northwest Passage**, you'll witness the haunting beauty of the northern wilderness and every type of Arctic wildlife and culture. You'll visit **Canadian Inuit** and **Russian Yupik** and **Chukchi** communities and see memorials and artifacts from the early voyages of exploration, including those at **Beechey Island**. Embarking in **Resolute**, we expect to visit **Prince Leopold Island Bird Sanctuary**, **Aulavik National Park**, **Banks Island**, **Smoking Hills** and **Herschel Island** before cruising the **Beaufort** and **Chukchi** seas into **Russia**. Disembarkation is in **Anadyr**.

- » ship « **Kapitan Khlebnikov**
- » when « 6-24 September 2016
- » guide price « **£22,455** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Complete Arctic circumnavigation | 77 days

NEW VOYAGE

This epic circumnavigation combines all four voyages featured here back to back, travelling in true expedition style. Discover the fabled **Northeast Passage**, explore **Northern Greenland** where you will attempt to make polar history, travel through the best of the **Canadian High Arctic** and journey through the **Northwest Passage**.

- » ship « **Kapitan Khlebnikov**
- » when « 10 July – 24 September 2016
- » guide price « **£58,625** per person based on lowest category of cabin throughout



Arctic Watch Lodge – adventure and wildlife at 74°N | 12 days

Spend a week at this unique **Canadian Arctic** wilderness lodge and world-class beluga whale observation site. Situated 500 miles north of the **Arctic Circle**, the lodge offers fully-guided opportunities for hiking, kayaking, and exploring the Arctic tundra in all-terrain vehicles. Observe musk ox, polar bears and other wildlife in their natural habitat with comfortable accommodation and superb food, all just a short flight from **Yellowknife, Northwest Territories**, to **Somerset Island in Nunavut**.

- » when « Land-based programme, six departures weekly in July/August 2016
- » guide price « **£9,145** per person based on twin room (shared facilities)
- » activities « All terrain vehicle, fishing, hiking, kayaking, rafting

North Pole Express: Barneo Ice Camp | 6 days

NEW VOYAGE

The pinnacle of this five-day expedition is spending two nights at 89° north at **Barneo Ice Camp**. This temporary, fly-in campsite is a unique North Pole experience. You'll be one of an exclusive group to land on the frozen runway and stay on this floating site in the icy **North Polar Basin**.

Established each year to be a functioning Russian science and logistics station, the site is operated by the **Expedition Centre for the Russian Geographical Society**. Among your fellow guests and base staff will be scientists, pilots, mechanics, engineers and explorers.

This expedition offers fully-guided opportunities for exploring the northernmost Arctic by helicopter, on foot and by snowshoe, all just a short flight from **Longyearbyen, Arctic Norway**.

- » when « Land-based programme, 12-17 April and 14-19 April 2016
- » guide price « **£19,585** per person based on twin room (shared facilities)

Voyages –

THE ANTARCTIC

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 (using 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. Its 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**.

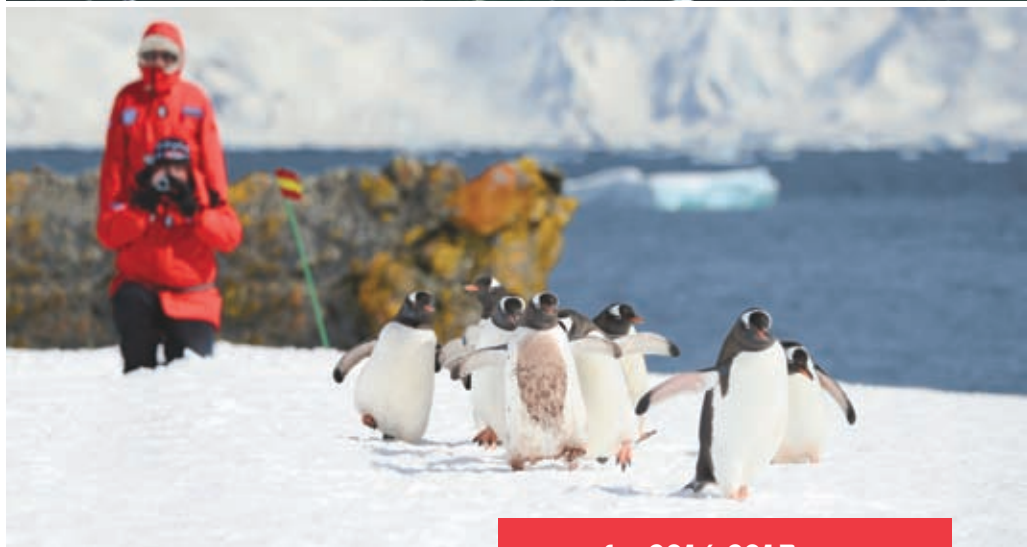
South Georgia is a 100-mile long island of mountains and glaciers and fringed with vegetation that supports a great variety of wildlife, including the magnificent king penguin and wandering albatross, smaller birds such as the endemic pintail and pipit, as well as teeming colonies of fur seals. For those keen on 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.



