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Antarctica In Search of the Emperor Penguin Adventure Cruising

11 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT•SOBEK™
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

➤ Antarctica In Search of the Emperor Penguin Adventure Cruising

A true adventure, this exciting Antarctica cruise in the Weddell Sea sets out to explore the range of the emperor penguins near Snow Hill Island. Watch for Chinstrap, Adelie and gentoo penguins as well as a variety of other birds from the ship, and survey the area via helicopter. Visit historic and volcanic South Shetland Islands. Helicopters provide an advantage in reaching the emperor penguin colony, but nature makes the rules in Antarctica. The itinerary will vary depending on the weather and ice pack.

Details

Arrive: Ushuaia, Argentina

Depart: Ushuaia, Argentina

Duration: 11 Days

Group Size: Up to 108 Guests

Minimum Age: 15 Years Old

Activity Level:



Testimonials

"We have traveled throughout the world, but never experienced a level of service and attention to detail as we did with MT Sobek."

Dennis G.

"I have traveled extensively around the world. The experience with MT Sobek was by far the best I have ever had. Thank you for such excellence."

Marianne W.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

📞 1-800-974-0300

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Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01

Over 30 years offering polar voyages we have built strong relationships with polar outfitters and ships that cruise the 7th continent.

REASON #02

We choose ships and operators that maintain a high level of commitment to safety, people, value, quality, environment, well-being, and customer service.

REASON #03

MT Sobek's Polar Value Promise means that we offer in-house services to help plan and execute your polar adventure for no added cost.

What to Expect



ACTIVITIES

Expert polar interpretation and presentations, professional navigation through Antarctic waters, and up-close wildlife experiences on shore and by Zodiac. Optional kayaking for a fee.



LODGING

Ortelius is an ice-strengthened and well-appointed polar expedition ship that offers a comfortable and safe way to explore Antarctica.



CLIMATE

Antarctica is unpredictable. There may be days of warm sunshine, but be prepared for wind, rain, and snow. Daytime temperatures are 20-32F.

Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.


Martin's passion for birds and mammals has taken him all over the world in his search for rare species. He has always been drawn to adventure, and has participated in many bird conservation projects in the Amazon, Arctic, Caucasus, and Himalayas. He has also spent several seasons studying seabirds in the North Atlantic Ocean and Antarctica. Martin holds a degree in Biology and an MA in Marine Biology, and he currently lives in Stockholm, Sweden. But most of his time is currently spent either in the Arctic or Antarctica, where he guides and gives lectures on a wide range of topics related to natural history.

Martin Berg

Marijke grew up in the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Germany before completing an MSc in Marine Ecology and a PhD in Marine Mammal Ecology. Marijke is fascinated by cetaceans and has worked with a variety of whales, from Minkes in Scotland to Belugas in Canada. She has also participated in various ocean-crossing surveys, including the Davis Strait, Indian Ocean, South China Sea, Southern Ocean and Antarctica. Whilst she very much enjoys the academic side of her career, her first love is sharing her knowledge in the field. She has worked as a wildlife guide during multiple oceanic expeditions and is always happy to return to the ocean.

Marijke de Boer

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Itinerary

DAY 1

EMBARK FROM THE "END OF THE WORLD"

Begin the journey on Tierra del Fuego in the small resort town of Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city on the planet, nicknamed "The End of the World." Board your ship, settle into your cabin, and then sail the mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the remainder of the evening.

Meals: D

DAY 2

SAIL DRAKES PASSAGE, PATH OF THE POLAR EXPLORERS

Begin a two-day voyage across the 600 mile gateway to the white continent of Antarctic: the Drakes Passage. Experience sights encountered by the great polar explorers who first charted these regions. The Drake is considered by many polar travelers as a rite of passage everyone must experience before enjoying the boundless natural wonders of Antarctica. Layers of cold seawater from the south and relatively warm seawater from the north collide to form powerful eddies. When paired with strong winds, common to this area, the Drake Passage has earned its reputation as one of Earth's roughest waterways and greatest adventures.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3

