

GLACIERS & FJORDS OF SOUTHERN PATAGONIA SMALL SHIP CRUISE

Shaped by millennia of glacial forces, the Chilean fjords of Patagonia offer one of the world's most spectacular expedition destinations. Navigate a dramatic maze of deep channels and remote valleys framed by towering snow-capped peaks, encountering an extraordinary array of wildlife along the way. Designed for explorers, this voyage combines daily Zodiac excursions and hikes with immersive wildlife encounters and spectacular glacier viewing in one of the most pristine regions on Earth.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive Ushuaia

Arrive in Ushuaia, where you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and transferred with your fellow expeditioners to your assigned pre-voyage hotel. If you are already in Ushuaia, we ask you to make your way to your hotel. Check-in is from 3.00 pm. This afternoon, visit the Aurora Expeditions hospitality desk in the hotel lobby, between 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm, to collect your luggage tags. Our team will confirm details regarding your embarkation day, answer any questions and provide you with information on where to dine or purchase last minute items.

Expeditioners arriving after 7.00 pm will find a welcome pack waiting for them at check-in. We ask you to visit our hospitality desk tomorrow between 8.00 am - 10.00 am.

The remainder of your time is at leisure. All meals today are at your own expense.



Assigned accommodation: Arakur Resort & Spa

Day 2 Embarkation Day

This morning, enjoy breakfast and check-out. Please ensure your cabin luggage is fitted with cabin tags clearly labelled with your name and cabin number. Take your cabin luggage to hotel reception, prior to, or at check-out. Your luggage will be stored and transferred directly to the port for clearance, to be placed in your cabin ahead of your arrival on board. Please keep any valuables or personal items with you throughout the day.

Enjoy your day at leisure and meet at your hotel lobby or from the meeting point at the parking lot near the pier (details will be given by our ground staff at the hotel), to be transferred to the pier for embarkation.

Once onboard, you'll have time to settle into your cabin before our important mandatory briefings. As the ship pulls away from port, we'll gather on the deck to commence our adventure with spectacular views over Ushuaia and Tierra del Fuego.

This evening get to know your fellow expeditioners and friendly expedition team and crew, and celebrate the start of a thrilling adventure to southern Patagonia!

Days 3-10 Chilean Fjords

Throughout this expedition, every turn reveals another breathtaking panorama, offering unparalleled opportunities to experience Patagonia's wild and untamed beauty up close. Please note, this trip is an expedition, and sites mentioned in this itinerary may vary depending on the conditions during the trip.

Over the coming days, journey through one of Patagonia's most spectacular wilderness regions. It is a landscape of snow-capped mountains, glacier-fed waterways, ancient icefields, and forested islets scattered across a maze of fjords. Here, towering granite cliffs rise dramatically from the sea while countless waterfalls cascade from hanging valleys carved by millennia of glaciation.

This remarkable region, known as Glacier Alley, forms part of a vast UNESCO Biosphere Reserve that protects the Magallanes Sub-Antarctic Evergreen Rainforest. Shaped by the retreat of massive glaciers, these fjords and channels support an extraordinary diversity of wildlife and pristine ecosystems found nowhere else on Earth.

Your expedition begins by exploring the tidewater glaciers at the head of the fjords on the south side of the Cordillera Darwin Icefield. These glaciers are part of the Alberto de Agostini National Park, where the rugged Andes plunge directly into the fjords. Here, explore by Zodiac and ship, approaching the striking glaciers and their towering ice fronts.

We will exit the Beagle Channels western entrance and poke briefly out to sea before entering Canal Cockburn to explore the northwest side of the Darwin Icefield via Seno Agostini, a glacier-carved inlet fed by numerous glaciers cascading from the surrounding mountains. Cruise among floating ice aboard Zodiacs, navigating through brash ice and bergy bits while searching for wildlife along the shoreline. With luck, you may witness the awe-inspiring spectacle of glacier calving as

immense blocks of ice break free and crash into the icy waters below.

Travelling northwest up the Straits of Magellan overnight and heading northbound through the maze of channels, there is an opportunity to explore the Magallanes region of Southern Chile, known for its deep waters, scenic fjords, and rich wildlife. Expeditioners can observe Chilean dolphins, Peale's dolphins, and a variety of bird species such as the thorn-tailed rayadito, ringed kingfisher, and crested caracara. The lush vegetation includes beech forests and flowering plants like chilco fuchsia, Chapico taique, and Copihue, which attract hummingbirds such as the green-backed firecrown. The area's natural beauty makes it a popular destination for wildlife photography and eco-tourism.

Sailing north along Canal Concepcion, a maze of interlocking fjords guides us toward the entrance of Pio XI--named in honour of Pope Pius XI by Father Alberto de Agostini, the Italian missionary and explorer who, in 1931, became the first person to cross the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. Of the 48 glaciers fed by this vast ice field, nearly all are in retreat, with one remarkable exception: Pio XI. For more than 80 years it has advanced rapidly and continuously, defying the global trend of glacial recession. Scientists have yet to fully explain this anomaly, making the opportunity to witness Pio XI up close a rare privilege in a changing world.

Pio XI marks the northernmost point of our voyage. From here, we turn south again, taking time to explore the many Caletas and sheltered Puertos we passed during the night. The names are invocative such as Caleta Moonlight Shadow. The many anchorages offer excellent opportunities for Zodiac exploration, and if conditions allow, we may go ashore where the dense forest gives way to open tundra. Whenever the landscape and weather present the chance for a hike, we will seize it.

Returning southeast through the Straits of Magellan to Seno Almirantazgo, it is possible to explore the northern shores of the Cordillera Darwin Icefield. A selection of guided hikes offers the opportunity to explore the region's sub-Antarctic forests, where moss-draped trees and glacially sculpted landscapes lead to spectacular viewpoints overlooking the Marinelli Glacier and the surrounding mountains.

Later, board Zodiacs for an unforgettable wildlife excursion to Tucker Islets in Almirantazgo Sound. To protect this important breeding habitat, landings are not permitted, but your Zodiac cruise will bring you close to the shoreline for exceptional wildlife viewing. Observe a thriving colony of more than 4,000 Magellanic penguins as they gather along the beaches and rocky slopes. Keep watch for Chilean skuas and imperial cormorants overhead, while dolphins may make an appearance in the sheltered waters surrounding the islands.

Travelling back northeast along the Strait of Magellan, we will attempt to land at Bahia Fortescue. This is a notoriously challenging place to access, as the strong, persistent winds that sweep through this region often make landings difficult. Despite the conditions, it is a site of great historical significance. It was here that the first Christian mass on Chilean territory was celebrated by Fray Pedro de Valderrama on 11 November 1520, celebrating Magellan's fleets discovery of the western exit of what is now known as the Strait of Magellan.



In the evening of day 10, enjoy the Captain's Cocktail Party and Farewell Dinner to celebrate the end of a memorable adventure in this magical part of the world.

Day 11 Punta Arenas

Our voyage ends in Punta Arenas. Farewell your expedition team and fellow adventurers before transferring to the airport for your onward travels.

Note: At the conclusion of the voyage, we do not recommend booking flights departing Punta Arenas prior to 12.00 pm on the day of disembarkation in case there are delays.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: DOUGLAS MAWSON

