

Iconic Antarctica – The Explorer's Route

MS Roald Amundsen, 1 – 15 November 2026


LEGEND
HX Expedition
100 km
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Ushuaia, Argentina - Nov 1, 2026

Day 1 — Ushuaia

Guests arrived in Ushuaia, Argentina, to begin Iconic Antarctica — The Explorer's Route, the first Antarctic voyage of the 2026/27 season aboard MS Roald Amundsen. Throughout the afternoon, guests boarded the ship, settled into their cabins, and familiarised themselves with their home for the adventure ahead. Many explored the vessel, visited the Science Centre, and enjoyed views of the mountains framing the southernmost city in the world. Around the harbour, fishing vessels, sailboats, and expedition ships prepared for the brief Antarctic summer ahead. Before departure, guests attended the mandatory safety briefing, where crew and Expedition Team members outlined procedures and operations for the voyage. The briefing marked the transition from preparation to expedition mode. Following dinner, MS Roald Amundsen cast off from Ushuaia and began its journey through the Beagle Channel. Guests gathered on deck to watch the lights of the city fade while snow-capped peaks lined the waterway on either side. As darkness settled over Tierra del Fuego, the Antarctic season officially began with a southbound course towards the Drake Passage.



Ready to head out at sea



Leaving Ushuaia

Day 2 – Drake Passage

The first full day at sea was spent in the Drake Passage as MS Roald Amundsen continued south towards Antarctica. Conditions offered an introduction to life in the Southern Ocean, and many guests visited the outer decks to scan the horizon for wildlife. Seabirds were a constant presence around the ship throughout the day. Wandering albatrosses, black-browed albatrosses, southern giant petrels, and Cape petrels followed the vessel, taking advantage of the winds with remarkable ease. Guests gathered on deck to photograph and identify the birds as they glided effortlessly above the waves. The Expedition Team welcomed everyone with introductory presentations covering Antarctica, expedition operations, wildlife guidelines, and the plans ahead. A practical milestone followed with the distribution of expedition boots. Guests visited the expedition launch to collect boots for the landings ahead and to meet Expedition Team members. As evening approached, MS Roald Amundsen continued steadily south through the Drake Passage, albatrosses still in view, while guests followed the ship's progress towards the Antarctic Convergence and the southern continent beyond.



Hourglass dolphins



Snowy Albatross (Wandering albatross)

Day 3 – Drake Passage

The second day in the Drake Passage brought MS Roald Amundsen closer to Antarctica. Preparations for arrival on the continent became the day's focus, with guests attending the mandatory IAATO briefing. These guidelines help ensure that all visitors travel responsibly and minimise their impact on Antarctica's unique wildlife and environment. Guests also completed the biosecurity procedures, with clothing, backpacks, camera bags, and equipment carefully inspected and cleaned to remove seeds, soil, and other foreign material before the first landings. The process highlighted the measures in place to protect Antarctica's fragile ecosystems. Wildlife remained a constant companion. Several fin whales were spotted, their tall blows visible from afar before the animals surfaced alongside the ship. Seabirds continued to follow the vessel south, taking advantage of the winds. Excitement grew when the first iceberg of the voyage was sighted. Before long, the South Shetland Islands emerged through the haze, and guests gathered on deck for their first views of the White Continent's outlying islands. After days at sea, the appearance of ice and land confirmed that Antarctica now lay directly ahead.



First iceberg



First sight of Antarctica, South Shetland Islands

Day 4 – Duse Bay (AM)

This morning delivered an exceptional start to operations as MS Roald Amundsen entered Duse Bay on the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. Calm conditions and favourable sea ice concentrations presented a rare opportunity for a sea ice landing, an activity few Antarctic voyages can offer. After careful assessment by the Expedition Team and bridge officers, guests stepped directly onto stable sea ice surrounded by snow-covered mountains, glaciers, and scattered icebergs. Standing on frozen ocean in the Weddell Sea offered a unique perspective on one of Antarctica's defining environments, and outstanding opportunities for photography. Conditions were overcast throughout the operation, and a brief snowfall added to the atmosphere as guests explored the sea ice. The muted light softened the landscape, creating an Antarctic scene of ice, snow, and cloud stretching across the bay. A highlight came when four Adélie penguins appeared on the sea ice near the landing area. Guests enjoyed excellent views as the penguins moved across the ice, occasionally stopping to inspect their unusual visitors, a fitting wildlife encounter to close a special morning in the Weddell Sea.



