

# ANTARCTIC PENINSULA - ACROSS THE CIRCLE: USHUAIA TO PUNTA ARENAS | GREG MORTIMER



## INTRODUCTION

This 13 day Antarctica cruise doesn't just explore the popular Antarctic Peninsula—it also ventures below the Antarctic Circle. On this cruise, you'll enter a different world rarely seen. On the peninsula, life feels more isolated and colder than further north, with great swathes of pack ice and dreamlike icebergs, but it also brings unique landscapes, wildlife, and a wonderful feeling of solitude and adventure. Thread through pack ice and narrow channels where scenes of ice-clad mountains, feeding whales and lively penguin colonies become lasting memories.

Your journey begins with a flight from Punta Arenas to King George Island, taking you straight to Antarctica without the time or turbulence of the infamous Drake Passage. Then, begin your one-of-a-kind adventure, where each day brings new opportunities. From spotting your first iceberg, eagerly watching for seals and penguins, to discussing the day's adventures over dinner, the secret wonders of the Antarctica Peninsula won't soon be forgotten.

**\*\* AVAILABILITY IS VERY LIMITED! CONTACT US NOW! \*\***

**PLEASE NOTE: Pricing is subject to change and availability at the time of booking. Contact us for more information.**

## ITINERARY

<b>TRIP CODE</b>
ACAUACUP
<b>DEPARTURE</b>
16/01/2025
<b>DURATION</b>
13 Days
<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Antarctic Circle


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### DAY 1: Arrive in Ushuaia

Arrive in Ushuaia, where you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and transferred with your fellow expeditioners to your assigned pre-voyage hotel. If you are already in Ushuaia, we ask you to make your way to your hotel. Check-in is from 3.00 pm. This afternoon, visit the Aurora Expeditions hospitality desk in the hotel lobby, between 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm, to collect your luggage tags, and confirm if you wish to join our Beagle Channel and Isla de Los Lobos Cruise (sea lion island) tomorrow. Our team will confirm details regarding your embarkation day, answer any questions and provide you with information on where to dine or purchase last minute items. Expeditioners arriving after 7.00 pm will find a welcome pack waiting for them at check-in. We ask you to visit our hospitality desk tomorrow between 8.00 am - 10.00 am. The remainder of your time is at leisure. All meals today are at your own expense.



### DAY 2: Embarkation in Ushuaia

This morning, enjoy breakfast and check-out. Please ensure your cabin luggage is fitted with cabin tags clearly labelled with your name and cabin number. Take your cabin luggage to hotel reception, prior to, or at check-out. Your luggage will be stored and transferred directly to the port for clearance, to be placed in your cabin ahead of your arrival on board. Please keep any valuables or personal items with you throughout the day. Your morning is at leisure to explore Ushuaia. Those wishing to join our afternoon catamaran cruise, meet back at the hotel lobby at 12.45 pm ready to transfer to the port at 1.00 pm. Here we board our catamaran and sail the Beagle Channel, towards the city's iconic Les Eclaireurs Lighthouse. Crossing the Bridges Archipelago we'll slow down to watch colonies of sea lions and imperial cormorants sun themselves on the rocky outcrops, while gulls, rock cormorants, skuas, petrels, albatrosses and cauquenes are often sighted. Our cruise offers panoramic views of the city and the surrounding mountain range, in addition to hearing tales of the people and communities of the region. Alternatively, enjoy your day at leisure and meet at your hotel lobby at 3.45 pm to be transferred to the pier for embarkation. Once onboard, you'll have time to settle into your cabin before our important mandatory briefings. As the ship pulls away from port, we'll gather on the deck to commence our adventure with spectacular views over Ushuaia and Tierra del Fuego. This evening get to know your fellow expeditioners and friendly expedition team and crew at a welcome dinner to celebrate the start of a thrilling adventure to Antarctica.



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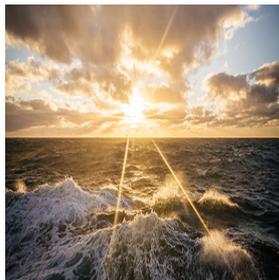
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## DAY 3: Crossing the Drake Passage - Day 3 to 4

As we commence the Drake Passage crossing, we make the most of our time getting comfortable with the motions of the sea. Our expedition team prepare you for our first landing with important wildlife guidelines and biosecurity procedures and start our lecture program to help you learn more about Antarctica's history, wildlife and environment. Our wildlife experiences begin as we enjoy watching and photographing the many seabirds, including majestic albatrosses and giant petrels following our vessel. On sea days, you may can enjoy the facilities on board the vessel including the gym, wellness centre or the relaxing in one of the observation lounges. Nearing the South Shetland Islands and the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula on the afternoon of day four, the excitement is palpable with everyone converging on one of the observation decks watching for our first iceberg. The ocean takes on a whole new perspective once we are below the Antarctic Convergence and are surrounded by the surreal presence of floating ice sculptures. The memory of your first big iceberg sighting is likely to remain with you for a lifetime. Time and weather permitting, we may attempt our first landing in Antarctica by late afternoon.



