

## INTRODUCTION

### Antarctica Expedition Cruises 2018 / 2019

#### Antarctic Peninsula - Falkland Islands - South Georgia

**Itinerary** All promoted itineraries are for general guidance. Programs may vary depending on ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. Landings are subject to site availabilities and environmental concerns per IAATO regulations. Official sailing plans and landing slots are scheduled with IAATO prior to the start of the season, but the expedition leader determines the final plan.

**Rubber Boots** Aboard *Plancius* and *Ortelius*, all passengers are provided a pair of sturdy rubber boots to keep the feet warm and dry for all landings. Sizes need to be pre-ordered with Oceanwide Expeditions at least eight weeks prior to departure. A voucher will be sent with final travel documents approximately four weeks prior to departure. Requesting equipment items without a pre-order and voucher is not possible while boarding the vessel. Boots need to be returned to the expedition team at the end of the voyage.

**Shore Excursions and Zodiac Cruising** Our cruises emphasize active wildlife and nature experiences. Guided shore excursions, walks, wildlife spotting, and Zodiac cruises are included in the fare and offered to all passengers during the voyage.

**Basecamp – Our Activity Base (C H K M P)** “Basecamp” is by definition a temporary storing location from which an activity begins. During designated Basecamp voyages, the ship will be taken to carefully chosen areas in the Antarctic. The vessel will stay in fewer locations than during our regular trips, serving as a comfortable hub that allows for additional outdoor activities. Mountaineers (M) can climb in alpine terrain, hikers (H) can make glacier hikes, photographers (P) can explore photo opportunities, campers (C) can sleep overnight at shoreline camps, and kayakers (K) can explore waterways the ship cannot. Passengers who do not wish to engage in these activities will enjoy our Zodiac excursions, following the normal shore program: easy to moderate walks, and hikes with a focus on wildlife. All activities are free of charge.

**Bilingual voyages (B)** English is the language of the ship. Some German- or French-speaking expedition staff will be on board for bilingual voyages (English – German or English – French). Welcome and safety briefings, announcements, daily briefings, and recaps will be provided in English, German, or French. Lectures in different languages may vary in content. Simultaneous translations of lectures will not occur, but a summary in the secondary language may be given at the end of a lecture. Guidance during on-shore activities will depend on the group each passenger chooses according to their own physical ability. In the Arctic we aim to split into three hiking groups: a strenuous walking group, a medium-paced group with more time for photography, and a leisurely group. A German- or French-speaking staff member will not necessarily be available for each group. During Zodiac cruises, the driver/guide of each boat will not necessarily be bilingual.

**Camping (C)** On some voyages we offer an exciting open-air camping option for an intensive Antarctic wilderness experience. Special gear and field equipment is provided: tents and bivouac bags (a lightweight alternative to tents) that are wind and waterproof. This shelter will protect you from the overnight elements, with mattresses and polar sleeping bags to provide comfort. The maximum number of participants for camping is 30 per night. One expedition guide will conduct the activity on shore. Camping is always subject to local weather and environmental regulations. One night must be booked prior to the trip, but any additional nights (if possible) must be arranged on board. There is no guarantee of a second night. Additional nights will be charged by the hotel manager. For more details, please refer to the Activity Manual.

**Polar Diving (D)** Polar divers must be advanced and experienced in dry-suit, cold-water diving. We hope for 1 – 2 dives per day parallel to other activities. Diving depends on local ice and weather conditions. Dive masters and guides are responsible for safety during dive operations. Basic equipment (scuba tanks, compressors, weights, diving essentials) is offered, but divers must bring their own personal gear. For prices, please refer to our Dates & Rates. For more details, please refer to the Activity Manual.

**Hiking (H)** During hiking voyages, we exceed our normal shore excursion walking program. In general we plan to offer three possibilities to be active on shore: Easy, moderate, and more demanding walks will be offered in the vicinity of the landing sites. We offer walks to suit everyone's capability. In the Arctic we aim for two hikes per day, each 2 – 3 hours long, during the morning and afternoon landings. We also offer several full-day walks (5 – 7 hours) with a packed lunch. The final plan for these hiking options will be made by the expedition leader on the day of the excursion. We recommend bringing a proper pair of ankle-high hiking boots and gaiters. Hiking is free of charge. More details can be found in the Activity Manual and day-by-day itineraries.

**Kayaking (K)** In general we plan to offer four or more days of kayaking. Basic kayak experience is welcome, but not required. Physical fitness is essential. Parallel to all other activities, there will be kayak excursions during morning and/or afternoon landings. The final plan will be made by the expedition leader on the day of the excursion. Oceanwide Expeditions will provide kayaks and neoprene wet suits. Kayakers must bring their own personal gear. Kayaking is subject to weather and prevailing ice conditions. For prices, please refer to our Dates & Rates. For more details, please refer to the Activity Manual.

### **Photo workshop (P)**

On select voyages as well as Basecamp voyages, we offer workshops for beginners and advanced photographers under the supervision of an on-board photo expert. Everybody is welcome to participate, no previous experience required. The workshop group (up to 20 participants per guide, per landing) is accompanied by the photo expert during activity on shore. Participants with an interest in specialized photography must bring the applicable equipment. During cruise days participants can listen to photo lectures to learn more about objects, exposures, and photo composition. The workshop is not intended to teach the use of specific camera models, only to give an insight into better photo results by employing basic photography rules. Photographers can also take part in other activities of their choice. Photo workshops are free of charge on Basecamp voyages, and supplemented on other voyages. The workshop must be booked prior to departure.

**Snowshoeing/Hiking (S)** There is still snow on the hills and mountains during early departures at the beginning of the season. For this reason we aim to offer hiking excursions with easy-to-use snowshoes on north Spitsbergen voyages. With snowshoes it is easier and safer to walk on snowy surfaces. Snowshoes will be provided for everybody on board. They fit all boot sizes and can be used in combination with our rubber boots. Snowshoeing is free of charge. More details can be found in the Activity Manual and day-by-day itineraries.

**Mountaineering (M)** This is a more technical and strenuous activity for passengers who want to walk beyond the shore, reaching higher grounds and viewpoints. Participants walk in rope parties under the leadership of a certified mountain guide and assistants (depending on group size), mostly across glaciated environments. Physical fitness is essential. No more than six mountaineers per rope party. Special glacier equipment is provided: ropes, carabiners, harnesses, helmets, crampons, and ice axes. Participants must bring personal protective outdoor clothes as well as rigid mountain boots.

