

Traveling to the White Continent

The Drake Passage is the body of water that separates Cape Horn, the last piece of land belonging to the American continent, and the South Shetland Islands located in Antarctica.

This is where the Antarctic, the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans meet, which makes this merging point one of the most turbulent waters on Earth.



The Traditional Way From Ushuaia:

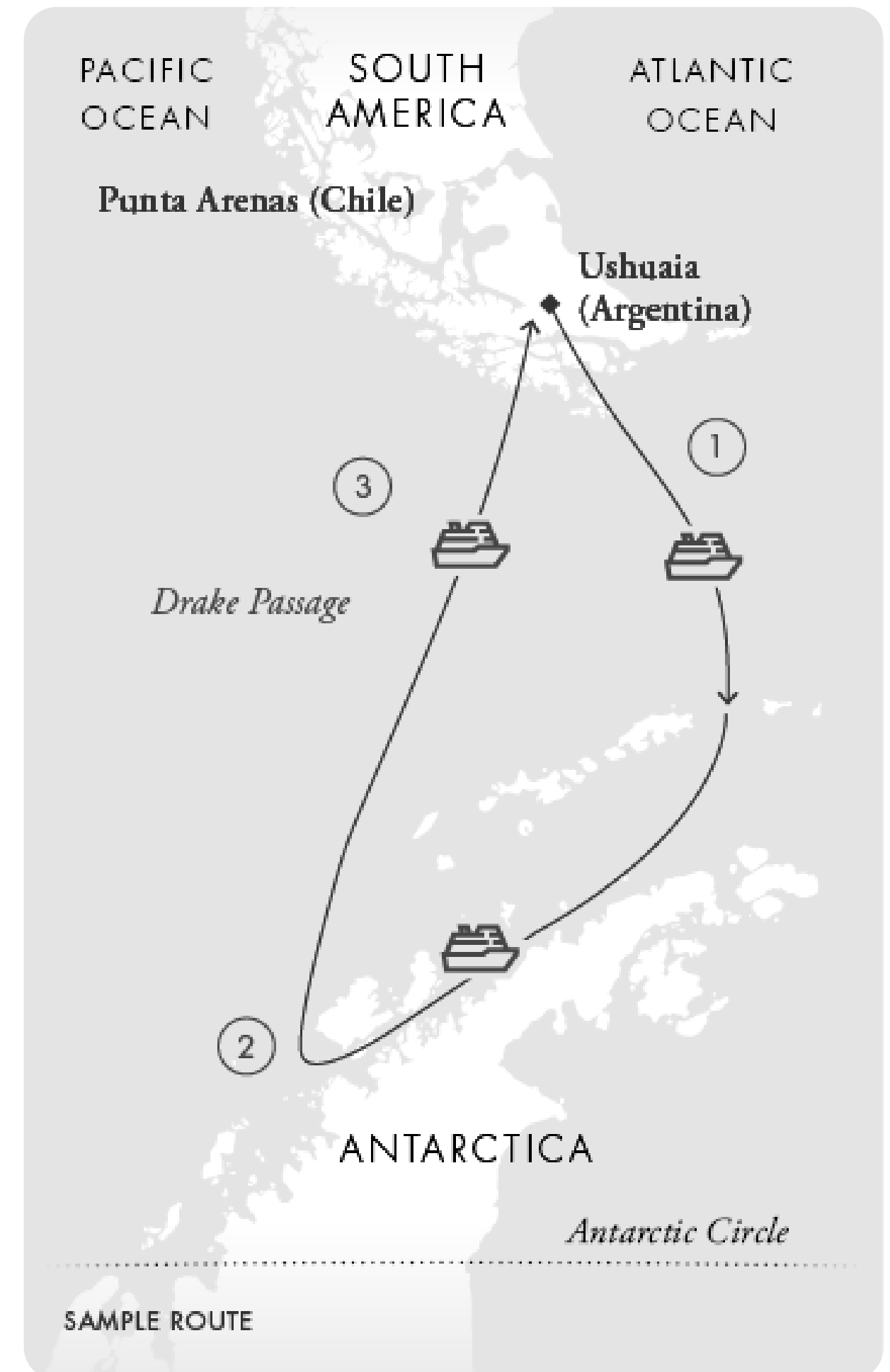
4 Days Crossing the Drake Passage

To reach the Antarctic Peninsula, travel operators sail the tempestuous Drake Passage. This has implications for travelers:

- At least 50 hours sailing south to reach the Antarctic Peninsula
- At least 50 hours sailing north to get back to South America
- There are often rough seas in the Drake Passage, potentially causing sea sickness



[Watch Drake Passage Video](#)



Our Air-Cruise Model

Only 2-Hour Flight, Then Sail in Antarctica

Antarctica21's innovative approach offers wilderness adventures that combine a 2-hour flight from Punta Arenas, located in the Chilean Patagonia, to the Antarctic Peninsula, where one of our boutique expedition vessels waits for guests to embark on an incredible journey.

