



International Antarctic Expedition 2012

27 February – 12 March

The International Antarctic Expedition 2012 will be an exhilarating and unpredictable adventure - a life changing experience for the international group of men and women joining Robert Swan and the 2041 Team to the last great wilderness on earth. The following itinerary outlines a typical daily program you can expect on a 2041 Expedition, with examples of Antarctic locations and sights we may visit along the way.

Please note: All Antarctic travel is completely dependent on local weather and ground conditions at the time of the actual expedition, so flexibility and an open mind are essential for a truly positive and successful experience!

Day 1: Ushuaia

Monday 27 February 2012

You will fly into Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world. This windy and desolate outpost is tucked into the Beagle Channel and surrounded by peaks and glaciers. You will be met at the airport by Robert Swan and his team leaders and taken to your hotel. We will stay three nights in our hotel high up on the mountain above town. Depending on your arrival time, the remainder of the day is yours to relax and get ready to begin your expedition. One of our 2041 Team Leaders will check your clothing and gear to ensure you have everything you need for your Antarctic journey. Dinner is on your own.

Day 2: Ushuaia

Tuesday 28 February 2012

The "Leadership on the Edge" program begins today with a "meet and greet" session and team introductions. You have the afternoon to get settled, purchase gear and relax. Dinner is on your own.

Day 3: Ushuaia

Wednesday 29 February 2012

Today begins with a hike up the Martial Glacier on the mountain behind town. We will work together in teams to reach the top! Once we return to the hotel, we will regroup to review our team work on the mountain and continue with our Program. Tonight is an introductory team dinner.

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Day 4: Antarctic Departure Day

Thursday 1 March 2012

We prepare for our departure today. You will have a few hours after lunch to go into town and do any final shopping, make calls home, etc. In the late afternoon we embark our ship the *Sea Spirit*. As you step aboard, you will realize just how far you have come - and the adventure has just begun! We enjoy our first dinner onboard after we attend the Antarctic safety briefing on the deck of the ship. It's time to start our voyage south!

Day 5-6: The Drake Passage

Friday 2 March – Saturday 3 March 2012

Cape Horn, the most southerly point of the Americas, has stimulated the imagination of mankind since Sir Francis Drake inadvertently circumnavigated it in 1580. Sometimes misty and grey, other times calm and clear, crossing the legendary Drake Passage is unforgettable - a milestone in any adventurer's personal travel history. Some of us will approach this historic crossing with more than a little trepidation. Despite its reputation, there are times when it is called the "Drake Lake"; at other times we have encountered rough crossings with large waves.



Regardless, the size of the waves and the force of the gale winds will take on gigantic proportions when related to folks back home.

As we cross the Drake Passage, there will be a selection of multimedia lectures about Antarctica, the timing of which is dependent on safety and weather conditions. We will also learn about the wildlife, geology, history and geography of the Antarctic Peninsula from our onboard experts. We will be given IAATO

guidelines for approaching the wildlife and begin to discuss the importance of renewable energy and how it plays a vital role in the preservation of Antarctica. A favorite pastime onboard is to stand at the stern watching the many seabirds, including majestic albatrosses and giant petrels, following our wake.

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Day 7-12: The Antarctic Peninsula

Sunday 4 March – Friday 9 March 2012

Depending on ice and weather conditions, the western coast of the Antarctic Peninsula is ours to explore. Our experienced leaders will use their local knowledge to design our voyage from day to day capitalizing on the best weather and ice conditions.

Once we arrive in the calmer waters of the Peninsula, we will make numerous shore landings in inflatable rubber boats called zodiacs. Cruising along spectacular ice shelves or following whales that are feeding near the surface, we will soon appreciate the distinct advantage of being on a small vessel, which gives everyone the opportunity to experience these very special close encounters with the environment.

There are many exciting places that we MAY visit if time and weather permit. Shore excursion decisions will be made daily onboard. Below are some places we may visit:



Cuverville Island: Cuverville Island is a domed shape 250m tall island hosting several large gentoo rookeries, making it one of the largest gatherings of this penguin in Antarctica at 40,000 strong. We take this opportunity to closely observe them and their habits as we stand beneath the giant peaks that rise around the island.

Neko Harbour: Named after the Norwegian whaling ship working in these waters at the beginning of the 19th century, Neko Harbour gives us an opportunity to enjoy a true continental landing. Our time among its calving glaciers and statuesque icebergs is a clear reminder of our goal of respecting and protecting this beautiful continent for future generations.

Paradise Harbour: Named by the whalers for its stark beauty, Paradise Harbour is arguably one of the most aptly named spots on earth! Surrounded by glaciers that dramatically calve into the sea, Paradise Harbour offers breathtaking mountain reflections into clear, unspoiled waters. During our visit, we embark on a group hike and enjoy an incredible vista above the bay, towering over Argentina's now-abandoned Brown Station. Whales often seek shelter in this bay, and as we explore the shoreline by zodiac boat, we may be lucky enough to encounter a few humpback or minke whales up close.

The Lemaire Channel: Surrounded by near vertical peaks on either side, this extremely steep sided channel is only visible once you are almost inside providing one of the most dramatic landscapes to sail through. Sometimes blocked by ice, the Lemaire reminds us that we must always be ready to adapt to the Antarctic elements.

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Camping in the Antarctic

For those who wish to join, Robert and his team leaders will take the team on an overnight camping expedition on the Antarctic ice, weather permitting. This gives us the chance to experience the Antarctic night as the early expeditions did at the turn of the century; however we are fortunate to have the latest expedition equipment provided.



Day 13: King George Island

Saturday 10 March 2012

The largest island the South Shetland Islands of the Peninsula, King George Island is also the location of the 2041 E-Base, the first education station built in Antarctica of sustainable products and run on renewable energy. You will have a chance to visit the site of Robert Swan's 2008 "E-Base Goes Live" mission where he successfully became the first person in Antarctic history to live for two weeks solely on renewable energy. Later in the day we enter the Drake Passage.

Day 14-15: At Sea

Saturday March 10 – Sunday 11 March 2012

Sailing home towards Argentina, team members enjoy a day at sea to with fellow team members and reflect on all that has taken place during the expedition. A final wrap up and award ceremony takes place as we leave Antarctic waters

Day 16: Ushuaia - Disembark

Monday 12 March 2012

We disembark in Ushuaia in the early morning. A location that mere days ago seemed wild and remote is now, in contrast to the isolation of Antarctica, cozily familiar. We say our farewells all around and make our way to the airport with the 2041 Team Leaders who will assure your safe departure.