



Press Dossier



AUSTRALIS[®]
CAPE HORN & PATAGONIA



ABOUT AUSTRALIS

Australis is an expedition cruise company with 28 years of experience navigating Patagonia's southernmost channels. Its four and eight night programs explore the Strait of Magellan, Beagle Channel and Tierra del Fuego, connecting the cities of Ushuaia, Argentina and Punta Arenas, Chile.

General Manager Pedro del Rio summarized the history of Australis: "The founders of Australis were sailing enthusiasts with a profound knowledge of Chile's hidden wonders in Southern Patagonia. In 1968 they made history and pioneered the first tourist cruise between the cities of Puerto Montt, Puerto Williams and Punta Arenas.

There was still a long way to go before the Australis company was born in 1990 when they acquired their first expedition cruise ship. From then on, Australis has continued to perfect our ships, our services, and our itineraries."

Aboard its modern small ships, which provide personalized service and intimate experiences, travelers from all continents can visit one of the most beautiful and unspoiled regions in the world. Australis' ships navigate through glacier fields and fjords to reach the mythical Cape Horn, providing first-hand experiences in the region's pristine natural landscapes.

Scenic excursions as well as disembarkations on zodiacs allow guests to truly discover the highlights of the Tierra del Fuego archipelago. Travellers will experience glaciers and national parks in the midst of the Darwin mountain range, native forests and fauna, including the largest colony of Magellan penguins in all of Chile.

All excursions are led by expedition guides who are experts in local geography, glaciology, flora and fauna. Excursions end with a warming cup of Magellanic hot chocolat or whiskey.

ONBOARD SERVICES

Australis boasts world-class gastronomy and operates on an all-inclusive system. Emilio Peschiera, one of Chile's most renowned chefs, is the Australis consulting head chef. The bar also operates on an all-inclusive system and boasts a varied offering of select liquors including the Calafate Sour, Australis' star cocktail, as well as wines from Chilean wineries such as Viu Manent, Los Boldos and De Martino.

Passengers have a complete library at their disposal with literature on the region's history, culture and wildlife, as well as board games and other onboard entertainment options.

Each evening, guides give a short brief on the following day's expeditions. The overview is accompanied with interesting information on Patagonia's geography, glaciology, endemic wildlife, ethnography and history.

Australis is committed to environmental sustainability and has removed plastic bottles from all cruises. Passengers are provided with reusable bottles and access to purified water dispensers in various locations aboard. This important step allows Australis to prevent the use of over 75,000 plastic bottles each season.

