

UCLA Alumni

Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage 8-Day

DECEMBER 8-15, 2025
ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

FEATURING PROFESSOR DAVID SALTZBERG
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY



SPECIAL OFFER: 10% GROUP SAVINGS



Dear UCLA Alumni & Friends,

Venturing to Antarctica is an expedition like no other—a chance to explore wonderlands of sculpted snow and ice where whales swim, penguins flock and albatrosses soar. It's a true journey of a lifetime that has historically called for multiple weeks of travel, including a round-trip sea crossing of the Drake Passage.

We are excited to share a more time-efficient way to discover the wonders of the White Continent without sacrificing any of the adventure on this 8-day itinerary. On this journey, you'll fly between South America and Antarctica on a round-trip flight and enjoy five adventure-filled days to explore the otherworldly realm at the bottom of the globe.

Each day on the seventh continent is filled with new sights and sounds. Greet the southernmost sky with a sunrise stretch session, paddle a kayak past tabular icebergs the size of islands and walk among charismatic penguins. You'll even have the rare opportunity to peer deep into polar waters from the comfort and safety of the ship via a remotely operated vehicle (ROV). A veteran team of naturalists will be on hand to provide expert perspectives, and a certified photo instructor can help you capture incredible images.

Our tour operator, Lindblad Expeditions, pioneered expedition travel to Antarctica over 55 years ago and has unmatched expertise in the region. They are uniquely skilled at bringing you directly into the heart of this icy region. Their polar captains all hold the "icemaster" distinction and have collectively navigated more than 600 expeditions in these icy waters, while the crew's deep knowledge of the Antarctic peninsula allows them to make the most of nature's opportunities. For travelers, this expertise translates to adventure-filled days and amazing wildlife sightings—experiences befit for the trip of a lifetime.

To reserve your space, please return the reservation form, or call us at 310-206-0613 for more information.

Warm regards,



Christel Aragon
Director, Alumni Travel

SPECIAL OFFER

Save 10% when traveling with the UCLA Alumni Association. See page 12 for more details.



David Saltzberg is a Professor of Physics & Astronomy at UCLA where his research interests include high-energy neutrino astronomy and the Large Hadron Collider. He has traveled to Antarctica five times for his research, and has been recognized with the Antarctic Service Medal by the National Science Foundation. Saltzberg was the science consultant for The Big Bang Theory since its pilot episode to ensure scientific accuracy. He subsequently consulted on a number of other television programs and recently for the Oscar-winning film "Oppenheimer". The asteroid "8628 Davidsaltzberg" is named after him.

Cover photo: A gentoo penguin jumps out of the water in Antarctica.

Opposite: The natural harbor of Port Lockroy creates a calm environment for individual exploration.

Witness the Wonder of the White Continent

Dazzling Beauty on a Grand Scale

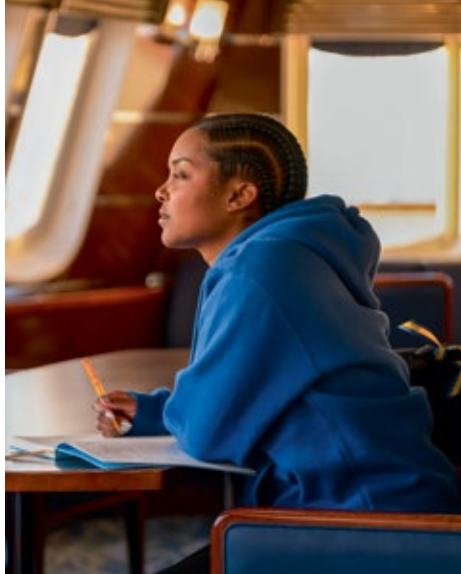
The White Continent launches you into a unique world of marine wildlife, frozen landscapes and incredible geological formations. Bypass the traditional Drake Passage crossing on a two-hour flight to and from Antarctica and discover all of the highlights without sacrificing the extra time. Once on the White Continent, watch for the telltale spout of orcas and acrobatic pods of leaping dolphins off the deck. Approaching the Antarctic islands, we float into an ice desert of crystalline air and frozen seas. Staggering in its variety of forms, the visual beauty of polar ice makes every Antarctic explorer vow to return.

