





**ARCTURUS** THE POLAR ARM OF FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL

# VOYAGES AND EXPEDITIONS







<sup>66</sup>Welcome to our SHOWCASE brochure.

Inside is a glimpse of just a few of our exciting adventures. Be it on land, in small guided groups or onboard delightful small ships, we can offer you some of the very best experiences in the polar regions.

All the holiday dates and prices are on our website as well as many more trips – so do take a look!

Our overland expeditions focus on enjoying nature and scenery by walking, dog-sledging, skiing and camping in the Arctic, Antarctic, Arctic Norway, Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, more remote parts of Russia and the Canadian Arctic.

At sea, we are agents for operators of breathtaking wildlife expedition voyages to Arctic Norway, Spitsbergen, Iceland, Greenland, the Faroe Islands, Arctic Russia, the Canadian Arctic, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, the Antarctic Peninsula and the Ross Sea region.

Within this brochure you'll find a greatly simplified overview of what we offer – there's more detail in the way of itineraries, maps and client comments on our website. **Do call us for detailed dossiers on each trip**.

Remember – come fair weather or foul, we are here to plan the trip you want and we are always ready and delighted to discuss any aspect of your plans, however far into the future you are planning.<sup>29</sup>

18 Bypah

Fiona Brijnath Director



**ARCTURUS** THE POLAR ARM OF FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL

Ninestone, South Zeal, Devon EX20 2PZ tel: (+44) 01837 840640 email: fiona@arcturusexpeditions.co.uk www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk

# Contents

# ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS

Arctic Norway - Northern Norway and Spitsbergen	3
Iceland	4
The Faroe Islands	4
Greenland	4
Canadian Arctic	5
ARCTIC VOYAGES	
British Isles, Scotland, Iceland and Arctic Norway	6
Arctic Norway and the North Pole	7
Sailing Voyages	7
Greenland	8
Canadian and High Arctic	9
ANTARCTIC VOYAGES	
Antarctic Peninsula and Polar Circle	10
Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula	11
Antarctic, Weddell Sea, Ross Sea and Sub-Antarctic Islands	11
SHIPS	
Distinguishing Features	12

# Pricing

Please refer to our website for pricing. Here you will find indicative prices for all our trips. These will generally include international economy flights from the UK, internal transport, transfers to your embarkation point (where these can be pre-booked) and accommodation in twin rooms with meals as specified in our detailed dossiers.

Guide prices for **voyages** are based on twin cabins with private facilities. On request we will quote for single occupancy, triple, quadruple and superior cabins and suites (where available).

Our **expeditions** are nearly all fully-guided, either from the UK or locally.

We include fuel surcharges where applicable, but please note that we are bound to pass on any subsequent surcharges.

# **Extending Your Trip**

As bespoke travel specialists owned by **Far Frontiers Travel**, we can organise pre and post-tour elements to make yours a truly unique trip. So, for example, you could explore **Chile**, **Argentina**, **Peru**, **Bolivia** or **Ecuador/The Galapagos** as the opening or grand finale to your **Antarctic** voyage. Why not take in the glittering sights of **Moscow** and **St. Petersburg** or drive around **Iceland** before setting sail for **Arctic** waters? **We can organise it all**.



# Arcturus – Unique Polar Expeditions and the Best Voyages

# About Us

Based on Dartmoor, Devon, **Arcturus** has evolved over 40 years from a small niche polar travel company to one of the foremost operators to remote polar regions. **Fiona Brijnath**, your main contact, has established a notable reputation in tailored travel over the past 30 years, and has both the knowledge and experience to navigate you through a marketplace full of often bewildering options. Our itineraries are based on years of local research and experience from past, often scientific, expeditions. You are unlikely to find anyone who gives more attention to personal service and detail than **Fiona**, which is why her clients return time and again.

# We're always ready to discuss your travel plans however far ahead they may be



## FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL LTD

Arcturus is owned by Far Frontiers Travel, bespoke travel specialist for Georgia, Central Asia, China and Mongolia, the Far East, Indian Subcontinent and the Himalayas, Indochina, Myanmar, Middle East, North Africa, Russia, South America, Japan and Australia. Call us for our brochure.

email: fiona@farfrontiers.com www.farfrontiers.com

<sup>66</sup> We recently completed an unforgettable trip to Svalbard, Arctic Norway where we embarked upon a truly spectacular adventure of over 300kms of snowmobiling, plus a full day of dog sledging. We are so thankful for Fiona, in her ability to take a few random comments of what we might like to do and turn those wishes into a spectacular experience that far surpassed anything we could have dreamt of. We will be forever grateful... thank you.<sup>93</sup>

Andrew McLauchlan & Julie Butler, Svalbard

# Spectacular and other-worldly

Our guided adventures in the Arctic include dog sledging, cross-country skiing, camping and kayaking in Arctic Norway; tours and self-drive itineraries around Iceland and the Faroe Islands; wildlife and Inuit encounters in Greenland and the Canadian Arctic.



See more on our website – including dog sledging to Isfjord Radio, Spitsbergen

Call it mushing, dog sledding or dog sledging – there's no more exhilarating way to explore!

# ARCTIC NORWAY, NORTHERN NORWAY AND SPITSBERGEN

Experience early spring in **Northern Norway** by dog-sledge on one of our thrilling small group expeditions in the mountains and high uplands. Led by our Norwegian friends, we can also arrange visits to the **Sami (Lapp)** people in their summer or winter camps by skidoo, **Summer Island**, the **Lofoten Islands** or a fascinating day out in **Tromsø**.

