



ANTARCTIC PENINSULA



MV POLAR PIONNER

Antarctic Peninsula

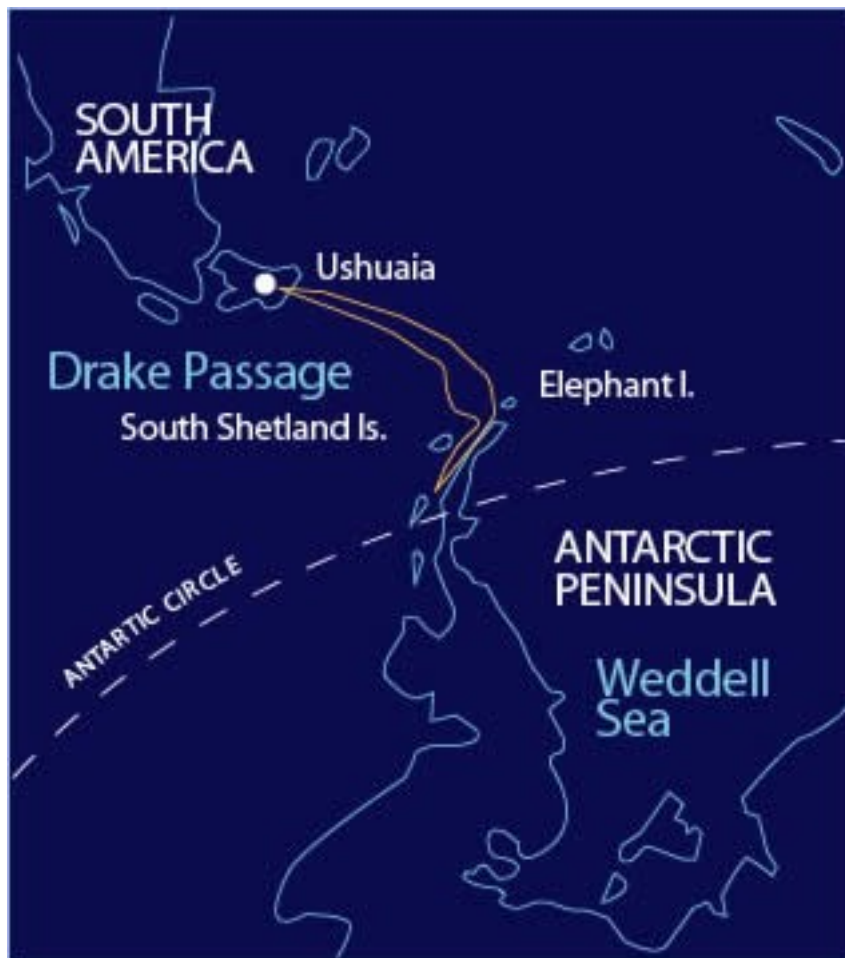
Like an outstretched hand the Antarctic Peninsula reaches north to offer the warmest, most accessible welcome to the continent.

Surprisingly diverse, the peninsula reveals lush emerald moss beds, rock faces splashed orange with lichen and the most boisterous wildlife spectacle on earth. Its waters teem with whales, seals, fish, birds and krill. Ice-free areas host throngs of breeding birds, from penguins to petrels, skuas to sheathbills.



"Our company was born out of our experiences in Antarctica and it's this insatiable desire to inspire and educate our passengers that keeps us going. It's no coincidence that we limit our expedition numbers to the Peninsula to just 56 people - giving us greater flexibility to explore this inspirational continent."

Greg Mortimer - Expedition Leader & Co-Founder of Aurora Expeditions



Itinerary

Day 1: Board our ship *Polar Pioneer* in the afternoon. Sail down the Beagle Channel in the evening.

Day 2: Overnight, we enter Drake Passage. Lectures on the continent's natural history and briefings about landing in Antarctica are scheduled through the day, allowing plenty of time to watch graceful albatrosses and other seabirds from the outer decks.

Day 3: We cross the Antarctic Convergence, the biological boundary of Antarctica, and may see our first icebergs. In the evening we approach the South Shetland Islands, a possible location for our first landing.

Day 4 – 8: For five days we will explore the deep bays and fjords of the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula in our extremely manoeuvrable ship. Using our Zodiacs, we make close contact with whales, penguins and seals in the vicinity of Deception Island, Gerlache Strait, Paradise Bay, Andvoord Bay and the Lemaire Channel. There is time to visit scientific stations and historic sites but our emphasis is on the natural wonders.

