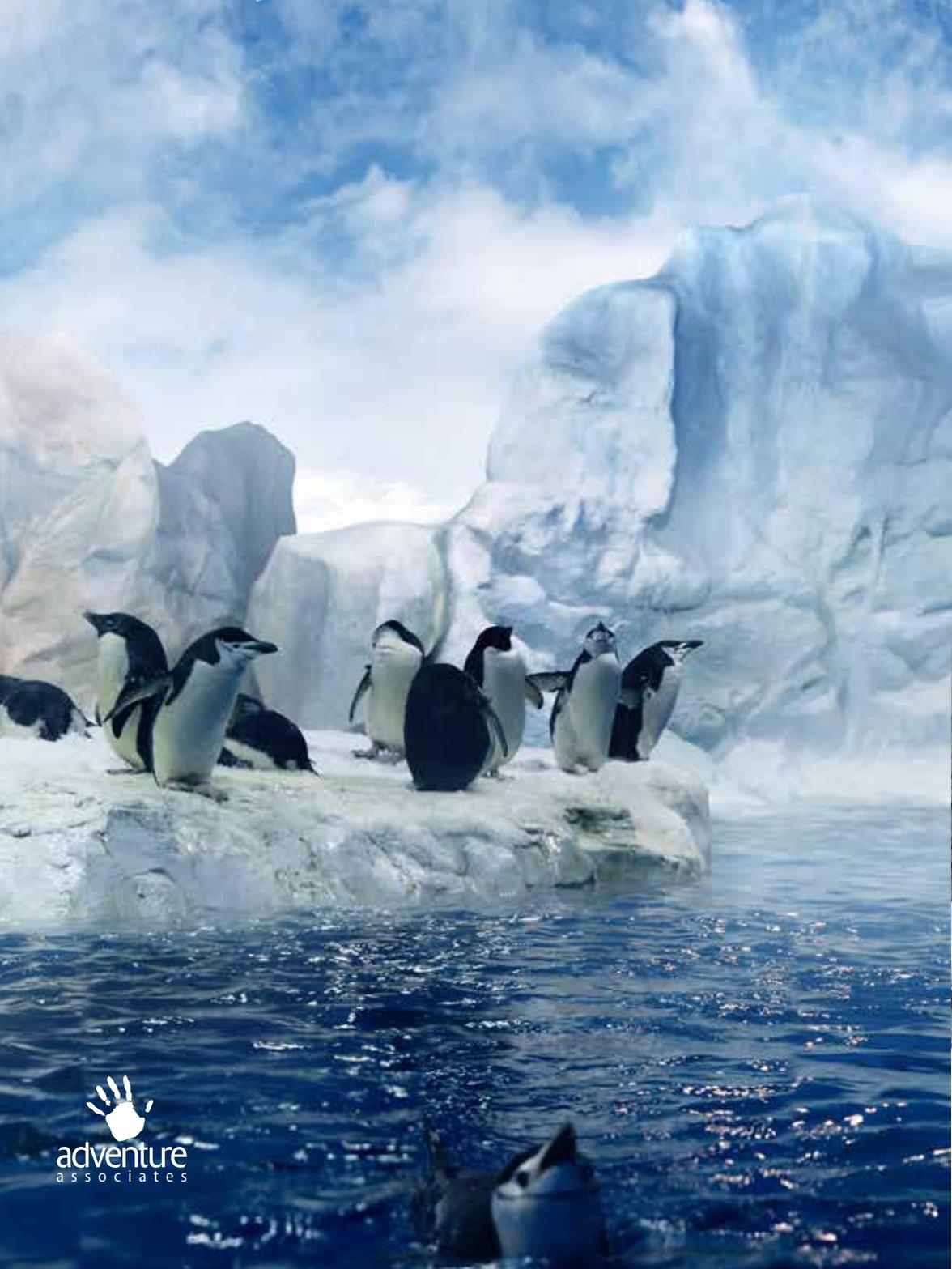


# Antarctica 2015-16 Experts' Choice



*Dear Adventurer,*

**A**s we know Antarctica is a grand continent, weather-maker, wildlife oasis, desert and an icescape beyond compare. It has the capacity to change one's life and frequently does. In a world where travel has become commodified, small companies are snapped up by global "brands" and our planet's special places are products rather than sacred sanctuaries, Adventure Associates remains fiercely committed to the original concept of small group adventure travel to places like Antarctica.

