

ANTARCTICA - POLAR CIRCLE



TRIP CODE

ACTSPCDS

DEPARTURE

16/03/2024, 10/03/2025

DURATION

14 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula



INTRODUCTION

All aboard the MV Ortelius. Today you will start your 14 day voyage from Ushuaia in Argentina, across the Drake Passage to the world's most remote continent, Antarctica. An expedition rather than a holiday, be prepared to encounter wild weather, bitter beauty and abundant wildlife. Vast landscapes are softened by the appearance of Gentoo penguins and different seal species while the icy ocean we hope will offer sightings of Humpback and Minke whales, in various locations as we sail.

****Diving is available - You must be advanced and experienced in dry suit and cold water diving. Diving is subject to local ice and weather conditions. Group size: minimum 8 divers.**

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Embarkation in Ushuaia

Your voyage begins where the world drops off: Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet, located on the far southern tip of South America. Starting in the afternoon, you embark from this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego - nicknamed "The End of the World" - and sail the scenic, mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the rest of the evening.



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DAY 2: Crossing the Drake passage - Day 2 & 3

Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you enjoy some of the same experiences encountered by the great polar explorers who first charted these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale spouting up sea spray. After passing the Antarctic Convergence - Antarctica's natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer sub-Antarctic seas - you are in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. Not only does the marine life change, the avian life changes too. Wandering albatrosses, grey-headed albatrosses, black-browed albatrosses, light-mantled sooty albatrosses, cape pigeons, southern fulmars, Wilson's storm petrels, blue petrels, and Antarctic petrels are a few of the birds you might see.



DAY 4: Antarctic Peninsula - Day 4 & 5

Gray stone peaks sketched with snow, towers of broken blue-white ice, and dramatically different wildlife below and above. You first pass the snow-capped Melchior Islands and Schollaert Channel, sailing between Brabant and Anvers Islands. The intended route for you Antarctic adventure includes: Cuverville Island - A small precipitous island nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula and Rongé Island, Cuverville houses a large colony of gentoo penguins and breeding pairs of brown skuas. Neko Harbour - An epic landscape of mammoth glaciers and endless wind-carved snow, Neko Harbour offers opportunities for a Zodiac cruise and landing that afford the closest views of the surrounding alpine peaks. Paradise Bay - You could take a Zodiac cruise in these sprawling, ice-flecked waters before sailing to the Lemaire Channel.



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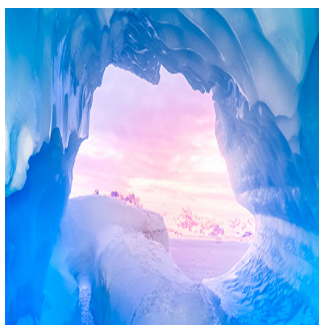
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DAY 6: Lemaire Channel - Day 6 & 8

After a comfortable night of sailing, you wake among the many islands south of Lemaire Channel. You are now near the Antarctic Circle. At this point, a voyage through the aptly named Gullet - a narrow but picturesque channel between Adelaide Island and the Antarctic Continent is possible if the ice isn't too dense. You can explore this area from the prow of the ship getting the closest possible contact with the polar terrain as you venture southward. Along the way, you may enjoy the following visits: Pourquoi Pas Island - You might circumnavigate this island, named after the ship of the famous French explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot. This location is known for its tight fjords and lofty, glacier-crowded mountains. Horseshoe Island - This is the location of the former British Base Y, a remnant of the 1950s that is now unmanned though still equipped with almost all the technology it had while in service. Stonington Island - Home to the former US East Base and British Base E, which was occupied until 1975, this island marks the southernmost landing site of the trip - 68° south. If a landing here is possible, your road turns north again afterward, through the Gunnel Channel. Hanusse Bay - Enjoy the scattered icebergs of this scenic bay, which offers a good chance of spotting whales.



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DAY 9: Crystal Sound - Day 9 to 11

You are near the Antarctic Circle again, cutting north through the countless ice floes of Crystal Sound. Humpback whale sightings are likely, and your approach to the Fish Islands offers the possibility of a Zodiac cruise or even a landing. Whatever the case, the views beyond comparison in this area. There may also be more Adélie penguins congregating among the bergs nearby. Petermann & Pléneau Islands provide a great variety of birdlife, along with possibilities for Zodiac cruises among icebergs that are highly popular among leopard and crabeater seals. Minke whales, humpbacks, and gentoo penguins can also be found here. Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.



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DAY 12: Crossing the Drake passage - Day 12 & 13

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, you're again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.



DAY 14: Disembark in Ushuaia

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. It's now time to disembark in Ushuaia, but with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin on board a ship

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Inclusions	<p>Inclusions All on-board accommodation All meals throughout voyage including snacks, coffee and tea All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff Complimentary use of rubber boots & snow shoes during voyage Pre-scheduled group transfer from the vessel to the the airport in Ushuaia on disembarkation All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program Comprehensive pre-departure material</p> <p>Exclusions Airfares to/from embarkation and disembarkation city Visa fees (if applicable) Travel/medical insurance Personal expenses (such as laundry, on-board telecommunication) Gratuities for the crew (recommended US\$15 per person per day) Optional activities not mentioned in itinerary Paid adventure options</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request. Please contact us for more details. No single supplement will apply if willing to share in selected cabins.
Notes	<p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. Price is based on Quad Share. Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.</p> <p>Diving is an optional activity. Contact us for more details. You must be advanced and experienced in dry suit and cold water diving. Diving is subject to local ice and weather conditions. Group size: minimum 8 divers.</p>
Price Dependent upon	Departure Date, Fuel Surcharges, Cabin Category, Currency Fluctuations, Seasonality & Availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY