



ANTARCTICA & LATIN WONDERS WITH HX HURTIGRUTEN EXPEDITIONS

Classic Cruising Tour | 21 Days | Physical Level 2

Rio de Janeiro – Iguazu – Buenos Aires – Ushuaia – Antarctica – Ushuaia – Buenos Aires

Cross the last frontier of travel on an expedition into the wilds of Antarctica. Our Cruise & Tour journeys bring together all the joy of an ocean cruise onboard an HX Hurtigruten Expeditions ship with all the exciting adventures of a Wendy Wu Tours land itinerary. Experience two of South America's greatest cities – Rio and Buenos Aires – and the raw power of Iguazu Falls before heading south into the utterly remote wilderness of the 'White Continent', on this one truly once in a lifetime adventure.

- Discover vibrant Rio
- Feel the power of Iguazu
- Explore Buenos Aires' barrios
- Embark on a 5-day Antarctica expedition

To book call **1300 727 998** or visit your local travel agent

Visit wendywutours.com.au

TOUR MAP



ITINERARY CHANGES:

We intend to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours, or as dictated by local conditions. In these circumstances, we will endeavour to make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip. Similarly, while cruise liners always endeavour to adhere to the published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances. HX's expedition routes and excursions can change due to weather, sea, or ice conditions. If changes occur while you are at sea, they will keep you updated on alternative routes or port call substitutions. Your safety is always the top priority. If changes occur before embarkation, we'll inform you in a timely manner.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and fuel surcharges (unless on land only option)
- 10 night Cruise with HX Hurtigruten Expeditions
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (*if dining on board throughout*) - 18 breakfasts (B), 17 lunches (L), 18 dinners (D)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees, transportation and transfers pre and post cruise
- Local Guides pre and post cruise or English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers)
- Visa fees for Australian passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guide

Pre and post cruise, the only elements or aspects you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g., drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.

During the cruise, your meals on board will be included in the main dining areas, however, should you wish to dine in the speciality restaurant not included in your cruising package, you will be required to pay for these locally.

CLASSIC CRUISING TOURS:

These tours are designed for travellers who want to experience the vibrant cultures, stunning landscapes, and iconic sights of Brazil and Argentina, combined with an unforgettable expedition cruise to Antarctica. Offering excellent value, this group tour allows you to explore South America's most captivating cities and natural wonders while travelling with like-minded people.

Your tour is fully inclusive before and after the cruise, ensuring that all arrangements, from accommodation to guided sightseeing, are seamlessly taken care of. Throughout the land portion of your journey, you will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose expert knowledge and passion will transform your holiday into an extraordinary adventure. While on the cruise, you will enjoy the excellent services and facilities provided by the cruise staff.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 21 days in duration including international flights. Join the tour on Day 1 in Rio de Janeiro and end the tour on Day 19 in Buenos Aires.

For travellers that have booked a 'Land & Cruise Only' tour with no international flights, please note the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if you are arriving on the start and departing on the conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre/post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

PHYSICAL LEVEL:

Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination.

‘HX - Antarctica & Latin Wonders’ is rated as a **physical level 2** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required, and you should expect to be on your feet for much of the day. You will be getting on and off coaches, trains or boats and walking around the sights, often including steps, plus occasional longer walks.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time, often on uneven surfaces
- You will be required to get on and off small expedition boats, the crew will guide you on how to board these Soft Inflatable Boats (SIBs)
- You will be required to board the cruise ship without assistance
- During the cruise, embarking and disembarking at ports or during shore excursions may involve steps, ramps, or small boats. Passengers should be comfortable with boarding and disembarking independently. While guides and crew will provide assistance where possible, travellers should consider their mobility when selecting this itinerary.

Of course, while on land, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

GROUP SIZE:

For pre and post cruise touring most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by National Escorts. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling. Your HX cruise has a maximum capacity for 490 guests most of whom will not be part of your Wendy Wu tour group.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). National Escorts in each country will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

DETAILED ITINERARY**Day 1: Arrive in Rio de Janeiro****Meals: D**

Fly to Rio de Janeiro. Upon arrival, you will be met at the airport by your English-speaking representative. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, travel to your hotel and check in.

This evening, enjoy dinner at your hotel.

Please note: Early check-in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservation's consultant.

**Destination Information**

Rio de Janeiro – Founded in 1565, the city became the capital of the Portuguese Empire from 1815 – 1822 after the royal family fled their homeland following the conquests of Napoleon. Nowadays, this city is famous for its beaches, lush scenery and samba fuelled nightlife. Rio is also home to Christ the Redeemer and the impressive Sugar Loaf Mountain, both of which you will experience on this tour.

Day 2: Rio de Janeiro**Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast at your hotel, visit Sugar Loaf Mountain. Each year, over a million visitors ascend this famous peak, named for its resemblance to a traditional sugar loaf. Board a glass cable car for a breathtaking journey to the top. The first stop is Urca Hill, 215 meters above sea level, offering stunning panoramic views of Guanabara Bay and its surrounding islands. Continue on a second cable car to the summit of Sugar Loaf Mountain, standing 395 meters above sea level. From here, take in a spectacular 360-degree view of Rio, including Copacabana Beach, Botafogo, Corcovado Mountain, and the city's bustling downtown.



This afternoon, take part in a cooking class, learning all about traditional Brazilian flavours and using local ingredients to whip up something delicious.

