



ANTARCTIC EXPEDITIONS OVERVIEW

2026 - 2027

Let us show YOU Antarctica







CAPE TOWN
SOUTH AFRICA

5.5 - 6 HRS

ULTIMA AIRBASE
ANTARCTICA

LET US SHOW YOU ANTARCTICA

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INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO ULTIMA ANTARCTIC EXPEDITIONS

Your gateway to another world.

Ultima has more than a quarter of a century of heritage serving science and expeditions in Antarctica - the most remote continent on Planet Earth.

Ultima offers guests a range of once-in-a-lifetime experiences in the Antarctic summer, between October and February, every year. This is Antarctica's "Deep Field", the inland wilderness of lore, which many describe as "The Real Antarctica".

Our Antarctic expeditions are safe, comfortable and extraordinary - enabling guests to walk in the footsteps of polar legends and history.

A quarter of a century ago, in 2001, Ultima established a "Gateway to Antarctica" - an "air bridge" between Africa and Antarctica.

Today, all Ultima expeditions begin their epic journey with an inter-continental flight from Cape Town, South Africa, flying due south for 4 200km. In less than six hours, we touch down on a blue ice runway in Antarctica.

From here, it is our honour to show you Antarctica - on expeditions lasting seven days and nights, to just 24 hours.

During our expeditions on ice, we traverse the white continent by specialized vehicles or on foot. For our longer expeditions, our visits to the South Pole, the Emperor Penguins and the Drygalski Mountains require internal flights over Antarctica, which are an occasion in themselves.

Both breathtaking and exhilarating, in iconic aircraft, which serve the heart of Antarctic heritage, science and exploration.

All expeditions enjoy nearly 24-hour daylight.

Ultima's expeditions are accessible to all ages (above 14) and fitness levels - and yet are exceptionally rare by nature. Some Antarctic sites have been visited by fewer humans than have summited Mount Everest.

Explore this wild, pristine, magnificent 7th Continent with us.





TESTIMONIAL

“This week has been life changing for me. I came with such high expectations ... for years and years, I wanted to come to Antarctica.”

My expectations have been far, far exceeded. I couldn't have fathomed the enormity of this place - the vastness, the scale, the quantity of ice, the beauty and rawness.

I have seen men that have visited this continent for over a decade, tear up ... tear up because they were so touched by what they have seen on this very trip - visiting the mountains, the emperor penguin colonies with their little, tiny chicks and the interaction in this harsh landscape.

