

Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctica

The last great wilderness on Earth. No ports, no piers, no crowds — just glaciers that calve into silence, penguin colonies that outnumber your ship, and the kind of quiet that changes you.

 Zodiac landing (expedition) or scenic only (large ships)

 Voyage: 10–24 days from Ushuaia or Punta Arenas

 USD on board

 International crew

 Season: November – March

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Ship Size Matters: Ships under 500 passengers can land via Zodiac. Larger ships cruise scenically only — no shore access under IAATO rules.

Getting There: Most voyages depart Ushuaia, Argentina (Drake Passage, 2 days each way) or fly-cruise from Punta Arenas to skip the Drake.

Zodiac Landings: Max 100 passengers ashore at any one site at a time. Landings rotate in groups throughout the day.

Best Wildlife: Gentoo, chinstrap & Adélie penguins, humpback & minke whales, leopard seals, and vast seabird colonies.

 Getting around:

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Zodiac Landing — Penguin Colony** — Step ashore at a working penguin rookery — gentoos, chinstraps, or Adélies depending on your location.
- **Lemaire Channel & Iceberg Alley** — The Lemaire Channel — 11km of water squeezed between towering cliffs and glaciers — is one of the most photographed passages on Earth.
- **Whale Watching from Zodiac** — Humpback and minke whales feed in Antarctic waters throughout the season.
- **Polar Plunge** — A rite of passage on expedition ships — jump into Antarctic seawater (around 0°C/32°F) from the gangway or Zodiac platform.
- **Port Lockroy — Penguin Post Office** — A restored British research station from 1944 on Goudier Island, now run by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust.

BEST WALKS

- **Neko Harbour — Glacier Walk** Expedition landing · moderate · 1-2 hrs — One of the few places you can genuinely set foot on the Antarctic continent (not just the surrounding islands).
- **Half Moon Island — Chinstrap Colony** Expedition landing · easy · 1-2 hrs — A crescent-shaped island in the South Shetlands with a dense chinstrap penguin colony and an Argentine refuge hut.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		27°	21°	20d
Jun		23°	16°	17d
Aug		20°	12°	17d
Sep		23°	15°	18d
Oct		26°	20°	22d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 8:30AM–5:52PM · Jun 11:14AM–3:10PM · Aug 9:12AM–5:21PM · Sep 7:23AM–6:52PM · Oct 5:35AM–8:22PM

 USD on board

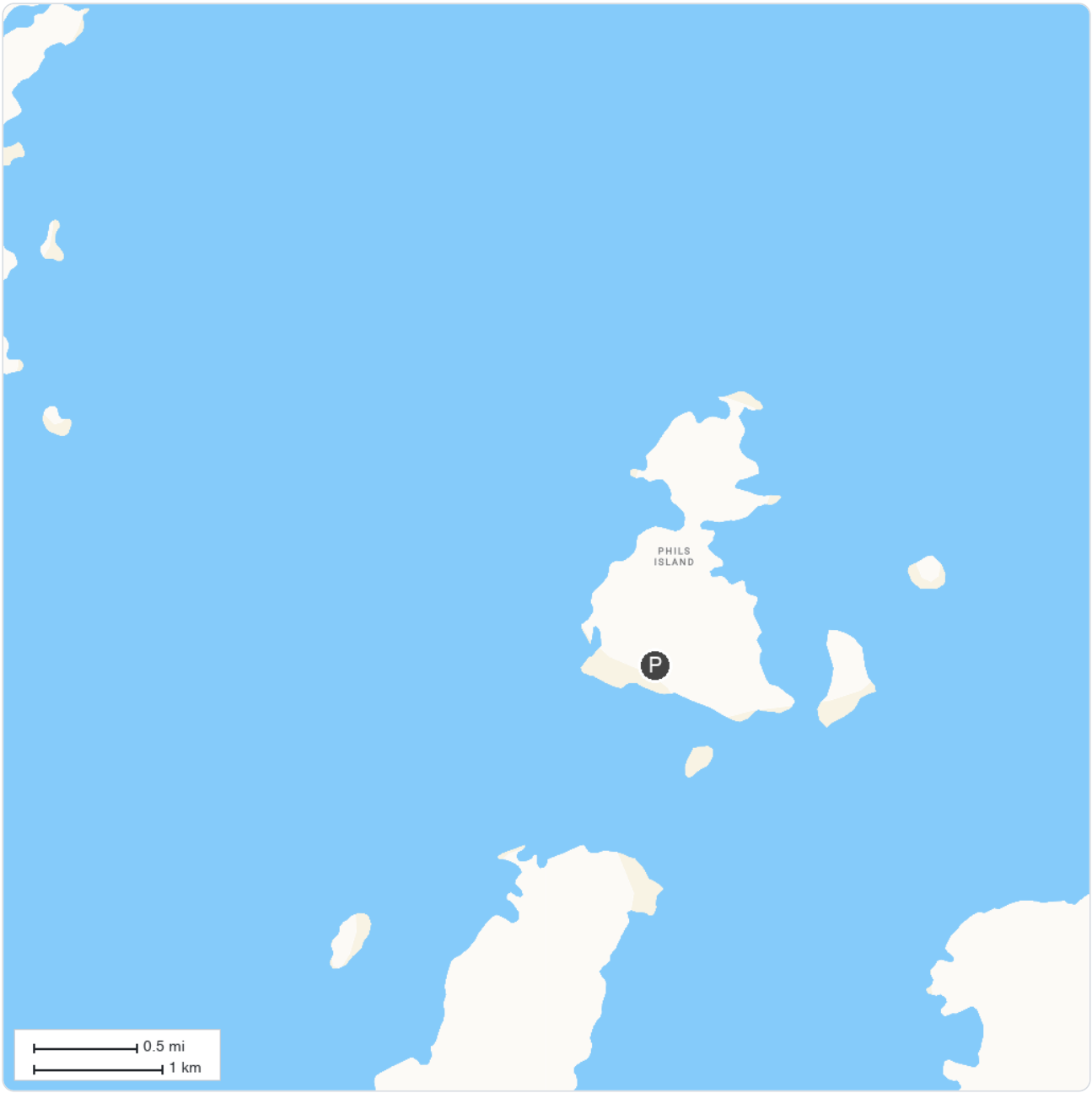
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Layer aggressively. Weather changes in minutes. Base layer, mid layer, waterproof outer, warm hat, waterproof gloves, and wool socks in rubber boots (usually provided by expedition operators for Zodiac landings). Wind is the real enemy.
- Camera batteries die in the cold. Bring spares and keep them in an inner pocket against your body. Waterproof your camera bag for Zodiac spray. A 200mm+ telephoto covers wildlife; wide angle gets the scale.
- Book 12-18 months ahead. The best expedition ships and cabins sell out fast, especially for Christmas/New Year and February peak. January-February is warmest with the longest daylight.
- Prepare for the Drake. Get a prescription seasickness patch before you go — scopolamine works well. The Drake can be genuinely rough over two days. Most expedition operators will have medication on board too.
- The 5-metre rule. IAATO rules require you stay at least 5m from wildlife. The penguins haven't read the rules — if they approach you, stand still. Don't crouch down or block their path to the sea.
- Fly-cruise saves 4 days.

Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctica — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



P Cruise port / terminal