**Spitsbergen** is the largest island in **Norway's Svalbard Archipelago**. We've exhilarating winter and spring adventures among its pointed mountains, deep fjords and the glorious sparkle of the Arctic. It's idyllic for summer visits too.

# NORWAY

# Explore Dividalen – Drive Your Own Dogs

#### 6 days | January - March

Stand on the runners whilst the dogs take the strain! They are well-trained, very friendly and need no encouragement to trot all day. Snow and weather conditions permitting, you will make daily trips through a beautiful snowscape. After a day on the trail, relax in the warmth of cosy accommodation or keep an eye out for magical displays of Northern lights.

- Leader Local Norwegian leader
- Key info Normal group size 4 minimum. Stay in simple accommodation south of Tromsø. No previous experience required
- **Option** Ask about hut to hut sledging

**WHAT TO EXPECT:** The chance of stunning displays of the *Aurora Borealis* in the depths of winter.

**TOP TIP:** We provide superbly warm sledging suits and thick felt-lined boots so you'll never be cold.

**DON'T MISS: Tromsø** for its atmospheric Polar Museum and Northern Lights Planetarium.

You will find maps and many more trips on our website www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk



# Overnight in Comfort

We've several exciting and different overnight bases for our **Spitsbergen** adventures. Relax in authentic trapper style at **Basecamp Spitsbergen Hotel**, experience the luxury of wilderness hotel and former radio station, **Isfjord Radio** or journey to expedition style **Nordenskiöld Lodge**. More on our website!

# SPITSBERGEN

# Isfjord and Nordenskiöld Summer Hiking

#### 8 days | July - mid-September

Explore this area of wild **Arctic** on foot and by boat. **Nordenskiöld Lodge** in **Adolfbukta** lies in the heart of polar bear land and in summer the fjord teems with birds, walrus, seals and belugas. Here enjoy glacier hiking and spectacular views with expedition lunch. Travelling to **Isfjord Radio** via open boat safari – watch out for polar bears, reindeer and Arctic fox. Here embark on a whole day hike and a five hour RIB boat safari at 78°N.

Leader Local leader Key info Optional Isfjord hike is 10-16kms. All equipment provided, minimum 4 people



# **ICELAND**

Beguiling and captivating

ICELAND, with its long summer days, midnight sun and winter Aurora Borealis, is ideal for touring by car - we've splendid self-drive itineraries or can arrange a driver/ guide if you prefer.

# Self Drive Tour Grand Circle Iceland with West Fjords

## 15 days | May - September

Waterfalls, glaciers, lava fields, sands of glacial rivers, black beaches, islands and cliffs teeming with bird life. You will be able to discover all this and much more as you drive around the amazing Snæfellsnes Peninsula, across the remote landscapes of the West Fjords and along the ring road right around the country. Travel at your own pace and spend time at the places that most interest you.

**Key info** Driving yourself is easy and we give plenty of advice. There are lovely boutique hotels in Reykjavik that we can suggest as an upgrade



TO DO: Ride an icelandic pony over black lava fields, walk inside a glacier or 'flightsee' by helicopter for a bird's eye view of a glacier or extinct volcano.

Drive the extraordinary subaquatic 'Jelly fish' roundabout between Torshavn and Eysturoy in the Faroes.

ASK: About sea angling, whale watching, volcanic crater hiking and visits to hidden hot springs. End with a Reykjavik foodie tour.



# ■ THE FAROE ISLANDS

Enchanting and timeless isles

**THE FAROES** poke sharply out of the Atlantic Ocean between Norway and Iceland. These 18 islands of narrow straits and small harbour villages are home to less than 50,000 people and more than three million sea birds. The Faroese people have proudly preserved their own culture, traditions and language rooted in the Old Norse

# **Faroe Islands Self Drive**

## 8 days | May - September

Driving is the ideal way to explore - with good roads and short distances between points of interest, you can see so much without having to change hotels every night. Visit the bird cliffs at Vestmanna and the tiny but picturesque village of **Gjogv**. Ferry hop between little islands in the north and end at Torshavn, the Faroes' capital, whose excellent restaurants showcase traditional Faroese cuisine.

Key info You can experience four seasons in one day. Average temperatures are 11°C in summer. Travel off season October-April for lower rates

TOP TIP: Faroes summers are short and hotels fill quickly so book early to avoid disappointment.

Ask us about private escorted tours with our lovely local guides.

# GREENLAND

Breathtaking fjords and enduring communities

# **Traditional Dog Sledging in** Liverpool Land

# 10 days | March - May

The Inuit still use the dog sledge to get around in winter, especially at Greenland's most isolated village, Ittoggortoormiit, on the east coast. Join us for a traditional dog sledging trip on Liverpool Land's spectacular coast. Highlights include flights by Twin-Otter aircraft and helicopter, a few days in Ittoggortoormiit village and four days' camping and travelling with dog sledges.

Local leader Leader Key info Group size 4 minimum. Stay in guest houses and tents or hunter's huts

# South and West Greenland by **Traditional Ferry Boat**

## 14 days | June -September

Travel with the locals on the delightful Sarfag Ittuk ferry and see Greenland's spectacular glaciers, icebergs, colourful Inuit settlements and Arctic wildlife. This journey along the coast between northerly Ilulissat (famed for its icebergs) and **Qaqortoq** in the south calls in at several ports and towns such as Nuuk, the smallest capital in the world.

