Discovering Our Planet Together



Antarctica, South Georgia & the Falklands

Discover a Stunning Abundance of Wildlife En Route to the White Continent

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Trip Details:

Days
22 Days / Feb–Mar, Oct–Nov

Price
From $26775 (+Air)

Physical Requirements
Moderate

Antarctica, South Georgia & the Falklands

Discover a Stunning Abundance of Wildlife En Route to the White Continent

The frigid sea and icy islands of the Southern Ocean are a prelude to the vast frozen wilderness that awaits at the bottom of the world—yet they are just as captivating in their own right. This comprehensive voyage that includes the Falklands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula offers the ultimate southern polar wildlife itinerary. The entire region abounds with whales, seals, penguins, seabirds, indescribable landscapes and legendary history, and we embrace it all on an immersive 22-day adventure. South Georgia, with its rugged topography plus the sight and sound of hundreds of thousands of king penguins, is absolutely unforgettable. We also find the grave of famed explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton on the island. A team of top Expedition Leaders, naturalists, geologists and polar history experts accompanies us, for an unparalleled Antarctic journey.

Trip Highlights

Follow a Historic Expedition Route

Sail in the path of the intrepid Sir Ernest Shackleton, who pioneered exploration of Antarctica against the harshest of conditions and odds

Walk Among Huge Penguin Colonies

Experience the sensory wonder of hundreds of thousands of king penguins on South Georgia Island, in the shadow of massive ice-clad peaks and glaciers

Keep Watch for Prolific Marine Life

Encounter the Antarctic Peninsula's marine life on Zodiac excursions and shore landings, observing whales, seals, seabirds and magnificent icebergs

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



Antarctica, South Georgia & the Falklands Itinerary

Discover a Stunning Abundance of Wildlife En Route to the White Continent

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Buenos Aires or Santiago
Day 2	Ushuaia
Day 3	At Sea
Days 4–6	Falkland Islands
Days 7–8	At Sea
Days 9–13	South Georgia Island
Days 14–15	At Sea
Days 16–19	Antarctica
Days 20–21	At Sea
Day 22	Ushuaia



Day 1

Buenos Aires or Santiago

Explore your South American gateway before sailing south

- Tour Recoleta and visit the final resting place of Eva Peron during an afternoon in Buenos Aires
- Or explore Santiago's Plaza de Armas and take in views of the surrounding Andes

The ship you select for your Antarctica, Falklands & South Georgia expedition cruise determines the starting and ending point of your journey. Guests traveling aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* or *National Geographic Endurance* (on certain departures) arrive and depart via Buenos Aires, Argentina. Guests traveling aboard the *National Geographic Resolution* (on certain departures) arrive and depart via Santiago, Chile.

With an early morning arrival in Buenos Aires, *Explorer* guests check in at the Alvear Art Hotel (or similar) and *Endurance* guests check in at the Alvear Icon Hotel (or similar). Buenos Aires is Argentina's capital, set on the Rio de la Plata. This is one of Latin America's largest metropolitan areas, and a top tourist destination known for its cosmopolitan lifestyle, vibrant cultural melange and a European-style architecture that reflects its colonial heritage and the influence of many 19th- and early-20th-century immigrants. After a morning at leisure to catch our breath, enjoy a guided afternoon tour of city, including Beaux Arts palaces, visit Recoleta—the final resting place of Argentina's iconic first lady, Eva Perón—and enjoy a private visit to El Zanjon de Granados, one of the city's premier museums.

Following an early morning arrival in sophisticated Santiago, *Resolution* guests check in at the centrally located Ritz Carlton Santiago (or similar). Santiago is nearly surrounded by the Andes, which form an inspiring backdrop for an afternoon tour of Chile's vibrant capital. After a relaxing morning, we explore the Plaza de Armas, the main square and nearby Presidential Palace, taking in expansive views from the hills and parks that dominate this leafy city. In the early evening, gather for an informal reception and a drink at the hotel.

