

Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctic Peninsula – 21 days

Puerto Madryn to Ushuaia

DEPARTURES

- Nov 2 – Nov 22, 2019 HSK

Complimentary Pre-Arrival Day:

Don't sweat flight delays or missed connections when you begin your adventure a day early by taking advantage of our optional free pre-arrival night in beautiful Puerto Madryn, one of Argentina's fastest growing cities and the gateway to the Peninsula Valdés.

Day 1, Puerto Madryn:

Located in the Patagonian province of Chubut, Puerto Madryn is a popular resort destination for wildlife excursions, and is known as the best place in Argentina to see Southern Right Whales. Take a whale watching trip, watch for nesting cormorants and elephant seals, or experience a walk through a colony of Magellanic penguins and myriad species of native seabirds. Our optional evening briefing is a great opportunity for you to ask questions and to meet some of your fellow travelers.

Day 2, Embarkation:

Arriving at the ship in the afternoon, you will be greeted by our Expedition Team and ship's officers at a safety and orientation briefing followed by the Captain's welcome dinner. Then, watch the city lights fade in the fresh night air as we sail seaward.

Day 3-4, Southern Ocean:

Among the wildlife spotting opportunities as we sail south, are the albatrosses, prions, and petrels that frequently follow the ship. Our Expedition Team will be out on deck as well, looking for the whales and dolphins that can be seen in the area. Our experts will begin their presentations with informative and entertaining talks on the wildlife, history, and geology of The Falkland Islands and Southern Ocean. Helpful briefings on environmental regulations and expedition safety will also be held in our comfortable lounge.

Day 5, West Falklands:

The westernmost settled outposts in the Falklands are remote farms that have been family-owned for six and seven generations. The sheep graze alongside albatross colonies and Rockhopper, King, and Magellanic penguin rookeries while striated caracaras patrol overhead and upland geese graze at the water's edge. A visit to one of these homesteads often includes an invitation for cakes and a cup of tea.

Day 6, Stanley, East Falkland:

Chosen for its sheltered harbor and access to abundant fresh water and peat for fuel, Stanley is easy to discover on foot as most shops and services are centered on the port. The museum, the post-office featuring first day covers, plenty of shops with locally made wool items, and Stanley's lively pubs will all be available. It is possible to experience the wildlife of the Falklands from the town including sea lions and Peale's and Commerson's dolphins in the harbor or bird life in nearby Gypsy Cove.

Day 7-8, Southern Ocean:

There will be plenty of wildlife spotting as we make our way east across the Antarctic Convergence and officially enter Antarctic waters. Shipboard presentations will continue, featuring the exciting history and abundant wildlife of South Georgia.

Day 9-12, South Georgia:

Its unique position inside the Antarctic Convergence yet outside the limit of the yearly sea ice, makes this 3,755 square kilometer island home to tens of millions of breeding penguins, seals and seabirds. Magnificent mountain scenery, glaciers galore, a rugged coastline punctuated with castellate and tabular icebergs, a rich historical tapestry, and an astounding array of wildlife are all available to us as we travel down South Georgia's leeward coast.

Landing sites feature huge Elephant seals, aggressive Fur seals, Gentoo penguins, albatross, petrels, skuas, and gulls. King penguins from fuzzy little chicks to fattened adults can be seen in the hundreds of thousands. We will visit historic Grytviken whaling station, home of the whaling museum, Norwegian seaman's church, the active British Antarctic Survey station plus the tiny graveyard where the great Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton is buried.

Day 13-14, Scotia Sea:

Heading farther south, we continue our informative presentations and wildlife watch as the icebergs become more and more plentiful.

Day 15-18, Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands:

In the waterways of the Antarctic Peninsula, we will hope to make as much time as possible to explore by inflatable Zodiac boats and marvel up close at nature's glory. Our Expedition Leader and Captain will create a flexible itinerary based on weather, ice, and opportunity. We will aim for the most scenic bays and channels of the Peninsula with stops at penguin rookeries, seal wallows, bird colonies and whale feeding areas, as well as sites of historic and scientific interest.

The trip may include picturesque Neko Harbor, sheltered Paradise Harbor, the Humpback Whale favored Wilhelmina Bay, the striking Lemaire Channel, the wildlife-filled Penola Channel, or the majestic Neumayer Channel. We may stop at an active scientific base such as Poland's Arctowski or Ukraine's Vernadskiy as well as a historic base such as U.K.'s Port Lockroy or Wordie House.

Adelie, Chinstrap and Gentoo Penguins abound, and Weddell, Crabeater and Elephant Seals are often found hauled out to rest along with predatory Leopard Seals and the assertive Antarctic Fur Seal. Minke and Humpback Whales are frequent visitors in the late season and Orca sightings are also common.

Day 19-20, Drake Passage:

As we leave this magical place and make our way north, heading again across the Antarctic Convergence and the Drake Passage, we will continue our presentation series and wildlife spotting. Sailing back to Ushuaia through the Beagle Channel, we celebrate the conclusion of our expedition with a special slideshow.

Day 21, Ushuaia disembarkation:

Morning disembarkation lets you catch a flight to Buenos Aires or stay in Ushuaia for more sights and adventure.