

INSIDER EXPEDITIONS

ANTARCTICA SOLAR ECLIPSE EXPEDITION

LED BY RECORD-BREAKING POLAR EXPLORER
BEN SAUNDERS

November 26th – December 10th, 2021

ITINERARY & EXPEDITION BROCHURE

A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPEDITION.

"At a time when it's possible for thirty people to stand on the top of Everest in one day, Antarctica still remains a remote, lonely and desolate continent. A place where it's possible to see the splendors and immensities of the natural world at its most dramatic and, what's more, witness them almost exactly as they were, long, long before human beings ever arrived on the surface of this planet. Long may it remain so."

- Sir David Attenborough



Tailored for an exclusive gathering of intrepid travelers, this celestial polar odyssey will transport you to one of the remotest corners of our globe for a chance to witness a wondrous natural phenomenon: a full solar eclipse.

This bespoke expedition to the White Continent will be led by **Ben Saunders**, one of the world's leading polar explorers. Ben will be joined by **Jamie Carter**, an astronomy and travel writer who focuses on solar eclipses, stargazing and nature, and the editor of *WhenIsTheNextEclipse.com*, as well as a team of experts in geology, polar wildlife, photography, and climate change. Finally, curating talks and conversations throughout will be **Bruno Giussani**, the International curator of TED and the lead curator of TED's global climate initiative, Countdown.

Our route will follow in the path of the courageous explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton – visiting unique locations that have amazed and inspired scientists, explorers, and sightseers alike for centuries.

You will travel in style aboard one of the newest and most luxurious vessels in the polar regions—a registered Polar Class 6 ice-strengthened ship that is one of the most environmentally friendly vessels ever to visit the Southern Ocean. Antarctica contains more than 90% of the earth's freshwater ice, spectacularly displayed in sharp snowy peaks among mountainous fjords, colossal blue glaciers, and roaming icebergs.

This will be a once-in-a-lifetime expedition to one of the planet's most majestic landscapes.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 — ARRIVAL & EMBARKATION IN USHUAIA

Our departure point is Ushuaia, Argentina – the world's southernmost city. Explore the quaint town or local countryside, and meet your fellow explorers – globetrotters from around the world – as we embark the ship Ocean Victory, our home for the coming days.

After settling in onboard, our journey kicks off with a welcome dinner and champagne toast with expedition leader Ben Saunders.

DAYS 2-4 — AT SEA TOWARDS SOUTH GEORGIA

Our 1,300-mile journey towards South Georgia offers time to get to know both the expedition's expert team and your fellow explorers, as well as to participate in the diverse range of activities and educational sessions offered on board.

Enjoy a variety of daily lectures and roundtable discussions in the Shackleton Lecture Room, led by Ben Saunders, Bruno Giussani, and our experienced expedition leadership. Topics will span everything from Antarctic wildlife and geology to climate change, and the rich history of the extraordinary destinations on our route.

DAYS 5-8 — SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

The remote and mountainous subantarctic island of South Georgia offers a stunning array of wildlife, with a wealth of breeding penguins (nearly seven million in total), dozens of species of sea birds – including three varieties unique to the archipelago – as well as the world's largest concentration of fur and elephant seals, all seeking shelter amidst the roaring Southern Ocean. South Georgia's whaling history features in many of fjords we will explore, and not least in Grytviken the only inhabited settlement.

Grytviken is also the last resting place of Sir Ernest Shackleton, after his death on his final Antarctic voyage in 1922. We will explore the fjords of the north coast, making shore landings as the swelling sea allows, and in the company of our expert guides.



TOTALITY ON THE WHITE CONTINENT

DAY 9 — SOLAR ECLIPSE

The eclipse will start to become visible early in the morning, east of the Falkland Islands. From here the moon's shadow speeds south at 6,200mph towards the South Orkney Islands and Antarctica.

Our Captain has selected an optimum observation position east of South Orkney, where the sun is nine degrees above the horizon. The wondrous phenomenon of totality will last for just under two minutes.



DAY 10 — AT SEA TOWARDS ANTARCTICA

As the white shimmer of Antarctica looms on our horizon, the presence of wildlife begins to multiply, with sightings of lively penguins, inquisitive seals, nesting birds, and the spray of breaching whales. Fauna abounds on the Antarctic Peninsula; leopard, fur and Weddell seals of Cuverville Island, humpback whales of the Gerlache Strait and Paradise Bay, and the dramatic Lemaire Channel's orcas.

DAYS 11 & 12 — ANTARCTIC PENINSULA & SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS

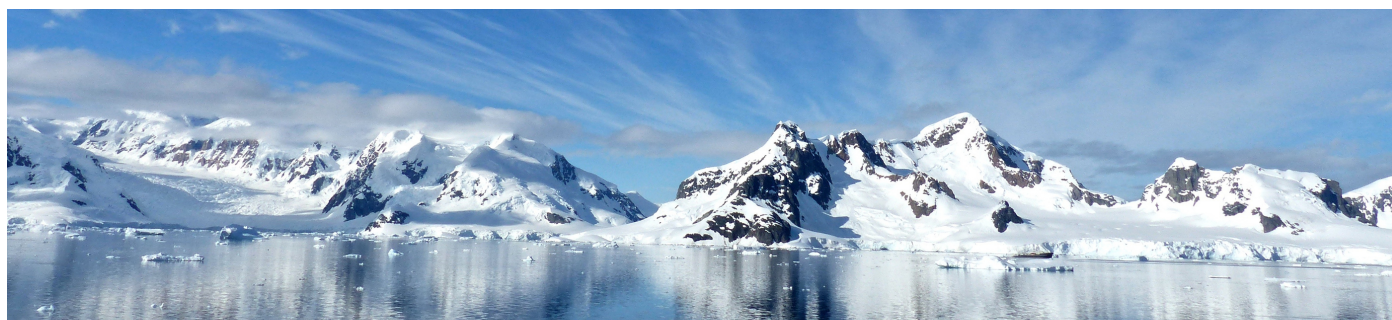
Next are the subantarctic islands of the South Shetlands, including Elephant Island, home to elephant seals – and to Shackleton's 22-man crew for 127 days as they awaited rescue in 1916 – with sheer cliffs rising from the sea and snow-covered peaks. We will visit Half Moon Island, a nesting sites for Wilson's storm petrels and chinstrap penguins, and Deception Island, an extinct volcano with waters warm enough for a polar swim.

