Winter ice isolates much of the Kamchatka and Chukotka regions, making them some of the least visited destinations on Earth. But there is much to explore here, as the great Commander Vitus Bering quickly discovered in 1725. Unearthly volcanic landscapes, dramatic island rock formations, and staggering carpets of tundra wildflowers provide the backdrop for unfathomable numbers of seabirds and cetaceans. Search for the world's largest Brown Bear as it forages along the Kamchatka Peninsula, and see Walrus hauled-out on rocky shores. Step aboard the superbly designed Silver Discoverer, expertly engineered to allow access to rugged coasts beyond the reach of ordinary vessels, and join Apex for this 19-day voyage of discovery in the Russian Far East, where wildlife reigns and local people live in harmony with the awe-inspiring environment.
Tuesday, June 20: Arrive Tokyo, Japan
Arrive at Tokyo's Haneda Airport, and walk to the Haneda Excel Hotel. Get acclimated with an afternoon at leisure, then gather this evening to meet your fellow adventurers and the expert Apex expedition team at a welcome dinner and briefing. Overnight at Haneda Excel Hotel.

Wednesday, June 21: Tokyo / Hakodate / Embark Silver Discoverer
A short flight takes you to Hakodate on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido. Transfer to the port and embark the Silver Discoverer, your home away from home for the next 17 nights. Settle into your cabin, and be sure to be on deck for a sail-away cocktail as you bid farewell to Japan, and head north.

Thursday, June 22: At Sea
This first sea day allows you to prepare for the adventure to come with informal lectures by our Expedition Team on the seldom-visited Russian Far East. There is so much to learn about its flora, staggering fauna, geology and history. Tonight, enjoy the Captain's welcome cocktail party and dinner.

Friday, June 23: Korsakov, Sakhalin Island, Russia
Enjoy a traditional welcome with bread and salt as we clear into Russia today. Time permitting, explore Korsakov, founded in 1853 as Sakhalin's first Russian military post, before your drive to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, the capital of Sakhalin. Founded by Russian convicts in 1882, it became a Japanese prefecture in 1905 when the Treaty of Portsmouth awarded the southern half of Sakhalin to Japan. Soviets occupied it at the end of WWII and reclaimed it for Russia. Highlights include a visit to the Russian Orthodox Church, the Regional Museum housed in an impressive former Japanese mansion, and the bustling market. Enjoy a performance of traditional Cossack song and dance, before returning to the ship for dinner.
**Saturday, June 24: Tuleniya Island**
This afternoon, visit little-known Tuleniya Island off the southeast coast of Sakhalin. Tuleniya means "seal" in Russian, and during the summer months this island is home to tens of thousands of breeding seals and sea lions. A 1911 International Convention banned seal hunting here, and Northern Fur Seal numbers have grown steadily since. In the nineties, Steller Sea Lions started breeding on the island, and their colony now numbers about 2,500. Biologists have constructed blinds on Tuleniya for observing the fascinating pinnipeds as they blanket its beaches. Our visit is also well timed to see Black-legged Kittiwakes, Tufted Puffins, Common Murres and Pelagic Cormorants that summer on the island. This evening, we begin crossing the Sea of Okhotsk in an easterly direction.

**Sunday, June 25: Chirpoy Island**
Scan the water for whales and Sea Otters. Laysan Albatross, and with luck, the exceedingly rare Short-tailed Albatross, may be spotted soaring in our wake. Attend a lecture on our next destination, the Kuril Islands, part of the very active 'Pacific Ring of Fire'. In the late afternoon, step off the ship into a Zodiac to cruise around our first stop in the Kurils—Chirpoy Island, consisting of three overlapping stratovolcanoes. Feast your eyes on the staggering numbers of breeding fulmars, kittiwakes, puffins, auklets and Steller Sea Lions on Chirpoy's headlands. Return to the ship for dinner and overnight.

**Monday, June 26: Yankicha Island**
This morning, climb aboard Zodiacs for a landing on impressive Yankicha Island. One of the highlights of the Kuril Islands, Yankicha consists of a sinking volcanic caldera only accessible by Zodiac during high tide. Inside the magnificent lagoon, witness Yankicha's ongoing volcanic activity with smoking fumaroles and hot springs. The number of auklets that breed here is truly incredible and Arctic Foxes are often spotted scurrying about the shore. Although Crested Auklets are relatively common, the more elusive Whiskered Auklets feed offshore, forming rafts outside the caldera. Look for wildflowers and, if conditions permit, climb part of the slope for panoramic views of the caldera.

**Tuesday, June 27: Atlasov Island**
Snow-covered, and famous for its almost perfect volcanic cone, Atlasov is a sight to behold. Due to its beauty and symmetry, Atlasov is a favorite volcanic island of the Japanese. It is remarkably reminiscent of Mt. Fuji, and is the highest of the Kuril Islands, standing at 7,674 feet. It is also the most active of all the Kurils' volcanoes. Land by Zodiac on the black lava beach to begin guided hikes starting at the remains of the Russian Gulag that was once situated on this isolated island. Female political prisoners were sent here during the Soviet era, and taught to farm foxes. Birders can look for Siberian Rubythroats among the ash hills, grasses, and Kamchatka Tiger Lilies. This afternoon, we leave the Kurils behind as we head north to Kamchatka.

**Wednesday, June 28: Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky**
This morning, enter Avacha Bay, one of the greatest natural harbors in the world, and dock at Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the capital of Kamchatka and one of the oldest towns in the Russian Far East. A visit to the Museum of Ethnography and Natural History will give us a good sense of the region's natural and cultural history. Tour the Art School, the gold-domed Russian Orthodox Cathedral and the fish market, which features salmon every which way—whole, in steaks, smoked, and...
as roe, which you will be encouraged to sample at each kiosk. At the edge of town is a beautiful Stone Birch forest where we will tour a sled dog kennel and get a taste of the Russian and native roots of Kamchatka with a dance performance by locals in traditional reindeer-skin dress and beads.

**Thursday, June 29: Zhupanova River**

Early this morning, enjoy a scenic Zodiac cruise into the Zhupanova River, with excellent opportunities to spot such bird species as Pacific Diver, Far Eastern Curlew, Aleutian Tern and Yellow-breasted Bunting. A hike along the shore may well reveal the immense Steller’s Sea Eagle perched in trees overhead. Good numbers of Largha Seals are also often hauled out on sandbars in the river. By afternoon, we will be back on board and heading for the Komander Islands. New species to look for include Mottled Petrel and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel. The Kamchatka Trench can also be excellent for cetaceans, with Blue Whales spotted on this crossing.

**Friday, June 30: Nikolskoye Village & Cape Severozapadniy, Bering Island, Komander Islands**

Located 125 miles off the coast of Kamchatka, the Komander Islands are named after famed commander Vitus Bering, commissioned in 1725 to search for a land bridge between Asia and America. On Bering Island, visit the small fishing village of Nikolskoye and its museum to learn about the Aleut people, as well as Bering himself. Enjoy a performance and presentation of local games. In the afternoon, explore Cape Severozapadniy on the northwest tip of the island. Birders can look for Rock Sandpiper, Mongolian Plover, Pechora Pipit and Grey-crowned Rosy-finch, as well as an endemic subspecies of Arctic Fox. Zodiac cruising can be extremely rewarding here, with several species of auklets as well as the Red-legged Kittiwake well represented. The area is also rich in marine mammals, including Sperm, Humpback, Northern Minke and Baird’s Beaked-Whales, as well as Orca, Steller Sea Lions, Northern Fur Seals and Sea Otters.

**Saturday, July 1: Commander Bay**

On the east side of Bering Island lies Commander Bay, Bering’s final resting place after the 1741 wreck of his expedition ship, St. Peter. Though they tried to survive on seaweed and the now-extinct Steller’s Sea Cow, Bering and several of his men perished. The reports from those that did survive led to a ‘fur rush’ and the settlement of the islands. One notable survivor of the expedition was Wilhelm Steller, who described hundreds of plants and animals, including the Steller Sea Lion, Steller’s Jay, Steller’s Sea Eagle, and Steller’s Sea Cow. Commander Bay is now a nature reserve, and a small monument accompanies the graves of Bering and his men. Take a leisurely walk along the creek that runs into Commander Bay before returning to the ship for lunch.

**Sunday, July 2: Yuzhnaya Glybokaya Bay**

This afternoon, explore the stunning Govena Peninsula at Yuzhnaya Glybokaya Bay. Hike among succulent Roseroot, magenta Pixie Eyes, and purple-blue Jacob’s Ladder, past waterfalls, to glacial moraine and a spectacular vista of jagged peaks. Keep an eye out for evidence of bear activity.

