

# The Explorer

STORIES FROM  
THE ANTARCTIC

ISSUE 2 | 2024-2025



**Antarctica21**  
Fly & Sail Expeditions

Air-Cruise Debut  
Our Destinations  
Travel Stories

Wildlife  
Sustainable Antarctic Expeditions  
Photography Tips

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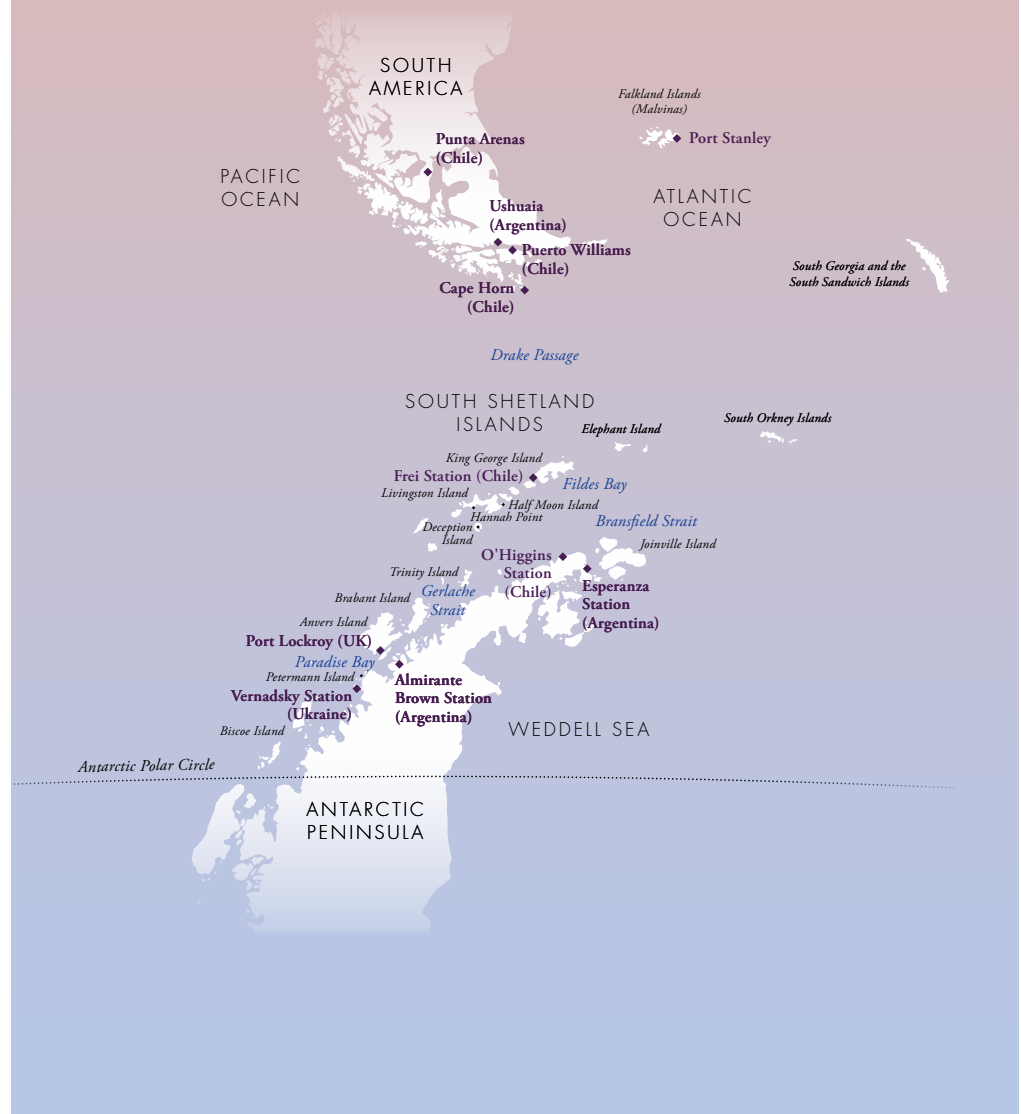
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# An Expedition to Planet Earth

## Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands







# Leading the Way in Antarctic Expeditions

As we embark on our third decade of Antarctic air-cruise expeditions, we celebrate the past twenty years of innovation, sustainability, and transformative travel.

