

EMBLEMATIC ANTARCTICA



TRIP CODE

ACPOSEB

DURATION

11 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula



INTRODUCTION

Sail through the heart of the Antarctic Peninsula into an enchanting polar desert, a final frontier surrounded by a gigantic ice sheet. Set in the most spectacular scenery of imposing mountain ranges, ice-filled channels, awe-inspiring glaciers and beautifully sculptured icebergs, this is a fascinating journey to the heart of this remote land. Penguins live in their thousands, waddling on the shores, whilst humpback whales and seals swim in the ship's wake. On board Le Soleal you will find the highest degree of comfort and luxury as you cruise through the pristine sites of the Antarctic Peninsula.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Embarkation in Ushuaia

Despite its small size, the city of Ushuaia is the world's southernmost city, the capital of Tierra del Fuego and the main starting point for voyages to Antarctica. Embarkation begins in the afternoon at the port in Ushuaia. Embarkation time is between 4:00pm and 5:00pm, at which time cabins and suites will be ready to check in to. The ship sets sail this evening along the famous Beagle Channel towards the Drake Passage.



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DAY 2: Drake Passage - Day 3 to 4

To reach the mythical “White Continent” we cross the notorious Drake Passage named after the famous explorer, Sir Frances Drake, who sailed in these waters back in 1578. You will then traverse the Polar Front which marks the area where waters from the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans meet. The Antarctic Convergence is a biological barrier where cold polar water sinks beneath the warmer northern waters. The first sightings of icebergs and snow-capped mountains indicate that we have reached Antarctica.



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DAY 4: Antarctic Peninsula - Day 5 to 9

Succumb to the magic of a place unlike any other. To this day, the mythical Antarctic Peninsula still holds real fascination and promises its visitors unforgettable moments. Throughout your adventure in this icy realm, you will find yourself in the heart of a spectacular decor in subtle shades of blue and white, surrounded by exceptional wildlife. Penguins, humpback whales, seals and giant petrels are at home here, as are elephant seals, fur seals, Antarctic minke whales, and orcas. Depending on which sites you will be lucky enough to visit, you may get the chance to observe them and share with them the beauty of these extreme parts. Each day, based on ice conditions, the Captain and the Expedition Leader will suggest Zodiac outings or landings to discover the infinite riches of the Antarctic Peninsula. Glaciers, ice floe, tabletop icebergs, mountain peaks that plunge straight into the sea, volcanic beaches, research stations, enchanting bays, and vestiges of the whaling industry: these are the faces of the Antarctic that will likely reveal themselves to you, in a hushed and surreal atmosphere. You will sail in the wake of Jean-Baptiste Charcot, Adrien de Gerlache and Sir Ernest Shackleton, great Antarctic explorers who, from the 19th century, set out to conquer these remote and uninhabited lands.



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DAY 5: Pleneau / Port Charcot (Antarctica)

Lying at the southern end of the beautiful Lemaire Channel, we hope to visit Pleneau Island and then the 3km wide bay of Port Charcot that was charted by the 3rd French Antarctic expedition under Jean-Baptiste Charcot. Charcot established the expedition's winter base at Port Charcot in 1904.



DAY 6: Neko / Paradise Bay (Antarctica)

Deep in Andvord Bay, we find this little corner of paradise at the foot of an immense glacier. Neko Bay is without doubt one of the most beautiful sights of the Antarctic Peninsula. Wildlife is as abundant as it is exceptional with sea birds such as gulls, Cape petrels and cormorants, as well as marine mammals such as seals, orcas and whales. Excursions aboard our Zodiacs allow you to sail close to blue-tinged icebergs or disembark near colonies of penguins, observe leopard seals basking on the shore or watch the Antarctic terns flying overhead. Paradise Bay (or Paradise Harbour as it is also known) is surrounded and protected by glaciated mountains and ice cliffs. It is a stunningly beautiful wide bay and natural harbour, home to a colony of gentoo penguins, with Argentina's "Almirante Brown Antarctic Base" standing on its coast.



