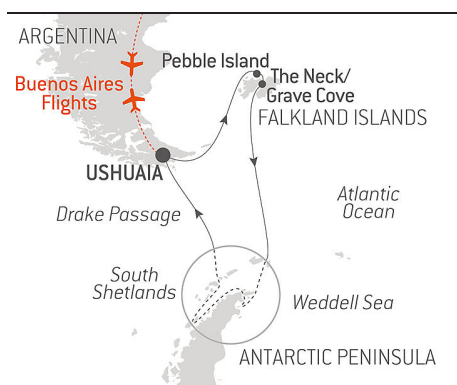


The Great Austral Loop

From **2/2/2024**
to **17/2/2024**

Ship: **LE LYRIAL**

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



Discover the Southern Ocean as you have never seen it before! Embark on a **16-day polar expedition cruise to the highest latitudes**, from the **Falkland Islands** to the immaculate lands of **Antarctica**.

Your expedition to the heart of the **South Atlantic** begins with the exploration of the Falkland Islands: as you sail in this archipelago of 200 islands, you will be escorted by sei whales. Composing the wild beauty of the shorelines are beaches of white sand, jagged cliffs, windswept moors and tall grass swaying with the wind.

You will ultimately land on the frozen shores of the nearly inaccessible **White Continent, Antarctica**. White shades take on a thousand nuances as it covers the icebergs, glaciers, mountains and frozen sea all around you. You will be one of the rare few travellers to have laid eyes on this legendary land, the theatre of the greatest expeditions and the witness of the most extraordinary adventures. Above all, you are in the **realm of the penguins** – Adelie, Gentoo, chinstrap – seals, whales and seabirds that accompany you on this unforgettable trip.

We are privileged guests in these extreme lands where we are at the mercy of weather and ice conditions. Landings on certain sites and the observation of certain wildlife cannot be guaranteed. They vary from day to day, making each PONANT cruise a unique experience. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, while complying with the safety rules and instructions imposed by the IAATO.



The information in this document is valid as of 17/4/2024

The Great Austral Loop

YOUR STOPOVERS :

USHUAIA

Embarkation 2/2/2024 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Departure 2/2/2024 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...

AT SEA

Arrival 3/2/2024
Departure 3/2/2024

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 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.

PEBBLE ISLAND

Arrival 4/2/2024
Departure 4/2/2024

Lying in the north-east of the Falklands, **Pebble Island**, the third-largest in the archipelago, promises you a moment frozen in time. A veritable nature sanctuary, between **jagged cliffs,, long sandy expanses, windswept moors and tall grass**, it is home to exceptional fauna: king penguins, gentoo penguins, Magellanic penguins waddling along the white sandy beaches, **sea lions** playing in the waves and numerous **species of seabirds** majestically flying over the horizon.

THE NECK, SAUNDERS ISLAND

Arrival 4/2/2024
Departure 4/2/2024

The Neck is a narrow stretch of land connecting the two sides of **Saunders Island**, located on the north-western edge

of the **Falklands**. You'll safely enter these blustery surroundings with the assistance of your naturalist guides. And once there, a reward awaits you: a veritable paradise of endless shoreline lapped by **turquoise waters**. Several bird species, also attracted to this stunning location, have settled here. At the other end of The Neck, you'll encounter Magellanic penguins, southern rockhopper penguins, **black-browed albatross** and **king penguins**, all basking in the beauty of their surroundings.

GRAVE COVE

Arrival 5/2/2024

Departure 5/2/2024

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.

AT SEA

Arrival 6/2/2024

Departure 6/2/2024

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 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.

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Arrival 7/2/2024

Departure 7/2/2024

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.

NORTH ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Arrival 8/2/2024

Departure 8/2/2024

Throughout your time in the **north of the Antarctic Peninsula**, you will find yourself in the heart of a spectacular decor in subtle shades of blue and white, surrounded by exceptional wildlife. You will sail through the **Antarctic Sound**, named after Swedish explorer Otto Nordenskjöld's ship, which was trapped by the ice during an important scientific expedition in 1902. The gateway to the Weddell Sea, this sound is filled with gigantic tabular icebergs and plates of sea ice drifting northward from the coastal areas of this vast sea. It is home to **Adelie penguins** and a great many **leopard seals**.

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Arrival 9/2/2024

Departure 14/2/2024

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.

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CROSSING THE DRAKE PASSAGE

Arrival 15/2/2024

Departure 16/2/2024

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 17/2/2024

Disembarkation 17/2/2024 at 8:00 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...