

Cruise Antarctica & Solar Eclipse 2021

15 Days | Starts/Ends: Ushuaia



Explore the remote and wildlife-rich Antarctic Peninsula on this 15-day expedition cruise, which is timed to coincide with the total solar eclipse of 4 December 2021. Watch the eclipse along its central axis with the services of astronomer experts, see colonies of penguins on South Georgia, cross the Drake Passage and discover an incredible diversity of marine life on the South Shetland Islands. Explore the abandoned whaling town of Grytviken, discover the unforgiving terrain of Elephant Island and look out for whales and dolphins aboard the Ocean Victory ship.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Total solar eclipse - witness the incredible sight of a total solar eclipse on the 4 December 2021 as we position ourselves along the central axis of this incredible spectacle
- Ocean Victory - spend your days at sea aboard our expedition cruise ship with amenities including a swimming pool,

several restaurants, gym facilities and an observation lounge

- South Georgia - wander the abandoned streets of Grytviken, spot lumbering elephant seals and watch giant colonies of king penguins huddle together
- South Shetland Islands - discover this remote cluster of islands, home to a variety of wildlife, volcanic warm waters and snow-covered mountains
- Ushuaia - begin and end your trip in the 'city at the end of the world' and opt to explore the incredible scenery of Tierra del Fuego
- Drake Passage - cross this historically challenging channel of water which marks the location of the Antarctic Convergence and is home to a rich variety of marine life

What's Included

- 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 14 dinners
- 14 nights aboard the Ocean Victory expedition cruise ship in a shared outside double cabin with private facilities
- Services of an English-speaking expedition team, solar eclipse expert and ship captain and crew
- Solar eclipse lectures and a position along the central axis of the eclipse to watch the event unfold
- Two shore excursions per day to the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia and the South Shetland Islands (ice and weather conditions permitting)

- Expedition parka, rubber boots for the entire voyage and solar eclipse eye protection
- Full board on the ship, afternoon snacks, free tea and coffee daily
- Welcome and farewell cocktails
- Special photo workshop and a digital visual journey to remember your trip
- Taxes and port fees

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Government arrival and departure taxes
- Tips for the expedition staff & crew (we recommend USD \$13.50 per day)
- Pre and post tour accommodation, plus any airport or port transfers
- Any meals not onboard the ship & any drinks (excluding tea and coffee)

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Welcome to Argentina



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26 November 2021. Welcome to Ushuaia! As the world's most southern city, Ushuaia's nickname of 'the end of the world' is well deserved. On arrival, make your way to the port and board our home for the next two weeks, the Ocean Victory expedition cruise ship. This evening is free to settle in aboard the ship and you'll enjoy a refreshing welcome cocktail.

If arriving into Ushuaia with plenty of time, you may wish to take a day trip to the picturesque archipelago of Tierra del Fuego, home to some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world with rugged snow-capped mountains, glaciers and flower-filled meadows. **Overnight - Ocean Victory ship (D)**

Days 2-4 : At sea towards South Georgia

Ushuaia - South Georgia. On day 2 we set sail on our incredible Antarctic adventure. Sailing east on the South Atlantic Ocean, your days are spent relaxing aboard the ship and watching the world go by. There is plenty to see and do onboard, with three restaurants, a swimming pool, library and a piano bar, as well as a gym and sports facilities. All meals, snacks and hot drinks are included onboard and you can watch the ocean pass us by from the observation lounge. There will also be a number of lectures and workshops to get involved in, during which you'll learn more about this incredible region of the world and the upcoming total solar eclipse.

The South Atlantic is one of the world's remotest corners and you can gaze out over the endless blue waves from the observation lounge or the top deck. If we're lucky then we may spot some of the species of whale and dolphin which inhabit the region. Species including orcas, fin whales and the majestic blue whale may all be spotted with a bit of luck and a keen eye. From the top deck gazing skywards, storm petrels and giant winged albatrosses can also be seen swooping over the ocean. **Overnight - Ocean Victory ship (B:3, L:3, D:3)**

Days 5-8 : Exploring South Georgia



We arrive at South Georgia Island on day 5. South Georgia lies around 830 km northeast of Coronation Island and 550 km northwest of Zavodovski Island. Truly off the beaten track! Over the next few days we'll explore the island, which is sparsely inhabited with a population of around 30 individuals in the summer months and even fewer in winter. Outnumbering the human residents are the huge colonies of penguins, sea lions and seals which take shelter on the rocky outcrops and beaches of the island, including Salisbury Plain. Giant elephant seals lumber on the beach and king penguins huddle together for warmth. Endemic species including the South Georgia shag, South Georgia pipit and South Georgia pintail can also be spotted.

