Itinerary

12 Day Highlights of Antarctica Expedition Cruise

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.**

Day 1: Arrive Buenos Aires, Argentina

Upon arrival you make your own way to your hotel. There will be a representative from HX at your hotel who will explain the order of the day for tomorrow and give you your bus numbers and transfer times for the domestic flight in the morning. If you arrive after the representative has left, there will be an envelope on reception with this information. HX do not provide this information prior to travel. Your luggage will be labelled and stored securely and you will see it again once you embark the ship.

MEALS: Nil

OVERNIGHT: Emperador Hotel, Buenos Aires or similar

Day 2: Buenos Aires ~ Ushuaia ~ Embark Expedition Ship

Late nighters beware, we fly early in the morning to Ushuaia where hybrid-powered expedition ship MS Fridtjof Nansen or the MS Roald Amundsen awaits you. This port city competes with Chilean Puerto Williams for the seemingly coveted title of the southernmost city in the world. The Martial Glacier sits north of the city, creating an impressive mountain backdrop for the ‘end of the world’.

After a mandatory health and safety meeting on board the ship, kick off your journey with a welcome dinner hosted by the Expedition Team. You can then spend some time getting to know the ship that will be your home for the next several days.

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen OR MS Roald Amundsen

Days 3-4: Sailing through Drake Passage

In order to get to Antarctica, we have to cross the infamous Drake Passage. It was named after the English sea captain and privateer Sir Francis Drake who discovered it by chance in 1578 when his ship was taken south by heavy winds. Since there is no landmass at this latitude, wind and water roam freely, making it hard for ships to sail here. But don’t worry, even the ‘Drake Shake’ isn’t a big deal for our modern expedition ship.

It takes two days to cross the roughly 1000-km-wide Drake Passage. So, you’ll have some time on your hands, which is definitely a good thing as there is plenty to do to get ready for your Antarctic adventure.

The Expedition Team will start their lecture programme in the Science Center, drawing on decades of experience to teach you how to make your visit as safe and as sustainable as possible. As per IAATO guidelines, we will all wear sterilised rubber boats when ashore and ensure we vacuum our clothing beforehand to remove any possible foreign contaminants. You will also learn about the various hands-on Citizen Science projects you can get involved in, all of which feed into live research and current science.

Your ship also lies at your feet to be explored as well, quite literally. Work out in the indoor or outdoor gym, or order a spa treatment in our Wellness Area. There are also three superb restaurants on board where you can enjoy delicious meals that are a treat for your eyes and your taste buds. But even with all these mod cons, don't forget to head out on deck from time to time to look for your first iceberg, and to spot wildlife like whales, numerous types of petrels and albatrosses.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen OR MS Roald Amundsen

Days 5-9: Welcome To Antarctica ~ Enjoy the Icescapes

Welcome to Antarctica. Being here, surrounded by icy waters, glaciers and icebergs big as cathedrals will probably make you feel like you've landed in a completely new world. Antarctica is magnificent, mesmerising and massive. You might need to stop for a moment to be able to take it all in. That awe-inspired silence is inevitably broken though when you see the first signs of wildlife like penguins, whales or seals and enthusiastic cheers erupt spontaneously all across the ship.

Just as the icescapes of Antarctica change through its seasons, so does its wildlife. In late spring from October to November, there will be much more snow, making the landscapes seem even more pristine. This forms the backdrop of penguin courting and nest building. Whales are still few and far in between during this time, most of them still on their way and beginning to arrive in greater numbers by December and January. Arrival of more whales marks the height of summer which is also when the first penguin chicks hatch. Seeing the clumsy clumps of feathers run around and is always a charming sight. February and March are the peak of whale-watching opportunities, when large amounts of krill lure them to the area.

When we get here, the Expedition Team will seize every chance to take you ice-cruising and on landings to get closer to the impressive scenery and wildlife. Spotting penguins from the ship is already an experience, which becomes even more wonderous when you go ashore to see them. It's the same if a seal or whale suddenly appears next to you when cruising in our smaller explorer boats or when kayaking as part of an optional activity. Needless to say; keep your camera close at all times. To enhance your feeling of discovery, the Expedition Team will talk expertly about fascinating subjects like the frozen continent's history, the biology of local wildlife, and glaciology.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen OR MS Roald Amundsen

Days 10-11: Heading Back to Civilisation

After having explored remote and wild Antarctica over five days, we will be due to sail back for home. By this point, both your head and your heart will be filled with lifelong memories. You'll hopefully also have

captured many of these special moments on your camera. Crossing back over the Drake Passage, you'll probably spend the next couple of days going through those pictures just to try and stay in Antarctica a little longer. The Expedition Team will also be doing the same as they recap the journey's many experiences over in the Science Center. Working out is also a great way of processing everything you have seen, or maybe let your mind wander back to Antarctica in the Explorer Lounge and Bar.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Fridtjof Nansen OR MS Roald Amundsen

Day 12: Ushuaia ~ Buenos Aires ~ End of Trip

Your expedition cruise reaches its end as we return to Ushuaia. Tour services end at Buenos Aires airport. Staying longer in South America? We have a varierty of extensions to suit everyones time and budget. Including, Buenos Aires, Iguazu Falls, Rio de Janiero, Peru and Galapagos. See "Options & Upgrades" Tab or ask our friendly team today.

MEALS:

IGUAZU FALLS AND BUENOS AIRES EXTENSION

Day 12: Ushuaia ~ Buenos Aires

As your expedition cruise concludes in Ushuaia, the vibrant hub of Tierra del Fuego, Argentina's southernmost province. You'll then catch a flight back to Buenos Aires for your return home. Upon arrival you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel where you can spend the rest of the day at leisure.

NOTE: Charter flight details will only be provided once you are onboard the HX ship. As soon as you receive your flight information, please send these details via WhatsApp to the contact listed on your voucher. If you are unable to use WhatsApp, you may email the details to info@myholiday2.com.au, and they will be forwarded on your behalf. Please note that transfers cannot be confirmed without your flight details—if this information is not provided, you will need to arrange your own transportation to the hotel.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Carles, Buenos Aires or similar

Day 13: Buenos Aires ~ Iguazu Falls - Triple Frontier

Begin your day with a delicious breakfast before making your way to the airport for your flight to the magnificent Iguazu Falls. Upon arrival, your friendly driver will greet you at the airport and ensure a smooth, comfortable transfer to your accommodation. After settling in, your adventure continues with a visit to the iconic Triple Frontier—the remarkable point where Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina converge. Here, you'll experience the vibrant energy and cultural diversity that comes from three nations meeting at a single landmark.

Spend a relaxing evening at your hotel, resting up for the unforgettable exploration of one of the world's greatest natural wonders that awaits you in the days ahead.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Guaminí Mision, Iguazu Falls or similar

Day 14: Iguazu Falls - Argentinian Side

After breakfast, you'll set out for a full-day adventure exploring one of the world's most awe-inspiring natural wonders: Iguazu Falls. Today's itinerary takes you to the Argentinian side of the National Park, where entrance fees are not included and should be purchased directly at the park entrance. Accompanied by bilingual guides (English/Spanish), you'll enjoy a scenic open train ride to the heart of the park and back, taking in lush rainforest scenery along the way.

Your guided tour covers both the upper and lower circuits, giving you a comprehensive perspective of the falls' stunning beauty. The highlight of the day is a visit to the dramatic Devil's Throat Falls, where you'll witness the immense power and grandeur of the cascading water up close. Expect an unforgettable day filled with natural wonder, incredible photo opportunities, and immersive experiences at every turn.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Guaminí Mision, Iguazu Falls or similar

Day 14: Iguazu Falls - Brazilian Side ~ Buenos Aires

After breakfast, you'll enjoy a guided tour of the Brazilian side of Iguazu Falls, where you'll experience breathtaking panoramic views and unique perspectives of this natural wonder. Transfers will be provided as you cross the border into Brazil for your visit. Please note that entrance fees to the national park are not included and must be purchased directly at the park entrance.

APPROXIMATE TIMES: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Following your tour, you'll be transferred back to the airport for your return flight to Buenos Aires. Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, you will be transferred to your hotel.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Carles, Buenos Aires or similar

NOTE: As this tour crosses into Brazil, please be aware that from 30 July 2025, Australian passport holders will require a visa to enter Brazil. It is your responsibility to check and confirm all current visa requirements via www.smartraveller.gov.au

Day 15: Buenos Aires – City Tour

Get set for a brilliant introduction to Buenos Aires today. This half-day tour is just the ticket for striking that ideal balance between relaxed driving and a bit of easy walking, letting you soak up the energy and spirit of Argentina's lively capital. As we make our way through the city, you'll get a solid feel for its signature neighbourhoods and major sights, from the storied centre to the cutting-edge waterfront.

We'll stop several times to hop out, stretch our legs, and really take in the atmosphere. Standouts include Plaza de Mayo, the historic and political core of the country; the colourful lanes of La Boca, well-known for their tango heritage and eye-catching street art; the character-filled streets of San Telmo with their cobblestones and quirky antique shops; and Puerto Madero, a contemporary showpiece that's worlds apart from the older parts of town.

Throughout the outing, you'll also catch glimpses of other iconic spots and pick up fascinating tidbits about Buenos Aires' history, architecture, and everyday life — making this tour the perfect way to discover one of South America's most remarkable cities.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Carles, Buenos Aires or similar

Day 17: Depart Buenos Aires

Your unforgettable journey comes to an end today. After enjoying your morning at leisure, transfer from your hotel to the airport in time for your departing flight.

Take with you the incredible memories of the breathtaking landscapes, vibrant cities, and extraordinary experiences from your adventure. Safe travels, and we hope to welcome you back for another incredible journey in the future.

MEALS: Breakfast

IGUAZU FALLS, BUENOS AIRES AND RIO DE JANEIRO EXTENSION

Day 12: Ushuaia ~ Buenos Aires

As your expedition cruise concludes in Ushuaia, the vibrant hub of Tierra del Fuego, Argentina's southernmost province. You'll then catch a flight back to Buenos Aires for your return home. Upon arrival you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel where you can spend the rest of the day at leisure.

