

# Antarctica by Helicopter

## Crossing the Circle & The Peninsula

Onboard Ultramarine



# Expedition Overview



## Antarctica's Most Helicopter-Intensive Trip

Crossing the Antarctic Circle is a polar milestone few travelers ever achieve. On our 14-day **Antarctica by Helicopter: Crossing the Circle & Peninsula** voyage, you'll go even farther—exploring the southern reaches of the Antarctic Peninsula by ship, Zodiac and helicopter. Designed to maximize aerial adventure, this itinerary includes multiple heli-flightseeing experiences and a heli landing, offering perspectives of Antarctica few have ever witnessed. Soar above vast mountain ranges, immense glaciers and labyrinths of sea ice before setting foot in remote landscapes once accessible only to explorers and mountaineers. Combined with unforgettable wildlife encounters, this is one of our most ambitious polar adventures.

- Be one of the select few to cross the Antarctic Circle at 66'30
- Experience at least two heli-flightseeing excursions —included in the trip
- Participate in one heli-landing
- Cruise by Zodiac for a closer look at sea and shore
- View the least-explored mountains and glaciers of the Antarctic Peninsula from sea and air

# Day by Day Itinerary



## Day 1

### Arrive in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Upon arriving in this splendid city, known for its vibrant Argentinian culture, European architecture and cosmopolitan vibe, you will independently transfer to the designated group hotel, which is included in your Charter Flight & Hotel package.

## Day 2

### Fly to Ushuaia and Embark

After an early breakfast at the hotel, the group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, Argentina. Upon arrival, you will be transferred from the airport to a central downtown location to explore this quaint port town on your own before making your way to the designated meeting spot. After a late afternoon embarkation, you will sail along the historic Beagle Channel, which transects the Tierra del Fuego archipelago in the extreme south of South America. Excitement builds in anticipation of your next stop: Antarctica.

## Antarctica by Helicopter Crossing the Circle & The Peninsula

### Day 3

#### Crossing the Drake: A Polar Rite of Passage

Crossing the legendary 800-km stretch of water is a must-do for many travelers. Prepare yourself for dramatic seascapes as you stand on the deck of *Ultramarine* and gaze at the water stretching beyond the distant horizon. Be on the lookout for dolphins, whales, and seabirds, especially albatrosses, petrels and skuas as they glide over the sometimes rough waters. As the ship approaches the Antarctic Peninsula, keep your eyes peeled for your first glimpse of towering, multi-shaped icebergs.

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### Day 4

#### At Sea with Polar Experts

Today we cross the Antarctic Convergence, moving into the biological Antarctic, where the warmer waters of the sub-Antarctic meet the cold Antarctic. Your days at sea are filled with presentations led by your Expedition Team on photography, wildlife, glaciology, and history. In between presentations, spend time on deck looking for wildlife or chatting with your shipmates over a drink at the bar.

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### Days 5 & 6

#### South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula

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

Each day, you will take Zodiac excursions from the ship to explore local bays, channels and landing sites. You will visit penguin rookeries, scout for humpback and minke whales, and hopefully spot a number of southern seal species, including the elusive leopard seal.

Your Expedition Team will take care of you at each landing, whether you are exploring the Antarctic terrain, visiting a research station or consorting with penguin colonies. Chinstrap, Adélie and gentoo penguins are found here, along with five different species of seals. Zodiac cruising can offer opportunities to view some of the larger local marine mammals more intimately, such as Antarctic minke and humpback whales. Days 5 and 6 are also ideal times to experience *Ultramarine's* portfolio of helicopter-supported adventures exclusive to Quark Expeditions.

Your days will be busy spotting wildlife and being mesmerized by the astounding beauty of Antarctica. Listening to the crackling and crumbling of icebergs and glaciers and watching penguins waddling on the beach will become your daily entertainment. That's in addition to the spectacular experience of soaring in a helicopter over the Antarctic landscape.

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### Days 7–9

#### Explore the Antarctic Circle and the Southern Peninsula by Water, Land and Air

Helicopter operations in Antarctic are acutely weather-dependent. We have designed this itinerary so we can spend time each day in stunning locations that allow us to enjoy helicopter opportunities if the weather allows and, alternately, to maximize your experience of Antarctic wildlife, ice and landscapes when flying conditions are not favorable. Each day near the Antarctic Circle will showcase the flexibility and technical prowess of our industry-leading expedition team, pilots and crew, who will look for opportunities to experience Antarctica well beyond its coasts.

## Antarctica by Helicopter Crossing the Circle & The Peninsula

As *Ultramarine* gains access to the Antarctic Circle, you'll have accomplished an impressive achievement as most expeditions to the Peninsula do not come close to navigating this far south. Toasting the first explorers who ventured here over a century ago, you can raise a glass and take pride in the knowledge you've reached part of the world visited by a relative few.

Next on our itinerary are Crystal Sound and Marguerite Bay, which comprise the geographical theater of focus on this incredible venture into the "deep south" of Antarctica.

