Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the Gould Bay Emperor Penguin Colony on the remote coast of the Weddell Sea. Camp on the same sea ice where thousands of birds come to raise and feed their young. Photograph majestic emperors and their chicks against a spectacular backdrop of ice cliffs, pressure ridges, and icebergs. Spot petrels and seals amongst the endless white expanse. Fall asleep to a chorus of trumpeting calls and wake to find curious penguins outside your tent.

Our remote field camp offers you unparalleled access to the emperors as you witness their amazing adaptations to the Antarctic environment alongside our expert guides.
ITINERARY

Arrival Day
Punta Arenas, Chile

Pre-departure Day
Luggage Pick-Up & Briefing

Day 1
Fly to Antarctica

Day 2
Explore Union Glacier

Day 3
Fly to Emperor Colony

Day 4-6
Live with the Emperors

Day 7
Return to Union Glacier

Day 8
Explore Union Glacier

Day 9
Return to Chile

Flexible Departure Day
Fly Home

*All itineraries are subject to change based on weather and flight conditions.
We ask you to arrive in Punta Arenas, Chile at least two full days prior to your scheduled Antarctic flight in order to fully prepare you for your upcoming experience. These days also allow a buffer for flight and luggage delays should your travels to Chile not go as scheduled. We do not hold Antarctic flights for delayed passengers or luggage.

Do not forget to collect your checked luggage in Santiago, before clearing customs! Upon arrival in Chile, you will pass through immigration, collect your checked luggage, go through customs, and then go to the 3rd floor of the terminal and re-check your bags for your domestic flight to Punta Arenas. If your luggage does not arrive, complete a missing form for lost luggage before leaving the Santiago airport.

Upon arrival at Presidente Carlos Ibáñez del Campo International Airport (PUQ), our representative, holding an ALE sign, will be waiting for you at the exit of the luggage claim area and will transport you to your hotel. Please notify our Punta Arenas team if you are delayed or your arrival time changes:

- **Guest Services Manager**
  
  guests.punta@antarctic-logistics.com
  
  +56 9 6832 7472

- **Guest Transport Services**
  
  +56 9 9640 0135

- **Office Address**
  
  Calle Bernardo O’Higgins 568

You will receive a Welcome Pack which includes your Gear Check time, your Clothing Rental time (if applicable), your Luggage Pick-Up time, and the time of the Welcome & Safety Briefing. These events are required and very important steps in preparing you for arrival in Antarctica.

**Gear Check**

We will arrange a specific time to come to your hotel and review your personal clothing and equipment. Please lay out all of the items on our Required Clothing and Equipment List in your hotel room so we can go through each item with you. We will help sort the items to pack in your checked luggage vs. your carry-on bag and what items to leave behind in Punta Arenas.
Luggage Preparations

Please notify us in advance if you plan to have more than 66 lb (30 kg) of luggage. Ski aircraft have strict cargo limits and we may not be able to accommodate excess luggage without advance notice. Keep the following requirements in mind as you prepare your luggage:

- All luggage must comply with international air transport regulations.
- Fuels or other hazardous substances are prohibited on flights to Antarctica.
- Spare or loose lithium batteries are prohibited in checked luggage and must be packed in your carry-on.
- For the safety of our staff, individual bags must not weigh more than 55 lb (25 kg).

On the morning before your Antarctic flight, we will come to your hotel at your scheduled Luggage Pick-Up time. Be ready in the lobby with ALL of the luggage you will be taking to Antarctica including checked luggage and items that will be carried on. We will weigh everything and use these weights to calculate cargo totals for the ski aircraft flight to the penguin colony. We will only collect your checked luggage at this time.

You will need to separate your luggage into three categories: Checked Luggage, Carry-on Luggage, and Left Luggage.

Checked Luggage

Checked luggage is collected the day before your Antarctic flight in order to preload the aircraft so it is ready to depart as soon as the weather is suitable. Keep in mind, you will not have access to your checked luggage until it is delivered to your tent in Antarctica, even if the flight is delayed. Do not put anything in your checked luggage that you might need during your stay in Punta Arenas, on the flight, or for the first few hours in Antarctica.

