EYOS

EYOS EXPEDITIONS

USHUAIA

→

THE PENINSULA

Twenty days south from Tierra del Fuego through the Falklands and South Georgia to the Antarctic Peninsula aboard M/Y Octopus.

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THE SEVENTH CONTINENT

Antarctica is the ultimate travel experience. Found at the bottom of the world, it is a remote wilderness, untrammeled and untamed: a coastline of mountains, fjords and islands under near-constant daylight, with no permanent human population at all. This voyage runs about 3,040 nautical miles over twenty days, south from Ushuaia through the Falklands and South Georgia to the Antarctic Peninsula.

The Falkland Islands and South Georgia are situated at the gateway to the Antarctic Peninsula, on the threshold of the Atlantic and Southern Oceans. Each harbors a truly exceptional array of wildlife that, thanks to successful conservation efforts, has returned from the brink of the intensive overexploitation in the early 19th and 20th centuries. Insiders call South Georgia the Serengeti of the Southern Ocean, one of the greatest wildlife spectacles on Earth.

Every voyage here is unique. The route is decided by weather and ice, and the itinerary stays flexible so the yacht can follow the best conditions of the day. Landings are made each day to visit wildlife colonies, historic sites or research stations. Each day your Captain and Expedition Team will discuss options with the group to deliver a customized experience based on your preferences as you explore Antarctica. The sites that follow are examples the Expedition Leader may choose between, weather and ice permitting.

ITINERARY

Aboard M/Y Octopus · 5 – 24 February 2027.

Your itinerary is flexible to make the best of weather and ice conditions. Each day your Captain and Expedition Team will discuss options with the group to deliver a customized experience based on your preferences as you explore Antarctica.

THE ROUTE

South from Ushuaia through the Falklands and South Georgia to the Antarctic Peninsula, and back across the Drake Passage.

OCTOPUS · SHIP ROUTE

USHUAIA

Guests arrive by private jet at Ushuaia International Airport and transfer twenty minutes to M/Y Octopus, alongside the commercial pier. A safety briefing and muster drill on board come before departure.

The evening sail runs east down the Beagle Channel, the pilot aboard until the channel exit.

Days 2 – 4 THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Falkland Islands consist of two main islands, East Falkland and West Falkland, and more than 700 smaller islands. The craggy, indented coastline provides many natural sheltered harbors, making it an ideal location for exploring with your expedition yacht. We are passionate about the Falkland Islands and genuinely look forward to sharing this rich archipelago with you, and the field staff aboard have completed hundreds of expeditions across the Southern Hemisphere. These days reach albatross and penguin colonies, a visit with island owners, and the small capital at Stanley, with its cathedral, whalebone arch and dockyard museum, before provisioning for the Scotia Sea.

AT SEA

Through the Le Maire Strait and northeast toward the Falklands. Spend time on deck watching for the whales that frequent these rich waters or enjoying the acrobatic maneuvers of black-browed albatross, giant petrels and prions as they crisscross the sky. In the afternoon the expedition team briefs the Falklands and South Georgia biosecurity rules.

WEST POINT & CARCASS ISLANDS

For the adventurous, few destinations can match the Falkland Islands, with their wide open skies, endless vistas, long white sandy beaches, clear blue seas and the largest breeding colony of black-browed albatross, southern rockhopper and Magellanic penguins. Zodiacs run ashore at West Point in the morning for the walk across the island to the Devil's Nose albatross and rockhopper colony.

The afternoon lands at Carcass Island for Magellanic and gentoo penguins and tea with the island owners. Landings are subject to swell; the alternate is a Zodiac cruise along the cliffs.

STANLEY

Alongside or at anchor in Stanley harbour. The morning walk through town takes in Christ Church Cathedral, the whalebone arch and the Historic Dockyard Museum. An optional afternoon runs out to Gypsy Cove for Magellanic penguins.

Final provisioning and a fuel check come before the Scotia Sea crossing.

Days 5 – 6 THE SCOTIA SEA

SCOTIA SEA

Passage east across the Scotia Sea toward South Georgia, crossing the Antarctic Convergence where the water temperature drops sharply. Lectures cover Shackleton and the Endurance. All outer clothing, bags and boots are vacuumed and checked for seeds in preparation for the South Georgia biosecurity inspection.

SHAG ROCKS

Continue east, passing Shag Rocks in the afternoon if visibility allows, with large numbers of seabirds and possible whales. The mandatory South Georgia briefing on the GSGSSI visitor guidelines is given to all guests before arrival.

