



Antarctic Explorers



AKADEMIK IOFFE

Antarctic Explorer - Discovering the Peninsula

Multiple departures and a choice of ships: 11 or 12-day vacations for travelers seeking highlights of the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands. Choose from optional adventure activities - sea-kayaking, camping, cross-country skiing and mountaineering. During the Antarctic adventure cruises presentations about wildlife, ice and the history of the seventh continent are made by our experienced Expedition Team.

Expedition Summary

- Day 1 Ushuaia
- Day 2 Embarkation Day
- Day 3-4 The Drake Passage
- Day 5-8 Antarctica & South Shetland Islands
- Day 9-10 The Drake Passage
- Day 11 Disembarkation in Ushuaia



ITINERARY

11 or 12-day active cruising with shore landings in the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands. The vacation itinerary can include kayaking, camping, cross-country skiing or mountaineering. Small ships make the experience intimate and efficient! Local conditions make every cruise itinerary unique.

Day 1 - Ushuaia, Argentina

This expedition to Antarctica begins with a night in a hotel in Ushuaia, Argentina.



Day 2 - Embarkation Day

After embarkation, you cruise down the Beagle Channel. From the deck, birders can add albatross, penguins and petrels to their life list. Later in the evening everyone should be on deck to watch the sure-footed Channel pilot clamber down to the boat sent to collect him.

Day 3-4 - Crossing the Drake Passage

Prepare for rough water, but do not be disappointed if your crossing of the Drake Passage is smooth sailing. The world's roughest stretch of water is continually changes.



Day 5-8 - South Shetland Islands & the Peninsula

Many factors play a role in shaping the expedition's itinerary – weather, ice and the presence of wildlife. Perhaps, you'll feel salt spray on your face as the Zodiac weaves in and around grounded icebergs in Pleneau Bay. Scramble to the top of a craggy hill for an unforgettable view of a splendid chasm near Port Lockroy. Sit quietly on a pebbled beach to wait for a curious penguin chick to approach. Or take a plunge into the icy waters of Neko Harbour.



During this cruise itinerary, explore the highlights of the Peninsula with travelers who enjoy kayaking, camping, cross-country skiing, and mountaineering.

The natural cycle of life ensures that every expedition is different. And that every expedition itinerary is full of surprises! In Antarctica, silence is so complete that interruptions become indelible memories; noisy penguins squabbling over prized pebbles, the boom and crack of a calving glacier. For some, there is the sound of breathing: Arms pump and legs power you up an incline on cross-country skis.



As you sail from island to shore to bay, the Expedition Team makes time for contemplation, tests your endurance and engages your curiosity.

Day 9-10 - The Drake Passage

Return to Ushuaia across the Drake Passage.

Day 11 - Disembarkation in Ushuaia

After breakfast aboard, we transfer the group to the airport for homeward flights.

[Please note that on 12-day expeditions, your cruise itinerary includes an extra day in the Antarctic Peninsula.]



AKADEMIK IOFFE

Finnish-built for the Russian Academy of Science, Akademik Ioffe was designed to travel quietly, during hydro-acoustic research. The vessel carries a maximum of 107 guests in a variety of cabin configurations.

- Platform for optional kayaking & camping.
- Only 107 guests.
- Fleet of Zodiacs.
- Exceptionally stable.
- Fully enclosed lifeboats.
- Choice of shared, semi-private and private facilities.
- Sails in the Arctic and Antarctica.
- Ice-strengthened hull

This Polar Adventure Ship is exceptionally manoeuvrable and quick. External stabilizers and a built-in trimming system provide exceptional stability. Akademik Ioffe, sister ship to Akademik Sergey Vavilov, has an ice-strengthened hull and a cruising speed in open water of 14.5 knots

Ship Specification

Staff & Crew: 53
Guests 107
Lifeboats 2 fully enclosed
Length 117 m
Breadth 18.03 m
Draft 6.11 m
Propulsion Diesel - 7,000 horsepower
Ice Class L1
Cruising Speed 14.5 knots in open water
Registered Russia

Cabins and amenities

- All cabins have exterior views
- Cabins have either shared, semi-private or private facilities (See deck plan)
- One dining room with unreserved seating.
- Theater-style presentation room.
- Lounge and bar, open afternoon and evening.
- Library with a collection of polar-themed books.
- Ship-to-shore communications via satellite.
- Clinic with licensed doctor.
- Gym, sauna and swimming pool.
- One elevator between decks 1 and 5.

