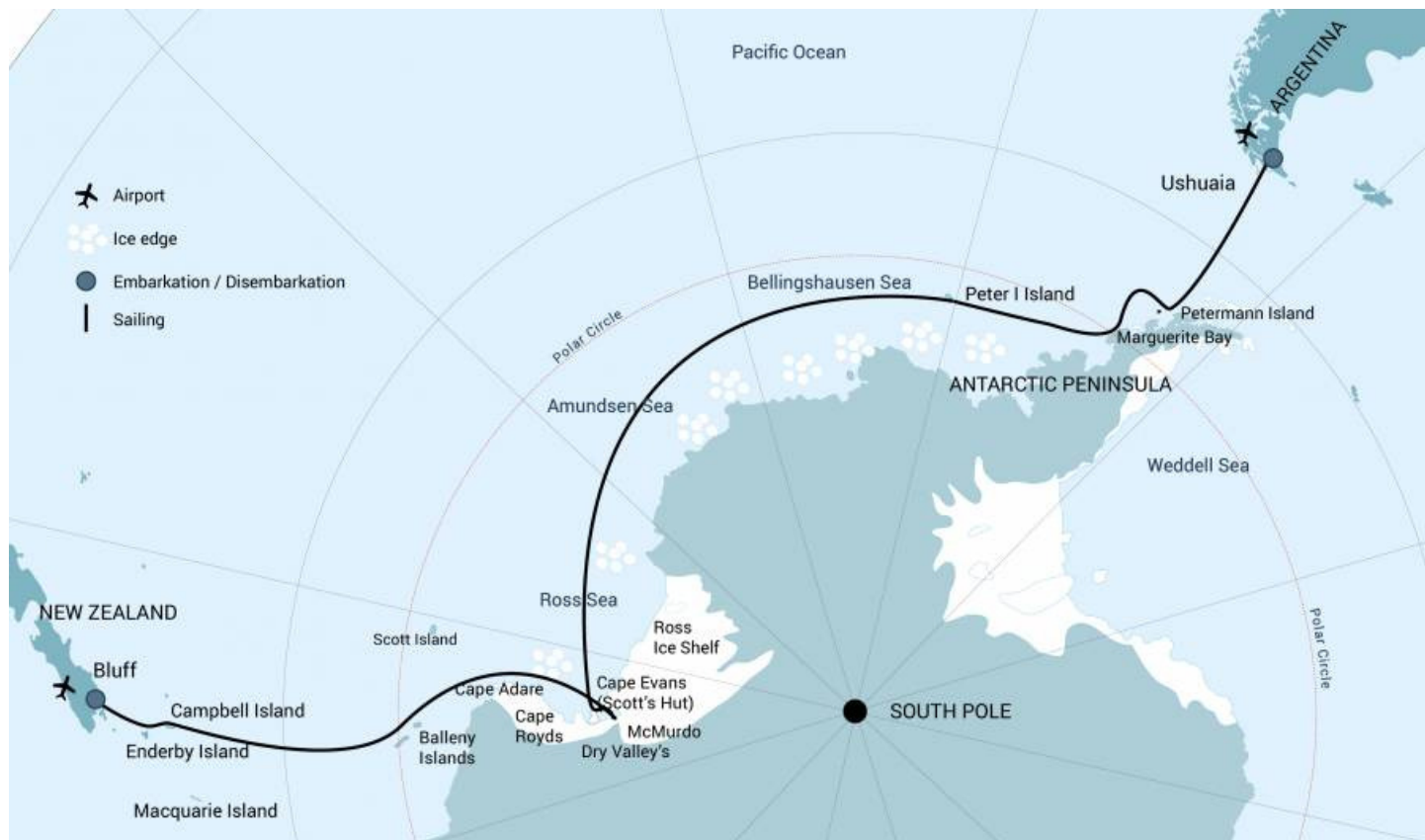


# Ross Sea | Incl. helicopters

*Enderby Island – Campbell Island – Ross Sea – Peter I Is  
Antarctic Peninsula & Polar Circle | The most spectac  
Antarctic journey eve*



Title: Ross Sea | Incl. helicopters

Dates: 16 Feb - 18 Mar, 2020

Tripcode: OTL28-20

Duration: 31 nights

Ship: [m/v Ortelius](#)

Embarkation: Bluff, New Zealand

Disembarkation: Ushuaia

Language:	English speaking voyage
Important:	Crossing the International Date Line
More about:	<a href="#">Antarctica cruises</a> <a href="#">Antarctic Circle cruises</a> <a href="#">Antarctic Peninsula cruises</a> <a href="#">Ross Sea cruises</a>

