

ANTARCTICA - ANTARCTIC EXPRESS



INTRODUCTION

LAST MINUTE SAVINGS: Book and save up to 10% OFF* on selected 2019/20 voyages

Enjoy Antarctica in style - by flying and then cruising south of the Antarctic Circle! A short three-hour flight is all it takes to travel between Punta Arenas, Chile and King George Island in Antarctica. Skipping all the extra days at sea, you'll enjoy only the best scenery and wildlife experiences of the Antarctic. Prepare yourself for a sensory overload, as you will be overwhelmed by the sheer beauty and dramatic landscapes of the White Continent. Soon after landing in Antarctica, our team of Polar Experts on the ship will have you searching for penguins and whales in Antarctica.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Punta Arenas, Chile

Your adventure begins with an included flight from international gateway Santiago to Punta Arenas, Chile, the most populated city in Patagonia. You will be transferred to the included group hotel. In the afternoon, a representative will meet you at the group hotel, where you'll enjoy a welcome dinner and be briefed about preparing for your embarkation day.



DAY 2: Embarkation Day

Your charter flight from Punta Arenas to Antarctica will have you crossing the legendary Drake Passage in only a few hours. Far below, the ship is approaching King George Island ready for your arrival. Your first glimpse of dramatic Antarctica landscapes will be from a very unique perspective, as your plane descends towards the South Shetlands. After landing, stretch your legs and spend some time exploring the island before being transferred by Zodiac to your ship. Meet the rest of your shipmates and set sail for the Antarctic Peninsula!



TRIP CODE

ACTSAEX

DEPARTURE

18/12/2019, 25/01/2020,
26/01/2021

DURATION

11 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctica



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DAY 3: Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland - Day 3 to 5

There are few places in the world as evocative as Antarctica. As your ship approaches the White Continent, you may be overcome by feelings of excitement and awe. Much of Antarctica is indescribable and can only be fully appreciated through your own eyes. Your first sightings will be from the ship itself. As the Captain and Expedition Team keep their eyes open for whales and seabirds, you'll be alerted to any new sightings. Our team of expert lecturers will also provide in-depth explanations of the geology, history and wildlife of the region. Even more exciting are your daily excursions to land. Your first Zodiac landing is something you'll never forget! Walking up to a beach that is dotted with penguins and seals is the most intimate way to experience the unique wildlife of Antarctica. Each landing is different and is dependent on weather, but every day presents new sightings and photo opportunities and it won't be long before you can tell the difference between an Adélie, gentoo or chinstrap penguin. You may take a Zodiac cruise in search of whales and icebergs in Pleneau Island one day, followed by a hike to a penguin rookery the next day. From the booming shot of a calving glacier at Petermann Island to the complete silence of night while camping on the ice in Antarctica, you'll welcome each day with the excitement and energy of a young child. Our Expedition Team will be with you all along, providing insights into the places you visit.



DAY 6: The Antarctic Circle - Days 6 & 7

Crossing the Antarctic Circle is an impressive achievement, as most expeditions to the Peninsula do not reach 66° 33' S. You and your shipmates will celebrate in style with a well-earned glass of champagne! With a toast to the first explorers who ventured this far south, you can take pride in knowing that you've made it to a part of the world still visited by very few people. This is raw Antarctica, home to the midnight sun, Weddell seals and some of the most magical, odd ice formations seen anywhere in Antarctica.



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DAY 8: Northbound Along the Peninsula - Days 8 & 9

If you haven't had your fill of Antarctic wildlife and icebergs by now, you'll surely be satisfied by the time we return to the Drake Passage. You will continue to journey onto land by Zodiac twice daily as you travel north along the western Antarctic Peninsula. Your Expedition Team will always be on the lookout for any species of penguins, seals and whales that may have eluded you on the journey south.



DAY 10: Disembarkation and Fly to Punta Arenas

After your week of exploration, you'll say goodbye to the Expedition Team and disembark at King George Island. Your three-hour flight across the Drake Passage to Punta Arenas, Chile, brings your adventure to an end. After the group transfer to your hotel, enjoy an evening on your own, in the city or at the hotel.



DAY 11: Depart Punta Arenas

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the Punta Arenas airport for your included return flight to Santiago.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin

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Inclusions

Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
 All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board
 Beer and wine during dinner
 All shore landings per the daily program
 Leadership throughout the voyage by experienced Expedition Leader
 All Zodiac transfers and cruising per the daily program
 Formal and informal presentation by Expedition Team and special guests as scheduled
 A photographic journey documenting the expedition
 Waterproof expedition boots on loan for shore landings
 Parka to keep
 Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
 A hairdryer and bathrobes in every cabin
 Comprehensive predeparture materials, including a map and an informative Antarctica Reader
 All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
 All luggage handling aboard the ship
 All gratuities
 Emergency evacuation insurance to a maximum benefit of US\$500,000.00 per person
 Group transfer in Ushuaia from the airport to the pre-expedition hotel on Day 1
 One night's pre-expedition hotel accommodation in Ushuaia, with breakfast
 Group transfer from the hotel to the ship on embarkation day
 Group transfer upon disembarkation in Ushuaia from the ship to the local airport

