

Falkland Islands and South Georgia Cruise

2nd-21st Nov 2015



This exciting discovery voyage into the Sub-Antarctic departs in spring, and stops at spectacular landing sites on the Falkland Islands and South Georgia, where you'll encounter black-browed albatrosses and rock hopper penguins, as well as iconic landmarks of Shackleton's Antarctic expedition.

New for this year is the Shackleton ski crossing, which will see 12 explorers traverse South Georgia from south to north on a self-supported ski expedition! Get in touch with <u>Sarah@ganeandmarshall.com</u> if you'd like to learn more about this unique expedition.

This cruise itinerary is operated by Oceanwide Expeditions and sold by Gane and Marshall.

Please note: this itinerary is for guidance only. Your programme may vary depending on local ice and weather conditions, the availability of landing sites, and opportunities to see wildlife. The final itinerary will be determined by the Expedition Leader on board your vessel. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises.

Day 1: Embarkation and departure from Puerto Madryn

Embark in Puerto Madryn and set sail for the Falkland Islands. With any luck, you might encounter the South Right Whale as you enter the Open Ocean – they are regular visitors to the Golfo Nuevo!



Days 2 - 3: At Sea

The next two days are spent at sea, following the prevailing Westerlies en route to the Falkland Islands. You can expect to see several species of Albatross, Storm Petrels, Shearwaters and Diving Petrels during the course of the journey.



Day 4: Falkland Islands

If the weather conditions are favourable upon reaching the Falklands, you'll have the opportunity to land on the seldom-visited Steeple Jason Island, home to the largest Black-browed Albatross colony in the world. This is a real expedition landing and is only possible when the weather is good.

As an alternative, you can spend an entire day on the fascinating western side of the archipelago. The hike along the Shore of Carcass Island offers sightings of Magellanic and Gentoo-Penguins, as well as close encounters with Night Herons and Passerines! On Saunders Island you will be able to observe four species of breeding penguins (Gentoo, King, Magellanic and Rockhopper), Blackbrowed Albatrosses and King Cormorants.





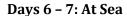




Day 5: Port Stanley

In Stanley, the Victorian-era capital of the Falklands, you'll have the chance to learn more about Falkland culture, exploring both its British and South American characteristics. In Stanley and the surrounding area you can see the remains of a number of stranded clipper ships, many over a century old.

Take the time to freely explore Port Stanley at your own pace. We recommend a visit to the local church and museum.



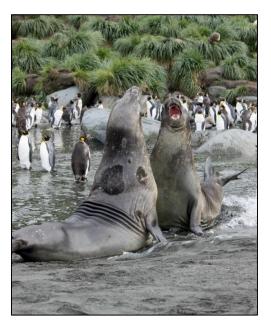
Depart the Falkland Islands for South Georgia. On your way to South Georgia you'll cross the Antarctic Convergence. Entering Antarctic waters, the



temperature will drop by as much as 10 degrees in the span of only a few hours. Near the Convergence you can expect to see a multitude of southern seabirds close to the ship, among them several species of Albatross, Shearwaters, Petrels, Prions and Skuas.

Days 8 - 15: South Georgia

During the next week you'll be able to explore South Georgia by sea or on land. There will two adventure options: a standard sea voyage (with zodiac excursions and light trekking on shore) for "sea explorers" and a fully land-based expedition for "ski explorers".



The sea explorers will explore South Georgia's coastline, while the ski explorers will traverse the island on a 4-day ski trek from King Haakon Bay on the southern coast to Fortuna Bay on the north. This latter option is available for groups of no more than 12 skiers (accompanied by 2-3 guides). It's a tough expedition—you'll be required to haul a sledge, or pulka, weighing up to 20-30km, while retracing sections of the original route taken by Shackleton in 1916—but it provides an authentic polar expedition and serves as a great practice run for one of our tougher expeditions, such as our North Pole Last Degree expeditions!

The two groups will split up at Pegotty Bluff, Shackleton's historic campsite in King Haakon Bay, before reuniting at Fortuna Bay four days later. In the

intervening days, the sea explorers will have the opportunity to explore South Georgia's beautiful coastline, stopping at a number places of interest such as Right Whale Bay, Godthul, Prion Island and Grytviken – along the way you'll encounter huge King and Macaroni penguin colonies,







elephant seal, and all manner of marine and bird life, not to mention stunning coastal scenery. See our <u>Falklands</u>, <u>South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula itinerary</u> for a more detailed overview of the South Georgia cruise section.

After collecting the ski explorers from Fortuna Bay, the group will enjoy the latter part of the cruise itinerary together. Both ski explorers and sea explorers can walk the final section of Shackleton's route to Stromness, an abandoned whaling village.



Days 16 - 19: At sea

Begin the return journey. You might encounter sea-ice on the way back and, with any luck, snow petrel and skua, which are normally found at the ice-edge.

Day 20: Arrival and disembark the vessel

Disembark in Ushuaia after breakfast.

Price Guide:

The cost of this cruise is from £5,095 per person in a quad cabin (triple cabins from £5,725pp; twin from £6,275pp), inclusive of a 20% discount applicable to this departure only. The Shackleton ski crossing is an additional £3,350pp. For further information and to enquire about availability, please contact Sarah@ganeandmarshall.com.

Includes:

- o All meals while aboard the ship
- Lectures by noted naturalists and experienced guides
- All shore excursions and activities by Zodiac
- Free use of rubber boots and snow shoes
- All service taxes and charges
- Transfer between vessel and airport in Ushuaia at end of cruise

Excludes:

- o International flights
- Pre- and post-travel arrangements
- o Transfers to / from the vessel
- o Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes
- o Meals ashore
- Insurance
- o All items of a personal nature
- Tips



