

GlobalOkie Antarctica: the details



Congratulations! You've taken the first step on what I promise will be an INCREDIBLE adventure! Whether this will be your final continent to visit, or you're seeking a fun travel experience with a small group of fellow culturally-curious travelers...this guided journey will not disappoint! I hope you join GlobalOkie Travel on our THIRD visit to the White Continent and enjoy the camaraderie of your shipmates, and unforgettable penguins, seals, whales, icebergs, scientific bases, and much more! Going with GlobalOkie Travel will provide a lifetime of surreal memories as you explore a wide variety of Antarctic locations with fellow travelers who enjoy not just visiting a destination, but truly experiencing it in a way that will allow for immense personal learning and enjoyment!

For GlobalOkie's Antarctic voyages, we utilize a limited-passenger expedition vessel, purpose-built for polar exploration. Therefore, what you will experience is an authentic voyage of Antarctic discovery and exploration, rather than a "luxury cruise". With no more than 88 passengers, there's exceptional access to the continent, as well as the expedition education team, open bridge, and incredible crew. These types of interactions simply would not be possible on larger vessels. The on-board naturalists don't just lecture – they explore alongside you, sharing decades of polar expertise in an atmosphere that feels more like a research expedition than a commercial cruise. The smaller number of passengers means more time for you to explore during landings on the continent – the entire community can disembark each stop as opposed to larger vessels which must operate in rotational groups, limiting time ashore and creating crowded conditions. No rushed shore time, no divided groups missing shared discovery. The smaller ship means more access for passengers, and provides easier navigation through narrow channels, bays, and landing sites!

Below are the December 2027 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. But, considering making your deposit as soon as possible as the spaces will fill quickly for this trip! Wade Watkins: 405-614-0848 or watkins@globalokie.com

- Dates: You should arrive in Ushuaia, Argentina (airport code: USH) on December 26th, 2027. Typically to do this you should plan to depart the US NO LATER than December 25th (**please double check arrival date/time in USH**). The ship departs on December 28th and returns to Ushuaia on January 6th, but to allow for some flexibility, the plan is to have hotel rooms provided the 6th and you can depart the 7th (or later if you'd like!). However, it is possible to depart Ushuaia late afternoon of the 6th 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 suggest routes) Typical flights run \$1500-1800 to Buenos Aires roundtrip. And roundtrip flights Buenos Aires to Ushuaia between \$350-500. Flight prices can vary given we have set departure days.
- Provided Hotel: three nights in Ushuaia near port – Pre-voyage: December 26 & 27, and, Post voyage: January 6 (twin, double, or triple room with private bath). Early or late hotel nights can be arranged via GlobalOkie Travel.

- Ushuaia (Patagonia) time:

- Upon arrival in Ushuaia on December 26th, take a cab or uber to hotel (approximately \$10). Can arrange private pick-up if preferred. Meals on own on the 26th, 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 😊
- December 27: breakfast at hotel; half-day Tierra del Fuego National Park 4x4 tour with Argentinian steak lunch; free time to get ship snacks and last-minute items for Antarctica voyage! Dinner in Ushuaia independently (many choices very near hotel).
- December 28th: breakfast at hotel; a bit of free time/hotel checkout; lunch on your own; board MV Ushuaia in the afternoon! Embark for Antarctica!!!
- Dec 28-Jan 6: board the MV Ushuaia! – Drake Passage, explore Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands; all meals included; educational programs and approximately 7-10 zodiac landings
- December 6: arrive back in Ushuaia; transfer to hotel (store luggage if rooms not available yet); free time/lunch on own; group farewell dinner
- December 7th: breakfast at hotel, self-transfer to airport for flight home or elsewhere.

- Pricing:

- Includes: three nights in Ushuaia hotel near port, meals in Ushuaia as noted, half-day Tierra del Fuego (Patagonia) National Park 4x4 tour, escort to ship, all meals on ship, shore excursions and included 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), additional baggage portage to/from ship (if needed), **travel/baggage/medical/cancellation insurance (required)**, pre- and post-trip extensions, additional land and optional ship activities, Argentinian arrival and departure taxes, bar and beverage charges, laundry, and miscellaneous spending.
- Cabin (room) types/program cost (per person, twin occupancy unless choosing single room/cabin option):
 - Standard Twin: \$11,700 per person – outside cabins with portholes, two berths (**please note: this cabin option has one upper bunk and one lower bunk**), semi-private bathroom (two twin cabins share one locking bathroom [toilet and shower] accessible from both cabins; each cabin has its own sink) MOST AFFORDABLE
 - * Standard Twin Plus: \$13,200 per person – outside cabins with porthole or window. Two lower berths. Private bath. RECOMMENDED
 - Triple Plus: \$11,000 per person – **WAITLISTED** - outside cabin, three lower berths, private bath.
 - Premier Twin: \$14,500 per person – outside cabin with windows on upper deck, Private bath. Two lower berths.
 - Premier SINGLE cabin: \$17,500 – outside cabin with window on upper deck, Private bath. View partially obstructed by lifeboat. Lower berth.

