

ITINERARY

**EMPEROR PENGUINS IN THE WEDDELL SEA:
In search of Antarctica's most iconic bird**

November 23-December 6, 2026



*The Emperor Penguin is the iconic Antarctic resident. While we can't guarantee that we will see them, we will do our best to get a good view of these enchanting creatures. Even if we are not able to visit the colony on Snow Hill island, we'll watch for the Emperors at sea, and we will see many other amazing, rarely seen inhabitants of the Weddell Sea.
Photograph by guide Bret Whitney.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2026 Field Guides Emperor Penguins in the Weddell Sea tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:

- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

Apsley Cherry-Garrard's words from his account of Robert Falcon Scott's second polar expedition (1910-1913) introduce us to one of the hardest animal species on earth: "Take it all in all, I do not believe anybody on Earth has a worse time than an emperor penguin." We are excited to venture to Antarctica in search of this most iconic bird of the Antarctic, the Emperor Penguin.

Our itinerary is structured to give us the best possible chance to find Emperor Penguins at sea, and if possible, to make an approach to the Emperor colony near Snow Hill Island in the Weddell Sea. This is a true adventure on the edge of the world, and all routing decisions must be made with safety in mind. If weather and sea conditions allow, we will make helicopter shuttle flights to a point near the Emperor Penguin colony and then hike ~45 minutes to the edge of the colony. **There is no guarantee of a successful visit to the Emperor Penguin colony** due to the uncontrollable variables of weather and ice conditions. Oceanwide Expeditions has made attempts to visit Snow Hill Island since 2012; though in

initial years, success in reaching the Emperor colony itself was not achieved each year, **Oceanwide Expeditions has been successful in visiting the colony in the three most recent seasons: 2017, 2018, and 2019.** If we can't make it to the Emperor Penguin colony itself, we'll search for them at sea away from the colony site. This strategy gives us a good chance of encountering Emperor Penguins.

****Note** This focused tour does not visit the Falkland Islands or South Georgia.**

Field Guides offers this tour as a partnership with Oceanwide Expeditions, a Dutch company that specializes in oceanic voyages to polar regions. Your Field Guides leader(s) will work with the Oceanwide staff to tailor this experience to maximize your birding and wildlife-watching opportunities. This 11-day tour will take place on the 116-passenger Ortelius, a 91 meter-long ship with an ice-strengthened hull and the capacity to carry helicopters. More information about Ortelius can be found on Oceanwide's website at: <https://oceanwide-expeditions.com/our-fleet/m-v-ortelius>

Oceanwide's details about our cruise can be found online here:

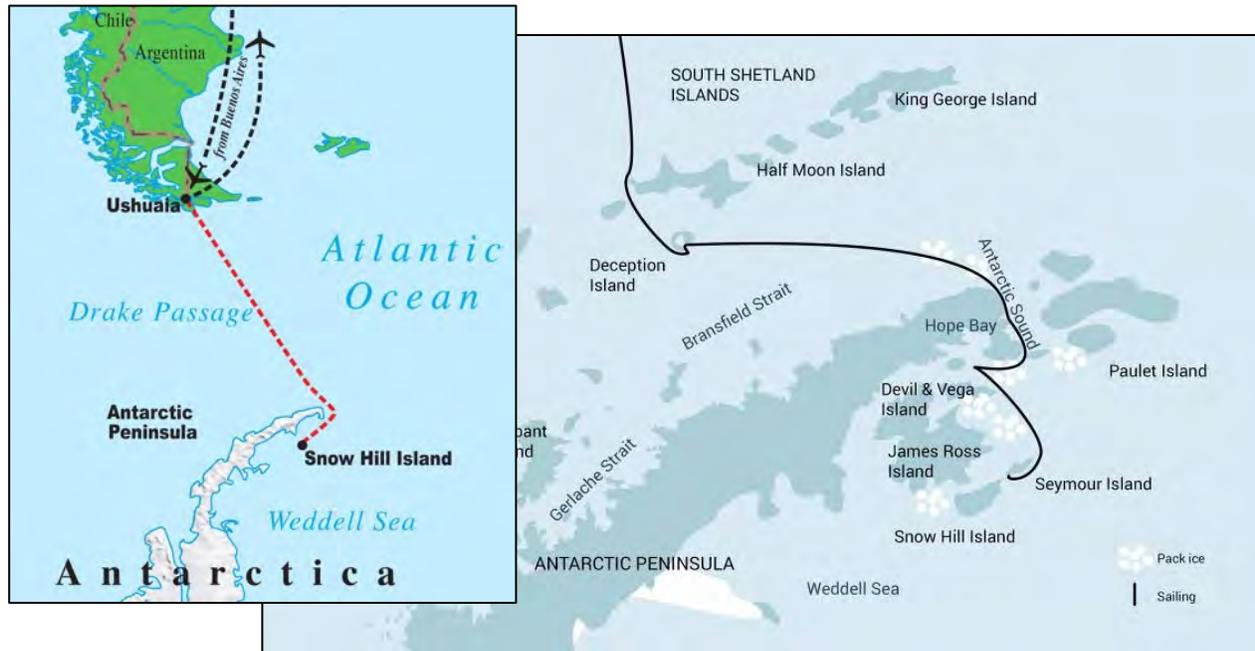
<https://oceanwide-expeditions.com/antarctica/cruises/otl22-21->

We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.

Physical requirements of this tour

- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We will be on a vessel at sea, and out of immediate reach of most advanced medical care (though a ship's doctor is part of the expedition staff), so you should be in good health. You will need to be able to get in and out of zodiacs and helicopters. Our land excursions will take us onto land that is uneven and icy. Motion sickness is a very real possibility; this can be managed with medication including Bonine and Scopolamine. Please contact your physician for detailed information.
- **PACE:** At sea, you'll get used to a comfortable, slow pace that allows you the time to soak in your surroundings (and the seabirds) as we cruise. The pace will pick up a bit during our zodiac and helicopter operations and on hikes away from the ship, with moderately strenuous walks/ hikes involved. We will be walking on uneven terrain, sometimes with a moderate incline.
- **ELEVATION:** We will be at our near sea level for the entire voyage.
- **WEATHER:** Visitors to the Antarctic Peninsula and Weddell Sea are often surprised at how pleasant conditions can be. That being said, while air temperatures are typically in the 20s and 30s Fahrenheit around the Antarctic Peninsula during the season of our visit, wind and humidity can make it feel colder, and it's best to be prepared for weather conditions similar to birding in the Northern US and Southern Canada in winter. Weather is less of a challenge during our at-sea days since we can simply duck inside the warm ship if it gets too cold or windy, but do be aware: the Southern Ocean is one of the windiest places on Earth. Some rain or snow is to be expected along the way.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** It is important for you to be able to get into and out of a zodiac (inflatable boat used as cruising and landing craft for 8-10 people at a time) in occasionally rough sea conditions.
- **HELICOPTER OPERATIONS:** When conditions allow, helicopter operations will enable us to visit the Emperor Penguin colony. Our expedition company, Oceanwide Expeditions, provides the following details: "The helicopter operation takes a full day, and the flight duration is approximately 15 minutes. Each helicopter can accommodate 4 – 6 passengers per flight, and the landing site is carefully chosen so that the penguins are not disturbed. Upon arrival to the site, it is about a 45-minute walk to the rookery. Please keep in mind that you are in the world's most remote area: There are no guarantees. Conditions may change rapidly, which can have a profound impact on our helicopter operations. It is important to understand and respect this. Safety is our greatest concern, and no compromises can be made."
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** We use modern facilities aboard the ship; when away from the ship, you'll need to be prepared to "go in the wild."
- **OPTING OUT:** Participants can easily opt to comfortably sit out a day or sometimes a half-day when we are aboard the ship.

If you are uncertain whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with one of the guides.



