

ANTARCTICA - ANTARCTICA BY HELICOPTER: CROSSING THE CIRCLE | ULTRAMARINE



INTRODUCTION

Crossing the Antarctic Circle at 66°30' is a rare achievement for travellers. To make the experience even more unforgettable, this new journey includes thrilling helicopter rides above the Antarctic landscape in Ultramarine's twin-engine helicopters, offering unique views of the continent.

The goal is to provide guests with multiple helicopter excursions, all included in the trip cost, allowing them to soar over and even land on the Antarctic terrain. This opportunity gives you the rare chance to step out of a helicopter and directly experience Antarctica, witnessing stunning polar landscapes that few have ever seen. Along with reaching the Antarctic Circle, you'll also explore the southern Antarctic Peninsula from both the sea and the sky - truly the ultimate polar adventure.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Buenos Aires, Argentina

Upon arriving in this splendid city, known for its vibrant Argentinian culture, European architecture and cosmopolitan vibe, you will independently transfer to your pre-expedition hotel night, included in your Charter Flight and Hotel Package.




TRIP CODE
ACQEAHCC
DEPARTURE
16/02/2027, 17/02/2028
DURATION
14 Days
LOCATIONS
Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctic Circle, Antarctica


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DAY 2: Fly to Ushuaia & Embarkation

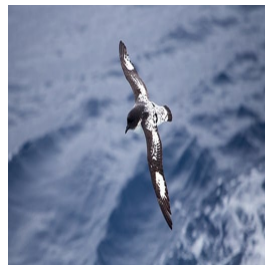
After an early breakfast at the hotel, the group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, Argentina. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to a central downtown location to enjoy some time on your own to explore this quaint port town before making your way to the designated meeting spot near the pier, where you will be transferred to the ship for embarkation. After a late afternoon embarkation, we will sail along the historic Beagle Channel, which transects the Tierra del Fuego archipelago in the extreme south of South America. Expect an air of anticipation as you depart—the next time you see land, you'll be in the remote Antarctic wilderness.



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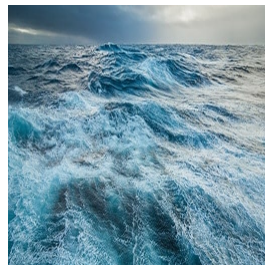
DAY 3: Crossing the Drake Passage

Crossing the legendary 800-km stretch of water is a must-do for many travelers. Prepare yourself for dramatic seascapes as you stand on the deck of Ultramarine and gaze at the water stretching beyond the distant horizon. Be on the lookout for dolphins, whales and seabirds, especially albatrosses, petrels and skuas as they glide over the sometimes rough waters. As the ship approaches the Antarctic Peninsula, keep your eyes peeled for your first glimpse of towering, multi-shaped icebergs.



DAY 4: At Sea

Today, as we continue crossing the Drake Passage, we experience the Antarctic Convergence, where the warmer waters of the sub-Antarctic meet the cold Antarctic. Your days at sea are filled with presentations led by your Expedition Team on photography, wildlife, glaciology, and history. In between presentations, spend time on deck looking for wildlife or chatting with your shipmates over a drink at the bar.




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DAY 5: South Shetlands Islands & Antarctica - Day 5 & 6

The most common reaction upon reaching the Antarctic Peninsula is a sense of reverence and awe. The experience is beyond words, since few places are as untouched and enduring as Antarctica. You will begin to appreciate why this region has long captivated the attention of explorers and travelers alike. Every visit to Antarctica, we witness something new or unexpected, which means that your expedition will be unlike any other— creating a unique, personal experience. Each day, you will take Zodiac excursions from the ship to explore local bays, channels and landing sites. With wildlife always at the forefront of our minds, you will visit penguin rookeries, scout for humpback and minke whales, and search for a number of southern seal species, including the elusive leopard seal. Your Expedition Team will take care of you at each landing, whether you are exploring the Antarctic terrain, visiting a research station or consorting with penguin colonies. Chinstrap, Adélie and gentoo penguins are found here, along with five different species of seals. Zodiac cruising can offer opportunities to view some of the larger local marine mammals more intimately, such as Antarctic minke and humpback whales. Days 5 and 6 are also ideal times to experience Ultramarine's portfolio of helicopter supported adventures exclusive to Quark Expeditions. Your days will be busy spotting wildlife and being mesmerized by the astounding beauty of Antarctica. Listening to the crackling and crumbling of icebergs and glaciers and watching penguins waddling on the beach will become your daily entertainment. That's in addition to the spectacular experience of soaring in a helicopter over the Antarctic landscape.




