

Antarctica: Frequently Asked Questions

Which part of Antarctica do we visit?

You will explore the northern Antarctic Peninsula, an area of ice-covered islands with towering mountains and volcanoes. Some of the places you might visit are Hope Bay, the Lemaire Channel and Paradise Harbor.



How many days does it take to sail from Ushuaia to Antarctica?

Crossing the infamous Drake Passage from Ushuaia to the Antarctic Peninsula takes about 48 hours. After 1 day you will notice a distinct drop in temperature as you cross the Antarctic Convergence – then you are truly in Antarctic waters. The Drake is full of wildlife both in the air and the water. Expect to see albatross, petrels, skuas and skuas and humpback, minke and orca whales. The journey can be calm or stormy and is usually somewhere in between, it is strongly advised that you seek medical advice about seasickness medication before travelling.

How long do we actually spend in Antarctica?

This varies by expedition but usually you would have at least 3 days in Antarctica on the ice. Each day you will usually have one or two excursions of approximately 2 hours each. This may include a shore landing for you to explore penguin rookeries or a zodiac ride for a close encounter with icebergs, glaciers, penguins, whales and seals.

What is the boat like?

With an ice-strengthened hull, advanced navigation equipment and having been recently refurbished, The Ocean Endeavour is a safe and well-appointed expedition ship. It is relatively small with capacity for 200 passengers and a 1:8 ratio of crew to travellers. There are many and varied common areas including lounges, a sundeck, plenty of deck space for polar landscape viewing, and a unique 360 degree viewing flydeck.

Ocean Endeavour is one of the few polar adventure ships in Antarctica focused on health and wellness. There is a spa, saunas, a saltwater pool and a gym. There is also a juice and smoothie bar. Please note there may be fees for use of the spa and juice and smoothie bar.

Triple or twin cabins are comfortable with their own bathrooms, plenty of storage space and sockets for charging.



What is the food like on the boat?

Meals are buffet style for breakfast and lunch with extensive selections. Bread is baked fresh daily. In the evenings, dinners are seated and there is a limited menu to choose from each night.

What activities are there to do on board, apart from the excursions?

Throughout the day, there are talks on board – topics include presentations on wildlife in Antarctica, history and the Antarctic treaty. Your Antarctic guides include naturalists, ornithologists, marine biologists, historians, photographers and geologists.

What clothes do I need to bring?

Casual clothes, sturdy footwear, a thermal base layer, gloves, hat, and a waterproof jacket and pants for your time in Ushuaia and on the boat. There is no dress code for dinner, but you are expected to dress as if dining in a restaurant i.e. jeans, t-shirt. Take a swimsuit as there is a pool and sauna on board, and there may be an opportunity to take the polar plunge!

When you are in Antarctica you are provided with boots and a jacket by the expedition company.

What is it like to go camping in Antarctica?

This experience may not be glamorous, but it's certainly unforgettable! You will be provided with a sleeping bag, shovel and carry mat. There is no toilet, so you need to use a communal bucket. Generally, you go out at around 9pm, and go back to the ship at 5am. There are usually a lot of penguins around, which can be very noisy and smelly! It doesn't get dark, but there will be a period of twilight in the middle of the night.