



FIELD CAMPING

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PASSENGERS

We offer an exciting open-air camping option giving you an intensive experience of the Antarctic wilderness. We provide the necessary gear, including breathable bivouac bags that are wind and waterproof, a lightweight alternative to tents. For those who prefer a bit more comfort, tents will also be brought on shore. Polar sleeping bags will keep you dry, warm, and comfortable during the Antarctic night, and all camping will be supervised by an experienced expedition guide.

Additional camping notes:

- Camping is available base on weather, local site conditions, and environmental regulations
- The Antarctic camping option will be offered on select Hondius, Plancius, and Ortelius voyages. Everyone can participate, no previous experience required
- Maximum number of participants is limited to 30 per night
- All camping is assisted by expert field guides
- Equipment provided by OEX (bivouac, sleeping bag, mats, tents)
- One night must be booked prior to trip, but all extra nights may be arranged on board (no wait-list). Please see our dates & rates for the camping supplement

Details of the camping experience

We aim for at least one night of camping on each designated trip, but the expedition team will offer more if possible. Additional nights are determined by weather and on-site conditions, and can only be offered when it's a possible for the vessel to stay close to shore. When the vessel must relocate during the night, camping is not possible.



According to Antarctic Treaty / IAATO regulations, we are not allowed to take stoves, fuel, or food on shore, with the exception of emergency rations, survival gear, water, and medical supplies.

The camping group will be taken to shore after dinner, then returned to the ship just before breakfast. Our camps will be made in a place where wildlife will not be disturbed. All campers will be equipped with a personal waterproof bag containing a sleeping mattress, synthetic sleeping bag with inner liner, and a breathable bivouac bag. Besides these personal items, tents and other such gear will also be taken to shore.

In favorable conditions, campers have the possibility of sleeping in the bivouac bag under the open sky. Tents are also offered that sleep up to three people. While campers are on shore, our staff will be in full radio contact with the ship at all times. Guides will also stay on shore to assist and supervise the campers. Upon departure, everything must be returned to the ship.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is it possible to take food?

Eating food / snacks on shore is not allowed, per Antarctic Treaty / IAATO regulations, in order to prevent the spread of outside plants or contaminants.

Can I go to the toilet?

Toilet visits should be avoided on land, per Antarctic Treaty / IAATO regulations. Campers are encouraged to use toilet facilities on board prior to camping. A portable toilet will be available on shore, however, and all solid waste must be returned to the ship. It is advisable that campers bring a "pee bottle" (e.g., wide-opening Nalgene bottle) for their comfort.



Where and how long do we stay on shore?

We offer near-shore camping on the continent and / or nearby islands (depending on the itinerary, weather, and regulations). Camping groups stay a maximum of 10 hours on shore.

Is prior experience required?

No, everyone can participate in this activity. There are no physical requirements except helping the guides put up tents and clean the campsite. Please note that we are not camping on a camping ground; we're in Antarctica! There can be rocks, snow, mud, and frozen surfaces. We expect our campers to participate in preparing the campsite and breaking up camp the next morning. All equipment, particularly tent bases and mats, must be cleaned thoroughly after each use. The weather can sometimes make these tasks difficult.

What are the weather conditions?

Around the coasts of Antarctica, temperatures are generally close to freezing in the summer (December – February) or slightly above freezing in the northern part of the Antarctic Peninsula. The temperatures in Antarctica vary between about -5 to 8°C (23 to 46°F). In strong wind, these temperatures can feel sub-zero. Warm and efficient clothing (and a flexible attitude) are the best ways to overcome these sometimes harsh circumstances.



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