

ANTARCTICA & sub-Antarctic Islands including South Georgia 2012-13



Photo: Enrique López-Tapia

- **ITINERARIES**
Classic Antarctica | Weddell Sea Quest | Polar Circle Quest | Classic South Georgia
- **THE USHUAIA**
- **DATES & RATES**
- **TERMS & CONDITIONS**

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CLASSIC ANTARCTICA

Expedition cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands
Aboard the USHUAIA

DAY 1: Depart from Ushuaia

Embark the USHUAIA in the afternoon and meet your expedition and lecture staff. After you have settled into your cabins we sail along the famous Beagle Channel and the scenic Mackinlay Pass.

DAY 2 and 3: Crossing the Drake Passage

Named after the renowned explorer, Sir Francis Drake, who sailed these waters in 1578, the Drake Passage also marks the Antarctic Convergence, a biological barrier where cold polar water sinks beneath the warmer northern waters. This creates

a great upwelling of nutrients, which sustains the biodiversity of this region. The Drake Passage also marks the northern limit of many Antarctic seabirds. As we sail across the passage, Antarply Expeditions' lecturers will be out with you on deck to help in the identification of an amazing variety of seabirds, including many albatrosses, which follow in our wake. The USHUAIA's open bridge policy allows you to join our officers on the bridge and learn about navigation, watch for whales, and enjoy the view. A full program of lectures will be offered as well.

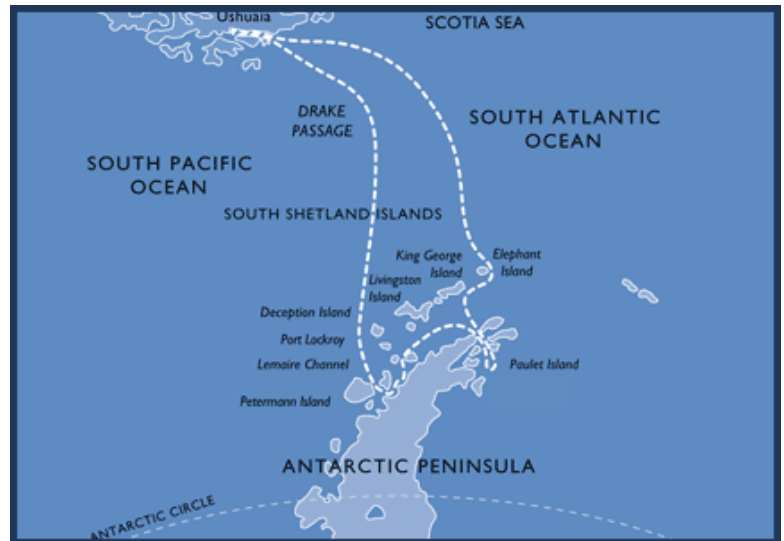


The first sightings of icebergs and snow-capped mountains indicate that we have reached the South Shetland Islands, a group of twenty islands and islets first sighted in February 1819 by Capt. William Smith of the brig *Williams*. With favorable conditions in the Drake Passage our lecturers and naturalists will accompany you ashore as you experience your first encounter with the penguins and seals on Day 3.

DAY 4 to 8: Exploring the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula

The South Shetland Islands are a haven for wildlife. Vast penguin rookeries, beaches ruled by Antarctic fur seals and Southern elephant seals make every day spent in this amazing island group unforgettable. Sailing through the narrow passage into the flooded caldera of Deception Island is truly amazing.

King George Island, the largest of the South Shetland Islands, features colonies of nesting Adélie and Chinstrap Penguins, Kelp Gulls, Blue-eyed Cormorants, Antarctic Terns and Southern Giant Petrels and is home to scientific bases of many different countries. Macaroni, Chinstrap and Gentoo Penguins as well as elephant seals await you at Livingston Island.





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On board the USHUAIA



The Antarctic Peninsula's remarkable history will provide you with a type of excitement often only associated with the early explorers. You will have plenty of time to explore its amazing scenery, a pristine wilderness of snow, ice, mountains and waterways, and an incredible wide variety of wildlife. Apart from penguins and seabirds you are very likely to see Weddell, crabeater and leopard seals as well as Minke, killer (orca) and humpback whales at close range.

We hope to navigate some of the most beautiful waterways (depending on the ice conditions): the Gerlache Strait, the Neumayer Channel, and the Lemaire Channel, the latter are narrow passages between towering rock faces and spectacular glaciers. We plan to make at least two landings per day and possible landing sites may include:

Paradise Bay is perhaps the most aptly named place in the world and we attempt a landing on the continent proper. After negotiating the iceberg-strewn waters of the Antarctic Sound, we hope to visit the bustling Adélie Penguin (over 100,000 pairs breed here) and Blue-eyed Cormorant colonies on Paulet Island. The Nordenskjöld expedition built a stone survival hut here in 1903. Today its ruins have been taken over by nesting penguins.



Further exploration may take you to Melchior Island, Cuverville Island, Portal Point, Neko Harbour, Pléneau Island and if ice conditions permit, to Petermann Island for a visit to the southernmost colony of Gentoo Penguins.



