



# WEDDELL SEA EXPLORER



**MV MARINA SVETAEVA**

**2011**

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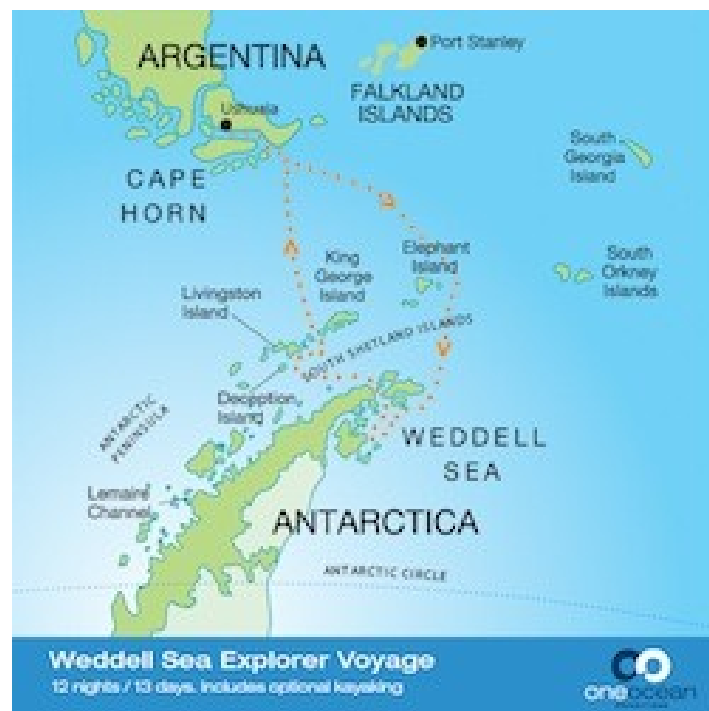
Sailing in comfort aboard the comfortable and well-appointed M/V Marina Svetaeva, we begin this 12-night expedition at the tip of South America in Ushuaia, Argentina. We chart a course through the Drake Passage on our way to the Weddell Sea, that ice-choked sea made famous by the saga of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his men from the Endurance expedition. Images of massive tabular icebergs, ice-choked waters and human hardship come to mind when contemplating the Weddell Sea, all sights that we hope to see and experience over the course of our 13 days onboard the expedition cruise vessel.

We will make our first landfall in the South Shetland Islands, perhaps visiting the abandoned whaling station at Deception Island or the chinstrap penguin rookery at Half Moon Island. We will most likely attempt a landing at Point Wild on Elephant Island before testing the limits of the ice in the Weddell Sea.

We will push for Paulet Island, one of the Peninsula's largest penguin rookeries before heading south to Snow Hill Island, base for the Heroic Age Nordenskjold expedition and Seymour Island, where scientists are still finding fossils of giant penguins. We'll head south among the islands of the western shore of the Weddell Sea, in search of stragglers from an emperor penguin colony, as we virtually back-track along the route the 'Endurance' drifted.

Our departure from the Weddell Sea will take us back across the Antarctic Convergence and round Cape Horn before we leave the ship in Ushuaia.

*As with all our One Ocean Expeditions voyages, safety is our top priority. For that reason weather, ice or other conditions may require us to change our itinerary and shore excursions as we go but that is half the fun of Polar exploration. Predictability is a word that has no relevance in this environment.*



## **Itinerary**

### **24 February 2011 Ushuaia**

Today we will make time to view this small city at the base of a stunning mountain range. Jagged mountains tower above the harbour as civilization clings to the shoreline. We will board the M/V Marina Svetaeva in the late afternoon and as we "throw the lines" and leave the dock, our adventure will begin.

From the first moment, we will encourage you to be outside on the excellent viewing decks of the ship, watching for the soaring black-browed albatross or perhaps over the side of the ship for the porpoising magellanic penguins. We will bear eastwards down the Beagle Channel, heading for the rolling swell of the Drake Passage and an adventure of a lifetime.