Leader No guide, full briefing on arrival Key info Sarfaq Ittuk usually carries more local passengers than tourists. There's a communal café and great views from the upper decks. Timetables vary so we tailor to fit

# OPTIONS

Ask to include a three day trip to the spectacular Eqi Glacier



How about additional hiking options among South West Greenland's glaciers and fjords? Contact Fiona or visit our website for more suggestions!

BEST TIME TO GO: Winter/early spring for

dog sledging and Aurora Borealis. Summer for wonderful hiking and cruising in iceberg filled waters.

**READ:** Sirius Patrol by Peter Schmidt Michelson.



# Narwhal and Polar Bear Safari 11 days | May - June

Experience the classic spring floe edge and view polar bears, narwhal and icebergs under the midnight sun at the northern reaches of **Baffin Island**. Fly in and stay at a tented safari camp on an Arctic beach with views of Bylot Island, close to Lancaster Sound. Guided by Inuit you'll aim to spot narwhal, polar bears, beluga and bowhead whales.

#### Leader Local guide

**Key info** Group size 8-16. One of the best places to combine narwhal and polar bear encounters



# **Bike the High Arctic**

## 11 days | June - July

Journey deep into the **Arctic**. Your purpose built bike is your expedition cockpit and Arctic Watch Lodge is your basecamp. This human powered adventure will explore the frozen landscapes of the **Northwest** Passage floe edge as polar bears hunt seals and summer begins to grasp the polar landscapes. Bike the tundra in search of muskoxen as the Arctic flora begins to bloom and life takes hold on the summer landscapes of Somerset Island.

#### Leader Local guide

Key info Group size 6 maximum. Daily excursions by electric bike are fully guided. Nights are in an off-the-grid basecamp in en-suite cabins with locally sourced Canadian cuisine. Normal daytime temperatures range from 6° - 14°C. Warm days can reach 21°C



# **High Arctic Muskoxen and** Polar Bear Photography

#### 11 days | August

Early Autumn in the high Arctic - a unique time where polar bears await the return of winter ice and muskox battle for breeding rights. As the final throws of 24-hour sunlight hit the tundra, we set out to experience the wildlife of Arctic Watch and Somerset Island in a small photography-focused adventure. Polar bears, muskox, narwhal, Arctic foxes, snowy owls and more.

Key info Group size 9 maximum. Expertly led adventure. You'll see muskox (up to 35 animals) in full rut. Includes helicopter assisted hiking

# OPTIONS

Ask about our annual July Beluga Whale **Photography** tour when 2,000 of these iconic marine mammals congregate in Cunningham Inlet

BEST TIME TO GO: There's plenty to see and do any time between May and November.

**READ:** Dead Reckoning: The untold story of the Northwest Passage by Ken McGoogan.

The Inuit people of the CANADIAN ARCTIC are an essential part of Canada's national and cultural identity. Nunavut's vast tundra-clad islands with their remote villages and archaeological sites are accessible only by plane or boat. Iconic narwhal and beluga whale thrive in its waters. Baffin Island and Hudson Bay offer exceptional chances to get close to polar bear.

# Where the wild meets the refined

800km north of the Arctic Circle, Arctic Watch, Nunavet, is a three hour flight from Yellowknife NWT. Find out more about this great lodge and its gourmet cuisine on our website!

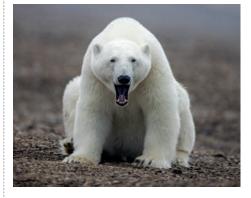
# Arctic Watch Lodge **Discovery Experience**

# 11 days | June - August

Home to polar bears, muskoxen, Arctic foxes and a world-class beluga whale nursery, Arctic Watch is an unparalleled destination for the adventurous. The Weber family have skied, kayaked, hiked and explored right across Canada's far north. Join them at this most northerly fly-in lodge on earth. Fully-guided excursions range from wildlife photography to 'fat biking' the frozen Arctic Ocean and sea kayaking alongside beluga whales.

Leader Local guide

Add on an optional overflight of the Key info Northwest Passage landing on Beechey Island. Observe narwhal and bowhead whales en route



See website for maps and more detail, including our Hudson Bay Fly-In Safari and Polar Bears and Glaciers of Baffin Island itineraries.



of drama The snowy peaks, glaciers and fjords of Spitsbergen are the focus of many of our voyages in Arctic Norway. In East Greenland we explore Scoresby Sund, the spectacular south east coast and the glorious shores of West Greenland.

We also sail to the British Isles, Scotland, The Faroes, Iceland, the Canadian and High Arctic and Arctic/ Far East Russia, as well as smashing through the sea ice towards the North Pole.

Many voyages have early booking offers – contact us to check when they expire.

All trips include flights and overnight accommodation en route to the ship.



These voyages are just a small sample of what we can offer you. Please contact us or check the website for more options, dates and prices.

# BRITISH ISLES, SCOTLAND, ICELAND AND ARCTIC NORWAY

Traditions, folklore, whales and seabirds

# **The British Isles**

# 13 days | May

Embark in **Portsmouth** and sail west to **Tresco** in the **Scilly Isles**, onto **Ireland's Dunmore East** and the **Saltee Islands** and **Llandudno** on the north coast of **Wales**. You'll recross the **Irish Sea** to **Northern Ireland** for the world renowned **Giants Causeway**. The inner and outer **Hebrides** including remote and storm ravaged **St Kilda** are also on the agenda as well as the **Orkneys**, **Fair Isle** and **Bass Rock** awash with northern gannets.

