

# **CLIMB ANTARCTICA**

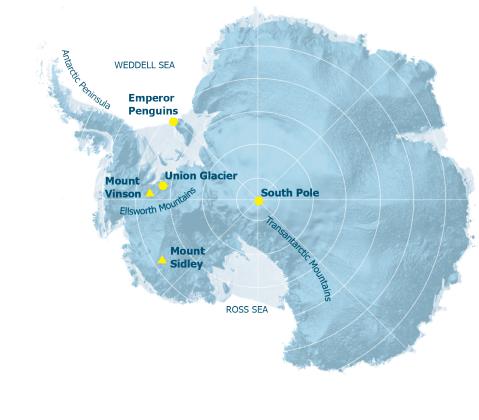
## A MOUNTAINEER'S Dream

Climb Antarctica is truly the continent's best kept secret, promising unlimited climbing terrain and stunning scenery in the most remote and pristine place on Earth!

Explore the virtually untouched alpine peaks of the Heritage Range, cradled within the Ellsworth Mountains. Take on steep ice couloirs, classic ridge traverses, icy crests, rock pyramids, and hidden valleys. The Heritage Range has the breadth and depth of terrain to suit any climber's level of experience.

Over the last few seasons, our guests have made some amazing first ascents and pioneered new routes, including the first ascents of Mount Dolence, Linder Peak, the north face of Mount Rossman, and Mount Sporli, the highest peak in the range. It's no coincidence this is our guides' favorite trip!





# **ITINERARY**\*



DAY

DAY

**Arrival Day** Punta Arenas, Chile

**Pre-departure Days** Gear Check, Welcome and Safety Briefing



**Day 2-4** Expedition Preparations



Day 5-12 Climbing Expedition



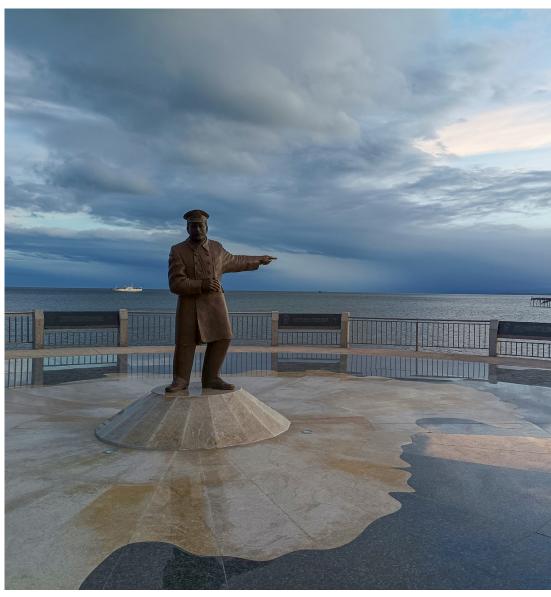
Day 13 Return to Chile



Flexible Departure Day Fly Home

All itineraries are subject to change based on weather and flight conditions.





Known as the gateway to Antarctica, all of our flights depart from the Chilean city of Punta Arenas.

We ask you to arrive in Punta Arenas at least three nights prior to your trip start date. Here you will meet your fellow team members, pack expedition food rations, and complete the pre-departure process. The pre-departure period also provides a buffer for flight and luggage delays should your travels to Chile not go as planned. We do not hold Antarctic flights for delayed passengers or luggage.

We will be waiting for you in the terminal when you arrive at Punta Arenas airport and will transport you to your hotel. The following day, you will have an individual Gear Check at your hotel, where we will review the personal clothing and equipment you will need in Antarctica.

The day before your Antarctic flight there is a Welcome and Safety Briefing in the ALE Office. Here we will explain the flight dispatch process, review environmental and safety procedures for your stay in Antarctica, and provide the latest weather updates.







At the Punta Arenas airport, you will check-in for your flight, pass through normal Airport Security then board our chartered jet for the 4 hour flight to Antarctica. Our route crosses the Drake Passage, then follows the west side of the Antarctic Peninsula and the spine of the Ellsworth Mountains. We land on a naturally occurring blue-ice runway on Union Glacier where you will take your first steps in Antarctica.

Climb aboard one of our specially-adapted vans for the 5 mi (8 km) shuttle to our main camp. Our friendly staff will provide a welcome tour of camp and show you to your tent.









### **EXPEDITION** Preparations

Your climbing team will spend the first few days at Union Glacier brushing up on skills and getting acclimated to the Antarctic conditions. You'll practice rope work, crevasse rescue, navigation, weather observations, and polar camping skills. During this period, you will also discuss and plan your objectives with your guide and pack your equipment to ready for departure.

While based in Union Glacier Camp, you may also have time to join an excursion to one of the following destinations:

#### **Elephant's Head**

Ride in one of our wheeled vehicles to this dramatic marble buttress overlooking the blue-ice runway. Beautiful ice formations and moraines offer endless opportunities for photographers to capture close-up frozen formations or wide angle glacial landscapes. Hikers can trek up to the base of Elephant's Head or all the way to the top of Rhodes Bluff for panoramic views of Union Glacier and the Heritage Range.