YOUR SHIP: **Douglas Mawson**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Douglas Mawson was launched in 2025. Named after the legendary Australian geologist and explorer, this new small ship embodies Mawson's pioneering spirit and is designed for global discovery. Featuring the revolutionary Ulstein X-BOW® and purpose-built with enhanced sustainability features, it takes a maximum 154 adventurers to the world's wildest places in smooth, quiet comfort. It boasts our most extensive range of cabins yet, including a range of single cabins. The Douglas Mawson features a host of amenities to help you connect with like-minded travellers and elevate your time onboard this floating base camp for adventure. After a long day of exploring, head to the back deck to swim in the heated outdoor swimming pool, find a sun bed to read on, or soak in one of two Jacuzzis. Work up a sweat in the gym before unwinding in the sauna, resolve to learn something new in the Citizen Science Centre, then enjoy a delicious meal with new and old friends in one of two restaurants. Or, with multiple observation areas throughout the ship, simply relax in comfort while you keep watch for wildlife or incredible landscapes unfold before you. While enjoying the luxurious amenities onboard, you can rest assured that the aim is to get you off the ship to explore the natural environment as much as possible to enjoy some unique activities remains unchanged. Newest Ulstein X-BOW ® The Douglas Mawson features the newest streamlined Ulstein X-BOW®, designed for global discovery. The revolutionary design cuts through the swell, offering unrivalled stability on ocean crossings and helping to reduce fuel consumption. It's just one of the many sustainability features that helps make travel more responsible. Heated Pool, Jacuzzis & Sauna In between landings, enjoy access to the onboard gym or unwind in the sauna. Or head to the back deck to swim in the heated outdoor pool, enjoy a drink at the pool bar, or soak in one of two Jacuzzis, watching the world go by. Leading Technology The Douglas Mawson is at the cutting edge of nautical technology, fitted with industry-leading technology including world-class return-to-port equipment. The ship also features a medical clinic designed for use in remote areas. Built for Adventure The Douglas Mawson features Zodiac access points and an activities platform, making boarding the Zodiacs as quick, efficient and safe as possible, minimising wait times and getting you closer to the action for longer. In our mudroom you will have access to lockers to store gear & boots and rapid drying areas for clothing. More Cabin Choices The Douglas Mawson features 11 different types of cabins, including a range of spacious single berth cabins - all adorned with elegant Nordic interior design features. Multiple Observation Areas As you explore the ship you will find indoor lounge areas with floor-to ceiling windows, and multiple open decks with expansive 270-360 degree views. The Glass Atrium Lounge inside the bow is a fantastic place to sit and watch for wildlife - with a drink in hand. There is no shortage of



spaces to take in the majesty of the incredible world outside! Lecture Theatre On all expeditions you will meet naturalists and local specialists, who offer presentations on their area of expertise to enhance your appreciation of the destination you are exploring. Join the team in the lecture theatre for presentations covering a broad range of topics to suit every interest, from history and culture to biology and climate change. Regardless of the topic, they all have one thing in common: they all aim to engage, educate, entertain and turn you into an ambassador for the planet. Citizen Science Center & Lounge Learn more about the world and the unique destinations Aurora visits by visiting the onboard naturalist and Expedition Team in the world-class Citizen Science Center. You will be rewarded for your thirst for knowledge with one of the best views on the ship. Library With floor-to-ceiling windows, the library is a peaceful sanctuary where you can find non-fiction books to read up on the day's destinations, use a public laptop to organise your photos or play board games with newfound friends. Choose from our range of informative non-fiction titles, wildlife guidebooks, travel journals, novels and a selection of children's books and board games. Wildlife guides, books and binoculars can also be found on the observation lounge on Deck 7. Mudroom No need to take your wet expedition gear back to your cabin to dry. Keep your cabin warm and cosy by leaving your outer jackets and pants in the mudroom. The mudroom is your launchpad for all shore excursions and activities. Here, you will have access to a locker when you can hang your gear up to dry, and store your boots between excursions. Swimming Pool & Jacuzzis There are two Jacuzzis on the top outside deck which offer amazing views of the world outside, a heated outdoor pool surrounded by sun beds you can relax on after a long day of exploring, and a pool bar. Gym & Sauna During your voyage, enjoy complimentary access to the gym or visit our sauna, which we highly recommend after the Polar Plunge! Restaurants One of the most important parts of any expedition is the food! Whatever adventures the day holds, you will be fuelled-up with hearty meals and delicious morning/afternoon teas cooked by our onboard chefs. Meals are a great time to soak up the expedition camaraderie in our open seating dining area. Share stories with your fellow travellers and ask our expedition team questions that may have come up during the day. Tea, coffee and snacks are available 24 hours a day, and our chefs offer different menu options and courses for each meal. Enjoy the range of house wine, beers and soft drinks included with dinner after a long day in the wild. We also invite you to join your captain and expedition team for informal Captain's Farewell drinks, with complimentary beverages and cocktail appetisers, followed by a 3 course meal. Bars & Lounges Communal meeting areas have always played a major role in fostering the warm camaraderie on board our ships. They are the heart of the expedition, where people meet to share tales from the day, swap photos, keep an eye out for wildlife and watch the sun go down. The bars and lounges on board are refined yet inviting places to gather, with floor-to-ceiling windows offering stunning views, and of course friendly bartenders to shoot the


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Junior Suite





PRICING

28-Mar-2027 to 07-Apr-2027

Balcony Stateroom Category C	£9949 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom Category A	£11295 GBP pp
Aurora Stateroom Single	£9199 GBP pp
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