

# Odyssey in the footsteps of Jean-Baptiste Charcot

From **8/12/2022**  
to **19/12/2022**

Ship: **LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT**

From **Ushuaia**  
to **Ushuaia**



Overnight in Santiago + flight Santiago/Ushuaia + transfers + flight Ushuaia/Santiago

Aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*, a true masterpiece of technology and comfort designed to sail through ice-covered waters, you will embark on an adventure taking you to the remote lands of the **White Continent**. **Antarctica** is a place of infinite mysteries and possibilities. It welcomes you for a timeless odyssey in the wake of Jean-Baptiste Charcot, where silence is inhabited by the muffled sounds, cracking noises, growls and whispers of another world. Ice appears to you in all its forms: an iceberg drifting in the Southern Ocean; pack ice glittering in the distance; a glacier caught in the relief of the frozen continent...

Escorted by **Cape petrels**, you will begin your crossing of **Drake Passage** like so many legendary explorers before you, to reach the shores of the sixth continent. The conditions become more and more extreme, the wind blows, the waves crash against the ship stem: this destination is not for the faint-hearted. As the first lands come into view, you will feel a deep sense of respect and humility before the wilderness unfolding ahead.

In the wake of **Jean-Baptiste Charcot**, discover **Pourquoi Pas Island**, named in honour of his eponymous ship, before sailing to **Marguerite Bay**, named after his wife. Here, the mountains surround the Southern Ocean and blues and whites mingle to compose incredibly poetic, stunning scenery. At the exit of the **Lemaire Channel**, **Petermann Island** still holds **memories of the wintering of this fabulous expedition**.

Throughout your journey, our **team of passionate experts** will go over all **the details of these historic exploits** with you while sharing **their in-depth knowledge of the wildlife and landscapes**. You will have the chance to observe **Adelie, Gentoo** and **Chinstrap penguins**. **Leopard, crabeater** and **Weddell seals, humpback** and **Antarctic mink whales**, and **orcas** also live in these southern waters that you will sail through like those men of legend did before you.

**[Find out more about the world of \*Le Commandant Charcot\* here!](#)**

*We are privileged guests in these extreme lands where we are at the mercy of weather and ice conditions. Our navigation will be determined by the type of ice we come across; as the fast ice must be preserved, we will take this factor into account from day to day in our itineraries. The sailing schedule and any landings, activities and wildlife encounters are subject to weather and ice conditions. These experiences are unique and vary with each departure. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, while respecting safety instructions and regulations imposed by the IAATO.*



The information in this document is valid as of 14/8/2022

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## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### USHUAIA

Embarkation 8/12/2022 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 8/12/2022 at 6:00 pm

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...

### CROSSING THE DRAKE PASSAGE

Arrival 9/12/2022

Departure 10/12/2022

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.

### CROSSING THE ANTARCTIC CIRCLE

Arrival 11/12/2022

Departure 11/12/2022

Weather permitting, we'll cross the mythic line of the **Antarctic Polar Circle**, located 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.

## POURQUOI PAS ISLAND

Arrival 12/12/2022

Departure 12/12/2022

*Le Commandant Charcot* will land on the coast of **Pourquoi Pas Island**, so named in the 1930s by John Riddoch Rymill in honour of Jean-Baptiste Charcot, who discovered it from aboard his ship *Le Pourquoi Pas ?* during his second expedition to Antarctica between 1908 and 1910. This mountainous island, situated in the north of Marguerite Bay between Graham Land and Adelaide Island, is 28 km long and 14 km large. It is scattered with narrow fjords and snow-covered mountains. You will go to shore in a zodiac dinghy with your expedition team and you could get the chance to observe Adelie penguins going about their business on the island's rocky shores.

## THE GULLET

Arrival 13/12/2022

Departure 13/12/2022

The sumptuous landscapes of this narrow channel between Adelaide Island and Graham Land attract all visitors sailing towards Marguerite Bay. It is **like an ice palace**, its immaculate white walls reflected in the frozen mirror formed by the waters of the Southern Ocean, scattered with icebergs and gleaming blocks of ice. This passage was explored for the first time by the Jean-Baptiste Charcot expedition in 1909, which sketched its position. It was then surveyed in 1936 by the British expedition under John Rymill. It is here in this **magical setting** that some of the first subaquatic images of the Antarctic were shot during Philippe Cousteau's four-month expedition to Antarctica between 1972 and 1973.

## MARGUERITE BAY

Arrival 14/12/2022

Departure 14/12/2022

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**.

## DETAILLE ISLAND

Arrival 15/12/2022

Departure 15/12/2022

**Detaille Island** is a small island situated off the Loubet Coast in the Crystal Sound, a magnificent region surrounded by snow-covered peaks. A British research station was set up there in 1956, ahead of the International Geophysical Year 1957-58. Like the International Polar Years, organised for the first time in 1882-83, the purpose of this event was to take a coordinated approach to the geophysical research conducted by the different nations. With the island difficult to access, this station was shut down in 1959. The vestiges of the buildings and sledge dog pens that made it possible to

map more than 4,000 miles around the island are now maintained by the United Kingdom Heritage Trust.

## ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Arrival 16/12/2022

Departure 16/12/2022

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.

## CROSSING THE DRAKE PASSAGE

Arrival 17/12/2022

Departure 18/12/2022

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.

## USHUAIA

Arrival 19/12/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 19/12/2022 at 7:00 am

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...