**Monday, July 3: Glybokaya Bay**

Cruise along the magnificent Chukotka shore, and land at the sweeping crescent beach of Glybokaya Bay. White-tailed Sea Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Kittlitz’s
Murrelets can sometimes be seen right next to the landing. The scene is striking—a gently undulating river valley appearing to go on for miles, flanked by hills with thickets of alder trees and talus slopes of lichen-covered boulders. Underfoot, a dense carpet of Crowberry, Creeping Dogwood, and other plants will be growing. Again, be on the lookout for Brown Bear.

**Tuesday, July 4: Petra Bay / Bogoslav Island / Pavel Bay**
Early this morning, hike past a spectacular waterfall leading to some small lakes, dammed behind a moraine ridge. The Zodiac trip back to the ship will bring you past a known Largha Seal haul-out. Toward noon, we will drop the Zodias again to cruise along the spectacular sea cliffs of Bogoslav Island, spotting Pigeon, Brünnich’s, and Common Guillemots, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Harlequin Ducks, Horned Puffins, White Wagtails, Pelagic Cormorants and Slaty-backed Gulls. Keep watch for Brown Bears that frequent the area. There is also a Walrus haul-out nearby, and the large males are often curious about the Zodias, sometimes approaching them, snorting clouds of spray as their heads bob in the water.

**Wednesday, July 5: Meynypilgyno Village**
Enjoy a Zodiac cruise off the Chukchi fishing village of Meynypilgyno, set on a long spit of land. Birders rejoice—the village is the most important site in the world for critically endangered, breeding Spoon-billed Sandpipers. Keep an eye out for Emperor Goose, Pacific and White-billed Diver, and Sandhill Crane, as well. The lagoon entrance often has Largha Seals, Gray and Beluga Whales, and Sabine’s Gulls. Pending permission, we go ashore to taste local caviar and salmon, get a glimpse of local life in this small village, and enjoy some Chukchi hospitality as the village ensemble performs traditional dances.

**Thursday, July 6: Cape Kuyvyveen**
After a morning spent at sea, watching for more Walrus and the many Gray Whales that frequent the area at this time of year, climb aboard Zodias and behold the spectacular scenery of Cape Kuyvyveen. Sheer granite rocks with very distinct basalt caves and arches will greet you, along with thousands of Tufted Puffins nesting in the cliffs’ crevasses. Black-legged Kittiwakes, Common and Thick-billed Murres, Glaucous and Slaty-winged Gulls will add to the incredible din of bird chatter. Also look for Parakeet Auklets and Red Phalarope.

**Friday, July 7: Provideniya / At Sea**
Our last stop in the Russian Far East will be in this former Soviet military port at the southern limit of the Arctic ice pack. This is solely a technical visit, to clear out of Russia before continuing to Alaska. Enjoy lectures and recaps of our incredible journey as the *Silver Discoverer* makes the 19-hour journey across the Bering Sea. Gather this evening for the Captain’s farewell celebration.

**Friday, July 7: Cross the International Date Line / Nome, Alaska**
After crossing the International Date Line, and gaining a day, arrive in the U.S. in Nome, Alaska, on July 7th. Enjoy a final breakfast before disembarking and transferring to the airport for your flights homeward.

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Photos: Tufted Puffin, Walrus Haul-out, Village Visit, Cape Kuyvyveen
Your Expedition Leaders

Russ Evans
A Falkland Islander, Russ has strong ties to the southern oceans and today spends most of his time at sea in various roles, but leading expeditions to Antarctica remains his first love. A sixth-generation Falkland Islander, Russ left the family farming enterprise to pursue a career crewing and skippering commercial work boats. An avid outdoorsman with a keen sense of place and a passion for wildlife and photography, Russ jumped at the chance to work as a general naturalist and Zodiac driver on an expedition cruise in 2003. The rest, as they say, is history, and Russ now leads small-ship expedition cruises all around the globe. His experience and knowledge of the bays and coves worth exploring in the Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica is staggering and lends an element of surprise to any expedition. He's been known to delight even our veteran expedition team, who've traveled to the region countless times, with his new ideas and exploratory landings.

