EXPLORING THE POLAR REGIONS

Discover the scenic wonderland of our earth’s polar regions, where shores are crowded with penguins and blue-white sculpted icebergs float on icy seas. Both Antarctica and the Arctic are destinations that many dream of but few will ever visit. For those who do, each offers unforgettable travel experiences to be treasured forever.

When it comes to planning a polar adventure, experience and expertise count. Our destination specialists have been there and have the first hand knowledge to advise you on your choice of destination and what you can expect to see, the size and style of cruise ship, the nature of the expedition and on-shore activities.

Our extensive polar program includes the breathtaking Antarctica Peninsula, voyages beyond the Circle and even the remote Ross Sea. In November 2021 a lucky few might witness a Total Solar Eclipse amidst the silent grandeur of the Antarctic ice. Up in the Arctic you can encounter spectacular wildlife like polar bears and walrus, journey to the North Pole or explore the Russian Far East.

We look forward to helping you choose the perfect polar adventure.

Happy exploring,
Stephen and Sara Cameron - Founders

CONSERVATION

As a specialist tour company tailoring tours to Antarctica, the Arctic, South America, Canada, Alaska, Africa and India, Natural Focus and our parent company African Wildlife Safaris are committed to helping protect and preserve the wildlife of these precious wilderness areas. Over the years we have made significant contributions to wildlife societies and research projects around the world. When you book one of our tours we offer you the opportunity to join us in supporting these projects by contributing $10 (or more) per person. Some of the current projects that we and our clients have provided funding for are Save the Albatross and The Orca Research Trust.

Natural Focus is proud to be an Associate Member of IAATO, The International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators. IAATO was founded in 1991 to advocate, promote and practise safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic. For more details please visit www.iaato.org

QUESTIONS TO ASK

A successful itinerary needs your involvement. The more we know about what you want from your visit the easier it will be to choose suitable arrangements. Here are some of the key questions to consider:

• Do you have a preference for a particular region or vessel?
• What time of year do you wish to travel?
• How much time do you have available?
• How many people are travelling (any children)?
• Do you have any particular interests eg. wildlife, adventure activities or exploration history?
• Do you have an approximate budget?
• Do you prefer a particular style of travel eg. soft adventure or lots of physical activity, such as kayaking and climbing?

For assistance please call our experienced destination specialists on (03) 9249 3777 or 1300 363 303 or contact your travel agent.

CONTACT US OR ASK YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

Call our destination specialists to discuss your travel plans, or contact your travel agent.

Call us now on (03) 9249 3777 or 1300 363 303 (interstate callers).

For assistance please call your travel agent. 

NATURAL FOCUS – TAILOR-MADE EXPERIENCES

WWW.NATURALFOCUSSAFARIS.COM.AU | E: INFO@AWSNFS.COM | T: 1300 363 302

OUR POLAR ADVENTURE SPECIALISTS

Many of our experienced team of consultants have travelled in Antarctica and/or the Arctic. They have the expertise and knowledge to help you design the polar adventure to best suit your style and budget.

Stephan & Sara Cameron
Company founders. Steve and Sara have both journeyed to Antarctica to pursue their passion for wildlife and wilderness. A keen adventurer and photographer, Steve has undertaken two voyages, kayaking around icebergs, camping on ice and taking the obligatory polar plunge. Sara travelled to Antarctica with a private group of families which included many children. Steve and Sara have both also explored much of South America, Canada and Africa.

Anne-Marie Zambelli
General Manager of AWF and NF. Annie loves the great wildlife and wilderness areas of the world, and has over 30 years’ experience in the travel industry. She has escorted clients to Antarctica travelling via Buenos Aires, Iguazu Falls and Ushuaia. She completely fell in love with the penguins and will never forget the night spent camping on the ice. Annie has also explored the historic haciendas of Ecuador, cruised the Galapagos Islands and travelled extensively throughout Africa and India.

Taleen Gaidzkar
Taleen’s Antarctic adventures have been some of the highlights of her very long travel career and she remains completely in awe of the continent’s landscapes and unique wildlife. She has also visited remote Macquarie Island (the sub-Antarctic ‘Galapagos of the Southern Ocean’) and most recently the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. Having spent over 30 years in the travel industry she is one of our most senior travel specialists.

Kate Witton
Kate’s bucket list dream came true when she visited Antarctica – clocking up travel to all seven continents. The visit fulfilled many travel ambitions for Kate as she got to reach (almost) the end of the Earth, admire the region’s magnificent wildlife, and see its surreal white landscapes. One of the most memorable experiences during her trip was camping, which she describes as ‘thrilling and unique – a must do!’. Kate is our Reservations Manager.

