

Antarctica Cruise: the Final Frontier



With a white, bonnet-like strip running across their heads, Gentoo penguins are easy to recognize.

DAY 1: FLIGHT TO ARGENTINA

Your journey begins with a regularly scheduled overnight flight to Argentina on an internationally recognized airline.

DAY 2: ARRIVAL IN BUENOS AIRES

Touch down in Buenos Aires. A Go Ahead representative greets you at the airport after you clear customs and then escorts you to your hotel. After settling into your room, meet your fellow travelers at tonight's included Welcome Dinner.

Included meals: breakfast (in flight), dinner

DAY 3: BUENOS AIRES & USHUAIA

Embark on a guided tour of Buenos Aires and get to know the city where the tango was born. Begin at Plaza de Mayo to see the Casa Rosada, the Metropolitan Cathedral and the Cabildo. Then, continue to the historic neighborhood of San Telmo before exploring the colorful streets of La Boca. Next, drive along 9 de Julio Avenue, the widest street in the world, to Palermo and its beautiful parks. End your tour in aristocratic Recoleta to visit the grave of Eva Perón. This afternoon, board a flight to Ushuaia

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 4: START YOUR CRUISE

This afternoon, transfer to the docks and board the *M/V Ushuaia*, your home for the next nine days. Settle into your cabin and enjoy your passage through the Beagle Channel.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner onboard

About your cruise: *This cruising itinerary is a guide only. The exact route and program will vary based on local weather and ice conditions, and the opportunity to view wildlife. A daily program sheet will be provided onboard. Flexibility is important.*

DAYS 5-6: CROSSING THE DRAKE PASSAGE

Spend the next two days crossing the Drake Passage. You may wish to spend your time up on deck, where you can watch as albatrosses follow the *Ushuaia* south. You can also head up to the bridge to learn about navigation or watch for whales with the ship's officers. At these latitudes, there are no major landmasses, which in the Age of Sail afforded wind-powered ships a safer passage than the narrow Straits of Magellan. However, the lack of landmasses also lets ocean currents and winds flow freely, which can combine to create rough seas. The Drake Passage is always unpredictable, but you're in good hands: the

15-DAY TOUR INCLUDES

- Round-trip air transportation with a major airline, airport transfers
- The services of a bilingual Go Ahead Tour Director
- A licensed local city guide in Buenos Aires
- 3 nights accommodations in comfortable, well-located hotels with twin beds and private bath or shower
- 9 nights aboard the *M/V Ushuaia* in comfortable cabins with twin beds and private shower
- All hotel service charges and tips, baggage handling and local taxes
- Buffet breakfast daily; 1 three-course dinner
- All shipboard meals and portorage
- Onboard lectures led by naturalist guides
- Private deluxe motorcoach
- Guided sightseeing and entrance fees to select sights as described

GUIDED SIGHTSEEING

DAY 3: Buenos Aires

DAYS 7-10: South Shetland Islands & the Antarctic Peninsula

Tour Highlight

Antarctica was the last continent to be seen by man. Your itinerary will vary depending on weather and ice, but no matter where you go, you'll be sure to see the last place on Earth where mankind has yet to make a significant impact.

Insider's Tip

Take advantage of your time in Ushuaia to enjoy a great meal and spectacular views of the Beagle Channel. Two local restaurants, Kaupé and Kuar, offer elegant fine dining with panoramic views.



A mother orca teaches one of her calves to come up for air in a polynya, or a gap in the sea ice.



The Chilean port of Ushuaia lays claim to the title of southernmost city on Earth. Once you leave here, there's nothing but open water between you and the South Shetland Islands.

Ushuaia was originally designed as a research vessel, and her crew is adept at handling whatever rough patches you might encounter.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner daily

DAYS 7-10: THE SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS & THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Over the next four days, you'll explore the rocky South Shetland Islands and the northernmost tip of the Antarctic continent. You'll explore the penguin rookeries on the South Shetland Islands and cruise through Neptune's Bellows into the natural harbor at Deception Island. On King George's Island, you'll encounter Adélie and Chinstrap penguins, and on Livingston Island, you'll come face-to-face with elephant seals. While you're cruising between islands, keep an eye on the sea, where you might spot orcas and humpback whales. Weather permitting, you'll cruise along the Antarctic coast in the Gerlache Strait and gaze in awe at the towering sea cliffs lining the Lemaire and Neumayer Channels. You might also make stops at Paulet Island, where geothermal energy keeps parts of the island ice free and 200,000 Adélie penguins live; the uninhabited Melchior Islands, where new geographic discoveries are still happening thanks to the islands' thick covering of ice; the Gentoo penguin rookery and the towering icebergs of Cuverville Island; Portal Point, where blue ice and towering sea cliffs greeted the first explorers to venture onto the Antarctic Plateau; calving icebergs at Neko Harbor; Pleneau Island,

where icebergs come to rest in a shallow bay, creating a natural art gallery; Petermann Island, home to the world's southernmost colony of Gentoo penguins; or the placid waters of Paradise Bay, where the sea serves as a mirror for the surrounding mountains.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner daily

