ANTARCTICA - ANTARCTICA'S WHALE SEASON | OCEAN NOVA



TRIP CODE
ACONNAWS
DEPARTURE
10/03/2027, 12/03/2028
DURATION
11 Days
LOCATIONS
Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctica

INTRODUCTION

Embark on a journey of discovery on this 11-day journey designed for wildlife lovers; set sail towards the location where whales gather in their most significant numbers on the Antarctic Peninsula. As you enter the frozen wilderness of the White Continent, sculptured icebergs, thunderous calving glaciers, imposing mountain ranges and ice-strewn waters all lie in wait.

While sailing on the nimble and ice-strengthened Ocean Nova and exploring by Zodiac, scan the icy waters for the silhouettes of these mighty marine mammals as they glide through ice floes or break the Antarctic silence with spectacular acrobatics.

Add encounters with curious penguins, basking seals, and many fascinating seabirds, and you'll be on track for a journey you'll never forget.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival Day, Ushuaia, Argentina



Welcome to Ushuaia, the gateway to Antarctica. On arrival at Ushuaia Airport, take your included transfer from the airport to our joining hotel. Learn more about the journey ahead and the details for tomorrow’s embarkation during our ‘icebreaker’ at your hotel tonight. If you have some time to spare before the icebreaker, we suggest you head downtown to do some souvenir shopping or taste some classic Argentinian flavours at one of Ushuaia’s fantastic local restaurants. SPECIAL INFORMATION: If you arrive in Ushuaia on Day 1, an arrival transfer from Ushuaia Airport to the hotel is included. Your travel documents will provide full details.

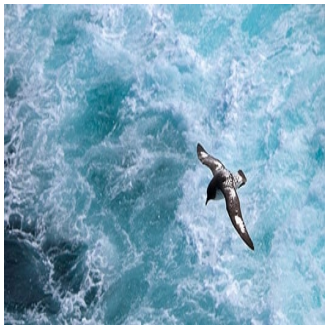
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DAY 2: Embark in Ushuaia, Argentina



Enjoy a leisurely morning before your coach transfer to the port of Ushuaia, where you'll board the Ocean Nova, your home for the next nine nights. Downtown Ushuaia is compact and perfect for exploring on foot, offering a beautiful start to your day. Don't forget your camera to capture the stunning snow-capped Andes Mountains backdrop. After meeting your Expedition Team on board and settling into your cabin, head to the outer decks as the Ocean Nova sails through the historic Beagle Channel towards Antarctica. Then, join the excitement inside to learn more about the upcoming days.

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



Spend two days travelling across the legendary waters of the Drake Passage, named after the British seafarer Sir Francis Drake, towards the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands. If conditions allow, there will be a chance to enjoy the outer deck spaces, scouting for dolphins, whales and various seabirds passing by, including the iconic wandering albatross with its enormous three-meter wingspan. Our comprehensive lecture program will also get underway for you to join at your leisure, with our team of polar experts sharing fascinating insights into Antarctic history, geology, biology, and everything in between. If the weather is on our side, you should reach the Islands of the Antarctic Peninsula by early evening on day four – the first sighting of land always builds great anticipation on any expedition south.

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DAY 5: South Shetland Islands & Antarctica - Day 5 to 8

The Antarctic Peninsula is known for many wildlife sightings in front of stunning backdrops of mountains, icy landscapes and water. These provide incredible scenes as you search for whales migrating along the coast. The peak of the migration season (February and March) is the best opportunity to see these majestic ocean dwellers, as all Antarctic whale species migrate long distances, feeding in the cold, nutrient-rich Southern Ocean during the southern summer. The most common species found in the region are humpback, minke and fin whales, and orcas. As whale season is in full swing, you have the unique opportunity to participate in one of our exciting onboard Citizen Science projects, the Happy Whale Project. Here, you can upload photos of whale's tails (flukes) online, along with details of where the images are taken, which are then used to analyse and identify the individual whale and track its movement across the oceans. Your contribution could make a real difference in understanding and conserving these magnificent creatures. Sightings can happen from the outer decks of the ship, during a Zodiac excursion, or on the ship's bridge with your Captain, where our open bridge policy allows you into the command centre of the Ocean Nova for a look at the inner workings of your expedition and access to the best place to spot whales. A typical expedition day begins with a wake-up call from your Expedition Leader around 7.00 am, giving you time to prepare for the day before joining your fellow travellers for breakfast in the Dining Room. Weather permitting, you can look forward to at least two excursions each day, offering plenty of chances to immerse yourself in the stunning Antarctic landscape. For those who crave even more adventure, treat yourself to an optional paddling excursion that offers a new perspective of this frozen expanse. You'll also be able to take a polar plunge off the Ocean Nova. There's nothing like a quick dip in the Antarctic's icy depths to invigorate you!



