



# Overview

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Antarctica offers so many extraordinary things to see and do, and travelling with Quark Expeditions® offers multiple options to personalize your experience. We've designed this guide to help you identify what interests you most, so that you can start planning your version of the perfect expedition to the 7th Continent.

Answer the call of Antarctica by flying over the Drake Passage by charter plane to land at King George Island before exploring the Antarctic Peninsula by ship. In just 8 adventure-packed days, you'll experience rewarding shore visits and Zodiac cruises, marvel at intimate wildlife encounters, explore historic sites and make the most of your landmark visit to the 7th Continent. Select from a range of adventure options and onboard activities that match your personal interests and make your expedition uniquely yours.

Antarctica has been inspiring explorers for centuries and our expeditions offer the chance for you to discover why. We're excited to host you on your unforgettable adventure! Feel free to reach out to our team of Polar Travel Advisers who can answer your questions and provide assistance at any time.



## EXPEDITION IN BRIEF



Fly over the Drake Passage and experience the fastest, most direct way to Antarctica



Spot iconic Antarctic wildlife, such as penguins, seals and whales



Marvel at many of the Antarctic Peninsula highlights



Enjoy onboard presentations from polar specialists



Cruise in a Zodiac to get up close to icebergs, wildlife and more



Antarctic Express: Fly the Drake

# 8-Day Itinerary

## DAY 1 | ARRIVE IN PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE

Your adventure begins in Punta Arenas, Chile, the most populated city in southern Patagonia. If you arrive early, there are many museums, restaurants and shops to keep you busy for days. By early afternoon, a Quark Expeditions® representative will meet you at the official starting point hotel, where you'll enjoy a welcome dinner and be briefed about preparing for your embarkation day.

## DAY 2 | FLY TO KING GEORGE ISLAND AND EMBARKATION

Your charter flight from Punta Arenas to Antarctica will have you crossing the legendary Drake Passage in only a few

hours. Far below, the ship will approach King George Island for your arrival. Your first glimpse of dramatic Antarctic landscapes will be from a unique perspective, as your plane descends for landing in the South Shetland Islands. After landing, stretch your legs with a one-mile (1.6 km) walk to the shore, before being transferred by Zodiac to your ship to set sail for the Antarctic Peninsula!

## DAYS 3-6 | ANTARCTIC PENINSULA AND SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS

There are few places in the world as evocative as Antarctica. As your ship approaches the White Continent, you may be overcome by feelings



### ANTARCTIC EXPRESS Fly the Drake

- On board the *Ocean Adventurer* or *World Explorer*
- - - - - Flights to/from Punta Arenas

of excitement and awe. Antarctica is indescribable and can only be fully appreciated through your own eyes.

As your captain and Expedition Team keep a lookout for whales and seabirds, you'll be alerted to any new sightings. Our team of expert presenters will deepen your experience with explanations of the glaciology, history and wildlife of the region.

Even more exciting are your daily excursions. Your first Zodiac landing is something you'll never forget! Walking on a beach dotted with penguins is the most intimate way to experience the unique wildlife of Antarctica.

Each landing is different and is dependent on weather, but every day presents new sightings and photo opportunities, and it won't be long before you can tell the difference between an Adélie, gentoo and chinstrap penguin.

You may take a Zodiac cruise in search of whales and icebergs one day, followed by

a hike to a penguin rookery the next day. From the booming sound of a calving glacier to the thrill of spotting apex predators like leopard seals and killer whales in action, you'll wake up early and welcome each day with a sense of adventure and a desire to explore during this unrivaled travel experience.

Your Expedition Team will accompany you all along the way, providing insights into the places you visit.

#### DAY 7 | DISEMBARKATION AND FLY TO PUNTA ARENAS

After your week of exploration, you'll say goodbye to your Expedition Team and disembark at King George Island. Your two-and-a-half-hour flight across the Drake Passage to Punta Arenas, Chile, brings your adventure to an end. After your group transfer to the hotel, you are free to explore and enjoy an evening on your own, in the city or at the hotel to reminisce about the sights and sounds of Antarctica.

