Expedition to Antarctica

JOURNEY TO EARTH'S LAST FRONTIER

featuring UCLA Faculty Lecturer Peter Narins
Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology
Jan. 17-30, 2024

EXCLUSIVE GUEST SPEAKER
Felicity Aston MBE
Expedition to Antarctica

Be among the fortunate few to set foot on “The White Continent,” a pristine wilderness at the bottom of the world. This 14-day, expedition-style journey to Antarctica takes you in the path of storied explorers who landed here more than a century ago. The grandeur of this majestic icescape is revealed as you cruise from the Beagle Channel across the Drake Passage to the outer shores of the remote Antarctic Peninsula—sky painting the icescape in soft hues of pink as the sun rises and falls with 20 hours of daylight in between.

Wildlife species on this largely uninhabited continent have adapted to the harshest weather conditions on Earth—including penguins and seals that exhibit little or no fear of humans. Watch these unique creatures up close on guided Zodiac and land excursions, where you can see humpback whales, leopard seals, Adélie penguins, and penguin chicks of all varieties swimming among turquoise glaciers and glimmering icebergs.

Complete your adventure with a captivating tale onboard from guest speaker Felicity Aston MBE, a renowned polar explorer whose Antarctic expeditions have broken records and made history—ushering in a new age of exploration and climate change research.
Dear UCLA Alumni and Friends,

“Everything wears an aspect of unreality,” Ernest Shackleton wrote of his expedition to Antarctica. “Icebergs hang upside down in the sky; the land appears as layers of silvery or golden cloud. Cloud-banks look like land, icebergs masquerade as islands.”

It’s been more than a century since that journey and yet the wonder of “The White Continent” remains. Join us on a 14-day, expedition-style itinerary that retraces sea lanes navigated by the likes of Shackleton and his colleagues Roald Amundsen and Robert Falcon Scott.

Cruise for nine nights aboard the exclusively chartered LAustral—both 5-star and ice-class rated—and one of the ships within the finest fleet plying Antarctic waters. All accommodations afford ocean views and 95 percent feature private balconies. LAustral’s state-of-the-art technology and design set high standards in environmental protection and comfort.

Acclaimed polar explorer Felicity Aston MBE will join us on board to discuss her record-breaking expeditions and share findings from her work monitoring climate change at the Rothera Research Station. In addition, a comprehensive schedule of exclusive and specially arranged lectures will complete your optimal Antarctic adventure.

We invite you on this incredible journey with all excursions included and complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages served on board. I have personally traveled on this trip twice if you have any questions. This luxury program provides the best Antarctic cruise value and sells out quickly, so make your reservation today.

Sincerely,

Christel Aragon
Director, Alumni Travel

For further information, please contact UCLA Alumni Travel at 310-206-0613.

alumni.ucla.edu/travel

Faculty Lecturer

Peter Narins is an expeditionary biologist who has taught courses on animal communication, neurobiology, sensory physiology and auditory science in the UCLA Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology. To date, he has carried out 57 overseas biological expeditions on all seven continents plus Madagascar, and in the last five years, has delivered 77 invited research lectures in 30 different countries. He has made seven trips to the polar arctic regions including a research expedition to Antarctica to study krill. He has been a Fulbright, Humboldt and Guggenheim Fellow, and he has won both UCLA’s Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award and Gold Shield Faculty Prize. This will be Peter’s ninth trip with UCLA Alumni Travel.

To secure your spot, call UCLA Alumni Travel at 310-206-0613 or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve
EXCLUSIVE GUEST SPEAKER

Felicity Aston MBE

There is an anecdote on Felicity Aston MBE’s website that talks about her first “expedition” at the age of 9, which involved “being bribed” up a modest peak in England by her parents. Aston, now one of the most accomplished polar explorers and climate scientists of modern times, says this childhood milestone changed her life. Today, she is both the only woman in the world to have skied across Antarctica alone and the first person in the world to have traversed the continent purely by muscle power, which gave her a place in the Guinness World Records. Her polar career began two decades ago when she traveled to Antarctica as a meteorologist with the British Antarctic Survey. By age 23, she was monitoring climate change at the Rothera Research Station on the Antarctic Peninsula. Her Kaspersky Lab Commonwealth Antarctic Expedition was the first to “Tweet to the Pole” and material from her “Pole of Cold expedition” has been developed into a traveling art exhibition. Aston has since written five books and produces articles for publications in the UK and abroad.
Legendary explorers and aviators ushered in the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration with gripping tales of their journeys—spearheading technological advances that laid the foundations for the mechanical age of discovery. Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd accomplished the first flight over the South Pole during the U.S. expedition of 1928, utilizing groundbreaking navigational technology. His subsequent expeditions to Antarctica would greatly advance polar research and mapping of this strange new land. One of the most remote regions in the world, Antarctica remains the only continent not to have a native human population.

**INCLUDED FEATURES**

- Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D)
**14-DAY/11-NIGHT ITINERARY**

**Departure**  
Day 1  
Depart your home city.

**Buenos Aires, Argentina**  
Day 2  
Arrive in Buenos Aires. Check into the hotel and enjoy a day at leisure, with lunch and dinner on your own. (R)

**Buenos Aires**  
Day 3  
The capital city of Buenos Aires is a tapestry of diverse barrios. Enjoy a half-day walking tour to see the colorful La Boca district, Monserrat’s public buildings, historical Plaza de Mayo, Palermo’s lavish parks, Puerto Madero’s riverfront community, and the charming old quarter of San Telmo. Visit the city’s historical Recoleta Cemetery, famous for its ornate vaults, sculptures, and as the final resting place of the legendary Eva Perón—the former First Lady of Argentina. (B)

**Buenos Aires/Ushuaia**  
Day 4  
Fly to Ushuaia and embark the ship. This afternoon, cruise Beagle Channel, named for the ship that carried Charles Darwin on his South American voyages. Attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception this evening. (B,R,D)

**Cruising the Drake Passage**  
Day 5 and Day 6  
Cross the Drake Passage and, upon reaching the Antarctic Convergence, watch for breaching humpback whales and seabirds feeding on plankton and krill. Your expedition team will prepare you for your first landing in Antarctica. During the evening, enjoy the lingering golden light of the austral summer. (B,L,D)

**Port Lockroy/Jougla Point**  
Day 7  
Visit Port Lockroy, built as a British intelligence port during World War II, then converted into a whaling station and scientific base. Observe the daily activities of past researchers at the living museum known as “Base A” and mail a postcard with an Antarctica postmark from the official British Post Office. Cruise by Jougla Point on the way to Wiencke Island, which offers a rare opportunity to view the skeletal remains of an adult blue whale and view populous colonies of gentoo penguins and kelp gulls that inhabit the region. (B,L,D)

**Petermann Island/Lemaire Channel**  
Day 8  
Call at Petermann Island, where French explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot wintered in 1909. Watch for the island’s famous rookeries of Adélie and gentoo penguins and blue-eye shags. Flanked by towering glacial cliffs between the Antarctic Peninsula and Booth Island, cruise through the Lemaire Channel, where seven miles of mountains and intertwining patterns of floes brim with wildlife. (B,L,D)

*Up-close viewing of breaching humpback whales*
Neko Harbor/Paradise Harbor
Day 9
Listen for the low rumbling of Rudolf Glacier as it calves slabs of ice into Neko Harbor for a continental landing. Surrounded by soaring glaciers and snow-covered mountains, this spectacular harbor is one of the most dramatic sights on your expedition.

In Paradise Harbor, crystal cliffs of ice descend from sky-bent mountains into the iceberg-laden waters along the Antarctic Peninsula’s western coast. Named by 19th-century whalers who sought shelter in its coves, it is an ideal sanctuary for marine wildlife including humpback whales, crabeater seals, and Cape petrels. (B,L,D)

Deception Island, South Shetland Islands/ Half Moon Island
Day 10
Deception Island is the top of a larger volcano that is mostly submerged. Port Foster is a breached caldera that formed when the center of the volcano collapsed. The crescent-shaped Half Moon Island is known for its volcanic rock formations and tranquil lagoons. It houses Cámara Station, a base monitored by Argentine biologists studying regional wildlife. Here, observe the island’s colony of chinstrap penguins. Attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception. (B,L,R,D)

