



Discovering Our Planet Together



Sailing Antarctica: A Polar Wildlife Expedition

An Intimate Exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula on a Private Expedition Vessel—for Just Seven Guests!



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Trip Details:

Sailing Antarctica: A Polar Wildlife Expedition

Days
17 Days /
Jan

Price
From
\$34295
(+Air)

An Intimate Exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula on a Private Expedition Vessel—for Just Seven Guests!

Intrepid explorers passionate about adventure won't find a more exhilarating way to experience Antarctica than on this one-of-a-kind polar expedition. With just seven travelers on a handful of departures each season, this is the most exclusive of opportunities! Explore the Antarctic Peninsula aboard an ice-strengthened motorsailer, surrounded by seals, whales, penguins and icebergs. Ply channels that larger ships can't reach, and relish profound quiet, enveloped by ice and sky. In a world where "adventure travel" has become a relative term, we've reclaimed it with this total immersion in the planet's last, most pristine wilderness. Our expedition yacht voyage—with a world-class skipper and seasoned polar crew—rewards serious adventurers with a rare experience of one of the most remote and magnificent places on Earth.

Trip Highlights

There's no more intimate Antarctica adventure! Join top polar naturalists aboard our private expedition yacht and meet wildlife up close

Sail, hike, kayak and camp ashore with penguins via our special permits that facilitate exclusive access—a very rare opportunity!

Motor-sail to or from the Antarctic Peninsula and fly the other direction—a combination of high adventure and enhanced comfort—or fly both ways



Trip Details:

Days
17 Days / Jan

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From \$34295
(+Air)

Sailing Antarctica: A Polar Wildlife Expedition Itineraries

An Intimate Exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula on a Private Expedition Vessel—for Just Seven Guests!



[Fly Round-Trip: Antarctica to/from Punta Arenas](#)

Fly round-trip from Punta Arenas, Chile to the Antarctic Peninsula: Motor-sail along the peninsula, then return to King George Island for the return flight to Punta Arenas.



[Sail from Ushuaia to Antarctica and Fly Back to Punta Arenas](#)

From Ushuaia, Argentina, motor-sail down the Beagle Channel and across the Drake Passage to the Antarctic Peninsula, then fly back from King George Island to Punta Arenas, Chile.



[Fly from Punta Arenas to Antarctica and Sail Back to Ushuaia](#)

Fly from Punta Arenas, Chile, to King George Island off the Antarctic Peninsula, then motor-sail across the Drake Passage and up the Beagle Channel to Ushuaia, Argentina.



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Punta Arenas, Chile

Day 2

Magallanes National Reserve / Rio Seco Natural History Museum

Day 3

Fly to King George Island—Board Vessel

Days 4 - 14

Exploring the Antarctic Peninsula

Day 15

King George Island

Day 16

Disembark—Fly to Punta Arenas, Chile

Day 17

Punta Arenas / Depart

Fly Round-Trip: Antarctica to/from Punta Arenas Itinerary

An Intimate Exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula on a Private Expedition Vessel—for Just Seven Guests!

Day 1: Punta Arenas, Chile

Arrive in Punta Arenas, the city at the bottom of Tierra del Fuego overlooking the Strait of Magellan. Punta Arenas was a gold rush boomtown in the late 19th century. By the early 20th century it had become a center for large-scale sheep farming, which remains an important economic enterprise today. Meet your Expedition Leader and fellow adventurers at a welcome dinner this evening.





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Day 2: Magallanes National Reserve / Rio Seco Natural History Museum

There's plenty to see around this scenic region, and we begin with a hike in Magallanes National Reserve. This nearly 50,000-acre nature preserve contains a diverse range of native flora and fauna, including Andean and gray foxes, Darwin's leaf-eared mouse and abundant birdlife—look for Magellanic woodpecker, Chilean flicker, black-chested buzzard eagle, austral thrush and many more. On a walk through the mixed deciduous forest, we observe native trees such as lenga and Magellan's beech and stunted *nirre*, an Antarctic beech with crinkled, irregular leaves.

Return to Punta Arenas for lunch, then visit the Rio Seco Natural History Museum, housed in an old cold storage factory built in the last century. With more than 5,000 vintage botanical and zoological specimens from the region, the museum aims to educate visitors about the region's rich biodiversity and cultural heritage. After our visit, there's free time to explore town before dinner.

