

Antarctic Express: Crossing the Circle

A short, comfortable flight from Punta Arenas, Chile, to King George Island in Antarctica has you with boots on the ground in no time, overtaken by the sheer magnitude of the 7th Continent. Fully immersed in the Antarctic environment, you'll experience a roller coaster of emotions, from excitement to exquisite solitude to incredible gratitude for the wonder of it all.

You may go in search of whales and find yourself bearing witness to a glacier calving. Or you may plan to climb one more peak for a better vantage point and find yourself in a rookery of curious penguins. Antarctica will leave you in awe, but it won't leave you unchanged.

EXPEDITION IN BRIEF

- Experience the fastest, most direct way to Antarctica
- Fly over the Drake Passage
- Marvel at all the Antarctic Peninsula highlights, including crossing the Antarctic Circle
- Take advantage of optional polar camping along the Peninsula
- Enjoy on-board lectures and educational presentations from polar specialists

DID YOU KNOW? *The first fixed wing flight in Antarctica was made in 1928 by Australian polar explorer Sir Hubert Wilkins, who took flight from Deception Island in the South Shetland Islands. The following year, American polar explorer Richard E. Byrd made the first flight over the South Pole.*

Adventure Options

Booking an Adventure Option as part of your expedition is a great way to enhance your polar experience. These options are subject to availability and fill up quickly, so be sure to book yours early. Please note that Adventure Options are weather dependent.

SEA KAYAKING

Imagine gliding across the surface of a bay in the presence of icebergs and glaciers! Our sea kayaking adventures are the best way to feel at one with the sea. A small group of sea kayakers will plan to go out multiple times per voyage during landings, taking advantage of the best opportunities, as kayaking adventures are only conducted during calm weather conditions. We recommend that you have some prior kayaking experience, including the capability to do a wet exit.

We advise that sea kayaking in polar waters is not an activity for first-time paddlers. Beginners interested in kayaking should take an introductory kayaking course prior to their voyage. In addition, regardless of your experience, we recommend kayaking lessons for a minimum of three hours in preparation for your expedition. To maximize your enjoyment and your overall experience, it is of the utmost importance that you be comfortable while kayaking.

CAMPING

Treat yourself to an overnight camping adventure in Antarctica! This is one of the best ways to experience Antarctica in an intimate manner, and take your expedition to the next level. Camping is available on most early season Antarctic voyages. A camping safety briefing onboard gets you fully prepped and ready for a night sleeping under the stars. Dress warmly and eat a hearty meal before you head out, as no meals are allowed on land. All equipment and instruction is provided, no tent required. Our popular camping options have limited availability, varying by ship. You will need to complete a waiver form before being considered for this Adventure Option.

STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

Combining surfing with kayaking or canoeing, stand-up paddleboarding will give you a very personal and unique perspective on Antarctica. Taken in small groups—on calm bays and harbors in good weather conditions—and accompanied by a Zodiac, our paddleboarding adventures can be booked in advance (limited availability), and after the first successful outing, will be offered via sign-up onboard ship on a first-come, first-served basis for any subsequent outings.

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

Many recreational pastimes are offered free on all voyages. Morning and afternoon excursions to cruise the waters via Zodiac or explore on shore are part of the regular daily schedule. Hikes are led by experienced staff, and groups are organized by fitness level. Be sure to take your camera with you—photography is very much a part of the big picture. Presentations and lectures are slotted into the late afternoon and after dinner, when everyone is back on board.

OTHER EQUIPMENT ON BOARD

Walking poles are also provided at each landing for your convenience. Snowshoes may also be provided when conditions are favorable. This equipment is available at no cost.

More information about your Adventure Options, including the necessary experience, physical requirements and cost, is available by contacting your Polar Travel Adviser.

Itinerary



DAY 1 Punta Arenas, Chile

Your adventure begins in Punta Arenas, Chile, the most populated city in southern Patagonia. If you arrive early, there are many museums, restaurants and shops to keep you busy for days. By early afternoon, a Quark Expeditions® representative will meet you at the official starting point 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 will approach King George Island for your arrival. Your first glimpse of dramatic Antarctic landscapes will be from a unique perspective, as your plane descends for landing in the South Shetland Islands. After landing, stretch your legs and spend time exploring the island before being transferred by Zodiac to your ship to set sail for the Antarctic Peninsula!

