Antarctica Direct: Sail and Fly the Drake Passage

JANUARY 15-24, 2025
ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

SPECIAL OFFER: 10% GROUP SAVINGS
Dear Carolina Alumni and Friends,

Venturing to Antarctica is an expedition like no other — a chance to explore wonderlands of sculpted snow and ice where whales swim, penguins flock, and albatross soar. It’s a journey of a lifetime that has historically involved multiple weeks of travel, including a round-trip sea crossing of the Drake Passage.

We are excited to share a more time-efficient way to discover the wonders of the White Continent without sacrificing any of the adventure: a 10-day itinerary with Lindblad Expeditions. Their sail and fly expedition takes you to Antarctica aboard National Geographic Explorer, allowing you to check off the expedition milestone of crossing the Drake Passage. After five days immersed in Antarctica’s spectacular icescapes, you’ll return to South America via a quick, two-hour flight.

Each day on the seventh continent is filled with new sights and sounds. Greet the southernmost sky with a sunrise stretch session, paddle a kayak past tabular icebergs the size of islands, and walk among charismatic penguins. You’ll even have the rare opportunity to peer deep into polar waters from the comfort and safety of the ship via a remotely operated vehicle (ROV). A veteran team of naturalists will be on hand to provide expert perspectives, and a certified photo instructor can help you capture incredible images.

Lindblad Expeditions pioneered expedition travel to Antarctica over 55 years ago and has unmatched expertise in the region. They are uniquely skilled at bringing you directly in the heart of this icy region. Their polar captains all hold the “icemaster” distinction and have collectively navigated more than 600 expeditions in these icy waters, while the crew’s deep knowledge of the Antarctic peninsula allows them to make the most of nature’s opportunities. For travelers, this translates to adventure-filled days and amazing wildlife sightings – experiences befit for the trip of a lifetime.

We hope you can be part of this tour. To reserve your place, please return the reservation form or call Carolina Alumni at 877-962-3980.

Go Heels and travel the world,

Audrey Liles ’13, Catherine Nichols ’89 and Douglass Payne ’04
Carolina Alumni Travel Office

SPECIAL OFFER
Save 10% when traveling with Carolina Alumni. See page 12 for details.

Participation in this tour is a Carolina Alumni member benefit. Join or renew today at alumni.unc.edu/join. ($50 for individuals, $60 for couples). The Carolina Alumni Travel Office may be reached at (877) 962-3980 or enrichment@unc.edu.

Cover photo: Adult Adélie penguins lining up to leap off of an iceberg at Paulet Island in the Weddell Sea, Antarctica.
Opposite: Guests explore Antarctica by Zodiac.
Witness the Wonder of the White Continent

Dazzling Beauty on a Grand Scale

The White Continent launches you into a unique world of marine wildlife, frozen landscapes, and incredible geological formations. Spot ethereal albatross and other giant pelagic birds that glide and flit around us as we sail through the legendary Drake Passage. Watch for the telltale spout of orcas and acrobatic pods of leaping dolphins off the deck. Approaching the Antarctic islands, we float into an ice desert of crystalline air and frozen seas. Staggering in its variety of forms, the visual beauty of polar ice makes every Antarctic explorer vow to return.

Kayak and hike among Antarctica’s most riveting, and often raucous, denizens: the Adélie, chinstrap, and gentoo penguins. Whether courting, squabbling, or fetching krill, their fascinating antics and adaptations to life on the ice are at once amusing and awe-inspiring. Zodiac cruise in search of leopard seals hauled out on the sea ice, then watch for the big dark eyes of Weddell seals popping their heads above the water. And explore lesser-known terrain. While the White Continent is famous for its snow, glaciers, and icebergs, its rockier volcanic past is revealed at places like Edinburgh Hill, where columnar basalt juts out of the sea, and at the black-sand beaches of a submerged caldera called Deception Island.

Life on Board

When sailing on the National Geographic Explorer, your time on board is as rewarding as your time on shore. Every detail—from the culinary delights to the soothing spa treatments sourced from our surroundings—is inspired by the beauty all around you. Watch orcas from the ship’s bow in the icy air, then warm up in the chart room with a cup of hot cocoa. Or perch high atop the ship in the sun-drenched observation lounge, where you can fly over the polar scenery as it unfolds below. With a well-stocked library at arm’s reach, you can read up on a comprehensive range of topics, from Shackleton’s historic expedition to the migratory patterns of humpback whales.
The Quintessential Expedition Ship

The National Geographic Explorer is an ice-class expedition ship that truly lives up to her name. She embodies the expertise that Lindblad Expeditions has developed throughout more than 55 years of exploring Antarctica. This powerful yet intimately scaled vessel brings you directly, and safely, into the heart of this icy wilderness and allows you to experience it in unique and immersive ways. Her bow’s low profile gives you an exhilarating vantage point, making you feel as though you’re suspended over the glassy water. And you’re always welcome to talk to the captain and officers on the Bridge, where you can learn the ins and outs of navigation or take a turn at the spotting scope.