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## ITINERARY

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*PLEASE NOTE: All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice and weather conditions and take advantage of opportunities to see wildlife. The on-board expedition leader determines the final itinerary. Itinerary places that require permission to land, which must be granted by the relevant national authorities. Such permission is not the publishing of these itineraries. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. The average cruising speed of m/v C knots. During these voyages, we transfer our passengers to shore using Zodiacs. We also operate our two helicopters. Zodiacs cannot be used. Potential areas for helicopter transfer are Cape Evans (the location of Scott's hut), Cape Royds (the Shackleton's hut), the Ross Ice Shelf, Peter I Island, and the Dry Valleys. Our plan is to make five helicopter-based landings. The specific amount of helicopter time cannot be guaranteed in advance. Helicopters provide us a great advantage in reaching sites that are otherwise almost inaccessible, but this is a true expedition in the world's most remote area: weather, ice, and nature dictate the final itinerary. Conditions may change rapidly, impacting helicopter operations. Please understand. Safety is our greatest concern, and no compromises can be made. The vessel is equipped with two helicopters. If one helicopter to fly for whatever reason, helicopter operations will cease or be cancelled. One helicopter always needs to be supporting the other. No guarantees can be given, and in no event will claims be accepted. Special note: Crossing the International Date Line Depending on which direction one travels across the International Date Line, a day is either lost or gained. (Crossing westward, a day is gained; crossing eastward, a day is lost.) Please take note of this when calculating your actual time travelled. The duration of the itinerary reflects the actual time travelled.*

Sail to the southern parts of the Antarctic Peninsula, Peter I Island, the Bellingshausen Sea into the Ross Sea. Visiting the Ross Ice-shelf, Dry Valleys, McMurdo Station, Casey Station, Enderby Island and the historic huts of Scott and Shackleton.

### **Day 1: New Zealand's southernmost town**

Your voyage begins in Bluff, commonly held to be New Zealand's most southerly town. At the southern boundaries of the civilized world, you venture into the untamed regions of the Ross Sea.

### **Day 2: Sailing south with the seabirds**

Seabirds trail your vessel across limitless horizons toward Cambridge Bay.

### **Day 3: Enderby Island albatrosses, penguins, and shags**

Another jewel in the crown of the New Zealand sub-Antarctic islands is Enderby Island.

Part of the Auckland Islands, Enderby offers a vast variety of birdlife, including potential white-capped albatrosses, Buller's albatrosses, and a number of other species.

On Enderby Island you might also see yellow-eyed penguins, Auckland teals, and perhaps the endemic Auckland shag.

### **Day 4: Campbell Island's bounteous birdlife**

The plan today is to visit the sub-Antarctic New Zealand Reserve and UNESCO World Heritage Site of Campbell Island, enjoying its luxuriantly blooming vegetation. The fauna on Campbell Island is a highlight, with a large and easily accessible colony of southern royal albatrosses on the main island. On the satellite islands are wandering, Campbell, grey-headed, black-browed, and light-brown boobies. There are also three breeding species of penguins.

Penguin species present: eastern rockhopper, erect-crested, and yellow-eyed penguins. Elephant seals in the area were hunted to extinction, but the elephant seals, fur seals, and sea lions have recovered.

### **Day 5 - 8: Once more to the Southern Ocean**

You once again enter the vast expanse of the Southern Ocean. Sea birds are also present during which we hope to enjoy good weather conditions.

### **Day 9: The windswept Balleny Islands**

Your intended route is past Sturge Island in the afternoon, getting an impression of the remote islands before crossing the Antarctic Peninsula.

### **Day 10: Across the seas to the Antarctic Continent**

By now you've become a veteran of the high seas, if you weren't when you started the voyage today sailing toward the Antarctic Continent.

### **Day 11: The residents of Cape Adare**

You next attempt a landing at Cape Adare, where for the first time humans wintered on the Antarctic Continent: The Norwegian Borchgrevink stayed in here 1899, taking shelter in a hut that is surrounded by the largest colony of Adélie penguins in the world.

### **Day 12: Cape Hallett's abundant Adélie**

Sailing south along the west coast of the Ross Sea, you may attempt a landing at the Cape Hallett and its large Adélie penguin rookery.

### **Day 13: Exploring the inexpressible**

Sailing north along the west coast of the Ross Sea, you pass the Drygalski Ice Tongue Bay. If ice conditions allow, you then land at Inexpressible Island, which has a fascinating connection to the less-known Northern Party of Captain Scott's expedition. It is also an Adélie penguin rookery. Should sea ice prevent entry into Terra Nova Bay, you may hear the protected area of Cape Hallett and its own Adélie penguin rookery.

### **Day 14 - 16: Highlights of the Ross Sea**

Keeping to the Ross Sea, your aim is now to visit Ross Island.

