

# South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula: Penguin Safari with flights from Buenos Aires

Your adventure begins in Buenos Aires, where you'll enjoy its heavily European-influenced heritage before being whisked away on a private charter flight to explore Ushuaia prior to embarkation. At sea, photograph massive albatross and pintado petrel as they swoop and soar around the ship, guiding us toward South Georgia. Beaches teeming with king penguins and elephant seals greet us on this fabled island, where we'll pay our respects to famed explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton.

Antarctica awaits, with its geographic contradictions and overwhelming enormity. Relax on a Zodiac ride, hike glistening glaciers, share comical moments with inquisitive penguins, or witness the rugged peninsula from a sea kayak. Antarctica will surprise and delight, and never disappoint.

## EXPEDITION IN BRIEF:

- Experience the quintessential wildlife experience of the "Galapagos of the Poles"
- Visit South Georgia's king penguin rookeries - the largest in the world
- Reflect at the resting place of the great explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton
- Visit abandoned whaling stations and learn stories of inhabitants who called this island home
- Enjoy on-board lecturers and educational presentations from polar specialists
- Arrive in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the tango capital of the world, and let us take care of the rest of the journey

**DID YOU KNOW?** *At the peak of the whaling era there were upwards of 2,000 people living on South Georgia. Today, there are no permanent residents on the island - only a small number of scientists and researchers maintain a presence here. As a result of ceased hunting and introduced species eradication, the wildlife has rebounded in tremendous fashion!*

# 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

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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.*

## STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

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Combining surfing with kayaking or canoeing, stand-up paddleboarding will give you a very personal and unique perspective on Antarctica. Taken in small groups—on calm bays and harbors in good weather conditions—and accompanied by a Zodiac, our paddleboarding adventures can be booked in advance (limited availability), and after the first successful outing, will be offered via sign-up onboard ship on a first-come, first-served basis for any subsequent outings.

## INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

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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

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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 Buenos Aires, Argentina

You may arrive in Buenos Aires at any time during Day 1 of the itinerary. Upon your arrival in this splendid city, known for its rich architecture and European heritage, you will independently transfer to the group hotel (pre-night hotel included).

## DAY 2 Ushuaia, Argentina and Embarkation

After breakfast at the hotel, the group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, Argentina.

Upon arrival, you will have a little time to explore this quaint port town before heading to the pier.

Embarkation will occur in the late afternoon, after which your vessel will sail down the historic Beagle Channel. This famous channel transects the Tierra del Fuego archipelago in the extreme south of South America. Think of the Beagle Channel as the tasty appetizer before your main course arrives. You will want to get out on deck and keep your eyes open as there are several bird species to capture your attention and test your photography skills.

## DAYS 3 TO 5 At Sea

The Expedition Team will keep you busy by testing your knowledge of seabirds, penguins and the history of South Georgia as they begin their educational lecture program. Your first days will include time to get acquainted with fellow travelers and learning about the shore landings, Zodiac excursions and kayaking opportunities that await you.

## DAYS 6 TO 8 South Georgia

The first indication that you are approaching South Georgia is the sighting of birds around a group of rocky spires called Shag Rocks. Rising out of the icy ocean waters, have your binoculars and cameras ready to photograph these rocks. Shags and prions often rest here.

After enjoying South Georgia from a distance, we'll head towards its sandy



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beaches to find a protected bay for your first land excursion. Landing sites on South Georgia are varied, and are 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.

This is one of the most fertile breeding grounds in the world for sub-Antarctic wildlife, with beaches littered with penguins - in particular king and macaroni penguins. Many rookeries number into the 100s of thousands! It won't take you long to realize that South Georgia is a paradise for bird lovers as burrowing seabirds, albatross and petrels can be seen in abundance.

You'll find that South Georgia is also scattered with abandoned relics and evidence of human activity from centuries gone by. Once a popular base for whalers and sealers, Captain James Cook first reported on the abundance of wildlife here in 1775. His report resulted in an almost complete decimation of fur seals and a drastic decline in both whale and elephant seal populations.

Your Expedition Team will help bring those days to life for you, as you'll visit old whaling stations and enjoy lectures and presentations on the South Georgia of then and now. Thankfully, you'll witness that many species have seen a remarkable population rebound on the island.

One of the most significant sites you will visit on the island is located on Grytviken. This is one of the first whaling stations established in sub-

Antarctic waters. Many travelers find this place of special appeal as it is home to the remains of one of the best known Antarctic explorers, Sir Ernest Shackleton.

#### **DAYS 9 & 10 At Sea**

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Antarctica awaits, along with its own penguin and seal species. While you're at sea, you can enjoy quiet time or take in presentations by the Expedition Team, which will cover everything from the history and geology of Antarctica to tips on identifying different species and what makes each of them unique.

#### **DAYS 11 TO 13 Antarctic Peninsula**

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The most common reaction to arriving at the White Continent is a sense of reverence and awe. The experience is hard to put into words. You will discover that Antarctica is a land of extremes: at one moment you'll be overcome with a feeling of complete silence and loneliness, the next you'll be laughing at the comical antics of a curious penguin.

Zodiac cruises, visits to current research bases or abandoned whaling stations and, of course, communing with seals and penguins are sure to keep you smiling each and every day. Perhaps you'll catch sight of the fearless penguin-eater, the leopard seal, or come eye-to-eye with a curious minke whale while out on a Zodiac. Each day and each landing will present a new collection of creatures to entertain you and keep your camera busy.

If you find yourself wanting more, then perhaps you'll treat yourself by booking our kayaking Adventure Option (reserve in advance when booking your trip), or if you're feeling a bit overwhelmed, a little shock therapy courtesy of a Polar Plunge might be what you need!

#### **DAYS 14 & 15 At Sea**

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After more than a dozen days of memorable wildlife encounters, your journey home begins. Crossing the Drake is your unofficial rite of passage, putting a final stamp of completion on your Antarctic adventure.

#### **DAY 16 Disembark in Ushuaia and Fly to Buenos Aires**

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We will arrive in Ushuaia in the morning after breakfast. After disembarkation, we will taste a little of Patagonia by touring Tierra del Fuego National Park before we transfer to the airport for the return group charter flight to Buenos Aires.



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# Arrival & Departure Details

Welcome! As you prepare for your journey, you may be interested to know the details of your arrival and departure. Since international 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.

## Arrival Day and Embarkation

### ARRIVING IN BUENOS AIRES

You may arrive at any time during Day 1 of your itinerary. Upon your arrival in Buenos Aires, you will make your way to the included group hotel. That evening, a Quark Expeditions® representative will greet you and be available to answer your questions at the predeparture briefing. After breakfast the following morning, on Day 2, your group will transfer to the airport and board our private charter flight to Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world.

*Please note that there is a strict luggage limit of 44 lbs (20 kg) checked luggage and 11 lbs (5 kg) cabin baggage on the flights between Buenos Aires and Ushuaia. Should you have additional luggage, it can be stored at the hotel in Buenos Aires. There is NO option to pay for additional luggage.*

### USHUAIA AND EMBARKATION

Upon arrival in Ushuaia (Day 2 of your itinerary), you'll have some free time to explore this quaint port town before heading to the pier and embarking around 4 pm. Information about embarkation will be given during your predeparture briefing at the Buenos Aires hotel.

## Final Day and Departure

### DISEMBARKATION IN USHUAIA

The ship is scheduled to arrive back at the pier in Ushuaia between 7 am and 8 am local time. After breakfast, and 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. If you have purchased the Buenos Aires hotel and transfer package, we will depart the pier to take a short tour of Tierra del Fuego National Park before transferring to the airport for our return charter flight to Buenos Aires.

### DEPARTING FROM BUENOS AIRES

Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, you may connect directly with your homeward flight, as we will land at the international airport (EZE). Approximate arrival time is scheduled for 5 pm.

*Please note that weather conditions can always delay our arrival, 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.*



### LET US HELP YOU BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS!

To book flights to complement your expedition, contact a Polar Travel Adviser **(1.888.892.0073)** for seamless, worry-free booking of all flights.

## 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.

## Arrival and Departure Transfers

### BUENOS AIRES AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Arrival and departure transfers in Buenos Aires are not included; however, a Polar Travel Adviser can arrange them for you.

If you are flying home right away, you will most likely be able to board on the same day, as our charter flight arrives at Ministro Pistarini International Airport (EZE). Please be sure to allow 3 hours between our charter arrival and your international departure.

If your plans will take you onward in South America, please check your flight schedule to confirm your connection before booking. Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, you may need to transfer from the international airport (EZE) to the domestic airport, Jorge Newbery (AEP), which is located about a one-hour drive away.

We recommend that you book an extra hotel night in Buenos Aires for the safest travel plans. If you must transfer between airports on the final day of the voyage, you can choose to use the efficient airport shuttle service, Manuel Tienda León, or take a taxi (about a one-hour ride under normal traffic conditions). If you prefer, your Polar Travel Adviser can also arrange for a private transfer.

As traffic can be a factor, we recommend that you allow at least 4 to 5 hours between flights arriving and departing from the different airports in Buenos Aires.

## 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.



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# 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

*Note: Baggage allowance on charter flights is 44 lbs (20 kg) checked and 11 lbs (5 kg) carry-on.*

## THIS EXPEDITION EXCLUDES

- *Mandatory transfer package\**
- *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*
- *Arrival transfer in Buenos Aires on Day 1*

### **\*BUENOS AIRES TRANSFER PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- One night's hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires, with breakfast
- Group transfer from the hotel to the airport in Buenos Aires
- Charter flight from the Buenos Aires international airport to Ushuaia, and return
- Group transfer from the Ushuaia airport to the ship, and return
- Combined airport transfer and express bus tour of Tierra del Fuego National Park after disembarkation

**Package cost: \$950 USD**



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# Dates & Rates

## SOUTH GEORGIA AND ANTARCTIC PENINSULA *Penguin Safari with flights from Buenos Aires*

### *Expedition Aboard the Adventure Ship* **OCEAN ENDEAVOUR**

Dates	Days	Start/End	Triple	Single	Twin Porthole Cabins	Upper Deck Cabins	Superior Cabins	Top Deck Double	Twin Window Cabins	Suites	
January 26 - February 10, 2019	16	Buenos Aires	\$9,395	\$17,095	\$14,195 \$15,995 Suite*	\$15,395	\$16,595	\$17,295	\$14,795 \$17,995 Suite*	\$18,695 Junior \$19,395 Owner's	

*Transfer package required on Ocean Endeavour voyages for \$950, see Inclusions for details*

*\* Twice the space of the Twin Porthole or Twin Window, with one or two bathrooms*

*Complimentary wine with dinner on Ocean Endeavour*

*All rates per person in USD.*



### HOW TO BOOK YOUR EXPEDITION & ADVENTURE OPTIONS

To book your cabin or inquire about the availability of Adventure Options, contact a Polar Travel Adviser **1.888.892.0073 (+1.203.803.2666)**.

# 1.888.892.0073

# 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

**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.*

# Antarctic Peninsula

## POSSIBLE LANDINGS AND WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

Stepping foot on Antarctica is a moment of pleasure that affects each traveler differently. Your possible landing in Antarctica will take place on the Peninsula, which is an extension of the Transantarctic Mountains chain and is the most northern stretch of Antarctic land. Formed by uplifted submarine troughs that were filled with sediment about 220 million years ago, this is a dynamic land of both desolation and diversity. To the east is the frozen, wild Weddell Sea. To the west, howling winds and warming seas from the Southern Ocean create perfect conditions for whale sightings.

### CUVERVILLE ISLAND

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A gentoo penguin rookery is situated on a rocky beach at the north end of the island. Depending on when in the season you arrive, you may see the penguins building nests or attending to their chicks. Giant petrels and kelp gulls breed on the island.

### DAMOY POINT

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If you are lucky enough to mail a postcard in Antarctica, you'll likely pass through Damoy Point, the northern entrance to the harbor where Port Lockroy is located.

### DANCO ISLAND

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Home to gentoo penguins, this small island is easy to explore, at only one mile (1.6 km) long. You can visit the marker of a former British Antarctic Survey hut, where you can watch for a variety of seabirds, such as snowy sheathbills, kelp gulls and blue-eyed shags.

### ENTERPRISE ISLAND

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Located in Wilhelmina Bay, this island was once used by whalers. A Zodiac cruise around the island passes a wrecked whaling ship.

### LEMAIRE CHANNEL

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You'll see firsthand why this strait, which runs between Booth Island and the Antarctic Peninsula, is one of the most scenic locations on the peninsula's west coast, especially during sunrise and sunset. The channel may become impassable when ice fills the narrow 6.8-mile (11 km) long passageway, so we'll hope for clear waters.

### MELCHIOR ISLANDS

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This group of low islands in Dallmann Bay is where you may see hauled-out male fur seals as they recuperate from their battles for supremacy at the end of their breeding season.

