

CHRIS BRAY PHOTOGRAPHY

# ANTARCTICA & SOUTH GEORGIA



CHRIS BRAY   
PHOTOGRAPHY   
TOURS • COURSES

A wide-angle photograph of a massive, blue-tinted glacier wall meeting a calm, dark blue sea. In the foreground, a white sandy beach is visible with two penguins standing on it. The title 'ANTARCTICA & SOUTH GEORGIA TOUR' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif font with a slight drop shadow.

# ANTARCTICA & SOUTH GEORGIA TOUR

## The Best of Antarctica & South Georgia

Designed exclusively for photographers, this incredible, unhurried, small-group photographic experience gives us an epic 5-day stay on South Georgia amongst the unimaginable carpets of King Penguins and Elephant Seals battling for territory in front of spectacular glaciated mountains and to the whale, penguin and iceberg-dominated landscapes of Antarctica! Our small, 54-guest ship Polar Pioneer can navigate where the others can't and active stabilization helps make sea crossings more comfortable. As the only dedicated photography group onboard, we'll have plenty of 1-on-1 sessions, photography, videography and photo editing/ Lightroom tutorials and more – this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is not to be missed!

**Tour runs Nov/Dec**

**Trip. share bathroom: \$17,000 USD**

**Twin share bathroom: \$20,222 USD**

**Twin priv. bathroom: \$24,211 USD**

**Mini-Suite: \$26,428 USD**

**Captain Suite: \$28,000 USD**



## Highlights

- Sit surrounded by impossible numbers of King Penguins, Elephant Seals & Fur Seals on South Georgia - the densest wildlife of any place on Earth!
- Photograph immense, ever-changing icebergs sliding past breath-taking Antarctic landscapes.
- Photograph enormous nesting Wandering Albatross - with the longest wingspan of any bird on Earth!
- Unhurried, photography-focused program gives our small group the time & advice needed to get incredible photos.
- Witness huge bull Elephant Seals rearing up and fighting over territory on South Georgia.
- Enjoy the comfort & abilities of our small expedition ship 'Polar Pioneer' with a maximum of just 54 passengers.
- Watch whales, seabirds and penguins.
- Explore the secret smaller fjords where the bigger ships can't go!
- Visit historical Shackleton sites on South Georgia & Elephant Island.

# CONTENTS

**ITINERARY**

**03**

**ABOUT ANTARCTICA**

**05**

**GETTING ORGANISED**

**09**

**WHAT TO PACK**

**15**

**WHY TRAVEL  
WITH US?**

**23**

**HOW TO BOOK**

**25**

**Book a 1 day photography course!**

**Want to brush up on your photography skills before we go?**

Our popular 1 day photography course workshops combining both practical and theory are the fastest way to get off 'Auto' and unlock the creative potential of your camera before any trip!

Visit [ChrisBrayPhotography.com](http://ChrisBrayPhotography.com) for details.

# ITINERARY

## Day 1: to Puerto Williams

Fly from Punta Arenas to Puerto Williams. Enjoy a guided tour of the rustic port and beautiful surrounds before embarking Polar Pioneer in the late afternoon and begin our journey to Antarctica and South



## Day 2 – 3: At Sea

Between Puerto Williams and the Antarctic Peninsula you'll be entertained by the ceaseless flight of the many seabirds that follow in our wake. You may decide to join the whale watchers on the bridge, or just relax and read a favourite book. We'll be holding photography workshops to make sure everyone is up to speed with their camera settings.

As we get closer to the Antarctic Peninsula the ocean takes on a whole new perspective once we are surrounded by the surreal presence of floating ice sculptures. The memory of the sight of your first iceberg will remain with you forever.



## Day 4 – 7: Antarctica

We cruise from the South Shetland Islands and through spectacular Gerlache Strait, passing the western flank of the Antarctic Peninsula – where you'll step foot on the continent - the last true wilderness on Earth! Aboard our ship we get to explore the fjords and surrounding islands of Antarctica's peninsula for four incredible days, slipping into some of the more secret, untouched bays where the larger ships cannot access. Surrounded by glaciers, mountains and immense, beautifully sculpted icebergs we keep the itinerary flexible in order to follow the best ice and weather conditions, but we should be able to get you onshore each day, go on Zodiac cruises etc. We'll cruise past immense tabular bergs, sit amongst huge penguin rookeries, watch Weddell and Fur Seals and more. As always, our program is focused around photography, getting you in the right position, at the right time to capture hundreds of incredible photos. We'll have tutorial sessions and one-on-one private photo reviews in the comfy lounge areas onboard and relax and unwind in style when you need it as yet more amazing scenery and icebergs drift past your window. We'll see whales and seals, visit huge Chinstrap penguin rookeries and more, hopefully see Cape Pigeons, Dominican Gulls, Brown and South Polar Skuas, Antarctic Terns, Wilson's and Black-bellied Storm Petrels, Blue-eyed Shags, Kelp Gulls, Snowy Sheathbills, Blue-eyed Shags and in the almost 24-hr sunlight of the Antarctic Summer, the 'golden hour' of perfect, low-angle lighting just goes on and on. You'll be in photography heaven. If you do ever need to wake yourself up however, you can always take a quick, icy 'polar plunge' swim from the ship, followed by a relaxing sauna onboard. At the sea ice-edge, we have have the a chance to see some high-Antarctic species like the MacCormick Skua and Snow Petrel.

## Day 8: Elephant Is.

The barren refuge of Ernest Shackleton and his crew in 1916 after the loss of their ship Endurance in Antarctica's sea ice, this famous island is steeped in history. We'll visit Point Wild, where his men waited out more than 4 months of brutal polar winter wondering if Shackleton and his 5 crew made it in the open boat to South Georgia to organise a rescue. Amazingly he did, and he returned on a ship and rescued every single person.

## Day 9 – 10: At Sea

Settle into a short stint of life at sea as we navigate to South Georgia Island. You can keep a look out for whales and seabirds from the bridge deck or start going through your Antarctica photos in the comfortable lounge area with help to critique, cull & tweak your images.

## Day 11 – 15: South Georgia Is.

We have the following five full days dedicated to photographing the beautiful and astoundingly abundant wildlife that cram every inch of this famous sub-Antarctic South Georgia island! Boasting 2 million Southern Fur Seals (95% of the world's population) and half of the world's population of Southern Elephant Seals all fighting for territories and defending their females on the gravelly beaches - it's a wonder there's room for anything else. Impossible numbers of huge King Penguins also crowd the beaches, and indeed will waddle curiously right up to you as you crouch there photographing everything that's going on. Albatross breed here too, along with several other species of penguins. The island is steeped in history, with abandoned whaling villages (where King Penguins now wander the streets and seals have taken ownership of the buildings) and even the grave site of Sir Ernest Shackleton - this was the island he so famously voyaged to in the tiny open boat 'James Caird' to rescue his companions marooned back near Antarctica on Elephant Island.



