

QUIXOTE EXPEDITIONS

FALKLANDS

THE SECRET WILDERNESS



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THE SECRET

WILDERNESS

Welcome to the Wild End, where penguins outnumber people by the hundred-thousands.

Described as “a photographic extravaganza”, the Falkland Islands/ Islas Malvinas really have something for everyone. Wildlife is the most obvious theme and even without a telephoto lens, the birds and marine mammals make fascinating subject material. The



opportunities are endless. Huge elephant seals basking in the sunlight, lazily flicking sand with their enormous flippers; sea lions rearing their heads amongst the tussac grass; gentoo penguins carefully stealing nesting materials from neighbours; Magellanic penguins peering from burrows; seabirds graceful in flight; a stunning striated caracara simply looking straight at you.

With even the smallest zoom, young birds are brought into sharper focus to create an amazing image.

Ever-changing light conditions, big blue skies, aquamarines of the sea and soft white sands create the perfect conditions for spectacular photography. Rolling hills, rocky ridges, open plains and seascapes provide fantastic settings and subjects in their own right.



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We will utilize the best possible time for landings. Early morning hues and late evening fiery reds, cascading waves and tranquil, reflective waters bursting with wildlife will fill our memory cards.

Standing on the gentle slopes of this peaceful birdwatcher's haven, it's hard to believe that just a few decades ago the Falkland Islands/Islas Malvinas were the site of war. These days, the focus is on the archipelago's incredible wildlife. Craggs dotted with seabirds, beaches covered with penguins, whales and seals competing for space off-shore – the Falklands/Malvinas are a nature lover's paradise.

We are visiting in November, when most penguin species and black-browed albatross are incubating their eggs. King penguin chicks from the previous year moult and return to sea. Elephant seals mate.



SHIP

MV HANS HANSSON

Accommodation and food options on Falkland Islands/Malvinas are limited and as a mobile base for our trip we will use a small exploration boat MV Hans Hansson.

Built in Norway in 1960, Hans Hansson was a rescue vessel for 35 years, assisting more than a 1,000 vessels and saving 161 lives. Refitted to accommodate guests in comfort, Hans Hansson is a working boat with a personality all its own. As a small exploration boat, it boasts the unique ability to reach special, out of the ordinary destinations that are otherwise inaccessible.

Accommodating just 12 passengers, sailing aboard the Hans Hansson is a delightfully intimate and flexible adventure experience. 26.m long, HH can comfortably take up to 12 passengers and 6 crew and has all necessary equipment and inflatable boats for landings and exploration.

Days of wildlife-spotting are finished with a nice dinner and drink on board.

MEALS

Meals are freshly cooked daily by the Chef, high quality family style meals, produced by local ingredients sourced by local farms whenever possible -all beef, lamb and fish, and some veggies are locally grown.

Wine or beer will be served with dinners whenever the vessel is safely at anchor. All meals are included, including snacks, tea and coffee 24/7 in the ship's saloon.



ITINERARY



Day

Description

- 1 Passengers embark at New Haven, in the Falkland Sound/Estrecho de San Carlos. They arrive directly from the airport, about 1-hour drive. After the safety briefing and based on weather we'll set sail overnight towards our first destination on Pebble Island.



SAMPLE

ITINERARY

Day

Description

2 After a good breakfast we'll do an early morning landing on Pebble Island.

Pebble Island offers a good mix of penguin colonies and Falklands War remains, as well as spectacular Elephant Beach excellent for Kite Surfing but also for long walks on a sandy beach, the longest beach in the Falklands/Malvinas at 6.4km long

Returning on board for lunch and to get underway to our next destination, Saunders Island, after around 4 hours of sailing in the interior and protected waters, always in sight of spectacular views and in company of a wide variety of sea birds. After dropping the Anchor at The Neck we'll do a landing on the beach and we'll spend the rest of the evening onshore. Back onboard after sunset. Night at anchor.

