

## ANTARCTIC PENINSULA - ULTIMATE ANTARCTICA EXPERIENCE | OCEAN ALBATROS



### INTRODUCTION

Discover the Great White Continent's stunning landscapes, glacial mountains, and fantastic animals during this 12-day ultimate Antarctica voyage. This journey is special because there is **NO SET ITINERARY**, which transforms it into a true exploration voyage.

The journey begins as we navigate the Beagle Channel's quiet, grey seas, before heading south, and entering the Drake Passage. The Drake Passage, a body of water that connects the chilly Antarctic with the warmer Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, is renowned for its merry weather and powerful westerly winds. The ship is equipped with stabilisers, strong engines, and a revolutionary reclining bow that guarantees stability and comfort in stormy seas while using very little fuel, so you may travel with confidence even though this voyage may be difficult.

As there is no defined course, our skipper and expedition leader will consider our options while studying ice charts and weather forecasts. The enormous tabular icebergs of the Weddell Sea, the sparsely populated regions south of the Antarctic Circle, or human research stations in the most remote regions of the planet might all be examples of this. There is no doubt that we will experience genuine adventure and thrilling wildlife, we are always on the watch for sea lions, elephant seals, whales, a staggering number of seabirds, and penguins.

**Note:** The Ultimate Antarctica Experience has two different subtitles that are designed to give us an inkling of where these "No Set Itinerary" expeditions will go.

For the trips beginning in November it is: **Peninsula In Depth**, as we will explore the snowy landscapes and witness the penguins mating, nest building and courtships. Unbelievable ice formations and huge ice blocks dot the scenery. The last sunsets of the season occur, which are truly majestic. The trips that begin in DEC-FEB are called: **Quest for the Circle**, as we intend to go more south and if possible cross the Antarctic Circle at 66°33', enjoy longer days with sunlight and even more active penguin rookeries and explore exciting places made possible as the breaking sea ice opens up new avenues.

#### TRIP CODE

ACABUAE

#### DEPARTURE

15/12/2024

#### DURATION

12 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula



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UPGRADE to a Premium Deck Category C Cabin (Deck 6) - Book a Category C Cabin on an Antarctica voyage & pay an extra Upgrade Fee to enjoy the benefits of the Premium Category C Cabin on Deck 6. Along with the benefits of a higher deck cabin with an enclosed balcony, you will also be eligible for priority boarding & suite amenities (like daily replenished mini-bar, welcome fruit basket & sparkling wine). Subject to availability & upgrade must be booked at time of booking. Please contact us for more details and full Terms and Conditions.

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1: Embarkation in Ushuaia

Arrive in Ushuaia, Argentina - the world's southernmost town. Explore the quaint city or local countryside. Alternatively, consider a day trip off the beaten path to the raw, natural archipelago of Tierra del Fuego. It's a hiker's paradise with rugged snow-capped mountains, glaciers, flower-filled meadows and boggy quagmires. In the afternoon, we board our ship. Our journey begins as we navigate through the calms of Beagle Channel, a strait in the Tierra del Fuego Archipelago.



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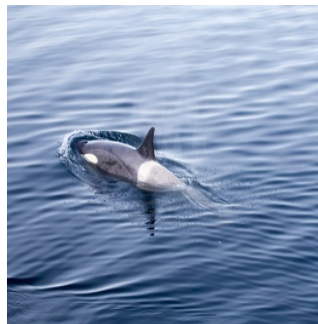
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**DAY 2: Crossing the Drake Passage Southbound - Day 2&3**

Sailing onward, we cross the famed Drake Passage - a body of water that marks the intersection of the cold Antarctic with the warmer Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Drake Passage is known for strong westerly winds, heavy sea, and its nickname 'The Roaring Fifties'. While this passage may be challenging, you can rest confidently aboard our expedition vessel, Ocean Victory/Albatros, which is purpose-built with stabilizers, powerful engines and a highly qualified crew. The most spirited sailors consider Drake Passage a lifetime achievement - and soon you can tick it off on the list yourself! In the Drake, the excitement builds as Antarctic wildlife comes into view with our first sight of seals, penguins and albatrosses. Having crossed the Drake, we will explore the sub-Antarctic islands of the South Shetland chain and be marveled by the captivating landscapes we will encounter along the way. Weather permitting, we hope to make our first landfall on King George Island before continuing further south to the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. With the unique X-BOW design, the Ocean Albatros will offer you a smoother sailing across the Drake passage than conventional expedition vessels - and with far less carbon emission. Due to the speed of the vessel, we might be able to do a first landing or activity in the South Shetland Islands on the afternoon of day 3, weather permitting.



