

The Explorer

STORIES FROM
THE ANTARCTIC

ISSUE 3



Antarctica21
Fly & Sail Expeditions

Magellan Discoverer
Sustainable Travel

Wildlife Encounters
Expedition Cruising

Antarctic Travel Stories
Antarctica21 Foundation

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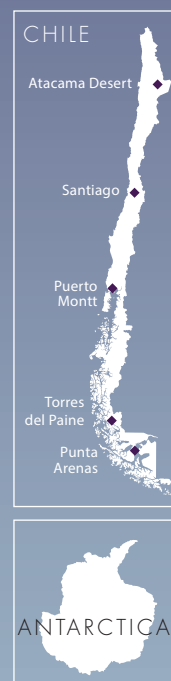
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An Expedition to Planet Earth

Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands



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Embark on a Memorable Journey



ABOUT ANTARCTICA21

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

For more than two decades, Antarctica21 has redefined how we visit the world's most pristine continent. The Antarctic air-cruise model we pioneered in 2003 transforms the traditional Antarctic expedition model by eliminating the challenging crossing of the Drake Passage, bringing travelers directly into Antarctica's heart with unprecedented comfort and efficiency, all while honoring our responsibility to protect the region's fragile ecosystems.

This commitment to thoughtful exploration has guided us through 23 years of Antarctic expeditions, as we consistently advocate for responsible travel. Two recent milestones exemplify our dedication to sustainable innovation.

We've embarked on constructing Magellan Discoverer, South America's first hybrid diesel-electric polar vessel, currently taking shape at the ASENAV shipyards in Valdivia, Chile. This groundbreaking ship incorporates cutting-edge, energy-efficient technology designed specifically for our Antarctic operations.

Simultaneously, we've pioneered the integration of synthetic fuel in our Zodiac fleet aboard Magellan Explorer, utilizing innovative e-fuel produced locally in Punta Arenas, Chile, through our partnership with the renewable energy firm HIF Global. This initiative marked the first time this promising new carbon-neutral fuel has been used in Antarctica.

These advances reflect our unwavering vision: to offer guests an unparalleled Antarctic experience that seamlessly blends comfort, exceptional service, and environmental stewardship. The journey ahead promises extraordinary discoveries, and we invite you to explore Antarctica with us.

Verónica Peragallo
Chief Executive Officer, Antarctica21

Innovating the Antarctic Experience



An Interview with **Jaime Vásquez**,
Chairman of Antarctica21's
Board of Directors

Why did Antarctica21 decide to build Magellan Discoverer?

Following the tremendous success of Magellan Explorer, we recognized the clear market demand for our specialized air-cruise model, which eliminates the challenging Drake Passage crossing and delivers guests directly into the heart of Antarctica. Magellan Discoverer completes our boutique fleet, ensuring every detail aligns with Antarctica21's values for immersive, boutique journeys to southern latitudes.

Who helped bring this vision to life?

We're working again with our trusted partner ASENNAV, the renowned Chilean shipyard that built Magellan Explorer. The design is led by our Fleet Director, Claudio Bobadilla, in collaboration with global experts: MAN

provides the powerful engines, ABB supplies the quiet and nimble propulsion system (Azipods), and Tomas Tillberg Design lends his elegant design sensibility. This team delivers the precision and innovation our rigorous standards demand.

What makes this ship special for Antarctica?

With Magellan Discoverer, our priority to design a boutique vessel with Antarctic exploration in mind. It's built to confidently navigate icy waters and designed to move gently and precisely. To minimize environmental impact, it runs on a hybrid diesel-electric system and includes advanced technology that reduces emissions and optimizes energy consumption. Every choice, from its quiet operation to its

energy-efficient heating, meets the latest environmental benchmarks.

How does Magellan Discoverer compare to Magellan Explorer?

