

Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage

JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 3, 2025
ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER





Dear Traveler,

Venturing to Antarctica is an expedition like no other—a chance to explore wonderlands of sculpted snow and ice where whales swim, penguins flock, and albatrosses soar. It's a true journey of a lifetime that has historically called for multiple weeks of travel, including a round-trip sea crossing of the Drake Passage.

We are excited to share a more time-efficient way to discover the wonders of the White Continent without sacrificing any of the adventure: an 8-day itinerary with Lindblad Expeditions. On this journey, you'll fly between South America and Antarctica on a round-trip flight and enjoy five adventure-filled days to explore the otherworldly realm at the bottom of the globe.

Each day on the seventh continent is filled with new sights and sounds. Greet the southernmost sky with a sunrise stretch session, paddle a kayak past tabular icebergs the size of islands, and walk among charismatic penguins. You'll even have the rare opportunity to peer deep into polar waters from the comfort and safety of the ship via a remotely operated vehicle (ROV). A veteran team of naturalists will be on hand to provide expert perspectives, and a certified photo instructor can help you capture incredible images.

Our tour operator, Lindblad Expeditions, pioneered expedition travel to Antarctica over 55 years ago and has unmatched expertise in the region. They are uniquely skilled at bringing you directly into the heart of this icy region. Their polar captains all hold the "icemaster" distinction and have collectively navigated more than 600 expeditions in these icy waters, while the crew's deep knowledge of the Antarctic peninsula allows them to make the most of nature's opportunities. For travelers, this expertise translates to adventure-filled days and amazing wildlife sightings—experiences befit for the trip of a lifetime.

To reserve your space, please return the reservation form, email groups@expeditions.com, or call 833-985-1261.

Warm regards,



Linda J. Ball, '83
Associate Director and Manager
USC Trojan Travel

SPECIAL OFFER

Save 10% when traveling with USC Trojan Travel. See page 12 for more details.

Cover photo: A gentoo penguin jumps out of the water in Antarctica.

Opposite: The natural harbor of Port Lockroy creates a calm environment for individual exploration.

Witness the Wonder of the White Continent

Dazzling Beauty on a Grand Scale

The White Continent launches you into a unique world of marine wildlife, frozen landscapes, and incredible geological formations. Bypass the traditional Drake Passage crossing on a two-hour flight to and from Antarctica and discover all of the highlights without sacrificing the extra time. Once on the White Continent, watch for the telltale spout of orcas and acrobatic pods of leaping dolphins off the deck. Approaching the Antarctic islands, we float into an ice desert of crystalline air and frozen seas. Staggering in its variety of forms, the visual beauty of polar ice makes every Antarctic explorer vow to return.

Kayak and hike among Antarctica's most riveting, and often raucous, denizens: the Adélie, chinstrap, and gentoo penguins. Whether courting, squabbling, or fetching krill, their fascinating antics and adaptations to life on the ice are at once amusing and awe-inspiring. Zodiac cruise in search of leopard seals hauled out on the sea ice, then watch for the big dark eyes of Weddell seals popping their heads above the water. And explore lesser-known terrain. While the White Continent is famous for its snow, glaciers, and icebergs, its rockier volcanic past is revealed at places like Edinburgh Hill, where columnar basalt juts out of the sea, and at the black-sand beaches of a submerged caldera called Deception Island.

Life on Board

When sailing on the *National Geographic Explorer*, your time on board is as rewarding as your time on shore. Every detail—from the culinary delights to the soothing spa treatments sourced from our surroundings—is inspired by the beauty all around you. Watch orcas from the ship's bow in the icy air, then warm up in the chart room with a cup of hot cocoa. Or perch high atop the ship in the sun-drenched observation lounge, where you can fly over the polar scenery as it unfolds below. With a well-stocked library at arm's reach, you can read up on a comprehensive range of topics, from Shackleton's historic expedition to the migratory patterns of humpback whales.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): DAP Airline; guest taking in the views from the chart room; guests exploring by Zodiac have an extraordinary encounter with a spy-hopping humpback whale. ©Eric Guth.





The Quintessential Expedition Ship

The *National Geographic Explorer* is an ice-class expedition ship that truly lives up to her name. She embodies the expertise that Lindblad Expeditions has developed throughout more than 55 years of exploring Antarctica. This powerful yet intimately scaled vessel brings you directly, and safely, into the heart of this icy wilderness and allows you to experience it in unique and immersive ways. Her bow's low profile gives you an exhilarating vantage point, making you feel as though you're suspended over the glassy water. And you're always welcome to talk to the captain and officers on the Bridge, where you can learn the ins and outs of navigation or take a turn at the spotting scope.