## OPTIONS

- Wild Islands and Lands of Legends voyage in and out of Edinburgh to Orkneys, Fair Isle, Shetlands and the Faroes
- 12 day Wild Scotland voyage in May sails Edinburgh to Aberdeen via the Hebrides, the Shetland Islands and Orkneys
- Join an unusual spring voyage which routes
  Portsmouth to Dublin via Stornaway



# **Iceland Circumnavigation**

## 11 days | May

Explore the 'Land of Ice and Fire' where snow-capped peaks rise above glaciers and active volcanoes rumble. Walk along a black sand beach strewn with glittering bergy bits and discover geysers, fumaroles and bubbling mud pools, or explore spectacular fjords and impressive waterfalls, in one of the most geologically active places on earth. Keep watch for tail flukes as we whale watch in **Húsavík**, explore **Látrabjarg** bird cliffs, the largest in Europe and visit **Vatnajökull National Park**.

## OPTIONS

Some voyages just cover the Westfjords and north coast in a fascinating Semi Circumnavigation



# Fair Isle, Jan Mayen to Spitsbergen, Birding

#### 10 days | May - June

On this **Aberdeen** to **Longyearbyen** expedition you'll search for birds and other **Arctic** wildlife and explore the stark volcanic **Norwegian island** of **Jan Mayen**, 300 nautical miles northeast of **Iceland**, crowned by the snow-capped summit of 2300m **Mt. Beerenberg**. Here we aim to visit the weather station and hike to the remains of a 17th-century **Dutch** whaling station. We'll scour the **East Greenland** ice edge north of **Spitsbergen** in search for whales before coming into port.

# OPTIONS

Sail Aberdeen to Longyearbyen Across the Arctic Circle in the height of summer via the Norwegian Coast, Lofotens and Bear Island



# Northern Lights Explorer via Greenland 19 days | September

On this unusual voyage we stay close to the coastlines of the Arctic Circle, skirting around the Norwegian and Greenland seas, and exploring remote islands and villages, hoping to catch the magical northern lights as night falls. Just south of the Arctic Circle, explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Vega Island. We'll attempt to land on Jan Mayen, home to Mount Beerenberg, the northernmost active volcanic in the world and discover dazzling icebergs of the world's largest fjord system at Greenland's Scoresbysund, ending in Iceland's remote Westfjords for remote hikes among splendid scenery.



# North/ Around Spitsbergen

## 9-11 days | May - August

These popular voyages are ideal for the first time visitor to the **Arctic** with numerous zodiac shore landings amid walrus, seals, whales and sea birds, and of course, the ever powerful and magnificent polar bear. Itineraries vary according to the ice conditions but generally early season voyages cover the west side of **Spitsbergen** whilst July/August trips aim for a full circumnavigation.

#### OPTIONS

- Try Basecamp voyages in June / July with free hiking, kayaking and photography workshops
- On selected voyages help by cleaning the shores
- June voyages look for bowhead whales and are designated polar bear and pack ice specials
- Look out for August voyages Svalbard Circumnavigations extending as far as Kvitøya



# Arctic Complete – Svalbard, Greenland, Iceland

### 24 days | July - August

Embark on a voyage from **Iceland** to **Svalbard** and see it all. Scan for whales, the majestic polar bear and enigmatic walrus on pack ice. **East Greenland** dazzles with its iridescent icebergs and deep exploration in **Scoresbysund** – the world's largest fjord system. Witness spectacularly colourful patterns in the sandstone rocks, visit remarkable **Palaeolithic** sites and have the chance to encounter muskox and **Arctic** hare. Venture close to 80° north looking for polar bears on the pack ice.



# East Spitsbergen and Summer Solstice 9 days | June

Experience the high **Arctic** summer solstice with an unusual expedition to **East Spitsbergen**. Our goal is to take you to amazing glaciers, fascinating historical sites, bountiful seabird colonies and sprawling fjord systems. Here is a good chance of spotting whales, seals, and possibly even polar bears. In addition, bear witness to the **summer solstice** in **Longyearbyen**.

#### OPTIONS

For a longer voyage combine with a preceding North Spitsbergen itinerary and take advantage of longer hike options – you"ll walk at least 15 km/6 hours in semi-rough terrain that includes shorelines, tundra, low hills, and river crossings

# Extended North and East Spitsbergen and Bear Island

#### 17 days | June - July

Why not combine **East Spitsbergen** (great for polar bears and pack ice) with a **North Spitsbergen Basecamp** voyage (multiple free activities) to make one epic trip. Basecamp voyages focus on land and near-shore activities with minimal disturbance to local populations while looking for wildlife opportunities whenever possible. Hikers embark on vigorous walks, photographers capture the dramatic surroundings, and kayakers explore waterways where the ship cannot sail. At the same time, we welcome you to help us in cleaning the shores of **Spitsbergen**.

# SAILING VOYAGES

These voyages on a small, historic sailing vessel with friendly crew offer an entirely different Arctic experience. You'll travel at a slower pace, but enjoy the same options for zodiac trips ashore to hike and explore. Get involved in the hoisting of sails and daily shipboard life.

Ask for more detail on the voyages below:

# Sail North/Around Spitsbergen

#### 12-16 days | May - August.

Voyages out of **Longyearbyen**. Travel in June for the summer solstice. Late July voyages circumnavigate. **Keen to sail in Greenland and Iceland? Ask about October voyages.** 

# Alpine Peaks of Spitsbergen Hike, Ski and Sail

# 9 days | May

Calling all experienced ski mountaineers who have mastered ski techniques both for ascent and descent in challenging snow-covered alpine terrain. Your typical day will involve ski climbs on mountaintops averaging heights of 700–850 meters and downhill skiing from those points. In combination with sailing an historic ship – and on-shore hiking, it will make for a memorable adventure.



