

## The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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### IN THE WAKE OF SHACKLETON WITH ISLAND SKY

In today's highly accessible world there are few places that still hold the power to enthral and enchant. Antarctica is certainly one of these. Mere words cannot do justice to the awe-inspiring spectacle of this most southern of continents, this desert of ice which 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 the landscape. For centuries myths abounded of a southern land but early exploration was hindered by the ice. Maps dating back to the late Medieval period show a continent named Terra Australis Incognita, 'the unknown southern land'. Captain Cook became the first person to cross the Antarctic Circle in 1773 but never sighted land. The first person to set foot on Antarctica is thought to be an American sealer, Captain John Davis in 1821. Since then it is a land that has consistently challenged and inspired men of extraordinary character to deeds requiring extreme courage. The expeditions of Scott, Amundsen, Shackleton, Ross, Byrd and many others are a shining example of honour, strength and perseverance which today still inspire us. Our voyage begins in Ushuaia from where we will be followed by albatrosses as we sail to the Falkland Islands for our exploration of these isolated islands thriving with wildlife and a fascinating history. We continue to South Georgia where we have ample quality time ashore to explore what is one of the world's natural wonders with a remarkable concentration of wildlife. We will land on remote beaches, alive with great numbers of fur seals, elephant seals, wandering and sooty albatrosses, Macaroni and king penguins. These beach paradises are backed by some of the most breathtaking

mountain scenery in the world. Finally we sail for the peninsula where enormous tabular icebergs rise from the sea, hillsides are covered with thousands of penguins and seals bask on icebergs. On our way to the Peninsula we hope to sail past Elephant Island, the island on which Shackleton's men endured 128 days before finally being rescued. We have timed our expedition aboard the MS Island Sky for what is regarded as summer when whale and dolphin sightings are at their peak, penguin chicks begin to fledge and the snow algae



is in bloom.

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## ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires.

Arrive this morning and transfer to our centrally located hotel for an overnight stay. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon to either relax in the hotel or join an orientation tour of the city which will include the Plaza de Mayo, the Cathedral and the Cabildo (Old City Hall) before we continue towards the most traditional neighbourhood of Buenos Aires, San Telmo which is characterised by its old colonial houses and the cobblestoned streets. The tour will end in La Boca to look around the colourful zinc houses which used to be the refuge and home for the first immigrants and popular artists. The evening is free for independent exploration.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Ushuaia.

After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Ushuaia. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and start our adventure this evening as we cruise down the Beagle Channel.

Day 4 At sea.

Among the wildlife spotting opportunities as we sail south are albatrosses, prions and petrels that frequently follow the ship. Our expedition team will be out on deck looking for whales and dolphins that may also be seen in the area. During our day at sea our onboard experts will begin their presentations with informative and entertaining talks on the wildlife, history and geology of the Falkland Islands and Southern Ocean.

Days 5 & 6 Falkland Islands.

The Falkland Islands are isolated and windswept, a haven for wildlife. Our two days should coincide with the end of the breeding season for the many seabirds that make these islands their summer home. We hope to include stops at Grave Cove, home to the largest colony of gentoo penguins in the Falkland Islands and see the rockhopper penguin colony and black-browed albatross on West Point Island. We will use our Zodiacs to find a suitable location to land and take walks ashore for a closer look with our expedition team. We also plan to call at Port Stanley, the charming capital of the Falkland Islands, and discover some of the many historic sites on the island.

Days 7 & 8 The Southern Ocean.

As we cruise the Scotia Sea towards South Georgia, the richness of these waters will be evident in the marine mammal life, especially the fur seals on fishing forays. We have a good chance of spotting whales such as fins and minkies whilst the birds circling our stern will be outstanding, especially the large albatrosses and numerous breeds of petrels. During our cruise we cross the Polar Front, also called the Antarctic Convergence, and officially enter Antarctic waters.

Days 9 to 11 South Georgia.

We have three days of expedition cruising in and around South Georgia, a paradise island with snow-clad mountain peaks rising 9000 feet and with 165 glaciers tumbling down towards the sea. For anyone interested in wildlife, South Georgia is a true oasis. During our time here we hope to visit Salisbury Plain where we will find enormous elephant seals which crowd the beaches alongside 60,000 breeding pairs of king penguins. The colony has had an extraordinary population increase over the last century as only 350 breeding pairs were counted at this site in 1912. In Fortuna Bay we will see nesting light mantled sooty





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albatrosses and hope to witness their gracious courting flights as well as the few thousand king penguins that nest here. In Gold Harbour as well as gentoo and king penguin colonies, the adolescent fur seals of the season dominate the beaches while southern giant petrels constantly patrol the site for feeding opportunities. Whilst at St Andrew's bay we encounter the island's largest king penguin colony as well as being home to over 6,000 southern elephant seal cows during the pupping season. Meanwhile in Grytviken we will visit the old whaling station and of course pay our respect at the grave of 'the boss' - Ernest Shackleton.

