

The Explorer's Route

FALKLAND ISLANDS, SOUTH GEORGIA & THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

EX-USHUAIA, ARGENTINA // 22ND NOVEMBER – 10TH DECEMBER 2010



*Combining the very best of the wildlife and scenery of
South Georgia, Falkland Islands and Antarctica*



Wild Earth Travel

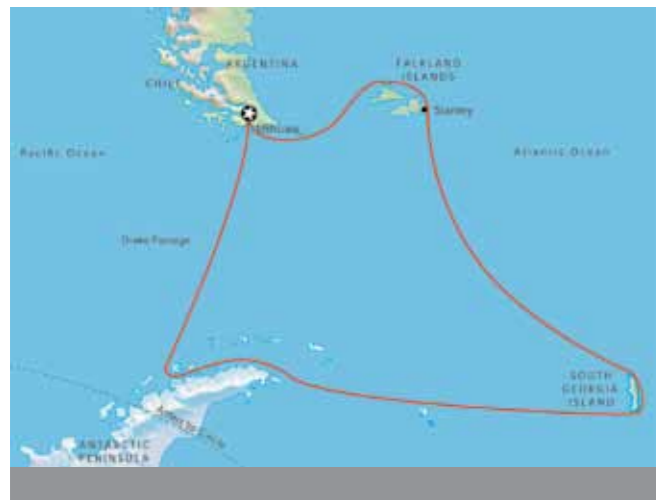
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Discover the Antarctic, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands – home to abundant wildlife, simply stunning scenery and a long history of exploration. The Falkland Islands with a surprisingly complex history are home to more Black-browed Albatross and Gentoo Penguins than any other island in the world. South Georgia is possibly the most spectacular island in the world; beautiful snow capped peaks provide the backdrop to large King Penguin colonies. Whaling stations stand as a stark reminder to the excesses of man and Shackleton's grave is a silent memorial to a great explorer. Antarctica a land of Ice and Icebergs, whales feed in the rich waters while penguins bustle through the long summer days while we head out in zodiac landing craft to explore, enjoy and photograph.



CRUISE VESSEL

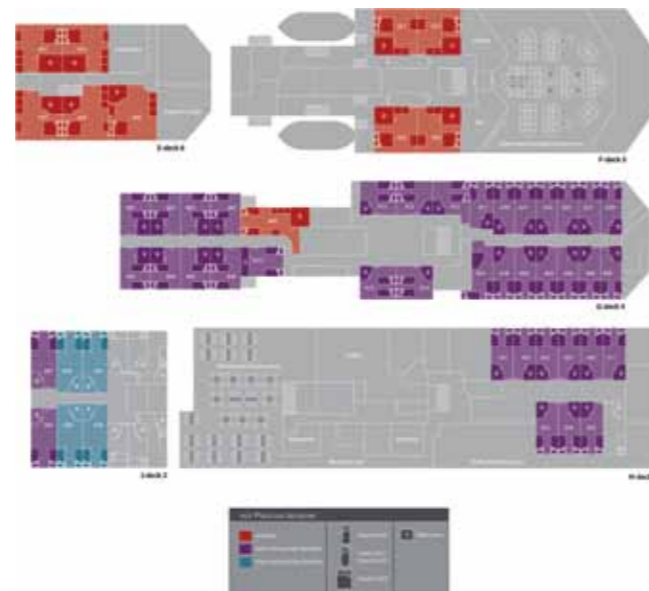
The ice strengthened M/v "Plancius" was designed specifically for expedition travel and is an excellent platform from which to explore the Polar Regions. Able to accommodate 110 passengers in cabins with private bathrooms, large public spaces and open deck areas give excellent opportunities to enjoy the scenery and wildlife. She measures 89 meters and is equipped with a fleet of 10 zodiac landing craft.

CABIN CATEGORIES:

Twin Superior Cabins (21 square meters): Two lower berths (two singles or one queen size plus separate single), a desk, wardrobe, television (screening movies and documentaries) and a private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. There are large picture windows for panoramic views outside.

Twin Private Cabins (15 square meters): Two lower berths (singles), a desk, wardrobe, television (screening movies and documentaries) and a private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. All outside cabins with either windows or portholes.

Triple Private Cabins (15 square meters): Two lower and one upper berth (singles), a desk, wardrobe, television (screening movies and documentaries) and a private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. All outside cabins with portholes.



ITINERARY

Day 1

Depart on our expedition from Ushuaia at the southern tip of South America, once aboard Plancius we sail down the Beagle Channel through the mountains of Tierra del Fuego.