Board a luxury hybrid icebreaker to sail from **Spitsbergen** to **The Geographic North Pole** July/August in 16 days. Ask about other options for **North Pole** voyages.





Awesome glaciers, icy fjords and Inuit communities

Explore the immense fjord system of **Scoresby Sund** and **Greenland's** spectacular **south east coast** or cruise up its dramatic **west coast** among icebergs, glaciers and whales. All our voyages to **Greenland** start or end in **Iceland** – we've endless suggestions for ways to extend your stay there!

## **Spitsbergen and North East Greenland**

# 16 days | August - September

These adventurous voyages provide a rare opportunity to see the remote north-east coast of **Greenland**. Crossing from **Spitsbergen**, we keep watch for fin, humpback and minke whales and approach **East Greenland**, landing at **Myggebugten**. We hope to encounter narwhal and should see musk oxen from the ship. Moving south to **Scoresby Sund** we land near a glacier and encounter huge icebergs before disembarking finally in **Akureyri** in north **Iceland** for the journey home. On clear dark nights we might be able to see the *Aurora Borealis*.

#### **OPTIONS**

- Try a 24 day extended Around Spitsbergen & Northeast Greenland - Aurora Borealis voyage also in August
- Our Three Arctic Islands Iceland, Greenland and Spitsbergen voyage operates between Reykjavik and Helsinki in 15 days
- The popular two week Jewels of the Arctic voyages in July and August discover Svalbard's northwest coast and the east coast of Greenland before concluding in Iceland
- Greenland is a great place to sample our 'longer hikes' voyages





# **Greenland Odyssey**

#### 17 days | July

Experience the enormity of **Greenland** on this comprehensive voyage from **Sermilik Fjord** and **Tasiilaq** on **Greenland's** east coast, south to **Skjoldungen Island**, **Hvalsey** and **Tasermiut Fjord**. Discover ancient rocks at **Skaergaard Peninsula** dating back some 55 million years. Sail **Prince Christian Sound**, flanked by imposing mountains. Hike across the **Arctic** tundra in search of **Arctic** fox, reindeer and muskok. Zodiac-cruise along spectacular sounds where ringed, harp and hooded seals laze on the sea ice and humpback and minke whales feed in the nutrient-rich waters. Weaving through fjords and channels, enter **West Greenland**, sailing from **Paamiut** to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed **Ilulissat Icefjord**.

### OPTIONS

Ask for the ultimate 26 day adventure Greenland in Depth in August or Wild Landscapes of West Greenland – two weeks' indepth focus on Ilulissat, Disko island and northern environs

### **East Greenland**

#### 11 days | September

This memorable voyage starts and finishes in **Reykjavík**, **Iceland**. We cross the **Denmark Strait** to explore the wilderness of **East Greenland's** stunning **Scoresby Sund** fjord complex. We'll discover historic sites and a contemporary Inuit village and encounter massive icebergs.

On our return journey we explore **Iceland's Westfjords**. Each night brings another excellent chance to experience the mesmerising **Northern Lights**.

#### OPTIONS

We've a great Scoresby Sund voyage, out of Akureyri which crosses the Arctic Circle into the home waters of multiple species of whale. Spot huge icebergs as you journey into the world's deepest fjord system in September

# **Gems of West Greenland**

# 12 days | July - August

Immerse yourself in the dramatic coast of **West Greenland**, exploring deep into fjords and stunning islands. You'll visit **Sisimiut**, **Manitsoq** and **Uummannaq**, venture into **Qilakitsoq** (the site of the Greenland Mummies) and explore **Store Glacier** and its immense discharge zone. Find massive glaciers and dip into **Eqip Sermia** or **Torsukatak Fjords**, located in the northeast corner of **Disko Bay**. At the peak of summer, enjoy sunny days, clear vistas, and longer opportunities to see wildlife.

#### OPTIONS

 Helicopter flightseeing, tundra to table culinary, mountain biking, kayaking

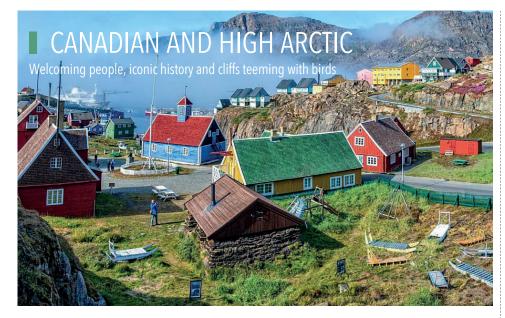


WHAT TO WEAR: Dress in layers with a wind and waterproof outer layer. Fleeces are great underneath. It can still be cold sailing in the middle of summer so a hat, scarf and gloves are sensible if you feel the cold.

**BRING WITH YOU:** Insect repellent and antihistamine for mosquito protection in summer.

Check the website for our prices which include flights and overnight accommodation en route to the ship. Prices are based on twin cabins with private facilities.

For updates on Russian Arctic voyages see the website.



# Canada's Remote Arctic – Northwest Passage to Ellesmere and Axel Heiberg Islands

#### 13 days | August

This rare itinerary is intent on reaching **Canada's** most northerly islands, **Axel Heiberg Island** and rarely visited **Ellesmere Island**, transiting **Hells Gate**. We hope to fly up to explore the **Devon Ice Cap**, one of **Canada's** largest. History buffs may pay their respects to the ill-fated 1845–46 **Franklin** expedition gravesites on **Beechey Island**. You may see sea mammals, polar bears, muskox, and even the elusive **Arctic** wolf.





# **High Arctic Explorer**

#### 17 days | August

Journey in comfort from **Resolute Bay** to **Kangerlussuaq**, **Greenland** at the height of Arctic summer! Explore the **Tallurutiup Imanga** marine protected area, visit the **Franklin** graves on **Beechey Island** and enjoy an Inuit welcome in **Mittimatalik** (Pond Inlet). Across **Baffin Bay** lies the sublime **Greenland** coast. **Ilulissat** offers great hiking and the **Icefjord** – home to the fastest-moving glacier in the world.

# **Greenland and Wild Labrador**

#### 19 days | September - October

Follow the 2,200 nautical mile route of Leif Erikson via coastal Labrador from Sondre Stromfjord, Greenland to historic St. John's, capital of Newfoundland and Labrador. Highlights include Greenland's capital Nuuk, Canada's pristine Torngat Mountains National Park, searching for polar and black bear along Northern Labrador's coastline and L'Anse aux Meadows, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

See the website for more, including our **Newfoundland Circumnavigation** and **Heart of the Arctic** itineraries!

# The Northwest Passage

#### 19 days | August - September

The Northwest Passage represents the pinnacle of Arctic exploration. On this trip, like the explorers before us, we'll experience the quaint villages, dramatic fjords, and calving glaciers of Greenland. Then, crossing Davis Strait, we'll visit Nunavut, pay respects at the Franklin Expedition graves at Beechey Island and spot Peary caribou, polar bear, walrus, and musk oxen on Devon Island. The recent findings of Franklin's ships, HMS Erebus and HMS Terror remind us that we sail into history, legend, and myth that continue today. Our epic journey's end is at Kugluktuk, Canada.

The first voyage sails from Kangerlussuaq, Greenland to Kugluktuk via Pond Inlet, Baffin and the second trip operates in reverse, but heads further north to Grisefjord and Smith Sound.

Into the Northwest Passage: August – September Out of the Northwest Passage: September

#### OPTIONS

- Go for a back to back 18 day Northwest Passage voyage in July/August using Calgary and Toronto as gateways for charter flights to the ship. You'll hug Baffin's East Coast and have landings at Devon, Beechey and Prince Leopold Islands
- For the trip of a lifetime try a 31 day Complete Northwest Passage from Kangerlussuaq to Nome in August/September
- Follow history with a Northwest Passage in the Footsteps of Franklin voyage routing from Greenland along the length of Baffin Island to Resolute in August.
- Arctic Express Canada, the Heart of the Northwest Passage for those interested in the region but short of time. Spend five days covering Resolute, Beechey Island, Port Leopold and NW Baffin in September and making good use of your ship's onboard helicopters



Must read: Finding Franklin by Russell Potter

The Antarctic Peninsula is a spectacular chain of mountains and glaciers supporting the richest wildlife in Antarctica.

Most of our voyages depart from Ushuaia, South America and cross the Drake Passage, visiting the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula. A few voyages embark in the South Shetland Islands to avoid the Drake Passage crossing.

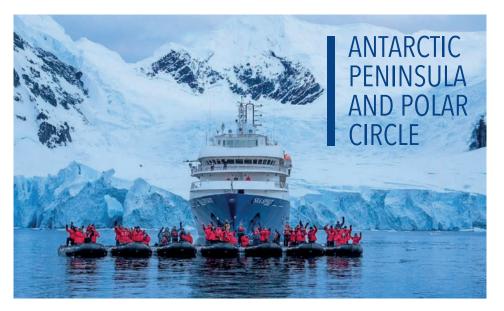
Some take in South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. More adventurous voyages head for the Ross Sea to visit emperor penguin colonies and Scott's and Shackleton's huts.

Kingdom of penguins

Many voyages have early booking offers – contact us to check when they expire.

Prices are based on twin cabins with private facilities.

These voyages are just a small sample of what we can offer you. Please contact us or check the website for more options, dates and prices.



# Classic Antarctic Peninsula with South Shetlands

#### 14-16 days | November - March

These voyages offer the best introduction to the White Continent. Beginning in Ushuaia, ships cross the Drake Passage directly to the Peninsula to explore its wildlife and scenery. Some also include the South Shetland Islands and its abandoned whaling station on Deception Island. Return through the Gerlache Strait, home to leopard seals and blue-eyed shags. Zodiac cruises and numerous landings enable viewing of all species of penguins, seals, whales and other wildlife as well as historic sites and operational research bases.

#### OPTIONS

- Inquisitive travellers should join our Discovery and Learning voyages with interactive in-field and on-board workshops, November – February
- All Access voyages with free adventure options including kayaking and camping usually operate in November and December with ten nights on board
- Some Christmas departures include two nights ashore in **Ushuaia** pre-voyage
- Ask about X-Bow ships which help to smooth out the Drake Passage
- Ask about Antarctic Peninsula Basecamp voyages where adventure activities are free

# Antarctic Explorer Featuring the Chilean Fjords

#### 16-17 days | February - March

Starting in **Punta Arenas**, **Chile**, combine **Chilean Fjords** with channels flanked by majestic mountains, thrilling **Cape Horn** and the unimaginable beauty of **Antarctica**.One voyage overflys the **Drake**, the other ends in **Ushuaia**.