Triple (shared facilities): 1 upper and 1 lower berth, sofa bed, washbasin in the cabin writing desk, porthole

Twin (shared facilities): 1 upper and 1 lower berth, washbasin in cabin, writing desk, porthole

Twin (semi-private facilities): 1 lower berth, 1 sofa bed, writing desk, window

Twin Private Facilities: 1 sofa bed, 1 lower berth, writing desk, window

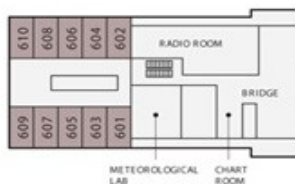
Superior: 2 lower berths, writing desk, window

Suite: 1 double berth in a separate sleeping area, windows, 1 sofa bed, private facilities, TV/DVD

Cook Suite: 1 double berth in a separate sleeping area, 1 sofa bed, private facilities with bathtub, desk/chair

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- TRIPLE (SHARED FACILITIES)
- TWIN (SHARED FACILITIES)
- TWIN (SEMI-PRIVATE FACILITIES)
- TWIN (PRIVATE FACILITIES)
- SUPERIOR
- SUITE
- COOK SUITE



DECK 6



DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3

Inclusions for Antarctic Icebreaker Adventures 2010-2011:

- One night pre-expedition hotel accommodation with breakfast, as indicated in the itinerary. (The number of guests per room is the same as cabin occupancy on the ship. Due to limited availability, travelers who reserve a suite on board are accommodated in standard rooms at the hotel.)
- All helicopter transfers and aerial sightseeing according to each day's program.
- Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping.
- All breakfasts, lunches and dinners on board throughout your voyage. (Please inform us of any dietary requirements as far in advance as possible. Unfortunately, the ships' galleys cannot prepare kosher meals.)
- All shore landings per the daily program.
- Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Leader, including shore landings and other activities.
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising per the daily program.
- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and guest speakers as scheduled.
- Photographic Album on DVD, documenting the voyage.
- A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for shore landings.
- A Quark Expeditions parka – yours to keep.
- Coffee, tea, cocoa available around the clock.
- Hair dryer and bathrobe in every cabin.
- Comprehensive pre-departure materials, including a map and an informative Antarctic Reader.
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program.
- All luggage handling aboard ship.
- Emergency Evacuation Insurance for all passengers to a maximum benefit of \$100,000 per person.

FAQ

If I book this expedition, what additional major expenses will I incur?

1. Transportation to Santiago, Chile and from Lyttelton, New Zealand is not included in the cost of the expedition. The charter flight from Santiago to Stanley, Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) is available at an additional cost.
2. Wearing the right clothes is essential. Mean coastal temperatures are seldom far below freezing. However sunny conditions may swiftly shift to storms with very cold winds and snow flurries. A complimentary parka is provided and we loan you a pair of boots for the duration of the expedition. Once you have booked, we will provide you with a complete list of what to pack.
3. Of course gratuities are always at your discretion, but we recommend \$10-15 per person day if you were pleased with the service level on board. This will be anonymously collected at the end of the voyage and distributed amongst staff and crew. You can make this payment in cash or charge to your shipboard account.

What is the average age and nationalities of travelers on this expedition?

Icebreaker travelers range in age from 45 to 80 - with the majority between 55 and 75. Most members of Icebreaker Expeditions are sophisticated, independent-minded travelers from around the world.

Must I understand English to participate?

Our voyages appeal to an international audience. About 40% of the travelers who join our voyages come from countries where English is not the first language. English is the language used for all documents, communications, shipboard announcements and education program presentations. While most of our travelers have a working knowledge of English, their level of proficiency with the language varies greatly. If you have questions on how your knowledge of English may impact your experience, please contact our office and one of our Sales Representatives will be happy to discuss this with you.

Do I have to be fit to join one of these expeditions?

Travelers must be able to make their way down a steep, narrow gangway, on the side of the ship to the Zodiac for shore landings. You should be able to walk steadily about the ship, keeping one hand free for the railing, and be able to negotiate through a heavy steel sea door. This expedition is not appropriate for people with restricted mobility as none of our ships offer handicap facilities. Shore landings usually offer a choice of a shorter hike and longer hikes. Of course, if you wish to remain back at the landing site with some of the staff, you are welcome!

May my children accompany me on the expedition?

On this expedition we welcome children that are at least 12 years of age. All children must be accompanied by at least one adult willing to supervise them at all times. Note that the shipboard education programs are designed for adults.

How long will it be light during my trip?

The time of year you travel to Antarctica will determine the amount of daylight. October, November are typically the month where the night falls around 9 or 10pm with sunrise in the early morning. This is the beginning of the Summer Season. Peak daylight is Mid December through early February with nearly 24 hours of sunlight, depending on how far south your voyage travels.

What about seasickness?

In general, the roughest seas encountered are during the open ocean crossings to and from Ushuaia through the Drake Passage; it takes roughly 2 and one half days to get to/from the peninsula and 2 days to/from the Falkland Islands. Everyone reacts differently to the seas, so our Medical Director suggests you consult your physician for a recommendation for your specific circumstances.

Do your ships have stabilizers?

Yes, all our ships have stabilizers.

What is the food like on your ships?

Our passengers rave about the food and the food service offered on our ships. We have standardized our Catering operations on all our ships, so regardless of which ship you travel on, you will receive the same variety of food and excellent service. We offer breakfast, lunch and dinner, and can accommodate most dietary requests and

restrictions provided you notify us at time of booking. Afternoon tea with desserts is served each afternoon, and coffee/tea/water service is available in the lounge areas around the clock.

BOOK AIR TRANSPORTATION AT THE SAME TIME AS YOUR EXPEDITION.

Q: What are the benefits of reserving my air arrangements through Quark Expeditions?

A: When you reserve your cruise with Quark Expeditions we can also handle your air arrangements. Our air arrangements offer a seamless, worry-free way to get from your home airport to the cruise ship and back again. You will be speaking with individuals who have been to the airports you will be traveling through, and know and understand the unique logistics of the departure city. Arrangements include round-trip air transportation to and from the port of departure and arrival.

Air arrangements via Quark will also allow you to choose a preferred airline, specific times and/or premium-class seats.

Q: What do air arrangements include?

A: Air arrangements include round-trip air transportation to and from the port of departure and arrival, all airlines taxes and fees.

Q: When do I receive my airline flight schedules?

A: Air reservations receive immediate confirmation of the itinerary.

Q: Can I get airline seat assignments through Quark Expeditions?

A: We will attempt to secure seat assignments (Based on availability as the airlines have ultimate control over all seat selection).

Q: Can I use frequent flyer miles to upgrade my seat?

A: Some of our air carrier contracts restrict you from using any additional incentives, coupons or discounts. However, most carriers allow guests to accrue frequent traveler miles. Please provide your Frequent Flyer information at the time of booking and you will be advised if your purchase qualifies for frequent flyer points.

Q: Can I get one-way air transportation?

A: Yes, our Air Department can assist you with your request. Additional costs may apply. Round trip air add-on will apply.

Q: How does Quark Expeditions notify guests/travel agents of schedule changes?

A: Quark Expeditions will attempt to notify guests/travel agents of schedule changes. However it is the guest's and travel agent's responsibility to reconfirm flights prior to departure. Once tickets have been issued it is the airlines responsibility to protect schedule changes resulting in missed connecting flights.

Q: What if I'm trying to travel with a group?

A: We love groups. Guests from the same departure city that are booked at the same time will be placed on the same flights. We cannot guarantee all other guests from departure cities other than your own will be on the exact same flights. Additional air costs may apply.