Sea ice landing in Duse Bay



Sea ice landing in Duse Bay

Day 4 – Devil Island (PM)

This afternoon, MS Roald Amundsen positioned itself among the sea ice north of Devil Island for an expedition boat cruise. The conditions allowed the Expedition Team to venture deep into a landscape of pack ice, icebergs, and narrow leads of open water, offering a true Weddell Sea experience. Guests explored the ice-filled waters, weaving between floes while scanning for wildlife. The dramatic scenery alone would have made the operation memorable, but the afternoon held a surprise. Among the sea ice, two emperor penguins were spotted standing on a floe. As the largest penguin species, emperor penguins are rarely encountered on Antarctic Peninsula voyages, making the sighting special. Guests watched in amazement as the birds remained calmly on the ice, allowing prolonged views and excellent photographs. Expedition Team members interpreted the lives of these birds, explaining their adaptations to the harsh environment and their close association with the Weddell Sea ice. As the boats returned to MS Roald Amundsen, conversations centred on the unexpected visitors and the privilege of witnessing one of Antarctica's most celebrated species in its natural habitat.



Sea ice zodiac cruising



Emperor penguins

Day 5 — Brown Bluff (AM)

This morning, guests made the voyage's first continental landing at Brown Bluff, one of the Peninsula's most impressive landing sites. Towering volcanic cliffs, glaciers, and snow-covered slopes formed a dramatic backdrop as they stepped ashore under calm conditions. Brown Bluff is renowned for its large Adélie penguin colony. Thousands of Adélie penguins covered the beaches, snowfields, and rocky slopes around the landing site. Guests spent hours observing the activity as penguins travelled between the colony and the sea, gathered in small groups, and navigated well-worn routes through the snow. The colony was alive with movement and sound. Everywhere guests looked, Adélie penguins carried out their daily routines, providing endless opportunities for photography. Among them, several gentoo penguins appeared, offering a comparison between the species. Many guests remained along the shoreline, watching the activity unfold against the towering cliffs that give Brown Bluff its name. For many, standing surrounded by thousands of Adélie penguins was one of the classic Antarctic moments that had drawn them south.



Continental landing at Brown Bluff



Adelie penguin colony at Brown Bluff



Adelie penguin colony at Brown Bluff

Hope Bay, Antarctica - Nov 5, 2026

22 km

Day 5 – Hope Bay (PM)

This afternoon, guests explored Hope Bay by expedition boat beneath the snow-covered mountains and glaciers of the northern Antarctic Peninsula. The bay is home to one of the largest Adélie penguin colonies in Antarctica, and thousands of penguins could be seen spread across the beaches, rocky slopes, and snow-covered ground. Guests enjoyed excellent views of the activity as Adélie penguins moved between the sea and the colony, gathered in groups along the shore, and porpoised through the water alongside the boats. The sheer number of birds created a remarkable scene, with movement and sound coming from every direction. Beyond the wildlife, Hope Bay also offered an opportunity to learn about the region's human history. Expedition Team members shared stories of early Antarctic exploration and scientific activity in the area. As the boats returned to MS Roald Amundsen, guests reflected on a day that had delivered two classic Antarctic experiences: standing on the continent at Brown Bluff and cruising among the immense Adélie penguin colonies of Hope Bay.



