

ARCTURUS

THE POLAR ARM OF FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL

VOYAGES AND EXPEDITIONS
2018-2019

Welcome to Arcturus, the polar arm of Far Frontiers Travel.

“We’ve many exciting new land-based trips for **Spitsbergen** and **Iceland** in 2018 as well as new **Arctic** and **Antarctic voyages** for 2018-19. You’ll also still find winter 2017-18 Antarctic voyages as there are some excellent late booking opportunities.

This brochure is just a foretaste of our adventures over the months to come. There’s much more on our website in the way of fuller itinerary descriptions, photos, maps and client feedback. I’ve got detailed itineraries for all our trips and voyages and, as regular clients know, we’re always ready and willing to discuss any aspect of your plans.

Tailoring memorable journeys is our forte, so do ask about how you might add a thrilling opener or a grand finale to your trip of a lifetime.”



Fiona Brijnath

Fiona Brijnath,
Director



About us

Arcturus was established in Scotland over 35 years ago as a small niche polar travel company. Today we are based in the wilds of Devon on Dartmoor. As one of the foremost operators to remote polar regions, we offer an unparalleled selection of extraordinary expeditions and voyages to the Arctic, Antarctic, Norway, Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands and some of the least known parts of Russia.

Owned by Far Frontiers Travel, in its early days, Arcturus was one of the pioneers of Arctic wildlife

tours. Our itineraries are based on years of local research and the experiences of early expeditions, often science-based, to these isolated regions.

The company is run by **Fiona Brijnath** who, over the past 25 years, has established a notable reputation for tailored travel. Our land-based expeditions focus on enjoying the nature and scenery of remote places through walking, dog-sledging, skiing and camping. At sea, we act as agents for selected operators of Arctic and Antarctic wildlife expedition voyages.

Fiona will be your first point of contact. She has unrivalled expertise with remote destinations and you are unlikely to find anyone who gives more attention to personal service and detail. Many of her clients return time and again.

Her knowledge is complemented by the polar expertise of Dr. Lorraine Craig PhD.

Previously Head of Research and Higher Education at the **Royal Geographical Society** and Director of the **Cambridge Arctic Shelf Programme**, Lorraine is a past president of the **Arctic Club** and

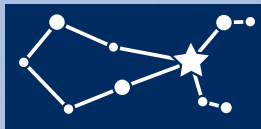
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COVER PHOTO: Paul Zizka, Visit Greenland
PHOTO PAGES 2 & 3: David and Mandy Grierson, Arcturus clients
WATERCOLOUR MAPS THROUGHOUT: Claire Baker



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Prices

All our guide prices here include international economy flights from London, internal transport, transfers to the embarkation point (where it is possible to pre-book) and accommodation based in twin rooms with meals as specified in our detailed dossiers. Guide prices for voyages are based on twin cabins with shared or private facilities. We can provide prices for single occupancy, triple, quadruple and superior cabins and suites (where available) on request. Expeditions are fully-guided either from the UK or locally.

We include fuel surcharges known at the time of going to print. Please note that we are bound to pass on any subsequent surcharges that arise.

Before and after your trip

We specialise in tailor-making holidays all over the world and will be delighted to organise pre and post-tour elements to make yours a truly unique trip. For example, if you are considering an Antarctic voyage, you could explore **Chile, Argentina, Peru** or **Ecuador/The Galapagos** first or as a grand finale. How about beginning or ending an expedition to **Arctic Russia** by marvelling at the glittering sights of **Moscow** and **St. Petersburg** or making a road trip around **Iceland** before a voyage to **Greenland**?

lectures at the **Royal School of Mines, Imperial College London**. She keeps us up to date on polar matters and helps identify new destinations.



Do call so we can discuss how to individualise your trip

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Arcturus is owned by **Far Frontiers Travel**, specialist in tailoring 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. Call us for our brochure.



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

In some cases, clients will wish to book their own international flights, in this case they are financially protected by the TOPP scheme.

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- 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, or
- repatriation of customers to the UK or their home country as may be applicable.

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Expeditions

SPITSBERGEN is the largest island in **Norway's Svalbard Archipelago**. Exhilarating winter and spring adventures are to be had among its pointed mountains, deep fjords and the glorious sparkle of the Arctic. It's idyllic too for summer visits from a few days to a fortnight.



PHOTOS: Basecamp Explorer

ARCTIC NORWAY – SPITSBERGEN

Hike, snowshoe, ski, dog sledge, snowmobile or kayak



Blue ice paddling – kayaking expedition | 8 days

NEW
FOR 2017

Paddle the ice floes alongside the stunning blue **Nordenskiöld Glacier** front. Seals and belugas are not uncommon here and we will make a number of forays from **Nordenskiöld Lodge** to see local wildlife. Enjoy expedition lunches 'in the field', tasty and convivial dinners, Arctic swims for the adventurous, warm up saunas and the chance to stretch your legs each day.

- » when « 12-19 July 2017
Summer 2018 – ask for dates
- » price « From £3,090 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Minimum of 4 people. No experience needed. All equipment provided. Not suitable for those with lower back pain

Hiking across Nordenskiöld Land | 8 days

NEW
FOR 2018

Hike with us for four full days through beautiful **Nordenskiöld Land** before taking an open boat back to **Longyearbyen**. You'll cross over mountains and valleys to **Coles Bay** and **Barentsburg**. After a night in the old Russian mining town we'll continue east to the remote radio station at **Isfjord**, the last stop before **Greenland**. Expedition lunches are served en route and we camp most nights, watching for polar bears and whales.

- » when « 14-21 August 2018
- » price « £3,120 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « All equipment provided. Not suitable for those with lower back pain

Dog-sledging in Spitsbergen

Dog sledge the telegraph route to Isfjord Radio | 8 days

Step outside **Longyearbyen** and into the wilderness. You spend five days dogsledging, two nights in a tent for a real taste of life in the Arctic and two nights at **Isfjord Radio**.

- » when « 21-28 March, 4-11 April 2018
- » price « £4,340 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Minimum 3 people. Drive your own dogs and help set up tents, feed the dog team and prepare dinner. You need to be in good physical condition, have some experience of camping in winter but not of dog sledding. All equipment is provided and all necessary training given

A musher's dream – dog sledding to Ny-Ålesund | 13 days

NEW
FOR 2018

Experience **Spitsbergen's** wild and beautiful nature close-up on our unique dog sledge and camping expedition to the west coast of **Isfjorden**. The route takes us from **Longyearbyen** through open valleys, over ice-covered fjords and onto 1,000 year-old glacier ice. We will pass the old mining village of **Pyramiden**, the mountains at **Tre Kroner**, visit the research town of **Ny-Ålesund** and drive our dogs through the majestic glaciers at **Oscar II Land**.

- » when « 7-19 May 2018
- » price « £6,980 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Minimum 3 people. You need to be in good physical shape. All necessary safety and camp equipment provided

Camp or lodge in comfort

There's a choice of accommodation for your **Spitsbergen** adventure. Once you've come as far as **Longyearbyen**, you'll want to go on further!

BASECAMP SPITSBERGEN HOTEL

Basecamp Spitsbergen Hotel at the heart of **Longyearbyen**, the world's northernmost town, is decorated in authentic trapper's style with artefacts illustrating Arctic life past and present. It has 16 rooms with comfortable beds, private bathrooms with showers and stunning views over the town towards the mountains. Relax in the glass-roofed lounge looking up at a sky filled with the **Northern Lights**.



Arctic dog sledding expedition | 9 days

NEW
FOR 2018

For those wanting to dog sledge and camp in the **Arctic** wilderness for the first time, join us as an active participant, helping your dog team in deep snow or on steep hills, making peace, feeding and harnessing the dogs and helping to set up camp.

We set off by boat across the fjord and set up a temporary expedition camp at **Ymerbukta**. Over the next four days you will experience what 'mushing' is all about as you stand on the sledge and let the dog team pull you through this vast landscape. We head further into **Trollheim** where the goal is to reach the spectacular mountains of **Tre Kroner** and mush across the mighty glacier systems on **Oscar II Land**.

- » when « 7-15 May, 14-22 May 2018
- » price « £4,570 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Minimum 3 people, five nights spent in tents, remainder in lodges/hotels. You need to be in good physical condition and ready for adventure



NORDENSKIÖLD LODGE

Nordenskiöld Lodge is a true expedition lodge about 100 miles north east of **Longyearbyen** and the place to stay if you want to reach the truest north, being the farthest you can go in **Spitsbergen** by motor vehicle. From here you can climb and ski the landscape around the mighty blue **Nordenskiöld Glacier**, part of the glacier system which stretches all the way to the north coast.

There are five bedrooms with fantastic views, 10 comfortable beds, an indoor toilet and a traditional sauna. The cabin is heated with wood and drinking water is collected from the melting glacier. In good summer weather you can arrive via a two hour boat crossing from **Longyearbyen**. During winter access is by dog sledge or snowmobile.

Spend your days climbing on the glacier and skiing around the fjord and snowy valleys, followed by a warm up in the sauna.



