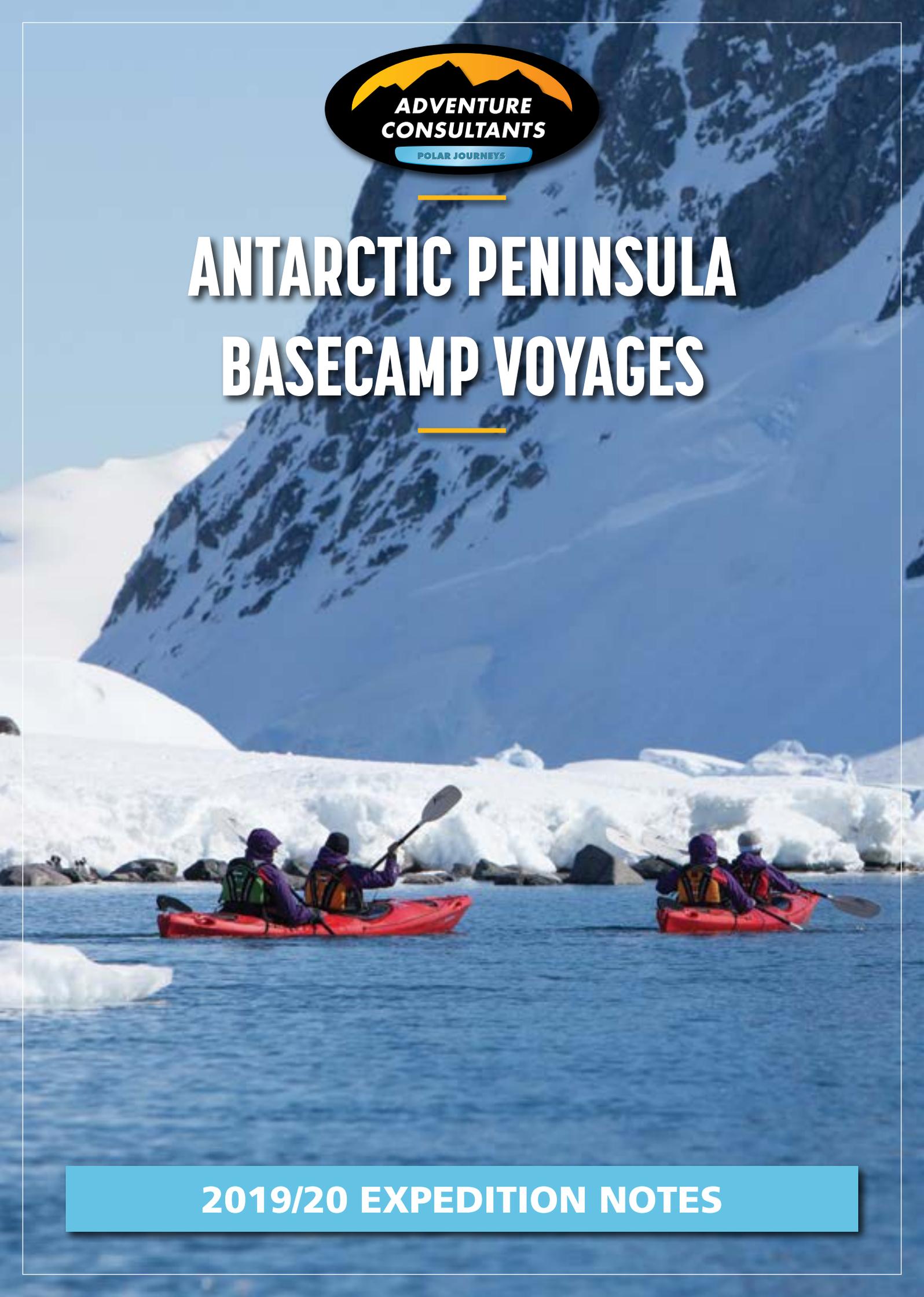




# ANTARCTIC PENINSULA BASECAMP VOYAGES



**2019/20 EXPEDITION NOTES**





# 2019/20 ANTARCTIC PENINSULA BASECAMP VOYAGES TRIP NOTES

## 2019/20 EXPEDITION DETAILS

**Dates:** Trip 1: November 3–14, 2019  
Trip 2: December 5–16, 2019  
Trip 3: December 18–29, 2019  
Trip 4: December 29 to January 9, 2020  
Trip 5: February 27 to March 9, 2020  
Trip 6: March 9–20, 2020  
**Duration:** 12 days  
**Departure:** ex Ushuaia, Argentina  
**Price:** From US\$7,950 per person