Our commitment to small-scale, personalized experiences ensures that each journey is unique, immersive, and enriched with expert insights into the region's history, wildlife, and environmental challenges. Sustainability remains at our core as we strive to protect Antarctica's fragile ecosystem, support scientific research, and develop initiatives that connect those who can't travel to Antarctica with the Frozen Continent.

This year, we are thrilled to begin the construction of our second custom-built small ship outfitted for Antarctic expeditions. Magellan Discoverer is South America's first hybrid-electric polar vessel and will welcome its first guests during our 2026-27 season. It is currently under construction at ASENNAV Shipyards in Valdivia, Chile.

Join us as we continue to lead the way in Antarctic travel, creating unforgettable memories and fostering a deep connection to this extraordinary continent.

More about the Antarctica21 experience at  
[www.antarctica21.com](http://www.antarctica21.com)

Instagram @antarctica\_21  
YouTube @antarctica21  
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## ABOUT ANTARCTICA21

Antarctica21 is the global leader in Antarctic fly-cruise expeditions. Founded in Punta Arenas, Chile, the company revolutionized Antarctic travel in 2003 with its innovative air-cruise model, offering a comfortable two-hour flight to King George Island followed by an intimate expedition cruise along the Antarctic Peninsula.

# The Debut of Our Air-Cruises

Co-founder and President of Antarctica21  
Jaime Vásquez shares the company's origin story.  
In December 2003, a group of entrepreneurs  
from the Magallanes region of Chile organized  
what would become Antarctica21's first pilot  
trip — when the concept of Antarctic fly-and-cruise  
expeditions was unprecedented.



Twenty years ago, we embarked on a revolutionary adventure that would change Antarctic travel forever. Our first air-cruise took flight with just 13 paying guests aboard a De Havilland Dash-7, landing on King George Island. The sea voyage continued on the modest *Grigoriy Mikhhev*, a former research vessel and a far cry from our current boutique ships.

As I sat in the airport, an overwhelming sense of excitement coursed through me. Antarctica was uncharted territory, promising a primordial world waiting to be explored. Upon arrival, the landscape's majesty left me humbled and moved. The gigantic icebergs and the stark absence of vegetation created an otherworldly experience that deeply impacted all of us.

Each evening, we gathered to share stories and refine our vision for the future. The conversations were electric with possibility. Flying back to Punta Arenas, I interviewed our travel companions, eager to capture their reactions. Their teary-eyed, thrilled responses confirmed what I had sensed: we had created something extraordinary.

This inaugural journey taught me that our venture was more than just logistics and resources. We were touching people on a profound level, evoking intense emotions and deep joy. I realized then that our business needed heart and soul to succeed.

That insight and passion have guided us for two decades, expressed through our extraordinary teams and the strong relationships we've built worldwide. Looking back, I could never have imagined what Antarctica21 would become. The pride I feel in what we've created is immeasurable. Our air-cruise innovation has indeed revolutionized Antarctic travel, making the White Continent more accessible while preserving its power to inspire and transform.

**Jaime Vásquez**  
**President of Antarctica21**



# Protecting and Understanding the 7<sup>th</sup> Continent

**Edgardo Vega**, Executive Director and Founder of the Antarctica21 Foundation

Since 2021, the Antarctica21 Foundation has developed educational, cultural, and scientific initiatives that connect Antarctica to those who cannot visit in person and contribute to spreading Antarctic knowledge. Edgardo Vega, Executive Director and Founder of the organization, tells us more about the Foundation.

## What inspired the creation of the Antarctica21 Foundation?

Our Foundation was born from a deep passion for Antarctica and a recognition of its global importance. We saw a need to bridge the gap between scientific research and public understanding. After years of facilitating travel to Antarctica, we realized we had a unique opportunity – and responsibility – to promote education, conservation, and research about this fragile ecosystem.