**Trips Under Charter (\*)** Voyages marked with \* are currently under charter.

## Antarctic Peninsula and Sub-Antarctic 2018 / 2019

### Falkland Islands exclusive

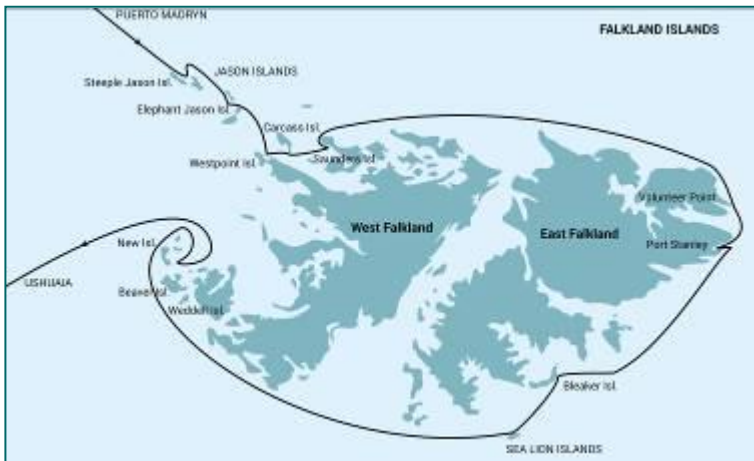
OTL21

Oct 29 – Nov 07

9 nights

Puerto Madryn – Ushuaia  
aboard Ortelius

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. The on-board expedition leader will determine the final itinerary. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. The average cruising speed for m/v Ortelius is 10.5 knots.



### Day 1: Sandy Argentine Beaches

You embark from Puerto Madryn in the afternoon, your prow aimed for the Falkland Islands. Golfo Nuevo is renowned for its visiting southern right whales, so you have a good chance of spotting one as you sail toward the open ocean.

### Day 2 – 3: Sea Life, Sea Birds

Though you're now at sea, there's rarely a lonesome moment here: Several species of bird follow the vessel southeast, such as albatrosses, storm petrels, shearwaters, and diving petrels.

### Day 4 – 8: Finding the Falklands

The Falkland (Malvinas) Islands offer an abundance of wildlife, easily approachable – with caution. These islands are largely unknown gems, primarily remembered for the war between the UK and Argentina in 1982. Not only do various species of bird live here, but chances are great you'll see both Peale's dolphins and Commerson's dolphins in the surrounding waters.

During this part of the voyage, you may visit the following sites:

**Steeple Jason** – Home to the world's largest black-browed albatross colony (roughly 113,000), Steeple Jason is a wild and rarely visited island buffeted by the wind and waves. Weather and swell conditions dictate the journey here.

**Carcass Island** – Despite its name, this island is pleasantly rodent-free and hence bounteous with birdlife. Anything from breeding Magellanic and gentoo penguins to numerous waders and passerine birds (including Cobb's wren and the tussock-bird) live here.

**Saunders Island** – Here you can see the black-browed albatross and its sometimes-clumsy landings, along with breeding imperial shags and rockhopper penguins. King penguins, Magellanic penguins, and gentoo penguins are also found here.

**West Point Island** – Thick with black-browed albatrosses and rockhopper penguins.

**Grave Cove** – Nesting gentoo penguins and excellent hiking opportunities abound here.

**Volunteer Point** – A large white-sand beach, somewhat exposed but with a large king penguin rookery and other plentiful birdlife.

**Sparrow Cove/ Kidney Cove** – The hike up Mt. Low (204 meters, 669 feet) affords great views of Kidney Cove and Port Stanley.

**Port Stanley** – The capital and seat of Falkland culture, Port Stanley has some South American traits mixed in with a little Victorian charm: colorful houses, well-tended gardens, and English-style pubs. You can see several century-old clipper ships in the surrounding area, silent witnesses to the hardships of 19<sup>th</sup> century sailors. The small but interesting museum is also worth a visit, covering the early days of the settlement up to the Falkland War. Approximately 2,100 people live in the capital, where you're free to wander at will – though admission fees to local attractions are not included.

**Sandy Bay** – Nearby Big Pond offers excellent wildlife opportunities, featuring the dark-faced ground-tyrant and Magellanic snipe. There's also an easy walk to see gentoo penguins, Magellanic penguins, rockhopper penguins, and king cormorants.

**Sea Lion Island** – Very exposed, so you need some luck to make a landing here. But if a stop is possible, it's well worth the trip: This island is home to the largest breeding colony of southern elephant seals in the archipelago, with approximately 2,000 individuals on the northern beaches this time of year. A decent hike leads you to a southern sea lion haul-out.

**Coffin's Harbour** – This location is a reasonable walk from the landing site at the New Island South Wildlife Reserve, providing views of nesting black-browed albatrosses and rockhopper penguins. A more strenuous hike to Landsend Bluff may also show you some South American fur seals. The site of the only land-based whaling station on the Falkland Islands is south of the landing beach.

**New Island North Nature Reserve** – Landing here requires a special permit. If received, you can make a farewell visit to the black-browed albatrosses (among other bird species) and South American fur seals that make the Falklands their home.

### **Day 9: Once More to the Sea**

You're westward bound, sea birds trailing you all the way to South America.

### **Day 10: Southernmost City**

In the morning, you arrive and disembark in Ushuaia. It is commonly held to be the world's southernmost city, located on the Tierra del Fuego archipelago – nicknamed the "End of the World." Even so, the memories you've made on this expedition will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

## Falkland Islands - South Georgia - Antarctic Peninsula

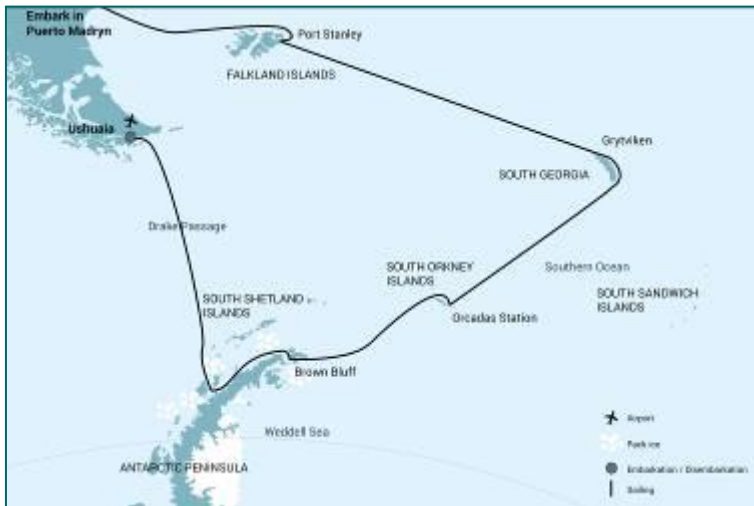
PLA21

Nov 03 – Nov 23

20 nights

Puerto Madryn – Ushuaia  
aboard Plancius

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. The on-board expedition leader will determine the final itinerary. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. Average cruising speed of m/v Plancius is 10.5 knots.



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### Day 4: The Falklands Found

The Falkland (Malvinas) Islands offer an abundance

of wildlife, easily approachable – with caution. These islands are largely unknown gems, primarily remembered for the war between the UK and Argentina in 1982. Not only do various species of bird live here, but chances are great you'll see both Peale's dolphins and Commerson's dolphins in the surrounding waters.

