

## ANTARCTIC PENINSULA - SOUTH GEORGIA, SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS & ANTARCTIC ODYSSEY | SYLVIA EARLE



### INTRODUCTION

On this epic 24 day voyage, not only will you explore the famed white continent, but you'll immerse yourself into some of the lesser-visited and remote Antarctic islands. This adventurous Antarctic cruise visits the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands, and the Falkland Islands.

You'll depart from Ushuaia after boarding the Sylvia Earle, one of the most modern and advanced polar vessels. Highlights of your spectacular journey include two days discovering the Falklands~Malvinas, home to plenty of wildlife and sparkling, sandy-white beaches. Then, explore the wildlife haven of South Georgia, where you can see king penguin colonies, albatross, and elephant seals. Next, sail to the South Sandwich Islands, a chain of seldom-visited volcanic islands located 740 km (460 miles) south-east of South Georgia. Simply reaching these wild, far-flung islands is an adventure unlike any other.

In each location, partake in daily zodiac excursions, try kayaking, or even go snorkelling. This expedition also spends several days exploring the beauty and joy of the Antarctic Peninsula before disembarking back in Ushuaia. The magic of this unique Antarctic cruise is sure to create memories you'll never forget.

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1: Arrive in Ushuaia

Having made your way to Ushuaia, you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and transferred to our group hotel. This evening, enjoy a light refreshment as you meet your fellow expeditioners at a Welcome Reception.



#### TRIP CODE

ACAEODS

#### DEPARTURE

19/01/2024

#### DURATION

24 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands, Falkland Islands



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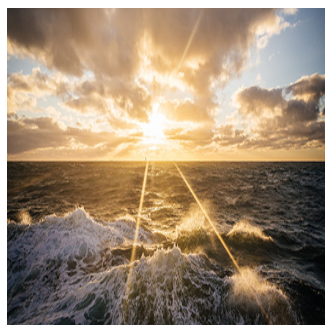
## DAY 2: Embarkation

Your morning is at leisure to explore Ushuaia. Those wishing to join our afternoon catamaran cruise, meet back at the hotel lobby at 12.45 pm ready to transfer to the port at 1.00 pm. Here we board our catamaran and sail the Beagle Channel, towards the city's iconic Les Eclaireurs Lighthouse. Crossing the Bridges Archipelago we'll slow down to watch colonies of sea lions and imperial cormorants sun themselves on the rocky outcrops, while gulls, rock cormorants, skuas, petrels, albatrosses and cauquenes are often sighted. Our cruise offers panoramic views of the city and the surrounding mountain range, in addition to hearing tales of the people and communities of the region. Alternatively, enjoy your day at leisure and meet at your hotel lobby at 3.45 pm to be transferred to the pier for embarkation. Once onboard, you'll have time to settle into your cabin before our important mandatory briefings. As the ship pulls away from port, we'll gather on the deck to commence our adventure with spectacular views over Ushuaia and Tierra del Fuego. This evening get to know your fellow expeditioners and friendly expedition team and crew at a welcome dinner to celebrate the start of a thrilling adventure to Antarctica.



## DAY 3: At Sea

As we commence our trip across the South Atlantic Ocean towards the Falklands~Malvinas, we make the most of our time getting comfortable with the motions of the sea. Our expedition team prepare you for our first landing with important wildlife guidelines, biosecurity procedures, and start our lecture program to help you learn more about the region's history, wildlife and environment. Our wildlife experiences begin as we enjoy watching and photographing the many seabirds, including majestic albatrosses and giant petrels following the ship. They rise and fall, skilfully using air currents created by the ship to gain momentum.



