



2026
ANTARCTICA

AFRICAN AMERICAN TRAVELERS



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MEET THE TEAM



Lawrence McLean

**CEO/FOUNDER OF AAT
TRIP HOST**

Lawrence McLean developed the concept of AAT in 2012, as a result of the constant let down of friends backing out of travel plans, or simply not sharing his interest in traveling any further than the Caribbean. He started the group, African American Travelers of Philadelphia, followed by another chapter in New York, on meetup.com. Since, he has led thousands from around the country, on the most epic, unforgettable, international tours. AAT's groups have perused six continents, including its, signature, annual NYE in Dubai experience, and taking travelers "Home for the Holidays" to the beautiful motherland, Africa, year after year. According to "Madame Noir" Lawrence has been recognized as one of the three US entrepreneurs who is changing the perception of travel to Africa!



Andrea McLean

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER
HOST ASSISTANT**

Andrea McLean is known for traveling with style, She has worked in customer service and sales for many years, mastering 60-second pitches since the spunky age of 6! She is focused on customer satisfaction, engagement, and bringing a smile to our travelers faces. Some believe that she may have been a comedian in her past life. Whenever she is around , there is always laughter.



William McLean

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER
HOST ASSISTANT**

William Mclean is our newest addition to the team. William is currently in college majoring in business acquiring relevant skills that will not only enhance your traveling experience with African American Travelers but ensure that your experience is our top priority. William loves building connections and meeting new people, as our entire team is incredibly eager to present our customers with the opportunity to develop lifelong friendships and memories as that will last forever.

“Great things in business are never done by one person. They’re done by a team of people.”

– Steve Jobs

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 (DECEMBER 8, 2026)

Arrival in Ushuaia, Argentina (HOTEL NIGHT)

Welcome to Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city and starting point of our Antarctic expedition! Upon your arrival at the airport, you will be greeted by our staff and transferred to a quality hotel, which has been arranged by us and is included in the price of the itinerary. For the rest of the day, you are free to explore this vibrant port city and adventure hub. For an introduction to local history and wildlife, the interesting Museo del Fin del Mundo is worth a visit. If you have time to spare, a variety of nature activities can be arranged to suit all interests and fitness levels, from hiking in nearby Tierra del Fuego National Park to wildlife viewing in the Beagle Channel. For dinner, Ushuaia offers a wide range of restaurants featuring Patagonian lamb and delectable Fuegian seafood.



THE ITINERARY

DAY 2 (DECEMBER 9, 2026)

Welcome Aboard!

After breakfast at your hotel, the morning is yours to enjoy Ushuaia. Explore the delightful waterfront and savor views of the snowcapped Martial Range, the southernmost peaks of the Andes. Take advantage of shopping for souvenirs or some lastminute necessities such as cold-weather gear. Just remember, you will soon receive your very own parka to keep and waterproof boots to borrow on board the ship. For lunch, the many cafés, parrillas and gelato shops on Avenida San Martín will be sure to satisfy any appetite. In the afternoon, you will be transferred to the pier where we will warmly welcome you aboard the deluxe expedition vessel M/V Sea Spirit. Get settled in your spacious suite and explore the ship that will be your comfortable home during the extraordinary adventure to come. After getting underway, a full schedule of events kicks off with informative briefings and introductions from your expedition staff. After the first of many delicious dinners on board, step out onto the open decks to admire the scenery and gorgeous evening light as we pass through the Beagle Channel.



THE ITINERARY

DAY 3-4 (DECEMBER 10-11)

Across the Drake Passage

After passing the islands of Tierra del Fuego, we turn south to begin our crossing of the Drake Passage. We watch for humpback and fin whales along the way. The majestic wandering albatross and other graceful subantarctic seabirds are common in these waters and can readily be viewed from panoramic open decks and balconies. We also cross the Antarctic Convergence, the biological boundary of the Southern Ocean. The ship's stabilizing fins provide comfort in the event of rough seas. Briefings, bio-security procedures and presentations by our lecture staff prepare you for our arrival in Antarctica. We hope to arrive in the South Shetland Islands on the evening of our second day at sea.



THE ITINERARY

DAY 5-9 (FEBRUARY 12-16)

South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula

Within the next days, we explore the highlights of the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula. This region contains some of the world's most impressive scenery and the best wildlife viewing in Antarctica. Sheltered bays and channels sparkle with ice and reflect towering mountain peaks coated in permanent snow and immense glaciers. Icebergs of every size and description complete an image of incomparable beauty. Waters rich with krill are home to huge numbers of marine mammals and seabirds. The whole area is alive with penguins foraging at sea and forming large rookeries at special places on land. Here we also find Antarctic research bases of various nationalities. The South Shetland Islands are the northernmost islands in Antarctica and will likely be our first area of exploration. This wildly beautiful island chain contains many landing sites with historical significance and abundant wildlife. We will also explore the supremely picturesque Gerlache Strait area of the Antarctic this raw polar wilderness. For sea kayakers, the wildlife-rich waters of Antarctica offer many chances to paddle with seals and penguins in some of the world's most scenic waterways. To make the most of your time on the White Continent, you can also spend a night camping ashore, surrounded by untamed Antarctic nature. This is expedition cruising at its most authentic. Our precise route and exploration opportunities will be shaped by weather and ice. Our experienced captain and expedition leader will continually adjust plans to take maximum advantage of the conditions in this challenging polar environment.

