

SOUTH GEORGIA - PONANT: ANTARCTIC ODYSSEY



TRIP CODE

ACPOLAO

DURATION

21 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula,
Falkland Islands, South
Georgia



INTRODUCTION

EARLY BIRDS ON SALE - Book and save up to 25% OFF* Antarctic 2020-21 voyages with PONANT.

Experience an incredible 21 day journey to the Antarctic. You will board the Le Lyrial a new polar expedition vessel with an incredible itinerary that will sail from Montevideo to Ushuaia. Experience the wild beauty of the Falkland Islands where penguins, seals and albatross reign superior. Explore the wonderful landscapes of the South Orkney Islands, dominated by glaciers, impressive mountains and noted for their nesting chinstrap penguins and leopard seals. Finally you will discover the incredible beauty of the frozen realm, immerse yourself in the unparalleled scenery of the Antarctic Peninsula where ice floe sway among a backdrop of immense icebergs, glaciers and snow-capped peaks.

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Montevideo

Please be at the port to embark between 4pm and 5pm with departure scheduled for 6pm. Perched on the far southern tip of Uruguay, Montevideo is a white city, and one of the loveliest capital cities of South America. Come and admire the beautiful historical remains dating from Spanish rule; you'll find the most interesting within the Cuidad Vieja, formerly fortified, its old town dates from the 18th century. The best preserved are the cathedral and the former governmental palace of the Cabildo, both listed historical monuments. In the crook of a vast blue bay, the city is also blessed with beautiful beaches.



DAY 2: At Sea


During your day 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 day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, 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.



DAY 6: Volunteer Point

A peninsula located at the far north-east of the Falkland Islands, Volunteer Point, named after the ship The Volunteer which called there in 1815, promises moving encounters in the heart of totally unspoiled nature. Due to its exceptional birdlife, the spot is identified as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) and is, above all, renowned as the home of the island's largest king penguin colony. These elegant birds, which are expressive and not particularly timid, will offer you moments of pure awe and the opportunity to take magnificent photos. You'll certainly be touched by the fledglings, dressed in their thick brown plumage



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DAY 7: At Sea

The following days will be spent at sea. Use this time to reflect on your incredible journey so far as well as relaxing and enjoying time with your fellow passengers.



NO IMAGE
AVAILABLE

DAY 9: South Georgia

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



NO IMAGE
AVAILABLE

DAY 12: At Sea

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DAY 13: South Orkney Islands


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.



DAY 15: At Sea

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DAY 16: Antarctic Peninsula

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



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DAY 19: Crossing The Drake Passage

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 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.




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DAY 21: Disembarkation in Ushuaia

Disembarkation is scheduled for 7am Capital of Argentina's Tierra del Fuego province, Ushuaia is considered the gateway to the “Great White” 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. Your itinerary includes a flight from Ushuaia to Buenos Aires. You will be met at the port for a transfer in time for your flights, selected my Ponant.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	<div> All accommodation on board the Le Lyrial All meals on board All scheduled landings and excursions All port fees All landing fees A pair of expedition boots for use during your voyage Detailed post-expedition log Complimentary expedition parka Programs of lectures by naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff *Kayaking included </div> <div> Exclusions Airtfares to and from embarkation and disembarkation city Visa fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Personal expenses such laundry, on board communication Gratuities for the crews Pre or post cruise travel expenses Optional activities </div>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details.

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Notes

Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.
*Please note kayaking is included on National Geographic partnership voyages.

Price Dependent upon

Departure date, season and availability.

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](#)

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