

Antarctic Express

Fly the Drake

Onboard World Voyager and Ocean Explorer



Expedition Overview

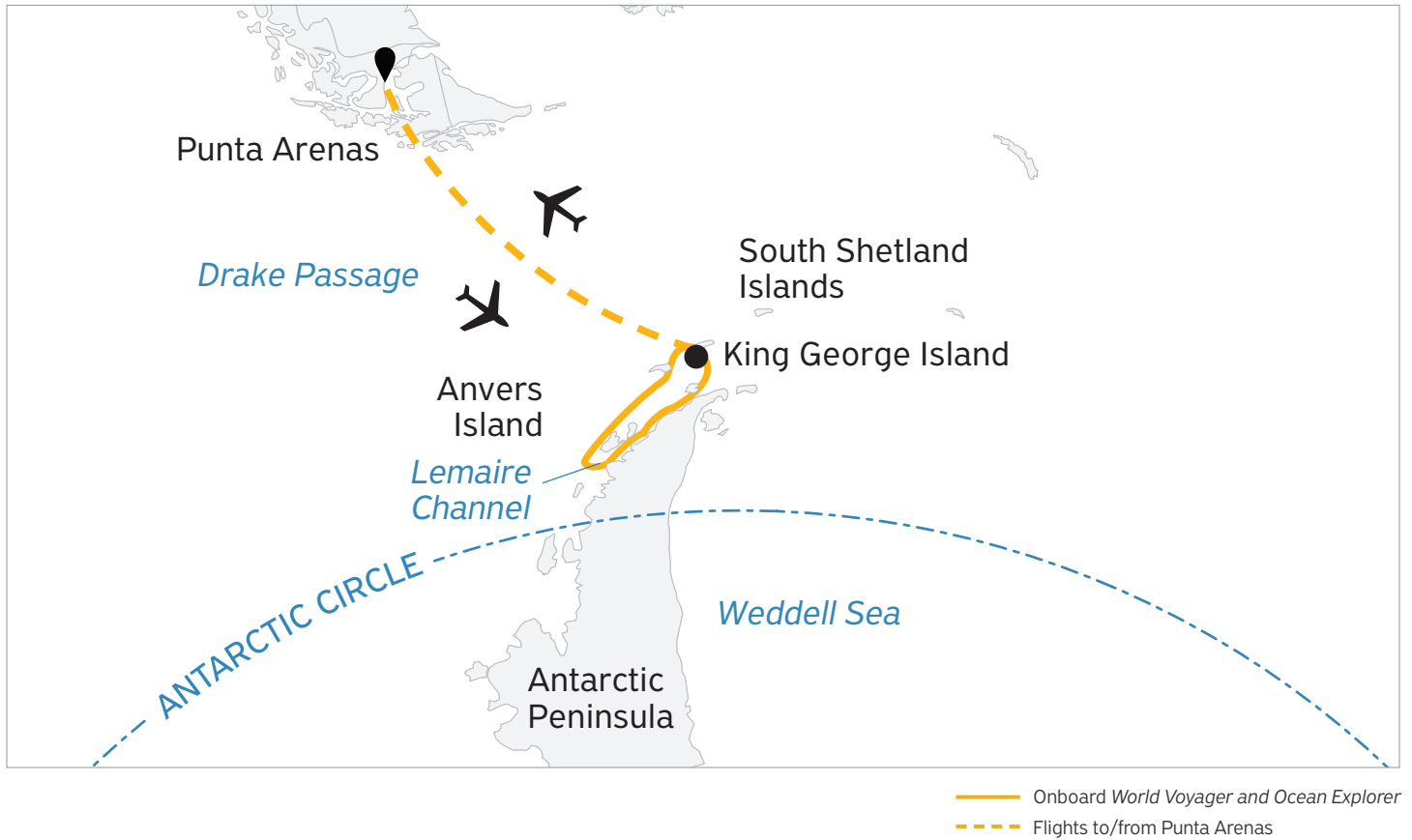


The Fastest Way to Antarctica

Fly both ways over the 800-km Drake Passage—the fastest route to and from Antarctica—and experience the best of the 7th Continent on our 8-day **Antarctic Express: Fly the Drake**. Enjoy a comfortable, time-saving two-hour flight from Punta Arenas, Chile, and board your waiting ship upon landing at King George Island. Then explore majestic polar landscapes by Zodiac, kayak, or on foot; photograph penguins, whales, and seals against towering ice; and deepen your experience through expert presentations on history, biology, and glaciology.

