

SOUTH GEORGIA & ANTARCTICA THE GREAT WHITE



A SQUIVER PHOTO TOUR

Squiver

A waterfall at Grytviken, South Georgia



POSSIBLE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Drifting icebergs
- King penguins
- Gentoo penguins
- Chinstrap penguins
- Adélie penguins
- Macaroni penguins
- Minke whales
- Humpback whales
- Fur seals
- Weddell seals
- Leopard seals
- Elephant seals
- Albatrosses
- Imperial shags
- Snow petrels
- Cape petrels
- Ice floe or pack ice
- Zodiac cruising
- Hiking possibilities
- Glacial calving
- Image reviews
- Tuition

SOUTH GEORGIA & ANTARCTICA

Dates: 15-29 November 2015 (15 days)

Tour leaders: Marsel van Oosten and Daniëlla Sibbing

Fee (Deluxe room, deck 3): 7,965 EURO from Montevideo

Fee (Prestige room, deck 4): 8,690 EURO from Montevideo

Deposit: 2,500 EURO per person

Group size: 10 participants

Level: all experience levels*

Average temperature: -5°C to 8°C/23°F to 41°F)

Tour starts: Montevideo (Uruguay)

Tour ends: Buenos Aires (Argentina)

*Non-photographing partners will also enjoy this tour

We will take you on a 2-week journey, in a region abundant with whales, seals, penguins, seabirds, incredible landscapes and legendary history, combining South Georgia with Antarctica.

A visit to South Georgia really adds to the Antarctic experience. There are some very interesting historical sights and you will enjoy the rugged scenery. It is home to impressive mountains with many glaciers and beaches full of penguins. It has more wildlife than virtually anywhere else on the planet.

But most importantly: if you want to photograph king penguins on a black sandy beach, or see a colony of over 200.000 king penguins against a backdrop of icy mountains, this is the tour for you! This beautiful penguin species with its orange front can not be found anywhere in Antarctica. Seeing and hearing (!) them is an incredible experience that will make a long lasting impression.

Apart from hundreds of thousands of king penguins, you will see huge elephant seals with their harem and many fur seals during our visits to Fortuna Bay, St. Andrews Bay, Gold Harbor and Cooper Bay. This abundance of wildlife will be combined with a visit to Grytviken, which used to be a whaling centre.

I THINK PENGUINS ARE THE MOST HUMAN OF ALL THE BIRDS, WHICH MAY BE WHY PEOPLE LOVE THEM. THEY'RE CUTE, THEY STAND UPRIGHT AND THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE WEARING TUXEDOS.

//SHIA LABOEU



King penguins as far as the eye can see. We will visit a colony with over 200,000 pairs.

One of the many fur seal pups on the beaches of South Georgia. As with most animals there, they are quite relaxed with human presence and make excellent photographic subjects.



Grytviken has many old rusty looking buildings and ship wrecks, surrounded by fur seals and elephant seals, which makes a visit not only interesting for its historic value, but also purely from a photographic point of view.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GREAT EXPLORERS

The landscape in Antarctica is made up from sea, rock, and ice, with roaring glaciers, high peaks, and lots of floating ice. We go in the beginning of the Antarctic summer, which allows us to travel quite far south, but with the white landscape still pristine. The penguin colonies have not yet melted too much for the ground to get very muddy, allowing for stunning photographic opportunities to see them in white surroundings. The penguins will be nesting in the period we are there, which results in a lot of stealing and fighting over the few stones that are on land, which is the source of building their nests: the female guards the eggs, while the male goes out to find more stones for her. Arctic skuas will try to take advantage, as they come in to steal the penguin eggs which are high on their list of local delicacies.

