



## **JOURNEY OVERVIEW**

Weddell Sea luxury cruises offer an incredible opportunity to witness Antarctica's iconic wildlife and landscapes by visiting the quickly disappearing Larsen Ice Shelf. The adventure begins in Ushuaia, the charming Argentine town that sits on the Southern tip of the American landmass. You will explore Tierra del Fuego National Park, visit the penguin rookery on Martillo Island, and discover the highlights of the colorful town center. Then, begin your Weddell Sea and Larsen Ice Shelf luxury cruise aboard the Commandant Charcot by sailing across the Drake Passage. During your time cruising in Antarctica, you will embark on daily hiking, zodiac, or kayaking excursions to discover the dramatic landscapes of the far south. During your downtime aboard, attend lectures by expert naturalist guides, participate in discussion groups, and enjoy the amenities of the luxurious ship. After passing the South Shetland Islands, you will encounter the regal icebergs and massive ice plates that mark the entrance to the Weddell Sea. Cruise through the eerily still area, glimpsing the seals and seabirds that call the Weddell Sea home before arriving at the Larsen Ice Shelf, which is breaking apart at an alarming rate. After discovering the importance of this impressive site. you will reverse course and return northward, crossing the Drake Passage and arriving in Ushuaia once more.

#### A Taste of Blue Parallel's Insider Access

- Private, custom-made adventures in Tierra del Fuego
- Overall personal logistical assistance before and after cruise
- Custom-made pre- and post- cruise extensions designed by experts in the region

#### **The Discovery**

- Ushuaia
- Drake Passage & South Shetland Islands
- North Antarctic Peninsula & Antarctic Sound
- Weddell Sea & Larsen Ice Shelf

#### The Adventure

- Hiking
- Wildlife
- Ice floes & shelves
- Polar explorations

Duration When to go?

14 Days JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

DESTINATIONS TRAVEL TIME

USHUAIA USHUAIA 11 nights / 12 days





# **PHOTOGRAPHY**















# LUXURY CRUISE TO WEDDELL SEA AND LARSEN ICE SHELF ABOARD THE COMMANDANT CHARCOT

Please note: This private tour to Antarctica is an example, as all of our luxury journeys are custom-made.

Please contact us to start planning your custom-made private adventure of a lifetime.

#### **Ushuaia** (2 nights)

Upon your arrival in Ushuaia, head straight to Tierra del Fuego National Park, where you will begin your discovery of the far southern latitudes with your expert guide. In the national park, canoe down the Lapataia River from Lake Roca. Along the way, admire the region's unique flora, such as evergreen beech, winter's bark, and fire bush, before arriving at Laguna Verde, one of the most breathtaking spots in the national park.

The following day, head to the penguin rookery on Martillo Island, where you will marvel at the bustling colony of Magellanic Penguins at their breeding site. Then, continue to a delicious picnic lunch on Gable Island, the largest island in the Beagle Channel, before taking a light hike to spot seabirds such as petrels, skuas, cormorants, seagulls, and albatross.

#### **Luxury Cruise to the Weddell Sea, Antarctica (11 nights)**

During your final morning in Ushuaia, explore the highlights of the town's colorful center before boarding Le Commandant Charcot in the afternoon. This luxury vessel features elegantly designed common areas and staterooms that will provide a comfortable journey toward the South Pole in the days to come. In addition, the ship boasts an indoor pool, spa, and fitness area, along with indoor and outdoor lounges and multiple dining options.

The adventure begins as your captain steers you across the Drake Passage. As you cruise further and further south, your expert naturalist guides will organize lectures to provide you with interesting facts and background about the enigmatic Antarctic region that you're about to experience.

After navigating the Drake Passage, you will arrive at the South Shetland Islands. There, discover a dreamlike landscape of jagged volcanic rock that contrasts against gentle snow-covered slopes. As you get your first taste of Antarctica during land, zodiac, and kayaking excursions, witness firsthand the many animal species that reside on the island, including seals, penguins, terns, and giant petrels. Next, continue across the Antarctic Sound to arrive at the North Antarctic peninsula. There, you will marvel at the enormous drifting icebergs and plates of floating ice that mark the gateway to the Weddell Sea.

The following day, you will cruise across the unearthly Weddell Sea. This area is characterized by a stark, silent landscape of towering ice punctuated by the Weddell seal calls, which congregate in the area alongside penguins and wandering albatrosses. Finally, on the seventh day of the cruise, arrive at the Larsen Ice Shelves, which are critical in preventing erosion of the Antarctic Ice Sheet. However, cracks in the ice shelves have become more common over the past few decades, and large portions have separated from the main ice mass. After you explore the Larsen Ice Shelves, you will return northward, passing once more through the ice floes of the Weddell sea and the Drake Passage before disembarking Le Commandant Charcot in Ushuaia.



## **ABOUT BLUE PARALLEL**

## Blue Parallel is a bespoke luxury travel boutique.



Our mission is to take discerning, time-constrained travelers to the most spectacular natural and cultural wonders of Latin America, the Mediterranean, and the Polar Regions.



We create private, tailor-made journeys that focus on UNESCO World Heritage Sites, insider access experiences, and extraordinary outdoor adventures.



Since launching in 2003, we have become the go-to service for luxury travelers searching for top-of-the-line experiential journeys. We have been selected as an A-list Top Travel Advisor by Travel + Leisure every year since 2009, and are proudly part of the leading luxury travel network Virtuoso and their Ultraluxe Community (a by-invitation-only membership for the industry's most exclusive services and providers). We have hosted numerous eminent travelers since our inception and are frequently featured in prestigious international publications.



