



Antarctic Peninsula Ski & Snowboard Touring 2012 / 2013

Trip #1 – November 21 to December 3, 2012

Trip #2 – February 25 to March 9, 2013

Trip Notes

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Introduction

Antarctica is seen by many as the 'Last Frontier' for mountaineering and skiing due to its remote location and difficulty of access. An expedition with us to the Antarctic Peninsula is an exotic, life changing experience very few people have the opportunity to experience.

Adventure Consultants leads two 13 day ship based expeditions in the Antarctic Peninsula region each season. We use the ship to cross the Drake Passage and then aim to camp on the snow covered and glaciated Wiencke Island, exploring and touring around on skis or snowboard and making some exquisite turns high above the ocean, whales and penguins Antarctica is famous for.



We are then picked up again by the ship and after some more Antarctic cruising we return to the South American continent.

We have used yachts in the past for 3-4 week expeditions to the Peninsula – this option is still available for private groups planning over a year ahead.

Trip Overview

Our Antarctic journeys begin in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, on the southern tip of Argentina. Ushuaia is a bustling port town and its 40,000 inhabitants are nestled between the cold mountains, and an even colder sea. 'Downtown' has plenty of shops including internet cafes, cafes, clothes shops, chemists and an array of good restaurants.

After gear checks and initial briefings, the group will load onto the ship, the MV Plancius, at the port in Ushuaia for the expedition.

The Plancius was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and is now a completely reconditioned and converted 114-passenger vessel. The ship is comfortable with nice decor, but is not luxurious. It has been kitted out for explorers and is equipped with inflatable zodiacs, a large restaurant with a viewing deck and both private double rooms or shared quad rooms with attached bathrooms.



Sailing the Drake Passage is an unforgettable three day experience in itself and a great way to start the expedition.

This expedition is also especially suited for non-skiing and/or less-active family members who can stay on the ship to explore the sights further south while the team camps.

Our guides have an intimate knowledge of the various hidden gems on Wiencke Island and there is more than enough terrain and objective to keep everyone entertained. After four or six days (Trip #1 and #2) we will meet back up with the Plancius (and any non-camping/skiing family members) to head back across the Drake Passage.

Rounding Cape Horn ticks another box in every adventurer's wish-list. The whole trip is an experience of a life time, and one of our most special remote and adventurous expeditions.

Itinerary : **Trip #1 – November 21 to December 3, 2012**

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|-------|--|
| Day 1 | Briefing in Ushuaia in evening. |
| 2 | Gear checks and final purchases. Board Plancius with all our gear. Depart for Drake Passage about 6pm. |
| 3 | At sea in the Drake Passage |
| 4 | At sea in the Drake Passage |
| 5 | Dropped off at Wiencke Island with camping gear, ski tour up to camp (1-3hrs) |
| 6 | Ski or snowboard touring. |
| 7 | Ski or snowboard touring. |
| 8 | Ski or snowboard touring. Pickup by Plancius in afternoon. |
| 9 | Visit Neko Harbor, Almirante Brown and/or Skontorp Cove |
| 10 | Visit Paradise Bay and/or Melchior Islands, at sea in the evening |
| 11 | At sea in the Drake Passage |
| 12 | At sea in the Drake Passage, arrival at pilot station Beagle Channel about mid-night |
| 13 | Disembarkation in Ushuaia about 8.00am. Trip ends. |

Itinerary : **Trip #2 –February 25 to March 9, 2013**

Day 1	Briefing in Ushuaia in evening.
2	Gear checks and final purchases. Board Plancius with all our gear. Depart for Drake Passage about 6pm.
3	At sea in the Drake Passage
4	At sea in the Drake Passage
5	Dropped off at Wiencke Island with camping gear, ski tour up to camp (1-3hrs)
6	Ski or snowboard touring.
7	Ski or snowboard touring.
8	Ski or snowboard touring.
9	Ski or snowboard touring.
10	Ski or snowboard touring. Pickup by Plancius in afternoon.
11	At sea in the Drake Passage
12	At sea in the Drake Passage, arrival at pilot station Beagle Channel about mid-night
13	Disembarkation in Ushuaia about 8.00am. Trip ends.