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### DAY 4: Falkland Islands - Days 4-5

The Falklands~Malvinas comprises two large islands (East and West Falkland), with over 700 islands scattered off the coast. All but seven of these are uninhabited, with windswept coastlines, white sand beaches and crystal-clear water. These beautifully barren islands are true wildlife havens, sheltering an impressive diversity of birdlife, including the largest black-browed albatross colony on earth. The cold, nutrient-rich waters surrounding the islands make this a prime location for spotting marine life. There are many beautiful areas to explore across the Falklands~Malvinas, each offering a unique perspective on this magnificent archipelago. Your experienced expedition team, who have made countless journeys to this area, will use their expertise to design your voyage from day to day, choosing the best options based on the prevailing winds, weather and wildlife opportunities. We generally make landings or Zodiac excursions twice a day. Even though we are north of the Antarctic Convergence it can be quite chilly here, so you will want to layer up before joining Zodiac cruises into rocky coves or along sea cliffs, keeping watch for seals, sea lions, dolphins and penguins. Zodiacs will also shuttle you from the ship to shore, where you may be able to visit albatross colonies, penguin rookeries and perhaps even have a traditional English 'tea and scones' at a local cottage. Conditions permitting, we hope to land in historic Stanley, the capital of the Falklands~Malvinas. This charming town has a distinctly British character, with terraced town houses, pioneer cottages and even an iconic red telephone box! Colourful buildings house cosy cafes, English pubs, souvenir shops, a post office and the fascinating Historic Dockyard Museum, with displays on the maritime history of the Falkland Islands, natural history and links to Antarctica.



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### DAY 6: At Sea - Days 6-7

Between the Falklands~Malvinas and South Georgia, perhaps spend time on the stern and watch the ceaseless flight of the many seabirds that follow the ship. Our team of experts will continue with the lecture program, interpreting the natural environment around you, the wildlife and the history of the places you will be visiting. You will have ample time to enjoy observing the seabirds, keeping a close watch for marine wildlife from the observation areas, or simply relaxing with a book from our well-stocked library. If time and weather conditions permit, we could pass close to Shag Rocks, a fascinating group of jagged rocky islets protruding from the sea, in the proximity of South Georgia.



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### DAY 8: South Georgia - Days 8-11

As you near the rugged island of South Georgia, spare a thought for Captain James Cook, who arrived here in 1775 and believed it to be the northern tip of a great southern continent! In fact, it is a small island only 176 km (110 mi) long, but with a 3,000 m (9,842 ft) snow-capped mountain range, some of the world's largest congregations of wildlife and a truly fascinating human history, South Georgia is an island of incredible riches. On approach, jagged mountain peaks rise steeply, while seabirds are often spotted soaring around the ship. You will sail along the coast, taking in the spectacular glaciated scenery. This enchanting coastline is yours to explore! Make sure you layer up before joining Zodiac cruises around craggy coves and along the rocky coastline in search of nesting penguins, seal haul-outs and bird cliffs. Remember to keep an eye out for South Georgia's kelp forests as well - these remarkable underwater ecosystems are quite mesmerising as their fronds sway back and forth on the water's surface. Our trusty Zodiacs will again zip us ashore, where you can visit some of the largest king penguin colonies on Earth, take a guided walk among fur seals and elephant seals (making sure you listen to your guides and keep your distance!) and wander along pebbled streams and grassy glacial outwash plains. We also hope to visit the remnants of South Georgia's thriving whaling stations and pay our respects to Sir Ernest Shackleton, whose incredible voyage of survival is synonymous with this island. If you have chosen an optional activity, you will have the option to do that whenever conditions allow. In addition to thrilling Zodiac excursions, we may ship cruise through fjords with towering cliffs of ancient stone, or into deeply indented bays towards dramatic glacier fronts. This is a great time to find a comfy spot in the observation lounge or make your way to the bridge to enjoy uninterrupted views of South Georgia's majestic coast.



