

ANTARCTIC CIRCLE & SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS | OCEAN ALBATROS



INTRODUCTION

On this 11-day expedition, you will begin the journey by crossing the infamous Drake Passage, known for rollicking conditions and strong westerly winds. While this passage may be challenging, you can rest confidently aboard the *Ocean Albatros*, which is purpose-built with stabilizers to ensure comfort in rough seas. After weaving through the South Shetland Islands, you will reach the Great White Continent and its magnificent landscapes, glacial mountains and wildlife. Zodiac excursions to spot whales and seals, and hikes to a number of manned and unmanned research stations ensue before we accomplish our goal of crossing the Antarctic Circle at 66°33' south. Here, the sun is up for 24-hours a day during the austral summer. Dense pack ice forbids many ordinary vessels from reach this far south, but with a high ice-class rating, *Ocean Albatros* moves swiftly carrying us on an adventure for life.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Embarkation Ushuaia - Day 1

Arrive 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 board our ship, *Ocean Victory*. Our journey begins as we navigate through the calms of Beagle Channel, a strait in the Tierra del Fuego Archipelago.

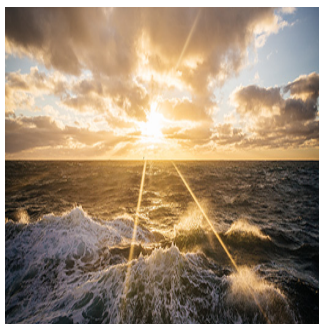


TRIP CODE
ACABOASS
DEPARTURE
10/01/2024
DURATION
11 Days
LOCATIONS
Not Available


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DAY 2: At Sea - Cross Drake Passage - Day 2-3

In the Drake, the excitement builds as Antarctic wildlife comes into view with our first sight of seals, penguins, and albatrosses. As well as the first icebergs as we approach the South Shetland chain of islands. With the unique X-BOW design, the Ocean Victory will offer you a smoother sailing across the Drake passage than conventional expedition vessels - and with a far less carbon emission.



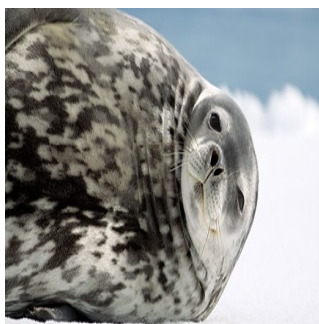
DAY 4: South Shetland Islands - Day 4-5


Over the next two days, we will explore to the sub-Antarctic islands of the South Shetland chain. Projected landfalls could include: King George Island; Deception Island, an extinct volcano; 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 Peninsula - Day 6-8

As the white shimmer of Antarctica looms on our horizon, the presence of wildlife multiples by tens of thousands with many species of lively penguins, inquisitive seals, nesting birds and the spray of marine mammals. Wildlife abounds on the Antarctic Peninsula: leopard, fur and Weddell seals of Cuverville Island; humpback whales of Gerlache Strait; Paradise Bay; the dramatic Lemaire Channel's orcas. Explore as far south as possible towards the Antarctic Circle at c. 66 deg 33 minutes south of the Equator. Possible landfall in this wild and seldom visited area could be Pleneau and Petermann Islands, Crystal Sound and Detaille Island. We will also visit research stations if ice conditions allow us. The itinerary and activities over the next few days depend on weather, swell and ice. The route and shore landings will be determined by the captain and expedition leader and communicated to guests through regularly scheduled briefings.



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DAY 9: Depart Antarctica - At Sea - Day 9-10


Today, 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, and it provides the perfect opportunity to socialize with fellow travellers.



DAY 11: Disembarkation in Ushuaia - Day 11

This morning, we arrive back in Ushuaia where our tour ends.




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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
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Inclusions	<p>INCLUSIONS 11-days/10 nights cruise with accommodation in a shared double cabin featuring ensuite facilities All Zodiac landings and excursions as per itinerary Expedition parka Rubber boot rentals Guiding and lectures by our expedition leader and team Special Photo Workshop English-speaking expedition team Visual Journal link after voyage including voyage log, gallery, maps, species list and more! Full board on the ship - breakfast, lunch, dinner and afternoon snacks Free tea and coffee 24 hours daily Welcome and farewell cocktails Port and authority fees and taxes</p> <p>EXCLUSIONS Extra excursions and activities not mentioned in the itinerary Single room supplement and cabin upgrades Meals not on board the ship Beverages (other than coffee and tea) Tips for the crew (we recommend USD 14 per person per day) Personal expenses Anything not mentioned under 'Inclusions'</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Contact us for more details.
Notes	Please note this itinerary may be subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, seasonality and availability.

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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.

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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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