



In the realm of the great explorers

10 days - Ushuaia to Ushuaia

November 2014 ONLY

An Antarctic Peninsula voyage is also known as the 'Classic Antarctic' route.

- Discover the true emotions of Antarctic wilderness
- Observe the wildlife in its natural habitat
- Antarctic whaling history

Day 1 — Ushuaia, Argentina

In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world located at the Beagle Channel and sail through this scenic waterway for the rest of the evening.

Day 2 - 3 — At Sea

During these two days we sail across the Drake Passage. When we cross the Antarctic Convergence, we arrive in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. In this area we may see Wandering Albatrosses, Grey Headed Albatrosses, Black-browed Albatrosses, Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses, Cape Pigeons, Southern Fulmars, Wilson's Storm Petrels, Blue Petrels and Antarctic Petrels. Near the South Shetland Islands, we spot our first icebergs. The chances are good that we see the South Shetland Islands in the evening of day 3 steering past Nelson Island through Nelson Strait in order to reach King George Island. The South Shetland Islands are windswept and often hide in the fog. There are a wide variety of flora to see (mosses, lichens and flowering grasses) and fauna (Gentoo Penguins, Chinstrap penguins, and giant petrels) to admire.

Day 4 — King George Island

We begin our program with a landing on the island King George Island, which is over 1100 sqm large which has become an important center of the Antarctic research activity. In the ice-free areas of King George Island, mainly in the southwest of the island, there are a number of Antarctic research stations. Two species of flowering plants grow here. The island is inhabited by several penguin and seal species, like Gentoo penguins, elephant seals and Antarctic fur seals. In the shelter of the bay we offer excursions and activities.

Day 5 — Deception Island

We will sail to Deception Island. Our ship braves its entrance into the crater through the spectacular Neptune's Bellow into the ring of Deception Island. We hope for a good long walk and kayak trip which will depend on site availability and weather conditions. Deception is a sub-ducted crater, which opens into the sea, creating a natural harbor for the ship. Here we find hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, thousands of Cape Pigeons and many Dominican Gulls, Brown and South Polar Skuas and Antarctic Terns. Wilson's Storm Petrels and Black-bellied Storm Petrels nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay. We continue our voyage towards Trinity Island and Mikkelsen Harbor. We continue our voyage South.

Days 6 to 8 — Antarctica

We visit Trinity Island and Mikkelsen Harbor. On our way further South we will sail through the Gerlache Strait, the breathtaking Neumayer Channel where we go ashore at Damoy Point and Dorian Bay. We will visit the British research station and the post office Port Lockroy on Goudier Island. Close to Port Lockroy we may also offer a landing on Jougla Point with Gentoo Penguins and Imperial Shags. We look out for leopard seals, crabeater seals and whales. Sailing north again we have good chances to see minke or humpback whales. Cuverville Island, a small precipitous island, nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula and Danco Island. It contains a large colony of Gentoo Penguins and breeding pairs of Brown Skuas. In Neko Harbour we have the opportunity for zodiac cruising amongst the ice floes and to set foot on the Antarctic Continent. We arrive at the Melchior Islands with a very beautiful landscape with icebergs, where we may encounter Leopard Seals, Crabeater Seals and whales. From here we sail via Melchior Islands towards the open sea of the Drake Passage. We have again a chance of seeing many seabirds.



Days 9 to 10 — At sea

On our way north, we are again followed by a great selection of seabirds while crossing the Drake Passage.

Day 11 — Disembarkation in Ushuaia, Argentina

Disembarkation in Ushuaia.

PLEASE NOTE: A typical itinerary to the Antarctic Peninsula is illustrated below. All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice and weather conditions, the availability of landing sites and opportunities to see wildlife. The final itinerary will be determined by the Expedition Leader on board. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises.