

# 2026 Shag Rocks & Antarctica Expedition

## An Explorers Club Flag Expedition

Join us for a rare opportunity to experience the Antarctic summer—**Earth's last untouched continent**, a place of immense beauty, profound history, and unparalleled wildlife. This fully guided expedition explores the



the **Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, the Antarctic Peninsula**, and the remote **Shag Rocks**, offering

participants an immersive journey through some of the most pristine and dramatic environments on the planet.



This voyage has been designated an **Explorers Club Flag Expedition**, one of the Club's highest honors and reserved for journeys that meaningfully advance exploration and field science. The Explorers Club Flag represents more than a century of pioneering discovery on land, sea, in the air, and

beyond. Throughout the expedition, participants will travel alongside scientists and explorers, with daily opportunities to engage directly with ongoing research and conservation work.

### Antarctic Life

Antarctica is defined by scale and abundance. Expect to encounter **vast penguin colonies**, sometimes numbering **hundreds of thousands of birds on a single beach**, along with leopard, Weddell, and fur seals, whales including orcas, minkes, and southern rights, and a remarkable diversity of seabirds such as albatrosses, petrels, and skuas. Zodiac landings allow close, respectful observation of wildlife in some of the most pristine ecosystems remaining on Earth. The scenery is equally breathtaking—towering glaciers, sculpted icebergs, endless snow-covered peaks, and pack ice stretching to the horizon.



Beneath the surface, Antarctic waters host equally extraordinary life, including nudibranchs, giant sea spiders and isopods, crinoids, brachiopods, anemones, and unique cold-adapted fishes found nowhere else on Earth. A limited number of expedition divers and diving scientists will conduct underwater research, bringing select specimens aboard for observation and study—an experience all participants may share, regardless of diving background.

### This is a True Scientific Expedition

Science is woven throughout the voyage. Participants will have daily access to the scientific team and are welcome—**training provided**—to assist with expedition-supported projects such as biological collection and documentation of marine specimens, microplastic sampling using filter-feeding organisms, bird and wildlife surveys, plankton tows, and foraminifera sampling for environmental and climate research. Those who meaningfully contribute to the expedition's scientific objectives may be **eligible to apply for membership in The Explorers Club**, joining a global community dedicated to exploration and discovery.



## Expedition Dates

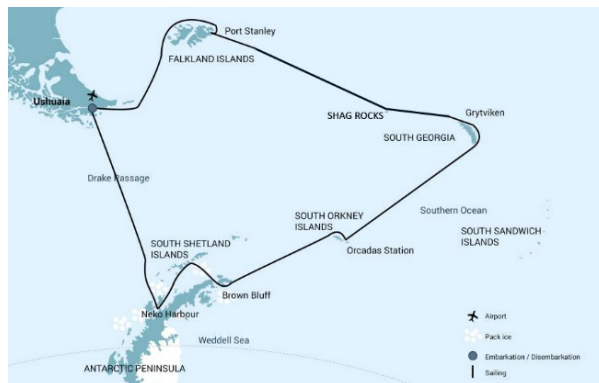
**Depart: 16 February 2026**

**Return: 9 March 2026**

*This expedition is hosted by Next Generation Services in partnership with Oceanwide Expeditions, both of which have extensive experience conducting voyages in remote and polar regions.*

