

# ANTARCTICA - JOURNEY TO AUSTRAL LANDS & VALDES PENINSULA 19 DAY | L'AUSTRAL



## INTRODUCTION

Enjoy discovering the Southern Ocean on this 20 day expedition cruise onboard the premium ship L'Austral. Explore the stunning Valdes Peninsula, South Georgia, Antarctica and the Falkland Islands.

Your expedition begins in the barren lands of the Chubut province of Argentinian Patagonia. The Valdes Peninsula is home to a wide array of flora and fauna, with over 180 species of birds. Orcas hunt young seals on the beaches, guanacos gallop across the arid planes and dusky dolphins swim peacefully in the nutrient dense waters. Continue south to the Falkland Islands, an archipelago of 200 beautiful islands. Enjoy the wild beauty of the jagged cliffs and beaches with white sand. You will sail again towards South Georgia. It is here in the midst of giant glaciers that Sir Ernest Shackleton found a haven during the expedition onboard the Endurance Odyssey in 1916. The island is home to a range of wildlife including penguin colonies that number in the tens of thousands. You will explore the inhospitable continent of Antarctica. Witness icebergs and icefloes, glaciers and look out for whales, penguins and seals as you explore this icy region.

## ITINERARY

<b>TRIP CODE</b>
ACPOALBU
<b>DEPARTURE</b>
05/11/2025
<b>DURATION</b>
19 Days
<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Antarctica, Argentina, Falkland Islands, South Georgia



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## DAY 1: Arrive Buenos Aires & Embarkation

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.



## DAY 2: At Sea - Day 2 & 3

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 local 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.



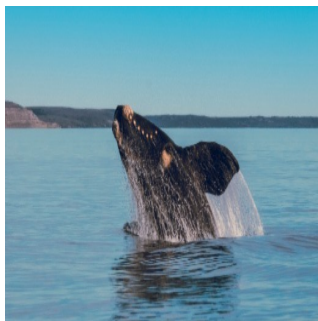
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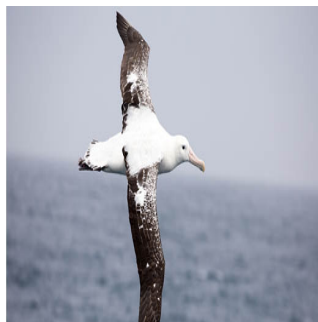
## DAY 4: Puerto Madryn


On the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, in the Argentinian province of Chubut, stands the city of Puerto Madryn nestling in the Golfo Nuevo and surrounded by wild and abundant nature. You will be able to follow the narrow strip of land formed by the isthmus for a few kilometres, to reach the Valdes Peninsula nature reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its microclimate, protected from the extreme conditions of the Southern Atlantic, makes this an ideal breeding ground for southern right whales in winter, but also for southern elephant seals, southern sea lions, and orcas. You may get the chance to spot numerous birds, Magellanic penguins, guanacos and Patagonian maras living in this desert steppe.



## DAY 5: At Sea - Day 5 & 6

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## DAY 7: Port Stanley

Situated at the far eastern end of the Falklands' largest island, Port Stanley, is the capital of this remote archipelago in the South Atlantic, composed of nearly 700 islands and islets. In 1764, Louis Antoine de Bougainville settled the first pioneers here and the port grew rapidly. Placed under the Spanish crown in 1767, then under British sovereignty since 1833, the town has retained some South American features fused with the Victorian style that punctuate the city, and the houses with their colourful roofs brighten the moorland landscapes with their windy and harsh climate reminiscent of the Scottish islands of Orkneys or Shetland. In front of the Cathedral, built in 1933, an arch made of whale jaw bones reminds us that Port Stanley was once a whaling port.



## DAY 8: At Sea - Day 8 & 9

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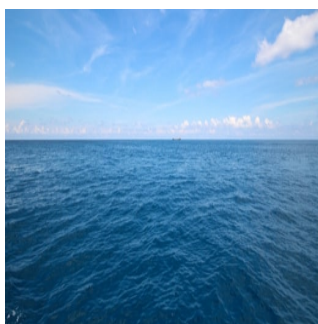
## DAY 10: South Georgia - Day 10 to 12

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.



## DAY 13: At Sea - Day 13 & 14

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### DAY 15: Antarctic Peninsula - Day 15 & 16

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 17: Drake passage - Day 17 & 18

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 connect Antarctica to South America. 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 19: Disembark in Ushuaia

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... Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

<b>Accommodation</b>	Cabin on board a ship
<b>Inclusions</b>	<p><b>INCLUSIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cabin accommodation whilst on board L'Austral</li> <li>Flight from Ushuaia to Buenos Aires in economy class</li> <li>Group Departure Transfers in Ushuaia</li> <li>All meals whilst on board</li> <li>Open bar (no premium brands)</li> <li>Mini bar in your stateroom (Champagne additional fee)</li> <li>All scheduled landings and excursions, conditions permitting</li> <li>Guiding and lectures by expedition team</li> <li>Complimentary Polar expedition jacket</li> <li>Free use of rubber boots for shore excursions</li> <li>All port taxes</li> <li>Comprehensive pre and post voyage informational material</li> <li>Free WIFI</li> </ul> <p><b>EXCLUSIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airfares other than specified</li> <li>Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)</li> <li>Travel Insurance</li> <li>Personal expenses such as laundry</li> <li>Gratuities for the crew (recommend US\$15 per person per day)</li> <li>Optional Activities not mentioned in itinerary</li> </ul>
<b>Difficulty Rating</b>	2 (light adventure)



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<b>Single Surcharge</b>	Available upon request, contact us for more details.
<b>Notes</b>	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.
<b>Price Dependent upon</b>	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

## SUSTAINABILITY

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