## Can you explain the Foundation's mission and vision?

Our mission is to foster appreciation and social ownership of Antarctic knowledge.

We believe in the transformational power of exploration and scientific research. Our vision is to create a world where people understand Antarctica's key role on Earth, and can make informed decisions about its future.

## What are some of the Foundation's most important achievements so far?

We're proud of several initiatives. Our "Science Onboard" program has established partnerships with universities and research centers, implementing long-term scientific studies during Antarctica21 expeditions. Our "Green Energy" project explores using hydrogen as a sustainable energy source for Antarctic bases. We have also created "ILAN", an Antarctic-themed board game that aims to bring Antarctic knowledge into schools. Additionally, we published "Antarctica: Notes for a Logbook," a photography book that gives readers a glimpse into the icy world of the Last Continent. It is available in Explorers House's gift shop. For the last three years, we have organized tournaments in Chilean schools locally and nationally and awarded



the winners with a trip to Antarctica! The latest edition took place between August 25 and September 11, 2024, and included events in eight cities, with hundreds of participants.

## What exciting projects are on the horizon for the Antarctica21 Foundation?

We're particularly excited about our "Artists in Antarctica" project, which brings together Chilean artists inspired by Antarctica, creating a unique synergy between art and science. We're also expanding our educational programs to reach more students and communities globally. Looking ahead, we're focusing on developing innovative conservation initiatives and strengthening our international collaborations to amplify our impact in preserving Antarctica for future generations.



To learn more about the Antarctica21 Foundation's initiatives, visit [www.fundaciona21.com](http://www.fundaciona21.com)

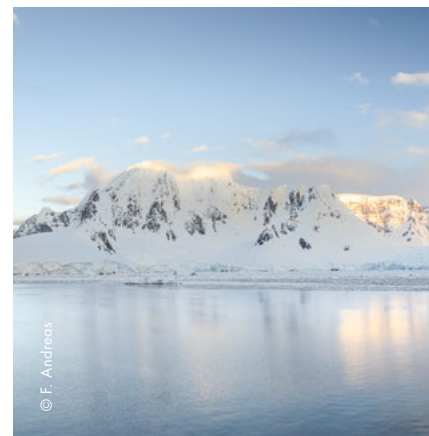


Nathan Fluellen, a world traveler and film personality known in the US as “World Wide Nate,” surprised his mother, Diane Artis, with a trip to Antarctica, completing their journey to all seven continents. This adventure was part of their decade-long tradition of exploring bucket-list destinations together.

“I try to think outside the box with each trip and consider what destinations my mother would only dream of visiting,” says Nate.

He chose Antarctica21’s Classic Antarctica Air-Cruise aboard Ocean Nova, allowing them to visit the continent in less than 10 days and avoid the potentially seasickness-inducing Drake Passage crossing.

Diane’s initial reaction was one of shock: “I searched for a mental point of reference, an image of what Antarctica looks like. My focus became clearer as my brain thawed, and I remembered seeing the snow-covered mountain peaks of Antarctica in National Geographic magazines as a child.”



# Inside a Mother-Son Duo’s Dream Trip to Antarctica

© F. Andreas

## How Nate Fluellen Surprised His Mother with a Trip of a Lifetime

To prepare physically, Diane walked 12 miles daily, three times a week. The pair packed Canada Goose Arctic Program outerwear, though Diane admitted to overpacking regular winter clothes.

