



Introduction

On an exploratory trip, discover one of the most isolated and historically significant regions of the Southern Ocean in comfort. Subantarctic islands, where Royal Albatrosses nest amidst moors covered with giant herbs and yellow-eyed penguins stroll through aged rāŕtÄŕ woods, your adventure begins. See emperor and Adelie penguins porpoising along the ice edge, orcas patrolling for prey, and snow petrels flying against a backdrop of the huge Antarctic Ice Sheet as you cross the Antarctic Circle and cruise the pack.

As you go along the Victoria Land Coast and enter the Ross Sea, where the Antarctic Ice Sheet meets the longest floating ice shelf in the world, embrace the spirit of adventure. These are the historic waters where the valiant assaults on the South Geographic Pole were made by the explorers of the Heroic Age. Discover the tales of their adventures and make an attempt to set foot at a few of their incredibly pristine huts.

Itinerary

Antarctica Cruises from Australia and New Zealand - Ross Sea Odyssey From Hobart | Greg Mortimer

Trip Code

ACAERSGM

Departure

14/12/2026 Ross Sea Odyssey - Day 1

Duration

26 Days

Locations

Australia, New Zealand, Subantarctic Islands & Antarctica

Arrive in Hobart, where you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and transferred with your fellow expeditioners to your assigned pre-voyage hotel. If you are travelling from overseas, please make your way to your hotel. This afternoon, visit the Aurora Expeditions hospitality desk in the lobby to collect your luggage tags. Please clearly label the tags with your name and ship cabin number. 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. Enjoy your evening in Australia's southernmost capital city. You may like to indulge in a sumptuous meal at one of Hobart's celebrated restaurants, or perhaps enjoy a leisurely stroll along the historic waterfront. Assigned accommodation: To be advised



DAY 2: Embarkation: Hobart

This morning, enjoy breakfast and check-out. Please ensure your cabin luggage is fitted with cabin tags clearly labelled with your name and cabin number. By 11.00 am, 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 Hobart. Settle into your beautifully appointed cabin and discover the many public spaces designed with your comfort in mind. This luxurious vessel is yours to explore! As we throw the lines and set sail down the Derwent River, join your expedition team on deck to enjoy panoramic views of the Hobart foreshore, and the dramatic fluted columns of the Tasman Peninsula. From Storm Bay we set a southerly course, following in the wake of the vessel Aurora, which carried Sir Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) 100 years ago.



Antarctica Cruises from Australia and New Zealand - Ross Sea Odyssey From Hobart | Greg Mortimer

Trip Code

ACAERSGM

Departure

14/12/2026 - Days 3 - 5

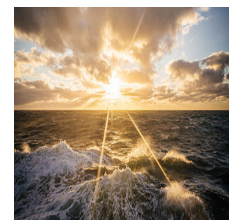
Duration

26 Days

Locations

Australia, New Zealand, Subantarctic Islands & Antarctica

On an expedition such as this, the journey is as big an attraction as the destination. Sea days are a wonderful opportunity to relax, meet your fellow travellers and learn about the world from the experts. As you acclimatise to life on board, your expedition team is available to answer any questions you may have and offer pro-tips on photography and birdwatching. With decades of collective experience in the region, they love to share their expertise and enthusiasm with fellow travellers. Specialists across a range of fields will offer entertaining talks and presentations on the local wildlife and history, which you won't want to miss! Once you've settled in, you may like to pamper yourself with a sauna, or work out at the onboard gym. For the bookworms, our well-equipped polar library is the perfect place to while away the hours at sea, and the bar is a vibrant social hub to get to know your fellow expeditioners. As you take in the vast expanse of the Southern Ocean, spare a thought for Mawson and his party, who made this transit aboard the Aurora, a wooden vessel no longer than an Olympic swimming pool! Mawson reported sightings of many whales and albatross in these waters, so spend some time out on deck with your binoculars - or grab a 'cuppa' and find a vantage point in one of our spacious observation lounges.



