ANTARCTIC PENINSULA - ANTARCTIC PENINSULA: RARE EXPLORATION OF THE WEDDELL SEA | OCEAN EXPLORER



TRIP CODE

ACQEREWS

DEPARTURE

18/12/2027

DURATION

12 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula & Weddell Sea

INTRODUCTION

Designed for travellers who want more time in Antarctica's lesserâ□□visited regions, this itinerary dedicates several days to exploring the Weddell Sea and Antarctic Sound. Encounter large penguin colonies, drifting icebergs, and broad seaâ□□ice platforms while participating in daily activities such as Zodiac excursions and guided walks when conditions permit. Timed to arrive around the winter solstice, the voyage benefits from extended daylight hours for photography and wildlife spotting. The itinerary is built for flexibility and the experienced Expedition Team may adjust plans in real time to take advantage of weather, ice openings, and rare landing opportunities in remote sections for a real explorer's experience.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive in Ushuaia, Argentina

You may arrive in Ushuaia at any time on Day 1. Many guests choose to arrive a day or two before embarkation day to explore this quaint port city at the bottom of South America, and the surrounding region. Based on the arrival information you send in advance, we will arrange for a transfer from the airport to your hotel.



DAY 2: Embarkation

Embarkation will occur in the late afternoon, after which your vessel will sail down the historic Beagle Channel, transecting 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 at the world's most southern continent.

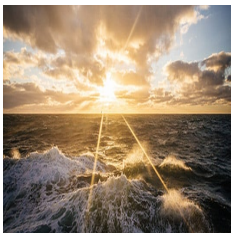


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DAY 3: At Sea, Crossing the Drake Passage - Day 3 & 4

You have many options of activities during the 800-km (500 mile) Drake crossing. As you gain your sea legs, our Expedition Team will begin their series of presentations to help prepare you for your upcoming Zodiac and land excursions. You officially enter Antarctica when your ship crosses the Antarctic Convergence, a boundary that fluctuates around 60° south. This is also a great opportunity to meet your fellow travelers—many of whom will become friends by the voyage end.



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DAY 5: Antarctic Sound & Weddell Sea - Day 5 to 9

One word best describes the Weddell Sea and Antarctic Sound: immense. That applies equally to the ice formations, penguin colonies, and vast stretches of sea. In Antarctic Sound and the Weddell Sea, we will encounter massive tabular icebergs. These bergs don't calve from tidewater glaciers but from ice shelves— and many will dwarf Ocean Explorer. Some in the Weddell Sea reach the size of a football field or larger. Their smooth, tabletop-flat surfaces reflect the ocean beneath: flat seas yield flat ice. Ice shelves stretch from land into the sea. In the northwest corner of the Weddell Sea, penguin colonies can number in the tens of thousands. For travelers seeking Adélie penguins, Antarctic Sound and the Weddell Sea offer prime viewing of this iconic species—the most southerly breeding penguin, and possibly bird, on Earth (though snow petrels, prevalent here, are also a contender for that crown). Gentoo penguins are found here too, and you'll have chances to spot chinstraps. The legendary Snow Hill Emperor colony lies in this region; while we won't reach it, we may encounter individual members on the ice. The Weddell Sea is less visited than the Gerlache Strait, not for lack of beauty, but due to its ever-shifting ice. On this voyage, we've added an extra day in this area—time enough for a true adventure into this endless wilderness, and to ensure we can fully embrace the dance with the ice. In the Weddell Sea, penguins are our priority—but ice will guide our course. Alongside towering tabular icebergs, we'll likely encounter vast stretches of sea ice, more than on the Peninsula's west side. Your Expedition Team and bridge officers will track charts and forecasts, seeking openings to navigate toward the region's highlights, and intentionally visiting the ice edge to maximize our time in this remarkable environment. Our route will be shaped by sea ice and weather, but every destination— whichever we visit first or last—will be exceptional, evoking words like profound, humbling, and surreal. We'll make every effort to visit large Adélie penguin colonies—at Brown Bluff, Paulet Island, or Tay Head—ranging from 20,000 to several hundred thousand penguins, including gentoo. Photos and documentaries can't match the experience of standing before tens of thousands of penguins. The sounds alone—partners calling, chicks crying for parents, wind and waves against the shore, and the distant crack of calving glaciers—create an acoustic landscape of pure wildness. Add the sight of a penguin-covered landscape, and you have an encounter that's impossible to replicate. The currents of Antarctic and Active sounds are mesmerizing. While you're in a Zodiac, you may observe ice—large and small—flowing through narrow straits at several kilometers per hour, a raw display of the power of water. From shore, you may glimpse or sense the ice's movement. Your Zodiac may pass through open water, while your return ride could weave among drifting floes, crackling brash, and scattered bergy bits. The Weddell Sea is known for superb birdwatching—especially cape, snow, and southern giant petrels—and the chance to spot Weddell, crabeater, or leopard seals onshore or catching rides on the drifting ice. Sightings may occur near Adélie colonies or at sites like Kinnes Cove and Active Sound. When ice opens in the Weddell Sea's northwest, whales follow—lured by the feeding opportunities. Humpbacks and minkes are most common, with occasional killer whales. Conditions may also allow us to explore areas frequented by fin whales, and possibly southern rights. For historians, the

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DAY 10: At Sea: Across the Drake Passage - Day 10 & 11

The journey back across the 800-km (500 mile) Drake Passage provides final opportunities to enjoy the crisp Antarctic air, spend time on the outer deck watching for seabirds and whales, or attending one of our team's expert-led polar presentations.



DAY 12: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

Your ship is scheduled to arrive in Ushuaia between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. Once the ship has docked, you will bid farewell to your Expedition Team and shipmates before completing your disembarkation. You are then free to take advantage of the included transfer to the airport or, depending on the time of your flight, explore the town on your own and take a taxi to the airport later. *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

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Inclusions

INCLUSIONS

An expedition parka to keep
All shore landings per the daily program, weather permitting
Shipboard accommodation
All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage
Select beer, wines, spirits, and cocktails during bar service hours and dinner
Coffee, tea and cocoa around the clock
Presentations by expedition team & special guests
Downloadable photographic journal documenting the expedition
Expedition boots on loan for shore landings
Hairdryer and bathrobe available in every cabin
All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
Luggage handling aboard the ship
Wi-Fi service on one device permitting basic internet browsing, email, posting on social medial and voice applications (Premium packages are available for purchase for more data-intensive applications)
Group arrival transfer in Ushuaia from airport to pre-expedition hotel on Day 1
One night's pre-expedition hotel accommodation in Ushuaia with breakfast
Group transfer from hotel to ship on embarkation day
Group departure transfer upon disembarkation in Ushuaia from ship to local airport

EXCLUSIONS

Any airfare unless otherwise specified in the itinerary
Passport and visa expenses
Government arrival and departure taxes
Any meals unless otherwise specified
Travel insurance
Alcohol and bar service does not include spirits
Excess baggage charges
Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned
Laundry, spa services, bar, beverage and other personal charges unless specified
Telecommunications charges
Data card does not include premium packages which enable more data-intensive applications
Voluntary staff and crew gratuities
Additional overnight accommodation
Arrival and departure transfers, except where stated
Paid Adventure Options

Difficulty Rating

2 (Light Adventure)

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Single Surcharge	Available upon request, a supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please Contact Us for more information.
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. **NOTE**: The number of guests per room is the same as cabin occupancy on the ship. Due to limited availability, travellers who reserve a suite on board are accommodated in standard rooms at the hotel. Triple rooms may not be available 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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