



# OCEAN ENDEAVOUR CAMPING PREPARATION NOTES

The Camping Program is an optional enhancement to our expedition program on board the Ocean Endeavour.

Fall asleep amid the snow-capped mountains as you watch the colours of the Antarctic twilight bounce off the ocean and surrounding glaciers. Camping is an experience like no other which allows you to completely connect with the landscape, feeling its power well into the early hours.

All Participants involved in the Camping Program must complete an Ocean Endeavour Camping Program Waiver prior to participation.

## **ABOUT THE CAMPING PROGRAM**

Camping is a fantastic way to have a truly unique and fully immersive experience of the Antarctic. Our Camping Program is available on selected voyages and is an optional extra for guests when booking their voyage on their Ocean Endeavour. Given the nature of the Antarctic wilderness, its temperature and weather volatility, it is important that all Ocean Endeavour guests who intend to join our Camping Program are aware of the risks involved and the requirements of campers during this excursion.

Previous camping experience is not required to participate. However, all aspiring campers must attend all camping briefings which will include safety and logistical information, and follow all IAATO guidelines and instructions communicated the Expedition Team. In addition, Antarctica is an ecologically sensitive environment, and we ask that participants always closely follow instructions from the Expedition Leader and/or Expedition Team as this will allow us to meet and exceed the standards for camping as laid out by the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO), ensuring that only a transitory impact is made on our surroundings.

Guests should also be aware that the Camping Program is a participatory event. Campers will be required to assist in transporting their own camping supplies to the campsite, establishing their own sleeping area for the evening, preparing their camping equipment at the site and assisting in its pack-down and transfer back to the Ocean Endeavour the following morning.

Guests should assess their own ability to meet these requirements in terms of physical fitness. Anyone who can embark and disembark Zodiacs, walk through shallow snow and carry lightweight camping equipment for a short distance should be able to meet the needs listed above. Our Expedition Team will be on hand to assist but it cannot be expected that they complete all of these aspects for you. Please self-assess your fitness level with careful thought and if you have any concerns speak to a member of the Expedition Team in advance.



After transiting the Drake Passage to the Antarctic Peninsula, our Captain and Expedition Leader will decide on an appropriate site to carry out the overnight camping excursion. We are able to utilise areas that are IAATO-approved camping sites, which are mostly on islands just off the mainland. The Camping Program group will come together for a mandatory briefing with our Expedition Team members accompanying the Campers ashore. The briefing will provide a comprehensive review of the camping excursion including an overview of the IAATO site-specific regulations for the chosen camping location, site familiarisation, safety orientation and detailed instructions on the logistics of setting up camp.

On the evening that camping is scheduled to take place, dinner will be served aboard the Ocean Endeavour. We suggest that Campers eat heartily as personal snacks are not permitted onshore as per the IAATO regulations. We will have emergency rations in the event that time ashore during the camping excursion is extended as a result of adverse weather conditions or any other event beyond our control.

Throughout the afternoon and evening of the intended camping trip, the Expedition Leader and Captain will be consistently monitoring the weather. They will judge if the conditions will allow for safe camping expedition. If so, you will be transferred to shore by Zodiac after dinner. The standard requirement for clothing is in place for this transfer. Please refer to the Equipment section for more information on how to dress appropriately for your Camping excursion. After setting up your camp, you will have time to enjoy the Antarctic evening in all its beauty. A minimum of three Expedition Team members will accompany you and your fellow campers ashore throughout the evening.

Guests should note that toilet facilities will be very basic. We will provide a portable toilet which campers must use if they feel the call of nature. As stewards of this pristine environment, we must bring all waste - human or otherwise - back to the Ocean Endeavour for proper disposal and we encourage participants to make full use of the bathroom facilities on board the Ocean Endeavour prior to disembarkation. We will endeavor to provide as much privacy as possible.

Participants will be expected to participate and stay for the duration of the camping excursion as there will be no Zodiac shuttle during the night to return to the Ocean Endeavour except in emergency situations.