Destination Information

Sugar Loaf Mountain – One of Rio de Janeiro's most recognizable landmarks, Sugar Loaf Mountain (Pão de Açúcar) rises dramatically from the entrance of Guanabara Bay. The mountain's name is said to stem from its resemblance to a traditional sugar loaf, used in the refining process of sugar during colonial times. The cable car ride to the summit offers one of the most breathtaking experiences in the city, with unparalleled views stretching across Rio's coastline and beyond.

Day 3: Rio de Janeiro**Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, set off to explore Rio de Janeiro's best bits and most iconic landmark, Christ the Redeemer. Begin with a scenic drive along the picturesque Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon before arriving at the base of Corcovado Hill. Here, board a comfortable train that ascends through lush forest to the summit, where the towering Christ the Redeemer statue stands at 2,300 feet above sea level. Voted one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, this iconic monument is a true symbol of Brazil. Upon reaching the top, take in the awe-inspiring panoramic views over Rio de Janeiro, from its golden beaches to its dramatic mountain peaks.



Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before delving into one of Rio's most celebrated traditions - Carnival. Although this world-famous festival only takes place once a year, preparations are a year-round endeavour. Visit Cidade do Samba, the heart of Rio's Carnival production. Learn about the history and significance of the parade and experience the vibrant spirit of Carnival first-hand, with the unique opportunity to try on one of the colourful costumes. This evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel.

Christ the Redeemer Construction

Please be aware that from August 2026 to July 2027, the Christ the Redeemer and Corcovado Plateaux visitor area will be undergoing essential renovation works to preserve this iconic monument. Visitors should expect some construction activity on site, including scaffolding around parts of the monument, and certain views and photo opportunities may be partially affected.

During this period, the escalators will be out of service and visitors will need to use the stairways (approx. 220 steps), although a dedicated lift is available for those with mobility issues.

Destination Information

Christ the Redeemer – Standing 30 metres tall atop Corcovado Mountain, Christ the Redeemer is one of the most recognisable landmarks in the world. Completed in 1931, the statue symbolises peace and overlooks the city with outstretched arms. From its summit, visitors are rewarded with spectacular panoramic views across Rio de Janeiro, including Sugar Loaf Mountain, Copacabana Beach, and the Tijuca Forest.

Cidade do Samba – Known as the "Samba City," it is located in the heart of Rio's port district. This lively complex is the creative heart of Rio's world-famous Carnival. It houses the warehouses of the city's top samba schools, where skilled artisans craft the extravagant floats and dazzling costumes that define the annual parade. A visit here offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the artistry and passion that fuel this iconic celebration, with the chance to experience the magic of Carnival up close.

Day 4: Rio de Janeiro – Iguazu**Meals: B, L, D**

Bid farewell to Rio as you embark on the next chapter of your journey. This morning, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Foz do Iguaçu, the gateway to the awe-inspiring Iguazu Falls.

Upon arrival, head straight to Iguazu National Park (Brazilian Side) and make a stop for lunch at a local restaurant. Then begin your exploration of the park, you will take a descending trail of the canyon, from where you can enjoy panoramic views of more than 240 falls. You will then board a glass elevator, which will take you to a platform where more exquisite views will be revealed. Get a close-up view of Devil's Throat, which is best seen from the Brazilian side.



Afterwards, cross the border into Argentina transfer to your hotel for check-in. Later this evening you will head back out to a local restaurant.

Destination Information

Puerto Iguazu – Located along the borders of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina, Puerto Iguazu is where the cultures of the 3 nations come together. The Iguazu National Park homes 275 waterfalls as well as the famous 270 feet tall Iguazu Falls, all surrounded by a plethora of wildlife and unparalleled views.

Iguazu Falls - The incredible Iguazu Falls features hundreds of rushing cascades, set in a lush rainforest scene. The region has been declared a world heritage site and received the status of one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature in 2011. The falls are located within two national parks and are home to a rich array of wildlife, including coatis, toucans, and capuchin monkeys.

Devil's Throat – The most dramatic section of Iguazu Falls, where torrents of water crash down a U-shaped cliff, creating a mesmerising display of power and mist.

Day 5: Iguazu**Meals: B, L, D**

Today, visit the Argentinian side of the Iguazu Falls. The Lower Circuit is made up of a trail approximately 1.3 km long and allows you to get closer to some of the smallest waterfalls on the Argentinian side. Walk along the path, which is equipped with bathrooms and bars, and approach the Carlos Bozzetti waterfall, where you can take memorable photographs.



The Superior Circuit, accessible for wheelchairs, allows you to see the top of the majestic waterfalls on the Argentinian side and enjoy an impressive panoramic view of the surrounding area. The view stretches from the Argentinian Falls to San Martin Island and parts of the Brazilian Falls.

The Devil's Throat is the largest waterfall in the region and where the greatest amount of water flows through the Iguazu Falls. Thanks to the newly built walkway, it is possible to get quite close but this may mean that you get wet.

This evening, enjoy a fun and interactive dining experience at 'The Argentine Experience' in downtown Iguazú. Discover the secrets of Argentine cuisine as you prepare key ingredients and savour a mouth-watering meal. Learn to close empanadas with the "repulgue" technique, order steak in Spanish, and prepare traditional *mate* while picking up local phrases and gestures. A sommelier will introduce you to Argentina's famous Malbec wine, and for dessert, you'll make an *alfajor* filled with *dulce de leche*—Argentina's national sweet treat.

