



Iconic: In the Heart of the Weddell Sea Ice Aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*



13 November 2024 | In November and December 2025, PONANT is offering four sailings to go on a voyage of exploration to meet Emperor penguins in the Weddell Sea. An exceptional itinerary at this time of year in the Antarctic, it is an opportunity of a lifetime to observe polar species during their breeding season in their natural habitat. Extreme and captivating!

Welcome to an extraordinary universe, a dreamlike experience that is literally out of this world. Imagine a white wilderness devoid of any human traces, a vast expanse of ice as far as the eye can see. A place where infinite shades of white delineate the reliefs, where wind blowing from the ice cap lifts the snow into swirls. From the outside deck in the distance, you can just make out strange black and white silhouettes waddling around on the ice. It may be Emperor penguins returning to their colony to feed their chicks.

You are in the Weddell Sea aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*, the world's only luxury icebreaker, the only vessel able to navigate in the heart of the Antarctic ice from early November, as the southern winter draws to a close.

Observe Polar Wildlife as at the Dawning of the World



In a titanic setting of tabular icebergs and vast glaciers, most polar animal species are concentrated between the north of the Antarctic Peninsula and the Weddell Sea. If they're lucky, guests may be able to observe orcas and humpback whales, Weddell and leopard seals, and several penguin species including Adélie, Chinstrap and Gentoo. But the Holy Grail is to meet their majesties, the Emperor penguins, at the end of their breeding season. This is the moment the chicks, a few months old on the pack ice, are experiencing their first swim; a spectacle that is both fascinating and touching, and is only possible at this time of year at these high latitudes!

The Big Thrill: XXL Polar Activities

Exploring this amazing universe is a chance to try out literally breathtaking activities, supervised by specially qualified crew members. Whether it's paddling between blocks of ice in a sea kayak, daring to plunge into polar waters or snowshoeing on the ice, every day the unexpected is an option!

On board, naturalist guides, photo ambassadors and expert speakers run talks and information get-togethers. Every aspect of the polar environment is brought to life and explained be it wildlife, glaciology, epic tales of great explorers, scientific research or photography.

“One of the most iconic voyages you can do! The Weddell Sea is the coldest in the world, always covered in ice. Thanks to Le Commandant Charcot’s capabilities, we can arrive there very early in the season and head out to watch up close the famous Emperor penguins which can only be seen during the winter, when they breed and raise their chicks on the pack ice.”



José Sarica, R&D Expedition Experience Director

The Emperor Penguins of Weddell Sea

Ushuaia–Ushuaia, 4 sailings aboard Le Commandant Charcot from 30 October to 19 December 2025, 14 days-12 nights.
From €23,790 – [Discover more about these voyages](#)

ABOUT PONANT

Explore to Inspire: explore to better understand, learn, share and protect. PONANT has been committed to more responsible tourism, and purposeful voyages of exploration for over 35 years. Aboard a fleet of 14 French-flagged small ships, fitted with the latest environmental technologies, the journey of exploration is always elegant, authentic and inspiring. For more information www.ponant.com

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