

## ANTARCTICA - PONANT: THE GREAT AUSTRAL LOOP



### INTRODUCTION

#### **EARLY BIRDS ON SALE - Book and save up to 20% OFF\* Antarctic 2020-21 voyages with PONANT.**

Leaving the lights of Ushuaia behind, the course is set for the wild and beautiful Falkland Islands as you embark on this exceptional 16-day cruise. Continuing east, you reach the remote sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia, with its impressive glaciers, rich history and vast colonies of king penguins that reside on black sand beaches. Continuing south across the Weddell Sea, a labyrinth of ice and majestic icebergs, sail to the Antarctic Peninsula. Here you are greeted by floating ice fields, iridescent icebergs, glaciers and snow-capped peaks, and an extraordinary wildlife that includes whales, seals and penguins. Return to Ushuaia via the Drake Passage - a memorable finale to an amazing voyage.

This voyage is also available aboard [Le Soleal](#) on 03 Nov 2020 & 28Nov20

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1: Ushuaia

Capital of Argentina's Tierra del Fuego province, Ushuaia lies in a bay opening into the Beagle Channel at the country's southernmost tip. Its colourful houses are framed against towering mountains, snow-capped in winter and summer alike. Downtown, the End of the World Museum showcases Tierra del Fuego's natural and indigenous history. A ride on the heritage railway is an exciting excursion into the Tierra del Fuego National Park, while a cruise on Ushuaia Bay is the perfect way to spot sea lions and Magellanic penguins.



#### TRIP CODE

ACTSGAL

#### DEPARTURE

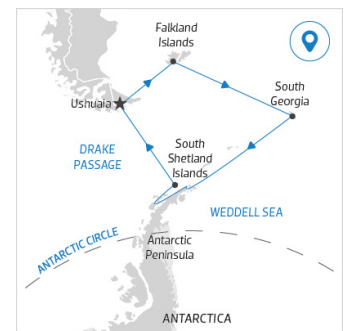
15/11/2019, 03/11/2020,  
19/01/2021

#### DURATION

16 Days

#### LOCATIONS

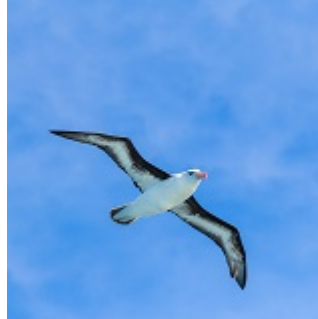
Antarctica, Falkland Islands,  
South Georgia & South Shetland  
Islands



## ANTARCTICA - PONANT: THE GREAT AUSTRAL LOOP

### DAY 2: At Sea

Travelling towards the Falkland Islands, you will spend the day at sea, anticipating the first site of land.



### DAY 3: Falkland Islands

Arrive at New Island. This island with its distinctive jagged relief is located on the western edge of the Falkland Islands and is home to a tiny village of two families. Step onto the golden sand of its flower-lined beaches, beside which an old stone house still stands, and you'll feel like you've entered a natural paradise. A narrow pathway weaves around typical Falkland moorlands. Follow it and in under 20 minutes you'll find yourself at the heart of a colony of southern rockhopper penguins, black-browed albatross and imperial shags. It's the perfect opportunity to watch the albatross swoop down from the cliffs and skim the waves that crash against the rocks on the exposed side of the island. 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.



#### TRIP CODE

ACTSGAL

#### DEPARTURE

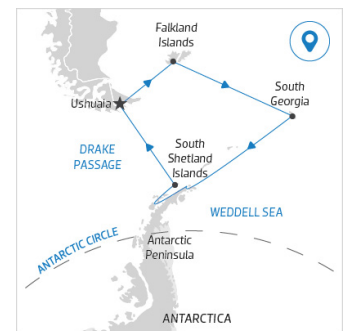
15/11/2019, 03/11/2020,  
19/01/2021

#### DURATION

16 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Antarctica, Falkland Islands,  
South Georgia & South Shetland  
Islands



## ANTARCTICA - PONANT: THE GREAT AUSTRAL LOOP

### DAY 4: At Sea - Day 4 & 5

Have some time on board to explore the ships amenities and offerings on board as you spend the next two days at sea, anticipating more amazing wildlife and landscapes at your next destination.



### DAY 6: South Georgia - Day 6 - 8

The magnificent South Georgia is a region formed by an underwater mountain range that extends from the Andes to the Antarctic Peninsula. This is a unique place where man and wildlife live harmoniously. All the wildlife of the Far South can be found on the island including King and Gentoo penguins, elephant seals and fur seals. You may see the majestic glaciers and blush, sheen waterfalls of Gold harbour, or the long grey sand beaches of Saint Andrews bay. With the greatest concentration of wildlife on the planet, a captivating history and ruggedly beautiful terrain, the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia is one of the jewels in the Southern Ocean's crown.



