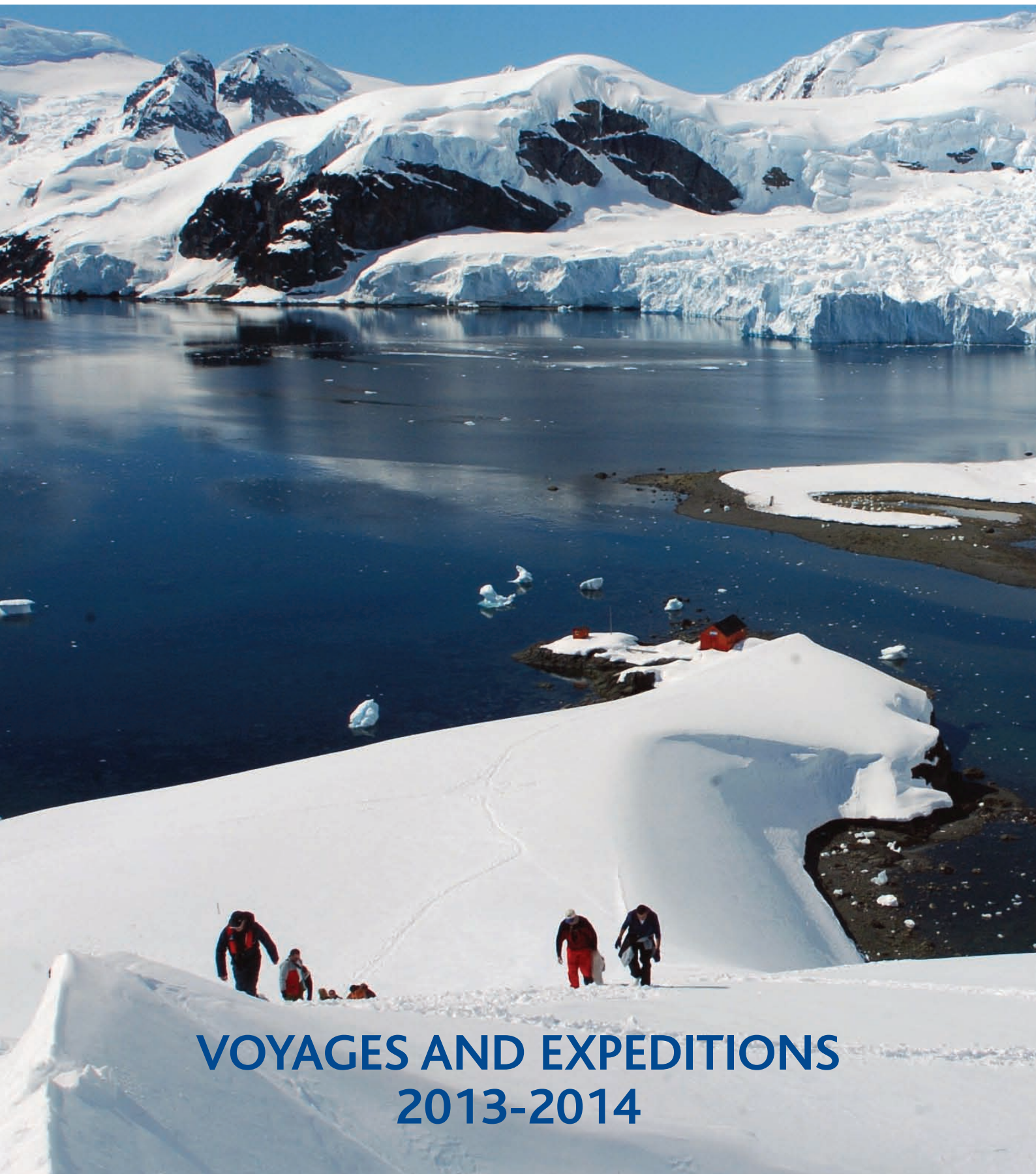


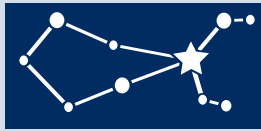
# ARCTURUS

THE POLAR ARM OF FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL



**VOYAGES AND EXPEDITIONS  
2013-2014**





## ARCTURUS

THE POLAR ARM OF FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL



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### Give us a call...

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

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

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

Welcome to Arcturus, the polar arm of Far Frontiers Travel, and our 2013-2014 catalogue. This year I am delighted to be introducing additional options for Iceland as well as dog sledging and cross-country skiing in Spitsbergen.

We continue to update our trips in Greenland, Kamchatka and Norway so that there is always a new twist to offer and to extend our range of smaller independently-owned ships offering voyages to the Arctic and Antarctic. Over the past 12 months, the trend has moved significantly towards late bookings, so in order to assist those still keen to book an Antarctic voyage for winter 2012-13 we have included many of these departures as well as those for the 2013-14 season.

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

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

We are also delighted that Dr. Lorraine Craig continues on board to advise on polar matters, talk about her portfolio of private trips and discuss clients' requirements prior to booking. Happily, Spring 2013 sees the return of her popular cross-country ski trip to Greenland.

