

Big Time: 7 Bucket Trips Across the Globe



Jorge Fernandez Garces

End of the Road: Antarctica

Lindblad Expeditions—National Geographic brought the first nonscientists to Antarctica in 1966, and the New York–based outfitter remains your best bet for icy epics. Its three-week trips, based on the newly renovated 148-passenger *National Geographic Explorer* (private bathrooms!), are about as luxe as you can get. Lindblad employs ten naturalists and professional photographer Ralph Lee Hopkins, who offers tips on taking better photos. There are also 15 adventure-ready Zodiacs that can launch for impromptu leopard seal sighting explorations at the drop of a dime. From \$20,740 per person for 24-day trip.

Days 1–2: Fly to Buenos Aires. Sip the best Mendoza reds. Feast on big Argentinean steaks.

Days 3–8: Board the Explorer in Ushuaia. Stop in the Falklands to see the jumping prowess of rockhopper penguins.

Days 9–13: Explore the beaches of South Georgia island and its 400,000-strong king penguin colony. Hike inland five miles to Shackleton's gravesite.

Days 14–15: Cross the infamous Drake Passage, where waves can reach 35 feet. When the Southern Ocean is calm, watch unobstructed, hours-long sunsets.

Days 16–22: Antarctica. Get the camera ready for sights like the Lemaire Channel, which has vertical mainland cliffs rising hundreds of feet on one side and ice-covered islands on the other. Then head home.