Purpose-Built for Polar Exploration

- **DNV ICE-1A class rating** on the hull, enabling us to navigate the ice safely
- **Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV)** that can explore the ocean at depths up to 1,000 feet
- **Crow’s nest remote-controlled camera** with real-time footage broadcast on high-definition LCD video screens within each cabin
- **Electronic chart system** that broadcasts as a channel in the cabins
- **Chart room** with nautical maps and a coffee, tea, and hot cocoa station
- **The Bridge** where you’re always welcome with an open invitation from the ship’s captain
- **Observation lounge** providing panoramic vistas of the scenery and a supply of binoculars
- **Large fleet of Zodiacs** and internal mechanism for swift, effortless boarding
- **36 double kayaks** that allow personal exploring in pristine Antarctic environments

Opposite (clockwise from top): National Geographic Explorer is designed with the utmost attention to safety and comfort; guests review nautical maps on the Bridge; Gulf Almirante Montt, Puerto Natales, Patagonia, Chile.; kayaks allow for personal exploration.

Above: Guests join officers on the Bridge to watch them navigate the ice.
Experience Authentic Exploration

Travel with a Veteran Team

Every member of our staff—from our naturalists and expedition leaders to our crew working behind the scenes—is committed to ensuring our guests have an unforgettable experience. Many are veteran polar guides who have worked with us for decades, chosen for their extensive knowledge of subjects like geology, wildlife biology, and climate science. They, along with the guest speakers who join us on board, give rich context to the wildlife and landscapes we encounter ashore.

Take Great Photos with the Pros

On a Lindblad Expeditions voyage, photography is never an afterthought—it’s central to the expedition experience. A photography expert and a certified photo instructor (CPI) join each voyage to assist travelers with everything from camera settings to composition. Every guest—from smartphone camera users to advanced hobbyists—can stand side by side with top photographers, pick up tips in the field, and return home with the photos of a lifetime. With the complimentary OM System Photo Gear Locker, you can field test new lenses, camera bodies, and more.
Actively Explore Every Day

Our Antarctic voyages feature a range of activities designed to immerse you in the wilds of the White Continent. Head to the bow to watch for whale fins and flukes, paddle a kayak past a glittering iceberg, or hike up a hillside for otherworldly views of the massive ice sheets. Zodiacs can zip you to the shore, where you can watch the adorable antics of fluffy Adélie and gentoo penguin chicks testing the waters and exercising their wings. Or join one of our polar experts in search of leopard seals among the brash ice. On board, learn more about the Heroic Age of Antarctic exploration from our historian, identify live birds next to expert birders, or join your photo instructor at the deck rail for landscape photography tips. Each day opens new exploration options you can enjoy at your own pace.

In-Depth Undersea Program

As part of our in-depth undersea program, an undersea specialist uses a high-definition video camera and deploys a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) that allows us to peer through steely polar waters—up to 1,000 feet beneath the surface. Footage is shared during daily recaps, inviting guests to witness surprising and unexpectedly colorful sea life from the comfort and safety of our ship.
Voyage Itinerary

Crossing the Drake Passage is an explorer’s milestone for many, but it can add several days to your travels. On this new itinerary, experience the best of both worlds as you sail via ship to Antarctica and then return to Puerto Natales on a two-hour flight, saving time without sacrificing any of the adventure. Travel with a diverse team of experts aboard the National Geographic Explorer. Venture into channels and coves framed by towering peaks. Watch for whales off the bow; Zodiac cruise around enormous icebergs; and hike and kayak in complete tranquility. Choose an active agenda or surrender to the pleasures of relaxing downtime and shipboard camaraderie. Plus, get top shots with the help of a professional photographer.