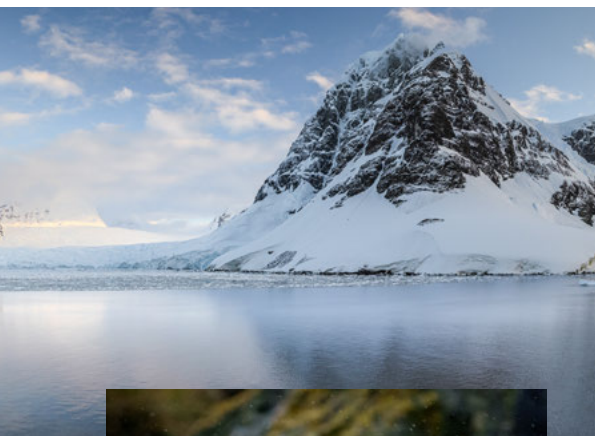
During the trip, Diane participated in the Citizen Science program, testing waters for plankton. She was pleasantly surprised by the friendliness of the Antarctica21 staff and crew. Highlights included visiting Port Lockroy and an unexpected Texas-style barbecue on the ship’s deck.

Diane particularly enjoyed traveling with her son: “I felt like I was traveling with a rockstar or a famous actor. World Wide Nate, my son, Nathan Fluellen, is a gregarious person. When he shares his professional career in the film industry, along with his world travels and international influencer associations, people are drawn to him.”

The mother-son duo’s Antarctic journey exemplifies the power of travel to strengthen family bonds. As Nate puts it, “Time is precious. It’s valuable to cherish the time we have with our parents.”







# Venture in Antarctica and the Sub-Antarctic Region

Today, Antarctica21 offers unparalleled boutique expeditions in Antarctica and iconic destinations of the Sub-Antarctic region. Come and explore four remarkable destinations that will ignite your adventurous spirit.

## ANTARCTICA

Brace yourself for the raw power of the Frozen Continent. Here, massive glaciers calve into frigid seas with thunderous cracks. Navigate ice-choked channels, marveling at countless shades of blue in ancient ice. Encounter wildlife adapted to extreme conditions, from leopard seals to Gentoo penguins. Daily land excursions or Zodiac cruises will bring you face-to-face with this captivating landscape.

## SOUTH GEORGIA

This subantarctic island is a wildlife haven unmatched in its density and diversity. Prepare for sensory overload as you stand amid vast king penguin rookeries, their calls echoing across rocky beaches. Observe fierce elephant seals battling for territory. Learn about Shackleton's route, gain deep respect for early explorers who navigated these treacherous waters, and step back in time at the abandoned whaling stations, learning about the island's storied past.

## THE FALKLAND ISLANDS (ISLAS MALVINAS)

The windswept Falklands (Malvinas) offer a unique blend of natural wonders and frontier culture. Trek across rugged terrain to cliff-top albatross colonies, observing their impressive wingspans up close. Learn about diverse penguin habitats, from Gentoo-covered beaches to rockhopper-dotted crags, and discover an incredible diversity of birds. Connect with local communities, gaining insight into life at the world's edge.

## PATAGONIA

Cruise through the narrow, scenic fjords, surrounded by steep cliffs and dense forests, creating a sense of serenity and isolation. Witness nature's raw power as you cruise past massive glaciers. Spot diverse wildlife, from humpback whales and sea lions to a variety of seabirds, in their natural environment. Uncover the secrets of indigenous cultures that have long called this untamed landscape home.



Find out about our exclusive air-cruises and sea voyages to these awe-inspiring destinations at [antarctica21.com](https://antarctica21.com).