Antarctica Cruises from Australia and New Zealand - Ross Sea Odyssey From Hobart | Greg Mortimer

Trip Code

ACAERSGM

Departure

14/12/2026 Macquarie Island - Day 6 & 7

Duration

26 Days

Locations

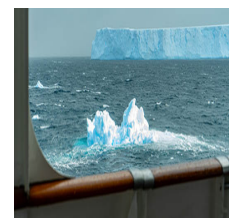
Australia, New Zealand, Subantarctic Islands & Antarctica

Penguins were in thousands on the islands, and from rookeries near and far came an incessant din . . . seabirds of many varieties gave warning of our near approach. As they sailed towards Antarctica, Mawson and his men encountered 'an exquisite scene'. Macquarie Island (known affectionately as Macca) rises steeply from the Southern Ocean in a series of emerald summits: a beautifully fierce, elemental landscape teeming with life. Keep your binoculars handy because this subantarctic refuge is home to 3.5 million breeding seabirds, including no less than four species of penguin! Alongside boisterous colonies of tuxedoed kings, charming gentoos, robust rockhoppers and endemic royal penguins, you'll find three types of fur seals and a large proportion of the world's elephant seals. Layer up and head out on deck to experience the sound, sight (and smell!) as you approach one of the largest concentrations of life in the Southern Ocean. Remember to keep an eye out for Macca's kelp forests—these remarkable underwater ecosystems are quite mesmerising as their fronds sway back and forth on the water's surface. In addition to being a globally recognised and protected wildlife refuge, Macquarie Island played an important role in Antarctic history. It was here, in 1911, that five men disembarked Mawson's Aurora and established a radio relay station which would transmit the first communication from Antarctica to the outside world.



DAY 8: At Sea - Day 8-10

As Macquarie Island slips over the horizon, keep watch for wandering, grey-headed, black-browed and light-mantled albatross, which may follow the ship to bid you farewell as you continue south. Close observers may notice a subtle change in the character of the sea as you cross the Antarctic Convergence. Beyond this zone where the waters of the north and south mix, the sea surface temperature drops by about 4°C (39°F), signalling your entry into the Antarctic. This transition zone is known for its nutrient waters, so keep watch for porpoising penguins, flocks of fluttering Antarctic petrels, or perhaps the more solitary snow petrel. You're not far from the Antarctic Circle, so your first iceberg can't be far away! Sea days are a great opportunity for some R & R as you digest your subantarctic experiences and prepare for the next phase of your voyage. Relax and unwind your way, perhaps meeting newfound friends at the bar, treating yourself to a sauna, or editing some images in the comfort of your cabin. And join your expedition team in the lecture room for presentations on the charismatic wildlife and extraordinary adventures that took place along the epic Antarctic coastline you are about to experience.



Antarctica Cruises from Australia and New Zealand - Ross Sea Odyssey From Hobart | Greg Mortimer

Trip Code

ACAERSGM

Departure

14/12/2026

DAY 11: Victoria Land Coast & Ross Sea -

Duration

Days 11-17

26 Days

It's almost impossible to describe the

feeling of arriving in this storied, ice-bound

continent, where the Ross Sea represents

a globally significant wildlife sanctuary. Its

nutrient-rich waters support an astonishing

array of uniquely adapted Antarctic species,

including Ross Sea orcas, Antarctic petrels

and South Pacific Weddell seals. It is also

home to Antarctica's largest Adélie penguin

colony, and many of the largest emperor

penguin colonies. Since James Clark Ross

discovered the region in 1841, countless

expeditions have built base camps on

scattered ice-free slivers of land, using them

as staging posts for bold forays across the

polar plateau. Many of them departed in a

hurry, leaving artefacts, scientific

equipment and sometimes entire huts

behind. Today these sites are preserved as

open-air museums and protected under the

Antarctic Treaty System. Some places we

may visit include: Ross Ice Shelf This is the

floating edge of the largest ice shelf in

Antarctica, which covers an area the size of

France. Watch for elegant emperor

penguins, sweet-faced Weddell seals hauled

out on ice floes, and the unmistakable 'pouf'

of an orca's exhalation. Franklin Island This

delightful ice-free outpost with a rookery of

rambunctious Adélie penguins is well worth

a visit. McMurdo Sound McMurdo Sound is

the historic gateway to the South Pole and

remains a busy working harbour today,

servicing as a logistics hub for the extensive

scientific operations taking place at the

McMurdo and Scott Research bases on Ross

Island. If conditions allow, we aim to land at

one (or more) of their beautifully preserved

huts, many of which still stand, to dwell for

a moment amongst the artefacts of a distant

time. Cape Washington, Terra Nova Bay

Bounded by soaring peaks and fed by

immense glaciers, Terra Nova Bay supports

an abundance of polar wildlife, including

the rarely sighted Arnoux's Beaked Whale.