The wildlife in Antarctica is abundant and it is amazing how tame and approachable it is. When on the boat or cruising with zodiacs, we will look for seals, whales, dolphins and orcas. And there will be cruises purely dedicated to photographing the floating ice formations. On shore, you will enjoy walking amongst the large penguin colonies, with their funny walks, noisy sounds and clumsy behavior when they are on land. The species we are likely to see are gentoo, chinstraps and adélie penguins. Birdlife is also plentiful and you will surely encounter arctic skuas, snowy sheathbills, petrels, shags and Antarctic terns. Just to name a few. The landscape is amazing and you will have a hard time putting your camera down, as there are many hours of daylight, with long periods of soft beautiful light in the night.

This tour allows you to step into the footsteps of the famous explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton in South Georgia. And we will end the tour with the discovery of the North of the Antarctic peninsula, the kingdom of ice. It will be an exciting and unforgettable journey!

A king penguin chick comes to investigate the camera (South Georgia).



IT'S PRACTICALLY
IMPOSSIBLE TO LOOK
AT A PENGUIN AND
FEEL ANGRY.

//JOE MORE



THE GREAT WHITE

DAY	PROGRAM
1	Montevideo (Uruguay)
2 - 4	At Sea
5	Grytviken (South Georgia)
6	Fortuna - St Andrews Bay (South Georgia)
7	Gold Harbor - Cooper Bay (South Georgia)
8-9	At Sea
10	Brown Bluff - Weddell Sea (Antarctica)
11	Cuverville - Cierva Cove (Antarctica)
12	Deception Island (Antarctica)
13-14	At Sea - Drake Passage
15	Ushuaia (Argentina)
	Disembarkation. Transfer to Ushuaia airport and flight to Buenos Aires (Argentina)

Even though we are part of a larger ship, we will do trips with our own group aboard a zodiac, which allows us to get as close as possible to interesting ice sculptures with their beautiful colors, floating icebergs, humpback whales, or seals floating on the pack ice. Each sea trip is different and we will be accompanied by a member of the expedition team.

Although at first glance the Antarctic peninsula appears to be a vast white frozen expanse, there are some areas where we can set foot on solid ground. Going ashore from one of the zodiacs will allow you close encounters with thousand of penguins, glaciers and expansive panoramic views of the beautiful landscape. Whether you are a walker or a hiker, each shore visit offers the promise of a new encounter and a new landscape.

