

## ARCTURUS

THE POLAR ARM OF FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL

**VOYAGES AND EXPEDITIONS  
2017-2018**



Welcome to our 2017-2018 brochure for Arcturus, the polar arm of Far Frontiers Travel.



This year we're bringing you some exciting new land-based trips in **Spitsbergen and Iceland** and extending our range of **Arctic and Antarctic** voyages. Late bookings are still popular, so we've included winter 2016-17 Antarctic voyages as well as dates for the 2017-18 season.

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

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

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

Fiona Brijnath, Director

## 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, the Faroe Islands and some of the remotest parts of Russia. Owned by and operating as the polar division of Far Frontiers Travel Limited, Arcturus was, in its early days, one of the pioneers of wildlife tours in the Arctic, and our itineraries have their genesis in years of local research and experience. Many of the contributions to the programmes we offer today were made by early travellers to these regions for scientific research, expeditions or simply for pure pleasure!

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

The company is run by **Fiona Brijnath** who, with her life-long career in the travel business,

has developed tailored travel itineraries for nearly 25 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 has unrivalled expertise with remote destinations. You are unlikely to find anyone who gives more attention to personal service and detail or can better advise on how to make yours the trip of a lifetime.*

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

## Have a look...

at [www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk](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!

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



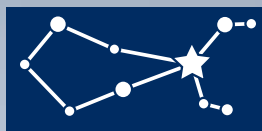
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COVER PHOTO: André Schoenherr, Visit Greenland  
PHOTO PAGES 2 & 3: Mads Pihl, Visit Greenland  
WATERCOLOUR MAPS THROUGHOUT: Claire Baker



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### Prices

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

### Pre and post-tour arrangements

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



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



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All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: [www.atol.org.uk/](http://www.atol.org.uk/) ATOLCertificate. In some cases, clients will wish to book their own international flights, in which case they are financially protected by the TOPP scheme.

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In compliance with the UK Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 an insurance policy has been arranged with Travel & General Insurance Services Limited (t&g), 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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Please do call us to discuss your individual requirements





## ARCTIC NORWAY AND

Early spring, when the days lengthen rapidly, is a beautiful time of year in the Arctic and travelling by dog-sledge is to experience its true spirit. These expeditions in the mountains and high plateaux of **Northern Norway** have been organised and led by our Norwegian friends for many years. We can arrange short trips and extensions such as a visit by skidoo to the Sami (Lapp) people in their summer or

winter camps, to **Summer Island** or the picturesque **Lofoten Islands** or a day visit to **Tromsø** for its **Polar Museum** and **Northern Lights Planetarium**.

**For all the itineraries shown here you will drive your own dog team.**

*"We board the plane from the Arctic with heavy, heavy hearts and many tears. This trip has been an overwhelming experience for all of us. Safe to say that it has been the most memorable, incredible holiday we have ever had!!"*

The Chaloner Family,  
Dog sledding in Arctic Norway,  
March 2016



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

» itineraries «

### Dog-sledding in mainland Norway

#### Explore Dividalen – drive your own dogs | 6 days

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

- » when « 14-19 February 2017
- » price « £1,845 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4. Accommodation in rustic/simple but cosy cabin. No previous experience required

#### Mountain dog sledding hut to hut | 8 days

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

- » when « 28 February – 7 March 2017
- » price « £2,595 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4. Accommodation in mountain huts. Some previous experience required



#### Northern Lights long weekend | 4 days

Winter in **Northern Norway** brings the opportunity of witnessing the extraordinary Northern Lights (*Aurora Borealis*) dancing in the sky. We recommend our tailor-made weekends for private groups of four or more. You'll fly to **Bardufoss** and we will take you to your simple but cosy accommodation for three nights. Try your hand at dog sledding or cross-country skiing, take a sauna or enjoy a hot tub under starry skies. We can see the *Aurora Borealis* around half of all clear weather nights during the winter, so your chances increase with the length of your stay.

- » when « To suit
- » price « £1,350 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4. Tailor-made for individuals or small parties. Accommodation in rustic/simple but cosy cabin

#### The Kings Way: Crossing Norway into Sweden | 8 days

This dog-sledding 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**. Sledge along frozen rivers and lakes and explore the varied countryside around **Kiruna**. The expedition ends near **Jukkasjarvi** at the famous **Ice Hotel**. Made using ice from the **Torne River**, it's the largest igloo in the world and features ice sculptures, a cinema and the **Absolut Ice Bar** carved entirely from ice. If you would like to experience a night or two in this unique accommodation we can arrange it.

- » when « 12-21 April 2017
- » price « £2,735 per person
- » leader « Local Norwegian leader
- » key info « Group size 4. Accommodation in mountain huts, may involve some camping and long days of sledding. Previous experience required

PHOTOS: The Chaloner Family; Arcturus

Let us build you an exclusive private dog sledding experience in **Northern Norway** – in summer or winter, for three hours or a journey of up to three weeks!

You'll be guests of our old friends who work their dog team out of a comfortable cabin at **Øverbygd** at latitude 69N. Enjoy convivial evenings with a glass of wine in the hot tub under the stars before a delicious reindeer stew round the fire.

Between mid-September and mid-April you might even be dazzled by the Northern Lights.

For the adventurous, how about a mountain route from hut to hut along remote trails?

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

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

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



Tailor-made dog sledding for families or small groups of friends



# SPITSBERGEN

## Dog-sledging in Spitsbergen

Telegraph route to  
Isfjord Radio | 8 days

NEW  
FOR 2017

Step outside **Longyearbyen** and open a door to the wilderness. You spend five days dogsledding – three nights in a tent for a real taste of life in the Arctic and a night at **Isfjord Radio**, a comfortable hotel which strikes a contrast with the surrounding rough coastal landscape.

- » when « 28 March – 4 April 2017
- » price « £3,985 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Minimum 3 people. Drive your own dogs and help set up tents, feed the dog team and prepare dinner. You need to be in good physical condition, have some experience of camping in winter but not of dog sledding. All equipment is provided and all necessary training given

### Arctic luxury – Isfjord Radio | 6 days

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

- » when « Departures on Thursdays from March to mid May 2017
- » price « £2,525 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Minimum 4 people, private groups can also be arranged

### Footprints from Nordenskiöld | 8 days

Experience a long dog sledging expedition into the true Arctic land with minimal camping! We head north from **Longyearbyen** to **Tempelfjorden** and spend the night under canvas, continuing deep into the north towards **Nordenskiöld Glacier** and **Basecamp Nordenskiöld**. This is your base for the next two nights from where you'll make dog sledging forays over sharp mountains, shiny glaciers and frozen fjords.

- » when « 30 April – 7 May, 3-10 May and 8-15 May 2017
- » price « £4,045 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Suitable for those who don't want to camp for multiple nights. Sledging kit provided



Pointed mountains,  
deeply etched fjords  
and the glorious clear  
sparkle of the Arctic

### East to West skiing | 14 days

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

- » when « 5-18 April, 22 April – 5 May and 8-21 May 2017
- » price « £4,145 per person
- » leader « Experienced local leader
- » key info « Minimum 4 people. You need to be in good physical shape and have experience including skiing and pulling ski-pulkas. All necessary safety and camp equipment provided

### Adventure week at Nordenskiöld Lodge | 7 days

This trip casts you right into the heart of the Arctic to **Basecamp Nordenskiöld**. Accessed by boat, it's a true expedition lodge in front of the magnificent **Nordenskiöld Glacier**. We heat up the cabin with wood and fetch our drinking water from the melting glacier. The week includes several full day trips, planned daily according to the weather.