Days 7 – 9 SOUTH GEORGIA

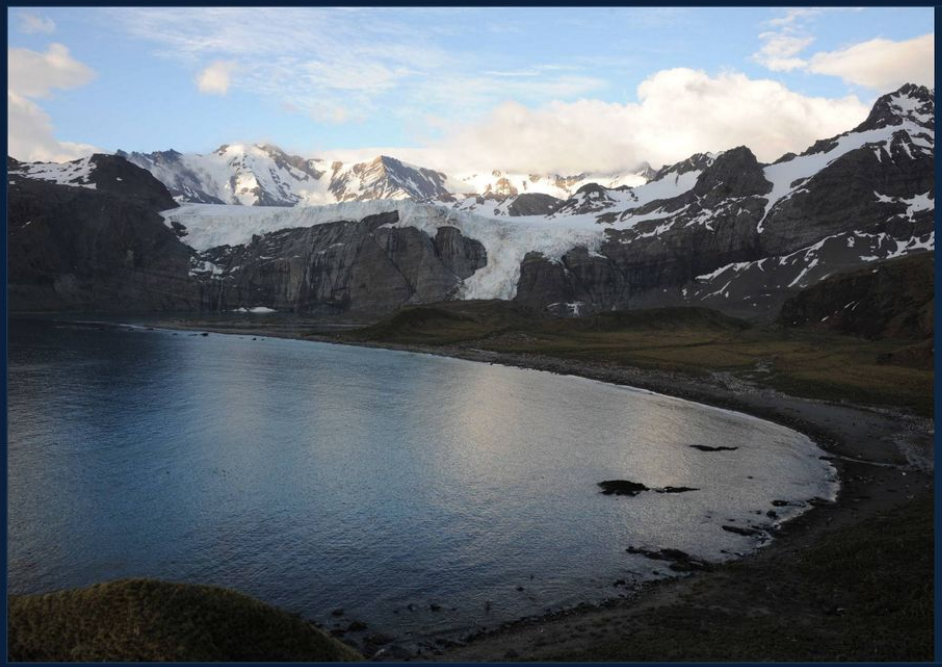
SOUTH GEORGIA

The only way to visit South Georgia is by sea. For the amount of raw wildlife experienced in return, the hours spent traveling to South Georgia are a small investment, and even the days spent at sea in the Southern Ocean are replete with wildlife. Albatross and pelagic dolphins rarely let a yacht pass by without at least a short visit. With their striking black and white plumage and vibrant orange neck markings, the island's king penguins gather in large, bustling colonies to breed, incubate eggs and rear their chicks, carrying each egg on their feet rather than building a nest. These days reach Shackleton's grave, the great king colonies and the glacier at the head of the fjord that closes the leg.

GRYTVIKEN & KING EDWARD POINT

Ship's clocks go forward one hour. The Government Officer clears the ship in at King Edward Point, and the biosecurity inspection takes place on board before any landing. Visitors to Grytviken are greeted by king penguins and juvenile fur seals. Sir Ernest Shackleton is buried in the nearby whaler's cemetery, and this abandoned whaling station boasts an exceptional museum, with the Norwegian church alongside and a toast at the grave.

At King Edward Point itself, the numbers of fur seals on the beaches are evidence that conservation works: since the ban on hunting in the 1970s, populations have steadily grown to pre-slaughter levels. Fur seals and elephant seals line the shore around the research station.



ST ANDREWS BAY & GOLD HARBOUR

There's no feeling quite like stepping ashore in South Georgia to be among hundreds of thousands of king penguins. The morning lands at St Andrews Bay, the largest king penguin colony on South Georgia, below the Cook, Buxton and Heaney glaciers. The afternoon lands at Gold Harbour for king penguins, elephant seals and gentoos under the hanging Bertrab Glacier.

COOPER BAY & DRYGALSKI FJORD

A morning Zodiac cruise at Cooper Bay, with no landing, for macaroni and chinstrap penguins. Approximately 50 percent of South Georgia is covered by glaciers, and at the base of this fjord sits the biggest and most active glacier on the island: a midday scenic cruise runs to the head of Drygalski Fjord and the Risting Glacier, snow petrels on the cliffs. Octopus departs at 1600 southwest for Elephant Island.

Days 10 – 11 TOWARD THE PENINSULA

SCOTIA SEA

Passage southwest toward the South Orkney and South Shetland chain, with the first icebergs likely. Lectures cover Antarctic ice, penguins and the IAATO guidelines, and the Antarctic biosecurity check of clothing and gear is carried out.

SCOTIA SEA

Continue southwest. Whale watching from the bridge wing, with fin and humpback whales common in these waters in February. The evening briefing covers Elephant Island and the plan for the Antarctic Peninsula.

Days 12 – 13 ANTARCTIC SOUND & THE WEDDELL SEA

ANTARCTIC SOUND & THE WEDDELL SEA

This 30-mile stretch of water at the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula offers remarkable views as you sail past Joinville Island and into the Weddell Sea. The Weddell Sea is ice cruising central, and its icebergs are born on the Larsen Ice Shelf before coming to rest here. Ice conditions can be challenging, and any vessel entering these waters carefully assesses weather forecasts and ice charts before committing, which is why vessels operating here are typically ice-classed. The leg opens past the historic beaches of Elephant Island, where moving between this sub-Antarctic ground and the Peninsula itself calls for care with boots, packs and gear so nothing travels with you that should not, and closes at the first continental landing of the voyage.

POINT WILD, ELEPHANT ISLAND

Ship's clocks go back one hour. Elephant Island is perhaps the most historically significant site in all of Antarctica. Here, twenty-two of Sir Ernest Shackleton's men waited four and a half months in 1916 awaiting rescue, taken off by the Yelcho on 30 August. As you cruise past its rocky, desolate beaches, it is impossible not to think about the early Antarctic explorers and marvel at their perseverance.

A landing is rarely possible because of swell, so this is a Zodiac cruise only, with chinstrap penguins on the rocks below the Yelcho monument. Octopus departs at 1300 for Antarctic Sound.

BROWN BLUFF & KINNES COVE

Known as Iceberg Alley, Antarctic Sound is at the very northeastern point of the Antarctic Peninsula, where large tabular icebergs drift north from the Weddell Sea. The first continental landing comes at Brown Bluff, with Adélie and gentoo penguin colonies below the volcanic cliffs.

The afternoon is a Zodiac cruise at Kinnes Cove along the Madder Cliffs Adélie colony, with large tabular icebergs throughout. If ice closes the landing, the ship cruises through the sound instead.

