

THE GREAT WHITE CONTINENT

EXPERIENCE THE WONDERS OF ANTARCTICA, SOUTH GEORGIA
& THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ABOARD THE OCEAN NOVA
WITH GUEST SPEAKER DOUG ALLAN

26TH OCTOBER TO 19TH NOVEMBER 2026



NOBLE CALEDONIA

King Penguins, South Georgia



Even today after many decades of exploration, Antarctica remains a world apart, a majestic last frontier surpassing even the most jaded of travellers' expectations. For this magnificent voyage we are working with our long time Swedish associates at PolarQuest who have chartered the 84-passenger Ocean Nova, and we will follow in the footsteps of researchers, pioneers, adventurers and discoverers on an expedition to the sixth continent. It is hard to put into words the sheer grandeur of an Antarctic landscape. This most southern of continents, this desert of ice, is so unique and uncommon to man's experience, that even the most dramatic of photographs pale into insignificance when one is confronted by the sheer magnitude, beauty and wonder of an Antarctic landscape.

During this voyage which is timed for the Antarctic spring, there will be the possibility of sighting seven different species of penguin. The spring is mating season for penguins and other species, and you can witness their spectacular displays of courtship ritual, nest building and such antics as stone stealing. This is also the time the pack ice begins to melt resulting in dramatic icebergs and, when in the Falklands and South Georgia, the spring flowers will be in bloom.

We sail from Ushuaia in Argentina to the Falkland Islands, a truly enchanting place with a unique character and staggering wildlife. This is the last sanctuary of the elegant albatross which soars gracefully against the blue sky, with colonies of elephant seals basking at the foot of vertiginous cliffs. Our next stop is the remote island of South Georgia, a wildlife haven reputed to have more wildlife per square metre than any other place on the planet. Watching the huge elephant seals fight for their harems and being greeted by hundreds of thousands of breeding king penguins are truly unbelievable experiences. We then continue to the most remote and isolated continent, Antarctica, where we explore dramatic landscapes with gigantic icebergs, scenic channels and bustling penguin colonies.

In between our landings and while at sea, you can pass the time on deck looking for wildlife, attend the series of lectures by members of the expedition team, including the award-winning polar photographer and wildlife cameraman, Doug Allan, and simply relax on board.



WHAT MAKES SOUTH GEORGIA SO SPECIAL?

In the middle of the Southern Ocean lies South Georgia. With nearly 3000 metre peaks, impressive glaciers and sandy beaches, the island offers some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. Everywhere, on the beaches and rocks, in the water and air, wildlife abounds. The sound of hundreds of thousands of king penguins is very powerful, and it is an incredible experience to be among all these curious creatures. Here, we also have the chance to meet the huge elephant seals; the males which can weigh as much as four tons can have over 200 females in one single harem. The newborn seal pups will have just begun to explore the world and are eager to get acquainted and their immense, black eyes win every visitor's heart. With no land-based predators on the island, the wildlife has no fear of humans, and this creates a truly magical setting for meeting the animals and watching them go about their day undisturbed.

SMALL GROUPS – GREAT EXPERIENCES

On all of PolarQuest's expeditions sustainability is at the heart, with a focus on travel in small groups and striving to minimise the environmental impact. A small ship such as Ocean Nova also offers a more relaxed atmosphere, greater focus on the destination and more time ashore, compared to a larger vessel. Most vessels visiting Antarctica carry between 120 and 500 passengers, and only 100 people are allowed to go ashore at any one time. Since Ocean Nova accommodates just 84 passengers, everyone can go ashore together, enjoy the same experiences, and spend more time on land. This allows for a more exclusive and more sustainable adventure. Ocean Nova also boasts one of the lowest fuel consumptions per passenger in the industry.



Guest Lecturer – Doug Allan



Doug Allan is one of the world's best known and respected cameramen, whose love affair with ice has lasted over forty years. He spent four winters as a research diver, scientist, base commander and photographer for the British Antarctic Survey, before changing direction to full time filming in 1984.

He specialises in natural history, expeditions and science documentaries in the wildest and most remote places on our planet, particularly the polar zones. With more than 65 film projects on his CV, including 20 expeditions to Svalbard, Doug Allan's expertise at filming in polar regions and other extreme environments is legendary. Over his career, he has filmed for BBC-series like Blue Planet, Planet Earth, Frozen Planet, Ocean Giants and Operation Iceberg. His photographic awards include eight Emmy's and five BAFTA's. He has twice won the underwater category in the Wildlife Photographer of the year and has three Honorary Doctorates in recognition of his camerawork, as well as two Polar Medals.

ashore and explore Saunders Island, a penguin hotspot that is one of the few places on earth where four penguin species nest side by side. Here we can find gentoo, rockhopper, king and Magellanic penguin rookeries as well as nesting black-browed albatross. You can stand on the white sand beach watching the penguins come and go while the striated caracaras patrol overhead.