- » when « Weekly departures on Sundays July to August 2017
- » price « £2,975 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « Minimum of 4 people. You need to be in fairly good physical condition to take part. Not recommended for those with back pain

Do ask as we've plenty of other organised snow adventures involving snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and polar nights, as well as wonderful summer trips for around two weeks or just for a few days.

### Magic of the Arctic – Summer Spitsbergen | 6 days

Join us on our summer adventure to **Basecamp Isfjord Radio** at **Cape Linné**. After two nights in **Longyearbyen** we head out to **Isfjord** by boat. On our way we take time to enjoy the fantastic fjord, the bird cliffs and the animal wildlife. Far from civilization you'll discover the history, biological diversity and geological conditions which make this such a fascinating place. The former radio station overlooks the Arctic Ocean – unique and comfortable accommodation deep in the wilderness.

- » when « Weekly departures Wednesdays and Saturdays June – September 2017
- » price « £2,280 per person
- » leader « Local leader
- » key info « All equipment provided. Not suitable for those with lower back pain

*“ Really mad keen to go again, would like to go back to Longyearben, dog sled to Pyramiden again, stay in cabin then maybe head off with dogs somewhere else. Everything was fantastically organised – so easy and great service and staff.”*

The Curl Family,  
Spitsbergen, May 2015

PHOTOS: Basecamp Spitsbergen;  
Olivia Curl



## Thrilling private dog sledging options

If you would prefer a private dog sledging adventure to an organised group tour, our partners in Spitsbergen run their family-owned business from **Bolterdalen**, a valley 10km from the main town of **Longyearbyen**. They have many years of combined experience derived from the Elite Military Sled Patrol (Sirius, Greenland and Svalbard).

The 100 or so huskies in their **dog team** are thought to be directly descended from dogs brought there by the first Inuit settlers and the terrain is superb, with many varied valleys.





# ICELAND, GREENLAND AND THE FAROES

Magical lands  
of midnight sun  
and the ethereal  
Aurora Borealis

» itineraries «

## Grand tour of Iceland – self-drive | 11 days

NEW  
FOR 2017

A full-circle round trip with you in the driver's seat! We've a variety of vehicles to choose from and all accommodation is pre-booked for you.

Highlights on your route might include the **Geysir** area, **Pingvellir National Park**, **Reykjavik** (the Saga capital of Iceland) and the waterfalls of **Gullfoss** and **Skogafoss**.

Head north to explore the bird paradise of **Myvatn** and on your return take time to enjoy **Reykjavik** – there are some lovely boutique hotels and we can help with upgrades, museum tickets, restaurant bookings and organise options such as riding, helicopter sightseeing and whale watching.

- » when « Tailor-made to suit
- » price « From £1,965 per person

## Iceland deluxe – guided tour | 8 days

NEW  
FOR 2017

Travel without the stress of being the driver – this tour includes a myriad of **Icelandic** experiences: the glaciers, waterfalls, bird cliffs and black lava beaches of the south, crossing the interior by mountain road, the rich bird life of **Lake Myvatn** in the north and the bright lights of **Reykjavik** for the grand finale.

- » when « Tailor-made to suit
- » price « £3,375 per person
- » key info « Private guided tours are interspersed with bus transport to minimise cost

## The wonders of Iceland – nature tour | 10 days

NEW  
FOR 2017

This comprehensive tour of **Iceland's** natural history has a few surprises including an unforgettable adventure deep inside **Langjokull** glacier to explore its breathtaking ice cave and a unique tour inside a dormant volcano.

Get acquainted with the gentle giants of the sea on a whale safari at **Akureyri**, and explore the dramatic area of **Lake Myvatn**. Back in **Reykjavik** we will show you amazing geothermal phenomena from bubbling sulphur pools and sprouting geysirs to a the volcanic islands of **Vestmanna**. We can tailor-make your itinerary to include more or fewer activities and a chauffeur-driven vehicle rather than day trips by coach, if desired.

- » when « Tailor-made to suit
- » price « From £3,745 per person

**ICELAND** is a world of natural splendour in the North Atlantic ocean, the long days and midnight sun of summer allowing visitors to make the most of this entrancing country. Winter brings with it the chance of seeing the other-worldly **Aurora Borealis**. A great way to really get to know this place of natural phenomena and legends from the 9th to early 11th centuries (known as the **Saga Age**), is touring by car. We have some wonderful self-drive itineraries or can arrange a driver/guide for you if you prefer.

## Iceland bespoke

Just about everything about Iceland is truly out of this world! Here are some of our favourite itinerary suggestions.

Our classic **Golden Circle** day trip includes **Pingvellir National Park**, site of the first Viking parliament, as well as the fabulous **Gullfoss** waterfall and hot springs at **Geysir**.

Discover natural wonders such as the strange geothermal area of **Krysuvik**, **Myvatn Lake**, the **Snaefellsness Peninsula** and volcano, the beaches of **South Iceland** and the **Blue Lagoon** on the **Reykjanes Peninsula** – a unique geothermal spa only accessible by pre-arrangement. We also recommend spending time on **Vestmanna Island** (the Pompeii of the North).

Explore the rugged eastern part of Iceland whilst staying at a traditional farmhouse. Hike, saddle-up and try local food. For keen riders, we suggest a half or full day riding a sturdy Icelandic pony over black lava fields. You'd also enjoy an evening show at the **Icelandic Horse Park, Fakasel**.

Whale and puffin safaris are a must for **Reykjavik** and north Iceland. Other unbeatable highlights include a walk inside or snowmobiling on a glacier – or take to a helicopter for a bird's eye view of a glacier or an extinct volcano!

**GREENLAND**, the world's largest island and one of its final frontiers, remains largely uninhabited due to its massive **Inland Ice Cap**.

Not only is it worth extending your Iceland trip with a few days in Greenland, but it is a great destination for stand-alone holiday.

Travelling along the west coast by local steamer is a particular delight. The facilities may be simple but the incomparable scenery more than compensates. We've countless cruising itineraries which will combine with hotel stays in south or west Greenland.

» itineraries «

## Kap Tobin Arctic wildlife safari | 10 days

A truly unique trip based close to **Scoresby Sund** on **Greenland's** east coast. You'll stay in a privately owned home where the owner will oversee your trip and cook for you in the evening. Dog sledge and snowmobile the local environs for fantastic views and hot springs. During your time with local hunters you will observe them checking their seal holes and be on the lookout for polar bear, seals and narwhales.

- » when « March - May 2017, tailor-made to suit
- » price « From £5,775 per person
- » leader « Icelandic local expert
- » key info « Group size 4 minimum. Helicopter, snowmobile and dog sledge transport. You'll feel more like a house guest than a visitor

## Liverpool Land | 10 days

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

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

- » when « Weekly departures March – May 2017
- » price « From £3,995 per person
- » key info « Stay in guest houses and tents

PHOTOS: Arctic Adventure, Magnus Elander, Visit Greenland; Adam Burton, Visit Faroe Islands

Breathtaking fjords  
and communities with  
enduring lifestyles



## Icebergs of West Greenland | 10-13 days

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

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

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

- » **when** « June – August 2017, tailor-made to suit
- » **price** « From **£4,695** per person for 10 days
- » **leader** « Local Greenlander
- » **key info** « Accommodation is limited so it's a good idea to book early

» **options** « We've two fabulous new extensions led by local experts that we can build into your Icebergs of West Greenland itinerary.

