



CLASSIC ANTARCTICA (LE LYRIAL)

Embark on an award-winning Luxury Expedition Cruise for the centerpiece of the Southern Hemisphere — extraordinary Antarctica, where towering icebergs, massive glaciers and abundant wildlife make for the ultimate adventure destination. Please note: 2020-2021 season voyage rates include internal airfare.



ITINERARY

Day 1 ARRIVE BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Arrive in Argentina's capital and transfer to your hotel, where you spend the rest of the day at leisure. Meet your fellow



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adventurers for a welcome cocktail reception this evening.

Day 2 BUENOS AIRES | VIBRANT LATIN AMERICAN CITY

Latin passion and European Romance define the beautiful city of Buenos Aires, a dynamic mecca known for its wide-ranging architectural styles, contemporary and historic arts, and culinary pleasures and parrillas (steakhouses). Dive into its best treasures under the wing of expert A&K; local guides, choosing from a selection of included excursions. Opt to explore the city on a guided tour complete with a tango demonstration; spend the day at an authentic estancia (ranch), where you pause for a traditional lunch; or discover a burgeoning art scene on a guided tour focused on Buenos Aires street art.

Day 3 USHUAIA | GATEWAY TO ANTARCTICA

Fly to the charming port town of Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world. On arrival, enjoy a gourmet lunch at the Arakur resort, enjoying panoramic city and mountain vistas while you dine. Time and weather permitting, take a guided walk in the Cerro Alarken Nature Reserve or simply relax with a cappuccino and enjoy scenic views of Ushuaia. This afternoon, transfer to your ship and settle in for your first night on board. Wander the decks to become acquainted with the ship, relax in the lounge and mingle with fellow guests in anticipation of your voyage. From your private balcony or the outside decks, take in views as you cruise the beautiful Beagle Channel before heading out to sea.

Days 4 - 5 CRUISING THE DRAKE PASSAGE | EPIC PASSAGE

The journey south toward Antarctica is an exciting one, furthered by singular, voyage-long access to our knowledgeable Expedition Team and enrichment experts — both on board and on shore. Set out into the Drake Passage, a 600-mile-wide

swath of water where the Southern Ocean currents are squeezed between South America's southern tip and Antarctica's northernmost reaches. An important trade route in the 19th and early 20th centuries, its stormy waters and icy conditions once made the journey a difficult one, though the stabilizer-equipped 'Le Lyrial' handles it with ease. After lunch, join your naturalists on the deck to look for various species of whales and abundant seabirds, which join other mammals in feasting on the krill-rich waters of the Drake Passage; it's all just a taste of the wildlife you will encounter in the days to come. Later in the evening, chat with experts about the wildlife spotted today and learn about the next day's itinerary.

Days 6 - 10 ANTARCTICA | THE WHITE CONTINENT

As the Antarctic Peninsula and its offshore islands appear on the horizon, a sense of excitement begins to build. Travel in the comfort of your luxury cruiser, enjoying enriching lectures from members of the Expedition Team on topics ranging from birdlife to photography and history. Your Captain and Expedition Team carefully plan your active, curated itinerary, which is dependent on weather, sea, ice and wildlife conditions. With that in mind, daily excursions may include exploration of the following areas: Antarctic Sound: At the northernmost tip of the Antarctic mainland, this body of water features some of the best sightseeing on the peninsula and a proliferation of giant icebergs. Noted for its vast numbers of bird species, the sound is home to the largest breeding colonies of Adelie penguins in Antarctica. Landings here may include Paulet, Vortex or Terror islands. You may also make your first continental landing at sites such as Brown Bluff or Esperanza Station at Hope Bay. South Shetland Islands: Antarctic research stations, remarkable history, amazing geological features and abundant wildlife

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define these islands off the shore of the Antarctic Peninsula. Island visits may include Penguin, Half-Moon and Deception, where you may cruise into this flooded caldera to explore geothermal black sand beaches and abandoned whaling stations. Danco Coast: Bordering the South Shetland Islands along the Antarctic continent, the Danco Coast is famed for its scenic, jaw-dropping waterways. From the comfort of 'Le Lyrial,' you may sail through the Gerlache Strait, Paradise Bay and photogenic Lemaire Channel. Landings may include Neko Harbour, Cuverville Island and Wilhelmina Bay. Each cruise day begins with an early breakfast followed by a morning excursion on swift Zodiacs (sturdy inflatable boats). Guided by expert drivers, each Zodiac excursion is accompanied by lecturers and joined by groups of no more than 10 guests. After mornings discovering native species and striking terrain, return to 'Le Lyrial' for lunch, and time to relax and observe the wildlife-rich waters that surround you, searching for everything from fin whales, humpback whales and orcas, to Antarctic and imperial shags. By afternoon, set out for the day's second excursion, which may include visiting a working scientific research station, hiking on a sheltered beach packed with basking Southern elephant seals, or circumnavigating colossal icebergs that serve as floating homes to seals and penguins. After full days of adventure, evenings aboard your luxury cruiser invite you to unwind over cocktails in the cozy lounge before dinner in the elegant dining room. At night, choose to recap the day's discoveries with your naturalist guides; chat on deck with fellow guests; or seize the opportunity to capture photos in the stunning low light characteristic of Antarctica's long, ethereal twilight.