FLEET

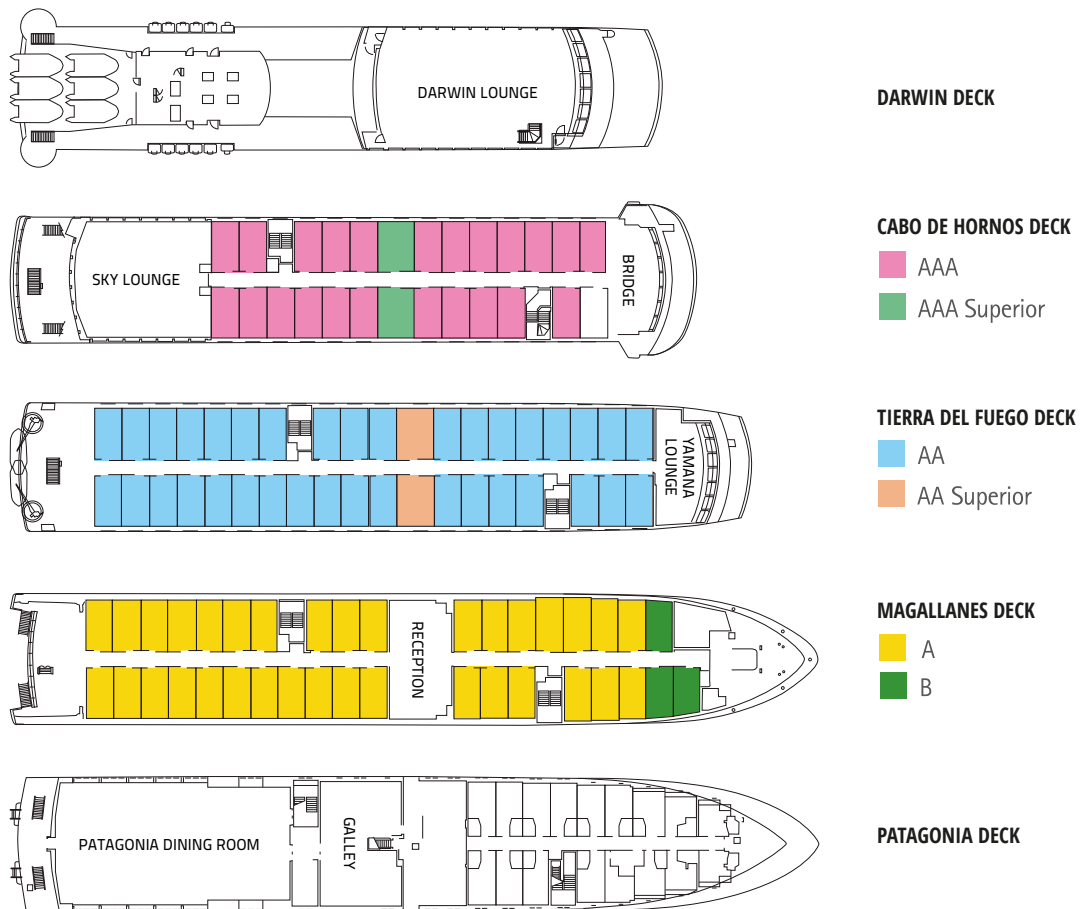
Australis operates two expedition cruise ships: Stella Australis and the recently inaugurated Ventus Australis. They are specifically designed to sail the Magellan Strait while providing maximum comfort and fulfilling international standards on safety and service. Both ships were made in the Asenav shipyard in Valdivia, Chile.

The 65 person crew aboard each ship is made up of sailors, expedition guides and hotel staff.

Equipped with cutting edge technology, both Stella and Ventus have a capacity of 210 passengers in cabins of different categories - all of which have direct ocean views. The ships also feature three tastefully decorated lounges, a restaurant, panoramic terraces and all the necessary equipment to make the voyage through Southern Patagonia an unforgettable experience. Australis allows guests to experience stunning landscapes while enjoying state-of-the-art services and excellent gastronomy.

“Australis is a project that allows us to share with international visitors the rich history and deep affection that strongly connects us to Southern Patagonia. We are the most faithful admirers of its pristine nature, its wealth of history, its imposing glaciers and the life that grows in esplanades and hillsides that has remained unchanged for centuries.

Without intervening on these landscapes with constructions of any kind, we can reach the deepest corners of Patagonia, generate jobs in the local community and collaborate with scientific research, collecting data in places inaccessible by any other means. All this while offering maximum comfort and personal attention aboard,” concludes Pedro del Río.





AUSTRALIS FETED BY TRAVEL INDUSTRY

In 2018, Australis was recognized by Travel + Leisure Magazine readers as one of the top three “small-ship ocean cruise lines” in their World’s Best Awards 2018. This was the third time in three consecutive years that the cruise line has won a top placement in these awards, highly recognized by the Travel Industry.

Also, during this year, Australis won the coveted award of "Best Cruise Operator of the Year" at the LATA Achievement Awards, event that recognizes innovation and excellence from across the Latin American Travel Industry. LATA (the Latin American Tourism Association), awarded Australis for delivering an unforgettable experience in one of the most remote regions of the world, and achieving exceptional levels of satisfaction with its passengers. Australis also shone for its contribution to scientific research and conservation within the area in which it operates.



