



12D/11N ULTIMATE ANTARCTICA ADVENTURE:

SAIL THE DRAKE PASSAGE
FROM USHUAIA



ITINERARY

DAY BY DAY



This remarkable 12-day expedition blends the cosmopolitan elegance of Buenos Aires with a thrilling voyage aboard the **Ocean Albatros** to the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands. Journey through storied waterways, cross the fabled Drake Passage, and explore the icy frontier of the Last Continent while accompanied by expert guides and naturalists. Each day offers new discoveries, from wildlife encounters to towering glaciers, culminating in an unforgettable polar adventure framed by the vibrant culture of Argentina's capital.

DAY 1 – ARRIVAL IN BUENOS AIRES (FEBRUARY 18, 2026)

Your adventure begins with a warm welcome in Buenos Aires as an English-speaking guide meets you at the airport and escorts you to your hotel in the stylish Palermo Soho district. Once you've settled in, the city invites you to explore its European-inspired architecture, bustling cafés, and rich cultural tapestry. You may wander through historic neighborhoods, enjoy a tango show, or savor traditional Argentine cuisine. This first day allows you to relax and immerse yourself in the spirited atmosphere of Argentina before your expedition south. Overnight at Pleno Palermo Soho Hotel.

DAY 2 – BUENOS AIRES TO USHUAIA & EMBARKATION (FEBRUARY 19, 2026)

After breakfast, your guide accompanies you to the airport for your flight to Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city. Upon arrival, you make your own way to your arranged lodging and have time to explore this unique corner of Patagonia. Options include walking forested trails, discovering local museums, or venturing into the wild beauty of Tierra del Fuego. In the afternoon, you head independently to the port to board the Ocean Albatros. After a mandatory safety drill, the ship sets sail through the Beagle Channel, an iconic passage steeped in exploration history. As you navigate its scenic waters, keep watch for whales, dolphins, and seabirds as the journey toward the Drake Passage begins.

DAY 3–4 – DRAKE PASSAGE SOUTHBOUND (FEBRUARY 20–21, 2026)

Over the next two days, the ship travels through the legendary Drake Passage, known for its powerful winds and dynamic seas. The Ocean Albatros is designed for these conditions, equipped with stabilizers and a skilled crew to ensure a comfortable crossing. As you head further south, your Expedition Leader provides detailed briefings on safety, environmental protection, and upcoming exploration plans. The Expedition Team also guides you through biosecurity procedures and delivers engaging lectures on Antarctic wildlife, history, geology, and glaciology. Crossing the Antarctic Convergence brings a noticeable drop in temperature and an increase in wildlife activity, albatrosses, petrels, seals, and whales may all appear. Weather permitting, you may enjoy an early landing in the South Shetland Islands, offering a preview of the wonders to come.

DAY 5–8 – SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS & ANTARCTIC PENINSULA (FEBRUARY 22–25, 2026)

Your **Antarctic** exploration begins in the South Shetland Islands, a dramatic volcanic archipelago known for its rugged cliffs, abundant wildlife, and raw natural beauty. Over the following days, you continue south to the Antarctic Peninsula, where towering icebergs, pristine bays, and glacier-draped mountains define the landscape. Each day features Zodiac excursions and landings designed to immerse you in this pristine wilderness. You may observe penguin colonies—Gentoo, Chinstrap, and possibly Adélie, along with seals resting on ice floes and whales feeding in the nutrient-rich waters. Guided by expert naturalists, you learn about the region's ecosystem, history, and exploration heritage while savoring some of the planet's most striking scenery. Specific landing sites depend on weather and ice conditions, ensuring every day is unique and shaped by the spirit of true expedition travel.