### OPTIONS

 Short of time or worried about rough seas? Fly the Drake in both directions on Antarctic Peninsula Express 8 day voyages November to March

# Antarctica Beyond the Polar Circle Wilkins Ice Shelf

# 20 days | March

This expedition voyage explores the rarely visited Bellingshausen Sea, Marguerite Bay, and Alexander Island. We focus on many places discovered by Adrien de Gerlache on his Belgian Antarctic Expedition (1897 – 1899) aboard the *Belgica*. We'll travel beyond the Antarctic Circle, where we aim to spend the rest of the trip. We'll see ice shelves and land on islands where few people have set foot.

#### OPTIONS

- Try a March Polar Circle Deep South Discovery voyage
- Late March sees Polar Circle voyages focussing on whales. Similar voyages include Elephant Island and the Weddell Sea
- Celebrate Christmas going Across the Antarctic Circle December/January



# **DON'T DELAY:** Because some of the vessels are comparatively small we recommend booking early.

**MUST DO:** Camp overnight on the **Peninsula** to experience **Antarctic** weather close up. It might seem tough at the time but you won't regret it! It's popular so you'll need to pre-book.

# ANTARCTIC, WEDDELL SEA, ROSS SEA AND SUB-ANTARCTIC

In the footsteps of fabled explorers



# Weddell Sea in Search of Emperors with Helicopters

## 15 days | November

A tremendous sense of excitement spreads through the ship as we enter the Weddell Sea on this voyage to the Antarctic Peninsula's wild side. Our goal is the famed emperor penguin rookery at Snow Hill Island with around 4,000 breeding pairs. The area is known for unpredictable conditions - as we are unlikely to reach through the ice as far as the emperor penguin rookery south of Snow Hill Island we aim to situate ourselves in or between the Antarctic Sound and James Ross Island, close to the ice-edge where we can observe the penguins on their way to the open water. We will make scenic flights and landings in places otherwise inaccessible this early in the season. However, if iceconditions favour us, we will reschedule to offer ship-toshore helicopter transfers, landing around 45 minutes' walking distance from the rookery.

Activities On-board helicopters Key info Successful landings since 2017

## OPTIONS

 Join a luxury hybrid icebreaker cutting through thick ice to reach Snow Hill Island itself – voyages in November. Ask for details



# **Remote Weddell Sea Explorer**

#### 31 days | February - March

This adventurous expedition explores one of the leastvisited areas on Earth, Antarctica's amazing Weddell Sea and includes South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands, Neuschwabenland, Vahsel Bay, Larsen Ice Shelf, Paulet and Devil Islands and Elephant Island. After visiting sites that Sir Ernest Shackleton charted in South Georgia, enjoy the Weddell's exotic wildlife and colossal tabular icebergs.



# In the Wake of Scott and Shackleton 33 days | January - February

The Ross Sea is only accessible for two months a year when the ice thaws. This remote region drew many of the most famous explorers and adventurers including Scott, Shackleton and Amundsen and we aim to visit five historic huts to learn more of the explorers' achievements. The region is the breeding ground for millions of adelie and emperor penguins. We aim for landings in the Sub-Antarctic Islands: Auckland, Campbell and Macquarie.



# Sub-Antarctic Islands -Birding Down Under 22 days | December

Explore the 'Albatross Latitudes' and the most remote Sub-Antarctic Islands including The Snares, Bounty, Antipodes, Auckland, Campbell, Macquarie and Chatham islands on this comprehensive wildlife and history expedition out of New Zealand.

## OPTIONS

You might also consider a shorter Sub-Antarctic Islands: Forgotten Islands of the South Pacific voyage to Campbell Island, Auckland Islands and The Snares also in December

All our prices include flights! See our website for more detailed voyage information!

# FALKLAND ISLANDS, SOUTH GEORGIA AND ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Wildlife and polar history in a pristine panorama

# South Georgia Explorer

### 19 days | November

Few places compare with **South Georgia** and the **Falkland Islands** in terms of exotic wildlife and jaw-dropping scenery. On this exploratory voyage enjoy both, touring the world's largest black-browed albatross colony and some of the biggest breeding spots for king penguins and elephant seals on earth. Six days are spent in and around **South Georgia**.

#### OPTIONS

- Try a 20 night South Atlantic Semi-Circumnavigation from Ushuaia to Capetown via South Georgia and Tristan Da Cunha
- An epic 44 day Atlantic Odyssey voyage repositions the vessel from the South Atlantic to the Arctic. This finest pelagic birdcruise includes Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, Tristan Da Cunha, Ascension Island and St Helena

# Falklands, South Georgia, Antarctic Peninsula

#### 24-27 days | October – February

These longer voyages visit **Port Stanley, Falklands** then head for **South Georgia** spotting numerous seabirds as we cross the **Convergence**. Three days are spent in **South Georgia** visiting historic sites including **Shackleton**'s grave and encountering fur and elephant seals, albatross and petrels. Your final three days will include **Orcadas Station** in the **South Orkneys**, the **Antarctic Peninsula** and **South Shetland Islands**.

#### OPTIONS

- First voyages of the season embark in **Puerto Madryn**
- Try Antarctica Complete which combines a polar circle crossing with the Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula
- Longer 27 day voyages usually in February include **Elephant Island** and polar circle



DISTINGUISHING FEATURES Our guide prices on the website are based on twin cabins usually with private facilities, but many vessels offer a variety of single or shared cabins and suites which we can guote for on request. More information, deck layouts and photographs at www.arcturusexpeditions.co.uk/ships.