Purpose-Built for Polar Exploration

- **DNV ICE-1A class rating** on the hull, enabling us to navigate the ice safely
- **Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV)** that can explore the ocean at depths up to 1,000 feet
- **Crow's nest remote-controlled camera** with real-time footage broadcast on high-definition LCD video screens within each cabin
- **Electronic chart system** that broadcasts as a channel in the cabins
- **Chart room** with nautical maps and a coffee, tea, and hot cocoa station
- **The Bridge** where you're always welcome with an open invitation from the ship's captain
- **Observation lounge** providing panoramic vistas of the scenery and a supply of binoculars
- **Large fleet of Zodiacs** and internal mechanism for swift, effortless boarding
- **36 double kayaks** that allow personal exploring in pristine Antarctic environments

Opposite (clockwise from top): National Geographic Explorer is designed with the utmost attention to safety and comfort; guests review nautical maps on the Bridge; Gulf Almirante Montt, Puerto Natales, Patagonia, Chile.; kayaks allow for personal exploration.

Above: Guests join officers on the Bridge to watch them navigate the ice.

Experience Authentic Exploration

Travel with a Veteran Team

Every member of our staff—from our naturalists and expedition leaders to our crew working behind the scenes—is committed to ensuring our guests have an unforgettable experience.

Many are veteran polar guides who have worked with us for decades, chosen for their extensive knowledge of subjects like geology, wildlife biology, and climate science. They, along with the guest speakers who join us on board, give rich context to the wildlife and landscapes we encounter ashore.



The expedition staff helps guests board kayaks safely and swiftly.

Take Great Photos with the Pros

On a Lindblad Expeditions voyage, photography is never an afterthought—it's central to the expedition experience. A photography expert and a certified photo instructor (CPI) join each voyage to assist travelers with everything from camera settings to composition. Every guest—from smartphone camera users to advanced hobbyists—can stand side by side with top photographers, pick up tips in the field, and return home with the photos of a lifetime. With the complimentary OM System Photo Gear Locker, you can field test new lenses, camera bodies, and more.



Guests photographing from a Zodiac in Paradise Harbor, Antarctica.



A guest marvels at landscape from aboard the ship.

Actively Explore Every Day

Our Antarctic voyages feature a range of activities designed to immerse you in the wilds of the White Continent. Head to the bow to watch for whale fins and flukes, paddle a kayak past a glittering iceberg, or hike up a hillside for otherworldly views of the massive ice sheets. Zodiacs can zip you to the shore, where you can watch the adorable antics of fluffy Adélie and gentoo penguin chicks testing the waters and exercising their wings. Or join one of our polar experts in search of leopard seals among the brash ice. On board, learn more about the Heroic Age of Antarctic exploration from our historian, identify live birds next to expert birders, or join your photo instructor at the deck rail for landscape photography tips. Each day opens new exploration options you can enjoy at your own pace.

In-Depth Undersea Program

As part of our in-depth undersea program, an undersea specialist uses a high-definition video camera and deploys a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) that allows us to peer through steely polar waters—up to 1,000 feet beneath the surface. Footage is shared during daily recaps, inviting guests to witness surprising and unexpectedly colorful sea life from the comfort and safety of our ship.



A curious adult leopard seal. ©Michael S. Nolan.

Voyage Itinerary

Experience the wild grandeur of the White Continent in a more efficient, expedient way. On this new itinerary, bypass the traditional Drake Passage crossing both ways on a 2-hour flight from Puerto Natales to Antarctica and discover all of the highlights without sacrificing the extra time. Travel with a diverse team of experts aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*, the definitive expedition ship. Venture into channels and coves framed by towering peaks. Watch for whales off the bow; Zodiac cruise around enormous icebergs; and hike and kayak in complete tranquility. Choose an active agenda or surrender to the pleasures of relaxing downtime and shipboard camaraderie. Plus, get top shots with the help of a photography expert.