Peter Harrison
Peter Harrison has led expeditions throughout the world, from the Arctic to the Antarctic and everywhere in between. Peter has written and illustrated over a dozen books, of which *Seabirds: An Identification Guide*, is considered the bible of seabird identification. In addition to being a professional birder, entrepreneur, artist, author and screenwriter, Peter has devoted much of his time to conservation efforts. In recognition of his outstanding work in natural history, Peter was honored with the title, Member of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. More recently Peter received the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' prestigious Conservation Gold Medal Award. This honor is bestowed upon one individual each year in recognition of their support and dedication to wild bird protection and global habitat conservation. Exploration and discovery remain a driving force for Peter and it is safe to say that with Peter leading the charge, adventure always abounds.

Jonathan Rossouw
Jonathan Rossouw is one of the world's most experienced expedition leaders, having guided wildlife trips in over 150 countries on all seven continents. He combines a legendary energy and enthusiasm with a broad knowledge of all aspects of natural history, gained from three decades spent in the pursuit of the world's mammals, birds, reptiles and coral reef fishes. Indeed, having seen over 1,000 species of mammals, 8,000 species of birds and 2,000 coral reef fishes, he will likely experience more species of vertebrate animals than anyone in history!

A medical doctor by training, Jonathan was born and raised on South Africa's east coast. He started a birding travel company in South Africa before joining Peter Harrison and Shirley Metz, to assist in expanding their global portfolio of natural history destinations. An accomplished photographer, Jonathan's images have appeared in many books and magazines, and he has co-authored birding site guides to Uganda, Southern Africa and Madagascar.
Kevin Clement

Not many people can say they have lived inside Alaska’s Denali National Park, but Kevin Clement is one. Nowadays, however, he spends most of his time guiding ecotourism and adventure travel trips on all seven continents. Kevin has served as the Denali Foundation instructor for natural history and as a trainer for the Park’s staff of naturalists. As a Certification Instructor for the Wilderness Education Association he led month-long outdoor leadership courses under the auspices of the University of Alaska. He has lived in several other national parks and has guided groups in whitewater rafts, on cross-country skis, by sled dog, and on foot, earning certifications in scuba diving, swiftwater rescue, and wilderness medicine, as well as a Coast Guard Master’s license. A veteran of over 100 voyages to the Antarctic, most recently Kevin has been coordinating and leading kayaking excursions in South Georgia and on the Antarctic Peninsula. Kevin also continues to draw and paint. His first career was as an illustrator and he never travels without his sketchbook. Or his sense of humor.

Shirley Metz

Shirley Metz’s careers and accomplishments have spanned the globe. Shirley became a certified diver at age 16 and while at the University of Hawaii did shark research earning her degrees in Marine Biology and Communications. She met her first husband in Hawaii with whom she founded Hobie Sports. She also developed several active clothing lines and consulted to companies such as The North Face. In 1988 Shirley visited Antarctica and became inspired to work in Antarctic conservation. To raise awareness, she became a member of an international expedition that would attempt to ski 800 miles from the edge of Antarctica to the South Pole. On January 17, 1989, the nine-member expedition arrived at world’s end; Shirley made history and her way into the Guinness Book of Records as the first woman to ski overland to the South Pole. A member of the Explorers Club and The Society of Woman Geographers, Shirley continues to raise awareness and support for environmental and cultural projects.

Giovanna Fasanelli

A life-long love affair with the sea propelled Giovanna into the world of marine biology, conservation, underwater photography and natural history documentaries. Whilst completing her marine biology degree at Australia’s James Cook University, Giovanna worked at an underwater film company during which time she gained experience tagging Tiger Sharks and Green Turtles in the Coral Sea and assisting with film production. This opportunity spawned a decade-long career in television, presenting the latest developments in aquaculture and fisheries science. Though Giovanna’s training is principally in the marine realm her passion for wilderness and animals has driven her to explore habitats around the world from Snow Leopards in the Himalayas to Komodo Dragons in Indonesia and Mountain Gorillas in Uganda. Fast approaching 100 countries visited, Giovanna has extensive experience as a guide and naturalist all over the world. A talented photographer and skilled writer, Giovanna’s work is regularly featured in several magazines.
Adventure travellers can explore the remote archipelagos of the vast Pacific aboard the sleek, 120-guest Silver Discoverer. She's the perfect platform for viewing these untamed landscapes, with all ocean-view suites and plenty of deck space, so that a breaching whale or pod of dolphins can readily be viewed. Silver Discoverer’s shallow draft allows her to navigate closer to shore, and with a fleet of 12 Zodiacs guests can land on isolated shores and explore varied ecosystems, up-close and in-depth.