### **25 – 26 February 2011 Drake Passage**

We will awake to the 'hopefully' gentle motion of the ship, rolling in the swells of the Drake Passage. This famed passage is known for the challenging weather conditions that it posed to the famous square-rigged ships of the sailing era.

The excitement on the ship is palpable as the miles drift by. New friends will be made and stories will be told as the days pass. Onboard entertainment in the form of educational presentations about the Southern Ocean, Antarctic wildlife, glaciers, ice and exploration history will be punctuated by sumptuous meals and the announcements from our staff as a new species of bird is spotted. Who can resist the lure of the great wandering albatross, that bird that soared to fame in the lines of "The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner"? Perhaps a whale spout on the horizon will have us rushing to the rail. Whatever it is, keep your ears peeled and a warm jacket nearby so that you too can rush to the outer decks for a view.

### **27 February 2011 South Shetland Islands**

A chain of islands located north and on the 'weather' side of the Antarctic Peninsula, the South Shetland Islands are known for their more maritime climate and an abundance of wildlife. We will cruise these volcanic islands in search of chinstrap penguin rookeries, perhaps the wafting 'steam' of a Southern Elephant seal wallow or perhaps the signs of exploration left on the beaches in the form of tri-pots and abandoned whaling stations.

We will hope to visit Deception Island, with a goal of visiting the chinstrap penguin rookery at Baily Head. If weather precludes this, we will attempt a landing inside this active volcanic caldera.

### **28 February 2011 Antarctic Sound**

At about 25 nautical miles long and about 10 nautical miles wide, the Antarctic Sound separates Joinville Island from the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. As we sail into the sound, we will look to our starboard and the vastness of the Antarctic icecap, imagining the sweeping katabatic (gravity-driven) winds that this region is famous for.

### **01 – 05 March 2011 Weddell Sea**

The only difference discernable as we sail into the Weddell Sea will be an increase in the number of big tabular icebergs and the presence of sea ice. Our goal will be to

explore the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula and its offshore islands. In particular, this region is home to Adelie penguin rookeries of astonishing size. We will maximize our time onshore as well as in our inflatable landing craft, absorbing as much of the wilderness and beauty as possible in every breath we take. Planned excursions may include Paulet Island, Brown Bluff and even the southerly Snow Hill Island, where we will observe Weddell and elephant seals, skuas and other seabirds as well as a shocking abundance of penguins.

One of our excursions will be planned with the aim of landing on the physical continent of Antarctica itself and not just on an offshore island. There are a few landing spots that will fall into this category and as we visit them, some of us may pause to consider the bravery and/or foolhardiness of those who traveled a hundred years before us. To gain a better appreciation of those explorers, some of us may choose to camp ashore overnight. Whatever your vantage point, whether onboard or from shore, expect to feel transformed as you experience twilight from the very bottom of the planet.

### **06 – 07 March 2011 Drake Passage**

We make our way north, heading again across the Antarctic Convergence and the Drake Passage before rounding Cape Horn from west to east. We will approach the Beagle Channel and sail westwards up it toward the port and town of Ushuaia. We will encourage the captain to join us in the dining room as we celebrate the conclusion of our Polar expedition at a farewell dinner.

### **08 March 2011 Ushuaia**

The mood will change as we awake this morning and plan our departure from the ship and the trans-continental or trans-ocean travel that will take us back to our homes and families. Returning home, we will find it easy to slip mentally back onto the decks of a ship rolling to the tempo of the Southern Ocean as we recount stories of our adventures to friends and families. This is truly an adventure to last a lifetime!

