

Nine out of every 10 superyachts stick to the turquoise waters of the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, but these coastlines only make up 6% of the world's coast and 1.5% of the ocean's total surface area

90%



A LEGEND IN THE MAKING

Powerful ice-breaking superyacht *Legend* was delivered to her owner in October 2016, refitted especially for charter guests looking for Antarctic and Arctic adventures in comfort. After a day spent ice diving, glacier hiking or polar bear spotting, guests can retreat to the on-board Balinese spa, relax in the cinema or take a well-earned nap in one of the luxurious suites. Bliss.

26 guests

77 metres long

1 three-person submarine

4 waverunners

2 snow scooters

1 helicopter

€455,000 a week (plus expenses)

Boats that break the ice

For a new type of superyacht owner, glory lies in sailing to destinations that nobody has reached before and returning with stories to last a lifetime, writes **Dominique Afacan**



As far as travel tales go, Kelvin Murray, a director at Eyos Expeditions, doesn't have to struggle for good material. As if living in Antarctica weren't cool enough, he has also led exploratory diving expeditions through the world's largest fjord system in Svalbard, hiked with reindeers and lectured on the secret life of walrus. Murray's fascination with and knowledge of the polar regions make him the ideal person to take on a trip there. And these days, the number of superyacht owners who want to go is steadily growing. But with all the associated difficulties and dangers, why on earth would you want to?

'Think about the epic journeys of Scott and Shackleton – names synonymous with exploration and human endeavour,' says Murray. 'That inspires and provokes us. Until recently, it wasn't possible for non-explorers to do those things, but modern technology means these places are more accessible. Now superyacht owners and charter guests who have covered a lot of destinations ask me, "Where else can we go?" The poles have that mystique – and are enough of a challenge to satisfy those needs.'

Should you also want to visit, Murray and Eyos Expeditions are the ones to call. Not only do they ensure your chartered boat is up to the job and accompany you to the frozen wilderness, they act as 'ice pilots', (translation: 'You can hit that piece of ice, but not that piece'), help seek out wildlife and solicit the endless permissions required to visit the Antarctic.

Eyos has also created a superyacht of its own. The *SeaXplorer 100*, currently in build, is a collaboration with Dutch shipyard Damen. Equipped for 40 days of autonomy, the 100m-long boat has an ice-breaking steel hull (which can thrust through ice up to a metre thick), a fully enclosed helicopter hangar (suitable for two helicopters), a luxury tender, a dive support boat and expedition RIB, an ice radar, and – somewhat less crucially – a special mud room where the 30 guests can shed the penguin guano from their boots.

As interest in expeditions to these desolate regions increases, so does the choice for intrepid superyacht owners. Some of the best options on the market include: 71m-long *Enigma XK* (left), converted from a fisheries patrol vessel; Icon Yachts' newly refitted *Legend*, a 77m beauty built specifically for adventurous charter; and *Ulysses*, currently on the market while her owner builds something bigger (bigger than the 107m original, just to be clear). Alev Karagulle, part of the team at Burgess, the brokerage tasked with selling *Ulysses*, is confident of the demand for such giants. 'At the larger end of the size spectrum, yachts have facilities such as gyms, spa areas, cinemas and, of course, an incredible inventory of toys for both land, sea and ice,' he says. It's hardly roughing it like Shackleton and Co. But then, maybe if he had the chance to travel to Antarctica now, Shackleton might also opt for sitting on a private tender with humpbacks swimming around him with the promise of a hot shower and gourmet dinner just a short journey away. ♦ eyos-expeditions.com



ABOVE: Inside *Legend*, the spectacular superyacht that caters for up to 26 guests. LEFT: *Legend* is 77m long and built for adventure. OPPOSITE, INSET: *Enigma XK* used to patrol Scottish waters looking for illegal fishing boats

PHOTOS: QUINN BISSET



DEEPER ON DOWN

As the thirst for adventure gathers force, the demand for reaching new depths increases. This year's Monaco Yacht Show confirmed the latest trend in superyacht toys: luxurious personal submarines. One of the most popular was the *Aurora-6* by California-based manufacturer SEAmagine. This spacious \$5m sub is capable of carrying six people down to 1,000m with the pilot at the front, two passengers in the 'owner's lounge' right behind and three in the 'guests' lounge' at the rear. Rotating chairs mean passengers can take in the action from every direction through the clear acrylic hemispheres that have replaced metal spheres in modern mini-subs: guests have the sensation of total immersion in the underwater world. Should all that water make them thirsty, there's a minibar in the front – and an emergency bathroom at the back. ♦