### Whales and culture | 4 days

Learn more about traditional Greenland life and customs with a stay in the village of **Qasigianniguit** at the south-eastern part of **Disko Bay**. Approximately three hours by boat from **Ilulissat**, it is one of the oldest towns in Greenland with around 1,200 habitants – the local museum brims with stories from the old Thule culture.

- » **price** « From **£800** per person

### Camp Ice Cap | 4 days

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

- » **price** « From **£1,140** per person

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

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

Fiona's  
travel tips

Thrilling experiences  
in a rugged environment



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

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

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

Fiona's  
travel tips

## Faroe Islands deluxe self-drive | 8 days

Driving is the ideal way to explore this island nation. The infrastructure is generally of very high quality and distances between points of interest short, so you can see a lot without having to change hotels every night.

Visit key attractions such as the bird paradise of **Mykines Island** and **Kirkjubøur** village and stay overnight in the tiny but picturesque village of **Gjogv**. Visit the **Saga Museum** in **Vestmanna** and ferry hop between little islands in the north.

**Torshavn**, the Faroes' capital, has big city confidence and is worth a few days' stay. There are a growing number of excellent restaurants proudly showcasing their contemporary interpretation of traditional Faroese cuisine using local produce from both sea and mountain.

- » **when** « June – August 2017, tailor-made to suit
- » **price** « From **£1,545** per person
- » **key info** « You can experience four seasons in one day. Average temperatures are 11°C in summer

## Atlantic nature – Vagar and Streymoy | 8 days

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

- » **when** « June – August 2017, tailor-made to suit
- » **price** « From **£1,310** per person
- » **key info** « Flights, hotels and transfers included. Optional guided trips can be added. Book early to secure guides and hotels



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





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.

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 during the summer plants grow at an incredible rate due to the volcanically-warmed and minerally-enriched soil.



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

## ARCTIC AND FAR EAST RUSSIA



» itineraries «

### Bears, volcanoes, native people, reindeer herders, autumn colours | 19 days

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

- » **when** « 23 August – 10 September 2017
- » **price** « £5,150 per person
- » **leader** « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » **key info** « Based on a group size of 10-16. The pace will be leisurely. The walks are not difficult and are entirely optional



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

The **Solovetski Islands**, 150km south of the **Arctic Circle**, were first settled by monks in the 1430s. This archipelago in the **White Sea** 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 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 excellent territory for walking in summer.

- » **when** « 4-15 June 2017  
or we can tailor-make to suit
- » **price** « £2,195 per person
- » **leader** « Local English speaking Russian leaders
- » **key info** « Group size 6 minimum. Weather may be variable with temperatures ranging from 5-20 degrees C. The pace will be leisurely, easy walking entirely at your discretion



For map of Russian Far East  
see page 15

PHOTOS: Travel Russia; Andrey Stepanchuk, Travel Kamchatka

### Dog sledging with the reindeer herders and native people | 16 days

Our route takes us over pristine snow-covered mountain passes, high plateaux and valleys close to the volcano **Ichinskiy** in central **Kamchatka**. 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 might watch some of it and meet the competitors.

- » **when** « 9-24 February 2017 and  
22 February – 9 March 2017
- » **price** « £4,860 per person
- » **leader** « Local English speaking Russian leader
- » **key info** « Group size: minimum 4, maximum 8



**TEMPERATURE:** 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.

**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.





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

#### » new for 2017 «

- » Noorderlicht offers whale safaris in North Norway in Jan/Feb
- » Ortelius sails from Fair Isle via Jan Mayen to Spitsbergen in May
- » Rembrandt Van Rijn sails in Spitsbergen from May to June.
- » Sea Spirit visits the Norwegian coastline en-route to Svalbard in June
- » Polar Pioneer routes from Aberdeen via the Norwegian coast to Spitsbergen in June
- » Spirit of Enderby returns for a special 15 day expedition including Wrangel Island and the annual Beringia Regatta in July
- » New route for Akademik Sergey Vavilov – Labrador and Torngat explorer in July
- » National Geographic Orion sails from Bergen to Dublin in August
- » New Baffin Island voyages with Sea Adventurer in September



PHOTOS:  
Tikki Geisler, Visit Greenland;  
Carol Hall, Rual Kemp,  
Aurora Expeditions

## THE ARCTIC

Dutch for 'pointed mountains', **Spitsbergen** is the focus of several of our voyages. It's an evocative name for the largest island of the **Svalbard Archipelago** in the High Arctic, 1,300km from the North Pole. 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 learning about Spitsbergen's fascinating history of Arctic exploration and whaling. Since hunting was banned in the 1970s, bear and walrus populations have increased dramatically and you are almost certain to see these magnificent creatures.

**East Greenland** is one of the least visited places in the High Arctic since permission to land on the coast of the National Park is only granted to a few operators. Our voyages there cover the beautiful fjord system of **Scoresby Sund** and the spectacular south east coast, while **West Greenland** reveals its glorious shores from **Ilulissat** to **Thule**. We visit towards the end of the Arctic summer when the ice has receded, the tundra is bright with autumn colours and there is an excellent chance of seeing the Northern Lights.

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



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

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



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

» itineraries «

### Wild Scotland | 11 days

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

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 13-23 June 2017
- » guide price « **£4,565** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

» options « **National Geographic Orion** has a new itinerary from 26 August – 2 September 2017 starting in **Bergen**, taking in the **Scottish coast**, **Hebrides**, **Orkney** and **Shetland Islands** and ending in **Dublin**

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

**NEW VOYAGE**

This voyage works well if you'd like 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**. If you've time we recommend booking **Ortelius'** consecutive week-long **North Spitsbergen** voyage.

- » ship « **Ortelius**
- » when « 22-31 May 2017
- » guide price « **£2,395** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

### Across the Arctic Circle | 14 days

**NEW VOYAGE**

Follow the Vikings' Way from **Aberdeen** to the land of the midnight sun. Our enthusiastic historian and expert naturalist reveal the **Orkney** and **Shetland** islands, from Stone Age villages and Viking relics to world class distilleries. We follow migrating whales along **Norway's** dramatic coast, visit the former cod fishing village of **Sør Gjaeslingan** and toast our **Arctic Circle** crossing. We'll encounter **Torghatten**, **Lofoten** and **Bear Island** en-route to **Spitsbergen**, a polar wonderland where the summer sun never sets and the tundra is adorned with delicate wildflowers. This spectacular wilderness is the breeding ground of walrus, reindeers, polar bears and many birds.