Up-close discovery by zodiac and kayak - dive, hike, ski and snowshoe to your heart's content



PHOTOS: Poseidon Expeditions.

Certain voyages offer exciting optional activities for which a supplement is usually payable. Do call us for more information, detailed itineraries and reports of previous similar voyages.

The itineraries which follow are a guide only, since routes and landings will be dependent upon ice and weather conditions.



» new for 2016-2017 «

- » Plancius offers early season stand-alone Falkland Islands and South Georgia voyage embarking in Puerto Madryn
- » Polar Pioneer celebrates end of the Shackleton centenary with 'In Shackleton's Footsteps' itinerary for March 2017
- » Akademik Sergey Vavilov offers early season South Georgia only itinerary
- » Small ship Polar Pioneer has new springtime itinerary to Scotia Sea
- » Combine South Georgia and Antarctica with Polar Pioneer in January 2017
- » Ushuaia explores the Weddell Sea in January 2016
- » Old favourite small ship Akademik Shokalskiy goes In the Wake of Mawson
- » We've included dates for 2015-16 voyages to help those booking last minute



FALKLAND ISLANDS, SOUTH GEORGIA AND ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

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

» itineraries «

Classic Antarctic Peninsula with South Shetlands | 13-15 days

These voyages begin in **Ushuaia** and sail across the **Drake Passage** directly to the **Peninsula** providing good chances to see gentoo and adelinie penguins and humpback whales. Some voyages also include the **South Shetland Islands** where you visit the abandoned whaling station on **Deception Island**. You return through the **Gerlache Strait**, home to leopard seals and blue-eyed shags, followed by a visit to a research station. Landings are usually made twice a day while Zodiac cruises offer an exciting alternative.

- » ships « **National Geographic Orion, Ocean Diamond, Ocean Endeavour, Ortelius, Plancius, Polar Pioneer, Sea Adventurer, Sea Explorer, Sea Spirit, Ushuaia**
- » when « Numerous voyages
November 2015 – March 2016
November 2016 – March 2017
- » guide price « From **£5,695** per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities). Ask about higher categories of cabin

» options « **Sea Adventurer** and **Polar Pioneer** offer fly/sail options with only one **Drake Passage** crossing

Antarctic Peninsula Basecamp Plancius | 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 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 « **Plancius**
- » when « 19 November – 2 December 2015
26 December 2015 – 8 January 2016
Four departures November,
December 2016 and March 2017
- » guide price « From **£8,125** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « All optional activities are free.
Camping, diving, hiking (5-7 hours), kayaking, mountaineering, photo workshop, snowshoeing

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 seals and bird life. Then to the **Antarctic Peninsula** via **Orcadas Station** in the **South Orkneys** for three days around the **Peninsula** and **South Shetland Islands**.

- » ships « **National Geographic Orion, Ocean Diamond, Ocean Endeavour, Ortelius, Plancius, Polar Pioneer, Sea Adventurer, Sea Explorer, Sea Spirit, Ushuaia**
- » when « October 2015 – March 2016
October 2016 – March 2017
- » guide price « From **£8,250** per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)
- » activities « Alpine crossing

» options « **Sea Explorer's** first voyage of the season is 25 days UK to UK and embarks in **Puerto Madryn** in late October 2015. **Sea Spirit's Audience with Kings** voyage embarks in **Buenos Aires** and runs 30 October – 22 November 2015. **Sea Adventurer** operates an unusual 20 day fly/cruise option in February 2016, flying from **Punta Arenas** to the **South Shetland Islands** and disembarking in the **Falklands**. Price from **£16,860** per person

Antarctica XXI | 10-12 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 four days you are on a **Classic Antarctic Peninsula** voyage. Three longer mid-season departures cross the **Polar Circle**.

Note: In late spring 2016 **Sea Explorer** will be renamed **Hebridean Sky** after a multi-million dollar refurbishment.

- » ships « **Ocean Nova, Sea Explorer**
- » when « Various departures December 2015 – January 2016 and November 2016 – February 2017
- » guide price range « From **£8,955-£11,955** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

» options « **Sea Adventurer** also offers a similar voyage 4-15 February 2016

Falkland Islands and South
Georgia | 23 days

NEW
VOYAGE

This unusual early season voyage embarks in **Puerto Madryn** before heading for the **Falkland Islands**. If the weather conditions are good, a landing is planned on the rarely visited **Steeple Jason Island**, home to the largest black-browed albatross colony in the world – a true expedition landing.

After a day in the capital, **Stanley**, we cross to **South Georgia** for an in-depth eight day expedition with two adventure options: The 'sea explorers' voyage will examine the coastline with zodiac excursions and hiking options. At the same time, a land expedition of 'ski explorers' will attempt to traverse the island on a self-supplied four day ski trek from the south coast (**King Haakon Bay**) to **Fortuna Bay** on the north coast.

- » ship « **Plancius**
- » when « 31 October – 22 November 2015
28 October – 19 November 2016
- » guide price « **£11,335** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Shackleton traverse

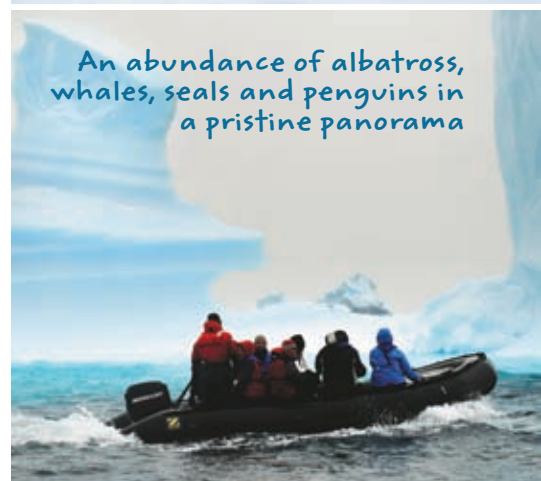


DON'T MISS: Camping overnight on the **Peninsula** to experience Antarctic weather close up. It might seem tough at the time but you won't regret it! Don't forget to pre-book as it's popular.

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

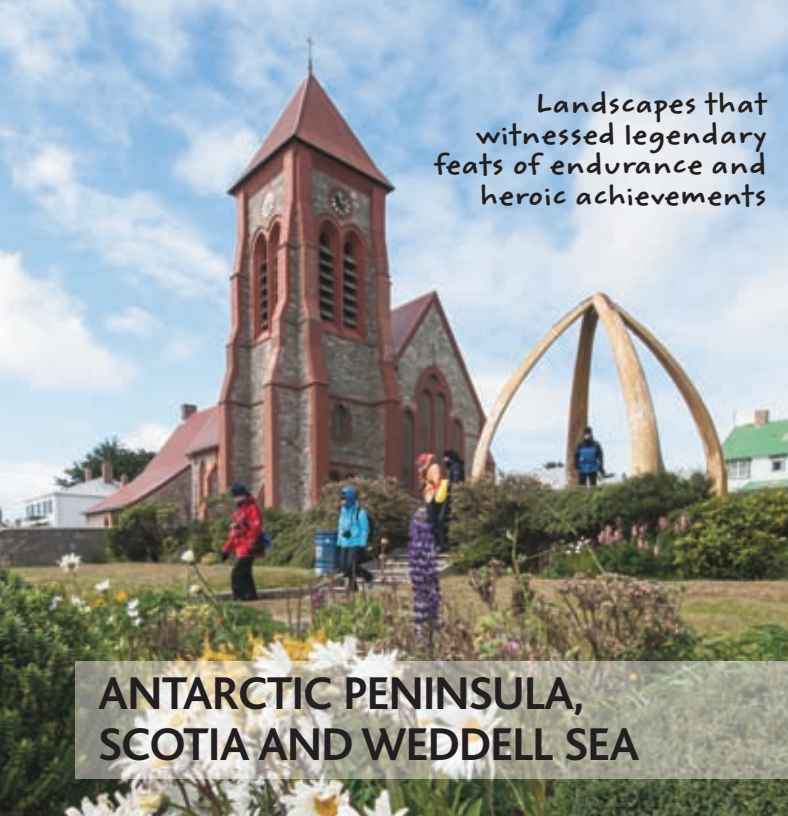
MY BEST MEMORY: Leopard seals circling and diving under our Zodiac while hunting penguins.

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



An abundance of albatross,
whales, seals and penguins in
a pristine panorama

Landscapes that witnessed legendary feats of endurance and heroic achievements



ANTARCTIC PENINSULA, SCOTIA AND WEDDELL SEA

» itineraries «

In Shackleton's footsteps | 21 days

NEW VOYAGE

We are in the 100 year anniversary of **Shackleton's Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition (1914-1917)** and late summer brings the best chance to chart a course through the **Weddell Sea's** shifting pack ice and vast tabular bergs, where the expedition's ship **Endurance** was trapped and crushed. We hope to explore fossil-rich islands, historic huts and set foot on the continent before retracing Shackleton's heroic journey to save his men – first to **Elephant Island**, then on through waters where blue, sei and fin whales roam. **South Georgia** offers nesting albatross, mating elephant seals, the world's largest king penguin rookeries and a visit to the great explorer's grave.

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 7-27 March 2016, 6 -26 March 2017
- » guide price « From **£13,510** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)
- » activities « optional alpine crossing

Scotia Sea springtime | 21 days

NEW VOYAGE

As the days grow longer, the mountains shed their snowy mantle, king penguins shuffle eggs on their feet, elephant seals pup and fur seals are increasingly boisterous. Currents of krill sweep up from the **Weddell Sea**, providing food for one of the greatest wildlife concentrations on the planet.

Immerse yourself in whaling history, visiting **Shackleton's** grave and then reversing his route to **Elephant Island**. Explore the spectacular **Antarctic Peninsula**, photographing penguins, seals, whales and historic sites, hopefully stepping onto the continent itself before crossing **Drake Passage** to **Puerto Williams**.

This voyage starts with a flight from **Chile** into **Stanley, Falkland Islands** and ends with a tour of **Puerto Williams** and flight to **Punta Arenas**.

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 18 November – 8 December 2016
- » guide price « From **£13,150** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Weddell Sea explorer – with Antarctic Peninsula | 15 days

NEW VOYAGE

Embark in the **Chilean** port of **Puerto Williams** before setting sail on your small ship for the **Weddell Sea**. Access here is totally dependent on the ice conditions. Calved from massive ice shelves, the icebergs of the **Antarctic Sound** create a memorable sight. We may visit the vast adie and gentoo penguin colonies of **Brown Bluff** or **Paulet Island** and fossil-rich **Seymour Island** before heading to the **Antarctic Peninsula's** beautiful western flanks and relatively ice free waters. Disembarkation is in **Ushuaia**.

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 7-21 February 2016
5-19 February 2017
- » guide price « From **£8,485** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

» options « **Ushuaia** operates **Weddell Sea quest** in and out of **Ushuaia**, via the **Antarctic Sound** which is 30 miles long and 7-12 miles wide and makes for exciting ice navigation. 6-20 January 2016, from **£7,695** per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

Weddell Sea in search of Emperors with helicopters | 14 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 **Nordenskjold's** polar survival epic were played out, astonishing vistas and some of Antarctica's greatest penguin rookeries. 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. The voyage ends with a stop at **Half Moon Island** and **Deception Island**.

- » ships « **Ortelius**
- » when « 25 November – 8 December 2016
- » guide price « From **£10,625** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « On-board helicopters

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 14 – 23 days and include the **Classic Antarctic Peninsula; Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula; Weddell Sea and Polar Circle** voyages.

- » ships « **Akademik Ioffe, Akademik Sergey Vavilov**
- » when « Between October 2015 – March 2016 and October 2016 – March 2017. Call us for details
- » guide price « Starting at **£8,530** per person for a 14 day Antarctic Peninsula voyage based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

Try the mid October 2015 18-day **South Georgia in depth** voyage on the **Vavilov**. Eight full days are spent in **South Georgia**.

