



SOUTH POLE ALL THE WAY



2026/27 EXPEDITION TRIP NOTES





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EXPEDITION NOTES

2026/27 EXPEDITION DETAILS

Hercules Inlet:

Dates: November 12, 2026 to January 16, 2027

Duration: 66 days

Price: US\$92,800

Messner Start:

Dates: November 12, 2026 to January 10, 2027

Duration: 60 days

Price: US\$90,400

Axel Heiberg:

Dates: Custom departures available on demand

Duration: 54 days

Price: Price on Application



▲ An epic journey to the South Pole. Photo: Andy Cole

Antarctica has held the imagination of the entire world for over two centuries, yet the allure of this remote continent has not diminished. With huge advances in modern-day technology, travel to any part of the world seems to be considered a 'fait accompli'. Yet Antarctica still holds a sense of being impenetrable, a place where man has not tamed nature.

Antarctica is a place of adventure. A frontier where we are far removed from our normal 'safety net' and where we need to rely on our own resources and decision making to survive. It is in these environments that we are truly in touch with nature, where we can embark on a journey of discovery to remote and untouched places.

In the Southern Hemisphere summer, when the sun is in the sky 24 hours each day, Adventure Consultants is operating an expedition on skis across the vast expanse of Antarctica from the edge of the continent to the South Pole. This overland journey takes up to two months and will be both challenging and exhilarating, a journey that will give us a lifetime of memories.

ROUTE OPTIONS

HERCULES INLET (66 DAYS)

The route from Hercules Inlet is the ultimate challenge; a journey that traverses 1,130km/702 miles from the edge of the Ronne Ice Shelf to the Geographic South Pole. It is an expedition that will allow you to join an elite group who have undertaken this adventure under their own power.

MESSNER START (60 DAYS)

This scenic route is inspired by Reinhold Messner's 1989 epic Antarctic crossing and offers a shorter but more committing alternative to the Hercules Inlet route. You'll skirt the western flank of the massive Foundation Ice Stream and the Transantarctic Mountains then turn south toward your final goal, the South Pole.



▲ An undeniably challenging landscape. Photo: Andy Cole

AXEL HEIBERG (54 DAYS)

Traverse the same terrain discovered by Roald Amundsen more than 100 years ago on a route marked by deep snow, steep climbs and complex route-finding. Climb the steep Axel Heiberg Glacier, bounded by majestic peaks on both sides, and navigate your way around the infamous maze of crevasses known as the Devil's Ballroom.

HOW THE EXPEDITION OPERATES

GETTING STARTED

The team will meet in Punta Arenas on the southern tip of Chile. After food and equipment preparations are finalised, we will fly to an ice runway on the Antarctic Continent which is a flight of around four hours. This landing site is known as Union Glacier and is the base for our air transport provided by Antarctic Logistics Expeditions (ALE), a company with many experience in providing air support on the Antarctic Continent.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

After final preparations and fine-tuning at Union Glacier, we fly by ski-plane to the starting point for our expedition, where the adventure really begins. The plane departs and we are left to the silence of the Antarctic, and the huge task of walking to the South Pole!

Skis will be worn for the entirety of the expedition (with a few possible exceptions) which will be the telemark type with 'skins' on the base for traction. When towing sleds, skins are preferable to the waxing method used for cross-country skiing.

Each day we will move for 8–10 hours with regular rests for food and fluid intake. Navigation will be accomplished using GPS navigation equipment to ensure an accurate route to the pole.

Once we reach our camping destination for the night, we will erect tents and build snow walls for wind protection. Expedition team members will share tents and the chores of cooking. The coldest part of the day will be in the breakdown of the camp as we pack sleds and begin the daily trek.

On arrival at the pole and after the ensuing photo-fest, an aircraft will be dispatched to pick us up and bring us back to Union Glacier for our return to Chile.

TEMPERATURE

The effective temperature is defined by the strength of the wind as we are battling against the katabatic winds descending from the polar plateau. Temperatures will be in the range of $-40^{\circ}\text{C}/-40^{\circ}\text{F}$ to $0^{\circ}\text{C}/32^{\circ}\text{F}$. The temperatures will rise during the season but near the end of the expedition when we gain higher altitudes near the pole, we will have colder temperatures. Ultimately, a lot will depend on the season and the general weather patterns. Weather analysis will be provided by experts in polar meteorology, which will assist us in being forewarned of major weather systems.

TEAM SIZE

The team will have a minimum size of 4 members and 1 guide and a maximum size of 8 members and 2 guides.



