

The Explorer

STORIES FROM
THE ANTARCTIC



ISSUE 1 | 2023-2024



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Fly & Sail Expeditions

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to inspire, inform, and
connect you with the wonders
of Antarctica.



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An Expedition to Planet Earth

Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands





Crafting Memories of a Lifetime



Dear Explorer,

Antarctica, a pristine expanse of ice and snow, holds a special allure for adventurers and explorers. This region is one of boundless discovery, where colossal glaciers meet crystal-clear waters, and wildlife thrives. Its beauty is profound.

In 2023, Antarctica21 celebrates two decades of passion and innovation. I recall my excitement when I boarded the aircraft to King George Island and embarked on our first Antarctic expedition. That day, amidst majestic icebergs, the idea of the Antarctic air-cruise was made real. We have fostered connections and wonder ever since.

Through responsible travel, we're privileged to witness Antarctica's grandeur. Our expeditions promise an unparalleled adventure. Our experts offer insights into ecology, geology, history, and more, revealing life's intricate web even in extreme conditions.

I encourage you to immerse yourself in this experience and create your own memories. Embrace the Zodiac landings, marvel at ice sculptures, cherish wildlife encounters, learn from our experts. Let this expedition connect you with Nature's purity and deepen your appreciation for our beautiful planet.

Thank you for choosing Antarctica21 and this once-in-a-lifetime expedition.

With excitement and gratitude,

Jaime Vásquez
President of Antarctica21

What Makes Antarctica Special?



Kirsty Dick, Head of Expedition Staff & Delivery, talks about three unique things in Antarctica based on her experience on the continent since 2018.

© A. Afrika

1 The light is awe-inspiring

One morning, I watched the sunrise at 5 AM over a mirror-calm sea as we approached Devil Island. Antarctica is best known for its blues, expanses of white, peaks of black stone, and mesmerizing dark shadows, but this morning, the sky slowly shifted from pastels toward the richest shades of orange and pink. The icebergs surrounding the ship glowed pink along the horizon while sea ice formed a loose patchwork over the water. We stood on the top deck and watched the day bloom around us for over an hour. To top off this magical moment, between the ice, a pod of orcas emerged and joined us as the sun tipped over the horizon.

2 A diverse and interconnected natural world

The Peninsula's diverse and interconnected ecology offers a myriad of experiences. From the Bridge, you can witness ocean giants like humpback whales, orcas, and characterful seals, as well as birds like petrels, skuas, and gulls. On land, penguins traverse snowy highways between colonies and sea.

On a smaller scale, I remember the first time I saw a drop of seawater from a sample collected that morning on a glass plate under a microscope. We could see a circus of the most extraordinary shapes bursting onto the screen – phytoplankton of every shape and size imaginable! They created a magnified, dancing collage, revealing distinct phytoplankton types and bringing those hidden underwater forests to life.

3 No two days are the same in the Antarctic, and I love that

The weather in Antarctica can be fierce, majestic, harsh, and beautiful. Once you embrace the unpredictability, you realize it only adds character to an already awe-inspiring, utterly magical, and dramatic landscape.

In one afternoon, you can feel a heavy rainfall or the raw power of the wind as it swirls snow up and around the ship. A few hours later, you might see the skies clearing to blue and feel the air calming. By evening, you're basking in the hours of the glowing midnight, watching the penguins and seals relaxing in the snow, glowing in those dusky, late-night sunshine rays.

What is Expedition Cruising?

Hadleigh Measham, Expedition Leader and Program & Development Coordinator, talks about the expedition cruising experience.



What is expedition cruising? How is it different from traditional cruises?

Expedition cruising involves purposeful voyages to remote and challenging locations. Smaller, purpose-built vessels are essential for navigating these regions effectively. Achieving the ideal balance between vessel capability, technical expertise, knowledge of the crew, and guest capacity is crucial. Unlike traditional cruising, where the emphasis is the hospitality experience and entertainment, our focus is on facilitating visits to extraordinary but challenging locations. Antarctica21's expeditions offer boutique comfort with full flexibility and initiative. Our deep institutional knowledge of remote areas sets us apart, delivering a unique expedition cruise experience distinct from traditional cruises.