Key Benefits of the Antarctic Air-Cruise:

- **Comfort:** Avoid the Drake Passage's storms
- **Speed:** Reach the Antarctic Peninsula faster
- **Size:** Small-ship, yacht-like experience

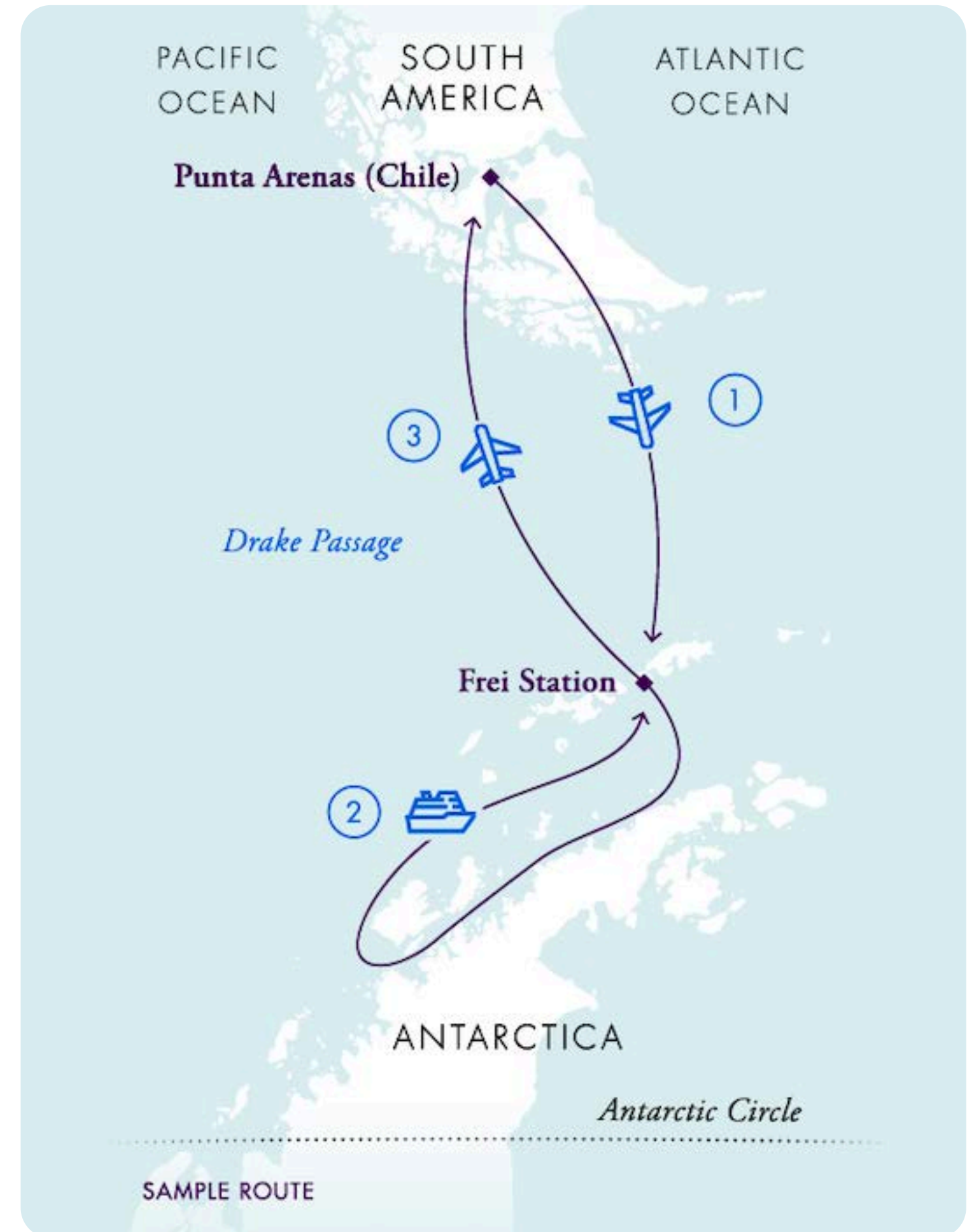


Watch Antarctica21's Air-Cruise Video

[Experience the Best of Antarctica](#)

Highlight:

Antarctica21 pioneered the world's first Antarctic air-cruise and has led the way since 2003.



Comfort

Skip the Stormy Waters of the Drake Passage

Rough seas are common in the Drake Passage. You don't have to experience sea-sickness and discomfort to reach Antarctica. With Antarctica21, you can simply fly over the Drake Passage.