### NEKO HARBOUR

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Little evidence remains that this bay was once used by the floating whale factory ship *Neko*. You might see whale vertebrae being used by resident gentoo penguins as shelter from the wind. Climb up a steep slope for spectacular views of the glacier-rimmed harbor.

### PETERMANN ISLAND

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Here, near the Lemaire Channel, you can stand ashore and see the southernmost breeding colony of gentoo penguins. The dome of the island rises 650 feet (200 meters) above the sea, offering a challenging hike for panoramic views. Adélie penguins, shags and south polar skuas also inhabit the island.

### PORT LOCKROY

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As part of Operation Tabarin during the Second World War, a secret British base was built in this sheltered harbor, located on the west side of Wiencke Island. Now a designated historic site, the base is a museum and post office. Proceeds from your purchases in Port Lockroy support the British Antarctic Heritage trust, which preserves historic sites from the Heroic Age of Exploration. A large gentoo penguin population resides here and is observed for any effects of tourism.

## WATERBOAT POINT

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You may venture to this unique point, which at low tide is connected to the Antarctic mainland. Zodiacs are used to explore the historic area when the tide is in. Two scientists studying penguin behavior lived in a water boat on the point from 1921 to 22. The remains of their camp have been designated an Antarctic historic site.

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# South Shetland Islands

## POSSIBLE LANDINGS AND WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

The Bransfield Strait separates this archipelago from the Antarctic Peninsula. The South Shetland Islands stretch for 335 miles (540 km) from northeast to southwest. In the 1820s, sealers swept the islands' beaches of seals. When the seal market collapsed, the sealers retreated. Over the course of time, seals have returned to the islands.

### AITCHO ISLANDS

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This group of small islands, some still unnamed, is situated in the northern entrance of the English Strait. You can often spot a great mix of wildlife in the area, with gentoo and chinstrap penguins having established rookeries on the islands. Southern elephant and fur seals frequently haul out here, too.

### BAILY HEAD

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Also known as Rancho Point, Bailey Head is a rocky headland on the southeastern shore of Deception Island. Chinstrap penguins build nests on slopes leading to a high ridge that dominates the natural amphitheater and provides a superb setting for landscape photography.

### HALF MOON ISLAND

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This crescent-shaped island was known to sealers as early as 1821. Unlike sealers, who tried to keep their best locations secret, we're happy to bring you ashore on this impressive island. Many Antarctic birds breed here, including chinstrap penguins, shags, Wilson's storm petrels, kelp gulls, snowy sheathbills, Antarctic terns and skua.

### HANNAH POINT

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Macaroni, chinstrap and gentoo penguin rookeries are located on this point, which is on the south coast of Livingston Island. Due to the rather congested area available to the nesting penguins, you can only visit here from January 10 onward.

### PENDULUM COVE

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Geothermal waters are found along the shoreline of this cove, named for observations made in 1829 by a British expedition. You may see yellow algae and boiled krill floating on the surface because of the scalding water!

### PENGUIN ISLAND

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Antarctica has two flowering plants, both of which you can find on Penguin Island: *Deschampsia antarctica* and *Colobanthus quitensis*. Chinstrap penguins, fur seals and southern elephant seals use the island for breeding purposes.

### ROBERT POINT

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A nice spot for Zodiac cruising, this point was known to sealers as early as 1820. Chinstrap penguins, kelp gulls and pintado petrels breed here, and whales may be seen in the surrounding waters.

### TELEFON BAY

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Your Expedition Team will be happy to point out that this is where the most recent evidence of volcanic eruption on Deception Island can be seen.

### TURRET POINT

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Chinstrap and Adélie penguin rookeries are found on this point, situated on the south coast of King George Island. The beaches here are often crowded with southern elephant, fur and Weddell seals hauling out on the rocks.

## WHALER'S BAY

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To reach Whaler's Bay, it is necessary to sail through a narrow passage called Neptune's Bellows. The bay was used by whalers from 1906 to 1931 and is part of a protected harbor created by the formation of the circular flooded caldera known as Deception Island. Along with waddling penguins and lounging seals, you'll see the rusting remains of whaling operations on the beach. Watch for steam that may rise from geothermally heated springs along the shoreline.

## YANKEE HARBOUR

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Gentoo penguins have established a rookery on this harbor, situated on the southwest side of Greenwich Island. Here, you can see an abandoned Argentine refuge hut and a large glacier that stretches along the east and north sides of the bay. An abandoned sealing try pot is all that remains of the activity that brought men thousands of miles in tall ships to seek their fortune.

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