#### DAY 8 | DEPART PUNTA ARENAS

After breakfast, you are welcome to continue on your own travels or make your way to the Punta Arenas airport for your homeward flights.

#### EXPEDITION SPIRIT

Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must consider the sea, ice and weather to guide the route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you'll experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. By the same token, wildlife encounters as described are expected, but not guaranteed. Your Expedition Team will use their considerable experience to seek out wildlife in known habitats, but the presence of any particular species of bird or marine wildlife is not a guarantee.





Antarctic Express: Fly the Drake

# Arrival & Departure Details

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As you prepare for your journey, you may be interested in your arrival and departure details. Since air transportation to and from your voyage is not included in the cost of your expedition, you have some flexibility in planning your flights. Looking to extend your adventure beyond your polar expedition? Learn how to add on a pre-or post-expedition stop—or both!—in your gateway city on page 15.

## Arrival Day and Embarkation

### ARRIVING IN PUNTA ARENAS

Please be sure to arrive in time to be at the hotel prior to 3pm on Day 1 of your expedition. You will be greeted at the airport and transferred to the included group hotel. For passengers arriving before Day 1 of the itinerary, taxis are available to take you to your hotel for approximately US\$25.

On arrival at your hotel, either check in, and then make your way to the Quark Expeditions® meeting room, or if you have arrived before check-in begins at 3pm, you can head directly to the meeting room, which is open from 12pm. Here you will collect your boots and parka, which you will need for the following day's flight. You will also need to bring the luggage you are planning to travel with to the meeting room, to have it weighed and checked for biosecurity clearance, which may involve vacuuming out any debris from outer clothing and backpacks. After these procedures, the briefing will start at 6pm in the meeting room. A welcome dinner hosted by a Quark Expeditions® representative will follow the briefing.



## KING GEORGE ISLAND AND EMBARKATION

Your flight to Antarctica is expected to depart from Punta Arenas for King George Island on Day 2 of your itinerary, after breakfast. Although the flight is scheduled to depart at 9am, there is significant variability based on weather conditions. You should be prepared to depart the hotel for the airport on our group transfer at any time.

### PLEASE NOTE

There is a strict luggage limit of 33 lbs (15 kg) checked luggage and 11 lbs (5 kg) cabin baggage on the flights between Punta Arenas and King George Island. Should you have additional luggage, it can be stored at the hotel in Punta Arenas. There is NO option to pay for additional luggage.

### CONTINGENCY PLAN

In the unlikely event that the plane is unable to depart on the planned date of the charter flight, you will be provided with a night of hotel accommodation in Punta Arenas, meals included. You may be required to be on standby and remain close to the hotel, as a weather window may open with very little notice. If the weather is not suitable on Day 3, you will enjoy an additional night's accommodation and meals in Punta Arenas. On Day 4, should the charter flight not be able to take off by 2pm, Quark Expeditions® will officially cancel the voyage and provide a letter for you to submit to your travel insurance provider for coverage of flight changes and other associated non-cruise costs under the trip delay/interruption and cancellation clause.

Quark Expeditions® will make every effort to ensure that your program

takes place, but due to complex and variable weather conditions, flying in this region is challenging and is beyond our control. Safety is paramount to your expedition, and our pilots follow strict weather assessment procedures. Quark Expeditions® will offer a refund of your cruise package and any adventure options in the event of a trip delay or cancellation as a result of the charter flight being unable to depart as planned.

We strongly recommend that all expedition guests purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy, including trip delay, cancellation and interruption insurance, in addition to the required medical coverage. Please note that international airfare may not be covered by insurance in the event of a cancellation. Please ask your Polar Travel Adviser about travel insurance.



## Final Day and Departure

### DISEMBARKATION AT KING GEORGE ISLAND

Ship disembarkation will generally occur in the late morning, around 11am on King George Island. After you disembark, you will take a short walk from the beach to the King George Island airport to meet your plane. Your luggage will be transferred to the airstrip, where you will collect it for check-in. After a two-and-a-half-hour flight, you will land at the Punta Arenas airport (PUQ).

