

ANTARCTICA - WEDDELL SEA, POLAR CIRCLE & ELEPHANT ISLAND | HONDIUS



INTRODUCTION


This incredible expedition will take you to the expansive sights of the Antarctic Circle. Combing incredible wildlife spotting opportunities and surreal landscapes, this 14 day voyage to the heart of the Weddel Sea will also encompass key landings sites such as Elephant Island and Crystal Sound. This surreal adventure to the Antarctic Circle will allow you to spot unique wildlife including Adelie and Gentoo penguins, crabeater seals and a number of whale species including humpback, orca and Minke whales.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Embarkation in Ushuaia

Your voyage begins where the world drops off. Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet, is located on the far southern tip of South America. Starting in the afternoon, you embark from this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego, nicknamed “The End of the World,” and sail the mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the remainder of the evening.



TRIP CODE
ACOWWSP
DEPARTURE
14/03/2023
DURATION
14 Days
LOCATIONS
Antarctic Peninsula and Antarctic Circle


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DAY 2: Drake Passage - Day 2 to 3

Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you enjoy some of the same experiences encountered by the great polar explorers who first charted these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale spouting up sea spray. After passing the Antarctic Convergence - Antarctica's natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer sub-Antarctic seas - you are in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. Not only does the marine life change, the avian life changes too. Wandering albatrosses, grey-headed albatrosses, black-browed albatrosses, light-mantled sooty albatrosses, cape pigeons, southern fulmars, Wilson's storm petrels, blue petrels, and Antarctic petrels are a few of the birds you might see.



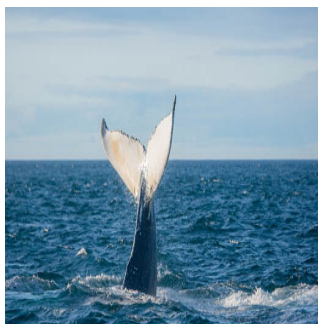
DAY 4: Elephant Island

We will arrive early to the famous Point Wild, Elephant Island, where Shackleton's crew made their first landing after the loss of their ship, Endurance. This inhospitable spit of land is a favorite among our guests, and if conditions permit, we will offer activities around the point before setting off for the Weddell Sea.



DAY 5: Devil Island

Today you enter the wondrous Weddell Sea, a relatively unvisited area in which we hope to carry out activities in Erebus and Terror Gulf. We may also visit such places such as Beak Island and Devil Island, which boast some stunning scenery as well as the pack ice for which the Weddell Sea is famous.



DAY 6: Exploring Remote Islands

As we continue to explore the area of Erebus and Terror Gulf, we look for new opportunities for activities. You may also visit Vega Island, experiencing the wilderness of Antarctica in its most remote places.



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DAY 7: Orleans Strait

Now we sail down the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula, entering the Orleans Strait. Here we hope to see humpback and orca whales as we sail toward Mikklesen Harbor for our afternoon activities.



DAY 8: Lemaire Channel

Passing the Lemaire Channel, you next arrive in the area of Port Charcot, where there is a cairn that was erected by the French Antarctic Expedition of 1903 - 05. In the afternoon, we head to Petermann Island to see a great variety of birdlife. You might also enjoy Zodiac cruises among icebergs that are highly popular with leopard seals and crabeater seals. Minke whales, humpbacks, and gentoo penguins can also be found here.



DAY 9: Detaille Island

Today we reach Crystal Sound, viewing the area's beautiful ice formations and wildlife before landing at Detaille Island. This remote island was once home to a British research station that is now an historic monument.



DAY 10: Drake Passage - Day 10 to 11

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, we are again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.



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DAY 12: Drake Passage - Day 12 to 13


Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, you're again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.



DAY 14: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

Every adventure, no matter how great, must eventually come to an end. It's now time to disembark in Ushuaia, but with memories that will accompany you wherever your next journey leads.




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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
Inclusions	<p>Voyage aboard the indicated vessel as indicated in the itinerary</p> <p>All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea</p> <p>All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac</p> <p>Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff</p> <p>Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes</p> <p>Luggage transfer from pick-up point to the vessel on the day of embarkation, in Ushuaia</p> <p>Pre-scheduled group transfer from the vessel to the airport in Ushuaia (directly after disembarkation)</p> <p>EXCLUSIONS</p> <p>International flights</p> <p>Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)</p> <p>Travel and medical insurance</p> <p>Customary gratuities for staff and expedition crew</p> <p>Any pre or post land arrangements</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)

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Single Surcharge	Available on request. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	Please note this itinerary may be subject to change depending on weather, ice and sea conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, seasonality and availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

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

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)