Day 6: Iguazu – Buenos Aires**Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, transfer to Puerto Iguazú Airport for your flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival in Buenos Aires, meet your local guide and begin an immersive tour of Argentina's vibrant capital, a city renowned for its European charm, rich history, and passionate culture.

Begin at Plaza de Mayo, the historic heart of the city, surrounded by some of Buenos Aires' most important landmarks. Admire the Metropolitan Cathedral, the final resting place of Argentina's founding father, José de San Martín, and take in the grand façade of Casa Rosada, the country's presidential palace. Next explore the elegant districts of Palermo, Retiro, and Recoleta with their French-inspired architecture. Visit Plaza San Martín, stroll along the distinguished Alvear Avenue, and stop at Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar, one of the city's oldest churches. A highlight of the day is a visit to Recoleta Cemetery, the final resting place of many notable figures, including Eva Perón, Argentina's beloved First Lady.



Enjoy lunch in a typical local restaurant, then continue to Puerto Madero, Buenos Aires' modern waterfront district. Next, delve into the historic charm of San Telmo, stroll through its vibrant streets and learn about its rich cultural heritage. Then journey south to La Boca and visit the famous Caminito Street, where bright-painted houses, street performers, and local artists showcase the area's deep connection to Tango and football.

This evening enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before checking into your hotel which has been carefully selected by HX.

Destination Information

Buenos Aires – Argentina's cosmopolitan capital, known as "The Paris of Latin America," is renowned for its elegant architecture, vibrant arts scene, and rich cultural heritage. Most importantly of all, Buenos Aires is the home of Tango and performers can be seen dancing in restaurants, bars or even on the streets.

Plaza de Mayo – The political and historical heart of Buenos Aires, Plaza de Mayo has been the stage for Argentina's most significant events. Surrounded by iconic landmarks such as the Casa Rosada (Presidential Palace), Metropolitan Cathedral, and Cabildo, it remains a symbol of Argentina's rich history and ongoing political movements.

San Telmo – One of Buenos Aires' oldest neighbourhoods, San Telmo is famous for its cobblestone streets, colonial buildings, and lively antiques market. It is also considered the birthplace of Tango, with street performers and dancers often showcasing this passionate art form in the plazas.

La Boca & Caminito – A vibrant neighbourhood with deep immigrant roots, La Boca is also home to the world-famous Boca Juniors Football Club, who play at the intimidating La Bombonera stadium. Caminito, its most iconic street, is a lively open-air museum of Argentine culture, filled with artists, musicians, and tango dancers.

Day 7: Rural Argentina**Meals: B, L, D**

Venture beyond the city to the heart of Argentina's countryside for a true Gaucho experience at El Ombú de Areco, a traditional estancia near San Antonio de Areco. Set amidst the vast Pampas, this historic ranch offers a glimpse into Argentina's rural traditions and equestrian heritage.



On arrival, enjoy a warm welcome with empanadas and drinks, before exploring the ranch.

At lunchtime, savour an authentic Asado (Argentine barbecue), featuring premium cuts of meat grilled to perfection. As you dine, enjoy a music and folk dance performance, followed by a spectacular Gaucho horsemanship demonstration, showcasing the skill and traditions of Argentina's legendary cowboys.

After a day of countryside immersion, return to Buenos Aires. This evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. This evening, the HX team at your hotel will brief you tomorrow's travel arrangements.

Destination Information

The Pampas – The vast, fertile lowlands of Argentina, known as The Pampas, are the heartland of the country's rural culture and the birthplace of the legendary Gaucho. These endless plains are dotted with estancias (ranches) where traditional farming, cattle raising, and equestrian traditions thrive.

El Ombú de Areco – This historic estancia, dating back to the late 19th century, is a working ranch that embodies Argentina's Gaucho spirit. Set amidst rolling countryside, it features a grand colonial-style main house, lush gardens, and the iconic Ombú tree, which has stood as a meeting place for Gauchos for over a century.

Gauchos – The Argentine cowboys, known as Gauchos, are a symbol of national pride and tradition. Skilled horsemen and cattle ranchers, they are known for their distinctive attire, equestrian skills, and deep connection to the land. The Gaucho lifestyle is celebrated through folklore, music, and the art of the Asado (Argentine barbecue).

Day 8: Fly to Ushuaia & Embark Cruise**Meals: B, L, D**

This morning, HX will provide transfers to the airport for a chartered flight to Ushuaia. On arrival, they will transfer you to the port to board your hybrid-powered expedition ship, designed for sustainable cruising in polar waters. Settle into your cabin, attend an expedition briefing and explore the ship's facilities as you prepare for the extraordinary journey ahead.

**Destination Information**

Ushuaia – Often referred to as the "End of the World," Ushuaia is the southernmost city on the planet, located on the island of Tierra del Fuego. Surrounded by snow-capped mountains, dense forests, and the Beagle Channel, this remote yet vibrant port city is the gateway for Antarctic expeditions. Originally established as a penal colony in the late 19th century, Ushuaia has since become a hub for adventure seekers, offering stunning landscapes and a rich maritime history.

Days 9 & 10: Cruise – Drakes Passage**Meals: B, L, D**

Set sail towards Antarctica as you embark on the two-day journey across the legendary Drake Passage. This iconic stretch of ocean, where the Atlantic and Pacific meet, is renowned for its dramatic seas and abundant wildlife.

