

With **Rachel Stanley**,
Frost Associate Professor in
Environmental Science

EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA

December 26, 2025 - January 6, 2026



Aboard the New Expedition Cruise Ship **VEGA**



Dear Wellesley Alumna,

Visiting Antarctica is almost like stepping back in time, to an era when the world was new. There are no human sounds, only the wild cries of birds, seals, and whales echoing across a vast expanse of land and sea.

After a most successful expedition to Antarctica in 2022/23, Wellesley is pleased to return in late 2025 during the long days of the austral summer. You will explore the Antarctic Peninsula and the islands that line its coast and have endless opportunities to observe seals, whales and seabirds in their natural habitat. You will also witness hillsides and shorelines teeming with penguins, and to cruise through the blue Antarctic waters admiring the dramatic play of light on icebergs, glaciers, and towering mountains.

Your voyage will again be joined by **Rachel Stanley**, Frost Associate Professor in Environmental Science and Associate Professor of Chemistry at Wellesley, who has done extensive research on the role of the world's oceans in climate change. Professor Stanley will introduce travelers to the results of her research on marine greenhouse gases and share lessons in climate history based on research on Antarctic ice cores.

We are pleased to offer reduced rates for children so that the entire family can enjoy this unique travel and learning adventure.

Your vessel for this journey is the state-of-the-art expedition ship, Swan Hellenic's *Vega*, designed specifically for polar exploration. The ship's limited guest capacity, advanced technical and mechanical systems, and experienced officers and crew, make it the vessel of choice for exploring Antarctica in safety and comfort.

We hope you will join Wellesley on this once-in-a-lifetime travel adventure.

Warm regards,

Kathryn Mackintosh '03
Assistant Vice President for Alumnae
Relations and Global Engagement

Cover photo: Gentoo Penguins in Antarctica.

WELLESLEY COLLEGE FACULTY LEADER

RACHEL STANLEY

Frost Associate Professor in Environmental Science and Associate Professor of Chemistry



Rachel Stanley is an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and the Frost Associate Professor in Environmental Science at Wellesley College. She received a bachelor's degree in chemistry (MIT) and earned a PhD in chemical oceanography (MIT and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution).

At Wellesley, Professor Stanley teaches a variety of chemistry courses and pursues research aimed at understanding the role of the ocean in climate change, with a special focus on using gases as chemical clues to untangle how greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide enter the ocean and what happens next to these gases. Students are involved in all aspects of her research, collecting samples during cruises on the Atlantic Ocean, quantifying rates of photosynthesis and respiration, measuring gases in wind-wave tanks that simulate hurricane conditions, and developing mass spectrometers on campus in Wellesley's new Science Center. Beyond Wellesley, Professor Stanley chairs the Ocean Atmosphere Interaction Committee and is the U. S. representative to the Surface Ocean Lower Atmosphere Study, an international program aimed at increasing understanding of processes occurring at the boundary between the ocean and the atmosphere.



Antarctic icescape.

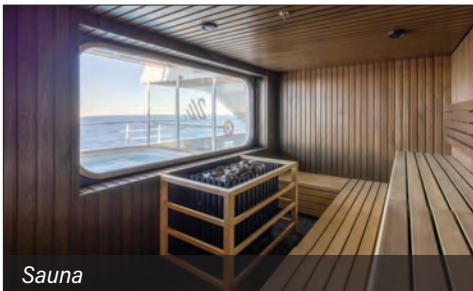
THE **NEW** 152-GUEST EXPEDITION CRUISE SHIP **VEGA**



Oceanview Stateroom



Balcony Suite



Sauna



Observation Lounge



Outdoor Café/Bar with swimming pool

Built in Finland and launched in July 2022, Swan Hellenic's *Vega* is a new-generation expedition cruise ship. Although at 10,250 tons the ship is large enough to accommodate more than 250 passengers, *Vega* will accommodate a maximum of 152 guests in 76 spacious staterooms and balcony suites. The low guest density results in one of the most generous indoor and outdoor space-to-guest ratios among cruise ships.

Featuring the latest advances in technology and engineering, *Vega* is among the world's first environmentally responsible ships. Equipped with hybrid engines and a unique water filtration system, *Vega* leaves a minimal footprint. For cruising in Polar regions, the ship meets the stringent requirements of the new Polar Code with its high PC5 Category A ice-strengthened hull and other advanced features. A computer-controlled Dynamic Positioning System allows the ship to maintain position without anchoring. Operated by a complement of 120 experienced European officers and international crew members, *Vega* will

carry a fleet of Zodiacs, versatile landing boats, and kayaks. Powerful stabilizers provide a smooth ride.

