Discovering Our Planet Together

Ultimate Antarctica by Private Expedition Yacht

A Polar Adventure Aboard a Small Ship of Unparalleled Grace & Vigor

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Trip Details:

Days
13 Days / Feb

Price
From $39995 (+Air)

Ultimate Antarctica by Private Expedition Yacht

A Polar Adventure Aboard a Small Ship of Unparalleled Grace & Vigor

Your spirit for exploring the planet is immense. Your sights are set on Antarctica—the last great untamed nature adventure. And your dream is to encounter it in a manner that only a few discerning travelers ever will—in relative solitude, immersed in the icy wonders of the polar wilderness. If this is you...a voyage aboard the *Hanse Explorer* awaits. A 156-foot luxury expedition yacht carrying just 12 guests, this intrepid vessel elevates comfort and style to a matchless level in its class. Life on board holds all the amenities of home (and then some) while giving you intimate access to the icebound ends of the earth. Yet the real luxuries are the mindblowing experiences that surround you, from humpback whales breaching off the bow to luminous blue icebergs drifting in the frigid channels. Kayak alongside inquisitive seals, and walk ashore among scores of squawking penguins as you bask in the raw beauty of the austral summer. Our journey includes a flight one way across the Drake Passage, to allow more exploratory time on the Antarctic Peninsula.

Trip Highlights

A remote expedition trip of this class generally requires a private charter—but you'll get the same rare experience on our exclusive booking of the luxury polar yacht *Hanse Explorer*

You won't find a more immersive encounter with the Antarctic Peninsula and its abundant wildlife, with access to coves and channels big ships can't reach

Aboard a matchless vessel that elevates your comfort at every turn, discover the wonders of Antarctica with a stellar team of guides and crew, with a greater than 1:1 ratio of staff to guests

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Trip Details:

Days
13 Days / Feb

Price
From $39995
(+Air)

Ultimate Antarctica by Private Expedition Yacht Itineraries

A Polar Adventure Aboard a Small Ship of Unparalleled Grace & Vigor

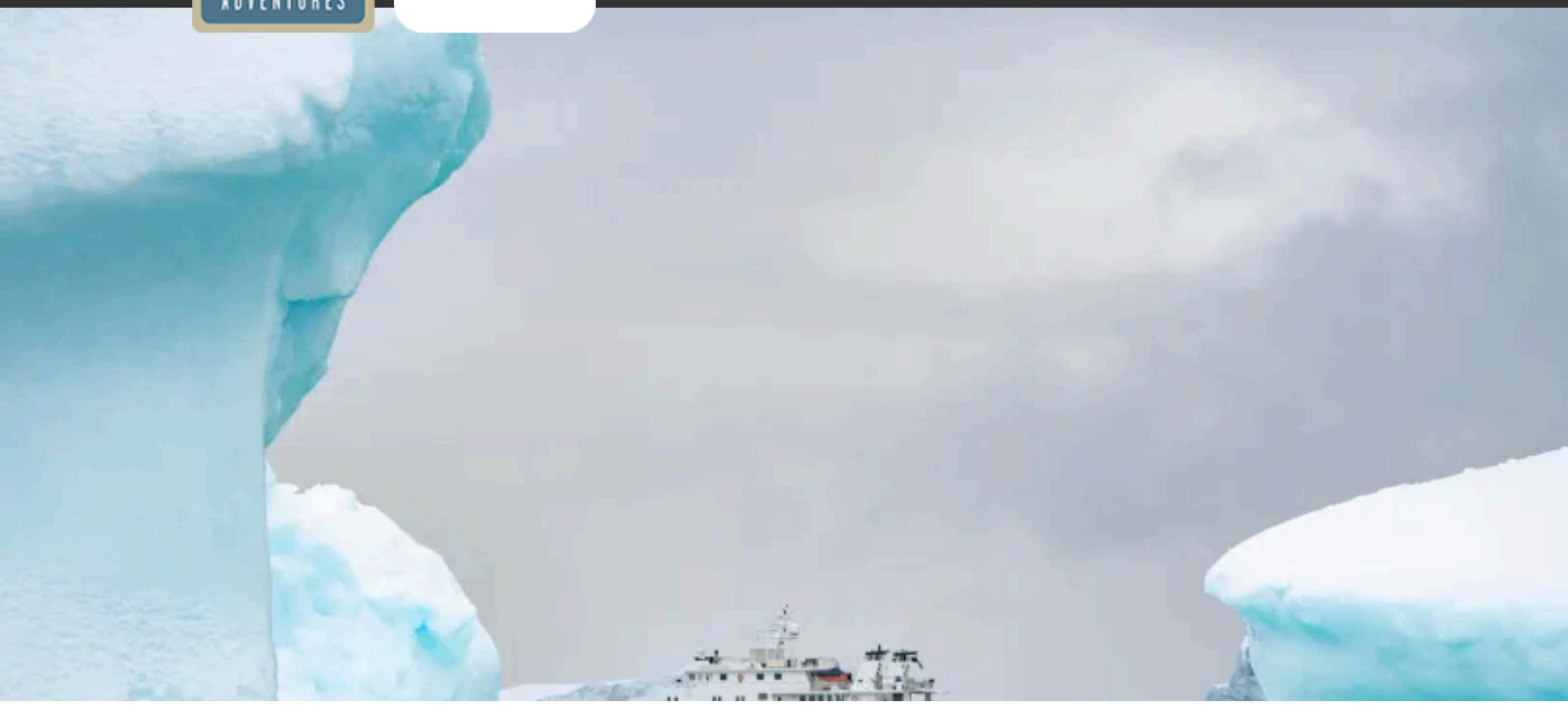
Sail to Antarctica and Fly Back to Punta Arenas

