

Spirit of Shackleton Expedition

Trip Code: PSS

Version:



POLAR



GUIDED GROUP



LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Spend a fantastic two full days in the Falkland Islands
- Explore Shackleton's South Georgia for three full days, including visiting his grave
- See penguins, whales and seabirds from the ship
- Team of expert polar expedition leaders on board
- All zodiac excursions, trips to shore and all meals on board are included

- Options available to kayak and / or camp - advance booking essential, these spaces are very limited!

AT A GLANCE

- 19 days Antarctic Cruise touring and Zodiac boat trips
- Join at Ushuaia

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

This is the ultimate Antarctic and subantarctic Polar Expedition/Cruise holiday where we can experience vast penguin rookeries and seal colonies on Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. On our ship the MS Expedition we visit the Falkland Islands and South Georgia before travelling to the Antarctic Peninsula. With this full itinerary we ensure that we have the best opportunity to see all the wildlife of the area, for example King Penguins and the Albatross which breed on South Georgia, but not on the Antarctica Peninsula. Here on South Georgia we can walk quietly amongst the king penguins and watching them surf onto the beach. Unique wildlife is also seen on our 2 day stop at the Falkland Islands. The 22-day voyage also illuminates Shackleton's legend and recounts his courageous exploration of Antarctica. We visit historical sites of the explorers, as well as Shackleton's final resting place. Antarctica is beyond comprehension and sure to amaze any traveller seeking a true adventure to the world's most remote wilderness.

Is this holiday for you?

This is principally a touring, sightseeing and wildlife viewing holiday, with minimal exertion required. If you choose to go ashore, you will need to make the transfers from the ship to a Zodiac and onto land. Short walks The Falklands, South Georgia and on the Antarctic Peninsula are optional and weather dependent. You should also consider that some of the classes of accommodation involve the use of bunk-beds. Whilst on deck or during excursions, you need to be prepared for cold temperatures. The itinerary remains flexible, according to the variability of the weather and sea conditions at these southerly latitudes. A suggested itinerary for the holiday is given, but may be subject to change.

On certain departures you can book kayaking, experience is essential for these kayaking excursions. A night camping on Antarctic is also possible. All equipment is provided for kayaking and camping. Early booking is essential. Cabin upgrades are also available.

Please see our [online Polar Guide](#) for the differences between our departures, ships and more Polar information.

Itinerary

Version:

Extensions

When booking your holiday, you will be able to 'add an extension option'. Once we have received your booking we will contact you to discuss additional services required for the extension and to take any additional deposit.



Sea Kayaking - Antarctic

Going eye to eye with an inquisitive whale is a rare and special moment that will carve itself into your memory. Kayaking isn't just an outdoor adventure, it's an opportunity to experience these remote regions from another vantage point. You'll venture out to sheltered bays and areas known for calmer waters and take part in group kayaking trips led by our experienced and skilled leaders. No other activity gets you as close to the natural environment!

Kayaking excursions are dependent on weather but the team will aim to get you out in the Kayaks as many times as possible during the cruise. Previous kayaking experience is strongly recommended. You do not need to know how to roll a kayak or do a self-rescue. Professional guides will be on board to help you with new skills or to offer coaching to improve your paddling performance.

It is essential to book early for this experience - you can not book this once on board and places are very limited.



Antarctic Camping Excursion

On the day of the camping expedition dinner will be served onboard - eat heartily as there will be no personal snacks allowed onshore as per IAATO regulations. After dinner you will go by Zodiac to the campsite and after setting up camp for the evening, you will have time to explore the area and enjoy the Antarctic evening. The following morning, wake up time will be about an hour before ship's breakfast, allowing time to collect and stow our equipment before journeying back to the ship by zodiac.

Previous camping experience is not necessary, but members of the camping group will be asked to help put up tents under the instruction of the expedition leader. As we are in a ecologically sensitive environment, we ask that members of the group, follow closely the instructions of the expedition leader in order to minimize impacts, and ensure that we at all times, meet and exceed IAATO regulations. Safety is always paramount. Each camping expedition is restricted to a maximum of 20 campers and will be accompanied by a minimum of two experienced Expedition Staff members.

