

THE WEEK

PORTFOLIO



Antarctica

When heading to some of the most extreme climates on earth it's always reassuring to feel that you're in the hands of experts. White Desert, Antarctica's 'only luxury camp', was founded by record-breaking polar explorer Patrick Woodhead and his wife Robyn – who have used their considerable experience to create a number of once-in-a-lifetime trips to explore this breathtaking and remote region. This year, access to the area is even easier as the company has launched a private jet service from Cape Town, South Africa that will whisk you off to the Whichaway Camp, which counts Buzz Aldrin, Bear Grylls and Prince Harry among its past residents.

From this cosy base there's the opportunity to take a private charter into the very heart of Antarctica. If time allows, opt for the signature eight-day experience, Emperors and South Pole Adventure; flying along the dramatic coastline, it allows you to see the area's 6,000-strong emperor penguin colony up-close with pit stops in places of note including the American science station at the South Pole. The tours are operated with environmental impact in mind and both the flights and camp are carbon neutral, the latter running predominantly on renewable energy.

White Desert's eight-day 'Emperors and South Pole' costs from \$68,000 (around £52,000) per person; white-desert.com