

Antarctic Peninsula Crossing the Circle

Onboard Ocean Explorer



Expedition Overview



The Ultimate Antarctic Circle Voyage

Relatively few humans set foot on the remote 7th Continent. Even fewer cross the Antarctic Circle. You can achieve both of these polar rites of passage on our 14-day **Antarctic Peninsula: Crossing the Circle** and photograph penguin colonies, glaciers, remote bays and historical sites of the Peninsula while exploring by ship, Zodiac, kayak and during guided hikes. Our ultimate goal is to allow you to customize your adventure as you cross the 7th Continent off your bucket list.

- Set foot on the magical 7th Continent
- Be one of the few travelers to cross the Antarctic Circle
- Witness abundant Antarctic wildlife, including penguins, seals and whales
- Experience western Antarctic Peninsula highlights and visit iconic landing sites
- Learn about wildlife, history, glaciology and geology from our onboard polar experts

Day by Day Itinerary



— Onboard *Ocean Explorer*

Day 1

Arrival in Ushuaia

You may arrive in Ushuaia at any time on Day 1. This southernmost city of South America is known for its beautiful mountainous surroundings, so we encourage you to consider arriving a day or two before your expedition. We will arrange a transfer from the airport to your hotel, both of which are included in the cost of your trip. An optional pre-departure briefing will be held in the lobby of your hotel at 6 p.m.

Day 2

Embarkation in Ushuaia

Your luggage will be collected from the lobby of your hotel in the morning and transferred to the ship. Embarkation is usually around 4 p.m. Guests will meet at a designated location near the pier, and board the buses for transfer to the ship. Information about embarkation will be posted in your Ushuaia hotel and discussed during your optional pre-departure briefing on Day 1.

Days 3 and 4

Crossing the Drake Passage

Your days at sea are filled with presentations led by your Expedition Team on photography, wildlife, glaciology, and history. You can also spend time on deck looking for wildlife, or chatting with your shipmates over a drink at the bar.

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Days 5–7

South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula

The most common reaction upon reaching the 7th Continent is a sense of reverence and awe. The experience is beyond words, since few places are as untouched as Antarctica. You will begin to appreciate why this region has long captivated the attention of explorers and travelers alike. Every time we visit Antarctica, we witness something new or unexpected, which means your expedition will be unlike any other—creating a unique, personal experience.

Each day, you will take Zodiac excursions from the ship to explore glaciated bays, channels and landing sites. Your Expedition Team will take care of you at each landing, whether you are hiking the Antarctic landscape, visiting a research station or observing chinstrap, Adélie and gentoo penguins, all of which can be found here. Keep an eye out for Weddell, fur, crabeater and leopard seals as well as curious whales, such as humpbacks, minke, or perhaps orcas while on a Zodiac cruise. Each excursion will present a new array of creatures to fascinate you and keep your camera busy.

Amid the serene silence of Antarctica, noisy interludes become indelible memories, such as penguins squabbling over prized pebbles, or the boom and crack of a calving glacier.

Every day will be different, having been carefully crafted by your Expedition Team to inspire and educate you about this wonderful part of the world.

Days 8 and 9

Antarctic Circle

Crossing the Antarctic Circle is both a memorable experience and impressive achievement, as few travelers reach so far south. If conditions allow us to cross this famed latitude of 66°33' S, we'll toast the first explorers who ventured here, and you can raise a glass and take pride in knowing you've made it to a part of the world visited by very few people. This is raw Antarctica, home of the midnight sun, Weddell seals, and your best chances of encountering sea ice—the very foundations of the Antarctic marine ecosystem.

Days 10 and 11

Northbound Along the Peninsula

By now, your knowledge of Adélie, chinstrap, and gentoo penguins will be matched by your ability to differentiate between a leopard, crabeater, and Weddell seal. Terms like “bergie bits” and “pancake ice” will become part of your vocabulary, 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 looking out for species of seabirds, seals, and whales that may have eluded you on your journey south.

Days 12 and 13

Crossing the Drake Passage

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 presentations as well, with a slideshow of the adventures you've shared and the wildlife you've witnessed over the course of your voyage. Be sure to take some time to reflect on everything you've experienced so far.

Day 14

Disembark in Ushuaia

Your ship is scheduled to arrive in Ushuaia between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. Once the ship has docked, you will bid farewell to your Expedition Team and shipmates before completing your disembarkation. You are then free to continue your onward journey.

Arrival & Departure Details



* Arrive anytime on Day 1 or earlier. Day 1 includes an optional briefing.
✈️ International flights are not included in the cost of the voyage.



Arrival Day and Embarkation

Day 1 Arriving in Ushuaia and Hotel Night

- Arrive anytime on Day 1
- An airport-to-hotel transfer can be arranged if guests send arrival information in advance
- Look for Quark representative in the lobby later in the day if you have questions

You may arrive in Ushuaia at any time during Day 1 of your itinerary. Ushuaia and its mountainous surroundings are destinations 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 pre-departure briefing on Day 1 at 6 p.m.



Day 2 Embarkation in Ushuaia

- Luggage collected from the hotel lobby in the morning
- Meet at the pier for the group transfer to the ship
- Ship embarkation usually begins around 4 p.m.

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 p.m. You and your shipmates will meet at a designated location 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 pre-departure meeting on Day 1.



Final Day

- Ship arrives at the pier between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.
- Disembark after breakfast; the process usually takes about one hour
- We recommend booking your onward flight as late in the day as possible

Disembarkation in Ushuaia and onward

Your ship is scheduled to arrive at the pier in Ushuaia, usually between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. Once the ship has docked, you will 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 in Argentina.

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 noon 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.

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Airport Transfers

- Airport-to-hotel transfer provided on Day 1
- Ship-to-airport transfer provided on departure day

ARRIVAL

A group transfer in Ushuaia is 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 p.m. 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.



Photos captured with a telephoto lens from a responsible distance, following regulatory IAATO guidelines.



Book Your Next Adventure

Contact your travel professional or a Quark Expeditions Polar Travel Advisor.

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Updated May 14, 2026

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