DAYS 3 TO 5 Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands

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.

As your captain and Expedition Team keep a lookout 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 land excursions. Your first Zodiac landing is something you'll never forget! Walking



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up to a beach 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 around Pleneau Island one day, followed by a hike to a penguin rookery the next day. From the booming sound of a calving glacier at Neko Harbour to the thrill of watching a leopard seal as it hunts a penguin, you'll wake up early and welcome each day with a sense of excitement and a desire to explore that which is unrivaled by any other travel experience.

Your Expedition Team will be with you all along the way, providing insights into the places you visit.

DAYS 6 AND 7 *The Antarctic Circle*

Crossing the Antarctic Circle is an impressive achievement, as most expeditions to the Antarctic Peninsula do not reach 66°33' S. If conditions allow us to cross this famed line, you and your shipmates will celebrate in style with a well-earned glass of champagne!

As you toast the first explorers who ventured this far south, you can take pride in knowing you've made it to a part of the world visited by very few

people. This is raw Antarctica, home of the midnight sun, Weddell seals and some of the most magical, odd ice formations you'll see anywhere on the continent.

DAYS 8 AND 9 *Northbound Along the Peninsula*

If you haven't had your fill of Antarctic wildlife and icebergs by now, you'll surely be satisfied by the time you return to King George Island. 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 species of penguins, seals and whales that may have eluded you on your journey south.

DAY 10 *Disembarkation and Fly to Punta Arenas*

After your week of exploration, you'll say goodbye to your 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 are welcome to continue on your own travels or make your way to the Punta Arenas airport for your homeward flights.

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Arrival & Departure Details

Welcome! As you prepare for your journey, you may be interested to know the details of your arrival and departure. Since air transportation to and from your voyage is not included in the cost of your expedition, you will need to arrange flights from your home to the starting point, and home again from the finishing point. Quark Expeditions® can assist you with booking air arrangements on an individual basis, or feel free to contact your preferred travel agent or airline. Here are the details of your expedition.

Arrival Day and Embarkation

ARRIVING IN PUNTA ARENAS

Please be sure to arrive prior to 3 pm local time on Day 1 of your expedition. You will be greeted at the airport and transferred to the group hotel. For passengers arriving before Day 1 of the itinerary, taxis are available to take you to your hotel for approximately US\$25.

On arrival at your hotel, once you have had a chance to settle in, you will make your way to Quark Expeditions® meeting room, where you will collect the boots and parkas that you will need for the following day's flight. You will also have to bring the luggage you are planning to travel with to the meeting room, to have it weighed. A welcome dinner hosted by a Quark Expeditions® representative will follow the briefing.

Please note that there is a strict luggage limit of 33 lbs (15 kg) checked luggage and 11 lbs (5 kg) cabin baggage on the flights between Punta Arenas and King George Island. Should you have additional luggage, it can be stored at the hotel in Punta Arenas. There is NO option to pay for additional luggage.

KING GEORGE ISLAND AND EMBARKATION

Your flight to Antarctica is expected to depart from Punta Arenas for King George Island on Day 2 of your itinerary, after breakfast. Although the flight is scheduled to depart at 9 am, there is significant variability based on weather conditions. You should be prepared to depart the hotel for the airport on our group transfer at any time.

CONTINGENCY PLAN

In the unlikely event that the plane is unable to depart on the planned date of the charter flight, you will be provided with a night of hotel accommodation in Punta Arenas, meals included. You may be required to be on standby and remain close to the hotel, as a weather window may open with very little notice. If the weather is not suitable on Day 3, 4, or 5, you will enjoy an additional night's accommodation and meals in Punta Arenas. On Day 6, should the charter flight not be able to take off by 2 pm, Quark Expeditions® will officially cancel the voyage and provide letters for all clients to submit to their travel insurance providers under the trip delay/interruption and cancellation clause.

Quark Expeditions® will make every effort to ensure your program takes place, but due to weather conditions, flying in this region can be difficult and is beyond our control. Quark Expeditions® will offer passengers a refund in the event of a trip delay or cancellation as a result of the charter flight being unable to depart as planned.