From Puerto Williams, Chile, sail the Drake Passage to the Antarctic Peninsula on the *Hanse Explorer*, a true expedition vessel, then fly back from King George Island to Punta Arenas.

Fly to Antarctica and Sail Back to Puerto Williams

Fly from Punta Arenas, Chile, to King George Island off the Antarctic Peninsula, then sail across the Drake Passage aboard the *Hanse Explorer*, a true expedition vessel, to Puerto Williams.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1
Punta Arenas, Chile

Day 2
Magallanes National Reserve / Rio Seco Natural History Museum

Days 3 & 4
Puerto Williams—Embark Ship / Sailing the Drake Passage

Days 5 - 10
Exploring the Antarctic Peninsula by Luxury Expedition Yacht

Day 11
King George Island

Day 12
Fly to Punta Arenas from KGI

Day 13
Punta Arenas / Depart

Sail to Antarctica and Fly Back to Punta Arenas Itinerary

A Polar Adventure Aboard a Small Ship of Unparalleled Grace & Vigor

Day 1: Punta Arenas, Chile

Arrive in Punta Arenas, the most southern town in Chile at the bottom of Tierra del Fuego. Overlooking the Strait of Magellan, Punta Arenas was a gold rush boomtown in the late 19th century. By the early 20th century it had become a center for large-scale sheep farming, which remains an important economic enterprise today. Meet your Expedition Leader and fellow adventurers at a welcome dinner this evening.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Day 2: Magallanes National Reserve / Rio Seco Natural History Museum

There's plenty to see around this scenic region, and we begin with a hike in Magallanes National Reserve. This nearly 50,000-acre nature preserve contains a diverse range of native flora and fauna, including Andean and gray foxes, Darwin's leaf-eared mouse and abundant birdlife—look for Magellanic woodpecker, Chilean flicker, black-chested buzzard eagle, austral thrush and more. On a walk through the mixed deciduous forest, we observe native trees such as lenga and Magellan's beech and stunted nirre, an Antarctic beech with crinkled, irregular leaves.

Return to Punta Arenas for lunch, then visit the Rio Seco Natural History Museum, housed in an old cold storage warehouse. With more than 5,000 vintage botanical and zoological specimens from the Magallanes region, the museum aims to educate visitors about the region's rich biodiversity and cultural heritage. Imaginative displays use fine naturalist drawings and painstakingly restored skeletons of seabirds, sea lions and whales to give a picture of life on the strait. After our visit, there's free time to explore town before dinner.

Days 3 & 4: Puerto Williams—Embark Ship / Sailing the Drake Passage

Today we fly to Puerto Williams and board the *Hanse Explorer* . Built and outfitted to navigate the daunting conditions in the world's polar regions, this elegant vessel has been designed with every conceivable amenity to make our experience comfortable and inspiring. After introductions and a safety orientation, we set sail into the waters of the Antarctic Peninsula with an eminent polar mariner, seasoned crew and Nat Hab Expedition Leader at the helm.