About the Birding Areas

Ushuaia – The tour begins and ends in Ushuaia, Argentina. The world’s southernmost city serves as a fantastic jumping-off point for Antarctic trips, and is also a good birding destination in its own right. In the harbor, South American Terns and Chilean Skuas course over both Flying and Flightless Steamer-ducks, and Baird’s and White-rumped Sandpipers ply the shores while South American Snipe and Correndera Pipits patrol the marshes and uplands.

Antarctic Peninsula/ Weddell Sea – Though the wildlife diversity is lower around Antarctica proper as compared with South Georgia and the Falklands, some of the world’s most iconic animals live here. We are likely to meet Chinstrap and Adelie Penguins at their colonies, and we’ll search for Weddell, Crabeater, and Leopard seals on floating chunks of ice. When we venture into the icy Weddell Sea, we’ll be scanning carefully for Emperor Penguins in the water and on the ice. If the weather and ice conditions cooperate, we will draw close to Snow Hill Island and seek Emperor Penguins at or near their breeding colony on ice adjacent to the island.

Pelagic birding at sea – We plan to maximize our time on the ship at sea in between Ushuaia and Antarctica. This means spending plenty of time on the deck of the ship in search of species that we’re only likely to encounter in pelagic waters offshore. These include (but are certainly not limited to) Northern and Southern Royal Albatross, Gray-headed Albatross, Blue Petrel, Prions (Slender-billed, Antarctic, and Fairy), Magellanic, Common, and South Georgia Diving-Petrels, Soft-plumaged Petrel, Kerguelen Petrel, Antarctic Petrel, and Wilson’s, Gray-backed, and Black-bellied Storm-Petrels. Distinct zones of birdlife will become obvious as we travel along, with the more northerly birds of the Falkland Plateau/ South American continental shelf transitioning to those of the Drake Passage and then the cold waters south of the Antarctic Convergence. Spending time outside on deck while at sea is essential to have a good chance at finding these seabirds; however, don’t worry – you can always nip inside for a cup of tea and some biscuits for a quick break. We’ll also spend time watching and identifying marine mammals when the opportunity presents itself.

Itinerary for Emperor Penguins in the Weddell Sea

****Important note**** - This itinerary reflects a plan based on ideal conditions and the Oceanwide Expeditions itinerary. Please note that all sites and landings are subject to change due to weather and the discretion of the captain and expedition staff.

Days 1-2, Mon-Tue, 23-24 Nov. Flights from the US to Buenos Aires/Buenos Aires to Ushuaia. Most flights depart the US in the evening and fly overnight to reach Buenos Aires early the next morning in time to make connections to

Ushuaia. The airport in Ushuaia is about 10 minutes from our hotel by taxi. On the evening before we board the *Ortelius*, we'll meet in the hotel lobby at 7:30 p.m. for dinner and to discuss the following day's plan. Night in Ushuaia. *Please note: A full buffer day in Ushuaia is recommended to mitigate against problems stemming from flight or baggage delays. This would mean departing the US on November 22nd, arriving in Ushuaia on November 23rd. Our office will be happy to assist you with reservations for extra nights.*

Day 3, Wed, 25 Nov. Boarding day in Ushuaia, Argentina. Following instructions provided by Oceanwide Expeditions, we'll stage our luggage and arrive at the pier in Ushuaia to board the ship. We'll check into our staterooms (just like arriving at a hotel, really!) and explore the ship, becoming acquainted with the various decks, lounges, and dining facilities. Your Field Guides leader will host a welcome meeting to go over our strategy for the tour, and Oceanwide's staff will hold briefings to outline the expedition's plans. Our Field Guides group (capped at 15 with one leader) will represent a subset of the participants of the cruise (up to 116 guests total), and it will be a good idea to start getting to know each other before we're fully underway. Of course, we'll want to keep an eye outside as we begin our eastward transit of the Beagle Channel, and we're sure to see our first Southern Giant-Petrels and Black-browed Albatrosses arcing against the dramatic, forested slopes of Tierra del Fuego. All subsequent nights will be on the ship.



