



ANTARCTICA, SOUTH GEORGIA & THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

In today's highly accessible world there are few places that still hold the power to enthrall and enchant. Antarctica is certainly one of these. No amount of travel books or programmes can prepare you for the Great White Continent. It is without doubt somewhere that has to be seen to be believed. This most southern of continents, this desert of ice, is so unique and uncommon to man's experience, that even the most dramatic of photographs pale into insignificance when one is confronted by the sheer magnitude, beauty and wonder of an Antarctic landscape. For centuries myths abounded of a southern land but early exploration was hindered by the ice. Maps dating back to the late Medieval period show a continent named Terra Australis Incognita, the unknown southern land. Captain Cook became the first person to cross the Antarctic Circle in 1773 but never sighted land. The first person to set foot on Antarctica is thought to be an American sealer, Captain John Davis in 1821. Since then it is a land that has consistently challenged and inspired men of extraordinary character to deeds requiring extreme courage. The expeditions of Scott, Amundsen, Shackleton, Ross, Byrd and many others are a shining example of honour, strength and perseverance which today still inspire us and it is always a privilege to explore these same waters aboard the MS Hebridean Sky. For most travellers the Antarctic experience is a once in a lifetime visit, it is therefore important that the trip should be as rewarding as possible. Antarctica is to be experienced, not just to be seen, and we believe the only way to do this is onboard a small ship. To enjoy the wonders of this icy paradise in the company of a small and enthusiastic party is the perfect way to achieve the most from a visit to this

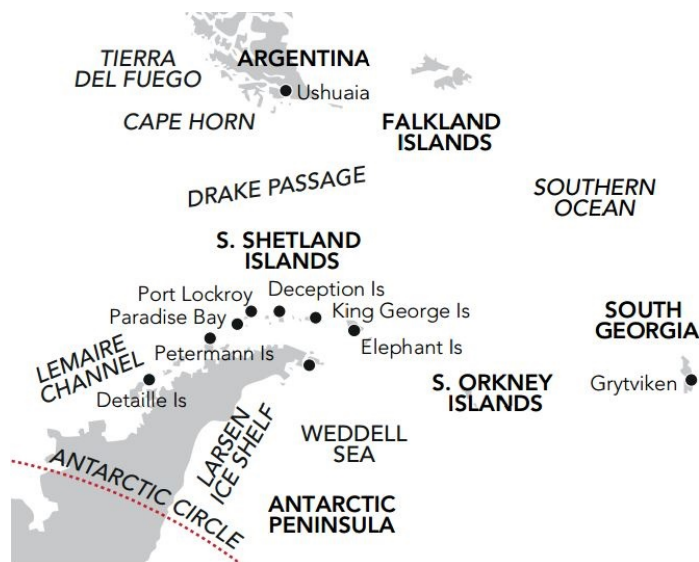
extraordinary place. Our expedition aboard the MS Hebridean Sky features not only the Antarctic Peninsula but also magnificent South Georgia where you will experience one of the world's natural wonders, the Alps in mid-ocean, offering remarkable concentrations of wildlife against a backdrop of glaciers and snow-covered mountains. Hugging the coast to the wildest reaches of the island we land on beaches alive with rampaging fur seals, somnolent elephant seals and truly astonishing numbers of King penguins. We also spend time on the Falkland Islands, an enchanting place with a unique character and staggering wildlife. This is the last sanctuary of the elegant albatross which soars graciously against the blue sky and has colonies of elephant seals basking at the foot of vertiginous cliffs. In between our landings by Zodiac and while at sea, you can pass the time on deck looking for wildlife, attend the series of lectures by members of the expedition team and simply

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relax onboard.

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Day 1 - London to Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 - Buenos Aires.

Arrive this morning and transfer to the Melia Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax or explore independently.

Day 3 - Buenos Aires to Ushuaia.

After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Ushuaia. We will stay overnight in Ushuaia allowing the opportunity to explore the southern most town in the world. Perhaps enjoy the Argentinean leather markets and succulent lamb dishes.

Day 4 - Ushuaia.

Enjoy a morning at leisure before transferring to the MS Hebridean Sky in the afternoon. You will be greeted by the onboard Expedition Team and ships officers at a safety and orientation briefing followed by the Captains Welcome Dinner. After dinner, relax and enjoy the mountainous scenery as we sail down the Beagle Channel past Magellanic penguin, and sea lion colonies.

Day 5 - Southern Ocean.

As we sail south, keep watch for the albatrosses, prions and petrels that frequently follow the ship. The Expedition Team will be out on deck looking for the whales and dolphins which may also be seen in the area. The onboard presentations with informative and entertaining talks on the wildlife, history and geology of the Falkland Islands and Southern Ocean will begin today and helpful briefings on environmental regulations and expedition safety will also be held in the comfortable lounge.

Day 6 - West Falklands.

The westernmost settled outposts in the Falkland Islands are remote farms that have been family-owned for six and seven generations. The sheep graze alongside albatross colonies and rockhopper, king and macaroni penguin rookeries while striated caracaras patrol overhead and upland geese graze at the waters edge.

Day 7 - Stanley, East Falklands.

Chosen for its sheltered harbour and access to abundant fresh water and peat for fuel, Stanley is easy to discover on foot as most shops and services are centered on the port including the museum, the postoffice featuring first day covers, plenty of shops with locally made wool items and Stanleys lively pubs. It



is possible to experience the wildlife of the Falklands from the town, including sea lions and Peales and Commersons dolphins in the harbour or bird life in nearby Gypsy Cove.

