



## INTRODUCTION

Join this incredible expedition for a once in a lifetime voyage to the Weddell Sea and the frozen white continent. Departing Ushuaia this 11 day voyage will be action packed with incredible wildlife, stunning mountain scenery and gigantic icebergs. As you cruise toward the South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula you may also pass through the krill rich environment of the Antarctic Sound and Weddell Sea offering a great chance to see many penguins and whales. On your return to Ushuaia you may even visit the fabled Cape Horn, the southernmost point in South America and a celebrated maritime landmark.

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Arrival in Ushuaia

Arrive and embark in Ushuaia, Argentina - the world's southernmost town. Explore the quaint city or local countryside. Alternatively, consider a day trip off the beaten path to the raw, natural archipelago of Tierra del Fuego. It's a hiker's paradise with rugged snow-capped mountains, glaciers, flower-filled meadows and boggy quagmires. In the afternoon we embark the ship Ocean Victory, our home for the coming days. Our journey begins as we navigate through the calm waters of the Beagle Channel, a strait in the Tierra del Fuego Archipelago.



### TRIP CODE

ACABAW

### DEPARTURE

16/12/2022

### DURATION

11 Days

### LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula and Weddell Sea





DAY 2: Drake Passage - Day 2 to 3

Sailing onward, we cross the famed Drake Passage - a body of water that marks the intersection of the cold Antarctic with the warmer Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Drake Passage is known for strong westerly winds, heavy sea, and its nickname 'The Roaring Fifties'. While this passage may be challenging, you can rest confidently aboard our expedition vessel, which is purpose-built with stabilizers, powerful engines and a highly qualified crew. The most spirited sailors consider Drake Passage a lifetime achievement - and soon you can tick it off on the list yourself! In the Drake, the excitement builds as Antarctic wildlife comes into view with our first sight of seals, penguins and albatrosses. Having crossed the Drake, we will start exploring the Antarctic islands of the South Shetland chain and be marveled by the captivating landscapes we will encounter along the way. With the patented X-BOW design, the Ocean Victory will offer you a smoother sailing across the Drake passage, and due to the speed of the vessel, we might be able to do a first landing or activity in the South Shetland Islands on the afternoon of day 3, weather permitting.



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DAY 4: Peninsula and South Shetland - Day 4 to 5

The next couple of days, we will explore the Antarctic islands of the South Shetland chain. Landfalls could include: Deception Island, an extinct volcano with waters warm enough for a polar swim; and Half Moon Island with nesting Wilson's storm petrels and chinstrap penguins. The itinerary and activities over the next few days depend on weather and ice conditions. The route and shore landings will be determined by the captain and expedition leader and communicated to guests through regularly scheduled briefings.



DAY 6: Antarctic Sound - Day 6 to 8

Over the coming days, we will begin the exciting Antarctic experience at the very tip of the Continent. During these days in the Antarctic Sound, named in 1902 after the Swedish vessel Antarctic, the captain and the expedition team will keep a watchful eye on the mighty tabular icebergs, born from the floating Larsen Ice Shelf further south. We aim to have both continental and island landings on the shores of Antarctic Sound and Weddell Sea, always on the lookout for some of the unusually large penguin colonies, which have recently been observed. The Weddell Sea takes its name from the early British explorer James Weddell, who by hunting seals through a break in the ice in 1823 got to the southernmost point at his time. As we enter the Weddell Sea of today, we grow accustomed to giant floating icebergs and witness the sheer quantity of sea ice in these waters. Apart from penguins, the wildlife here includes Weddell and elephant seals and seabirds. Humpbacks feed in the nutrient-rich waters (caused by the upwell of cold water from the ocean depths), so there are opportunities to see whales, as well as the Antarctic’s largest predator, the solitary leopard seal. Landfalls could include: Devil Island, where we would experience a large colony of Adélie penguins; Brown bluff; with abundances of wildlife living on the beaches under the basalt cliffsides and Esperanza Base with its year-round Argentinian research station. Because of the considerable sea ice and enormous bergs in the Weddell Sea, navigation through this remote nature is at the edge of what is possible; your captain and expedition leader are well aware that shifting ice means that no individual part of this area can be guaranteed as accessible at any time, so they will work together to find the most magnificent opportunities. This is part of the wonder of this part of the world, and you'll be visiting an area few humans have ever seen. We plan to finalize our Weddell Sea/Antarctic Sound adventure by navigating to Elephant Island, home to elephant seals, maybe even along parts of the same route as Shackleton’s daring lifeboat escape (this route is only possible if conditions allow it!). While a landing is unlikely, we hope to see where the Elephant island party waited for rescue boat to reach them at Point Wild. A famous part of expedition history, that seems adequate to end our Antarctic explorations this time around.



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DAY 9: Depart Antarctica - Day 9 to 10

We depart Antarctica and spend two days at sea on our way back to the calms of Beagle Channel and Ushuaia, Argentina. En-route, we will cross Drake Passage and cruise past Cape Horn, a legendary maritime landmark and the southern tip of South America. During our time at sea, a variety of activities will be arranged on board which will provide the perfect opportunity to socialize with fellow travelers equally passionate for discovering the world, enjoy the lectures by our expedition team on board, visit our shop, unwind in the spa or enjoy the ship's facilities designed to provide a comfortable relaxing time.



DAY 11: Ushuaia

This morning, we arrive back in Ushuaia for the conclusion of our expedition cruise, where you can continue your adventures or begin your return home.



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**INCLUSIONS & DETAILS**

**Accommodation**

Cabin on board ship

**Inclusions**

- Cabin accommodation on board vessel
- All meals on board
- All scheduled landings and excursions by zodiac
- Expedition parka
- Rubber boots on a loan basis
- Breakfast at hotel Day 2 and Day 8
- Welcome and Farewell cocktails on board

**EXCLUSIONS**

- International flights
- External excursions and activities not mentioned in the itinerary
- Comfort seat upgrade on the flight
- Personal expenses
- Transfer to/from the airport in relation to international flights
- Anything not mentioned under 'inclusions'

**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

## SUSTAINABILITY

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