The great adventure

From **27/02/2024** to **15/03/2024**	Ship: ***LE LYRIAL***	From **Ushuaia** to **Buenos Aires**



An **18-day trip in the southernmost waters of our planet**, between is what PONANT is offering you with this extraordinary expedition cruise. The stunning icy landscapes, the **iconic and abundant fauna** of the Far South, and the history of the **great polar expeditions** combine to create a thrilling experience.

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 ship's stern. 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. Further south, your ship will reach the remote waters of the **Weddell Sea**. You will travel back in time in the wake of Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition. Not far from there, his crew remained on Elephant Island for four months to await rescue after their ship, the *Endurance*, sank.

More than a century after this mythical adventure, you will follow the same route to reach **Falkland islands.** 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 black-browed albatrosses watching from above, the Gentoo and king penguins, elephant and fur seals, and sea lions. On board, admire the spectacle of endless moors interspersed by the bays and coves punctuating the coastline.

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

The great adventure

YOUR STOPOVERS :

USHUAIA

Embarkation 27/02/2024 from 16:00 to 17:00
Departure 27/02/2024 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 28/02/2024
Departure 29/02/2024

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**. You will experience exceptional sailing moments on board and join 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 01/03/2024
Departure 07/03/2024

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, Antarcticminke whales, and orcas. Depending on which sites you will be lucky enough to visit, you may get the chance toobserve 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 08/03/2024 early morning
Departure 09/03/2024

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.

GRAVE COVE

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

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.

THE NECK, SAUNDERS ISLAND

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

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.

AT SEA

Arrival 11/03/2024
Departure 13/03/2024

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 14/03/2024
Disembarkation 15/03/2024 at 07:00

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.