



## WILDWINGS

### Emperor Penguins

(The Ross & Weddell Seas)

Updated 9/11/11.

The largest and most enigmatic of the penguins, the majestic Emperor is the only animal to breed in the harsh, cold, dark Antarctic winter. As recently so well depicted in a number of natural history films, when the Antarctic spring sun finally returns, the female Emperors return from the sea to relieve the males, who have spent the winter huddled together on the ice, incubating their single egg on their feet. They are not found in the Antarctic Peninsula area, only as occasional vagrants.

#### The Ross Sea

With the recent cessation of the icebreaker voyages to the Snow Hill Colony in the Weddell Sea, it is a species that has become harder to guarantee to see again. Any voyage to the Ross Sea region and /or East Antarctica can pretty much guarantee them however. The Ross Sea region was the starting point for the early explorers to the South Pole. Backed by vast ice fields and mountains, the sea only just melts, even in summer. These are still parts of Antarctica that very few people have visited. This is the realm of the magnificent Emperor – the largest penguin - and also the smallest, the delightful Adelie. Orcas and Antarctic Minke Whales swim amongst the ice floes whilst Antarctic Petrels (rarely seen in the Antarctic Peninsula region) and Snow Petrels wheel above. This region also offers one of the best chances to see Ross Seal. Visit Scott and Shackleton's expedition huts, see the cliffs of the Ross Ice Shelf with your own eyes and camera and travel through ice-choked scenery that is simply out of this world. Most of the itineraries also include some of the rarely visited Sub-Antarctic Islands of New Zealand plus Macquarie Island (Australia) with their endemic penguins including Royal. If you have travelled to the Antarctic Peninsula and islands, these are an obvious next trip. Worldwide demand is intense for these few departures and very early booking is normally required.

The *Spirit of Enderby* (*Prof Khromov*) sails to and from New Zealand, with many years experience in this remotest part of our planet and currently offer the ultimate Ross Sea

voyages. For 2011/12 these expedition voyages start from £9685 per person (triple share) and from £10,565 per person twin share (12<sup>th</sup> January – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012, Bluff/Bluff) For 2012/13 prices start from £10,625 per person triple share and from £11,559 twin share (8<sup>th</sup> January – 6<sup>th</sup> February & 6<sup>th</sup> February – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013, Dunedin-Bluff), all excluding landing fees, £439 per person and flights.

The Ross Sea and Sub-Antarctic Islands of Australia and New Zealand aboard *Spirit of Enderby*

Itinerary;

Day 1: Meet Invercargill, overnight hotel with group dinner.

Day 2: Sub-Antarctic museum visit then transfer to ship and sail.

Day 3: Snares Islands, Zodiac cruising for endemic Snares-crested Penguins and seabirds.

Days 4-5: Auckland Islands. More endemics, Yellow-eyed Penguins and much more.

Day 6: At sea.

Days 7-8: Macquarie Island, King, Rockhopper, Gentoo and endemic Royal Penguins.

Days 9-12: At sea.

Days 13-22: The Ross Sea region – our time here will be subject to ice and weather but amongst our landings we hope to visit Cape Adare, Cape Hallett, Terra Nova Bay, Franklin Island, Ross Island (including Cape Bird, Shackleton and Scott's huts, Mt Erebus) and the Possession Islands.

Days 23-26: At sea.

Day 27: Campbell Island, nesting Royal Albatross and megaherbs!

Day 28: At sea.

Day 29: Disembark Bluff, Invercargill.

Voyage information

Dates: 8<sup>th</sup> January – 6<sup>th</sup> February & 6<sup>th</sup> February – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Prices:

Sharing a triple basic (upper & lower berths) £10,625

Sharing a twin basic (lower berths) £11,559

Sharing a twin with facilities (upper and lower berths) £13,125

Sharing a superior twin with facs. (lower berths) £13,745

Sharing a suite with facilities from (beds) £14,375

Landing fees £439pp

Deposit: 25%

Prices based on £1 = US\$1.6. Payment may also be made in US\$, please ask for rates.

The full colour brochure with more details, the best prices and reservations are available from us.

In January and February 2013 the vessel *Ortelius (Marina Svetaeva)* plans to operate two voyages entitled the Antarctic Odyssey, combining both the Antarctic Peninsula and the Ross Sea. The first sails from Ushuaia in Argentina to Invercargill in New Zealand, the second runs in reverse. Prices start from £11,809 per person quadruple share and from

£13,589 twin share (16th January – 15th February & 15th February – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2013, Ushuaia/Dunedin, Dunedin/Ushuaia), including landing fees but excluding flights.

### Antarctic Odyssey aboard *Ortelius*

Itinerary;

Day 1: Embark Ushuaia and sail down the Beagle Channel.

Days 2-3: At sea crossing the Drake Passage.

Day 4: Antarctic Peninsula – Lemaire Channel , Pleneau and Petermann Islands.

Day 5: Sail south, cross Polar Circle and explore Fish Islands.

Days 6-7: Sail south through the Bellingshausen Sea, pack ice.

Day 8: Peter I Island.

Days 9-14: Sailing through the Amundsen Sea, planned landing on Shepard Island.

Day 15: Ross Ice Shelf, Bay of Whales.

Day 16: Sail along Ross Ice Shelf.

Days 17-23: The Ross Sea region – our time here will be subject to ice and weather but amongst the landings we hope to visit Ross Island, Cape Adare, Terra Nova Bay, Cape Hallett and more.

