

ANTARCTICA - FALKLANDS, SOUTH GEORGIA & ANTARCTICA | MS EXPEDITION



INTRODUCTION

Challenge. Desolation. Unlimited wonder. It's not difficult to grasp what attracted the great explorers to Antarctica. Get a personal appreciation for the struggle to tame the bottom of the world on this 22-day adventure to the land that entranced Ernest and countless others since. Down here, you'll explore the Falkland Islands, discover abandoned whaling stations on South Georgia Island, and pay your respects at his grave. Encounter penguins (king, chinstrap, and gentoo varieties) learning all about them through daily lectures, get close to whales and cavorting seals from a Zodiac boat, and keep an eye peeled for towering icebergs and massive glaciers. Prepare to be astonished.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival in Montevideo

Arrive into Montevideo at any time. An arrival transfer is included from the airport to your hotel. Enjoy the sights and sounds of Uruguay's capital city. There will be a welcome desk in the lobby of the start hotel that will provide more specific information on the MS Expedition and your upcoming adventure. Please note that the first night in Montevideo is on twin share basis. If you're travelling solo or have an odd number of travellers in your group and have not purchased a private cabin, you will be paired with another solo traveller of the same gender.



TRIP CODE

ACTSFGAI

DEPARTURE

22/10/2024, 22/10/2025

DURATION

22 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula, Falkland Islands, South Georgia



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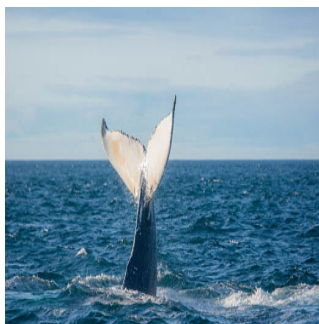
DAY 2: Montevideo - Embark on Ship

Embarkation on the M/S Expedition begins in the afternoon at the port of Montevideo, with a group transfer from the hotel. The morning is free to explore Montevideo, take the chance to explore one of Montevideo's colourful neighbourhoods. The evening is spent on board the ship watching the sunset and Montevideo fading into the distance while sailing southwards towards the Falkland Islands. Your Expedition Leader will give you an expedition overview. Please note while it is our intention to adhere to the itinerary described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations.



DAY 3: South Atlantic Ocean/Falkland Island

With course set southeast, become acquainted with the ship. Enjoy the lecture and educational sessions about the extraordinary human and natural history of the Antarctic region. Spend time on deck to spot wildlife including albatross and possibly whales and dolphins. Relax in the library, grab a drink in the Polar Bear Pub, or make some new friends in the Discovery Lounge.



DAY 6: Falkland Islands /Southern Ocean

The Falkland Islands provide a rare opportunity to witness the biological diversity and extraordinary scenery of the southern islands. Penguins are abundant here, and the Falklands have the largest black-browed albatross colony in the world. In Stanley, meet the hardy local inhabitants whose colourful houses provide contrast to the long, dark winters. The Falkland Islands, a British Overseas Territory, is an archipelago that lies 490kms east of Patagonia in the South Atlantic Ocean. Surrounded by decades of controversy, the Falkland Islands (or Islas Malvinas as they are known in Argentina) have been settled and claimed by France, Spain, Britain and Argentina. The islands have much to offer with a wide variety of spectacular wildlife, beautiful rugged scenery as well as an interesting history. Five species of penguin breed on the islands (gentoo, king, macaroni, magellanic and rockhopper).



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DAY 8: Southern Ocean/South Georgia

With a course set for South Georgia, days at sea are filled with lectures to prepare for landings. Look out for the many whales that inhabit these waters. Our lecture series resumes to prepare us for South Georgia, spend plenty of time on deck to identify the abundant sea birds of the South Ocean.



DAY 10: South Georgia/Scotia Sea

Home to many interesting sites (including the grave of polar explorer Ernest Shackleton), South Georgia has several former whaling stations and boasts plenty of wildlife. Visit a huge colony of king penguins, a major highlight of this part of the journey. South Georgia is also the home over half of the world's enormous southern elephant seals, the largest of all seals. Keep an eye out for newly birthed southern elephant pups. Weather permitting, enjoy 3-4 days free to explore this island. South Georgia Island is home to many marvels including Shackleton's grave, former whaling stations, incredible scenery and prolific wildlife. Weather permitting spend 3-4 full days and opt to explore this island. A huge colony of king penguins is the highlight of this part of the journey. On nearby islands look out for the wandering albatross in their nesting grounds. South Georgia is also the home over half of the world's enormous southern elephant seals, the largest of all seals. Keep an eye out for newly birthed southern elephant pups alongside their mothers.