DAY 1 • Arrive Ushuaia, Argentina
Arrive in Ushuaia. Sandwiched between ice-mantled peaks and the frigid waters of the Beagle Channel, this is a fittingly wild place to be known as “El Fin del Mundo” or “The End of the World.” Transfer from the airport to our hotel. Join us this evening for dinner and a briefing on our upcoming adventure. (D)

DAY 2 • Ushuaia/Embark
Check out of our hotel and begin exploring this amazing region. Visit Tierra del Fuego National Park, clad in dense beech forest just as much of Antarctica was millions of years ago. Savor lunch on board a private catamaran as you cruise the Channel, keeping an eye out for plump South American sea lions and sleek seabirds like the imperial cormorant. By day’s end, you’ll be comfortably on board the ship and ready to sail off to the White Continent. (B,L,D)

DAYS 3-4 • At Sea Crossing the Drake Passage
At times ferocious, at others flat calm, this legendary 500-mile-wide strait divides South America from the Antarctic Peninsula. Feel the excitement build as we begin the crossing, often accompanied by seabirds like the wandering albatross and—if luck allows—a pod of killer whales or rare dolphins. Get to know the ship and prepare for the adventures ahead. Visit the Bridge (ideal for wildlife spotting), relax with a massage, attend a talk on the unique biology of penguins, or simply settle into a comfy chair in the observation lounge, looking out over the waves as you contemplate the history of this passage named for English privateer Francis Drake, but first discovered by Spanish navigator Francisco de Hoces. (B,L,D)
DAYS 5-8 • Exploring Antarctica
With long hours of daylight at this time of year, we have ample opportunities to explore. Our schedule is flexible, allowing us to take advantage of the unexpected, whether we’re watching whales at play off the bow of our ship, hiking alongside penguin highways, or enjoying an evening Zodiac cruise amid porpoising penguins. While wildlife is magnificent, ice defines the Antarctic. You’ll get to know ice up close and personal—from icebergs the size of islands, bergy bits and near-vertical glaciers, to the fragile, nearly invisible layers that have just begun to freeze. One day, we might set out by kayak to encounter towering icebergs at water level; embark on a Zodiac excursion in search of seals and blue-eyed shags; or walk amid thousands of Adélie and gentoo penguins. The next, we might experience the thrill of the ship crunching through pack ice. Everywhere we go in Antarctica we’re surrounded by opportunities to capture uniquely beautiful images. Along the way, your expert expedition team will enrich every experience. (B,L,D)

DAY 9 • King George Island/Disembark/Charter Flight to Puerto Natales, Chile
This morning finds us off of King George Island. Home to a diverse assortment of wildlife including Weddell and elephant seals, Adélie, chinstrap, and gentoo penguins, this island also has a human presence. Researchers from a wide range of countries, including the U.S., Chile, Argentina, and Brazil, call the various stations home. Disembark and Zodiac ashore to board our 2-hour flight back to Puerto Natales where we will overnight. (B,L,D)

DAY 10 • Puerto Natales/ Homebound Flights
Check out of Hotel Costaustralis (or similar) and transfer to the airport to begin your journey homeward. (B)
Designed for in-depth exploration, she is the definitive expedition ship, capable of navigating both polar passages and temperate waters. Fully stabilized and with an ice strengthened hull, she provides exceptional comfort, while her dynamic suite of exploration features—including an interactive chart room, a high observation lounge, and a low-profile bow with dramatic views—reflect a dedication to curiosity and wonder.

**Capacity**
81 outside cabins and suites accommodating 148 guests.

**Registry**
Bahamas.

**Overall Length**
367 feet.

**Public areas**
Bistro bar; chart room; restaurant; Global Gallery; library; lounge with photo kiosks, full-service bar and facilities for films, slideshows, and presentations; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear; OM System Photo Gear Locker; laundry; and observation lounge. An open Bridge enables guests to meet the captain and officers and learn about navigation.

**Meals**
Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere. Menu is international with local flair.

**Accommodations**
All cabins and suites face outside with windows or portholes, and have a private bathroom and climate controls. Equipped with Wi-Fi, multiple electrical outlets, USB outlets, full-length mirror, and phones. TV featuring entertainment on demand, live feed from onboard presentations, bow camera, and ship’s position. Luxury bed linens and pillows. Botanically inspired shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, and lotion. Newly updated suites are enhanced with a sleek, Scandinavian design, and hold a Command Center that allows guests to explore from the comfort of their rooms. Command Centers include a barometer, a National Geographic Atlas, and an espresso maker.

**Expedition Equipment**
Zodiacs, kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, crow’s nest remote-controlled camera, video microscope.

**Staff & Crew**
Every member of our staff is committed to ensuring our guests have an unforgettable experience. Many of our veteran guides and naturalists are locally based in your destination and have worked with us for decades. A full-time medical professional, undersea specialist, professional photographer and certified photo instructor are on board, and with a low staff-to-guest ratio, you can hear different perspectives and gain new insights every day.

