Falklands (Malvinas) and South Georgia: Islands of the Southern Ocean

Rich in history and home to astoundingly diverse and abundant wildlife, South Georgia is often called the Galapagos of the Poles. This epic expedition to remote lands traversed by the legendary explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton gives adventurous travelers the unparalleled opportunity to explore this wildlife paradise and the equally unspoiled and storied Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) in great depth.

Immersed in this spectacular setting, you’ll enjoy unforgettable encounters with historically significant sites and unique wildlife unafraid of humans. Come face to face with thousands of curious king penguins and a sea of fur and elephant seals, blanketing beaches nestled below towering snow-capped mountains. Here, your days will be devoted to experiencing one of the last untamed places on the planet, mesmerized by the magnificent beauty of these rugged and pristine landscapes and the wildlife that call them home.

**EXPEDITION IN BRIEF**

- Experience several incredible penguin colonies, including the largest king penguin rookery in the world
- Wander the quaint British town of Stanley in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)
- Follow in the footsteps of the great explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton’s perilous voyage to South Georgia and reflect at his resting place
- Visit abandoned whaling stations and learn about the region’s wildlife and environment

**DID YOU KNOW?** Famous explorer and navigator Captain James Cook discovered South Georgia by accident. Charting it in 1775 during a British expedition, Cook was so disappointed upon realizing that South Georgia was an island instead of the hypothetical continent Terra Australis (which means “land of the south”), he named the southern tip Cape Disappointment!
Adventure Options

Booking an Adventure Option as part of your expedition is a great way to enhance your polar experience. These options are subject to availability and fill up quickly, so be sure to book yours early. Please note that Adventure Options are weather dependent.

SEA KAYAKING

Imagine gliding across the surface of a bay in the presence of icebergs and glaciers! Our sea kayaking adventures are the best way to feel at one with the sea. A small group of sea kayakers will plan to go out multiple times per voyage during landings, taking advantage of the best opportunities, as kayaking adventures are only conducted during calm weather conditions. We recommend that you have some prior kayaking experience, including the capability to do a wet exit.

We advise that sea kayaking in polar waters is not an activity for first-time paddlers. Beginners interested in kayaking should take an introductory kayaking course prior to their voyage. In addition, regardless of your experience, we recommend kayaking lessons for a minimum of three hours in preparation for your expedition. To maximize your enjoyment and your overall experience, it is of the utmost importance that you be comfortable while kayaking.

INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

Many recreational pastimes are offered free on all voyages. Morning and afternoon excursions to cruise the waters via Zodiac or explore on shore are part of the regular daily schedule. Hikes are led by experienced staff, and groups are organized by fitness level. Be sure to take your camera with you—photography is very much a part of the big picture. Presentations and lectures are slotted into the late afternoon and after dinner, when everyone is back on board.

OTHER EQUIPMENT ON BOARD

Walking poles are also provided at each landing for your convenience. Snowshoes may also be provided when conditions are favorable. This equipment is available at no cost.

More information about your Adventure Options, including the necessary experience, physical requirements and cost, is available by contacting your Polar Travel Adviser.
Itinerary

**DAY 1 Ushuaia, Argentina**

You will begin your journey in Ushuaia, a small but bustling port town at the tip of South America. This Argentine town is an ideal gateway for you to explore the southern extent of Patagonia while preparing for your adventure ahead. Get active in the mountains or enjoy handcrafted chocolate at a café in town.

**DAY 2 Ushuaia, Argentina and Embarkation**

Embarkation will occur in the late afternoon, after which your vessel will sail down the historic Beagle Channel. Named after the famed ship on which Charles Darwin voyaged, the channel presents great photo opportunities to capture seabirds hovering overhead and seals and sea lions lounging on land. Expect an air of anticipation as you depart—the next time you’ll see land, you’ll be in a wildlife wonderland!