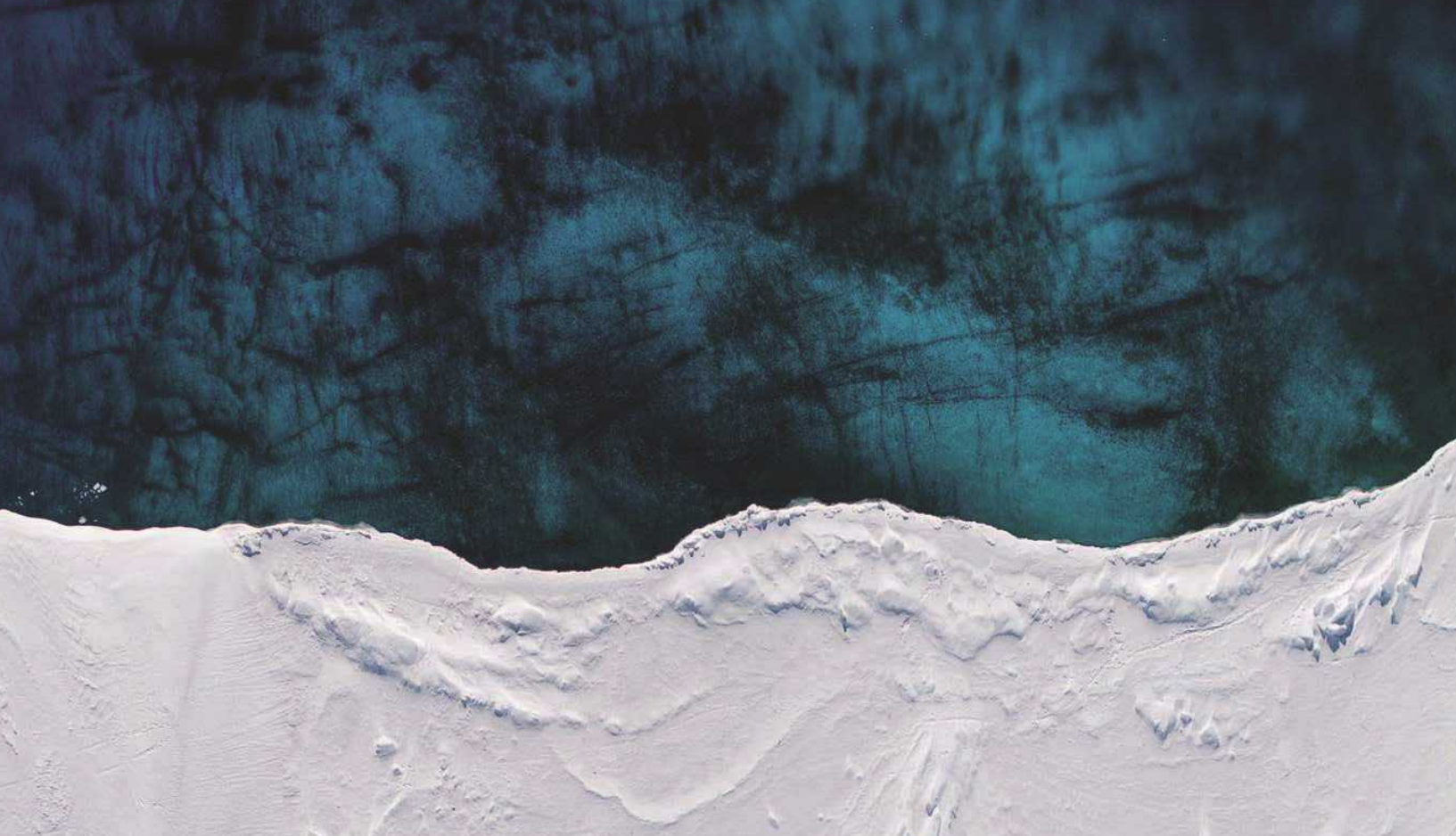
It's been absolutely life changing, and I can't think of any other trip I've ever done that has broadened my horizon to this extent and touched me right here.

There are no words for it. All I can tell you, you have to come and experience it for yourself.

It is mind-bogglingly beautiful.

- **Janine Kraye, Award-Winning Photographer**







ULTIMA EXPEDITION 01

TWO EMPEROR COLONIES & MOUNTAINS

This unique expedition offers one of the ultimate wildlife experiences on Earth.

Over seven days and nights, guests fly twice to visit Emperor Penguins colonies - to experience the rare privilege of time with these admirable creatures.

The regal Emperor Penguin is the largest of all penguins, the deepest-diving hunter, and the only bird which breeds on ice.

In extraordinary feats of resilience, the male Emperor Penguin nurtures a single egg, throughout the pitch-dark months of the Antarctic Winter.

We fly to these Emperor Penguin colonies in ski-fitted aircraft, carrying just eight guests at a time, and land on ice shelves, for visits of several hours each.

Guests are carefully hosted by our expert guides and ornithologists, to ensure no disturbance, and the best vantage points ... To witness these breeding colonies in their earliest moments of parenthood - alive with young newborns, in festivals of excited sound, curiosity and delight.

As a final treat on this expedition, we take to the skies a third time, for our multi-stop flight into the mythical landscapes of the Drygalski Mountains. Described by a recent guest: as "the most remote place I have seen in my life ... so raw, so crisp, so beautiful. Out of this world."

In the days between the expedition flights above, guests are treated to a wealth of daily excursions - by foot, or specialised Antarctic vehicles. These include sites such as "ice walls" and unique ice formations, the chance to stare out over the Nivl continental ice shelf, and savouring moments in the Schirmacher Oasis.





TWO EMPEROR COLONIES & MOUNTAINS EXPEDITION

What's included?

