EXPEDITION TO
Antarctica
Aboard the Exclusively Chartered, Five-Star Le Boréal
January 15 to 28, 2020
Dear Club Members,

“Everything wears an aspect of unreality,” Ernest Shackleton wrote. “Icebergs hang upside down in the sky; the land appears as layers of silvery or golden cloud. Cloud-banks look like land, icebergs masquerade as islands...” Watch as normal human scales and reference points disappear amidst the grandeur of nature in its most pristine form, from extended sunrises that paint the icescape in soft shades of pink to the lingering golden light of the austral summer, where humpback whales, leopard seals and Adélie penguins swim among sparkling turquoise glaciers and glimmering icebergs. Be among the fortunate few to set foot on the continent of Antarctica, and see how its spectacular illuminations reveal the majesty and contrasts of this unique wilderness during your extraordinary 14-day journey to the bottom of the world.

Retrace the sea lanes navigated by storied explorers Shackleton, Amundsen and Scott, inspired to seek out the final frontier of “The White Continent.” Cruise for nine nights aboard the exclusively chartered, Five-Star, ice-class Le BORÉAL, one of the finest vessels in Antarctic waters. With private balconies in 95 percent of its ocean-view accommodations and encompassing state-of-the-art ship design and technology, Le BORÉAL sets the very highest standards in elegance and comfort.

The onboard expedition team of naturalists will guide you on excursions aboard sturdy Zodiac craft to satisfy your appetite for exploration amid floating ice sculptures, intricate ecosystems and abundant wildlife, especially penguins and seals that exhibit little or no fear of humans. A comprehensive schedule of exclusive and specially arranged lectures will complete your optimal Antarctic expedition.

We invite you on this once-in-a-lifetime program with co-sponsors from Brown, Harvard and UCLA. All excursions and complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages are included on board and each day offers a unique, personal Antarctic experience. This program is the best Antarctic cruise value and sells out quickly year after year. Make your reservation now!

Best regards,

Kristina Nemeth
Travel Director
(415) 597-6720
Wildlife Conservation

The unique international Antarctic Treaty protects Antarctica’s wildlife and its natural habitats and provides a guide for visitors to this great continent, where no country has sovereignty.

To protect the fragile Antarctic environment, all travelers will go ashore in small groups, so as not to crowd rookeries, disturb nesting sites or disrupt research. Visitors will be asked not to remove or leave anything ashore.

U.S.
Wednesday, January 15
Depart the U.S.

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Thursday, January 16
Arrive in cosmopolitan Buenos Aires and check into the Five-Star INTERCONTINENTAL BUENOS AIRES HOTEL, ideally located within walking distance of the landmark Palace of the Argentine National Congress. This evening, attend the Welcome Reception. (r)

Buenos Aires
Friday, January 17
Birthplace of the tango, Buenos Aires is a city of diverse and dynamic barrios (neighborhoods). See the colorful La Boca district, Monserrat’s grand public buildings, historic Plaza de Mayo, Palermo’s lavish parks, Puerto Madero’s lively riverfront community and the charming old quarter of San Telmo.

Visit the city’s renowned Recoleta Cemetery; lined with ornate vaults and sculptures, this necropolis is the final resting place of Eva Perón, the legendary former First Lady of Argentina. (b)

Buenos Aires/Ushuaia
Saturday, January 18
This morning, fly to Ushuaia, the world’s southernmost city, capital of Tierra del Fuego and the gateway to Antarctica. Embark LE BORÉAL this afternoon and cruise through storied Beagle Channel, named for the ship that carried Charles Darwin on his South American voyages.

Attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception this evening. (b,r,d)

Cruising the Drake Passage
Sunday, January 19 to Monday, January 20
Cross the legendary Drake Passage and, upon reaching the Antarctic Convergence, watch for seabirds and breaching fins of humpback whales feeding on plankton and krill brought to the surface by cold Antarctic currents merging with the warmer waters of the South Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

Your expedition team of naturalists will present insightful lectures, preparing you for your first landing in Antarctica. During the evening, enjoy the lingering twilight of the Antarctic summer. (2b,2l,2d)

Cover photo: Expert-led Zodiac excursions offer up-close viewing of craggy crescent peaks, intricate ice floes and fascinating wildlife that characterize the remote Antarctic landscape.

Photo this page: Enjoy the calm waters and the extraordinary surreal beauty of the captivating glacier-lined Lemaire Channel, first traversed in 1898 by Belgian explorer Adrien de Gerlache.
Cruising Antarctica

Tuesday, January 21 to Saturday, January 25

Cruise below the 60th parallel south to the outer shores and islands of the Antarctic Peninsula, Earth’s last frontier. Here, explore some of the world’s most pristine wilderness, where towering mountains of ice and volcanic rock create precipitous coastlines and islands, and ever-changing patterns of ice stretch toward the boundless blue horizon. In this seemingly harsh environment, a vast array of marine wildlife flourishes, including millions of penguins, countless seabirds and thousands of seals and whales. An otherworldly topography of volcanoes and glaciers, populated with riveting wildlife and historic outposts, unfolds, completely immersing you in the irresistible nuances of Earth’s most inaccessible continent for the complete Antarctic experience.