We are a small family business with a preference for small ship expeditions. Our strength lies in our experience. From my much enjoyed 30 years of Antarctic science, exploration, adventure and tourism; to Henrik's and Sue's first-hand knowledge gleaned from decades of expedition leading.

Besides creating a travel company that pioneered ship-based adventure in Antarctica, including mountaineering, sea kayaking, scuba diving and camping, our experience includes owning ships and chartering icebreakers and ice-strengthened ships (with onboard helicopters).

Deciding to go to Antarctica is a big step, but it's only the first in an exciting journey. We'll encourage you to step outside your comfort zone, and be very comfortable when you step back in.

Thanks to decades of experience in the travel industry, we've forged a trusted network of contacts that gives us access to the best prices, yet allows us to remain independent. We believe that our success depends on matching the right trip and ship to the individual.

It's time for another incredible adventure. Come along!



GREG MORTIMER



## How to Book

Please fill in the booking form that accompanies this brochure, or download one from our website, [www.adventureassociates.com](http://www.adventureassociates.com), and forward it to us with your deposit to:



Adventure Associates, Suite 6, The Spires, 118-124 Leura Mall, Leura NSW 2780 Australia  
Ph: (+61 2) 8916 3000 Fax (+61 2) 8916 3090 Toll Free (Australia) 1800 222 141

On booking we will forward pre-departure information and other relevant documents.



## ANTARCTICA HIGHLIGHTS

- Antarctica's icebound wonder
- Rare emperor penguins and chicks
- Shackleton & Scott history
- Wildlife oasis of South Georgia
- Small, comfortable expedition ships
- Expert's Choice – we match you to an expedition
- Humpback, minke and orca whales
- Close encounters with leopard seals
- Seabirds of all description

## The Genesis of "Experts' Choice"

Like any family business, we sat down at the kitchen table to throw around ideas. Amongst Sue, Henrik and myself, we've worked with a wide range of polar travel companies, on ships from ice-breakers to tops'l schooners and have a very strong knowledge of what's available on the adventure market. And because we're not restricted to a single ship in Antarctica, we thought, "Why not pick the best trips, then invite our friends to come along?"

That's how our concept of "Experts Choice" was born.

## Our Experts



### Greg Mortimer

First went south as a geologist, became first Australian to climb Mt Everest, K2, Mt Vinson and led a successful expedition to climb Mt Minto in the Ross Sea.

With Margaret Werner, he established Aurora Expeditions, helped create environmental guidelines for Antarctic tourism and was chairman of the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators.

**Sue Werner** Trained as a veterinary nurse, Sue has worked as an expedition leader, photographer and lecturer for 20 years, specialising in Antarctica and the High Arctic, but with trips throughout remote corners of the world. She's led trips to most coastal regions of Antarctica and spent three months living on South Georgia.

**Henrik Lovendahl** Henrik has scaled Andean peaks, trekked in the Himalaya and developed recreational scuba diving in Antarctica with Greg. He's led trips throughout Antarctica and the Arctic for 20 years, has spent a winter in Svalbard as a dog handler and guide and three months living on South Georgia.



*Sue and Henrik share a relaxing moment at Port Lockroy, Antarctic Peninsula.*



*Shackleton's Hut at Cape Royds.*

### ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

- Day 1/2** Arrive Invercargill (overnight), to Bluff, board ship and depart
- Day 3/5** Zodiac cruise the Snares, land on Enderby Island, in Carnley Harbour, Auckland Island
- Day 6/8** At sea, Macquarie Island (2 days) including station visit, Lusitania Bay Zodiac cruise
- Day 9/12** At sea (seabirds, first iceberg)
- Day 13/22** Explore the Ross Sea region (wildlife, scientific stations, historic huts, Transantarctic mountains)
- Day 23/25** At sea (lectures, seabirds, sharing experiences)
- Day 26/27** Walk to royal albatross in Perseverance Hbr, Campbell I
- Day 28/29** At sea (relax, farewell dinner)
- Day 30** Disembark in port of Lyttleton, transfer to Christchurch for flight home

*Emperors are perhaps the most curious of penguins.*



## In the wake of Scott & Shackleton

**12 Jan to 10 Feb 2016 | 30 days | 49 people**

*Vessel: Spirit of Enderby*

Prices start from US\$20,000 (ex-Bluff, NZ)

**P**ack ice protects Antarctica's dazzling heart, the Ross Sea, for all but two brief months each year. We time our run propitiously, visiting the stepping stones of wildlife-rich subantarctic islands before our ice-strengthened ship enters a magical world like no other. Weddell and Ross seals rest on ice floes, orcas patrol open leads, emperor penguins regally roam while Mt Erebus and the Transantarctic Mountains float above like fairytale clouds. Ice and weather dictate our plans, but Scott's and Shackleton's huts await, as do scientific stations that few tourists ever see. This is truly a once in a lifetime experience.

**VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS** (Ice and weather permitting)

**The Snares:** Zodiac cruise for views of Snares crested penguins, Cape petrels and nesting Buller's albatross.

**Auckland Islands:** Yellow-eyed penguins, Hooker's sea lions, shy albatross colony. **Macquarie Island:** station visit, elephant seals and king, royal, rockhopper and gentoo penguins. **Ross Sea:** Cape Adare (Antarctica's largest Adélie penguin rookery). **Cape Hallett:** Adélie penguins, Weddell seals beneath vast mountainscape.

**Ross Ice Shelf:** (world's largest). **Ross Island:** Mt Erebus, Scott's and Shackleton's huts, Scott and McMurdo Stations. **Terra Nova Bay:** Italian research station.

Campbell Island: Walk to southern royal albatross nests.

**At Sea:** Pelagic bird-watching, glory of Southern Ocean.



*Mesmer-iced south of Lemaire Channel.*

### ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

- Day 1/2** Arrive in the lively seaport Ushuaia (overnight), board ship next afternoon and sail historic Beagle Channel
- Day 3/4** Round Cape Horn then cross Drake Passage (lectures, seabirds, first iceberg)
- Day 5/8** Zodiac cruises, explorations of South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula, including penguin rookeries, historic sites and continental landing
- Day 9/10** At sea in Drake Passage (seabirds, relax, reflect, farewell dinner)
- Day 11** Disembark in Ushuaia for flight home

*Please note: One day less in South Shetland Is/Antarctic Peninsula during the 10-day trip*



*The joy of life, Antarctic style.*

## Classic Antarctica

**Nov 2015 – March 2016 | 11 days | 84 people**

*Vessel: M/V Ushuaia*

Prices start from US\$5500 (ex-Ushuaia, Argentina)

**3-12 Jan, 12-22 Jan 2016 | 10&11 days | 116 people**

*Vessel: M/V Ortelius*

Prices start from US\$7050 (ex-Ushuaia, Argentina)

**A**ntarctica's most accessible region is arguably its most grand. In less than two days' sailing across the sometimes moody, always impressionable Drake Passage, we land in the South Shetland Islands. Suddenly we're surrounded by busy penguins, feisty fur seals and belching elephant seals – and they aren't afraid of us! Continuing south, the full Antarctic spectacle is revealed as whales break the surface, glaciers shed ice with a roar and every living creature participates in the cycle of life. Our ship is the perfect base camp and our expert staff interpret the wonders we encounter throughout our great adventure.

### VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS (Ice and weather permitting)

**Ushuaia:** Ski town seaport on Beagle Channel. **Cape Horn:** National Park and UNESCO biosphere. **Drake Passage:** Black-browed and wandering albatross, Cape petrels, prions, fulmars and more. **South Shetland Islands:** Mysterious result of volcanism, ice and wildlife. **Antarctic Peninsula:** Spectacular glaciated mountains and protected waterways alive with **whales**; Adélie, chinstrap and gentoo **penguins**; fur, Weddell, crabeater and leopard **seals**; historic sites and scientific stations. Zodiac cruise amongst sculpted icebergs, make a **continental landing**, enjoy long days and spectacular sunsets and sunrises. Fantastic photography and videography. Silence like no other.

## Falklands, South Georgia, Antarctic Peninsula

### ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

- Day 1/3** Arrive in Ushuaia (overnight), next afternoon board ship, sail historic Beagle Channel, enjoy full sea day
- Day 4/5** Land in the Falkland Islands (Isla Malvinas), enjoy seabirds, penguins and the capital, Stanley
- Day 6/7** At sea, with dolphins, whales and seabirds to spot
- Day 8/11** Explore wildlife oasis and whaling/Shackleton history of South Georgia's northeast coast
- Day 12/13** At sea, passing through great whale feeding grounds
- Day 14/17** Zodiac cruising and landing to explore South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula
- Day 18/19** At sea crossing Drake Passage, relax, reflect and enjoy soaring seabirds
- Day 20** Disembark in Ushuaia for flight home