- All Outer Polar Gear
- Airport Transfers in Cape Town
- Inter-Continental Flights between Cape Town and Antarctica
- All Food & Beverages In-Flight, and in Antarctica
- Seven night's Accommodation at Ultima Camps – between Ultima Oasis Camp and Ultima Airbase Expedition Camp
- South Pole Expedition, by Intra-Continental Aircraft
- Emperor Penguins Expedition, by Intra-Continental Aircraft
- Daily Excursions
- All Activities
- Limited WiFi access and connectivity is possible

Not included: polar/thermal under-garments







ULTIMA EXPEDITION 02

SOUTH POLE & EMPERORS EXPEDITION

The South Pole and Emperor Penguins Expeditions is the ultimate Grand Tour of Antarctica.

Standing at the most-southern point on Planet Earth is a “Bucket List” experience only a few humans ever achieve. Where, as one stands at the geographic South Pole, every direction is north ...

After flying from Cape Town to Antarctica, and checking in to our Ultima Oasis Camp, our journey to reach the South Pole takes us into the skies again, aboard a far smaller aircraft, our capable Bessler BT-67.

A four-and-a-half hour flight takes us to Ultima Wilderness Camp (“FD83”), to rest and refuel - before the final flight leg to the South Pole. Here, we spend time savouring this rarest of achievements: Standing at the bottom of the world - in the footsteps of the greatest Antarctic explorers in history.

Once the South Pole expedition has been completed, we return to our Wilderness Camp, where we rest for 12 hours, in warm tents, before continuing back north to Ultima Air Base. It is at our Wilderness Camp that guests will be able to send messages home, with all their latest exciting news, on WiFi in place. After resting back at Oasis Camp, the next days take us on the second “Bucket List” experience awaits: A visit to the majestic Emperor Penguins.

In the de Havilland Twin Otter aircraft, we fly north to the edge of the continental ice shelf, to visit one of the handful of Emperor Penguin colonies which spend the Antarctic Spring here. The only place on Earth where they can be seen in the wild.

Guests are assisted in obeying the strictest of protocols, to leave the colonies undisturbed in their pristine natural habitat. All-the-while enjoying front-row views over one of the greatest wildlife spectacles in all of nature.





SOUTH POLE & EMPERORS EXPEDITION

What's included?

- All Outer Polar Gear
- Airport Transfers in Cape Town
- Inter-Continental Flights between Cape Town and Antarctica
- All Food & Beverages In-Flight, and in Antarctica
- Seven night's Accommodation at Ultima Camps – between Ultima Oasis Camp, Ultima Wilderness Camp and Ultima Airbase Expedition Camp
- South Pole Expedition, by Intra-Continental Aircraft
- Emperor Penguins Expedition, by Intra-Continental Aircraft
- Daily Excursions
- All Activities
- Limited WiFi access and connectivity is possible

Not included: polar/thermal under-garments







THE SOUTH POLE & EMPERORS EXPEDITION

US\$92 000 PER PERSON

SP1	November 11-18	7 Nights	SEATS OPEN
SP2	November 17-24	7 Nights	FULL BOOKED
SP3	November 23-30	7 Nights	FULL BOOKED
SP4	November 29-December 6	7 Nights	FULL BOOKED
SP5	December 5-12	7 Nights	SEATS OPEN
SP6	December 11-18	7 Nights	SEATS OPEN



TWO EMPEROR COLONIES & MOUNTAINS EXPEDITION

US \$61 000 PER PERSON

October 25-November 1

7 Nights

SEATS OPEN

October 31 -November 7

7 Nights

SEATS OPEN







ULTIMA EXPEDITION 03

EMPEROR PENGUINS EXPEDITION

For time-pressed expedition guests - not able to join a full seven-night expedition - this expedition is the most time-efficient and affordable way to set sight of the mighty Emperor Penguins. Over four days and nights, we set out to enjoy life in Antarctica, in a range of wilderness experiences.

These include standing in awe at “ice walls” and unique ice formations, the chance to stare out over the Nivl continental ice shelf, and savouring moments in the Schirmacher Oasis.

The pièce de résistance, for most, must be the once-in-a-lifetime visit to the Emperor Penguins.