Blue Parallel journeys feature breathtaking outdoor adventures led by expert guides or accomplished athletes. Scuba diving in the Belize Reef, biking through Berber villages in the Atlas Mountains, ice-trekking on the Perito Moreno Glacier, dog sledding in Lapland, rafting on the Pacuare River in Costa Rica, and hiking the fjords of Norway are only a few examples of the extraordinary outdoor adventures we incorporate in our tailor-made itineraries. We take great satisfaction in designing custom-made adventures of a lifetime.



At Blue Parallel, we open doors to unique opportunities that match our travelers' interests. Our team travels year-round, seeking out the most intriguing insider experiences. Over the years, we have developed invaluable relationships with esteemed scholars, acclaimed artists, Olympic athletes, renowned chefs, directors of historical and natural landmarks, as well as with local leaders in politics and business, to name just a few examples.



Privacy has always been a top priority in all aspects of a Blue Parallel journey. Exclusive accommodations range from remote, fully-serviced villas in Iceland, a lighthouse on a private island in Norway, or a luxury private camp in the Sahara Desert. Examples of private custom experiences include an after-hours tour of the Alhambra in Andalucia, chartering a luxury yacht in the Galapagos Islands, or taking a private train ride to Machu Picchu. We can provide all these ultimate exclusive experiences and more so that our travelers can have the option to enjoy some of the world's most spectacular sights without the crowds.



Blue Parallel travelers are assigned a dedicated team comprised of:

- A personal travel expert
- A personal host in each destination
- Expert on-site guides and scholars
- Behind-the-scenes logistical experts to monitor every step of the journey
   We are on call for our travelers 24-hours a day during their trip, ensuring a smooth and stress-free experience. Whatever happens, our team is one step ahead, and we provide the flexibility to change the program during the journey, if need be.

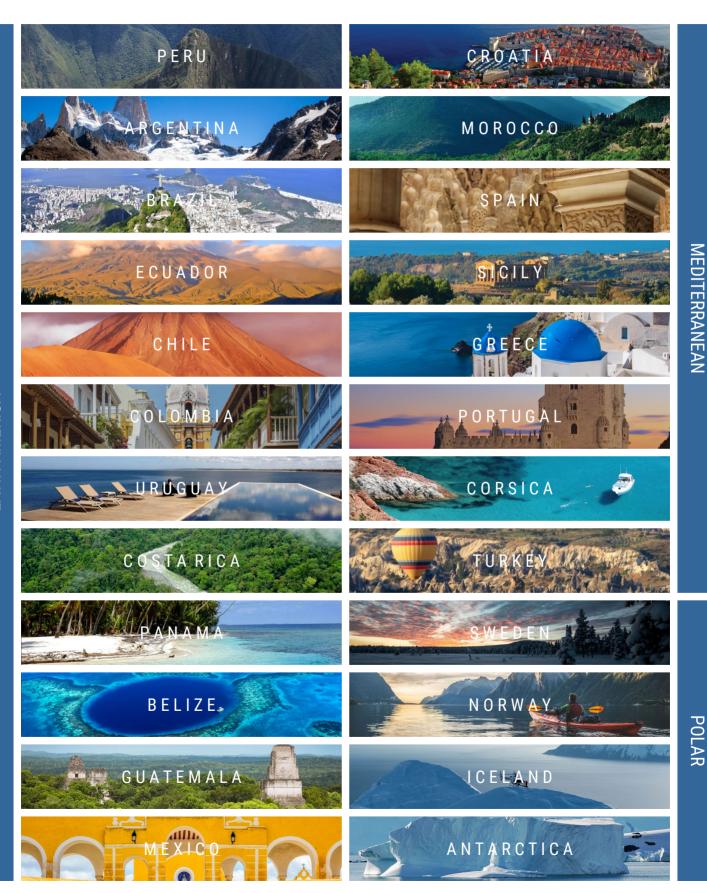
#### **CERTAINTY IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD**

Blue Parallel's expertise and our obsession with details offer certainty in an uncertain world. We have almost 2 decades of experience handling unforeseen circumstances, and the recent pandemic has only increased the significant value of having our dedicated teams offer limitless support to our travelers before, during, and after their journeys.

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## **BLUE PARALLEL IN THE MEDIA**

Bloomberg CENTURION **Traveler** 

elite*traveler* Forbes DEPARTURES

FOOD&WINE

LUXURY

Robb Report

TRAVEL+ VOGUE

## START PLANNING

We are experts in creating inspiring tailor-made itineraries. We will take your vision, try to enhance it, and then make your dream trip a reality. You can call us at 1-301-263-6670 Monday-Friday | 9 AM -5PM ET, or send us an email to info@blueparallel.com.

#### How it all works

## Contact us

Give us a call or send us an email in order to connect with one of our expert travel advisors.

## **Initial Consultation**

We will ask you questions about your dream trip, make recommendations, and answer any questions you may have.

# **Summary Itinerary Outline**

We will check availability for your preferred travel dates with our favorite accommodations and then provide you with a recommended summary trip outline.

# **Detailed Itinerary Proposal**

Upon your approval of the summary outline, we will make tentative reservations and create a detailed custom-made itinerary with pricing documentation for your review.

# **Booking Procedures**

If you would like Blue Parallel to secure your itinerary, we will email you our booking procedures and kindly request a deposit payment.

#### **Pre-Trip Support** 6

Closer to your travel dates, we will mail you a personalized travel package to ensure you are fully prepared for your journey.

# **During the Trip**

While you are traveling, our team will be available to assist you with anything you may need at any time.

# **Post-Trip Debrief**

After your journey, we would kindly ask to schedule a "debriefing call" to hear your feedback. Alternatively, you could fill in an online survey.

We will do our very best to surpass your expectations every step of the way. Most of our travelers are repeat travelers - we take great pride in forging long-term relationships with our savvy guests.