Day 24: At sea.

Day 25: Sail along the Balleny Islands.

Day 26-27: At sea.

Day 28: Macquarie Island.

Days 29-30: At sea.

Day 31: Disembark Bluff, Invercargill.

Or v.v.

### Voyage Information

Dates: 16<sup>th</sup> January – 15<sup>th</sup> February & 15<sup>th</sup> February – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Prices:

Quad berths (upper and lower) porthole	£11,809
Twin share (lower berths) porthole	£13,589
Twin share (lower berths) porthole & private facilities	£15,859
Twin share (lower berths) window & private facilities	£16,535
Superior share (double bed) window, private facilities & day room	£18,629
Suite (double bed) window, private facilities & day room	£20,865

Landing fees are included.

Deposit 10%

More details, the best prices and reservations are available from us.

### **The Weddell Sea**

Some of our ice-strengthened ships also run voyages from Ushuaia towards the Snow Hill Island area of the northern Weddell Sea in search of Emperors. These vessels cannot penetrate multi-year fast ice nor are they equipped with helicopters, so cruising amongst the icebergs and ice edge is the plan. There is no guarantee of seeing Emperors on these

voyages however but most serious attempts do succeed, but there is no chance of seeing chicks.

For 2012/13 *Ortelius* is operating an In Search of Emperor Penguins itinerary combining the Antarctic Peninsula and the Weddell Sea. This ship's high ice-class rating gives it a better chance than most vessels in penetrating sea ice in this oft ice-choked area. Prices start from only £3589 per person quadruple share and from £4225 twin share (13<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012, Ushuaia/Ushuaia), including landing fees but excluding flights.

#### In Search of Emperor Penguins aboard *Ortelius*

##### Itinerary

Day 1: Embark ship Ushuaia, sail down Beagle Channel.

Days 2-3: At sea, crossing Drake Passage.

Days 4-7: North-east Antarctic Peninsula including Antarctic Sound, Paulet Island, Weddell Sea – Snow Hill, James Ross, Seymour, Devil and Vega Islands and a 'continent' landing. Our time in this region will be entirely dictated by ice and weather conditions but these are some of the places we hope to explore.

Day 8: We plan to land at Half Moon and Deception Islands.

Days 9-10: At sea, crossing the Drake Passage.

Day 11: Disembark Ushuaia.

##### Voyage Information

Dates: 13<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2012

Prices:

Quad berths (upper and lower) porthole	£3589
Twin share (lower berths) porthole	£4225
Twin share (lower berths) porthole & private facilities	£4899
Twin share (lower berths) window & private facilities	£5079
Superior share (double bed) window, private facilities & day room	£5989
Suite (double bed) window, private facilities & day room	£6719

Landing fees included.

Deposit 10%

More details, the best prices and reservations are available from us.

The *Ioffe* is also offering a voyage called In the Realm of Emperors and Kings, which will operate 18<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> December 2012. Sailing from Ushuaia and finishing in Port Stanley, prices start from £4799 per person triple share and from £6115 twin share including landing fees but excluding flights.

#### In the Realm of Emperors and Kings aboard *Ioffe*

##### Itinerary

Day 1: Embark ship Ushuaia, sail down Beagle Channel.

Days 2-3: At sea, crossing Drake Passage.

Day 4: South Shetland Islands.

Days 5-7: North-east Antarctic Peninsula including the Antarctic Sound, Paulet Island, Weddell Sea – Snow Hill Island and a ‘continent’ landing. Our time in this region will be entirely dictated by ice and weather conditions but these are some of the places we hope to explore.

Day 8: Elephant Island, the site of Shackleton’s camp, we will try and make a landing here.

Days 9-10: At sea, towards the Falklands.

Day 11: West Point & Saunders Islands, Falklands.

Day 12: Disembark Port Stanley.

#### Voyage Information

Dates: 18<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Prices:

Triple with washbasin (upper & lower berths)	£4799
Twin with semi-private facilities (lower berths)	£6119
NB Bathroom shared between two cabins only.	
Twin with private facilities (lower berths)	£6429
Twin superior with private facilities (lower berths)	£6799
Shackleton Suite (double & single berth)	£7055
One Ocean Suite	£7995

Landing fees included.

Deposit £1500.

More details, the best prices and reservations are available from us.

#### **Emperor Penguin Air Safaris**

An IL-76 or Hercules flight from Southern Chile will fly you to Union Glacier, the only private base camp in the heart of the continent of Antarctica itself, strategically situated about one mile from the blue-ice runway where you’ll land. The base camp accommodates up to 50 visitors, sleeping in insulated tents with a separate dining tent. You will fly on in a specially adapted light aircraft on to the edge of the Weddell Sea and spend days with breeding Emperors standing in their icy home with their newly-hatched chicks! A true expedition, camping in this frozen wilderness with the Lords of Antarctica will not be forgotten experience, ever. Weather permitting, short walks will be undertaken, with many of the Emperors likely to follow you, in a surreal setting of icebergs and coastal ice cliffs. An utterly unique travel and wildlife experience from start to finish! WildWings Tour Leader Dick Filby has led this trip a number of times will again in November 2011.

7 days duration from Punta Arenas, Chile, approx £22,500 per person. Departures are every November.

Note some time flexibility is needed on the part of Antarctic air expedition participants, weather delays currently average two days per expedition (additional to planned duration). Contact us for full details and reservations.

[www.wildwings.co.uk](http://www.wildwings.co.uk)