

Creating ADVENTURES



FIONA'S POLAR PICKS

Here are just a few of my top picks for upcoming unusual voyages in the next year. Contact me for more details:

AN UNUSUAL FALKLANDS AND SOUTH GEORGIA VOYAGE ON SEA SPIRIT



Seven full days in **South Georgia** and three in the **Falklands**.

When: 23 October - 10 November 2025

Guide: £14,795 per person with discount

Price: if booked before 31 May 2025



REMOTE WEDDELL SEA EXPLORER

Including South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands, Neuschwabenland, Larsen Ice Shelf, Paulet and Devil Island, Elephant Island.



The 2025 voyage reached a record-breaking **78°03.471'S** - the southernmost point ever attained by a non-icebreaker passenger vessel. It included helicopter landings on remote ice shelves, breathtaking aerial views, snorkeling alongside curious Emperor penguins and exploring the far reaches of **Queen Maud Land**, where no other operator sails. Polar exploration at its finest.

When: 20 January - 20 February 2026

Guide Price: £29,670 per person



Dear Adventurer

We're a little later with our mailing this spring as we wanted to also send you the refreshed **Far Frontiers Travel Showcase** brochure which is hot off the press. We're moving away from sending out annual brochures but don't worry - you'll still receive our colourful **Creating Adventures** Newsletter three times a year with our latest travel ideas and updates. Busy days in my office are interspersed with adventures of my own - I kicked off the year with some sensational dog-sledding in **Norway**, and I'm literally just back from travelling around **Argentina's** wineries and lake district. In September I'm off to **Egypt**, to travel by dahabayah on the Nile and visit **Cairo's** brand new **Grand Egyptian Museum**. Where will you go next?

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Snowscapes, Dogs and Reindeer – Some of Norway's Wintry Best



We set out at dusk under a moon risen on a pale Arctic sky amid a cacophony of excited yaps, yelps and barks - not only from my team of six enthusiastic Alaskan huskies but also from those left behind in the dog yard. Heading out through a stunning snowscape we wound through birch and pine trees along narrow trails, ducking the occasional stray branch - eyes scanning all the while for the dark shape of a moose. After a decent stretch, we stopped to sit round a snowy firepit, gladly warming hands and cheeks. The dogs rolled in the snow to cool down and we enjoyed piping hot reindeer soup. How I've loved the last two hours - standing on the runners while my trusty dogs pulled our Norwegian sledge through the snowy pristine forest.

I'm close by **Dividalen National Park**, about two hours' south of **Tromsø** in a hauntingly beautiful and unspoiled part of north **Norway**. My hosts have charmed me from the moment I arrived with their sincerity, open and welcoming manner and their obvious love of their lifestyle, their dogs and their eagerness to deliver the very best dog sled experience to each and every visitor. Depending on what you choose you could find yourself sleeping in their extraordinary 150 year old log cabin or in a remote hut high in the mountains on a week-long trail. You can ice-fish, snowshoe and dog sled by day or at dusk, or simply relax and soak up all things Nordic. And these are just winter activities....

Day two was all about breaking fresh trails - this time I had a team of four who never slackened once while we ploughed through knee high snow on virgin slopes. *Ocean*, my trusty lead-dog led us up onto the plateau - past moose hunter's huts and farm settlements buried up to their windows in snow. Some three hours later we sped back down the

mountain finishing with a final turn of speed alongside a frozen river on a narrow-wooded trail and back into the dog yard. I left the farm vowing to return with my family.

A brief stop in **Oslo** allowed time for a long-held ambition to visit the *Fram Museum* to tread the decks and peek into the cabins of the 'Fram' - Amundsen's trusty ship used on his 1911 successful assault on the South Pole. The visit did not disappoint.

Then I headed north again - two hours' flight and an hour's drive out of **Lakselv** where I found a cluster of extraordinarily designed log cabins nestling in woods overlooking a 50-dog yard close to the **Karasjok River**. My host is a bit of a legend - despite his years of experience with dogs and long distance sled races - *Finnmark, Ittarod* - he is humble and kind, has a boundless talent for turning wood, stone, metal and leatherwork into the most incredible day to day items - all of which you will find in your cabin - and he and his team work tirelessly to ensure each guest's experience is as good as it can be.





