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EXPEDITION GUIDE

THE INSIDERS GUIDE TO EXPEDITION CRUISING

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ONE OF
TRAVEL'S MOST EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES.

FROM POLAR ICE CAPS TO TROPICAL PARADISE.



Australia's Leading Luxury Cruise Specialists

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MAIN BEACH TRAVEL

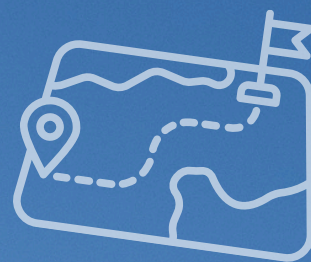
the **cruise**centre
BY TRAVELCALL

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01

THE RISE OF EXPEDITION CRUISING

Expedition cruising has undergone a remarkable transformation. Once reserved for intrepid adventurers willing to brave truly spartan conditions, today's expedition ships combine the spirit of exploration with genuine comfort and even luxury, opening up some of the world's most remote corners to a far wider range of travellers.

Purpose-built vessels now feature spacious cabins, fine dining, spa facilities, and outstanding expedition amenities, all while being able to navigate the icy channels of Antarctica or the shallow bays of Raja Ampat.

Modern ice-strengthened ships are quieter, safer, and more environmentally considered than ever before.

And the destinations? They have expanded dramatically beyond the classic polar routes. Today you can explore the rugged Kimberley Coast, the ancient waterways of the Amazon, the volcanic shores of Iceland, the wildlife paradise of the Galápagos, Canada's legendary Northwest Passage, the remote British Isles, Raja Ampat, and so much more.



“IT IS IN OUR NATURE TO EXPLORE,
TO REACH OUT INTO THE UNKNOWN.
THE ONLY TRUE FAILURE WOULD BE
NOT TO EXPLORE AT ALL.”

@ernest shackleton

02

EXPEDITION VS CLASSIC OCEAN CRUISING

Think of a classic ocean cruise as a floating resort that calls into well-known ports. An expedition cruise is something fundamentally different, you are an explorer aboard a small, purposeful ship, guided by a specialist team deep into some of the most remarkable places on the planet.



Expedition cruising

Small ships, typically 100–200 guests.

Remote, immersive destinations.

Excursions included: zodiac landings, kayaking, hiking, wildlife watching. Expert expedition team onboard. Itineraries flex to chase wildlife or weather.

Classic ocean cruising

Large ships carrying thousands of guests. Port calls to established tourist destinations. Excursions typically at additional cost. Fixed, predictable itineraries. Onboard entertainment is the primary focus.

The key difference:

On an expedition ship, you're not a passenger visiting a destination — you're an active participant in discovering it, guided by scientists, naturalists, and photographers who bring it to life.

[EXPLORE OUR CURRENT EXPEDITION CAMPAIGN](#)





03 A TYPICAL DAY ON AN EXPEDITION SHIP

Early AM

Zodiac landings, kayaking & stand-up paddleboarding. Rise early and head ashore or onto the water. The expedition team will have scouted the best spots — you might be landing on a beach flanked by penguin colonies, gliding past icebergs by kayak, or paddleboarding through a glassy tropical bay.

Midday

Recharge onboard. Return to the ship for a delicious lunch, a briefing from the expedition team on the afternoon ahead, or simply some quiet time on deck watching the scenery roll by.

Afternoon

Wildlife spotting, hiking or cultural experiences. The afternoon might bring another zodiac excursion, a guided hike through tundra or rainforest, a visit to a remote community, or simply drifting among glaciers watching the light change. Every activity is optional — you choose what suits you best

Evening

The daily recap. The whole ship gathers as the expedition team shares the day's highlights: stunning photography, fascinating insights, stories from the field. Then it's dinner onboard and an evening entirely your way — a drink at the bar, stargazing from the deck, or an early night ready for another day of discovery

04 PREPARATION & WHAT TO PACK

EXPEDITION PARKA & BOOTS

Most polar operators provide or gift a quality expedition parka and waterproof boots, check your inclusions before packing your own

WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR

Sturdy waterproof hiking boots are essential for zodiac landings and shore excursions in wet or muddy terrain

THERMALS & LAYERS

Moisture-wicking base layers, a mid-layer fleece, and a windproof outer. Dress for the conditions, not the calendar

SUN PROTECTION

Sunglasses, sunscreen, and a hat. UV reflection off ice and snow in polar regions is intense.

GLOVES & ACCESSORIES

Waterproof outer gloves, liner gloves, a warm hat, and a buff or neck gaiter

BINOCULARS

Absolutely worth packing. Spotting wildlife from the ship or shore is so much richer with a good pair.

SEASICKNESS PREP

Some crossings can be lively - the Drake Passage is legendary, known as the Drake Shake or Drake Lake!

Patches, tablets, or wristbands are wise.



MOBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Expedition cruising involves getting in and out of zodiacs onto uneven shorelines. Discuss with your advisor to find the right ship for your needs.



TRAVEL INSURANCE

Comprehensive cover is essential, including medical evacuation - which can be very costly in remote regions.



05 WHERE IN THE WORLD CAN YOU GO?

The world is a big and wondrous place — and expedition cruising is making more of it accessible than ever before.



ANTARCTICA

Staggering icescapes, colossal penguin rookeries, breaching humpback whales, and a silence unlike anything on earth. A voyage to the White Continent is a life-changing experience



ARCTIC Svalbard & Greenland

Polar bear territory. Vast glaciers, dramatic fjords, walrus-covered ice floes, and the midnight sun — or the northern lights dancing overhead in winter.



ALASKA

Towering glaciers calving into the sea, humpback whales bubble-net feeding, vast grizzly bear populations, and the wild majesty of America's last frontier.



CANADA'S NORTH WEST PASSAGE

Follow in the wake of history's great Arctic explorers. Polar bears on sea ice, narwhal pods, Inuit communities, and one of the world's most legendary sea routes.



GALAPAGOS

Darwin's living laboratory. Tame wildlife found nowhere else on earth — marine iguanas, giant tortoises, blue-footed boobies, and sea lions that swim beside you



ICELAND & BRITISH ISLES

Volcanic landscapes, geysers, basalt sea stacks, puffin colonies by the million, remote Scottish islands, and the extraordinary wildlife of the Outer Hebrides.



RAJA AMPAT & PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The epicentre of marine biodiversity meets one of the world's last great cultural frontiers. Expect kaleidoscopic coral reefs, manta rays, endemic birds of paradise, and ancient volcanic landscapes



THE KIMBERLEY

One of Australia's last true wildernesses. Ancient gorges, cascading waterfalls, Aboriginal rock art tens of thousands of years old, and extraordinary wildlife.

[EXPLORE OUR CURRENT EXPEDITION CAMPAIGN](#)



“I was apprehensive about the Drake Passage, but the ship handled it effortlessly. Once we arrived, the wilderness, silence and sheer scale of Antarctica was breathtaking. Genuinely life-changing.”

KAREN B · ANTARCTICA 2025



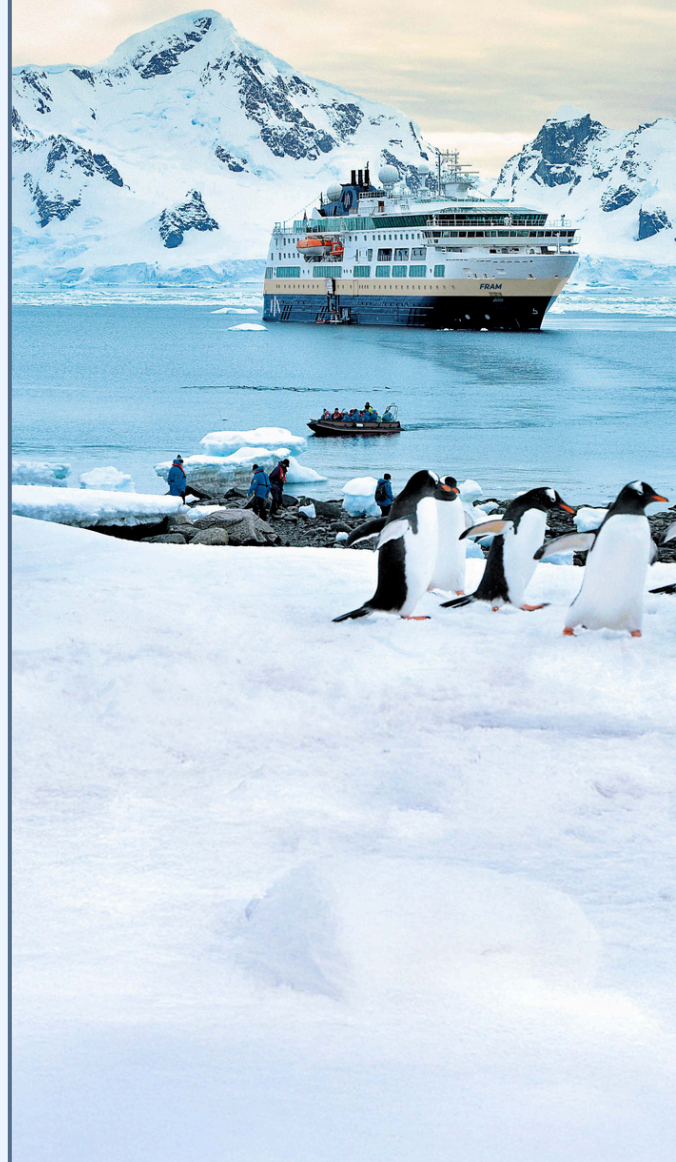
06

UNDERSTANDING THE COSTS

Expedition cruising is a premium travel experience, and the pricing reflects what goes into making it exceptional. Purpose-built ice-strengthened vessels, travel to extraordinarily remote destinations, and some of the highest staff-to-guest ratios in travel all come at a cost — but deliver an unparalleled experience. Onboard you'll have a full expedition team: naturalists, scientists, marine biologists, underwater cinematographers, and photography guides. Excursions are typically all-inclusive, as are most meals and many beverages

From \$1,000
per person, per day

For a 9–10 night voyage, budget realistically from \$15,000 per person. This covers the cruise fare. International economy class airfares and comprehensive travel insurance are additional. Some voyages — particularly in Antarctica — can range significantly higher for premium itineraries or luxury vessels.



