ASTOUNDING ANTARCTICA

AN EXPEDITION THROUGH DRAMATIC ICE LANDSCAPES, WILDLIFE-RICH CHANNELS, AND THE DYNAMIC ECOSYSTEM OF THE 7th CONTINENT
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join fellow alumni and friends in the 50th anniversary year of the Traveling Owls program for a captivating adventure to experience the boundless beauty and pristine vastness of Antarctica. This remote continent and its precarious waterways have hosted some of the most courageous explorers in history, and have been the scenes of both triumph and tragedy since Captain Cook first sailed the region in 1773.

Embark from Ushuaia, Argentina, and cruise through the Drake Passage to the South Shetland Islands amid the Antarctic Peninsula—exploring the dramatic landscapes and remarkable wildlife that call this continent home. Trek through penguin rookeries, observe vast flocks of seabirds, learn about Antarctic ice conditions, and discover the sites of both past and present scientific expeditions.

Your vessel for this amazing journey is the 132-guest Ocean Adventurer, a nimble craft designed specifically for polar cruising—with renovated cabins, exceptional amenities, and a knowledgeable and friendly crew. Carefully selected specifically for this program, her small size provides the ability and agility to maneuver narrow channels—offering double the opportunities for shore landings versus larger ships—and accessibility to bays that are closed to bigger vessels. The ship also features an ice-strengthened hull and fin stabilizers for smoother sailing.

We offered this trip in early 2019 and it sold out quickly, so we invite you to join this exclusive, peak-season sailing before space sells out. With significant savings of more than $1,000 per couple, we anticipate this program will fill quickly. Book this experience today online at rice.orbridge.com, by calling 713-34-TRIPS (87477) or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Sincerely,

Dan Stypa
Associate Director
Rice University

Free Expedition Library
AN EARLY RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by May 10, 2019 to receive the FREE Orbridge Expedition Library we’ve assembled for this program.

This exclusive gift is to thank you for joining us early.** Guests who reserve after the specified date may purchase libraries.
Program Highlights

- Explore the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula, a beautiful island chain filled with an impressive variety of wildlife.
- Cruise aboard the perfect vessel for exploration—ice-strengthened and agile, with comfortable cabins and the ability to navigate narrow channels and bays closed to larger ships.
- Experience twice as many landing opportunities versus large-ship cruises, due to Ocean Adventurer’s ideal size.
- Enjoy the company and keen insights of expert expedition guides, scientists, and lecturers throughout the journey.
- Choose from two optional excursions (additional fees apply): sea kayaking and overnight polar camping.
- Take advantage of the ship’s open bridge policy to get to know the Captain and officers.
- Hear lectures and presentations by onboard expert naturalists and scientists.
- What’s included: 1 night hotel accommodations in Ushuaia including breakfast prior to embarkation; 9 nights comfortable accommodations onboard Ocean Adventurer; a welcome reception and farewell cocktail, and all onboard meals including domestic wine and beer with dinners; 24-hour self-service coffee and tea facilities onboard; all scheduled landings and excursions (subject to weather and ice conditions); your own expedition parka to keep; a pair of insulated rubber boots for shore landings for the duration of the cruise (to be returned prior to disembarkation); a digital voyage log (including a map of the ship’s charted course, a list of wildlife spotted, and a photo album); all luggage porterage; port fees; transfers from the hotel to the ship or into town on the day of embarkation; and group transfers for all guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.

Your 12-Day Itinerary

Due to weather and ice patterns, itineraries are guidelines and may change in order to maximize wildlife and natural encounters.

Day 1: En Route from U.S.*

Day 2: Arrive in Ushuaia, Argentina (R)
    Time at leisure, welcome reception
    Overnight: Albatros Hotel (or similar)

Day 3: Ushuaia – Embarkation (B,D)
    Wildlife and iceberg viewing, Beagle Channel
    Overnight: Ocean Adventurer

Days 4-5: Drake Passage (B,L,D daily)
    Tierra del Fuego Archipelago, nature presentations
    Overnight: Ocean Adventurer

Days 6-9: South Shetland Islands / Antarctic Peninsula (B,L,D daily)
    Deception Island, Zodiac excursions, wildlife and glacier viewing, optional sea kayaking excursions, optional polar camping experience
    Overnight: Ocean Adventurer

