

ANTARCTICA - IN DEPTH ANTARCTICA & PATAGONIA NORTHBOUND | MS FRAM



TRIP CODE

ACHUAPCN

DEPARTURE

11/03/2023, 07/03/2024

DURATION

23 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula,
Patagonia, Chile



INTRODUCTION

Sail from Ushuaia in Argentina across the infamous Drake Passage to the Antarctic Peninsula and then northbound stopping in Chilean Patagonia en route to the colourful city of Valparaiso. This 20 day journey will show you the glittering Antarctic Peninsula as well as Chile's dramatic fjords. This is a unique chance to explore Antarctica and Patagonia in one incredible expedition. Explore the white continent of Antarctica with shore landings; be awed by Torres del Paine National Park in Chile and see Cape Horn at the height of summer.

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Santiago, Chile's Capital

Welcome to Santiago, Chile's bustling capital. With its colonial architecture, award-winning restaurants and fascinating museums, it's the perfect place to start your expedition cruise. There's a lot to see, from the Mercado Central fish market to the Plaza de Armas and the Presidential Palace. Check out the Sky Costanera, which offers panoramic views of the city from 1,000 feet in the air. You may want to arrive a few days early to join one of our optional Pre-Programmes. Our Atacama Desert tour will introduce you to the driest desert on the planet, while our Chilean Patagonia excursion offers a taste of the mountains.



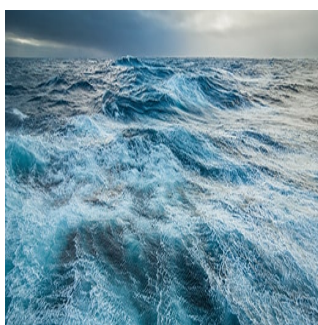
DAY 2: Depart From Punta Arenas

You'll have an early start today as we depart Santiago and fly to Punta Arenas, Chile's southernmost port. Your expedition ship, MS Fram, awaits. Once you've boarded, get settled in, explore the ship, and meet your Expedition Team. As well as being your guides, hosts and local experts, they're also your travel companions for the next three weeks. Friendly and welcoming, they'll answer any questions you may have during your Antarctic adventure.



DAY 3: Sailing the Drake Passage - Days 3-4

Before you reach Antarctica, you must first experience the legendary Drake 'rite of' Passage, a two-day crossing where sea conditions can vary dramatically. It's named after Sir Francis Drake, who stumbled across it when his boat was blown south by heavy winds. Visit the Science Center and find out what lies ahead. Your Expedition Team will deliver lectures on Antarctic history, wildlife and ecosystems. You'll learn how to make your visit as safe and as sustainable as possible, and about the Citizen Science projects you can join. Take this time to enjoy all the comforts you'll find on board. Relax in the hot tubs or panoramic sauna, look out for icebergs, whales and albatrosses on deck, or unwind in our Explorer Lounge & Bar.



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DAY 5: Antarctica: another world - Days 5-12

Nothing prepares you for your first sight of Antarctica’s immense, frozen beauty. Icebergs, sculpted by nature, float in the straits. Gentoo and chinstrap penguins court while Adélie penguins nest. Countless seabirds wheel overhead. Nature is in charge. You’ll spend eight exciting days busily exploring several of more than 20 possible landing sites, on and around the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands. Wherever we go and whatever we do, each day will offer something different and thrilling. We might sail into a flooded volcanic caldera or land in icy bays, where remnants of whaling paraphernalia lie abandoned. You may also get a chance to go kayaking among icebergs and seals, or snowshoe to penguin colonies on optional activities. Bird enthusiasts should look skywards for Antarctic seabirds such as skuas, jaegers, petrels and terns. Through Citizen Science projects and onboard lectures, you'll learn more about polar exploration, this precious habitat, and how we can all protect it.



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DAY 13: Rounding Cape Horn - Days 13-14

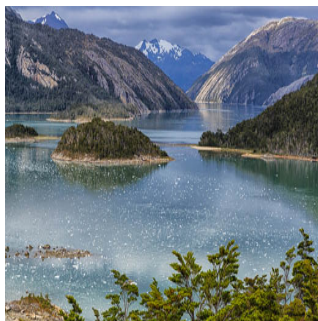
After eight unforgettable days in Antarctica, we’ll turn around and head north, back across the Drake Passage and around Cape Horn. You'll have plenty of time to relax onboard as we sail towards the Chilean fjords. The Expedition Team will continue their lectures in the Science Center and you can learn more about Chile's geology and wildlife. You can also contribute important data to Citizen Science projects and find out more about things you've seen in Antarctica. The waters around Cape Horn are just as changeable as the Drake Passage, but your experienced captain will attempt to find a way to land and explore, should the conditions allow.



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DAY 15: Exploring Chile's Fjords

We cruise north along the Chilean coast through the ruggedly beautiful, broken island chains of the fjords of Magallanes Province. Isolated islands and hidden bays create a rich haven for wildlife. From deck, you can scan for colonies of Magellanic Penguins. If you're lucky, you might also spot elephant seals and whales. Or you can get hands on in the Science Center and study ice samples under the microscopes. Your day's activities will be decided by your Expedition Team. If the conditions are right, we'll take to the water in our small expedition boats for a closer look, or you might join a guided hike on a glacier.



