

## Barbara & Frank Leonard Explore Antarctica

Cruising into the Palmer Archipelago of the Antarctic was a magical experience. The beauty of the snow covered peaks, the bright blue sky and the calm seas convinced us

we were entering a special place on our planet. For five days we cruised between icebergs, saw numerous glaciers and scenery that continued to amaze us. Even though we had speakers who explained what we would see when we arrived, their words fell flat. There is no way that any explanation could match the beauty and majesty that makes up this continent. Every person we spoke to on the ship said the same thing: "We didn't know what to expect in the Antarctic, but what we saw exceeded our expectations."

Besides the stunning scenery, we were able to observe between 75-100 hump-backed whales, pods of killer whales, seals and penguins and penguins and penguins. In one area we came across a colony of 150,000+ Chinstrap penguins and at another location a colony of 200,000+.



The final week of our cruise stopped in the Falkland Islands where we experienced sunny and 58 degree weather, rain, sleet and snow all within a 15 mile distance from Port Stanley. Everyone told us that we could experience all four seasons in one day and they were not kidding. Our stop in the Falklands was highlighted by a 10+ mile trip in a 4x4 over peat bogs to observe a large colony of Rock-Hopper penguins.



Montevideo, Uruguay and Buenos Aires were our last two stops. Montevideo was a lovely city with architecture from all over Europe. Buenos Aires is justified in being labeled the Paris of South America. There is a great deal of French, British and Italian influence and it shows in the architecture around the city. Buenos Aires is a vibrant and wonderful city to explore.

These three weeks will always remain in our hearts as a trip of a lifetime. We can say that this trip will be the measure we use to compare our future adventures. Thanks to Holiday Cruises and Tours and especially Chynell Jefferson for their assistance in making this a perfect trip for me and my wife.