



PUERTO WILLIAMS TO BUENOS AIRES - SOUTH GEORGIA EXPEDITION

After arrival in Puerto Williams,, embark for three days of on board discovery as we sail you to South Georgia. Once on the dry land, enjoy in depth exploration as our expeditions leaders take you to see everything from Shackleton's grave to vast colonies of King Penguins. Next, enjoy some history and discovery in the Falklands before weaving your way north through Argentina. An overnight in Buenos Aires give a change to experience this breathlessly romantic city.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Pre Cruise

Silversea will offer a pre-cruise hotel night/s prior to embarking or returning home, depending on Silversea's air programme flight schedule.

Day 2 Puerto Williams



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Puerto Williams is a Chilean city located on Navarino Island on the southern shores of the Beagle Channel. It claims to be the “southernmost city in the world”, however owing to its small size – 2500 residents approximately – the much larger Argentinean city of Ushuaia, which sits on the northern side of the same channel, also claims that title. The surrounding scenery is magnificent. The wild windswept mountains rise above the tree line and are regularly dusted with snow. The city itself has the dramatic backdrop called “Dientes de Navarino” (literally “teeth of Navarino”), which rival the famous Torres del Paine further to the north. The area was originally used by the Yaghan people, hunter-gatherers who despite enduring the harsh regional climate, could not weather the arrival of Europeans. The current city was established as a naval base in 1953 and honours the British-Chilean naval commander John Williams Wilson of the 16th century. Initially it served to protect territorial possessions and fishing rights of the area, as well as offering logistical support to Antarctic bases. More recently it has become a departure point for scientific and tourism trips to the Antarctic region. In contrast to the bustle and traffic of a very commercial Ushuaia, Puerto Williams offers a quieter, more relaxed experience. It charms the visitor with a small village feel, complete with rustic buildings and the homely smell of drifting wood smoke. A haven of peace at the end of the world.

Days 3 - 5 Days at sea

Days at sea are the perfect opportunity to relax, unwind and catch up with what you've been meaning to do. So whether that is going to the gym, visiting the spa, whale watching, catching up on your reading or simply topping up your tan, these blue sea days are the perfect balance to busy days spent exploring shore side.

Days 6 - 9 South Georgia

Charcoal-black mountains ladled with snow, giant glaciers and thriving wildlife combine to make South Georgia one of the great natural islands. Adventure to these far flung lands - where the animals are in charge and humans come a distant second. Here you'll witness a cacophony of calling birds, natural set pieces like elephant seals clashing and thrashing, and crowds of colourful king penguins stretching out as far as the eye can see. An overseas territory of the UK, these isolated, subantarctic islands once formed a remote whaling centre - and you can still visit the former whaling stations. Nowadays the giants of the sea are free to cruise the icy waters uninhibited. Written into explorer history due to its links with Ernest Shackleton's tale of Antarctic exploration, shipwreck and survival, the Endurance's crew were saved when he reached the salvation of these shores in 1916 - before returning to collect the remaining sailors from Elephant Island. A museum commemorates the legendary mission, and you can see the memorial to Shackleton that stands over his final resting place on this fabled island. South Georgia's colonies of king penguins - with vivid bursts of yellow and orange around their necks - stand, squabble and curiously investigate, enjoying the isolated respite of this island. They're joined by smaller penguin species like Macaroni penguins, and other glorious birdlife like the majestic wandering albatrosses, which you can see gliding on gusts of wind, over the choppy waves.

Days 10 - 11 Days at sea

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shore side.

Day 12 Port Stanley

Despite it being a stalwart of Britishness, Stanley more resembles Patagonia than Portsmouth. But, despite the windswept, vast and achingly beautiful landscape of the Falkland Islands, don't be too surprised to find the odd pub serving ales and even fish'n'chips. While landmarks such as Christ Church Cathedral, with its whalebone arch are 100% local, there is also a good smattering of imported garden gnomes and Union Jacks to remind you whose territory you are really on. The Falkland Islands' ownership has long been a matter of controversy, ever since colonisation in the 18th century. At various points in their life they have been considered French, British, Spanish and Argentine. The Falklands War in 1982, despite only lasting for a short while, proved that the Brits clung to this remote outpost and the islands remain part of the British Commonwealth today. Margaret Thatcher, under whom the war was masterminded, remains something of a local hero as can be seen in the street signs (such as Thatcher Drive). For those who want to dig deeper into the past, the Historic Docklands Museum provides lots of information on the chequered historical and political background of the Falklands. However, the true heroes of Stanley are of course the thousands and thousands of penguins. Five species nest here during mating season (including the rare rockhopper penguin). There are virtually no barriers between you and the wildlife; allowing for a truly interactive, authentic and totally unforgettable experience.

