

BASECAMP ANTARCTICA VOYAGE



**WILDLAND
ADVENTURES**

**AUTHENTIC WORLDWIDE
EXPLORATIONS**

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Itinerary Overview

Discover Antarctica in depth on this active Basecamp Antarctica Voyage aboard an ice-strengthened, former oceanographic polar vessel retrofitted for adventure exploration and educational experience. From the warmth and comfort of your roving basecamp, the calving icebergs, silent panoramas and fragile habitat of whales, deep-diving seals and prolific penguin colonies of the White Continent are best explored on this itinerary, which features plentiful landings, hikes, sea kayaking, and even an optional overnight camp. Based out of Ushuaia, Argentina, your ship navigates the Beagle Channel and the legendary Drake Passage before introducing you to the snow-covered cliff faces and semi-submerged glaciers of the icy seventh continent.

Unlike most expedition voyages, the Neumayer Channel, Port Lockroy, Pléneau and Petermann Islands, Neko Harbor, Paradise Bay, and South Shetland Islands become your landing hubs for hiking, mountaineering, Zodiac excursions, kayaking, birdwatching, photography, and an unforgettable overnight camping experience under Antarctic skies. From these iconic bays and islands you can snowshoe into the Antarctic foothills, or strap on crampons and ascend a local peak, paddle a kayak among icebergs, or take the zodiac to investigate resting leopard seals, and step ashore at Neko Harbor to walk among the cries of thousands of gentoo penguins, where a dilapidated refuge hut is the only remnant of survival within this unforgiving landscape.

An international team of Antarctic experts and field guides share their enthusiasm and in-depth knowledge through lectures, workshops, briefings, and on field excursions. Topics include marine biology, geography, geology, glaciology, global warming and pollution, ornithology, history of exploration, and photography to allow you to fully appreciate and capture the natural beauty and fragility of Antarctica. Additionally, this trip includes a full day hiking and paddling in Tierra del Fuego National Park, an opportunity to explore Ushuaia, and a city tour of Buenos Aires.

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTELS/SHIP	MEALS	HIGHLIGHTS
1	BUENOS AIRES	Own Grand Palermo Hotel		Arrival into Buenos Aires
2	USHUAIA	Tierra de Leyendas	B	Fly to Ushuaia, afternoon city tour and hiking
3	USHUAIA	Tierra de Leyendas	BL	Hiking and kayaking in Tierra del Fuego National Park
4	BEAGLE CHANNEL	M/V Ortelius or M/V Plancius	BD	Free morning in Ushuaia, embarkation and departure through Beagle Channel
5-6	DRAKE PASSAGE	M/V Ortelius or M/V Plancius	BLD	On-board amenities and lectures, views from deck; Cross the Antarctic Convergence
7-11	ANTARCTIC PENINSULA	M/V Ortelius or M/V Plancius	BLD	Choose your preferred activities from the ship basecamps at Neumayer Channel, Port Lockroy, Pléneau & Petermann Islands, Neko Harbor and Paradise Bay
12	SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS	M/V Ortelius or M/V Plancius	BLD	Navigate to South Shetland Islands: Half Moon & Deception Islands
13-14	DRAKE PASSAGE	M/V Ortelius or M/V Plancius	BLD	On-board amenities and lectures, views, birdwatching and whale watching from deck
15	BUENOS AIRES	Own Palermo Hotel	B	Disembarkation in Ushuaia and flight to Buenos Aires
16	DEPARTURE	-	B	City tour & room for day use

Basecamp Antarctica Route Map



Itinerary in Detail

DAY 1: BUENOS AIRES

Arrive Buenos Aires and transfer to the **Own Grand Palermo Hotel** in the Palermo district.

DAY 2: USHUAIA

Transfer to the airport for flight to Ushuaia on the southernmost tip of South America. On the remote shores of the Beagle Channel, Ushuaia was once a penal colony for political prisoners, now a major shipping port and embarkation point for Antarctic voyages.



