

The great adventure

From **05/03/2023**
to **20/03/2023**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL**

From **Ushuaia**
to **Montevideo**



Night in Buenos Aires + flight Buenos Aires/Ushuaia + transfer + visit

Jean-Baptiste Charcot, Adrien de Gerlache, Ernest Shackleton: sail in the wake of these **great Antarctic explorers** during a **16-day polar expedition cruise** organised by **PONANT**.

Your trip will begin in Ushuaia, the Argentinian capital of Tierra del Fuego which offers breathtaking landscapes.

After crossing the mythical **Drake Passage**, your ship will make its way to the **White Continent**, realm of the unexpected. Weather and ice conditions permitting, this extreme environment where nature reigns supreme will reveal to you its most beautiful secrets through numerous discoveries.

Gentoo, Adelie and chinstrap penguins, humpback whales, seals and seabirds: these are some of the encounters you will most likely have the chance to experience in the Antarctic Peninsula, creating indelible memories.

Each day, whether on land, aboard your ship or during a **Zodiac® outing**, you will be surrounded by a grandiose decor ranging from **icebergs** to **ice floe** and **ancient glaciers**.

You will then discover **South Georgia**, its impressive glaciers and its black-sand beaches where imposing colonies of **king penguins** have taken up residence.

Your arrival in the city of Montevideo in Uruguay will mark the end of your trip into the heart of these stunning, faraway lands.

We are privileged guests in these extreme lands where we are at the mercy of weather and ice conditions. Landings on certain sites and the observation of certain wildlife cannot be guaranteed. They vary from day to day, making each PONANT cruise a unique experience. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, while complying with the safety rules and instructions imposed by the IAATO.



The information in this document is valid as of 06/07/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

USHUAIA

Embarkation 05/03/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 05/03/2023 at 18:00

Capital of Argentina's **Tierra del Fuego** province, Ushuaia is considered the gateway to the White Continent and the South Pole. Nicknamed "**El fin del mundo**" by the Argentinian people, this city at the end of the world nestles in the shelter of mountains surrounded by fertile plains that the wildlife seem to have chosen as the ultimate sanctuary. With its exceptional site, where the Andes plunge straight into the sea, Ushuaia is one of the most fascinating places on earth, its very name evocative of journeys to the unlikely and the inaccessible...

CROSSING THE DRAKE PASSAGE

Arrival 06/03/2023

Departure 07/03/2023

Use your days spent in the **Drake Passage** to familiarise yourself with your ship and deepen your knowledge of the Antarctic. The Expedition Leader will first present the IAATO rules of conduct that must be observed during landings in the region and will explain everything you need to know about the zodiac outings. Lectures about the history and wildlife of the Antarctic will be an opportunity for you to learn more about this magical region, where every cruise is a **unique experience**. From the ship's bridge, you will experience exceptional sailing moments before joining the naturalist-guides on your ship's exterior decks to look out for albatrosses, cape petrels, and other seabirds flying over the Drake Passage.

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Arrival 08/03/2023

Departure 10/03/2023

Succumb to the magic of a place unlike any other. To this day, the mythical **Antarctic Peninsula** still holds real fascination and promises its visitors unforgettable moments. Throughout your adventure in this icy realm, you will find yourself in the heart of a **spectacular decor** in subtle shades of blue and white, surrounded by **exceptional wildlife**. Penguins, humpback whales, seals and giant petrels are at home here, as are elephant seals, fur seals, Antarctic minke whales, and orcas. Depending on which sites you will be lucky enough to visit, you may get the chance to observe them and share with them the beauty of these extreme parts.

Each day, based on ice conditions, the Captain and the Expedition Leader will suggest **zodiac outings or landings** to discover the infinite riches of the Antarctic Peninsula. Glaciers, ice floe, tabletop icebergs, mountain peaks that plunge straight into the sea, volcanic beaches, research stations, enchanting bays, and vestiges of the whaling industry: these are the faces of the Antarctic that will likely reveal themselves to you, in a hushed and surreal atmosphere. You will sail in the wake of Jean-Baptiste Charcot, Adrien de Gerlache and Sir Ernest Shackleton, great Antarctic explorers who, from the 19th century, set out to conquer these remote and uninhabited lands.

AT SEA

Arrival 11/03/2023

Departure 12/03/2023

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

SOUTH GEORGIA

Arrival 13/03/2023

Departure 15/03/2023

Aboard your ship, discover **South Georgia**, a region formed by an underwater mountain chain that extends from the Andes to the Antarctic Peninsula. All the wildlife of the Far South can be found there: **king and Gentoo penguins, elephant seals, fur seals...** You might get the chance to discover the majestic glaciers of Gold Harbour and the vast plains of Fortuna Bay. If you are fortunate enough to land at Salisbury Plain, you can expect a wonderful spectacle: more than 300,000 king penguins, which you will recognise by the bright orange mark on their head and neck, have taken up residence there.

AT SEA

Arrival 16/03/2023

Departure 19/03/2023

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

MONTEVIDEO

Arrival 20/03/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 20/03/2023 at 07:00

Perched on the far southern tip of Uruguay, **Montevideo** is a white city, and one of the loveliest capital cities of South America. Come and admire the beautiful historical remains dating from Spanish rule; you'll find the most interesting within the **Ciudad Vieja**, formerly fortified, its old town dates from the 18th century. The best preserved are the cathedral and the former governmental palace of the **Cabildo**, both listed historical monuments. In the crook of a vast blue bay, the city is also blessed with **beautiful beaches**.