Your checked luggage allowance is 66 lb (30 kg). Any checked luggage in excess of this amount will be charged at $35 USD per lb ($77 USD per kg). You can pay in US cash or we can invoice you for the excess luggage. Carry-on luggage, clothing worn aboard the aircraft, and sleeping bags rented from ALE, are not included in your checked luggage allowance.

CARRY-ON ITEMS

* Do NOT pack these items in your checked luggage

- Passport
- Medications
- Cameras
- Spare lithium batteries
- Perishable food
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Clothing for your arrival in Antarctica

Carry-on Luggage

Pack all of your essential personal belongings in your carry-on. The Ilyushin-76 does not have overhead bins, so your carry-on bag must fit below the seat in front of you. Carry-on luggage is restricted to 18” x 16” x 10” (46cm x 41cm x 26cm). Carry-on items that do not fit under the seat will be gate checked and may result in additional fees.

We recommend wearing the boots and outer clothing you will need for your arrival in Antarctica to board the aircraft. The temperature on board the aircraft will be adjusted accordingly, so don’t worry about getting too hot.
Camera Equipment
If you are bringing a camera pack that is larger than the carry-on size limit or as a 2nd carry-on, it will be considered part of your checked luggage allowance, and it will need to be weighed at the luggage pick-up. You will keep the pack with you to board the aircraft but once on board, your camera pack will be stored behind the last row of passenger seats. You may not have access to your camera pack during the flight. If you want to take pictures during the flight, keep that camera with you. Remember to retrieve your camera pack before disembarking the aircraft in Antarctica.

Left Luggage
You can leave luggage in Punta Arenas if there are items you do not need in Antarctica but we do not recommend leaving valuables. We will provide Left Luggage Tags with a tear-off claim receipt. Please give the bottom portion of the tag to an ALE staff member as you board the bus for your Antarctic flight. In the event you stay in a different hotel upon your return, our staff will need this claim receipt to move your left luggage for you. ALE is not responsible for lost or stolen luggage.

Welcome and Safety Briefing
The evening before your Antarctic flight, you are invited to our office for an important safety briefing. Here, we will describe the flight dispatch process, update you on the current weather, and prepare you for arrival at Union Glacier. Please stay to enjoy hors d’oeuvres and pisco sours served over Antarctic ice with your fellow travelers. And don’t forget to take your boarding pass and commemorative cocktail glass with you!
We will call you at your hotel in the morning to advise you of current conditions in Antarctica. If the weather is suitable for our flight, we will pick you up at your hotel within the hour. Please meet us in the lobby with hotel bills paid, ready to board the bus.

At the Punta Arenas airport, we board our chartered jet for the 4½ 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.
Guests usually enjoy a few days at Union Glacier as part of their experience.

A typical day at Union Glacier starts with a briefing after breakfast where you’ll meet with your guide to discuss the day’s options and choose an activity tailored to the weather and the group’s interests. Union Glacier excursions can include any of the following destinations:

**Elephant’s Head**
Ride in one of our wheeled vehicles to this dramatic marble buttress overlooking the blue-ice runway. Geology lovers will be delighted to find this is a 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. For photographers, beautiful ice pools and moraines offer endless opportunities 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.
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 Peak 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! Take cross-country skis with you or a picnic lunch 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.

In the evenings, we regularly offer lectures and films tailored to your experience. Before you depart for the colony, we will review the Emperor Penguin Colony Visitor Guidelines.
As soon as weather conditions permit, we will fly to the colony. The flight takes about 4 hours, traveling north-eastward over the Ronne Ice Shelf and Berkner Island where we may stop to refuel if necessary.

