

ULTIMATE WILDLIFE EXPEDITION

USHUAIA TO BUENOS AIRES



The sweeping scope of this Southern Ocean voyage brings the full spectrum of Antarctic wildlife into view. In the Falkland Islands, where birdlife abounds, we discover easily accessible albatross and penguin rookeries on idyllic island farmsteads. In South Georgia, amidst the dramatic Southern Ocean seascape, we find world-famous wildlife beaches thronged with jousting elephant seals, raucous fur seals, and stately king penguins. In the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula we explore a pristine polar wilderness of singular beauty, complete with bustling penguin colonies, dauntless seals, and voracious whales. On this ultimate wildlife expedition, each destination is more amazing than the last.



DATES – 2025 - Feb 26-Mar 20

DURATION – 23 days

EMBARKATION – Ushuaia, Argentina

DISEMBARK- Buenos Aires, Arg.

SHIP - M/V Sea Spirit

FROM - \$16,097 (Double)*

***After 30% Savings
Book by Dec 09, 2024**

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Arrive Ushuaia, Argentina

Welcome to Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city and starting point of our Antarctic expedition! Upon your arrival at the airport, you will be greeted by our staff and transferred to a quality hotel, which has been arranged by us and is included in the price of the itinerary. For the rest of the day, you are free to explore this vibrant port city and adventure hub.

A variety of nature activities can be arranged to suit all interests and fitness levels, from hiking in nearby Tierra del Fuego National Park to wildlife viewing in the Beagle Channel. For dinner, Ushuaia offers a wide range of restaurants featuring Patagonian lamb and delectable Fuegian seafood.

Day 2: Ushuaia, Embarkation

After breakfast at your hotel, the morning is yours to enjoy Ushuaia. Explore the delightful waterfront and savor views of the snowcapped Martial Range, the southernmost peaks of the Andes. Take advantage of shopping for souvenirs or some last-minute necessities such as cold-weather gear. Just remember, you will soon receive your very own parka to keep and waterproof boots to borrow on board the ship. For lunch, the many cafés, parrillas and gelato shops on Avenida San Martín will be sure to satisfy any appetite.

In the afternoon, you will be transferred to the pier where we will warmly welcome you aboard the deluxe expedition vessel M/V Sea Spirit. Get settled in your spacious suite and explore the ship that will be your comfortable home during the extraordinary adventure to come. After getting underway, a full schedule of events kicks off with informative briefings and introductions from your expedition staff. After the first of many delicious dinners on board, step out onto the open decks to admire the scenery and gorgeous evening light as we pass through the Beagle Channel.

Days 3-4: Crossing the Drake Passage.

After passing the islands of Tierra del Fuego, we turn south to begin our crossing of the Drake Passage. The majestic wandering albatross and other graceful subantarctic seabirds are common in these waters and can readily be viewed from panoramic open decks and balconies. We also cross the Antarctic Convergence, the biological boundary of the Southern Ocean. The ship's stabilizing fins provide comfort in the event of rough seas. We hope to arrive in the South Shetland Islands on the evening of our second day at sea.

Days 5-8: The Antarctic Continent and the South Shetlands.

During the next few days, we explore the highlights of the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula. This region contains some of the world's most impressive scenery and the best wildlife viewing in Antarctica. Sheltered bays and channels sparkle with ice and reflect towering mountain peaks coated in permanent snow and immense glaciers. Icebergs of every size and description complete an image of incomparable beauty. Waters rich with krill are home to huge numbers of marine mammals and seabirds. The whole area is alive with penguins foraging at sea and forming large rookeries at special places on land. Here we also find Antarctic research bases of various nationalities, some with gift shops and post-offices.

The South Shetland Islands are the northernmost islands in Antarctica and will likely be our first sight of land. This wildly beautiful island chain contains many landing sites with historical significance and abundant wildlife. Among them is Elephant Island, where men from Shackleton's famous Endurance expedition spent the winter of 1916. We will also explore the supremely picturesque Gerlache Strait area of the Antarctic Peninsula, a pristine wilderness of spectacular white landscapes, colossal icebergs, obliging marine mammals and bustling penguin colonies. Here we have a chance to land on the continent of Antarctica.



