

ANTARCTIC 2026/2027

Antarctic Marine Mammals: The World of Whales & Seals

 WORLD VOYAGER



Contents

1	Expedition Overview
2	Itinerary
5	Science & Discovery
6	Arrival and Departure Details, and International Flight Planning
8	Your Ship: <i>World Voyager</i>
9	Included Activities
10	Adventure Options
11	Departure Date
12	Inclusions and Exclusions
13	Marine Mammal Experts
14	Your Expedition Team
15	Extend Your Trip
16	Meals on Board
17	Possible Excursions
20	Packing Checklist



Expedition Overview

Antarctic Marine Mammals: The World of Whales & Seals

Imagine sitting in a Zodiac or kayak in the waters off the Antarctic Peninsula in the company of marine mammal scientists, listening to whale sounds—sometimes haunting, sometimes melodic—from deep beneath the ocean surface. You, the guest, aren't merely an observer; you're a participant in citizen science. With the deployment of portable hydrophone units—just one aspect of the 11-day hands-on *Antarctic Marine Mammals: The World of Whales & Seals*—you'll have access to an audio portal into the underwater world of the Antarctic Peninsula. In that moment, as you assist experts who are collecting data on various aspects of whale behavior, you are helping to protect one of the most majestic marine mammals to grace the Antarctic.

Throughout this unique expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands, guests will explore alongside Ari Friedlaender, founder of the Friedlaender Lab, a highly respected marine mammal research group at the University of California. Friedlaender co-developed this 11-day itinerary that will maximize migratory whale sightings, primarily minke, humpback and fin whales. Throughout the voyage, guests will learn from Friedlaender and his team, who focus on new biotelemetry technology to better understand the underwater behavior and ecology of whales. You will also have access to a research associate from Happywhale, the educational platform that engages citizen scientists to identify individual whale species for research and conservation purposes (see page 13).

A special component of this trip is the Science Hub (see page 5), where you can engage with whale experts, contribute to citizen science projects, and ultimately play a vital role in conserving this pristine polar habitat for all marine mammals.

HIGHLIGHTS



Engage with globally-respected scientists who are actively collecting data on Antarctic marine mammals, especially whales



Participate in hands-on marine mammal identification workshops



Explore highlights of the Antarctic Peninsula



Learn about Antarctic wildlife, history, geology and glaciology from onboard polar experts



In addition observing whales, witness penguins, seals and birds



Immerse yourself in the icy realm of the Antarctic with an optional paddling excursion.



SCIENCE & DISCOVERY

NEW

In addition to daily presentations by polar experts, this itinerary also features hands-on educational opportunities as part of our new Science & Discovery program.



Itinerary

DAY 1 | ARRIVE IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Upon arriving in this fascinating South American city, known for its vibrant Argentinian culture, European architecture and cosmopolitan vibe, you will independently transfer to your pre-expedition hotel night, included in the Charter Flight and Hotel Package.

DAY 2 | FLY TO USHUAIA AND EMBARK

After an early breakfast at the hotel, the group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, Argentina. Upon arrival, you will be transferred from the airport to a central downtown location to enjoy time on your own to explore this quaint port town before making your way to the designated meeting spot near the pier, where you will be transferred to the ship for embarkation.

After a late afternoon embarkation, we will sail along the historic Beagle Channel, which transects the Tierra del Fuego archipelago in the extreme south of South America. Expect an air of anticipation as you depart—the next time you see land, you'll be in the remote Antarctic wilderness.

DAY 3 AT SEA | DRAKE PASSAGE SOUTHBOUND

Crossing the 800-km Drake is considered a rite of passage for many travelers. Traversing this legendary waterway means you'll experience the Antarctic Convergence, where the cold, northward-flowing Antarctic waters meet the warmer, southward-flowing water of the sub-Antarctic. The mixing of cold and warm waters creates a nutrient-rich feeding ground, especially for whales and other marine mammals. Guests are encouraged



ANTARCTIC MARINE MAMMALS: The World of Whales & Seals

- Onboard *World Voyager*
- - - - - Flights to/from Buenos Aires

to keep binoculars close at hand—and to be prepared for Expedition Team members to announce any whale sightings.

The team of guest scientists will be introduced early in the voyage. Ari Friedlaender, who co-developed this itinerary, and members of his team from the Friedlaender Lab, are global authorities on the underwater behavior and ecology of marine mammals, particularly whales. Guests will also meet a research associate with the Happywhale platform, which enables citizens to upload their whale photos to help identify species and, possibly, individual whales. (See bios, page 13).

DAY 4: AT SEA | SAILING TOWARD ANTARCTICA

The second day of your Drake Passage crossing is an ideal time to attend scheduled polar presentations that will enhance your Antarctic experience. It's also an excellent opportunity to visit the

Science Hub on Deck 4 (see page 5), an instrumental part of your voyage. Spend time on deck watching for whales, which increase in number as we approach the Peninsula—and remember to upload your whale photos to the Happywhale platform.