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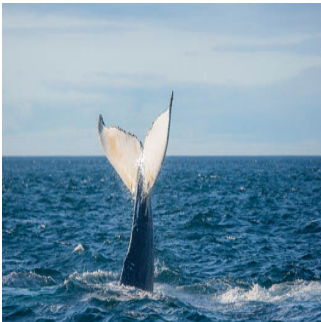
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DAY 12: At Sea - Days 12-13

Our team of experts will continue their series of onboard lectures as we sail across the Scotia Sea towards the white continent. You may want to treat yourself to a massage in the wellness centre or stay active in the gym; the choice is yours on how you want to enjoy days at sea.



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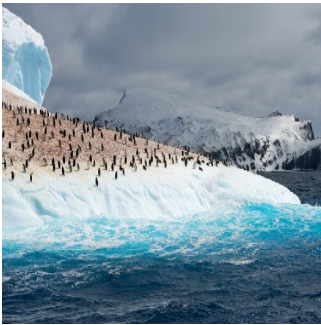
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## DAY 14: South Sandwich Islands - Days 14-15

On Captain James Cook’s second voyage of discovery (1772–1775), he circumnavigated the globe in high southern latitudes, without seeing land, casting doubt on the existence of the Antarctic continent, which at that time was still unknown. It was during this voyage Cook discovered the South Sandwich Islands and landed on South Georgia Island, describing them as, ‘Lands doomed by Nature to perpetual frigidness: never to feel the warmth of the sun’s rays; whose horrible and savage aspects I have not words to describe.’ He named the South Sandwich Islands for Lord Sandwich, they are considered together with South Georgia, as a UK Dependent Territory (see above), and are uninhabited. Although Cook sighted a number of the islands, several more were not discovered until Bellingshausen visited in 1819. Located about 740 km (460 mi) southeast of South Georgia, the islands form a chain some 350 km (220 mi) long, comprising 11 large and several smaller islands with a total area of about 600 sq. km (230 sq. mi). Most are ice-capped, and the tallest peak, on Montagu Island, reaches 1,370 m (4,500 ft). The climate is cold, with frequent snow and strong winds. The islands are volcanic in origin and some remain active. The island of Zavodovski, for instance, appears in constant eruption and reeks of rotten eggs (the volcano itself is named Mt. Asphyxia), while the islands of Visokoi, Candlemas, Saunders, and Bellingshausen all show definite signs of activity. Bristol, Cook, and Thule islands are heavily glaciated and show no signs of warmth or activity. All the islands are steep sided above the water and fall away rapidly into deep water - more than 1,500 m (5,000 ft). In this wild environment, nature determines what we are able to do and see. If conditions allow, we hope to explore the dramatic coastline of some the islands. Little is known about these islands, although the British Antarctic Survey has undertaken some limited biological and geological work there, mainly in the 1960s. Vegetation is very sparse. But there’s at least one extraordinary wildlife spectacle: Zavodovski Island supports a chinstrap penguin colony that numbers around one million penguins on its steep volcanic slopes. Those who have seen this massive penguin colony speak of it with awe.



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## DAY 16: At Sea - Days 16-17

Reflect over a few drinks on the adventures of the last few days spent in the wild South Sandwich Islands and hear tales of exploration and discovery from our team of onboard experts as we prepare for our exciting days ahead in the Antarctic Peninsula.



## DAY 18: Antarctic Peninsula - Days 18-21

It’s almost impossible to describe the feeling of arriving in Antarctica. Spotting your first iceberg and taking a deep breath of some of the most fresh, crisp air on earth is an experience that will stay with you forever. Because we are so far south, we will experience approximately 18-24 hours of daylight and the days can be as busy as you wish. Enjoy Zodiac cruises along spectacular ice cliffs or among grounded icebergs, keeping a close watch for whales, seals and porpoising penguins. While ashore we aim to stretch our legs, wandering along pebbly beaches or perhaps hike up snow-covered ridgelines to vantage points with mountains towering overhead and ice-speckled oceans below. We may encounter penguin colonies and remember that they have right of way here! Keen polar plungers will have the chance to fully immerse themselves in polar waters - conditions permitting! We will also ship-cruise some of the narrow, dramatic straits separating offshore islands from the mainland, or linger in scenic bays to watch whales travelling or feeding. Enjoy uninterrupted views of Antarctica in all its splendour from one of the observation lounges with a warm beverage in hand. Keep an ear out for the creak and deep rumble of glaciers as they carve their way from summit to sea. Take a quiet moment to experience the wonder of the incredible White Continent.



