

PONANT EXPEDITION'S

# THE GREAT ADVENTURE



***Ushuaia to Montevideo - Sail in the footsteps of the Great Explorers during a 16-day cruise between the Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia.*** You will start this expedition cruise with the discovery of the extraordinary landscapes of the Peninsula. Between long stretches of ice floes and sparkling tabular icebergs, you will be able to admire a captivating polar desert made of ice and water.



## **DATES:**

**2018 – Feb 26 to Mar 15 (S)**

**2019 – Feb 25 to 14 (A)**

**Duration: 18 days / 17 nights**

**Departure Port: Ushuaia,  
Argentina**

**Port of arrival: Montevideo,  
Uruguay**

**Ship: Le Soleal (S); Le Austral (A)**

## HIGHLIGHTS:

### ABUNDANT ANTARCTIC WILDLIFE

The highest concentration of Gentoo, Adelie and Chinstrap penguins in Antarctica; Minke and humpback Whales, Weddell seals, sea Leopards, and numerous sea birds: Cape Petrels, Albatrosses, imperial Shags, and snow Petrels.

- Outings and shore visits in Zodiac® inflatables with a team of experienced naturalist guides.
- Hiking opportunity: Grytviken, Deception Island.
- Landscapes: mountain chains, imposing glaciers and lush green pastures in South Georgia. Drifting icebergs and sea ice in the Peninsula.
- Wildlife: king penguins, elephant seals and fur seals in South Georgia. Gentoo, Adelie and chinstrap penguins in the Peninsula.
- Educational discovery in the respect of environment.

## ITINERARY:

### Day 1: Arrive Buenos Aires, Argentina

You will be met and transferred to your deluxe hotel. Remainder of the day is free.

### Day 2: Buenos Aires Tour

Enjoy a full day tour of Buenos Aires, "Paris of South America", arranged exclusively for Explor Cruises' guests. Visit the unique neighborhoods of San Telmo, Recoleta, La Boca, Puerto Madero and Palermo. Lunch is included. This evening, you will be taken to a Dinner & Tango Show at Tango Porteño, Includes round trip transfers and a tango lesson of 1hr before the dinner. Return to your hotel late.

### Day 3: 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.

## Days 4 - 5 - DRAKE PASSAGE

### Day 6: Paradise Bay – Neko Harbor

With its spectacular landscapes composed of towering glacial peaks plunging down into the icy waters of the Antarctic, Paradise Bay is true to its name. Discovered and named by whalers in the early 20th century, this protected natural site is currently home to a wide variety of fauna, from Antarctic cormorants and leopard seals to sheathbills and gentoo penguins, who mingle on the long stretch of rocky beaches. With some luck, you'll even be privy to an unforgettable underwater dance between passing humpback whales.



A little corner of paradise in the shadow of a towering glacier, Neko Harbor is without a doubt one of the most beautiful sites on the Antarctic Peninsula. It was discovered by Belgian navigator Adrien de Gerlache during his 1897-1899 expedition. Mountains, ice and wildlife combine to form a truly unique landscape. Animals are as abundant as they are exotic: among others, you'll encounter seabirds (gulls, Cape petrels, cormorants) and marine mammals (seals, orcas and other whale species).

### Day 7: Wilhelmina Bay – Port Lockroy

Between 1897 and 1899, Belgian explorer Adrien de Gerlache led an Antarctic expedition aboard the Belgica. There, he discovered a quiet, protected bay which he named in honor of the Dutch queen, Wilhelmina of Orange-Nassau. In this enchanting

place, towering mountains reflect off still waters, offering up a magnificent and colorful feast for the eyes.

During your cruise, you'll have the opportunity to stop over at Port Lockroy, a spectacular natural harbor nestled in the very heart of the Antarctic Peninsula on Goudier Island. Discovered by French explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot in 1903, the site has served over the years as a stopover for whaling ships, a British military base and later a research station. The port is currently one of the most visited sites in the Antarctic, thanks to its tiny museum which allows visitors to experience the base as it was in the 1950s and to take home a souvenir from its gift shop.