## **MV Marina Svetaeva**

### **Ship Specifications and Cabin Descriptions**

Registered name:	M/V Marina Svetaeva
Built:	1989, Poland
Refurbished	2004/05
GRT	4595
Length:	92 m
Breadth:	17.6 m
Draft:	5.8 m
Power:	5300 Hp diesel
Maximum speed:	14.5 knots
Crew and staff:	59
Passengers:	89
Ice Class	100 1A Super

Designed specifically for polar exploration, the *M/V Marina Svetaeva* is a modern, comfortable, safe, ice-strengthened vessel. She can comfortably accommodate up to

100 passengers although we will carry a maximum of just 89 passengers on our voyages.

From small group sessions to briefings for all passengers, we have public spaces onboard the ship ideally suited for each and every need. A separate bar and lounge, as well as a library provide ideal places to sit and relax or catch up on some reading. A selection of movies and documentaries can also be watched in the lounge.

Enjoy the sumptuous meals prepared for you by our culinary team in our dining room, keep active in our wellness centre, or join us up top in our adventurers lounge for fantastic polar views as you enjoy an evening cocktail.

Other facilities include the presentation room, gift shop, fitness room, sauna and plunge pool.

### **Comfort and Stability**

Designed and built as a scientific polar exploration vessel in Poland in 1989 and with an extensive refurbishment in 2004/5, *M/V Marina Svetaeva* is very stable, quiet and comfortable. Refitting and refurbishment over the last five years oriented towards her role as an expedition cruise vessel has improved the comfort and calibre of the facilities aboard the ship.

There is little if any ambient noise from engines or machinery and, with most of the public spaces on a separate deck from the majority of the cabins, there is little issue with passenger-generated noise. Vessel stabilization is gained through the vessel's deep draft and wide hull. Coupled with a modern hull design this gives us a stable platform for very comfortable exploration and cruising.

### **Marine Safety**

*M/V Marina Svetaeva* is a Russian-flagged vessel and carries all current certifications required by Russian and international maritime law for ensuring passenger safety and wellbeing. An extremely experienced captain and crew and an ice-strengthened hull (Lloyds Register 1A Super) provides an exceptionally safe combination for polar expedition cruising.

Safety and emergency equipment onboard the vessel is inspected and tested on a regular basis. A passenger lifeboat briefing and drill will be conducted on the first day of each voyage to ensure that passengers are familiar with onboard emergency procedures. The emergency equipment onboard the vessel includes two fully enclosed lifeboats and four life rafts with a total capacity in excess of our passenger numbers.

*M/V Marina Svetaeva* has more than ample engine horsepower, producing in excess of 5300 to propel the vessel's 4600 ton displacement through polar waters quite comfortably at up to 14.5 knots. Coupled with a powerful bow-thruster and a stern multi-directional propulsion unit, the *M/V Marina Svetaeva* is extremely manoeuvrable and has built-in propulsion back up.

### **Bar**

Located forward on Deck 3 and with seating for our full complement of passengers, the bar is one of the activity hubs on the ship. The bar is a comfortable place to enjoy a cocktail before dinner while reminiscing on the activities of the day. A stereo with MP3 player dock and a monitor showing live video footage of the view forward from the bridge can also be found in the bar.

## **Bridge**

The ship's bridge is located on Deck 6 and is open to passengers virtually 24-hours a day. The officer on watch and a helmsman can always be found on duty on the bridge; it is also the best place to meet the master of the vessel. The chart room is a fascinating place to visit and expedition staff or ship's crew are often available to answer questions about the equipment and instruments found here.

In addition, the bridge is an excellent place for sightseeing and wildlife watching. Binoculars and wildlife identification guidebooks can be found here and, during much of the day, an expedition guide will also be watching for wildlife from the bridge. So come up here with your tea or coffee and watch the ice go by through the eyes of our officers. With ample space the bridge provides not only a spacious and protected viewing platform, but also a wonderful gathering area for small groups wanting the best forward looking vantage point on the ship.

## **Communications**

The ship carries all required modern communications and navigation facilities and equipment with many systems outfitted to redundancy. An Iridium satellite communication system is in place for both voice and personal email use. Equipped with Inmarsat telephone and fax as well as a variety of shortwave, SSB and VHF radio systems, she also carries fully current GMDSS (Global Marine Distress and Safety System) equipment.