How does small ship cruising affect the overall travel experience in Antarctica?

In short, massively. Everything happens quickly: transfers, embarkation, expedition procedures...it all leads to flexibility, privileged access, and a relaxed, personalized experience. Creating a purposeful voyage means fulfilling objectives and delivering guest experiences day in and day out. Antarctica21 maintains low ship capacities and a high guide-to-guest ratio, allowing us to seize unexpected opportunities and adjust itineraries based on current conditions. If we know a pod of whales is nearby, we can easily adjust our itinerary to observe

them and continue our route with these pleasant surprises. This flexibility ensures a dynamic and tailored voyage guided by the present and future.

How do you adapt the itinerary to Antarctica's unique and ever-changing conditions while still offering guests a chance to explore?

Weather in Antarctica can change rapidly, compounded by drifting sea and glacial ice challenges. However, these changes tend to be localized. We invest time in monitoring signals of change and leverage our regional knowledge to adapt quickly. Our approach involves continuous adjustments to our long-term plan while focusing on strategically achieving our objectives. Unlike rigid itineraries, we approach our journey like chess, not checkers, prioritizing adaptability over predetermined routes.

How would you describe the guest expedition experience with Antarctica21?

In this vast wilderness, we form a tight-knit group with abundant resources. Together, we listen, share, and adapt, tailoring experiences not just to the group but to each individual. To truly immerse yourself in this world, become an active participant and shape your unique adventure. We're more than access providers; we're avid listeners, inviting you to embrace the opportunity to co-create a profoundly personal and enriching experience through this philosophy.



“I can’t forget the memorable Texas-style barbecue we had on the deck of Ocean Nova. It may have been cold outside, but it was so exciting to have this unexpected treat. The food was fantastic!”

Diane A., traveled in December 2022

Ocean Nova

If there is one thing that I’ve heard about me again and again, it’s that I am a “home”. It’s flattering, really, especially since I’ve called several places home myself. Back in Denmark, I was built to be sturdy and nimble to navigate the ice-laden waters of Greenland. Now my home is Antarctica. It’s a privilege and honor for me to sail these icy southern waters during the Austral summer.

Like you, I’ve been quite the explorer! I welcome all my guests warmly to their cozy cabins, where picture windows offer inspiring views of the majestic Antarctic landscape. My top-deck lounge is the social hub of every adventure. Join travelers from all over the world and share stories of your explorations.

Don’t get too comfy, though. Explore, hike, kayak, breathe in the pure air, and delve into the mystery of Antarctica. I’ll be there waiting with a hot tea, coffee, or a glass of wine when you get back home.



© S. Waiser

Our Vessels

“The Magellan Explorer ship is very special. Extremely well appointed, with excellent living facilities, dining, and communal areas. The food quality and hospitality staff were incredible, and never disappointed. The ship is incredibly stable, even in a heavy-motion sea. The expeditionary team were superb.”

Rob B., traveled February 2022

Magellan Explorer

I came to life in Chile in 2019. I have been part of unforgettable travel stories together with some of the world’s most intrepid travelers, a badge of honor I hold dear.

My heart is in offering exceptional experiences during Antarctica21 expeditions. I keep my guests warm and comfortable in sleek cabins and suites.

I’m not just about accommodation, though. My dining room is both spacious and stylish. Although I like to explore one of the most remote places on Earth, I don’t sacrifice eating well. As I show you the wondrous peaks, ice floes, and majestic wildlife that dot the landscape, make a toast. This is your trip of a lifetime after all.

Head out to my bow, feel the brisk wind in your hair and get up close and personal with marine wildlife. Although I am a home base for visits to Antarctica, I invite you to explore outside! It’s the best part, in my humble opinion. I’ve heard some incredible, and sometimes unbelievable, stories being told after my guests come back from their excursions.



