

## **Antarctic Circle** - Antarctic Circle, Elephant Island & Weddell Sea | Plancius

Trip Code  
ACOWEIW  
Departure



### Introduction

This expansive expedition takes you into the Antarctic Circle, combining the rich animal life of the Weddell Sea with the surreal shores and islands of the Antarctic Peninsula. Such key landing sites as the legendary Elephant Island and Crystal Sound make this voyage truly exceptional.

### Itinerary

#### DAY 1: Embarkation 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.



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12/03/2027 - 23/03/2028

Duration

15 Days

Over the next two days on the Drake

Passage, you enjoy some of the same

Antarctic Circle & Weddell Sea

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-

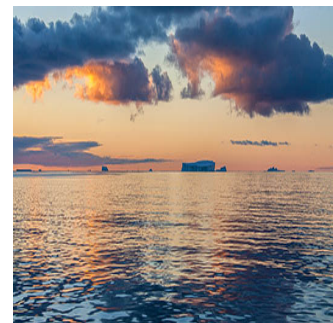
headed albatrosses, black-browed

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: Elephant Island

We will arrive early to the famous Point

Wild, Elephant Island, where Shackleton's

crew made their first landing after the loss

of their ship, Endurance. This inhospitable

spit of land is a favorite among our guests,

and if conditions permit, we will offer

activities around the point before setting off

for the Weddell Sea.



### DAY 5: Weddell Sea

Today you enter the wondrous Weddell Sea,

a relatively unvisited area in which we hope

to carry out activities in Erebus and Terror

Gulf. We may also visit such places such as

Beak Island and Devil Island, which boast

some stunning scenery as well as the pack

ice for which the Weddell Sea is famous.



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DAY 6: Vega Island

Duration

15 Days

Locations

Antarctic Circle & Weddell Sea

Opportunities for activities. You may also

visit Vega Island, experiencing the

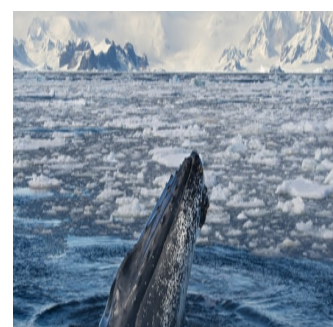
wilderness of Antarctica in its most remote

places.



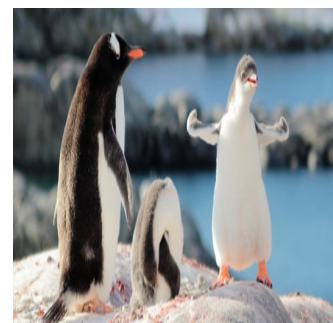
### DAY 7: Mikklesen Harbor

Now we sail down the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula, entering the Orleans Strait. Here we hope to see humpback and orca whales as we sail toward Mikklesen Harbor for our afternoon activities.



### DAY 8: Petermann Island

Passing the Lemaire Channel, you next arrive in the area of Port Charcot, where there is a cairn that was erected by the French Antarctic Expedition of 1903 - 05. In the afternoon, we head to Petermann Island to see a great variety of birdlife. You might also enjoy Zodiac cruises among icebergs that are highly popular with leopard seals and crabeater seals. Minke whales, humpbacks, and gentoo penguins can also be found here.



### DAY 9: Crystal Sound - Day 9 & 10

Today we reach Crystal Sound, viewing the area's beautiful ice formations and wildlife before landing at Detaille Island. This remote island was once home to a British research station that is now an historic monument.



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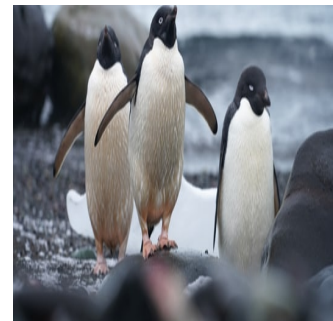
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12/03/2027 - 23/03/2028

Duration

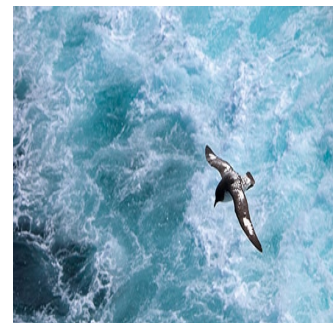
15 Days

Next you arrive at the Yalour Islands, a small archipelago composed mostly of isolated rocks and one principal island that offers us a rewarding landing. Home to Adélie penguins and some of the most southerly gentoos in the world, Yalour also has small patches of bearded and crustose lichen, including xanthoria, buellia, caloplaca, and usnea. Extensive moss beds and some Antarctic hair grass (*Deschampsia antarctica*) can be seen as well.



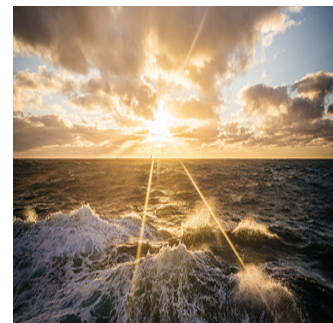
### DAY 12: Melchior Islands

We have our farewell to Antarctica in the Melchior Islands for our final activities before heading towards the Drake Passage.



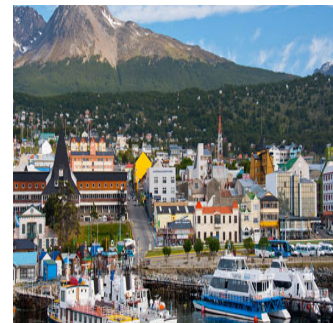
### DAY 13: Drake Passage - Day 13 & 14

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 15: Disembark Ushuaia

Every adventure, no matter how great, must eventually come to an end. It's now time to disembark in Ushuaia, but with memories that will accompany you wherever your next journey leads.



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**Duration**  
Inclusions & Details

15 Days  
Accommodation Cabin on board a ship  
Locations **INCLUSIONS**  
Antarctic Circle & Weddell Sea

- 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

**Inclusions**

**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

**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.

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.

**Notes**

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.

**Price Dependent upon**

Departure Date, Fuel Surcharges, Cabin Category, Currency Fluctuations, Seasonality & Availability.

**Sustainability**