Most trips - limited by their strict schedules - don't give guests anything like five full days at South Georgia, despite guests (especially photographers) regularly saying it's even more spectacular than Antarctica itself. Photographers also report that for the first couple of days when they step ashore at the various locations on South Georgia they're often overwhelmed by the sheer incomprehensible number of animals and mixture of scenes and action going on around them (after all, South Georgia does have more wildlife per square foot than any other place on Earth), and they really wish they had a bit of extra time to calm down and focus on getting specific shots with a clear head. Well, that wish is granted with us. Wherever possible, everything will be organised around the best time for photography, and being part of such a small ship maximises the time and space you need, along with photography advice from your two expert hosts, to get the shots you want.



## Day 16 -17: At sea

As we cruise to the Falkland Islands we'll encounter a multitude of southern seabirds including several species of albatross, shearwaters, skuas, petrels and prions. If time and weather conditions permit, we could pass close to Shag Rocks, a fascinating group of jagged rocky islets protruding from the sea.

## Day 18: Stanley, Falkland Islands

We'll just be making a half-day stop in Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands to stroll along the streets lined with Victorian style houses, see an archway made of whalebone and experience what life is like living in this remote outpost.

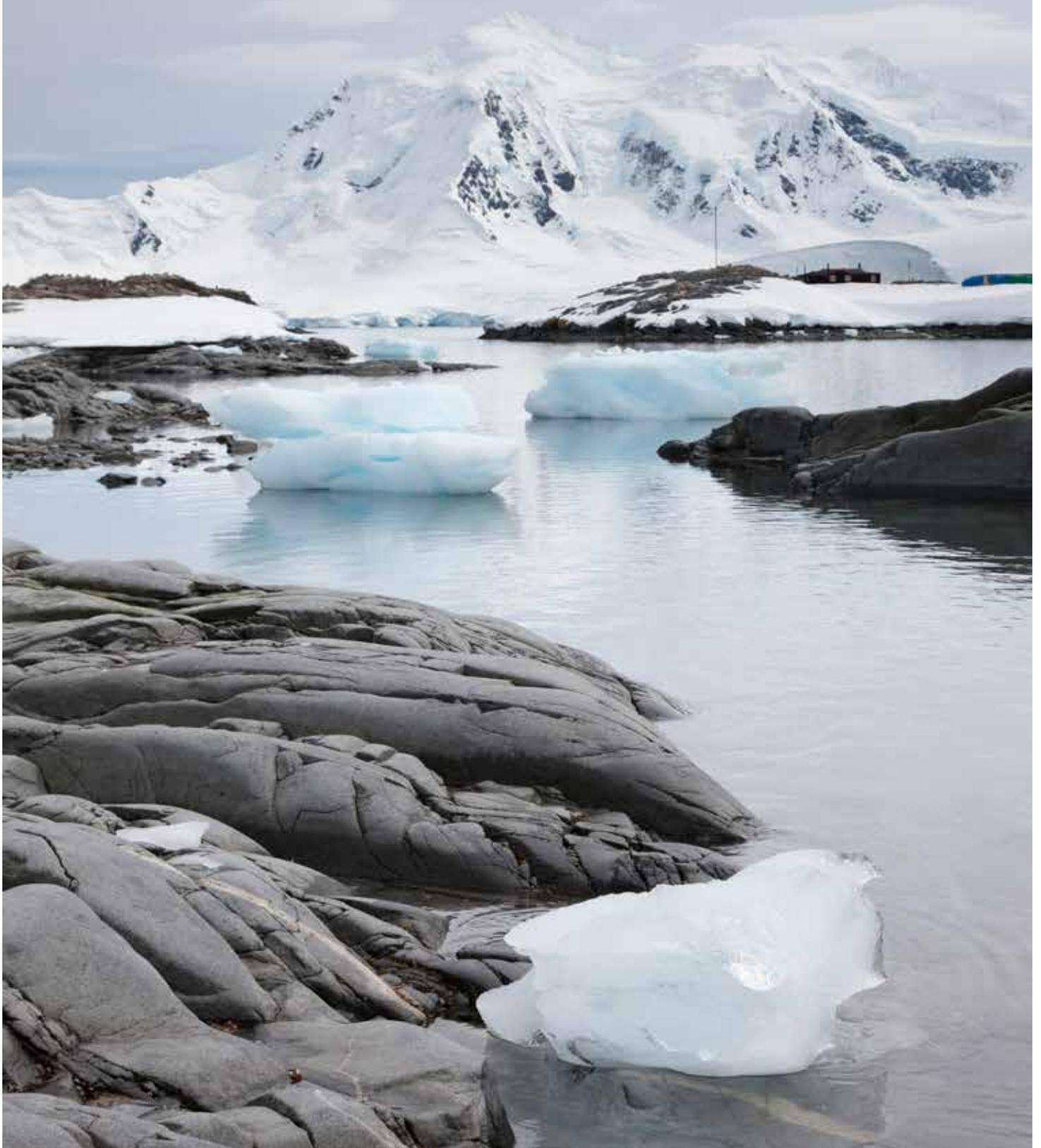
## Day 19: At Sea

Time to head to Ushuaia - this last day at sea will give us plenty of time to reflect on what has been a life changing and remarkable photographic tour one of the most amazing, venerable and inaccessible continents on our planet - Antarctica & South Georgia. We'll be available to help you with any last photo/video processing, critiquing, organising & editing help you might need in order to make your photos really 'pop'!

## Day 20: Ushuaia, Argentina

Disembark at the resort town of Ushuaia on Argentina's Tierra del Fuego archipelago, the southernmost tip of South America, nicknamed the "End of the World." The windswept town, perched on a steep hill, is surrounded by the Martial Mountains and the Beagle Channel.

# ABOUT ANTARCTICA & SOUTH GEORGIA





## About Antarctica

Antarctica certainly is a magical place to visit as the sights to be seen are breathtaking. But apart from the freezing cold and abundance of ice and snow, there are many other interesting facts about Antarctica that may surprise you.

Where is Antarctica exactly? Well, it is the earth's southernmost continent, and at 14 million square kilometres it is the fifth largest continent; almost double the size of Australia.

Antarctica has no government, no permanent residents, and no indigenous species of ants. An Antarctic Treaty was created in 1959, and 48 countries have signed this treaty designating the continent as a natural reserve. Some of these countries have claimed sovereignty in some parts, and although this is mutually respected, it is not recognised on a global scale.

Throughout the year you will find 1000 to 5000 people stationed at research stations, although none of them are actually permanent dwellers.

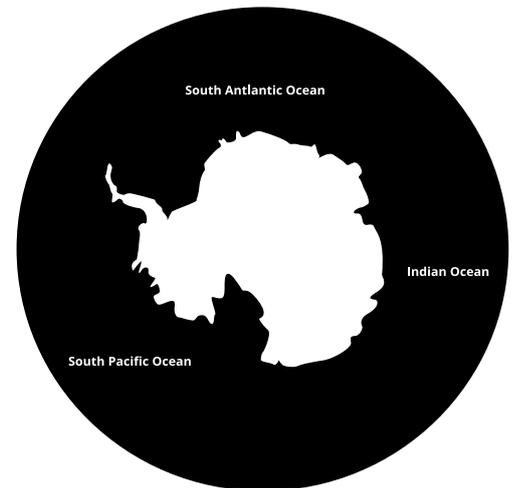
If meteorites are your thing then this continent is the best location from which to observe; this is because those that crash on the ice are very easy to spot against the pure whiteness. They are also very well preserved as the ice will cover and protect the meteorites rapidly.

