

WaterProof® EXPEDITIONS

ANTARCTICA

Diving & Photography Expeditions 2011



“I have been there, I have seen it, and I would go again. It is like a little heaven below.”

Sir Vivian Fuchs on Antarctica

With its overwhelming array of colours, moods and diverse wildlife the spectacular Antarctic Peninsula is a paradise for all, from divers and adventurers to naturalists and photographers. The opportunity to be in the company of thousands of penguins, watching whales, dolphins and seals, and zodiac cruising between brilliant white icebergs and ice floes will fill you awe. Waterproof Expeditions has chartered ice-strengthened polar vessels for expeditions to the Antarctic Peninsula with an emphasis on diving and photography - topside as well as underwater. We are effectively running two trips each with their own dedicated guides. One underwater for our experienced Polar Divers, and one topside for our 'Explorers'.

For the 'Explorers' we run much smaller groups at a landing site or on a zodiac cruise, often between 10 and 20 guests, compared with 100 or much more on a 'normal' expedition vessel; small numbers give us exceptional freedom to do longer, more exploratory zodiac cruises. On the landing sites, our 'footprint' is very small – we are few enough to cause virtually no disturbance, leaving us with more rewarding interactions with the wildlife – and a feeling of being that little bit more in our own personal wilderness.

On other occasions the 'Explorers' and 'Divers' can add to each other's experience. Life in the Antarctic is very much based in the Ocean and divers' perspectives, photographs and videos have proved fascinating to our topside guests. On many occasions our topside boats alert the divers to some wildlife they hadn't seen, and vice versa. There is very pleasant synergy; when divers start talking to the 'Explorers' and hear about their landings or zodiac cruises, they often decide to 'take a dive off' and join them.

Diving

Diving in Antarctica is a unique experience for the advanced diver. Not just ice, but an amazing underwater world with a fascinating marine life filled with creatures that look as if they should live on another planet, such as giant isopods, worms and fearless seals.

The dive operation on board is organized by Waterproof Expeditions, the polar dive experts with many years experience of extreme situations. We are trained to search out the best opportunities for diving, taking into account the unpredictable weather and ice conditions, whilst maintaining the highest level of safety in combination with quality diving. We don't dive through a wide hole in the ice but in a controlled environment under small, grounded icebergs, diving from the shore, a zodiac or an ice shell.

The Vessel

The Polar Pioneer is a modern, ice-strengthened research vessel built in Finland for the Russian Academy of Science and ideally suited to expedition cruising in polar areas. Accommodation and on-board-life is cozy and comfortable and most cabins have private facilities. The public areas include a dining room that also acts as lecture room, a bar with reference books, a doctor's cabin and sauna.

The Polar expedition vessels are not specifically built for diving so Waterproof Expeditions has their own specially designed dive container on board. The container provides boxed storage space for your gear and a heating system to dry your suit and BC. You don't have the inconvenience of having to take your suit and gear into your cabin or inside the ship.

Waterproof Expeditions has developed the Padi Polar Diver Specialty. Only available on our trips below 60 degrees south (Antarctica) and above the Arctic Circle!



Sample Itinerary

Day 1 Embark in Ushuaia, Argentina

Days 2 - 3 At sea crossing the Drake Passage

Days 4 - 9 Exploring the South West Antarctic Peninsula. With only a small group of divers we can be flexible and take advantage of the best wildlife opportunities, weather and ice conditions and the most beautiful light for amazing photos. We start our first day in Antarctica with a mandatory checkout dive at an easy accessible site to get you accustomed to the cold water and to adjust your weights. Diving in Antarctica is serious and safety is our first priority. Whilst in the Peninsula area the sites we visit may include: Cuverville and Pleneau Islands with superb iceberg diving; the magnificent Lemaire Channel; Argentine Islands with good chances of spotting gentoo penguins 'flying' through the water; and the spectacular dive sites around Vernadskiy, the Ukrainian Scientific station.

Days 10 - 12 Sailing back across the Drake Passage to disembark in Ushuaia.

Dates: **04 - 15 February 2011**
15 - 26 February 2011
11 nights/12 days

Rates per person:

Triple cabin	Euro	4.335
Standard cabin	Euro	5.395
Twin Private	Euro	6.160
Superior	Euro	6.765
Suite	Euro	7.390
Dive package	Euro	825

Rates include

- Accommodation in twin cabin and full board while on the vessel
- Dive compressor, tanks, weights and belts (you need to bring your own personal dive gear)
- Leadership by our experienced Expedition Leader and Polar Dive Master
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program

Rates do not include

- International or domestic flights
- Excess baggage charges on flight
- Your personal dive equipment
- All items of a personal nature such as laundry, meals ashore, bar, beverage and telecommunication charges
- Gratuities
- Pre- and post-voyage packages with air and hotel available upon request

Please contact us for more information, detailed itineraries and special departures.

www.waterproof-expeditions.com

info@waterproof-expeditions.com

Tel: + 31 118 435 885