As we sail southward through the scenic marine route from Puerto Williams, we bid farewell to the endless mountain ridges lining either side of the channel. Leaving the protected waters of the Beagle Channel. as we cruise into the open Southern Ocean and the legendary Drake Passage. Named for renowned explorer Sir Francis Drake who sailed these waters in 1578, the Drake is notorious for its often-fierce gales, creating large, wind-whipped swells. But the *Hanse Explorer* is a hardy vessel and we are in good hands, embracing a journey that is sure to be exhilarating. The southern portion of the Drake marks the Antarctic Convergence, a biological zone where a great upwelling of nutrients draws an amazing variety of seabirds, including many albatrosses that follow in our wake. The exact timing of our 600-mile Drake crossing depends on weather and sea conditions, but we generally expect it to take approximately two days.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Days 5 - 10: Exploring the Antarctic Peninsula by Luxury Expedition Yacht

In the South Shetlands, step ashore for our first encounter with penguins and other wildlife of this southern polar wonderland. From here we follow the best weather and safest water, exploring the bays and fjords of the Antarctic Peninsula. Our small vessel gives us a distinct advantage for exploring. Able to navigate narrow fjords inaccessible to larger vessels, or easily change course in response to the presence of whales or other sea life, or having the option to simply stop and observe, our intimate ship delivers the utmost freedom. Unconstrained by a fixed itinerary and led by expert guides with unsurpassed navigation skills on sea or land, we discover this wild and austere place away from crowds, where the loudest noises come from nature.

Kayaks on board allow opportunities to observe wildlife at eye-level, and where landings permit, we step ashore to hike. Some walks are gentle, and others take us through deep snow to geographic high points. Our highly attuned guides ensure that activities are appropriate for the group, and participation on excursions is always optional. For the most daring, plunging in the polar waters may be an option.

Though our environs are austere, these waters are a haven for a remarkable array of wildlife, including vast penguin rookeries and beaches ruled by Antarctic fur seals and southern elephant seals. Taking advantage of the perpetual light, we spend long days cruising among the icebergs, watching for whales and seals. Sometimes, we get so close we can hear a whale blow, and we may even feel the spray from its spout. Birdlife is extraordinary, with huge populations of albatross, petrel, skua, gull, tern and cormorant. There are few places on the planet where the natural world feels more intact and grandiose, while we have never felt smaller.

After each monumental day, settle into the exceptional comfort and hospitality provided on board the Hanse Explorer. Relax with a cocktail in the lounge, or if you're not quite ready to retreat from the open air, take a soak in the hot tub on the top deck and watch the iceberg parade drift past. Each evening, the chef and culinary team prepare memorable dinners, while the expanse of windows in the dining room ensures you won't miss a thing happening beyond. With the late light of the austral summer lingering until well after dinner, it's tough to pull away from the magnificent scenery surrounding our ship, but a restorative night's sleep awaits in well-appointed staterooms, renewing us for the next day's slate of adventures.

Day 11: King George Island

The only airstrip on the Antarctic Peninsula archipelago that can reliably serve the South American continent on a regular basis is located on King George Island in the South Shetland group. We arrive here today, one day prior to meeting up with our return flight home, as a hedge against potential weather problems. Tomorrow morning, it will be time to say farewell to the *Hanse Explorer* and her valiant crew.

Day 12: Fly to Punta Arenas from KGI

Weather permitting, we board our airplane for the 2-hour flight back to Punta Arenas on the southern tip of Chilean Patagonia. On arrival, we check in to our hotel. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner in town, regaling one another with stories and indelible memories of this truly singular adventure.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Day 13: Punta Arenas / Depart

Fly homeward today from Punta Arenas, with a cache of memories to last a lifetime and then some!

Important note regarding flights: *When flying from King George Island on the Antarctic Peninsula, weather determines all schedules. If weather does not allow us to travel as scheduled, we must wait on King George Island for the weather to clear. Though historic weather patterns dictate that we should not be delayed for more than a few days, we can never predict when, or even if, inclement weather will clear to allow our departure. While we have "padded" our itinerary a bit as a precaution against such circumstances, we ask that all guests purchase trip cancellation and interruption insurance to cover tour costs should your adventure be delayed or canceled because of the weather.*