**Wellness**
The vessel is staffed by a wellness specialist and features a glass-enclosed fitness center, outdoor stretching area, LEXspa treatment room, and sauna.

**Sustainability**
From our carbon neutrality initiatives to the locally sourced food we serve on board, our expeditions are designed around the well-being of our world. Travel with peace of mind, knowing that green practices are embedded in our operations and that each voyage gives back to the places we explore.
**Ship Deck Plan & Pricing**

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**Voyage Dates**

January 15-24, 2025

*Note:* Prices below include the charter flight from King George Island to Puerto Natales.

**Advance Payment Details**

15% of the cabin fare, per person

Costs are per person, double occupancy unless indicated as solo.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Main Deck – With one or two portholes #301-308</th>
<th>10% Savings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category 1</td>
<td>$12,950</td>
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<td>Category 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category B Solo</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Shared Accommodations:* Available in Categories 1 and 2.

*Solo Occupancy:* Cabins available in Categories A and B.

*Note:* Cabins #209, 211, 214, 216-218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 303-306 have one queen-size bed. All other double cabins have two single beds; some can convert to a queen-size bed. Third person rates are available in the designated triple occupancy cabins at one-half the double occupancy rate. Cabins #341, 343, 101, 102, 215, 219 and 230 can accommodate a third person.

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*Suite Exclusives:* The suites on our ships are your elegant retreat at sea, featuring spacious living areas and incredible ocean views. Now, booking one of these beautifully appointed accommodations comes with even more benefits. Our new Suite Exclusives package gives guests staying in eligible cabins access to an array of amenities designed to enhance your on-board experience, including priority booking for spa treatments, complimentary laundry, and other exclusive perks.
INCLUSIVE PRICING

- Charter flight from King George Island to Puerto Natales, Chile
- All accommodations aboard ship
- Excursions, hotels, and airport transfers, as indicated in the itinerary
- All meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and on shore. Meals and hors d'euvres are inspired by regional cuisine and locally sourced where possible
- Beer, wine, cocktails, and spirits, with super premium wines and liquors available for purchase
- 24-hour access to snacks, premium coffees and teas, non-alcoholic beverages, and filtered water
- Selection of exploration tools such as power tools, kayaks, and other state-of-the-art gear
- Guidance and company of our leading expedition staff
- Presentations by the expedition staff
- Access to the OM System Photo Gear Locker with the latest gear to try out on loan
- Gratuities for the ship's crew
- The services of a medical professional
- Morning stretch classes and 24-hour access to the fitness center
- 24-hour access to lounges, observation decks, library, and other shared spaces
- Complimentary parka and reusable water bottle
- Special access permits, park and site entrance fees, and port taxes

SPECIAL OFFERS

SPECIAL 10% GROUP SAVINGS: Save 10% on the cabin fare (as indicated) when traveling with Carolina Alumni. Valid on the January 15-24, 2025 departure date of Antarctica Direct: Sail and Fly the Drake Passage. For new bookings only, subject to availability, may not be combined with other offers, and is not applicable on airfare or extensions. Call for details.

CELEBRATE LIFE’S MILESTONES: Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, $150 shipboard credit for the group, and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, not applicable on airfare or extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies. Call for details.

BRING THE KIDS: Sharing the expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. Take $500 off the double-occupancy price for each person under the age of 18. Not applicable on extensions or airfare.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Prices quoted in this brochure are per person based on double occupancy in USD. Prices quoted are valid at the time of printing, and are subject to change and availability at time of booking. Under normal conditions the total expedition price is guaranteed at the time advanced payment is made. However, our expedition pricing is determined far in advance of initial departure on the basis of then-existing projections of fuel and other costs. In the event of increases in those costs, including but not limited to increases in the price of fuel, currency fluctuations, increases in government taxes or levies, or increased security costs, we reserve the right to adjust the price of your expedition or add a surcharge to cover such unexpected increases. We will always provide an explanation of the reason for increase in costs.

COST INCLUDES: All amenities listed in inclusive pricing above. Unused services or items included in this program are non-refundable.

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; additional hotel nights unless otherwise noted; pre- and post- extensions if available; private transfers; laundry, spa treatments, Wi-Fi and phone services; travel protection plan; and passport, visa, and immigration fees.