DAY 9 and 10: At Sea crossing the Drake Passage, northbound

We leave Antarctica and head north across the Drake Passage. Join our lecturers and naturalists on deck as we search for seabirds and whales and enjoy some final lectures. Take the chance to relax and reflect on the fascinating adventures of the past days on the way back to Ushuaia.

DAY 11: Arrival in Ushuaia

We arrive at the port of Ushuaia in the early morning and disembark the USHUAIA after breakfast.

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

The itineraries for A111112, A090113, A160313 and A250313 offer one day less in the area of the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands.



WEDDELL SEA QUEST

Expedition cruise to the South Shetland Islands, Antarctic Peninsula & the Weddell Sea
Aboard the USHUAIA

The Weddell Sea will always be remembered as the polar region that still echoes the ill-fated expedition of the great British polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. After Amundsen and Scott had reached the South Pole, Shackleton planned the Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition to make the first crossing of Antarctica, from the Weddell Sea to the Ross Sea via the South Pole. The 1914 expedition was a failure but it produced one of the greatest stories in the history of polar exploration. His ship, the *Endurance* was beset in the ice almost in sight of her destination, Vahsel Bay, and after drifting northwards, eventually sank. The crew camped out on the pack-ice and slowly made its way to Elephant Island in the South Shetland Islands and, as there was no hope of rescue, Shackleton determined to go for help. He decided to head for South Georgia. Shackleton and five companions set out in one of the lifeboats across 1,300 km (800 miles) of the stormiest water in the world. Sixteen days later, worn out, soaked and hungry they sighted the southern coast of South Georgia. But they still had to cross the interior of the island, as the whaling stations were all situated on the northern coast. The interior of South Georgia had never been surveyed and they had to guess their route, but after a difficult march they finally found their way to the whaling station Stromness, where they did get help. However, it would take them another three attempts to get back to Elephant Island before the 22 marooned men of the *Endurance* were rescued. Through Shackleton's outstanding courage and leadership his men survived.



DECEMBER 09: Depart from Ushuaia

Embark the USHUAIA in the afternoon and meet your expedition and lecture staff. After you have settled into your cabins we sail along the famous Beagle Channel and the scenic Mackinlay Pass.

DECEMBER 10 and 11: At Sea – Crossing the Drake Passage

Named after the renowned explorer, Sir Francis Drake, who sailed these waters in 1578, the Drake Passage also marks the Antarctic Convergence, a biological barrier where cold polar water sinks beneath the warmer northern waters. This creates a great upwelling of nutrients, which sustains the biodiversity of this region. The Drake Passage also marks the northern limit of many Antarctic seabirds. As we sail across the passage, Antarply Expeditions'



lecturers will be out with you on deck to help with the identification of an amazing variety of seabirds, including many albatrosses, which follow in our wake. The USHUAIA's open bridge policy allows you to join our officers on the bridge and learn about navigation, watch for whales, and enjoy the view. A full program of lectures will be offered as well.

The first sightings of icebergs and snow-capped mountains indicate that we have reached the South Shetland Islands, a group of twenty islands and islets first sighted in February 1819 by Capt. William Smith of the brig *Williams*. With favorable conditions in the Drake Passage our lecturers and naturalists will accompany you ashore as you experience your first encounter with the penguins and seals on Day 3.

DECEMBER 12, 13 and 14: Exploring the Weddell Sea

This is where huge tabular icebergs roam. In some years, the Erebus & Terror Gulf and Weddell Sea are chock-a-block full with ice, making for exciting ice navigation. Get up early and go out on deck. It may be 3:30 h in the morning, but the sunrises will be unlike anything you've ever seen. Huge tabular bergs break from the Larsen, Ronne, and Filchner ice shelves and combine with one-year-old and multi-year sea ice to produce a floating, undulating panorama of rugged ice scenery. All-white Snow Petrels are likely to be coursing over the floes, often joined by Pintado Petrels.



The usual passage to the east side of the Antarctic Peninsula traverses the Antarctic Sound, which is 30 miles (48 km) long and 7-12 miles (11-19 km) wide and runs northwest-to-southeast. Hope Bay and the Argentine Station Esperanza, are located on the western side of the Sound. Brown Bluff, a promontory on the Tabarin Peninsula, is located south of Hope Bay. Both of them might be possible landing sites. The Weddell Sea represents the center of the Peninsula's Adélie Penguin population. Devil Island, Paulet Island and the already mentioned sites, might give us ample proof of this. The numbers of penguins are breathtaking. Sometimes juvenile Emperor Penguins have been sighted, riding ice floes but are by no means regular in the area.

This region also teems with vibrant exploration history. The most bizarre of these tales involves the Swedish Antarctic Expedition of 1901-03 under the command of geologist Otto Nordenskjöld. Four visitor sites have links to this expedition: Hope Bay, Paulet Island, Snow Hill Island, and Cape Well-Met on Vega Island. Our expedition staff will be pleased to share their exciting story with you. Nordenskjöld's expedition was the first to overwinter in the Peninsula. His ship the Antarctic, under the command of the famous Norwegian whaling captain Carl Anton Larsen, was trapped in the ice and sank, but the men survived on different locations and even managed to carry out significant scientific research in the area.



