



## In the realm of the great explorers

**19 days- Buenos Aires to Buenos Aires**

*October 2015 / February 2016 ONLY*

On these departures, due to available flight times, you will stay overnight in a first class Buenos Aires hotel. After check in, it's possible to join an optional City Tour to explore. Your evening is at your own leisure. The next day, you begin your voyage!

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### *Day 1 Buenos Aires*

Discover the Paris of South America for yourself and get a taste of what the birthplace of the Tango has to offer.

We depart from Buenos Aires at 12:00. Check-in opens at 10:00. Once onboard there will be a welcome meeting during which the Captain will present his officers and expedition staff. They will outline the program for the coming day. There will be conducted a mandatory safety drill for all passengers before departure.

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### *Days 2-4 At sea*

We are heading south towards our first destination. On the way you will have fascinating and informative briefings into the history and biology to be found there.

We set course south to the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic, located 772 kilometres north of Cape Horn and about 1,600 kilometres from Antarctica. The Falklands consist of two large islands and around 700 smaller ones and has a population of 2,967 inhabitants. Captain John Strong of HMS Welfare made the first recorded landing here in 1690.

Whilst we are at sea a number of presentations will be given about the history and wildlife of the areas we shall be visiting.

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### *Day 5 At sea/Falkland Islands*

Thanks to the unique sub-Antarctic ecology there are over 70 animal species to be found on these islands.

The islands have a unique ecosystem of about 70 different sub-Antarctic animal and bird species. The black-browed albatross, brown-rumped karakara, elephant seal, sea lion and five different species of penguin including king penguin are just a few of them. There are also about 347 wild plant species in the area. The landscape is majestic, with cliffs and needle-like stones covered in green grass.

We plan to visit the area around the North West Falklands with their fascinating landscape and wildlife, and hope to arrive late afternoon.

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### *Days 6-7 Falkland Islands*

We will explore further the North-West part of Falkland. We then continue to Stanley, the islands' capital, which makes a wonderful starting point for various excursions in the area. You can choose to take an optional excursion or explore the town on your own.

In the early evening of day 7 we set a course for South Georgia.

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### *Days 8-9 At sea*

The cruise southward to beautiful South Georgia takes two days. Our fascinating presentations en route will help you prepare for the experience.

En route to South Georgia there will be a number of presentations about the area we shall visit and its wildlife, as well as some fascinating stories about Shackleton's expeditions. The lecturers will tell us about the significance the whaling station here had for the entire whaling industry.

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### *Days 10-11 South Georgia*

You can explore this beautiful island, which is ringed by ice-covered mountains and cool emerald-green bays.

We will be in South Georgia for two days, during which we will try to see some of the many historic places. We hope to visit Grytviken whaling station, its museum, Shackleton's grave and the whalers' church dating from 1913. The next day we will attempt to visit the old Norwegian whaling station at Strømness and the king penguin colony at Fortuna Bay. Then we will sail south.

The wildlife on South Georgia is different to what we will see in Antarctica, including many different bird and animal species. We hope to see albatross, cape petrels, southern giant petrels, Antarctic whale birds, king penguins, fur seals and elephant seals, among others.

South Georgia offers nice hiking options, and one of our favourites is walking the last part of the route that Sir Ernest Shackleton took on his brave journey across the island's rugged mountains to find help to save his 22 men left on the isolated Elephant Island. The 5.5 km hike takes us from Fortuna to Strømness, the abandoned whaling station where Shackleton finally managed to get help. Due to the remoteness of the island and the safety of our operation, it is required that each hiker has a good level of fitness. This hike will only be conducted when weather conditions are very favourable.



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### *Days 12-13 At sea*

The cruise toward the Antarctic Peninsula takes two days. Our fascinating presentations en route will help you prepare for the experience.

Whilst we cross the sea to Antarctica a number of presentations will be given about the various topics of the Antarctic's history and wildlife, as well as guidelines for visitors to Antarctica.

The Antarctic Treaty has made the continent an area without military activity and it is the treaty which regulates all activities in the area. Hurtigruten ASA follows these regulations to the letter to ensure that the vulnerable environment will not be disturbed. Our programme of presentations on board helps in this, since we aim to prepare you for this unique experience, so that you will derive the greatest possible benefit from your Antarctic experience.

We will be on a course for the northern tip of the continent, the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands.

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### *Days 14-16 Antarctica*

This unending, white wilderness of a continent is full of fantastic impressions. Ocean, ice, mountains, animals, light, air, quiet. Everything!

This enormous white and weather bitten continent is almost as big as North America. Weather, wind and ice conditions have a great influence on our programme and our schedule. Safety is always the first priority and the final sailing schedule will be decided by the ship's captain during the voyage.

While in Antarctica, we will attempt to land on several sites, some of them described below as examples. On land, our expedition team will explain what you see and help you avoid disturbing the nature and wildlife. When conditions allow, hikes or other activities on land and at sea may be offered. Participation on any hike requires a good level of fitness, and that you are accustomed to hiking in uneven terrain.

After exploring this indescribably great and endless continent, we leave Antarctica and set course for Ushuaia.

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### *Days 17-18 Drake Passage*

With our bow pointed north and unforgettable images and experiences in our souls, we are invited to gain a new understanding of the Antarctic.

During the voyage we will summarise the Antarctic and Southern Ocean themes. The voyage from the Antarctic Peninsula to Ushuaia is about 950 kilometres – about 40 hours sailing in good weather. This sea passage was notorious among the early polar explorers and is a unique voyage which only a few have the chance to experience.

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### *Day 19 Ushuaia/Buenos Aires*

After spectacular Antarctica and its endless vistas, we make landfall at the world's southernmost town.

We arrive at the Argentinean town of Ushuaia in the morning. Ushuaia is counted as the world's southernmost town and lies on Tierra del Fuego, south of the Magellan Strait and here our voyage ends.

Disembark after breakfast and there is the possibility of joining an optional excursion in Ushuaia (with its end at the airport) or be transferred to the airport. If time allows, we include a stop at the city center on our way to the airport. In the early afternoon we board the flight back to Buenos Aires; the flight duration is approximately 4 hours.

