

South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula Penguin Safari

Onboard Ocean Explorer



Expedition Overview



Hundreds of Thousands Penguins at a Glance

Our 18-day **South Georgia and Antarctica: Penguin Safari** itinerary is the fastest way to reach remote South Georgia Island—home to vast colonies of penguins—while also setting foot on the 7th Continent. Walk beaches teeming with king penguins and elephant seals, and enjoy the comical antics of gentoo, chinstrap, and Adélie penguins. You can also observe albatross soaring above the ship. Antarctica awaits, with its soaring peaks and overwhelming enormity. Take a Zodiac ride, photograph glistening glaciers, or witness the rugged peninsula from a sea kayak.

- Set foot on the magical 7th Continent
- Witness more penguins than you ever imagined
- Follow in the wake of Sir Ernest Shackleton's perilous voyages to South Georgia
- Explore the Antarctic Peninsula by ship, Zodiac and foot
- Enjoy presentations by our onboard polar experts

Day by Day Itinerary



Day 1

Arrival in Ushuaia

You may arrive in Ushuaia at any time on Day 1. This southernmost city of South America is known for its beautiful mountainous surroundings, so we encourage you to consider arriving a day or two before your expedition. We will arrange a transfer from the airport to your hotel, both of which are included in the cost of your trip. An optional pre-departure briefing will be held in the lobby of your hotel at 6 p.m.

Day 2

Embarkation in Ushuaia

Your luggage will be collected from the lobby of your hotel in the morning and transferred to the ship. Embarkation is usually around 4 p.m. Guests will meet at a designated location near the pier, and board the buses for transfer to the ship. Information about embarkation will be posted in your Ushuaia hotel and discussed during your optional pre-departure briefing on Day 1.

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Days 3–6

At Sea

There are many activities to keep you engaged while you are at sea. Learn to identify seabirds that glide alongside the ship, or attend dynamic presentations by your Expedition Team. You will be prepped on safety procedures for Zodiac cruises and shore landings, and also be given instructions for getting the most out of your optional sea kayaking adventures (extra cost), a truly intimate way to experience Antarctica.

If conditions are right, the first indication that you are approaching South Georgia is the sight of birds around a group of rocky spires called Shag Rocks. Have your binoculars and cameras ready to capture these rocky spires rising out of the icy ocean waters. Shags and prions often rest here, and due to nutrient rich upwellings around the rocks it can be a good place to keep a lookout for whales.

Days 7–9

South Georgia

After enjoying South Georgia from a distance, we'll head toward its numerous beaches to find a bay for your first excursion. Landing sites are varied, largely determined by the weather conditions of your voyage. The sites you visit will provide you with wildlife sightings unrivaled anywhere else on Earth.

South Georgia is one of the most fertile breeding grounds in the world for sub-Antarctic wildlife, with beaches blanketed with penguins and seals. It won't take you long to realize that you are in a birder's paradise, as burrowing seabirds, albatross and petrels can be seen in abundance.

You'll find that South Georgia, once a popular base for whalers and sealers, is also scattered with abandoned relics and evidence of human activity from centuries gone by. Your Expedition Team will help bring those days to life while you visit old whaling stations and enjoy presentations on the South Georgia of then and now.

One of the most significant sites you will visit on the island is Grytviken. This settlement is one of the first whaling stations established in sub-Antarctic waters. Grytviken possesses a special appeal largely because it's the site of the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton, one of the most famous Antarctic explorers.

Days 10 and 11

At Sea

Say goodbye to the king penguins, as your next destination is Antarctica. Your days at sea are filled with presentations, workshops, and social activities led by your Expedition Team.

Days 12–15

Antarctic Peninsula

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 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.

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Amid the serene silence of Antarctica, noisy interludes become indelible memories, such as penguins squabbling over prized pebbles, or the boom and crack of a calving glacier.

Every day will be different, having been carefully crafted by your Expedition Team to inspire and educate you about this wonderful part of the world.

Days 16 and 17

Crossing the Drake Passage

After more than a dozen days of unique wildlife sightings and remarkable landscapes, your journey home begins. Crossing the Drake is your unofficial rite of passage. Spend time on deck watching for seabirds and whales, enjoy presentations by your Expedition Team, or simply relax.

Day 18

Disembark in Ushuaia

Your ship is scheduled to arrive in Ushuaia between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. Once the ship has docked, you will bid farewell to your Expedition Team and shipmates before completing your disembarkation. You are then free to continue your onward journey.

Arrival & Departure Details



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

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



Arrival Day and Embarkation

Day 1

Arriving in Ushuaia and Hotel Night

- Arrive anytime on Day 1
- An airport-to-hotel transfer can be arranged if guests send arrival information in advance
- Look for Quark representative in the lobby later in the day if you have questions

You may arrive in Ushuaia at any time during Day 1 of your itinerary. Ushuaia and its mountainous surroundings are destinations worth exploring, so we do encourage you to arrive a day or two before your expedition. Based on the arrival information you send us, we will arrange for a transfer from the airport to your hotel. A Quark Expeditions representative will be available to answer your questions in the lobby of your hotel in Ushuaia during your optional pre-departure briefing on Day 1 at 6 p.m.



Day 2

Embarkation in Ushuaia

- Luggage collected from the hotel lobby in the morning
- Meet at the pier for the group transfer to the ship
- Ship embarkation usually begins around 4 p.m.

On the morning of Day 2, your luggage will be collected from the lobby of your hotel, transferred to the ship and stored in your cabin. Ship embarkation will occur on Day 2 of your itinerary, usually around 4 p.m. You and your shipmates will meet at a designated location near the pier, and board the waiting buses for transfer to the ship. Information about embarkation will be posted in your Ushuaia hotel and discussed during your optional pre-departure meeting on Day 1.



Final Day

- Ship arrives at the pier between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.
- Disembark after breakfast; the process usually takes about one hour
- We recommend booking your onward flight as late in the day as possible

Disembarkation in Ushuaia and onward

Your ship is scheduled to arrive at the pier in Ushuaia, usually between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. Once the ship has docked, you will bid farewell to your Expedition Team and shipmates before completing your disembarkation. The process takes about an hour. Weather conditions can always change our arrival times, and airline schedule changes have also been known to occur in Argentina.

Please book your flight home from Ushuaia to depart as late in the day as possible or at a date after the end of your expedition. If you have booked a flight that departs before noon on the date that your expedition ends, you will be at risk of missing your flight. Quark Expeditions staff in Ushuaia will reconfirm your domestic flight 48 hours prior to disembarkation, provided you give your information to our team ahead of time.

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Airport Transfers

- Airport-to-hotel transfer provided on Day 1
- Ship-to-airport transfer provided on departure day

ARRIVAL

A group transfer in Ushuaia is included from the airport to your included pre-expedition hotel on Day 1 of your itinerary. .

DEPARTURE

A group departure transfer is included from the ship to the airport on the final day of your itinerary. If your flight is later in the day, you may opt to transfer to our luggage storage facility instead, and enjoy further activities in Ushuaia on your own. Access to luggage storage is available until 6 p.m. on the disembarkation day only. You will need to arrange your own transfer to the airport if you do not take advantage of the included transfer or if you are leaving Ushuaia after the disembarkation day.

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

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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