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**Saunders Island** – Here you can see the black-browed albatross and its sometimes-clumsy landings, along with breeding imperial shags and rockhopper penguins. King penguins, Magellanic penguins, and gentoo penguins are also found here.

### Day 5: Seat of Falklands Culture

The capital of the Falklands, Port Stanley has some South American traits mixed in with a little Victorian charm: colorful houses, well-tended gardens, and English-style pubs. You can see several century-old clipper ships in the surrounding area, silent witnesses to the hardships of 19<sup>th</sup> century sailors. The small but interesting museum is also worth a visit, covering the early days of the settlement up to the Falkland War. Approximately 2,100 people live in the capital, where you're free to wander at will – though admission fees to local attractions are not included.

### Day 6 – 7: Once More to the Sea

En route to South Georgia, you cross the Antarctic Convergence. The temperature cools considerably within only a few hours, and nutritious water rises to the surface of the sea due to colliding water columns. This phenomenon attracts a multitude of seabirds near the ship: several species of albatrosses as well as shearwaters, petrels, prions, and skuas.

## **Day 8 – 11: South Georgia Journey**

You arrive at the first South Georgia activity site on day eight. Weather conditions here can be challenging and largely dictate the program.

Sites you might visit include:

**Prion Island** – This location is closed during the early part of the breeding season (November 20 – January 7). The previous summer’s wandering albatross chicks are almost ready to fledge, and adults are seeking out their old partners after a year and a half at sea.

**Salisbury Plain, St. Andrews Bay, Gold Harbour** – These locations not only house the three largest king penguin colonies in South Georgia, they’re also three of the largest breeding beaches for southern elephant seals in the world. Only this time of year do they peak in their breeding cycle. Watch the four-ton bulls keep a constant vigil (and occasionally fight) over the territories where dozens of females have just given birth or are about to deliver. You can also see a substantial number of Antarctic fur seals here during the breeding season (December – January).

**Fortuna Bay** – Near beaches inhabited by penguins and seals, you have the chance to follow the final section of Shackleton’s route to the abandoned whaling village of Stromness. This route cuts across the mountain pass beyond Shackleton’s Waterfall. The terrain here is partly swampy, so be prepared to cross some small streams along the way.

**Grytviken** – You have the opportunity to check out this abandoned whaling station, where king penguins now walk the streets and elephant seals lie around like they own the place – because they just about do. You might also be able to see the South Georgia Museum as well as Shackleton’s grave.

## **Day 12: Southward Bound**

There may be sea ice on this route, and at the edge of the ice some south polar skuas and snow petrels could join the other seabirds trailing the vessel south.

## **Day 13: South Orkney Sights**

Depending on how friendly the conditions are, you might visit Base Orcadas – an Argentine scientific station on Laurie Island in the South Orkney archipelago. The personnel here will happily show you their facility, where you can enjoy expansive views of the surrounding glaciers. If a visit here isn’t possible, you might land in Signy Island’s Shingle Cove instead.

## **Day 14: Last Push to the Antarctic**

Huge icebergs and a good chance of fin whales ensure there’s never a dull moment on this last sea voyage south. Also, your best chance to spot Antarctic petrels is here.

## **Day 15 – 18: Awe-Inspiring Antarctica**

If ice permits, you sail into the Weddell Sea. Here colossal tabular icebergs herald your arrival to the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. Paulet Island, with its large population of Adélie penguins, is a possible stop. You might also visit Brown Bluff, located in the ice-clogged Antarctic Sound, where you may get the chance to set foot on the Continent.

If conditions aren’t favorable to enter the Weddell Sea from the east, you set course for Elephant Island and head into the Bransfield Strait – between South Shetland Island and the Antarctic Peninsula. Here you attempt access to the Antarctic Sound from the northwest.

The volcanic islands of the South Shetlands are windswept and often cloaked in mist, but they do offer subtle pleasures: a wide variety of flora (mosses, lichens, flowering grasses) and fauna (gentoo penguins, chinstrap

penguins, southern giant petrels). Chinstrap penguins and Weddell seals often haul out onto the beach near Cámara Base, an Argentine scientific research station on Half Moon Island.

On Deception Island, the ship plunges through Neptune's Bellows and into the flooded caldera. Here you find hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, and thousands of cape petrels – along with a number of kelp gulls, brown and south polar skuas, and Antarctic terns. Wilson's storm petrels and black-bellied storm petrels also nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay. As an alternative, you can take part in activities near Telefon Bay, further inside the caldera.

This extended voyage gives you the chance to sail even farther down the ice-sculpted western Antarctic Peninsula. In Neko Harbour or Paradise Bay, you may be able to set foot on the Antarctic Continent – in an epic, otherworldly landscape of alpine peaks and mammoth glaciers calving at sea level. Humpback whales and minke whales are often spotted here.

After sailing through Neumayer Channel, you might visit the former British research station – now a museum and post office – of Port Lockroy on Goudier Island. You may also be able to partake in activities around Jouglia Point, meeting gentoo penguins and blue-eyed shags. And if ice conditions work in your favor, you could even venture as far south as the Lemaire Channel.

Cuverville Island is a potential stop in the early hours of your last landing day. Here you can pick around the rocks, enjoying the morning in good company: the largest gentoo penguin rookery of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.

### **Day 19 – 20: North by Sea**

While crossing the Drake, you're again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.

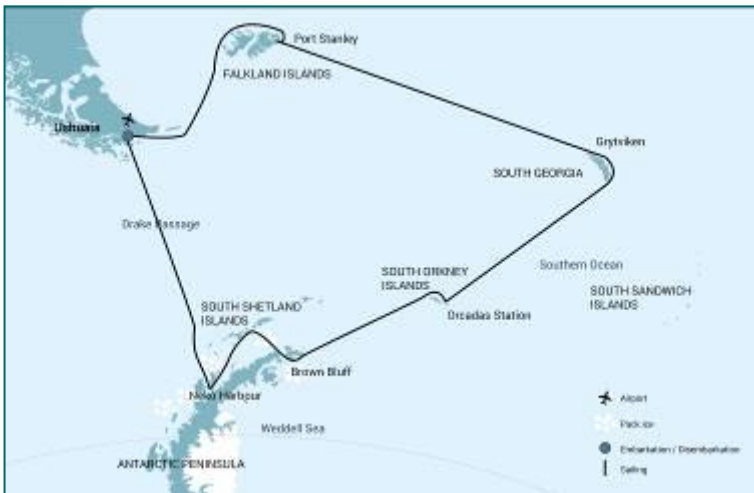
### **Day 21: Southernmost City**

In the morning, you arrive and disembark in Ushuaia. It is commonly held to be the world's southernmost city, located on the Tierra del Fuego archipelago – nicknamed the "End of the World." Even so, the memories you've made on this expedition will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

## Falkland Islands - South Georgia - Antarctic Peninsula

PLA23	Dec 03 – Dec 22	19 nights	Ushuaia – Ushuaia aboard Plancius
PLA24	Dec 22 – Jan 09	18 nights	aboard Plancius
PLA25	Jan 09 – Jan 28	19 nights	aboard Plancius
OTL29 *	Jan 19 – Feb 06	18 nights	aboard Ortelius
OTL31 D	Feb 16 – Mar 07	19 nights	aboard Ortelius

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### Day 1: End of the World, Start of a Journey

Your voyage begins where the world drops off: Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet, located on the far southern tip of South America. Starting in the afternoon, you embark from this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego – nicknamed “The End of the World” – and sail the scenic, mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the rest of the evening.