DAYS 5 TO 7 | ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

The timing of this voyage maximizes opportunities to observe various whale species along the Antarctic Peninsula. After the ice recedes in October and November, the food chain begins to re-establish itself. Whales, seals and other marine mammals are drawn to these rich feeding grounds—especially for the krill. By February and March, these creatures, which have been intensely feeding, are satiated and relaxed, making them more easier to spot. In addition to the Zodiac and paddling excursions, we plan to spend a lot of time on the outer decks and other vantage points on the ship to spot—and photograph—wildlife.

We'll spend our days in key marine mammal habitats of the Gerlache Strait and remote inner glacial bays. Over the next three days, we aim to explore whale hotspots such as Charlotte Bay, Portal Point, Graham Passage, Errera Channel, Cuverville Island, Andvord Bay, Fournier Bay and Dallmann Bay.

Past whale sightings in these areas have included minke, humpback, fin, orca and the elusive, deep-diving Arnoux's beaked whale.

Antarctic Marine Mammals: The World of Whales & Seals is our only itinerary during which we'll deploy hydrophones—underwater microphones that detect and record sound below the surface. You will have opportunities—during Zodiac cruises and paddling programs—to accompany Friedlaender Lab scientists as they deploy hydrophones to monitor and study marine mammal behavior, such as the vocalizations of whales. Four scientists will accompany guests in Zodiacs, with



one hydrophone shared between two groups. Speakers will enable participants to listen for and, hopefully, hear whale sounds beneath the ocean surface. Engaging with scientists who are actively collecting and collating data that can be shared in real time on the water, and, through digital visual aids, brings marine biology to life in a way that transcends the water line. This activity is also available to *World Voyager* guests who join the Stand-Up Paddle Boarding (SUP) program.

In addition to the citizen science programming, this itinerary will also feature the wonders of Antarctica: penguins, seals, immense glaciers, snow-capped mountains, icebergs, shore landings, and the polar plunge.

DAY 8 | SOUTH SHETLANDS

Rounding out our marine mammal experiences, we hope to witness southern elephant seals in the rugged and fabled

South Shetland Islands. We'll also keep our fingers crossed for sightings of fin whales. We'll explore this geological and historic archipelago while prioritizing shore landings, which offer further opportunities for wildlife sightings.

Arriving in March allows us the rare opportunity to potentially explore key excursion sites such as Hannah Point, which is deemed a Restricted Area from early to mid-season. Massive populations of elephant seals and southern giant petrels make for awe-inspiring experiences. As with any expedition, shore landings along the coast are dependent on favorable weather.

DAY 9 | AT SEA: DRAKE PASSAGE NORTHBOUND

Today is the start of the journey back across the Drake Passage. This is an excellent opportunity to spend more time engaging with the Friedlaender Lab scientists, or attend one of the scheduled polar presentations.

DAY 10 | AT SEA: LAST SAILING DAY

Today is your last opportunity to visit Quark Expeditions' new Science Hub and contribute to citizen science that will support marine mammal conservation efforts. In the words of Sir David Attenborough: "No one will protect what they don't care about. And no one will care about what they have never experienced."

DAY 11 | DISEMBARK IN USHUAIA AND FLY TO BUENOS AIRES

You will arrive in Ushuaia in the morning and disembark after breakfast. Guests will be transferred to the airport for the return group charter flight to Buenos Aires.



EXPEDITION SPIRIT

Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, ice and weather to guide the route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you may experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. By the same token, wildlife encounters as described are expected, but not guaranteed. Your Expedition Team will use their considerable experience to seek out wildlife in known habitats, but the presence of any particular species of bird or marine wildlife is not guaranteed.



Science & Discovery

with Quark Expeditions

A new initiative designed to foster community, curiosity and education.

Beginning in 2026 on select *World Voyager* itineraries, Quark Expeditions is collaborating with leading scientists and researchers to enrich guest learning on- and off-ship.

Guest Engagement: Through researcher-led sessions, and interactive learning and field experiences with our expedition team, guests will gain a better understanding and appreciation of the polar wilderness.

This Science & Discovery program will enable guests to:

- **Interact and connect with scientists and researchers** who are actively collecting data during expeditions.
- **Participate in citizen science programming** to broaden their understanding and knowledge of the incredible polar ecosystem.
- **Work with our expedition team** to help collect and record data, ranging from experiences such as conducting seabird surveys on deck to documenting whale sightings on Zodiac excursions or joining interactive sampling activities to measure water conditions.

SCIENCE IN THE FIELD

Quark Expeditions is supporting academic research through partnerships with institutions such as Penguin Watch at Oxford Brookes University, and Friedlaender Lab at University of California Santa Cruz to deepen our understanding through access to projects that are contributing to published research and projects of high importance.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

To support the work of Happywhale, the Polar Citizen Science Collective, and other citizen science projects, guests can engage in meaningful scientific data collection that supports targeted field research.

QUARK SCIENCE HUB

This designated space on *World Voyager* enables guests to share knowledge, information and insights with scientists, researchers, and our Expedition Guides.



Gather with scientists, researchers and expedition guides to share findings and insights from the voyage.



Engage with interactive digital displays featuring multimedia content for self-guided discovery even when staff aren't present.



