JOURNEY
LATIN AMERICA



PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

ANTARCTICA: JOURNEY TO THE ANTARCTIC CIRCLE

15 days from **£10,400pp**

ANTARCTICA / ANTARCTIC PENINSULA AND SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS



WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

- A passion for the region runs through all we do
- All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America
- Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

- Fully bonded and licensed
- ATOL-protected
- On your side when it matters
- Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

- Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks
- We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions
- Let us show you the Latin America we know and love

OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

Set sail from Ushuaia, Argentina, and navigate through the Beagle Channel and Drake Passage to discover the untouched beauty of the Antarctic Peninsula. This voyage offers intimate encounters with majestic glaciers, towering icebergs, diverse wildlife, and, by continuing to the Antarctic Circle, provides more time and landing opportunities in remote, less visited regions than most other expedition cruises.

DAY 1	**Arrive in Buenos Aires. Transfer to your hotel in downtown Buenos Aires.**
DAY 2	**City tour of Buenos Aires**
DAY 3	**Fly to Ushuaia**
DAY 4	**Board your vessel**
DAYS 5-6	**Cross the Drake Passage**
DAYS 7-9	**Visit the South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula**
DAYS 10-11	**Antarctic Circle**
DAYS 12-15	**Head north, back across the Drake Passage to Ushuaia, and fly back to Buenos Aires**

ITINERARY

Set sail from the southernmost city in the world, Ushuaia, Argentina. As you depart, the picturesque landscapes of Tierra del Fuego fade into the distance, and you find yourself navigating the legendary Beagle Channel. Your journey takes you across the Drake Passage, a rite of passage for Antarctic explorers, where the waters are as wild and untamed as the land you are about to discover.

As you approach the Antarctic Peninsula, majestic glaciers, towering icebergs, and a symphony of wildlife create a mesmerizing scene. Seals bask on ice floes, penguins waddle along the shoreline, and whales breach in the frigid waters. The air is crisp, and the silence is broken only by the distant calls of seabirds and the crackle of ice.

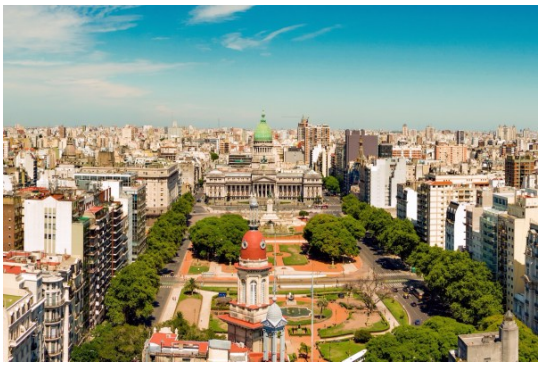
Each day of your expedition brings new adventures. Zodiac excursions offer close encounters with the awe-inspiring landscapes and wildlife, while expert guides provide insights into the region's history, geology, and ecology. Whether you are exploring the remnants of historic whaling stations, witnessing the vibrant colours of the Antarctic summer, or simply taking in the sheer beauty of the continent, every moment is a testament to the raw, untamed majesty of this frozen world.

Opting for an Antarctic Circle voyage gives you more time and landing opportunities than the standard Antarctica expedition cruises and you will visit more remote, less visited regions, only ever observed by a lucky few.

Please note: Many Antarctic expedition cruise operators offer early booking discounts and other restricted offers that depend on availability. Our advertised prices do not take these into account. Contact one of our Travel Experts for the best available rates.

DAY 1

Arrive in Buenos Aires. Transfer to your hotel in downtown Buenos Aires.



You will be met at the airport and escorted to your hotel in downtown Buenos Aires by one of our local representatives.

Buenos Aires is an elegant, cultured and cosmopolitan city famed for its interesting museums and the fascinating port district of La Boca, with its cobbled streets and brightly painted houses. It was here that the tango was born, and Diego Maradona honed his footballing skills.

The centre of town is home to the colonial heartland, government buildings and churches, as well as chic shopping districts, which have a nostalgic Parisian feel. The bohemian quarter of San Telmo is full of quaint old houses interspersed with antiques shops, tango bars and classy restaurants. Slightly further out of the centre is the Recoleta district, even more evocative of French belle époque and Italian influence.

DAY 2

City tour of Buenos Aires



Your city tour begins on Avenida 9 de Julio, known as one of the widest boulevards in the world. Here, you'll see the iconic Obelisk, a cherished symbol of Buenos Aires.

