The Association of Former Students of Texas A&M

EXPEDITION TO

Antarctica

Aboard the Exclusively Chartered, Five-Star L’Austral

Jan. 28 - Feb. 10, 2020
Howdy, Ags!

“How 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, icebergs masquerade as islands...” Watch as normal human scales and reference points disappear amidst the grandeur of nature in its most pristine form, from extended sunrises that paint the icescape in soft shades of pink to the lingering golden light of the austral summer, where humpback whales, leopard seals and Adélie penguins swim among sparkling turquoise glaciers and glistening icebergs. Be among the fortunate few to set foot on the continent of Antarctica, and see how its spectacular illuminations reveal the majesty and contrasts of this unique wilderness during your extraordinary 14-day journey to the bottom of the world.

Retrace the sea lanes navigated by storied explorers Shackleton, Amundsen and Scott, inspired to seek out the final frontier of “The White Continent.” Cruise for nine nights aboard the exclusively chartered, Five-Star, ice-class L’AUSTRAL, one of the finest vessels in Antarctic waters. With private balconies in 95 percent of its ocean-view accommodations and encompassing state-of-the-art ship design and technology, L’AUSTRAL sets the very highest standards in elegance and comfort.

The onboard expedition team of naturalists will guide you on excursions aboard sturdy Zodiac craft to satisfy your appetite for exploration amid floating ice sculptures, intricate ecosystems and abundant wildlife, especially penguins and seals that exhibit little or no fear of humans. A comprehensive schedule of exclusive and specially arranged lectures will complete your optimal Antarctic expedition.

We invite you on this once-in-a-lifetime program. All excursions and complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages are included on board and each day offers a unique, personal Antarctic experience. This program is the best Antarctic cruise value and sells out quickly year after year. Make your reservation now!

Gig ‘em!

Jennifer Bohac ’87, Ph.D.
Director of Travel – Outreach and Engagement
The Association of Former Students
Phone: (979) 845-7514 or (800) 633-7514
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 crowd rookeries, disturb nesting sites or disrupt research. Visitors will be asked not to remove or leave anything ashore.

U.S.
Tuesday, January 28
Depart the U.S.

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Wednesday, January 29
Arrive in cosmopolitan Buenos Aires and check into the Five-Star INTERCONTINENTAL BUENOS AIRES HOTEL, ideally located within walking distance of the landmark Palace of the Argentine National Congress. This evening, attend the Welcome Reception.

Buenos Aires
Thursday, January 30
Birthplace of the tango, Buenos Aires is a city of diverse and dynamic barrios (neighborhoods). See the colorful La Boca district, Monserrat’s grand public buildings, historic Plaza de Mayo, Palermo’s lavish parks, Puerto Madero’s lively riverfront community and the charming old quarter of San Telmo.

Visit the city’s renowned Recoleta Cemetery; lined with ornate vaults and sculptures, this necropolis is the final resting place of Eva Perón, the legendary former First Lady of Argentina.

Buenos Aires/Ushuaia
Friday, January 31
This morning, fly to Ushuaia, the world’s southernmost city, capital of Tierra del Fuego and the gateway to Antarctica. Embark L’AUSTRAL this afternoon and cruise through storied Beagle Channel, named for the ship that carried Charles Darwin on his South American voyages.

Attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception this evening.

Cruising the Drake Passage
Saturday, February 1 to Sunday, February 2
Cross the legendary Drake Passage and, upon reaching the Antarctic Convergence, watch for seabirds and breaching fins of humpback whales feeding on plankton and krill brought to the surface by cold Antarctic currents merging with the warmer waters of the South Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

Your expedition team of naturalists will present insightful lectures, preparing you for your first landing in Antarctica. During the evening, enjoy the lingering twilight of the Antarctic summer.

Cover photo: Expert-led Zodiac excursions offer up-close viewing of craggy crescent peaks, intricate ice floes and fascinating wildlife that characterize the remote Antarctic landscape.

