

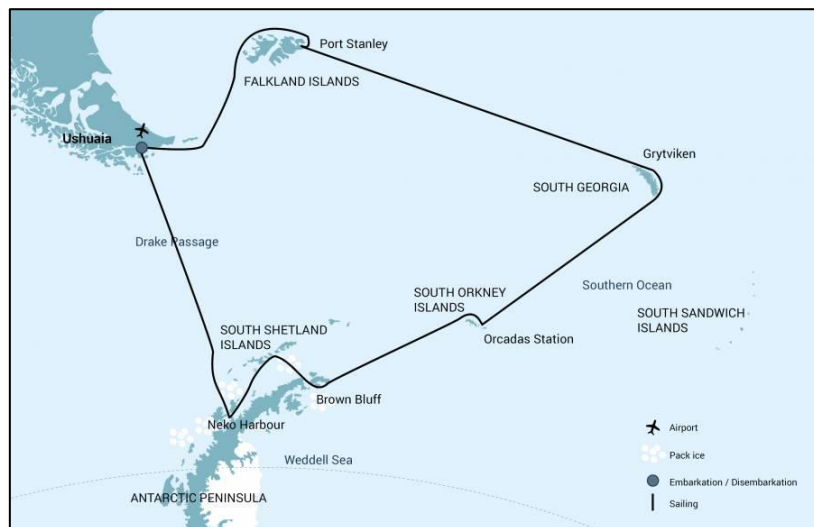
Join Sarah Williams from Gane & Marshall on an incredible 20-day cruise to the Falklands, South Georgia, South Orkney and Antarctica

Departing Ushuaia, 3rd December 2018

This is the ultimate wildlife cruise to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, South Orkney and the Antarctic Peninsula. Escorted by G&M consultant, Sarah Williams, the 20-day exploratory cruise departs from Ushuaia, in Southern Argentina, this December.

The Antarctic Peninsula cruise will satisfy the most ardent nature lovers. During the 20-day voyage, you can expect to encounter an immense variety of wildlife, including whales, dolphins, penguins (at least six species), elephant seals and numerous seabirds. You'll also encounter phenomenal Polar landscapes.

The experience is enhanced by the presence of noted naturalists who will accompany you during shore excursions and provide a fascinating programme of evening lectures designed to give you an in-depth knowledge of the wildlife and geography of this remote and vast wilderness.



ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

The Falklands

Your first stop is the Falklands – an archipelago of over 700 unspoilt islands with an abundance of wildlife. The first thing you will notice here is the clarity of the light. The islands are unpolluted so colours are sharp and vibrant. The islands have a very high density of wildlife and are home to a variety of seabird colonies and two endemic birds - the Falkland flightless steamer duck and Cobb's wren. The large clumps of tussock grass which grow up to 10 feet high provides safe nesting sites for birds and sea lions. Visitors can also expect to see dolphins and whales, who reside in the waters surrounding the islands. Other highlights include Carcass Island, with its abundant birdlife

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from breeding penguins to numerous waders and passerine birds, and Saunders Island, for black-browed albatross, breeding imperial shags and several species of penguins.

The Falklands Capital, Port Stanley is a mixture of South American character and Victorian charm: colourful houses, well-tended gardens and English-style pubs. A visit to Christ Church Cathedral is a must if only to see the entrance made from the jawbones of two blue whales.

South Georgia

From the Falklands, your cruise will take you to South Georgia and Fortuna Bay, which is inhabited by penguins and seals. Here you follow the final section of Shackleton's route to the abandoned whaling village of Stromness. See three of the largest king penguin colonies, and also three of the largest breeding beaches for southern elephant seals in the world. Visit Grytviken, an abandoned whaling station, where king penguins now walk the streets and southern elephant seals, the largest of all seals, congregate in colonies. You can also see the South Georgia Museum as well as Shackleton's grave.

South Orkney

The cruise will continue to Base Orcadas, an Argentine scientific station on Laurie Island in the South Orkney archipelago. The staff here will happily show you their facility, where you can enjoy expansive views of the surrounding glaciers or a landing in Signy Island's Shingle Cove.

Antarctica

Sail into the Weddell Sea, which is fringed by colossal icebergs, and tiny Paulet Island which is only 1.5km wide but has a huge population of Adélie penguins.

This extended voyage provides the chance to sail even further down the ice-sculpted western Antarctic Peninsula and visit the former British research station, now a museum and post office on Goudier Island.

Jougla Point is home to Gentoo penguins, who nest on its exposed boulders and rocks. Blue-eyed shags also live here but sadly their numbers are unstable and they should only be observed from a distance. At Neko Harbour you may be able to set foot on the Continent in an otherworldly landscape of alpine peaks and glaciers. Humpback whales and minke whales may be spotted in this area.

On your last landing day you will visit Cuverville Island, which is home to the largest Gentoo penguin rookery in the Antarctic Peninsula as well as southern giant petrels and Antarctic shags.

For the full day by day programme, check out the itinerary here.



The vessel for this voyage is M/V Plancius

Plancius was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy. The ship was eventually purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions and was completely rebuilt as a 116-passenger vessel in 2009. It complies with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety of Life at Sea).

M/V Plancius accommodates 116 passengers in 53 passenger cabins, each with private toilet and shower.

The vessel offers a restaurant/lecture room and a spacious observation lounge & bar with large windows, offering full panorama views of the Antarctic landscape.

M/V Plancius has large open deck spaces, giving excellent opportunities to enjoy the scenery and wildlife. She is equipped with 10 zodiacs and 2 gangways on the starboard side, guaranteeing a swift zodiac operation.

M/V Plancius is comfortable and attractive but it is not a luxury vessel. Voyages in the Antarctic are and will still be primarily defined by an exploratory educational travel programme, spending as much time ashore as possible.

Booking Information

This cruise itinerary departs from Ushuaia, in southern Argentina, on 3rd December 2018, returning 22nd December. During the voyage you will be accompanied by G&M consultant Sarah Williams.

The price is from **£7,575 per person** sharing a quad cabin, inclusive of: 20-day voyage; all meals including snacks & tea/coffee; shore excursions and activities as outlined; programme of lectures by naturalists; transfers to/from vessel; service taxes and port charges.

Triple and twin cabins are also available; please ask for prices.

If you wish to add pre- or post-arrangements to Iguacu Falls, Buenos Aires or Ushuaia, we can organise this for you along with your international flights.

If you are not able to travel during these dates, there are also a number of other departures available from October 2018 to March 2019. See our Antarctic Peninsula itinerary page for a full list of available departure dates and start from prices. Note that these departures are not escorted by a G&M staff member.

Please contact Sarah Williams on Sarah@ganeandmarshall.com or 01822 600600 for further information or to book your place.