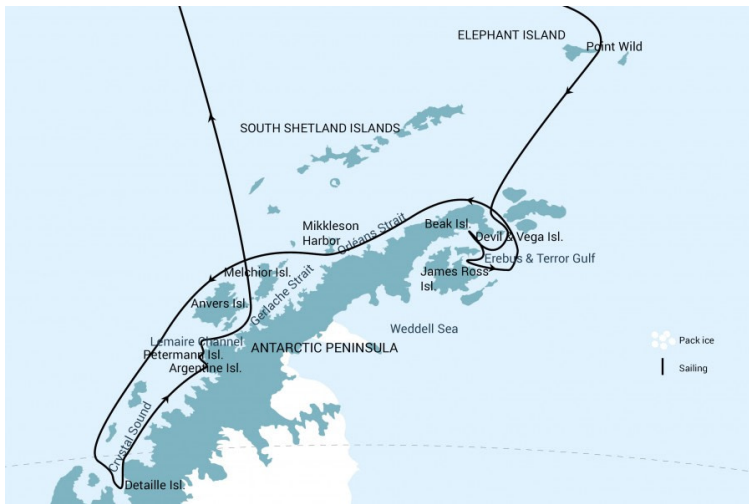


# Antarctica - Elephant Island - Weddell Sea - Polar Circle

Venture beyond the polar circle, visiting some of Antarctica's most wildlife-filled waters and islands



Title:	Antarctica - Elephant Island - Weddell Sea - Polar Circle
Dates:	14 Mar - 27 Mar, 2023
Tripcode:	HDS31-23
Duration:	13 nights
Ship:	m/v Hondius
Embarkation:	Ushuaia
Disembarkation:	Ushuaia
Language:	English speaking voyage

## ITINERARY

*PLEASE NOTE: All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. Landings are subject to site availabilities, permissions, and environmental concerns per IAATO regulations. Official sailing plans and landing slots are scheduled with IAATO prior to the start of the season, but the expedition leader determines the final plan. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. The average cruising speed for our vessel is 10.5 knots.*

This expansive expedition takes you into the Antarctic Circle, combining the rich animal life of the Weddell Sea with the surreal shores and islands of the Antarctic Peninsula. Such key landing sites as the legendary Elephant Island and Crystal Sound make this voyage truly exceptional.

### Antarctica – Elephant Island – Weddell Sea – Polar Circle: -

This adventurous polar expedition in the Antarctic Circle combines the exciting Weddell Sea with the amazing Antarctic Peninsula, including such iconic landing sites as Ernest Shackleton's legendary Elephant Island and the many icy and wildlife-filled islands of Crystal Sound.

#### Day 1: End of the world, start of a journey

Your voyage begins where the world drops off. Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet, is located on the far southern tip of South America. Starting in the afternoon, you embark from this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego, nicknamed "The End of the World," and sail the mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the remainder of the evening.

#### Day 2 – 3: Path of the polar explorers

Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you enjoy some of the same experiences encountered by the great polar explorers who first charted these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale spouting up sea spray. After passing the Antarctic Convergence – Antarctica's natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer sub-Antarctic seas – you are in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. Not only does the marine life change, the avian life changes too. Wandering albatrosses, grey-headed albatrosses, black-browed albatrosses, light-mantled sooty albatrosses, cape pigeons, southern fulmars, Wilson's storm petrels, blue petrels, and Antarctic petrels are a few of the birds you might see.

#### Day 4: From Point Wild to the Weddell Sea

We will arrive early to the famous Point Wild, Elephant Island, where Shackleton's crew made their first landing after the loss of their ship, *Endurance*. This inhospitable spit of land is a favorite among our guests, and if conditions permit, we will offer activities around the point before setting off for the Weddell Sea.

#### Day 5: Weddell Sea Devil Island

Today you enter the wondrous Weddell Sea, a relatively unvisited area in which we hope to carry out activities in Erebus and Terror Gulf. We may also visit such places such as Beak Island and Devil Island, which boast some stunning scenery as well as the pack ice for which the Weddell Sea is famous.

## Day 6: Exploring the most remote regions

As we continue to explore the area of Erebus and Terror Gulf, we look for new opportunities for activities. You may also visit Vega Island, experiencing the wilderness of Antarctica in its most remote places.

## Day 7: Orléans Strait whale search

Now we sail down the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula, entering the Orleans Strait. Here we hope to see humpback and orca whales as we sail toward Mikklesen Harbor for our afternoon activities.

## Day 8: Port monuments and island wildlife

Passing the Lemaire Channel, you next arrive in the area of Port Charcot, where there is a cairn that was erected by the French Antarctic Expedition of 1903 – 05. In the afternoon, we head to Petermann Island to see a great variety of birdlife. You might also enjoy Zodiac cruises among icebergs that are highly popular with leopard seals and crabeater seals. Minke whales, humpbacks, and gentoo penguins can also be found here.

## Day 9: Detaille Island's historic station

Today we reach Crystal Sound, viewing the area's beautiful ice formations and wildlife before landing at Detaille Island. This remote island was once home to a British research station that is now an historic monument.

## Day 10: Amazing Argentine islands

Next you arrive at the Yalour Islands, a small archipelago composed mostly of isolated rocks and one principal island that offers us a rewarding landing. Home to Adélie penguins and some of the most southerly gentoos in the world, Yalour also has small patches of bearded and crustose lichen, including xanthoria, buellia, caloplaca, and usnea. Extensive moss beds and some Antarctic hair grass (*Deschampsia antarctica*) can be seen as well.