Both vessels are purpose-built expedition ships specifically designed for our Antarctic fly-and-cruise operations. They share a boutique scale and elegant, yacht-like aesthetics that enable efficient disembarkation and maximize shore time. Each features Zodiac embarkation areas, accessible bow viewing, and observation lounges connecting guests with their surroundings.

While the two ships are very similar, Magellan Discoverer introduces enhancements based on guest feedback and their evolving preferences. It offers premium all-balcony accommodations

with larger surface areas, additional seating, and higher ceilings, creating more spacious and airy cabins. The top, wraparound deck provides 360-degree views for complete Antarctic immersion. Most significantly, the ship's state-of-the-art hybrid electric propulsion system increases fuel efficiency while reducing our carbon footprint.

What sustainability features distinguish this vessel?

Sustainability remains at the core of Antarctica21's identity, reflected in the advanced systems of Magellan Discoverer. The hybrid-electric propulsion, supported by Corvus Energy battery packs, enables electric-only operations during certain phases, resulting in significantly lower fuel consumption and emissions. Azipods provide 15% greater fuel efficiency while allowing quieter operation that minimizes wildlife disturbance.

Our heat recovery system captures engine waste heat for vessel and water heating, thereby reducing the need for additional fuel.

Our groundbreaking partnership with HIF Global makes us the first cruise company to integrate e-gasoline into Antarctic travel operations. Additionally, as soon as the fuel supply is available, we plan to expand to synthetic Marine Gas Oil for our vessels' main engines and synthetic jet fuel for flight operations.

Since 2019, we've maintained our CarbonNeutral® certification, purchasing carbon credits that support wind energy projects in Chile and Guatemala.

Our 2030 vision positions Antarctica21 as the global model for sustainable Antarctic travel, providing small-scale experiences that inspire guests to value and protect this wilderness. Through continuous innovation, scientific collaboration, and respect for the ecosystem, we ensure Antarctica's preservation for future generations.



The Essence of Expedition Cruising



© S. Cravero

Antarctica embodies paradox, simultaneously vast and intimate. Our boutique expedition cruises capture this duality through custom-built vessels designed for upscale Antarctic adventures, guided by experts like Kirsty Dick, Head of Expedition Staff & Delivery.

With an MA in History and an MSc in Marine Systems and Policy, Kirsty has spent approximately 120 days south of the 60th parallel each season since 2018. “Expedition cruising enables you to explore this immense region in many ways: on the water in Zodiacs, walking and exploring on shore, and observing superb landscapes from the ship,” she explains.

Smaller vessels offer infinite advantages in Antarctica. With fewer than 100 guests per voyage, Antarctica21 ensures maximum opportunities for everyone, enabling quick disembarkation and personal connections.

Flexibility remains essential in polar regions. Our nimble vessels adapt quickly to changing conditions while maintaining safety as our priority. “We build flexibility into every plan, ready to adjust to whatever Antarctica throws at us, finding calm pockets or exploration opportunities to maximize your experience.”

Many guests discover Antarctica exceeds their expectations. “What we often hear is that

guests thought they knew what to expect, but their experience surpassed every expectation,” Kirsty notes. Our family-owned heritage, still led by the founders after more than 20 years, creates a distinctive ethos permeating every level.

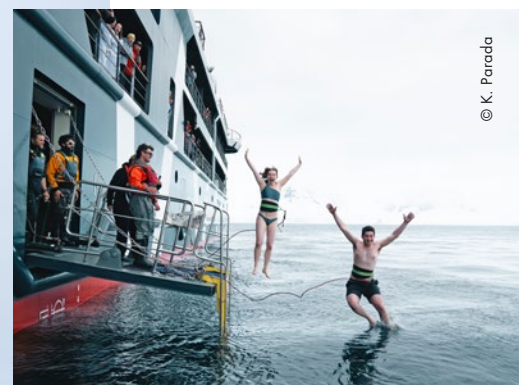
“Come aboard with an open mind, ready for adventure and understanding that plans will change as we adapt to this extreme polar environment,” Kirsty advises. Whether observing penguins, watching whales breach, or standing before towering ice formations, Antarctica captivates beyond words. This magical region is perfectly experienced through our blend of comfort, expertise, and intimate adventure.



