SEDUNIA LUXURY



LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT

In the wake of Jean-Baptiste Charcot

DURATION	WHERE	FROM, PER PERSON
16 days, 15 nights	Antarctica	RM 113,419

Overview

Beyond the Antarctic Circle – In the Wake of Jean-Baptiste Charcot

Set off a unique expedition, in the footsteps of Jean-Baptiste Charcot, at the edge of the world, to the Bellingshausen Sea, there where the ice shapes the horizon. Marguerite Bay, Charcot Island and Pourquoi Pas Island... the French explorer's passage more than a century ago still resonates. Here, every moment plunges you into a grandiose and pristine universe, where ice cliffs, infinite ice floes and majestic icebergs drift where the currents take them. Aboard Le Commandant Charcot, a strikingly elegant ship capable of navigating our planet's most extreme environments, watch nature unveil its many treasures: penguins, seals, whales and orcas roaming their immaculate kingdom. A fascinating adventure in the heart of the White Continent, reserved for the privileged few who dare to reach the unreachable.

Highlights

- ? An all-new exploration into the almost inaccessible Weddell Sea, in search of majestic emperor penguins, amidst immaculate and dreamlike landscapes.
- ? Outings and shore visits in a zodiac inflatable with a reinforced team of naturalist guides.

- ? Conferences and information meetings on board with our passionate experts, specialists in the fauna, flora and history of the polar regions.
- ? Landscapes: immense glaciers, table top icebergs, immersion in the heart of the ice floes.
- ? Wildlife: the possibility to observe emperor, Adelie, chinstrap and gentoo penguins; Ross, leopard and crabeater seals; humpback, Minke whales and orcas.
- ? Many activities: kayaking, hiking or snowshoeing, polar plunge without suit, polar swim with drysuit, participative science. Discover all the activities in the “Ponant Activities” tab.
- ? For your comfort, your cruise package includes an overnight in Santiago the day before embarkation, transfers and flights Santiago/Ushuaia (for details, see the ‘included in your cruise’ tab).
- **Subject to the regulations in force.**

Itinerary

DAY 1

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. Depart at 16h00

DAY 2

CROSSING THE DRAKE PASSAGE

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.

DAY 3

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DAY 4

CROSSING THE ANTARCTIC CIRCLE

Weather permitting, we’ll cross the mythic line of the Antarctic Polar Circle, located along 66°33’ south of the Equator. This iconic area demarcates the point from which it is possible to view the midnight sun during the December solstice. Within this circle, the sun remains above the horizon for 24 consecutive hours at least once a year. Crossing this line, an experience known to few people, is sure to be an unforgettable highlight of your cruise through the polar regions.

DAY 5

THE GULLET

The sumptuous landscapes of this narrow channel between Adelaide Island and Graham Land attract all visitors sailing towards Marguerite Bay. It is like an ice palace, its immaculate white walls reflected in the frozen mirror formed by the waters of the Southern Ocean, scattered with icebergs and gleaming blocks of ice. This passage was explored for the first time by the Jean-Baptiste Charcot expedition in 1909, which sketched its position. It was then surveyed in 1936 by the British expedition under John Rymill. It is here in this magical setting that some of the first subaquatic images of the Antarctic were shot during Philippe Cousteau's four-month expedition to Antarctica between 1972 and 1973.

DAYS 6 TO 7

EXPEDITION TO CHARCOT ISLAND

When he discovered this island surrounded by sea ice in 1910 from aboard the Pourquoi Pas ? as he mapped Alexander Island, Jean-Baptiste Charcot had not be able to get less than 40 miles away from it. Situated in a zone that experiences frequent low-pressure systems and regular cloud cover, the island remains in many ways an enigma. It is entirely covered in ice and sheer cliffs, with the exception of the rocky outcrops extending over a dozen kilometres in the far north-west. The ice in the narrowest part of Wilkins Sound has been cracking in recent times, thus officially detaching this island from its neighbour, Alexander Island, lying 50 km away. Very few people have landed on this largely untouched island, whose waters attract numerous seabirds, such as petrels, Antarctic terns and skuas.

DAY 8

BELLINGSHAUSEN SEA

Stretching from the west of the Antarctic Peninsula to the Amundsen Sea, the Bellingshausen Sea was named after the Russian admiral and explorer who has been attributed the first confirmed sighting of mainland Antarctica, in 1820. Among others, its waters surround two of the Antarctic's largest islands: Alexander Island and Thurston Island. You will explore this sea amid ice floe, blocks of sea ice and majestic icebergs. The coastal areas along the Bellingshausen Sea are also renowned as the home of colonies of emperor penguins. Depending on the month of the southern summer, you will perhaps be lucky enough to observe isolated adults, adolescents seeking emancipation or recently independent new adults.

DAY 9

MARGUERITE BAY

The icebergs are each more majestic than the next and scattered around the deep and intense blue waters of Marguerite Bay, one of the most beautiful regions in the Antarctic. It is delimited in the north by the mountainous Adelaide Island, in the south by George VI Sound and Alexander Island, and in the east by the Fallières Coast. Charcot named it after his wife during his second expedition to the Antarctic between 1908 and 1910. In 1909, in the southern summer when the skies are at their clearest, he led an important scientific mission to map and study this region. The bay is home to a number of cetaceans and you may get the chance to observe leopard seals or Adelie penguins.

DAY 10

POURQUOI PAS ISLAND

Le Commandant Charcot will land on the coast of Pourquoi Pas Island, so named in the 1930s by John Riddoch Rymill in honour of Jean-Baptiste Charcot, who discovered it from aboard his ship Le Pourquoi Pas ? during his second expedition to Antarctica between 1908 and 1910. This mountainous island, situated in the north of Marguerite Bay between Graham Land and Adelaide Island, is 28 km long and 14 km large. It is scattered with narrow fjords and snow-covered mountains. You will go to shore in a zodiac dinghy with your expedition team and you could get the chance to observe Adelie penguins going about their business on the island's rocky shores.

DAYS 11 TO 12

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.

DAYS 13 TO 14

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.

DAY 15

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. **Disembarkation at 8.00am

Rates and dates

Current rates in Malaysian Ringgit per person, correct on 8 November 2026. Subject to availability.

SAILING	SHIP	FROM, PER PERSON
01 Dec - 16 Dec 2027	Le Commandant Charcot	RM 120,408
27 Dec 2027 - 11 Jan 2028	Le Commandant Charcot	RM 113,419

Included

- 12 nights shipboard on Ponant Cruise - Return air ticket Santiago/Ushuaia v.v
- 24 hour room service (special selection)
- Butler service (special selection)
- Free unlimited WIFI onboard
- Evening entertainment and events

Not included

- International air ticket

- Airport transfer
- Gratuities

Sailings and suites are reserved with Sedunia Travel Cruise:
https://cruise.seduniatravel.com/trip/16d15n-in-the-wake-of-jean-baptiste-charcot/

Speak with a specialist

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