Photo this page: Enjoy the calm waters and the extraordinary surreal beauty of captivating glacier-lined Lemaire Channel, first traversed in 1898 by Belgian explorer Adrien de Gerlache.
Cruising Antarctica
Monday, February 3 to Friday, February 7

Cruise below the 60th parallel south 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 volcanic rock create precipitous coastlines and islands, and ever-changing patterns of ice stretch toward the boundless blue horizon. In this seemingly harsh environment, a vast array of marine wildlife flourishes, including millions of penguins, countless seabirds and thousands of seals and whales. An otherworldly topography of volcanoes and glaciers, populated with riveting wildlife and historic outposts, unfolds, completely immersing you in the irresistible nuances of Earth’s most inaccessible continent for the complete Antarctic experience.

Cruise through breathtaking, glacier-lined Neumayer Channel to rugged Goudier Island. Visit Port Lockroy nestled among serene mountain peaks as high as 6000 feet. The port was originally constructed in 1944 by an eight-man team as an intelligence post for British espionage during World War II and was converted into a whaling station and scientific base in the 1950s; its surrounding grounds are populated by blue-eyed shags and gentoo penguins. Gain insight into the daily activities of past researchers at the living museum known as “Base A” and mail a postcard stamped with an Antarctica postmark from the official British Post Office. Rocky Jougla Point on Wiencke Island offers a rare opportunity to view the skeletal remains of an adult blue whale and to see populous colonies of gentoo penguins and kelp gulls that inhabit the entire region.

Call at Petermann Island, the southernmost point of your journey, and watch its thriving rookeries of Adélie and gentoo penguins and blue-eyed shags. Flanked by sheer cliffs of towering glaciers between the Antarctic Peninsula and Booth Island, cruise through the Lemaire Channel, where seven majestic miles of mountains and interweaving patterns of ice floes brim with wildlife.

Listen for the low rumbling of Rudolf Glacier as it calves slabs of ice into Neko Harbor, named for an early 20th-century Scottish whaling boat. Surrounded by soaring glaciers and snow-covered mountains, this spectacular harbor is one of the most dramatic sights on your expedition. Here, make your first “continental landing” in Antarctica.

In Paradise Harbor, crystal cliffs of ice descend from sky-bent mountains into the iceberg-laden waters along the Antarctic Peninsula’s western coast. Named by 19th-century whalers who sought shelter in contrast to sociable Adélie penguins, who congregate in large colonies, the bold, powerful and curious leopard seal cherishes solitude and independence for hunting and hiding.
Your journey to Antarctica offers unparalleled opportunity for up-close observations of chinstrap penguins and their behaviors in nature.

in its coves, it is an ideal sanctuary for marine wildlife including humpback whales, crabeater seals and Cape petrels.

**Deception Island**, actually the rim of a dormant volcano crater, encircles the **Port Foster** caldera. The ship enters through Neptune’s Bellows, a sublime harbor ringed by snowcapped peaks and sheer cliffs. In **Pendulum Cove**, see steaming, geothermally heated shallows. Observe the amazing colony of tens of thousands of chinstrap penguins at **Baily Head**.

Walk along the black-sand beaches of **Telefon Bay** to nearby craters for firsthand insight into the pivotal volcanic activity that created the island and shaped the natural history of the region.

One of the smallest but most beautiful of the South Shetland Islands, crescent-shaped **Half Moon Island** is 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.

Reflect on board as the ship turns north, and attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception this evening.

**Cruising the Drake Passage/Ushuaia, Argentina**

**Saturday, February 8**

Cross the Drake Passage and 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.

**Ushuaia/Buenos Aires**

**Sunday, February 9**

Disembark in Ushuaia 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.**

**Monday, February 10**

Arrive in the U.S.