© J. Green

“The experience feels much more exclusive, allowing you to connect with fellow travelers while learning from our expedition team’s expertise,” says Kirsty.

Adventure Activities Crafted for Explorers



© K. Parada



© D. Haley



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Antarctica reveals its secrets through intimate encounters, transforming travelers into explorers through carefully designed adventures that inspire both thrill and reverence. When conditions align, as they often do in this land of perpetual surprise, we offer up to two outdoor excursions daily, each designed to deepen your connection with the continent's pristine wilderness.

SEA KAYAKING AMONG FROZEN GIANTS

Paddle through crystalline waters where cathedral-sized icebergs cast azure shadows, and marine wildlife emerge with grace. Under our Kayak Master's expert guidance, you'll navigate Antarctica's icy waters and experience an immersive adventure that's impossible from any ship's deck. The Sea Kayaking program is an optional small-group experience limited to a maximum of 20 participants per expedition. Book at the time of reservation.

HIKING AND SNOWSHOEING

Explore paths across Antarctica's untouched terrain, where each step reveals new vistas of impossible beauty. Our Hiking & Snowshoeing guides lead you to coveted vantage points during 90 minute excursions that feel simultaneously expansive and intimate. These journeys across pristine snowfields offer moments of pure offering you the chance to stand where few humans have stood, witnessing landscapes that have remained unchanged for eons. The Hiking & Snowshoeing program is an optional small-group experience offered on board the ship as a one-off excursion.

ZODIAC CRUISING: INTO THE INACCESSIBLE

These nimble boats unlock Antarctica's hidden chambers, threading through ice-choked passages where larger ships cannot venture. Your skilled expedition guide navigates you closer to breaching whales, rookeries alive with penguin chatter, and ice

formations sculpted by millennia of polar winds. Every outing becomes an expedition within an expedition, revealing the continent's most guarded secrets.

LAND EXPLORATIONS

Step onto the icy shores where silence reigns supreme and wildlife outnumbers humans. Follow respectful paths to discover penguin colonies, observe elephant seals, and stand in awe of glaciers that have witnessed countless seasons. Our expedition guides will introduce you to the intricate ecosystems that thrive here in one of the Earth's most challenging environments.

POLAR PLUNGE

For the boldest souls, Antarctica offers a thrilling welcome. Dive into the icy waters of the Antarctic Ocean from the ship's gangway. This exhilarating activity is refreshing and invigorating, offering you a chance to create unforgettable memories of your Antarctic expedition.