Traveling along this grand avenue, you'll encounter the 19th-century Teatro Colón, renowned globally for its remarkable architecture and exceptional acoustics. The tour then leads you to Plaza de Mayo, encircled by the historic Metropolitan Cathedral, the town hall, and the presidential palace, Casa Rosada. If time allows, the tour extends to the artistic enclave of La Boca, a neighbourhood initially established by Italian immigrants, celebrated for its vividly painted, corrugated iron houses.

DAY 3

Fly to Ushuaia



Transfer to the airport and fly to Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego, Patagonia, at the southernmost tip of the continent. Depending on the number of intermediate stops, your flight takes 3-5 hours.

The city has grown rapidly in recent years, partly as a result of government incentives to settlers, and its establishment as a Free Port, and partly as a tourist centre – most Antarctic cruises, like yours, leave from the port here. The setting is spectacular; jagged mountains hem in the town down to the shore of the Beagle Channel.

Many operators include a pre-cruise overnight in Ushuaia, some will transfer you straight to the ship, and others will leave an overnight to your discretion. Where the option is given, we always recommend an overnight stay – just in case of flight delays.

DAY 4

Board your vessel



Transfer to the port and embark your ship. We offer a wide choice of expedition ships, most of which are purpose-built for Polar expedition cruising.

Polar expedition ships are small by the standards of conventional cruise liners; most carry fewer than 200 guests, while our largest carries up to 530. All of our ships have ice-strengthened hulls and carry Zodiacs for exploration and remote landings. Each voyage is accompanied by a skilled team of expedition guides. Some are accompanied by a practicing scientist, historian, or researcher who conducts fieldwork during the trip.

Depart and head towards the Drake Passage through the Beagle Channel, so named after the HMS Beagle which later took Charles Darwin on his explorations around the South American continent.

DAYS 5-6

Cross the Drake Passage



Cross the Drake Passage, hundreds of kilometres of open water and the shortest crossing between Antarctica and the rest of the world. This is a notoriously choppy convergence zone so those concerned about seasickness should speak to our team of expert travel advisors to find the best ship and itinerary to suit you. Whales and dolphins can often be seen as well as an abundance of marine birds such as petrels, albatrosses and penguins. During this part of the voyage, there are briefings and presentations on the Antarctic ecosystem.

DAYS 7-9

Visit the South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula



As you approach Antarctica, you'll first catch sight of an iceberg, followed by the towering mountains of the South Shetland Islands. One of the main highlights here is Deception Island, home to a volcanic caldera that last erupted in 1969. This rugged chain of glaciated islands and numerous islets hugs the Antarctic Peninsula, providing a sheltered sea passage marked by black rock towers. The names of these places, such as Deception and Desolation Islands, the Watchtower, and Elephant Island – where Shackleton's expedition was marooned for 135 days – evoke the spirit of early explorers.

Continuing to the Antarctic Peninsula, you'll discover the most accessible part of the continent, renowned for its stunning landscapes, diverse wildlife, and numerous scientific research stations.

Your exact landing sites will vary with each expedition and depend on the ever-changing polar conditions as your ship navigates through slushy waters and the fractured patterns of sea ice. The sheer silence of this remote region is occasionally interrupted by memorable moments: the raucous squabbling of penguins over prized pebbles on Cuverville Island, the thunderous crack of a glacier calving in Paradise Harbour, or the majestic peaks and stark rocks of the Lemaire Channel providing perfect photo opportunities from the ship's deck, if the channel is ice-free. Expect to encounter wildlife such as gentoo, chinstrap, and Adélie penguins, petrels, shags, crab eater and fur seals, and perhaps even whales.

DAYS 10-11

Antarctic Circle



If conditions permit, the ship will attempt to head further south and reach the Antarctic Circle. Whilst the line itself is nothing more than a geographical box to tick, venturing this far down the map adds extra time, landing sites and wildlife interactions to your voyage, and gives those on board a glimpse of lands visited only by a privileged few people.

DAYS 12-15

Head north, back across the Drake Passage to Ushuaia, and fly back to Buenos Aires

The ship will turn and head northwards, passing the peninsula and navigating back across the Drake Passage to Ushuaia. These days will give you a chance to share and reflect on your experiences, sort through your photos and, perhaps, enjoy a few more whale sightings. Once back in Ushuaia, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to Buenos Aires. From here, either fly home or continue your adventures elsewhere. Contact our team of Travel Experts for advice or inspiration of where to go next.



INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

- City tour of Buenos Aires
- Zodiac excursions on the Antarctic cruise
- Shore excursions on the Antarctic cruise

ESSENTIALS

2 flights (longest 3-5 hours); 12 day cruise.

