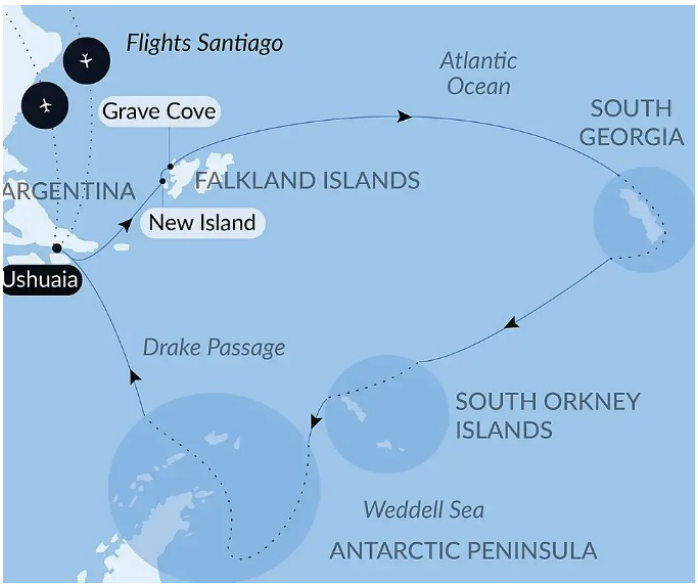


THE FORGOTTEN SOULS OF THE FAR SOUTH - ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION CRUISE

This PONANT adventure has been designed in partnership with SEDNA , a specialist in polar expeditions and immersive exploration. Its founder, Nicolas Dubreuil , has been exploring the polar regions for more than thirty years and will be leading this expedition aboard _Le Commandant Charcot_. Far more than a journey to Antarctica, this exceptional voyage has been conceived as a true exploration: each stop is an invitation to leave the ship and discover, understand and fully experience the territories of the Far South. From the Falkland Islands and their extraordinary birdlife to the vast king penguin colonies of South Georgia and the endless ice of the Weddell Sea , the itinerary follows in the wake of the women and men who, for generations, have lived, worked and explored at the far reaches of the Far South. Farmers on the subantarctic islands, sailors, scientists and explorers: each in their own way has faced isolation, the elements and the power of a natural world that sets its own rules. Conditions permitting, you too may have the opportunity to share in this experience by spending a night ashore or on the sea ice, camping in a tent alongside scientists, or even staying on a remote farm in the Falkland Islands. Theserare experiences offer a chance to truly immerse yourself in these remarkable environments. Thanks to the ship's exceptional capabilities, the expedition will attempt to venture deep into the Weddell Sea, into a world where the ice, weather and wildlife dictate the course of the journey. Penguins, seals, whales and perhaps even the legendary emperor penguin will be your companions on an adventure whose programme will be shaped each day by the opportunities that arise. Here, the itinerary is only the start: the expedition will be defined by the experiences that unfold



along the way.

ITINERARY

Days 0 - 1 - Pre Cruise & Ushuaia

Night in Santiago + flight Santiago/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...

Day 2 - At sea aboard Le Commandant Charcot

Spend exceptional moments sailing aboard Le Commandant Charcot, the world's first luxury polar exploration vessel and the first PC2-class polar cruise ship capable of sailing into the very heart of the ice, on seas and oceans which the frozen conditions render inaccessible to ordinary ships. Le Commandant Charcot is fitted with oceanographic and scientific equipment selected by a committee of experts. Take advantage of the on-board lectures and opportunities for discussion with these specialists to learn more about the poles. Participate in furthering scientific research with PONANT and let us discover together what these fascinating destinations have yet to reveal to us.

Day 3 - Grave Cove

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.

Day 3 - New Island

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.

Day 4 - Grave Cove

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Day 7 - South Georgia

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.

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Day 11 - South Orkney Islands

More than 85% **glaciated** , these remote mountainous islands are hidden in the Southern Ocean, some 600 km from the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. The archipelago is composed of four main islands: **Coronation Island** , Signy Island, Powell Island and Laurie Island. Discovered in 1821 by seal hunters, they were also explored in 1823 by the British navigator**James Weddell,** who gave them their current name. Despite the ravages caused by whale and seal hunting, today a sizeable **leopard sea** l population can be found there, along with **chinstrap penguins** and snow petrels. Laurie Island is home to an old scientific station that is still in operation.

Day 12 - The Weddell 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 13 - 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.

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Day 15 - Crossing the Drake Passage



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.

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Day 17 - Ushuaia

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Please note:

We are privileged guests in these extreme lands, where we are at the mercy of the weather and the ice conditions. Our commitment to respecting this environment imposes certain rules of conduct upon us. Our navigation, mainly in the fjords, will be determined by the type of ice we come across; as the coastal ice must be preserved, we will take this factor into account from day to day in our itineraries. The sailing program, shore visits, activities and observation of fauna cannot be guaranteed and are subject to weather and ice conditions. These experiences are unique and vary from day to day and for each departure. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, while complying with applicable safety rules and IAATO regulations.



