



Antarctic Peninsula & Polar Circle



MV Plancius

Polar Circle & Antarctic Peninsula

ITINERARY

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice and weather conditions and in order to take advantage of opportunities to see wildlife. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises.

Taking the exorbitant high fuel prices into account, it is agreed that Oceanwide Expeditions has the right to reduce the speed of the engines (incl. sailing on one engine) wherever possible, unless this affects the character of the intended voyage substantially and jeopardizes the safety of the vessel, its crew, staff and passengers.

RUBBER BOOTS

Starting from season 2009/10 on board our vessel mv Plancius, Oceanwide Expedition will provide for all passengers free, the use of rubber boots. These rubber boots will be of high quality, perfect for the Antarctic conditions that we will encounter, to keep your feet dry, warm and comfortable for all landings. These rubber boots will be handed out on board.

FIELD CAMPING

On all our Antarctic 2009/10 mv Plancius departures we will now offer an exciting 'open air' camping option, which gives an intensive experience of Antarctic wilderness. Oceanwide Expeditions will provide special gear and field equipment which includes top quality wind and waterproof bivouac bags (lightweight alternative to tent system). This will keep you dry, warm and comfortable during the night in the open air of Antarctica. A polar sleeping bag to keep you warm will also be provided. The maximum number of participants for this camping option is 15 participants per night.

Oceanwide Expeditions will provide 1 camping guide. Camping is always subject to weather, local site and environmental regulations.



Itinerary

Day 1: In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia and sail through the Beagle Channel.

Day 2 & 3: During these two days we will sail across the Drake Passage. When we cross the Antarctic Convergence, we arrive in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. In this area we may meet Wandering Albatrosses, Grey Headed Albatrosses, Black-browed Albatrosses, Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses, Cape Pigeons, Southern Fulmars, Wilson's Storm Petrels, Blue Petrels and Antarctic Petrels.

If the winds are favourable we might do our first landing in Antarctic waters in the evening of the third day at Aitcho Island or Penguin Island at the South Shetlands.

These volcanic islands are windswept and often shrouded in mist and fog, but do offer subtle pleasures. There is a nice variety of flora (mosses, lichens and flowering grasses) and fauna, such as Gentoo Penguins, Chinstrap Penguins and southern Giant Petrels.

Day 4 – 9 (day 4 – 8 on voyage PLA29): A typical itinerary in the Polar Circle and Antarctic Peninsula could be as follows. This is a sample only, the final itinerary will be determined by the Expedition Leader on board.

We may start our first day in Antarctica with a landing at Hannah Point, where we will find a nice variety of Gentoo Penguins, Chinstraps and southern Giant Petrels, as well as Elephant Seals hauling out on the beach. At Deception Island, we will try to land at Baily Head home to a colony of ten thousands of Chinstrap Penguins. Deception itself is a sub ducted crater, which opens into the sea, creating a natural harbour for the ship. Here we find hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, thousands of Cape Pigeons and many Dominican Gulls, Brown and South Polar Skuas and Antarctic Terns. Wilson's Storm Petrels and Black-bellied Storm Petrels nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay. Good walkers may hike from Baily Head over the ridge of the crater into Whalers Bay, while our ship braves its entrance into the crater through the spectacular Neptune's Bellow into the ring of Deception Island. On our way further South we will sail to Orne Islands with large colonies of Chinstrap Penguins and a beautiful view across the Gerlache Strait or to Cuverville Island, a small precipitous island, nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula and Danco Island. It contains a large colony of Gentoo Penguins and breeding pairs of Brown Skuas. In Neko Harbour and Paradise Bay with its myriad icebergs and deep cut fjords, we have the opportunity to set foot on the Antarctic Continent. We shall have the opportunity for zodiac cruising between the icebergs in the inner parts of the fjords.

We sail through the spectacular Lemaire Channel to Petermann Island offering Adelie Penguins and Blue-eyed Shags. We also try to land at Pleneau Island with Elephant Seals and fair chances to encounter Humpback, Minke and Fin Whales.

We head south along the Argentine Islands to Crystal Sound, south of the polar circle. The landscape is very impressive with very high mountains and huge glaciers. At the Fish Islands we land at one of the southernmost Adelie Penguin and Blue-eyed Shag colonies in the Antarctic Peninsula.

A base visit will also be provided, to give you an insight about the life of modern Antarcticans working on the White Continent.

At Detaille Island, south of the Polar Circle, in Crystal Sound we reach probably our farthest south. Sailing north again through Neumayer Channel and Gerlache Strait, we arrive at the Melchior Islands with a very beautiful landscape and again possibilities for zodiac cruising among the icebergs, where we may encounter Leopard Seals, Crabeater Seals and whales.

Day 10 & 11 (Day 9 & 10) on voyage PLA29): In the Drake Passage we have again a chance of seeing many seabirds.

Day 12 (Day 11 on voyage PLA29): We arrive in the morning and disembark in Ushuaia.

GENERAL NOTES

All rates are quoted per person in US Dollar, based on twin occupancy. 5% discount will be granted for bookings for one or more consecutive voyages (except on legs within the Atlantic

Odyssey). Please note that all dates & rates are subject to change. All voyages will operate subject to a minimum of 30 participants on the Prof. Molchanov and Prof. Multanovskiy and 70 participants on the Plancius (the Prof. Molchanov and Prof. Multanovskiy carry a maximum of 53 passengers, Plancius carries a maximum of 112 passengers).

Single occupancy:

All cabins on Plancius 1.5 times the share price.

All cabins on Prof. Molchanov & Multanovskiy 1.7 times the share price.

Fares include:

- Voyage aboard the indicated vessel as indicated in the itinerary.
- All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea.
- Free use of rubber boots o/b mv Plancius.
- All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac.
- Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff.
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme.
- Comprehensive pre-departure material.

Not included:

Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights; pre- and post land arrangements; transfers to / from the vessel; passport and visa expenses; Government arrival and departure taxes; meals ashore; baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (which is strongly recommended); excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and telecommunication charges; and the customary gratuity at the end of the voyages for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided).

It is agreed that if world fuel prices will reach or exceed US Dollar 80 per Barrel Brent **90 days prior to departure** Oceanwide Expeditions reserves the right to levy a fuel surcharge of US Dollar 25 per passenger per night, to be paid by the contracting party of Oceanwide Expeditions.

Cabins

Mv Plancius accomodates 54 passenger cabins, all with private toilet and shower, as follows:

4 Triple cabin with private facilities

40 Twin cabin with pricate facilities

7 Superior cabins with private facilities, double beds

3 Superior cabins with pricate facilities, twin beds

Services

The vessel offers a restaurant/lecture room on deck 3 and a spacious observation lounge (with bar and library) on deck 5 with large windows, offering full panorama view.

M/v "Plancius" has large open deck spaces (with full walk-around possibilities on deck 3), giving excellent opportunities to enjoy the scenery and wildlife.