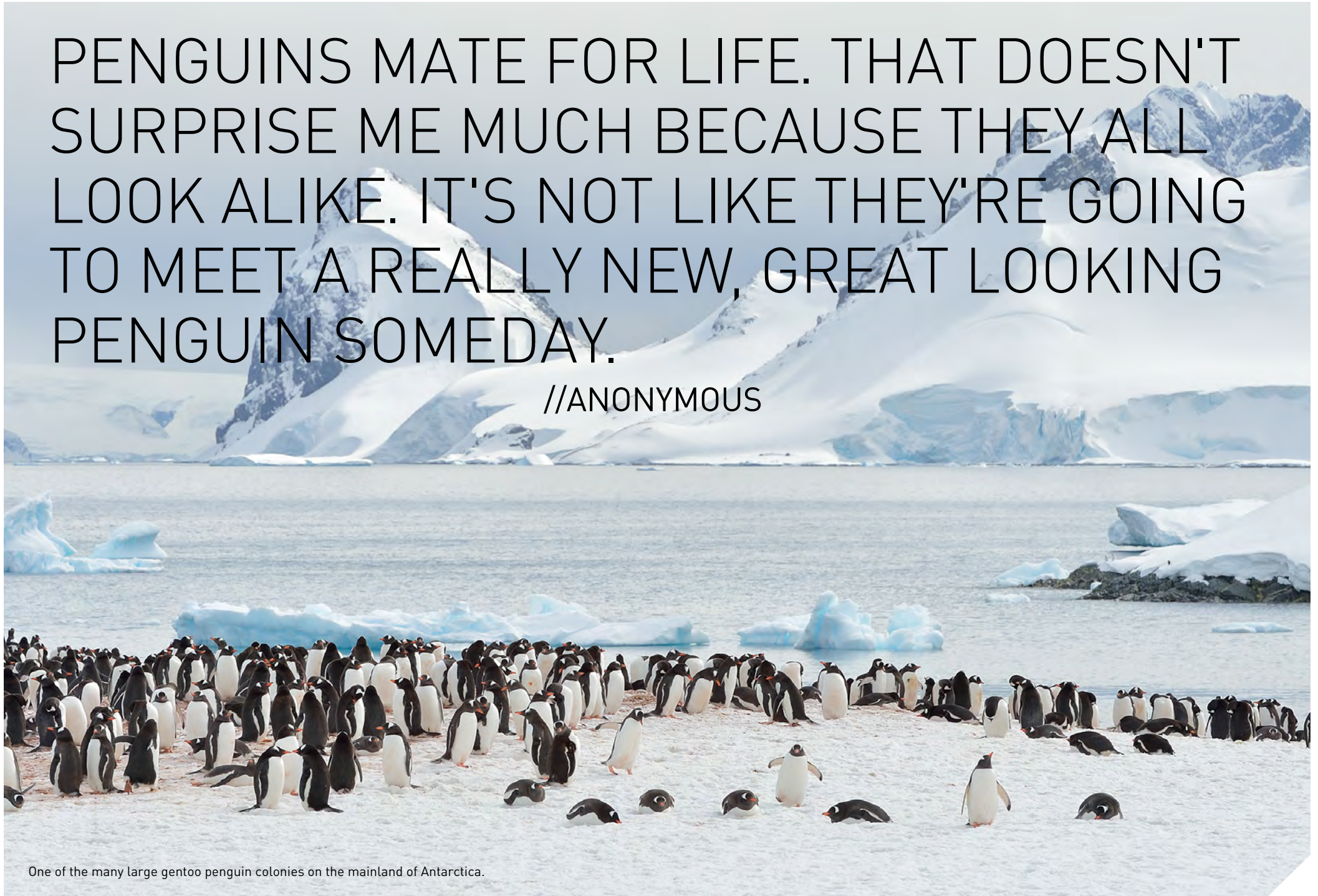
The route indicated for this tour is subject to weather and ice conditions. But the captain and the expedition leader will try their utmost to get us where we are planned to go and to make sure we get the most out of our journey down South!



Closeup of a black-browed albatross.

PENGUINS MATE FOR LIFE. THAT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME MUCH BECAUSE THEY ALL LOOK ALIKE. IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO MEET A REALLY NEW, GREAT LOOKING PENGUIN SOMEDAY.

//ANONYMOUS



One of the many large gentoo penguin colonies on the mainland of Antarctica.

GRYTVIKEN (SOUTH GEORGIA)

A visit to Grytviken has great historical importance. Firstly, here is the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton, one of the great discoverers of Antarctica, who was a hero in the chaos that turned out to be his last expedition. Secondly, Grytviken was the center of the whaling industry, and you can visit the remains of an abandoned Norwegian whaling station. Fur seals and elephant seals can be found on the shore, amidst old buildings, rusty equipment and some interesting looking ship wrecks. There is also a small white church, which is still in use by the few researchers and residential staff that live in the area. Desolate wasteland prevails among the ruins that give you the extent of whaling and opens the door to earlier times. There is also a small museum where you can see how life was here earlier, and it shows Grytviken's influence on South Georgia.

FORTUNA BAY (SOUTH GEORGIA)

Fortuna Bay is a 6 km long fjord. The western shore is dominated by jagged peaks. We will land on a black beach, scattered with elephant seals and fur seals. From there, we will walk to a large colony of king penguins, with a backdrop of high snow-capped mountains and a fjord leading up to the Konig glacier. The area is laced by a network of braided streams. A large meltwater lake is located at the snout of the glacier, from which a wide, deep, fast flowing river bisects the beach about midway along its length.

