



EMBLEMATIC ANTARCTICA

Discover the essential features of the White Continent during an 11-day cruise in the Antarctic Peninsula. Sailing from Ushuaia, you will board *Le Boréal* for an exceptional journey to the heart of this land at the end of the world. An essential stopping point on your Antarctic Expedition, Neko Harbour is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful sites in the Peninsula. Between the snow-covered mountains, the ice and the wildlife, you will be captivated by the magic of this unique sit

During your journey; you will discover the polar desert with its grandiose landscapes. You will be able to admire the tabular icebergs whose immense dimensions have always held a deep fascination for the great explorers.

Penguins are the veritable emblem of this ice-bound region, living in colonies of many thousands of members. Sailing on the drifting ice floe or waddling over an icy beach, you will be able to watch these unusual animals going about their daily life.

Razorback whales, humpback whales, Weddell seals, leopard seals and seabirds: This expanse of polar iridescence is home to many other species that you will encounter during your various excursions.

Overview

Sail through the heart of the Antarctic Peninsula into an enchanting polar desert, a final frontier surrounded by a gigantic ice sheet. Set in the most spectacular scenery of imposing mountain ranges, ice-filled channels, awe-inspiring glaciers and beautifully sculptured icebergs, this is a fascinating journey to the heart of this remote land. Penguins live in their thousands, waddling on the shores, whilst humpback whales and seals swim in the ship's wake.

**** Please note:** Prices may vary depending on the departure dates & ship. This cruise is on board the Le Lyial, Le Soleal, Le Austral & Le Boreal. Please contact us for further details

Day 1: Emblematic Antarctica – Buenos Aires to Ushuaia

Depart Buenos Aires & fly to Ushuaia (flight times are to be advised)

Despite its small size, the city of Ushuaia is the world's southernmost city, the capital of Tierra del Fuego and the main starting point for voyages to Antarctica.

On arrival into Ushuaia, you will be met and transferred either directly to the port for embarkation, buffet lunch and access to the main lounge, or to Arakur Resort, located inside Cerro Alarken Natural Reserve. Here you can relax at the resort, join a guided walk through the Reserve, or take an optional excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park. (Please note that this excursion must be booked at the time of cruise booking. The excursion is accompanied by a French speaking guide).



Embarkation begins in the afternoon at the port in Ushuaia. Embarkation time is between 4:00pm and 5.00pm, at which time cabins and suites will be ready to check in to.

The ship sets sail this evening along the famous Beagle Channel towards the Drake Passage.

Day 2 - 3: Emblematic Antarctica

To reach the mythical “White Continent” we cross the notorious Drake Passage named after the famous explorer, Sir Frances Drake, who sailed in these waters back in 1578. You will then traverse the Polar Front which marks the area where waters from the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans meet. The Antarctic Convergence is a biological barrier where cold polar water sinks beneath the warmer northern waters.



The first sightings of icebergs and snow-capped mountains indicate that we have reached Antarctica.

Day 4: Emblematic Antarctica

On the small island of Goudier, we hope to have the opportunity to visit Port Lockroy, discovered by the French explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot in 1903. Initially it served as a relief and repair base for whalers, but in 1944 Port Lockroy became a British base. It owes its name to Edouard Lockroy, a French politician and the partner of Jean-Baptiste Charcot during his expedition. You will be able to visit the small museum that retraces the life of the base in the 1950's. Since 1996, it has been open to the public during the short Southern Summer and is used for carrying out research on gentoo penguins. Nowadays, this base is the most visited site of the White Continent and, thanks to its small store and post office, it is the only place to offer you the opportunity to write to your friends and family and share this unique moment.



Day 5: Emblematic Antarctica

Lying at the southern end of the beautiful Lemaire Channel, we hope to visit Pleneau Island and then the 3km wide bay of Port Charcot that was charted by the 3rd French Antarctic expedition under Jean-Baptiste Charcot. Charcot established the expedition's winter base at Port Charcot in 1904.



Day 6: Emblematic Antarctica

Deep in Andvord Bay, we find this little corner of paradise at the foot of an immense glacier. Neko Bay is without doubt one of the most beautiful sights of the Antarctic Peninsula. Wildlife is as abundant as it is exceptional with sea birds such as gulls, Cape petrels and cormorants, as well as marine mammals such as seals, orcas and whales. Excursions aboard our Zodiacs allow you to sail close to blue-tinged icebergs or disembark near colonies of penguins, observe leopard seals basking on the shore or watch the Antarctic terns flying overhead.



Paradise Bay (or Paradise Harbour as it is also known) is surrounded and protected by glaciated mountains and ice cliffs. It is a stunningly beautiful wide bay and natural harbour, home to a colony of gentoo penguins, with Argentina's "Almirante Brown Antarctic Base" standing on its coast.

