



Cruise Details

Name:	Antarctica's Ross Sea: Majestic Ice & Wildlife
Reference:	SCENIC131S310125-1
Operator:	Scenic Ocean Cruises
Cruise Type:	Ocean
Cruise Rating:	Ultra Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Eclipse II
Regions:	Antarctica
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Departs On:	31 Jan 25
Departs From:	Port Chalmers
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Arrives On:	23 Feb 25
Arrives At:	Dunedin
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Cruise Nights:	23
Total Vacation Days:	24

Itinerary

Day 1: Port Chalmers (New Zealand)

Fly from the UK to Dunedin.
Port Chalmers is the port for the city of Dunedin, the oldest European settlement in New Zealand, which was founded in 1848. Sitting at the end of a long, fiord-like inlet off the south-eastern tip of the South Island, Dunedin is New Zealand's most Scottish town – in fact, Dunedin is the old Gaelic name for Edinburgh.
Today, step on board your 6-star, ultra-luxury Discovery Yacht and be warmly welcomed by the crew. Meet your personal butler and settle into your spacious suite. Meet your fellow guests over a glass of chilled Champagne in the Observation Lounge, toasting to the start of a wonderful journey.
Please book your flight to arrive into Dunedin prior to 02:00 PM.

Arrives On: 31 Jan 25

Day 4: Macquarie Island, Tasmania (Australia)

Macquarie Island is a place that sparks every sense. From a distance, the earth appears to be moving. As Scenic Eclipse II approaches you realise that the land is, in fact, heaving – under the weight of thousands of penguins.

Subject to permits and conditions, you can experience this extraordinary landscape that hosts one of the highest concentrations of wildlife in the Southern Ocean. Countless tuxedoed, bushy eyebrowed and golden crowned penguins – king, rockhopper, gentoo and the endemic royal – breed here. You're likely to see leopard seals patrolling the waters, southern elephant seals peeking from tussocked dunes, and sooty albatrosses circling overhead.

Arrives On: 03 Feb 25

Day 7: Balleny Islands (New Zealand)

This 160-kilometre-long chain of volcanic islands (some of them still active) straddles the Antarctic Circle. Here, you'll have a front-row seat to one of the greatest convergences of wildlife in the world.

Humpbacks, fin and minke whales may put on a show while we are nearby, breaching, blowing, and slapping their tails. Crabeater, Weddell, elephant and leopard seals loll about, sunbaking between swims. And Adélie and chinstrap penguins march and squark, creating a strangely melodic cacophony. Join a Discovery excursion or just take in the view from the Observation Deck or your private verandah.

Discovery: Daily experiences may include cruising on Zodiacs, stepping ashore to view vast penguin rookeries or historic huts, and kayaking or stand-up paddleboarding around icebergs.

Arrives On: 06 Feb 25

Day 8: Balleny Islands (New Zealand)

Spend a second day exploring this island chain, named after British mariner Captain Balleny, who reported seeing smoke billowing from its 1,340-metre summit in 1839. Almost completely mantled by ice, Young Island is the northernmost in the archipelago. At the other end of the chain, Sturge is the southernmost island.

Pull out your binoculars from your suite or head for the telescopes in the Observation Lounge and take in the astonishing bird life, including enormous breeding colonies of southern fulmars and snow petrels. Gain deep insights from your expert Polar Discovery Team about the region and its rich birdlife.

Discovery: Daily experiences may include cruising on Zodiacs, stepping ashore to view vast penguin rookeries or historic huts, and kayaking or stand-up paddleboarding around icebergs.

Arrives On: 07 Feb 25

Day 9: Port information not found

Be sure to stay close to your verandah as you enter the Ross Sea – wandering albatrosses are a common sight, and icebergs will begin to pop up around you as well. The pristine, nutrient-rich ocean Scenic Eclipse II now navigates is also popular among orcas, seals, penguins and whales.

This rugged and remarkable body of water is surrounded by sky-scraping mountains and carved by glacial ice tongues, vast ice shelves and drifting sea ice. Some of the most famous Antarctic explorers – Scott, Shackleton, Amundsen and Borchgrevink among them – used it as a gateway on their quest to the South Pole.

Arrives On: 08 Feb 25

Day 10: Port information not found

It's hard to imagine a place more remote than Antarctica, but Possession Island may well be it. If your Captain gives the go-ahead, you could be kayaking and paddling around one of the least-visited islands in Antarctica. Least-visited by humans, that is – it's home to thousands of penguins, backdropped by the Admiralty Mountains. If you're an avid photographer, make sure your camera battery is fully charged.

Later in the evening, Champagne in hand, your Polar Discovery Team will regale you with stories of the birds you've come in contact with in this designated Important Bird Area (IBA).

