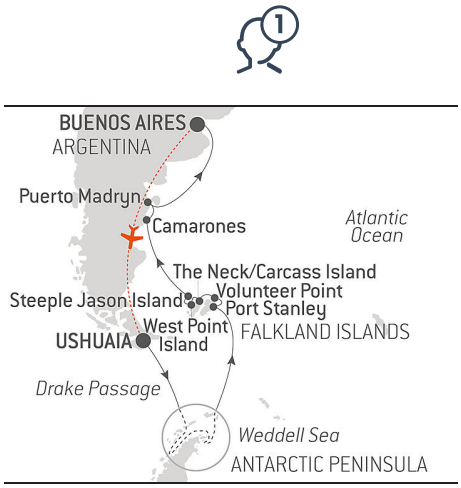
Falklands & Valdes Peninsula: in the heart of the wilderness

From **07/03/2024** to **25/03/2024**	Ship: ***LE BORÉAL***	From **Ushuaia** to **Buenos Aires**



Hike along the rocky coastlines of the **Falkland Islands** as black-browed albatrosses fly overhead, hope to catch the unique sight of orcas voluntarily beaching themselves to hunt on the beaches of **the Valdes Peninsula**... PONANT is offering you the possibility of having these unforgettable experiences as you discover a spectacular natural environment during **a brand-new 19-day expedition cruise aboard *Le Boréal***.

At the border between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans, you will enter **Drake Passage**. At the roaring fifties and the screaming sixties, the wind blows and the waves beat against the stern of the ship. In the sky, **cape petrels** lead you toward their realm until you reach the first of the continent's lands.

Ice is there in all its forms. The mountainous landscapes open up to give way to huge **calving glaciers**, **tabular icebergs** drift in the middle of the Southern Ocean, and the sea ice shimmers in the distance. On board, the **naturalists** share with you the secrets of this **unique ecosystem**. As you near the shores, the first penguins appear. **Gentoo**, **Adélie**, **chinstrap**: these surprising birds, emblematic of the Antarctic, share their beaches with **leopard**, **crabeater** and **Weddell seals**. During an outing on land or at sea, in a zodiac dinghy or a kayak, you will move through a stunning scenery bathed in polar light.

Your expedition to the heart of the South Atlantic will continue with a visit to the **Falkland Islands** and as you sail in this archipelago of 200 islands, you will be escorted by sei whales. Composing the wild beauty of the shorelines are beaches of white sand, jagged cliffs, windswept moors, and tall grass swaying with the wind. This is the perfect setting for the thousands of Gentoo and king penguins, elephant and fur seals, and sea lions, and the black-browed albatrosses that watch from above.

The scenery soon shifts, as the mountains give way to the barren landscapes of the **Chubut** province, in Argentine Patagonia. Welcome to the **Valdes Peninsula**! This wildlife sanctuary, where the beauty of the

underwater world is unmatched, also reveals numerous treasures on land. The scenery is composed of arid steppes, a rich and varied flora, and distinctive haciendas. In these unspoiled lands home to more than 180 bird species, **orcas** hunt young **maned seals** on the beaches under the watchful eye of the **Magellanic penguins**, as **guanacos** gallop across the arid plains and **dusky dolphins** swim around peacefully. Here, the majestic beauty of nature offers a gateway to a whole new world.

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 29/03/2024

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

USHUAIA

Embarkation 07/03/2024 from 16:00 to 17:00
Departure 07/03/2024 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 08/03/2024
Departure 09/03/2024

If there is one place, one sea, one waterway dreaded by tourists, researchers and hardened seafarers alike, it is undoubtedly **Drake Passage**. Situated at the latitude of the infamous Furious Fifties winds, between Cape Horn and the South Shetland Islands, it is **the shortest route to connect Antarctica to South America**. Seasoned navigators will tell you that you must earn your visit to the White Continent! As the Antarctic convergence zone where cold currents rising up from the South Pole meet warmer equatorial water masses, Drake Passage harbours a very diverse marine fauna. Don't forget to look to the sky to catch a glimpse of elegant albatross and **Cape petrels**, playfully floating about in the wind around your ship.

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Arrival 10/03/2024
Departure 13/03/2024

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 14/03/2024
Departure 15/03/2024

During your journey 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 journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or 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.

PORT STANLEY

Arrival 16/03/2024
Departure 16/03/2024

Situated at the far eastern end of the **Falklands' largest island, Port Stanley**, is the capital of this remote archipelago in the South Atlantic, composed of nearly 700 islands and islets. In 1764, **Louis Antoine de Bougainville** settled the first pioneers here and the port grew rapidly. Placed under the Spanish crown in 1767, then under British sovereignty since 1833, the town has retained some South American features fused with the **Victorian style** that punctuate the city, and the houses with their colourful roofs brighten the moorland landscapes with their windy and harsh climate reminiscent of the Scottish islands of Orkneys or Shetland. In front of the Cathedral, built in 1933, an arch made of whale jaw bones reminds us that Port Stanley was once a whaling port.

VOLUNTEER POINT

Arrival 16/03/2024
Departure 16/03/2024

A peninsula located at the far north-east of the **Falkland Islands**, Volunteer Point, named after the ship *The Volunteer* which called there in 1815, promises moving encounters in the heart of totally unspoiled nature. Due to its exceptional birdlife, the spot is identified as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) and is, above all, renowned as the home of the island's largest **king penguin** colony. These elegant birds, which are expressive and not particularly timid, will offer you moments of pure awe and the opportunity to take magnificent photos. You'll certainly be touched by the fledglings, dressed in their thick brown plumage.

THE NECK, SAUNDERS ISLAND

Arrival 17/03/2024
Departure 17/03/2024

The Neck is a narrow stretch of land connecting the two sides of **Saunders Island**, located on the north-western edge of the **Falklands**. You'll safely enter these blustery surroundings with the assistance of your naturalist guides. And once there, a reward awaits you: a veritable paradise of endless shoreline lapped by **turquoise waters**. Several bird species, also attracted to this stunning location, have settled here. At the other end of The Neck, you'll encounter Magellanic penguins, southern rockhopper penguins, **black-browed albatross** and **king penguins**, all basking in the beauty of their surroundings.

CARCASS ISLAND

Arrival 17/03/2024
Departure 17/03/2024

Situated in the north-west of the Falklands, **Carcass Island** was named after the ship *HMS Carcass*, which visited the island in the late 18th century. Its landscapes, combining steep rocks, sheer cliffs, wild expanses and white-sand beaches, form a rich and varied panorama that amateur or experienced bird watchers will appreciate. On this island, one of the few where no predators have been introduced, numerous species of birds live, breed and are born in total serenity. Due to the fresh, windy and humid subarctic oceanic climate, a fauna and flora similar to those of Patagonia, situated 460 km (286 miles) away, thrive here. You could get the chance to observe **royal or southern rockhopper penguins**.

WEST POINT ISLAND

Arrival 18/03/2024
Departure 18/03/2024

It is no coincidence that West Point Island was once called **Albatross Island**. Like everywhere else in the **Falkland Islands**, seabirds have taken up residence here. Among them, the huge colonies of **black-browed albatrosses** observe your arrival by zodiac dinghy, from the surrounding cliffs. The **gentoo and king penguins** are also curious about travellers arriving by sea. The **turquoise waters** of the island wash up against the **undulating shores**, where the **stretches of yellow gorse** brighten the scenery composed by this wild natural environment. On the hill overlooking the bay stand the **dwellings** of the few people still living in this remote land. The calm and serenity of the island is only broken by the sound of the wind.

STEEPLE JASON ISLAND

Arrival 18/03/2024
Departure 18/03/2024

If one island of **the Falklands** calls for use of superlatives, it would undoubtedly be **Steeple Jason**. Located at the extreme north-west corner of the Falklands, the island is home to **the largest black-browed albatross colony in the world** . You'll be rapt at the sight of these magnificent birds with black-contoured eyes. Photographers will delight in immortalising the endless ballet of the albatross, who soars majestically and then alights awkwardly amidst nests. Caracaras, **gentoo penguins** and **Magellanic penguins** are also abundantly present, as if to prove to the visitor that here nature is king.

AT SEA

Arrival 19/03/2024
Departure 19/03/2024

During your journey 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 journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or 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.

CAMARONES

Arrival 20/03/2024
Departure 20/03/2024

Camarones is a small town located in **Chubut Province**, in Southern Argentina. Chubut stretches from the Atlantic to the Andes, the coast is marked by **high cliffs** and **sandy beaches**. Before the Spaniards arrived in the Americas, nomadic indigenous people had inhabited the Patagonia region. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Spanish missionaries settled. Camarones is the head town of the Florentino Ameghino department which is noted for its wealth of geological and paleontological features. People are attracted to the region by its lengthy unspoiled coastline and its fauna. Camarones means 'shrimps' in Spanish, once the town was well-known for the abundance of shrimps in its bay.

PUERTO MADRYN

Arrival 21/03/2024
Departure 22/03/2024

On the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, in the Argentinian province of **Chubut**, stands the city of **Puerto Madryn** nestling in the Golfo Nuevo and surrounded by wild and abundant nature. You will be able to follow the narrow strip of land formed by the isthmus for a few kilometres, to reach the **Valdes Peninsula nature reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site** . Its microclimate, protected from the extreme conditions of the Southern Atlantic, makes this an ideal breeding ground for southern right whales in winter, but also for southern elephant seals, southern sea lions, and orcas. You may get the chance to spot numerous birds, Magellanic penguins, guanacos and Patagonian maras living in this desert steppe.

AT SEA

Arrival 23/03/2024
Departure 24/03/2024

During your journey 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 journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or 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.

BUENOS AIRES

Arrival 25/03/2024 early morning
Disembarkation 25/03/2024 at 08:00

A port city built on the south-western shore of the Rio de la Plata, between the Atlantic Ocean and the vast Argentine Pampas, Buenos Aires is a unique city in Latin America. Nicknamed “the Little Paris of South America”, the Argentine capital is a clever blend of architecture with European influences and a joyful Latin American atmosphere. Designed on an orthogonal grid plan, it has 48 districts, all of which are as charming as they are different, with a range of styles such as Belle Époque, gothic and baroque. With its markets overflowing with treasures, its legendary cultural and architectural heritage, and tango providing its background music, the Argentine capital will delight you on every street corner.