Itinerary

16 Day Highlights of Antarctica & Buenos Aires W/Flights

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

DAY 1: Australia ~ Buenos Aires, Argentina

Today you will embark on your flight to 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.
NOTE: Due to the time difference you depart and arrive on the same day

MEALS: In-flight

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 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

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.

MS Fridtjof Nansen, 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

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

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

DAY 12: Ushuaia ~ Buenos Aires

Your expedition cruise reaches its end as we return to Ushuaia. From here you'll take a flight back to Buenos Aires and will make your own way to your final hotel for the night. If you want to extend your time in South American, simply add the 'Tour Extension' to your package and our team will book your flights accordingly!
NOTE: If you have booked the "Buy Land Package Only" option, services conclude upon arrival at Buenos Aires Airport.

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Savoy Hotel Buenos Aires or similar

DAY 13: Buenos Aires Free Day

Today enjoy Buenos Aires at your own leisure or take one of our optional excursions.
MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Savoy Hotel Buenos Aires or similar

OPTIONAL TOURS: City Tour Half Day | Tango Show and Dinner

DAY 14: Departure Day

Make your own way to the airport for your return journey home. Due to flight availability and scheduling you may be required to spend an extra night in Buenos Aires at your own cost.
MEALS: Breakfast, In-Flight

OVERNIGHT: In-Flight

DAY 15: In Transit

DAY 16: Arrive Australia

This morning you will arrive home to Australia. We hope you have had a memorable experience on the White Continent and we hope to see you travel with us again!
MEALS: Breakfast