

# Join Us in.... **ANTARCTICA**

## February 20 - March 4, 2024

### The History

February 2024 represents the 150th anniversary of the *HMS Challenger's* crossing of the southern polar circle. This anniversary is a perfect time to honor their contribution to our understanding of the world's oceans while simultaneously exploring Antarctica.

Within the four-year expedition, they completed observations from 362 stations, 492 deep soundings, 133 dredging's, charting, surveying, and biological investigations as well as the discovery of 4700 new species and the deepest part of the ocean. The deepest point in the Mariana Trench is named Challenger Deep after this great expedition.

The Report on the Scientific Results of the Voyage of *H.M.S Challenger* was issued in 50 volumes between 1880 and 1895; much of the data gathered at that time is still used today.



### The Goals

- Generate \$100,000-\$150,000 in donations for organizations dedicated to developing interest in marine careers such as Our World Underwater Scholarship Society, and AAUS Foundation. These entities foster training and educational opportunities for young people interested in scientific pursuits as it relates to the ocean.
- Contribute ~\$22,000 to carbon offsets to minimize the environmental impact of the expedition's carbon footprint.
- Use the images/video from the professionals and data collected by the citizen scientists to develop multimedia educational tools across of a variety of platforms, including live streaming to classrooms.
- Recognize the significance of *Challenger's* contribution to oceanography and its relevance today especially as it relates to the study of climate change.
- Bring imagemakers to Antarctica whose combined efforts will actively contribute to greater appreciation of the delicate Antarctic ecosystem.
- Use the expertise of scientists onboard to explore new areas above and below the water with the assistance of citizen scientists. Projects include plankton tows, reef surveys of key indicator species, sample collections and marine mammal ID.



Commemorating 150 Years of Ocean Exploration



### The Scientists and Imagemakers

**Allison Cusick:** Developed citizen science programs for use in polar environments and a Ph.D. candidate specializing in the phytoplankton in the poles.

**Amy Moran:** Polar scientist with research into gigantism in polar waters.

**Andrea Stockert:** WDHO member, film producer, and Director of the Ocean Lab which does live streaming to classrooms on underwater marine life.

**Becky Kagan Schott:** WDHO member, world-renowned underwater imagemaker specializing in polar and other extreme environments.

**Berkley White:** Owner of Backscatter, world's largest UW imagemaking equipment company, and renowned underwater imagemaker.

**Christian Dimitrios:** Underwater imagemaker from Brazil with extensive polar experience.

**Christian McDonald:** Polar-diving expert, AAUS former board member, and Challenger historian.

**Dan Orr:** Retired President of DAN and US Navy diver, diving-safety expert, and polar veteran.

**Erin Quigley:** Imagemaker with extensive experience conducting photo and video editing workshops and member of the WDHO.

**Florian Fischer:** Documentary and independent filmmaker and co-founder of Behind the Mask.

**Nancy McGee:** Underwater filmmaker and science educator with excellent polar experience.





# The Itinerary

This Polar Circle and Antarctic Peninsula Expedition will take you south of Antarctica, crossing the Polar Circle. Anchoring in various spots around the region, the expedition offers the chance to hike and dive in the iceberg-heavy waters.

## Day 1: End of the World, Start of a Journey

Embarking from the small resort town on Tierra del Fuego, Ushuaia, Argentina, located on the far southern tip of South America and nicknamed, "The End of the World," we will sail the mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the evening.

## Day 2 - 3: Path of the Polar Explorers

Over two days on the Drake Passage you will enjoy some of the same experiences encountered by the great polar explorers who first charted these regions; cool-salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even Whales. After passing the Antarctic Convergence, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer sub-Antarctic seas, the marine and avian life change to new and wonderful.

## Day 4: Entering Antarctica

You pass the snow-capped Melchior Islands and Schollaert Channel, sailing between Brabant and Anvers Islands.

### The intended route for your Antarctic adventure includes:

**Cuerville Island** - A small precipitous island nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula and Rongé Island housing a large colony of Gentoo Penguins and breeding pairs of Brown Skuas.

**Neko Harbour** - An epic landscape of mammoth glaciers and endless wind-carved snow offering opportunities for a Zodiac cruise and landing that afford the closest views of the surrounding alpine peaks.

**Paradise Bay** - A potential Zodiac cruise in these sprawling, ice-flecked waters before sailing to the Lemaire Channel.

## Day 5 - 7: Through the Gullet

You wake among the many islands south of Lemaire Channel, near the Antarctic Circle. A voyage through the aptly named Gullet – a narrow and picturesque channel between Adelaide Island and the Antarctic Continent is possible if the ice isn't too dense.

### You may enjoy the following:

**Pourquoi Pas Island** - Known for its tight fjords and lofty, glacier-crowded mountains.

**Horseshoe Island** - The location of the former British Base Y.

**Stonington Island** - home to the former US East Base and British Base E, occupied until 1975, and the southernmost landing site of the trip – 68° south.

**Hanusse Bay** - a chance of spotting Whales through the icebergs of this scenic bay.

## Day 8 - 10: The Whales of Crystal Sound

Humpback whale sightings are likely, and your approach to the Fish Islands offers the possibility of a Zodiac cruise, or even a landing. The views are beyond the imagination with Adélie Penguins congregating among the icebergs nearby. Petermann & Pléneau Islands provide a great variety of birdlife, along with possibilities for Zodiac cruises among icebergs that are highly popular with Leopard, Crabeater Seals, Whales and Penguins.

**Day 11 - 12: Familiar Seas, Familiar Friends crossing the Drake**  
**Day 13: There and Back Again**

Additional activities may include diving, snorkeling, kayaking, hiking and camping.

Divers will be offered one dive per day, though there may be an opportunity for additional diving depending on interest and conditions.



## Pricing

(per person and based on double, or quad, occupancy)

QUAD:	\$11,600 USD
TWIN PORTHOLE:	\$13,400 USD
TWIN WINDOW:	\$14,300 USD
TWIN DELUXE:	\$15,000 USD
SUPERIOR:	\$16,700 USD

Nonrefundable deposit:	\$2,000 USD	Due - August 1, 2022
2nd payment:	\$2,000 USD	Due - June 1, 2023
3rd payment:	\$3,000 USD	Due - Oct 15, 2023
Final payment:		

Specific pricing and payment information can be found at  
[www.bluegreenexpeditions.com](http://www.bluegreenexpeditions.com)

## Contact Us to Learn More

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