

AUIP Antarctica: Human Impacts on a Fragile Environment

Sample Itinerary

Fall semester online course: 14 weeks

Field experience: 2 weeks over December—January (exact number of days depends on the voyage)



Day 1 – 3 Ushuaia

Welcome, field course overview, and orientation

Guided walking tour of Ushuaia

You will see the best of Ushuaia and learn about social issues in the region and contemporary life.

Group dinner

Experience typical Argentinian cuisine at a barbecue restaurant with your local guide.



Tierra del Fuego National Park tour

Tierra del Fuego National Park is located 12kms to the southeast of Ushuaia and is unique in Argentina for encompassing mountains, forest and coast. In the Park you will visit Roca Lake and Lapataia Bay with time to explore on foot and experience the magnificent scenery, native forest and fauna of the southernmost National Park in Argentina.

Tourism impacts in Ushuaia: guided bus tour

Guided by a local tourism expert, learn about Ushuaia's expansion as the gateway to Antarctica, and the impacts that the industry has had on the town.



Day 3 Embarkation

Getting to know the ship

After a free morning, board the ship, settle in, and get to know the vessel. The expedition team will introduce itself to all passengers and host a welcome dinner to celebrate the commencement of the adventure south.



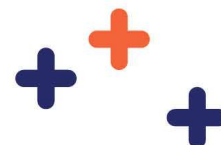
Day 4 – 5 Drake Passage

Sailing towards the ice

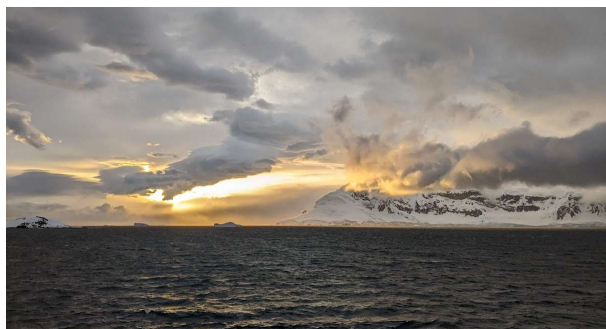
As the ship travels south, it is followed by various species of birds, including albatross, giant petrels and Cape petrels. The Expedition Guides will give talks in their areas of expertise, such as Antarctica wildlife, history, and landing sites. You will begin collecting data for your field projects as soon as the voyage begins.

There will also be a chance to photograph wildlife and natural vistas, guided by a photographer with experience in capturing Antarctica at its best.





Please note that sea and weather conditions on the Drake Passage may lead to seasickness during this crossing and the voyage travels to extremely remote regions. It is essential that you consult your doctor in preparation for the voyage.



Day 6 – 10 Antarctic Peninsula

Arrival in Antarctica!

The days spent cruising along the Antarctic Peninsula will be focused around excursions by Zodiac to whale-watch, view icebergs up close, and land at various points, including coves, inlets, islands, and bays. Wildlife is in abundance during this season: penguins, seals, whales, and orcas are all likely to make an appearance.



Possible landing sites are Cievra Cove, Danco Island, Cuverville Island, and Paradise Bay. Activities at these sites include guided hikes, sightings of wildlife colonies with naturalists, and visits to historic huts and research stations. The icebergs, mountain peaks, islands, and wildlife are objects of both of study and reflection on this once-in-a-lifetime voyage.

There is also typically the opportunity to experience a supervised polar plunge, in the icy Antarctic waters, so pack your swimsuit!



Day 10 South Shetland Islands

Landfall en route north

The ship begins to travel north across the Bransfield Strait. Weather permitting, the ship may sail into the flooded volcanic caldera of Deception Island. There are various sights of interest and landing spots in the Shetland Islands which include an old whaling station, Livingston Island, Half Moon Island, and Yankee Harbor. Weddell seals are often seen on the pebbly beaches of the latter. Exact destinations will depend on the year and are finalized on the day based on weather conditions and availability.

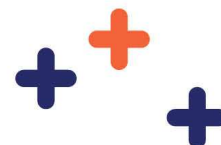


Day 11 – 12 Drake Passage

Encountering legendary Cape Horn

There will be further educational presentations by experts aboard the ship and you will finish up your field studies. If weather permits, the ship travels around Cape Horn, the rocky headland on Hornos Island in southern Chile's Tierra del Fuego archipelago. Cape Horn marks the northern boundary of the Drake Passage where the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans meet. This is also when the Captain typically hosts a festive farewell dinner.

**Please note that all itinerary components are subject to change and availability. Voyage excursions are finalized on the day by the captain based on availability and weather conditions.*



Day 13 Disembarkation

Fieldwork presentations

After disembarkation in the morning, enjoy free time for final explorations of Ushuaia. In the afternoon, the student research groups will present the results of their field projects to faculty and their peers.

Farewell group dinner with your Ushuaia guide

Day 14 Ushuaia to USA

Depart for USA



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