

Life is incomplete without exploring the White Continent,

Antarctica



GURILAN KULIR

WHENEVER I WOULD GO TO A NEW TRIP, I USED TO THINK THAT ALL MY EXPEDITIONS ARE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT VISITING ANTARCTICA. I ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE THE EDGE OF THE EARTH, AND SO, THIS JANUARY MY DREAM CAME TRUE," RECALLS VASIM.

It might be a curiosity for many to know the world beyond earth, of course expect astronauts. But have you ever thought about that corner where the earth ends? That far away end where life is not regular!

Vasim Shaikh, who has been travelling and exploring the world from past 17 years, feels that a traveller's life is incomplete without exploring the White Continent, Antarctica.

"Whenever I would go to a new trip, I used to think that all my expeditions are incomplete without visiting Antarctica. I always

wanted to see the edge of the earth, and so, this January my dream came true," recalls Vasim. And now, he is all set to bring travellers from India to the White Continent through his company The Q Experiences.

To talk about the same, Vasim along with his team was in Chandigarh recently, where he took us to an imaginary trip to Antarctica. Trust us, it was too good to imagine rubbing shoulders with penguins surrounded by the white layer of ice all around.

THE TRIP—WHAT AND HOW

About what's and how's of the trip that Vasim is taking to the Antarctica, he shares, "We are planning this trip in December this year because that period is summer in Antarctica. Otherwise, in rest of the months temperature goes to minus eighty degrees. So, the 11-day trip will start from December 9."

The trip will start off from Ushuaia, the capital of Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, and the southernmost city in the world.

"The travellers will be cruising through some

of the most breathtaking glaciers of Neko Bay and Paradise Bay, anchoring at Port Lockroy, finally sailing to the largest colony of Chinstrap Penguins at Deception Island and visit the quietest place on earth—the majestic Weddell Sea," adds Vasim.

The entire journey will be covered in a cruise, which is

called "The Great Majestic Explorer".

DO YOU KNOW?

Meanwhile, ask Vasim to share a few lesser known facts about Antarctica, and he goes like:

- It's freezing cold in Antarctica the year round, the coldest temperature ever recorded on the Antarctic was minus 89 degrees Celsius!

- Nobody lives in Antarctica. In January 1979, Emilio Marcos Palma became the first human to be born on Antarctica. Since then, only ten other people have been born on the continent.

months, experience 24 hours of daylight. In December, when the ship starts to sail, it will be summer in Antarctica.

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1-3: The trip will start at Ushuaia - the City at the Edge of the World. The travellers aboard the Majestic Explorer will be sailing through the confluence of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans, known as The Drake Passage for two days and nights.

DAY 4: Travellers will get their first experience of magnificent glaciers, rising slowly from the waters at Neko Bay



DAY 5: Exploring Deception Island—a place steeped in history and home to the largest colony of Chinstrap Penguins in the Antarctic Peninsula. The travellers will witness a breathtaking sight of over 100,000 pairs of penguins at play along with serenity of Elephant seals and Fur seals.

DAY 6: Sailing through the quietest places on earth—The Weddell Sea, travellers will get a chance to actually sight—The Lord of The Weddell Sea—The Weddell Seal himself.

DAY 9-10: The travellers will hit the land, crossing the Drake Passage once more, making their way back to Ushuaia and civilization.

DAY 11: The Triumphant Return, the ship will dock and the journey to Majestic White Continent will come to an end.

POCKET LOSE!

Here comes the time to talk about the cost at which one can explore the seventh continent. Vasim shares that the cost which they have decided is 6 lakh 90 thousand per person, which will include everything of the 11-day trip from Argentina.



- Antarctica is only accessible by small sailing boats or motor vessel; no more than 100 people can land on the Antarctic Peninsula at any given point of time.

- There are no time zones in Antarctica, hence it's always zero o'clock in Antarctica.

- During the summer

and Paradise Bay.

DAY 5-6: Travellers will explore the stunning ice-covered rocks and home to the kelp gull—a haven for the avid wildlife enthusiast. The port has a museum, little store and post office from where one can send a postcard to their friends and family.