Antarctica Expedition

In the footsteps of Ernest Shackleton

January 26 to February 16, 2011

a program of the stanford alumni association
Few places seem to capture the image of an unspoiled wilderness like Antarctica. Yet our increasing awareness of climate change and global warming shows us that even this pristine environment is experiencing the growing impact of these phenomena. This is clearly one compelling reason why explorers, researchers and travelers are making the journey to this seventh continent to experience firsthand the wild terrain and vast numbers of seabirds and mammals that make their home on the ice.

Learn from renowned faculty leader, Rob Dunbar, as well as world-class naturalists, as they share with us their wealth of knowledge about this extraordinary region of icebergs, seals, penguins and seabirds. The expedition of a lifetime awaits you. We hope that you’ll join us!

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

Highlights

**DISCOVER** vast colonies of rockhopper penguin and king cormorant as we call upon several of the Falkland Islands

**EXPLORE** the islands, bays and coves of South Georgia for glimpses of its spectacular wildlife, including the majestic king penguin

**MARVEL** at the bewitching landscape of the Antarctic Peninsula and its adjoining islands during five days of expeditionary landings

**INDULGE** your passion on this journey that has something for everyone – Antarctica history buffs, birders, photographers and wilderness lovers
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26
DEPART U.S.
Depart from home on independent flights to Buenos Aires.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
Upon arrival, transfer to our centrally located hotel. Spend the rest of the day relaxing or enjoy a sightseeing tour.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28
BUENOS AIRES / USHUAIA
Transfer early this morning to the airport for the flight to Ushuaia where we have lunch and a tour before boarding the Clipper Adventurer. Set sail for the Falkland Islands this afternoon. CLIPPER ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29
AT SEA
Enjoy a day at sea as we continue to make our way to the Falkland Islands. Lecturers introduce us to the natural and historical highlights ahead. CLIPPER ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30
CARCASS ISLAND / SAUNDERS ISLAND, FALKLAND ISLANDS
On Carcass Island explore gentoo and Magellanic penguin rookeries and walk the beautiful beaches teeming with seabirds. On Saunders Island look for gentoo, rockhopper, Magellanic and king penguins, as well as the black-browed albatross. CLIPPER ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

MONDAY & TUESDAY, JANUARY 31 & FEBRUARY 1
CRUISING THE SOUTH SCOTIA SEA
Our lecture series continues. On deck, join naturalists in search of seabirds and marine mammals that flourish in these nutrient-rich waters. CLIPPER ADVENTURER (B,L,D—BOTH DAYS)

WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2–4
SOUTH GEORGIA
We call at some of the many islands, bays and coves where we can see outstanding birdlife and elephant and fur seals close at hand. Following is a list of places we plan to visit on South Georgia. Some of them are pending, awaiting final government approval. CLIPPER ADVENTURER (B,L,D—ALL 3 DAYS)

ELSEHUL BAY – This beautiful bay is home to thousands of fur seals as well as macaroni penguins, the most numerous of all penguin species.

SALISBURY PLAIN – Two glaciers flank Salisbury Plain on South Georgia’s north coast. Here, more than 200,000 king penguins congregate and breed, and we are greeted by one of the more remarkable sights – and sounds – on Earth.

STROMNESS BAY – Site of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his party’s arrival after their harrowing crossing of the island’s glaciers on foot, Stromness Bay offers views of cliffs and a glacier from which the famous adventurer and his companions descended.

GRYTVIKEN – Discover the old ruins of this once-active whaling station. The cemetery holds a special fascination, as it is here that Shackleton is buried.

