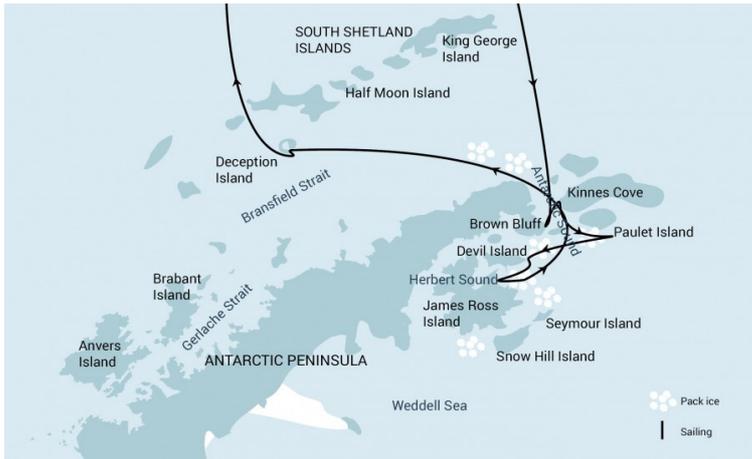


Antarctica - Weddell Sea Explorer

Take an exploratory expedition through some of Antarctica's most wildlife-rich waters.



Title:	Antarctica - Weddell Sea Explorer
Dates:	11 Feb - 22 Feb, 2023
Tripcode:	PLA29-23
Duration:	11 nights
Ship:	m/v Plancius
Embarkation:	Ushuaia
Disembarkation:	Ushuaia
Language:	English speaking voyage
Important:	Camping, kayaking and diving are optional activities. Experience with cold-water diving and dry-suit dives (at least 30) is a must!

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.

The great Weddell Sea not only features massive tabular icebergs, wildly dramatic landscapes, and fascinating historical sites, but it is also one of the best places in Antarctica for viewing iconic wildlife like whales, seals, juvenile emperor penguins, and many other rarely seen seabirds.

Antarctica – Weddell Sea Explorer: -

You can hardly get a better experience of Antarctica than a voyage to the great Weddell Sea. Be prepared to see massive tabular icebergs, wildly dramatic landscapes, and fascinating historical sites. This extraordinary expedition is also perfect for observing juvenile emperor penguins.

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: Brown Bluff, Madder Cliffs and nesting penguins

This morning we hope to land at Brown Bluff with its impressive scenery and nesting Adelie penguins. In the afternoon, we head across the Antarctic Sound to Kinnes Cove for a landing, where you can see the nearby Madder Cliffs with their subtle red coloration as well as nearby gentoo penguins.

Day 5: Antarctic sound islands and history

Today we explore the southern end of the Antarctic Sound, including the islands of Jonassen, Andersson, and Rosamel, depending on conditions. In the afternoon, we head to Paulet Island, where an historic hut remains from the 1903 Swedish Antarctic Expedition of Otto Nordenskiöld. This hut enabled the team, whose ship had been crushed in sea ice, to survive until they were rescued.

Day 6: Panorama from Devil Island

The aim is to spend the day on and around Devil Island, an impressive landing site that gives us the chance to ascend the summit and take in breathtaking views of Erebus and Terror Gulf, as well as our ship anchored in the bay below.

Day 7: The marvels of James Ross Island

Today you can explore the area of Herbert Sound, named after the great explorer Sir Wally Herbert. We will focus our attention on the area of the Naze Peninsula and Comb Ridge on James Ross Island.

Day 8: Exploring remote islands

We sail as close as the ice allows to the northwest area of Erebus and Terror Gulf, where the Beak and Eagle islands await us. As with other islands in this group, they are volcanic in origin. Beak island has two freshwater lakes that are home to unique ecosystems, and Eagle Island offers spectacular scenery. It is most famous for being the hottest place in Antarctica during a heatwave that melted 20% of the island's snow and ice in 2020.

Day 9: Craters, hot springs, and abandoned whaling stations

The next plan is to visit Deception Island. Actually a subducted crater, this island opens into the sea and creates a natural harbor for the ship. Hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, and multiple bird species – cape petrels, kelp gulls, brown and south polar skuas, and Antarctic terns – can be seen here. Wilson's storm petrels and black-bellied storm petrels also nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay.

Day 10 – 11: Familiar seas, familiar friends

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, we are 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 12: There and back again

Every adventure, no matter how great, must eventually come to an end. It's now time to disembark in Ushuaia 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.
- 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

Camping

210 USD

4 places left



Special gear and field equipment will be provided. Camping is subject to weather, local site and environmental regulations.

Kayaking

ON REQUEST



Basic kayaking experience is of advantage, but it is not a requirement. Physical fitness is essential. Kayaking is subject to weather and prevailing ice conditions.

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



1 porthole
 2 upper & lower berths
 Private shower & toilet
 Desk & chair
 Flatscreen TV
 Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)
 Hair dryer
 Ample storage space
 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.

33600 USD



Sharing berth
 Share your cabin with others for the best price

8400 USD

Triple Porthole



1 porthole
 1 upper berth & 2 lower berths
 Private shower & toilet
 Desk & chair
 Flatscreen TV
 Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)
 Hair dryer
 Ample storage space
 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.

31050 USD



Sharing berth
 Share your cabin with others for the best price

10350 USD

Twin Porthole



1 porthole
 2 lower berths
 Private shower & toilet
 Desk & chair
 Flatscreen TV
 Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)
 Hair dryer
 Ample storage space



Complete cabin
 Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied.

20700 USD



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

17595 USD



Sharing berth
 Share your cabin with others for the best price

10350 USD

Twin Window



1 window
2 lower berths
Private shower & toilet
Desk & chair
Flatscreen TV
Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)
Hair dryer
Ample storage space



Complete cabin
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied. 21600 USD



Single cabin
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate). 18360 USD



Sharing berth
Share your cabin with others for the best price 10800 USD

Twin Deluxe



2 windows
2 lower berths
Private shower & toilet
Desk & chair
Flatscreen TV
Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)
Hair dryer
Ample storage space
These cabins are corner cabins and are slightly more spacious than the normal twin porthole/window cabins



Complete cabin
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied. 22900 USD



Single cabin
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate). 19465 USD



Sharing berth
Share your cabin with others for the best price 11450 USD

Superior



2 windows
1 double bed
1 sofa bed
Private shower & toilet
Desk & chair
Flatscreen TV
Telephone & WiFi (supplemented)
Refrigerator
Coffee & tea maker
Hair dryer
Ample storage space



Complete cabin
Price for the complete cabin, fully occupied. 24700 USD



Single cabin
Price for the complete cabin occupied by 1 person (1.7x the shared rate). 20995 USD