

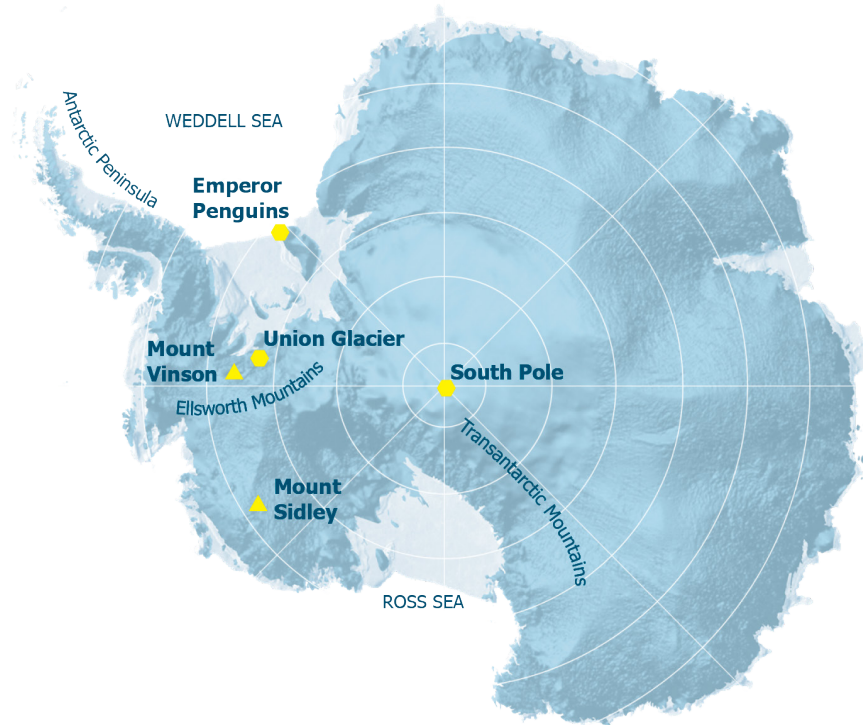
MOUNT SIDLEY

ANTARCTICA'S HIGHEST VOLCANO

Be among the few to have climbed Antarctica's highest volcano and one of the Volcanic Seven Summits. Join the ultimate mountaineering expedition to Mount Sidley 14,058 ft (4285 m) and stand atop one of the most remote summits on earth.

Sidley is a huge mountain, set on the white expanse of the Polar Ice Sheet. This majestic peak features a 3 mi (5 km) wide caldera and sheer walled amphitheater, created by an explosive eruption 4.7 million years ago. Blue-ice slopes guard the upper mountain and fantastical snow mushrooms sprout along the upper ridge, leading to the summit.

Mount Sidley was first climbed in 1990 by New Zealander Bill Atkinson and saw its second ascent in January 2011 by an ALE-guided team. Our team established a new route up the east ridge and traversed all three summits. Plenty of lines remain to be climbed and ALE continues to lead the way in exploring this remote peak in Antarctica.