ST. ANDREWS BAY (SOUTH GEORGIA)

This bay has fine dark sand, is 3 km in length and is surrounded by the Heany, Buxton and Cook glaciers. It is home to the largest colony of king penguins of around 200,000 pairs, plus almost as many molting and resting birds. There are literally hectares and hectares full of white and orange - the adult penguins, laced by their brown chicks along the waterways.

The penguins are spaced just one pecking distance apart, for as far as the eye can see. It's pure magic! And on the shoreline elephant seals hack into one another, blood spattered red on their wrinkled fur.

GOLD HARBOR (SOUTH GEORGIA)

Gold Harbor is a small bay 5 miles (8 km) south-southwest of Cape Charlotte, with Bertrab glacier at its head, along the east end of South Georgia. It was named Gold Harbor because the sun's rays make the cliffs yellow with their light in the morning and evening. The area is a breeding ground for penguins, such as the king penguins and gentoo penguins. Elephant seals also breed here, especially at the west end of the beach, where a glacial stream flows. Sooty albatrosses breed in the area as well and you are very likely to encounter giant petrels and white-chinned petrels.

COOPER'S BAY (SOUTH GEORGIA)

Take a seat in our zodiac and head out to explore Cooper's Bay, near Gold Harbor's Bay. It was named after the first lieutenant of the famous sailor captain James Cook, and the bay offers a quite unexpected sight of long basalt canyons forming high cliffs that loom over a turquoise-blue water. In the centre of the bay, a magical atmosphere reigns when just a few rays of sunshine pierce the gauzy layer formed by the morning mist. The craggy coastlines are home to colonies of macaroni penguins who pay close attention to the arrival of our tiny craft.

BROWN BLUFF (ANTARCTICA)

There is a 1.5 km long cobble and ash beach, rising increasingly steeply towards towering red-brown cliffs. Below this volcanic rock, adélie penguins, gentoo penguins and petrels are breeding. For those interested, it is possible to hike to a higher section on the cliffs for a nice view of the bay.



WEDDELL SEA (ANTARCTICA)

A cruise in the Weddell sea is to experience complete silence and an extraordinary, inspiring atmosphere. The Weddell sea has been deemed by scientists to have the clearest water of any sea - the clarity corresponded to that of distilled water. You will discover a mysterious nature reserve with seals, penguin rookeries, albatrosses and petrels. Icebergs and the giant ice cap create a landscape beyond your imagination. The king of this area is the Weddell seal. They gather in small groups around cracks and holes in the ice. Their fur is dark gray and spotted on the belly. It has very strong teeth with which they break the ice to get access to the underlying water.

CUVERVILLE (ANTARCTICA)

Cuverville Island or Île de Cavelier de Cuverville is a dark, rocky island lying in the Errera Channel between Arctowski Peninsula and the northern part of Rongé Island, off the west coast of Graham Land in Antarctica. This 2km by 2.5km island is a steep-sided dome, two-thirds of which is covered by a permanent ice-cap. There are several very large colonies of Gentoo penguins on land, spread out in different bays, with penguin highways between them. You can also climb up the ice slopes to get a awe inspiring view. Weddell seals and fur seals regularly hang out here, with Leopard seals often hunting near-shore. There are also resident blue-eyed shags.

CIERVA COVE (ANTARCTICA)

This is another unique location to do some serious ice cruising! The area is famous for the gathering of ice from glaciers in the surrounding area. On this zodiac excursion we are very likely to see leopard seals, amongst the bay that is scattered with beautiful icebergs.

DECEPTION ISLAND (ANTARCTICA)

In the heart of the South Shetland Islands lies Deception Island, easily recognizable by its horseshoe shape. The shape of the island is the result of the caldera of a still active volcano and was created about 10,000 years ago by an eruption. The water flowed into the crater thus forming



King penguins with a glacier and snow-capped mountains in the background



The southern giant petrel has a hooked bill which can hold slippery food. They produce a stomach oil that can be sprayed out of their mouths as a defense against predators and as an energy rich food source for chicks and the adults during their long flights.

