

Antarctica - Unexplored Antarctica Between Two Continents | Le Commandant Charcot

Trip Code
ACPOUA
Departure



Introduction

Undertake this incredible journey into the heart of the ice on board Le Commandant Charcot. Follow in the footsteps of legendary polar pioneers like Ross, Amundsen, Fisher, Bellinghuasen and Charcot as you undertake this all new and unrivalled circumnavigation. Discover some of the most little-known and remote locations on this planet as you explore the Bellinghausen and Amundsen seas and approach Marie Byrd Land, on of the last Terra nullius on the planet.

Thanks to its unique capacity to sail right into the heart of the ice, Le Commandant Charcot will be able to take you where few travellers have gone before. From Drygalski glacier to the Ross Ice Shelf and the foot of Mount Erebus , this voyage is truly a unique journey to some of the most remote areas of Antarctica.

Itinerary

DAY 1: Arrival and Overnight in Santiago

Your cruise package includes an overnight stay in Santiago. You will be collected from the airport and transferred to your hotel where you will be met by our local representative. The rest of the day can be spent at your leisure.



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DAY 1: 2028 to Ushuaia and Embarkation

Duration

31 Days welcome to enjoy an early morning

breakfast at your hotel before being

transferred to the airport for your flight to Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctic Circle & Ross Sea

Ushuaia. Please note on arrival in Ushuaia

you will have a meet and greet at the

airport before being transferred to your

vessel for embarkation. Please note the

flight time is approximately 3 hours. 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.



DAY 3: Crossing the Drake - Days 3 & 4

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,

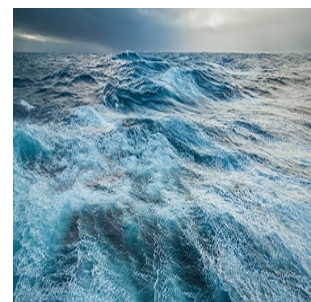
you will experience exceptional sailing

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.



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10/01/2028

Duration

31 Days

Locations

Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctic Circle & Ross Sea

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.



DAY 6: Marguerite Bay

The icebergs are each more majestic than the next and scattered around the deep and intense blue waters of Marguerite Bay, one of the most beautiful regions in the

Antarctic. It is delimited in the north by the mountainous Adelaide Island, in the south by George VI Sound and Alexander Island, and in the east by the Fallières Coast.

Charcot named it after his wife during his second expedition to the Antarctic between 1908 and 1910. In 1909, in the southern summer when the skies are at their clearest, he led an important scientific mission to map and study this region. The bay is home to a number of cetaceans and you may get the chance to observe leopard seals or Adelie penguins.



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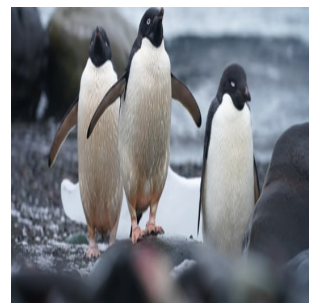
10/01/2028
DAY 1: Charcot Island Expedition

Duration

51 Days discovered this island surrounded
by sea ice in 1910 from aboard the Pourquoi

Ras. As the name Alexander Island, Jean-Baptiste Charcot had not been 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.



DAY 8: At Sea - Days 8 to 10

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.



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10/01/2028 Marie Byrd Land - Days 11 to 17

Duration

Marie Byrd Land is one of the most remote

locations of our planet's most inaccessible

continent. It is a real privilege to just be able to contemplate its shores. Between the

Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctic Circle & Ross Sea

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.



DAY 17: At Sea

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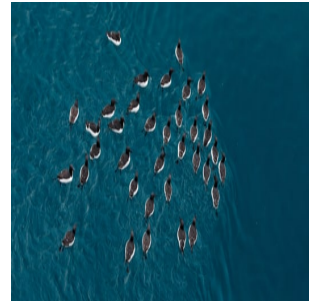
Duration

31 Days International Date Line

Locations

Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula, The Arctic Circle & Ross Sea

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*.



