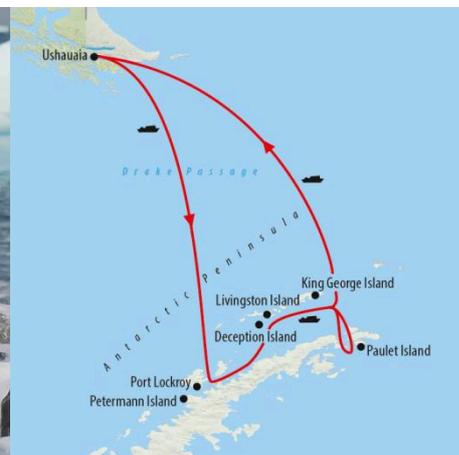


# Classic Antarctica

10 days | Starts/Ends: Ushuaia



*Embark on a classic expedition to Antarctica from Ushuaia, through the scenic Beagle Channel and across the infamous Drake Passage to the South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula. With two shore landings per day, set foot on the continent proper, get up close with the region's wildlife and learn about the area from the expedition crew and lecturers.*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Ushuaia – The starting point of your expedition cruise to Antarctica, this busy Argentine port city is the southernmost city in the world and a stunning place to spend a night at the start and end of your cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula
- Beagle Channel – Set sail along the famous Beagle Channel and scenic Mackinlay Pass from Ushuaia as you begin your Antarctic adventure, passing by spectacular snow-capped peaks and colonies of penguins and fur seals gathered on rocky outcrops
- Drake Passage – A historically challenging channel of water which

marks the location of the Antarctic Convergence, where the warmer waters of the north meet the cold polar waters of the south resulting in incredible biodiversity of marine life

- The South Shetland Islands – A crucial stop on any Antarctic expedition, this spectacular archipelago is made up of islands, islets and rock outcrops, each with their own population of penguins and seals with plenty of opportunity to spot marine life offshore too
- Antarctic Peninsula – The northernmost point of the continent and a spectacular location for a shore landing with jagged mountain peaks, glaciers and an abundance of wildlife

### What's Included

- 9 nights onboard the Ushuaia in a standard twin cabin (upgrades available on request)
- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 9 dinners
- Two shore excursions per day to the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands by zodiac (ice conditions permitting)
- Program of lectures by expert naturalists
- Experienced expedition staff
- All service taxes and port charges

### What's Not Included

- International flights and visas

- Government arrival and departure taxes
- Drinks on board the Ushuaia
- Tips for the expedition staff and naturalists
- Pre and post tour accommodation, plus any airport or port transfers

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1: Your expedition begins



Today your expedition to Antarctica begins. In the afternoon you'll board your polar vessel, the Ushuaia, where you'll meet the expedition and lecture staff who will be accompanying you on your journey. Once settled into your cabin, you'll want to make your way to one of the open air decks so that you can admire the views as we set sail along the famous Beagle Channel and scenic Mackinlay Pass. Please note that embarkation is at 4 pm and the Ushuaia will sail at 6 pm and cannot wait

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for missing passengers or luggage. **Overnight - The Ushuaia (D)**

## Days 2-3 : Crossing the Drake Passage



The next two days are spent passing through the infamous Drake Passage, a historically challenging channel of water which bears the name of renowned explorer Sir Francis Drake who sailed through here in 1578. On this journey through the Drake Passage you will pass over the Antarctic Convergence, where the warmer waters of the north meet the cold polar waters of the south. This interaction causes an upwelling of nutrients from the seafloor, resulting in the incredible diversity of algae, krill and other small sea creatures.

The Ushuaia offers the choice of four open-air decks where you can pass the time enjoying the views and keeping an eye out for seabirds. Expedition lecturers will be available at all times to help you spot and identify common and more obscure species. Thanks to the vessels open bridge policy, you can also join officers on the bridge to learn about navigation and watch for whales.

