

ANTARCTICA: ADVENTURE WITHIN REACH

The final frontier for most travellers, Antarctica is unlike any other destination on the planet. Accessible only during the summer months, when days are long and coasts relatively ice-free, the Seventh Continent offers vast, silent landscapes humbling in scale and magnificence. Yet the solitude is often punctuated by cacophonous colonies of penguin, found in the thousands on pebbly shorelines. And the roars of pungent southern elephant seals, some as big as cars, throwing their weight around on rocky beaches. Or the sound of a humpback whale's immense tail slapping at the glassy water. It is precisely this otherworldly wilderness that attracts so many intrepid adventurers to Antarctica. No two days on any expedition are the same, as cruise ship itineraries are set the night before to make the most of the next day's climatic conditions. Furthermore, the animals of this formidable ecosystem have almost no fear of humans, guaranteeing classic photographs and some very close encounters.

The notoriously turbulent Drake Passage is another major drawcard - a challenging two-day crossing that will test even the hardest sailors. Fortunately for the time-poor or those prone to seasickness, it's now possible to combine flights over the Antarctic Convergence with a cruise, happily avoiding the biggest ocean swells.

These days, air services operate regularly between the Chilean city of Punta Arenas to King George Island, unofficial capital of the South Shetland archipelago. On arrival at the airport, you'll transfer to your awaiting ship to commence explorations of the Great White Continent, whose waters are blissfully sheltered and comparatively calm.

Spend the hours you save at sea navigating ice-choked fjords, kayaking with whales or sitting amongst raucous seabirds instead. For more information on our ships, our full range of departures and prices please call us on 1300 363 302.

“ I love sailing but my wife and daughter tend to get seasick, so it was brilliant to be able to fly both ways and skip the Drake Passage crossing. Antarctica is a spectacular wilderness and a “must see” for everyone. ”
John Christie, December 2016

