Quest for the Antarctic Circle

Trip Code: PQC

Version:

POLAR	GUIDED GROUP	1 LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Discounts Available - contact the KE office for a quote
- See penguins, whales and magnificent Antarctic wildlife
- Options for kayaking and camping on the Antarctic Peninsula
- Expert team of expedition polar leaders onboard
- Travel through the famous Drake Passage

AT A GLANCE

- 12 days Antarctic Cruise touring and Zodiac boat trips
- Join at Ushuaia

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

This 15-day cruise to Antarctica is aboard the MS Expedition which is uniquely equipped to meet the demands of cruising in polar regions. This itinerary is similar to the 'Antarctica Classic' & 'Antarctica in Depth' trips, except on this journey you will go further south; with the aim of 'touching' the Antarctic circle, which few of our other Antarctic cruises do. We board the boat in Ushuaia, the southernmost city on Earth, which is situated in the Argentinean part of Tierra del Fuego. Our journey takes us through the Drake Passage to the so-called Antarctic Convergence, where colliding cold and warm waters force nutrients to the surface, attracting seabirds and whales, and giving us our first glimpses of Antarctic wildlife. Further south, we reach the South Shetland Islands and cross the Bransfield Strait to reach the Antarctic Peninsula.

Here we enter a world of immense scale and visual splendour, the last true wilderness on earth. Huge blue icebergs calmly floating in the waters, massive penguin rookeries, seabirds diving and whales breaching. Zodiac excursions are guided by the expert expedition staff and there are opportunities for kayaking and also to camp for a night on the Antarctic Peninsula. Built for the Southern Ocean the MS Expedition is a sturdy ship with a passenger capacity of just over one hundred. With its dining areas, presentation rooms, different cabin sizes, mud room and viewing decks you will have plenty of space and entertainment whilst on board. Each day there are presentations and informative talks from the staff on the wildlife, history and environment of the area. After 6 days around the peninsula, we return through the Drake Passage with magical memories of an enchanted world.

Is this holiday for you?

This is principally a touring, sightseeing and wildlife viewing holiday, with minimal exertion required - it is graded easy. If you choose to go ashore, you will need to make the transfers from the ship to a Zodiac and onto land. Short walks on the Antarctic Peninsula are optional and weather dependent. You should also consider that some of the classes of accommodation involve the use of bunk-beds. Whilst on deck or during excursions, you need to be prepared for cold temperatures. The itinerary remains flexible, according to the variability of the weather and sea conditions at these southerly latitudes. A suggested itinerary for the holiday is given, but may be subject to change.

On certain departures you can book kayaking, experience is essential for these kayaking excursions. A night camping on Antarctica is also possible. All equipment is provided for kayaking and camping. Early booking is essential. Cabin upgrades are also available.

Please see our online Polar Guide for the differences between our departures, ships and more Polar information.

Itinerary

Version:

Extensions

When booking your holiday, you will be able to 'add an extension option'. Once we have received your booking we will contact you to discuss additional services required for the extension and to take any additional deposit.



Antarctic Camping Excursion

On the day of the camping expedition dinner will be served onboard - eat heartily as there will be no personal snacks allowed onshore as per IAATO regulations. After dinner you will go by Zodiac to the campsite and after setting up camp for the evening, you will have time to explore the area and enjoy the Antarctic evening. The following morning, wake up time will be about an hour before ship's breakfast, allowing time to collect and stow our equipment before journeying back to the ship by zodiac.

Previous camping experience is not necessary, but members of the camping group will be asked to help put up tents under the instruction of the expedition leader. As we are in a ecologically sensitive environment, we ask that members of the group, follow closely the instructions of the expedition leader in order to minimize impacts, and ensure that we at all times, meet and exceed IAATO regulations. Safety is always paramount. Each camping expedition is restricted to a maximum of 20 campers and will be accompanied by a minimum of two experienced Expedition Staff members.

Communication with the ship will be maintained throughout the excursion and we carry emergency rations in the event that our schedule becomes extended as a result of weather conditions. Accommodation on the camping expedition is twin-share. Single travellers will be paired with other single travellers of the same sex.

1 day from
US$505 per person



Sea Kayaking - Quest for the Antarctic Circle

Going eye to eye with an inquisitive whale is a rare and special moment that will carve itself into your memory. Kayaking isn't just an outdoor adventure, it's an opportunity to experience these remote regions from another vantage point. You'll venture out to sheltered bays and areas known for calmer waters and take part in group kayaking trips led by our experienced and skilled leaders. No other activity gets you as close to the natural environment!

Kayaking excursions are dependent on weather but the team will aim to get you out in the Kayaks as many times as possible during the cruise. Previous kayaking experience is strongly recommended. You do not need to know how to roll a kayak or do a self-rescue. Professional guides will be on board to help you with new skills or to offer coaching to improve your paddling performance.

It is essential to book early for this experience - you can not book this once on board and spaces are very limited.

