

UCLA alum

Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage 8-Day

November 30 – December 7, 2026
Aboard National Geographic Explorer

Featuring Professor Amy Mainzer
Department of Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences



SPECIAL AFFINITY GROUP SAVINGS OFFER



Dear UCLA Alumni and 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.

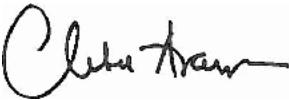
We are excited to share a more time-efficient way to discover the wonders of the White Continent without sacrificing any of the adventure. On this journey with National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions, you'll fly round-trip between South America and Antarctica to enjoy adventure-filled days exploring 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 National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions certified photo instructor can help you capture incredible images.

Our tour operator for this program, Lindblad Expeditions, has been traveling to Antarctica for 55-plus years 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 make your reservation, please return the enclosed reservation form, email groups@expeditions.com or call 833-985-1261.

Warm regards,



Christel Aragon
Director, Alumni Travel

Special Offer

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



Amy Mainzer is a professor of planetary science at UCLA where her research interests include the orbital and physical properties of asteroids and comets, in particular those that come close to the Earth. She builds and uses space telescopes to detect and discover near-Earth objects. She served as the principal investigator for NASA's Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE) mission, an Earth-orbiting telescope that searched the skies for Earth-approaching asteroids and comets for more than a decade. She has been recognized with NASA's Exceptional Scientific Achievement, Exceptional Achievement, and Exceptional Public Service medals, and she is a Fellow of the American Astronomical Society.

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 *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

National Geographic Explorer is an ice-class expedition ship that truly lives up to her name. She embodies the expertise that Lindblad Expeditions has developed 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 the ship 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; kayaks allow for personal exploration. Above: Guests review nautical maps on the Bridge.

EXPERIENCE AUTHENTIC EXPLORATION

Travel with a Veteran Team

Every staff member—from naturalists and expedition leaders to the crew working behind the scenes—is committed to ensuring guests have an unforgettable experience. Many are veteran polar guides, chosen for their extensive knowledge of subjects like geology, wildlife biology and climate science. They, along with the guest speakers on board, give rich context to the wildlife and landscapes encountered ashore.

Take Great Photos with the Pros

Photography is central to the expedition experience. A National Geographic photographer and a National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions 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.





Actively Explore Every Day

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, or join one of the polar experts in search of leopard seals among the brash ice. On board, learn more about the Heroic Age of Antarctic exploration from the 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 the in-depth undersea program, an undersea specialist uses a high-definition video camera and deploys a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) that allows one 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.

Left: Guests photographing from a Zodiac in Paradise Harbor, Antarctica. Above: Guests hike and see a gentoo penguin colony.

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 *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 photographer.

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 your hotel.

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—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. The flight will land on the gravel runway at the Chilean research station where *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, there are ample opportunities to explore. The schedule is flexible, allowing for the unexpected, whether it is 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 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, you might set out by kayak to encounter towering icebergs at water level;



Guests exploring by Zodiac in Antarctica.

embark on a Zodiac excursion in search of seals and blue-eyed shags; or walk amid thousands of Adélie and gentoo penguins. The next, you might experience the thrill of the ship crunching through pack ice. In Antarctica, opportunities abound 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, the flight departs the White Continent and returns to Puerto Natales for an overnight stay. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: PUERTO NATALES/HOMEBOUND FLIGHTS

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

Please note: Timing of flights to/ from King George Island are weather dependent. Refer to www.expeditions.com/landing/fly-the-drake-faq for more details.

TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK PRE-VOYAGE EXTENSION • 5 DAYS

Discover Chilean Patagonia's crown jewel, Torres del Paine National Park, on a 5-day pre-voyage extension that immerses you in this incredible UNESCO biosphere reserve. Spend time among the park's picturesque glaciers, forests, peaks and grasslands as you enjoy walks, hikes, birding and horseback riding in one of the most wildlife-rich areas in the Americas. In between active adventures, relax in a premier lodge located in the heart of this expansive park.



A chinstrap penguin burrowed in the snow.

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.



Category 7 suite with balcony.

