

Spring 2024 Small-ship Adventure Travel News & Trends

AdventureSmith Explorations is the global leader in small-ship, adventure cruise vacations. The company's adventure specialists closely follow what's happening in the travel industry and in the destinations where its expedition trips operate. Below please find some of the news and trends the AdventureSmith team is following.

In February 2024, AdventureSmith had its biggest single month of bookings in the company's history (21 years). During that month:

- The average price per person was about 10% higher than normal, indicating that consumers are ready to spend.
- The average age of booking (the time from initial inquiry to deposit) was less than half of the company's average at only six days, indicating consumers are ready to book travel.
- Most of AdventureSmith's core destinations had strong bookings including Alaska, Arctic and Antarctica.

Read on for recent news and trends AdventureSmith's adventure specialists are following this spring and beyond:

GALAPAGOS

- **The Galapagos National Park has announced it will increase its per-person entry fee by \$100 starting on Aug 2, 2024.** The fee, now \$200 per adult, \$100 per child, has not been increased since 1998, and will do a lot to help the park with its infrastructure, management and conservation efforts. Questions about this or [Galapagos travel](#) in general? AdventureSmith's president and founder [Todd Smith](#) is on the board of the International Galapagos Tourism Association and can speak to this and why AdventureSmith supports it.

ANTARCTICA

- **What's it really like to cross the Drake Passage to Antarctica?** AdventureSmith had a specialist complete the crossing just last week. Let us know your questions!
- AdventureSmith is seeing an **increase in [fly-cruise options to Antarctica](#)**, with more itineraries than ever offering options to fly over the Drake Passage (two hours) instead of sail it (two days) for the upcoming 2024-25 season.
- **2025-26 season dates for [Antarctica cruises](#) are being released now, and noteworthy is the return of [Le Commandant Charcot](#).** After leaving Antarctica earlier this month to head toward the Arctic, this top-tier luxury expedition ship is not set to return to the White Continent again until late 2025 (thereby skipping an entire year's Antarctic cruising season).

SVALBARD

- **Svalbard has recently adopted tightened regulations (starting Jan 2025) that will prevent ships larger than 200 passengers from sailing in protected reserves and parks.** Ask AdventureSmith why small ship expedition cruising is the way to go in [this polar bear hub](#).

HAWAII

- **This [8-day Hawaiian cruise](#) has been among AdventureSmith's top selling trips so far in 2024.** It's such a unique way to visit the islands and is the ONLY multi-day small ship cruise sailing there. AdventureSmith will have a team member aboard (April 26-May 5), and can answer any questions pre-trip, while aboard, or post-trip.

SOLAR ECLIPSE

- **Expedition cruises in the Arctic are setting their schedules and routes early to align in the path of totality for the August 12, 2026 solar eclipse.** A 2024 Baja cruise in the path of totality is completely sold out, so cabins go fast. Book early for coveted space on:
 - 14-day [Arctic Odyssey](#) aboard 114-guest Sea Spirit – astrophysicist Paul Sutter joins as a special guest
 - 14-day [Spitsbergen – Northeast Greenland](#) aboard 170-guest Hondius or 108-guest Plancius

WHERE ADVENTURESMITH'S ADVENTURE SPECIALISTS ARE HEADED

AdventureSmith's team of travel experts are often onboard the trips they recommend. Here's where the team has been in 2024 and is headed next:

- **March 4-15, 2024:** Crossed the Drake Passage into Antarctica
- **April 26-May 5, 2024:** Experiencing the Hawaiian islands on the only multi-day small ship cruise sailing there
- **May 2024:** Scouting a new small ship cruise option in Costa Rica, and a travel industry trade show in Quito, Ecuador
- **September 2024:** Aboard a longtime favorite yacht in the Galapagos Islands

The AdventureSmith Explorations team are experts in small-ship adventure cruise travel and are happy to provide perspective on a variety of topics. View the company's [spokesperson topics](#).

###

Press Contact:

Jess Weaver, JVP Communications for AdventureSmith Explorations
(530) 448-6981 or jessica@jvpcommunications.com