

Winter 2024/25 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.

2024 was full of highlights, including incredible wildlife sightings by our adventure specialists who saw a [humpback whale in Antarctica](#) and a [tapir in Costa Rica](#), as well as one particularly lucky guest who traveled with us in East Greenland. [Check out her photos](#) of dozens of polar bears, witnessed in a single sighting!

This year, AdventureSmith also experienced strong traveler interest in the following:

- [Micro-cruising in the Arctic](#) - our most-clicked email topic of the year
- [Greek Island Small Ship Cruises](#) - our top-trafficked new webpage of 2024
- [Alaska Small Ship Cruises](#) - our overall top destination for both bookings and website traffic

NEWS, TRIPS & TRENDS

AdventureSmith's adventure specialists are following news and trends in adventure travel this winter and beyond. Here's some of what we're watching:

- Early-season [Antarctica expeditions](#) to see the **emperor penguin colony on Snow Hill Island** saw great success last month (November 2024). Opportunities to visit this remote island increase next season with another helicopter-equipped ship routing there, along with other new dedicated Weddell Sea itineraries.
- We're seeing **uncommon 2025 Alaska charter yacht availability** still but expect this space to rapidly diminish in January. Ask us about all the nuances of chartering your own yacht for 8 to 12 guests.
- Many more **compact Arctic cruise routes are about to launch** starting in late April 2025. Ask our experts about which popular itineraries will now have shorter variations, or [sort and filter all our Arctic expeditions by trip length](#).

- Also in the Arctic, **new regulations to help with wildlife conservation** start on January 1, 2025. Among the new guidelines are increased polar bear distance requirements for ships, along with the restriction of ships carrying more than 200 guests to visit national parks and preserves. AdventureSmith's [Svalbard cruise](#) options are primarily aboard ships under 200 guests so remain largely unaffected in route.
- **Solo travel is on the rise**, and ship operators are paying attention. In addition to new ships being built with dedicated single-occupancy cabins, we're seeing increasing incentives and waived single supplement blocks coming in 2025.

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE ADVENTURESMITH'S ADVENTURE SPECIALISTS?

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

- **December 2024:** Cruising the Galapagos Islands aboard a family favorite small ship (We have a specialist there right now!)
- **March 2025:** Sailing the Northern & Eastern Galapagos Islands aboard one of the newest luxury catamarans
- **April 2025:** Taking one of our top-rated Alaska small ship cruises from 2024
- **June 2025:** Sailing on a mega-yacht around Malta & Italy, where we have newly expanded itineraries
- **July 2025:** Flying into a remote lodge in Denali National Park for the most exclusive experience in the park

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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