

untold story

Eclipsing the Midnight Sun

To the Ends of the Earth and Beyond

20th November - 17th December 2021



Eclipsing the Midnight Sun
To the End of the Earth and Beyond

25 Days

INTRODUCTION

This is a journey of compelling contrasts. Move from Buenos Aires, the vibrant beating heart of Argentina to the sunny climes of the Mendoza wine region, brooded over by the snow-dusted peaks of the Andes.

Progress ever southwards to the vast, wild panoramas of the Patagonian steppe, its boundaries protecting the heritage and traditions of a time long past. Venture on to the creaking ice sheets of the Perito Moreno Glacier and through remote corners of the Tierro Fuego National Park before setting sail on a cruise to the bottom of the world.

In early December, a total solar eclipse will occur in the vast, glacial white depths of Antarctica, a place like nowhere else on earth. Total solar eclipses occur when the New Moon comes between the Sun and the Earth and casts the darkest part of its shadow onto the earth. During a full solar eclipse, a time known as totality, it becomes almost as dark as night.

In this harshly beautiful land of extremes, on the southern-most continent on the planet, where the touch of humankind is scarce, you can witness one of earth's most astonishing events.

Join us on a remarkable voyage into the bewitching silence of the Weddell Sea ice pack and savour the incomparable privilege of being in the only place in the world where the total solar eclipse will be visible in its entirety.

Shorter duration itineraries are also available, please ask for further information.



ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

DAY	SUMMARY	ACCOMMODATION
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On arrival in Buenos Aires, you will be met at the boarding bridge and escorted to the VIP Lounge. Enjoy a drink and relax whilst the porters organise your luggage. From here you will be guided through immigration to your private driver.• Embark on a private exploration of Buenos Aires, one of the most intriguing cities in Latin America. Soaring skyscrapers stand cheek-to-jowl with French palaces and colonial architecture.• Learn the dream of local aristocrats as they sought to replicate Paris in the heart of Buenos Aires, visit the Basilica de Nuestra Senor del Pilar, one of the oldest churches in the city and make a stop at the grave of Eva Peron.• After lunch at Casa Cavia, housed within a building that returns the wonders of Belle Epoque to the city, you'll head to the park for a private tango performance.• The remainder of the day is yours to do as you please.	Legado Mitico Buenos Aires
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Today head out on a private guided tour of the southern areas of Buenos Aires.• Visit the Plaza de Mayo, founding site of the city before moving on to San Telmo, one of the oldest neighbourhoods in Buenos Aires. Lose yourself in its vibrant atmosphere, wander the cobbled streets and explore the workshops of local artists and artisans.• In La Boca, one of the most authentic neighbourhoods in Buenos Aires discover mythical Caminito Street. With its vivid street art, tangible passion for football and tango-esque atmosphere it's easy to be swept away in the rhythm of the city.• After lunch, the afternoon is yours to enjoy. Or, perhaps take a private tango lesson and discover the passion and culture that flows through every step of the dance.• This evening a private transfer will take you to Rojo Tango for dinner and a performance of the passionate, glamorous cabaret created by renowned French designer Phillipe Starck.• If the desire takes you why not end the evening uncovering the secrets of the Speakeasy bars with a unique experience at a behind closed doors, prohibition-style bar.	Legado Mitico Buenos Aires

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DAY	SUMMARY	ACCOMMODATION
Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fly from Buenos Aires to Mendoza. On arrival you'll be met by your private guide and transferred to your hotel; the Cavas Wine Lodge, the first of its kind in South America.• The remainder of the day is yours to spend as you please. Perhaps relax with a spa treatment or head out and explore on horseback.• This evening you'll be immersed in a sensory experience at the Rosell Boher Winery. This is a unique take on linking the hearing and tasting senses, where music is used in conjunction with food and wine pairings to reveal new sensations on the palate.• Afterwards enjoy a 3-course meal paired with sparkling wines.	Cavas Wine Lodge
Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With your local guide embark on a full day of winery visits and tastings throughout the Mendoza all curated by Robert Parker, an influential and respected wine critic.• You'll visit three of the most prestigious wineries in Argentina including Casa El Enemigo, Vina Cobos and the Susana Balbo Winery where lunch is included.• Alternatively, we can organise a private hands-on cooking class at Andeluna Winery including wine tastings and lunch.	Cavas Wine Lodge
Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transfer to the airport for your flight to Bariloche, on arrival your guide will take you on a welcome hike that connects you with the people and secrets of Patagonia.• To the sounds of nature, you'll cross the steppe, see the soaring mountains, and follow a gentle trail through the forest. At a private spot with awe-inspiring views you'll be welcomed by Pachi with a mate ritual and homemade delicacies.• Indulge in a tasting of Patagonia truffles as you learn more about the history of Argentine chocolate.• From here you'll head to your hotel, Villa Beluno.	Villa Beluno