### DEPARTING FROM PUNTA ARENAS

On arrival in Punta Arenas, you will be transferred from the airport to your post-expedition hotel for one final night. Please note that a departure transfer from the hotel to the Punta Arenas airport is not included.

## Included Hotel Accommodations

Your included accommodation begins on Day 1 of your itinerary, and the specific hotel will be indicated on your final voyage confirmation. If you are arriving prior to Day 1 of your expedition or are staying after the disembarkation day and would like help booking a pre- or post-stay, please contact your preferred travel agent or Quark Expeditions® for hotel options. As accommodation space is limited, you are encouraged to request any extra nights as early as possible. Quark Expeditions® endeavors to provide the best possible accommodation within these parameters.

## Arrival and Departure Transfers

### PUNTA ARENAS AIRPORT TRANSFERS

**ARRIVAL:** Upon your arrival in Punta Arenas, a group transfer is included from the airport to your included pre-expedition hotel on Day 1 of your itinerary. Group transfers are also included in conjunction with the charter flights to and from Antarctica.

**DEPARTURE:** A departure transfer in Punta Arenas is not included, however your Polar Travel Adviser can arrange one for you.

*In order to facilitate your transfers, we request that you provide your flight details to Quark Expeditions® at least 30 days prior to traveling.*



### PLEASE NOTE

Weather conditions can always delay our arrival, and airline schedule changes have also been known to occur. Booking flexible tickets is always encouraged, as we cannot be held responsible for delays due to unforeseen circumstances.





# Your Ship Options

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Quark Expeditions® is pleased to boast the largest polar class fleet of any provider, and the ability to offer our passengers this great expedition on a number of different vessels.

The entire Quark Expeditions® fleet is built for the challenging polar environments, so we can confidently take you to places ordinary cruise companies wouldn't dream of going.



