

Antarctic Peninsula - In Shackleton's Footsteps | Sylvia Earle

Trip Code
ACAEIFS
Departure



Introduction

On this classic polar journey, which takes you from the calm ice of the deep south to the subantarctic wildlife paradise of South Georgia, follow in the footsteps of "the Boss." Discover the Antarctic Peninsula and land on the continent before heading north to the breathtaking Antarctic Sound, which serves as the Weddell Sea's entrance. Seize the opportunity to travel even farther east and make your way as far as you can into the Weddell Sea, the last destination of Shackleton's Endurance. From here, chart a route to Elephant Island, the barren isle where, after 497 days at sea, Shackleton and his men eventually touched down. Follow the James Caird's path across the Scotia Sea on the last part of your journey to South Georgia, the location of Shackleton's incredible journey's finale. Your knowledgeable expedition team will be by your side to provide insights, advice on identifying wildlife, and tales of Shackleton's incredible adventure as you retrace the stages of this historic voyage.

Itinerary

DAY 1: Arrive in Ushuaia

Arrive in Ushuaia, where you will be met by a representative and transferred with your fellow expeditioners to your assigned pre-voyage hotel. If you are already in Ushuaia, we ask you to make your way to your hotel. Check-in is from 3.00 pm. This afternoon, visit the hospitality desk in the hotel lobby, between 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm, to collect your luggage tags, and confirm if you wish to join our Lake Escondido pre-embarkation tour tomorrow. Our team will confirm details regarding your embarkation day, answer any questions and provide you with information on where to dine or purchase last minute items. Expeditioners arriving after 7.00 pm will find a welcome pack waiting for them at check-in. We ask you to visit our hospitality desk tomorrow between 8.00 am - 10.00 am. The remainder of your time is at leisure. All meals today are at your own expense.



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DAY 2: Embarkation

20 Days

Locations enjoy breakfast and check-out. Please ensure your cabin luggage is packed with cabin tags clearly labelled with your name and cabin number. Take your cabin luggage to hotel reception, prior to, or at check-out. Your luggage will be stored and transferred directly to the port for clearance, to be placed in your cabin ahead of your arrival on board. Please keep any valuables or personal items with you throughout the day. Your morning is at leisure to explore Ushuaia. Those wishing to join our afternoon catamaran cruise, meet back at the hotel lobby at 12.15 pm ready to transfer to the port at 12.30 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 3.00 pm, or 3.30 pm from the meeting point at the parking lot near the pier (details will be given by our ground staff at the hotel), 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.

Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia



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06/11/2027 Crossing the Drake Passage - Day 3

Duration

20 Days

Settle into your stateroom and make
yourself comfortable! The onboard gym,
wellbeing centre and well-equipped library
are yours to discover, and your expedition
team will offer a series of presentations on

Antarctica's history, wildlife and

environment to help enrich your experience.

You will also be invited to collect your Muck

Boots and attend important briefings on

biosecurity, wildlife-watching guidelines

and Zodiac safety, in preparation for your

first landing in Antarctica. On day four the

excitement is palpable as you near the

South Shetland Islands and the tip of the

Antarctic Peninsula, with everyone

converging on the observation decks to spot

their first iceberg. Now that you're south of

the Antarctic Convergence the ocean takes

on a whole new character, as you're

surrounded by porpoising penguins and

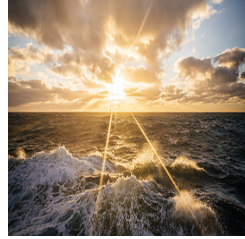
dramatic icebergs. The memory of your first

iceberg sighting is likely to remain with you

for a lifetime. Time and weather permitting,

we may attempt our first Antarctic landing

in the late afternoon.



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Departure

06/11/2027 Antarctic Peninsula - Day 5 to 7

Duration

It's almost impossible to describe the feeling of arriving in Antarctica. Spotting

20 Days

Locations

of some of the most fresh, crisp air on earth is an experience to cherish forever. Once we

Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia

arrive, the western side of the Antarctic

Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands

are ours to explore, and we have a host of

choices available to us. 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 weather, ice conditions and

wildlife opportunities. While on the

Peninsula, we generally make landings or

Zodiac excursions twice a day. Make sure

you rug up before joining Zodiac cruises

along spectacular ice cliffs or among

grounded icebergs, keeping watch for

whales, seals and porpoising penguins.