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Departure

10/01/2028 Ross Sea Exploration - Days 19 to

Duration

31 Days

The Ross Sea, the southernmost sea in the world, was named by Sir James Clark Ross, both a naturalist and a Royal Navy officer, who first explored the area in 1841 with HMS Erebus and HMS Terror. It is bounded on the east by Roosevelt Island and the Edward VII Peninsula in Mary Byrd Land, on the west by Ross Island and the coastal mountains of Victoria Land, and on the south by the Ross Ice Shelf, the largest ice shelf in Antarctica located some 320 km from the geographic South Pole. The history and treasures of the world's ultimate marine sanctuary will be revealed during this extraordinary expedition. You will be able, weather and ice conditions permitting, to discover several emblematic sites in the region. Among the possible stopovers, Cape Adare, at the northern end of the Borchgrevink coast, home to the world's largest colony of Adélie penguins. We will attempt to reach Terra Nova Bay where the Italian and South Korean scientific stations are located to the north and the Drygalski Ice Tongue to the south. Dating back at least 4000 years, it extends 70 km offshore from the David Glacier and is 24 km at its widest point. On the Inexpressible Island, discover the exceptional survival conditions of a group of six men of the Terra Nova expedition, led by Robert Falcon Scott (1910-1913), forced to winter in a cave dug in the ice, today classified as an Antarctica historical monument. On Ross Island, follow in the footsteps of the polar explorers Sir James Clark Ross and discover Sir Ernest Shackleton's hut, classified as an Antarctica historical monument. Built at Cape Royds during the British expedition Nimrod (1907-1909), it proudly stands at the bottom of Mount Erebus. Sixty years earlier, while Captain James Ross was trying to reach the South Magnetic Pole, he discovered Franklin Island, located 130 km east of Cape Hickey in Victoria Land. He named it after Sir John Franklin, Arctic explorer and governor of the territory of present-day Tasmania. You will be offered there, a privileged position to observe Adélie penguins in their daily ballet as well as Weddell seals, resting on the shore.



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Duration

31 Days Balleny Islands

Locations

The Bellin, Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctic Circle & Ross Sea

A 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.



DAY 26: At Sea - Days 26 to 29

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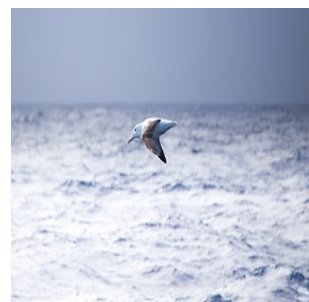
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DAY 30: Disembarkation in Hobart,

Tasmania

Hobart occupies a wonderful location at the

mouth of the Derwent River, overseen by

majestic Mt Wellington and surrounded by

natural bushland. The Tasmanian capital is

Australia's second-oldest city, after Sydney,

and the picturesque waterfront is bordered

by 19th-century warehouses and colonial

mansions. Salamanca Place is packed with

shops, galleries and restaurants and the

fascinating Museum of Old and New Art

(MONA) is a short ferry ride from the quay.

Hobart is within easy reach of some of

Tasmania's best-known destinations, from

historic Port Arthur and the rugged Tasman

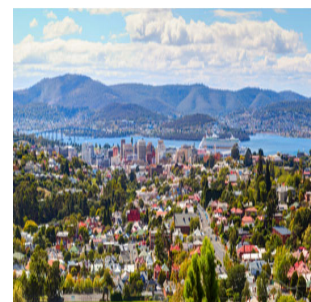
Peninsula to Bruny Island, the Huon and

Derwent Valleys and Mount Field National

Park. Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject

to change depending on weather conditions,

ice conditions and other factors.



Inclusions & Details

Accommodation

Hotel & Cabin on board a ship

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INCLUSIONS

- Cabin accommodation whilst on board Le Commandant Charcot
- 1-night hotel accommodation the night in Santiago before embarkation
- Arrival Shuttle Transfer from Airport to Hotel in Santiago
- Group Transfer from Santiago Hotel to Airport on Day of Embarkation
- Flights from Santiago to Ushuaia in economy class
- Group Arrival & Departure Transfers in Ushuaia
- All meals whilst on board
- Open bar (no premium brands)
- Mini bar in your stateroom (Champagne additional fee)
- Scheduled landings and excursions, conditions permitting
- Guiding and lectures by expedition team
- Complimentary Polar expedition jacket
- Free use of rubber boots for shore excursions
- All port taxes
- Comprehensive pre and post voyage informational material
- Free WIFI
- Kayaking Activities (limited places available)

Inclusions

EXCLUSIONS

- Airfares other than specified
- Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)
- Travel Insurance
- Personal expenses such as laundry
- Gratuities for the crew (recommend US\$15 per person per day)
- Optional Activities not mentioned in itinerary
- 2 (light adventure)
- Available upon request. A supplement surcharge may apply and is subject to availability. Please [contact us](#) for more information.
- Prices are based on per person, twin share.
- Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.
- Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.
- Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

Difficulty Rating

Single Surcharge

Notes

Price Dependent upon

Sustainability