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 23 June – 6 July 2017
- » guide price « **£4,760** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

## SCOTTISH ISLANDS, ARCTIC NORWAY AND ICELAND



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

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

- » ships « **Akademik Ioffe**, **Ocean Nova**, **Ortelius**, **Plancius**, **Sea Adventurer**, **Sea Spirit**
- » when « Numerous departures  
June – August 2017
- » guide price range « From **£4,540 – £5,580** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

» options « **Polar Pioneer** offers three 12 day **Spitsbergen Odyssey** voyages starting 5, 15 and 25 July 2017 for those wanting a more intimate small ship experience. Guide price from **£5,540** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

**Akademik Ioffe** runs a photography symposium 16-26 June 2017. Guide price from **£5,925** per person in twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

**Ortelius** and **Plancius** each have several voyages in June and August designated 'polar bear specials' and visit **Kvitøya** in August 2017

### Spitsbergen in depth | 14 days

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

- » ship « **Ocean Nova**
- » when « 12-25 July 2017
- » guide price « From **£8,745** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

PHOTOS: Erwin Vermeulen, Oceanwide Expeditions; Poseidon Expeditions

### Spitsbergen and Franz Josef Land | 16 days

The archipelago of **Franz Josef Land** in Russia's far north is one of the most remote and raw locations in the world. Discovered less than 150 years ago, it comprises 192 islands rich in birdlife, walrus, polar bear, seal, arctic fox and beluga whales. Now within the **Russian Arctic National Park** administration, it is a little visited landscape dotted with relics from famous explorers of the past.

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 14-29 August 2017
- » guide price « From **£8,780** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 30 September 2016

### Iceland, Norway and Spitsbergen | 15 days

**NEW VOYAGE**

Embark in **Reykjavik** before heading north to **Grimsey** and **Iceland's** western fjords amid incomparable scenery shaped by basaltic flows.

Crossing the **Arctic Circle** we meet the coast of **Norway** near **Saltfjellet-Svartisen National Park**, with the second largest glacier in mainland Norway. We then sail north through **Vestfjorden** toward the **Lofoten Islands**. Finally we reach **Nordkapp** at the top of Norway. After exploring some of south western **Spitsbergen** we proceed up its west coast toward **Isfjorden** and the town of **Longyearbyen** among stunning glaciers and towering mountains.

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 15-29 June 2017
- » guide price « **£7,295** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 30 Sept 2016

For map of Spitsbergen see page 5





## GREENLAND

Awesome glaciers,  
icy fjords, Inuit people,  
polar bears, walrus  
and seals



» itineraries «

### Spitsbergen and North East Greenland | 16 days

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

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

- » ship « **Plancius**
- » when « 28 August – 12 September 2017
- » guide price « **£7,495** per person based on twin window cabin (private facilities)

### South and West Greenland | 17 days

Embarking in **Reykjavik**, we spend two days at sea to round **Cape Farewell**, Greenland's most southern point. Over the next 11 days we go north as far as **Ilulissat** and **Disko Island** visiting enchanting tiny settlements: **Qaqortoq** for its Viking history, **Hvalsey's** 14th century church and **Qassiarsuk** with the remains of Eric the Red's house. We'll also see the famous **Qilakitsoq** mummies in **Nuuk**.

- » ship « **Sea Spirit**
- » when « 22 May – 7 June 2017
- » guide price « **£7,110** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 30 September 2016

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

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

- » ships « **Ocean Nova, Sea Adventurer, Sea Spirit**
- » when « Three departures in July and August 2017
- » guide price range « From **£7,370** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 30 September 2016

### East Greenland, Northern Lights and Greenland National Park | 15 days

**Scoresby Sund**, the world's largest fjord system, beckons you to explore **Greenland**. With some of the world's best displays of Northern Lights, the Inuit settlement of **Ittoqqortoormiit** offers you a rare connection to the past. Iceberg-choked fjords, tundra hikes and the wildlife of **Greenland National Park** create picture-perfect scenes every day. This is one of our most active expeditions, where you can climb mountains and watch herds of musk oxen graze – the untouched Arctic as it was thousands of years ago.

The voyage embarks in northern Iceland, cruising across the **Denmark Strait** to Greenland and makes its way south to **Constable Point**.

- » ship « **Sea Adventurer**
- » when « 16-30 August 2017
- » guide price « **£8,430** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

- » options « Cruise one way/fly one way or cruise both ways on **Ocean Nova** – three departures in September 2017.
- » guide price « **£6,090** per person

### Iceland, Greenland and Baffin Island – Arctic Circle traverse | 19 days

NEW VOYAGE

An in-depth exploration of the historic, remote regions of **Iceland**, **Greenland** and **Canada**. You start in **Reykjavik** then set sail from **Akureyri** in northern Iceland, crossing to south east **Greenland**, rounding its tip to **Nuuk**. Then it's across to **Baffin** and some of the most picturesque places on the planet, ending in **Iqaluit** before the flight to **Ottawa**. We'll be awed by massive bird cliffs, mingle with locals, wander abandoned settlements, soak in spectacular hot springs, and savour rare opportunities to get up close to whales, polar bears and puffins.

- » ship « **Sea Adventurer**
- » when « 28 August – 15 September 2017
- » guide price « **£10,230** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)



For map of Greenland see page 7

PHOTOS: Rob Tully, Oceanwide Expeditions; Julia Korner

### Jewels of the Arctic | 16 days

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

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 4-19 August 2017  
17 August – 1 September 2017
- » guide price « From **£6,555** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

### Canada to Greenland: Baffin Bay Explorer | 14 days

NEW VOYAGE

Beginning in **Ottawa** you take a charter flight to **Iqaluit** on **Baffin Island**. Our small ship and Zodiacs take us to some of the most isolated areas of the world that would otherwise be inaccessible. The ship wends its way north to **Sam Ford Fjord** and then across to **Greenland** making land near the red heart-shaped mountain of **Uummannaq**, and on south for the freshly calved bergs in the **Ilulissat Icefjord**.

- » ship « **Sea Adventurer**
- » when « 12-25 September 2017
- » guide price « **£8,790** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

### East Greenland, Scoresby Sund and Aurora Borealis | 10 days

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

- » ship « **Plancius**
- » when « 10-19 and 17-26 September 2017
- » guide price « **£4,390** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

- » options « **Sea Spirit** includes a visit to Iceland's picturesque **Snaefellsness Peninsula**
- » when « 10-22 September 2017
- » guide price « **£6,220** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 30 September 2016



*"An experience of a lifetime; thank you for going to so much trouble to design a trip that followed in my father's footsteps, 80 years later. We have not stopped recommending you since our return from Greenland. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."*

Jamie and Julia Korner, Greenland, July 2014



# SAIL NORWAY, SPITSBERGEN, LOFOTENS AND GREENLAND

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

» itineraries «

## Sail North Spitsbergen | 13 days

Sailing through **Isfjorden** to **Trygghamna** we visit the remains of a 17th century English whaling station. Weather permitting, we will go ashore at **Fuglehuken**, where Willem Barentsz landed, and **Ny Alesund**, the world's northernmost permanent settlement. At **14th July Glacier** we take Zodiacs to the breeding site for Brunnich's guillemots, little auks and puffins. On to **Magdalenafjord** and **Ytre Norskøya**, and then **Raudfjord** on the north coast, hopefully landing on the northern side of **Reindyrfla** where reindeer graze on the tundra.

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

- » ship « **Rembrandt Van Rijn**
- » when « Five departures May and June 2017
- » guide price « From **£4,185** per person based on twin inside cabin (private facilities)

## Sail around Spitsbergen | 17 days

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

- » ship « **Noorderlicht**
- » when « Three departures July and August 2017
- » guide price « **£4,895** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

## Sail central Spitsbergen | 9 days

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

- » ship « **Noorderlicht**
- » when « Three departures April and Oct 2017
- » guide price « **£2,695** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

- » options « Ask about **Noorderlicht's** Alpine ski and sail voyage 22-30 April 2017. Price **£2,820** per person, supplement of **£360** for ski mountaineers. Group size 6-8 per guide

## Sail North Norway whale safari

| 8 days

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

- » ship « **Noorderlicht**
- » when « Three departures Jan – Feb 2017
- » guide price « **£1,940** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

- » options « Three **Aurora Borealis** voyages in October and November 2017 offer week long **North Norway** whale-focused sailings out of **Tromsø**. Price from **£1,940** per person

## Sail Scoresby Sund – Aurora Borealis

| 13 days

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

- » ship « **Rembrandt Van Rijn**
- » when « 23 August – 4 September 2017
- » guide price « **£5,195** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

- » options « The preceding voyage starts in **Spitsbergen**



"I had a wonderful holiday and will certainly recommend **Arcturus**. I had been to East Greenland on three occasions and it was interesting to contrast East with West, they are certainly very different."