WATCH THE
TOUR IMPRESSION
VIDEO CLIP
BELOW!

a natural harbor, accessible only through a narrow entrance called 'Neptune's Bellows'.

For a long time the island was an important whaling station. Today, it hosts the greatest population of chinstrap penguins around the Antarctic peninsula. From our zodiac you can view 100,000 penguin couples, living side by side with fur seals and elephant seals.

DRAKE PASSAGE (ANTARCTICA)

If there is one place, one sea, one passage that visitors, scientists and other sailors in the Antarctic have the highest respect for, it's the Drake Passage. It is a 600 mile wide

channel that separates Cape Horn from the Antarctic peninsula. Seasoned travelers will tell you that you have to earn the right to see the White Continent, where the northward-flowing Antarctic waters meet the warmer equatorial waters, which is home to a rich variety of marine wildlife. Keep your eyes open for birds like cape petrels and wandering albatrosses above the water, and whales or dolphins in the water.

Over the past few years we've seen the Drake Passage looking like a mirror, and we've seen it with 9 meter high waves. Whatever conditions we will encounter, it helps to keep your sea legs on standby!



I WATCHED TITANIC WHEN
I GOT BACK HOME FROM
THE HOSPITAL, AND CRIED.
I KNEW THAT MY IQ HAD
BEEN DAMAGED.

//STEPHEN KING

A zodiac is dwarfed by a giant iceberg

SOUTH GEORGIA

South Georgia is a remote and inhospitable island, measuring 167.4 km (104 miles) long and 1.4 to 37 km (0.9 to 23.0 miles) wide.

Captain James Cook circumnavigated the island in 1775 and made the first landing. He named it "the Isle of Georgia" in honor of King George III. South Georgia was a whalers' base beginning in the 20th century, until whaling ended in the 1960s.

In April 1916, Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition became stranded on Elephant Island, some 800 miles (1,300 km) southwest of South Georgia. Shackleton and five companions set out in a small boat to summon help, and on 10 May, after an epic voyage, they landed on South Georgia's south coast. While three stayed at the coast, Shackleton and the two others went on to cover 22 miles (35 km) overland to reach help at Stromness whaling station. The remaining 22 members of the expedition were subsequently rescued. In January 1922, during a later expedition, Shackleton died on board ship while moored in King Edward Cove, South Georgia. He is buried at Grytviken.

The climate is classified as polar, and the weather is highly variable and harsh. Typical daily maximum temperatures are around 0°C (32°F) in winter and 8°C (46.4 °F) in summer, when we go. Winter minimum temperatures are typically about -5°C (23°F) and rarely dip below -10°C (14 °F). Annual precipitation in South Georgia is about 1,500 mm (59.1 in), much of which falls as sleet or snow, which is possible in any month.

A closeup of the flipper of an elephant seal (South Georgia).





Gentoo penguins are quite distinct from any other penguin, with the white stripe across the top of the head and bright orange bill. They are also better swimmers and divers than other penguins. Their super-streamlined bodies make them the fastest penguin underwater, able to reach speeds of 36kph, and they can dive to 170 meters down into the deep ocean.

SOME OF THE WILDLIFE IN THE ANTARCTIC

This pearly white land is home to a number of animal species including sea birds, fur seals, adélie and gentoo penguins. This is nature at its unspoiled, fascinating best.

ELEPHANT SEALS

The largest members of the seal family, the colossal silhouette of this mammal is adorned with a trunk-shaped nose, forming a sound box that allows it to express itself from the shore.

HUMPBACK WHALES

Renowned as the most impressive marine mammal, this playful acrobat offers an astonishing sight; its huge, powerful blue tail slaps the water's surface, challenging spectators and photographers alike.

FIN WHALES

Easily identifiable thanks to the dorsal fin that breaks the surface of the water, you will recognize this whale for its asymmetrical coloring. Fin Whales are smaller than Blue whales but can reach 20 meters in length and weigh some 50 tons.

