

Expedition South Georgia

Incl. the Falkland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula



OCEANWIDE
EXPEDITIONS



Join us for a true expedition voyage in early November 2010 to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula aboard our new expedition vessel "Plancius". Visit the colonies of ten thousands King Penguins on South Georgia in a snowy landscape. A marvellous experience, only to be compared with true expedition discovery voyages.

This early 18-nights departure from 04 till 22 November 2010 has many advantages. You will be able to see all species in the Falklands, Antarctica and South Georgia, incl. King Penguins with chicks and due to the limited number of visitors early November you feel like being alone exploring those great regions. Prices are also ca. 15 % lower than during high season (January and February).

You will travel aboard our new expedition vessel "Plancius", offering accommodation for 110 passengers in cabins with private bathrooms, a spacious observation lounge with direct access to the outside-decks. The vessel has two gangways, guaranteeing a swift zodiac operation.

Gross ship passages per person: Triple cabin : US Dollar 11,690
Twin cabin : US Dollar 13,390
Superior cabin : US Dollar 15,390

Prices incl. all meals, all excursions, lectures and zodiac cruises during the ships voyage, all harbour and landing fees.



Expedition South Georgia

Voyage PLA21

04 – 22 November 2010 to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula

Day 1

In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world located in the shadow of the Andes and right at the Beagle Channel shore. We'll sail through this scenic waterway during the afternoon.

Day 2

At sea, in the west lies the ship is followed by several species of albatrosses, storm petrels, shearwaters and diving petrels.

Day 3

A typical itinerary in the Falklands – South Georgia, and Antarctic Peninsula could be as follows. This is a sample only, the final itinerary will be determined by the Expedition Leader on board.

In the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) we plan to spend the whole day on the fascinating western side of the archipelago. A hike along the shore of Carcass Island will give us instead views of Magellanic and Gentoo-Penguins, as well as close encounters with water fowl and Night herons. In addition, on Saunders we will be able to observe Rockhopper Penguins, Black-browed Albatrosses and King Cormorants.

Day 4

In Stanley, the capital of the Falklands, we can experience Falkland culture, which has some South- American characteristics as well as Victorian charm.

In Stanley and surrounding area we can see a quite important number of stranded clippers from a century ago.

Day 5 & 6

At sea, on our way to South Georgia we will cross the Antarctic Convergence. Entering Antarctic waters, the temperature will drop as much as 10 degrees C in the time span of only a few

hours. Near the Convergence we will see a multitude of southern seabirds near the ship; several species of Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrels, Prions and Skuas.

Day 7 - 10

In South Georgia we shall visit the bay of Elsehul, with it's very active fur seal breeding beach, and then take course to Right Whale Bay, Salisbury Plain, Gold Harbour and Cooper Bay to give you a good opportunity to see a wide spectrum of landscapes and wildlife, like the introduced Reindeer, Elephant seals, King and Macaroni Penguins. At Fortuna Bay we might try to follow in the footsteps of the great British Explorer Ernest Shackleton and hike over to Stømness Bay. There and at Grytviken we'll see and abandoned whaling village, where King Penguins now walk in the streets and seals have taken over the buildings. At Grytviken we'll also offer a visit to the Whaling History Museum as well as to Shackleton's grave near by. One of the highlights might be our visit to Prion Island, where we will witness the breeding efforts of the huge Wandering Albatross and enjoy watching their displays.

Day 11

At sea, where the ship is again followed by a multitude of seabirds. At some point we might encounter sea-ice, and it is at the ice-edge where we might have a chance to see some high-Antarctic species like the Maccormick Skua, Snow Petrel and the elusive Emperor Penguin.



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Day 12

We are aiming for a visit at Orcadas station, an Argentinean base located in the South Orkney Islands. The friendly base personnel will show us their facilities and we can enjoy the wonderful views of the surrounding glaciers.

Day 13

At sea

Day 14 - 16

We will sail into the Weddell Sea through the ice-clogged Antarctic Sound. Huge tabular icebergs will announce our arrival to the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. We plan to visit Paulet Island with a million pairs of Adelie Penguins and the remains of the Nordenskiöld expedition. At Brown Bluff we can put our feet on the continent.

At Deception Island, we will try to land at Baily Head home to a colony of ten thousands of Chinstrap Penguins. Deception itself is a sub ducted crater, which opens into the sea, creating a natural harbour for the ship. Here we find hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, thousands of Cape Pigeons and many Dominican Gulls, Brown and South Polar Skuas and Antarctic Terns. Wilson's Storm Petrels and Black-bellied Storm Petrels nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay. Good walkers may hike from Baily Head over the ridge of the crater into Whalers Bay, while our ship braves its entrance into the crater through the spectacular Neptune's Bellow into the ring of Deception Island. In the afternoon we may land at Half Moon Island, where we can observe Elephant, Weddell and Fur Seals as well as Chinstrap Penguins, Blue-eyed Shags, Wilson's Storm Petrels, Kelp Gulls, Snowy Shearwaters, Antarctic Terns and Antarctic Brown Skuas.

On our way West, we sail to Cuverville Island, a small precipitous island, nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula. It contains a large colony of Gentoo Penguins and breeding pairs of Brown Skuas. Time and conditions allowing we hope to be able to sail further South to Neko Harbour in Andvord Bay and through Paradise Bay with its myriad icebergs and deep cut fjords, while having chances of seeing large Whales. We will have opportunities for zodiac cruising between the icebergs in the inner parts of the fjords.

Day 17 - 18

On our way north we are again followed by a great selection of seabirds while crossing the Drake Passage.

Day 19

We arrive in the morning in Ushuaia and disembark.

All promoted itineraries are for general guidance only. Programmes may vary depending on local ice and weather conditions and ad hoc decisions by Expedition Leader to take advantage of opportunities to see wildlife. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. Landings are always subject to weather, local site availabilities and environmental regulations (IAATO). *Official sailing plans and landing slots will be scheduled with IAATO approx 5 months prior to the start of the season. The final sailing plan will be determined by the Expedition Leader on board. The implementation of the sailing plan is subject To the capability of the vessel and the discretion of the Master.* Taking the exorbitant high fuel prices into account, it is agreed that Oceanwide Expeditions has the right to reduce the speed of the engines (incl. sailing on one engine) wherever possible, unless this affects the character of the intended voyage substantially and jeopardizes the safety of the vessel, its crew, staff and passengers.

Photo credits: Oceanwide Expeditions, Hanneke Dallmeijer, Jan Veen, Rolf Stange Design, Lente Vormgeving



For reservations please contact:

Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014
USA

T (800) 252 4910 or (408) 252 4910
F (408) 252 1444
E info@betchartexpeditions.com
W www.betchartexpeditions.com



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