

ANTARCTICA - UNEXPLORED EAST ANTARCTICA & FRENCH SOUTHERN LANDS | LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT



INTRODUCTION

Embark on an extraordinary journey from Hobart to Cape Town, aboard Le Commandant Charcot, as you venture into the heart of the icy Southern Continent. Equipped with state-of-the-art oceanographic and scientific tools, the ship offers unparalleled opportunities to delve into the mysteries of the poles. Explore the captivating landscapes of Adélie Land, where the extreme climate and rugged terrain provide a unique habitat for penguins, seals, and orcas. Experience the powerful fragility of this remote region, where polar silence reigns and the sun's rays reflect off pristine ice.

Set off on an expedition to discover the Magnetic South Pole, tracing the footsteps of past explorers amidst the vast icy expanses. Marvel at the spectacular Shackleton Ice Shelf and witness the serene beauty of Queen Mary Land, where towering glaciers and majestic icebergs shape the landscape. Immerse yourself in the rich biodiversity of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands, home to king penguins and elephant seals, as you contribute to scientific research and uncover the secrets of these remote sanctuaries. You unveil the wonders of these fascinating destinations hidden within the icy immensity of the Antarctic.

Prices are correct at time of publishing (13 May 2024) but are subject to change at any time until the time of booking and terms and conditions apply. Please contact us for more information and enquire for details and availability.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE

ACPOUEA

DEPARTURE

17/02/2026

DURATION

29 Days

LOCATIONS

East Antarctica, French Southern Lands



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DAY 1: Hobart, Tasmania & Embarkation

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 - Days 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 and let us discover together what these fascinating destinations have yet to reveal to us.



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DAY 6: Adelie Land - Days 6 & 7

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.



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.



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DAY 9: Adelie Land - Days 9 & 10

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DAY 11: Wilkes Land - Days 11 & 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.



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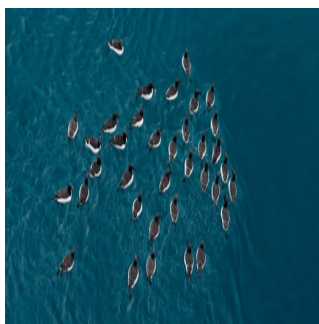
DAY 14: Queen Mary Land - Days 14 to 16

On the eastern shores of Antarctica, between Cape Filchner and Cape Hordern, admire the captivating landscapes of Queen Mary Land, recounting stories of legendary explorations. In the heart of this region, discovered in 1912, during Douglas Mawson's Antarctic expedition, mountains of ice rise like giant sculptures, sparkling beneath the rays of the southern sun. The glaciers wind their way like rivers of glass, shaping sumptuous scenery. In this frozen kingdom, colonies of emperor penguins gather on the shores and leopard seals bask on the ice floe while whales slip gracefully through its waters.



DAY 17: At Sea - Days 17 to 19

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DAY 20: French Southern and Antarctic Lands

In the icy immensity of the Antarctic, between the 37th and 50th parallels south, the French Southern and Antarctic Lands encompass the largest emerged lands in the southern Indian Ocean, from the Crozet archipelago to the Kerguelen Islands. In the wake of the greatest European explorers, like Julien Crozet, Marc Marion Dufresne or James Cook, who sought out Terra Australis Incognita, you will explore these volcanic lands, which are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In these sanctuaries of biodiversity which represent unique terrain for scientific research, majestic icebergs stand like ephemeral sculptures, silent witnesses of the passing of time, while king penguins or elephant seals, the lords of these inhospitable lands, populate the beaches with their gigantic colonies.



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DAY 22: At Sea

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DAY 23: French Southern and Antarctic Lands

In the icy immensity of the Antarctic, between the 37th and 50th parallels south, the French Southern and Antarctic Lands encompass the largest emerged lands in the southern Indian Ocean, from the Crozet archipelago to the Kerguelen Islands. In the wake of the greatest European explorers, like Julien Crozet, Marc Marion Dufresne or James Cook, who sought out Terra Australis Incognita, you will explore these volcanic lands, which are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In these sanctuaries of biodiversity which represent unique terrain for scientific research, majestic icebergs stand like ephemeral sculptures, silent witnesses of the passing of time, while king penguins or elephant seals, the lords of these inhospitable lands, populate the beaches with their gigantic colonies.



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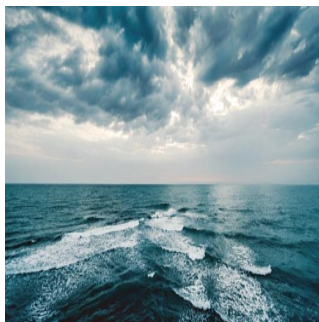
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DAY 24: At Sea - Days 24 to 28

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DAY 29: Disembarkation in Cape Town

Dynamic and peaceful, cosmopolitan and hip, Cape Town offers its visitors a most unique mix. Here, the locals like to say that their city is "the quintessential melting pot of South Africa". Located in the heart of one of the most beautiful bays in the world and dominated by the famous Table Mountain, it is graced with extraordinary landscapes including sheer cliffs that plunge into the Atlantic Ocean and vast whitesand beaches. We invite you to discover this incredible city, the South African capital of fashion, the art of living, and gastronomy. Further on, the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve awaits you and is home to a wide variety of endemic fauna and flora. Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin on board a ship

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Inclusions	INCLUSIONS Cabin accommodation whilst on board Le Commandant Charcot 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 Transfers to and from the ship 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 Pre or post cruise arrangements
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Subject to availability upon request, contact us for more details.
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.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY