The Association of Former Students, Texas A&M

Expedition to ANTARCTICA

Aboard the Deluxe M.S. LE BORÉAL

January 26 - February 8, 2015
Howdy, Ags!

“Everything wears an aspect of unreality,” Ernest Shackleton wrote. “Icebergs hang upside down in the sky, the land appears as layers of silvery or golden cloud, cloud banks look like land and icebergs masquerade as islands.” Discover how normal human scales and reference points disappear amid the grandeur of nature in its most pristine form. From the long sunrises that paint the icescape in soft shades of pink and gold to the lingering light of the austral summer, humpback whales, leopard seals and Adélie penguins mingle amid glimmering turquoise glaciers and sparkling icebergs. Antarctica’s spectacular illuminations reveal the contrasts and marvels of the most unique place on Earth to those fortunate enough to visit.

Retrace the sea-lanes traveled by storied explorers Ernest Shackleton, Roald Amundsen and Robert Falcon Scott as they sought out the final frontier of “The White Continent” on this extraordinary 14-day program featuring a nine-night cruise aboard the exclusively chartered, state-of-the-art, five-star, ice-class M.S. LE BORÉAL (launched in 2010), the finest of vessels plying Antarctic waters. The custom-crafted M.S. LE BORÉAL showcases private balconies in 95 percent of the all ocean-view, deluxe accommodations, encompasses a new generation of ship design and technology and sets the highest standards in elegance and comfort.

Your Antarctic experience will be enhanced by a comprehensive schedule of exclusive and specially arranged lectures. The onboard expedition team of expert naturalists will guide you on excursions aboard sturdy Zodiac crafts to explore the intricate ecosystems and marvelous nuances of the abundant wildlife found ashore, including penguins and seals who are unafraid of humans.

This once-in-a-lifetime, comprehensive program is also the best valued Antarctic cruise offered. It features the finest, five-star accommodations available on an expedition ship, all excursions and all meals on board the ship, and is simply an optimal cruising experience that has sold out quickly year after year. The space is limited to only 90 staterooms. I urge you to place your reservation soon, while the Early Booking Savings and space are available!

Gig ‘em!

Jennifer Bohac ’87, Ph.D.
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Traveling Aggies
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No moneys donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by our tour supplier.
Wildlife Conservation

The unique international Antarctic Treaty protects Antarctica’s wildlife and its natural habitats and provides a guide for visitors to this great continent, where no country has sovereignty.

To protect the fragile Antarctic environment, all travelers will go ashore in small groups, so as not to over visit rookeries, disturb nesting sites or disrupt research. All visitors will be asked to take—and leave—nothing ashore.

U.S.
Monday, January 26
Depart from the U.S.

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Tuesday, January 27
Arrive in cosmopolitan Buenos Aires and check into the deluxe Plaza Hotel, overlooking the lovely Plaza San Martin park and adjacent to the chic boutique-lined Calle Florida. This evening, attend the Welcome Reception.

Buenos Aires
Wednesday, January 28
See Buenos Aires’ elegant and diverse barrios (neighborhoods) on a city tour including the colorful La Boca district, Monserrat’s historic Plaza de Mayo and grand public buildings, Palermo’s lavish parks, Puerto Madero’s riverfront community and the charming old quarter of San Telmo.

Buenos Aires/Ushuaia
Thursday, January 29
Board an early morning flight to remote Ushuaia, the world’s southernmost city, the capital of Tierra del Fuego and the gateway to Antarctica. This afternoon, embark M.S. Le Boreal and cruise through the Beagle Channel, named for the ship that carried Charles Darwin on his South American voyages. Attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception this evening.

Cruising Drake Passage
Friday, January 30
Cross the legendary Drake Passage. Upon reaching the Antarctic Convergence, watch for breaching fin, humpback and

Visit the historic Recoleta Cemetery, famous for its ornate vaults and sculptures and as the final resting place of the legendary Evita Perón, the former First Lady of Argentina.

The majestic albatross has a wingspan of up to 11 feet, enabling it to fly for hundreds of miles at a time.

Cover photo: Discover a magical world of stunning mountain vistas, abundant marine life and pristine seas on this journey of a lifetime.

Photo this page: Both captivating and entertaining, penguins are often the first to greet visitors on Antarctica’s shores.

Photo this page: The unique international Antarctic Treaty protects Antarctica’s wildlife and its natural habitats and provides a guide for visitors to this great continent, where no country has sovereignty.

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minke whales and seabirds feeding on plankton and krill brought to the surface by the cold Antarctic currents merging with the warmer waters of the South Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. The expedition team of naturalists will present insightful lectures to prepare you for your first landing in Antarctica.