Left: **Look for humpback whales, who migrate to Antarctic waters and feed during the austral summer.**

**Iguazú Falls Post-Program Option**

The UNESCO World Heritage site of Iguazú Falls is one of the world’s most incredible natural wonders, where more than 275 spectacular waterfalls span nearly two verdant miles of the Argentina-Brazil frontier, cascading from heights of 270 feet throughout one of South America’s last remaining virgin rain forests. Visit the lush Parque das Aves jungle reserve, a nature lover’s paradise, home to more than 350 species of birds, 66 varieties of mammals and an outstanding array of reptiles, fish, butterflies and flora. This exclusive three-night Post-Program Option features one night in the Five-Star InterContinental Buenos Aires Hotel and two nights in the Five-Star Meliá Iguazú Falls. Buenos Aires/Iguazú round-trip airfare is included.

The Post-Program Option is available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
Five-Star, State-of-the-Art, Small Ship
Join us aboard the exclusively chartered, Five-Star L'Austral, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design. The ship’s efficient electrical propulsion system and custom stabilizers provide an exceptionally smooth, quiet and comfortable voyage.

Respect for the Environment
With advanced technology and the most environmentally responsible features built into its design and operations, the ship has earned the important “clean ship” certification.

With Our Compliments
Indulge in these complimentary onboard amenities—alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise and in your Suite or Stateroom minibar, Wi-Fi access (conditions permitting) and 24-hour room service.

Chic and Casual Dining
The stylish dining room and casual alfresco restaurant feature international cuisine and serve continental and buffet breakfasts, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and dinner as four courses or buffet. Wine is served at your table with lunch and dinner.

Only 110 Suites and Staterooms—95% Include Private Balconies
Elegant ocean-view accommodations range from 200 to 484 square feet, and most have a private balcony. Each Five-Star Suite or Stateroom features individual climate control, two twin beds or one queen bed, a private bathroom with shower and luxurious hotel amenities, including flat-screen television, a safe, full-length closet, plush robes and slippers.

Life on Board
In addition to educational and cultural presentations, panoramic views, evening entertainment or peaceful retreat, the ship’s spacious public areas comfortably accommodate all passengers. Enjoy two lounges, a theater, library, the Sun Deck with open-air bar, swimming pool (conditions permitting), beauty salon, spa, Turkish bath-style steam room and fitness room. The ship has three elevators and 10 Zodiacs.

World-Class Service
The highly trained, English-speaking crew are personable and highly attentive; the ship has a medical center staffed with a doctor and nurse.
Included Features

In Buenos Aires, Argentina
◆◆
Two nights in the Five-Star InterContinental Buenos Aires Hotel.
◆◆
Breakfast each morning.
◆◆
Welcome Reception.
◆◆
City tour featuring the popular neighborhoods of Palermo, Monserrat, La Boca, Puerto Madero and San Telmo and a visit to the historic Recoleta Cemetery.

On Board the Exclusively Chartered, Five-Star, Ice-Class L’Austral
◆◆
Nine nights round trip Ushuaia, Argentina, cruising to Antarctica’s Port Lockroy, Wiencke Island, Petermann Island, Lemaire Channel, Neko Harbor, Paradise Harbor, Deception Island and Half Moon Island; weather, ice and sea conditions permitting.
◆◆
Elegantly appointed, Five-Star, ocean-view Suite or Stateroom.
◆◆
Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
◆◆
Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages throughout the cruise.
◆◆
All meals aboard ship.
◆◆
Complimentary Wi-Fi access (conditions permitting).
◆◆
Exploration by Zodiac landing craft, accompanied by an expert naturalist from the expedition team.
◆◆
Shore excursions to explore Antarctica’s innate wildlife habitats, including major penguin rookeries.
◆◆
Onboard expedition team of naturalists who provide a series of lectures on the local wildlife and landscapes.
◆◆
Souvenir polar-grade red parka.

Always Included
◆◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆◆ Experienced, English speaking local guides for included excursions.
◆◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
◆◆ Complimentary bottled water in your Suite or Stateroom and on excursions.
◆◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel and aboard ship.
◆◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
◆◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.