Zodiacs will also transport you from the ship

to land, where you can visit penguin

rookeries, discover historic huts and explore

some of our favourite spots along the

peninsula. While ashore we aim to stretch

our legs, wandering along pebbly beaches

or perhaps up snow-covered ridgelines to

vantage points with mountains towering

overhead and ice-speckled oceans below. If

you have chosen an optional activity, you

will have the option to do that whenever

conditions allow, and of course keen polar

plungers will have the chance to fully

immerse themselves in polar waters -

conditions permitting! In addition to Zodiac

cruises and shore excursions, we may ship

cruise some of the narrow, dramatic straits

separating offshore islands from the

mainland, or linger in scenic bays to marvel

at sculptural icebergs and photograph

spectacular scenery. This is a great time to

enjoy the observation lounge or make your

way to the bridge (open at the Captain's

discretion) for uninterrupted views of

Antarctica in all its splendour. Keep an ear

out for the creak and deep rumble of

glaciers as they carve into the sea. Take a

quiet moment to experience the wonder of

this incredible white continent.



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Duration

20 Days

Locations

Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia

The famed Weddell Sea is central to the story of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, which we are here to retrace. In the summer of 1914, Shackleton and his crew of 27 men sailed into the Weddell Sea to attempt the first overland crossing of Antarctica. As they approached their starting point, their ship the Endurance became trapped in sea ice, sinking any hopes they may have had of completing their objective. Little did they know, this was the beginning of a completely unexpected and remarkable journey. The incredible series of events that followed have made Shackleton's voyage one of the most celebrated in polar history. Remote and inaccessible, entry into the Weddell Sea is highly prized among polar adventurers. Your passage begins at the northernmost extreme of the Antarctic Peninsula, in the beautifully barren Antarctic Sound. In this seldom-visited part of the Peninsula volcanic peaks tower above penguin colonies, and wave-sculpted icebergs parade through the deep channels leading to the Weddell Sea. Continuing further east, embrace the expedition spirit as you forge your way as far as possible into the Weddell Sea. The Weddell Sea is renowned for its breathtaking tabular icebergs and expansive sea ice, which attracts an abundance of wildlife, including crabeater seals, Weddell seals and an array of seabirds. Take some time out on deck to observe the flight of storm petrels, prions and Antarctic cormorants drawn here by the rich blooms of Antarctic krill that flourish in the shelter of this ice-covered sea. As you travel, take a moment to reflect on the truly historic seas you're sailing. It wasn't so far from here that the wreck of the Endurance was discovered, mostly intact, on March 5, 2022. Researchers aboard the polar research vessel S.A. Agulhas II were astonished to find the well-preserved vessel only 6.4km (4 miles) south of the position calculated by Captain Worsley in 1915, when he last laid eyes on his ship.



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Departure

06/11/2027
Elephant Island

Duration

20 Days

Locations

Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia

Today we set a course for Elephant Island, the lonely outpost where 22 of Shackleton's men survived several winter months under the shelter of two upturned boats. In the morning, join your expedition team in the

lecture room to hear the awe-inspiring story of Shackleton and his men, who spent 9

months stuck in Weddell Sea pack ice and 6

months camping on drifting sea ice before

making a desperate escape from the sea ice

in three open boats. They spent almost a

week battling the wind, currents, swell and

treacherous ice to finally make landfall on

Elephant Island, a striking, ice-covered

extremity of the South Shetland Islands,

after 497 days at sea. We plan to sail past

Cape Valentine to see the beach where the

men first put ashore over 100 years ago,

then follow the coastline west to the

exposed promontory of Point Wild. This is

where Shackleton's 22 men survived several

bitter winter months under their upturned

boats, hoping for rescue. Weather

permitting, we will take a Zodiac cruise or

make a landing at historic Point Wild.



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Departure

06/11/2027 Scotia Sea - Day 10-11

Duration

After an exciting program of excursions and

activities in Antarctica, relax and enjoy the

Location of sea days as you sail towards

South Georgia. As you make your way

Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia

across the Scotia Sea you're following the

route taken by Shackleton and five of his

men when they sailed from Elephant Island

in search of rescue. In their open wooden

boat, the James Caird, they spent 17 days

sailing into the unknown across this

perilous patch of ocean. This boat journey,

which concluded with their safe arrival in

King Haakon Bay on the west coast of South

Georgia, remains one of the greatest stories

of maritime navigation and survival in polar

history. As you sail the onboard lecture

program continues, with a series of

entertaining presentations on South

Georgia's wildlife, geology and history in

the lecture room. Or you might prefer to

simply unwind: take a long lunch, catch up

on your gym sessions, or curl up with a book

from our polar library. The Scotia Sea is

known for its abundant wildlife including

fin, humpback and blue whales. Keep watch

for these gentle giants and elusive orca,

which patrol these waters. Venture out on

deck with your camera to capture cape

petrels and prions wheeling, and albatross

soaring gracefully amidst the swell. Of

course, thoughts of Shackleton and his

voyage are never far away. "Nearly always

there were gales. So small was our boat and

so great were the seas that often our sail

flapped idly in the calm between the crests

of two waves. Then we would climb the next

slope and catch the full fury of the gale

where the wool-like whiteness of the

breaking water surged around us." - Ernest

Shackleton



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Departure

06/11/2025 - 17/02/27 Georgia - Day 12 to 16

Duration

60 Days

As you near the rugged island of South Georgia, spare a thought for Captain James Cook. He 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. As you

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 and enjoying a little

shelter from the prevailing westerly winds.