*Black-browed Albatrosses will be our companions through much of the trip, beginning in the Drake Passage.
Photograph by guide Dave Stejskal.*

Days 4-5, Thu-Fri 26-27 Nov. At sea across the Drake Passage. We'll leave the Beagle Channel at night and head south into the open ocean toward Antarctica. En route, we'll get used to the motion of the open sea and begin to get acquainted with the seabirds of the region, including massive Royal and Wandering albatrosses, White-chinned Petrels, diving-petrels, and prions. As we reach the colder waters of the Antarctic Convergence to the south, we might find our first Blue Petrels, Southern Fulmars, and more. Your guide will be outside as much as possible, helping you to key in on the characteristic flight style and field marks of the wonderful seabirds that we'll encounter. This leg of the journey can also be good for finding dolphins and other marine mammals. The expedition staff will brief us on zodiac and helicopter safety, and we'll receive our ship-provided rubber boots (good quality Muck Boots or similar).

Days 6-9, Sat-Tue, 28 Nov-1 Dec. Exploring the Weddell Sea. The exact itinerary of these four days will depend on careful analysis of ice conditions and weather by the ship's officers and the Oceanwide Expeditions staff. This is our target window to search for Emperor Penguins in the icy Weddell Sea (east of the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula). If conditions allow (<50% chance), we will approach Snow Hill Island and attempt to visit an Emperor Penguin colony nearby. Oceanwide Expeditions provides the following details for these circumstances: "Helicopters provide an advantage in reaching the emperor penguin colony, but nature makes the rules in Antarctica. If conditions are favourable, you'll spend

the first two days at the penguin rookery. The helicopter operation takes a full day, and the flight duration is approximately 15 minutes. Each helicopter can accommodate 4 – 6 passengers per flight, and the landing site is carefully chosen so that the penguins are not disturbed. Upon arrival to the site, it is about a 45-minute walk to the rookery. Please keep in mind that you are in the world’s most remote area: There are no guarantees. Conditions may change rapidly, which can have a profound impact on our helicopter operations. It is important to understand and respect this. Safety is our greatest concern, and no compromises can be made.”

If conditions do not allow us to visit the Emperor Penguins at the colony, we will search for these beauties at sea among chunks of floating ice.

Day 10, Wed, 2 Dec. Deception Island (South Shetland Islands) and beginning of return trip across the Drake Passage. As a change of scenery from the stark seascape of the Weddell Sea, we plan to sail into the sunken caldera of Deception Island in the South Shetland Islands. This is the former home of a British Antarctic base, and hosts breeding birds like Wilson’s Storm-Petrels, South Polar Skuas, Antarctic Shags, and more. In the afternoon, we’ll begin our journey north back across the Drake Passage toward Ushuaia.



Wilson’s Storm-Petrel is one of the most abundant seabirds. These small petrels nest on rocky islands in the southern hemisphere such as the South Shetlands. Photograph by guide Doug Gochfeld.

Days 11-12, Thu-Fri 3-4 Dec. At sea across the Drake Passage. This return trip across “The Drake” will give us more opportunities to study pelagic seabirds and marine mammals. We’ll keep a sharp eye out for gadfly petrels and any species that we missed on the way south at the start of the trip.

Days 13-14, Sat-Sun, 5-6 Dec. Disembarkation in Ushuaia and flights home. After breakfast on the ship, we’ll disembark and take buses to the Ushuaia airport (or transfer to hotels in Ushuaia if you are staying on longer). The flights depart for Buenos Aires this afternoon for overnight flights to the US arriving on December 6.

About Your Guide

Doug Gochfeld made the jump from a love of trains, planes, and automobiles typical of many 7-year-olds to an avid interest in birds after a close encounter with a Steller's Jay in the Pacific Northwest. This filled his early formative years with scouring the urban landscape of New York City for birds with his father. After a teenage break from all things avian, he returned to it with a vengeance, and he hasn't looked back.

His first birding job was as a migration counter at the legendary Cape May Bird Observatory, where his love of and interest in the dynamics of migration (of anything with wings, insects included!) was cemented. From 2006 to 2016, he worked with birds from New Hampshire to Arizona, and from Suriname to Israel. He has also spent a substantial amount of time guiding in Alaska, the bulk of which was spent on St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs.

