

ANTARCTICA & GRAND SOUTH AMERICA

including the South Georgia Islands, Machu Picchu & Galapagos Islands

MARCH / APRIL 2023



PONANT
YACHT CRUISES & EXPEDITIONS

From the eerie silence of Antarctica to the raucous call of Blue Footed Boobies in the Galapagos Islands and the stupendous sight of the citadel of Machu Pichu - our tour of South America has few parallels. The sheer breadth of included sights and experiences leaves you with little to do other than relax and immerse yourself in this journey of a lifetime, including the Belmond Andean Explorer.

42-NIGHT ESCORTED JOURNEY FEATURING ANTARCTICA ABOARD L'AUSTRAL



MAR 2023 ITINERARY

WED 01	Depart Australia on your flight to Buenos Aires via Santiago Buenos Aires - On arrival at Ezeiza International Airport transfer to your hotel. Evening at leisure Overnight: Sofitel Buenos Aires Recoleta (or similar)
THU 02	Buenos Aires - After breakfast join your sightseeing tour. Drive down 9 de Julio Ave, the widest avenue in the world, past the famous Colon Opera House and Obelisk to Plaza de Mayo (May Square). View Government House, Metropolitan Cathedral and the colonial town hall built in 1751. Head to La Boca and the colourful 'Caminito' street. Continue to Recoleta elegant district to visit the Recoleta Cemetery where Eva Peron is laid to rest. Tonight you will experience one of the best Tango shows in Buenos Aires - Tango Porteño including a one hour tango lesson, dinner and show. Overnight: Sofitel Buenos Aires Recoleta (or similar) - B,D
FRI 03	Buenos Aires - Today you will visit one of the Gaucho Farms (Argentine cowboys). This full day tour will take you out of the city of Buenos Aires and into the Pampas (countryside) to spend a day on a Gaucho farm. Enjoy a typical "asado criollo" (barbecue) with wine followed by a folklore show featuring the traditional music and dances and a gaucho skills demonstration. Overnight: Sofitel Buenos Aires Recoleta (or similar) - B,L
SAT 04	Buenos Aires - Full day at leisure to explore the Paris of the South. Overnight: Sofitel Buenos Aires Recoleta (or similar) - B
SUN 05	Buenos Aires to Ushuaia - Transfer from Hotel to Aeroparque Domestic Airport for your private flight to Ushuaia, the capital of Argentina's Tierra del Fuego province. Ushuaia is considered the gateway to the White Continent and the South Pole. This city at the end of the world is situated where the Andes plunge straight into the sea and is one of the most fascinating places on Earth. Board Ponant's L'Austral this afternoon - depart 6pm
MON 06 & TUE 07	Drake Passage - 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. Keep an eye out for albatrosses, cape petrels, and other seabirds.
WED 08 to FRI 10	Antarctic Peninsula - Succumb to the magic of a place unlike any other. Find yourself in the heart of spectacular scenery 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. Zodiac® outings or landings are organised subject to ice conditions. Encounter glaciers, ice floes, tabletop icebergs, mountain peaks that plunge straight into the sea, volcanic beaches, research stations and vestiges of the whaling industry.
SAT 11 & SUN 12 - At sea	
MON 13 to WED 15	South Georgia - discover South Georgia, a region formed by an underwater mountain chain that extends from the Andes to the Antarctic Peninsula. You are likely to see King and Gentoo penguins, elephant and 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.
THU 16 to SUN 19 - At sea	
MON 20	Montevideo - disembark L'Austral and enjoy a sightseeing tour of Montevideo. In the Old City you will see the different architectural styles such as Art Nouveau and Art Deco. Visit Plaza Independencia, which contains the remains of the national hero Jose Gervasio Artigas, and then continue to the Legislative Palace.

