

Solar Eclipse & Antarctica Explorer 2021

20 Days | Ushuaia to Ushuaia



Discover breathtaking scenery, endless oceans and wonderful wildlife on this 20-day expedition cruise, taking in the highlights of Antarctica as well as the total solar eclipse of December 2021. Explore the quintessentially British town of Stanley on the Falkland Islands, spot lumbering elephant seals and penguins on South Georgia and see gigantic icebergs in the Antarctic Sound. Look out for the breaches of whales from the top deck of our expedition cruise ship, take in the South Shetland Islands and navigate the challenging Drake Passage.

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
- South Georgia - wander the abandoned streets of Grytviken, spot lumbering elephant seals and watch giant colonies of king penguins huddle together

- Falkland Islands - stroll down the streets of quintessentially British Stanley and discover wildlife including penguins and sea lions
- South Shetland Islands - discover this remote cluster of islands, home to a variety of wildlife, volcanic warm waters and snow-covered mountains
- 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
- 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
- Cape Horn - catch a glimpse of the southern tip of South America as we make our way back towards Ushuaia
- Ocean Atlantic - spend your days at sea aboard our expedition cruise ship with amenities including a swimming pool, restaurant, two bars, gym facilities and a library

What's Included

- 19 breakfasts, 18 lunches and 19 dinners
- 19 nights aboard the Ocean Atlantic 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, Falkland Islands 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

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Solar Eclipse & Antarctica Explorer 2021

Day 1 : Welcome to Argentina



23 November 2021. Welcome to Ushuaia, the 'city at the end of the world'. As the most southern city in the world, this is a great place to start our Antarctica expedition. If you have arrived a few days early then you may wish to head to the nearby archipelago of Tierra del Fuego to explore some of the most beautiful and wild scenery in the world. Embarking the Ocean Atlantic expedition cruise ship, there's a welcome cocktail before the rest of today is free to settle in onboard. **Overnight - Ocean Atlantic ship (D)**

Day 2 : Day at Sea

Ushuaia - The Falkland Islands. Today we set sail towards the Falkland Islands, a British overseas territory located around 480km from the east coast of South America. There's plenty of time today to get to know the Ocean Atlantic.

Facilities onboard include a spacious restaurant serving international cuisine, two bars, a comfortable lounge area, and a library. Relax in the sauna, take a dip in the swimming pool or work out in the gym. There are also lecture theatres where you can learn more about the upcoming total solar eclipse, as well as this remote corner of the globe. All of your meals onboard are included, and you can enjoy free snacks, tea and coffee. From the top deck you can keep your eyes peeled for marine life and see storm petrels and albatrosses swooping and wheeling over the ship. **Overnight - Ocean Atlantic ship (B, L, D)**

Days 3-4 : Exploring The Falklands



In the early afternoon of day 3, we drop anchor near the sheltered natural harbour of Stanley, the capital of the Falklands. We head into the town, which is twinned with the northern English town of Whitby. Enjoy a leisurely stroll through the settlement and spot English phone boxes, traditional pubs and even a fish and chip shop!

On day 4 we enjoy two excursions (weather permitting) to some of the islands main wildlife spots. The most appropriate places to visit will be determined on the ground but wherever we visit, you're sure to spot some of the amazing animals that live in this part of the world. Leopard seals, elephant seals and southern sea lions can be seen on the beaches and orcas, humpback whales, blue whales and sei whales inhabit the surrounding waters. Five species of penguin breed on the islands, including king penguins, rockhopper penguins and macaroni penguins. In total, nearly half a million breeding pairs are thought to inhabit the Falklands. **Overnight - Ocean Atlantic ship (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

Days 5-6 : At sea towards South Georgia



The Falkland Islands - South Georgia. The next two days are free to relax onboard

as we sail across the South Atlantic Ocean towards the remote and sparsely inhabited island of South Georgia. Enjoy photography workshops and lectures from our knowledgeable expedition team. There will be an onboard raffle or auction to raise funds for charitable organisations and you can continue to make use of the Ocean Atlantic's fantastic facilities.

The South Atlantic is one of the world's remotest corners and you can gaze out over the endless blue waves from 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. **Overnight - Ocean Atlantic ship (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

Days 7-11 : Exploring South Georgia



We arrive at South Georgia Island on day 7. 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 pipt and South Georgia pintail can also be spotted.

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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 Atlantic ship (B:5, L:5, D:5)**

Day 12 : 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 Atlantic ship (B, L, D)**

Day 13 : 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 Atlantic ship (B, L, D)

Days 14-17 : The Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands



The next four days are spent exploring mainland Antarctica and the South Shetland Islands. The itinerary here is at the discretion of the captain and expedition leader, and depends on weather conditions. We will enjoy as many excursions as possible to fully explore the area.

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. See gigantic icebergs in the Antarctic Sound and giant colonies of penguins on the continent. **Overnight - Ocean Atlantic ship (B:4, L:4, D:4)**

Days 18-19 : The Drake Passage & Cape Horn



South Shetland Islands - Ushuaia. On day 18 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. We will also catch a glimpse of Cape Horn, the southern tip of South America, as we make

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our way back to Ushuaia. **Overnight - Ocean Atlantic ship** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Day 20 : Ushuaia



12 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. **Overnight - Ushuaia (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.

Ocean Atlantic

Newly renovated in 2016, the Ocean Atlantic is the perfect vessel for exploring Antarctic waters. With an international ice class-rating of 1B, this cruise ship is one of the strongest operating in Antarctica. At 140-metres in length, a total of 198 passengers are accommodated across multiple decks. Each cabin features an ensuite bathroom, individual temperature controls and a TV, with either portholes or windows. Indoor lounges offer large panel windows, where you can easily look out for passing whales and other sights. Passengers can enjoy daily shore landings with a fleet of 20 motorized rubber 'Zodiac' boats taking you to penguin rookeries, research stations and other Antarctic wonders. Upon your return, perhaps enjoy a dip in the pool or sauna, or curl up with a book in the onboard library. There's also a spacious restaurant serving 4-

star international cuisine and a bar offering an assortment of beverages.



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.

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 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

Each of our vessels has a small medical facility equipped with the necessary equipment and medicine to handle small emergencies. The infirmary is staffed at all times by a professionally licensed, English-speaking physician and nurse. Should a serious incident occur, the nearest hospital will be contacted. All guests must have personal travel/health insurance. 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. Although we do not have an official requirement regarding personal fitness, you should be able to move on board and ashore without the help of others. Please be aware that the ship does not provide wheelchair accessible cabins.

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.

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.

Sea sickness

The ship is equipped with stabilizers 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,

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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.

The Ocean Atlantic

Ocean Atlantic is the perfect vessel for expedition cruising in Antarctic waters! Newly renovated in 2016 and with an international ice class rating of 1B, she is one of the strongest ships operating in Antarctica. Her high maneuverability, shallow draft and strong engines allow for extended voyages into isolated fjords, creating exciting adventures for any Antarctica traveler.

Ocean Atlantic is newly renovated (2016) with elegant common areas and accommodation for 198 passengers.

The ship was built in 1985 and underwent an extensive rebuild in 2010. With a length of 140m she has ample space on the multiple decks for several lecture halls, a relaxed restaurant serving 4-star international cuisine, professionally staffed bars and observation platforms – and even a pool.

All common areas on the Erickson Deck feature large panel windows, enabling passengers to quickly spot passing whales and photographic sights from the comfort of indoor lounges.

All private cabins are stylish appointed and feature individual bathroom facilities, phone for internal calls, individual temperature controls and TV. Ideal for relaxation, the vessels' accommodation ranges in size from 11 - 35 m² and are designed with either portholes or windows.

Daily shore landings at penguin rookeries, research stations and other Antarctic wonders are made possible by her fleet of 20 Zodiacs.

