

# Wild Earth Travel

*Small Ships, Big Adventures*

**wildearth-travel.com**

**info@wildearth-travel.com**

## DEEP SOUTH BASECAMP EXPERIENCE

The Deep South Basecamp experience offers you a myriad of ways to explore and enjoy the Antarctic region. This expedition allows you to (long) hike, snowshoe, kayak, and even camp out under the Southern Polar skies.



### ITINERARY

#### Day 1 - End of the world, start of a journey

Your voyage begins where the world drops off. Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet, is located on the far southern tip of South America. Starting in the afternoon, you embark on this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego, nicknamed "The End of the World," and sail the mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the remainder of the evening.

#### Day 2 to 3 - Path of the polar explorers

Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you enjoy some of the same experiences encountered by the great polar explorers who first charted these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale spouting up sea spray. After passing the Antarctic Convergence - Antarctica's natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer sub-Antarctic seas - you are in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone.

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Not only does the marine life change, the avian life changes too. Wandering albatrosses, grey-headed albatrosses, black-browed albatrosses, light-mantled sooty albatrosses, cape pigeons, southern fulmars, Wilson's storm petrels, blue petrels, and Antarctic petrels are a few of the birds you might see.

## Day 4 - Through the Pendleton Strait

Arriving at the Antarctic Peninsula near the Antarctic Circle. If sea ice conditions permit, you may continue through Pendleton Strait and attempt a landing at the rarely visited southern tip of Renaud Island. Here, you have the opportunity to encounter the first Adelie penguins of the voyage and enjoy spectacular views of icebergs in this surreal, snow-swept environment.

Later in the afternoon, we will continue our journey towards Adelaide Island and Marguerite Bay, crossing the Polar Circle. We will spend the night in the area of Crystal Sound, where the scenery is so captivating it may keep you awake into the early hours. This region also offers the chance to spot orcas, humpback whales, and minke whales.

## Day 5 to 8 - Marguerite Bay as a setting for activities

Over the coming days, we have the opportunity to experience a variety of planned activities in this incredible setting, deep in Antarctica.

Places you might visit include:

**\*\*Horseshoe Island\*\*** \- Horseshoe Island is named for its distinctive shape. An abandoned research station here offers insight into the early days of scientific exploration, with original artifacts illustrating the stark contrast between life then and now. The hut is set amidst some of the most breathtaking scenery in Antarctica, offering views over the mountains and snow of Pourquoi Pas Island, as well as Horseshoe Island's own rugged peaks. This is a photographic landing in every sense. Two old wooden boats still rest at the site, as if awaiting one final launch.

**\*\*Pourquoi Pas Island\*\*** \- Discovered and charted by the renowned explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot, Pourquoi Pas Island offers a scenic landing on a rocky beach set against the backdrop of the impressive Moider Glacier. A gentle walk from the landing site reveals stunning vistas, while Antarctic fur seals lounging just beyond the beach add a delightful wildlife encounter to our journey.

**\*\*Stonington Island\*\*** \- A site of major research activity from the 1930s to the 1970s, Stonington Island hosted both American and British bases. It features a variety of historic buildings and artifacts that tell the story of early Antarctic exploration. Once connected to the mainland by snow and ice, this evocative site now stands as a poignant reminder of Antarctica's isolation and the fragile interplay between human history and raw wilderness. The blend of wildlife, natural grandeur, and preserved structures makes this an unforgettable stop, sure to leave a lasting impression.

**\*\*Red Rock Ridge\*\*** \- Located on the Antarctic mainland, Red Rock Ridge is distinguished by its vivid red-hued cliffs, which stand out sharply against the icy surroundings and are visible from afar. If conditions allow, we will attempt a landing here. We might encounter Adelie penguins and we also hope to spot seals and Antarctic shags that nest nearby.

## Day 9 to 10 - The Gullet and Detaille Island

If conditions allow, we then sail through The Gullet, one of the most impressive narrow channels in Antarctic, with towering mountains either side, birds following the ship and playful penguins and seals frolicking in the water as we sail through this very special part of the journey. If ice conditions allow we will also carry out a landing or cruise in the afternoon.

We may make a landing at an abandoned British research station here, taking in the island's lofty position and imposing glaciers scenery.

## Day 11 to 13 - Familiar seas, familiar friends

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, you're again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.

