ANTARCTIC PENINSULA - ANTARCTIC EXPLORER: A CULINARY QUEST | DOUGLAS MAWSON



TRIP CODE
ACAEAEPU
DEPARTURE
03/01/2028
DURATION
10 Days
LOCATIONS
Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula

INTRODUCTION

This Antarctic fly and sail expedition pairs classic polar exploration with a strong focus on food and shared dining experiences. Beginning in Ushuaia, the journey starts with a welcome dinner before sailing south across the Drake Passage, where time is spent settling in, spotting seabirds and preparing for your first encounter with the ice.

Along the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands, days are shaped by conditions, with regular Zodiac cruises and shore landings that bring you close to penguin colonies, seals and passing whales. Between outings, the experience shifts back on board, where meals become part of the journey, enjoyed against a backdrop of glaciers and drifting icebergs. Long daylight hours mean there is plenty of time to explore, unwind and take it all in. The return is made by flight from King George Island to Punta Arenas, cutting down time at sea and giving you a smooth finish to a trip that blends adventure with a memorable culinary edge.

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Arrive in Ushuaia

Arrive in Ushuaia, where you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and transferred with your fellow expeditioners to your assigned pre-voyage hotel. If you are already in Ushuaia, we ask you to make your way to your hotel. Check-in is from 3.00 pm. This afternoon, visit the Aurora Expeditions hospitality desk in the hotel lobby, between 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm, to collect your luggage tags, and confirm if you wish to join our pre-embarkation tour tomorrow. Our team will confirm details regarding your embarkation day, answer any questions and provide you with information on where to dine or purchase last minute items. We encourage all expeditioners to arrive by 5.00 pm to enjoy our group welcome dinner this evening. Expeditioners arriving after 7.00 pm will find a welcome pack waiting for them at check-in. We ask you to visit our hospitality desk tomorrow between 8.00 am – 10.00 am. This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at La Cravia restaurant, located at Arakur Resort & Spa. At Arakur, the “Haute Cuisine” shines in a unique environment with an unparalleled view of the bay and the city, the Beagle Channel, valleys, mountains, and the Vinciguerra Glacier. La Cravia delivers typical flavours from Tierra del Fuego, offering Argentine and international meals.



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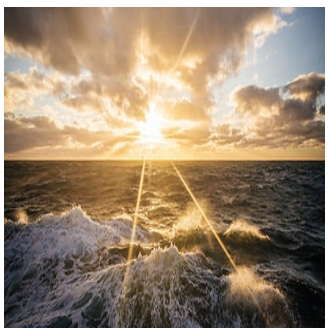
DAY 2: Embarkation in Ushuaia

This morning, enjoy breakfast and check-out. Please ensure your cabin luggage is fitted with cabin tags clearly labelled with your name and cabin number. Take your cabin luggage to hotel reception, prior to, or at check-out. Your luggage will be stored and transferred directly to the port for clearance, to be placed in your cabin ahead of your arrival on board. Please keep any valuables or personal items with you throughout the day. Those wishing to join our tour today, please meet in the hotel lobby at 8.45 am. Enjoy some free time there before returning to Ushuaia for ship embarkation. Alternatively, enjoy your day at leisure and meet at your hotel lobby or from the meeting point at the parking lot near the pier (details will be given by our ground staff at the hotel), to be transferred to the pier for embarkation. Once onboard, you'll have time to settle into your cabin before our important mandatory briefings. As the ship pulls away from port, we'll gather on the deck to commence our adventure with spectacular views over Ushuaia and Tierra del Fuego. This evening get to know your fellow expeditioners and friendly expedition team and crew at a welcome dinner to celebrate the start of a thrilling adventure to Antarctica. *Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



DAY 3: At Sea: Drake Passage Days 3 & 4

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.



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DAY 5: Antarctic Peninsula Days 5 to 8

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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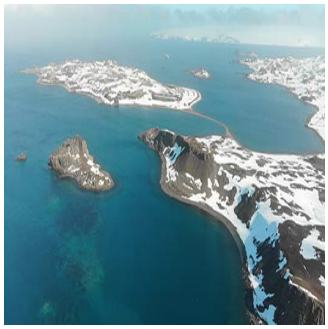
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DAY 9: Fly from King George Island to Punta Arenas

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 upmost priority. We apologise in advance for any delays caused due to this unpredictable situation.



DAY 10: 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 4.00 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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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotel & Cabin on board a ship
Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** All airport transfers mentioned in the itinerary. One night's hotel accommodation including breakfast, in Ushuaia on Day 1. Lake Escondido tour in Ushuaia on Day 2, prior to embarkation. Charter flight King George Island to Punta Arenas on Day 9. One night's hotel accommodation including breakfast, in Punta Arenas on Day 9. 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 Farewell reception 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. 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. Wi-Fi (Please note we travel to remote regions and therefore the connection can be unreliable) **EXCLUSIONS** International or domestic flights, unless specified Transfers not mentioned in the itinerary Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Airport arrival or departure taxes Travel insurance Hotels and meals not included in itinerary Optional excursions not included in the itinerary 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. Gratuities for ship's crew - (*A $15 USD per person per day gratuity for the crew is automatically added to your onboard account. It is at your discretion if you would like to remove the tip (or adjust the amount) when you settle your bill. It is not necessary to tip the expedition team members. This gratuity amount is included for suites as part of their 'Suite Benefits'*.)

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Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request. Single occupancy cabins may be available with a surcharge. Subject to availability, contact us for more details.
Notes	Prices are based on per person, twin share (unless otherwise stated for triple/quad cabins) 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 *Charter flight King George Island to Punta Arenas on Day 9 is flight is included in cruise cost.* In rare and unforeseen situations, an operator may apply a fuel surcharge after your booking has been confirmed and paid. This is outside our control and uncommon, but transparency with our travelers is important to us.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY

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