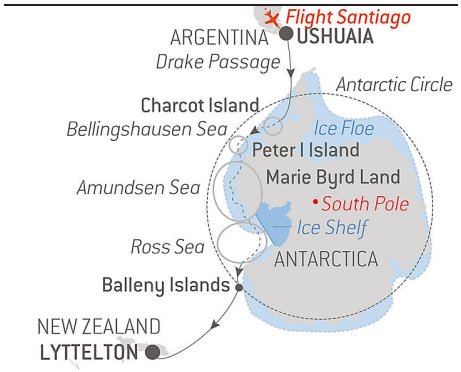
Unexplored Antarctica between Two Continents

From **08/01/2024** to **05/02/2024**	Ship: ***LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT***	From **Ushuaia** to **Lyttelton**



Through PONANT's alliance with The Explorers Club, this voyage will feature English-Speaker Cassandra Brooks, assistant professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, who works at the intersection of marine science, environmental policy, and public outreach to achieve conservation solutions. Cassandra is joined by fellow colleague and The Explorers Club Science Grantee Ulyana Horodyskyj Peña who will be on the ship to share their research and discoveries. Ulyana is a geologist, glaciologist, climate change expert with extensive experience in science communication. The voyage will also host a French-Speaker from The Explorers Club, Christian Clauwers, who has devoted his life to inspire audiences by capturing unspoiled nature, oceans and polar regions via his photography, public speaking, and writing. Christians work bridges science and policy through the power of his images.

With the presence of Ian Dawson and Sue Flood, British photo ambassadors.

Charcot, Bellingshausen, Dean, Fisher, Ross, Amundsen… Aboard ***Le Commandant Charcot***, the names of these legendary explorers resonate at every moment. Thanks to its unique capacity to sail into the very heart of the ice, *Le Commandant Charcot* invites you, with respect and humility, to set off in the footsteps of these great Antarctic figures during an **all-new and unrivalled half-circumnavigation** that will sail from the far south of the American continent to New Zealand. This journey to the boundaries of the known world will take you on a long adventure, where time stands still, where the horizon stretches into infinity to reveal dreamlike landscapes and abundant wildlife.

Antarctic exploration cannot be separated from the pioneers who travelled in these territories at the edges of the Earth. They left their names everywhere. Inaccessible and elusive are certainly the adjectives that best describe these lands that are among our planet's most little-known and remote. Like a real explorer, you will cross the legendary **southern seas of Bellingshausen and Amundsen**, approach **Marie Byrd Land**, one of the last *Terra nullius* of our planet, and, if conditions allow it, attempt to reach the **Charcot and Peter I Islands**, enveloped in their blankets of ice. Very significant in the history of **South Pole exploration**, **Ross Sea** is also the **world's largest marine protected area**, the kingdom of prodigious wildlife. As a privileged witness, keep a watchful eye and take

the time to observe the **Antarctic petrels, whales, orcas, seals and penguins** that are to be found here.

The power of the polar world will conquer you, leaving you with unforgettable memories of the impressive **Drygalski glacier** scattered with blue, the endless and constant **Ross Ice Shelf**, the majestic **Witkins** and **Getz ice shelves**, and the ice floe taking over the Amundsen Sea. Here and there, you will notice clues to the past presence of **Shackleton** and **Scott** who have forever marked this continent of extremes with their historic exploits. At the foot of **Mount Erebus**, the highest volcano in Antarctica, their memory becomes tangible: the former base camp has remained intact.

Get insight into your destination with this video: ***Le Commandant Charcot*** **in the Ross Sea.**

Find out more about the world of *Le Commandant Charcot* here!

We are privileged guests in these extreme lands where we are at the mercy of weather and ice conditions. Our navigation will be determined by the type of ice we come across; as the fast ice must be preserved, we will take this factor into account from day to day in our itineraries. The sailing programme, outings, activities and observation of fauna cannot be guaranteed and are subject to weather and ice conditions. These experiences are unique and vary with each departure. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, while respecting safety instructions and regulations imposed by the IAATO.



