

## ANTARCTICA - FALKLAND ISLANDS & ANTARCTICA PENINSULA DISCOVERY



### INTRODUCTION

Set sail aboard the comfortable and spacious polar expedition vessel, the Ocean Endeavour, to discover the raw beauty of the untamed Falkland Islands and Antarctica on a 19 day voyage. These are the ultimate destinations for the true explorer. This trip starts in Buenos Aires, giving you the chance to explore this buzzing Latin America city before embarking your vessel and heading for the ruggedly beautiful Falkland Islands. There is an abundance of incredible wildlife that inhabits this wild archipelago, from feisty rockhopper penguins to huge populations of black-browed albatrosses, large colonies of elephant and fur seals, dolphins, orcas and myriad birds. A stop in Ushuaia en route to Antarctica allows a day of exploration of Tierra del Fuego National Park, as we get off the beaten track with our expert guide, and some time on dry land before setting forth to the white continent. Enter into a world of ice, surrounded by the spellbindingly beautiful landscapes created by the harsh Antarctic climate. This is an unspoiled wilderness, uninhabited by man, where the penguins, seals, whales and seabirds reign supreme. Our journey ends back in Ushuaia where you can extend your time in Patagonia if you wish.

### ITINERARY

#### TRIP CODE

ACACFAD

#### DEPARTURE

27/10/2020

#### DURATION

20 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Antarctica



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### DAY 1: Arrive Buenos Aires, Argentina

Buenos Aires is Argentina's elegant, historic and cosmopolitan capital. It is known as the 'Paris of the South' due to its European atmosphere, with glamorous avenues lined with fashionable shops and Parisian-style restaurants and cafes. On arrival at Buenos Aires Airport, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Should you not be able to contact them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office. Your cruise itinerary begins with an overnight stay in Buenos Aires. If you arrive into Buenos Aires early enough, the day is yours to explore. Located on the western shore of the estuary of the Río de la Plata, Buenos Aires has many fascinating neighbourhoods to wander through including the colourful and lively La Boca, home to art galleries and tango shows. Then there is San Telmo with its restored mansions and antique stores and Recoleta, the city's most exclusive area, home to the famous Recoleta Cemetery.



### DAY 2: Embarkation in Buenos Aires

This morning is free for you to explore Buenos Aires, giving you time to wander the streets of this vibrant city. Transfer to the port of Buenos Aires for embarkation in the late afternoon. You will be welcomed on board the Ocean Endeavour by the Expedition Team and the Ship's Officers. This evening we set sail from Buenos Aires, allowing you to enjoy your first taste of life at sea and a welcome dinner.



### DAY 3: At Sea - Day 3 to 5

As we cruise from Buenos Aires to the Falkland Islands, there is plenty of time to enjoy the facilities of the Ocean Endeavour, which include a spa, saunas, saltwater pool and gym and relaxing yoga classes. The Expedition Team will make presentations on the wildlife and history of the Falkland Islands, preparing you for what lies ahead. Head out to the spacious decks to try to spot several species of bird that are likely to follow the vessel as it heads southeast, such as albatrosses, storm petrels, shearwaters and diving petrels.



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### DAY 6: Falkland Islands - Day 6 & 7