Adventure week at Nordenskiöld Lodge | 8 days

Cast yourself right into the heart of the Arctic to **Nordenskiöld Lodge**. Accessed by boat, it's hidden in the moraine at the foot of the magnificent **Nordenskiöld Glacier**. The week includes several full day trips, planned daily according to the weather.

- » when « Weekly departures Saturdays July to August 2018
- » price « £3,175 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

True Arctic story by snowmobile | 7 days

NEW
FOR 2018

Head off over **Tempelfjorden** and continue further up north over shiny glaciers and sharp mountains, towards the little frozen bay and **Nordenskiöld Lodge**. It's a modern cabin providing all the comfort you need, but in true Arctic expedition style. The view towards the magnificent glacier is breathtaking.

- » when « Departures weekly on Sundays March to mid May 2018
- » price « £3,365 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Minimum 3 people, no camping



ISFJORD RADIO

After a day gliding over glaciers, mountains and frozen fjords by dogsled, snowmobile or open boat safari across the **Arctic Ocean**, relax at this outpost of solitude built in 1933 for the local radio operators, 90 km from **Longyearbyen**. Gather round the table for dinner, lively conversation and a journey of Arctic tastes, featuring smoked seal, halibut with roe butter and reindeer sausage. Most of the meat here is hunted by one of the three trappers left in **Spitsbergen** and prepared by the hotel's top chefs. Access is by snowmobile or boat according to the season.

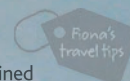
Early spring is beautiful in **NORTHERN NORWAY** and experiencing it by dog-sledge adds a thrilling dimension. Our small group expeditions in the mountains and high uplands have been led by our Norwegian friends for years. We can arrange additional delights such as a skidoo trip to the **Sami (Lapp)** people in their summer or winter camps, to **Summer Island**, the picturesque **Lofoten Islands** or a day in **Tromsø** and its **Polar Museum** and **Northern Lights Planetarium**.

All the itineraries here are for groups of four people, and you drive your own dog team.

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 depths of winter (if you're lucky)!



ARCTIC NORWAY – NORTHERN NORWAY

Whether you call it mushing, dog sledding or dog sledging – there's no more exhilarating way to explore

Dog-sledging in small groups

Explore Dividalen – drive your own dogs | 6 days

Stand 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 while your hosts regale you from their 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 too.

- » when « 13-18 February 2018
- » price « **£1,695** per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Stay in rustic/simple but cosy cabin. No previous experience required

Dog sledge The Kings Way – crossing Norway into Sweden | 8 days

Sledge the **King's Way** from the dramatic high peaks and rock faces of **Norway** to the vast open plateaux and lakes of **Sweden**. This expedition along frozen rivers and lakes in the varied countryside around **Kiruna** ends near **Jukkasjarvi** at the famous **Ice Hotel**. Made using ice from the **Torne River**, it features ice sculptures, a cinema and a bar carved entirely from ice. We can arrange a night or two's stay in this unique accommodation.

- » when « 10-17 April 2018
- » price « **£2,480** per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Stay in mountain huts, may involve some camping and long days of sledging. 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'll relax in comfort over meals made with local produce, discussing the day's journey.

- » when « 27 February – 6 March 2018
- » price « **£2,370** per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Stay in mountain huts. Some previous experience required

Stay at the Ice Hotel – the world's largest igloo – for a grand finale to your trip

PHOTO: 123RF

ICELAND

Other-worldly land of natural phenomena and legends of the Saga Age

ICELAND is enchanting in summer with its long days and midnight sun and magical in winter – which brings the chance of seeing the *Aurora Borealis*. It's ideal for touring by car – we've splendid self-drive itineraries or can arrange a driver/ guide if you prefer. Ride an Icelandic pony over black lava fields, walk inside a glacier or 'flightsee' by helicopter for a birds eye view of a glacier or extinct volcano.

Self drive around Iceland's highlights | 8 days

NEW
FOR 2018

Take in many of Iceland's main attractions on its ring road, 90 per cent of which is tarmac. The gravel sections are well maintained so 4WD is not required. As well as **Reykjavik** and the major highlights your tour includes the **Jökulsárlón** glacial lagoon, panoramic views of **Vatnajökull Glacier** and **Eyjafjörður**, Iceland's longest fjord.

- » when « Tailor-made to suit
- » guide price « From **£2,290** per person
- » key info « Driving yourself is easy and we give plenty of advice. There are lovely boutique hotels in Reykjavik we can suggest as an upgrade

Grand circle and west fjords – drive yourself! | 15 days

NEW
FOR 2018

Waterfalls, glaciers, lava fields, black beaches, islands and cliffs teeming with bird life – discover all this and more as you drive around the amazing **Snæfellsnes Peninsula**, across the remote landscapes of the **Westfjords** and around Iceland's ring road. Aside from the 'greats' your personal tour includes **Húsavík** in **North Iceland**, **Dettifoss Waterfall** and **Reykjavik**.

- » when « Tailor-made to suit
- » guide price « From **£3,920** per person
- » key info « You don't need a 4WD unless you plan to detour from our suggested route



Off the beaten track by highland 4WD | 8 days

NEW
FOR 2018

This thrilling scenic adventure in the **Icelandic Highlands** on the two major interior tracks, the **Kjölur** and **Spengisandur** highland roads, will test your driving skills. You cross unbridged streams and rivers against a panorama of glaciers, waterfalls and geothermal wonders.

- » when « Tailor-made to suit
- » guide price « From **£2,850** per person
- » key info « We provide the 4WD vehicle and details of how to track local weather and road conditions

Birds and nature in North Iceland | 8-10 days

NEW
FOR 2018

Escape the crowds on an eight or ten day bird watching nature tour for small groups. Possible visits may include **Grimsey Island's** large puffin colony on the **Arctic Circle**, **Hrísey Island**, **Svarfaðardalur Nature Reserve** and the whales and birds in **Skjálfandafloi Bay**.

A third tour will offer birdwatching in **The Faroe Islands**. Ask Fiona for more details.

- » when « Enquire for dates and prices
- » key info « Local English speaking guide. Group size 8 minimum



For map of Iceland see page 14

Iceland's 'must see' star attractions

The itineraries here cover the key sights of this land of fire and ice – such as **Akureyri** at the base of **Eyjafjörður Fjord**, the waterfalls of **Skógafoss**, **Seljalandsfoss**, **Gullfoss** and **Goðafoss**, the hot springs at **Geysir**, **Þingvellir** and **Skaftafell national parks** and the volcanic area of **Lake Mývatn** – a paradise for birds.

Northern Lights special – South Iceland | 4 days

NEW
FOR 2018

This tour combines **Reykjavik** with a variety of fantastic winter activities and spectacular excursions, including a **Northern Lights** evening tour, **Lake Þingvallavatn** and the fountain geyser, **Strokkur**.

- » when « Tailor-made to suit
- » guide price « From **£1,245** per person
- » key info « Each day's tour will be in a small group with a local guide

Volcanoes and glaciers – summer guided hiking in South Iceland | 7 days

NEW
FOR 2018

Enjoy easy to moderate hiking through stunning volcanic scenery with breathtaking views over glaciers and of mountain peaks from a comfortable 4WD vehicle. Includes **Laki Volcano**, **Jökulsárlón** glacial lagoon, the black sandy beaches at **Vík** and the amazing **Reynisdrangar** sea stacks.

- » when « Ask us for dates
- » guide price « From **£2,775** per person
- » key info « Local guide. Daily hikes are normally 4-6 hours. Minimum group size 6

Iceland classic – best of north and south guided tour | 14 days

NEW
FOR 2018

In addition to our list of 'must sees' this adventure-packed guided itinerary covers **Vík** and the **Eastfjords** as well as **Jökulsárlón Glacier**, where we take an amphibian tour among the icebergs. We drive through **Egilsstaðir** to **Dettifoss**, Europe's largest waterfall, and round the **Tjornes Peninsula** towards **Húsavík**. At **Akureyri** you have the option to ride or sail to **Hrísey** and **Grimsey Island** for its puffins and whale watching. We'll look for seals on **Vatnsnes Peninsula** and continue to **Borgarfjörður** and the stunning **Snæfellsnes Peninsula** before ending at **Reykjavik**.

- » when « Weekly departures mid May – end August 2018. Two departures September 2018
- » guide price « Enquire for prices
- » key info « Choose your accommodation standard

PHOTOS: 123RF



GREENLAND

Breathtaking fjords and communities with enduring lifestyles

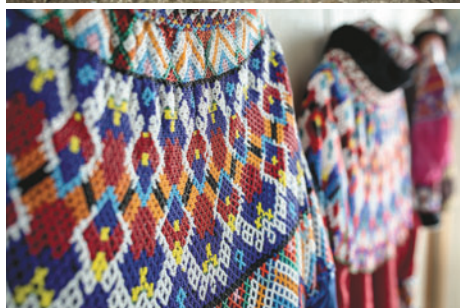
GREENLAND, the world's largest island, remains largely uninhabited due to its massive inland Ice Cap. Extend your **Iceland** trip with a few days here or make it a stand-alone holiday. Travelling along the west coast by local steamer against incomparable scenery is a delight. We've numerous small boat day trips between settlements which combine well with hotel stays in south or west Greenland.

Liverpool Land | 10 days

There remain areas in **Greenland** where the Inuit still use the dog sledge as their means of winter transport, including the most isolated village **Ittoqqortoormiit** at **Scoresby Sund** on the east coast. Here, on the northern shore of the world's largest fjord, there is a long tradition of hunting and travelling on the pack-ice as well as on land.

Join us for a traditional dog sledging trip on the spectacular coast of **Liverpool Land**. Highlights include flights by Twin-Otter aircraft and helicopter, a few days in Ittoqqortoormiit village and four days camping and travelling with dog sledges.

- » when « Weekly departures March – May 2018
- » price « From **£5,050** per person
- » Key info « Group size 4 minimum. Stay in guest houses and tents



Kap Tobin Arctic wildlife safari | 10 days

A unique trip based close to **Scoresby Sund** on **Greenland's** east coast. You'll stay in a private home where the owner will oversee your trip and cook for you in the evening. Dog sledge and snowmobile the local environs for fantastic views, hot springs and to look for polar bear, walrus, seals and narwhales. Watch local hunters checking their seal holes – they will take you to the best safari spots.

- » when « March – May 2018 tailor-made to suit
- » price « Ask us for prices
- » leader « Icelandic local expert
- » Key info « Group size 4 minimum. Helicopter, snowmobile and dog sledge transport. You'll feel more like a house guest than a visitor



BEST TIME TO GO: Winter/early spring for dog sledging and **Aurora Borealis**. Summer for wonderful hiking and cruising in iceberg filled waters.

READ: *Sirius Patrol* by Peter Schmidt Michelson.



Icebergs of West Greenland | 10-13 days

See the majestic icebergs at the World Heritage Site of **Ilulissat Ice Fjord** and stay near the very active **Eqi Glacier** before moving on to **Disko Island** for two nights with local hikes in and around this former whaling station.

Ilulissat town, 380km north of the **Polar Circle**, is a gateway for exploring the Arctic. Take an iceberg safari, visit remote settlements or go 'flightseeing'.

One night 'glamping' at **Camp Eqi** will give you front row seats for when the **Eqi Glacier** 'calves'. It's a perfect base from which to hike and the huts all have comfy beds and private facilities.

- » when « June – August 2018, tailor-made to suit
- » price « From **£5,360** per person for 10 days
- » leader « Local guide
- » Key info « Limited accommodation so book early

» OPTIONS «

We've two fantastic extensions led by local experts that we can build into your Icebergs of West Greenland itinerary:

Whales and culture | 3 days

Learn more about traditional **Greenland** life and customs staying in the village of **Qasigianniguit** at the south-eastern part of **Disko Bay**.

Approximately three hours by boat from **Ilulissat**, it is one of the oldest towns in Greenland with around 1,200 habitants – the local museum brims with stories from the old Thule culture.

- » price « From **£900** per person

Camp Ice Cap | 3 days

For total immersion in **Arctic** nature and its awesome scenery, stay not just close to but actually on the inland ice sheet. Setting out from and returning to **Kangerlussuaq**, you spend one night at **Camp Ice Cap**, a second at **Kangerlussuaq** and there are options to watch musk oxen and reindeer roam on a memorable 4x4 safari. Then fly home via **Copenhagen**.

- » price « From **£965** per person

PHOTOS: Mads Pihl, Visit Greenland

THE FAROES poke sharply out of the Atlantic Ocean between Norway and Iceland. The landscape of these 18 remote islands is one of steep cliffs, narrow straits and natural harbours surrounded by small villages. Inhabited by less than 50,000 people and more than three million sea birds, the Faroe Islands are a nature lover's dream.

The Faroese people are justly proud of having preserved their own culture, traditions and language rooted in the Old Norse.

THE FAROE ISLANDS

Thrilling experiences in a rugged environment

PHOTOS: Visit Faroe Islands; Kimberley Coole



TOP TIP: The summers are short and hotels fill quickly so book early to avoid disappointment.



Atlantic nature – Vagar and Streymoy | 8 days

This tour combines the capital of the Faroes, Torshavn, with the island of Vagar. There's plenty of easy to moderate walking and we can pre-organise excursions to almost anywhere in the Faroes for you. Take a day-trip to the island of Mykines, famous for its incredibly rich birdlife. For thrills you can go RIB-boating to the bird-cliffs along Vagar's coastline. Torshavn has a rich cultural life and good museums.

- » when « June – August 2018, tailor-made to suit
- » price « From £1,330 per person
- » key info « Flights, hotels and transfers included. Optional guided trips can be added. Book early to secure guides and accommodation



For map of the Faroe Islands see our website

Faroe Islands deluxe self-drive | 8 days

Driving is the perfect way to explore the islands. Roads are generally of high quality and distances between points of interest short, so you can see a lot without having to keep changing hotels.

We recommend the bird paradise of Mykines Island, Kirkjubøur village and staying overnight in the tiny but picturesque village of Gjogv. Visit the Saga Museum in Vestmanna and ferry hop between little islands in the north.

Torshavn, the Faroes' capital, has big city confidence and is worth a few days' stay. There are a growing number of excellent restaurants using local produce to showcase their contemporary interpretation of traditional Faroese cuisine.

- » when « June – August 2018, tailor-made to suit
- » price « From £1,640 per person
- » key info « You can experience four seasons in one day. Average temperatures are 11°C in summer

ARCTIC AND FAR EAST RUSSIA

Bears, snow-capped volcanoes and a fearsome history



The **ARCTIC RUSSIAN** tundra is dotted with countless lakes and pools through which its vast north-flowing rivers wend their way to the Arctic Ocean. Here, in the short intense summer, are the nesting sites for red-breasted geese, Siberian crane and Ross's gull. The ground is bright with wild flowers, and musk oxen, bears, reindeer, lynx, wolverine, wolves and foxes roam.

In the **Kamchatka Peninsula** in **RUSSIA'S FAR EAST** some of the Itelmen, Eveni and Koryaks still live by their traditional ways. It's home to Russia's largest brown bear, rivers teem with salmon and the rugged coastline supports thousands of seabirds as well as seals, sea lions and sea otters. In summer, plants in the valleys grow incredibly fast in the warm rich volcanic soil.



Solovetski Islands and the White Sea | 12 days

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

In the 20th Century, the legendary **Solovetski Monastery** was one of the most feared and infamous prison camps or 'gulags'. You can visit the beautiful cathedral, church, refectory and other buildings enclosed by the great 'kremlin' or fortification now the monks have returned.

Accommodation here is in simple family-owned small hotels with delicious food. It's excellent territory for walking in summer.

- » **when** « 3-14 June 2018
or we can tailor-make to suit
- » **price** « £2,480 per person
- » **leader** « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » **key info** « Group size 6 minimum. Weather can be variable with temperatures ranging from 5-20 degrees C. The pace will be leisurely, easy walking entirely at your discretion



Bears, volcanoes, native people, reindeer herders, autumn colours

| 20 days

We visit many habitats in order to experience **Kamchatka's** richness, diversity and autumn colours, including the central valley with the **Kamchatka River**, **Tolbachik**, **Kzudach**, **Mutnovsky** and **Vachkazhets** volcanoes, **Kurilskoye Lake** and the hot **Khodukta River** in the southern tundra. **Kurilskoye Lake** is one of the best places 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 overnight with nomadic reindeer herders in their summer mountain camp.

- » **when** « 22 August – 10 September 2018
- » **price** « £5,485 per person
- » **leader** « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » **key info** « Group size 10-16. The pace will be leisurely with optional easy walks.

Active volcanoes of the Kamchatka Peninsula

NEW
FOR 2018

| 19 days

Supported by 4WD vehicle or 6WD truck, you will ride up, over, and around **Kamchatka's** highest and most active volcanoes, passing along a 1,000 metre high mountain plateau. Some of this outstanding scenery was formed just 20 years ago and you will have the chance to walk through the ash-cinder plain from the **Northern Vent** eruption. See the active volcanoes **Mutnovsky**, **Gorely**, **Avachinsky**, **Kluchevskoy** (Eurasia's largest at 4,850 m) and **Tolbachik**, on whose slopes you will camp. In the tundra you should see marmots, ground squirrels, foxes, a great variety of bird life and, of course, bears.

- » **when** « 8-26 July, 26 July – 13 August 2018
- » **price** « £3,375 per person
- » **leader** « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » **key info** « Group size: maximum 16



For map of Russian Far East
see page 18



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

DID YOU KNOW: Among the **Solovetski Islands'** more than 170 architectural and archaeological monuments are 33 mysterious stone labyrinths dating back around 3,000 years.

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

Voyages THE ARCTIC

A wilderness of drama enticing you northwards

Several of our voyages concentrate on **Spitsbergen**. Meaning 'pointed mountains' it's an evocative name for the largest island of the **Svalbard Archipelago**, 1,300km from the North Pole, where snowy peaks rise majestically through huge ice-caps, glaciers crawl down valleys to the sea and sparkling ice walls enclose deep fjords.

Being part of the largest protected area of land in the world, **East Greenland** is little visited. Our voyages explore the beautiful fjord system of **Scoresby Sund** and the spectacular south east coast, as well as the glorious shores of **West Greenland** from **Ilulissat** to **Thule**. Towards the end of the Arctic summer the tundra vibrates with autumn colours and there is an excellent chance of seeing the **Northern Lights**.

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

NEW FOR 2018

- » **Noorderlicht** has numerous winter departures of a week's sailing among the fjords off **Tromsø**
- » **Sea Spirit** visits **Jan Mayen** in June 2018
- » **Ocean Endeavour** takes a slow tour of **Scotland** and then heads to the **Faroes** and **Iceland** in June 2018 before circumnavigating **Iceland**. Great back to back voyages!
- » **Ocean Adventurer** offers fly/sail options to **West Greenland/Disko Bay** in August 2018
- » **Ocean Nova's East Greenland Arctic Express** voyage uses flights between **Iceland** and **Greenland** in September 2018
- » **Rembrandt Van Rijn** goes in search of whales off the north coast of **Iceland** in October 2018
- » **Akademik Ioffe** offers **Canada's East Coast Golf Expedition** June 2018

PHOTO: Paul Zizka, Visit Greenland



SCOTTISH ISLANDS, ARCTIC NORWAY AND ICELAND

Timeless traditions and a profusion of whales and seabirds

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 « 21 June – 1 July 2018
- » guide price « **£5,350** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

NEW VOYAGE

Scotland slowly | 11 days

Our ship makes its way from **Glasgow** through the **Western Isles** and the **Pentland Firth** to **Orkney** and **Shetland**. June is an ideal month to visit in search of birds – with breeding well under way, avian enthusiasts will be well rewarded. We'll experience something of island life too, with music and laughter in community halls and local pubs.

Highlights of this voyage include the largest seabird colony in the UK in the cliffs of **St. Kilda**, a visit to **Foula** in the **Shetlands**, a climb of **Mousa Broch**,

an almost perfectly intact Iron Age fortification, and a wander around the **Heart of Neolithic Orkney UNESCO World Heritage Site** before we dock in **Aberdeen**.

- » ship « **Ocean Endeavour**
- » when « 11-21 June 2018
- » guide price « **£7,420** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Fair Isle, Jan Mayen, Spitsbergen | 10 days

This voyage leaves **Aberdeen** and journeys to **Fair Isle** and the rarely visited volcanic island of **Jan Mayen** before travelling north to **Longyearbyen** in **Spitsbergen**. If you've time we recommend booking **Ortelius'** consecutive week-long **North Spitsbergen** voyage.

- » ship « **Ortelius**
- » when « 20-29 May 2018
- » guide price « **£2,625** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

The islands of the **ARCTIC OCEAN** exert a captivating lure. **Scotland's Western and Northern Isles** offer an absorbing insight into the traditions of Europe's Celtic past, while at the edge of the **Arctic Circle**, mythical **Iceland** is still being shaped by the elements of fire and ice. **Norway's Jan Mayen Island** is a pristine volcanic wilderness off whose productive coast blue and other whales are sometimes seen. Beckoning from further north, the **Svalbard Archipelago** is a theatre of wildlife against a fjord backdrop, in stark contrast to remote and forbidding **Franz Josef Land**.

North Atlantic saga, Scotland, Faroes and Iceland | 11 days

NEW VOYAGE

Charting a course like no other, we set off from **Aberdeen** along **Scotland's** craggy coastline, past the staggering cliffs of the **Faroe Islands** to **Reykjavik** and **Iceland's** volcanic plains.

We explore ancient Neolithic ruins on rugged **Celtic islands**, delight in the puffins and skuas wheeling over headlands, experience local culture in ancient villages and meet modern-day fishermen working the same waters that fed their forebears.

The abundance of seabirds, exquisite wildflowers in early summer bloom, newly born islands, pretty communities and expansive glaciers are a photographer's dream.

- » ship « **Ocean Endeavour**
- » when « 21 June – 1 July 2018
- » guide price « **£7,735** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)



PHOTOS: David Varga, Shutterstock; Poseidon Expeditions; Peter Wright, Arcturus client; Jaroslav Nikitin, Poseidon Expeditions

Iceland circumnavigation

| 12 days

NEW
VOYAGE

Marvel at Iceland's geological wonders and learn about its extraordinary history and culture – both in small fishing communities dating back more than 800 years and in the capital, **Reykjavík**, one of the cleanest and greenest cities in the world.

Volcanically and geologically active, Iceland is famed for its awe-inspiring lava fields, mountains, glaciers and glacial rivers. Bird colonies number up to a million strong and, to cap it all, there's the chance of watching for whales in the rich, productive waters of **Húsavík**.

- » ship « **Ocean Endeavour**
- » when « 29 June – 10 July, 8-19 July 2018
- » guide price « **£6,170** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Iceland, Jan Mayen and Spitsbergen

This unique voyage of stunning scenery and rich polar history departs from **Reykjavík** and ends in **Longyearbyen**, an Arctic settlement on the Norwegian island of **Spitsbergen** in the High Arctic's **Svalbard Archipelago**.

First we explore the scenic **Vestfirðir (Westfjords)** of **Iceland** and call at the historic port of **Ísafjörður**. We then cross the **Arctic Circle** on our way to remote **Jan Mayen Island**. After stopping there we continue on to **Spitsbergen** where we explore the fjords on the west side in search of polar bear and other iconic wildlife.

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 16-28 June 2018
- » guide price « **£6,955** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 31 July 2017

 For maps of Spitsbergen and Iceland see pages 4 and 14



Spitsbergen in depth

| 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 Adventurer, Ocean Nova**
- » when « 29 June – 12 July, 1-14 July 2018
- » guide price « From **£10,550** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Spitsbergen and Franz Josef Land

| 16 days

Franz Josef Land in **Russia's** far north is the world's northernmost archipelago. Remote and raw, it was discovered less than 150 years ago, and comprises 192 islands rich in birdlife, walrus, polar bear, seal, arctic fox and beluga whales. Now within the **Russian Arctic National Park** administration, this seldom visited landscape is dotted with relics of past exploration.

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 3-18 July, 17 August – 1 Sept 2018
- » guide price « From **£9,795** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 31 July 2017

North/around Spitsbergen

| 9-12 days

We head north along the west coast of **Spitsbergen** up to **Ny Ålesund**, the world's most northerly settlement. 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. We 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.

- » ships « **Akademik Sergey Vavilov, Ocean Adventurer, Ocean Nova, Ortelius, Plancius, Sea Spirit**
- » when « Departures June – August 2018
- » guide price range « From **£4,915 – £6,075** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

» OPTIONS «

Polar Pioneer offers three 12 day **Spitsbergen Odyssey** voyages 6, 16 and 26 July 2018 for those wanting a more intimate small ship experience

» guide price « from **£6,045** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Akademik Sergey Vavilov will run a photography symposium 18-28 June 2018.

» guide price « from **£6,985** per person in twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

Plancius has a voyage in August 2018 which extends as far north as **Kvitøya**



“Thank you for yet another excellent trip and all your efforts to make life easier for me to travel up to Spitsbergen and spend a few days in Copenhagen on the way back to Switzerland.”

Peter Wright, Spitsbergen and Greenland, September 2016. Take a look at the Arcturus website for Peter's full trip report and photographs!



SAIL NORWAY, SPITSBERGEN, LOFOTENS, GREENLAND AND ICELAND

Combine the excitement of sailing with the fascinating history of Arctic exploration and whaling

Sail North Spitsbergen | 9-13 days

Sailing through Isfjorden to Trygghamna we visit the remains of a 17th century English whaling station. Weather permitting, we will go ashore at Fuglehuken, where Willem Barentsz landed, and Ny-Ålesund, the world's northernmost permanent settlement. At 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, hopefully landing on the northern side of Reindyrfla where reindeer graze on the tundra.

We turn south after Smeerenburg – once the largest whaling settlement, possibly landing on Danskøya, site of the failed hydrogen balloon expedition by S A Andrée and his fellow explorers.

- » ship « Noorderlicht, Rembrandt Van Rijn
- » when « Departures March – August 2018
- » guide price « From £3,070 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

» OPTIONS « One late May 2018 departure focuses on hiking

Sail central Spitsbergen | 9 days

The spring and autumn Spitsbergen voyages are ideal for observing the Northern Lights. We concentrate on the fascinating geology of Bellsund and its abundant wildlife which attracted hunters for hundreds of years. We visit Rechercheffjord with its historic sites and watch for polar bear and beluga whales, before sailing into the inner reaches of the Isfjord system.

- » ship « Noorderlicht
- » when « Five departures September and October 2018
- » guide price « £3,065 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

- » OPTIONS « Ask about Noorderlicht's Alpine ski and sail voyage 28 April – 6 May 2018.
- » guide price « £3,145 per person. Supplement of £320 for ski mountaineers. Group size 6-8 per mountain guide



Sail North Norway whale safari | 8 days

This North Norway cruise follows the path of several species of whale as we travel among the fjords of Tromsø. There are good hiking opportunities by day and the long nights offer an excellent chance to take in the wonder of the Northern Lights. Spring voyages circumnavigate Senja and sail to the small island of Sommarøy. Autumn voyages circumnavigate Kvaløya and spend three days in Vengsøfjorden and Kaldfjorden, where many whales have been sighted in recent years, before continuing to Sommarøy. Besides orcas and humpback whales you may well see resident white-tailed eagles, one of the largest birds in Europe, as they too want their share in the herring frenzy.

