

# ANTARCTICA - POLAR CIRCLE QUEST | MV USHUAIA



<b>TRIP CODE</b>
ACTSPCR
<b>DEPARTURE</b>
18/01/2024, 15/02/2025
<b>DURATION</b>
12 Days
<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctic Circle

## INTRODUCTION

Explore the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula and endeavour to cross the Polar Circle which few have ever crossed. Aboard the M/V USHUAIA, you will discover the last pristine region of the world – the White Continent of Antarctica. Set amidst awe-inspiring scenery of imposing mountain ranges, beautifully carved icebergs, ice-filled channels and spectacular glaciers, you will be greeted by vast penguin colonies, seals, whales and an abundance of seabirds.



## ITINERARY

**DAY 1: Depart from Ushuaia**

Embark the USHUAIA in the afternoon and meet your expedition and lecture staff. After you have settled into your cabins we sail along the famous Beagle Channel and the scenic Mackinlay Pass.



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## DAY 2: Crossing the Drake Passage Crossing - Day 2 & 3

Named after the renowned explorer, Sir Francis Drake, who sailed these waters in 1578, the Drake Passage also marks the Antarctic Convergence, a biological barrier where cold polar water sinks beneath the warmer northern waters. This creates a great upwelling of nutrients, which sustains the biodiversity of this region. The Drake Passage also marks the northern limit of many Antarctic seabirds. As we sail across the passage, Antarpply Expeditions' lecturers will be out with you on deck to help with the identification of an amazing variety of seabirds, including many albatrosses, which follow in our wake. The USHUAIA's open bridge policy allows you to join our officers on the bridge and learn about navigation, watch for whales, and enjoy the view. A full program of lectures will be offered as well. The first sightings of icebergs and snow-capped mountains indicate that we have reached the South Shetland Islands, a group of twenty islands and islets first sighted in February 1819 by Capt. William Smith of the brig Williams. With favorable conditions in the Drake Passage our lecturers and naturalists will accompany you ashore as you experience your first encounter with the penguins and seals on Day 3.



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## DAY 4: Antarctic Peninsula - Days 4 to 9

Exquisite beauty and pristine landscapes are waiting for you on the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula. Myriads of icebergs in different shades and shapes float freely in the waterways around the continent. You will have plenty of time to explore the amazing scenery and to learn about the remarkable history of the early explorers. Apart from Adélie, gentoo and chinstrap penguins in their masses, seabirds will follow you as you sail and you may also encounter humpback whales, minke whales and orcas as well as leopard, crabeater, fur and Weddell seals at close range. Weather permitting we will visit some of the most beautiful waterways in the area such as the Gerlache Strait, Errera Channel, Neumayer Channel and the extremely narrow Lemaire Channel. Possible landing sites may include the aptly named Paradise Bay with its impressive glacial fronts and mountains; Cuverville Island, home of the largest gentoo penguin colony in the Peninsula surrounded by glaciers and castellated icebergs, and the British Museum and Post Office at Port Lockroy. Further exploration will lead us south of the Lemaire Channel in quest of the Polar Circle. We might also visit the Ukrainian Station Vernadsky, the former British base Faraday, where the ozone hole was first spotted, the rugged Yalour Islands and Detaille Island, south of the Polar Circle. On our way north we plan to explore the South Shetland Islands. The volcanic island group is a haven for wildlife. Vast penguin rookeries and seals hauling out on the shorelines make every day spent here unforgettable. Sailing through the narrow passage into the flooded caldera of Deception Island is truly amazing, so is visiting the crescent shaped island Half Moon, home to chinstrap penguins in breathtaking surroundings.



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## DAY 10: Crossing the Drake Passage - Day 9 to 10

We leave Antarctica and head north across the Drake Passage. Join our lecturers and naturalists on deck as we search for seabirds and whales and enjoy some final lectures. Take the chance to relax and reflect on the fascinating adventures of the past days on the way back to Ushuaia.



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## DAY 12: Arrival in Ushuaia

We arrive at the port of Ushuaia in the early morning and disembark the USHUAIA after breakfast. \*\*\* 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

<b>Accommodation</b>	Cabin Onboard a Ship
<b>Inclusions</b>	<p><b>INCLUSIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shipboard accommodation</li> <li>All meals onboard</li> <li>All scheduled landings/excursions</li> <li>Guiding and lectures by expedition leader and team</li> <li>English-speaking expedition team</li> <li>All port fees</li> <li>All landing fees</li> <li>Detailed post-expedition log</li> </ul> <p><b>EXCLUSIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airfares to/from embarkation and disembarkation city</li> <li>Visa fees (if applicable)</li> <li>Travel Insurance</li> <li>Beverages (other than coffee and tea)</li> <li>Personal expenses such as laundry, onboard communication (telephone calls, faxes, email service)</li> <li>Gratuities for the crew (recommended US\$15.00 per person per day)</li> <li>Pre or post cruise travel expenses</li> <li>Transfers to/from the pier in Ushuaia</li> </ul>
<b>Difficulty Rating</b>	2 (light adventure)
<b>Single Surcharge</b>	Available upon request
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated for triple/quad cabins)</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>



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**Price Dependent upon** Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

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