

ANTARCTICA - ANTARCTIC PENINSULA & THE EXTREME WEDDELL SEA | OCEAN ALBATROS




INTRODUCTION

Come along with us on an incredible expedition journey to the Seventh Continent and the Weddell Sea. Over the course of 12 action-packed days, discover the amazing biodiversity of these freezing seas, take in the breathtaking mountain landscape, and marvel at enormous icebergs. We depart from Ushuaia, the southernmost city in Argentina, and travel via the formidable Drake Passage to the South Shetland Islands, where our goal is to arrive in the afternoon of our third day at sea (weather permitting). Our expedition vessels' distinctive X-Bow design provides remarkable stability at sea, ensuring a smoother journey across some of the world's most treacherous waters. The speed of the vessels also allows us to make the most of our time in Antarctica, providing an unparalleled exploration experience.

We will travel farther south from the South Shetland Islands into the Antarctic Peninsula's inlets and bays before crossing the well-known Gerlache Strait, which is home to towering peaks and glittering ice cliffs that rise straight out of the freezing ocean. This exquisitely stunning extraterrestrial terrain is characterized by icebergs, glaciers, mountains, and untamed snowfields. From here, we'll explore the Antarctic Sound and the frigid Weddell Sea, a large area of ice-bound wilderness that proved too difficult for numerous early Antarctic missions to traverse. You won't be able to see so much pristine landscape and diverse species in such a short amount of time on any other excursion. Our knowledgeable Captain and Expedition Leader will put out great effort to maximize the chances for White Continent exploration. We will make Zodiac landings so that guests can set foot on land and experience penguin rookeries, research stations, 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 enormous icebergs, whales, and seals. We usually try to visit places that highlight the best of Antarctica; a variety of penguin, whale, and seal species can all be found in this harsh wilderness, though sightings of animals are obviously subject to the vagaries of Mother Nature. Amazing views and topography are certain!

PLEASE NOTE: Pricing is subject to change and availability at the time of

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DURATION
12 Days
LOCATIONS
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booking, [Contact Us](#) for more information.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival 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: Drake Passage - Day 2 to 3

As we sail through the renowned Drake Passage, linking Patagonia to the Antarctic Peninsula, brace yourself for its notoriously turbulent waters and fierce westerly winds, aptly called the Roaring Fifties. Thankfully, our purpose-built expedition vessels ensure a comfortable journey, with their uniquely stable X-Bow and powerful engines, guided by an expert crew. Embrace this exciting crossing, considered a badge of honour by seasoned sailors, as you traverse it twice during our expedition. In the Drake Passage, our focus turns to preparing for our arrival in Antarctica. Your Expedition Leader will provide thorough safety briefings and guidelines to minimise our impact on this pristine environment. Our dedicated Expedition Team will assist in biosecuring your gear while offering tailored lectures on Antarctic exploration, wildlife, and more. On the third day, we'll cross the Antarctic Convergence, marked by a sudden drop in temperature as warmer currents give way to Antarctic waters. This transition fosters a surge in marine life, promising sightings of petrels, albatrosses, and possibly even penguins, seals, and whales. Weather permitting, we aim to land on the South Shetland Islands on the afternoon of the third day of our expedition, starting our exploration of the Last Continent.

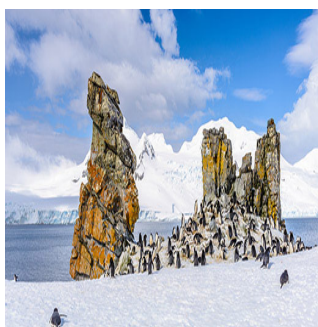


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DAY 4: Antarctic Sound & Weddell Sea - Day 4 to 6

