

ANTARCTICA - BEST OF ANTARCTICA: WILDLIFE EXPLORER | OCEAN ENDEAVOUR



INTRODUCTION

Set sail aboard the comfortable and spacious polar expedition vessel, the Ocean Endeavour to give you the best of the stunning South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula in 11 Days. Explore the natural environment and closeup encounters with wildlife on our forward-facing zodiac's and on foot. For the adventurous, take a kayak and drift among the sea ice and sculptured icebergs, spend a night on the 7th continent under the stars or snowshoe in the footsteps of past explorers. Walk among enormous penguin rookeries, encounter basking seals and their playful pups and search for humpback, minke and orca whales. Onboard, enjoy talks on regional history, zoology and geology by experts. Pamper yourself with one of our spa treatments or simply relax with a yoga class. A voyage like this will leave you with memories to last a lifetime.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE

ACACWLX

DEPARTURE

18/12/2024, 27/12/2024,
26/01/2025

DURATION

11 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula, South Shetland Islands



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DAY 1: Ushuaia, Argentina - Day 1

The journey begins at the world's southernmost city, Ushuaia. On arrival please look out for a representative holding a sign with the ship's name on it. If you can't locate them then please refer to the emergency contact details on your final documents. You will be transferred to your hotel and then briefed in the evening on the journey that lies ahead and the details for tomorrow's embarkation. If you have spare time, check out the Museo Maritimo to brush up on the region's history or take a stroll down Avenida San Martin if you're after any last-minute essentials before departing for Antarctica. Enjoy a traditional meal at a local restaurant and sample some of Argentina's famous red wine. For the adventurous travellers, there are many hiking trails nearby as well as the Tierra del Fuego National Park.



DAY 2: Embarkation In Ushuaia - Day 2

You will board the Ocean Endeavour in the afternoon. Take some time to settle into your cabin as we begin cruising the stunning Beagle Channel, named after the famed vessel 'The Beagle' that facilitated some of Charles Darwin's most significant voyages. As the Ocean Endeavour pulls away from the port there's always an air of anticipation, as the next time you see land, you will be when gazing upon the White Continent of Antarctica.



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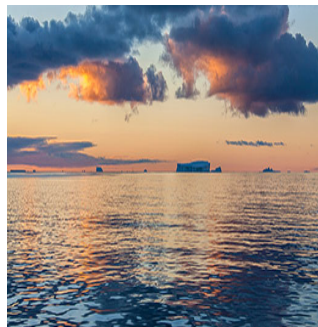
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DAY 3: At Sea, Drake Passage - Day 3-4

The infamous Drake Passage, named after the famous English explorer, Sir Francis Drake, separates the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula from the southernmost tip of South America. Often rough and turbulent, but sometimes calm, be prepared for the unpredictable. Over the next two days at sea you'll have time to enjoy some of the onboard facilities, such as yoga, the polar library and presentations from the Expedition Team to prepare you for what lies ahead - from the geology of Antarctica to the history, wildlife and tips on how to best photograph what you'll be witnessing. Sailing towards Antarctica, there is a fall in temperature as we cross the Antarctic Convergence and enter the waters of the Antarctic Ocean. The Antarctic Convergence is marked by an increased number of seabirds, whales and other species that are attracted by the nutrient-rich waters pushed to the surface by the colder waters of the polar region flowing north and meeting the warmer equatorial waters flowing south. Head out on one of the spacious outer decks to look out for the mighty albatrosses that fly overhead. Scan the waters for breaching whales and icebergs or gaze out from the panoramic windows of the Ocean Endeavour's observation deck. Your first sighting of land should be early evening on day four - heralding your arrival to the White Continent.



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DAY 5: South Shetland Isl & Antarctic Peninsula - Day 5-8

The next four days will be spent exploring the South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula - a region that has captivated explorers for centuries and now enthralled travellers. Explore by Zodiac boats, cruising amongst the magnificently sculpted icebergs and making shore landings where you mingle with penguins, climb to vantage points to absorb the spectacular panoramic views and perhaps visit a scientific or historic base. Optional activities such as kayaking or snowshoeing allow you to explore further afield and have a more intimate experience. If you're feeling brave, take a polar plunge into the ice Antarctic waters while our talented Expedition Photographer captures the moments as they unfold. Antarctica will enchant you with its incredible scenery, from imposing glaciers to towering snow-capped peaks, vast icebergs, and ice-strewn channels. Witness extensive colonies of Chinstrap, Gentoo and Adelle penguins, Crabeater, Weddell, Fur and Elephant seals and a plethora of fascinating birds. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for the mighty crack of a glacier calving. Each day brings a new experience and new landing sites to explore. The lecture program will continue throughout the cruise, and you can also meander around the outer decks of the Ocean Endeavour spotting wildlife, read up on Shackleton's adventure in the polar library or make the most of the ship's wellness facilities like the spa, sauna, saltwater pool and gym. An average day onboard begins with a wake-up call from your Expedition Leader around 7am, giving you time to prepare for the day before joining your fellow expeditioners for breakfast in the Polaris restaurant. You will usually have two excursions per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with a delicious lunch served on the Ocean Endeavour in between excursions.