Throughout this area, we find large colonies of gentoo, chinstrap and Adélie penguins, sometimes side by side. This is a great time for close encounters with inquisitive penguin chicks, who are now gaining independence as they fledge. This is also the peak of the whale-watching season. Having gorged themselves on krill all summer, humpback and minke whales become more playful and obliging to Zodiacs and kayakers. Crabeater and Weddell seals are joined by Antarctic fur seals and southern elephant seals. The skies are full of newly fledged seabirds.

Antarctica is a true wilderness with unpredictable weather and ever-changing ice conditions, which will dictate our route and exploration opportunities. With more than 14 hours of daylight per day, we seize every chance to experience excellent wildlife viewing and amazing scenery via Zodiac cruises and shore excursions.

Days 9-10: Scotia Sea.

We now proceed northeast through the wildlife-rich waters of the Scotia Sea. We keep a lookout for abundant humpback and fin whales along the way. Briefings, bio-security procedures and presentations by our lecture staff prepare you for our arrival in South Georgia.

Days 11-14: South Georgia.

The next five days will be devoted to the exploration of the unique and spectacular wilderness of South Georgia, home to some of the greatest concentrations of wildlife on the planet. This isolated subantarctic island is said to host upwards of 100 million seabirds, including numerous species of albatross, penguins, prions, petrels, shags, skuas, gulls and terns. Among these is one of the largest flying birds in the world—the wandering albatross. Here you have a rare opportunity to witness part of their remarkable life cycle. While most seabird chicks are already fledging, wandering albatross chicks are only now hatching in grassy nests overlooking the wild Southern Ocean.

On South Georgia's legendary beaches, king penguins are gathered in huge colonies that stretch from sandy shorelines to the foothills of glaciated mountains. Also at this time, hundreds of thousands of macaroni penguin chicks are getting ready to head out to sea. Rare birds such as the endemic South Georgia pipit and yellow-billed pintail round out the list of 78 bird species found across the territory. The successfully completed rat eradication program has made this wilderness even more pristine and rich with birdlife.

Days 15-16: At Sea

We sail west toward the Falkland Islands. Presentations and workshops by our expert staff, as well as our range of onboard recreation facilities, ensure that this day at sea is not idly spent. Pelagic seabirds are our constant companions as we keep a vigilant watch for dolphins and whales in these productive waters.

Days 17-18: The Falkland Islands

On these days we intend to come alongside the wharf at Stanley, the historic capital of the Falkland Islands. Attractions within pleasant walking distance along the waterfront promenade include the Falkland Islands Museum, the governor's house, various war memorials, quality gift shops and charming pubs. Christ Church Cathedral features an impressive whalebone arch and dramatic views of shipwrecks in the harbor.

We also plan to offer an excursion to Gypsy Cove, a national nature reserve where white sand beaches are frequented by numerous bird species, including the endemic Falklands flightless steamer duck. Here you can also see Magellanic penguins, whose chicks have fledged and are making a tentative start to their lives at sea. At this time, you may even find groups of sea lions hauled out on shore.

We continue our exploration of the Falklands in the isolated outlying islands. These bleakly beautiful isles are havens for wildlife. Large colonies of seabirds, perched on windy bluffs overlooking azure seas, are easily accessible by hiking over lush meadows. At this time, black-browed albatross soar down from above while feisty rockhopper penguins leap up surf-battered cliffs from below to feed their large chicks amongst the tussocks.

On nearby beaches, gentoo penguin chicks are starting to fledge while adult king penguins and chicks of all ages are getting ready to brave the austral winter. Just offshore, you may see Peale's dolphins and even killer whales patrolling the coasts. A wide range of land birds, including the endemic Cobb's wren and inquisitive striated caracara, contribute to an abundance of wildlife that will leave nature lovers breathless.

Days 19-22: The Southern Ocean

The ocean breezes gradually get warmer as we sail north through the South Atlantic Ocean. As we enter deeper waters, we are on constant lookout for killer whales, blue whales, sei whales and southern right whales. This is also the time for festivities such as the Captain's Farewell Cocktail and the end-of-voyage slideshow.

Day 23: Disembarkation in Buenos Aires

Right after the disembarkation we provide group transfer to the international airport or the city center.