Level of experience required

To ski and snowboard tour on the Antarctic Peninsula you need to be an intermediate skier or snowboarder, moderately fit, have an adventurous attitude and be comfortable camping on snow for a few nights.

Expedition members can expect to be exerting themselves for about five to six hours per day and be capable of carrying a 5 to 10 kg pack.

The advantages of climbing with us

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to expeditions. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our customers the best possible chance of a safe and enjoyable trip.

We employ strong and specialised expedition leaders and support staff, whom are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, the best back-up and support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food, comfortable base camp facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical back up.



Many of our expedition members come to us because they have seen us in action on a previous trip and decide to opt for our level of service and proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make expeditions safe and successful.

The Expedition Fee

The cost of the expedition is **US\$12,900** per person ex Ushuaia, Argentina.

The expedition fee *includes*:

- Adventure Consultants mountain guide(s)
- All expedition organisational requirements
- Airport transfer in Ushuaia if arriving on scheduled flight
- All lodging on the ship, food and non-bottled drinks ex Ushuaia
- Group climbing equipment, food, tents and fuel for the camping days
- Dispatch page for family and friends to follow the progress of the expedition
- Access to our satellite phone and email facilities

The expedition fee *does not include*:

- Personal clothing and equipment
- Entry Visa for Argentina
- Personal travel insurance and travel cancellation insurance
- Rescue/evacuation insurance and any rescue costs
- Any costs associated with early departure from the expedition
- International round trip travel costs into and out of Ushuaia, Argentina
- Hotel and meals in Ushuaia
- Bottled drinks on the ship
- Spending on personal items such as gifts, alcohol etc
- Excess baggage charges and airport taxes
- Costs of satellite phone calls or data time
- Tips and Gratuities

Deposit

A deposit of US\$1,000 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

Balance

The balance for **Trip #1** of **US\$11,900** is payable on **July 21, 2012** and for **Trip #2** the balance is payable on **October 25, 2012**.

Payments

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

**Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
Wellington
New Zealand**

for the account of: **Adventure Consultants Limited
Account # 1000-594771-0000**

Account Type: **US Dollars**

Swift Address: **BKNZ NZ22**

Note: All bank transfer charges are for the remitters account.

Or, we can accept a US Dollar bank check made out to Adventure Consultants Limited.

We can accept your US\$1000 deposit via credit card, Visa, Mastercard, Amex. We can also accept your balance of payment via credit card plus a 3% transaction fee.

Please note all bank transfer fees are **'for the remitters account'**.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

An expedition member may cancel his/her participation on the following basis:

Trip #1:

- A Prior to August 21, 2012, a refund of 50% of July 21 payment.
- B After August 2, 2012 there will be no refunds.

Trip #2:

- A Prior to November 25, 2012, a refund of 50% of October 25 payment.
- B After November 25, 2012 there will be no refunds.

Team members should take out private insurance if they wish to be covered against cancellation

due to medical or personal reasons. This is called Trip Cancellation and can be obtained through your normal travel agent.

Team Membership

The team will have a **minimum size of 4 skiers/boarders and 1 guide** and a maximum size of 12 skiers/boarders and 2 guides.

You will find the Adventure Consultants mountain guides companionable and strong expedition leaders with considerable power and willingness to see you achieve your goals. The number of guides is determined by the team size but the normal ratio of guides to members for ski touring on the Antarctica Peninsula is 1:4 or 1:6.



Food

While on the ship all meals will be supplied by the boat staff served in the restaurant. This will be high quality cuisine served in the heated and very comfortable saloon.

While camping on the Peninsula your guides will prepare tasty and nutritious meals.

Equipment List

A full clothing and equipment checklist will be sent to all expedition members once their booking is confirmed. The expedition leader will be available prior to the trip to discuss individual equipment questions.

Medical Examination

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire and asked to visit their family physician and receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by our medical adviser and the guides and is treated with full confidentiality.

Visas

Generally entry Visas are not required for travellers to Argentina staying less than three months but please check with your details according to your nationality.

How to join this expedition

If you would like to join the expedition please fill out an **Expedition Application Form** and forward along with your climbing résumé and the deposit.

If you require more information please contact us at:

Adventure Consultants Ltd

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Adventure Consultants – is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding. *All material Copyright © Adventure Consultants Ltd 2012-2013*