Communication with the ship will be maintained throughout the excursion and we carry emergency rations in the event that our schedule becomes extended as a result of weather conditions. Accommodation on the camping expedition is twin-share. Single travellers will be paired with other single travellers of the same sex.

Holiday Information

What's Included

- Expert Expedition staff
- Ushuaia arrival airport transfers
- Single timed departure transfer to airport or into Ushuaia
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Shore excursions and Zodiac cruises in Antarctica with expert expedition team
- Waterproof boots
- Lecture and guidance programs during the expedition
- Antarctica destination guide book

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Tips for staff
- Some meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Airport departure taxes
- Cost of optional excursions - Kayaking and overnight camping on Antarctica (see extensions)
- Transfers between airports in Buenos Aires
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

Day 1

The group will meet at the group hotel in Ushuaia. On arrival in Ushuaia you will need to take a taxi to the hotel.

Day 22

Upon completion of the 08:00 disembarkation in Ushuaia, passengers will receive a complimentary transfer to either the airport or a central location where luggage can be stored.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All meals whilst on board the M/S Expedition are included. Breakfast only is included while staying in the hotel in Ushuaia. All other meals you will pay for directly. In practice this amounts to a total of 2 dinners and 1 lunch while in Ushuaia. We recommend you allow about US\$20 per meal in Ushuaia.

Food & Water

Many places on this holiday have drinkable water from the tap to fill your personal water bottles. Please check with the leader at the various locations. Please take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a [Water-To-Go bottle](#)) for days when drinking water out of the tap is not available. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Onboard the ship a diverse range of international dishes is available. Meals are prepared and catered by professional chefs and all meals are included in the trip price. Dining is casual, tables are unassigned and the dining room is capable of seating the entire passenger compliment at one time. There is always a selection of different meals available with plenty of options for vegetarians. Special dietary requirements can be accommodated with advance notice (please advise us at time of booking). Coffee, tea and water are all provided free of charge. All other beverages, alcoholic and non-alcoholic are not included and can be purchased in the dining room, pub or the lounge.

Accommodation

During this trip the group will spend 2 nights at an hotel in Ushuaia at the start of the trip. For these two nights in Ushuaia, for solo bookings the first night will be a single room and the second night on a twin share basis. The following 18 nights are spent on board the fantastic M/S Expedition Polar Cruise Ship. The MS Expedition has multiple large public areas to enjoy during sea crossings and in between land excursions. Amenities include:

All cabins with private en suite and outside view,

The Penguin Library,

Medical clinic and english speaking doctor,

Polar Bear Pub,

The Lounge,

Albatross Dining Room - serving international cuisine and large enough to accommodate all passengers in one sitting,

Large aft deck with barbecue facilities,

Forward deck viewing platforms,

Fitness centre/sauna,

Laundry service (for a small additional charge),

Wi-Fi (for an additional charge),

Accommodation on board is based on a quad cabin with porthole (CAT.1A). If you are travelling by yourself you will be paired up with other single clients of the same sex. Cabin upgrades to triples, twins and cabins with larger windows are possible as well as singles, all depending on availability. Please contact the office for prices and availability. Additional hotel nights in Ushuaia are also available.

Group Leader & Support Staff

A carefully chosen team will lead your voyage. The MS Expedition ships boast an international team of professional naturalists and lecturers. Their goal is to provide an informed and balanced interpretation of the destination, accomplished through stimulating lectures, day-to-day briefings, and informal discussions. Your lecturers and Expedition Leader will cover all aspects of the voyage including ornithology, marine biology, geography, geology, history and the environment, as well as practical things like photography. The expedition staff work conscientiously with you on deck and in the field, improving your observational skills to allow you to experience all that the destination has to offer. Their strong sense of ethics and ecological knowledge make for stimulating and mindful conversation whether onshore or at the dinner table. The Expedition Staff will pilot the Zodiac landing craft used for shore landings and Zodiac cruises; they are experienced drivers who operate the Zodiacs in a responsible manner.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

It is not practical to set a recommended amount for personal spending money on a trip like this. All meals while on board and the daily Zodiac excursions are included in the price. The main extra spend on board will be on drinks and this will vary greatly from person to person. As a guide, we recommend you allow \$10-15 per day for tips to your crew and expedition staff. You will also require approximately \$15 - \$20 per meal while you are staying in Ushuaia. It is possible to withdraw cash US dollars from ATM's in Ushuaia. On board ship, bar bills can be put on a tab and paid at the end of the cruise by credit or debit card. We recommend that you bring a minimum of US\$200 in cash for emergency situations where you are unable to withdraw money from ATMs.

Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is the accepted way of saying 'thank you' to the staff who have assisted you on your expedition. Tips do not form any part of the wages of the staff but they are very much appreciated. It is important to remember that tipping is voluntary and should be dependent on good service. Normally tips are collected by the Hotel Manager at the end of the voyage and distributed amongst the crew and Expedition Staff. The Officers in charge of the ship choose not to participate in the tipping pool. As a guide, we recommend that each group member contributes around \$120 - 180 to these tips.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Luggage with wheels is useful for this holiday. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline (the baggage limit on the domestic flight between Buenos Aries and Ushuaia is 20kg). Please note that you should be able to carry your own luggage.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status and so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

Group Members

For this holiday the minimum age is 10 yrs (anyone under 18 must be travelling with a parent or guardian).

The holiday will be conducted in English. Generally on these trips there will be a mix of nationalities but it is not possible to guarantee this.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THOSE TRANSITING THROUGH THE USA

You will require an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), and you must get this before boarding any US-bound aircraft or ship, or entering on a land border. The fee is USD\$21 and you should apply for it at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>. With the ESTA complete, the majority of British Citizen passport holders can enter the US under the Visa Waiver Programme, VWP. You will be required to have a passport with an integrated chip. Note that if you have travelled to Cuba, Iran, Syria or North Korea since March 2011* you will have to apply for a visa rather than the Visa Waiver Programme (* a full and up to date list of countries can be found on the US government website [here](#).)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THOSE TRANSITING THROUGH CANADA

All citizens (except for USA citizens) will require an eTA (Electronic Travel Authorisation), and you must get this before boarding any Canada-bound aircraft or ship, or entering on a land border. The fee is CAD\$7 and you should apply for it at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start.asp>

US passport holders must obtain a Brazilian visa prior to arrival if they will be in Brazil for more than 6 hours.

Visa Argentina

UK and USA passport holders do not require a visa for short stays.

Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

VACCINATIONS

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations or other preventive measures. You should be up to date with routine courses and boosters as recommended in the UK e.g. diphtheria-tetanus-polio and measles-mumps-rubella, along with hepatitis A and typhoid. A good online resource is [Travel Health Pro](#).

Currency

When on the ship everything is priced in US\$. If you are paying in cash you will need US\$, if you are paying by card your bank will use their exchange rate.

The unit of currency in Argentina is the Peso.

Preparing for your Holiday

It makes a lot of sense to spend some time before coming on an active holiday getting some additional exercise. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. Although this is principally a cruise holiday you will have the opportunity for walks on the Falklands and South Georgia and also on the Antarctic Peninsula. Also a basic level of fitness is required to get in and out of the Zodiacs.

Climate

In South Georgia and along the Antarctic Peninsula, temperatures as high as 15°C have been recorded, though during the Antarctic summer temperatures are typically between 0 and 2°C. The wind will be a significant moderating factor and you must come prepared for 'real feel' temperatures as low as -20°C. While the Falkland Islands do receive considerable rainfall, the Antarctic is technically classed as a desert averaging 166 mm of precipitation per year. Although you are unlikely to experience any precipitation in this part of the voyage, storms can and do occur.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that prior to travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates direct from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- South: The Endurance Expedition. Ernest Shackleton
- Natural History of the Antarctic Peninsula. Sanford Moss
- The Heart of the Great Alone - Scott, Shackleton
- David Hempleman-Adams Polar Exploration

Maps

South Shetland Islands. British Antarctic Survey

The South Shetland Islands at 1:200,000 from British Atlantic Survey is a visually impressive topographic and bathymetric overview map of the South Shetland Isles, based on satellite imagery. Double-sided and split into three smaller maps - Livingston Island on one side, around Elephant Island and King George Island on the other.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Please note that a paper copy of your travel insurance is required if you are travelling to Huaraz and the Huayhuash region.

Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through one of our international partners. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. Dress on board is informal. Beware of tight clothing that leaves no room for trapped air, which is an excellent insulator. Wool, silk and some of the new synthetic fibers, like polar fleece, retain heat better than cotton.

You must bring the following items:

- Casual shoes / Trainers or similar for onboard

- Rubber boots (Wellington boots)*

- Walking shoes*
 - Socks (Warm, high wool or similar socks worn over a thin pair of silk, polypropylene socks should provide enough warmth and insulation for your feet. Bring several pairs of socks, since you will inevitably get your feet wet)

- Waterproof jacket (a basic waterproof jacket is provided for everyone once on the ship)

- Trekking trousers
- Waterproof trousers
- Thermal baselayer - leggings
- Underwear
- Baselayer shirts / fleece
- Casual shirt and/or T-shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Sunhat
- Warm hat
- Scarf and/or buff
- Sunglasses
- Gloves or mittens (Thin polypropylene gloves under warm and waterproof outer gloves is a good combination)
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 Litre x1 (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Selection of dry bags (to keep rucksack contents dry)

- Small padlock (to lock trek bag)
- Small daypack
- Warm jacket (down)
- Plug adapter - On the ship you will need a plug / adaptor with European 2 pin round holes. There are also 110-volt shaving sockets in the bathroom for electric razors only.
- Basic First Aid Kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, and plasters. Glucose tablets and multi-vitamin tablets are also a good idea.

The following items are optional:

- Warm Ski pants
- Shorts
- Spare gloves
- Travel clothes
- Camera (in a dry bag)
- Binoculars
- Pen-knife (remember to pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Seasickness remedy
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Notes

***Rubber boots / Wellington boots:** Complimentary waterproof boots are supplied for the following sizes:

- Men's USA size 8-14 / UK size 7 to 13½ / Europe 41 to 48½
- Women's USA size 3 to 9 / UK size 1 to 6½ / Europe 33 to 40

If you have different feet sizes to these you should bring your own rubber boots. These should be rubber, waterproof boots that are just below your knee with a strong, ridged non-skid sole.

Although this is not a trekking trip, there is the opportunity to sightsee around Ushuaia. If you intend to make the most of these opportunities, you should make sure that you take suitable footwear.

Kayak Excursion (pre-booking essential) If you choose the optional Kayak Excursion please ensure you have enough layers with you to keep you warm. You will need thermal underwear and vest (note that cotton is not acceptable), polypropylene/ pile (polar fleece) trousers and non bulky jacket, a fleece or tight knit wool cap (X2), a neck tube or balaclava, mid weight fleece gloves. You should also take dry bags for personal gear/camera. You will be supplied with: Kokatat Supernova Paddling suits, paddles, floatation vest, spray skirt, neoprene pogies (paddling mittens) and neoprene booties. You will be required to have with you thermal layers suitable for temperatures ranging between -5°C (23°F to +7°C (45°F)

Camping Excursion (pre-booking essential, over 18yrs only) If you choose the optional camping excursion you should pack an extra fleece or 2 (plus a down jacket) for the chilly evening on the snow. You will be provided with: tent, sleeping bag, sleeping mat & emergency supplies.

Cotswold Outdoor



Many of the Equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive 12.5% discount voucher from Cotswold Outdoor and other retailers. [>> Find out more](#)

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Ushuaia. For clients making their own flight arrangements, Ushuaia Airport is the most convenient for transfers to the group hotel.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Ushuaia airport. Outbound flights will depart from the UK in the morning, arriving in the morning of the following day (day 1 of the itinerary). Return flights will depart Ushuaia in the morning of the last day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK in the late evening of the following day. Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request. Please note that you will have to change airports in Buenos Aires and the connections enroute may involve some lengthy waits at an airport. Please be prepared for this.

Why Choose KE

Antarctic G Polar Why KE

Don't miss the boat! We include an additional night in Ushuaia included in the price to help prevent any issues with flight delays. This night is already included in the itinerary shown. No surprise costs. All zodiac excursions, landings and all meals on board are included in the price.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 03/07/2024 and the trip is subject to change