

THE SOLO CRUISE COMPANY

ANTARCTICA

Date

Nov. 12th - Nov. 27th, 2024

Price

15 days from **€22,464**

Ship

World Navigator

Climate

Dry, -9 - 25°C

Nov. 12th

Buenos Aires

Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, a personal greeting awaits, and you'll be transferred to your hotel for an overnight stay. Spend the night in Buenos Aires before your flight the next day to Ushuaia, where you'll embark on the Atlas Ocean Voyages luxury expedition ship, the World Navigator.

Depending on your arrival time, considering potential long flights to South America, the rest of your day is at leisure. For those who have already arrived, we'll convene in the hotel bar early evening for welcome cocktails. It's also an opportunity to meet your dedicated Solo Cruise Company Concierge Host, who will accompany you throughout your entire itinerary.

Nov. 13th

Ushuaia

Morning & Afternoon:

Around mid-morning (timings subject to change), we will return to the airport for our Atlas Ocean Voyages charter flight to Ushuaia. Depending on our arrival time in Ushuaia, we may have the opportunity to explore some of the southernmost city in South America or transfer directly to World Navigator for embarkation.

Evening:

This evening, we will gather for our "Welcome Dinner" in the main restaurant, after sail away. It's a chance to meet your fellow travellers as we embark on our incredible journey to "The White Continent."

Nov. 14th

Drake Passage Navigation

Navigating the intrepid Drake Passage is tailor-made for the boldest explorers. Guided by soaring petrels and albatrosses gliding across the skies, the journey becomes a triumphant odyssey. Witnessing the Passage's awesome power enhances the experience of the voyage to Antarctica.

The Drake Passage connects the southernmost region of the Americas to the Antarctic Peninsula, marking the gateway to The White Continent's northern point. This waterway, where the frigid Southern Ocean meets warmer northern sea water, spawns powerful currents.

However, the rewards for those who brave these waters are unparalleled. The convergence of warm and cold currents creates an environment teeming with extraordinary wildlife. Humpback whales and hourglass dolphins accompany the voyage, providing a captivating spectacle. The 48-hour journey through the Drake Passage is underscored by the rhythmic crash of the ocean against the ship and the haunting cries of petrels, skuas, and gulls.

Nov. 15th

Drake Passage Navigation

While the waterway is renowned for its challenging navigation, the Drake Passage may reveal another side. On certain occasions, the channel becomes calm and tranquil, offering a delightful journey into Antarctica. This unpredictability is one of the more splendid characteristics of the Drake Passage – you never know what to expect.

As you emerge from the Drake Passage, the colossal, icy peaks of the South Shetland Islands loom ahead, welcoming you to your triumphant landing. Completing the rite of passage, you have now set foot on the seventh continent, ready to explore its wonders.

Nov. 16th

Exploring the South Shetland Islands

As part of the broader Antarctica region, the South Shetland Islands boast abundant wildlife, breathtaking landscapes, hiking opportunities, and awe-inspiring viewpoints that evoke a sense of discovering another world. A potential landing on Elephant Island, named for its cliffside shape and the elephant seals residing there, retraces the path of the renowned Shackleton Expedition. Deception Island, another possible landing and aptly named, is a volcanic caldera with heated springs amid striking black sands. Additional stops might include Half Moon Island, Yankee Harbour, Point Wild, and Barrientos Island, home to numerous Gentoo penguin rookeries.

Captains Choice:

Captain's Choice ports of call enhance the sense of adventure and add an element of surprise. Your ship's captain will navigate changing weather conditions as needed, ensuring you explore the best areas for wildlife viewing.

Nov. 17th

Exploring Antarctica

Nicknamed "The White Continent" for its vast expanse of icebergs, snow, and glaciers, Antarctica stands as the final frontier for experienced explorers. As you navigate its waters, anticipate setting foot on iconic sites like Beak Island, Brown Bluff, Cierva Cove, Hidden Bay, and many more. Each landing presents a unique landscape, from expansive tundra to rugged mountain peaks, inviting you to tread paths few explorers have ventured before.

Captains Choice:

Captain's Choice ports of call enhance the sense of adventure with an element of surprise. Your ship's captain navigates changing weather conditions, ensuring you explore the best areas for wildlife viewing.

Nov. 18th

Exploring Antarctica

Antarctica, the southernmost continent on Earth, holds the title of the coldest, driest, and windiest place, with temperatures plunging to -62 degrees Celsius. It's a colossal ice-covered landmass containing 70% of the planet's freshwater. Home to unique wildlife, from the iconic Emperor penguins to colossal whales and seals, Antarctica's ecosystem thrives in extreme conditions. The region is governed by the Antarctic Treaty System, fostering international cooperation for scientific research and environmental protection. Despite its harsh climate, Antarctica remains a living laboratory, providing crucial insights into climate change and our planet's ecological balance.

