

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

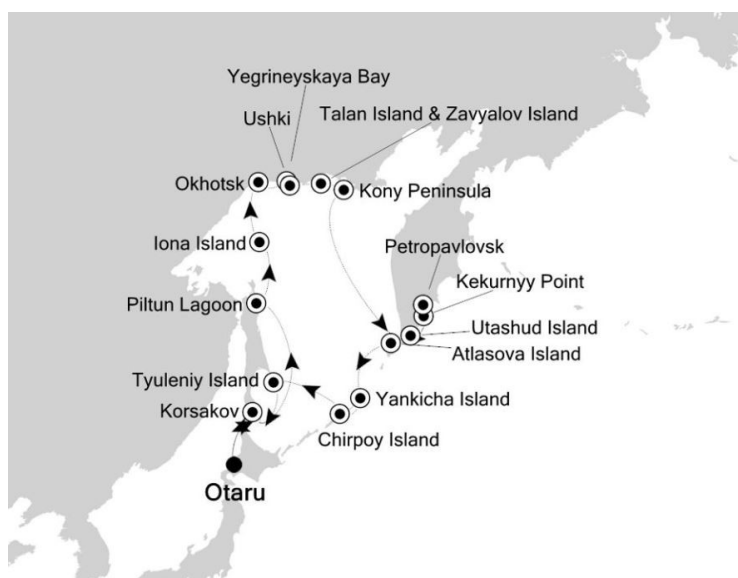
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HOKKAIDO TO HOKKAIDO: RUSSIAN FAR EAST EXPEDITION CRUISE

Join us on a cruise around the Sea of Okhotsk, one of the least visited areas in the rarely visited Russian Far East. This voyage will offer dramatic scenery and marvellous opportunities for wildlife observation. With Okhotsk we visit a small town linked to Vitus Bering, with Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy we visit the cultural and political centre of Kamchatka, before heading south through the Kuril Islands, a geothermal wonderland of volcanoes and hot springs. During our voyage we will look out for whales, seals and huge populations of migratory seabirds. You can also learn about the history, geology, wildlife and botany of this spectacular area from lecture presentations offered by the knowledgeable onboard Expedition Team.



ITINERARY

Day 1 HOKKAIDO (OTARU)

Otaru is a small harbor city west of Sapporo. Famous for its many hills and a nearby ski resort, the town has been an important trade and herring fishing center. A wide canal that led from the port to the old town's warehouses has been maintained for touristic purposes and the old stone or brick-built warehouses have been beautifully converted to restaurants and boutiques.

Day 2 KORSAKOV

Korsakov is used as a technical stop for ships clearing in and out of Russia. In addition to being a port of call for these formalities, the city was once home to an Ainu fishing village

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frequented by regional traders and early Russian expeditions. History also suggests that there may have been a significant Japanese population here at one time with reports of a Japanese religious temple on record.

Day 3 DAY AT SEA

Days at sea are the perfect opportunity to relax, unwind and catch up with what you've been meaning to do. So whether that is whale watching from the Observatory Lounge, writing home to your loved ones or simply topping up your tan by the pool, these blue sea days are the perfect balance to busy days spent exploring shore side.

Day 4 PILTUN LAGOON

Piltun Lagoon is tucked into the remote northeastern shores of the immense Sakhalin Island in the Sea of Okhotsk. The shallow waters at the mouth of Piltun Lagoon are known to harbor a rare gray whale population. It is believed that the relatively warm waters are favored calving grounds for the whales. In the distance, across the slate-colored lagoon sits a tall lighthouse that acts as an excellent landmark on explorations ashore to find Steller Sea Eagles, Aleutian Terns, Pine Grosbeaks, Siberian Rubythroats and Dusky Warblers.

Day 5 IONA ISLAND

Iony (or Jonas) Island is a small and isolated point of land in the expansive Sea of Okhotsk. It is home to a Steller sea lion colony, but great numbers of Northern Fulmars and Brünnich's Guillemots will be the first sign that the island is close at hand. On closer inspection it becomes obvious that the sea lions take up almost every available spot for resting close to the water. Overhead, guillemots and kittiwakes circle the cliffs by the thousands. Whiskered, Least and Parakeet Auklets fill the air

and float in communal rafts on the water.

