

Environmentally responsible cruises to the enchanting Antarctic with World Expeditions

14 July 2009: 2009 marks 50 years since the signing of the Antarctic Treaty and with plans underway to limit the high number of tourists to the region and regulate the impact of large cruise liners, World Expeditions has been ahead of the game for more than a decade, offering voyages to Antarctica with an implemented manifesto that is already environmentally conscious.

World Expeditions voyages carry a maximum of 56 passengers aboard ice-strengthened expedition vessels, specially designed for minimum impact on the delicate frozen landscape. World Expeditions is proud to be an Associate Member of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) and fully supports the Antarctic Treaty, and as such, experts are employed to brief fully all passengers on how to reduce impact on their surroundings.

Visitors on World Expeditions' 11-day *Antarctic Explore* cruise (DISCOUNTED; was US\$6,490/£4,023; now US\$5,481/£3,397; save £626) will witness prolific wildlife, dramatic landscapes and huge icebergs on a tour that is committed to maximising enjoyment without compromising the unspoiled natural world.

Venturing onshore in small numbers, guests will have optimum time to enjoy unforgettable walks surrounded by snow-capped peak, giant tabular icebergs and crystal-blue seas. There will be spontaneous opportunities for wildlife encounters, such as whale watching and walking among penguin rookeries and seal colonies - all in the company of world-class naturalists whose informal but insightful lectures aim to enhance the exploration and understanding of one of the world's most spectacular and pristine environments.

World Expeditions also offers the 12-day *Weddell Sea and Antarctic Peninsula* cruise (DISCOUNTED; was US\$7,050/£4,336; now US\$5,993/£3,690; save £650), which visits the fossil-rich Seymour Island, sets foot on the Antarctic continent itself and

discovers the most wildlife-rich part of Antarctica, full of whale seals, blue-eyed Shags, sea birds and penguins.

The trip can be extended to 19 days to get a broader polar experience (*South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula*; DISCOUNTED; was US\$12,450/£7,624; now US\$10,582/£6,480; save £1,344): Sail among the icebergs of the Melchior Islands for a chance to see the magnificent and elusive Emperor penguins, watch the black-browed Albatrosses and Rock hopper penguins of the Falkland Islands, walk the icy streets of the abandoned whaling village taken over by King penguins in Grytviken and dive in the hot springs of Deception Island.

Quoted lead-in prices are based on triple-share cabins, including all meals, excursions, activities, use of ship facilities and services of specialist expedition staff and guides. Flights are not included but can be arranged by World Expeditions on request; early booking is advised to take advantage of the best flight deals.

For more information and bookings please contact World Expeditions on 0800 0744 135 or visit www.WorldExpeditions.co.uk

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

- Since its inception in 1975, World Expeditions has earned itself an outstanding reputation as a world leader in small group trekking and adventure holidays.
- Focusing on genuine 'off the beaten track' experiences with an emphasis on travelling responsibly, the company offers groundbreaking adventures in the Himalaya, Europe, Asia including Central Asia, Australasia, the Polar regions, Africa and South, Central and North America, but is best-known for its trekking and climbing options in Nepal.
- Two factors distinguish World Expeditions from its competitors in the adventure travel arena: the **all-inclusive value** of its trips, with most meals, internal transport, accommodation, equipment and site entrance fees covered; and its **expert leaders**, often world-renowned figures whose experience and passion for destinations and local communities ensure superbly-designed, fulfilling travel itineraries every time.

- World Expeditions trips are for those travellers who want to discover destinations from the inside - taking the 'paths less travelled' to interact with and learn about local cultures, rather than simply ticking off tourism spots; experiencing true wilderness settings in the world's most remote and pristine locations. More than 500 stand-alone itineraries are offered, from small group active adventures and expeditions to cycling and walking tours to cultural journeys.