In this location you can see Mount Erebus, Mount Terror, and Mount Byrd, as well as many other spots that played an important role in the British expeditions of the last century: Cape Ernest Shackleton's cabin still stands; Cape Evans, where the cabin of Robert Falcon Scott is seen; and Hut Point, from which Scott and his men set out for the South Pole.

If ice is blocking the way but weather conditions are favorable, you may use the helicopter to visit more spots in this area.

The American scientific base of McMurdo Station and New Zealand's Scott Base are locations you might visit. From McMurdo Station you could also make a 10-km hike (6 km) to Rock, where there are great views across the Ross Ice Shelf toward the South Pole.

Additionally, you may make a helicopter landing in Taylor Valley, one of the most beautiful areas on the Ross Sea. Conditions are closer to Mars than anywhere else.

### **Day 17 - 18: The epic Ross Ice Shelf**

The next goal is to enter the Ross Sea from the east, venturing south toward the Bay of Whales to Roosevelt Island (named in 1934 by the American aviator Richard E. Byrd for President Franklin D. Roosevelt).

The Bay of Whales is part of the Ross Ice Shelf, the largest ice shelf in the world, and is changing with the receding ice masses. Large icebergs are present here, along with many other opportunities. Roald Amundsen gained access to the shelf en route to the South Pole, via the Bay of Whales, on December 14, 1911.

Also, the Japanese explorer Nobu Shirase had his camp in this area in 1912, at Kainan Bay. You may attempt a helicopter landing on the ice shelf if conditions allow. During this part of the voyage, you will cross the International Date Line.

## Day 19 - 25: Sights of the Amundsen Sea

You then sail through the Amundsen Sea, moving along and through the outer fringes of conditions are never the same from year to year, though we aim to take advantage of that arise if sea ice is present. Emperor penguins, groups of seals lounging on the ice, minke whales along the ice edge, and different species of fulmarine petrels are possible

## Day 26: A rare glimpse of Peter I Island

Known as Peter I Øy in Norwegian, this is an uninhabited volcanic island in the Bellingshausen Sea. It was discovered by Fabian von Bellingshausen in 1821 and named after Peter the Great. The island is claimed by Norway and considered its own territory, though it is rarely visited by vessels due to its exposed nature. If weather and ice conditions allow, you may enjoy a hike on the glaciated northern part of the island. This is a unique chance to land on one of the islands in the world.

## Day 27 - 28: Braving the Bellingshausen

You now sail across Bellingshausen Sea, bound for the Antarctic Peninsula.

## Day 29: Through the Pendleton Strait

You arrive at the Antarctic Peninsula near the Antarctic Circle in the afternoon. If sea ice allows, you can then continue through Pendleton Strait and attempt a landing at the rarely visited Renaud Island. Here you have the opportunity to see the first Adélie penguins of the trip. Spectacular views of the icebergs in this surreal, snow-swept landscape.

## Day 30 - 32: North via the Drake

Over the following days on the Drake Passage, you enjoy some of the same experiences as the great polar explorers who first charted these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, and whale spouting up sea spray.

After passing the Antarctic Convergence – Antarctica's natural boundary, formed where cold waters collide with warmer sub-Antarctic seas – you are in the circum-Antarctic Ocean.

Wandering albatrosses, grey-headed albatrosses, black-browed albatrosses, Laysan albatrosses, cape pigeons, southern fulmars, Wilson's storm petrels, blue petrels, and a few of the birds you might see.

## Day 33: End of the world, last of the journey

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. It's now time to return to Ushuaia, reputed to be the southernmost town in the world, and return home with your crew. We'll accompany you wherever your next adventure takes you.

**Included in this voyage**

*Voyage aboard the indicated vessel as indicated in the itinerary.*

*All meals throughout the voyage aboard the vessel including snacks, coffee and tea.*

*All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac.*

*Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leaders by experienced expedition staff.*

*Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes.*

*Ship-to-shore helicopter transfers (with no surcharge amount of helicopter time guaranteed).*

*Group transfer from Kelvin Hotel in Invercargill to the vessel in Bluff.*

*Group transfer from the vessel to the airport in Ushuaia (directly after disembarkation).*

*All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program.*

*Comprehensive pre-departure material.*

**Excluded from this voyage**

*Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights.*

*Pre- and post-land arrangements.*

*Passport and visa expense.*

*Government arrival and departure taxes.*

*Meals ashore.*

*Baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (which is strongly recommended).*

*Excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges, telecommunication charges.*

*The customary gratuity at the end of the voyage for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided).*

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## M/V ORTELIUS

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Fortified for both poles of the planet, the ice-strengthened Ortelius is thoroughly outfitted for an up-close experience of the Arctic and Antarctic. [Full ship info >](#)