

Antarctica - Across the Antarctic Circle: Punta Arenas to Ushuaia | Sylvia Earle

Trip Code
ACAUCFP
Departure



Introduction

This fly and sail Antarctic expedition gets you into the action quickly, with a charter flight from Punta Arenas to King George Island, skipping the first Drake Passage crossing and maximising your time on the White Continent. After a night in Punta Arenas and a pre flight briefing, you'll touch down in Antarctica and transfer by Zodiac to your vessel, ready to begin exploring.

From there, it is all about making the most of your time along the Antarctic Peninsula and, conditions permitting, venturing across the Antarctic Circle. Days are flexible and shaped by the elements, with regular Zodiac cruises and shore landings that bring you close to penguin colonies, towering ice formations and whales feeding in sheltered bays. Long daylight hours mean there is no rush back on board, and if you do cross the Antarctic Circle, the occasion is celebrated together on deck. The voyage finishes with a final landing before sailing north across the Drake Passage to Ushuaia, giving you time to swap stories, sort through photos and let the scale of it all sink in.

Itinerary

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Departure

02/01/2028 and Overnight in Punta

Arenas

Duration

12 Days

Arrive in Punta Arenas, where you will be

met by a representative of Aurora

Expeditions and transferred to our hotel.

Antarctica, Antarctic Circle

on this day. In addition to ensuring your

arrival in time for our important pre-flight

briefings, if weather conditions deem it

necessary, we may depart for King George

Island on Day 1 as opposed to Day 2. Please

visit the Aurora Expeditions hospitality desk

in the lobby between 2.00 pm - 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.

Accommodation: Hotel Cabo de Hornos (or

similar)



DAY 2: Fly Punta Arenas to King George
Island

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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Departure

02/01/2028 Peninsula and Circle - Day

Duration

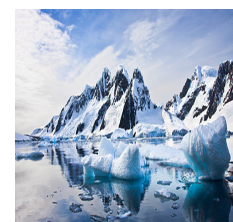
12 Days

Locations

Antarctica, Antarctic Circle

It is impossible to describe the feeling of arriving in Antarctica. Spotting your first iceberg and taking a deep breath 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. On this voyage, conditions permitting, we plan to cross the Antarctic Circle, an imaginary line located at the Antarctic Circle at latitude 66°33' South (approximately). Crossing below The Circle is certainly a special highlight for many people, and the moment will be celebrated with a toast out on the deck (weather permitting). You have earned some boasting privileges, joining a small group of lucky adventurers who have ventured to this part of the world. As we approach and cross the Antarctic Circle, you will notice subtle changes in the landscape, and also in the distribution of wildlife. The waters at this time of year are rich with krill and we hope to see plenty of whales - particularly humpbacks and minkes and enjoy the spectacle of penguins feeding their ravenous chicks.



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DAY 10: Drake Passage - Day 10 & 11

12 Days

Enjoy a final morning landing in the South Shetland Islands before we enter the Drake Passage, returning 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: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

During the early morning, we cruise up the Beagle Channel, before quietly slipping into dock in Ushuaia, where we will be free to disembark around 8.00 am. Farewell your expedition team and fellow passengers as we all continue our onward journeys, hopefully with a newfound sense of the immense power of nature. Upon disembarkation, for those continuing their travels in the region, transportation to the hotel will be arranged exclusively for guests who have booked their accommodations through Aurora or for those staying in downtown areas near the port.

Expeditioners departing on flights prior to 12:30 pm will be directly transferred to Ushuaia Airport, those with flights after 12:30 pm will have the opportunity to explore Ushuaia before an afternoon airport transfer, and the transfer procedures and details will be communicated onboard before disembarkation. 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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*Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



Inclusions & Details

Accommodation

Hotel & Cabin On board a Ship

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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 Sylvia Earle
- All meals whilst on board ship
- 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

Inclusions

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)
- Pre or post cruise travel expenses
- Optional activities
- 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'.)*

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request. A supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please [contact us](#) for more information.

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.

Price Dependent upon

Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

Sustainability

Chimu Adventures is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

A trip to the Antarctic is a completely different experience and quite unlike any other trip you have probably been on. We use a highly regulated, licensed vessel which is well equipped to operate in this vulnerable ecosystem. We are fully compliant with all rules set down by the IAATO and all activities are governed by the Antarctic Treaty System. We carefully select all ships we work with and choose them for their small size as this creates far less impact on shore landings with wildlife. We view the voyage to the Antarctic as an expedition, not a sightseeing trip. Smaller boats such as ours can navigate narrow waterways and are far less polluting than the larger ships in Antarctic waters. By carrying less passengers, we have far less waste, and all waste is carried back to the home port to allow for environmentally conscious waste management and disposal, unlike some of the larger ships which do not facilitate

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This trip begins in Ushuaia where you will have time to sample local food and shop at local boutiques which we encourage individuals to take part in for experience and in support of the local community. We also try to create opportunity to see research and historical sites including the former research station/now museum of Port Lockroy and engage with local history. We discourage the buying of souvenirs made from endangered species or wrongfully taken from the environment i.e. shells. Our pre-departure pack provides you with all the information required for your tour, from what to take with you to practical advice about how to minimise your impact on the Antarctic environment. This pack highlights initiatives such as waste reduction, and how to appropriately engage with wildlife and the environment around you.

For more information visit our [sustainability page](#).