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Day 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head into the great outdoors today with a hike along one of the oldest trekking paths in Patagonia. Once regarded as a crossroad to Chile, today it's a place to find adventure amongst the mountains.• Each step reveals a new vista, warming you up for the main event, the Brazo Triesta. At the summit just stand for a while and drink in the views.• A mountain lunch is served before you make your descent.• This afternoon head out on a gentle cycle ride around Circuito Chico, surrounded by native forest and sparkling lakes.	Villa Beluno
Day 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Today has been left free for you to spend at your leisure. Suggested optional touring ideas include: -• A horse riding and kayaking experience at a beautiful Patagonian estancia.• Visit to Victoria Island with hiking, a local school visit and gourmet lunch.• Later this evening enjoy a night under the stars with an astrological experience at a unique location.	Villa Beluno
Day 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transfer to the airport for your flight to El Calafate. On arrival your driver will take you to your hotel – Eolo Patagonia's Spirit, a Relais Chateaux property that truly embodies the spirit of Patagonia.• The remainder of the day is at leisure. The hotel has a wide range of activities available including mountain biking, bird watching, 4WD tours plus trekking and horse-riding tours.	Eolo Patagonia's Spirit
Day 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depart your hotel for the Perito Moreno Glacier, one of 48 glaciers fed by the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. Following a short cruise across Rico Arm you'll meet a specialist mountain guide for your glacier walk.• Walking in small groups you'll follow a two-hour circuit which takes you through a simply stunning landscape of glaciers, gullies and crevice's, streams and tiny lagoons within a world made up with every shade of blue imaginable.• Learn about the flora and fauna and how one phenomenon occurs in the Perito Moreno Glacier and was ultimately responsible for its rupture.	Eolo Patagonia's Spirit

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DAY	SUMMARY	ACCOMMODATION
Day 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depart El Calafate for Ushuaia, the most southerly city in Argentina. On arrival your private transfer will take you to the Arakur Ushuaia Resort & Spa.• Relax and soak up your surroundings for the remainder of the day.	Arakur Ushuaia Resort & Spa
Day 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Today you'll get to experience one of the most remote national parks on earth, the Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego. Although much of the park is protected you will be able to explore hidden corners and see the many diverse eco systems that make up the park.• This afternoon transfer to the port for the start of your eclipse cruise aboard the expedition ship Le Commandant-Charcot.	Le Commandant-Charcot
Days 12-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use your days spent in the Drake Passage to familiarise yourself with your ship and deepen your knowledge of the Antarctic.• Lectures about the history and wildlife of the Antarctic will be an opportunity for you to learn more about this incredible region.• From the ship's bridge, experience what it takes to navigate through the ever changing waters of the Drake Passage, before joining the naturalist-guides on deck to keep watch for albatrosses, cape petrels, and other seabirds flying overhead.	Le Commandant-Charcot
Day 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience the surreal as you sail deep into the heart of the ice floe, a vast expanse of virgin white, immaculate ice.• In this unique habitat the landscapes are ever-changing. One moment you're sailing through a flat wilderness or channels of open water, the next you're surrounded by ice.• As the captain navigates through these naturally open channels take a moment to pause and acknowledge your location, far from the chaos of the everyday, as you drift in the midst of the sea ice.• The flora and fauna seen here is completely dependent on the ice floe.	Le Commandant-Charcot









ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

DAY	SUMMARY	ACCOMMODATION
Day 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You are now close to the Antarctic Circle, submerged in the entrancing silence of the Weddell Sea ice pack.• The Weddell Sea could be described as extreme and captivating. It is a challenge and a privilege to sail on it, with its promise of exceptional landscapes and original encounters. As you advance across this immense polar expanse, you will enter an infinite ice desert, a world of silence where there is nothing but calm and serenity.• When the time for the eclipse draws near, you will disembark on to the ice pack for a once-in-a-lifetime viewing of this this natural phenomenon, as rare as it is exceptional.• As you stand on pack ice, deep in the heart of the world's most remote and unexplored frontier, the full darkness of night will envelop you for a few exceptional moments.	Le Commandant-Charcot
Day 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Against a backdrop of blues and whites the landscapes you sail though in the north of the Antarctic Peninsula are nothing short of spectacular.• Today, you'll travel through the Antarctic Sound, named after Swedish explorer Otto Nordenskjöld's ship, trapped by ice in 1902.• This is the gateway to the Weddell Sea and is a place of giant icebergs and huge plates of sea ice drifting northwards.• Stand on deck as you sail and keep watch for Adelie penguins and the large number of leopard seals that reside here.	Le Commandant-Charcot
Day 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your captain will wend their way through the stillness of the Weddell Sea through a tangle of dense ice floes and, huge icebergs. This landscape is sculpted like no other and gives habitat to fur seals, wandering albatross and penguins plus many more hardy sea birds.• Lord of all they survey is the Weddell seal, recognised by their haunting cry that punctuates sharply through the silence and their dark grey coats and spotted underbellies.	Le Commandant-Charcot



ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

DAY	SUMMARY	ACCOMMODATION
Days 18-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next few days take you close to the mighty Larsen ice shelves, which help prevent the erosion of the Antarctic ice sheet.• Over the last fifty years scientists have observed giant cracks, some several hundred kilometres long and deep. In 2017 a section the size of a small European island broke away, forming one of the largest tabular icebergs in the world. This disintegration is believed in part, to be due to global warming and the melting of the sea ice.	Le Commandant-Charcot
Days 20-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retrace your steps back through the Weddell Sea, you're sailing in the footsteps of history and the explorers who discovered and ventured deep into Antarctica.• Le Commandant-Charcot is equipped with the most up to date oceanographic equipment and facilities needed to accompany a scientific team in its research.• Should you wish you'll have opportunity to assist. Guided by naturalists and a team of experts you can get involved in setting up a station atop an ice floe, take water samples or deploy an Argo marker buoy. Thereby you are making a direct contribution to the global scientific efforts.• Onboard experiences include hovercraft, taking you to the hardest to reach places. With their unique propulsion system ensuring you can explore in total safety they'll take you into the heart of the vast wilderness and live out a moment of total escape.• Step into a kayak and get as close as humanly possible to this pristine environment or explore new panoramas on an ultra-modern, electric snowmobile.	Le Commandant-Charcot
Day 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On the edge of the Antarctic Peninsula, some 70 miles from the White Continent lie the South Shetland Islands.• These volcanic islands of dark rocks and a lunar-esque landscape give shelter to a vast number of species including chinstrap penguins, elephant seals, crabeater seals, giant petrels, and Antarctic terns.• The day will be spent exploring these remote islands.	Le Commandant-Charcot

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DAY	SUMMARY	ACCOMMODATION
Days 23-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If there is one sea, one waterway feared by researchers and hardened seafarers alike, it is unquestionably the 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 from the South Pole meet warmer equatorial water masses, Drake Passage harbours a remarkably 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.	Le Commandant-Charcot
Day 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Le Commandant-Charco arrives in Ushuaia early this morning. After disembarking you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Santiago in Chile. PONANT provide this flight as part of the cruise and seats are in economy class. Please ask us for business class options.• On arrival in Santiago de Chile your private driver will transfer you to your hotel; The Singular Santiago.• Santiago de Chile is the capital of Chile and sits within the Maipo Valley. With a distinctive style filled with museums, world class restaurants and stunning colonial and European architecture, this is one of the most vibrant cities in Latin America.• The remainder of the day is free for you to relax.	The Singular Santiago
Day 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get a feel for the city as you discover the rich history of Santiago with a private guide. Explore the Cultural Centre Palacio de la Monda plus the Museo Historico Nacional, for a walk-through Chilean history.• See the city from a different perspective at the Sky Constanera, standing at 300m high and offering 360° of Santiago.• Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in the Parque Bicentenario Vitacura.• Alternatively, if you like to explore a new city with your feet on the ground, we can organise a private culinary walking tour. Taste the colour and vibrancy of Chilean cuisine and sample the most delicate of Chilean wines. Try empanadas and the oldest drink in Chile, the Chica in a traditional chicheria.	The Singular Santiago
Day 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After breakfast a private transfer will take you to the airport for your departure flight.	





YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Legado Mitico, Buenos Aires

Offering charm and personality by the bucket load the Legado Mitico is a boutique hotel of the highest quality. Set in the Palermo district of the city the hotel is surrounded by vibrant restaurants and bars, boutiques and design houses along with artist galleries and studios.

With just 11 rooms the service here is exceptional and with a decor that takes inspiration from Argentinean history and culture you'll leave Buenos Aires with a real sense of understanding, of both the city and its people.

Cavas Wine Lodge, Mendoza

Created to be the first lodge of its kind in South America this thoughtfully designed lodge sits within a beautiful setting of weeping willows and twisted vines, all within sight of the brooding Andes.

Private villas are dotted through the grounds offering exceptional levels of peace and privacy. Private rooftop terraces, complete with fire places are the perfect place for a spot of sunset gazing, with a glass of the local tippel in hand.

The Moorish-Roman inspired spa offers a retreat from the everyday with a range of treatments and rituals, unique in wine country.



YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Villa Beluno Hotel & Spa, Bariloche

Sitting under the vast blue expanse of the Patagonian skies, Villa Beluna lies on the shores of Nahuel Huapi Lake encircled by the magnificent peaks of the Andes. The careful design of this Italian-style villa blends seamlessly with the natural surroundings.

The infinity edge pool enables indoor and outdoor swimming whilst the day spa offers a range of therapeutic treatments for the weary traveller.

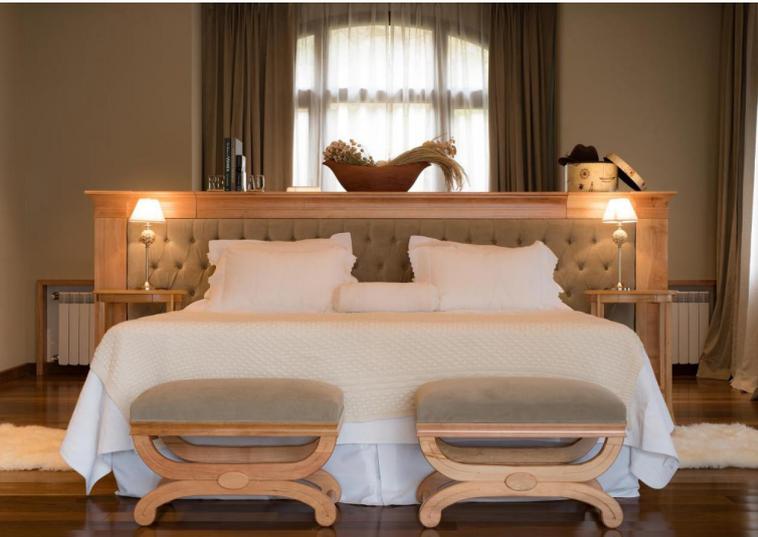
Rooms are beautifully appointed and filled with natural light. Colours are warm and earthy with views over the lake and gardens.

Eolo Patagonia's Spirit

A stay at Eolo truly embraces the spirit of Patagonia. Wherever you are on the 10,000 acre estancia the all-enveloping vastness and wilderness of the steppe will completely absorb you.

The property is a paradise for horse riding, bird watching and trekking. Eolo is not a place of excess or of great extravagance. It's simple, yet elegant design is a nod to the historic estancia's of the region and one which ensures it sits perfectly at ease within its spectacular surroundings.

17 rooms put the view centre stage with restful colours and comfy sofa's set before the picture windows.



YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Arakur Ushuaia Resort & Spa, Ushuaia



Arakur sits in something of a privileged environment on a natural balcony within the natural reserve of Cerro Alarken. With a design that follows the standards of sustainable architecture ensuring protection of the natural surroundings you'll find rooms featuring indigenous Argentine materials, geothermal air conditioning and state of the art technology.



When its time to slow down there's a lap pool, in/out relaxation pool and two hot tubs set on the deck with stunning views.

Rooms are spacious and comfortable with valley or sea views.

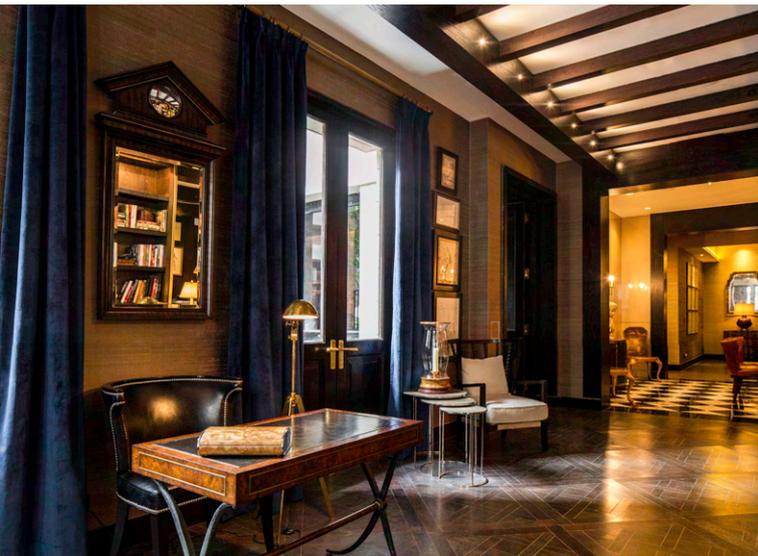
The Singular, Santiago



In the heart of Larrista, Santiago's vibrant artistic and cultural neighbourhood, this hotel is a stylish and elegant place to stay in the city. Excellent service sits alongside distinctive design and architecture and a restaurant which is regarded as one of the finest in Santiago.