You'll know when we've reached the South Shetland Islands as you'll begin to see icebergs and snow-capped mountains. This group of twenty islands was first sighted by Captain William Smith back in February 1819. Should the conditions of the Drake Passage be favourable, you'll enjoy your first land excursions on day 3 where you'll have the chance to see penguins and seals up close.

**Overnight - The Ushuaia (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

## Days 4-7 : Exploring the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands



A stunning archipelago home to an incredible abundance of wildlife, the South Shetland Islands is a crucial stop on every expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula. Spanning 540 kilometres from northeast to southwest, this polar archipelago is made up of four distinct groupings of islands with some 150 additional islets, skerries and rock outcrops.

Perhaps the best known of the South Shetland Islands is Deception Island with its flooded caldera of an active volcano. The largest is King George Island which is home to several scientific bases dedicated to studying the island's population of Adélie and Chinstrap Penguins, Kelp Gulls, Blue-eyed Cormorants, Antarctic Terns and Southern Giant Petrels. Another island worth visiting is Livingston Island, where you can spot more species of penguin as well as elephant seals.

The next four days are spent navigating the Gerlache Strait, the Neumayer Channel, and narrow passages of the Lemaire Channel with towering rock faces on one side and spectacular glaciers on the other. You'll have the opportunity to join two landings per day, at locations such as spectacular Paradise Bay and the continent proper, as well as Paulet Island where you'll be able to see the Adélie Penguin and Blue-eyed Cormorant colonies.

Exploring further south you may have the opportunity to visit Melchior Island, Cuverville Island, Portal Point, Neko Harbour and Pléneau Island. Should ice conditions permit, you'll also have a chance to see the southernmost colony of Gentoo Penguins on

Petermann Island. **Overnight - The Ushuaia (B:4, L:4, D:4)**

## Days 8-9 : Crossing the Drake Passage



Departing the Antarctic Peninsula, the Ushuaia will start its journey back across the Drake Passage travelling north. Once again you'll have the opportunity to spot and identify seabirds and whales with the help of the naturalists on deck, as well as enjoy some final lectures. **Overnight - The Ushuaia (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

## Day 10 : Your expedition comes to an end

Your vessel arrives into the port of Ushuaia early in the morning. After breakfast and bidding farewell to your expedition lecturers and naturalists, your Antarctic adventure comes to an end. The ship arrives at 7 am and disembarkation is normally at 8.00/ 8.30 am. We strongly recommend not to book flights departing before noon time.(B)

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

#### Our partners Antarpplly Expeditions

Please note that our Antarctic Expedition Cruises are operated by Antarpplly Expedition. Travellers on your trip will have made their reservation with either On The Go Tours, Antarpplly Expedition or another travel agent.

#### Your itinerary

Please note that the above itinerary is a guide only. Our exact route and program will vary to take best advantage of local weather and ice conditions and opportunities to view wildlife. Changes will be made by the Captain and/or Expedition Leader to facilitate the best results from the prevailing conditions.

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A daily program sheet will be issued on board. Flexibility is the key to success.

## Visas

This cruise departs from Argentina. UK, Australian, Canadian, US, South African and New Zealand passport holders do not require a visa for entry into Argentina for 90 days.

For entry into Argentina you must:

- Hold a passport valid at least six months on entry with one blank visa page
- Hold proof of sufficient funds
- Hold proof of onward/return airline tickets
- Hold documents showing proof of purpose of trip
- Hold all documents required for the next destination
- Confirm with their airline that boarding will be permitted without a visa as these conditions are subject to change

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours.

## Climate

Located in the southernmost point of the southern hemisphere, Antarctica experiences its summer season between the months of October and March and this is the only time of year that expedition cruises are possible.

October - November (spring)

In late October the ice that normally covers the waters starts to break up meaning boats are given access to the islands around the tip of the Antarctica Peninsula. Most cruises start operating in November when icebergs are at their largest and the scenery is spectacular with pristine ice and snow. Elephant seals begin their breeding season with the large animals actively courting in South Georgia.