▲ Celebrate at the bottom of the world! Photo: Andy Cole



▲ Experience and manage the extremes of temperature. Photo: Andy Cole



▲ Work together to establish camp each night. Photo: Andy Cole

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE

The South Pole All the Way expedition is for the most dedicated of polar travellers. You need significant skiing and cold weather camping experience, along with a very high degree of fitness. Typically, candidates will have participated in cold weather ski expeditions of some length such as North Pole or South Pole Last Degree expeditions, or the Greenland Crossing.

A high degree of discipline and diligence must be maintained throughout the expedition, skiing for 8–10 hours per day for up to 54 days in a row, with team members helping to set up camp and prepare meals. Rigorous daily training must be undertaken for 3–6 months prior to the expedition start.

We require all participants to submit a résumé of their ski expedition experience so that we can make appropriate suggestions for any potential further training and ensure you get the most out of your expedition.

EXPEDITION DATES & ITINERARY

NOTE: All dates may be subject to change.

HERCULES INLET (66 DAYS)

Dates: November 12, 2026 to January 16, 2027

Day 1	Meet in Punta Arenas, Chile
Days 2–6	Prepare food and equipment, review the route and expedition plan, weigh and load gear, briefings
Day 7	Fly to Union Glacier, Antarctica
Days 8–9	Acclimatisation and training days
Day 10	Fly to Hercules Inlet to begin ski tour
Days 11–40	Daily ski touring towards the Thiel Mountains
Days 41–63	Thiel Mountains to the South Pole
Days 64	Pick-up from the South Pole, return to Union Glacier
Day 65	Fly to Punta Arenas, Chile
Day 66	Expedition ends, depart for home



▲ A team prepares to begin their journey. Photo: Andy Cole

MESSNER START (60 DAYS)

Dates: November 12, 2026 to January 10, 2027

Day 1	Meet in Punta Arenas, Chile
Days 2–6	Prepare food and equipment, review the route and expedition plan, weigh and load gear, briefings
Day 7	Fly to Union Glacier, Antarctica
Days 8–9	Acclimatisation and training days
Days 10–29	Fly to Messner Start and ski to Thiel Corner Skiway
Days 30–56	Ski from Thiel Corner Skiway to the South Pole
Day 57	Arrive at the South Pole
Day 58	Pick-up from the South Pole, return to Union Glacier
Day 59	Fly to Punta Arenas, Chile
Day 60	Expedition ends, depart for home

AXEL HEIBERG (54 DAYS)

Dates: Custom dates available on demand

Day 1	Meet in Punta Arenas, Chile
Days 2–6	Prepare food and equipment, review the route and expedition plan, weigh and load gear, briefings
Day 7	Fly to Union Glacier, Antarctica
Days 8–10	Acclimatisation and training days
Day 11	Fly to the base of the Axel Heiberg Glacier
Days 12–20	Ski tour across the Axel Heiberg Glacier

Days 21–50	Ski across the Polar Plateau
Day 51	Arrive at the South Pole
Day 52	Pick-up from the South Pole, return to Union Glacier
Day 53	Fly to Punta Arenas, Chile
Day 54	Expedition ends, depart for home

ADVANTAGES OF JOINING ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS ON AN EXPEDITION

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to high altitude expedition climbing and polar travel. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our climbers the best possible chance of success.

We employ strong, specialised and highly experienced Expedition Leaders and support staff, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, the best back-up and support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food, comfortable base camp facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical back up.

Many of our expedition members come to us because they have seen us in action on a previous trip and decide to opt for our level of service and proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make expeditions safe and successful.



▲ Reaching the South Pole is an amazing achievement. Photo: Andy Cole

SAFETY & COMMUNICATIONS

We carry the latest in satellite communication equipment, facilitating good contact with the outside world. This also improves safety in that we have instant communications with ALE in the unlikely event an evacuation is required. It is possible for you to utilise our equipment or you may bring your own, but we request you confirm with us to establish power requirements can be met.

RESCUE CONSIDERATIONS

It is possible for evacuations to take place along the route, if necessary. However, there are areas with sufficient sastrugi to make aircraft landings impossible and anyone needing evacuation would need to be transported to a sastrugi free area for a pick-up, which may take days of travel. For this reason, expedition members need to fully understand that evacuation is not an 'on demand' service and weather conditions can preclude flights for days or even weeks at a time. The best way to protect oneself against problems of this nature is to be fully prepared, both physically and mentally for an adventure of this magnitude. Additionally, an aircraft rescue can be very expensive and we require expedition members to be insured against this possibility.

