



15D/14N HONDIUS ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION:

CLASSIC DRAKE PASSAGE
CRUISE FROM USHUAIA





ITINERARY

DAY BY DAY



This 15-day adventure combines the remote beauty of **Antarctica** with the comfort and exploration-focused design of the Hondius. Starting and ending with quality stays in Ushuaia and Buenos Aires, this Basecamp itinerary immerses you in the dramatic landscapes of the Antarctic Peninsula, offering opportunities for diverse activities such as snowshoeing, kayaking, and mountaineering. Each day reveals new wildlife, towering ice formations, and pristine wilderness, making this an unforgettable expedition to the world's last great frontier.

DAY 1 – ARRIVE IN BUENOS AIRES (NOVEMBER 22, 2026)

Your adventure begins as you land in Buenos Aires, **Argentina**, on your independently arranged flight. Upon arrival, an English-speaking guide will warmly welcome you and provide a smooth, comfortable transfer to your hotel. Once settled, you can begin discovering this vibrant capital known for its European elegance and Latin American soul. Wander through its iconic neighborhoods, admire grand avenues, or perhaps enjoy an authentic tango show. Savoring a perfectly grilled Argentine steak is the ideal way to toast the beginning of your journey. Overnight at Pleno Palermo Soho Hotel.

DAY 2 – END OF THE WORLD DEPARTURE (NOVEMBER 23, 2026)

After breakfast, you enjoy a guided transfer to the airport for your independently booked flight to Ushuaia. Once you arrive and reach your pre-arranged hotel, you have time to discover the city's blend of forested trails, dramatic coastal views, and Patagonian charm. In the afternoon, you embark on the Hondius and begin sailing along the Beagle Channel. This serene and scenic passage sets the tone for your voyage, offering glimpses of marine wildlife and snow-covered peaks as you head toward open waters and the southern horizon.

DAY 3-4 – CROSSING THE DRAKE PASSAGE (NOVEMBER 24-25, 2026)

Your crossing of the Drake Passage brings you into the realm of the early polar explorers. Expect rolling seas, powerful winds, and abundant birdlife gliding overhead. Once you pass the Antarctic Convergence, the environment changes noticeably, colder waters, increased marine activity, and new species of seabirds such as albatrosses, petrels, and fulmars. These days are also enriched with educational briefings and wildlife observations, preparing you for the wonders ahead. The raw beauty of the open ocean becomes a memorable prelude to your arrival on the Antarctic Peninsula.

DAY 5-11 – ANTARCTIC PENINSULA EXPLORATION (NOVEMBER 26 – DECEMBER 2, 2026)

Your Basecamp days begin as you reach the heart of the Antarctic Peninsula, a landscape defined by towering glaciers, dramatic mountains, and vivid blue ice. Sailing past the Melchior Islands and Schollaert Channel, you enter regions suited for a wide range of activities.

Potential exploration areas include:

- **Neumayer Channel & Wiencke Island:** A prime location for Basecamp activities. Weather permitting, you may enjoy kayaking, Zodiac cruising, snowshoeing, or soft-climb mountaineering in a spectacular alpine environment.
- **Port Lockroy:** This historic British research station and museum offers a glimpse into the past. Nearby Jougla Point hosts gentoo penguins and blue-eyed shags, while Damoy Point may offer snowshoeing opportunities and scenic viewpoints.
- **Pléneau & Petermann Islands:** Often reached by sailing through the stunning Lemaire Channel. Wildlife highlights include Adélie penguins, humpback and minke whales, and leopard seals. Kayaking, glacier walks, and mountaineering may be possible here.
- **Neko Harbour:** Known for immense glaciers and dramatic mountain backdrops. Zodiac cruising and shore landings allow you to experience ice cliffs and penguin activity up close.
- **Paradise Bay:** A breathtaking setting where you may have the chance to camp overnight, experiencing Antarctica with the spirit of early explorers.
- **Errera Channel:** Possible landings on Danco Island, Cuverville Island, Orne Island, or Georges Point, each offering rich wildlife encounters and iconic views.