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## DAY 22: At Sea Drake Passage - Days 22-23

Enjoy a final morning landing in the South Shetland Islands before we enter the Drake Passage for our return journey to South America. With lectures and film presentations to complete our Antarctic experience, there is still plenty of time to enjoy the magic of the Southern Ocean and the life that calls it home. There is time for reflection and discussion about what we have seen and experienced. We hope you become ambassadors for Antarctica telling your family, friends and colleagues about your journey to this magical place, advocating for its conservation and preservation so that they might one day visit the region to experience what you have been lucky to see and do here. As we approach the tip of South America, our Captain may sail close to legendary Cape Horn, weather and time permitting.



## DAY 24: Disembark in Ushuaia

During the early morning, we cruise up the Beagle Channel, before quietly slipping into dock in Ushuaia, where we will be free to disembark around 8.00 am. Farewell your expedition team and fellow passengers as we all continue our onward journeys, hopefully with a newfound sense of the immense power of nature. A transfer to Ushuaia airport or to your hotel is included in the voyage fare. NOTE: At the conclusion of the voyage, we do not recommend booking flights departing Ushuaia prior to 12.00 pm on the day of disembarkation in case of delays.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
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Inclusions	<p><b>INCLUSIONS</b></p> <p>All airport transfers mentioned in the itinerary.</p> <p>One night's hotel accommodation including breakfast, in Ushuaia on Day 1.</p> <p>Half-day tour of Ushuaia on Day 2, prior to embarkation.</p> <p>Onboard accommodation during voyage, including daily cabin service.</p> <p>All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage.</p> <p>Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner.</p> <p>Captain's Welcome and Farewell receptions including four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages.</p> <p>All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises.</p> <p>Educational lectures and guiding services provided by Expedition Team.</p> <p>Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic (initial consultation).</p> <p>One 3-in-1 waterproof, polar expedition jacket.</p> <p>Complimentary use of Muck Boots during the voyage.</p> <p>Comprehensive pre-departure information.</p> <p>Port surcharges, permits and landing fees.</p> <p>Gratuities for ship's crew.</p>	<p><b>TRIP CODE</b></p> <p>ACAEODS</p> <p><b>DEPARTURE</b></p> <p>19/01/2024</p> <p><b>DURATION</b></p> <p>24 Days</p> <p><b>LOCATIONS</b></p> <p>Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands, Falkland Islands</p>
	<p><b>EXCLUSIONS</b></p> <p>International or domestic flights - unless specified in the itinerary.</p> <p>Transfers - unless specified in the itinerary.</p> <p>Airport arrival or departure taxes.</p> <p>Passport, visa, reciprocity and vaccination fees and charges.</p> <p>Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges.</p> <p>Hotel accommodation and meals - unless specified in the itinerary.</p> <p>Optional excursions and optional activity surcharges.</p> <p>All items of a personal nature, including but not limited to alcoholic beverages and soft drinks (outside of dinner service), laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, wi-fi, email or phone charges.</p>	
	<p><b>Difficulty Rating</b></p> <p>2 (light adventure)</p>	
	<p><b>Single Surcharge</b></p> <p>Available upon request, contact us for more details.</p>	
	<p><b>Notes</b></p> <p>Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated for triple/quad cabins)</p> <p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.</p> <p>Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions</p>	
	<p><b>Price Dependent upon</b></p> <p>Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.</p>	

# SUSTAINABILITY

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