

# Cruise Antarctica

*Inspired Journeys...*

## In the realm of the great explorers

**18 days - Ushuaia to Punta Arenas**



**January 2016 Only**

Summer comes to South Georgia's remote, untamed landscape like a freight train. Famed for its abandoned whaling stations and Shackleton's heroic journey, South Georgia is home to millions of fur seals and penguins, wallows of elephant seals, and nesting albatross. We arrive at the breeding cycle peak, as chicks become juveniles, parents shuttle fish and seal pups thrill with mock charges. Retracing Shackleton's boat voyage, we visit Elephant Island before continuing south along the

Antarctic Peninsula. Days remain long, and filled with humpback and minke whales, penguins and leopard seals, historic sites and scientific stations.

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### *Day 1*

Embark in Ushuaia in the late afternoon to a warm welcome before we set sail along the Beagle Channel.

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### *Days 2 - 3*

Drake Passage offers excellent bird watching from the outer decks or the warm bridge. Our expedition team presents Zodiac and environmental briefings, and enlightening talks on Antarctica. Keen eyes watch for icebergs, penguins, seals and cormorants as we approach our first landing in the South Shetland Islands.

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### *Days 4 - 7*

Awaken to the thrill of Antarctica, where we plan to visit busy penguin rookeries, historic sites and make a continental landing. A host of choices are now open to us and depending on the ice and weather conditions the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula is ours to explore. Our experienced leaders, who have made countless journeys to this area, will use their expertise to design our voyage from day to day. This allows us to make best use of the prevailing weather and ice conditions and wildlife opportunities. We will use daylight hours as vigorously as possible to make the most of our day.



### *Day 8*

Elephant Island, where Shackleton's men wintered beneath their upturned boats. With luck and weather permitting we will go ashore to pay tribute to these hardy souls.

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### *Days 9 - 10*

En route to South Georgia, we following in Shackleton's wake across the Scotia Sea, and reflect on what we've seen and learned so far.

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### *Days 11 - 14*

We have ample time to explore South Georgia's spectacular northern coast, including the world's largest king penguin rookeries and majestic albatross nests. Kayakers revel in paddling the coastline's nooks and crannies, accompanied by playful seals. In Stromness and Grytviken harbours, 3000-metre peaks form dramatic backdrops to the remains of whaling stations. Kelp-strewn beaches are cluttered with basking elephant seals, feisty fur seals and penguins.



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### *Days 15-17*

Keeping watch for the kelp-skirted Shag Rocks, we cross the Scotia Sea, entertained by our expert naturalist and historian.

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### *Day 18*

Dawn greets us in the Falkland Islands/Maldivas capital, Stanley; where we bid farewell to Polar Pioneer. You have the option of either spending more time exploring the Falkland Islands or continuing on to Punta Arenas or Santiago, Chile.