Fast ice anchored to the bay's northern

shore in the shelter of Cape Washington is

home to one of the largest known emperor

penguin colonies. Cape Hallett The snow-

capped Admiralty Mountains rise

dramatically from the gravelly spit of Cape

Hallett, where we hope to land. This is the

site of a decommissioned scientific base and

an abundance of Antarctic mosses, lichens

and invertebrates, protected by the

Antarctic Treaty System. Cape Hallett

provided access to the glaciated coastal

ranges beyond, where the six-man team

completed the first ascent of Mt Minto

(4,165 metres). Cape Adare Cape Adare lies

100 km (62 miles) north of Cape Hallett, at

the western entrance to the Ross Sea. A

rare ice-free refuge on this icebound

coastline, it is home to Antarctica's largest

Adélie penguin colony.



Antarctica Cruises from Australia and New Zealand - Ross Sea Odyssey From Hobart | Greg Mortimer

Trip Code

ACAERSGM

Departure

14/12/2026 Days 18-21

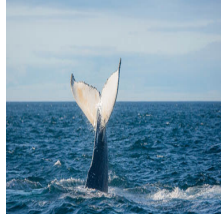
Duration

26 Days

Locations

Australia, New Zealand, Subantarctic Islands & Antarctica

We leave the grandeur of the ice to the islands, penguins and head northwards, but our voyage is far from over. In the days ahead there is plenty of time to enjoy the that calls it home. If the mood takes you, join your expedition team in the lecture room for presentations and polar film showings, or meet your new travel mates in the bar, library or observation deck to reminisce on your Antarctic experiences. These days at sea also offer time and space to reflect on the emotions and special moments you've lived over the past two weeks. You may like to review your photos, jot some notes in a journal, mark your passage on a map, and reflect on your journey so far. As you approach the rugged New Zealand subantarctic islands you have a rare opportunity to spot the endemic white-capped mollymawk (a type of albatross) in flight. The largest of the mollymawk family, over ninety percent of its population breeds on the Auckland Islands. Keep an eye out also for the playful New Zealand sea lion and southern right whale, which are known to frolic in these waters.



Antarctica Cruises from Australia and New Zealand - Ross Sea Odyssey From Hobart | Greg Mortimer

Trip Code

ACAERSGM

Departure

14/12/2026
New Zealand's Sub Antarctic
Islands - Days 22-24

Duration

26 Days
Established by Māori navigators centuries ago, these islands are of great significance to Ngāi Tahu, the indigenous peoples of New Zealand's South Island.

Locations
Australia, New Zealand, Subantarctic Islands & Antarctica

The beauty and astonishing biodiversity have now been recognised globally, but few have had the privilege to visit these far-flung shores, which are now yours to explore.

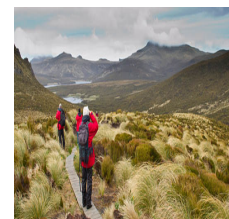
Auckland Islands (Maungahuka / Motu Maha) Born of fire, scoured by ancient glaciers and shaped by the fierce hand of the Southern Ocean, there is an exquisite ruggedness to this group of weather-worn islands. This apparent bleakness belies the extraordinary abundance of life that thrives here. Roughly half of the world's yellow-eyed penguins (hoiho), most of the world's white-capped mollymawks, and the entire population of Auckland Islands wandering albatross find shelter on these shores.