## **Dining Room**

During your voyage there will be select breakfasts where you can join us in the dining room for an omelette bar. With buffet breakfasts, buffet and/or plated lunches and plated dinners, we make sure there is always an interesting variety of dining choices available. Attractively lit and comfortably furnished, the dining room is served by our ship's stewards and hosted by our Adventure

Concierges. Our culinary team includes three chefs as well as three culinary students joining each journey as part of a cooperative educational program we've developed with several cooking schools in Canada. To keep up to date with the view from the bridge, live streaming video can be viewed on a television screen in the dining room during meals. A small lounge can be found in the forward part of the dining room along with a small bar used during meal service.

## **Gift Shop**

The gift shop carries a supply of souvenirs and sundries and is open most days of the voyage and can be opened anytime on demand. From warm hats and gloves to polar books and t-shirts, the gift shop has something for everyone. In addition, a small selection of toiletries and sundries can be purchased here.

## **Fitness Room**

The fitness room has a variety of free weights, exercise bikes, treadmills and a rowing machine. Exercise mats and balls are also available and there is a stereo with an MP3 player dock. We'll always have a supply of fresh towels on hand as well.

## **Infirmary**

Located on Deck 4, the infirmary caters to basic medical needs. Although containing an impressive quantity of medical supplies, including a portable automatic defibrillator,

passengers with pre-existing medical conditions requiring medication or supplies should arrive onboard self-reliant.

We will have an emergency physician on every voyage. If there is a need to consult the ship's doctor and to receive medications from the infirmary, passengers will be invoiced for the cost of any items supplied.

### **Library**

The library is located on Deck 6 with viewing windows over both the port and starboard sides of the ship. A quiet part of the ship containing several comfortable armchairs and sofas with seating for around 18 and numerous polar reference books, the library is a great place to relax and learn about the region being visited. The library has a slide screen and whiteboard and is often used for small group focus sessions and discussions.

### **Lounge**

Adjacent to the reception area on the main deck the lounge has a television as well as a good selection of board games and puzzles. With plenty of room for everyone it has convenient access to the outer deck, where a small seating area is located. Be sure to take a blanket from the lounge on your way out to sit and enjoy the view from the ship's starboard side.

A 24-hour coffee and tea station can be found in the lounge, which also serves as an overflow area for the bar during Happy Hour and for after dinner card games. Of course, what lounge would be complete without a fireplace?

### **Presentation Room**

Our well-equipped presentation room can be found on Deck 3. With seating for all passengers and convenient access the presentation room is equipped with a fully modern multi-media presentation system.

### **Sauna and Polar Plunge Pool**

Following a day of excursions, a sauna with complimentary aromatic oils can be a wonderful way to unwind. Located on Deck 1, the sauna and adjacent indoor plunge pool is open each afternoon and evening. The sauna seats about six people and the indoor plunge pool is always filled with water.

There is a changing room with towels and a shower room located between the sauna and the plunge pool.

### **Helo Deck and Adventurers Lounge**

The top deck enjoys 360-degree views around the ship. Formerly a helicopter deck this is a wonderful place to enjoy calm sea days and spectacular Antarctic scenery. The top deck also has a small observatory where a spotting scope is stored, as well as warm blankets and a comfortable bench.

Take your travel mug up to the top deck on pleasant afternoons and our Adventure Concierges will bring carafes of steaming hot chocolate or other hot beverages to you. Refill your travel mug as often as you like.

### **Multimedia Room**

Our multimedia room contains several Macintosh computers with the latest software for photo management and manipulation. External hard drives, a battery recharging station (110 V and 220 V powerbars for plugging in your charger), multi-card readers

and a selection of cables for connecting various cameras to the computer can be found here. Manage your rapidly expanding polar image library, burn DVDs or prepare slide shows to entertain fellow passengers or family at home. In addition we have a portable 4"x6" photo printer for you to print copies of a few of your favourite photos.

We recommend that you bring your own recharger and download cables, as well as spare memory cards for your camera.

### **Cabin Categories**

**Triple Shared Cabin** – Located on Deck 3 these cabins have two lower berths and an upper berth. Facilities are shared. There is a washbasin with hot/cold water in the cabin, a writing desk and a wardrobe.

Additional features and amenities:

Bathrobes

**Twin Shared Cabin** - Located on Decks 3 and 4 these cabins have two lower berths. Facilities are shared. There is a washbasin with hot/cold water in the cabin, a writing desk and a wardrobe.

Additional features and amenities:

Bathrobes

**Twin Private Cabin** - Located on Decks 4 and 5 these cabins have two lower berths, a writing desk and a wardrobe. Facilities are private.

Additional features and amenities:

Toiletry kit

Hairdryer

Coffee/tea maker

Bathrobes

**Shackleton Suite** – These cabins are located on Deck 5 (one cabin on Deck 4). These cabins have either a double bed or two twin beds in the sleeping quarters. The lounge has a desk, a sofa, a TV/DVD player, a fridge and tea/coffee making facilities. Facilities are private.

Additional features and amenities:

Upgraded bed linen/duvets

CD player/mini stereo system with connection for Ipod™/mp3 player

Use of our CD selection

Mini bar/ice bucket

Hairdryer

Coffee/tea maker

Toiletry kit

Vanity kit

Organic cotton luxury logoed bathrobes

Arrival gift basket with healthy snacks

Binoculars and wildlife reference book

**One Ocean Suite** – Located on Deck 5 this cabin has a double berth and a single bed in the sleeping quarters. The lounge has a desk, a sofa, TV/DVD player, a fridge and tea/coffee making facilities. Facilities are private.

Additional features and amenities:

Upgraded bed linen/duvets

CD player/mini stereo system with connection for Ipod™/mp3 player  
Use of our CD selection  
Mini bar/refrigerator  
Hairdryer  
Coffee/tea maker  
Toiletry kit  
Vanity kit  
Organic cotton luxury logoed bathrobes  
Arrival gift basket with healthy snacks and a bottle of wine  
Binoculars and wildlife reference book

### **Proof of our Polar Commitment**

When traveling with One Ocean Expeditions, you will discover how much we care about the places and people we visit. We demonstrate this by finding ways to give back as well as taking away so many incredible memories. For more information on our commitment to responsible tourism, please review our document entitled, "Our Environmental Commitment".

### **Before you Book – Important Voyage Details**

**Itinerary Changes** – We put safety first and that means weather, ice, wildlife, political or other conditions may require us to modify the itinerary as we go. We consider this half the intrigue of Polar exploring. Every expedition we undertake is a little different. It may mean we have to cancel certain shore excursions including polar camping if conditions are not suitable but we always find other fun things to do. Polar exploring is not predictable, which is one of the many reasons we think it is so special.

**Medical Documentation** - Once you have booked your voyage to the Polar Regions, you will be required to complete a Medical Information Form. This form must be completed, signed and returned to One Ocean Expeditions no later than 90 days prior to departure.

**Passport** - Well before traveling, please ensure you have a current passport with an accurate photo, valid for at least six months after your scheduled return flight home. Also check that your airline tickets are in exactly the same name as your passport. Some countries may require you to have a return air ticket or sufficient funds to purchase such a ticket.

**Budgeting** – It is a good idea to bring along some \$US cash. There are some onboard expenses such as those incurred at the bar, in our gift shop, and for satellite communication, as well as several souvenir shopping opportunities throughout the voyage including at some of the research stations in the Antarctic Peninsula. Mail can sometimes be posted from these stations as well.

