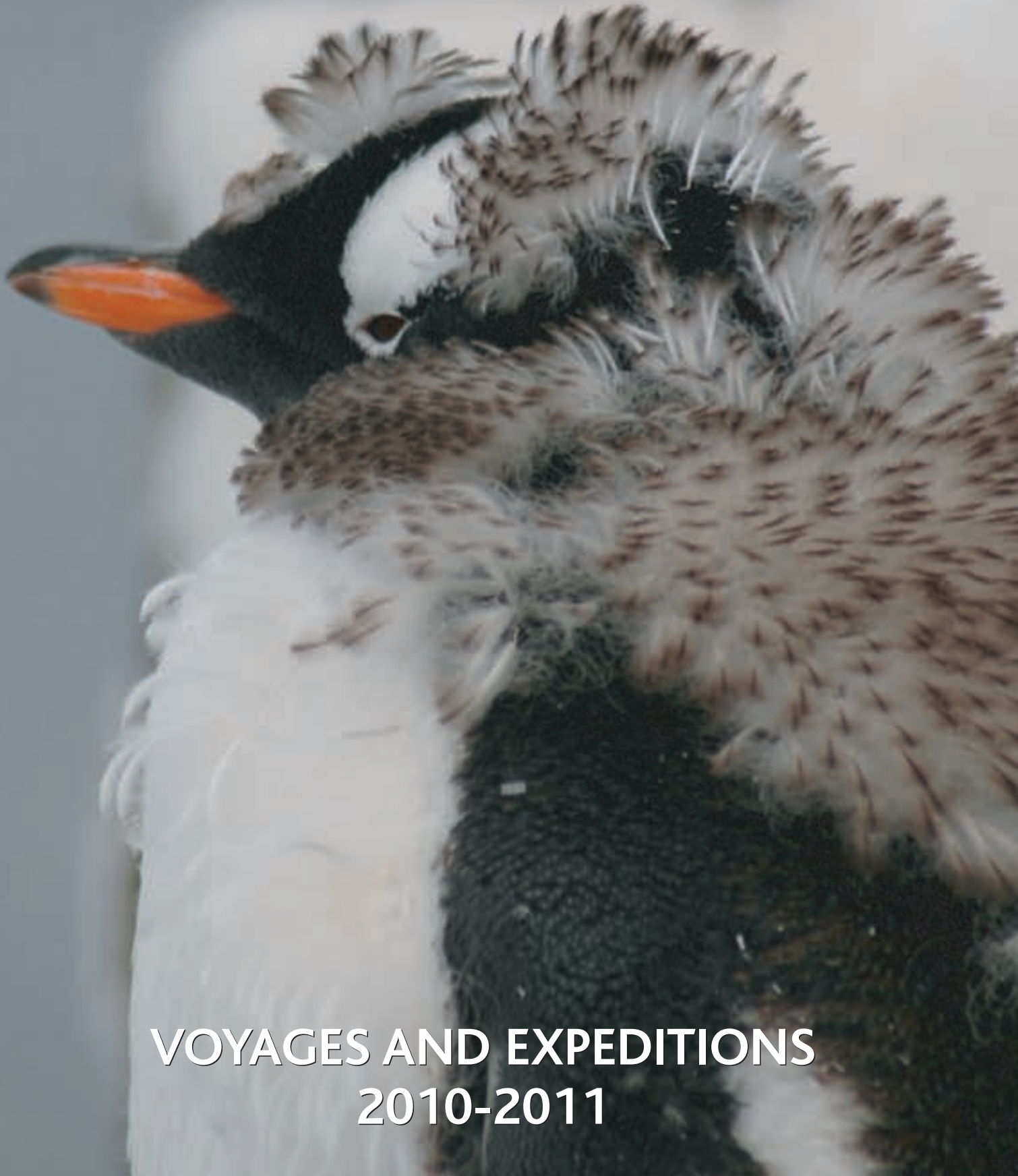


ARCTURUS

THE POLAR ARM OF FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL



**VOYAGES AND EXPEDITIONS
2010-2011**



We are delighted to present you with the 2011-2012 catalogue of **Arcturus**, the polar arm of **Far Frontiers Travel Ltd**. This year we continue to update our trips in Greenland, Kamchatka and Norway and our range of smaller independently-owned ships offering voyages to the Arctic and Antarctic. Our strength in tailor-making itineraries is coming to the fore with an increasing number of clients extending their voyages to create an exciting grand finale to their trip. 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.

Upon enquiry, we will send you a detailed itinerary which should help to answer any questions that you may have – but as our regular clients will 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 to discuss clients' requirements prior to booking.

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 nearly 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 North East Greenland. She is currently based at the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College London and, when she is not lecturing, continues to advise on all polar matters, lead tours and develop new destinations.

Fiona's travel to remote destinations has equipped her with unrivalled expertise in many countries around the globe and Far Frontiers Travel 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, triple or quadruple cabins with shared or private facilities and we can provide prices for single occupancy 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. 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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Ninestone, South Zeal, Devon EX20 2PZ
 t/f: (+44) 01837 840640
 e: fiona@arcturusexpeditions.co.uk
 w: www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk



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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.

Far Frontiers Travel Ltd Ninestone, South Zeal, Devon EX20 2PZ
 t: (+44) 01837 840640 e: fiona@farfrontiers.com w: www.farfrontiers.com

Registered in England No 5798604 Registered office: Oakley House, Tetbury Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1US

EXPEDITIONS

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.



ARCTIC NORWAY Dog-sledging – drive your own dogs

DIVIDALEN, LOFOTEN ISLANDS AND THE SAMI

Early spring 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 to the picturesque Lofoten Islands with their brightly painted cabins set against a backdrop of craggy hills and turquoise waters. A day visit to Tromsø would include the Polar Museum and the Northern Lights Planetarium or 'Polaria'. Do contact us for further information and prices.

Explore Dividalen

Dog-sledging, dog-sledging, dog driving or mushing – there are many ways to describe travelling with a dog team but everyone agrees on how exhilarating it is, standing on the runners of your sledge whilst the dogs take the strain. Snow and weather conditions permitting, you will make daily dog-sledging trips through beautiful snowscape. After a day on the trail you may enjoy a sauna or sit in a 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.

In early spring the days are rapidly lengthening and the rays of the evening sun produce beautiful colours on the snow-covered mountains. At night there is still the possibility of seeing the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights.

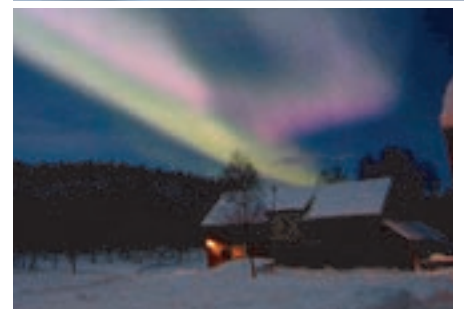
- » dates « 21 – 26 January 2011
18 – 23 February 2011
11 – 16 March 2011
- » price « £1,660 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4-6. Accommodation in cosy cabin. No previous experience required

The Kings Way: Crossing Norway into Sweden

This expedition takes us along the King's Way from the dramatic high peaks and rock faces of Norway to the vast open plateaux and lakes of Sweden. There will be opportunities to dog-sledge along frozen rivers and lakes and to explore the varied countryside around Kiruna.

The expedition ends near Jukkasjarvi, location of the Ice Hotel. Made using ice from the Torne River, it is the largest igloo in the world and features ice sculptures, a cinema and the Absolut Ice Bar carved entirely from ice. We can organise a night there for those who would like to experience this unique accommodation!

- » dates « 26 March – 2 April 2011
- » price « £2,295 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4-8. Accommodation in mountain huts, may involve some camping and long days of sledging. Previous experience required



Explore the mountains of Arctic Norway

Dividalen is a true wilderness and is incredibly peaceful. This expedition combines extensive exploration of the 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. In the evenings we shall relax in the comfort of the huts over meals made with local produce, discussing the day's journey.

- » dates « 26 February – 5 March 2011
22 – 29 April 2011
- » price « £2,270 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4-8. Accommodation in mountain huts. Some previous experience of dog sledging required

Our expeditions in Greenland are more than simply dog-sledging or skiing experiences, since we travel and live with Inuit hunters and spend some time in their village, **Ittoqqortoormiit (Scoresby Sund)**, where some of its inhabitants still make their living by hunting seals.



