

FALKLAND ISLANDS - SOUTH GEORGIA GRAND TOUR | HONDIUS



INTRODUCTION

Few places on earth have the same unique species and breathtaking beauty as South Georgia, and the Falklands are no exception. Both can be seen on this exploration expedition.

All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on ice, weather, and wildlife conditions. Landings are subject to site availabilities, permissions, and environmental concerns per IAATO regulations. Official sailing plans and landing slots are scheduled with IAATO prior to the start of the season, but the expedition leader determines the final plan. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises.

ITINERARY

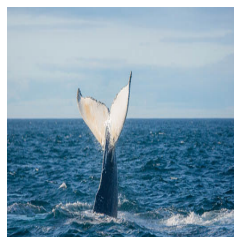
DAY 1: Emarkation in Puerto Madryn

You embark from Puerto Madryn in the afternoon, your prow aimed for the Falkland Islands. Golfo Nuevo is renowned for its visiting southern right whales, so you have a good chance of spotting one as you sail toward the open ocean.



DAY 2: At Sea to the Falkland Islands

Though you're now at sea, there's rarely a lonesome moment here. Several species of bird follow the vessel southeast, such as albatrosses, storm petrels, shearwaters, and diving petrels.



TRIP CODE

ACOWSGGT

DEPARTURE

27/10/2024

DURATION

18 Days

LOCATIONS

South Georgia & Falkland Islands



FALKLAND ISLANDS - SOUTH GEORGIA GRAND TOUR | HONDIUS

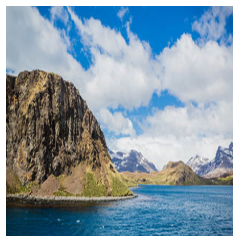
DAY 4: Falkland Islands

The Falkland Islands offer an abundance of wildlife that is easily approachable, though caution is always advised. These islands are largely unknown gems with a wealth of bird life, including many endemic species. The waters of the Falklands are also rich with sea life, including southern sea lions and elephant seals. There is a good chance to see both Peale's dolphins and Commerson's dolphins. During this segment of the voyage, we aim to visit the following two sites: Steeple Jason - Home to the world's largest black-browed albatross colony (roughly 113,000), Steeple Jason is a wild and rarely visited island buffeted by wind and waves. Weather and swell conditions dictate the journey here. Carcass Island - Despite its name, this island is pleasantly rodent-free and hence bounteous with birdlife and many endemic species. Anything from breeding Magellanic penguins and gentoos to numerous waders and passerine birds (including Cobb's wrens and tussock-birds) live here. Other sites that we may offer as an alternative: Saunders Island - On Saunders Island you can see the black-browed albatross and its sometimes-clumsy landings, along with breeding imperial shags and rockhopper penguins. King penguins, Magellanic penguins, and gentoos are also found here. Westpoint Island - Landing in a small cove near the island's house, you will be able to walk through the tussac grass and an abundant breeding colony of black-browed albatrosses, where they live side by side with rockhopper penguins. Grave Cove - Nesting gentoo penguins and excellent hiking opportunities abound here, with the chance to enjoy great scenery and wildlife.



DAY 6: At Sea to South Georgia

En route to South Georgia, you now cross the Antarctic Convergence. The temperature cools considerably within the space of a few hours, and nutritious water rises to the surface of the sea due to colliding water columns. This phenomenon attracts a multitude of seabirds near the ship, including several species of albatross, shearwaters, petrels, prions, and skuas.



DAY 8: Shag Rocks

Today we reach the Shag Rocks, a group of six islands surrounded by nutrient-rich waters that offer great feeding grounds for numerous birds and whales. The islands are named after the South Georgian shag, known for its bright blue eyes and yellow beak patch.



TRIP CODE

ACOWSGGT

DEPARTURE

27/10/2024

DURATION

18 Days

LOCATIONS

South Georgia & Falkland Islands




FALKLAND ISLANDS - SOUTH GEORGIA GRAND TOUR | HONDIUS

DAY 9: South Georgia

In our tour of South Georgia's breathtaking wildlife and scenery, we may visit the following sites. Please keep in mind that weather conditions in this area can be challenging, largely dictating the program. Sites you might visit include:

