

# Epic Antarctica

## The Falklands, South Georgia & Crossing the Circle

Onboard Ultramarine



# Expedition Overview

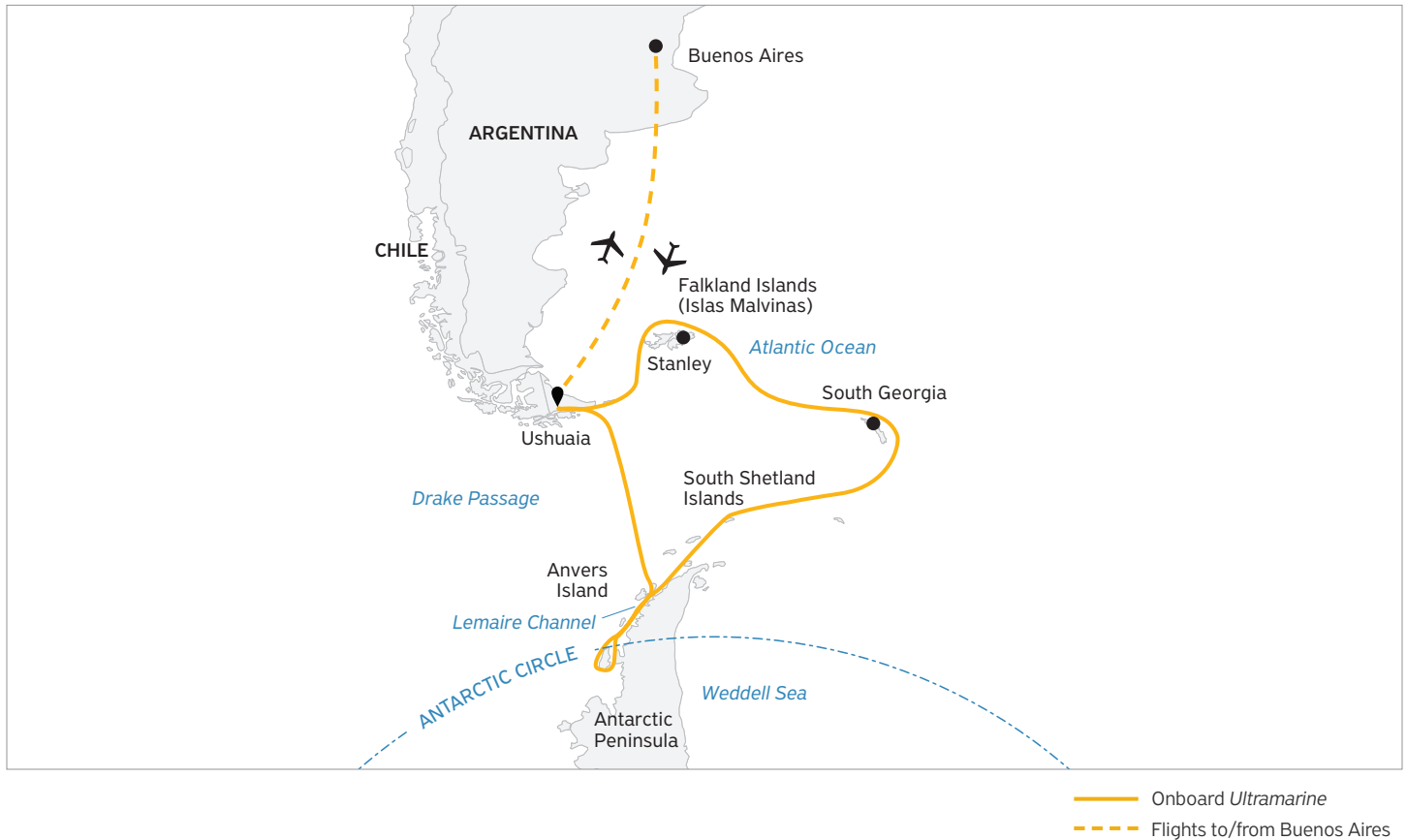


## The Ultimate Antarctic Trip

Our 23-day **Epic Antarctica: The Falklands, South Georgia & Crossing the Circle** delivers every major Antarctic highlight in one unforgettable voyage. Begin in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), home to albatross, dolphins, five species of penguins, and surprisingly white-sand beaches. Continue to South Georgia, populated by 450,000 breeding pairs of king penguins, 50 million seabirds, and 5 million seals. Then explore the magnificent Antarctic Peninsula before crossing the Antarctic Circle—the ultimate milestone for world travelers. Bonus: every guest enjoys an included flightseeing experience, adding yet another extraordinary perspective to this epic adventure.

- Set foot on the magical 7th Continent
- Enjoy flightseeing on *Ultramarine's* helicopters
- Cross the Antarctic Circle with the best expedition team
- Explore the quaint British town of Stanley in the Falkland Islands
- See more than 30 species of breeding birds, including seven species of penguin
- Follow in the wake of Sir Ernest Shackleton's perilous voyage to South Georgia and visit his gravesite

# 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.

## Day 3

### At Sea

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 4 and 5

#### Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)

Upon your arrival in the Falklands (Malvinas), your camera will get its first real workout capturing the abundant wildlife and rugged feel of this sub-Antarctic region. The archipelago contains two main islands, East Falkland and West Falkland, which you will explore during daily Zodiac excursions and landings.

Stanley, also known as Port Stanley, is a favorite landing site, as the town offers a unique British outpost feel, complete with eclectic charm. You'll be free to explore, grab a pint at the local pub, or visit the numerous churches and museums.

The archipelago is rich in wildlife, especially birds, and home to Magellanic, gentoo and southern rockhopper penguins. If you're lucky, you may even spot king penguins here as well. Chances are good that you'll see black-browed albatross, plus two endemic bird species—the flightless Falkland steamer duck, and possibly, the elusive Cobb's wren.

Your team of polar experts will enrich your understanding of the local flora and fauna, helping you make the most of your time in the Falklands.

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### Days 6 and 7

#### At Sea

Sailing southeast to South Georgia, you'll officially enter Antarctic waters once you cross the Antarctic Convergence, an invisible biological boundary encircling the continent. This meeting of oceans, where the cold Antarctic waters mix with the warmer waters of the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic oceans, helps nourish the abundance of krill that attracts whales, seals, and birdlife to this part of the world. Your Expedition Team will notify you when you cross this invisible yet important line, and will also help you look out for the seabirds and marine life that frequent this nutrient-rich area.

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### Days 8–11

#### South Georgia

This remote, mountainous island was a popular stop for many historic Antarctic expeditions and was once a center for whale- and seal-hunting. Today, island wildlife populations are rebounding, but you'll still see remnants of old whaling stations and other abandoned outposts.

Among the most significant and moving sites on South Georgia is the burial spot of the great explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. You can visit his grave at the settlement of Grytviken, which is also home to an old whaling station, plus a museum, gift shop, church and small research station.

Although South Georgia's history is an important attraction to the island, it is the tremendous abundance of wildlife that surely captivate you and your shipmates. Each landing you make on South Georgia, often referred to as the Galapagos of the Poles, will give you opportunities to witness huge populations of wildlife. One day you may see rookeries with hundreds of thousands of pairs of king penguins waddling on shore, and the next, you may visit another beach dominated by hundreds of fur or elephant seals. The grasses, mountains and beaches of South Georgia all play an important role in the breeding and survival of different species on the island. Your Expedition Leaders will help you understand and appreciate the delicate balance among these fragile and interwoven relationships.

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### Days 12 and 13

#### At Sea

Say goodbye to the king penguins, as your next destination is Antarctica. Your days at sea are filled with presentations, workshops, and social activities led by your Expedition Team.

## Epic Antarctica The Falklands, South Georgia & Crossing the Circle

### Days 14–16

#### 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.

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### Days 17 and 18

#### Antarctic Circle

Crossing the Antarctic Circle is both a memorable experience and impressive achievement, as few travelers travel so far south. If conditions allow us to cross this famed latitude of 66°33' South, 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 foundation of the Antarctic marine ecosystem.

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### Days 19 and 20

#### Northbound Along the Peninsula

If you haven't had your fill of Antarctic wildlife and icebergs by now, you'll surely be satisfied by the time you return to the Drake Passage. You will continue to make excursions by Zodiac as you travel north along the western Antarctic Peninsula. Your Expedition Team will always be on the lookout for species of seabirds, seals and whales that may have eluded you on your journey south.

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### Days 21 and 22

#### Crossing the Drake Passage

After more than three weeks of rare wildlife sightings and remarkable Antarctic landscapes, guests leave with a collection of memories to last a lifetime. Excited conversations with your new-found friends will make the crossing pass quickly, regardless of weather and sea conditions. Your Expedition Team will wrap up its series of polar 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.

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### Day 23

#### 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



\* 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.

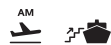


## Arrival Day and Embarkation

### 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

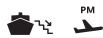
Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, you will make your way to the designated group hotel, which is included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package. A presentation room will be open from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. for luggage weighing and tagging. A Quark Expeditions representative will be available to answer your questions 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, your group will transfer to the airport to board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, Argentina. 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.

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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.

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## Airport Transfers

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

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## Luggage Restrictions

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

### 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.

**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**  
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