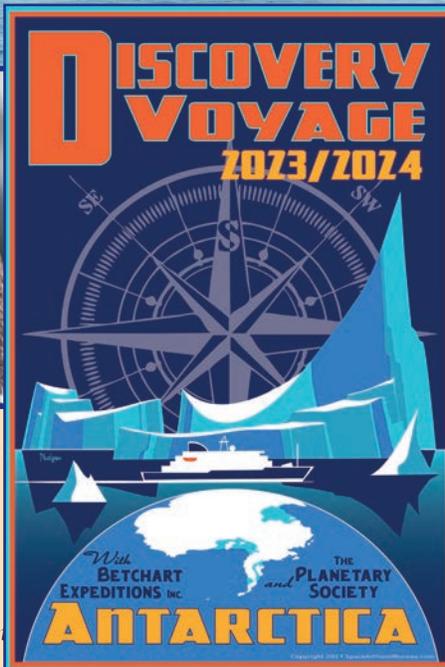
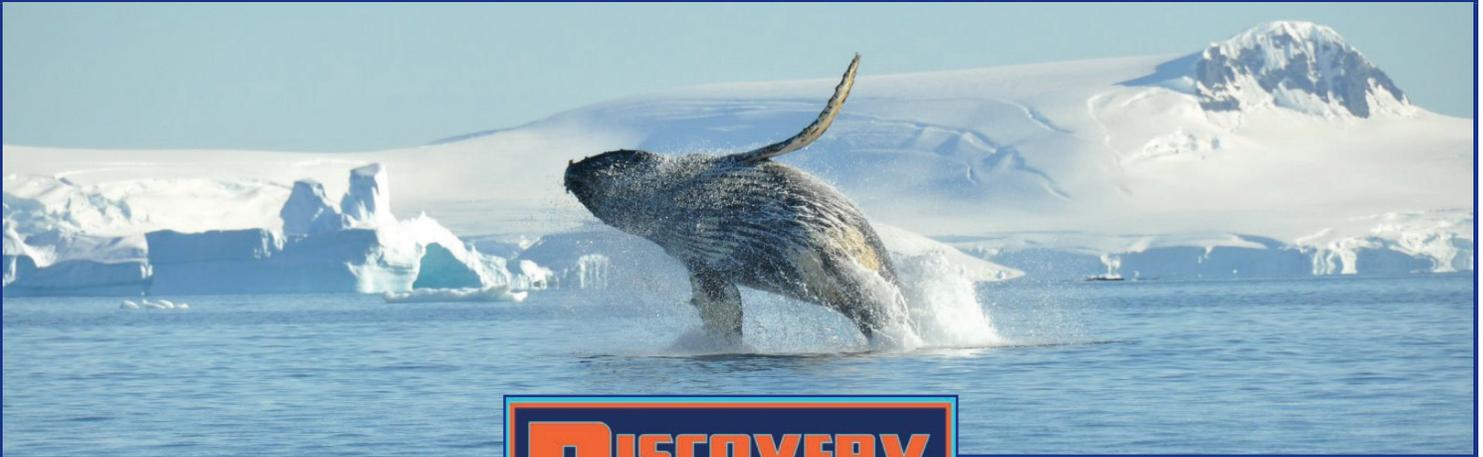


# 2023/2024 Planetary Society Adventures

# DISCOVER ANTARCTICA

December 5-18, 2023

*Join us! Discover this Southern Paradise of Ice, Snow and Wildlife!*



Dear Travelers:

We invite you to Discover Antarctica with The Planetary Society, December 5 - 18, 2023!

Visiting this splendid Southern paradise of glaciers, snow, and wildlife is one of the ultimate adventures on earth!

Considered by scientists and travelers as one of the Earth's last pristine regions and one of the Earth's most inhospitable habitats, Antarctica offers the world's

most magnificent wilderness with icebergs sculpted by the sea and breathtaking scenery.

Wildlife thrives in the nutrient-rich waters. We will find humpback, minke, southern right, and fin whales, along with several species of true and fur seals and tens of thousands of penguins, diving, swimming, feeding, and caring for their eggs or chicks! It is a wonder to behold!