### Day 2: Winged Life of the Westerlies

Several species of albatross follow the vessel into the westerlies, as well as storm petrels, shearwaters, and diving petrels.

### Day 3: Falklands Found

The Falkland (Malvinas) Islands offer an abundance of wildlife, easily approachable – with caution. These islands are largely unknown gems, primarily remembered for the war between the UK and Argentina in 1982. Not only do various species of bird live here, but chances are great you’ll see both Peale’s dolphins and Commerson’s dolphins in the surrounding waters.

During this part of the voyage, you may visit the following sites:

**Carcass Island** – Despite its name, this island is pleasantly rodent-free and hence bounteous with birdlife. Anything from breeding Magellanic and gentoo penguins to numerous waders and passerine birds (including Cobb’s wren and the tussock-bird) live here.

**Saunders Island** – Here you can see the black-browed albatross and its sometimes-clumsy landings, along with breeding imperial shags and rockhopper penguins. King penguins, Magellanic penguins, and gentoo penguins are also found here.

### Day 4: Seat of Falklands Culture

The capital of the Falklands, Port Stanley has some South American traits mixed in with a little Victorian charm: colorful houses, well-tended gardens, and English-style pubs. You can see several century-old clipper ships in the surrounding area, silent witnesses to the hardships of 19<sup>th</sup> century sailors. The small but interesting museum is also worth a visit, covering the early days of the settlement up to the Falkland War. Approximately 2,100 people live in the capital, where you’re free to wander at will – though admission fees to local attractions are not included.

### Day 5 – 6: Once More to the Sea

En route to South Georgia, you cross the Antarctic Convergence. The temperature cools considerably within only a few hours, and nutritious water rises to the surface of the sea due to colliding water columns. This phenomenon



attracts a multitude of seabirds near the ship: several species of albatrosses as well as shearwaters, petrels, prions, and skuas.

## **Day 7 – 10: South Georgia Journey**

You arrive at the first South Georgia activity site on day seven. Weather conditions here can be challenging and largely dictate the program.

Over the next several days, you have a chance to visit the following sites:

**Prion Island** – This location is closed during the early part of the breeding season (November 20 – January 7). The previous summer closed during the early part of the breeding season, and adults are seeking out their old partners after a year and a half at sea.

**Fortuna Bay** – Near beaches inhabited by penguins and seals, you have the chance to follow the final section of Shackleton's route to the abandoned whaling village of Stromness. This route cuts across the mountain pass beyond Shackleton's Waterfall. The terrain here is partly swampy, so be prepared to cross some small streams along the way.

**Salisbury Plain, St. Andrews Bay, Gold Harbour** – These locations not only house the three largest king penguin colonies in South Georgia, they're also three of the largest breeding beaches for southern elephant seals in the world. Only this time of year do they peak in their breeding cycle. Watch the four-ton bulls keep a constant vigil (and occasionally fight) over the territories where dozens of females have just given birth or are about to deliver. You can also see a substantial number of Antarctic fur seals here during the breeding season (December – January).

**Grytviken** – You have the opportunity to check out this abandoned whaling station, where king penguins now walk the streets and elephant seals lie around like they own the place – because they just about do. You might also see the South Georgia Museum as well as Shackleton's grave.

## **Day 11: Southward Bound**

There may be sea ice on this route, and at the edge of the ice some south polar skuas and snow petrels could join the other seabirds trailing the vessel south.

## **Day 12: South Orkney Sights**

Depending on the weather and ice, you might visit Base Orcadas, an Argentine scientific station on Laurie Island in the South Orkney archipelago. The personnel here will happily show you their facility, where you can enjoy expansive views of the surrounding glaciers. If a visit here isn't possible, you might land in Signy Island's Shingle Cove instead.

## **Day 13: Last Push to the Antarctic**

Huge icebergs and a good chance of fin whales ensure there's never a dull moment on this last sea voyage south. Also, your best chance to spot Antarctic petrels is here.

## **Day 14 – 17 (14 – 16 on PLA24 & OTL29): Awe-Inspiring Antarctica**

If ice permits, you sail into the Weddell Sea. Here colossal tabular icebergs herald your arrival to the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. Paulet Island, with its large population of Adélie penguins, is a possible stop. You might also visit Brown Bluff, located in the ice-clogged Antarctic Sound, where you may get the chance to set foot on the Continent.

If conditions aren't favorable to enter the Weddell Sea from the east, you set course for Elephant Island and head into the Bransfield Strait – between South Shetland Island and the Antarctic Peninsula. Here you attempt access to the Antarctic Sound from the northwest.

On PLA24 and OTL29, your last activities before venturing into the Drake Passage are likely to find you around the northern Gerlache Strait. One option is Cierva Cove and the rugged, ice-gripped mountains of the Davis Coast. Mikkelsen Harbour on the south coast of Trinity Island is another alternative. Here you may enjoy a gentoo penguin rookery as well as some fine scenic cruising.

Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.

This extended voyage provides you the chance to sail even farther down the ice-sculpted western Antarctic Peninsula. After sailing through the Neumayer Channel, you get a chance to visit the former British research station – now a museum and post office – of Port Lockroy on Goudier Island. You may also be able to partake in activities around Jouglia Point, meeting gentoo penguins and blue-eyed shags.

After this, other visits might be possible. In Neko Harbour or Paradise Bay, you may be able to set foot on the Antarctic Continent in an epic, otherworldly landscape of alpine peaks and mammoth glaciers calving at sea level. Humpback whales and minke whales are also known to be spotted in this area.

Cuerverville Island is a potential stop in the early hours of your last landing day. Here you can pick around the rocks, enjoying the morning in good company: The largest gentoo penguin rookery of the Antarctic Peninsula lives here. As with PLA24 and OTL29, conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.

## Day 18 – 19 (17 – 18 on PLA24 & OTL29): North by Sea

While crossing the Drake, you're again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.

## Day 20 (19 on OTL24 & OTL29: There and Back Again

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. It's now time to disembark in Ushuaia, but with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

## Antarctic Peninsula with South Shetlands

PLA22	C K S	Nov 23 – Dec 03	10 nights
OTL25	C K S	Dec 09 – Dec 18	9 nights

Ushuaia – Ushuaia  
aboard Plancius  
aboard Ortelius

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### Day 1: End of the World, Start of a Journey

Your voyage begins where the world drops off: Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet, located on the far southern tip of South America. Starting in the afternoon, you embark from this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego – nicknamed “The End of the World” – and sail the scenic, mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the rest of the evening.