The accommodation in Buenos Aires is in a good, practical, upper-mid-range option; the Ushuaia hotel is a conveniently located mid-range property; the expedition cruise vessel is a good standard ship designed specifically for sailing in icy waters, and operated by a trusted partner with excellent service levels. All hotels can be altered and several different ships navigate the Antarctic Circle itinerary (albeit with different routes and durations).

Breakfast daily; full board days 4-14.

We carefully select our local partners, some of whom we have worked with for over 25 years. Their English-speaking guides understand the expectations of our clients very well, and are consistently singled out for praise by the latter on their return.

15 days, 14 nights: Buenos Aires 2; Ushuaia 1; Antarctic cruise 11.

These adventure activities are offered on selected departures:

- Kayaking (some previous experience recommended).
- Camping out on the land. (No experience required).
- On-land hiking. A variety of hikes of differing difficulty means that everyone will have the chance to do some walking if they like.

Other options may be possible. Ask our Travel Experts for full details.

It is advisable to pre-book (and pre-pay) for any optional activities, as many of these have limited numbers and can fill up before the cruise commences.

For our latest **currency advice for Argentina** please see our FAQs section.

On the cruise ship you can pay your bill for extras with a credit card (most accepted excluding Diner's Club), or often in Euros or US dollars cash.

HOW TO TAKE IT

Cash machines are available in Buenos Aires and Ushuaia, and so taking a debit or credit card with a PIN number is the most convenient way of withdrawing money while on your trip, and in most shops and restaurants you can also pay by card. However, since cards can get lost, damaged, withheld or blocked, you should not rely exclusively on a card to access funds.

We recommend that additionally you take a reasonable quantity of US dollars cash (no more than is covered by your insurance), which you can exchange into local currency. Dollar bills should be in good condition, soiled or torn bills may be refused. You can take sterling, but the exchange rate is not always competitive or even available, restricting the number of places where you can change money.

On the cruise ship you can pay your bill for extras at the end of the cruise with a credit card (Visa or Mastercard, excludes American Express and Diner's Card), or often in US dollars cash or Euros.

For our latest currency advice for Argentina please see our FAQs section.

DAILY SPEND

Meals and some drinks are included on board the ship. You pay for your extras at the end of the cruise.

TIPPING

Tips are expected and local guides often rely on their tip as a significant proportion of their income.

Most service industry workers will expect a tip of some kind and so it is useful to have an allowance for cruise ship staff, hotel porters, taxi drivers and the like. It is common to leave 10 – 12% in restaurants. On the cruise, a tip of $US 8-10 per

person per day for the crew and guides is considered appropriate.

INSURANCE

Travel insurance is essential. Make sure your insurance covers you for the full amount if you have to cancel.

Details of our recommended policy can be found on our Travel Insurance page.

AIRPORT TAXES

If you have purchased your flights through Journey Latin America, the international departure tax is usually included in the ticket.

TRIP SUITABILITY

The cruise ships will be well heated, with well equipped cabins and there is sometimes a limited health spa on board. There are optional excursions on some departures (enquire) such as kayaking and hiking. Previous experience is advisable for some activities.

The cruise:
Antarctica is very remote: once committed to your journey, you are at the mercy of the weather and ocean conditions, the melting and freezing of ice-packs, and the movement of icebergs. No specific landings are ever guaranteed and it may not be possible to reach the Antarctic Circle. This is expeditionary cruising: you will be facing the same environmental challenges as the early explorers, albeit in much greater comfort, and with the assistance of modern technology and communications.

You need to be sufficiently agile to get in and out of small landing craft and walk over rocky terrain. There is a doctor on board but if you fall ill while on the cruise or have an accident, it could be a long time and maybe an arduous journey before you return to a destination with good medical facilities, so bear this in mind if you have a pre-existing condition.

Buenos Aires is hottest January-March (very humid with tropical showers, occasionally over 40°C during the day). November and December may be a little cooler.

Patagonia/Tierra del Fuego is best to visit in the summer (December-February) when days are long and mild. March and November can be sunny and clear, but it may be windy.

Antarctica is accessible by ship from late October to March, the southern hemisphere summer. Outside this period days are short and dark. The Peninsula has a typical maritime climate with average temperatures during the cruising season varying between 1°C and -15°C. Antarctica is a desert, so you won't see much precipitation.

The southern hemisphere summer is hot in Buenos Aires, so take loose-fitting light clothing for maximum comfort at this time. An umbrella is a good idea in case of showers. Spring and autumn are milder and less predictable.