Other facts about Antarctica that you may not be aware of touch on the continent's history. Although there were theories about an icy continent by the South Pole, it was only actually seen in 1820, and the first human made physical contact a year later.

Lastly, just to put all the ice into perspective, if all the Antarctic ice sheets were to melt, all oceans of the world would rise by about 60 to 65 metres.

## About South Georgia

A British overseas territory in the southern Atlantic Ocean. It is a remote and inhospitable collection of islands, consisting of South Georgia and a chain of smaller islands known as the South Sandwich Islands. South Georgia is 165 kilometres (103 mi) long and 1 to 35 km (1 to 22 miles) wide and is by far the largest island in the territory. The South Sandwich Islands lie about 700 kilometres (430 mi) southeast of South Georgia. The total land area of the territory is 3,903 square kilometres (1,507 sq mi).



**Area:** 14 Million Km<sup>2</sup>

**Average temp in Summer months:** -2°C to +8°C

**Time Zone:** (GMT-2) (+16 hours ahead of AEDT)

**Currency Onboard:** US Dollar

**Electricity Onboard:** 240V AC





## Antartica Climate

During the summer months (when we visit) the temperature can range from  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$  (28F) to  $+8^{\circ}\text{C}$  (46F). Big storms are rare, but if one comes through the temperature could drop to  $-8^{\circ}\text{C}$  (17F).

Antarctica is the coldest continent on Earth. The mean average temperature in the interior throughout the year is about  $-57^{\circ}\text{C}$ , with the minimum temperature being  $-90^{\circ}\text{C}$  during the winter season. Although the coast is warmer and temperatures can reach a maximum of between  $5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$  during the summer. It is, on average, the coldest, windiest, and driest of all the continents on Earth.

Technically, Antarctica is a desert because it is so dry there; one can not expect much moisture with an average annual precipitation of just 166 millimetres along the coastal regions, and even less when moving further inland. With such cold conditions the snow hardly ever melts; instead it will mostly become compressed over time to form part of the ice sheet. This is known as an ice cap climate (classified as a continent where the average monthly temperature never exceeds  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ); because there is not enough heat to melt the ice, it forms ice caps.

This ice sheet is, on average, 1.6 km thick and covers about 98% of the entire continent; this is nearly 90% of the entire world's ice, so it is no wonder that the Antarctic climate is as cold as it is.

Strangely enough, one can suffer serious sunburn whilst there as the surface of the snow acts as a reflector which reflects nearly all the ultraviolet rays, so although you may be shivering, you still need to make sure to keep your skin safe from the rays.

## Money

Australian dollars are difficult to exchange in South America. We recommend that you take US dollars to exchange in your arrival city. The amount of money you take to spend whilst on board depends on how many non-included alcoholic beverages you expect to drink each day, if you plan to use the internet or laundry service, and if you intend to purchase any souvenirs on board or during our landings.

## Onboard Payments

On board you will be required to pay your charges such as bar bills, laundry, email and phone calls in US dollars. Your on-board bill can be converted to Australian dollars at the exchange rate advertised in the bar if requested. We accept all major credit cards including Visa, Mastercard and American Express for on-board payments. Travellers cheques, pre-paid travel cards or debit cards are not accepted. Please note for credit card payments, Aurora Expeditions will process these approximately two weeks after voyage. Please check our Expedition Essentials document for on board price guidelines.

## Communication

There is no Internet access on board the ship, however you can pay to send and receive emails only (no attachments). On Polar Pioneer, the prices start from approximately 20 US cents per one kilobyte. WiFi access is available throughout the vessel. Note that while the ship has WiFi, it has no access to the internet. Passengers can establish a shipboard email account for US\$5 and send and receive emails from their own laptops and devices for laptops, with the same download/sending fees.

A satellite telephone is available for use, and prices start from US\$10 for 5 min. Please Note: Due to the remote location of your voyage, making contact with the ship via telephone can be difficult and expensive. In case of emergency, it is recommended your family and friends contact the Aurora Expeditions' office and we will do our best to get the message through to the ship.

## Track my Trip

Complimentary 'Track My Trip' system allows you to keep your friends and family updated on your voyage progress whilst in Antarctica. Simply subscribe to our 'Track My Trip' service and we will send daily updates of your location to your friends and family via email. They will also be able to check back and follow your map on our website. You will receive an email with instructions on how to register for 'Track My Trip' approximately four weeks prior to your voyage departure date.



## Electricity and Power

There will be electricity to recharge your cameras, laptops etc each day. All cabins have a standard European two-round-pin electric outlet socket. The general routine will be that once we get back from a day's photographing you will want to download your new photographs and then put your laptop and camera on charge before dinner. To make this a quicker process we suggest bringing a power board that has a surge protector so you can charge all of your electronics at the same time.

Surge Protectors are a very good idea when travelling overseas. While we've not had any bad experiences on this tour, a blackout is possible, and so using a surge protector when charging things like a laptop will help prevent any electricity spikes damaging your electronics.



## Smoking

While we don't ban smoking on our safaris, we generally encourage guests not to smoke on safari if possible. Many places we visit will have smoking bans in place anyway (for example many National Parks, public restaurants etc). If you do choose to smoke while on safari, we just ask that you be mindful of your fellow safari guests by smoking discreetly in designated smoking areas away from the group, communal dining areas and accommodation rooms (particularly if sharing a room with someone else on the safari). Some of our past safari guests have actually decided to use our safari as an opportunity to cut back on their smoking habit or quit altogether and have seen lasting results upon returning home. Why not give it a shot!? We'll be cheering you on from the sidelines. :)

There is a strict 'No Smoking' policy throughout the interior of Polar Pioneer, however our expedition leader will advise you on designated smoking areas.

## Bathroom rules

As in much of South America, please place all loo paper in the bins provided and not in the toilet. Bins will be cleared daily.





# GETTING ORGANISED

Before you go





## Documentation

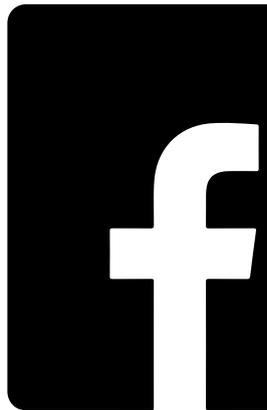
You should always carry your travel insurance policy, emergency card and photocopies of your ID with you during your holiday.

## Passport

Please ensure that your passport is valid at least 6 months after your date of your return. If you are not an Australian citizen and are returning to Australia after your trip, ensure that you have the necessary resident return visa / re-entry permit from the Department of Immigration.

## Flights

We strongly recommend you arrive into Punta Arenas at least one day prior to your voyage departure date to avoid any possible flight or luggage delays. A flight from Punta Arenas to Puerto Williams is included in the price of your voyage. Our preferred hotel in Punta Arenas is: Hotel Cabo de Hornos, Plaza Muñoz Gamero 1025, Punta Arenas, Magallanes and Antartica Chilena, 6200000, Chile. [www.hotelcabodehornos.com](http://www.hotelcabodehornos.com). A flight from Punta Arenas, Chile to Puerto Williams, Chile, is included in the price of your voyage. Departing Ushuaia, please note: Onward flights are not to be booked from Ushuaia prior to 12 noon on the day of disembarkation. Our preferred hotel in Ushuaia is: Mil 810 Ushuaia Hote, 25 de Mayo 245, Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego Argentina, [www.hotel1810.com](http://www.hotel1810.com). Once you've booked you flight please email us on [tours@ChrisBray.net](mailto:tours@ChrisBray.net) the details. Departure Tax - You will be required to pay approximately US\$20 departure tax at the airport in Ushuaia. You may also be subject to an international airport departure tax of approximately US\$30, which may or may not be included in your ticket price. Departure tax payments and procedures may vary during the season and may vary from the time of issue of this information.



