

February 27 – March 11, 2020

# The Whale Science Voyage

Aboard the Hebridean Sky



INTERNATIONAL  
NATURE & CULTURAL  
ADVENTURES

# CONTENTS

● OUR SHIP . . . . .	4
● ACCOMMODATIONS . . . . .	6
● VOYAGE OVERVIEW . . . . .	10
● DAY BY DAY ITINERARY . . . . .	12
● KAYAKING . . . . .	14
● CITIZEN SCIENCE . . . . .	16
● RATES & DATES . . . . .	18
● DECK PLAN . . . . .	19





Dear Traveler,

Over the years I have had many conversations with colleagues about how to combine the best elements of polar travel, and in 2010 a group of like-minded polar professionals and I took these conversations a step further, and set out to create a new kind of company.

We decided early on that our mission would be to provide Antarctic travelers with “best in class” experiences. To that end we sought out the best guides, naturalists, and expedition crew members we had worked with over the years, and began persuading them to join us. At the same time we began an intensive search for the best possible vessel. There are many ways to encounter the Antarctic: From the deck of a small expeditionary ship, in a Zodiac or a kayak, or camping overnight along the shore. Our goal was to acquire a ship that would act as a platform for these experiences without sacrificing the comfort and ease that you would enjoy at a fine boutique hotel.

I’m thrilled to say that Polar Latitudes has become the company we envisioned. Our vessels, the Hebridean Sky & Island Sky boast a level of comfort and safety unmatched in polar waters. Our world-class team has developed programs for both first-time visitors and those returning for a deeper exploration, and our onboard staff stands ready to fulfill their mission, to create and lead superior polar expedition cruises with a focus on you, our guest.

On the following pages you’ll find the particulars of what makes Polar Latitudes’ voyages unique. I hope they will inspire you to join us. Our partners will be happy to provide you with further details.

Sincerely,

John McKeon  
President | Polar Latitudes

**Image at left,**

The Whale Science Voyage 2019  
Whale Research permits, ACA2019-018, EPBCP 2018-0020

## Our Ship Hebridean Sky

On board you'll find fifty-nine spacious and well designed suites. All feature a sitting room area and some have private balconies. The vessel is outfitted with wood panelling and brass, which predominate throughout, conveying the atmosphere of an old-world private yacht. For a deck plan please see page 19.



## Impeccable Small Ship Amenities

### SERVICES

- World-Class Cuisine
- Complimentary Wine or Beer with Dinner
- Live Entertainment
- Complimentary Coffee/Tea station
- Voyage Photo Coach
- On-board MD and Facilities
- Dedicated Passenger Service Manager
- Free, Optional Pre-Arrival Night
- Complimentary Expedition Jacket

### FACILITIES

- Elevator serving all passenger decks
- 200 megabytes of WiFi Internet for your personal device
- Free Internet on computers in the Library
- Panoramic Top Deck Observation Platform
- Bar/Lounge with Live Entertainment
- Lounge with Audiovisual Facilities
- DVD Movie Library

### WORLD-CLASS CUISINE

#### Great expeditions require great food!

Our team of world-class chefs offer breakfast, lunch and dinner menus that change daily. They have boat-loads of creativity, so you are sure to experience a variety of remarkable cuisine throughout your voyage.



Club



Lounge



Lido Deck



Reception

## Accommodations



### Owner's Suite

Two room suite with sitting room and bedroom.  
385 sq. ft. (34 m<sup>2</sup>) including a 110 sq. ft. (10.2 m<sup>2</sup>) balcony

### All Suites Feature

- Exterior views
- Nearly all suites can be configured with your choice of one queen or two twin beds.
- Sitting area with sofa and/or side chairs
- Flat Screen TV
- Telephone
- En-suite temperature controls
- Mini-Bar
- Marble-appointed bathroom with fine toiletries
- Hair dryer
- 225 sq. ft. or more

### Owner's, Penthouse & Veranda Suites include all Standard Features Plus

- En suite Champagne & Chocolates on arrival
- Complimentary mini-bar (beer, wine & soft drinks)
- En suite Nespresso machine

Please Note: Veranda, Penthouse & Owner's Suites include a private balcony.

### Promenade & Deluxe Suites include all Standard Features Plus

- En suite Champagne & Chocolates on arrival
- Complimentary mini-bar (beer, wine & soft drinks)
- En suite Nespresso machine available on Request



**Penthouse Suites**

Suites with private balcony and sitting area  
325 sq. ft. (30 m<sup>2</sup>) including an 80 sq. ft. (7.4 m<sup>2</sup>) balcony



**Veranda Suites**

Suites with private balcony and sitting area  
260 sq. ft. (24 m<sup>2</sup>) including a 40 sq. ft. (3.7 m<sup>2</sup>) balcony



**Deluxe Suites**

Suites with forward and side windows and sitting area  
240 sq. ft. (22 m<sup>2</sup>)



**Promenade Suites**

Suites with window and sitting area  
220 sq. ft. (20.4 m<sup>2</sup>)



**Window & Triple Suites**

Suites with window and sitting area  
225 sq. ft. (21 m<sup>2</sup>)



**Porthole Suites**

Suites with porthole and sitting area  
240 sq. ft. (22 m<sup>2</sup>)

Hotel Partners In Ushuaia



ARAKUR  
USHUAIA  
RESORT & SPA

## A member of the Leading Hotels of the World

All of Polar Latitudes' Ushuaia departures begin with a complimentary stay at the Arakur Resort and Spa, and include a free, optional pre-arrival night to take the stress out of traveling (see itineraries for details). Located on a beautiful ridge inside Cerro Alarkén Nature Reserve, Arakur offers breathtaking views and sophisticated décor.





A network of hiking trails begins at the hotel and wends its way through beautiful forest, prairie and mountain settings, while state of the art spa & exercise facilities offer guests a plethora of pleasant activities.

The Lobby Piano Bar features splendid views and an assortment of tasty local treats to accompany your cocktails. The Resort's "La Cravia" restaurant offers both Argentine and international cuisine. Typical dinner entrees include Argentine barbecue, spider crab, lamb and black hake.



In the morning enjoy a complimentary buffet breakfast before your afternoon departure. Relax at the resort, or head into Ushuaia for some pre-embarkation shopping.

## The Whale Science Voyage

• February 27 – March 11, 2020

### **So what is the Whale Science Voyage and why would you want to join it? Answering that question requires a little back-story.**

Science plays a fundamental role in protecting our beloved Antarctic, so in 2014 Polar Latitudes created a Citizen Science program. The idea was simple; on every voyage we would offer travelers the option to contribute to major research studies by collecting crucial field data that we provide to the science organizations who would otherwise be faced with the logistical and financial challenges of sending their own teams to such a remote area.

Now entering its 5th season, the Citizen Science program has been a major success and has received kudos from not only our travelers, but from IAATO (the governing body for tour operators in the Antarctic.) Recently, other tour operators have begun developing their own programs as well.

Fast-forward to June of 2018. An opportunity to partner with researchers from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI\*) presented itself, and we jumped at the chance. The scientists wanted to gather data on the feeding habits of Humpback whales. Their goal was to have as much time as possible on the water, tagging whales with suction cup electronic devices to record their behavior.

Designing an itinerary around the WHOI program raised some unique challenges. Putting a team of four scientists (as well as the BBC film crew that was shadowing them) on the water each day meant that fewer zodiacs would be available for guests, so we reduced the maximum guest count for the voyage. Making sure that the ship was positioned for “whale tagging” as well as normal guest excursions everyday kept our Expedition Team on their toes.

Despite these challenges, the voyage was a resounding success. Our travelers loved being part of a scientific study, (they even came out on deck and applauded the team after a successful day of tagging), and we received numerous heart-felt letters of appreciation. The WHOI team was also very happy with the data they were able to gather, and enjoyed the support of, and interacting with, the guests.

This coming March we will be repeating that success with a few new twists. WHOI hopes to field a team of six this March (four on the water tagging, and two onboard using brand new technology to analyze water samples,). We’ve also added some Citizen Science activities specifically designed to support the WHOI team’s goals. (See pages 16 & 17 of this brochure).

We hope you’ll be able to join us for what is sure to be a unique and unforgettable adventure!



# The Whale Science Voyage with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution\*

## Team Bios



**Daniel Zitterbart, PhD**  
*Team Leader*

### WHOI Whale Study Team

Dan will be leading this study. He is a specialist in the use of motion in biological systems and uses artificial intelligence to unravel behavioral traits. He will be responsible for the study's design, protocols and experiment execution.