ITINERARY ❄️



Arrival Day
Punta Arenas, Chile



Pre-departure Days
Gear Check, Welcome and Safety Briefing



Day 1
Fly to Antarctica



Day 2-3
Expedition Preparations



Day 4
Fly to Mount Sidley



Day 5-10
The Ascent



Day 11
Return to Union Glacier



Day 12
Return to Chile

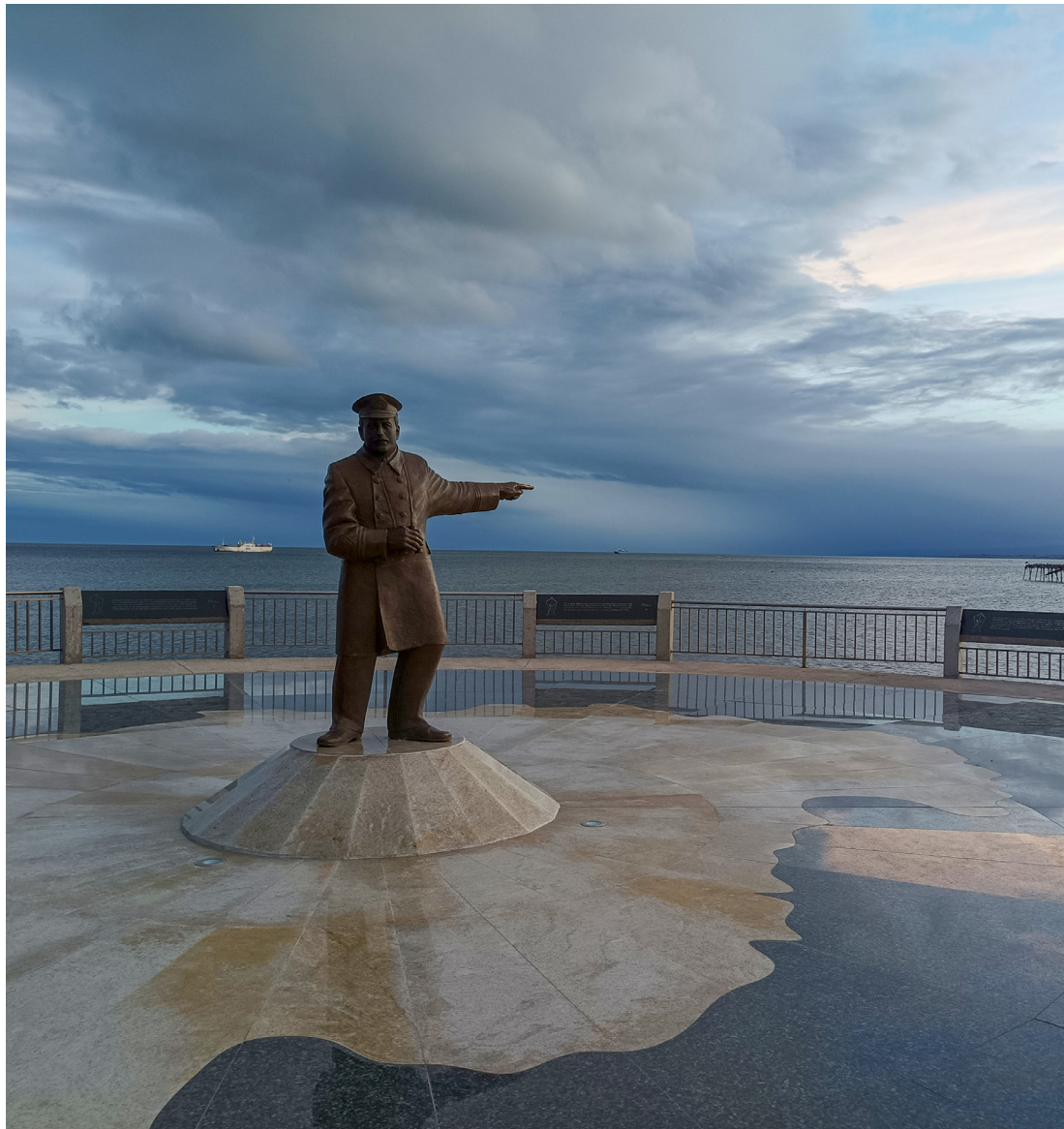


Flexible Departure Day
Fly Home

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



ARRIVAL IN
PUNTA ARENAS



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, to allow time to complete the pre-departure process. This 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. If you have requested any rental items, they will be issued from our warehouse.

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.



DAY 1 FLY TO ANTARCTICA

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 (8km) shuttle to our main camp. Our friendly staff will provide a welcome tour of camp and show you to your tent.





DAY
2-3

EXPEDITION PREPARATIONS

You will meet your guide at Union Glacier Camp and begin expedition preparations with your team. Over the next days, you will also climb some small peaks near camp to acclimatize to Antarctic conditions, get to know your team, and fine tune your clothing and equipment before setting off for Mount Sidley.



DAY
4

FLY TO MOUNT SIDLEY

Mount Sidley is located in the Executive Committee Range, about 550 mi (885 km) from Union Glacier. When weather conditions permit, your team will fly by ski aircraft for about five hours over the vast emptiness of West Antarctica. Upon landing, you will set up base camp at approximately 6700 ft (2042 m), below the imposing bulk of the mountain.



DAY 5-10 THE ASCENT

Mount Sidley has been climbed by just a handful of teams and there is still opportunity for exploring new routes. The mountain offers several interesting options, including a longer, easy ascent from the north side and a steeper climb up the west ridge from the Bennett Saddle. Your guide will assess the options and decide on a route based on the group's skill and experience.

From base camp to the summit of Mount Sidley involves approximately 7300 ft (2225 m) of elevation gain. You will climb alpine-style, setting intermediate camps on the mountain, and carrying all of your food and equipment with you. Although you may use skis lower down on the mountain, most of the climb will be done with crampons.

The slopes of the mountain are wind-blown, with hard packed snow and sections of blue-ice. Gentle slopes near the base give way to steeper terrain higher up.





Summit day offers spectacular views as you follow up the summit ridge along the rim of the caldera. The walls of the Weiss Amphitheater drop steeply away below you and neighboring Mount Waesche may tempt you with its snowy slopes.

As you make your way to the summit ridge, you'll weave your way between a fantastical maze of snow mushrooms. These massive snow features are formed by wind and moisture depositing rime ice on small obstacles over time.

Following the summit, you'll return to your high camp, then retrace your steps back to base camp.





DAY
11

RETURN^{TO} UNION GLACIER

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 at least one day at the end of your experience to explore more of Union Glacier. You will also enjoy a celebration event and receive a certificate to commemorate your Mount Sidley Expedition.

DAY
12

RETURN^{TO} CHILE

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.



FLY
HOME

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.



Weather

Possible severe storms with temperatures down to -40 °F (-40 °C)



Activity Level

Extremely Strenuous- climbing at high altitudes in cold temperatures carrying a load of up to 55 lb (25 kg) for 5-7 days.



Requirements

Climbing experience above 14,000 ft (4300m) on multi-day peaks and in cold environments with movement on snow and ice. Knowledge of glacier travel and crevasse rescue procedures.



What's Included

- Airport transfers in Punta Arenas, Chile
- Round trip flight to Antarctica from Punta Arenas
- Round trip flight to Mount Sidley from Union Glacier
- 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.