Day at Wendell Sea
Day 11
Cruise below the 60th parallel south to the outer shores of the Antarctic Peninsula, Earth’s last frontier. Witness the towering mountains of ice and volcanic rock that create precipitous coastlines and islands. An array of marine wildlife flourishes, including millions of penguins, countless seabirds, and thousands of seals and whales. An otherworldly topography of volcanoes and glaciers, populated with historic outposts, captures the nuance of Earth’s most inaccessible continent. (B,L,D)

Cruising the Antarctic Convergence/Beagle Channel/Ushuaia, Argentina
Day 12
Cross the Antarctic Convergence and the Drake Passage. The crossing is completed with the rounding of Cape Horn—the graveyard of hundreds of ships that once battled the westerly winds. Here, the ship will go east then turn north toward Beagle Channel back to Ushuaia. (B,L,D)

Ushuaia/Buenos Aires
Day 13
Disembark in Ushuaia and fly to Buenos Aires to depart for your home city. (B)

Home City
Day 14
Arrive in home city.
L’Austral Join us aboard this exclusively chartered, 5-star ice-class ship, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design. Each of the 110 staterooms and suites (up to 484 square feet) features an ocean view and most have a private balcony. All accommodations feature individual climate control, two twin beds or one queen bed, a private bathroom with shower, and luxury hotel-style hotel amenities. Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages and internet access are available throughout the cruise. All meals aboard ship are included.

2024 DEPARTURE DATES: Jan. 17 – 30 (Tour begins Jan. 18)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>LAND/Cruise Rates excluding taxes, per person, based on double occupancy</th>
<th>Early Booking Rate through June 29, 2023</th>
<th>Rates after June 29, 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe Suite</td>
<td>Expensive sliding glass door, large private balcony, tub/shower, sitting area with sofa. Deck 6, Le France. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$16,555</td>
<td>$18,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prestige Suite I</td>
<td>Two rooms, expansive sliding glass door, large private balcony, two bathrooms: tub/shower and shower, large sitting area with sofa, two closets. Deck 5, Le Normandie. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$17,455</td>
<td>$19,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prestige Suite II</td>
<td>Two rooms, expansive sliding glass door, large private balcony, two bathrooms: tub/shower and shower, large sitting area with sofa, two closets. Deck 6, Le France. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$18,175</td>
<td>$20,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner’s Suite</td>
<td>One bedroom, sitting room with sofa, table and four chairs, expansive sliding glass doors, larger private balcony, one and a half bathrooms, separate tub and shower. Deck 6, Le France. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$19,975</td>
<td>$22,195</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Single supplements apply across all categories at 160% of the per person double price.

Round-trip airfare Buenos Aires/Ushuaia is included in the pricing displayed.

Port taxes are an additional $655 per person. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment. This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while onboard.

To secure your spot, call UCLA Alumni Travel at 310-206-0613 or visit gehagantravel.com/reserve

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Iguazú Falls
Jan. 14 – 18, 2024 (Tour begins Jan. 15)

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Iguazú Falls, among the world’s most spectacular natural wonders, is situated in one of South America's last remaining virgin rainforests. Spanning nearly two miles along the Argentinian border of Brazil, with more than 275 waterfalls cascading from heights of 270 feet, Iguazú Falls is three times as wide and nearly twice as high as Niagara Falls. Visit Parque das Aves jungle reserve—a nature lover’s paradise and home to more than 350 species of birds, 66 varieties of mammals, and an outstanding array of reptiles, fish, butterflies, and flora. This exclusive, three-night Pre-Program Option features one night in the 5-star INTERCONTINENTAL BUENOS AIRES HOTEL and two nights in the 5-star MELIÁ IGUAZÚ FALLS. **Buenos Aires/Iguazú round-trip airfare is included in your pre-program package price.**

*Price per person, based on double occupancy:* $1,975
*Price per person, based on single occupancy:* $2,635

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
EARLY BOOKING SAVINGS UP TO $4,440 PER COUPLE

UCLA Alumni
UCLA Alumni Association
James West Alumni Center
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1397

Gentoo penguins