

# ***ANTARCTICA SMALL SHIP CRUISE***



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## Antarctica Cruise with Iguazu Falls & Flights

Duration: 16 days

Departs: 2023 & 2024

Stay: 10 nights cruise, 6 nights hotels

Travel style: Expedition cruise, Argentina tour & flights from Australia

Booking code: ACOEA16M

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# 16 Days Antarctica Cruise with Buenos Aires & Iguazu Falls

## About the holiday

Wildlife enthusiasts, history buffs, thrill seekers and keen photographers - there's so much that you'll love about this Antarctica and Argentina adventure!

Fly to Buenos Aires for a luxe overnight stay, then head to Ushuaia to embark on an epic 11-day voyage to experience the raw beauty of the Great White Continent.

During the expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula, landscapes are at their most pristine, icebergs are at their greatest mass, penguins are busy courting, nest building and squabbling over pebbles. As the *Ocean Endeavour* edges its way through the fractured ice, maybe entering the narrow, sheer-sided Lemaire Channel, you're invited onto the bow to witness the unspoiled polar wilderness. Scan for Leopard seals on ice floes as you follow the continent's inhabitants further south into the untouched snowscapes of pristine Antarctica.

Upon return to Ushuaia, fly to Iguazu Falls for a jaw-dropping experience at the awesome falls that lie split between Brazil and Argentina. After two amazing days, fly back to Buenos Aires and complete this spectacular journey with a highlights-packed tour of the colourful city and a professional tango lesson!

## Why you'll love this trip...

- Penguin populations in the rookeries are thriving and the birds are busy nest-building and courting. Albatross, fulmars and petrels fly the Drake Passage and blue-eyed shags reappear in Antarctica.
- It's an incredible time for photographers - lengthening days are concluded with fantastic evening light, noctilucent clouds and beautiful rose-coloured sunsets.
- Experience daily Zodiac excursions and onshore landings, and take advantage of a range of paid adventure options during your voyage such as kayaking, camping, photography and snowshoeing.
- Benefit from a variety of onboard activities including educational lectures on history, geology and ecology and participate in our citizen science program, all led by an expert expedition team.
- Tour cosmopolitan Buenos Aires, the sophisticated "Paris of South America"
- Stand in awe at majestic Iguassu Falls, one of nature's most impressive achievements



## Cruise & Flight Package Includes:

- **Flights** - Return economy class airfares to Buenos Aires
  - Fly from Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane (contact us for other cities)
  - Internal flights: Buenos Aires-Ushuaia, Ushuaia-Buenos Aires-Iguazu, Iguazu-Buenos Aires
- **Hotel accommodation** - Standard rooms, based on twin share
  - 3 nights Buenos Aires
  - 1 night Ushuaia
  - 2 nights Iguazu
- **Meals** - 15 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 9 dinners
- **Cruise** - 10 nights aboard *Ocean Endeavour* expedition cruise ship
  - Zodiac excursions
  - Meals & activities on board the ship
  - Waterproof boots (on loan)
  - Warm inner jacket is yours to keep
- **Tour** - Escorted tour of Iguazu & Buenos Aires (post-cruise)
  - Sightseeing as per itinerary in modern air-conditioned coach
  - Services of English-speaking tour manager
  - English-speaking local guides
  - Entrance fees as per itinerary

## Package excludes:

Airport transfers in Buenos Aires & Iguazu

Visa fees (if applicable)

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional shore excursions, tours & activities

Gratuities for tour manager, guides & ship crew

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry, WiFi etc.

Travel insurance is essential

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

***Subject to confirmation by airlines, hotels, cruise company & local operators.  
Cancellation fees & booking conditions apply.***

## Travel dates

2023 - 01 November, 10 November

2024 - 08 March

Note: Departure is subject to availability at time of booking. Cruise itinerary varies slightly in November and March. Please contact us for current details.

