The Association of Former Students, Texas A&M

Expedition to **Antarctica**

Aboard the Deluxe **M.S. Le Lyrial**

Jan. 11-25, 2016

**Reserve by April 10, 2015**

**Early Booking Savings**
“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 glittering 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 15-day program featuring a 10-night cruise aboard the state-of-the-art, five-star, ice-class M.S. LE LYRIAL (launching in 2015). It will join its sister ships as the finest vessels plying Antarctic waters. The custom-crafted M.S. LE LYRIAL, limited to only 90 staterooms and suites on this special expedition, 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 craft to explore the intricate ecosystems and marvelous nuances of the abundant wildlife found ashore, especially penguins and seals, who are unafraid of humans.

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

Gig ’em!

Jennifer Bohac ’87, Ph.D.
Director of Travel Programs
Traveling Aggies
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Fax: (979) 845-9263

No funds 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 11
Depart the U.S.

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Tuesday, January 12
Arrive in cosmopolitan Buenos Aires and check into the deluxe PLAZA HOTEL BUENOS AIRES 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 13
Buenos Aires, birthplace of the tango, is a city of diverse and dynamic barrios (neighborhoods). See the colorful La Boca district, Monserrat’s grand public buildings and historic Plaza de Mayo, Palermo’s lavish parks, Puerto Madero’s riverfront community and the charming old quarter of San Telmo. Visit the city’s 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.

Buenos Aires/Ushuaia
Thursday, January 14
This morning, fly to remote Ushuaia, the world’s southernmost city, the capital of Tierra del Fuego and the gateway to Antarctica. Enjoy an excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park, the southernmost national park in the world, including lunch. This afternoon, embark M.S. LE LYRIAL 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.

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.

The majestic albatross has a wingspan of up to 11 feet, enabling it to fly for hundreds of miles at a time.
Cruising Drake Passage
Friday, January 15
Cross the legendary Drake Passage. Upon reaching the Antarctic Convergence, watch for breaching fin, humpback and 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 16 to Thursday, January 21
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.

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 mountains and is one of the most dramatic and spectacular sights in Antarctica. Here, make your first “continental landing” in Antarctica.

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 on Pleneau Island and marvel at stunning iceberg formations and countless friendly gentoo penguins whose uninhibited interactions with each other on the glacially smoothed rock terraces provide endless amusement.

Cruise into Booth Island’s historic Port Charcot, where Jean-Baptiste Charcot’s 1904 expedition wintered. On the rocky shore, see nesting gentoo penguins and look for chinstrap and Adélie penguins.

Continue through impressive Lemaire Channel to Port Lockroy, originally constructed in 1944 by an eight-man team as an intelligence post for British espionage during World War II, the port was converted into a whaling station and scientific base in the 1950s. It is nestled among glistening mountain peaks as high as 6000 feet, and the surrounding grounds are populated by blue-eyed shags and gentoo penguins.

In contrast to sociable Adélie penguins, who congregate in large colonies, the leopard seal cherishes his solitude and independence.
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. Later, cruise through breathtaking, glacier-lined Neumayer Channel.

**Deception Channel**, the actual rim of a massive dormant volcano crater that encircles a caldera known as Port Foster, is 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.

Cruise the **Weddell Sea** and see the enormous tabular icebergs that have calved from the Larsen Ice Shelf. Be on deck to look for flourishing marine life, including the colony of friendly Adélie penguins, Weddell seals and wandering albatross.

**Cruising Drake Passage/Cape Horn, Chile**
**Friday January 22 and Saturday, January 23**
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 southernmost point of South America and a milestone on world trade routes from the 18th century until the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914. Attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception.

**Ushuaia, Argentina/Buenos Aires**
**Sunday, January 24**
Disembark and fly to Buenos Aires. Continue on the Iguazu Falls Post-Program Option with an overnight stay in Buenos Aires, or depart for the U.S.

**U.S.**
**Monday, January 25**
Arrive in the U.S.

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

Left: Weighing up to 50 tons, this breaching humpback whale migrates to Antarctic waters to feed during the austral summer.

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**Iguazu Falls Post-Program Option January 24 to 28**

The UNESCO World Heritage site of Iguazu Falls, one of the most incredible wonders of nature along the Brazil-Argentina frontier, features more than 275 spectacular waterfalls cascading from heights of 270 feet through the breathtaking virgin rainforest. Walk among the Argentine Falls and admire magnificent panoramic views of Devil’s Gorge, the highest of the falls. The lush jungle setting of Parque das Aves is a nature lover’s paradise as it 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 one night of accommodations at the deluxe PLAZA HOTEL BUENOS AIRES and two nights in the deluxe SHERATON IGUAZU 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, Ice-Class Ship,
State-of-the-Art Design
The elegant M.S. LE LYRIAL, launching in 2015, represents the newest generation of state-of-the-art Five-Star small ships, featuring only 110* Suites and Staterooms and distinctive French sophistication.

