

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

with flights from Buenos Aires

Explore the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula in comfort. A charter flight ushers you from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia prior to embarkation. Once on board, you'll marvel at the marine life and the myriad of seabirds swooping in close to show off just for you.

As you cross the Drake Passage and near the northernmost tip of the 7th Continent, prepare to be dwarfed by massive, glistening icebergs and the looming peninsula—the most pristine region on the planet. Rediscover your adventurous spirit: scramble just a little higher up that peak, kayak between ice floes, or share a pebbly beach with curious penguins. A part of you will always stay here, but the experience will remain in your heart after you reluctantly leave.

EXPEDITION IN BRIEF

- Discover why this trip is perfect for first-time visitors
- 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!
- Arrive in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the tango capital of the world, and let us take care of the rest of your journey

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

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.

MOUNTAINEERING

Geared toward our fitness-conscious adventurers, mountain climbing in Antarctica is amongst the most rewarding and addictive outdoor endeavors and will be a special memory that will last forever. Our mountaineering adventures are full-day activities that can last up to five hours. In order to participate in this challenging option, you are required to complete a fitness waiver.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Cross-country skiing is one of the most efficient ways to travel over ground covered in snow and ice, enabling you to travel in Antarctica the same way that pioneering explorers like Amundsen and Shackleton did. With journeys taking a few hours, it is imperative that you be in good physical condition. Ideally, in order to partake in this activity, you should have cross-country skiing experience; however, exceptions may be made for those deemed physically capable. While Quark Expeditions® provides the essential gear, you will be responsible for certain extras, such as additional warm clothing and a pair of quality sunglasses.

CAMPING

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.

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.

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

SNOWSHOEING

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.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Antarctica is one of the most abundantly photogenic destinations in the world. Penguins amble across pebbled beaches, whales spy-hop from the crystal blue sea, and sparkling icebergs tower in this serene yet dramatic environment. Whether you own a serious SLR or a simple point-and-shoot, our on-board photography expert will provide you with hands-on instruction and technical tips to ensure that you capture the best of your Antarctica experience.

Itinerary

DAY 1 Buenos Aires, Argentina

You may arrive in Buenos Aires at any time during Day 1 of your itinerary. Upon arriving in this splendid city, known for its soaring architecture and rich European heritage, you will independently transfer to the group hotel (pre-night hotel included).

DAY 2 Ushuaia, Argentina, and Embarkation

After breakfast at the hotel, the group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, Argentina.

Upon arrival, you will have a little time to explore this quaint port town before heading to the pier.

Embarkation will occur in the late afternoon, after which your vessel will sail down 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 Harbor.

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, after breakfast.

After disembarking, you will get a little taste of Patagonia, touring Tierra del Fuego National Park before transferring to the airport for the return group charter flight to Buenos Aires.

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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 BUENOS AIRES

You may arrive at any time during Day 1 of your itinerary. Upon your arrival in Buenos Aires, you will make your way to the included group hotel. That evening, a Quark Expeditions® representative will greet you and be available to answer your questions at the predeparture briefing. After breakfast the following morning, on Day 2, your group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world.

Please note that there is a strict luggage limit of 44 lbs (20 kg) checked luggage and 11 lbs (5 kg) cabin baggage on the flights between Buenos Aires and Ushuaia. Should you have additional luggage, it can be stored at the hotel in Buenos Aires. There is NO option to pay for additional luggage.

USHUAIA AND EMBARKATION

Upon arrival in Ushuaia (Day 2 of your itinerary), you'll have some free time to explore this quaint port town before heading to the pier and embarking around 4 pm. Information about embarkation will be given during your predeparture briefing at the Buenos Aires hotel.

Final Day and Departure

DISEMBARKATION IN USHUAIA

The ship is scheduled to arrive back at the pier in Ushuaia between 7 am and 8 am local time. After breakfast, and 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. If you have purchased the Buenos Aires hotel and transfer package, we will depart the pier to take a short tour of Tierra del Fuego National Park before transferring to the airport for our return charter flight to Buenos Aires.

DEPARTING FROM BUENOS AIRES

Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, you may connect directly with your homeward flight, as we will land at the international airport (EZE). Approximate arrival time is scheduled for 5 pm.

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 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, 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.

Arrival and Departure Transfers

BUENOS AIRES AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Arrival and departure transfers in Buenos Aires are not included; however, a Polar Travel Adviser can arrange them for you.

If you are flying home right away, you will most likely be able to board on the same day, as our charter flight arrives at Ministro Pistarini International Airport (EZE). Please be sure to allow 3 hours between our charter arrival and your international departure.

