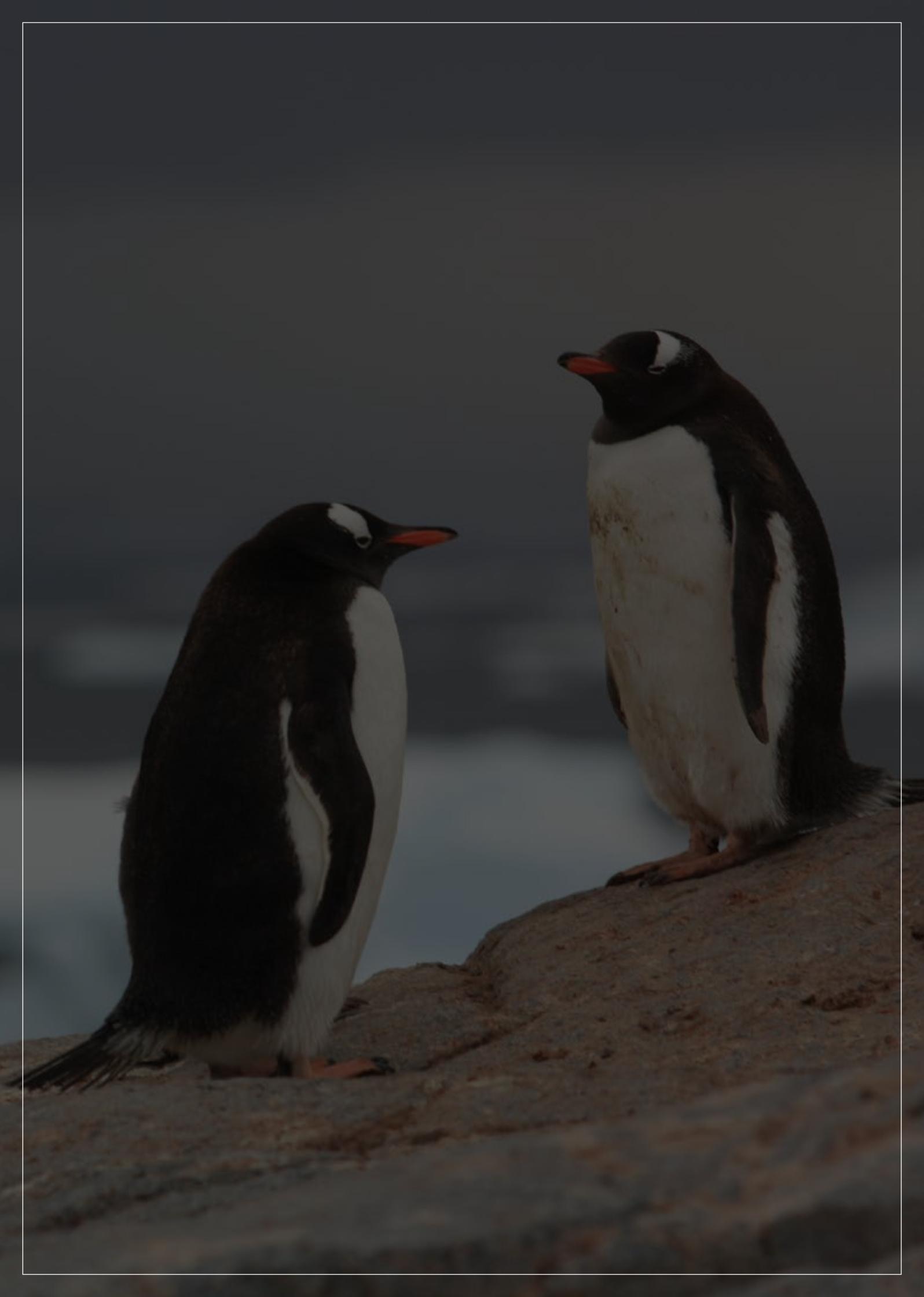




# ANTARCTIC PENINSULA YACHT BASED EXPEDITION

**2020/2021 TRIP NOTES**





# ANTARCTIC PENINSULA YACHT BASED EXPEDITION

## 2020/21 EXPEDITION DETAILS

**Dates:** Available on demand from  
November 2020 to March 2021

**Duration:** 30 days

**Departure:** ex Ushuaia, Argentina

**Price:** Group of 6— €23,900 per person



▲ Ski terrain unlike anywhere else in the world. Photo: Mark Sedon

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 ski touring and making first ascents!

Adventure Consultants will organise yacht based expeditions to the Antarctic Peninsula on demand for private groups. This allows the trip to be tailored to your personal ambitions of mountaineering or ski mountaineering, with options to ice or rock climb depending on conditions. The emphasis will be on getting the most out of your experience, exploring areas of interest and even perhaps a first ascent or two.

