



AN ANTARCTICA ODYSSEY

India's First Antarctica Awareness & Citizen Science Programme

Dhruvayan.

India's first structured Antarctic Awareness Programme awaits you.

You can be amongst a curated cohort of scientists, policymakers, educators, professionals, students, and changemakers who have been to the heart of the Earth's most unique and climate-critical wilderness.

Far beyond ordinary travel, this initiative **for all age groups** offers a lifetime opportunity to live in a never before experienced polar environment, transforming participants from mere spectators into active storytellers of the raw realities of global climate change in one of the planet's most sensitive ecosystems.

For those who want to experience the real deal, this journey uncovers a visit the iconic **Schirmacher Hills**, the sprawling **ice fields**, **blue ice caves**, and hidden **landscapes**.

Central to this immersive experience is direct engagement with polar science, highlighted by citizen-science activities and for the first time ever an invaluable visit to **Maitri, India's Antarctic Research Station** (subject to permits), where participants interact directly with researchers.





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Ultima Airbase Camp



The Real Antarctic.

Unlike conventional Antarctic tourism, Dhruvayan replaces the gruelling four-day ship transit across the turbulent seas with a direct **six-hour polar flight** departing from Cape Town. This bypasses the seasickness and cruise-related delays typical of traditional expeditions, allowing immediate, **deep access** to the true Antarctic interior rather than limiting the experience to standard coastal and peninsula glimpses.

This approach alters the entire emotional and intellectual outcome of the journey. You do not return with travel memories, but leave with a profound comprehension of why this frozen continent matters to our collective future.

Dhruvayan replaces superficial sightseeing with interior access bolstered by great learning, eliminates days of maritime transit, and fosters a direct connection to active scientific research.

The Expedition shifts the narrative from a simple declaration of having visited the continent to a lifelong commitment as an **informed climate ambassador**.



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Citizen Science.

Guided citizen science awareness activities for you to choose:

-  **Snow Studies and Cryosphere Analysis**
Understand how atmospheric pollution impacts Antarctic ice.
-  **Penguin and Wildlife Observation**
Observe Antarctic Wildlife ethically and document ecosystem behaviour.
-  **Antarctic Biodiversity Exploration**
Discover mosses, lichens, algae, and microbial life in polar environments.
-  **Ice Field Hikes and Blue Ice Caves**
Explore Antarctica's frozen landscapes and learn how glaciers shape the planet
-  **Weather and Environmental Monitoring**
Record observations and understand Antarctic atmospheric processes.
-  **Interaction with Polar Scientists**
Learn directly from researches and understand India's Antarctic programme.

Your inputs may become part of a global repository of data.





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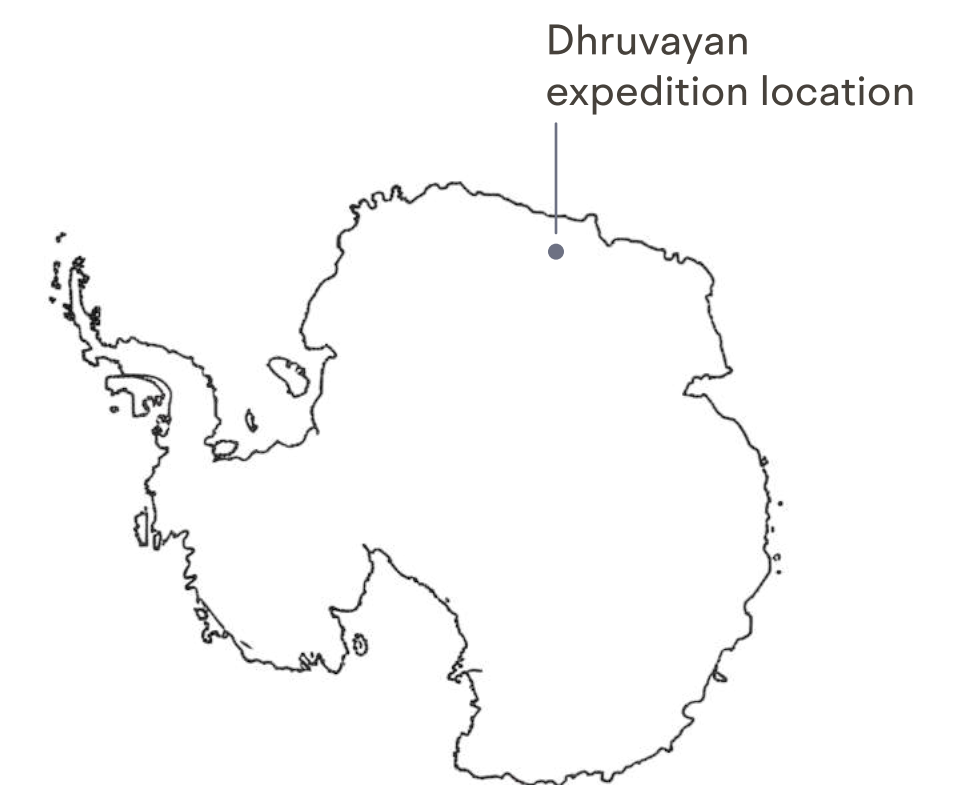