- » ship « Noorderlicht
- » when « Six departures January – March and November – December 2018
- » guide price « £2,025 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Sail Scoresby Sund – Aurora Borealis | 14 days

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 Danmarkø with its remains of an Inuit settlement and at Cape Hofmann Halvø. 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'll visit Ittoqqortoormiit before returning home.

- » ship « Rembrandt Van Rijn
- » when « 24 August – 6 September 2018
- » guide price « £6,180 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Sail North Iceland – Arctic Circle and whales, Aurora Borealis | 6 days

NEW
VOYAGE

Add a bespoke tour to this four day sailing expedition off the north coast of Iceland. You will visit the island of Grimsey and take a guided walk across the Arctic Circle. At night we might see the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights. While sailing across Skjafandi Bay we hope to see humpback and minke whales, white-beaked dolphins and harbour porpoise.

- » ship « Rembrandt Van Rijn
- » when « Three departures in October 2018
- » guide price « £1,985 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)



For maps of Spitsbergen and Greenland see pages 4 and 8

PHOTOS: Jan Belgers, Erwin Vermeulen, Oceanwide Expeditions

GREENLAND

Awesome glaciers, icy fjords and Inuit communities



Spitsbergen and North East Greenland | 16 days

Between the high ice-cap of North East Greenland and the sea is a vegetation-rich strip of low country, that supports much wildlife. Some **Ittoqqortoormiit** people 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 **Myggebugt**. Moving south to **Scoresby Sund** we land near a glacier and encounter huge icebergs before disembarking in **Akureyri** in North Iceland.

- » ship « **Plancius**
- » when « 4-19 September 2018
- » guide price « **£7,695** per person based on twin window cabin (private facilities)

South and West Greenland and Disko Bay | 13 days

This exceptional voyage from **Kangerlussuaq, Greenland** to **Reykjavik, Iceland** travels north as far as **Ilulissat** and **Disko Island**. We visit enchanting tiny settlements – **Qaqortoq** for its Viking history, **Hvalsey's** 14th century church and **Qassiarsuk** with the remains of Eric the Red's house. We'll also see the famous **Qilakitsoq** mummies in **Nuuk**.

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 5-17 June 2018
- » guide price « **£7,100** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 31 July 2017

- » OPTIONS « **Ocean Adventurer** offers two fly/sail alternatives: **Greenland Explorer** 7-21 August 2018 sails from **Akureyri** in North Iceland to **Kangerlussuaq** via **Disko Bay** whilst **West Greenland, Disko Bay** 19-28 August 2018 focuses on the **Disko** area before utilising flights back to Iceland.
- » guide price « From **£7,465** per person



Jewels of the Arctic | 16 days

Northeast Greenland is the world's largest national park with elusive polar bear, walrus, Arctic hare, musk ox and many kinds of seal. If the pack ice allows, we'll attempt to reach the rarely visited **Kaiser Franz Josef Fjord**. The first voyage spends two days in **Spitsbergen** and ends in **Iceland**. The second operates in reverse.

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 5-20 August 2018
18 August – 2 September 2018
- » guide price « From **£7,130** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

- » OPTIONS « **Polar Pioneer** offers a much longer **Arctic complete** 26 day itinerary starting on 26 July 2018. Ask for details.

Arctic express – Greenland's Northern Lights | 10 days

NEW VOYAGE

Scoresby Sund, the world's largest fjord system, entices with some of the world's best displays of the **Northern Lights**. The Inuit settlement of **Ittoqqortoormiit** offers you a rare connection to the past – its people live off the land just as their ancestors did hundreds of years ago. You fly between **Reykjavik, Iceland** and **Constable Point, Greenland** at the start and end of the voyage, saving time sailing across the Denmark Strait.

- » ship « **Ocean Nova**
- » when « Three departures September 2018
- » guide price « From **£7,640** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Three Arctic islands – triple the adventure | 15-16 days

This award-winning expedition voyage takes you high above the **Arctic Circle** in **Spitsbergen** to north east **Greenland** and across to **Iceland**. Icy fjords, rugged coastlines and massive glaciers will astound and you'll see plenty of Arctic wildlife, including musk oxen, polar bears, walrus and seals.

- » ships « **Ocean Adventurer, Sea Spirit**
- » when « Two departures in July and August 2018
- » guide price range « From **£8,395** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 31 July 2017 (Sea Spirit)

East Greenland, Scoresby Sund and Aurora Borealis | 10 days

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

- » ship « **Plancius**
- » when « 17-26 September 2018
- » guide price « **£4,775** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

- » OPTIONS « **Sea Spirit** includes a visit to **Iceland's** picturesque **Snæfellsnes Peninsula**.
- » when « 13-24 September 2018
- » guide price « **£6,095** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 31 July 2017

West Greenland and Disko Bay – birthplace of icebergs | 10-11 days

NEW VOYAGE

This voyage centers on **Disko Bay**, famous for its icebergs, whales, and friendly Inuit villages. The first voyage departs from the capital, **Nuuk**, and finishes in **Kangerlussuaq**, and the second embarks and disembarks in **Kangerlussuaq**. Attractions include volcanic landscapes, museums, numerous settlements, iconic churches, **Greenlandic** sled dogs and stunning scenery. We explore **Ilulissat Icefjord**, the beautiful **Eqip Sermia Glacier**, **Uummannaq's** heart-shaped mountain and breathtaking **Nuuk Fjord** reaching deep into Greenland's mountainous wilderness.

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 21-31 May, 29 May – 7 June 2018
- » guide price « From **£5,765** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 31 July 2017

- » OPTIONS « **Ocean Adventurer** offers a fly/sail version of the itinerary 19-28 August 2018 using flights between Iceland and Greenland.



For map of Greenland see page 8

PHOTOS: Mads Pihl, Visit Greenland; Poseidon Expeditions

CANADIAN AND HIGH ARCTIC

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



Greenland and wild Labrador

19 days

NEW VOYAGE

This sailing of staggering geographic diversity crosses the Arctic Circle and covers over 2,200 nautical miles from Søndre Strømfjord in Greenland all the way to St. John's, capital of Newfoundland and Labrador.

On the western coast of Greenland we call in at Nuuk, and explore one of the area's many fjords. Across the Davis Strait in Canada, we visit the pristine Torngat Mountains National Park, staffed completely by Inuit. Here, massive mountains slope down to the Labrador Sea. Northern Labrador has to be seen to be believed, which we'll do with daily Zodiac expeditions and excursions, searching for polar and black bear along its coastline.

Moving south, we'll visit the newly created Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve – the largest in eastern Canada. Crossing the Strait of Belle Isle we'll pay our respects to the Viking visitors at L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland, and explore Terra Nova National Park before ending at historic St. John's.

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 16 September – 4 October 2018
- » guide price « £10,595 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Arctic safari | 19 days

Beginning in Qausuittuq (Resolute Bay), this voyage seeks out polar bear, beluga and narwhal, birds and muskoxen throughout Lancaster Sound. At Beechey Island we'll pay our respects at the graves of three of



Sir John Franklin's men and at Dundas Harbour, we'll explore the abandoned HBC and RCMP post that once guarded the gateway to the Northwest Passage. Mittimatilik (Pond Inlet) with its stunning views of Bylot Island is a dynamic contemporary Inuit community – we'll spend the day there before striking out across Baffin Bay for Greenland's towering mountains, pristine fjords, and colourful communities. The Jakobshavn Icefjord provides a dramatic climax to our northern journey. Here we take to Zodiacs to cruise Disko Bay, home to the world's fastest-moving glacier.

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 4-19 August 2018
- » guide price « £12,435 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

Into the Northwest Passage | 21 days

The Northwest Passage is the pinnacle of Arctic exploration. From Greenland we cross Davis Strait, to visit Qikiqtarjuaq, the iceberg capital of Nunavut, and pay respects at the Franklin Expedition graves at Beechey Island. Somerset and Devon islands offer opportunities to spot Peary caribou, polar bear, walrus, and muskoxen and visit ghostly RCMP and HBC posts. Parry Channel and Peel Sound afford a passage to Queen Maude Gulf and onward to Kugluktuk (Coppermine), the end of our epic journey.

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 15 August – 4 September 2018
- » guide price « £15,835 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

- » OPTIONS « Ocean Adventurer offers a Northwest Passage – in the footsteps of Franklin voyage 25 August – 12 September 2018
- » guide price « £14,495 per person

Out of the Northwest Passage | 21 days

In Canada's vast northern wilderness wildlife roams and the recent findings of Franklin's ships, HMS Erebus and HMS Terror remind us that history and legends are still being made today. Nunavut's

communities blend the traditional and the contemporary in compelling ways. Making our way north to Smith Sound, we enter a realm still defined by ice, while Greenland offers geology, geography and culture with a European flair.

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 31 August – 20 September 2018
- » guide price « From £16,055 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

» OPTIONS «

Akademik Sergey Vavilov offers a 17 day Classic Northwest Passage Greenland voyage also covering Baffin's east coast, 22 August – 7 September 2018 and 10-26 August 2018 operating in reverse.