▲ Weddell Seal. Photo: Ali Liddle

Antarctica is seen by many as the 'Last Frontier' due to its remote location and difficulty of access, this is a destination very few people have the opportunity to experience. Adventure Consultants offers six ship-based expeditions to the Antarctic Peninsula each season. We cross the Drake Passage in our comfortable ship before our vessel becomes our Base Camp for daily activities such as hiking, snowshoeing, kayaking, camping, glacier walking, photo workshops and landings ashore. There is something for everyone and is an opportunity to discover Antarctica at a range of different activity levels.

## 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 cafés, cafés, clothes shops, chemists and an array of good restaurants.

Crossing the Drake Passage takes three days and is an unforgettable experience in itself. It's a great way to start the expedition as we spot our first Antarctic birdlife.

Our vessel will drop anchor for two or three days in the Neumayer Channel to serve as a Base Camp for our active passengers to allow more

time than usual for wide-ranging activities: Hikers to participate in long walks across the Antarctic landscapes, photographers to explore photo opportunities, campers to enjoy life at shore base camps, kayakers to explore nearby shores, where the ship cannot go. Passengers who do not wish to be physically active will enjoy our zodiac excursions and follow the normal shore program and land excursions—easy to moderate walks and hikes with a focus on wildlife.

We spend a further couple of days exploring the Lemaire Channel, which offers the chance to see penguins and whales, plus Neko Harbour where we have a final day of activities before returning across the Drake Passage.



▲Camping on the peninsula. Photo: Ignacio Marino

Rounding Cape Horn ticks another box in every adventurer's wish-list. The whole trip is an experience of a lifetime, and a rare opportunity to try a variety of activities in this spectacular Antarctic setting.

## THE VESSELS

Basecamp Voyages are aboard either the M/V Ortelius (Trips 1-2) or the M/V Plancius (Trips 3-6). Both vessels accommodate passengers in simple but comfortable quadruple, triple or twin cabins with attached bathrooms. Deluxe and superior options are available. The ships are comfortable, with tasteful decor, but are not luxury vessels. They have been kitted out for explorers and equipped with inflatable zodiacs, a restaurant, bar/lecture room and observation lounge. Our voyages are primarily developed to offer our passengers a quality exploratory wildlife program, trying to spend as much time ashore as possible.

The M/V Plancius was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and is now a completely reconditioned and converted 116-passenger vessel. Also accommodating 116 passengers, the M/V Ortelius

was built in 1989 and served as a research vessel for the Russian Academy of Science before being reconditioned.

## TEAM SIZE

Activity groups sizes vary:

- **Glacier Walking:** The maximum group size is limited to 12 with 6 trekkers per rope party.
- **Camping:** There is a minimum of 8 and maximum of 30 campers per night.
- **Photography:** Outings are limited to 20 participants.
- **Kayaking:** There is a minimum of 4 and maximum of 14 kayakers.

## 2019/20 EXPEDITION DATES

**Trip 1:** November 3–14, 2019 (Low season)

**Trip 2:** December 5–16, 2019 (Low season)

**Trip 3:** December 18–29, 2019 (High season)

**Trip 4:** December 29 to January 9, 2020 (High season)

**Trip 5:** February 27–March 9, 2020 (Low season)

**Trip 6:** March 9–20, 2020 (Low season)



▲ Zodiac cruising in Paradise Bay. Photo: Rolf Stange



▲ Walking among Gentoo Penguins. Photo: Sandra Petrowitz



▲ Blue-eyed Shags. Photo: Jan Veen

## ITINERARY

Day 1	Meet in Ushuaia, Argentina
Days 2–3	Cross the Drake Passage
Days 4–9	Explore the Antarctic Peninsula
Day 10–11	Return across the Drake Passage
Day 12	Arrive Ushuaia, disembark.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1

Ushuaia—In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. This is the southernmost city in the world located next to the Beagle Channel, the scenic waterway we sail through for the rest of the evening.