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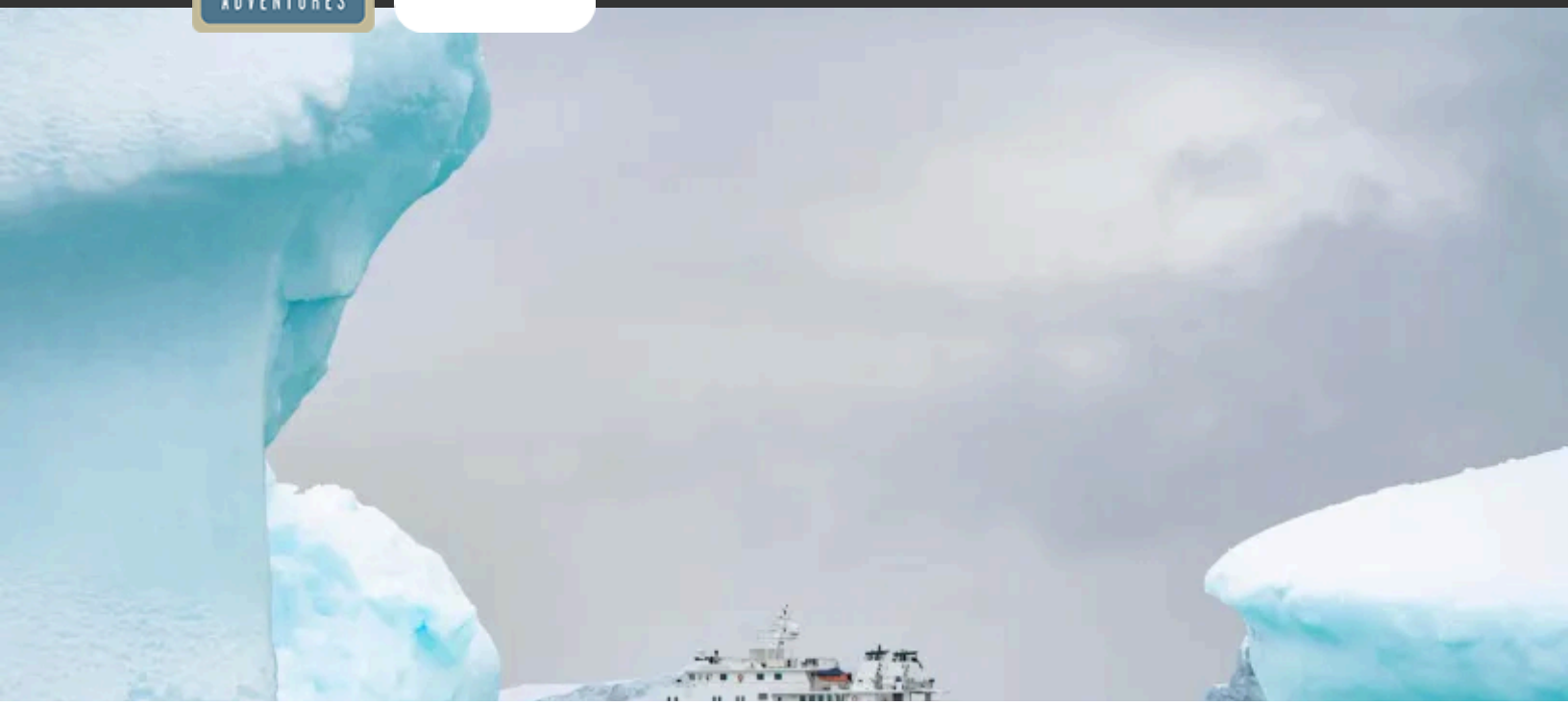

Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1
Punta Arenas, Chile

Day 2
Magallanes National Reserve / Rio Seco Natural History Museum

Day 3
Fly from Punta Arenas to King George Island—Embark Ship

Days 4 - 10
Exploring the Antarctic Peninsula by Luxury Expedition Yacht

Days 11 & 12
Sailing the Drake Passage / Puerto Williams / Fly to Punta Arenas

Day 13
Punta Arenas / Depart

Fly to Antarctica and Sail Back to Puerto Williams Itinerary

A Polar Adventure Aboard a Small Ship of Unparalleled Grace & Vigor

Day 1: Punta Arenas, Chile

Arrive in Punta Arenas, the farthest-south town in Chile at the bottom of Tierra del Fuego. Overlooking the Strait of Magellan, Punta Arenas was a gold rush boomtown in the late 19th century. By the early 20th century it had become a center for large-scale sheep farming, which remains an important economic enterprise today. Meet your Expedition Leader and fellow adventurers at a welcome dinner this evening.

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Day 2: Magallanes National Reserve / Rio Seco Natural History Museum

There's plenty to see around this scenic region, and we begin with a hike in Magallanes National Reserve. This nearly 50,000-acre nature preserve contains a diverse range of native flora and fauna, including Andean and gray foxes, Darwin's leaf-eared mouse and abundant birdlife—look for Magellanic woodpecker, Chilean flicker, black-chested buzzard eagle, austral thrush and more. On a walk through the mixed deciduous forest, we observe native trees such as lenga and Magellan's beech and stunted nirre, an Antarctic beech with crinkled, irregular leaves.

Return to Punta Arenas for lunch, then visit the Rio Seco Natural History Museum, housed in an old cold storage warehouse. With more than 5,000 vintage botanical and zoological specimens from the Magallanes region, the museum aims to educate visitors about the region's rich biodiversity and cultural heritage. Imaginative displays use fine naturalist drawings and painstakingly restored skeletons of seabirds, sea lions and whales to give a picture of life on the strait. After our visit, there's free time to explore town before dinner.