- » guide price « £13,745 per person (twin semi private cabin)

Ocean Adventurer has a brand new Northwest Passage Epic High Arctic voyage from Resolute to Kangerlussuaq 8-26 September 2018.

- » guide price « £14,495 per person

Baffin Island | 16 days

The east coast of Baffin Island is one of the last great wilderness regions on our planet. We'll encounter deep fjords, soaring mountains, immense glacial systems, remote Inuit communities and amazing wildlife – small ship cruising at its best. The history of early exploration is ever present as we visit former HBC locations, RCMP outposts and Beechey Island, the final resting place for some of the men of the ill-fated Franklin Expedition in 1845-46.

- » ship « Akademik Ioffe
- » when « 1-16 August 2018
- » guide price « £11,170 per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

» OPTIONS «

Akademik Ioffe operates a Classic Northwest Passage – Baffin Island voyage from Cambridge Bay to Iqaluit from 30 August – 15 September 2018.

- » guide price « £13,855 per person twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

PHOTOS: Michelle Valberg, Adventure Canada

Newfoundland circumnavigation

| 15 days

This summer sailing is ideally timed for whales, icebergs and breeding seabirds. We visit **Red Bay**, learn about Viking history in North America at **L'Anse aux Meadows**, and sample the mi'kmaq culture in **Conne River**. Starting and ending in its capital, **St. John's**, we experience Newfoundland's lively culture and dramatic scenery and visit the French island of **Saint-Pierre**.

- » ship « **Ocean Endeavour**
- » when « 30 September – 14 October 2018
- » guide price « **£8,115** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

High Arctic explorer | 14 days

Combine nature, wildlife and the history of Canadian exploration. From **Resolute** we visit a number of **RCMP** shoreline outposts, retracing some of the patrols of the first vessel to circumnavigate North America, the **St Roch**. We visit **Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary** and see seals, beluga whales, musk ox, caribou and polar bear. The sweeping glaciers and skies go on forever. The final stop is to the **Sir John Franklin's** expedition graves at **Beechey Island**.

- » ship « **Akademik Ioffe**
- » when « 12-25 August 2018
- » guide price « **£10,515** per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

Pathways to Franklin | 14 days

Relive the exploration history of the **Northwest Passage**. We visit **Sir John Franklin's** grave on wild and windy **Beechey Island**, **Cape Charles York** offers great walking opportunities and the towering bird cliffs of **Prince Leopold Island** are unforgettable. We hope to stop at **Victory Point**, where an abandoned lifeboat, skeletons and other artefacts were found. Travelling close to the location of the wreck of **HMS Erebus**, we learn how exploration opened up the Arctic. We end with two days to explore **The Royal Canadian Geographical Society Island**.

- » ship « **Akademik Ioffe**
- » when « 21 August – 3 September 2018
- » guide price « **£10,515** per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

Labrador and Torngat Explorer | 15 days

This voyage links historic locations on **Canada's** east coast, including a Viking settlement, remote mission locations and isolated fishing ports.

From the historic port town of **Louisbourg, Nova Scotia**, we journey northwards, encountering the **Nunatsiavut** people in small settlements along the **Labrador** coastline, learning about their strong cultural and spiritual connections to this land.

Torngat Mountains National Park shows off the highest peaks in Canada east of The Rockies before we cross **Frobisher Bay** to **Monumental Island**.

- » ship « **Akademik Ioffe**
- » when « 22 July – 5 August 2018
- » guide price « **£7,245** per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

- » OPTIONS « New for 2018 **Akademik Ioffe** offers a **Canada's East Coast golf expedition** – a week's voyage taking in some of the country's best-known golf courses along the east coast. Additional stops at **Sable Island** and **Les Iles de Madeleine** offer plenty for non-golfing partners too! 23 June – 2 July 2018.
- » guide price « **£5,330** per person

ABBREVIATIONS: HBC – Hudson's Bay Company, RCMP – Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Epic voyages crashing through the ice. Stay in a unique campsite and explore by helicopter and snowshoe

ARCTIC ICEBREAKERS AND ICE LODGES

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

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**. The on-board 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 July 2018
- » guide price « From **£21,895** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 31 July 2017

Arctic Watch Lodge – adventure and wildlife at 74°N | 10-12 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**, there are fully-guided opportunities for exploring the Arctic tundra. 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, numerous departures weekly in July/August 2018
- » guide price « **£9,730** per person based on twin room (shared facilities)
- » activities « All terrain vehicle exploration, fishing, hiking, kayaking, rafting

North Pole express – Barneo Ice Camp | 6 days

The pinnacle of this six-day itinerary is a night 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**.

The site is operated by the **Expedition Centre for the Russian Geographical Society** as a science and logistics station and among your fellow guests and base staff will be scientists, pilots, mechanics, engineers and explorers.

There will be 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, 11-16 April 2018
- » guide price « **£18,285** per person based on twin room (shared facilities)

PHOTOS: Peter Wright, Arcturus client; Quark Expeditions





ARCTIC AND FAR EAST RUSSIA

Untamed land of volcanoes, lava fields, geysers, tundra, fast flowing rivers and rugged coasts

Siberia's forgotten coast | 18 days

The eastern coastline of **Siberia** is one of the most remote parts of the globe and its rich natural history has largely gone undiscovered. Dominated by the volcanoes of **Kamchatka** in the south, the fjords of the former **Koryak** region and the rich estuarine areas and tundra of **Chukotka**, it has a huge diversity of habitats and wildlife. One of the most iconic endemic species is the critically endangered **spoon-billed sandpiper**. This expedition supports the work of research teams involved with this species and expands it to monitor other seabirds and waders for potential changes in their populations and distribution.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 23 June – 10 July 2018
- » guide price « **£10,225** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Russia's Ring of Fire cruise | 17 days

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 abound with many species of seabirds and cetaceans.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 11-27 June 2018
- » guide price « **£9,395** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)



Jewel of the Russian Far East | 17 days

The **eastern seaboard** of **Russia** dominates the **North Pacific** and yet very few people know anything about the coastlines of **Chukotka**, **Koryak** and **Kamchatka**, let alone have been there.

In winter much of the shoreline is choked by ice but, during spring and summer, the region is a hive of activity. In September the thousands of birds that migrated here will be preparing to leave. Reindeer and mountain sheep will feed in preparation for the harsh winter, while fat **Kamchatka brown bears**, which have gorged on berries then feasted on salmon in the rivers and creeks, doze in the late summer sunshine.

Autumn's arrival paints vibrant colours on the tundra-cloaked hillsides and on this journey from **Anadyr** to **Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy** we will make numerous landings.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 31 August – 16 September 2018
- » guide price « **£8,850** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)



Across the top of the world – Wrangel Island | 19 days

Journey through the **Bering Strait** and spend four to five days with local rangers around secluded **Wrangel Island**, where polar bears 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 wilderness seekers.

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

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 3-21 August 2018 and 17 August – 4 September 2018
- » guide price « **£11,350** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities), **£1,210** per person for the overland **Wrangel Island** traverse

Chukotka – where Russia's day begins | 19 days

This is a special expedition which includes **Wrangel Island** and the annual **Beringia Regatta**.

Chukotka's indigenous people include **Chukchi**, **Inuit**, **Even**, **Koryak**, **Chuvan** and **Yukaghir**. Meet them, listen to their stories, learn of their strong connection with the land and the sea – and celebrate with them at their annual festival.

We will also explore the vast tundra with its wild flowers and dwarf tree species and watch for **brown bears**, **reindeer**, **arctic foxes**, **ground squirrels** and even **wolverine**. At sea, we will keep a look out for **whales**. **Wrangel Island** will amaze you with its **polar bears**, **walrus** and rich **Arctic** history.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 6-24 July 2018
- » guide price « **£9,995** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

PHOTOS: JE Ross, A Charles, Meghan Kelly, Heritage Expeditions





Voyages THE ANTARCTIC

Up-close discovery by Zodiac and kayak

NEW FOR 2018-19

- » **Island Sky** is a new addition to the Antarctic fleet
- » We've included 2017-18 voyages to help those booking last minute
- » **Spirit of Enderby** goes birding down under with **Western Pacific odyssey** and **Subantarctic Islands** voyages in 2018
- » For keen photographers, **Polar Pioneer** spends 8 days on **South Georgia** in March and November 2018
- » **Ortelius** spends five days exclusively in the **Falkland Islands** in October 2018
- » **Sea Spirit** visits **Falklands** and **South Georgia** only in October 2018 starting in **Puerto Madryn** and ending in **Ushuaia**
- » **Plancius** discovers the **Weddell Sea** in March 2019
- » **Plancius** spends 4-5 days in **South Georgia** in March 2019

The **Antarctic Peninsula** is a spectacular chain of mountains and glaciers supporting the richest wildlife in Antarctica. Its waters are sheltered by islands, which makes for comfortable sailing and easy landings.

Most of our voyages depart from **Ushuaia** at the southern tip of South America and cross the **Drake Passage**, visiting the **South Shetland Islands** and the **Antarctic Peninsula**. A few voyages embark in the **South Shetland Islands** (using a flight from **Punta Arenas**) to avoid the Drake Passage crossing. Some voyages take in **South Georgia** and the **Falkland Islands**.