What a place - a true **Arctic** heaven. Here the dogs are larger and run in teams of 8-10 pulling one or two sledges expertly and with great vigour. Yet more magical scenery whizzed by - frozen rivers, gently undulating snow-covered pine forest and plenty of elusive moose tracks. We had a quality 32km/4 hour run with a welcome stop in the woods to sit by a fire and drink cocoa and toast delicious sandwiches of homemade bread, cold meats and cheese, Finnish bread, salmon and berry jam.

On my last day under a 'pearl' sky and intermittent snow showers, I travelled by snowmobile onto the plateau to meet the *Sami* and their reindeer herds. Seeing these hardy creatures up close - all furry feet and huge, graceful antlers was a scintillating experience as was hearing about the lives of the *Sami* today. It's good to know they continue their culture, moving between summer and winter pastures, with all the family involved and their children eager to carry on from their elders. *Note to self* - never ask a *Sami* how many reindeer they have. It's like being asked how much money you have in the bank! Hot drinks and smoked reindeer meat round the obligatory fire fortified us for the journey back and were a welcome distraction from the



plummeting temperatures. As we turned for our log cabin home in the woods, I left with an invitation to attend the annual reindeer migration from the plateau to the coast for summer calving and grazing. Now there's a thought...

Only the northern lights did not perform too well on this trip - ah well, always leave something for next time.



Prices from: £2,890 per person for a week's trip.
Dates: On request January - May 2026.
Note: These are small and personal dog yards so dates sell out fast.

Footnote: We have further adventures to offer. Try ski and sail in spring, hike and sail in summer or sailing with Orcas in November. We have access to a 41ft yacht and stunning coastal lodge in a Norwegian fishing village only accessed by water - both hosted by charming locals. **Ask Fiona for details.**

FIONA'S POLAR PICKS CONTINUED

THE GEOGRAPHIC NORTH POLE ON FRENCH ICEBREAKER LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT

This is an iconic voyage on an incredible ship with no single supplement! Fiona has voyaged on her - it was a mesmerizing experience. These trips are harder to come by as we are not currently working with the Russian icebreakers.

When: 10 - 27 August 2026
Guide price: £30,995 per person



VISIT GREENLAND - BIG CHANGES

Big changes are on the horizon for those wanting to visit **Greenland**. Nuuk's new international airport opened at the end of 2024 offering flights with **Air Greenland**, **Icelandair** and **SAS** into Keflavik and Copenhagen. This promises more frequent and cost-effective travel options. By the end of 2026 we expect new airports in **Ilulissat**, **Disko Bay**, **NW Greenland** and **Qaqqortoq**.



This is great news for those keen on our **West Greenland by Ferry** tailor-made holiday. Contact me now if you are considering a trip there.

If you are looking for a shorter, less expensive voyage - email fiona@arcturusexpeditions.co.uk We have access to a huge array of trips ranging from one to three weeks and more and covering the **British Isles**, **Iceland**, **Greenland**, **Canadian Arctic**, **Antarctica**, the **Subantarctic** islands, the **Ross Sea**, and much more...

Client COMMENTS

A big thanks for arranging such a fantastic itinerary to **Norway**. Dog sledding, visiting the reindeer, snowmobiling and a spectacular night-time snowshoe up a local peak to see amazing aurora. I've been to the **Antarctic** many times as you know but the majority of those expeditions have been in the summer so you don't get the opportunity to see the aurora that often. They're awe inspiring every time. The boys now also have a greater appreciation of what real cold is!

Footnote: In 2013 Tim led the epic expedition **Retracing Shackleton's Epic Journey of Survival** sailing from Elephant Island to South Georgia then the land-based traverse from King Haakon Bay to Stromness. You can find it on Discovery Channel.

Tim & Liz Jarvis and family - Norway - January 2025



We had the most amazing trip! What an adventure. Due to the flight delays we only joined the dog sledding late on Monday - and set off for the mountain hut across a frozen lake in the dark with head torches on. It was a very dramatic introduction to dog sledding! The next day it was minus 33 - unbelievably cold - so we just did a short run of about 4 km and kept the fires going. Finally, after a 30 kms sled drive down from the hut, through stunning, deserted scenery, we had two luxurious nights in the hotel with lovely staff and delicious food. It has been an utterly unique and totally amazing experience which we would never have done without your help.

Oliver Down & Mary Bridger Norway - January 2025



We had such a fascinating trip organised by Fiona. Everything went to plan, and it was so lovely having such good guides to show us around and to meet us at airports with such comfortable transport. We did and learnt so much and really got a good understanding of life in each place. We had 3.5 weeks but felt very relaxed not having to organise anything when we were there! It was a good mix of culture, food, activity and a much-needed flop on the beach! Sunrise at **Angkor Wat** was a real highlight as was the amazing magical **Ta Prohm** temple.