### [Days 12 & 13 At Sea.](#)

The waters between South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula are rich with fin whales, where in good conditions we have seen as many as a hundred in a day. If not whale-watching, look out for Antarctic petrel, Kerguelen petrel and one of the most beautiful birds of the Southern Ocean, the snow petrel. The icebergs will also become more plentiful as we sail south. If conditions permit we may land at the South Orkney Islands. Meanwhile during our lecture programme we will learn more about the wildlife and history of the region.

### [Days 14 to 18 Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands.](#)

We have five days of exploration around the Peninsula which will include many of the best places for wildlife and magnificent scenery. Whilst we arrive with a planned itinerary the final schedule will be determined by our Captain and the Expedition Leader based on sea, weather and ice conditions. Using our Zodiacs we will make daily landings for unique close encounters with animals such as Adelie and gentoo penguins, fur seals and petrels. We hope to visit the collapsed volcanic cone of Deception Island for a chance to visit Whalers Bay, see the

glaciers of Cierva Cove, the leopard seals at Pleneau Island, the stunning mountain lined Neumayer Channel and Half Moon Island with its rookery of chinstrap penguins. We also hope to sail through the breathtaking Antarctic Sound, also known as 'iceberg alley', where massive icebergs drift north from the continent.

### [Days 19 & 20 The Drake Passage.](#)

Enjoy a final two leisurely days on board and reminisce with your fellow travellers about all you have seen and experienced during our expedition. Attend some lectures, look for wildlife or simply relax as we make our way across the Drakes Passage toward Ushuaia. Named after the 16th century English seaman, Sir Francis Drake, the Drake Passage separates the southernmost tip of South America from Antarctica. This is a particularly good area to spot royal albatross and blue petrel and we will also be on the lookout for whales. We will arrive on the final evening in Ushuaia and berth overnight.

### [Day 21 Ushuaia to Buenos Aires.](#)

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. This evening we will take in a tango show with dinner.

### [Day 22 Buenos Aires to London.](#)

After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

### [Day 23 London.](#)

Arrive this morning.

[Please Note:](#)

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Itineraries are subject to change.



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## YOUR SHIP: ISLAND SKY

**YOUR SHIP:** Island Sky

**VESSEL TYPE:**

**LENGTH:**

**PASSENGER CAPACITY:**

**BUILT/REFURBISHED:**

With a maximum passenger capacity of only 116, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Island Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers- the friendly crew of 75 crew and Scandinavian captains are experienced mariners, having been in service aboard large 2000 plus passenger vessels and who now prefer a less frantic life aboard a small ship. If, like them and us, you prefer a more peaceful life at sea, you will find the MS Island Sky the perfect ship. When choosing the vessel for your next voyage of discovery, you can select a ship with endless entertainment and impersonal service or come with us where peace, high quality service and attention to detail are the order of the day. We promise there will be no organised entertainment, fancy dress, deck games or any of the usual big ship experiences. The atmosphere on board is more akin to a private yacht or country hotel. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, guest speakers, informative port briefings from our cruise director and of course good food which may be enjoyed leisurely in the attractive dining room. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well run and exceedingly

comfortable ship. Your Suite Onboard there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. All feature a sitting room area and some have private balconies. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and all suites have outside views. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television with inbuilt DVD player which can also play CDs and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. The suites on each deck have their own colour theme. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be. Your Space The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where daily briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage and an elegant bar where a pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The bar also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. The onboard library is the perfect place to relax with a book and is stocked with reference books pertaining to the places the vessel is visiting along with a selection of games and two computers with internet access. Daily newspapers and magazines are also placed in the library depending on local availability. There is





also WI-FI access throughout the vessel. Outside there is a rear sun deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade, a bar and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. On the top deck there is a Jacuzzi and further observation and sun deck. There is also a small hairdressers on board with appointments made on request. Your Dining Another benefit of a small ship is the quality of the cuisine. With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the galley is able to provide delicious meals. Where possible and when it meets his high standards, the chef will obtain local produce in markets or buy the catch of the day from a passing fishing boat. Such purchases enhance the well stocked larders and bring a local touch to the



varied menus.

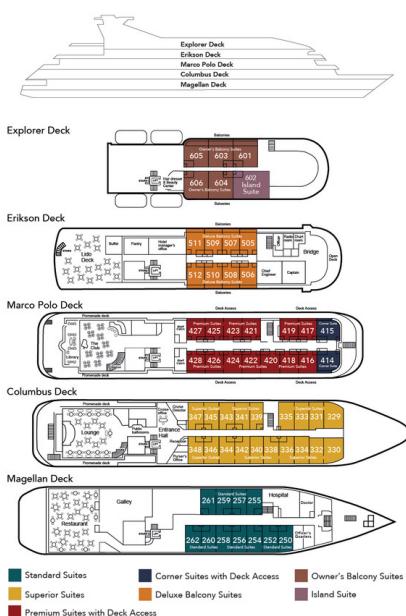
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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP





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## PRICING

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