Fiona Brijnath, Director



### About us

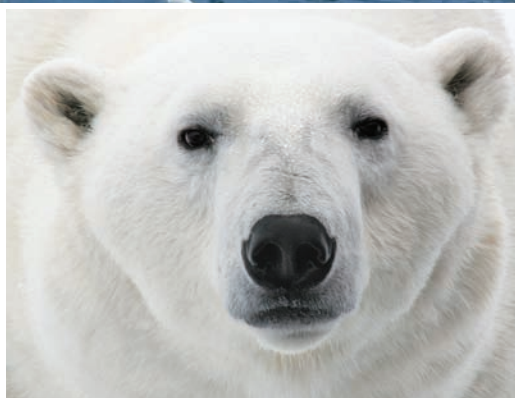
Arcturus, based in Devon, is a small niche travel company specialising in polar tours. The company has been operating for over 30 years and, as one of the foremost operators to the polar regions, we offer an unparalleled selection of extraordinary expeditions and voyages to the Arctic, Antarctic, Norway,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

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

The company is run by Fiona Brijnath who, with her life-long career in the travel business, has developed tailored travel itineraries for 20 years, many of them for clients who return time and again. She will be your first point of contact, ably assisted by Dr. Lorraine Craig PhD who was previously Head of Research and Higher Education at the Royal Geographical Society and Director of the Cambridge Arctic Shelf Programme. In addition to being past president of the Arctic Club, Lorraine has led walking and skiing expeditions for Arcturus in West and North East Greenland. She is currently based at the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College London and, when she is not







lecturing, advises on all polar matters, leads tours and helps to develop new destinations. Fiona's travel to remote destinations has equipped her with unrivalled expertise in many countries around the globe and the company owes its success to her particular forte in arranging bespoke holidays and multi-country itineraries. **You are unlikely to find anyone who gives more attention to personal service and detail or who is better equipped to advise on how to make yours the trip of a lifetime.**

## Prices

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

locally. We also include fuel surcharges known at the time of going to print. Please note however, that in a climate of fluctuating fuel prices, we are bound to pass on any additional surcharges as we are informed of them.

## Pre and post-tour arrangements

Because we specialise in tailor-making holidays all over the world we are more than happy to make additional pre and post-tour arrangements on your behalf. For example, we can suggest some fantastic extended trips to Chile, Argentina or Ecuador and The Galapagos for those on Antarctic voyages, or if you are visiting Arctic Russia, you could begin or end the trip marvelling at the fabulous sights in Moscow and St. Petersburg. This year we have a new section on Iceland which will provide inspiration for those wishing to explore the area before or after a voyage to Greenland. **Please call us to discuss your individual requirements.**

## Your financial protection

The air holiday packages in this brochure are **ATOL protected** by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 9270. Please see our booking conditions for more information.

### Total Payment Protection (topp) Policy cover:

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

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

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

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

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COVER PHOTO: Jordi Plana, Antarctica XXI.  
PHOTOS PAGES 2 & 3: Arcturus; A R Russ, Heritage Expeditions;  
Duncan Currie; Sandy Lawson; One Ocean Expeditions;  
Evelyn Pfeiffer, Antarctica XXI and Olle Carlsson, Quark Expeditions.  
WATERCOLOUR MAPS THROUGHOUT: Claire Baker.



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

» itineraries «

## Dog-sledging in mainland Norway

Explore Dividalen – drive your own dogs | 6 days

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

- » dates « 1 – 6 March 2013
- » price « £1,695 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4-6. Accommodation in cosy cabin. No previous experience required

Mountain dog sledging hut to hut | 8 days

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

- » dates « 17 – 24 March 2013
- » price « £2,395 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4-8. Accommodation in mountain huts. Some previous experience required

## Dog-sledging in Spitsbergen

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

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

- » dates « Weekly from 1 March – mid May 2013
- » price « £3,155 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Drive your own dogs. All equipment provided and all necessary training given

PHOTOS: iStockphoto and Arcturus.

## Dog-sledging – drive your own dogs



## ARCTIC NORWAY AND SPITSBERGEN

Early spring when the days are rapidly lengthening is a beautiful time of year in the Arctic and travelling by dog-sledge is to experience its true spirit. These expeditions in the mountains and high plateaux of **Northern Norway** have been organised and led by our Norwegian friends for over 15 years. We can arrange short trips and extensions such as a visit by skidoo to the **Sami (Lapp)** people in their summer or winter camps, to **Summer Island** or the picturesque **Lofoten Islands** or a day visit to **Tromsø** and its **Polar Museum** and **Northern Lights Planetarium**. For all trips you will drive your own dog team. New for 2013 are three new itineraries for **Spitsbergen** and a whole array of options for tailor-made dog sledging in **Norway** and **Spitsbergen**.

Summer Spitsbergen encounter | 8 days

High mountain peaks pointing to the sky, azure blue glacier fronts, unspoiled scenery and magnificent wildlife are all features of our week long summer expedition. You'll stay in a delightful trappers lodge, at a former radio station and spend two nights in tents to explore the wild and beautiful **Isfjorden**. This trip is for anyone who likes to walk in the mountains and includes landings to go hiking in the varied terrain, observe Arctic birds, study the glacier fronts and take a closer look at flora, fauna and cultural heritage.

- » dates « Weekly in July and August 2013
- » price « £3,475 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Includes two nights camping. Suitable for anyone who likes to walk in the mountains. All equipment provided



SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO (SPITSBERGEN)

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

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

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

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







### Oscar II Land – cross-country skiing | 7 days

NEW  
FOR 2013

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

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

This is a challenging expedition with five days of skiing and four nights in a tent. You may experience all kinds of weather, from snowstorm to sunshine. You need to be in good physical shape and have experience including skiing and pulling ski-pulkas.