We strongly recommend that all expedition guests purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy, including trip delay, cancellation and interruption insurance, in addition to the required medical coverage. Please note that international airfare may not be covered by insurance in the event of a cancellation. Please ask your Polar Travel Adviser about travel insurance.



LET US HELP YOU BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS!

To book flights to complement your expedition, contact a Polar Travel Adviser (1.888.892.0073) for seamless, worry-free booking of all flights.

Final Day and Departure

DISEMBARKATION AT KING GEORGE ISLAND

Ship disembarkation will generally occur in the late morning, around 11 am on King George Island. After you disembark, you will take a short walk from the beach to the King George Island airport to meet your plane. Your luggage will be transferred to the airport, where you will collect it for check-in. After a three- to four-hour flight, you will land at the Punta Arenas airport (PUQ).

DEPARTING FROM PUNTA ARENAS

On arrival in Punta Arenas, you will be transferred from the airport to your post-expedition hotel for one final night. Please note that a departure transfer from the hotel to the Punta Arenas airport is not included.

Please note that weather conditions can always delay our arrival, and airline schedule changes have also been known to occur. Booking flexible tickets is always encouraged, as we cannot be held responsible for ship or flight delays due to unforeseen circumstances.

Included Hotel Accommodations

Your included accommodation begins on Day 1 of your itinerary, and the specific hotel(s) will be indicated on your final voyage confirmation. If you are arriving prior to Day 1 of your expedition or are staying after the disembarkation day, please contact your Polar Travel Adviser for hotel options. As accommodation space is limited, you are encouraged to request any extra nights as early as possible.

Arrival and Departure Transfers

PUNTA ARENAS AIRPORT TRANSFERS

ARRIVAL

Upon your arrival in Punta Arenas, group transfers are included from the airport to your included pre-expedition hotel on Day 1 of your itinerary. Group transfers are also included in conjunction with the charter flights to and from Antarctica.

DEPARTURE

Departure transfers in Punta Arenas are not included; however, your Polar Travel Adviser can arrange them for you.

In order to facilitate your transfers, we request that you provide your flight details to Quark Expeditions® at least 30 days prior to traveling.

Extending Your Trip

PRE- AND POST-EXPEDITION TRIP EXTENSIONS

You can extend your trip by booking extra days to explore South America before or after the voyage. Since you're traveling such a long way, you may want to spend extra time in one of our gateway cities or add on another region, like Easter Island, Chile, or Machu Picchu, Peru. We have a variety of pre- and post-expedition packages in the fascinating cities of Santiago, Buenos Aires, Ushuaia or the region of Patagonia. Enjoy a cruise to Penguin Island near Ushuaia, trek and canoe in Tierra del Fuego National Park, take in a tango show in Buenos Aires or stroll the catwalks over Iguazu Falls. Contact your Polar Travel Adviser to discover the best options for extending your adventure.



LET US HELP YOU BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS!

To book flights to complement your expedition, contact a Polar Travel Adviser (1.888.892.0073) for seamless, worry-free booking of all flights.

Inclusions

THIS EXPEDITION INCLUDES

- 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 our experienced Expedition Leader
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising per the daily program
- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and special guests as scheduled
- A photographic journal documenting the expedition
- Photography guide on Expedition Team
- Waterproof expedition boots on loan for shore landings
- An official Quark Expeditions® parka to keep
- Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
- A hair dryer and bathrobes in every cabin
- Comprehensive predeparture materials, including a map and an informative Antarctic 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 per person
- Group transfer in Punta Arenas from the airport to the pre-expedition hotel on Day 1

- One night's pre-expedition hotel accommodation in Punta Arenas, with breakfast
- A briefing dinner on Day 1 in Punta Arenas
- Pre-expedition group transfer in Punta Arenas from the hotel to the airport
- Flights to and from Antarctica
- Post-expedition group transfer in Punta Arenas from the airport to the hotel
- One night's post-expedition hotel accommodation in Punta Arenas, with breakfast

THIS EXPEDITION EXCLUDES

- *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—strongly recommended*
- *Excess-baggage fees on international flights*
- *Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned*
- *Laundry, bar, beverage and other personal charges unless specified*
- *Phone and Internet charges*
- *Additional overnight accommodation*
- *Optional adventure activities*
- *Transfer from the hotel to the airport at the end of the expedition*

Note: Baggage allowance on charter flights is 33 lbs (15 kg) checked and 11 lbs (5 kg) carry-on.