# Adventure Activities



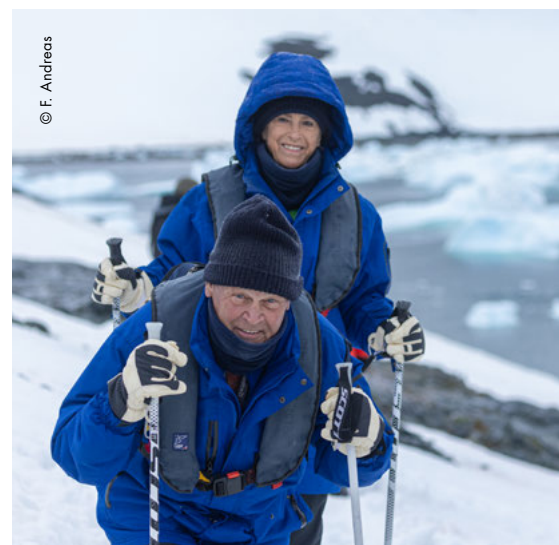
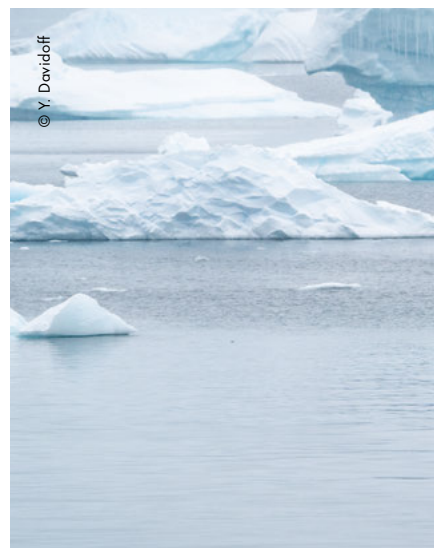
Guests are invited to immerse themselves in thrilling adventure activities during our expeditions, allowing them to truly connect with the stunning Antarctic landscape and its remarkable ecosystem and wildlife. When weather conditions are perfect, we offer up to two exciting activities each day, ensuring an unforgettable experience.

## Sea Kayaking

Glide through the icy waters on a sea kayak, navigating among towering icebergs and pristine ice floes. With a Kayak Master leading the way, you'll get close to natural wonders and observe wildlife in their undisturbed habitat. This intimate adventure allows for unique perspectives and serene moments in one of the most remote places on Earth.

## Hiking & Snowshoeing

Strap on your snowshoes and set off on an unforgettable hike across Antarctica's untouched terrain. Your expert guide will lead you to the best vantage points, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding landscapes. Each excursion lasts about an hour and a half, giving you ample time to explore and soak in the beauty of the continent.







## Zodiac Cruising

Hop aboard a Zodiac and cruise through ice-choked waters, accessing areas larger ships cannot reach. These small, maneuverable boats allow you to get closer to the stunning scenery and diverse marine life, creating incredible wildlife sightings and photography opportunities.

## Land Explorations

Disembark onto the icy shores for guided land explorations. Tread carefully among penguin colonies, seals, and seabirds as you explore the continent's towering glaciers and ancient ice formations. Learn about this fragile environment's unique ecosystems and scientific importance from our knowledgeable guides.

## Polar Plunge or Polar Run

For the truly adventurous, the polar plunge offers a once-in-a-lifetime thrill. Dive into the icy waters of the Antarctic Ocean from the ship's gangway or run into the sea from the peninsula's beaches. This exhilarating activity is refreshing and invigorating, creating unforgettable memories of your Antarctic expedition.



# Wildlife Encounters Along the Antarctic Peninsula



© F. Andreas

Each wildlife encounter along the Antarctic Peninsula tells a story of survival in one of the world's harshest environments. From resilient penguins to massive whales, these creatures have adapted to thrive in a landscape of ice and snow. Each of our land explorations, Zodiac cruises, and kayak excursions is an opportunity to observe wildlife from a privileged perspective, offering visitors a glimpse into a world few have ever experienced.

**PENGUINS** — They are abundant along the Peninsula. Gentoo penguins, with their distinctive white eye patches and orange beaks, nest on rocky outcrops. Adélies, in their classic “tuxedo” plumage, form large colonies in ice-free areas. Chinstrap penguins, named for the thin black line under their heads, can be spotted on steep, rocky slopes. During your visit, you may witness these agile swimmers porpoising through the water or observe their comical waddling on land.



© K. Parada



© F. Andreas





**SEALS** — Several seal species call the Peninsula home. Weddell seals, known for their docile nature and cat-like faces, often bask on ice floes. The formidable leopard seals, with their spotted coats and reptilian heads, patrol the waters for penguin prey. You might also encounter the blubbery elephant seals or the more numerous crabeater seals.





