

Antarctica - Spirit of Antarctica 11 Days | Douglas Mawson

Trip Code

ACAEDMSA

Departure



Introduction

This classic Antarctic voyage captures the essence of traditional polar exploration, sailing to and from the continent across the legendary Drake Passage. Starting in Ushuaia, you'll journey south by sea, watching albatross and petrels glide effortlessly alongside the ship as anticipation builds with your first sighting of ice. The crossing becomes part of the adventure itself, setting the tone before you arrive among Antarctica's vast, frozen landscapes.

Once on the Antarctic Peninsula, your days are shaped by the elements, allowing for a flexible and immersive experience. Expect regular Zodiac cruises and shore landings that bring you right into the heart of it all, from penguin colonies and seal haul-outs to quiet bays where whales surface in icy waters. You might find yourself weaving through pack ice, stepping onto the continent, or even taking part in optional adventures like a polar plunge or overnight camping. With long daylight hours and constantly shifting scenery, each day unfolds a little differently, whether you're out exploring or simply taking it all in from the deck.

The return journey across the Drake Passage offers time to unwind, reflect and soak up the last moments at sea, with opportunities for wildlife spotting and onboard talks. Sailing back into Ushuaia via the Beagle Channel, the voyage comes full circle, leaving you with a genuine sense of having experienced Antarctica the way early explorers once did, by sea, up close and deeply memorable.

Itinerary

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Departure

12/12/2027 Ushuaia

Duration

11 Days Ushuaia, where you will be met by

a representative of Aurora Expeditions and

transferred with your fellow expeditioners

to your assigned pre-voyage hotel. If you are

already in Ushuaia, we ask you to make

your way to your hotel. Check-in is from

3.00 pm. This afternoon, visit the Aurora

Expeditions hospitality desk in the hotel

lobby, between 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm, to

collect your luggage tags, and confirm if you

wish to join our Lake Escondido pre-

embarkation tour tomorrow. Our team will

confirm details regarding your embarkation

day, answer any questions and provide you

with information on where to dine or

purchase last minute items. Expeditioners

arriving after 7.00 pm will find a welcome

pack waiting for them at check-in. We ask

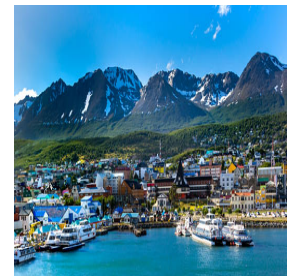
you to visit our hospitality desk tomorrow

between 8.00 am - 10.00 am. The remainder

of your time is at leisure. All meals today

are at your own expense. Assigned

accommodation: To be advised



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Duration

11 Days

Locations

Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula

Embarkation

at check-out. Your luggage will be stored

and transferred directly to the port for

clearance, to be placed in your cabin ahead

of your arrival on board. Please keep any

valuables or personal items with you

throughout the day. Those wishing to join

our Lake Escondido tour today, please meet

in the hotel lobby at 8.45 am. This tour

offers us an unforgettable panoramic drive

through big valleys of glacial origin,

evergreen and deciduous forests, waterfalls

and rivers, in the vastness of the Andes

Mountain Range. We will leave Ushuaia city

to the northeast of Tierra del Fuego, driving

through peat bog valleys to reach Garibaldi

Pass, only accessible by a winding road that

will take us to a panoramic point. From here

we will have amazing panoramic views of

Lake Escondido and, if weather conditions

allow, of Fagnano Lake. We will start our

descent towards the northeast to reach

Fagnano Lake's shore where we will visit a

local ranch. After appreciating the

landscape, you will have the chance to enjoy

the typical Fuegian Lamb barbecue. Enjoy

some free time there before returning to

Ushuaia for ship embarkation. Alternatively,

enjoy your day at leisure and meet at your

hotel lobby or from the meeting point at the

parking lot near the pier (details will be

given by our ground staff at the hotel), to be

transferred to the pier for embarkation.

Once onboard, you'll have time to settle into

your cabin before our important mandatory

briefings. As the ship pulls away from port,

we'll gather on the deck to commence our

adventure with spectacular views over

Ushuaia and Tierra del Fuego. This evening,

get to know your fellow expeditioners and

friendly expedition team and crew at a

welcome dinner to celebrate the start of a

thrilling adventure to Antarctica.



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Departure

12/12/2027 Drake Passage Crossing - Day 3 & 4

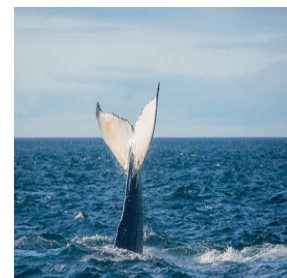
Duration

11 Days

As we commence the Drake Passage crossing, we make the most of our time getting comfortable with the motions of the sea. Our expedition team prepare you for our first landing with important wildlife guidelines and biosecurity procedures and start our lecture program to help you learn more about Antarctica's history, wildlife and environment. Our wildlife experiences begin as we enjoy watching and photographing the many seabirds, including majestic albatrosses and giant petrels following our vessel. On sea days, you may enjoy the facilities on board the vessel including the gym, wellness centre or the relaxing in one of the observation lounges. Nearing the South Shetland Islands and the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula on the afternoon of day four, the excitement is palpable with everyone converging on one of the observation decks watching for our first iceberg. The ocean takes on a whole new perspective once we are below the Antarctic Convergence and are surrounded by the surreal presence of floating ice sculptures. The memory of your first big iceberg sighting is likely to remain with you for a lifetime. Time and weather permitting, we may attempt our first landing in Antarctica by late afternoon.