LEOPARD SEALS

This solitary hunter can grow up to 3 meters in length; it owes its name to the spotted fur on its belly. Slim, lean and very agile, you may spot them in the wake of your boat.

CHINSTRAP PENGUINS


A medium-sized bird renowned for its boldness and agility, this species is easily recognizable for the fine band of black feathers that adorn its throat.

KING PENGUINS

Easy to identify with its bright yellow head and neck and its grey dorsal feathers, we only encounter this exceptional swimmer in South Georgia. Indolent and very sociable, they travel in huge colonies that can include many thousands of individuals.

GENTOO PENGUINS

Smaller than its cousins, the gentoo stands out with its black and white coat, brightened by its red-orange feet.



THE THING THAT IS MOST BEAUTIFUL ABOUT ANTARCTICA FOR ME IS THE LIGHT. IT'S LIKE NO OTHER LIGHT ON EARTH, BECAUSE THE AIR IS SO FREE OF IMPURITIES. YOU GET DRUGGED BY IT, LIKE WHEN YOU LISTEN TO ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE SONGS. THE LIGHT THERE IS A MOOD-ENHANCING SUBSTANCE.

//JON KRAKAUER

People are turned into hobbit-sized creatures next to a huge glacier

WHY GO TO ANTARCTICA?

FOR THE BEAUTY OF ITS ICY GIANTS

Visiting the Antarctic means setting out to discover a land dominated by white; a mysterious stretch of ice with a seemingly infinite palette of hues. Unlike the pack-ice, these icy giants are made up of fresh water. They sail along the sea like crystal cathedrals sheathed in shades of emerald, snow white and azure blue. The icebergs are the trademark of polar landscapes and they dominate the horizon. Some have such surprising shapes, with their curves, domes and arches, that they appear to have been carved by ice sculptors.

FOR ITS RICH WILDLIFE

During the Austral Summer, the icy vastness undergoes a rebirth and becomes an amphitheater bursting with activity, where thousands of penguins come and go, gathered in vast colonies. Whether they are Gentoo, Adelie, Chinstrap, King or Macaroni penguins, these placid animals are sure to win your heart as they waddle off to their nest or their young.

At sea, it's the majestic humpback Whales and imposing fin whales that will catch your eye, while fur seals bask in the sun on small floating islands of ice. And if you look up, the elegant black-browed Albatross will become your best travel companion...