**Clothes** – We do not need to tell you it is cold in Antarctica. So make sure you come prepared with clothes that will adequately protect you from the weather and wet conditions (sea spray is common onboard Zodiacs). Expensive specialty gear is not required, but you should have warm, waterproof clothing available upon your arrival in Ushuaia. Please read the One Ocean Expeditions Pre-departure Information for more details about what to bring on the journey. We also have foul weather gear for rent or purchase on board the ship. You should prearrange the rental of this gear should you require it.

**Onboard** – Like the weather, sea conditions can also be unpredictable. Rough waters are not uncommon particularly through the Drake Passage. You will be safe and comfortable aboard with your experienced crew in control of our ship, but you may

suffer the effects of motion sickness, unless you have taken precautions. We recommend visiting your doctor prior to departure for medication that can help you avoid this easily treated condition.

**Gratuities** - We suggest you allow the equivalent of \$US10 a day for gratuities for the crew and expedition staff. This is usually collected just prior to the end of the cruise. If you wish, the amount can be paid by Visa or MasterCard.

**Sea Kayaking** – If you have some experience sea kayaking and are interested in doing this activity during the expedition, you will need to book this option prior to departure from home. We cannot book this activity once onboard. There is a separate document for sea kayakers that you will need to review beforehand.

**Embarkation Protocol** - Due to new International Security Regulations, you will not be able to come to the ship on your own. Guests arrive with the rest of the group accompanied by the One Ocean Expeditions' Representative. Full details of embarkation/disembarkation procedures will be supplied with your final documentation. Once onboard, you will be participating in an obligatory lifeboat drill. We will also conduct important briefings on landing procedures and Zodiac operations.

**Polar Camping** - If conditions are suitable and you choose to camp on the continent, we will provide all the required gear such as tents, bivy sacs and sleeping bags. This excursion is managed with strict environmental regulations. A portable toilet is used and absolutely everything is transported back to the ship afterwards

**Insurance** - On all One Ocean Expeditions' voyages, you must have comprehensive travel insurance. Your own domestic government medical insurance and private health care plans will not cover you in most overseas countries. Your travel agent can recommend a policy designed to cover participants on these cruises. Your policy must provide coverage for your medical costs in case of hospitalization, emergency travel and repatriation.

We require that you obtain adequate insurance before joining the voyage. Cancellation insurance is also recommended.

*Please check the terms of your policy carefully, particularly with regard to limits of cover (i.e. replacement of photographic equipment, baggage loss, claims procedure, costs due to airline delays etc). Also ensure you are familiar with the procedure for making claims (for example, most policies stipulate that claims must be made within a certain time after completion of your journey).*

*Once you have paid your deposit or full payment, certain fees will apply if you have to cancel your holiday (see the cancellation provisions in our terms and conditions).*

*For this reason you should take out insurance at the time of paying your deposit, which should then protect you in such a situation.*

**Visas** - No visas are required to visit the Antarctic continent or its offshore islands, however, you will need a valid passport with you throughout the journey. For most voyages, our ship departs for the Antarctic continent from the port of Ushuaia, Argentina. At the time of printing, no visas for Argentina are required by holders of Australian, New Zealand, British, Canadian, U.S.A. or European passports. Passengers holding passports issued by other countries should carefully check with their travel agent or Argentinean consular authorities. If your flight to Ushuaia is via Santiago, tourist visas are required for Chile for some nationalities. If you plan any side trips to

other countries you will need to investigate visa requirements as it is your responsibility to ensure you have all required visas for your trip.

Rules and regulations governing the issuance of visas are constantly changing and vary for different nationalities. You should check visa requirements with your travel agent or relevant consular authority well before traveling.

*The information provided here is given in good faith and has been compiled with all reasonable care. However, some of the information may become out of date. Please keep this in mind and check with us if you want to be sure about anything. The document was correct at time of printing but you can check online for the most up to date version. If you have any queries, please contact your travel agent or our staff. We are here to help you!*

April 2010