07

VOYAGE CALENDAR – WHEN TO GO



Expedition season timing is driven by wildlife, weather, and ice conditions. Here's your quick-reference guide.

| Destination | Active months | Season |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Antarctica | J F M A M J J A S O N D | Oct – Mar |
| Arctic / Svalbard | J F M A M J J A S O N D | May – mid Oct |
| Galápagos | J F M A M J J A S O N D | Year-round |
| The Kimberley, Australia | J F M A M J J A S O N D | Apr – Sep |
| Raja Ampat & Papua New Guinea | J F M A M J J A S O N D | Oct – Apr |
| Alaska | J F M A M J J A S O N D | May – Sep |
| Iceland & British Isles | J F M A M J J A S O N D | May – Sep |
| Northwest Passage | J F M A M J J A S O N D | Jul – Sep |
| Amazon | J F M A M J J A S O N D | Year-round |





08

LEADING EXPEDITION CRUISE OPERATORS

A number of outstanding operators have built their reputations on delivering world-class expedition experiences. We work closely with a select group of campaign partners whose ships, teams, and values we know and trust deeply.



AURORA EXPEDITIONS

Pioneering Australian operator renowned for an outstanding expedition team and intimate ship experience. Antarctica, Arctic, Galápagos, Kimberley, Papua New Guinea, British Isles, and more



HURTIGRUTEN

Over 130 years sailing the Norwegian coastlines, offering authentic small-ship voyages through fjords, Arctic landscapes and connecting local communities. Hurtigruten offers Norway, your way!



Expedition experts since 1896, offering an all-inclusive adventure and a strong sustainability ethos. Antarctica, Arctic, Alaska, Greenland, Iceland, British Isles, Galápagos and the Americas.



Polar specialists with unrivalled experience in high-latitude voyages. Antarctica, Arctic, Northwest Passage, Greenland, and the Canadian Arctic.

09

OUR CURRENT CAMPAIGN

THE NEW ERA OF EXPLORATION





UNLOCK THE BEST EXCLUSIVE OFFERS FOR YOUR NEXT UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY

Step into The New Era of Exploration, where cutting-edge expedition vessels, expert-led journeys, and the most remote destinations on Earth come together to create truly unforgettable experiences.

Through our exclusive partnerships with the world's leading expedition cruise operators, we've secured limited-time offers, added value, and onboard credits designed to elevate your journey.

Whether you're seeking close-up wildlife encounters, immersive cultural experiences, or once-in-a-lifetime polar adventures, our team will guide you every step of the way, ensuring your expedition is seamless, personalised, and truly extraordinary.

CLAIM AUD\$250 per booking
Onboard Credit + Exclusive Offers:

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  HURTIGRUTEN AUD\$150pp onboard credit* |  aurora expeditions US\$250pp onboard credit* |  HX EXPEDITIONS AUD\$290pp onboard credit* |
|  Quark Expeditions® Polar-Obsessed Since 1991 Save AUD\$1,200pp on Arctic 2026 voyages or AUD\$800pp on Antarctic 2026/2027 voyages + USD\$250pp shipboard credit* | | |

EXPLORE OUR CURRENT CAMPAIGN

*T&C's apply

IN A NUTSHELL

At its heart, expedition cruising is about venturing beyond the well-trodden path — to places with little or no tourism infrastructure, where nature is raw, wildlife is wild, and the landscapes are utterly humbling.

It's about immersing yourself in some of the planet's most stunning wilderness, stepping quietly out of your comfort zone, and returning home with a profoundly altered perspective on our world and our responsibility to protect it.

These are the journeys that offer life-changing moments and remind us just how extraordinary this planet truly is.



READY TO FIND YOUR EXPEDITION?

Speak to one of our experts, we'll match you with the right adventure, the right ship, and the right moment to experience it.

[CLICK HERE](#) AND OUR
EXPERTS WILL GET IN TOUCH

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MAIN BEACH TRAVEL

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“I’ve used Margot for over 20 years. She’s the Cruise Whisperer. She knows everything there is to know about cruising and destinations, gets me a better deal than the cruise lines themselves, and responds to email no matter where in the world she is.”

ROD D · REPEAT CLIENT





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