- *Superior Twin*: \$15,700 per person – outside cabin with windows on upper deck. Private bath. Two lower berths. One cabin with double + single beds.
 - *Suite*: \$16,500 per person – outside cabin with windows on upper deck. Private bath. Two lower berths, lounge, DVD player, fridge. Various cabin/bed configurations. Discount for children in cabin.
 - For solo travelers, we can do our best to arrange roommate of same gender from our group or other group. Single rate may apply (1.5x twin rate).
 - Limited Complimentary Starlink Wifi included with each cabin category
- Payment info:
 - *Initial deposit*: \$2,000 - due as soon as possible to ensure reservation.
 - *Second Payment*: \$4,000 – due before March 1, 2027
 - *Balance due*: before August 1, 2027
 - Payment methods:
 - Personal check (payable to “GlobalOkie”)
 - Electronic bank transfer (call me)
 - Venmo/CashApp/PayPal (GlobalOkie)
 - Credit Card via Square (call me, I’ll text you a payment link)
 - Cancellation Policy:
 - Before March 1, 2027: full refund minus a \$1000 cancellation fee
 - Between March 1, 2027 and July 31, 2027: a 50% cancellation fee will apply (will attempt to secure additional refund via a cancellation with replacement participant if possible)
 - After August 1, 2027: a 100% cancellation fee will apply
 - * **Purchasing travel/medical/trip cancellation-interruption insurance is required.**
- Additional Excursions:
 - *Snowshoeing on Antarctica*: Enjoy guided snowshoe walks across the Antarctic landscape. Included free of charge (poles and snowshoes provided). One experience per voyage.
 - *Kayaking*: Experience Antarctica at sea level in a safe and accessible way. No previous kayaking experience required. Limited space available (Max 8 participants per outing). Subject to weather and expedition conditions. \$250 per person.
 - *Overnight camping on the continent!* Spend a night in Antarctica – a unique and unforgettable experience under the polar sky! Limited availability (15-35 per voyage). One event per voyage. Subject to weather and operational conditions. \$395 per person.

To Enroll:

- Read the trip terms and conditions in this document (deposit and cancelation policy differ slightly from the standard GlobalOkie Travel terms and conditions which are available on the GlobalOkie Travel website). Go to the www.globalokie.com website; near the bottom of the page, click on the link “ONLINE 2025-26 Enrollment Form”; complete and submit the online enrollment form; Contact Wade regarding deposit payment preference via check, Venmo, CashApp, Credit Card (Square link can be texted or emailed). You’re enrolled!!!

Tentative Antarctica Itinerary



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

Dec 26: arrive Ushuaia, Argentina - self-transfer to hotel (taxi/Uber ~US\$8-10); hotel included (meals on own)

Dec 27: B/L included: half day Tierra Del Fuego 4x4 tour, Argentinian steak lunch; free time to explore Ushuaia and get ready for our Antarctic adventure! Dinner on own.

Dec 28: Embark in Ushuaia

- Breakfast included at hotel; lunch on-own in Ushuaia; 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 29/30: 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.

Dec 31-Jan 3: 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. Possible polar plunge!

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 4/5: 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 6: 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 7: Depart Ushuaia

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

Flights and airport transfers not included. Ushuaia taxis are appx \$8-10 each way to/from airport.



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.



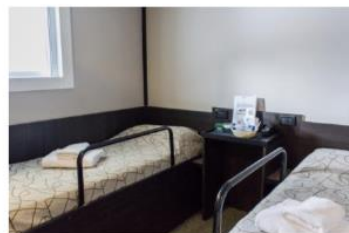
Accommodation:

- 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



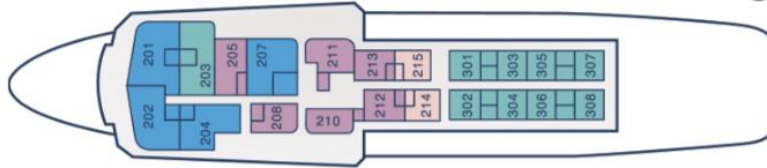
Standard Plus with window

DECK PLAN

BRIDGE DECK **H**

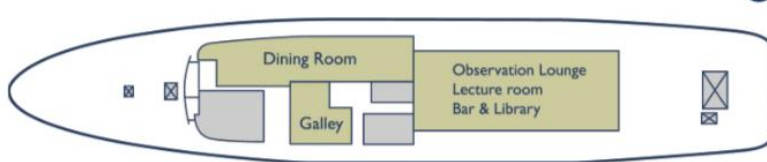


UPPER DECK **G**



- 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