Days 10-11: Drake Passage (B,L,D daily)
    Lectures, time at leisure, special farewell cocktail
    Overnight: Ocean Adventurer

Day 12: Ushuaia – Disembarkation / Depart for U.S. (B)

Activity Level: This program offers a variety of activities, including Zodiac cruises, typically not strenuous for guests with average mobility. We expect that guests be sure-footed on stairs and ramps, and be able to walk on uneven and slippery ground. Guests should also be comfortable managing landings on various terrain and boarding small vessels, both from shore and the deck of the Ocean Adventurer. Ship staff will assist guests during each landing. Walking poles will be available for use.

*NOTE: Travel time from/to U.S. may take up to two days depending on flight schedules.

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, R = Reception)
**Onboard Accommodations**

Accommodating up to 132 guests, the Ocean Adventurer—which underwent a multi-million dollar renovation in June 2017—provides the ultimate in comfort and adventure in Antarctica.

Her cozy public areas provide a convivial atmosphere for socializing and relaxation. Visit the well-stocked library and curl up with tales of Antarctic explorers. A large collection of field guides and photo and reference books are also at guests’ disposal.

Each stateroom offers exterior views, individual climate control, closets, TV, work desk and chair, and private bathroom with bathrobes, shampoo, shower gel, and hair dryer.

The ship design features maneuverability, which lends itself to spontaneous discoveries of polar wildlife. The vessel has an ice-strengthened hull and a fleet of Zodiacs for additional wildlife exploration on the water and for the various landings.
ALBATROS HOTEL – USHUAIA

On the first evening before embarkation, you will stay at the 4-star Albatros Hotel, located in front of the Beagle Channel. During free time, explore the property or take a short walk to the Ushuaia Port or nearby shops.

Hotel may change to equal or better option.
What’s Included

- Two nights accommodations at Alvear Palace Hotel—pictured below—(or similar) with breakfast each morning
- Special 3-course dinner and tango performance
- Buenos Aires panoramic city tour
- All gratuities and porterage
- All airport and hotel transfers
  (NOTE: internal flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia is not included)

Pre-Tour Itinerary (subject to change)

Day +1: En Route from U.S.

Day +2: Arrive in Buenos Aires (D)
  Special dinner and tango performance

Day +3: Buenos Aires / Guided Sightseeing / Leisure Time (B, Snack)
  Panoramic city tour, Recoleta Cemetery, Plaza de Mayo, Casa Rosada, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the Cabildo, afternoon and evening at leisure

Day +4: Buenos Aires / Flight to Ushuaia / Main Program (B)
  After breakfast, guests with a flight per the suggested time will take a complimentary group transfer to the airport for the flight to Ushuaia

Experience summer in Argentina as you explore its sophisticated capital city, Buenos Aires—where rich historical sites, charming shops and restaurants, and welcoming locals create a splendid combination of old and new.
What’s Included

- One night accommodations at Alvear Icon Hotel in Buenos Aires and two nights at Meliá Iguazú—pictured below—with breakfast each morning
- Two guided tours of Iguazú Falls
- All gratuities and porterage
- All airport and hotel transfers
- Internal round-trip airfare between Buenos Aires and Iguazú Falls (NOTE: internal flight from Ushuaia to Buenos Aires is not included)

Post-Tour Itinerary (subject to change)

Day 12: Flight to Buenos Aires
Leisure time at the hotel

Day 13: Flight to Iguazú Falls (B)
Morning flight, afternoon guided tour of Iguazú Falls

Day 14: Iguazú Falls Tour (B)
Full day guided tour, optional Gran Aventura Safari Boat Tour excursion, leisure time

Day 15: Iguazú Falls / Flight to Buenos Aires / Depart for U.S. (B)
After breakfast, depart on the group transfer to the airport for the flight to Buenos Aires, where you’ll connect with flights home

Hold on to your hat while you experience the thundering roar and huge clouds of spray from one of the most spectacular waterfalls in the world—that’s four times the width of Niagara Falls and includes 275 separate falls.
**Astounding Antarctica**

**FEBRUARY 4-15, 2020**

**Buenos Aires Pre-Tour: February 2-5, 2020**

**Iguazú Falls Post-Tour: February 15-18, 2020**

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**RESERVE TODAY!**

- Option 1: Reserve online now at [rice.orbridge.com](http://rice.orbridge.com) or call 713-34-TRIPS (87477).
- Option 2: Secure your reservation with a deposit charged to the credit card below, or with an enclosed check payable to: Orbridge, LLC.