## Join the facebook group!

This group is for those who've been on (or are about to go on) a Chris Bray Photography Tour. This is a space to e-meet fellow travellers, ask questions of veteran travellers and generally get excited (or reminisce) about the trip of a lifetime! You must be booked in to join (or to contribute), but feel free to check it out and read what people have said.

**Chris Bray Photography voyager club**

## Travel Insurance

Chris Bray Photography will not be liable for any damage to your camera gear or equipment, nor your personal health or wellbeing. You MUST obtain your own travel insurance and we recommend that you organise this insurance as soon as you have paid the initial deposit on the safari. This insurance should cover you against any damage to your property (camera gear) or any financial loss due to an unexpected cancellation (see our payment Terms & Conditions). Our travel agent is very willing and able to help secure you the best deal here. Just contact us if you'd like us to put you in touch with them. Once you've organised your insurance, please email a copy of your policy through to [safaris@chrisbray.net](mailto:safaris@chrisbray.net)

## Medical Information

Closer to departure we will email you a medical information form. We ask that you to fill this in and email it back to us. It's not that we care what medication you take, but if you are involved in an accident and end up in hospital for some reason we will need this information on hand to give to the doctors. So please fill the medical form honestly and openly, with this in mind.

## Immunisations

All travellers should be up-to-date on routine immunisations, including:

- Tetanus/Diphtheria vaccine (ADT). You can now have a 'Boostrix' that also includes a whooping cough vaccination for adults.
- Influenza vaccine. This is available yearly and could help to prevent spoiling your holiday of a lifetime with a flu infection.

Please consult your General Practitioner for further information.



# VISA INFORMATION

And a check list!



## Visas, Entry Fees & Taxes

Passengers are required to organise their own visas, entry fees and arrival or departure taxes if required for the country you are visiting. We have listed some information on the requirements for the countries you will be visiting, however please check with your travel agent if you need more information.

### Chile

For Australian passengers travelling to Chile, you are required to pay a Reciprocity Fee on arrival into Santiago. The cost is approximately US\$117. Canadian passengers are also required to pay a one-off Reciprocity Fee of approximately US\$132. Payment is to be made by exact cash in US dollars or by credit card, and is valid for 90 days for multiple entry travel. If you are a British or American passport holder visiting Chile for less than 90 days, you are exempt from any entry fees. If you enter Chile for a second time, the Reciprocity Fee will be not be charged again.

### Argentina

For Australian, American and Canadian passengers travelling to Argentina (Buenos Aires Domestic Aeroparque Airport and Buenos Aires Ezeiza International Airport), you are required to pay a Reciprocity Fee prior to your arrival into Argentina via the online system. The Reciprocity Fee is US\$160 for Americans, US\$100 for Australians and US\$75 for Canadians. British and European Union passport holders are exempt from Reciprocity Fee.



### How to pay the Reciprocity Fee online:

- 1) Enter the website url <http://reciprocidad.provincianet.com.au> and under Log In click Sign Up. You will need to register your passport details to start the process.
- 2) Complete the Reciprocity Fee - Add Form with the corresponding personal and credit card information.
- 3) Print the payment receipt.
- 4) On arrival in Argentina, this printed receipt must be presented at Immigration Control. The receipt will be scanned by the Immigration officials, the information will be checked, and your entry to the country registered.

Please note: Details and prices are correct as of February 2015 and are subject to change regularly. Please contact your local consulate before departure in case of any changes.

### My Checklist

- Check passport is up to date
- Sign booking terms & conditions'
- Sort travel insurance
- Fill in medical form
- Book flights to Punta Arenas
- Book flights from Ushuaia
- Pay Reciprocity Fee online
- Send all of the above to  
[tours@chrisbrayphotography.com](mailto:tours@chrisbrayphotography.com)
- Join Facebook group
- Read 'Domestic Tour Camera Advice' booklet,

Notes:



## Motion and Sea-Sickness

Not everyone feels the affects of sea sickness. Some people are very lucky and don't feel a thing. Others can feel ill for a day or so, but a select few are more prone to the effects of not being on dry land. The good news is that seasickness can often be avoided if managed early, and it usually doesn't last more than a day or so.

## Medication

The use of medication can help prevent or treat seasickness.

Common medications include:

- Promethazine (Phenergan, Avomine)
- Hyoscine (Kwells, Travelcalm, scop patches)
- Meclizine (Antivert)
- Cinnarazine (Stugeron)
- imenhydrinate (Dramamine)

Most medications can cause sedation and dry mouth. However, at low doses, this effect is often minimal. Please note: Prochlorperazine (Stemetil) or Metoclopramide (Maxolon) are not effective for managing motion sickness.

## When to Take It

Generally, we recommend using some form of medication automatically for the first 24 to 36 hours, and then see how you feel. Most people usually get their 'sea legs' after this time. The tablets should be taken early rather than waiting until you feel very unwell, as by this stage, they are no longer well absorbed by the stomach. With the morning dose, take medication while still in your bunk, and let it work (eg wait half an hour) before getting up.

## A few things that can help with sea sickness

- Keep your eyes on the horizon
- Facing in the direction of the travel helps some
- Try not to change direction too often.
- Keep eating. Small amounts, regularly, is best.
- Remember to drink enough fluids, especially water.
- Some people prefer to drink flat soft drinks or cordial instead.
- Avoid alcohol.
- Try to stay active and, if possible, get outside in the fresh air.
- Do not read if you are feeling unwell.
- If all else fails, lie down with your eyes closed.
- Have biscuits, a bottle of water, and whatever else you fancy, beside your bunk.

## Itinerary Information

The exact itinerary may be shuffled around and tweaked due to weather, but you can rest assured that we'll be working flat-out to get you to all the best places, at the best times, for the best photos possible. There will be no refunds due to poor weather or similar changes forced upon us by factors outside our control, as per our Booking Terms and Conditions.



### Fitness Level and Physical Ability

This voyage is suitable for people of a wide range of ages and physical abilities. You are free to participate in whichever activity you choose. Less mobile clients are given the choice to land or not. If they decide to land, there are plenty of willing arms to lean on. If you require special assistance please discuss this with one of our Expedition Experts at time of booking. Passengers on our voyages to Antarctica should be capable of walking up and down the ships gangway – equivalent to walking up and down a steep set of stairs, at times the ship may be pitching and rolling; getting in and out of Zodiacs (inflatable rubber boats) with assistance from our staff; making their way across rock surfaces which can be wet/slippery at times; walking on snow and ice.