GOLD HARBOUR – 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 are likely to see elephant and fur seals, gentoo penguins, giant petrels and perhaps even some light-mantled albatross.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5
SOUTH SCOTIA SEA
Naturalists recap our memorable visit to South Georgia and introduce us to the history, geology and wildlife of the Antarctic Peninsula and its surrounding islands. CLIPPER ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6
SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS
These mountainous islands were once known as “The Inaccessible Islands.” In winter a solid sheet of fast ice joins this island group to the Antarctic Peninsula, some 450 miles away. A scene of unparalleled beauty awaits, with penguins everywhere. CLIPPER ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7
ELEPHANT ISLAND
This morning we arrive at Elephant Island, made famous by the Shackleton expedition. Awesome glaciers, speckled with pink algae, create a dramatic backdrop. Weather...
permitting, we enjoy a Zodiac cruise around the island and have an opportunity to view a thriving chinstrap penguin colony. **CLIPPER ADVENTURER (B,L,D)**

**TUESDAY TO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8–12**

**ANTARCTIC PENINSULA**

As we cruise the waters of the Antarctic Peninsula and its adjacent islands, our daily schedule of landings is dependent upon weather and ice conditions. There is the possibility that we may 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.

**CLIPPER ADVENTURER (B,L,D—ALL 5 DAYS)**

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

**DECEPTION ISLAND** – As we approach Deception 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 rushing seawater.

**LEMAIRE CHANNEL AND PLENEAU ISLAND** – Cruising the beautiful Lemaire Channel, we keep watch for humpback and minke whales. 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. Crabeater and leopard seals haul out on the ice, and elephant seals and gentoo penguins occupy the island itself.

**PETERMANN ISLAND** – The island is home to the world’s southernmost colony of gentoo penguins. Snow-capped and small at just a mile long by half a mile wide, it offers close-up, picture-perfect scenes of penguins – both gentoo and Adelie – as well as skuas and blue-eyed shags.

**SUNDAY & MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13 & 14**

**DRAKE PASSAGE**

During our Drake crossing, we have opportunities to see and photograph wandering and black-browed albatross, sooty shearwaters and white-chinned petrels. We also keep a lookout for the whales often seen in these waters. **CLIPPER ADVENTURER (B,L,D—BOTH DAYS)**

**TU ES DAY, FEBRUARY 15**

**USHUAIA, ARGENTINA / BUENOS AIRES**

Disembark in Ushuaia and transfer to the airport for the flight to Buenos Aires, connecting with independent overnight flights back to the U.S. (B)

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

**U.S.**

Arrive in the U.S. in the early-morning hours and connect to flights homeward.

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**Extension**

**Patagonia and Torres del Paine Pre-trip Extension**

**JANUARY 21 TO 28**

(8 additional days)

Encompassing 615,000 acres of expansive grasslands and the fantastic pinnacles of the Andean mountains, Torres del Paine National Park is a stunning UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Here peaks of twisted, snow-dusted granite – endowed with waterfalls, emerald lakes and verdant valleys – tower above the plains of Patagonia. Nearly 150 native animal species reside in the steppe and forested areas, including Patagonian foxes, vicuñas and guanacos. Among the 100 species of local birds are the high-stepping lesser rheas, the New World’s largest bird, and the elegant Andean condors that soar high above the landscape.

In addition to our three days in Torres del Paine, we enjoy a stay in the colorful village of El Calafate, our base for exploring Argentina’s Glacier National Park.

**EXTENSION COST**

$3,380 per person, double occupancy; $4,360 per person, single occupancy
Clipper Adventurer

The Clipper Adventurer is a superb oceangoing vessel equipped with stabilizers and an ice-hardened hull that allow her to navigate easily in the most rugged natural environments. The vessel is outfitted with state-of-the-art satellite navigation and communication equipment. A fleet of Zodiac landing craft permits us to land anywhere nature or curiosity dictates. Each cabin has an ocean view, individually controlled heat/air conditioner, an in-room music system, and en suite bathroom. Facilities on board the Clipper Adventurer include a dining room, lounge, library, gift shop, infirmary staffed by a registered physician, laundry, and small gym. The Clipper Adventurer is classified A-1 ice class for unrestricted passenger service by the Lloyd’s Register.

