



Discovering Our Planet Together



# Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage

*An Exhilarating & Efficient Exploration of the Wondrous White Continent*

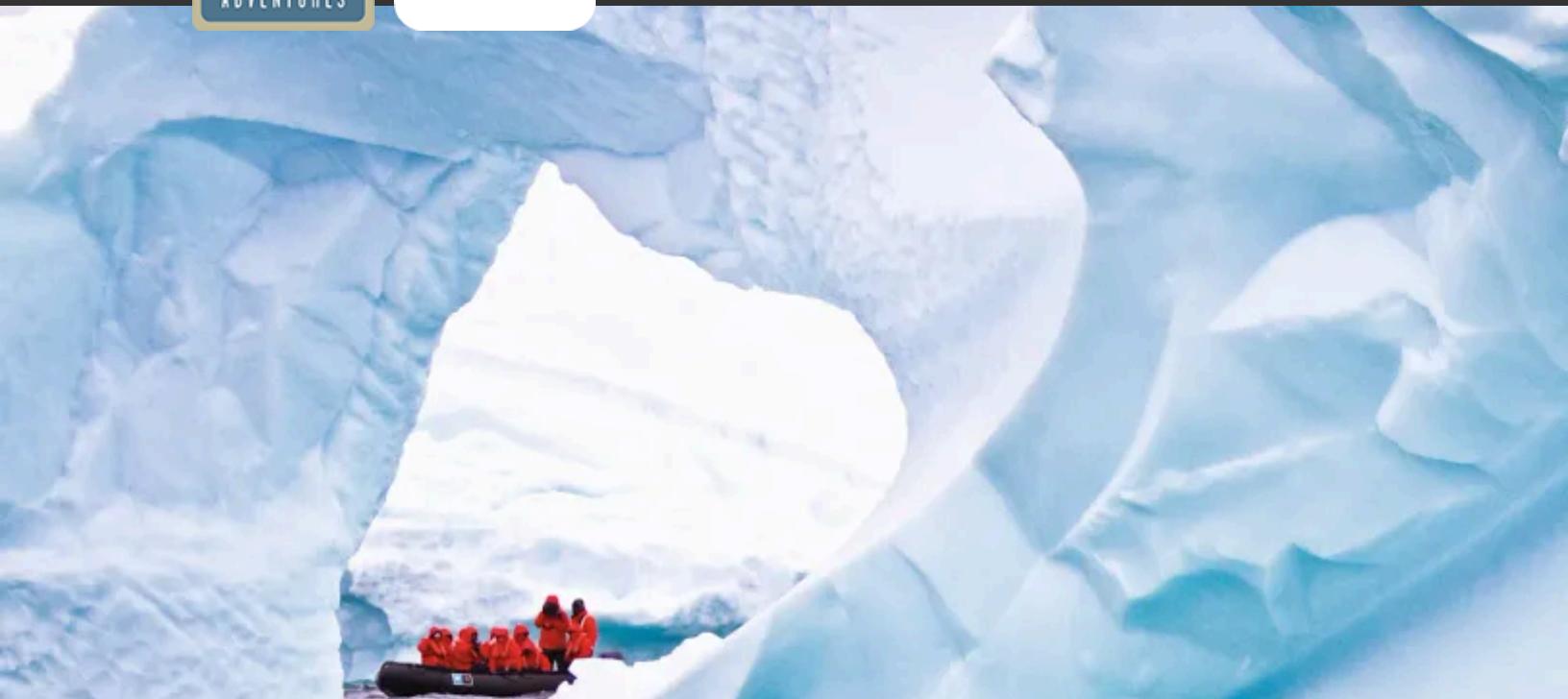


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## Trip Details:

### Days

8 Days / Nov-Feb

### Price

From \$12154

### Physical Requirements

Easy to Moderate

## Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage

### An Exhilarating & Efficient Exploration of the Wondrous White Continent

Experience the wild grandeur of Antarctica efficiently aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*. Cruise the Drake Passage one way and fly the other, maximizing your time on the White Continent. Explore channels framed by towering peaks, zip around icebergs on Zodiacs, and encounter whales, elephant seals and vast penguin colonies. Choose among active adventures like hiking and kayaking, then relax in comfort on our well-appointed expedition ship. With a National Geographic Photography Expert on board, capture stunning images as you learn from the best. This virtually untouched wilderness, first sighted by humans in 1820, is now readily accessible, yet you'll still feel the same exhilaration that captivated the likes of Shackleton and Amundsen. Witness colossal icebergs, observe wildlife in its natural habitat, and bask in the endless light of the austral summer. Antarctica's pristine wonders beckon, offering an unparalleled adventure you won't find anywhere else on Earth.