### **Day 8: Deception Island**

Situated just above the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula, Deception Island is easily recognizable thanks to its distinctive horseshoe shape. The crater of this former volcano caved in 10,000 years ago and the resulting caldera was flooded, creating a natural harbor. Deception Island still bears traces of its past as a longtime hub of the whaling industry.

### **Days 9-10: At Sea**

### **Day 11: South Georgia islands – Gold Harbor – Cooper Bay**

Majestic glaciers with a bluish sheen, waterfalls that reflect the rays of the setting sun, pitch-black volcanic sand beaches: these are just a few of the wonders to be found in Gold Harbor's landscape.



*Gold Harbor – South Georgia Island*

This natural gem is blanketed by bright green tussocks and framed by snow-capped peaks. On this island where summer days are endless, the wildlife stays up with the sun. Fur seals, elephant seals and king penguins move about the island like tiny black dots along the landscape.

It was named after the first lieutenant of the famous sailor, Captain James Cook, and the bay offers a quite unexpected sight, with long basalt canyons forming high cliffs that loom over a turquoise-blue water. In the center of the bay, a magical atmosphere reigns when just a few rays of sunshine pierce the gauzy layer formed by the morning mist. The craggy coastlines are home to colonies of macaroni penguins who pay close attention to the arrival of our tiny crafts.

### **Day 12: South Georgia Island - Grytviken**

The Grytviken stopover is a highlight of South Georgia Island. This former whaling station, now a ghost town, is set against a serene backdrop of ochre-colored earth. Vestiges of the whaling industry are still very much present, particularly old whale bones and remnants of shipwrecks. Grytviken's other historical point of interest is the grave of famous adventurer Sir Ernest Shackleton.

### **Day 13: South Georgia Island - Fortuna Bay**

Situated at the foot of sharply-rising mountains, Fortuna Bay is a truly dazzling vision to behold. The bay itself bows inward to form a perfect crescent, indented by a torrent. During your excursion, you can follow in the footsteps of Ernest Shackleton or even encounter the 50,000 king penguin couples who call the island their home

### **DAYS 14-17: AT SEA**

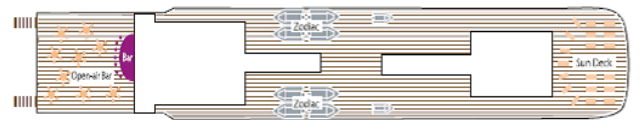
### **DAY 18: MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY**

Montevideo is a white city, and one of the loveliest capital cities of South America. Admire the beautiful historical remains dating from Spanish rule; you'll find the most interesting within the Ciudad Vieja, formerly fortified, its old town dates from the 18th century. The city is also blessed with beautiful beaches.



**DECK PLAN**

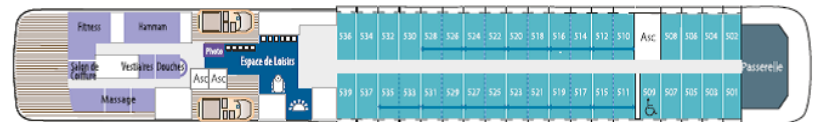
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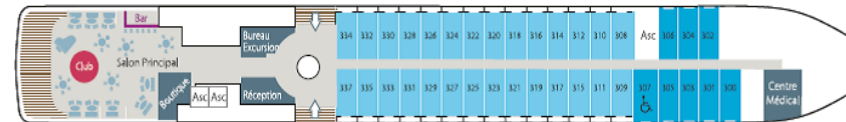
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**Rates Include:**

- Transfers, tour and two nights at a deluxe hotel in Buenos Aires; flights Buenos Aires-Ushuaia
- Meet and Greet by our representatives in Ushuaia and direct luggage transfer from the airport to the ship for port clearance
- On disembarkation days in Montevideo: direct transfer from the ship to the airport
- Complimentary boot rental
- Complimentary polar parka for you to keep



Contact us for availability and more details-



Reservations and Information:

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