Days 8 & 9 - Southern Ocean.

There will be plenty of wildlife spotting as we make our way east across the Antarctic Convergence and officially enter Antarctic waters. Shipboard presentations will continue featuring briefings on the exciting history and abundant wildlife of South Georgia.

Days 10 to 13 - South Georgia.

Its unique position inside the Antarctic Convergence yet outside the limit of the yearly sea ice makes this 3755 square kilometre island home to tens of millions of breeding penguins, seals and seabirds. Magnificent mountain scenery, glaciers galore, a rugged coastline punctuated with castellate and tabular icebergs, a rich historical tapestry, and an astounding array of wildlife are all available to us as we travel along South Georgias leeward coast. Landing sites feature huge elephant seals, aggressive fur seals, macaroni penguins, albatross, petrels, skuas, and gulls. King penguins from fuzzy little chicks to fattened adults can be seen in the hundreds of thousands. We plan to visit historic Grytviken whaling station, home of the whaling museum, Norwegian seamans church, the active British Antarctic Survey station plus the tiny graveyard where the great Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton is buried.

Days 14 & 15 - Scotia Sea.

Heading further south, the informative presentations will continue as will wildlife watch as the icebergs become more and more plentiful.

Days 16 to 19 - Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands.

We reach the Antarctic Peninsula, the land of superlatives. The Expedition Leader and Captain will create a flexible itinerary based on weather, ice and wildlife opportunities. Approaching the Antarctic Peninsula from the east we cross the northern boundary of the Weddell Sea; this large cold body of water rotates clockwise driving cold water and ice north towards South Georgia and the South Orkney Islands. Large tabular icebergs born in the Weddell drift north into our path while the ocean currents drive nutrients from the deep, feeding countless species of marine animals. Large groups of whales are common, along with scores of seabirds thriving off the bounty the Weddell provides. Our route will highlight the most scenic bays and channels of the Peninsula with stops at penguin rookeries, seal wallows, bird colonies and whale feeding areas as well as sites of historic and scientific interest. Our schedule may include picturesque Neko Harbour, sheltered Paradise Harbour, Wilhelmina Bay (a favourite of humpback whales) or the majestic Neumayer Channel. We may stop at an active scientific base such as Polands Arctowski or a historic base such as Port Lockroy or Wordie House. Adelie, chinstrap and gentoo penguins abound, and Weddell, crabeater and elephant seals are often found hauled out to rest along with predatory leopard seals and the aggressive Antarctic fur seal.

Days 20 & 21 - Drake Passage.

We will continue our lecture series and wildlife spotting as we sail back to Ushuaia.

Day 22 - Ushuaia to Buenos Aires.

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Melia Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay.



Day 23 - Buenos Aires to London.

After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 24 - London Heathrow.

Arrive this morning.

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YOUR SHIP: HEBRIDEAN SKY

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Hebridean Sky

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Medical facilities with available doctor Elevator serving all passenger decks Swimming/zodiac platform All Voyages Include: Up to Two Pre-Voyage Hotel Nights Complimentary Wine or Beer with Dinner Certified Emergency MD and Clinic World Class Cuisine Live Entertainment Complimentary Coffee/Tea station Voyage Photographer Dedicated Passenger Service Manager Complimentary Expedition Jacket Please note deck

Hebridean Sky has always been known for its effortless elegance, impeccable service and atmosphere of charm and camaraderie. Now we add increased adventure options and an on-site Passenger Service Representative. Hebridean Sky is the perfect blend of luxury and adventurous exploration. Is it a luxury ship? An adventure ship? It's both! The vessel underwent a multi-million pound refurbishment in Sweden in Spring 2016. **ONBOARD DINING** Great expeditions require great food! We are pleased to offer daily changing breakfast, lunch and dinner menus with an emphasis on providing well balanced and nutritional cuisine. Our team of international chefs has boat loads of creativity and you are sure to experience a variety of interesting dishes throughout your voyage. The restaurant is located on Deck 2 and our service team looks forward to providing a memorable dining experience. **IMPECCABLE SMALL-SHIP AMENITIES** Returning from excursions, passengers enjoy complimentary refreshments, afternoon tea and all-day coffee in The Club, a gracious space for relaxation, surrounded by panoramic windows. Other Sea Explorer features include: Library with Internet access Lounge with audiovisual facilities Dining room Wraparound sun deck with Jacuzzi Exercise room



plan may vary.

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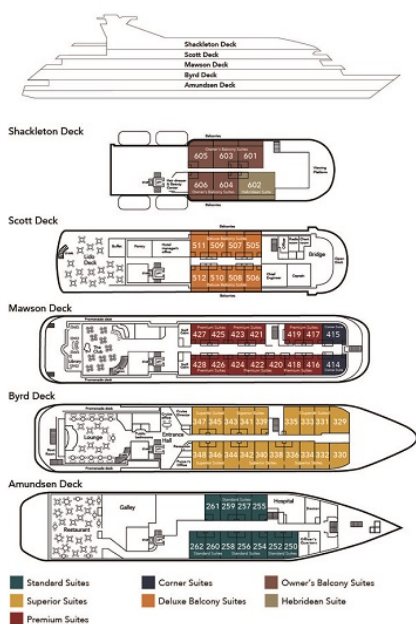
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