#### **Rhodes Bluff and Fossil Garden**

Geology lovers will be delighted to explore this hotspot for ichnofossils. Our experienced guides can help you navigate by GPS to known trace fossils or accompany you on a mission to discover new ones.

#### **Buchanan Hills**

Board our one-of-a-kind Tucker Bus, a custom designed tracked vehicle, for the scenic drive to the remote Buchanan Hills. You'll arrive at a high pass that offers expansive views of Union Glacier as it flows into Constellation Inlet. Higgins Nunatak pokes through the ice, like an atoll in a frozen ocean. For the fit and adventurous, there are two easy hiking routes that require no prior experience and grant you the rare opportunity to summit a peak in the heart of Antarctica.

#### **Drake Icefall**

Named in the 1960s after geologist Benjamin Drake IV, this impressive icefall tumbles off the polar plateau into Union Glacier. Winds from the South Pole carve huge waves into the blue-ice and polish the surface into a high shine.

#### **Charles Windscoop**

Discover the power of wind on ice as you wander through a sparkling turquoise corridor. If you're truly adventurous, this is a prime place to try ice climbing with one of our experienced guides. For the less vertically inclined, you can rock hunt to your heart's content. Just remember to leave them in place, as nothing may be removed from Antarctica.

#### The Beach at Rossman Cove

Another spectacular setting for photography and panoramic views! Head out on cross-country skis and enjoy Antarctica's version of a glacial beach getaway.

If you'd prefer to stay closer to camp, we have a variety of activities for all abilities. You can check out a pair of cross-country skis or a fat-tire bike and take a spin around our groomed 10k loop or you can enjoy a cup of tea, an Antarctic book, or fun game in our camp library.

Lectures and films tailored to your experience round out our camp activities.











It's time to explore Antarctica as it should be, untracked and pristine. Peaks, ridges, and canyons await and your itinerary is up to you and your guide. Together you'll develop an expedition plan to match your skills and interests. You can do local day trips and return home to Union Glacier Camp each evening for dinner, or you can set out on a multiday expedition to explore many of the valleys and peaks in the Heritage Range.

Routes vary from technical ascents and easy snow climbs to magnificent ridge traverses with views over the Ronne Ice Shelf and Polar Plateau.

Each experience is unique and the opportunities for exploration are endless. Only a handful of people have traversed this remote region and you may be the first person to attempt a new route and marvel at the view below.

Once your climbing dreams are fulfilled, you'll return to Union Glacier Camp to celebrate and toast your achievements!



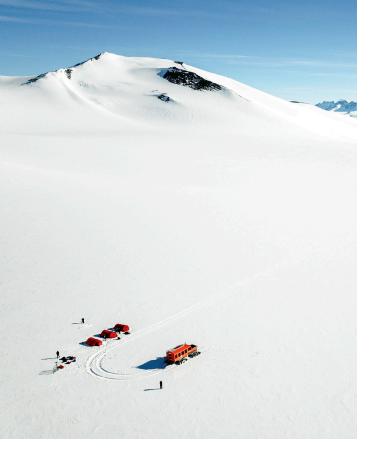


When weather and runway conditions permit, our intercontinental, passenger aircraft will arrive at Union Glacier to transport you back to Chile. Our staff will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel.



Your flight home concludes this remarkable adventure. We recommend keeping a flexible schedule due to the possibility of weather delays. Allow yourself to savor your experience without the pressure of other commitments.







#### We Poss

#### Weather

Possible severe storms with temperatures ranging from -10 °F to 25 °F (-23 °C to -4 °C).



#### Activity Level

Strenuous—vigorous activity at altitudes up to 9,800 ft (3,000 m), sleeping in basic field camps.



#### What's Included

- Airport transfers in Punta Arenas, Chile
- Round trip flight to Antarctica from Punta Arenas
- Meals and tented accommodation in Antarctica
- Group camping and climbing equipment
- Mountain Guide
- Celebration event and Certificate of Achievement
- Checked luggage up to 55 lb (25 kg)



#### Not Included

- Insurance coverage—personal, medical, evacuation, or otherwise
- Commercial flights to and from Punta Arenas
- Airport transfers outside of Punta Arenas
- Meals and accommodation in Punta Arenas
- Additional flights within Antarctica
- Personal equipment and clothing
- Expenses incurred due to delays
- Luggage over 55 lb (25 kg)
- Satellite phone charges



#### Weather Delay Advisory

All itineraries are subject to change based on weather and flight conditions. Every effort will be made to keep to the scheduled itinerary and flights will depart as soon as weather and runway conditions permit. Our staff will provide you with regular updates in the event of a delay.

Please understand that delays are common in Antarctic travel. For this reason we advise you not to plan any important meetings, functions, or other trips for at least one week following your scheduled return from Antarctica. We strongly suggest that you purchase a full-fare, flexible airline ticket that easily permits date changes without penalty.