



11 DAYS LUXURY ANTARCTICA CRUISE - KING GEORGE ISLAND TO PUERTO WILLIAMS

An exhilarating expedition to the most extreme and extraordinary environment on Earth. Voyage to Antarctica's immaculate, ice-laden beauty - a frozen continent of stark salt and pepper mountains, where close-up encounters with whales and penguins await. Led by our experienced expedition team, spend full days exploring the Peninsula on unforgettable hikes and Zodiac excursions. We'll make landfall on the South Shetlands before a dramatic Drake Passage crossing.



ITINERARY

Days 0 & 1 - King George Island

****Pre Cruise Benefits****

Private Executive Transfers
International flights - Economy class
or Business Class upgrade
Charter flights
Hotel

As the largest of all the South Shetland Islands, King George is



considered the gateway to Antarctica. At just 120 kilometers from the Antarctic Peninsula and the only airport in the South Shetlands, it is the connection between "real life" and "Antarctic life". More than 10 different nations have year-round or summer-only scientific research stations on the island (considering that 90% of the island is covered by snow and ice, that is quite an achievement!). Maintaining a base on the island allows membership in the Antarctic Treaty. There is even a Russian Orthodox church, with a permanent on-site priest. The island might be home to a few international scientists, but they are very much outnumbered by the diverse wildlife that considers King George Island rightfully theirs. Adelie, Chinstrap, and Gentoo Penguins all commute to and from the Antarctic Peninsula from the island, while Weddell and leopard seals are regular visitors and can be spotted either in the water or on the shore. Naturally, this brings a huge amount of birdlife: skuas and southern giant petrels are regular summer residents, attracted by the warm climate (warm being a relative term, average temperature is between 1.5 and -6.5 °C). The island was named after King George III after a British explorer discovered it in 1819. Since then the island has been claimed by both Chile (1940), and Argentina (1943), but remains part of British Antarctic Territory.

Day 2 - Antarctic Sound

Few voyages ignite the imagination like a journey down to one of the planet's most remote, extreme, and enchanting wilderness, Antarctica. An adventure in its purest form, only a handful of people will ever be lucky enough to experience the majestic beauty of these monochrome landscapes first-hand. The

Antarctic Sound will be one of your first encounters with this whitewash kingdom, located at the northerly tip of the Antarctic Peninsula - which sprawls up like a tentacle towards Tierra del Fuego, South America's most southerly point, otherwise known as the "End of the World". Taking its name from the first ship to brave the passageway between the peninsular and the Joinville Island groups back in 1902, the Sound is a raw, sensory assault of imposing iceberg slabs, broken away from the disintegrating Larsen Ice Shelf. Come face-to-face with arena-sized islands of ice and meet the extraordinary birdlife that calls this whitewash kingdom home. Watch on, as colonies of Gentoo penguins hop around, and cape petrels sweep overhead, as the continent's unique wildlife thrives around you. If you're planning your first venture into Antarctica, you'll want to brush up on your photography skills in advance, to capture this unforgiving continent in all of its unrestrained glory.

Days 3 - 5 Antarctic Peninsula

The Antarctic Peninsula unravels upwards towards South America, reaching out a beckoning finger to the adventurous, who dare to explore this untamed realm. Stretching up from the heart of the world's southernmost continent, the Antarctic Peninsula lies a mere 620 miles from Tierra del Fuego and, for many, offers a spectacular first taste of the snow-blanketed landscapes and colossal ice sculptures, which make up Earth's least-explored continent. Unseen by humans until 1820 - a blink of an eye ago in relative terms - this is an adventure sure to make your hairs stand on end, as you experience the thrill of the truly unknown and extraordinary. The vast peninsula is sprinkled with research bases, which are at the frontline of



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human scientific endeavor, pushing to study and understand this unique landscape, its exceptional wildlife, and the impact that humans are having on this pristine continent. Witness cathedral-sized icebergs up close, and blue-hued glaciers, slowly slipping from imposing locations like Hope Bay. Blanched mountain peaks cover the peninsula, and you'll find thousands of adorable Adelie penguin pairs thriving undisturbed in this peninsula's unique setting.

[Day 6 - South Shetland Islands](#)

The ice-coated Antarctic Peninsula forms perhaps the most accessible region of mainland Antarctica, lying a mere 480 miles away from South America, across the fabled waters of Drakes Passage. Lying close to the northwestern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula, separated by the Bransfield Strait, the South Shetland Islands fall under the jurisdiction of the Antarctic Treaty, suspending claims on their sovereignty. Several countries maintain research bases here, and with plump elephant seals, and crowds of Gentoo, Chinstrap, and Adelie Penguins also calling the islands home, it can even feel a little crowded at times. King George Island is the largest and most hospitable island, hosting the majority of the research stations - some of which are populated all year round by tiny, hardy crews. Don't be fooled though, these islands offer extraordinary adventure in one of the most remote locations on Earth. The triple peaks of Mount Foster tower above the archipelago, and you'll feel your heart pumping a little quicker, as you sail into the core of Deception Island's magnificent collapsed volcano caldera. Hike the lunar landscapes within, and even dip into the improbably warm, geothermally heated waters of Pendulum Cove. Elephant

Island, meanwhile, is written deep into the annals of Antarctic expedition legend, as the site where Ernest Shackleton and the stricken crew of the *Endurance* miraculously survived a harsh Antarctic winter, in 1916.