Prion Island - The home of the great wandering albatrosses. The previous summer's wandering albatross chicks are almost ready to fledge, and adults are seeking out their old partners after a year and a half at sea. **Salisbury Plain, St. Andrews Bay, Gold Harbour** - These sites not only house the three largest king penguin colonies in South Georgia, they're also three of the world's largest breeding beaches for southern elephant seals. Only during this time of year do they peak in their breeding cycle. Watch the four-ton bulls keep a constant vigil (and occasionally fight) over territories where dozens of females have just given birth or are about to deliver. You can also see a substantial number of Antarctic fur seals here during the breeding season (December - January). **Fortuna Bay** - This beautiful outwash plain from Fortuna Glacier is home to a large number of king penguins and seals. You may have the chance to follow the final leg of Shackleton's route to the abandoned whaling village of Stromness. This path cuts across the mountain pass beyond Shackleton's Waterfall, and as the terrain is partly swampy, be prepared to cross a few small streams. **Leith Harbour, Stromness, Husvik** - These sites remind us of the scale of the whaling industry in the early 20th century. Elephant and fur seals breed and moult here. Gentoo penguins also occupy the landing sites. Antarctic prions and South Georgia dive petrels may be observed, especially in the area of Husvik. **Grytviken** - In this abandoned whaling station, king penguins walk the streets and elephant seals lie around like they own the place - because they basically do. Here you might be able to see the South Georgia Museum as well as Shackleton's grave. **Cobblers Cove, Godthul** - Here we will try to visit Rookery Point to see macaroni penguins. We might also encounter giant petrels, gentoo penguins, seals, and light-mantled sooty albatrosses nesting along the coastline. **Godthul** (Norwegian for "good cove") was named by Norwegian whalers and seal hunters. **Royal Bay (Moltke Harbour, Will Point & Brisbane Point)** - Moltke Harbour in Royal Bay was named by the German International Polar Year Expedition in 1882, and some of the remains of their dwellings are still visible. The scenery of Royal Bay is amazing, with dark sandy beaches, green tussocks, and of course, the great Ross Glacier. It may be windy here, but the Zodiac cruising is spectacular. Roughly 30,000 pairs of king penguins also live in this area. **Cooper Bay** - A Zodiac cruise in Cooper Bay offers a good chance to see macaroni penguins, gentoo penguins, and one of the world's largest chinstrap penguin rookeries. Fur and elephant seals may be seen on the beach, while we might also spot light-mantled sooty albatrosses gliding overhead. Antarctic terns, white-chinned petrels, and blue-eyed shags are possible here too. **Drygalski Fjord** - This narrow waterway offers spectacular landscapes, specifically high mountain peaks at a very close distance. **Annenkov Island** - Passing Pickersgill Islands, we reach the rarely visited Annenkov Island, first discovered by James Cook in 1775 and later renamed by the Russian expedition of Fabian von Bellingshausen in 1819. This is a rocky terrain with a variety of ridges, peaks, and hills where fossils have been found. **King Haakon Bay** - Few

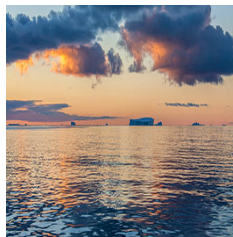


TRIP CODE
ACOWSGGT
DEPARTURE
27/10/2024
DURATION
18 Days
LOCATIONS
South Georgia & Falkland Islands


FALKLAND ISLANDS - SOUTH GEORGIA GRAND TOUR | HONDIUS

DAY 14: Crossing the Drake Passage

South polar skuas and snow petrels could join the albatrosses trailing our vessel during these sea days, and we may also encounter sea ice. When we reach the Drake Passage, you will be again greeted by the vast array of seabirds remembered from the passage south.



DAY 18: Disembark in Ushuaia

You arrive and disembark in Ushuaia, commonly held to be the world's most southern city. It is located on the Tierra del Fuego archipelago, nicknamed the "End of the World." But despite this stopping point, the wealth of memories you've made on your Antarctic expedition will travel with you wherever your next adventure lies.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
----------------------	---------------------

TRIP CODE	ACOWSGGT
DEPARTURE	27/10/2024
DURATION	18 Days
LOCATIONS	South Georgia & Falkland Islands



FALKLAND ISLANDS - SOUTH GEORGIA GRAND TOUR | HONDIUS

Inclusions	<p>Inclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voyage aboard the indicated vessel as indicated in the itinerary • All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee and tea. • All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac. • Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff. • Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes. • Luggage transfer from pick-up point to the vessel on the day of embarkation, in Ushuaia. • Pre-scheduled group transfer from the vessel to the airport in Ushuaia (directly after disembarkation). • All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme. • Comprehensive pre-departure material.
	<p>Exclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any airfare, whether on scheduled or charter flights. • Pre- and post- land arrangements. • Passport and visa expenses. • Government arrival and departure taxes. • Meals ashore. • Baggage, cancellation and personal insurance (which is strongly recommended). • Excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges and telecommunication charges. • The customary gratuity at the end of the voyages for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided).
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request. Please contact us for more details. No single supplement will apply if willing to share in selected cabins
Notes	Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. Price is based on Quad Share. Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather and ice conditions.
Price Dependent upon	Departure Date, Fuel Surcharges, Cabin Category, Currency Fluctuations, Seasonality & Availability.

TRIP CODE
ACOWSGGT
DEPARTURE
27/10/2024
DURATION
18 Days
LOCATIONS
South Georgia & Falkland Islands



SUSTAINABILITY