**DAY 3 At Sea**

There are many activities to keep you engaged while you’re at sea. Learn to identify seabirds gliding alongside the ship, attend dynamic presentations by your Expedition Team, relax in our polar library or simply spend some time out on deck. You will also be prepped on safety procedures for Zodiac cruises and shore landings, so you can make the most of the adventure that awaits.

**DAYS 4 AND 5 Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)**

Upon your arrival in the Falklands (Malvinas), your camera will get its first real workout capturing the abundant wildlife and rugged feel of this sub-Antarctic region. The archipelago contains two main islands—East Falkland and West Falkland—which you will explore during daily Zodiac excursions and landings.

The archipelago is home to thriving Magellanic, gentoo and rockhopper penguin colonies, and if you’re lucky, you may even spot king penguins, too! Your team of specialists will be sure to educate you on the local flora and fauna as well.

You can expect to see black-browed albatrosses on West Point Island. Originally known as Albatross Island, West Point has been identified as an

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Important Bird Area for its several significant bird species, including the endemic Cobb’s wren and Falkland’s flightless steamer duck.

Despite its grim-sounding moniker, Carcass Island (named after HMS Carcass, which surveyed the island in 1766) rewards with spectacular scenery and wildlife, including gentoo and Magellanic penguins. With no predators, the island’s songbird population has flourished, creating an aural experience unlike any other.

Stanley, also known as Port Stanley, is another favored landing site, as the charming town offers a unique British outpost feel. You’ll be free to explore, grab a pint at the local pub or visit numerous churches and museums.

**DAYS 6 AND 7 At Sea**

Sailing south to South Georgia, you’ll officially enter Antarctic waters once you cross the Antarctic Convergence, an invisible biological boundary encircling the continent. This meeting of oceans, where the cold Antarctic waters mix and mingle with the warmer waters of the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, is what creates the abundance of krill that attracts whales and seals to this part of the world. Your Expedition Team will notify you when you cross this invisible yet important line, and also look out for the seabirds and marine life that frequent the area.

**DAYS 8 TO 13 South Georgia**

South Georgia was a popular stop for many historic Antarctic expeditions and was once a haven for hunting whales and elephant and fur seals. Today, wildlife populations have rebounded, but you’ll still find remnants of old whaling stations and other abandoned outposts scattered across the island.

Although South Georgia’s storied history is an important attraction, it is the abundant wildlife that is sure to captivate. Landing sites on the island are varied, largely determined by the weather conditions of your voyage. Whichever landing sites we visit, they’ll provide you with wildlife encounters that cannot be enjoyed anywhere else on earth. South Georgia is one of the most fertile breeding grounds in the world for sub-Antarctic wildlife, with beaches blanketed with penguins—king and macaroni penguins, in particular. The island is also a paradise for bird lovers, who will marvel at the plentiful petrels, albatross and burrowing seabirds. With each landing you make on South Georgia—often referred to as the Galapagos of the Poles—you’ll discover a new wonder.

One day you may see hundreds of thousands of pairs of king penguins waddling on a beach, and the next day you may visit another beach scattered with thousands of fur or elephant seals. The island’s beaches, grasses and mountains all play an important role in the breeding and survival of different species. This fragile, symbiotic relationship is something your Expedition Team will explain while you’re here.

A couple of shore landings that best represent what you can expect in South Georgia are Gold Harbor and Cooper Bay. Perhaps the most picturesque site in all of South Georgia, Gold Harbor provides a dizzying amount of wildlife, all in one location. Here, you’ll be enchanted by the view of the overhanging Bertrab Glacier to the east, a massive king penguin colony in the distance, an abundance of southern elephant seals and fur seals, and nesting albatross high above in the tussock grass.

Cooper Bay will bring you close to macaroni, gentoo or king penguins, and perhaps even Weddell seals, before you set sail for a scenic cruise through the dramatic Drygalski Fjord, where jagged, sharp peaks rise straight out of the sea.

We also hope to visit truly uncharted waters at King Hakkon Bay, a long, narrow inlet in an area that hasn’t yet been fully mapped. This is where the great explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton made landfall in his lifeboat in 1916, searching for rescue for his *Endurance* crew, who were marooned on Elephant Island. A favorite location of ours is the beach at Salisbury Plain, where assertive fur seals and thousands of curious king penguins are likely to
greet us on shore, practically begging you to take their picture. Flanked by glaciers, it makes for a breathtaking backdrop, and photographers will want to capture the surreal spectacle. Not to be outdone, the beaches at Elsehul, Royal Bay, Right Whale Bay and St. Andrew’s Bay are also sure to delight, teeming with playful king penguins and fur and elephant seals.

One of the most historic sites you will visit on the island is Shackleton’s resting place. You can visit his grave at the settlement of Grytviken, which is also home to one of the first whaling stations established in sub-Antarctic waters. You’ll have time to visit the museum, gift shop, church and small research station before sailing to Godthul (Norwegian for “good hollow”).

Linking past and present, one landing we’ll attempt during the voyage is on the eastern shore of Fortuna Bay. Landing here, surrounded by soaring mountains, you’ll head out on the “Shackleton hike,” a trek that has you hiking along the final miles of Shackleton’s traverse of South Georgia into the Stromness whaling station, where the explorer finally found rescue for his crew. To reach the abandoned station, you’ll stroll along a pebbled beach littered with hundreds of fur seals and king and gentoo penguins.

**DAYS 14 TO 17 At Sea**

After two weeks of endless wildlife encounters, your journey home begins. Mingle with your fellow shipmates, sharing stories and photos in the lounge. The noisy, busy world awaits your return, so savor the silence of the sea as long as you can, enjoying your final moments on deck, reflecting on all the amazing creatures you’ve met.

**DAY 18 Disembark in Ushuaia**

Today you’ll say goodbye to your Expedition Team and fellow travelers, disembarking in the morning to catch your homeward flights.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER** Embracing the unexpected is part of the legacy—and excitement—of expedition travel. When traveling in extremely remote regions, your Expedition Team must allow the sea, the ice and the weather to guide route and itinerary details. This itinerary is a tentative outline of what you’ll experience on this voyage; please be aware that no specific itinerary can be guaranteed. A measure of flexibility is something all of us must bring to a polar expedition.

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FALKLANDS (MALVINAS) AND SOUTH GEORGIA: ISLANDS OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

EXPEDITION DOSSIER | 5
Arrival & Departure Details

Welcome! As you prepare for your journey, you may be interested to know the details of your arrival and departure. Since air transportation to and from your voyage is not included in the cost of your expedition, you will need to arrange flights from your home to the starting point, and home again from the finishing point. Quark Expeditions® can assist you with booking air arrangements on an individual basis, or feel free to contact your preferred travel agent or airline. Here are the details of your expedition.

Arrival Day and Embarkation

ARRIVING IN USHUAIA
You may arrive in Ushuaia at any time during Day 1 of your itinerary. Ushuaia is a destination worth exploring, so we do encourage you to arrive a day or two before your expedition. Based on the arrival information you send us, we will arrange for a transfer from the airport to your hotel.

A Quark Expeditions® representative will be available to answer your questions in the lobby of your hotel in Ushuaia during your optional predeparture briefing on Day 1, at 6 pm.

EMBARKATION IN USHUAIA
On the morning of Day 2, your luggage will be collected from the lobby of your hotel, transferred to the ship and stored in your cabin.

Ship embarkation will occur on Day 2 of your itinerary, usually around 4 pm. You and your shipmates will meet at a designated spot near the pier, and board the waiting buses for transfer to the ship. Information about embarkation will be posted in your Ushuaia hotel and discussed during your optional predeparture meeting on Day 1.

Final Day and Departure

DISEMBARKATION IN USHUAIA AND ONWARD
Your ship is scheduled to arrive at the pier in Ushuaia, between 7 am and 8 am local time. Once the ship has docked, you will have time to bid farewell to your Expedition Team and shipmates before completing your disembarkation. The process takes about an hour.