Cruise through breathtaking, glacier-lined Neumayer Channel to rugged Goudier Island. Visit Port Lockroy nestled among serene mountain peaks as high as 6000 feet. The port was originally constructed in 1944 by an eight-man team as an intelligence post for British espionage during World War II and was converted into a whaling station and scientific base in the 1950s; its surrounding grounds are populated by blue-eyed shags and gentoo penguins. Gain insight into the daily activities of past researchers at the living museum known as “Base A” and mail a postcard stamped with an Antarctica postmark from the official British Post Office. Rocky Jougla Point on Wiencke Island offers a rare opportunity to view the skeletal remains of an adult blue whale and to see populous colonies of gentoo penguins and kelp gulls that inhabit the entire region.

Call at Petermann Island, the southernmost point of your journey, and watch its thriving rookeries of Adélie and gentoo penguins and blue-eyed shags. Flanked by sheer cliffs of towering glaciers between the Antarctic Peninsula and Booth Island, cruise through the Lemaire Channel, where seven majestic miles of mountains and interweaving patterns of ice floes brim with wildlife.

Listen for the low rumbling of Rudolf Glacier as it calves slabs of ice into Neko Harbor, named for an early 20th-century Scottish whaling boat. Surrounded by soaring glaciers and snow-covered mountains, this spectacular harbor is one of the most dramatic sights on your expedition. Here, make your first “continental landing” in Antarctica.

In Paradise Harbor, crystal cliffs of ice descend from sky-bent mountains into the iceberg-laden waters along the Antarctic Peninsula’s western coast. Named by 19th-century whalers who sought shelter in contrast to sociable Adélie penguins, who congregate in large colonies, the bold, powerful and curious leopard seal cherishes solitude and independence for hunting and hiding.
in its coves, it is an ideal sanctuary for marine wildlife including humpback whales, crabeater seals and Cape petrels. Deception Island, actually the rim of a dormant volcano crater, encircles the Port Foster caldera. The ship enters through Neptune’s Bellows, a sublime harbor ringed by snowcapped peaks and sheer cliffs. In Pendulum Cove, see steaming, geothermally heated shallows. Observe the amazing colony of tens of thousands of chinstrap penguins at Baily Head.

Walk along the black-sand beaches of Telefon Bay to nearby craters for firsthand insight into the pivotal volcanic activity that created the island and shaped the natural history of the region.

One of the smallest but most beautiful of the South Shetland Islands, crescent-shaped Half Moon Island is known for its craggy volcanic rock formations and tranquil lagoons. It is also the site of Cámara Station, a base monitored by Argentine biologists studying regional wildlife. Here, observe the antics of the island’s colony of chinstrap penguins.

Reflect on board as the ship turns north, and attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception this evening. (SB,SL,LR,SD)

**Cruising the Drake Passage / Ushuaia, Argentina**

**Sunday, January 26**

Cross the Drake Passage and enjoy lively, informative discussions with the ship’s naturalists. Watch for endangered albatross and the many different species of petrels as you cruise across the Antarctic Convergence. (B,L,D)

**Ushuaia/Buenos Aires**

**Monday, January 27**

Disembark in Ushuaia and fly to Buenos Aires. Continue on the Iguazú Falls Post-Program Option with an overnight stay in Buenos Aires or depart for the U.S. (B)

**U.S.**

**Tuesday, January 28**

Arrive in the U.S.

Left: Look for humpback whales who migrate to Antarctic waters and feed during the austral summer.

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The UNESCO World Heritage site of Iguazú Falls is one of the world’s most incredible natural wonders, where more than 275 spectacular waterfalls span nearly two verdant miles of the Argentina-Brazil frontier, cascading from heights of 270 feet throughout one of South America’s last remaining virgin rain forests. Visit the lush Parque das Aves jungle reserve, a nature lover’s paradise, home to more than 350 species of birds, 66 varieties of mammals and an outstanding array of reptiles, fish, butterflies and flora. This exclusive three-night Post-Program Option features one night in the Five-Star INTERCONTINENTAL BUENOS AIRES HOTEL and two nights in the Five-Star MELIA IGUAZÚ FALLS. Buenos Aires / Iguazú round-trip airfare is included. The Post-Program Option is available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

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Iguazú Falls

Post-Program Option

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Your journey to Antarctica offers an unparalleled opportunity for up-close observations of chinstrap penguins and their behaviors in nature.
Exclusively Chartered, Five-Star ms Le Boréal

Five-Star, State-of-the-Art, Small Ship
Join us aboard the exclusively chartered, Five-Star Le Boréal, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design. The ship’s efficient electrical propulsion system and custom stabilizers provide an exceptionally smooth, quiet and comfortable voyage.

