

ANTARCTICA - QUEST FOR THE CIRCLE | OCEAN ALBATROS




INTRODUCTION

Traversing the Antarctic Circle, the last frontier of Earth! We leave Ushuaia, the southernmost city in Argentina, and travel south across the formidable Drake Passage. We will travel farther south from the South Shetland Islands into the Antarctic Peninsula's inlets and bays before crossing the well-known Gerlache Strait, which is home to towering peaks and glittering ice cliffs that rise straight out of the freezing ocean. This exquisitely stunning extraterrestrial terrain is characterized by icebergs, glaciers, mountains, and untamed snowfields. Our knowledgeable Captain and Expedition Leader will put out great effort to maximize the chances for White Continent exploration. We will make Zodiac landings to allow guests to set foot on land and experience penguin rookeries, breathtaking landscapes, and historical sites; however, wind, sea, and ice conditions will determine the precise locations we visit. Additionally, we aim to Zodiac cruise in scenic areas filled with enormous icebergs, whales, and seals. Our days will be spent exploring the area outside the ship, and our experienced onboard Expedition Team will be available to assist you at every turn to make the most out of your time on land, in addition to providing a variety of carefully designed lectures to improve your unparalleled expedition experience.

We journey further south from the Peninsula's "mainland," hoping to reach the Antarctic Circle at 66°33' South—a destination that has evaded many of the great and ambitious explorers of the past. Observe the sun as it travels around your ship, never truly setting in this far north. The greatest places to see the finest of Antarctica are always our goal, but our precise departure time from the Antarctic Circle will depend on the weather and ice conditions. Stunning views and landscapes are certain, no matter where Mother Nature leads us! You will get two more days to explore than on our Classic Antarctic cruises, giving you even more opportunity to take in the White Continent's majesty.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE
ACABSQFC
DEPARTURE
28/02/2026
DURATION
12 Days
LOCATIONS
Antarctic Circle & Peninsula


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DAY 1: Arrival & Embarkation in Ushuaia


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 - Days 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: Antarctic Peninsula & Circle - Days 4 to 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. During our time on the Antarctic Peninsula, we will delve southwards, seeking the Antarctic Circle. The exact timing of crossing the Circle depends on wind, sea and ice conditions, and will be determined by the Captain and Expedition Leader. However, crossing the Antarctic Circle, the ultimate bucket list tick, is the main goal of this thrilling expedition! 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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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.



DAY 10: Crossing the Drake Passage - Days 10 & 11

We eventually depart Antarctica, and spend two days at sea on our way northwards back across the infamous Drake Passage 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!



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DAY 12: Ushuaia Disembarkation

On the morning of the final day of our voyage, we will arrive back at the pier of Ushuaia, Argentina. Trees, grass and a busy 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.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin on board ship

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Inclusions	<h2>INCLUSIONS</h2> <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) Free tea and coffee available 24 hours 500MB WiFi card for use on your personal devices 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> <h2>EXCLUSIONS</h2> <p> International or internal flights Extra excursions and optional activities not mentioned in the itinerary Single room supplement and stateroom 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. Polar Spa services, 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>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available on request. No single supplement if willing to share (select cabins only). Contact Us for more details.

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Notes	<p>Prices are based on per person, and may be based off quad/triple/ or 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>
Price Dependent upon	<p>Departure Date, Fuel Surcharges, Cabin Category, Currency Fluctuations, Seasonality & Availability.</p>

SUSTAINABILITY

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