

ANTARCTIC CIRCLE CHRISTMAS EXPEDITION MICRO CRUISE BY AIR

Spending Christmas Day here is not a concession to your calendar; it is choosing the most extraordinary place on earth to spend it. With 36 guests, six Senior Polar Guides and four Zodiacs in the water at once, all guests explore the Peninsula at its most alive together, with time and space to take it in. In this dazzling spectacle, the season itself feels like nature's own festival. With Christmas in the air, penguin colonies bustle as gentoo, chinstrap, and Adelie chicks take their first wobbly steps. Crabeater and Weddell seals lounge on drifting ice while leopard seals prowl nearby shores. Humpback and minke whales arrive in greater numbers, drawn to the season's sparkling krill blooms. The expedition follows the same route as every Antarctic Circle by Air departure: a Patagonian asado on arrival before the charter flight from Puerto Natales to King George Island. The aim is seven full days on the Peninsula, with a push south toward 66°33'S on every voyage. Enter a realm few have reached and join an elite circle of Antarctic explorers. Journey to the edge where ice and wildlife converge in pristine wilderness. The charter flight from Puerto Natales removes the Drake Passage crossing, placing all 36 guests directly on the Peninsula with more time on the ice. Weather and conditions permitting, this departure aims to place guests on the Antarctic Peninsula for Christmas Day. Where we go is shaped by conditions and opportunity. Our objectives include the South Shetland Islands and Deception Island. We may navigate south through the Gerlache Strait, the Neumayer Channel, and the Lemaire Channel, aiming for wildlife-rich sites at Paradise Bay and Cuverville Island, where gentoo penguins and Antarctic shags nest against a backdrop that has no equivalent elsewhere. The summer solstice brings perpetual daylight to the Peninsula: golden light at midnight, penguin colonies at the height of their nesting season, humpback whales in channels that carry no crowds. Blue glaciers shimmer in the evening alpenglow, and pack ice drifts through glittering channels as Antarctica returns to life and light. In this frozen, awakening world, nature leads -- and we follow, quietly and



respectfully.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive at Weskar Lodge in Puerto Natales, Chile

Check-in between 15:00 and 17:00.

Pre-Antarctic briefings from the expedition team, followed by a Patagonian asado at the Weskar Lodge club house marking the official start of your expedition.

Day 2 Fly from Puerto Natales to King George Island, Antarctica



From day two, we are ready to depart as soon as conditions allow. The charter flight to King George Island takes 2.5 hours. The timing is determined by the Captain based on the safest available weather window.

If the flight window does not open on day two, the expedition continues at Weskar Lodge. The lodge, Torres del Paine, and Puerto Natales itself are a destination. The longer voyage duration is specifically designed to provide a wider operational window for the crossing.

Days 3 - 9 Dramatic coastlines and penguin colonies

Seven full days on the Peninsula. Where we go is shaped by conditions and opportunity, not a fixed timetable.

The range covers the South Shetland Islands including Deception Island. The Gerlache Strait, Wilhelmina Bay, Lemaire Channel, Paradise Bay, and Cuverville Island: the core of the Peninsula's most extraordinary geography. When the ice opens south, we push toward the Antarctic Circle at 66°33'S.

Into Antarctica 's hidden places

South of the Circle, the landscape changes. Locked bergs in frozen channels. A silence with a different weight. In the right conditions, guests go ashore onto the sea ice itself, walking among icebergs that have not moved in weeks. This is where Ross Seals and Emperor Penguins live. Neither is guaranteed, and in fact very uncommon to encounter; however, both are possible here and almost nowhere else on this itinerary.

With only 36 guests, there are no crowds. Our expert guides respond to conditions as they develop whether that's extending a landing, spending longer at a remarkable wildlife encounter, or adapting the plan to make the most of every opportunity. On a Expedition Micro Cruise, this flexibility is the norm, not the exception.

Exploring Antarctica's raw and untouched beauty

We often sail into the heart of the Antarctic Peninsula through the scenic Gerlache Strait, flanked by jagged peaks.

