



# Crossing the Circle: Southern Expedition

Not only does this expedition include the most in-depth exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula, but it also offers the opportunity to venture farther south across the Antarctic Circle. As you head toward a milestone that few travelers reach, you'll feel as if you're in a world without borders, sailing across an endless stretch of sea dotted with ice.

Dramatic ice formations will ignite your imagination as you search the landscape for the wildlife that calls it home. Whether it's humpback whales alongside the ship, a leopard seal diving beneath your Zodiac, penguins sliding off an iceberg into crystal waters, or a giant petrel soaring above cracking sea ice, you'll experience a sensory overload in Antarctica like you've never felt before.

## EXPEDITION IN BRIEF

- Be one of the few travelers to venture to 66°33' S
- Visit historic research stations in Marguerite Bay
- Witness abundant Antarctic wildlife, including penguins, seals, whales and more
- Experience western Peninsula highlights and visit iconic landing sites
- Learn about Antarctica's geology and wildlife from on-board lecturers and specialists

**DID YOU KNOW?** *On January 17, 1773, Captain James Cook became the first person to sail across the Antarctic Circle, en route to the first circumnavigation of Antarctica.*

# Adventure Options

Booking an Adventure Option as part of your expedition is a great way to enhance your polar experience. These options are subject to availability and fill up quickly, so be sure to book yours early. Please note that Adventure Options are weather dependent.

## KAYAKING

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Imagine gliding across the surface of a bay in the presence of icebergs and glaciers! Our kayaking adventures are the best way to feel at one with the sea. Taken in small groups of 16 people, multiple times per voyage, kayaking adventures are only conducted during calm weather conditions. We recommend that you have some prior kayaking experience, including the capability to do a wet exit.

*The kayaking Adventure Option is open to all levels of experience; however, we advise that kayaking in polar waters is not an activity for first-time guests. Beginners interested in kayaking should take an introductory kayaking course prior to their voyage.*

*In addition, regardless of your experience, we recommend kayaking lessons for a minimum of three hours in preparation for your expedition. To maximize your enjoyment and your overall experience, it is of the utmost importance that you be comfortable while kayaking.*

*More information about your Adventure Options, including the necessary experience, physical requirements and cost, is available by contacting your Polar Travel Adviser.*

# Itinerary

## DAY 1 Ushuaia, Argentina

You will begin your journey in Ushuaia, a small but bustling port town at the tip of South America. This Argentine town is an ideal gateway for you to explore the southern extent of Patagonia while preparing for your adventure ahead. Get active in the mountains or enjoy handcrafted chocolate at a café in town.

## DAY 2 Embarkation Day

As the ship sets sail in the late afternoon, you will begin your Antarctic journey, passing through the Beagle Channel. The channel opens up to the vastness of the Southern Ocean, where your next land sighting will be along the Antarctic Peninsula. Named after the famed ship on which Charles Darwin voyaged, the channel presents great photo opportunities to capture seabirds hovering overhead.

## DAYS 3 AND 4 Crossing the Drake Passage

The waters of the Drake Passage are unpredictable, so hope for clear skies and a calm ocean. You'll have plenty of time to gaze out at the sea, get to know your fellow shipmates and chat with your Expedition Team.

You will spend this time preparing for the exciting days ahead, with numerous educational and informative lectures



presented by your Expedition Team. You'll learn about everything from safety procedures to the history of whaling in Antarctica.

## DAYS 5 TO 7 Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands

With the Drake Passage left in our wake, we make our approach to Antarctica. Get your cameras ready as

the continent's coastline makes its first appearance, signaling the start of your adventure in the realm of the Antarctic. You'll see plentiful floating icebergs and be fixated on the ocean surface as curious whales spout and breach before your eyes.

As exciting as it can be from on board the ship, your true exploration occurs when you disembark and set foot on



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the White Continent. There are several potential landing sites that we may visit, including Neko Harbor, Orne Harbour or Paradise Harbour. Although weather dictates which specific landing sites we can visit, each one presents a new collection of wildlife and natural attractions.