- » dates « 20 – 26 May 2013
- » price « £2,790 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Minimum 4 persons. Experienced guide and all necessary safety and camp equipment provided including pulka, sleeping bag and mat

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

NEW  
FOR 2013

Ready for new challenges? This expedition gives you an opportunity to explore arctic landscapes and nature, and find out more about yourself in the process, together with a friendly dog team.

The expedition is challenging with two nights in tents. You might have blizzards, fog or sunshine for 24 hours. The snow can be wet and heavy and it might get freezing cold so it is not for everyone and demands a sufficient level of fitness. You will be best prepared if you already have dog sledging experience, but it's easy to learn and enjoy and most of all you must be fond of dogs!

- » dates « 25 – 31 March 2013, 8 – 14 April 2013
- » price « £3,770 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Group size 3 minimum. One person per dog team

“ Back home from a wonderful holiday which certainly lived up to my expectations! The jewel in the crown was of course Isfjord Radio Station.... Unbelievable experience. The dog sledging was the best hands-on experience I've ever had....guide knowledgeable and very friendly, the dogs an unutterable delight. The scenery utterly, stunningly beautiful. A pod of beluga circled the rib on the way back to Longyearbyen, then sped off down the fjord...a walrus popped up beside the boat!! Magical moments. Your organisation of it all was top class. I'd do it all again in a blink!! I will certainly recommend Arcturus as an excellent tour operator. ”

Maureen Kerr, Spitsbergen, June 2011

### Spitsbergen – 'Death or the west coast' dog sledge expedition | 10 days

NEW  
FOR 2013

"Death or the west coast" – so said the great polar explorer Fridtjov Nansen (1861-1930), when he led the first expedition across Greenland in 1888. Once the ship had dropped his party on the east coast their only possibility of survival was to reach the west coast and civilization before they ran out of food. Fortunately when we leave Longyearbyen the stakes are not so high! Join us on this unique dog sledge expedition to the west coast of the Isfjorden and experience the wild and beautiful nature of Spitsbergen. The route goes from Longyearbyen through open valleys, over ice-covered fjords and 1,000 year-old glacier ice – always heading west. We pass the old mining village Pyramiden, the Tre Kroner mountains and drive through the majestic glaciers at Oscar II Land. At the end of the expedition we will be picked up and transported by boat back to Longyearbyen.

- » dates « 11 – 20 May 2013
- » price « £4,745 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Group size 3-6. This is a true expedition for those in good physical condition who seek challenges in close contact with ice, snow, dogs and arctic conditions. You will put up tents and feed the dogs. Camp experience required, and while dog sledging experience is not a necessity it can be an advantage



NEW FOR 2013

### Tailor made dog sledging for private groups

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

In Norway, you'll be guests of our old friends who work their long established dog team out of a comfortable cabin at Øverbygd, in northern Norway at latitude 69N. Enjoy cosy evenings, perhaps with a delicious reindeer stew round the fire, or a glass of wine under the stars in the open air hot tub. For the more adventurous we can plan a mountain route from hut to hut along remote trails. The emphasis is on comfort and conviviality rather than luxury but it will certainly be a holiday to remember. From mid-September to mid-April you may be able to see the Northern Lights dancing on the sky. If you are lucky enough to witness this, you'll never tire of the spectacle.

In Spitsbergen, our partners run their family-owned business from Bolterdalen, a valley 10km from the main town of Longyearbyen. They have more than 14 years of combined experience derived from the Elite Military Sled Patrol (Sirius, Greenland and Svalbard).

The dog team is made up of Greenland dogs, an ancient breed, thought to be directly descended from huskies brought there by the first Inuit settlers. It is a lively, healthy pack comprising some 100 dogs, with 10 to 15 puppies being born each year – bringing joy both to their families and our visitors.

The sledging is superb with varied valleys and the High Arctic offers perfect conditions for the dogs to show what they can do.

PHOTOS: 123RF Stock Photo; Sandy Lawson and Arcturus.





## Iceland bespoke

Below is a brief outline of 'must-see's for those extending their journey before or after a Greenland voyage. Be it self-drive, super jeep, private tour or small escorted group, do ask our help to dovetail these options into your itinerary or combine them into a stand-alone Iceland holiday.

**Golden Circle** – The classic nature tour of south west Iceland includes the spectacular waterfalls at Gullfoss, Þingvellir National Park where the oldest still active parliament was founded in 930 AD (now a UNESCO World Heritage site) and the bubbling geothermal area of Geysir.

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

**Black lava riding** – Take to the sturdy Icelandic pony for an unforgettable half or full day in the saddle.

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

**Whales, puffins and sails** – A unique north coast sailing tour on board a classic 19th century style schooner to combine whale watching and puffins at Lundy Island from June to mid-August. Tours vary from a half day to a week.

**Snaefellsness Peninsula** – Hanging off the west coast, this national park offers vast lava fields, rugged coastline, pebble beaches, sea stacks, a profusion of sea birds and gorgeous fishing villages.