**WHALES** — The nutrient-rich waters attract various migrating whale species. Humpback whales are common, often seen breaching or tail slapping. Sleek minke whales, the smallest of the baleen whales, frequently approach vessels out of curiosity. Orcas, or killer whales, with their distinctive and unmistakable black-and-white coloration, hunt in family pods.

**SEABIRDS** — The skies and cliffs teem with avian life. Massive wandering albatrosses soar overhead while smaller snow petrels flit across the waves. Antarctic skuas and giant petrels act as the cleanup crew, scavenging along the shores. Blue-eyed shags nest on coastal cliffs, diving for fish in the shallow waters.



© K. Parada

## Antarctic Wildlife Month-By-Month

	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
 <b>PENGUINS</b>	Adélie and Gentoo penguins building nests	Penguin chicks hatching	Penguin chicks on nests	Molting penguins on beaches	
 <b>SEALS</b>	Weddell seals with newborn pups	Leopard seals hunting near penguin colonies		Crabeater seals more visible on ice floes	
 <b>WHALES</b>		First humpback and minke whales arrive	Peak whale watching season (humpback, minke, orca)		Last chance to see whales before migration
 <b>SEABIRDS</b>	Nesting albatrosses and petrels		Increased activity of skuas and terns		
<b>GENERAL WILDLIFE ACTIVITY</b>	Spring breeding season begins	Peak wildlife activity, feeding, and rearing young		Young animals becoming more independent	Preparation for winter, some species begin to migrate

At Antarctica21, we believe exploring the world's most pristine continent comes with great responsibility. Every Antarctica21 expedition adheres to the stringent requirements of the Antarctic Treaty and the rigorous guidelines of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO).

As a responsible traveler with Antarctica21, you'll learn to tread lightly. Our guidelines emphasize respecting wildlife, leaving no trace, and maintaining safe distances from animals. We provide facilities to decontaminate your boots, protecting the fragile Antarctic environment from foreign bacteria or seeds. Our expert Expedition Team guides you through an unforgettable adventure while safeguarding Antarctica's delicate ecosystem and wildlife.

Education is a cornerstone of our expeditions. Through A21 Connect, our comprehensive educational framework, you'll gain deep insights into Antarctica's unique environment. Our expert team delivers engaging onboard presentations and

provides in-depth field interpretations, offering a nuanced understanding of this extraordinary place.

For the scientifically curious, our Citizen Science initiatives offer a chance to contribute to global research. From conducting phytoplankton surveys to monitoring whale migrations, you'll play an active role in advancing our understanding of Antarctica's ecosystem.

Antarctica21's commitment to sustainability extends beyond our expeditions. As a CarbonNeutral® certified company, we offset our carbon emissions by supporting wind power projects in Chile and Guatemala. Our state-of-the-

art technologies optimize energy use, maximize water efficiency, and employ responsible waste management practices.

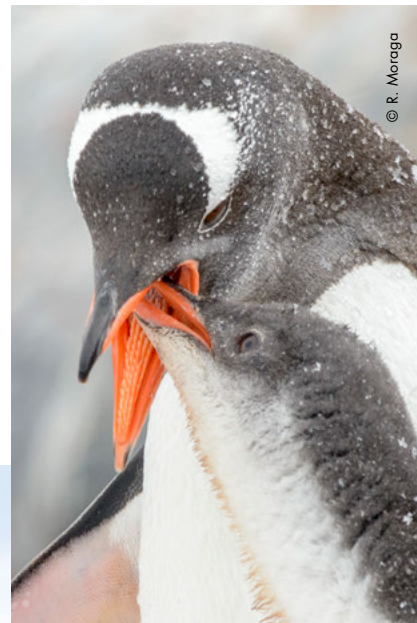
In collaboration with Deloitte, we've developed a robust sustainability strategy grounded in the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework. This ensures that our practices align with the highest standards of responsible tourism.

The Antarctica21 Foundation, established in 2021, further extends our mission. By supporting Antarctic science, art, conservation, and education initiatives, we're helping to create and disseminate knowledge about this remarkable continent to a wider audience.