Days 14 – 16 THE DANCO COAST & GERLACHE STRAIT

THE DANCO COAST & GERLACHE STRAIT

On the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula, you will spend several days exploring the numerous islands and channels of this scenic area, where mountains rise directly from the sea and deep fjords fill with ice. Conditions can change quickly, and the days are shaped as much by the ice and weather as by the itinerary, with near-constant daylight in the early austral summer providing long opportunities for exploration. The schedule can linger longer at a landing site when the light turns golden, or adjust to follow a pod of whales across open water, and the most memorable moments often come at eye level, from a Zodiac alongside the animals themselves. The days here run among feeding whales and a 1915 wreck, and make landings on the continent itself.

CIERVA COVE & SPERT ISLAND

An overnight run across the Bransfield Strait reaches Cierva Cove: a deep cove backed by an immense glacial face that calves regularly into the bay. Zodiacs weave through the resulting field of sculptural icebergs and brash ice, with leopard seals often hauled out on the floes and the Argentine Primavera station on the shore.

The afternoon threads the arches and channels of Spert Island, off the western tip of Trinity Island, a place few ships visit: a maze of narrow rock channels and collapsed sea arches that Zodiacs run between walls of basalt, with grounded icebergs glowing blue in the shadows, swell permitting.

WILHELMINA BAY & ENTERPRISE ISLAND

Humpback whales frequent these waters and feed on small shrimp-like krill, and Wilhelmina Bay, where large congregations are a common sight, is one of the best examples of this conservation success. The morning runs Zodiacs among the whales and ice, with submersible dives in the bay, conditions permitting and a maximum of two guests per dive.

The afternoon reaches Enterprise Island, on the edge of the bay at Foyn Harbour, and the wreck of the Guvernøren, a Norwegian whaling factory ship deliberately run aground in 1915 when fire broke out aboard. All 85 crew survived. The rusted hull now shelters nesting Antarctic terns, and Zodiacs circle it slowly through still, protected water.

NEKO HARBOUR & ORNE HARBOUR

The morning lands at Neko Harbour on the continent itself. Gentoo penguins breed on the rocky point, and the glacier face across the water calves with a sound like artillery; time ashore is spent high on the viewpoint ridge, above the tsunami line.

The afternoon climbs Orne Harbour: a snow climb to the saddle above the water reaches a chinstrap penguin colony on the exposed rock of Spigot Peak, with the Gerlache Strait laid out below. The alternate is kayaking in Andvord Bay.

Days 17 – 19 THE LEMAIRE & THE FAR SOUTH

THE LEMAIRE & THE FAR SOUTH

This part of Antarctica offers some of the most dramatic scenery on the continent, and traveling by private yacht allows guests to navigate these remote waterways in comfort while experiencing the region's striking landscapes up close. The Lemaire Channel is known to those familiar with it as the Kodak Gap for its picture-perfect, mirrored water between towering peaks, with high peaks and a narrow passage that is often blocked by ice, where an ice-classed vessel is a real advantage. The days cruise an iceberg graveyard and a wintering cairn from 1904, and reach Port Lockroy, a restored British research station turned museum and post office, before the run north across the Drake Passage.

LEMAIRE CHANNEL & PLÉNEAU ISLAND

The Lemaire Channel is a geologic wonder that showcases the power and drama of the Antarctic landscape. Carved by glaciers over millennia, this narrow, icy waterway presents a panorama of towering, jagged peaks that rise dramatically from the water. The ship transits at first light, ice permitting.

The morning explores Pléneau Island for gentoo penguins and a Zodiac cruise through the iceberg graveyard. The afternoon reaches Port Charcot, where Charcot wintered in 1904, and the cairn on the hill. If the Lemaire is blocked, the alternate is Paradise Harbour.

PORT LOCKROY & MELCHIOR ISLANDS

Port Lockroy is Britain's wartime Base A on tiny Goudier Island, now a living museum and the southernmost public post office in the world. Postcards mailed here travel out with the season's ships, and visits are by prior arrangement. Gentoos nest against the hut walls, indifferent to their fame. In the afternoon, Zodiacs cruise the ice-capped Melchior Islands in Dallmann Bay

DRAKE PASSAGE

Drake Passage northbound, often cited as the roughest seas on Earth, with wandering and royal albatross following the ship. The expedition team hosts a photo review and recap, and the farewell dinner is served on board.

USHUAIA

Octopus arrives Ushuaia at 0800, clearing in with Argentine immigration on board.

Guests disembark after breakfast and transfer to Ushuaia International Airport for departing flights.

FOUR THREADS THROUGH THE SOUTH

Kings by the hundred thousand at South Georgia; gentoos, chinstraps, Adélies on the Peninsula.

Humpbacks feed in Wilhelmina Bay and the Gerlache Strait; leopard, fur and elephant seals haul out.

Tabular bergs drift through Iceberg Alley; the Lemaire narrows to a mile of mirrored water.

Shackleton's grave, Point Wild, the Guvernøren wreck, and the post office at Port Lockroy.

EXPEDITION ACTIVITIES

Across Antarctica.

Across Antarctica.

Across Antarctica.