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YOUR STOPOVERS :

USHUAIA

Embarkation 08/01/2024 from 15:00 to 17:00
Departure 08/01/2024 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 09/01/2024
Departure 10/01/2024

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.

CROSSING THE ANTARCTIC CIRCLE

Arrival 11/01/2024
Departure 11/01/2024

Weather permitting, we'll cross the mythic line of the **Antarctic Polar Circle**, located along **66°33' south of the Equator**. This iconic area demarcates the point from which it is possible to view the midnight sun during the December solstice. Within this circle, the sun remains above the horizon for 24 consecutive hours at least once a year. Crossing this line, an experience known to few people, is sure to be an unforgettable highlight of your cruise through the polar regions.

EXPEDITION TO CHARCOT ISLAND

Arrival 12/01/2024
Departure 12/01/2024

When he discovered this island surrounded by sea ice in 1910 from aboard the *Pourquoi Pas ?* as he mapped Alexander Island, **Jean-Baptiste Charcot** had not be able to get less than 40 miles away from it. Situated in a zone that experiences frequent low-pressure systems and regular cloud cover, the island remains in many ways an enigma. It is **entirely covered in ice and sheer cliffs**, with the exception of the rocky outcrops extending over a dozen kilometres in the far north-west. The ice in the narrowest part of Wilkins Sound has been cracking in recent times, thus officially detaching this island from its neighbour, Alexander Island, lying 50 km away. Very few people have landed on this **largely untouched island**, whose waters attract numerous seabirds, such as petrels, Antarctic terns and skuas.

BELLINGSHAUSEN SEA

Arrival 13/01/2024
Departure 13/01/2024

Stretching from the west of the Antarctic Peninsula to the Amundsen Sea, the **Bellingshausen Sea** was named after the Russian admiral and explorer who has been attributed the first confirmed sighting of mainland Antarctica, in 1820. Among others, its waters surround two of the Antarctic's largest islands: Alexander Island and Thurston Island. You will explore this sea amid ice floe, blocks of sea ice and majestic icebergs. The coastal areas along the Bellingshausen Sea are also renowned as the home of colonies of emperor penguins. Depending on the month of the southern summer, you will perhaps be lucky enough to observe isolated adults, adolescents seeking emancipation or recently independent new adults.

EXPEDITION TO PETER I ISLAND

Arrival 14/01/2024
Departure 14/01/2024

You will then head for the legendary **Peter I Island**. Located 450 km away from the Atlantic coast, it was discovered in 1821 by the Russian explorer Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen, who named it in honour of the Russian tsar Peter the Great. In 1909, Captain Charcot sighted it for the first time from aboard the *Pourquoi Pas ?*, but was unable to land there: *"In the parting mists, one or two miles away, an enormous black mass shrouded in clouds appears suddenly before us: it is Peter I Island."* **Surrounded by pack ice and with about 95% of its surface covered by ice**, this volcanic island, whose highest peak reaches 1,640 metres, is protected by ice cliffs some 40 metres tall, making any approach difficult.

AMUNDSEN SEA

Arrival 15/01/2024
Departure 15/01/2024

The great Norwegian explorer **Roald Amundsen** – famous as one of the first five men to reach the **geographic South Pole** – gave his name to this **southern sea** in 1929, following an expedition in its waters. Almost entirely frozen by a thick ice floe, **Amundsen Sea** stretches along Marie Byrd Land in Antarctica, between Bellingshausen Sea to the west and the Ross Sea to the east. The monumental icebergs are all that break the monotony of the infinite ice floe here: let yourself be immersed in a feeling of tranquillity before this vastness. These privileged moments sailing in the Amundsen Sea are opportunities to make the most of the original equipment and spaces on *Le Commandant Charcot*. Find yourself in this refined cocoon. Nourish yourself with the knowledge of the scientists and expert naturalists, who provide unique support during your polar cruise. Or simply contemplate the fascinating and captivating decor from

the ship's exterior decks.

