

# Antarctic Explorer: Discovering the 7th Continent (11-day)

Antarctica has been inspiring explorers for centuries, and this expedition offers you the chance to discover why, with an unforgettable journey through the spectacular wilderness of the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula. You'll encounter a world where Mother Nature creates the rules—her unpredictable temperament making each trip unique, exciting and personal.

Imagine cruising in a Zodiac through sea ice that crackles like shattered glass, witnessing penguins building their nests, or navigating through a maze of icebergs, each one uniquely shaped by its journey through the sea. You'll enjoy iconic Antarctic highlights, experience exhilarating adventures and be rewarded with memories to last a lifetime.

## EXPEDITION IN BRIEF

- Discover why this trip is perfect for first-time visitors to Antarctica
- Explore highlights of the Antarctic Peninsula
- Travel safely and comfortably aboard any of Quark Expeditions®' three small, ice-strengthened expedition vessels
- Learn about the environment and wildlife from on-board lecturers and specialists
- Experience abundant wildlife: penguins, seals, whales and more!

**DID YOU KNOW?** *Only a small part of an iceberg—normally an eighth to a 10th of the berg's mass—is visible above water. Hence the term tip of the iceberg! Just how much of an iceberg floats depends on the difference in density between the salty seawater and the berg, which is made of freshwater and snow.*

# 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.

## KAYAKING

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Imagine gliding across the surface of a bay in the presence of icebergs and glaciers! Our kayaking adventures are the best way to feel at one with the sea. Taken in small groups of 16 people, multiple times per voyage, 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.

*The kayaking Adventure Option is open to all levels of experience; however, we advise that kayaking in polar waters is not an activity for first-time guests. 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

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Treat yourself to an overnight camping adventure in Antarctica! Our popular camping options have limited availability, varying by ship. Dress warmly and eat a hearty meal before you head out, as no meals are allowed on land. You will need to complete a waiver form before being considered for this Adventure Option.

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

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES (VARY BY DEPARTURE)

## SNOWSHOEING

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Snowshoeing is a novel way to experience the beauty of the polar landscape and to discover remote alcoves and hidden valleys. The rewards of walking atop the snow are well worth the effort, as you'll be able to visit new places that may be inaccessible on foot.

This traditional means of transport across the snow comes from the indigenous people of North America.

Although you can appreciate a connection with the past, the snowshoes we use today are much lighter and more forgiving than the old wood-weave snowshoes used during the days of the North American fur trade.

# Itinerary

## DAY 1 Ushuaia, Argentina

With a population of more than 63,000, Ushuaia is the southernmost city in the world. Although the city has grown during the past few years, it retains an easygoing and accessible feel. Surrounded by the sea to the south and the mountains to the north, Ushuaia is a spectacular departure point for your Antarctic cruise. If you arrive early, you can spend time in nearby Tierra del Fuego National Park, enjoy Argentine wines and barbecues in the city, or visit the many boutiques and cafés before you leave for your expedition to Antarctica.

## DAY 2 Embarkation Day

Embarkation will occur in the late afternoon, after which your vessel will sail through the historic Beagle Channel. This famous channel transects the Tierra del Fuego archipelago in the extreme south of South America. Expect an air of anticipation as you depart—the next time you'll see land, you'll be in the world's most southern continent!

## DAYS 3 AND 4 Crossing the Drake Passage

Prepare yourself for potentially rough water, but hope for a smooth sailing, as the Drake is unpredictable and always changing. You'll spend these first days getting to know your shipmates while your Expedition Team provides safety briefings and insights into what excitement lies ahead.

## DAYS 5 TO 8 South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula

Once the Antarctic Convergence is left in our wake, you will truly begin your Antarctic adventure. It is perhaps the first sight of land itself that is embraced as the true beginning of any Antarctic expedition. You will begin to appreciate why this region has long captivated the attention of explorers and travelers



### EXTEND YOUR STAY

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alike. Every time we visit Antarctica, we witness something new or unexpected, which means that your expedition will be unlike any other—creating a unique, personal experience.

