

Antarctica - Bellingshausen Sea & Ellsworth Land | Ortelius

Trip Code
ACOWBSPE
Departure



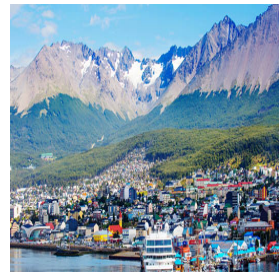
Introduction

Embark on an extraordinary Antarctic adventure that takes you to some of the most remote and rarely visited locations on Earth. This expedition offers a unique opportunity to explore the Bellingshausen Sea, have the chance to land on the uninhabited Peter I Island and explore the rugged coastline of Ellsworth Land. The adventure is enhanced by the opportunity to see the Antarctic from above, enjoying the breathtaking views from helicopter flights, providing a unique perspective of the icy wilderness. Witnessing the pristine beauty of the Antarctic landscape where only a few hundred people have ever set foot. Along the way, you'll encounter diverse wildlife including southern fulmars, Arctic terns, AdÃ©lie penguins, chinstrap penguins and various seal species. The journey is filled with awe-inspiring scenery, tabular icebergs and vast ice sheets. This expedition is perfect for those seeking something a bit more than your typical Antarctic peninsula itinerary giving you a sense of how original explorers felt.

Itinerary

DAY 1: Arrive Ushuaia & Embarkation

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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Over the next two days on the Drake

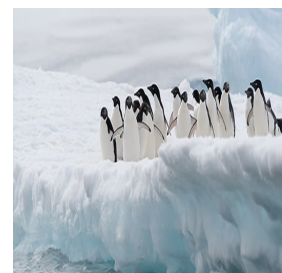
Passage, you enjoy some of the same
experiences encountered by the great polar

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: Exploring the Antarctic Peninsula -
Day 4 to 6

Following in the footsteps of the famous
Belgian explorer Adrien de Gerlache, we
hope to land at Auguste Island, which was
also the first landing site of the expedition
team aboard Belgica during their 1898
expedition. Another possible landing is
Hydrurga Rocks, a small group of islets
located east of the much larger Two
Hummock Island. Hydrurga Rocks offers a
chance to spot Adélie and chinstrap
penguins, as well as Weddell seals, leopard
seals, and southern elephant seals.
Occasionally, humpback whales and
Antarctic minke whales may also be seen in
the surrounding waters. As we continue
exploring the Antarctic Peninsula, heading
south, we may visit some of the following
locations: Charlotte Bay - where we hope to
make our first continental landing at Portal
Point. Cuverville Island - A small,
precipitous island nestled between the
mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula and
Rongé Island, Cuverville is home to a large
colony of gentoo penguins and breeding
pairs of brown skuas. Danco Island -
Activities here may focus on the gentoo
penguins nesting on the island, along with
the Weddell and crabeater seals that can be
found nearby.



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14/01/2027 Flandres Bay and Renard Island

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25 Days

Locations

Antarctic Peninsula & Antarctic Circle

Antarctic Peninsula & Antarctic Circle

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Crossing the Antarctic Circle, we arrive in the stunning area of Crystal Sound, where we hope to see a range of Antarctic wildlife

and witness the sheer scale of the Antarctic landscape, with its vast expanses of ice and towering mountains. If conditions allow, we will land on Detaille Island, a listed historic monument and former research station. The station remains as it was left, offering a rare glimpse into the early days of scientific research in Antarctica, set against breathtaking scenery. Pourquoi-Pas Island / Horseshoe Island A visit to one or both of these islands further deepens our appreciation of the pioneering expeditions of the past. Pourquoi-Pas Island, named by the famous explorer and scientist Jean-Baptiste Charcot, is often home to penguins and seals. It offers a hike ashore and the opportunity to see glaciers that shape the island's topography. Horseshoe Island is also home to an abandoned research base, where the "Mary Celeste"-like buildings provide an insight into a bygone era of scientific exploration. This was a site of pioneering research and long-distance expeditions using dog teams, and the remains of the kennels can still be seen. This island is a favorite among our staff and guests, offering breathtaking views of the vast landscapes and harsh conditions that once served as home for researchers. The landscape of Horseshoe Island never disappoints. Stonington Island A site of significant research activity from the 1930s to the 1970s, Stonington Island was home to both American and British research bases. It features a range of historic buildings and artifacts, telling the story of Antarctic exploration. Once connected to the Antarctic mainland by snow and ice, this sobering site now stands as a powerful reminder of Antarctica's remoteness and its delicate balance between human history and untamed wilderness. The wildlife, vast natural beauty, and man-made structures combine to make this an unforgettable place, sure to leave a lasting impression. Red Rock Ridge A landing site on the Antarctic mainland, Red Rock Ridge is visible from some distance, with its striking red-hued rocks standing out against the icy backdrop. If conditions are favorable, we will attempt a landing here. Adélie penguins have a breeding colony in the area, and we also hope to see seals and Antarctic shags, which nest nearby.