MARIE BYRD LAND EXPLORATION

Arrival 16/01/2024
Departure 22/01/2024

Marie Byrd Land is one of the most remote territories of our planet's most inaccessible continent. It is a real privilege to just be able to contemplate its shores! Between the **Ross Sea** and its large shelf to the east and **Bellingshausen Sea** to the west, the frozen coastlines of these lands are bordered by the **Amundsen Sea**, partially covered by a thick ice floe. Stretching over more than a million km2 (over 620,000 square miles) in Western Antarctica, its ground is also isolated from the rest of the continent by the Transantarctic Mountains. It is certainly this geographic remoteness and its harsh climate that have made it one of our planet's rare ***Terra nullius***, a territory claimed by no State. In 1929, Marie Byrd Land got its name from Admiral Richard E. Byrd, in honour of his wife, following his expedition to the region. The exploration of its ice-sculpted landscapes will plunge you into the infinite Antarctic desert, where penguins, seals, whales and orcas are the only living souls. Depending on the time and weather conditions, your exploration of the region will take you towards a string of islands which, although little-known, remain fascinating: Siple Island and its eponymous mount, resulting from an old volcano and Clark Island.

THE ROSS SEA EXPLORATION

Arrival 23/01/2024
Departure 23/01/2024

"The last ocean" is what scientists from all around the world call this deep bay that runs along the edge of Antarctica between Marie Byrd Land and Victoria Land. In 2016, Ross Sea, the last intact marine ecosystem, became the world's largest marine protected area. The starting point for the greatest southern expeditions - particularly to the South Pole - it was explored by James Clark Ross between 1839 and 1843. It was then that he discovered the enormous barrier formed by a gigantic ice shelf extending out to the open sea and from which titanic icebergs are calved.

Weather and ice conditions permitting, you will be able to discover several of the region's emblematic sites. Among the possible ports of call, **Cape Adare**, at the far north of the Borchgrevink Coast, is home to one of the world's largest Adelie penguin colonies. We will also try to get to Terra Nova Bay, home to the stunning **Drygalski Ice Tongue**. At least 4,000 years old, it stretches 70 km (43 miles) out to sea from the David glacier and measures 24 km (15 miles) at its widest. On **Ross Island**, at the base of Mount Erebus, you will follow in the footsteps of the famous explorers Shackleton and Scott who chose **Cape Royds** and **Cape Evans,** respectively, to set up their base camps in anticipation of their future historic exploits. In the **McMurdo Sound**, separating the island from the continent, the scenery is surreal: the **Taylor Glacier** stretches its branch into the valleys devoid of snow above which stand mountains of stratified rock. A little further, in the Bay of Whales, another tale is told, that of the Norwegian Roald Amundsen, who left from this point to reach, for the first time, the South Pole in 1911.

CROSSING THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

Arrival 24/01/2024
Departure 24/01/2024

Your itinerary enables you to cross **the International Date Line**. This imaginary line across the Earth's surface approximately follows the 180th meridian in the Pacific Ocean. Because of the roundness of the Earth and the

necessity of having reference time meridians, we have to change dates when we cross this line. So if your ship is travelling west, you will need to add a day to the expected date; conversely, if travelling east, you will take away a day. This paradox, already noted by Magellan's crews during his circumnavigation, serves as dramatic motivation in several novels, including Jules Verne's famous *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

THE ROSS SEA EXPLORATION

Arrival 25/01/2024
Departure 29/01/2024

"The last ocean" is what scientists from all around the world call this deep bay that runs along the edge of Antarctica between Marie Byrd Land and Victoria Land. In 2016, Ross Sea, the last intact marine ecosystem, became the world's largest marine protected area. The starting point for the greatest southern expeditions - particularly to the South Pole - it was explored by James Clark Ross between 1839 and 1843. It was then that he discovered the enormous barrier formed by a gigantic ice shelf extending out to the open sea and from which titanic icebergs are calved.