South Georgia is a long mountainous island fringed with rich vegetation. Here you'll find the magnificent king penguin and wandering albatross, smaller birds such as the endemic pintail and pipit, and teeming colonies of fur seal. Polar historians are spoilt for choice with many voyages visiting the scene of **Shackleton's** epic crossing of the island. Different again, the **Falkland Islands** archipelago supports an even more varied wildlife.

More adventurous voyages head for the **Ross Sea** to visit emperor penguin colonies and **Scott's** and **Shackleton's** huts. Because some of the vessels are comparatively small we recommend booking early.

PHOTO: Holger Leue, Poseidon Expeditions

FALKLAND ISLANDS, SOUTH GEORGIA, POLAR CIRCLE AND ANTARCTIC PENINSULA



Classic Antarctic Peninsula with South Shetlands | 13-15 days

These voyages begin in **Ushuaia** and sail across the **Drake Passage** to the **Peninsula** with good chances to see gentoo and adeliie penguins and humpback whales. Some 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. We usually make two landings a day as well as exciting Zodiac cruises.

- » **ships** « **Hebridean Sky, Island Sky, Ocean Diamond, Ocean Endeavour, Ortelius, Plancius, Sea Spirit, Ushuaia**
- » **when** « Numerous voyages
November 2017 – March 2018
November 2018 – March 2019
- » **guide price** « From **£6,960** per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities on the **Ushuaia**). Ask about higher categories of cabin/ship
- » **OPTIONS** « **Polar Pioneer** offers fly/sail options with only one **Drake Passage** crossing

Albatross, whales, seals and penguins in a pristine panorama

Antarctica XXI | 10-12 days

Antarctica XXI is a unique air cruise to Antarctica. Avoid the notorious two day crossing of the **Drake Passage** with a 90 minute flight from **Punta Arenas** in **Southern Chile** to **King George Island** in the **South Shetlands**, 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**.

- » **ships** « **Hebridean Sky, Ocean Nova**
- » **when** « Various departures
November 2017 – February 2018
November 2018 – February 2019
- » **guide price** « From **£11,535** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » **OPTIONS** « **Island Sky** also offers three similar voyages in December 2017 and February 2018. Price from **£14,230** per person

Antarctic Peninsula Basecamp Ortelius/Plancius | 16 days

The Basecamp voyage concept offers a selection of activities (such as kayaking, camping, hiking, soft mountain climbing and photo workshops) which are included in the price of your voyage. The vessel will stay for two or three days at specific locations to allow more active passengers a comfortable hub for their wide-ranging pursuits.

- » **ships** « **Ortelius, Plancius**
- » **when** « Numerous departures November/December 2017/18 and March 2018/2019
- » **guide price** « From **£9,695** 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

PHOTOS: Andrew Halsall, Aurora Expeditions



Crossing the Polar Circle | 14-18 days

This in-depth exploration of the **Antarctic Peninsula** ventures south of the **Antarctic Circle**. There'll be more time for communing with penguins and visits to less frequented landing sites. Late season is excellent for whales.

- » ships « **Hebridean Sky, Ocean Diamond, Ocean Endeavour, Ortelius, Polar Pioneer, Sea Spirit, Ushuaia**
- » when « January – March 2018 and 2019
- » guide price « From **£8,895** per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities on **Ushuaia**). Ask about higher categories of cabin/ship

» OPTIONS «

Island Sky overflies the **Drake Passage** in both directions 11-23 February 2018.

- » guide price « from **£19,660** per person

Ortelius has a new **Discovery and whale watching voyage** in the **Antarctic Peninsula** and the deep south, crossing the **Polar Circle** aiming to visit **Rothera Station, Horseshoe Island** and, furthest south at 68.11 degrees, **Stonington Island**, 16 March – 2 April 2019

- » guide price « from **£9,595** per person

Antarctica with a difference

| 15-26 days

We can offer similar **Antarctic** itineraries with notable differences in on-board service, fewer passengers and extra staff. Each passenger is assigned to an 'adventure concierge' who will look after your individual needs as you sail. This is the only way to experience overnight kayaking in the **Antarctic**.

Itineraries include the **Classic Antarctic Peninsula; Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula; Weddell Sea and Polar Circle**.

- » ships « **Akademik Ioffe, Akademik Sergey Vavilov**
- » when « Between October 2017 – March 2018 and October 2018 – March 2019. Call us for details
- » guide price « Starting at **£11,280** per person for a 15 day **Antarctic Peninsula** voyage based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

Try the October or November 2017 **South Georgia in depth** voyage on the **Vavilov**. Seven full days are spent in **South Georgia** with a photography symposium on the October voyage.



“ Good pre-departure advice from Fiona. Holiday itself was a superb wildlife and scenic extravaganza. *Plancius* was a good boat and about the right size. Excellent team on board. Thanks again for your help in organising a wonderful experience. We'll be living off the memories for a while yet. I would most certainly consider coming to *Arcturus/Far Frontiers Travel* again.”

Mike and Kathie Killingley,
Antarctic Peninsula, Falklands and South Georgia,
January/February 2017



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

These longer voyages visit the **Falkland Islands** calling at **Port Stanley**, then head for **South Georgia** to spend three days 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 « **Hebridean Sky, Island Sky, Ocean Diamond, Ocean Endeavour, Ortelius, Plancius, Polar Pioneer, Sea Spirit, Ushuaia**
- » when « October 2017 – March 2018 and October 2018 – March 2019
- » guide price « From **£10,665** per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities on the **Ushuaia**). Ask about higher categories of cabin/ship

» OPTIONS «

Akademik Ioffe operates an unusual 26 day **Epic Antarctic** voyage 11 January – 5 February 2018 which combines **Crossing the Polar Circle** with a **Classic Falklands, South Georgia, Antarctic Peninsula** voyage.

- » guide price « **£17,160** per person

South Georgia special

| 20 days

Embarking in **Ushuaia** and disembarking in **Montevideo**, this unusual cruise takes you to an area of immense wildlife density. Four to five days will be spent on **South Georgia**. In Autumn, king penguin numbers on the island peak and the beaches are full of fur seal pups and huge southern elephant seals. **South Georgia** pipit and pintail proliferate, macaroni penguin chicks fledge and gentoo penguins moult. If we are lucky enough to make a landing at **Prion Island** we may get a rare sight of the fluffy white chicks of the wandering albatross as well as light-mantled and grey-headed albatross which also breed here. Humpback, fin, minke and even southern right and blue whales may be spotted during the trip.

Weather conditions will largely dictate the programme but we hope to visit **Fortuna Bay** and follow the final section of **Shackleton's** route to **Stromness**. At **Grytviken** there will be a visit to the **Whaling History Museum** as well as to **Shackleton's** nearby grave.

- » ships « **Plancius**
- » when « 29 March – 17 April 2019
- » guide price « From **£9,645** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

» OPTIONS «

Polar Pioneer offers a **Subantarctic safari** – one day in the **Falkland Islands** and eight days in **South Georgia**, 23 March – 9 April and

16 November – 3 December 2018, a rare chance for photographers to spend extended time ashore.

- » guide price « from **£12,455** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)
- Sea Spirit** visits the **Falklands** for three days and spends six days on **South Georgia**, 19 October – 10 November 2018.
- » guide price « **£10,110** per person in twin cabin (private facilities)

In Shackleton's footsteps | 22 days

Inspired by **Shackleton's Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition** (1914-1917), late summer will see us navigating through the **Weddell Sea's** shifting pack ice and vast tabular bergs, where **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 to **South Georgia** and the great explorer's grave. Two adventure options are offered: The 'sea explorers' voyage will examine the coastline with **Zodiac** excursions and hiking options. This includes walking the last leg of **Shackleton's** **South Georgia** crossing from **Fortuna Bay** to **Stromness**. 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 to north coasts.

- » ships « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 5-26 March 2018, 18 March – 8 April 2019
- » guide price « From **£17,175** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)
- » activities « Optional **Shackleton** traverse from **£1,040** per person.

Falkland Islands exclusive

| 14 days

Embarking at **Puerto Madryn**, this unusual itinerary sails towards the **Falkland Islands** looking out for visiting southern right whales. The **Falklands** are a largely unknown selection of wildlife gems and our itinerary will spend five full days showcasing the best that the islands have to offer, such as **Magellanic**, **gentoo**, and **rockhopper** penguins.

Our visits may include the rarely visited **Steeple Jason Island, Carcass Island, Saunders Island, West Point Island and Grave Cove** as well as **Volunteer Point**. There is great hiking at **Sparrow/Kidney Cove**, near **Port Stanley** which we also explore, before we head off to **Bleaker Island** and **Sea Lion Island**, home to the archipelago's largest breeding colony of southern elephant seals.

- » ships « **Ortelius**
- » when « 27 October – 9 November 2018
- » guide price « From **£7,790** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

South Georgia and Antarctic odyssey

| 22 days

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 weather and seas permit, we will take **Zodiacs** close to **Point Wild** on **Elephant Island**. The second voyage operates in reverse.