The Falkland Islands, a British Overseas Territory, is an archipelago that lies 490 kilometres 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 Falkland Islands are largely unknown gems that offer an abundance of wildlife - they are a paradise for wildlife enthusiasts and photographers alike. Although often primarily remembered for the Falklands War between the UK and Argentina in 1982, the archipelago is a haven for wildlife. There are 5 species of penguin found here as well as vast populations of black-browed albatrosses, large colonies of elephant and fur seals, Peale's and Commerson's dolphins, orcas and a myriad of bird species. Our itinerary will be dictated by the weather but we will make daily excursions and shore landings, exploring by Zodiac, hiking and maybe even kayaking. We may visit Carcass Island that abounds with birdlife or Saunders Island, home to the black-browed albatross, breeding imperial shags, and 4 species of penguin (rockhopper, king, Magellanic and gentoo). West Point Island also hosts a large black-browed albatross population and rockhopper penguins. On Pebble Island there are opportunities to see colonies of 4 species of penguin, king and rock shags, giant petrels, striated caracaras, black-necked swans and ground nesting birds plus an aircraft wreckage from the 1982 conflict. At Grave Cove there are excellent hiking opportunities and a nesting gentoo penguin colony. Volunteer Point is home to the largest king penguin rookery on the Falklands and Sea Lion Island is home to the largest breeding colony of southern elephant seals in the archipelago, with up to 2,000 individuals on the northern beaches. Orcas and Commerson's dolphins can often be seen from the shoreline. We will visit Port Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands, a quaint town with colourful houses, waterfront promenade and English-style pubs. The town was established in the early 1840's and attractions include the Falkland Islands Museum, the governor's house, a cathedral with impressive whalebone arch, a war memorial, quality gift shops and views of shipwrecks in the harbour. Southern giant petrels often fly close to the shore, the endemic Falkland steamer ducks abound on the shorelines while kelp gulls and dolphin gulls can often be seen flying overhead. Other frequent visitors to the Stanley area include black-crowned night herons, red-backed hawks and peregrine falcons. Turkey vultures are regularly seen on top of any prominent building.



NO IMAGE  
AVAILABLE

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### DAY 8: At Sea - Day 8 & 9

This morning we depart from the Falklands, we set our course for Ushuaia. Our final day at sea gives us one last chance to view the marine life of these southern waters. Our final leg of the voyage is along the mountain-fringed Beagle Channel to Tierra del Fuego. We will toast the end of our voyage at a farewell dinner tonight on board the ship.



### DAY 10: Ushuaia

We are scheduled to arrive into Ushuaia early this morning, after breakfast disembark the ship for a day of exploration. Enjoy an excursion to the only National Park on the island. Tierra del Fuego National Park is one of the most frequently visited places in Ushuaia as its close to the city and easily accessible. However, it may not reveal its secrets to those who do not get off the beaten track and who do not pay enough attention to the wonders hidden inside it. Discover the true nature of the secret within the park with our specialized guides as you walk through the forest. Included in your exploration is lunch service with drinks and wine. Return in the afternoon and reboard your vessel. This evening we set sail through the Beagle Channel that was named after the British ship the HMS Beagle. This famous channel transects the Tierra del Fuego archipelago in the extreme south of South America, and is rich in wildlife. Keep a look out for Magellanic penguins, rock cormorants, petrels and black-browed albatross from the deck as well as sea lion colonies. The air is likely to be filled with anticipation, as your next view of land will be of Antarctica - the White Continent.



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DAY 11: At Sea, Crossing the Drake Passage - Day 11 & 12

As we leave the Beagle Channel, prepare yourself for potentially rough seas as we enter the legendary Drake Passage. This infamous and unpredictable channel of water separates the southernmost tip of South America from the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. It was named after the English explorer, Sir Frances Drake. As we head southwards, there is time to get to know your shipmates and get an insight into the excitement ahead with presentations from the Expedition Team on everything Antarctic - from the history and geology to the incredible wildlife. We will notice a drop in temperature as we cross the Antarctic Convergence and enter the waters of the Antarctic Ocean. At the Antarctic Convergence, the colder polar waters flowing north meet the warmer equatorial waters flowing south. This mixing pushes nutrient rich waters to the surface, attracting a variety of seabirds, whales and other species. Look out through the panoramic observation windows or brave the elements outside on deck as you keep your eyes peeled for albatrosses flying overhead, icebergs and maybe even breaching whales. Leaving the Antarctic Convergence in our wake, we continue south towards Antarctica, maybe making landfall by early evening on Day 12, if conditions are favourable. The first sighting of land always brings great excitement and is often embraced as the true beginning of any Antarctic expedition.



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### DAY 13: South Shetlands & Antarctica - Day 13 to 16

For the next four days we explore the South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula that is famed for its majestic mountains, glaciers, imposing icebergs, ice-strewn waters and abundance of wildlife. The scenery, wildlife and serene silence of Antarctica will enchant and enthrall and you will soon realise why this region has captivated the attention of explorers and travellers for centuries. Your days on the Antarctic Peninsula will form the core of your adventure. Every day will be different as we cruise by Zodiac amongst the beautifully sculpted icebergs and take Zodiac excursions from the ship to explore local bays, channels and landing sites. Unpredictable weather and ice conditions mean that the itinerary will be flexible, but will make the most of wildlife sightings, as we aim to explore penguin rookeries, seal and bird colonies, whale feeding areas as well as visiting sites of historic and scientific interest and climbing to vantage points for panoramic views. There is always something new or unexpected to see, with opportunities for kayaking, snowshoeing and photography with an expert, which means that your expedition will be a unique and personal experience and unlike any other. Enjoy the antics of thousands of curious penguins as you sit on a pebbled beach, scout for whales and seals as you cruise by Zodiac, visit a research base, listen out for the mighty crack of a calving glacier and maybe brave a polar plunge in the icy waters! As we cruise through the Peninsula, the lecture programme continues and sightseeing is at its most spectacular off the ship's outer decks. Enjoy the Ocean Endeavour's newly designed health and fitness features, with facilities that include a spa, His and Hers saunas, saltwater pool and gym plus yoga sessions.



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### DAY 17: Antarctic Peninsula & At Sea - Day 17 & 18

We hope to make one final excursion or shore landing today before we leave the Antarctic Peninsula behind, and head back across the Drake Passage. This is another great opportunity to look out for wildlife from the deck of the ship, as you identify seabirds and maybe whales with the help of your Expedition Team. Gain more insight into the region by attending final lectures and presentations by the polar experts and take time to relax and reminisce about your Antarctic experiences. By the evening we hope to be back in the tranquil waters of the Beagle Channel, ensuring a restful nights sleep on board.



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### DAY 19: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

We are scheduled to arrive into Ushuaia early this morning, disembarking after a final breakfast aboard the Ocean Endeavour. Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. Please Note: You are advised not to book a flight out of Ushuaia before midday on disembarkation day, in case of delays caused by unfavourable weather conditions. Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

### Accommodation

Hotel and ship cabin accommodation

### Inclusions

#### INCLUSIONS:

1 night hotel accommodation in Ushuaia, pre cruise  
Cabin accommodation on board the ship  
All meals whilst on ship  
All scheduled landings/excursions  
Guiding and lectures by English-speaking expedition leader and team  
All port fees  
All landing fees  
Expedition jacket provided  
A pair of expedition boots for use during your voyage  
Group arrival and departure transfers in Ushuaia\*

#### EXCLUSIONS:

Airfares to/from embarkation and disembarkation city  
Visa fees (if applicable)  
Travel insurance (compulsory)  
Beverages (other than coffee and tea)  
Personal expenses such as laundry, onboard communication (telephone calls, faxes, email service)  
Gratuities for the crew (recommended US\$15 per person per day)  
Pre or post cruise travel expenses  
Optional activities, refer optional activities section for details

### Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

### Single Surcharge

Available on request. No single supplement if willing to share. Contact us for more details.

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### Notes

Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.

### Price Dependent upon

Departure date, seasonality and availability.

## SUSTAINABILITY

We appreciate that voyages to the Antarctic to have an impact on this pristine environment. In light of this, all our voyages are double carbon offset. In addition, we strive to eliminate as many single use plastics as possible from our supply chain. In choosing this voyage you are also supporting the fantastic work done by the Antarctic Science Foundation (ASF) and their work in understanding and protecting this unique destination. In addition all voyages support the Mawsons Huts Foundation (MHF). The MHF support the legacy of Sir Douglas Mawson, the legendary Antarctic explorer and scientist. As a member of IAATO we follow strict 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 ships 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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