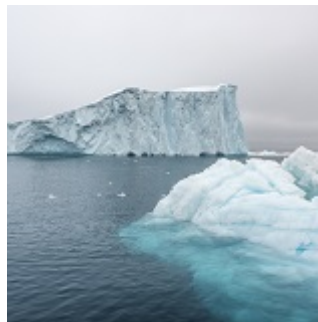
### DAY 9: At sea - Day 9 & 10

The following two days will be spent cruising across to the Antarctic Peninsula. Take this time to sit back, enjoy your time with the crew and fellow passengers and soak in the sights.



### DAY 11: Antarctic Peninsula - Day 11 - 13

Succumb to the magic of a place that is unlike any other in the world. Experience the icy realm in the wake of legendary figures like Sir Ernest Shackleton, Jean-Baptiste Charcot and Adrian de Gerlache. You will be immersed in shades of crystal blue and endless seas of white. You may get the chance to observe exceptional wildlife including penguins, humpback whales, seals and giant petrels all in their natural true habitat. Enchanting bays, volcanic beaches, crystal glaciers and magnificent icebergs await.



#### TRIP CODE

ACTSGAL

#### DEPARTURE

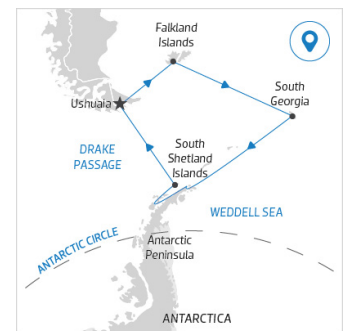
15/11/2019, 03/11/2020,  
19/01/2021

#### DURATION

16 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Antarctica, Falkland Islands,  
South Georgia & South Shetland  
Islands



## ANTARCTICA - PONANT: THE GREAT AUSTRAL LOOP

### DAY 14: Crossing the Drake Passage - Day 14 & 15

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 Antarctica. Seasoned navigators will tell you that you must earn your visit to the White Continent! As a 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.



### DAY 16: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

Capital of Argentina's Tierra del Fuego province, Ushuaia lies in a bay opening into the Beagle Channel at the country's southernmost tip. Its colourful houses are framed against towering mountains, snow-capped in winter and summer alike. Downtown, the End of the World Museum showcases Tierra del Fuego's natural and indigenous history. A ride on the heritage railway is an exciting excursion into the Tierra del Fuego National Park, while a cruise on Ushuaia Bay is the perfect way to spot sea lions and Magellanic penguins.



#### TRIP CODE

ACTSGAL

#### DEPARTURE

15/11/2019, 03/11/2020,  
19/01/2021

#### DURATION

16 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Antarctica, Falkland Islands,  
South Georgia & South Shetland  
Islands



## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

#### Accommodation

Cabin on board ship

## ANTARCTICA - PONANT: THE GREAT AUSTRAL LOOP

<b>Inclusions</b>	<p>Accommodation on board L'Austral                  All meals whilst on-board including snacks                  Open Bar (excluding premium brands)                  Room Service                  Free Wi-Fi internet access                  All shore excursions                  Guiding and lectures by expedition team                  Free use of rubber boots for shore excursions                  Polar jacket                  All port taxes</p> <p><b>EXCLUSIONS</b>                  Airfares to/from embarkation and disembarkation city                  Visa fees (if applicable)                  Travel Insurance                  Personal expenses such as laundry, on-board communication (telephone calls, faxes)                  Gratuities for the crew (recommend US\$15 per person per day)                  Optional Activities whilst on-board</p>
<b>Difficulty Rating</b>	2 (light adventure)
<b>Single Surcharge</b>	Available upon request, contact us for more details.
<b>Notes</b>	Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.
<b>Price Dependent upon</b>	Departure date, season, availability and vessel.

<b>TRIP CODE</b>	ACTSGAL
<b>DEPARTURE</b>	15/11/2019, 03/11/2020, 19/01/2021
<b>DURATION</b>	16 Days
<b>LOCATIONS</b>	Antarctica, Falkland Islands, South Georgia & South Shetland Islands



## SUSTAINABILITY

As a member of IAATO we follow guidelines appointed by the Antarctic Treaty System to go above and beyond in support of minimizing negative impacts on this pristine landscape. We also encourage clients to look to book pre-and post- accommodation with us, where local businesses will be supported. Our clients also receive restaurant recommendations which support locally owned restaurants

We carefully select all ships we work with and choose smaller sized vessels to create less impact. We use a highly regulated, licensed vessel which is well equipped to operate in the Antarctic's delicate ecosystem. We view the voyage to the Antarctic as an expedition, not a sightseeing trip. Smaller boats such as ours can navigate narrow waterways and are far less polluting than the larger ships in Antarctic waters. By carrying less passengers, we have far less waste. The waste is carried back to the home port to allow for environmentally conscious waste management and disposal.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)