1 day from
US$1,480 per person

Holiday Information

What's Included

- Expert Expedition staff
- Ushuaia arrival airport transfers
- Single timed departure transfer to airport or into Ushuaia
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises in Antarctica with expert expedition team
- Waterproof boots supplied (men's USA sizes 8-14 and women's USA sizes 3-9)
- Lecture and guidance programs during the expedition
- Antarctica destination guide book

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Tips for staff
- Ushuaia airport transfers (except as described)
- Some meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Airport departure taxes
- Cost of optional excursions - Kayaking and overnight camping on Antarctica (see extensions)
- Transfers between airports in Buenos Aires
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

Day 1
The group will meet at the group hotel in Ushuaia. Airport transfers to the hotel are included for all clients arriving into Ushuaia.

Day 15
Upon completion of the 08:00 disembarkation in Ushuaia, passengers will receive a complimentary transfer to either the airport or a central location where luggage can be stored.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All meals whilst on board the M/S Expedition are included. Breakfast only is included while staying in the hotel in Ushuaia. All other meals you will pay for directly. In practice this amounts to a total of 2 dinners and 1 lunch while in Ushuaia. We recommend you allow about US$20 per meal in Ushuaia.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

Water from the taps may not be drinkable in all locations on this trip - please check with your guide. We recommend taking water purification tablets and a reusable bottle with a filter such as **Water-to-Go**, which can both be used to help make safe other water sources. Please note that we do not encourage the purchase of single use plastic bottles.

Accommodation

During this trip the group will spend 2 nights at an hotel in Ushuaia at the start of the trip. For these two nights in Ushuaia, for solo bookings the first night will be a single room and the second night on a twin share basis. The following 12 nights are spent on board the fantastic M/S Expedition Polar Cruise Ship. The MS Expedition has multiple large public areas to enjoy during sea crossings and in between land excursions. Amenities include:
All cabins with private en suite and outside view,
The Penguin Library,
Medical clinic and english speaking doctor,
Polar Bear Pub,
The Lounge,
Albatross Dining Room - serving international cuisine and large enough to accommodate all passengers in one sitting,
Large aft deck with barbecue facilities,
Forward deck viewing platforms,
Fitness centre/sauna,
Laundry service (for a small additional charge),
Wi-Fi (for an additional charge),

Accommodation on board is based on a quad cabin with porthole (CAT.1A). If you are travelling by yourself you will be paired up with other single clients of the same sex. Cabin upgrades to triples, twins and cabins with larger windows are possible as well as singles, all depending on availability. Please contact the office for prices and availability. Additional hotel nights in Ushuaia are also available.

Group Leader & Support Staff

A carefully chosen team will lead your voyage. The MS Expedition ships boast an international team of professional naturalists and lecturers. Their goal is to provide an informed and balanced interpretation of the destination, accomplished through stimulating lectures, day-to-day briefings, and informal discussions. Your lecturers and Expedition Leader will cover all aspects of the voyage including ornithology, marine biology, geography, geology, history and the environment, as well as practical things like photography. The expedition staff work conscientiously with you on deck and in the field, improving your observational skills to allow you to experience all that the destination has to offer. Their strong sense of ethics and ecological knowledge make for stimulating and mindful conversation whether onshore or at the dinner table. The Expedition Staff will pilot the Zodiac landing craft used for shore landings and Zodiac cruises; they are experienced drivers who operate the Zodiacs in a responsible manner.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Luggage with wheels is useful for this holiday. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline (the baggage limit on the domestic flight between Buenos Aries and Ushuaia is 20kg). Please note that you should be able to carry your own luggage.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

Group Members

As this holiday is run with G Adventures, the minimum age is 10 yrs (anyone under 18 must be travelling with a parent or guardian).

The holiday will be conducted in English. Generally on these trips there will be a mix of nationalities but it is not possible to guarantee this.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THOSE TRANSITING THROUGH THE USA

If your flights pass through the USA, even if only in transit, you will require either a visa or an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation). Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can apply for an ESTA under certain conditions*. This must be done online via https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov, no later than 72 hours prior to travel and applies whether entering the country by sea or by air. You will need to have a biometric passport to apply for an ESTA. The fee is currently US$40 *(as of 30/09/25).* Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely be refused boarding.

*If you have visited Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen since 2011 or have dual nationality with any of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA. You will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate instead. Additionally, if you have travelled to or have been in Cuba since the 12th of January 2021, you will not be eligible for an ESTA visa waiver and will need to apply for a US visa. You should consult the US State Department website to determine which you will need.

When completing the ESTA application form you will be asked to enter your 'Point of Contact' information. This is not required if you are only transiting through the USA.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THOSE TRANSITING THROUGH CANADA

UK citizens will require an ETA (Electronic Travel Authorisation), and you must get this before boarding any Canada-bound aircraft or ship, or entering on a land border. The fee is CAD$7 and you should apply for it at http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start.asp. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office

Entry requirements can change regularly so please ensure you have the most up to date information before travelling by checking visa entry requirements at the relevant embassy in your country of residence: (US Embassy in London: http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html)

Visa Argentina

UK and USA passport holders do not require a visa for short stays.