Vega's interior spaces exude sophisticated elegance, with most rooms opening to panoramic views of the sea. All staterooms and suites face outside and are equipped with private facilities, climate control, TV, Wi-Fi and USB connections, and other amenities. Of the ship's 76 staterooms, 60 have balconies. Public areas include a spacious observation lounge equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for lectures and presentations; a club lounge; a restaurant that accommodates all guests at one seating; an outdoor café/bar that surrounds the heated swimming pool; a wellness area with gym, spa, and sauna with an adjoining outdoor jacuzzi; library; beauty salon; and an infirmary that is attended by a full-time doctor and nurse. The ship also features expansive open-deck areas. Two elevators connect all decks. Attentive service is provided on a 24-hour basis. The outstanding cuisine is complemented by fine wines at lunch and dinner.

ITINERARY



Adélie penguins, Antarctica

Friday, December 26, 2025

DEPART USA

Depart home for Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Saturday, December 27

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

Arrive in Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina. Transfer to the *Alvear Icon Hotel* (or similar). In the evening, meet fellow travelers, your Wellesley faculty leader, and your trip director at an evening cocktail reception. (D)

Sunday, December 28

BUENOS AIRES/USHUAIA/SHIP EMBARKATION

Transfer to the airport for the group flight to Ushuaia, claimed to be the world's southernmost city, located in Argentina's Tierra del Fuego, between the famed Beagle Channel and the mountains. On arrival, transfer to the pier to embark the *Vega*, which will begin



Gentoo penguins.



Vega in Antarctica.



Get close to the scenery and wildlife with the ship's fleet of Zodiacs.

cruising early this evening. As the ship cruises the Beagle Channel, enjoy a spectacular vista of glaciers and misted mountains. (B, D)

Monday, December 29

AT SEA

Attend lectures and enjoy the ship's facilities as the *Vega* cruises through the Drake Passage to Antarctica. Look for Albatross, Cape Petrels, and whales that may accompany the ship on its passage. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, December 30 to Saturday, January 3

EXPLORING ANTARCTICA

Explore the pristine wilderness of the Antarctic Peninsula and its surrounding islands. As *Vega* cruises through scenic waterways, witness a breathtaking panorama of icebergs, blue glaciers, and jagged snow-capped mountains. Aboard the ship's Zodiacs, cruise among ice floes and explore penguin rookeries. Although

the itinerary varies according to local ice and wind conditions, we plan to land at such places as Paradise Harbor, where humpback and minke whales are often sighted offshore; Petermann Island, the habitat of Gentoo and Adélie penguins; and Deception Island, known for its volcanically-heated hot springs. Navigating through the magnificent Lemaire, Errera, Neumayer, and other protected channels is also planned. (B, L, D)

Sunday, January 4 & Monday, January 5

AT SEA

Watch for whales and seabirds - and enjoy onboard lectures and the ship's amenities - as *Vega* cruises back to Ushuaia. (B, L, D)