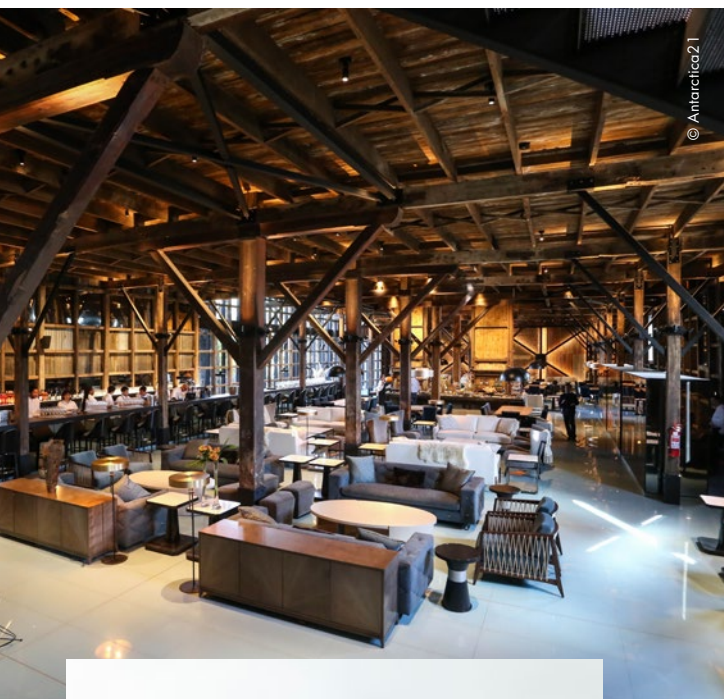
Our Path to Sustainable Travel

Each expedition to this pristine wilderness carries both extraordinary privilege and profound responsibility, principles that guide every aspect of our work at Antarctica21.

Sustainability shapes our identity, from the comprehensive environmental, social and governance (ESG) policies that guide our teams, to the operational guidelines that permeate our entire value chain. Our boutique expeditions adhere to the strictest environmental standards, following the guidelines of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO), which complement the environmental protection measures of the Antarctic Treaty. As a CarbonNeutral® certified company since 2019, we ensure our operations minimize impact while honoring the extraordinary places we visit, fostering a sustainable spirit that extends from within our organization and out into the world.

Explorers House: Heritage Meets Innovation

Your Antarctic journey begins in Punta Arenas at Explorers House, our exclusive expedition center where sustainability meets Patagonian heritage. This thoughtfully repurposed structure integrates solar panels, rainwater collection systems, and preserved original elements including structural pillars and wool-pressing machinery, reinforcing our deep local connection to this historic gateway to Antarctica. Since opening in 2023, it has embodied both regional spirit and environmental philosophy.



Learn more details about our sustainability efforts at antarctica21.com/sustainability



Pioneering E-Fuel Technology

In 2024, we became the first cruise company to integrate synthetic e-Fuel into Antarctic operations through our partnership with HIF Global, utilizing fuel produced from green hydrogen, recycled CO₂, and wind energy at Punta Arenas' Haru Oni plant. This innovation powers our Zodiac fleet aboard Magellan Explorer, with future plans for synthetic Marine Gas Oil and jet fuel across all expedition components. Our efforts earned recognition with the Latin America Travel Association's Responsible Tourism Award in their "Climate Adaptation & Resilience" category, where we were named "The One to Watch."

Science and Community Partnership

Through the Antarctica21 Foundation, we support scientific research with Chilean and international universities while advancing educational initiatives that deepen understanding of Antarctic ecosystems. Local partnerships remain central to our mission, as we continue to invest in the development of the Magallanes Region across education, healthcare, climate resilience, and cultural preservation.

Vessels Designed for Tomorrow

Magellan Explorer, launched in 2019, and her sister ship Magellan Discoverer, beginning operations in 2026, represent our commitment to sustainable exploration. Both vessels exceed IMO and MARPOL standards. Onboard waste is treated, incinerated or carefully sorted and delivered to certified facilities at port, in strict compliance with environmental regulations, thereby minimizing our Antarctic footprint.

Both Magellan Explorer and Magellan Discoverer feature recovery systems that repurpose engine heat to warm the ship and its water supply, enhancing energy efficiency. Built to Polar Code specifications with Tier III emission standards, these vessels set industry benchmarks for environmental performance.

Additionally, Magellan Discoverer advances these standards as South America's first hybrid-electric polar vessel. Its sophisticated propulsion system minimizes emissions while enabling quieter navigation, reducing wildlife impact throughout Antarctic waters.

Our vision remains clear: to offer transformative expeditions that celebrate Antarctica's magnificence while safeguarding its future for generations of explorers to come.

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.

In December 2024, travel content creator Radhika Sharma embarked on her most extraordinary adventure yet: a Classic Antarctica Air-Cruise aboard Magellan Explorer.

Radhika's Journey to the Seventh Continent

"It offered the perfect blend of comfort and adventure," says Radhika, who left her corporate career to pursue full-time travel. With over a million subscribers following her worldwide adventures, Radhika inspires travelers with her engaging chronicles. "Flying directly to King George Island cut travel time, allowing me to immerse myself in Antarctic wilderness sooner."

