

ANTARCTICA - ANTARCTICA




INTRODUCTION

This Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands voyage centers on daily exploration by Zodiac and guided shore landings, giving you a chance to observe gentoo and chinstrap penguin colonies, other diverse seabird species, seals hauled out on ice and whale-rich bays. Experience close-range views of glaciers and ice formations, with some visits to research sites and possible opportunities for snowshoeing when conditions allow. Long-hike options may be available for guests seeking more active outings, while alternative landings are offered for those who prefer shorter excursions.

Throughout the voyage, the expedition staff leads lectures and daily briefings that prepare guests for each landing and highlight the environmental conditions shaping the region, geology, wildlife behavior, and conservation efforts. The ship's small size supports flexible routing, allowing the crew to adjust plans based on weather, ice, and wildlife activity. This ensures a varied mix of landings, Zodiac cruising, and time on deck for photography and observation.

****Diving is available on the 9 December 2027 Departure Only - 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.**

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE
ACOWDLV
DEPARTURE
30/10/2027, 09/12/2027, 05/02/2028
DURATION
11 Days
LOCATIONS
Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctica


ANTARCTICA - ANTARCTICA

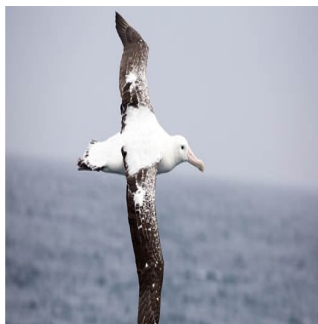
DAY 1: Embarkation in Ushuaia

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 - Day 2 & 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.



DAY 4: Antarctica - Day 4 to 7

Gray stone peaks sketched with snow, towers of broken blue-white ice, and dramatically different wildlife below and above. You first pass the snow-capped Melchior Islands and Schollaert Channel, sailing between Brabant and Anvers Islands. Sites you may visit include: Danco Island - Activities here may focus on the gentoo penguins nesting on the island, in addition to the Weddell and crabeater seals that can be found nearby. Neko Harbour - An epic landscape of mammoth glaciers and endless wind-carved snow, Neko Harbour offers opportunities for a Zodiac cruise and landing that afford the closest views of the surrounding alpine peaks. Paradise Bay - You may be able to take a Zodiac cruise in these sprawling, ice-flecked waters, where there’s a good chance you’ll encounter humpback and minke whales.



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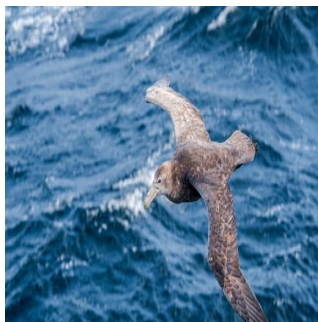
DAY 8: South Shetland Islands

The volcanic islands of the South Shetlands are windswept and often cloaked in mist, but they do offer subtle pleasures: There's a wide variety of flora (mosses, lichens, flowering grasses) and no small amount of fauna (gentoo penguins, chinstrap penguins, southern giant petrels). In Deception Island, the ship plunges through Neptune's Bellows and into the flooded caldera. Here you find hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, and thousands of cape petrels - along with kelp gulls, brown and south polar skuas, and Antarctic terns. A good hike is a possibility in this fascinating and desolate volcanic landscape. As an alternative, you may be able to engage in activities near Half Moon Island. Here chinstrap penguins and Weddell seals often haul out onto the beach near Cámara Base, an Argentine scientific research station. Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.



DAY 9: At Sea - Drake Passage - Day 9 & 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.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS	
Accommodation	Cabin On Board Ship

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INCLUSIONS

Cabin Accommodation on board MV Ortelius
 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 neoprene expedition muck boots and snowshoes
 Luggage transfer from pick-up point to the vessel on the day of embarkation, in Ushuaia.
 Group departure transfers in Ushuaia (directly after disembarkation)
 All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
 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
 Complimentary Doppet water bottle for use during and after your expedition

Inclusions

EXCLUSIONS

Airfares to/from embarkation & 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	<p>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. Contact us for more details. 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Price Dependent upon	<p>Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.</p>

SUSTAINABILITY

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