Doug's strongest interests in birding are migration, vagrancy, and overall patterns of distribution. Shorebirds and seabirds (and any other long-distance migrants, really) hold a special place in his heart, and he has done intensive work studying the breeding and wintering ecology of Hudsonian Godwits in Alaska and Semipalmated Sandpipers in Suriname and Brazil.

In addition to being on the New York State Avian Records Committee, Doug is also passionate about spreading the gospel of birding and the outdoors, and to this end he participates in youth and urban birding initiatives and has guided at birding festivals across the country. His writing and photographs have been published in a myriad of venues.

Doug has co-led Field Guides groups from Alaska, Trinidad, Panama, Cape May, and Arizona, to Newfoundland/Nova Scotia, New Guinea, Cambodia, Vietnam, Texas, Puerto Rico, Madagascar, and more. Additionally, he brought Florida and Israel back into our schedule in 2018 and developed our New Mexico tour for its 2019 inaugural.

"Doug meets the high standard of excellence I've come to expect from Field Guide trip leaders. He's knowledgeable, especially about the marine birds, attentive to individual and group feedback, helpful, organized, and likable. I really gained an appreciation for the astonishing migratory habits of the marine birds through Doug. His enthusiasm and respect for what they do and how they survive is truly infectious, and I now share that perspective. I credit Doug for expanding my understanding of a group of birds I had underappreciated." D.B, New Zealand

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for Doug's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

About Your Ship



*Ortelius in the Antarctic Sound, from a previous Field Guides tour.
Photograph by guide Tom Johnson.*

The *m/v Ortelius* is a 91-meter vessel, perfectly suited to expedition travel in polar regions with great viewing areas from the various decks. With an ice-strengthened hull it is able to navigate waters more comfortably than many other ships of similar size, and in normal conditions average travel speed is about 10-12 kts. The vessel has the highest ice-class notation and is therefore very suitable to navigate in solid one-year sea ice and loose multi-year pack ice. *Ortelius* was built in Poland in 1989, was named *Marina Svetaeva*, and served as a special purpose vessel for the Russian Academy of Science. The vessel was re-flagged and renamed *Ortelius* after the Dutch/Flemish cartographer, Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) who published the first modern world atlas, the *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* or *Theatre of the World* in 1570. At that time, the atlas was the most expensive book ever printed.

In addition to the 53 cabins, the ship contains an infirmary, two adjacent dining rooms, a

bar/lounge and lecture room. The ship's crew is international, and the expedition staff is largely European. *Ortelius* carries 11 zodiacs of which 9 are in use and 2 on reserve. Announcements, briefings, and lectures will be in English and, in keeping with the spirit of expedition travel, dress is informal. Internet service on board is limited and for a fee, and it is rather unreliable in much of our travel area. For urgent and important communications, the ship is equipped with satellite phone (pricey) and facsimile systems. There is power in all cabins and electricity is of the European 220-volt variety. American travelers will require an adapter for any electronic devices. Laundry service is available on board for a fee. A doctor will travel with us, and the infirmary is well provisioned with medicines and equipment. Those passengers on regular medication should bring with them an adequate personal supply, and participants concerned about seasickness are encouraged to consult with their physicians before departure.

More information about Ortelius can be found on Oceanwide's website at:
<https://oceanwide-expeditions.com/our-fleet/m-v-ortelius>

Financial Information

CRUISE FEE: \$15450 pp Twin (porthole); \$16000 pp Twin (window)
 \$17450 pp Twin (deluxe)
 (all prices are per person from Ushuaia.)

Field Guides is holding Twin Porthole cabins; we will have to request other Cabin types.

LAND FEE: \$825 per person in double occupancy. **Single Supplement on land fee:** \$175

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: 1.7% of published cruise fee. Single travelers who wish to share their cabin/hotel room should indicate this on the registration form. The published per person twin occupancy fare is guaranteed in this case, whether or not a cabinmate is available. Single travelers who require sole occupancy of cabins will be charged at 1.7 times the published fare.