Cruising Antarctica
Saturday, January 31 to Thursday, February 5
The ship cruises below the 60th parallel to the outer shores and islands of the Antarctic Peninsula, Earth's last frontier. Here, explore some of the world's most pristine wilderness, where towering mountains of ice and lava create precipitous coastlines and islands, and constantly changing patterns of ice stretch as far as the eye can see. In this seemingly harsh environment, a vast array of marine wildlife flourishes, including millions of penguins, countless seabirds and thousands of seals and whales. From spectacular volcanic topography and majestic glaciers to fascinating wildlife and historic outposts, this itinerary reveals the highlights of the region for the complete Antarctic experience.

Please note that the ship’s cruising pattern and positionings are dependent on weather, ice and sea conditions and are subject to change.

One of the smallest but most beautiful of the South Shetland Islands, Half Moon Island, is a crescent-shaped isle known for its craggy volcanic rock formations and tranquil lagoons. It is also the site of Cámara Station, a base monitored by Argentine biologists studying regional wildlife.

Here, observe the antics of the island’s colony of chinstrap penguins and enjoy the lingering twilight of the Antarctic summer.

Deception Island is actually the rim of a massive dormant volcano crater that encircles a caldera known as Port Foster, where the ship enters through dramatic Neptune's Bellows, a sublime harbor ringed by snowcapped peaks and sheer cliffs. In Pendulum Cove, see the steaming, geothermally heated waters of the Antarctic. Observe the amazing colony of tens of thousands of chinstrap penguins at Baily Head. Then walk along the black sand beaches of Telefon Bay to nearby craters, which offer fascinating insight into the volcanic activity that created the island and played a pivotal role in the natural history of the region.

In Paradise Bay, awesome cliffs of ice descend from the surrounding mountains into the floating iceberg-laden waters along the western coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. Named by 19th-century whalers who sought shelter in its coves, Paradise Bay is an ideal sanctuary for marine wildlife including humpback whales, crabeater seals and Cape petrels. Listen for the low rumbling of Rudolf Glacier as it calves chunks of ice into Neko Harbor, named for an early 20th-century whaling boat. The harbor is surrounded by soaring glaciers and snow-covered mountains and is one of the most dramatic and spectacular sights in Antarctica. Here, make your first “continental landing” in Antarctica.

Cruise through breathtaking, glacier-lined Neumayer Channel to Port Lockroy. Originally constructed in 1944 by an eight-man team as an intelligence post for British espionage during World War II,
Port Lockroy was converted into a whaling station and scientific base in the 1950s. It is nestled among glistening mountain peaks as high as 6,000 feet, and the surrounding grounds are populated by blue-eyed shags and gentoo penguins. Gain insight into the lives of past explorers at the British Antarctic Survey Museum and mail a postcard stamped with an Antarctica postmark from the official British Post Office. Just beyond Port Lockroy, enjoy an excursion to the rocky shores of Jougla Point on Wiencke Island. Experience this rare opportunity to view the nearly intact skeleton of a full-size blue whale, and see populous colonies of gentoo penguins and kelp gulls. Flanked by sheer cliffs of towering glaciers between the Antarctic Peninsula and Booth Island, Lemaire Channel offers views of seven majestic miles of mountains and wildlife combined with fascinating patterns of ice floes. Call at Petermann Island, the southernmost point of your journey, and watch its thriving rookeries of Adélie and gentoo penguins and blue-eyed shags.

Cruising Drake Passage/Cape Horn
Friday, February 6
Relax and reflect on board as the ship turns north and crosses the Drake Passage.

Enjoy lively, informative discussions with the ship’s naturalists. Watch for endangered albatross and the many different species of petrels as you cruise across the Antarctic Convergence and past Cape Horn, the most southerly point of South America and a milestone on world trade routes from the 19th century until the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914. Attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception this evening.

Ushuaia/Buenos Aires Saturday, February 7
Disembark and fly to Buenos Aires. Continue on the Iguazú Falls Post-Program Option with an overnight stay in Buenos Aires, or depart for the U.S.

U.S. Sunday, February 8
Arrive early this morning in the U.S.

A visit to Antarctica offers an unparalleled opportunity to get an up-close view of chinstrap penguins in their natural habitat.

