

# ARGENTINA - JOURNEY TO AUSTRAL LANDS AND VALDES PENINSULA REVERSED | L'AUSTRAL



## INTRODUCTION

Embark on a unique 19-day polar expedition cruise through the Southern Ocean, exploring remote destinations from the Valdes Peninsula to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctica. Experience the breathtaking landscapes of Antarctica's icy shores, home to penguins, seals, whales, and seabirds, while reliving the historic expeditions that took place there.

Continue to South Georgia, known for its towering glaciers and the site of Shackleton's legendary 1916 Endurance Odyssey, where you'll encounter king penguins and seals on black-sand beaches. Then, sail north to the Falkland Islands, a sanctuary for sei whales and home to dramatic cliffs, white sandy beaches, and windswept moors.

Your journey also takes you to Patagonia's Valdes Peninsula, a wildlife haven with diverse flora, unique haciendas, and abundant species, including orcas, guanacos, dolphins, and Magellanic penguins. The region's arid steppes and striking landscapes offer a remarkable opportunity to connect with nature in its most pristine form.

## ITINERARY

### TRIP CODE

ACPOAVLA

### DEPARTURE

25/02/2027

### DURATION

20 Days

### LOCATIONS

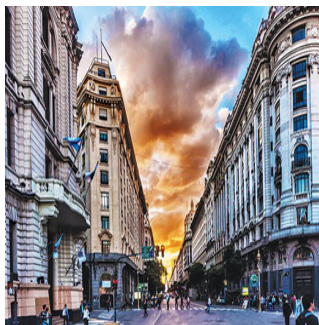
Argentina, Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctica



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### DAY 1: Arrive Buenos Aires

Your cruise includes a pre-embarkation night in Buenos Aires. You can check in in the late morning where you will be met at the hotel by our local representative. The rest of the afternoon will be spent at your leisure. Buenos Aires, Argentina's elegant, historic and cosmopolitan capital, is known as the "Paris of the South" due to its European atmosphere with glamorous avenues lined with fashionable shops and Parisian-style restaurants and cafes. Located on the western shore of the estuary of the Río de la Plata, Buenos Aires has many fascinating neighbourhoods to explore including the colourful and lively La Boca, home to art galleries and tango shows; San Telmo with its restored mansions and antique stores and Recoleta, the city's most exclusive area.



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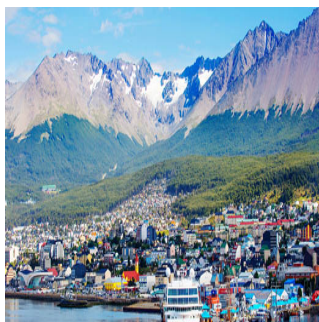
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### DAY 2: Fly to Ushuaia & Embarkation

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: At Sea - 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: The Weddel Sea Exploration

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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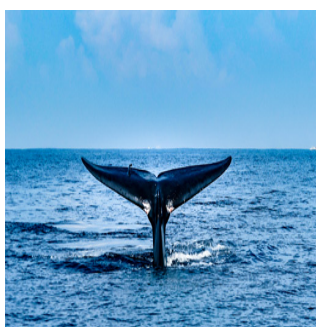
### DAY 6: Antarctic Peninsula

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.



### DAY 7: At Sea - Day 7 & 8

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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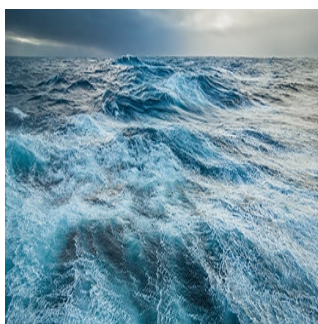
## DAY 9: South Georgia - Day 9 to 11

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 12: At Sea - Day 12 & 13

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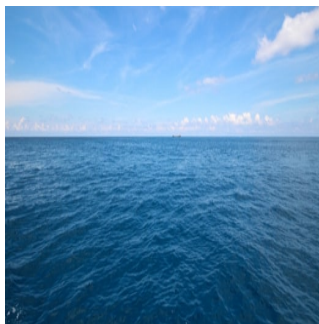
## DAY 14: Port Stanley


Situated at the far eastern end of the Falklands' largest island, Port Stanley, is the capital of this remote archipelago in the South Atlantic, composed of nearly 700 islands and islets. In 1764, Louis Antoine de Bougainville settled the first pioneers here and the port grew rapidly. Placed under the Spanish crown in 1767, then under British sovereignty since 1833, the town has retained some South American features fused with the Victorian style that punctuate the city, and the houses with their colourful roofs brighten the moorland landscapes with their windy and harsh climate reminiscent of the Scottish islands of Orkneys or Shetland. In front of the Cathedral, built in 1933, an arch made of whale jaw bones reminds us that Port Stanley was once a whaling port.



## DAY 15: At Sea - Day 15 & 16

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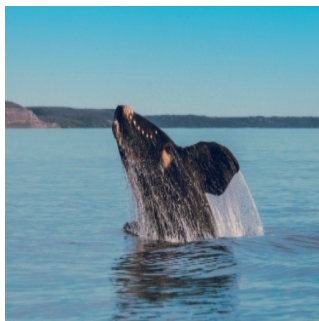


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## DAY 17: Puerto Madryn

On the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, in the Argentinian province of Chubut, stands the city of Puerto Madryn nestling in the Golfo Nuevo and surrounded by wild and abundant nature. You will be able to follow the narrow strip of land formed by the isthmus for a few kilometres, to reach the Valdes Peninsula nature reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its microclimate, protected from the extreme conditions of the Southern Atlantic, makes this an ideal breeding ground for southern right whales in winter, but also for southern elephant seals, southern sea lions, and orcas. You may get the chance to spot numerous birds, Magellanic penguins, guanacos and Patagonian maras living in this desert steppe.



## DAY 18: At Sea -Day 18 & 19

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## DAY 20: Disembark in Buenos Aires

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. Please note: Cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions, ice conditions and other factors.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

<b>Accommodation</b>	Hotel & Cabin On Board Ship
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<p><b>Inclusions</b></p>	<p><b>INCLUSIONS</b></p> <p>Group airport/hotel transfers on arrival in Buenos Aires  Dinner on Day 1  Breakfast on Day 2  One way flight Buenos Aires/Ushuaia in economy class  Group transfers in Ushuaia  Cabin accommodation whilst on board L'Austral  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</p>
	<p><b>EXCLUSIONS</b></p> <p>Airfares other than specified  Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)  Travel Insurance  Personal expenses such as laundry  Gratuities for the crew  Optional Activities not mentioned in itinerary  Other expenses not mentioned</p>
<p><b>Difficulty Rating</b></p>	<p>2 (Light Adventure)</p>
<p><b>Single Surcharge</b></p>	<p>Available upon request. A supplement surcharge may apply and is subject to availability. Please <a href="#">contact us</a> for more information.</p>
<p><b>Notes</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Price Dependent upon</b></p>	<p>Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.</p>

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## SUSTAINABILITY