Your days will be busy spotting wildlife and being mesmerized by the beauty of Antarctica. Watching penguins waddling on the beach and listening to the crackling and crumbling sounds of icebergs and glaciers will become your daily entertainment, while kayaking with whales and polar camping are optional activities available on select voyages (at an extra cost).

#### **DAYS 8 AND 9** *Antarctic Circle*

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Crossing the Antarctic Circle is an impressive achievement, as most expeditions to the Antarctic Peninsula do not reach this far south, which is officially noted at 66°33' S. You and your shipmates will celebrate in style with a well-earned glass of champagne! Make a toast and take pride in knowing you've made it to a part of the world visited by very few people.

#### **DAYS 10 AND 11** *Northbound Along the Peninsula*

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By now, your knowledge of Adélie, chinstrap and gentoo penguins will be matched by your ability to differentiate between a leopard, fur or Weddell seal. Terms like *bergy bits* and *pancake ice* will seem normal, yet there are still many tales to be told. As you head north, Zodiac excursions will fill your

days, and your Expedition Team will continue offering presentations while giving you time to reflect on everything you've experienced.

#### **DAYS 12 AND 13** *Crossing the Drake Passage*

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As you recross the Drake, Antarctica fades away, leaving you with a collection of memories to last a lifetime. Excited conversations with your newfound friends will make the crossing fly by, regardless of weather and sea conditions. Your Expedition Team will round up its series of lectures as well, perhaps with a slideshow of the great landing sites and wildlife you've witnessed over the course of your voyage.

#### **DAY 14** *Disembark in Ushuaia*

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Today you'll say goodbye to your Expedition Team and fellow travelers, disembarking in the morning to catch your homeward flights.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER** *Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must allow the sea, the ice and the weather to guide route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you'll experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. A measure of flexibility is something all of us must bring to a polar expedition.*



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# Arrival & Departure Details

Welcome! As you prepare for your journey, you may be interested to know the details of your arrival and departure. Since air transportation to and from your voyage is not included in the cost of your expedition, you will need to arrange flights from your home to the starting point, and home again from the finishing point. Quark Expeditions® can assist you with booking air arrangements on an individual basis, or feel free to contact your preferred travel agent or airline. Here are the details of your expedition.

## Arrival Day and Embarkation

### ARRIVING IN USHUAIA

You may arrive in Ushuaia at any time during Day 1 of your itinerary. Ushuaia is a destination worth exploring, so we do encourage you to arrive a day or two before your expedition. Based on the arrival information you send us, we will arrange for a transfer from the airport to your hotel.

A Quark Expeditions® representative will be available to answer your questions in the lobby of your hotel in Ushuaia during your optional predeparture briefing on Day 1, at 6 pm.

### EMBARKATION IN USHUAIA

On the morning of Day 2, your luggage will be collected from the lobby of your hotel, transferred to the ship and stored in your cabin.

Ship embarkation will occur on Day 2 of your itinerary, usually around 4 pm. You and your shipmates will meet at a designated spot near the pier, and board the waiting buses for transfer to the ship. Information about embarkation will be posted in your Ushuaia hotel and discussed during your optional predeparture meeting on Day 1.

## Final Day and Departure

### DISEMBARKATION IN USHUAIA AND ONWARD

Your ship is scheduled to arrive at the pier in Ushuaia, between 7 am and 8 am local time. Once the ship has docked, you will have time to bid farewell to your Expedition Team and shipmates before completing your disembarkation. The process takes about an hour.

Weather conditions can always change our arrival times, and airline schedule changes have also been known to occur. Please book your flight home from Ushuaia to depart as late in the day as possible or at a date after the end of your expedition. If you have booked a flight that departs before 11 am on the date that your expedition ends, you will be at risk of missing your flight.

Quark Expeditions® staff in Ushuaia will reconfirm your domestic flight 48 hours prior to disembarkation, provided you give your information to our team ahead of time or when you board the ship.