Day 3: Fly to King George Island—Board Vessel

The only airstrip on the Antarctic Peninsula archipelago that can reliably be served by the South American continent on a regular basis is located on King George Island in the South Shetland archipelago. We plan to fly here today to meet our intrepid polar expedition vessel . Ashore, we have our first encounter with penguins and other wildlife of this southern polar wonderland. Our real adventure begins when we board our ice-strengthened motorsailer, designed and outfitted to navigate the polar waters of the Southern Ocean. After introductions and a safety orientation, we set sail into the Antarctic waters surrounding the South Shetland Islands, headed south to the Antarctic Peninsula with an eminent polar mariner and seasoned crew.

Please note: *It is our intention to fly to King George Island today, but occasionally weather conditions may delay us. If that is the case, we will spend today exploring Punta Arenas and attempt to fly tomorrow. Other times, the flight schedule might be pushed up and some activities missed so we can fly during a clear weather window.*



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Days 4 - 14: Exploring the Antarctic Peninsula

For the next 10 days we follow the best weather and safest water, exploring the bays and fjords of the Antarctic Peninsula. Our small vessel gives us a distinct advantage for exploring. Able to navigate narrow fjords inaccessible to larger vessels, or easily change course in response to the presence of whales or other sea life, or having the option to simply stop and observe, our intimate ship delivers the utmost freedom. Unconstrained by a fixed itinerary and led by expert guides with unsurpassed navigation skills on sea or land, we discover this wild and austere place away from crowds, where the loudest noises come from nature.

Kayaks on board allow opportunities to observe wildlife at eye-level, and where landings permit, we step ashore to hike. Some walks are gentle, and others take us through deep snow to geographic high points. Our highly attuned guides ensure that activities are appropriate for the group, and participation on excursions is always optional. For the most daring, plunging in the polar waters may be an option. And, with our special permits, we have the option to camp, weather and local conditions permitting. On these on pristine polar beaches, we share solitude with the legions of wildlife.

Though our environs are austere, these waters are a haven for a remarkable array of wildlife, including vast penguin rookeries and beaches ruled by Antarctic fur seals and southern elephant seals. Taking advantage of the perpetual light, we spend long days cruising among the icebergs, watching for whales and seals. Sometimes, we get so close we can hear a whale blow, and we may even feel the spray from its spout. Birdlife is extraordinary, with huge populations of albatross, petrel, skua, gull, tern and cormorant. There are few places on the planet where the natural world feels more intact and grandiose, while we have never felt smaller.

Day 15: King George Island

We return to King George Island in the South Shetland group today, lying off the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. Our arrival is one day prior to our intended return flight, as a hedge against potential weather problems. Tomorrow morning, after a fortnight of extraordinary adventure, it will be time to say farewell to our hardy vessel, captain and valiant crew.

Day 16: Disembark—Fly to Punta Arenas, Chile

Weather permitting, we board our airplane for the 2-hour flight back to Punta Arenas on the southern tip of Chilean Patagonia. On arrival, we check in to our hotel. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner in town, regaling one another with stories and indelible memories of this truly singular adventure.



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Day 17: Punta Arenas / Depart

Fly homeward today from Punta Arenas, with a cache of memories to last a lifetime and then some!

Important note regarding flights: When flying to and from King George Island off the Antarctic Peninsula, weather determines all schedules. If weather does not allow us to travel as scheduled, we must wait on either end until it clears, or other times pushing up the flight to be ahead of weather. Though historic weather patterns indicate that we should not be delayed for more than a few days, we can never predict when, or even if, inclement weather will clear to allow our departure. While we have "padded" our itinerary somewhat as a precaution against such circumstances, we ask that all guests purchase trip cancellation and interruption insurance to cover tour costs should your adventure be delayed or canceled because of weather.



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Ushuaia, Argentina

Day 2

Tierra del Fuego National Park /
Maritime & Presidio Museums

Day 3

Ushuaia—Board S/V Australis /
Beagle Channel

Days 4 - 6

Crossing the Drake Passage

Days 7 - 14

Cruising & Camping on the
Antarctic Peninsula

Day 15

King George Island

Day 16

Disembark—Fly to Punta Arenas,
Chile

Sail from Ushuaia to Antarctica and Fly Back to Punta Arenas Itinerary

An Intimate Exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula on a Private Expedition Vessel—for Just Seven Guests!

Day 1: Ushuaia, Argentina

Arrive in the world's southernmost city, Ushuaia, located at the tip of Tierra del Fuego. Meet your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner on this first evening of your Antarctic adventure.





