

Antarctica - Wild Antarctica featuring the Weddell Sea | Douglas Mawson

Trip Code
ACAUDMPP
Departure



Introduction

This fly/sail Antarctic journey ventures beyond the usual routes, combining a direct flight south with an ambitious exploration of both the Antarctic Peninsula and the remote, ice-choked waters of the Weddell Sea. Beginning in Punta Arenas, you'll fly to King George Island where your ship awaits, giving you more time to experience Antarctica itself. From there, the voyage unfolds across a constantly shifting landscape of ice, with flexible daily plans designed to make the most of wildlife sightings, weather and sea conditions.

Along the Antarctic Peninsula, expect regular Zodiac excursions and shore landings that bring you close to penguin colonies, seals and whales, as well as opportunities to explore dramatic coastlines and glacier-lined bays. The journey then sets its sights east toward the Weddell Sea, a region known for its vast tabular icebergs, dense pack ice and rich exploration history. If conditions allow, you'll navigate through the Antarctic Sound, often filled with towering ice formations, and visit areas linked to Shackleton's Endurance expedition. Wildlife here can be especially rewarding, with AdÃ©lie penguins, seabird colonies and whales frequently spotted among the ice.

After your time in this more remote and rugged corner of Antarctica, the voyage turns north for the Drake Passage crossing. These final days at sea offer time to relax, take in onboard talks and reflect on the experience while still keeping watch for seabirds and marine life. Sailing back into Ushuaia via the Beagle Channel, the journey wraps up with a strong sense of having explored not just Antarctica, but one of its most wild and storied regions.

Itinerary

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15/02/2028 Punta Arenas

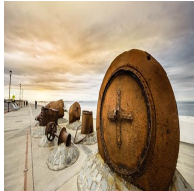
Duration

11 Days

Locations

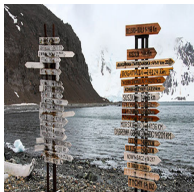
Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula

On arrival in Punta Arenas, where you will be met by a representative and transferred to our hotel. We ask that you arrive no later than 2:00pm to collect your luggage and 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.



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

15/02/2028 and Peninsula - Day 3

Duration

11 Days

Locations

Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula

It's almost impossible to describe the feeling of arriving in Antarctica. Spotting some of the most fresh, crisp air on earth has a certain magic about it that you'll never forget. 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 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. Central to the story of where Sir Ernest Shackleton's ship, the Endurance became trapped in formidable sea ice, the Weddell Sea certainly is high on the list for many polar adventurers. A small set of islands standing off to the east of the Antarctic Peninsula collectively form the Antarctic Sound - the gateway to the Weddell Sea. With a well-deserved reputation as being an iceberg alley where large icebergs try to escape the Weddell Sea through Antarctic Sound, often making navigation difficult. However, the rewards can be great. Fossils are a reminder of a more temperate era - gastropods, large clams, and spiral-shaped ammonites, all turned to stone. We hope to experience memorable wildlife encounters as the Weddell boasts a large Adélie penguin colony just outside of Antarctic Sound, some of which breed on the rocky slopes of a small volcanic island, where a large colony of Antarctic blue-eyed shags jostle for space with nest-building Wilson's storm petrels. On thrilling Zodiac excursions or slicing a path through the maze of sea ice in your kayak, keep watch for chinstrap and gentoo penguins in and out of the water, as well as humpback, minke and orca whales. Your camera is sure to get a solid workout during your time in the Weddell Sea.



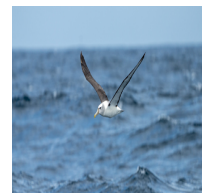
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Duration
Drake Passage - Day 9 & 10

11 Days
Locations
Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula

Enjoy a final morning landing in the South before we re-enter the Drake Passage for our return journey to South America with tutorials 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 11: Disembark 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. *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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 11 Days
 Locations
 Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula

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.
 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)

Inclusions

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'.)*

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.

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.

Notes

Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions

Charter flight from Punta Arenas to King George Island on Day 2 is included in cruise cost.

Price Dependent upon

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

Sustainability