Thousands of Adelie penguins



Zodiac cruising in Hope Bay

Day 6 – Half Moon Island (AM)

This morning, guests landed at Half Moon Island under challenging Antarctic conditions. Strong winds swept across the island throughout the operation, while periods of snowfall reduced visibility and added a wild Antarctic atmosphere. Despite the weather, the Expedition Team successfully carried out the landing, allowing guests to experience the island's rugged beauty. The main attraction was the chinstrap penguin colony. Guests followed marked routes through the landing area, enjoying views of hundreds of penguins across the rocky slopes. The birds appeared unfazed by the wind and snowfall, continuing their routines between the colony and the sea. Fresh snow accumulated on the landscape, creating a contrast between the white surroundings, the dark volcanic rocks, and the penguins' distinctive black-and-white plumage. Expedition Team members shared insights into the ecology and behaviour of chinstrap penguins. Although the weather was among the most challenging so far, it provided one of the most authentic Antarctic moments of the voyage, a reminder that this is a continent shaped by wind, snow, and ice.



Chinstrap penguin at Halfmoon Island



Snowy landing at Halfmoon Island



Chinstrap penguins at Halfmoon Island

Yankee Harbor, Antarctica - Nov 6, 2026

9.7 km

Day 6 – Yankee Harbour (PM)

This afternoon, guests landed at Yankee Harbour in persistent rain, a very different Antarctic experience from the morning's snowy landscapes. Despite the weather, guests embraced the conditions and enjoyed exploring this historic corner of the South Shetland Islands. The landing area was home to a colony of gentoo penguins. Guests observed the birds moving between the sea and their nesting areas, often unfazed by the rain. Their orange bills and white head markings stood out against the grey skies and dark, wet ground, providing excellent photography opportunities. Another highlight waited near the shoreline: an elephant seal. The seal appeared unconcerned by the weather or its observers, occasionally shifting position before settling back onto the beach. Expedition Team members explained the life cycle and behaviour of these animals, the largest seals in Antarctica. The rain added an atmospheric quality to the afternoon, and the combination of penguins, the elephant seal, and the rugged scenery of Yankee Harbour provided a memorable conclusion to the day.



Gentoo penguins at Yankee Harbor



Elephant seal

Day 7 – Telefon Bay

Today MS Roald Amundsen entered the flooded caldera of Deception Island, one of Antarctica's most remarkable volcanic landscapes. Sailing through the narrow entrance of Neptune's Bellows, the ship entered sheltered waters surrounded by black volcanic slopes dusted with fresh snow. Guests went ashore at Telefon Bay, where many climbed to a surrounding viewpoint. The climb rewarded hikers with sweeping views across the caldera, revealing the scale of the island and the contrasting colours of snow, ash, and sea. Others remained closer to the landing area, exploring the volcanic terrain. Back at the beach, adventurous guests took part in the polar plunge. Despite the cold Antarctic waters, enthusiastic participants ran into the bay while fellow guests gathered along the shore to cheer them on. The plunge quickly became one of the most talked-about experiences of the day. Later, MS Fridtjof Nansen joined MS Roald Amundsen at Whalers Bay. Guests gathered on deck as the two HX vessels met within the caldera, exchanging greetings against the backdrop of the historic whaling station and volcanic slopes, a memorable moment for guests and crew before the ships continued on their respective adventures.



Landing at Telefon Bay, Deception Island



Polar plunge at Telefon Bay



Landing at Telefon Bay, Deception Island

Day 8 – Danco Island (AM)

This morning, guests landed at Danco Island, a classic landing site surrounded by glaciers, snow-covered peaks, and iceberg-filled waters. Fresh snow covered much of the island, and many guests climbed to viewpoints overlooking the Gerlache Strait. The ascent proved well worth the effort. From the upper slopes, sweeping views stretched across the mountains and ice-covered landscape, while MS Roald Amundsen lay at anchor below. The snowy conditions added to the sense of being in the heart of Antarctica, with tracks winding up the hillside through the pristine white surface. Gentoo penguins were encountered throughout the landing area. Guests watched the birds travelling between nesting sites and the shoreline, providing excellent photographs against the snow-covered backdrop. Offshore, several humpback whales were observed in the waters around the island. Their blows were visible from both ship and shore, and the whales several times surfaced close enough for guests to appreciate their size and graceful movements. With clear views, active wildlife, and a rewarding walk through fresh snow, Danco Island provided a memorable start to the day.



Gentoo penguins on Danco Island



Magical morning with whales around



A steep climb up Danco Island

Day 8 – Chiriguano Bay (PM)

This afternoon, MS Roald Amundsen arrived at Chiriguano Bay for an expedition boat cruise among the icebergs and glaciers of this corner of the Peninsula. Guests boarded the boats, and the first round of cruising offered views of the bay's ice-covered landscape. Then, as so often in Antarctica, conditions changed rapidly, with strong winds, snowfall, and falling temperatures. The Expedition Team cancelled the rest of the cruise after the first round, and all guests returned safely to the ship. While disappointing, the situation was a timely reminder that flexibility is an essential part of expedition travel, and that the safety of guests, crew, and Expedition Team members always remains the priority. For the rest of the afternoon and evening, the ship sought shelter in protected waters. Guests enjoyed the dramatic views from inside as snow swept across the landscape and low cloud wrapped itself around the mountains. Even without further operations ashore, the afternoon offered a vivid demonstration of the power and unpredictability of Antarctica.



Chiriguano Bay proved to offer strong winds



Chiriguano Bay proved to offer strong winds



Chiriguano Bay proved to offer strong winds

Andvord Bay, Antarctica - Nov 9, 2026

60.3 km

Day 9 – Andvord Bay (AM)

This morning, MS Roald Amundsen entered Andvord Bay, one of the most spectacular glacial landscapes on the Antarctic Peninsula. The original plan had been to land at Neko Harbour, but extensive sea ice blocked access. In true expedition fashion, the Expedition Team quickly developed an alternative operation. Guests instead set out on an expedition boat cruise through the ice-filled waters. Towering icebergs drifted across the bay in varied shapes and colours, while glaciers descended to the water's edge. Calm conditions and impressive scenery created excellent opportunities for photography and exploration. Wildlife added to the experience. Several humpback whales were encountered feeding and travelling through the bay, often surfacing close enough for guests to clearly observe their blows, flukes, and rolling backs. A crabeater seal was also spotted resting on an ice floe, one of Antarctica's most abundant yet elusive seal species. The flexibility of guests and Expedition Team members was rewarded with a memorable morning, and Andvord Bay proved that some of Antarctica's best experiences come from adapting to the conditions.



Crabeater seal



Cruising in Andvord Bay

Almirante Brown Scientific Station, Antarctica - Nov 9, 2026

27.5 km

Day 9 – Brown Station (PM)

With ice conditions preventing the planned landing at Neko Harbour earlier in the day, MS Roald Amundsen repositioned to Paradise Harbour for an afternoon landing at Brown Station. Surrounded by glaciers, snow-covered peaks, and scattered icebergs, the setting more than lived up to its name. Guests came ashore on the continent and were welcomed by a colony of gentoo penguins on the slopes around the station. Many watched the penguins moving between the shoreline and their nesting areas along well-used paths through the snow. A highlight of the afternoon was the climb above the station. A well-marked route led up a snowy hillside, rewarding guests with magnificent views across Paradise Harbour. From the top, glaciers cascaded down the mountains while icebergs drifted through the calm waters below. The fresh snow and clear visibility created a classic Antarctic scene and provided excellent opportunities for photography. After time to enjoy the views and wildlife, guests boarded the expedition boats back to MS Roald Amundsen, closing the day with a continental landing, gentoo penguins, and a spectacular panorama above Brown Station.