TV featuring entertainment on demand, live feed from onboard presentations, bow camera and ship's position. Luxury bed linens and pillows. Botanically inspired shampoo, 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 staff member is committed to ensuring guests have an unforgettable experience. Many of the veteran guides and naturalists are locally based in your destination and have worked with the company for decades. A full-time medical professional, undersea specialist, National Geographic photographer and a certified photo instructor are on board, and with a high staff-to-guest ratio, you can hear different perspectives and gain new insights every day.

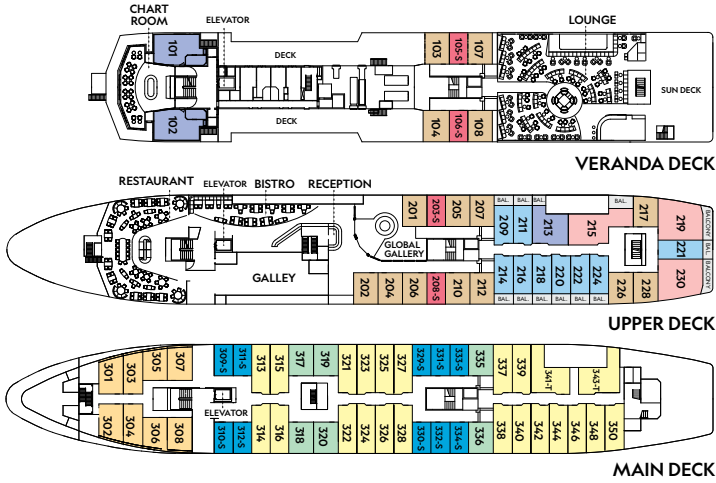


Fitness center with panoramic views.

Wellness

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

Ship Deck Plan & Pricing



Voyage Dates

November 30 – December 7, 2026

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	\$13,061	\$12,055
Main Deck – With window #317-320, 335-336		
Category 3	\$13,339	\$12,306
Main Deck – With window #313-316, 321-328, 337-344, 346, 348, 350		
Category 4	\$14,041	\$12,997
Upper & Veranda Decks – With window #103-104, 107-108, 201-202, 204-207, 210, 212, 217, 226, 228		
Category 5*	\$16,548	\$15,194
Upper Deck – With balcony #209, 211, 214, 216, 218, 220-222, 224		
Category 6*	\$18,588	\$17,030
Veranda Deck – Suite #101-102; Upper Deck-Suite with balcony #213		
Category 7*	\$20,122	\$18,410
Upper Deck – Suite with balcony #215, 219, 230		
Category A Solo	\$16,094	\$14,785
Main Deck – With window #309-312, 329-334		
Category B Solo	\$18,003	\$16,503
Upper & Veranda Decks – With window #105-106, 203, 208		

***Suite Exclusives:** The 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 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

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SPECIAL OFFERS

SPECIAL AFFINITY 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 internal airfare cost of \$3,000.

BRINGING 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 at the time of travel. 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 premium wines and liquors, enhanced and premium Wi-Fi plans and phone services. For select voyages, completing a medical evaluation form with VIKAND is required. If you utilize your physician, VIKAND's processing fee for your documentation will be added to your National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions invoice. If you utilize VIKAND's physicians, an additional charge will be due and payable directly to VIKAND.

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.

ITINERARY MODIFICATIONS: Itineraries, routing and speakers listed are correct at time of publication and are subject to change.

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



Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage 8-Day

November 30 – December 7, 2026

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

Contact Information

Please send reservation to:

Lindblad Expeditions
96 Morton Street
New York, NY 10014

Phone: 310-206-0613

Fax: 310-209-4271

Email: travel@alumni.ucla.edu

Web: www.alumni.ucla.edu/travel

Passenger Information

Please reserve _____ place(s).

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

Date of Birth: _____

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

Date of Birth: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please send me information on the **Torres del Paine** pre-voyage extension.

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 Amy Mainzer, professor of planetary science at UCLA.
- 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, cruising 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 Explorers-in-Training program, kids and teens can learn about and engage with the seventh continent through immersive, hands-on activities.

LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS: PIONEERING RESPONSIBLE EXPLORATION

From our consistent quest to improve our practices to offsetting 100% of our carbon emissions, supporting conservation, science, and education initiatives around the planet and investing in the communities in the places we explore, we are guided by our commitment to explore responsibly.



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Los Angeles, CA 90095-1397

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