December - January (summer)

The months of December and January are considered high summer with the warmest temperatures the south pole will see all year. Daylight hours are at their longest with an average of 20 hours of light each day so it's the best time of year for photography though it's peak season with Christmas and New Year particularly busy. In the early weeks

of December penguin chicks begin hatching in the Falklands followed by hatchings along the Antarctic Peninsula later in the month. Come the end of January and it's possible to witness parent penguins returning to their chicks after replenishing their food supplies. Sightings of whales and seal pups are also good at this time of year. Landing areas start to get muddy as the expedition season picks up so the landscape is less pristine than in November.

February - March (autumn)

Temperatures are still warm in February with excellent opportunities for whale watching with humpback, sperm and orca all likely to be spotted. Penguin colonies are very active and fur seals are a common sight along the Peninsula. It starts to get a little colder in March with many of the penguin chicks now grown enough to fledge and an increasing number of animals make their way out to sea so wildlife sightings are less abundant on the now-exposed edges of land as the snow melts.

## The Ushuaia

Originally built for the United States agency NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration), the ice-strengthened polar vessel Ushuaia is very well appointed and provides ample deck space and an open bridge policy. The full complement of inflatable landing craft ensures superb landings and wildlife viewing opportunities on the otherwise inaccessible coastline. The Ushuaia has been refurbished to accommodate a maximum of 88 passengers in 46 comfortable cabins and suites.

All cabins include ample storage space. Public areas feature a large dining room (one sitting), an open-plan observation lounge / lecture room with modern multimedia equipment, bar and a well-stocked library. There is also a changing room and a small infirmary. Our expert captain, officers and crew are highly experienced in Antarctic navigation and have a great love of nature. We provide a specialist team of international expedition leaders and lecturers, all extremely knowledgeable, enthusiastic, helpful and dedicated to the protection of the environment. Our chefs

prepare excellent cuisine including many local specialties and the bar is well-stocked with carefully selected wines and spirits.

### Facilities:

Four decks, dining room, observation lounge/ lecture room, bar and library, panorama deck, gift shop, infirmary and zodiacs.

## Your safety

### Safety at Sea

Our highest priority during your cruise is the personal safety of all passengers and crew. Our vessel meets all international requirements as well as U.S. Coast Guard Guidelines. Officers and crew are well trained and regularly practice emergency procedures to ensure your comfort and safety. Within 24 hours of embarkation there will be an emergency drill which all guests are required to participate. Through this exercise, you will become familiar with procedures that must be followed in the unlikely event of an emergency.

Please be aware:

- Always obey all safety announcements given by the Captain, the officers, or your Expedition Team.
  - For your safety and the safety of your fellow passengers, please do not leave any china or glass on the outside decks.
  - The exterior decks may be wet - we ask you therefore not to run but to walk slowly and hold on to the ship's railings.
  - We recommend all ladies to wear low heel shoes for their own comfort and safety.
  - In rough seas please hold on to banisters and fixed objects. Please expect pitching and rolling, especially in the ice, as there will be sudden lurches, rolls and other motions as the ships sails through the ice. Use the handrails whenever possible, especially going up stairways, ladders etc.
- Please mind the high steps in many exterior doorways. When passing through all doorways, and while in your cabin, PLEASE DO NOT PLACE YOUR HANDS ON THE EDGE OF THE DOORS. A lurching movement could slam the door on your fingers.

### Medical Facilities

A qualified physician accompanies every voyage to provide both emergency and

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routine health care. The ship's infirmary is located on Deck E. Office hours are posted in your daily program. In case of emergency, please call the bridge (phone #108).

There is a charge for this consultation:

- In ship's infirmary US\$ 20
- In your cabin US\$ 25

There is an extra charge for medication. Seasickness is treated free of charge. If you are in need of constant and / or special medication, please make sure you bring a sufficient supply.

## Life Vest

You have been provided with a lightweight inflatable life jacket, which inflates automatically by pulling the rip-cord. These life jackets must be worn at all times in the zodiac while cruising. Please take care of your life jacket. It will be collected at the end of the cruise.

