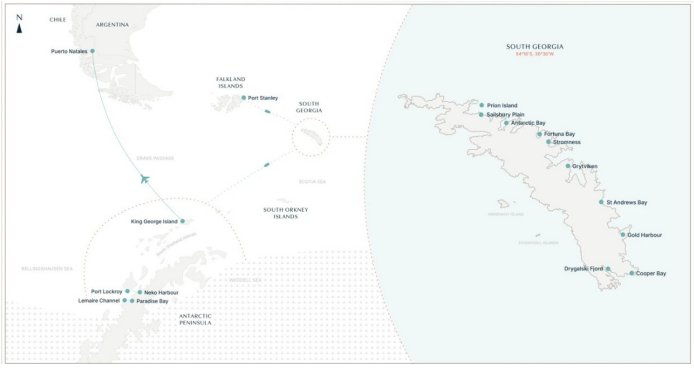


SOUTH GEORGIA AND ANTARCTICA SHACKLETON SPECIAL EXPEDITION MICRO CRUISE

See what Shackleton saw. Stand where he stood. Understand, finally, why he kept coming back. Follow in the footsteps of Shackleton. This voyage follows the survival route in sequence. South Georgia first, aiming to reach King Haakon Bay, where the James Caird made landfall after the 800-mile crossing from Elephant Island; Fortuna Bay, where the hike to Stromness follows the final miles of the mountain crossing; and Grytviken, where Shackleton rests. Then north-west to Elephant Island, Point Wild, where 22 men waited under two upturned lifeboats for the ship that took four months to come. Then south into Antarctica, the continent the Endurance never reached. With just 36 guests, six Senior Polar Guides, and four Zodiacs on the water at once, every guest explores South Georgia at its wildest and the Antarctic Peninsula together, with the freedom to linger, observe, and experience the polar world without compromise. Spring breathes new life into the Southern Ocean as South Georgia's vast king penguin colonies teem with activity and elephant seals battle for breeding territories along the beaches. Fur seal pups begin to appear, while wandering albatross soar effortlessly overhead. As the expedition continues south into Antarctica, gentoo, chinstrap, and Adelie penguins begin nesting, seals haul out on pristine sea ice, and the first humpback and minke whales return to feed in the nutrient-rich waters, marking the beginning of another extraordinary polar season. 19 days. 36 guests. The same Southern Ocean. Different century.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Port Stanley, Falkland Islands

Embarkation day.

Most guests fly into Mount Pleasant Airport, where the expedition team will meet you. Luggage is transferred directly to the vessel. A charter bus into Stanley together with the team, the first chance for introductions.

If you are already on the Falklands, join us at the Tourist Office from 15:00. The afternoon is yours: the Maritime Museum, the waterfront, a pint at the Globe.

Aboard by 18:00 for mandatory safety briefings. Welcome cocktail, dinner, and the official start of the expedition.



Days 2 - 3 Southern Ocean

The Scotia Sea passage.

Aureum's wing stabilisers manage the crossing; the onboard programme holds your attention between polar science lectures, photography workshops, and personal accounts from the expedition team.

On day 3, we hope to cross the Antarctic Convergence and pass Shag Rocks; jagged, isolated islets alive with seabirds, seals, and whales, the first land since the Falklands. South Georgia is one day ahead.

Days 4 - 9 South Georgia

The approach takes us past Bird Island, one of the greatest concentrations of nesting wandering albatrosses on earth. Wildlife meets you before the first landing.

King Haakon Bay is where Shackleton's party made landfall after the open-boat crossing from Elephant Island. The bay is remote, rarely visited, and the scale of what happened there settles slowly.

Grytviken is a formal customs stop, and rather more besides. The museum, the abandoned whaling station, and in the cemetery: Shackleton and Wild under simple headstones. We take time here.

The remaining days move between St Andrews Bay, Salisbury Plain, Gold Harbour, Cooper Bay, Fortuna Bay and Drygalski Fjord. At Fortuna Bay, the hike toward Stromness follows the final section of the mountain crossing, the ground Shackleton, Worsley, and Crean walked on in 1916 to raise the alarm.

Early morning landings in golden light. King penguin colonies in full courtship. Elephant seal bulls compete on the beaches before fur seal numbers peak later in the season.

Possible locations: Bird Island, Elsehul Bay, King Haakon Bay, St Andrews Bay, Fortuna Bay, Stromness, Salisbury Plain, Cooper Bay, Gold Harbour, Drygalski Fjord, Grytviken, Nordenskjold Glacier, Ocean Harbour.

Days 10 - 11 Southern Ocean

Aureum turns south-west across the Southern Ocean, retracing the route of the James Caird in reverse. Lectures and workshops continue on board. Time on deck if the weather permits.