DAYS 11-12: CROSSING THE DRAKE PASSAGE

Enjoy two days of uninterrupted cruising back to South America. Join the *Ushuaia's* lecturers and naturalists on deck for more whale- and bird-watching, and reminisce with your fellow travelers over the incredible sights you've seen.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner daily

DAY 13: FLIGHT TO BUENOS AIRES

Disembark in Ushuaia this morning and board a flight for Buenos Aires. This evening is free at leisure. Carnivores will love this city's *parillas*, where meats, offal and sausages are grilled over wood fires. Nature enthusiasts should check out the Reserva Ecologica, an 865-acre stretch of reclaimed green space where you can wander among ten-foot-tall bunches of Pampas grass. Soccer lovers may wish to make a pilgrimage to *La Bombonera* ("the chocolate box"), the nickname of the Boca Juniors soccer team's home stadium. And no trip to Buenos Aires would be complete without an introduction to the tango. Consider joining our optional Tango Show & Dinner, or try your luck at one of the city's tango clubs, where

you can perfect your *abrazo*, the close embrace that defines the art form.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 14: DEPARTURE

A Go Ahead representative escorts you to the airport for your flight home. Depending on your departure time, you may have a day room in which to store your luggage before your flight.

Included meals: breakfast

(In the case of early morning departures, breakfast may not be provided.)

DAY 15: ARRIVE HOME

Arrive home today.

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

Buenos Aires

2 nights

DAY 14: Today is free at leisure.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 15: Enjoy a day in Buenos Aires however you please. Consider joining our optional full-day Argentinian Estancia excursion. Journey out to the Estancia Santa Susana, where the *gauchos*, or cowboys, welcome you with a refreshing drink. As you tour the estancia you'll learn about the *gaucho's* daily life. Come together for a rustic *asado*,



Get a feel for Porteños' daily life in La Boca, Buenos Aires' renowned artists' quarter.

or barbecue, lunch, followed by a folklore show before returning to the city.
Included meals: breakfast

DAY 16: A Go Ahead representative escorts you to the airport for your flight home.
Included meals: breakfast

DAY 17: Arrive home.

Extension is available on select departure dates, and space is limited. Please call early to hold your spot. Extension also requires a minimum of 15 travelers.



Travel Pace: 2

Travel pace levels are based on criteria such as length of tour, number of cities visited, number of included activities, as well as length of flights and land transfers.

1 - leisurely	3 - active
2 - comfortable	4 - challenging

Walking on Tour

Most of this tour is spent in comfort aboard the *Ushuaia*, but you will have the opportunity to go ashore in the South Shetland Islands and at the Antarctic Peninsula. If you choose to go ashore, expect rocky, uneven and sometimes icy terrain.

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Climate

The following guide provides the average temperatures for a sampling of the regions on your itinerary.

BUENOS AIRES

Nov-May	46°-86°F / 8°-30°C
Jun-Oct	41°-71°F / 5°-22°C

USHUAIA

Nov-May	42°-56°F / 6°-13°C
Jun-Oct	41°-48°F / 5°-9°C

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Nov-May	27°-34°F / -3°-1°C
Jun-Oct	12°-21°F / -11°-6°C

A word about packing

We recommend dressing in layers and avoiding cotton whenever possible. A rain-jacket, water-repellant hooded parka, insulated waterproof trousers and gloves or mittens, hat, and scarf are necessary for shore excursions. **Even more important, you MUST bring rubber boots—leather or cloth boots are not acceptable for shore excursions.** You may be stepping in water up to ten inches deep during shore excursions, and we strongly recommend pull-on, unlined, knee-high, waterproof boots with a strong, rubber ridge and non-skid soles. Onboard, the dress code is casual. You will need rubber-soled shoes on deck. We also recommend bringing plastic bags, sunscreen, sunglasses, a backpack and binoculars.

Pre-departure information for your tour

ABOUT THE M/V USHUAIA

Operated by Antarpplly Expeditions, *M/V Ushuaia* was originally built as a research vessel for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). She's been refitted to accommodate up to 84 passengers in comfortable twin suites and cabins. The ship's hull is strengthened against polar ice, and the *Ushuaia's* numerous inflatable tenders make shore landings easy. Public areas include a dining room, an observation deck, a lounge, a bar and a well-stocked library.

