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About Classic Antarctica trips

The Classic Antarctica itineraries focus on the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula, mainly on the waterway known as the Gerlache Strait. Almost exclusively these itineraries depart from Ushuaia, Argentina, and return to the same city.

This is the perfect trip if you are travelling to Antarctica for the first time.

The South Shetland Islands will likely be the first land sighted after crossing the Drake. Most probably, the first excursion of the voyage will occur on one of these islands.

During the following days, and already in the area of the Antarctic Peninsula, there will be two excursions a day, weather permitting. One will be in the morning and the second in the afternoon. During lunch the ship will reposition to a new location.

Some of the wildlife that you could expect to see includes different species of penguins (Chinstrap, Gentoos and perhaps Adélies), whales, albatrosses, petrels and cormorants, and Leopard, Weddell and Crabeater seals. Landscape wise, expect to see glacier faces, icebergs, steep mountains and historic remnants.

It is important to say that regardless of the operator, there are two common goals that are always sought after. One is to land on continental Antarctica (most of the landings occur on islands since they are less glaciated) and the second one is to plunge in the cold waters of Antarctica. It is unlikely that these goals would not occur during a Classic Antarctica itinerary.

In a Classic Antarctica trip, the ship will remain in Antarctica from 4 to 6 days (the length will depend on the operator) and after that time the ship will head North, towards Ushuaia.

Highlights of a Classic Antarctica trip:

- A great choice for people travelling to Antarctica for the first time
- Get to land on the Antarctic Continent
- Plunge in the frigid waters of Antarctica
- Experience abundant wildlife and landscapes
- Learn about the environment and wildlife from on-board presenters

To put in a concise way, an example of a Classic Antarctica trip would be as follows:

Day 1 – Ushuaia, embarkation Day

Days 2 and 3 – Crossing the Drake Passage

Days 4 to 7 – South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula

Days 8 and 9 – Crossing the Drake Passage

Day 10 – Disembarkation in Ushuaia

Important note

When choosing an Antarctic Expedition, options can be overwhelming. There are lots of operators running trips to Antarctica at the moment, each of them with their own trip names and descriptions. In our opinion, this results in great confusion at the time of booking.

We really want to help you understand the different options, in the easiest way possible.

Although there are variants, all trips can be filtered according to their objective into the following groups:

- 1 - Classic Antarctica
- 2 - Crossing the Circle
- 3 - Fly over the Drake
- 4 - South Georgia and Falkland Islands / Malvinas
- 5 - Weddell Sea

Regardless the voyage type, during transit days the expedition team will conduct mandatory briefings (safety, IAATO, etc.) but they will also run an educational program. Presentations on different topics such as ornithology, history, marine biology and geology, will be made by experts in those fields.

Except transit days (could be full or half days) there will be two excursions a day, weather permitting. One will be in the morning and the second in the afternoon. During lunch the ship will reposition to a new location.

The offer of optional activities such as camping, sea kayak, mountaineering, etc, depends on each different operator.

Except on some specific trips, there is never a fixed itinerary. We can tell you in which geographical region your voyage will take place, but we cannot tell you the specific locations that you will be visiting. Locations are subject to change in each individual voyage for various reasons such as weather and other ships in the area for example.

There is no best time to travel to Antarctica, each month of the austral spring and summer is different, and each has its particular charm.