THE ITINERARY

DAY 10-11 (DECEMBER 17-18)

Back across the Drake Passage

It is now time to head back across the Drake Passage toward South America, but the adventure is not quite over. Seabirds are our constant companions and there is always the possibility of whale encounters in these wild waters. This is also the time for festivities such as the Captain's Farewell Cocktail and the end-of-voyage slideshow. Finally, as we enter the calm Beagle Channel, we enjoy a night of smooth sailing toward Ushuaia.



THE ITINERARY

DAY 12 (DECEMBER 19)

Disembarkation in Ushuaia, Argentina

After yet another delicious breakfast on board, we bid you a fond farewell in Ushuaia. We provide a group transfer to the airport or to the city center if you wish to spend more time here. As you look back on your wonderful experience in Antarctica, you may already be looking forward to your next polar adventure!





Ushuaia

Nestled in the wild and rugged environment of southern Patagonia, Ushuaia is about as far south as a city can be, and is commonly adorned the title “the southernmost city in the world”. Jagged and snow-covered mountains aside the shores of the deep blue beagle channel give this city an awe-inspiring backdrop. Its charming housing constructed with colorful timber and tin roofing completes the picture of this pioneer town at the end of the world. Despite its isolation, Ushuaia offers ample modern amenities and services making it the perfect base for exploring the Tierra del Fuego National Park and beyond.



M / V Spirit

Like some of the birds we see in the Arctic and Antarctica, our m/v Sea Spirit is migratory and follows the sun, northbound in the summer and southbound in the winter, always ready for spontaneous discoveries — a pod of whales, a family of polar bears or a glaciated mountain vista. She is highly maneuverable and capable of navigating the narrow fjords of East Greenland and entering the small bays of Spitsbergen. In 2017, she was renovated to offer a unique mixture of adventure and comfort for our travelers. Onboard, we create a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for all our guests. They are united by one goal — to have a memorable wilderness experience and to become real polar adventurers. We believe that first-hand travel to such places makes one an ambassador for conservation, and helps strengthen our resolve to protect these natural environments for future generations.



The Drake Passage

The Drake Passage spans the distance between Antarctica’s South Shetland Islands and the southern tip of South America, connecting the southeastern Pacific Ocean with the southwestern Atlantic. As a waterway it is colossal, measuring roughly 800 km wide (500 miles) and 1,000 km (600 miles) long. Even so, the Drake Passage is the shortest distance from the Antarctic Continent to any other landmass. It was named after Sir Francis Drake, a British captain who was thought to have sailed through the waterway in the late 1570s



South Shetland Island

Situated 600 miles south of Tierra del Fuego and 100 miles north of the Antarctic Peninsula, the South Shetland Islands are a popular stop-over for almost all Antarctica cruises. Not owned by any single nation but home to sixteen research stations of various countries, some permanent, the islands are rich in history, wildlife and spectacular scenery. The South Shetlands include 11 major islands, several minor ones, and more than 100 islets, skerries and rocks. Most of the islands are glaciated, with only a small percentage free of ice. These rocky strips are usually found along the coast, and this is where you'll see most of the wildlife, including an abundance of penguins, seals and seabirds.



Antarctic Peninsula

The Antarctic Peninsula is a 1,300 kilometre jagged finger that juts out of the Antarctic continent, pointing towards South America. With a mountain range that extends for more than half its length, and peaks approaching 3,000 metres, the Peninsula offers the most dramatic scenery in Antarctica. It also boasts the biggest collection of Antarctic wildlife, with numerous species of seals, penguins and whales that flock to its nutrient-rich waters to feed on krill. Experience stepping foot on the 7th continent, Zodiac cruising past tabular icebergs to mammoth glacier fronts observing the ice calving, and visit historic sites including the most southerly post office in the world.

ACCOMODATIONS



LAS HAYAS USHUAIA RESORT
Luis Fernando Martial 1650, V9410 Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina
Boasting a spa, an indoor swimming pool and a hot tub, Las Hayas Ushuaia Resort offers comfortable accommodations. There is a restaurant, a terrace and free WiFi in common areas. Ushuaia Harbor is 1.9 mi away.