CONT'D

	You will also visit the traditional Prado neighborhood, Punta Gorda, and other residential areas. The tour finishes in the famous Mercado del Puerto where you can have lunch in one of the famous grills. After lunch check in to your hotel. Overnight: Hyatt Centric Montevideo (or similar) - B
TUE 21	Montevideo to San Carlos de Bariloche - transfer to the airport for your flight to San Carlos de Bariloche via Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to our hotel. Overnight: Liao Liao Resort Golf & Spa Lodge (or similar) - B
WED 22	San Carlos de Bariloche - Bariloche is a city at the foothills of the Andes in Argentina's Lakes District. Bariloche is surrounded by several lakes and mountains. Today we will tour this area and its stunning scenery of glittering lakes, lush forests and snow-covered peaks. Stop at the small village of Villa Traful for lunch. Continue through the Portezuelo pass to visit the Río Bonito waterfall before returning to Bariloche. Overnight: Liao Liao Resort Golf & Spa Lodge (or similar) - B
THU 23	San Carlos de Bariloche to Puerto Varas - This morning enjoy a cruise on Lake Nahuel Huapi. After lunch travel to Puerto Alegre for a ferry crossing to Puerto Frías then travel through the Vicente Pérez Rosales pass to cross Todos Los Santos Lake by ferry. Continue by coach to Puerto Varas or "La Ciudad de las Rosas" (the City of Roses) was founded in 1854 by German immigrants. Influences can be seen particularly in the architecture of wooden buildings such as the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. Overnight: Cumbres Puerto Varas Hotel (or similar) - B
FRI 24	Puerto Varas - Today travel to Puerto Montt and tour the city including the main square, Cathedral and markets. Continue along the Pan-American highway back to Puerto Varas and tour San Francisco street and its parish church, main square and Casino Municipal. Head north to the city of Llanquihue and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting the Museo de la Colonización Alemana and the handicrafts fair. Overnight: Cumbres Puerto Varas Hotel (or similar) - B,L
SAT 25	Puerto Varas to Quito - Transfer to the airport for your flight to Quito via Santiago and Lima. On arrival transfer to our hotel. Overnight: Casa Gangotena (or similar) - B
SUN 26	Quito - Today enjoy a half-day tour of the historic centre of Quito including the ornate San Francisco Church and Convent which features a majestic choral area and a gorgeous crown-like dome and walk through the San Francisco Plaza. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight: Casa Gangotena (or similar) - B
MON 27	Quito to Baltra - Transfer to the airport for your flight to Baltra. Transfer by ferry to Santa Cruz Island. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant then travel by coach to El Chato Reserve to view giant tortoises in their natural habitat. You may also spot some highland birds such as cattle egrets, mockingbirds, finches and flycatchers. Travel to Puerto Ayora to board M/Y La Pinta. After an introductory briefing including the expedition plan, join your fellow travellers for a welcome cocktail party and dinner. Overnight aboard La Pinta - B,L,D
TUE 28	Santa Cruz Island, Sombrero Chino - After breakfast disembark (wet landing) at a beautiful olivine beach (a volcanic crystal that forms in fast-cooling lava). Walk to an old water hole used by the former settlers where you may spot boobies and take in the beautiful views of the northwest side of Santa Cruz Island. Return to the ship for lunch. Visit the islet of Sombrero Chino with its crescent-shaped white sandy beach. Several species of shorebirds can be spotted along with marine iguanas, lava lizards, Galápagos penguins and sally lightfoot crabs. The cove offers excellent swimming and snorkelling opportunities. Overnight aboard La Pinta - B,L,D



CONT'D WED 29	Bartolomé Island, James Island - Disembark at Bartolomé Island (dry landing) for a hike to the summit. This is a steep climb up a wooden staircase with handrails and several resting and observation stops; the view from the top is worth the effort. Following the walk, a dinghy ride around colossal Pinnacle Rock, is rewarding, followed by time to enjoy the beach (wet landing) and some snorkelling, with possible Galápagos penguin sightings. You may also take a ride on the glass-bottom boat for great views of the underwater wildlife. Lunch is onboard. This afternoon travel to Sullivan Bay on the east coast of James Island. This is the perfect place to see and feel the volcanic origin of Galápagos. Overnight aboard La Pinta - B,L,D
THU 30	Genovesa Island - This morning make a wet landing for an easy stroll observing thousands of birds, mainly frigate birds, red footed and masked boobies, gulls, herons, finches and mockingbirds. You may wish to join a walk over lava flows for dramatic views, or return to the beach to enjoy swimming, snorkelling or kayaking at this beautiful natural harbour. Lunch on board. This afternoon join a hike to the other side of this small island, observing large colonies of masked boobies, frigate birds and storm petrels. Tonight join your fellow travellers for a farewell cocktail party and departure briefing before dinner. Overnight aboard La Pinta - B,L,D
FRI 31	Baltra to Lima - Disembark on Baltra Island then transfer to the airport for your flight to Lima via Quito. Overnight: Costa Del Sol Wyndham Airport (or similar) - B
APR 2023 SAT 01	Lima, Cuzco to Sacred Valley - After breakfast return to the airport for your flight to Cuzco. On arrival transfer to your hotel located in the Sacred Valley surrounded by the high Andes. Overnight: Belmond Hotel Rio Sagrado (or similar) - B
SUN 02	Sacred Valley, Moray, Ollantaytambo - This morning visit Moray, a fascinating archaeological site. Its huge concentric terraces were used by the Incas as a botanical laboratory. Then, you will visit the Andean Misminay community, where your local hosts will welcome you with music and dancing, invite you to experience a touch of their daily life activities and serve you a delicious meal made with native products. After lunch continue to Ollantaytambo. After exploring the archaeological complex which is one of the largest in Peru you have time to explore the town which retains much of its original Incan urban layout, buildings, narrow stone streets and market. Overnight: Belmond Hotel Rio Sagrado (or similar) - B,L
MON 03	Cuzco, Urubamba, Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes - Transfer to Ollantaytambo Railway Station and board the Vista Dome train for your journey to Aguas Calientes. Your guide will provide a short briefing. After a short walk through this bustling town you'll join a bus for a 30 minute journey to Machu Picchu. You will be guided through the ruins including the Temple of the Sun, Botanical Garden, Sacred Rock and the Temple of Condor. After your visit you will have lunch at the Belmond Sanctuary Lodge restaurant before returning to Aguas Calientes or explore the citadel on your own until sunset. Overnight: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel (or similar) - B,L
TUE 04	Aguas Calientes to Cuzco - This morning is at leisure. Perhaps visit the local thermal baths or shop for souvenirs. In the afternoon you board the Vistadome Train for your journey back to Cuzco. On arrival transfer to your hotel. Overnight: Belmond Monasterio Del Cusco (or similar) - B
WED 05	Cuzco - This morning you will explore the city of Cusco starting at the San Pedro market. Continue to the Koricancha Temple, an ancient Inca palace. Next stop will be at the Fortress of Sacsayhuaman, an impressive example of Inca military architecture before stopping at the Q'enqo archaeological site.