No Falklands/Malvinas itinerary would be complete without a visit to Saunders Island and its main feature – The Neck. The Neck is named for the broad sandy beach lying between Mount Harston and Mount Richards. This location boasts a diverse array of seabird species and spectacular landscapes. Gentoo and king Penguins nest on the beach in between the mountains. Extensive Magellanic penguin burrows and predatory caracaras can be found on the grassy hillsides. There are also southern rockhopper penguin rookeries plus more black-browed albatross nest areas. Sunsets are particularly spectacular, as the setting sun's rays bathe the gentoo colonies on the beach with warm golden hour light

3 Today we'll have a short 2 hours transit to Carcass Island and landing in the afternoon after lunch to visit not only the wide range of wildlife but also the settlement where the owners will welcome us with tea/coffee and home made cakes.

The Carcass island has a variety of habitats, from sandy beaches to tussock grasses and rocky cliff tops. Magellanic penguins nests, gentoo penguin colony, elephant seals, imperial cormorants, night herons, and short-eared owls can be found on the island.



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ITINERARY

*Day**Description*

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- 4 After a very short transit across to West Point, where we anchor very close to the dock, we'll do a landing to visit the settlement and a walk to Devil's Nose.

West Point Island is situated off the north-west tip of West Falkland. It was initially named Albatross Island due to the thousands of nesting black-browed albatross. West Point Island has spectacular scenery and impressive wildlife. The "Devil's Nose" is a rocky promontory with dramatic sandstone cliffs, where rocky ledges and areas of tussock grass are home to black-browed albatross and rockhopper penguins.

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- 5 An open Itinerary day. WEATHER PERMITTING, we will attempt to sail to the Jason and Steeple Jason Islands.. The trip will be an unforgettable experience.

The Jason Islands are located in the extreme north-west of the Falklands' archipelago, towards Patagonia. This small group of islands, named after the survey vessel HMS Jason, forms a rocky-ridged chain with some of the most breathtaking scenery and wildlife you can imagine. Names include "Steeple", "Grand", "Elephant" and "Flat", conjuring alluring and romantic images. Unfortunately, the Jasons are not easy to reach. The Falkland Island Government Air Service does not land on any of the islands and permission is needed to visit Steeple Jason.

Steeple Jason rises steeply from the shore to a series of dramatic rocky peaks, the highest at 290m (952 feet), with an isthmus separating two main areas of land. The island is a haven for bird lovers. Here you will find the world's largest colony of black-browed albatross, beautiful birds who soar gracefully on the sea breezes, occasionally performing a clumsy landing onshore. Amongst the albatross are rockhopper penguins and king cormorants. Striated caracaras nest nearby along with skuas, both aggressive in the breeding season. They may even come to you! Similarly, respect the breeding areas of southern giant petrels, the largest of all petrels. These magnificent birds also fly elegantly along the shoreline but are quick to leave nests if disturbed, exposing their young to the predatory caracaras and skuas. Gentoo penguins breed on the island along with many small bird species.



ITINERARY

Day

Description

6 Depending on the weather we may go to the New Island.

Ruggedly beautiful and remote, New Island is located at the extreme west of the Falklands' archipelago. Dramatic cliffs contrast with sheltered sandy bays and natural harbors. Over forty species of birds breed on New Island including four species of penguin. Thin-billed prions are a highlight along with skuas, striated caracara and peregrine falcons. The rockhopper colony is located at the top of seacliffs several hundred feet above the ocean, in a small bowl-shaped depression. Black-browed albatross and imperial shags (cormorants) are mixed in and around the colony as well. To the right of the colony, cut through the cliffs, is a gully that runs steeply down to the water. It is a way for rockhoppers to pass from the sea to their colony above. There is also a picturesque shipwreck on one of the sand beaches.

If the weather is our favor, we also can continue to explore Carcass and Saunders Islands as there is so much left to see and to photograph. We can work Saunders Island (northeast coast) and do a morning landing on sand beach near The Rookery/Cliff Point.

In this case will be exploring the nearby sea cliffs, sprawling black-browed albatross and rockhopper penguin colonies. The rockhopper colony is famous for its "penguin shower", a tiny waterfall where the rockhoppers bathe after returning from the sea. Magellanic and Gentoo penguins are also found in the nearby valley.