Day 3: Fly from Punta Arenas to King George Island—Embark Ship

The only airstrip on the Antarctic Peninsula archipelago that can reliably be served by the South American continent on a regular basis is located on King George Island in the South Shetland archipelago. We plan to fly here today to meet our intrepid expedition yacht, the Hanse Explorer, where our real adventure begins. Built and outfitted to navigate the daunting conditions in the world's polar regions, this elegant vessel has been designed with every conceivable amenity to make our experience comfortable and inspiring. After introductions and a safety orientation, we set sail into the waters of the Antarctic Peninsula with an eminent polar mariner, seasoned crew and Nat Hab Expedition Leader at the helm.

Please note: *It is our intention to fly to King George Island today, but occasionally weather conditions may delay us. If that is the case, we will spend today exploring Punta Arenas and attempt to fly tomorrow. Other times, the flight schedule might be pushed up and some activities missed so we can fly during a clear weather window.*

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Days 4 - 10: Exploring the Antarctic Peninsula by Luxury Expedition Yacht

In the South Shetlands, step ashore for our first encounter with penguins and other wildlife of this southern polar wonderland. From here we follow the best weather and safest water, exploring the bays and fjords of the Antarctic Peninsula. Our small vessel gives us a distinct advantage for exploring. Able to navigate narrow fjords inaccessible to larger vessels, or easily change course in response to the presence of whales or other sea life, or having the option to simply stop and observe, our intimate ship delivers the utmost freedom. Unconstrained by a fixed itinerary and led by expert guides with unsurpassed navigation skills on sea or land, we discover this wild and austere place away from crowds, where the loudest noises come from nature.

Kayaks on board allow opportunities to observe wildlife at eye-level, and where landings permit, we step ashore to hike. Some walks are gentle, and others take us through deep snow to geographic high points. Our highly attuned guides ensure that activities are appropriate for the group, and participation on excursions is always optional. For the most daring, plunging in the polar waters may be an option.

Though our environs are austere, these waters are a haven for a remarkable array of wildlife, including vast penguin rookeries and beaches ruled by Antarctic fur seals and southern elephant seals. Taking advantage of the perpetual light, we spend long days cruising among the icebergs, watching for whales and seals. Sometimes, we get so close we can hear a whale blow, and we may even feel the spray from its spout. Birdlife is extraordinary, with huge populations of albatross, petrel, skua, gull, tern and cormorant. There are few places on the planet where the natural world feels more intact and grandiose, while we have never felt smaller.

After each monumental day, settle into the exceptional comfort and hospitality provided on board the Hanse Explorer. Relax with a cocktail in the lounge, or if you're not quite ready to retreat from the open air, take a soak in the hot tub on the top deck and watch the iceberg parade drift past. Each evening, the chef and culinary team prepare memorable dinners, while the expanse of windows in the dining room ensures you won't miss a thing happening beyond. With the late light of the austral summer lingering until well after dinner, it's tough to pull away from the magnificent scenery surrounding our ship, but a restorative night's sleep awaits in well-appointed staterooms, renewing us for the next day's slate of adventures.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Days 11 & 12: Sailing the Drake Passage / Puerto Williams / Fly to Punta Arenas

Eventually it's time to leave the sheltered seas of the Antarctic Peninsula and sail north, heading into the open Southern Ocean and the legendary Drake Passage. Named for renowned explorer Sir Francis Drake who sailed these waters in 1578, the Drake is notorious for its often-fierce gales, creating large, wind-whipped swells. But the Hanse Explorer is a hardy vessel and we are in good hands, embracing a journey that is sure to be exhilarating. The southern portion of the Drake marks the Antarctic Convergence, a biological zone where a great upwelling of nutrients draws an amazing variety of seabirds, including many albatrosses that follow in our wake. The exact timing of our 600-mile Drake crossing depends on weather and sea conditions, but we generally expect it to take approximately two days.

As we sail northward, eventually we may be able to discern Cape Horn in the distance, with the mass of Tierra del Fuego rising ahead. Land ho! As the southernmost peaks of Patagonia come into view, *Hanse Explorer* enters the protected waters of the Beagle Channel, our scenic marine route to Puerto Williams where we disembark. Drink in the vista of endless mountain ridges lining either side of the channel as we cruise toward civilization once more. Once safely docked in the harbor, we saying farewell to our ship, skipper and crew, then head to the airport for our chartered flight north to Punta Arenas, where we spend a final night in one of the world's southernmost cities. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner with our Expedition Leader, reflecting on the indelible memories we've made on this truly singular adventure.

Day 13: Punta Arenas / Depart

Fly homeward today from Punta Arenas, with a cache of memories to last a lifetime and then some!

