

## Antarctica

### SOUTH GEORGIA

#### Why join this Voyage?

- A rare South Georgia focused voyage offering extended time exploring this extraordinary Southern Ocean wildlife oasis. Ideally suited to the wildlife enthusiast or those who have previously voyaged to Antarctica
- A wildlife paradise; visit extensive rookeries of King, Rockhopper, Macaroni, Gentoo and Magellanic penguins, one of the world's largest Albatross colonies, along with elephant, fur seals and sea lions
- Includes a strong historic dimension with a visit to the former whaling station of Grytviken, from where Sir Ernest Shackleton eventually raised the alarm to rescue his stranded men and was later buried



#### Trip Summary

This expeditionary voyage focuses on South Georgia, an extraordinary uninhabited place of spectacular glaciers and snow-capped mountain peaks offering some of the most prolific birdlife in the whole Southern Ocean. Thousands of king penguins, huge congregations of fur and elephant seals and numerous seabird species, including the magnificent wandering albatross, prions, petrels and terns all inhabit this area. Most visits by boat to South Georgia are limited to typically 3-4 days as part of a longer 19 day itinerary. This voyage, however, breaks with tradition in offering an in-depth five day circumnavigation of South Georgia, as well as the chance to visit the island without having to undertake a longer and more expensive voyage incorporating The Falkland's and Antarctica. There is the option for intrepid travellers to undertake a 50km trek along the last section of Shackleton's infamous rescue route finishing at the whaling station at Stromness on some of the voyages.

# Itinerary



## Day 1 London/ Santiago

Depart London on an overnight flight to Santiago.

## Day 2 Santiago

Upon arrival in Santiago in the early morning you will be transferred to your hotel with the rest of the day free to explore or relax.



## Day 3 Santiago/ Falkland Islands/ Embarkation

After breakfast, board the flight to Mount Pleasant on the Falkland Islands. On arrival you have time to explore the town of Stanley before embarking in the afternoon and setting sail in the evening towards South Georgia.

## Days 4 - 5 At Sea

On the way to South Georgia you will cross the Antarctic Convergence, where the water temperature will drop by as much as 10 degrees C in the time span of only a few hours. Near the Convergence you will see a multitude of southern seabirds including several species of Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrels, Prions and Skuas.



## Days 6 - 13 South Georgia

For the next 8 days you will circumnavigate South Georgia. Starting from Pegotty Bluff, from where on the 19th May 1916 Shackleton, Crean and Worsley set off across the Island to Stromness in a 36 hour marathon trek. Visit Cape Rosa, where Shackleton's James Caird landed after their epic 16 day voyage from Elephant Island.



During the night pass Cape Disappointment, discovered by James Cook in 1775, and the expedition will reach the South East corner of South Georgia. Drygalski Fjord is a great scenic place for zodiac cruising, and hopefully a landing at Cooper Bay. During the next few days the expedition will explore the beaches of Gold Harbour, Royal and St. Andrews Bay. The sites give a good opportunity to see a wide spectrum of landscapes and wildlife, like King and Macaroni Penguins, Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses, Elephant Seals and the introduced reindeer.



At Grytviken you will visit an abandoned whaling village, where King Penguins now walk in the streets and seals have taken over the buildings. At Grytviken visit the Whaling History Museum as well as Shackleton's grave. In Fortuna Bay, the beaches are inhabited by King Penguins and seals and you might even see reindeer!



At Prion Island the huge Wandering Albatross nest and display. At Salisbury Plain, the second largest King Penguin colony in South Georgia, you will also see elephant seals. The voyage around South Georgia ends here and the ship will take course to the Falkland Islands around midday.

## Days 14 - 16 Re-crossing the South Scotia Sea to the Falklands

Keep an eye out for whales and a wide array of birdlife as your lecturers recap the experience.



## Day 17 Port Stanley/ Santiago

Arrive back into Port Stanley where you will disembark and transfer to Mount Pleasant for your charter flight back to Santiago. Overnight in Santiago.

## Day 18 Santiago/ London

Depart Santiago for Heathrow, flying overnight.

## Day 19

Arrive back into the UK

*Please note there are variation on this itinerary between all the departures*

## The Boats



### **Plancius**

Built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy, Plancius sailed for the Royal Dutch Navy until June 2004. In 2009 she was fully rebuilt as a very comfortable, but not luxury, 110 passenger expedition vessel. The ship is fully ice strengthened with a cruising speed of 10-12 knots.

She offers three styles of cabin all of which have en-suite facilities with either a porthole or window. The quads have two lower bunks and two upper. All twin cabins have two lower berths and the superior cabins have a double bed. Cabins also have a desk and chair, TV showing shipboard information and ample storage space, the superiors also have a sofa. There is a large dining room where a choice of meals are served; this can also be used for lectures as it holds a projection screen along with large TV screens. A superb observation lounge along with a bar offer spectacular views of the scenery and wildlife, this can also be used for lectures and presentations with large TV screens. Alongside the lounge there is a small, but well stocked library.