If your plans will take you onward in South America, please check your flight schedule to confirm your connection before booking. Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, you may need to transfer from the international airport (EZE) to the domestic airport, Jorge Newbery (AEP), which is located about a one-hour drive away.

We recommend that you book an extra hotel night in Buenos Aires for the safest travel plans. If you must transfer between airports on the final day of the voyage, you can choose to use the efficient airport shuttle service, Manuel Tienda León, or take a taxi (about a one-hour ride under normal traffic conditions). If you prefer, your Polar Travel Adviser can also arrange for a private transfer.

As traffic can be a factor, we recommend that you allow at least 4 to 5 hours between flights arriving and departing from the different airports in Buenos Aires.

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

THIS EXPEDITION EXCLUDES

- *Mandatory transfer package**
- *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*
- *Arrival transfer in Buenos Aires on Day 1*

***BUENOS AIRES TRANSFER PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- One night's hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires, with breakfast
- Group transfer from the hotel to the airport in Buenos Aires
- Charter flight from the Buenos Aires international airport to Ushuaia, and return
- Group transfer from the Ushuaia airport to the ship, and return
- Combined airport transfer and express bus tour of Tierra del Fuego National Park after disembarkation

Package cost: \$950

Note: Baggage allowance on charter flights is 44 lbs (20 kg) checked and 11 lbs (5 kg) carry-on.



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Dates & Rates

ANTARCTIC EXPLORER *Discovering the 7th Continent (11-day), with flights from Buenos Aires*

Expedition Aboard the Adventure Ship **OCEAN ENDEAVOUR**

Dates	Days	Start/ End	Triple	Single	Twin Porthole Cabins	Twin Window Cabins	Upper Deck Twin	Superior Twin	Top Deck Twin	Suites	
November 5 - November 15, 2017	11	Buenos Aires	\$6,295	\$10,495	\$10,495 \$12,395 Plus* \$12,395 Plus (2)**	\$11,195 \$13,695 Plus* \$13,695 Plus (2)**	\$12,595	\$12,995	\$13,295	\$14,195 Junior \$14,695 Owner's	
November 14 - November 24, 2017	11	Buenos Aires	\$6,295	\$10,495	\$10,495 \$12,395 Plus* \$12,395 Plus (2)**	\$11,195 \$13,695 Plus* \$13,695 Plus (2)**	\$12,595	\$12,995	\$13,295	\$14,195 Junior \$14,695 Owner's	
December 19 - December 29, 2017	11	Buenos Aires	\$6,995	\$11,495	\$11,495 \$13,295 Plus* \$13,295 Plus (2)**	\$11,995 \$15,595 Plus* \$15,595 Plus (2)**	\$14,295	\$14,595	\$14,995	\$15,995 Junior \$16,995 Owner's	
December 28, 2017 - January 7, 2018	11	Buenos Aires	\$6,995	\$11,495	\$11,495 \$13,295 Plus* \$13,295 Plus (2)**	\$11,995 \$15,595 Plus* \$15,595 Plus (2)**	\$14,295	\$14,595	\$14,995	\$15,995 Junior \$16,995 Owner's	

Transfer package required on Ocean Endeavour voyages for \$950 (see Inclusions for details).

**Twice the space of the Twin Porthole or Twin Window, with one bathroom.*

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Complimentary wine with dinner on Ocean Endeavour.

All rates per person in USD.



HOW TO BOOK YOUR EXPEDITION & ADVENTURE OPTIONS

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Additional Dates & Rates

ANTARCTIC EXPLORER *Discovering the 7th Continent (10-day), with flights from Buenos Aires*

Expedition Aboard the Adventure Ship **OCEAN ENDEAVOUR**

Dates	Days	Start/ End	Triple	Single	Twin Porthole Cabins	Twin Window Cabins	Upper Deck Twin	Superior Twin	Top Deck Twin	Suites					
December 11 - December 20, 2017	10	Buenos Aires	\$5,595	\$9,395	\$9,395 \$11,095 Plus*	\$9,895 \$12,195 Plus*	\$11,195	\$11,495	\$11,795	\$12,595 Junior \$13,095 Owner's	•		•		•
February 11 - February 20, 2018	10	Buenos Aires	\$5,795	\$9,195	\$9,195 \$10,695 Plus*	\$9,695 \$12,495 Plus*	\$11,395	\$11,895	\$12,095	\$12,795 Junior \$13,395 Owner's	•				•
February 19 - February 28, 2018	10	Buenos Aires	\$5,795	\$9,195	\$9,195 \$10,695 Plus*	\$9,695 \$12,495 Plus*	\$11,395	\$11,895	\$12,095	\$12,795 Junior \$13,395 Owner's	•				•

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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 HARBOR

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

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

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

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

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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