During your time at sea, the Expedition Team will provide fascinating lectures and briefings, preparing you for the awe-inspiring landscapes and wildlife ahead. Visit the Science Centre to learn about Antarctica's unique ecosystem, the effects of climate change, and how you can contribute to Citizen Science projects. When not attending informative sessions, take time to unwind. Enjoy the onboard amenities, from the spa and wellness area to the Explorer Lounge & Bar, where you can relax and share experiences with fellow travellers. With delicious meals served throughout the day, this is the perfect opportunity to prepare for the incredible adventures that await in Antarctica.

**Destination Information**

Drake Passage – The Drake Passage is the legendary body of water that connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans between Cape Horn and the Antarctic Peninsula. Known for its unpredictable conditions, it is one of the most exhilarating sea crossings in the world. The passage is named after Sir Francis Drake, the English explorer, and is a key route for expeditions to Antarctica. While it can be rough at times, it also provides a unique opportunity to witness an array of seabirds, including albatrosses and petrels, as well as occasional whale sightings.

Days 11-15: Cruise - Antarctica**Meals: B, L, D**

Your arrival in Antarctica is a moment you'll never forget. Vast, untouched landscapes of ice and snow stretch as far as the eye can see, broken only by towering glaciers and immense icebergs. The sheer scale and silence of this frozen wilderness are awe-inspiring, with only the sounds of cracking ice and distant wildlife punctuating the tranquillity.



During your five-day Antarctic exploration, your itinerary will remain flexible to take advantage of the best conditions. Led by the Expedition Team, you'll set out on thrilling landings and ice-cruises, allowing you to observe Antarctica's extraordinary wildlife up close.

Wildlife encounters are a highlight of the journey, with each part of the season offering unique spectacles. From mid-December to mid-February, the first penguin chicks hatch, filling the shores with the endearing sight of fluffy young birds chasing their parents for food or huddling together in crèches while the adults head out to hunt. By February and March, the waters come alive with whales at their most playful and inquisitive. Having spent the summer months feasting on krill, they are often seen breaching, tail-slapping, and gliding gracefully through the icy seas, creating unforgettable whale-watching opportunities. Throughout your expedition, the knowledgeable Expedition Team will enrich your experience with engaging lectures on Antarctic wildlife, history, climate, and conservation.

Each day in Antarctica offers a new and breathtaking experience, ensuring your time on the White Continent will be one of the most memorable adventures of your life. A selection of optional activities may be available at an additional cost. These are subject to weather conditions and a lottery-based allocation system. Availability for these activities is extremely limited, so guests should be prepared for the possibility that not all options will be accessible during their voyage. Optional activities that may be offered on cruise, at an additional cost-

Camping - Spend an unforgettable night camping under the Antarctic sky. Using specialised equipment, you'll sleep in a tent on the frozen shore.

Kayaking - Paddle through icy waters, navigating between towering ice formations.

Snowshoeing - Allowing you to traverse the frozen tundra and get even closer to Antarctica's breathtaking scenery.

Destination Information

Antarctica – The coldest, driest, and windiest continent on Earth, Antarctica is a vast polar desert home to towering glaciers, floating icebergs, and unique wildlife. Despite its harsh conditions, it supports an incredible array of species, including penguins, seals, and migrating whales. Designated as a protected wilderness under the Antarctic Treaty, it remains one of the world's last great frontiers, offering visitors an unparalleled glimpse into nature at its most raw and majestic.

Days 16 & 17: Cruise – Drake Passage**Meals: B, L, D**

After an awe-inspiring adventure in Antarctica, you'll begin your return journey north across the Drake Passage. These two days offer a chance to reflect on the unforgettable experiences you've had, as you process the magnitude of your adventure.

Take time to savour your memories of the White Continent— perhaps reliving the moments through photos or videos, or sharing stories with fellow travellers in the Explorer Lounge & Bar. If you're looking to unwind, indulge in the onboard spa treatments or relax in the sauna, allowing the tranquillity of the ship to complement the peaceful rhythm of the passage.



As you journey back, you'll have ample time to reflect on the wonders of Antarctica while enjoying the comfort and luxury of your expedition vessel.

Day 18: Disembark Cruise in Ushuaia – Buenos Aires**Meals: B, L, D**

Your Antarctic adventure concludes as you disembark in Ushuaia. HX will provide transfers to the airport for a chartered flight back to Buenos Aires. On arrival, you will be met by one of our local guides and transferred to your hotel.

This evening, enjoy a truly memorable farewell dinner. You will transfer from your hotel to a Tango Show for dinner and enjoy a show with music, singing and dancing.

**Destination Information**

Tango – The soul of Buenos Aires, Tango is an essential part of Argentina's cultural identity. Born in the city's immigrant neighbourhoods in the late 19th century, it has evolved into an internationally celebrated dance and music genre. A visit to Buenos Aires would not be complete without experiencing the passion and elegance of a live Tango show.

Days 19-21: Depart Buenos Aires**Meals: B**

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to Buenos Aires Airport for your flight to Australia, arriving home two days later.

Please note: Late check-out is not included. If you wish to book a late check-out or additional nights, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and arrangements for you, subject to availability at the hotel.



