


ANTARCTICA - EXPEDITION ANTARCTICA: HIGHLIGHTS FIRST HAND | HANSEATIC SPIRIT



TRIP CODE
ACHLEAH
DURATION
21 Days
LOCATIONS
Not Available


INTRODUCTION

This 20-day round-trip expedition from Ushuaia offers a comprehensive exploration of Antarctic and sub-Antarctic ecosystems, blending classic Antarctic Peninsula highlights with remote island environment. Traveling through the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, the South Orkneys, and onward to the Weddell Sea and Antarctic Peninsula, the voyage emphasizes natural history, wildlife encounters, and polar exploration through a flexible, conditions-driven itinerary.

Guests can expect frequent Zodiac operations and guided shore landings that provide close-up access to albatross, seals, and whales in their natural habitats, large penguin colonies, including king and other species. Landings may include historic sites such as former whaling stations, Grytviken and Shackleton's grave and research bases that offer insight into both the heroic age of exploration and modern polar science. As the ship navigates pack ice, iceberg-filled channels, glacier-line bays and volcanic calderas, travelers experience some of the most dramatic scenery in the Southern Ocean, including narrow passages and tabular icebergs characteristic of the Weddell Sea region. Zodiac cruising and shore excursions focus on wildlife observation, understanding the region's geology and ice dynamics as well as photography.

An experienced expedition team accompanies all activities, providing daily briefings, lectures, and guided excursions that deepen understanding of Antarctic ecology, exploration heritage and wildlife behavior. Flexible routing ensures the best possible access to key sites and conditions, delivering a well-rounded Antarctic expedition defined by learning and discovery and a close connection to one of the world's most remote environments.

ITINERARY

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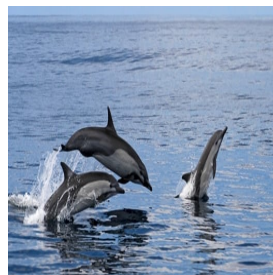
DAY 1: Arrive Ushuaia

Today you will board your charter flight to Ushuaia where the adventure begins. Upon landing at the airport in Ushuaia you will be met by a representative and transferred to the cruiseship for embarkation. The Expedition Team and ship staff will welcome you on board and help you get settled in, followed by a safety and orientation briefing and a welcome dinner. We're on our way to Antarctica!



DAY 2: At Sea

Today is a day to settle into life on board as we sail from Ushuaia toward the Falkland Islands. Enjoy the ship's amenities and take in the open views of the Southern Ocean. Keep watch for seabirds and marine life as the adventure begins to unfold.



DAY 3: Falkland Islands - Day 3 & 4

The British overseas territory has more than just a turbulent history; discover its impressive birdlife. Experience this unique ecosystem, which is home to around 60 species, during Zodiac landings. Together with your experts, you can observe rockhopper and Magellanic penguins, who share their habitat with kelp geese, striated caracaras, king cormorants as well as black-browed and wandering albatrosses. Natural history walks take you past the island's typical dwarf shrubs and tall tussock grass. The first human footprints on the Falkland Islands date back to 1690, and it wasn't until 1764 that the first settlement was established. The small capital city of Stanley has a very British feel to it today. The former whaling and sealing settlement boasts Victorian houses, small gardens and the southernmost Anglican church in the world.



DAY 5: At Sea - Day 5 & 6

Today is a full day at sea as we continue toward South Georgia Island. Enjoy the ship's amenities and the ever-changing views of the Southern Ocean. Keep an eye out for seabirds and marine life along the way.



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DAY 7: South Georgia - Day 7 to 9

Days of adventure and great experiences lie ahead of you, when rugged peaks on the horizon signal your approach to this unique animal paradise. South Georgia is often referred to as the "cold Serengeti". Hundreds of thousands of king penguins blanket the island's coastlines and mountain slopes. On numerous trips and landings with the Zodiacs, you will experience the animal world from a respectful distance. With a little luck, you will see elephant seals fighting over a harem or gentoo and king penguins in their natural habitat. Your experts, who have extensive experience in the Antarctic, will familiarise you with the flora and fauna. The pioneering days of polar research will come to life for you in Grytviken: in the former whaling station, you will visit the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton and commemorate the heroic efforts with which he once saved his crew.



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DAY 10: At Sea

Today is a day to relax and enjoy life on board as we sail toward Antarctica. Take in the vast scenery of the Southern Ocean as anticipation builds for the next stage of the journey. Keep watch for seabirds and passing marine life as we continue south.