AUSTRALIS & SUSTAINABILITY

What we love most about our route, is its pristine nature. What we love most about being a cruise company, is that we allow people from all over the world to travel through it in complete style and comfort, without causing any impact on its landscapes.

Since we started operating in the area, in 1990, we are happy to say our route remains practically the same. As a small size cruise, we conduct non-invasive tourism to show to the world one of the last places on earth without human intervention through an operation that helps to keep it that way. One of our main priorities is not to interfere with nature, yet allow our guests to get in contact with it. To achieve this goal, we've taken several measures.

ON OUR EXCURSIONS

- We've installed **wooden paths** and other infrastructure that aim to protect the ecosystems we visit.
- Zodiac landings are accessed by **gangways avoiding shore erosion**.
- Each guest has to **clean their shoes in a special footbath** before and after we disembark, to prevent taking foreign bacteria or seeds into the ecosystems where we land.
- Guests are divided into **small groups avoiding overuse**.
- During the excursions, to smoke is **forbidden**, as well as taking food or **any element that might generate any garbage** in the places we visit.



- All our guides **pick up and identify the waste** they sometimes find during our excursions, which is mainly dragged by the sea currents, and we invite all our guests to do the same in case they see or find something, aiming to leave each place we visit even better than how we found it.
- Before and during excursions, our expedition team **educates our guests** about: nature, keeping an appropriate distance from local fauna in order not to disturb them, using only well marked paths, always walking in small groups with our guides and leaving no trash behind.

ON BOARD

- We **recycle all the waste** produced in the kitchen, and treat all organic waste in order to comply with all MARPOL (Marine Pollution) standards established in the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, one of the most important international marine environmental conventions.
- **Batteries** are collected and delivered to land for proper treatment and **solid waste is separated, compacted, and unloaded on land.**
- Each ship has a Vacuum System which provides **low-water use in toilets**, similar to the one used in airplanes.
- We always recommend **our guests to be aware of the use of water**, including the reuse of towels that do not need washing.
- Our ships have a **Sewage System water treatment**, which includes discharging water from toilets and organic waste, which complies with MARPOL standards.
- We have implemented the **latest technology to reduce nitrous oxides** from propeller engines and generators according to IMO (International Maritime Organization) requirements.
- In 2014, **we replaced plastic water bottles** in the cabins with water dispensers and reusable souvenir canteens which **eliminated the use of over 75,000 plastic bottles per season.**
- We've implemented an intranet system on board to use technology to provide daily and general data in order to **reduce the use of paper** to deliver the activity program or any information to our passengers.
- **And finally:** We are **linking science and enterprise** in a unique way, working with a national program (CONICYT), CONAF (National Forest Corporation) and a local scientific organization (CEQUA) to **analyze nature's behavior due to climate change.** Being the only ones frequently reaching such remote places, we've trained **our guides to collect biological data** on site, following strict protocols for scientific monitoring the sea's chemistry, flowering and development of native plants, the coastal benthic biodiversity, account of birds population and records of garbage, **to deliver frequent reports** of the data gathered by them. In this process, we make tourists active participants and observers, helping to raise awareness and educate about the importance of taking care of our environment. Recently also in partnership with CEQUA, **a sensor** has been installed in one of our vessels' engine room, that takes sea water samples to generate a large amount of data, making **Australis the first Expedition Cruise Company to record oceanographic data in the southern hemisphere.**

TO SUM UP

As a **small size cruise**, we can **develop tourism** in one of the most unspoiled region of the Earth **without interfering in its pristine landscapes**. We operate with the **highest standards and technology to minimize the impact** and to preserve the ecosystems in the places we visit using demarked paths, footbaths, garbage collection and also educating our guests. We also help in the **scientific research, taking samples** in places that scientific and academic organizations can't afford to reach due to their remoteness. Our guides have permanent contact with scientists to learn more about the areas we visit. We are always open to collaborate with the scientific an academic community.

