Antarctica

Considered by many to be the most beautiful place on the planet, this is the most remote and fascinating natural reserve in the world, with spectacular beauty, unique wildlife and awe-inspiring desolation. Boasting the lowest temperatures on record, this vast continent is covered by a cape of ice, formed by an accumulation of snow over hundreds of thousands of years. Hidden beneath lie mountains and valleys.

At a glance

- Antarctic season operates from November to mid March
- Amazing selection of wildlife - penguins, minke whales, seals, albatrosses
- Explore the photogenic Lemaire Channel
- Most expedition cruises depart from Ushuaia (Argentina)
- Discover South Georgia - home to king penguins
- Rubber zodiacs take visitors ashore
- Visit the British Antarctic Survey base at Port Lockroy

Getting there

The gateway to Antarctica is through either Argentina or Chile. There is a direct service from London Heathrow to Buenos Aires or Santiago with British Airways. Norwegian also fly direct from London Gatwick to Buenos Aires. British Airways via Madrid. Iberia also offer a service to Buenos Aires via Manchester, London and Glasgow also available in request.

Prices from £6,345 per person (2 sharing) for a 10 night cruise including domestic flights.

Combinations

We highly recommend you stay at least 2 nights in Argentina or Chile prior to your cruise. Most cruises start in Ushuaia, some in the Falkland Islands. Antarctica with either Argentina or Chile is an excellent combination.

Notes

Most expedition cruises depart from Ushuaia in Argentina or Punta Arenas in Chile. There are also some fly-cruise options that avoid the Drake passage crossing. Trips range from 10 to 21 day itineraries. Activities include walks to penguin colonies, kayaking amongst icebergs or a dip in thermal pools. Cruises operate from November to March.

Hebridean Sky

114 passengers. 11, 14 & 19 night itineraries

The Hebridean Sky, formerly the Sea Explorer, underwent a 10 million dollar upgrade in April 2016, emerging as the safest and most comfortable ship in her class. It has become known for her effortless elegance, impeccable service and atmosphere of charm and camaraderie. Facilities include state of the art stabilization, fuel efficiency, and upgraded communications systems. All suites and public spaces have been completely refurbished. She is intimate, comfortable, and stylish, offering the perfect platform for adventure activities, suchas camping, kayaking, and Antarctic Citizen Science projects.

Guide price per person (2 sharing) £7,545 (10 night cruise inc. domestic flights).

Akademik Ioffe

98 passengers. 10, 16, 21 night itineraries

The Akademik Ioffe is a modern, comfortable and ice-strengthened vessel designed for polar expeditions. It was originally designed and built as a scientific research vessel in Finland and it is still used by scientists when they are not taking leisure travellers. There are 46 cabins located in three decks – all cabins have exterior views, with shared, semi-private and private facilities. There is a separate bar and lounge as well as a library. Other facilities include a theatre style presentation room, gift-shop, fitness room, massage room, sauna and plunge pool.

Guide price per person (2 sharing) £6,345 (10 night cruise inc. domestic flights).