## The Voyage

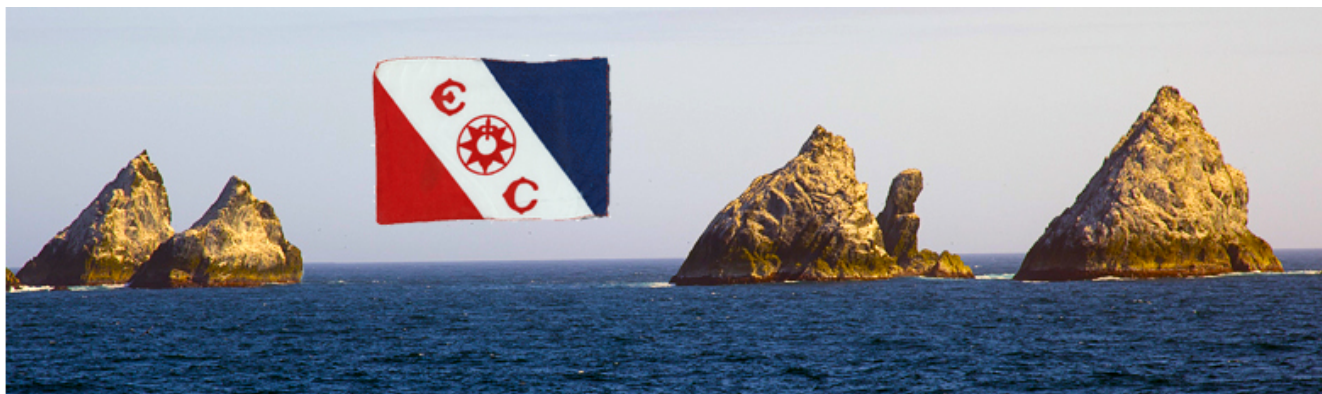
The journey departs from Ushuaia, Argentina, aboard the ice-strengthened m/v Plancius. Originally built as an oceanographic research vessel, Plancius is 293 feet long, displaces 3,211 tons, and carries a maximum of 108 passengers, allowing for a highly personalized expedition experience. Our first port of call is the **Falkland Islands**, steeped in maritime history and rich in wildlife. From there, the vessel proceeds to the remote **Shag Rocks**, where we plan to spend two days focused on birding, surface exploration, and scientific diving, including the **first-ever planned scuba dives** at this isolated site. The expedition then continues to **South Georgia Island**, often described as the wildlife capital of the Southern Ocean. Here, participants will visit **Ernest Shackleton's grave**, the historic **Grytviken whaling station**, and immense penguin colonies set against dramatic mountain scenery.



The voyage concludes with exploration of the **Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands**. On one side of the ship rise **10,000-foot snow-covered peaks**; on the other, ice-shrouded islands and towering icebergs drift past in silence. No expedition to Antarctica is complete without stepping onto the seventh continent, but Antarctica offers far more than a single landing. The whales, birds, seals, penguins, and iconic ice define the experience, along with a palpable sense of history—abandoned whaling stations, research bases, and shipwrecks that evoke the **Golden Age of Antarctic exploration**. Weather, ice, and wildlife conditions will ultimately determine the final itinerary, as is standard for polar expeditions.







## Expedition Fees

CABIN	Quadruple Porthole	Twin Porthole	Twin Window	Twin Deluxe	Superior
Per Person	\$26,700	\$32,500	\$33,900	\$ NA	\$ 38,500

**Prices include:** Expedition and shore excursions, rubber boots, all shipboard guiding fees, all meals on board the vessel.

**Not Included:** Flights, airport transfers, hotels, departure taxes, alcoholic drinks, personal expenses, food on shore, land-based tours, dive equipment, dive and travel insurance (mandatory), and personal clothing.



## Optional Activities

In addition to daily landings and Zodiac excursions, participants may choose optional adventure activities including **sea kayaking** and the unforgettable experience of **camping overnight on Antarctica**, weather permitting. No prior experience is required for either activity, though participants must be in good health. Space for both kayaking and camping is extremely limited and must be reserved early.

**Leadership** The expedition is organized and led by **Jeffrey Bozanic, PhD**, an experienced Antarctic diver and expedition leader who has spent multiple seasons working on the Ice as the **Dive Locker Technician supporting scientific diving for the U.S. Antarctic Program**. He has led numerous expeditions to the Antarctic Peninsula region and is a **Fellow of the Explorers Club**.



## Book Now—Space is extremely limited!

To apply, please submit the associated application.

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