DAY 9–10 – DRAKE PASSAGE NORTHBOUND (FEBRUARY 26–27, 2026)

Leaving Antarctica behind, the ship heads north across the Drake Passage toward Ushuaia. These days at sea offer time to unwind, socialize, and reflect on your polar adventures. Enjoy crafted cocktails in the Nordic Bar, attend lectures in the Shackleton Lounge, or simply admire seabirds gliding effortlessly alongside the ship. As the voyage nears its end, the Captain hosts a Farewell Cocktail Party, followed by a presentation of photos and videos created by the onboard photographer, an ideal way to relive the highlights of your unforgettable journey.

DAY 11 – RETURN TO USHUAIA & BUENOS AIRES (FEBRUARY 28, 2026)

Upon arrival at the Ushuaia pier, you step ashore after breakfast and bid farewell to the ship's crew and expedition staff. After days surrounded by ice and silence, the return to greenery and city sounds feels almost surreal. You then make your own way to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires. An English-speaking guide welcomes you upon arrival and provides a smooth transfer to your hotel, giving you the rest of the day to relax and reflect on your remarkable Antarctic experience.

DAY 12 – DEPARTURE (MARCH 1, 2026)

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before meeting your guide for a comfortable transfer to the international airport. Whether continuing onward or returning home, this final day concludes an extraordinary journey that has taken you from the cultural heart of Argentina to the frozen frontier of the Southern Ocean.



RATES

From \$8,900.00
per person



Includes

- 10-day cruise with shared double stateroom and private bathroom
- Shuttle transfers between Ushuaia city center/airport and the vessel
- All Zodiac excursions and landings guided by the Expedition Team
- Expedition parka and loaned rubber boots
- Daily briefings and lectures by the English-speaking Expedition Team
- Full board onboard: all meals, snacks, 24/7 tea and coffee
- House wine, beer, and soft drinks included with à-la-carte dinners
- Taxes and landing fees covered
- Welcome and Farewell Cocktail Parties
- Digital post-voyage visual journal with logs, photos, and species lists



Not Includes

- Extra excursions and 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. Albatros Polar Spa services, Albatros Ocean Boutique purchases)
- Anything not mentioned under 'Inclusions'

Hotels:

Buenos Aires: Pleno Palermo Soho Hotel

Cruises:

Ushuaia: Aboard **Ocean Albatros**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Expedition voyage aboard the Ocean Albatros exploring the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands.
- Scenic navigation through the legendary Beagle Channel, framed by mountains and rich marine life.
- Comprehensive lectures and wildlife encounters, from penguins to whales and soaring seabirds.
- Immersive Zodiac landings and guided excursions in one of the world's most remote ecosystems.
- Cultural and urban immersion in Buenos Aires before and after your polar journey.

TRAVEL TIPS

- Keep essential items in your carry-on, including medications and a warm layer, in case of flight delays.
- Use waterproof dry bags for electronics and personal items during Zodiac excursions.
- Carry a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated onboard and during land-based activities.

WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

Expect variable and rapidly shifting weather conditions in Antarctica, with temperatures that feel significantly colder due to windchill. Pack insulating layers, waterproof pants and jackets, and warm accessories such as hats, scarves, and gloves. Buenos Aires in February is warm and humid, so lightweight breathable clothing is ideal for your time in the city.

Fitness Requirements

This journey requires moderate mobility for embarking and disembarking Zodiacs, walking on snowy or uneven terrain, and navigating ship gangways. Good balance and stability will enhance your comfort during landings and excursions, though no advanced fitness level is required.

FAQS

1. What is the Drake Passage like?

The Drake Passage is known for its unpredictable conditions, which can range from calm seas to more pronounced swells. The Ocean Albatros is designed for stability, and the expedition team monitors conditions to ensure a safe and manageable crossing.

2. How are landing sites chosen in Antarctica?

Daily plans depend on weather, ice conditions, and wildlife activity. The Expedition Leader selects landing sites that offer the best combination of safety, scenic beauty, and wildlife observation.

3. Will I see wildlife up close?

Antarctica offers exceptional wildlife viewing opportunities. You may encounter penguins, seals, whales, and a variety of seabirds. Distances are regulated to minimize impact, but animals often approach out of curiosity.



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