

ANTARCTICA - ANTARCTICA



INTRODUCTION

This celebratory season voyage is one that you will never forget, spent in the ultimate white Christmas destination - the remote yet stunningly beautiful ice wilderness of Antarctica. In December the Antarctic Peninsula is alive with penguin chicks, and crabeater and Weddell seals are often spotted hauled out on ice floes. Explore the wonders of the White Continent for ten days with shore landings, hiking, kayaking and cruising past icebergs in ice-filled waterways. Christmas Day will be a unique mix of exciting activities amongst the ice and penguins, combined with a traditional Norwegian celebration on board the MS Midnatsol.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Antarctica White Christmas with Penguins - 1

This adventure starts with an overnight stay in Buenos Aires, the bustling capital of Argentina. We offer an optional city tour in the afternoon. Spend the evening at your leisure and discover "Paris of South America" for yourself.



DAY 1: Generic

TRIP CODE

ACTSWCP9

DEPARTURE

13/12/2019

DURATION

17 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctica



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DAY 2: Fly South – Ushuaia

Fly early in the morning to Ushuaia, where MS Midnatsol awaits. Once on board, we kick off our journey with a welcome-on-board dinner.



DAY 3: At Sea - Drake Passage - Day 3 & 4

Prepare yourself for Antarctica as we cross the infamous Drake Passage, and trust us - it will overwhelm you! MS Midnatsol is designed to bring polar exploration to all ages and learning levels. There will be lectures on the environment around us, films about Antarctica and the Activity Center provides the latest technology for preserving your memories. This Center is the heart of the expedition community, a friendly place to gather for talks, recaps and spontaneous events, and a warm area to mingle and share stories.



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DAY 5: Antarctica & South Shetlands - Day 5 to 14

You are now in one of the most remote areas on earth! Venture ashore to explore the breath taking Antarctic scenery and come close to penguins and seals. You will feel like a real explorer from the moment you first set foot on the endless expanse of snow and ice. From the deck, there will be ample opportunities to sight whales. Enjoy close encounters with wildlife and glaciers, old whaling stations and relics as we sail. One of the highlights is Deception Island in the South Shetlands. When we sail into the natural harbour of this volcanic island, you will see an abandoned whaling station known as Hektor and a derelict British base. We are certain you will enjoy a visit to Half Moon Island, a staggeringly photogenic island blessed with some of the most beautiful Antarctic scenery imaginable, or Yankee Harbour, with its large colony of Gentoo penguins, estimated to be 4,000 breeding pairs. Cuverville Island is home to another of the largest known colonies of Gentoo penguins, while Neko Harbour is beautifully located in the innermost part of Andvord Bay. Paradise Harbour got its descriptive name from the whalers during the last century. Wilhelmina Bay has stunning scenery and is often called "Whale-mina Bay", because of the large number of humpback whales spotted here in December. We have planned plenty of activities to help you experience Antarctica in the best way. This might mean that one day you will go shore to see penguins and hear the crackling noise of glaciers. The next day, you may get to feel the salt and wind as you cruise between the sea ice, looking for leopard seals taking a nap on an ice platform. A third day may involve kayaking or a longer hike or walk. Back on board, we host activities that will satisfy a whole range of interests in the Explorer Room. The on-board photographer will show you the basics of expedition photography. Join gatherings where the Expedition team recount the day's activities, make presentations, and the Expedition leader discusses the next day's plan. These gatherings are great opportunities for sharing and mingling with the expedition community. Christmas Day will be a unique mix of exciting activities amongst the ice and penguins, combined with traditional Norwegian celebrations on board. You might enjoy a special lunch followed by a walk to the top of a snow-covered hill set within a glaciated bay. Or your Christmas gift may be a cruise amongst ice bergs followed by a visit from a certain white-bearded gentleman.



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DAY 15: At Sea - Drake Passage - Day 15 & 16

After exploring this exhilarating continent, we set course back to civilization. Spend the day at sea recapping your experiences, having fun in the Activity Center or just relaxing on deck.



DAY 17: Disembark: Ushuaia - Buenos Aires

Sadly, every adventure must come to an end. It is time to say goodbye to the crew and all your new friends when we reach Ushuaia. We transfer you to the airport for your flight back to Buenos Aires.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Standard

Inclusions

Cabin grade of your choice on a full board basis
One hotel night in Buenos Aires before the voyage including breakfast
Transfer hotel to airport in Buenos Aires
Return economy flights Buenos Aires to Ushuaia
Transfers in Ushuaia including an orientation tour
Wind- and water-resistant jacket
Landings with small boats and activities on board and ashore
Professional English-speaking Expedition team that gives lectures as well as accompany landings and activities
Free tea and coffee

Exclusions

International flights
Airport arrival or departure taxes
Travel insurance
Luggage handling
Optional Excursions and Gratuities
Passport, visa, reciprocity and vaccination charges

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

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Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season 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.

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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 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

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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.

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

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