Day 9: Cruising out beyond the South Shetland Islands, we head north into the Drake Passage.

Day 10: At Sea. Our last day of lectures and a final opportunity for revelling in the rich seabird life of the Southern Ocean. If the weather permits, we will cruise past Cape Horn before enjoying a farewell dinner.

Day 11: We travel up the Beagle Channel in the early morning to disembark in Ushuaia where we farewell new-found friends.

Special Activities

Camping: has become our most popular optional activity, with some of our passengers camping for the very first time in their lives in Antarctica! We can provide sleeping bags, mats and a number of tents, but if you have your own camping gear you may like to bring it with you. Camping in Antarctica is a fantastic way to experience - albeit it in a more comfortable and civilised fashion - the feelings of the early Antarctic explorers.










Kayaking: in the far-flung corners of the world is an experience guaranteed to refresh your soul. Led by experienced guides, paddling in small groups allow us easy and intimate access to beautiful coastlines in some of the world's most remote destinations. Viewing wildlife from a kayak has many advantages, with our quiet presence allowing us to get closer to animals while still keeping a comfortable distance from them. If you wish to take this option, please advise us at the time of booking.



Climbing: At the cutting edge of climbing exploration in the Antarctic Peninsula, Aurora's guides have forged new routes on many of the continent's magnificent peaks. From first ascents to ice climbing on grounded icebergs, we cater to all levels of expertise and interests. On voyages with our climbing option, we plan to make at least two one-day alpine ascents and have a go at ice climbing where possible.



VOYAGE	DATES	ACTIVITIES
11 Day Voyage	27-Nov-09 07-Dec-09	  
11 Day Voyage	18-Dec-09 28-Dec-09	 
11 Day Voyage	28-Dec-09 07-Jan-10	 

Polar Pioneer

Polar Pioneer was built in Finland in 1985 as an ice-strengthened research ship, and for many years she plied the treacherous waters of the USSR's northern coast. In 2000 she was refurbished in St Petersburg to provide comfortable accommodation for 56 passengers.

A combined bar/lounge/library area (stocked with a good collection of polar books) was also created by simple internal restructuring.

This class of vessel has a fine reputation for polar expedition cruising, due to its strength, manoeuvrability and small number of cabins. All cabins have outside portholes plus ample storage space. The Russian captain and crew are among the most experienced ice-navigators in the world and their enthusiasm is legendary.

The spacious bridge is always open to us and the decks are ideal for viewing. The chefs are European, and the dining room is attended by Russian stewardesses.

Polar Pioneer is not a luxury vessel as such, but this is our most popular ship for travel to the Polar regions. The accommodation is simple yet comfortable, and the meals are wholesome and uncomplicated. A small fleet of inflatable Zodiacs with outboard motors enable us to travel from ship to shore.

CABINS

Triple: Two lower bunks and one upper bunk, a desk, a small washbasin, ample storage and hanging space and portholes. Showers and toilets are very close by and are shared with other Main Deck cabins.

SIZE: Total Cabin: 423cm x 241cm = 10.2 sqm

Twin Public: Two lower bunks, a desk, small washbasin, ample storage and hanging space, a couch and a porthole. Showers and toilets are very close by and are shared with other Main Deck cabins.

Total Cabin: 400cm x 245cm = 9.8 sq m

Twin Private: Two lower bunks, a desk, windows and private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. #402 and #403 have upper and lower bunks and a couch.

SIZE:

Deck 4:

Bedroom/Bathroom – 411cm x 260cm = 10.7 sqm

Bathroom – 120cm x 256cm = 3 sqm

Deck 5:

Bedroom/Bathroom – 494cm x 243cm = 12 sqm

Bathroom – 110cm x 170cm = 1.9 sqm

Mini Suite: Double bed in a separate room, foldout couch that can be used as a single bed, TV, video player, windows, desk, table area, fridge, and private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin.

SIZE:

Living Room/Bedroom/Bathroom – 453cm x 370cm = 16.8 sqm

Bathroom – 120cm x 160cm = 1.92 sqm

Captain's Suite: Double bed in separate room, plus foldout couch that can be used as a single bed, forward and port windows, lounge and table area, fridge, TV, video player, and private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin.

SIZE:

Living Room/Bedroom – 450cm x 500cm = 22.5 sqm

Bathroom – 120cm x 160cm = 1.92 sqm