### Trip Highlights

**Skip all or part of the Drake Passage with either short flights—ideal for those with limited time and a tendency toward seasickness.**

**Experience the utmost comfort while exploring Antarctica's untamed wilderness aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*.**

**On-board experts deepen the adventure with their specialized and intimate knowledge of Antarctica, offering an unparalleled level of interpretation and guidance.**



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## Trip Details:

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Easy to Moderate

## Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage Itineraries

An Exhilarating & Efficient Exploration of the Wondrous White Continent



### Sail-Fly Itinerary

Experience all elements of a classic Antarctic adventure, with a one-way cruise through the Drake Passage, cruising around the White Continent on the *National Geographic Explorer* and a swift 2-hour flight return at the adventure's end.



### Fly-Fly Itinerary

An in-depth Antarctic exploration aboard the *National Geographic Orion*. Fly directly from South America, navigate rugged shores, kayak among icebergs, hike beneath icy summits, and encounter wildlife for an unforgettable adventure in Antarctica's icy wilds.



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## Itinerary At A Glance

### Day 1

Ushuaia, Argentina

### Day 2

Tierra del Fuego National Park /  
Beagle Channel / Ushuaia—  
Embark Ship

### Days 3 & 4

Sailing the Drake Passage

### Days 5 - 8

Exploring Antarctica

### Day 9

King George Island—Disembark  
Ship / Puerto Natales, Chile

### Day 10

Puerto Natales / Depart

## Sail-Fly Itinerary

An Exhilarating & Efficient Exploration of the Wondrous White Continent

### Day 1: Ushuaia, Argentina

Arrive in Ushuaia, "El fin del Mundo." Nestled between the Martial Mountains and the Beagle Channel, this vibrant Argentinian port town of 60,000 people has undergone many iterations since its founding as a Christian missionary outpost in 1870. After serving as a naval base, penal colony, administrative center for the province of Tierra del Fuego, it is now considered the gateway to Antarctica. Meet your Expedition Leader and fellow adventurers at a welcome dinner this evening.





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## Day 2: Tierra del Fuego National Park / Beagle Channel / Ushuaia—Embark Ship

Diverse and dramatic landscapes define this rugged region, and we begin our adventure with a visit to nearby Tierra del Fuego National Park. Renowned for its spectacular mountains, deep valleys, glaciers, waterfalls and subantarctic forests, the 160,000-acre park is home to guanacos, foxes and Andean condors and more.

Afterward, a private catamaran cruise on the Beagle Channel offers broad vistas of the Andes mountains spilling into the sea and the area's rocky, isolated beaches. Watch for sea lions and seabirds like the imperial cormorants. Return to Ushuaia and board the National Geographic Explorer. Originally built for Norway's coastal service, the vessel was rebuilt with an ice-strengthened hull and advanced equipment for an ideal combination of comfort with durability. Settle in and prepare to sail off to the White Continent.

## Days 3 & 4: Sailing the Drake Passage

As we sail southward, witness the stunning transition from the snow-capped Andes and moss-covered beech forests of Beagle Channel to the vast, blue-grey seascape of the legendary Drake Passage. Named after Sir Francis Drake, who sailed these waters in 1578, this 500-mile-wide strait is known for its unpredictable conditions, ranging from fierce gales to flat calm. The National Geographic Explorer, well-equipped for potentially rough seas, provides a stable platform for the approximately two-day crossing. As we traverse the Antarctic Convergence in the southern Drake, an upswelling of nutrients attracts diverse seabirds, including majestic albatrosses. During the voyage, immerse yourself in the ship's amenities. Visit the Bridge for wildlife spotting, attend informative talks on Antarctic biology or simply relax in the observation lounge. Excitement builds as we approach the Antarctic Peninsula, possibly accompanied by wandering albatrosses, killer whales or rare dolphins. This passage not only marks a geographical transition but also prepares you mentally for the unique adventures awaiting in Antarctica.



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### Days 5 - 8: Exploring Antarctica

In the austral summer's extended daylight, we have ample opportunities to explore Antarctica's magnificent landscapes and wildlife. Our flexible schedule allows us to seize unexpected moments, from observing playful whales to hiking alongside penguin colonies or enjoying evening Zodiac cruises amid porpoising penguins.