- » ships « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 14 January – 4 February 2019
31 January – 21 February 2019
- » guide price « From **£17,995** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

PHOTOS: John Bozinov, Tavish Campbell, Poseidon Expeditions;
Mike and Kathie Killingley, Arcturus clients

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA, SCOTIA AND WEDDELL SEA

A spectacle of seals, seabirds, penguins and cetaceans

Weddell Sea in search of emperors with helicopters | 15 days

Entering the **Weddell Sea**, ahead lie the locations where **Shackleton's** and **Nordenskjold's** polar survival epics were played out. As we are unlikely to reach through the ice as far as the emperor penguin rookery south of **Snow Hill Island** we aim to situate ourselves in or between the **Antarctic Sound** and **James Ross Island**, close to the ice-edge, where we can observe the penguins on their way to the open water. We will make scenic flights and landings in places otherwise inaccessible this early in the season. However, if ice-conditions favour us, we will reschedule to offer ship-to-shore helicopter transfers, landing around 45 minutes' walking distance from the rookery.

- » ship « **Ortelius**
- » when « 13-27 November 2017,
16-30 November 2018
- » guide price « From **£10,995** per person (2017) and **£11,995** per person (2018) based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « On-board helicopters

Weddell Sea discoverer | 16 days

This cruise sails through the iceberg-blessed **Antarctic Sound** on its way to the eastern side of the **Antarctic Peninsula**. You'll get to spot a variety of seals, fantastically beautiful landscapes and the noisy rookeries of thousands of nesting penguins during five days in this idyllic location. You will also visit the **South Shetland Islands** on your way back to port.

- » ship « **Plancius**
- » when « 9-24 March 2019
- » guide price « From **£9,695** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

NEW VOYAGE

Weddell Sea explorer – with Antarctic Peninsula fly/sail | 14 days

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

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 24 February – 9 March 2018,
9-22 March 2019
- » guide price « From **£11,955** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

» OPTIONS « **Ushuaia operates Weddell Sea quest** in and out of Ushuaia via the **Antarctic Sound** (30 miles long and 7-12 miles wide) which makes for exciting ice navigation, 8-23 January 2018 and 4-18 February 2019.

- » guide price « from **£9,495** per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities).

Ocean Endeavour's unusual itinerary visits the **Antarctic Peninsula** on both east and west sides, 23 January – 14 February 2018

- » guide price « **£16,475** per person



PHOTO: Mark Jones, Aurora Expeditions



ANTARCTIC PENINSULA, POLAR CIRCLE, ROSS SEA, ATLANTIC ODYSSEY

Follow in the footsteps of fabled explorers

"Our trip was simply incredible. I've run out of superlatives! We made it to Scott's, Shackleton's and Borchgrevink's huts and we saw emperor penguins, minke, humpback, fin and blue whales, Weddell and crabeater seals and had a close encounter with a feeding leopard seal. We both especially loved the albatross, they're fantastic to watch! The Subantarctic Islands – Macquarie and Campbell islands in particular – were amazing for wildlife and scenery, the highlight being the king penguins and elephant seals at Sandy Bay. We even had a display of the Aurora Australis on our journey home!"

Chris and Karen Robb, Ross Sea in the wake of Scott and Shackleton, February-March 2017



"The service provided by Arcturus was excellent. It was a fantastic, once-in-a-lifetime trip, beyond imagination. Highlights were the penguins, the ice scenery, including the Ross Ice Shelf, and the historic sites, in particular Scott's Hut at Cape Evans. The group of passengers was a real mix of personalities and nationalities. We made some good friends. I won one of the photo competitions organized by the expedition staff."

David and Mandy Grierson, Antarctica, the Ross Sea, January-February 2017

LET US KNOW: If you have a connection with a particular place as we can offer you the chance to share your experiences, diaries and photographs with fellow passengers, or even get the ship to make an unscheduled visit.

MUST READ: *Endurance* by Alfred Lansing



East Antarctica – In the wake of Mawson | 32 days

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.

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, majestic and remote. In addition to Mawson's Hut we hope to visit the research base Dumont D'Urville.

- » ships « Akademik Shokalskiy
- » when « 5 January – 4 February 2018
Enquire for 2019 dates
- » guide price « £14,765 per person based on twin cabin (shared 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 was a magnet for the most famous adventurers including Scott, Shackleton and Amundsen. We visit five historic huts and learn more of the explorers' heroic achievements. This region is the breeding ground for millions of adie and emperor penguins and we have permits for landing in the Subantarctic islands Auckland, Campbell and Macquarie.

- » ships « Spirit of Enderby
- » when « 7 January – 10 February 2018
5 February – 11 March 2018
8 January – 11 February 2019
6 February – 12 March 2019
- » guide price « From £19,795 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

» OPTIONS « Old favourite small ship Akademik Shokalskiy, carrying 54 passengers, takes a late season voyage 30 January – 5 March 2018. Ask about 2019 dates.

Subantarctic islands – birding down under | 24 days

NEW VOYAGE

Explore the 'Albatross Latitudes' and the most remote Subantarctic islands including Snares, Bounty, Antipodes, Auckland, Campbell, Macquarie and Chatham islands on this comprehensive 19 day expedition out of New Zealand, perfect for those interested in birds, history and wildlife.

- » ships « Spirit of Enderby
- » when « 10 November – 3 December 2017
8 November – 1 December 2018
- » guide price « From £11,635 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

South Pacific – Western Pacific odyssey | 36 days

NEW VOYAGE

This exploration of the Western Pacific sails from Tauranga, New Zealand to Norfolk Island, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Micronesia and includes Japan's remote Bonin Islands. It's a world class expedition with the opportunity to see some of the world's rarest seabirds and endemic species. It's not only for 'birders' however, as the cetacean list is outstanding, but if you tire of wildlife watching you can snorkel, swim or simply relax.

The expedition is accompanied by some of the best pelagic birding guides in the world whose experience of the seabirds of the West Pacific is extensive. It concludes at Yokohama, Japan.

- » ships « Spirit of Enderby
- » when « 14 March – 18 April 2018
Enquire for 2019 dates
- » guide price « £8,595 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

PHOTOS: Chris and Karen Robb, David and Mandy Grierson, Arcturus clients



DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

Many of these vessels offer a variety of cabins. Our guide prices are based on twin cabins with shared or private facilities, but we can quote for single occupancy, triple, quadruple or superior cabins and suites (where available) on request. Note: Passenger numbers quoted here are the maximum regulations allow, but the ships often carry fewer. Visit www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk/ships to see more photographs (including cabins) and fuller information about 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



HIGH QUALITY SERVICE AND ON-BOARD CONCIERGE

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 « Spitsbergen, Greenland, 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, Antarctic
- » operator « One Ocean Expeditions



SMALL SHIP

Akademik Shokalskiy

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

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



FLY/SAIL OPTIONS

Hebridean Sky

Ice class 1C all-suite luxury expedition ship which had a 10 million dollar refurbishment in May 2016. Owner-run, this is a super ship – all cabins have private facilities.

- » passengers « 114
- » itineraries « Antarctic
- » operator « Antarctica XXI and Polar Latitudes



NEW FOR 2018-19

Island Sky

Sister ship to Hebridean Sky, this all-suite vessel has spacious, well-appointed cabins and stylish common areas – a small expedition ship with touches of elegance throughout.

- » passengers « 114
- » itineraries « Antarctic
- » operator « Polar Latitudes and Quark Expeditions



RUSTIC SAILING SHIP

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, Norway
- » operator « Oceanwide



FORMERLY SEA ADVENTURER

Ocean Adventurer

An A-1 ice class expedition vessel in the style of great ocean liners. Multi million dollar renovation in June 2017.

- » passengers « 132
- » itineraries « Arctic, Greenland, Canadian Arctic, Antarctic
- » operator « Quark Expeditions



BIGGER SHIPS, COMPETITIVE PRICING

Ocean Diamond

Fast, superyacht 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. 18 ice-class vessel with 20 Zodiacs, advanced navigation, several lounges and a top deck observation room.

- » passengers « 199
- » itineraries « Canadian Arctic, Antarctic
- » operator « Adventure Canada and Quark Expeditions



FLY/SAIL

Ocean Nova

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

- » passengers « 78
- » itineraries « Arctic, Greenland, Antarctic, Iceland
- » operator « Antarctica XXI and Quark Expeditions



SOLID AND WORKMANLIKE

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.

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



BEST OBSERVATION LOUNGE

Plancius

Rebuilt in 2009. Comfortable, ice-strengthened, 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



SMALL SHIP

Polar Pioneer

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

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



COMFORTABLE SAILING SHIP

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
- » itineraries « Spitsbergen, Greenland
- » operator « Oceanwide



INNOVATIVE ITINERARIES

Sea Spirit

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

- » passengers « 112
- » itineraries « Iceland, Norway, Greenland, Arctic, Franz Josef Land, Antarctic
- » operator « Poseidon Expeditions



SMALL SHIP

Spirit of Enderby

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

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



OLDER SHIP BUT GREAT PRICES

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 « Antappply Expeditions



ARCTURUS

THE POLAR ARM OF FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL

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.