



# ANTARCTIC PENINSULA BASECAMP VOYAGES



**2020/21 EXPEDITION NOTES**





# ANTARCTIC PENINSULA BASECAMP VOYAGES TRIP NOTES

## 2020/21 EXPEDITION DETAILS

**Dates:** Trip 1: November 8–19, 2020  
Trip 2: November 21 to December 2, 2020  
Trip 3: November 29 to December 10, 2020  
Trip 4: December 10–22, 2020  
Trip 5: December 22 to January 3, 2021  
Trip 6: February 25 to March 8, 2021  
Trip 7: March 8–19, 2021  
**Duration:** 12 or 13 days  
**Departure:** ex Ushuaia, Argentina  
**Price:** From US\$8,050 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. 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, 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.

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.



▲ Camping on the peninsula. Photo: Ignacio Marino

## THE VESSELS

Basecamp Voyages are aboard either the M/V Ortelius (Trips 1, 3, 4 and 5) or the M/V Plancius (Trips 2, 6 and 7). 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 as follows:

- **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.

## 2020/21 EXPEDITION DATES

- Trip 1: November 8–19, 2020 (Low Season)
- Trip 2: November 21 to December 2, 2020 (Low Season)
- Trip 3: November 29 to December 10, 2020 (Low Season)
- Trip 4: December 10–22, 2020 (High Season)
- Trip 5: December 22 to January 3, 2021 (High Season)
- Trip 6: February 25 to March 8, 2021 (Low Season)
- Trip 7: March 8–19, 2021 (Low Season)

**NOTE:** Trips 4 and 5 are 13 day duration, the remaining trips are 12 days



▲ 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.      |

**NOTE:** 13 day trips spend an extra day exploring the Antarctic Peninsula.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

The following itinerary is an example of how the expedition may operate depending on weather and ice conditions.

### Day 1

Your voyage begins where the world drops off. Ushuaia, Argentina, reputed to be the southernmost city on the planet, is located on the far southern tip of South America. Starting in the afternoon, you embark from this small resort town on Tierra del Fuego, nicknamed “The End of the World”, and sail the mountain-fringed Beagle Channel for the remainder of the evening.

### Days 2–3

Over the next two days on the Drake Passage, you enjoy some of the same experiences encountered by the great polar explorers who first charted these regions: cool salt breezes, rolling seas, maybe even a fin whale spouting up sea spray. After passing the Antarctic Convergence—Antarctica’s natural boundary, formed when north-flowing cold waters collide with warmer sub-Antarctic seas—you are in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. Not only does the marine life change, the avian life changes too. Wandering albatrosses, grey-headed albatrosses, black-browed albatrosses, light-mantled sooty albatrosses, cape pigeons, southern fulmars, Wilson’s storm petrels, blue petrels, and Antarctic petrels are a few of the birds you might see.

### Days 4–9

Gray stone peaks sketched with snow, towers of broken blue-white ice, and dramatically different wildlife below and above. You first pass the snow-capped Melchior Islands and Schollaert Channel, sailing between Brabant and Anvers Islands.



◆ Taking a break while snowshoeing. Photo: Dietmar Denger

Places you might visit include:

**Neumayer Channel**—The vessel may position itself here, launching its multiple basecamp activities from the protected waters around Wiencke Island. You can enjoy the splendours of this alpine environment at sea with Zodiac and kayaking trips, or if you're in the mood for a walk, there are possible snowshoe hikes and soft-climb mountaineering options farther inland. Naturally, favourable weather conditions determine the possible activities.

**Port Lockroy**—After sailing through the Neumayer Channel, you may get a chance to visit the former British research station—now a museum and post office—of Port Lockroy on Goudier Island. You may also be able to partake in activities around Jougla Point, meeting gentoo penguins and blue-eyed shags. There are great opportunities also for kayaking and camping here, and when conditions are right, you can even snowshoe around the shore.

**Pléneau & Petermann Islands**—If the ice allows it, you can sail through the Lemaire Channel in search of Adélie penguins and blue-eyed shags. There's also a good chance you'll encounter humpback and minke whales here, as well as leopard seals.

Kayaking, glacier walks, and more ambitious mountaineering trips are the potential activities of this location.

**Neko Harbour**—An epic landscape of mammoth glaciers and endless wind-carved snow, Neko Harbour offers opportunities for a Zodiac cruise and landing that afford the closest views of the surrounding alpine peaks.

**Paradise Bay**—You have the chance to make camp here like a true polar explorer (but with a better tent), enjoying a supreme overnight Antarctic adventure.

**Errera Channel**—Possible sites in this area include Danco Island and Cuverville Island, but also the lesser known (though equally picturesque) Orne Island and Georges Point on Rongé Island.

On your last day of near-shore activities, you pass the Melchior Islands toward the open sea. Keep a sharp lookout for humpback whales in Dallmann Bay. You might also shoot for Half Moon Island, in the South Shetlands, with further chances for activities. Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.



Visiting Port Lockroy. Photo: Dietmar Denger

## Days 10–11

Your return voyage is far from lonely. While crossing the Drake, you're again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south. But they seem a little more familiar to you now, and you to them.

## Day 12

Every adventure, no matter how grand, must eventually come to an end. It's now time to disembark in Ushuaia, but with memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

## 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.

## 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.



▲ 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

## 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.

## 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.





▲ Kayaking in near perfect conditions. Photo: Oceanwide Expeditions

**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:

### SHIP BERTH OPTIONS

#### Quadruple Porthole

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Low Season         | US\$8,050 |
| High Season Trip 4 | US\$8,450 |
| High Season Trip 5 | US\$8,950 |

#### Triple Porthole

Triple Porthole rooms are only available on a waitlist basis, please enquire for further details.

#### Twin Porthole

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Low Season         | US\$9,950  |
| High Season Trip 4 | US\$10,400 |
| High Season Trip 5 | US\$10,950 |

#### Twin Window

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Low Season         | US\$10,350 |
| High Season Trip 4 | US\$10,900 |
| High Season Trip 5 | US\$11,500 |



▲ Gentoo Penguins. Photo: Dietmar Dengler

### Twin Deluxe

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Low Season         | US\$11,000 |
| High Season Trip 4 | US\$11,600 |
| High Season Trip 5 | US\$12,200 |

### Superior

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Low Season         | US\$11,900 |
| High Season Trip 4 | US\$12,450 |
| High Season Trip 5 | US\$12,950 |

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 disembarking)
- 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
- 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



▲ Zodiac cruising in spectacular conditions. Photo: Joerg Ehrlich

## 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:** 1000-594771-0000

**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 25% 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 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:

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**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.