As we look to the future, Antarctica21 remains committed to pioneering excellence in Antarctic tourism. We continuously innovate our approaches, balancing unparalleled guest experiences with steadfast environmental stewardship.

For more information about our sustainability initiatives, visit [www.antarctica21.com/sustainability](http://www.antarctica21.com/sustainability).

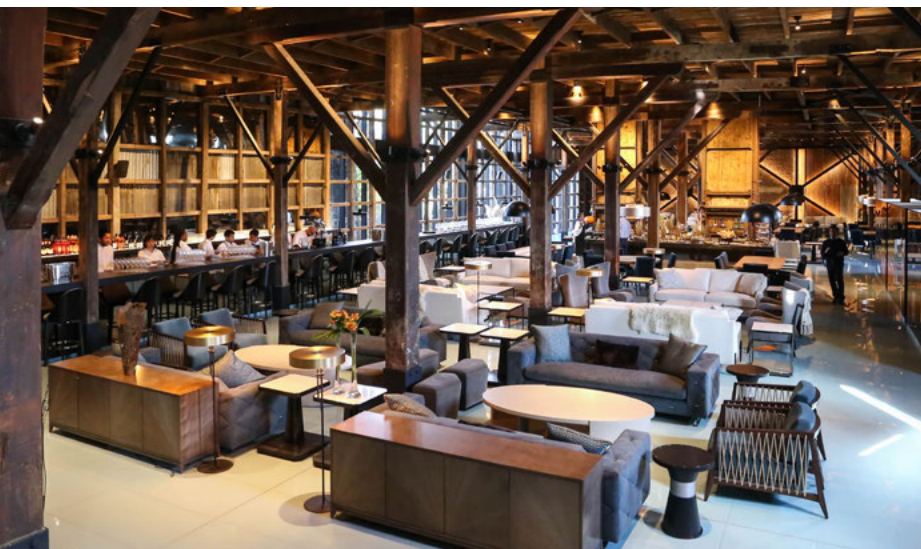
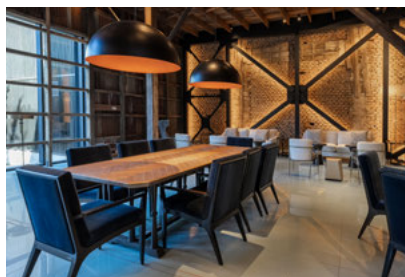
# Sustainably Exploring Antarctica



On behalf of each guest, Antarctica21 donates \$50 USD to the Antarctica21 Foundation, contributing to sustainability initiatives.



# Inside Explorers House: An Architectural Oasis in Punta Arenas



In the heart of Punta Arenas, Explorers House stands as Antarctica21's welcome center—a 2,000-square-meter (21,528-square-foot) fusion of history, sustainability, and modern design. Architect Pedro Kovacic and interior designer Enrique Concha have transformed this former wool warehouse into a gateway to Antarctic adventure.

Upon entering, visitors are greeted by warm textures and turquoise flooring, evoking Antarctic icebergs. The space features a theatre-style presentation room, library, garden area, shop, bar, and restaurant serving regional Chilean fare.

Kovacic's vision was to preserve the building's history while adding contemporary elements. "I didn't want to touch the building's history;

I left it as it was, in its stained, natural state," he explains. The original wooden structure remains, reinforced with a black metal framework.

Concha faced the challenge of creating an interior reflecting Antarctica21's identity. "We decided to use a color palette of black, turquoise, and red," he says, mirroring the Antarctic environment and the company's signature elements.

Sustainability is key, aligning with Antarctica21's environmental commitment. The building features rainwater harvesting, solar panels, and radiant heating floors. Concha adds, "Much of the upholstery is made from industrial waste and recycled into fibers."

The collaboration has resulted in a deeply inspirational space. "It's the spirit of Antarctica21; we wanted to capture their regional, Patagonian spirit," Concha explains.

