



The Great Canadian Travel Group Inc.

greatcanadiantravel.com
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Snow Hill, March to the Emperor Penguins

****Limited availability, book now!**** During this once-in-a-lifetime experience, journey to the bottom of the world—cruising past masses of dense ice and thick, tabular icebergs—aboard the legendary icebreaker Kapitan Khlebnikov.



YOUR
ADVENTURE
AWAITS

14 days/13 nights

ITINERARY

Day 1: Ushuaia, Argentina

You will begin your journey in Ushuaia, a small but bustling port town at the tip of South America. This Argentine hot spot is the ideal gateway for you to explore the southern extent of Patagonia while preparing for your adventure ahead. Get active in the mountains or savour some handcrafted chocolate at a cafe in town.

Day 2: Embarkation Day

In late afternoon, we will transfer you and your fellow travellers from your group hotel to the pier, where you'll board Kapitan Khlebnikov. This iconic icebreaker should be instantly recognizable at the port, as the shape and bulk are distinctive, especially from a distance.

As Khlebnikov sets sail, you'll first pass through the historic Beagle Channel, which opens up to the vastness of the Southern Ocean. Named after the famed ship on which Charles Darwin voyaged, the channel presents many great photo opportunities to capture seabirds hovering overhead and possibly seals and sea lions cavorting in the water.

Days 3 & 4: At Sea

Crossing the legendary Drake Passage is as much a part of the Antarctic experience as penguins and seals are. With ideal weather conditions, your passage could be relatively easy, but be prepared for some rough seas in case the Drake lives up to its reputation.

These two days will have an air of anticipation, as you prepare for your first landing at the elusive Snow Hill emperor penguin rookery. Plenty of activities will keep you engaged at sea, including educational and informative presentations by your Expedition Team. You'll learn about such things as the history of whaling in Antarctica and the emperor penguins' biology, unique habitat and adaptive behaviour.

You may also want to spend some time on deck, with your binoculars and camera at the ready, looking out for wandering albatross, petrels, whales and dolphins. Crossing the polar front, keep a close watch, as you should see your first iceberg, too.

Days 5 to 11: Weddell Sea and Snow Hill Island Emperor Penguin Colony

As we approach the island, remember that no two polar expeditions are alike, particularly this voyage through the icy Weddell Sea, since landings and wildlife sightings are determined by weather and ice conditions, as well as the natural cycles of the wildlife. But it's exactly this element of the unknown that makes expedition-style travel so exhilarating and adventurous.

That said, our expeditions will have some elements in common, such as landings, wildlife sightings, helicopter sightseeing and ice—truly massive amounts of ice! Having broken away from the ice shelf, large tabular icebergs, so named for their plateau-like flat top and steep sides, will signal your arrival to Antarctica.



Located on sea ice, the emperor rookery is situated some distance from Snow Hill Island, so your captain will navigate your ship to a position in the ice that's within helicopter range of the rookery. As we draw near, a few curious penguins may be attracted to the open water by the ship, so keep your eyes peeled for them. Deployed in a rotation of flights, our on-board helicopters will land as close to the penguins as possible, yet still at a safe distance (at least 0.75 nautical miles/1.4 km), to protect the birds. Since you must carry all your own gear for the entire distance to the rookery and back across sea ice several feet thick, you'll want to keep items in your backpack to a minimum. A must-bring, however, should be your camera.

We encourage everyone—photographers and nature lovers alike—to carry a camera during our rookery visits, because any visit could reward with that once-in-a-lifetime shot. Your Expedition Team will include a professional photographer, who will conduct on-board workshops and assist you on-site to help you get the most out of your camera, whether you're a newbie or a pro!

Though we can't predict how many excursions will occur during your stay in the vicinity of the rookery, rest assured that your Expedition Leader will take every possible advantage of good weather and flying conditions, and our intention is to spend as much time as possible in the area, to give you plenty of chances to observe the emperors in their natural environment.

Since we are visiting earlier in the rearing season than any other expedition, the emperor chicks are still young, so you may see a few brooding on their parents' feet or even several huddling together in large communal crèches. It's possible you may catch the impressive sight of a constant trail of adults walking or tobogganing in single file from the sea to the rookery to feed the chicks, and then heading back out again to hunt for more food. Listen closely for a parent trumpeting upon its return to the rookery—the call is instantly recognized by the chick, who whistles in response.