© K. Parada



© R. Moraga



My Highlights

- Seven cabin categories, most with private balconies
- Glass-enclosed observation lounge for wildlife watching and presentations
- Dining room, bar, sauna, Anytime Fitness Gym, library, and medical clinic
- A fleet of 10 Zodiacs
- Maximum 76 guests for air-cruises

My Highlights

- Glass-enclosed observation lounge for wildlife watching and presentations
- Dining room, bar, library, gym, and infirmary
- A fleet of 7 Zodiacs
- Maximum 67 guests for air-cruises

Sea Kayaking

Glide through Antarctica's waters on a sea kayak. Spend 1 to 2 hours paddling amidst pristine ice floes, towering icebergs, and untouched nature with your Kayak Master leading you through the calm icy sea, pointing out wildlife and natural wonders. Mid-excursion, you'll paddle to the group ashore, stretch your legs, and enjoy a fresh perspective from land. It's a unique and intimate adventure that combines breathtaking scenery, wildlife encounters, and active exploration of the Antarctic landscape.

"Kayaking gave us an opportunity to really sink into the experience. We could hear the gas bubbles releasing from the ice. I'll never forget that moment of peace, to just hear and be with Antarctica."

Reisha Raney, traveled in November 2019



Hiking & Snowshoeing

Touch ground in Antarctica. Hear the crisp white snow crackle as your snowshoes help you glide along untouched terrain. Hike through to the best vantage points each landing has to offer. Each excursion lasts about one and a half hours, and the location is selected to offer the best views of the surrounding landscapes. Under the leadership of your expert guide, you start from the shore and climb to higher elevations, enjoying breathtaking views as you gain ground.

"Having spent an extended period of time in this remarkable continent from November to March, I can confidently say that no two outings or landings are the same. Each day offers a distinct and unforgettable moment to enjoy the magic of Antarctica."

Ragnhild Granfeldt, Antarctica21 Cruise Manager





© Y. Davidoff

Polar Plunge & Polar Run

One of our most exhilarating Antarctic adventures is jumping from the ship's gangway into the icy waters of the Antarctic Ocean. Alternatively, run into the Antarctic Sea from one of the peninsula's beaches. Our guides will tell you this is one of the most refreshing and rejuvenating activities to try, and they take the opportunity to dip into the blue waters every chance they get.

Zodiac Cruising

On every trip with us, you can enjoy taking a zodiac excursion that allows you to view the 7th Continent from the vantage point of the sea and explore harder-to-reach places that are not accessible by ship. These excursions allow for immersive experiences, fostering a deep connection to Antarctica's unparalleled wilderness.

"The wildlife generally will not pay any attention to humans. We visit and leave no trace. They noticed us but kept doing whatever they did, oblivious to our presence. We had a leopard seal sighting on Deception Island and saw minke whales playing around in eyesight of our zodiacs in front of Neko Harbor."

Claude H. Ostfeld, traveled in January 2023



© K. Parada



© R. Moraga



Land Explorations

Our guests disembark onto icy shores, guided by expert polar guides. They tread carefully amidst stunning landscapes, encountering diverse wildlife like penguins, seals, and seabirds. Guests witness towering glaciers, ancient ice formations, and historic research stations, gaining insight into the continent's unique ecosystems and scientific importance.

"One of the best experiences of my life. It felt like we were on another planet or in space somewhere, pretty surreal."

Matej Pucek, traveled in December 2021

Antarctic Wildlife


“A highlight during my trip was when I got within a couple of feet of a curious penguin, something that I will never forget. While I didn’t approach it, this inquisitive creature decided to come check me out. Utter excitement took over me.”

Kameron Spencer, traveled in January 2020

“On a Zodiac ride, we got notified that there was a leopard seal nearby. When we arrived to view it, we all sat mesmerized. After about 15 minutes, it suddenly jumped into the water. From the Zodiac, we could see it and it showed us its teeth and we even saw it blow water out of its nose. Shortly after, we saw it hunting a lone penguin on a small iceberg, I could not believe what I was seeing.”

Rafael Guzmán, traveled in December 2023



 Share your wildlife photos
with us on Instagram by
tagging @antarctica_21



You could see several species of seabirds, including Albatross, Blue-Eyed Shag, Snowy Sheathbill, and more.