We hope to also visit the nearby Ukrainian research station, Vernadsky, where a warm welcome awaits us. Here you can take a guided tour of the facilities, which include a small gift shop, a post office that is always popular with our guests, and Wordie House, a well-preserved historic hut. This hut still contains its rations, tools, and beds, so you can compare the amenities of an early facility with a modern one like Vernadsky.

## Day 11: Farewell to Antarctica

We have our farewell to Antarctica in the Melchior Islands for our final activities before heading towards the Drake Passage.

## Day 12 – 13: Familiar seas, familiar friends

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, you're again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.

## Day 14: There and back again

Every adventure, no matter how great, must eventually come to an end. It's now time to disembark in Ushuaia, but with memories that will accompany you wherever your next journey leads.

### Included in this voyage

- Voyage aboard the indicated vessel as indicated in the itinerary
- All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea.
- All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac.
- Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff.
- Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes.
- Luggage transfer from pick-up point to the vessel on the day of embarkation, in Ushuaia.
- Pre-scheduled group transfer from the vessel to the airport in Ushuaia (directly after disembarkation).
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme.
- Comprehensive pre-departure material.

**Excluded from this voyage**

*Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights*

*Pre- and post- land arrangements.*

*Passport and visa expenses.*

*Government arrival and departure taxes.*

*Meals ashore.*

*Baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (which is strongly recommended).*

*Excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and telecommunication charges.*

*The customary gratuity at the end of the voyages for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided).*

## ACTIVITIES YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN

### Diving

ON REQUEST



You must be advanced and experienced in dry suit and cold water diving. Diving is subject to local ice and weather conditions.

# CABINS & PRICES

## Quadruple Porthole



2 portholes  
 2 upper & lower berths  
 Small sofa  
 Private shower & toilet  
 Flatscreen TV  
 Desk & chair  
 Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)  
 Hair dryer  
 Cabinet  
 Wardrobe  
 This cabin is suitable for families traveling with children, or passengers who do not require a twin or more luxurious cabin



Complete cabin  
 Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

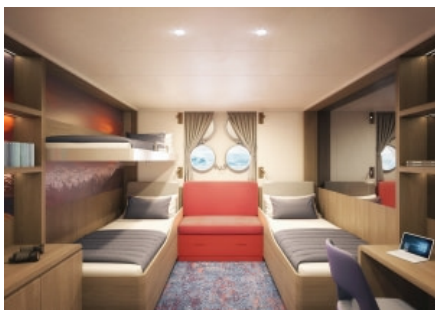
35400 USD



Sharing berth  
 Share your cabin with others for the best price

8850 USD

## Triple Porthole



2 portholes  
 1 upper berth & 2 lower berths  
 Small sofa  
 Private shower & toilet  
 Flatscreen TV  
 Desk & chair  
 Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)  
 Hair dryer  
 Cabinet  
 Wardrobe  
 This cabin is suitable for families traveling with children, or passengers who do not require a twin or more luxurious cabin



Complete cabin  
 Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

29850 USD



Sharing berth  
 Share your cabin with others for the best price

9950 USD

## Twin Porthole



2 portholes  
 2 single beds  
 Small sofa  
 Private shower & toilet  
 Flatscreen TV  
 Desk & chair  
 Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)  
 Hair dryer  
 Cabinet  
 Wardrobe



Complete cabin  
 Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

21700 USD



Single cabin  
 Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

18445 USD



Sharing berth  
 Share your cabin with others for the best price

10850 USD

## Twin Window



1 window  
2 single beds  
Small sofa  
Private shower & toilet  
Flatscreen TV  
Desk & chair  
Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)  
Hair dryer  
Cabinet  
Wardrobe  
Please be aware that the view from some windows might be partially obstructed due to the design requirements of the ship



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

22800 USD



Single cabin  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

19380 USD



Sharing berth  
Share your cabin with others for the best price

11400 USD

## Twin Deluxe



2 windows  
2 single beds  
Sofa  
Private shower & toilet  
Flatscreen TV  
Desk & chair  
Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)  
Refrigerator  
Coffee & tea maker  
Bathrobe  
Hair dryer  
Cabinet  
Wardrobe



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

24200 USD



Single cabin  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

20570 USD



Sharing berth  
Share your cabin with others for the best price

12100 USD

## Superior



2 windows  
1 double bed  
Sofa  
Private shower & toilet  
Flatscreen TV  
Desk & chair  
Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)  
Refrigerator  
Coffee & tea maker  
Bathrobe  
Hair dryer  
Cabinet  
Wardrobe



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

25600 USD



Single cabin  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

21760 USD

## Junior Suite



1 double window  
1 double bed  
Private shower & toilet  
Flatscreen TV  
Desk & chair  
Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)  
Refrigerator  
Coffee & tea maker  
Bathrobe  
Hair dryer  
Cabinet  
Wardrobe



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

27300 USD



Single cabin  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

23205 USD

## Grand Suite with private balcony



1 double window  
1 double bed  
Sofa  
Private balcony  
Private shower & toilet  
Flatscreen TV  
Desk & chair  
Telephone and WiFi (supplemented)  
Refrigerator  
Coffee & tea maker  
Bathrobe  
Hair dryer  
Cabinet  
Wardrobe



Complete cabin  
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

30800 USD



Single cabin  
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate).

26180 USD