Learn how data collection methods, such as drones, wildlife tags, and biopsy and guano sampling, enable us to study the health, population, and migratory pathways of unique birds, whales, seals and other Antarctic marine mammals.



Review and discuss observations and explore samples collected during science Zodiac cruises with other participants.

Note: The Science Hub is open to guests for self-guided exploration when staff are otherwise occupied.





The Buenos Aires skyline: a vibrant architectural mosaic

Arrival and Departure Details, and International Flight Planning



Arrival Day and Embarkation

DAY 1 — ARRIVING IN BUENOS AIRES AND HOTEL NIGHT

Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, you will make your way to the designated group hotel, which is included in your Charter Flight and Hotel Package. A presentation room will be open from 12 pm to 8 pm for luggage weighing and tagging. A Quark Expeditions representative will be available to answer your questions and give information about the next day's flight and ship embarkation. After an early breakfast the following morning, your group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world.

DAY 2 — USHUAIA AND EMBARKATION

In Ushuaia your Charter Flight and Hotel Package will provide some free time to explore this quaint port town.

We will transfer the group to the ship for embarkation around 4 pm.

CHARTER FLIGHT LUGGAGE LIMIT

This expedition includes a return charter flight between Buenos Aires and Ushuaia. Your package includes one checked bag and one cabin bag. Luggage weight restrictions on these flights are typically less than those on international carriers. There are no options to pay for additional luggage, but additional baggage may be stored at the hotel in Buenos Aires. Specific weight restrictions will be confirmed in your final travel documents.

Final Day and Departure

DISSEMBARKATION IN USHUAIA

The ship is scheduled to arrive back at the pier in Ushuaia between 7 am and 8 am. After breakfast you will bid farewell to your Expedition Team before completing your disembarkation. This process takes approximately one hour.

DEPARTING FROM BUENOS AIRES

Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, you may be able to connect directly with your homeward flight. Our charter flight lands at Buenos Aires international airport (Ministro Pistarini International — EZE). The included flight lands at approximately 5 p.m. We recommend you only select flights departing after 9 p.m.

Check your itinerary carefully before booking. Some South America-bound flights originate at Jorge Newbery Airport (IATA code: AEP), which is also known as Aeroparque (IATA airport code: AEP). Due to unpredictable traffic in Buenos Aires, we recommend you only select flights departing Jorge Newbery Airport after 10 p.m.

For the absolute safest travel plans, we recommend that you book an extra hotel night in Buenos Aires between flights. Expedition travel is occasionally unpredictable. We strongly recommend booking flexible international air tickets. Quark Expeditions is not responsible for any air ticket change costs you may incur.

PLEASE NOTE

Included Hotel Accommodations:

Your included accommodation that's part of your Charter Flight and Hotel Package begins on Day 1 of your itinerary. The specific hotel will be indicated on your final voyage confirmation. If you are arriving prior to Day 1 of your expedition or are staying after the disembarkation day and would like help booking a pre- or post-stay, please contact your preferred travel agent or Quark Expeditions for hotel options. As accommodation space is limited, you are encouraged to request any extra nights as early as possible.

Arrival and Departure Transfers

BUENOS AIRES AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Arrival transfers from your international flights in Buenos Aires are not included; however, your Travel Professional or Polar Travel Advisor can arrange them for you.

We request that you provide your flight details to Quark Expeditions at least 30 days prior to traveling.



Ushuaia: the southernmost city in the world.



Your Ship

WORLD VOYAGER

World Voyager—the newest addition to our fleet—is a modern expedition ship built for science and discovery. Every design element, from the deluxe, all-balcony suites—with direct views into the surrounding polar wilderness—to the presentation theaters and Science Hub, embody the spirit of discovery: the never-ending urge to explore and learn more about our polar wilderness.

Wellness amenities, such as Tundra Spa & Sauna, the swimming pool, Jacuzzis and outdoor running track, allow guests to rejuvenate throughout their polar expedition. The beautifully-designed Beacon Restaurant and spacious lounges are ideal for guests to gather and engage in lively discussions about the day's discoveries. Another pivotal space on *World Voyager* is the Science Hub, where guests can share knowledge, information and insights with our scientists in residence and our Expedition Guides as part of our Science & Discovery program. The latest Rolls-Royce propulsion technology ensures a comfortable, fuel-efficient sailing experience as *World Voyager* navigates the Antarctic waters.

SHIP SPECIFICATIONS:

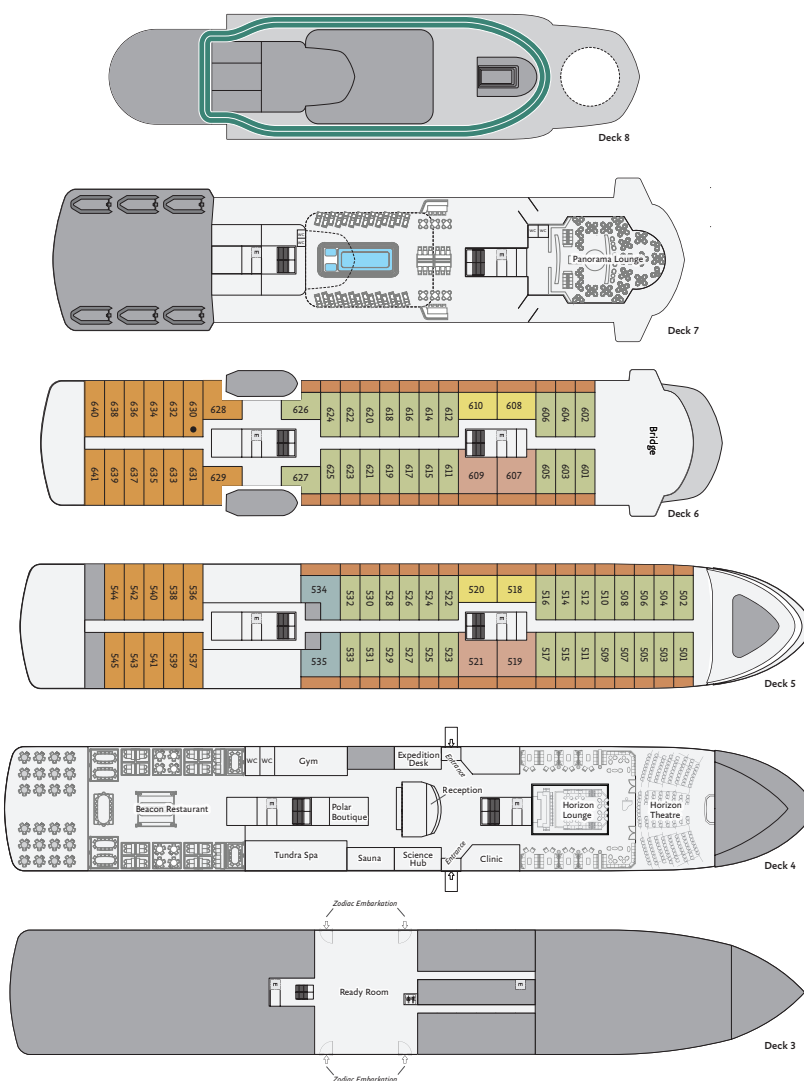
Staff and Crew: 125

Guests: 166

Lifeboats: 2, fully enclosed

Ice Class: 1B

Visit [QuarkExpeditions.com](https://www.quarkexpeditions.com) to view deck plan details.



World Voyager

- Owner's Suite
- Superior Suite
- Infinity Suite
- Deluxe Suite
- Veranda Suite
- Balcony

● Accessibility modified cabin; please speak to your travel professional for details



Included Activities

These are included in your trip package.



Ready for a little adventure beyond your ship? Each Quark Expeditions voyage offers a variety of immersive off-ship activities to enhance your polar experience.

ZODIAC CRUISING

Zodiacs—rugged inflatable watercraft—are the workhorses of polar expeditions, taking you to places the ships can't access, allowing you to reach remote shorelines, explore shallow inlets and search for unique wildlife. Expedition

staff make stepping in and out of them safe and comfortable, and your Zodiac drivers will provide active interpretation, making the landscape come even more alive.

HIKING

Hiking in Antarctica is free-form and supervised by our expert staff, who set out a perimeter or paths at each landing site within which you are free to explore. While you hike, staff will be available to enhance your experience by answering questions about the wildlife, history and geography of the area.

PRESENTATIONS

Attend presentations by our world-class polar experts to learn about the fascinating history, biology, ornithology, glaciology and geology of the region, among other subjects.

This itinerary also features hands-on educational and citizen science

opportunities—with a focus on marine mammals—as part of our new Science & Discovery program. See page 5.

POLAR PLUNGE

This rite of passage, scheduled only once per expedition, gives you the chance to jump safely into the bracing Antarctic waters under the watchful eye of our staff—and just about every single camera on board!

PHOTOGRAPHY

Documenting your voyage so you can take the memories home is a rewarding experience. Our photography guide will help you hone your skills to capture the beauty of the polar regions.

More information about your Included Activities and Adventure Options, including the necessary experience, physical requirements and cost, is available by contacting your Polar Travel Adviser or your travel professional.



Adventure Options

These activities cost extra and must be booked in advance of your trip.



STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

Combining a surfboard with a kayak, stand-up paddleboarding will give you a very personal and unique perspective on Antarctica. Conducted in small groups—in calm bays and harbors, in good weather conditions—and accompanied by a safety Zodiac, one-time stand-up paddleboarding excursions can be pre-booked into one of two priority groups. Any subsequent excursions can be booked on board, and groups will be assigned via a lottery.



PADDLING EXCURSION

If you're interested in kayaking but would like to try something a bit less demanding than Sea Kayaking, you're the perfect candidate to sign up for a one-time paddle on our stable sit-on-top kayaks—perfect for anyone with minimal or no kayaking experience. Small groups of paddlers will be taken out on calm days, with our expert guides always present to provide

instruction and help you connect with the polar sea. Pre-book into one of two priority groups. Any subsequent excursions can be booked on board, and groups will be assigned via a lottery as spaces are limited.



