

**UCLA** alum

# Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage 8-Day

Aboard *National Geographic Explorer*

November 30 – December 7, 2026



# Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage 8-Day



## Expedition Highlights

- ✓ 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.

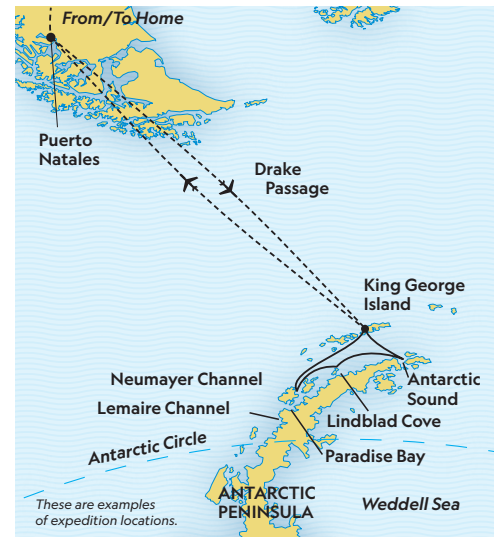
# Itinerary

## 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 the hotel. In the evening, enjoy dinner and a briefing on the following day's activities. (D)

## DAY 2 ● PUERTO NATALES/KING GEORGE ISLAND, ANTARCTICA/EMBARK

Following breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for a 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. The 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, there are ample opportunities to explore. The schedule is flexible, allowing for the unexpected, whether it's 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 nearvertical 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; 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. Antarctica is full of 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, 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)



# National Geographic Explorer

**CAPACITY:** 81 outside cabins accommodating 148 guests.

**REGISTRY:** Bahamas. **OVERALL LENGTH:** 367 feet.

*National Geographic Explorer* is a state-of-the-art expedition ship. She is a fully stabilized, ice-class vessel, with an ice-reinforced hull, enabling her to navigate polar passages while providing exceptional comfort.

**PUBLIC AREAS:** Bistro bar; chart room; restaurant; global gallery; library; lounge with full-service bar and facilities for films, slideshows and presentations; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear; and observation lounge. An open Bridge enables guests to meet the officers and captain and learn about navigation.

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

**CABINS:** All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private facilities and climate controls. Some cabins have balconies. Equipped with Ethernet and Wi-Fi connections and USB ports for mobile devices.

**EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT:** Zodiacs, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, crow's nest remote-controlled camera and video microscope.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** A full-time doctor, undersea specialist, guest speaker, National Geographic photographer, National Geographic certified photo instructor, OM System Photo Gear Locker, internet café and laundry.

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

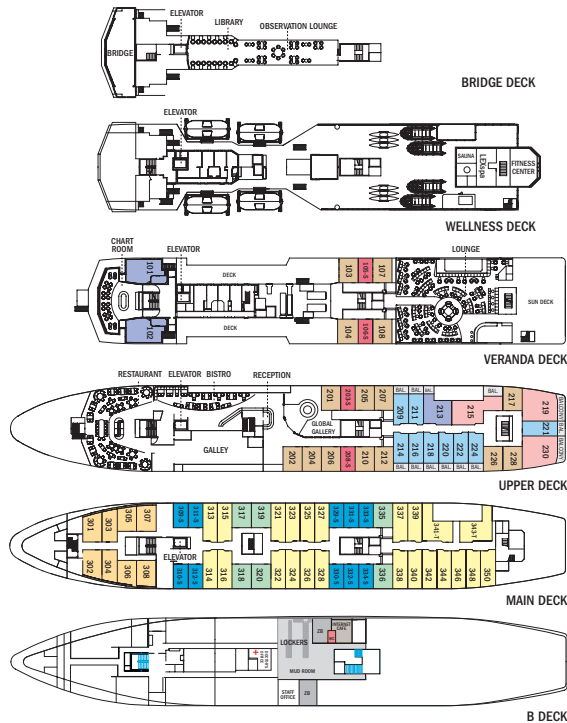
**LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS-PIONEERING RESPONSIBLE EXPLORATION:** From our consistent quest to improve our practices to offsetting 100% of our carbon emissions, supporting conservation, science and education initiatives around the planet, and investing in the communities conservation, science and education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



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# National Geographic Explorer



## CATEGORY 1

Main Deck — With one or two portholes #301-308

## CATEGORY 2

Main Deck — With window #317-320, 335-336

## CATEGORY 3

Main Deck — With window #313-316, 321-328, 337-340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350

## CATEGORY 4

Upper & Veranda Decks — With window #103-104, 107-108, 201-202, 204-207, 210, 212, 217, 226, 228

## CATEGORY 5

Upper Deck — With balcony #209, 211, 214, 216, 218, 220-222, 224

## CATEGORY 6

Veranda Deck — Suite #101-102;  
Upper Deck — Suite with balcony #213

## CATEGORY 7

Upper Deck — Suite with balcony #215, 219, 230

## CATEGORY A SOLO

Main Deck — With window #309-312, 329-334

## CATEGORY B SOLO

Upper & Veranda Decks — With window #105-106, 203, 208

**SHARED ACCOMMODATIONS:** Available in Categories 1 and 2 (shared cabin with a friend or a roommate assigned by tour operator).

**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-sized bed. All other double cabins have two single beds; some can convert to a queen-sized 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.

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VOYAGE DATES	CAT. 1	CAT. 2	CAT. 3	CAT. 4	CAT. 5	CAT. 6	CAT. 7	CAT. A SOLO	CAT. B SOLO
Nov. 30 – Dec. 7 2026	\$11,078	\$12,055	\$12,306	\$12,997	\$15,194	\$17,030	\$18,410	\$14,785	\$16,503

**ADVANCE PAYMENT:** 15% of the cabin fare, per person

**NOTE:** The rates above reflect a special group savings of **10%** off of the cabin fare. This savings is not applicable to the included charter airfare cost of \$3,000. Valid on this departure date of *Antarctica Direct: Fly the Drake Passage*, for new bookings only, subject to availability, may not be combined with other offers, and is not applicable on airfare or extensions.

## Terms and Conditions

**PRICING:** Prices quoted 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:** 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; 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. Unused services or items included in this program are non-refundable.

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

**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 required and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or check. Receipt of advance payment indicates your acceptance of the terms and conditions.

**FINAL PAYMENT:** Payment is 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 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.

### 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.

**Photo Credits:** Ralph Lee Hopkins, Michael S. Nolan, Marco Ricca, Sven Lindblad, David Vargas, and DAP Airlines.

RESERVATION FORM



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Aboard *National Geographic Explorer*  
November 30 – December 7, 2026

To register, please contact:  
UCLA Alumni Travel,  
James West Alumni Center,  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1397  
310-206-0613  
Fax: 310-209-4271  
E-mail: [travel@alumni.ucla.edu](mailto:travel@alumni.ucla.edu)  
Web: [travel.alumni.ucla.edu](http://travel.alumni.ucla.edu)

## PASSENGER INFORMATION

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).

Guest 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(As it appears on passport)*

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(As it appears on passport)*

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

- 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.