DEPOSIT: 20% of the cruise fee per person; *please note your cabin category preference on your registration form.*

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: May 27, 2026

LIMIT: 10

Price Changes—*Oceanwide Expeditions (from whom we have an allotment of cabins) reserves the right to impose surcharges (price increases) up to 120 days before departure due to unfavorable changes in exchange rates, increases in air fares or other transportation costs, increases in local operating costs, taxes, or government action. If fuel prices increase to exceed US \$120 per Barrel Brent, Oceanwide Expeditions reserves the right to levy a fuel surcharge of US \$25 per passenger per night.*

Insurance—*Oceanwide Expeditions requires that travelers obtain insurance that will cover personal injury, medical, repatriation, and evacuation expenses. The cost of emergency evacuation and medical care can be very high. A minimum of \$100,000 is required and it is strongly recommended that coverage be extended to include cancellation and trip interruption. Coverage offered through CSA on the Field Guides Comfort Plan meets these minimums as well as trip cancellation/interruption insurance.*

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The manager for this tour is Karen Turner. Karen will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

DOCUMENTS: A current passport valid for three months beyond the date of your return is necessary for US citizens to enter Argentina. We recommend that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the dates of your visit, as regulations vary from country to country, and are subject to change. No visa is required.

If you are a citizen of another country, please check with the Argentine consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.

LUGGAGE: In addition to standard travel luggage, you might wish to bring a daypack to take ashore during our landings – a waterproof bag is a good idea for this purpose. Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

SMOKING: Please note that the *m/v Ortelius* is generally smoke-free with designated smoking areas outside. Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **cruise fee** from Ushuaia includes the voyage aboard the vessel as indicated in the itinerary; all meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship, including snacks, coffee, and tea; all shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by zodiac; program of lectures by noted naturalists, leadership by experienced expedition staff, and the guide services of your Field Guides leader; all miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program; and comprehensive pre-trip material. Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The **land fee** of \$825 is for one person in double occupancy in Ushuaia. It includes lodging for the night of November 24th in Ushuaia, dinner on November 24th, and breakfast on November 25th.

The above fees do not include your airfare to and from Ushuaia, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, the customary gratuity at the end of the voyage to the boat crew (guidelines will be provided), phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the land portion of the tour is \$150. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

The tour fee does not cover bar drinks that are charged to one's cabin. This includes soft drinks, juices separate from those served at meals, and alcoholic beverages. Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate are free of charge and available 24 hours in the lounge.

Single travelers who wish to share their cabin/hotel room should indicate this on the registration form. The published per person double occupancy fare for the cruise is guaranteed in this case, whether or not a cabinmate is available. Single travelers who require sole occupancy of cabins will be charged at 1.7 times the published fare.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of 20% of the cabin fee per person**. If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or **by May 27, 2026**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.**

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please contact us at fieldguides.com/contact-us/. Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our electronic

registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.) Please note your cabin category preference on your registration form.

Please mail your **deposit of 20% of the cabin fee per person**, or see fieldguides.com/payment-options/ for our Payment Options. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or **by May 27, 2026. We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Due to the cancellation policy of our supplier, Oceanwide Expeditions, we must amend our usual cancellation policy as follows: Once you confirm your space on the tour, the **deposit (20% of the cabin fee) is non-refundable.** If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is non-refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour fees (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of the insurance is not refundable so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airlines restrictions.

Field Guides reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs outside of our cancellation policy as published in the itinerary (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii. We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance thru InsureMyTrip (<https://www.insuremytrip.com/>) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. When purchasing insurance with a company other than CSA, you will want to understand whether the timing of your purchase will affect coverage before paying your first deposit. Insurance purchase requirements can vary from company to company, and such requirements could limit your options if you do not look into this until making your final payment for your tour. Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as

more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

NCP 7/2020

1/18/21 TBJ

2/21 peg; 11/25peg