We'll take as many shore landings as possible during our stay off the coast of South Georgia. Watch this incredible wildlife from a respectful distance, explore magical fjords, take in beautiful glaciers and visit the tiny, mostly abandoned settlement of Grytviken. Grytviken was the final resting place for the famed explorer Ernest Shackleton after he died on an Antarctic voyage in 1922. You're more likely to see a penguin or a seal wandering the streets than you are a person. **Overnight - Ocean Victory ship (B:4, L:4, D:4)**

Day 9 : Total Solar Eclipse



South Georgia - South Orkney Islands. 4 December 2021. Today is eclipse day! We have chosen the best possible spot to watch the eclipse aboard our ship. We'll be in position along the central axis of the eclipse, east of the South Orkney Islands. Eye protection will be provided and our expert astronomers will be on hand to talk you through this once in a lifetime spectacle as it unfolds. The total eclipse will last for just under 2 minutes, beginning at 07:33:26 UTC time. During this time we will be plunged into total darkness.

Solar eclipses usually occur twice a year, however total solar eclipses are rare. A total solar eclipse is when the moon perfectly aligns in front of the sun, plunging the entire area into total darkness. Look out for Bailey's Beards as the eclipse unfolds - these small blots of light appear just before the total eclipse and are caused by gaps in the mountains and valleys on the Moon's surface allowing sunlight to pass through in some places but not others.

Having watched the eclipse, we continue towards Antarctica, ready to explore the world's most remote and unexplored continent.

Overnight - Ocean Victory ship (B, L, D)

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Cruise Antarctica & Solar Eclipse 2021

Day 10 : Day at sea



South Orkney Islands - South Shetland Islands. Today we continue south towards the Antarctic Peninsula. As we near this pristine wilderness and the South Shetland Islands, the presence of wildlife begins to multiply. Leopard, fur and weddell seals relax on Cuverville Island, giant humpback whales breach on the Gerlache Strait and orcas leap from the water in the Lemaire Channel. Whilst we can't guarantee any wildlife sightings, there is an excellent chance of spotting some of these species, which are found in good numbers in this untouched paradise.

Overnight - Ocean Victory ship (B, L, D)

Days 11-12 : The Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands



We are amongst the most southern human beings in the entire world at this moment. During the next two days we'll be exploring the wildlife-rich South Shetland Islands. Our itinerary must be flexible over these two days and is subject to change depending on the weather conditions. Your captain and expedition leader will ensure you get the most from your visit and will manage this itinerary.

Projected activities include making landfall on Elephant Island. Located in the north-eastern reaches of the archipelago, Elephant Island

is perhaps most famous for the incredible rescue mission that took place here in 1916, when 22 members of Shackleton's Endurance expedition were rescued after being stranded on the island for 135 days following a shipwreck. We also plan to visit Deception Island, where a now-extinct volcano has warmed the waters enough for a swim. On Half Moon Island you can spot nesting Wilson's storm petrels and adorable chinstrap penguins. **Overnight - Ocean Victory ship** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Days 13-14 : The Drake Passage



South Shetland Islands - Ushuaia. On day 13 we begin our voyage back towards mainland South America. This will involve crossing the famous Drake Passage, where the cold waters of Antarctica meet the warmer waters of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. This interaction causes an upwelling of nutrients from the seafloor, resulting in an incredible diversity of algae, krill and other small sea creatures. Spend these days on the open-air decks, spotting seabirds and marine life with the help of the expedition lecturers on hand.