Nigel & Selina Bunting, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos - January/February 2025

We had a great time with lots of good memories. Couldn't fault the hotels or the arrangements. Arranging such a full and interesting itinerary with the short time scale we gave you is just amazing - thank you so very much.

Peter & Judith McLane Costa Rica - January 2025



We had a wonderful stay in the **Maldives** Resort recommended by you. It was everything you promised and more. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves for the week. The food and accommodation were great and the staff all so friendly, efficient and welcoming. All of your arrangements went perfectly from start to finish.

Nick & Cathy Ridout The Maldives - January 2025



We had a wonderful trip to **India**. The service provided by your partners was far superior to anything we have experienced previously. **Jamtara Wilderness Camp** was very comfortable. Nothing was too much bother, the food was plentiful and delicious and we enjoyed sitting under the Banyan tree for pre-dinner drinks. We were very fortunate to see seven tigers: a mother and three 6-month old cubs, two sub-adult males and a female swimming in a lake and getting out to try and make a kill. In **Kanha** we saw two more tigers: a male asleep on a bank and a female coming out of the grass and making a kill. In **Mumbai**, we enjoyed drinks on a rooftop bar on **Marine Drive** watching the sun go down. It was truly a holiday to remember.

Mr and Mrs Philip Soward India - March 2025



You made everything so easy for what was a rather complicated itinerary. Everything went like clockwork throughout the entire trip. All we had to do was repack, be in the right place at the right time and the rest was taken care of. Hotels simply fantastic with delicious food and flowing wine. Excursions were a learning experience every time with knowledgeable guides - there was also the opportunity to do things outside your comfort zone - a great feeling of achievement. We absolutely loved our trip and highly recommend you.

Andrew & Vicky Roberts, Chile and Argentina - February 2025



The whole two weeks were a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The **Nile** boat trip a high point. It was so much better than if we had attempted to book it all ourselves. Thank you, Fiona.

Gabriele Michaelis & Christine Down, Egypt - February 2025

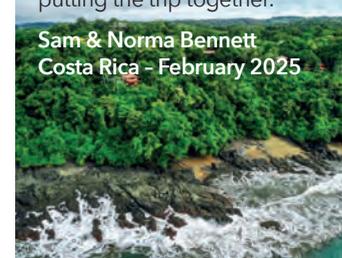
We really enjoyed our visit to **Georgia** and appreciate how well you tailored the itinerary to our wishes. We were thrilled to have knowledgeable and enthusiastic **Teona** as our guide. We loved the spectacular mountains, valleys and waterfalls, the glorious wine growing region and buzzing **Tbilisi**. Amongst the highlights were the traditional meals prepared in the homes of Georgian families and our balcony view of **Mount Kazbegi** bathed in the morning sunlight. We found the Georgian people warm, friendly and welcoming. We were pleased to have visited when we did and only hope that Georgia's political future unfolds peacefully.

Roy & Jill Arnold Georgia - September 2024



In summary, all the arrangements worked seamlessly. The accommodation was all good and our favourite was **La Paloma Lodge, Osa Peninsula** because of its location, style, and our villa in the trees looking out to sea. All drivers, vehicles and pick-up timing worked well - as well as even I could have expected. **Sansa Airlines** were like clockwork, with stunningly efficient turn-around times. Thank you for all your time and effort in putting the trip together.

Sam & Norma Bennett Costa Rica - February 2025



Snippets

BROCHURE UPDATE

Aiming for better sustainability, 2025 marks the year we finally stop printing annual brochures. **Far Frontiers Travel** and **Arcturus** now each have a **showcase** brochure which in future we will send you on request. Last summer we sent you the **Arcturus** copy and now the **Far Frontiers Travel** edition completes the spread. Simply put, they showcase a variety of journeys - designed to illustrate the types of trips we can offer. Do please always look on the websites - or better still, come through to the office if you want to know more or have a travel idea of your own you would like help with.

Please do keep your brochures for future reference.



Travel with confidence: All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this newsletter are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see the booking conditions on our websites for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate.

Clients wishing to book their own international flights are financially protected by the **TOPP (Total Payment Protection)** scheme. Full details are given on both Arcturus and Far Frontiers Travel websites under 'Your financial protection'.

