

# PONANT EXPEDITIONS & SMITHSONIAN JOURNEYS EMBLEMATIC ANTARCTICA



This classic Antarctica expedition voyage is part of a collection of PONANT voyages, in alliance with **Smithsonian Journeys**, that are tailored for English-speaking travelers who want to engage with the world. In addition to the usual elements of the PONANT experience, these voyages include transfers to and from the ship, talks and discussions aboard ship by world class experts, and a shore excursion or activity in each port of call that encourages guests to embrace the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of the local environment and culture. Tabletop icebergs, growlers, drift or pack ice... the Antarctic has its own language, which you'll soon speak fluently! This is a fascinating journey to the heart of this remote land, Penguins live in the thousands, waddling on the shores, whilst Humpback Whales come and swim alongside your ship.



**DATES:** 2023 – FEB 20-MAR 03

**Duration:** 12 Days/11 Nights

**EMBARKATION:** Ushuaia

**DISSEMBARKATION:** Ushuaia

**Ship:** Le Lyrial (L)

**From:** \$13,270 (Double)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- A voyage tailored for English-speaking travelers including discussions with experts, transfers before and after your cruise, a pre-cruise hotel night in Buenos Aires, round-trip flights to/from Ushuaia, an excursion in Tierra del Fuego, and an included activity in each port of call.
- Engaging discussions onboard with two Smithsonian Journeys Experts.
- Explore the magic of Antarctica with a sea kayak adventure. Led by experienced, state-certified kayak guides, you will skim the water's surface amid the ice. Full professional equipment is provided, including tandem kayak, carbon paddle, full-body drysuit, lifejacket, and AIS beacon. For more information about your kayak tour, please go to the "PONANT Activities" tab, and to book the kayak tour, contact your cruise advisor.
- Outings and shore visits in zodiac inflatables with a team of experienced naturalist guides.
- Lectures and information sessions hosted by our naturalist-guides, covering wildlife, history, geopolitics, the great explorers, climate, and environmental protection.
- Hiking opportunity.
- Visiting research stations and former whaling stations.
- Landscapes: A multitude of drifting icebergs, ice floes, imposing glaciers and tall, snow-covered mountains.
- Wildlife: Humpback whales, Gentoo penguins, Adélie penguins, Chinstrap penguins, Leopard seals, Crabeater seals, Weddell seals and numerous sea birds.
- Educational discovery in the respect to the environment.



## ITINERARY:

### Day 1: Arrive Buenos Aires, Argentina

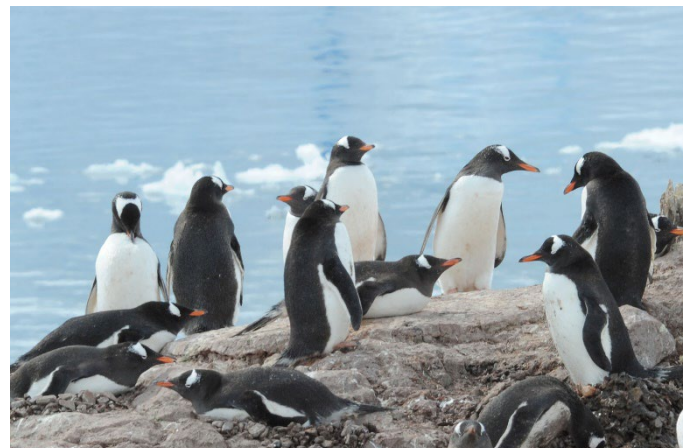
Transfer to your deluxe hotel. Remainder of the day is free. We recommend arriving a day or two earlier to see more of Buenos Aires and Argentina.

### Day 2: Flight to Ushuaia – Embarkation

Transfer from your hotel to the city airport for your included flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia. Meet and transfer to ship. Capital of Argentina's Tierra del Fuego province, Ushuaia lies in a bay opening into the Beagle Channel, at the country's southernmost tip. Its colorful houses are framed against towering mountains, snow-capped in winter and summer alike.

### Day 3-4: Drake Passage

Among the wildlife spotting opportunities as we sail south are the Albatrosses, Prions, and Petrels that frequently follow the ship. Our Expedition Team will be out on deck as well, looking for the Whales and Dolphins that may also be seen in the area. Our experts will hold informative and entertaining presentations on the wildlife, history, and geology of Antarctica. Helpful briefings on environmental regulations and expedition safety will also be held in the comfortable lounge. The length of our journey depends on sea conditions but we should approach the South Shetland Islands of the Antarctic Peninsula in the evening of Day 4.





### **Days 5 - 9: Exploration of Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands**

The Antarctic Peninsula and nearby South Shetland Islands provide exceptional opportunities to discover the unique wildlife and awesome landscapes. Depending on weather and ice conditions, the captain and expedition team will direct your ship to a variety of secluded bays and harbors to optimize Zodiac landings and wildlife viewing. While we have a plan, flexibility is the key to successful expedition cruising. With the help of our expedition team, look for the four penguin, six seal and several whale species on your Antarctic checklist. We'll also find a time for our most adventurous travelers to take a polar plunge, perhaps in Neko Harbor or the relatively warm waters of volcanic Deception Island.