PLEASE INFORM OUR RESERVATIONS TEAM OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

CRUISE – MS FRIDTJOF NANSEN:

The MS Fridtjof Nansen are state-of-the-art expedition vessels designed for sustainable cruising in remote polar regions. With hybrid-powered technology, modern Scandinavian interiors, and expansive observation decks, they provide a comfortable and environmentally responsible way to explore some of the world's most untouched landscapes.

This ship has a relaxed and informal atmosphere, focusing on discovery, education, and exploration rather than traditional cruise entertainment. The onboard Science Centre serves as the heart of the ship, offering interactive learning experiences, expert-led lectures, and opportunities to participate in citizen science projects. Guests receive a polar expedition jacket and a reusable water bottle, and all necessary equipment, such as boots and trekking poles, is provided for use during shore landings.

Each day brings a new adventure, with 2 daily guided excursions led by the expert Expedition Team. Activities include small boat trips, nature hikes, wildlife watching, and cultural visits, with evening briefings to prepare for the next day's explorations. An onboard photographer captures key moments throughout the voyage, and guests receive a digital logbook with a selection of professional images and a summary video after their journey.

Complimentary Starlink Wi-Fi is available throughout the ship, though connectivity may be limited due to the remote regions visited. Wellness facilities include a gym, sauna, outdoor hot tubs, and comfortable lounges with panoramic views. Dining onboard features locally inspired cuisine, with breakfast, lunch, and dinner included, along with complimentary soft drinks, house wine, beer, tea, and coffee throughout the day.

Rather than traditional cruise style entertainment, evening entertainment focuses on enrichment, with lectures, workshops, and wildlife viewing opportunities. Guests can also unwind in the ship's bars and lounges, sharing stories from the day's adventures.

CRUISE ACCOMODATION AND CABINS

At the time of booking, subject to availability, you may have the option to choose from an outside cabin, a balcony cabin, or a suite. If you wish to upgrade or have a specific request regarding cabin location, please contact our reservations department for assistance. Although these requests cannot be guaranteed we will also do our best to accommodate them.

All cabins are designed with Scandinavian style and comfort in mind, offering modern amenities and exceptional views of the surrounding landscapes. The ships feature a range of accommodation options, from cosy Polar Outside cabins to spacious Expedition Suites. Every cabin includes private en-suite facilities, a seating area, and TV, while suites offer additional benefits such as lounge areas and exclusive access to the Lindstrøm restaurant.

CRUISE EMBARKATION & DISEMBARKATION:

For Antarctica cruises, guests will stay for two nights in a hotel in Buenos Aires before their charter flight to Ushuaia. This hotel will be assigned by HX Expeditions and staffed by their local representatives, who will provide boarding cards and essential information, including transfer departure times to the airport.

Upon arrival in Ushuaia, guests will be transferred to the port for embarkation. The Expedition Team and crew will conduct a mandatory safety briefing before departure.

At the end of the voyage, the ship will return to Ushuaia, where guests will disembark and transfer to the airport for their return charter flight to Buenos Aires.

Due to the remote nature of the expedition, all guests must attend the mandatory briefings on environmental guidelines and safety procedures before the first landing in Antarctica.

SHORE EXCURSIONS AND CRUISE INCLUSIONS:

During your cruise, you will have the opportunity to take part in a range of excursions at various landing sites. HX Expeditions offers 2 daily guided experiences focused on nature, wildlife, and exploration. In Antarctica, landings are made using small expedition boats ("Zodiacs" or "RIBs") to access remote locations, with activities such as guided walks, wildlife observation, and ice cruising.

Please note that all landings and excursions are weather-dependent and may be modified or cancelled for safety reasons at the discretion of the expedition team. Excursions in Antarctica are generally included as part of your expedition. A selection of optional activities may be available at an additional cost. These are subject to weather conditions and a lottery-based allocation system. Availability for these activities is extremely limited, so guests should be prepared for the possibility that not all options will be accessible during their voyage.

MANDATORY CRUISE MEDICAL SCREENING FORM:

In Antarctica, sophisticated medical services are few and far between. Medical care at sea is limited, and often emergency sea and air services may also be inaccessible, particularly in the polar regions. It is therefore vital that you make us aware of any current or past health issues.

The Health, Safety and well-being of our guests are our top priority, and we want to ensure that all our guests are fit for travel. On board all HX ships, there is a qualified physician, which have a small, limited medical facility with basic medical supplies and equipment. Still, that makes it more difficult to diagnose and treat even the simplest conditions. This often leads to missed diagnosis, worsening conditions, a greater burden of chronic disease, and in some cases, unnecessary costly medical disembarkations.

To minimize the risks to your health, **HX cruise requires all guests (including children) to submit and complete the Medical Screening Form before departure to Antarctica.** You can find more information here <https://www.travelhx.com/en-au/support/practical-information/entry-requirements/?tab=medical-screening-form>

ACCOMMODATION:

Accommodation is selected for its convenience, comfort, and character, with hotels ranging from well-appointed city properties to boutique options reflecting the local culture. In larger cities such as Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro, guests can expect internationally recognised hotels of a 4-5 star standard, offering modern amenities such as private bathrooms, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, and on-site dining.

In smaller towns or more remote locations, accommodation may be of a slightly lower standard, with fewer facilities and variations in service levels. While hotels in Argentina and Brazil generally adhere to international classifications, the quality of rooms, size, and amenities may differ from those in the Australia. In some cases, hotels may not provide porters, so guests should be prepared to handle their own luggage. If assistance is required, the local representatives or hotel staff will be available to help. All hotels used are regularly inspected to ensure they meet the necessary standards for comfort and quality.

