

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



INTRODUCTION

SAVE UP TO 20% on Selected Cabins & Departures*

Upon their return from expeditions to the remote reaches of the Antarctic, early explorers regaled audiences with vivid accounts of a breathtaking, ice-bound realm brimming with vibrant life. Now, you can partake in this legacy of exploration and discovery by experiencing first hand the awe-inspiring grandeur of Antarctica. Optimise your time and minimise your journey on the open seas by traversing the Drake Passage through air travel in one direction.

Prepare to be enveloped in the splendour of the Antarctic Peninsula, where colossal glaciers cascade into the ice waters, and where penguins roam amidst towering peaks, offering a striking contrast of scale. As you navigate these pristine waters, hopefully you will have the chance to marvel at humpback and minke whales, seals, orcas, and more.

**Save up to 20% on selected departures and cabins. Discounts are on sale until 30 Jun 2024 and subject to availability. Discounts are not combinable with any other promotions except back-to-back voyage or loyalty discounts. Discounts and pricing are subject to change and may be withdrawn or varied at any time. Price based on triple share cabin.*

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

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE

ACAEPAU

DEPARTURE

01/02/2026

DURATION

12 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula



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DAY 1: Arrive Punta Arenas

Arrive in Punta Arenas, where you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and transferred to our hotel. We ask that you arrive no later than 2.00 pm so that you may attend our important briefing this evening. Please visit the Aurora Expeditions hospitality desk in the lobby between 10.00 am – 6.00 pm to collect your luggage cabin tags. Our team will confirm details regarding your embarkation day, answer any questions and provide you with information about where to dine or purchase last minute items. Overlooking the Straits of Magellan, the city sits astride one of the world's most historic trade routes. Today, Punta Arenas reflects a great blend of cultural backgrounds, from English sheep ranchers to Portuguese sailors. It remains an utterly fascinating testament to Chile's rich history. Modern day Punta Arenas is home to many popular restaurants, and bars, offering a mix of local and international fare (meals at your own expense today). At 7.00 pm this evening, meet your fellow expeditioners at a voyage briefing where we will reconfirm your transfer times for tomorrow, explain the procedures for your flight to King George Island and outline important IAATO regulations for visitors to Antarctica.



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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. A contingency plan will be applied to your itinerary should your flights not proceed today. Your safety is our utmost priority. We apologise in advance for any delays caused due to this unpredictable situation. Please refer to our terms and conditions for a more detailed explanation.



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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. *Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin on board ship

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Inclusions	Inclusions 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 Cabin accommodation on board Greg Mortimer All meals whilst on board ship All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner All scheduled landings & excursions Guiding and lectures by English-speaking expedition leader and team All port fees All landing fees Expedition jacket provided (yours to keep) A pair of expedition boots for use during voyage Group arrival and departure transfer in Ushuaia
	Exclusions Airfares to and from embarkation/disembarkation city Visa fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Beverages (other than tea and coffee) Personal expenses such as laundry, on board communication (telephone calls, email) Gratuities for the crew Pre or post cruise travel expenses Optional activities
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Subject to available upon request. Contact us for more details.
Notes	Prices are based on per person, may be based on quad/triple/twin share. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY