

ANTARCTICA - ANTARCTIC MARINE MAMMALS: WORLD OF WHALES & SEALS | WORLD VOYAGER



TRIP CODE

ACQEAMMV

DEPARTURE

05/03/2027

DURATION

11 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula



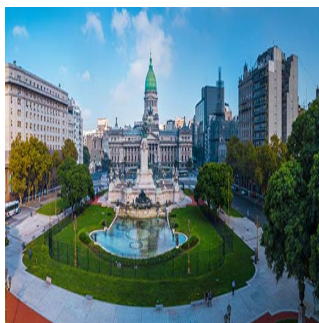
INTRODUCTION

Experience the thrill of exploring the Antarctic Peninsula on this 11-day adventure. Sail through the historic Beagle Channel and cross the legendary Drake Passage, where you'll witness the nutrient-rich waters teeming with marine life. As you reach the Antarctic Peninsula, enjoy Zodiac excursions, spotting whales, seals, and penguins in their natural habitats. Engage in citizen science projects, using hydrophones to listen to whale vocalizations and contributing to marine mammal research. The journey also includes visits to the South Shetland Islands, where you'll encounter massive elephant seals and explore historic sites. Throughout the voyage, you'll have opportunities to learn from leading marine mammal scientists and participate in conservation efforts, making this expedition both educational and unforgettable.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Buenos Aires, Argentina

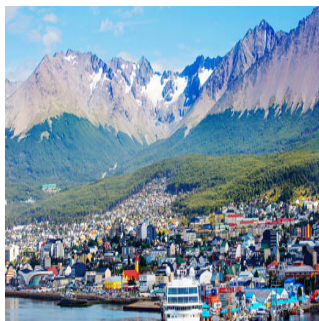
Upon arriving in this fascinating South American city, known for its vibrant Argentinian culture, European architecture and cosmopolitan vibe, you will independently transfer to your pre-expedition hotel night, included in the Charter Flight and Hotel Package.



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DAY 2: Fly to Ushuaia & Embarkation

After an early breakfast at the hotel, the group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, Argentina. Upon arrival, you will be transferred from the airport to a central downtown location to enjoy time on your own to explore this quaint port town before making your way to the designated meeting spot near the pier, where you will be transferred to the ship for embarkation. After a late afternoon embarkation, we will sail along the historic Beagle Channel, which transects the Tierra del Fuego archipelago in the extreme south of South America. Expect an air of anticipation as you depart—the next time you see land, you'll be in the remote Antarctic wilderness.



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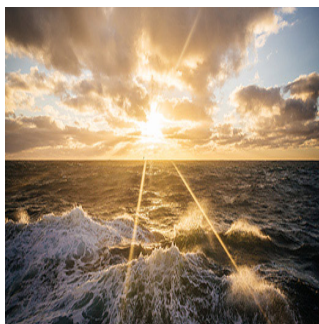
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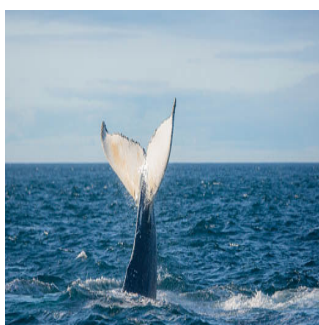
DAY 3: At Sea: Drake Passage Southbound

Crossing the 800-km Drake is considered a rite of passage for many travelers. Traversing this legendary waterway means you'll experience the Antarctic Convergence, where the cold, northward-flowing Antarctic waters meet the warmer, southward-flowing water of the subAntarctic. The mixing of cold and warm waters creates a nutrient-rich feeding ground, especially for whales and other marine mammals. Guests are encouraged to keep binoculars close at hand—and to be prepared for Expedition Team members to announce any whale sightings. The team of guest scientists will be introduced early in the voyage. Ari Friedlaender, who co-developed this itinerary, and members of his team from the Friedlaender Lab, are global authorities on the underwater behavior and ecology of marine mammals, particularly whales. Guests will also meet a research associate with the Happywhale platform, which enables citizens to upload their whale photos to help identify species and, possibly, individual whales. (See bios, page 13).



DAY 4: At Sea: Sailing towards Antarctica

The second day of your Drake Passage crossing is an ideal time to attend scheduled polar presentations that will enhance your Antarctic experience. It's also an excellent opportunity to visit the Science Hub on Deck 4; an instrumental part of your voyage. Spend time on deck watching for whales, which increase in number as we approach the Peninsula—and remember to upload your whale photos to the Happywhale platform.