Days 12 & 13: At Sea

A day at sea can be as busy as any day ashore. Share stories and photos with your shipmates in the lounge, relax in our Polar Library or attend dynamic presentations by your Expedition Team, who may even screen documentaries. Lecture topics can range from the Historic Age of Exploration to whales of the Southern Ocean.

If you choose to spend time outside on deck, keep an eye out for the large seabirds that have accompanied mariners through the Southern Ocean since Magellan made his first navigation of the globe. By now, you should be able to recognize albatross and petrels on the wing.

As we enter the mouth of the Beagle Channel on our way back to Ushuaia, a small vessel will come alongside and a local pilot will board our vessel to help navigate this last stretch of water. If the weather is fine, you may want to watch from the deck, enjoying the soft light of the austral summer.

Day 14: Disembark in Ushuaia

This morning, you'll say farewell to your Expedition Team and fellow travellers before disembarking to catch your homeward flights.

Details

2018 Departures:

November: 11 **see Tour Notes for special "Meet the Polar Filmmakers"

As availability on travel programs changes frequently, please contact us for the most up to date availability on the trip you are interested in.

2018 Pricing:

US\$19,995 – Triple

US\$29,995 – Twin

US\$50,991 – Single

US\$32,995 – Suite

US\$65,990 – Suite, single

US\$34,995 – Corner suite

US\$69,990 – Corner suite, single

Prices are shown in US\$, per person based on three people sharing a triple cabin, two people sharing a twin cabin or suite or one person in a single cabin or suite. Prices are correct at the time of posting and are subject to change by the operator at any time without notice.

Trip Code:

002151 - W20



INCLUDED

- Accommodations in your chosen cabin category
- Chef-prepared meals (all meals and daily snack included)
- 24 hour beverage service
- Polar Library with a large collection of polar books and DVDs
- Polar Boutique
- Presentations throughout the voyage
- Exercise Room
- Ship-to-shore satellite communications with email, and wireless, Internet access
- Zodiac Cruising
- Guided land expeditions

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel to/from Ushuaia
- Beverages onboard the ship
- Gratuities
- Travel Insurance
- Passport and/or visa fees

TOUR NOTES

True to the explorer spirit, this exclusive Antarctic adventure, last offered by Quark Expeditions in 2010, is your chance to be a part of polar history. You'll have the rare opportunity to observe one of the most spectacular sights in the wild: the elusive emperor penguin colony off the coast of Snow Hill Island, whose existence was first confirmed in 1997, and to which the first ground visit was conducted by Quark in 2004.

Important reminder: Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy – and excitement – of expedition travel. There are no guarantees that we can achieve everything we set out to accomplish. A measure of flexibility is something all of us must bring to a voyage. There are nearly 200 recognized sites in the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetlands and the places mentioned above may be changed to others equally as interesting.

Meet the Polar Filmmakers: Exclusive to the fourth Snow Hill departure, November 11, 2018, we're pleased to announce two special guests who will lend their unique experience to your voyage:

- [Vanessa Berlowitz](#) is a 23-year veteran of the BBC's Natural History Unit, and a series producer on *Frozen Planet*.
- [Laurent Chalet](#) is best known for his work on *March of the Penguins*, which won the Academy Award for Best Documentary in 2006, and features Emperor penguins much like those found at Snow Hill.

Disclaimer: We do our utmost to ensure that information posted on our website is correct at the time of publication, however trip details are subject to change without notice by the suppliers and operators involved. We update the information as soon as possible when changes are advised to us, however, we cannot assume responsibility for such changes made by the suppliers and operators.

ROUTE MAP



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Agent



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Prices listed on our website are stated in Canadian Dollars unless otherwise indicated. Tour details, inclusions and prices were valid at the time of publication but are subject to change without notice due to currency fluctuations, tax increases and at the discretion of the supplier(s). Current prices will be re-quoted for you at the time of booking. By air, land or sea, we can take you anywhere – contact us for your quote today!