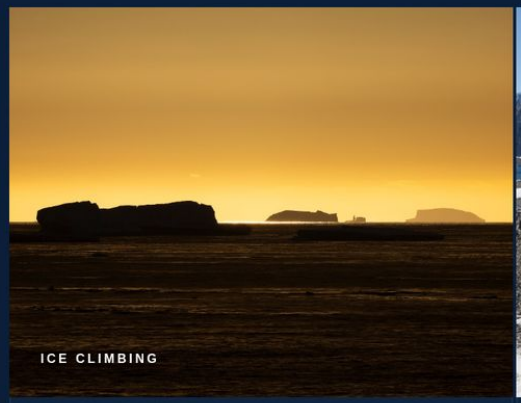
Across Antarctica.

Across Antarctica.

Across Antarctica.

Across Antarctica.

Across Antarctica.



Across Antarctica.

Across Antarctica.

Across Antarctica.

Across Antarctica.

Across Antarctica.

"Helicopters provide a thrilling way to
experience Antarctica from a bird's-eye view."

WHAT TO BRING

Summer temperatures around the Antarctic Peninsula are typically just above freezing during the day and just below freezing during the night. Bear in mind that strong winds and sea spray can make these temperatures feel significantly colder. Dress typically consists of casual and practical clothing: the clothes you would bring on a ski holiday are a good guide, layers of warm clothes to wear on landings, warm casual clothes for wearing on board, and a warm jacket to wear on deck.

A typical landing is dressed in layers from the skin out. The zones below are the order to build them in; the full list that follows is what to bring for twenty days aboard.

TOP

- [ ] Thermal underwear · A full set of thermal or silk long underwear, worn against the skin as the base of every landing layer.
- [ ] Lightweight fleece or thermal top · The mid layer. Fleece is lighter and dries more quickly than wool.
- [ ] Heavy fleece or sweater · A warm woollen or polar fleece sweater; a combination of lighter and heavier gives you more flexibility.
- [ ] Parka or waterproof shell · The outer layer, for rainy or windy weather. Quality matters to stay comfortable during landings, tender rides and time on deck.

BOTTOM

- [ ] Thermal long johns · A warm base layer under your trousers; if your trousers are insulated you may not need them.
- [ ] Warm trousers · Heavy cotton, wool or synthetic hiking trousers to wear under your waterproof pants.
- [ ] Waterproof trousers · Gore-Tex or similar, loose enough to wear over a regular pair of trousers. You will need these for almost every landing.

PACKING LIST

OUTERWEAR

- [ ] Waterproof parka or shell jacket · For rainy or windy weather. Quality is important to be comfortable during landings, tender rides and while spending time on deck.
- [ ] Waterproof mittens or gloves · With a pair of thin polypropylene gloves underneath, so you can remove the outer layer to take photos without your hands getting cold. Bring an extra pair in case one gets wet.
- [ ] Warm hats and a neck gaiter · One or two warm hats and a scarf or neck gaiter. Wind-stopper fabrics are a good choice for your hat; wool or fleece are ideal.

FOOTWEAR

- [ ] Tall waterproof rubber boots · One pair of fully waterproof rubber boots with sturdy, high-traction soles. Knee-high and completely waterproof so your feet will not get wet when you step into shallow, icy water during landings.
- [ ] Walking shoes with rubber soles · For use on board and for travel to the vessel. Some people prefer lightweight hiking boots for better ankle support.
- [ ] Casual shoes for on board · A pair of casual shoes, sandals or slippers with non-marking soles for use on board.
- [ ] Thick warm socks · Three or four pairs of warm, sturdy, tall thick socks, wool, smart wool or synthetic, for wearing with rubber boots. Bring several pairs since you may get your feet wet.

CLOTHING

- [ ] Casual layers for aboard · T-shirts, polo shirts and casual clothes for layering and wear on board; there is no dress code aboard Octopus.
- [ ] Warm long-sleeved shirts · Two or three for casual wear and layering. Turtlenecks are a good option as they offer protection from the wind.

EQUIPMENT

- [ ] Camera, lenses and memory cards · Plus a laptop or other portable device to download your photographs during the voyage.
- [ ] Spare camera batteries · Cold temperatures sap battery life much more quickly than in warmer climates, so be prepared with extras or a charger.
- [ ] A good pair of binoculars · Essential for quality viewing of distant wildlife and birds. You will find yourself using them a lot, so it is worth investing in a quality product.
- [ ] A collapsible trekking pole · Provides a sense of security, balance and confidence when walking on ice, snow and rugged terrain. Some prefer a pole in each hand.

BINOCULARS

- [ ] Choosing a pair · Binoculars are described by two numbers, 10 x 50 for instance: the first is the magnification, the second the diameter of the front lens in millimetres. This tells you how much bigger things appear and how much light the pair gathers.
- [ ] The right magnification · A magnification of 10 or 12 is about as much as most people can hold without shaking and is generally most useful. Do not simply choose the most powerful you can, since these are hard to hold steady.
- [ ] Image-stabilised models · An excellent choice. Kite Optics image-stabilised models are field-tested and recommended by EYOS staff. As a trusted partner, Kite Optics extends a 10% discount to EYOS travellers, enter promo code EYOSKITE10 at checkout. usa.kiteoptics.com

- [ ] Water-resistant backpack · For carrying cameras or other equipment during landings. A waterproof liner or large plastic bag inside a regular backpack is an easy alternative.
- [ ] Sunblock, lotion and lip balm · To protect your skin against sun, wind and cold.
- [ ] Sturdy sunglasses · One or two pairs with good UV and wind protection; the summer sun reflected off the ice can be dangerous to under-protected eyes. Bring a spare in case one breaks or is lost.

RECOMMENDED READING AND VIEWING

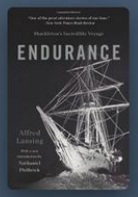
A shelf for the days at sea and the long southern light. Read Shackleton before South Georgia, and keep a field guide to hand when the colonies come into view.

Antarctica: A Guide to the Wildlife

BY TONY SOPER · 8TH EDITION

Our favourite guide. Designed for the field, this compact handbook features all of the species of birds, seals and whales a traveler is likely to encounter on an Antarctic voyage.

FIND THE BOOK →

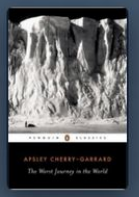


Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage

BY ALFRED LANSING

Lansing's gripping day-by-day story of Shackleton's legendary perseverance is essential reading for any Antarctic traveler. This 100th anniversary edition is outfitted with maps, an expanded selection of Frank Hurley's photographs and an introduction by Nathaniel Philbrick.

FIND THE BOOK →



The Worst Journey in the World

BY APSLEY CHERRY-GARRARD

Blending scientific ambition and human resilience, this masterpiece of polar exploration literature provides an account of the British Antarctic Expedition, a winter sledging trip for Emperor penguin eggs and Scott's race to the South Pole.

FIND THE BOOK →

The Home of the Blizzard

BY SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON

Mawson's gripping account of the struggle for survival with the Australian Antarctic Expedition with great tales of Antarctic discovery, adventure, courage, epic rescues and heroic endurance.

FIND THE BOOK →

Antarctica: An Intimate Portrait of the World's Most Mysterious Continent

BY GABRIELLE WALKER

Referred to as a "warm look at a cold place", Walker provides a more-modern and respectful exploration of the 7th continent's history, geography, wildlife and ice in this Antarctic primer.

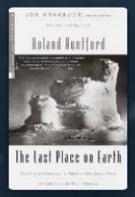
FIND THE BOOK →

Dispatches from Continent Seven: An Anthology of Antarctic Science

BY REBECCA PRIESTLEY

From fascinating fossil evidence to the reasons behind Antarctica's surprising number of meteorites, this scientific anthology reveals over 200 years of research on Antarctica.

FIND THE BOOK →

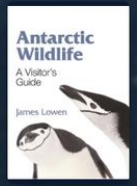


The Last Place on Earth: Scott and Amundsen's Race to the South Pole

BY ROLAND HUNTFORD

Igniting huge controversy when it first appeared, Huntford's rousing dual biography contrasts Amundsen's well-planned campaign to achieve the Pole with Scott's ill-fated quest.

FIND THE BOOK →



Antarctic Wildlife: A Visitor's Guide

BY JAMES LOWEN

A richly illustrated field guide that introduces readers to the remarkable wildlife of the Antarctic Peninsula, Drake Passage and Beagle Channel. Featuring detailed species descriptions, colour photographs and practical identification tips, it helps readers recognise penguins, seals, whales, seabirds and other wildlife they may encounter during an Antarctic expedition.

FIND THE BOOK →

RECOMMENDED VIEWING

Frozen Planet II

BBC · 2022

Episodes 1: Frozen Worlds, 2: Frozen Ocean, 4: Frozen South (especially) and 6: Our Frozen Planet will give great visual context for your upcoming expedition. This 6-part series, narrated by David Attenborough, explores the habitats, wildlife, global significance and fragility of the polar regions.

WHERE TO WATCH →

Frozen Planet

BBC & THE OPEN UNIVERSITY · 2011

A 2011 British nature documentary series, co-produced by the BBC and The Open University. It was filmed by the BBC Natural History Unit. The seven-part series focuses on life and the environment in both the Arctic and Antarctic. The production team were keen to film a comprehensive record of the natural history of the polar regions because climate change is affecting landforms such as glaciers, ice shelves, and the extent of sea ice.

WHERE TO WATCH →

Endurance

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTARY FILMS · 2024

The film combines archival film and photographs captured by expedition photographer Frank Hurley from Ernest Shackleton's legendary 1914 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition with the story of the discovery of the wreck of the Endurance in the Weddell Sea.

WHERE TO WATCH →

March of the Penguins

DIR. LUC JACQUET · 2005

A 2005 French feature-length nature documentary directed and co-written by Luc Jacquet, and co-produced by Bonne Pioche and the National Geographic Society. The documentary depicts the yearly journey of the emperor penguins of Antarctica.

WHERE TO WATCH →

Antarctica: Ice and Sky

DIR. LUC JACQUET · 2015

This biographical documentary chronicles the life and work of French glaciologist Claude Lorius, the first researcher to discover the link between greenhouse gasses and global warming. Take a closer look at ancient ice cores and air bubbles trapped deep within Antarctic ice.

WHERE TO WATCH →

Happy Feet 1 & 2

DIR. GEORGE MILLER · 2006 & 2011

For the younger viewers. Explore the Antarctic environment through the adventures of a tap-dancing Emperor penguin named Mumble while he quests to solve Antarctic emergencies from fish supply issues to iceberg entrapments.

WHERE TO WATCH →

Ages of Ice

PBS DOCUMENTARY SERIES · 2026

A three-part series that explores modern research of glacier movement, ice sheets, climate regulation by the polar oceans, Antarctic krill populations, air-eating microbes in Antarctica and many other topics.

WHERE TO WATCH →

The Great White Silence

HERBERT PONTING · 1924

A 1924 English documentary that contains brief cinematograph sequences taken during the Terra Nova Expedition of 1910–1913. The principal filmmaker was photographer Herbert Ponting. Originally a silent film, the documentary was restored and re-released in 2011 by the British Film Institute with a musical soundtrack by Simon Fisher Turner.