**Betchart Expeditions Inc.**

17050 Montebello Rd, Cupertino, CA 95014

Phone: (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910 email: [info@betchartexpeditions.com](mailto:info@betchartexpeditions.com)

# DISCOVER ANTARCTICA

December 5-18, 2023

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*Antarctica holds many answers to the world's past climate in the thousands of years of data in the polar cap ice cores. It has been bombarded by meteorites, and some have come from the Moon and even Mars.*



*Days will be filled with expedition landings in zodiacs, cruising amid ice floes and icebergs, and quietly watching the antics of the penguins, seals, and whales. Walks on shore and to overlooks over the "White Continent" will offer stunning vistas.*

*There will be talks on the history of Antarctic exploration, marine mammals, penguins, sea level rise, climate change, or other topics.*

*We will be traveling with an excellent Betchart naturalist and team of onboard*

*leaders with years of experience in Antarctica. We will be on board one of the finest vessels for Antarctica exploration, M/V Hondius.*

*We invite you to join our Antarctica adventure and share the discovery of this magnificent continent — a once-in-a-lifetime adventure!*

**For Reservations  
or Questions**  
please contact Taunya or Terri  
**Betchart Expeditions Inc.,**  
(800) 252-4910 (USA) or  
(408) 252-4910 (Int'l)

Email: [info@betchartexpeditions.com](mailto:info@betchartexpeditions.com)  
or [BetchartTaunya@gmail.com](mailto:BetchartTaunya@gmail.com)

Discover this Southern Paradise of Ice, Snow and Wildlife!

# DISCOVER ANTARCTICA

ITINERARY - December 5-18, 2023

## Days 1/2 Miami to Buenos Aires

Depart Miami or Dallas for Buenos Aires, Argentina, arriving on the morning of Day 2. Transfer to our hotel in Buenos Aires.

## Day 3 Buenos Aires to Ushuaia - End of the world, start of a journey

We will fly to Ushuaia this morning. Your voyage begins where the world drops off! Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet. In late afternoon, you embark from this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego, and sail the mountain-fringed Beagle Channel into the Drake Passage. We will be traveling on M/V Hondius, specially designed for exploratory voyages in Antarctica and the Arctic.

## Days 4/5 Path of the polar explorers

Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you may enjoy some of the same experiences encountered by the great polar explorers who first charted these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale spouting up sea spray. As we cruise through this historic passage, our on-board naturalists will help with bird and marine mammal identification as well as giving our first lectures. After passing the Antarctic Convergence – the boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer sub-Antarctic seas – you are in an upwelling zone. Not only does the marine life change, the avian life changes

too. Wandering albatrosses, black-browed albatrosses, southern fulmars, and Antarctic petrels are a few of the birds you might see.

## Days 6/7/8/9 Antarctic Exploration

Our exploration of Antarctica will introduce us to its unique qualities. It is a continent of physical and biological extremes. It is the driest continent, yet includes 90% of the world's ice and snow. It is a continent with the longest nights and days, the greatest amount of water, and the least amount of soil. It is also the most isolated continent, yet with a rich history of exploration and discovery. It has the largest number of whale species. Penguin colonies are in excess of 100,000 birds, yet less than half the world's penguin species are found there.

During these days our vessel will make numerous visits to the best locations on the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands. Taking into account on a daily basis, the prevailing weather and ice conditions, we will have a strong emphasis on wildlife viewing as well as enjoying the superb scenery. With the long days in the Antarctic summer, we will have ample opportunities to spend time on shore, to explore in our ship, by kayak, and in Zodiacs.

Some of the locations we will choose from include Melchior Island and Schollaert Channel. Visits may also include Danco Island, to see the gentoo penguins, Weddell and crabeater seals. Discover Neko Harbor, an epic landscape of mammoth glaciers and endless wind-carved snow, with stunning alpine peaks. At Paradise Bay, we may zodiac cruise among icebergs and may encounter humpback and minke whales.

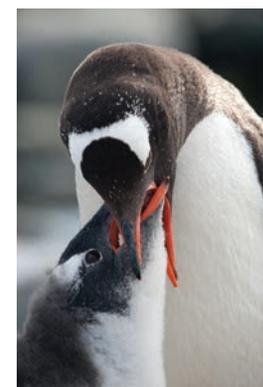
After sailing through Neumayer Channel, you may get a chance to visit the former British research station, now a museum and post office, of Port Lockroy on Goudier Island. At Jougla Point, we will meet gentoo penguins and blue-eyed shags.

Days in Antarctica will be filled with glorious vistas from the ship toward stunning mountains and glaciers. We will travel in our zodiacs to visit penguin

rookeries along shore, and delight in the antics of humpback whales, penguins, and other wildlife.

## Day 10 South Shetland Islands

We will then visit the volcanic South Shetland Islands, windswept and often cloaked in mist.



There's a wide variety of flora (mosses, lichens, flowering grasses) and no small amount of wildlife (gentoo penguins, chinstrap penguins, and southern giant petrels).

At Deception Island, the ship plunges through Neptune's Bellows and into the flooded

caldera. Here you find an abandoned whaling station, and thousands of cape petrels – along with kelp gulls, brown and south polar skuas, and Antarctic terns. A good hike is a possibility in this fascinating and desolate volcanic landscape.