## Cruise special features:

- This cruise is carbon-offset, serves only sustainable seafood, avoids single-use plastics and does more to help preserve Antarctica (and the world) for future generations.
- While most polar expeditions of this kind have a crew-to-passenger ratio of ten, fifteen or twenty to one, voyages on the Ocean Endeavour have an expedition crew member for every eight passengers for a greater personal touch.
- With a maximum of only 200 passengers, Ocean Endeavour can venture to places that larger ships can't reach. Also, restrictions are in place to help minimise the impact of visitors and only vessels carrying under 500 guests are allowed to make landfall. Being able to get off the ship and experience Antarctica up close offers the most immersive and memorable experience.

## Itinerary:

### Day 1: Fly to Buenos Aires

Fly from Australia to Buenos Aires. Arrive in the cosmopolitan city of Buenos Aires. Its beauty is apparent with its elegant architecture, wide tree-shaded boulevards, striking monuments and sprawling parks. Make your own way to the hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure to get acquainted with the "Paris of South America" and its distinct European flavour. This evening, you might like to treat yourself to an Argentinean beef dinner at one of the city's many superb steak restaurants.

**Overnight:** Buenos Aires at 725 Continental Hotel or similar

### Day 2: Fly Buenos Aires to Ushuaia, Argentina

Fly from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia, Argentina. On arrival, you will be transferred to the hotel for your pre-cruise night. Nestled within the Tierra del Fuego archipelago, Ushuaia boasts many shops, museums, restaurants and cafes that you can enjoy before your voyage. This Argentine town is the ideal gateway for you to explore the southern extent of Patagonia while preparing for your cruise. If you feel adventurous, the nearby Tierra del Fuego National Park offers plenty of outdoor activities.

**Overnight:** Ushuaia (1 night)

### **Day 3: Embarkation in Ushuaia**

Following your embarkation onto the Ocean Endeavour in the late afternoon, begin your Antarctic journey south, passing through the infamous Beagle Channel. Named after the famed ship on which Charles Darwin voyaged, the channel presents great photo opportunities of landscapes and seabirds.

Accommodation - Expedition Cruise Ship (1 night)

Meals Included - Breakfast, Dinner

### **Days 4-5: At Sea, Drake Passage**

Famed for its wild nature, the Drake Passage is unpredictable and always changing. Be sure to spend some time out on one of the Ocean Endeavour's many outer decks soaking up the fresh sea air and feeling the breeze of the roaring forties and furious fifties - waters not yet tamed even by the most intrepid of explorers. Your expedition team will provide insights into your exciting adventure that lies ahead. During these two days on the sea, you will have plenty of time to gaze out at the Southern Ocean, capture photos of the birds circling the Ocean Endeavour and get to know your fellow travellers and expedition team. There is always great excitement on board when the first sighting of land appears, which with favourable sea and weather conditions will be early evening on day four.

Accommodation - Expedition Cruise Ship (2 nights)

Meals Included - Breakfast (2), Lunch (2), Dinner (2)

### **Days 6-9: South Shetland Islands & Antarctic Peninsula**

Your Antarctic adventure truly begins once you have left the Drake Passage behind and the South Shetland Islands come into view, a region that has long captured the attention of explorers. Every visit to Antarctica reveals something unexpected or new, meaning your expedition will be unlike any other - a unique and personal experience. During your time aboard the Ocean Endeavour, your expedition team and captain will scout for whales and seabirds and alert you to any new sightings. Enjoy in-depth explanations and lectures from your expedition team on the glaciology, history and wildlife of the region as you explore.

Even more exciting will be your first land excursion - something you will never forget! Daily Zodiac cruises and shore excursions take you to explore local bays, channels and landing sites with wildlife opportunities always at the forefront of your expedition team's mind. Walk on beaches dotted with penguins, visit penguin rookeries and search for southern seal species, including the fearless penguin eater, the leopard seal. Each day and each landing is different, but every day presents new photo opportunities and sightings, so it won't take long until you know the difference between an Adelie, gentoo and chinstrap penguin.