Weather and ice conditions permitting, you will be able to discover several of the region's emblematic sites. Among the possible ports of call, **Cape Adare**, at the far north of the Borchgrevink Coast, is home to one of the world's largest Adelie penguin colonies. We will also try to get to Terra Nova Bay, home to the stunning **Drygalski Ice Tongue**. At least 4,000 years old, it stretches 70 km (43 miles) out to sea from the David glacier and measures 24 km (15 miles) at its widest. On **Ross Island**, at the base of Mount Erebus, you will follow in the footsteps of the famous explorers Shackleton and Scott who chose **Cape Royds** and **Cape Evans,** respectively, to set up their base camps in anticipation of their future historic exploits. In the **McMurdo Sound**, separating the island from the continent, the scenery is surreal: the **Taylor Glacier** stretches its branch into the valleys devoid of snow above which stand mountains of stratified rock. A little further, in the Bay of Whales, another tale is told, that of the Norwegian Roald Amundsen, who left from this point to reach, for the first time, the South Pole in 1911.

AT SEA ABOARD LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT

Arrival 30/01/2024
Departure 30/01/2024

Spend exceptional moments sailing aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*, the world's first luxury polar exploration vessel and the first PC2-class polar cruise ship capable of sailing into the very heart of the ice, on seas and oceans which the frozen conditions render inaccessible to ordinary ships. *Le Commandant Charcot* is fitted with oceanographic and scientific equipment selected by a committee of experts. Take advantage of the on-board lectures and opportunities for discussion with these specialists to learn more about the poles. Participate in furthering scientific research with PONANT and let us discover together what these fascinating destinations have yet to reveal to us.

BALLENY ISLANDS

Arrival 31/01/2024
Departure 31/01/2024

The **Balleny Islands** are an extremely remote series of islands extending for about 160 kilometres in a northwest-southeast direction straddling the Antarctic Circle some 270 kilometres north of the Antarctic mainland. The volcanic islands are heavily glaciated and have received few human visitors since their discovery in 1839. Their isolated location within the rich waters of the Southern Ocean has resulted in a species diversity rivalling the entire **Ross Sea region**.
Humpback, fin and minke whales

are regular visitors to the rich feeding grounds along with **Crabeater, Weddell, elephant and leopard seals**. Several of the islands are home to significant colonies of **Adélie** and **Chinstrap penguins**. If time and weather permit, guests will have the opportunity to explore the spectacular coastal environments and view the prolific wildlife from our fleet of zodiac.

AT SEA ABOARD LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT

Arrival 01/02/2024
Departure 04/02/2024

Spend exceptional moments sailing aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*, the world's first luxury polar exploration vessel and the first PC2-class polar cruise ship capable of sailing into the very heart of the ice, on seas and oceans which the frozen conditions render inaccessible to ordinary ships. *Le Commandant Charcot* is fitted with oceanographic and scientific equipment selected by a committee of experts. Take advantage of the on-board lectures and opportunities for discussion with these specialists to learn more about the poles. Participate in furthering scientific research with PONANT and let us discover together what these fascinating destinations have yet to reveal to us.

LYTTELTON

Arrival 05/02/2024 early morning
Disembarkation 05/02/2024 at 07:00

On the eastern coast of New Zealand's South Island, Lyttelton (or Te Whaka Raupo in the Maori language) served, thanks to its proximity with Ross Island, as the **starting point for the British expeditions** in the mythical age of the South Pole explorations. It takes its name from George Lyttelton (1709-1773), aristocrat and colonial governor of South Carolina. In this colourful port town full of history, you'll be able to discover the **Time Ball**: constructed in 1876, it rang at 1.00 pm every day for 58 consecutive years to give Greenwich meridian time, enabling ship captains to set their chronometer and very precisely calculate their position.