

Antarctica - Polar Circle

Trip Code
ACOWODS
Departure



Introduction

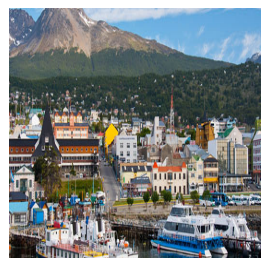
All aboard the MV Ortelius. Take a 12 day voyage from Ushuaia in Argentina, across the Drake Passage to the world's most remote continent, Antarctica. An expedition rather than a holiday, be prepared to encounter wild weather, bitter beauty and abundant wildlife. Vast landscapes are softened by the appearance of Gentoo penguins and different seal species while the icy ocean we hope will offer sightings of Humpback and Minke whales, in various locations as we sail.

**Diving is available - 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

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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06/03/2025 - 11/03/2025 Passage - Day 2

Duration

13 Days

Over the next two days on the Drake

Passage, you enjoy some of the same

Antarctic Peninsula 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-

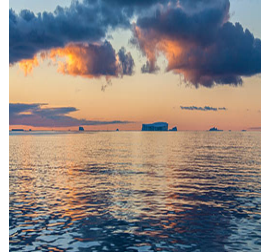
headed albatrosses, black-browed

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.



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Departure

06/03/2027 - 11/03/2028 Day 4 to 10

Duration

Options for Antarctic Peninsula activities are many, and no less great during the late summer!

Humpback whales are prolific in

Antarctic Peninsula

before their migration north. The penguin

chicks are also fledging, stirring up activity

on the beaches while sleek leopard seals lie

in wait, poised to attack the less fortunate

ones. Sites for your Antarctic adventures

may include: Livingston Island - Here you

find a wide variety of gentoo and chinstrap

penguins on Hannah Point, as well as

southern giant petrels and elephant seals

hauling out onto the beach. Deception

Island - Actually a subducted crater, this

island opens into the sea and creates a

natural harbor for the ship. An abandoned

whaling station, and multiple bird species -

cape petrels, kelp gulls, brown and south

polar skuas, and Antarctic terns - can be

seen here. Wilson's storm petrels and black-

bellied storm petrels also nest in the ruins

of the whaling station in Whalers Bay.

Cuverville Island - A small precipitous

island nestled between the mountains of the

Antarctic Peninsula and Rongé Island,

Cuverville houses a large colony of gentoo

penguins and breeding pairs of brown

skuas. 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. You might also be able to set foot on

the continent here. Paradise Bay - You

could take a Zodiac cruise in these

sprawling, ice-flecked waters, where you

have a good chance of seeing humpback and

minke whales. Pléneau & Petermann Islands

- If the ice allows it, you may sail through

the Lemaire Channel in search of Adélie

penguins and blue-eyed shags. There's also

a good chance you'll encounter humpback

and minke whales as well as leopard seals.

Crystal Sound - Your journey takes you

south along the Argentine Islands to this

ice-packed body of water, and from here

across the Polar Circle in the morning.

Detaille Island - You may make a landing at

an abandoned British research station here,

taking in the island's lofty mountains and

imposing glaciers. Fish Islands - Further

north you encounter one of the

southernmost Adélie penguin and blue-eyed

shag colonies in the Antarctic Peninsula.

Melchior Islands - These islands offer a

beautiful landscape rich with icebergs.

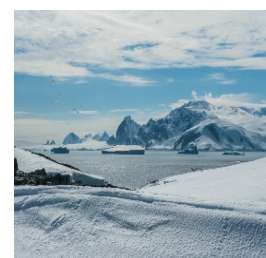
Leopard seals, crabeater seals, and whales

are found here, and there are excellent

opportunities for kayaking and diving.

Conditions on the Drake Passage determine

the exact time of departure.



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06/03/2027, 11/03/2028

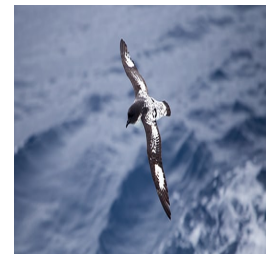
Duration

DAY 11: At Sea - Day 11 & 12

13 Days

Locations

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While the Antarctic Peninsula is 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 13: Disembark 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.



Inclusions & Details

Accommodation

Cabin on board a ship

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 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.

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06/03/2027, 11/03/2028. Prices are based on per person, and may be based on quad/triple/twin share.

Duration

Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.

13 Days

Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.

Notes

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.

Locations

Antarctic Peninsula



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

Sustainability