

Emperor Penguin Quest Expedition to Snow Hill

Onboard Ultramarine



Expedition Overview

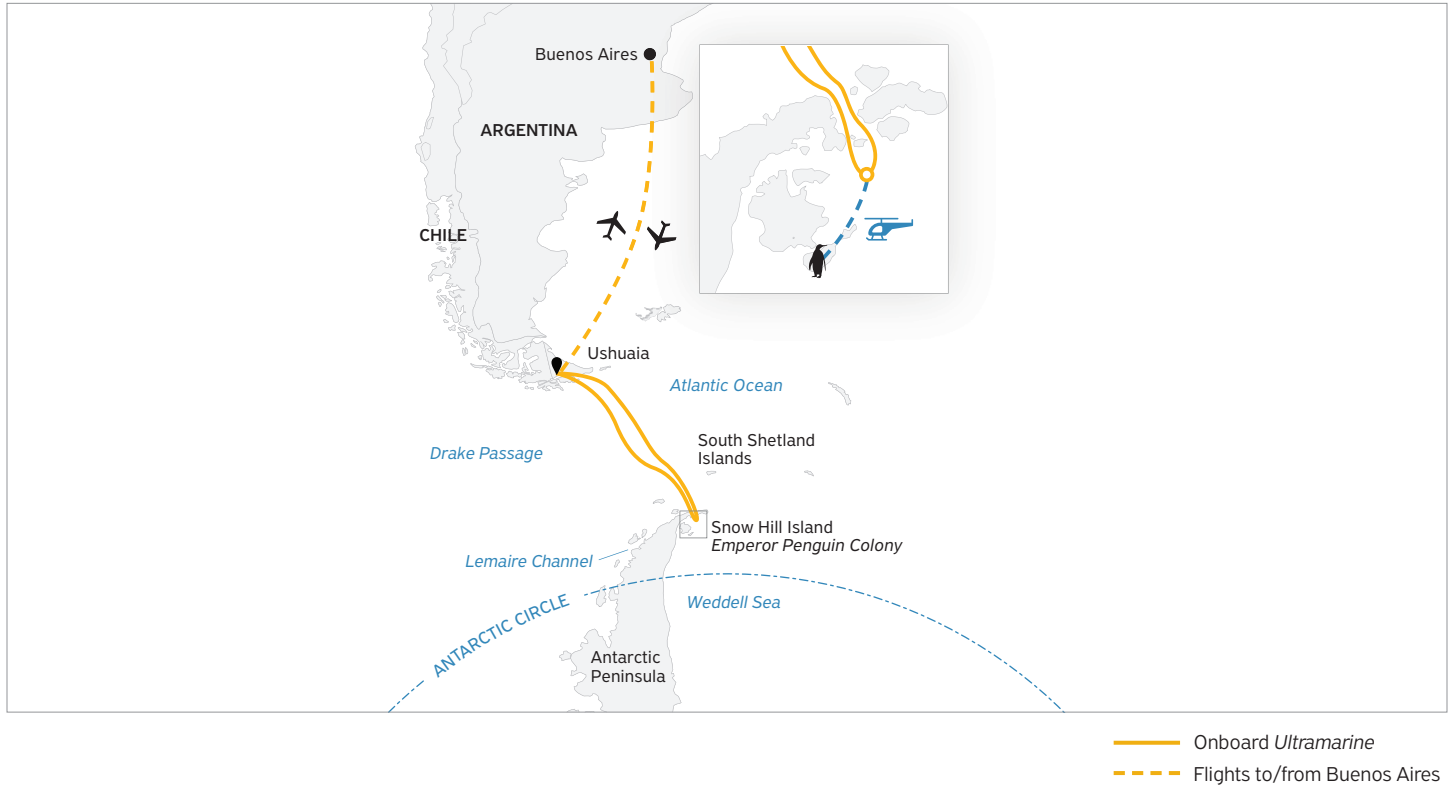


Stand Among Emperor Penguins at Snow Hill

Quark Expeditions has brought more travelers to the remote, 8,000-strong Emperor penguin colony at Snow Hill than any other operator. In fact, we were the first company to do so in 2004. Our 14-day “**Emperor Penguin Quest: Expedition to Snow Hill**” is a once-in-a-lifetime adventure that delivers one of the most jaw-dropping wildlife experiences imaginable. Bonus: one helicopter excursion to and from the Emperor colony. Our technologically-advanced *Ultramarine* was built for this type of challenging journey. Trust us to get you there.