Discovering Our Planet Together

Itinerary At A Glance

Day 17

Punta Arenas / Depart

Day 2: Tierra del Fuego National Park / Maritime & Presidio Museums

This extra day in Ushuaia is included as a "reserve day" if flights are delayed. You don't want to take a chance of missing your sailing tomorrow! But there's plenty to see in the Ushuaia region, too. We've included a half-day tour of scenic Tierra del Fuego National Park, which combines coast, islands, mountains and the southernmost subantarctic Andean forests. Beneath the deciduous lenga, beech and wild cherry trees, we find a moist understory of moss, ferns and peat bog. On easy hikes, look for red fox, guanaco, otter, geese, ducks, woodpeckers and 90 more bird species that are among the native fauna found in the park. The landscape shows typical signs of glacial formation, with broad valleys filled with lakes and rivers alternating between rows of mountain ranges. Throughout the park are signs of its past inhabitants, the Yamanas people.

Following lunch in town, we visit the impressive Maritime and Prison Museums, housed in the former national penitentiary built by convicts who were relocated to this remote region in 1906. The infamous prison, finished in 1920, was designed for 380 inmates, though it held up to 800 before it closed in 1947. The maritime exhibits chronicle the history of seafaring in the area, including a scale model of the ship Magellan sailed in 1520 through the strait that now bears his name. It was Magellan who dubbed this southerly mosaic of islands *Tierra del Fuego*, meaning "Land of Fire"—a reference to constantly burning fires indigenous people lit to stay warm, even inside their bark canoes. There's free time later this afternoon to explore Ushuaia, a lively tourist town catering to the many adventurous climbers, trekkers and sailors that set forth from here. We'll enjoy dinner together in town this evening.

Day 3: Ushuaia—Board S/V Australis / Beagle Channel

Today our real adventure begins as we board our expedition sailboat *Australis* in the Ushuaia harbor. The *Australis* is a 75-foot-long ice-strengthened motorsailer, designed and outfitted to navigate the polar waters of the Southern Ocean. After introductions and a safety orientation, we set out into the calm waters of the Beagle Channel, admiring the endless ridgelines of the mountains that line either side. We're excited to be sailing with one of the world's preeminent polar mariners and his seasoned crew. Drink in the views of Patagonian peaks that unfold as we make our way south, enjoying the long daylight of a southern summer and dreaming of the adventures that lie ahead.



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Days 4 - 6: Crossing the Drake Passage

Named for renowned explorer Sir Francis Drake who sailed these waters in 1578, the Drake Passage is notorious for its often-fierce gales, creating large, wind-whipped swells—we're likely to have some raucous sailing! But the *Australis* is a hardy vessel and her skipper second-to-none—we are in good hands, and the journey is exhilarating. The southern portion of the Drake also marks the Antarctic Convergence, a biological zone where a great upwelling of nutrients draws an amazing variety of seabirds, including many albatrosses that follow in our wake. The first sightings of icebergs and snow-clad mountains indicate that we have reached the South Shetland Islands. The exact timing of our Drake crossing depends on weather and sea conditions, but we generally expect it to take approximately three days. If conditions are favorable, we'll step ashore for our first encounter with penguins and other wildlife of this southern polar wonderland.

Days 7 - 14: Cruising & Camping on the Antarctic Peninsula

For the next eight days we follow the best weather and safest water, exploring the bays and fjords of the Antarctic Peninsula. Our small vessel gives us a distinct advantage for exploring. Able to navigate narrow fjords inaccessible to larger vessels, or easily change course in response to the presence of whales or other sea life, or having the option to simply stop and observe, our intimate ship delivers the utmost freedom. Unconstrained by a fixed itinerary and led by expert guides with unsurpassed navigation skills on sea or land, we discover this wild and austere place away from crowds, where the loudest noises come from nature.

Kayaks on board allow opportunities to observe wildlife at eye-level, and where landings permit, we step ashore to hike. Some walks are gentle, and others take us through deep snow to geographic high points. Our highly attuned guides ensure that activities are appropriate for the group, and participation on excursions is always optional. For the most daring, plunging in the polar waters may be an option. And, with our special permits, we have the option to camp, weather and local conditions permitting. On these on pristine polar beaches, we share solitude with the legions of wildlife.

Though our environs are austere, these waters are a haven for a remarkable array of wildlife, including vast penguin rookeries and beaches ruled by Antarctic fur seals and southern elephant seals. Taking advantage of the perpetual light, we spend long days cruising among the icebergs, watching for whales and seals. Sometimes, we get so close we can hear a whale blow, and we may even feel the spray from its spout. Birdlife is extraordinary, with huge populations of albatross, petrel, skua, gull, tern and cormorant. There are few places on the planet where the natural world feels more intact and grandiose, while we have never felt smaller.