EXCLUSIONS:

International airfare
 Passport and visa expenses
 Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above
 Meals ashore unless otherwise specified
 Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance
 Excess baggage fees on international flights
 Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned above
 Laundry, bar, beverage and other personal charges unless specified
 Phone and internet charges
 Additional overnight accommodation
 Optional adventure activities

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request

Notes

Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions. Contact us for more details

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Price Dependent upon Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

GUIDANCE FOR VISITORS TO THE ANTARCTIC

RECOMMENDATION XVIII-1, ADOPTED AT THE ANTARCTIC TREATY MEETING, KYOTO, 1994

Activities in the Antarctic are governed by the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 and associated agreements, referred to collectively as the Antarctic Treaty System. The Treaty established Antarctica as a zone of peace and science.

In 1991, the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties adopted the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, which designates the Antarctic as a natural reserve. The Protocol sets out environmental principles, procedures and obligations for the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment, and its dependent and associated ecosystems. The Consultative Parties have agreed that as far as possible and in accordance with their legal system, the provisions of the Protocol should be applied as appropriate. The Environmental Protocol was ratified in January 1998.

The Environmental Protocol applies to tourism and non-governmental activities, as well as governmental activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area. It is intended to ensure that these activities, do not have adverse impacts on the Antarctic environment, or on its scientific and aesthetic values.

This Guidance for Visitors to the Antarctic is intended to ensure that all visitors are aware of, and are therefore able to comply with, the Treaty and the Protocol. Visitors are, of course, bound by national laws and regulations applicable to activities in the Antarctic.

PROTECT ANTARCTIC WILDLIFE

Taking or harmful interference with Antarctic wildlife is prohibited except in accordance with a permit issued by a national authority.

Do not use aircraft, vessels, small boats, or other means of transport in ways that disturb wildlife, either at sea or on land.

Do not feed, touch, or handle birds or seals, or approach or photograph them in ways that cause them to alter their behavior. Special care is needed when animals are breeding or molting.

Do not damage plants, for example by walking, driving, or landing on extensive moss beds or lichen-covered scree slopes.

Do not use guns or explosives. Keep noise to the minimum to avoid frightening wildlife.

Do not bring non-native plants or animals into the Antarctic, such as live poultry, pet dogs and cats, or house plants.

RESPECT PROTECTED AREAS

A variety of areas in the Antarctic have been afforded special protection because of their particular ecological, scientific, historic, or other values. Entry into certain areas may be prohibited except in accordance with a permit issued by an appropriate national authority.

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Activities in and near designated Historic Sites and Monuments and certain other areas may be subject to special restrictions.

Know the locations of areas that have been afforded special protection and any restrictions regarding entry and activities that can be carried out in and near them. Observe applicable restrictions.

Do not damage, remove, or destroy Historic Sites or Monuments or any artifacts associated with them.

RESPECT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Do not interfere with scientific research, facilities or equipment.

Obtain permission before visiting Antarctic science and support facilities; reconfirm arrangements 24-72 hours before arrival; and comply with the rules regarding such visits. Do not interfere with, or remove, scientific equipment or marker posts, and do not disturb experimental study sites, field camps, or supplies.

BE SAFE

Be prepared for severe and changeable weather and ensure that your equipment and clothing meet Antarctic standards. Remember that the Antarctic environment is inhospitable, unpredictable, and potentially dangerous.

Know your capabilities and the dangers posed by the Antarctic environment, and act accordingly. Plan activities with safety in mind at all times.

Keep a safe distance from all wildlife, both on land and at sea.

Take note of, and act on, the advice and instructions from your leaders; do not stray from your group.

Do not walk onto glaciers or large snow fields without the proper equipment and experience; there is a real danger of falling into hidden crevasses.

Do not expect a rescue service. Self-sufficiency is increased and risks reduced by sound planning, quality equipment, and trained personnel.

Do not enter emergency refuges (except in emergencies). If you use equipment or food from a refuge, inform the nearest research station or national authority once the emergency is over.

Respect any smoking restrictions, particularly around buildings, and take great care to safeguard against the danger of fire. This is a real hazard in the dry environment of Antarctica.

KEEP ANTARCTICA PRISTINE

Antarctica remains relatively pristine, the largest wilderness area on Earth. It has not yet been subjected to large-scale human perturbations. Please keep it that way.

Do not dispose of litter or garbage on land. Open burning is prohibited.

Do not disturb or pollute lakes or streams. Any materials discarded at sea must be disposed of properly.

Do not paint or engrave names or graffiti on rocks or buildings.

Do not collect or take away biological or geological specimens or man-made artifacts as a souvenir, including rocks, bones, eggs, fossils, and parts or contents of buildings.

Do not deface or vandalize buildings or emergency refuges, whether occupied, abandoned, or unoccupied.

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