

ANTARCTICA - ANTARCTIC PENINSULA & THE EXTREME WEDDELL SEA | OCEAN ALBATROS



TRIP CODE

ACABAAWS

DEPARTURE

12/01/2026

DURATION

12 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula, Weddell Sea

INTRODUCTION

Set sail on a 12-day journey to the Weddell Sea and Antarctica aboard the **Ocean Albatros**. Departing from Ushuaia, Argentina, you'll cross the Drake Passage to explore the South Shetland Islands and the Gerlache Strait, where ice cliffs and peaks rise from the frigid waters. Experience the beauty and diverse wildlife of Antarctica through daily excursions and Zodiac landings offering close-up views of penguin rookeries, research stations, and historical sites. Our expert guides and unique X-Bow vessel design ensure a stable, immersive journey through this breathtaking and icebound wilderness. This journey once proved too difficult for numerous early Antarctic expeditions that now offers guests the trip of a lifetime.



ITINERARY

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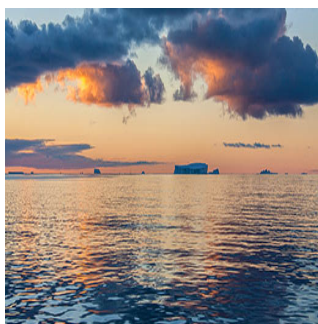
DAY 1: Arrive Ushuaia & Embarkation

Arrive in Ushuaia, Argentina - the world's southernmost city. Explore this vibrant Patagonian city, or stretch your legs in the surrounding forests. Alternatively, consider a day trip off the beaten path into the raw nature of Tierra del Fuego. The island of Tierra del Fuego is a hiker's paradise with rugged snow-capped mountains, glaciers, flower-filled meadows and rich boggy wetlands. In the afternoon, we board our vessel, waiting to welcome us in port. After our mandatory safety drill, our expedition begins as we navigate through the calm waters of the famous Beagle Channel (named for Charles Darwin's ship). This steep-sided strait divides southern Tierra del Fuego between Chile and Argentina, and has been the jumping-off point for thousands of expeditions into the unknown. Watch out for whales and dolphins as we sail off the edge of the map into the tempestuous Drake Passage.



DAY 2: Crossing the Drake Passage - Day 2 & 3

As we sail through the renowned Drake Passage, linking Patagonia to the Antarctic Peninsula, brace yourself for its notoriously turbulent waters and fierce westerly winds, aptly called the Roaring Fifties. Thankfully, our purpose-built expedition vessels ensure a comfortable journey, with their uniquely stable X-Bow and powerful engines, guided by an expert crew. Embrace this exciting crossing, considered a badge of honour by seasoned sailors, as you traverse it twice during our expedition. In the Drake Passage, our focus turns to preparing for our arrival in Antarctica. Your Expedition Leader will provide thorough safety briefings and guidelines to minimise our impact on this pristine environment. Our dedicated Expedition Team will assist in biosecuring your gear while offering tailored lectures on Antarctic exploration, wildlife, and more. On the third day, we'll cross the Antarctic Convergence, marked by a sudden drop in temperature as warmer currents give way to Antarctic waters. This transition fosters a surge in marine life, promising sightings of petrels, albatrosses, and possibly even penguins, seals, and whales. Weather permitting, we aim to land on the South Shetland Islands on the afternoon of the third day of our expedition, starting our exploration of the Last Continent.



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DAY 4: The Antarctic Sound & Weddell Sea - Day 4 to 6

In the forthcoming days, our expedition ventures into the captivating region at the northeastern tip of the continent, the Antarctic Sound, gateway to the Weddell Sea. This region is confusingly named after the Swedish vessel Antarctic which first sailed the area in 1902. Despite its northern location, the Antarctic Sound experiences harsh cold conditions due to winds and currents from the Weddell Sea. This area boasts some of Antarctica's most striking scenery, from the vast Adelie Penguin colonies at Hope Bay and Devil's Island, to the dramatic volcanic cliffss at Brown Bluff. Continuing southward into the Weddell Sea, named after early British Antarctic explorer James Weddell, we encounter immense tabular icebergs and the expansive icepack which nurtures Antarctic krill, the foundation of the food chain. The presence of krill attracts a diverse array of wildlife, including penguins, seals, seabirds, and humpback whales, all of which we hope to see while exploring this icy wilderness. Navigation through the Weddell Sea presents challenges due to substantial sea ice and massive icebergs. Our experienced Captain and Expedition Leader adapt plans to ensure safe exploration, seizing opportunities to delve into this remote and rarely visited wilderness. We will aim to come ashore at sites which showcase the majesty of the Antarctic environment and ecosystem, as well as exploring on Zodiac cruises. Embrace the wonder of this journey into the unknown, exploring a region few have had the privilege to witness.



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DAY 7: The Antarctic Peninsula - Day 7 & 8

In the days ahead, we venture further west along the Antarctic Peninsula into the Gerlache Strait region. This icy expanse requires meticulous planning by our Expedition Leader and Captain, who will plot a route to explore a variety of sites highlighting the area's staggering natural beauty. The Gerlache Strait, consisting of the 'spine' of the Antarctic Peninsula and a large number of mountainous glaciated islands, offers a plethora of iconic Antarctic experiences. From Zodiac cruises in Paradise Bay, to witnessing penguins nesting on Cuverville Island, each potential stop promises awe-inspiring encounters. Explore historic huts at Damoy Point, witness humpback whales in Wilhelmina Bay, and marvel at the jaw-dropping scenery of the Lemaire Channel. Wherever we go on the Antarctic Peninsula, endemic wildlife, tantalising history and breathtaking natural beauty abound. While our exact destinations will depend on weather and ice conditions, your Expedition Leader will ensure guests are informed of our plans through nightly briefings. In the ever-changing Antarctic environment, flexibility is key as we adapt plans to suit the conditions while offering enriching onboard experiences such as lectures, recaps, wine-tasting, and spa treatments.