Weather permitting, kayak and hike among the Continent's most famous citizens, Adelie, chinstrap and gentoo penguins. Zodiac cruise in search of leopard seals hauled out on the sea ice, then watch for the big dark eyes of Weddell seals popping their heads above the water. And explore lesser-known terrain. While the White Continent is famous for its snow, glaciers, and icebergs, its rockier volcanic past is revealed at places like Edinburgh Hill, where columnar basalt juts out of the sea, and at the black-sand beaches of a submerged caldera called Deception Island.

Life on Board

When sailing on the *National Geographic Explorer*, your time on board is as rewarding as your time on shore. Every detail—from the culinary delights to the soothing spa treatments sourced from our surroundings—is inspired by the beauty all around you. Watch orcas from the ship's bow in the icy air, then warm up in the chart room with a cup of hot cocoa. Or perch high atop the ship in the sun-drenched observation lounge, where you can fly over the polar scenery as it unfolds below. With a well-stocked library at arm's reach, you can read up on a comprehensive range of topics, from Shackleton's historic expedition to the migratory patterns of humpback whales.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): DAP Airline; guest taking in the views from the chart room; guests observe a humpback whale at sunset.





The Quintessential Expedition Ship

The *National Geographic Explorer* is an ice-class expedition ship that truly lives up to her name. She embodies the expertise that comes from more than 55 years of exploring Antarctica. This powerful yet intimately scaled vessel brings you directly, and safely, into the heart of this icy wilderness and allows you to experience it in unique and immersive ways. Her bow's low profile gives you an exhilarating vantage point, making you feel as though you're suspended over the glassy water. And you're always welcome to talk to the captain and officers on the Bridge, where you can learn the ins and outs of navigation or take a turn at the spotting scope.



Purpose-Built for Polar Exploration

- **DNV ICE-1A class rating** on the hull, enabling us to navigate the ice safely
- **Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV)** that can explore the ocean at depths up to 1,000 feet
- **Crow's nest remote-controlled camera** with real-time footage broadcast on high-definition LCD video screens within each cabin
- **Electronic chart system** that broadcasts as a channel in the cabins
- **Chart room** with nautical maps and a coffee, tea and hot cocoa station
- **The Bridge** where you're always welcome with an open invitation from the ship's captain
- **Observation lounge** providing panoramic vistas of the scenery and a supply of binoculars
- **Large fleet of Zodiacs** and internal mechanism for swift, effortless boarding
- **36 double kayaks** that allow personal exploring in pristine Antarctic environments

Opposite (clockwise from top): National Geographic Explorer is designed with the utmost attention to safety and comfort; guests review nautical maps on the Bridge; Gulf Almirante Montt, Puerto Natales, Patagonia, Chile.; kayaks allow for personal exploration.

Above: Guests join officers on the Bridge to watch them navigate the ice.

Experience Authentic Exploration

Travel with a Veteran Team

Every member of our staff—from our naturalists and expedition leaders to our crew working behind the scenes—is committed to ensuring our guests have an unforgettable experience.

Many are veteran polar guides who have worked with us for decades, chosen for their extensive knowledge of subjects like geology, wildlife biology, and climate science. They, along with the guest speakers who join us on board, give rich context to the wildlife and landscapes we encounter ashore.



The expedition staff helps guests board kayaks safely and swiftly.

Take Great Photos with the Pros

Photography is central to the expedition experience. A National Geographic Photography Expert and a National Geographic certified photo instructor join each voyage to assist travelers with everything from camera settings to composition. Every guest—from smartphone camera users to advanced hobbyists—can stand side by side with top photographers, pick up tips in the field and return home with the photos of a lifetime. With the complimentary OM System Photo Gear Locker, you can field test new lenses, camera bodies and more.



Guests photographing from a Zodiac in Paradise Harbor, Antarctica.



Guests hike and see a gentoo penguin colony.

Actively Explore Every Day

Our Antarctic voyages feature a range of activities designed to immerse you in the wilds of the White Continent. Head to the bow to watch for whale fins and flukes, paddle a kayak past a glittering iceberg or hike up a hillside for otherworldly views of the massive ice sheets. Zodiacs can zip you to the shore, where you can watch the fascinating nesting and mating rituals of the Adélie and gentoo penguins. Or join one of our polar experts in search of leopard seals among the brash ice. On board, learn more about the Heroic Age of Antarctic exploration from our historian, identify live birds next to expert birders or join your photo instructor at the deck rail for landscape photography tips. Each day opens new exploration options you can enjoy at your own pace.

