Antarctica Expedition

In the Footsteps of Ernest Shackleton

January 5 to 26, 2017

a program of the stanford alumni association
Few places capture the image of an unspoiled wilderness as stunningly as Antarctica. Yet the growing body of scientific evidence on climate change shows us that even this pristine environment has become vulnerable to human activity. This is clearly one compelling reason why explorers, researchers and travelers are feeling an increased urgency to make the journey to the “last continent” to experience firsthand its wild, glaciated terrain and the huge numbers of seabirds and mammals that make their home on the ice. Learn from renowned Stanford climate change expert, Rob Dunbar, as well as a team of naturalists, as they share with us their wealth of knowledge about this extraordinary wonderland of icebergs, seals, penguins and seabirds. The time has never been riper to embark on this expedition of a lifetime. Join us!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

WITNESS the huge penguin colonies of South Georgia—king, macaroni, gentoo and chinstrap—as well as large numbers of fur and elephant seals.

STEP foot on the Antarctic Peninsula and revel in the sweeping panorama of snow-capped peaks, mighty glaciers and glistening icebergs.

LEARN about early polar exploration and whaling history, with a special focus on the gripping tale of Ernest Shackleton and his crew of the doomed Endurance.

VISIT the remote Falkland Islands to view vast gatherings of rockhopper and Magellanic penguins as regal black-browed albatrosses soar above us.
ROB DUNBAR, whose research interest span climate change, marine ecology, glaciology and biogeochemistry is the William Keck Professor of Earth Science and J. Frederick and Elizabeth B. Weintz University Fellow in Undergraduate Education at Stanford University. He has traveled to the Antarctic more than 30 times and has spent over six years working there – much of it at sea in the Southern Ocean, including the areas we will visit on our expedition. He heads a Stanford research group that studies past, present and future climate change as well as its impacts on oceanic and coastal environments. He works regularly with the U.S. government as well as the United Nations to help develop and implement solutions to environmental and resource problems. Rob recently served on a U.S. National Academy of Sciences committee tasked with developing strategic visions for U.S. investment in Antarctic research. He has led more than 20 previous Travel/Study program, including six to Antarctica.

On this program, Rob will lecture on the fiery and icy origins of the islands of the Scotia Sea as well as its oceanographic setting; exciting new research discoveries coming out of the region; and Shackleton’s polar expeditions. The part of Antarctica we will visit is warming and melting faster than the rest of the continent and the U.S. government has launched a major effort to understand how this is affecting global sea level rise. We’ll learn about this project during shipboard lectures as well as when we discuss glaciers and ice sheets during our shore landings.

Since 1990 Stanford Travel/Study has partnered with Zegrahm Expeditions to combine some of the world’s most remote and remarkable destinations with expedition leaders and naturalists who are experts in their fields and passionate about the natural wonders we encounter. Joining Professor Dunbar on this voyage are expedition leader Dan Olsen, naturalists Conrad and Carmen Field, marine biologist Rick Price and ornithologist Jim Wilson.

"You can always expect the best from the Stanford faculty and Rob Dunbar was no exception: knowledgeable, engaging and personable."

JOANNE AND JACK MURDOCK, ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION, 2015

SIGN UP ONLINE: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?antarctica2017
OR BY PHONE: (650) 725-1093
Itinerary

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, JANUARY 5 & 6
DEPART U.S. / USHUAIA, ARGENTINA
Depart from home on independent overnight flights to Ushuaia, via Buenos Aires. Upon arrival on Friday, transfer to our centrally located hotel in Ushuaia. Spend the rest of the day relaxing or exploring this bustling seaport. Gather for a welcome orientation and dinner in our hotel. ARAKUR USHUAIA RESORT AND SPA (1/6: D)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7
USHUAIA / EMBARK
Enjoy a morning cruise through the Beagle Channel, then disembark in Tierra del Fuego National Park, where we hike surrounded by dramatic mountain scenery.

