

## Antarctica: the details



Below are the December 2024 Antarctica trip details. I hope you can join us; we have a fun and enthusiastic group planning to make the journey together! Please let me know what questions you have. Wade Watkins: 405-614-0848 or [watkins@globalokie.com](mailto:watkins@globalokie.com)

- Dates: You should arrive in Ushuaia, Argentina (airport code: USH) on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Typically to do this you should depart the US on December 26<sup>th</sup> (**please double check arrival date/time in USH**). The ship departs on December 29<sup>th</sup> and returns to Ushuaia on January 8<sup>th</sup>, but to allow for some flexibility, the plan is to have hotel rooms provided that night and you can depart the 9<sup>th</sup> (or later if you'd like!). However, it is possible to depart Ushuaia late afternoon of the 8<sup>th</sup> if you need to get home. There are flights to Buenos Aires that afternoon and late-departing redeye flights from Buenos Aires to the US.
- Airfare: not included (but I'm happy to assist and have a great partner in Argentina who can provide domestic flights and pre- and/or post-voyage excursions to Buenos Aires, Iguazu Falls, and more.) Typical flights run \$1200-1500 to Buenos Aires roundtrip. And roundtrip flights Buenos Aires to Ushuaia between \$300-350.
- Provided Hotel: three nights in Ushuaia near port – Pre-voyage: December 27 & 28, and, Post voyage: January 8 (twin, double, or triple room with private bath)
- Ushuaia (Patagonia) time: upon arrival in Ushuaia on December 27<sup>th</sup>, take a cab or uber to hotel (approximately \$8). Can arrange private pick-up if preferred. Meals on own on the 27<sup>th</sup>, but quite happy to assist with some meet-ups so people can start getting acquainted (FB Group; WhatsApp group). And there might be an informal social gathering of some sort 😊
  - o December 28: breakfast at hotel; half-day Tierra del Fuego National Park bus tour with lunch; free time to get ready for Antarctica voyage! Group dinner.
  - o December 29<sup>th</sup>: breakfast at hotel; bit of free time; group lunch; board MV Ushuaia in the afternoon! Embark for Antarctica!!!
  - o Dec 29-Jan 8: board the MV Ushuaia! – Drake Passage, explore Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands; all meals included; educational programs and approximately 7-10 zodiac landings
  - o December 8: arrive back in Ushuaia; transfer to hotel; free time/lunch on own; group farewell dinner
  - o December 9<sup>th</sup>: breakfast at hotel, self-transfer to airport for flight home or elsewhere.
- Detailed Itinerary: see other attachment
- Pricing:
  - o Includes: three nights in Ushuaia hotel near port, meals in Ushuaia as noted above, half-day Tierra del Fuego (Patagonia) National Park tour, ship transfers, all meals on ship, shore excursions and activities, program of lectures by noted naturalists and expedition staff, service taxes and port

charges during voyage, comprehensive pre-departure materials, and a detailed post-expedition log.

- Does not include: airfare, airport transfers, passport and visa fees, customary crew tips (guidelines will be provided in line with industry standards), **travel/baggage/medical/cancellation insurance (strongly recommended)**, pre- and post-trip extensions, additional excursions, arrival and departure taxes, bar and beverage charges, and miscellaneous spending.
  - Standard: \$10,900 per person – outside cabins with portholes, two berths (upper and lower), semi-private bathroom (two cabins share one locking bathroom [toilet and shower] accessible from both cabins; each cabin has its own sink)
  - Standard Plus: \$12,710 per person – outside cabins with porthole or window. Two lower berths. Private bath.
  - Triple Plus: \$10,300 per person – ONLY TWO AVAILABLE - outside cabins, three lower berths, private bath.
- For solo travelers, we can do our best to arrange roommate of same gender from our group or other group.
- Other cabin types available upon request (see ship details)

- Payment info:

- *Initial deposit:* \$1,500 - due as soon as possible to ensure reservation.
- *Second Payment:* \$4,000 – due before March 1, 2024
- *Balance due:* before August 1, 2024
- Payment methods:
  - Personal check (payable to “GlobalOkie”)
  - Electronic bank transfer (call me)
  - Meta/FaceBook Pay (GlobalOkie)
  - Venmo (GlobalOkieTravel)
  - Credit Card via Square (call me, I’ll text you a payment link)
- Cancellation Policy:
  - Before September 15, 2023: full refund minus a \$500 cancellation fee
  - Between September 16, 2023 and February 28, 2024: a 50% cancellation fee will apply
  - Between March 1, 2024 and July 31, 2024: a 75% cancellation fee will apply (will attempt to secure additional refund via a cancellation with replacement participant if possible)
  - After August 1<sup>st</sup>: a 100% cancellation fee will apply