AIRFARE: The charter flight from King George Island to Puerto Natales, Chile is included. International airfare is an additional cost. Lindblad will assist in making your air arrangements for a $50 per person service fee. Due to the unpredictable weather in Antarctica, we highly encourage guests to book their international flights through Lindblad Expeditions’ air department, who can assist with rescheduling flights if needed.

RESERVATIONS: To confirm your place, an advance payment of 15% of the cabin fare, per person is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover or check. Receipt of advance payment indicates your acceptance of the terms and conditions.

FINAL PAYMENT: Due 120 days prior to departure. Lindblad Expeditions reserves the right to cancel your reservation if payment has not been received by final payment due date.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: Optional insurance to cover trip cancellation, trip interruption or medical coverage is available. Information for USI Travel Insurance Services, Carolina Alumni’s trip insurance partner, will be shared with you after you make your reservation.

ENTRY AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: Guests are advised to verify travel documents (passport/transit visa/entry visa) for the country(s) through which they are transiting and/or entering. Reliable and most current information regarding international travel can be found by contacting the consulate/embassy of the country(s) you are visiting or transiting through. We will not be responsible if you are denied entry or transit into a country if you are unable to provide valid documents as per the country’s requirement.

RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS: Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Expeditions’ and National Geographic Expeditions’ (a division of National Geographic Partners, LLC) liability for loss of property, injury, illness, or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship’s ticket sent prior to departure or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

CANCELLATION FEE POLICY (PER PERSON)

120 or more days prior to expedition start: No penalty: Advance Payment will be credited toward your next expedition**
119-90 days prior to expedition start: 50% of trip cost***
89-0 days prior to expedition start: 100% of trip cost***

**Advance payments will be credited in the form of a Lindblad Expeditions Travel Certificate, valid for 12 months from the date of cancellation, and which may only be applied towards final payment on any future booking.
***Trip cost is total price paid including extensions, charter airfare and other additional services. We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.


12
Reservation Form

Carolina Alumni Travel Office
alumni.unc.edu/travel
Ph: (877) 962-3980
Email: enrichment@unc.edu

Antarctica Direct: Sail and Fly the Drake Passage

JANUARY 15-24, 2025
ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

Passenger Information

Please reserve ______ place(s).

Guest 1: __________________________________________ Date of Birth: __________
(Name as it appears on passport)

Guest 2: __________________________________________ Date of Birth: __________
(Name as it appears on passport)

Street Address: ______________________________________

City: __________________________ State: __________ ZIP: __________

Preferred Phone (please indicate Home, Cell or Business): ______________________

Email: __________________________

Accommodations: ☐ Double ☐ Single ☐ Twin share with a friend
☐ Share with roommate assigned by tour operator.

Please indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference:

1st choice: __________________________ 2nd choice: __________________________

Advance Payment Information: 15% of the cabin fare per person.

☐ If paying by check, please make deposit checks payable to the Lindblad Maritime Enterprises, Ltd.
and mail with this form to: Carolina Alumni Travel Office, PO Box 660, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0660.

Enclosed is my advance payment of $ __________________________

☐ For deposits to be paid using a credit card, the Carolina Alumni Travel Office will forward your
reservation form to Lindblad Expeditions and a member of their Guest Services team will contact
you to collect your payment.

I understand that reservations will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. I accept the
conditions as stated in this brochure and submit my reservation(s) as indicated. I understand
that the balance is due by September 17, 2024.

Signature: __________________________________________ Date: __________

The UNC General Alumni Association and the travel agency reserve the right to decline to accept or to retain any
person as a tour member should such a person’s health, mental condition, physical infirmity or attitude jeopardize
the operation of the tour or the rights, welfare, or enjoyment of other participants. Refunds will be made in
accordance with the cancellation policy listed in the brochure.
Antarctica Direct: Sail and Fly the Drake Passage

Expedition Highlights

• Experience it all—cruise the legendary Drake Passage aboard the National Geographic Explorer and then enjoy the ease of returning on our 2-hour direct flight from King George Island to Puerto Natales.

• Explore the world’s last great wilderness in the company of a team of top naturalists celebrating Lindblad’s 55-plus years of expedition heritage.

• Hike amid magnificent mountains; see huge glaciers; and observe a parade of gentoo, Adélie, and chinstrap penguins.

• Kayak in protected waters, paddling in the Antarctic stillness as penguins swim nearby.

Carolina Alumni Travel Office
George Watts Hill Alumni Center
P.O. Box 660
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0660

100% CARBON NEUTRAL AND COMMITTED TO BEING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FREE
We have chosen Lindblad Expeditions because they care deeply about the planet and see travel as a powerful force for good.