WHERE TO WATCH →

PHOTOGRAPHY

> The light runs long and low at this latitude in February, and the snow fools every meter. A few things worth knowing before the first landing.

IN THE FIELD

For the camera and lenses you bring on deck and ashore.

- A super-wide lens. Ideal for the vast landscapes and the ice.
- A fast, long lens. For whales, seals and penguins at a respectful distance; image-stabilised lenses are recommended.
- Open up for the snow. Bright snow fools meters: add around +1 stop of exposure compensation so the snow reads white, not grey.
- Keep batteries warm. Cold saps battery power: carry spares, and keep batteries close to your body to stay warm.
- Protect your gear. Snow and sea spray are constant, so keep your gear in waterproof bags.
- Use a strap on deck. Keep your camera on a strap to avoid dropping it on deck or in the sea.
- Mind the weight ashore. A tripod helps ashore but not on a moving vessel; a monopod or beanbag steadies shots aboard.

ON YOUR PHONE

Tips for shooting on a phone.

- Set focus, drop exposure. Tap to set focus, then nudge exposure down a touch: bright snow and ice fool auto-exposure and leave shots grey and flat.
- Keep the horizon level. Turn on the grid and keep the horizon level; on open water a tilted horizon is the giveaway of a rushed shot.
- Burst mode for wildlife. Use burst mode for wildlife and breaching whales: hold the shutter, pick the best frame later.
- Carry a cloth. Sea spray on the lens is the most common reason a phone shot comes out soft.
- Mind the cold. Cold drains phone batteries fast, so keep your phone in an inside pocket and bring a power bank ashore.
- Shoot toward the low sun. The southern sun stays low for hours: shoot toward it and lock exposure on the brightest part of the sky for richer colour.
- Steady what you can. Brace against a rail or a rock; a still phone in low light beats a sharp lens held loose.

IN THE FIELD

- Respect the distance. Maintain at least 5 metres from wildlife at all times, and photograph them in ways that do not alter their behaviour.

TEAM TO BE CONFIRMED

YOUR EXPEDITION TEAM

> These EYOS guides have led voyages in this region before. The team for this departure is to be confirmed, and any name here may change.

EXPEDITION LEADER

IAN STRACHAN

Ian Strachan is an expedition leader, nature photographer and logistician whose career has taken him from the icy frontiers of Antarctica to the coral-rich seas of the South Pacific. As Head of Expeditions at EYOS, he designs and leads private and research voyages in some of the world's most remote environments.

Before joining EYOS, Ian spent more than a decade with leading expedition operators as a naturalist, photo instructor, cold water diver and UAV pilot. His field expertise spans all seven continents, with extensive work in the polar regions; whether operating a drone in a calving fjord or guiding a Zodiac through Antarctic ice, he pairs technical precision with a passion for discovery.

A National Geographic Explorer recognised in 2018 for documenting glacial activity in Southeast Alaska, Ian holds a U.S. Coast Guard 100 Ton Master's License and is a Senior Polar Guide with the Polar Tourism Guides Association.

GUIDE

BEAU PRICE

Beau brings a broad range of operational skills to expedition work, including Zodiac handling, radio communications, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), and the specialized equipment that supports operations in some of the world’s most remote environments. He also brings extensive guiding experience in Antarctica, where his calm leadership and technical expertise help ensure that each expedition operates safely, efficiently, and seamlessly behind the scenes.

His lifelong connection to the ocean began along Australia’s coastline, where he became a PADI Master Instructor before moving into commercial diving, marine contracting, and underwater engineering. His diverse career has taken him through military training, flood relief, salvage operations, documentary and film production, and work supporting NASA’s Artemis Program through the development of underwater virtual-reality training systems. Having dived on every continent, Beau now combines decades of marine experience with a passion for teaching, helping expedition teams develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to safely explore some of the world’s most remote places.

YOUR VESSEL

YACHT: OCTOPUS · 126 M · 12 GUESTS · 63 CREW · ICE CLASS 1A · SIX ZODIACS AND A TENDER · SUBMERSIBLE

OCTOPUS

ACCOMMODATIONS

Flexible accommodations for 12 guests in 13 cabins.

All cabins are fully air conditioned/ heated with individual controls in each cabin.

Each cabin features a: Safe · Telephone · TV with access to video on demand, navigational charts and live exterior scenic camera feeds (Live TV is not available) · Sound system

Bathrooms are all en-suite and are equipped with comfort heated floors, a toilet, shower and bath & hairdryer. A range of essential toiletries is provided.

AUDIO/VISUAL

OCTOPUS' cinema offers a wide selection of movies over 800 movies to suit all tastes. For gaming enthusiasts, OCTOPUS has a PlayStation available for your enjoyment. Selected seats in the cinema are specially motion-activated and provide an immersive viewing experience. OCTOPUS also has a DJ Booth in Studio.

BRIDGE

OCTOPUS has an open bridge, where you are always welcome to visit. The Captain may decide to close the bridge at any time due to navigation.

CLOTHING

There is no dress code aboard OCTOPUS, so please feel free to dress as you choose. Normal clothing on board is casual attire, suitable for the cruising destination. Some guests choose to dress a little more smartly for dinner, but this is entirely up to you. Please see the What to Bring section for more specific guidelines on packing.

