Itinerary

15 Day Cross the Antarctic Circle Small Ship Expedition

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

Day 1: Arrive Buenos Aires, Argentina

Welcome to Buenos Aires, Argentina's vibrant capital and the starting point of your incredible Antarctic adventure! Upon arrival, make your own way to your included hotel and settle in for an overnight stay. Depending on your arrival time, enjoy the opportunity to explore this fascinating city, renowned for its European architecture, colourful neighbourhoods and lively café culture. Perhaps wander through the historic streets, sample traditional Argentine cuisine or simply relax before your expedition begins. Enjoy a comfortable night's rest before tomorrow's flight to Ushuaia, where you'll board SH Vega and begin your journey towards Antarctica.

MEALS: Nil

OVERNIGHT: 5 Star Hotel, Buenos Aires

Day 2: Buenos Aires ~ Ushuaia ~ Embark Ship

After breakfast at your hotel, transfer to the airport for your included charter flight to Ushuaia, the gateway to Antarctica. Please note that your flight details and departure time will only be provided once you arrive in Buenos Aires. Nestled between the snow-capped Martial Mountains and the Beagle Channel, Ushuaia is often called the 'End of the World'. Upon arrival, transfer to the port and board Swan Hellenic's luxurious SH Vega, your home for the next 13 nights. Settle into your stateroom, explore the ship's facilities and enjoy your first onboard dining experience. As you sail through the beautiful Beagle Channel, admire the spectacular scenery and look forward to the extraordinary Antarctic adventure ahead.

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: SH Vega

Days 3-5: At Sea ~ Crossing the Drake Passage

Spend the next three days crossing the legendary Drake Passage, one of the world's most famous stretches of ocean, as you journey towards Antarctica. Connecting South America with the Antarctic Peninsula, these waters offer incredible opportunities to spot wandering albatrosses, petrels and other seabirds soaring above the waves. Keep watch for whales and dolphins as you sail further south towards the White Continent. During your time at sea, enjoy fascinating presentations from Swan Hellenic's expert expedition team, who will introduce you to Antarctica's remarkable wildlife, history and unique environment. Alternatively, relax in the ship's observation areas, enjoy the onboard facilities or capture

spectacular ocean views from the open decks. As you approach Antarctica, the excitement builds with your first possible sightings of towering icebergs and snow-covered landscapes.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: SH Vega

Days 6-12: Antarctic Peninsula & Antarctic Circle

Spend seven unforgettable days exploring the breathtaking Antarctic Peninsula, where towering glaciers, magnificent icebergs and snow-covered mountains create some of the world's most spectacular scenery. Accompanied by Swan Hellenic's experienced expedition team, venture ashore to discover remote Antarctic landscapes and incredible wildlife. Enjoy exciting Zodiac excursions through icy waterways, keeping watch for humpback whales, leopard seals and playful penguins. Depending on weather and ice conditions, you may explore the spectacular Lemaire Channel, renowned for its dramatic cliffs and towering glaciers. Other possible landing sites include Mikkelsen Harbour, where gentoo penguins, snowy sheathbills, skuas and Weddell seals can often be spotted.

One of the greatest highlights of your expedition is the opportunity to cross the Antarctic Circle at approximately 66°33? south. Venturing this far south is a remarkable achievement, taking you beyond the routes travelled by many Antarctic visitors. Here, experience an extraordinary world of immense ice formations, remote islands and pristine polar wilderness. Throughout your expedition, your captain and expedition team will carefully select landing sites and cruising routes to make the most of the conditions. For those feeling adventurous, there may also be an opportunity to take the famous polar plunge into Antarctica's icy waters. Each day promises remarkable discoveries and unforgettable encounters in one of Earth's last great wildernesses.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: SH Vega

NOTE: Antarctic expedition activities, landing sites and the crossing of the Antarctic Circle are subject to weather, sea ice and operational conditions. The itinerary may be adjusted at the captain's discretion to ensure passenger safety.

Days 13-14: At Sea ~ Crossing the Drake Passage

Bid farewell to the spectacular Antarctic Peninsula as SH Vega begins her journey north across the legendary Drake Passage towards South America. Spend the next two days relaxing onboard and reflecting on the incredible experiences of your Antarctic expedition. Keep watch from the observation decks for wandering albatrosses, petrels and other seabirds soaring above the Southern Ocean, along with possible sightings of whales and dolphins. Take advantage of the ship's excellent facilities, unwind in the sauna or enjoy panoramic ocean views from the comfort of the observation lounge. Alternatively, attend fascinating presentations from the expedition team, browse the ship's library or pick up photography tips from the onboard experts. As your Antarctic adventure draws to a close, share your favourite memories with fellow travellers and enjoy your final evenings aboard SH Vega.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: SH Vega

Day 15: Ushuaia ~ Disembark Ship ~ Buenos Aires

Your unforgettable Antarctic expedition comes to an end as SH Vega arrives back in Ushuaia, the southernmost city in Argentina. Nestled beneath the snow-capped Martial Mountains and overlooking the picturesque Beagle Channel, Ushuaia provides a spectacular setting for the conclusion of your adventure. After enjoying your final breakfast onboard, bid farewell to the expedition team and your fellow travellers before disembarking the ship. Transfer to Ushuaia Airport for your included charter flight back to Buenos Aires, where your journey concludes. Depart with incredible memories of towering icebergs, remarkable wildlife encounters and the extraordinary achievement of crossing the Antarctic Circle.

MEALS: Breakfast

NOTE: Charter flight details and departure times will be confirmed locally by Swan Hellenic. We recommend allowing sufficient time between your arrival in Buenos Aires and any onward international flights.

IGUAZU FALLS AND BUENOS AIRES EXTENSION

Day 15: Ushuaia ~ Disembark Ship ~ 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: Hilton Buenos Aires or similar

Day 16: 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: Gran Meliá Iguazú, Iguazu Falls or similar

Day 17: 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: Gran Meliá Iguazú, Iguazu Falls or similar

Day 18 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: Hilton 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 19: 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: Hilton Buenos Aires or similar

Day 20: 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 15: Ushuaia ~ Disembark Ship ~ 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: Hilton Buenos Aires or similar

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MEALS: Breakfast

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MEALS: Breakfast

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MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Gran Meliá Iguazú, Iguazu Falls or similar

Day 19: 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: Miramar by Windsor Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro or similar

Day 20: 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: Miramar by Windsor Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro or similar

Day 21: Rio de Janerio - Free Day

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

MEALS: Breakfast

OVERNIGHT: Miramar by Windsor Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro or similar

Day 22: 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.

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MEALS: Breakfast