

ANTARCTICA - ULTIMATE ANTARCTICA EXPERIENCE 26/27: QUEST FOR THE CIRCLE | OCEAN VICTORY



INTRODUCTION

We discover the Great White Continent's stunning landscapes, glacial mountains, and fantastic animals during this 13-day ultimate Antarctica voyage. This journey is special since there is **NO SET ITINERARY**, which transforms it into a true exploration tour. We navigate through the Beagle Channel's quiet, gunmetal-gray seas and slope glaciers as our journey gets underway. As we take a turn to the south, our adventure really gets going, and we enter Drake Passage. The Drake Passage, a body of water that connects the chilly Antarctic with the warmer Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, is renowned for its merry weather and powerful westerly winds, sometimes known as the "Roaring Fifties." Our expedition ship, is equipped with stabilisers, strong engines, and a patented reclining bow that guarantees stability and comfort in rough seas while using very little fuel, so you can travel with confidence even though this passage may be difficult. You will successfully negotiate the Drake Passage twice, which is considered a lifelong achievement by even the most intrepid sailors! The excitement in the Drake increases when Antarctic animals is seen. Numerous seabird species, albatrosses, and whales of different species are drawn to the nutrient-rich seas. If the weather cooperates, we get our first glimpse of seals and penguins! We will navigate the South Shetland Islands, a sparkling chain of glinting, ice-covered islands and dormant volcanoes, with wide eyes. There will probably be several Zodiac excursions and landfalls. We are always on the watch for sea lions, elephant seals, whales, a staggering number of seabirds, and penguins. Moving forwards, we take advantage of treks and Zodiac trips to take in the tranquilly and enticing beauty of the Antarctic mainland. There is no defined course of action from here; instead, our skipper and expedition leader will review ice charts and the weather.

Note: The Ultimate Antarctica Experience is designed to have "**No Set Itinerary**" which transforms it into a true exploration tour. The trips that begin in DEC-FEB are called: **Quest for the Circle**, as we intend to go more south and if possible cross the Antarctic Circle at 66°33'N, enjoy longer days with sunlight and even more active penguin rookeries and explore exciting places made possible as the breaking sea ice opens up

TRIP CODE
ACABUEV
DEPARTURE
27/12/2026, 12/02/2027
DURATION
13 Days
LOCATIONS
Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctic Circle


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new avenues.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Ushuaia

After a friendly welcome at the airport and a transfer to your included hotel, take some time to unwind or explore the southernmost city in the world, Ushuaia. Our evening briefing is your opportunity to ask questions and meet some of your fellow explorers.



DAY 2: Embarkation

This morning, enjoy some time to explore the quaint city or local countryside. Alternatively, consider a day trip off the beaten path to the raw, natural archipelago of Tierra del Fuego. It's a hiker's paradise with rugged snow-capped mountains, glaciers, flower-filled meadows and boggy quagmires. In the afternoon, we board our ship. Our journey begins as we navigate through the calms of Beagle Channel, a strait in the Tierra del Fuego Archipelago.



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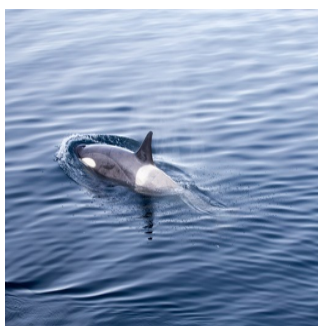
Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctic Circle



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DAY 3: Crossing the Drake Passage Southbound - Day 3 & 4

Sailing onward, we cross the famed Drake Passage - a body of water that marks the intersection of the cold Antarctic with the warmer Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Drake Passage is known for strong westerly winds, heavy sea, and its nickname 'The Roaring Fifties'. While this passage may be challenging, you can rest confidently aboard our expedition vessel, which is purpose-built with stabilizers, powerful engines and a highly qualified crew. The most spirited sailors consider Drake Passage a lifetime achievement - and soon you can tick it off on the list yourself! In the Drake, the excitement builds as Antarctic wildlife comes into view with our first sight of seals, penguins and albatrosses. Having crossed the Drake, we will explore the sub-Antarctic islands of the South Shetland chain and be marveled by the captivating landscapes we will encounter along the way. Weather permitting, we hope to make our first landfall on King George Island before continuing further south to the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. With the unique X-BOW design, the ship will offer you a smoother sailing across the Drake passage than conventional expedition vessels - and with far less carbon emission. Due to the speed of the vessel, we might be able to do a first landing or activity in the South Shetland Islands on the afternoon of day 4, weather permitting.