As we head south along the Antarctic Peninsula, you'll understand why the imposing, snow-covered



Lemaire Channel is called "Kodak Alley." We'll also try to visit a research station during the voyage, although the work schedules of the scientists may not always permit this. A Zodiac cruise of Paradise Bay, with its many glaciers, offers an experience like no other on the globe. Cruise by massive icebergs, with cracks and crevices reflecting an amazing spectrum of blue colors. Conditions permitting, we'll set foot on the actual Antarctic Continent at Hope Bay or perhaps another site.

In 1996, the Port Lockroy base was renovated and is now a museum and post office operated by the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust. It is one of the most popular tourist destinations for cruise-ship passengers in Antarctica. Proceeds from the small souvenir shop fund the upkeep of the site and other historic sites and monuments in Antarctica. Visit Pleneau Island and its colony of Gentoo penguins.

### **DAYS 10-11: DRAKE PASSAGE**

Cross back across Drake Passage.

### **DAY 12: USHUAIA – DISEMBARKATION**

Transfer from ship to included flight from Ushuaia to Buenos Aires. Connect with flight home, or stay longer in Argentina.



## DECK PLAN

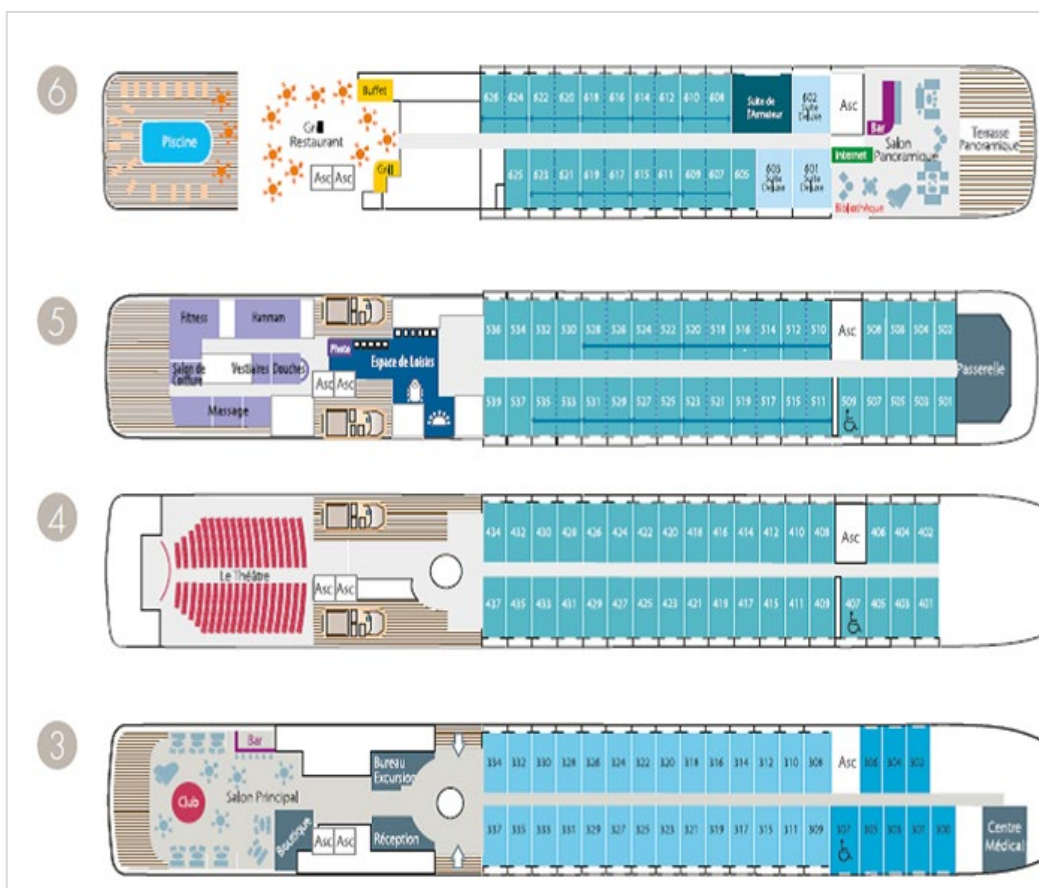


### Reservations & Information

1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)

Email - info@explorcruises.com

www.explorcrises.com



### RATES INCLUDE:

- One Night Deluxe Buenos Aires Hotel
- Flights Buenos Aires/Ushuaia-Buenos Aires

### ON BOARD -

- Meet and Greet by our representatives in Ushuaia and direct luggage transfer to the ship; Gratuities to ship crew; All meals onboard; 24-hour room service; Taxes & Port fees; Butler service in the suites; Unlimited WiFi; Open Bar throughout the cruise; on disembarkation day in Ushuaia direct transfer from the ship to the airport; Complimentary boot rental; Complimentary polar parka for you to keep; Hermes bath products.

**MANY OTHER DEPARTURE DATES ARE AVAILABLE WITHOUT SMITHSONIAN JOURNEYS – ASK US FOR DETAILS.**

### SUITE – Rates From -

Superior – Deck 3	\$13,270
Deluxe – Deck 3	\$14,250
Prestige – Deck 4	\$15,610
Prestige – Deck 5	\$16,310
Prestige – Deck 6	WL
Deluxe Ste – Deck 6	WL
Prestige Ste – Dk 5	\$25,000
Privilege Ste – Dk 6	\$26,240
OWNER SUITE	\$37,480