

## AUIP Antarctica: Human Impacts on a Fragile Environment

### *Itinerary Highlights*

Fall semester online course: 14 weeks

Field component: 2 weeks over December—January

### Days 1 – 3 Ushuaia

#### Group flight arrives after transfer in Buenos Aires

#### Guided walking tour of Ushuaia

You will see the best of Ushuaia and learn about social issues in the region and contemporary life.



#### Welcome dinner

Experience typical Argentinian cuisine at a barbecue restaurant with your local guide.

#### Day trip to Estancia Haberton

You will sail the Beagle Channel by catamaran, viewing small islands inhabited by Black-browed Albatross, Magellanic penguins, skuas, different varieties of seagulls, and Alakush ducks. Then, visit the famous Estancia Haberton and tour its historic facilities as a way of helping to understand the beginnings of the City of Ushuaia. On return, stop at a marine mammal museum.

#### Tourism impacts in Ushuaia: guided bus tour

Guided by a local tourism expert, learn about Ushuaia's expansion as the gateway to Antarctica, and the impacts that the industry has had on the town's infrastructure. Site visits include the local wastewater treatment and recycling programs.

### Day 3 Embarkation

#### Getting to know the ship

In the afternoon, board and gets to know the vessel that will be home for the next 10 days. The expedition

team will introduce itself to all passengers and host a welcome dinner to celebrate the commencement of the adventure to the south.

### Days 4 – 5 Drake Passage

#### Sailing towards the ice

As the ship travels south, it is followed by various species of birds including albatross, giant petrels and Cape petrels. The captain will speak about the functioning of a research vessel, and there will be presentations about wildlife, history, environment and site locations by the various experts aboard the ship. There will also be a chance to photograph wildlife and natural vistas, guided by a photographer with experience in capturing Antarctica at its best. Note that sea and weather conditions may lead to seasickness during this crossing.

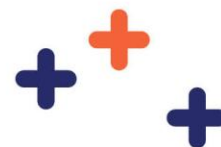


### Days 6 – 9 Antarctic Peninsula

#### Arrival in Antarctica!

Surrounded by mountains, ice and water, you will be awed by the magnificence and scale of Antarctica. The wildlife is abundant, with Adélie, gentoo and king penguins by the thousand; fur, Weddell and leopard seals; and orca, humpback and minke whales, to name but a few.

In optimum conditions, twice daily excursions by Zodiac around the bays and to shore will ensure close encounters with icebergs, marine wildlife and penguin rookeries.



Possible landing sites are Cievra Cove, Danco Island, Cuverville Island and Paradise Bay. Activities at these sites include guided hikes, sightings of wildlife colonies with naturalists, and visits to historic huts and research stations.

There is also the opportunity to simply soak up the wondrous atmosphere of the southern-most continent while spending a night camping on the ice (weather-dependent). The icebergs, the mountain peaks, the islands, and the wildlife are objects of reflection on this once-in-a-lifetime voyage.



## Days 10 – 11 Drake Passage

### Encountering legendary Cape Horn

There will be educational presentations by experts aboard the ship, and a voyage recap by the Expedition Leader. If weather permits, the ship travels around Cape Horn, the rocky headland on Hornos Island in southern Chile's Tierra del Fuego archipelago. Cape Horn marks the northern boundary of the Drake Passage where the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans meet. This is also when the Captain typically hosts a festive farewell dinner.



## Day 12 Disembarkation

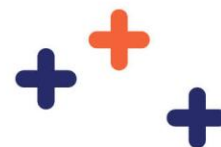
### Fieldwork presentations

After disembarkation in the morning, enjoy free time for final explorations of Ushuaia. In the afternoon, the student research groups will present the results of their field projects to faculty and their peers.

### Farewell group dinner with your Ushuaia guide

## Day 13 Ushuaia to USA

### Group flight departs for USA



# AUIP Antarctica: Human Impacts on a Fragile Environment

*Academic Highlights*

## Fall semester

### Lecture series

14 weeks of lectures by Antarctic researchers and experts. Topics include:

- Introduction to the course
- Antarctic psychology
- History of Antarctic exploration
- Antarctic marine ecosystems
- Antarctic birds
- Ushuaia and the Antarctic peninsula
- Ushuaia as frontier town and tourist destination
- Glaciology and ice
- Terrestrial ecosystems in Antarctica
- Antarctic territorial claims and the Antarctic Treaty System
- Antarctic geology
- Antarctic environmental management
- Antarctic research
- Field trip pre-departure lecture

Each lecture is accompanied by weekly readings assigned by the guest speaker.

### Assignments

- Midterm assignment
- Short essays
- Independent research project
- Field course bibliography

## Field component

### Field module

Students work in groups on one of three field module topics: sea birds, icebergs, or ecotourism. The first two modules involve gathering of observational data and interpretation of that data within the framework of scientific literature to draw conclusions about the environmental influences on the object of research. The third module on ecotourism draws on course readings, lectures, interviews, and field observations to draw conclusions on the environmental effects of tourism both in Antarctica and Ushuaia. All groups offer presentations on their methods and results upon arrival back in Ushuaia after the field trip and write up a team report.

### Field journal

The field journal assignment includes directed reflection on the course as well as student experiences, observations, and interactions with the Antarctic environment and other ship passengers. Students submit their journal entries for review during the excursion to course instructors. At the end of the program, they use their entries to produce a course synthesis paper.

### Retrospective media outreach project

Students produce a newspaper article, blog, video, public presentation, or poster that describes the ways in which they benefited from their journey to Antarctica. The outreach project also serves to raise awareness of the course itself and to educate others about the issues faced by the vulnerable southern-most continent.

Participating universities grant home institution credit for the fall semester lecture series and field component combined, for a total of 4-6 credits (depending on the institution).