

30th October

Unique Users : 150,000

ANTARCTICA

NO PAIN, ONLY GAIN

While the original travellers on expeditions to the southern continent really suffered for their passion, you don't need to, says Raj Aditya Chaudhuri

	THEN	NOW
GETTING THERE	A very slow boat that took way too long and made you question your life choices	A private jet from Cape Town to Antarctica in under six hours—and you land on ice. (www.white-desert.com , from ₹2 million per person including stay)
LIVING	Just visit Port Lockroy's museum. We can't believe people voluntarily put themselves through that	You can stay at the luxurious White Desert Whichaway Camp or sleep in the Master Stateroom on board your EYOS Expeditions super-yacht. (www.eyos-expeditions.com , from ₹9 million)
FOOD	Pemmican, a mush of canned meats and animal fat that would help one survive winter temperatures of -58°C	On the flight, feast on sushi and wagyu beef tartare and sip cocktails with 1,000-year-old glacial ice. And at the camp, the chef is the lady who cooks for F1 star Lewis Hamilton
TRAVEL	Walk. Sled. Maybe ski	Chill out on board your 77m-long, 26-guest super-yacht as it navigates icebergs as big as islands. Many yachts also have a helicopter in case you fancy a little air supremacy. For a fee, you can take the three-person submarine on board for a 300m dive without ever getting wet. You can also get a White Desert flight to the South Pole to watch the penguins

KNOW THE LOCALS



ADÉLIE



CHINSTRAP



ROCKHOPPER



MACARONI



KING

Adélie: Recognised by the white rings around its eyes, it can be spotted around the coast on small islands with exposed rock. **Chinstrap:** The name is self-explanatory; what is not so apparent is that these cute little things can be quite loud and aggressive. A large colony lives on Bailey's Head, Deception Island. **Rockhopper:** How to tell this one apart from a **Macaroni**? Its yellow crest starts where its eyebrows would be; a Macaroni's crest starts from the base of its beak. **King:** Similar looking to the larger **Emperor** penguin, Kings have bright orange ear patches down to the chest. Emperors have more colourful feathers around their neck. **Gentoo:** Look for orange beaks and white patches that look like earmuffs. They can swim at speeds of up to 36kmh. **Royal:** Yellow crests, pale grey faces and pink webbed feet complete a look only a mother could love.

PHOTOGRAPH: REEVE JOLLIFF/EYOS EXPEDITIONS; GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY

Did you know you can now legally get hitched in Antarctica? Hit www.gov.uk/guidance/getting-married-in-antarctica for deets

THE VIEW FROM HERE

WHICHAWAY CAMP, ANTARCTICA

You wake up in the morning and get out of your warm, comfortable bed. You step into a beautifully appointed dining room for a cup of coffee. You could almost be forgiven for thinking you are in your own home. But the breakfast is much more delicious today, as if it has been made by a celebrity chef. And then you have to put on a heavy-duty parka to go outside and the view definitely isn't of your street. For starters, everywhere you look is pristine white, covered in millennia-old ice. Then there's the slightly noticeable lack of people, save, of course, for the guests staying in the five other fibreglass, fur-lined, heated pods just like yours. Oh yes. You flew a few days ago on a White Desert jet from Cape Town and landed on Antarctica. And every day you have been here at Whichaway Camp, you have been on expeditions to experience parts of the seventh continent that only a handful of people have ever done, including a flight to the South Pole and to see and hang out with a colony of penguins. Yes, this isn't home. It's better. **RAJ ADITYA CHAUDHURI**
CONTACT +44 207 7311499 (www.white-desert.com; trips from \$32,000 or ₹2,061,000 per person)



Oct-Nov 2017 Condé Nast Traveller 241