VISAS:

Brazil: Australian passport holders currently require a visa to enter Brazil. Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa.

Argentina: Australian passport holders currently do not require a visa to enter Argentina. Your passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your intended return date to Australia.

Antarctica: Antarctica itself does not have specific passport validity requirements and does not require a visa for entry. All visitors to Antarctica must obtain a permit as mandated by the Antarctic Treaty's Protocol on Environmental Protection, this will be organised by HX Expeditions on your behalf. To comply with clearance requirements, guests' passports may be collected during the cruise check-in procedure. Please be assured that your passport is kept in a secure location throughout the expedition cruise and will be returned to you at the end of the cruise.

For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of your booking that you are insured for the duration of your trip. We recommend comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, medical requirements, luggage, repatriations and additional expenses. At a minimum, the policy is required to cover medical requirements including medical evacuations / repatriations. The choice of insurer is yours. We strongly suggest you purchase insurance at the time you pay your deposit. This is because cancellation fees and charges are payable from that time.

We may request you to provide evidence that you have taken out and paid for a policy to comply with this condition. If you fail to provide a certificate of currency of insurance within a reasonable time after our request, then this will be deemed a cancellation by you and standard cancellation fees will apply.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au

AIRPORT TRANSFERS:

As we offer a variety of airlines to suit your needs, passengers will arrive and depart in Brazil and Argentina at different times throughout the day. Depending on the number of travellers arriving or departing at the same time as you, the type of transfer to or from your hotel will vary.

You will always be met on arrival by English-speaking staff and transferred to your hotel either by:

- **Shared coach** (with other passengers, not just Wendy Wu Tours clients)
- **Private vehicle** (if arranged in advance or included in your tour package)
- **Airport shuttle** (for some hotels, especially in Buenos Aires)

For your departure, English-speaking staff will assist with transfers to the airport. If you have opted for a private transfer, a dedicated vehicle will be arranged for you.

Your local guide will be available to answer any questions upon arrival at your welcome dinner or, if arriving late, at the following morning's welcome meeting after breakfast.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Air-conditioned coaches are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions, and longer transfers where required. Roads in Brazil and Argentina are generally well-maintained, but traffic congestion can be an issue in major cities such as Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires. In more remote areas, road conditions may be less developed, with occasional uneven surfaces. It may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing before dinner, so some flexibility is advised. Timings for transfers and tours are approximate and may be affected by traffic or weather conditions.

Public Transport: Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro both have efficient public transport networks, including buses and metro systems, which can be useful for independent exploration. Taxis and ride-hailing apps such as Uber are widely available and offer a convenient way to get around.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, using reputable airlines. Lithium-ion batteries, such as those used in laptops, mobile phones, and digital cameras, must be carried in hand luggage, not checked baggage. Portable chargers must display their capacity; those over 160wh are not allowed on flights.

Ships / Boats: The Antarctic cruise with HX Expeditions is a key highlight of this journey, offering a comfortable and well-equipped expedition vessel with expert guides. Smaller zodiac boats are used for shore landings and wildlife excursions, providing an immersive way to explore the remote landscapes of Antarctica.

FOOD, MEALS & DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

On this tour, you will enjoy a variety of dining experiences across Brazil, Argentina, and aboard your Antarctica expedition cruise. Pre- and post-cruise, meals will be arranged as a group, offering a mix of local and international cuisine. During the cruise, you will dine independently.

Brazilian and Argentinian cuisines are known for their bold flavours and cultural diversity. In Brazil, meals often feature grilled meats, seafood, rice, beans, and tropical fruits, with traditional dishes such as feijoada (a black bean and pork stew) and pão de queijo (cheese bread) being popular staples. Argentina is renowned for its world-class beef, often served asado-style (grilled), along with empanadas, fresh pastas, and Malbec wine.

Pre & post cruise: All meals (excluding drinks) are included in fully inclusive group tours from arrival to departure. Breakfast is usually buffet-style at the hotel, while lunches and dinners may be pre-set menus featuring a selection of local and Western dishes. In some locations, meals may be arranged in traditional restaurants, allowing you to sample regional specialities. On days with extensive sightseeing, meals may be served immediately after the tour rather than returning to the hotel.

Cruise dining: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served in the Aune restaurant, offering a variety of high-quality meals. Suite guests have the option to dine at Lindstrøm, with complimentary access; other guests may dine there for an additional cover charge. Still and sparkling water, soft drinks, house wines, draught beer, coffee, and tea are included with meals. Complimentary tea, coffee, hot chocolate, and soft drinks are available throughout the day at self-service refill stations. Wine, beer, and spirits are included, though premium drinks such as cocktails and champagne are available at an additional cost.

Dietary Requirements

If you have dietary requirements, please inform us at the time of booking. Our guides and cruise staff will make every effort to accommodate requests such as gluten-free, vegetarian, or lactose-free meals. However, in remote areas or during the cruise, food availability and preparation methods may limit certain options.

