

## ACROSS THE CIRCLE: PUNTA ARENAS TO USHUAIA | GREG MORTIMER



### INTRODUCTION

Depart from Punta Arenass on this incredible journey below the Antarctic Circle. Enter a realm of true wilderness and untouched serenity, as an endless sea of ice and frozen mountain vistas await. Zodiac cruise through narrow channels of majestic floating icebergs, encounter leopard seals resting on the floating ice floe, search for the misty spray of a orca or blue whale. Antarctica is truly the realm of unforgettable and indescribable natural experiences.

*\*Save up to 20% discount on the 2023/24 season valid for new bookings until 28 Feb 2023. Offer available on selected cabin categories and selected departures only with some exclusions. Not combinable with any other promotion. Offers apply to new bookings only. Cabins are subject to availability and currency fluctuations. Further conditions apply, please [contact us](#) for more information.*

**PLEASE NOTE: Pricing is subject to change and availability at the time of booking. Contact us for more information.**

### ITINERARY

#### TRIP CODE

ACAUCFP

#### DEPARTURE

01/02/2023

#### DURATION

12 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Antarctic Circle



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## DAY 1: Arrival and Overnight in Punta Arenas

Arrive in Punta Arenas, where you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and transferred to our group hotel. Upon arrival at your included hotel, kindly remind hotel check-in staff to provide you with Aurora Expeditions cabin tags. Please clearly label the tags with your name and ship cabin number. Overlooking the Straits of Magellan, the city sits astride one of the world's most historic trade routes. Today, Punta Arenas reflects a great mix of cultures, from English sheep ranchers to Portuguese sailors, and it remains an utterly fascinating testament to Chile's rich history. At approximately 6.00 pm this evening, meet your fellow expeditioners at a voyage briefing. Afterwards, there's free time to enjoy the local cuisine at one of Punta Arenas's many restaurants. (Dinner not included). Accommodation: Hotel Cabo de Hornos (or similar)



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## DAY 2: Fly Punta Arenas to King George Island

This morning we will be transferred to Punta Arenas airport for our charter flight to King George Island, Antarctica (weather permitting). The flight will take approximately one-and-a-half hours. On arrival into King George Island our expedition team is on hand to greet you for your Zodiac transfer to board the vessel. You'll have time to settle into your cabin before our important briefings. Note: King George Island is located at the northern part of the Antarctic Peninsula in the South Shetland Islands and is one of the most remote places on Earth. A clear sky with perfect visibility is required for safe take-off and landing. We apologise in advance for any delays.



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### DAY 3: Antarctic Peninsula and Circle - Day 3 to 9

It's almost impossible to describe the feeling of arriving in Antarctica. Spotting your first iceberg and taking a deep breath of some of the most fresh, crisp air on earth is an experience that will stay with you forever. The western side of the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands are ours to explore, and we have a host of choices available to us. Because we are so far south, we will experience approximately 18-24 hours of daylight and the days can be as busy as you wish. Your experienced expedition team, who have made countless journeys to this area, will use their expertise to design your voyage from day to day, choosing the best options based on the prevailing weather, ice conditions and wildlife opportunities. We generally make landings or Zodiac excursions twice a day. You'll want to rug up before joining Zodiac cruises along spectacular ice cliffs or among grounded icebergs, keeping watch for whales, seals and porpoising penguins. Zodiacs will also transport you from the ship to land, where you can visit penguin rookeries, discover historic huts and explore some of our favourite spots along the peninsula. While ashore we aim to stretch our legs, wandering along pebbly beaches or perhaps up snow-covered ridgelines to vantage points with mountains towering overhead and ice-speckled oceans below. If you have chosen an optional activity, you'll have the option to do that whenever conditions allow, and of course keen polar plungers will have the chance to fully immerse themselves in polar waters - conditions permitting! In addition to Zodiac cruises and shore excursions, we may ship cruise some of the narrow, dramatic straits separating offshore islands from the mainland, or linger in scenic bays to watch whales travelling or feeding. This is a great time to enjoy the observation lounge or make your way to the bridge for uninterrupted views of Antarctica in all its splendour. Keep an ear out for the creak and deep rumble of glaciers as they carve their way from summit to sea, and take a quiet moment to experience the wonder of this incredible white continent. On this voyage, we plan to cross the Antarctic Circle, an imaginary line located at the Antarctic Circle at latitude 66°33' South (approximately). This is certainly a special highlight for everyone, and the moment will be celebrated with a toast on the deck. You've earned some boasting privileges, joining a small group of lucky adventurers who've made it to this part of the world. As we approach and cross the circle, you will notice subtle changes in the landscape, icescape, and also in the distribution of wildlife. The waters at this time of year are rich with krill and we hope to see plenty of whales - particularly humpbacks and minke, and enjoy the spectacle of penguins feeding their ravenous chicks.



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### DAY 10: Drake Passage - Day 10 & 11

We re-enter the Drake Passage for our return journey to South America. With lectures and film presentations to complete our Antarctic experience, there is still plenty of time to enjoy the magic of Southern Ocean and the life that calls it home. There is time for reflection and discussion about what we have seen and experienced, and the impact this voyage has had on our attitude to life. As we approach the tip of South America, our Captain may sail close to legendary Cape Horn, weather and time permitting.



### DAY 12: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

During the early morning, we cruise up the Beagle Channel, before quietly slipping into dock in Ushuaia, where we will be free to disembark around 8.00 am. Farewell your expedition team and fellow passengers as we all continue our onward journeys, hopefully with a newfound sense of the immense power of nature. A transfer to the airport or to your hotel is included in the cost of the voyage. Note: At the conclusion of the voyage, we do not recommend booking flights departing Ushuaia prior to 12.00 pm on the day of disembarkation in case there are delays



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

#### Accommodation

Cabin on board ship

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<b>Inclusions</b>	Cabin accommodation on board ship All meals, snacks, tea and coffee whilst on board All scheduled landings and excursions by zodiac Charter flights Punta Arenas to King George Island on Day 2 Guiding and leadership by experienced expedition team Expedition jacket (yours to keep) Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner Complimentary use of muck boots during the course of your voyage Comprehensive pre departure material Port surcharges, permits and landing fees <b>EXCLUSIONS</b> International Flights Any optional activities not mentioned in the itinerary Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Personal expenses such as laundry and onboard communications Alcoholic beverages and soft drinks (outside of dinner service) Any pre/post departure stays not included in the itinerary Customary gratuities for staff and on board crew
<b>Difficulty Rating</b>	2 (light adventure)
<b>Single Surcharge</b>	Available upon request. Contact us for more information.
<b>Notes</b>	Please note this itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditons.
<b>Price Dependent upon</b>	Departure date, seasonality 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 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

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community. We also try to create opportunity to see research and historical sites including the former research station/now museum of Port Lockroy and engage with local history. 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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