

# ANTARCTICA - ANTARCTICA EXPLORER | OCEAN ALBATROS



## INTRODUCTION

Our longest Antarctica-only cruise, the 13-day Antarctica Explorer, will take us to the Great White Continent's breathtaking beauty, glacier-covered peaks, and extraordinary wildlife. Get ready for the ultimate Antarctic trip as we head off, we'll cruise across the quiet, calm waters of the Beagle Channel and take in the breathtaking views of slope glaciers. But as we cross the fabled Drake Passage, where the warmer Atlantic and Pacific Oceans meet the icy Antarctic, the true adventure starts. Get ready for an exciting voyage as we cross this fabled body of water, which is famed for its wild weather and powerful westerly winds known as the Roaring Fifties.

Fear not, though, since our ship was designed with stabilisers, strong engines, and a revolutionary reclining bow that offers comfort and stability in choppy seas while consuming very little gasoline. Even the most experienced sailors consider crossing the Drake Passage a once-in-a-lifetime accomplishment, and you'll get to do it twice! Prepare to be astounded by the quantity of seabirds, albatrosses, and several whale species as we navigate these nutrient-rich seas. If the conditions are right, we might even see seals and penguins. Keep a watch out for whales, sea lions, elephant seals, a staggering number of seabirds, and penguins as we go through the South Shetland Islands, a sparkling chain of ice-covered islands and dormant volcanoes.

## ITINERARY

### TRIP CODE

ACABAAE

### DEPARTURE

19/02/2025

### DURATION

13 Days

### LOCATIONS

Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula



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### DAY 1: Arrival & Embarkation in Ushuaia

Arrive in Ushuaia, Argentina - the world's southernmost city. Explore this vibrant Patagonian city, or stretch your legs in the surrounding forests. Alternatively, consider a day trip off the beaten path into the raw nature of Tierra del Fuego. The island of Tierra del Fuego is a hiker's paradise with rugged snow-capped mountains, glaciers, flower-filled meadows and rich boggy wetlands. In the afternoon, we board our vessel, waiting to welcome us in port. After our mandatory safety drill, our expedition begins as we navigate through the calm waters of the famous Beagle Channel (named for Charles Darwin's ship). This steep-sided strait divides southern Tierra del Fuego between Chile and Argentina, and has been the jumping-off point for thousands of expeditions into the unknown. Watch out for whales and dolphins as we sail off the edge of the map into the tempestuous Drake Passage.



### DAY 2: Crossing Drake Passage - Days 2 & 3

Sailing onward, we cross the famed Drake Passage - the body of water separating Patagonia and the Antarctic Peninsula. The Drake Passage is known for rollicking conditions and strong westerly winds, nicknamed the Roaring Fifties. While this passage may be challenging, you can rest comfortably aboard our expedition vessels, which are purpose-built with stabilizers, powerful engines and manned by a highly-qualified crew. The most spirited sailors consider Drake Passage a lifetime achievement - and you will complete the crossing twice! Our days in the Drake Passage will be put to good use preparing for our arrival in Antarctica - your Expedition Leader will brief you comprehensively on how to stay safe and minimise your impact on this precious wilderness, as well as briefing you thoroughly on our plans for our time spent exploring, including hints and tips for wildlife watching. Our dedicated Expedition Team will assist you to biosecure your clothing and equipment (a vital process to protect Antarctica's delicate ecology), as well as sharing tailored lectures on Antarctic exploration history, wildlife, geology, glaciology and more!



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### DAY 4: The Antarctic Peninsula - Day 4 to 10

With no set itinerary in Antarctica, this voyage offers adventurous travellers the chance to experience Antarctica as it was meant to be - flowing with the wind, sea and ice, and taking the best opportunities Mother Nature provides. This voyage departs in the first half of the brief Antarctic summer, when sea ice is at its maximum - this offers us ample opportunities to explore in the icy wilderness of the last continent. Our exact route will be subject to careful planning by the Expedition Leader and Captain - however we will aim to visit a range of sites which showcase the best of this staggeringly beautiful region. Marvel at the massive icebergs and vast glaciers on a Zodiac cruise in Paradise Bay. Be moved by penguins tenderly caring for their precious eggs, and fiercely defending their nests on Cuverville Island. Watch cataracts of ice tumble into clear blue ocean on a hike over the active glaciers of Neko Harbour. Experience the Antarctica of old at historic huts such as Damoy Point, lovingly restored and open to all. Feel the spray of water from the blow of a humpback whale on a Zodiac safari in Wilhelmina Bay. Wonder at awe-inspiring scenery on a ship cruise through the Lemaire Channel. Watch city-sized tabular icebergs drift silently past the ship in the Antarctic Sound. Wherever we go on the Antarctic Peninsula, endemic wildlife, tantalising history and breathtaking natural beauty abound. This time of year, expect to see penguins carefully tending their fluffy chicks, while their partners frantically hunt for food at sea. As the snow melts, opportunities for hiking onshore increase. Antarctic fur seals start to arrive in their summer feeding grounds, and humpback whale numbers increase as more of these gentle giants arrive at the end of their long migration. With luck, we may even see the young of these gentle giants. Perhaps the ice will retreat far enough to allow us access to the unknown islands south of the Antarctic circle - where the midnight sun never sets.



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## DAY 11: Crossing Drake Passage - Day 11 & 12


We eventually depart Antarctica, and spend two days at sea on our way northwards back across the infamous Drake Passage towards the more welcoming shores of the Beagle Channel and Ushuaia, Argentina. During our time at sea, a variety of activities will be arranged on board to provide our guests with the chance to reflect on their voyage. Relax with an expertly crafted cocktail in the Nordic Bar in the company of new friends, soak up the knowledge and passion of our Expedition Team during lectures in the Shackleton Lounge, or simply enjoy the flight of the albatross which accompany us northwards. During your last evening onboard, join the Captain and Officers for the Farewell Cocktail Party, followed by a presentation of photos and video by our onboard photographer - the ideal opportunity to re-live your Antarctic adventure.



## DAY 13: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

On the morning of the final day of our voyage, we will arrive back at the pier of Ushuaia, Argentina. Trees, grass and a busy city may seem strange to you after the white wilderness of Antarctica! After a hearty breakfast, it is time to bid a fond farewell to the Crew and Albatros Expedition Team, and descend the gangway back to dry land with memories of the voyage of a lifetime.



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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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<b>Notes</b>	<p>Prices are based on per person, and may be based off quad/triple/ or twin share cabins* (please contact us for more details)</p> <p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.</p> <p>Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.</p>
<b>Price Dependent upon</b>	<p>Departure Date, Fuel Surcharges, Cabin Category, Currency Fluctuations, Seasonality &amp; Availability.</p>

## SUSTAINABILITY

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