Stay in Antarctica.

The living arrangements are alongside the blue-ice runway. An Ultima airbase camp offers the retreat in the heart of Antarctic's extraordinary landscape.

In a continent that is so environmentally hostile, a warm room, a clean bed and flowing hot water in the taps is a boon. Each heated cabin features its own bathrooms and bunk beds.

So comfortable are the cabins that you can relax in lightweight clothing despite the extreme conditions outside.





An Expert Network.

Highly experienced Antarcticans, scientists, administrators and logistics leaders will facilitate the expedition.
LIGHTS - PARI - Ultima Team



Dr Rasik Ravindra, Sr Vice President, LIGHTS · Former Director, NCPOR
Leader of the Indian expedition to the South Pole. Veteran Antarctic and geologist by profession



Mr Riaan Aucamp, CEO, Ultima
Antarctica Expeditions Leads Ultima's Antarctic operations, connecting Africa to the continent through polar aviation and logistics.



Prof. N.C. Pant, Vice President, LIGHTS · Former Professor of Geology, Delhi University
Reputed scientist associated with SCAR and the Earth Science and Antarctic Programme of India.



Mr Ajay Dhar, Former Sr. Technical Officer, Indian Institute of Geomagnetism
Participated in twelve Indian Scientific Expeditions to Antarctica, leading five. Member of the first South Pole Expedition Team.



Dr Sulagna Chattopadhyay, Director, PARI · Secretary General, LIGHTS
President, Science and Geopolitics of Arctic and Antarctica (SaGAA), a Delhi-based think tank on Polar issues.



Dr Pradip Malhotra, Former Sr. Regional Director, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GOI
Veteran Polar Physician who has served as medical doctor and leader on Indian Antarctic expeditions.



Dr Narmadeshwar Prasad, Founder Director, PARI. Formerly with the Indian Parliament.



Mr Alberto Tramontano, Head of Logistics Coordination, Ultima Antarctica
Coordinates on-ground logistics for expeditions between Cape Town and Antarctica.

7 - 21 January 2027

Expedition Itinerary.

Programme Inclusions limited to 8 members annually

Polar flights

Cape Town to Antarctic
Antarctic to Cape Town
(India to Cape Town not included)

Polar clothing and expedition gear

To be provided in Cape Town

Accommodation:

Cape Town hotel accommodation with full boarding
Antarctic accommodation at Ultima Airbase Camp with full boarding
Visa facilitation support
Antarctic Permit facilitation
Indian station visit permit

**Estimated Programme Cost
€27,000 per participant**

Excludes airfare from India to Cape Town

Last date of receiving expression of
interest is 31st July 2026

Days 1-2	Departure from India and arrival in Cape Town - check-in and rest
Days 3-4	Pre-departure to Antarctica briefings, clothing, equipment checks, luggage preparation, operational orientation and contingency planning
Day 5	Polar flight from Cape Town to Antarctica (5.5-6 Hours)
Days 5-12	Antarctic Programme - Adventure and scientific field activities, Maitri Station visit, wildlife obseration, ice field hikes, and guided polar experiences. (Detailed daily activities on the continent will be shared close to the arrival)
Day 12	Departure from Antarctica back to Cape Town
Days 13-14	Cape Town buffer stay (48-hour post-expedition window for operational flexibility and weather contingencies)
Day 15	Return flight to India



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