**Kylie Owen, PhD**  
*Whale Behavioral Specialist*

### WHOI Whale Study Team

Kylie is the team's whale foraging specialist. She will take the lead in finding the whales, following them and assessing their behavior.



**Joseph D Warren, PhD**  
*Krill Specialist*

### WHOI Whale Study Team

Joe is an expert in finding what whales eat. He will operate the echosounder we use to map krill distribution during our study.



**Alessandro Bocconcelli, MS**  
*Whale Tracking Technician*

### WHOI Whale Study Team

Alex has been involved with whale studies for more than 30 years and will be responsible for all of the technology used in this study.



**Annette Bombosch, PhD**  
*Polar Latitudes Marine Mammals Specialist*

### WHOI Whale Study Team

Annette studied humpback habitats in the Southern Ocean for her PhD, and has been part of the Polar Latitudes Expedition Team since 2014. She is one of Polar Latitudes' Citizen Science Coordinators and leads the communication of the team's scientific methods and results to the guests.

## About Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

**WHOI\* is the world's leading, independent, non-profit organization dedicated to ocean research, exploration, and education.**

# Itinerary

## DEPARTURE

- Feb 27 – Mar 11, 2020 HSK

### Complimentary Pre-Arrival Day:

Don't sweat flight delays or missed connections when you begin your adventure a day early by taking advantage of our optional free pre-arrival night at the beautiful Arakur Hotel & Resort, a member of the Leading Hotels of the World. Enjoy the spa, wander the trails, or unwind and soak in the surroundings.

### Day 1, Ushuaia:

Today is all yours: explore some of the sights that Ushuaia has to offer, from museums to Argentinean leather markets, or continue relaxing at the lovely Arakur. Our optional evening briefing is a great opportunity for you to ask questions and to meet some of your fellow travelers.

### Day 2, Embarkation:

After a complimentary buffet breakfast, you're free to explore Ushuaia or unwind at the resort until our mid-afternoon transfer to the ship. On board, you'll be greeted by our Expedition Team and the Ship's Officers. A concise safety and orientation briefing will be followed by the Captain's welcome dinner. After dinner, relax and take in the scenery on our early evening sail through the Beagle Channel, past Magellanic Penguin, Rock Cormorant, and Sea Lion colonies.

### Day 3-4, Drake Passage:

As we make our way ever closer to the white continent, our Expedition Team will be out on deck and on the



bridge, looking for the whales and dolphins that may be seen as we travel south. They will prepare us with presentations on everything Antarctic, from wildlife to history, including helpful briefings on environmental regulations and expedition safety. The WHOI Team will present us with an overview of their study's goals and methods. Eventually, we'll cross the Antarctic Convergence where we'll notice a distinct drop in temperature as we enter the waters of the Southern Ocean.

Those eager to participate in Citizen Science can take part in seabird sighting surveys or help collect salinity samples and weather data along the way. The length of our journey depends on sea conditions, but we should approach the South Shetland Islands in the evening of Day 4. We will keep especially keen watch for pelagic whales as we approach the nutrient rich upwelling areas of the Continental Shelf.

### Day 5-8, Antarctica:

Exploring the South Shetland Islands, we may visit Half Moon Island with its stunning backdrop of mountainous and glaciated Livingston Island. Or perhaps we will sail the ship into an active volcano with an opportunity to take a dip in the relatively balmy waters that surround



Deception Island. Bransfield Strait, once the site of an abandoned whaling station, gives us an excellent chance to see whales, which often return to its rich waters.

In the waterways of the Antarctic Peninsula, our Expedition Leader and Captain will create a flexible itinerary based on weather, ice, and previous sightings to maximize our whale watching opportunities, while also exploring some of the lesser-travelled areas of the Peninsula. We will aim for the most scenic bays and channels, with stops at penguin rookeries, seal wallows, bird colonies and whale feeding areas, as well as sites of historic and scientific interest. The WHOI Team will begin their research, and will give us periodic updates on the study's progress.