### Day 2 – 3: Path of the Polar Explorers

Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you catch a taste of life from the perspective of the polar explorers who first braved these regions: cool

salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale blasting up sea spray. After passing the Antarctic Convergence – Antarctica's natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer subantarctic seas – you are in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. Not only does the marine life change, the avian life changes too: A

variety of albatrosses and petrels show up, along with Cape pigeons and southern fulmars. Then, near the South Shetlands Islands, the first icebergs flash into sight.

### **Day 4 – 7 (4 – 6 on OTL25): Enter the Antarctic**

Gray stone peaks sketched with snow, towers of broken blue-white ice, and dramatically different wildlife below and above. You first pass the snow-capped Melchior Islands and Schollaert Channel, sailing between Brabant and Anvers Islands.

Sites you may visit include:

**Cuverville Island** – Stabbing up between Rongé Island and the Antarctic Peninsula, Cuverville houses a massive colony of gentoo penguins as well as pairs of breeding brown skuas.

**Danco Island** – Activities here may focus on the gentoo penguins nesting on the island, in addition to the Weddell and crabeater seals that can be found nearby.

**Neko Harbour** – An epic landscape of mammoth glaciers and endless wind-carved snow. Opportunities for Zodiac cruising and kayaking provide you the closest possible view of the ice-cruled alpine peaks.

**Paradise Bay** – You may be able to take a Zodiac cruise in these sprawling, ice-flecked waters, where you have a good chance of seeing humpback and minke whales.

**Port Lockroy** – After sailing through the Neumayer Channel, you get a chance to visit the former British research station – now a museum and post office – of Port Lockroy on Goudier Island. You may also be able to partake in activities around Jougla Point, meeting gentoo penguins and blue-eyed shags. There are great opportunities also for kayaking and camping here, and when conditions are right, you can even snowshoe around the shore.

### **Day 8 (7 on OTL25): Scenes of South Shetland**

The volcanic islands of the South Shetlands are windswept and often cloaked in mist, but they do offer subtle pleasures: There's a wide variety of flora (mosses, lichens, flowering grasses) and no small amount of fauna (gentoo penguins, chinstrap penguins, southern giant petrels).

In Deception Island, the ship plunges through Neptune's Bellows and into the flooded caldera. Here you find hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, and thousands of cape petrels – along with a number of kelp gulls, brown and south polar skuas, and Antarctic terns. Wilson's storm petrels and black-bellied storm petrels also nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay.

As an alternative, you may be able to engage in activities near Half Moon Island. Here chinstrap penguins and Weddell seals often haul out onto the beach near Cámara Base, an Argentine scientific research station. Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.

### **Day 9 – 10 (8 – 9 on OTL25): Familiar Seas, Familiar Friends**

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, you're again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.

### **Day 11 (Day 10 on OTL25): There and Back Again**

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. It's now time to disembark in Ushuaia, but with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

## Antarctic Peninsula

OTL28 * C K	Jan 09 – Jan 19	10 nights	Ushuaia - Ushuaia aboard Ortelius
PLA26 C K	Jan 28 – Feb 07	10 nights	aboard Plancius
OTL30 C D K	Feb 06 – Feb 16	10 nights	aboard Ortelius
PLA27 B C K	Feb 07 – Feb 17	10 nights	aboard Plancius
PLA31 D Whale watching	Mar 22 – Mar 31	09 nights	aboard Plancius

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. The on-board expedition leader will determine the final itinerary. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. Average cruising speed of m/v Plancius and m/v Ortelius is 10.5 knots.



### Day 1: End of the World, Start of a Journey

Your voyage begins where the world drops off: Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet, located on the far southern tip of South America. Starting in the afternoon, you embark from this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego – nicknamed “The End of the World” – and sail the scenic, mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the rest of the evening.

### Day 2 – 3: Path of the Polar Explorers

Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you catch a taste of life from the perspective of the

polar explorers who first braved these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale blasting up sea spray. After passing the Antarctic Convergence – Antarctica’s natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer subantarctic seas – you are in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. Not only does the marine life change, the avian life changes too: A variety of albatrosses and petrels show up, along with Cape pigeons and southern fulmars. Then, near the South Shetlands Islands, the first icebergs flash into sight.

### Day 4 – 8 (4 - 7 on PLA31): Enter the Antarctic

Gray stone peaks sketched with snow, towers of broken blue-white ice, and dramatically different wildlife below and above. You first pass the snow-capped Melchior Islands and Schollaert Channel, sailing between Brabant and Anvers Islands.

Sites you may visit include:

**Cuerverville Island** – Stabbing up between Rongé Island and the Antarctic Peninsula, Cuerverville houses a massive colony of gentoo penguins as well as pairs of breeding brown skuas.

**Danco Island** – Activities here may focus on the gentoo penguins nesting on the island, in addition to the Weddell and crabeater seals that can be found nearby.

**Neko Harbour** – An epic landscape of mammoth glaciers and endless wind-carved snow. Opportunities for Zodiac cruising and kayaking provide you the closest possible view of the ice-crusting alpine peaks.

**Paradise Bay** – You may be able to take a Zodiac cruise in these sprawling, ice-flecked waters, where you have a good chance of seeing humpback and minke whales.

**Port Lockroy** – After sailing through the Neumayer Channel, you get a chance to visit the former British research station – now a museum and post office – of Port Lockroy on Goudier Island. You may also be able to partake in

activities around Jougla Point, meeting gentoo penguins and blue-eyed shags. There are great opportunities for kayaking and camping here.

**Pléneau & Petermann Islands** – If the ice allows it, you may sail through the Lemaire Channel in search of Adélie penguins and blue-eyed shags. There's also a good chance you'll encounter humpback and minke whales here, as well as leopard seals.

**Wilhelmina Bay & Guvernøren** – This is a great place to spot humpback whales. You also may embark on a Zodiac cruise ending at the ghostly wreck of the *Guvernøren*, a whaling vessel that caught fire here in 1915. Around the Melchior Islands, amid a frozen landscape peopled with icebergs, you may encounter even more whales, leopard seals, and crabeater seals.

Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.

### **Day 9 – 10 (8 – 9 on PLA31): Familiar Seas, Familiar Friends**

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, you're again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.

### **Day 11 (10 on PLA31): There and Back Again**

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. It's now time to disembark in Ushuaia, but with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

## Antarctic Peninsula - Basecamp

OTL22	CKMPS	Nov 07 – Nov 18	11 nights	Ushuaia - Ushuaia aboard Ortelius
OTL24	CKMPS	Nov 28 – Dec 09	11 nights	aboard Ortelius
OTL26	CKMPS	Dec 18 – Dec 29	11 nights	aboard Ortelius
OTL27	CKMPS	Dec 29 – Jan 09	11 nights	aboard Ortelius
PLA28	CKMPS	Feb 17 – Feb 28	11 nights	aboard Plancius
OTL32	CHKMP	Mar 07 – Mar 18	11 nights	aboard Ortelius

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. The on-board expedition leader will determine the final itinerary. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. Average cruising speed of m/v Plancius and m/v Ortelius is 10.5 knots.



