

ANTARCTICA - GAD | MS EXPEDITION | ANTARCTICA CLASSIC | C1 QUAD



INTRODUCTION

A true adventure to the world's most remote wilderness, a world of immense scale and visual splendour! Vivid emerald, violet tints, intense blue and crimson light – the Antarctic Peninsula is anything but a world of white desolation. Our 11-day Antarctica Classic expedition introduces you to the magic of the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula, home to some of the planet's most impressive wildlife and most dramatic landscapes. Encounter whales, huge icebergs, enormous rookeries of penguins and stunning landscapes that few have ever witnessed. Throughout the voyage, our team of lecturers and guides will share their knowledge of the region's remarkable natural history.

TRIP CODE

ACTSACL

DEPARTURE

12-Dec-2017 , 02-Jan-2018 , 30-Jan-2018 , 04-Mar-2018 , 13-Mar-2018 , 12-Dec-2018 , 02-Jan-2019 , 30-Jan-2019 , 04-Mar-2019 , 13-Mar-2019

DURATION

11 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctica

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ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival in Ushuaia

Check into your pre-cruise hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure.

Ushuaia is the most southerly city in the world with a dramatic setting overlooking the Beagle Channel, surrounded by mountains. It is a major port for Antarctic bound vessels and an interesting city to explore. The Museo Marítimo y del Presidio de Ushuaia, (Maritime & the Prison of Ushuaia Museum), located in the former prison of Ushuaia in buildings dating back to 1906, is well worth a visit. Tierra del Fuego National Park, a short bus ride from Ushuaia was the first shoreline National Park to be established in Argentina. It is a rugged, mountainous park with great views of Lapataia Bay and dramatic scenery with waterfalls, mountains, glaciers and lakes including parts of Fagnano and Roca Lakes. There are many hiking trails within the park including the Coastal Path (Senda Costera) that connects Ensenada Bay to Lapataia Bay on Lago Roca and the park is home to many species of birds and animals.



DAY 2: Ushuaia - Embark on ship

Embarkation on the M/S Expedition begins in the afternoon at the port in Ushuaia. Embarkation time is set for 4:00 pm. The morning is free for any last minute shopping, an optional excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park or a hike up to the Marshall Glacier. The evening is spent on board the ship watching the sunset over the Beagle Channel. On the first day on-board, your Expedition Leader will give you an expedition overview.



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DAY 3: Crossing the Drake Passage – Days 3 & 4

Our adventure begins with an 800km (497 mile) crossing of the passage that bears the name of the 16th century English explorer Sir Francis Drake. The M/S Expedition is at home in this part of the Southern Ocean, known for the unimpeded fetch of the winds that encircle the Antarctic. On the second day we cross the Antarctic Convergence, a meeting of cold polar water flowing north and warmer equatorial water moving in the opposite direction. This mixing pushes nutrient rich waters to the surface attracting a variety of seabirds, whales and other species. As we make the passage you have time to become acquainted with the ship and frequent the common areas that include the lounge, dining hall, library and lecture hall where you meet your guides, ship’s crew and expedition staff. We also begin the lecture and information sessions to learn the extraordinary human and natural history of the Antarctic region. Keep a look out for sightings of icebergs, whales and albatross following in the ship’s wake.



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DAY 5: Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland - Days 5 to 8

This is what we've all been waiting for - a chance to step foot on the Great White Continent to experience some of the most unique wildlife viewing and inspiring scenery in the world! Over the next four days we will navigate southwards making stops in the South Shetland Islands then through the Bransfield Strait and on to the Antarctic Peninsula. Our goal is to attempt two excursions per day while we navigate through the area but our itinerary and daily schedule will be based on the local weather and ice conditions that we encounter. During the voyage, learn about the Peninsula's remarkable history and encounter gentoo, chinstrap and Adélie penguin rookeries, Weddell, crabeater and leopard seals as well as orca, humpback and minke whales in the cold Antarctic waters.



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DAY 9: Return Drake Passage Crossing - Days 9 to 10

Today we leave Antarctica and head north back across the Drake Passage to our home port of Ushuaia. In between bird watching, whale watching and enjoying some final lectures by our expedition staff, our final two days are a perfect opportunity to relax and review the highlights of the past week before returning to Ushuaia.



DAY 11: 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

Cabin on ship.

Inclusions

- Accommodation on board the MS Expedition
- Breakfast, lunch, tea, dinner
- Use of the library, gym and sauna
- On board lectures and exhibits
- Information on the region
- Expeditions on Zodiac boats
- Pre night accommodation in Ushuaia
- Emergency medical attention on board
- Arrival and departure transfers. *Departure transfer to the airport, Albatros Hotel or central location where luggage can be stored*
- Waterproof boots supplied for USA size 6 - 16
- Expedition parka

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

No single surcharge if willing to share (Category 1,2 and 3 cabin classes only).

