

# ANTARCTICA

## February 20 - March 5, 2024

### The History

Modern oceanography began with the Challenger Expedition between 1872 and 1876. It was the first expedition organized specifically to gather data on a wide range of ocean features; including ocean temperatures, seawater chemistry, currents, marine life, and the geology of the seafloor. In 4 years, they covered 127,000 km. The expedition gathered observations from 362 stations and made 492 deep soundings and 133 dredging's. Among the results of the Challenger Expedition were determinations of oceanic temperature, ocean currents, and the depths and contours of the great ocean basins including the discovery of the deepest part of ocean. Challenger Deep, the deepest point in the Marianas Trench is named after this great expedition. Charting, surveying, biological investigations, and 4700 new species were discovered. The measurements of ocean temperatures, pH and salinity provide critical information for climate scientists to this day. February 2024 represents the 150th anniversary of the Challenger's crossing of the southern polar circle. This anniversary is a perfect time to honor their contribution to our understanding of the world's oceans while simultaneously exploring Antarctica.



### The Scientists and Image Makers

#### Allison Cusick

PhD candidate specializing in the phytoplankton in the poles. Developed citizen science programs for polar environments and will assist us with those programs underwater

#### Amy Moran

Polar scientist with research in gigantism in polar water

#### Andrea Stockert

WDHOF member, film producer, and Director of the Ocean Lab, which does live streaming to classrooms from remote locations on underwater marine life

#### Becky Kagan Schott

WDHOF member, world renowned underwater image maker specializing in polar and other extreme environments

#### Berkley White

Owner of Backscatter, the world's largest UW image making equipment company and renowned UW image maker

#### Christian Dimitrios

UW image maker from Brazil, with extensive polar experience

#### Christian McDonald

Polar diving expert; AAUS former board member; Challenger historian

#### Dan Orr

Diving safety expert and polar veteran

#### Erin Quigley

Image maker with extensive experience conducting photo and video editing workshops, and member of the WDHOF

#### Florian Fischer

Behind the Mask

#### Nancy McGee

Underwater filmmaker and science educator from Canada who has excellent polar experience



### The Goals

- Generate \$100,000-\$150,000 in donations for organizations dedicated to developing interest in marine careers such as Our World Underwater Scholarship Society, and AAUS Foundation.
- Contribute ~\$22,000 to carbon offsets to minimize the environmental impact of the expedition's carbon footprint.
- Use the images, videos and data collected by the professionals and citizen scientists to develop multimedia educational tools across platforms, including live streaming to classrooms.
- Recognize the significance of Challenger's contribution to oceanography and its relevance today, especially as it relates to the study of climate change.
- Bring image makers to Antarctica whose efforts will contribute to a greater appreciation of the delicate Antarctic ecosystem.
- Use the expertise of scientists, with the assistance of citizen scientists, to explore new areas. Projects include plankton tows, reef surveys of key indicator species, sample collections, and marine mammal ID.



## Commemorating 150 Years of Ocean Exploration

# The Itinerary

This Expedition will take you south of Antarctica and across the Polar Circle offering the chance to hike and dive in the iceberg-heavy waters.

## End of the World, Start of a Journey

Embarking from Tierra del Fuego, Ushuaia, Argentina, located on the far southern tip of South America and nicknamed, "The End of the World."

## Path of the Polar Explorers

Two-days on the Drake Passage enjoying some of the same experiences encountered by the great polar explorers who first charted these regions.

## Entering Antarctica

You first pass the snow-capped Melchior Islands and Schollaert Channel, sailing between Brabant and Anvers Islands.

The intended route for your Antarctic adventure includes:

**Cuerville Island** - A small precipitous island nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula and Rongé Island housing Gentoo penguins and brown skuas.

**Neko Harbour** - An epic landscape of mammoth glaciers with opportunities for a Zodiac cruise and landing that afford the closest views of the surrounding alpine peaks.

**Paradise Bay** - A potential Zodiac cruise before sailing to the Lemaire Channel.

## Palmer Science Station

A potential visit of a functioning science station and talk with active scientists. Divers will be able to dive the Bahia Parisio shipwreck.

## Through the Gullet

A voyage through the aptly named Gullet – a narrow and picturesque channel between Adelaide Island and the Antarctic Continent is possible, if the ice isn't too dense.

You may enjoy the following:

**Pourquoi Pas Island** - Known for its tight fjords and lofty, glacier-crowded mountains.

**Horseshoe Island** - The location of the former British Base Y

**Stonington Island** - former US East Base and British Base E and the southernmost landing site of the trip – 68° south.

**Hanusse Bay** - a chance of spotting whales through the icebergs of this scenic bay.

## The Whales of Crystal Sound

The Fish, Petermann & Pléneau Islands offers the possibility of a Zodiac cruises, or even a landing. Beyond imaginal view with whales, Adélie penguins and icebergs, leopard and crabeater seals, birdlife and whales.

## Familiar Seas, Familiar Friends crossing the Drake There and Back Again

Additional activities will include diving, snorkeling, kayaking, hiking, and camping. Divers will be offered one dive per day, though there may be an opportunity for additional diving depending on interest.



## Investment:

QUAD:	\$11,600	
TWIN PORTHOLE:	\$13,400	
TWIN WINDOW:	\$14,300	
TWIN DELUXE:	\$15,000	
SUPERIOR:	\$16,700	
Non-Refundable Deposit	\$2,000	
2nd Payment Due	\$2,000	(Aug 1, 2022)
3rd Payment Due	\$3,000	(Jun 1, 2023)
Final Payment Due	\$TBD	(Oct 15, 2023)

Additional information can be found at [bluegreenexpeditions.com](http://bluegreenexpeditions.com)

Contact Us to Learn More

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