While South America is becoming more accustomed to catering to Western dietary needs, specific requests may not always be met in the same way as at home. Travellers with food intolerances or particular dietary needs are encouraged to bring extra snacks or supplements, especially for the cruise portion of the tour, where availability of specialised items may be more limited. Your patience and flexibility are appreciated in ensuring an enjoyable and authentic dining experience.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE:

This itinerary takes place during the Southern Hemisphere summer, from January to March, with a wide range of temperatures and weather conditions across Brazil, Argentina, and Antarctica.

Brazil and Argentina: During the summer, both countries experience warm to hot temperatures:

- Rio de Janeiro: Highs of 30-35°C, with high humidity and occasional tropical showers.
- Buenos Aires: Highs of 28-34°C, slightly drier than Rio but with warm days and occasional thunderstorms.
- Ushuaia (gateway to Antarctica): 5-15°C, with cool winds and occasional rain.

Antarctica: The Antarctic summer offers its mildest conditions, but temperatures remain cold:

- Typical daily temperatures range from -6°C to 6°C (21°F to 43°F).
- Wind chill can make it feel colder, especially on breezy days.
- Expect long daylight hours, crisp air, and rapidly changing conditions, including snow showers, strong winds, and occasional calm, sunny periods.

Daylight and Time Zone

- Antarctica experiences up to 20 hours of daylight, allowing for extended exploration opportunities. Cabins on the cruise ship are equipped with blackout curtains.
- The region follows Argentina Time (ART), UTC -3, the same as Buenos Aires and Ushuaia.

Onboard Comfort / Cabin Temperatures

Rooms are equipped with adjustable thermostats for personalised comfort.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

If you are travelling during the following public holidays, please be aware that celebrations may last for several days, and some businesses and services may be closed. Public transport and flights may also be affected, while major tourist attractions may be busier than usual.

Brazil:

- Carnival: 5th-10th February 2027 (dates vary annually)
- Independence Day: 7th September (annually)
- Proclamation of the Republic: 15th November (annually)

Argentina:

- Mardi Gras (Carnaval): 8th-9th February 2027 (dates vary annually)
- Malvinas Day: 2nd April (annually)
- May Revolution Day: 25th May (annually)
- Independence Day: 9th July (annually)

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

For this tour, you will experience a variety of climates, from the warm temperatures of Brazil and Argentina to the extreme conditions of Antarctica. Dressing in layers is key to staying comfortable throughout your journey.

Onboard the Cruise: The dress code is casual and relaxed, even for dinners. Comfortable, flat shoes with good grip are recommended, as decks may be slippery. If you plan to use the fitness facilities, sauna, or hot tub, bring gym clothes and swimwear. We advise bringing a Type C plug adapter (two-round pins, commonly used in Europe) for charging electronic devices onboard.

For Antarctica and Expedition Landings: Proper clothing is essential for polar conditions. Waterproof trousers are mandatory for shore excursions, and warm, layered clothing is highly recommended. This includes thermal base layers, fleece or wool jumpers, a warm hat, scarf or buff, insulated gloves, and thick wool socks. A complimentary wind- and water-resistant expedition jacket will be provided, but it is not a heavy winter coat. Boots suitable for landings will be provided, and wearing them is required for stepping ashore. The ship will also supply trekking poles and any necessary activity equipment.

For South America: Light, breathable clothing is best for warmer destinations like Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. A hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen are recommended, along with comfortable walking shoes for city exploration. A light jacket or sweater may be useful for cooler evenings.

DEVELOPMENT IN BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA:

Brazil is a diverse country with a mix of modern infrastructure and developing areas. Major cities such as Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo offer world-class facilities, while more remote areas, particularly in the Amazon and Pantanal regions, may have limited infrastructure. While Brazil continues to advance, travellers should be aware that service levels, public transport, and safety standards may vary depending on the location.

Argentina is a developed nation with well-established tourism infrastructure, particularly in cities like Buenos Aires and Mendoza. While urban areas offer modern amenities and efficient transport, rural and mountainous regions may have more basic facilities. The country is generally safe for visitors, but as with any destination, travellers should take precautions, especially in busy city areas.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCE:

Brazilian and Argentine cultures are rich in tradition, hospitality, and social etiquette. While visitors are not expected to know every custom, being aware of local norms will enhance your experience. Your local guides will provide further insight into customs and etiquette to ensure a smooth and enjoyable journey.

In Brazil, people are warm and expressive, often greeting with a kiss on the cheek or a handshake. Dining is a social affair, and it is customary to wait for the host to invite you to begin eating. Brazilians have a relaxed attitude toward punctuality, so schedules may be more flexible than in Western cultures.

In Argentina, social interactions are also warm, with greetings often including a kiss on the cheek. Dining etiquette is important, particularly when enjoying Argentina's famous asados (barbecues). When dining out, tipping around 10% is customary. Argentines tend to eat late, with dinner often starting after 9 pm. It is also common to share mate (a traditional tea-like drink), which is passed around in a communal cup.

TIPPING / GRATUITIES

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Brazil & Argentina are no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort.

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups. We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

On the cruise: Standard onboard gratuities are included in your trip cost.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

For your cruise aboard the MS Fridtjof Nansen, it's essential to adhere to luggage allowances, especially considering airline restrictions associated with charter flights to embarkation points like Ushuaia. Typically, these flights permit one checked bag weighing up to 23 kg (50 lbs) and one carry-on bag up to 8 kg (17 lbs). Please note that these allowances are strict, and purchasing additional weight may not be possible.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

PORTERAGE:

Pre & Post Cruise: Please note that porterage is not included in our tours before and after the cruise. You will need to handle your own luggage within the hotels and when using transportation such as coaches or domestic flights. Some hotels in Argentina and Brazil may have limited porterage services, and tipping for assistance is customary.