Traveling with her best friend, Vartica, made it the ultimate adventure. "A once-in-a-lifetime experience of two best friends exploring Antarctica together!" she exclaims.

For Radhika, Antarctica represented more than exhilaration—it was the pinnacle of her adventures. "As someone deeply passionate about travel, this was the realization of a dream every traveler holds dear," she reflects. "The excitement of finally stepping foot on the Seventh Continent was overwhelming. Sharing Antarctica's awe and wonder with my audience felt incredibly empowering, inspiring others to chase their own adventures."

The experience transformed her worldview entirely. While always amazed by Earth's beauty and vastness, Antarctica made her feel smaller and humbler than ever. "The untouched, pristine landscape stretched beyond anything I had imagined, reminding me how fragile and precious our environment is."

She treasured the camaraderie with crew, fellow travelers, and especially her best friend, who brought extra joy to every moment. "It reinforced how traveling creates bonds and memories that last a lifetime," Radhika says. "Antarctica with Antarctica21 changed me in more ways than I expected. I'm grateful for every second of it!"

Her journey showcased the unique power of expedition cruising to transform travelers while honoring the continent's pristine magnificence.



Creating *Soulprints* in the Last Continent

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

In the remote reaches of Chilean Patagonia, the Antarctica21 Foundation is transforming how people connect with the Last Continent. Established in 2021, this unique initiative bridges the gap between Antarctic exploration and lasting environmental stewardship.

“The inspiration came from the desire to amplify the positive impact generated by travel to Antarctica,” explains Edgardo Vega, the Foundation’s director. “We wanted to bring Antarctica closer to more people and generate a lasting commitment to the Continent, its science, and its future.”

Among the Foundation’s most celebrated initiatives is ILAN, an innovative board game about Antarctic biodiversity that has captivated hundreds of students across Chile. Through gameplay, participants discover ecosystem complexity while developing collaborative problem-solving skills.

“After playing ILAN at a school in Puerto Williams, an eight-year-old girl approached me with eyes full of emotion,” recalls Edgardo. “She said: ‘Now I understand why taking care of Antarctica is so important—there’s so much more than penguins! How can I help?’”

The Foundation also creates cultural experiences, like the theatrical production “Smoking Concert,” recreating the jubilant

celebration in Punta Arenas following pilot Luis Pardo’s heroic rescue of Shackleton’s crew. In another example of community engagement, the Foundation organized Punta Arenas’s first Antarctic community fair, bringing together twelve institutions.

Looking ahead, ambitious plans include Antarkit, a comprehensive educational program for young polar defenders, and a digital platform showcasing polar audiovisual heritage. The Foundation envisions creating a permanent Antarctic exploration exhibition in Punta Arenas.

For Antarctica21 guests, the Foundation transforms remarkable journeys into enduring legacies. Through onboard Citizen Science programs, educational presentations, and cultural collaborations, every expedition supports the Foundation’s mission.

The Antarctica21 Foundation demonstrates that high-end travel and conservation can work in harmony, creating what Vega describes as “soulprints”—emotional imprints that transform travelers into lifelong advocates for the world’s last great wilderness.



