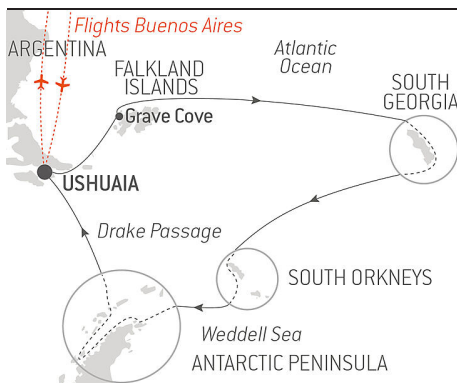


The Antarctic Odyssey

From **05/11/2023**
to **21/11/2023**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL**

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



With featured guests **Sue Flood, British Photo Ambassador** and **Cindy Miller Hopkins, American Photo Ambassador**.

A 17-day trip in the southernmost waters of our planet to reach the continent of superlatives; that is what PONANT is offering you with this fabulous expedition cruise. The icy landscapes of this other world changes day after day and the polar light leaves you with an intense feeling of peace and serenity.

Tierra del Fuego fades into the distance as your ship heads for the **Falkland Islands**. Composing the wild beauty of the shorelines are beaches of white sand, jagged cliffs, windswept moors and tall grass swaying with the wind.

Your ship will soon take to the seas once again, to reach the mountainous island of **South Georgia**. It is here, in the middle of the black-sand beaches dominated by snow-covered mountains, that **Sir Ernest Shackleton** miraculously ran aground during the famous *Endurance Odyssey* in 1916. You will travel back in time to (re)discover this fabulous saga and life at this little-known time in history.

Further south, the **South Orkney Islands** will reveal themselves. Latitude wise, you are now above the mythical **Screaming Sixties**. The **Scotia Arc** formed a mountain range that rises on the horizon in the middle of the Antarctic Ocean. You might get the chance to call at **Laurie Island**, where the Orcadas research station is established in a former whaling station.

You will ultimately land on the frozen shores of the nearly inaccessible **White Continent, Antarctica**. White shades take on a thousand nuances as it covers the icebergs, glaciers, mountains and frozen sea all around you. You will be one of the rare few travellers to have laid eyes on this legendary land, the theatre of the greatest expeditions and the witness of the most extraordinary adventures.

Throughout your trip, our team of naturalist guides will share with you the secrets of these faraway lands inhabited by unique wildlife. Discover the **vast territory of the penguins** – Adelie, king, chinstrap, Gentoo, Magellanic, southern rockhopper – albatrosses, numerous species of

seals, and majestic whales blowing on the horizon.

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 23/04/2024

The Antarctic Odyssey

YOUR STOPOVERS :

USHUAIA

Embarkation 05/11/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 05/11/2023 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...

AT SEA

Arrival 06/11/2023

Departure 06/11/2023

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.

GRAVE COVE

Arrival 07/11/2023

Departure 07/11/2023

Make your way through the turbulent Woolly Gut strait and emerge in the stillness of **Grave Cove**. Located in the northern edge of **the Falkland Islands**, this bay owes its name to the vestiges of whalers' graves that overlook the beach. As you step off the boat and onto the white-sand beach, you might find yourself escorted by a few hospitable **Commerson's dolphins**, elegantly adorned in black and white. A stroll along the grassy dunes will lead you to a vast plain of lush green grass, tended by a few sheep. On the other side of the island you'll find one of the largest **gentoo penguin** colonies in the area. With some luck, you'll also glimpse a sea lion scouring the waves for his next meal.

AT SEA

Arrival 08/11/2023

Departure 09/11/2023

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.

SOUTH GEORGIA

Arrival 10/11/2023

Departure 12/11/2023

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 13/11/2023

Departure 13/11/2023

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.

SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS

Arrival 14/11/2023

Departure 14/11/2023

More than 85% **glaciated**, these remote mountainous islands are hidden in the Southern Ocean, some 600 km from the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. The archipelago is composed of four main islands: **Coronation Island**, Signy Island, Powell Island and Laurie Island. Discovered in 1821 by seal hunters, they were also explored in 1823 by the British navigator **James Weddell**, who gave them their current name. Despite the ravages caused by whale and seal hunting, today a sizeable **leopard seal** population can be found there, along with **chinstrap penguins** and snow petrels. Laurie Island is home to an old scientific station that is still in operation.

AT SEA

Arrival 15/11/2023
Departure 15/11/2023

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.

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Arrival 16/11/2023
Departure 18/11/2023

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.

CROSSING THE DRAKE PASSAGE

Arrival 19/11/2023
Departure 20/11/2023

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.

USHUAIA

Arrival 21/11/2023

Disembarkation 21/11/2023 at 07:00

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...