South Georgia and Antarctic odyssey | 21 days

NEW VOYAGE

Celebrate summer in full bloom on either of these small ship voyages which visit the **Antarctic Peninsula**. Retrace **Shackleton's** boat journey from **Elephant Island** to **South Georgia** and finish in the **Falkland Islands**. If ice conditions allow, we will also detour to the remote **South Orkney Islands**. The second voyage operates in reverse.

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 2-22 January 2017
19 January – 8 February 2017
- » guide price « From **£13,150** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

PHOTOS: David Sinclair, Ira Meyer, One Ocean Expeditions; Darren Jew, Aurora Expeditions.

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA, POLAR CIRCLE, ROSS SEA, ATLANTIC ODYSSEY

Follow in the footsteps of fabled explorers

Atlantic odyssey and Ascension Island | 39-46 days

Ross Sea/Bay of Whales – In the wake of Amundsen, Ross and Scott | 40 days

NEW VOYAGE

» itineraries «

Crossing the Polar Circle | 14-15 days

This extended, in-depth exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula enables you to 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, Ocean Endeavour, Ortelius, Polar Pioneer, Sea Spirit, Ushuaia
- » when « January – March 2016 and 2017
- » guide price « From £7,695 per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

Ross Sea with helicopters | 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 « 11 January – 16 February 2017
12 February – 18 March 2017
- » 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



LET US KNOW: If you have a connection with any of the polar regions we visit. 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.

Our **Atlantic Odyssey** voyage combines most of the **South and Mid-Atlantic Ocean** and **Antarctica** with a unique chance to visit some of the world's most remote islands. Besides the **Antarctic Peninsula**, the **South Shetland Islands**, **South Georgia** and the **South Orkney Islands**, you visit **Tristan da Cunha**, **St. Helena** and **Ascension Island**. Beautiful and rare species live on these islands, many not found anywhere else. You can also visit isolated local communities.

The leg from **Ushuaia** to **Ascension** involves 28 days' sailing while the section onto the **Cape Verdes** is a week. Your chances of meeting whales are high and Arctic terns and long-tailed skuas will cross the **Equator** with you on their northbound spring migration.

- » ships « Plancius
- » when « Depart UK 15 March 2017 (leg 1)
Depart Ushuaia 26 March 2017 (leg 2)
Depart Ascension 22 April 2017 (leg 3)
- » guide price « From £11,995 per person for all legs based on twin cabin (private facilities)

In the wake of Scott and Shackleton | 35 days

The remote **Ross Sea** 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 adie and emperor penguins and we have permits for landing in the sub-Antarctic islands **Auckland**, **Campbell** and **Macquarie**.

- » ship « Spirit of Enderby
- » when « 9 January – 12 February 2016
7 February – 12 March 2016
8 January – 11 February 2017
6 February – 12 March 2017
- » guide price « From £16,480 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

- » options « Old favourite small ship **Akademik Shokalskiy** carrying 52 passengers takes a late season voyage 10 February – 16 March 2017.

With his simple telegram 'Beg to inform you *Fram* proceeding *Antarctic* – *Amundsen*, the Norwegian explorer **Roald Amundsen** set the scene for the 'Race for the Pole'. It was a race that Amundsen was to win easily, largely due to his experience in the **High Arctic** and, especially, his reliance on dogs. **Scott**, his rival, is better known, even though he perished on the way home. Every year, dozens of Antarctic enthusiasts make the pilgrimage to **Ross Island** to visit **Scott's** huts and memorials.

This one-off expedition will travel to the **Bay of Whales** as we follow in the wake of Amundsen's ship, *Fram*. Very few expeditions have ever ventured to this sacred place, so far east in the **Ross Sea**. There are no relics or memorials, Amundsen's hut *Framheim* having long disappeared, a victim of the advancing **Ross Ice Shelf**.

- » ships « Akademik Shokalskiy
- » when « 30 January – 9 March 2016
- » guide price « £17,250 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

East Antarctica – In the wake of Mawson | 31 days

NEW VOYAGE

Follow **Sir Douglas Mawson's** legendary heroics on this expedition cruise to **Commonwealth Bay**, **East Antarctica**. Mawson's **Australian Antarctic Expedition** 1911 - 1914 was notable for its scientific achievements and, sadly, its tragedies including the deaths of **Ninnis** and **Mertz** and Mawson's almost superhuman trek to safety.

