Antarctic Expedition Cruise

lassic South Georgia Expedition Cruise 26 days from \$17,125*

Ancludes airfares ex Australia

Depart Sydney: 23 Oct 2015

- Small Expedition Cruise
- Buenos Aires
- Falkland Islands

- South Georgia
- Antarctic Peninsula
- South Shetland Islands

Enjoy a brief stopover in the cosmopolitan city of Buenos Aires before setting off on your Antarctic Expedition Cruise. "The Ushuaia" accommodates a maximum of 84 passengers in 41 comfortable twin cabins and suites. The ice-strengthened polar vessel is equipped with inflatable landing craft ensuring superb landings and wildlife viewing opportunities on the otherwise inaccessible coastline. Onboard is a specialist team of international expedition leaders and lecturers, all extremely knowledgeable, enthusiastic, helpful and dedicated to the protection of the environment.

The Antarctic Peninsula's remarkable history will provide you with a type of excitement often only associated with the early explorers. You will have plenty of time to explore its' amazing scenery, a pristine wilderness of snow, ice, mountains and waterways, and an incredible wide variety of wildlife. Apart from penguins and seabirds you are very likely to see Weddell, crabeater and leopard seals as well as Minke, killer (orca) and humpback whales at close range. Enjoy your Antarctic Expedition on board The Ushuaia, originally built for the United States agency NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration).

Day 1: Australia - Buenos Aires. Fly from Australia to Buenos Aires via Auckland and Santiago. Transfer to the hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel 725. Buenos Aires – 2 nights.

Day 2: Buenos Aires. Morning half day city tour of Buenos Aires. Afternoon at leisure.

Day 3: Buenos Aires - Ushuaia. Transfer to the airport. Fly Buenos Aires to Ushuaia. Transfer from the airport to the hotel. Remainder of the day at leisure.

Accommodation: Hotel Cliene Del Faro, Ushuaia – 1 night.

Day 4: Ushuaia. Transfer to the cruise terminal. Board "The Ushuaia", meet the expedition leader and lecture staff. Commence sailing towards the Western Falkland Islands (Malvinas), known for their rugged beauty and wealth of seabirds and waterfowl.

Accommodation: The Ushuaia - 19 nights

Day 5: At Sea. The open bridge policy on the Ushuaia allows you to join the officers on the bridge and learn about navigation, watch for marine life and enjoy the views of the open ocean. Join the expedition staff and naturalists on deck whilst cruising and search for seabirds and other local wildlife, such as orcas and dolphins. A selection of lectures will also prepare you for the first excursion to the Falkland Islands. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Western Falkland Islands (Malvinas). On the western coast you may visit West Point Island and Carcass Island. West Point Island lies off the most north-westerly point of mainland West Falkland (Malvinas). Enjoy splendid views of Cliff Mountain, the island's highest point at 1,250ft and the highest cliffs in the Falklands. This is where you will encounter a vast colony of Rockhopper Penguins and Blackbrowed Albatrosses, nesting together in close vicinity. Carcass Island lies to the north-west of the Falkland archipelago (Malvinas). This island is home to a spectacular large population of small birds. Gentoo and Magellanic Penguins do also nest here. Peale's and Commerson's Dolphins come frequently close to the shoreline to get a glimpse of the visitors as well. Overnight will be spent sailing around the northern islands of the archipelago direction to reach the capital, Stanley following morning.

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Iquazu Falls Extension.

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Our itineraries are flexible, use this itinerary as a starting point or contact one of our specialised consultants to assist you in creating your own travel experience.



Single Departs Standard Standard Plus Standard Standard Plus \$20565* 23 Oct 2015 \$17125* \$24275* \$29435*

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Price Includes:

- Return economy class airfares from Sydney to Buenos Aires with Lan Airlines. Return internal flight Buenos Aires to Ushuaia with
- · Accommodation, tours, meals and transfers as indicated in itinerary.
- 19 nights Classic South Georgia Expedition Cruise on board "The Ushuaia - choice of cabin including all meals and all shore excursions, shared facilities (standard cabin).
- *Pre-paid airport taxes, cruise taxes and port charges. Subject to alteration until final payment has been received by our office.

