



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR IN THE CHILEAN FJORDS & ANTARCTICA (ISLAND SKY)

In today's highly accessible world there are few places that still hold the power to enthrall and enchant. Antarctica is certainly one of these. No amount of travel books or films can prepare you for Antarctica. It is somewhere that has to be seen to be believed. Enormous icebergs rise from the sea, hillsides are covered with thousands of penguins and seals bask on icebergs dotted in the ocean; the sights, sounds and emotions will stay with you forever. For most travellers Antarctica is a once in a lifetime visit, it is therefore important that the trip should be as rewarding as possible and the MS Island Sky is the perfect vessel both in terms of the educational opportunities on board and the number of occasions to go ashore. Antarctica is to be experienced, not just to be seen, and we believe the only way to do this is on board a small ship. To enjoy the wonders of this icy paradise in the company of a small and enthusiastic party is the perfect way to achieve the most from a visit to this extraordinary place. Our highly adaptable Zodiac craft will allow us to enter tiny inlets, explore fjords and marvel at some truly wondrous sites. Whilst at sea or in between our landings you can pass the time looking for wildlife on deck, attending the series of lectures by our expert expedition team or simply relaxing on board. We are combining our exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula with a few days on the Falkland Islands which makes for an interesting contrast. The wildlife on the 420 rocky islands is staggering and it really is an enchanting place with a unique character, a true outpost and particularly fascinating for the British. Rolling hills are interspersed with bogs and small lakes, creating a habitat for penguins and seabirds which nest among tall tussock grass, while seals and whales cavort along the seacoasts. Leaving the

Falkland Islands on Christmas Day we will make our way across to the Antarctic Peninsula and witness enormous tabular icebergs rise from the sea, hillsides covered with thousands of penguins and seals basking



on icebergs.

ITINERARY



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Day 1 London to Santiago, Chile.

Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Santiago.

Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. Spend the afternoon and evening at leisure to relax and enjoy the hotel facilities or explore the city independently.

Day 3 Santiago to Punta Arenas.

After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Punta Arenas. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 4 Chilean Fjords.

We will spend the day cruising through the spectacular scenery of the Beagle Channel. Here the mountains, still partly unmapped, drop as sheer, densely wooded cliffs into the channel and six glaciers flow from the 8000 foot Mount Darwin into the sea. Flamingos, dolphins and the South American sea lions abound here in the channel. At Puerto Williams we will clear Chilean customs formalities before we start our journey to the Falkland Islands.

Day 5 At sea.

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. Among the wildlife spotting opportunities are albatrosses, prions and petrels that frequently follow the ship and our expedition team will be out on deck looking for whales and dolphins that may also be seen in the area.

Days 6 to 9 Falkland Islands.

The Falkland Islands are isolated, windswept and a haven for wildlife. We will spend three and a half days here and hope to include stops at Grave Cove, home to the largest colony of gentoo penguins in the Falklands. See the rockhopper penguin colony and black-browed albatross on West Point Island whilst on Pebble Island we arrive at one of the most important wildfowl breeding areas in the Falklands with penguin colonies, king cormorants and sea lions. At Port Howard we will learn about farming on the islands as well as see the small museum dedicated to the Falklands War before exploring the capital of Stanley on Christmas Eve. Spend Christmas morning on George and Barren Islands with the resident elephant seals, Gentoo and Magellanic penguins before we sail in the afternoon for the Antarctic Peninsula, enjoying a festive afternoon on board.

Day 10 At Sea.

Spend the day at sea, maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck to watch for wildlife.

Days 11 to 17 Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands.

We have seven days of exploration around the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands 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 hope to make daily landings or enjoy Zodiac cruises for unique close encounters with animals such as Adelie and gentoo penguins, fur seals and petrels. Watch avidly from deck as we approach land or sail through breathtaking channels surrounded by lofty peaks looking down on ice-strewn waters where resting crab-eater or leopard seals can be spotted. En-route south we plan to see Elephant Island with its rocky and inhospitable shore



where Shackleton's crew famously survived. We hope to sail past the collapsed volcanic cone of Deception Island for a chance to visit Whalers Bay, Petermann Island, home to numbers of Adelie penguins, picturesque Neko Harbour, the Lemaire Channel where towering icebergs rise from the sea and Half Moon Island with its rookery of chinstrap penguins. We will also endeavour to sail through the breathtaking Antarctic Sound, also known as 'iceberg alley', where massive icebergs drift north from the continent. We will ring in the New Year under the light of the summer Antarctic night skies.

[Days 18 & 19 At sea.](#)

A final two days to relax on board and reminisce with your fellow travellers about all you have seen and experienced during our expedition. Enjoy a lecture, look for wildlife or simply relax as we make our way across the Drake Passage toward Ushuaia. Named after the 16th century English seaman, Sir Francis Drake, 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 pods of sperm whales.

[Day 20 Ushuaia to Buenos Aires, Argentina.](#)

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled, internal flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. This afternoon is free to relax before we meet this evening for a tango show and dinner at a local restaurant.

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

After breakfast in the hotel, transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

[Day 22 London.](#)

Arrive this morning.

[Please Note:](#)

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



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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

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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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