Day 13 West Point Island & Saunders Island

A north-westerly outpost of the scenic Falkland Islands, you'll be welcomed ashore by the calls and cries of a huge colony of

black-browed albatross. Indeed, the island was originally known as Albatross Island before being renamed to reflect its geographic location. While the albatrosses - that flash white feathers in the rugged cliffs above the waves - are the most well known residents, they are far from the only animal inhabitants of this remote, isolated land. A huge army of birdlife calls the island sanctuary home, overwhelming the tiny human population and sheep that roam West Point Island's grasses. Meet the rockhopper penguins who scamper and burrow along the coast's boulders, as well as the imperial cormorants who rest here in great numbers. You're also likely to encounter Magellanic penguins during your explorations. Hike the island's quiet landscapes, and look out for endemic plants like Felton's flower carpeting the green interior. Decorated with some of the archipelago's most dramatic scenery, explore this wind-lashed, distant land of soaring cliffs and towering coastal precipices. Cliff Mountain is the island's standout - a towering sandstone monolith, and the archipelago's highest cliff, falling away to swirling waves below. Look out to the waters to spot Commerson's dolphin chasing each other around the island's wave-washed footprint. Whales also visit, as well as the fur seals who you may spot lounging around West Point Island's inviting shores. Meet some of the world's most incredible wildlife, on the remote Saunders Island. Sitting to the north-west of the Falkland's archipelago, the British established their first settlement here in 1765, at Port Egmont. Remote, wild and wonderful, the island now serves as a lush grazing ground for plenty of sheep - but it's an astonishing place to encounter far rarer animals - from elephant seals to silvery grebes and Peale's dolphins. Connected by sinewy links of beach and sandy dunes, which create some of the most dramatic scenery in the Falklands, the archipelago's fourth biggest island is home to its



best birdlife - including a colony of neatly tuxedoed king penguins. Saunders Island's topography tightens at The Neck - where you'll find even more penguin activity. Colonies squark and chatter in huge crowds here, with Gentoo, Rockhopper and Magellanic penguins dipping into the water, and clambering over boulders. A gentle hike to the summit of Mount Richards will take you 457 metres above sea level, offering an expansive overview, from which you can look out across the tips of the moody waves to see Carcass Island and West Point Island emerging. The cliffs to the north of the mountain host rare black-browed albatross - a sight of sheer grace in flight - but comically clumsy at times when landing. Elsewhere, wide lakes are home to various water birds - including the rare black-necked swans. Take a read of our blog to find out more about the hugely diverse wildlife that is present on this unique island.

Day 14 Day at sea

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Day 15 Puerto Deseado

A wildlife lover's paradise, Charles Darwin wrote that he had never seen such a secluded place, as he first explored the incredible estuary of Puerto Deseado. Darwin visited on several occasions as his evolution theories took shape, and the diverse, extraordinary wildlife continues to lure visitors to this small fishing town, set amid Argentina's wild Patagonia region. Darwin's name is imprinted deep into the folds of this city's

history, and whether it's on café signs or adventure tour guides' literature, the great naturalist's name is never far away. Discover the impressive flora and fauna of the region for yourself, with a boat ride on the Deseado River's winding flow - which culminates at the spectacular estuary. Forming a beautiful nature reserve, tiny Commerson's dolphins mill in the salty water of this immense, drowned river valley - which cuts into the rusty terrain, and wind-shaped scenery. There is something of a Martian feel to the desolate, rocky landscape, and the river begs to be explored further by kayak. Admire the acrobatics of the Commerson's dolphins - which may remind you of orcas with their bold black and white splotches of colour - and meet the extraordinary birdlife of this region too. Slicked back, yellow-haired rockhopper penguins and Magellanic penguins leap from boulder to boulder, as they nest in the dunes and hop across scrubby beaches and islands. Learn more of the town's fishing heritage origins and drop in on the pretty old railway building - which now houses a quaint museum - as you immerse yourself in this remote and wonderful Argentinian wildlife hotspot.

Day 16 Camarones

If you have ever fantasised about running away from the rat race, then Camarones is the perfect place to pitch up. Life is lived in the slow lane here; locals are languid and proud of it, penguins waddle and skip along the shore and the glorious expense of coastline thunders on much as it has done for centuries. That is not to say that life is lazy. Camarones literally translates as "prawns" so, as the name suggests, fishing is a high energy activity that accounts for much of the local economy. Cooking the spoils of the catch of the day accounts for the rest so don't miss a chance to enjoy some of the best



seafood that Argentina has to offer. Washed down with some excellent Malbec, Camarones' flagship wine, of course! The city's claim to fame is that Juan Domingo Perón lived here during his childhood, and a small museum dedicated to the political leader can be found in the city centre. However, it is the spectrum of natural landscape of Camarones – part of Patagonia – that is superb and makes this little town a pure distillation of why Patagonia is such a bucket list destination. Camarones is host to 30,000 Magellanic penguins who have been known to wander into town as the sun sets. Other wildlife spotting opportunities are plenty, one stroll along the sweeping coastline will have you spotting playful dolphins, breaching whales and scores of seabirds squawking overhead. Fill your soul with the raw power of the waves crashing into the rocks that is as intense as it is peaceful.

Day 17 Puerto Madryn

Overlooking the vast Golfo Nuevo, the northern Patagonian town of Puerto Madryn is one of Argentina's top whale-watching spots. Founded by Welsh explorers, who arrived aboard the Mimosa ship in 1865, Puerto Madryn welcomes visitors to enjoy its wonderful wildlife, traditional tea shops, and sheep-rearing ranches known as estancias. Taste some of Argentina's tenderest and juiciest steak cuts, or piles of seafood, in the waterfront restaurants of the town's promenade, as you fuel up ahead of the natural adventures of a lifetime. An astonishing array of animals call the protected Valdes Peninsula home. See penguins wandering, sea lions yawning lazily, and playful guanacos galloping here. Head to the beaches of Estancia San Lorenzo, to hear the racket made by hundreds of Magellan penguins. The blackened beach of Loberia de Punta Loma bears witness to huge elephant seals rising up and clashing

dramatically – or lounging around docilely – and you can even take advantage of the opportunity to swim, snorkel and scuba dive with curious and playful sea lions. Further afield, Tombo National Reserve is a vast breeding ground for birds and penguins, while a huge Magellanic penguin colony, 1,500,000 strong, spreads out further south at Punta Tombo. Boats roll out from Puerto Madryn on the hunt for Southern Right Whales and orcas among the many marine mammals who move through the waters offshore. Few experiences compare with feeling the salt spray, as giant humpbacks crash against the surface. Look out for the black and white Commerson's dolphins too, which are some of the smallest members of the dolphin family.

Days 18 - 19 Day at sea

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Days 20 - 21 Buenos Aires

Passionate, and alive with an infectious crackling energy, the Argentine capital is a breathlessly romantic city, which blends old-world colonial architecture with a down-to-earth Latin American clamour. Famed for steamy tango interplays, and expertly seared steak slabs, a visit to Buenos Aires is a fiery fiesta for the senses. Parque Tres de Febrero is a 400-hectare oasis where 18,000 rose bushes bloom, and skyscrapers give way to still lakes and pretty paths of rollerblading locals. Mighty palm trees – that look like exploding fireworks – stand tall in Plaza de Mayo, the heart of this sprawling cosmopolitan capital of 48 barrios. The square has served as the stage for many



fundamental events in this country's history, and the location where the seeds of independence were sewn continues to serve as the city's gathering point - and is a place for solidarity, rebellion and revolution. The presidential Casa Rosada's salmon-hued Palatial Palace borders the plaza, while nearby Museum Nacional de Bellas Artes houses the largest collection of public art in Latin America. Teatro Colón, the opulent 1908 opera house, is one of the world's finest venues - musical performance here take on an ethereal quality, with the exceptional acoustics transferring every quiver of bow, and tremor of vocal cord, to the audience in spine-tingling clarity. The gargantuan, precipitous terraces of Bombonera Stadium form another of Buenos Aires's incredible venues, and a wall of noise emanates from it when Boca Juniors take to the field. Juicy steak and punchy Malbec flow in the city's parrillas - steakhouses - while glitzy bars and thumping nightclubs welcome revellers late into the night. It's not just the meat that sizzles here either - tango dancers fill milongas - dance halls - to strut passionately until the early hours. Sip steaming mate, the country's national drink, shop in covered markets, and explore Cementerio de la Recoleta - a city of grand graves and intricate memorials honouring presidents, politicians and notable Argentine heroes from history.

Please Note:

When travelling in remote regions tide, wind, ice and weather conditions determine the details of our itinerary. While we will do our best to maintain all suggested activities, some of these may be subject to change. Come with an open mind and a great sense of adventure, together we can turn any voyage into a wonderful Expedition.



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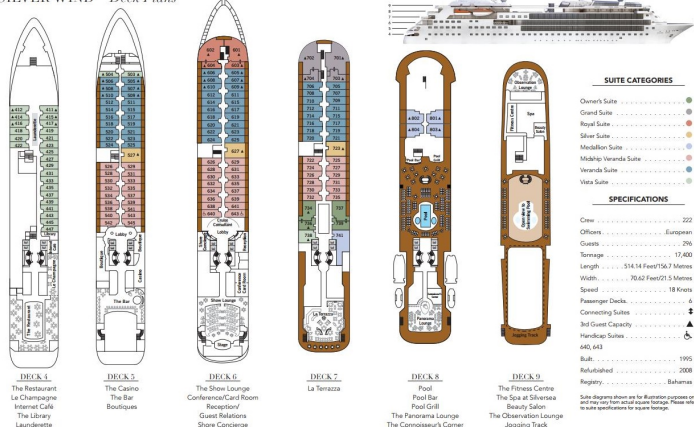
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