Day 7 Stanley, East Falklands. Today we visit Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. Here, we wander through charming streets lined with small houses and learn how this quiet harbour was once a major port in the 19th century for ships attempting to round the waters of Cape Horn.

Days 8 & 9 At Sea. We sail southeast, bound for South Georgia. The anticipation grows, especially as we cross the Antarctic Convergence and notice a dramatic drop in temperature. Shipboard presentations will continue, featuring the fascinating history and abundant wildlife of South Georgia. Wildlife will guide us to the island – keep a lookout in the ocean for whales, seals, and penguins.

Days 10 to 13 South Georgia. Majestic mountains, mighty glaciers, and beaches full of king penguins greet us on the island of South Georgia. We arrive in spring, when there are few ships in the vicinity, and the peaks of the dramatic mountain ranges are still snow-covered. For wildlife enthusiasts, South Georgia is a true haven. Hundreds of thousands of penguins gather at places like St Andrew's Bay and Salisbury Plain. Huge elephant seals lounge on beaches, and at this time of year, we may witness dramatic fights for dominance among the males. The island is also home to several other penguin species, including macaroni, gentoo, and chinstrap penguins, along with the playful and feisty fur seals. South Georgia played a significant role in Shackleton's legendary expedition. After his ship Endurance sank, he and his crew crossed the treacherous ocean in an open lifeboat to reach the island. We hope to visit Shackleton's grave at Grytviken, once an active whaling station, now home to a charming museum.

Days 14 to 16 At Sea. We now set sail towards the world's most remote continent – Antarctica, faithfully accompanied by many seabirds. The onboard polar experts will continue to fill our minds with heroic stories of the early daredevils who explored Antarctica. We also keep our eyes open for the first iceberg, which could appear on the horizon at any time.

Days 17 to 20 The South Shetland Islands & the Antarctic Peninsula. This is a true Antarctic expedition cruise, and our exact route over the following days is subject to weather and ice conditions. We hope to go ashore at Elephant Island, where we will learn more about the famous Antarctic adventures of Sir Ernest Shackleton. In 1916, Shackleton and his crew sought refuge on this island after their ship was crushed by pack ice in the Weddell Sea. Following the loss of their ship, they reached Elephant Island after a harrowing ordeal on drifting ice floes. They established a camp at a location they named Point Wild, after Shackleton's commander, Frank Wild. Today, this area is home to nesting chinstrap penguins. We

The Itinerary

Please note that flexibility is key to a successful expedition in Antarctica. Although there is an itinerary outlined below, this is only a preliminary plan, the exact route will depend on ice, weather conditions and the wildlife encountered.

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Ushuaia. After breakfast we check out and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Ushuaia. On arrival we transfer to a hotel for an overnight stay and meet our fellow travellers.

Day 4 Ushuaia. This morning is free to explore Ushuaia at your own pace. In the afternoon, we embark the Ocean Nova and cruise out through the Beagle Channel. If we are lucky, we might see Magellanic penguins as we sail.

Day 5 At Sea. We spend a day at sea, accompanied by seabirds such as petrels, fulmars and albatrosses that gracefully follow our ship. Whales and dolphins may also be seen in the surrounding waters, and the polar experts will begin their exciting lecture programme.

Day 6 West Falklands. The plan for today is to explore the western islands of the archipelago, which are isolated and windswept but home to many seabirds including the black-browed albatross. Weather permitting, we will go



will spend some time cruising among the South Shetland Islands, just off the Antarctic Peninsula. Dazzling wildlife sightings await us on our excursions to some of the islands, including King George, Half Moon, Barrientos, or Livingston. Adelie, chinstrap, and gentoo penguins thrive here, along with several species of seals. Hopefully, we will also have the chance to visit the flooded volcanic caldera of Deception Island. Along the coastline of the South Shetlands, we keep our eyes open for humpback whales foraging for krill. Continuing south along the Antarctic Peninsula, we navigate through vast expanses of pack ice covering large parts of the bays, watching as our experienced officers skilfully steer our ice-strengthened ship. We cruise through labyrinths of icebergs, some of which may be occupied by curious penguins. In good ice conditions, we hope to set foot on the Antarctic continent at Hope Bay or Paradise Harbour. The scenery here, from the colossal icebergs to the seemingly endless Antarctic ice sheet is truly breathtaking.