Cruise: Porterage is included onboard. Upon embarkation in Ushuaia, your luggage will be delivered to your cabin from the check-in area at the port. On the last night of your cruise, you will leave your luggage outside your cabin door for collection, and staff will arrange for it to be ready for disembarkation. It is customary to tip for porterage services.

TERRAIN CONSIDERATIONS (STEPS, SLOPES & UNEVEN SURFACES):

Many of the destinations visited on this tour require walking on uneven surfaces, navigating slopes, and climbing steps. In historic and natural sites, paths may be cobbled, unpaved, or involve inclines, making sturdy, comfortable footwear essential.

In cities, sightseeing often involves walking tours where pavements may be uneven, and some sites require climbing steps to access viewpoints or historic landmarks. In more remote areas, terrain can be rugged, and surfaces may become slippery when wet.

During the cruise, embarking and disembarking at ports or during shore excursions may involve steps, ramps, or small boats. Passengers should be comfortable with boarding and disembarking independently. While guides and crew will provide assistance where possible, travellers should consider their mobility when selecting this itinerary.

Sightseeing in Brazil and Argentina often involves walking on uneven terrain and climbing steps, particularly at historical sites and natural landmarks. In places like Iguazu Falls, Rio de Janeiro's Corcovado Mountain (Christ the Redeemer), and the cobbled streets of colonial towns, visitors should be prepared for inclines, stairs, and uneven pathways.

Some sites, such as Sugarloaf Mountain and Christ the Redeemer, offer cable car or train access, but additional walking may still be required. National parks, may involve hiking on uneven trails. People with knee or hip injuries, poor balance, or difficulty walking independently should carefully consider the suitability of this itinerary.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES PRE AND POST CRUISE:

Our fully-inclusive Classic tours are designed to ensure you experience all the must-see sights and unforgettable moments. Occasionally, when time allows, we offer optional extras such as evening shows for those seeking extra excitement. These excursions will be offered, and can be paid for locally through your guide.

MONEY, CASH AND PERSONAL EXPENSE:

Exchanging cash: The unit of currency in Argentina it is the Argentinian Peso (ARS) and in Brazil it is the Brazilian Real (BRL). US Dollars can be easily exchanged provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote where possible. Please note, currently there are restrictions on how much cash you can withdraw from ATMs in Argentina. Most major credit cards are widely accepted across the continent; but in some areas and smaller towns, exchange facilities can be limited. Try and keep some small notes and coins on you, as on street stalls and in small shops they may not have the change to break up a high denomination note. If you decide to use US dollars, make sure they are in a good state (not ripped etc) or they will not be accepted. ATMs are common across Latin America and we recommend using an ATM inside a bank, mind the charges of your provider. Debit cards are also widely accepted but may have a limit to the amount of cash you can withdraw, so consult your bank about this before travelling.

Personal expenses: You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

SAFETY & CRIME :

Brazil is a vibrant and diverse country, but like any major travel destination, it is important to stay aware of your surroundings. Petty crime, such as pickpocketing and bag snatching, can occur in busy tourist areas, markets, and public transport hubs. To stay safe:

- Avoid wearing expensive jewellery or displaying valuables in public.
- Use hotel safes for passports and extra cash.
- Stick to well-lit and populated areas, especially at night.
- Be cautious when withdrawing money from ATMs, and use those inside banks or shopping centres when possible.
- In Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, some neighbourhoods have higher crime rates—your guide will advise on safe areas to explore.

Argentina is generally considered one of the safer South American countries for tourists, but petty theft and scams can still occur, particularly in Buenos Aires and other major cities. Keep in mind:

- Pickpocketing is common in crowded areas, such as markets, public transport, and tourist hotspots.
- Be aware of the "mustard scam," where thieves squirt a liquid on travellers and offer to help clean it up while stealing valuables.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; credit cards are widely accepted.
- Only use official taxis or rideshare services like Uber to prevent overcharging or taxi scams.
- Political demonstrations can occur in city centres—while usually peaceful, it is best to avoid large gatherings.

By staying alert and taking basic precautions, you can enjoy the stunning landscapes, culture, and hospitality of Brazil and Argentina with peace of mind.

HX MEDICAL SCREENING FORM:

All guests travelling on HX Antarctica voyages are required to complete a Medical Screening Form before departure. This is part of IAATO regulations, which require all Antarctic visitors to be medically cleared prior to their journey.

Guests should ensure their Medical Screening Form is completed within HX's required timeframe. The process opens approximately four months prior to sailing, and guests should complete the Medical Screening Form as soon as the portal is available or once instructed. The Medical Screening Form must be completed no later than six weeks before departure. Forms are typically reviewed within seven working days. If a second medical opinion is required, guests should allow an additional three working days.

HX partners with Vikand, a global maritime medical services provider, to review each form. Guests may either complete the process using their own doctor, DO or PA, or book a digital telehealth appointment with a Vikand doctor at their own cost. More information, as well as the link to complete the online section of the Medical Screening Form, can be found here: <https://www.travelhx.com/en/support/practical-information/entry-requirements/?tab=medical-screening>

Guests travelling to Antarctica must also have travel insurance that includes medical evacuation and repatriation cover.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

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