DAY 1 • Arrive Puerto Natales, Chile

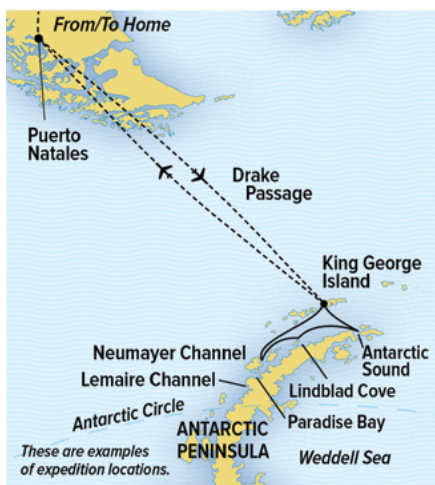
Originally a small fishing port, the town is nestled on the Last Hope Sound and boasts a stunning view of the sea surrounded by the Cerro Benitez Mountains—the gateway to Torres del Paine. Transfer from the airport to Hotel Costaustralis (or similar). Join us this evening for dinner and a briefing on the following day's activities. (D)

DAY 2 • Puerto Natales/King George Island/Embark

Following breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for our 2-hour direct flight to King George Island and the thrilling start to our Antarctic adventure. Home to a diverse assortment of wildlife—Weddell and elephant seals, Adélie, chinstrap and gentoo penguins—King George Island also has a human presence. Researchers from a wide range of countries, including the U.S., Chile, Argentina, and Brazil, call the various stations home. Our flight will land at the Chilean research station where the *National Geographic Explorer* will be waiting offshore. Board Zodiacs to embark the ship and set sail. (B,L,D)

DAYS 3-6 • Exploring Antarctica

With long hours of daylight at this time of year, we have ample opportunities to explore. Our schedule is flexible, allowing us to take advantage of the unexpected, whether we're watching whales at play off the bow of our ship, hiking alongside penguin highways, or enjoying





Guests exploring by Zodiac in Antarctica.

an evening Zodiac cruise amid porpoising penguins. While wildlife is magnificent, ice defines the Antarctic. You'll get to know ice up close and personal—from icebergs the size of islands, bergy bits and near-vertical glaciers, to the fragile, nearly invisible layers that have just begun to freeze. One day, we might set out by kayak to encounter towering icebergs at water level; embark on a Zodiac excursion in search of seals and blue-eyed shags; or walk amid thousands of Adélie and gentoo penguins. The next, we might experience the thrill of the ship crunching through pack ice. Everywhere we go in Antarctica we're surrounded by opportunities to capture uniquely beautiful images. Along the way your expert expedition team will enrich every experience. (B,L,D)

DAY 7 • King George Island/ Disembark/Charter Flight to Puerto Natales

This morning, the ship will be moored off of King George Island once again. Following disembarkation and Zodiac rides to shore, our flight departs the White Continent and returns to Puerto Natales where we overnight. (B,L,D)



A chinstrap penguin burrowed in the snow.

DAY 8 • Puerto Natales/Homebound Flights

Check out of our hotel and transfer to the airport to begin your journey homeward. (B)

National Geographic Explorer



Designed for in-depth exploration, she is the definitive expedition ship, capable of navigating both polar passages and temperate waters. Fully stabilized and with an ice strengthened hull, she provides exceptional comfort, while her dynamic suite of exploration features—including an interactive chart room, a high observation lounge, and a low-profile bow with dramatic views—reflect a dedication to curiosity and wonder.

Capacity

81 outside cabins and suites accommodating 148 guests.

Registry

Bahamas.

Overall Length

367 feet.

Public areas

Bistro bar; chart room; restaurant; Global Gallery; library; lounge with photo kiosks, full-service bar and facilities for films, slideshows, and presentations; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear; OM System Photo Gear Locker; laundry; and observation lounge. An open Bridge enables guests to meet the captain and officers and learn about navigation.

Meals

Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere. Menu is international with local flair.

Accommodations

All cabins and suites face outside with windows or portholes, and have a private bathroom and climate controls. Equipped with Wi-Fi, multiple electrical outlets, USB outlets, full-length mirror, and phones. TV featuring entertainment on demand, live feed from onboard presentations, bow camera, and ship's position. Luxury bed linens and pillows. Botanically inspired shampoo,



Newly renovated Category 7 suite with balcony.

conditioner, shower gel, and lotion. Newly updated suites are enhanced with a sleek, Scandinavian design, and hold a Command Center that allows guests to explore from the comfort of their rooms. Command Centers include a barometer, a *National Geographic Atlas*, and an espresso maker.

Expedition Equipment

Zodiacs, kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, crow's nest remote-controlled camera, video microscope.

