

Exploring the Scotia Arc and Deep Weddell Sea

February 10-March 10, 2025

Join Blue Green Expeditions on expansive voyage on the m/v Ortelius exploring one of the most remote, scenic, wildlife-filled regions on Earth: the great Weddell Sea. This amazing and unforgettable trip includes South Georgia - South Sandwich Islands - Neuschwabenland - Vahsel Bay - Larsen Ice Shelf - Paulet and Devil Island - Elephant Island, diving (and visiting) places few have been - and helicopters!



Starting in South Georgia after leaving Ushuaia, we will be on the trail of famed polar-explorer Ernest Shackleton and his ship Endurance, experiencing the Weddell Sea's amazing wildlife and tabular icebergs before returning via Elephant Island.

The continental borders of the Weddell Sea are formed by huge floating sheets of ice. These ice shelves produce the massive tabular icebergs that are abundant. To add to the breathtaking scenery; scientists have declared the waters of the Weddell Sea to be the clearest water of any sea on Earth.

This bucket list Expedition will be led by Faith Ortins, co-owner of Blue Green Expeditions and well known polar explorer and diver. Joining the Expedition team is Becky Kagan Schott, award-winning photographer and polar explorer. Becky and Blue Green have collaborated on numerous successful expeditions and she will be on hand to assist with capturing your own amazing images.



Contact Us to Learn More

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This bucket-list trip begins from Ushuaia, nicknamed “The End of the World,” in route to South Georgia, crossing the Antarctic Convergence, and entering the Southern Ocean. We will have the chance to follow the final leg of Shackleton’s route, witness three of the largest colonies sites offering king penguins and three of the world’s largest breeding beaches for Antarctic fur seals. By our arrival, the babies will be out exploring and will be a sight to behold. In Grytviken, you might be able to see the South Georgia Museum as well as Shackleton’s grave.

South Sandwich Islands provide an opportunity to dive in an area only experienced once before, when BGE was there in 2016. Weather permitting, non divers will enjoy a zodiac cruise while divers explore the pristine waters. Also, a good chance of encountering humpback and minke whales, brown skuas, chinstrap or Adélie penguins, and several species of albatross.

Sailing into the Weddell Sea, we can spot crabeater, leopard, and/or Weddell seals, and emperor penguins. Humpback, orca, and minke whales and various bird life are also in this area. The Weddell Sea is rarely explored by non scientific ships, making this an incredible opportunity to explore new territory above and below the water. Be prepared to hear the dive guides tell you, “No one has been here before.” A sure way to get any explorer excited! We will encounter a vast nautical wilderness of sea and will enjoy the raw beauty and power that makes Antarctica so special. It will be apparent why it took so long to discover the Great White Continent and how tough it must have been for Shackleton’s expedition.

We’ll head west toward the Filchner–Ronne Ice Shelf then north bringing brings us close to where Shackleton’s vessel Endurance was trapped in pack ice during his famous expedition (1914-17). There are also colonies of 6,500 emperor penguins nearby! We will use helicopters to get close to the resting place of th Endurance as well as the emperor penguin colonies.

We hope to land at one of the most scenic locations in the northern Antarctic Continent, with a large Adélie penguin rookery, Gentoo penguins, and nesting snow petrels. Sheer canyon walls, fallen boulders, and beautiful volcanic creations capped with ice make Brown Bluff a truly unforgettable location. Across the at Kinnes Cove we’ll likely find a large colony of Gentoo penguins.

As we prepare to depart Antarctica, we hope to take the zodiacs to Point Wild where the members of Shackleton’s expedition miraculously managed to survive for months against unbeatable odds.



Included in the Price:

- All meals and accommodations aboard the ship including snacks, coffee, and tea
- Overnight stay in Ushuaia on February 10, 2025 (double occupancy)
- All excursions and activities throughout the voyage
- All diving activities including tanks and weights
- Program of lectures by noted naturalists.
- Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes.
- Transfers from the hotel to the boat on February 11th and from the vessel to airport or town on March 10th
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges.
- Comprehensive pre-departure material.

Excluded from the price:

- Any airfare, whether scheduled or charter flights
- Any additional accommodation arrangements
- Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes
- Meals ashore
- Diving and Travel Insurance (required)
- Baggage, cancellation, and personal insurance (highly recommended)
- Excess baggage charges, bar/beverage and telecommunication charges
- Gratuities for crew, staff, and dive team

All amounts are quoted per person, based on double occupancy (except Quad), and in USD

Quad (4 ppl.)	\$26,500 USD
Twin Port	\$32,900 USD
Twin Window	\$34,200 USD
Twin Deluxe	\$36,000 USD
Superior	\$37,900 USD

\$4,000 UDD	Nonrefundable deposit
\$8,000 USD	Due December 1, 2023
\$8,000 USD	Due May 1, 2024
Final Balance	Due November 1, 2024