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### Days 10 & 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 'bergy bits' and 'pancake ice' will become part of your vocabulary.

As you head north, Zodiac excursions will occupy your days, and your Expedition Team will continue looking out for species of seabirds, seals and whales that may have eluded us on this journey south.

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### Days 12 & 13

#### Crossing the Drake Passage

As you recross the Drake Passage at the end of your expedition, rest assured you'll do so with a storehouse of memories to last a lifetime. You'll have experienced moments—soaring in a helicopter over remote parts of Antarctica being one of the most memorable—which few travelers can ever claim. Your Expedition Team will have a few remaining presentations for you—including the guest favorite, the end-of-voyage photo-and-video compilation showcasing the most unforgettable moments of your voyage. Remember to take advantage of *Ultramarine's* amenities, especially Tundra Spa & Sauna, on the final days onboard.

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### Day 14

#### Disembark in Ushuaia and Fly to Buenos Aires

You will arrive in Ushuaia in the morning and disembark after breakfast, then make your way to your group charter flight to Buenos Aires.

# Arrival & Departure Details



## Day 1

*In-bound international flight\**  
Arrival and independent transfer to hotel night

## Day 2

Group transfer to airport, flight to embarkation point, and embarkation

## Expedition Days

On ship or landing days

## Final Day

Disembarkation, free airport transfer, and flight to Buenos Aires  
*International flight onward\*\**

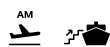
\* Arrive anytime on Day 1 or earlier. Day 1 includes an optional briefing.  
\*\* Consider booking your international flight home after the Final Day as charter flight times may vary.  
✈ International flights are not included in the cost of the voyage.



## Day 1 Arriving in Buenos Aires and Hotel Night

- Make your own way from the airport to the designated hotel
- Weigh and tag your luggage in the presentation room

Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, you will make your way to the designated group hotel, which is included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package. A presentation room will be open from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. for luggage weighing and tagging. A Quark Expeditions representative will be available to answer your questions and provide information about the next day's flight and ship embarkation.



## Day 2 Ushuaia and Embarkation

- After breakfast, transfer with the group to the airport
- Board your charter flight to Ushuaia
- Enjoy free time to explore Ushuaia
- Around 4 p.m., transfer with the group to the ship

After an early breakfast the following morning, your group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world. In Ushuaia, your Charter Flight & Hotel Package will allow for some free time to explore this quaint port town. We will transfer the group to the ship for embarkation around 4 p.m.



## Final Day

- Ship arrives at the pier in Ushuaia between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.
- Disembark after breakfast
- If flying home from EZE, we recommend booking flights departing after 9 p.m.
- If flying from Aeroparque/Jorge Newbery Airport (AEP), we recommend booking flights departing after 10 p.m.

### Disembarkation in Ushuaia

The ship is scheduled to arrive back at the pier in Ushuaia between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. After breakfast you will bid farewell to your Expedition Team before completing your disembarkation. This process takes approximately one hour.

### Departing from Buenos Aires

Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, you may be able to connect directly with your homeward flight. Our charter flight lands at Buenos Aires international airport (Ministro Pistarini International — EZE). The included flight lands at approximately 5 p.m. We recommend you only select flights departing after 9 p.m. Check your itinerary carefully before booking. Some South America-bound flights originate at Jorge Newbery Airport (IATA code: AEP), which is also known as Aeroparque (IATA airport code: AEP). Due to unpredictable traffic in Buenos Aires, we recommend you only select flights departing Jorge Newbery Airport after 10 p.m.

## Antarctica by Helicopter Crossing the Circle & The Peninsula



### Final Day

For the absolute safest travel plans, we recommend that you book an extra hotel night in Buenos Aires between flights. Expedition travel is occasionally unpredictable. We also strongly recommend booking flexible international air tickets. Quark Expeditions is not responsible for any air ticket change costs you may incur.

### Airport Transfers

Arrival transfers from your international flights in Buenos Aires are not included.

### Luggage Restrictions

- Travel with one checked bag and one carry-on bag

#### Charter Flight Luggage Limit

This expedition includes charter flights. Your package includes one checked bag and one carry-on bag. Luggage weight restrictions on these flights are typically lower than those on international carriers. There is no option to pay for additional luggage. Specific weight limits will be confirmed in your final travel documents.



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.

**Photo Credits:** Acacia Johnson; David Merron; Nicky Souness; Samantha Crimmin; Sam Edmonds; Michelle Sole; Cindy Miller Hopkins; Gajan Balan; Jonas Fellenstein; Brad Flowerdew; Nicolas Singh; Adobe Stock.

**Toll free and local numbers:**

**North America**  
(Toll Free) 1 888 332 0008

**U.K.**  
Tel +44 203 514 2712  
(Toll Free) 0 808 120 2333

**Australia**  
Tel +61 2 72580333  
(Toll Free) +61 1800 953518

**France**  
Tel +33-1 80 14 01 05  
(Toll Free) 08 05 08 66 46

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