In the forthcoming days, our expedition ventures into the captivating region at the northeastern tip of the continent, the Antarctic Sound, gateway to the Weddell Sea. This region is confusingly named after the Swedish vessel Antarctic which first sailed the area in 1902. Despite its northern location, the Antarctic Sound experiences harsh cold conditions due to winds and currents from the Weddell Sea. This area boasts some of Antarctica's most striking scenery, from the vast Adelie Penguin colonies at Hope Bay and Devil's Island, to the dramatic volcanic cliffs at Brown Bluff. Continuing southward into the Weddell Sea, named after early British Antarctic explorer James Weddell, we encounter immense tabular icebergs and the expansive icepack which nurtures Antarctic krill, the foundation of the food chain. The presence of krill attracts a diverse array of wildlife, including penguins, seals, seabirds, and humpback whales, all of which we hope to see while exploring this icy wilderness. Navigation through the Weddell Sea presents challenges due to substantial sea ice and massive icebergs. Our experienced Captain and Expedition Leader adapt plans to ensure safe exploration, seizing opportunities to delve into this remote and rarely visited wilderness. We will aim to come ashore at sites which showcase the majesty of the Antarctic environment and ecosystem, as well as exploring on Zodiac cruises. Embrace the wonder of this journey into the unknown, exploring a region few have had the privilege to witness.



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DAY 7: Antarctic Peninsula - Day 7 to 8

In the days ahead, we venture further west along the Antarctic Peninsula into the Gerlache Strait region. This icy expanse requires meticulous planning by our Expedition Leader and Captain, who will plot a route to explore a variety of sites highlighting the area's staggering natural beauty. The Gerlache Strait, consisting of the 'spine' of the Antarctic Peninsula and a large number of mountainous glaciated islands, offers a plethora of iconic Antarctic experiences. From Zodiac cruises in Paradise Bay, to witnessing penguins nesting on Cuverville Island, each potential stop promises awe-inspiring encounters. Explore historic huts at Damoy Point, witness humpback whales in Wilhelmina Bay, and marvel at the jaw-dropping scenery of the Lemaire Channel. Wherever we go on the Antarctic Peninsula, endemic wildlife, tantalising history and breathtaking natural beauty abound. While our exact destinations will depend on weather and ice conditions, your Expedition Leader will ensure guests are informed of our plans through nightly briefings. In the ever-changing Antarctic environment, flexibility is key as we adapt plans to suit the conditions while offering enriching onboard experiences such as lectures, recaps, wine-tasting, and spa treatments.



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DAY 9: South Shetland Islands - Day 9

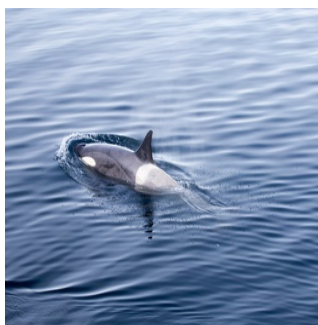
Our Antarctic odyssey culminates amidst the rugged beauty of the South Shetland Islands. This archipelago represents the northernmost tip of Antarctica, standing proud against the relentless force of the Southern Ocean. Despite the furious elements, the islands boast a remarkable richness of wildlife, with numerous colonies of Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins dotting the island shores, accompanied by an array of formidable seabirds like the predatory Giant Petrels. The ice-capped peaks of Livingstone, Greenwich, and King George Islands offer a stunning backdrop to explore. Experience the eerie landscape of Deception Island, an active volcanic crater with black steaming sands and rusting ruins, or witness the bustling penguin colonies on Aitcho and Half Moon Islands, or immerse yourself in the history of Yankee Harbour, once a vital anchorage for sealers. As we bid farewell to the South Shetland Islands, we carry with us memories of their stark beauty and abundant wildlife, a fitting conclusion to our extraordinary Antarctic expedition.



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DAY 10: Drake Passage northbound - Day 10 & 11

We eventually depart Antarctica, and spend two days at sea on our way northwards back across the infamous Drake Passage, heading 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. Skål!



DAY 12: Ushuaia Disembarkation

On the morning of the final day of our voyage, we will arrive back at the pier of Ushuaia, Argentina. Trees, grass and a bustling 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 Expedition Team, and descend the gangway back to dry land with memories of the voyage of a lifetime.



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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
 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. Polar Spa services, 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	<p>Departure Date, Fuel Surcharges, Cabin Category, Currency Fluctuations, Seasonality & Availability.</p>

SUSTAINABILITY

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