## EXPEDITION 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 cafés, 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 the /20 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 group's 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.



• Climbers on Charvez Island. Photo: Guy Cotter

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 Mount Shackleton, Mount Scott, Mount 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 for the areas we visit 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 skiing and climbing until the conditions are right.



▲ Sail across the formidable Drake Passage. Photo: Guy Cotter



▲ Utilise zodiacs to access the shore. Photo: Mark Sedon



▲ Mountaineering options abound, including first ascents. Photo: Mark Sedon



▲ Skiers enjoy access to a variety of terrain. Photo: Mark Sedon

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 lifetime and one of our most special explorative expeditions.

## PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE

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 exert themselves for about six to twelve hours per day and be capable of carrying a 10-20kg/25-45lb 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.

## TEAM SIZE

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.

## SAMPLE ITINERARY

Departures are available on demand from November 2020 to March 2021.



▲ Excited to be skiing in Antarctica! Photo: Dean Staples

The following is a sample itinerary for the Antarctic Peninsula Yacht Based Expedition:

Day 1	Evening briefing in Ushuaia.
Day 2	Load and board the yacht, sailing to Puerto Williams, Chile.
Day 3–6	Sail across the Drake Passage.
Day 7	Continue to Port Lockroy, instruction session and short climb or ski tour.
Day 8	Climb up Mt Lopez (525m/1,722ft) on Doumer Island or climb on Jabet Peak or other.
Day 9–20	Head down the Graham Coast, possibly as far south as Prospect Point, generally exploring and climbing, eventually working our way back north to Paradise Harbour.
Day 21–24	Be in a position to sail back. Climb and ski tour in the region or north around Danco and Ronge Islands.
Day 25–29	Sail back to Puerto Williams. Debrief at the “Micalvi” Puerto Williams and/or go for overnight hike in mountains behind town.
Day 30	Trip ends in Ushuaia, depart.

**NOTE:** 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.

## THE ADVANTAGES OF CLIMBING WITH ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to high altitude 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 success.

We employ strong and specialised Expedition leaders and support staff, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, with the best back-up and support available. This includes nutritious and



▲ What better spot for a cuppa? Photo: Lydia Bradey



▲ Discover amazing ice formations. Photo: Mark Sedon



▲ Ski to and from the water's edge. Photo: Mark Sedon

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.

## 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.

## EQUIPMENT LIST & REFERENCE NOTES

Expedition members will be sent a list detailing all the necessary clothing and equipment to be individually procured, contained within a set of Expedition Reference Notes with all the details of the trip. These notes provide extensive information

on everything, from suggestions on what type of camera to bring to training advice for your expedition preparation.

## MEDICAL EXAMINATION & INSURANCE

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire. This information will be sighted only by our Medical Adviser and treated with full confidentiality. We also require members to have rescue insurance and we will consult with individual team members on their insurance needs and solutions for coverage.

## 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.



▲ Skiers approach the summit. Photo: Mark Sedon

## PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPHS

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

## EXPEDITION FEE

The cost of a 30-day expedition is approximately €23,900 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.

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Adventure Consultants mountain guide(s)
- 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 the following:

- Personal clothing and equipment
- Entry visa for Argentina
- Personal travel and 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

## PAYMENT DETAILS

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

Bank of New Zealand  
Offshore Branch  
42 Willis Street  
Spark Central  
Wellington  
New Zealand

for the account of Adventure Consultants Limited.

**Account Number:** 1000 594771 0002

**Account Type:** EUR

**Swift Address:** BKNZ NZ22

**NOTE:** All bank transfer charges are for the remitter's account.

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



▲ View a range of Antarctic wildlife. Photo: Guy Cotter

## DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of €9,500 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

## BALANCE

The balance of payment is then due 120 days prior to the start date.

## CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

An expedition member may cancel their participation on the following basis:

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

We strongly recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.

## HOW TO JOIN THIS EXPEDITION

If you would like to join our Antarctic Peninsula Yacht Based Expedition, please complete our online booking form and forward your deposit payment at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/antarctica/antarctic-peninsula-yacht-based-expedition/book-now> or contact us if you'd like further information and a detailed quote.

If you require more information, please contact us at:

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**Phone:** +64 3 443 8711

**Freephone from North America:** +1 866 757 8722

**Email:** [info@adventure.co.nz](mailto:info@adventure.co.nz)

**Website:** [www.adventureconsultants.com](http://www.adventureconsultants.com)



▲ Cruising through the Peninsula. Photo: Lydia Bradey



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 is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their 'Revitalise a Village' programmes.

Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.



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