

The Ultimate Photographic Expedition to South Georgia

with Mark Carwardine and Paul Goldstein

1-15 October 2022



Mark is delighted to join fellow wildlife photographer Paul Goldstein on this spectacular 14-night expedition cruise as a guest lecturer. Aboard the 96-passenger *Magellan Explorer*, an exclusive departure, we'll visit prime sites on the remote island of South Georgia, to see a mind-boggling variety of wildlife and wild places. Our journey begins and ends in Port Stanley, the Falkland Islands, and we'll have a few days exploring the fabulous Falklands, too.

Remote by any standards, South Georgia is a mere speck in the immensity of the Southern Ocean. It has an ethereal beauty that is nothing short of breathtaking and, with 50 million seabirds and more than 5 million seals, is home to some of the greatest concentrations of wildlife on the planet. There are animals everywhere – from wandering albatrosses and macaroni penguins to southern elephant seals and endemic South Georgia pipits – and they are so unconcerned by our presence that most of them merely stand and stare or come and take a closer look. We hope to see Antarctic fur seals at picturesque Elsehul, visit Sir Ernest Shackleton's grave at Grytviken, mingle with a mind-boggling 150,000 pairs of king penguins at St Andrew's Bay, wander among the myriad wildlife at stunning Gold Harbour, and much, much more. The colour, the noise, the smell and the commotion of these unforgettable seven days guarantees sensory overload at every turn.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel on our exclusive departure – the very comfortable and brand new 96-berth ship, the *Magellan Explorer* (all cabins are en suite).
- Outstanding wildlife watching in spectacular settings.
- Maximum time ashore.
- Enormous penguin rookeries.
- Wandering, black-browed, grey-headed and light-mantled sooty albatrosses may accompany the ship.
- Wide variety of cetaceans possible, including: southern right, fin, sei, humpback, Antarctic minke, as well as hourglass, Peale's and Commerson's dolphins.
- Good possibility of seeing massive grounded icebergs.
- Fabulous photographic and video opportunities, with plenty of advice and instruction from Mark and Paul.

ITINERARY.

DAY 1: Port Stanley, Falkland Islands

We will be picked up from the airport and transferred into town. There will hopefully be time to explore before boarding the *Magellan Explorer*.

DAY 2: Saunders Island and Carcass Island

These remote islands are havens for extraordinary birdlife such as Falklands steamer ducks, Magellanic penguins, blackish oystercatchers, Cobb's wrens and austral thrushes. We'll enjoy extended landings (as we will for all landings, weather permitting). Only a handful of people live here but welcome visitors with open arms and cream teas. There are good chances of encountering Commerson's dolphins, too, which may escort the ship and our Zodiacs.

DAY 3: West Point Island/at sea

West Point, at the tip of West Falkland, is perhaps the most photogenic island in the Falklands. Birdlife includes rockhopper penguins, and nesting black-browed albatrosses. Dramatic and breathtaking, it is perfect for both wide-angle and telephoto lenses. Mark and Paul will be on hand for advice throughout these excursions. The *Magellan* will then sail east towards South Georgia.





DAY 4/5: At sea

We'll be accompanied by squadrons of albatrosses of many varieties, Cape and giant petrels, and much more. Mark and Paul will give photography presentations, as well as other onboard experts, including historians, ornithologists and ecologists.

DAY 6: Elsehul Harbour

Our first South Georgia landing is at this beautiful crescent of a bay, with southern elephant and Antarctic fur seals, gentoo and king penguins, and a whole host of seabirds.

DAY 7: Fortuna Bay and Grytviken

Fortuna Bay is where Shackleton finished the final part of his famous walk before arriving at Stromness Harbour in 1916 (weather permitting there is an option to do the walk). In the afternoon, we land at Grytviken, where passports are stamped. Shackleton's grave is here, as well as massive rusting vats and other haunting remains of the whaling and sealing industries, and a fascinating museum.

DAY 8: Gold Harbour

A glorious landing to see a hundred thousand king penguins, with southern elephant seals fighting turf wars on the sand and in the surf, with spectacular hanging glaciers.

DAY 9: St Andrew's Bay

A very special landing – we hope to spend a whole day at this iconic spot, which has the largest king penguin colony in South Georgia (nearly a quarter of a million birds).

DAY 10: Cooper Bay and Drygalski

Cooper Bay (best accessed by Zodiacs), is a hotspot for macaroni penguins.

Drygalski, meanwhile, is a huge, spectacular fjord often choked with icebergs.

DAY 11: Right Whale Bay and Salisbury Plain

An early start at Right Whale Bay. The east beaches are a great place to photograph penguins being spat from the surf and spume. After lunch, we land at Salisbury Plain, which is probably one of the favourite landings for any visitor to South Georgia, with its massive concentrations of penguins stretching across the vast plain and far up the mountain slopes.

DAY 12: Dawn at Salisbury Plain

We head off to see the king penguins one last time at sunrise. If there is time, we'll visit Prion Island to see nesting wandering albatrosses. The ship will then turn west back to the Falklands.

DAY 13/14: At sea

DAY 15: Disembark Port Stanley

Transfer to airport.

Please note: this tour is highly weather-, sea- and ice-dependent. Although we will stick to the itinerary as closely as possible, it may change to make the most of local conditions. It's part of the fun of polar exploration!

ABOUT THE SHIP



The new, sleek and very comfortable *Magellan Explorer* has seven categories of accommodation, including dedicated single cabins. All cabins (except Porthole cabins) feature private balconies. All

double cabins except two have two twin beds that can be configured as one king-size bed. All cabins have a wardrobe, individually controlled heating system, a sitting area, and a private bathroom with shower. There is also a glass-enclosed observation lounge, a presentation room with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, a spacious and stylish dining room, a well-stocked bar, a library, a meeting room, a gym, a sauna, and a medical clinic. The forward-facing observation deck leads to the ship's bow, which is accessible to guests. The ship carries 10 inflatable Zodiac boats for disembarking and wildlife watching.

PRICES (excluding flights)

From £9,950 per person. We can arrange flights for you on request.

Price includes: all meals while on the ship; beer and house wine during lunch and dinner; all accommodation; all transport and listed activities; Mark and Paul and qualified Expedition staff.

Price does not include: return flights from the UK to the Falkland Islands unless requested; airport/government arrival and departure taxes; vaccines or visas; excess baggage charges; travel insurance (compulsory); items of a personal nature such as laundry and telecommunications charges; medical expenses; crew and resident expedition staff gratuities; single supplement (available on request).

TO BOOK, PLEASE CONTACT:

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