

Voyage



The South Pole Fly In

Some of the greatest stories of modern exploration are those of attempts to reach the Geographic South Pole. Still the names of explorers like Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton continue to fascinate us as we learn of their heroic journeys. Today, you can follow in their footsteps on the same journey with the use of modern technology - an aircraft.

Air temperatures in early October can be around -30°C (-22°F) and can rise to a high of -5°C (23°F) in mid December. Throughout your stay, you will have 24 hours of daylight. The wild whims of nature can fall as snow, blow as 60-knot winds and dance on the ice creating colours more beautiful than those used by Michelangelo.

- Embark in the city of Punta Arenas, Chile
- Fly via private aircraft over tabular icebergs and ice shelves into the heart of Antarctica
- Fly across the polar plateau en-route to the South Pole Truly, this is nature at its finest.
- Become one of the few to stand at the southernmost point on earth - the Geographical South Pole
- Explore the hills and the base in the foothills of the Ellsworth Mountains

Day 1

Fly from London Heathrow to Punta Arenas.

Day 2

Today is a free day for you to have a lazy time and explore this small but fascinating city. In the evening you are invited to join us for an Antarctic presentation and cocktail reception. The presentation will include information on your flight South, the current weather situation and what to expect upon your arrival in Antarctica.

Every effort will be made to keep to the scheduled departure date, but please note that all flights are dependent on weather and local conditions. You will be notified of any schedule changes as and when they occur.

Day 3

As soon as the weather is suitable, we will call you at your hotel and advise you of the time of departure.



Your Flight South

The flight time from Punta Arenas to the camp is approximately 4.5 hours, depending on the winds. The initial part of our flight passes over Tierra del Fuego, the southernmost area in Chile. The ocean below has been notorious throughout modern history for its wild storms, violent winds and heavy seas. Waves higher than 100 feet have been encountered in the

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Drake Passage by several ships and many early seamen lost their lives to these waters in the quest to find new lands.

At approximately 60 degrees latitude we reach the winter limits of frozen seas. This area of ocean is called the Antarctic Convergence and is rich in plankton and other tiny creatures that form the bottom of the food chain for Antarctica's rich bird and wildlife colonies. We are now entering the area governed by the Antarctic Treaty.

At 66 degrees latitude we cross the Antarctic Circle. Along this circle the sun never sets at the austral summer solstice and never rises at the austral winter solstice. Further South these Antarctic days and nights lengthen until at the South Pole the sun rises and sets only once a year.

Continuing our flight South and if weather conditions below co-operate, we may see tabular icebergs and the ice shelves from which they calve below us. Some of these bergs can be the size of a small country and become a method of transport and a home for penguins and seals.

Our first sight of the icy continent appears at Charcot Island close to Alexander Island, 71 degrees latitude. The ice sheet continues to stretch inland until in the distance appear the spectacular Ellsworth Mountains, the highest range in Antarctica. Passing over the Ellsworth Range, our runway comes into sight. The wheeled aircraft lands on an area of blue ice, which is 3,300 ft (1,000m) above sea level.

The blue ice remains clear of snow due to the Katabatic winds that tunnel down from the mountains with great force. You are now warmly welcomed to the camp in Antarctica.

An introduction to our staff is followed by a tour and orientation of the camp and the surrounding area. You will be shown to your accommodation and settled down to a welcoming meal.



Day 5

The South Pole group will meet in the morning, when logistics, weather and safety information regarding your journey South will be discussed. Bring a pen, paper and any questions you may have to the meeting. A group brunch is set for all the clients and staff with information being discussed regarding the various group activities arranged during your days in Antarctica.

Day 6-7

After an early breakfast and a final weather check by the pilot we pack up and head as far South in the world as is humanly possible to go. The flight will take approximately 6 hours from camp as you fly over the Polar Ice Cap, the highest plateau in Antarctica.

Nearing the final part of our flight South you will catch sight of the South Pole station in the distance. The United States of America maintains a research base close to the South Pole, which is officially named the Amundsen-Scott Base in memory of those intrepid explorers.

Almost a century ago the explorers who planned and attempted expeditions to the South Pole took years to reach their goal. Today, thanks to technology 6 hours later we find ourselves at the South Pole. You will be given a guided tour of the station by a member of their staff and

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if the shop is open you may be able to purchase small souvenirs such as T-shirts, badges, etc. so make sure you have US\$ cash.

As you walk around the Pole that marks the southernmost place on earth, beneath your feet 360 lines of longitude collide and the ice is almost 3000m (10,000ft) thick, you have become part of a very select and, to date, very limited group of people to journey this far South on our planet. Congratulations!

The completion of this incredible journey will be the return flight to camp of approximately 6 hours over the polar plateau. When you arrive back at camp enjoy a celebration dinner where you can contemplate and enjoy your wonderful achievement, a marvellous story that so few can tell!

Day 8-10

Activities are available throughout your stay at camp, including short walking trips, navigation lessons, slide shows, indoor games and talking to some of the other adventure travellers you will meet on your journey. Your time at camp can be as active or as relaxed as you wish, just let us know.

Activities may include:

Snowmobile trips to the local mountains;

Learning about glaciology and geology;

Experience the unique ice and rock formations surrounding you;

An ascent of the nearby hills with wonderful panoramic views of the Ellsworth Mountain Range;

Learn and practice cross-country skiing and take local trips across the vast polar landscape.

In addition, the opportunity to go on a guided overnight camp in the Ellsworth Mountains will be available. Experience first hand, the remoteness of this continent and the thoughts and feelings of those early explorers.



Day 11

Weather permitting, the aircraft from Punta Arenas arrives in camp with new supplies and will take off with your group for the final leg of your Antarctic journey.

Once back in Punta Arenas you will be met by staff at the airport to take you to your hotel for a final night at this destination.

Day 12

Today you catch your flight to Buenos Aires where again you will break your journey for an overnight stay at the best hotel in the city. We will assist wherever possible with any questions or queries you may have.

Day 13

On your last day, you will be taken to the airport for your flight back to London with all the wonderful memories of this once in a lifetime experience.

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Includes:	Meals, accommodation and activities as detailed in the itinerary, insurance, transfers, an English speaking guide, hire of Antarctic jacket, boots, gloves, hat and carbon offsetting
Excludes:	International flights, accommodation in Punta Arenas, extra kit (a kit list is provided)
Price per person:	Price on application
Best time to travel:	December
Is it for you?	This trip gives you any amazing opportunity to visit the South Pole. The temperatures will be low, and this can be make your trip more physically and mentally demanding.