YOUR SHIP: LE COMMANDANT-CHARCOT

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

With its hybrid propulsion combining liquefied natural gas (LNG) and electric generators, Le Commandant-Charcot has been designed to minimise the environmental impact of travel to the furthest latitudes. The decoration of the ship, designed by two internationally renowned design and architecture firms - the studio of Jean-Philippe Nuel and Wilmotte & Associes - is designed to be in harmony with the environment. The approach is contemporary with the desire to create a warm and elegant setting; stone, wood and leather recall the natural environment in which the ship is sailing. Equipped with just 135 staterooms including 31 suites with balconies and outside views, Le Commandant-Charcot welcomes you in an intimate and refined atmosphere. Outstanding gastronomy in the two restaurants, relaxation in the indoor pool surrounded by its winter garden, relaxation in the well-being area with sauna and Snow Room... Like on a private yacht, each of our guests is unique. PUBLIC AREAS Le Commandant-Charcot has many common areas that are designed and equipped to meet all of your needs while preserving the intimacy of each passenger. A 177 m² reception area includes: A reception/concierge desk, An expeditions desk, The ship's administrative services, The sales office, manned by our Hospitality & Travel Manager officer, Our boutique which sells clothing, jewellery, beauty products, postcards and various accessories, The image & photo desk. The different lounges include a 302 m² main lounge including a 28 m² cigar lounge, a tea corner and a bar, with live music on selected evenings, A 400 m² panoramic bar and lounge, An open-air Bar. The recreation spaces Fitness & Beauty Corner: Fitness room: Elliptic, running machines, bicycles... Beauty Corner: Hairdresser, Massage rooms, Sauna, Snow Room, Nail Shop. Pool area: Indoor Pool and winter garden - Outdoor Pool Theatre: Capacity: 270-276 - Main show room for conferences and live entertainment on selected evenings - State-of-the-art audio and video technology. Leisure area: Public areas - Library - Medical centre. 16





Zodiacs on board.

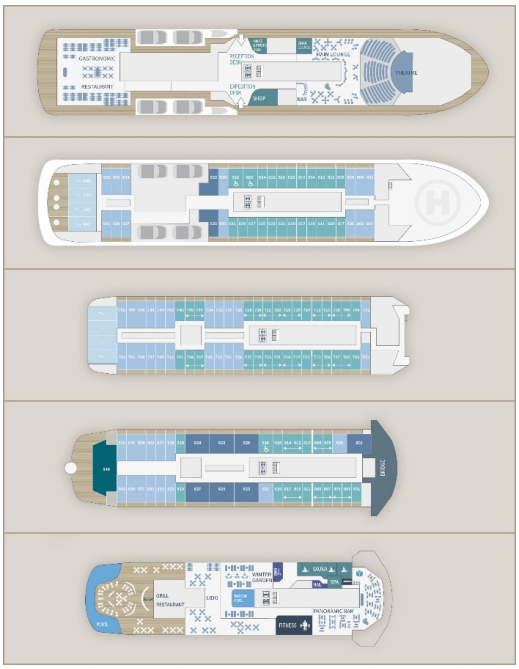
The Small Cruise Ship Collection
www.small-cruise-ships.com

01432 507 280 (within UK)

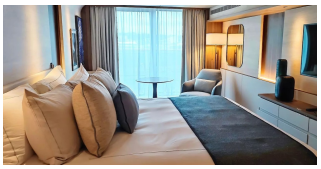
info@small-cruise-ships.com | **small-cruise-ships.com**



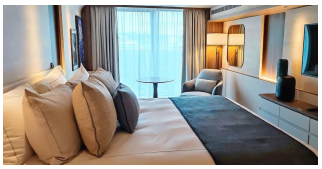
INSIDE YOUR SHIP



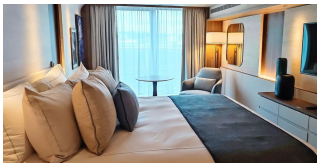
Deluxe Suite Deck 6



Deluxe Suite Deck 7



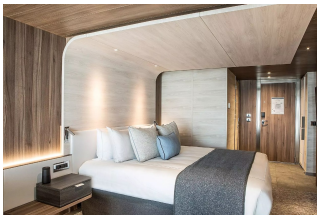
Deluxe Suite Deck 8



Duplex Suite



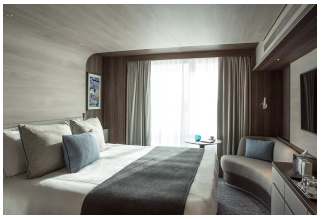
Grand Prestige Suite



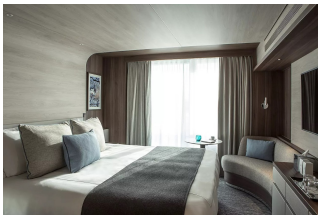
Owner's Suite



Prestige Stateroom Deck 6

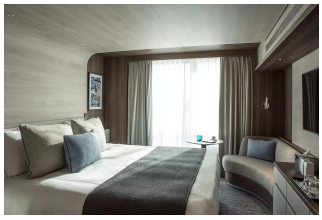


Prestige Stateroom Deck 7





Prestige Stateroom Deck 8



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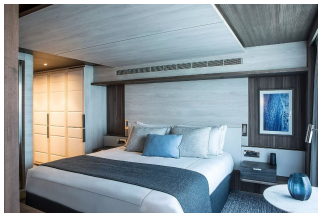
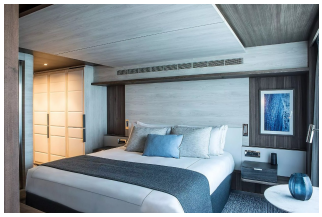
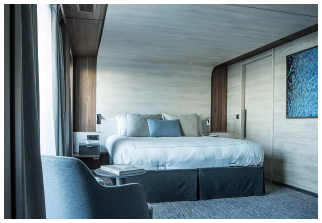


Prestige Suite Deck 8



Privilege Suite Deck 8





PRICING

29-Nov-2028 to 16-Dec-2028

Deluxe Suite Deck 8	£29245 GBP pp
Privilege Suite Deck 8	£41575 GBP pp
Grand Prestige Suite	£39285 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 7	£28335 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 8	£38155 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 6	£25595 GBP pp
Duplex Suite	£56405 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£93745 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 6	£27195 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 7	£37015 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 8	£26515 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 7	£26055 GBP pp