Each day, you will take Zodiac excursions from the ship to explore local bays, channels and landing sites. With wildlife always at the forefront of our minds, you will visit penguin rookeries, scout for humpback and minke whales, and search for a number of southern seal species, including the cunning leopard seal.

The majesty of the Antarctic Peninsula's mountains will enchant as you scramble up snowy pathways to vantage points offering you 360° views of your surroundings. One of these in particular, in Orne Harbour, affords us the opportunity to visit a chinstrap penguin colony high up on a ridge. Here, you'll have the choice between mountain hiking or spending time sitting quietly on a pebbled beach, enjoying the antics of curious penguins. If you're feeling extra adventurous, participating in the Polar Plunge swim is about as crazy as it gets!

Amid the serene silence of Antarctica, noisy interludes become indelible memories, such as penguins squabbling over prized pebbles, or the boom and crack of a calving glacier in Neko Harbour.

Each day will be different, having been carefully crafted by your Expedition Team to entertain and educate you about this wonderful part of the world.

## **DAYS 9 AND 10** *Crossing the Drake Passage*

The journey back across the Drake Passage provides final opportunities to enjoy the crisp Antarctic air. Spend time on the deck, watching for seabirds and scouting for whales, enjoy presentations by your Expedition Team, or simply relax and reminisce about your experiences.

## **DAY 11** *Disembarkation in Ushuaia*

You will arrive in Ushuaia in the morning, which allows for you to continue your adventure on land or catch your flights home.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER** *Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must allow the sea, the ice and the weather to guide route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you'll experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. A measure of flexibility is something all of us must bring to a polar expedition.*



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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 USHUAIA

You may arrive in Ushuaia at any time during Day 1 of your itinerary. Ushuaia is a destination worth exploring, so we do encourage you to arrive a day or two before your expedition. Based on the arrival information you send us, we will arrange for a transfer from the airport to your hotel.

A Quark Expeditions® representative will be available to answer your questions in the lobby of your hotel in Ushuaia during your optional predeparture briefing on Day 1, at 6 pm.

### EMBARKATION IN USHUAIA

On the morning of Day 2, your luggage will be collected from the lobby of your hotel, transferred to the ship and stored in your cabin.

Ship embarkation will occur on Day 2 of your itinerary, usually around 4 pm. You and your shipmates will meet at a designated spot near the pier, and board the waiting buses for transfer to the ship. Information about embarkation will be posted in your Ushuaia hotel and discussed during your optional predeparture meeting on Day 1.

## Final Day and Departure

### DISEMBARKATION IN USHUAIA AND ONWARD

Your ship is scheduled to arrive at the pier in Ushuaia, between 7 am and 8 am local time. Once the ship has docked, you will have time to bid farewell to your Expedition Team and shipmates before completing your disembarkation. The process takes about an hour.

Weather conditions can always change our arrival times, and airline schedule changes have also been known to occur. Please book your flight home from Ushuaia to depart as late in the day as possible or at a date after the end of your expedition. If you have booked a flight that departs before 11 am on the date that your expedition ends, you will be at risk of missing your flight.

Quark Expeditions® staff in Ushuaia will reconfirm your domestic flight 48 hours prior to disembarkation, provided you give your information to our team ahead of time or when you board the ship.

*Please note that weather conditions can always delay our arrival times, and airline schedule changes have also been known to occur. Booking flexible tickets is always encouraged, as we cannot be held responsible for ship delays due to unforeseen circumstances. A post-expedition hotel night in Buenos Aires is recommended.*



### LET US HELP YOU BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS!

To book flights to complement your expedition, contact a Polar Travel Adviser ([info@expeditionvoyages.in](mailto:info@expeditionvoyages.in), 91 33 2473 8096 / 91 44 42121575, John: +91 9830053005 / Shanthini : +91 9283190875) for seamless, worry-free booking of all flights.

## 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.

Ushuaia accommodations range from hostels to mid-range properties, and hotel space is limited. Quark Expeditions® endeavors to provide the best possible accommodation within these parameters. A particular property cannot be guaranteed, but space is most often booked at Hotel Las Lengas, Hotel Los Acebos, and Albatros Hotel.

## Arrival and Departure Transfers

### USHUAIA AIRPORT TRANSFERS

#### ARRIVAL

Group transfers in Ushuaia are included from the airport to your included pre-expedition hotel on Day 1 of your itinerary.

#### DEPARTURE

A group departure transfer is included from the ship to the airport on the final day of your itinerary. If your flight is later in the day, you may opt to transfer to our luggage storage facility instead and enjoy further activities in Ushuaia on your own. Access to luggage storage is available until 6 pm on the disembarkation day only. You will need to arrange your own transfer to the airport if you do not take advantage of the included transfer or if you are leaving Ushuaia after the disembarkation day.

*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.



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# Inclusions

## THIS EXPEDITION INCLUDES

- Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks on board
- 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
- 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
- Emergency evacuation insurance to a maximum benefit of US\$500,000 per person

- Group transfer in Ushuaia from the airport to the pre-expedition hotel on Day 1
- One night's pre-expedition hotel accommodation in Ushuaia, with breakfast
- Group transfer from the hotel to the ship on embarkation day
- Group transfer upon disembarkation in Ushuaia from the ship to the local airport

## 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*
- *Voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for shipboard staff and crew*
- *Additional overnight accommodation*
- *Optional adventure activities*



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# Dates & Rates

## ANTARCTIC EXPLORER *Discovering the 7th Continent (11-day)*

*Expedition Aboard the Adventure Ship* **OCEAN ADVENTURER (formerly known as SEA ADVENTURER)**

Dates	Days	Start/End	Triple	Lower Deck	Main Deck Porthole	Main Deck Window	Superior	Deluxe	Suite	Owner's Suite	  
December 4 - December 14, 2017	11	Ushuaia	\$7,395	\$8,395	\$9,195	\$10,195	\$11,095	\$11,995	\$13,195	\$14,795	• • •
February 28 - March 10, 2018	11	Ushuaia	\$7,395	\$8,395	\$9,195	\$10,195	\$11,095	\$11,995	\$13,195	\$14,795	•

*All rates per person in USD.*

## *Expedition Aboard the Adventure Ship* **OCEAN DIAMOND**

Dates	Days	Start/End	Triple	Twin	Single	Suite	Balcony Suite	  
December 8 - December 18, 2017	11	Ushuaia	\$5,995	\$9,195 <i>Obst. View</i> \$9,795 <i>Window</i>	\$11,695 <i>Obst. View</i> \$11,695 <i>Porthole</i>	\$10,695	\$12,295	• •
January 7 - January 17, 2018	11	Ushuaia	\$7,395	\$11,195 <i>Obst. View</i> \$11,895 <i>Window</i>	\$14,295 <i>Obst. View</i> \$14,295 <i>Porthole</i>	\$13,295	\$15,195	• •
January 16 - January 26, 2018	11	Ushuaia	\$7,395	\$11,195 <i>Obst. View</i> \$11,895 <i>Window</i>	\$14,295 <i>Obst. View</i> \$14,295 <i>Porthole</i>	\$13,295	\$15,195	•
February 21 - March 3, 2018	11	Ushuaia	\$7,395	\$11,195 <i>Obst. View</i> \$11,895 <i>Window</i>	\$14,295 <i>Obst. View</i> \$14,295 <i>Porthole</i>	\$13,295	\$15,195	•

*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 (info@expeditionvoyages.in, 91 33 2473 8096 / 91 44 42121575, John: +91 9830053005 / Shanthini : +91 9283190875).



# 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

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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

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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

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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

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

### LEMAIRE CHANNEL

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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

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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

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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. There is an unmanned refuge hut here, erected by Argentina. Climb past the hut and up a steep slope for spectacular views of the glacier-rimmed harbor.

### PETERMANN ISLAND

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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

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Port Lockroy is a "fun" destination of sorts, so we always strive to journey to this sheltered harbor, located on the west side of Wiencke Island, if weather permits. As part of Operation Tabarin during the Second World War, a secret British base was built here. Now a designated historic site, the base is a museum and post office. Proceeds from your purchases in Port Lockroy support the preservation of historic sites from the Heroic Age of Exploration.

## WATERBOAT POINT

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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.

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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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