### Day 1: End of the World, Start of a Journey

Your voyage begins where the world drops off: Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet, located on the far southern tip of South America. Starting in the afternoon, you embark from this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego – nicknamed “The End of the World” – and sail the scenic, mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the rest of the evening.

### Day 2 – 3: Path of the Polar Explorers

Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you catch a taste of life from the perspective of the polar explorers who first braved these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale blasting up sea spray. After passing the Antarctic Convergence – Antarctica’s natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer subantarctic seas – you are in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. Not only does the marine life change, the avian life changes too: A variety of albatrosses and petrels show up, along with Cape pigeons and southern fulmars. Then, near the South Shetlands Islands, the first icebergs flash into sight.

### Day 4 – 9: Enter the Antarctic

Gray stone peaks sketched with snow, towers of broken blue-white ice, and dramatically different wildlife below and above. You first pass the snow-capped Melchior Islands and Schollaert Channel, sailing between Brabant and Anvers Islands. The basecamp concept lets you feel more like a resident than a visitor, getting the most out of all available activities.

Here are all the places you might go:

**Neumayer Channel** – The vessel may position itself for the multi-activity basecamp here. The protected waters around Wiencke Island become a veritable playground for all manner of activities. You can enjoy the splendors of this alpine environment at sea, with Zodiac and kayaking trips. Or if you’re among the walkers, there are possible snowshoe hikes and mountaineering (soft climb) options farther inland. Naturally, favorable weather conditions determine the possible activities.

**Port Lockroy** – After sailing through the Neumayer Channel, you get a chance to visit the former British research station – now a museum and post office – of Port Lockroy on Goudier Island. You may also be able to partake in activities around Jougla Point, meeting gentoo penguins and blue-eyed shags.

**Pléneau & Petermann Islands** – If the ice allows it, you can sail through the Lemaire Channel in search of Adélie penguins and blue-eyed shags. There’s also a good chance you’ll encounter humpback and minke whales here, as

well as leopard seals. Kayaking, glacier walks, and more ambitious mountaineering are potential activities in this location.

**Neko Harbour** – An epic landscape of mammoth glaciers and endless wind-carved snow. Opportunities for Zodiac cruising, kayaking, and walking provide you the closest possible view of this location’s ice-crusting alpine peaks.

**Paradise Bay** – You have the chance to pitch camp here like a true polar explorer (but with a better tent), enjoying the supreme overnight Antarctic adventure.

**Errera Channel** – Possible sites in this area include Danco Island and Cuverville Island, but also the lesser known (though equally picturesque) Orne Island and Georges Point on Rongé Island.

On your last day of near-shore activities, you pass the Melchior Islands toward the open sea. Keep a sharp lookout for humpback whales in Dallmann Bay. You might also shoot for Half Moon Island, in the South Shetlands, with further chances for activities.

Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.

### Day 10 – 11: Familiar Seas, Familiar Friends

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, you’re again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.

### Day 12: There and Back Again

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## Weddell Sea – In search of the Emperor Penguin incl. helicopters

OTL23

Nov 18 – Nov 28

10 nights

Ushuaia – Ushuaia  
aboard Ortelius

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. The on-board expedition leader will determine the final itinerary. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. Average cruising speed of m/v Ortelius is 10.5 knots.



See the Antarctic from the vantage point of a true expedition leader – from the air. Our helicopter capability on the Ortelius provides you the unique chance to view an emperor penguin rookery numbering upwards of 4,000 breeding pairs, located just south of Snow Hill Island. Heavy ice may prevent entrance from the Weddell Sea, and ice at the rookery itself might break up and start to melt earlier than expected. With this in mind, the aim is to stop the vessel between the Antarctic Sound and James Clark Ross Island, close to the ice edge, and find emperor penguins on their way to the open water. The helicopters make this search possible – and thrilling – as you embark on scenic

flights, as well as landings in places otherwise inaccessible so early in the season.

If ice conditions are favorable and the route to Snow Hill Island is free of multi-year pack ice, you have the chance for ship-to-shore helicopter transfers to Snow Hill Island – roughly 45 minutes walking distance from the emperor penguin rookery. If successful, this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. (Even so, remember that nature writes the

final itinerary out here: Attempts to reach Snow Hill Island during the voyages of 2012 – 16 did not always succeed. Only in 2013 did conditions allow for ice landings by helicopter and a completed visit to the rookery.)

## **Day 1: End of the World, Start of a Journey**

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## **Day 2 – 3: Path of the Polar Explorers**

Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you catch a taste of life from the perspective of the polar explorers who first braved these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale blasting up sea spray. After passing the Antarctic Convergence – Antarctica’s natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer subantarctic seas – you are in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. Not only does the marine life change, the avian life changes too: A variety of albatrosses and petrels show up, along with Cape pigeons and southern fulmars. Then, near the South Shetlands Islands, the first icebergs flash into sight.

## **Day 4 – 7: Enter the Antarctic**

You may sail into the Weddell Sea via the Antarctic Sound. Here huge tabular icebergs herald your arrival to the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. During this part of the cruise, the search is on for emperor penguins. Using both the vessel and helicopters, there’s a good chance you’ll find them. You might also enjoy scenic flights and – if conditions allow – helicopter landings in locations otherwise out of reach this time of year.

Helicopter flights are a true trip changer, and may include:

**Antarctic Sound** – The western side of this area is only rarely seen from the air, though the landscape is truly worth the flight: Layered sandstones, lava flows, glaciers and icebergs and pack-ice extend as far as the eye can see. There are often individual emperor penguins and Adélie penguins on the ice floes, as well as kelp gulls, skuas, and various breeds of petrel. Jagged mountain peaks stab through the snow, and enormous walls of ice lie shattered on the slopes below.

**Duse Bay** – A soaring helicopter flight may deposit you on a rocky hillock close to an old refuge hut overlooking the bay. There is still a lot of snow and ice, but much of the walk on the Antarctic is over frost-shattered rock covered with lichen of all shapes and colors.

**Seymour Island** – Here’s where the Swedish Antarctic Expedition of 1901 – 4 wintered under harrowing circumstances. Sedimentary rock, fossils, and great views define this location.

If conditions allow for deeper ventures into the Weddell Sea, Zodiac trips may include:

**Devil Island** – Home to a large colony of Adélie penguins, this island offers a magnificent view for hikers willing to foot it to the top of the hill. Melting ice sometimes forms a waterfall dropping from the cliffs close to Cape Well-met.

**Brown Bluff** – Maybe the most scenic location in the entire northern tip of the Antarctic Continent: sheer canyon walls, fallen boulders, beautiful volcanic creations capped with ice. A large Adélie penguin rookery lives here, with gentoo penguins and nesting snow petrels also to be found.

**Gourdin Island** – Chinstrap, gentoo, and Adélie penguins like this place, yet another option for your continuing Antarctic adventure.