West Greenland recce with Lorraine Craig

The **west coast of Greenland** is not so well known to many of our Greenland clients. This recce trip, starting in **Ilulissat (Jakobshavn)** will incorporate boat trips among the spectacular grounded icebergs of the fjord, and easy walking in the third largest settlement in Greenland. A few days will be spent on **Disko Island** with a visit to the research station and walking among the basaltic lavas. After a boat trip to **Port Victor**, we will visit local view points to see the glacier front and, hopefully, calving icebergs. For those seeking a longer walk, a visit to the inland ice will be possible.

- » dates « 24 August – 4 September 2011
- » guide price « to be advised
- » leader « Dr. Lorraine Craig
- » key info « With accommodation in small hotels and cabins, the emphasis will be on simple comfort

GREENLAND Dog-sledging, hiking and skiing

Cross-country skiing in Southern Liverpool Land

Liverpool Land is one of the most beautiful regions of Greenland. It was named by the whaler and explorer William Scoresby Jr. who wrote "... *Nothing that I have seen equals it in bold grandeur and interesting character*".

Very few people have visited this country in spring when the sea is frozen and the land is covered with snow. Our previous expeditions found this to be a superb area for ski touring due to the excellent weather and wonderful mountain and coastal scenery. The combination of 1,000-1,400m peaks and long valleys leading from glaciers to the sea-ice of deep fjords makes this expedition a fascinating prospect for cross-country skiers who are seeking a true wilderness experience without being over-extended. As a bonus we may see arctic hares, foxes and possibly a polar bear.

- » dates « 1 – 10 April 2011
- » guide price « £2,965 per person
- » leader « Dr. Lorraine Craig
- » key info « Group size 6-10. This is exploratory cross-country skiing based in simple houses in Scoresby Sund/Kapp Tobin. We will be doing our own cooking and travelling out each day with day-packs finding new routes



Dog sledging around Liverpool Land with Inuit hunters

For this adventure we'll leave the small hunting village of **Ittoqqortoormiit (Scoresby Sund)** located at the mouth of the largest fjord system in the world and head due north to explore **Liverpool Land**. Here we'll see sheer cliffs dropping down to meet the sea ice, deep valleys that beg to be explored and experience the silence of the High Arctic. This is a journey of contrasts – to the west lies **Jameson Land**, known for its low rolling hills and steady numbers of musk ox, while to the east lies **Liverpool Land** where it's mostly glaciated land breeding icebergs. We will pass through both areas using routes followed by generations of hunters. Along the trip we will 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 sledging.

- » dates « 15 – 24 April 2011
- » guide price « £2,980 per person
- » leader « Local Greenlander
- » key info « Weather and snow conditions determine final itinerary. All equipment provided. Two guests per sledge. Supplement payable for own sledge. You will overnight in tents or cabins



Scoresby Sund dog-sledging for women 40+

This new itinerary is especially for women aged forty and over! We start dog-sledging from **Constable Point** going north across **Hurry Fjord** as far as **Kalkdalen Valley** with beautiful views of mountains and glaciers on the way. Through the valley we travel to the east coast of **Liverpool Land** following the coastline towards **Ittoqqortoormiit** village. The scenery is breathtaking – high pointy mountains devoid of vegetation. On the way we might observe wildlife, such as seals, arctic foxes, little auks and perhaps even polar bear. Our hunters may take the chance to hunt seal for dog food. Spend the last three nights in a private house in **Kap Tobin**. From here we will hike out on short day trips and visit local hot springs. We'll have a full day in **Ittoqqortoormiit** so we can observe daily life in a typical Inuit community.

- » dates « 9 – 16 April 2011
- » guide price « £2,775 per person
- » leader « Kathleen Cartwright
- » key info « Group size: 4 minimum. Weather and snow conditions determine final itinerary. Temperatures may be around -25°C. All equipment provided. One or two guests per sledge. You will overnight in tents or cabins



North east Greenland at latitude 75 degrees North is remote and dramatic and is known as 'The Arctic Riviera' because of its fine settled weather. Conditions are near perfect for camping and we amble at a leisurely pace to enjoy the scenery and wildlife or climb mountains to get better views.



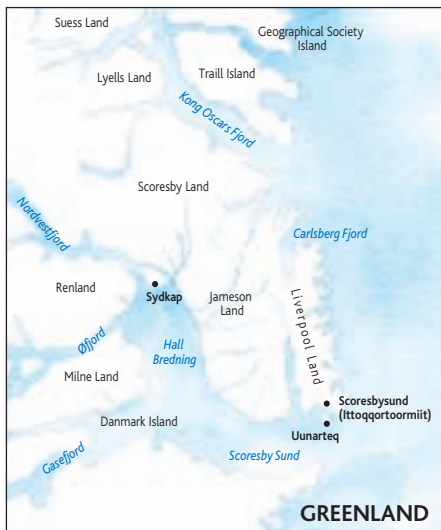
Hiking, wildlife and adventure

Fjords of Scoresby Sund, North East Greenland

The longest fjord system in the world, **Scoresby Sund** extends 350km inland and offers a perfect setting for exploring the region. Its enclosed waters are calm and navigable during the brief summer, which is remarkably warm with long periods of fine weather. This five-day hiking trip, escorted by local Greenlanders, makes use of a local boat to cover a wide area and takes us around the island of **Milne Land** which dominates inner Scoresby Sund. We will sail close to 1,000m high basalt cliffs interspersed with glaciers and visit the site of the winter quarters of Ryder's 1891-2 Danish Scientific Expedition on **Danmark Island**. By visiting Eskimo sites, some of which date back 4,500 years, we will

be able to envisage a life dominated by the need to survive by hunting. The boat covers distance rapidly, allowing us plenty of time to explore and hike on land, with longer hikes for the energetic. With 24-hour daylight we can choose to hike, boat or admire the view as we wish. Nights will be spent ashore in very comfortable campsites with a large mess tent for dining.

- » dates « 2 – 11 September 2011
- » guide price « £3,390 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Group size minimum of 8. Those who prefer not to walk can stay with the boat



"Icebergs floating in the world's largest fjord enhanced the beauty of the short Arctic summer. Our time on the boat was equally as fantastic as walking on colourful tundra. The Inuit guides were fascinating to travel with." Dr. Lorraine Craig

Kayak/trek adventure for women 40+

If you are female and over 40, sign up for our **South Greenland** eight day adventure by kayak and on foot. We'll be in complete contact with nature, combining trekking with kayaking and surrounded by an awe-inspiring landscape of blue-tinged icebergs and tundra. Kayak a spectacular navigation among ice, icebergs and glaciers and trek through the tundra in the wild Land of **Mellem** in southern Greenland. We hope to witness the Northern

Lights and see eagles, foxes and arctic hares, or even whales and seals. En route we will visit some Greenlandic Eskimo settlements.

- » dates « 14 – 21 August 2011
- » guide price « £2,665 per person
- » leader « Local Greenlander
- » key info « Group size: 4 minimum. All equipment provided



There is nowhere in the world quite like Kamchatka, which was closed to both Russians and foreigners until 1990. It is an exquisite land of symmetrical snow-covered volcanoes, lava fields, hot springs, geysers, lush valleys, tundra, fast flowing rivers and rugged coastline. Due to its position on the 'Pacific Ring of Fire' it has more than 30 active volcanoes including Klyuchevskaya Sopka which has been emitting steam and smoke for at least 8,000 years.

Kamchatka in early summer 2011 – Sea mammals, birds, bears, whales, wild flowers and volcanoes

Early summer is the best time to see Kamchatka's migrating and breeding birds, land and sea mammals and wild flowers, before the mosquitoes become troublesome. We shall sail from Petropavlovsk on a small, refurbished ocean-going cutter and explore the south east coast of the peninsula. This is an extremely remote and seldom visited area, wild and spectacular with towering, snow-capped volcanoes including Viluchinsky and Mutnovsky. There are small islands and sea stacks which are the home of thousands of breeding seabirds including puffins and auks, and, on the high cliffs, the magnificent Steller's sea eagle breeds.

On the black volcanic sands we should see brown bears turning over the seaweed which has been washed up by winter storms to look for dead fish. Whilst sailing, we should see grey whales and dolphins including orcas. We shall go ashore to explore the lakes, cliffs, beaches and rivers and possibly a hot spring area. The ship-based part of the expedition is combined with a land visit to two mountainous areas of the peninsula. The ancient volcano, Vachkazhets, is scenically one of the most beautiful places in Kamchatka and we walk into its caldera and visit a beautiful waterfall. Mutnovsky, on the other hand, is still active and after climbing through a canyon past a glacier belching steam we enter the crater with its geysers, fumaroles, mud pools, spectacular rock formations and colours.

RUSSIAN FAR EAST: KAMCHATKA

The Kamchatka Peninsula is the home of the Itelmen, Eveni and Koryaks, some of whom live by their traditional ways of hunting, fishing, reindeer herding and gathering wild plants. It is also home to the largest brown bear in Russia. The rivers teem with at least five species of spawning salmon and its rugged coastline accommodates thousands of seabirds, including tufted and horned puffins, guillemots, cormorants and harlequin ducks, 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. On the tundra, cassiope and dwarf willows grow alongside the crimson rhododendron camtschaticum and Lapland buntings breed there. Valleys and hillsides are clothed in mixed woodlands with many wild flowers including fritillaria camtschaticensis, tiger lilies, yellow rhododendrons and wild roses. Kamchatka's birds range from migrating waders through black-billed capercaillie, rosefinches, rough-legged buzzards to the auks and Steller's sea eagle, which has a wingspan of three metres.



Kamchatka discoverer

See the 'greats' of Kamchatka for yourself in this easy-paced comprehensive trip which includes ethnic culture, sightseeing by helicopter, hiking inside an active volcano crater, bathing in hot springs and fishing in Avacha Bay. You will stay in a reindeer herder's yurt and enjoy close encounters with Kamchatka's superb wildlife. This journey is a unique opportunity for people of different ages to discover and explore the highlights of Kamchatka and learn about the lifestyles of the people who live here. Anyone can enjoy this trip as there's no need for strenuous physical activity.

- » dates « 25 July – 8 August 2011
- » price « £3,960 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

- » dates « 17 – 30 June 2011
- » price « £3,360 per person
- » leader « Local English-speaking Russian leader
- » key info « Maximum group size 8. The pace will be leisurely. The walks are not difficult and are entirely at the discretion of the individual



Kamchatka in late summer 2011 – Bears, volcanoes, native people, reindeer herders, autumn colours

This expedition takes place in late August, climatically one of the best times to travel and appreciate the spectacular scenery and autumn colours. In order to experience the richness of the region's flora, fauna and geology, 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 enjoy a variety of experiences: watching bears feeding on the berries, salmon spawning, swimming in hot rivers and meeting the local people in the tiny settlement of **Esso** and staying overnight

with the nomadic reindeer herders in the summer mountain camp. Weather permitting, we may be able to land in the crater of the **Mutnovsky Volcano**. As with our early summer trip, there will be plenty of time to follow your own interests. The trip ends in **Petropavlovsk** where we will learn its fascinating history and hear about life in Kamchatka today.

- » dates « 26 August – 12 September 2011
- » price « £4,360 per person
- » leader « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » key info « Based on a group size 10-14.
The pace will be leisurely. The walks are not difficult and are entirely at the discretion of the individual

Dog-sledging

For centuries the Koryaks, Eveni and Itelmen people have used dog sledges in the wilderness and it is with them that you will travel. The area is rich in wildlife and you will see many tracks in the snow which your dog-sledge drivers will be able to identify. Your hosts receive very few visitors so you will feel privileged to be guests of their communities and learn to appreciate ways of life very different from your own.

This year we have two dog sledging expeditions. The first allows us to experience the traditional life and culture of the Eveni reindeer herders, as well as providing some exhilarating dog-sledging. Our second expedition will explore the volcanoes and hot springs of the **Nalychevo National Park** – close to **Petropavlovsk**. This is a wonderful area surrounded by at least six volcanoes, some of which are active and rise to more than 3,000 metres. We shall dog-sledge from hut to hut, enjoying the thermal springs along the route and marvelling at the awesome volcanic scenery.

We should say that these trips are for the hardy as it can be extremely cold! Participants can sit on the sledge and be driven by one of the dog handlers though the aim is to drive the dog team yourself.

Dog sledging with the reindeer herders and native people

Our route takes us over the pristine snow-covered mountain passes, high plateaux and valleys close to the volcano **Ichinsky** 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, learn about their culture and enjoy their songs and dances as well as the local produce of reindeer and salmon. Our visit may coincide with the **Beringia** dog sledge race and we may be able to watch some of it and meet the competitors.

- » dates « 19 February – 5 March 2011
28 February – 15 March 2011
- » price « £4,630 per person
- » leader « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » key info « Minimum group size 4, maximum 8

Dog sledging to Nalycheva Valley

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 the volcanoes, **Avachinsky, Koryaksky, Dzen-Dzur, Kozelsky, Aric, Aag, Zhupanovsky, Kupol** and **Vershinsky**. Some of these are still active, with steam and smoke rising from their snow-covered summits. The valley has many fascinating geothermal areas. We shall travel by dog sledge and spend our days exploring and marvelling at the spectacular scenery and thermal activity. Our nights will be spent in comfortable huts and we shall have plenty of opportunities to enjoy bathing in the hot springs.

- » dates « 13 – 23 March 2011
- » price « £3,940 per person
- » leader « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » key info « Minimum group size 3, maximum 8



“On the White Sea, where the nights are white for half a year at a time, Bolshoi Solovetsky Island lifts its white church from the water within the ring of its bouldered kremlin walls, rusty-red from the lichens which have struck root there – and the grayish-white Solovetsky seagulls hover continually over the kremlin and screech”.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn – The Gulag Archipelago



ARCTIC RUSSIA: SOLOVETSKI ISLANDS AND THE WHITE SEA

Arctic Russia covers a vast sweep of land from the Norwegian and Finnish borders eastwards across northern Siberia to the Chukotka and Kamchatka peninsulas. Much of it 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.

Arcturus has organised many expeditions to the Russian Arctic. We shall visit first in winter and then return to the White Sea in June at the time of the 'white nights'. This is a period of continuous daylight, and we will use a small boat to transport us amongst the islands of the Solovetski archipelago.

Solovetski Islands and the White Sea

Situated in the **White Sea**, 150km south of the Arctic Circle, the **Solovetski Islands** are described as one of the 'jewels of Russia'. First settled by monks in the 1430s, the archipelago has six large and nearly 100 smaller islands, some of them covered by tundra and others with a groundcover of blueberry and crowberry. They 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, described by Solzhenitsyn in his book 'Gulag Archipelago'. Now that the monks have returned, it is possible to visit the beautiful cathedral, church, refectory and other buildings enclosed by the great 'kremlin' or fortification. There are over 170 architectural and archaeological

monuments on the islands, including 33 mysterious stone labyrinths dating back around 3,000 years. 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. Your journey is by train from **St. Petersburg** to **Kem** and then by boat across the **White Sea**.

- » dates « 12 – 24 June 2011
- » price « £2,250 per person
- » leader « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » key info « Group size: 8-10. 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

Solovetski Islands in winter

This expedition provides a wonderful opportunity to visit the crisp, snowy landscapes of the north. After a day in **Moscow**, travel by train to **Archangel** on the banks of the ice-bound **Dvina River**, through a snow-covered rolling landscape of farms and silver birch wood, dotted with villages, hamlets and wooden churches. From there, fly to the **Solovetski Islands** for a seven-night stay in a homely and comfortable guesthouse. Days will be spent exploring the main island using local transport and snow-shoes. There are many tracks through the woods of 'dancing' birches leading to small lakes and the ice-bound coast. Depending on the ice conditions we may be able to walk out to some of the offshore islands and visit the monks in their isolated cells. Visit the **Solovetski Monastery**, **Serniki Hill** and the **Botanic Gardens** then enjoy fishing through the ice and, in the evenings, sitting around a wood fire and experiencing a Russian banya.

- » dates « 6 – 19 February 2011
- » price « £2,580 per person
- » leader « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » key info « Group size: 8-10. Weather is normally dry and clear with occasional snow. Temperatures range from minus 20 to plus 5 degrees C. The pace will be leisurely. Snow shoes are required

VOYAGES – THE SHIPS

Many of the vessels shown here offer a variety of cabins. Our guide prices are based on twin, triple or quadruple cabins with shared or private facilities, but we will be happy to quote for single occupancy or superior cabins and suites (where available) on request.