There is ample outside deck space for wildlife viewing and two starboard gangways for swift zodiac logistics. Boots are provided to all clients and a superb expedition jacket can be pre purchased at a much reduced rate.



### **The Ortelius**

Built in Poland's famous Gdynia shipyard in 1989 as an ice strengthened passenger vessel, she spent many years plying the frozen waters of the Arctic & North Pacific Oceans. In 2005 she was fully refurbished to provide comfortable, but not luxurious accommodation for up to 100 passengers.

There are a range of cabins from quads, triples and twins with shared facilities to twin and double bedded superiors and 1 suite all with en-suite facilities. All cabins have a porthole or a window, a desk and chair along with ample room for storage. There are two dining rooms serving good wholesome European fare and a comfortable lounge/presentation room where onboard lectures are given by the expedition staff. The spacious bridge is open and an excellent place for watching out for wildlife as are the outside deck areas.

She carries a fleet of zodiacs for landings and exploratory cruising. There is a small clinic with a ship's Dr on call, ship to shore communications are available via satellite. Wellington boots are provided for all clients



### **The Sea Spirit**

Built in Italy in the early 1990's to a very high specification, Sea Spirit is ideal for those who like to travel comfortably, while maintaining a strong expeditionary-style voyage. Capable of carrying up to 120 passengers (maximum in Antarctica) in a range of spacious and well-appointed cabin categories, she's an outstanding ice-strengthened ship for this type of trip. As well as spacious public areas.

Sea Spirit has a dedicated Lecture room with interactive screens for briefings. She also has the benefit of a wide stern platform for ease of logistics while getting in and out of the zodiacs during landings.

She carries a fleet of zodiacs for landings and exploratory cruising. There is a small clinic with a ship's Dr on call, ship to shore communications are available via satellite. Wellington boots and an expedition jacket are provided for all clients. The Jacket is yours to keep at the end of the expedition.



## Expedition Dates for 2012/13

17<sup>th</sup> October - 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2012 Montevideo - Ushuaia - aboard the *Plancius*  
28<sup>th</sup> October - 12<sup>th</sup> November Ushuaia - Ushuaia aboard the *Sea Spirit*  
8<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2012 ex Port Stanley - aboard the *Ortelius* including South Sandwich Islands  
17<sup>th</sup> March - 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 Ushuaia - Montevideo - aboard the *Ortelius*

## Guide Prices for 2012/13 (from guide price quoted per person)

Cabin Type	17 October - 3 November	28 <sup>th</sup> October - 12 <sup>th</sup> November	8 - 22 December	17 March - 3 April
Quad shared facilities	n/a	n/a	£5,525	£4,875
Quad private facilities	£5,750	n/a	n/a	n/a
Triple	£6,300	£6,430	n/a	n/a
Twin shared facilities	n/a	n/a	£6,375	£5,750
Twin with porthole	£6,850	n/a	£7,300	£6,850
Twin with window	£7,175	£7,870	£7,650	£7,175
Twin deluxe	£7,575	£7,120	n/a	n/a
Superior	£8,075	£8,310	£8,825	£8,100
Suite	n/a	£10,930	£9,795	£9,075

### Includes

- Flight from Santiago to Port Stanley on 8 Dec voyage
- Cabin on board the boat on full board basis
- All guided excursions, landings & lectures
- Loan of wellington boots

### Excludes

- All international and domestic flights
- Pre & Post voyage hotel accommodation
- Travel insurance, visas & vaccinations
- Items of a personal nature laundry, drinks & gratuities

The above prices are a guide price only and are subject to exchange rate fluctuations and possible fuel surcharges.

## Single Supplement

For those solo travellers preferring their own cabin, typically a multiplier of 1.7 on the cost of a single berth is used to calculate the single supplement on those ships without dedicated single cabins.

## Flight Inclusive packages

We can offer a fully inclusive package from the UK to include international flights, internal flights and two night's accommodation in Santiago as per the suggested itinerary above. As we tailor-make our arrangements, we can accommodate a wide range of add on options and various grades of hotel. Flight packages start from £1500 per person.

## Trip Extensions

For those travellers wishing to take the opportunity to explore the Falkland Islands further, or Chile, we would be delighted to help and can arrange tailor-made extensions throughout the country, including Easter Island, the Atacama Desert or Patagonia. For full details or help with any other ideas please contact us for a comprehensive quote and advice

## Want to discuss this trip?



Having spent the best part of 5 years on my "gap year" working in travel seemed the natural progression. I am most at home travelling to remote wilderness areas of the globe. With a life-long passion for wildlife I love to get up close either by kayak or on foot. My travels have taken me to all seven continents. Most recently travelling to the Russian Far East along the Chukotka coast and up to Wrangel & Herald Islands, where I was lucky enough to encounter 105 bears. I have also voyaged to Spitsbergen, Antarctica, the Canadian High Arctic and Baja California's Sea of Cortez on expedition vessels, along with sailing the Amazon Basin and paddling down the Yukon. I hope to go whale and bear watching in Alaska next.

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