DAY 13 & 14 — RE-CROSSING THE DRAKE PASSAGE

Sailing back to South America, we cross the Drake Passage, a body of water that marks the intersection of the cold Antarctic with the warmer Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The Drake's strong westerly winds and heavy seas are infamous among seafarers, although the *Ocean Victory's* pioneering X-Bow hull design offers unparalleled comfort and stability in head seas, while simultaneously minimizing our environmental footprint through its streamlined design.

DAY 15 — ARRIVAL AND DISEMBARKATION

We arrive back in Ushuaia for the conclusion of our expedition, where you have the choice of continuing your adventures or beginning your return home.



ABOARD THE OCEAN VICTORY



As a luxury X-Bow infinity-class vessel, the class-leading *Ocean Victory* is already proven as one of the most modern, capable and environmentally friendly expedition ships ever built. Boasting balconies in all suites, this beautiful ship promises uninterrupted ocean and landscapes views between dips in the pool on the Midnight Sun Deck or sips at the spectacular Albatros Nordic Bar.



PRICING: Early-bird pricing starts at \$19,999 USD per person

PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- 15-day cruise with accommodation in a shared cabin with private facilities and balcony
- Optimum positioning for viewing the total solar eclipse experience
- All Zodiac boat landings and excursions as per itinerary
- An exclusive Eclipse Expedition parka
- Rubber boots and specialist expedition equipment
- Private guides and lectures by our english-speaking expedition leaders
- Exclusive presentations, conversations, educational content and activities with record-breaking polar explorer Ben Saunders and our astronomer Jamie Carter
- Full-board accommodation – breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks
- Complimentary tea and coffee available at all times
- Welcome champagne reception
- Exclusive pre-expedition updates, online Q&A sessions with expedition leaders and a comprehensive reading list
- Associated service taxes and port fees through the program

NOT INCLUDED:

- Flights/transportation to and from Ushuaia, Argentina (USH)
- Optional ship activities, including snowshoeing and kayaking
- Personal expenses
- Transportation of luggage in excess of weight allowance
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Food and beverages other than that specified in itinerary
- Optional gratuities
- Costs associated with trip interruption or modification due to weather, travel conditions, political/civil disputes, medical emergencies, or other causes beyond our control



A WORLD-CLASS TEAM

Insider Expeditions specialize in curating and hosting one-of-a-kind experiences for groups and individuals on all seven continents around the globe. Our unrivalled global network enables us to create genuinely unparalleled voyages to the most remarkable corners of our planet.



BEN SAUNDERS – EXPEDITION LEADER

Ben Saunders is one of the world's leading polar explorers, and a record-breaking long-distance skier who has covered more than 4,500 miles on foot in the Polar Regions since 2001. His accomplishments include leading The Scott Expedition, the longest human-powered polar journey in history, and the first completion of the expedition that defeated Captain Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton, a 105-day round-trip from Ross Island on the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole and back again.

Ben is the third person in history to ski solo to the North and South poles, and holds the record for the longest solo Arctic journey by a Briton. He is a patron and fellow of the British Exploring Society, a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and an acclaimed keynote speaker, described by TED (where he has spoken three times) as 'a master storyteller'. Ben is the author of *Shackleton (A Ladybird Expert Book)*.



JAMIE CARTER – LEAD ASTRONOMER


Jamie Carter is an astronomy and travel writer based in Wales, UK, who focuses on solar eclipses, stargazing and nature. He wrote the acclaimed *A Stargazing Program for Beginners: A Pocket Field Guide* (2015) and is the editor of *WhenIsTheNextEclipse.com*. His articles on astronomy, eclipse-chasing, nature and travel appear in publications and websites around the world, including *Forbes Science*, *Sky & Telescope*, *BBC Sky at Night* magazine, *BBC Wildlife* magazine and *The Telegraph*. Jamie will be leading a series of Astronomy lectures and workshops surrounding the solar eclipse viewing.



BRUNO GIUSSANI – CURATOR & EXPEDITION CO-HOST

Bruno Giussani is the International curator of TED and the lead curator of TED's global climate initiative, Countdown. He has been organizing conferences and educational events around the world for decades, and has curated hundreds of TEDtalks. Besides his role with TED, he is the Chairman of FIFDH, the annual Geneva International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights, and the co-founder of several Internet companies. He also advises corporations and public organisations, and was an Internet columnist for the *New York Times*, a World Economic Forum executive, and a Fellow at Stanford University. In 2011, 2012 and 2014 Wired UK selected him as one of the "Wired 100".





*Learn more and confirm your spot on this exclusive
voyage to Antarctica with Ben Saunders:*

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