Rooms are effortlessly elegant with comfy beds, marble bathrooms and a colour palate leading towards monochrome.

On the roof you'll find a rooftop bar, perfect for cocktails with a view of Cerro San Cristóbal and the city skyline, there's also a rooftop pool and an indulgent spa.



Le Commandant Charcot



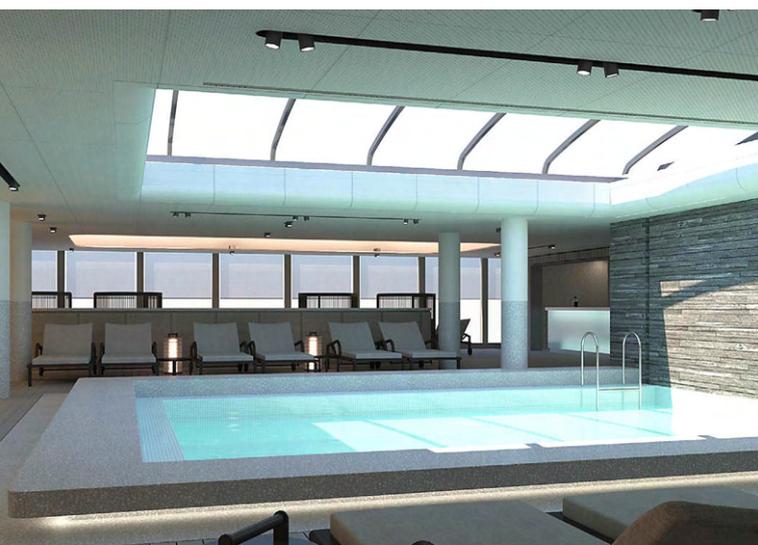
Le Commandant Charcot is the latest addition in expedition cruise vessels to PONANT and enables passengers to follow in the footsteps of legendary polar explorers in style and luxury.

This is the first hybrid-electric polar exploration ship of its kind and has been designed with integrity and respect for the environment and great attention to safety detail.

Onboard you'll find an indoor swimming pool, conservatory and a restaurant with panoramic views. There is also a restaurant for outside dining, a spacious guest lounge and observation lounge. The common theme throughout is the openness allowing natural light and ensuring that the spectacular polar landscapes are centre stage.

135 suites and stateroom offer warm, elegant spaces with views to the outside world and each has a private balcony or terrace.

A fleet of Zodiac® bring ease of access to seldom visited and hard to reach places and a team of environmental and cultural professionals will enrich your cruise experience.



INCLUSIONS

- VIP international arrival service in Buenos Aires
- Private driver/guide transfers throughout
- 2 nights Legado Mitico Buenos Aires with daily breakfast
- Explore Buenos Aires with a private guide over two days with lunch included
- Private tango performance in the park
- Dinner with Roja Tango show
- 2 nights Cavas Wine Lodge with daily breakfast
- Enjoy a unique sensory wine tasting and gourmet dinner at Rosell Boher Winery
- Discover the wines of Mendoza on a curated wine tour by wine critic Robert Parker
- 3 nights Villa Beluno Hotel & Spa, Bariloche with daily breakfast
- Welcome hike, mate ritual and Argentine chocolate tasting
- Head out on the trail with an Andes hiking and cycling experience
- Take a guided stroll through the night sky with a local astronomer
- 2 nights Eolo Patagonia' Spirit with full board
- Walk on the wild side with a full day trekking adventure on the Perito Moreno Glacier
- 1 night Arakur Ushuaia Resort & Spa with daily breakfast
- Explore the Tierra del Fuego National Park with a local guide
- Total Eclipse Antarctica cruise aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*
- 1 night Singular Santiago with breakfast
- Discover the charms of Santiago on a half day exploration with lunch plus a visit to the Sky Costanera for panoramic city views

Optional additions can also be included at an additional cost

- Speakeasy cocktail experience in Buenos Aires
- Learn to tango with the professionals
- Eat like a local with a hands on cooking class at Andeluna Winery
- Explore Patagonia on horseback
- Victoria Island Experience with gourmet lunch
- Indulge in a private culinary walking tour of Santiago

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story