OCTOPUS

COMMUNICATIONS

OCTOPUS offers a dedicated Starlink service for guest internet access using Starlink's best effort service and location dependent availability. With Starlink, we typically see reliable speeds of up to 100Mb/s download and 20Mb/s upload while underway. Traditional VSAT service is available as a backup at a minimum speed of 12Mb/s download and 4Mb/s upload. The bandwidth can be increased with a weeks notice and is quoted separately depending on needs.

DISABLED PERSONS

OCTOPUS is not equipped for wheelchairs. In case of special requirements please contact us.

IMMIGRATION

Please check all visa and immigration regulations, and any required vaccinations carefully as these are your responsibility.

LAUNDRY

Laundry service is available free of charge, however dry cleaning is not available.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

OCTOPUS has a variety of mats, yoga blocks, rollers, boxing gloves, resistant bands ankle weights and hand weights.

MEALS

All meals are freshly prepared from the finest available ingredients by our chef. Breakfast is typically served buffet style, lunch family style, and dinner family style or plated. Please advise us well in advance of any special dietary information, allergies or particular dislikes in order for us to be prepared for your needs.

MEDICATION

The vessel has a well equipped medical suite and a trained Medic or Registered Nurse is typically on board at all times. The Captain and officers are also well trained in first aid and shipboard medicine, Please ensure that you bring any medication you might need with you.

POWER

On board power is 110v with American sockets. There are 220v European sockets in the ensuite cabin bathrooms. Limited adapters are available on board so please bring your own for any equipment you plan to use on board.

SAFETY

In accordance with the International Convention for Safety of Life At Sea (SOLAS), a full safety briefing and guest drill will be conducted at the beginning of each voyage.

SMOKING

The interior of OCTOPUS is strictly non-smoking. There are designated smoking areas on the vessel's open decks.

TIPS

A gratuity to crew and expedition guides is customary, but is given at the Charterer's discretion. Charter Brokers generally suggest to Charterers that a gratuity calculated between 5% and 15% of the Charter Fee is appropriate if the crew has given excellent service.

ZODIAC OPERATIONS

OCTOPUS is equipped with Zodiacs and tenders for remote coastal landings. A briefing on their use will be given on board.

DEVELOPED BY IAATO

GUIDANCE FOR VISITORS

Recommendation XVIII-1, adopted at the Antarctic Treaty Meeting, Kyoto, 1994.

Activities in the Antarctic are governed by the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 and associated agreements, referred to collectively as the Antarctic Treaty System. The Treaty established Antarctica as a zone of peace and science.

In 1991, the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties adopted the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, which designates the Antarctic as a natural reserve. The Protocol sets out environmental principles, procedures and obligations for the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment, and its dependent and associated ecosystems. The Consultative Parties have agreed that, pending its entry into force, as far as possible and in accordance with their legal system, the provisions of the Protocol should be applied as appropriate.

The Environmental Protocol applies to tourism and non-governmental activities, as well as governmental activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area. It is intended to ensure that these activities do not have adverse impacts on the Antarctic environment, or on its scientific and aesthetic values.

This Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic is intended to ensure that all visitors are aware of, and are therefore able to comply with, the Treaty and the Protocol. Visitors are, of course, bound by national laws and regulations applicable to activities in the Antarctic.

PROTECT ANTARCTIC WILDLIFE

- Harmful interference with Antarctic wildlife is prohibited except in accordance with a permit issued by a national authority.
- Do not use aircraft, vessels, small boats, or other means of transport in ways that disturb wildlife, either at sea or on land.
- Do not feed, touch, or handle birds or seals, or approach or photograph them in ways that cause them to alter their behavior. Special care is needed when animals are breeding or molting.
- Do not damage plants, for example by walking, driving, or landing on extensive moss beds or lichen-covered scree slopes.
- Do not use guns or explosives. Keep noise to the minimum to avoid frightening wildlife.
- Do not bring non-native plants or animals into the Antarctic such as live poultry, pet dogs and cats or houseplants.

RESPECT PROTECTED AREAS

- A variety of areas in the Antarctic have been afforded special protection because of their particular ecological, scientific, historic or other values. Entry into certain areas may be prohibited except in accordance with a permit issued by an appropriate national authority. Activities in and near designated Historic Sites and Monuments and certain other areas may be subject to special restrictions.
- Know the locations of areas that have been afforded special protection and any restrictions regarding entry and activities that can be carried out in and near them.
- Observe applicable restrictions.
- Do not damage, remove, or destroy Historic Sites or Monuments or any artefacts associated with them.

RESPECT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

- Do not interfere with scientific research, facilities or equipment.
- Obtain permission before visiting Antarctic science and support facilities; reconfirm arrangements 24-72 hours before arrival; and comply with the rules regarding such visits.
- Do not interfere with, or remove, scientific equipment or marker posts, and do not disturb experimental study sites, field camps or supplies.

KEEP ANTARCTICA PRISTINE

- Antarctica remains relatively pristine, the largest wilderness area on Earth. It has not yet been subjected to large-scale human perturbations. Please keep it that way.
- Do not dispose of litter or garbage on land. Open burning is prohibited.
- Do not disturb or pollute lakes or streams. Any materials discarded at sea must be disposed of properly.
- Do not paint or engrave names or graffiti on rocks or buildings.
- Do not collect or take away biological or geological specimens or man-made artifacts as a souvenir, including rocks, bones, eggs, fossils, and parts or contents of buildings.
- Do not deface or vandalize buildings, whether occupied, abandoned, or unoccupied, or emergency refuges.