**Myvatn and the north** – Close to Akureyri in northern Iceland, visit the majestic Godafoss Waterfalls, the Hverarönd solfataras (boiling sulphur mud pits) and Lake Myvatn – Europe's largest bird sanctuary.



**TAKE WITH YOU:** You can swim year-round in countless geothermal pools and lagoons with a typical temperature of 25-28°C, so a bathing suit is a must, whatever time of year you visit!

**READ:** *Sirius Patrol* by Peter Schmidt Michelson.

Fiona's travel tips



## ICELAND AND GREENLAND

Tailor made and guided tours

Greenland remains a popular destination for our expeditions and this year we are introducing some more ideas for Iceland. If you are joining a ship in Iceland, it is well worth considering adding a few days to your trip pre or post voyage.

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

» itineraries «

### Dog sledging around Liverpool Land with Inuit hunters | 10 days

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

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

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

### At home in Kap Tobin | 7 and 10 days

NEW FOR 2013

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

- » dates « 26 April – 2 May, 3 – 12 May 2013
- » price « From £2,995 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Group size 4-5. You'll feel more like a house guest than a visitor. One night is spent in a basic hunter's cabin

### Icebergs of West Greenland | 10 days

NEW FOR 2013

The west coast of Greenland is just spectacular. After our very successful recce trip in 2011 we are delighted to offer our suggested itinerary for individuals. It incorporates boat trips among the spectacular grounded icebergs of the fjord at Ilulissat and some easy walking in this third largest settlement in Greenland. A few days should be spent on Disko Island with time to visit the research station and walking among the basaltic lavas. After a boat trip to Port Victor you'll visit local viewpoints to see the glacier front and, hopefully, calving icebergs. One more challenging walk allows the opportunity to visit to the inland ice.

- » dates « Tailor made to suit – plan for July/August 2013
- » price « £4,165 per person
- » key info « Tailor made for two. Accommodation is limited so it's a good idea to book early

### Cross-country skiing in Greenland with Lorraine Craig | 10 days

NEW FOR 2013

For 2013 Lorraine is back with her popular cross-country ski trip in Greenland's Southern Liverpool Land, a skiing trip with a difference. Skiing days tend to be short (around 4 to 5 hours a day) as it is cold, but you will live in simple accommodation, eat simply and enjoy the challenge of being in a remote area. The mountain and coastal scenery is superb and we'll combine a few days in the small hunting village of Ittoqqortoormiit (Scoresby Sund) with a cosy cabin at Kap Tobin, some 7km away for the remaining days.

- » dates « 26 March – 4 April 2013
- » price « £3,295 per person
- » leader « Dr Lorraine Craig
- » key info « Group size 5 minimum. We do some of our own cooking and travel out each day with day packs finding new routes



For map of Greenland see page 9

PHOTOS: Arcturus and Duncan Currie.





## ARCTIC AND FAR EAST RUSSIA

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

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



» itineraries «

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

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

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

- » dates « 10 – 24 February 2013  
23 February – 9 March 2013
- » price « £4,995 per person
- » leader « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » key info « Group size: minimum 4, maximum 8

### Dog sledging to Nalycheva Valley | 11 days

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

- » dates « 9 – 19 March 2013
- » price « £4,195 per person
- » leader « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » key info « Group size: minimum 3, maximum 8

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

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

- » dates « 24 August – 10 September 2013
- » price « £4,890 per person
- » leader « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » key info « Based on a group size of 10-14. The pace will be leisurely. The walks are not difficult and are entirely at the discretion of the individual



For map of the Russian Far East  
see page 12



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

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

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

### Solovetski Islands and the White Sea | 12 days

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

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

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

- » dates « 9 – 20 June 2013  
or we can tailor make to suit
- » price « £2,585 per person
- » leader « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » key info « Group size 6 minimum. Weather may be variable with temperatures ranging from 5-20 degrees C. The pace will be leisurely, easy walking and entirely at discretion of the individual



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

PHOTOS: iStockphoto and Arcturus.



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



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

## VOYAGES – THE ARCTIC

### » new for 2013 «

- » All-suite ship **Sea Spirit** ventures to **Greenland**
- » **Polar Pioneer** journeys through **Wild Scotland** and then on via **Norway** to **Spitsbergen**
- » **Clipper Adventurer** voyages from **Glasgow** to **Aberdeen** via the **Outer Hebrides**. A second voyage routes via **Iceland** to **Greenland**
- » **Spirit of Enderby's** voyage **Jewel of the Russian Far East** is back for 2013
- » Adventurous post-voyage hiking options in **Spitsbergen**

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

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



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

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

PHOTOS: Malcolm Mundy; Christine Birchall and Sandy Lawson.





## SCOTTISH ISLANDS, SPITSBERGEN AND GREENLAND

» itineraries «

### Fair Isle, Jan Mayen, Spitsbergen | 10 days

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

- » ships « **Ortelius, Plancius**
- » when « 8 – 17 June 2013, 10 – 19 June 2013
- » guide price « **£2,070** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

### Scotland slowly | 11 days

**NEW FOR 2013**

Scotland's western and northern islands are a rich tapestry of culture, heritage and natural history. Our ship winds its way from **Glasgow** through the **Western Isles** and the **Pentland Firth** to **Orkney** and **Shetland**, ending in **Aberdeen**. June is an ideal month to visit Scotland in search of birds, with breeding well underway, and watchers will be rewarded with excellent opportunities.