Explorers House is more than a starting point; it is a gateway to the Antarctic experience. As Kovacic puts it, "I want Antarctica21 guests who arrive at Explorers House to be surprised, to feel something unexpected, something that surpasses their expectations."

This architectural oasis embodies Antarctica21's commitment to providing an experience that begins before guests set foot on the Antarctic continent, celebrating the past while embracing the future."

# How to Photograph Antarctica Responsibly?

Many dream of photographing Antarctica, which offers breathtaking landscapes and unique wildlife. However, it's crucial to approach this responsibly to preserve the pristine environment and protect its inhabitants. Rodrigo Moraga, photographer and guide at Antarctica21, shares eight tips to ensure your photography is both ethical and impactful.

## 1 LEARN ABOUT THE ANIMALS

Understanding animal behavior is essential for capturing incredible wildlife shots without causing stress. Familiarize yourself with the species you plan to photograph to anticipate their movements and recognize signs of distress.

## 2 BE SILENT AND KEEP A LOW PROFILE

Loud noises and sudden movements can easily frighten animals in Antarctica. Stay quiet, move slowly, and maintain a low profile to avoid disturbing them. Flash photography is not allowed; it might spook the animals.

## 3 APPLY RULES OF COMPOSITION

Good composition is key to stunning photos. Use the rule of thirds to create balanced and engaging images. Align your subjects along the grid lines or at their intersections to enhance visual interest.

## 4 BE PATIENT

Wildlife photography requires patience. Spend time observing your subjects and waiting for the perfect moment to capture their natural behavior. It takes time and patience to get that ideal shot.

## 5 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS OF DISTRESS

If an animal shows signs of distress, stop photographing immediately and move away. The well-being of wildlife should always come first. Avoid getting too close, especially during sensitive times like nesting or feeding.

## 6 USE COMMON SENSE

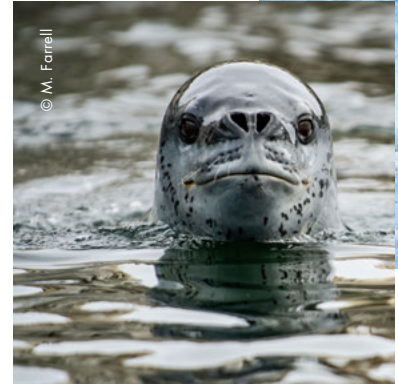
Respectful photography often relies on instinct. If you question whether a shot is ethical, it probably isn't. Always prioritize the animals' right of way and avoid obstructing their paths. Leave no trace by unpacking all your gear and leaving waste behind.

## 7 WATCH YOUR STEP

Be mindful of where you walk to avoid trampling fragile environments and disturbing wildlife habitats. Stick to designated paths and be aware of nesting areas, particularly those hidden under the snow or vegetation.

## 8 ENJOY THE MOMENT

Sometimes, the best way to appreciate Antarctica's beauty is to put the camera down and take in the scene with your own eyes. Fully immerse yourself in the experience and cherish the memories beyond the lens.



© M. Farrell



© R. Guzman

“Antarctica engrains you with a certain type of awareness of the planet and your place in it. There is no other experience like Antarctica. I can't wait to return.”

**Dede Pickering**, Photographer, Storyteller & Antarctica21 Guest







"As a photographer, standing on this silent, vast frontier, I felt like a chronicler of the extraordinary. Each click of my camera was a heartbeat in this frozen wilderness."

**Rafael Guzmán**, Antarctica21 Travel Consultant and Avid Photographer



"One of the most compelling aspects of black-and-white photography in Antarctica is its ability to convey the immense scale and isolation of the continent. The monochromatic tones create a sense of vastness, emphasizing the infinite space and distance. The sweeping vistas, expanses of snow, and towering ice cliffs take on an otherworldly quality, transporting the viewer to a realm untouched by human activity."

**Anaïs Afrika Rekus**, Antarctica21 Photography Guide



# Antarctica21

Fly & Sail Expeditions

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the QR code to be featured in our journal!



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