Wake up time will be scheduled for roughly an hour before breakfast is served on the Ocean Endeavour, allowing time for you to pack down your camping equipment and collect your belongings before your transfer back to the Ocean Endeavour by Zodiac. As with all programs, our primary goal is to experience nature and leave our site with the minimum of evidence of our overnight adventure.

## **SAFETY**

In the interests of your safety and comfort, and that of the other participants, it is very important that you listen to, understand, and comply with any and all instructions given by your Camping Guides. As instructions will be given in English, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have knowledge of the language so that you are fully able to understand instructions given in English. If you do not understand any of the instructions, we reserve the right to refuse your participation based on safety concerns surrounding communication during an emergency.



## CANCELLATION BY US

If an insufficient number of guests opt in to participate in the Camping Program, or if Camping is not operationally possible due to adverse wind, precipitation or ice conditions, we reserve the right to cancel the Camping Program and we will advise you accordingly. If we do cancel the Camping Program, we will offer a full refund of your Camping cost, this will be processed by your booking agent post-voyage.

If your Camping excursion is significantly impacted due to a medical emergency, adverse weather and/or ice conditions, or for any circumstance beyond our control and we are required to return to the Ocean Endeavour earlier than anticipated, you may be eligible for a refund at Ocean Endeavour's absolute discretion.

## CANCELLATION BY YOU

Please refer to the Ocean Endeavour Booking Conditions for our policy on cancellation fees for the Camping Program.

## MINIMUM AGE

We recommend a minimum age of at least 16 years, as younger children are more susceptible to hypothermia. For passengers 12 - 15 years old, an application for Camping must be made **before voyage departure**, as participation requires pre-approval by our Medical Team to ensure it is deemed safe. Please contact your booking agent for more information. Passengers aged under 18 years must always be accompanied by a Parent/Legal Guardian. Passengers under 12 cannot participate.

All participants must also meet the requirements outlined in this Camping Preparation Form.

## CAMPING OUTINGS

Our Camping Program takes place in one of the most remote environments on Earth and in an area that is particularly prone to volatile weather. We cannot guarantee a specific location to set up camp as the activity is very much weather dependent and subject to ice, wind, temperature and precipitation conditions, which can vary and change rapidly, and for which we have no control. All descriptions are made in the belief and with care that they are accurate, but due to the Camping Program being very much dependent on the natural environment, we cannot guarantee that it will take place as described.

## YOUR EQUIPMENT

You must be appropriately dressed to take part in the Camping Program. You are reminded that in Antarctica, the weather conditions can change rapidly with little or no warning and it is therefore important that you are adequately dressed and prepared for the worst possible conditions.



Prepare for this excursion as you would prepare for a Zodiac excursion. Muck boots and waterproof Parka, and pants remain in place for ship to shore transfers and our Zodiac drivers always have the right to refuse entry to the Zodiac if a guest is not appropriately dressed. Please refer to our Antarctica Travellers Guide for more details on packing lists and how to dress for excursions. For the Camping Program, as you will be in the open air for a good part of the evening, the addition of an extra base and/or mid layer for extra warmth is recommended. A hat, beanie or balaclava, gloves or mittens, and extra thick socks are a necessity for a chilly evening. It is also highly recommended that campers bring an extra pair of socks, extra pair of gloves and extra wool/fleece hat in their bag.

As water is not provided ashore, you must fill up your water bottle prior to disembarking the Ocean Endeavour. As per the IAATO regulations we will not provide a food service on shore nor are participants allowed to bring personal snacks with them. We will however have emergency food and water rations in the event that conditions delay our scheduled return to the Ocean Endeavour.

## **EQUIPMENT: WHAT IS PROVIDED**

We will supply you with a water-resistant bivvy bag, an insulating mat, a warm sleeping bag and portable toilet facilities. Additionally, we will have at our disposal a full suite of emergency supplies should the need arise.

## **EQUIPMENT: WHAT TO BRING**

If you have medication that you need or use, please ensure that you carry enough with you to last for at least 36 hours onshore. Guests must be in good health to participate in the Camping Program.