



The Great Austral Loop

Ushuaia to Ushuaia | Le Soleal / L'Austral | 16days / 15nights | From AUD 15,340pp

Antarctica looms large in the imagination of adventure seekers and travellers. And until recently Antarctica was like a ghost on the world map – untouched and out of reach. Today the continent remains untouched but it's entirely within your reach aboard a Ponant luxury expedition yacht.

Why cruise with Ponant?

- Leaders in Polar Expeditions – Ponant carries more guests to Antarctica each year than anyone else – and more than 20 years cruising the world
- Travel aboard the most ecological & modern fleet in the world
- Naturalist experts inform & guide using Zodiacs and on shore expeditions
- Included flights to/from Buenos Aires, transfers, full board, open bar on board, shore landings & lectures

Welcome to the world of Ponant

Discover the treasures of the land by sea on board luxurious yachts that are built on an intimate scale for discerning travellers. With a French crew, attentive service and focus on gastronomy, this is expedition cruising at its authentic and sophisticated best.

Dates

The Great Austral Loop itinerary has a duration of 16 days (15 nights). Please contact us for further Ponant Antarctica cruises.

Departure Date	Ship
15 Nov 2019	L'Austral
3 Nov 2020	Le Soleal
28 Nov 2020	Le Soleal
19 Jan 2021	L'Austral

Itinerary

Highlights

- Landscapes: moors scattered with moss and lichen, white-sand beaches and turquoise waters in the Falkland Islands; alpine landscapes, lush green plains and suspended glaciers in South Georgia; drifting icebergs, ice floe, glaciers and snow-capped mountains in the Antarctic Peninsula.
- Incredible wildlife – black-browed albatrosses, snowy albatrosses, Magellanic penguins, Gentoo penguins and southern rockhopper penguins in the Falkland Islands; king penguins, elephant seals, fur seals and macaroni penguins in South Georgia; humpback whales, Gentoo penguins, Adelie penguins, chinstrap penguins, leopard seals, crabeater seals and Weddell seals in the Antarctic Peninsula.
- The unspoiled treasures of the Weddell Sea.
- Outings & shore visits in Zodiac inflatables with a team of experienced naturalist guides
- Lectures & information sessions hosted by naturalist guides

Itinerary

An exceptional polar expedition cruise to discover the most beautiful sites of these southern lands.

You will set sail from the fascinating city of Ushuaia, which the Argentinians call El fin del mundo (the end of the world).

First, you will chart a course for the Falkland Islands, whose wild beauty and lush moors are sure to captivate you, before heading to South Georgia, its impressive glaciers and its black-sand beaches where large colonies of king penguins have taken up residence.

You will then sail to the White Continent, realm of the unexpected. Weather and ice conditions permitting, this extreme environment where nature reigns supreme will reveal to you its most beautiful secrets through numerous discoveries.

Gentoo, Adelie and chinstrap penguins, humpback whales, seals and seabirds: these are some of the encounters you will most likely have the chance to experience in the Antarctic Peninsula, creating indelible memories.

Each day, whether on land, aboard your ship or during a Zodiac outing, you will be surrounded by a grandiose decor ranging from icebergs to ice floe and ancient glaciers.

Details

Day 1 Ushuaia (Argentina) - Embark from 16h00 to 17h00

Day 2 At Sea

Day 3 New Island and Grave Cove (Falkland Islands)

Day 4 At Sea

Day 5 At Sea

Day 6 South Georgia (South Georgia)

Day 7 South Georgia (South Georgia)

Day 8 South Georgia (South Georgia)

Day 9 At Sea

Day 10 At Sea

Day 11 Antarctic Peninsula (Antarctica)

Day 12 Antarctic Peninsula (Antarctica)

Day 13 Antarctic Peninsula (Antarctica)

Day 14 Crossing the Drake Passage

Day 15 Crossing the Drake Passage

Day 16 Ushuaia (Argentina) Disembark at 07h00

Please note: itinerary subject to ice and weather conditions. The expedition highlights and itineraries described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed.