Port Egmont is also in our potential itinerary.

Port Egmont was established in on 25 January 1765, by an expedition led by Commodore John Byron consisting of the boats HMS Dolphin, HMS Tamar and HMS Florida. The expedition left a watering place and a vegetable garden.



SAMPLE

ITINERARY

Day

Description

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- 7 Weather day and transit back to New haven. Even a “transit day” is a beautiful day, as we view the islands by boat always in company of the Southern Oceans weather and sea birds, along with Commerson dolphins, mink whales, and surrounded by the spectacular scenery of the Falklands/Malvinas Islands.
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- 8 Transfer to the airport with a Stop and visit to Darwin Cemetery/Goose Green.



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CABIN STANDARD

Standard cabin, are around 25 sq ft (2.5 sq m) and are equipped with one lower and one upper berth. Located on the bottom deck, all twin cabins have a desk, wardrobe/storage space, and portholes with exterior views. There are two twin cabins which share two bathrooms between them.

2400 USD

SUPERIOR ENSUITE

Superior Cabins are around 45 sq. ft. (4 sq. m) and are equipped with one lower and one upper berth. Located on the bottom deck, all twin cabins have a wash basin, desk, wardrobe/storage space, and portholes with exterior views. There are two twin cabins which share two bathrooms between them.

2900 USD

CABIN PREMIER

Premier Cabins are around 100 sq. ft. (9 sq. m) and are equipped with one lower and one upper berth. Located on the middle deck, these rooms include a private bathroom with shower, desk, wardrobe storage, and portholes with exterior views.

4500 USD



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ITINERARY/WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Itinerary and places to visit are subject to change or cancel due to weather conditions and/or landowner's availability.

The final itinerary will be made day to day by the Expedition Leader based on weather and other restrictions.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

*Transfers from MPN Airport to the vessel.
All meals and drinks onboard. Snacks. Coffee
and tea 24/7 self service. Wine or beer at
dinners (alcohol policy applies)*

All landing fees.

*Transfer back from vessel to local airport.
Use of boots/overboots for landings.*



NOT INCLUDED

*Air tickets from your home to the
Falklands/Malvinas.*

Required medical and evacuation insurance.

Airport taxes.

*Meal, transfers, or any expense during your trip
before and after the Falklands.*

Anything not included in the "included list".



KITESURF

TRIP TO FALKLANDS

Constant wind, long beaches, Low hills, blue aqua waters - These islands are a kite surfers dream and barley explored by kite. A week of kiting in the world of albatross, penguins, and dolphins, the Falklands/Malvinas offer an incredible mix of wilderness, wildlife, and kiting. Each day is different and based on the conditions of the day. It might involve getting dropped off by dinghy and launching from a beach. It might involve landing and getting a local farm owner to drive us across a spit of land to the longest (6 miles) beach on the island for a day of unsurpassed kiting. Or it might

be a day where we enjoy the antics of penguins – Gentoo, Rockhoppers, Kings, and then learn about island life over a cup of tea with locals. Hans Hansson acts as the base of operations as we take advantage of each day.

With so much to do on the islands, we are also able to have kiting companions join the trip (non-kiters) Onboard kayaks are available, across the islands there are ample opportunities for walking, photography, and even zodiac cruising. If we are lucky dolphins join and “cruise” right along with us. The locals from the different farms of the archipelago are always open and welcoming when we visit. One of the benefits of doing this trip on Hans Hansson is flexibility and adaptability of the crew for all sort of operations. Our goal is to give our guests the opportunity to experience these areas in the comfort of this wonderful vessel. By traveling on a small vessel, we can extend our landing time depending on

conditions - we are always very well taken care of.

After a week exploring onboard the Hans Hansson, we return to New Haven, our stating point. As we return to the airport, we will also have the opportunity to visit Goose Green farm and the Darwin Cemetery.

This is an incredible trip, full of experiences, emotions and nature with no comparison.

ASK FOR FISHING TRIPS INFO