Embrace the spirit of exploration as your expedition team designs your voyage from day to day, bringing decades of experience to selecting ideal sites based on the prevailing conditions and wildlife opportunities. Some places we may visit include: Sandy Bay Sandy Bay is home to a breeding colony of rare New Zealand (Hooker's) sea lions and an enchanting rātā forest where yellow-eyed penguins (hoiho) make their nests. Carnley Harbour,

Erlangen Clearing Carnley Harbour offers superb Zodiac cruising through a landscape rich in human history. In 1864, five men became stranded here after their schooner, the Grafton, was wrecked, putting a sudden end to their sealing and tin prospecting ambitions. We hope to see the skeletal remnants of the Grafton, and the moss-covered remains of the Epigwaitt Hut, where they sheltered for 20 months.

Victoria Passage Victoria Passage is a lively channel separating Auckland Island from the mountainous Adams Island to the south.

We may Zodiac cruise these scenic waters, watching for sooty shearwaters, penguins and sea-lions frolicking in the pure waters. Campbell Island (Motu Ihupuku) Wind and weather permitting, we will Zodiac cruise sheltered harbours and coves in search of Campbell Island snipes and teals, yellow-eyed penguins (hoiho), and New Zealand (Hooker's) sea lions (whakahao). We hope to land at Beeman Cove, Perseverance Harbour, where an old meteorological station stands vigil on the windswept shoreline. Follow a boardwalk through tussock and upland tundra, then enter an otherworldly landscape where large-leaved megaherbs abound. Wonder at the Ross Lily, Campbell Island Daisy and Campbell Island carrot, whose brilliant flowers would look more at home in the tropics than these southern climes. Continue towards the nesting grounds of majestic southern royal albatross, whose wingspans can exceed three metres (10 feet). It is truly humbling to be in the presence of these great wanderers of the southern seas. Find a spot to quietly observe these marvellous birds as they go about their daily duties, undisturbed by their human visitors.



Antarctica Cruises from Australia and New Zealand - Ross Sea Odyssey From Hobart | Greg Mortimer

Trip Code

ACAERSGM

Departure

14/12/2026

Duration

DAY 25: At Sea

26 Days

As your journey draws to a close, take some

time to reflect on the experiences of the

past days. In the ship's log and, to

organise your photos, jot some more notes

in your journal or simply relax and soak up

the ambiance on board as you farewell your

travel mates . . . until next time! We hope

you become ambassadors for the great

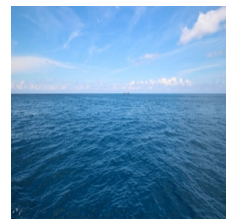
Southern Ocean, advocating for its

conservation and preservation, and share

your experiences with your loved ones, so

they might visit and become ambassadors

themselves.



DAY 26: Disembark Dunedin

After breakfast, farewell your expedition

team and fellow passengers as we all

continue our onward journeys, hopefully

with a newfound sense of the immense

power of nature. Note: At the conclusion of

the voyage, we do not recommend booking

flights departing prior to 12.00 pm on the

day of disembarkation in case there are

delays.



Inclusions & Details

Accommodation

Hotel & Cabin onboard a ship

Antarctica Cruises from Australia and New Zealand - Ross Sea Odyssey From Hobart | Greg Mortimer

Trip Code
ACAERSGM

Departure
14/12/2026

Duration
26 Days

Locations
Australia, New Zealand, Subantarctic Islands & Antarctica

Inclusions

All airport transfers mentioned in the itinerary
One night's hotel accommodation including breakfast, in Hobart on Day 1
Cabin accommodation on board Greg Mortimer
All meals whilst on board ship and breakfast in the hotel
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 scheduled landings & excursions
Guiding and lectures by English-speaking expedition leader and team
All port fees
All landing fees
Expedition jacket provided (yours to keep)
A pair of expedition boots for use during voyage
Wi-Fi (Please note we travel to remote regions and therefore the connection can be unreliable)

Inclusions

Exclusions

Airfares to and from embarkation/disembarkation city
Transfers - unless specified in the itinerary
Visa fees (if applicable)
Travel insurance
Beverages (other than tea and coffee)
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 or phone charges.
Gratuities for the crew
Pre or post cruise travel expenses
Optional activities & excursion surcharges
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

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request. Single occupancy cabins may be available with a surcharge. Subject to availability, contact us for more details.

Notes

Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated for triple/quad cabins)
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