**\*Strongly recommend travel/medical/trip cancellation-interruption insurance is purchased.**

- Additional Excursions:

- If you would like to spend more time in Argentina or perhaps Chile, or you need domestic air to/from Ushuaia (for example if you book mileage ticket or lower priced roundtrip in/out of Buenos Aires), I have a wonderful local partner EuroTur that will provide these options. Just let me know what you need!

## Tentative Antarctica Itinerary



**Dec 25/26:** depart US (air not included)

**Dec 27:** arrive Ushuaia- self-transfer to hotel (taxi ~US\$8-10); hotel included (meals on own the 27th)

**Dec 28:** B/L/D included: half day Tierra Del Fuego tour; free time to explore Ushuaia and get ready for our Antarctic adventure!

### **Dec 29: Embark in Ushuaia**

- All Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner included on ship

Embark the MV Ushuaia in the afternoon and meet your expedition and lecture staff. After you have settled into your cabin, sail along the famous Beagle Channel and the scenic Mackinlay Pass.

### **Dec 30/31: Cross the Drake Passage**

Named after the renowned explorer, Sir Frances Drake, who sailed these waters in 1578, the Drake Passage also marks the Antarctic Convergence, a biological barrier where cold polar water sinks beneath the warmer northern waters. This creates a great upwelling of nutrients, which sustains the biodiversity of this region. The Drake Passage also marks the northern limit of many Antarctic seabirds. As you sail across the passage, lecturers are out with you on deck to help in the identification of an amazing variety of seabirds, including many albatrosses which follow in your wake. The Ushuaia's open bridge policy allows you to join the officers on the bridge and learn about navigation, watch for whales, and enjoy the view. A full program of lectures is offered as well.

The first sightings of icebergs and snow-capped mountains indicate that you have reached the South Shetland Islands, a group of twenty islands and islets first sighted in February 1819 by Capt. William Smith of the brig Williams. With favorable conditions in the Drake Passage, your lecturers and naturalists accompany you ashore as you experience your first encounter with the penguins and seals on Day 3.

### **Jan 1-5: Explore the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands**

The South Shetland Islands are a haven for wildlife. Vast penguin rookeries, beaches ruled by Antarctic fur seals and Southern elephant seals make every day spent in this amazing island group unforgettable. Sailing through the narrow passage into the flooded caldera of Deception Island is truly amazing.

King George Island, the largest of the South Shetland Islands, features colonies of nesting Adélie and chinstrap penguins, kelp gulls, blue-eyed cormorants, Antarctic terns and southern giant petrels and is home to scientific bases of many different countries. Macaroni, chinstrap and gentoo penguins as well as elephant seals await you at Livingston Island.

The Antarctic Peninsula's remarkable history provides you with a type of excitement often only associated with the early explorers. You have plenty of time to explore its amazing scenery, a pristine wilderness of snow, ice, mountains and waterways, and an incredible wide variety of wildlife. Apart from penguins and seabirds you are very likely to see Weddell, crabeater and leopard seals as well as Minke, killer (orca) and humpback whales at close range.

Navigate some of the most beautiful waterways (depending on the ice conditions): the Gerlache Strait, the Neumayer Channel, and the Lemaire Channel, the latter are narrow passages between towering rock faces and spectacular glaciers. Plan to make at least two landings per day. Paradise Bay is perhaps the most aptly named place in the world; attempt a landing on the continent proper. After negotiating the iceberg-strewn waters of the Antarctic Sound, hope to visit the bustling Adélie penguin (over 100,000 pairs breed here) and blue-eyed cormorant colonies on Paulet Island. The Nordenskjöld expedition built a stone survival hut here in 1903. Today its ruins have been taken over by nesting penguins. Further exploration may take you to the Melchior Island group, Cuverville Island, Portal Point, Neko Harbour, Pléneau Island and if ice conditions permit, to Petermann Island for a visit to the southernmost colony of gentoo penguins.

### **Jan 6/7: Northbound Across the Drake Passage**

Leave Antarctica and head north across the Drake Passage. Join your lecturers and naturalists on deck as you search for seabirds and whales and enjoy some final lectures. Take the chance to relax and reflect on the fascinating adventures of the past days on the way back to Ushuaia.

### **Jan 8: Disembark in Ushuaia**

- Arrive at the port of Ushuaia in the early morning and disembark after breakfast; lunch on own; free time; group farewell dinner.
- Hotel in Ushuaia included

### **Jan 9: Depart Ushuaia**

- breakfast included; checkout of hotel; self-transfer to airport

**Flights and airport transfers not included. Ushuaia taxis are \$8 each way to/from airport.**

## CLASSIC ANTARCTICA

Expedition cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands aboard the USHUAIA

### DAY 1: Depart from Ushuaia

Embark the USHUAIA in the afternoon and meet your expedition and lecture staff. After you have settled into your cabins we sail along the famous Beagle Channel and the scenic Mackinlay Pass.

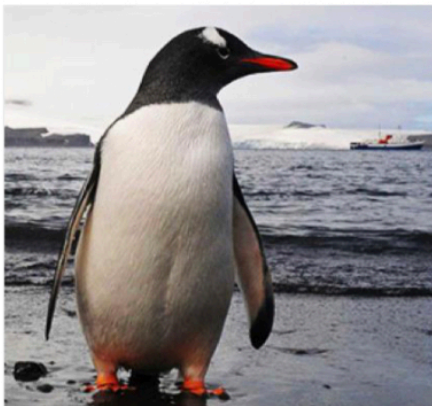
### DAY 2 & 3: Crossing the Drake Passage

Named after the renowned explorer, Sir Francis Drake, who sailed these waters in 1578, the Drake Passage also marks the Antarctic Convergence, a biological barrier where cold polar water sinks beneath the warmer northern waters. This creates a great upwelling of nutrients, which sustains the biodiversity of this region. The Drake Passage also marks the northern limit of many Antarctic seabirds. As we sail across the passage, Antarply Expeditions' lecturers will be out with you on deck to help in the identification of an amazing variety of seabirds, including many albatrosses, which follow in our wake. The USHUAIA's open bridge policy allows you to join our officers on the bridge and learn about navigation, watch for whales, and enjoy the view. A full program of lectures will be offered as well.



The first sightings of icebergs and snow-capped mountains indicate that we have reached the South Shetland Islands, a group of twenty islands and islets first sighted in February 1819 by Capt. William Smith of the brig *Williams*. With favorable conditions in the Drake Passage our lecturers and naturalists will accompany you ashore as you experience your first encounter with the penguins and seals on Day 3.

### DAY 4 to 7: Exploring the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands



The South Shetland Islands are a haven for wildlife. Vast penguin rookeries, beaches ruled by Antarctic fur seals and Southern elephant seals make every day spent in this amazing island group unforgettable. Sailing through the narrow passage into the flooded caldera of Deception Island is breathtaking.

King George Island, the largest of the South Shetland Islands, features colonies of nesting Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins, Kelp Gulls, Blue-eyed Cormorants, Antarctic Terns and Southern Giant Petrels and is home to scientific bases of many different countries. Chinstrap and Gentoo Penguins as well as elephant seals await you at Livingston Island.

The Antarctic Peninsula's remarkable history will provide you with a type of excitement often only associated with the early explorers. You will have plenty of time to explore its amazing scenery, a pristine wilderness of snow, ice, mountains and waterways, and an incredible wide variety of wildlife. Apart from penguins and seabirds you are very likely to see Weddell, crabeater and leopard seals as well as Minke, killer (orca) and humpback whales at close range.

We hope to navigate some of the most beautiful waterways (depending on the ice conditions): the Gerlache Strait, the Neumayer Channel, and the Lemaire Channel, the latter are narrow passages between towering rock faces and spectacular glaciers. We plan to make at least two landings per day and possible landing sites may include:

Paradise Bay is perhaps the most aptly named place in the world and we attempt a landing on the continent proper. After negotiating the iceberg-strewn waters of the Antarctic Sound, we hope to visit the bustling Adélie Penguin (over 100,000 pairs breed here) and Blue-eyed Cormorant colonies on Paulet Island. The Nordenskjöld expedition built a stone survival hut here in 1903. Today its ruins have been taken over by nesting penguins.

Further exploration may take you to the Melchior Island group, Cuverville Island, Portal Point, Neko Harbour, Pléneau Island and if ice conditions permit, to Petermann Island for a visit to the southernmost colony of Gentoo Penguins.

