It is the journey of a lifetime in the truest sense of these words. Traversing Drake’s eponymous passage is a must for any explorer. With diverse seabirds attracted to the area, have your binoculars and cameras ready and as you sail closer to the Antarctic Peninsula, look for seals basking on ice floes, Macaroni penguin, and the prodigious Orca whale. Begin and end your expedition at the “world’s end”, Ushuaia.

**DATES:** 2019 - Dec 03
2020 – Jan 02 | Feb 19

**DURATION:** 15 DAYS

**EMBARK:** USHUAIA, ARG
**DISEMBARK:** USHUAIA, ARG

**SHIPS:** Silver Explorer

**FROM:** $12,510*

Book by Mar. 31 2019 for Free Air or reduced rate Business Class.
Expedition Highlights

- Marvel at spectacular iceberg sculptures and calving glaciers
- Set foot on the continent and mainland of Antarctica
- Encounter Gentoo, Chinstrap and Adelie Penguins
- Spot elephant seals, Antarctic fur seals, Weddell seals, leopard seals and crabeater seals
- Watch for whales – humpback, Minke, orca, pilot, and beaked whales
- Identify seabirds – Snowy Sheathbill, Antarctic Cormorant, Kelp Gull, Antarctic Tern, Cape Petrels, Wandering Albatrosses, Southern Fulmars, Blue-eyed Shags, Southern Giant Petrels, skuas, Black-browed Albatrosses, Wilson’s Storm Petrels, Sooty Shearwaters

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive Buenos Aires, Argentina
You will be met and transferred to your deluxe hotel. Remainder of the day is free.

Day 2: Buenos Aires Tour
Enjoy a full day tour of Buenos Aires, "Paris of South America", arranged exclusively for Explor Cruises’ guests. Visit the unique neighborhoods of San Telmo, Recoleta, La Boca, Puerto Madero and Palermo. Lunch is included. This evening, you will be taken to a Dinner & Tango Show at Tango Porteño. Includes round trip transfers and a tango lesson of 1hr before the dinner. Return to your hotel late.

Day 3: Flight to Ushuaia – Embarkation
Transfer from your hotel to the city airport for your included flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia. Meet and transfer to ship. Capital of Argentina’s Tierra del Fuego province, Ushuaia lies in a bay opening into the Beagle Channel, at the country’s southernmost tip.

Embark your ship, settle in and attend a mandatory safety drill before leaving port. During the afternoon you will be introduced to some of the important crew members and your Expedition Team. At sail-away bid farewell to Tierra del Fuego, the ‘Land at the End of the World’.

Days 4–5 — Drake Passage
The Drake Passage has a notorious reputation for its turbulent seas due to the westerly winds and the funneling effect of the passage. The Antarctic Convergence, a natural boundary where cold polar water flows northward and warmer equatorial water moves southward, is within the Drake Passage. When these two currents meet, nutrients are pushed to the surface, often attracting a multitude of seabirds and whales. Spend some time on deck watching the horizon and the variety of seabirds that glide in the air currents of our ship’s wake such as the Black-browed Albatross, Sooty Shearwaters and White-chinned Petrels. Have your camera ready to capture the magical color of a late night sunset.

Attend wildlife, geography and history discussions hosted by our expert naturalists and guest lecturers that will prepare you for the exciting adventures that lie ahead. When available, visit the Bridge and meet our Captain and officers; information will be posted in the “Chronicle”, our daily onboard newsletter.
Days 6 - Antarctic Sound
The Antarctic Sound is a stretch of water named after the first ship to have passed through this body of water from the Bransfield Strait to the Weddell Sea in 1902. The Antarctic eventually sank and crew and scientists had to spend quite some time in this area before they could be rescued. Sites that have to do with this story - like Hope Bay or Paulet Island - are sometimes visited. The Antarctic Sound has a history of almost 200 years, with explorers, sealers, whalers, and scientists coming to enjoy this pristine and remote wilderness. It is a region of protected bays, unscaled snow-capped mountains, vast glaciers and a few places where whalers or scientists have worked.

Days 7–11 — Antarctic Peninsula
Remote and otherworldly, Antarctica is irresistible for its spectacular iceberg sculptures and calving glaciers, and for the possibility of up-close encounters with marine mammals and the iconic penguins. The Antarctic Peninsula – the main peninsula closest to South America – has a human history of almost 200 years, with explorers, sealers, whalers, and scientists who have come to work, and eventually intrepid visitors coming to enjoy this pristine and remote wilderness. It is a region of protected bays, unscaled snow-capped mountains, vast glaciers and a few places where whalers or scientists have worked.

Day 13 – Antarctica South Shetland Islands
Some 770 kilometers (478 miles) south of Cape Horn, the South Shetland Islands are usually the first land seen in Antarctica. Separated from the Antarctic Peninsula by the Bransfield Strait, nine major islands make up the group. The region was the first to be exploited by sealers in the early 19th century, and because of its proximity to South America, it is the most visited by scientists and tourists. Chinstrap, Adelie, Gentoo and Macaroni Penguins all breed here. In addition, because it is the warmest part of the continent, large moss beds as well as orange, black, grey and green lichens grow – even hair grass and pearlwort manage to survive.

Days 13–14 — Drake Passage Return
Navigating our return through the Drake Passage, we will watch for seabirds and wildlife we may have missed on the first leg. Take this opportunity to attend additional presentations offered by the Expedition Team lecturers and to swap photos with new friends as we travel towards Ushuaia.

Day 15 — Ushuaia, Argentina
After breakfast, disembark Silver Explorer.
Rates 2019-20 – Per Person, Double – All Inclusive*

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Higher categories available – Medallion, Silver, Grand and Owner
Rates subject to change.
*All Beverages in-suite and throughout the ship, Unlimited Free Wifi, Port charges, and
Gratuities always included in your fare.