### Dehydration and 'Polar Hands'

The atmosphere in the poles can be very dry, with low humidity, so it is important to drink enough water. Also, the skin on your hands in particular can get very dry and develop small cracks around the fingertips. We recommend bringing a small (35g) tube of moisturiser to use when required. All voyages on Polar Pioneer have an on-board doctor who has extensive experience in remote areas and expedition medicine. Our ships have a small well-equipped medical clinic designed to provide initial medical care for any illnesses or injuries that may occur. As supplies are limited it is important you bring any particular medical requirements (eg medication, dressing, etc) with you. We suggest you pack all medications in hand luggage and carry a duplicate supply in the checked luggage. If you wear prescription glasses or contacts, bring an extra pair.

### Food and Drink

All meals are provided while on tour however beverages must be purchased at your own expense.

### Sun Protection

The sun in the poles is very strong and sun protection is essential. The glare from the snow and ice can be intense, even on overcast days. Regular application of sunscreen and lipscreen (minimum 15+) to exposed parts is essential to avoid burning. A dab around the nostrils is also a great idea as burnt nostrils, from reflected UV radiation, are very painful! Sunglasses with a good UV protection rating are also essential to prevent eye irritation or snowblindness. Remember to attach a cord to your glasses to prevent loss – we recommend carrying a spare pair of glasses in your luggage, just in case.

# WHAT TO PACK



## Dressing for the Polar Regions

The choice of clothing for cold climates is a very personal matter. It depends on your individual tolerance whether you are more susceptible to the cold than other people. Polar temperatures in summer are similar to most ski fields in winter. If you are a skier, your ski clothing will be perfectly adequate; as long as you are satisfied it is thoroughly waterproof. Under your waterproof layer, you will need between two to four layers depending on the day. For example, thermal underwear, jumper, polar fleece and waterproof jacket.

## Washing

There is a laundry service on board; prices will be listed in your cabin.



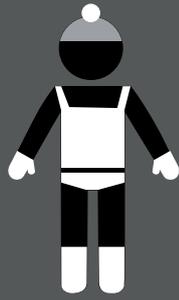
## Onboard Attire

Our ship is air-conditioned and the temperature on board is generally between 15°C (59F) and 25°C (77F). When on board, dress is informal. Normal clothing usually consists of jeans or casual trousers, and light long-sleeve T-shirts or jumpers. Lightweight walking shoes with good grip are ideal to wear on board the ship and on the outer decks.



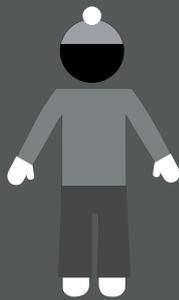
## The Layer Principle

The layer principle says that is better to have several light layers of clothing than one heavy layer. Between each layer there is trapped air which when heated by your body acts as an excellent insulator.



### The thermal layer regulation

Fast-drying, rapid transport of moisture away from the body, forwarding to the next layer. eg. Thermal underwear.



### Insulation layer

Insulation Warming layer for cold temperatures. e.g. Fleece.



### Waterproof / Protection Layer

Provides reliable protection from wind and water. e.g. Hard-shell jacket.

## Tips for Effective Layering Systems

- Several thin layers work better than one thick layer.
- Avoid tight clothing since it leaves no room for trapped air. Wool and silk are superior to cotton because they can trap warm air.
- The important layer is the outer waterproof and windproof shell. A small wind of six kilometres per hour can carry away eight times more body heat than still air!
- Being wet accelerates the loss of body heat. If your skin or clothing gets wet, your body will lose heat much more rapidly. Even at 10°C (5°F) you can suffer ill effects of cold if you are wet.
- Avoid over dressing as this leads to perspiration; and in wet weather, wear waterproof outer garments that will keep you dry on the outside but still 'breathe' enough that moisture from your body can escape.
- Body heat is most likely to be lost from your head, hands and feet so they need to be kept warm and dry. Even if all the rest of your body is covered, as much as 90% of the heat you lose is from your head, so be sure to wear a beanie, woollen hat or balaclava

## Complimentary Polar Expedition Jacket

Each passenger will receive their very own waterproof multi-purpose jacket to use during your voyage and take home after the trip. The 2-in-1 jacket is designed to be worn over your essential base layers and provides a versatile layering system suitable for the conditions to be encountered on our polar expeditions. Both pieces offer sophisticated expedition styling and have been customised exclusively for Aurora Expeditions, complete with an included 'drop seat' allowing for additional comfort when sitting in Zodiacs. Your jacket will be ready and waiting for you in your cabin when you board your expedition. You are required to advise us of your preferred jacket size on your Personal Details Form. Please ensure you review the sizing chart below before ordering.

	XXS	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL	4XL	6XL	1PLUS*
<b>Chest/bust (in)</b> <b>Chest/bust (cm)</b>	32 - 33 81 - 84	34 - 35 86 - 89	36 - 38 91 - 96	36 - 38 91 - 96	42 - 48 106 - 114	46 - 48 116 - 122	49 - 51 124 - 129	55 - 57 139 - 145	61 - 63 155 - 160	49 - 51 124 - 129
<b>Fits waist (in)</b> <b>Fits waist (cm)</b>	26 65	28 71	29 - 30 74 - 76	31 - 33 78 - 84	34 - 36 86 - 91	38 96	40 - 42 101 - 106	46 - 48 117 - 122	50 - 52 127 - 132	40 - 42 101 - 106
<b>Fits hips (in)</b> <b>Fits hips (cm)</b>	37 94	39 99	41 104	42 107	44 112	48 122	51 129	54 153	66 163	54 153
<b>Women's US</b> <b>Size conversion</b>	0 - 2	4 - 6	8 - 10	12 - 14	14 - 16	16 - 18	18 - 20	22 +	N/A	1PLUS



# Polar Packing checklist

## Gumboots

Gumboots are provided on all of our polar voyages. We recommend if you have difficult sizing requirements, that you bring your own pair of gumboots.

## Waterproof Trousers

A light pair of waterproof nylon trousers are critical for keeping you warm in wind, and dry on the Zodiac.

## Polar Fleece Jacket

A 200-300 weight fleece is ideal, or another warm jumper would be an ideal substitute.

## Warm Trousers

Ski, tracksuit or polar fleece pants or even woollen army pants are suitable to wear under your waterproof trousers.

## Thermal Underwear

Medium to thick thermal underwear, leggings, long-sleeve shirt, and socks are essential. Polypropylene fibres are warmer when wet than silk or wool. 'Sportwool' – wool sprayed with synthetic is also ideal. We recommend singlets, three tops and two bottoms minimum.

Woollen Jumper Ideal to wear as an added layer over your polypropylene thermals.

## Socks & Inner Soles

Bring a mixture of thick and thin socks to work out your best combination to keep your feet warm. Sheep's wool inner soles are advisable to wear inside your gumboots. We recommend you take two to three pairs.

## Gloves & Mittens

A pair of polypropylene or woollen gloves covered with a waterproof glove such as ski gloves or industrial fleece-lined rubber gloves. We recommend you take two pairs.