We aim to explore Antarctica's wildest corners. Possible locations include: Cierva Cove, Trinity Island, Mikkelsen Harbour, Hydrurga Rocks, Hughes Bay, Wilhelmina Bay, Cuverville Island, Errera Channel, Neko Harbour, Paradise Bay, Almirante Brown Station, Dallman Bay, Melchior Islands, Neumayer Channel, Port Lockroy, Lemaire Channel, Port Charcot, Petermann Island, Argentina Islands (Wordie House), Crystal Sound, Detaille Island, Lallemand Fjord, The Gullet, Marguerite Bay, Half Moon Island, Yankee Harbour, Whalers Bay, Baily Head, Deception Island.

Day 10 Fly back to Puerto Natales from King George Island, Antarctica

Aureum holds at Maxwell Bay until the return flight window opens. When it does, the crossing back takes 2.5 hours.

If the flight window shifts, the expedition continues. There is no shortage of Antarctica to explore. Every additional day on the Peninsula is unplanned time in one of the most extraordinary places on earth.

The final night is at Weskar Lodge: farewell dinner, the expedition settling.



Day 11 Enjoy your last day in Puerto Natales, Chile

After your expedition, take the opportunity to explore Puerto Natales, the gateway to Chilean Patagonia--a frontier town with genuine character, exceptional local seafood, an unhurried pace, and an atmosphere entirely its own.

From here, discover nearby Torres del Paine National Park, part of the UNESCO Torres del Paine Biosphere Reserve, renowned for its granite towers, glaciers, turquoise lakes and remarkable wildlife.

Want to stay a little longer? Every Antarctica By Air expedition includes our Peace of Mind approach, with up to three additional nights in Puerto Natales at no extra accommodation cost.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: AUREUM

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

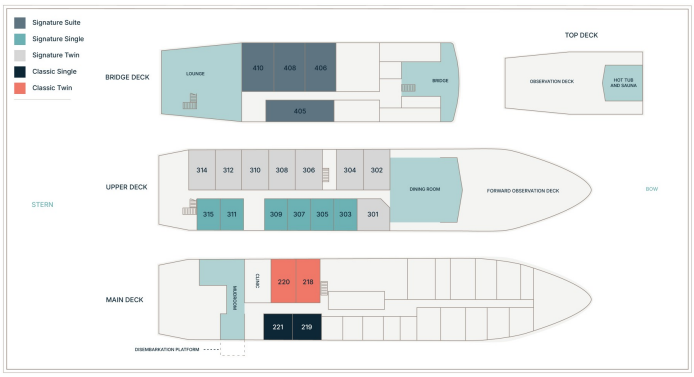
Accommodating just 36 guests, Aureum embodies everything that defines the Secret Atlas experience: small-ship exploration, exceptional flexibility, and a level of immersion that larger expedition vessels simply can't offer. Purpose-built for polar exploration, Aureum features a high ice class, allowing her to navigate through sea ice with confidence, along with wing stabilisers for enhanced comfort in open water. One of the features we're most excited about is her hybrid propulsion system. When conditions allow, we can switch off the engines and glide silently through the polar wilderness, experiencing the extraordinary stillness of the ice while watching whales and wildlife undisturbed. Onboard, you'll enjoy exceptional service alongside thoughtfully designed facilities, including a panoramic observation lounge and wellness centre with gym equipment, sauna, and outdoor hot tub. I particularly love the open bridge policy, so at any time you can watch the captain at work, ask questions, search for wildlife and feel in the heart of the expedition operations. With just 36 passengers onboard, MV Aureum is particularly well suited to solo travellers. You embark as strangers but often disembark as friends. Because the group is so small, you'll have the opportunity to meet everyone onboard, share the experience together and quickly become acquainted as one close



-knit group.



INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Classic Single



Classic Twin



Signature Single



Signature Twin





PRICING

21-Dec-2027 to 31-Dec-2027

Signature Single	£23485 GBP pp
Classic Twin	£18095 GBP pp
Signature Twin	£20405 GBP pp
Classic Single	£21945 GBP pp

19-Dec-2028 to 29-Dec-2028

Signature Twin	£21559 GBP pp
Signature Single	£24639 GBP pp
Classic Twin	£19249 GBP pp
Classic Single	£23099 GBP pp