On the continent, there are five species of penguins: the Adelie, Chinstrap, King, Gentoo, and the Macaroni penguins.



There are up to four species of seals that you could see on your visit: the Elephant, Leopard, Crabeater, and the Weddell seals.

Three species of whales visit Antarctica every year: Orca, Humpback, and Minke whales.



Responsibility & Sustainability



VISITING ANTARCTICA RESPONSIBLY

Our team ensures that every Antarctica21 expedition is carried out in a sustainable, responsible way, according to the stringent requirements of the Antarctic Treaty and the rigorous guidelines of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO).

Our Expedition Team will lead you on an inspiring and satisfying adventure while maintaining the integrity of Antarctica's environment and wildlife species.

Responsible Traveler Guidelines:

- Never disturb or feed wildlife on land or at sea, allow wildlife to instigate all interactions.
- Don't take souvenirs (for example rocks, feathers, bones, etc.)
- Don't leave anything behind. Take home everything you brought with you.
- Never walk on moss and lichens. It takes years to grow back.
- When ashore, keep at least 5 meters (15 feet) distance from all animals.
- While kayaking, keep at least 100 meters (328 feet) distance from whales and seals.
- Avoid blocking the 'walkways' between penguin colonies and their water entry and exit points.

- Use the provided facilities to decontaminate your boots and help protect the ecosystem from foreign bacteria or seeds.

Responsible Photography Guidelines:

Always respect animals when taking pictures. Your shot is important, but the wellbeing of wildlife must always take priority.

- Flash photography is not allowed; it might spook the animals.
- Read about Antarctic wildlife species and learn to read their behavior.
- If an animal appears distressed, stop taking photos and move away slowly and immediately.

"Before you go out on an excursion, familiarize yourself with the animals you want to photograph. This also helps you notice each animal's behavior and stay aware of any signs of distress, which would mean it's time to back away."

Rodrigo Moraga,
Expedition Photographer

EDUCATION ONBOARD

Antarctica21's education program is delivered under the banner of A21 Connect, an overarching concept where education, experience, and science converge. Opportunities for understanding and gaining knowledge are woven throughout your journey, with multiple touchpoints.

Join our expedition team offers engaging presentations on board the ship and interpretation in the field. Additionally, there are several one-on-one moments throughout your journey where conversations with team members build upon the day's experiences, leading to contextualized understanding.

CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM

Participate in our interactive workshops where you can learn how Citizen Science programs collect data in support of scientists worldwide and more. Participate by taking phytoplankton surveys along the fjord-lined coast of the peninsula, keep track of migrating whales, gather photos of wildlife and report on their tags, or conduct bird surveys while at sea or onshore.



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SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Antarctic tourism is a place where innovation and sustainability combine to create extraordinary experiences. As proud members of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO), we meticulously craft our programs to minimize our environmental footprint. Our commitment to sustainable travel is unwavering, reflected in our CarbonNeutral® certification and eco-friendly practices.

What Do We Do?

- **Pioneer Excellence:** As leaders in the growing realm of Antarctic tourism, we continuously evolve our offerings for an unparalleled adventure.
- **Environmental Dedication:** Being part of IAATO and holding CarbonNeutral® certification, we prioritize every detail to minimize our impact on this delicate ecosystem. We have also partnered with Deloitte to establish a comprehensive sustainability strategy based on the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) framework.

- **Technological Innovation:** We leverage cutting-edge technologies for low-impact processes, energy conservation, water efficiency, and responsible waste management.
- **Carbon-Offset Commitment:** Our CarbonNeutral® certification status is not just a claim. By purchasing carbon credits towards wind power projects in Chile and Guatemala, we balance emissions from travel, offices, and more.

ANTARCTICA21 FOUNDATION

The Antarctica21 Foundation was established in 2021 as a vehicle for participation in a variety of programs focused on Antarctica. With the support of Antarctica21, the foundation undertakes activities in support of science, art, conservation, and education, thereby contributing to the creation of Antarctic knowledge and to the transfer of that knowledge to wide segments of society.