Bid farewell to wondrous Antarctica and begin your cruise back to Ushuaia at the southernmost tip of Argentina. The ship's return through the Drake Passage is an interlude for recap and reflection, with time to compare notes with your expert lecturers on the wildlife, history and geology of the White Continent. Spend time on board with newfound friends in the comfortable common spaces of 'Le Lyrial,' enjoy quiet relaxation on your own private balcony or absorb more fascinating lectures by your captivating Expedition Team. While cruising through this historic passage, you may spot various species of whales and seabirds, including the elusive albatross and the giant petrel, an opportunistic predator and scavenger nicknamed the "stinker." The immense albatross is an especially stunning sight to behold. These wandering birds boast a wingspan approaching 12 feet and are capable of gliding through the air for hours at a time in search of food.

Day 13 DEPART USHUAIA

'Le Lyrial' docks at Ushuaia this morning. After breakfast, bid farewell to your crew and fellow guests before disembarking. Transfer to the airport for your return flight to Buenos Aires, where you connect to your international flight home.

Please Note:

This cruise includes regular Zodiac boat excursions, walks over uneven terrain and optional, challenging hikes. Due to the nature of expedition cruising, this itinerary is subject to change and is for guidance purposes only.

Days 11 - 12 CRUISING THE DRAKE PASSAGE | MEMORABLE RETURN

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YOUR SHIP: LE LYRIAL

YOUR SHIP:

Le Lyrial

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

A sleek silhouette, a welcoming intimate atmosphere, discover aboard this new ship the philosophy that has made our sisterships such a success: the spirit of Yacht Cruises. Sailing under the French flag, this magnificent yacht of only 122 staterooms and Suites, with balconies, will join our fleet in April 2015. You will be enchanted by the contemporary decor inspired by the our destinations and the blue light of the Vega star in the Lyra constellation. The result is a subtle variation around a palette of blues, ranging from the luminous delicate grey-blue of the Polar ice to splashes of the vivid turquoise blue found in Mediterranean coves. A refined ambiance is enhanced by the quality of the workmanship and materials: white Corian counters in the lobby contrast with the warmth of leather to recall a boat's hull, while the central sculpture of enamelled pieces takes its inspiration from the sea. In the loungebar, the carpet picks up a tennis stripe theme symbolising a certain idea of cruising, one synonymous with French elegance and a chic seaside spirit. Please click the following links to read more about Ponant and the other Ponant cruise ships.



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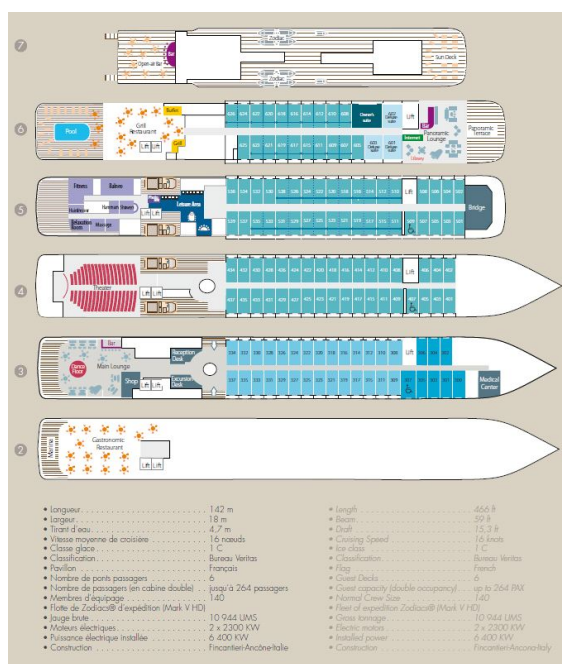
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PRICING

ADDITIONAL CHARGES:

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