Day 2

Ushuaia

Reach Ushuaia and board your expedition ship

- Fly by private charter over the southern Andes to Tierra del Fuego
- Cruise the Beagle Channel by catamaran, weather permitting
- Board your expedition vessel and set sail from the southern tip of South America

Travel by private chartered flight to Ushuaia, surveying the peaks of the southernmost Andes below before landing at the tip Tierra del Fuego at the very bottom of South America. There's no mistaking the "end of the world" feeling about the most southerly city on Earth, which is the point of embarkation for expeditions to the Antarctic Peninsula. If weather permits, we will enjoy lunch on a catamaran cruise in the Beagle Channel, where steep peaks rise out of the sea, before embarking our expedition ship and setting sail.

Day 3

At Sea

Enter the Southern Ocean beneath circling seabirds

- Learn from the naturalists, scientists and historians aboard through lectures and presentations
- Cross the roiling latitudes of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current
- Look for black-browed albatrosses and other seabirds over the open water

Days at sea are an opportunity to learn and relax. Our expedition ship has a full complement of naturalists, scientists and historians on board who enthusiastically share information about geology, climate, wildlife and human exploration in Antarctica and the southern polar region. Lectures and slideshows add to our appreciation of all we see and experience during the voyage. This morning, we awaken in the "Furious Fifties," a notorious part of the Southern Ocean marked by the roiling Antarctic Circumpolar Current. The experience can be misty and gray or calm and clear, but our escorts while crossing this legendary portion of the sea will surely include a host of seabirds, including the black-browed albatross.

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Days 4–6

Falkland Islands

Explore windswept shores alive with penguins and albatrosses

- Look for Magellanic, gentoo and rockhopper penguins along the rugged coast
- Watch for Peale's dolphins riding the bow waves near the islands
- Visit Stanley, the tin-roofed capital with its Anglican cathedral and whalebone arch

Also called the Islas Malvinas by Argentina, which contests Britain's claim to the colony, the windswept Falklands archipelago is a study in stone, sand and peat, with rugged cliffs battered by the ocean. Its isolated shores are home to marine mammals and prodigious birdlife—including the world's largest albatross colony. Flightless steamer ducks, blue-eyed shags and several penguin species, including Magellanic, gentoo and rockhopper, are abundant, and Peale's dolphins often ride our bow waves near the islands. Though the Falklands are still disputed territory, culturally they are British through and through. English and Scottish immigrants arrived with sheep in the 19th century, and wool is produced to this day. The photogenic capital of Stanley is full of quaint tin-roofed houses, rose gardens, pubs and other emblems of Falkland colonial heritage—including an Anglican cathedral with an organic whalebone archway.

Days 7–8

At Sea

Follow Shackleton's route toward South Georgia

- Cruise south as whales move through the surrounding waters and seabirds circle overhead
- Hear the ship's naturalists preview South Georgia's wildlife
- Learn the story of Shackleton and the crew of the Endurance

We continue cruising south, with whales swimming beneath the waters and sea birds circling above. The ship's naturalists prepare us for the exciting days ahead with presentations about South Georgia's wildlife and the inspiring story of Sir Ernest Shackleton and the crew of the *Endurance* . Take advantage of the ship's leisure and recreation opportunities, including a fitness center, sauna, massage therapy at the spa, and a library filled with books about Antarctic natural history and polar exploration.

Days 9–13

South Georgia Island

Walk among vast king penguin colonies on remote South Georgia

- Land by Zodiac on beaches and glacier-carved fjords where fur seals may approach
- See king penguin colonies stretching across the landscape
- Visit Grytviken's former whaling station and the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton

Remote South Georgia is best known for the riveting saga of Sir Ernest Shackleton's ill-fated 1914 expedition aboard the sailing ship *Endurance* . The magnitude of Shackleton's heroic trek across South Georgia to secure the rescue of his crew can only be fully grasped on a visit to the island, with its spine of glaciated peaks rising precipitously from the sea. J. Gunnar Anderson, who encountered the island in 1902, described it as "mighty fells with snowy crowns and sharp, uncovered teeth, around the valleys through which enormous, broad rivers of ice came flowing to the sea." Yet the land, for all its ruggedness, is rich in animal life. Zodiac trips permit visits to desolate beaches and glacier-carved fjords, and curious fur seals often approach the boats. Millions of king penguins live here, in colonies stretching to the horizon. South Georgia's waters are home to blue, sperm, fin, sei and southern right whales, though they were nearly wiped out in the 20th century when whaling was still a commercial industry. At the former whaling outpost of Grytviken, abandoned processing factories lie derelict, and elephant seals have taken over the grounds. Those who wish to pay respects to the legendary explorer can visit the grave of Shackleton, who died here in 1922.

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Days 14–15

At Sea

Watch for the first icebergs on the approach to Antarctica

- Scan for icebergs from the Bridge as the ship crosses historic polar waters
- Join naturalists and historians for talks on Antarctic wildlife and exploration
- Explore the onboard library's collection of polar and regional titles

As we sail for Antarctica, head up to the bridge to watch for icebergs and observe expert navigators at work as our skilled captain and officers ply these historic waters. Each day, the ship's naturalists and historians offer talks that add depth to our polar experience. Take advantage of community spaces including the lounge, the observation room with its collection of games and binoculars, and a chance to delve into the intrigues of the library's collection of regional titles.

Days 16–19

Antarctica

Explore the Antarctic Peninsula by Zodiac, kayak and on foot

- Sail among cliffs, glaciers and icebergs, with a possible passage through the Lemaire Channel
- Search for whales, seals and seabirds beneath the long austral summer daylight
- Walk near colonies of chinstrap, gentoo and Adelie penguins

A grand and otherworldly kingdom of ice, rock, sea and sky, the Antarctic Peninsula is the northernmost part of the continent. The first explorers laid eyes on it in the early 19th century, and it has since held a storied place in the annals of global adventurers. Covered under a nearly perpetual ice sheet, the peninsula rises in a line of serrated peaks. Glaciers pour into their valleys, flowing into the massive ice shelves that hug the sea. Though this frigid land hosts no permanent population, it is the site of a vital international scientific research community. The peninsula's relatively mild climate in comparison to the rest of the icebound continent explains its status as the preferred location for most research stations, as well as a destination for tourist vessels.

During our visit, we sail through the Lemaire Channel, where vertical cliffs hem in a narrow passage filled with a magnificent parade of bobbing icebergs. Almost constant summer daylight provides ample opportunity for flexible exploration of this frozen white frontier by Zodiac, kayak and on foot, with the guidance of the ship's seasoned expedition experts. Millions of animals thrive here, and visitors find a rich assortment of marine life including Weddell, Southern elephant, crabeater and leopard seals, and minke, humpback, sei and fin whales, as well as orcas. Zodiacs allow us to get close to wildlife and make landings on shore, where we walk among noisy colonies of four resident penguin species—chinstrap, emperor, gentoo and adelie. A proliferation of seabirds includes kelp gulls, various petrels, snowy sheathbills, skuas, shags and Antarctic terns.

Days 20–21

At Sea

Cross the legendary Drake Passage toward South America

- Sail between the Antarctic Peninsula and Cape Horn
- Pass through the Antarctic Convergence, a productive marine zone rich in krill
- Watch for wandering albatrosses, Cape petrels and dolphins around the ship

The Drake Passage is legendary among mariners and a milestone in any adventurer's personal travel history. Named for the 16th-century English privateer Sir Francis Drake, whose ship was blown far off course in these waters, this 600-mile-wide channel that separates Cape Horn from the Antarctic Peninsula is notorious for its frequent high winds and rough seas. Without a significant land mass, the Antarctic Circumpolar Current flows unimpeded, carrying a tremendous volume of water through the passage. Midway across, the Antarctic Convergence mixes cold, northward-flowing waters with the relatively warmer south-flowing waters, creating a highly productive marine zone for Antarctic krill, the favored food source for whales, seals, penguins, squid, albatrosses and other seabirds. Our ship is likely to be escorted through the passage by dolphins, Cape petrels and wandering albatrosses.

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Day 22

Ushuaia

Return to Ushuaia before flying to your gateway city

- Disembark your expedition vessel with time to explore the mountain-framed port
- Fly by private charter to Buenos Aires or Santiago for homeward flights

After breakfast, disembark in Ushuaia with time to explore this rugged mountain town before a private chartered flight returns us to Buenos Aires or Santiago (the same destination in which you started your expedition with the exception of some *Endurance* departures) for homeward flights.

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Antarctica, South Georgia & the Falklands Accommodations

Discover a Stunning Abundance of Wildlife En Route to the White Continent



National Geographic Explorer

The newly renovated ice-class polar expedition vessel accommodates 148 guests in 81 outside cabins, all with private facilities, plus the most innovative tools for exploration above and below the sea.



National Geographic Endurance

This new expedition ship is a next-generation ice-class vessel that's purpose-built for year-round polar navigation, designed for 138 guests in 76 staterooms to safely explore uncharted waters in exceptional comfort.



National Geographic Resolution

This new, next-generation ice-class vessel accommodates 138 guests in 76 staterooms and is purpose-built for year-round polar expeditions, exploring remote and icy waters in utmost comfort.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/antarctica-and-arctic/antarctica-falklands-south-georgia/ships.

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Sail with the World Leader in Conservation-Focused Small Ship Cruising

Antarctica, South Georgia & the Falklands

We're proud to offer a worldwide slate of Expedition Cruises through our partner, National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions. Nat Hab joined forces with National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions in 2016 to expand our mutual collection of nature adventures. Founded in 1958 by Lars-Eric Lindblad, the company pioneered eco-conscious expeditions for "citizen explorers" and today is the world leader in conservation-focused small-ship cruises. Our Adventure Specialists are intimately familiar with the ships and itineraries and are on call to answer any questions you might have.

1 **This is the Ultimate Southern Ocean Adventure**

From Antarctica's ice to the massive wildlife spectacles of South Georgia and the Falklands, this itinerary provides a comprehensive immersion interpreted by a team of experts that's second to none. National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' onboard staff includes an Expedition Leader, eight veteran naturalists, a National Geographic photographer, a National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions certified photo instructor, an undersea specialist, luminary guest speakers, a video chronicler and a wellness specialist. National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' ships are nimble enough to access more remote spots where king penguin rookeries stretch as far as the eye can see, albatross stretch their wings across an 11-foot span, and massive herds of elephant seals fill the beaches.

2 **You Won't Find a More Experienced Expedition Team**

National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' captains, crew, Expedition Leaders and staff have many decades and hundreds of expeditions' worth of collective experience. Their passion for Antarctica will enhance your adventure and your comprehension of the icebound landscape. Many staff members have written books about Antarctica, while National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' most senior Expedition Leader helped create the original guidelines for guests visiting Antarctica, adopted verbatim by the Antarctic Treaty in 1991 and still in use today.

3 **A Suite of Tools Enhances Exploration**

An onboard fleet of Zodiacs and double kayaks facilitates close-up personal experiences with prolific wildlife in spots that larger vessels can't access. National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions pioneered polar kayaking, and each ship has a unique mobile platform that enables the safe deployment of kayaks within minutes of finding an anchorage. Meanwhile, on board the ship a remote-controlled crow's nest camera feeds real-time footage into video screens within each cabin, a video microscope lets you view Antarctica's invisible facets, and a hydrophone lets you listen in on whales. A remotely operated vehicle (ROV) capable of exploring undersea depths up to 1,000 feet gathers high-definition video to be shared for exploration above deck.