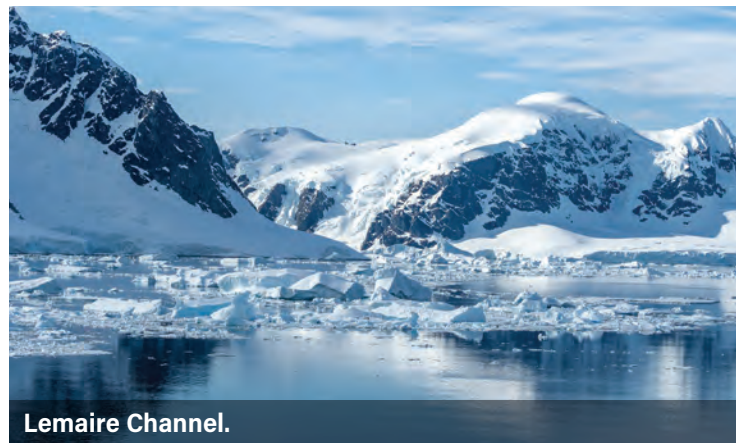
Tuesday, January 6

USHUAIA, Argentina/SHIP DISEMBARKATION/ BUENOS AIRES/HOME

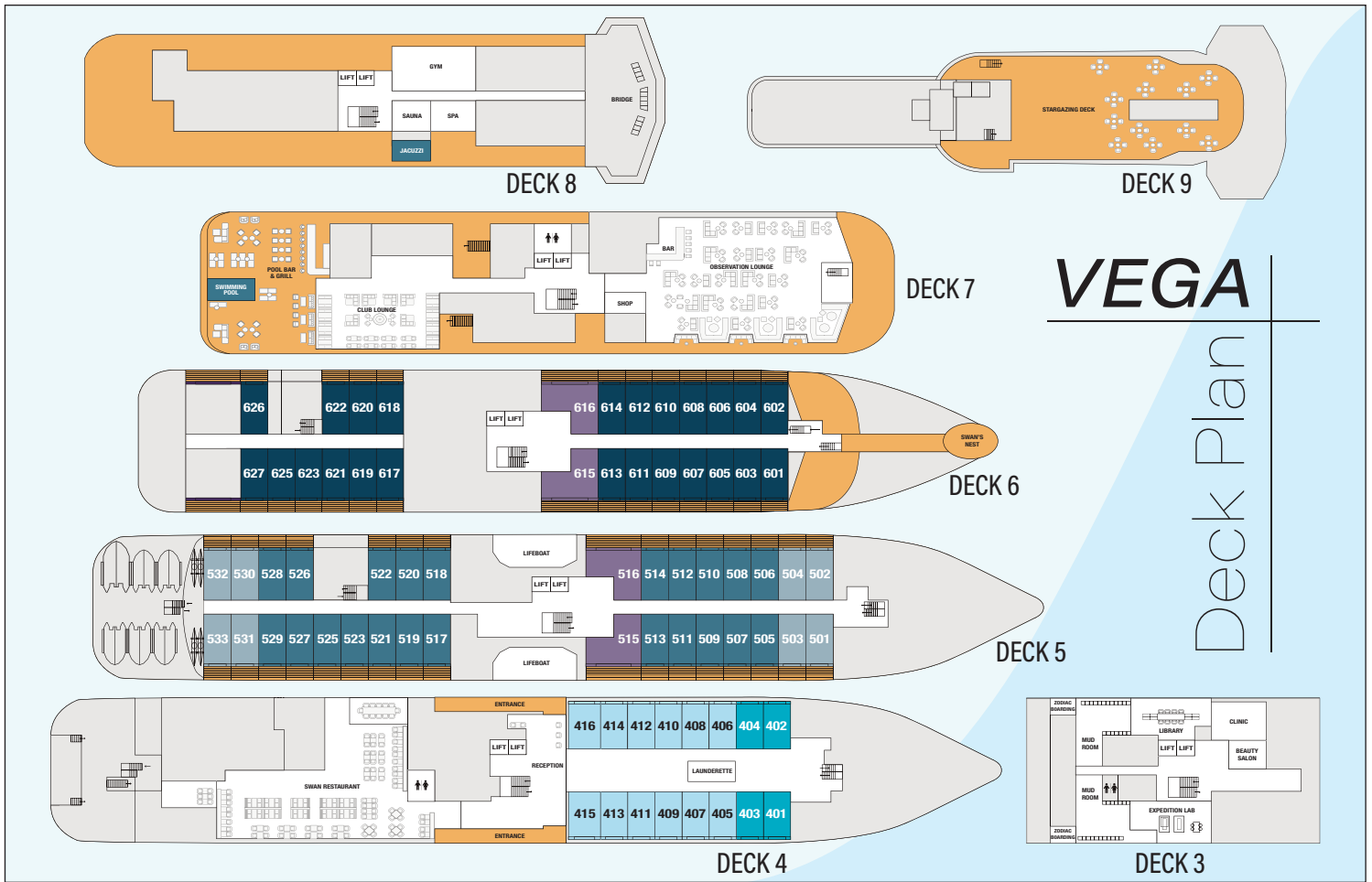
Disembark in Ushuaia. Transfer to the airport for the group flight to Buenos Aires to connect with flights homeward. (B)



Humpback whale.



Lemaire Channel.