MONDAY, JANUARY 9
STEEPLE JASON & SAUNDERS ISLANDS, FALKLAND ISLANDS
On Steeple Jason Island observe a large colony of black-browed albatrosses and walk along the beautiful beaches blanketed with seabirds. On Saunders Island wander amid colonies of gentoo, rockhopper and Magellanic penguins. OCEAN DIAMOND (B.L.D)

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10 & 11
CRUISING THE SOUTH SCOTIA SEA
Spend time cruising at sea as our lecturers recap our experiences and prepare us for our visit to South Georgia. On deck, join naturalists in search of the seabirds and marine mammals that flourish in these nutrient-rich waters. OCEAN DIAMOND (B.L.D—BOTH DAYS)

THURSDAY TO SATURDAY, JANUARY 12 TO 14
SOUTH GEORGIA
During our time in South Georgia, we call at some of the many bays, coves and glaciers where we have the chance to see outstanding birdlife and fur and elephant seals close at hand. Specific stops are not guaranteed; following is a list of places we plan to visit (subject to change, pending local conditions).

ELSEHUL BAY
Enjoy time in this beautiful bay that’s home to thousands of fur seals as well as macaroni penguins, the most numerous of all penguin species.

SALISBURY PLAIN
Here at glacier-flanked Salisbury Plain on South Georgia’s north coast, be awed by the sight—and sound!—of more than 200,000 king penguins congregating and breeding.

STROMNESS BAY
Envision Sir Ernest Shackleton and his party arriving at Stromness Bay after their harrowing crossing of the island’s glaciers on foot, and take in views of the cliffs and the glacier from which the famous adventurer and his companions descended.

GRTYVIKEN
Go ashore to explore the ruins of this once-active whaling station; the cemetery holds a special fascination, as it is here that Shackleton is buried.

GOLD HARBOUR
Situated at the foot of the Bertrab Glacier, Gold Harbour is often referred to as the “jewel in the island’s crown.” In addition to a large king penguin colony, we’re likely to see fur and elephant seals, gentoo penguins and giant petrels.

Flexibility is a given during our time in South Georgia. Our expedition staff will want to take advantage of the long daylight hours, perhaps making a landing before breakfast or after dinner. OCEAN DIAMOND (B.L.D—ALL 3 DAYS)
SUNDAY & MONDAY, JANUARY 15 & 16
SOUTH SCOTIA SEA
As our lecture series continues, our naturalists introduce us to the history, geology and wildlife of the Antarctic Peninsula and its surrounding islands. OCEAN DIAMOND (B,l,D—BOTH DAYS)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17
ELEPHANT ISLAND
This morning we arrive at craggy Elephant island, made famous by the Shackleton expedition and where towering glaciers, speckled with pink algae, create a dramatic backdrop. Weather permitting, take a Zodiac cruise around the island and enjoy the opportunity to view a thriving chinstrap penguin colony. OCEAN DIAMOND (B,l,D)

WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 TO 22
ANTARCTIC PENINSULA
As we cruise the waters of the Antarctic Peninsula and its adjacent islands, if possible, we’ll visit a research station and witness the scientific activities conducted by the multinational community of scientists working there. The list below provides a glimpse of the places we may experience (subject to change, pending local conditions).

BROWN BLUFF
Located on the Antarctic continent, the volcanic promontory of Brown Bluff rises 2,450 feet above an ash beach littered with huge, bizarrely shaped boulders. Marvel at the sight of the some 20,000 pairs of Adelie penguins and hundreds of gentoo penguins who make their home here.

DECEPTION ISLAND
As we approach Deception Island through Neptune’s Bellows, a channel just wide enough for our ship to navigate, southern fulmars and pintado petrels soar overhead. Our anchorage is inside a volcano whose collapsed cone has been filled by seawater.

LEMAIRE CHANNEL AND PLENEAU ISLAND
Cruising the beautiful Lemaire Channel, keep watch for the humpback and minke whales frequently spotted here. This narrow channel is one of the most visually impressive areas of the Antarctic Peninsula. Steep mountain peaks jut out of the sea on both sides, and the waters are often choked with icebergs and frequented by crabeater seals. A stunning labyrinth of grounded icebergs lies in the shallow waters west of Pleneau Island, presenting a superb Zodiac cruising experience.