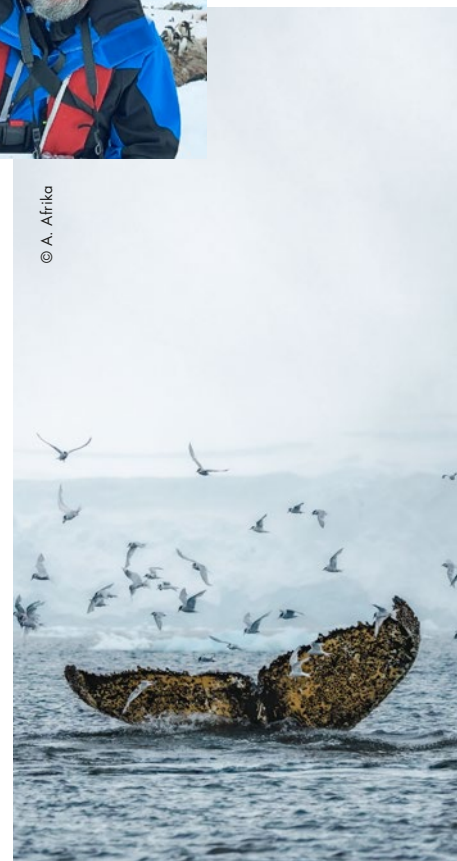
To learn more about the Antarctica21 Foundation’s initiatives, visit www.fundaciona21.com



© K. Parada



© A. Afrika



Wildlife Encounters Along the Antarctic Peninsula



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 outdoor explorations is an opportunity to observe wildlife from a privileged perspective, offering visitors a glimpse into a world few travelers experience.





PENGUINS — They are abundant along the Peninsula. Gentoo penguins, with their distinctive white head band and orange beaks, nest on rocky outcrops. Adélies, in their classic tuxedo plumage, form larger 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.

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 — Antarctica's nutrient-rich waters attract various migrating whale species. Humpback whales are common, often seen breaching or tail slapping. Sleek minke whales, the smallest of 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 shore. Blue-eyed shags nest on coastal cliffs, diving for fish in the shallow waters.

Antarctic Wildlife Month-By-Month

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

Journey to the Edge of the World

For over two decades, Antarctica21 has crafted boutique expeditions that balance exploration and thoughtful travel. With us, you can experience intimate access to four of the planet's most remarkable destinations.

1

Antarctica: The Icy Continent

Step into a world where colossal glaciers surrender to the sea in thunderous crescendos, creating symphonies that echo across pristine channels. Navigate ice-laden fjords where every shade of blue tells a story written over millennia. This is nature at its most uncompromising, where Gentoo penguins waddle across volcanic beaches and leopard seals patrol crystalline waters. Each day brings new revelations as you explore this frozen wilderness on foot or glide through its waterways in expedition Zodiacs.



2

South Georgia: Wildlife Theater

Witness life in spectacular abundance. South Georgia's beaches abound with 150,000 king penguins. Massive elephant seals engage in territorial battles while macaroni penguins nest in cliff-top colonies overhead. At St. Andrews Bay, stand humbled before one of the planet's most concentrated wildlife spectacles. Trace Ernest Shackleton's footsteps at Grytviken's weathered whaling station, where history whispers through abandoned buildings.





3

The Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas): Windswept Wilderness

The Falklands reveal themselves as a land of contrasts—rugged wilderness meets warm hospitality. Trek across tussock grasslands to discover black-browed albatross colonies perched on dramatic cliff faces. The islands' diverse ecosystems support extraordinary penguin variety, from curious Gentoo colonies to spirited rockhoppers navigating treacherous coastlines. In addition to the wildlife, connect with the local culture by visiting resilient islanders.



4

Patagonia and the Chilean Fjords' Hidden Gems

Journey through narrow fjords slicing through landscapes of impossible beauty. Patagonia's Chilean channels offer profound solitude, where towering cliffs draped in pristine forests create cathedral-like spaces. Navigate narrow passages where massive glaciers sculpt the landscape, their ancient ice carrying stories from when the world was young. Waters teem with sea lions, and countless seabirds. The local indigenous cultures remain strong and a remarkable way to better understand the history of this region.

Each destination is a doorway to experiences that will change how you see our planet. Our exclusive air-cruise operations and sea voyages ensure intimate access that only Antarctica21 can provide.



For all returning travelers, the **A21 Loyalty Benefit** offers a 5% reduction on their next reservation. Consult with your booking agent for more information. **Discover your next great adventure at antarctica21.com**

Antarctica21

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