While the wildlife is extraordinary, ice defines Antarctica. We encounter it in various forms—from towering icebergs and near vertical glaciers to newly formed fragile layers. Activities may include kayaking among icebergs, Zodiac excursions in search of seals and blue-eyed shags or walks amid vast penguin rookeries. The thrill of our ship crunching through pack ice is unforgettable.

Antarctica's waters are also vibrant. Enormous penguin colonies share beaches with Antarctic fur seals and southern elephant seals. Cruising among icebergs, we watch for whales and seals, sometimes close enough to hear their blows. Exceptional birdlife features diverse species of albatross, petrel, skua, gull, tern and cormorant.

After exhilarating days, return to the comfort of the National Geographic Explorer. Enjoy gourmet dinners while taking in the scenery through expansive windows. Throughout the journey, the expert expedition team enriches every experience, helping you fully appreciate this intact and grand natural world where we feel both humbled and inspired.

### Day 9: King George Island—Disembark Ship / Puerto Natales, Chile

The only airstrip on the Antarctic Peninsula archipelago that can reliably serve the South American continent on a regular basis is located on King George Island in the South Shetland group. The island is home to a diverse assortment of wildlife, including Weddell and elephant seals; and Adelie, chinstrap and gentoo penguins. There's also a human presence comprised of international researchers. We disembark and Zodiac ashore to board our 2-hour flight to Puerto Natales.

### Day 10: Puerto Natales / Depart

Fly homeward today from Puerto Natales, carrying a trove of memories from your unforgettable Antarctic adventure.



## Itinerary At A Glance

### Day 1

Puerto Natales, Chile

### Day 2

Puerto Natales / King George Island, Antarctica / Embark Ship

### Days 3 - 8

Exploring Antarctica

### Day 9

King George Island—Disembark Ship / Puerto Natales

### Day 10

Puerto Natales / Depart

## Fly-Fly Itinerary

An Exhilarating & Efficient Exploration of the Wondrous White Continent

### Day 1: Puerto Natales, Chile

Arrive in Puerto Natales, a once-small fishing village that now serves as a gateway to some of Patagonia's most arresting landscapes. Surrounded by peaks and fjords and only a short journey from Torres del Paine National Park, the town sits on Last Hope Sound. Meet your expedition team and fellow adventurers at a welcome dinner this evening.





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## Day 2: Puerto Natales / King George Island, Antarctica / Embark Ship

A 2-hour flight delivers us to King George Island where our Antarctic adventure begins in earnest. The island is home to a diverse assortment of wildlife, including Weddell and elephant seals; and Adelie, chinstrap and gentoo penguins. Researchers from around the world, including the U.S., Chile, Argentina and Brazil conduct a range of analysis from the various scientific stations here. Our flight lands at the Chilean research station where the National Geographic Orion awaits offshore. A brisk Zodiac ride delivers us on board, and we set sail.

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#### Accommodation Details:

National Geographic Orion

National Geographic Explorer

For detailed descriptions, visit  
[nathab.com/antarctica-and-arctic/antarctica-direct/ships](http://nathab.com/antarctica-and-arctic/antarctica-direct/ships)

## Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage Accommodations

An Exhilarating & Efficient Exploration of the Wondrous White Continent



### National Geographic Orion

Among the most sophisticated ships in its class, with the highest sustainable marine environmental practices, *Orion's* luxurious accommodations and recreational tools treat 100 guests to 5-star comfort.



### National Geographic Explorer

The newly renovated ice-class polar expedition vessel accommodates 148 guests in 81 outside cabins, all with private facilities, plus the most innovative tools for exploration above and below the sea.



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## Sail with the World Leader in Conservation-Focused Small Ship Cruising

We're proud to offer a worldwide slate of Adventure Cruises through our partner, Lindblad Expeditions. Nat Hab joined forces with Lindblad in 2016 to expand our mutual collection of nature adventures. Founded in 1958 by Lars-Eric Lindblad, the company pioneered eco-conscious expeditions for "citizen explorers" and today is the world leader in conservation-focused small-ship cruises. Our Adventure Specialists are intimately familiar with the ships and itineraries and are on call to answer any questions you might have.

### 1 Small Ships Assure Closer Nature Encounters

Meaningful nature adventures can't happen in big crowds. Lindblad's expedition ships offer an exhilarating, up-close experience of the southern ice and the abundant wildlife of Antarctica. Their small size makes them nimble enough to access protected coves and channels that big ships can't reach, while full stabilization and state-of-the-art technology make them exceptionally safe. The ship you sail aboard will depend upon the itinerary and departure you choose. Each polar vessel offers personal access to naturalists, lecturers, staff and crew.