The colonies sit perched on the “edge of Antarctica”, where the ice shelf meets the ocean.

Honouring the strictest bio-security protocols, we enjoy this rare privilege of “National Geographic moments”, with our own eyes.







EMPEROR PENGUINS EXPEDITION

What's included?

- All Outer Polar Gear
- Airport Transfers in Cape Town
- Inter-Continental Flights between Cape Town and Antarctica
- All Food & Beverages In-Flight, and in Antarctica
- Four night's Accommodation at Ultima Oasis Camp
- Emperor Penguins Expedition, by Intra-Continental Aircraft
- Daily Excursions
- All Activities
- Limited WiFi access and connectivity is possible

Not included: polar/thermal under-garments







EMPEROR PENGUINS EXPEDITION

US \$40 000 PER PERSON

November 7-12

5 Nights

RESERVED

December 11-15

4 Nights

SEATS OPEN



ULTIMA EXPEDITION 04

A DAY & NIGHT IN ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION

This taste of life in Antarctica affords guests an instant immersion in life on ice - at a historic Expedition Camp.

After landing in Antarctica, we pack as many experiences as possible into your time on the world's most remote continent.

We set off by 6x6 or 4x4 specialised Antarctic truck, in search of the towering "ice wall", and amazing ice features, carved between the "nunatak" (mountains of Antarctica). We are +- 100km from the ocean, so around you is the vast expanse of ice - lit in various hues of 24-hour daylight.

Guests overnight in the traditional sleeping units - used for decades by legions of scientists, engineers and experts who make up a dozen countries' National Antarctic Programmes (NAPs). And the long honours-roll of brave expeditioners who have set out in the Antarctic wilderness, to lay claim to "world-first" missions.







A DAY & NIGHT IN ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION

What's included?

- All Outer Polar Gear
- Airport Transfers in Cape Town
- Inter-Continental Flights between Cape Town and Antarctica
- All Food & Beverages In-Flight, and in Antarctica
- One night's Accommodation at Ultima Airbase Expedition Camp
- Daily Excursions
- All Activities
- Limited WiFi access and connectivity is possible

Not included: polar/thermal under-garments







A wide-angle photograph of an Antarctic landscape. On the left, a massive, translucent blue ice wall rises steeply from a flat, snow-covered ground. The sky is a clear, deep blue. In the distance, on the right, a small group of people wearing dark outdoor gear are walking across the snow. The overall scene is desolate and majestic.

A DAY & NIGHT IN ANTARCTICA

US \$16 000 PER PERSON

Guests hosted @ Ultima Air Base

October 25-26

October 31-November 1

ULTIMA EXPEDITION 05

SOUTH POLE & MOUNTAINS OF ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION

This expedition combines visits to the South Pole, and the Drygalski Mountains - in a once-a-season combination, typically in January.

These visits are described in the main Expeditions above.

South Pole & Mountains Expedition

January 5-13, January 12-21

Availability upon request

US \$92 000 PER PERSON



INTRODUCTION

ULTIMA OASIS CAMP

Ultima Oasis Camp is located in a valley of ice and snow, surrounded by Antarctic “nunatak” (mountains). Reached in our 6x6 or 4x4 specialised Antarctic vehicles, a +- 25 minute drive from Ultima Airbase.

Welcome to the Schirmacher Oasis - a plateau in East Antarctica (also known as Queen Maud Land). This mini-region spans some 25km, and is home to +- 100 freshwater lakes, and kissed by katabatic Antarctic winds.

Nestled in our valley are three Scandinavian-style timber cabins - plus a traditional “Banya” sauna - gazing out towards the continental ice shelf.

Two cabins host our sleeping accommodation, made up of just 11 bedrooms between them - six in Storm Petrel and five in Snow Petrel - with a choice between double- or twin-bed rooms. Cabins are heated, so as to not require more than a single layer of clothing, while inside.

Each bedroom cabin also hosts its own shared mini-lounge, for casual relaxation.

Each cabin also has its own bathroom area, with two toilets and a shower.