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Accommodation Details:

Hanse Explorer

Hotel Cabo de Hornos

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/antarctica-and-arctic/antarctica-tour-by-expedition-yacht/accommodations

Ultimate Antarctica by Private Expedition Yacht Accommodations

A Polar Adventure Aboard a Small Ship of Unparalleled Grace & Vigor

Hanse Explorer

A true expedition yacht in every sense of the word, *Hanse Explorer* offers guests a refined encounter with Antarctica that elevates comfort while maximizing a sense of oneness with the wonders of the polar environment.

Hotel Cabo de Hornos

Located in the center of Punta Arenas on the historic town plaza and overlooking the Strait of Magellan, this landmark hotel enjoys iconic status in the capital of Chilean Patagonia.

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Antarctica as Few Will Ever Experience It

While Antarctica is an ultimate adventure destination that very travelers will ever get to, even then, most who come never experience this pristine polar wilderness as it deserves to be encountered. But guests on our Ultimate Antarctica expedition will. And these are the reasons why.

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1 Just 12 Guests Aboard Our Private Expedition Yacht

Most visitors to Antarctica travel via cruise ship, often with several hundred other passengers. And while such voyages typically include shore excursions and Zodiac outings, there's simply no comparison to exploring this extraordinary realm of ice with a mere handful of companions. This adventure accommodates just 12 guests aboard a 156-foot yacht—allowing you to feel the scale, silence and solitude that is unmatched by any place on Earth.

2 A Peerless Expedition Vessel: *Hanse Explorer*

Built with the highest-class ice certification for polar waters, *Hanse Explorer* is the premier expedition yacht of its size navigating the coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. The ship was totally overhauled in 2020, including the installation of SKF zero-speed fin stabilizers that reduce rolling while still allowing the vessel to break ice. The retrofit created an open, light-flooded interior enhancing a sense of oneness with nature, the ship's spacious staterooms boast every accoutrement. View wildlife from new Mark IV Zodiacs added in 2021 or on board from the expansive decks, and soak in the topside hot tub as icebergs drift by. Dine on exquisite chef-prepared cuisine. This 153-foot vessel has no peer in Antarctic waters!

3 Enjoy All the Advantage of a Private Yacht Charter

To sail on an expedition yacht of this caliber, one typically must charter the entire ship for a private group—an ambitious undertaking. With our charter, however, you can book as an individual and travel in the same manner. And by the time our voyage has ended, you're sure to have made lifelong friendships with fellow guests who share your passion for exploration while basking in the inimitable comforts *Hanse Explorer* affords.

4 Fly One Way to or from Antarctica for the Ultimate in Comfort

Crossing the Drake Passage is a legendary maritime adventure. But it's also a multi-day undertaking, and it's no secret that these waters are often turbulent. If you'd prefer to spend your time in the more sheltered seas of the Antarctic Peninsula itself, tucking into coves where penguins play and cruising narrow channels flanked by 300-foot-high walls of ice, this trip offers the exclusive option of flying one way. Depending on the departure you select, you will either fly from Punta Arenas, Chile to King George Island to embark ship, or you will sail south and fly from King George Island back to Punta Arenas.

5

More Unscripted Time Ashore & Alone

Most Antarctica cruises generally spend just a few days making shore excursions on the Antarctic Peninsula. This journey, however, is a true expeditionary undertaking, with up to a week on the Antarctic Peninsula (depending on weather) to explore remote bays, beaches and icebound headlands, generally in solitude and away from the crowds that are inevitable with big ships. And, because our timing is more flexible, we have added freedom to craft the rhythm of our days around wildlife sightings and shifting weather conditions.

6

Extended Hiking Opportunities for a True Wilderness Encounter

Most visitors who travel to Antarctica aboard big ships go ashore and essentially stand on the beach, perhaps walking a short distance in large groups. While even this opportunity can be exciting, often among multitudes of penguins, it pales in comparison to the chance to really explore away from crowds. Our small group is able to hike farther, by ourselves, in the vast, pristine silence of the polar world. This is a genuine wilderness experience, and it isn't available on standard itineraries.

7

An Unparalleled Cohort of Guides & Crew

Each voyage has a top Nat Hab Expedition Leader at the helm, a polar natural history expert who will immeasurably enrich your knowledge and appreciation of our magnificent surroundings and abundant wildlife. Our Expedition Leader is supported by a naturalist guide who is a member of the ship's team, and additional crew are at the ready to attend to your every need.

8

Our Quality–Value Guarantee Ensures Your Antarctica Expedition

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive quality and value guarantee, clearly stating that we will meet the lofty expectations we set in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.

9

Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

10

Nat Hab is WWF's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our worldwide adventures, we have been chosen by World Wildlife Fund—the world's leading environmental conservation organization—as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!