Georgia Cowling
A seasoned traveller, Georgia has travelled across most of the planet and has a strong passion for wildlife and the environment. She has explored much of Canada as well as the breathtaking scenery of Pangong. To date, her favourite place in the world remains the incredible Torres del Paine National Park because of its natural variety, animals and beautiful landscapes. Still high on her bucket-list: a visit to Antarctica and a chance to see penguins and whales and to camp on its icy shores.

Georgia loves the extraordinary wildlife and wilderness areas of the world, and has extensive experience of Antarctica, working extensively throughout Canada and Alaska, and in the Arctic aboard a small expedition ship, enjoying views of sea ice as far as the eye could see. Natasha is our Reservations Manager.

Taleen’s Antarctic adventures have been some of the highlights of her very long travel career and she remains completely in awe of the continent’s landscapes and unique wildlife. She has also visited remote Macquarie Island (the sub-Antarctic ‘Galapagos of the Southern Ocean’) and most recently the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. Having spent over 30 years in the travel industry she is one of our most senior travel specialists.

Kate’s bucket list dream came true when she visited Antarctica – clocking up travel to all seven continents. The visit fulfilled many travel ambitions for Kate as she got to reach (almost) the end of the Earth, admire the region’s magnificent wildlife, and see its surreal white landscapes. One of the most memorable experiences during her trip was camping, which she describes as ‘thrilling and unique – a must do!’. Kate is our Reservations Manager.

Georgia Cowling
A seasoned traveller, Georgia has travelled across most of the planet and has a strong passion for wildlife and the environment. She has explored much of Canada as well as the breathtaking scenery of Pangong. To date, her favourite place in the world remains the incredible Torres del Paine National Park because of its natural variety, animals and beautiful landscapes. Still high on her bucket-list: a visit to Antarctica and a chance to see penguins and whales and to camp on its icy shores.

Natalie Redondo
Natalie has visited the magnificent Svalbard archipelago in the Arctic aboard a small expedition ship, enjoying views of sea ice as far as the eye could see, as well as the sight of gigantic glaciers, including one well over 100km long! She has travelled extensively throughout Canada and Alaska, and counts Zodiac explorations of the Svalbard coastline and hikiking on the Mendenhall Glacier amongst her most thrilling travel experiences to date.

Front Cover: ©Shutterstock

THE ARCTIC

• The North Pole
p29
• Greenland
p30-32
• Russian Far East
p34
• Canadian Arctic
p32
• Land-Based Expeditions
p33

ANTARCTICA

• Antarctic Peninsula
p14-21
• Falklands, South Georgia & Peninsula
p21-23
• Sub-Antarctic Islands & Ross Sea
p24 & p25

THE ARCTIC

• The North Pole
p29
• Greenland
p30-32
• Russian Far East
p34
• Canadian Arctic
p32
• Land-Based Expeditions
p33

NATURAL FOCUS – TAILOR-MADE EXPERIENCES

WWW.NATURALFOCUSSAFARIS.COM.AU | E: INFO@AWSNFS.COM | T: 1300 363 302

ANTARCTICA

• Antarctic Peninsula
p14-21
• Falklands, South Georgia & Peninsula
p21-23
• Sub-Antarctic Islands & Ross Sea
p24 & p25

THE ARCTIC

• The North Pole
p29
• Greenland
p30-32
• Russian Far East
p34
• Canadian Arctic
p32
• Land-Based Expeditions
p33
Let the sights of Antarctica & The Arctic come to you.
Natural Focus, wilderness your way.

At Natural Focus we pride ourselves on our ability to tailor a truly unique journey that immerses you in some of the planet’s most spectacular places. Wild and remote, Antarctica and the Arctic are best visited by expedition ships which offer opportunities to go ashore. Surprisingly there are many different ships and cruise itineraries to choose from, so we work with you to help create the polar experience of your dreams. There are also opportunities before or after your cruise to explore a little further, and we can incorporate other special experiences into your itinerary.

Our philosophy is not just about ‘putting together a trip’ – it’s about creating your ultimate travel experience. Expect expert guides, small expedition ships, personalized itineraries and all the security that booking with a reputable, accredited travel company entails.

SMALL SHIP CRUISING
We only utilise small ships with a maximum carrying capacity of between 50 to 176 passengers. This ensures a more personalised experience of the polar wildernesses. Experienced expedition staff accompany every voyage and on most departures, a range of activities are available ranging from ice camping and kayaking to helicopter flights and scuba diving. Please see pages 8-11 for a full overview of the ice-strengthened ships we recommend.

EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES FOR THE DISCERNING TRAVELLER.

Our dedicated staff are all passionate travellers who between them have travelled to all our destinations, including Antarctica and the Arctic. With their hands-on knowledge, they can help you design the perfect itinerary and assist with selecting the polar expedition vessel which best suits you.