We land on sea ice where our staff has prepared a field camp 1-2 mi (2-3 km) from the colony. Our Emperor Field Camp Manager will give you a tour of the camp and review safety procedures for travel to and from the colony. In this unfamiliar environment and remote location, it is vital that you follow the instructions given by our experienced staff. Your safety and the protection of wildlife are our top priorities.
Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and rhythms of the colony. Walk to the colony with our experienced field guides to photograph penguins, seals, and seabirds. We provide small sleds and walking poles to help transport your camera equipment between camp and the colony. The sea ice generally provides a hard surface to walk on.

We make every effort not to disturb wildlife and strictly adhere to **Emperor Penguin Colony Visitor Guidelines**. These guidelines include maintaining a precautionary distance of 17 ft (5 m) away from all wildlife. Our guides are on hand to answer any questions you may have about the wildlife and their unique adaptations to the Antarctic environment.

24-hour daylight allows us to adapt our schedule to the best weather and lighting for photography. While our guides are happy to accommodate individual requests, keep in mind this is a group activity and we may not always be able to offer 1 to 1 guiding. Please discuss your wishes with the guides in advance so they can tailor the camp schedule to include meals and sleep for everyone.

Our field staff will stay in close contact with Union Glacier Camp to identify the best ‘weather window’ for your return flight.
Depending on flights, you may have a few days at the end of your experience to explore more of Union Glacier. You will also enjoy a celebration dinner and receive a certificate to commemorate your Emperor Penguins Experience in Antarctica.

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

Due to the potential for weather delays, we strongly suggest booking your flight home one week after your planned return from Antarctica. If you purchase a full-fare ticket, most airlines will allow you to move your departure date. We recommend booking tickets through a travel agent, so they can change your ticket once the return flight from Antarctica is en route. Please note, ALE staff are unable to assist with airline reservations.

Should you wish to explore Chile before you return home, our team can provide a list of local tour operators and excursions. When it is time for your flight home, we will provide transportation from your hotel to the Punta Arenas airport.
Emperor Penguins, Adélie Penguins, Weddell Seals, Leopard Seals, South Polar Skua, Snow Petrels, and Antarctic Petrels

Activity Level
Moderate—walking up to 5 mi (8 km) each day on uneven snow and ice.

Weather
Possible severe storms with temperatures down to -25°F (-32°C).

Wildlife
Emperor Penguins, Adélie Penguins, Weddell Seals, Leopard Seals, South Polar Skua, Snow Petrels, and Antarctic Petrels

What’s Included
• Airport transfers in Punta Arenas, Chile
• Round trip flight to Antarctica from Punta Arenas
• Round trip flight to Gould Bay Emperor Penguin colony from Union Glacier, Antarctica
• Meals and tented accommodation in Antarctica
• Antarctic guides
• Celebration dinner and Certificate of Achievement
• Checked luggage up to 66 lb (30 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 66 lb (30 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.
Meals
Meals are prepared by one of our highly skilled chefs and can include breakfasts of pancakes, bacon, and oatmeal, lunches of warm soups and cold meats and cheeses, afternoon snacks, and fantastic evening meals. Beverages include hot drinks, juice, beer and wine. Meal times are flexible so you can photograph and explore when the lighting and mood are just right.

Facilities
Our field toilets are surprisingly comfortable and private. We clean them regularly and provide hand sanitizer in each. When at the colony, you will need to use pee bottles and toilet bags to collect your waste as nothing can be left at the colony. There are no showers at our Emperor Penguin Camp. We recommend bringing Wet Wipes or one of our staff can show you how to take a “Snow Shower,” if you are feeling brave.

Communication and Power
Satellite phone cards are available for purchase with US cash ($40 USD for 30 minutes). You can check out a satellite phone from our Emperor Field Camp Manager. Satellite internet access is for ALE operations only. Limited charging facilities are available at the Emperor Penguin Camp and two types of outlets are available: USB and 120V A/C (North American Type A or B plugs).

Medical Support
Our field guides all hold advanced first aid certification, are trained in emergency response protocols, and carry comprehensive first aid kits. Additional support is available from our medics at Union Glacier Camp.