Respect for the Environment
With advanced technology and the most environmentally responsible features built into its design and operations, the ship has earned the important “clean ship” certification.

With Our Compliments
Indulge in these complimentary onboard amenities—alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise and in your Suite or Stateroom minibar, Wi-Fi access (conditions permitting) and 24-hour room service.

Chic and Casual Dining
The stylish dining room and casual alfresco restaurant feature international and regional cuisine and serve continental and buffet breakfasts, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and dinner in four courses or buffet. Wine is served at your table with lunch and dinner.

Only 110 Suites and Staterooms—95% Include Private Balconies
These elegant ocean-view accommodations range from 200 to 484 square feet, and most have a private balcony. Your Five-Star Suite or Stateroom features individual climate control, two twin beds or one queen bed, a private bathroom with shower and luxurious hotel amenities, including flat-screen television, safe, full-length closet, plush robes and slippers.

Life on Board
Whether you seek educational and cultural presentations, panoramic views, nightly entertainment or quiet retreat, the ship’s spacious public areas accommodate all passengers comfortably. Enjoy two lounges, a theater, library, Sun Deck with open-air bar, swimming pool (conditions permitting), beauty salon, spa, Turkish bath-style steam room and fitness room. The ship has two elevators and 10 Zodiacs.

World-Class Service
The highly trained, English-speaking crew are personable and attentive, and the ship has a medical center staffed with a doctor and nurse.
Included

- Two nights in the Five-Star InterContinental Buenos Aires Hotel
- Internal program airfare (round trip Buenos Aires/Ushuaia)
- Nine nights aboard the exclusively chartered, Five-Star, Ice-Class Le Boréal
- Cruise from Ushuaia, Argentina, cruising to Antarctica's Port Lockroy, Wiencke Island, Petermann Island, Lemaire Channel, Neko Harbor, Paradise Harbor, Deception Island and Half Moon Island; weather, ice and sea conditions permitting
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Complimentary alcohol and nonalcoholic beverages aboard ship
- Wi-Fi access aboard ship (conditions permitting)
- Souvenir polar-grade red parka
- Captain's Welcome and Farewell Receptions
- All entrance fees and tours as described in the itinerary
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers
- Hospitality desk in the hotel and aboard ship
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors throughout the program
- Pre-departure materials, including a reading list
- Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company

Not Included

- International airfare
- Taxes of $865 per person (subject to change)
- Gratuities to ship personnel (approximately $15 per person per day)
- Hotel staff gratuities ($1 to $2 per person per day) and gratuities for activities on your own
- Passport and visa fees
- Meals and alcoholic beverages not listed as included
- Transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s)
- Any overnight on land due to flight schedule(s)
- Personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access unless otherwise specified
- Accident/sickness, trip cancellation and baggage insurance
- Baggage charges on aircraft; airfare and associated local taxes not listed as included
- Airport facility taxes and federal inspection fees not listed as included
- All other services not specifically mentioned in the “Included” section
Exploration of Antarctica

The intrepid deeds of Europeans Roald Amundsen, Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton; Americans Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd and Lincoln Ellsworth; and Canadian Sir Charles Seymour Wright, legendary explorers of Antarctica, have long been recounted in gripping personal tales and history books. Admiral Byrd led the U.S. Antarctic expedition (1928-30) and made the first flight over the South Pole (1929). Byrd later led three additional expeditions to Antarctica, milestones in scientific polar research and mapping of the continent.

Lincoln Ellsworth, a Chicago native, made the first trans-Antarctica flight in 1935 discovering the continent’s highest peaks, the mountain range later named Ellsworth Mountains in his honor. In 2018, American Colin O’Brady daringly became the first person to cross Antarctica solo, unsupported and unaided. He traveled across the West Antarctic ice sheet from the Ronne Ice Shelf to the Ross Ice Shelf, stopping at the South Pole along the treacherous route.

Your Expedition Team

Seasoned naturalists, who have studied and traveled extensively in Antarctica and the most remote regions of the world, accompany you on board and on excursions as your Antarctic Expedition Team. Their areas of expertise span marine biology, ornithology, ecology, geology, glaciology, conservation and environmental education, history and photography. The team’s collaborative efforts, experience and particular interest in the world’s ecosystems and enthusiasm for sharing their knowledge make them exceptionally well-suited to lead your Expedition to Antarctica.
Ms Le Boréal

Send to: Commonwealth Club Travel
110 The Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA 94105
Fax to: (415) 597-6729
or call: (415) 597-6720

Title
Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)

Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)

City
State
ZIP Code

Telephone: (Home)
(Mobile)

Email Address
(Business)

Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s)

Tour No. 028-01/15/20-252

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person and $200 per person Iguazú Falls Post-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $__________ as deposit. Please make checks payable to Gohagan & Company.