CONT'D	The tour concludes at Plaza de Armas (main square) where you will visit the impressive Cathedral, the most important in the city. Overnight: Belmond Monasterio Del Cusco (or similar) - B,L,D
THU 06	Cuzco to Puno - Transfer to the station to board the Belmond Andean Explorer. Relax in your luxurious cabin as the train begins its journey. Enjoy lunch in one of the elegant dining cars before disembarking at Raqch'i to explore its fascinating Incan archaeological site. This evening take in the views over the La Raya Mountain range before dinner. Afterward perhaps join your fellow travellers in the bar car as the train continues to Lake Titicaca, where it will stable for the evening. Overnight: Belmond Andean Explorer - B,L,D
FRI 07	Puno to Saracocha - If you're up early you might catch the sunrise across Lake Titicaca, before enjoying breakfast on board. Today's you will explore Lake Titicaca, the largest lake in South America. Take a boat ride to the man-made Uros Islands, carefully created from woven reeds that are constantly being replenished. Continue on to Taquile island where the way of life is barely touched by time. Enjoy a private lunch on Collata Beach, with demonstrations from traditional dancers. Return to the train for tea as your journey continues on to Arequipa. You may wish to disembark and explore on your own before dinner onboard. Overnight: Belmond Andean Explorer - B,L,D
SAT 08	Saracocha to Arequipa - Enjoy breakfast before setting off on an early-morning excursion to the rugged scenery of Lake Lagunillas. Afterwards visit Sumbay Caves, home to fascinating cave paintings that are estimated to be almost 8,000 years old. Return to the train for lunch as the train continues to Arequipa. After arrival enjoy a panoramic city tour. The city centre is a UNESCO World Heritage area with its baroque churches and colonial style mansions. Overnight: Costa Del Sol Arequipa Hotel (or similar) - B,L
SUN 09	Arequipa to Santiago - This morning tour the town and take in the views of the nearby volcanoes. Visit the Santa Catalina Monastery, founded in 1580, where you'll explore its cloisters, streets and squares, then continue to the historic Main Square. This evening transfer to the airport for your overnight flight to Santiago via Lima.
MON 10	Santiago - On arrival join a half-day walking tour exploring the city's downtown, Bellas Artes Museum, Cerro Santa Lucia, Mercado Central, Plaza de Armas, Financial District, Presidential Palace and Paris-London District. Afternoon is at leisure. Tonight you will be transferred to the airport for your early morning flight home to Australia. - B Hotel: Cumbres Lastarria (or similar)
TUE 11	Santiago - Your flight departs early this morning to Australia
WED 12	Arrive Australia