Arrives On: 09 Feb 25

Day 11: Port information not found

Often referred to as the "Last Ocean", the remarkable Ross Sea region is home to an extraordinary array of wildlife, including vast colonies of penguins, seals, and whales. The sea's icy waters and dramatic landscapes, with towering icebergs and expansive ice shelves, offer a breathtaking glimpse into our planet's raw, untouched beauty.

Join the Polar Discovery Team for a lecture on the state-of-the-art theatre and learn how, despite its harsh conditions, the Ross Sea plays a crucial role in global ocean health and climate regulation. Protected as a marine reserve, it stands as a testament to the importance of preserving our natural world for future generations.

Arrives On: 10 Feb 25

Day 12: Port information not found

Your Polar Discovery Team are always on call to lead active excursions, whether kayaking or stand-up paddleboarding. The emotion you'll feel gliding these pristine waters while watching for a whale breaching in the distance is hard to describe.

If the chance arises to venture to land in a Zodiac, you can observe a large community of Adélie penguins and other nesting seabirds in their daily competition to see who has the loudest voice. The Weddell seals, resting on the shore, barely seem to notice.

Arrives On: 11 Feb 25

Day 13: Port information not found

Weather plays an important role in deciding if and when you land on Ross Island, but even if you have to stay on the ship you'll be amazed by its natural drama. The landscape is dominated by Mount Erebus, the southernmost active volcano on Earth and the second-highest volcano in Antarctica. Sit down with your expert Polar Discovery Team in the state-of-the-art theatre to learn why Sir James Clark Ross and Sir Ernest Shackleton came here on their polar expeditions, and how they built their huts. Both huts are still here today and are classified as an Antarctica historical monument.

Arrives On: 12 Feb 25

Day 14: Port information not found

A row of largely snow-free valleys, the McMurdo Dry Valleys of Ross Island comprise one of the world's most extreme deserts, plus the saline Lake Vida and the Onyx River, a meltwater stream and Antarctica's longest river. The only way to glimpse this dramatic landscape is by adding an optional excursion on one of Scenic Eclipse II's helicopters[^] – weather permitting, your pilot may even land on this end-of-the-Earth landscape. When you're back on your Discovery Yacht, share your experience with your fellow guests over a whiskey in the Scenic Lounge Bar.

Arrives On: 13 Feb 25

Day 15: Port information not found

All jagged cliffs and ink-black escarpments backed by the towering Admiralty Mountains, the Adare Peninsula is a postcard of natural drama. Much of the spectacle comes courtesy of the 250,000 breeding pairs of Adélie penguins – the largest colony in Antarctica – that call the region home. This is a place that has drawn avid expeditioners for centuries. It was the site of the first documented Antarctic landing on the continent in 1895, and Norwegian explorer Carsten Borchgrevink's two 1899 huts remain on land. **Discovery:** Weather and conditions permitting, you may have the chance to explore the remains with your Polar Discovery Team.

Arrives On: 14 Feb 25

Day 16: Port information not found

It's hard to comprehend the scale of the glaciers you'll see over the course of your voyage. Like the Mertz Glacier, an enormous hunk of crystalised ice that gleams like a turquoise jewel. You may also see the Suvorov Glacier, its bright, silent stillness of snow and ice tipping away

into fathomless distances without the interruption of a single alien feature. There are no trees or shrubs; flora is just a sprinkling of occasional lichen, moss and algae.

Discovery: You may have the chance to come near the glaciers by Zodiac, guided by the expert Polar Discovery Team.

Arrives On: 15 Feb 25

Day 17: Port information not found

Ernest Shackleton gave the Bay of Whales its fitting name in 1908. A natural ice harbour on the Ross Ice Shelf, the waters here are a magnet for migrating whales. Imagine being on a kayak and Zodiac, gliding across mirror-like water when an enormous tail crashing down at a distance.

Or today could be the day to brave the polar plunge. Pull on your swimsuit, throw off your robe and jump into the near-freezing Southern Ocean – a rite of passage for polar explorers. You're going to feel invigorated at the end of this split second, once-in-a-lifetime experience. The cold plunge is exhilarating, and the shared experience with your fellow Antarctica 'plungers' immensely bonding. That hot drink or whiskey as you emerge is restorative and reviving. This is an unmissable opportunity, whether enjoyed today or throughout your voyage in Antarctic waters.

Arrives On: 16 Feb 25

Day 24: Dunedin (New Zealand)

Your voyage ends in Dunedin (Port Chalmers), on the southeastern tip of New Zealand's South Island.
After one last luxurious breakfast, it's time to bid farewell to your new friends and the Scenic Eclipse II crew, taking memories for a lifetime with you.
Transfer to the airport for your flight to the UK.

Please book your flight to depart out of Dunedin after 12:00 PM.

Please note, the itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons and weather conditions. As such, Scenic cannot guarantee the cruise will operate unaltered from the itinerary stated above.

Arrives On: 23 Feb 25

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.

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