New entry requirements to Argentina

Please note that, due to recent changes in Argentina's Immigration Regulations, new entry requirements apply to all foreign non-resident travellers as of May 28, 2025.

To enter the country, each traveller must present the following documents:

- Valid medical insurance that provides coverage for the entire duration of the stay.
- A return ticket or proof of onward travel out of Argentina
- Accommodation booking or the address of the place where they will be staying.

Failure to provide any of these documents may result in denied entry, at the discretion of the immigration authorities.

We strongly recommend to all travellers to ensure all the travel documents are complete and up to date before departure to avoid delays or inconveniences upon arrival.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

When on the ship everything is priced is US$. If you are paying in cash you will need US$, if you are paying by card your bank will use their exchange rate.

The unit of currency in Argentina is the Peso.

Climate

Along the Antarctic Peninsula, temperatures as high as 15°C have been recorded, though during the Antarctic summer temperatures are typically between 0 and 2°C. The wind will be a significant moderating factor and you must come prepared for 'real feel' temperatures as low as -20°C. The Antarctic is technically classed as a desert averaging 166 mm of precipitation per year. Although you are unlikely to experience any precipitation storms do occur.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through our international partner. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum. Dress on board is informal. Beware of tight clothing that leaves no room for trapped air, which is an excellent insulator. Wool, silk and some of the new synthetic fibers, like polar fleece, retain heat better than cotton.

You should bring the following items:

- Casual shoes / Trainers or similar for onboard
- Rubber boots (Wellington boots)*
- Walking shoes*
- Waterproof jacket**
- Socks (Warm, high wool or similar socks worn over a thin pair of silk, polypropylene socks should provide enough warmth and insulation for your feet. Bring several pairs of socks, since you will inevitably get your feet wet).
- Trekking trouserss
- Waterproof trousers
- Thermal baselayer - (legging)
- Underwear
- Baselayer shirts / fleece
- Casual shirt and/or T-shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Sunhat
- Warm hat

- Scarf and/or buff
- Sunglasses
- Gloves or mittens (Thin polypropylene gloves under warm outer gloves is a good combination)
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Small towel
- Selection of dry bags (to keep rucksack contents dry)
- Small daypack
- Warm jacket (down)
- Plug adapter - On the ship you will need a plug / adaptor with European 2 pin round holes. There are also 110-volt shaving sockets in the bathroom for electric razors only.
- Basic First Aid Kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, and plasters. Glucose tablets and multi-vitamin tablets are also a good idea.

The following items are optional:

- Warm Ski pants
- Shorts
- Spare gloves
- Travel clothes

- Camera (in a dry bag)
- Binoculars
- Pen-knife (remember to pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Seasickness remedy
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Notes

***Rubber boots / Wellington boots:** Complimentary waterproof boots are supplied for the following sizes:

- Men's USA size 8-14 / UK size 7 to 13½ / Europe 41 to 48½
- Women's USA size 3 to 9 / UK size 1 to 6 ½ / Europe 33 to 40

If you have different feet sizes to these you should bring your own rubber boots. These should be rubber, waterproof boots that are just below your knee with a strong, ridged non-skid sole.

Although this is not a trekking trip, there is the opportunity to sightsee around Ushuaia. If you intend to make the most of these opportunities, you should make sure that you take suitable footwear.

****Waterproof jacket:** Complimentary waterproof jackets are provided on board, these also have an inner fleece layer.

Kayak Excursion (pre-booking essential) If you choose the optional Kayak Excursion please ensure you have enough layers with you to keep you warm. You will need thermal underwear and vest (note that cotton is not acceptable), polypropylene/ pile (polar fleece) trousers and non bulky jacket, a fleece or tight knit wool cap (X2), a neck tube or balaclava, mid weight fleece gloves. You should also take dry bags for personal gear/camera. You will be supplied with: Kokatat Supernova Paddling suits, paddles, floatation vest, spray skirt, neoprene pogies (paddling mittens) and neoprene booties. You will be required to have with you thermal layers suitable for temperatures ranging between -5°C (23°F) to +7°C (45°F)

Camping Excursion (pre-booking essential, over 18yrs only) If you choose the optional camping excursion you should pack an extra fleece or 2 (plus a down jacket) for the chilly evening on the snow. You will be provided with: tent, sleeping bag, sleeping mat & emergency supplies.

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Ushuaia. For clients making their own flight arrangements, Ushaia Airport is the most convenient for transfers to the group hotel.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Ushuaia airport. Outbound flights will depart from the UK in the morning, arriving in the afternoon of the following day (day 1 of the itinerary). Return flights will depart Ushuaia in the afternoon of the last day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK in the late afternoon of the following day. Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request. Please note that you will have to change airports in Buenos Aires and the connections enroute may involve some lengthy waits at an airport. Please be prepared for this.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Call to speak to our team of Polar experts, this includes our CEO Ashley Toft - you can read about his experience here.Have you travelled on the MS Expedition before? If so do let us know, as we might be able to get a discount for you.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change