Mawson's Hut at **Cape Denison** still stands defiant against the extreme weather. **Cape Denison** is one of the very few ice-free and readily accessible areas along the **East Antarctic** coast. However, when the **Mertz Glacier** tongue broke off in 2010 it blocked the annual movement of sea ice, isolating the area from shipping. At last we see opportunities to return and explore this majestic, remote coastline.

In addition to **Mawson's Hut** we hope to visit the research base **Dumont D'Urville**.

- » ships « Akademik Shokalskiy
- » when « 10 December 2016 – 10 January 2017
- » guide price « £12,445 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

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.

ICEBREAKER



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** « Canadian Arctic, 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** « Canadian Arctic, Spitsbergen, Antarctic
- » **operator** « One Ocean Expeditions

SMALL SHIP



Akademik Shokalskiy

Ice-strengthened ship, built in Finland in 1982 and used for oceanographic research. Fully refurbished in 1998 to serve as a polar research ship. She has two passenger decks with dining rooms, a bar, library and sauna.

- » **passengers** « 54
- » **itineraries** « East Antarctica
- » **operator** « Heritage Expeditions

ICEBREAKER



Kapitan Khlebnikov

Welcoming back an old favourite, Kapitan Khlebnikov's advanced technology takes you to regions where no other passenger vessel can sail. She is equipped with two helicopters and zodiacs for inland and shore landings.

- » **passengers** « 108
- » **itineraries** « Arctic circumnavigation
- » **operator** « Quark



National Geographic Orion

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

- » **passengers** « 102 in en-suite cabins
- » **itineraries** « Antarctic
- » **operator** « Lindblad Expeditions



Noorderlicht

Help the crew of five to sail this two-masted schooner. Built in 1910 she was re-rigged and refitted in the early 1990s.

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



Ocean Endeavour

Purpose-built for remote environments. 1B ice-class vessel with 20 Zodiacs, advanced navigation, several lounges and a top deck observation room.

- » **passengers** « 198
- » **itineraries** « Canadian Arctic, Antarctic
- » **operator** « Adventure Canada and Quark Expeditions



Ocean Nova

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

- » **passengers** « 62
- » **itineraries** « Arctic, Greenland, Antarctic, Iceland, Scottish Islands
- » **operator** « Antarctica XXI and Quark Expeditions



Ortelius

With highest ice-class notation (UL1 equivalent to 1A) she can navigate solid one-year sea ice and loose multi-year pack ice. 11 Zodiacs and on-board helicopter. Deck 5 refurbished in 2014.

- » **passengers** « 116
- » **itineraries** « Arctic, Antarctic, Ross Sea
- » **operator** « Oceanwide



Plancius

Rebuilt in 2009. Comfortable, nicely decorated and well suited to exploratory educational voyages. She has a superb purpose-built observation lounge.

- » **passengers** « 110
- » **itineraries** « Arctic, Greenland, Antarctic, Mid-Atlantic
- » **operator** « Oceanwide



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 Expeditions



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



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** « Arctic, Greenland, Canadian Arctic, Antarctic
- » **operator** « Quark Expeditions

NEW NAME IN SPRING 2016



Sea Explorer

Ice class 1C all-suite luxury expedition ship which will be renamed Hebridean Sky after a multi-million dollar refurbishment in May 2016. All cabins have private facilities.

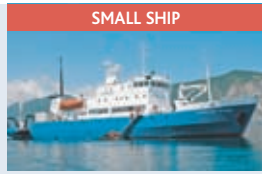
- » **passengers** « 114
- » **itineraries** « Canadian Arctic, Antarctic
- » **operator** « Antarctica XXI and Polar Latitudes



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** « Poseidon Expeditions



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, Ross Sea
- » **operator** « Heritage Expeditions



Ushuaia

Refurbished in 2014, well-appointed ice-strengthened polar vessel. Large dining room, open-plan observation lounge, bar and well-stocked library.

- » **passengers** « 88 in 44 comfortable cabins and suites
- » **itineraries** « Antarctic
- » **operator** « Antapply Expeditions

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.