Day 2

Sailing towards the Falkland Islands you navigate shallow and productive waters where Albatross and Petrels abound as the onboard scientific lecture program begins.

Days 3&4

The Falkland Islands are home to the world's largest concentration of Black-browed Albatross, Rockhopper and Gentoo Penguins. Landing in the remote West Falklands with its rolling hills and white sand beaches, traditional Falklands farming life quickly gives way to a bustling colony of Albatross and Penguins. Situated on the cliffs high above the swells of the Southern Ocean this is a great opportunity to photograph or just watch life in the colony. Next morning we visit Stanley, capital of the Falklands Islands and a little slice of England including Victorian charm in the Southern Ocean, and learn about a history of conflict and trade or visit the stores.

Days 5 & 6

Enroute to South Georgia we cross the Antarctic Convergence entering colder Antarctic waters, the first icebergs should appear and the onboard lectures will continue. Glorious sea days – A pelagic birding Dream!

Days 7 - 10

South Georgia is 'In a word' spectacular; stunning mountains provide the backdrop for abundant inquisitive wildlife. Over 150 glaciers cascade from the island's icy spine where peaks rise over 3000 meters from the sea. We have four days scheduled to explore this amazing island, during this time we will see and experience the history, scenery and wildlife. On the beaches Antarctic Fur Seals and Elephant Seals mass in a frenzy of activity. On the grassy slopes above majestic Wandering Albatross and the hauntingly beautiful Light-mantled Sooty Albatross nest. It is the penguins that really steal the show, multitudes of King Penguins occupying every available space, a colourful mass of energy and activity in their large colonies including St Andrews Bay, Gold Harbour and Salisbury Plain. South Georgia also preserves a long history of exploration and exploitation, in whaling stations such as Grytviken. Whale catchers, their harpoons now muted, lie alongside the world class whaling museum. It was on these shores that Sir Ernest Shackleton's greatest triumph occurred and it is in the small cemetery at Grytviken that he rests. If conditions permit we retrace his footsteps over the mountains to Stromness.

Day 11

Sailing southwards we cross the waters traversed by Shackleton in the James Caird. Slowly but surely the environment becomes more Antarctic, with the chances to spot Antarctic wildlife increasing.

Day 12

We plan conditions permitting to visit the seldom visited Orcadas Station, an Argentinean research base in the South Orkney Islands.

Day 13

A day crossing the Southern Ocean prepares us for our imminent arrival to the Antarctic Peninsula.

Days 14 - 16

Tabular icebergs announce our arrival to Antarctica, sailing through the icy waters of Antarctic Sound we retrace the Nordenskiöld Expedition's route landing to see Adelie Penguins which will be at the peak of the short summer breeding season. Stops in the South Shetland Islands give views of the aptly named Chinstrap Penguins and give opportunities for hikes to scenic vantage points. A visit to Deception Island provides a glimpse into the geological past as we pass through the narrow Neptune's Bellows and sail into the caldera of a still active volcano that is the spectacular natural harbour of Port Foster. Hot springs along the shoreline provide an opportunity for the intrepid to swim in Antarctic waters while Cape Pigeons and Antarctic Terns feed along the shoreline. Heading deeper into Antarctica the scenery becomes precipitous and icebound; glaciers cloak the landscape constantly calving icebergs and penguins breed on the isolated areas of exposed rock. Zodiac cruises enable us to explore this icy world watching and photographing its seals, whales and penguins up close and eye to eye while accompanied by your naturalists provide in-depth interpretation.

Days 17 - 18

Heading northwards we cross the Drake Passage and return to the realm of the Albatross. There is a final opportunity to reflect on all that we have seen and done with your team of expert naturalists.

Day 19

We arrive in Ushuaia for a mid morning disembarkation

DATES

22nd November – 10th December 2010

PRICES

Triple private:	US\$ 11,690
Twin private:	US\$ 13,390
Superior:	US\$ 15,390

Single occupancy: All cabins 1.7 times the share price.

Included

- Voyage aboard the M.V. Plancius as indicated in the itinerary.
- All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac.
- Onboard lectures and presentations naturalists and lecturers
- Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes.
- All meals throughout the voyage aboard including snacks, coffee and tea.
- Comprehensive pre-departure material.
- All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme
- Pre-scheduled group transfer from the vessel to the airport in Ushuaia (directly after disembarkation).

Excluded

- Any airfares, international or domestic.
- Any pre or post land arrangements including transfers to the vessel.
- Government arrival/departure taxes and any visa expenses
- Cancellation and personal insurance (strongly recommended).
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, beverage and telecommunication charges.
- Gratuities for ships staff and crew.