

Fall 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.

Here are the travel booking and other trends they're following:

- Alaska has emerged as our #1 destination for 2024 after running neck and neck with Galapagos in 2023. New [Alaska vacation](#) bookings in the first half of 2024 exceeded the previous year's by over 100%. With fresh cruise itineraries in Prince William Sound and Southeast Alaska, and a more mature fly-in lodge program in Denali National Park, we have more options than ever before to explore the Great Land.
- Ecuador & the Galapagos are picking up pace as travelers look towards planning their vacations for the first half of 2025. AdventureSmith now offers [Galapagos cruise](#) itineraries aboard 34 unique small ships, the most in our history. Ecuador continues to be a safe, welcoming, and easy destination for our travelers – who rely on our deep expertise to experience the trip of a lifetime.
- Great deals across the fleet for Antarctica 24/25 and 25/26 means NOW is the time to secure your preferred cabin and departure. See what [Antarctica cruise deals](#) are available now.
- Dates for [expedition cruises](#) in 2027 are starting to be released. Plan ahead now for coveted dates, top cabin choices or charter cruises. AdventureSmith is already booking many travelers well into 2026 for popular itineraries.

NEWS & TRENDS

AdventureSmith's adventure specialists are following news and trends in adventure travel this fall and beyond that includes:

- A new international airport is opening in Nuuk, Greenland's capital, in November. This opens up new routes for ships and means easier access than ever before to the Arctic for North American travelers. We've already seen some [Arctic cruise](#) itinerary adjustments reflecting this development (for example, Toronto replacing Reykjavik as an expedition starting point).

- The northern lights continue to impress as the 11-year solar cycle heads towards its expected peak in July 2025. [Northern lights cruises](#) have been a popular way to experience this phenomena and many new cruise options have been dedicated to this event. What many people don't know is that you can also see the southern lights - look for a special departure of the [Polar Circle Cruise](#) on March 21, 2025 focused on aurora viewing with a professor of astronomy and NASA scientist aboard.
- Our [Indonesia cruises](#) will soon be easier to access as Indonesia is set to implement a new visa policy allowing tourists from 20 countries—including India, Australia, China, Japan, and the United States—to enter without a visa. Aimed at boosting international tourism, the policy is expected to be finalized starting October 2024. This move is part of broader efforts to simplify travel to Indonesia and attract visitors in the post-pandemic era.
- The advent of more activity-inclusive “basecamp” departures are great news for active Antarctica travelers looking for an extraordinarily immersive experience without added costs of booking individual activities. There are two notable arrivals ([Antarctica All-Access](#) for the 2024-25 season & [Antarctica Active Cruise](#) for the 2025-26 season). These join the already popular concept on the long-running [Antarctic Peninsula Basecamp Cruise](#), which is offering more departures than ever aboard three different ships due to the popularity.
- There are more [Antarctica fly-cruise options](#) than ever taking off this November. In fact, there is an 18% increase in departures scheduled for the upcoming season versus the 2023-24 season, and a 30% increase in travelers able to access Antarctica via fly cruises over the same period. Options now abound to fly round-trip or cruise one-way, fly one-way.
- The Patagonia cruising season starts now (September), with more dedicated [Patagonia cruises](#) than ever. There's also an increase in Patagonia/Antarctica combo cruises coming for the 2025-26 season, e.g. [this Antarctica & Patagonia cruise](#) fully dedicated to the combo, along with [the Active & Wild Antarctica Air Cruise](#) & [Spirit of Antarctica Expedition](#) that have introduced new extensions into Patagonia or the Chilean Fjords for the 25-26 season.
- Culinary programming continues to trend aboard expedition cruises. A new standout is a special December 1, 2024 [South Australia Cruise](#) sailing with a focus on the region's seafood, wine, whiskey, gin, mushrooms and other fare. Highlights include meeting with researchers from Australia's foremost sustainable aquaculture venture on famed Kangaroo Island, tasting some of the local wild-farmed abalone, and eating freshly caught Australian lobster in the traditional fishing outpost of Robe.



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 is headed next:

- September 2024: Sailing aboard a longtime favorite yacht in the Galapagos Islands and a bestseller in Alaska, plus attending a travel industry trade show in Ecuador.
- October & November 2024: Attending travel industry trade shows in Panama, Costa Rica and Alaska.
- December 2024: Cruising the Galapagos Islands aboard a family favorite small ship.

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](#) and feel free to reach out with questions.

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