South America is in general a relaxed continent and you won't need clothes for formal dining but you may wish to take some smart casual wear if you intend to visit top of the range restaurants.

On the cruise:
Protective clothing is the single most important way of ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable cruise and the key is to dress in layers. For Antarctic landings, many operators provide a complimentary parka consisting of a fleece jacket and an outer shell which is wind and waterproof. In addition, you should bring (to be worn beneath your parka) a breathable, thermal base layer to wick away perspiration and a warm mid-layer such as a fleece or down sweater; trousers (with thermal lining, or base layer of thermal leggings) and an outer shell of waterproof trousers; hat, warm socks, scarf, gloves and sunglasses. Rubber boots are essential for Antarctic landings; these can be pre-ordered and are loaned on board free of charge. Dress on board ship is informal and it's sensible to bring a spare change of warm, dry clothing for wearing out on deck between landings.

Preventative vaccinations are recommended against the following: typhoid; polio; tetanus; hepatitis A. You should consult your GP for specific requirements.

You can also find helpful information on the Masta Travel Health website.

Holders of a full British passport do not require a visa, although passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the trip begins. Anyone with a different nationality should enquire with us or check with the relevant consulate.

If flying to the US, or via the US you will need to fill in your online ESTA application.

Some cruise ships will accept individuals travelling alone who are willing to share a cabin with a person of the same sex. They will be charged the per person price based on two travelling together. If you prefer not to share a cabin you can opt to pay a single cabin supplement.

Once on board ship many factors play a role in shaping the expedition's progress – the prevailing wind, weather and ice conditions, for example. Ideally, once in Antarctica, you will depart the ship by Zodiac to make at least 2 excursions daily – on land, by Zodiac or a combination of both, lasting anything between 2-4 hours. There are no man-made jetties in Antarctica so landfalls are 'wet landings' where you scramble ashore from the Zodiac in wellingtons and waterproofs. You are then free to explore on your own or in groups, before later being picked up again by Zodiac. Evenings may be spent relaxing, reliving the days' events with a briefing or lecture, or out on the deck, keeping an eye on the dramatic, ever-changing scenery. Itineraries will vary from the original plan if conditions demand/permit.

It's a long time at sea, but the variety and intrinsic fascination of what can be seen is spell-binding.

The theatre of wildlife in Antarctica as a whole displays an ever changing narrative of birth, struggle, pleasure, fulfilment and death. You may witness the comedy of a waddling penguin building its nest, a mother bird feeding its young or reuniting with a returning mate; a wily seal escaping the clutches of a hunting whale.

A large variety of marine birds, including 6 species of penguin – emperor, king, macaroni, chinstrap, gentoo and Adélie, visit the White Continent – though generally it will be the latter three that are seen on the peninsula. Mammals abound here: blue, orca, humpback, minke and southern right whales prowl the chilly ocean, while Weddell, Ross, crab-eater, leopard and elephant seals sprawl on the beaches.

Plant life in Antarctica proper is restricted to lichen, mosses and algae but there are hundreds of colourful varieties of these.

What to see as the season unfolds:

November:
- Start of the season: clean, untouched landing sites.
- Courtship rituals of penguins and other seabirds, nest building.
- Elephant and fur seals court and carve out their territories.

December – January:
- Long days of summer light, milder temperatures.
- Penguin chicks hatch in the Antarctic Peninsula.
- Whale sightings start to increase.

February – March:
- Excellent whale-watching opportunities.
- Penguin chicks begin to fledge.
- Fur seals increasingly numerous on the Antarctic Peninsula.
- Colourful snow algae break the snow white domination of the landscape.
- Spectacular sunrises and sunsets add a rosy glow to the ice.

Specific to your cruise:

Drake Passage and the Antarctic Convergence:
Over 35 species of bird may accompany your crossing. Species include giant petrels, Antarctic fulmars, and the black-browed and wandering albatrosses with wingspans up to 3m.

South Shetland Islands:
Visitors include chinstrap, gentoo, macaroni and Adélie penguins; giant petrels, Wilson's and black-bellied storm petrels, brown and south polar skuas, Cape pigeons, Antarctic terns, blue-eyed shags, Dominican gulls, elephant, fur, leopard and

crab-eater seals; humpback, minke and orca (killer) whales offshore.

Antarctic Peninsula and Circle:
Chinstrap, gentoo and Adélie penguins abound. Breeding birds include skuas, Antarctic terns, giant petrels, snowy sheathbills, Antarctic shags, kelp gulls, Wilson's storm, and Antarctic and snow petrels.

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GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

0208 747 8315

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

SEND US AN EMAIL

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