

Crossing the Antarctic Circle

15 day itinerary

Very few people in the world can claim to have crossed the Antarctic Circle, reaching an extreme latitude at the very bottom of the world. Only the most adventurous travelers include this Circle on their life list of goals. Share this momentous achievement with a few select adventurers on board the *Professor Molchanov*.



B. & C. Alexander

Every Crossing the Antarctic Circle expedition includes:

- One night pre-cruise hotel accommodation in Ushuaia with continental breakfast
- **NEW!** A guided excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park prior to embarkation and a traditional Argentine BBQ *asado* lunch
- Voyage aboard the vessel per itinerary, with shipboard accommodation
- All meals throughout the voyage
- All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage
- Leadership by experienced expedition staff
- A program of presentations by noted naturalists and other experts
- Zodiac cruising and transfers to and from the ship for shore excursions
- **NEW!** The use of rubber boots for the duration of the voyage
- Comprehensive pre-departure information kit and Antarctic handbook
- Group transfers and baggage handling as per itinerary
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- A detailed post-expedition CD-ROM logbook chronicling your voyage
- Daily international news bulletins
- **NEW!** Specially designed expedition parka, which is yours to keep

Day 1 – Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

Arrive in the southernmost city in the world and make your way to the Hotel Los Nires or similar hotel.

Day 2 – Ushuaia

Spend the morning with a local guide on a group excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park, then enjoy a traditional Argentine BBQ *asado* lunch. Settle into your cabin and get to know the ship. You will meet your Expedition Team as the ship heads through the scenic Beagle Channel.

Days 3-5 – Drake Passage & South Shetland Islands

Journey across the famous Drake Passage, named after the 16th-century English navigator Sir Francis Drake. As the ship sails, our naturalists and historians offer presentations on the marvels ahead. If weather allows, you can spend time on deck spotting for albatrosses - including the magnificent Wandering Albatross - and other seabirds.

The South Shetland Islands, which lie to the north of the Antarctic Peninsula, are usually sighted in the late afternoon on Day 4. Here you visit vast penguin rookeries, land on beaches ruled by Antarctic fur seals, and observe wallowing southern elephant seals. You may also visit one of the many research bases in the archipelago and look for Antarctica's only two flowering plants, which thrive here during the short

Rates and Dates

Crossing the Antarctic Circle

Aboard the *Professor Molchanov*

Dec 13 - Dec 27, 2005
Feb 2 - Feb 16, 2006

Days	Triple	Twin Shared Facilities	Twin Private Facilities	Superior	Amundsen Suite	Early Booking Discount
15	\$6,395	\$7,995	\$9,395	\$10,995	\$11,695	n/a
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southern summer. Often the ship sails through Neptune Bellows, a narrow passage leading into the sunken caldera of Deception Island. Here, if the tide allows, you may dip your toes in the steaming waters of Pendulum Cove.

Days 6-12 – Antarctic Peninsula

Our exploration of the Antarctic continent may begin with a visit to the aptly named Paradise Bay, or to nearby Neko Harbor. Glaciers fill the calm waters with an amazing vista of icebergs as you set foot on the Antarctic continent itself.

During the voyage, expect to see enormous rookeries of Gentoo, Chinstrap and Adélie Penguins. You may also encounter Weddell, crabeater and leopard seals, as well as orcas, humpback, and Minke whales. If pack ice and icebergs allow, the ship navigates some of the most beautiful waterways in the world. Two in particular, the Neumayer and Lemaire Channels, are impressive narrow passages between towering rock faces and spectacular glaciers. Sailing south of the Lemaire Channel we may visit Petermann Island, where Adélie and Gentoo Penguins, skuas and Blue-eyed Shags nest close to the landing site.

The quest for the Antarctic Circle continues as the expedition pushes farther south. You will be in the vicinity of historic Stonington Island, which served briefly as a base for the Byrd's Little America Expedition in 1940. The site also served as the base for Finn Ronne's 1947-48 Antarctic Research Expedition that mapped a great portion of the continent by air. We will mark our arrival at the southernmost location with a celebration on board.

Days 13-14 – Drake Passage

You bid farewell to Antarctica as you sail north across the Drake Passage. The adventure is not over, as there are more opportunities to watch birds and whales cavorting in the open ocean.

Day 15 – Ushuaia

Disembark after breakfast and transfer by bus to the Antarctic Unit office located at the entrance to the pier. If you are departing on the morning flight, the transfer continues to the airport.

Please note: Read this itinerary as a guide only. Flexibility is the key to the enjoyment of this expedition. Every effort will be made to push for the Antarctic Circle. Since ice and weather conditions can change quickly, we cannot guarantee that the vessel will reach the Antarctic Circle. Visits to research stations depend on final permission.