Weather conditions can always change our arrival times, and airline schedule changes have also been known to occur. Please book your flight home from Ushuaia to depart as late in the day as possible or at a date after the end of your expedition. If you have booked a flight that departs before 11 am on the date that your expedition ends, you will be at risk of missing your flight.

Quark Expeditions® staff in Ushuaia will reconfirm your domestic flight 48 hours prior to disembarkation, provided you give your information to our team ahead of time or when you board the ship.

Please note that weather conditions can always delay our arrival times, and airline schedule changes have also been known to occur. Booking flexible tickets is always encouraged, as we cannot be held responsible for ship delays due to unforeseen circumstances. A post-expedition hotel night in Buenos Aires is recommended.
Included Hotel Accommodations

Your included accommodation begins on Day 1 of your itinerary, and the specific hotel(s) will be indicated on your final voyage confirmation. If you are arriving prior to Day 1 of your expedition or are staying after the disembarkation day, please contact your Polar Travel Adviser for hotel options. As accommodation space is limited, you are encouraged to request any extra nights as early as possible.

Ushuaia accommodations range from hostels to mid-range properties, and hotel space is limited. Quark Expeditions® endeavors to provide the best possible accommodation within these parameters. A particular property cannot be guaranteed, but space is most often booked at Hotel Las Lengas, Hotel Los Acebos, and Albatros Hotel.

Arrival and Departure Transfers

**USHUAIA AIRPORT TRANSFERS**

**ARRIVAL**

Group transfers in Ushuaia are included from the airport to your included pre-expedition hotel on Day 1 of your itinerary.

**DEPARTURE**

A group departure transfer is included from the ship to the airport on the final day of your itinerary. If your flight is later in the day, you may opt to transfer to our luggage storage facility instead and enjoy further activities in Ushuaia on your own. Access to luggage storage is available until 6 pm on the disembarkation day only. You will need to arrange your own transfer to the airport if you do not take advantage of the included transfer or if you are leaving Ushuaia after the disembarkation day.

_In order to facilitate your transfers, we request that you provide your flight details to Quark Expeditions® at least 30 days prior to traveling._

Extending Your Trip

**PRE- AND POST-EXPEDITION TRIP EXTENSIONS**

You can extend your trip by booking extra days to explore South America before or after the voyage. Since you’re traveling such a long way, you may want to spend extra time in one of our gateway cities or add on another region, like Easter Island, Chile, or Machu Picchu, Peru. We have a variety of pre- and post-expedition packages in the fascinating cities of Santiago, Buenos Aires, Ushuaia or the region of Patagonia. Enjoy a cruise to Penguin Island near Ushuaia, trek and canoe in Tierra del Fuego National Park, take in a tango show in Buenos Aires or stroll the catwalks over Iguazu Falls. Contact your Polar Travel Adviser to discover the best options for extending your adventure.
Inclusions

**THIS EXPEDITION INCLUDES**

- Shipboard accommodation with daily housekeeping
- All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board
- Beer and wine during dinner
- All shore landings per the daily program
- Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Leader
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising per the daily program
- Formal and informal presentations by our Expedition Team and special guests as scheduled
- A photographic journal documenting the expedition
- Photography guide on Expedition Team
- Waterproof expedition boots on loan for shore landings
- An official Quark Expeditions® parka to keep
- Coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
- A hair dryer and bathrobes in every cabin
- Comprehensive predeparture materials, including a map and an informative Antarctic Reader
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the program
- All luggage handling aboard the ship
- All gratuities
- Emergency evacuation insurance to a maximum benefit of US$500,000 per person

- Group transfer in Ushuaia from the airport to the pre-expedition hotel on Day 1
- One night’s pre-expedition hotel accommodation in Ushuaia, with breakfast
- Group transfer from the hotel to the ship on embarkation day
- Group transfer upon disembarkation in Ushuaia from the ship to the local airport