Known for its strong winds, you can rest easy as we cross the passage in our rugged expedition ship. Sailors consider navigating the Drake Passage a significant achievement, and now you can cross it off your list. **Overnight - Ocean Victory ship** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Day 15 : Ushuaia

10 December 2021. Crossing the Beagle Channel between Tierra del Fuego and Isla Navarino during the night, we arrive back at Ushuaia this morning. Enjoy a final

breakfast and say goodbye to your crew before disembarking. (B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

The Ocean Victory

Set to be launched in December 2020, the Ocean Victory is a new, luxury infinity vessel being established as one of the most modern small cruise ships on the market. Part of a brand-new generation of low-energy vessels, this ship provides high stability in rough weather and high waves. A total of 93 large, modern cabins are spread over four decks, each offering views of the ocean and 90% featuring individual balconies. There's three restaurants and one open-deck dining facility on board, as well as the Albatros Nordic Bar serving a variety of cocktails, beers and non-alcoholic beverages. The wellness area offers a swimming pool, jacuzzis and pool bar, so you can enjoy plenty of relaxation between locations.



Our partners

This Antarctic cruise is operated by one of our local partners and you will be travelling with people who have booked through various agencies, not solely On The Go Tours.

[new point]

Passport & Visa

Each passenger is responsible for ensuring that he/she meets the applicable passport and visa requirements for the duration of the trip. The passport is the only valid proof of identity

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Cruise Antarctica & Solar Eclipse 2021

for our Antarctic cruises. Your passport must be valid for a minimum of 6 months after arriving home from your destination. Although some countries may require shorter periods, we implement this 6-month prerequisite to avoid situations where a country's validity requirements may be amended between the time of your booking and departure. The name in your passport must be identical to the name in all travel documentation. Costs incurred due to insufficient travel documents are the responsibility of the passenger.

Please note that passports will be collected for clearing formalities at the beginning of the voyage. The passports will be kept safely by the crew during the whole voyage and will be handed out on the last day. We therefore recommend preparing copies of all documents before tour start.

Travel Insurance

It is mandatory that you take out appropriate travel insurance before leaving your home country. You must ensure that your purchased insurance covers for cruise traveling in Antarctica, and has a repatriation coverage of no less than 500,000 USD per person. You must have proof of insurance onboard with you and produce it if requested.

Health

Medical Facilities & Evacuations

No sophisticated medical facilities are available in Antarctica. The vessel carries a qualified physician and has a limited infirmary with basic medications and equipment. Passengers are further advised that medical evacuation, if available, is expensive, and we strongly recommend you acquire medical insurance that would reimburse you for this cost. Please note, the locations being traveled in are very remote, and in the areas where Medevacs (Medical Evacuations) are possible, it might take up to 2 days to be reached. In some other areas - such as South Georgia - Medevacs are impossible, as the area is out of the range of helicopters and/or does not have landing strips.

Health requirements

This expedition is therefore intended for persons in reasonably good health. Passengers who are not fit for long trips for

any reason, including disability, heart or other health conditions, are advised not to join the tour, as it would entail an unreasonable risk to your health and safety of you and others on the expedition. All guests are required to sign a medical information sheet before boarding, to inform the medical personnel on board about any illnesses, allergies or conditions to be kept in mind during the voyage. Research supplemental travel health insurance and medical evacuation insurance, and consider taking additional prescription medicine in case of delays.

Due to safety reasons a cruise is only possible for pregnant women until the 24th week of pregnancy. The state of pregnancy has to be presented by a medical certificate.

Sea sickness

The ship is equipped with stabilators in order to reduce the ship's roll. However, these expeditions are hosted in remote regions, and it is possible to periodically encounter changing environments and climate patterns, including rough seas and large swells. Seasickness patches (Scopoderm or similar) work solely or in part to help cure nausea for most people. These medicines can cause sleepiness. If you are prone to motion sickness, consult with your doctor prior to departure to help ensure your comfort while travelling.

Vaccines

Routine vaccinations are recommended for all travelers. Hepatitis A and B shots are recommended for those who will be visiting villages, rural areas, or who will be exposed to blood or other body fluids. Rabies shots are recommended for those traveling outdoors or with occupational risks such as wildlife professionals and researchers.