Iguazú Falls Post-Program Option
February 7 to 11

The UNESCO World Heritage site of Iguazú Falls features more than 275 spectacular waterfalls cascading from heights of 270 feet through the breathtaking virgin rainforest along the Brazil-Argentina frontier. The lush jungle setting is home to more than 350 species of birds, 66 varieties of mammals and a mind-boggling array of reptiles, fish, butterflies and flora. This exclusive three-night Post-Program Option features accommodations in the deluxe SHERATON IGUAZÚ RESORT & SPA. Buenos Aires round-trip airfare is included. Post-Program Option is available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
Five-Star, Small Ship
M.S. Le Boreal

Five-Star, Ice-Class Ship, State-of-the-Art Design
The highly acclaimed, exclusively chartered M.S. Le Boreal, launched in 2010, represents the newest generation of Five-Star small ships, featuring only 120 Suites and Staterooms and distinctive French sophistication.

Spacious 100% Ocean-View Suites and Staterooms, 95% with Private Balconies
Each deluxe Stateroom and Suite (200 to 484 square feet) features a private bathroom with shower and luxurious Five-Star hotel amenities. Most accommodations have two twin beds that convert to one queen bed, individual climate control, satellite flat-screen television, wireless Internet access, safe, minibar, full-length closet, writing desk/dressing table, plush robes and slippers.

Chic and Casual Dining
International and regional cuisine is served in the stylish, spacious La Licorne dining room in single, unassigned seatings; in the casual La Boussole Restaurant; or from 24-hour room service. Continental and buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and a four-course dinner are served daily. Complimentary wine and beer are served with lunch and dinner.

Spacious Public Areas/World-Class Service and Facilities
Inviting and spacious public areas accommodate all passengers comfortably. Enjoy views from the Panoramic Lounge, nightly entertainment in the Main Lounge, and lectures, cultural performances and film screenings in the state-of-the-art theater. There is a library, Internet salon, Sun Deck, swimming pool, beauty salon, spa, Turkish bath-style steam room, full range of fitness equipment and two elevators. The infirmary is staffed with a doctor and nurse. The highly trained and personable, English-speaking, international crew provides attentive service.

Respect for the Environment
The state-of-the-art propulsion system and custom-built stabilizers provide an exceptionally smooth, quiet and comfortable voyage by minimizing vibration and engine noise. By design, the ship is energy efficient and environmentally protective of marine ecosystems and has been awarded the prestigious “Clean Ship” rating, an extreme rarity among ocean-cruising vessels. The ship has 10 Zodiacs.
Included Features

In Buenos Aires, Argentina
◆ Two nights in the deluxe PLAZA HOTEL BUENOS AIRES.
◆ Breakfast each morning.
◆ Welcome Reception.
◆ City tour featuring the popular neighborhoods of Palermo, Monserrat, La Boca, Puerto Madero and San Telmo, and visit to the historic Recoleta Cemetery.

On board the exclusively chartered, Five-Star, ice-class M.S. LE BORÉAL
◆ Nine nights round trip Ushuaia, Argentina, cruising to Antarctica’s Half Moon Island, Deception Island, Paradise Bay, Neko Harbor, Port Lockroy, Wiencke Island, Lemaire Channel, Petermann Island and Brown Bluff, conditions permitting.
◆ Spacious, Five-Star, ocean-view Suite or Stateroom accommodations, each with a private bathroom.
◆ Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
◆ All meals—continental breakfast, buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and dinner—throughout the cruise, featuring fine international and regional cuisine, served at single, unassigned seatings.
◆ Complimentary wine and beer are served with lunch and dinner.
◆ Exploration by Zodiac landing craft, accompanied by an expedition team expert naturalist.
◆ Shore landings to explore Antarctica’s diverse wildlife habitats, including major penguin rookeries.
◆ Onboard expedition team of naturalists who provide a series of lectures about local wildlife and topography.
◆ Souvenir polar-grade red parka to wear.

Enhanced Travel Services
◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with experienced local guides and expedition team.
◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel and aboard ship.
◆ The services of an experienced team of Gohagan & Company Travel Directors throughout the program.
◆ Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.
◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
Your Expedition Team

Seasoned naturalists, who have studied and traveled extensively in Antarctica and the most remote regions of the world, will accompany you aboard the M.S. Le BORÉAL as your Antarctic expedition team. Their areas of expertise span marine biology, ornithology, ecology, geology, glaciology, conservation and environmental education, history and photography. The team’s collaborative efforts, experience, particular interest in the world’s ecosystems and enthusiasm for sharing their knowledge make them exceptionally well-suited to lead your Expedition to Antarctica.

