

Antarctica - Polar Circle Quest | MV Ushuaia

Trip Code

ACTSPCR

Departure

02/02/2026, 06/02/2027

Duration

12 Days

Locations

Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctic Circle

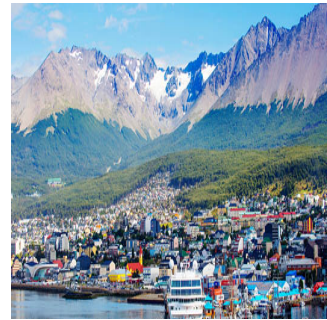
Introduction

Explore the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula and endeavour to cross the Polar Circle which few have ever crossed. Aboard the M/V USHUAIA, you will discover the last pristine region of the world – the White Continent of Antarctica. Set amidst awe-inspiring scenery of imposing mountain ranges, beautifully carved icebergs, ice-filled channels and spectacular glaciers, you will be greeted by vast penguin colonies, seals, whales and an abundance of seabirds.

Itinerary

DAY 1: Depart from Ushuaia

In the afternoon, you will board the USHUAIA and have the opportunity to meet your expedition and lecture staff. Once you have settled into your cabins, we will set sail along the renowned Beagle Channel and the picturesque Mackinlay Pass.



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DAY 2 - Crossing the Drake Passage - Days 2

Duration

12 Days

Sections is Drake, the renowned explorer,

sailed the waters that now bear his name

back in 1578. The Drake Passage not only commemorates his voyage but also marks the Antarctic Convergence. This is where the frigid polar water descends beneath the warmer northern waters, creating a nutrient-rich environment that sustains the thriving biodiversity of this region. The passage also serves as the northern boundary for numerous Antarctic seabirds.

As we sail across the passage, Antarpplly Expeditions' lecturers will be on deck to help you identify the wide variety of seabirds, including many albatrosses that follow us. Thanks to USHUAIA's open bridge policy, you can join our officers on the bridge and learn about navigation while keeping an eye out for whales and enjoying the stunning views. We also have a comprehensive program of lectures scheduled for your enrichment. As we approach the South Shetland Islands, the first sightings of snow-capped mountains and icebergs will appear, indicating our arrival. The South Shetland Islands consist of 20 islands and islets, initially spotted by Capt. William Smith of the brig Williams in February 1819. With favorable conditions in the Drake Passage, our lecturers and naturalists will accompany you ashore on Day 3 for your first experience encountering penguins and seals.



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Destination

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Preparation to be awed by the stunning beauty

Antarctic Peninsula, Cape of the Circles

Antarctic Peninsula. The region is filled with

countless icebergs of varying shades and

shapes, floating freely in the surrounding

waterways. The Antarctic Peninsula's rich

history is also sure to thrill you, offering a

type of excitement often associated only

with early explorers. You will have ample

time to explore the breathtaking scenery

and diverse wildlife. In addition to Adélie,

Gentoo, and Chinstrap Penguins, and a

variety of seabirds, you're also likely to

encounter Weddell, crabeater, fur, and

leopard seals, as well as Minke whales and

orcas up close. It's also highly probable to

spot large cetaceans, such as humpback,

Finn, and Sei whales in the area during this

time of year. We aim to navigate through

some of the most picturesque waterways in

the region, including the Gerlache Strait,

Errera Channel, Neumayer Channel, and

the incredibly narrow Lemaire Channel. We

may land at Paradise Bay, which

appropriately named due to its breathtaking

glacial fronts and towering mountains. We

will also visit Cuverville Island, home to the

largest Gentoo Penguin colony in the

Peninsula, surrounded by glaciers and

castellated icebergs, as well as the British

Museum and Post office Port Lockroy. As we

venture further south in search of the Polar

Circle, we may explore Ukrainian Station

Vernadsky, the former British base Faraday

where the ozone hole was first detected, the

rugged Yalour Islands, and Detaille Island,

which lies south of the Polar Circle. On our

way back north, we plan to explore the

South Shetland Islands, a volcanic island

group that's a haven for wildlife. You will be

captivated by vast penguin rookeries and

seals basking on the shorelines, with every

day spent here being unforgettable. Sailing

through the narrow passage into the flooded

caldera of Deception Island and visiting the

crescent-shaped Half Moon Island, home to

Chinstrap Penguins, are both amazing

experiences that you won't want to miss.



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12 Days Crossing the Drake Passage - Days

Locations

Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctic Circle

As we bid farewell to Antarctica, we set our course northward across the Drake Passage. Don't miss the opportunity to join our knowledgeable lecturers and naturalists on deck as we keep an eye out for seabirds and whales and soak up the last bit of the unique Antarctic atmosphere. Take advantage of the peaceful moments to reflect on the extraordinary experiences and discoveries of the past days, and enjoy the last series of lectures. The journey back to Ushuaia provides the perfect opportunity to unwind and savor the memories of this remarkable expedition.



DAY 12: Disembark in Ushuaia

We arrive at the port of Ushuaia in the early morning and disembark after breakfast. You will disembark in Ushuaia after breakfast where you can continue to whatever journey may lay ahead. Please note: The above itinerary is a guide only. Our exact route and program will vary to take best advantage of local weather and ice conditions and opportunities to view wildlife. Changes will be made by the Captain and/or Expedition Leader to facilitate the best results from the prevailing conditions. A daily program sheet will be issued on board. Flexibility is the key to success. *** Important - Please be sure not to book flights out of Ushuaia before 12PM (Noon) on the day of disembarkation from your cruise ship.



Inclusions & Details

Accommodation Cabin Onboard a Ship

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INCLUSIONS

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Locations
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- Shipboard accommodation
- All meals onboard
- All scheduled landings/excursions
- Guiding and lectures by expedition leader and team
- English-speaking expedition team
- All port fees
- All landing fees
- Detailed post-expedition log

Inclusions

EXCLUSIONS

- Airfares to/from embarkation and disembarkation city
- Visa fees (if applicable)
- Travel Insurance
- Beverages (other than coffee and tea)
- Personal expenses such as laundry, onboard communication (telephone calls, faxes, email service)
- Gratuities for the crew (recommended US\$15.00 per person per day)
- Pre or post cruise travel expenses
- Transfers to/from the pier in Ushuaia

Difficulty Rating
Single Surcharge

2 (light adventure)
Available upon request, and subject to availability. Contact us for more details.
Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated for triple/quad cabins)

Notes

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

Price Dependent upon

Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

Sustainability