What to expect

The program: Our voyages are intricately designed to engage your heart, mind and spirit through the duration of the journey. For this reason, each program includes full, active days, whether through Zodiac excursions and landings in the different locations, or through activities such as kayaking and hiking among others... as well as onboard activities while at sea, such as lectures, workshops and wildlife spotting.

The staff: Our expedition cruise team consists of expedition leaders and staff, biologists and professionals who have extensive knowledge of Polar Regions and a passion for exploration, and who speak several languages and are eager to assist you during each adventure.

The ship: Our small expedition ships have a distinct advantage over larger, traditional cruise ships -- they can access narrow inlets and sail close to shore, in-between icebergs and into remote waters, permitting us to disembark quickly via our fleet of Zodiac watercraft and access amazing sites with greater speed and efficiency.

The route: Please keep in mind, the itinerary and outdoor activities during each voyage are solely dependent on weather conditions to ensure the safety of our guests. The route and shore landings will be determined by the captain and expedition leader and communicated to guests through regularly scheduled briefings. We reserve the right to modify the landings and locations visited during a voyage based on weather conditions and climate to ensure a safe and delightful experience for all our guests and staff.

What to pack

Expedition Clothing

- Rain jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Parka (Water-repellent hooded parka)
- Waterproof gloves or mittens
- Hat, scarf, or other face protection
- Jacket or sweaters
- It is best to bring at least one lightweight and one heavy jacket or sweater. Sweatshirts, turtlenecks, and fleece pullovers are also good Insulators. Layering with wool, silk or synthetics fabrics, rather than cotton, is recommended.
- Woollen socks
- Warm pants
- Thermal or long underwear
- Light-weight shirts and T-shirts
- Hiking boots for town visits and nature hikes

Clothing on board

On board there is no dress code, and practical and informal clothing is the standard, but some people do dress up for dinners and on

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Cruise Antarctica & Solar Eclipse 2021

certain occasions. A pair of solid shoes are recommended for onboard.

Other Gear

- Sunscreen and lip protection (Min SPF 15)
- Sunglasses
- Binoculars
- Plastic bags - Plastic zip-lock bags will protect your camera and binoculars from wave splash and spray while in Zodiacs
- Backpack

Our guests are expected to bring the proper winter wear for outings, but waterproof boots will be provided on loan free of charge during excursions. Our shop is equipped with light jackets, t-shirts and hats, among other items, but please pack all basic items you will be using during your visit.

Cruise card, payments & credit cards

At the time of embarkation, you will receive your personal cruise card, which you should always have with you. This card is used on board as payment instrument (except in the onboard shop), key card and identity card. All on board purchases from the bar, telephone, laundry, and the like are charged to your shipboard account. To activate your personal cruise card account, we accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express credit cards. Alternately, you can deposit cash (US\$ or EUR/exchange rate US\$-EUR). At the end of the voyage, your account will be settled by the payment methods mentioned above.

There is no currency exchange office onboard the vessel. Onboard payment will be completed by your cruise card. For stays ashore during the cruise, we recommend changing minimal amount of the local currency in small bills, as most of the ports and airports have exchange offices. Alternatively, lots of shops and restaurants accept international credit cards. In bigger ports and cities, you have the possibility to withdraw cash from ATM's.

Be sure to contact your credit card provider regarding use of your credit cards overseas. Any questions regarding the bill can be addressed by the ship's hotel manager.

The Ocean Victory

Set to be launched in December 2020, the Ocean Victory is a new, luxury infinity vessel being established as one of the most modern small cruise ships on the market. Part of a brand-new generation of low-energy vessels, this ship provides high stability in rough weather and high waves. A total of 93 large, modern cabins are spread over four decks, each offering views of the ocean and 90% featuring individual balconies. There's three restaurants and one open-deck dining facility on board, as well as the Albatros Nordic Bar serving a variety of cocktails, beers and non-alcoholic beverages. The wellness area offers a swimming pool, jacuzzis and pool bar, so you can enjoy plenty of relaxation between locations.

Technical Details

With the highest Polar code 6 and Ice class 1A, Ocean Victory is the ideal vessel for small-ship cruising due to her sturdy construction and X-Bow®-Infinity class, which provides high stability in rough weather and allows for the smoothest movements on high waves, and a Solas 2012 classification which facilitates a safe return to port. The vessel is part of a brand new generation of low-energy vessels, with 4 diesel engines and 2 electro engines, all controlled electronically to optimize speed and fuel consumption.