DAY 7: The Weddell Sea (Antarctica)

The ship continues sailing into the Weddell Sea, a rarely visited, heavily iced and beautiful area of Antarctica on the south-east side of the Antarctic Peninsula. Sailing in the Weddell Sea will allow you to experience true silence, an extraordinary and enchanting atmosphere and unrivalled calm. You will discover fur seals, penguin colonies, wandering albatross and other giant petrels. Here the huge icebergs and the endless ice cap sculpt a landscape that words cannot describe. The lord of the manor is known as the Weddell seal. It is a record breaker, able to remain submerged for more than an hour. Its pelage is dark grey and it has a spotted belly. To maintain its access to the sea and be able to fish, the Weddell seal has special teeth allowing it to make a hole in the thick ice.




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DAY 8: Deception Island / Half Moon (Antarctica)

Weather permitting, we will sail into the flooded volcanic caldera of Deception Island for its rugged scenery, great sites of geological interest and the remains of an old whaling station. Deception Island is the largest of three recent volcanic centres in the South Shetlands and sailing through the narrow passage into the flooded caldera of Deception Island is truly amazing. Nestled at the heart of the South Shetland Islands, in the north of the Antarctic Peninsula, Deception Island is easy to recognise for its horseshoe shape. On the black sand of the volcanic beaches, there are remains of abandoned huts that have been overrun by the extraordinary wildlife found here. It is on these ash beaches that the largest colony of chinstrap penguins in the Antarctic Peninsula has taken up residence. Excursions aboard our Zodiacs will allow you to set foot on this expanse of land where more than 100,000 pairs of penguins, elephant seals and fur seals live side by side. Half Moon Island, another possible landing site is home to chinstrap penguins in spectacular surroundings. Only 2kms long, the island boasts dramatic rock formations. Whales are often spotted patrolling the shores.



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DAY 9: Drake Passage - Day 10 to 11

We leave Antarctica and head north back across the Drake Passage, searching for seabirds and whales as we sail.



DAY 11: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

Disembarkation is scheduled for 9:00 am.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
Inclusions	Cabin accommodation whilst on board Le Boreal All meals whilst on board Open bar (no premium brands) Mini bar in your stateroom (Champagne additional fee) All scheduled landings and excursions Guiding and lectures by expedition team Complimentary Polar expedition jacket Free use of rubber boots for shore excursions All port taxes Comprehensive pre and post voyage informational material Free WIFI Exclusions Airfares to and from embarkation/disembarkation city Visa fees (if applicable) Travel and medical insurance Beverages (other than tea and coffee) Personal expenses such as laundry, on board communication (telephone calls, faxes, email) Gratuities for the crew Pre or post cruise travel expenses Optional activities
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request. Contact us for more details.
Notes	Please note this itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, seasonality and availability

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SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

A trip to the Antarctic is a completely different experience and quite unlike any other trip you have probably been on. We use a highly regulated, licensed vessel which is well equipped to operate in this vulnerable ecosystem. We are fully compliant with all rules set down by the IAATO and all activities are governed by the Antarctic Treaty System. We carefully select all ships we work with and choose them for their small size as this creates far less impact on shore landings with wildlife. We view the voyage to the Antarctic as an expedition, not a sightseeing trip. Smaller boats 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, and all waste is carried

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back to the home port to allow for environmentally conscious waste management and disposal, unlike some of the larger ships which do not facilitate this. This trip begins in Ushuaia where you will have time to sample local food and shop at local boutiques which we encourage individuals to take part in for experience and in support of the local community. We also try to create opportunity to see research and historical sites including the former research station/now museum of Port Lockroy and engage with local history. We discourage the buying of souvenirs made from endangered species or wrongfully taken from the environment i.e. shells. Our pre-departure pack provides you with all the information required for your tour, from what to take with you to practical advice about how to minimise your impact on the Antarctic environment. This pack highlights initiatives such as waste reduction, and how to appropriately engage with wildlife and the environment around you.

For more information visit our [sustainability page](#).

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