#### **Day 9-11, Antarctica:**

Heading further South, we will be sure to explore the Gerlache Strait and its surrounding channels and islands. This may include trips to picturesque Neko Harbor, sheltered Paradise Harbor, the humpback whale favored Wilhelmina Bay, the striking Lemaire Channel, the wildlife-filled Penola Strait, or the majestic Neumayer Channel. We may stop at an active scientific base such as Poland's Arctowski or Ukraine's Vernadsky as well as a historic base such as U.K.'s Port Lockroy or Wordie House.

At this time of year, most areas have amazing marine mammal viewing opportunities with Antarctic fur seals, Weddell, crabeater often found hauled out to rest along with predatory leopard Seals. Minke and humpback whales are frequent visitors during this season and orca sightings are also common.

All of our onboard experts will take part in a panel discussion on The Future of the Antarctic Ecosystem.

#### **Day 12-13, Drake Passage:**

As we leave this magical place and make our way north, heading again across the Antarctic Convergence and the Drake Passage, we will continue our presentation series and wildlife spotting. The WHOI Team will give us a final briefing on their field results. Sailing back to Ushuaia through the Beagle Channel, we celebrate the conclusion of our expedition with a special slideshow.

#### **Day 14, Ushuaia disembarkation:**

Morning Disembarkation lets you catch a flight to Buenos Aires or stay in Ushuaia for more sights and adventure.

# Kayaking

If you've savored the peaceful feeling of floating through nature that can only be found in a kayak, you're going to love kayaking in Antarctica. As in all activities on the peninsula, we take advantage of good weather, and put our kayaks into calm protected waters, in what are indisputably some of the most beautiful settings on earth.

You won't need to bring any special gear. You supply the passion and a bit of basic kayaking competency and we'll provide everything else, including kayaks, dry suits and pogies. The number of kayaking opportunities will vary based on the length of your itinerary and the weather. Our Expedition Leader and kayaking guide team will evaluate the opportunities at each landing site, and put-in as often as they determine is safely possible. Complete details are available from your travel agent.



## Who Can Participate?

Any passenger age 16 or over, in good health and with basic paddling experience is welcome to participate in the kayaking option.

## What Experience Level Is Required?

Basic paddling experience is highly recommended. Participants should be capable of getting in and out of a kayak, doing a wet exit (not that we ever expect to need this), and performing forward and back strokes. Prior to each excursion the kayak guides will clearly explain the upcoming outing and expected conditions so paddlers can make informed decisions as to participation.

## Is There A Participant Limit?

We can accommodate 16 participants per voyage. Sign up early — the kayak option fills quickly!

## How Often Will We Paddle?

At each landing site that offers appropriate conditions we will offer the activity after a short briefing by the

kayak team. We will make every effort to paddle as often as possible, but weather, sea, ice, and other conditions may preclude this. The Expedition Leader and kayak guides are the ultimate authorities on this.

