EAST ANTARCTICA - UNEXPLORED EASTERN ANTARCTICA | LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT



TRIP CODE

ACPONEA

DEPARTURE

11/02/2028, 11/02/2029

DURATION

31 Days

LOCATIONS

East Antarctica, Weddell Sea, Antarctic Peninsula

INTRODUCTION

This journey goes beyond the Antarctic Peninsula to explore the remote eastern side of Antarctica, an area rarely visited by expedition ships. Over 31 epic days, you will voyage from Hobart to Ushuaia, crossing the Antarctic continent and venturing into some of the most isolated regions of Antarctica, including AdÃ©lie Land, Wilkes Land, George V Land and Queen Mary Land.

Follow in the footsteps of legendary Antarctic explorers as you visit places steeped in the history of polar exploration. Departing from Hobart gives you the opportunity to discover landscapes associated with Sir Douglas Mawson and the Australasian Antarctic Expedition. You will also venture beyond the Antarctic Circle, surrounded by vast ice shelves, enormous tabular icebergs and some of the most remote scenery on the continent.

As with any Antarctic expedition, the journey will be shaped by the ice, weather and wildlife encountered along the way. The remote eastern coast offers opportunities to see penguins, seals, whales and orcas in rarely visited waters, while the Expedition team and Captain adapt the route and activities to make the most of conditions each day. This is an opportunity to experience a side of Antarctica that few travellers ever have the chance to see.

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Arrive Hobart

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.



DAY 2: At Sea - Day 2 to 5

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 us while discovering what these fascinating destinations have yet to reveal to us.



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DAY 6: George V Land & Commonwealth Bay

Fall under the spell of the immaculate shores of George V Land, a remote region on the eastern coast of Antarctica. Between monumental ice shelves and infinite white expanses, tabular icebergs slowly drift, revealing their turquoise- and azure-tinged walls. Along the shores of this isolated region, the marine life will reveal itself in all its splendour: orcas, rorquals and humpback whales wander these enchanted waters, offering exceptional encounters in this preserved polar setting. Welcome to the country of blizzards, these violent winds filled with snow flakes. Plunge into the history of the Australian polar expeditions and discover Commonwealth Bay, by slipping into the shoes of the legendary Douglas Mawson, who created his main base in 1911 in Cape Denison. Marking the border with Marie Byrd Land, the Transantarctic Mountains, extending the Andes, offer this Eden of ice some mountainous landscapes.



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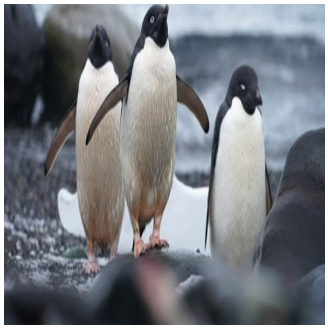
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DAY 7: Adélie Land & Wiles Land

Adelie Land covers around 400,000 km2 (around 250,000 square miles) of the White Continent between the 136th and 142nd meridians longitude East. These lands claimed by France in Antarctica are home, on Petrel Island, to Dumont-d'Urville station, which is named after the eponymous French explorer who investigated the region in 1840. Here, the few resident scientists share the Antarctic desert with Adelie penguins, seals and orcas, as well as emperor penguins during the winter. The extreme climate of this land at the edge of the world, characterised by its very low temperatures and its violent winds or blizzards, make it difficult to access its shores, which are protected by thick ice floe. Be among the rare people to discover this unique place where you will be captivated by the polar silence and the ice reflecting the rays of the sun as you experience the Southern Continent's powerful fragility. Aboard Le Commandant Charcot, follow in the footsteps of the American explorer Charles Wilkes, during his USS Vincennes expedition undertaken between 1838 and 1842. A veritable mine of information for scientists, this isolated land - where only moss and lichen have managed to adapt and to take hold, forming the tundra -, promises a unique moment. Under an immaculate white coat, a secret world comes to life: from the icy mountains defying the sky to the vast glaciers, some of which stretch all the way to the Southern Ocean, and the icebergs drifting silently through frozen waters. These landscapes, unlike any other, are sure to captivate you.



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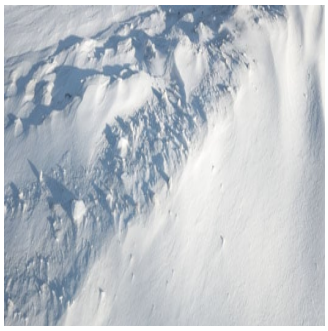
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DAY 8: Magnetic South Pole

The convergence point for the field lines of the Earth's magnetic field, the Magnetic South Pole attracts the magnetic needle of the compass. While the Geographic South Pole is the Earth’s southernmost fixed point, marking the intersection of the Globe's rotation axis with the Earth’s surface, the Magnetic South Pole moves over time. In fact, it is linked to the Earth's magnetic field which originates in the Earth's outer core, which is made up of molten metal and is subject to convection movements. It was during the French Dumont d’Urville expedition to Antarctica, aboard the famous ships L’Astrolabe and La Zélée, that the hydrographer and engineer Vincendon-Dumoulin made the first calculation of the magnetic inclination that enabled him to localise this pole in 1838. Set off in search of the Magnetic South Pole, try to get closer to it and, if luck allows it, attempt to reach it!



DAY 9: At Sea

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DAY 10: Wilkes Land - Days 10 - 12

Aboard Le Commandant Charcot, follow in the footsteps of the American explorer Charles Wilkes, during his USS Vincennes expedition undertaken between 1838 and 1842. A veritable mine of information for scientists, this isolated land - where only moss and lichen have managed to adapt and to take hold, forming the tundra -, promises a unique moment. Under an immaculate white coat, a secret world comes to life: from the icy mountains defying the sky to the vast glaciers, some of which stretch all the way to the Southern Ocean, and the icebergs drifting silently through frozen waters. These landscapes, unlike any other, are sure to captivate you.



DAY 13: Sailing along Shackleton Ice Shelf

During this unique navigation, suspended in time, admire the fantastic spectacle of the Shackleton Ice Shelf. In the luxurious comfort of Le Commandant Charcot, specially designed for polar exploration, the vast icy expanses of the Antarctic will unfold before your astonished eyes. The air here is imbued with solemn serenity, only broken by the distant cracking of icebergs drifting along the shelf. You will perhaps have the chance to observe the many mammals, such as the whales, seals and penguins, which prosper in these icy waters.



DAY 14: Wilkes Land

Aboard Le Commandant Charcot, follow in the footsteps of the American explorer Charles Wilkes, during his USS Vincennes expedition undertaken between 1838 and 1842. A veritable mine of information for scientists, this isolated land - where only moss and lichen have managed to adapt and to take hold, forming the tundra -, promises a unique moment. Under an immaculate white coat, a secret world comes to life: from the icy mountains defying the sky to the vast glaciers, some of which stretch all the way to the Southern Ocean, and the icebergs drifting silently through frozen waters. These landscapes, unlike any other, are sure to captivate you.



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DAY 15: At Sea - Day 15 to 17

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DAY 18: Queen Maud Land

Dive into the heart of Queen Maud Land, a huge expanse where ice and sea merge endlessly. Impressive glaciers move towards the ocean, accompanied by turquoise- and azure-tinged tabular icebergs. In these waters, seals, orcas and penguin colonies roam freely, offering striking scenes of polar life. Explored by Roald Amundsen and Hjalmar Riiser-Larsen, this region remains remote and intact, with each panorama bearing witness to the raw and preserved power of Antarctica.



DAY 19: At Sea

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 us while discovering what these fascinating destinations have yet to reveal to us.



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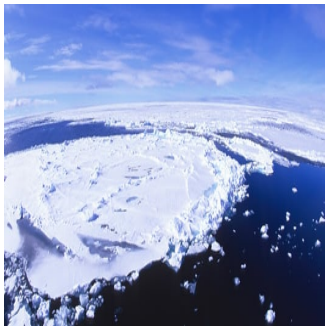
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DAY 20: Queen Maud Land

Dive into the heart of Queen Maud Land, a huge expanse where ice and sea merge endlessly. Impressive glaciers move towards the ocean, accompanied by turquoise- and azure-tinged tabular icebergs. In these waters, seals, orcas and penguin colonies roam freely, offering striking scenes of polar life. Explored by Roald Amundsen and Hjalmar Riiser-Larsen, this region remains remote and intact, with each panorama bearing witness to the raw and preserved power of Antarctica.



DAY 21: At Sea

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DAY 22: Queen Maud Land - Days 22 - 24

Dive into the heart of Queen Maud Land, a huge expanse where ice and sea merge endlessly. Impressive glaciers move towards the ocean, accompanied by turquoise- and azure-tinged tabular icebergs. In these waters, seals, orcas and penguin colonies roam freely, offering striking scenes of polar life. Explored by Roald Amundsen and Hjalmar Riiser-Larsen, this region remains remote and intact, with each panorama bearing witness to the raw and preserved power of Antarctica.



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DAY 25: Antarctic Peninsula - Day 25 - 26

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.



DAY 27: Endurance wreck site

In 1915, Endurance, the famous three-masted schooner that transported Ernest Shackleton and his 27-man crew to the Antarctic, became trapped in pack ice and sank into the depths of the Weddell Sea. For 107 years, these waters nicknamed by Shackleton as “the worst sea in the world” kept the wreck’s location secret. This symbol of polar adventure was rediscovered in 2022, lying over 3,000 metres (almost 10,000 feet) deep. Aboard Le Commandant Charcot, follow the pack ice in the heart of the floe and glide over the seabed on which this legend rests, to relive the great era of the explorers.



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DAY 28: Antarctic Peninsula

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DAY 29: At Sea - Day 29 & 30

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DAY 31: Disembarkation 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...



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotel & Cabin on board a ship
Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Cabin accommodation whilst on board Le Commandant Charcot Group Transfers in Ushuaia from ship to airport One way flight from Ushuaia to Santiago in economy class All meals whilst on board Open bar (no premium brands) Mini bar in your stateroom (Champagne additional fee) All 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) **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
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)

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Single Surcharge	Available upon request. A supplement surcharge may apply and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	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. In rare and unforeseen situations, an operator may apply a fuel surcharge after your booking has been confirmed and paid. This is outside our control and uncommon, but transparency with our travelers is important to us.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

SUSTAINABILITY

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