You might hike to a penguin rookery one day and take a Zodiac cruise among towering icebergs the next. From coming eye to eye with a humpback whale to the sound of a calving glacier, you will wake up excited each day with a desire to explore this icy wilderness. If you can't get enough and find yourself wanting more, treat yourself to an overnight ice camping experience on land, a snowshoeing excursion to explore further afield, or a hit the water for a day paddle excursion.

An average day onboard begins with a wake-up call from your expedition leader around 7 am, giving you time to prepare for the day before joining your fellow expeditioners for breakfast in the Polaris restaurant. You will usually have two excursions per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with a delicious lunch served on the Ocean Endeavour in between excursions.

Accommodation - Expedition Cruise Ship (4 nights)

Meals Included - Breakfast (4), Lunch (4), Dinner (4)

### **Days 10-11: At Sea, Drake Passage**

Your journey back across the Drake Passage provides a final opportunity to enjoy the Antarctic air. Be sure to spend some time on the outer decks scouting for whales, watching seabirds, or enjoying a presentation by your expedition team on a wide range of topics. Celebrate the experiences you have shared with your fellow passengers exploring the remarkable world of Antarctica.

Accommodation - Expedition Cruise Ship (2 nights)

Meals Included - Breakfast (2), Lunch (2), Dinner (2)

### **Day 12: Disembarkation in Ushuaia, Fly Ushuaia to Iguazu Falls**

You arrive in the port of Ushuaia in the morning and your expedition team will gather on the deck to farewell you as you disembark the Ocean Endeavour after breakfast. Your transfer to Ushuaia airport is included for the flight to Iguazu Falls via Buenos Aires.

One of the planet's most awe-inspiring sights, the Iguazú Falls are simply astounding. A visit is a jaw-dropping, visceral experience, and the power and noise of the cascades - a chain of hundreds of waterfalls nearly 3km in extension - live forever in the memory. An added benefit is the setting: the falls lie split between Brazil and Argentina in a large expanse of national park, much of it rainforest teeming with unique flora and fauna. If you would like to take an optional tour of Iguazu Falls on arrival, please let your travel consultant know.

**Overnight:** Iguazu

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **Day 13: Iguazu, the Argentinean Falls**

Your adventure continues this morning at Iguazu Falls. A rail car takes you to the top of the Falls on the Upper Circuit, and you will walk to the Lower Circuit where the power of nature surrounds you.

Continue along the catwalks to Devil's Gorge - stand in amazement as you gaze at spectacular "Devil's Throat" the most magnificent of all of the cataracts. View, photograph and feel the spray of the thundering waters, one of nature's most impressive achievements and a unique experience for your senses. Spend the rest of the day exploring the natural treasures of Iguazú National Park, designated a World Heritage Site for its rare and endangered flora and fauna

**Overnight:** Iguazu

**Meals:** Breakfast

#### **Day 14: Fly to Buenos Aires**

This afternoon, transfer to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires. Arrive in the cosmopolitan city of Buenos Aires, with its ornate architecture, grand boulevards and striking monuments. The remainder of the day and evening if free to continue exploring the vibrant city

**Overnight:** Buenos Aires

**Meals:** Breakfast

#### **DAY 15: Buenos Aires City Tour**

Discover the city's highlights this morning on a tour that includes the Plaza de Mayo, Metropolitan Cathedral and Casa Rosada (government palace); see the balcony where Eva and Juan Peron made their speeches. Then, to the colourful La Boca neighbourhood, a working-class barrio, and the old quarters of San Telmo and Caminito, a mix of colonial style homes, narrow lanes, artists' lofts and very trendy cafes. Drive to the Recoleta Cemetery, final resting place of many of the wealthiest and most important Argentine historical figures. The grounds here cover more than four city blocks, filled with tombs adorned by works of local and international sculptors, and more than 6400 mausoleums including the tomb of Eva "Evita" Peron. Spend the rest of the afternoon exploring some of Buenos Aires neighbourhoods and fabulous collection of shops before this afternoon's tango lesson with professional Argentinean Tango Dancers.

**Overnight:** Buenos Aires

**Meals:** Breakfast

#### **DAY 16: Depart Buenos Aires.**

The time has come to check out of the hotel this morning and make your way to Buenos Aires airport for flights home. Journey ends & great memories begin.