**THIS EXPEDITION EXCLUDES**

- International airfare
- Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned above
- Meals ashore unless otherwise specified
- Baggage, cancellation, interruption and medical travel insurance—strongly recommended
- Excess-baggage fees on international flights
- Mandatory waterproof pants for Zodiac cruising, or any other gear not mentioned
- Laundry, bar, beverage and other personal charges unless specified
- Phone and Internet charges
- Additional overnight accommodation
- Optional adventure activities

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## Dates & Rates

**FALKLANDS (MALVINAS) AND SOUTH GEORGIA Islands of the Southern Ocean**

*Expedition Aboard the Adventure Ship OCEAN ADVENTURER*

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*All rates per person in USD.*
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)

POSSIBLE LANDINGS AND WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS
A rare treat on an Antarctic voyage is to stop for a pint with some locals! At Stanley, in the Falklands, it is one unique optional activity that many travelers partake in. The archipelago itself consists of East Falkland and West Falkland, which are divided by the Falkland Sound. Not many flat stretches are found here, so you’ll get a workout while hiking and exploring. You’ll enjoy your first sightings of penguins here as well.

CARCASS ISLAND
This five-mile (8 km) island northwest of West Falkland is owned by Rob and Lorraine McGill. Named for the Royal Navy ship *HMS Carcass*, which arrived in 1766, it is a picturesque place, where songbirds nest amongst the luxuriant growth that covers the gently rolling landscape.

NEW ISLAND
New Island, the most southwesterly island in the archipelago and a designated Important Bird Area, is about eight miles (13 km) long and half a mile (800 meters) wide. The rugged west side of the island rises a steep 600 feet (183 meters), while the east side slopes down to the sea. Ownership is held by the New Island Conservation Trust, which manages the island as a nature reserve.

STANLEY
Stanley’s deep-water harbor has been the economic mainstay of the community since the port’s completion in 1845. Ships that were damaged while rounding Cape Horn would call in for expensive repairs. The questionable vessels that were used to carry fortune seekers to the gold fields of California and Australia often called at Stanley as well. The town is as lively as it gets in the Falklands (Malvinas), and the future of the port may be bright if hydrocarbon deposits off the coast prove to be abundant.

WEST POINT ISLAND
The Napier family has owned West Point Island since the 1860s. On the island’s west coast, black-browed albatrosses nest in colonies on cliffs along the water’s edge. Rockhopper penguins share the cliffs, while Commerson’s dolphins can often be seen in the surrounding waters.

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South Georgia

POSSIBLE LANDINGS AND WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

South Georgia is roughly 100 miles (160 km) by 20 miles (32 km) wide. When the legendary Captain James Cook published his account of the area, he created a rush of interest in whaling and sealing on South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands. Today, penguins and seals are abundant once again.

DRYGALSKI FJORD

This is a photogenic and dramatic fjord, with sharp and jagged peaks rising out of the sea. Glaciation never reached the peaks, giving the fjord a unique landscape.

GOLD HARBOUR

The backdrop to this harbor is the hanging Bertrab Glacier. King and gentoo penguins call Gold Harbour home, as do rowdy elephant and fur seals.

GRYTVIKEN

Only a handful of people live, albeit temporarily, on South Georgia, a United Kingdom overseas territory. Two of them are curators of the South Georgia Museum, located in the former villa of the whaling station manager. The church was built for the whaling community and is the only building in Grytviken that is still used for its original purpose.

SALISBURY PLAIN

One of the largest king penguin rookeries on South Georgia is located on Salisbury Plain. The Murphy and Lucas Glaciers flank the plain, creating a perfect backdrop for photos.

ST. ANDREW’S BAY

Thousands of breeding pairs of king penguins nest at St. Andrew’s Bay—the largest king penguin rookery on South Georgia, and a wildlife spectacle to behold.

STROMNESS

This abandoned whaling station was in full operation the day that Sir Ernest Shackleton and his companions staggered into it after a 36-hour trek across the island. There is a small cemetery here, with the graves of 14 whalers.

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