- X-Bow for more stability and comfort
- Highest Polar code Class 6
- Highest Ice Class 1A
- 4 diesel engines and 2 electro engines
- Solas 2012 classification
- Environmentally friendly in all matters
- Green initiative program
- Nordic Bar Lounge
- Ocean Shop
- Observation Lounge
- Observation Sliders
- Polar Spa / Wellness Area / Gym
- Modern lecture lounge
- 93 spacious comfortable state rooms
- Dedicated single state rooms
- All cabins with Ocean View
- 90% of all state rooms with Panoramic Balcony
- Restaurant on Deck 5
- Observation Speciality Restaurant on Deck 9
- Swimming Pool, jacuzzies and Pool Bar

The Beagle Restaurant

Dinner always starts with delicious hot soups, cold cuts and crisp, fresh salads. Several choices of entrees are offered each evening, to accommodate different tastes and dietary requirements; always including a meat choice, fish choice and vegetarian choice. After dinner, freshly prepared desserts, including ship-made ice cream or cakes are a great way to end a meal and satisfy any sweet tooth. A selection of wines and beers is available to perfectly compliment your visit to our restaurant... and if you're interested in relaxing during your time off from activities and landings, delight onboard Ocean Atlantic by raising your glass to the experience of a lifetime!

The Nordic Bar Lounge

The Nordic Bar Lounge provides a bit of warm Nordic hospitality to the Antarctic. Offering a large choice of drinks, including wine tasting menus from Gerard Bertrand, this is the perfect place to relax after an unforgettable day and make new international friends.

Knud Rasmussen Library

Honoring the great explorers, the library allows for an adventure within an adventure. Here you can find sagas, narratives and practical information on the polar regions, in various languages and subjects. From encyclopedias of the polar wildlife and fauna to narrations of the many challenges faced by the first expeditions, this is the perfect location for entertaining your brain while we sail.

Shackleton Lecture Lounge

What makes a good expedition? It is a combination of its landings and the experiences onboard the ship. We are honored to have an amalgam of experts in our expedition team, from climatologists and geologists to renown photographers, all eager to share their adventures and knowledge with our guests.

Bridge

Due to its important role as a control center for all nautical and technical processes, the ship's bridge is a vital, sensitive place. Therefore, the bridge may not be accessible to the public at all times. Conditions permitting, we will be happy to welcome you into the bridge for a visit. Guests must be accompanied by the master or our expedition leader.

Cabin Service

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Your cabin is serviced daily. We provide a turn-down service. We provide meal to room only for serious cases of guest being sick. Our suites will have VIP services.

Ocean Shop

The selection of items available for purchase varies by ship, and may include a range of warm and practical clothing, as well as souvenirs, local arts and postcards at reasonable prices. A small selection of soap, toothpaste and other personal effects are also sold.

Electrical Outlets

The ship has a 220v / 50 Hz cycle system. Please check your appliances before use. 110-volt appliances require an adapter prior to use aboard the ship.

The electrical outlets on board Ocean Victory are the so called 'F-type sockets', round 2-pin, 220-240 V, grounded, used in continental Europe and Russia. They take C, E, and F-type 2-pin plugs.

Water

There are several water stations onboard Ocean Victory. Normally, water is not rationed, but we do advise our guests to pay attention to their water consumption.

Laundry

If you wish to have some laundry done while aboard the ship, laundry service is available for an additional fee.

Onboard briefings

The Expedition Leader will conduct regularly scheduled briefings to highlight key points in the itinerary, organize excursions and communicate important information.

Food onboard

A menu maintaining the well being of our guests is provided on board. Meals are served at the bright and spacious restaurant on the ship, where spectacular views provide a great atmosphere. The carefully designed menu has been developed in the interest of maintaining a balanced diet during the voyage, while emphasizing on freshness, diversity and delectable choices.

To accommodate different tastes and dietary requirements, dinners always include a meat choice, fish choice and vegetarian choice. A selection of wines and beverages is available also, and the bar is fully equipped with

a variety of cocktails, beers, non-alcoholic beverages and water.

