

# Christmas and New Year in Southern lands

From **19/12/2021**  
to **04/01/2022**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL**

From **Ushuaia**  
to **Ushuaia**



Spend an unforgettable festive season on a **17-day cruise to the Antarctic** with **PONANT**. An exceptional **polar expedition cruise** to discover the most beautiful sites of these southern lands.

You will set sail from the fascinating city of Ushuaia, which the Argentinians call *El fin del mundo* (the end of the world).

First, you will sail to the **White Continent**, realm of the unexpected. Weather and ice conditions permitting, this extreme environment where nature reigns supreme will reveal to you its most beautiful secrets through numerous discoveries.

**Gentoo, Adelie and chinstrap penguins, humpback whales, seals and seabirds:** these are some of the encounters you will most likely have the chance to experience in the Antarctic Peninsula, creating indelible memories.

Finally, you will chart a course for the **Falkland Islands**, whose wild beauty and lush moors are sure to captivate you, before heading to **South Georgia**, its impressive glaciers and its black-sand beaches where large colonies of **king penguins** have taken up residence.

Each day, whether on land, aboard your ship or during a **Zodiac® outing**, you will be surrounded by a grandiose decor ranging from **icebergs** to **ice floe** and **ancient glaciers**.

*We are privileged guests in these extreme lands where we are at the mercy of weather and ice conditions. Landings on certain sites and the observation of certain wildlife cannot be guaranteed. They vary from day to day, making each PONANT cruise a unique experience. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, while complying with the safety rules and instructions imposed by the IAATO.*



The information in this document is valid as of 28/01/2022

# Christmas and New Year in Southern lands

## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### USHUAIA

Embarkation 19/12/2021 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 19/12/2021 at 17:30

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...

### CROSSING THE DRAKE PASSAGE

Arrival 20/12/2021

Departure 21/12/2021

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.

### ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Arrival 22/12/2021

Departure 25/12/2021

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<sup>®</sup> 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.

## AT SEA

Arrival 26/12/2021

Departure 27/12/2021

During your day 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 day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT 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.

## SOUTH GEORGIA

Arrival 28/12/2021

Departure 30/12/2021

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.

## AT SEA

Arrival 31/12/2021

Departure 01/01/2022

During your day 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 day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT 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.

## GRAVE COVE

Arrival 02/01/2022

Departure 02/01/2022

Make your way through the turbulent Woolly Gut strait and emerge in the stillness of **Grave Cove**. Located in the northern edge of **the Falkland Islands**, this bay owes its name to the vestiges of whalers' graves that overlook the beach. As you step off the boat and onto the white-sand beach, you might find yourself escorted by a few hospitable **Commerson's dolphins**, elegantly adorned in black and white. A stroll along the grassy dunes will lead you to a vast plain of lush green grass, tended by a few sheep. On the other side of the island you'll find one of the largest **gentoo penguin** colonies in the area. With some luck, you'll also glimpse a sea lion scouring the waves for his next meal.

## NEW ISLAND

Arrival 02/01/2022

Departure 02/01/2022

This island with its distinctive jagged relief is located on the western edge of the **Falkland Islands** and is home to a tiny village of two families. Step onto the golden sand of its flower-lined beaches, beside which an old stone house still stands, and you'll feel like you've entered a natural paradise. A narrow pathway weaves around typical Falkland moorlands. Follow it and in under 20 minutes you'll find yourself at the heart of a colony of southern **rockhopper penguins, black-browed albatross and imperial shags**. It's the perfect opportunity to watch the albatross swoop down from the cliffs and skim the waves that crash against the rocks on the exposed side of the island.

## AT SEA

Arrival 03/01/2022

Departure 03/01/2022

During your day 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 day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT 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.

## USHUAIA

Arrival 04/01/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 04/01/2022 at 08:00

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...