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Day 15: King George Island

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. We arrive here today, one day prior to meeting up with our return flight home, as a hedge against potential weather problems. Tomorrow morning, after a fortnight of extraordinary adventure, it will be time to say farewell to the *Australis* and her valiant crew.

Day 16: Disembark—Fly to Punta Arenas, Chile

Weather permitting, we board our airplane for the 2-hour flight back to Punta Arenas on the southern tip of Chilean Patagonia. On arrival, we check in to our hotel. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner in town, regaling one another with stories and indelible memories of this truly singular adventure.

Day 17: Punta Arenas / Depart

Fly homeward today from Punta Arenas, with a cache of memories to last a lifetime and then some! **Important note regarding flights:** *When flying from King George Island on the Antarctic Peninsula, weather determines all schedules. If weather does not allow us to travel as scheduled, we must wait on King George Island for the weather to clear. Though historic weather patterns dictate that we should not be delayed for more than a few days, we can never predict when, or even if, inclement weather will clear to allow our departure. While we have "padded" our itinerary a bit as a precaution against such circumstances, we ask that all guests purchase trip cancellation and interruption insurance to cover tour costs should your adventure be delayed or canceled because of the weather.*



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Punta Arenas, Chile

Day 2

Magallanes National Reserve / Rio Seco Natural History Museum

Day 3

Fly to King George Island—Board S/V Australis

Days 4 - 12

Cruising and Camping on the Antarctic Peninsula

Days 13 - 15

Crossing the Drake Passage

Day 16

Ushuaia, Argentina—Disembark

Day 17

Ushuaia / Depart

Fly from Punta Arenas to Antarctica and Sail Back to Ushuaia Itinerary

An Intimate Exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula on a Private Expedition Vessel—for Just Seven Guests!

Day 1: Punta Arenas, Chile

Arrive in Punta Arenas, the city at the bottom of Tierra del Fuego overlooking the Strait of Magellan. Punta Arenas was a gold rush boomtown in the late 19th century. By the early 20th century it was a center for large-scale sheep farming, which remains an important economic enterprise today. Meet your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner on this first evening of your Antarctic adventure.





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Day 2: Magallanes National Reserve / Rio Seco Natural History Museum

This extra day is included as a "reserve day" in case of delays with arriving flights. There's plenty to see around this scenic region, and we begin with a hike in the Magallanes National Reserve. This nearly 50,000-acre nature preserve contains a diverse range of native flora and fauna, including Andean and gray foxes, Darwin's leaf-eared mouse and abundant birdlife—look for Magellanic woodpecker, Chilean flicker, black-chested buzzard eagle, austral thrush and more. On a walk through the mixed deciduous forest, we'll observe native trees such as lenga and Magellan's beeches and stunted *nirre* trees with their crinkled, irregular leaves.

Return to Punta Arenas for lunch, then visit the Rio Seco Natural History Museum, housed in an old cold storage factory built in the last century. With more than 5,000 vintage botanical and zoological specimens from the region, the museum aims to educate visitors about the region's rich biodiversity and cultural heritage. After our visit, there's free time to explore town before dinner.

Day 3: Fly to King George Island—Board S/V Australis

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Our real adventure begins when we board the *Australis*, a 75-foot-long ice-strengthened motorsailer, designed and outfitted to navigate the polar waters of the Southern Ocean. After introductions and a safety orientation, the *Australis* sets sail into the Antarctic waters surrounding the South Shetland Islands, headed south to the Antarctic Peninsula. We're excited to be cruising with one of the world's preeminent polar mariners and his seasoned crew.

[Note: It is our intention to fly to King George Island today, but occasionally weather conditions may delay us. If that is the case, we will spend today exploring Punta Arenas.]



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Days 4 - 12: Cruising and Camping on the Antarctic Peninsula

For the next 8-9 days we follow the best weather and safest water, exploring the bays and fjords of the Antarctic Peninsula. Our small vessel gives us a distinct advantage for exploring. Able to navigate narrow fjords inaccessible to larger vessels, or easily change course in response to the presence of whales or other sea life, or having the option to simply stop and observe, our intimate ship delivers the utmost freedom. Unconstrained by a fixed itinerary and led by expert guides with unsurpassed navigation skills on sea or land, we discover this wild and austere place away from crowds, where the loudest noises come from nature.

