

Antarctica Adventure

Dates: November 25 – December 6, 2024

Trip Leader: Beth Whitman

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Overnight in the charming town of **Ushuaia**, at the southern tip of Argentina, prior to embarkation
- Partake in **hiking, snowshoeing and kayaking** from our beautiful **expedition ship (all activities included in cost!)**
- See and photograph countless **penguins in their natural environment**
- Watch **whales breach** as they ply the water in pods
- Marvel at **icebergs** as they pass by your window in the privacy of your cabin
- Option to add 4 nights in [Buenos Aires!](#)

The tour begins with your arrival into Ushuaia, Argentina on November 25, 2024.

If you are joining us in [Buenos Aires](#), you'll be arriving with the group on the morning of November 25th. If you are arriving on your own, we'll provide you with some guidance on booking flights into Ushuaia. Please do not book without contacting us first.

If you'd like additional hotel nights prior to the tour dates, let us know and we'd be happy to book them for you!

ITINERARY



Day 1 – Ushuaia
Monday, November 25, 2024
Meals: Dinner

If you are part of our [Buenos Aires tour](#), we'll fly into **Ushuaia** in the morning. If you are arriving on your own, we suggest you arrive no later than the morning of the 25th but arriving one day earlier is suggested in case of flight delays.

Upon arrival, we'll be met by a guide and driver and taken to our hotel.

Ushuaia is a tiny town and **easily navigable by foot**. Since we'll be boarding the ship tomorrow, this is an excellent time to stretch those legs and spend time **browsing the shops** at the end of the world or **wandering the waterfront** to see the ships getting ready to head out for Antarctica!

If you have arranged to rent gear in Ushuaia for your time in Antarctica, this would be the time to pick it up from the shop.

While lunch is not included (there are LOTS of options along the town's one main street), we'll gather tonight to **enjoy a lovely meal together!**

Overnight in Ushuaia at the [Albatross Hotel](#) or similar.

Day 2 – Ushuaia – Depart for Antarctica
Tuesday, November 26, 2024
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Today's the day! This morning after breakfast, we'll make our way to our expedition ship where we'll **begin our journey to Antarctica.**

We'll head to the nearby pier where we'll have our passports checked before we board [the Plancius](#), our expedition ship. Note, no visa is required to visit the continent of Antarctica. Check our [Antarctica FAQs](#) for more info.



We'll be shown our rooms by the very helpful staff and then have some time to **relax and get familiar with the ship** before enjoying a wonderful dinner together tonight in the ship's dining area. While we won't have the ship to ourselves (darn!), our activities on-board have been **organized specifically for our group** and we'll get to have meals together in the dining area.

In the early evening, our ship will depart the harbor in Ushuaia. We'll make our way through the **Beagle Channel**—a protected waterway surrounded by land—before we begin the journey through the **Drake Passage.**



** Please note that the Drake Passage *can* be turbulent, causing some to get motion sick. This is not always the case, however, and many people have very smooth sailings (when the passage is lovingly referred to as the Drake Lake). In any event, please be prepared with motion sickness patches or medication so that you can make the most of your time on the ship.

Overnight on the [Plancius expedition ship](#).

Day 3 – Antarctica
Wednesday, November 27, 2024
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We'll still be making our way through the Drake Passage on this day so we won't have an opportunity to disembark. However, today and each day we're on the ship, there will be talks given in a dedicated lecture room by the very knowledgeable expedition staff. Rest assured, you'll never be bored!

Over the course of our week+ on the ship, we will learn about **icebergs** (such as growlers and bergy bits), **penguins** (such as Emperor, Chinstrap and Gentoo), and the amazing variety of **seabirds** (such as albatrosses, Cape pigeons, Southern fulmars and petrels).

It's also likely we'll see **pods of whales!**

There will be areas on the ship where we can gather as a group to enjoy **cocktails, play games, chat** or do all of the above. 😊

Overnight on the [Plancius expedition ship](#).

Day 4 – Antarctica (Thanksgiving Day!)
Thursday, November 28, 2024
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

What better way to spend Thanksgiving Day (for U.S. citizens) than by exploring a new world and being grateful for what we are experiencing. 😊

At some point today, we'll have made it through the Drake Passage and will begin our **entry into the South Shetlands**, a group of islands that are between 80 – 90% completely glaciated. Even though we won't disembark on this day, the scenery begins to change and it's here that we'll start to see **icebergs** and **snow covered mountains**.



There will be more talks throughout the day covering a variety of topics, all aimed at educating us on what we'll be seeing and experiencing in this pristine environment.

Tonight we'll be treated to a special dinner to celebrate Thanksgiving!

Overnight on the [Plancius expedition ship](#).



Day 5 – 9 – Antarctica
Friday, November 29 – Tuesday, December 3, 2024
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

During these five days, we'll be spending time in and around the **Antarctic Peninsula** and on the **continent's mainland**. Weather permitting, we will have opportunities each day to leave the expedition ship to **take part in a variety of activities**—all included in the tour cost. This may

include:

- **Zodiac cruises** that will give us a chance to get close to icebergs, islands and sealife.
- An on-shore **photography class** with a chance to photograph penguins, birdlife and seals.
- **Sea kayaking** to get closer to the sealife including penguins and birds.
- **Snowshoeing** and/or **hiking** on one of the many islands.
- **Overnight camping** on one of the islands!
- A visit to one of the many **international research bases**

Though the captain (and weather) will have the ultimate say, locations where we *may* visit include:

King George Island – Largest of the South Shetlands and home to many research bases as well as penguins, seals and birdlife.

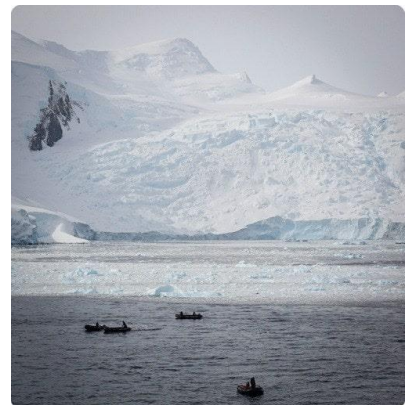
Jougla Point – The entrance to Port Lockroy, home to the southern-most post office on the planet!

Deception Island – A flooded caldera in a volcano.

Petermann Island – A breeding colony for approximately 3,000 pairs of Gentoo penguins.

Paradise Bay – Recognized (and named) for its beauty, the area is ideal for kayaking and glacier viewing.

Overnight on the [Plancius expedition ship](#).



Day 10 & 11 – Antarctica
Wednesday, December 4 and Thursday, December 5, 2024
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we'll begin making our way **back to Ushuaia** via the Drake Passage. We won't have any more opportunities to disembark in Antarctica, but there's still plenty more to learn and there will be more talks given by the expedition staff on these days.

Overnight on the Plancius expedition ship.

Day 12 – Antarctica – Ushuaia – Home
Friday, December 6, 2024
Meals: Breakfast

We'll have made our way back to the port of Ushuaia late the previous night or early this morning (depending on weather), but we remain on the ship until after a final breakfast. From here, you can make your way to the airport for your flight home or onward, stay in town and go to the airport for a flight later in the day, or overnight in Ushuaia (not included) for additional onward travel.

**** Itinerary subject to change without notice.**