50 Years of Victory is a nuclear powered polar-class icebreaker and the largest fitted for passenger travel to the North Pole. She sails from Murmansk, Russia and has a steel ice belt enabling her to crush through ice up to 2.5 metres thick.

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



The Spirit of Enderby is a fully ice-strengthened polar research vessel with comfortable accommodation and an experienced Russian crew. All voyages are accompanied by experienced naturalists and guides. She has a fleet of zodiacs and specially designed hovercraft for unprecedented over-ice capability.

- » accommodation « 48 passengers
- » itineraries « Russian Far East, Arctic Russia
- » operator « Heritage



Akademik Sergey Vavilov is equipped with zodiacs for ocean level exploration and kayaks for optional paddling among ice floes. Her powerful diesel engine and bow and stern thrusters make her highly manoeuvrable, while a shallow draft permits passage through channels impassable by larger ships.

- » accommodation « 110 passengers
- » itineraries « Arctic, Antarctic
- » operator « Quark



Kapitan Khlebnikov has transited the Northwest Passage more often than any other passenger vessel. After March 2012 this legendary icebreaker will no longer be operating as an expedition vessel, so grab the opportunity while you still can (see pages 15 & 19). She is equipped with two helicopters and zodiacs.

- » accommodation « 108 passengers
- » itineraries « High Arctic, Greenland, Antarctic
- » operator « Quark



Polar Pioneer was built in Finland in 1985 as an ice-strengthened research ship and refurbished in 2000. She has a bar/lounge/library area, a small fleet of zodiacs and an open bridge policy.

- » accommodation « 56 passengers, all cabins have outside portholes and ample storage space
- » itineraries « Arctic, Greenland, Antarctic
- » operators « Aurora and Waterproof Expeditions



Polar Star is an ex-working icebreaker, refitted and upgraded for expedition cruising in 2000. She has spacious on-deck viewing, an open bridge policy and a fleet of ten zodiacs. She also has a comfortable bar, sumptuous library, gym and onboard shop.

- » accommodation « 105 passengers
- » itineraries « Scilly Isles, Scottish Islands, Norway, Iceland, Spitsbergen, Greenland
- » operator « Polar Star



Quest is an ice class 1D vessel built in Denmark in 1992. A cosy vessel with an informal atmosphere, she has an excellent observation lounge and is equipped for scuba diving.

- » accommodation « 56 passengers in quadruple cabins with bunk beds and twin, double and superior cabins all with private facilities
- » itineraries « Antarctic
- » operator « Oceanwide



Antarctic Dream is a Dutch-built ice-reinforced vessel which originally served the Chilean Navy. She has a spacious dining room/observation lounge, bar, lecture room, fitness room and sauna and passenger bridge.

- » accommodation « 80 (Antarctic)/83 (Arctic) passengers in twin cabins with private facilities, most with portholes or windows
- » itineraries « Spitsbergen, North East Greenland, Antarctic
- » operators « Antarctic Shipping and Oceanwide



Noorderlicht was built in 1910 in Flensburg, Germany as a three-masted schooner and served as a light vessel on the Baltic. In 1991 the present owners purchased the hull and re-rigged and refitted her as a two-masted schooner. Would-be sailors can help the crew of five to sail her.

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



Plancius started life in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was purchased by the operator in 2006. Completely rebuilt, she is now comfortable, nicely decorated and very well suited to exploratory educational voyages.

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



Kapitan Dranitsyn is available again for passenger use after recent work with oil companies. She has onboard helicopters and a fleet of zodiacs, a gym, sauna and swimming pool.

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



Ocean Nova has clean, crisp Scandinavian styling and is excellent for Antarctic exploration. Purpose-built to sail ice-choked waters, her specially strengthened hull has enabled her to park in the ice of the Weddell Sea!

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

» new for 2011 «

- » Now including **Antarctic Dream** in the Antarctic as well as the Arctic.
- » Russian Icebreaker **Dranitsyn** voyages to Franz Joseph Land.
- » **Oceanwide's** small ships Professors Molchanov and Multanovskiy replaced by 56 passenger **Quest**.
- » News just in – **Waterproof Expeditions** are operating specialist diving voyages in Antarctica on **Polar Pioneer** from 4 – 15 February and 15 – 26 February 2011. These dates are voyage only, contact us for more details.

VOYAGES – THE ARCTIC

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

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. 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** and the **High Arctic**.

» new for 2011 «

- » **Kapitan Khlebnikov's** farewell voyage to the Arctic.
- » **Plancius** offers scuba diving, kayaking and field camping on selected Arctic voyages. Passengers can also purchase discounted expedition jackets on board.
- » **Polar Star** offers voyages from Dartmouth to Longyearbyen.
- » **Spirit of Enderby** operates a new voyage in Bering's wake.

Key to optional extras

- ▲ camping
- walking expeditions
- scuba diving
- ◆ kayaking
- * snow shoeing
- G German speaking voyage



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.

ARCTIC NORWAY: SPITSBERGEN AND THE LOFOTEN ISLANDS

Sail North Spitsbergen

Embarking at **Longyearbyen**, Spitsbergen's administrative capital, we sail through scenic **Isfjorden**, setting a course for **Alkhorneret**. We continue 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 and former starting point for many North Pole expeditions. Sailing from here to **14th July Glacier** we take zodiacs to the breeding site for Brunnich's guillemots, little auks and puffins. Sailing north we visit **Magdalenafjord**, one of the most beautiful places in Spitsbergen, 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, if sea-ice conditions allow, we may land on the northern side of **Reindyrfla** whose undulating tundra provides good grazing for reindeer. Our last visit before turning south is the remains of **Smeerenburg** which was the largest whaling settlement on Spitsbergen. If we



are able to make land on the return journey, fit walkers can opt to take the six-hour walk from **Colesbukta** to Longyearbyen.

In early summer the vegetation is surprisingly lush, especially below the bird cliffs where the ground is fertilised. By now migrating birds have returned to breed. The small Svalbard reindeer, arctic foxes and polar bears may be sighted on the tundra as well as walrus, seals and fin, humpback, bowhead and beluga whales in the waters.



SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO

- » ship « **Noorderlicht**
- » dates « 9 – 21 June 2011
20 June – 2 July 2011
10 – 22 September 2011
21 September – 3 October 2011
- » travel from « London – London (embark in Longyearbyen)
- » guide price « **£3,585** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)



Sail North/around Spitsbergen

This 17-day itinerary aims to complete the voyage right around **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 are able to sail through the **Hinlopen Strait** and visit **Nordaustlandet** and **Edgeøya**. This route provides the greatest chance of seeing Greenland whales.

- » ship « **Noorderlicht**
- » dates « 12 – 28 July 2011
27 July – 12 Aug 2011
11 – 27 August 2011
26 August – 11 September 2011
- » travel from « London – London (embark in Longyearbyen)
- » guide price « **£4,465** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities). Cabins on request

Sail South Spitsbergen – Aurora Borealis

This journey covers the southern part of **Spitsbergen** in October, just before the onset of winter, an ideal time for observing the splendid Aurora Borealis. Leaving Spitsbergen we set a course for **Alkhorneret** at the mouth of the fjord whose cliffs are home to a large colony of kittiwakes. We continue to **Trygghamna** to visit the remains of the 17th century English whaling station before turning south and into the north side of **Bellsund**, where we make a walk to the cliffs of

Ingeborgfjellet and visit a glacier front at **Fridtjofhamna**. Journeying further south, we sail into the labyrinth of side fjords in **Hornsund** with good chances of seeing bearded seals and polar bears. Here we will also find spectacularly colourful geological formations. We will visit a Polish research station to discuss their scientific programmes before turning north once more. 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**
- » dates « 2 – 10 October 2011
21 – 29 October 2011
28 October – 5 November 2011
- » travel from « London – London (embark in Longyearbyen)
- » guide price « **£2,560** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Sail Lofoten Islands – Aurora Borealis

The **Lofoten** voyages take place in the autumn when the days are getting shorter in northern Norway but the daytime colours are beautiful. We can expect the first snow showers, and temperatures are sometimes just above freezing. At night we may be able to admire the Aurora Borealis. Embarking in the harbour at **Lødingen** we sail for **Tysfjord**. We plan to land at **Musken**, a Sami community and later visit the untouched wilderness area of **Hellemobotn**, close to the Swedish border

with small chances of seeing reindeer. We visit the Stone Age petroglyphs at **Leiknes** and climb the hill at **Skarvberget** looking for sea eagles. We will visit the lighthouse at **Tranøy** and **Skrova**, a small, rugged island and one of the few places in Norway where the locals still hunt minke whales. We end our voyage at **Vestbygd** before returning to **Lødingen**. The Lofoten voyages are very dependent on the weather which can be quite rough, so the itinerary is provisional.