[Day 7 - Drake Passage](#)

Sailing the legendary Drake Passage is an experience that few are ever lucky enough to experience. The southern tip of the Americas already feels like a wild enough environment - but the sensation of watching the distant cliffs of the peninsula known as the "End of the World" fade into the horizon, is one that's equal parts epic, eerie, and magical. Set sail, to slowly drop off the bottom of the map from Cape Horn, and voyage on an expedition down into the icy underworld of Antarctica. Drake Passage is an extraordinary voyage of romantic ocean-faring legend, as you aim for Antarctica's icy realm. On arrival, skyscraper-sized icebergs salute you, as you traverse the waters of this continent where snow and ice-dwelling creatures like penguins and whales roam undisturbed. Your first sight of this most unexplored place will most likely be the South Shetland Islands. Walk in the footsteps of some of history's greatest and bravest explorers as you explore famed, snow-covered landmasses like Elephant and Deception Island. If the journey across Drake Passage sounds daunting, don't worry - even in rough seas you're never alone, and will often be accompanied on this spine-tingling adventure by soaring albatrosses and maybe even a protective pod of humpbacks and hourglass dolphins or two. Converging warm and cool ocean currents attract some spectacular animal life to the passage.

[Days 8 - 9 - Puerto Williams](#)

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Puerto Williams is a Chilean city located on Navarino Island on the southern shores of the Beagle Channel. It claims to be the "southernmost city in the world", however owing to its small size - 2,500 residents approximately - the much larger Argentinean city of Ushuaia, which sits on the northern side of the same channel, also claims that title. The surrounding scenery is magnificent. The wild windswept mountains rise above the tree line and are regularly dusted with snow. The city itself has the dramatic backdrop called "Dientes de Navarino" (literally "teeth of Navarino"), which rivals the famous Torres del Paine further to the north. The area was originally used by the Yaghan people, hunter-gatherers who despite enduring the harsh regional climate, could not weather the arrival of Europeans. The current city was established as a naval base in 1953 and honors the British-Chilean naval commander John Williams Wilson of the 19th century. Initially it served to protect territorial possessions and fishing rights of the area, as well as offering logistical support to Antarctic bases. More recently it has become a departure point for scientific and tourism trips to the Antarctic region. In contrast to the bustle and traffic of a very commercial Ushuaia, Puerto Williams offers a quieter, more relaxed experience. It charms the visitor with a small village feel, complete with rustic buildings and the homely smell of drifting wood smoke. A haven of peace at the end of the world.

Charter flights

International flights - Economy class
or Business Class upgrade
Private Executive Transfers

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

Day 10 - Post Cruise

****Post Cruise Benefits****

Hotel



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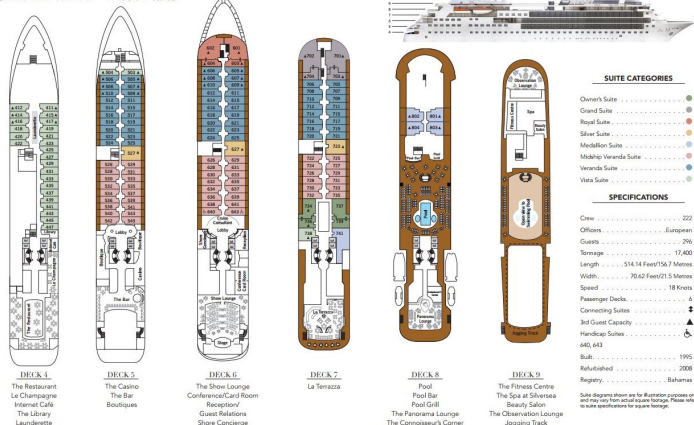
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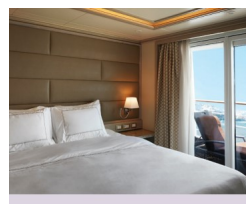
Grand 1 Bedroom



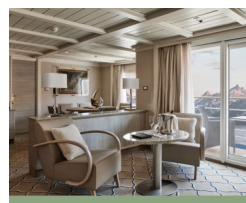
Grand 2 Bedroom



Medallion



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Owner 2 Bedroom

Royal 2 Bedroom

Royal 1 Bedroom

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