The Restaurant

The bright, spacious restaurant prepares 4-star international cuisine. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included in your tour price. All meals are served in the restaurant where you can enjoy the spectacular views. You have free seating at all meals. Breakfast and lunch are served buffet style, while dinner is a la carte. Meals, including daily snacks, are prepared by a professional chef. Coffee, tea and water are free during the entire cruise; other drinks can be purchased in the restaurant and at the bar. In the event you are not onboard at lunch time we will prepare a lunch bag for you in the morning, which you can take ashore. In the afternoon, we offer tea and coffee in the lounge. We also offer a midnight snack between 22:00 h and 24:00 h.

Library

Our board library offers a wide range of multilingual books ranging from fiction to travel literature. Curl up with a book, watch a DVD and broaden your understanding of the region's history, flora, fauna, climate, scientific contributions and more.

Leisure Facilities

There is a gym, swimming pool, jacuzzi and sauna onboard the ship.

Panorama Lounge & Observation Deck

The lounge has large windows, comfortable seating and even binoculars to create the ideal lookout to enjoy the ever-changing landscapes. The observation deck is also ideal for enjoying the scenery while relaxing in a deckchair.

Bar

The professionally staffed bar offers a selection of soft drinks, juices, wines, liquors, spirits and beer that can be charged to your shipboard account.

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

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 Atlantic 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

Tap water in the cabins is drinkable. Water supplies are filled up when the ship is in port. There is also the possibility of converting seawater into drinking water. 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.

Cabins

There are 8 categories of cabins onboard the Ocean Atlantic. All private cabins are stylish appointed and feature individual bathroom facilities, phone for internal calls, individual temperature controls and TV. Ideal for relaxation, the vessels' accommodation ranges in size from 11 - 35 m² and are designed with either portholes or windows.

Category A - Panorama Window Suite

Size 19-24 m². Featuring a double bed or two single beds, a relaxing sitting area, private bathroom and windows. Located on the Marco Polo Deck (Deck 5).

Category B - Panorama Window Suite

Size 20-23 m². Featuring a double bed or two single beds, a sofa bed that enables

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triple accommodation, a relaxing sitting area, private bathroom and windows. Partly obstructed view. Located on the Magellan and Hudson Deck (Deck 7 & 8).

Category C - Window Cabin

Size 12-13 m2 . This Standard Cabin has two single beds, private bathroom, and a window. Located on Marco Polo Deck (Deck 5).

Category D - Porthole Cabin

Size 11-12 m2 . Featuring two single beds, private bathroom, and a porthole. Located on the Columbus Deck (Deck 4).

Category E - Inside Cabin

Size 18-21 m2. Large Inside Cabin, featuring a double or two single beds, a relaxing sitting area, and a bathroom with a bathtub. Located on Marco Polo Deck (Deck 5).

Category F - Inside Triple Cabin

Size 18-21 m2. Large Inside Triple Cabin, featuring a double or two single beds, and a fold-out single bed, a relaxing sitting area, and a bathroom with a bathtub. Located on Marco Polo Deck (Deck 5).

Category G - Porthole Single Cabin

Size 9-10 m2. Cabins feature a single bed, private bathroom, and a porthole. Located on Columbus Deck (Deck 4).

Premium suite - Two Room Suite

Size 35 m2 . These 2-room suites are designed with a large double bed or two twin beds, an elegant living room, large private bathroom and windows. Located on the Marco Polo Deck (Deck 5).

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.

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 hatchlings 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.

What to pack

Expedition Clothing

- Rain jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Parka (Water-repellent hooded parka)
- Waterproof gloves or mittens
- Hat, scarf, or other face protection

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- 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 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.

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.

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

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.

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

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www.onthegotours.com
 UK 020 7371 1113 info@onthegotours.com
 AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
 NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038
 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

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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 Atlantic's fleet of 20 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 can 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 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.

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