

ANTARCTICA - CROSSING THE CIRCLE VIA FALKLANDS & SOUTH GEORGIA



INTRODUCTION

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Buenos Aires

You may arrive in Buenos Aires at any time during Day 1 of the itinerary. Upon your arrival at this splendid city, known for its soaring architecture and rich European heritage, you will independently transfer to the group hotel (pre-night hotel included).



DAY 2: Fly Buenos Aires to Ushuaia & Embarkation

After breakfast at the hotel, the group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, Argentina. Upon arrival, you will have a little time to explore this quaint port town before heading to the pier. Embarkation will occur in the late afternoon, after which your vessel will sail down the historic Beagle Channel.



DAY 3: At Sea

As we sail towards the Falkland Islands, the Expedition Team will make a series of presentations with information on how to prepare for Zodiac excursions and shore landings. There is plenty to do on board including a well-stocked library, a bar where you can meet your fellow travellers and the opportunity to spend time out on deck scanning the horizon for wildlife. The team of lecturers and specialists will also teach you about the local flora and fauna that await you in the Falklands.



TRIP CODE

ACTSFSG

DEPARTURE

15/02/2020

DURATION

23 Days

LOCATIONS

Falkland Islands, South
Georgia, Antarctica



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DAY 4: Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) - Days 4 & 5

The Falkland Islands, a British Overseas Territory, is an archipelago that lies 490kms east of Patagonia in the South Atlantic Ocean. Surrounded by decades of controversy, the Falkland Islands (or Islas Malvinas as they are known in Argentina) have been settled and claimed by France, Spain, Britain and Argentina. The islands have much to offer with a wide variety of spectacular wildlife, beautiful rugged scenery as well as an interesting history. Five species of penguin breed on the islands (gentoo, king, macaroni, magellanic and rockhopper). There are two main islands in the Falklands archipelago - East Island and West Island, which we explore by Zodiac and shore landings. Port Stanley is the largest settlement on the islands, established in the 1840's. It is an interesting town with a British outpost feel, with colourful houses, pubs, a church and a museum. The Falkland Islands also offer plenty of wildlife sighting opportunities and you may see at least three species of penguins and two endemic bird species - Cobb's wren and the Falkland's flightless steamer duck.



DAY 6: At Sea - Day 6 & 7

Leaving the Falklands, we chart a course for South Georgia, stunningly beautiful and with more wildlife than virtually anywhere else on the planet. We cross the Antarctic Convergence, an invisible biological boundary unique to Antarctica, where the meeting of oceans creates an abundance of krill and marine life that attracts large cetaceans, such as humpback whales.



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DAY 8: South Georgia - Day 8 to 11

South Georgia has been a British Overseas Territory since 1775. It is the largest island in the territory and one of the wildest and most remote places on earth with dramatic scenery of snow-capped mountains, huge glaciers, deep fjords and low-lying grassland. In the 19th century South Georgia was a prominent whaling base, but whaling ceased in the 1960's and the only remnants are museums and well-preserved buildings. South Georgia teems with wildlife due to the currents that bring nutrients to the island from the Atlantic. Huge numbers of penguins and seals breed here. During our time on South Georgia we visit the grave of the great explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, in the whaler's cemetery in the settlement of Grytviken. Grytviken is also home to an old whaling station and a research station, giving you an insight into the history of South Georgia. The wildlife on South Georgia is captivating and it abounds in exceptional quantities, which is why South Georgia is often referred to as the "Galapagos of the South". There are rookeries with a hundred thousand pairs of king penguins waddling on the beach and thousands of fur seals and elephant seals. The landscapes of South Georgia from the grasslands and mountains to the beaches, all play an important role in the breeding and survival of different bird and animal species. The Expedition Team will explain how these vulnerable relationships all play out on the island.



DAY 12: At Sea - Day 12 & 13

Setting sail again, we cross the Scotia Sea bound for Antarctica, with its own penguin and seal species. Enjoy some quiet time scanning the horizon for wildlife as you reflect on your days on South Georgia, or take in the presentations that will cover topics ranging from the history and geology of Antarctica to identification of different species. If weather conditions are favourable, a landing at the South Orkney Islands may mark your official landing on Antarctica.



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DAY 14: South Shetland & Antarctic Peninsula- Day 14 to 16

As we reach Antarctica you will be in awe of the pristine wilderness of snow, ice, glaciers, mountains and waterways stretching out before you. Our time spent here will be filled with unforgettable experiences - glacier hikes, visits to research stations, Zodiac cruises and of course incredible wildlife viewing. From chinstrap, gentoo and Adélie penguins to crabeater, leopard, Weddell and fur seals, to minke, orca and humpback whales and a plethora of seabirds - the list is endless. Each day and each shore landing will present a new collection of wildlife and vistas. For the more adventurous you may like to book a kayaking adventure option (reserve in advance at time of booking your trip) or take a polar plunge!



DAY 17: The Antarctic Circle - Day 17 & 18

Continuing south we aim to cross the Antarctic Circle, a point further south than most expeditions reach, a part of the world visited by few people and an impressive achievement. We make a champagne toast to the first explorers who ventured this far south. There is the potential for sightings of impressive icebergs in this part of Antarctica, home to the midnight sun.



DAY 19: Northbound Along the Peninsula - Day 19 & 20

After crossing the Antarctic Circle we head north towards the Drake Passage and Ushuaia. More wildlife and icebergs await as we continue our daily programme of shore landings and Zodiac cruises. Keep on the lookout for any species of penguins, seals and whales that may have eluded you on the journey south.



DAY 21: Crossing the Drake Passage - Day 21 & 22

We cross the Drake Passage that bears the name of the 16th century English explorer Sir Francis Drake. We will again 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 and providing more wildlife viewing opportunities.



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DAY 23: Disembark in Ushuaia & Fly to Buenos Aires

We will arrive in Ushuaia in the morning after breakfast. After disembarkation, we will taste a little of Patagonia by touring Tierra del Fuego National Park before we transfer to the airport for the return group charter flight to Buenos Aires.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin on ship.

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Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
 All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board
 Beer and wine during dinner
 All shore landings per the daily program
 Leadership throughout the voyage by experienced Expedition Leader
 All Zodiac transfers and cruising per the daily program
 Formal and informal presentation by Expedition Team and special guests as scheduled
 A photographic journey documenting the expedition
 Waterproof expedition boots on loan for shore landings
 Parka to keep
 Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
 A hairdryer and bathrobes in every cabin
 Comprehensive predeparture materials, including a map and an informative Antarctica Reader
 All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
 All luggage handling aboard the ship
 All gratuities
 Emergency evacuation insurance to a maximum benefit of US\$500,000.00 per person
 Group transfer in Ushuaia from the airport to the pre-expedition hotel on Day 1
 One night's pre-expedition hotel accommodation in Ushuaia, with breakfast
 Group transfer from the hotel to the ship on embarkation day
 Group transfer upon disembarkation in Ushuaia from the ship to the local airport

Inclusions

EXCLUSIONS:
 International airfare
 Passport and visa expenses
 Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above
 Meals ashore unless otherwise specified
 Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance
 Excess baggage fees on international flights
 Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned above
 Laundry, bar, beverage and other personal charges unless specified
 Phone and internet charges
 Additional overnight accommodation
 Optional adventure activities

Difficulty Rating 2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge Available Upon Request

Notes This itinerary is subject to change according to climactic conditions.

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Price Dependent upon Season and availability.

SUSTAINABILITY

As a member of IAATO we follow 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 boats 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](#)

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