Day 7: Emblematic Antarctica

The ship continues sailing into the Weddell Sea, a rarely visited, heavily iced and beautiful area of Antarctica on the south-east side of the Antarctic Peninsula. Sailing in the Weddell Sea will allow you to experience true silence, an extraordinary and enchanting atmosphere and unrivalled calm. You will discover fur seals, penguin colonies, wandering albatross and other giant petrels. Here the huge icebergs and the endless ice cap sculpt a landscape that words cannot describe. The lord of the manor is known as the Weddell seal. It is a record breaker, able to remain submerged for more than an hour. Its pelage is dark grey and it has a spotted belly. To maintain its access to the sea and be able to fish, the Weddell Seal has special teeth allowing it to make a hole in the thick ice.



Day 8: Emblematic Antarctica

Weather permitting; we will sail into the flooded volcanic caldera of Deception Island for its rugged scenery, great sites of geological interest and the remains of an old whaling station. Deception Island is the largest of three recent volcanic centres in the South Shetlands and sailing through the narrow passage into the flooded caldera of Deception Island is truly amazing.

Nestled at the heart of the South Shetland Islands, in the north of the Antarctic Peninsula, Deception Island is easy to recognise for its horseshoe shape. On the black sand of the volcanic beaches, there are remains of abandoned huts that have been overrun by the extraordinary wildlife found here. It is on these ash beaches that the largest colony of chinstrap penguins in the Antarctic Peninsula has taken up residence. Excursions aboard our Zodiacs will allow you to set foot on this expanse of land where more than 100,000 pairs of penguins, elephant seals and fur seals live side by side.



Half Moon Island, another possible landing site is home to chinstrap penguins in spectacular surroundings. Only 2kms long, the island boasts dramatic rock formations. Whales are often spotted patrolling the shores.

Day 9-10: Emblematic Antarctica

We leave Antarctica and head north back across the Drake Passage, searching for seabirds and whales as we sail.



Day 11: Emblematic Antarctica- Disembark Ushuaia

Disembark in Ushuaia in the morning. Transfer to the airport for your departing flight to Buenos Aires (included – times to be advised)

Expeditions programs include activities such as Zodiac outings (often with "wet landing"), moderate walks to more active hikes. All this accompanied by your expedition team of naturalist guides. Calls, landings & zodiac® cruises will depend on weather conditions, position of ice (during polar cruises) and winds and the state of the sea. These can force a change of plans at any time

Taking into consideration the unusual and exceptional character of expedition itineraries, the calls shown are an indication only. The final route will be confirmed by the Captain and Expedition Leader, who will take into account the touristic quality of the sites and above all, the safety of the passengers. Their decision will be subject to that of local authorities and the expert pilots present on board during the navigation in polar and /or isolated zones.

Travelling to polar/isolated regions is an exhilarating experience. The raw beauty and untouched wilderness offer an unusual chance to experience a place where there is little evidence of human presence. Inevitably, there are some consequences that come with such remoteness: please remember that you are far from

modern hospitals with full medical facilities, thus evacuation is highly expensive. Without the necessary medical coverage, all expenses will have to be immediately paid for with your personal funds. We urge you to subscribe a full coverage insurance, choose your insurance company very carefully and be extremely vigilant and ensure your insurance is fully comprehensive.

Included: Accommodation – Variety of cabin categories to choose from (price will vary), return flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia, Lunch at Arakur hotel on day 1, Beverages during lunch (bottled water + 1 soft drink or 1 local beer + 1 coffee) on embarkation day, All meals while on the cruise, tours with professional English speaking guide on a shared service basis unless otherwise stated, most entrance fees and local taxes (some exclusions apply).

Excluded: Any meals not mentioned in the above itinerary. Travel Insurance and tips. Any flights or services not mentioned in this itinerary.

Please Note: This itinerary and/or hotels quoted within this itinerary may change due to local operating conditions or availability at the time of booking. Please see our terms and conditions for more details. Please note that all flights are non-refundable and non-changeable unless advised otherwise. Viva Expeditions accepts no responsibility for flight delays and subsequent delays on tours.

Please be aware that many of our products are operated in US Dollars and therefore subject to currency fluctuations. Viva Expeditions will do its utmost to avoid passing on any additional charges however if there is a significant change in exchange rates then we will be required to add a currency surcharge without warning. If you would like to remove this currency risk you do have the option of paying in full at the time of booking. Additionally if you have booked one of our cruise products - be aware that many operators also reserve the right to apply fuel surcharges dependant on the price of crude oil.

Final payment on bookings are generally due 95 days prior to departure

Pre-booking Advice

Please click on the below link which includes some detailed information on common destinations. Please read this information prior to approving your quote with your sales consultant as the items mentioned in this document can be difficult (and/or expensive) to change after your booking is confirmed.

[Itinerary Planning Advice](#)

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