



HOLBROOK
TRAVEL

ABOARD THE USHUAIA

ANTARCTICA

December 9-23, 2010

For over two centuries, the 'White Desert' has attracted scientists and adventurers, drawn by its unmatched natural beauty. Amazingly busy penguin colonies, a spectacular variety of seabirds, an abundance of seals and magnificent whales await you, all set in a breathtaking scenery of imposing mountain ranges, ice-filled channels, tabular and beautifully shaped icebergs and glaciers. The M/V Ushuaia, an ice-strengthened, former NOAA research vessel, is set up for 84 passengers in comfortable accommodations. Join Ron Bryant and Marylin Lisowski on this once-in-a-lifetime journey to the End of the Earth!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the unique Tierra del Fuego National Park near Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city
- Up close experiences with Chinstrap, Macaroni and Gentoo penguins, whales and seabirds on the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands



Cost is based on double occupancy. Both B level cabins have semi-private facilities, meaning two cabins share an adjoining toilet and shower, accessible by both cabins. Each cabin has a washbasin. Level A and above have private facilities. Program may incur unforeseen fuel surcharges. A \$1500 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to hold your space. This deposit is refundable until 120 days prior to departure excluding a \$600 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 120 days prior to departure (August 11, 2010). Cancellations received less than 120 days prior to departure are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call 800-243-3174. Holbrook's agency number is 15849.

TRIP DETAILS

DATES

Dec 9-23, 2010

TRIP COST

\$6645

Plus international flights

All inclusive in doubles from Buenos Aires, with outside B level cabin aboard the ship. Add \$1100 for an A level cabin and for a Superior Cabin add \$1600. Flights inside Argentina are included.

EDUCATIONAL CONNECTIONS

- Wildlife Studies
- Earth Science
- Environmental Science
- Adventure Learning
- Conservation
- Natural History

Certified



ClimateSafe

This program is Carbon Neutral via a carbon offset through Holbrook's partnership with ClimateSafe.



Dec 9

Take an overnight flight to Buenos Aires (cost not included in the trip price above).

Dec 10

Buenos Aires

Morning arrival with free time to rest. Lunch at a local restaurant and city tour of Buenos Aires. This evening enjoy a tango show with dinner. **Overnight at Hotel Elevage.** (BLD)

Dec 11

Ushuaia

After breakfast, transfer to the domestic airport for the flight to Ushuaia. Remainder of the day will be free to explore the Southernmost City of Ushuaia. Enjoy a typical Fuegian dinner. **Overnight at Hotel Los Acebos** (BLD)

Dec 12

Cruise

Today you will enjoy an excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park, located 12 km west of Ushuaia. This unique park with maritime coast occupies 63,000 hectares where trees such as lengas, cherry trees, ñires, calafates, and notros - all natives of Tierra del Fuego - live together with flora such as orchids, violets and senecios. You will see where indigenous people of the area left their testimony - "Los Concheros" - incredible archeological sites. You will also have short hikes in the park at different view points. After a barbeque lunch you will be transferred to the port to board the M/V Ushuaia and set sail and meet your expedition and lecture staff. After you have settled into your cabins we sail along the famous Beagle Channel and the scenic MacKinlay Pass. **Overnight aboard M/V Ushuaia** (BLD)

Dec 13

Cruise

Named after the renowned explorer, Sir Frances Drake, who sailed these waters in 1578, the Drake Passage also marks the Antarctic convergence, a biological barrier where cold polar water sinks beneath the warmer northern waters. This creates a great upwelling of nutrients, which sustains the biodiversity of this region. The Drake Passage also marks the northern limit of many Antarctic seabirds. As we sail across the passage, expedition lecturers will be out with you on deck to help in the identification of an amazing variety of seabirds, including many albatrosses, which follow in our wake. The Ushuaia's open bridge policy allows you to join our officers on the bridge and learn about navigation, watch for whales, and enjoy the view. A full program of lectures will be offered as well. **Overnight aboard M/V Ushuaia** (BLD)