### 2 Benefit from Decades of Expertise

This is a genuine expedition-style experience aboard an authentic expedition ship with a seasoned polar adventure team. Pioneers in opening Antarctica to civilian travelers in 1966, Lindblad draws upon more than a half-century of experience navigating polar seas, assuring safe passage in one of Earth's wildest settings. You'll benefit from traveling with a company whose stellar reputation has been carefully earned over decades.

### 3 Multiple Tools for Immersive Expedition Travel

A fleet of 13 Zodiacs and 32 double kayaks facilitate close-up exploration of Antarctica's icy landscapes and abundant wildlife. Come eye level with penguins, leopard seals, marine mammals and floating ice along the bays and coastlines of the Antarctic Peninsula. A mobile platform enables fast, safe deployment of kayaks within minutes of finding an anchorage. Led by veteran Expedition Leaders, hikes and activities on shore are offered at a variety of physical exertion levels. A remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) and undersea interpretive specialist give passengers a rare opportunity to view Antarctica's seldom-seen underwater world. An onboard National Geographic-certified photography instructor helps you get your best shots.



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#### 4 See the Undersea

Unique to Lindblad, each voyage includes an undersea specialist who suits up for polar waters, dives to capture vivid HD video footage, and shares it on plasma screens in the ship's lounge. Going even deeper, the ship's hydrophone lets passengers listen in on whales while a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) capable of exploring depths up to 1,000 feet films the places where no diver can go. The ROV and polar dives provide a rare journey into the virtually unknown Antarctic undersea, while you enjoy the underwater expedition from a warm and dry spot on board. For the bird's eye view, a remote-controlled crow's nest camera broadcasts real-time footage on individual cabin video screens.

#### 5 Sail with Top Experts Who Specialize in Antarctica

Explore Antarctica with a passionate team of experts whose knowledge will enhance your adventure and your understanding of our polar environs. Travel with an Expedition Leader, eight veteran naturalists, a National Geographic-certified photographer, an undersea specialist, expert guest speakers, a video chronicler and a wellness specialist. Your guide team specializes in Antarctica, from wildlife biologists to ornithologists, marine scientists and polar historians.

#### 6 We're Committed to the Planet

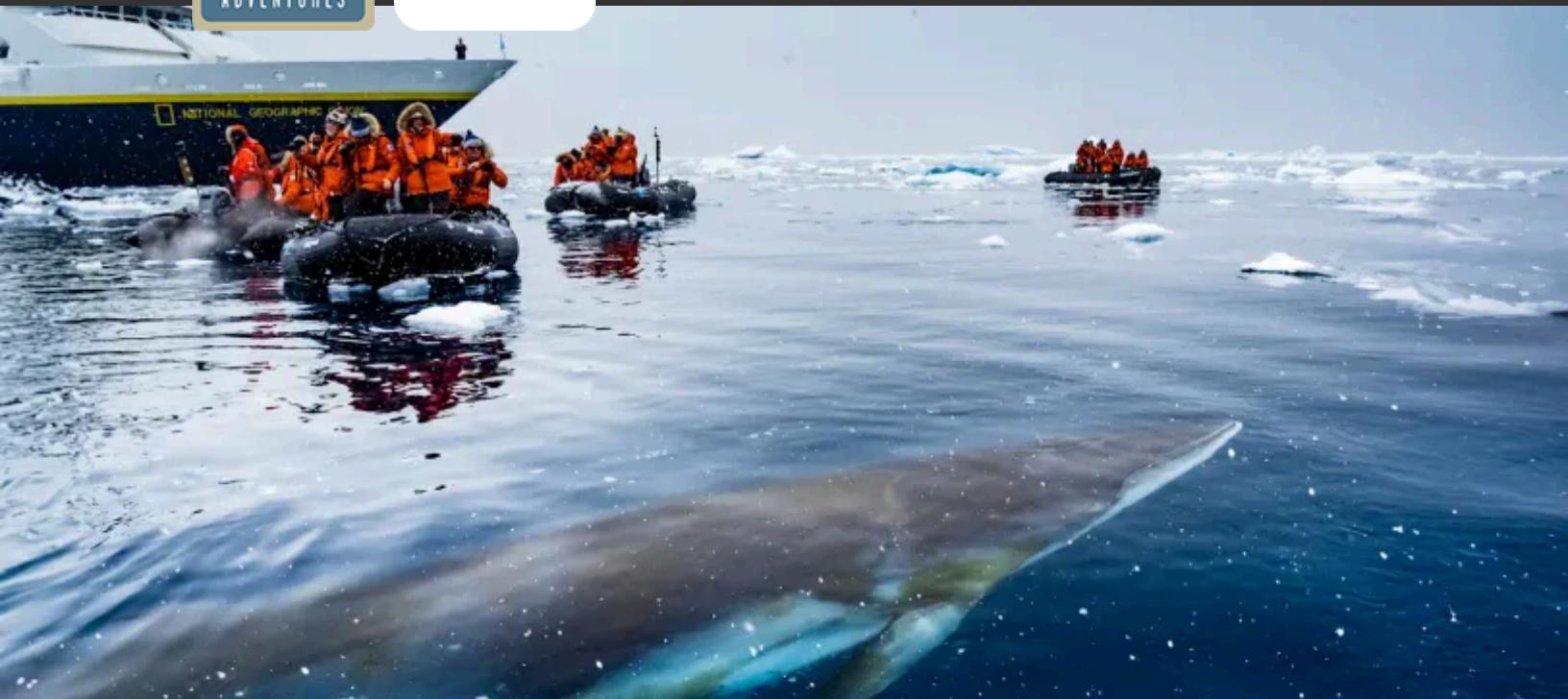
Natural Habitat Adventures is a standard-setter in eco-conscious travel. We were the world's first 100% carbon-neutral travel company. And we continue to break innovative ground in adopting practices that help to protect our global environment. Because of our concern for the environment, we are pleased to partner with Lindblad Expeditions for our Adventure Cruises, a company that shares our values and commitment to the planet.

