

# ANTARCTICA

## WHEN TO GO?

Antarctic wildlife is at its most active during the southern austral summer, when Lindblad's fleet explores the region. There's always activity throughout the Antarctic season. In the early season, you'll see intriguing penguin courting and nest-building rituals. In late December, penguin chicks are beginning to hatch, and in the later season, penguin parents are busy fetching krill and feeding chicks.

### ANTARCTICA: OCTOBER-NOVEMBER



- First visitors of the season: **virgin snow, with the most pristine conditions**—perfect for photography. Incredible iceberg photography, snow white to deep aquamarine.
- **Adélie, chinstrap and gentoo penguins come ashore** to mate and build their nests starting in November. See their amazing courtship rituals, sky pointing, and stone stealing.
- **Best chance for our IceMaster Captains to “park” the ships in the ice**, allowing guests to walk, snowshoe or cross-country ski on the frozen sea.
- Some leopard, crabeater or Weddell pups, or possibly even southern elephant seal pups, may sometimes be seen in the very early season.

### ANTARCTICA: DECEMBER-JANUARY

- **The gentoo, Adélie and chinstrap penguins are on eggs in December**; most penguin chicks start to hatch at the end of December, and are creching and running about by mid-January.
- **Elephant seals come ashore to molt.**
- The **height of wildlife sightings** is at this time of the year
- 24 hours of daylight in December, with the chance to take photographs at midnight.
- In mid-January, the ships may start being able to reach the Antarctic Circle.



### ANTARCTICA: FEBRUARY-MARCH



- **Humpback whales arrive to feed** in the productive waters of the Antarctic. Marine mammal sightings, including orca and minke whales, increase as the season goes along.
  - In early February, **penguin colonies are still very busy**, fetching krill and feeding chicks. By late February, the adults molt and the penguin chicks fledge into the ocean.
  - **Extraordinary sunsets are possible to photograph** at the beginning of February as the days begin to shorten again.
- Receding ice offers the best chance of landing sites further south along the peninsula from mid-February. In March, the snow cover is at its minimum.