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DAY 5: Antarctic Peninsula - Day 5 to 7

The timing of this voyage maximizes opportunities to observe various whale species along the Antarctic Peninsula. After the ice recedes in October and November, the food chain begins to reestablish itself. Whales, seals and other marine mammals are drawn to these rich feeding grounds—especially for the krill. By February and March, these creatures, which have been intensely feeding, are satiated and relaxed, making them more easier to spot. In addition to the Zodiac and paddling excursions, we plan to spend a lot of time on the outer decks and other vantage points on the ship to spot—and photograph—wildlife. We'll spend our days in key marine mammal habitats of the Gerlache Strait and remote inner glacial bays. Over the next three days, we aim to explore whale hotspots such as Charlotte Bay, Portal Point, Graham Passage, Errera Channel, Cuverville Island, Andvord Bay, Fournier Bay and Dallmann Bay. Past whale sightings in these areas have included minke, humpback, fin, orca and the elusive, deep-diving Arnoux's beaked whale. Antarctic Marine Mammals: The World of Whales & Seals is our only itinerary during which we'll deploy hydrophones—underwater microphones that detect and record sound below the surface. You will have opportunities—during Zodiac cruises and paddling programs—to accompany Friedlaender Lab scientists as they deploy hydrophones to monitor and study marine mammal behavior, such as the vocalizations of whales. Four scientists will accompany guests in Zodiacs, with one hydrophone shared between two groups. Speakers will enable participants to listen for and, hopefully, hear whale sounds beneath the ocean surface. Engaging with scientists who are actively collecting and collating data that can be shared in real time on the water, and, through digital visual aids, brings marine biology to life in a way that transcends the water line. This activity is also available to World Voyager guests who join the Stand-Up Paddle Boarding (SUP) program. In addition to the citizen science programming, this itinerary will also feature the wonders of Antarctica: penguins, seals, immense glaciers, snowcapped mountains, icebergs, shore landings, and the polar plunge.



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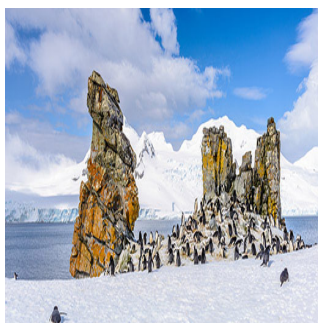
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DAY 8: South Shetlands

Rounding out our marine mammal experiences, we hope to witness southern elephant seals in the rugged and fabled South Shetland Islands. We'll also keep our fingers crossed for sightings of fin whales. We'll explore this geological and historic archipelago while prioritizing shore landings, which offer further opportunities for wildlife sightings. Arriving in March allows us the rare opportunity to potentially explore key excursion sites such as Hannah Point, which is deemed a Restricted Area from early to mid-season. Massive populations of elephant seals and southern giant petrels make for awe-inspiring experiences. As with any expedition, shore landings along the coast are dependent on favorable weather.



DAY 9: At Sea: Drake Passage Northbound

Today is the start of the journey back across the Drake Passage. This is an excellent opportunity to spend more time engaging with the Friedlaender Lab scientists or attend one of the scheduled polar presentations.



DAY 10: At Sea: Last Sailing Day

Today is your last opportunity to visit Quark Expeditions' new Science Hub and contribute to citizen science that will support marine mammal conservation efforts. In the words of Sir David Attenborough: "No one will protect what they don't care about. And no one will care about what they have never experienced."



DAY 11: Disembark in Ushuaia & Fly to Buenos Aires

You will arrive in Ushuaia in the morning and disembark after breakfast. Guests will be transferred to the airport for the return group charter flight to Buenos Aires. *Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation Hotel & Cabin On Board Ship

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Inclusions	<h3>INCLUSIONS</h3> <p>Cabin accommodation on board ship All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage Beer, standard wines & spirits, & cocktails during pre-dinner bar service, dinner & evenings Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock All scheduled landings and excursions Guiding and lectures by experienced expedition team Expedition parka (yours to keep) A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions One 10 to 15 minute helicopter flight-seeing excursion (weather permitting) Emergency Evacuation insurance for all passengers to a maximum benefit of USD \$500,000 per person Free WiFi</p> <h3>MANDATORY TRANSFER PACKAGE</h3> <p>One night pre transfer accommodation in a hotel in Buenos Aires with breakfast * <i>*(Note: The number of guests per room is the same as cabin occupancy on the ship. Due to limited availability, travelers who reserve a suite on board are accommodated in standard rooms at the hotel. Triple rooms may not be available.)</i> Group flights from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia on a return basis Transfers from the hotel to the airport in Buenos Aires Airport transfer and express bus tour of Tierra Del Fuego National Park after disembarkation in Ushuaia</p>	
	<h3>EXCLUSIONS</h3> <p>International flights Any other pre or post land arrangements not mentioned above Passport and visa expenses Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew Excess-baggage fees on international and domestic flights Laundry, bar and other personal charges unless specified Optional Adventure Activities</p>	
	Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
	Single Surcharge	Available upon request, a supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
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Notes	<p>Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated)</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>Please note that flights to/from King George Island are subject to weather and landing conditions</p>
Price Dependent upon	<p>Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.</p>

SUSTAINABILITY

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