**Elizabeth Lonkhurst,**

Sail West Greenland, July/August 2015



# CANADIAN AND HIGH ARCTIC

» itineraries «

## Heart of the Arctic | 16 days

Immerse yourself in **Arctic** art and meet those who create it, from **Nunavik** in northern **Quebec** to **Nunavut** and to the coast of **Greenland** across the **Davis Strait**. We'll travel just after the summer solstice, when the chances of seeing polar bear, walrus, and musk ox are excellent. **Kinngait (Cape Dorset)** is widely hailed as the Inuit art capital and is home to some of the Arctic's most celebrated stone carvers.

- » ship « **Ocean Endeavour**
- » when « 17 July – 1 August 2017
- » guide price « **£8,545** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 30 September 2016

## Arctic safari | 15 days

This classic expedition begins by exploring **Greenland's** great ice fjord at **Ilulissat**, source of the majority of the icebergs in the North Atlantic.

Across the **Davis Strait** in **Nunavut**, the **Canadian Arctic** brings opportunities to see polar bear, whales, and musk oxen on **Devon Island**, while **Prince Leopold Island** is one of Canada's best birding areas. Abandoned **RCMP** and **HBC** posts give a haunting glimpse into the region's history. At **Beechey Island**, we'll pay our respects at the graves of three of **Sir John Franklin's** men and, at **Resolute Bay**, honour the courage of Canada's Inuit.

- » ship « **Ocean Endeavour**
- » when « 29 July – 12 August 2017
- » guide price « **£9,690** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 30 September 2016

## Baffin Island | 15 days

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

- » ship « **Akademik Sergey Vavilov**
- » when « 24 July – 7 August 2017
- » guide price « **£9,115** per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

- » options « **Akademik Ioffe** operates a **Baffin Island** and **West Greenland** voyage from **Iqaluit** to **Kangerlussuaq** 1-14 August 2017
- » guide price « **£9,595** per person twin cabin (semi-private facilities)



For maps of **Spitsbergen** and **Greenland** see pages 4 and 7

PHOTO: Kees Beekman, Oceanwide Expeditions





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

### Mighty St. Lawrence | 13 days

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

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 24 June – 6 July 2017
- » guide price « £5,920 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 30 September 2016

### Sable Island | 12 days

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

This voyage can be booked consecutively with Mighty St Lawrence.

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 4-15 July 2017
- » guide price « £4,875 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 30 September 2016

### Newfoundland circumnavigation | 14 days

This summer sailing is ideally timed for whales, icebergs, and breeding seabirds. We will visit Red Bay, learn about Viking history in North America at L'Anse aux Meadows, and enjoy a taste of the mi'kmaq culture in Conne River. Starting and ending in historic St. John's, we experience Newfoundland's lively, welcoming culture and dramatic scenery in daily expedition stops and visit to the French island of Saint-Pierre.

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 4-17 June 2017
- » guide price « £6,395 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 30 September 2016



### Into the Northwest Passage | 20 days

Explore the villages, fjords and glaciers of Greenland on the way north to spectacular Kap York. Crossing Smith Sound we'll visit Ajuittuq, Canada's northernmost community. The bird cliffs at Coburg Island National Wildlife Area teem with kittiwakes and murre. At Beechey Island, the Franklin expedition gravestones stand watch. Melville, Banks and Devon Islands offer opportunities for Peary caribou and visits to ghostly RCMP and Hudson's Bay Company posts. Prince of Wales Strait affords a striking, narrow passage to Amundsen Gulf and to Kugluktuk (Coppermine), the end to our epic journey.

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 21 August – 9 September 2017
- » guide price « £12,355 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 30 September 2016

### Out of the Northwest Passage | 20 days

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

- » ship « Ocean Endeavour
- » when « 6-25 September 2017
- » guide price « From £12,360 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities) if booked before 30 September 2016

- » options « Akademik Ioffe offers a 16 day NW Passage Finding Franklin itinerary which transits the Victoria Strait, resting place of the recently found HMS Erebus. 23 August – 7 September 2017.
- » guide price « £11,255 per person, twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

### High Arctic explorer | 13 days

NEW VOYAGE

Combine nature and wildlife with the history of Canadian exploration in the Arctic. From Resolute we visit a number of RCMP shoreline outposts, retracing some of the patrols of the first vessel to circumnavigate North America, the St Roch. There's great interest for wildlife lovers with a visit to Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary and frequent sightings of seals, beluga whale and narwhal. Expert guides accompany you on frequent shore landings. Marvel at the musk ox, caribou and polar bear and the sweeping glaciers and skies that go on forever.

- » ship « Akademik Sergey Vavilov
- » when « 4-16 August 2017
- » guide price « £8,630 per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

### Pathways to Franklin | 13 days

NEW VOYAGE

Relive the exploration history of the Northwest Passage on this ideal introduction to small ship expedition cruising in the remote Canadian Arctic. We visit Franklin's grave on wild and windy Beechey Island and try to get ashore on Somerset Island's Fury Beach, named after HMS Fury, the RN expedition sloop abandoned there in 1825. At the heart of the passage, Prince of Wales Island is perfect for observing polar bears.

- » ship « Akademik Sergey Vavilov
- » when « 13-25 August 2017
- » guide price « £8,635 per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

### Labrador and Torngat Explorer | 14 days

NEW VOYAGE

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

The adventure begins in the historic port town of Louisbourg, Nova Scotia. We journey northwards into higher Arctic latitudes, encountering the Nunatsiavut people in small settlements along the Labrador coastline, learning about their strong cultural and spiritual connections to this land.

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

- » ship « Akademik Sergey Vavilov
- » when « 14-27 July 2017
- » guide price « £5,970 per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

"We have traveled a lot and you rank right up there at the top. This level of exceptional personal service really makes a difference. It was one of the best trips we have taken – one that was a revelation and will always be remembered."

Richard and Christine Holdrup, Arctic Explorer, August 2015



For maps of Iceland and Greenland see pages 10 and 7

PHOTOS: Adventure Canada; One Ocean

For more detailed itineraries, maps and client feedback do look at our website [www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk](http://www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk) or call Fiona on 01837 840640



*"I found the 'adventure' both rewarding and educational and also met some interesting people, especially among the English-speaking Chinese and Russian passengers. Once again thank you for putting the trip together for me and therefore making it a resounding success."*

Peter Wright, the North Pole, July 2015



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

## ARCTIC ICEBREAKERS AND ICE LODGES

» itineraries «

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

We are delighted that 50 Years of Victory continues as an expedition vessel in 2017.