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Nov. 19th

Exploring Antarctica

Antarctica, the Earth's southernmost continent, is surrounded by the Southern Ocean and encompasses an ice sheet covering an area larger than Europe. It boasts the highest average elevation among the continents, with the Antarctic Plateau standing over 2,300 metres above sea level. The ice sheet holds about 60% of the world's fresh water, and if it were to melt, global sea levels would surge significantly. Surprisingly, Antarctica is also a desert, receiving minimal precipitation despite its icy reputation. The Dry Valleys, one of the driest places on Earth, witness little to no snowfall, creating a surreal, Mars-like landscape. This frozen realm, governed by international treaties, stands as a testament to the planet's extremes and the resilience of life in challenging environments.

As you navigate its waters, anticipate setting foot on iconic sites like Beak Island, Brown Bluff, Cierva Cove, Hidden Bay, and many more. Each landing presents a unique landscape, from expansive tundra to rugged mountain peaks, inviting you to tread paths few explorers have ventured before.

Captains Choice:

Captain's Choice ports of call enhance the sense of adventure with an element of surprise. Your ship's captain navigates changing weather conditions, ensuring you explore the best areas for wildlife viewing.

Nov. 20th

Drake Passage Navigation

Embarking on the journey across the Drake Passage, often dubbed the "Sea of Hoces," is an adventurous expedition that tests the mettle of intrepid travelers. This notorious stretch of water between South America's Cape Horn and the South Shetland Islands represents a rite of passage for those bound for Antarctica. While its reputation for tempestuous seas precedes it, the Drake Passage is also known for its unpredictability. At times, the crossing can be calm and serene, offering a smooth voyage into the icy wilderness. Yet, the relentless winds and turbulent currents can also create a thrilling maritime adventure, reminding voyagers of the awe-inspiring power of nature.

As you navigate these legendary waters, keep a watchful eye on the skies, where petrels and albatrosses gracefully soar. These seabirds accompany the journey, providing an avian spectacle against the backdrop of the vast ocean. Humpback whales and hourglass dolphins may also make appearances, adding to the enchantment of the passage. The soundtrack of the 48-hour journey through the Drake Passage includes the crash of the ocean against the ship and the cries of petrels, skuas, and gulls, creating a symphony of nature that accompanies you on this remarkable sea crossing.

Nov. 21st

Drake Passage Navigation

While the waterway is famous for its challenging navigation, you may still get another side of the Drake Passage. On some occasions, the channel is calm and tranquil, making for a pleasant voyage into Antarctica. That's one of the more splendid characteristics of the Drake Passage – you never know what you will get. You may enjoy the "Drake Lake", which is wonderful sailing or alternatively encounter the "Drake Shake", which can be somewhat less wonderful!

Nov. 22nd

Ushuaia

Located at the southernmost tip of South America within the Tierra del Fuego archipelago, Ushuaia is affectionately known as the "End of the World." However, far from signalling the conclusion of any adventure, this vibrant city stands ready to offer a thrilling experience. Nestled where the Andes meet the Beagle Channel, with the majestic Martial Mountains providing a snowy backdrop to the colourful buildings sprawled across the landscape, Ushuaia invites you to embark on an unforgettable journey. Explore scenes like Parque Yatana, where you can immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of indigenous culture.

Upon disembarkation, we will proceed to the airport for our Atlas Ocean Voyages charter flight back to Buenos Aires. As this is a domestic flight, there is no immigration clearance required on arrival. Once you've collected your baggage, we will transfer to our hotel, the Hotel Intercontinental Buenos Aires or a similar option. Our dedicated Concierge Host will be available to provide any necessary assistance.

The evening is at your leisure, allowing you to relax and unwind after a day of travel.

Nov. 23rd

Buenos Aires

Morning & Afternoon:

Begin your day with a hearty Argentinian breakfast before beginning your exploration of Buenos Aires. Choose from a curated selection of half-day excursions to explore Buenos Aires at your own pace. Whether you opt for a morning or afternoon adventure or decide to combine two options for a full-day experience, the decision is yours, as the Solo Cruise Company are great believers in flexibility and choice.

Prior to your departure, we'll provide a list of available excursions for your stay in Buenos Aires. Pre-booking is essential, with a maximum of two excursions today, subject to operational constraints. Note that capacity limits may require adjustments to your preferred choice or timing.

Evening:

Immerse yourself in an authentic Argentinian experience with a themed dinner at one of the city's historic restaurants, known for grandeur and captivating tango performances. Whether you find yourself on the dance floor discovering your inner Tango or indulging in spit-roasted meats, carnivore heaven awaits. Non-meat lovers have an array of delectable options.