Throughout these days, the Expedition Team ensures safety while maximizing exploration opportunities. Evening briefings recap the day's activities and outline flexible plans for the next. As the Basecamp concept provides multiple activity options, each guest can tailor their experience, from gentle walks to more adventurous outings. On the final day near shore, you may explore Half Moon Island or search for whales in Dallmann Bay before turning north toward open sea.

DAY 12–13 – RETURN VIA DRAKE PASSAGE (DECEMBER 3–4, 2026)

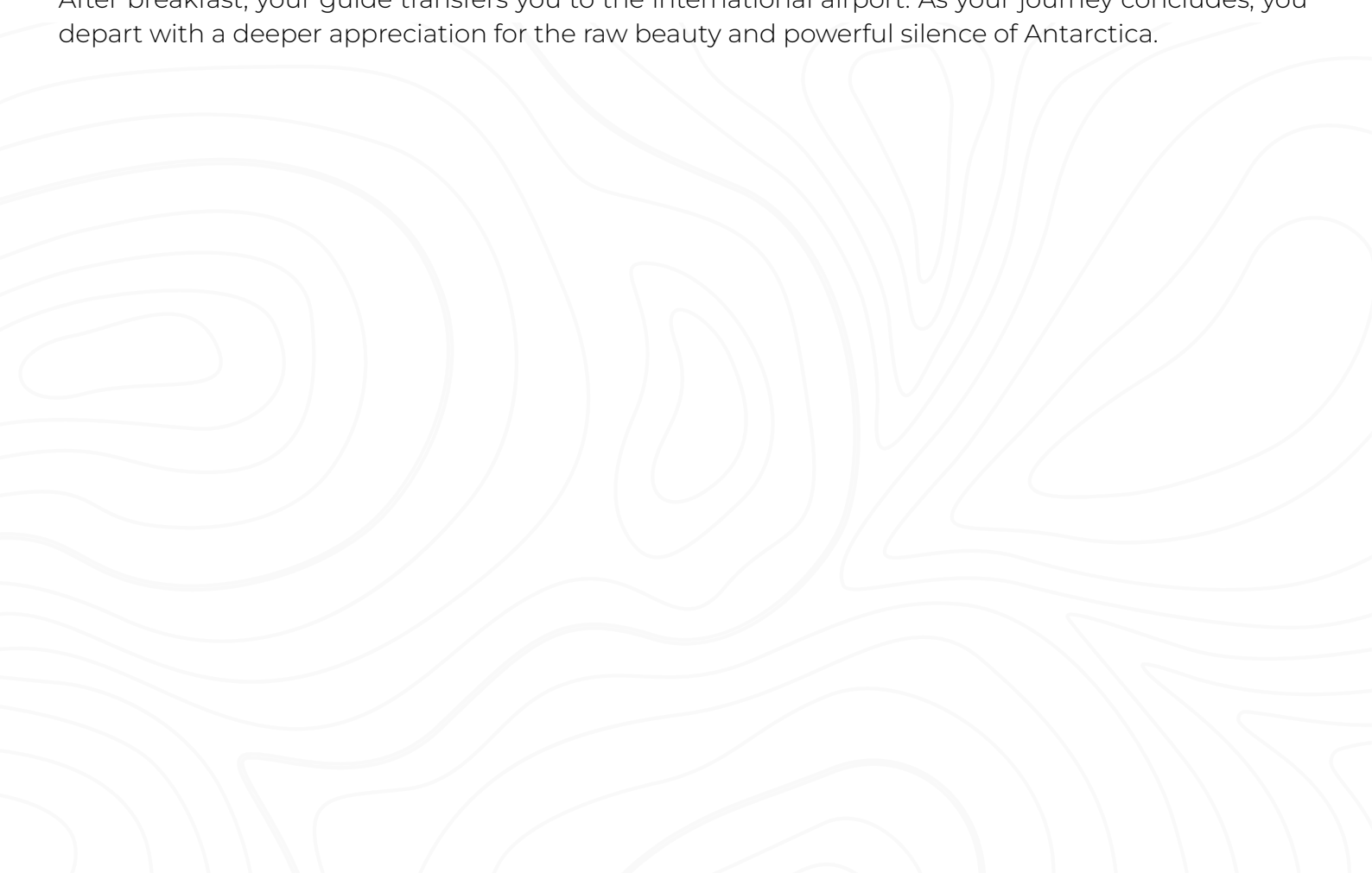
Your return across the Drake Passage feels both familiar and reflective. Seabirds soar overhead once again, and the dynamic ocean environment provides a peaceful backdrop for reviewing the moments that defined your voyage. These days offer time to attend additional presentations, relax in comfortable spaces onboard, or simply watch the vastness of the Southern Ocean unfold around you.