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DAY 10: Explore the Antarctic Circle - Day 7 to 9

Helicopter operations in Antarctic are acutely weather-dependent. We have designed this itinerary so we can spend time each day in stunning locations that allow us to enjoy helicopter opportunities if the weather allows and, alternately, to maximize your experience of Antarctic wildlife, ice and landscapes when flying conditions are not favorable. Each day near the Antarctic Circle will showcase the flexibility and technical prowess of our industry-leading expedition team, pilots and crew, who will look for opportunities to experience Antarctica well beyond its coasts. As Ultramarine gains access to the Antarctic Circle, you'll have accomplished an impressive achievement as most expeditions to the Peninsula do not come close to navigating this far south. Toasting the first explorers who ventured here over a century ago, you can raise a glass and take pride in the knowledge you've reached part of the world visited by a relative few. Next on our itinerary are Crystal Sound and Marguerite Bay, which comprise the geographical theater of focus on this incredible venture into the "deep south" of Antarctica. After visiting some of the region's iconic penguin colonies and glacial features, we continue south into Crystal Sound to cross the Antarctic Circle. Crystal Sound is known for its massive expanse of steep mountains that rise directly out of the sea. We hope to visit Detaille Island and, weather-permitting, fly into the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula at the Antarctic Circle. Our goal is to visit the British Antarctic Survey's historical hut, and the Adélie penguin colony of Detaille Island. We also hope to Zodiac cruise in this area to see the colossal icebergs that formed from the glaciers fed by the snowfall in the coastal mountains of Antarctica. Seals frequently roam this coastal area. There will be time to marvel at the impressive topography, which features Castle Peak, a 2,380 meter (7,800-foot) massif. If weather allows, we may add to our marine operations and embark on our flightseeing experiences. What you will have just seen from sea, you will now experience from the sky as you witness the vastness of Antarctica and Crystal Sound. Continuing further south, we'll set out toward Marguerite Bay, which is rich in human history, stunning geological features, and expansive ice fields. The bay is separated from Crystal Sound by Adelaide Island. Ice conditions permitting, we may be able to transit slowly through the narrow passage between the mainland and the island. This channel is known as The Gullet, known for pulsing currents that can lodge and dislodge ice throughout the summer months. Keep your eyes focused off-ship for potential marine mammal sightings. To the west of Adelaide Island, the 70-kilometer-long Fuchs Ice Piedmont stretches out like a long ice tongue to east Arrowsmith Peninsula with multiple peaks rising 1,800 to 2,100 meters (6,000 to 7000 feet). We also hope to explore Debenham Islands, named after Frank Debenham, a member of the advisory committee for the British Graham Land Expedition of 1934-37. The six main islands are named after Debenham's children.



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DAY 11: Northbound Along the Peninsula - Day 10 & 11

By now, your knowledge of Adélie, chinstrap and gentoo penguins will be matched by your ability to differentiate between a leopard, crabeater and Weddell seal. Terms like 'bergy bits' and 'pancake ice' will become part of your vocabulary. As you head north, Zodiac excursions will occupy your days, and your Expedition Team will continue looking out for species of seabirds, seals and whales that may have eluded us on this journey south.



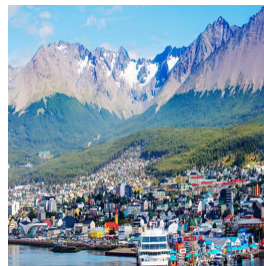
DAY 12: Crossing the Drake Passage - Day 12 & 13

As you recross the Drake Passage at the end of your expedition, rest assured you'll do so with a storehouse of memories to last a lifetime. You'll have experienced moments—soaring in a helicopter over remote parts of Antarctica being one of the most memorable—which few travelers can ever claim. Your Expedition Team will have a few remaining presentations for you—including the guest favorite, the end-of-voyage photo and video compilation showcasing the most unforgettable moments of your voyage. Remember to take advantage of Ultramarine's amenities, especially Tundra Spa & Sauna, on the final days onboard.



DAY 14: Disembark in Ushuaia

You will arrive in Ushuaia in the morning and disembark after breakfast—but the adventures aren't over. Your Charter Flight and Hotel Package includes your transfer to the airport for the return group charter flight to Buenos Aires. *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 On Board Ship

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
 Two (2) 10-15 minute helicopter flightseeing excursions, and one (1) heli landing (*weather and logistics permitting*)
 Free WiFi

MANDATORY TRANSFER PACKAGE

One night pre transfer accommodation in a hotel in Buenos Aires with breakfast *
 *(Note: The number of guests per room is the same as cabin occupancy on the ship. Due to limited availability, travelers who reserve a suite on board are accommodated in standard rooms at the hotel. Triple rooms may not be available.)
 Group flights from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia on a return basis
 Transfers from the hotel to the airport in Buenos Aires
 Airport transfer and express bus tour of Tierra Del Fuego National Park 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

Inclusions

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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<p>Notes</p>	<p>Prices are based on per person, and vary from single, triple, and twin cabins.* <i>*(Note: The number of guests per room is the same as cabin occupancy on the ship. Due to limited availability, travelers who reserve a suite on board are accommodated in standard rooms at the hotel. Triple rooms may not be available.)</i></p> <p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. Please note this itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.* Includes charter flights from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia on a return basis. Arrival transfer to Buenos Aires hotel on Day 1 is NOT included.</p>
<p>Price Dependent upon</p>	<p>Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.</p>

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SUSTAINABILITY