**Esperanza Base** – This Argentine research station may be another landing site.



## **Day 8: Last Landing**

In the morning, you sail to Deception Island for the last landing of the voyage – at Pendulum Cove or Whalers Bay. Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.

## **Day 9 – 10: Familiar Seas, Familiar Friends**

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, you're again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.

## **Day 11: There and Back Again**

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## **(Day 5 – 6: Alternate program if the route to Snow Hill Island is free of multi-year pack ice – less than 50 % probability)**

Helicopters provide a great advantage in reaching the emperor penguin colony, but nature rules the itinerary. If conditions are favorable, you spend the first two days at the penguin rookery. The helicopter operation takes a full day, and the flight duration approximately 15 minutes. Each helicopter can accommodate 4 – 6 passengers per flight. The landing site is carefully chosen, making sure the emperor penguins are not disturbed. Upon arrival, you can continue on foot. After a walk of about 45 minutes, you encounter the emperor penguins, one of the Antarctic's prime wildlife attractions. Keep in mind that you are in the world's most remote area: There are no guarantees. Conditions may change rapidly, which can have a profound impact on helicopter operations. Please understand and respect this. Safety is the greatest concern, and no compromises can be made.

## Antarctic Peninsula - Polar Circle

PLA29 D K

Feb 28 – Mar 11

11 nights

Ushuaia – Ushuaia  
aboard Plancius

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. The on-board expedition leader will determine the final itinerary. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. Average cruising speed of m/v Plancius is 10.5 knots.



### Day 1: End of the World, Start of a Journey

Your voyage begins where the world drops off: Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet, located on the far southern tip of South America. Starting in the afternoon, you embark from this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego – nicknamed “The End of the World” – and sail the scenic, mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the rest of the evening.

### Day 2 – 3: Path of the Polar Explorers

Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you catch a taste of life from the perspective of the polar explorers who first braved these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale

blasting up sea spray. After passing the Antarctic Convergence – Antarctica’s natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer subantarctic seas – you are in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. Not only does the marine life change, the avian life changes too: A variety of albatrosses and petrels show up, along with Cape pigeons and southern fulmars. Then, near the South Shetlands Islands, the first icebergs flash into sight.

### Day 4 – 9: Enter the Antarctic

Options for Antarctic Peninsula activities are many, and no less great during the late summer. Humpback whales are prolific in this region, gorging themselves on krill before their migration north. The penguin chicks are also fledging, stirring up activity on the beaches while sleek leopard seals lie in wait, poised to attack the less fortunate ones.

Sites for your adventures may include:

**Livingston Island** – Here you find a wide variety of gentoo and chinstrap penguins on Hannah Point, as well as southern giant petrels and elephant seals hauling out onto the beach.

**Deception Island** – Actually a subducted crater, this island opens into the sea and creates a natural harbor for the ship. Hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, and multiple bird species – cape petrels, kelp gulls, brown and south polar skuas, and Antarctic terns – can be seen here. Wilson’s storm petrels and black-bellied storm petrels also nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay.

**Cuerville Island** – A small precipitous island nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula and Rongé Island, Cuerville houses a large colony of gentoo penguins and breeding pairs of brown skuas.

**Neko Harbour** – An epic landscape of mammoth glaciers and endless wind-carved snow. Opportunities for Zodiac cruising and kayaking provide you the closest possible view of the ice-crusting alpine peaks. You might also be able to set foot on the Continent here.

**Paradise Bay** – You could take a Zodiac cruise in these sprawling, ice-flecked waters, where you have a good chance of seeing humpback and minke whales.

**Pléneau & Petermann Islands** – If the ice allows it, you may sail through the Lemaire Channel in search of Adélie penguins and blue-eyed shags. There’s also a good chance you’ll encounter humpback and minke whales as well as leopard seals.

**Crystal Sound** – The journey takes you south along the Argentine Islands to this ice-packed body of water, and from here across the Polar Circle in the morning.

**Detaille Island** – You may make a landing at an abandoned British research station here, taking in the lofty mountains and imposing glaciers.

**Fish Islands** – Further north, you encounter one of the southernmost Adélie penguin and blue-eyed shag colonies in the Antarctic Peninsula.

**Melchior Islands** – A beautiful landscape rich with icebergs. Leopard seals, crabeater seals, and whales are found here, and there are excellent opportunities for kayaking and diving.

Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.

## Day 10 – 11: Familiar Seas, Familiar Friends

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, you’re again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.

## Day 12: There and Back Again

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. It’s now time to disembark in Ushuaia, but with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

## Antarctic Peninsula – Polar Circle, Deep South Discovery and Whale Watching voyage

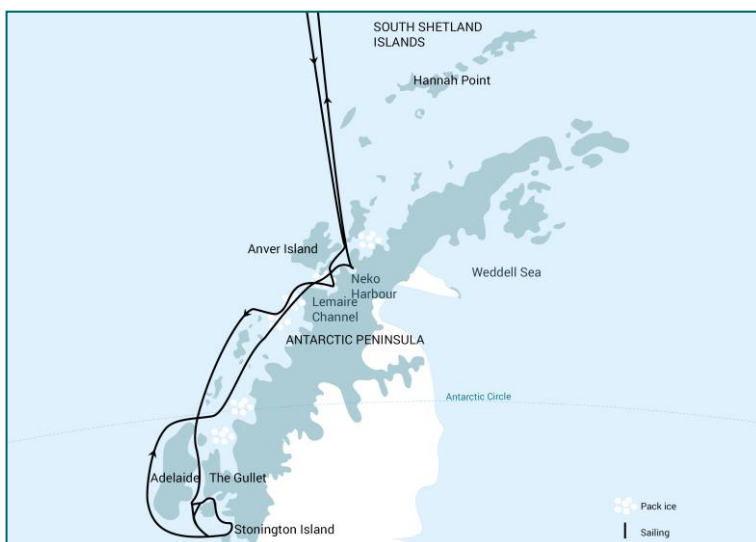
OTL33 D

Mar 18 – Mar 31

13 nights

Ushuaia – Ushuaia  
aboard Ortelius

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### Day 1: End of the World, Start of a Journey

Your voyage begins where the world drops off: Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet, located on the far southern tip of South America. Starting in the afternoon, you embark from this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego – nicknamed “The End of the World” – and sail the scenic, mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the rest of the evening.

### Day 2 – 3: Path of the Polar Explorers

Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you catch a taste of life from the perspective of the polar explorers who first braved these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale blasting up sea spray. After passing the Antarctic

Convergence – Antarctica’s natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer subantarctic seas – you are in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. Not only does the marine life change, the avian

life changes too: A variety of albatrosses and petrels show up, along with Cape pigeons and southern fulmars. Then, near the South Shetlands Islands, the first icebergs flash into sight.

