



Sample Itinerary for AUIP Antarctica Sustainability Program

Please note: This itinerary is a sample of potential program activities, based on previous years' programs. Deviations from this plan may be expected.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Argentina

Day 2: Arrive in Ushuaia

Nestled between the historic Beagle Channel and the Andes mountains, Ushuaia is the world's southernmost town. As you settle into the warmth of your hostel, you'll have an orientation to Argentina and Antarctica, and a chance to learn more about Ushuaia's role in Antarctic affairs. The faculty will introduce you to your module work and then it's time for a scrumptious Welcome Dinner.

Day 3: Ushuaia to Drake Passage

We sail for Antarctica this afternoon, but before we do you'll learn more about Ushuaia from our local lecturer and have a chance to do any last-minute shopping prior to heading for "The Ice." By dinner time you'll be sailing down the calm waters of the Beagle Channel, on your way to the most magnificent continent on earth.

Day 4: Drake Passage

Wide-open ocean vistas and zooming albatrosses greet you today as we work our way across the Drake Passage, the narrowest part of the Southern Ocean. As you settle into your new shipboard home, we'll attend lectures from the ship's Expedition Staff and begin working on your module assignments. Keep an eye on the seas here as we sometimes spot whales on our way to Antarctica.

Day 5: Drake Passage

Your on-board education program continues with more informative presentations from the ship's naturalists. Today's wildlife watching may also include your first icebergs as we traverse the cold waters that surround Antarctica. Depending on the ship's progress, you might even spot the mountains of the South Shetland Islands before retiring for the night.

Day 6: South Shetland Islands

Antarctica! Today we make our first landfall on one of the icy South Shetland Islands. For all our days in Antarctica, the Captain and Expedition Leader will select our specific landing sites and activities based on weather and ice conditions, and where we can best view the wildlife of the Antarctic Peninsula. Your excursions will be by small inflatable boats (Zodiacs) and will give you excellent opportunities to cruise among icebergs or to view seals, penguins, and other wildlife up-close. Typically, we'll make two excursions each day with a lunch break back on board the ship, but the weather and ice will dictate our schedule. Round off the evening with a review of the day's sightings and preparation for more excitement tomorrow.

Day 7: Antarctic Peninsula

We continue south around the Antarctic mainland, stopping for more excursions which get us onshore or out in the Zodiacs.

Day 8: Antarctic Peninsula

Can you handle seeing penguins again? We'll have still more opportunities to view wildlife and explore the various sites on the Antarctic Peninsula while your naturalist guides ensure you get the most out of each stop.

Day 9: Antarctic Peninsula

Stops sometimes include places with historical significance, such as whaling stations and exploration camps. The Expedition Staff will provide information while you're visiting each site, in addition to everything you've already learned while on the ship.

Day 10: Antarctic Peninsula

Have you done your requisite polar plunge yet? If not, today's your last chance for the chilling, yet thrilling plunge in Antarctic waters. Be sure to also get your fill of penguin encounters today!

Day 11: Drake Passage

It's now time to head north as we start making our way back to civilization. You'll have time to work on your module assignments as well as enjoying more of the naturalists' presentations.

Day 12: Drake Passage

The last icebergs recede in our wake as we head back to South America. As the water temperature warms, we'll notice a change in the albatrosses and petrels that follow our comfortable home-away-from-home. It's a chance for you to make progress on your assignments and contemplate your experiences in the Deep South. We'll round off the day with the Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

Day 13: Ushuaia

This morning you'll disembark the ship when we arrive back to the relative bustle, warmth, and greenery of Ushuaia. After bidding farewell to your fellow passengers, our group will reconvene onshore to discuss what we've just experienced. Then it's time to stretch our legs with a hike through the rugged forests of Tierra del Fuego National Park, before returning to the comfort of our hostel for our last night in Argentina.

Day 14: Ushuaia to U.S.

Before we head home, you'll have a little bit of free time in Ushuaia. You can use it to check out the shops, or take the opportunity to reflect on all that you've experienced during your trip to the "end of the world."