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DAY 11: Antarctic Peninsula - Day 11 to 18

The South Orkney Islands, a small group of islands with a surface area of around 620 km² (239 mi.²), are located in the Scotia Sea. A lonely, glaciated world with ice deserts - and more animal species than on the Galapagos Islands, as scientists have discovered. Who would guess there are around 1,200 animal species here? The South Orkney Islands are home to numerous varieties of penguin, whale and seal, as well as leopard seals. With luck, you will also see icebergs drifting off the rugged coast. In contrast, the Argentinian Orcadas research station - which has been staffed since 1904 - houses just a few people. Depending on the conditions and approval from the station, you will land in the Zodiacs to gain an impression of the isolated life of polar explorers in the area. The South Shetland Islands form a long chain in the ocean. The island group opens up exciting chapters of Antarctic exploration and provides expert insights into geology. Here, your small manoeuvrable ship can again prove its expedition capability when it sails into the flooded caldera of the extinct volcano that forms Deception Island. Flanked by rock faces up to 50 m (164 ft) in height, the black sand in front of you gives off steam as a testament to a past eruption - and you in the heart of the scenery. Elephant Island, where history surrounds you, is legendary: polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton and his crew spent months here after abandoning their ship in the ice. You, too, will be enchanted by the scenery. Jagged crags loom fiercely on the horizon and the evening sun casts a delicate pink glow over the snowfields. This expedition takes you in a flexible route towards adventure through the Weddell Sea. The ice cracks and crunches around the ship's reinforced bow, conveying just how challenging the hardships were that the pioneers of polar research had to endure. Where weather and ice conditions dictate the route, the experienced crew reacts flexibly and spontaneously to provide you with unforgettable expedition moments. The Weddell Sea is home to spectacular ice formations - from majestic tabular icebergs occupied by Adelie penguins to ice shelves as tall as white cliffs and dense carpets of pack ice. How far into this region can the expedition ship actually make it? The Antarctic Peninsula, part of the coldest continent on Earth, may seem inhospitable at first glance, but it is actually a paradise for countless animal species that have adapted perfectly. Enjoy unforgettable moments when, for example, you set foot on the Antarctic mainland near to Paradise Bay. Snow-covered peaks, imposing icebergs and towering glaciers surround you. Unbelievable views also await you in the bay of Neko Harbor with its rocky massifs. On Petermann Island, keep an eye out for gentoo and Adelie penguins and the blue-eyed cormorants that have their breeding colonies here. One of the most impressive shipping passages in the world is the Lemaire Channel: mountains up to 1,000 m (3,281 ft) high line the strait of water.

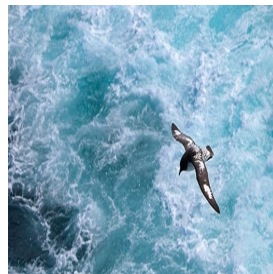


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DAY 19: Crossing the Drake Passage - Day 19 & 20


Today is a day to unwind and reflect as we sail north across the Drake Passage toward Ushuaia. Enjoy the comfort of the ship, take in the sweeping ocean views, and keep watch for seabirds and marine life along the way. It is a wonderful time to revisit the memories of your Antarctic adventure as the journey gradually comes to an end.



DAY 21: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

Upon arrival in Ushuaia, you will disembark and say farewell to the expedition team and fellow travelers. You will then be transferred to the airport for your return charter flight to Buenos Aires. Your Antarctic journey comes to an end, leaving you with unforgettable memories of an extraordinary adventure.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
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INCLUSIONS

Cabin accommodation on board ship in selected stateroom
 All meals onboard throughout your voyage. Complimentary hot & cold beverages including soft drinks
 All scheduled expedition landings (dependent on weather & government permits)
 Lecture programs by expedition team and guest speakers
 Use of the interactive Ocean Academy with individual knowledge formats
 OCEAN SPA with Finnish sauna with an ocean view, steam sauna, indoor and outdoor relaxation area (spa treatments and hairdresser at a surcharge)
In every cabin: champagne to welcome you, mini bar restocked daily with non-alcoholic beverages (additional selection in Grand Suites and Junior Suites), coffee machine (tea on request), 24-hour cabin service
 Entry level Wi-Fi (free of charge for one hour per guest a day, satellite-dependent especially in polar areas)
On loan for your voyage:
 One pair of binoculars
 Two sets of Nordic Walking poles
 Warm parka
 A pair of waterproof expedition boots for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions
PLATINUM FARE INCLUSIONS
 Includes economy class return charter flights to/from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia.
 Group transfers from Ushuaia Airport to/from the cruise port for embarkation/disembarkation

Inclusions

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
 Meals ashore unless otherwise specified
 Excess-baggage fees on international and domestic flights
 Other personal charges unless specified
 Optional Adventure Activities

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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Notes	<p>Prices are based on per person, and vary from single and twin cabins. 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. From Price based on a Platinum Fare: Includes economy class return charter flights to/from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia.</p> <p>Please note this itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions*</p>
Price Dependent upon	<p>Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability. Any Promotional Pricing has already been applied to the published 'From' price.</p>

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SUSTAINABILITY