

ANTARCTICA - ACROSS THE ANTARCTIC CIRCLE: FLY THE DRAKE | GREG MORTIMER



INTRODUCTION

Spanning the southern tip of the South American continent and the Antarctic Peninsula region lies the Drake Passage, where the mighty Pacific and Atlantic oceans merge. This narrow and remarkably deep waterway presents unpredictable conditions for sailors, who demonstrate their expertise when navigating through its most tumultuous stretches.

For adventurers keen on immersing themselves in Antarctic experiences, flying over the Drake Passage in both directions offers the optimal route to reach the pristine white continent. Entrusted to seasoned pilots, your excitement mounts as you catch sight of the initial icebergs in the Southern Ocean, where your vessel awaits, poised to embark on an exhilarating expedition.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE
ACAEFTD
DEPARTURE
23/01/2026
DURATION
12 Days
LOCATIONS
Antarctic Peninsula


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DAY 1: Arrive Punta Arenas

Arrive 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 so that you may attend our important briefing this evening. Please visit the hospitality desk in the lobby between 2:00pm - 6:00pm 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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DAY 2: Fly to King George Island & Embarkation

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. Please refer to our terms and conditions for a more detailed explanation.



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DAY 3: Antarctic Peninsula & Circle - Day 3 to 10

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. 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. 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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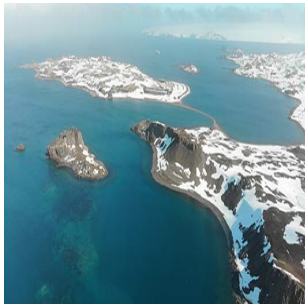
Antarctic Peninsula



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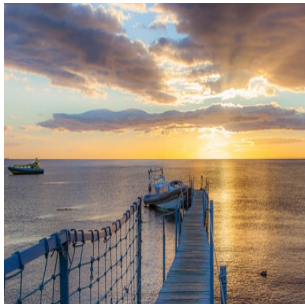
DAY 11: Fly from King George Island to Punta Arenas

As we approach Frei Base on King George Island, it is time to farewell Antarctica and our amazing adventure before boarding our flight to Punta Arenas, Chile. 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. In Punta Arenas, you will be transferred to our group hotel for an overnight stay. Note: King George Island is located at the northern tip 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. We apologise in advance for any possible delays.



DAY 12: Depart Punta Arenas

After breakfast, bid a fond farewell to your fellow travellers as we continue our onward journeys, hopefully with a newfound sense of the immense power of nature (breakfast included). A transfer to the airport is included in the voyage fare. Note: Should your flight not proceed due to local conditions; you will remain on the ship until it is deemed achievable to return to Punta Arenas. Refer to our terms and conditions for further details. *Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Hotel & Cabin On board a Ship

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Inclusions

Inclusions

All airport transfers mentioned in the itinerary
Two night's hotel accommodation including breakfast, in Punta Arenas on Day 1 and Day 11
Return charter flight between Punta Arenas and King George Island
Cabin accommodation on board Greg Mortimer
All meals whilst on board ship
All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage
Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner
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

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

Subject to available upon request. Contact us for more details.

Notes

Prices are based on per person, may be based on quad/triple/twin share.
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.

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SUSTAINABILITY