Gentoo penguins at Brown Station



Continental landing at Brown Station



Continental landing at Brown Station

Punta Vidt, Antarctica - Nov 10, 2026

0.9 km

Day 9 – Camping at Paradise Harbour (PM)

Following the afternoon landing at Brown Station, 60 guests returned ashore in the evening for one of the voyage's most anticipated activities: a night of camping on the continent at Punta Vidt. Guests collected their bivvy bags and worked alongside the Expedition Team to prepare sleeping spots in the snow. Shovels were soon in use as everyone carved out hollows and windbreaks for the night. Brightly coloured bivvy bags appeared across the hillside as the camp took shape. As the evening progressed, soft light spread across Paradise Harbour, illuminating the surrounding glaciers and mountains.

Icebergs drifted through the calm water below, while the slopes above the campsite reflected the last light of the day. Many campers sat outside their bivvy bags, taking in the views and the silence. With no sounds beyond distant ice and the occasional call of a seabird, the setting offered Antarctica in its purest form. As the Expedition Team completed the final checks and MS Roald Amundsen departed, 60 happy campers settled in for a night on the snow beneath the scenery of Paradise Harbour.



Camping in Paradise Harbour



Camping in Paradise Harbour

Flanders Bay, Antarctica - Nov 10, 2026

43.7 km

Day 10 – Flanders Bay

Early this morning, MS Roald Amundsen returned to Punta Vidt to collect the camping group after their night ashore. Campers returned with stories of a peaceful night in their bivvy bags, surrounded by glaciers, mountains, and the silence of Paradise Harbour. As weather deteriorated elsewhere along the peninsula, the bridge officers and Expedition Team adjusted plans and sought sheltered waters in Flanders Bay. By early afternoon, guests boarded expedition boats for a cruise among snow-covered mountains and ice-strewn waters while light snowfall drifted across the bay. Despite the wintry conditions, wildlife sightings were excellent. Several humpback whales surfaced repeatedly around the boats, providing prolonged views as they travelled through the bay, and a fur seal was spotted resting near the shoreline. The day concluded with a polar plunge from the expedition launch platform, where many guests entered the icy Antarctic waters before quickly returning aboard to warm up.



Antarctic fur seal



Zodiac cruising in Flanders Bay



Gentoo penguins and snowy sheatbills

Lemaire Channel, Antarctica - Nov 11, 2026

51.4 km

Day 11 — Lemaire Channel (AM)

This morning, MS Roald Amundsen transited the Lemaire Channel from north to south, navigating one of the most celebrated passages on the Antarctic Peninsula. Calm conditions and smooth water made for an excellent crossing, allowing guests to gather on deck and in the observation areas as the ship entered the narrow channel between towering mountain walls. The channel is narrow enough that the mountains rise directly from the water on either side, and as the ship made its way through, the walls rose high above the decks. Guests remained out through the crossing, watching from the deck and from the observation areas as the passage unfolded between the mountains on both sides. The calm conditions held for the full transit, and the smooth water made the crossing an easy one, with the ship moving steadily through the channel from one end to the other. For many on board, it was one of the defining passages of the voyage, experienced in excellent conditions, with clear views of the towering mountain walls throughout the transit.



Lemaire Channel



Lemaire Channel

Day 11 — Pléneau Island (PM)

This morning brought a welcome change in conditions as MS Roald Amundsen arrived at Pléneau Island under calm seas and blue skies. After days of overcast weather, snowfall, and strong winds, sunshine transformed the landscape and provided the finest viewing conditions of the voyage. Guests boarded expedition boats to explore the famous Garden of Icebergs, renowned for its extraordinary concentration of ice. Towering blocks of ice, sculpted arches, delicate pinnacles, and deep blue fractures created a constantly changing landscape as the boats navigated carefully between them. Reflections shimmered on the calm, clear water, while the surrounding mountains and glaciers stood out sharply beneath the clear sky. Wildlife added to the experience. Several humpback whales were encountered feeding among the icebergs, surfacing close enough for guests to observe their blows and graceful movements. The still conditions allowed everyone to hear the whales exhaling as they surfaced among the ice. With sunshine, calm water, giant icebergs, and repeated whale encounters, the cruise around Pléneau Island provided a classic Antarctic Peninsula experience.