This enchanting coastline is yours to

explore! Zodiac cruise around craggy coves

and along the rocky coastline in search of

penguins, seal haul-outs and bird cliffs.

Remember to keep an eye out for South

Georgia's kelp forests—these remarkable

underwater ecosystems are quite

mesmerising as their fronds sway back and

forth on the water's surface. Zodiacs will

also shuttle you from ship to shore, 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 visit the final resting place of Sir Ernest

Shackleton, whose incredible voyage of

survival is synonymous with this island. In

addition to Zodiac cruises and shore

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 to enjoy uninterrupted views of

South Georgia's majestic coast. For some

intrepid Shackleton fans, the optional hike

from Fortuna Bay to Stromness will be a

highlight. This route follows the final stage

of Shackleton, Worsely and Crean's

improbable traverse of South Georgia, from

their landing place in King Haakon Bay on

the east coast to Stromness in the west,

where they finally found safety after 24

harrowing months at sea. From Fortuna Bay

the trail rises to a spectacular alpine

plateau, before angling steeply down

towards the abandoned Stromness whaling

station. Conditions permitting, we aim to

repeat this final section of their traverse.

"Bright moonlight showed us that the

interior was tremendously broken,"

Shackleton wrote. "High peaks, impassable

cliffs, steep snow- slopes, and sharply

descending glaciers could be seen in all

directions."



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DAY 17: At Sea - Day 17 to 19

20 Days

Locations From South Georgia, you will be enthrallled by the ceaseless flight of the many seabirds that follow the vessel, skillfully using the air currents created by the ship to gain momentum. 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. As we sail on towards Ushuaia you may choose to spend your final precious moments at sea soaking up the views on deck, enjoying the onboard facilities, or attending final lectures. There is plenty of time to enjoy the magic of the Southern Ocean, have a drink with newfound friends and reflect on the voyage you've shared. On the final night, celebrate your unforgettable voyage with newfound friends at a special Captain's farewell dinner. We hope you will become ambassadors for the Antarctic region, telling your family, friends and colleagues about your journey to this magical place, and advocating for its conservation so that they might one day visit the region to experience what you have been lucky to see and do here.

Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia



DAY 20: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

Cruise up the Beagle Channel in the early morning, before quietly slipping into dock in Ushuaia, where you are free to disembark around 8.00 am. Farewell your expedition team and fellow passengers as you continue your onward journeys with a newfound sense of the immense power and beauty of nature. On disembarkation, passengers on flights departing prior to 2.00 pm will be transferred directly to Ushuaia Airport, while those fortunate enough to be continuing their travels in this spectacular region of the world, will be transferred to their post-voyage Ushuaia accommodation. Passengers flying after 2.00 pm will have time to explore Ushuaia, prior to an afternoon airport transfer, the details of which will be provided onboard prior to disembarkation. 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 there are delays.



Inclusions & Details

Accommodation

Hotel & Cabin onboard a ship

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 20 Days
 Locations
 Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia

INCLUSIONS

All airport transfers mentioned in the itinerary.
 One night's hotel accommodation including breakfast, in Ushuaia on Day 1.
 Half-day tour of Ushuaia on Day 2, prior to embarkation.
 Onboard accommodation during voyage, including daily cabin service.
 All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage.
 Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner.
 Captain's Farewell reception including four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages.
 All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises.
 Educational lectures and guiding services provided by Expedition Team.
 Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic (initial consultation).
 One 3-in-1 waterproof, polar expedition jacket.
 Complimentary use of Muck Boots during the voyage.
 Comprehensive pre-departure information.
 Port surcharges, permits and landing fees.

Inclusions

EXCLUSIONS

International or domestic flights, unless specified
 Transfers not mentioned in the itinerary
 Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)
 Airport arrival or departure taxes
 Vaccination charges
 Travel insurance
 Hotels and meals not included in itinerary
 Optional excursions not included in the itinerary
 Optional activity surcharges
 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.
 Gratuities for ship's crew - *(A \$15 USD per person per day gratuity for the crew is automatically added to your onboard account. It is at your discretion if you would like to remove the tip (or adjust the amount) when you settle your bill. It is not necessary to tip the expedition team members. This gratuity amount is included for suites as part of their 'Suite Benefits'.)*

Difficulty Rating
 Single Surcharge

2 (light adventure)
 Subject to availability upon request. Contact us for more details.

Notes

Prices are based on per person, may be based on quad/triple/twin share.
 Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.
 Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.

Price Dependent upon

Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

Sustainability