INCLUSIONS

- ✦ Return Economy Class airfare from Sydney to Buenos Aires and from Santiago including all taxes and fees. Fares from other cities available on request
- ✦ 4-nights Buenos Aires accommodation at the Sofitel Recoleta[‡]
- ✦ Extensive Buenos Aires sightseeing as per the itinerary
- ✦ Private charter flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia
- ✦ 15-night all-inclusive expedition aboard L'Austral including Antarctic Zodiac landings
- ✦ Half-day Montevideo sightseeing tour
- ✦ 1-night Montevideo accommodation at the Hyatt Centric[‡]
- ✦ Economy Class airfare from Montevideo to San Carlos Bariloche
- ✦ 2-nights San Carlos Bariloche accommodation at the Llao Llao Resort Golf & Spa Lodge[‡]
- ✦ Full day sightseeing tour including Bariloche, local lakes and villages
- ✦ Cruise on Lake Nahuel Huapi
- ✦ Ferry crossing of Todos Los Santos Lake
- ✦ 2-nights Puerto Varas accommodation at the Cumbres Puerto Varas Hotel[‡]
- ✦ Sightseeing tour including Puerto Varas, Puerto Montt and Llanquihue
- ✦ Economy Class airfare from Puerto Varas to Quito
- ✦ 2-nights Quito accommodation at the Casa Gangotena Hotel[‡]
- ✦ Half-day sightseeing tour of Quito
- ✦ Economy Class airfare from Quito to Baltra
- ✦ 4 night cruise aboard M/Y La Pinta including all onboard meals, lectures and shore excursions
- ✦ Economy Class airfare from Baltra to Lima
- ✦ 1-night Lima accommodation at the Costa Del Sol Wyndham Airport[‡]
- ✦ Economy Class airfare from Lima to Cuzco
- ✦ 2-nights Sacred Valley accommodation at the Belmond Hotel Rio Sagrado[‡]
- ✦ Full-day sightseeing tour including Moray and Ollantaytambo with lunch
- ✦ Travel on the Vista Dome Train from Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes
- ✦ Half-day sightseeing tour of Machu Picchu
- ✦ Lunch at the Sanctuary Lodge, A Belmond Hotel, Machu Picchu
- ✦ 1-night Aguas Calientes accommodation at the Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel[‡]
- ✦ Travel on the Vista Dome Train from Aguas Calientes to Cuzco
- ✦ 2-nights Cuzco accommodation at the Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, Cusco[‡]
- ✦ Full-day sightseeing tour of Cuzco including San Pedro Market, Koricancha Temple, Fortress of Sacsayhuaman, Q'enqo archaeological site, Plaza de Armas and Cathedral
- ✦ 3 days all-inclusive journey aboard the Andean Explorer, A Belmond Train, Peru, including all meals and drinks
- ✦ Off-train touring at Raqch'i, Lake Titicaca, Lake Lagunillas and Arequipa
- ✦ 1 night Arequipa accommodation at the Costa Del Sol Arequipa Hotel[‡]
- ✦ Economy Class airfare from Arequipa to Santiago
- ✦ 1-night Santiago accommodation at the Cumbres Lastarria Hotel[‡]
- ✦ Half-day walking tour of Santiago
- ✦ All applicable airfare taxes and fees
- ✦ Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- ✦ Group transfers throughout
- ✦ Cruise Express Tour Director

#Or similar

Inclusions vary according to your chosen itinerary.



TOUR	FARES	
Antarctica & Grand South America 01 March to 12 April - 42 nights Buenos Aires, Antarctica, Montevideo, Lakes Crossing, Galapagos, Machu Picchu, plus Belmond Andean Explorer	Superior Deluxe Prestige	\$42,490* \$43,490* \$44,990*
Antarctica & Highlights of South America 01 March to 09 April - 38 nights Buenos Aires, Antarctica, Montevideo, Lakes Crossing, Galapagos, Machu Picchu	Superior Deluxe Prestige	\$38,990* \$39,990* \$40,990*
Grand South America 20 March to 12 April - 23 nights Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Lakes Crossing, Galapagos, Machu Picchu, plus Belmond Andean Explorer		\$25,990*
Highlights of South America 20 March to 09 April - 20 nights Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Lakes Crossing, Galapagos, Machu Picchu		\$21,990*

Fares are per person twin share. Solo Fares are available on request



To find out more call **1300 766 537**
www.cruiseexpress.com.au/antarctica-grand-2023



*Fares and inclusions are per person in AUD. Fares are subject to availability and may change at any time. This tour is subject to minimum group numbers being achieved. Ask your Travel Specialist for details. Cruise Express reserves the right to make changes to any details outlined in this brochure, without notice. Conditions apply, full Terms & Conditions are available on our website and on request.