ANTARCTICA - ANTARCTICA WHALE WATCHING 11 DAY | PLANCIUS



TRIP CODE
ACOW28WW
DEPARTURE
20/03/2028
DURATION
11 Days
LOCATIONS
Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctica

INTRODUCTION

Cross the Drake Passage to reach the Antarctic Peninsula, where glaciers, rugged mountains and drifting icebergs form the backdrop for a whaleâ□□focused expedition. Several days are spent exploring key areas of the Peninsula, with strong chances of encountering Humpback and Minke whales, alongside penguins, seals and a variety of seabirds. Zodiac excursions and possible landings at classic locations such as Wilhelmina Bay, Neko Harbour, Lemaire Channel, Paradise Bay and Petermann Island round out the experience, with March offering excellent conditions for marine wildlife viewing.

**Diving is available - You must be advanced and experienced in dry suit and cold water diving. Diving is subject to local ice and weather conditions. Group size: minimum 8 divers.

Please note: Due to increased fuel costs, a surcharge of USD$29 per passenger, per night, will be applied to voyages departing between 15 November and 31 December 2026. For departures from 6 January 2027 onwards a surcharge of USD$37 per passenger, per night will be applied on top of your voyage cost. If you have any questions please Contact Us.

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Arrival in Ushuaia, Argentina & Embarkation



Your voyage begins where the world drops off. Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet, is located on the far southern tip of South America. Starting in the afternoon, you embark from this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego, nicknamed “The End of the World,” and sail the mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the remainder of the evening.

DAY 2: Crossing the Drake Passage - Days 2 to 3



Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you enjoy some of the same experiences encountered by the great polar explorers who first charted these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale spouting up sea spray. After passing the Antarctic Convergence – Antarctica’s natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer sub-Antarctic seas – you are in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. Not only does the marine life change, the avian life changes too. Wandering albatrosses, grey-headed albatrosses, black-browed albatrosses, light-mantled sooty albatrosses, cape pigeons, southern fulmars, Wilson’s storm petrels, blue petrels, and Antarctic petrels are a few of the birds you might see.

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DAY 4: Entering Antarctica - Days 4 to 8

The Antarctic landscape presents a stunning spectacle of gray stone peaks dusted with snow and towering formations of broken blue-white ice, amidst a diverse array of wildlife both above and below. As you navigate past the snow-capped Melchior Islands and through the Schollaert Channel between Brabant and Anvers Islands, several notable sites await exploration: Danco Island offers opportunities to observe gentoo penguins nesting on the island, along with sightings of Weddell and crabeater seals nearby. Neko Harbour boasts mammoth glaciers and wind-carved snow, providing ideal conditions for Zodiac cruises and landings with close-up views of the surrounding alpine peaks. Paradise Bay invites you to embark on a Zodiac cruise through sprawling, ice-flecked waters, with a high likelihood of encountering humpback and minke whales. Pléneau & Petermann Islands, weather permitting, allow for a potential passage through the Lemaire Channel in search of humpback and minke whales, as well as leopard seals. Port Lockroy, accessible via the Neumayer Channel, offers the opportunity to visit the former British research station on Goudier Island, now transformed into a museum and post office. Activities around Jougla Point may include encounters with gentoo penguins and blue-eyed shags. At nearby sites like Damoy Point, you may have the chance for snowshoeing to the old ski-way, a favorite camping site. Wilhelmina Bay & Guvernøren provide excellent opportunities for spotting humpback whales. You may also embark on a Zodiac cruise culminating at the ghostly wreck of the Guvernøren, a whaling vessel that caught fire here in 1915. Around the Melchior Islands, amid a frozen landscape populated with icebergs, further encounters with whales, leopard seals, and crabeater seals are possible. Charlotte Bay offers the potential to encounter a variety of wildlife, including gentoo penguins, Weddell seals, and possibly migrating whale species such as humpback whales or minke whales. Please note that departure times are subject to conditions in the Drake Passage.



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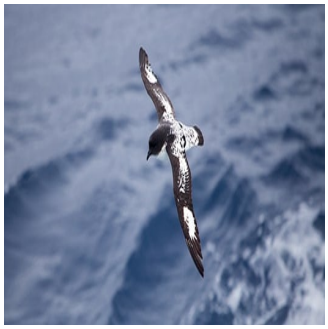
DAY 9: Crossing the Drake Passage - Days 9 to 10

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, you're again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.



DAY 11: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. It's now time to disembark in Ushuaia, but with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies. Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin On Board a Ship

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Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Cabin Accommodation on board MV Plancius All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes Group departure transfers in Ushuaia (directly after disembarkation) All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme Comprehensive pre-departure material Access to 1.5 GB of free internet connectivity per person, which resets every 24 hours. Supplementary vouchers available to purchase on onboard. Subject to satellite coverage **EXCLUSIONS** Airfares to/from disembarkation city Visa & passport fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Beverages (other than tea & coffee) Meals ashore Personal expenses such as laundry & bar Gratuities for the crew (guidelines will be provided) Pre and post land arrangements Government arrival or departure taxes (if applicable) Additional optional activities A fuel surcharge may be applied to all bookings
Difficulty Rating	2 (Light Adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request. Please contact us for more details. No single supplement will apply if willing to share in selected cabins.

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Notes	Prices are based on per person, and may be based on quad/triple/twin share. 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.* Diving is an optional activity. Experience with cold-water diving and dry-suit dives (at least 30) is a must! Please note: Due to increased fuel costs, a surcharge of USD$29 per passenger, per night, will be applied to voyages departing between 15 November and 31 December 2026. For departures from 6 January 2027 onwards a surcharge of USD$37 per passenger, per night will be applied on top of your voyage cost. If you have any questions please Contact Us. 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 & Availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY

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