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DAY 5: Antarctica & Crossing the Circle - Day 5 to 11

It's almost impossible to describe the feeling of arriving in Antarctica. Spotting your first iceberg and taking a deep breath of some of the most fresh, crisp air on earth is an experience that will stay with you forever. Once we arrive, the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands are ours to explore, and we have a host of choices available to us. Because we are so far south, we will experience approximately 18-24 hours of daylight and the days can be as busy as you wish. Your experienced expedition team, who have made countless journeys to this area, will use their expertise to design your voyage from day to day, choosing the best options based on the prevailing weather, ice conditions and wildlife opportunities. We generally make landings or Zodiac excursions twice a day. You will want to rug up before joining Zodiac cruises along spectacular ice cliffs or among grounded icebergs, keeping watch for whales, seals and porpoising penguins. Zodiacs will also transport you from the ship to land, where you can visit penguin rookeries, discover historic huts and explore some of our favourite spots along the peninsula. While ashore we aim to stretch our legs, wandering along pebbly beaches or perhaps up snow-covered ridgelines to vantage points with mountains towering overhead and ice-speckled oceans below. If you have chosen an optional activity, you will have the option to do that whenever conditions allow, and of course keen polar plungers will have the chance to fully immerse themselves in polar waters - conditions permitting! In addition to Zodiac cruises and shore excursions, we may ship cruise some of the narrow, dramatic straits separating offshore islands from the mainland, or linger in scenic bays to watch whales travelling or feeding. This is a great time to enjoy the observation lounge or make your way to the bridge for uninterrupted views of Antarctica in all its splendour. Keep an ear out for the creak and deep rumble of glaciers as they carve their way from summit to sea. Take a quiet moment to experience the wonder of this incredible white continent. On this voyage, conditions permitting, we plan to cross the Antarctic Circle, an imaginary line located at the Antarctic Circle at latitude 66°33' South (approximately). Crossing below The Circle is certainly a special highlight for many people, and the moment will be celebrated with a toast out on the deck (weather permitting). You have earned some boasting privileges, joining a small group of lucky adventurers who have ventured to this part of the world. As we approach and cross the Antarctic Circle, you will notice subtle changes in the landscape, and also in the distribution of wildlife. The waters at this time of year are rich with krill and we hope to see plenty of whales - particularly humpbacks and minkes and enjoy the spectacle of penguins feeding their ravenous chicks.



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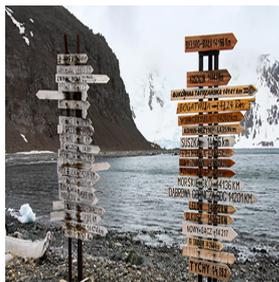
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### DAY 12: Fly King George Island to Punta Arenas

As we approach Frei Base on King George Island, it is time to farewell Antarctica and our amazing adventure before boarding our flight (approximately one hour and forty-five minutes) to Punta Arenas, Chile. There is time for reflection and discussion about what we have seen and experienced. We hope you become ambassadors for Antarctica telling your family, friends and colleagues about your journey to this magical place, advocating for its conservation and preservation so that they might one day visit the region to experience what you have been lucky to see and do here. In Punta Arenas airport, you will be transferred to our group hotel for an overnight stay. Note: King George Island is located at the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula in the South Shetland Islands and is one of the most remote places on Earth. A clear sky with perfect visibility is required for safe take-off and landing. We apologise in advance for any possible delays. Accommodation: Hotel Cabo de Hornos or Hotel Dreams (confirmation of post hotel will be confirmed in your final documentation).



### DAY 13: Depart Punta Arenas

After breakfast, bid a fond farewell to your fellow travellers as we continue our onward journeys, hopefully with a newfound sense of the immense power of nature (breakfast included). A transfer to the airport is included in the voyage fare. Note: Should your flight not proceed due to local conditions; you will remain on the ship until it is deemed achievable to return to Punta Arenas. Refer to our terms and conditions for further details. \*Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

#### Accommodation

Hotel & Cabin onboard a ship

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**Inclusions**

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All airport transfers mentioned in the itinerary  
 One night's hotel accommodation including breakfast, in Ushuaia on Day 1  
 Half-day tour of Ushuaia on Day 2, prior to embarkation  
 Charter flight King George Island to Punta Arenas on Day 12  
 One night's hotel accommodation including breakfast, in Punta Arenas on Day 12  
 On-board accommodation during voyage including daily cabin service  
 All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage  
 Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner  
 All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises  
 Educational lectures and guiding services from expedition team  
 Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic (initial consult)  
 A 3-in-1 waterproof polar expedition jacket  
 Complimentary use of muck boots during the voyage  
 Comprehensive pre-departure information  
 Port surcharges, permits and landing fees  
 Gratuities for ship crew

**EXCLUSIONS**

International or domestic flights to or within South America, unless specified  
 Transfers not mentioned in the itinerary  
 Airport arrival or departure taxes  
 Passport, visa, reciprocity and vaccination charges  
 Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges  
 Hotels and meals not included in itinerary  
 Optional excursions not included in the itinerary  
 Optional activity surcharges  
 All items of a personal nature including but not limited to: alcoholic beverages and soft drinks (outside of dinner service), laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, Wi-Fi, email or phone charges

**Difficulty Rating**

2 (light adventure)

**Single Surcharge**

Available upon request, contact us for more details.

**Notes**

Prices are based on per person, twin share\* (unless otherwise stated for triple/quad cabins)  
 Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.  
 Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.  
 Flight from King George Island to Punta Arenas is included in cruise cost.

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**Price Dependent upon** Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

### SUSTAINABILITY

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