In-Depth Undersea Program

As part of our in-depth undersea program, an undersea specialist uses a high-definition video camera and deploys a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) that allows us to peer through steely polar waters—up to 1,000 feet beneath the surface. Footage is shared during daily recaps, inviting guests to witness surprising and unexpectedly colorful sea life from the comfort and safety of the ship.



A curious adult leopard seal. ©Michael S. Nolan.

Voyage Itinerary

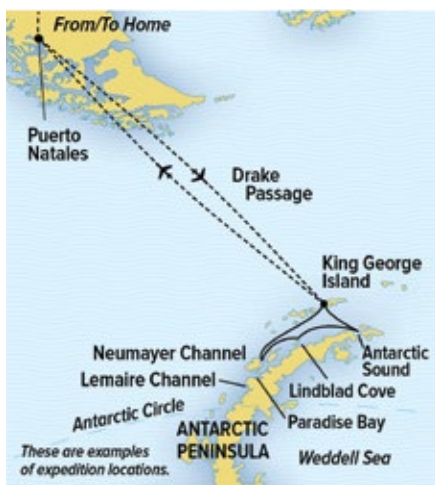
Experience the wild grandeur of the White Continent in a more efficient, expedient way. On this new itinerary, bypass the traditional Drake Passage crossing both ways on a 2-hour flight from Puerto Natales to Antarctica and discover all of the highlights without sacrificing the extra time. Travel with a diverse team of experts aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*, the definitive expedition ship. Venture into channels and coves framed by towering peaks. Watch for whales off the bow; Zodiac cruise around enormous icebergs; and hike and kayak in complete tranquility. Choose an active agenda or surrender to the pleasures of relaxing downtime and shipboard camaraderie. Plus, get top shots with the help of a National Geographic Photography Expert.

DAY 1 • Arrive Puerto Natales, Chile

Originally a small fishing port, the town is nestled on the Last Hope Sound and boasts a stunning view of the sea surrounded by the Cerro Benitez Mountains—the gateway to Torres del Paine. Transfer from the airport to Hotel Costaustralis (or similar).

DAY 2 • Puerto Natales/King George Island, Antarctica/Embark

Following breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for our 2-hour direct flight to King George Island in Antarctica. Home to a diverse assortment of wildlife—Weddell and elephant seals, Adélie, chinstrap and gentoo penguins—King George Island also has a human presence. Researchers from a wide range of countries, including the U.S., Chile, Argentina, and Brazil, call the various stations home. Our flight will land at the Chilean research station where the *National Geographic Explorer* will be waiting offshore. Board Zodiacs to embark the ship and set sail. (B,L,D)



DAYS 3-6 • Exploring Antarctica

With long hours of daylight at this time of year, we have ample opportunities to explore. Our schedule is flexible, allowing us to take advantage of the unexpected, whether we're watching whales at play off the bow of the ship, hiking alongside penguin highways or enjoying an evening Zodiac cruise amid porpoising penguins. While wildlife is



Guests exploring by Zodiac in Antarctica.

magnificent, ice defines the Antarctic. You'll get to know ice up close and personal—from icebergs the size of islands, bergy bits and near-vertical glaciers, to the fragile, nearly invisible layers that have just begun to freeze. One day, we might set out by kayak to encounter towering icebergs at water level; embark on a Zodiac excursion in search of seals and blue-eyed shags; or walk amid thousands of Adélie and gentoo penguins. The next, we might experience the thrill of the ship crunching through pack ice. Everywhere we go in Antarctica we're surrounded by opportunities to capture uniquely beautiful images. Along the way your expert expedition team will enrich every experience. (B,L,D)

DAY 7 • King George Island/ Disembark/Charter Flight to Puerto Natales

This morning, the ship will be moored off of King George Island once again. Following disembarkation and Zodiac rides to shore, our flight departs the White Continent and returns to Puerto Natales where we overnight. (B,L,D)



A chinstrap penguin burrowed in the snow.

DAY 8 • Puerto Natales/Homebound Flights

Check out of our hotel and transfer to the airport to begin your journey homeward. (B)

National Geographic Explorer



Designed for in-depth exploration, she is the definitive expedition ship, capable of navigating both polar passages and temperate waters. Fully stabilized and with an ice strengthened hull, she provides exceptional comfort, while her dynamic suite of exploration features—including an interactive chart room, a high observation lounge and a low-profile bow with dramatic views—reflect a dedication to curiosity and wonder.

Capacity

81 outside cabins and suites accommodating 148 guests.

Registry

Bahamas.

Overall Length

367 feet.

Public areas

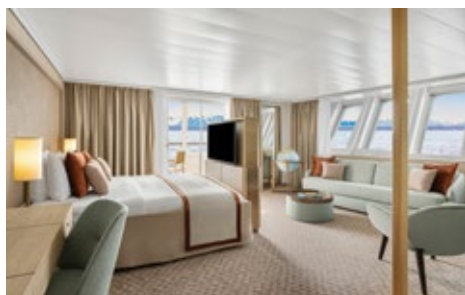
Bistro bar; chart room; restaurant; Global Gallery; library; lounge with photo kiosks, full-service bar and facilities for films, slideshows, and presentations; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear; OM System Photo Gear Locker; laundry; and observation lounge. An open Bridge enables guests to meet the captain and officers and learn about navigation.

Meals

Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere. Menu is international with local flair.

Accommodations

All cabins and suites face outside with windows or portholes, and have a private bathroom and climate controls. Equipped with Wi-Fi, multiple electrical outlets, USB outlets, full-length mirror and phones. TV featuring entertainment on demand, live feed from onboard presentations, bow camera and ship's position. Luxury bed linens and pillows. Botanically inspired shampoo,



Newly renovated Category 7 suite with balcony.

conditioner, shower gel and lotion. Newly updated suites are enhanced with a sleek, Scandinavian design, and hold a Command Center that allows guests to explore from the comfort of their rooms. Command Centers include a barometer, a *National Geographic Atlas* and an espresso maker.

Expedition Equipment

Zodiacs, kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, crow's nest remote-controlled camera, video microscope.

Staff & Crew

Every member of our staff is committed to ensuring our guests have an unforgettable experience. Many of our veteran guides and naturalists are locally based in your destination and have worked with us for decades. A full-time medical professional, undersea specialist, professional photographer and certified photo instructor are on board, and with a low staff-to-guest ratio, you can hear different perspectives and gain new insights every day.

Wellness

The vessel is staffed by a wellness specialist and features a glass-enclosed fitness center, outdoor stretching area, LEXspa treatment room and sauna.

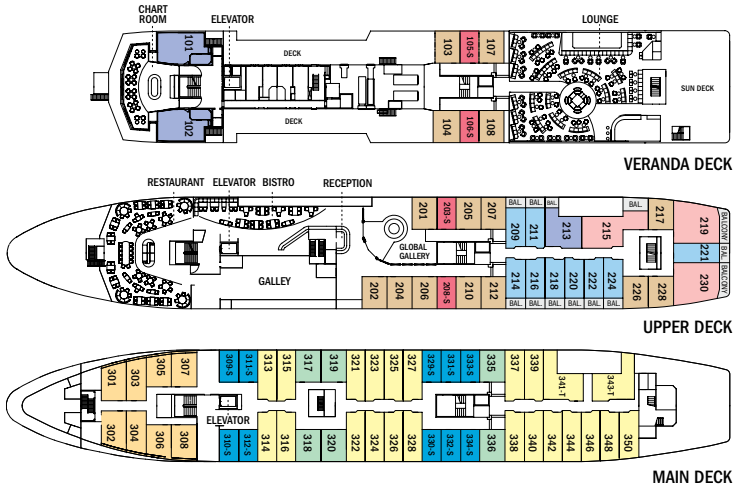


Fitness center with panoramic views.

Sustainability

From our carbon offset initiatives to the locally sourced food we serve on board, our expeditions are designed around the well-being of our world. Travel with peace of mind, knowing that green practices are embedded in our operations and that each voyage gives back to the places we explore.

Ship Deck Plan & Pricing



Voyage Dates

December 8-15, 2025

Note: Prices below include round-trip charter flights Puerto Natales/King George Island. The 10% group savings is not applicable to the included charter airfare cost of \$3,000.

Advance Payment Details

15% of the cabin fare, per person.

Costs are per person, double occupancy unless indicated as solo.

10% Savings

Category 1	\$11,975	\$11,078
Main Deck – With one or two portholes #301-308		
Category 2	\$12,960	\$11,964
Main Deck – With window #317-320, 335-336		
Category 3	\$13,235	\$12,212
Main Deck – With window #313-316, 321-328, 337-344, 346, 348, 350		
Category 4	\$13,930	\$12,837
Upper & Veranda Decks – With window #103-104, 107-108, 201-202, 204-207, 210, 212, 217, 226, 228		
Category 5	\$16,412	\$15,071
Upper Deck – With balcony #209, 211, 214, 216, 218, 220-222, 224		
Category 6*	\$18,432	\$16,889
Veranda Deck – Suite #101-102; Upper Deck-Suite with balcony #213		
Category 7*	\$19,950	\$18,255
Upper Deck – Suite with balcony #215, 219, 230		
Category A Solo	\$15,963	\$14,667
Main Deck – With window #309-312, 329-334		
Category B Solo	\$17,853	\$16,368
Upper & Veranda Decks – With window #105-106, 203, 208		

***Suite Exclusives:** The suites on board are your elegant retreat at sea, featuring spacious living areas and incredible ocean views. Now, booking one of these beautifully appointed accommodations comes with even more benefits. Our new Suite Exclusives package gives guests staying in eligible cabins access to an array of amenities designed to enhance your on-board experience, including priority booking for spa treatments, complimentary laundry and other exclusive perks.

Shared Accommodations: Available in Categories 1 and 2.

Solo Occupancy: Cabins available in Categories A and B.

Note: Cabins #209, 211, 214, 216-218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 303-306 have one queen-size bed. All other double cabins have two single beds; some can convert to a queen-size bed. Third person rates are available in the designated triple occupancy cabins at one-half the double occupancy rate. Cabins #341, 343, 101, 102, 215, 219 and 230 can accommodate a third person.

INCLUSIVE PRICING

- Round-trip charter flights Puerto Natales/King George Island
- All accommodations aboard ship
- Excursions, hotels and airport transfers, as indicated in the itinerary
- All meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and on shore. Meals and hors d'oeuvres are inspired by regional cuisine and locally sourced where possible
- Beer, wine, cocktails and spirits, with super premium wines and liquors available for purchase
- 24-hour access to snacks, premium coffees and teas, non-alcoholic beverages and filtered water
- Selection of exploration tools such as Zodiacs, kayaks and other state-of-the-art gear
- The guidance and company of our leading expedition staff
- Presentations by the expedition staff
- Access to the OM System Photo Gear Locker with the latest gear to try out on loan
- Gratuities for the ship's crew
- The services of a medical professional
- Morning stretch classes and 24-hour access to the fitness center
- 24-hour access to lounges, observation decks, library and other shared spaces
- Complimentary parka and reusable water bottle
- Special access permits, park and site entrance fees and port taxes
- Basic Wi-Fi, with the option to upgrade

SPECIAL OFFERS

SPECIAL 10% GROUP SAVINGS: Save 10% on the cabin fare (as indicated) when traveling with UCLA Alumni Association. Valid on this departure date of *Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage 8-Day*. For new bookings only, subject to availability, may not be combined with other offers, and is not applicable on airfare or extensions. Call for details. Please note: the 10% savings is not applicable to the included charter airfare cost of \$3,000.

CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES: Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, \$150 shipboard credit for the group and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, not applicable on airfare or extensions and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

BRING THE KIDS: Sharing the expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. Take \$500 off the double occupancy price for each person under the age of 18. Not applicable on extensions or airfare.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Prices quoted in this brochure are per person based on double occupancy in USD. Prices quoted are valid at the time of printing, and are subject to change and availability at time of booking. Under normal conditions the total expedition price is guaranteed at the time advanced payment is made. However, our expedition pricing is determined far in advance of initial departure on the basis of then-existing projections of fuel and other costs. In the event of increases in those costs, including but not limited to increases in the price of fuel, currency fluctuations, increases in government taxes or levies, or increased security costs, we reserve the right to adjust the price of your expedition or add a surcharge to cover such unexpected increases. We will always provide an explanation of the reason for increase in costs.

COST INCLUDES: All amenities listed in inclusive pricing above. Unused services or items included in this program are non-refundable.