## Day 14 - There and back again

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. It's now time to disembark in Ushuaia, but with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

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## YOUR SHIP: ORTELIUS

<b>YOUR SHIP:</b>	<b>Ortelius</b>
<b>VESSEL TYPE:</b>	<b>Expedition</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	<b>91m</b>
<b>PASSENGER CAPACITY:</b>	<b>108-123</b>
<b>BUILT/REFURBISHED:</b>	

Built / Refurbished : 1989 / 2015

Ortelius was originally the Marina Svetaeva. Built in Gdynia, Poland in 1989, it served as a special-purpose vessel for the Russian Academy of Science. Later it was re-flagged and renamed after the Dutch/Flemish cartographer Abraham Ortelius (1527 - 1598), who in 1570 published the first modern world atlas: Theatrum Orbis Terrarum or Theater of the World. At that time his atlas was the most expensive book ever printed. Ortelius is classed by Lloyd's Register in London and flies the Dutch flag.

Perfect for Any Expedition

The vessel has the highest ice-class notation (UL1, equivalent to 1A) and is therefore suitable to navigate in solid one-year sea ice as well as loose multi-year pack ice. Ortelius can accommodate up to 108 passengers and has an abundance of open-deck spaces. It is manned by 24 highly experienced nautical crew members, 20 hotel staff, eight expedition specialists (one expedition leader, one assistant, and six lecturer-guides), and one doctor.

Ortelius: a Vessel with Comfort and Character

Please be aware that a small number of cabins may have a

partially obstructed view due to the size of the windows and the design requirements of the ship. For example, some windows may be partly obstructed in the lower half by a gangway. The best view is always on the outer deck or the bridge. Though our voyages are primarily meant to offer our passengers an exploratory wildlife program with as much time ashore as possible, Ortelius offers all the comforts of a standard hotel along with a bar and lecture room. Flexibility assures maximum wildlife opportunities. As such, Ortelius carries 10 Zodiacs with 60hp Yamaha engines.

Age & Nationality

Passengers on a typical voyage range from in their 30s to their 80s, with the majority usually between 45 - 65. Our expeditions attract independent travelers from around the globe who are characterized by a strong interest in exploring remote regions. The camaraderie that develops on board is an important part of the Oceanwide experience, and many passenger groups include several nationalities.

What to Wear

In keeping with the spirit of expedition, dress on board is informal. Bring casual and comfortable clothing for all activities, and keep in mind that much of the scenery can be appreciated from deck which can be slippery. Bring sturdy shoes with no-slip soles, and make sure your parka is never far away in case one of our crew shouts "Whales!" over the loudspeaker and you have to dash outside in a moment's notice. Opt for layers, as it is comfortably warm aboard the ship though often cold on deck.

How to Pay



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Refreshments and souvenirs will be charged to your cabin. The day before departure you can settle your bill with the hotel manager, paying by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or cash (euro, or in some cases dollar). We cannot, however, accept checks. Though the prices and standard currency on board is in the euro, other currencies may be accepted at the discretion of the hotel manager, at prevailing rates.

#### Electric Current

The electrical supply aboard ship is 220v, 60Hz. Electrical outlets are standard European with two thick round pins, so some passengers may need a 220v/110v converter.

#### Gratuities

The customary gratuity to the ship's service personnel is made as a blanket contribution at the end of the voyage and is divided among the crew. Tipping is a personal matter, and the amount you wish to give is at your sole discretion. As a generally accepted guideline, we suggest 8 – 10 euros per passenger per day. It is better for the crew if you give cash.

#### Non-Smoking Policy

We have a non-smoking policy inside all our vessels, though you can smoke in certain designated areas. We ask that you please respect the wishes of non-smokers.

#### Your Physical Condition

You must be in good overall health and be able to walk several hours per day. The expedition is ship-based and physically not very demanding, but we spend as much time as possible on shore. You are, however, welcome to remain aboard the ship if you prefer. To join most excursions you must be able to get up and down the steep gangway from the ship to the water level to board the Zodiacs. Staff will assist you in and out of the boats, and boarding will become progressively easier with

practice, but conditions on shore can be slippery and rocky. Remember, you will be traveling in remote areas without access to sophisticated medical facilities, so you must not join this expedition if you have a life-threatening condition or need daily medical treatment.



treatment.

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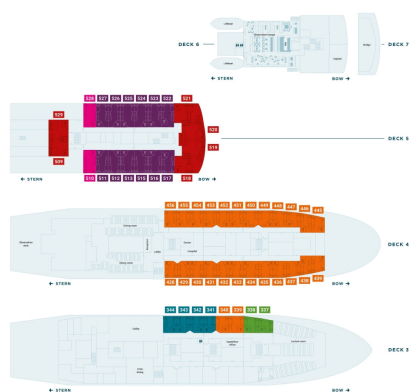


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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP

M/V ORTELIUS DECK PLAN



M/V ORTELIUS DECK PLAN   OCEANWIDE EXPEDITIONS		
ROOM TYPES	BEDS	SANITARY
Superior	Upper/lower berths	Toilet
Triple	Double bed	Bathroom
Triple room with additional double bed	Lower berth	
Quadruple room		

OCEANWIDE  
EXPEDITIONS

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## PRICING

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