



12D/11N ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION:

BUENOS AIRES, USHUAIA &
DRAKE PASSAGE





ITINERARY

DAY BY DAY



This extraordinary 12-day journey blends the cultural charm of Buenos Aires with an unforgettable expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands aboard the Ushuaia. From tango-filled streets to untouched polar wilderness, each day presents a new world of adventure. Sail through legendary waterways, encounter remarkable wildlife, and witness landscapes sculpted by ice and time, all while enjoying guided experiences designed to immerse you fully in the spirit of exploration. Overnight at Pleno Palermo Soho Hotel.

DAY 1 – ARRIVAL IN BUENOS AIRES (MARCH 25, 2026)

After landing in Buenos Aires, you are greeted by an English-speaking guide and transferred to your hotel in the vibrant Palermo Soho district. Once settled in, the city opens up before you with its elegant European influences, lively cafés, and spirited porteño culture. You may stroll through its grand avenues, admire historic architecture, or experience Argentina's iconic tango scene. This first day allows you to ease into your journey, soaking up the city's energy while preparing for the adventures to come.

DAY 2 – BUENOS AIRES TO USHUAIA & EMBARKATION (MARCH 26, 2026)

Begin your morning with a relaxed breakfast before meeting your guide for a smooth transfer to the airport. After your flight to Ushuaia, you make your own way to your pre-arranged hotel and have time to acquaint yourself with the world's southernmost city. Ushuaia's rugged surroundings invite exploration, whether wandering forest trails or admiring dramatic snow-capped peaks. In the afternoon, you board the Ushuaia, meet the expedition team, and begin sailing through the iconic Beagle Channel and scenic Mackinlay Pass, setting the tone for your Antarctic voyage.

DAY 3-4 – DRAKE PASSAGE CROSSING (MARCH 27-28, 2026)

These two days are spent crossing the legendary Drake Passage, where the Antarctic Convergence fuels a thriving marine ecosystem. You'll spend ample time on deck with expert lecturers identifying seabirds such as albatrosses and petrels that glide effortlessly alongside the ship. The open-bridge policy welcomes you to observe navigation and keep watch for whales breaking the surface. As icebergs appear and distant white peaks emerge, you sense your arrival in Antarctica's realm. Conditions permitting, your first shore encounters with penguins and seals await as you reach the South Shetland Islands.

DAY 5-8 – ANTARCTIC PENINSULA & SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS (MARCH 29 – APRIL 1, 2026)

Your days in **Antarctica** unfold in a breathtaking sequence of landings, zodiac explorations, and wildlife encounters. The South Shetland Islands greet you with vast penguin colonies and beaches dotted with elephant seals and fur seals. Navigate through the dramatic caldera of Deception Island or visit King George and Livingston Islands, home to Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins and multiple research bases. As you venture deeper along the Antarctic Peninsula, towering glaciers, rugged mountains, and iceberg-laden bays dominate the scenery. Channels like Gerlache, Neumayer, and Lemaire reveal some of the region's most photogenic landscapes. Expect to see Weddell, crabeater, and leopard seals as well as frequent whale sightings. Weather and ice conditions shape each day's landings, which may include iconic sites such as Paradise Bay, Paulet Island, Neko Harbour, Cuverville Island, or Petermann Island.

DAY 9-10 – NORTHBOUND DRAKE PASSAGE (APRIL 2-3, 2026)

As the ship heads north, the ocean offers one final opportunity to observe seabirds and marine life with the guidance of naturalists and lecturers. Enjoy reflective time as you review the remarkable experiences of the Antarctic wilderness, attend engaging presentations, and take in the expansive sea views. This is a peaceful transition from polar silence back toward the world you left behind.

DAY 11 – RETURN TO USHUAIA & BUENOS AIRES (APRIL 4, 2026)

Arriving in Ushuaia in the early morning, you disembark and make your own way to the airport for your flight back to Buenos Aires. Upon arrival, an English-speaking guide greets you and provides a smooth transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day allows time to relax, unwind, and reminisce about your expedition as you settle back into the rhythm of city life.

DAY 12 – DEPARTURE (APRIL 5, 2026)

After breakfast, you are met by your guide for a seamless transfer to the international airport. Whether heading home or continuing onward, this marks the close of your memorable journey from the vibrant streets of Buenos Aires to the pristine wilderness of Antarctica.



RATES

From \$7,460.00
per person



Includes

- Voyage aboard the indicated vessel as indicated in the itinerary.
- Comprehensive pre-departure material.



Not Includes

- Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights
- Pre- and post- land arrangements.
- Passport and visa expenses.
- Government arrival and departure taxes.
- Meals ashore.
- Baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (which is strongly recommended).
- Excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and telecommunication charges.
- The customary gratuity at the end of the voyages for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided).

Hotels:

Buenos Aires: Pleno Palermo Soho Hotel

Cruises:

Ushuaia: Aboard The Ushuaia

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sail aboard the Ushuaia through the Beagle Channel, Drake Passage, and famed Antarctic waterways.
- Encounter diverse wildlife including penguins, seals, and whales in their natural habitats.
- Explore iconic Antarctic locations such as Deception Island, Paradise Bay, and the Antarctic Sound.
- Experience the unique culture and charm of Buenos Aires before and after your polar voyage.
- Participate in expert-led lectures and guided wildlife spotting sessions throughout the expedition.

TRAVEL TIPS

- Plan buffer time before and after your international flights to account for potential weather-related delays.
- Bring layered, moisture-wicking clothing to adapt to both warm indoor areas and cold outdoor conditions.
- Keep your camera batteries charged and extra memory cards ready, as cold temperatures can drain batteries quickly and the photo opportunities are endless.

WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

Expect rapidly changing weather, especially in Antarctica, where conditions can shift from calm to windy within minutes. Temperatures may feel colder due to windchill, even during the austral summer. Waterproof outer layers, insulated gloves, thermal base layers, and UV-protective sunglasses are essential. In Buenos Aires, early autumn brings mild days and cooler evenings, so light layers work best.

Fitness Requirements

Travelers should be comfortable walking on uneven terrain, snow, and occasional icy surfaces during landings. Zodiac embarkations require moderate mobility and stability. While no advanced fitness level is required, a general ability to walk for extended periods and climb short gangways will enhance your enjoyment and safety during the expedition.

FAQS

1. How rough is the Drake Passage?

The Drake Passage is known for variable conditions. Some crossings are calm, while others can be more dynamic. Expedition experts monitor weather patterns to ensure safety and comfort throughout the journey.

2. Will we make landings every day in Antarctica?

Weather and ice conditions determine landing opportunities. The goal is often two landings per day, but flexibility is essential as the environment dictates the final itinerary.

3. What wildlife can I expect to see?

Common sightings include Gentoo, Chinstrap, and Adélie penguins; Weddell, leopard, and crabeater seals; humpback, minke, and occasionally orca whales; plus a variety of seabirds such as albatrosses and petrels.



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