*Please note that weather conditions can always delay our arrival times, and airline schedule changes have also been known to occur. Booking flexible tickets is always encouraged, as we cannot be held responsible for ship delays due to unforeseen circumstances. A post-expedition hotel night in Buenos Aires is recommended.*



### LET US HELP YOU BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS!

To book flights to complement your expedition, contact a Polar Travel Adviser ([info@expeditionvoyages.in](mailto:info@expeditionvoyages.in), [91 33 2473 8096](tel:913324738096) / [91 44 42121575](tel:914442121575), John: [+91 9830053005](tel:+919830053005) / Shanthini : [+91 9283190875](tel:+919283190875)) for seamless, worry-free booking of all flights.

## Included Hotel Accommodations

Your included accommodation begins on Day 1 of your itinerary, and the specific hotel(s) will be indicated on your final voyage confirmation. If you are arriving prior to Day 1 of your expedition or are staying after the disembarkation day, please contact your Polar Travel Adviser for hotel options. As accommodation space is limited, you are encouraged to request any extra nights as early as possible.

Ushuaia accommodations range from hostels to mid-range properties, and hotel space is limited. Quark Expeditions® endeavors to provide the best possible accommodation within these parameters. A particular property cannot be guaranteed, but space is most often booked at Hotel Las Lengas, Hotel Los Acebos, and Albatros Hotel.

## Arrival and Departure Transfers

### USHUAIA AIRPORT TRANSFERS

#### ARRIVAL

Group transfers in Ushuaia are included from the airport to your included pre-expedition hotel on Day 1 of your itinerary.

#### DEPARTURE

A group departure transfer is included from the ship to the airport on the final day of your itinerary. If your flight is later in the day, you may opt to transfer to our luggage storage facility instead and enjoy further activities in Ushuaia on your own. Access to luggage storage is available until 6 pm on the disembarkation day only. You will need to arrange your own transfer to the airport if you do not take advantage of the included transfer or if you are leaving Ushuaia after the disembarkation day.

*In order to facilitate your transfers, we request that you provide your flight details to Quark Expeditions® at least 30 days prior to traveling.*

## Extending Your Trip

### PRE- AND POST-EXPEDITION TRIP EXTENSIONS

You can extend your trip by booking extra days to explore South America before or after the voyage. Since you're traveling such a long way, you may want to spend extra time in one of our gateway cities or add on another region, like Easter Island, Chile, or Machu Picchu, Peru. We have a variety of pre- and post-expedition packages in the fascinating cities of Santiago, Buenos Aires, Ushuaia or the region of Patagonia. Enjoy a cruise to Penguin Island near Ushuaia, trek and canoe in Tierra del Fuego National Park, take in a tango show in Buenos Aires or stroll the catwalks over Iguazu Falls. Contact your Polar Travel Adviser to discover the best options for extending your adventure.



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# Inclusions

## THIS EXPEDITION INCLUDES

- Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks on board
- All shore landings per the daily program
- Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Leader
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising per the daily program
- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and special guests as scheduled
- A photographic journal documenting the expedition
- Waterproof expedition boots on loan for shore landings
- An official Quark Expeditions® parka to keep
- Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
- A hair dryer and bathrobes in every cabin
- Comprehensive predeparture materials, including a map and an informative Antarctic Reader
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- All luggage handling aboard the ship
- Emergency evacuation insurance to a maximum benefit of US\$500,000 per person

- Group transfer in Ushuaia from the airport to the pre-expedition hotel on Day 1
- One night's pre-expedition hotel accommodation in Ushuaia, with breakfast
- Group transfer from the hotel to the ship on embarkation day
- Group transfer upon disembarkation in Ushuaia from the ship to the local airport

## THIS EXPEDITION EXCLUDES

- *International airfare*
- *Passport and visa expenses*
- *Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above*
- *Meals ashore unless otherwise specified*
- *Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended*
- *Excess-baggage fees on international flights*
- *Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned*
- *Laundry, bar, beverage and other personal charges unless specified*
- *Phone and Internet charges*
- *Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew*
- *Additional overnight accommodation*
- *Optional adventure activities*



