



## **Polar circle expedition**

**13 days- Buenos Aires to Buenos Aires**

### ***2016 Departures 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/Ushuaia***

Our voyage departs from the province of Tierra del Fuego and the southernmost city in the world – Ushuaia.

Our flight leaves Buenos Aires in the morning which gives you a few hours to explore Ushuaia, the southernmost town in the world. The flight duration is approximately 4 hours.

Our local representatives will greet you at Ushuaia airport. Transfer to the pier, including an orientation tour of Ushuaia or possibility to join an optional excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park. Time permitting you will have a chance to explore Ushuaia on your own before embarkation at 16:00.

#### Cruise-only guests:

Please present yourself at the pier for embarkation at 16:00h

Once onboard there will be a welcome meeting during which the Captain will present his officers and expedition staff, and outline the program for the coming day. There will be conducted a mandatory safety drill for all passengers before departure.

In the evening we set a course through the scenic Beagle Channel for the Drake Passage and Antarctica.

## *Day 2 - 3 Drake Passage*

The Drake Passage is where the Atlantic and Pacific meet the Great Southern Ocean to create the Antarctic Convergence. During the crossing you can enjoy our onboard lecture series to learn more about the wonders of Antarctica.

The Antarctic Convergence is where the warmer waters of the north meet the colder, denser, less saline waters of the south. As the colder water sinks, a mixing occurs that brings nutrients to the surface and makes the area particularly rich in marine life.

In addition to spotting for the magnificent wandering albatross and other seabirds, the crossing features our lecture series focusing on the history, environment, and wildlife of Antarctica. Our series includes a thorough introduction to the Antarctic visitor guidelines from the Antarctic Treaty and International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO).

The Antarctic Treaty regulates all activities in Antarctica and has created a continent of peace and science. Hurtigruten ASA is committed to meeting and exceeding all Antarctic Treaty and IAATO regulations to ensure that the vulnerable environment will not be disturbed.

We will be on course for the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands where we hope to arrive on the afternoon of day 3.

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## *Day 4 -12 Antarctica*

The continent is an endless white wilderness full of fantastic vistas of nature. We will learn the history of the great explorers as we travel in their footsteps and see the landscape as they saw it - unchanged, remote, and awe inspiring.

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 nature and wildlife. When conditions allow hikes or other activities on land and sea may be offered. Participation on any hike requires a good level of fitness, and that you are accustomed to hiking in uneven terrain.

Weather, wind, and ice conditions will determine our program and our schedule. Safety is always the first priority and the final sailing itinerary will be decided by the ship's Captain during the voyage. On this special trip, we plan to cross the Polar Circle at 66°33' south.

### **The Antarctic Circle**

The Antarctic Circle is one of the five major circles of latitude that mark maps of the Earth. It lies at latitude 66° 33' 39" south of the equator. The area south of the Antarctic Circle is known as the Antarctic, and the zone immediately to the north is called the Southern Temperate Zone. The equivalent line of latitude in the northern hemisphere is the Arctic Circle.

Along the Antarctic Circle there is one day each year during which the sun does not set, about December 22 (the summer solstice [first day of summer] in the Southern Hemisphere). Similarly, the sun does not rise above the horizon on approximately June 21 (the winter solstice). The number of days without sunset or sunrise increases with nearness to the South Pole. At the Pole there are six

months of continuous darkness (about March 21 to September 23) followed by six months of daylight (September 23 to March 21).

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### *Day 13 - 14 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.

The voyage from the Antarctic Peninsula to Ushuaia at the southern tip of Argentina is roughly 950 km (600 mi) or 40 hours sailing time in good weather. During the voyage north, we will continue our lecture series and recap our experiences of Antarctica.

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### *Day 15 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 to join 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 you will board the flight back to Buenos Aires.

