

# Day by Day Itinerary

## Weddell Sea & Antarctic Peninsula, Incl. Falkland Islands

*In search of the Emperor Penguin and King Penguin*

PLA22 S

Nov 20 – Dec 03

13 nights

Ushuaia – Port Stanley  
aboard Plancius

A typical itinerary to the Weddell Sea, Antarctic Peninsula and Falkland Islands is illustrated below. All itineraries are for guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice and weather conditions, the availability of landing sites and opportunities to see wildlife. The final itinerary will be determined by the Expedition Leader on board. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises.



**Please note:** a one way flight with LAN Chile from the Falkland Islands to Santiago de Chile is included in the ship's passage price.

**Highlight:** During this voyage we have the chance to observe all eight Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic penguin species; Emperor Penguin, King Penguin, Adelie Penguin, Macaroni Penguin, Chinstrap Penguin, Gentoo Penguin, Magellanic Penguin and Rockhopper Penguin.

**Day 1: 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 evening.

**Day 2 & 3: at sea** - During these two days we sail across the Drake Passage. When we cross the Antarctic Convergence, we arrive in the circum-Antarctic upwelling zone. In this area we may see Wandering Albatrosses, Grey Headed Albatrosses, Black-browed Albatrosses,

Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses, Cape Pigeons, Southern Fulmars, Wilson's Storm Petrels, Blue Petrels and Antarctic Petrels. Near the South Shetland Islands, we spot our first icebergs.

**Day 4: Deception Island** - Deception 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 first landing we may visit Macaroni Point, searching for Macaroni Penguins. Conditions allowing we may also 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.

**Day 5: South Shetland Islands** - In the morning we plan to 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. Thereafter we will continue our way to the Weddell Sea.

**Day 6 – 8: Weddell Sea** - 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 might visit Brown Bluff in order to make a continental landing at the Northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. We will sail into the Weddell Sea and if the Antarctic Sound is accessible and the ice does not prevent us to sail further, we might see the huge tabular icebergs that 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 to see the remains of the Nordenskiöld expedition. Between Snow Hill Island and James Ross Island there are chances to observe Emperor Penguins on the ice-edge making their way to open water. We are on the search!



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**Day 9: Elephant Island** - We try to land at Elephant Island. Depending on the weather conditions we may visit Point Lookout on the South side of the Island or Point Wild on the North Coast. Point Lookout is a favored haul-out site for Antarctic fur seals and southern elephant seals. Point Wild is the historical outpost west of Cape Valentine where Shackleton's men beached here after the Endurance sank in the Weddell Sea. Shackleton started from here his successful open-boat passage to South Georgia. We follow his voyage up North

**Day 10 – 11:** - At sea.

**Day 12 – 13: Falkland Islands** - In the Falklands (Malvinas) we plan to stay two days on the fascinating western side of the archipelago. We will visit New Island, a beautiful place where we will observe Rockhopper penguins, Blue-eyed Shags and Black-browed Albatrosses.

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. Weather and conditions depending, we may attempt, instead of Carcass, a landing at Steeple Jason to visit the largest black browed albatross colony in the world (113.000).

On Saunders we will be able to observe four species of breeding penguins (Gentoo, King, Magellanic and Rockhopper), Black-browed Albatrosses and King Cormorants.

**Day 14: Port Stanley** - We arrive in the morning in Port Stanley, Falkland Islands. Disembarkation and transfer to the international airport Mount Pleasant and flight to Santiago de Chile.