**Note:** *The day-by-day descriptions published are intended as an indicative guide only. All sightseeing and itinerary inclusions are subject to favourable weather conditions and safety issues. Weather and conditions in the Antarctic region are often unpredictable and the Captain of the ship will make adjustments according to passenger comfort and safety. Travel by nature is unpredictable, sea & road conditions, travel restrictions and a multitude of other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that ultimately are for the client's benefit.*



## Is this trip right for you?

- The Ocean Endeavour is an ice-strengthened ship - large, sturdy and suited to the unpredictable Antarctic waters. Some people may experience seasickness in occasional rough seas however, we do have a doctor on board should you need assistance. Over-the-counter seasickness medication is usually an easy fix.
- Temperatures in the Antarctic can get very cold, but it also can get surprisingly warm when the sun comes out. We recommend dressing in layers when you journey outside. We'll provide you with waterproof boots on loan that are sturdy and warm, as well as an inner jacket that is yours to keep. Please see the Essential Trip Information for notes on what to pack.
- Depending on the weather, you'll be travelling around in a Zodiac boat quite regularly to explore the area and search for wildlife. It can get cold and wet on the Zodiac, so make sure you dress appropriately and keep your camera safe and dry. A fair level of mobility is needed for wet and dry landings from the boat, as well as on steep terrain, snow and other uneven surfaces. The Ocean Endeavour has a lift, but you'll need to take the stairs to get to the gangway and some other parts of the ship that the lift does not provide access to.
- The weather plays a pivotal part in this adventure and, although there's an itinerary in place, there are no guarantees that you'll be able to do everything that is planned. A level of flexibility and openness to embracing the unexpected are important in expedition travel, especially in such a remote area like the Antarctic. There are nearly 200 recognised sites in the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetlands and the places mentioned in the itinerary may need to be changed to other locations - which are just as interesting and beautiful! We may also be confined to the ship during rough weather, but there are plenty of onboard resources and activities. The ship's library and educational lectures are ideal ways to stay entertained, while the wellness spa, saunas, gym and yoga classes will keep you fresh for when the weather clears.



## Life aboard Ocean Endeavour

The Ocean Endeavour is a comfortable and spacious expedition ship with a gym, library and wide range of cabin types carry up to 200 passengers.

With her ice-strengthened hull and advanced navigation equipment, the Ocean Endeavour is ideally suited for expedition cruising to the Polar regions. It's designed for adventure travellers who want to get off the ship and onto the ice, with a wide range of expedition activities, citizen science research programs, and opportunities to learn about Antarctica's history and biology from passionate guides.

The ship carries 20 zodiacs for exploration and remote landings and offers additional activities such as sea kayaking, snowshoeing, ice camping and hiking plus a photography program, all designed to enhance your polar experience. This small, well-appointed expedition ship allows you to explore the world's remotest regions while enjoying the class and comfort of a hotel.

There are spacious lounge and bar areas and a top deck observation room with panoramic windows, as well as lecture theatres, a library and a polar boutique. The ample deck areas are equipped with comfortable lounge chairs and feature a saltwater pool, saunas and even a hot tub. Travellers can also enjoy health and fitness amenities including a gym, spa treatments and yoga classes designed to enhance your personal wellness.

Onboard, the extensive range of cabin options includes dedicated single cabins for solo travellers, suites and triple cabins that feature two bathrooms. The ship offers an unmatched sense of space with plenty of both interior and exterior areas, where you can enjoy the company of your fellow travellers or enjoy Antarctica in quiet solitude. It's a truly immersive Antarctic adventure for explorers of any age.

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3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. 120 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents electronically via email.

My Travel Experience operates a Client Trust bank account. This means that we do not hold your money. We pay the ultimate travel providers (Suppliers) of your travel services the funds for your holiday. The Suppliers include airlines, tour operators, cruise lines, transport companies, hotels etc. We are required to pay the Suppliers deposits and final payments to secure your booking and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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