- » ship « **Noorderlicht**
- » dates « 15 – 22 November 2011
22 – 29 November 2011
- » travel from « London – London (embark in Lødingen)
- » guide price « **£1,785** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

Spitsbergen explorer – Land of the midnight sun

This 11- day active adventure begins and ends in **Longyearbyen** and aims, pack-ice conditions permitting, to circumnavigate the coastline of the largest island in the Spitsbergen group. We expect to sail magnificent fjords, cruise in Zodiacs past towering sea cliffs thronging with

bird life and encounter Arctic foxes, whales, polar bears and walrus in their natural habitat. Adventure options such as optional kayaking and camping are available on some departures.

» ship «	Akademic Sergey Vavilov
» dates «	Numerous departures June – August 2011
» travel from «	London – London (embark in Longyearbyen)
» guide price «	From £4,260 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

North Spitsbergen

Our voyage heads north along the west coast of **Spitsbergen** and arrives by morning in **Krossfjorden** where we take to the zodiacs for an exhilarating journey along the sculpted front of the **14th of July Glacier** to spot kittiwakes and Brünnich's guillemots, bearded seals and arctic foxes. Continuing, we sail to **Ny Ålesund**, the world's most northerly settlement, once a mining village and now a research centre. Close to the village is a breeding ground for barnacle geese, pink-

footed geese and arctic terns. Visitors interested in the history of Arctic exploration will want to walk to the anchoring mast used by Amundsen and Nobile in the airship Norge in 1926 and Nobile in the airship Italia in 1928 before their flights to the North Pole. Depending on the weather, we may go ashore on the tundra island of **Andøya** where many common eiders and pink-footed geese nest and sail into **Liefdefjorden**, cruising near the 5km long face of the impressive **Monaco**

Glacier. We then continue into the **Hinlopen Strait**, where, on the east side, we will attempt a landing at **Nordauslandet**, home to reindeer, pink-footed geese, breeding ivory gulls and walrus. Our northernmost point will be **Phippsøya** at 81 degrees north, just 540 miles from the geographic North Pole. Polar bears inhabit this region, along with ivory gulls. We may sit for several hours in the pack ice, taking in our spectacular surroundings and seeing a Ross gull, before we turn south again.

» ships «	» dates «	» cabins «	» guide price «	» opt. extras «
Plancius	21 – 29 June 2011	Quadruple cabin (private facilities)	£3,275	▲ ● ◆ *
Antarctic Dream	25 June – 3 July 2011	Twin cabin/inside window (private facilities)	£3,550	

» travel from «	London – London (embark Longyearbyen)
» notes «	Prices per person. Plancius supplement for twin cabin (private facilities) £810 per person. Antarctic Dream supplement for twin cabin/ outside window (private facilities) £545 per person



North/around Spitsbergen

This itinerary covers the same early days as the North Spitsbergen voyage. From **Phippsøya**, however (pack ice conditions permitting), we then continue to **Laagøya**, a low island where a big herd of walrus tends to congregate. Heading into **Hinlopen Strait** we'll navigate the ice floes of **Lomfjordshalvøya** by zodiacs and explore the bird cliffs. Near **Torrelneset** we will explore the polar desert of **Nordauslandet** next to the world's third largest ice cap, and in **Freemansundet** we plan to land at **Sundneset** on the island of **Barentsøya** to visit an old trapper's hut. Later we head south to the west side of **Edgeøya** where we land on a beach littered with whale bones and tree trunks which have drifted here from Siberia. Our voyage ends with the side fjords of the spectacular **Hornsund** area of southern Spitsbergen. Our last landing is on **Ahlstrandhalvøya** where piles of beluga skeletons, the remains of 19th century slaughter

are still evident. If ice conditions are favourable we may sail around **Nordauslandet** visiting **Kvitøya**, the place where the Swedish explorer Andree perished, instead of sailing back through the **Hinlopen Strait**.

» travel from «	London – London (embark in Longyearbyen)
» notes «	All prices are per person. 28 June is a Basecamp Plancius departure with free optional extras

» ships «	» dates «	» cabins «	» guide price «	» opt. extras «
Antarctic Dream	2 – 12 July 2011	Twin cabin/inside window (private facilities). Supplement for outside window £725 per person	£4,270	G
	11 – 21 July 2011			G
	20 – 30 July 2011			
	29 July – 8 August 2011			●
	7 – 17 August 2011			
Plancius	16 – 26 August 2011	Quadruple cabin (private facilities). Supplement for twin cabin £1,000 per person	£3,995	▲ ● ◆ *
	28 June – 8 July 2011			
	7 – 17 July 2011			
	16 – 26 July 2011			
	25 July – 4 August 2011			G
	3 – 13 August 2011			◆
	12 – 22 August 2011			

GREENLAND, ICELAND AND SPITSBERGEN

North East Greenland

These adventurous voyages provide a rare opportunity to see the remote north-east coast of **Greenland**. In the past this required a camping and trekking expedition, but now you can experience the remarkable Arctic landscape from the comfort of a ship with expeditions ashore to visit Inuit sites and hunters' huts. On clear dark nights we might be able to see the Aurora Borealis.

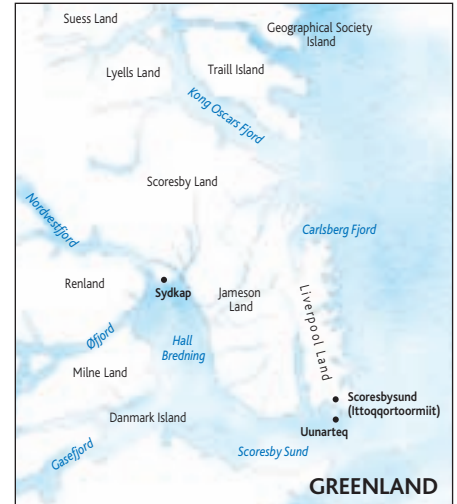
At this time of year the pack-ice has retreated northwards. Between the high ice-cap of North East Greenland and the sea is a broad strip of low country that is free of snow in summer and covered in places with rich vegetation that supports much wildlife, from musk oxen to butterflies. The weather is usually calm and fine. 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

» ships «	» dates «	» cabins «	» guide price «	» opt. extras «
Plancius	21 Aug – 3 Sept 2011	Quadruple cabin (private facilities)	£4,730	◆
Antarctic Dream	25 Aug – 7 Sept 2011	Twin cabin/inside window (private facilities)	£5,140	

approach East Greenland, landing at **Myggebugten**. We hope to encounter narwhal and should see musk oxen from the ship. Moving south to **Scoresby Sund** we land near a glacier and encounter huge icebergs before disembarking finally in **Akureyri** in north Iceland for the journey home.

» travel from « London – London (embark Longyearbyen)
 » notes « Prices per person.
 Plancius supplement for twin cabin (private facilities) **£1,220** per person.
 Antarctic Dream supplement for twin cabin/ outside window (private facilities) **£865** per person



Scoresby Sund – Aurora Borealis

Early autumn is the best time to explore the coast of **East Greenland** as the ice floes have usually dispersed and it is possible to enter the fjords. This is a voyage to a seldom-visited part of the coast. The days are still long, but temperatures can drop below freezing and the

scenery of stark ice contrasts with rich autumnal colours on 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 may see the Aurora Borealis.

» ship « **Antarctic Dream**
 » dates « 6 – 15 September 2011
 » travel from « London – London (embark in Akureyri)
 » guide price « **£3,650** per person based on twin cabin/inside window (private facilities). Supplement for outside window **£630** per person



From steam to ice

This 10 day voyage starts in **Iceland**, steaming north to explore the incredible coastline of **East Greenland** – countless fjords, snow capped mountains, late summer icebergs, glaciers and elusive Arctic wildlife. The first landfall in East Greenland is at the beginning of the High Arctic and from there the ship cruises south. We explore by shore landings, treks and zodiac cruises before disembarking in **Reykjavik**.

» ship « **Polar Star**
 » dates « 5 – 15 September 2011
 » travel from « London – London (embark in Reykjavic)
 » guide price « **£2,785** per person based on triple cabin (shared facilities)

Jewels of Northeast Greenland

The Polar regions are still the most remote destinations on earth and a privilege to visit. **Northeast Greenland** is today the world's largest national park with shy and elusive wildlife – home to polar bear, walrus, Arctic hare and musk ox. Marine mammals include ringed, bearded, harp and hooded seals. Ice conditions

are unpredictable here, 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.



» ships «	» dates «	» cabins «	» guide price «	» opt. extras «
Polar Pioneer	9 – 23 August 2011 1 – 15 September 2011	Triple cabin (shared facilities)	£4,740	● ◆ ◆

» travel from « London – London (embark in Longyearbyen voyage 1 and Reykjavik voyage 2)
 » guide price « All prices are per person

THE ISLES OF SCILLY, SCOTTISH ISLANDS AND ARCTIC NORWAY

These voyages navigate among the most beautiful seabird islands in the North Atlantic. Virtually all the headlands at this time of the year are the sites of large seabird colonies. Dolphins, porpoises, seals, whales and even polar bears may be sighted from the ship and landings allow us to see reindeer and arctic fox.

Sailings are timed to coincide with a profusion of wild flowers and the sea cliffs of the **Scottish Islands** should look like rock gardens with the pink and white of sea pinks and sea campion. In addition to their natural history we will also focus on their human history and artefacts, such as old whaling stations.

Jan Mayen is a volcanic island of breathtaking beauty and mystique, dominated by Mt. Beerenberg. From the slopes of the 2,300m volcano, impressive glaciers spill into the sea. Until recently, the island was off-limits as it is a military base and was rarely visited by tourists, but, with permission from the Norwegian authorities, we hope to visit the weather station.

Islands on the edge

We start in **Dartmouth** for this unusual 15 day voyage, calling in at the **Isles of Scilly** and heading west along the **Dingle Peninsula** to see the gannet colony at the **Skelligs** and dramatic scenery of western Eire. The journey continues via the **Aran Islands**, **Inner Hebrides**, **Iona** and **Staffa** to **Mull**, **Skye** and **Rum**.

At **St. Kilda** see skuas and fulmars and enjoy the dense bird populations of **Lewis**, the **Shetlands** and the **Orkneys**. You can disembark at **Dundee** or continue on via the fjords of Norway to **Spitsbergen**.

» ship « **Polar Star**
» dates « 3 – 17 May 2011
» travel from « Dartmouth to Dundee (embark in Dartmouth)
» guide price « £3,295 per person based on triple cabin (shared facilities)

Magic of islands and fjords – Norway

This voyage fits neatly for those who want to combine a little of Scotland with the magical Norwegian coast and end with two days in **Spitsbergen**. En route explore the beautiful city of **Trondheim**, cruise spectacular fjords of the Norwegian coast, see the dramatic peaks of the **Lofoten Islands** and enjoy great views of kittiwakes, guillemots and puffins. Before reaching Spitsbergen we visit the spectacular bird cliffs at **Bear Island** situated in a remote spot between the Norwegian and Barents Seas.

» ship « **Polar Star**
» dates « 17 – 31 May 2011
» travel from « Dundee to London (embark in Dundee)
» guide price « £3,610 per person based on triple cabin (shared facilities)

North Rona, Faroes, Jan Mayen, Spitsbergen whale safari and summer solstice

This voyage starts in **Aberdeen** and journeys to **North Rona**, the **Faroes** and **Jan Mayen** Island before travelling north to **Longyearbyen**.

» ship « **Plancius**
» dates « 12 – 22 June 2011
» travel from « Aberdeen – London (embark Aberdeen)
» guide price « £2,270 per person based on quadruple cabin (private facilities). Includes free snow shoeing. Supplement for twin cabin £635 per person



RUSSIAN FAR EAST: KAMCHATKA

Cruise the Ring of Fire

This voyage gives you the chance to explore one of the most geologically active and biologically rich parts of the planet, the **Kamchatka Peninsula** and the **Kuril Islands**.

A land born of fire and ice, Kamchatka is one of the last true wildernesses. Closed to visitors for much of last century under the communist

regime, it is opening its doors to visitors, but with limited infrastructure, virtually no roads, only a few hotels and no regular scheduled internal air services, the best way to explore is by ship. This itinerary takes in a wide range of wildlife habitats and introduces you to the area's cultural diversity. We also visit the **Commander**

» ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
» dates « 16 – 28 June 2011
» travel from « London to London (embark in Petropavlovsk)
» guide price « £5,295 per person based on triple cabin (shared facilities). Supplement for twin cabin £570 per person

Islands, rich in bird and sea mammal life, and the final resting place of the famed Danish explorer **Vitus Bering**.

Birding the Kuril Islands

Commencing in **Sakhalin**, this voyage covers the full **Kuril Island** region with its stunning volcanoes and wide diversity of birds. The Kuril Island chain is made up of 32 islands that stretch between Russia and Japan across the **Bering Sea**, all formed by volcanoes that rise from the sea floor. The larger of the islands are inhabited, and most people make their living from the sea, as they have done for generations. The islands are unique and look like vast botanical gardens where

subtropical flora representatives neighbour with the flora of the polar latitudes. Here you will see gigantic herbs as well as bear, foxes and marine mammals such as seals, sea lions, fur seals and otters. One of the 'birding' highlights must be the **Steller's sea eagle**.

The **Kamchatka Peninsula** is a land of bays and snow-capped volcanoes whose alpine meadows and lowland forests support the greatest diversity of seabirds in Asia. The seas washing these

» ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
» dates « 4 – 18 June 2011
» travel from « London to London (embark in Sakhalin)
» guide price « £6,075 per person based on triple cabin (shared facilities). Supplement for twin cabin £780 per person

isolated coasts are among the most productive in the world and the area teems with birds and marine mammals, as do the remote **Commander Islands**, which we also visit.

Across the top of the world

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 mid summer with 24 hour daylight and the ice will have retreated.

On shore you will meet the **Chukchis**, who

have learnt how to live in one of the harshest environments on the planet. We plan two days at **Wrangel Island**, a world class nature reserve, which is often referred to as the 'polar bear maternity ward'. This voyage also includes an overnight camping expedition to the tundra inland from **Egvekinot** to spend the night with traditional reindeer herders.

» ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
» dates « 28 July – 12 August 2011
10 – 25 August 2011
23 August – 7 September 2011
» travel from « London to London (embark in Nome)
» guide price « £6,225 per person based on triple cabin (shared facilities). Supplement for twin cabin £640 per person

Jewel of the Russian Far East

This unique expedition offers an excellent option for those looking to have an 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**
- » dates « 5 – 25 September 2011
- » travel from « London to London (embark in Nome)
- » guide price « **£9,795** per person based on triple cabin (shared facilities). Supplement for twin cabin **£575** per person

Journey to the Arctic – in Berings's wake

This new expedition is as unique as the First Kamchatka Expedition of 1725 – 1730 which was led by Danish explorer Commander Vitus Bering on orders from the Russian Tsar Peter the Great. His orders were to travel overland to **Kamchatka** (from St. Petersburg) and there build two ships and sail 'north by northeast... chart the coast and collect information'. It was an ambitious journey and a remarkable expedition.

Our expedition departs from **Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy**, a city named in honour of Bering's two ships built here for the second Kamchatka

(Great Northern) Expedition. From here we will sail north by north east to discover wildlife and wilderness that few people have seen or experienced because of the region's remoteness and the fact that it was a 'closed area' until the early 1990's. It is a land of extremes and a myriad of 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, but we hope to find one bird in

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » dates « 27 June – 12 July 2011
- » travel from « London to London (embark in Petropavlovsk)
- » guide price « **£6,075** per person based on triple share cabin (shared facilities). Supplement for twin cabin **£780** per person

particular – the extremely rare spoon-billed sandpiper, classified as 'globally vulnerable' with possibly less than 1,000 breeding pairs and declining. Its only known breeding ground is in northern Kamchatka and **Chukotka** and only a few field workers have seen it there.