Locations

Antarctic Peninsula & Antarctic Circle



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25 Days Sailing southward through

Marguerite Bay

Locations

Antarctic Peninsula & Antarctic Circle

As the ship heads farther south, we will

keep a keen watch for the giants of the sea, as well as some lesser-seen wildlife, such as the elusive Ross seal. We are now entering a region of true exploration, where few have ventured before.



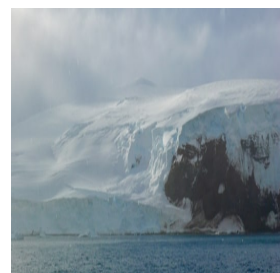
DAY 15: Exploring the Bellingshausen Sea -
Day 15 to 18

We hope to enter the Ronne Entrance, an area first recorded during the aerial flights of Lincoln Ellsworth and later charted by the British Graham Land Expedition. This remote region is rarely visited, and we will aim to land in one of the world's most isolated places, using either Zodiacs or helicopters. As ice and weather conditions can vary significantly, our Expedition Leader will determine the best options for activities in this area. Along Ellsworth Land, we will attempt to find a suitable landing site, either by Zodiac or helicopter. As always, this depends on weather conditions and will be decided by the Expedition Leader.



DAY 19: Peter I Island - Day 19 & 20

Known as Peter I Øy in Norwegian, this uninhabited volcanic island lies in the Bellingshausen Sea. It was discovered by Fabian von Bellingshausen in 1821 and named after Peter the Great of Russia. Though the island is claimed by Norway as its own territory, it is rarely visited by passenger vessels due to its remote and exposed nature. Landing here is challenging, but if weather and ice conditions permit, you may have the extraordinary opportunity to land via helicopter on the glaciated northern part of the island. This is a truly unique chance to set foot on one of the most remote islands in the world.



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Antarctica behind as we sail across the

Bellingshausen Sea and into the vast

Southern Ocean. As the ship pushes through

the Antarctic waters, our onboard experts

will continue to host engaging lectures,

covering topics such as the history of

Antarctic exploration and marine

ecosystems on this delicate environment.

Wildlife remains a constant companion as

we sail. Keep an eye out for wandering

albatrosses gliding effortlessly above the

waves, storm petrels skimming the water's

surface, and occasional sightings of

whales—including humpbacks and possibly

even blue whales—feasting in these

nutrient-rich waters. The vast Drake

Passage stretches before us, marking our

final stretch before reaching South America.

Over the following days on the Drake

Passage, you enjoy some of the same

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. Wandering

albatrosses, grey-headed albatrosses, black-

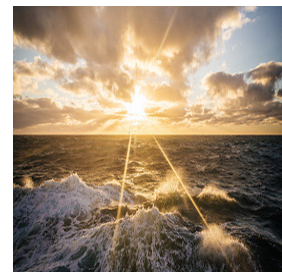
browed albatrosses, light-mantled sooty

albatrosses, cape pigeons, southern fulmars,

Wilson's storm petrels, blue petrels, and

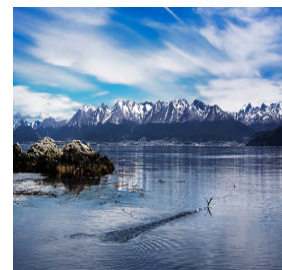
Antarctic petrels are a few of the birds you

might see.



DAY 25: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. It's now time to disembark in Ushuaia, reputed to be the southernmost town in the world, and return home with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.



Inclusions & Details

Accommodation

Cabin on board ship

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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.

Notes

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

Price Dependent upon

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

Sustainability