DAY 14: South Shetland Islands/Antarctica

Plotting a south-westerly course across the Scotia Sea, sail for two days, retracing Shackleton's route backwards. Plotting a south-westerly course across the Scotia Sea, sail for two days the legendary Elephant Island in the South Shetland Islands. The waters are rich with nutrients and the long summer days provide the ingredient that is missing most of the year. The result is a complex food chain topped by several species of whales, seals, and seabirds.



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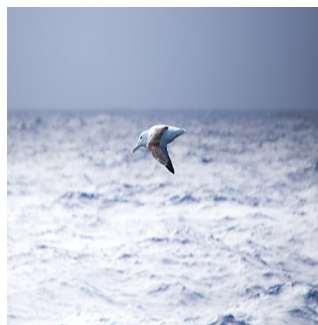
DAY 16: South Shetland Islands/Drake Passage


Experience some of the most unique wildlife and awe-inspiring scenery in the South Shetland Islands, just north of the Antarctic Peninsula. Weather and ice conditions permitting, our goal is to attempt memorable shore landings daily and encounter gentoo, chinstrap, and Adélie penguin rookeries; Weddell, crabeater, and leopard seals; and orca, humpback, and minke whales in the cold Antarctic waters. The ship will attempt to reach the Antarctic Peninsula for a landing, weather and ice-permitting. The peninsula also has a remarkable human history; during the voyage we will learn about some of the most important and dramatic expeditions to this remote corner of the world.



DAY 20: Drake Passage Crossing

Reflect on a memorable adventure and take in some final lectures en route to Ushuaia. Keep a careful look out for a last chance to spot whales. Turning north, embark upon the 400 mile crossing of the passage that bears the name of the 16th century English explorer Sir Francis Drake. The MS Expedition is at home in this part of the Southern Ocean, known for the unimpeded never ending fetch of the winds that encircle the Antarctic. At some point on the first day, cross the Antarctic Convergence, a meeting of cold polar water flowing north and warmer sub-Antarctic water moving in the opposite direction. It is the largest biological barrier on earth and is marked by a change in temperature, salinity and nutrient levels. The north flowing Antarctic waters predominantly sink beneath southward moving sub-Antarctic waters. While further south associated areas of mixing and upwelling create an ocean very high in marine productivity. Wandering, Black-browed and Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Prion's and Cap Petrels are among some of the species of seabirds that may join the Expedition on the journey towards the South American continent.



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DAY 22: Disembark 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

Hotel & Cabin on board a ship



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INCLUSIONS

Accommodation on board during your voyage
 Pre night accommodation in Montevideo hotel on twin share basis
 Group arrival and departure transfers in Ushuaia
 All Zodiac excursions, as per itinerary, guided by our Expedition Team
 English-speaking expedition team
 Expedition parka to keep
 Rubber boots on loan (USA sizes 4 - 16)
 Briefings and lectures by our Expedition Leader and Team
 English-speaking Expedition Team
 All meals whilst on board
 Free tea and coffee available 24 hours
 Taxes and landing fees

Inclusions

EXCLUSIONS

International or internal flights
 Extra excursions and optional activities not mentioned in the itinerary
 Single room supplements
 Meals not on board the ship
 Beverages (other than coffee and tea)
 Tips for the crew (we recommend USD 15 per person per day)
 Personal expenses such as laundry, bar and onboard communication
 Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac landings and excursions
 Travel and medical insurance (compulsory)
 Pre or post cruise travel expenses
 Visa (if applicable) and passport fees
 Fuel surcharge may be applied to all bookings
 Anything not mentioned under 'Inclusions'

Difficulty Rating 2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge Willing to share available for no additional cost (Category 1, 2 and 3 cabins only). Surcharge applies for solo use cabin, contact us for pricing. Subject to availability.

Notes Prices are based on per person, and may be based off quad/triple/ or twin share cabins* (please contact us for more details)
 Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.
 Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.

Price Dependent upon Departure Date, Fuel Surcharges, Cabin Category, Currency Fluctuations, Seasonality & Availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY

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