THE HIGH ARCTIC – Icebreaker voyages

Franz Joseph Land expedition

Weyprecht and Payer discovered **Franz Josef Land**, an archipelago of 191 islands, in 1873. It became the scene of several expeditions which sometimes led to dramatic and tragic events. It was here that the historic meeting of Nansen and Jackson took place at **Cape Flora** on **Northbrook Island** in 1896. On **Bell Island** there is the hut built by Leigh Smith in 1881 and at **Cape Norway** on **Jackson Island** there are the remains of the shelter and memorial wooden post where Nansen and Johansen spent seven months during the winter of 1895-96. In 1899 two members of the Welle expedition wintered at **Cape Heller** on **Wilczek Island** and, in 1901, **Alger Island** was the winter refuge of the Baldwin expedition. We intend to visit

walrus rookeries on **Stolichky** and **Appolonov Islands**, the seabird colonies on **Hooker Island** and the majestic cliffs and ice-capped mountains of **Champa Island**. Polar bears, beluga whales and narwhals are often seen around these islands which were closed to foreigners from 1928 to 1990.

- » ship « **Kapitan Dranitsyn**
- » dates « 16 – 28 July 2011
26 July – 7 August 2011
- » travel from « London – London (gateway Kirkenes, embark in Murmansk)
- » guide price « **£7,735** per person based on triple cabin (private facilities)



The North Pole

From **Murmansk** we cross the **Barents Sea** towards the relatively unexplored archipelago of **Franz Josef Land**, which was only discovered in the late 1800s. Shore landings are planned here and at 90°N, the top of the world. Stand on the **North Pole** and enjoy a hike on the expansive ice before continuing to Franz Josef Land, keeping a watchful eye for polar bears en route. On Franz Josef Land's stunning flat-topped islands you will encounter fascinating Arctic wildlife in its spectacular setting of snow and ice. Polar bears, walrus, arctic fox, seals and belugas all inhabit the

region. Sightseeing by helicopter gives you an unforgettable aerial view of the ship crushing its way through the formidable Arctic Ocean pack ice on this most memorable of journeys.

- » ship « **50 Years of Victory**
- » dates « 23 July – 6 August 2011
4 August – 18 August 2011
- » travel from « London – London (gateway Helsinki, embark in Murmansk)
- » guide price « **£14,395** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)



KAPITAN KHLEBNIKOV – the end of an era

As she will be heading back into full time research duties in 2012, **Kapitan Khlebnikov** says farewell to the Arctic with a magnificent final voyage. Book the

complete **CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE ARCTIC** from 10 July – 13 September 2011 or join one of her three shorter legs as follows:-

NORTHEAST PASSAGE

Siberia and Russian Arctic:
10 July – 6 August 2011

GREENLAND SEMI-CIRCUMNAVIGATION

The final frontier: 4 – 24 August 2011

ARCTIC PASSAGE

Amundsen's route to Asia:

22 August – 13 September 2011

The dates shown are sailing dates, flights to be added. Contact us for more details and prices.

VOYAGES – THE ANTARCTIC

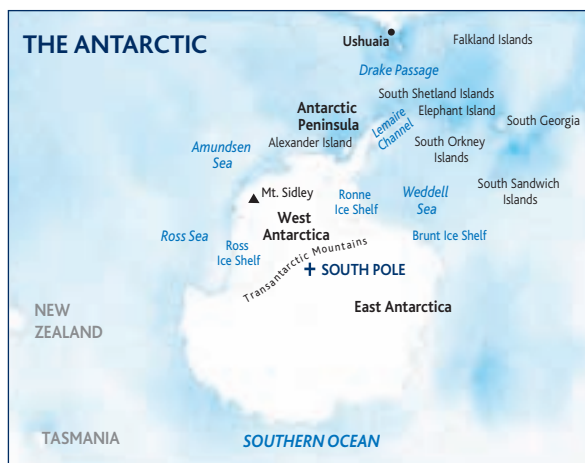


The Antarctic, particularly the peninsula or 'White Continent' has an incomparable and irresistible beauty – this magical frozen land with its awe-inspiring glaciers and rich diversity of bird and wildlife resonates with the history of intrepid explorers and epic struggles for survival. We offer a range 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.



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, including maps, photographs, day-by-day itineraries and reports of similar voyages in previous years on request.

» new for 2011 «

- » **Kapitan Khlebnikov's** farewell voyage to the Antarctic.
- » **M/V Quest** – new 56 passenger vessel offers a return to small ship voyaging to the Antarctic Peninsula.
- » **Basecamp Plancius** acts as a hub for selected activities included in the voyage price (kayaking, camping, hiking, soft mountain climbing and photo workshops).

Key to optional extras

- ▲ camping
- ★ hiking
- scuba diving
- ◆ kayaking
- ▲ mountaineering
- 👁 photo workshops

FALKLANDS, WEDDELL SEA AND ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Classic Antarctic Peninsula

These voyages offer the best introduction to the **White Continent** and seeing as much as possible of the wildlife and scenery of the **Antarctic Peninsula**. Embark in **Ushuaia** and sail across the **Drake Passage** directly to 'high Antarctica' landing at **Cuerville Island** with its large colony of gentoo penguins and breeding brown skuas. A typical itinerary could include a continental landing at **Neko Harbour** and **Paradise Bay** and further south at **Pleneau** and **Petermann Islands**. There are good chances to see humpback and minke whales, adelic and chinstrap penguins and leopard and crabeater seals.

» ships «	» dates «	» cabins «	» guide price «	» opt. extras «
Quest	6 – 19 January 2011 16 – 29 January 2011 13 – 26 February 2011	Quadruple cabin (private facilities)	£6,535	●
Plancius	18 – 30 March 2012	Quadruple cabin (private facilities)	£6,080	● ◆

- » travel from « London – London (embark in Ushuaia)
 » notes « Guide prices per person based on quadruple cabin.
 Supplement for Quest twin cabin (private facilities) from **£1,135** per person
 Supplement for Plancius twin cabin (private facilities) from **£575** per person
 ● supplement **£270** per diver
 ◆ supplement **£230** per kayaker

Antarctic Peninsula with South Shetlands

These itineraries are similar to the Classic Antarctic Peninsula but 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 are usually made twice a day so that all species of penguins, seals and other wildlife will be seen; some landings visit historic sites and operational bases while zodiac cruises offer an exciting alternative to landings.

- » ship « **Quest**
 » dates « 26 November – 9 December 2011
 6 – 20 December 2011
 17 – 30 December 2011
 27 Dec 2011 – 9 January 2012
 » travel from « London – London (embark in Ushuaia)
 » guide price « from **£5,865** per person based on quadruple cabin (private facilities), which varies according to departure. Supplement for twin cabin (private facilities) from **£1,080** per person



Antarctic Dream expedition

This year, for the first time in the Antarctic, we include the 80 passenger Antarctic Dream, with a comprehensive itinerary to the **Antarctic Peninsula** and **South Shetland Islands** and more than ten voyages between November and March to choose from. **Aitcho Island**, **Neko Bay**, **Cuerville Island**, **Petermann Island**, **Deception Island** and **Pendulum Cove** will be just some of the superb landings, weather permitting, on offer.

- » ship « **Antarctic Dream**
 » dates « Various departures
 November 2011 – March 2012
 » travel from « London – London (embark in Ushuaia)
 » guide price « **£5,695** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) which varies according to departure. High season supplement from **£1,000-£1,500** per person for selected departures in Dec, Jan and Feb



Weddell Sea and Antarctic Peninsula – Basecamp Plancius



These 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 all will be included in the price of your voyage. The vessel will stay for two or three days at specific locations in order to allow more active passengers a comfortable hub for their wide-ranging

pursuits. The first journey will visit the **Antarctic Peninsula** and the second will also take in the **Weddell Sea**.

