



WHITE DESERT
ANTARCTICA



SOUTH POLE & EMPERORS

ECHO | ANTARCTICA
2023 - 2024

Our signature 7-day journey brings you the very best of Antarctica - a visit to an Emperor Penguin colony of over 28,000 birds and a flight to the lowest point on Earth - the Geographic South Pole.

Flying in by private jet or Airbus and with only 12 guests on each departure, we offer a bespoke service that is as luxurious as it is remarkable.

PRICE PER PERSON: US\$104,000

EXCLUSIVE CHARTER (12 PLACES): US\$1,248,000



7-Time Winner
World Travel Awards

WHITE DESERT & ANTARCTICA

For centuries, the Last Continent has held a special place in our imaginations, yet even now, long after the first explorers reached the South Pole, access to the interior of Antarctica is still only for the very few.

After a five-hour flight from Cape Town, South Africa, we bring you to a place that is both surreal and majestic. From iridescent ice tunnels to vertical spires of rock, from endless horizons to oceans scattered with icebergs; this is a place unlike anywhere else on Planet Earth.

Established 17 years ago by record-breaking polar explorers, White Desert offers you an environmentally-conscious choice that always prioritises the sensitive environment and incredible animals that surround us.

Come with us on an unforgettable journey. Come explore.

33° 56' 29" S 18° 27' 40" E

START POINT

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Often tipped as one of the most beautiful cities in the world, Cape Town is home to award-winning vineyards and stunning ocean vistas.

We will host a safety briefing the day before your scheduled flight where our staff will explain all kit requirements, assist with any last-minute preparations and update on the latest weather forecasts for Antarctica.



TRAVEL

SOUTH AFRICA TO ANTARCTICA

You travel in uncompromising comfort across the mighty Southern Ocean in a private aircraft. During the five-hour flight, the African night turns to the Antarctic day as you soar over thousands of icebergs and pass into 24 hours of continuous sunshine.

Your destination: Wolf's Fang Runway.





CAPE TOWN
SOUTH AFRICA

EMPEROR PENGUIN COLONY

ECHO

WOLF'S FANG
RUNWAY

GEOGRAPHIC SOUTH POLE

FLIGHTS

FLIGHT TO WOLF'S FANG,
ANTARCTICA: 5 hours

FLIGHT TO EMPEROR PENGUINS:
2.5 hours

FLIGHT TO SOUTH POLE:
7 hours

71° 39' 43" S 9° 29' 03" E

WOLF'S FANG RUNWAY

Our runway is overlooked by one of the most magnificent and iconic mountains on the entire continent, named 'Wolf's Fang' by the early Norwegian explorers. After landing on the ancient blue ice, you will be surrounded by massive monoliths of rock that rise vertically from the glacier.

As part of our responsibility towards conserving Antarctica, all emissions from our operations, including all flights to, from and within the continent, are offset by fully-accredited carbon-neutral schemes.





71° 33' 08" S 8° 50' 01" E

ECHO

As futuristic as it is luxurious, Echo is as close as you can get to feeling like you're off the planet without leaving Earth.

ACCOMMODATION

Echo features six heated 'sky pods' crafted from composite fibreglass. Each of the astronaut-inspired bedrooms have been designed for two guests, with a nod to the space-age and accented with ultra-luxe furnishings that could have been beamed down directly from Mars.

Each bedroom is (20ft) in diameter; the sky pods feature extensive window panels, a cosy lounge area along with an adjoining wash room and toilet.



Surrounded by some of the planet's most spectacular scenery, each sky pod comes complete with expansive floor to ceiling windows allowing guests to take in views of the dramatic lunar landscape beyond.





FINE DINING

Guests will enjoy fine-dining throughout their stay at Echo. Each meal is crafted to the highest culinary standards, using only the freshest ingredients flown directly from premium, ethically sourced South African vendors.

Award-winning wines are procured from the Cape Vineyards, the ideal complement to elegant 3 course dinners.

Our chef will ensure the menu is crafted to each guests' dietary requirements where necessary.



TRAVEL WITHIN ANTARCTICA

WITH THE BASLER BT-67



Robb Report

"Flights by a ski-plane to a massive Emperor-penguin colony and the Geographic South Pole make for lifetime memories."

Our Basler BT-67s are upgraded conversions of the DC-3, specially equipped with the latest avionics for Antarctic operations and with skis for landing on snow and ice.





70° 38' 16" S 8° 15' 45" W

EMPEROR PENGUIN COLONY

*"What a privilege to witness this wildlife phenomenon.
The Emperor Penguins are almost mystical, it was incredible."*
Rina Tham - author of internationally published *Lucky Number 9*



Your visit to the penguins begins with a 2.5 hour flight to Atka Bay, the site of the first episode of Sir David Attenborough's ground-breaking documentary *Seven Worlds, One Planet*. Because we fly to the colony, we have exclusive access to see the penguins early in their life-cycle and you can see over 14,000 breeding pairs and their newly-hatched chicks. This spectacle is full of noise and energy; a favourite with wildlife watchers and photographers alike.