- Fly over the Drake Passage—the fastest, most comfortable, and most direct way to Antarctica
- Set foot on the magical 7th Continent
- Spot penguins, seals and whales and other wildlife
- Cruise in a Zodiac for water-level views of icebergs, wildlife and more
- Enjoy presentations on wildlife, history, glaciology and geology by our onboard polar experts

Day by 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 enjoy. 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 preparations for your embarkation day.

Day 2

Fly to King George Island and Embark

Your charter flight from Punta Arenas to Antarctica will enable you to cross the legendary Drake Passage in only two hours, while 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 onto the South Shetland Islands. After landing, make your way to the shore, before being transferred by Zodiac to your ship to set sail for the Antarctic Peninsula.

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Days 3–6

Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands

The most common reaction upon reaching the 7th Continent is a sense of reverence and awe. The experience is beyond words, since few places are as untouched as Antarctica. You will begin to appreciate why this region has long captivated the attention of explorers and travelers alike. Every time we visit Antarctica, we witness something new or unexpected, which means that your expedition will be unlike any other—creating a unique, personal experience.

Each day, you will take Zodiac excursions from the ship to explore glaciated bays, channels and landing sites. Your Expedition Team will take care of you at each landing, whether you are hiking the Antarctic landscape, visiting a research station or observing chinstrap, Adélie and gentoo penguins, all of which can be found here. Keep an eye out for Weddell, fur, crabeater and leopard seals as well as curious whales, such as humpbacks, minke, or perhaps orcas while on a Zodiac cruise. Each excursion will present a new array of creatures to fascinate you and keep your camera busy.

Day 7

Disembark 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-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 flight.

Arrival and Departure Details



* Arrive at the hotel on Day 1 by 3pm or earlier. Day 1 includes a mandatory briefing.
✈️ International flights are not included in the cost of the voyage.

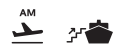


Day 1 Arriving in Punta Arenas and Hotel Night

- Explore the museums, restaurants and galleries of Punta Arenas
- Welcome dinner and briefing at the hotel

We ask all guests to be at the hotel in Punta Arenas by 3 p.m. latest. If you are arriving in Punta Arenas on Day 1, we recommend booking a flight or bus that arrives by 1 p.m. to give yourself plenty of time. For those arriving by air on Day 1, 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 from the airport to your hotel.

On arrival at your included 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 3 p.m., you can head directly to the meeting room, which is open from 12 p.m. 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, part of our commitment to protecting the sensitive Antarctic environment. After these procedures, the mandatory briefing will start at 6 p.m. in the meeting room. A welcome dinner hosted by a Quark Expeditions representative will follow the briefing.



Day 2 Flight to King George Island and Embarkation

- Cross the Drake Passage in two hours
- Enjoy the aerial views of Antarctica as your plane descends at King George Island

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 first thing in the morning, 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.



Disembarkation Day

- Disembark late morning
- Board your flight to Punta Arenas
- Enjoy your hotel night in Punta Arenas

Disembarkation at King George Island

Ship disembarkation will generally occur in the late morning, on King George Island. You will be greeted at the beach by transfer buses that will take you to heated comfortable pre-boarding lounges before boarding your flight. Your luggage will be transferred from the ship to the plane. After a two-hour flight, you will land at the Punta Arenas airport (PUQ).

On arrival in Punta Arenas, you will be transferred from the airport to your post-expedition hotel for one final night.

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Final Day

Departing from Punta Arenas

After breakfast at your hotel (which is included), make your way independently to the airport or continue your travel plans as prearranged.

Airport Transfer

A departure transfer in Punta Arenas is not included.

Luggage Restrictions

- Travel with one checked bag and one carry-on only.

Charter Flight Luggage Limit

This expedition includes charter flights. Your package includes one checked bag and one carry-on bag. Luggage weight restrictions on these flights are typically lower than those on international carriers. There is no option to pay for additional luggage. Specific weight limits will be confirmed in your final travel documents.



Photos captured with a telephoto lens from a responsible distance, following regulatory IAATO guidelines.



Book Your Next Adventure

Contact your travel professional or a Quark Expeditions Polar Travel Advisor.

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