

# Antarctica

A UNLV Natural History and Photographic Adventure

**Dec. 9 - Dec. 20, 2013**

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Join an expedition to the very ends of the earth. This land of glittering ice, majestic peaks, and dazzling beauty, is a haven for migratory birds, whales, seals and other marine mammals who come each summer to feast in its food-rich coastal waters. We will visit during the Antarctic summer when temperatures are mild, generally hovering just above freezing; and experience our 11-day cruise aboard the 92 passenger **Akademik Sergey Vavilov**, a well-equipped research vessel, highly maneuverable, and very stable.

Both your UNLV expedition leaders have extensive experience in the Antarctic. UNLV geologist, Margaret N. (Peg) Rees, Ph.D. was funded by the National Science Foundation to conduct geological research in the Transantarctic Mountains for 8 field seasons. For her research and service she was awarded the US Congressional Polar Medal for Scientific Service in Antarctica and an Antarctic mountain was named in her honor.

Nevada artist and naturalist Sharon K. Schafer has worked extensively in the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic Islands as an artist-in-residence, photographer and videographer. Her paintings and photographs of the Antarctic region have been exhibited in museums across the country.

For more information  
please contact:

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UNLV

CONTINUING  
EDUCATION  
DIVISION OF EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

<http://continuingeducation.unlv.edu>

# REGISTRATION

**Course Code: 133EX1163**

## **Trip Leaders:**

**Margaret N. (Peg) Rees**, Vice Provost Educational Outreach, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
**Sharon K. Schafer**, Skydance Studio, Boulder City, Nevada

## **Prices and Policies:**

**\$350 early bird discount extended until August 15th!**

**Register by Aug 15, 2013: \$7,845 (Per person, double occupancy, shared bath)**

**Deposit:** A \$2,700 deposit will hold your spot until Aug. 15, 2013 when balance in full is due.

**Cancellation Policy:** Refund less \$1,500 before July 15. Refund less \$2,500 between July.15 - Aug. 15. No refund after Aug. 15, 2013. **(Trip interruption/cancellation insurance is recommended)**

**Fee includes:** International health insurance, transfer from airport to Hotel in Ushuaia, one night at the Hotel Altos in Ushuaia with breakfast, transfers to the ship, accommodation in twin cabins, shared bath (private bath available for additional fee), all meals and snacks during the voyage, and transfer from the pier to the airport on the last day of the cruise. Also includes all Zodiac excursions, educational presentations, overnight camping gear (optional activity), use of foul weather gear, \$100,000 in emergency evacuation insurance and more.

**Not included:** International airfare; visa and passport fees; airport departure taxes; reciprocity fee for Argentina; pre-cruise or post-cruise meals other than breakfast; fee for optional programs (kayaking); personal laundry; fitness session or massage therapy charges; telephone calls or alcoholic drinks; gratuities to the staff and crew; or recommended trip interruption and cancellation insurance.

**Register by calling 702-895-3394**



# ANTICIPATED ITINERARY

**December 9 - 20, 2013**

**11 Nights / 12 Days**

**Please Note:** Itinerary subject to change due to weather conditions or unforeseeable circumstances.

## **Day 1: Ushuaia**

Arrive in Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city on the tip of Argentina. Transfer from Ushuaia Airport to hotel with overnight lodging at Hotel Altos.

## **Day 2: Ushuaia / Transfer / Embarkation**

Breakfast at Hotel Altos then you have a free morning to explore the fascinating city of Ushuaia. Transfer to the ship for a 4 p.m. boarding. Board our ship and settle into your "home" for the next 11 days. In the early evening, we set sail and begin our voyage leaving behind Ushuaia and charting a course through the Beagle Channel to the icy world of Antarctica.

## **Days 3-4: Drake Passage**

Excitement is in the air as we cross the Drake Passage and make our way ever closer to the white continent. Soak up the friendly atmosphere onboard as numerous Polar experts and your UNLV leaders prepare you for your adventures with presentations on everything Antarctic - from wildlife to history. Photo workshops will be offered by your UNLV expedition leader Sharon K. Schafer.

Eventually, we will cross the Antarctic Convergence where we will notice a distinct drop in temperature as we enter the waters of the Antarctic Ocean. Along the way, we will witness spectacular sights from icebergs to an array of seabirds and even several whale species that may occasionally flaunt their size in full breach.



## Days 5-9:

In the waterways of the Antarctic Peninsula, we will travel by inflatable Zodiac boats to explore up-close the wildlife and landscapes of the stunningly beautiful Antarctic wilderness.

Planned excursions may include Neko Harbor, Wilhelmina Bay, and Petermann Island. We may observe Weddell, crabeater, and elephant seals; many species of seabirds; and an abundance of penguin species. At Half Moon Island, we will observe a breeding colony of chinstrap penguins that share their territory with fur seals and blue-eyed shags.



If we are lucky, we may see the gentle humpback whale dining on krill in its feeding grounds and possibly have an opportunity to observe killer and Minke whales.

You will finally make your landing on the actual continent of Antarctica at Paradise Bay or Neko Harbor. The scenery here is amazing. The bay is filled with oddly shaped icebergs that look like sculptures, as well as colossal tabular icebergs that have broken away from the continental ice shelf.

Hopefully, the weather will be mild enough to allow optional overnight camping on the continental shore. Whatever your vantage point, whether it is onboard or onshore, expect to feel transformed as you experience the twilight of the short Antarctic night.

## Days 10-11: Drake Passage

As we leave this magical place heading across the Antarctic Convergence and the Drake Passage, we will have time to share and reflect on our wonderful experiences. After rounding Cape Horn and then entering the Beagle Channel, we will have a special dinner to celebrate the conclusion of our Polar expedition.



## Day 12: Ushuaia / Disembarkation

In the early morning we arrive back in Ushuaia. It is time to say farewell to your crew and fellow travelers. Guests will be transported to their hotels or to the airport for return flights home.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

### **Camping Option: No additional supplement.**

No pre-booking required. If conditions are suitable and you choose to camp on the continent, all the required gear such as tents, bivy sacs, and sleeping bags will be provided. This excursion is managed with strict environmental regulations. A portable outhouse tent is used and absolutely everything is transported back to the ship afterwards.

### **Sea Kayaking Option: \$795 per person**

Pre-booked option for up to 16 guests. If you have experience sea kayaking and are interested in doing this activity during the expedition, then you will need to book this option through UNLV prior to leaving. You cannot book this activity once onboard. There is a separate document for sea kayakers that you will need to review beforehand. Provided equipment includes full Gore-Tex drysuits, kayak-specific PFD's, neoprene booties, a waterproof deck bag, pogies, and many other vital paddling accessories.