#### 7 Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner

Because of our environmental commitment and the outstanding quality of our adventures, World Wildlife Fund has chosen Natural Habitat Adventures as its worldwide travel partner, a designation we're very proud of! When you book your Lindblad Expeditions cruise with us, a portion of your trip fee supports WWF.



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**Dates & Pricing  
Summary:**

**Prices:**  
From \$12154

**Group Size:**  
Limited to 148  
Travelers

**Physical  
Requirements:**  
Easy to Moderate

## Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage Dates, Pricing & Info

An Exhilarating & Efficient Exploration of the Wondrous White Continent

### 2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Feb 3, 2026	Feb 10, 2026	From \$15874 USD (+internal air) <a href="#">Aboard National Geographic Explorer</a>
Feb 10, 2026	Feb 19, 2026	From \$19137 USD (+internal air) <a href="#">Aboard National Geographic Explorer</a>
Feb 17, 2026	Feb 24, 2026	From \$15379 USD (+internal air) <a href="#">Aboard National Geographic Explorer</a>
Feb 22, 2026	Mar 1, 2026	From \$14698 USD <a href="#">Aboard National Geographic Explorer</a>



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## Dates & Pricing Summary:

**Prices:**  
From \$12154

**Group Size:**  
Limited to 148  
Travelers

**Physical Requirements:**  
Easy to Moderate

Departure	Return	Notes
<b>Nov 18, 2026</b>	<b>Nov 27, 2026</b>	From \$13886 USD (+internal air) <u>Aboard National Geographic Explorer</u>
<b>Nov 25, 2026</b>	<b>Dec 2, 2026</b>	From \$12154 USD (+internal air) <u>Aboard National Geographic Explorer</u>
<b>Nov 30, 2026</b>	<b>Dec 7, 2026</b>	From \$12611 USD (+internal air) <u>Aboard National Geographic Explorer</u>
<b>Dec 7, 2026</b>	<b>Dec 16, 2026</b>	From \$15541 USD (+internal air) <u>Aboard National Geographic Explorer</u>
<b>Dec 14, 2026</b>	<b>Dec 21, 2026</b>	From \$14445 USD (+internal air) <u>Aboard National Geographic Explorer</u>
<b>Dec 19, 2026</b>	<b>Dec 26, 2026</b>	From \$13840 USD (+internal air) <u>Aboard National Geographic Explorer</u>
<b>Dec 26, 2026</b>	<b>Jan 4, 2027</b>	From \$17960 USD (+internal air) <u>Aboard National Geographic Explorer</u>

