

Antarctica

On your first night, waves gently lap against the hull of your ship, waking you from slumber. Too excited to sleep – you made it! You’re actually in Antarctica! – you grab your waterproofs and pad out on to your balcony.

The inky water reflects the night sky, and as your eyes adjust you spot billions of stars scattered like spraypaint across the universe. It’s freezing, but you’re rooted to the spot in wonder.

Come daylight, you hop aboard an inflatable Zodiac boat, passing icebergs as turquoise as the Caribbean Sea. The driver cuts the engine and for a few moments you float in silence, which is broken by the sudden snort of a curious minke whale as it breaches the water’s surface. It’s gone before you can take a photo, but imprinted on your mind’s eye for ever.

When you land on a pebble beach, a huddle of king penguins waddle over, heads held high. Their orange beaks are a shock against the landscape’s achromatic palette. In the distance you spot their chicks, soft as lambs.

Get on board

Atlas Ocean Voyages’ seven-night Ushuaia to King George Island itinerary aboard *World Voyager*, via the South Shetland Islands, departs on 25 November 2025, from £8,050 including regional charter flights and one night in a hotel pre and post-cruise. atlasoceanvoyagesuk.com ■

Penguins - Ondrej Prosky/Shutterstock