There are so few visitors to this colony that the chicks are unafraid of humans and often waddle close by. Mindful of our responsibility to the Antarctic environment and of IAATO guidelines, we keep at least 5m (16.4ft) from the penguins while taking in all the sights and sounds of this rare wildlife spectacle, which remains one of the greatest thrills on Earth!



90° South

THE GEOGRAPHIC SOUTH POLE



At the heart the Great White Continent lies the South Pole, one of only two stationary points on this rotating Earth! At exactly 90 degrees of latitude, you can walk around the world in only a few paces and marvel at a place where there is no more east, south or west – the only direction is north!

The American Amundsen-Scott research station is the backdrop to this most exceptional place, whose discovery ranks as one of the greatest feats of human exploration ever known.



The Geographic pole marker



The Amundsen-Scott South Pole base

"How surreal it was to stand at the bottom of the Earth and circumnavigate the globe in just a few steps."

Colonel Terry Virts - Former NASA Astronaut, Commander of the International Space Station



ECHO



5 hours



DIXIE'S CAMP



2 hours



SOUTH POLE



2 hours



DIXIE'S CAMP



5 hours



ECHO

It is a total of 2,400km (1,500mi) from Echo to the South Pole. The first part of the journey is a 5-hour flight to Dixie's camp, our expedition base. Flying 3,000m (10,000ft) above the ice, your view is sensational as we cross the High Polar Plateau.

We stop for 1 hour to refuel and then continue another 2 hours to the South Pole itself. There is a true sense of remoteness at this point where, for as far as the eye can see, the white horizon meets the pure blue sky.

The South Pole - the very lowest point on the Earth and the holy grail of early explorers. Even though we operate approximately 16 flights to the South Pole per year, we have had a 100% success rate in reaching the Pole since the 2017/18 season..

We fly back to Dixie's camp to rest overnight and to join the select few who have ever spent a night in the beauty of the Polar Plateau. You will be well looked-after as we experience camping in one of the wildest places on Earth.

After a night spent as a true explorer, we fly back to our main camp and celebrate your momentous journey.

DAILY ACTIVITIES AT ECHO





Every trip is bespoke with a wide choice of activities and highlights such as ice-climbing, gentle hikes to summit a nearby nunatak and abseiling under the expert guidance of UIAGM mountain guides.



elite traveler
RESPONSIBLE LUXURY LIFESTYLE

“The activities are as seemingly endless as the days (there’s 24 hours of sunshine here) — try ice climbing or fat biking, hike to the summit of nearby peaks, or venture out on an overnight ski tour, all under the care of expert guides.”

Forbes

"Antarctica, the safest place to visit in 2020 and beyond."

YOUR SAFETY

For all its beauty, Antarctica can be a challenging environment, with low temperatures, strong winds and high altitudes. We believe the best way to protect you is through our staff and we are absolutely uncompromising about the experience and expertise of our people.

All our mountain guides have completed the strenuous 5-year UIAGM qualification, while each camp has its own fully-qualified trauma doctor and accompanying medical kits. Our chief pilot has 10 years of experience flying in Antarctica with over 18,000 hours of logged flight time.

Tracking, satellite communications and mutual Search & Rescue agreements are all part of White Desert's comprehensive safety policies. Furthermore, by operating our own aircraft, we also have the speed and flexibility to arrange an evacuation back to Cape Town in the unlikely event that one should become necessary.



ENVIRONMENT

White Desert believes that responsible tourism is a genuine force for good and supports Sir David Attenborough's stance on the transformative power of wilderness travel: *"No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced"*.



Camp - As a temporary eco-camp, our whole operation can be dismantled and removed without a trace.



Carbon neutral - White Desert was the first aviation operator in Antarctica to be entirely Carbon Neutral, a status the company has held since 2007.



Waste management - We keep waste to a minimum by repackaging all consumables before we bring them to Antarctica and then, at the end of the season, shipping all solid waste back to South Africa for recycling or responsible disposal.





"It is the most beautiful setting I have seen in all of my travels."