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

- » ship « 50 Years of Victory
- » when « Five departures between June and July 2017
- » guide price « From £20,630 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

### Arctic Watch Lodge – adventure and wildlife at 74°N | 10-12 days

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

- » when « Land-based programme, numerous departures weekly in July/August 2017
- » guide price « £7,295 per person based on twin room (shared facilities)
- » activities « All terrain vehicle, fishing, hiking, kayaking, rafting

*"I came home deeply satisfied with this trip - despite delays due to weather and cracks in the ice runways. We snowmobiled, dog sledged, visited fascinating Arctic museums and explored caves under glaciers. I fell in love with Svalbard. Again I am reminded that it's the wonderful characters you meet that make these adventures so memorable."*

Clewin Hughes, North Pole express – Barneo Ice Camp, April 2016



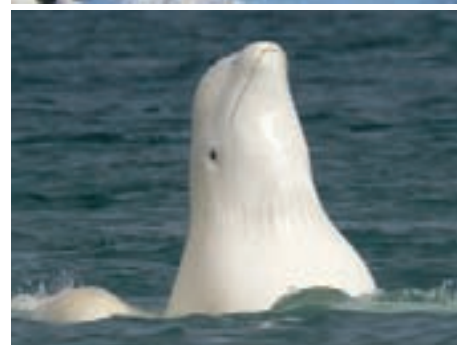
### North Pole express – Barneo Ice Camp | 6 days

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

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

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

- » when « Land-based programme, 12-17 April 2017
- » guide price « £15,495 per person based on twin room (shared facilities)



PHOTOS: Peter Wright, Clewin Hughes; Quark Expeditions



# ARCTIC AND FAR EAST RUSSIA

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



» itineraries «

## Siberia's forgotten coast | 17 days

The eastern coastline of **Siberia** is one of the most remote and least visited parts of the globe and its rich natural history has largely gone undiscovered. Dominated by the volcanoes of **Kamchatka** in the south, the fjords of the former **Koryak** region and the rich estuarine areas and tundra of **Chukotka**, there is a huge diversity of wildlife and habitats. One of the most iconic endemic species is the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper. This 2017 expedition supports the work of research teams involved with this species and expands it to include other seabirds and waders as potential changes in their populations and distribution are monitored due to factors such as climate change.

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 25 June – 11 July 2017
- » guide price « **£8,945** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

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

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

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 28 May – 12 June 2017
- » guide price « **£8,135** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

## The Northern Sea Route | 30 days

NEW  
VOYAGE

**Russia** controls one of the greatest seaways in the world, the **Northern Sea Route**, known to us as the **Northeast Passage**. Only a handful of expedition vessels have ever transited this route connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

It wasn't until 1878-1880 that Swedish explorer **Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld** completed the first ever full transit. In 1914-15 Imperial Russian Navy icebreakers made the second transit to render the seaway navigable for strategic purposes. From the 1930s a number of polar research and weather stations were established along the route, and large convoys of Soviet ships (assisted by powerful icebreakers) used it to carry much-needed supplies to Eastern Russia.

This all ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. However, recent changes in the sea ice have made the route accessible. Be among the first of the new generation to make this historic and fascinating voyage.

- » ship « **Akademik Shokalskiy**
- » when « 29 July – 27 Aug 2017 westbound  
28 August – 26 Sept 2017 eastbound
- » guide price « Westbound **£16,730** and eastbound **£15,890** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

## Jewel of the Russian Far East | 16 days

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

In winter much of the shoreline is choked by ice but, during spring and summer, the region is a hive of activity. In September the thousands of birds that migrated here will be preparing to

leave. The reindeer and mountain sheep will feed in preparation for the harsh winter, while fat **Kamchatka** brown bears, which have gorged on berries in the early summer then feasted on salmon in the rivers and creeks, will be dozing in the late summer sunshine.

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

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 2-17 September 2017
- » guide price « **£7,760** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

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

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

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

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 5-22 August 2017 and  
19 August – 5 September 2017
- » guide price « **£10,430** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities), **£1,035** per person for the overland **Wrangel Island** traverse

## Chukotka – where Russia's day begins | 18 days

NEW  
VOYAGE

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

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

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

- » ship « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » when « 8-25 July 2017
- » guide price « **£8,730** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)





# Voyages THE ANTARCTIC



## Up-close discovery by zodiac and kayak

Most of our voyages depart from **Ushuaia** at the southern tip of South America and cross the **Drake Passage**, visiting the **South Shetland Islands** and the **Antarctic Peninsula**. A few voyages embark in the South Shetland Islands (using a flight from **Punta Arenas**) to avoid the Drake Passage crossing. The Peninsula is a spectacular chain of mountains and glaciers and is the richest part of Antarctica for wildlife. Its waters are sheltered by islands which makes for comfortable sailing and easy landings. Some of

these voyages also visit **South Georgia** and the **Falkland Islands**.

**South Georgia** is a 100-mile long mountainous island fringed with vegetation that supports a great variety of wildlife, including the magnificent king penguin and wandering albatross, smaller birds such as the endemic pintail and pipit, as well as teeming colonies of fur seal. For those keen on history, many voyages visit the scene of **Shackleton's** epic crossing of the island.

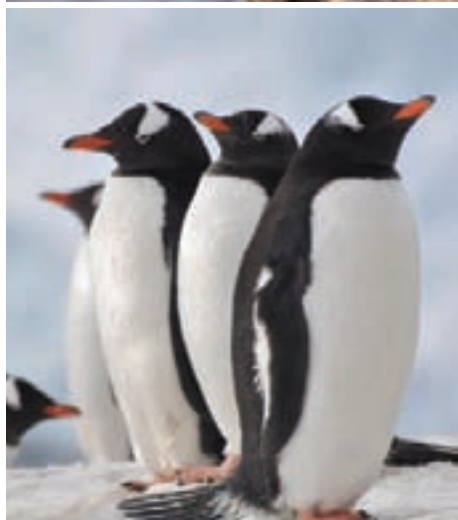
The **Falkland Islands** are different again: An archipelago of large and small islands with an even more varied wildlife.

More adventurous voyages head for the **Ross Sea**, sometimes called 'The Far Side of Antarctica', 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 2017-2018 «

- » Medical historian **Robert Clancy** leads an extended trip in December 2016
- » Special guest lecturer **Seb Coulthard** is on board **Hebridean Sky's Shackleton Centenary** voyages in October 2016 and February 2017
- » Polar explorer **Ann Daniels** leads a trip to the **Peninsula** in March 2017
- » **Ortelius** has a new **Weddell Sea Antarctic discoverer** basecamp voyage in February 2018
- » New **Ortelius** voyage visits **Rothera** and **Stonington Island** at 68.11 degrees South in March 2018
- » We've included **2016-17 voyages** to help those looking to book last minute



Certain voyages offer exciting optional activities for which a supplement is usually payable. Do call us for more information, detailed itineraries and reports of previous similar voyages. The itineraries which follow are a guide only, since routes and landings will be dependent upon ice and weather conditions.

PHOTOS: Jan Weisheng Lin, Antarpoly Expeditions; Dietmar Denger, Oceanwide Expeditions





# FALKLAND ISLANDS, SOUTH GEORGIA AND ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Albatross, whales, seals and penguins in a pristine panorama

» itineraries «

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

These voyages begin in **Ushuaia** and sail across the **Drake Passage** to the **Peninsula** with good chances to see gentoo and adelié penguins and humpback whales. Some also include the **South Shetland Islands** where you visit the abandoned whaling station on **Deception Island**. You return through the **Gerlache Strait**, home to leopard seals and blue-eyed shags, followed by a visit to a research station. We usually make two landings a day as well as exciting Zodiac cruises.