Exploration of Antarctica

The intrepid deeds of Europeans Roald Amundsen, Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton, Americans Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd and Lincoln Ellsworth and Canadian Sir Charles Seymour Wright, legendary explorers of Antarctica, have long been recounted in gripping personal tales and history books. Admiral Byrd, scion of a distinguished Virginia family, led the U.S. Antarctic expedition (1928-30) and made the first overflight of the South Pole (1929). Byrd later led three additional expeditions to Antarctica and named a large portion of the continent Marie Byrd Land after his wife.

Another American prominent in the exploration of the South Polar region was Lincoln Ellsworth. This Chicago native made the first flight across Antarctica (1935). In the course of his journey, he discovered the mountain range with the continent’s highest peaks, later named Ellsworth Mountains in his honor.
LAND/CRUISE TARIFF (per person, based on double occupancy)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stateroom Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Early Booking Price</th>
<th>Regular Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe Suite</td>
<td>Ocean-view, expansive floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door onto large private balcony, two bathrooms: tub/shower and shower, large sitting area with sofa, two closets, writing desk and dressing table. Deck 6, Le France.</td>
<td>$9095</td>
<td>$10095</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prestige Suite II</td>
<td>Two-room, ocean-view, expansive floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door onto large private balcony, two bathrooms: tub/shower and shower, large sitting area with sofa, two closets, writing desk and dressing table. Deck 5, Le Normandie. (Limited availability)</td>
<td>$13915</td>
<td>$14195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prestige Suite I</td>
<td>Two-room, ocean-view, expansive floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door onto large private balcony, two bathrooms: tub/shower and shower, large sitting area with sofa, two closets, writing desk and dressing table. Deck 6, Le France. (Limited availability)</td>
<td>$12695</td>
<td>$13695</td>
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- M.S. Le Boreal has been specially contracted for this tour, and the applicable deck plan is available on request from Gohagan & Company and reflects the only valid cabin categorization of the vessel.
- Don't wait—reservations are filling up fast!
- An Owner's Suite (Deck 6, Le France) is available upon request at a cost to be advised, on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Singles are available in category 6 at $18595 and in category 4 at $20795 on or before June 27, 2014. Add $1000 for reservations made after June 27, 2014.
- Please make my reservation(s):
  - 1st Choice
  - 2nd Choice
  - 3rd Choice
  - 4th Choice
- Please make my/our reservation(s) in Stateroom Category:
  - Double occupancy (two twin beds).
  - Double occupancy (queen bed).
  - Single accommodations.
  - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).
  - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).
- Falls View Rooms:
  - Double at $2090 per person.
  - Single at $2690 per person.
  - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).
- Please make my/our reservation(s):
  - Iguesu Falls Post-Cruise Option
  - Jingle View Rooms:
    - Double at $1795 per person.
    - Single at $2395 per person.
    - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).
  - Falls View Rooms:
    - Double at $2090 per person.
    - Single at $2690 per person.
    - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).
Stand on the bow of the M.S. Le Boreal and watch Antarctica’s drama unfold before you.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring association, its subsidiaries, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not own or operate any entity which is to or does operate goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As Gohagan, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity or any of any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resultant from acts of or omissions of anyone or any act of God, foreign and domestic acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, riots, from bites or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor actions, failures or breakdowns of aircraft or any form of transportation, weather conditions, acts of acts or omissions of any kind or the threat thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely.

If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or to forgo refunds on air, land, sea or rail accommodations, if you are incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leaders or third parties, or who is incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of Gohagan. Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Gohagan shall not be liable for any such change. Such changes may be necessary in response to airport, port, calls, hours of arrival and departure, see-through events, special programs and guest lecture series (if applicable), are subject to change or cancelation for any reason including without limitation bad weather, the Department of State, WHO, or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. Gohagan is not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Gohagan makes the flight arrangements or vessel trip. Gohagan reserves the right to substitute vessels, hotels or attractions of a similar category for those listed in this brochure. Features, equipment, and facilities are not equipped for serious illness or accidents. Evacuation is difficult, time consuming and expensive. Consequently, you should purchase medical evacuation insurance. All programs require the acceptance of medical evacuation insurance.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $800 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 70% of published full regular tariffs; cancellations 59 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

RATE: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and cruise programs, even after final payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price, the event and cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: No sophisticated medical facilities are available in the Antarctic. The vessel carries a physician and a limited infirmary with basic medications and equipment, and its medical facilities are not equipped for serious illness or accidents. Evacuation is difficult, time consuming and expensive. Consequently, you should consult with your physician before booking this trip. We recommend you purchase medical evacuation insurance. All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing in time making your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark independently without assistance. A “replacement” reservation may be substituted at the discretion of the operator at a charge of $800 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person. Inability to travel due to illness, injury, or unavailability of transportation may result in a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.