Stretch your legs on a walking exploration of the city. The route ventures through neighborhoods to the forest at the outskirts of the city featuring amazing views of the harbor and the city's history of seafaring landmarks. Overnight at **Tierra de Leyendas**.

DAY 3: USHUAIA - TIERRA DEL FUEGO NATIONAL PARK

A full day exploration of the famed Tierra del Fuego National Park begins with a 4.5-mile trek (3.5 hours) to a wonderful scenic point overlooking Lake Roca, Lagunas Verde and Negra, the Ovando River, and Lapataia Bay – a fjord connected to the Beagle Channel. Hiking through the beech forest watch for the Magellanic woodpecker, Austral parakeet, black-chested buzzard eagle, and Andean condor. After lunch, embark on an easy, downstream kayak trip in the crystal-clear, calm Ovando River, and into Green Lake, one of the most beautiful habitats in the Park. Approaching your final destination at Lapataia Bay, you may observe seabirds such as cormorants, sea petrels, albatross, and Pacific steamer ducks flying overhead. Take in the gorgeous southern sunset at the end of the world. Overnight at **Tierra de Leyendas**.



DAY 4: BEAGLE CHANNEL

Enjoy free time to explore the town nicknamed “The End of the World” – before transferring to the pier for a 4 pm check-in on the *M/V Ortelius* or *M/V Plancius*, where you will be greeted by the Expedition Leader and crew.

Your voyage begins where the continent ends as you cruise through the spectacular scenery of the mountain-fringed Beagle Channel, made famous by naturalist Charles Darwin on his Voyage of the Beagle in 1831. Overnight aboard the **M/V Ortelius or M/V Plancius**.

DAYS 5 & 6: DRAKE PASSAGE

The legendary Drake Passage holds a unique place in maritime lore. Over the next two days, you get a taste of life from the perspective of the polar explorers who first braved these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, and whales that migrate the southern ocean. Here you cross the Antarctic Convergence where the warmer waters of the north meet the colder, denser, less saline waters of the south as you enter the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. Marine life thrives, and southernmost avifauna dominates including albatross and petrel, along with Cape pigeon and southern fulmar. Approaching the South Shetlands Islands the first icebergs loom into sight. Overnight aboard the **M/V Ortelius or M/V Plancius**.

DAYS 7-11: ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Among gray stone peaks sketched with snow and towers of broken blue-white ice, the dramatic landscape reveals a diversity of wildlife above and below the vast Antarctic horizon. Enter the snow-capped Melchior Islands, a group of several low, ice-covered islands lying near the center of Dallmann Bay in the Palmer Archipelago, and Schollaert Channel between the islands of Brabant and Anvers, discovered by the Belgian Antarctic expedition in the mid-1800s. Your exploration of the Antarctica Peninsula begins as it has for many explorers to the White Continent with arrival at **Neumayer Channel**, the first multi-activity basecamp anchorage. The protected waters around Wiencke Island make this an ideal site for recreational alpine activities. Paddle a kayak through these polar waters, explore the coastline in a Zodiac, or snowshoe to the Antarctic foothills. You can even strap on some crampons for a mountaineering (soft climb) experience and marvel at some of the most dramatic views of the Antarctic Peninsula. Naturally, weather conditions determine the activity feasibility.



Navigating the maze-like Neumayer Channel, visit **Port Lockroy**, the former British research station, now a museum and post office on Goudier Island. Disembark at Jougla Point, where there is more opportunity for active shore excursions, keeping an eye out for gentoo penguins, blue-eyed shags, humpback, minke, and fin whales.

On to the next possible basecamp site, if the ice allows it, cruising through the Lemaire Channel. This 6.8-mile, narrow passage is the gateway to the far south Antarctic Peninsula, best experienced from on deck among snow-swept cliffsides, ice-clutched slopes, and gnarled mountain peaks spiking 3,300 feet. Search for Adélie penguins and blue-eyed shags at **Pléneau and Petermann Islands**. Paddle out in a kayak, take a glacier walk, or a mountaineering trek if you're feeling ambitious. There is good chance you'll encounter humpback and minke whales here, as well as leopard and elephant seals.



At the spectacular **Neko Harbor**, you have your first opportunity to set foot on the Antarctic Continent. Weddell seals and fur seals often haul out on the cobblestone beach or above the landing site. A striking attraction here is an ancient, mammoth glacier, which sometimes calves huge chunks of ice that splash thunderously into the deep blue waters. This epic glacial landscape of endless wind-carved snow and ice-cruled alpine peaks becomes your backdrop while exploring the area by Zodiac, kayak, or on foot. Discovered by Adrien de Gerlache during the Belgian Antarctic expedition in the late 1800s, the landing is home to some 250 breeding

pairs of Gentoo penguins, who tend to nest around the ex-Argentinian refuge hut located here. Hike up the hill to the penguin rookery for an extraordinary wildlife encounter and photo opportunity, then marvel at the view of Andvord Bay.

The next continental landing is one of pristine Antarctic beauty, **Paradise Bay**. Here, the sea is thick with ice floes; colossal glaciers jut out of the steel-blue sea, and icebergs that have run aground lie shattered over the black rocks of the shoreline like pulverized cathedrals. Humpback whales, gentoo penguins, and crabeater seals are common to this bay. It is here, if weather permits, you get the chance to make camp on the white continent. Listen to the ice creaking and cracking and the penguins calling on this supreme overnight Antarctic adventure, and feel like a true polar explorer (but with a better tent).



***Note:** All excursions and landing sites will be determined by the Expedition Leader and the Captain based on weather, sea and ice conditions for safety and to maximize adventure activities.*

DAY 12: SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS – DRAKE PASSAGE

On your last day of near-shore activities, you pass the Melchior Islands toward the open sea. Wrap up and head out on deck to look for humpback whales in Dallmann Bay. You might also shoot for Half Moon Island in the South Shetlands for your last chance to hike, kayak, or snowshoe in Antarctica. Weddell and Antarctic fur seals are regularly seen on the beaches, as well as chinstrap penguins and many shore birds. Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure. Overnight aboard the **M/V Ortelius or M/V Plancius**.

DAYS 13 & 14: DRAKE PASSAGE

Cruising back to Ushuaia, across the Antarctic Convergence and the Drake Passage before rounding Cape Horn, albatross may provide an avian escort across the ship's bow. Share and reflect on the wonderful experiences of the last few days as you keep your eyes peeled for humpback whales and hourglass dolphins. Overnight aboard the **M/V Ortelius or M/V Plancius**.

DAY 15: DISEMBARK IN USHUAIA – FLY TO BUENOS AIRES

Expect to disembark in Ushuaia around 9:00 am, concluding an incredible Polar expedition. Transfer to the airport for afternoon flight to Buenos Aires (*flight must depart after 12 noon*). Upon arrival, transfer for overnight at **Own Grand Palermo Hotel**.

DAY 16: BUENOS AIRES & DEPARTURE

Explore Buenos Aires, one of the most atmospheric cities in South America, with your local guide and discover splendid old homes of historic neighborhoods; artists and dancers of San Telmo market, the brightly painted Italian barrios of La Boca; and the Avenida 9 de Julio with its towering obelisk as much a symbol to Buenos Aires as the Eiffel Tower is to Paris. Time permitting, consider taking in a tango show or visit any of the top art galleries and museums such as MALBA Modern Art or the Evita Museum. Evening transfer to the airport for international departure.

END OF SERVICES

Actual routes and activities may vary. Local trip coordinators reserve the right to change accommodations to similar quality alternatives.