Kayaks on board allow opportunities to observe wildlife at eye-level, and where landings permit, we step ashore to hike. Some walks are gentle, and others take us through deep snow to geographic high points. Our highly attuned guides ensure that activities are appropriate for the group, and participation on excursions is always optional. For the most daring, plunging in the polar waters may be an option. And, with our special permits, we have the option to camp, weather and local conditions permitting. On these pristine polar beaches, we share solitude with the legions of wildlife.

Though our environs are austere, these waters are a haven for a remarkable array of wildlife, including vast penguin rookeries and beaches ruled by Antarctic fur seals and southern elephant seals. Taking advantage of the perpetual light, we spend long days cruising among the icebergs, watching for whales and seals. Sometimes, we get so close we can hear a whale blow, and we may even feel the spray from its spout. Birdlife is extraordinary, with huge populations of albatross, petrel, skua, gull, tern and cormorant. There are few places on the planet where the natural world feels more intact and grandiose, while we have never felt smaller.

Days 13 - 15: Crossing the Drake Passage

As the *Australis* continues northward, the most adventurous portion of our journey commences: navigating the fabled Drake Passage. Named for renowned explorer Sir Francis Drake who sailed these waters in 1578, the Drake Passage is notorious for its often-fierce gales that create large, wind-whipped swells—we're likely to have some raucous sailing! But the *Australis* is a hardy vessel and her skipper and crew second-to-none—we are in good hands, and the journey is exhilarating.

Leaving the icebergs and snow-clad mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula behind, we sail into the Antarctic Convergence. This southern portion of the Drake constitutes a rich biological zone where a great upwelling of nutrients draws an amazing variety of seabirds. Keep an eye out for many big albatrosses that often follow in our wake. The exact timing of our Drake crossing depends on weather and sea conditions, but we generally expect it to take approximately three days.



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Day 16: Ushuaia, Argentina—Disembark

As we sail northward, eventually we may be able to discern Cape Horn in the distance, with the mass of Tierra del Fuego rising ahead. Land ho! As the peaks of Patagonia come into view, the *Australis* enters the sheltered waters of the Beagle Channel, our scenic marine route into Ushuaia. Drink in the vista of endless mountain ridges lining either side of the channel as we cruise toward civilization once more. Once safely docked in Ushuaia harbor, we disembark, saying farewell to our skipper and crew. An overnight at a comfortable local hotel is included here in the southernmost city in the world. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner with our Expedition Leader, reflecting on the indelible memories we've made on this truly singular adventure.

Day 17: Ushuaia / Depart

Fly homeward today from Ushuaia, with a cache of memories to last a lifetime and then some!

Important note regarding flights: When flying to King George Island on the Antarctic Peninsula, weather determines all schedules. If weather conditions do not allow us to travel as scheduled, we must wait in Punta Arenas for the weather to clear. Though historic weather patterns dictate that we should not be delayed for more than a few days, we can never predict when, or even if, inclement weather will clear to allow our departure. While we have "padded" our itinerary a bit as a precaution against such circumstances, we ask that all guests purchase trip cancellation and interruption insurance to cover tour costs, should your adventure be delayed or canceled because of the weather.



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Accommodation Details:

S/V Australis

S/Y Ocean Tramp

Alto Andino Hotel

La Yegua Loca

Hotel Cabo de Hornos

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/antarctica-and-arctic/antarctica-sailing-expedition/accommodations

Sailing Antarctica: A Polar Wildlife Expedition Accommodations

An Intimate Exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula on a Private Expedition Vessel—for Just Seven Guests!



S/V Australis

This 75-foot ice-strengthened motorsailer is a seasoned veteran of polar waters, designed for in-depth exploration and carrying two Zodiac tenders and kayaks to access remote coastlines.



S/Y Ocean Tramp

A 66-foot ketch-rigged motor-sailing yacht, *Ocean Tramp* is swift and sturdy in polar waters, with huge forward and aft decks for whale watching, and Zodiacs and kayaks for close-up exploration.



Alto Andino Hotel

A stylish and sophisticated boutique hotel in the world's southernmost city, Alto Andino's 18 modern rooms featuring dark hardwoods and 180-degree views of the harbor and peaks.



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La Yegua Loca

This small hotel incorporates the pioneer heritage of its founders, transforming a 1929 house into a sophisticated inn that pays homage to the multicultural traditions of Chile's colonial period.



Hotel Cabo de Hornos

Located in the center of Punta Arenas on the historic town plaza and overlooking the Strait of Magellan, this landmark hotel enjoys iconic status in the capital of Chilean Patagonia.