#### DAY 8 & 9: At Sea crossing the Drake Passage, northbound

We leave Antarctica and head north across the Drake Passage. Join our lecturers and naturalists on deck as we search for seabirds and whales and enjoy some final lectures. Take the chance to relax and reflect on the fascinating adventures of the past days on the way back to Ushuaia.

#### DAY 10: Arrival in Ushuaia

We arrive at the port of Ushuaia in the early morning and disembark the USHUAIA after breakfast.



**Please note:** The above itinerary is a guide only. Our exact route and program will vary to take best advantage of local weather and ice conditions and opportunities to view wildlife. Changes will be made by the Captain and/or Expedition Leader to facilitate the best results from the prevailing conditions. A daily program sheet will be issued on board. Flexibility is the key to success.

The itineraries for A121124, A101224, A291224, A080125 and A260225 will offer an extra day in the area of the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands.



## THE USHUAIA



Originally built for the United States agency NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration), the USHUAIA has been refurbished to accommodate a maximum of 90 passengers in 46 comfortable cabins and suites.

The ice-strengthened polar vessel USHUAIA is very well appointed and provides ample deck space and an open bridge policy. The full complement of inflatable landing craft ensures superb landings and wildlife viewing opportunities on the otherwise inaccessible coastline.

All cabins include ample storage space. Public areas feature a large dining room (one sitting), an open-plan observation lounge / lecture room with modern multimedia equipment, bar and a well-stocked library. There is also a small infirmary.



Our expert captain, officers and crew are highly experienced in Antarctic navigation and have a great love of nature. We provide a specialist team of international expedition leaders and lecturers, all extremely knowledgeable, enthusiastic, helpful and dedicated to the protection of the environment. Our chefs prepare excellent cuisine including many local specialties and the bar is well-stocked with carefully selected wines and spirits.

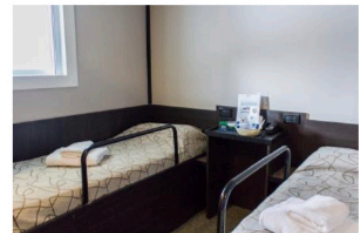
### Accommodation:

- Suites:** 4 Outside cabins with windows on the upper deck G, private facilities, two lower berths, lounge, TV, DVD player and fridge. Suite 201 features two double beds, Suite 202 one double bed and a sofa bed. Suites 204 and 207 feature three lower single beds.
- Superior:** 9 Twin outside cabins with windows on the upper deck G, private facilities, two lower berths. Cabin 301 has one double and one single bed.
- Premier:** 6 Twin outside cabins with windows on the upper deck G, private facilities, two lower berths;  
2 Single cabins with portholes (view obstructed by lifeboat) on the upper deck G, private facilities.
- Standard Plus:** 11 Twin outside cabins with portholes or windows on deck E, private facilities, two lower berths. Cabin 640 has one double bed.  
2 Triple outside cabins with windows on deck E, private facilities, three lower berths.
- Standard:** 12 Twin outside cabins with portholes on deck E, semi-private facilities, two berths (upper/lower).

**N.B.** Semi-private facilities: Two cabins share one bathroom accessible from both cabins (shower and wc). Each cabin is also equipped with its own washbasin.



Superior



Standard Plus with window

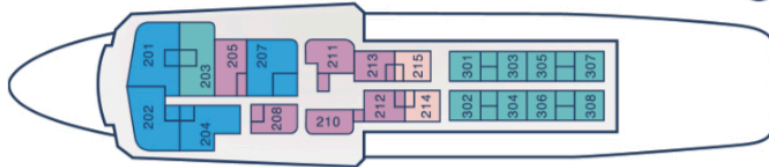


**DECK PLAN**

BRIDGE DECK **H**

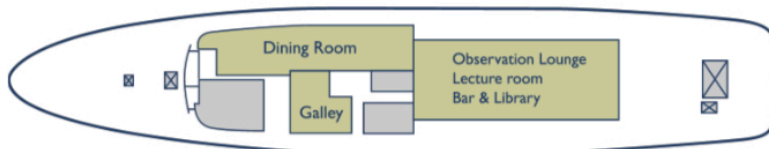


UPPER DECK **G**



- 4 Suites
- 6 Premier twin private cabins
- 2 Premier single private cabins
- 9 Superior twin private cabins

MAIN DECK **F**



DECK **E**



- 12 Standard twin semi-private cabins
- 11 Standard Plus twin private cabins
- 2 Standard Plus triple private cabins