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# Dates & Rates

## CROSSING THE CIRCLE *Southern Expedition*

### *Expedition Aboard the Adventure Ship* **OCEAN ADVENTURER (formerly known as SEA ADVENTURER)**

Dates	Days	Start/End	Triple	Lower Deck	Main Deck Porthole	Main Deck Window	Superior	Deluxe	Suite	Owner's Suite	
January 14 - January 27, 2018	14	Ushuaia	\$10,095	\$11,495	\$12,595	\$13,995	\$15,295	\$16,495	\$18,195	\$20,395	
February 16 - March 1, 2018	14	Ushuaia	\$10,095	\$11,495	\$12,595	\$13,995	\$15,295	\$16,495	\$18,195	\$20,395	

*All rates per person in USD.*

### *Expedition Aboard the Adventure Ship* **OCEAN DIAMOND**

Dates	Days	Start/End	Triple	Twin	Single	Suite	Balcony Suite	
March 2 - March 15, 2018	14	Ushuaia	\$8,495	\$13,495 <i>Obst. View</i> \$14,595 <i>Window</i>	\$16,595 <i>Obst. View</i> \$16,595 <i>Porthole</i>	\$15,295	\$17,595	

*All rates per person in USD.*



### **HOW TO BOOK YOUR EXPEDITION & ADVENTURE OPTIONS**

To book your cabin or inquire about the availability of Adventure Options, contact a Polar Travel Adviser ([info@expeditionvoyages.in](mailto:info@expeditionvoyages.in), 91 33 2473 8096 / 91 44 42121575, John: +91 9830053005 / Shanthini : +91 9283190875).



# Antarctic Peninsula

## POSSIBLE LANDINGS AND WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

Stepping foot on Antarctica is a moment of pleasure that affects each traveler differently. Your possible landing in Antarctica will take place on the Peninsula, which is an extension of the Transantarctic Mountains chain and is the most northern stretch of Antarctic land. Formed by uplifted submarine troughs that were filled with sediment about 220 million years ago, this is a dynamic land of both desolation and diversity. To the east is the frozen, wild Weddell Sea. To the west, howling winds and warming seas from the Southern Ocean create perfect conditions for whale sightings.

### CUVERVILLE ISLAND

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A gentoo penguin rookery is situated on a rocky beach at the north end of the island. Depending on when in the season you arrive, you may see the penguins building nests or attending to their chicks. Giant petrels and kelp gulls breed on the island.

### DAMOY POINT

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If you are lucky enough to mail a postcard in Antarctica, you'll likely pass through Damoy Point, the northern entrance to the harbor where Port Lockroy is located.

### DANCO ISLAND

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Home to gentoo penguins, this small island is easy to explore, at only one mile (1.6 km) long. You can visit the marker of a former British Antarctic Survey hut, where you can watch for a variety of seabirds, such as snowy sheathbills, kelp gulls and blue-eyed shags.

### ENTERPRISE ISLAND

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Located in Wilhelmina Bay, this island was once used by whalers. A Zodiac cruise around the island passes a wrecked whaling ship.

### LEMAIRE CHANNEL

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You'll see firsthand why this strait, which runs between Booth Island and the Antarctic Peninsula, is one of the most scenic locations on the peninsula's west coast, especially during sunrise and sunset. The channel may become impassable when ice fills the narrow 6.8-mile (11 km) long passageway, so we'll hope for clear waters.

### MELCHIOR ISLANDS

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This group of low islands in Dallmann Bay is where you may see hauled-out male fur seals as they recuperate from their battles for supremacy at the end of their breeding season.

### NEKO HARBOUR

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Little evidence remains that this bay was once used by the floating whale factory ship *Neko*. You might see whale vertebrae being used by resident gentoo penguins as shelter from the wind. There is an unmanned refuge hut here, erected by Argentina. Climb past the hut and up a steep slope for spectacular views of the glacier-rimmed harbor.

### PETERMANN ISLAND

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Here, near the Lemaire Channel, you can stand ashore and see the southernmost breeding colony of gentoo penguins. The dome of the island rises 650 feet (200 meters) above the sea, offering a challenging hike for panoramic views. Adélie penguins, shags and south polar skuas also inhabit the island.