On day 11 or 12, we hope to reach Elephant Island -- Point Wild specifically, where 22 men waited under two overturned lifeboats for four months while Shackleton sailed to South Georgia for help. We aim to land or conduct a Zodiac cruise, subject to conditions.

Days 12 - 16 South into Antarctic Waters

Over four days, Aureum works through narrow channels and hidden bays: the Antarctic Sound, Weddell Sea, Gerlache Strait and Deception Island.

Leopard seals on ice floes. Gentoo, Chinstrap, and Adelie penguins at the nest. The silence of glacial amphitheatres broken by calving ice. For many guests, the moment that defines the entire voyage is stepping ashore on the seventh continent.

November brings Antarctica's early season, largely untrafficked,



ice still present in the channels, the white of the peninsula not yet softened by summer. The continent as Shackleton would have known it.

Possible locations: Antarctic Sound, Paulet Island, Weddell Sea, Brown Bluff, Cierva Cove, Trinity Island, Gerlache Strait, Hughes Bay, Wilhelmina Bay, Deception Island.

Days 17 - 18 Drake Passage

Cape Horn ahead. The Drake Passage, two days of sailing among the albatrosses with the programme continuing as it has throughout: lectures, workshops, time on deck.

Aureum's wing stabilisers hold their value here too. The Drake earns its reputation. The crossing is manageable; what happened here is not.

Day 19 Ushuaia, Argentina

Disembarkation Day

Following breakfast, and once the vessel has been cleared by the local authorities, disembarkation typically begins from 09:00.

A complimentary transfer will take you to Arakur Ushuaia Resort & Spa, where a final overnight stay is included as part of your expedition. The remainder of the day is yours to relax and enjoy the hotel's exceptional facilities, including the fitness centre, indoor swimming pool, indoor and outdoor relaxation pools, outdoor hot tubs, and pool bar. Alternatively, immerse yourself in Patagonia by exploring the scenic walking trails of the Cerro Alarken Nature Reserve.

Day 20 Ushuaia, Argentina

Departure Day

After breakfast, a complimentary transfer to Ushuaia Airport is provided according to your flight schedule.

Your expedition comes to an end in Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city, concluding an extraordinary journey through South Georgia, Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. We hope to welcome you on another Secret Atlas expedition in the future.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: AUREUM

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

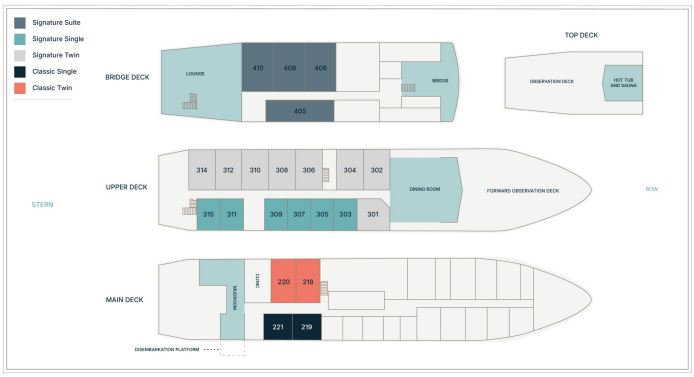
Accommodating just 36 guests, Aureum embodies everything that defines the Secret Atlas experience: small-ship exploration, exceptional flexibility, and a level of immersion that larger expedition vessels simply can't offer. Purpose-built for polar exploration, Aureum features a high ice class, allowing her to navigate through sea ice with confidence, along with wing stabilisers for enhanced comfort in open water. One of the features we're most excited about is her hybrid propulsion system. When conditions allow, we can switch off the engines and glide silently through the polar wilderness, experiencing the extraordinary stillness of the ice while watching whales and wildlife undisturbed. Onboard, you'll enjoy exceptional service alongside thoughtfully designed facilities, including a panoramic observation lounge and wellness centre with gym equipment, sauna, and outdoor hot tub. I particularly love the open bridge policy, so at any time you can watch the captain at work, ask questions, search for wildlife and feel in the heart of the expedition operations. With just 36 passengers onboard, MV Aureum is particularly well suited to solo travellers. You embark as strangers but often disembark as friends. Because the group is so small, you'll have the opportunity to meet everyone onboard, share the experience together and quickly become acquainted as one close



-knit group.



INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Classic Single



Classic Twin



Signature Single



Signature Twin





PRICING

30-Oct-2027 to 18-Nov-2027

Signature Single	£23099 GBP pp
Classic Twin	£17709 GBP pp
Signature Twin	£20019 GBP pp
Classic Single	£21559 GBP pp

28-Oct-2028 to 16-Nov-2028

Classic Twin	£18479 GBP pp
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