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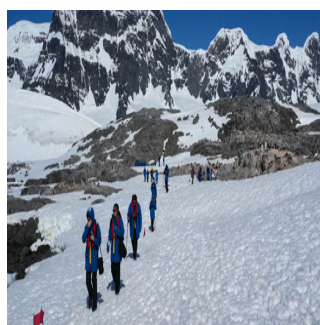
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DAY 5: Antarctic Peninsula - Days 5 to 10

There is no set itinerary on this trip, which allows our staff onboard to maximise the experience for all onboard. Whilst our suggestions below are just possible routes and landings, we can be sure that this will be the ultimate Antarctic experience. The itinerary and activities over the next few days depend on weather, swell and ice. The route and shore landings will be determined by the captain and expedition leader and communicated to guests through regularly scheduled briefings. Wildlife abounds on the Antarctic Peninsula: leopard, fur and Weddell seals of Cuverville Island; humpback whales of Gerlache Strait; Paradise Bay; the dramatic Lemaire Channel's orcas. Maybe we will explore as far south as the Antarctic Circle at c. 66 deg 33 minutes south of the Equator. Possible landfall in this wild and seldom visited area could be Pleneau and Petermann Islands, Crystal Sound and Detaille Island. Maybe we will make our way to the Antarctic Sound, named in 1902 by the Swedish vessel Antarctic, the captain and the expedition team would then keep a watchful eye on the mighty tabular icebergs, born from the floating Larsen Ice Shelf further south. We would aim to have both continental and island landings on the shores of Antarctic Sound and Weddell Sea, always on the lookout for some of the unusually large penguin colonies, which have recently been observed. Because of the considerable sea ice and enormous bergs in the Weddell Sea, navigation through this remote nature is at the edge of what is possible; your captain and expedition leader understand shifting ice means that no individual part of this area can be guaranteed as accessible at any time, so they will work together to find the most magnificent opportunities. This is part of the wonder of this part of the world, and you'll be visiting an area few humans have ever seen. Maybe as our journey draws to a close we end it by navigating to Elephant Island, home to elephant seals, maybe even along parts of the same route as Shackleton's daring lifeboat escape (this route is only possible if conditions allow it!). While a landing is unlikely, we hope to see where the Elephant island party waited for rescue boat to reach them at Point Wild. A famous part of expedition history, that seems adequate to end our Antarctic explorations this time around.



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DAY 11: Crossing the Drake Passage Northbound - Day 11&12

We depart Antarctica and spend two days at sea on our way back to the calms of Beagle Channel and Ushuaia, Argentina. En-route, we will cross Drake Passage and cruise past Cape Horn, a legendary maritime landmark and the southern tip of South America. During our time at sea, a variety of activities will be arranged on board which will provide the perfect opportunity to socialize with fellow travelers equally passionate for discovering the world, enjoy the lectures by our expedition team on board, visit our shop, unwind in the spa or enjoy the ship’s facilities designed to provide a comfortable relaxing time.



DAY 13: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

This morning, we arrive back in Ushuaia for the conclusion of our expedition cruise, where you can continue your adventures or begin your return home.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship & Hotel
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INCLUSIONS

Group transfer from Ushuaia airport to hotel (on arrival in Ushuaia if arriving on Day 1 of itinerary, and providing we have your confirmed air itinerary at least 15 days prior to departure)
 1 night pre night cruise accommodation in Ushuaia including breakfast
 Transfer from Ushuaia hotel accommodation to the ship for embarkation
 Accommodation onboard the Ocean Victory in booked cabin category
 All meals onboard the Ocean Victory
 "Welcome" and "Farewell" receptions with sparkling wine and soft drinks
 Beer, wine and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard the ship; 24/7 tea, coffee & hot cocoa
 500MB WiFi card for use on your personal devices
 Exclusive MCKEON down Inner jacket to keep & outer Shackleton Expedition Jackets will be on loan
 Use of rubber boots on loan for excursions
 All scheduled landings and excursions
 Snowshoes for use during landings (subject to availability)
 Citizen Science program
 Photography Coach available throughout the voyage
 Participation in the Polar Plunge
 Access to onboard medical clinics
 Access to onboard fitness centres
 All port taxes and landing fees
 Digital Voyage Log
 Group transfer to Ushuaia airport or city centre on return to port

Inclusions

INCLUDED ON BALCONY SUITE (A) AND ABOVE

Wine and fruit on arrival
 In-room mini-bar refilled once daily with non-alcoholic beverages
 Complimentary laundry service
 In-room espresso machine

EXCLUSIONS

International or internal flights other than specified
 Airport transfers, taxes and excess baggage charges unless specified
 Meals other than those specified in the pre-departure information
 Pre or post cruise travel expenses other than specified
 Visa (if applicable) and passport fees
 Travel insurance (compulsory)
 Fuel surcharge may be applied to all bookings
 Paid adventure options and all personal expenses
 Tobacco, or selected premium beverages
 Miscellaneous extras
 Laundry and communication charges on board, except as listed in inclusions
 Gratuities for Expedition team and crew (recommended US\$20 per person per day)
 For minors under 16 years of age at time of travel; life jackets, waterproof outer shell jacket, and boots
 For guests who require larger sizing; Waterproof outer shell jacket and rubber boots

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

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Single Surcharge	Contact Us for details. Single occupancy cabins are available with a surcharge or for those willing to share you can be matched with someone of the same gender in selected cabins and pay the twin share price. Subject to availability.
Notes	Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated for single, triple cabins) Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure Date, Fuel Surcharges, Cabin Category, Currency Fluctuations, Seasonality & Availability.

SUSTAINABILITY

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