Meals:

Breakfast/Dinner

Nov. 24th

Das Cataratas & Iguazu Falls

Morning:

We'll transfer to the airport for your flight from Buenos Aires to Das Cataratas, a scenic 30 to 60-minute drive within the Iguazu National Park. Your haven for the next 3 nights will be the exquisite <u>Belmond Hotel Das Cataratas</u>, nestled in the breathtaking surroundings of Iguazu Falls, where Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay meet.

Afternoon:

The afternoon invites you to explore the falls, with leisurely bridge walks and nature hikes. Alternatively, unwind by the hotel's beautiful pool. Included in your stay are a 25-minute facial and a 50-minute massage at the hotel spa. Ensure your appointments are pre-booked; we'll contact you before your departure to arrange your preferred days and times.

Evening:

Enjoy a relaxing evening at your leisure. Your Concierge Host is available to assist with any dinner reservations you may desire at the hotel.

Meals:

Breakfast

Nov. 25th

Das Cataratas

Morning & Afternoon:

Ahead of your journey, we will furnish you with a selection of excursions for your stay at Das Cataratas. Please prebook these as they are limited to a maximum of two today, dependent on operational timings. Please be aware that capacity constraints may require adjustments to your chosen excursions or rescheduling to the following day.

Evening:

Experience a delightful "al fresco" dinner on the charming veranda of the Itaipu Restaurant, weather permitting. This picturesque venue showcases a tempting array of Brazilian and international dishes, complemented by the natural symphony of crashing falls.

Meals:

Breakfast/Dinner

Nov. 26th

Das Cataratas

Prior to your departure from your home city, we will provide you with a list of excursions available for you to choose from during your stay at Das Cataratas. These must be pre-booked before your arrival and are restricted to a maximum of one excursion today. Kindly note that due to capacity limits on some excursions, we may be unable to confirm your preferred excursion or may have to schedule your choice for the previous day.

You may, of course, want to spend today relaxing by the pool or have some other activity in mind - your Concierge Host is available to assist you with any arrangements.

Evening:

We've sadly come to the end of our incredible journey to Antarctica, the beautiful east coast of Argentina, the vibrant Buenos Aires, and finally, Das Cataratas and the spectacular Iguazu Falls, but we cannot part without a wonderful farewell dinner! Tonight, we have arranged something very special for you to enjoy on your last evening, but it's a secret! You'll only know if you come along! It's time for great music, wonderful food, and your favourite cocktails or glass of wine... or two. Come, celebrate your travels and enjoy!

Meals:

Breakfast/Dinner

Nov. 27th

Das Cataratas-Buenos Aires-Flights Home

After breakfast this morning, we will depart for the airport for our flight back to Buenos Aires, timed to arrive mid-afternoon, allowing for most onward connections to your home city.

Your Concierge Host, along with our local airport hosts, will be available to assist you with your check-in and provide details for your connecting flights.

It's always sad to say goodbye, but we would like to express our gratitude at The Solo Cruise Company for choosing to travel with us and becoming a part of our wonderfully unique family of travellers. We sincerely hope your travels were not only enjoyable and enlightening but also that you have come away having made some very special and wonderful new friends. We can't wait to welcome you back on your next voyage of discovery.

Included

- Services of our Concierge Host throughout your entire journey
- 9-night all inclusive Antarctic cruise aboard World Navigator
- Roundtrip private charter flights Buenos Aires/Ushuaia/Buenos Aries
- 1-night pre cruise accommodation in Buenos Aries
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers in Buenos Aries
- Airport/ship/Airport transfers in Ushuaia
- 2-nights luxury post cruise accommodation in Buenos Aries
- Multiple experiences and excursions as noted in the itinerary
- Private car & group transfers as noted in the itinerary
- Spa treatments as noted in the itinerary
- Economy class flight from Buenos Aries to Iguazu Falls
- · Economy Class flight from Iguazu to Buenos Aires
- 3-nights luxury accommodation in Das Cataratas (Iguazu Falls)

Excluded

- Long-haul intercontinental flights to Buenos Aires and from Buenos Aires.
- Airline luggage charges in excess of one 23kg checked bag
- Visa fees
- Comprehensive travel insurance
- Meals & beverages not mentioned in the itinerary
- Laundry & dry cleaning services
- Credit card fees if paying by Visa, Mastercard or American Express

Further Details

- Minimum age is 55 years.
- This journey contains some active elements, including walks over uneven terrain and labour-intensive activities.
- Specific regarding booking and terms can be found in the <u>Terms & Conditions</u>. the <u>Privacy Policy</u>, or by contacting support@solocruisecompany.com.

World Navigator