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This Antarctica Adventure Stands Alone

While Antarctica is an epic adventure destination, most visitors never fully experience this pristine polar realm. The majority travel via cruise ship, often with more than a hundred other passengers. And while such voyages generally include shore excursions and Zodiac outings, there's still a level of buffering from the elements, from silence and solitude, that define the most moving encounters with this incomparable polar wilderness. That's why we've created a different kind of Antarctica expedition—one that immerses you completely in the magic of the White Continent. It's challenging—and not for everyone—but it may be right for you. Learn more:

1 An Exclusive Itinerary—*No One Else Offers This Particular Journey*

This expedition yacht-based itinerary is offered exclusively by Natural Habitat Adventures and WWF. While others cross the Drake Passage via cruise ship, we do it like the legendary explorers of old did—on a smaller expedition vessel! Except our modern motorsailer has an ice-strengthened steel hull and state-of-the-art navigation and safety equipment, ensuring that our thrilling voyage is also a much safer one than ardent explorers endured a century ago.

2 A Small-Group Wilderness Immersion for *Just Seven Travelers*

We take a maximum of seven guests. Most Antarctica cruise ships carry from 50 to 150 passengers and sometimes many more. On such voyages, you're in the most remote place on the planet, yet you never get a break from the presence of many traveling companions, nor the noise of the ship. Our small-scale journey ensures a profound sense of solitude and quiet, which are ironically rare commodities on most Antarctica journeys. You'll feel like you're on a private expedition.

3 More Time Ashore, Alone...and More Flexibility

Most ship-based Antarctica voyages generally spend 4–6 days making shore excursions on the Antarctic Peninsula. On our sailing expedition, you'll have up to 10 days (depending on weather) to explore remote coves, beaches and icebound headlands, generally on our own and away from the crowds that are inevitable with larger ships. And, because our timing is more flexible, we have added freedom to craft the rhythm of our days as each group prefers.

4 Exclusive Camping Opportunities

While some ships offer a chance for a single night's camping on the ice, it happens in the company of up to 50 or 60 fellow travelers—not exactly the feel of a remote wilderness experience. Plus, these groups must arrive after dinner and be out by 5:30 am. It's really just a quick chance to sleep on the ice in the vicinity of many other people. We, however, hold special permits that allow us to spend up to three nights camping ashore (weather permitting), in locations far from other human presence. When we camp, it's just us and the penguins and seals. While camping is optional (you're welcome to sleep aboard the boat instead), it's usually a major highlight of our travelers' experience.



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5 Extended Hiking Ashore for a True Wilderness Encounter

Most visitors who travel to Antarctica aboard larger ships go ashore and essentially stand on the beach, perhaps walking a short distance in large groups. While even this opportunity can be exciting, often among multitudes of penguins, it pales in comparison to the chance to really explore away from crowds. Our small group is able to hike farther, by ourselves, in the vast, pristine silence of the polar world. This is a genuine wilderness experience, and it isn't available on other itineraries.

6 Guided Small-Group Kayaking Excursions

Optional opportunities for kayaking are included, and you are accompanied by our experienced Expedition Leader on exciting short excursions. We explore the shoreline in very small groups to ensure the quietest and most intimate wildlife encounters. (Kayak outings from larger ships often include groups of 20 or more.) Also, when you're kayaking with just a few individuals, you receive personalized attention from our Expedition Leader to help you improve your paddling skills quickly and efficiently.

7 Sail with World-Class Polar Mariners

We've scoured the globe to find the premier vessels, captains and crew for this extraordinary expedition. You can rest assured that you'll be in the hands of preeminently qualified mariners with in-depth experience in polar waters as we cross the Drake Passage and navigate the crenellated coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. All have extensive training in offshore safety and sea survival in the Southern Ocean and Antarctic waters.

8 Highly Personalized Guiding

While most Antarctica ship operators travel with onboard experts from naturalists to polar historians, few guests have a chance to interact with them personally. Most are consigned to attending lectures in the ship's lounge, rather than traveling alongside the ship's staff, asking myriad questions and developing the kind of friendship that typically accompanies any genuine shared adventure. In contrast, our naturalist Expedition Leader provides a level of personalized service you won't find on other Antarctica trips. With tremendous depth of knowledge and experience in the polar realm, as well as training and resources from WWF's renowned scientists, our guide embodies why we hold a global reputation for hiring the very best! **See Expedition Leader bios** with traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

9 Top-Quality Expeditionary Equipment

As part of our unwavering commitment to safety and comfort, we provide state-of-the-art equipment, including top-quality safety and survival gear, tents, kayaks and camping equipment. Our gear is meticulously maintained, reducing the chance for unexpected mishaps as we travel.