Special dietary requirements

All meals on board the vessel is chef-prepared. If you have special dietary requirements (food allergies, intolerances, health conditions or religious preferences), please inform us as early as possible - ideally, no later than 2 weeks before departure. In order to ensure efficient service, please re-confirm your requirements with the crew upon boarding the ship.

Climate

Located in the southernmost point of the southern hemisphere, Antarctica experiences its summer season between the months of October and March and this is the only time of year that expedition cruises are possible.

October - November (spring)

In late October the ice that normally covers the waters starts to break up meaning boats are given access to the islands around the tip of the Antarctica Peninsula. Most cruises start operating in November when icebergs are at their largest and the scenery is spectacular with pristine ice and snow. Elephant seals begin their breeding season with the large animals actively courting in South Georgia.

December - January (summer)

The months of December and January are considered high summer with the warmest temperatures the south pole will see all year. Daylight hours are at their longest with an average of 20 hours of light each day so it's the best time of year for photography though it's peak season with Christmas and New Year particularly busy. In the early weeks of December penguin chicks begin hatching in the Falklands followed by hatchings along the Antarctic Peninsula later in the month. Come the end of January and it's possible to witness parent penguins returning to their chicks after replenishing their food supplies. Sightings of whales and seal pups are also good at this time of year. Landing areas start to get muddy as the expedition season picks up so the landscape is less pristine than in November.

February - March (autumn)

Temperatures are still warm in February with excellent opportunities for whale watching

with humpback, sperm and orca all likely to be spotted. Penguin colonies are very active and fur seals are a common sight along the Peninsula. It starts to get a little colder in March with many of the penguin chicks now grown enough to fledge and an increasing number of animals make their way out to sea so wildlife sightings are less abundant on the now-exposed edges of land as the snow melts.

Luggage allowance

You can bring the usual luggage allowance of c. 20 kg in a suitcase as well as your hand luggage. Should you have more than one suitcase, you might find it convenient to have the reception store one of them for you during the voyage. This will give you more free space in your cabin.

Internet/Phones

Keep in mind, we will be cruising in a very remote region of the world. Where accessible, internet access is available for an extra charge. Mobile phone reception may be possible in select regions along our route. For further details please contact your mobile phone operator. Prices can be found in the information folder in your cabin. Please ensure that your 'Data Roaming' function is switched off.

Gratuities

Following international standards in the service industry, it is customary to leave gratuity for the ship's crew at the end of the voyage. All gratuities will be divided among the crew. Typically, a recommended amount is approximately USD \$13.5 per person per day. Gratuity is, of course, not required and any gratuity payments are voluntary.

If you choose to leave gratuity for the crew, the amount that you authorize will be charged to the shipboard account.

Children

Due to safety precautions, children under 12 years of age will be taken into consideration on each landing. It is entirely at the Expedition Leader's discretion to permit children on excursions and shore landings.

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Itinerary & program changes

As this is an expedition cruise to the world's most remote region, we are at the mercy of Mother Nature. We have planned itineraries for each tour package, but to ensure to safety of our guests and crew, we may be forced to change the route.

Rules for landings & excursions

When ashore, it is very important to show a deep respect for the unique nature and act according to the motto: leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but memories. We also ask that you remain together with your group, as we are truly in the wild and must remain extra vigilant of the wildlife and weather conditions around us. Walking around independently is strictly prohibited. It is essential to abide the strictly communicated safety rules.

Smoking

For safety reasons and to protect the health of our guests and employees, smoking is only allowed in designated areas on the outside decks. Smoking is not permitted inside the vessel, in the cabin or near the Zodiacs. Please remember to respect our natural environments and dispose of cigarette butts in designated bins.

Physical disability / wheelchair accessibility

Guests with physical disabilities are recommended to travel with an accompanying person. The processes on board should be handled without external help. The gangway can be – depending on the individual disability – a challenge. The angle of inclination of the gangway varies due to tide and different circumstances in the respective port. Please note that the guest's participation in shore excursions as well as the (dis-)embarkation by Zodiac can be denied by the expedition leader due to security reasons. The instructions of the expedition leader must be followed. The ship is not suitable for wheelchairs.

