

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SHACKLETON & THE ENDURANCE | LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT



INTRODUCTION

Set out on a timeless journey to the heart of untamed nature—a habitat of the seals, whales, and king penguins on board Le Commandant Charcot and undertake an incredible journey, following the legendary polar expedition route that Sir Ernest Shackleton's took on the Endurance Odyssey to the Weddell Sea. Cross the dramatic Drake Passage and explore this remote wonder, home to some of the worlds largest tabular icebergs and dramatic ice shelves. It was near here that Endurance sank, only to be discovered in 2022, almost a century after this mythical expedition. Watch history take shape before your very eyes. You will head north to the shores of the Antarctic Peninsula and enjoy the stunning landscape, with icebergs, glaciers, mountains, before heading on to the South Shetland Islands. Here you will visit Elephant Island, which is another place made famous by Shackleton's expedition. This is where the crew arrived to await help after getting shipwrecked. Sail to South Orkney islands and enjoy the pristine glaciers and marvel at the inhospitable landscape before continuing on the path of Shackleton, who set out in a rowing boat to save his stranded crew. You will then make your way to South Georgia, home to black-sand beaches and dominated by snow covered mountains. It is here that the explorer miraculously ran aground. You will feel like you've travelled back in time to discover more about this fascinating time in history.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive & Overnight in Santiago

Arrive in Santiago and spend the night exploring before your voyage tomorrow.



TRIP CODE

ACPOITFS

DEPARTURE

03/03/2024

DURATION

19 Days

LOCATIONS

Antarctica, South Georgia and Weddell Sea



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DAY 2: Fly to Ushuaia & Embark

Today you will transfer to Santiago Airport for your flight to Ushuaia. On arrival you will be transferred to your ship for embarkation. 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...



DAY 3: Crossing the Drake Passage - Day 3 & 4

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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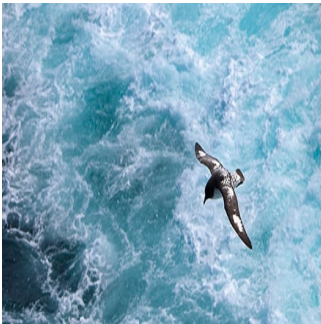
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DAY 5: Weddell Sea - Day 5 & 6

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 7: 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.



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DAY 8: South Shetland Islands

On the edge of the Antarctic Peninsula, 120 km (70 miles) from the White Continent, the South Shetland Islands offer surreal and mysterious scenery. On these volcanic islands of dark rock, the landscapes alternate between long, jagged and snow-covered coast and large, gently sloping bays. These lunar and wild lands are home to important scientific research stations and a large number of animal species: chinstrap penguins, crabeater seals or Weddell seals, Antarctic terns, giant petrels and elephant seals have taken up residence here.



DAY 9: 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.



DAY 10: At Sea - Day 10 & 11

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 with PONANT and let us discover together what these fascinating destinations have yet to reveal to us.



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DAY 12: South Georgia - Day 12 to 15

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.



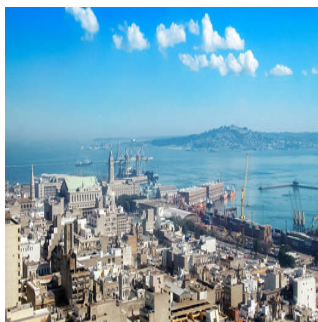
DAY 16: At Sea - Day 16 to 18

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DAY 19: Disembark in Montevideo

Perched on the far southern tip of Uruguay, Montevideo is a white city, and one of the loveliest capital cities of South America. Come and admire the beautiful historical remains dating from Spanish rule; you'll find the most interesting within the Ciudad Vieja, formerly fortified, its old town dates from the 18th century. The best preserved are the cathedral and the former governmental palace of the Cabildo, both listed historical monuments. In the crook of a vast blue bay, the city is also blessed with beautiful beaches.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board a ship
Inclusions	Cabin accommodation on board vessel All meals on board Open Bar and In Room Mini-bar Free and unlimited wifi Flights Santiago - Ushuaia Transfer from airport upon flight arrival 1-night accommodation in a 5* hotel the night before embarkation Early check-in available from late morning Meals as mentioned in the programme and beverage package Guiding and lectures by experienced expedition crew Kayaking, Snowshoeing and Polar Plunge All scheduled landings and excursions by zodiac Transfers as mentioned in the programme EXCLUSIONS International Flights Gratuities for staff and crew Travel insurance Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available on request. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	Please note this itinerary may be subject to change depending on weather, ice and sea conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, seasonality and availability.

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

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

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate

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knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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