Chimu The Latin America and Polar Travel Specialists

# **ANTARCTICA** - THE GREAT ADVENTURE | L'AUSTRAL

| TRIP CODE |
| --- |
| ACTSPTGA |
| **DEPARTURE** |
| 09/11/2024 |
| **DURATION** |
| 18 Days |
| **LOCATIONS** |
| Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia & South Orkney Islands |

## INTRODUCTION

### NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT ON SELECTED DEPARTURES*

This incredible 18-day cruise takes you from the Argentinian capital of Buenos Aires to wildlife-rich South Georgia, the South Orkneys Islands and then on to the Antarctic Peninsula, before ending your cruise back in Tierra del Fuego's capital, Ushuaia. Explore the remote yet ruggedly beautiful sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia, with its immense colonies of king penguins and rich history. See the relics of whaling activities and the grave of the famous British explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton. The South Orkney Islands will become visible as you travel farther south. You are currently above the fabled Screaming Sixties latitude-wise. In the middle of the Antarctic Ocean, a mountain range created by the Scotia Arc can be seen rising in the distance. A stop at Laurie Island, where the Orcadas research station is housed in a former whaling station, may be an opportunity you are given. Then it's further into the heart of the White Continent as you sail to the Antarctic Peninsula, a stunning desert of ice where drifting icebergs, glaciers, snow-capped peaks and a fascinating array of wildlife is waiting. Our team of naturalist guides will reveal to you the mysteries of these remote places home to unusual creatures along your journey. Find out where the Adelie, King, Chinstrap, Gentoo, Magellanic, and Southern Rockhopper penguins live, along with albatrosses, many species of seals, and beautiful whales spouting in the distance.

**Single Supplement waived on selected departures & cabins. Offer is correct at the time of publishing and only available until sold out on selected voyages and strictly limited availability. Not available on Superior Staterooms and Owners Suite. Prices are subject to change until the time of booking and terms and conditions apply. Please contact us for*

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*more information and enquire for details of offers and availability.*

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## ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Buenos Aires & Embarkation

A port city built on the south-western shore of the Rio de la Plata, between the Atlantic Ocean and the vast Argentine Pampas, Buenos Aires is a unique city in Latin America. Nicknamed “the Little Paris of South America”, the Argentine capital is a clever blend of architecture with European influences and a joyful Latin American atmosphere. Designed on an orthogonal grid plan, it has 48 districts, all of which are as charming as they are different, with a range of styles such as Belle Époque, gothic and baroque. With its markets overflowing with treasures, its legendary cultural and architectural heritage, and tango providing its background music, the Argentine capital will delight you on every street corner.

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DAY 2: At Sea towards South Georgia - Day 2 to 6

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 local 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.

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DAY 7: South Georgia - Day 7 to 9

Aboard your ship, discover South Georgia, a region formed by an underwater mountain chain that extends from the Andes to the Antarctic Peninsula. All the wildlife of the Far South can be found there: king and Gentoo penguins, elephant seals, fur seals... You might get the chance to discover the majestic glaciers of Gold Harbour and the vast plains of Fortuna Bay. If you are fortunate enough to land at Salisbury Plain, you can expect a wonderful spectacle: more than 300,000 king penguins, which you will recognise by the bright orange mark on their head and neck, have taken up residence there.

DAY 10: At Sea towards South Orkney

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DAY 11: South Orkney Islands

More than 85% glaciated, these remote mountainous islands are hidden in the Southern Ocean, some 600 km from the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. The archipelago is composed of four main islands: Coronation Island, Signy Island, Powell Island and Laurie Island. Discovered in 1821 by seal hunters, they were also explored in 1823 by the British navigator James Weddell, who gave them their current name. Despite the ravages caused by whale and seal hunting, today a sizeable leopard seal population can be found there, along with chinstrap penguins and snow petrels. Laurie Island is home to an old scientific station that is still in operation.

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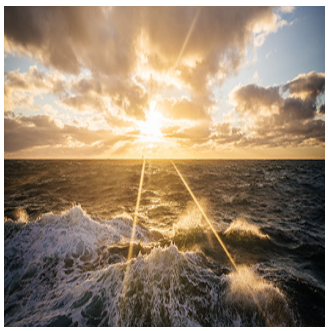
DAY 12: At Sea towards Antarctica

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 local 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.



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DAY 13: Antarctica - Day 13 to 15

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.

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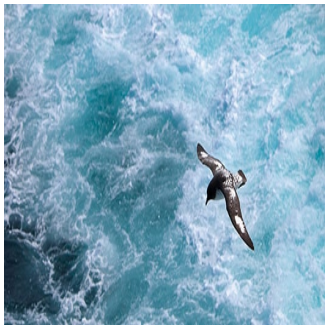
DAY 16: At Sea - Crossing the Drake Passage

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.



DAY 18: 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 is evocative of journeys to the unlikely and the inaccessible. 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 ship |

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|---|---|
| **Inclusions** | **INCLUSIONS**<br>All accommodation on board L'Austral<br>All meals whilst on board including snacks<br>All scheduled landings and excursions<br>Guiding and lectures by English-speaking expedition leader and team<br>Expedition jacket provided (yours to keep)<br>A pair of expedition boots for use during your voyage<br>Flight from Ushuaia to Buenos Aires on disembarkation day<br>Group transfers mentioned in itinerary in Ushuaia<br>Open Bar (excluding premium brands)<br>Room Service<br>All port taxes<br><br>**EXCLUSIONS**<br>Airfares other than specified<br>Visa fees (if applicable)<br>Travel Insurance<br>Personal expenses such as laundry, on-board communication (telephone calls, faxes)<br>Gratuities for the crew (recommend US$15 per person per day)<br>Optional Activities whilst on-board |
| **Difficulty Rating** | 2 (light adventure) |
| **Single Surcharge** | Available upon request, contact us for more details. |
| **Notes** | Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated for triple/quad cabins)<br>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.<br>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

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