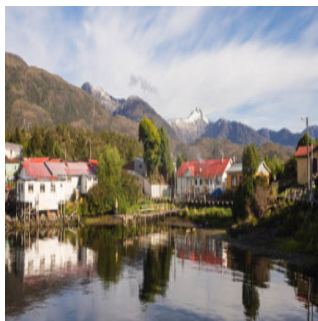
DAY 16: Puerto Natales & Torres Del Paine Days 16-17

Our expedition cruise continues to Puerto Natales, where we'll spend the night. You can opt to go hiking in Torres del Paine National Park - an incredible experience well worth doing. The rugged landscape has steppe, forest and desert, punctuated by glaciers and lakes. Guanacos, rheas and pumas roam freely. Look out for Chilean Flamingos and you may even spot the mighty Andean condor. Puerto Natales is a popular hub for hikers and adventurers, with many eateries, bars and outdoor shops. Visit the artisan village at Etherh Aike; enjoy a gin tour at the Last Hope Distillery; or stroll the photogenic waterfront.



DAY 18: Remote Puerto Edén

After cruising through Patagonian waters, we arrive at the enchanting village of Puerto Edén in Bernardo O'Higgins National Park. This tiny village sits at the end of a deep fjord. It's only accessible by sea, and the ferry that connects it to the mainland only visits once a month. There are no roads here - just wooden boardwalks connecting houses and shops. Among its 250-strong population, you'll meet some of the last remaining members of the indigenous Kawéskar, giving you a fascinating insight into Patagonian culture. The unique community is designated a Living Human Treasure by UNESCO.



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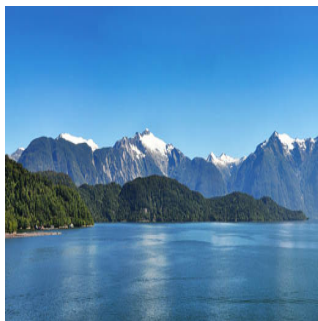
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DAY 19: The waters of Patagonia

We cruise north along the Patagonian coast. You'll be captivated by the iceberg-studded waters of Patagonia, with their stunning shades of blue, from the brightest aquamarine to the deepest midnight hues. As we sail, there's a good chance you'll see whales, seabirds, penguins and more. Take in the scenery from the panoramic sauna or on-deck hot tubs and pool, enjoy locally sourced cuisine, or relax in the Explorer Lounge. Our Expedition Team will be on hand with fascinating lectures on local history and wildlife, and our onboard photographer can help with tips on landscape photography.



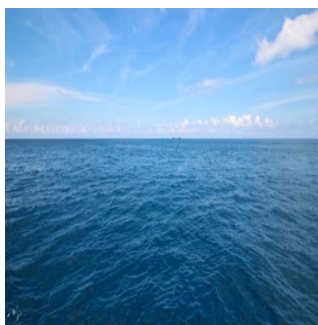
DAY 20: Castro's Chilotan Charm

Set among the lush vegetation of Chiloé Island, Castro is Chile's third oldest city and home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites - Iglesia San Francisco and Iglesia de Señora de Gracia de Nercón. You can enjoy terrific views of the city's colourful palafitos - stilt houses along the waterfront - from the nearby hills, so keep your camera ready. For some local culture, head to the Regional Museum and the Museum of Modern Art. Bring your binoculars as Chiloé is an important habitat for bird species like Green-backed Firecrowns and Chilean flamingos. It's also home to penguins, Black-necked swans, Ringed Kingfishers and Silvery Grebes.



DAY 21: At Sea - Days 21-22

Enjoy the final two days on board the ship as we sail towards Valparaíso, where your expedition cruise ends. Relax and make the most of the onboard facilities and spend time with the people you've met during your adventures. Whether that means searching for rare birds on deck, enjoying a drink in the Explorer Lounge or soaking in the hot tub, the choice is yours. You can continue your discoveries in the Science Center and join the Expedition Team to recap your incredible Antarctica and Patagonia expedition.



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DAY 23: Arrive Valparaíso and disembark

Your Antarctica and Patagonia expedition cruise ends in Valparaíso, known as the 'Jewel of the Pacific'. Built on steep hillsides overlooking the ocean, you'll love discovering this UNESCO-listed city. Filled with exciting smells, sounds and people, it's an exhilarating maze of winding alleyways and barrios, colourful houses, and mercados packed with local produce. Take it all in on a funicular ride up to Cerro Alegre and Concepción. And if you're up for more adventures, you can join an optional Post-Programme to Easter Island, famous for its mysterious statues of giant heads.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One hotel night in Buenos Aires before the voyage including breakfast • Transfer hotel to airport in Buenos Aires • Economy flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia • Transfers in Ushuaia incl. an orientation tour • A rich program of included activities on all voyages designed to immerse you in the destinations you visit, including ice-cruising and onshore exploration with the Expedition Team. • Professional Englishspeaking Expedition Team an international handpicked team of highly educated experts of various academic fields with profound knowledge of the region we sail in. • Complimentary wind- and water-resistant jacket. • Loan of boots, trekking poles, and equipment needed for optional and included activities. • All meals including beverages (ship beer and wine, sodas and mineral water in all restaurants) • Coffee and tea included throughout the day. • Early riser and afternoon treat offered in addition to breakfast, lunch and dinner • Gym, hot tubs and panoramic sauna • Free Wi-fi on board for all guests. Be aware that we sail in remote areas with limited connection.
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request

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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.

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Do not disturb or pollute lakes or streams. Any materials discarded at sea must be 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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