### Days 2–3

At sea—During these two days we sail across the Drake Passage. When we cross the Antarctic Convergence, we arrive in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. In this area, we may see wandering albatrosses, grey-headed albatrosses, black-browed albatrosses, light-mantled sooty albatrosses, cape petrels, southern fulmars, Wilson’s storm petrels,

blue petrels and Antarctic petrels. Near the South Shetland Islands, we will spot our first icebergs.

### Days 4–9

Antarctica—We will sail directly to “High Antarctica”, passing the Melchior Islands and the Schollaert Channel, between Brabant and Anvers Island. We will sail to the Neumayer Channel, where we position the ship as our multi-activity Base Camp. The protected waters around Wiencke Island will become our playground for all activities. In this alpine environment, there are great opportunities to scout the region on foot, by zodiac and during kayak trips. Walkers will find opportunities to use snowshoes on hikes near the shorelines and glacier walkers can rope up and enjoy a guided exploration of the spectacular glaciated terrain nearby. All excursions can only be conducted in good weather conditions.

We plan to stay two nights at anchor in order to implement two camp nights and two full activity days. We will visit the former British research station and the post office which is now a living museum, and Port Lockroy on Goudier Island.

Close to Port Lockroy, we may also offer a landing on Jougla Point to spot gentoo penguins and



▲ Taking a break while snowshoeing. Photo: Dietmar Denger

blue-eyed shags. We look out for leopard seals, crabeater seals and whales.

In good conditions and time allowing we sail through the spectacular Lemaire Channel to Booth Island, Pléneau Island and Petermann Island, where we can find Adélie penguins and blue-eyed shags. In this area, there are good chances to encounter humpback, minke and fin whales.

At Neko Harbour, we will have the opportunity to set foot on the Antarctic Continent into a magnificent landscape of huge glaciers and permanent ice fields, and we enjoy the spectacle on zodiac cruises, hikes and kayak excursions. A small group of glacier walkers may climb up on higher grounds of the glacier. We will spend the night at Neko Harbour or in nearby Paradise Bay with a camp erected ashore. We will leave in the early morning after breaking our last camp. We sail via the Melchior Islands towards the open sea of the Drake Passage.

### Days 10–11

At sea—On our way north, we are again followed by a great selection of seabirds while crossing the Drake Passage.

### Day 12

Ushuaia—We arrive in the morning in Ushuaia and disembark.

## ACTIVITIES ON THE PENINSULA

A range of optional activities are offered while based in the peninsula, as weather and sea conditions allow.

### ZODIAC CRUISING AND SHORE PROGRAM

This is our core activity—guided shore excursions, walks and wildlife spotting and zodiac cruises will be offered to all passengers during the voyages.

Our voyages are primarily defined as explorations and we spend as much time ashore as possible. We can be flexible, taking advantage of wildlife opportunities by using our zodiacs for both landings and cruises. Our knowledgeable guides assist on these outings, providing detailed information. This is supplemented by lectures on board covering topics such as wildlife, history and other relevant topics.



▲ Visiting Port Lockroy. Photo: Dietmar Denger

## KAYAKING

The objective is wildlife, scenery, icebergs, etc. and the chances of meeting wildlife while paddling are high. The voyages will explore the Antarctic Peninsula's western coasts and sometimes the northern part of the Weddell Sea. The excursions will be tailored to the skill level of the group and the sea conditions encountered.

## GLACIER WALKING

This is a non-technical and more strenuous activity suitable for mountaineers and experienced trekkers who wish to walk beyond the shore radius in order to reach higher grounds and viewpoints. Teams walk in rope parties under the leadership of a certified mountain guide, mostly across glaciated environment in Antarctica.

Depending on the landing site, glacier walks can vary from three to four hour outings. Some previous alpine trekking experience is preferable, but not required. Physical fitness is essential.

## CAMPING

We offer an exciting 'open air' camping option, providing an intensive experience of the Antarctic wilderness. We provide industry leading special gear and field equipment which includes top quality wind and waterproof, breathable bivouac bags (lightweight alternative to tent system). Polar sleeping bags will keep campers dry, warm and comfortable during the night in the open air of Antarctica. The night ashore will be supervised by one experienced field guide. Please note that camping is always subject to weather, local site and environmental regulations.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

We offer photo workshops for beginners and advanced photographers under the supervision of a photo expert on board. Everybody is welcome to participate, no previous experience required.