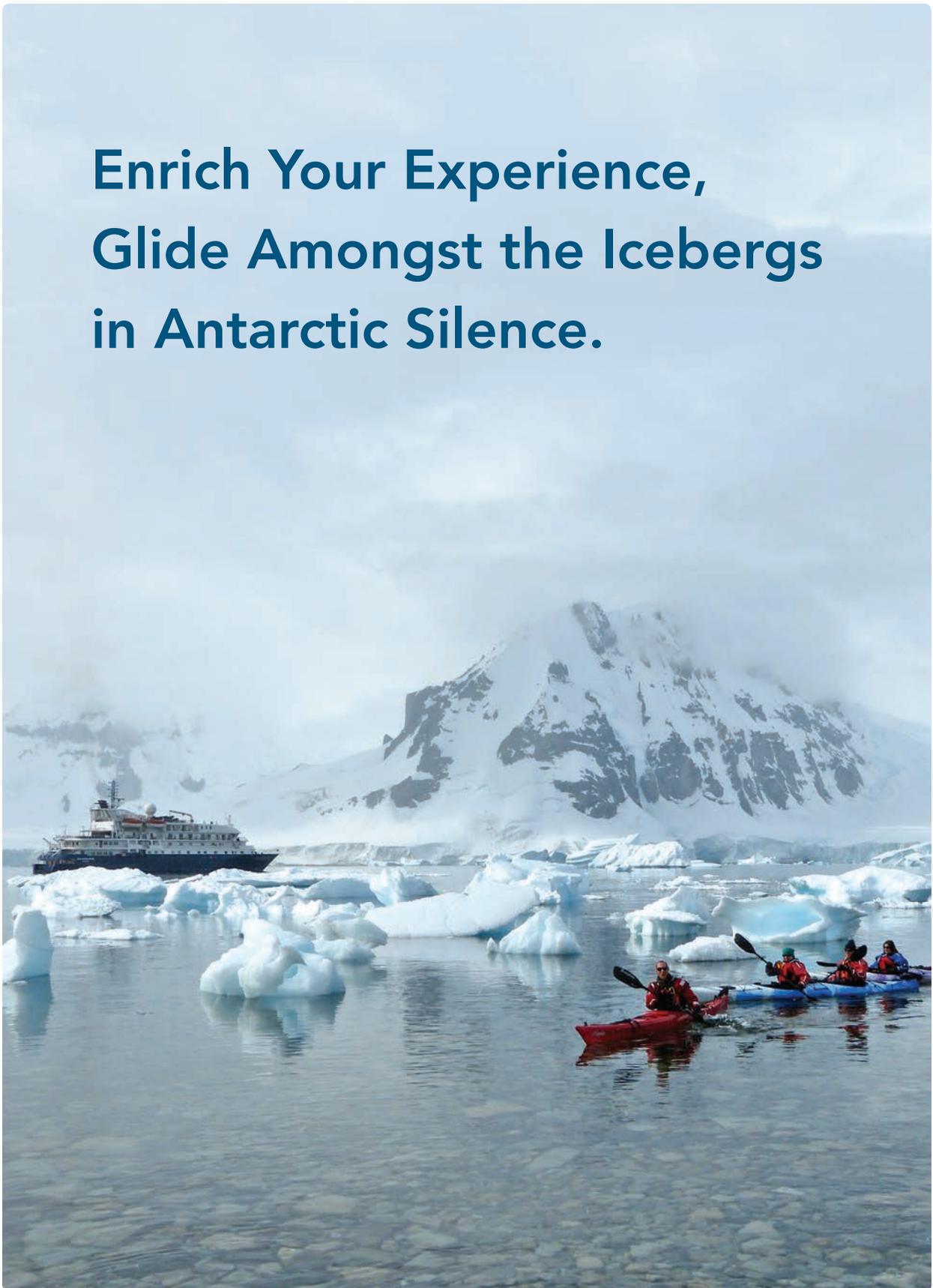
## What Is Included?

- Kayaks — we offer a mix of tandems and singles
- Dry suits
- Paddles
- Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)
- Pogies (neoprene gloves)
- Booties

## What Do Passengers Need To Supply?

- Very little beyond enthusiasm, basic skills, flexibility, and an honest appraisal of experience and health conditions.
- Participants will need to bring proper personal clothing as noted in our supplied preparation notes.
- You might also want to bring a waterproof camera or a dry bag.

# Enrich Your Experience, Glide Amongst the Icebergs in Antarctic Silence.



## Polar Latitudes Citizen Science Program

Citizen Science is a way to harness the power of travelers to observe, record, and report on natural phenomena. This is particularly helpful in the Antarctic, where it is challenging to support long-term academic observation teams.

Guests on Polar Latitudes voyages are invited to participate in data-gathering activities that support major research projects. The data we collect contributes to a better understanding of Antarctica's unique ecology and changing climate.

The projects offered may vary slightly by voyage. If you are interested in participating please see the onboard daily bulletin and join the scheduled Citizen Science Introduction Meeting. There is no additional cost to participate.

### Polar Latitudes Citizen Science Projects

#### SOUTHERN OCEAN WATER SAMPLING

##### Providing data for the Scripps Institution of Oceanography

We will be measuring the surface water temperature and salinity during sea-days on crossings between Ushuaia and the Peninsula, as well as between South Georgia and the Peninsula for the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The data we collect contributes to a study of the long-term temperature and salinity trends of the Southern Ocean.



#### CLOUD OBSERVATIONS

##### Providing data for NASA Globe Observer

By observing and recording cloud cover & type timed to NASA satellite fly-overs, we can help scientists understand how surface and air temperature are affected by cloud cover, and how clouds will respond to a changing climate as well.