- » ship « **Clipper Adventurer**
- » when « 2 – 12 June 2013
- » guide price « **£3,995** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

### Scotland to Greenland | 14 days

**NEW FOR 2013**

From **Aberdeen**, a second voyage travels via **Fair Isle**, **Lerwick** and the **Faroës** to **Iceland** and then to **Greenland**, ending at **Kangerlussuaq**.

- » ship « **Clipper Adventurer**
- » when « 12 – 25 June 2013
- » guide price « From **£4,195** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

### 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. To continue on to **Spitsbergen**, join our consecutive **Across the Arctic Circle** voyage.

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 23 June – 3 July 2013
- » guide price « **£5,740** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

 For map of Spitsbergen see page 4

PHOTOS: Peter Juliff, Aurora Expeditions.

### Across the Arctic Circle – Scotland, Norway & Spitsbergen | 14 days

**NEW FOR 2013**

This new voyage starts in **Aberdeen**, heading north along the spectacular **Norwegian coast** before arriving at **Spitsbergen**.

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 3 – 16 July 2013
- » guide price « **£5,820** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

### North/around Spitsbergen | 9-12 days

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

- » ships « **Ortelius, Plancius**
- » when « Numerous departures June – August 2013
- » guide price range « **£4,460 – £5,845** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Diving, kayaking, hiking, basecamp voyages, snow shoeing, photo workshop
- » key info « Some of the August voyages hope to make it to rarely-visited **Kvitøya** farthest to the east, close to Russian territory. **Ortelius'** June **North Spitsbergen** voyage is designated a polar bear special

**NEW FOR 2013**

### Trekking in Spitsbergen

**Ortelius** offers an **Around Spitsbergen** voyage from 3 – 14 August 2013 specifically designed for travellers interested in hiking. You may take the option of a six day add-on inland crossing from **Bellsund** to **Icefjord** for truly fit wilderness hikers. Expect backpack weights of around 25kg and to cover around 22km per day on tough terrain. Other Spitsbergen trekking options in summer 2013 range from seven to 17 days. Call us for details.



### Spitsbergen circumnavigation | 14 days

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

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 3 – 16 July 2013, 15 – 28 July 2013
- » guide price « **£6,570** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)
- » activities « Kayaking, camping (second departure)

### Scoresby Sund – Aurora Borealis | 11 days

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

- » ship « **Ortelius**
- » when « 3 – 13 September 2013
- » guide price « **£4,360** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

### North East Greenland | 15 days

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

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

- » ships « **Ortelius, Plancius**
- » when « 22 August – 5 September (Ortelius)  
24 August – 7 September 2013
- » guide price « **£6,290** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Photo workshop



# SAIL SPITSBERGEN, LOFOTENS AND GREENLAND



» itineraries «

## Sail North Spitsbergen | 12-13 days

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

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

- » ship « Noorderlicht
- » when « June, July, September 2013
- » guide price « From £3,935 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

## Sail North/around Spitsbergen | 17 days

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

- » ship « Noorderlicht
- » when « July, August 2013
- » guide price « £4,845 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

## Sail North, South or West Spitsbergen – Aurora Borealis | 7-9 days

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

- » ship « Noorderlicht
- » when « September, October 2013
- » guide price « From £2,220 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

## Sail Lofotens – Aurora Borealis | 8 days

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

The weather can be quite rough, so the itinerary is provisional.

- » ship « Noorderlicht
- » when « 8 – 15 and 15 – 22 November 2013
- » guide price « £1,885 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)



For maps of Spitsbergen and Greenland see pages 4 and 9

PHOTOS: Oceanwide Expeditions; Sandy Lawson; Jan Houter, Oceanwide Expeditions and Malcolm Mundy.



## Sail West Greenland | 10-16 days

These voyages cover the coastline between Aasiaat and Narsarsuaq in varying voyages of different lengths. In the Manitsaq area we visit a large seabird colony and see fantastic landscapes at Evighedsfjord. We look for reindeer at Sydbay (Ukivik), where the 18th century whalers traded with the Eskimos, and at Isortoq. We intend to call at the small settlement on Hunde Eijland with its old Thule dwellings dating from the 11th century and the graves of 18th century Dutch whalers. We will make Zodiac excursions in the beautiful narrows of the Kronprinsens Ejland archipelago, search out Greenland whales at Disko Island and enjoy views across the Jakobshavn Isfjord, a World Heritage site. We end at the 17th century whaling settlement of Aasiaat.

- » ship « Rembrandt Van Rijn
- » when « April, May, October 2013
- » guide price « Ranges from £2,895 – £3,975 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

## Sail North Greenland | 17 days

A longer voyage beginning and ending with a charter flight from Reykjavik to Upernavik, the main town in North Greenland, whose people still live by hunting seal. We go ashore on Kipak, and Kap Shackleton on Agarsuit with their huge colonies of Brunnich's guillemots. We land at Kuvdlorsuaq at the southern end of Melville Bugt and later at Lille Renland, where reindeer have been found. Here we can walk on the Greenland ice-cap and may encounter our first sea ice. If so, there is a chance of spotting polar bears. Other landings include Cape Melville, Savigsivik, the southernmost Thule settlement, and Siorapaluk. After calling in at Thule, we make a trip inland into the tundra at Booth Sound. Our voyage ends with Parker Snow Bugt, Cape York and Kingigtorsuaq, where 14th century Viking ruins were found.