*Please note: One day less on Antarctic Peninsula during the 19-day trip.*

*Elephant seal pup sings out on South Georgia.*

**22 Nov – 11 Dec 2015 | 20 days | 189 people**

*Vessel: Ocean Diamond*

Prices start from US\$12,795 (ex-Ushuaia, Argentina)

**16 Dec 2015 – 3 Jan 2016 | 19 days | 116 people**

*Vessel: M/V Ortelius*

Prices start from US\$13,200 (ex-Ushuaia, Argentina)

**F**ollow the Scotia Arc on one of the world's most wildlife-rich and profoundly beautiful expeditions. From Ushuaia we sail northeast to the Falklands to search for magellanic and rockhopper penguins and vast cormorant colonies. South Georgia promises fur and elephant seals, king penguin colonies nearly half a million strong, and a fascinating history of whaling and exploration, particularly that of Shackleton. We finish amongst the mountain grandeur of the Antarctic Peninsula, with Zodiac cruises near sculpted icebergs, rising leopard seals, feeding humpback and minke whales, scientific stations, historic sites and a continental landing. This memorable voyage has it all.

**VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS** (Ice and weather permitting)

**Ushuaia:** Cafés, shops and museum on Beagle Channel.

**Falkland Islands (Isla Malvinas):** Surprising bird life, sea lions, very British culture. **South Georgia:** Glorious mountains, vast king penguin colonies, feisty fur seals, languid elephant seals, Shackleton's grave and fascinating museum. **South Shetland Islands:** Weather-swept archipelago alive with penguins, seals and scientific stations. **Antarctic Peninsula:** Protected waterways, exquisite **icebergs**; Adélie, gentoo and chinstrap **penguins**; minke and humpback whales; fur, Weddell, crabeater and leopard **seals**; Historic sites and **scientific stations**. Zodiac cruise amongst sculpted icebergs, make a **continental landing**, enjoy long, high-latitude days and spectacular sunsets and sunrises.

*King penguin troupe on South Georgia.*





*Antarctica is not a land of black and white.*

## Emperor Penguins of the Weddell Sea

**26 Nov – 6 Dec 2015 | 11 days | 116 people**

**6 – 16 Dec 2015 | 11 days | 116 people**

*Vessel: M/V Ortelius (including helicopters)*

Prices start from US\$11,500 (ex-Ushuaia, Argentina)

**A**ntarctica's best kept secret, the world's most northerly Emperor penguin colony, wasn't revealed until about a decade ago. It's location is so remote that few expeditions venture there. Setting sail from Ushuaia, we cross Drake Passage, steam through spectacular Antarctic Sound and enter the Weddell Sea, renowned for its fast-moving pack ice. Our experienced captain steers our ice-strengthened ship close to Snow Hill Island and helicopters carry us the rest of the way for a rare chance to see these regal birds and their chicks. And yes, we'll also see Antarctica's full panoply of other wildlife, ice and physical grandeur.

**VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS** (Ice and weather permitting)

**Ushuaia:** Great shops and museum. **Drake Passage:** Seabirds including albatross, petrels, prions and fulmars.

**Antarctic Sound:** Spectacular gateway to the Weddell Sea. **Helicopter flights:** Our flying carpet to and from emperor penguin-land, offers breathtaking views across the Weddell Sea.

**Snow Hill Island:** Historic hut, base camp for Otto Nordenskjold's epic 1901-04 Swedish Antarctic Expedition.

**Emperor penguins:** World's most northerly colony most likely with chicks. **Adélie penguins:** Some 100,000 pairs breed on nearby Paulet Island.

**Fossil islands:** Weddell Sea is home to world-class fossil sites.

**South Shetland Islands:** Sail into the caldera of a live volcano to visit historic site.

### ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

- Day 1** Embark *Ortelius* and sail historic Beagle Channel
- Day 2/3** Cross Drake Passage (lectures, seabirds and first iceberg)
- Day 4** Sail through dramatic Antarctic Sound and enter Weddell Sea
- Day 5/6** Snow Hill Island, heliflights to emperor penguin colony, Zodiacs to island
- Day 7** Contingency day for emperors or visit Devil or Vega Islands
- Day 8** Sail to South Shetlands' Half Moon and Deception islands
- Day 9/10** At sea in Drake Passage (seabirds, relax, reflect, farewell dinner)
- Day 11** Disembark in Ushuaia for flight home

*Emperors, largest of the penguin world, grow to around 1m tall.*