SEA KAYAKING

Imagine gliding across the surface of a bay in the presence of icebergs and glaciers. Our Sea Kayaking program is a great way to intimately explore your surroundings. A small group of kayakers will plan to go out multiple times per voyage as an alternative to shore landings or Zodiac cruises.

The number of opportunities to kayak is weather dependent, and will be conducted only during calm conditions. Prior kayaking experience is required, and you must be able to do a wet exit to participate. Beginners interested in kayaking should consider participating in the Paddling Excursion.

PLEASE NOTE




Pre-booking is required for all paid activities. We recommend booking early, as spaces fill quickly. Please see your pre-departure guide for a list of provided gear for each Adventure Option.



Departure Date

Antarctic Marine Mammals: The World of Whales & Seals

WORLD VOYAGER

			Adventure Options		
Dates	Days	Start / End			
ANTARCTIC 2026/2027					
MAR 5 - 15, 2027	11	Buenos Aires	\$	\$	\$

Raise a Glass and Stay Connected

See below for specifics on our complimentary Wi-Fi and bar service.



Inclusions and Exclusions

Inclusions

RATES INCLUDE:

For all voyages:

- An official Quark Expeditions parka to keep
- Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Team, including shore landings and other activities
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising as per the daily program
- All shore landings as per the daily program
- Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage.
- Complimentary select beer, wines and select cocktails during bar service hours and dinner
- Complimentary coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and guest speakers as scheduled

Your Charter Flight and Hotel Package includes:

- One night's pre-expedition hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires with breakfast (Note: The number of guests per room is the same as cabin occupancy on the ship. Due to limited availability, travelers who reserve a suite on board are accommodated in standard rooms at the hotel. Triple rooms may not be available.)
- Group flight departing from Buenos Aires' domestic airport (Aeroparque/AEP) to Ushuaia, and returning to Buenos Aires' international airport (Ezeiza/EZE)

- A photographic journal documenting your expedition
- A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions
- Hair dryer and bathrobes in every cabin
- *World Voyager* guests will receive a free 1GB data card for limited Wi-Fi access for use on one device, permitting basic Internet browsing, email, posting on social media and voice applications. (Additional data can be purchased on ship.)
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- All luggage handling aboard the ship
- Emergency Evacuation insurance for all passengers to a maximum benefit of USD \$500,000 per person

- Group transfer from hotel to airport in Buenos Aires
- Group transfer from Ushuaia airport to the ship, and return (Note: Transfer on arrival in Buenos Aires from airport to hotel at the beginning of the journey is not included. Please make your way to the included hotel.)

Exclusions

RATES SPECIFICALLY DO NOT INCLUDE:

For all voyages:

- International airfare
- Passport and applicable visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned
- Meals unless otherwise specified
- Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended
- Excess-baggage fees on international and domestic flights
- Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac landing and cruising excursions, or any other gear not mentioned
- Laundry, spa services and other personal charges, unless specified
- Phone charges may vary by location
- Our basic complimentary Wi-Fi service does not include Premium packages which enable more data-intensive applications
- Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for expedition staff and shipboard crew
- Additional overnight accommodation
- Arrival and departure transfers, except where explicitly stated
- Adventure Options not listed in Included Activities.



Marine Mammal Experts



Ari Friedlaender, Friedlaender Lab

Ari Friedlaender, founder of the Friedlaender Lab—the highly-respected marine mammal research group at the University of California—has been studying baleen whales in Antarctica since 1997. Friedlaender—who co-developed this itinerary—and his team of scientists utilize advanced biotelemetry technology, such as drones, suction-cup tags and biopsy equipment, to research whale movements, their health and feeding habits. Friedlaender and his team are shaping the future of whale conservation. Throughout this voyage, these scientists will collect new data about local whale populations and share historical and live satellite data for tags deployed in previous seasons, while actively tracking whales in the region. This information will be shared through daily recaps, and made available at the Science Hub located on deck 4. Learn more about the [Friedlaender Lab](#).



Research Associate, Happywhale

We will be joined by a research associate from Happywhale, a scientific web platform where users upload photographs of whale tails—which have unique markings—to identify individual whales and track their movements. Guests, with basic instruction from the Happywhale expert, will be able to contribute to the digital crowd sourced database, and learn how it contributes to a better understanding of whale migratory patterns. Feel free to register in advance of your expedition. Visit [Happywhale.com](https://happywhale.com)