DECEMBER 15, 16 and 17: Exploring the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands



The Antarctic Peninsula's remarkable history will also provide you with a type of excitement often only associated with the early explorers. You will have plenty of time to explore its amazing scenery, a pristine wilderness of snow, ice, mountains and waterways and a wide variety of wildlife. Apart from Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins and other seabirds you are likely to encounter Weddell, crabeater and leopard seals as well as Minke whales and orcas at close range.

We hope to navigate some of the most beautiful waterways: the Gerlache Strait, Errera Channel and Neumayer Channel. Possible landing sites may include: Paradise Bay, which is perhaps the most aptly



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On board the USHUAIA

named place in the world with its impressive glacial fronts and mountains, Cuverville Island, home of the biggest Gentoo Penguin colony in the Peninsula surrounded by glaciers and castellated icebergs, and the British Museum and Post office at Port Lockroy.

Further exploration will lead us to the South Shetland Islands. The volcanic island group is a haven for wildlife. Vast penguin rookeries and seals hauling out on the shorelines make every day spent here unforgettable. Sailing through the narrow passage into the flooded caldera of Deception Island is truly amazing, so is visiting the crescent shaped island Half Moon, home to Chinstrap Penguins in breathtaking surroundings.



There might also be a chance to visit the enigmatic Elephant Island. Sir Ernest Shackleton fans will need no introduction to this historic windswept island. In 1916 Shackleton was forced to leave 22 of his men stranded on these shores, while he and five others embarked on an unbelievable last-ditch rescue attempt. What followed is one of the greatest rescue stories of all time. Every passenger will return with a greater knowledge of this gripping tale of adventure in a truly remarkable part of the world.



DECEMBER 18 and 19: At Sea – Crossing the Drake Passage, northbound

We leave Antarctica and head north across the Drake Passage. Join our lecturers and naturalists on deck as we search for seabirds and whales and enjoy some final lectures. Take the chance to relax and reflect on the fascinating adventures of the past days on the way back to Ushuaia.

DECEMBER 20: Arrival in Ushuaia

We arrive at the port of Ushuaia in the early morning and disembark the USHUAIA after breakfast.

Please note: *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 and they will try their best to reach the Weddell Sea. However if ice conditions do not allow access the route might be changed to West Antarctica. A daily program sheet will be issued on board. Flexibility is the key to success.*



POLAR CIRCLE QUEST

Expedition cruise to the South Shetland Islands, the Antarctic Peninsula & endeavor to cross the Polar Circle

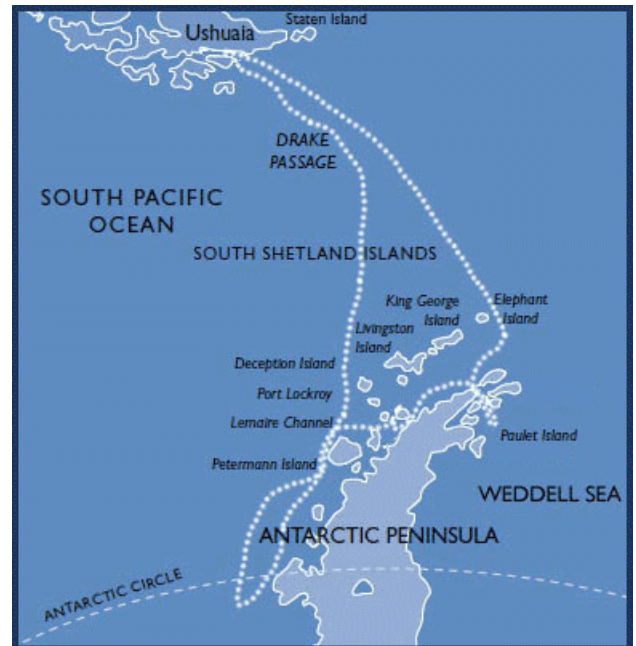
Aboard the USHUAIA

FEBRUARY 23: Depart from Ushuaia

Embark the USHUAIA in the afternoon and meet your expedition and lecture staff. After you have settled into your cabins we sail along the famous Beagle Channel and the scenic Mackinlay Pass.

FEBRUARY 24 and 25: At Sea – Crossing the Drake Passage

Named after the renowned explorer, Sir Francis Drake, who sailed these waters in 1578, the Drake Passage also marks the Antarctic Convergence, a biological barrier where cold polar water sinks beneath the warmer northern waters. This creates a great upwelling of nutrients, which sustains the biodiversity of this region. The Drake Passage also marks the northern limit of many Antarctic seabirds. As we sail across the passage, Antarply Expeditions' lecturers will be out with you on deck to help with the identification of an amazing variety of seabirds, including many albatrosses, which follow in our wake.



The USHUAIA's open bridge policy allows you to join our officers on the bridge and learn about navigation, watch for whales, and enjoy the view. A full program of lectures will be offered as well.

The first sightings of icebergs and snow-capped mountains indicate that we have reached the South Shetland Islands, a group of twenty islands and islets first sighted in February 1819 by Capt. William Smith of the brig *Williams*. With favorable conditions in the Drake Passage our lecturers and naturalists will accompany you ashore as you experience your first encounter with the penguins and seals on Day 3.

FEBRUARY 26 to MARCH 03: Exploring the South Shetland Islands, the Antarctic Peninsula and endeavor to cross the Polar Circle

Exquisite beauty and pristine landscapes are waiting for you on the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula. Myriads of icebergs with different shades and shapes are floating free in the waterways around the continent. The Antarctic Peninsula's remarkable history will also provide you with a type of excitement often only associated with the early explorers. You will have plenty of time to explore its amazing scenery and a wide variety of wildlife. Apart from Adélie, Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins and





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other seabirds you are likely to encounter Weddell, crabeater, fur and leopard seals as well as Minke whales and orcas at close range. At this time of year it is also very likely to encounter big cetaceans, such as humpback, Finn and Sei whales in the area.





We hope to navigate some of the most beautiful waterways the area has to offer, such as: the Gerlache Strait, Errera Channel, Neumayer Channel and the extremely narrow Lemaire Channel. Possible landing sites may include: Paradise Bay, which is perhaps the most aptly named place in the world with its impressive glacial fronts and mountains, Cuverville Island, home of the biggest Gentoo Penguin colony in the Peninsula surrounded by glaciers and castellated icebergs, and the British Museum and Post office Port Lockroy.

As further exploration will lead us far South of the Lemaire Channel in quest of the Polar Circle, we might also visit the Ukrainian Station Vernadsky, the former British base Faraday, where the ozone hole was first spotted, the rugged Yalour Islands and south of the Polar Circle Detaille Island.

On our way North we plan to explore the South Shetland Islands. The volcanic island group is a haven for wildlife. Vast penguin rookeries and seals hauling out on the shorelines make every day spent here unforgettable. Sailing through the narrow passage into the flooded caldera of Deception Island is truly amazing, so is visiting the crescent shaped island Half Moon, home to Chinstrap Penguins in breathtaking surroundings.



MARCH 04 and 05: At Sea – Crossing the Drake Passage, northbound

We leave Antarctica and head north across the Drake Passage. Join our lecturers and naturalists on deck as we search for seabirds and whales and enjoy some final lectures. Take the chance to relax and reflect on the fascinating adventures of the past days on the way back to Ushuaia.

MARCH 06: Arrival in Ushuaia

We arrive at the port of Ushuaia in the early morning and disembark the USHUAIA after breakfast.

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ANTARCTICA & sub-Antarctic Islands incl. South Georgia

On board the USHUAIA



CLASSIC SOUTH GEORGIA

Expedition cruise to South Georgia, including the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Orkney Islands,

Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland
Aboard the USHUAIA

NOVEMBER 20: Depart from Ushuaia

Embark the USHUAIA in the afternoon and meet your expedition and lecture staff. After you have settled into your cabins we sail along the famous Beagle Channel on our way to the rugged and beautiful Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas).

NOVEMBER 21: At Sea

En route to the Falkland archipelago our expedition team looks forward to greet you during their first introductory lectures and invites you to join them on the outer decks for amazing birdwatching.

NOVEMBER 22: West Point Island / Carcass Island - Western Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

In the morning we hope to reach West Point Island to visit a spectacular colony of Black-browed Albatross, which nest together with the very energetic Rockhopper Penguins at the cliffside of the island. A gentle slope leads up to the site and on our way we can enjoy the beautiful views of the countryside.



with scones and cake.

The afternoon might take us to Carcass Island. A dense plantation of tussock grass covers much of the lower ground below Jason Hill to the east of the island. It is this availability of abundant cover, and the absence of cats, rats and mice throughout the Island's history, which made for a spectacularly large population of small birds. Gentoo and Magellanic Penguins breed here, Striated Caracaras are seen almost everywhere, Cobb's Wrens are also abundant on the island. Peale's and Commerson's dolphins come often close to the shoreline and with a little luck, Rob McGill, the owner of this delightful island might have the kettle on and invite us for an islander's tea

NOVEMBER 23: Stanley - Eastern Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The quaint little town was established in the early 1840s, but over the last two decades of the 20th century there has been remarkable progress in the islands, which has caused the town to double its size with the latest growth concentrated towards the eastern end of the harbor, stretching its boundary even further. You do not have to go out of the town to enjoy the outstanding wildlife the Islands have to





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offer. Southern Giant Petrels often fly close to the shoreline, keeping up with local residents driving along the front road. The endemic Falkland Steamer Ducks abound on the shore while Kelp Gulls can often be seen flying up in the air, dropping mussels on to the roads, so that the shells crack allowing them to eat the contents. Smaller birds to be seen include the Falkland Thrush, the Red-breasted long-tailed Meadowlark and Black-chinned Siskin.





In the afternoon we will leave Stanley and sail East en route to South Georgia. The island group of South Georgia is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful and inspiring places on earth with more wildlife than virtually anywhere else on the planet. Though extremely isolated, South Georgia has amazing scenery ranging from high mountains and mighty glaciers to deep fjords and low-lying grassland.

NOVEMBER 24 to 26: At Sea

En route to South Georgia.

The open bridge policy on the USHUAIA allows you to join our officers on the bridge and learn about navigation, watch for whales, and enjoy the view. These waters are also home to countless seabirds, which often ride the currents created in the wake of the ship. On board, our extensive lecture program will begin today. Antarply Expeditions' expert naturalists share their knowledge of the wildlife and unique ecosystems we will encounter throughout our voyage. Our lecture team will accompany you through every step of the journey, offering insight and ready knowledge on this amazing region. With favorable conditions you will experience your first encounter with King Penguins on the afternoon of November 26.



NOVEMBER 27 to 30: South Georgia



Our exact itinerary will be determined by local conditions on sea and land. The following destinations are among those we hope to explore:

Grytviken

Once a thriving whaling station, the remains of Grytviken stand as a reminder of an era of exploitation that thankfully grows more distant by the day. Grytviken has an excellent natural history museum but also offers possibilities for hikes in the surrounding mountains. A short zodiac ride around King Edward cove brings us to the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton. Join the USHUAIA's staff for a graveside toast honoring this remarkable explorer and venerated mariner.

Salisbury Plain

Sometimes called the "Serengeti of the South", Salisbury Plain is a wildlife site without parallel. Several large glaciers provide a dramatic backdrop for the tens of thousands of King Penguins that breed in the tussock grass of this remarkable ecosystem. The wide beach makes for excellent walking as we visit the colonies, where we are literally surrounded and delightfully outnumbered by throngs of curious, gentle penguins. In November the beaches are a haven for fur seals, which will give birth at this time. Elephant seal weeners will also join into the general concert and some big elephant seal bulls are lazing a bit further away from the waterfront. Southern Giant Petrels and the occasional wandering Gentoo Penguin will also make for great photo opportunities. Prepare for an awe-inspiring experience.

Gold Harbour



Gold Harbour offers some of the most spectacular scenery of the voyage with its alpine landscape and hanging glaciers. We hope to make a landing on the beach, where we will enjoy naturalist-led nature walks and hikes. The surrounding cliffs of Gold Harbour provide habitat for nesting Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses, which can often be seen soaring above the beach. A large colony of King Penguins offers a fantastic opportunity to photograph these dramatic birds, and the sandy beach is a favorite haul-out spot for massive Southern elephant seals. There is also a small colony of Gentoo Penguins nesting in the shelter of the tussock grass.



Cooper Bay

We hope to explore two sites at Cooper Bay. The first could be a visit to the main beach, where King Penguins breed in amongst dense tussock grass. We may have the opportunity to make a landing here, or take part in a zodiac tour around rugged bays of volcanic origin to a wonderful Macaroni Penguin colony perched on the rocky cliffs. Southern elephant seals can often be seen lounging among the large clumps of tussock grass in the area as well.

St. Andrews Bay

The surf beaten coastline at St. Andrews Bay runs north-south in a 1.86 miles (3 km) long uninterrupted sweep of fine dark sand, covered in penguins and seals and bounded in the interior by the Cook, Buxton and Heaney Glaciers. The bay hosts the biggest colony of King Penguins on South Georgia. In November the beach is also carpeted with fur and elephant seals. Such a large assemblage of wildlife attracts an entourage of persistent and voracious scavengers. Sheathbills dart in and around the penguin colony, Cape Petrels nest in a small number on the cliffs north of St. Andrews Bay. Leopard seals patrol the rocks at this end of the beach too, hunting penguins along the edge of kelp beds. A few White-chinned Petrels and Light-mantled Sooty Albatross nest on the tussock slopes. Brown Skuas and Antarctic Terns breed on the outwash plain and scree slopes at the north end of the beach, defending their nest sites with their characteristic noise and vigor.

Stromness

Stromness is situated in the central harbor of Stromness Bay. It was here that Shackleton finished his epic voyage, walking into the now derelict whaling station of Stromness which stands at the southern end of a long grey sand beach at the head of the harbor. This is an excellent site for reindeer. Behind the station, Shackleton Valley extends inland and westward up to a pass leading over to Fortuna Bay. A picturesque waterfall situated at the head of the valley lies on the route and flows into the large swiftly running river that joins the sea at the northern end of the beach. Mosses, rushes and other mire and bog plants cloak the valley floor in a patchwork of soft, wet swampy areas. There is a small Gentoo Penguin colony located among the hills between the whaling station and the river in breathtaking scenery.



Drygalski Fjord

The 9 miles (14 km) long Drygalski Fjord offers spectacular scenery. Although Drygalski Fjord's glaciers have retreated significantly in recent decades, they remain one of the most striking features of this coastline, particularly the Risting and Jenkins Glaciers. This is also one of the principal breeding areas for Snow Petrels in South Georgia. The birds nest on the cliff buttresses and mountain ridges along the shores and mix with Cape Petrels on the lower ledges. Both species can be seen flying along the cliffs as they come and go from their nest sites. Blue-eyed Shags, Wilson's Storm Petrels and Antarctic Terns are also a common sight as they feed in the plankton-rich upwellings in front of the glaciers.



DECEMBER 01: At Sea

For one and a half days we will cross the waters towards the South Orkney Islands offering excellent opportunities to be out on deck or to catch up on your reading and reflect on the amazing experience in South Georgia of the past few days. Lectures and activities will be offered throughout the passage.

DECEMBER 02: South Orkney Islands – Orcadas Station

The archipelago comprises four main islands: Coronation, Laurie, Powell and Signy Island. We will try to approach the second largest one, Laurie Island. The seas around these glaciated islands are often ice-covered and surrounded by huge tabular icebergs. But we might get lucky and step ashore to visit the Argentine Station Orcadas, where seals haul out on the beach and we might get a tour through the facilities of the station.

DECEMBER 03: At Sea

For another day we will be at sea heading further South towards the Weddell Sea, always on a lookout for wildlife and beautiful icebergs.

DECEMBER 04 to 06: Weddell Sea, Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands

Our exact itinerary will be determined by local conditions on sea and land. The following destinations are among those we hope to explore:



King George Island, South Shetland Islands



King George Island is the largest of the South Shetland Islands. Russia, China, Korea, Poland, Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina have all built research stations here. We may have an opportunity to visit one of these stations, where researchers welcome us with descriptions of their projects and a firsthand look at life in the Antarctic. King George Island features colonies of nesting Adélie and Chinstrap Penguins, as well as Kelp Gulls, Blue-eyed Cormorants, Antarctic Terns and Southern Giant Petrels. Southern elephant seals can often be found in muddy wallows close to the shoreline. The island is also known for its flora, including luxuriant moss beds, two species of grass which grows in sheltered areas and beautiful brightly-colored orange and green lichens found on coastal rocks. Invertebrates can also be found in tide pools along the shore.

Deception Island, South Shetland Islands

Long ago, volcanic pressure on Deception Island resulted in a tremendous eruption that caused the island's peak to explode. The resulting caldera flooded with seawater, creating the unique landmass we may visit today. Our Captain will expertly pilot the ship through a narrow gateway in the icy cliffs of the island, taking the USHUAIA into the caldera itself. Hundreds of thousands of Chinstrap Penguins inhabit the outer volcanic slopes of the island at Baily Head, along with nesting Pintado Petrels and Antarctic Terns. Brave souls may don their bathing suits for the unusual opportunity of a swim in the Antarctic, since the waters around Deception Island are usually geothermally heated!

Antarctic Sound

The passage to the east side of the Antarctic Peninsula traverses Antarctic Sound, which is 30 miles (48 km) long and 7-12 miles (11-19 km) wide and runs northwest-to-southeast.

This is where huge tabular icebergs roam. All-white, Black-pupiled, and Black-billed Snow Petrels are likely to be coursing over the scenery, often joined by Pintado Petrels and early in the spring, by Antarctic Petrels streaming south to nesting territories on slopes fringing the Weddell Sea.

Brown Bluff

The spectacular rust-colored promontory on the Tabarin Peninsula, Brown Bluff, is located south of Hope Bay. On its long beach more than 20,000 Adélie penguins and a smaller group of Gentoo Penguins have found their home. There is also a potpourri of Kelp Gulls, Snow Petrels, and Pintado Petrels swirling above.



Esperanza Station – Hope Bay

At the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula the mighty ice-tongue of the Depot glacier has cut a broad valley into the continent. In the meantime the glacier has retreated and left a large bay, Hope Bay. It is here, where the biggest station of the entire Antarctic Peninsula is situated, the Argentine Station Esperanza. The friendly base personal might give us a tour of their installations, including the little church and the school they maintain open for their children.

Astrolabe Island

Chinstrap Penguins, Antarctic Fulmars, and Antarctic Brown Skuas are confirmed breeders on the island lying in the Bransfield Strait. Blue-eyed Shags nest on offshore islands. Wilson's Storm Petrels may be seen. Weddell and leopard seals haul out regularly.

DECEMBER 07 and 08: At Sea crossing the Drake Passage, northbound

We leave Antarctica the evening before and head north across the Drake Passage. Named after the renowned explorer, Sir Francis Drake, who sailed these waters in 1578, the Drake Passage also marks the Antarctic



Convergence, a biological barrier where cold polar water sinks beneath the warmer northern waters. This creates a great upwelling of nutrients, which sustains the biodiversity of this region. The Drake Passage also marks the northern limit of many Antarctic seabirds. As we sail across the passage, Antarply Expeditions' lecturers will be out with you on deck to help in the identification of whales and an amazing variety of seabirds, including many albatrosses, which follow in our wake. Join our lecturers for some final lectures and take the chance to relax and reflect on the fascinating adventures of the past days on the way back to Ushuaia.

DECEMBER 09: Arrival in Ushuaia

We arrive at the port of Ushuaia in the early morning and disembark the USHUAIA after breakfast.

Please note: *The above itinerary is a guide only. Our exact route and program will vary to take best advantage of*



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THE USHUAIA



Originally built for the United States agency NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration), the USHUAIA has been refurbished to accommodate a maximum of 84 passengers in 41 comfortable twin cabins and suites.

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.

All cabins include ample storage space. Public areas feature a large dining room (one sitting), an observation lounge and bar, a conference room with modern multimedia equipment, a well-stocked library, 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.

Accommodation:

Suites: 5 Outside cabins with windows on the upper deck (G), private facilities, two lower berths, lounge, TV, DVD player and fridge.

Suite 201 features two double beds, Suite 202 one double bed and a sofa bed. Suite 203 features two lower single beds, Suites 204 and 207 three lower single beds.



Superior: 8 Twin outside cabins with windows on the upper deck (G), private facilities, two lower berths. Cabin 301 features one double and one single bed.

A cabins: 6 Twin outside cabins with windows on the upper deck (G), private facilities, two lower berths.



B cabins: 14 Twin outside cabins: 12 twin outside cabins with portholes on deck (E) and semi-private facilities, two berths (upper/lower); and 2 twin outside cabins (214 and 215) with portholes on the upper deck (G) with private facilities and two berths (upper/lower).

C cabins: 8 Twin inside cabins on the lower deck (D) with semi-private facilities, two berths (upper/lower).



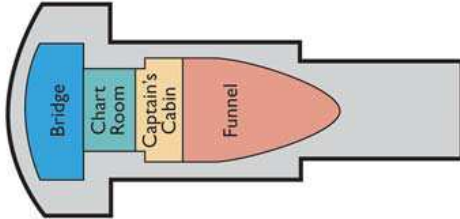
ANTARCTICA & sub-Antarctic Islands incl. South Georgia

On board the USHUAIA

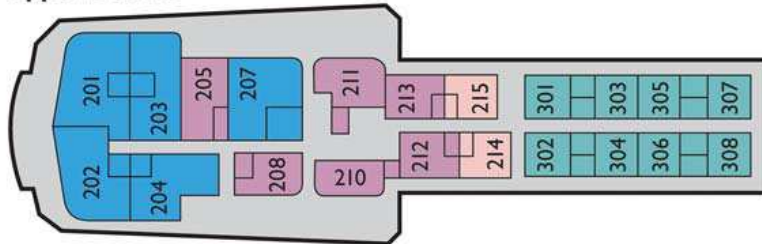
N.B. Semi-private facilities: Two cabins share one bathroom accessible from both cabins (shower and wc). Each cabin is also equipped with its own washbasin.



Bridge Deck H

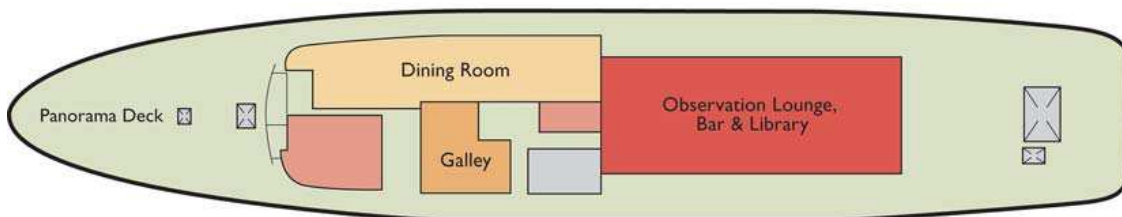


Upper Deck G

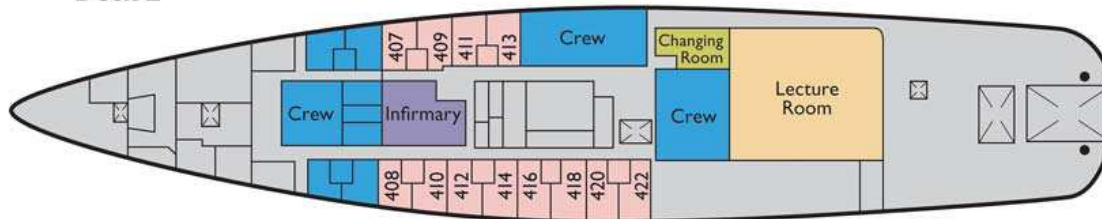


- 5 Suites
- 6 Twin cabins with private facilities (cat. A)
- 2 Twin cabins with private facilities (cat. B)
- 8 Superior twin cabins with private facilities

Main Deck F

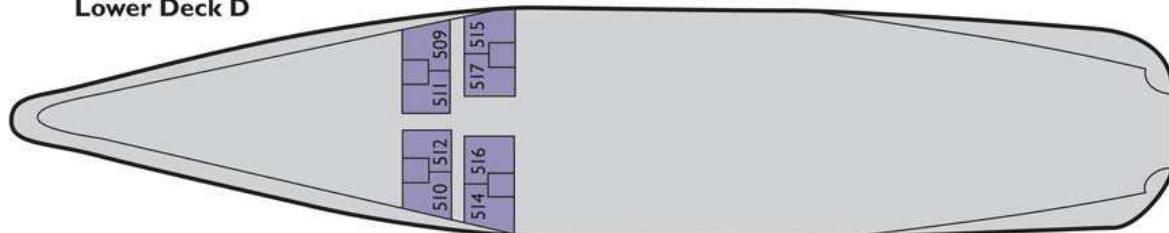


Deck E



- 12 Twin cabins with semi-private facilities (cat. B)

Lower Deck D



- 8 Twin cabins with semi-private facilities (cat. C)

DATES & RATES 2012-13

Expedition cruises on board the **USHUAIA**. Port of embarkation and disembarkation: **Ushuaia, Argentina**

Voyage Code	Itinerary & Duration	Embarkation	Disembarkation
A111112	CLASSIC ANTARCTICA Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (9 nights/10 days)	November 11, 2012	November 20, 2012
A201112	CLASSIC SOUTH GEORGIA Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia, South Orkney Islands, Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (19 nights/20 days)	November 20, 2012	December 09, 2012
A091212	WEDDELL SEA QUEST Antarctic Peninsula, South Shetland Islands & Weddell Sea (11 nights/12 days)	December 09, 2012	December 20, 2012
A201212	CLASSIC ANTARCTICA Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (10 nights/11 days)	December 20, 2012	December 30, 2012
A301212	CLASSIC ANTARCTICA Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (10 nights/11 days)	December 30, 2012	January 09, 2013
A090113	CLASSIC ANTARCTICA Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (9 nights/10 days)	January 09, 2013	January 18, 2013
A180113	CLASSIC ANTARCTICA Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (10 nights/11 days)	January 18, 2013	January 28, 2013
A230213	POLAR CIRCLE QUEST Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (11 nights/12 days)	February 23, 2013	March 06, 2013
A060313	CLASSIC ANTARCTICA Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (10 nights/11 days)	March 06, 2013	March 16, 2013
A160313	CLASSIC ANTARCTICA Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (9 nights/10 days)	March 16, 2013	March 25, 2013
A250313	CLASSIC ANTARCTICA Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (9 nights/10 days)	March 25, 2013	April 03, 2013

RATES 2012-13

In US Dollars, per person based on twin share occupancy.

Special rates for families - A child (under 16 years) accompanied by two adults will be free of charge in a triple Superior cabin or triple Suite (see rates below).

Voyage:	Cabin Categories:				
	C	B	A	Superior	Suite
A11112, A160313, A250313 CLASSIC ANTARCTICA Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (9 nights/10 days)	4,490	5,820	7,270	7,700	8,090
A201112 CLASSIC SOUTH GEORGIA Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia, South Orkney Islands, Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (19 nights/20 days)	9,480	12,290	15,350	16,250	17,080
A091212 WEDDELL SEA QUEST Antarctic Peninsula, South Shetland Islands & Weddell Sea (11 nights/12 days)	5,490	7,120	8,890	9,410	9,890
A201212, A301212, A180113 CLASSIC ANTARCTICA Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (10 nights/11 days)	6,280	7,730	9,700	10,250	10,770
A090113 CLASSIC ANTARCTICA Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (9 nights/10 days)	5,650	6,960	8,730	9,230	9,690
A230213 POLAR CIRCLE QUEST Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (11 nights/12 days)	6,130	7,750	9,700	10,260	10,780
A060313 CLASSIC ANTARCTICA Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands (10 nights/11 days)	4,990	6,470	8,080	8,550	8,990

N.B. All rates are subject to change, especially possible fuel surcharges. However, there will be NO fuel surcharge for the 2012-13 season if the price of the barrel of crude oil is US\$100 or lower.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Rates

All rates are quoted per person in US Dollars, based on twin occupancy. A limited amount of twin cabins (except suites) are available for single occupancy at 1.5 times the share rate. Suites may be reserved at 2 times the share rate. A third berth in two of the suites may be occupied at 50% of the published twin share rate.

Shared accommodation can be arranged on request.

All rates are subject to change and Antarply Expeditions reserves the right to modify the published rates without prior notice.

Included in the cruise price:

- Voyage aboard the USHUAIA as indicated in the itinerary.
- All meals throughout the voyage aboard the USHUAIA.
- All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by zodiac.
- Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff.
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program.
- Comprehensive pre-departure material.
- Detailed post-expedition log.

Not included in the cruise price:

Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights; pre- and post land arrangements; transfers to / from the vessel; passport and visa expenses; Government arrival and departure taxes; meals ashore; baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (strongly recommended); excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as bar and beverage charges and telecommunication charges; and the customary gratuity at the end of the voyages (guidelines will be provided).

Reservations and Payments

A deposit of 30% of the cruise fare is required per person to confirm reservations with final payment due 90 days prior to departure.

Cancellations

All requests for cancellations must be received in writing. Cancellations received 90 days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of US\$ 500 per person.

From 89 days up to and including the day of departure all deposits and tariffs are forfeited. If cancellation occurs within the 89 day period and full payment has not yet been received, the full penalty will still apply and unpaid monies are due immediately.

For these and other reasons mentioned below, you are strongly encouraged to obtain trip cancellation insurance.



ANTARCTICA & sub-Antarctic Islands incl. South Georgia

On board the USHUAIA

Antarply Expeditions reserves the right to cancel any voyage prior to departure in which case payments will be refunded in full without further obligation on our part.



Itineraries

The itineraries published are for reference only and are subject to change due to weather and ice conditions, or due to any other reason beyond our control, at the Master's and Expedition Leader's discretion without prior notice. Passengers have no right to any refund, any other consideration or claim whatsoever in the event of inevitable itinerary changes.

Insurance

Antarply Expeditions requests their passengers to purchase a comprehensive travel insurance including trip cancellation and mandatory medical evacuation and repatriation cover. Antarply Expeditions shall not be responsible for any injuries to persons (whether or not resulting in death) or damage or loss to property. In case of a medical problem arising during the voyage, either on board or on shore, which results in costs for evacuation, use of aircraft or repatriation, the responsibility for payment of these costs belongs solely to the passenger and Antarply Expeditions specifically decline any responsibility whatsoever (also if not covered by travel insurance).

Passenger Contract

The passenger must sign a passenger contract which constitutes the sole contract and his/her agreement to all the terms and conditions relative to the cruise. By accepting the cruise ticket the passenger also agrees to its terms & conditions.

Version: September 13, 2011