



ANTARCTIC PENINSULA PRIVATE YACHT EXPEDITION 2017/2018 TRIP NOTES





Antarctic Peninsula Private Yacht Based Expeditions

Trip Notes 2017/2018

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Antarctica is seen by many as the 'Last Frontier' for mountaineering objectives due to its remote location and difficulty of access. The Antarctic Peninsula is an exotic location with many opportunities for making first ascents!

Adventure Consultants will organise yacht based expeditions to the Antarctic Peninsula region on demand for private groups. The trips can focus on general mountaineering or ski mountaineering; with options to ice or rock climb depending on conditions. The expedition will be run with the intention of making one or two first ascents in the region, while exploring areas of interest.

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 yacht for the expedition. For 2017/18 expeditions we plan to utilise an ice-reinforced aluminium yacht that can accommodate around 8 passengers in style.



Sailing the Drake Passage is an unforgettable and unique sailing experience in itself and a great way to start our expedition. The crossing usually takes three or four days and once we're into the more sheltered waters of the Peninsula, our first stop will most likely be Port Lockroy for some instruction and/or re-capping of general mountaineering skills.

Crevasse rescue is high on the list and we will combine the groups experience into one standard technique. Our isolation means that we need to be completely self-reliant and we will always operate in a safe and slightly conservative manner to avoid any possibility of an accident.



Port Lockroy is a great place to then stretch the legs for a climb or snow shoe, getting our land legs back into motion after a few days at sea.

We may visit the British Base at Port Lockroy and if so, you can send a postcard home from the most southern post office on the planet.

Our itinerary for these trips is flexible, combining climbing and skiing time with exploring on the yacht, which in turn depends mostly on weather and sea ice conditions. The yacht is fitted with the latest weather forecasting technology, satellite phone and e-mail facilities to monitor conditions and to keep in touch with home, if you so wish.



We plan to work our way down the coast towards the Lemaire Channel, climbing and skiing whatever we like the look of on the way. The opportunities are endless and have hardly had their surface scratched by mountaineers.

Another unique feature of this expedition is that we are able to return to the yacht's heated saloon, occasional hot showers, warm beds and great food after the day's activities.

Our guides have an intimate knowledge of the various hidden gems in and around the Peninsula. Some of the peaks we may climb include Mt Shackleton, Mt Scott, Mt Francais, and literally hundreds of others. We will also seek out our own unclimbed peaks, as the boat will be on hand to transport us to whatever looks 'on' as conditions allow.

Most of the time we will be doing day trips from the boat, as staying overnight onshore can be quite time consuming and logistically requires a huge effort to carry equipment. Although we will take tents, as some objectives may require a night or two to climb, and doing so allows us flexibility to explore further inland if desired.

We will continue further south as the trip progresses depending on sea ice conditions and weather. We may get as far south as Prospect Point which has an amazing array of unclimbed peaks and great ski touring. The sea ice will vary from season to season, and even day to day, so a major consideration as to what peaks we climb will depend on exactly where we can land a boat.



After approximately 14 days of exploring the endless climbing and/or ski opportunities, we will reluctantly have to move north up the Peninsula to the Paradise Harbour region to be in a position to cross the Drake Passage. The Drake Passage is renowned for extreme weather, so we need to allow some time to pick the best suitable time to cross back to South America. If the weather is not favourable in the passage, it might still be good on the Peninsula so we'll just keep on

climbing until the conditions are right.

The sail back across the Drake Passage always presents an interesting challenge. The oceans are severe and unforgiving, so you'll appreciate the experience of the crew. There is time to learn the ropes and help out with the sailing, if you are well enough!

Rounding Cape Horn under sail ticks another box in every adventurer's wish list. There is nothing like making landfall in the unique beech forests of Patagonia after weeks of just snow and ice, whilst debriefing with a few Pisco Sours at the 'Micalvi', the sunken ship which serves as a bar in Puerto Williams.



If we cross back early there may be time for an overnight hike from Puerto Williams which is exceptionally beautiful with dozens of lakes and a non-technical rock spire to climb.

The whole trip is an experience of a life time and one of our most special explorative expeditions.

Sample Itinerary

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| Day 1 | Briefing in Ushuaia in evening. |
| 2 | Load and board the Yacht. Depart for the Drake Passage, sailing to Puerto Williams, Chile. |
| 3-6 | Sail across the Drake Passage. |
| 7 | Continue to Port Lockroy, instruction session and short climb or ski tour. |
| 8 | Climb up Mt Lopez (525m) on Doumer Island or climb on Jabet Peak or other. |
| 9-20 | Head down the Graham Coast, possibly as far south as Prospect Point, visiting climbing areas and generally explore and climb, eventually working our way back north to Paradise Harbour. |

- 21-24 Be in a position to sail back to South America. Climb and ski tour in region or north around Danco and Ronge Islands.
- 25-29 Sail back to Puerto Williams. Debrief at the “Micalvi” Puerto Williams and/or go for overnight hike in mountains behind town.
- 30 Trip ends in Ushuaia – depart for home.

Note for the trip finish: Due to the unknown nature of the Drake Passage crossing, we may find ourselves back in Ushuaia a few days early. The trip will end upon our return so please buy changeable air tickets if you want to return home as soon as we arrive back. Otherwise there are numerous hikes and areas to explore around Ushuaia which you are welcome to explore at your own pace.

Level of Experience Required

To climb and ski on the Antarctic Peninsula you need to be physically fit, have an adventurous attitude and be proficient in general mountaineering techniques.

Expedition members can expect to be exerting themselves for about six to twelve hours per day and be capable of carrying a 10 to 20 kg pack. Our climbing days are sometimes long, to make the most of good weather spells, and there is always the option of taking a day off climbing to relax on the yacht and watch the wildlife.

This expedition is not suitable for those who are new to mountaineering, but we can organise a pre-expedition training programme through our international climbing schools in New Zealand, the European Alps or North America to get you ready.

The Advantages of Expeditioning With Us

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to expedition climbing. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our climbers 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 on board the yacht, 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.

Expedition Fee

The cost of a 30 day expedition is approximately **USD\$25,500** per person ex Ushuaia, Argentina and based on a 2:6 group size. Please contact us for detailed quote depending on your preferred itinerary and group size.

Due to the forward planning and the popularity of the yacht, you need to plan and book very early for this trip.

The expedition fee *includes*:

- Adventure Consultants mountain guides
- All expedition organisational requirements
- Airport transfer in Ushuaia if arriving on a scheduled flight
- All lodging, food and non-bottled drinks ex Ushuaia
- Group climbing equipment, food, tents and fuel
- All yacht charter costs
- 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 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
- 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 non-refundable deposit of USD\$9,500 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

Balance

The balance is payable on **120 days prior to departure**.

Payments

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

Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
1 Willis Street
Wellington
New Zealand

for the account of **Adventure Consultants Limited**

Account # **1000-594771-0000**
Account Type: **US Dollars**
Swift Address: **BKNZN22**

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

We can also accept your deposit by credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Amex), and your balance payment by credit card plus a 3% credit card fee.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

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

- a) Cancellations outside of 120 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
- b) For cancellations made within 119 - 90 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the balance payment fee.
- c) For cancellations within 89 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

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

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 and the yacht used but the normal ratio of guides to members for Antarctica Peninsula is 1:3 or 1:4.



Food

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

While climbing on the Peninsula your guides will supply snacks and lunches supplemented by food, such as sandwiches, from the boat staff.

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.

Documentation and Photographs

Expedition members will be requested to provide 2 passport photographs and a copy of their climbing résumé.

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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Wanaka, 9343, New Zealand.

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