Program costs*

Rates are per person, based on double occupancy

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*Association nonmembers add $200 per person.
Information

DATES
January 26 to February 16, 2011 (22 days)

SIZE
Limited to a total of 110 participants, including travelers from Stanford and Zegrahm Expeditions.

INCLUDED
1 night of deluxe hotel accommodations • 18-night cruise aboard the Clipper Adventurer • 20 breakfasts, 18 lunches and 19 dinners • Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions • Bottled or potable water on excursions • Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities • All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary • Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days • Port fees • 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

NOT INCLUDED
Air transportation to/from Buenos Aires and Ushuaia • Arrival and departure taxes • 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 email, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
Airfare is not included in the program cost. A tentative flight schedule is available upon request. Zegrahm Expeditions will contact you approximately 180 days prior to the departure of this program to finalize your flight plans. As of March 2010, the approximate economy round-trip air fare is $1,785 for Miami/Buenos Aires/Ushuaia/Buenos Aires/Miami. Quotes on additional fares from other cities can be provided upon request.

FUEL COSTS
In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult to predict fuel costs over the long term and, more specifically, at the time of operation of this voyage. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of brochure printing. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

WHAT TO EXPECT
For most activities, a relatively moderate level of exertion is required. You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for excursions ashore. Ashore, you must be able to walk moderate distances, unaided, over rough terrain (rocky, uneven beaches in the sub-Antarctic islands, and occasional ice and snow on the Antarctic Peninsula). Daytime temperatures range from 45°–55° in the sub-Antarctic region, and may get as cold as 30°–40° on the Antarctic Peninsula itself, although sunshine and low humidity will create a very temperate atmosphere. Participants will most enjoy the remarkable opportunities this expedition offers if they travel with a spirit of adventure.
Stanford Faculty Leader

ROB DUNBAR, whose research interests are the links among oceanography, climate dynamics and geochemistry, heads a research group that works on topics related to global environmental change, particularly the coastal ocean, air-sea interactions and polar processes. Professor Dunbar is also engaged in interdisciplinary studies of global change in collaboration with environmental scientists, economists, lawyers and policy specialists. His current research focuses on the impacts of climate change on Southern Ocean ecosystems. He is also studying past changes in the Antarctic Ice Sheet by looking at sediment cores from fjords and shelf basins of East Antarctica and the Antarctic Peninsula.

- W.M. Keck Professor of Earth Science, Stanford University
- Victoria P. and Roger W. Sant Director, Earth Systems Program, Stanford University
- Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
- Senior Fellow, Woods Institute for the Environment
- BS, geology, 1975, University of Texas, Austin
- PhD, oceanography, 1981, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC-San Diego

Expedition Leaders

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 this Expedition are Russell Evans, expedition leader; Peter Harison, MBE, author of the definitive Seabirds: An Identification Guide; and Shirley Metz, the first woman to ski overland to the South Pole.

Reservation Form

Antarctica Expedition

January 26 to February 16, 2011

We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them. Signature ________________________________

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

☐ I wish to have single accommodations.

OR ☐ I plan to share accommodations with __________________________

OR ☐ I’d like to know about possible roommates.

Here is my deposit of $________ ($1,000 per person) for _____ space(s) on the Expedition, and $________ ($200 per person) for the Optional Pre-Trip Extension.

☐ Enclosed is my check (make payable to Stanford Alumni Association) OR

☐ Charge my deposit to my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

CARD # __________________________ EXPIRES ________________

AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE __________________________ DATE ________________

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at www.stanfordalumni.org/trip?antarctica2011. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.
“The vitality of this region climatically and politically makes this voyage an ongoing classroom for each new group who takes this Stanford expedition.”

KATHIE LUSIGNAN JONES, ’64, MA ’66, AND HENSON JONES, MBA ’65 | ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION, 2009