- » travel from « London – London (embark in Ushuaia)
 » notes « Supplement for twin cabin (private facilities) from **£875** per person. All optional activities are free

» ships «	» dates «	» cabins «	» guide price «	» opt. extras «
Plancius	15 – 28 February 2012 Antarctic Peninsula	Quadruple cabin (private facilities)	£6,540	▲★◆▲ 👁️
Plancius	25 Feb – 10 March 2012 Antarctic Peninsula and Weddell Sea	Quadruple cabin (private facilities)	£6,355	▲★◆▲ 👁️



Exclusive South Georgia – with historic Shackleton ski trek option

These four new voyages concentrate on the flora and fauna of **South Georgia**. The first and last include a charter flight between **Santiago** and **Port Stanley** in the Falklands. The middle two voyages start and end in Port Stanley and offer an 11 night voyage to South Georgia. The next nine days will be an exciting expedition with two adventure options – a normal sea voyage with zodiac excursions and hikes for sea-farers to circumnavigate the islands; and an unsupported 40-50km ski trek retracing part of

Shackleton's historic route from **King Haakon Bay** to **Stromness**, which is offered to serious ski explorers. The trek crosses alpine passes and glaciers with skis, snowshoes or hauling sledges. The sea explorers also have the chance for a shorter trek following Shackleton's final leg of his epic hike – a fascinating historical encounter. The use of the charter flights enables us to limit the number of sea days, making great cost savings while still offering a classic South Georgia visit.

» travel from « London – London
 » notes « Supplement for twin cabin (private facilities) from £820 per person

» ships «	» dates «	» embark in «	» cabins «	» guide price «	» opt. extras «
Plancius	18 Nov – 7 Dec 2011	Ushuaia	Quadruple	£7,820	★
	4 – 18 December 2011	Port Stanley	(private facilities)	£6,250	★
	15 – 29 December 2011	Port Stanley		£6,250	★
	26 Dec 2011 – 13 Jan 2012	Port Stanley		£8,825	★

Falklands – South Georgia – Antarctic Peninsula

These longer voyages visit the **Falkland Islands** calling at **Port Stanley**. Leaving Stanley, they cross to **South Georgia** encountering a great number of seabirds as they cross the

Convergence. Three days are spent in South Georgia visiting historic sites encountering fur and elephant seals, albatross and petrels. They then cross 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 «	» dates «	» cabins «	» guide price «	» opt. extras «
Plancius	30 Oct – 21 Nov 2011	Quadruple (private facilities)	£8,545	
	10 – 31 January 2012		£9,730	
	28 Jan – 18 Feb 2012			
Quest	26 Jan – 16 Feb 2012	Quadruple (private facilities)	£9,730	

» travel from « All travel is London – London (embark in Ushuaia)
 » notes « Guide prices per person based on quadruple cabin (private facilities). Prices vary according to departure date. Supplement for twin cabin from £1,360 per person

Explorer's quest: Falklands, South Georgia and the Peninsula

This 22-day expedition is for people who are always on the move. It includes three different environments, five penguin species and diverse landscapes – a quintessential Antarctic voyage. Adventure options are offered on selected voyages.

» ship « **Akademic Sergey Vavilov**
 » dates « Numerous departures
 November 2011 – February 2012
 » travel from « London – London
 » guide price « From £8,060 per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)



Antarctica XXI

Antarctica XXI is unique – the first air cruise to Antarctica. The basis of this extraordinary voyage is that you 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 with active adventures, several landings daily by zodiac and a programme of enjoyable on-board lectures.

The aim of the expedition is to cross the **Lemaire Channel** at latitude 65 degrees south.

For those who still wish to experience crossing the Drake Passage in one direction, the first and last voyages of the season include a one way crossing by air. Staff to guest ratios are higher than on standard voyages and there is an open bar policy throughout the voyage.



» ship « **Ocean Nova**
 » dates « Various departures
 December 2011 – January 2012
 » travel from « London – London (embark in Punta Arenas except for first and last voyages of the season)
 » guide price « £7,360 per person based on triple cabin (private facilities)



Antarctic Explorer: Discovering the Peninsula

These voyages offer the opportunity not only to see the landscape and wildlife but also to camp, cross country ski, climb mountains or kayak during the four days that the ship spends in the **Antarctic Peninsula**. This is perfect for the first time visitor wishing to see the highlights of the peninsula by small ship, for those wanting adventure options or for those with time constraints.

- » ship « **Akademic Sergey Vavilov**
- » dates « Numerous departures
November 2011 – February 2012
- » travel from « London – London
- » guide price « From **£5,070** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

CROSSING THE CIRCLE

Polar Circle – Antarctic Peninsula

These extended voyages follow the Antarctic Peninsula with South Shetland Islands itinerary but continue further south visiting **Crystal Sound** and the **Fish Islands** – one of the most southerly colonies of adielie penguins. We hope to reach **Detaille Island**, our southernmost point, south of the Polar Circle. There is an additional programme for scuba divers at a supplement.

» ships «	» dates «	» cabins «	» guide price «	» opt. extras «
Plancius	7 – 21 March 2012	Quadruple cabin (private facilities)	£6,355	▲ ● ◆
Quest	23 February – 8 March 2012	Quadruple cabin (private facilities)	£6,355	●

- » travel from « London – London (embark in Ushuaia)
- » guide price « Per person based on quadruple cabin (private facilities). Supplement for twin cabin (private facilities) from **£870** per person
 ▲ field camp option £65 per person per night
 ● supplement £270 per diver ◆ supplement £230 per kayaker

FROM SOUTH TO NORTH

Atlantic Odyssey

As the ships are used for voyages in both polar regions, each year the vessels are repositioned from the **Southern Atlantic Ocean** to the **Arctic region**. This gives the opportunity for this fantastic Atlantic Odyssey which has been called the 'finest pelagic bird-cruise' in the world. Apart from observing many bird species, you will be able to witness the northern bird migration. This epic voyage starts from **Ushuaia** and heads south to the **Antarctic Peninsula** in search of albatross, petrels and other southern species. Then we turn north to the **South Orkneys** and on to **South Georgia** for king penguins, macaroni penguins and wandering albatross before continuing deeper into the Atlantic to visit the **Tristan da Cunha** archipelago. Here the ship may be able to land at **Inaccessible Island** to see the endemic inaccessible rail. There are zodiac

cruises close to **Gough Island** for Gough moorhen and Gough bunting before sailing on north to **St. Helena**, where Napoleon lived in exile, and **Ascension Island** with its colony of over a million sooty terns. Your voyage ends in the **Cape Verde Islands** with its spectacular volcanic scenery, so different from the ice of the Southern Ocean.



» ships «	» dates «	» embark «	» disembark «	» guide price «
Plancius	27 March – 29 April 2012	Ushuaia	Ascension	£7,135
	26 April – 5 May 2012	Ascension	Praia (Cape Verdes)	£2,220

- » guide price « Guide prices are per person based on quadruple cabin with private facilities. Supplement for twin cabin with private facilities **£1,135** per person for Ushuaia embarkation. **£140** per person for Ascension embarkation

Pelagic West Africa

This new itinerary starts in the **Cape Verdes** whose isolation has resulted in a number of endemic species including the Raso lark and Cape Verde swift, warbler and sparrow. Darwin landed here in 1832. Heading north we also hope for chances to see shortfinned pilot whale, bottlenose dolphin and perhaps sperm whale. Our target at

Raso and Branco Islands will be the red-billed tropicbird. Cruising north off **Mauritania** and **Western Sahara** we look out for all the skua species and in the Canary Islands we plan evening zodiac cruises to see thousands of shearwaters and petrels. The voyage ends in **Madeira** where we visit the **Desertas Islands**, now a nature reserve.

- » ship « **Plancius**
- » dates « 4 – 13 May 2012
- » travel from « London – London (embark in Praia)
- » guide price « **£1,895** per person based on quadruple cabin (private facilities). Supplement for twin cabin private facilities **£225** per person

And finally... KAPITAN KHLEBNIKOV – the end of an era

It will be a sad day for many when **Kapitan Khlebnikov** leaves the Antarctic for the last time to return to research duties. She will take with her a wealth of memories for many who have been lucky enough to experience her polar class icebreaking power and onboard

helicopters capable of opening up huge tracts of otherwise untouched magical Antarctic wilderness. She bows out with two extraordinary voyages in the south – if you would like to be a part of these please call us for more information and prices:-

ROSS SEA CENTENNIAL VOYAGE

Farewell to the emperors of Antarctica:
9 November – 7 December 2011

ANTARCTICA'S FAR EAST

The farewell voyage
6 December 2011 – 5 January 2012

The dates shown are sailing dates, flights to be added.

Imagine **exploring** pristine icy waters by kayak, **driving** your own dog sled, **crossing** snowy mountain ranges, **landing** by helicopter in a volcanic crater, **eating** reindeer meat with herders in their yurt, **watching** brown or polar bears, **swimming** in a hot thermal river or **being serenaded** by your pack dogs in the evening...

...a world away from everyday life – the world of ARCTURUS