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; additional hotel nights unless otherwise noted; meals not indicated; pre- and post- extensions if available; private transfers; travel protection plan; passport, visa and immigration fees; items of a personal nature such as laundry, spa treatments, certain super premium wines and spirits; enhanced and premium Wi-Fi plans and phone services.

AIRFARE: The round-trip charter flights Puerto Natales, Chile/King George Island are included. International airfare is an additional cost. Lindblad will assist in making your air arrangements for a \$50 per person service fee. **Due to the unpredictable weather in Antarctica, we highly encourage guests to book their international flights through Lindblad Expeditions' air department, who can assist with rescheduling flights if needed.**

RESERVATIONS: To confirm your place, an advance payment of 15% of the cabin fare, per person is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover or check. Receipt of advance payment indicates your acceptance of the terms and conditions.

FINAL PAYMENT: Due 120 days prior to departure. Lindblad Expeditions reserves the right to cancel your reservation if payment has not been received by final payment due date.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: Travel and medical insurance are recommended and are available at an additional cost. Information will be sent to you upon registration.

ENTRY AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: Guests are advised to verify travel documents (passport/transit visa/entry visa) for the country(s) through which they are transiting and/or entering. Reliable and most current information regarding international travel can be found by contacting the consulate/embassy of the country(s) you are visiting or transiting through. We will not be responsible if you are denied entry or transit into a country if you are unable to provide valid documents as per the country's requirement.

RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS: Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Expeditions' and National Geographic Expeditions' (a division of National Geographic Partners, LLC) liability for loss of property, injury, illness, or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship's ticket sent prior to departure or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

Lindblad Expeditions, LLC is a registered member of the CA Seller of Travel Program #2151120-50. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

CANCELLATION FEE POLICY (PER PERSON)

120 or more days prior to expedition start: **No penalty:** Advance Payment will be credited toward your next expedition**

119-90 days prior to expedition start: **50% of trip cost*****

89-0 days prior to expedition start: **100% of trip cost*****

**Advance payments will be credited in the form of a Lindblad Expeditions Travel Certificate, valid for 12 months from the date of cancellation, and which may only be applied towards final payment on any future booking.

***Trip cost is total price paid including extensions, charter airfare and other additional services.

We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.

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Reservation Form



Contact Information

Please send reservation to:

Lindblad Expeditions
96 Morton Street
New York, NY 10014

Ph: 310-206-0613

Fax: 310-209-4271

Email: travel@alumni.ucla.edu

Web: www.alumni.ucla.edu/travel

Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage 8-Day

DECEMBER 8-15, 2025

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

Passenger Information

Please reserve _____ place(s).

Guest 1: _____
(Name as it appears on passport)

M/F: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Guest 2: _____
(Name as it appears on passport)

M/F: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Accommodations: Double Single Twin share with a friend
 Share with roommate assigned by tour operator.

Please indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference:

1st choice: _____ 2nd choice: _____

Advance Payment Information: 15% of the cabin fare, per person.

If paying by check, please make payable to: **Lindblad Maritime Enterprises, Ltd.**
Enclosed is my advance payment of \$ _____

If paying by credit card, we will contact you to finalize your booking and collect payment information.

UCLA Alumni Travel is an advantage reserved for UCLA Alumni Association sustaining donors.* Please select an option below.

I am currently a sustaining donor.

I have made a \$100 donation at www.travel.alumni.ucla.edu/donate.

*Sustaining donors include Gold, Life and Blue Members, as well as anyone that has made a qualifying donation of \$100 or more to the UCLA Alumni Association Support fund in the past year.

Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage 8-Day

Expedition Highlights

- Travel with Professor David Saltzberg from UCLA's Department of Physics & Astronomy.
- Get a head start on your Antarctica experience by flying across the Drake Passage to King George Island, landing at the Chilean research station that permanently operates there.
- Explore the world's last great wilderness on a voyage embodying more than five decades of Antarctic expedition heritage, sailing with top naturalists and the most experienced polar captains in travel.
- Hike amid magnificent mountains, see huge glaciers, and observe a parade of gentoo, Adélie and chinstrap penguins.
- Kayak in protected waters, paddling in the Antarctic stillness as penguins swim nearby.
- With the National Geographic Global Explorers program, kids and teens can learn about and engage with the seventh continent through immersive, hands-on activities.



UCLA Alumni

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Los Angeles, CA 90095-1397

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