

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA - THE EMPEROR PENGUINS OF WEDDELL SEA 16 DAYS | LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT



TRIP CODE
ACPOEPUS
DEPARTURE
19/12/2025
DURATION
16 Days
LOCATIONS
Weddell Sea, Antarctica, Antarctic Peninsula

INTRODUCTION

Embark on a 16-day voyage aboard Le Commandant Charcot to the Weddell Sea, a sanctuary for rare wildlife and stunning ice formations. This journey offers an unparalleled opportunity to observe emperor penguins in their natural habitat, including the chance to see young penguins learning to swim as spring emerges. Starting at the Drake Passage, you'll navigate through turbulent waters into the southern seas, encountering Adelie penguins and towering tabular icebergs. Guided by passionate naturalists, you'll retrace the steps of legendary explorers like Sir Ernest Shackleton and learn about the formation of massive icebergs from the Larsen Ice Shelf. This extended itinerary provides two extra days to fully immerse yourself in the breathtaking beauty and unique wildlife of Antarctica, promising a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.



*package price includes a pre-night accommodation in Santiago and flights from Santiago to Ushuaia return with transfers to/from the ship.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Santiago

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



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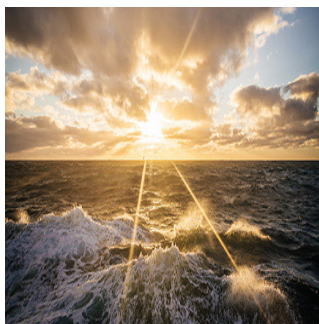
DAY 2: Fly From Santiago to Ushuaia & Embarkation

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. You will experience exceptional sailing moments on board and join 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 5: Weddel Sea Eploration - 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. Polar exploration finds its full meaning here. Heading towards the South is a real quest, with the promise of highly-charged encounters with the continent's endemic fauna. This is the kingdom of the emperor penguin, the largest penguin in the world, renowned for its elegance. Unlike other penguins that live on the rocks, the emperor nests on the ice floe which it needs for its reproductive cycle. It is therefore on the ice floe that you will be able to observe it walking around with its characteristic gait. In this southern sea, where the ice changes and is transformed constantly, there is never any monotony. The new reliefs and new colours ensure never-ending wonderment. You will sail into the heart of the immaculate ice floe, which is dislocated or densely packed, into an alley of icebergs. Among them are immense blocks of ice, tabular icebergs, that drift and illuminate the ocean with their cerulean blue haloes. Aboard, on shore, on the ice, you will be as close as possible to the colonies of Adelie penguins, Weddell seals, Mink whales, orcas, snow petrels.... With a little luck, you will get a glimpse of a rare Ross seal with its silver pelage or of emperor penguins, waddling along the edge of the ice floe. A sight that is as fascinating as it is emotional.



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DAY 7: Crossing The Antarctic Circle

Weather permitting, we'll cross the mythic line of the Antarctic Polar Circle, located along 66°33' south of the Equator. This iconic area demarcates the point from which it is possible to view the midnight sun during the December solstice. Within this circle, the sun remains above the horizon for 24 consecutive hours at least once a year. Crossing this line, an experience known to few people, is sure to be an unforgettable highlight of your cruise through the polar regions.



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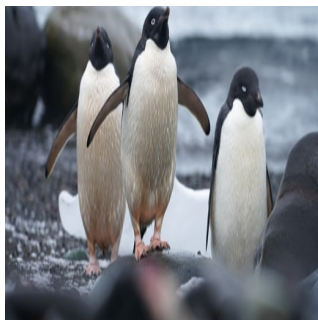
DAY 8: Sailing Toward Larsen Ice Shelf - Day 8 to 10

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 inlandsis - 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.



DAY 11: North Antarctic Peninsula - Day 11 & 13

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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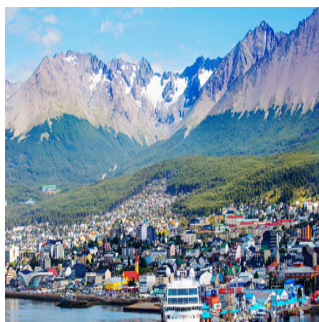
DAY 14: Crossing The Drake Passage - Day 14 & 15

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 16: 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 evocative of journeys to the unlikely and the inaccessible...



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Hotel & Cabin on board a ship

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Inclusions	<p>INCLUSIONS</p> <p>Cabin accommodation whilst on board Le Commandant Charcot</p> <p>1-night hotel accommodation the night in Santiago before embarkation</p> <p>Arrival Shuttle Transfer from Airport to Hotel in Santiago</p> <p>Group Transfer from Santiago Hotel to Airport on Day of Embarkation</p> <p>Return flights from Santiago to Ushuaia in economy class</p> <p>Group Arrival & Departure Transfers in Ushuaia</p> <p>All meals whilst on board</p> <p>Open bar (no premium brands)</p> <p>Mini bar in your stateroom (Champagne additional fee)</p> <p>All scheduled landings and excursions, conditions permitting</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>Comprehensive pre and post voyage informational material</p> <p>Free WIFI</p> <p>Kayaking Activities (limited places available)</p> <p>EXCLUSIONS</p> <p>Airfares other than specified</p> <p>Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)</p> <p>Travel Insurance</p> <p>Personal expenses such as laundry</p> <p>Gratuities for the crew (recommend US\$15 per person per day)</p> <p>Optional Activities not mentioned in itinerary</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request. A supplement surcharge may apply and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	<p>Prices are based on per person, twin share.</p> <p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.</p> <p>Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.</p>
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY