

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA - WEDDELL SEA & LARSEN ICE SHELF | LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT



TRIP CODE

ACPOWLS

DEPARTURE

26/11/2022

DURATION

12 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctic Peninsula



INTRODUCTION

Experience the incredible sights of the Weddell Sea on this unique Antarctic expedition. A voyage that promises incredible landscapes and unforgettable encounters. Discover the immense polar landscapes of Antarctica as you cruise the South Shetland Islands, North Antarctic Peninsula and legendary Larsen Ice shelf. Discover the colossal sights of the Larsen ice sheet as you search for incredible wildlife among immense icebergs and frozen glaciers.

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Embarkation in Ushuaia

Embarkation from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Departure 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. *package price includes a pre-night accommodation in Santiago, a flight from Santiago to Ushuaia on Embarkation day, and a return flight to Santiago on the final day with transfers.



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DAY 2: Crossing the Drake - Day 2 and 3

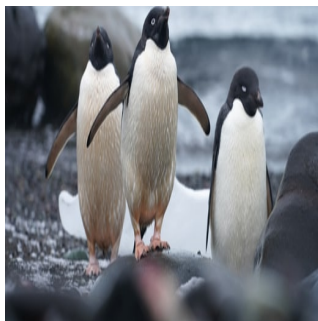
Use your days spent in the Drake Passage to familiarise yourself with your ship and deepen your knowledge of the Antarctic. The Expedition Leader will first present the IAATO rules of conduct that must be observed during landings in the region and will explain everything you need to know about the Zodiac 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.



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DAY 4: North Antarctic Peninsula

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.



DAY 5: Toward the Larsen Shelf - Day 5 and 6

As you explore the Weddell Sea, you will sail towards the gigantic Larsen Ice Shelf. The beauty of this immense ice formation is fascinating; nonetheless, its monumental size must not make us forget the fragility of its existence. These floating platforms are what protect the continental ice cap - also called the inlandis - from erosion and are thus of paramount importance for the entire balance of our planet. As you get up close to this equally majestic and vertiginous spectacle, you will really understand the need to protect these ice shelves. Our team of passionate experts will share their knowledge of these ice shelves that create gigantic tabular icebergs - among the largest ever observed - that drift in the Southern Ocean.



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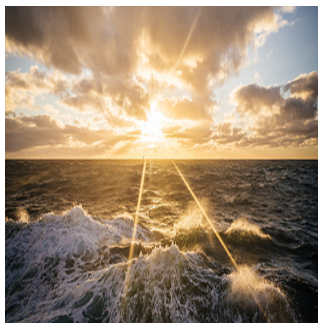
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DAY 7: The Weddell Sea Day 7-9

Impassable, extreme and captivating: this is the best way to describe the Weddell Sea, much of which is covered by a layer of thick, densely packed ice. It is a challenge and a privilege to sail upon this sea. Your exploration of this vast polar expanse, a real labyrinth frequented by majestic tabular icebergs, will plunge you into the heart of an extraordinary and enchanting silence. These ice giants come from the calving of the legendary Larsen Ice Shelf which looms in the southern part of this mythical sea. It was in this zone that the ship Endurance, commanded by Ernest Shackleton, was crushed and swallowed by the ice. "What the ice gets, the ice keeps" he said. Not exactly, though, since the famous wreck was miraculously found in 2022... While polar expeditions are no longer the same as they were a century ago, the adventure continues. Humpback whales, orcas, colonies of Adelie penguins, and giant petrels are all to be found here, yet the lord of the kingdom is no other than the Weddell seal. On these lands, only the throbbing of its cries breaks the surrounding tranquillity. A record-breaker (it can remain underwater for more than an hour), you will recognise it by its dark grey pelage and spotted belly.



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DAY 10: Crossing the Drake - Day 10 to 11

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.



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DAY 12: Disembark in Ushuaia

You will disembark your vessel in Ushuaia where you will bid farewell to your crew and fellow passengers. a transfer will take you to the airport for your flight to Santiago.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	<p>Cabin accommodation whilst on board Le Commandant</p> <p>All meals whilst on board</p> <p>Beverages (excluding premium alcohol labels)</p> <p>All scheduled landings and excursions</p> <p>Guiding and lectures by expedition team</p> <p>Complimentary Polar expedition jacket</p> <p>Free use of rubber boots for shore excursions</p> <p>All port taxes</p> <p>Kayaking Activities</p> <p>Comprehensive pre and post voyage informational material</p> <p>Flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia on embarkation day</p> <p>Flight from Ushuaia to Buenos Aires on disembarkation day</p> <p>Exclusions</p> <p>Airfares to and from embarkation/disembarkation city</p> <p>Visa fees (if applicable)</p> <p>Travel insurance</p> <p>Personal expenses such as laundry, on board communication (telephone calls, faxes, email)</p> <p>Gratuities for the crew</p> <p>Pre or post cruise travel expenses</p> <p>Optional activities</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details.
Notes	Please note this itinerary may be subject to change due to weather and ice conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, seasonality and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

A trip to the Antarctic is a completely different experience and quite unlike any other trip you have probably been on. We use a highly regulated, licensed vessel which is well equipped to operate in this vulnerable ecosystem. We are fully compliant with all rules set down by the IAATO and all activities are governed by the Antarctic Treaty System. We carefully select all ships we work with and choose them for their small size as this creates far less impact on shore landings with wildlife. 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, and all waste is carried back to the home port to allow for environmentally conscious waste management and disposal, unlike some of the larger ships which do not facilitate this. This trip begins in Ushuaia where you will have time to sample local food and shop at local boutiques which we encourage individuals to take part in for experience and in support of the local community. We also try to create opportunity to see research and historical sites including the former research station/now museum of Port Lockroy and engage with local history. We discourage the buying of souvenirs made from endangered species or wrongfully taken from the environment i.e. shells. Our pre-departure pack provides you with all the information required for your tour, from what to take with you to practical advice about how to minimise your impact on the Antarctic environment. This pack highlights initiatives such as waste reduction, and how to appropriately engage with wildlife and the environment around you.

For more information visit our [sustainability page](#).

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