#### SEABIRD SURVEYS

##### Providing data for Stony Brook University

We complete at-sea and on-shore bird survey for Stony Brook University to study the distribution, population status and breeding events of birds in the Southern Ocean and along the Antarctic Peninsula.

#### MARINE MAMMAL IDENTIFICATION

##### Providing data for Happy Whale

We photograph unique identifiable markings on a whale's flukes (tail) and dorsal fin, which allow Happy Whale to non-invasively track whale movements over time. By focusing on whales, we bring attention to the marine ecosystem as a whole and the challenges we face as a global community.



### SALP PROJECT

#### Providing data for Alfred Wegener Institute

Salp are free-swimming invertebrates that feed on phytoplankton. We will collect baseline data of Salp distribution around our landing sites and also collect a few specimens for genetic species determination. There has been a recent increase in Salp abundance on a circumpolar scale around Antarctica. The data we collect will help scientists of the Alfred Wegener Institute explore how this might be linked with a changing climate.



### FJORDPHYTO – PHYTOPLANKTON

#### Providing data for the Scripps Institution of Oceanography

By collecting phytoplankton samples in fjord systems along the Antarctic Peninsula, we help scientists at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography obtain a seasonal picture of phytoplankton abundance, composition and distribution throughout the growth season (from October to March), as well as how phytoplankton are influenced by (increasing) melt-water inflow from glaciers.

## Special Whale Science Voyage Activities

We'll be assisting the whale science team with these activities on this voyage only.

### WATER SAMPLING

#### Providing data for WHOI\*

To support the WHOI team during the whale science voyage, guests will take water samples in the same areas where the WHOI study is conducted. These samples will be analyzed onboard during the voyage and contribute to understanding of the relationship between humpback feeding behavior and water chemistry.

### WHALE SURVEYS

#### Providing data for WHOI\*

When the WHOI Science team is out and tagging whales, we will be counting and localizing whales in the vicinity of the ships at timed intervals. Please bring your binoculars.

# Rates & Dates

Voyage dates (includes hotel night)	Ship Name	Begin/End	Itinerary	Days	Triple Suite	Porthole Suite	Window Suite	Promenade Suite	Deluxe Suite	Veranda Suite	Penthouse Suite	Owner's Suite
Feb 27 – Mar 11, 2020	HSK	USH/USH	WHALE	14	\$9,995	\$14,295	\$16,295	\$16,795	\$17,295	\$18,795	\$21,295	\$22,995

## Important Details

The dates & prices, for all of the itineraries listed above, include a pre-embarkation hotel night at the port of embarkation. Trip lengths include the day you arrive and the day on which you disembark. Prices quoted are per-person based on double/triple occupancy. For complete details on program inclusions and conditions please enquire.

### Please note

- The third berth in a triple suite is suitable for passengers up to 5'10" in height.
- A limited number of twin suites may be sold for single occupancy at 1.7 times the twin rate.

## Friends & Family

Have three people in your party? Most suites have a sofa, which converts to a bed suitable for persons up to 5'10" in height. Rates vary by category, please enquire.

## Inclusions

- Two nights of hotel accommodation in Ushuaia
- Transfers from airport in Ushuaia to the Arakur, and from the Arakur to the ship
- Shipboard accommodations
- All scheduled Landings / excursions
- All meals on board
- Coffee/tea/cocoa 24 hours daily
- House wine / beer / soft drinks with dinner
- In Owner's, Penthouse, Veranda, Deluxe and Promenade suites:
  - champagne and chocolates on arrival
  - complimentary mini-bar, restocked once daily
- Expedition jacket (yours to keep)
- A pair of boots for use during the voyage
- WiFi from the public computers in the library
- 200 megabyte WiFi card (for use on your personal devices)
- Digital Voyage Log
- Group transfer from ship following disembarkation