Environment

Operating cruises in the Polar Regions, which are some of the world's most pristine environments, we emphasize environmental awareness as well as sustainability. One of our top priorities is to protect the environment and minimize our CO₂-emissions. All waste will remain onboard the vessel until we return to shore and it's possible to dispose of waste. We ask that you show a deep respect for the unique nature and act according to the motto: leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but memories.

Safety & security onboard

Our ships comply with all safety regulations and are ice-class vessels suitable for sailing in polar environments. Upon arrival to the vessel, there will be a mandatory passenger briefing and safety drill before departure. We will provide security information, practical details regarding life onboard and introduce key personnel. You will be informed where the safety equipment is located and how it is used. Each cabin is equipped with lifejackets. Once onboard, please familiarize yourself with the ship's emergency rescue plan.

Zodiac Landings

One feature of our expedition cruises includes landings and excursions aboard Ocean Victory's fleet of 18 inflatable, motorized rubber "Zodiac" boats. The Zodiac brand has earned a well-deserved reputation as the sturdiest and safest small watercraft available. These boats have a low draft and great stability. Zodiacs are constructed for professional use and are outfitted with a top-quality outboard engine, yet their design minimally impacts the environment.

The Zodiacs are designed to provide unrestricted access to the world's last great frontier. Their versatility enables us to make landfall on remote shores, cruise along awe-inspiring coastlines and share breathtakingly close encounters with whales, seals, penguins, seabirds and more. We will come within arm's reach of icebergs and set foot on land discovered by pioneering explorers just over a century ago.

Your safety and comfort are our #1 priority, and your expedition leader will carefully plan for as many Zodiac excursions as

possible, dependent upon the local weather and prevailing conditions. In each case, the expedition leader makes the final decision if the landing is possible or not. Safety regulations apply on landings. All guests receive a mandatory instruction of the safety guidelines. Life jackets are mandatory to wear.

Please note, we highly recommend the use of waterproof bags in order to protect your personal camera or binoculars, as both hands must be free of everything during boarding. Participation is fairly easy and comfortable for able-bodied guests but can be more challenging for those with physical handicaps. If you can negotiate normal stairs you can also get in and out of a Zodiac. In the gangway we have strong seamen that will give you a firm and helping hand. On shore you will also get the help when needed. It's important to keep both hands free, so you can accept the provided support. Sitting on the boat, you just need to hold on to the rope and enjoy the fresh Polar air and the scenery.

Kayaking

Kayaking activities available on this Antarctic voyage. Glide through the waters and take in the royal grace of the icebergs, see the varied birds and seals, and maybe even the whales in their natural habitat under the supervision of experienced kayak guides, who will ensure your safety during each outing. Exercise your body while engaging your mind and heart in an unforgettable outing, safely guided by Kayak masters throughout the journey.

Although kayaking opportunities are possible in most locations during each excursion in the Antarctic region, weather, sea and ice conditions will dictate the when and where to ensure your safety and improve your experience.

Please note: Previous kayaking experience is important if you'll be engaging in outdoor activities with kayaks.

Lectures

We want you to not only enjoy breathtaking landscapes and amazing wildlife, but to also get a better understanding of each location and everything they see; From the flora and fauna they come upon during each landing, to the culture and history of each place being

Cruise Antarctica & Solar Eclipse 2021

visited. This adds to the overall experience, and becomes a memory you will cherish back home.

We invite experts in their field to share their knowledge with us, in order to ensure that we acquire a deeper appreciation of the world we are encountering, and therefore, a clearer understanding of what actions can be taken by all of us to protect the environment and treat our planet with consciousness and compassion. There will always be a historian, a biologist or zoologist, a glaciologist or geologist and an ornithologist on board to help increase our knowledge. In addition to the lectures, the experts are also on deck during certain times to share their knowledge and passion with us.

In the evenings, we may also have bar talks, which are a more informal setting where a topic is brought up. Here the experts talk about a topic which is then followed by Q&A. Last but not least, during the daily briefings there are short presentations of a subject which is relevant to the program next day or perhaps about something that was experienced during the day.