Due to the expeditionary nature of our voyage and the vagaries of weather and ice, specific stops during our exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula can’t be guaranteed. OCEAN DIAMOND (B,l,D—ALL 5 DAYS)

MONDAY & TUESDAY, JANUARY 23 & 24
DRAKE PASSAGE
During our crossing of Drake Passage, enjoy numerous opportunities to see and photograph wandering and black-browed albatrosses, sooty shearwaters and white-chinned petrels. Also keep a lookout for the whales often seen in these waters. On our last evening at sea, celebrate our adventure at a pre-dinner farewell cocktail reception. OCEAN DIAMOND (B,l,D—BOTH DAYS)

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 & 26
USHUAIA, ARGENTINA / DISEMBARK / BUENOS AIRES / U.S.
Disembark in Ushuaia and transfer to the airport for overnight flights to the U.S., with connections in Buenos Aires. (1/25: B)

Pre-trip Extension
December 29, 2016, to January 6, 2017 (5 additional days)
TORRES DEL PAINE, PATAGONIA
Encompassing 615,000 acres of expansive grasslands and the fantastic pinnacles of the Andean mountains, Chile’s Torres del Paine National Park is Patagonia’s premier destination. Here peaks of twisted, snow-dusted granite—endowed with waterfalls, emerald lakes and verdant valleys—tower above the plains of Patagonia. During our three full days in the park, we take every opportunity to observe the unique flora and fauna of the region. Nearly 150 native animal species reside in the steppe and forested areas, including Patagonian foxes, vicunas and guanacos. Overnight accommodations in the park are at the Explora Hotel. Additional details will be sent to confirmed participants.

EXTENSION COST
$4,280 per person, double occupancy
$5,760 per person, single occupancy
Ocean Diamond

Recently refurbished, the 175-guest Ocean Diamond is a superb oceangoing vessel equipped with stabilizers and an ice-hardened hull, allowing her to easily navigate the most rugged natural environments. Each stateroom features configurable beds, flat-screen television and private bathroom. The Ocean Diamond carries a fleet of Zodias, available for accessing islands and remote shorelines.

Program Cost*

Rates per person, based on double or single occupancy, as specified

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<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>DOUBLE</th>
<th>SINGLE**</th>
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<td>Upper and Captain’s Decks, 180–200 sq. ft., picture window</td>
<td>$17,980</td>
<td>$22,580</td>
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<td>Lower Deck, 200 sq. ft., 2 portholes</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Balcony Suite</td>
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* = Fully obstructed view  
◆ = Partially obstructed view

*Association nonmembers add $300 per person. 
**Single accommodations may be limited. 
Additional singles may be available at 1.6 times the share rate.

Tonnage: 8,282  •  Year Built: 1974  •  Number of Guests: 175  •  Number of Crew: 144  •  Registry: France
Information

DateS
January 5 to 26, 2017 (22 days)

S I Z E
Limited to a total of 175 participants, including travelers from Stanford and Zegrahm Expeditions. Single accommodations may be limited to as few as 2 cabins.

I N C L U D E D
1 night of deluxe hotel accommodations in Ushuaia ■ 18-night cruise aboard the Ocean Diamond ■ 19 breakfasts, 18 lunches and 19 dinners ■ Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions ■ Gratuities to guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities ■ All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary ■ Kayaking for experienced kayakers (not guaranteed, limited availability) ■ Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days ■ Port fees and embarkation taxes ■ Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance ■ Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information ■ Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

N O T I N C L U D E D
Air transportation ■ Passport and visa fees ■ Immunization costs ■ Meals and beverages other than those specified as included ■ Independent and private transfers ■ Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance ■ Excess-baggage charges ■ Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

A I R A R R A N G E M E N T S
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare from San Francisco to Ushuaia, Argentina, is approximately $1,925 as of January 2016 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent approximately 180 days prior to departure.

W H A T T O E X P E C T
For most activities, a relatively moderate level of exertion is required. You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for excursions ashore. Onshore, you must be able to walk moderate distances, unaided, over rough terrain (e.g. rocky, uneven beaches in the sub-Antarctic islands and occasional ice and snow on the Antarctic Peninsula). Daytime temperatures range from 45 to 55 (°F) in the sub-Antarctic region and may drop to the 30s on the Antarctic Peninsula itself, although sunshine and low humidity create a very temperate atmosphere. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 12 years of age and older on this program.

Terms & Conditions

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space. A $200-per-person deposit is required to hold space for the optional Torres del Paine pre-trip extension. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip/antarctica2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a paid guest of a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. To purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the ship’s ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in February 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

Telephone (650) 725-1093
Email travelstudy@alumni.stanford.edu

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

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The trip of a lifetime. It changed my perspective of the world.

JUDY AVERY, ’59, ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION, 2013