Additionally there is a large "heavy duty" life jacket in your cabin, which is to be used in case of ship emergency and for life boat drills.

## Emergency

In case of emergency please call the Bridge (phone #108). When in port, please contact the watchman at the gangway.

## Itinerary changes

The highest priority of the Captain is always safety for passengers and ship. Therefore we might have to change the itinerary due to local conditions and unforeseeable reasons. Please rest assured that the crew will do their utmost to offer you the best possible alternatives.

## Your cabin

### Cabins

The Ushuaia offers passengers the choice of seven cabins, ranging from standard twins to superior singles and spacious suites. Most cabins offer lower berth and private facilities except for standard cabins which are two berths (upper and lower) with semi-private facilities (two cabins sharing a shower and washroom). Cabins have their own wash basin, are climate-controlled and equipped with hairdryers.

- Your stewardess will make your cabin in the morning.

- Change of bed linen - Your bed linen will be changed once a trip. If you prefer to have it changed more frequently please inform our Hotel Manager.

- Change of Towels - In order to limit the use of washing powder for our environment, we only change your towels upon request. Please leave your towels on the floor if you want them changed. If you hang up your towel we understand that you will use it again. Thank you for your cooperation.

- Toilets - The marine toilets are very efficient but also very sensitive. Please treat them gently and do not put anything into them except small amounts of toilet paper. Dispose of used tissues, etc. in the garbage can.

- Please note that if you are in a Standard Twin cabin you will

- Water supply - The water from the tap is safe to drink. Fresh water is produced by evaporating and condensing seawater. Normally there is no reason for water-rationing on board, but water conservation is encouraged.

## Open Door Policy

The Ushuaia maintains an open-door policy. If you wish to store your valuables, please contact the Hotel Manager. Your cabin is not equipped with a safety deposit box. However any valuables such as money, jewellery or documents could be deposited with the hotel manager who will store them safely for you. Antarctic Travel company is not responsible for the loss of personal effects and valuables.

## Passports

All passports are collected upon embarkation and kept with the purser during the voyage. Passports must be kept for administrative and safe-keeping purposes.

## Air Conditioning and Heating

The ship is fully climate controlled. Each cabin is equipped with individual temperature controls. Please contact our staff in case you wish to change these controls to your own comfort level.

## Electrical Appliances and Outlets

Electric current on board is 110 V/ 60 Hz and cabins are fitted with multi-type sockets suitable for several international plugs. However, we recommend to bring necessary

converters and any special adapters with you as only a limited number can be borrowed on board.

Some outlets in public areas are 220v-240v and are clearly marked. However, they are fitted with Argentine outlets. This plug has two flat pins in V-shape and also has a grounding pin. The ungrounded version of this plug with only two flat V-shaped pins or a plug with two thin round pins also work.

## Meals on board

### Meals on Board

You will find the following dining options while aboard the Ushuaia:

- Continental and American Breakfast Buffet
- Buffet or Seated Served Lunch
- Afternoon Tea
- Three-course Dinner

Meal times vary depending upon shore excursions. Coffee and tea is offered throughout the day.

## Dietary Requests

With advance notice, our Executive Chef will happily accommodate a variety of special dietary requests. Please note that it is imperative to inform Antarpplly Expeditions three weeks prior to your departure at the latest. Kindly also state this request on your Booking Form. We regret that Kosher meals are not available.

## Money

### Currency

Currency aboard the Ushuaia is US Dollar and Euro is accepted as well as the following credit cards: MasterCard and American Express (see Payment below). However, for credit card payments minimum charge is US\$100.

## Payment: Your Personal Account

We suggest that you bring at least US\$300 to US\$400 (in small bills). On most voyages, particularly to Antarctica, this sum will be more than sufficient spending money as we will be navigating through isolated areas where spending opportunities are rare. For services rendered aboard the ship, you will be provided with a personal account using a "chit" system. Your purchases will be kept on record and totalled at the end of your voyage.