Staff & Crew

Every member of our staff is committed to ensuring our guests have an unforgettable experience. Many of our veteran guides and naturalists are locally based in your destination and have worked with us for decades. A full-time medical professional, undersea specialist, professional photographer and certified photo instructor are on board, and with a low staff-to-guest ratio, you can hear different perspectives and gain new insights every day.

Wellness

The vessel is staffed by a wellness specialist and features a glass-enclosed fitness center, outdoor stretching area, LEXspa treatment room, and sauna.



Fitness center with panoramic views.

Sustainability

From our carbon neutrality initiatives to the locally sourced food we serve on board, our expeditions are designed around the well-being of our world. Travel with peace of mind, knowing that green practices are embedded in our operations and that each voyage gives back to the places we explore.

Ship Deck Plan & Pricing



Voyage Dates

January 27 - February 3, 2025

Note: Prices below include round-trip charter flights Puerto Natales/King George Island.

Advance Payment Details

15% of the cabin fare, per person.

Costs are per person, double occupancy unless indicated as solo.

10% Savings

Category 1	\$10,975	\$ 9,878
Main Deck – With one or two portholes #301-308		
Category 2	\$12,084	\$10,876
Main Deck – With window #317-320, 335-336		
Category 3	\$12,395	\$11,156
Main Deck – With window #313-316, 321-328, 337-344, 346, 348, 350		
Category 4	\$13,177	\$11,860
Upper & Veranda Decks – With window #103-104, 107-108, 201-202, 204-207, 210, 212, 217, 226, 228		
Category 5	\$15,971	\$14,374
Upper Deck – With balcony #209, 211, 214, 216, 218, 220-222, 224		
Category 6*	\$18,245	\$16,421
Veranda Deck – Suite #101-102; Upper Deck-Suite with balcony #213		
Category 7*	\$19,950	\$17,955
Upper Deck – Suite with balcony #215, 219, 230		
Category A Solo	\$15,463	\$13,917
Main Deck – With window #309-312, 329-334		
Category B Solo	\$17,593	\$15,834
Upper & Veranda Decks – With window #105-106, 203, 208		

***Suite Exclusives:** The suites on our ships are your elegant retreat at sea, featuring spacious living areas and incredible ocean views. Now, booking one of these beautifully appointed accommodations comes with even more benefits. Our new Suite Exclusives package gives guests staying in eligible cabins access to an array of amenities designed to enhance your on-board experience, including priority booking for spa treatments, complimentary laundry, and other exclusive perks.

Shared Accommodations: Available in Categories 1 and 2.

Solo Occupancy: Cabins available in Categories A and B.

Note: Cabins #209, 211, 214, 216-218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 303-306 have one queen-size bed. All other double cabins have two single beds; some can convert to a queen-size bed. Third person rates are available in the designated triple occupancy cabins at one-half the double occupancy rate. Cabins #341, 343, 101, 102, 215, 219 and 230 can accommodate a third person.

INCLUSIVE PRICING

- Round-trip charter flights Puerto Natales/King George Island
- All accommodations aboard ship
- Excursions, hotels, and airport transfers, as indicated in the itinerary
- All meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and on shore. Meals and hors d'oeuvres are inspired by regional cuisine and locally sourced where possible
- Beer, wine, cocktails, and spirits, with super premium wines and liquors available for purchase
- 24-hour access to snacks, premium coffees and teas, non-alcoholic beverages, and filtered water
- Selection of exploration tools such as Zodiacs, kayaks, and other state-of-the-art gear
- Guidance and company of our leading expedition staff
- Presentations by the expedition staff
- Access to the OM System Photo Gear Locker with the latest gear to try out on loan
- Gratuities for the ship's crew
- The services of a medical professional
- Morning stretch classes and 24-hour access to the fitness center
- 24-hour access to lounges, observation decks, library, and other shared spaces
- Complimentary parka and reusable water bottle
- Special access permits, park and site entrance fees, and port taxes

SPECIAL OFFERS

SPECIAL 10% GROUP SAVINGS: Save 10% on the cabin fare (as indicated) when traveling with USC Trojan Travel. Valid on the January 27 - February 3, 2025 departure date of *Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage*. For new bookings only, subject to availability, may not be combined with other offers, and is not applicable on airfare or extensions. Call for details.

CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES: Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, \$150 shipboard credit for the group, and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, not applicable on airfare or extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies. Call for details.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Prices quoted in this brochure are per person based on double occupancy in USD. Prices quoted are valid at the time of printing, and are subject to change and availability at time of booking. Under normal conditions the total expedition price is guaranteed at the time advanced payment is made. However, our expedition pricing is determined far in advance of initial departure on the basis of then-existing projections of fuel and other costs. In the event of increases in those costs, including but not limited to increases in the price of fuel, currency fluctuations, increases in government taxes or levies, or increased security costs, we reserve the right to adjust the price of your expedition or add a surcharge to cover such unexpected increases. We will always provide an explanation of the reason for increase in costs.

COST INCLUDES: All amenities listed in inclusive pricing above. Unused services or items included in this program are non-refundable.

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; additional hotel nights unless otherwise noted; pre- and post- extensions if available; private transfers; laundry, spa treatments, Wi-Fi and phone services; travel protection plan; and passport, visa, and immigration fees.

AIRFARE: The round-trip charter flights Puerto Natales, Chile/King George Island are included. International airfare is an additional cost. Lindblad will assist in making your air arrangements for a \$50 per person service fee. **Due to the unpredictable weather in Antarctica, we highly encourage guests to book their international flights through Lindblad Expeditions' air department, who can assist with rescheduling flights if needed.**

RESERVATIONS: To confirm your place, an advance payment of 15% of the cabin fare, per person is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover or check. Receipt of advance payment indicates your acceptance of the terms and conditions.

FINAL PAYMENT: Due 120 days prior to departure. Lindblad Expeditions reserves the right to cancel your reservation if payment has not been received by final payment due date.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: Travel and medical insurance are recommended and are available at an additional cost. Information will be sent to you by USC Trojan Travel upon registration.

ENTRY AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: Guests are advised to verify travel documents (passport/transit visa/entry visa) for the country(s) through which they are transiting and/or entering. Reliable and most current information regarding international travel can be found by contacting the consulate/embassy of the country(s) you are visiting or transiting through. We will not be responsible if you are denied entry or transit into a country if you are unable to provide valid documents as per the country's requirement.

RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS: Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Expeditions' and National Geographic Expeditions' (a division of National Geographic Partners, LLC) liability for loss of property, injury, illness, or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship's ticket sent prior to departure or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

CANCELLATION FEE POLICY (PER PERSON)

120 or more days prior to expedition start: **No penalty:** Advance Payment will be credited toward your next expedition**

119-90 days prior to expedition start: **50% of trip cost*****

89-0 days prior to expedition start: **100% of trip cost*****

***Advance payments will be credited in the form of a Lindblad Expeditions Travel Certificate, valid for 12 months from the date of cancellation, and which may only be applied towards final payment on any future booking.*

****Trip cost is total price paid including extensions, charter airfare and other additional services.*

We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.

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Reservation Form



Contact Information

Please send reservation to:

Lindblad Expeditions
96 Morton Street
New York, NY 10014

Ph: (833) 985-1261

Fax: (646) 390-2050

Email: groups@expeditions.com

Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage

JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 3, 2025

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

Passenger Information

Please reserve ____ place(s).

Guest 1: _____ (DOB): _____
(Name as it appears on passport)

Guest 2: _____ (DOB): _____
(Name as it appears on passport)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Accommodations: Double Single Twin share with a friend
 Share with roommate assigned by tour operator.

Please indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference:

1st choice: _____ 2nd choice: _____

Advance Payment Information: 15% of the cabin fare, per person.

If paying by check, please make payable to: **Lindblad Maritime Enterprises, Ltd.**

Enclosed is my advance payment of \$ _____

If paying by credit card, we will contact you to finalize your booking and collect payment information.


Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage

Expedition Highlights

- Get a head start on your Antarctica experience by flying across the Drake Passage to King George Island, landing at the Chilean research station that permanently operates there.
- Explore the world's last great wilderness on a voyage embodying more than five decades of Antarctic expedition heritage, sailing with top naturalists and the most experienced polar captains in travel.
- Hike amid magnificent mountains, see huge glaciers, and observe a parade of gentoo, Adélie, and chinstrap penguins.
- Kayak in protected waters, paddling in the Antarctic stillness as penguins swim nearby.

100% CARBON NEUTRAL AND COMMITTED TO BEING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FREE

We have chosen Lindblad Expeditions because they care deeply about the planet and see travel as a powerful force for good.

 Printed on 100% recycled content paper with soy-based inks. We recommend that you pass this along for others to enjoy or recycle.



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