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DAY 9: At Sea, Drake Passage - Day 9 & 10

As the Ocean Nova begins its journey back to our home port of Ushuaia, now is your time to reflect on your fantastic journey. We're scheduled to reach the relatively calm waters of the Beagle Channel by the evening of day 10, marking the beginning of our return journey. This evening, enjoy a slideshow of stunning images taken by our Expedition Photographer during your voyage - yours to cherish as a lasting memento of your unforgettable Antarctic adventure. Your final meal in the Dining Room is often a highlight of our Antarctic adventurers, so live it up and enjoy it as you celebrate an incredible adventure with your fellow travellers and Expedition Team.



DAY 11: Disembark in Ushuaia, Argentina

After breakfast, disembark the Ocean Nova as your Antarctic expedition ends, and the memories of a fantastic adventure begin. A morning transfer to Ushuaia Airport or downtown is included. SPECIAL INFORMATION: If you would like to stay longer in Ushuaia beyond today or would like to explore South America, please speak to your booking agent to discuss options. If you are flying out today, please book your flight to depart Ushuaia after midday in case of any delays caused by unfavourable weather conditions.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotel & Cabin Onboard a Ship

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Inclusions

INCLUSIONS

All meals onboard the Ocean Nova, including snacks
Beer/wine with lunch & dinner onboard the ship and 24/7 tea, coffee and hot cocoa
Onboard lecture program led by our expert Expedition Team
All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises (except paid adventure options with cost)
2026/2027 season: Puffer jacket and parka, which can be layered together, are yours to keep
2027/2028 season: Bespoke 3-in-1 jacket featuring a waterproof outer shell and puffer that can be worn with or without outer shell, are yours to keep
Complimentary use of rubber Muck boots, on loan for the duration of your expedition (exclusions apply - see below)
Group arrival transfer from Ushuaia Airport to Pre Voyage Hotel (Day One)
Pre-night (Day One) stay at the Pre Voyage hotel in Ushuaia, including breakfast (based on your cabin configuration)
Transfer from the Pre Voyage Hotel to the Ocean Nova for embarkation (Day Two)
Group departure transfer from the ship to either Ushuaia airport (selected times only) or downtown Ushuaia (luggage storage available)
Full access to the onboard gym
500mb free internet usage
All port taxes

EXCLUSIONS

International or domestic flights, unless specified
Airport transfers, taxes, and excess baggage charges, unless specified
Meals other than those specified in the pre-departure information
Visa and passport fees
Mandatory travel insurance with a minimum required coverage
A fuel surcharge may be applied to all bookings
Optional paid adventure activities - Please let your booking agent know if you would like to add these
Alcoholic or other selected beverages
Laundry and communication services including Wi-fi (over and above complimentary allotment and where available) on board
Gratuities for the Expedition Team and crew
Miscellaneous extras and all personal expenses
Smaller puffer jackets, outer parka jackets and muck boots **may not be available** for minors, depending on size requirements. Additionally, a lifejacket that meets our safety standards is mandatory for all minors 15 years and under and **must be provided by the parent/guardian**. Please contact your booking agent for details.

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Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available on request. No single supplement if willing to share with other guest/s of the same gender in Triple and Explorer Twin cabin categories (subject to availability). Contact Us for more details. Classic Twin cabins will have a Single Supplement for Solo Use, at a rate of 1.8 x Twin rate
Notes	Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated for triple/quad cabins) Prices and availability 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 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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