Arcturus works with almost all of the smaller ships currently operating in the Arctic and Antarctic. We navigate fjords, passages and ice floes and use zodiac rigid inflatable boats guided by the ship's expedition staff for shore excursions. All fitness levels are catered for and there is a comprehensive programme of lectures.



**50 Years of Victory** Nuclear powered polar-class icebreaker

and the largest fitted for passenger travel to the North Pole. Passengers 124 in en-suite cabins of five categories, all with ocean views

UXURY ICEBREAKER

Le Commandant Charcot

Maiden voyage in 2021. World's first

luxury hybrid electric/LNG PC2 Class

Icebreaker. Epitome of responsible

snow room, hot tub.

Passengers 200

Itineraries

Ortelius

and sustainable, low impact sailing. All

balcony suites, fine dining, pool, sauna,

North Pole, Arctic,

Antarctic, Weddell Sea

AND WORKMANLIKE

Highest ice-class notation to navigate solid sea ice and loose pack ice.

Ross Sea, Weddell Sea

11 zodiacs and helicopter.

Itineraries Arctic, Antarctic,

Passengers 108

Sylvia Earle

Passengers 132

Launched October 2021 with a unique

glass atrium lounge inside the bow,

balcony suites and two jacuzzis, four

Itineraries Arctic, Antarctic, British

platforms and array of adventure options.

Isles, Canadian Arctic

dedicated sea level zodiac launch

Itineraries North Pole



#### **Douglas Mawson**

Maiden voyage 2025. Purpose-built vessel which redefines small ship expeditions. Serious wildlife itineraries with comforts. Heated outdoor swimming pool, two Jacuzzis, gym / sauna, and Citizen Science Centre. Two restaurants and multiple observation areas. Suites, some with balconies, include a range of single cabins. Passengers 154

Itineraries Arctic, Antarctic



#### **SH Minerva**

Elegant 5-star expedition ship. Modern, Scandi design, stylish interiors with the latest in cruising technology. PC5 ice-strengthened hull, and extra-large stabilizers for smooth sailing. Jacuzzi, gym, sauna, pool. Passengers 158

Itineraries Arctic, Antarctic



Plancius Comfortable, ice-strengthened and well suited to exploratory voyages. Double gangway for speedy zodiac loading

Passengers 108 Itineraries Arctic, Antarctic



Ultramarine Launched late 2020,1A, PC6 Ice class vessel. 20 quick-launching zodiacs, spacious suites, wellness amenities and numerous outdoor viewing spaces Passengers 199 Arctic, Greenland, Itineraries Antarctic, Canadian Arctic



Greg Mortimer Launched 2019. Fast, comfortable ship with balcony suites. Virtual anchoring to protect sea floor, hydraulic viewing platforms and zodiac docks for easy loading.

Passengers 132 Itineraries British Isles, Arctic, Antarctic, Canadian Arctic



**Heritage Adventurer** Spacious ship 1A super ice-class rating. 14 zodiacs, observation lounge with 270-degree views. Pool, gym, hot tub, sauna and steam room. Passengers 140

Itineraries Ross Sea, New Zealand, Subantarctic Islands, Japan



Hondius

Commenced operation June 2019. World's first-registered polar class 6 cruise ship. An observation lounge covers one entire deck. All cabins have private facilities. Passengers 170 Itineraries British Isles, Arctic, Antarctic

COMPETITIVE PRICING

**Ocean Endeavour** 1B ice-class vessel with 20 zodiacs and a top deck observation room. Big on local community visits. Passengers 198 Itineraries Canadian Arctic, Iceland, Greenland, Scotland

have private facilities, views and TV,



World Explorer Ice-class 1B, all-balcony, all-suites expedition ship. Six tiers of deluxe accommodation, glass-domed observation lounge and numerous Canadian Arctic





**Ocean Explorer** 

Modern, elegant and purpose-built for polar exploration. A comfortable and smooth sailing experience thanks to the inverted bow. Two-story, light-filled library, spacious Scandi design cabins almost all with verandas. Gym, sauna and two outdoor jacuzzis. Passengers 138

Itineraries Arctic, Antarctic

# SUPER ICE CLASS 1-A RATING

#### Seaventure

Refurbished Spring 2021 with highest ice class for passenger vessels. Sauna, bespoke citizen science lab and heated saltwater pool. Kayaking, snowshoeing, and camping options. Passengers 139 Itineraries Antarctica

# Travel with confidence

All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this brochure are financially protected by the **ATOL scheme**. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see the booking conditions on our website for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.atol.org.uk/ATOL Certificate

Clients wishing to book their own international flights are financially protected by the TOPP (Total Payment Protection) scheme. Full details are given on the Arcturus website under 'Your financial protection'.

# Arcturus, Ninestone, South Zeal, Devon EX20 2PZ



OCEAN LINER STYLE

1A ice class expedition vessel with gym, library and private dining. Multi-million dollar renovation in June 2017.

Passengers 128 Itineraries Scottish Islands, Arctic, Antarctic



Rembrandt Van Rijn Reinforced bow and good open deck viewing areas. Passengers 34 in mainly

en-suite cabins Itineraries Spitsbergen, Norway



SH Vega Maiden voyage July 2022. 5-star boutique ship with PC5 icestrengthened hull and extra-large stabilisers. Sister ship: SH Minerva Passengers 152 Itineraries Arctic, British Isles, Antarctic







some with balconies. Passengers 114





wellness and adventure options. Passengers 172 Itineraries Arctic, Antarctic,