We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:

Card Number
Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by October 11, 2019.

We require membership to the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. Please check one:

☐ I am a current member of the Commonwealth Club.
☐ Please sign me up/renew my membership with the credit card information provided here.
☐ I will visit commonwealthclub.org/membership to sign up for a membership.

I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.

EXPEDITION to ANTARCTICA RESERVATION FORM

More on Le Boréal: Le Boréal has been specially contracted for this tour, and the applicable deck plan is available on request from the Owner’s Suite.

Deluxe Suite

Category 1

Deluxe Suite II

Category 2

Deluxe Suite I

Category 3

Owner’s Suite

Category 4

Early Booking Tariff through June 17, 2019

Tariff* after June 17, 2019

8

$10890

$11890

9

$12290

$13290

10

$13490

$14490

11

$13890

$14890

12

$14890

$15890

13

$15190

$16190

14

$15690

$16690

15

$15890

$16890

16

$16590

$17590

17

$16890

$17890

18

$17490

$18490

19

$18390

$19390

Deck 6, Le France

Deck 5, Le Normandie

Deck 4, Le Lafayette

Deck 3, Le Champlain

Le Boréal is a specially contracted vessel for this tour. The applicable deck plan is available on request from the Owner’s Suite.

Land/cruise Tariff excluding taxes

Per person, based on double occupancy

8

One large window, Deck 3, Le Champlain, forward. (limited availability)

7

Small window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony, Deck 3, Le Champlain, aft. (limited availability)

6

Small window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony, Deck 3, Le Champlain, midship.

5

Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony, Deck 4, Le Lafayette, forward. (limited availability)

4

Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony, Deck 4, Le Lafayette, midship.

3

Expansive sliding glass door, private, partial-wall balcony, Deck 5, Le Normandie, forward.

2

Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony, shower or tub/shower, Deck 5, Le Normandie, midship.

1

Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony, shower or tub/shower, Deck 6, Le France.

∗Taxes are an additional $865 per person and are subject to change.

Round-trip airfare Buenos Aires/Ushuaia (internal program air) is included.

Singles are available in category 6 at $22790* and in category 4 at $25390* on or before June 17, 2019.

Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability.

By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

Add $1000 for reservations made after June 17, 2019.

I am reserving as a single but prefer

Double occupancy (two twin beds).

Double occupancy (one queen bed).

Single accommodations.

I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s): Iguazú Falls Post-Program Option

Jungle-View Rooms:

Double at $2145 per person.

Single at $2095 per person.

I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Falls-View Rooms:

Double at $2345 per person.

Single at $2295 per person.

I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

I/We want to book my/our air, at additional cost to be advised, from:

Economy Class

Upgraded Economy

Business Class

First Class

*Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.
RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: The Commonwealth Club and Gohagan and Company assume no responsibility for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from:  

1. any fault or inability or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof,  

2. acts of God or force majeure, acts of government, acts of nature or war, civil unrest, or acts of third parties, or  

3. any of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely. If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of a physical or mental health condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair). Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or without minimal assistance from travel companion and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of The Commonwealth Club. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee. In the event of a “no-show,” or your return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. Cancellations 30 days or less prior to departure, 70% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply. 

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase travel cancellation insurance. The insurance in the event that you cancel your participation in a trip, your trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after final payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier charges, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the trip participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased international or interstate (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

REGISTRATION: Commonwealth Club CST#: 2096889-40; Gohagan CST#: 2031668-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OST#: 50905.

BINDING ARBITRATION: Any dispute concerning, relating or referring to this Agreement, the brochure or any other literature concerning the trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Sections 1-16, either according to the then existing Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) Illinois law and will take place in Chicago, IL. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, the participant and Gohagan are waiving the right to a trial by jury.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that will create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

PHOTO RIGHTS: All photographs and images in the brochure are the property of the Commonwealth Club and Gohagan. All images are rights managed and cannot be used without permission.

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Stand on the bow of your Five-Star ship and watch Antarctica’s drama unfold before you.

Commonwealth Club Travel
110 The Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 597-6720 www.commonwealthclub.org/travel

ELIGIBILITY: We require membership to the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. People who live outside of the Bay Area may purchase a national membership. To learn about membership types and to purchase a membership, visit commonwealthclub.org/membership or call (415) 597-6720.

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