- » ship « Rembrandt Van Rijn
- » when « August, September 2013
- » guide price « Ranges from £5,395 – £5,795 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

## Sail Disko Bay | 10-13 days

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

- » ship « Rembrandt Van Rijn
- » when « May – July, September 2013
- » guide price « Ranges from £3,125 – £4,550 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)





### Three Arctic islands – triple the adventure | 16 days

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

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 3 – 18 August 2013
- » guide price « **£6,780** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Kayaking

### Jewels of Northeast Greenland | 15 days

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

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 4 – 18 August 2013  
17 – 31 August 2013
- » guide price « **£8,120** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Dive options, kayaking

### East Greenland – Northern Lights | 14 days

**NEW FOR 2013**

**Scoresbysund**, the world's longest fjord system, beckons you to explore Greenland which entices with some of the world's best displays of the Northern Lights. The Inuit settlement of **Ittoqqortoormiit** offers a rare connection to the past, as its people still live just as their ancestors did hundreds of years ago. Iceberg-choked fjords, tundra hikes and the Arctic wildlife of **Greenland National Park** make for exquisite wilderness scenery every day. One of the more active expeditions, you can summit mountains and watch herds of grazing musk oxen on the horizon.

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 9 – 22 September 2013  
21 September – 4 October 2013
- » guide price « **£5,920** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Kayaking

### Southern Greenland explorer | 14-16 days

**NEW FOR 2013**

This unusual voyage sets off from **Kangerlussuaq** on Greenland's western shores, hugging the coastline southwards right around to **Tasiilaq** on the eastern side before turning to cross the **Davis Strait** to **Iceland**. From the **Fjord of Eternity** to **Cape Farewell** and the ghost town of **Skoldungen**, dogsledding settlements and cultural shows connect you with Greenland's people, while whale-watching, tundra hiking and exploring one of the world's fastest moving glaciers get you close to nature. The first voyage operates in reverse.

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 16 – 31 August 2013  
28 August – 10 September 2013
- » guide price « **£7,095** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « kayaking

### Epic High Arctic | 13 days

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

- » ship « **Clipper Adventurer**
- » when « 26 July – 7 August 2013
- » guide price « **£7,475** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

### Into the Northwest Passage | 17 days

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

- » ship « **Clipper Adventurer**
- » when « 5 – 21 August 2013
- » guide price « **£9,720** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)



### The North Pole (by icebreaker) | 14 days

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

- » ship « **50 Years of Victory**
- » when « 19 June – 2 July, 30 June – 13 July,  
13 – 26 July 2013
- » guide price « From **£15,600** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities). **Contact us for details of early bird discounts**
- » activities « Hot air ballooning (selected voyages)

### Franz Josef Land expedition (by icebreaker) | 15 days

The **Franz Josef Land** archipelago of 191 islands saw several expeditions which sometimes led to dramatic and tragic events. On **Bell Island** sits the hut built by **Leigh Smith** in 1881 and on **Jackson Island** you can see the remains of the shelter and memorial wooden post where **Nansen** and **Johansen** spent seven months during the winter of 1895-96. We intend to visit walrus rookeries on **Stolichky** and **Appolonov Islands**, the seabird colonies on **Hooker Island** and the majestic cliffs and mountains of **Champa Island**.

- » ship « **Kapitan Dranitsyn**
- » when « 17 – 29 July 2013
- » guide price « **£11,160** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities). **£500 per person early booking discount for bookings made before 30 December 2012**



For maps of **Iceland** and **Greenland** see pages 6 and 9

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

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



PHOTOS: **Carroll Hall**, **Aurora Expeditions** and **Graham Charles**, **Quark Expeditions**.



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

» itineraries «

#### Sea of Okhotsk | 19 days

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

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

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 3 – 21 June 2013
- » guide price « From £7,640 per person per person twin cabin (shared facilities)

#### Across the top of the world | 18 days

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

Ask for details of the **Wrangel Island traverse** – an optional three day crossing at £835 per person.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 5 – 22 August 2013  
19 August – 5 September 2013
- » guide price « £8,735 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

#### Jewel of the Russian Far East | 15 days

**NEW  
FOR 2013**

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

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 2 – 16 September 2013
- » guide price « From £7,820 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)



Unforgettable  
adventures to magical  
lands of pristine wilderness



## ARCTIC AND FAR EAST RUSSIA

#### In the wake of Bering | 17 days

This expedition is as unique as the First Kamchatka Expedition of 1725-1730 led by Danish explorer Commander Vitus Bering on orders from the Russian Tsar, Peter the Great. Departing from **Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy**, a city named after Bering's two ships built here for the second Kamchatka (Great Northern) Expedition, we sail 'north by north east' to discover wildlife and wilderness that few people have seen or experienced. It is a land of extremes and myriad environments, including snow-capped active volcanoes, geothermal regions, vast forests, extensive tundra, uninhabited islands and rich oceans.