Notes

Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions. We can place a hold on a cabin without deposit for up to 4 days.

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Price Dependent upon Departure date and availability.

SUSTAINABILITY

GUIDANCE FOR VISITORS TO THE ANTARCTIC

RECOMMENDATION XVIII-1, ADOPTED AT THE ANTARCTIC TREATY MEETING, KYOTO, 1994

Activities in the Antarctic are governed by the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 and associated agreements, referred to collectively as the Antarctic Treaty System. The Treaty established Antarctica as a zone of peace and science.

In 1991, the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties adopted the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, which designates the Antarctic as a natural reserve. The Protocol sets out environmental principles, procedures and obligations for the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment, and its dependent and associated ecosystems. The Consultative Parties have agreed that as far as possible and in accordance with their legal system, the provisions of the Protocol should be applied as appropriate. The Environmental Protocol was ratified in January 1998.

The Environmental Protocol applies to tourism and non-governmental activities, as well as governmental activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area. It is intended to ensure that these activities, do not have adverse impacts on the Antarctic environment, or on its scientific and aesthetic values.

This Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic is intended to ensure that all visitors are aware of, and are therefore able to comply with, the Treaty and the Protocol. Visitors are, of course, bound by national laws and regulations applicable to activities in the Antarctic.

PROTECT ANTARCTIC WILDLIFE

Taking or harmful interference with Antarctic wildlife is prohibited except in accordance with a permit issued by a national authority.

Do not use aircraft, vessels, small boats, or other means of transport in ways that disturb wildlife, either at sea or on land.

Do not feed, touch, or handle birds or seals, or approach or photograph them in ways that cause them to alter their behavior. Special care is needed when animals are breeding or molting.

Do not damage plants, for example by walking, driving, or landing on extensive moss beds or lichen-covered scree slopes.

Do not use guns or explosives. Keep noise to the minimum to avoid frightening wildlife.

Do not bring non-native plants or animals into the Antarctic, such as live poultry, pet dogs and cats, or house plants.

RESPECT PROTECTED AREAS

A variety of areas in the Antarctic have been afforded special protection because of their particular ecological, scientific, historic, or other values. Entry into certain areas may be

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prohibited except in accordance with a permit issued by an appropriate national authority.

Activities in and near designated Historic Sites and Monuments and certain other areas may be subject to special restrictions.

Know the locations of areas that have been afforded special protection and any restrictions regarding entry and activities that can be carried out in and near them. Observe applicable restrictions.

Do not damage, remove, or destroy Historic Sites or Monuments or any artifacts associated with them.

RESPECT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Do not interfere with scientific research, facilities or equipment.

Obtain permission before visiting Antarctic science and support facilities; reconfirm arrangements 24-72 hours before arrival; and comply with the rules regarding such visits. Do not interfere with, or remove, scientific equipment or marker posts, and do not disturb experimental study sites, field camps, or supplies.

BE SAFE

Be prepared for severe and changeable weather and ensure that your equipment and clothing meet Antarctic standards. Remember that the Antarctic environment is inhospitable, unpredictable, and potentially dangerous.

Know your capabilities and the dangers posed by the Antarctic environment, and act accordingly. Plan activities with safety in mind at all times.

Keep a safe distance from all wildlife, both on land and at sea.

Take note of, and act on, the advice and instructions from your leaders; do not stray from your group.

Do not walk onto glaciers or large snow fields without the proper equipment and experience; there is a real danger of falling into hidden crevasses.

Do not expect a rescue service. Self-sufficiency is increased and risks reduced by sound planning, quality equipment, and trained personnel.

Do not enter emergency refuges (except in emergencies). If you use equipment or food from a refuge, inform the nearest research station or national authority once the emergency is over.

Respect any smoking restrictions, particularly around buildings, and take great care to safeguard against the danger of fire. This is a real hazard in the dry environment of Antarctica.

KEEP ANTARCTICA PRISTINE

Antarctica remains relatively pristine, the largest wilderness area on Earth. It has not yet been subjected to large-scale human perturbations. Please keep it that way.

Do not dispose of litter or garbage on land. Open burning is prohibited.

Do not disturb or pollute lakes or streams. Any materials discarded at sea must be disposed of properly.

Do not paint or engrave names or graffiti on rocks or buildings.

Do not collect or take away biological or geological specimens or man-made artifacts as a souvenir, including rocks, bones, eggs, fossils, and parts or contents of buildings.

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Do not deface or vandalize buildings or emergency refuges, whether occupied, abandoned, or unoccupied.

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12-Dec-2017 , 02-Jan-2018
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Antarctica