## **Day 4 – 5: Enter the Antarctic**

Gray stone peaks sketched with snow, towers of broken blue-white ice, and dramatically different wildlife below and above. You first pass the snow-capped Melchior Islands and Schollaert Channel, sailing between Brabant and Anvers Islands. Then on to Cuverville Island, stabbing up between Rongé Island and the Antarctic Peninsula. On Cuverville lives a massive colony of gentoo penguins as well as pairs of breeding brown skuas. Neko Harbour, the next stop, affords you the first chance to step onto the Antarctic Continent itself – an epic landscape of mammoth glaciers and endless wind-carved snow. During the following stop at Paradise Bay, you may be able to take a Zodiac cruise in its sprawling, ice-flecked water before sailing on to the Lemaire Channel.

## **Day 6 – 8: Through the Gullet**

After a comfortable night of sailing, you wake among the many islands south of Lemaire Channel. You are now near the Antarctic Circle. At this point a voyage through the aptly named Gullet – a narrow but picturesque channel between Adelaide Island and the Continent – is possible if the ice isn't too thick. You can explore this area either from the prow of the ship or the edge of a Zodiac, getting the closest possible contact with the terrain as you venture southward.

You might also circumnavigate Pourquoi Pas Island, named after the ship of the famous French explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot. This location is known for its tight fjords and lofty, glacier-crowded mountains. On Horseshoe Island is the former British Base Y, a remnant of the 1950s that is now unmanned, though still equipped with almost all the technology it had while in service.

Stonington Island is home to the former US East Base and British Base E, which was occupied until 1975. If a stop here is possible, it marks the southernmost landing site of the trip – 68° south. From there your road turns north again, through the Gunnel Channel into Hanusse Bay, with its countless icebergs – and a good chance of spotting whales.

## **Day 9 – 11: Whales of Crystal Sound**

You are near the Antarctic Circle again, cutting north through the countless ice floes of Crystal Sound. Humpback whale sightings are likely, and your approach to the Fish Islands offers the possibility of a Zodiac cruise or even a landing. Whatever the case, the scenery is beyond compare in this area. There may also be more Adélie penguins congregating among the icebergs nearby.

If you're a bird lover, Petermann and Pléneau Islands provide a great variety of avian life as well as Zodiac cruises among icebergs that are popular leopard seal and crabeater seal hangouts. Minke whales, humpbacks, and gentoo penguins also love to frequent this "hot spot" of Antarctic activity.

Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.

## **Day 12 – 13: Familiar Seas, Familiar Friends**

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, you're again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.

## **Day 14: There and Back Again**

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. It's now time to disembark in Ushuaia, but with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

## **Day 6 – 8: (Alternate program if the route to the south of Crystal Sound/Hanusse Bay is blocked by ice)**

You may take a course around the western side of Adelaide Island to reach Marguerite Bay. Should ice conditions also not allow this approach, you may continue the program by exploring the Antarctic Peninsula in and around the Penola and Gerlache Straits.

## Weddell Sea Discoverer

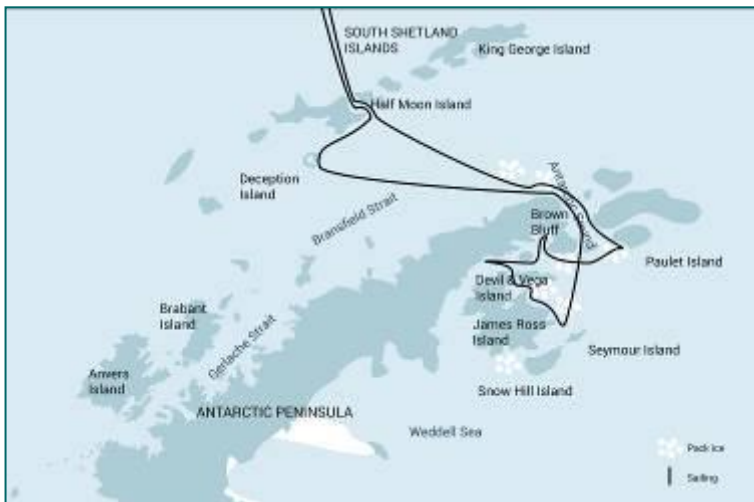
PLA30

Mar 11 – Mar 22

11 nights

Ushuaia – Ushuaia  
aboard Plancius

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### Day 1: End of the World, Start of a Journey

Your voyage begins where the world drops off: Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet, located on the far southern tip of South America. Starting in the afternoon, you embark from this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego – nicknamed “The End of the World” – and sail the scenic, mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the rest of the evening.

### Day 2 – 3: Path of the Polar Explorers

Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you catch a taste of life from the perspective of the polar explorers who first braved these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale

blasting up sea spray. After passing the Antarctic Convergence – Antarctica’s natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer subantarctic seas – you are in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. Not only does the marine life change, the avian life changes too: A variety of albatrosses and petrels show up, along with Cape pigeons and southern fulmars. Then, near the South Shetlands Islands, the first icebergs flash into sight.

### Day 4 – 8: Enter the Antarctic

You sail directly into the Weddell Sea through the often ice-clogged Antarctic Sound. Huge tabular icebergs herald your arrival to the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. The Weddell Sea is largely covered in sea ice during the year, but the northwestern corner offers great opportunities for exploration in places only the lucky few get to visit.

The sites for your activities may include:

**Paulet Island** – A huge number of Adélie penguins take residence here.

**Brown Bluff** – Maybe the most scenic location in the entire northern tip of the Antarctic Continent: sheer canyon walls, fallen boulders, beautiful volcanic creations capped with ice. A large Adélie penguin rookery lives here, with gentoo penguins and nesting snow petrels also to be found.

**Dundee Island** – A mostly uninhabited Argentine station, Base Petrel, can be seen here, as well as Antarctic fur seals (and southern elephant seals) along the coastline.

Farther into the Weddell Sea, the options vary with the ice conditions:

**James Clark Ross Island** – You can explore a number of rarely visited places here. The imagination is further stirred by suggestive names like Brandy Bay and Whiskey Bay.

**Devil Island** – A large Adélie penguin rookery as well as stunning views of Erebus and Terror Gulf are seen here.

**Snow Hill Island** – This location, known for its sedimentary rock, tells tales of the incredible Antarctic explorations of the early 20th century.

## **Day 9: Scenes of South Shetland**

The volcanic islands of the South Shetlands are windswept and often cloaked in mist, but they do offer subtle pleasures: There's a wide variety of flora (mosses, lichens, flowering grasses) and no small amount of fauna (gentoo penguins, chinstrap penguins, southern giant petrels).

In Deception Island, the ship plunges through Neptune's Bellows and into the flooded caldera. Here you find hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, and thousands of cape petrels – along with a number of kelp gulls, brown and south polar skuas, and Antarctic terns. Wilson's storm petrels and black-bellied storm petrels also nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay.

As an alternative, you may be able to engage in activities near Half Moon Island. Here chinstrap penguins and Weddell seals often haul out onto the beach near Cámara Base, an Argentine scientific research station. Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.

## **Day 10 – 11: Familiar Seas, Familiar Friends**

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, you're again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.

## **Day 12: There and Back Again**

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