The main Dining and Lounge Cabin is where the full Expedition parties enjoy three meals a day, and snacks and drinks in between.

Large bay-windows invite guests to pause, and take in the achingly beautiful vistas, while our Chefs prepare fine dining, and our sommelier selects perfect pairings from our world-class wine list.

In stark contrast to the freezing, brutal conditions endured by Antarctic legends of lore, our guests enjoy warmth, comfort and delicious fare, between outings into the field.

(NOTE: All food, beverages and accommodation is included in the inclusive Expedition price, with no extra costs. Also, there is no “single supplement” surcharge for single guests, who wish to enjoy our double or twin rooms.)





















FAQS/FAST FACTS

WE FLY TO ANTARCTICA

More than 120 000 tourists visit the Antarctic Peninsula each year by cruise ship. By stark contrast, Ultima's expeditions offer a tiny fraction of these seat-numbers – less than 1% - for the rare privilege of visiting Antarctica's iconic "Deep Field". We fly – in under six hours – from Cape Town, South Africa. After flying due south over 4 200km, we touch down on a blue ice runway - where your adventures begin.

WHERE IN ANTARCTICA DO WE VISIT?

Draw a straight line south from the southern tip of Africa, due south. After crossing 100km of frozen sea ice on our final approach, we touch down on a blue ice runway.

NO VISAS REQUIRED

Antarctica is not owned by any nation. Thus, no visa is required. Guests may require visas to visit South Africa, usually multiple-entry visas, as guests will arrive in South Africa from their international destinations, and then back in South Africa on the return leg from Antarctica.

WHEN DO WE NEED TO ARRIVE IN CAPE TOWN?

Excellent question: We require guests to arrive in Cape Town a minimum of 48 hours before their Estimated Time of Departure. Also, to book flexible flights, which can be changed without significant cost. This, to allow some flexibility in departure, should weather or logistics require. Equally, guests are asked to book their out-bound flights from Cape Town, for a minimum of two days after their due arrival back from Antarctica, to cater for possible delays.

WE VISIT IN THE SUMMER

When is the Antarctic Austral Summer? We're in the Southern Hemisphere, so between October and February. During these summer months, we enjoy nearly 24-hour daylight - and full 24-hour sunlight on either side of the Summer Solstice (December 20-22). We offer no expeditions between March and September, conditions deteriorate, with 24-hour pitch darkness, on either side of the Winter Solstice (June 21).



FAQS/FAST FACTS

TOUGH & BRAVE? NO!

Unlike the heroic explorers of yore, our guests do not have to be tough, fit or brave. Our Antarctic Expeditions are open to all, who are healthy enough to fly into Cape Town, from where we fly south.

HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT TO PACK?

A full packing list is provided, and includes most items one would take for any holiday or travel visit, to any destination (because Ultima provides all outer weather-proof polar gear).

DOES ULTIMA PROVIDE ALL REQUIRED POLAR GEAR?

Yes! All outer gear - including boots, outer-trousers, outer jackets, gloves/mitts, beanies. Guests are asked to bring their own fleeces or equivalent gear, for wearing beneath their outer jackets - as well as their own warm/thermal undergarments. Guests tend to prefer their own sunglasses.

MAY CHILDREN TRAVEL?

We do not take many young children to Antarctica, but can do so - on a case-by-case basis, when accompanied by their parents or guardians. Teenagers have joined several of our Expeditions, happily.





ULTIMA'S ANTARCTIC HERITAGE

Since September 2001, Ultima Antarctic Logistics, formerly known as Antarctic Logistics Centre International (ALCI), has pioneered and operated a gateway to the Antarctic, from Cape Town, South Africa.

Ultima is a South African company and offers a comprehensive range of services to National Antarctic Programmes (NAP) and science expeditions in the Dronning Maud Land area of Antarctica and beyond.

Ultima offers the following vital services – including logistics, Search And Rescue (SAR), and fuel supply, for members of Dronning Maud Land Air Network Project (DROMLAN). This is a co-ordinated project between eleven countries with bases in Queen Maud Land, Antarctica.





ULTIMA

ANTARCTIC EXPEDITIONS

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY
ALL EXCURSIONS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT

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