Every day we will search for the best wildlife experience, hoping to find one bird in particular – the extremely rare and 'globally vulnerable' spoon-billed sandpiper.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 19 June – 5 July 2013
- » guide price « £7,995 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

#### Russia's Ring of Fire – birding the Kuril Islands | 15 days

Commencing in **Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy**, this voyage covers the full **Kuril Island** region with its stunning volcanoes and wide diversity of birds. The Kuril Island chain comprises 32 islands that stretch between Russia and Japan across the **Bering Sea**. The larger islands are inhabited, and most people still make their living from the sea. Here you will see gigantic herbs as well as bear, foxes, seals, sea lions, fur seals and otters. The **Kamchatka Peninsula** is a land of bays and snow-capped volcanoes, alpine meadows and lowland forests. The seas washing their coasts are among the world's most productive and the area teems with birds and marine mammals, as do the remote **Commander Islands**, which we also visit.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 22 May – 5 June 2013
- » guide price « From £6,895 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

PHOTOS: J E Ross and Chris Collins, Heritage Expeditions.



# VOYAGES – THE ANTARCTIC



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

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

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

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

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

## » new for 2013/2014 «

- » **Ortelius** offers voyages to the Ross Sea and to the emperor penguins in the Weddell Sea including use of helicopters
- » New voyages with fewer passengers, more staff and emphasis on comfort on **Akademik Sergey Vavilov** and **Akademik Ioffe**
- » **Ocean Diamond** and **Sea Spirit** bring expedition luxury to the Antarctic
- » **Clipper Adventurer** combines Polar Circle with South Georgia
- » We've included dates for 2012 – 2013 voyages where there is still late availability



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

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

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

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

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

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

PHOTOS: Orion Cruises; Simon & Catherine Carroll, Antarctica XXI; Delphine Aures, Oceanwide Expeditions; Gunter Kast & Sandra Urbaniak, Antarctica XXI.



## Classic Antarctic Peninsula with South Shetlands | 13-15 days

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

- » ships « **Clipper Adventurer, Ocean Diamond, Ortelius, Plancius, Sea Spirit**
- » when « Numerous voyages  
November 2012 – March 2013 and  
November 2013 – March 2014
- » guide price range « From **£5,745** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Diving, kayaking, snow shoeing, camping, climbing, skiing, photo workshop

## Antarctic Peninsula Basecamp Plancius | 14-15 days

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

- » ship « **Plancius**
- » when « 20 November – 4 December 2012  
24 February – 10 March 2013  
20 November – 3 December 2013  
23 February – 9 March 2014
- » guide price « From **£7,175** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « All optional activities are free.  
Diving, kayaking, hiking (hikes of approx. 5-7 hours), snow shoeing, mountaineering, camping, photo workshop

## Crossing the Polar Circle | 14-17 days

This expedition offers you truly in-depth exploration of the **Antarctic Peninsula**. Extended time in the region allows you to go beyond the peninsula and venture south of the Antarctic Circle. You'll enjoy more time for communing with penguins and visits to less-frequented landing sites. **Clipper Adventurer** has an **Epic Antarctica** three week voyage in February 2014 combining the **Polar Circle** crossing with **South Georgia**.

- » ships « **Clipper Adventurer, Ocean Diamond, Plancius, Polar Pioneer, Sea Spirit,**
- » when « 14 – 31 January 2013  
9 – 23 February 2013  
7 – 21 March 2013  
January, February and March 2014
- » guide price « From **£7,170** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Diving, kayaking, camping, photo workshop



## Falklands, South Georgia, Antarctic Peninsula | 20-23 days

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

- » ships « **Clipper Adventurer, Ocean Diamond, Plancius, Sea Spirit**
- » when « November, December 2012 and 2013 and January, February 2013 and 2014
- » guide price « From **£10,285** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Snow shoeing, kayaking, climbing, photography

## Antarctic Dream expedition | 11-14 days

A comprehensive itinerary to the **Antarctic Peninsula** and **South Shetland Islands** with several voyages between November and March to choose from. **Aitcho Island, Neko Bay, Cuverville Island, Petermann Island, Deception Island** and **Pendulum Cove** will be just some of the superb landings on offer, weather permitting.

- » ship « **Antarctic Dream**
- » when « Various departures November 2012 – March 2013 and November 2013 – March 2014
- » guide price « From **£5,890** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities). Prices vary by departure
- » activities « Kayaking, camping
- » key info « Some voyages have a flight option to avoid one of the two Drake Passage crossings

## Exclusive South Georgia with Shackleton crossing | 21 days

Here we concentrate on the flora and fauna of **South Georgia**. You can either make a normal sea voyage with Zodiac excursions and hikes whilst circumnavigating the islands or, for serious ski explorers only, make an unsupported 40-50km ski trek retracing part of Shackleton's historic route from **King Haakon Bay** to **Stromness**. The trek crosses alpine passes and glaciers by ski or snowshoe or hauling sledges. Those exploring by sea have the chance to make a shorter trek following the final leg of Shackleton's epic hike.

- » ships « **Ortelius, Plancius**
- » when « 15 October – 4 November 2012  
18 March – 7 April 2013  
15 October – 4 November 2013  
27 March – 16 April 2014
- » guide price « From **£8,160** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « Snow shoeing, ski trekking (Shackleton traverse), scuba diving



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

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





## NEW FOR 2013

### Antarctica with a difference

We can offer similar Antarctic voyages but with notable differences in on-board service, with fewer passengers and extra staff. Each passenger is assigned to an 'adventure concierge' – a concept unique in the polar expedition cruise world – so you will have someone on board looking after your individual needs as you sail. Having fewer passengers allows for more flexibility with adventure options and this is the only way to experience overnight kayaking in the Antarctic.