## Adventure Activities

Kayaking: \$695

*Please sign up at time of booking, space is limited*

Citizen Science: Included

Photography: Included

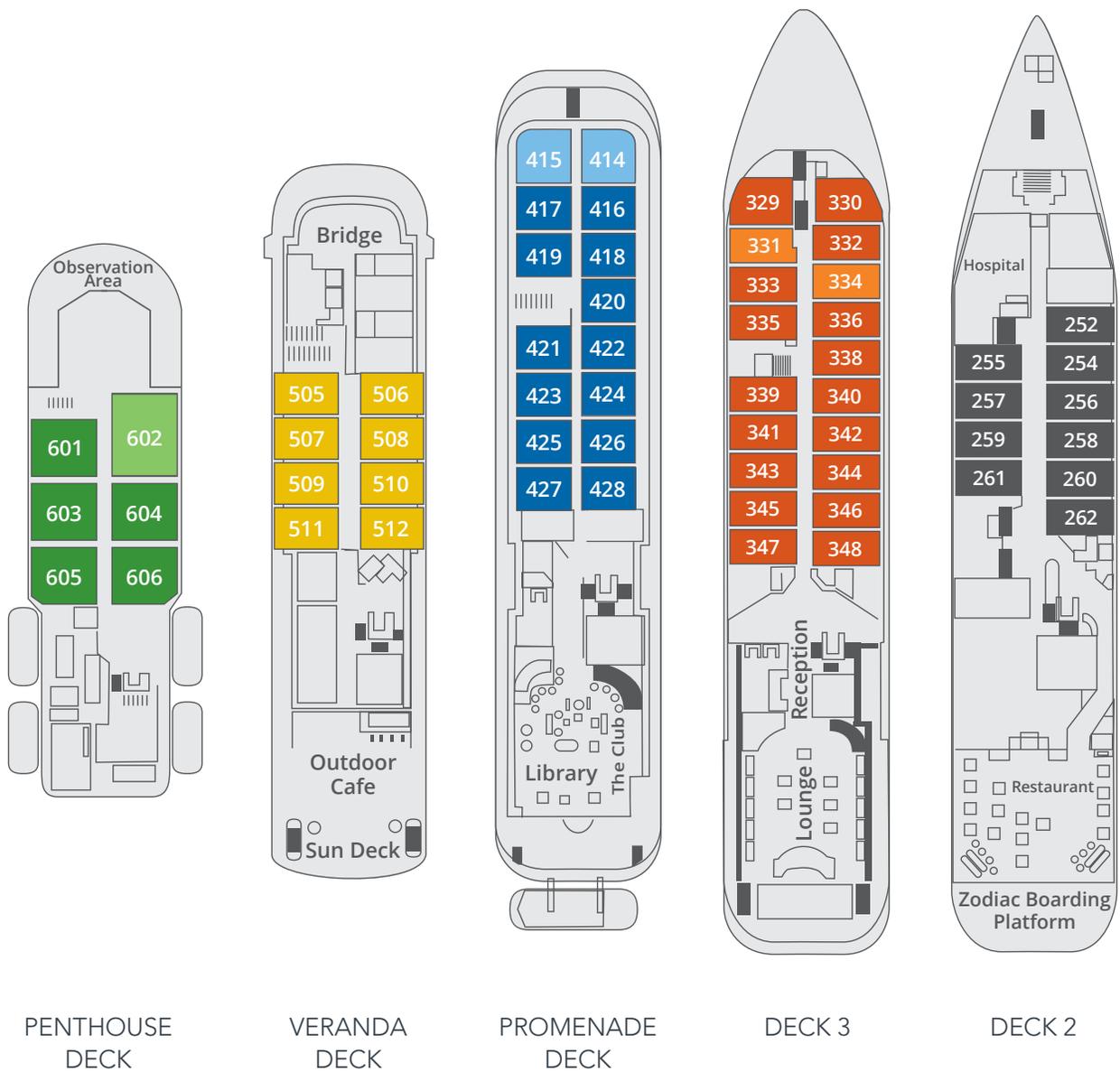
*Sign up on board – available to all guests*

THE INFORMATION IN THIS BROCHURE IS ACCURATE AS OF JUNE 24, 2019.  
FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT US AT: [POLAR-LATITUDES.COM](http://POLAR-LATITUDES.COM)

# Hebridean Sky

- Owner's Suite
- Veranda Suites
- Promenade Suites
- Triple Suites
- Penthouse Suites
- Deluxe Suites
- Window Suites
- Porthole Suites

As of June 24, 2019





INCA International Nature & Cultural Adventures  
1311 63rd Street  
Emeryville CA 94608

[www.inca1.com](http://www.inca1.com)  
[info@inca1.com](mailto:info@inca1.com)  
(510) 420-1550

# Life-Changing Journeys

To The Last Wild Place

