

ANTARCTICA - QUEST FOR THE ANTARCTIC CIRCLE | MS EXPEDITION



INTRODUCTION

Join a voyage of discovery to Antarctica - our planet's last frontier - a mysterious and virtually pristine paradise. Our ice-strengthened expedition ship is ideally suited to cruising in this icy wilderness and the expert staff will ensure that you fully appreciate the majesty of all you encounter. The end result is more like a private expedition than a traditional cruise. Sail the Drake Passage past the South Shetland Islands, explore the western coast of the Antarctic Peninsula and cross below the fabled 66.5 degrees south. Experience massive rookeries of penguins shuffling across a frozen shore, pods of whales gliding through the cold waters and dramatic landscapes floating off into the distance. This trip will be like no other and a memory of a lifetime.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE

ACTSQAC

DEPARTURE

21/12/2022, 08/02/2023,
20/02/2023, 21/12/2023,
08/02/2024, 20/02/2024

DURATION

14 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctic Circle



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DAY 1: Arrival in Ushuaia

Ushuaia is the most southerly city in the world with a dramatic setting overlooking the Beagle Channel, surrounded by mountains. It is a major port for Antarctic bound vessels and an interesting city to explore. The Museo Marítimo y del Presidio de Ushuaia, (Maritime & the Prison of Ushuaia Museum), located in the former prison of Ushuaia in buildings dating back to 1906, is well worth a visit. Tierra del Fuego National Park, a short bus ride from Ushuaia was the first shoreline National Park to be established in Argentina. It is a rugged, mountainous park with great views of Lapataia Bay and dramatic scenery with waterfalls, mountains, glaciers and lakes including parts of Fagnano and Roca Lakes. There are many hiking trails within the park including the Coastal Path (Senda Costera) that connects Ensenada Bay to Lapataia Bay on Lago Roca and the park is home to many species of birds and animals. You will check into your hotel and enjoy the evening at your leisure.



DAY 2: Ushuaia - Embark on ship

Embarkation on the M/S Expedition begins in the afternoon at the port in Ushuaia. Embarkation time is set for 4:00pm. The morning is free for any last minute shopping, an optional excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park or a hike up to the Marshall Glacier. The evening is spent on board the ship watching the sunset over the Beagle Channel. On the first day on-board, your expedition leader will give you an expedition overview.



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DAY 3: Crossing the Drake Passage - Days 3 & 4


Our adventure begins with an 800km (497 mile) crossing of the passage that bears the name of the 16th century English explorer Sir Francis Drake. The M/S Expedition is at home in this part of the Southern Ocean, known for the unimpeded fetch of the winds that encircle the Antarctic. On the second day we cross the Antarctic Convergence, a meeting of cold polar water flowing north and warmer equatorial water moving in the opposite direction. This mixing pushes nutrient rich waters to the surface attracting a variety of seabirds, whales and other species. As we make the passage you have time to become acquainted with the ship and frequent the common areas that include the lounge, dining hall, library and lecture hall where you meet your guides, ship's crew and expedition staff. We also begin the lecture and information sessions to learn the extraordinary human and natural history of the Antarctic region. Keep a look out for sightings of icebergs, whales and albatross following in the ship's wake.



DAY 5: Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland - Day 5 & 6

Over the next four days we will navigate southwards making stops in the South Shetland Islands then through the Bransfield Strait and on to the Antarctic Peninsula. Our goal is to attempt two excursions per day while we navigate through the area but our itinerary and daily schedule will be based on the local weather and ice conditions. The Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands abound with wildlife. Penguins gather with their fast-growing chicks, whales are seen in great numbers, seals haul out onto ice floes and beaches, and numerous albatross and other seabirds trail in our wake. There is plenty of time to enjoy the breathtaking scenery of ice-choked waterways, blue and white icebergs, impressive glaciers and rugged snow-capped mountains. The Peninsula also has a remarkable history, and during the voyage we will learn about some of the most important and dramatic expeditions.



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DAY 7: Polar Circle Crossing - Days 7 & 8

With a close eye on weather conditions, we set off southward along the western coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. Passing colossal icebergs and countless colonies of penguins we push on – our aim being to cross the Antarctic Polar Circle. Few travellers have ventured this far south, but with our fully equipped ice-strengthened vessel and favourable sea conditions, we can access many remote locations that other ships cannot reach.



DAY 9: Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland- Days 9 to 11

We will continue our exploration of the Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands as we move north again. Keeping a close eye out for wildlife we might have the opportunity to do some whale watching or even go for a Polar plunge in the Southern waters.



DAY 12: Return Drake Passage Crossing - Days 12 & 13

Today we turn north to begin our journey back across the Drake Passage to our home port of Ushuaia. In between bird watching, whale watching and enjoying some final lectures by the expedition staff, our final two days are a perfect opportunity to relax and review the highlights of the past week before returning to Ushuaia.



DAY 14: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

And so our adventure comes to a close. We'll say our goodbyes as we disembark in Ushuaia in the morning. Upon completion of the 8:00 am disembarkation in Ushuaia, you will be transferred to either the airport or a central location where luggage can be stored. *** Important - Please be sure not to book flights out of Ushuaia before 12PM (Noon) on the day of disembarkation from your cruise ship.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on ship.
Inclusions	<p>1 night hotel accommodation in Ushuaia pre cruise Shipboard accommodation All meals onboard All scheduled landings/excursions Guiding and lectures by expedition leader and team English-speaking expedition team All port fees All landing fees Expedition jacket A pair of boots for use during the voyage Group arrival and departure transfers</p> <p>EXCLUSIONS: Airmiles to/from embarkation and disembarkation city Visa fees (if applicable) Travel Insurance Beverages (other than coffee and tea) Personal expenses such as laundry, onboard communication (telephone calls, faxes, email service) Gratuities for the crew (recommended US\$15.00 per person per day) Pre or post cruise travel expenses</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	No single surcharge if willing to share (Category 1, 2 and 3 cabin classes only).
Notes	Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date and availability

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SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

A trip to the Antarctic is a completely different experience and quite unlike any other trip you have probably been on. We use a highly regulated, licensed vessel which is well equipped to operate in this vulnerable ecosystem. We are fully compliant with all rules set down by the IAATO and all activities are governed by the Antarctic Treaty System. We carefully select all ships we work with and choose them for their small size as this creates far less impact on shore landings with wildlife. We view the voyage to the Antarctic as an expedition, not a sightseeing trip. Smaller boats such as ours can

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navigate narrow waterways and are far less polluting than the larger ships in Antarctic waters. By carrying less passengers, we have far less waste, and all waste is carried back to the home port to allow for environmentally conscious waste management and disposal, unlike some of the larger ships which do not facilitate this. This trip begins in Ushuaia where you will have time to sample local food and shop at local boutiques which we encourage individuals to take part in for experience and in support of the local community. We also try to create opportunity to see research and historical sites. We discourage the buying of souvenirs made from endangered species or wrongfully taken from the environment i.e. shells. Our pre-departure pack provides you with all the information required for your tour, from what to take with you to practical advice about how to minimise your impact on the Antarctic environment. This pack highlights initiatives such as waste reduction, and how to appropriately engage with wildlife and the environment around you.

For more information visit our [sustainability page](#).

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