

18th June 2017

Unique User: 85,000

Short cuts

Antarctica An ice runway for private jets has been constructed on the Antarctic mainland and will begin receiving tourist flights in November. The 3km-long Wolf's Fang runway, close to the distinctive 2,930m-high peak Ulvetanna, has been built by White Desert, a luxury tour operator that charges \$78,000 per person for its most popular eight-day trip. Previously the company brought in guests on supply flights operated by the Russian government using Ilyushin 76 aircraft, or on chartered flights from Cape Town to the runway at Russia's Novolazarevskaya Station. However when Russia signalled it no longer wanted to accept tourist charters, White Desert began the three-year process of creating and gaining certification for its own hard ice runway. Its customers will now arrive from Cape Town on a 14-seater Gulfstream G550. Some will visit as a day trip (\$13,929 per person, based on 14 sharing the plane), spending time around Ulvetanna before flying back. Those on four or eight-day itineraries will transfer via Basler BT-67 aircraft to White Desert's lavishly furnished Whichaway camp, where previous guests have included Bear Grylls and Prince Harry and where the food is cooked by a former private chef to Lewis Hamilton. Activities include visiting emperor penguin colonies and flying to the research station at the South Pole. white-desert.com



Dining at White Desert's camp