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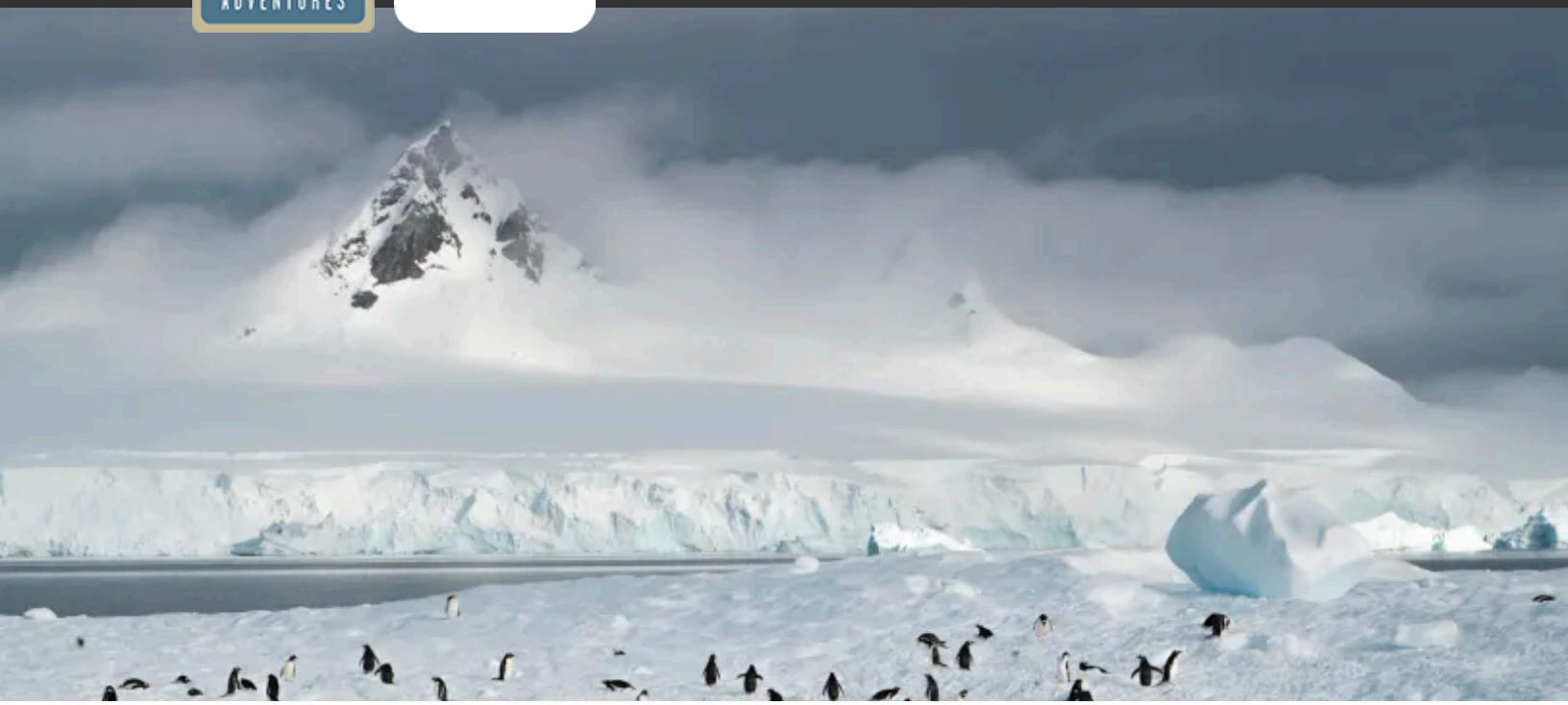

Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From $39995 (+Air)

Group Size:
Limited to 12 Travelers

Ultimate Antarctica by Private Expedition Yacht Dates, Pricing & Info

A Polar Adventure Aboard a Small Ship of Unparalleled Grace & Vigor

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Feb 13, 2026	Feb 25, 2026	$39995 USD (+internal air) Aboard Hanse Explorer, Sail to Antarctica via Puerto Williams - Fly Antarctica to Punta Arenas
Feb 22, 2026	Mar 6, 2026	$39995 USD (+internal air) Aboard Hanse Explorer, Fly Punta Arenas to Antarctica - Sail Antarctica to Puerto Williams

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Pricing

See https://nathab.com/antarctica-and-arctic/antarctica-tour-by-expedition-yacht/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

- **Trip price includes:** Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s), boat crew and local guides, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, airport transfers for those arriving by air on Day 1 and departing by air on the final day, all kayaking equipment, Wi-Fi on board when available, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

- **Internal air cost includes:** Flight to and from King George Island (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet at hotels, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Important Information About This Trip

Sea Sickness
Sea sickness is very common as we do have some long days at sea on all itineraries; some days can be rough depending on the weather. Travelers who are susceptible to motion sickness (and even those who are not!) should consult their physician before joining this expedition.