- » ships « Hebridean Sky, National Geographic Orion, Ocean Diamond, Ocean Endeavour, Ortelius, Plancius, Polar Pioneer, Sea Adventurer, Sea Spirit, Ushuaia
- » when « Numerous voyages  
November 2016 – March 2017  
November 2017 – March 2018
- » guide price « From £6,220 per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities on the Ushuaia). Ask about higher categories of cabin/ship

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

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

These longer voyages visit the **Falkland Islands** calling at **Port Stanley**, then head for **South Georgia** to spend three days visiting historic sites and encountering seals and bird life. Then to the **Antarctic Peninsula** via **Orcadas Station** in the **South Orkneys** for three days around the **Peninsula** and **South Shetland Islands**.

- » ships « Hebridean Sky, National Geographic Orion, Ocean Diamond, Ocean Endeavour, Ortelius, Plancius, Polar Pioneer, Sea Spirit, Ushuaia
- » when « October 2016 – March 2017 and  
October 2017 – March 2018
- » guide price « From £8,750 per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities on the Ushuaia). Ask about higher categories of cabin/ship

» options « Sea Adventurer operates an unusual 20 day fly/cruise in February 2017, disembarking in the Falklands and flying back to Punta Arenas from £17,880 per person



## Antarctica XXI | 10-12 days

**Antarctica XXI** is a unique air cruise to Antarctica. Avoid the notorious two day crossing of the **Drake Passage** with a 90 minute flight from **Punta Arenas** in Southern Chile to **King George Island**, in the **South Shetlands**, where you board your expedition ship. For the next four days you are on a Classic Antarctic Peninsula voyage. Three longer mid-season departures cross the **Polar Circle**.

- » ships « Hebridean Sky, Ocean Nova
- » when « Various departures November 2016 – February 2017 and November 2017 – February 2018
- » guide price range « From £9,895-£13,035 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

» options « Sea Adventurer also offers three similar voyages in December 2016. Price from £9,570 per person

## Antarctic Peninsula Basecamp Ortelius/Plancius | 15 days

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

- » ship « Ortelius, Plancius
- » when « Eleven departures Nov/Dec 2016/17 and March 2017/2018
- » guide price « From £8,480 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « All optional activities are free. Camping, diving, hiking (5-7 hours), kayaking, mountaineering, photo workshop, snowshoeing

» options « Ortelius runs a Weddell Sea Basecamp voyage 18 February – 4 March 2018

NEW FOR 2017

## ESCORTED VOYAGES

Arcturus has two new partners, both leaders in their respective fields, who will escort you on your trip and provide a fascinating and deep insight along the way to enrich your experience.

## Antarctica with a leading British female explorer | 16 days

**Ann Daniels**, veteran of numerous polar expeditions to both poles, will lead our exclusive group on this Antarctic experience, delivering lectures throughout the voyage on her various exploits for a truly unique perspective on the great **White Continent**.

Considered to be one of the top 20 great British Adventurers of all time, Ann is a world record holder and one of the first women to reach both the poles as part of all-women teams.

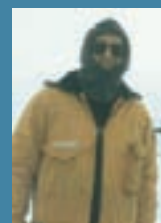
The trip departs from and returns to London and includes options such as camping, kayaking, mountaineering, photography and snowshoeing.

- » ships « Plancius
- » when « 4-19 March 2017
- » guide price range « £8,875 per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

## Antarctic Peninsula, Weddell Sea and the Falkland Islands | 17 days

**Professor Robert Llewellyn Clancy AM**, the eminent Australian clinical immunologist and collector of early maps, will escort you on this fascinating expedition. It includes visits to the **South Shetland Islands**, the western and northern sections of the **Antarctic Peninsula**, the stunning and wild **Weddell Sea** region and historic **Elephant Island**. You will also take in several locations in the **Falkland Islands**. We maximise our time by flying both ways between South America and Antarctica to avoid the Drake Passage.

- » ships « Akademik Sergey Vavilov
- » when « 24 December 2016 – 9 January 2017
- » guide price « From £11,395 per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)



*"I have never travelled abroad on my own, but the arrangements were so clearly laid out, the escorts could not have been better and on board the expedition ship the camaraderie was so terrific that all my earlier worries just evaporated. Thank you Arcturus for my wonderful experience."*

**Clare Keast, Antarctica  
and the Patagonian  
Coast, March 2016**



PHOTOS: Werner Thiele, Martin van Lokven, Oceanwide Expeditions



# ANTARCTIC PENINSULA, SCOTIA AND WEDDELL SEA



Landscapes that saw  
legendary feats of endurance  
and heroic achievements



» itineraries «

## In Shackleton's footsteps | 21 days

In this 100 year anniversary of **Shackleton's Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition (1914-1917)** late summer will see us navigating through the **Weddell Sea's** shifting pack ice and vast tabular bergs, where **Endurance** was trapped and crushed. We hope to explore fossil-rich islands, historic huts and set foot on the continent before retracing Shackleton's heroic journey to save his men – first to **Elephant Island**, then on to **South Georgia** and a visit to the great explorer's grave. Two adventure options are offered: The 'sea explorers' voyage will examine the coastline with zodiac excursions and hiking options. At the same time, a land expedition of 'ski explorers' will attempt to traverse the island on a self-supplied four day ski trek from the south coast (**King Haakon Bay**) to **Fortuna Bay** on the north coast.

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 6-26 March 2017, 5-25 March 2018
- » guide price « From **£14,595** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)
- » activities « Optional Shackleton traverse. From **£890** per person.

» options « We have a special guest lecturer on board **Hebridean Sky's Shackleton Centenary voyages** 29 October – 21 November 2016 and 21 February – 14 March 2017. **Seb Coulthard** is a polar historian who, in early 2013, was one of the team who re-enacted **Ernest Shackleton's** epic 800 nautical mile crossing from **Elephant Island** across the **Southern Ocean** and three-day mountain crossing of **South Georgia** in order to get help to rescue his stranded crew.

Seb will bring history back to life using period equipment and resources. There will be the chance to camp ashore where possible and to kayak among icebergs and whales.

Price from **£12,775** per person in a twin cabin (private facilities)



## Weddell Sea explorer – with Antarctic Peninsula | 15 days

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

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 5-19 February 2017
- » guide price « From **£9,225** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

» options « **Ushuaia** operates **Weddell Sea quest** in and out of **Ushuaia** via the **Antarctic Sound** (30 miles long and 7-12 miles wide) which makes for exciting ice navigation. 8-22 January 2017 and 2018. Price from **£8,355** per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

## Weddell Sea in search of emperors with helicopters | 14 days

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

- » ships « **Ortelius**
- » when « 25 November – 8 December 2016  
24 November – 7 December 2017
- » guide price « From **£8,605** per person (2016) and **£10,735** per person (2017) based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » activities « On-board helicopters

## Antarctica with a difference

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

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

- » ships « **Akademik Ioffe, Akademik Sergey Vavilov**
- » when « Between October 2016 – March 2017 and October 2017 – March 2018. Call us for details
- » guide price « Starting at **£9,460** per person for a 14 day Antarctic Peninsula voyage based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities)

Try the October 2016 or January 2017 **South Georgia in depth** voyage on the **Vavilov**. Ten full days are spent in **South Georgia** with options for a pre-voyage week in the **Falklands**.

