

ANTARCTICA - PONANT: NEW YEARS DAY IN THE POLAR REGIONS



INTRODUCTION

Welcome in the New Year on an Antarctic cruise, as you admire the unique wildlife and soak up the rugged, spectacular polar landscapes of this incredible pristine ice wilderness. Highlights may include Neko Harbour, a magical bay surrounded by mountains, the beautiful Lemaire Channel and fascinating Deception Island, site of a former whaling station with abandoned huts and volcanic beaches overrun with chinstrap penguins. Cruise amongst the icebergs of the Weddell Sea before charting a course through the Drake Passage to return to Ushuaia. This is the ultimate New Year - surrounded by snow-capped peaks, glaciers, ice-filled channels, vast tabular icebergs, penguins and other Antarctic wildlife.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE

ACTSNYP

DEPARTURE

29/12/2019

DURATION

11 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctica



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DAY 1: Ushuaia (Argentina) - Embarkation

Despite its small size, the city of Ushuaia is the world's southernmost city, the capital of Tierra del Fuego and the main starting point for voyages to Antarctica. On arrival into Ushuaia, you will be met and transferred either directly to the port for embarkation, buffet lunch and access to the main lounge, or to Arakur Resort, located inside Cerro Alarken Natural Reserve. Here you can relax at the resort, join a guided walk through the Reserve, or take an optional excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park. (Please note that this excursion must be booked at the time of cruise booking. The excursion is accompanied by a French speaking guide). Embarkation begins in the afternoon at the port in Ushuaia. Embarkation time is between 4:30pm and 5.30pm, at which time cabins and suites will be ready to check in to. The ship sets sail this evening along the famous Beagle Channel towards the Drake Passage.



DAY 2: At sea - Drake passage - Days 2 & 3

To reach the mythical "White Continent" we cross the notorious Drake Passage named after the famous explorer, Sir Frances Drake, who sailed in these waters back in 1578. You will then traverse the Polar Front which marks the area where waters from the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans meet. The Antarctic Convergence is a biological barrier where cold polar water sinks beneath the warmer northern waters. The first sightings of icebergs and snow-capped mountains indicate that we have reached Antarctica.



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DAY 4: Neko / Paradise Bay (Antarctica)

Deep in Andvord Bay, we find this little corner of paradise at the foot of an immense glacier. Neko Bay is without doubt one of the most beautiful sights of the Antarctic Peninsula. Wildlife is as abundant as it is exceptional with seabirds such as gulls, Cape petrels and cormorants, as well as marine mammals such as seals, orcas and whales. Excursions aboard our Zodiacs allow you to sail close to blue-tinged icebergs or disembark near colonies of penguins, observe leopard seals basking on the shore or watch the Antarctic terns flying overhead. Paradise Bay (or Paradise Harbour as it is also known) is surrounded and protected by glaciated mountains and ice cliffs. It is a stunningly beautiful wide bay and natural harbour, home to a colony of gentoo penguins, with Argentina's "Almirante Brown Antarctic Base" standing on its coast.



NO IMAGE
AVAILABLE

DAY 5: Pleneau / Port Charcot (Antarctica)

Lying at the southern end of the beautiful Lemaire Channel, we hope to visit Pleneau Island and then the 3km wide bay of Port Charcot that was charted by the 3rd French Antarctic expedition under Jean-Baptiste Charcot. Charcot established the expedition's winter base at Port Charcot in 1904.



NO IMAGE
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DAY 6: Port Lockroy (Antarctica)

On the small island of Goudier, we hope to have the opportunity to visit Port Lockroy, discovered by the French explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot in 1903. Initially it served as a relief and repair base for whalers, but in 1944 Port Lockroy became a British base. It owes its name to Edouard Lockroy, a French politician and the partner of Jean-Baptiste Charcot during his expedition. You will be able to visit the small museum that retraces the life of the base in the 1950's. Since 1996, it has been open to the public during the short Southern Summer and is used for carrying out research on gentoo penguins. Nowadays, this base is the most visited site of the White Continent and, thanks to its small store and post office, it is the only place to offer you the opportunity to write to your friends and family and share this unique moment.



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DAY 7: Deception Island / Half Moon (Antarctica)

Weather permitting, we will sail into the flooded volcanic caldera of Deception Island for its rugged scenery, great sites of geological interest and the remains of an old whaling station. Deception Island is the largest of three recent volcanic centres in the South Shetlands and sailing through the narrow passage into the flooded caldera of Deception Island is truly amazing. Nestled at the heart of the South Shetland Islands, in the north of the Antarctic Peninsula, Deception Island is easy to recognise for its horseshoe shape. On the black sand of the volcanic beaches, there are remains of abandoned huts that have been overrun by the extraordinary wildlife found here. It is on these ash beaches that the largest colony of chinstrap penguins in the Antarctic Peninsula has taken up residence. Excursions aboard our Zodiacs will allow you to set foot on this expanse of land where more than 100,000 pairs of penguins, elephant seals and fur seals live side by side. Half Moon Island, another possible landing site is home to chinstrap penguins in spectacular surroundings. Only 2kms long, the island boasts dramatic rock formations. Whales are often spotted patrolling the shores.



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DAY 8: The Weddell Sea (Antarctica)

Sailing in the Weddell Sea will allow you to experience true silence, an extraordinary and enchanting atmosphere and unrivalled calm. You will discover a secret reserve of preserved treasure - fur seals, penguin colonies, wandering albatross and other giant petrels. Here the huge icebergs and the endless ice cap sculpt a landscape that words cannot describe. The lord of the manor is known as the Weddell seal. It is a record breaker, able to remain submerged for more than an hour. Its pelage is dark grey and it has a spotted belly. To maintain its access to the sea and be able to fish, the Weddell seal has special teeth allowing it to make a hole in the thick ice.



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DAY 9: At sea - Drake passage - Days 9 & 10

We leave Antarctica and head north back across the Drake Passage, searching for seabirds and whales as we sail with time to reflect on the magical experiences of our days in Antarctica.



DAY 11: Ushuaia (Argentina) - Disembarkation

Disembarkation is scheduled for 7am. Transfer to the airport in time for the flight from Ushuaia to Buenos Aires.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin on board ship

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Inclusions	All accommodation on board Le Boreal All meals whilst on board including snacks All scheduled landings and excursions Guiding and lectures by English-speaking expedition leader and team Expedition jacket provided (yours to keep) A pair of expedition boots for use during your voyage Flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia on embarkation day Flight from Ushuaia to Buenos Aires on disembarkation day Group transfer to/from pier Open Bar (excluding premium brands) Room Service All port taxes
	Exclusions Airfares to/from embarkation and disembarkation city Visa fees (if applicable) Travel Insurance Personal expenses such as laundry, on-board communication (telephone calls, faxes) Gratuities for the crew (recommend US\$15 per person per day) Optional Activities whilst on-board
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details.
Notes	Please note that itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, season and availability

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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](#)