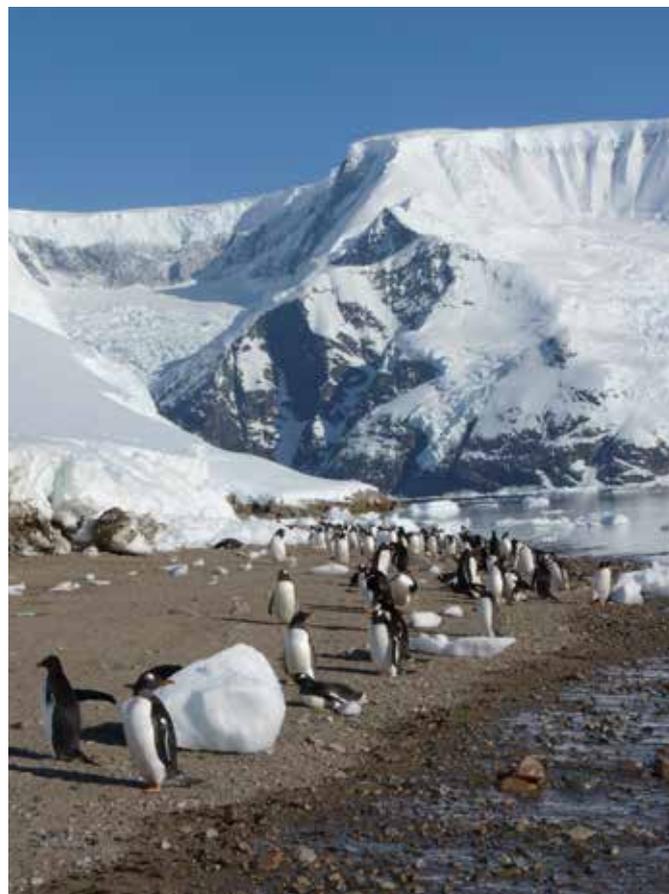
## Headgear

A cap, beanie with ear flaps or balaclava are all recommended. A neck warmer or scarf is also essential for protecting your neck and face.

Sunglasses / ski goggles. Are essential to protect your eyes from the UV rays. We recommend you take two pairs in case of breakage or if a pair is misplaced. Ski goggles are useful if you have them but are not essential.

## Footwear

Warm comfortable shoes for onboard the ship. Make sure they have good grip for the outside decks. Slip on shoes or moccasins are ideal.



## Other Recommended Items

- Waterproof daypack for landings
- Waterproof bag or plastic bag for camera
- Camera and accessories
- Reusable waterbottle
- Laptop, for image processing
- Torch (or head torch)
- Toe and hand warmers
- Sunscreen and chap stick
- Moisturiser for wind and / or sunburn
- Glasses cord for prescription glasses and sunglasses
- Extra prescription glasses or contact lenses
- Ear muffs
- Ear plugs (especially if you are sharing a cabin)
- Watch – to keep track of landing return times
- Swimsuit (for sauna and Polar Plunge)
- Electronic adapter (Euro two-prong)
- Powerboard with inbuilt surge protector for multi charging
- Personal toiletries (hand soap provided)
- Stretch clothesline and washing detergent (if doing own washing)
- Sea sickness medication
- Personal medication – we recommend carrying this in your hand luggage at all times
- First aid kit
- Travel alarm clock (or smart phone)
- Pocket-sized notebook

Notes:

## Code of Conduct

The aim of the tour is to have an enjoyable time learning and practicing photography with like-minded people, photographing some of the most amazing subjects in the world while also lapping up a few of life's little luxuries. CBP also aims to allow our guests to appreciate the natural world in a sustainable manner, so future generations can continue to experience its beauty. As per our 'Booking Terms and Conditions' please help us achieve this and help ensure everyone has a great time by following the below points:

## Look After the Wildlife

Please don't handle, feed or harass the wildlife. When viewing the wildlife please keep noise to a minimum. Don't surround, chase or approach the animals too closely. Excitedly jumping around and shouting at how amazing it is will only cause the animal to disappear, much to the annoyance of your fellow travellers! We are here to photograph the animals, not stress them out. We find most of our guests are wonderfully caring and sensitive towards wildlife, but if we decide it's best to back away or move on, please respect our decision.

## Look After Your Fellow Photographers

Be considerate of the other group members at all times. Share the best vantage points.

## Look After the Environment

"Take only photographs, leave only footprints." Where possible please stay on the designated footpaths and walkways. Please recycle and dispose of litter in the appropriate bins.





# Photography Gear

## Experience Level

You don't need to be a serious photographer to sign-up, our focus is always to help guests learn and get more enjoyment from their hobby, no matter what level they're at or what camera they are using. We'll be assisting our guests in maximising the once-in-a-lifetime photographic opportunities this cruise will offer, complete with a photography crash course at the start, tutorials and lectures along the way (including tips on shooting and editing video, as well as post-processing photos in Lightroom etc.) private one-on-one sessions at sea, as well as invaluable assistance on-shore - making sure you've found the best angles, the correct settings and more.

## Cameras and lens

What camera gear you bring is up to you, if you happen to have two cameras (don't worry if you don't) some people find it great to bring both. That way they can have a long lens attached to one and a wide attached to the other. This means that you don't have to change lens, making it faster to capture the shot and also provides a redundancy/backup option should one camera fail. If you have a little compact 'point-and-shoot' camera for your pocket, that might come in handy too, especially if it's waterproof and shock proof. In an ideal world you'd want a good wide-angle zoom lens for landscape shots, a standard-ish zoom for the 'every day' kind of shots and a telephoto zoom lens for the wildlife shots. For more information on recommended camera gear please read our international tour camera advice booklet.

## Tripods

Can be useful for landscape photography when ashore or helping to stabilise your long lenses on-board the ship (a mono pod could also be used for this!) If you do bring one, ideally you'll want to be able to attach it to your camera bag so it's easy to walk with to/from shore and you have a free hand when getting in/out of the zodiacs.

## Weather proofing your camera gear

There are many types of rain covers available to prevent sea spray while shooting from the zodiacs or up on deck. Just keep in mind that some covers actually retain the moisture and condensation and can cause more harm than good in some cases. If you plan to have your camera out and ready for action while in the Zodiacs we recommend that you have some way of covering your camera

to prevent sea spray but also give you quick access at the same time. You could use plastic bags, shower caps or small dry bags and keep a cloth handy to quickly wipe off any sea spray and give your camera a thorough clean once you return to your cabin after a shoot.

## Condensation

Returning to our warm cabin after being in outside in really cold conditions can make condensation form on your camera and lenses. It's not a bad idea to put all your gear into your bag, and zip it up before entering the warmer environment. That way it can slowly come up to temperature inside the camera bag. Make sure to wipe off any wet equipment before putting it in your bag as this can also cause condensation on the inside of your lens or camera body.

You can also put your bag into a large plastic bag (or ideally a dry bag) seal it before you enter the warm environment and any condensation that does form will do so on the bag rather than on your camera. Once the camera has adjusted to the room temperature, you can take it out of the bag. Don't forget if you need to transfer images from your memory cards before the camera adjusts to the warmer environment, take the cards out and keep them safe in a memory case before you put your camera into your bag or dry bag. (Don't take memory cards out of your camera while in the Zodiac or near the side of ships.) Obviously you'll just need to find the right balance between keeping your camera safe from sea spray, rain and condensation by putting it in your bag during the zodiac transfers and having your camera handy for the amazing shots while we are zodiacing, there is not right answer, it's just going to be personal preference.

