

VOYAGE INFORMATION

Voyage Name	Southern Australia Coastal Discovery
Voyage Code	SAC041021G
Dates	04 – 15 October, 2021
Duration	12 days / 11 nights
Embark	Fremantle, Western Australia
Disembark	Adelaide, South Australia
Ship	<i>Greg Mortimer</i>
Forms Due	04 July, 2021
Optional Activities	Kayaking; Spencer Gulf Shark Cage Dive; Coffin Bay Oyster Farm Tour

Round Cape Leeuwin and enter a world of deep-sea canyons, granite-domed islands and white-sand beaches swept by the Southern Ocean. Follow a coast charted by Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin where whales, sea lions, fur seals, great white sharks and Australia's only pirate reigned supreme. Watch for whales from Fremantle on, with hotspots like Bremer Bay Canyon attracting orcas, minke, southern rights and humpbacks. Hike to vantage points in the Recherche Archipelago, more than a hundred islands that are home to Australian sea lions, New Zealand fur seals, a sensational pink lake and the pirate Black Jack. Keep an eye out for southern right whales beneath the dramatic sea cliffs at Head of Bight. Photograph Cape Barren geese, rare lizards and rock wallabies in the Investigator Group off Eyre Peninsula, and visit the world-famous oyster farms of Coffin Bay. Snorkel with playful sea lions in the Spencer Gulf before a final foray to Kangaroo Island to admire wind-sculpted granite, tamar wallabies, koalas and a variety of birdlife.

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Day 1	Embark the <i>Greg Mortimer</i> in Fremantle and set sail
Day 2	At sea, Chatham Island
Day 3	Bremer Bay
Days 4-5	Recherche Archipelago
Day 6	At sea
Days 7-8	Head of Bight, Investigator Group
Days 9-10	Coffin Bay, Spencer Gulf
Day 11	Kangaroo Island
Day 12	Disembark in Adelaide

VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise nutrient-rich waters of Bremer Bay's deep-sea canyons that attract orcas, sharks, dolphins, sperm whales and giant squid.
- Trek on wilderness islands of Recherche Archipelago, discovering pink lakes, sea lion colonies and stories of sealers, whalers and pirates that preceded you.
- Enjoy spectacular birdwatching in the Investigator Group, renowned for its endangered fairy tern, Cape Barren geese, rock parrots and more.
- Delight in the playfulness and grace of Australian sea lions as you snorkel in the waters off Hopkins Island.
- Inspect bushfire recovery on Kangaroo Island, with the return of koalas, short-beaked echidnas and tamar wallabies.
- Explore and learn about the unique marine ecosystems designated as "Hope Spots" by Sylvia Earle's Mission Blue team, including the 'Great Southern Reef', Salisbury Island and Kangaroo Island.

EXPEDITION INCLUSIONS

- Arrival transfer from airport to Greg Mortimer on Day 1
- Departure transfer from Greg Mortimer to airport or hotel on last day
- Onboard accommodation during voyage including daily cabin service
- All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage
- Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner
- Captain's Welcome and Farewell reception including four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages
- All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises
- Sea lion snorkel activity at Hopkins Island
- Educational lectures and guiding services from expedition team
- Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic
- Complimentary spray jacket
- Comprehensive pre-departure information
- Port surcharges, permits and landing fees
- Gratuities for ship crew

EXPEDITION EXCLUSIONS

- International or domestic flights not mentioned in the itinerary
- Transfers not mentioned in the itinerary
- Airport arrival or departure taxes
- Passport, visa, and vaccination charges
- Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges
- Hotels and meals not included in itinerary
- Optional excursions not included in the itinerary
- Optional activity surcharges
- All items of a personal nature including but not limited to: alcoholic beverages and soft drinks (outside of dinner service), laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, gratuities, Wi-Fi, email or phone charges.

Day 1 Fremantle

Embark the *Greg Mortimer* in the afternoon. After boarding, take time to settle into your cabin before attending important safety briefings. Enjoy the thrill of departure as we pull. In the evening, meet your expedition team and crew at the Captain's Welcome Dinner as the sun sets over the Indian Ocean.

Day 2 At sea, Chatham Island

Departing Fremantle, share the 'Humpback Highway' with leviathans returning to Antarctica and possibly a dolphin escort. Round Australia's south-west corner, home to the lovely Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse, which marks where the Indian and Southern oceans meet. In the afternoon, conditions permitting, we hope to Zodiac cruise along Chatham Island's soaring granite cliffs. Not to be confused with New Zealand's Chatham Islands (first sunrise on Earth – each day), Australia's Chatham Island is a nature reserve that's home to NZ fur seals, flesh-footed shearwaters, little penguins and WA's only threatened plant, the cliff-hanging fern *Asplenium obtusatum*.

