

# When to visit Antarctica

Antarctica offers up different wonders throughout the Austral summer. Don't forget to ask your clients what they want to see and experience before booking, or suggest a different time of season to past Antarctic passengers seeking new experience.



The Leader in Polar Adventures

## BIG ICE AND NESTING PENGUIN SEASON NOVEMBER TO MID-DECEMBER



### WHAT TO EXPECT

- Visitors in November and December experience the reawakening of Antarctica after the long winter.
- Icebergs are at their greatest mass and range from snow white to aquamarine.
- Pack ice is beginning to melt and the 18 million square kilometers of the Southern Ocean that had frozen over opens up.
- Landscape photography is at its best, as the days grow longer and the natural light illuminates glaciers and snow scapes not yet marred by animal activity.



### WILDLIFE TO SPOT

- Southern elephant seals and Weddell seals emerge onto sea ice to molt and bask under the Austral skies.
- Penguins partake in their courtship rituals and begin to nest.
- Orcas return to the waters surrounding Antarctica for the summer feeding season and can be seen near landing sites.

## THE PEAK SEASON MID-DECEMBER TO MID-FEBRUARY



### WHAT TO EXPECT

- Early January to mid-February is the time to travel to Antarctica.
- The days stretch on seemingly forever, with up to 20 hours of daily sunlight from late December into January.
- Sunlight and salt water begin to melt and erode icebergs, turning each one into an ever-changing work of art.
- Glaciers actively calve as temperatures rise.



### WILDLIFE TO SPOT

- The first penguin chicks begin to hatch late in December, making this a great time to see adult penguins hunting for fish and krill just offshore or playing with their young.
- Whale-watching is tremendous, especially in places like Wilhelmina Bay, often referred to as Whale-a-mina Bay.

## MARINE WILDLIFE SEASON MID-FEBRUARY TO APRIL



### WHAT TO EXPECT

- From mid-February to the end of the Antarctic season, exploring further south is possible as the pack ice recedes allowing you to see more of the region.
- The days begin to get shorter and the sunsets are incredible.
- Glaciers, icebergs, beaches and landing sites are all weathered, each a fascinating study in the toll taken by the sun and heat — even in a climate where the temperature remains below freezing most of the time.



### WILDLIFE TO SPOT

- The sightings of humpback, minke and killer whales are more plentiful. As well, you may also encounter blue, fin, sei, southern right and sperm whales.
- By this time, the penguin chicks are quickly becoming "teenagers," and starting to grow adult feathers, while their parents begin their molting season.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

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