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### DAY 4: Antarctic Peninsula - Days 4 to 9

There is no set itinerary on this trip, which allows our staff onboard to maximise the experience for all onboard. Whilst our suggestions below are just possible routes and landings, we can be sure that this will be the ultimate Antarctic experience. The itinerary and activities over the next few days depend on weather, swell and ice. The route and shore landings will be determined by the captain and expedition leader and communicated to guests through regularly scheduled briefings. Wildlife abounds on the Antarctic Peninsula: leopard, fur and Weddell seals of Cuverville Island; humpback whales of Gerlache Strait; Paradise Bay; the dramatic Lemaire Channel's orcas. Maybe we will explore as far south as the Antarctic Circle at c. 66 deg 33 minutes south of the Equator. Possible landfall in this wild and seldom visited area could be Pleneau and Petermann Islands, Crystal Sound and Detaille Island. Maybe we will make our way to the Antarctic Sound, named in 1902 by the Swedish vessel Antarctic, the captain and the expedition team would then keep a watchful eye on the mighty tabular icebergs, born from the floating Larsen Ice Shelf further south. We would aim to have both continental and island landings on the shores of Antarctic Sound and Weddell Sea, always on the lookout for some of the unusually large penguin colonies, which have recently been observed. Because of the considerable sea ice and enormous bergs in the Weddell Sea, navigation through this remote nature is at the edge of what is possible; your captain and expedition leader understand shifting ice means that no individual part of this area can be guaranteed as accessible at any time, so they will work together to find the most magnificent opportunities. This is part of the wonder of this part of the world, and you'll be visiting an area few humans have ever seen. Maybe as our journey draws to a close we end it by navigating to Elephant Island, home to elephant seals, maybe even along parts of the same route as Shackleton's daring lifeboat escape (this route is only possible if conditions allow it!). While a landing is unlikely, we hope to see where the Elephant island party waited for rescue boat to reach them at Point Wild. A famous part of expedition history, that seems adequate to end our Antarctic explorations this time around.



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## DAY 10: Crossing the Drake Passage Northbound - Day 10&11


We depart Antarctica and spend two days at sea on our way back to the calms of Beagle Channel and Ushuaia, Argentina. En-route, we will cross Drake Passage and cruise past Cape Horn, a legendary maritime landmark and the southern tip of South America. During our time at sea, a variety of activities will be arranged on board which will provide the perfect opportunity to socialize with fellow travelers equally passionate by discovering the world, enjoy the lectures by our expedition team on board, visit our shop, unwind in the spa or enjoy the ship's facilities designed to provide a comfortable relaxing time.



## DAY 12: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

This morning, we arrive back in Ushuaia for the conclusion of our expedition cruise, where you can continue your adventures or begin your return home.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

<b>Accommodation</b>	Cabin on board a ship
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**INCLUSIONS**

Stateroom accommodation on board during your voyage  
 Embarkation shuttle transfer to the vessel from Ushuaia city centre  
 Shuttle transfer after disembarkation from the ship to Ushuaia city centre or airport  
 All Zodiac excursions, as per itinerary, guided by our Expedition Team  
 Expedition parka  
 Rubber boots loan scheme  
 Briefings and lectures by our Expedition Leader and Team English-speaking Expedition Team  
 Full board on the ship - breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks  
 Complimentary house wine, beer and soda at dinner (selected labels and brands, served at our a-la-carte dinners)  
 Free tea and coffee available 24 hours  
 Taxes and landing fees  
 Special photo workshops  
 Welcome and Farewell Cocktail Parties  
 Digital visual journal link distributed after the voyage, including voyage log, gallery, species list and more!

**Inclusions**

**EXCLUSIONS**

International or internal flights flights  
 Extra excursions and optional activities not mentioned in the itinerary  
 Single room supplement and stateroom upgrades  
 Meals not on board the ship  
 Beverages (other than coffee and tea)  
 Tips for the crew (we recommend USD 16 per person per day)  
 Personal expenses (e.g. Albatros Polar Spa services, Albatros Ocean Boutique purchases)  
 Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac landings and excursions  
 Laundry, bar, and other personal charges, unless specified  
 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**

Available on request. No single supplement if willing to share (select cabins only). Contact us for more details.

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	<p><b>Price Dependent upon</b></p> <p>Departure Date, Fuel Surcharges, Cabin Category, Currency Fluctuations, Seasonality &amp; Availability.</p>

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## SUSTAINABILITY

We appreciate that voyages to the Antarctic to have an impact on this pristine environment. In light of this, all our voyages are double carbon offset. In addition, we strive to eliminate as many single use plastics as possible from our supply chain. In choosing this voyage you are also supporting the fantastic work done by the Antarctic Science Foundation (ASF) and their work in understanding and protecting this unique destination. In addition all voyages support the Mawsons Huts Foundation (MHF). The MHF support the legacy of Sir Douglas Mawson, the legendary Antarctic explorer and scientist. As a member of IAATO we follow strict guidelines appointed by the Antarctic Treaty System to go above and beyond in support of minimizing negative impacts on this pristine landscape. We also encourage clients to look to book pre-and post-accommodation with us, where local businesses will be supported. Our clients also receive restaurant recommendations which support locally owned restaurants.

We carefully select all ships we work with and choose smaller sized vessels to create less impact. We use a highly regulated, licensed vessel which is well equipped to operate in the Antarctic's delicate ecosystem. We view the voyage to the Antarctic as an expedition, not a sightseeing trip. Smaller ships 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. The waste is carried back to the home port to allow for environmentally conscious waste management and disposal.

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