Locations

Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula



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Departure

12/12/2027

Antarctic Peninsula - Day 5 to 8

Duration

11 Days

Locations

Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula

It is almost impossible to describe the feeling of arriving in Antarctica. Spotting your first iceberg and taking a deep breath of some of the most fresh, crisp air on earth is an experience that will stay with you forever. Once we arrive, the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands are ours to explore, and we have a host of choices available to us. Because we are so far south, we will experience approximately 18-24 hours of daylight and the days can be as busy as you wish. Your experienced expedition team, who have made countless journeys to this area, will use their expertise to design your voyage from day to day, choosing the best options based on the prevailing weather, ice conditions and wildlife opportunities. We generally make landings or Zodiac excursions twice a day. You will want to rug up before joining Zodiac cruises along spectacular ice cliffs or among grounded icebergs, keeping watch for whales, seals and porpoising penguins. Zodiacs will also transport you from the ship to land, where you can visit penguin rookeries, discover historic huts and explore some of our favourite spots along the peninsula. While ashore we aim to stretch our legs, wandering along pebbly beaches or perhaps up snow-covered ridgelines to vantage points with mountains towering overhead and ice-speckled oceans below. If you have chosen an optional activity, you will have the option to do participate in the activity whenever conditions allow, and of course keen polar plungers will have the chance to fully immerse themselves in polar waters - conditions permitting! The polar plunge can take place at any time during the voyage, so listen out for the announcement from the expedition team and get ready for the most exhilarating dip of your life! In addition to Zodiac cruises and shore excursions, we may ship cruise some of the narrow, dramatic straits separating offshore islands from the mainland, or linger in scenic bays to watch whales travelling or feeding. This is a great time to enjoy the observation lounge or make your way to the bridge (open at the captain's discretion) for uninterrupted views of Antarctica in all its splendour. Listen out for the creak and deep rumble of glaciers as they carve into sea. Take a quiet moment to experience the wonder of the pristine paradise of the splendid white continent.



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Departure

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Duration

11 Days - Drake Passage Crossing - Day 9 &

10

Locations

Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula

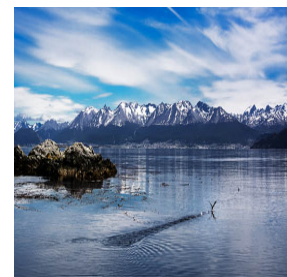
Enjoy a final morning landing in the South Shetland Islands before we re-enter the Drake Passage for our return journey to South America. With lectures and film presentations to complete our Antarctic experience, there is still plenty of time to enjoy the magic of the Southern Ocean and the life that calls it home. There is time for reflection and discussion about what we have seen and experienced. We hope you become ambassadors for Antarctica telling your family, friends and colleagues about your journey to this magical place, advocating for its conservation and preservation so that they might one day visit the region to experience what you have been lucky to see and do here. As we approach the tip of South America, our Captain may sail close to legendary Cape Horn, weather and time permitting.



DAY 11: Disembarkation

During the early morning, we cruise up the Beagle Channel, before quietly slipping into dock in Ushuaia, where we will be free to disembark around 8.00 am. Farewell your expedition team and fellow passengers as we all continue our onward journeys, hopefully with a newfound sense of the immense power of nature. Upon disembarkation, for those continuing their travels in the region, transportation to the hotel will be arranged exclusively for guests who have booked their accommodations through Aurora or for those staying in downtown areas near the port.

Expeditioners departing on flights prior to 12:30 pm will be directly transferred to Ushuaia Airport, those with flights after 12:30 pm will have the opportunity to explore Ushuaia before an afternoon airport transfer, and the transfer procedures and details will be communicated onboard before disembarkation. Note: At the conclusion of the voyage, we do not recommend booking flights departing Ushuaia prior to 12.00 pm on the day of disembarkation in case there are delays.



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Duration & Details

11 Days
Accommodation Hotel & Cabin on board a ship

Locations
Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula

INCLUSIONS

- All airport transfers mentioned in the itinerary.
- One night's hotel accommodation including breakfast, in Ushuaia on Day 1.
- Lake Escondido tour in Ushuaia on Day 2, prior to embarkation.
- Onboard accommodation during voyage, including daily cabin service.
- All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage.
- Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner.
- Captain's Farewell reception including four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages. All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises.
- Educational lectures and guiding services provided by Expedition Team.
- One 3-in-1 waterproof, polar expedition jacket.
- Complimentary use of Muck Boots during the voyage.
- Comprehensive pre-departure information.
- Port surcharges, permits and landing fees.
- Wi-Fi (Please note we travel to remote regions and therefore the connection can be unreliable)

Inclusions

EXCLUSIONS

- International or domestic flights, unless specified
- Transfers not mentioned in the itinerary
- Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)
- Airport arrival or departure taxes
- Travel insurance
- Hotels and meals not included in itinerary
- Optional excursions not included in the itinerary
- Optional activity surcharges
- All items of a personal nature, including but not limited to alcoholic beverages and soft drinks (outside of dinner service), laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, wi-fi, email or phone charges.
- Gratuities for ship's crew - *(A \$15 USD per person per day gratuity for the crew is automatically added to your onboard account. It is at your discretion if you would like to remove the tip (or adjust the amount) when you settle your bill. It is not necessary to tip the expedition team members. This gratuity amount is included for suites as part of their 'Suite Benefits'.)*

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request. Single occupancy cabins may be available with a surcharge. Subject to availability, contact us for more details.

Notes

Prices are based on per person, twin share (unless otherwise stated for triple/quad cabins)
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