Dec 14

Cruise

The first sightings of icebergs and snow-capped mountains indicate that we have reached the South Shetland Islands, a group of twenty islands and islets first sighted in February 1819 by Capt. William Smith of the brig Williams. With favorable conditions in the Drake Passage our lecturers and naturalists will accompany you ashore as you experience your first encounter with the penguins and seals. **Overnight aboard M/V Ushuaia** (BLD)

Dec 15

Cruise

The South Shetland Islands are a haven for wildlife. Vast penguin rookeries, beaches ruled by Antarctic fur seals and southern elephant seals make every day spent in this amazing island group unforgettable. Sailing through the narrow passage into the flooded caldera of Deception Island and the chance to swim in the hot springs of Pendulum Cove is truly amazing. King George Island, the largest of the South Shetland Islands, features colonies of nesting Adélie and Chinstrap penguins, kelp gulls, blue-eyed cormorants, Antarctic terns and southern

giant petrels and is home to scientific bases of many different countries. Macaroni, Chinstrap and Gentoo penguins as well as elephant seals await you at Livingston Island. **Overnight aboard M/V Ushuaia** (BLD)

Dec 16

Cruise

The Antarctic Peninsula's remarkable history will provide you with a type of excitement often only associated with the early explorers. You will have plenty of time to explore its amazing scenery, a pristine wilderness of snow, ice, mountains and waterways, and an incredible wide variety of wildlife. Apart from penguins and seabirds you are very likely to see Weddell, crabeater and leopard seals as well as minke, killer (orca) and humpback whales at close range. **Overnight M/V Ushuaia** (BLD)

Dec 17

Cruise

We hope to navigate some of the most beautiful waterways (depending on the ice conditions): the Gerlache Strait, the Neumayer Channel, and the Lemaire Channel, the latter are narrow passages between towering rock faces and spectacular glaciers. We plan to make at least two landings per day. Possible landing sites are listed over the next two days, weather permitting. **Overnight aboard M/V Ushuaia** (BLD)

Dec 18

Cruise

Paradise Bay is perhaps the most aptly named place in the world and we attempt a landing on the continent proper. After negotiating the iceberg-strewn waters of the Antarctic sound, we hope to visit the bustling Adélie penguin (over 100,000 pairs breed here) and blue-eyed cormorant colonies on Paulet Island. The Nordenskjöld Expedition built a stone survival hut here in 1903. Today its ruins have been taken over by nesting penguins. **Overnight aboard M/V Ushuaia** (BLD)

Dec 19

Cruise

Further exploration may take you to Melchior Island, Cuverville Island, Portal Point, Neko Harbour, Pléneau Island and if ice conditions permit, to Petermann Island for a visit to the southernmost colony of Gentoo penguins. **Overnight aboard M/V Ushuaia** (BLD)

Dec 20-21

Cruise

Head north back through the Drake Passage these next two days. Join our lecturers and naturalists on deck as we search for seabirds and whales and enjoy some final lectures. Take the chance to relax and reflect on the fascinating adventures of the past days on the way back to Ushuaia. **Overnight aboard M/V Ushuaia** (BLD)

Dec 22

Buenos Aires

After breakfast you will disembark and enjoy an excursion to Escondido Lake. You will stop to observe the base of Antigo Presidio while passing through the industrial sector then the woods to the beautiful waterfall Velo de Novia. Starting up the base of Mount Olivia, you will soon see the front of Sierra Alvear with its eternal snows whose foothills extend through an enormous valley that mixes with Valley Carabajal that later changes its name to Terra Mayor and Las Cotorras. When the route passes Rancho Hambre, the ascent begins until Paso Garibaldi where you can enjoy the panoramic views of lakes Escondido and Fagnano. After a light lunch at Cerro Castor you will transfer to the Ushuaia airport for your flight to Buenos Aires. After some free time in Buenos Aires, you will transfer to Ezeiza International Airport for the flight back to the U.S. (BL)

Dec 23

Miami

Early morning arrival in the U.S.