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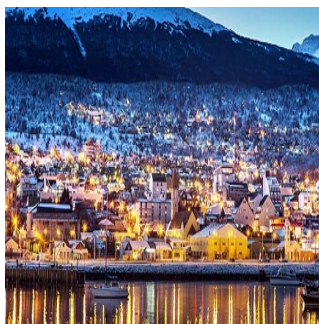
DAY 9: At Sea, Drake Passage – Day 9-10

Leave the Antarctic Peninsula behind as you set sail across the Drake Passage, enjoying some final lectures and presentations from the Expedition Team. Keep an eye out for wildlife from the observation lounge, outer decks or the Ocean Endeavour's bridge as we head north across the Antarctic Convergence. Having crossed the Drake Passage once more, enjoy a final dinner and enter the calm and tranquil waters of the Beagle Channel as we approach our home port of Ushuaia.



DAY 11: Disembark In Ushuaia, Argentina – Day 11

Your Antarctic adventure draws to a close as you disembark the Ocean Endeavour following breakfast. Farewell your fellow guests and your Expedition Team and join a transfer to Ushuaia airport for your onward journey (included for selected flight departures today) or to the city centre of Ushuaia, where you can make your way to your hotel if you are extending your stay and want to spend some more time exploring this incredible part of the world. With much to see and do in this quaint ‘End of the World’ town, including the Museo Maritimo, Avenida San Martin or even an adventurous hike to the Martial Glacier, your adventure doesn’t have to end here. If you would like to stay additional nights in Ushuaia, please speak to your booking agent. Please note: A transfer to the city centre after disembarkation OR a transfer to the airport for onward flights (for selected departures today only) is included. If you are extending your stay or do not meet the requirements for the included transfers then we can arrange transportation at an additional cost, please discuss this with your booking agent. You are advised not to book a flight out of Ushuaia before midday on disembarkation day, in case of delays caused by unfavourable weather conditions. Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

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Accommodation	Hotel & Cabin Onboard a Ship
Inclusions	<p>INCLUSIONS All meals onboard the Ocean Endeavour including snacks Accommodation onboard the Ocean Endeavour in booked cabin category Onboard lecture program from Expeditions Team and Naturalists All applicable shore excursions and Zodiac cruising (except paid adventure options with cost) Use of rubber boots on land and use of waterproof outer shell jacket Insulated inner jacket, yours to keep at the end of the voyage Transfer from Ushuaia airport to hotel (Day 1) and pre-night hotel with breakfast Transfer from Ushuaia hotel accommodation to the Ocean Endeavour for embarkation Transports to Ushuaia airport on return to port All port taxes All landing fees Use of onboard gym, sauna, pool and jacuzzi and onboard yoga</p> <p>EXCLUSIONS International or internal flights unless specified Airport transfers, taxes and excess baggage charges unless specified Meals other than those specified in the pre-departure information Pre or post cruise travel expenses Visa (if applicable) and passport fees Travel insurance (compulsory) Fuel surcharge may be applied to all bookings Paid adventure options and all personal expenses Tobacco, alcoholic or beverages (other than coffee and tea) Miscellaneous extras Laundry and communication charges on board Gratuities for Expedition team and crew (recommended US\$15 per person per day) For minors under 16 years of age at time of travel; life jackets, waterproof outer shell jacket, insulated inner jacket and boots For guests who require larger sizing; Waterproof outer shell jacket, insulated inner jacket and rubber boots</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available on request. No single supplement if willing to share. Contact us for more details.

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Notes	<p>Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated for triple/quad cabins)</p> <p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.</p> <p>Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions</p>
Price Dependent upon	<p>Departure Date, Fuel Surcharges, Cabin Category, Currency Fluctuations, Seasonality & Availability.</p>

SUSTAINABILITY

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