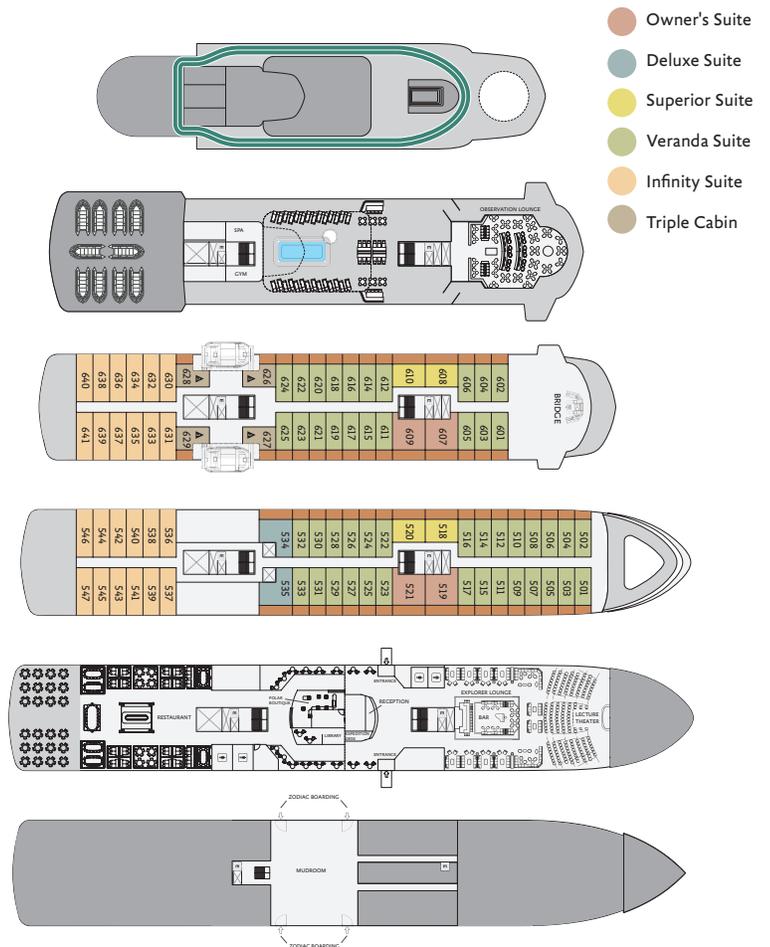
## WORLD EXPLORER

Polar powerhouse, the *World Explorer*—our first all-suites, all-balcony ice-class ship—lets you discover everything Antarctica has to offer, with the type of service available only at premium hotels. The *World Explorer* also provides plenty of areas, both inside and out, to witness the incredible Antarctic wildlife or simply watch the world go by. Enjoy a spacious observation deck for taking in sights outdoors, an observation lounge with panoramic skyline views, a library for intimate relaxing and reading, and the Explorer Lounge for a drink and a chat. Presentations and discussions are held in a dedicated lecture theater. Health and wellness facilities feature an outdoor running track, small gym and spa, plus a heated outdoor swimming pool. With its new and environmentally sustainable hybrid technology and state-of-the-art Rolls-Royce engines and generators, the ship also boasts reduced fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### SHIP SPECIFICATIONS:

- Staff & Crew: 125
- Guests: 176
- Lifeboats: 2, fully enclosed
- Ice Class: 1B

Visit [QuarkExpeditions.com](http://QuarkExpeditions.com) to view deck plan details.







# Included Activities

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Ready for a little adventure beyond your ship? Each Quark Expeditions® voyage offers a variety of fun recreational activities to enhance your polar experience.

## ZODIAC CRUISING

Zodiacs are the workhorses of polar expeditions, safely transporting guests to remote shorelines, exploring shallow inlets and searching for wildlife—taking you to places the ships can't reach. Expedition staff make stepping in and out of them safe and comfortable.

## HIKING

Led by experienced staff, exploring on foot is the best way to appreciate the landscape and shorelines. Staff will aim to have multiple hikes available based on ability and mobility.

## PRESENTATIONS

Enjoy daily chats with onboard polar experts—our guides, scientists and other special guests will introduce you to the wonderful history, biology, ornithology, glaciology and more.

## POLAR PLUNGE

This rite of passage, experienced just once per expedition, sees you safely jumping into icy ocean waters under the watchful eye of our staff—and just about every single camera lens on board!

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Documenting your voyage so you can take the memories home is a rewarding experience. Our photography guides will help you learn skills to capture the beauty of the Polar Regions.

## OTHER EQUIPMENT ON BOARD

Walking poles are provided at each landing for your convenience. As there are limited number of poles available, please bring your own if you require them on every landing.

*More information about your Included and Paid Activities, including the necessary experience, physical requirements and cost, is available by contacting your Polar Travel Adviser or your travel professional.*





# Adventure Options



## SEA KAYAKING

Imagine gliding across the surface of a bay in the presence of icebergs and glaciers. Our Sea Kayaking program is a great way to intimately explore your surroundings. A small group of kayakers will plan to go out multiple times per voyage instead of shore landings or Zodiac cruises. The number of opportunities to kayak is weather dependent and will only be conducted during calm conditions.

Prior kayaking experience is required for you to feel comfortable on the water, and you must have the capability to do a wet exit to participate. Beginners interested in kayaking should consider participating in the Paddling Excursion.

## PADDLING EXCURSION

If you're interested in kayaking and would like to try something less in-depth than Sea Kayaking, you can still enjoy the benefits of adding an on-water

experience to your expedition with a Paddling Excursion. Sign up for a one-time paddle on our sit-on-top kayaks, which are stable and unencumbered: perfect for anyone with little to no experience with kayaking. We take rotating groups of passengers out on calm days with expert guides to connect with the sea.

## STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING (on **WORLD EXPLORER** only)

Combining surfing with kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding will give you a very personal and unique perspective on Antarctica. Taken in small groups—in calm bays and harbors, in good weather conditions—and accompanied by a Zodiac, one-time stand-up paddleboarding excursions can be pre-booked in two consecutive priority groups. After the first two successful outings, it will be offered via sign-up on board the ship on a first-come, first-served basis for any subsequent outings.

### PLEASE NOTE

For all paid activities pre-booking is required. We recommend booking early as spaces fill quickly. Please see your pre-departure book for a list of provided gear for each Adventure Option.