## South Georgia and Antarctic odyssey | 21 days

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

- » ship « **Polar Pioneer**
- » when « 25 December 2017 – 14 January 2018  
11-31 January 2018
- » guide price « From **£15,195** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

» options « **Ocean Endeavour** offers a 19 day similar voyage 8-26 February 2017

» guide price « From **£13,160** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)

PHOTOS: Jennifer Prerau, Aurora Expeditions; Martin van Lokven, Jan Veen, Oceanwide Expeditions

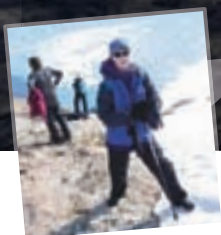


*"I've seen the most wonderful aspects of mother nature in the most inhospitable area of the world, also the most heartrending part in the fight for survival in the animal kingdom. The service by Fiona was second to none. Everything I needed was at my fingertips before I left the UK without having to worry that I had forgotten anything."*

Rhona Cox, Crossing the Polar Circle, Antarctic, February 2016

## ANTARCTIC PENINSULA, POLAR CIRCLE, ROSS SEA, ATLANTIC ODYSSEY

Follow in the footsteps of fabled explorers



» itineraries «

### Crossing the Polar Circle | 14-15 days

This extended, in-depth exploration of the **Antarctic Peninsula** enables you to venture south of the **Antarctic Circle**. There'll be more time for communing with penguins and visits to less frequented landing sites.

- » **ships** « **Ocean Diamond, Ocean Endeavour, Ortelius, Polar Pioneer, Sea Spirit, Ushuaia**
- » **when** « January – March 2017 and 2018
- » **guide price** « From **£8,355** per person based on twin cabin (semi-private facilities on **Ushuaia**). Ask about higher categories of cabin/ship

- » **options** « **Sea Adventurer** overflies the **Drake Passage** in both directions 26 January – 8 February 2017. Price from **£14,480** per person

**Ortelius** has a new **Discovery and whale watching voyage** in the **Antarctic Peninsula** and the deep south, visiting **Rothera Station, Lagoon Island, Horseshoe Island** and, furthest south at 68.11 degrees South, **Stonington Island**. 12-29 March 2018

### Ross Sea with helicopters | 35-37 days

A spectacular 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**.

- » **ship** « **Ortelius**
- » **when** « 11 January – 16 February 2017  
12 February – 18 March 2017
- » **guide price** « From **£19,165** per person based on twin cabin (private facilities)
- » **activities** « On board helicopters enable you to reach otherwise almost inaccessible landing sites

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



### Atlantic odyssey and Ascension Island | 46 days

Combine most of the **South and Mid-Atlantic Ocean** and **Antarctica** with some of the world's most remote islands. Besides the **Peninsula**, the **South Shetland Islands**, **South Georgia** and the **South Orkney Islands**, you visit **Tristan da Cunha**, **St. Helena** and **Ascension Island**. Beautiful and rare species live there, many not found anywhere else.

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

- » **ships** « **Plancius**
- » **when** « Depart UK 17 March 2018 (leg 1)  
Depart **Ushuaia** 28 March 2018 (leg 2)  
Depart **Ascension** 24 April 2018 (leg 3)
- » **guide price** « From **£12,100** per person for all legs based on twin cabin (private facilities)

### East Antarctica – In the wake of Mawson | 32 days

Follow **Sir Douglas Mawson's** legendary heroics on this expedition cruise to **Commonwealth Bay**, **East Antarctica**. **Mawson's Australian Antarctic Expedition 1911-1914** was notable for its scientific achievements and, sadly, its tragedies.

**Mawson's Hut** at **Cape Denison** still stands defiant against the extreme weather. **Cape Denison** is one of the very few ice-free and readily accessible areas along the **East Antarctic** coast, majestic and remote. In addition to **Mawson's Hut** we hope to visit the research base **Dumont D'Urville**.

- » **ships** « **Akademik Shokalskiy**
- » **when** « 13 January – 13 February 2017  
11 December 2017 – 10 January 2018  
5 January – 4 February 2018
- » **guide price** « **£13,180** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

### In the wake of Scott and Shackleton | 35 days

The remote **Ross Sea** is only accessible for two months each year when the ice thaws. It was a magnet for the most famous adventurers including **Scott**, **Shackleton** and **Amundsen**.

We visit five historic huts and learn more of their history and the explorers' achievements. The **Ross Sea** region is the breeding ground for millions of **adelle** and **emperor penguins** and we have permits for landing in the sub-Antarctic islands **Auckland**, **Campbell** and **Macquarie**.

- » **ship** « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » **when** « 8 January – 11 February 2017  
7 January – 10 February 2018  
5 February – 11 March 2018
- » **guide price** « From **£17,495** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

- » **options** « Old favourite small ship **Akademik Shokalskiy** carrying 52 passengers takes a late season voyage. 7 February – 13 March 2017 and 30 January – 5 March 2018

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

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

This one-off expedition will travel to the **Bay of Whales** as we follow in the wake of **Amundsen's ship, Fram**. Very few expeditions have ever ventured so far east in the **Ross Sea**.

- » **ships** « **Spirit of Enderby**
- » **when** « 6 February – 17 March 2017
- » **guide price** « **£18,320** per person based on twin cabin (shared facilities)

PHOTO: Michael Martin, Oceanwide Expeditions

# *Ships* – A-Z OF THE SHIPS

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

## ICEBREAKER

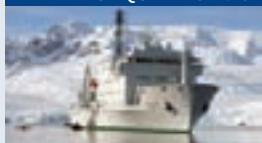


### 50 Years of Victory

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

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

## HIGH QUALITY SERVICE AND ON-BOARD CONCIERGE



### Akademik Ioffe

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

- » **passengers** « 96
- » **itineraries** « Spitsbergen, Greenland, Canadian Arctic, Antarctic
- » **operator** « One Ocean Expeditions



### Akademik Sergey Vavilov

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

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

## SMALL SHIP

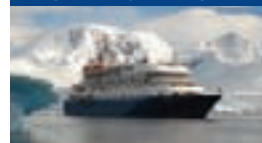


### Akademik Shokalskiy

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

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

## FORMERLY SEA EXPLORER



### Hebridean Sky

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

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

## TOP LUXURY



### National Geographic Orion

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

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

## RUSTIC SAILING SHIP



### Noorderlicht

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

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

## BIGGER SHIPS, COMPETITIVE PRICING



### Ocean Diamond

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

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



### Ocean Endeavour

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

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

## FLY/SAIL



### Ocean Nova

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

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

## SOLID AND WORKMANLIKE

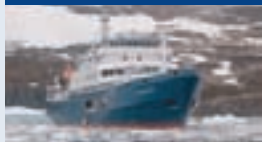


### Ortelius

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

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

## BEST OBSERVATION LOUNGE



### Plancius

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

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

## SMALL SHIP



### Polar Pioneer

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

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

## COMFORTABLE SAILING SHIP



### Rembrandt Van Rijn

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

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

## CLASS ACT



### Sea Adventurer

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

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

## INNOVATIVE ITINERARIES



### Sea Spirit

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

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

## SMALL SHIP



### Spirit of Enderby

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

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

## OLDER SHIP BUT GREAT PRICES



### Ushuaia

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

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



## ARCTURUS

THE POLAR ARM OF FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL

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

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