**Russian Far East 2017 onboard the Silver Discoverer**

Vessel Specifications

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**Suite Categories**

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**All Suites Include:**

Twin beds or queen-sized bed with premium mattresses; fine Pratesi bed linens and down duvets; refrigerator stocked with your preferences; Radio/Alarm with iPod docking station; writing desk; wardrobe with personal safe; hair dryer; flat screen television with on-demand movies and music, and satellite news programming; plush robes and slippers.
Expedition Details

Russian Far East

June 20 – July 7, 2017

19 Days  Trip Length
Tokyo, Japan  Start
Nome, Alaska  End

Included

Included in the price of your Apex expedition are all accommodations as noted in the itinerary; meals, activities and excursions; group flight from Tokyo-Haneda to Hakodate; all gratuities; complimentary room service onboard the vessel; select wines and premium spirits onboard the vessel; local beer and wine with dinner in Tokyo; services of five Apex Expeditions leaders, as well as the full onboard lecture team and expedition staff; local guides; airport transfers; permits; Russian Letter of Invitation; entrance fees; and taxes.

Not Included

Not included in the price of your Apex expedition is airfare to Tokyo or from Nome; select premium wines and liquors; travel insurance (Trip Cancellation and Interruption, as well as Emergency Medical and Evacuation insurance, are highly recommended); airport departure taxes; passport and/or visa fees; excess luggage charges; items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, souvenirs, etc.); onboard spa and salon services; and independent travel arrangements pre- or post-trip.

Payments & Terms

25% of the trip cost will confirm your place on the expedition. The final balance is due 150 days prior to departure. All prices are quoted in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Per person pricing is based on double occupancy. The Solo Rate is paid by participants who specifically request single accommodations and is subject to availability. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we will try to match you with a roommate of the same gender. However, if a roommate is not available, the published Solo Rate will be charged. Upon confirming your reservation you will be required to pay the published Solo Rate, if we are able to pair you with a roommate, the applicable difference will be refunded at the time that final trip payment is due for all participants. Please note that solo accommodations are limited and cannot always be guaranteed throughout. For our full set of Terms & Conditions, please visit our web site at www.apex-expeditions.com/about/terms-conditions

One-of-a-kind adventures to the world’s most fascinating places. Join us.
Deck Plan - Silver Discoverer

DECK 3
Restaurant
Medical Center

DECK 4
Explorer Lounge
Lobby/Reception

DECK 5
Pool
The Grill
Discoverer Lounge

DECK 6
The Bridge

DECK 7
Beauty Salon
Massage Room
Fitness Center
Sun Deck

- Explorer Suite
- View Suite
- Vista Suite
- Veranda Suite
- Medallion Suite
**Suite Details - Silver Discoverer**

**Medallion Suite**
- 408 sq. ft, including Private Balcony (27 sq. ft.)
- Teak style balcony, with floor-to-ceiling glass doors
- Living room with sitting area • Laundry service
- Wifi available (fees apply)

**Veranda Suite**
- 280 sq. ft, including Private Balcony (35.5 sq. ft.)
- Teak style balcony, with floor-to-ceiling glass doors
- Sitting room • Wifi available (fees apply)

**Vista Suite**
- 269 sq. ft • Two view windows (35 in. x 24 in.)
- Sitting area • Wifi available (fees apply)

**View Suite**
- 181 sq. ft • One view windows (35 in. x 24 in.)
- Sitting area • Wifi available (fees apply)

**Explorer Suite**
- 186 sq. ft • Two portholes (15.75 in. diameter)
- Sitting area • Wifi available (fees apply)

*Suite diagrams and deck plans are for illustration purposes only.*
Russian Far East
June 20 – July 7, 2017

Person 1: (Primary Contact)

Passport Name: 

Preferred Name:

Date of Birth:

Email Address:

Mailing Details:

Address:

City: State: ZIP Code: Country:

Phone: Fax:

- Double
- Solo
- Cabin Category Preference

Person 2: (If applicable and at same address, otherwise please submit a second Reservation Form.)

Passport Name:

Preferred Name:

Date of Birth:

Email Address:

Deposit Information:

- My deposit check is enclosed
- Charge my deposit to my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Card #: Expires: CCV Code:

Name on Card:

Signature:

Please return this completed form to Apex Expeditions.
E-mail: info@apex-expeditions.com or Mail: 4130 California Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98116