EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA
WITH DAVID AGUILAR
January 26 – February 8, 2016
“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 glimmering 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 program featuring a cruise aboard the exclusively chartered, state-of-the-art, Five-Star, ice-class M.S. Le BORÉAL, one of the finest vessels plying Antarctic waters.

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 IS A CO-SPONSORED PROGRAM: Yale University; University of California, Berkeley; and University of Chicago.
Internationally recognized author, lecturer, astronomy expert, naturalist and space artist, David Aguilar’s expertise lies in showing us the fascinating connections between the universe and ourselves. He is the award-winning author and illustrator of seven National Geographic books including Alien Worlds; Space Encyclopedia: A Tour of Our Solar System and Beyond; Super Stars!; and the popular 13 Planets, winner of the 2011 Eureka Gold Award. Smithsonian Books will publish his next three books beginning with Cosmic Catastrophes in 2015.

He has been featured on the BBC, History Channel’s The Universe series, ABC News, NPR, CNN, and in Time, U.S. News & World Report, The New York Times, USA Today, National Geographic, Sky & Telescope, Astronomy, and Scientific American, among many others. David is the past Director of Public Affairs and Science Information at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics; past Marketing Communications Director for Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corporation; past Director of the Fiske Planetarium and Science Center; the producer of the Science Discovery Program at University of Colorado Boulder; and former Marketing Director for PBS’ Emmy-winning NOVA series, Evolution.

In 2015 he joined the New Horizons Spacecraft Team as part of NASA’s “Mission to Pluto” to lead media communications on the Pluto flyby in July 2015.

As a Smithsonian Scholar Enrichment Lecturer and Harvard Alumni Association Travel Leader, he illustrates the dynamic connections between science and nature of the regions he visits—always fresh, always changing, always something vibrant and new!

In 2010, asteroid 1990DA was designated to honor his internationally recognized contributions to science education and public outreach. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the newly proposed Aspen Science Center, the IAAA (International Association of Astronomical Artists), and the AAS (American Astronomical Society).

He has the added distinction of being a Grammy-nominated musician along with his former band on “Love is the Song We Sing: San Francisco Nuggets 1965-1970.”

David and wife Shirley reside at their home and observatory under the very dark and starry skies outside Aspen, CO.

For more information please visit: www.aspenskies.com and www.davidaguilar.org.

Other study leaders joining this program include Andrew Read Ph.D. with Duke University; Walter Jetz Ph.D. and Pincelli Hull Ph.D. with Yale University; and Roger D. Launius Ph.D. with the Smithsonian.

Scheduled guest speakers may be altered due to circumstances beyond our control. See General Information section.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26
U.S.
Depart the U.S.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
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.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28
BUENOS AIRES
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.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29
BUENOS AIRES/USHUAIA
This morning, fly to remote Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city, the capital of Tierra del Fuego and the gateway to Antarctica, where you will embark M/S Le Boreal. This afternoon, 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.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 TO SUNDAY, JANUARY 31
CRUISING DRAKE PASSAGE
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.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1 TO FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5
CRUISING ANTARCTICA
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.

Cruise through breathtaking, glacier-lined Neumayer Channel to Port Lockroy. Originally constructed in 1944 by an eight-man team as an intelligence post for British espionage during World War II, Port Lockroy 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. 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.

Just beyond Port Lockroy, the rocky shores of Jougla Point offer a rare opportunity to view the skeletal remains of an adult blue whale, and see populous colonies of gentoo penguins and kelp gulls. 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 at Petermann Island, the southernmost point of your journey, and watch its thriving rookeries of Adélie and gentoo penguins and blue-eyed shags. 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 snow-covered mountains and is one of the most dramatic and spectacular sights in Antarctica. Here, make your first "continental landing" in Antarctica.

FOR DETAILED ITINERARIES VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/HAA/TRAVEL
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.

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 Telefón 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.

Deception Island is actually the rim of a massive dormant volcano crater that encircles a caldera known as Fort Foster, where the ship enters through dramatic Neptune’s Bellows, a sublime crater that encircles a caldera rim of a massive dormant volcano which offer fascinating insight into the volcanic activity that created the island and played a pivotal role in the natural history of the region. Deception Island 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 and enjoy the lingering twilight of the Antarctic summer.

Attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception. 

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6
CRUISING DRAKE PASSAGE
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.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7
USHUAIA, ARGENTINA / BUENOS AIRES
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. (e)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8
U.S.
Arrive in the U.S.

FEBRUARY 7 TO 11
IGUAZÚ FALLS POST-PROGRAM OPTION
from $1,995 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
from $2,595 SINGLE OCCUPANCY

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 in 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.

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- Enrichment program of lectures and discussions by David Aguilar
- Nine-night cruise aboard the deluxe M.S. Le Boreal
- Complimentary wine and beer with lunch and dinner on board the ship
- Two nights in the deluxe Plaza Hotel Buenos Aires
- Flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia with return to Buenos Aires
- Exploration by Zodiac landing craft, accompanied by an expert naturalist from the expedition team
- All activities, excursions, entrance fees and meals per detailed itinerary
- Taxes and gratuities to ship personnel, guides and drivers
- Services of a tour manager throughout the program
- Souvenir polar-grade red parka to wear
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
- $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
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M.S. LE BORÉAL

YEAR CONSTRUCTION: 2010
OVERALL LENGTH: 466 feet

AMENITIES: This exclusively chartered ship offers 110 Suites and Staterooms (200 to 484 square feet). Each has a private bathroom with shower, two twin beds or one queen bed, individual climate control, satellite flat-screen television, wireless Internet access, minibar.

MAXIMUM PASSENGERS: 220
FLAG: European
writing desk/dressing table, full-length closet, safe, plush robe and slippers. Public facilities include the Panoramic Lounge, Main Lounge, state-of-the-art theater, beauty salon, library, Internet salon, Sun Deck, swimming pool, spa, Turkish bath-style steam room, full range fitness equipment and two elevators.

GENERAL INFORMATION

TOUR COST INCLUSIONS: Taxes; flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia with return to Buenos Aires; all transfers and luggage handling abroad for all participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s); all activities, excursions, entrance fees, accommodation, and meals per detailed itinerary; gratuities to ship personnel, local guides and drivers; tour manager throughout; $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance. The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of HAA Travels and the tour operator. Ship schedules, port calls, hours and conditions at http://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/Antarctica-2016.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY AND COSTS: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of HAA Travels and the tour operator. Ship schedules, port calls, hours and conditions at http://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/Antarctica-2016. If you are not able to access the Internet, please call HAA Travels at 800-422-1636 or 677-496-0806.

INSURANCE: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by the HAA upon confirmation. Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of HAA and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at http://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/Antarctica-2016. If you are not able to access the Internet, please call HAA Travels at 800-422-1636 or 677-496-0806.

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DAVID ROXBURGH
HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS
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HARVEY FINEBERG & MARY WILSON
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LEON DASCH
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A BALKAN MOSAIC
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LEGENDARY TURKEY
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MAYA SEYBOLD
MYSTICAL INDIA
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DAVID AGUILAR
EPIC BALCAN Mosaic
OCT 1-14, 2015
AARON MCCORMICK
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MACHU PIChu TO THE GALÁPAGOS
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WORK TELEPHONE
METHOD OF DEPOSIT
☐ CHECK (please enclose check) ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA
CARD NUMBER
EXPIRATION DATE
3 DIGIT SECURITY CODE
NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD
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SIGNATURE

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SECOND PERSON
☐ DOUBLE ROOM ☐ SINGLE ROOM ☐ SHARE A ROOM WITH
ROOMMATE

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