DAY 14 – USHUAIA TO BUENOS AIRES (DECEMBER 5, 2026)

Arriving in Ushuaia in the morning, you disembark with lasting memories of Antarctica's wilderness. After reaching the airport independently, you fly to Buenos Aires, where an English-speaking guide greets you and transfers you to your hotel. The shift from icy landscapes to urban energy feels almost surreal, providing time to relax and reflect at your leisure.

DAY 15 – DEPARTURE (DECEMBER 6, 2026)

After breakfast, your guide transfers you to the international airport. As your journey concludes, you depart with a deeper appreciation for the raw beauty and powerful silence of Antarctica.



RATES

From \$21,980.00
per person



Includes

- Voyage aboard the specified vessel
- All meals on board, plus snacks, coffee, and tea
- All Zodiac excursions and activities
- Lectures and guidance from naturalists and expedition staff
- Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes
- Luggage transfer to the vessel on embarkation day
- Group transfer from the vessel to the airport after disembarkation
- All service taxes and port charges
- Comprehensive pre-departure materials
- Basecamp departures: all activities (camping, kayaking, snowshoeing, mountaineering, photo workshops) included at no extra cost



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 Hondius

HIGHLIGHTS

- Voyage aboard the Ocean Victory through the Drake Passage and Antarctic Peninsula.
- Wildlife encounters featuring penguins, whales, seals, and seabirds.
- Zodiac landings offering close-up views of glaciers, icebergs, and historic sites.
- Exploration of volcanic Deception Island and iconic Gerlache Strait landscapes.
- Cultural immersion in Buenos Aires before and after your Antarctic expedition.

TRAVEL TIPS

- Protect your electronic devices with waterproof cases or dry bags during Zodiac excursions.
- Wear multiple layers to adjust quickly to changing temperatures and wind conditions.
- Use motion-sickness remedies proactively if you are sensitive to rough seas.

WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

Antarctic weather is dynamic and unpredictable, with rapid shifts in wind and visibility. Bring insulated base layers, waterproof outerwear, warm gloves, hats, and UV-protective sunglasses. In Buenos Aires, late January is hot and summery, so lightweight clothing, sun protection, and breathable fabrics are ideal.

Fitness Requirements

Moderate mobility is required for Zodiac embarkations, walking on snowy or uneven terrain, and navigating ship gangways. A basic fitness level will help you enjoy daily landings and shore activities safely and comfortably.

FAQS

1. How flexible is the itinerary in Antarctica?

Very flexible, weather, ice, and wildlife conditions determine daily landing sites. The Expedition Leader adapts plans to ensure the safest and most rewarding experiences.

2. Will I see penguins and whales?

Yes. The region is home to Gentoo, Chinstrap, and sometimes Adélie penguins, as well as humpback, minke, and orca whales, plus seals and abundant seabirds.

3. What is a typical day like during the expedition?

A day often includes Zodiac excursions, shore walks, wildlife viewing, and scenic ship cruising, complemented by lectures and briefings. Evenings are spent relaxing, socializing, or enjoying presentations from the Expedition Team.



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