Drake Passage



Sea Sickness



In a cabin, after crossing the Drake

Highlight:

Flying dishes and a queasy stomach not your thing? Choose comfort and fly.

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Speed

More Time to Explore

Less time crossing the Drake Passage means you can **focus on exploring Antarctica** and see more wildlife diversity, visit historic sites and appreciate the breathtaking beauty of a preserved environment. With extra time, you can also make the most of your journey and **combine your Antarctic trip with a South American destination** such as Torres del Paine, in Chile.



Highlight:

Torres del Paine National Park is located near Punta Arenas, departure city of most of our expeditions.

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Size

Smaller Groups, More Time Ashore

Ships with over 100 travelers need to take turns to go ashore or do excursions, and ships with over 500 guests cannot disembark. With Antarctica21, disembarkation is swift and seamless. Each of our small-group expeditions, limited to just 76 guests, allows everyone to go ashore at once, maximizing your time on land. Plus, each departure includes just one dedicated flight.



Zodiac Cruising



Hiking & Snowshoeing



Sea Kayaking

Highlight:

Antarctic Treaty regulations set a limit of 100 visitors ashore at a time. Our ship carries enough Zodiacs so that all guests can enjoy the excursions at once.

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Our Fleet

Fly & Sail Expeditions

Our aircraft carries a maximum of 76 guests on each air-cruise. Antarctica21 operates exclusively with small ships which can explore further, where bigger ships can't.



Magellan Discoverer



Magellan Explorer



Ocean Nova

Highlight:

Magellan Explorer and Magellan Discoverer were purpose-designed for Antarctica21's Antarctic air-cruise expeditions. Magellan Discoverer will welcome its first guests during our 2026-27 season.

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Travel with the pioneers of Antarctic Air-Cruises

Three Reasons to Choose Antarctica21

- **Small-Scale, Big Experience:** Unlike larger cruises, we create intimate experiences with a close-knit atmosphere, exclusive access to expert guides, and faster disembarkations.
- **Explorers House:** Our guests enjoy exclusive access to Explorers House, our private expedition club in Punta Arenas. It's the perfect place to relax, prepare for your Antarctic journey, and meet your fellow travelers.
- **Based Locally, Trusted Globally:** Based in Punta Arenas, Chile, we bring local expertise and deep regional connections that ensures a flexible, authentic, and responsible approach to Antarctic travel.

Highlight:

Antarctica21 has flight priority at the Punta Arenas airport, and we fly to Antarctica during the best available conditions. If weather conditions offer only one opportunity to fly on the day of our scheduled flight, that opportunity is reserved for Antarctica21.



Sample Itinerary

The sample itinerary below is based on our signature Classic Antarctica Air-Cruise, our most popular expedition, including round-trip flights to the Last Continent.