### PORT LOCKROY

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Port Lockroy is a "fun" destination of sorts, so we always strive to journey to this sheltered harbor, located on the west side of Wiencke Island, if weather permits. As part of Operation Tabarin during the Second World War, a secret British base was built here. Now a designated historic site, the base is a museum and post office. Proceeds from your purchases in Port Lockroy support the preservation of historic sites from the Heroic Age of Exploration.

## WATERBOAT POINT

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You may venture to this unique point, which at low tide is connected to the Antarctic mainland. Zodiacs are used to explore the historic area when the tide is in. Two scientists studying penguin behavior lived in a water boat on the point from 1921 to 22. The remains of their camp have been designated an Antarctic historic site.

## ANTARCTIC CIRCLE

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Although not a typical landing, the crossing of the Antarctic Circle is a moment to remember. The event will usually happen while at sea, so be sure to head up to the bridge and snap your photo of the GPS reading 66°33' S.

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# South Shetland Islands

## POSSIBLE LANDINGS AND WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

The Bransfield Strait separates this archipelago from the Antarctic Peninsula. The South Shetland Islands stretch for 335 miles (540 km) from northeast to southwest. In the 1820s, sealers swept the islands' beaches of seals. When the seal market collapsed, the sealers retreated. Over the course of time, seals have returned to the islands.

### AITCHO ISLANDS

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This group of small islands, some still unnamed, is situated in the northern entrance of the English Strait. You can often spot a great mix of wildlife in the area, with gentoo and chinstrap penguins having established rookeries on the islands. Southern elephant and fur seals frequently haul out here, too.

### BAILY HEAD

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Also known as Rancho Point, Bailey Head is a rocky headland on the southeastern shore of Deception Island. Chinstrap penguins build nests on slopes leading to a high ridge that dominates the natural amphitheater and provides a superb setting for landscape photography.

### HALF MOON ISLAND

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This crescent-shaped island was known to sealers as early as 1821. Unlike sealers, who tried to keep their best locations secret, we're happy to bring you ashore on this impressive island. Many Antarctic birds breed here, including chinstrap penguins, shags, Wilson's storm petrels, kelp gulls, snowy sheathbills, Antarctic terns and skua.

### HANNAH POINT

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Macaroni, chinstrap and gentoo penguin rookeries are located on this point, which is on the south coast of Livingston Island. Due to the rather congested area available to the nesting penguins, you can only visit here from January 10 onward.

### PENDULUM COVE

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Geothermal waters are found along the shoreline of this cove, named for observations made in 1829 by a British expedition. You may see yellow algae and boiled krill floating on the surface because of the scalding water!

### PENGUIN ISLAND

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Antarctica has two flowering plants, both of which you can find on Penguin Island: *Deschampsia antarctica* and *Colobanthus quitensis*. Chinstrap penguins, fur seals and southern elephant seals use the island for breeding purposes.

### ROBERT POINT

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A nice spot for Zodiac cruising, this point was known to sealers as early as 1820. Chinstrap penguins, kelp gulls and pintado petrels breed here, and whales may be seen in the surrounding waters.

### TELEFON BAY

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Your Expedition Team will be happy to point out that this is where the most recent evidence of volcanic eruption on Deception Island can be seen.

### TURRET POINT

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Chinstrap and Adélie penguin rookeries are found on this point, situated on the south coast of King George Island. The beaches here are often crowded with southern elephant, fur and Weddell seals hauling out on the rocks.

## WHALER'S BAY

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To reach Whaler's Bay, it is necessary to sail through a narrow passage called Neptune's Bellows. The bay was used by whalers from 1906 to 1931 and is part of a protected harbor created by the formation of the circular flooded caldera known as Deception Island. Along with waddling penguins and lounging seals, you'll see the rusting remains of whaling operations on the beach. Watch for steam that may rise from geothermally heated springs along the shoreline.

## YANKEE HARBOUR

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Gentoo penguins have established a rookery on this harbor, situated on the southwest side of Greenwich Island. Here, you can see an abandoned Argentine refuge hut and a large glacier that stretches along the east and north sides of the bay. An abandoned sealing try pot is all that remains of the activity that brought men thousands of miles in tall ships to seek their fortune.

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