

Weddell Sea & Antarctic Peninsula

Day 01: USHUAIA

Arrival and reception in the airport. Transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon, city tour including a visit to the End of the World Museum. Return to the hotel. Accommodation.

Day 02: DEPART FROM USHUAIA

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Tierra del Fuego National Park, located 12 km from the city. It preserves typical species of the Andean-Patagonian Forest such as firebushes, beech trees, ñires, box leaved barberries and flowers, spread in an area of 63,000 hectares (155,676 acres). The highlight of the park is Lapataia Bay, the southernmost tip of the continent, with a wonderful view of the Beagle Channel. Here, the old inhabitants of the area have left their testimony in the "concheros", incredible archeological deposits. Lunch.

In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world located at the Beagle Channel and sail through this scenic waterway for the rest of the evening.

Day 03 & 04

During these two days we will sail across the Drake Passage. When we cross the Antarctic Convergence, we arrive in the Circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. In this area we may meet Wandering Albatrosses, Grey Headed Albatrosses, Black-browed Albatrosses, Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses, Cape Pigeons, Southern Fulmars, Wilson's Storm Petrels, Blue Petrels and Antarctic Petrels. If the winds are favourable we might do our first landing in Antarctic waters in the evening of the third day at Aitcho Island or Penguin Island at the South Shetlands. These volcanic islands are windswept and

often shrouded in mist and fog, but do offer subtle pleasures. There is a nice variety of flora (mosses, lichens and flowering grasses) and fauna, such as Gentoo penguins, chinstrap penguins and southern giant petrels.

Day 05 to 10

We will sail into the Weddell Sea Through the ice-clogged Antarctic Sound. Huge tabular icebergs will announce our arrival to the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. We plan to visit Paulet Island with a million pairs of Adélie Penguins and the remains of the Nordenskjöld expedition, Seymour Island, where many fossils have been found, and Snow Hill Island, where polar expeditions as early as 1902 wintered. We might also visit Brown Bluff and further into the Weddell Sea area we may visit Devil Island and Vega Island with a large colony of Adélie Penguins and a magnificent view for those hikers who can make it to the top of the hill. Melting ice sometimes provides spectacular waterfall from the cliffs close to point "Well-Met".

Back through the Antarctic Sound we may visit the Argentinean station Esperanza on the Antarctic Continent. Watch out for stray Emperor penguins. There might be a chance to see one on a ice-floe.

Onward to the West we'll sail south and plan to offer a zodiac cruise around the rarely visited Astrolabe Island where Antarctic Fulmars, Chinstrap Penguins, Brown Skuas and Blue-eyed Shags breed and Weddell Seals and Antarctic Fur Seals haul out.

In Neko Harbour and Paradise Bay we reach the southernmost area of our voyage, where we have again the opportunity to set foot on

the Antarctic Continent in a magnificent landscape of huge glaciers. In this area we have good chances to see Humpback Whales and Minke Whales.

At Deception Island, we will try to land at Baily Head with a colony of ten thousands of Chinstrap Penguins. Deception Island is a huge volcano of which the crater opens into the sea, creating a natural harbour for the ship. Here we find hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, Cape Pigeons and Dominican Gulls, Brown and South Polar Skuas and Antarctic Terns. Wilson's Storm Petrels and Black-bellied Storm Petrels nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay. We continue to Hannah Point, which has a very rich wildlife featuring Elephant Seals, Cape Pigeons, Southern Giant Petrels, Macaroni Penguins and Gentoo Penguins.

Day 11 & 12

In the Drake Passage we have again a chance of seeing many seabirds.

Day 13

We arrive in the morning and disembark in Ushuaia. Transfer at the airport.



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DAYS

Weddell
Sea &
Antarctic
Peninsula



NOT
INCLUDED



ACCORDING
TO ITINERARY