PRICING
All prices in this brochure are per person based on entry level twin share cabins and are intended as a guide only. Optional single occupancy is from 1.25 to 2 times the twin share rate. We may be able to arrange shared accommodation. Please contact us for other cabin prices, as well as the best, most accurate and up-to-date pricing and Early Bird offers.

A Seamless Travel Experience
As a licensed and professional travel company with over 35 years experience, Natural Focus and parent company African Wildlife Safaris can offer you all the services you need to plan and organise your holiday. All of our trips are entirely tailor made to suit, and our experienced staff know exactly how to put together the perfect journey customised to your budget, interests, and travel timeframe.

Information about holiday destinations, tours and hotels has never been more accessible. This can make it both easier and more challenging when it comes to booking a holiday. We advise that you take the following steps to ensure your travel experience is seamless, without any inconvenient or unexpected surprises.

1. RESEARCH
Do you have a list of places you wish to go, and things you want to see? Read our brochure and website, then discuss your ideas with our experienced specialists as a starting point.

2. PLANNING YOUR TRIP
A successful itinerary needs your involvement. The more we know about what you want from your visit, the easier it will be to help you design your perfect holiday. Are there particular regions you want to visit? What time of the year do you wish to travel? Do you have an approximate budget, and a preferred style of travel? Contact us to start planning today.

3. BOOK YOUR TRIP (EARLY)
Once you are happy with your itinerary it is time to book. We can’t stress enough the need to book early to secure your first choice and avoid disappointment. EARLY BIRD savings are also available on some ships with either reduced prices or value-adds. Contact us for details.

4. SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES
When you return home, don’t forget to tell us about your experience. Our staff love hearing about their clients’ experiences, or seeing photos and videos. And don’t forget to share your memories with us on social media.
EXCURSIONS & ACTIVITIES

Your polar experience begins as soon as your ship leaves port, with onboard lectures by the ship’s specialist expedition staff on history, geology, wildlife and ecology. At specially chosen locations you will go ashore by Zodiac inflatables to visit wildlife colonies, historic sites and scientific research stations. The long daylight hours usually allow time for two or three activities per day (conditions permitting). Landings can be “wet” or “dry”, so rubber boots and waterproof clothing are imperative. A reasonable level of agility is required, but the majority of activities are suitable for most travellers. Some departures offer the option for more adventurous explorations such as kayaking, climbing, scuba diving and cross country skiing.

SHORE EXCURSIONS
ZODIAC EXCURSIONS
SEA KAYAKING
LATE AFTERNOON
Before you know it, it’s time to get ready for your next activity. You may find yourself going for a walk to a scenic lookout point or cruising the pristine waters to admire the rich marine life. Optional activities (extra cost) include kayaking amongst icebergs and snowshoeing.

DINNER
Dinner is often a sit-down affair with a la carte meals served at the table. However, to celebrate a special event such as reaching the North Pole or your last day of cruising, your crew might host a barbecue on deck, to be savoured in the crisp evening air.

EVENING
Retire to the ship’s lounge or library for a nightcap and a little light reading, or learn more about the environment you’ll visit tomorrow at another entertaining presentation. More than likely, you’ll turn in early, in preparation for another big day of adventures ahead.

A TYPICAL POLAR DAY

Expedition-style cruises are unlike ordinary cruise holidays, where itineraries are set. Destinations and activities each day are entirely dependent on climatic, sea and ice conditions. Based on our experience, this is how a typical day might unfold:

WAKE UP
Awaken early in your warm, cosy cabin and start the day with a hearty cooked breakfast. Alternatively, grab a healthy muffin, some fresh fruit or toast to enjoy with a steaming mug of coffee or tea out on deck. Keep your camera and binoculars close by because in the polar regions, you just never know what you might see!

MORNING
It’s time to slip into your hardy outdoor gear as you climb into a Zodiac for a shore landing. Step out onto a pebbly beach to walk amongst raucous penguins and enormous elephant seals. Later, you might hop back on board to navigate the rocky shoreline whilst keeping an eye out for whales as seabirds circle overhead.

EARLY AFTERNOON
Back on the ship, sip a welcome hot beverage before shrugging off your expedition parka and settling down for a casual, convivial lunch. As you sail to the next destination, there’s free time to relax in your cabin, bird or whale-watch from the open deck or listen to an informative lecture by one of the expedition guides.

POLAR CRUISES

Due to the exploratory nature of these voyages there is no set itinerary and daily programs are weather and ice dependent. In Antarctica shore landings are governed by strict guidelines and the capacity of the vessel. Our featured ships carry less than 200 passengers which allows for more onshore opportunities.