Spacious 100% Ocean-View Suites and Staterooms, 95% with Private Balconies
Each air-conditioned deluxe Stateroom and Suite (200 to 592 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 Le Céleste dining room in single, unassigned seatings; alfresco in the casual indoor-outdoor La Comète restaurant; or from 24-hour room service. Continental and buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and a four-course dinner are served daily. Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages are served throughout the cruise.

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. The ship has 10 Zodiacs.

*Limited to only 90 Suites and Staterooms on this expedition.
Included Features

**In Buenos Aires, Argentina**
- Two nights in the deluxe **PLAZA HOTEL BUENOS AIRES**, and 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.

**Flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia with return to Buenos Aires.**
- Tour of Tierra del Fuego National Park, including lunch.

**On board the Five-Star, Ice-Class M.S. Le Lyrial**
- Ten nights round trip Ushuaia, Argentina, cruising to Neko Harbor, Paradise Bay, Pleneau Island, Port Charcot, Port Lockroy, Deception Island and the Weddell Sea, 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 alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages are served throughout your cruise.
- Exploration by Zodiac landing craft, accompanied by an expert naturalist from the expedition team.
- Shore excursions 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 landscapes.
- 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 ship personnel, local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Hospitality desk in the hotel and aboard ship.
- The services of experienced 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.
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.

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 LYRIAL 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.
LAND/Cruise Tariff: (per person, based on double occupancy)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stateroom Category*</th>
<th>Description - Staterooms range from 200 to 592 sq. ft. and must have two twin beds that convert to make one queen bed. All feature a private bathroom with shower and individual climate control.</th>
<th>Early Booking Price through April 10, 2015</th>
<th>Regular Price after April 10, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ocean-view, one large window. Deck 3, Polaris Deck, forward. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$9,695</td>
<td>$10,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ocean-view, small window and single door onto private, partial wall balcony. Deck 3, Polaris Deck, aft. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$11,395</td>
<td>$12,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ocean-view, small window and single door onto private, partial wall balcony. Deck 3, Polaris Deck, midship.</td>
<td>$12,495</td>
<td>$13,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ocean-view, expansive floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door onto private, partial wall balcony. Deck 4, Vega Deck, forward.</td>
<td>$12,895</td>
<td>$13,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ocean-view, expansive floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door onto private balcony. Deck 4, Vega Deck, aft.</td>
<td>$13,895</td>
<td>$14,895</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ocean-view, expansive floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door onto private balcony. Deck 5, Altair Deck, forward.</td>
<td>$14,395</td>
<td>$15,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ocean-view, expansive floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door onto private balcony. Deck 5, Altair Deck, midship and Lyra Deck, aft.</td>
<td>$14,595</td>
<td>$15,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe Suite</td>
<td>Ocean-view, expansive floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door onto private balcony, sitting area with sofa. Deck 6, Lyra Deck. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$17,295</td>
<td>$18,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privilege Suite</td>
<td>Two-room, ocean-view suite, expansive floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door onto large private balcony, bathtub and separate shower, large dressing and sitting areas, sofa, writing desk and dressing table. Deck 6, Lyra Deck. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$20,695</td>
<td>$21,695</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Additional suites are available upon request at a cost to be advised, on a first-come first-served basis.

**Singles are available in category 6 at $2,195 and in category 3 at $2,395 on or before April 10, 2015.

$300 per person for the Iguazu Falls Post-Program Option.

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person and $200 per person for the Iguazu Falls Post-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

Please make my/our reservation(s) in Stateroom Category: 1st Choice __________ 2nd Choice __________

- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one 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).

Please make my/our reservation(s):

Iguazu Falls Post-Cruise Option

Jungle View Rooms:
- Double at $1,995 per person.
- Single at $2,995 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 $2,195 per person.
- Single at $2,795 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).

- I/We want you to book my/our air from
- (fill in departure city)
- to and from Buenos Aires, Argentina, at additional cost to be advised.¹

Class: ¹Economy ²Business ³First

¹Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

²I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.
RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring associations/organizations, 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 provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely. A "discounted" reservation must be cancelled, no “replacement” reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. “Replacement” reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing to the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($30 Post Program) 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 Post Program) per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 70% of the 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.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and subject to change without notice. Due to the ever-changing nature of travel pricing, the rates quoted are subject to change. We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, and administrative fees may apply.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT:

Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating in any way to this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement, the brochure, or any other information relating in any way to the trip, or to the trip itself, shall be settled solely and exclusively by binding arbitration in Chicago, Illinois, in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association then existent. In any such proceeding, the substantiative, but not procedural law of Illinois will apply. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable.

BINDING ARBITRATION:

No sophisticated medical facilities are available in the Antarctic. The vessel carries a physician and a limited infirmary with basic medications and equipment, and a few medical cases have been equipped for serious illness or accidents. Evacuation is difficult, time consuming and expensive. Consequently, you should consult with your physician before booking this trip. In the event a “discounted” reservation is void or voidable.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY:

In the event of customer complaints, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for handling equipment.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY:

Any physical or mental condition that may require a wheelchair must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.