Day 6 OKHOTSK

The city of Okhotsk is located on the banks of the Okhota River that gives its name to both the town and the surrounding sea. For many years Okhotsk was the most important port in the Russian Far East. It was from here that Vitus Bering left for his two expeditions in the early 18th century, but the town had lost its importance in the 19th century and today counts only about 4,000 inhabitants. The puddled, unpaved streets give visitors the feeling of having stepped back in time.

Day 7 YEGRINEYSKAYA BAY & USHKI BAY

Day 8 TALAN ISLAND & ZAVYALOV ISLAND & KONY PENINSULA

Researchers occasionally visit Talan to monitor the seabirds here including Steller's Sea Eagles, Parakeet Auklets, Ancient Murrelets and Spectacled Guillemots. The breeding seabirds on the island have been counted for nearly 30 consecutive years. The counts have revealed that the number of Tufted Puffins has increased. At last tally 120,000 were breeding on Talan. In addition, Horned Puffin populations are stable at 80,000 individuals. However, the results are not always encouraging. Originally 1.5 million Crested Auklets were found breeding on Talan, and lately that number has been halved.

Day 9 KONY PENINSULA

Day 10 DAY AT SEA

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Day 11 UTASHUD ISLAND

Three small islands form Utashud and seem to be the remnants of a former volcano rising 80 meters (262 feet) out of Vestnik Bay. Although the island is deprived of forest, fragments of giant petrified trees have been found on its shores. Utashud is one of the richest islands on the southeastern side of Kamchatka in terms of wildlife. The island is notable for its population of sea otters (up to 300 individuals). In fact, native people from Kamchatka used to visit this island to hunt for sea otters, valuing the thick fur of their pelts.

Day 12 KEKURNYY POINT

Day 13 PETROPAVLOVSK KAMCHATSKY

The Kamchatka Peninsula is part of the Eastern frontier of Russia. Due to its close proximity to the United States, the region has played a strategic role in the defense of Russian territory throughout modern history. As a result, the territory was closed for many years to foreigners and Russians alike. Fortunately, the region's isolated position played a significant role in preserving and protecting its unique wilderness and rich biodiversity. With few roads, most regional transportation is by plane, boat, or helicopter.

Day 14 ATLASOVA ISLAND

The near-perfect cone of Alaid volcano dominates Atlasova Island with its 2000-meter (6,500-foot) peak. It is the highest volcano in the Kuril Islands and over time generated the black lava beaches and the eroding Taketomi tufa limestone cone near the landing site. At one time a women's prison, or gulag,

was located on Atlasova. The women, many of them political prisoners during the Soviet rule, were sent here to raise foxes for fur. Peregrine Falcons can sometimes be spotted flying above the beach, while buzzards, Eurasian Wigeons, and Tufted Ducks have all been observed on the island.

Day 15 YANKICHA ISLAND

Any articles published about the Kuril Islands are likely to linger over the impressive Yankicha Island. It is the southernmost of two islets forming Ushishir Island. Yankicha is distinct in having at its center a caldera that is accessible by small boat only during high tide. Inside this extraordinary lagoon are fumaroles and hot springs, both traces of the tremendous forces that created the island long ago. Fortunate visitors may encounter an Arctic fox or the rare Whiskered Auklet. Ashore it is also possible to see Arctic Warblers and Middendorff's Grasshopper Warblers.

Day 16 CHIRPOY ISLAND

The oftentimes fog-shrouded coasts of Chirpoy Island teem with a profusion of wildlife including Steller sea lions, Northern Fulmars, kittiwakes, puffins and auklets. Whales, and specifically orcas, have also been seen around Chirpoy. The dramatic volcanic nature of the island is apparent in the subtly shaded layers of sediment flanking the sides of the active Snou volcano.

Day 17 TYULENIY ISLAND

Thousands of Northern fur seals and Steller sea lions call Tyuleniy Island their home. The island is appropriately named, as the word tyuleniy means "seal" in Russian. During the summer months, tens of thousands of seals and sea lions haul ashore here during the breeding season. The cacophony of their barks, belches, grunts and groans is difficult to imagine. Bulls,



their harems, and many thousands of young black pups all jostle for space on the crowded beaches that flank the small rocky island.

Day 18 DAY AT SEA

Days at sea are the perfect opportunity to relax, unwind and catch up with what you've been meaning to do. So whether that is whale watching from the Observatory Lounge, writing home to your loved ones or simply topping up your tan by the pool, these blue sea days are the perfect balance to busy days spent exploring shore side.

Day 19 HOKKAIDO (OTARU)

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Please Note:

Expedition highlights and itinerary listed here are possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed. Your Expedition Leader and Captain will work together to ensure opportunities for adventure and exploration are the best possible, taking into account the prevailing weather and wildlife activity. Expedition Team members scheduled for this voyage are subject to change or cancellation.

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YOUR SHIP: SILVER EXPLORER

YOUR SHIP:

Silver Explorer

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Silver Explorer's all-inclusive dining, service and shore excursions means that this is luxury expedition cruising at its very best. Award-winning itineraries make this ship the perfect combination of adventure and comfort. The purpose-built Silver Explorer expedition ship (formerly the Prince Albert II) has been designed specifically for navigating waters in some of the world's most remote destinations, including both of earth's polar regions. A strengthened hull with a Lloyd's Register ice-class notation (1A) for passenger vessels enables Silver Explorer to safely push through ice floes with ease. A fleet of Zodiac boats allows guests to visit even the most off-the-beaten path locations and an expert Expedition Team provides insight and understanding to each unforgettable Silver Explorer cruise adventure. Silver Explorer features 2 x restaurants, a fitness suite, 2 x loungers, a beauty spa and a library. Suites include: Butler service Refrigerator and bar setup stocked with your preferences Luxury bath amenities Pillow menu Personalised stationery Umbrella Direct dial telephone(s) 220-volt outlets Unlimited Standard Wifi Flat-screen television(s) with Interactive Media Library French balcony with floor-to-ceiling glass doors Twin beds or queen-sized bed Marbled bathroom with shower Fitted

wardrobe with personal safe Sitting area with writing desk Hair dryer Plush bathrobe Champagne



on arrival

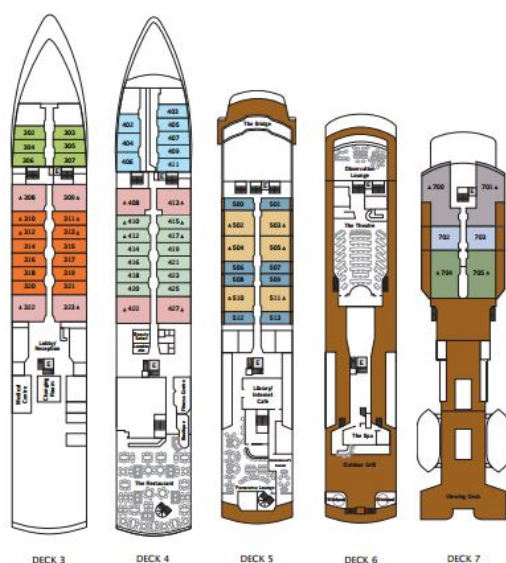
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP



SUITE CATEGORIES

OWNER'S SUITE	
GRAND SUITE	
SILVER SUITE	
MEDALLION SUITE	
EXPEDITION SUITE	
VERANDA SUITE	
VISTA SUITE	
VIEW SUITE	
EXPLORER CLASS	
ADVENTURER CLASS	

SPECIFICATIONS

REFURBISHED	2008
LLOYD'S REGISTER	
ICE-CLASS RATING	1A
CREW	117
OFFICERS	International
GUESTS	132
TONNAGE	6,072
LENGTH	354 Feet
WIDTH	52 Feet
SPEED	14 Knots
PASSENGER DECKS	5
3RD GUEST CAPACITY	▲
CONNECTING SUITES	702/704, 703/705, 500/502, 501/503, 504/506, 505/507, 510/512, 511/513
REGISTRY	BAHAMAS



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PRICING



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