## HIKING AND SNOWSHOEING

Walks vary in length, difficulty and distance and meters climbed: there are always walks that suit your ability! The longest hike can take up to two hours.

## ADVANTAGES OF JOINING ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS ON AN EXPEDITION

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, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, the best backup and support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food, comfortable base camp facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical backup.

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.



▲ On the Plancius' deck. Photo: Dietmar Denger



▲ Plancius Triple Porthole room. Photo: Oceanwide Expeditions



▲ Plancius Twin Deluxe room. Photo: Monica Salmang



▲ Ortelius at Orne Island. Photo: Elke Lindner

## EQUIPMENT LIST

A full clothing and equipment checklist will be sent to all expedition members once their booking is confirmed. For specific activities members will need to provide the following personal equipment:

**Glacier Walking**—Glacier travel equipment will be provided (ropes and carabiners, harnesses, helmets, ice axes and crampons). Participants will bring their own personal protective outdoor clothing, mountaineering boots (leather or plastic) suitable for using crampons.

**Snowshoeing**—We offer the free rental of lightweight snowshoes and rubber boots with a good walking profile.

## FOOD

All meals, including snacks, coffee and tea, are provided onboard and most dietary requirements can be catered for by the chefs.

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

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.

## MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Expedition members will be provided with pre-trip medical advice and a medical questionnaire and asked to visit their family physician and receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by the expedition leader and our medical adviser and treated with full confidentiality.

## THE EXPEDITION FEE

Several ship berth options are available, please advise your preference at the time of booking.

The cost of the expedition ex Ushuaia, Argentina is as follows:



▲ Kayaking in near perfect conditions. Photo: Oceanwide Expeditions

## SHIP BERTH OPTIONS

### Quadruple Porthole

Low Season US\$7,950  
High Season US\$8,400

### Triple Porthole

Low Season US\$8,950  
High Season US\$9,450

### Twin Porthole

Low Season US\$9,850  
High Season US\$10,300

### Twin Window

Low Season US\$10,250  
High Season US\$10,750

### Twin Deluxe

Low Season US\$10,900  
High Season US\$11,550

### Superior

Low Season US\$11,800  
High Season US\$12,150

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Voyage aboard the indicated vessel as detailed in the itinerary
- All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship, including snacks, coffee and tea
- All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac
- Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff
- Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes
- Pre-scheduled group transfer from the vessel to the airport in Ushuaia (directly after disembarkation)
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- Comprehensive pre-departure material.

The expedition fee **does not** include the following:

- Any airfare
- Pre and post-trip land arrangements
- Transfers to the vessel
- Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes
- Meals ashore
- Baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (which is strongly recommended)
- Excess baggage charges



▲ Gentoo Penguins. Photo: Dietmar Denger

- Single supplement (available at 1.7x the twin or superior cabin rates, otherwise single travellers will be paired with another traveller(s) in twin, triple or quadruple cabins at no additional cost)
- All items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and telecommunication charges
- The customary gratuity at the end of the voyages for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided)
- Possible fuel surcharges—if world fuel prices reach or exceed US\$120 per Barrel Brent 90 days prior to departure, a fuel surcharge of US\$25 per passenger per night may be levied

## PAYMENT DETAILS

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 Number:** 1000-594771-0000

**Account Type:** US Dollars

**Swift Address:** BKNZ22

**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.

## DEPOSIT

A deposit of US\$3,000 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:

- a) Cancellations outside of 120 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.



▲Zodiac cruising in spectacular conditions. Photo: Joerg Ehrlich

- 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.

## HOW TO JOIN THIS EXPEDITION

If you would like to join one of our Antarctic Peninsula Basecamp Voyage Expeditions, please feel free to book online booking at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/antarctica/antarctic-peninsula-basecamp-voyages/book-now> and return your completed booking form to us along with your deposit.

## CONTACT US

If you require more information please contact us at:

Adventure Consultants Ltd  
PO Box 739  
20 Brownston Street  
Wanaka 9343  
New Zealand

**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)



▲ Gentoo penguin and chick. Photo: Erwin Vermeulen



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.