Note: Internal program air (round trip Buenos Aires/Ushuaia) is required and is purchased individually at an additional cost.
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 led the U.S. Antarctic expedition (1928-30) and made the first flight over the South Pole (1929). Byrd later led three additional expeditions to Antarctica, milestones in scientific polar research and mapping of the continent. Lincoln Ellsworth, a Chicago native, made the first trans-Antarctica flight in 1935 discovering the continent's highest peaks, the mountain range later named Ellsworth Mountains in his honor. In 2018, American Colin O'Brady daringly became the first person to cross Antarctica solo, unsupported and unaided. He traveled across the West Antarctic ice sheet from the Ronne Ice Shelf to the Ross Ice Shelf, stopping at the South Pole along the treacherous route.

Your Expedition Team

Seasoned naturalists, who have studied and traveled extensively in Antarctica and the most remote regions of the world, accompany you on board and on excursions 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 and particular interest in the world’s ecosystems and enthusiasm for sharing their knowledge make them exceptionally well-suited to lead your Expedition to Antarctica.
**EXPEDITION to ANTARCTICA RESERVATION FORM**

**Stateroom Category**

**LAND/Cruise TARIFF excluding taxes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Stateroom Details</th>
<th>Early Booking Tariff* through June 17, 2019</th>
<th>TARIFF** after June 17, 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>One large window, Deck 3, Calicut, forward.</td>
<td>$9,995</td>
<td>$10,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Small window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. Deck 3, Calicut, aft.</td>
<td>$11,395</td>
<td>$12,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Small window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. Deck 4, Chandernagor, forward.</td>
<td>$12,595</td>
<td>$13,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Two rooms, two twin beds, large private balcony. Deck 4, Chandernagor, forward.</td>
<td>$12,995</td>
<td>$13,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Two rooms, two twin beds, large private balcony. Deck 5, Bengale, forward.</td>
<td>$13,995</td>
<td>$14,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Two rooms, two twin beds, large private balcony. Deck 5, Bengale, forward.</td>
<td>$14,295</td>
<td>$15,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Two rooms, two twin beds, private balcony. Deck 5, Bengale, midship.</td>
<td>$14,795</td>
<td>$15,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Deluxe Suite II</td>
<td>$15,695</td>
<td>$16,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Prestige Suite II</td>
<td>$15,995</td>
<td>$16,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Owner's Suite</td>
<td>$16,595</td>
<td>$17,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deck 3, Calicut, forward.</td>
<td>$16,595</td>
<td>$17,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deck 5, Bengale, forward.</td>
<td>$17,495</td>
<td>$18,495</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Singles are available in category 6 at $21,895* and in category 4 at $24,495* on or before June 17, 2019. Add $1,000 for reservations made after June 17, 2019.

Round-trip airfare Buenos Aires/Ushuaia (internal program air) is $895 per person additional and subject to change. Taxes are an additional $865 per person and are subject to change.

**EXPEDITION to ANTARCTICA RESERVATION FORM**

Send to: Traveling Aggies
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840
(979) 845-7514 or (800) 633-7514
Fax: (979) 845-9263

Title Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport) Class Year

Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)

City State Zip Code

Telephone (Home) (Mobile)

Email Address (Business)

Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s) Tour No. 028-01/28/20-104

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person and $200 per person Iguaçu 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.

I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:

- [ ] Visa
- [ ] MasterCard

Card Number Exp. Date

I/We want you to book my/our air, at additional cost to be advised,2: from:

- [ ] Economy Class
- [ ] Upgraded Economy
- [ ] Business Class
- [ ] First Class

2Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by Oct. 25, 2019.

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RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

Not specifically mentioned in the “Included Features” section.

Transfer and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel/ship on day(s) of inspection fees not listed in the “Included Features” section of the brochure; unless otherwise specified; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund monies paid by the traveler. 

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 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: 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 from the vendor. 

DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS: Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by 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 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.

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RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of 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.

REGISTRATION: CST#: 2051868-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OSTD#: TA 0903.

BINDING ARBITRATION: Any dispute concerning, relating or referring to this Agreement, the brochure or any other literature concerning the trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Sections 1-16, either according to the then prevailing Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) Illinois law and will take place in Chicago, IL. 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. Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, the participant and Gohagan are waiving the right to a trial by jury.

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.

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