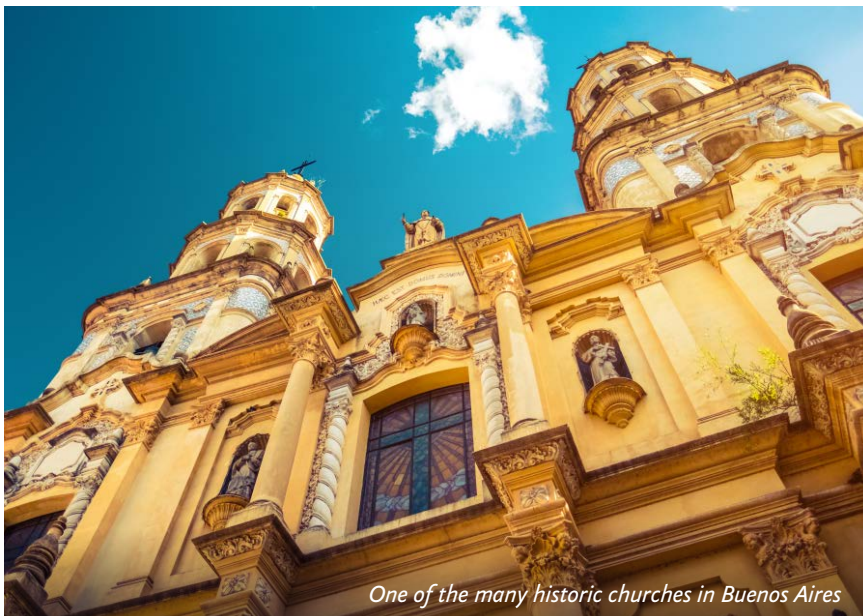


Your Expedition Team

Our Expedition Leaders are proudly and unapologetically polar-obsessed. They focus exclusively on Arctic and Antarctic exploration, and they draw on 34 years of polar expertise. They obsess over every detail of your voyage—on ship and off ship. Our Expedition Leaders spend their careers—it's a life calling, actually—feeding and sharing their passion for the Polar Regions. And they're driven to ensure you experience polar moments no one else can offer.

Our Expedition Leaders are experts in polar history, marine biology, glaciology, ornithology photography and other subjects. They're trained to handle the unexpected. All staff undergo comprehensive training at Quark Academy, which provides hands-on polar expedition training to new and experienced team members.





One of the many historic churches in Buenos Aires



Iguazú Falls



Ushuaia Maritime Museum

Extend Your Trip

PRE- AND POST-EXPEDITION TRIP EXTENSIONS

Since you're traveling such a long way, you may want to spend extra time in Buenos Aires. We have a variety of pre- and post-expedition packages in this captivating city, known as the tango capital of the world. Enjoy an extensive city tour, take in a tango show and explore the unique neighborhoods of Recoleta, Palermo and San Telmo. Savor Argentine barbecue at a steakhouse (*parrilla*), then stroll the tree-lined boulevards and marvel at the historic architecture.

Take an extended tour from Buenos Aires to Iguazú Falls, and, if you're daring, walk the catwalks over the falls.

Upon arrival in Ushuaia, you can take in its unique museums, incredible hiking, and Patagonian cuisine. Spend a day in nearby Tierra del Fuego National Park, marvelling at the mountains, birdlife, waterfalls and forests.

To discover the best options for extending your adventure, get in touch with your Travel Professional or a Polar Travel Adviser for seamless, worry-free booking of all trip extensions.

Raise a Glass and Stay Connected

See below for specifics on our complimentary Wi-Fi and bar service.



Meals on Board

If there is one constant on board, it is that you'll enjoy delicious meals daily. While meal times may change due to landings and wildlife encounters, you'll always be served three well-prepared meals per day. Most dietary restrictions can be accommodated by letting us know prior to your expedition.

Breakfasts and lunches are normally served buffet style, while dinners are served plated. À la carte meals are made at the time of your order, allowing our chefs to prepare each dish to your individual needs, ensuring you receive top-quality meals during the course of your expedition.

Complimentary coffee, tea, cocoa and water stations are available around the clock, while soft drinks and juices are available during meals and when the bar is open—all included in the cost of your package.

Enjoy free beer, standard wines, spirits, and cocktails during bar service hours and dinner as part of our "Raise a Glass and Stay Connected Free" program. Premium wines and champagne are available at extra cost and can be billed to your shipboard account. The well-stocked bars on the ship are open late morning, afternoon and evening, though hours may occasionally change to accommodate the expedition schedule.





Possible Excursions

When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, ice and weather to guide the route and itinerary details. The following sites are a sample of what you may experience on your expedition, whether by ship, Zodiac cruise, or shore landing.

Antarctic Peninsula

CHARLOTTE BAY

Charlotte Bay was discovered by Adrien de Gerlache, leader of the Belgian Antarctic Expedition of 1897-99. The bay was named in honor of the fiancée of Georges Lecointe, who was Gerlache's second-in-command.

CIERVA COVE

Cierva Cove boasts jaw-dropping icebergs and a glaciated backdrop. A massive glacial face regularly calves into the bay, often producing spectacular floating ice. Seals can be spotted on ice floes, and, later in the season, humpback whales occasionally feed in the icy waters.

CUVERVILLE ISLAND

Rising out of the mouth of the Errera Channel, this tall, steep island is covered by a colorful spectrum of lichens and mosses. A large gentoo penguin rookery is situated on a rocky beach at the north end of the island. Depending on the timing of your visit, you may also see adult penguins building nests, incubating eggs, or tending to their chicks.

DALLMANN BAY

The shallow shelf west of East Dallmann Bay was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest by the National Science Foundation. This area is one of only two known sites near Palmer Station that are suitable for researching and investigating fish and other benthic organisms (those that live on or near the sea floor). Off-ship activities, such as Zodiac cruising or paddling (weather-permitting), take place outside the protected area. Our guest scientists may have permits to study the area and, if so, they will share their findings with guests upon returning to the ship.



DANCO ISLAND

Teeming with gentoo penguins, this small dome-shaped island offers a stunning view of the Errera Channel, and excellent Zodiac cruising opportunities.

ERRERA CHANNEL

This channel, between Rongé Island and the west coast of Graham Land, was discovered during the Belgian Antarctic Expedition of 1897-1899, led by Adrien de Gerlache, who named the channel in honor of Leo Errera, a noted botanist at the University of Brussels and a member of the Belgica Commission, which provided financial and scientific support for the expedition.

FOURNIER BAY

Fournier Bay is 13 kilometers (8 miles) long and 4.8 kilometers (3 miles) wide and indents the northeast coast of Anvers Island immediately west of Briggs Peninsula, in the Palmer Archipelago. Probably first observed by Dallmann's German Expedition of 1873-74, the bay was charted by the French Antarctic Expedition of 1903-05 under Jean-Baptiste Charcot, who named the bay after Vice Admiral Ernest Fournier of the French Navy.

GRAHAM PASSAGE

The Graham Passage separates Murray Island from the west coast of Graham Land. Lined with ice cliffs, Graham Passage offers spectacular scenery, as well as great opportunities to see marine mammals.

NEKO HARBOUR

Little evidence remains that this inlet, deep in Andvord Bay off the coast of Graham Land, was once used by the floating whale factory ship *Neko*. You might see whale vertebrae being used by resident gentoo penguins as shelter from the wind.

PARADISE HARBOR

Paradise Harbor is a wide bay and natural harbor on the West Antarctic Peninsula. Mountains, glaciers and ice cliffs offer spectacular views. Icebergs regularly calve from the glaciers, providing an ideal surface for seals, penguins and seabirds to rest and play. An Argentine base, Almirante Brown Station—named after Admiral Guillermo Brown, father of the Argentine Navy—is also located in Paradise Harbour. It was operated from 1951 until 1984 when a large section burned down, and has since been partially rebuilt as a summer research base.

PORTAL POINT

This narrow point in the northeast part of Reclus Peninsula features a towering promontory with views of Charlotte Bay. There lie the remains of British hut Cape Reclus, which was used intermittently for research work from 1956 to 1958. A four-man survey team from Danco Island over-wintered there in 1957. The group, led by British explorer-artist Wally Herbert, completed the first dogsled traverse from Hope Bay to Cape Reclus between October 8 and December 30, 1959. A decade later, Herbert reportedly became the first man to walk to the North Pole. The point is known for its Fur and Weddell seal haulouts, and array of bird life: Brown skua, Gentoo penguin, Southern giant petrel, Blue-eyed shag, and Southern giant petrel.

WILHELMINA BAY

Humpback whales abound in “Whale-mina Bay,” as it’s nicknamed, and the scenery is spectacular. Sheer cliffs and glaciers surround the calm waters of the protected bay, named after Wilhelmina, queen of the Netherlands from 1890 to 1948. If you’re lucky, you may see the humpbacks bubble-net feeding: they exhale while swimming



in a wide circle below the surface, trapping krill in a “net” of bubbles, and then swim straight up from below, mouths open, to engulf their prey. A truly astounding sight.

South Shetland Islands

AITCHO ISLANDS

This group of small islands is situated at the northern entrance of English Strait. You can spot a robust diversity of wildlife in the area, including rookeries of gentoo and chinstrap penguins. Southern elephant and fur seals frequently haul out here, too.

BRANSFIELD STRAIT

The Bransfield Strait separates the South Shetland Islands from the Antarctic Peninsula. Nearly 200 years ago the islands were stripped clear of seals. The seal populations have since recovered and the islands once again support an abundance of wildlife, including large populations of minke, humpback and orca whales, as well as leopard, crabeater and elephant seals this time of year.

DECEPTION ISLAND

Deception Island is a flooded circular caldera formed by the collapse of an active volcano. To reach this protected harbor, it is necessary to sail through a narrow passage called Neptune's Bellows. The

bays within the passage were used at various times for whaling and scientific research. Along with waddling penguins and lounging seals, you'll see the rusting remains of whaling operations on the beach in some locations. The landscape of Deception Island often presents opportunities for longer walks to striking vistas. The contrast of white snow against dark volcanic sand, coupled with steam rising from geothermal activity at the right tide, creates a dramatic atmosphere.

HALFMOON ISLAND

This crescent-shaped island was known to sealers as early as 1821. While they tried to keep this productive location secret, we're happy to bring you ashore on this impressive island. Many Antarctic birds breed here, including chinstrap penguins, shags, Wilson's storm petrels, kelp gulls, snowy sheathbills, Antarctic terns and skuas.

HANNAH POINT

On the southern coast of Livingston Island at Hannah Point, you may see chinstrap and gentoo penguin rookeries, and the occasional breeding macaroni penguin. Due to the rather congested area available to the nesting penguins, we are able to visit here only after January 10, hence the timing of our visit.

EXPEDITION SPIRIT

Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, the ice and the weather to guide the route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you may experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. By the same token, wildlife encounters as described are expected, but not guaranteed. Your Expedition Team will use their considerable experience to seek out wildlife in known habitats, but the presence of any particular species of bird or marine wildlife is not guaranteed.