CONTINUE ON DRAKES PASSAGE

Pass the Antarctic Convergence - Antarctica's natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer sub-Antarctic seas - into the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. En route, enjoy a program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff. The wealth of Drake Passage wildlife will give you no shortage of animals to gaze at. Keep an eye out for albatrosses like the wandering, grey-headed, black-browed, and light-mantled sooty albatrosses. Thick with plankton, the seas support populations of humpback, orca, minke, and fin whales.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

ENTER THE ANTARCTIC SOUND AND WEDDELL SEA

Sail into the Weddell Sea via the iceberg-dotted Antarctic Sound toward the eastern Antarctic Peninsula. Search for emperor penguins from vantage points on the vessel and from helicopters. Expert guides lead all excursions and decide where to go and what to do each day depending on conditions.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

CHART THE WESTERN SLOPES OF THE ANTARCTIC SOUND

Continue into the Weddell Sea. Leave the ship for helicopter flights, weather permitting. Enjoy breath-taking views of the layered sandstones, lava flows, glaciers, icebergs, and pack-ice extending as far as the eye can see. Zodiac to Devil Island, home to a large colony of Adélie penguins, and a magnificent vantage point for hikers at the top of the hill.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

JOURNEY TO THE LAND OF THE EMPERORS

Watch for Emperor Penguins on a sail further south, ice and weather permitting. Visit Seymour Island, where the Swedish Antarctic Expedition of 1901 wintered, and home to sedimentary rock formations, fossils, and expansive views. Take a zodiac ride to Gourdin Island, where Chinstrap, gentoo, and Adélie penguins can be found.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

TRAVEL NORTH THROUGH THE ANTARCTIC SOUND

Continue north, watching for whales, penguins, and sea birds. Zodiac to Brown Bluff, perhaps the most scenic location in the northern tip of the Antarctic Continent, with its sheer canyon walls, fallen boulders, and beautiful volcanic creations capped with ice. Enjoy viewing the large Adélie penguin rookery, also home to gentoo penguins and nesting snow petrels. Make way toward Deception Island.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8

EXPLORE DECEPTION ISLAND

Awake in the South Shetland Islands archipelago and sail into the volcanic caldera of the crescent-shaped Deception Island through its narrow entrance, Neptune's Bellows. Admire the surrounding cliffs and spectacular mountain peaks towering above. Landing at either Pendulum Cove or Whalers Bay, explore abandoned whaling station ruins including bleached whalebones, wooden barrels and other artefacts from 20th century whale hunters. Although the wildlife inside the caldera is not that abundant, several bird species breed on the caldera cliffs. Deception Island is not totally covered by ice, offering many walking opportunities. If conditions are right, hike to "Neptune's Window" and high up onto the rim of the crater, and experience what it's like to be "at the top" of the bottom of the world.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 9

RETURN JOURNEY ACROSS THE DRAKE PASSAGE

Begin the 2-day journey back to Ushuaia across Drakes Passage. En route, watch for migratory sea birds Antarctic Petrels, Southern Giant Petrel, shags, skuas, and gulls. Expert ornithologists and keen birders are there to point out the different species on on-board lectures will help you with birdlife knowledge.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 10

FINAL CROSSING DAY

Cross the Drake, greeted by a vast array of seabirds and whales. Take advantage of the day to rest and reflect on the extraordinary journey of the days past. Cap off the trip with a sail past Cape Horn on the way into Ushuaia, weather permitting.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 11

DEPART USHUAIA

This morning disembark and transfer to the airport. We strongly recommend booking flights no earlier than 12:00 pm to account for possible delays getting back to port.

Meals: B

Dates

Nov 10 - 20, 2024

Nov 20 - 30, 2024

Nov 11 - 21, 2025

Nov 21 - Dec 1, 2025

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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Inclusions & Exclusions

PRICE INCLUDES

- Pricing based on double occupancy in a Twin Porthole Cabin
- Expertise and services of experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses

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► The World of MT Sobek

At Mountain Travel Sobek, we believe life is an adventure and adventure is life.

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Awards



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