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Dates & Rates

ANTARCTIC EXPRESS *Crossing the Circle*

Expedition Aboard the Adventure Ship **OCEAN ADVENTURER**

Dates	Days	Start/End	Triple	Lower Deck	Main Deck Porthole	Main Deck Window	Superior	Deluxe	Suite	Owner's Suite	
December 20 - December 30, 2018	11	Punta Arenas	\$16,195	\$18,395	\$20,095	\$22,295	\$24,295	\$26,195	\$28,795	\$32,195	• •
January 2 - January 12, 2019	11	Punta Arenas	\$16,195	\$18,395	\$20,095	\$22,295	\$24,295	\$26,195	\$28,795	\$32,195	• •
January 10 - January 20, 2019	11	Punta Arenas	\$16,195	\$18,395	\$20,095	\$22,295	\$24,295	\$26,195	\$28,795	\$32,195	• •
February 13 - February 23, 2019	11	Punta Arenas	\$16,195	\$18,395	\$20,095	\$22,295	\$24,295	\$26,195	\$28,795	\$32,195	•

All rates per person in USD.



HOW TO BOOK YOUR EXPEDITION & ADVENTURE OPTIONS

To book your cabin or inquire about the availability of Adventure Options, contact a Polar Travel Adviser **1.888.892.0073 (+1.203.803.2666)**.

1.888.892.0073

Antarctic Peninsula

POSSIBLE LANDINGS AND WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

Stepping foot on Antarctica is a moment of pleasure that affects each traveler differently. Your possible landing in Antarctica will take place on the Peninsula, which is an extension of the Transantarctic Mountains chain and is the most northern stretch of Antarctic land. Formed by uplifted submarine troughs that were filled with sediment about 220 million years ago, this is a dynamic land of both desolation and diversity. To the east is the frozen, wild Weddell Sea. To the west, howling winds and warming seas from the Southern Ocean create perfect conditions for whale sightings.

CUVERVILLE ISLAND

A gentoo penguin rookery is situated on a rocky beach at the north end of the island. Depending on when in the season you arrive, you may see the penguins building nests or attending to their chicks. Giant petrels and kelp gulls breed on the island.

DAMOY POINT

If you are lucky enough to mail a postcard in Antarctica, you'll likely pass through Damoy Point, the northern entrance to the harbor where Port Lockroy is located.

DANCO ISLAND

Home to gentoo penguins, this small island is easy to explore, at only one mile (1.6 km) long. You can visit the marker of a former British Antarctic Survey hut, where you can watch for a variety of seabirds, such as snowy sheathbills, kelp gulls and blue-eyed shags.

ENTERPRISE ISLAND

Located in Wilhelmina Bay, this island was once used by whalers. A Zodiac cruise around the island passes a wrecked whaling ship.

LEMAIRE CHANNEL

You'll see firsthand why this strait, which runs between Booth Island and the Antarctic Peninsula, is one of the most scenic locations on the peninsula's west coast, especially during sunrise and sunset. The channel may become impassable when ice fills the narrow 6.8-mile (11 km) long passageway, so we'll hope for clear waters.

MELCHIOR ISLANDS

This group of low islands in Dallmann Bay is where you may see hauled-out male fur seals as they recuperate from their battles for supremacy at the end of their breeding season.

NEKO HARBOUR

Little evidence remains that this bay was once used by the floating whale factory ship *Neko*. You might see whale vertebrae being used by resident gentoo penguins as shelter from the wind. Climb up a steep slope for spectacular views of the glacier-rimmed harbor.

PETERMANN ISLAND

Here, near the Lemaire Channel, you can stand ashore and see the southernmost breeding colony of gentoo penguins. The dome of the island rises 650 feet (200 meters) above the sea, offering a challenging hike for panoramic views. Adélie penguins, shags and south polar skuas also inhabit the island.

PORT LOCKROY

As part of Operation Tabarin during the Second World War, a secret British base was built in this sheltered harbor, located on the west side of Wiencke Island. Now a designated historic site, the base is a museum and post office. Proceeds from your purchases in Port Lockroy support the British Antarctic Heritage trust, which preserves historic sites from the Heroic Age of Exploration. A large gentoo penguin population resides here and is observed for any effects of tourism.

WATERBOAT POINT

You may venture to this unique point, which at low tide is connected to the Antarctic mainland. Zodiacs are used to explore the historic area when the tide is in. Two scientists studying penguin behavior lived in a water boat on the point from 1921 to 22. The remains of their camp have been designated an Antarctic historic site.

ANTARCTIC CIRCLE

Although not a typical landing, the crossing of the Antarctic Circle is a moment to remember. The event will usually happen while at sea, so be sure to head up to the bridge and snap your photo of the GPS reading 66°33' S.

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South Shetland Islands

POSSIBLE LANDINGS AND WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

The Bransfield Strait separates this archipelago from the Antarctic Peninsula. The South Shetland Islands stretch for 335 miles (540 km) from northeast to southwest. In the 1820s, sealers swept the islands' beaches of seals. When the seal market collapsed, the sealers retreated. Over the course of time, seals have returned to the islands.

AITCHO ISLANDS

This group of small islands, some still unnamed, is situated in the northern entrance of the English Strait. You can often spot a great mix of wildlife in the area, with gentoo and chinstrap penguins having established rookeries on the islands. Southern elephant and fur seals frequently haul out here, too.

BAILY HEAD

Also known as Rancho Point, Bailey Head is a rocky headland on the southeastern shore of Deception Island. Chinstrap penguins build nests on slopes leading to a high ridge that dominates the natural amphitheater and provides a superb setting for landscape photography.

HALF MOON ISLAND

This crescent-shaped island was known to sealers as early as 1821. Unlike sealers, who tried to keep their best locations secret, we're happy to bring you ashore on this impressive island. Many Antarctic birds breed here, including chinstrap penguins, shags, Wilson's storm petrels, kelp gulls, snowy sheathbills, Antarctic terns and skua.

HANNAH POINT

Macaroni, chinstrap and gentoo penguin rookeries are located on this point, which is on the south coast of Livingston Island. Due to the rather congested area available to the nesting penguins, you can only visit here from January 10 onward.

PENDULUM COVE

Geothermal waters are found along the shoreline of this cove, named for observations made in 1829 by a British expedition. You may see yellow algae and boiled krill floating on the surface because of the scalding water!

PENGUIN ISLAND

Antarctica has two flowering plants, both of which you can find on Penguin Island: *Deschampsia antarctica* and *Colobanthus quitensis*. Chinstrap penguins, fur seals and southern elephant seals use the island for breeding purposes.

ROBERT POINT

A nice spot for Zodiac cruising, this point was known to sealers as early as 1820. Chinstrap penguins, kelp gulls and pintado petrels breed here, and whales may be seen in the surrounding waters.

TELEFON BAY

Your Expedition Team will be happy to point out that this is where the most recent evidence of volcanic eruption on Deception Island can be seen.

TURRET POINT

Chinstrap and Adélie penguin rookeries are found on this point, situated on the south coast of King George Island. The beaches here are often crowded with southern elephant, fur and Weddell seals hauling out on the rocks.

WHALER'S BAY

To reach Whaler's Bay, it is necessary to sail through a narrow passage called Neptune's Bellows. The bay was used by whalers from 1906 to 1931 and is part of a protected harbor created by the formation of the circular flooded caldera known as Deception Island. Along with waddling penguins and lounging seals, you'll see the rusting remains of whaling operations on the beach. Watch for steam that may rise from geothermally heated springs along the shoreline.

YANKEE HARBOUR

Gentoo penguins have established a rookery on this harbor, situated on the southwest side of Greenwich Island. Here, you can see an abandoned Argentine refuge hut and a large glacier that stretches along the east and north sides of the bay. An abandoned sealing try pot is all that remains of the activity that brought men thousands of miles in tall ships to seek their fortune.

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