

2014 Antarctica Photography Adventure Itinerary

Nature Photography Adventures

– Draft for Guidance Only

General Note: *Please note this itinerary is for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice and weather conditions and in order to take advantage of opportunities to see wildlife. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises.*

January 1-21, 2013 (Shown Below)

2014 dates are not yet decided – we will take the first sailing of 2014

1 TUE BUENOS AIRES - USHUAIA

Arrive at Buenos Aires International Airport. A Southern Explorations guide will meet you at the terminal outside the customs area to transfer you to the domestic airport to fly to *Ushuaia*, the southernmost city in the world, located on the *Isla Grande* of *La Tierra del Fuego*. Get settled at your hotel and have the rest of the day at leisure. (B) Lodging at Alto Andino or similar.

2 WED USHUAIA – EMBARK CRUISE

Enjoy a morning at leisure. You might also join us for cruising the Beagle Channel, trekking in Tierra del Fuego National Park, or visiting a nearby historical estancia and museum. Please contact us for your extension options in *Ushuaia*. In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world located in the shadow of the Andes and right at the Beagle Channel shore. We'll sail through this scenic waterway during the afternoon. (B,D)

3 THU AT SEA (B,L,D)

4 FRI FALKLAND ISLANDS

In the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) we plan to spend the whole day on the fascinating western side of the archipelago. A hike along the shore of Carcass Island will give us views of Magellanic and Gentoo-Penguins, as well as close encounters with water fowl and Night herons and passerines. In addition, on Saunders we will be able to observe four species of breeding penguins (Gentoo, King, Magellanic and Rockhopper), Black-browed Albatrosses and King Cormorants. (B,L,D)

5 SAT STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS

In Stanley, the capital of the Falklands, we can experience Falkland culture, which has some South American characteristics as well as Victorian charm. In Stanley and the surrounding area we can see quite an important number of stranded clippers from a century ago. All passengers are free to wander around on their own. We recommend a visit to the local church and museum. (B,L,D)

6 & 7 SUN & MON AT SEA (2 Days)

At sea, on our way to South Georgia we will cross the Antarctic Convergence. Entering Antarctic waters, the temperature will drop by as much as 10 degrees C in the time span of only a few hours. Near the Convergence we will see a multitude of southern seabirds near the ship; several species of Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrels, Prions and Skuas. (B,L,D)

8-11 TUE-FRI SOUTH GEORGIA (4 DAYS)

In the afternoon of day 7 we arrive at our first landing site in South Georgia. We might visit the bay of Elsehul, with its very active fur seal breeding beach, and then set course to Right Whale Bay, Salisbury Plain, Godthul, St. Andrews Bay, Gold Harbour, Cooper Bay and Drygalski Fjord to give you a good opportunity to see a wide spectrum of landscapes and wildlife, like the introduced Reindeer, Elephant seals, Fur seals, King and Macaroni Penguins. One of the highlights might be our visit to Prion Island, where we will witness the breeding efforts of the huge Wandering Albatross and enjoy watching their displays.

At Fortuna Bay we might try to follow in the footsteps of the great British Explorer Ernest Shackleton and hike over to Stømness Bay. There and at Grytviken we'll see an abandoned whaling village, where King Penguins now walk in the streets and seals have taken over the buildings. At Grytviken we'll also offer a visit to the Whaling History Museum as well as to Shackleton's grave nearby. We will depart from South Georgia in the afternoon of day 10. (B,L,D)

12 SAT AT SEA

At sea, where the ship is again followed by a multitude of seabirds. At some point we might encounter sea-ice, and it is at the ice-edge where we might have a chance to see some high-Antarctic species like the McCormick Skua and Snow Petrel. (B,L,D)

13 SUN SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS

We are planning on a visit to Orcadas station, an Argentinean base located in the South Orkney Islands. The friendly base personnel will show us their facilities and we can enjoy the wonderful views of the surrounding glaciers. (B,L,D)

14 MON AT SEA (B,L,D)

15-17

TUE-THU

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA (3 DAYS)

We will sail into the Weddell Sea through the ice-clogged Antarctic Sound. Huge tabular icebergs will announce our arrival to the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. We plan to visit Paulet Island with a million pairs of Adelie Penguins and the remains of the Nordenskjöld expedition. At Brown Bluff we may set foot on the Continent.

We may land at Half Moon Island at the South Shetland Islands, where we can observe Elephant, Weddell and Fur Seals as well as Chinstrap Penguins, Blue-eyed Shags, Wilson's Storm Petrels, Kelp Gulls, Snowy Sheathbills, Antarctic Terns and Antarctic Brown Skuas.

At Deception Island, we will try to land at Baily Head home to a colony of ten thousands Chinstrap Penguins (please note this landing is not always guaranteed and is only possible in good weather conditions). Good walkers may hike from Baily Head over the ridge of the crater into Whalers Bay, while our ship braves its entrance into the crater through the spectacular Neptune's Bellow into the ring of Deception Island.

Deception itself is a sub-ducted crater, which opens into the sea, creating a natural harbour for the ship. Here we find hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, thousands of Cape Pigeons and many Dominican Gulls, Brown and South Polar Skuas and Antarctic Terns. Wilson's Storm Petrels and Black-bellied Storm Petrels nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay. On our way south, we sail to Cuverville Island in the Errera Channel, a small precipitous island, nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula. It contains a large colony of Gentoo Penguins and breeding pairs of Brown Skuas. We also hope for a continental landing at Neko Harbour in Andvord Bay. We are aiming to sail further South to Paradise Bay with its myriad icebergs and deep cut fjords, while having chances of seeing large Whales. We will have opportunities for zodiac cruising between the icebergs in the inner parts of the fjords. We may land at the Argentinian station Almirante Brown, which is most of the time not manned. Sailing through the Neumayer Channel we aim for the historic British station Port Lockroy on Goudier Island. We also hope for a landing on the neighbouring island Jougla Point which is inhabited by Gentoo Penguins and Imperial Shags. Sailing north again through Neumayer Channel and Gerlache Strait, we arrive at the Melchior Islands with a very beautiful landscape with icebergs, where we may encounter Leopard Seals, Crabeater Seals and whales. We leave from here to the open sea with direction Ushuaia. (B,L,D)

18 & 19 FRI & SAT

DRAKE PASSAGE (2 DAYS)

Back in the Drake Passage our way to Ushuaia. (B,L,D)

20

SUN

DISEMBARK - USHUAIA – BUENOS AIRES

We arrive in the morning in Ushuaia and disembark, meeting your driver to transfer you to the Ushuaia Airport for your return flight to Buenos Aires. Arrival and transfer to your hotel for the evening. Enjoy one final night in this beautiful capital city. (B) Lodging at Elevage or similar.

21 MON BUENOS AIRES - HOME

Transfer to the Buenos Aires International Airport for your flight home from your Antarctica tour. (B)

Key: (B)reakfast (L)unch (D)inner