

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA - ANTARCTIC EXPLORER: PUNTA ARENAS TO USHUAIA | GREG MORTIMER



INTRODUCTION

Early Antarctic explorers returned from their voyages to the deep south with tales of a magnificent, ice-covered land teeming with life. You'll experience the awe-inspiring immensity of Antarctica yourself on this 12 day journey, reducing your time on the high seas by flying across the Drake in at least one direction.

Flying from Punta Arenas to King George Island, Antarctica, you'll be in Antarctica in just under two hours, maximising your time to discover, explore, and make Zodiac landings.

Here, you'll immerse yourself in the unimaginable beauty of the Antarctic Peninsula, where vast glaciers tumble into the sea, penguins are dwarfed by soaring peaks, and humpback and minke whales feast on abundant krill.

PLEASE NOTE: Pricing is subject to change and availability at the time of booking. Contact us for more information.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Punta Arenas

Having made your way to Punta Arenas, you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and transferred to our group hotel. This evening, enjoy a light refreshment as you meet your fellow expeditioners at a Welcome Reception and Pre-Voyage Briefing. Afterwards, dine at your leisure (dinner not included).



TRIP CODE

ACAEPAU

DEPARTURE

03/02/2024

DURATION

12 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula



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DAY 2: Fly to King George Island & Embark

This morning we will be transferred to Punta Arenas airport for our charter flight to King George Island, Antarctica (weather permitting). The flight will take approximately one hour and forty-five minutes. On arrival into King George Island our expedition team is on hand to greet you and to prepare you for your Zodiac transfer to the vessel. You will have time to settle into your cabin before our important safety briefings. Note: King George Island is located at the northern part of the Antarctic Peninsula in the South Shetland Islands and is one of the most remote places on Earth. A clear sky with perfect visibility is required for safe take-off and landing. We apologise in advance for any delays.




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DAY 3: Antarctic Peninsula Days 3 to 9

It’s almost impossible to describe the feeling of arriving in Antarctica. Spotting your first iceberg and taking a deep breath of some of the most fresh, crisp air on earth is an experience that will stay with you forever. Once we arrive, the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands are ours to explore, and we have a host of choices available to us. Because we are so far south, we will experience approximately 18-24 hours of daylight and the days can be as busy as you wish. Your experienced expedition team, who have made countless journeys to this area, will use their expertise to design your voyage from day to day, choosing the best options based on the prevailing weather, ice conditions and wildlife opportunities. We generally make landings or Zodiac excursions twice a day. You will want to rug up before joining Zodiac cruises along spectacular ice cliffs or among grounded icebergs, keeping watch for whales, seals and porpoising penguins. Zodiacs will also transport you from the ship to land, where you can visit penguin rookeries, discover historic huts and explore some of our favourite spots along the peninsula. While ashore we aim to stretch our legs, wandering along pebbly beaches or perhaps up snow-covered ridgelines to vantage points with mountains towering overhead and ice-speckled oceans below. If you have chosen an optional activity, you will have the option to do that whenever conditions allow, and of course keen polar plungers will have the chance to fully immerse themselves in polar waters - conditions permitting! In addition to Zodiac cruises and shore excursions, we may ship cruise some of the narrow, dramatic straits separating offshore islands from the mainland, or linger in scenic bays to watch whales travelling or feeding. This is a great time to enjoy the observation lounge or make your way to the bridge for uninterrupted views of Antarctica in all its splendour. Keep an ear out for the creak and deep rumble of glaciers as they carve their way from summit to sea. Take a quiet moment to experience the wonder of this incredible white continent.



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DAY 10: At Sea: Drake Passage Days 10 & 11

Enjoy a final morning landing in the South Shetland Islands before we re-enter the Drake Passage for our return journey to South America. With lectures and film presentations to complete our Antarctic experience, there is still plenty of time to enjoy the magic of the Southern Ocean and the life that calls it home. There is time for reflection and discussion about what we have seen and experienced. We hope you become ambassadors for Antarctica telling your family, friends and colleagues about your journey to this magical place, advocating for its conservation and preservation so that they might one day visit the region to experience what you have been lucky to see and do here. As we approach the tip of South America, our Captain may sail close to legendary Cape Horn, weather and time permitting.



DAY 12: Disembark in Ushuaia

During the early morning, we cruise up the Beagle Channel, before quietly slipping into dock in Ushuaia, where we disembark from approximately 8.00 am. Farewell your attentive crew, expedition team and fellow passengers as we all continue our onward journeys, hopefully with a newfound sense of the immense power of nature. A transfer to Ushuaia airport or to your hotel is included in the voyage fare. Note: At the conclusion of the voyage, we do not recommend booking flights departing Ushuaia prior to 12.00 pm on the day of disembarkation in case there are delays.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
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Inclusions	<p>Inclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All airport transfers mentioned in the itinerary. • One night’s hotel accommodation including breakfast, in Punta Arenas on Day 1. • Charter flight from Punta Arenas to King George Island. • Onboard accommodation during voyage, including daily cabin service. • All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage. • Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner. • Captain’s Welcome and Farewell receptions including four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages. • All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises. • Educational lectures and guiding services provided by Expedition Team. • Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic (initial consultation). • One 3-in-1 waterproof, polar expedition jacket. • Complimentary use of Muck Boots during the voyage. • Comprehensive pre-departure information. • Port surcharges, permits and landing fees. • Gratuities for ship’s crew.
	<p>Exclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International or domestic flights - unless specified in the itinerary. • Transfers - unless specified in the itinerary. • Airport arrival or departure taxes. • Passport, visa, reciprocity and vaccination fees and charges. • Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges. • Hotel accommodation and meals - unless specified in the itinerary. • Optional excursions and optional activity surcharges. • All items of a personal nature, including but not limited to alcoholic beverages and soft drinks (outside of dinner service), laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, wi-fi, email or phone charges.
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details.
Notes	<p>Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated for triple/quad cabins)</p> <p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.</p> <p>Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions</p>
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY

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DEPARTURE

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