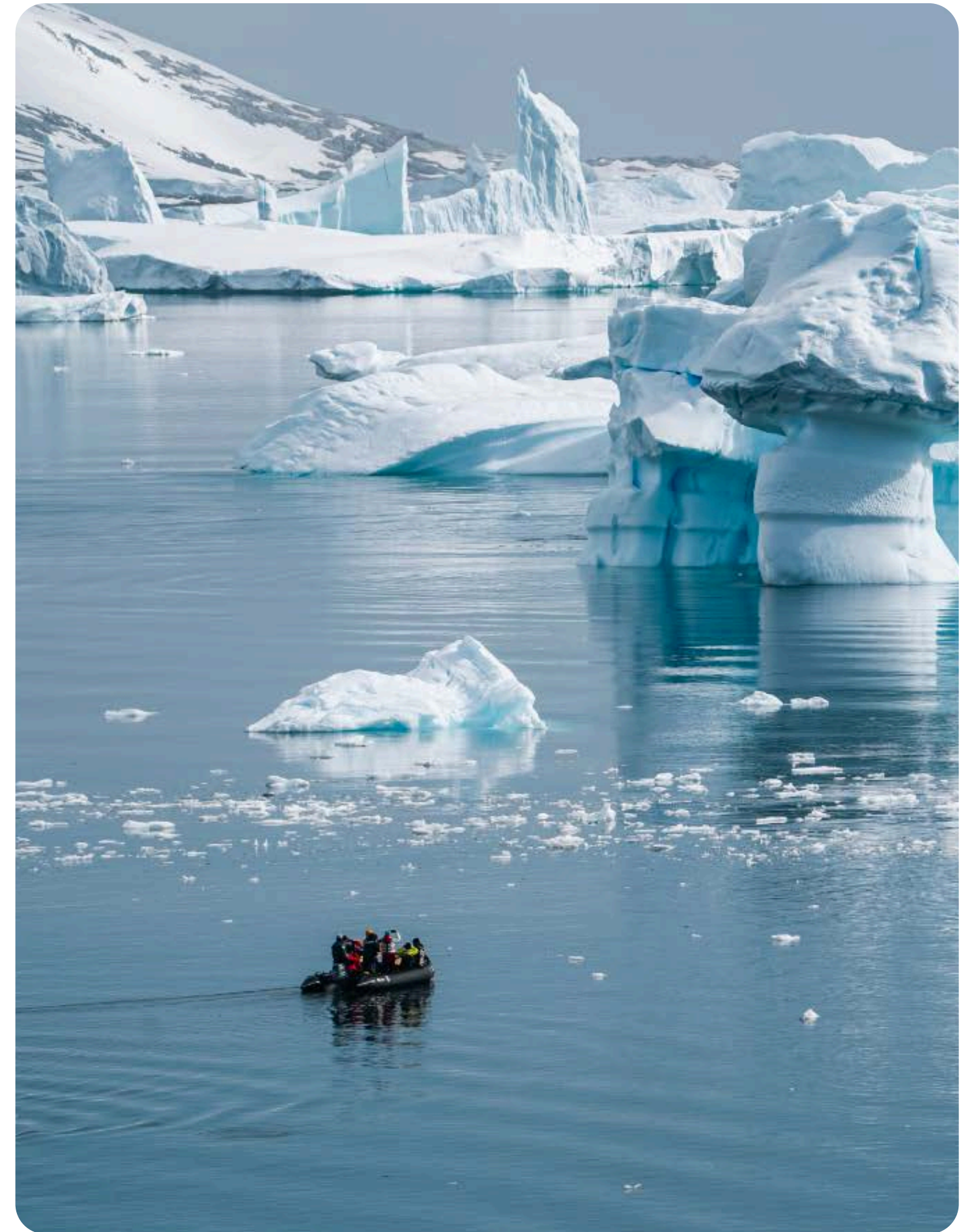
Day 1 / Start of the Air-Cruise in Punta Arenas, Chile

Day 2 / Scheduled flight to Antarctica

Days 3–6 / Explore the Antarctic Peninsula with daily guided excursions.

Day 7 / Return flight from Antarctica

Day 8 / End of the journey in Punta Arenas. After breakfast, a transfer takes travelers to the Punta Arenas airport for their onward flights.



Important Reminders Checklist

Arrival and Departure Requirements for Expeditions Starting in Punta Arenas

Travelers must arrive in Punta Arenas by 2:00 PM. Travelers who miss this deadline will not be able to participate in the trip, and no refund will be extended. On the last day of the expedition, travelers are strongly encouraged to book flights departing in the late afternoon.

We strongly recommend booking flexible airfare and avoiding tight flight connections.

Arrival Requirements for Expeditions Starting in Ushuaia

Travelers must arrive at the ship between 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM. We strongly recommend avoiding tight flight connections. Travelers who miss this deadline will not be able to participate in the trip, and no refund will be extended.

Baggage Allowance

The maximum luggage weight allowed on flights to and from Antarctica is 20 kg (44lbs) per passenger, with an additional allowance of 5 kg (11 lbs) for hand luggage. Luggage will be weighed. For trips starting and ending in Punta Arenas, luggage exceeding this weight limit can be left in custody with Antarctica21. This luggage custody service is not available for Antarctica Express Air-Cruises.

Insurance

Participants must be adequately covered by a travel insurance policy that includes aero-medical evacuation from Antarctica. We also recommend that you are adequately covered by trip cancellation and interruption insurance as well as out-of-country medical insurance.

My Expedition

Travelers are required to review the My Expedition portal at myexpedition21.com prior to departure. The participation form should be submitted upon reservation and no later than 90 days prior to departure.

Adventure Activities

Sea Kayaking and Hiking & Snowshoeing are available as optional adventure activities on selected departures. It is recommended to book the Sea Kayaking program at the time of reservation as spaces are limited, and the Hiking & Snowshoeing excursion can be booked on board.

Contingency Plan

The “Contingency Plan” section of the brochure details the plan should unfavorable weather conditions impact the operation of the Antarctic flight. Travelers should review and understand these details in addition to the [Terms and Conditions](#).

Multi-Entry Visas and Entry Fees

Travelers should check the entry requirements of the countries visited during their trip, based on their nationality. Please double-check with local consulates if your client needs a visa to enter Chile, Argentina, or the United Kingdom (for trips including South Georgia). In case your client needs a visa, a multi-entry visa is required.

Start an Expedition to Planet Earth



See the World
Like Never Before





Witness Magical
Wildlife Encounters

Start Planning Your Trip Of A Lifetime



Contact

Your questions are welcome

For further information and inquiries, you can contact our Reservation and Customer Service Team.

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