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

In order to Argentina, U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport with an expiration date extending at least six months beyond the date of your return. If you're not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact the Argentine consulates for your specific entry requirements. In accordance with Argentine law a reciprocity fee must be paid upon entering the country. For US citizens the charge is approximately \$140. For Canadian citizens the charge is \$70 per person. This one-time charge is subject to change at any time.

AIRPORT AND DEPARTURE TAXES

All airport and departure taxes for this tour are included in the total trip cost printed on your invoice.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Airlines have varying weight restrictions on luggage. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies. Bear in mind that your luggage will probably weigh more on your return trip due to souvenir shopping. We allow only one suitcase per person. One carry-on bag is also permitted, provided that it does not exceed 45 inches (length + width + height). There may be times when you will have to handle your own bags, and you'll find that lightweight luggage provides a distinct advantage. Make sure you label your baggage and carry valuables, medication and documents in your carry-on luggage.

CLOTHING AND PACKING TIPS

Though you'll be cruising in comfort aboard the *M/V Ushuaia*, keep in mind that you'll be traveling to the world's coldest continent. A sturdy pair of rubber-soled boots is absolutely essential for shore landings. See "A word about packing" for more details.

HEALTH

There are no major health risks when traveling to Argentina and Antarctica. However, it is always advisable to check with your doctor or health-care provider for the latest updates.

CUISINE

One of the pleasures of traveling is experiencing the delightful variety of local cuisine. The cuisine of Argentina is distinctive in South America because it is closer in style and flavor to Italian, Spanish, French and other European cuisines rather than the other Latin American cuisines. Also, since Argentina is one of South America's major food producers, mainly in meat, corn, soybean and dairy products, its cuisine tends more towards European dishes with an Argentine flair. Italian pastas and pizzas, German Schnitzels and British scones tea sandwiches are as common as the indigenous fare. Perhaps the most common dish is the asado, or barbecue, a series of salt-rubbed meats, ribs and chorizo sausages cooked over a fire pit on a series of metal grills and crosses. For dessert, try dulce de leche, a sweet honey and milk paste used to fill any number of heavenly pastries.

TRANSPORTATION

Flights arrive in and depart from Buenos Aires. Included transportation on your tour is by private motorcoach.

ELECTRICITY

All destinations operate on the European standard 220 volts.

TIME ZONES

Argentina is one hour ahead of New York from October to April, and the same time as New York from April to October.

CURRENCY

The Argentine peso is the currency you will use on tour. Better rates of exchange are usually available at your destination, although it is worth ordering some currency from your local bank to use when you first arrive. The most efficient and cost effective method is using ATMs, which are widely available in Buenos Aires (mostly on the Visa and Plus international networks). We also recommend that you take credit cards. We suggest informing your bank and credit card company of your travel plans, so they don't confuse your international purchases for fraudulent charges. Please note: It has been increasingly difficult to exchange traveler's checks

outside of major cities—both at banks and shops—as they often attract higher fees.

TIPPING

At the conclusion of your tour, it is customary to offer your Go Ahead Tour Director and driver a gratuity. We recommend tipping in your tour country's currency, the equivalent of \$3USD/CAD per person per day for your driver and \$6USD/CAD to \$9USD/CAD per person per day for your Tour Director. If applicable, we also recommend the equivalent of \$2USD/CAD per local guide. Tips can only be paid in cash. Please keep current local currency exchange rates in mind when tipping.

The customary gratuity to the ship's service personnel is made as a blanket contribution at the end of the voyage and is divided among the crew. You will receive detailed guidelines aboard. Tipping is a very personal matter and the amount you wish to give is at your discretion. As a generally accepted guideline, we suggest \$15 per person per day. Credit cards cannot be accepted.

PURCHASING OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS ON TOUR

If you have not yet purchased your optional excursions, you may be able to do so while on your tour. Your Tour Director will only accept cash (in U.S. dollars only), Visa, MasterCard or American Express as payment for optional excursions. Please be advised that if you pay for an excursion by credit card while on tour, it may take up to three months for your card to be charged. Some optional excursions may only be purchased in advance. See the separate "Optional Excursions" sheet for more information.

International travel is, by its very nature, unpredictable. We must therefore reserve the right to change this itinerary without advanced notice to meet with local conditions at the time of travel. We appreciate your understanding. Please refer to the current catalog for terms & conditions, dates and prices.



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