**GUEST INFORMATION:**

Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation): __________________________

Email: __________________________________________

Home Phone: __________________________

Alt. Phone: __________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City: __________________________

State: __________________________

Zip: __________________________

Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation): __________________________

Email: __________________________________________

Home Phone: __________________________

Alt. Phone: __________________________

Category Preference: 1st choice __________________________

2nd choice __________________________

**DEPOSIT:**

- # _________ guests joining program ($2,500/person) +
- # _________ guests joining pre-tour ($500/person) +
- # _________ guests joining post-tour ($500/person) = TOTAL DEPOSIT: $

**ANTARCTICA OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS**

- Check Enclosed
- Online Check/ACH
- MasterCard/Visa
- American Express
- Discover

**DEPOSIT PAYMENT:**

**Stateroom Category**

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Standard Rate</th>
<th>Special Rate*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower Deck Twin Porthole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main Deck Twin Porthole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single (Lower Deck Twin Porthole)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Buenos Aires Pre-Tour:** $1,395*  | **Single Pre-Tour:** $1,995

**Iguazú Falls Post-Tour:** $2,195*  | **Single Post-Tour:** $3,695

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**For questions and to learn more, call the Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS (87477) or email travelingowls@rice.edu.**

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**Registration, Deposits and Final Payment.** To confirm and secure your reservation, a deposit of $2,500 per person, a deposit for any extension(s), and any non-refundable advanced payments, payable by check, ACH, money order, wire transfer of same day U.S. funds, or major credit card, is due at the time of registration. Final payment, including any extension(s) and optional(s), is payable by check, ACH, money order, or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds and due no later than 150 days prior to the scheduled program departure date. If your reservation is made between the final payment due date and the date the program starts, the entire cost of the program, including any extension(s) and optional(s), is due at the time of registration by check, money order, or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds. Final payments made by credit card are subject to a 2% transaction fee. If final payment is not received by Orbridge by the final payment due date, Orbridge may, at any time and with or without notice, cancel your reservation in its sole discretion with no right of refund. All payments we receive from you are herein defined as “Payments.”

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**Cancellations and Refunds.** All cancellations must be submitted to Orbridge in writing and will be subject to a cancellation fee (“Cancellation Fee”) as follows: (a) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge 305 or more calendar days prior to the scheduled departure date, all deposits will be fully refunded; (b) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 304 and 181 days prior to the scheduled departure date, the Cancellation Fee will be $500 per person per program and $300 per person per program for extensions; (c) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 180 days prior to the scheduled departure date and the day before the final payment due date, the Cancellation Fee will be the full deposit per person per program including any extension; (d) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge on the final payment due date or closer to the scheduled departure date, the Cancellation Fee will be the full program price. In addition to and not in lieu of the foregoing, a Cancellation Fee equal to 100% of the carrier charge applies to all non-refundable airfares due to your cancellation made at any time prior to the scheduled program departure date, as applicable. Refunds, if any, of any Payments in excess of the aggregate Cancellation Fee shall be processed within 30 calendar days of our receipt of your written request.

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*Special group rate; limited offer. Rates are per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Airfare not included. Single and Triple availability limited. Pre-tour rate is per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Airfare, including flights from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia, is not included. Extension rate is per person based on double occupancy, in U.S. dollars. Internal round-trip airfare between Buenos Aires and Iguazu Falls is included. Airfare, including internal flight from Ushuaia to Buenos Aires, is not included otherwise. “A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Please do not purchase or obtain the specified date, and one Expedition Library per room will be sent upon receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.*
When you reserve by May 10, 2019**

Special Alumni Rate: Save more than $1,000 per couple

Rice Alumni Traveling Owls
Office of Alumni Relations, MS 520
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892

Traveling Owls guests on our 2019 Orbridge Antarctica expedition.
Photo courtesy of Laurence Yeung