## Camera Bags

You'll need a camera bag for transporting your equipment to and from the expedition as well as on shore landings via Zodiac. We use and recommend Lowepro Flipside (Sport) AW. It has an all weather rain jacket to cover the bag and you can access all your lens and camera gear without having to take the bag off and put it down in the guano, mud or snow. We also use camera straps like the Joby 'Ultra Fit Sling Strap' (or blackrapid) to keep our cameras easy to access and the weight off our shoulders. We also recommend having a dry bag big enough to fit your entire camera bag (and tripod if your bringing one) in it to protect it while travelling in the Zodiacs.

## Camera Batteries

In colder climates batteries can lose their charge quickly, so it may be necessary to swap batteries more often. We recommend that you bring a minimum of two spare batteries for every camera you are using. Keeping your spare batteries in your warm pockets when outside will help them keep their charge.

## Filters

You might want to consider bringing a polarising filter, they can be useful when photographing whales or underwater portions of icebergs. However, polarisers can easily overly darken the sky and ruin an image if used incorrectly or at the wrong time.

## Card Readers

Using a card reader rather than plugging your camera directly into your computer is a much faster way to transfer your files. I would recommend bringing a minimum of two card readers, as it's easy to accidentally bend the pins in them if you are using CF cards.

## Memory Cards

Bring enough memory cards for a full day of constant shooting. We will often be out shooting on the zodiacs and unable to return to the ship for more cards in the middle of a shore excursion. We personally use 32 and 16 GB SanDisk Extreme cards and don't recommend you purchase cheap 'no name' brands as these fail far more often. Many SanDisk cards come with a card recovery software program called 'RescuePro', if you can have this pre-loaded onto your computer before you leave home this can help you better prepare for accidental deletion or formatting of your memory cards on tour.

## Computers and Hard drives

A laptop with two external hard drive is great and we recommend you bring one. Having a laptop gives you the big advantage of being able to look at and enjoy your photos each night, see how they turned out, and even learn from them. We also recommend that you have Adobe Lightroom pre-installed (you can get a free 30 day trial version) onto your computer to get the most of our workshops on post production and one-on-one tuition. To avoid the risk of losing your images if a memory card fails, it's good practice to always keep two copies of your photographs. For example I use a laptop and two identical external hard drives, and each evening I download my photos onto the first drive, then copy them additionally to the second one, before formatting the memory card - just in case!

## Camera Maintenance

Make sure to set the correct local time zone when arriving in South America, this will help keep all of your photos in a logical time order on your computer.

It's good practice to wipe your camera gear down with a damp cloth to remove any residue from the salt air and give your lenses a good clean with a microfibre cloth at the end of each day's shooting.

It's good practice to make sure your sensor is clean before you start the trip, we recommend to have this professionally done by your camera manufacturer if you are unsure on how to clean the sensor. It'll also be worth while to bring a 'Rocket Blower' with you in case any dust spots show up on your sensor while on tour.

## Zodiac Travel

When we travel in zodiacs we sit on the sides, with our feet in the bottom of the boat and our backs to the water, so you have to take your bag off to avoid the weight of it pulling you into the water. Even if your bag has a rain cover, these don't usually cover the back of the bag, and because you can't wear the bag in the zodiac, this leaves the back area exposed to the elements. Additionally, there is often water swilling around in the bottom of the zodiac, which a rain cover cannot protect against. This is why we recommend to have a 'dry bag' big enough to put your camera bag in to keep at your feet until we land. We'll generally take your camera bag out of the dry bag once we've landed, and leave them at the landing site.

Sometimes we will be cruising to photograph the landscape or wildlife from the sea, or photographing icebergs or whales etc. at these times, you'll need to have at least one of your cameras out of the bag ready to shoot with. So it'll be good to have smaller dry-bags or snap lock bags to protect your camera until you need to use it.

## Here to help!

We're there to offer as much or as little assistance as you'd like, at what ever level of complexity you're ready for. Perhaps one of the key difference our guests keep saying is how we - unlike so many other operators - always put you and your photos first, always there to help out with any issues or check your images and suggest ways you could improve - never getting in your way or even taking any photos ourselves unless every single guest is content. Our friendly pro photography guides are all young, energetic and up-to-date and are a pleasure to be around. Our goal is to help YOU have the best experience possible, improving YOUR photography and helping YOU take the best photos.





# RESPECT AND PROTECT



## Respect and Protect

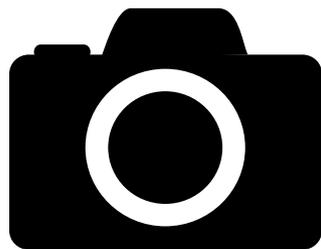
Our main objective is to ensure that our expedition cruises are carried out with the utmost consideration for the fragile ecosystems, local cultures and cultural remains; while ensuring safe operations at sea and on land.

- Our expedition staff are experts on our destinations. Please listen to and obey the instructions of our expedition staff to ensure the safety of yourself, your fellow passengers, and the environment around you.
- Make note of Zodiac return times, to ensure others are not waiting for you.
- Life jackets are to be worn when you are on the Zodiac at ALL times.
- Wash your gumboots before and after every landing to avoid spreading diseases. Please ensure your clothing is clear of any foreign seeds and soil before you board. Keep a minimum of five metres away from all wildlife, including birds. This rule also applies when photographing animals. If an animal approaches you, you are required to retreat. Special care is needed when animals are breeding or moulting.
- Do not feed, touch or handle any of the wildlife. If you find an injured animal please advise one of our expedition staff .
- Please keep noise to a minimum to avoid disturbing and frightening the wildlife. This also makes for a more pleasant experience for fellow passengers.
- During our landings, please be aware of any plant life. Look before walking and hiking, and avoid stepping on any vegetation, including moss beds or lichen-covered slopes. Do not pick any flowers or other plants. Even Antarctica has precious flora that is important to the region's ecosystem.
- Do not touch or remove any items on shore including rocks, bones, eggs, fossils, driftwood, artefacts and parts or contents of buildings.
- Do not walk onto glaciers or large snowfields without proper equipment and experience; there is a real danger of falling into hidden crevasses.
- NO food on shore (to avoid the spread of disease).
- Do not leave ANYTHING ashore – take all your litter with you. Be careful when using tissues as these can easily fall out of pockets and spread foreign disease amongst the wildlife.
- Respect and Protect
- Please be respectful of historic and cultural sites and monuments, or any artefacts associated with them. In some areas a zone of 100 metres around the remains is also considered a protected zone – our expedition staff will advise you of any restrictions.

- Some areas may have ongoing scientific programs; these areas are strictly out of bounds. Do not interfere with, or remove, scientific equipment or marker posts, and do not disturb experimental study sites, field camps, or supplies that we may come across.
- When on board do NOT throw anything overboard, including cigarette butts. Please use garbage bins provided.
- If your voyage is visiting any local communities, please remember that you are a guest. Respect the local people and their culture. Please ask before photographing any local people. Aurora Expeditions make every effort to ensure our visits are positive for these local communities by offering food, educational and general supplies.
- And remember – 'Take only pictures. Leave only footprints.