Itineraries include the **Classic Antarctic Peninsula**; **Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula**; and **Polar Circle** voyages. In early November the 16-day **Off the beaten track voyage** allows for superb ski mountaineering and overnight kayaking. In December join **Regal Antarctica** (16 days) and spend Christmas among emperor penguins on this journey between **Ushuaia** and the **Falklands**.

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

» itineraries «

### Weddell Sea and Antarctic Peninsula | 14-15 days

NEW FOR 2013-14

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

- » ships « **Ortelius, Polar Pioneer, Sea Spirit**
- » when « 12 – 25 November 2012  
22 November – 5 December 2012  
2 – 15 December 2012  
6 – 22 February 2013  
20 February – 6 March 2013  
21 November – 4 December 2013  
1 – 14 December 2013  
January – March 2014
- » guide price « From **£7,445** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « kayaking



## WEDDELL SEA, ANTARCTIC PENINSULA, ROSS SEA

### South Georgia and Weddell Sea | 23 days

NEW FOR 2014

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

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 3 – 25 March 2013, 9 – 31 March 2014
- » guide price « Call us for prices
- » activities « kayaking

### Mawson's Antarctica | 22 days

**Cape Denison**, site of **Sir Douglas Mawson's** hut from the historic 1911-1913 expedition and a time capsule from a great era of exploration, is the real highlight of this voyage. It also takes us to **Port Martin**, the site of 100 grounded icebergs, and **Dumont d'Urville**, the French base renowned for its rich local wildlife, including colonies of **adelle** and **emperor penguins**.

- » ship « **Orion**
- » when « 18 December 2012 – 8 January 2013  
5 – 26 January 2013  
1 – 22 January 2014  
19 January – 9 February 2014
- » guide price « From **£12,345** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

### Antarctica XXI | 11 days

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

- » ship « **Ocean Nova**
- » when « December 2012 – February 2013 and December 2013 – February 2014
- » guide price « From **£8,435** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

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

NEW FOR 2014

A true discovery voyage exploring the southern **Antarctic Peninsula**, the rarely visited volcanic **Peter I Island**, the outer fringes of the pack-ice in the **Amundsen Sea**, the **Ross Sea**, **Shackleton** and **Scott's** huts, **Mc Murdo Station**, the **Dry Valleys** and **Macquarie Island**. This is a spectacular expedition with the added bonus of onboard helicopters so we can reach landing sites that are otherwise almost inaccessible.

- » ship « **Ortelius**
- » when « 14 January – 18 February 2013  
15 February – 21 March 2013  
14 January – 18 February 2014  
16 February – 21 March 2014
- » guide price « From **£22,275** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

### In the wake of Scott and Shackleton | 33 days

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

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 6 January – 7 February 2013  
4 February – 8 March 2013  
January, February 2014
- » guide price « From **£13,835** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

### Scott and Shackleton's Antarctica | 24 days

We cover some of the polar regions famously charted during the first race to the **South Pole** by pioneering explorers **Scott** and **Shackleton** a century ago. The **Ross Sea** coast extends from the ice shelf northwards until it reaches the very tip of **Victoria Land** and **Cape Adare**. We will attempt a variety of landings, subject to the conditions.

- » ship « **Orion**
- » when « 23 January – 15 February 2013  
6 February – 1 March 2014
- » guide price « From **£15,940** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)



# VOYAGES – A-Z OF THE SHIPS

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



## 50 Years of Victory

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

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



NEW for 2013-14

## Akademik Ioffe

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

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



## Akademik Sergey Vavilov

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

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



## Antarctic Dream

Dutch built ice-reinforced vessel with spacious dining room/ observation lounge, bar, lecture room, fitness room and sauna and passenger bridge.

- » **passengers** « 80 in twin cabins with private facilities, most with portholes or windows
- » **itineraries** « Antarctic
- » **operator** « Antarctic Shipping



## Clipper Adventurer

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

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



## Kapitan Dranitsyn

Equipped with on-board helicopters, a fleet of Zodiacs, a gym, sauna and swimming pool.

- » **passengers** « 100
- » **itineraries** « Franz Joseph Land
- » **operator** « Special Travel Club



## Noorderlicht

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

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



NEW for 2013-14

## Ocean Diamond

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

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



## Ocean Nova

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

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



## Orion

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

- » **passengers** « 106 in en-suite cabins
- » **itineraries** « Antarctic
- » **operator** « Orion Expedition Cruises



NEW for 2013-14

## Ortelius

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

- » **passengers** « 100
- » **itineraries** « Arctic, Antarctic
- » **operator** « Oceanwide



## Plancius

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

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



## Polar Pioneer

Refurbished in 2000. She has a bar/lounge/library area, a small fleet of Zodiacs and an open bridge policy.

- » **passengers** « 56 – all cabins have outside portholes and some have shared facilities
- » **itineraries** « Scottish Islands, Arctic, Greenland, Antarctic
- » **operator** « Aurora and Waterproof Expeditions

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

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

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



## Rembrandt Van Rijn

Although not ice-class, she has a reinforced bow and offers good open deck viewing areas. Her rebuild and refurbishment was completed in 2011.

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



## Sea Spirit

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

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



## 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, Arctic Russia, Antarctic
- » **operator** « Heritage



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