

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA - VIP ANTARCTICA CHARTER WITH JOHN KEY | OCEAN ALBATROS



INTRODUCTION

Travel with a fascinating special guest, former NZ Prime Minister Sir John Key, on a brand-new luxury expedition ship, to the world's wildest, most remote continent.

Having played golf with Obama, chatted with Xi Jinping, stayed with the Queen at Balmoral, camped on Antarctica's Mt Erebus, and attended the funeral of Nelson Mandela, Sir John's stories and anecdotes are sure to captivate and make the journey even more special.

The adventure will include visits to penguin rookeries, shore landings, and the famous Gerlache Strait, where humpback whales breach and 3,000ft ice cliffs rise straight out of the still water.

During the voyage, you'll have the opportunity to learn about the history, ecology, and wildlife of the region from the onboard team of expert naturalists and guides. You'll also have the opportunity to set foot on the Antarctic continent, and to participate in activities such as kayaking, snowshoeing and zodiac excursions, as well as wildlife watching and photography.

Sir John Key joins the VIP Antarctica charter for his third trip to Antarctica – a destination that he says is one of the very few that he would jump at the chance to revisit.

“There is an enormous amount to love about Antarctica, its beauty, its

TRIP CODE

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DEPARTURE

26/11/2023

DURATION

10 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula



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serenity, its remoteness, its history and its inhabitants, but most of all I love the special feeling of being so privileged to visit a place so few people ever get to experience he says.

With a maximum capacity of just 194 passengers, this cruise will offer an intimate and personalized experience, and ensure guests have plenty of opportunities to mingle with Key himself.

From world figures such as Angela Merkel and David Cameron, to iconic All Black legends Richie McCaw and Dan Carter, Sir John has spent time with many of the world's most influential figures, and says he is looking forward to meeting new people on the VIP Antarctica expedition in November.

I am incredibly excited about the opportunity to revisit a place I love, a place I never thought I would get a chance to see again in my lifetime. And I'm also very excited about being part of the VIP cruise - making new friends, having new experiences and getting to do the polar plunge! says Sir John.

The trip is now a 10 day. 9 night cruise only departure from Ushuaia, however the majority of guests will be travelling from Australia and New Zealand.

****Please note 2 for 1 promotion is valid on new bookings until 20 Nov 23. Promotion only applies to cabin categories C, D & E. Subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time.. Please enquire for full terms & conditions.**

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ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Embarkation in Ushuaia

You have a free morning to 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, board the Ocean Albatros and navigate through the calms of Beagle Channel, a strait in the Tierra del Fuego Archipelago. The ship will be buzzing with excited explorers as we start our epic Antarctica journey.



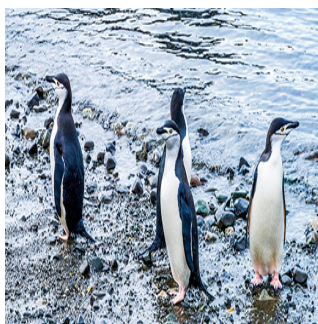
DAY 2: Crossing the Drake - Day 5 & 6

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 rollicking conditions and strong westerly winds, called the Roaring Fifties. While this passage may be challenging, you can rest confidently aboard our expedition vessel, Ocean Albatros, which is purpose-built with stabilizers, powerful engines and a highly-qualified crew. The most spirited sailors consider Drake Passage a lifetime achievement, and you will complete the crossing twice! In the Drake, the excitement builds as Antarctic wildlife comes into view. Weather permitting, we will catch our first sight of seals and penguins! The area is also well-known for its abundance of birds.



DAY 4: South Shetland Islands - Day 7 & 8

Over the next two days, we will begin the exciting Antarctic experience our ancestors only dreamed of. During these days we will explore the sub Antarctic islands of the South Shetland chain and be marveled by the captivating landscapes we will encounter along the way. Weather permitting, our projected landfalls include: King George Island; 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.



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DAY 6: Antarctic Peninsula - Day 9 & 10

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 along our projected route along the Antarctic Peninsula: leopard, fur and Weddell seals of Cuverville Island; humpback whales of Gerlache Strait; Paradise Bay; the dramatic Lemaire Channel's orcas and much more. 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. Please note that all the outings and landings rely on weather, sea and ice conditions being favourable both for the ship to access the areas, as for the zodiacs and kayaks to manoeuvre under adequate conditions, ensuring the safety of all our passengers and staff.



DAY 8: Crossing the Drake - Day 11 & 12

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 on board, visit our shop or relax at leisure on our ship's facilities, designed to provide a comfortable, relaxing time.



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DAY 10: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

This morning you will arrive back in Ushuaia for the conclusion of your Antarctic journey. Take this time to say farewell to your fellow passengers and newfound friends. Reflect on the incredible memories you have made together, and gather inspiration for the next adventure to come. You will be transferred to the airport for an afternoon flight back to Buenos Aires, where your tour will finish on arrival at the airport. (Flight included to either AEP or EZE airport depending on flight schedules, 1 piece carry on, 1 piece check in luggage 15kg) **Please keep in mind, the itinerary and outdoor activities during each voyage are solely dependent on weather and operational conditions to ensure the safety and quality of experience of our guests. The route and shore landings will be determined by the captain and expedition leader and communicated to guests through regularly scheduled briefings. We reserve the right to modify the landings and locations visited during a voyage based on weather and local conditions and climate to ensure a safe and delightful experience for all our guests and staff. Our trips are expeditionary in nature, and thus changes to timings are commonplace due to the environment we operate in as well as wildlife opportunities and locations.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

2 Nights Hotel in Buenos Aires, 1 night in Ushuaia & Cabin onboard Ship

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Inclusions

INCLUSIONS

2 nights' accommodation at the Sofitel in Buenos Aires including breakfast daily
 Buenos Aires city tour, and evening tango show
 Transfers in Buenos Aires and Ushuaia
 Return flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia
 1 night accommodation at the Wyndham Hotel in Ushuaia including breakfast
 10 day / 9 night Antarctica cruise onboard the Ocean Albatros
 Full board on ship; breakfast-lunch-dinner, from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on last day
 English speaking expedition team during voyage
 Information briefings and lectures by expedition team in English
 Presentation by our special guest and the opportunity to mingle with him throughout the cruise
 Shore landings and Zodiac cruises
 Boots on loan in all assorted sizes, suitable for shore landings
 Parka to keep
 Special VIP package in all Premium, A and B cabins:
 Unlimited access to specialty restaurant Deck 8, wine and fruit and stocked minibar upon arrival, free laundry, free pressing, Julius Meinl Espresso machine, upgraded amenities hair and lotion products
 Photographic trip-log shared after the voyage via an online link
 Captain's Welcome & Farewell Cocktail Receptions (sparkling wine; non-alcoholic beverages)
EXCLUSIONS
 International flights
 Passport and Visa fees (if applicable)
 Excess baggage fees on international flights
 Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac landings and excursions
 Laundry, bar, spa services and other personal charges, unless specified
 Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for expedition staff and shipboard crew
 Any additional overnight accommodation

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request, contact us for more detail.

Notes

Please note this itinerary may be subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.

Price Dependent upon

Availability at time of booking.

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SUSTAINABILITY

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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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