

# ANTARCTIC PENINSULA AND SOUTH SHETLAND



## *Expedition cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands*



Expedition cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands. The Antarctic Peninsula has one of the most striking landscapes of the world. It is surrounded by glaciers and icebergs and you will have the opportunity of seeing penguins, seals and whales.

**Length:** 9 nights | **Bording & landing:** Ushuaia | **Language:** English

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The itinerary described above is just a guide. Our exact route and program can vary to take advantage of the local weather, the ice condition and the opportunity of watching wild life. The changes shall be made by the captain and leader of the expedition to obtain the best results from the predominating conditions. A daily program will be published on board. Take into account that the flexibility in these trips is the key to success.

# ITINERARY

## DAY 1 | DEPARTURE FROM THE CITY OF USHUAIA

Board in the afternoon and meet the expedition staff and lecturers. After getting relaxed in your cabin, we will sail through the Beagle canal the famous Drake Passage

## DAYS 2 AND 3 | CROSSING THE DRAKE PASSAGE

Named after the explorer Sir Francis Drake sailed these seas in 1578, the Drake Passage is one of the stormiest seas of the Planet. Between the night of the second day and the morning of the third day we will cross the Polar Front (Antarctic convergence), a natural biological boarder where the polar cold waters dive below the warmest waters of the north. This generates a great deal of nutrients which form the biodiversity of this region

The Drake Passage also marks the north limit of many Antarctic sea birds. While sailing through the passage, our staff will be on deck with you to help you identify the enormous variety of sea birds, including the majestic errant albatross. Additionally a complete program of lectures will be waiting for you.

The first icebergs and snowy mountains indicate that we have arrived to the South Shetland Islands, an isle of 20 islands discovered in 1819 by Captain William Smith with his brig Williams. If the conditions on the Drake Passage are favorable, on the third day our expedition staff will disembark with you and experiment the fascinating encounter with penguins and seals.

## DAYS 4 - 7 | DISCOVERING THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA AND SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.

The South Shetland Island is full of wild life. Great penguin colonies, beaches governed by sea wolves and sea elephant seal of the south make each day on the island an unforgettable experience. Sailing through the passage to the flooded caldera of Deception Island is really amazing.

The 25 de Mayo Island is the biggest in the South Shetland Islands and its main characteristic is the penguin's colonies Adelia, and chinstrap, kelp gull, blue eyed cormorant, Antarctic swallow and south giant petrel. There are also scientific basis from different countries, the chinstrap penguin, gentoo penguin, as well as sea elephants, are waiting for you on the Livingston Island

Knowing the history of the Antarctic Peninsula you will be thrilled as were the first explorers. You will have time enough to explore its amazing landscape, a desert of snow, ice, mountains and water courses, and the incredible and wide wild life. Apart from penguins and sea birds you will also see crab seals, of Weddell and leopards as well as hump whales, Minke and maybe orcas too!

We expect to sail the most beautiful Canals always depending on the ice conditions: the Gerlache Strait, the Neumayer Strait and the Lemaire Strait are passages among impressive rocks and glaciers. We plan to make at least two excursions to land per day. The sites for these excursions can also include.

Paradise Bay, literally the best named place in the world, where we will try to make a descense to the continent, we expect to visit Adelia penguin colony (more than 100,000 couples breed here) and blue eyed cormorant on Paulet Island. The Nordenskjold expedition built a Stone shelter here in 1903, ruins which now are full of penguin nests.

Other possible expeditions could take us to Melchior Island, Cuverville Island, Punta Portal, Neko Harbour, Pleneau Island and if the ice conditions are good, Petermann Island to visit the penguin colonies of Adelia and gantoo

## **DAYS 8 AND 9 | CROSSING THE DRAKE PASSAGE**

We will leave the Antarctic Peninsula and head north, crossing the Drake Passage. Join our lecturers and naturalists on deck to search for sea birds and whales, enjoy some of the last lectures. Take your time to relax and thing about the fascinating adventures of the last days on the way back to Ushuaia.

## **DAY 10 | ARRIVAL TO USHUAIA HARBOUR**

We arrive to Ushuaia early in the morning, disembarking after breakfast.

### **THE EXPEDITION INCLUDES:**

- Cruise and accommodation on board according to itinerary
- All the meals during the trip.
- All the excursions on zodiac and on land apart from the activities during the trip.
- Lectures program by naturalists and experimented members of the expedition staff.
- Harbor taxes and duties during the program . Information material previous to departure
- Detailed sailing diary.

## THE EXPEDITION DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY INCLUDE:

- Any air fare, neither in regular flights nor charters.
- No previous and/or after cruise service
- Transfers to and from the ship
- Visa or Passport expenses. Government taxes for arrival and departure
- Meals on land
- Luggage, personal, cancellation expenses insurance (highly recommended), excess luggage expenses, and all the personal expenses such as bar and communications as well as tips at the end of the trip (recommendation will be given).