RATES INCLUDE:

All transfers, tours, and hotels as described; one pre-voyage hotel night in Ushuaia; Group transfers from the airport to the hotel in Ushuaia in a day prior to departure; Group transfer to the ship on day of embarkation; Group transfer to airport or central location upon disembarkation in Buenos Aires; All scheduled landings/excursions; All lectures and briefings onboard; All meals served aboard; Coffee/tea/cocoa /espresso 24 hours daily; Welcome drink and farewell dinner onboard; Rubber boots for shore landings for the time of the cruise; Branded Poseidon Expeditions parka; All port fees; Pre-departure materials; Digital Voyage Log.

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

Airfare; Visa and passport fees (if applicable); Luggage and trip cancellation insurance; Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages other than those for special events and celebrations; Personal expenses such as laundry and telecommunication charges; Emergency Evacuation Insurance to a minimum benefit of USD 250,000; Staff gratuities.

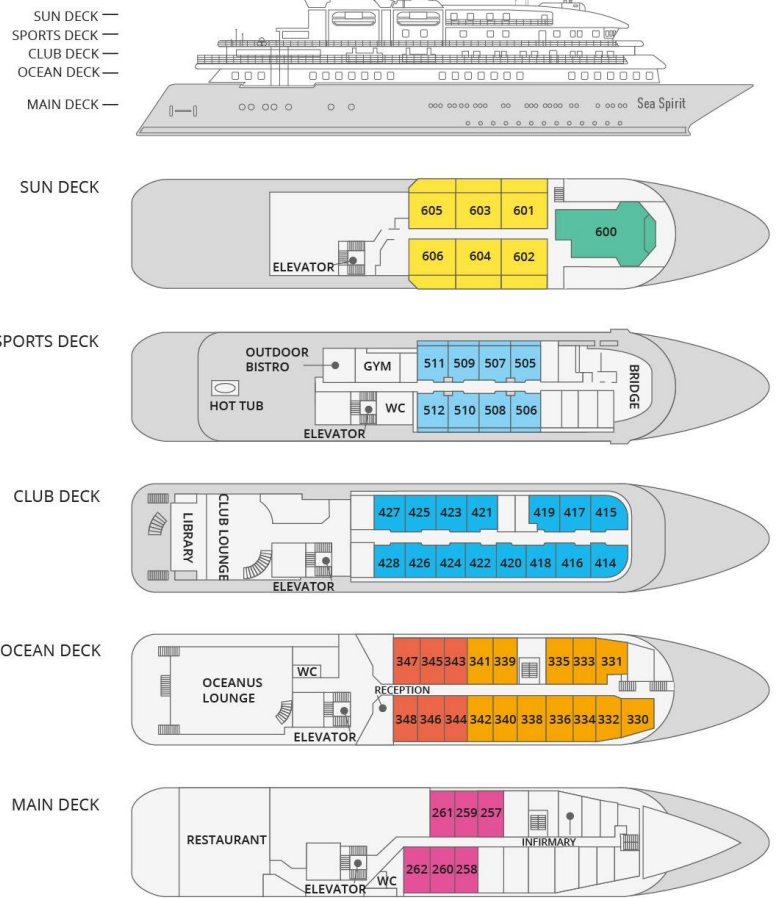


Reservations & Information
1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)
 Email - info@explorcruises.com
www.explorcruises.com

DECK PLAN M/V SEA SPIRIT

Season 2017-18

Owner's	Classic	Length:	90.6 meters (297 ft.)
Premium	Triple	Beam:	15.3 meters (50 ft.)
Deluxe	Main Deck	Speed:	15 knots
Superior		Passengers:	114
		Crew:	72



2025 RATES – Date\Suite	TRIPLE CLASSIC	MAIN DECK	SINGLE	CLASSIC	SUPERIOR	DELUXE BALCONY	PREMIUM BALCONY	OWNER SUITE
Feb 26-Mar 20, 2025	\$16,195	\$21,395	\$32,195	\$22,995	\$23,395	\$25,995	\$27,995	\$35,395
SAVE 30% BOOK BY DEC. 09, 2024				\$16,097	\$16,377			