Lewis Pugh, OIG - UN Patron of the Oceans

GUESTS: 12 MAXIMUM

FITNESS: NO SPECIFIC LEVEL REQUIRED

FLIGHT TO ANTARCTICA: 5HRS

FLIGHT TO SOUTH POLE: 7HRS EACH WAY

PRICE: \$104,000 pp

INCLUDED

1. Safety briefing (return transfers provided)
2. Return transfers for Antarctica flights
3. Return flight to Antarctica (inc. 30kg baggage allowance)
4. All accommodation, food and drink (including all alcohol) in Antarctica
5. All guiding fees, support of field guides and logistics staff
6. The use of certain items of polar clothing, as denoted on equipment list
7. Payment by White Desert Ltd of a 'Carbon Tax' for offsetting emissions created by all logistics associated with Antarctic travel

EXCLUDED

1. Commercial flights to and from Cape Town, South Africa
2. Accommodation and meals whilst in Cape Town
3. Polar clothing (you will be sent a tailored kit list in advance of your trip to help you purchase the necessary items)
4. Comprehensive insurance cover (White Desert staff can advise you as to the appropriate cover required)
5. Additional expenses incurred in Cape Town due to any delay
6. Additional baggage costs over the agreed amount
7. Use of a satellite phone whilst in Antarctica

FULL ITINERARY

DAY BEFORE DEPARTURE

White Desert will host a safety briefing in Cape Town. This is where we will check all your polar clothing and prepare you for your flight south.

This itinerary is entirely subject to weather conditions in Antarctica and is meant purely as a guide to what guests may expect day by day. The exact sequence of activities and the types of aircraft mentioned in this brochure may vary.

DAY ONE

We fly over thousands of icebergs on our 5-hour flight across the Southern Ocean to Antarctica. During the flight, we enter the Polar Circle and encounter the continuous daylight of the Antarctic summer.

After landing on the ancient blue ice of the runway, you will transfer to our camp at Echo and take in the view from astride a fat bike.

DAY TWO

Settle into Echo and do as much or as little as you like each day. Activities range from restorative massages and inspiring treks to exploring incredible mountains and glaciers, summiting a nunatak, ice climbing and even abseiling!

On quieter days, you'll hear talks from our polar explorer staff about some of the lesser-known history of Antarctica and their world record-breaking expeditions.

DAY THREE

We fly 2 hours across Antarctica, providing beautiful views of the nearby mountain ranges and coastline, before landing at the Emperor penguin colony at Atka Bay. You will be among the very few who have ever witnessed such a spectacle, observing the real-life stars of *March of the Penguins*.

DAY FOUR

We spend the day exploring the nearby mountains and enjoy a gentle hike overlooking the endless ice sheet, followed by a champagne picnic.

Then you'll be off on an Arctic Truck safari, winding your way through the snow and ice to an incredible vantage point where you can take in the panoramic view over the mountains that you have just explored.

DAY FIVE**

We leave early in the morning in our Basler BT-67 aircraft, flying over stunning mountain ranges before landing at Dixie's camp to refuel.

After a walk on the High Polar Plateau we will continue to the South Pole, where you will have plenty of time for photos and a chance to stamp your passport before flying back to Dixie's camp and overnighing in the great wilderness of the Plateau.

DAY SIX

After a night under canvas, you'll enjoy a hearty breakfast before boarding the plane once again for the flight back to Echo.

The flight is the perfect chance to appreciate the immense scale of Antarctica, before you return to our camp for a three-course champagne dinner to celebrate your achievement.

DAY SEVEN

An adventurous hike along a winding cliff face affords guests stunning views over the last pristine wilderness on Earth.

Our world-class mountain guides will lead you on this challenging hike, ensuring your safety at all times.

DAY EIGHT

The flight out of Antarctica will be the last of your enduring memories of the great White Continent before you dive back into the vibrant energy of Africa. You will be transferred to your hotel where you will have a chance to relax and reflect on your Antarctic adventure!

** Please bear in mind that the South Pole is situated at an apparent altitude of 4,000m with an approximate ambient temperature of -25°C. Those with pre-conditions for altitude sickness should not choose this option. If you are unsure in any way, please contact White Desert for any advice or further information.



● White Desert team



ABOUT WHITE DESERT

White Desert was founded in 2005 by husband and wife team Patrick & Robyn Woodhead, who hold four exploration world records between them. When White Desert began, visitors reached Antarctica almost exclusively by cruise ship, limiting them to the Antarctic Peninsula and its coastline. Instead, Patrick and Robyn wanted to introduce guests to the deep interior of the continent while offering them a level of hospitality and comfort more akin to a high-end Africa safari than a rugged polar expedition.

Receiving its operating permit from the British Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), the company has grown year-on-year and is now comprised of 70 staff of 17 different nationalities during season, providing a unique and highly specialised skillset.

Antarctic travel is the only thing White Desert does. It's our passion, it's our mission and it's in our DNA.



● Safety briefing at the Silo Hotel in Cape Town


WHITE DESERT
ANTARCTICA



COME WITH US ON AN UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY. COME EXPLORE.

INFO@WHITE-DESERT.COM

[CLICK FOR AVAILABLE DATES](#)

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