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10 Our Quality–Value Guarantee Ensures Your Antarctica Expedition

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive quality and value guarantee, clearly stating that we will meet the lofty expectations we set in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.

11 Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

12 Natural Habitat is WWF's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our worldwide adventures, we have been chosen by World Wildlife Fund—the world's leading environmental conservation organization—as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



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**Dates & Pricing
Summary:**

Prices:
From \$34295
(+Air)

Group Size:
Limited to 7
Travelers

Sailing Antarctica: A Polar Wildlife Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

An Intimate Exploration of the Antarctic Peninsula on a Private Expedition Vessel—for Just Seven Guests!



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Pricing

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

Included

- **Trip price includes:** Accommodations on the mainland in Punta Arenas and/or Ushuaia and aboard our private motorsailer yacht, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s), boat crew and local guides, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, airport transfers for those arriving by air on Day 1 and departing by air on the final day, gear including all kayaking equipment and camping equipment for optional overnights, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.
- **Internal air cost includes:** Flight to and/or from King George Island (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.



Discovering Our Planet Together

Important Information About This Trip

For this boat-based polar expedition, we welcome travelers with a strong spirit, a zest for serious adventure, a hardy constitution and avid enthusiasm for sometimes demanding conditions. All expedition members must be flexible and have a positive and adventurous attitude—the weather and ocean conditions of the Antarctic region are notorious for quick changes, and the environment can sometimes be hostile. Given the unique and often unpredictable elements of this trip, its successful operation requires a commitment to group unity and a willingness to embrace the unexpected, including efforts to overcome any challenges we might face; we become a team on board. Please note that while the vessels look like a sailboat, they are motorsailers, and we will be motoring for the duration of the trip due to often-challenging sea and weather conditions, as well as the lengthy distances we travel.

It is important to be aware that sailing conditions in the Drake Passage and crossing to/from King George Island can be extremely rough, and should we encounter such conditions, guests may be asked to stay in their berths for long periods of time to ensure their safety (with bathroom breaks only). Expedition participants should be prepared for high seas, and to take necessary precautions for seasickness.

Sea Sickness

Sea sickness is very common as we do have some long days at sea on all itineraries; some days can be rough depending on the weather. Travelers who are susceptible to motion sickness (and even those who are not!) or who have back problems or other health issues that could be exacerbated by such conditions should take this into consideration and consult their physician before attempting this expedition.

Medical Form

Due to the extremely remote nature of this adventure, all travelers are required to submit a medical form prior to departure. This form will be emailed to you approximately six months before your trip. It must be completed and signed by your primary care physician, confirming that you are medically cleared to participate based on the physical requirements outlined for this itinerary.

Accommodations

Accommodations on board the *Australis* are tight but comfortable, with one toilet and shower room shared by all guests (the crew share a separate bathroom). Similarly, accommodations on board the *Ocean Tramp* are likewise tight but with two bathrooms total (one private and one shared). The reality of traveling aboard a compact boat necessitates that guests be in close quarters with fellow travelers for long periods with little to no personal space or time alone. Thus, a flexible and tolerant attitude toward other participants is paramount for the enjoyment of all. Whenever possible, for any single travelers who book this trip, we will match you in a cabin with a traveler of the same sex. However, due to the limited space on board *Australis*, one guest will be required to share a cabin on board with our Nat Hab Expedition Leader, who may be of the opposite sex. We recommend viewing photos of the cabins of the ship you are interested in to understand the space you will inhabit. Typically, these quirks do not make or break the adventure!

Luggage Restrictions

For safety purposes on the charter flights, travelers will be limited on total amount of weight. In addition, your carry-on must fit in the small overhead bin or under the seat in front of you; bags are not permitted on your lap during flights. Please keep this in mind if you are carrying bulky camera equipment. You will not be able to purchase additional weight allowance for this flight. Total baggage allowance information can be found in your pre-trip information.

Optional Camping

Weather and local conditions permitting, we may also have the opportunity to camp ashore overnight, as allowed by our special permits. As this activity is completely dependent on weather, as well as other factors,



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it is important to note that there is no guarantee that camping will be offered on every departure. We will provide appropriate tents and sleeping bags rated for winter camping, as well as expedition-style camping pads, but keep in mind that overnight temperatures can fall below freezing (though it is usually warmer in the tents). Travelers who choose not to camp may sleep aboard the boat if they prefer.