BE SAFE

- Be prepared for severe and changeable weather and ensure that your equipment and clothing meet Antarctic standards. Remember that the Antarctic environment is inhospitable, unpredictable, and potentially dangerous.
- Know your capabilities, the dangers posed by the Antarctic environment, and act accordingly. Plan activities with safety in mind at all times.
- Keep a safe distance from all wildlife, both on land and at sea.
- Take note of, and act on, the advice and instructions from your leaders; do not stray from your group.
- Do not walk onto glaciers or large snowfields without the proper equipment and experience; there is a real danger of falling into hidden crevasses.
- Do not expect a rescue service. Self-sufficiency is increased and risks reduced by sound planning, quality equipment, and trained personnel.
- Do not enter emergency refuges except in emergencies. If you use equipment or food from a refuge, inform the nearest research station or national authority once the emergency is over.
- Respect any smoking restrictions, particularly around buildings, and take great care to safeguard against the danger of fire. This is a real hazard in the dry environment of Antarctica.

2025-26 AVIAN INFLUENZA PROTOCOLS

Since 2021, the increasing intensity of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 outbreaks has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of seabirds worldwide. Marine mammals, including seals and sea lions, have also been affected. On February 25, 2024, the first cases of avian influenza were confirmed in the Antarctic Treaty Area. Since then, HPAI has been detected in multiple locations on the Antarctic Peninsula. The Antarctic community, from Antarctic Treaty parties to scientists, National Antarctic Programs, and the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO), is concerned about the effect of avian influenza in Antarctica, the profound impact its spread could have on the local wildlife, and the risk it could pose to humans. IAATO members are committed to the robust procedures in place to protect Antarctica from pathogens and non-native species. With the confirmation of avian influenza in the region, we continue to maintain heightened vigilance regarding operations this season. Here is how you can help prevent avian influenza from being introduced and spread.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Before you leave home, ensure that anything that may come into contact with the Antarctic environment, including clothing and equipment, is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- Use IAATO's Don't Pack a Pest guidance to assist you.

IN ANTARCTICA · VISITING WILDLIFE

- Existing protocols, including daily biosecurity procedures, are crucial to protecting Antarctica. In addition, it is required that you:
- Maintain a distance of at least 5 meters (15 feet) from wildlife at all times.
- Do not sit, kneel, crouch, or lay down in wildlife areas.
- Do not place any equipment on the ground or snow in wildlife areas. Your operator will keep you informed, and if in doubt, please ask your guides for direction.

DON'T PACK A PEST · NON-NATIVE SPECIES IN ANTARCTICA

Non-native species are those species that do not naturally occur in an area and have been introduced either intentionally or unintentionally. A wide range of non-native species now occur in Antarctica and the sub-Antarctic islands. These introduced species include microbes, algae, fungi, plants, invertebrates, fish, birds and mammals.

Despite known introductions of non-native species, Antarctica remains a relatively pristine environment. Human activity has the potential to act as a vector for non-native species. Across the continent, science programs and tour operators are working to minimize the risk of humans being a vector for transporting non-native species into and within the Antarctic.

Types of non-native species that have already arrived in Antarctica: seeds, grasses, algae, fruit flies, worms, spiders, midges, microorganisms.

Lessons learned for Antarctica from the sub-Antarctic: human activities in the sub-Antarctic islands have contributed to a large number of introductions of non-native species both intentional (rabbits and reindeer for food) and unintentional (mice, rats, worms and grasses). Approximately 200 non-native species exist on the islands. These species have come to survive in, and in some cases dominate, terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats, often causing alterations to the ecosystems through extinction or decreased abundance of native species.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE · ONCE YOU HAVE ARRIVED

- Clean and examine clothes thoroughly: examine all clothing, including pockets, seams, Velcro fasteners, and boot soles for dirt and organic material. A thorough cleaning is recommended.
- Pay special attention to boots and soles, trouser hems and turn-ups, pockets, Velcro and fleece, backpacks, outdoor equipment and camera bags, walking sticks and tripods.
- Pack clean gear: make sure your gear and outdoor equipment are freshly cleaned and free of dirt and organic material.
- Follow the boot and clothing decontamination procedures on your expedition. This is especially important if you are moving between distinct geographic regions, for example between a sub-Antarctic Island and the Antarctic Peninsula, but also if moving between distinct landings or field sites.
- Watch your step. Be careful when walking in areas that contain organic matter as this can be easily transported to other areas. If you do notice organic matter on boots, clothing or gear, make sure to clean it off before leaving a site and use the disinfectant wash between visits.
- Clean your gear regularly. This includes boots, equipment, day packs and camera bags, trouser hems and turn-ups, fleece clothing, Velcro fasteners for outer clothing.
- Report a pest. Tell your guides if you think you have found a non-native species.
- Spread the word. Share this information with others. We all contribute to the health of Antarctica.

ABOUT US

THE EYOS TEAM

ABOUT US

Your expedition will be supported by both an on-board EYOS Expedition Leader and a strong shore-based team on hand to provide 24/7 support for the duration of the voyage. Together we are underpinned by several decades of Antarctic experience.

We are passionate about the Antarctic and genuinely look forward to sharing it with you. Although our field staff members have completed hundreds of expeditions in polar latitudes, we have never lost our enthusiasm for ice and the experiences that it provides.

IAATO

EYOS Expeditions is an active member of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators.

IAATO is a member organisation founded in 1991 to advocate, promote and practice safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic.

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Octopus will be alongside the commercial pier when the jet lands, boots and parkas aboard, the ice two days south. The expedition team will be on the pier to welcome the family. Safe travels, and see you in the far south.