NOTE: Charter flight details will only be provided once you are onboard the HX ship. As soon as you receive your flight information, please send these details via WhatsApp to the contact listed on your voucher. If you are unable to use WhatsApp, you may email the details to info@myholiday2.com.au, and they will be forwarded on your behalf. Please note that transfers cannot be confirmed without your flight details—if this information is not provided, you will need to arrange your own transportation to the hotel.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Carles, Buenos Aires or similar

Day 13: Buenos Aires - City Tour

Get set for a brilliant introduction to Buenos Aires today. This half-day tour is just the ticket for striking that ideal balance between relaxed driving and a bit of easy walking, letting you soak up the energy and spirit of Argentina's lively capital. As we make our way through the city, you'll get a solid feel for its signature

neighbourhoods and major sights, from the storied centre to the cutting-edge waterfront.

We'll stop several times to hop out, stretch our legs, and really take in the atmosphere. Standouts include Plaza de Mayo, the historic and political core of the country; the colourful lanes of La Boca, well-known for their tango heritage and eye-catching street art; the character-filled streets of San Telmo with their cobblestones and quirky antique shops; and Puerto Madero, a contemporary showpiece that's worlds apart from the older parts of town.

Throughout the outing, you'll also catch glimpses of other iconic spots and pick up fascinating tidbits about Buenos Aires' history, architecture, and everyday life — making this tour the perfect way to discover one of South America's most remarkable cities.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Carles, Buenos Aires or similar

Day 14: Buenos Aires ~ Iguazu Falls - Triple Frontier

Begin your day with a delicious breakfast before making your way to the airport for your flight to the magnificent Iguazu Falls. Upon arrival, your friendly driver will greet you at the airport and ensure a smooth, comfortable transfer to your accommodation. After settling in, your adventure continues with a visit to the iconic Triple Frontier—the remarkable point where Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina converge. Here, you'll experience the vibrant energy and cultural diversity that comes from three nations meeting at a single landmark.

Spend a relaxing evening at your hotel, resting up for the unforgettable exploration of one of the world's greatest natural wonders that awaits you in the days ahead.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Guaminí Mision, Iguazu Falls or similar

Day 15: Iguazu Falls - Argentinian Side

After breakfast, you'll set out for a full-day adventure exploring one of the world's most awe-inspiring natural wonders: Iguazu Falls. Today's itinerary takes you to the Argentinian side of the National Park, where entrance fees are not included and should be purchased directly at the park entrance. Accompanied by bilingual guides (English/Spanish), you'll enjoy a scenic open train ride to the heart of the park and back, taking in lush rainforest scenery along the way.

Your guided tour covers both the upper and lower circuits, giving you a comprehensive perspective of the falls' stunning beauty. The highlight of the day is a visit to the dramatic Devil's Throat Falls, where you'll witness the immense power and grandeur of the cascading water up close. Expect an unforgettable day filled with natural wonder, incredible photo opportunities, and immersive experiences at every turn.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Hotel Guaminí Mision, Iguazu Falls or similar

Day 16: Iguazu Falls - Brazilian Side ~ Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

After breakfast, you'll enjoy a guided tour of the Brazilian side of Iguazu Falls, where you'll experience breathtaking panoramic views and unique perspectives of this natural wonder. Transfers will be provided as you cross the border into Brazil for your visit. Please note that entrance fees to the national park are not included and must be purchased directly at the park entrance.

APPROXIMATE TIMES: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

In the evening, take your flight to Rio de Janeiro. Upon arrival, you'll be transferred from the airport to your hotel, where you can check in and relax for the night.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Copacabana Premier Hotel, Rio de Janeiro or similar

Day 17: Rio de Janeiro - City Tour

Today you can immerse yourself in the vibrant culture and breathtaking beauty of Rio de Janeiro, home to some of the world's most iconic landmarks. Stand in awe of the majestic Christ the Redeemer statue, a symbol of peace and faith perched high above the city on Corcovado Mountain. Stroll along the famous golden sands of Copacabana Beach, where the lively atmosphere and stunning ocean views capture the heart of Brazil's beach culture. Finally, take a cable car ride up Sugarloaf Mountain for panoramic views of the city, coastline, and lush surrounding landscapes. Rio promises a blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, and unforgettable experiences.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Copacabana Premier Hotel, Rio de Janeiro or similar

Day 18: Rio de Janerio - Free Day

Enjoy a day a leisure or contact MyHoliday2 for some optional excursions.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: 4 Star Hotel, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Day 19: Depart Rio de Janeiro

Your unforgettable journey comes to an end today. After enjoying your morning at leisure, transfer from your hotel to the airport in time for your departing flight.

Take with you the incredible memories of the breathtaking landscapes, vibrant cities, and extraordinary experiences from your adventure. Safe travels, and we hope to welcome you back for another incredible journey in the future.

MEALS: Breakfast