Days 21 & 22 Drake Passage. As we leave this magical place and head across the Drake Passage, you can spend time reflecting on the incredible experiences of the past days. On our approach to the South American continent, it is possible to see whales, dolphins, and seals. Celebrate the conclusion of your Antarctic expedition with a farewell dinner on board.

Day 23 Ushuaia to Buenos Aires. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to our hotel and have the remainder of the day and evening at leisure.

Day 24 Buenos Aires to London. After breakfast we check out and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 25 London. Arrive today.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Cat	Cabin Description	Price
Triple Cabin	Bunk beds	N/A
Twin Cabin	Bunk beds	£15,795
Double Cabin	Double bed or 2 lower berths	£16,495
Twin Cabin for sole use	Bunk bed	£21,995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires with breakfast • Overnight hotel accommodation in Ushuaia with breakfast • 19 nights aboard the Ocean Nova on a full board basis • Expedition team • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Excursions • Use of rubber boots on board Ocean Nova • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, drinks, lunch on day 4, lunch and dinner on days 2, 3 & 23.



Humpback Whales



Exploring by Zodiac, South Georgia



Seals

OCEAN NOVA



Double Cabin



Dining Room



Panorama Lounge

The Ocean Nova was built in Denmark in 1992 with high ice class to serve Greenland's west coast. In 2006 she was completely refurbished and now has a career as a small and comfortable, 84-passenger expedition ship.

Your Cabin

The Ocean Nova features 39 guest cabins. Cabins are spread over two decks and include cabins for the single traveller, double and triple cabins, all with sea-view and private facilities. The double cabins have either two lower beds or upper and lower beds. The triple cabins have upper and lower beds. In your cabin you will also find a desk with chair and ample storage space for clothes and equipment. They are well designed with typical Scandinavian light woods.

Your Space

The Panorama lounge affords excellent views and is the main meeting place where you can enjoy a drink with a breathtaking view of the surrounding landscape. It is here that our expedition team will entertain and educate you with lectures on biology, history, geology or ornithology with daily briefings. There is also a library with panoramic views and a good selection of books on the area you are visiting. On board there is a satellite phone, small gym and medical doctor. Passengers are welcome on the Bridge and there is always something to see or search for from the spacious observation decks.

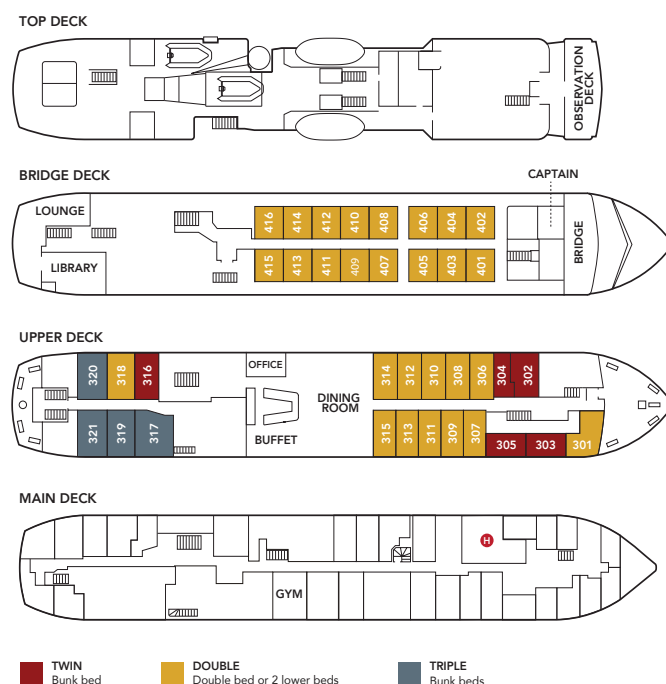
Your Dining

The comfortable dining room seats all passengers in a single sitting and offers delicious hearty meals with a mixture of table service and buffet. It is comfortable and spacious enough to accommodate all passengers and expedition staff in one seating, and the portholes allow you to take in your surroundings as you dine. The informal dining arrangement adds to the friendly atmosphere on board and meals are a great chance to discuss all you have seen with your fellow travellers, and for the expedition team to share their knowledge.

Life On Board & Exploring Ashore

The atmosphere on board is informal and time on board is often spent out on deck keeping watch for wildlife or admiring the spectacular view. The schedule can change due to weather conditions or unexpected wildlife sightings which adds to the adventure. Daily briefings from the expedition team will prepare you for each day's activities and experts in subjects such as ornithology or marine biology will give talks and accompany us ashore.

DECK PLAN



During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.



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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Rockhopper penguins.