4 **Dive Virtually Below the Sea**

Unique to National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions, each voyage hosts an undersea specialist who dives into the polar waters to reveal its myriad wonders to guests above. Wearing almost 200 pounds of gear, the scuba diver shoots high-definition underwater footage of icy Antarctic water teeming with life, offering an entirely new vantage point from which to appreciate of the marine environment. The high-definition video footage is shared while guests remain warm and dry, along with the specialist's lively narration, on plasma screens in the ship's lounge.

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5 **An Expert Photographer Helps You Capture Iconic Images**

Antarctica provides amazing photo ops and unusual challenges for photographers. We travel with a National Geographic photographer and a National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions certified photo instructor, both of whom are on board to share techniques and composition advice to help you get the best shots of your life. Enjoy personalized assistance from the decks and ashore as they rove among us during the voyage.

6 **Increase Your Insight into Antarctica's Heritage & Intrigue**

Our Global Perspectives program brings engaging guest speakers aboard to add insight gleaned from their experiences in the realms of science, policy, polar exploration and more. As part of the expedition community, these experts explore alongside our staff and guests, providing perspectives that will enhance your knowledge and overall experience of the region.

7 **We're Committed to the Planet**

Natural Habitat Adventures is a standard-setter in eco-conscious travel. We were the world's first 100-percent carbon-neutral travel company. And we continue to break innovative ground in adopting practices that help to protect our global environment. Because of our concern for the environment, we are pleased to partner with National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions for our Expedition Cruises, a company that shares our values and commitment to the planet.

8 **Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner**

Because of our environmental commitment and the outstanding quality of our adventures, World Wildlife Fund has chosen Natural Habitat Adventures as its worldwide travel partner, a designation we're very proud of! When you book your National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions cruise with us, a portion of your trip fee supports WWF.

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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $26775 (+Air)

Group Size
Limited to 148 Travelers

Physical Requirements
Moderate

Antarctica, South Georgia & the Falklands Dates, Pricing & Info

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2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Feb 8 - Mar 1, 2027	**From $48000** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Feb 17 - Mar 9, 2028	**From $56000** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Endurance
Oct 23 - Nov 12, 2028	**From $30000**	Aboard National Geographic Explorer
Nov 27 - Dec 18, 2028	**From $50000** +internal air	Aboard National Geographic Resolution

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2029 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Mar 4 - Mar 24, 2029	**From $35000**	Aboard National Geographic Explorer

See https://www.nathab.com/antarctica-and-arctic/antarctica-falklands-south-georgia/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

All accommodations; meals from lunch on Day 2 to lunch on Day 23; excursions; services of National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions Leader, naturalist staff and expert guides; alcoholic beverages (except premium brands); gratuities to ship's crew; use of kayaks; entrance fees; all port charges and service taxes.

Not Included

Air transportation; charter flights to Ushuaia (from Buenos Aires or Santiago); immigration/passport fees; personal items such as emails, laundry, voyage DVD etc., optional travel and/or medical evacuation insurance.

Recommended Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we strongly recommend that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. While this is not required, we make this strong suggestion in the interest of our guests' safety. We recommend that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Physical Requirements

Moderate

You must be able to walk unassisted for a minimum of one mile over rough and uneven terrain including rocky beaches, snow, ice and inclines (in knee-high rubber boots) in order to participate fully in this adventure. To participate in excursions ashore, you will also need to walk down steep stairs and climb into and out of inflatable Zodiac rafts, which can sometimes feel unstable depending on water conditions. Travel via Zodiac occurs over variable conditions and can sometimes be quite bumpy. If it's windy, you may get wet from sea spray. Travelers with back problems or other health issues that could be exacerbated by such conditions should take this into consideration. Travelers must be prepared for any type of weather, including extreme conditions. Daytime highs typically range from 30°F – 40°F on the Antarctic Peninsula and in the islands, but can drop well below freezing with high winds and wind chill. Nighttime temperatures may drop into the low 20s. Sea conditions during the Drake Passage crossing, which typically lasts two days, can be extremely rough, potentially causing issues for those who are sensitive to motion sickness, and can make for unsteady walking around the ship. We recommend discussing medications with your personal physician if you are prone to motion sickness.

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Medical Form

Due to the extremely remote nature of this adventure, National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions requires that all travelers submit a medical form before departure. This form must be completed and signed by your primary care physician.

Important Information About This Trip

The tourist season in the Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica is short, from late October to the end of March. The rest of the year, sea ice prohibits access to the continent, and perpetual darkness descends during the southern winter. Once spring arrives, Antarctica bursts into life. Each period of the austral summer travel season has its own highlights. The details below will give you an idea of what wildlife sightings and natural phenomena to expect when.

Late October–December (Spring/Early Summer)

Spring comes to the northern latitudes first, in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia by November, and to the South Shetland Islands in December, moving progressively farther down the Antarctic Peninsula and continent as the year continues. Warmer temperatures in December and 20+ hours of daylight (providing exceptional photography) mark the arrival of the southern summer high season for tourism. As ice melts and steady sunlight bathes the region, an explosion of phytoplankton in areas of ocean upwelling provides food for a host of creatures—krill form the next rung on the food chain, sustaining squid and fish that are ultimately eaten by seabirds (including penguins), seals and whales that arrive to feast on summer's bounty.

Visitors can expect to see:

- Crabeater seals (young are born between September and November)
- Southern elephant seals courting in October and into November, and huge males aggressively guarding their harems until early December
- Humpback, minke and Southern right whales migrating into the area
- South Georgia's king penguin parents carrying eggs (laid in November) on their feet, while the other parent goes out to sea to feed
- "Oakum boys"—juvenile king penguin chicks from the previous season still covered in fluffy brown down
- Fur seals littering the beaches in South Georgia, with aggressive males ready to mate
- Courting penguins in the South Shetland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula engaged in nest building and stone stealing. By late December, penguin chicks begin to hatch in the northerly realms, progressing south in January.
- Spectacular icebergs and floes as winter sea ice breaks up in bays and channels, providing haul-out spots for seals
- Spring flowers blooming in the Falkland Islands in November

January–February (Summer)

Warm temperatures continue, with daytime highs often in the 40s though coastal temperatures are typically around freezing. Receding ice opens more coastal inlets and bays ever farther south. Wildlife activity is at its height, offering travelers the greatest variety of species and behavior to witness.

Visitors can expect to see:

- Young penguin chicks, most of which hatch in January. Colonies are very busy as parents scurry back and forth feeding their young.

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- A multitude of seabirds: Some 35 species live south of the Antarctic Convergence, and 19 of these breed on the Antarctic continent itself. These include ocean-going pelagic species such as albatrosses and petrels, and coastal species that feed close to shore, including skuas, cormorants, terns and sheathbills.
- Fur seal and leopard seal pups are visible on ice floes and abundant on the beaches in South Georgia.
- Whale sightings continue to increase, with whale watching is at its best in February, especially around South Georgia where multiple species are often visible in large numbers.

March (Autumn)

Dark nights return, but daytime temperatures are still above zero. Travelers get a taste of the Antarctic winter to come.

Visitors can expect to see:

- Penguins molting, losing their fuzzy gray down and developing their adult plumage
- Plenty of whales—numbers remain excellent into March
- Fur seals along the peninsula and offshore islands
- More landscapes unveiled and hiking options opened as snow cover is at its lowest point
- Snow algae blooms, turning some slopes colorful shades of pink and green
- Fascinating patterns of thin sea ice on the ocean's surface, created by deep night frosts
- The southern polar lights, or aurora australis, which may appear on clear nights

Getting There & Getting Home

You will need to arrive in Buenos Aires, Argentina or Santiago, Chile on Day 1 of the itinerary, depending on which ship and itinerary you are on. You are free to depart the evening of Day 22. For exact arrival and departure times, please contact your Adventure Specialist.

We can best serve you by having National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' air department book your flights, since National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions is most familiar with the special requirements of each trip. Please call National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions directly at 800-397-3348. Note that while National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions' air department will offer you its best available rates on airfare, you may find special web rates or better fares online.

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