- Standard Outside cabins with portholes on deck E, semi-private facilities (two cabins share one bathroom accessible from both cabins (shower and toilet each cabin is also equipped with its own washbasin) and three lower berths
- Standard Plus Outside cabins with portholes or windows on deck E, private facilities, two berths (upper/lower).
- Semi-private facilities: Two cabins share one bathroom accessible from both cabins (shower and toilet). Each cabin is also equipped with its own
- 30% non-refundable deposit payable on confirmation.
- Terms and Conditions Apply. Contact our office for details.
- Ask about our companion register. <u>A^TAS</u>

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89a Orange St, Bentleigh East VIC 3165 www.adventuredestinations.com.au sales@adventuredestinations.com.au

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Antarctica Expedition Cruise

Day 7: Eastern Falkland Islands - At Sea. Explore the quaint little town of Stanley and its wonderful Museum. The town was established in the early 1840's. Southern Giant Petrels often fly close to the shoreline. For those who are more interested in the wildlife, you do not even have to leave town to enjoy it. The Falkland Steamer Ducks abound the shorelines while Kelp Gulls can often by seen flying together with Dolphin Gulls. The less obvious but frequent visitors to Stanley area are Black-crowned Night Herons, Red-backed Hawks and Peregrine Falcons. Return to the ship and in the early afternoon set sail heading for South Georgia. (B,L,D)

Day 8-9: At Sea. Extensive lecture program will be offered during the days at sea.

(B,L,D)

Day 10: At Sea - South Georgia. South Georgia will come in sight. Though extremely isolated, it has amazing scenery ranging from high mountains and glaciers to deep fjords and low-lying grassland. (B,L,D)

Day 11-13: South Georgia. Exact itinerary will depend on local land and sea conditions but Salisbury Plain, Prion Island, Grytviken, Godhul, St Andrews Bay, Cooper Bay and Drygalski Fjord are among the destinations to explore.

(B,L,

Day 14-15: At Sea. Spend the next two days crossing the Scotia Sea towards the Antarctic Peninsula offering opportunities to be out on deck, catch up on some reading or reflect on the magical experiences of the last days on South Georgia. Lectures and other activities will be offered throughout these days as well.

(B,

Day 16: Elephant Island, South Shetland Islands. There is a chance to visit the enigmatic Elephant Island. Sir Ernest Shackleton fans will need no introduction to this historic island. (B,L,D)

Day 17: At Sea. Extensive lecture program will be offered during the days at sea. (B

Day 18-20: Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands. In the area of the Antarctic Sound, there will be an opportunity to visit: Argentine Antarctic Station Esperanza; Brown Bluff: Paulet Island; Gerlache Strait; Hydrurga Rocks; Cuverville Island; Deception Island and Half Moon Island. (B,L,D)

Day 21-22: At Sea. Leave Antarctica and head north across the Drake Passage. Enjoy lectures and naturalists on deck as you search for seabirds and whales. (B,L,D)

Day 23: Ushuaia – Buenos Aires. Arrive and disembark The Ushuaia after breakfast. Transfer to Ushuaia Airport. Fly from Ushuaia to Buenos Aires. Transfer to the hotel.

(B)

**Accommodation: Hotel 725, Buenos Aires – 1 night

Day 24: Buenos Aires – Australia. Transfer to Buenos Aires Airport. Fly to Sydney via Santiago and Auckland.

Day 25: Inflight.

Day 26: Arrive Sydney.





Iguazu Falls Extension



Day 24: Buenos Aires – Iguazu. Transfer to airport. Fly Buenos Aires to Iguazu Falls. Transfer to hotel. Half day tour of Brazillian side of Iguassu Falls. (B)

Accommodation: Hotel Saint George, Iguazu – 2 nights

Day 25: Full day tour of Argentinean side of Iguazu Falls. (B)

Day 26: Iguazu to Australia. Transfer to airport. Fly Iguazu to Sydney via Buenos Aires and Santiago. (B'

Day 27: Inflight.

Day 28: Arrive Sydney.

Prices per person

Twin Single

Iquazu Falls Extension \$1399* \$2099*

Price Includes:

- Return economy class airfares from Buenos Aires to Iguazu Falls with LAN Airlines.
- Accommodation, tours, meals and transfers as indicated in the itinerary
- *Pre paid airport taxes. Subject to alteration until final payment has been received by our office.

Note:

 It may be necessary to have additional nights accommodation in Buenos Aires due to airline schedules and to connect with return flight to Sydney. Please contact our office for current schedules and final itinerary/costs for this add on option.



Interstate & Country Toll Free: 1300 136 330
Melbourne Metro: (03) 9570 4466
Fax: (03) 9570 6600

89a Orange St, Bentleigh East VIC 3165 www.adventuredestinations.com.au sales@adventuredestinations.com.au

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