

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA - HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN SPRING | OCEAN ALBATROS



INTRODUCTION

The fabled White Continent has captivated the interest of explorers for ages, drawing in contemporary explorers with its magnificent vistas, enormous icebergs, and amazing species. Take a thrilling 9-day trip to the Antarctic Peninsula to experience the Last Continent's action-packed springtime days firsthand.

We depart from Ushuaia, the southernmost city of Argentina, and go via the formidable Drake Passage to reach the South Shetland Islands. Explore the Antarctic Peninsula's inlets and bays further, passing via the well-known Gerlache Strait, which is home to towering peaks and glittering ice cliffs that rise out of the icy water. This breathtakingly gorgeous region is characterized by mountains, glaciers, icebergs, and untamed snowfields. The expedition leader and captain will put in a lot of effort to take advantage of every chance to explore the White Continent. We will make Zodiac landings to allow guests to set foot on land and experience penguin rookeries, spectacular landscapes, and historical sites; however, wind, sea, and ice conditions will determine the precise locations we visit. Additionally, we aim to Zodiac cruise in scenic areas filled with massive icebergs, whales and seals. Any trip to Antarctica is an adventure, but early spring travel provides something special & unique. Witness penguins scrambling to construct their nests and engage in mating behavior. Admire the pristine, snow-covered scenery and take in the allure of springtime sunsets cast over the ice mountains.

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.

TRIP CODE

ACABSS

DEPARTURE

31/10/2024

DURATION

9 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula



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**Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change based on availability, currency exchange, and other factors. Please [contact us](#) for live availability and prices.*

ITINERARY

DAY 1: 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.



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DAY 2: Crossing the Drake passage - Day 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! We will cross into the Antarctic Convergence on the third day of our voyage - watch the mercury plummet as we sail southwards into Antarctic waters, an abrupt cooling that marks the intersection of Antarctic waters with the warmer waters of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. As the sea cools, wildlife multiplies; these are some of the most biologically productive water on Earth, so expect to see petrels, albatrosses and potentially penguins, seals and whales in abundance. Weather permitting, we may be able to make landfall in the South Shetland Islands (a small but spectacular archipelago to the north of the Antarctic Peninsula) on the afternoon of our second day in the Drake Passage, marking the start of our exploration on the Last Continent.



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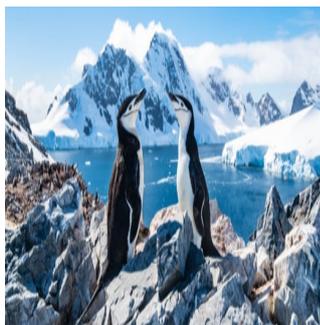
Antarctic Peninsula



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DAY 4: Antarctica & South Shetland Islands - Day 4 to 6

Over the next days, we will enjoy a safe and exciting Antarctic experience explorers of yesteryear could only dream of. Our Antarctic adventure begins in the South Shetland Islands. This chain of rugged rocks marks the northernmost point of Antarctica, and the most exposed to the fury of the Southern Ocean. Because of this, it is also one of the richest in terms of wildlife, with large Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguin colonies, and an abundance of large seabirds such as predatory Giant Petrels. The ice-clad mountains of Livingstone, Greenwich and King George Islands give us a glimpse of what is to come as we venture further south. Landing sites which may be visited in the South Shetland Islands include the black steaming sands and rusting ruins of Deception Island (an active volcanic crater), the bustling penguin colonies of Aitcho and Half Moon Islands, or the old sealers' anchorage of Yankee Harbour. The following days will be spent exploring further south on the Antarctic Peninsula in the Gerlache Strait region. This region is typically icy, so 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. Consisting of the 'spine' of the Antarctic Peninsula and a large number of glaciated and mountainous islands, the Gerlache Strait is what comes to mind when most people think of Antarctica. Visiting Antarctica in the early Spring offers exceptional experiences. Watch penguins come ashore and begin to build their nests and compete for mates. Marvel at the winter sea ice which mantles these frigid seas, stretching as far as the eye can see, and experience the power of an ice-class vessel push through this marine mosaic. Watch miraculous sunsets (which can't be seen in the height of summer) in an alien landscape. With heaps of fresh snow, we expect excellent opportunities for snowshoeing and camping in Antarctica, with springtime offering the best possible conditions. Wherever we go on the Antarctic Peninsula, endemic wildlife, tantalising history and breathtaking natural beauty abound.



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DAY 7: Crossing the Drake Passage - Day 7 & 8

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 9: Disembark in Ushuaia

Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board 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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Notes	<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>
Price Dependent upon	Departure Date, Fuel Surcharges, Cabin Category, Currency Fluctuations, Seasonality & Availability.

SUSTAINABILITY

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