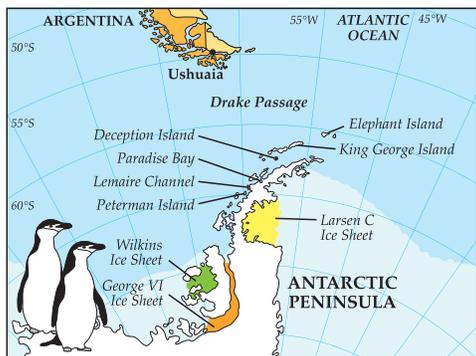
As an alternative, you may be able to engage in activities near Half Moon Island. Here chinstrap penguins and Weddell seals often haul out onto the beach near Cámara Base, an Argentine scientific research station. Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.

## Days 11/12 Return crossing

On our return crossing of the Drake Passage, you're again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.

## Days 13/14 Ushuaia - Buenos Aires & Home

Bid farewell to your new friends, with memories that will accompany you wherever you travel next! Fly to Buenos Aires for a connecting flight back to the USA.



# DISCOVER ANTARCTICA

December 5-18, 2023

*Join us! Discover this Southern Paradise of Ice, Snow and Wildlife!*

## Costs & Conditions

**Expedition Fee:** Per person for 14 days, based on share of cabin on board *M/V Hondius* plus air fare from Miami to Buenos Aires of approximately \$1,295 per person plus intour air Buenos Aires/Ushuaia \$695, is:

Quad share .....	\$7,900 pp
Triple Porthole share .....	\$8,950 pp
Twin Porthole share .....	\$ 9,700 pp
Twin Window share .....	\$10,100 pp
Twin Deluxe share.....	\$10,750 pp
Superior (Queen bed) share .....	\$11,550 pp
Jr Suite (Queen) share .....	\$12,400 pp
Grand Suite (Queen) share .....	\$13,900 pp
w/private balcony	

### Expedition Fee Includes:

Group transfers; one night in Buenos Aires with breakfast; all meals, accommodations, lectures, Zodiac excursions on board the *M/V Hondius*, leadership, administration.

### Fee Does Not Include:

International or intour airfare; independent transfers; lunch or dinner in Buenos Aires or Ushuaia; tips to ship's crew, naturalists, or expedition leaders; fuel surcharge (if any); kayaking (\$550 pp); any personal items such as alcoholic beverages or soda; communications on board ship; laundry, passport; visa fees (if any); or travel insurance (required by the ship company for travel to Antarctica).

**What to Expect:** This expedition is planned for the travel enthusiast who would enjoy exploring Antarctica aboard the comfortable 170-passenger ship, *M/V Hondius*. Discover first-hand the world's most remote region, without disrupting its delicate balance of wilderness and wildlife.

Excursions by zodiac, or kayak, and shore walks allow outstanding discovery of the wildlife and stunning vistas. Photography opportunities are excellent, as are opportunities to observe behavior of penguins, seals, and whales up close. You are visiting in the Antarctic summer; it is remarkably comfortable and often sunny. Typical low and high temperatures are 24°F to 42°F; if a squall blows through it can change rapidly. In Buenos Aires, the temperatures range from the warm to hot. Walks in Antarctica may be over snow, or wet and uneven terrain. You will encounter rolling seas and wind while crossing the Drake Passage. The itinerary is subject to changes that may arise due to weather/sea/ice conditions beyond our control.

The ship's captain has the final word on any decision made with regard to the



vessel's itinerary in the interest of the safety of the vessel and all passengers on board. You will have a once-in-a-lifetime voyage of discovery and adventure.

**M/V Hondius:** Is an expedition ship, with comfortable cabins and public areas, ideal for an Antarctic voyage. It was first built as a Dutch oceanographic research vessel, and was rebuilt as a passenger vessel in 2009 by our colleagues at Oceanwide Expeditions. It

is 107 meters long and 18 meters wide. There is a restaurant/lecture room and spacious observation lounge with bar and large windows with a panoramic view. The ship is nicely decorated, but not luxurious. It is designed for

exploratory expedition travel, spending as much time as possible on shore. A small number of cabins may have a partially obstructed view due to design requirements of the ship, but you are always out doing things, so this isn't really an issue. The best view is always on the outer deck or the bridge.

**Airfare:** The air fare from Miami to Buenos Aires round trip is approx. \$1,295 per person. Intour flights are booked by Betchart Expeditions Inc. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL TICKETED.

**Reservations, Deposits & Payments:** Please contact Betchart Expeditions Inc. to reserve a space:

Telephone: (408) 252-4910 (Int'l calls)  
(800) 252-4910 (USA)

Email: [betcharttaunya@gmail.com](mailto:betcharttaunya@gmail.com).

Final payment is due August 1, 2023.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** The initial deposit is refundable up to 120 days before departure, less a handling fee of \$250 per person. There is no refund for any cancellation after the 120-day period. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered. No refunds are made for unused services.