Inclusions

- Top quality meals during the voyage
- Open bar – house wine, champagne, beer & non-alcoholic options
- Domestic flights, transfers & taxes (Buenos Aires/Ushuaia /Buenos Aires) in economy class
- Activities/shore excursions as specified
- Lectures and presentations by expedition leaders & naturalist staff
- Complimentary polar parka for you to keep (waterproof boots on loan)
- Park entry fees into protected areas
- Transfers & port charges

Map



Your cruise ships – Le Soleal and L’Austral

Ponant ships embody the subtle alliance between luxury, intimacy and wellbeing. The elegance of her exterior and interior lines and her intimate size (only 132 staterooms and suites) make this a rare and innovative yacht on the cruise market.

All ships feature:

- Restaurants x 2
- Lounges x 2
- Open-air Bar
- Theatre, Fitness & Beauty Rooms, and Leisure Area

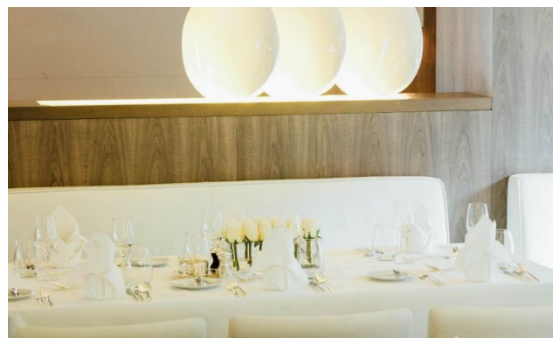
Le Soleal & L’Austral:

Cabins	Area	Price From*
Superior Staterooms	21m ²	\$15,340
Deluxe Stateroom	18m ² +4m ²	\$16,370
Prestige Stateroom	18m ² +4m ²	\$18,050
Deluxe Suite	27m ² +6m ²	\$26,550
Prestige Suite	36m ² +8m ²	\$28,680
Owners Suite	45m ² +9m ²	\$50,940

**prices are AUD per person, twin share, and is are subject to change, availability and departure dates.*

All cabins include:

- Private balcony (ex. Superior Staterooms)
- Individually-controlled air-conditioning
- King-size bed or twin beds and Shower
- Flat screen satellite TV, DVD, CD and Ipod players and Video on demand
- Desk with stationery, Minibar, Safe Hairdryer, Bath robes, Satellite direct line telephone, 110/220 volts outlet
- French bath products
- 24hr room service, Internet Access WIFI



** Images are provided by Ponant. The interior is the L’Austral and Le Soleal ships.*

Other things you need to know

Expedition programmes include activities such as Zodiac® outings and landings (sometimes with "wet landing"), moderate walks to more active hikes, all accompanied by your expedition team of naturalist guides.

Ports of call, visited sites, outings and landings will depend on weather conditions, position of ice, winds and the state of the sea. These can force a change of plans at any time. The Captain and the Expedition Leader may at any time cancel or stop any activity, or even modify the itinerary. The final itinerary will be confirmed by the Captain, who will take into account the touristic quality of the sites and above all, the safety of the passengers. His decision will be based on advice from experts and authorities.

Travelling to polar/isolated regions is an exhilarating experience in remote areas: please remember that you are far from modern hospitals with full medical facilities, thus evacuation is extremely expensive. Without adequate medical coverage, all expenses will have to be immediately paid with your personal funds. We urge you to subscribe to full coverage insurance, choose your insurance company very carefully, be extremely vigilant and ensure your insurance is fully comprehensive, especially if you are insured by your credit card.

Clothing tips:

- A Ponant polar water-resistant parka is offered on board for all departures
- Half calf rubber boots with non-slip soles, which will allow you to go ashore in 20 cm of cold water, keeping your feet dry for walks and visits on steep paths. Boot rental will be offered onboard (for adults only) on Expedition cruises. Book your boots up to 7 days prior to departure
- Comfortable trousers: classic Winter trousers, warm cotton tracksuit, wool leggings
- Waterproof and windproof over-trousers – Mandatory
- Winter trousers with waterproof over trousers are the ideal combination: water-resistance and comfort of trousers are essential
- Pullover, sweat-shirt or fleece jacket
- Woollen or thermolactyl Thermal underwear
- A warm hat, woollen ear muffs or fleece ear muffs, fleece or woollen neck warmer (avoid scarves that do not stay in place)- Mandatory
- Wool or silk glove liners, water-resistant and supple gloves
- Thick warm socks (ideally woollen)

Accessories:

- Small waterproof backpack (to protect your camera from water).
- Binoculars (strongly recommended for wildlife viewing).
- Highly protective sunglasses.
- Walking poles (highly recommended).



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