What to pack on your Antarctic expedition

BY SEA

All transfers ship to shore and Zodiac/ship cruising.

- ☐ Waterproof pants (mandatory for every Zodiac ride)
- ☐ Base-layer wool or synthetic top*
- ☐ Base-layer wool or synthetic bottom*
- ☐ Mid-layer warm or fleece top*
- ☐ Mid-layer warm or fleece bottom*
- ☐ Warm wool or synthetic socks (keep a dry pair in your bag, and bring extras for layering)
- ☐ Glove liners * ☐ Hand and feet warmers* ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Waterproof gloves or mitts (bring an extra pair)
- ☐ Scarf, buff, or other face protection
- ☐ Warm hat that covers ears (bring an extra)
- ☐ Waterproof, lightweight backpack or dry sack and/or rain sleeve for camera or a waterproof phone case (to keep camera and gear dry)
- ☐ Polarized sunglasses with UV protection (consider bringing an eyewear retainer: string/clip etc.)
- ☐ Ski goggles (for Zodiac cruising on snowy or windy days)

*recommended layering depending on the conditions of the day and reflecting your personal thermo-regulation comfort levels.

BY LAND (Shore Excursions and Hiking)

In addition to the gear requirements (as above) mandatory for the transit from ship to shore, it is recommended to bring:

- ☐ Hat, buff or scarf (for wind and weather protection)
- ☐ UV protection (sun hat, polarized sun glasses, sun block, lip balm etc.)
- ☐ Collapsible walking sticks for hikes (if required)
Quantities are available to borrow on every vessel
- ☐ Additional reusable (thermos-regulating) water bottle
(in addition to the reusable collapsible water bottle provided)

WHAT TO BRING Packing for the Polar Regions doesn't have to be daunting, and to make it easier for you, all Quark Expeditions voyages include a Quark parka to keep, and a loan of insulated waterproof boots. Additional suggested items include:

TO WEAR ON BOARD

- ☐ The complimentary Quark 3-in-1 Parka provided on board is designed with a waterproof shell that can be worn out on deck, and a removable liner that you can wear to stay comfortable indoors)
- ☐ Comfortable casual clothing like lighter shirts, pants or jeans, etc. (in case the ship gets warm)
- ☐ Comfortable non-slip closed-toed, heelless shoes (flip flops, sandals or slip-on shoes should not be worn on board due to safety concerns)
- ☐ Workout attire (for the fitness center)
- ☐ Swimsuit (for the Polar Plunge. Some vessels may also have a pool, hot tub, sauna and/or steam room. See your ship book for details.)

Just a reminder: No formal evening wear required on our voyages but if you would like to bring something a little more dressy for the Captain's welcome and farewell cocktails you may certainly do so.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- ☐ Passport, visas, immunization records, travel documents, etc. as required
- ☐ Camera gear—complete with charger, storage medium, transport and cleaning kit (lens cloth etc.) and extra batteries
- ☐ Reusable waterproof bags or plastic bags with zippers (to keep small items organized and cameras dry)
- ☐ Voltage converters and plug adapters (see ship book for details)
- ☐ Seasickness, indigestion, headache, or other medications
- ☐ Earplugs and eye masks for sleeping
- ☐ Moisturizer for face and hands (skin dryness due to wind and temperature changes)
- ☐ Credit card and small amount of local currency (see pre-departure book for more details)

- › To view our packing checklist online, visit:
QuarkExpeditions.com/What-to-Pack/Antarctica
- › Related topics are covered on our Frequently Asked Questions page:
QuarkExpeditions.com/Frequently-Asked-Questions



Scan this QR code or [click here](#) to watch our video on what to pack before you go.

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND TEMPERATURES

Polar weather is extremely variable; temperatures may hover around the freezing mark and winds can be strong. The extended daylight warms sheltered areas so that you may sometimes find it warm enough for t-shirts. However, you may encounter rain, snow squalls, fog and white-outs during an expedition and should be ready for any conditions.



Polar-Obsessed Since 1991

TO BOOK YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

Contact your Travel Professional
or a Quark Expeditions Polar Travel Adviser

TOLL FREE AND LOCAL NUMBERS:

North America (Toll Free) **1 888 332 0008**

U.K. Tel **+44 203 514 2712**

U.K. (Toll Free) **0 808 120 2333**

Australia Tel **+61 2 72580333**

Australia (Toll Free) **+61 1800 953518**

France Tel **+33-1 80 14 01 05**

France (Toll Free) **08 05 08 66 46**

QuarkExpeditions.com



PHOTO CREDITS (over all Expedition Brochures for the Antarctic 2026/27 season):

Acacia Johnson; David Merron; Michelle Sole; Nicky Souness; Samantha Crimmin; Hugo Perrin; Taylor Cranney;
Sam Edmonds; Abbey Weisbrot; Hans Lagerweij; Rogelio Espinosa; Cindy Miller Hopkins; Grange Productions;
Adobe Stock

EXPEDITION BROCHURE
January 26, 2025