Medical Form
Due to the extremely remote nature of this adventure, all travelers are required to submit a medical form prior to departure. This form will be emailed to you approximately six months before your trip. It must be completed and signed by your primary care physician, confirming that you are medically cleared to participate based on the physical requirements outlined for this itinerary.

Luggage Restrictions
For safety purposes on the charter flights, travelers will be limited on total amount of weight and must use mostly soft-sided luggage (wheels are ok). In addition, your carry-on must fit in the small overhead bin or under the seat in front of you; bags are not permitted on your lap during flights. Please keep this in mind if you are carrying bulky camera equipment. You will not be able to purchase additional weight allowance for this flight. Total baggage allowance information can be found in your pre-trip information.

Team Environment
Psychological stamina and emotional stability are also essential in the context of this trip, as we confront unpredictable and sometimes challenging conditions while sharing space with a small group for a period of time in a remote environment. Given the unique and often unpredictable elements of this trip, its successful operation requires a commitment to group unity and a willingness to embrace the unexpected, including efforts to overcome any challenges we might face; we become a team on board.

Optional Sea Kayaking
Sea kayaking is offered; our intent is to paddle in largely calm seas, though weather can change with little notice, and excursions can take place in windy, snowy or rainy conditions. Shifting ice may also force us to alter our kayaking itineraries. Paddlers should be aware that kayaking in the weather, sea and ice conditions on the Antarctic Peninsula requires confidence and physical ability, and paddlers should ideally have previous kayaking experience in choppy conditions. Paddlers must also have the stability, strength and agility necessary to enter a kayak directly from a Zodiac. The paddling group will be accompanied by the Expedition Leader and followed by a Zodiac at all times, and if the weather deteriorates, we will return to the boat promptly. No one will be allowed to paddle on their own without the group and guide.

Flight & Sailing Delays
Guests will fly one way between Punta Arenas and Antarctica and sail the other direction across the Drake Passage. Please note that weather-related delays or changes to your scheduled flight and/or sailing departures may occur. In light of unpredictable weather and its potential impact on flight schedules and operations, guests are strongly advised to have sufficient travel insurance to protect against both flight cancellations and delays, as well as potential marine delays. It may be necessary, for instance, to spend an additional night in Ushuaia (if applicable) or an extra night aboard the boat on King George Island, in order to wait for favorable weather conditions for the Drake crossing or to fly back. Given the potential for such an event, we also recommend that guests consider booking an additional hotel night on the back end of their trip, in case of such a delay.

Environment & Weather
Summer in Antarctica can exhibit all kinds of weather—mostly governed by the prevailing westerly winds and the Antarctic ice sheet. The weather pattern is an unpredictable mixture of marine low-pressure systems and a more stable high-pressure inland climate. The weather is largely influenced by the immense

ice sheet that covers the earth's southernmost continent. Temperatures typically range from 30 to 40°F. In other words, you should prepare for all kinds of weather—sunshine and milder temperatures as well as showers and snowstorms. Winds can be both fierce and shifting, and the Antarctic seas are famous for ferocious katabatic storms (rare, but possible).

Specialized Equipment
We provide all group gear such as life jackets, kayaking gear and a comprehensive first-aid kit and satellite phone for emergency communications. We will supply you with an individual and very comprehensive Clothing & Equipment list prior to your departure.

Safety
Your safety is of paramount concern to us. Toward that end, we provide highly competent guides, a premier polar sailing vessel manned by a world-class captain and crew with extensive experience in Antarctic waters, and the very best equipment. Our guides and crew are thoroughly trained in emergency wilderness first-aid techniques and maritime survival in polar waters. Ultimately, our guides make decisions with everyone's comfort and safety in mind, while trying to maximize the adventure experience for each individual. We must stress that listening carefully to your guide's instructions and directions is ultimately your responsibility and in your best interest and that of the group.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

Please arrive in Punta Arenas by 5 pm on Day 1 in order to participate in our group welcome dinner. You are free to depart Punta Arenas at any time on the final day of the trip.

We can serve you best if our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk makes your reservations, as we are intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program and can arrange the most efficient travel. Also, in the case if you are delayed at King George Island and must spend an additional night on the yacht, we would be able to make international flight changes on your behalf. Please call us at 800-543-8917. Note that while we offer you the best possible rates available to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may find better fares online.

Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together
Natural Habitat Adventures • PO Box 3065 · Boulder, CO USA 80307
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