- Embrace the expeditionary spirit on a quest to reach the legendary Emperor penguin colony
- Explore with the expedition team that has an unrivalled track record in bringing guests to Snow Hill Island
- Enjoy helicopter sightseeing and Zodiac cruising for unique perspectives of Antarctica
- Spend up to five days in the vicinity of Snow Hill Island to maximize the Weddell Sea experience
- Travel aboard our helicopter-equipped *Ultramarine*
- Enjoy the intimacy of traveling on a ship with a reduced capacity of 150 guests

Day by Day Itinerary



Day 1

Arrive in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Upon arriving in this splendid city, known for its vibrant Argentinian culture, European architecture and cosmopolitan vibe, you will independently transfer to the designated group hotel, which is included in your Charter Flight & Hotel package.

Day 2

Fly to Ushuaia and Embark

After an early breakfast at the hotel, the group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, Argentina. Upon arrival, you will be transferred from the airport to a central downtown location to explore this quaint port town on your own before making your way to the designated meeting spot. After a late afternoon embarkation, you will sail along the historic Beagle Channel, which transects the Tierra del Fuego archipelago in the extreme south of South America. Excitement builds in anticipation of your next stop: Antarctica.

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Days 3 and 4

Crossing the Drake Passage: a Polar Rite of Passage

The unpredictable and exciting Drake Passage is an adventure unto itself. While being well taken care of by our expert onboard staff and leaders, you'll have plenty of time to gaze out at the ocean, take pictures of seabirds swooping around the ship, and get to know your Expedition Team and fellow travelers.

Day 5

Navigating Into the Weddell Sea

Onboard presentations by world-respected experts will enrich your polar quest, conveying what it was like a century ago for the brave polar heroes who embraced the unknown. You'll also learn more about the ice-dwelling Emperor penguins.

Days 6–10

Weddell Sea and the Quest to Land at Snow Hill

The journey toward Snow Hill Island puts you in true explorer mode, with the captain and Expedition Leader providing regular weather briefings, meteorological updates and sea ice reports. Ice conditions determine how close *Ultramarine* can approach; from there, its twin-engine helicopters take over—much like setting out from base camp on a summit attempt—flying guests toward the Emperor penguin colony.

As experienced by guests on our November 2023 voyages—and again in 2025, a rare double success—the adventure begins with an extended helicopter transfer over a striking polar landscape of snow-capped peaks and apartment-building-sized tabular icebergs. The rookery lies on sea ice off the south coast of Snow Hill Island. Landings are made as close as possible to the colony while maintaining a safe, respectful distance from the penguins.

Once on the ice, you'll walk toward the fabled Emperor penguin colony—feeling the wind, hearing the crunch beneath your boots, and tracing paths carved by penguins before you. The sounds grow louder as you approach one of the rarest wildlife encounters on Earth: approximately 8,000 rarely seen Emperor penguins gathered on the sea ice.

The goal is to bring every guest to the colony at least once. The Expedition Team and onboard experts are on hand to interpret what you're seeing—from the penguins' tightly knit social structure to how they care for their young and even "body surf" across the ice in surprisingly agile fashion. This helicopter-supported search for the colony is, for many, the defining adventure of a lifetime.

Back on *Ultramarine*, you'll be immersed in the Weddell Sea each day. Activities may include Zodiac cruising among icebergs, paddle-on-top kayaking, or observing weather forecasting and ship operations alongside the Expedition Team.

A standout feature of the voyage is its bespoke educational program, blending lectures with hands-on learning. Polar experts—including penguin scientists, biologists and historians—share insights into Emperor penguin behavior, the formation of tabular icebergs visible from the ship, and the legacy of early explorers who ventured into the Weddell Sea more than a century ago. You might also take the polar plunge, try stand-up paddleboarding, or unwind in *Ultramarine's* spa, sauna or fitness room.

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While the Emperor penguin colony at Snow Hill Island is the expedition's goal, conditions ultimately decide our access. If weather or sea ice prevents or limits a visit, alternative sites may be explored. Possible landings occur along the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula—an extension of the Transantarctic Mountains and the continent's northernmost reach—ensuring a rich and varied Antarctic experience regardless of conditions.

Days 11–13 Crossing the Drake Passage

As you recross the Drake, Antarctica fades away, leaving you with a collection of memories to last a lifetime. Excited conversations with your newfound friends will make the crossing fly by, regardless of weather and sea conditions. Your Expedition Team will round up its series of presentations as well, with a slideshow of the adventures you've shared and the wildlife you've witnessed over the course of your voyage. Be sure to take some time to reflect on everything you've experienced so far.

Day 14 Disembark In Ushuaia and Flight To Buenos Aires

You will arrive in Ushuaia in the morning and disembark after breakfast, then make your way to your group charter flight to Buenos Aires.

Arrival & Departure Details



Day 1

*In-bound international flight**
Arrival and independent transfer to hotel night

Day 2

Group transfer to airport, flight to embarkation point, and embarkation

Expedition Days

On ship or landing days

Final Day

Disembarkation, free airport transfer, and flight to Buenos Aires
*International flight onward***

* Arrive anytime on Day 1 or earlier. Day 1 includes an optional briefing.

** Consider booking your international flight home after the Final Day as charter flight times may vary.

International flights are not included in the cost of the voyage.



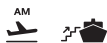
Arrival Day and Embarkation

Day 1

Arriving in Buenos Aires and Hotel Night

Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, you will make your way to the designated group hotel, which is included in your Charter Flight & Hotel Package. A presentation room will be open from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. for luggage weighing and tagging. A Quark Expeditions representative will be available to answer your questions and provide information about the next day's flight and ship embarkation.

- Make your own way from the airport to the designated hotel
- Weigh and tag your luggage in the presentation room



Day 2

Ushuaia and Embarkation

After an early breakfast the following morning, your group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world. In Ushuaia, your Charter Flight & Hotel Package will allow for some free time to explore this quaint port town. We will transfer the group to the ship for embarkation around 4 p.m.

- After breakfast on Day 2, transfer with the group to the airport
- Board your charter flight to Ushuaia
- Enjoy free time to explore Ushuaia
- Around 4 p.m., transfer with the group to the ship



Final Day

Disembarkation in Ushuaia

The ship is scheduled to arrive back at the pier in Ushuaia between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. After breakfast you will bid farewell to your Expedition Team before completing your disembarkation. This process takes approximately one hour.

Departing from Buenos Aires

Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, you may be able to connect directly with your homeward flight. Our charter flight lands at Buenos Aires international airport (Ministro Pistarini International — EZE). The included flight lands at approximately 5 p.m. We recommend you only select flights departing after 9 p.m. Check your itinerary carefully before booking. Some South America-bound flights originate at Jorge Newbery Airport (IATA code: AEP), which is also known as Aeroparque (IATA airport code: AEP). Due to unpredictable traffic in Buenos Aires, we recommend you only select flights departing Jorge Newbery Airport after 10 p.m.

- Ship arrives at the pier in Ushuaia between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.
- Disembark after breakfast
- Airport transfers are not included; please arrange your own transportation
- If flying from Aeroparque/Jorge Newbery Airport (AEP), we recommend booking flights departing after 10 p.m.
- Charter flight to Buenos Aires

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Final Day

For the absolute safest travel plans, we recommend that you book an extra hotel night in Buenos Aires between flights. Expedition travel is occasionally unpredictable. We also strongly recommend booking flexible international air tickets. Quark Expeditions is not responsible for any air ticket change costs you may incur.

Airport Transfers

Arrival transfers from your international flights in Buenos Aires are not included.

Luggage Restrictions

- Travel with one checked bay and one carry-on bag 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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