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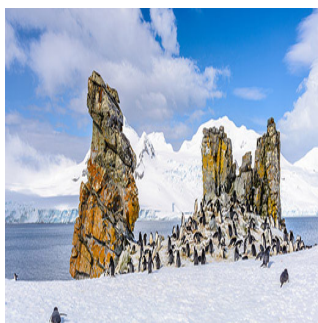
LOCATIONS

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DAY 9: South Shetland Islands

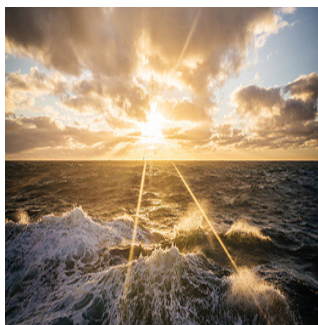
Our Antarctic odyssey culminates amidst the rugged beauty of the South Shetland Islands. This archipelago represents the northernmost tip of Antarctica, standing proud against the relentless force of the Southern Ocean. Despite the furious elements, the islands boast a remarkable richness of wildlife, with numerous colonies of Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins dotting the island shores, accompanied by an array of formidable seabirds like the predatory Giant Petrels. The ice-capped peaks of Livingstone, Greenwich, and King George Islands offer a stunning backdrop to explore. Experience the eerie landscape of Deception Island, an active volcanic crater with black steaming sands and rusting ruins, or witness the bustling penguin colonies on Aitcho and Half Moon Islands, or immerse yourself in the history of Yankee Harbour, once a vital anchorage for sealers. As we bid farewell to the South Shetland Islands, we carry with us memories of their stark beauty and abundant wildlife, a fitting conclusion to our extraordinary Antarctic expedition.



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DAY 10: Crossing the Drake Passage Northbound - Day 10 & 1

We eventually depart Antarctica, and spend two days at sea on our way northwards back across the infamous Drake Passage, heading towards the more welcoming shores of the Beagle Channel and Ushuaia, Argentina. During our time at sea, a variety of activities will be arranged on board to provide our guests with the chance to reflect on their voyage. Relax with an expertly crafted cocktail in the Nordic Bar in the company of new friends, soak up the knowledge and passion of our Expedition Team during lectures in the Shackleton Lounge, or simply enjoy the flight of the albatross which accompany us northwards. During your last evening onboard, join the Captain and Officers for the Farewell Cocktail Party, followed by a presentation of photos and video by our onboard photographer - the ideal opportunity to re-live your Antarctic adventure. Skål!



DAY 12: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

On the morning of the final day of our voyage, we will arrive back at the pier of Ushuaia, Argentina. Trees, grass and a bustling city may seem strange to you after the white wilderness of Antarctica! After a hearty breakfast, it is time to bid a fond farewell to the crew and Expedition Team, and descend the gangway back to dry land with memories of the voyage of a lifetime. *Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors. **Camping and snowshoeing excursions are not available during the trip.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin on board a ship

Inclusions	<h3>INCLUSIONS</h3> <p> Stateroom accommodation on board during your voyage Embarkation shuttle transfer to the vessel from Ushuaia city centre Shuttle transfer after disembarkation from the ship to Ushuaia city centre or airport All Zodiac excursions, as per itinerary, guided by our Expedition Team Expedition parka Rubber boots loan scheme Briefings and lectures by our Expedition Leader and Team English-speaking Expedition Team Full board on the ship - breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks *Complimentary house wine, beer and soda at dinner (selected labels and brands, served at our a-la-carte dinners) 500MB WiFi card for use on your personal devices Free tea and coffee available 24 hours Taxes and landing fees Special photo workshops Welcome and Farewell Cocktail Parties Digital visual journal link distributed after the voyage, including voyage log, gallery, species list and more! </p> <h3>EXCLUSIONS</h3> <p> International or internal flights Extra excursions and optional activities not mentioned in the itinerary Single room supplement upgrades Meals not on board the ship Beverages (other than coffee and tea) Tips for the crew (we recommend USD 16 per person per day) Personal expenses (e.g. Albatros Polar Spa services, Albatros Ocean Boutique purchases) Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac landings and excursions Laundry, bar, and other personal charges, unless specified Travel and medical insurance (compulsory) Pre or post cruise travel expenses Visa (if applicable) and passport fees Fuel surcharge may be applied to all bookings Anything not mentioned under 'Inclusions' </p>
	<p>Difficulty Rating</p> <p>2 (light adventure)</p>
	<p>Single Surcharge</p> <p>Available on request with additional Single Supplement. Subject to Availability. Contact Us for more details.</p>

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Notes	<p>Prices are based on per person, and may be based off twin share cabins* (please contact us for more details)</p> <p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.</p> <p>Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.</p> <p>* Camping and snowshoeing excursions are not available during this departure.</p>
Price Dependent upon	<p>Departure Date, Fuel Surcharges, Cabin Category, Currency Fluctuations, Seasonality & Availability.</p>

SUSTAINABILITY

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