EQUIPMENT

EQUIPMENT LIST

We supply all team equipment, including sleds, tents, stoves, pots, food and fuel, ropes and sled harnesses, GPS and telecommunication equipment.

You will need to supply all your own personal equipment, including clothing, sleeping gear and ski equipment. If you wish, we can assist with the purchase of equipment and clothing suitable to the expedition. A full equipment list will be sent to you upon confirmation of booking.

CLOTHING

For most of the trek members need only be clad in fleece clothing with windproof shells.

Warm expedition mittens and hats will be necessary, in addition to a facemask and fur ruff around the jacket hood to keep wind and blowing snow at bay. Lightweight down clothing will help members endure the cold starts and provide additional warmth (if needed) in the sleeping bag.



▲Undertake some training days at Union Glacier. Photo: Guy Cotter



▲Depart from the mariner town of Punta Arenas, Chile. Photo: Andy Cole



▲Fly to the blue ice runway at Union Glacier. Photo: Guy Cotter

WHAT WILL I CARRY?

Each member will have a high tech sled built specifically for Arctic/Antarctic use. These will be loaded with personal gear as well as a share of the expedition equipment. We utilise three pre-placed food caches enroute to minimise the weight of our sleds. Each sled is estimated to weigh around 50–60kg/110–130lbs at the beginning of the phase, reducing over the duration of the expedition as food and fuel is consumed. The complete load is carried on the sled rather than in a backpack.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Generally entry visas are not required for travellers staying less than three months in Chile, but please check with your travel agent. The expedition ski traverse permits for travel in Antarctica are a separate matter dealt with by Adventure Consultants.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Expedition members will be provided with pre-trip medical advice and a medical questionnaire. You will be asked to visit your family physician and receive

a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by the Expedition Leader and our medical adviser and treated with full confidentiality.

DOCUMENTATION & PHOTOGRAPHS

Expedition members will need to provide 4 passport photographs for the various permits and a copy of their passport biodata page.

THE EXPEDITION FEE

The cost of the expedition, ex Punta Arenas, Chile, is:

Hercules Inlet: US\$92,800 per person
Messner Start: US\$90,400 per person
Axel Heiberg: Please enquire for pricing

This will be an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Adventure Consultants polar guide(s)
- All expedition organisation requirements
- Transport within Antarctica where applicable
- Food and tented accommodation ex Punta Arenas (twin share)
- Expedition food and equipment



▲ Covered up on the polar plateau. Photo: Leifur Örn Svavarsson

- Tents, stoves, sleds & harness
- Dedicated dispatch webpage updated throughout the trip that you can post onto your own website for friends & family to follow
- Transport of 30kg/66lbs of personal equipment to Union Glacier

The expedition fee **does not** include the following:

- Air travel to and from Punta Arenas, Chile
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Personal travel, medical, rescue insurance
- Hotel, meals and personal expenses in Punta Arenas
- Personal insurance – full travel, medical and rescue insurance is required as well as personal trip cancellation insurance. Medical evacuation insurance cover of US \$300,000 is required
- Excess baggage transportation charges of US\$77 per kg for any baggage exceeding the personal equipment weight limit
- Cost of satellite telephone calls whilst on expedition

NOTE: Minimum numbers apply and prices are subject to change.

PAYMENT DETAILS

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
42 Willis Street
Spark Central
Wellington
New Zealand

for the account of Adventure Consultants Limited

Account Number: 1000-594771-0000

Account Type: US Dollars

Swift Address: BKNZNZ22

NOTE: All bank transfer charges are for the remitter's account.

We can also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Amex) plus a 3% credit card fee.



▲ Made it! Photo: Andy Cole

DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of US\$15,000 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

BALANCE PAYMENT

The balance is payable 120 days prior to the commencement of the trip.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

An expedition member may cancel their participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 120 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 120 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the balance payment fee.
- For cancellations within 90 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

We strongly recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.

HOW TO JOIN THIS EXPEDITION

If you would like to join one of our South Pole All the Way Expeditions, please feel free to book online booking at <https://adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/antarctica/south-pole-all-the-way#DepartureBookingBlock> and return your completed booking form to us with a deposit along with your climbing and polar travel résumé.

CONTACT US

If you require more information please contact us at:

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▲ Follow in the footsteps of early explorers on this journey to the South Pole. Photo: Andy Cole



Adventure Consultants is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their 'Revitalise a Village' programmes.

Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.



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