

## Weddell Sea

### *Emperor Penguin Voyage*



*Explore the Weddell Sea and the Antarctic Peninsula in this 11-day cruise organised by Oceanwide Expeditions. During the course of this voyage, you will have the chance to land on the Antarctic Continent and visit an Emperor Penguin rookery by helicopter, weather conditions permitting.*

*The itinerary provided below is intended as a guideline. Conditions in the Weddell Sea, as well as wildlife movements, will determine exactly when and where you land. Three days are reserved for the visit to the Emperor Penguin colony, ensuring you have the best chance of a successful landing. You will travel on Oceanwide's strongest ice-vessel, the M/V Ortelius.*

#### **Day 1: Set sail from Ushuaia**

Your voyage begins in Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world. You'll board the ship in the afternoon and set sail shortly thereafter.

Enjoy a leisurely first evening on board the cruise ship, with time to get to know the other guests, as you sail through the mountain-fringed Beagle Channel.

#### **Days 2 & 3: At sea**

The next two days are at sea, as you cross the Drake Passage and pass the Antarctic Convergence, entering Antarctica proper. You'll notice a change, not just in the climate but in the wildlife, as you journey further into the Antarctic waters. Antarctic bird species, including the Southern (Antarctic) Fulmar, Blue and Antarctic Petrel, and the Wandering Albatross, will become more visible, while in the sea you might be lucky enough to spy a fin whale!

#### **Day 4: Weddell Sea**

On day 4 you can expect to reach the Weddell Sea. Depending on the weather and ice conditions, the vessel will try to access the Antarctic Sound on the eastern Antarctic Peninsula, navigating huge tabular icebergs to get there.

Conditions allowing, you will land at Brown Bluff, where you can take your first steps on the Antarctic Continent.



#### **Days 5 & 6: Emperor Penguin colony**

Helicopters provide a great advantage in this region of the Antarctic, which is difficult to access even by small boats. They will support you in your goal of the next three days – to reach the Emperor Penguin rookery. Nevertheless, the itinerary is ruled by the forces of nature, and the ice and weather conditions will determine if it's possible for you to access the colony. Assuming that the conditions are favourable, you will spend two days with the Emperor Penguin colony, and use the third day to visit a different area of the Weddell Sea.

As the helicopter can only accommodate 6 passengers per flight, the helicopter excursions can occupy a full day even though each individual flight will rarely exceed 15 minutes. The landing point of the helicopters will be carefully chosen so as to make sure that the Emperor Penguins are not disturbed or stressed by helicopter noise. You will land at some distance from the penguins and continue on foot, walking for approx. 45 minutes. Your rendezvous with the magnificent Emperor Penguins will be an experience to remember, and you will be able to spend much of the day with these charming creatures.



### Day 7: Further exploration of the Weddell Sea

Assuming the conditions on days 5 and 6 were favourable and you were able to visit the Penguin colony, today will see you explore a different region of the Weddell Sea by helicopter or zodiac. Possible locations include Devil Island, home to a large colony of Adelie Penguins and some fabulous hilltop viewpoints; Brown Bluff, renowned for its beautiful volcanic peaks; Gourdin Island, where Gentoo, Chinstrap and Adelie penguin can often be sighted; or even Esperanza Base, an Argentine research base that is active throughout the year.

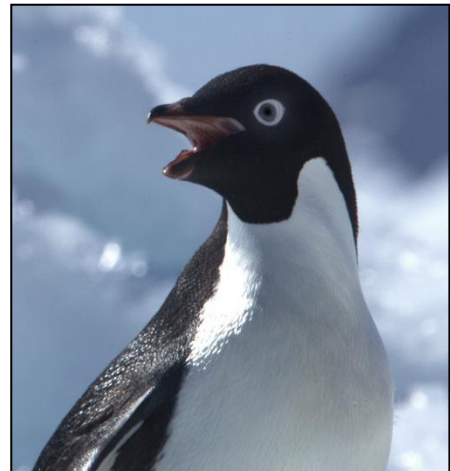
### Day 8: Drake Passage via Deception Island

This morning, you'll make your last landing of the voyage on Deception Island, at either Pendulum Cove or Whalers' Bay. A volcanic caldera (one of only two active volcanoes in the Antarctic region), Deception Island once hosted a whaling base, the remains of which can still be seen and explored today.

Setting sail from Deception Island in the afternoon, you'll begin the long journey home via the Drake Passage.

### Days 9 & 10: At sea

The next two days are spent at sea, as you journey north through the Drake Passage, retracing your course back to Ushuaia.



Admire the stunning views, and the oceanic wildlife, as your cruise winds its way to its end.

### Day 11: Arrive Ushuaia

Arrive in Ushuaia in the morning and disembark after breakfast. A bus transfer will be arranged from the pier to the airport on the day of disembarkation.

#### Booking Information:

Please see the price guide on our [Weddell Sea overview page](#) for a list of available departure dates and rates. Alternatively, please [contact us](#) for the latest availability, dates and information on any currently-available special offers.

#### Includes:

- All meals while aboard the ship
- Lectures by noted naturalists and experienced guides
- All shore excursions and activities by Zodiac
- Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes
- All service taxes and charges

#### Excludes:

- International flights
- Pre- and post-travel arrangements
- Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes
- Meals ashore
- Insurance
- All items of a personal nature
- Tips

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