Optional Sea Kayaking

Sea kayaking is offered; our intent is to paddle in largely calm seas, though weather can change with little notice, and excursions can take place in windy, snowy or rainy conditions. Shifting ice may also force us to alter our kayaking itineraries. Paddlers should be aware that kayaking in the weather, sea and ice conditions on the Antarctic Peninsula requires confidence and physical ability, and paddlers should ideally have previous kayaking experience in choppy conditions. Paddlers must also have the stability, strength and agility necessary to enter a kayak directly from a Zodiac. The paddling group will be accompanied by the Expedition Leader and followed by a Zodiac at all times, and if the weather deteriorates, we will return to the boat promptly. No one will be allowed to paddle on their own without the group and guide.

Flight & Sailing Delays

For Sail-Fly and Fly-Sail departures, guests will fly one way between Punta Arenas and Antarctica and sail the other direction across the Drake Passage. For Fly-Fly departures, guests will fly both ways between Punta Arenas and Antarctica. Please note that weather-related delays or changes to your scheduled flight and/or sailing departures may occur. In light of unpredictable weather and its potential impact on flight schedules and operations, guests are strongly advised to have sufficient travel insurance to protect against both flight cancellations and delays, as well as potential marine delays. It may be necessary, for instance, to spend an additional night in Ushuaia (if applicable) or an extra night aboard the boat on King George Island, in order to wait for favorable weather conditions for the Drake crossing or to fly back. Given the potential for such an event, we also recommend that guests consider booking an additional hotel night on the back end of their trip, in case of such a delay.

Environment & Weather

Summer in Antarctica can exhibit all kinds of weather—mostly governed by the prevailing westerly winds and the Antarctic ice sheet. The weather pattern is an unpredictable mixture of marine low-pressure systems and a more stable high-pressure inland climate. The weather is largely influenced by the immense ice sheet that covers the earth's southernmost continent. Temperatures typically range from 30 to 40°F. In other words, you should prepare for all kinds of weather—sunshine and milder temperatures as well as showers and snowstorms. Winds can be both fierce and shifting, and the Antarctic seas are famous for ferocious katabatic storms (rare, but possible).

Safety

Your safety is of paramount concern to us. Toward that end, we provide highly competent guides, a premier polar sailing vessel manned by a world-class captain and crew with extensive experience in Antarctic waters, and the very best equipment. Our guides and crew are thoroughly trained in emergency wilderness first-aid techniques and maritime survival in polar waters. Ultimately, our guides make decisions with everyone's comfort and safety in mind, while trying to maximize the adventure experience for each individual. We must stress that listening carefully to your guide's instructions and directions is ultimately your responsibility and in your best interest and that of the group.

Specialized Equipment

We provide all group gear such as life jackets, tents, sleeping bags, camping mattresses, kayaks, Mustang suits (*Australis* only), muck boots (*Ocean Tramp* only) and a comprehensive first-aid kit and satellite phone for emergency communications. We will supply you with an individual and very comprehensive Clothing & Equipment list prior to your departure.



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Meals

Please understand that the meals on board, while hearty and delicious, are specially planned and prepared for well in advance. Dietary requirements due to serious medical conditions or strict personal restrictions can be met, with ample notice, but must be adhered to while on the adventure.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to on this trip are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require medical evacuation insurance for our guests' safety. If you decline the medical evacuation insurance coverage offered by Natural Habitat, we require that you send us documentation of the independent coverage you have selected. We will add the cost of a medical evacuation policy to your tour invoice until you provide our office with proof of coverage including your insurance company's name, contact number and your individual policy number. Thank you for understanding that our policy exists exclusively in the interest of our guests' safety.

Also, to ensure quality medical care in the event of a medical emergency, as well as peace of mind from the time you book your trip to the time you return home, we highly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment and trip cancellations and delays, to lost luggage. We offer both medical evacuation and comprehensive travel policies through Travelex. Please contact our office if you would like more information about either of these plans.

Getting There & Getting Home

Please arrive in either Ushuaia or Punta Arenas by 5 pm on Day 1 in order to participate in our group welcome dinner. You are free to depart either Punta Arenas or Ushuaia at any time on the final day of the trip.

We can serve you best if our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk makes your reservations, as we are intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program and can arrange the most efficient travel. Also, in the case if you are delayed at King George Island and must spend an additional night on the boat, we would be able to make international flight changes on your behalf. Please call us at 800-543-8917. Note that while we offer you the best possible rates available to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may find special web rates or better fares online.



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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.