“We both fell in love with learning more about the science of the region. We discovered how microscopic phytoplankton plays a critical role in the carbon cycle, drawing carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and into the deep ocean. We could feel our guide Wendy’s passion for education on why the health of phytoplankton really matters: the plant-like creatures contribute to over half of the Earth’s oxygen, which is more than the trees and plants on land combined.”

Tim & Nadine, participants of the Citizen Science Program, March 2022



On behalf of each guest, Antarctica21 donates **USD \$50 to the Antarctica21 Foundation**, contributing to these programs.

Celebrating a Journey of Passion and Innovation

2003-2023

The Company is founded as ANTARCTICA XXI and becomes a member of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO). With *MV Grigoriy Mikhhev*, a former research vessel, and a Dash-7 aircraft, the Company operates the world's first Antarctic fly & cruise expedition.

2003

The Dash-7 aircraft is replaced by a C-130 Hercules to fly more guests to Antarctica.

2007

Following the consolidation of the business model, a jet aircraft is introduced to the operation, British Aerospace's BAe146, and *MV Professor Multanovskiy* joins the fleet.

2009





Using *MV Ocean Nova* and the BAE146 aircraft, the Company doubles its number of expeditions year over year, operating a complete Antarctic season with 18 departures.

2012

As it celebrates the Company's 10th anniversary, an expedition team climbs Sharp Peak, the Antarctic mountain featured in the Company's original logo.

2013

Through a new strategic alliance, the Company begins building *MV Magellan Explorer*, the world's first expedition vessel custom-designed for Antarctic air-cruise operations.

2016

The Company is renamed Antarctica21 and introduces its fresh, new corporate image.

2018

Antarctica21 becomes a CarbonNeutral[®] certified business. The Company supports the launch of the *Fundación Antártica21* supporting science, art, conservation, and education activities in Chile.

2021

Antarctica21 celebrates its 20th anniversary.

2023

2010

As the number of departures continues to increase, *MV Ocean Nova* replaces *MV Professor Multanovskiy* to provide a more comfortable travel experience.

2015

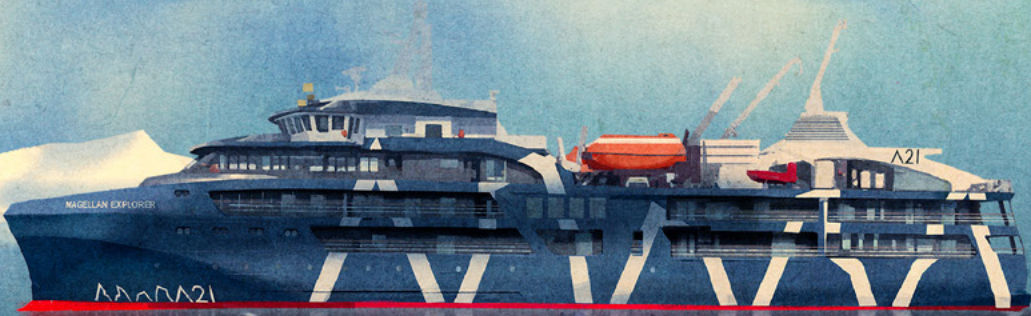
The Company's product offer continues to expand. *MV Sea Explorer*, later renamed *MV Hebridean Sky*, joins the fleet giving guests an elegant travel option.

2019

MV Magellan Explorer joins the Antarctica21 fleet significantly expanding the Company's product offer. The Company also receives Deloitte's "Best Managed Company" award for the first time.

2022

Antarctica21 establishes a new department for Sustainability and Energy Efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to promote energy efficiency within the entire organization.



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“The story of Antarctica21 begins with our first Antarctic fly and cruise voyage in 2003. Back then I understood that success would depend on more than organizing logistics and resources. We would impact people at a very personal level, provoking deep joy and intense emotions. Our business needed to have heart and soul, and that has been our guiding light for the past 20 years.”

JAIME VÁSQUEZ, PRESIDENT OF ANTARCTICA21

Antarctica21

Fly & Sail Expeditions



Share Your Travel Story With Us

Tag us on Instagram @antarctica_21 or scan the QR code to be featured on our blog!



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