## 2027 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
<b>Jan 2, 2027</b>	<b>Jan 9, 2027</b>	From \$17137 USD (+internal air) <u>Aboard National Geographic Explorer</u>
<b>Jan 14, 2027</b>	<b>Jan 23, 2027</b>	From \$18619 USD (+internal air) <u>Aboard National Geographic Explorer</u>



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## Dates & Pricing

### Summary:

**Prices:**  
From \$12154

**Group Size:**  
Limited to 148  
Travelers

**Physical Requirements:**  
Easy to Moderate

Departure	Return	Notes
Jan 21, 2027	Jan 28, 2027	From \$17137 USD (+internal air) <a href="#">Aboard National Geographic Explorer</a>
Feb 2, 2027	Feb 11, 2027	From \$17406 USD (+internal air) <a href="#">Aboard National Geographic Explorer</a>
Feb 9, 2027	Feb 16, 2027	From \$14998 USD (+internal air) <a href="#">Aboard National Geographic Explorer</a>
Feb 14, 2027	Feb 21, 2027	From \$13489 USD (+internal air) <a href="#">Aboard National Geographic Explorer</a>
Nov 26, 2027	Dec 3, 2027	From \$14500 USD (+internal air) <a href="#">Aboard National Geographic Explorer</a>
Dec 15, 2027	Dec 22, 2027	From \$14750 USD (+internal air) <a href="#">Aboard National Geographic Explorer</a>

## 2028 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jan 3, 2028	Jan 10, 2028	From \$15500 USD (+internal air) <a href="#">Aboard National Geographic Explorer</a>
Jan 22, 2028	Jan 29, 2028	From \$15500 USD (+internal air) <a href="#">Aboard National Geographic Explorer</a>
Feb 10, 2028	Feb 17, 2028	From \$14750 USD (+internal air) <a href="#">Aboard National Geographic Explorer</a>



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Departure	Return	Notes
Feb 29, 2028	Mar 7, 2028	From \$13680 USD (+internal air) <u>Aboard National Geographic Explorer</u>



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## Pricing

See <https://nathab.com/antarctica-and-arctic/antarctica-direct/dates-fees> for the latest pricing details.

## Included

All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary; all meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and onshore; beer, wine, cocktails, and spirits aboard the ship (except certain super premium brands which are available for purchase); hors d'oeuvres, 24-hour access to snacks, premium coffees and teas, non-alcoholic beverages, and filtered water; excursions and airport transfers to and from recommended flights, as indicated in the itinerary; crew gratuities; exploration tools curated to destination, such as Zodiacs and kayaks; guidance and company of our leading expedition staff; assistance by the National Geographic Photography Expert and Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic certified photo instructor; access to the OM System Photo Gear Locker; presentations by expedition staff and expert guest speakers; complimentary reusable water bottle; services of a physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, or paramedic; morning stretch classes and 24-hour access to exercise equipment; 24-hour access to lounges, observation decks, library, and other shared spaces; park and site entrance fees, special access permits, and port taxes. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

## Not Included

Airfare (except flights when indicated as included); pre- and post-expedition extensions; additional hotel nights (except when indicated as included); private transfers; laundry, spa treatments, Wi-Fi, and phone services (except when indicated as included); travel protection plans; and passport, visa, and immigration fees.

## Physical Requirements

You must be able to walk unassisted for a minimum of one mile over rough and uneven terrain including rocky beaches, ice and snow (in knee-high rubber boots), in order to join this expedition cruise. To participate in excursions ashore, you will need to walk down steep stairs and climb into and out of inflatable Zodiacs, which can sometimes feel unstable depending on water conditions. Travel via Zodiac occurs over variable conditions and can sometimes be quite bumpy. If it's windy, you may get wet from sea spray. Travelers with back problems or other health issues that could be exacerbated by such conditions should take this into consideration. Travelers must be prepared for any type of weather, including extreme conditions. Daytime highs typically range from 30°F – 40°F on the Antarctic Peninsula, but can drop well below freezing with high winds and wind chill. Nighttime temperatures may drop into the low 20s. Sea conditions during the Drake Passage crossing, which typically lasts two days, can be extremely rough, potentially causing issues for those who are sensitive to motion sickness, and can make for unsteady walking around the ship. We recommend discussing medications with your personal physician if you are prone to motion sickness.

## Important Information About This Trip

Due to the extremely remote nature of this adventure, Lindblad Expeditions requires that all travelers submit a medical form before departure. This form must be completed and signed by your primary care physician.



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## Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least \$250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.



**Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together**

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USA & Canada: 800-543-8917 • International: 303-449-3711

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than \$6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus \$175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.