ANTARCTICA - SNOW HILL TO THE PENINSULA: SHACKLETON'S EMPERORS | ULTRAMARINE



TRIP CODE

ACQESHPE

DEPARTURE

30/10/2028

DURATION

18 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula & Weddell Sea

INTRODUCTION

This 18-day trip includes a traditional western Antarctic Peninsula experience of glaciers, icebergs, snow-capped mountains, whales, and seals, as well as a visit to the secluded Snow Hill Island.
Snow Hill Island is home to a colony of 8,000 Emperor penguins and a highlight seldom included on typical Antarctic itineraries. This expedition is only made possible because you will be travelling aboard the state-of-the-art Ultramarine, which has two twin-engine helicopters for unparalleled exploration.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive in Buenos Aires

Upon arrival in the vibrant Argentine capital, known for its European-style architecture, rich culture and lively neighborhoods, you will independently transfer to your included hotel.



DAY 2: Fly to Ushuaia & Embarkation

After a complimentary early breakfast at the hotel, your group will transfer to the airport to board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, at the southern tip of Argentina. Upon arrival, you will be transferred from the airport to a central downtown location to explore quaint Ushuaia on your own before making your way to the pier. After a late afternoon embarkation, you will sail along the historic Beagle Channel, which transects the Tierra del Fuego archipelago in the extreme southern part of South America. Embrace the air of anticipation as you depart—the next land you see will be the Antarctic.



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DAY 3: Crossing the Drake Passage - Day 3 & 4



The storied Drake Passage, the 800-kilometer waterway between the southern tip of South America and Antarctica, is an adventure unto itself. Its position at the confluence of the Pacific, the Atlantic and the Southern oceans can mean either a turbulent or calm passing. While under the attentive care of our expert staff and expedition team, you'll have plenty of time to gaze out at the expansive ocean waters, photograph seabirds as they swoop down around the ship, and get to know your Expedition Team and fellow travelers.

DAY 5: Navigating into the Weddel Sea



We begin our passage through Antarctic Sound. This stretch of water separates the northern tip of the peninsula from the Weddell Sea. This historic sound is notorious for being filled with massive ice chunks which originate from the Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf—so have your cameras and binoculars ready. The onboard team will teach you everything about ice, as the Weddell Sea boasts the world's most impressive floes and tabular icebergs. The captivating flat- topped icebergs you'll see on this eastern side of the Peninsula are known to be exponentially bigger and more visually impressive than those observed off the western coast. Onboard experts will enrich your polar quest during daily presentations. You'll hear what it was like a century ago for the brave polar heroes who embraced the unknown. Expect a fascinating deep-dive into the world of ice-dwelling Emperor penguins.

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DAY 6: Quest to Snow Hill Island - Day 6 to 10

The journey toward Snow Hill Island will put you in explorer mode as the captain and Expedition Leader keep you updated through weather briefings, as well as meteorological and sea ice condition reports. The thickness of ice will determine how close Ultramarine can get to Snow Hill Island, at which point the ship's twin-engine helicopters will take over. Like summitting a mountain from base camp, parties set out from Ultramarine towards the Emperor penguin colony. As experienced by all of our guests who visited Snow Hill Island with us in November 2023, the adventure begins with an extended helicopter transfer that will reveal a landscape of snow-capped peaks and apartment-building-sized tabular icebergs. As seasoned polar explorers can attest, these mammoth, flat-topped icebergs will captivate you with their majesty. The colony itself is located on the sea ice off the south coast of Snow Hill Island, and we will land as close to the penguins as possible, yet at a safe distance to avoid disturbing the birds. Upon landing, your party will walk across the ice to the fabled Emperor penguin colony. Your auditory senses will be on high alert: the non-stop Antarctic wind, the crunch of the ice beneath your feet, and, of course, the chatter of thousands of Emperor penguins. On your guided walk to the colony, you may be surprised to find yourself walking next to paths in the snow carved< by penguins that waddled by before. As with all of our off-ship excursions, native wildlife and their habitat always take priority. We do everything possible to minimize any disturbance to their environment. The singular sounds of the flightless birds gets louder as we march toward one of the rarest wildlife scenarios on the planet: the colony of 8,000 rarely seen Emperor penguins. Our plan is to ensure that every guest visits the remote colony once during the voyage. The Expedition Team and special experts will stay close so they can answer your questions and help you take it all in. You'll observe how the Emperors behave as a tightknit community, how they care for their young—with male and female adults sharing parental duties—and how they body surf across the ice in a way that can only be described as quirky yet efficient. While at base on Ultramarine—in the heart of the Weddell Sea—you can look forward to Zodiac cruising among the icebergs and kayaking. We also plan to offer each guest a heli-flightseeing adventure—included in the cost of the voyage—during this segment of the itinerary. Each day our polar experts, who include penguin scientists, glaciologists, biologists and polar historians, will present on various aspects of Emperor penguins and their behaviors, ice formations such as the breathtaking tabular icebergs visible from the deck of the ship, and the experiences of polar explorers who braved the Weddell Sea over a century ago. Or you may, on one of the days, decide to take the polar plunge, or test your balance on a stand- up paddleboard. Or pamper yourself at Ultramarine's Tundra Spa, the sauna with floor-to-ceiling windows, fitness room, or yoga space. However you spend your time immediately following your visit to the legendary colony, we invite you to take some time to reflect on everything you've witnessed, and appreciate that you are one of the few humans to have experienced the rare wildlife spectacle at Snow Hill.



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DAY 12: Western Coast of the Peninsula - Day 12 to 15

Now we make our way along the western coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, robust with glaciers, gentoo penguins, friendly seals and breaching humpback whales. There's a chance you'll also encounter crabeater and Weddell seals, which are fascinating aquatic mammals. Each day, you will take Zodiac excursions to explore glaciated bays, channels and landing sites, including Cierva Cove, which boasts jaw-dropping icebergs, brash ice, and opportunities to photograph seals on top of ice floes. We also hope to visit Damoy Point, site of a historic ice runway established by the British Antarctic Survey in 1975. The point, home to a penguin colony, allows for spectacular views of the mountains on Anvers Island. We've also planned a Zodiac cruise to Enterprise Island, located in Wilhelmina Bay, where you can see the rusting remains of a whaling ship. Keep your eyes peeled for humpback whales. Also on our list: Melchior Islands, a group of glaciated islands in Dallmann Bay, where male fur seals retreat at the end of the breeding season; and Mikkelsen Harbour—which is surrounded by stunning ice cliffs—where we'll explore by Zodiac, or, if weather allows, attempt a landing at D'Hainaut Island, where we hope to see gentoo penguins and Weddell seals, and visit a long-abandoned Argentine refuge hut. Your Expedition Team will take care of you at each landing, whether you are hiking the Antarctic landscape or enjoying a Zodiac cruise. Keep an eye out for Weddell, crabeater and leopard seals as well as curious whales, such as humpbacks, minkes, or perhaps orcas. Each excursion will present a new array of creatures to fascinate you and keep your camera busy. Amidst the serenity of Antarctica, noisy interludes become indelible memories, such as penguins squabbling over prized pebbles, or the boom and crack of calving glaciers. Each day is carefully crafted by your Expedition Team to inspire and educate you about this magnificent polar domain.



DAY 16: Crossing the Drake Passage - Day 16 & 17

The journey back across the Drake Passage provides a final opportunity to enjoy the invigorating Southern Ocean air. Spend time on deck watching for seabirds and scouting for whales, enjoy presentations by your Expedition Team, and celebrate the experiences you've shared off the beaten track in remote Antarctica.



DAY 18: Disembark in Ushuaia & Fly to Buenos Aires

You will arrive in Ushuaia in the morning and disembark after breakfast. The mandatory transfer package includes a tour of Tierra del Fuego National Park for a taste of Patagonia, after which you'll transfer to the airport for the return group charter flight to Buenos Aires.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotel & Cabin on board ship
Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Cabin accommodation on board ship All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage Beer, standard wines & spirits, & cocktails during pre-dinner bar service, dinner & evenings Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock All scheduled landings and excursions Guiding and lectures by experienced expedition team Expedition parka (yours to keep) A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions Free WiFi A photographic journal documenting the expedition **MANDATORY TRANSFER PACKAGE** One night pre transfer accommodation in a hotel in Buenos Aires with breakfast Group flights from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia on a return basis Transfers from the hotel to the airport in Buenos Aires Airport transfer after disembarkation in Ushuaia **EXCLUSIONS** International flights Any other pre or post land arrangements not mentioned above Passport and visa expenses Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew Excess-baggage fees on international and domestic flights Laundry, bar and other personal charges unless specified Optional Adventure Activities
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, a supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please Contact Us for more information.

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Notes	Prices are based on per person, and vary from single, triple, and twin cabins. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. Any promotional discounts mentioned, including percentage discounts are off of berth costs only, with no discount on taxes, mandatory flight or transfer packages. All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. *Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions. In rare and unforeseen situations, an operator may apply a fuel surcharge after your booking has been confirmed and paid. This is outside our control and uncommon, but transparency with our travelers is important to us.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability. Any promotional discounts mentioned, including percentage discounts are off of berth costs only, with no discount on taxes, mandatory flight or transfer packages.

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SUSTAINABILITY

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