Day 3 Bremer Bay Canyon

Wake to a stretch of Southern Ocean 70 km off the coast that looks just like the surrounding sea – but it's not. Below the surface is Bremer Bay Canyon, which each summer redirects a cold, salty Antarctic current up from the deep. When the nutrient-rich waters hit the surface, they create a biological hotspot unlike any on Earth. Breaching orcas, dolphins, sperm whales and giant squid are just part of the marine life frenzy. Blue sharks have been seen following orcas. The phenomenon is still relatively new, so keep track of any new sightings. Even pygmy blue whales pass through the area. If conditions allow, we'll launch Zodiacs for an experience you'll never forget.

Days 4-5 Recherche Archipelago

Awake amidst the Recherche Archipelago, a chain of 105 islands and some 1200 islets that stretch from near Esperance in the west, to near Israelite Bay in the East. In 1803, explorer Matthew Flinders left two anchors behind, just off Middle Island, the largest in the archipelago. We hope to land here and hike to the beautiful pink, Lake Hillier, and learn the story of pirate Black Jack Anderson, a violent sealer who set off from here to raid shipping between Albany and Adelaide. Ours will take a more-gentle approach, swimming from pristine white beaches in turquoise waters shared with Australian sea lions and New Zealand fur seals. Exploring rarely visited islands and to photograph Recherche Cape Barren geese, rock parrots, red-eared firetails and a host of reptiles including Rosenberg's monitor. Marvel at the raw beauty of these wilderness isles, while enjoying Southern Ocean sundowners.

Day 6 At sea

After nearly a week of intense exploration, relax and enjoy entertaining talks about explorers who first mapped the wild coast to the north of us, and the natural history of the region we're approaching. Step out on deck to watch for southern right and blue whales, and to photograph seabirds accompanying the ship.

Days 7-8 Great Australian Bight, Investigator Group

Continue our course parallel to the Great Australian Bight, the vertical cliff-lines marking when Antarctica separated from Australia when Gondwana broke apart. We ship cruise the Head of the Bight, where Southern Rights and pygmy blue whales come to calve, and Australian sea lions breed in small colonies along the cliffs. Above the cliffs is the spare scenery of the Nullarbor Plain. After lunch, we reach the dramatic Investigator Group of islands, just off the

western shores of Eyre Peninsula. If conditions permit, Zodiac ashore on Pearson Island to look for Cape Barren geese, rare lizards and rock wallabies as well as fairy penguins, short-tailed shearwaters and rock parrots.

Days 9-10 Coffin Bay, Spencer Gulf

Delight in a day of adventure with the striking scenery of the Eyre Peninsula and Coffin Bay as the backdrop. Zodiac-cruise or paddle crystal-clear waters, stroll along unspoilt beaches or enjoy a hike amongst the coastal heath and woodlands of the National Park. Search the skies for the white-bellied sea eagles and osprey that breed along this coastline, or delight your tastebuds with a visit to Coffin Bay's world-famous oyster farms (additional cost). Overnight we enter the Spencer Gulf to enjoy the treasures of the Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area. The rich waters of the adjacent marine park are home to one of the world's largest colonies of Australian sea lions. Revel in the unique opportunity to snorkel with these playful pinnipeds at Hopkins Island. Adrenaline-seekers may prefer to don a SCUBA tank and seek out the majestic great white shark on an optional cage dive experience (additional cost).

Day 11 Kangaroo Island

Marvel at the regenerative powers of nature while exploring Australia's third-largest island from the comfort of your floating base camp. Following on from the devastating bushfires of January 2020 this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see new life bursting forth, the return of koalas, wallabies, echidnas and dunnarts, and the pleasure of islanders as they show off the beauty of their home. From swimming with dolphins and sea lions, to participating in post-fire ecological surveys. Explore spectacular granite coastlines and gain new insights into habitat restoration from renowned experts. Local artists will share their perspectives, and guides will introduce their natural world.

Day 12 Adelaide

After breakfast, farewell your expedition team and disembark to be transferred to the airport or your hotel.

Important note: In the spirit of expedition travel, we encourage exploration and adventure offering flexibility in challenging environments. This itinerary is only a guide and is subject to change due to weather, sea state and other conditions beyond our control.