**Take only**



**Leave only**



# WHY BOOK A CBP TOUR



## Australia's Largest Photo Tour Operator for a Reason!



We offer the highest quality, small-group, unique operations focused on providing the access and luxuries the others don't - such as exclusive charter of ships, planes & helicopters (doors-off for better photography) along with off-road & special access permits to get you closer - so we can give you what we know you want. For example, while other operators might book you a spot on a busy, regular scenic cruise, we'd privately charter the whole boat, relaxing the pace, giving you plenty of space and modifying the route for the best photogenic locations and timings. We delight in welcoming you to beautiful accommodation and providing fantastic food and other luxuries to ensure the tour is as much a wonderful holiday as it is a photographic experience.





Unlike most, we're fully accredited and insured, obtain all the proper permits, respect and give back to the communities and environment, and employ industry best-practices such as holding your payments in a trust-fund, and have been awarded the tick from the Accredited Tourism Business Australia (Australian national symbol of tourism quality). We don't waste your time with 'rest-days' or surprise you with hidden costs.

Perhaps one of the key differences our guests keep saying is how we - unlike so many other operators - always put YOU and YOUR photos first, always there to help out with any issues or check your images and suggest ways you could improve - never getting in your way or even taking any photos ourselves unless every single guest is content. Our friendly pro photography guides are all young, energetic and up-to-date and are a pleasure to be around. Our goal is to help YOU have the best experience possible, improving YOUR photography, and helping YOU take the best photos!

If you're still not convinced, then ask anyone who's come away with us - our repeat guest rate speaks for itself: We've had entire tours sell-out solely with repeat guests, and if you'd like, we can put you in touch with a guest who's already been on the tour your considering to ask their opinion.



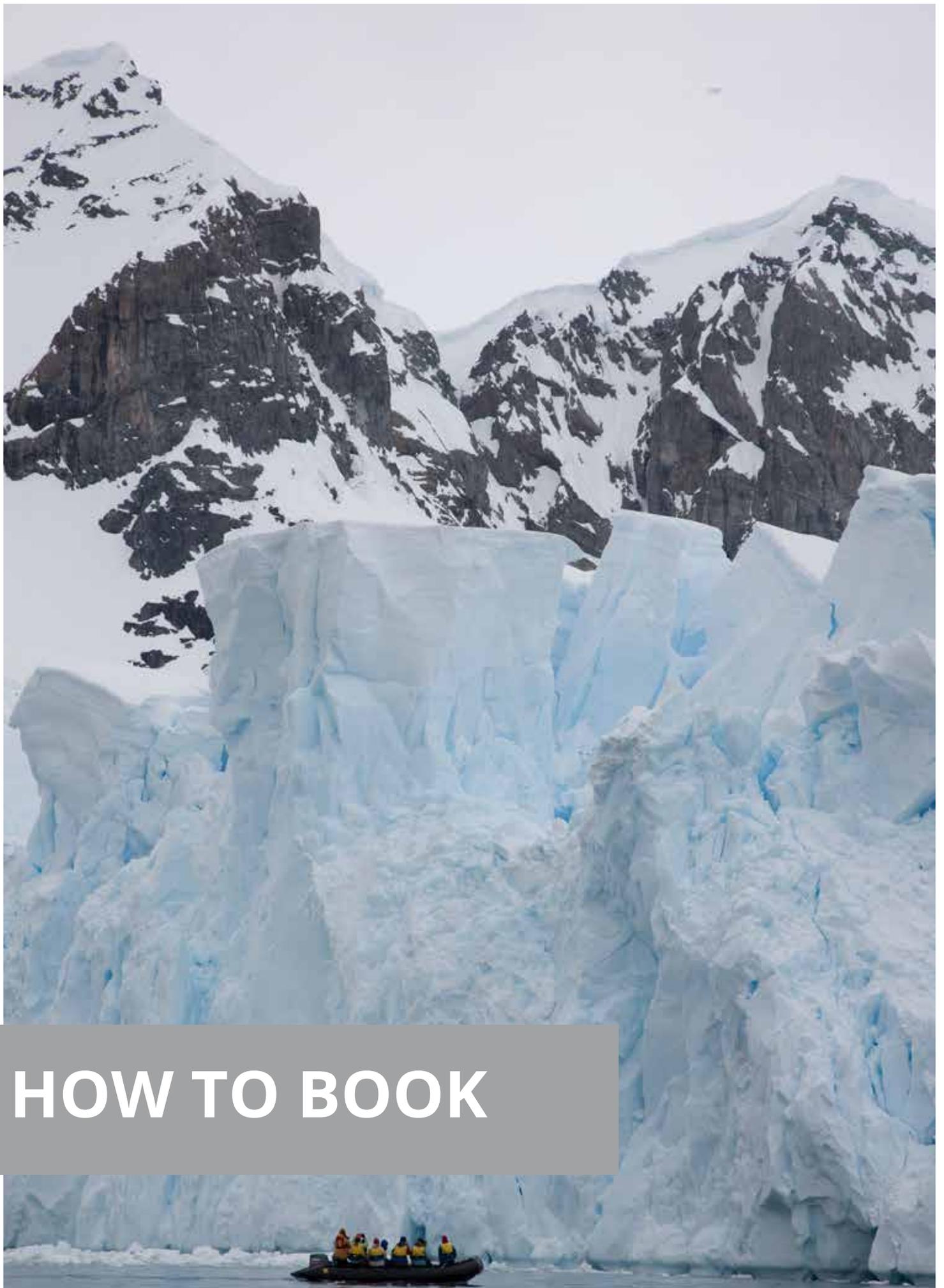
"Amazing! Our friendly photographer guides were so generous with their knowledge- and so patient with my lack of it! I'm already looking forward to my next tour" - L. Sim

"The best two weeks of my life, truly remarkable! Wonderfully organised, good group size, perfectly chosen locations and learning along the way." - P. Buckley

"A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience some of the world's most incredible wildlife and landscapes while improving your photography at the same time." S. Summers

## We Put You & Your Photos First!

There to help out with any issues or check your images and suggest ways you could improve - never getting in your way or even taking any photos ourselves unless every single guests is content.



# HOW TO BOOK

## Payment Details

A nonrefundable, non-transferable \$1,000 per person booking deposit is required to secure your booking.

The second payment of 50% is payable 6-months out (or at time of booking if elapsed) and is also non-refundable, non-transferable.

The remainder is due 3-months out and is refundable, unless cancelling within 45 days before departure.

Details of our cancellation policy etc are in our 'Booking Terms and Conditions' document online.

CBP Voyager Club members may be eligible for a discount, please see our 'Booking Terms and Conditions' document for details.



## Questions? Please Don't Hesitate to Ask Us!

If you have any questions that are not answered in this document, please just email [tours@ChrisBrayPhotography.com](mailto:tours@ChrisBrayPhotography.com)

Thanks very much - we look forward to sharing our photo tour with you!

The CBP Team

[www.ChrisBrayphotography.com](http://www.ChrisBrayphotography.com)

[tours@ChrisBrayPhotography.com](mailto:tours@ChrisBrayPhotography.com)

CHRIS BRAY   
PHOTOGRAPHY   
TOURS • COURSES

Information current as of May 2016 - Tour details subject to change - booking terms and conditions apply - for details visit [ChrisBrayPhotography.com](http://ChrisBrayPhotography.com).