All accommodations aboard Vega are spacious staterooms and balcony suites. They are elegantly decorated, face outside, affording sea views, and include a queen-size bed that can be arranged as two twin beds, a spacious bathroom, mini-refrigerator, safe, ample closet space, climate control, telephone, TV, Wi-Fi, and USB connections, as well as other amenities.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	RATES PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	CHILDREN'S RATES
E	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 401-404.	\$ 11,990	1 child sharing with 2 adults Category E \$ 2,490 Category B \$ 3,190 Category A \$ 4,190
D	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 405-416.	\$ 12,590	
C	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 501-504, 530-533.	\$ 14,790	2 children sharing with 2 adults (available only in Category AA) Category AA \$ 4,490 per child
B	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 505-514, 517-529.	\$ 15,490	
A	Suites with balcony and living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 6. Suites 601-614, 617-627.	\$ 16,190	3 children sharing a cabin by themselves Category E \$ 7,990 per child Category B \$ 10,790 per child
AA	Suites with large balcony, separate bedroom & living room. 440 sq. ft. Decks 5 & 6. Suites 515, 516, 615 & 616.	\$ 21,790	
FOR SOLO TRAVELER A limited number of cabins are available for single occupants in Category D at 120% of the per-person, double occupancy rate, and in Categories C, B, and A at 150% of the per-person, double occupancy rate.			1 child sharing with 1 adult the same rate as the adult

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

The rates are all-inclusive. There are no hidden costs and no additional charges such as shore excursions and embarkation and port charges. Other than the international airfare and expenses of a personal nature, all else is included. Specifically, the rates include the following:

- One night at the *Alvear Icon Hotel* (or similar) in Buenos Aires.
- Welcome dinner at the hotel.
- Round trip group flight between Buenos Aires and Ushuaia.
- Cruise aboard the *Vega*, as described in the itinerary.
- Private lectures by Professor Rachel Stanley.
- Lectures and briefings by expert shipboard expedition leaders and naturalists.
- Group airport/hotel/pier transfers overseas at designated times on the indicated arrival and return dates, and handling of luggage.
- Complete program of shore landings and activities organized by the expedition leaders and naturalists.
- All meals aboard the ship, with a selection of wines, beer and soft drinks during lunch and dinner.
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard the ship hosted by the captain.
- Open bar with select alcoholic beverages.
- Coffee, including espresso and cappuccino, tea and soft drinks throughout the day and night.
- 24-hour room service.
- Gratuities to the ship's crew, porters and drivers.
- Basic Wi-Fi aboard the ship.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Use of rubber boots for shore landings.
- Complementary expedition parka for you to use and keep.
- Complete pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.

LOYALTY REWARD PROGRAM

Travel on this cruise program and enjoy savings of **\$400 to \$900** per person on your next voyage with **WELLESLEY COLLEGE and THALASSA JOURNEYS** aboard a Swan Hellenic ship. Savings are determined by the stateroom category booked and is applicable when you reserve your trip within 30 days of the completion date of **EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA**

This saving cannot be combined with other offers and is subject to change.

REGISTRATION

WELL 25V-1226

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$ _____ (\$ 1,500 per person) as a deposit to hold _____ place(s) on **EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA**, December 26, 2025 - January 6, 2026 with Wellesley College. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

For reservations, please call Thalassa Journeys at: (866) 633-3611

or make a check payable and mail with this registration forms to:

Thalassa Journeys: 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835

AmEx Discover Visa Master Card

No. _____

Exp. _____ 3- or 4-Digit Security Code _____

PLEASE SELECT STATEROOM CATEGORY IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE

1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____ 3rd choice _____

Double Occupancy Single Occupancy (Inquire for rates)

PREFERRED BED CONFIGURATION

Double _____ Twin _____

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (HOME) _____

(CELL) _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

EMAIL _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,500 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 71-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 70 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

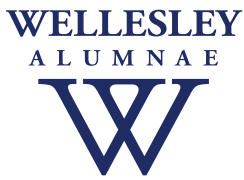
INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

**CST 2138603-50
ST 42048**



Wellesley College Alumnae Association
106 Central Street
Wellesley, MA 02481

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Brentwood, NY
Permit No 36

WELL 25V-1226

Join **Rachel Stanley**, Frost Associate Professor in Environmental Science on
an **EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA | December 26, 2025 - January 6, 2026**



For Reservations and Information,
Please Call **866-633-3611**
or email: reservations@thalassajourneys.com



Crabeater seals, Antarctic Peninsula

EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA | December 26, 2025 - January 6, 2026