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Your account must be settled prior to disembarkation in cash (U.S. Dollar and Euro). If you prefer to pay by credit card, please advise the Hotel Manager at the beginning of the voyage. We accept MasterCard and American Express for charges over US\$100. However, we cannot accept gratuities by credit card.

## Gratuities

The customary gratuity to the ship's service personnel is made as a blanket contribution at the end of the voyage and is divided among the crew. You will receive detailed guidelines aboard.

Tipping is a very personal matter and the amount you wish to give is at your discretion. As a generally accepted guideline, we suggest US\$15 per person per day. Cash US Dollars would be appreciated, unfortunately credit cards cannot be accepted.

## Expedition staff

### Expedition Staff

Your voyage will be directed by an Expedition Leader in conjunction with staff assistants, zodiac drivers, and a team of lecturers. Staff members are specially selected and trained to provide an eventful cruise.

### Lecturers

Our team of lecturers will accompany you throughout your voyage. While they will give lectures and lead shore excursions, they will also be on hand to answer your questions and provide ready knowledge throughout the day. Antarpplly Expeditions has selected these lecturers for both their professional accomplishments and reputations. We hope you enjoy exploring with them.

## Activities on board

### Daily Program

Each evening during the Recap the daily program for the next day will be presented by your Expedition Leader. Included in the program is information about the next day's activities, events, landing times, meal times, and lecturers.

Please remember that the expeditionary nature of this voyage may result in changes to the daily program due to sea, weather, ice and local conditions. Also, your Captain

and Expedition Team may deviate from the program to take advantage of unexpected opportunities such as wildlife sightings, advantageous sea conditions, or other local events. Any changes to the daily program will be announced over the PA system. We thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility.

### Lectures and Films

Both lectures and films are offered in the observation lounge / lecture room with modern multimedia equipment on the Main Deck F. Passengers are encouraged to participate in all the ship's activities, including the stimulating and informative lectures.

### Library

The ship's library on the Main Deck F contains a good selection of international titles, with an emphasis on reference material essential to your voyage. A variety of games, including playing cards and board games, are also at your disposal.

### Bridge

The Ushuaia encourages you to take advantage of our open bridge policy. During the days we are underway, the officers invite you to observe the navigational operations of the ship and will gladly answer any questions you may have. We kindly ask you to respect the bridge as the working area for the officers. Occasionally, for reasons of safety, the bridge may be closed to visitors.

### Wildlife Watch

During the time we are in areas where there is a possibility of sighting wildlife, the ships' officers and staff are constantly on the lookout. However, please don't hesitate to report a sighting to the bridge or staff. If we are fortunate enough to sight wildlife, we will announce it from the bridge, regardless of the hour. If you wish to go back to sleep please do so!

## Shore excursions

### Recaps and Briefings

On a daily basis, the Expedition Team will summarize experiences ashore and update you on our plans for the next day. These informal sessions are generally held during cocktail hour.

### Shore Excursions

Shore excursions will be outlined during recap and briefings the day before. Before disembarkation information on the length of time on land and the type of landing ("wet" or "dry") will be announced. Your Expedition Team will accompany you on daily shore excursions and provide you with extensive information. Please carefully follow their instructions and advice.

### Weather and Sea Conditions

Weather and sea conditions play important roles in expeditionary cruising. All planned activities are subject to modification or cancellation due to changing weather and/or sea conditions. We thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility.

### Zodiacs

The Ushuaia carries her own fleet of zodiacs and RIB's. Zodiacs accommodate up to 12 guests and, in the hands of our skilled boatmen, are stable, safe and manoeuvrable. Constructed of high-performance plastimer fabrics, with several airtight compartments, they are easy to board and disembark. Their versatility, their ability to open whole new worlds of exploration make zodiacs the key to expedition cruising enabling you to go ashore and investigate some of the world's most unique regions. Instructions will be provided on how to properly embark and disembark these water craft.

### Conservation

Please keep in mind that many of the places you are visiting on the voyages are unique. We at Antarpplly Expeditions are very proud of our outstanding reputation for conservation and respect for all the ecosystems we visit. Please assist us in maintaining this reputation. Our lecturers and staff will accompany you on shore excursions and provide you with guidance and specific information for the region. We kindly ask you to bring back any kind of garbage to the ship where it will be correctly disposed of. For cruises to Antarctica you will receive our Antarctic Guidelines with your travel documents.

### Photographic Etiquette

When photographing do not approach wildlife to the point that it becomes frightened,

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agitated, or must flee. Give extra space to animals with young. In some areas, photographing military installations, airports, and other sensitive objects is restricted. Your Expedition Team will advise you of local regulations.

## Communications on board

### Announcements

All announcements are made via our Public Announcement (PA) system on board. The bridge announces interesting events and wildlife attractions. Should there be an emergency call from the bridge we will make sure that you receive it!

### Telephone and emails on board

The Ushuaia is equipped with the INMARSAT system, which allows direct communication with the ship by telephone from any location in the world. For communications with the Ushuaia you will receive a list of numbers prior to your departure. On board you will find a list of important numbers and instructions for the use of your phone in the folder in your cabin. Costs will be charged to your cabin at US\$4 per minute and will be paid at the end of your voyage.

Passengers may use dedicated computers to access the internet and to check their personal emails. You can purchase an internet code at the rate of \$10 for 30 minutes internet access. Kindly note that there is no Wi-Fi available.

## Children on board

Parents are responsible for their children at all times, on land and on board. Our staff is not responsible for babysitting etc., and they must stay with the groups at all times and follow the instructions and directions of the Expedition Leader and his staff. Passengers must make sure that the children are supervised at all times and the children are not allowed to run on board or on deck. Small children should be kept in a harness while on deck and must be accompanied by a parent.

Children must wear the special life vests when boarding the zodiacs. However, decisions if children may disembark or not will be taken by the Captain for each landing according to

the prevailing landing conditions. Safety is first and foremost.

On board our vessel we do not have any child facilities. We do not provide toys, coloring books etc, therefore parents are kindly requested to bring their own to entertain their children.

We regret not to be able to provide any medication suitable for children on board the Ushuaia, the parents must bring adequate medication, especially for seasickness.

Should a situation arise that the parents and/or children need to be evacuated to a hospital; there is no hospital in Antarctica and evacuation to the continent may take several days or may not always be possible. The small infirmary on board is merely suitable for first aid treatment.

## What to pack

### Expedition Clothing

- Rain jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Rubber boots
- Pull-on, unlined, knee-high boots are required for wet landings. Boots must be 14"-16" high with strong, rubber-ridge, non-skid soles. These specifications are very important. You may be stepping into water up to 10" deep on wet landings. Moon or leather boots are NOT appropriate. A supply of rubber boots or Wellingtons, are available on board the Ushuaia and includes a wide variety of sizes. It is recommended that you bring your own only if you require a special size. Please note that the boots on board have been used by previous passengers.
- Parka (Water-repellent hooded parka)
- Waterproof gloves or mittens
- Hat, scarf, or other face protection
- Jacket or sweaters
- It is best to bring at least one lightweight and one heavy jacket or sweater. Sweatshirts, turtlenecks, and fleece pullovers are also good Insulators. Layering with wool, silk or synthetics fabrics, rather than cotton, is recommended.
- Woollen socks
- Warm pants

- Thermal or long underwear
- Light-weight shirts and T-shirts

### Clothing on board

Comfortable and casual clothing, in the expedition spirit, is recommended for the vessel. Appropriate footwear includes at least one pair of deck-type, rubber-soled shoes.

### Other Gear

- Sunscreen and lip protection (Min SPF 15)
- Sunglasses
- Binoculars
- Plastic bags - Plastic zip-lock bags will protect your camera and binoculars from wave splash and spray while in Zodiacs
- Backpack

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