Basecamp Activities

All-Inclusive and Optional



Camping

Take your Antarctic adventure one step further and camp out under the Antarctic sky in the world's coldest and most isolated wildland. After dinner, shuttle ashore via Zodiac. Expedition guides designate campsites and assist guests in setting up tents, pads, and sleeping bags. Necessary camping gear is provided, just bring warm clothes and a sense of adventure. This activity is available to any passengers willing to rough it for the overnight camp experience.



Kayaking

Kayaking is probably one of the most intimate and inspiring ways to explore the shorelines, sea life, and ice formations of this incredible region. Slip away from the basecamp vessel and glide through the quiet, calm waters of a secluded bay taking in the other-worldly beauty of Antarctica. Explore the rugged shorelines with snow-capped mountains towering above you, marvel at the untouched snowfields, and paddle past astounding icebergs that transform the water beneath you to a brilliant blue. Paddle among penguins, leopard seals and, if you're lucky, encounter a nearby whale. The ship provides necessary kayaking gear.



Mountaineering

Push yourself beyond the usual Antarctic cruise activities and head out on one of the half or full day mountaineering excursions. Snowshoe out to the Antarctic foothills, then strap on crampons and make your way up to spectacular views of the Antarctic Peninsula. Good physical condition is required to walk for a couple of hours over fairly rugged terrain wearing the necessary technical gear provided including snowshoes, crampons, helmets, ice axes, gloves, etc.



Photography workshop

Landscapes. Icebergs. Leopard seals, whales, and penguins. The stark beauty, unrelenting extremes, and the fragility of The White Continent is best preserved and shared through photographs. Take advantage of on-board and land-based sessions to learn photography techniques adapted to the cold and variable light conditions of Antarctica from the pros. Land-based sessions help you adapt to conditions such as falling snow, dim light and moving wildlife. Workshops range from novice to advanced and whatever camera and equipment you bring.



Hiking & Snowshoeing

Explore your way inland from the Antarctic shorelines with a variety of hiking and snowshoe expeditions designed for everyone. No experience in snowshoeing is necessary. For the basic walks you just need to be in reasonably good physical condition. Expedition leaders will recommend hikes based on your ability and fitness level. Snowshoes and boots are provided.

DATES: [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)

PRICES: [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)

INCLUDED SERVICES

- Hotel and boat accommodations as indicated
- Meals as specified [B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner]
- English-speaking naturalist guides
- Guided tours and excursions
- Shipboard lectures
- Airport-hotel transfers and land transportation
- Wildland Adventures' travel consultation and pre-departure services.

NOT INCLUDED SERVICES

- International and internal airfare
- Drinks, alcoholic beverages, and meals other than listed above
- Tips, gratuities
- Any necessary visa fees
- Personal expenses for extra services, optional activities, or changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control
- Travel insurance for trip cancellation, medical services, or evacuation (*required*)
- Any other items not mentioned above

Accommodations



EXPEDITION VESSELS: M/V ORTELIUS AND M/V PLANCIUS

The 123-passenger M/V Ortelius and the 116-passenger M/V Plancius are both ice-strengthened small expedition cruise ships catering to the adventurous spirit and educational interests of exploration. These former polar region oceanographic research vessels are manned by highly experienced international nautical crew, an international hotel crew, including stewardesses, 7 expedition staff (1 expedition leader and 6 guides/lecturers), and 1 doctor. The Ortelius and Plancius each offer a restaurant, lecture room, and a spacious observation lounge (with bar) with large windows, offering views of the polar world. The vessels feature large open deck spaces, giving excellent opportunities to enjoy the scenery and wildlife. Both ships have state-of-the-art radar, communication, and other navigational equipment as well as modern fire and flood prevention systems. To help customize your trips, these vessels have maximum maneuverability to get in and out of the most interesting places. Though voyages are primarily meant to offer our passengers an exploratory wildlife program with as much time ashore as possible, the ships offer all the comforts of a standard hotel.



OWN GRAND PALERMO SOHO

Own Grand Palermo Soho is located in the heart of the fashionable Palermo district and within walking distance of Plaza Serrano. Whether browsing the stylish boutiques or sipping cortados on a bohemian terrace, spend the day discovering the eclectic charm of the hotel's vibrant surroundings. As night falls, enjoy spectacular city views from the heated rooftop pool before feasting on Italian-inspired dishes at the hotel restaurant. The 63 bright and spacious guest rooms at Own Grand Palermo Soho exude contemporary style. Adorned with sleek furniture and crisp white linens, some boast balconies, whilst all feature modern luxuries, including air conditioning, and Wi-Fi.



TIERRA DE LEYENDAS, USHUAIA

Run by a well-traveled husband and wife team from the Buenos Aires hotel scene, Tierra del Leyendas attracts hedonists, foodies, and coastal walkers and is widely considered one of the best (and least well-known) boutique hotels in all of Argentina. An open-plan ground floor invites guest interaction in a spacious lounge and reception area overlooking the bay. The five rooms are named after local fables and indigenous artifacts, sheepskin throws, comfortable elegance, and the surrounding mountains and water on the outskirts of Ushuaia make for a very Patagonia feel. Be sure to have dinner here – the cuisine is excellent.

Booking your Wildland Adventure

HOW TO RESERVE A TRIP

You can book online using our [Reserve a Trip form](#) or by calling 1-800-345-4453. Your space on a trip is confirmed once we receive your reservation form and initial trip deposit. All travelers must sign and submit a [Release of Liability](#).

Deposit requirements are as follows:*

- 25% of total tour cost, per person

*Some trips require additional non-refundable deposits, especially when yachts have been chartered, or if permits to visit archaeological or wildlife sites have been purchased in advance.

CUSTOM TRAVEL

This trip isn't exactly what you're looking for? We are happy to design a private custom itinerary to accommodate your travel dates, interests and style of accommodations. Call us at 1-800-345-4453, send an email to info@wildland.com, or use the Ask The Program Director button on the trip itinerary page on our website.

PAYMENTS, CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Full payment of the trip balance is due 90 days prior to departure. If you must cancel before departure, money will be returned less the cancellation fees charged by WA Inc. plus any additional non-refundable cancellation fees and payments already advanced to airlines, hotels and local operators:

Days Prior to Departure: Fee per person

91 or more: Initial deposit amount

61-90 days: 50% of land cost

60 or less: 100% of land cost

PRE-DEPARTURE SERVICES

Upon receipt of your deposit and completed reservation form, we will send you a comprehensive Pre-departure Dossier. This contains important information to help you prepare including immunizations, visas, trip insurance, packing checklist, reading list, maps, cross-cultural information, optional trip extensions and more. You will receive a final trip packet including Final Reminders and local contact information in your destination 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

REFERENCES AND QUESTIONS

Have any questions or concerns? Call us a 1-800-345-4453 or email info@wildland.com. We're here to help and are happy to provide you with references from previous Wildland travelers.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Wildland Adventures, Inc. has arranged your trip utilizing the travel services of local in-country ground operators who are independent contractors. These local outfitters, lodges, hotels and other suppliers of your travel services will make every effort to conduct this trip as described in the itinerary. It is however possible that due to transportation schedule changes, weather, delays and unforeseeable acts of God, humans or nature, this itinerary may vary from what is described. Participants must assume all risks whether identified in advance or unforeseen. All optional activities are at your own risk. Extra costs due to unexpected changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control are not included. We highly recommend purchasing traveler's insurance for trip delay, trip cancellation, baggage, accident or sickness. Representatives are available for assistance at any time during your trip. If preferred hotels are not available, every attempt will be made to reserve alternative accommodations of similar quality. (If upgrade is necessary, higher rates may apply.) All information and services provided are subject to our [Terms and Conditions](#).