Zodiac cruising with big icebergs



Humpback whales

At Sea - Drake Passage, Antarctica - Nov 12, 2026

498.6 km

Day 12 – Drake Passage

Expedition travel often requires flexibility, and yesterday afternoon brought a change of plans. Updated forecasts indicated a deep low-pressure system developing in the Drake Passage. To stay ahead of the worst of the weather, the team concluded Antarctic operations earlier than planned and began the northbound transit. Today was therefore spent at sea as MS Roald Amundsen pushed north. Throughout the day, guests gathered in the observation areas to watch the Southern Ocean and reflect on recent days, from Weddell Sea ice operations and emperor penguin encounters to whale sightings and landings. The Expedition Team continued the onboard programme with lectures and recaps, while many guests edited photographs and shared memories. Although the departure came sooner than expected, it recalled a fundamental truth of expedition cruising: nature always has the final say. By adapting to the conditions, the team ensured a safer, more comfortable crossing while beginning the journey back towards South America.



Out in the Drake we went



Out in the Drake we went

At Sea - Drake Passage, Antarctica - Nov 13, 2026

471.1 km

Day 13 — Drake Passage

Today marked the second day at sea following the early departure from Antarctica as MS Roald Amundsen continued north across the Drake Passage. The decision to leave ahead of the developing weather system proved to be well timed, allowing the ship to make steady progress while rougher conditions remained behind. Throughout the morning, guests gathered in the observation areas to watch the Southern Ocean and enjoy the company of wandering albatrosses, black-browed albatrosses, and southern giant petrels that continued to escort the ship northward. The Expedition Team presented lectures and recaps, while many guests spent time sorting photographs and reflecting on the highlights of the voyage. By midday, MS Roald Amundsen reached the sheltered waters of the Beagle Channel. The change in conditions was immediately noticeable as the ocean swell gave way to calmer seas and the mountains of Tierra del Fuego appeared on both sides of the ship.



Heading back in the Drake Passage



Birds don't mind some wind

Day 14 — Beagle Channel & Ushuaia

The final full day began with a morning passage through the Beagle Channel. Calm conditions allowed many guests to gather on deck as MS Roald Amundsen sailed between the rugged mountains of Tierra del Fuego. Wildlife accompanied the ship until the end, with sightings of Magellanic penguins and black-browed albatrosses providing a fitting farewell to the Southern Ocean. The sheltered waters of the channel offered a striking contrast to the Drake Passage crossed in recent days. Guests spent the morning enjoying the scenery, taking final photographs, and reflecting on the experiences of the journey. Around lunchtime, MS Roald Amundsen arrived alongside in Ushuaia. Guests went ashore to explore the world's southernmost city, wandering along the waterfront, visiting cafés and museums, or stretching their legs after days at sea. Throughout the afternoon and evening, photographs were exchanged, final stories were shared, and preparations began for tomorrow's departure. As the ship rested alongside in Ushuaia, guests enjoyed one last evening on board before disembarkation and onward journeys home the following morning.



Beagle Channel



Magellanic penguins

Ushuaia, Argentina - Nov 15, 2026

4 km

Day 15 – Ushuaia

This morning, the expedition came to an end as guests disembarked MS Roald Amundsen in Ushuaia. After two weeks of exploration, farewells were exchanged between guests, crew, and Expedition Team members as luggage was transferred ashore and onward journeys began. In two weeks, the voyage had crossed the Drake Passage, explored the Weddell Sea and Antarctic Peninsula, landed on the Antarctic continent, encountered emperor, Adélie, chinstrap, and gentoo penguins, watched humpback whales among the icebergs, and experienced Antarctica's ever-changing weather first-hand. For some, the memories would be of sea ice, glaciers, and wildlife; for others, a night camping on the continent or standing among thousands of penguins. As guests departed for flights and travels home, MS Roald Amundsen remained in Ushuaia, ready to welcome the next group of explorers heading south to Antarctica.



Thank you for travelling with us



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