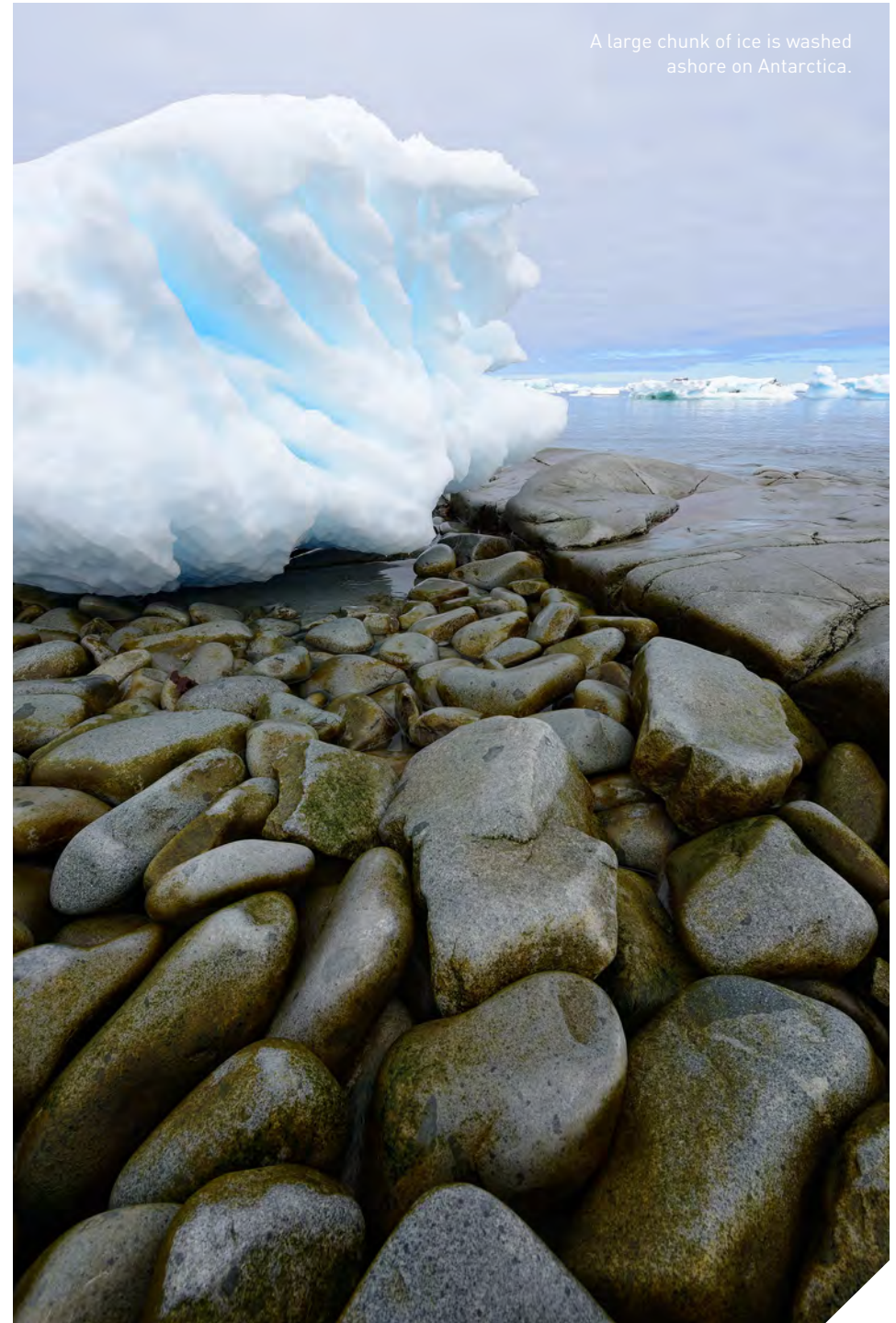
FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF EXPLORERS

Although the existence of an Antarctic Continent was mentioned by Aristotle as far back as Antiquity, it wasn't until 1773 that Sir James Cook crossed the Antarctic Polar Circle for the first time. Other explorers would follow in his footsteps and undertake expeditions to the South Pole; Jean-Baptiste Charcot, Adrien De Gerlache, Sir Ernest Shackleton and, later, Paul-Emile Victor would open the way to the most extreme of all continents. We invite you to retrace the journeys of these pioneers, who set out to conquer the final frontiers of the great South, and travel to the very ends of the earth, where there is still room to feed your dreams... Some journeys cannot be described. You simply have to experience them.

IT'S THE IDEAL SEASON

During the southern summer (from November to February) the White Continent comes alive. Wildlife dominates the scene where you can watch colonies of thousands of penguins busy feeding and raising their young. The birth of new life against a backdrop of orange sunsets, softened by the transparency of drifting icebergs, is an experience not to be missed. The Antarctic may be extreme, but it possesses a natural grace which adventurers have always dreamed of exploring - now it's your turn.

A large chunk of ice is washed ashore on Antarctica.



A young elephant seal on the beach of South Georgia.

EMBARKING ON THE CONQUEST OF VIRGIN LANDS MEANS BEING DRIVEN BY A TASTE FOR ADVENTURE, BY SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY OR BY THE MYSTERIOUS ATTRACTION OF THE UNKNOWN. EACH OF THESE THREE REASONS PLAYED ITS PART IN MY DECISION TO LEAVE FOR ANTARCTICA ONCE AGAIN.

//SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON

THE BIRDS OF THE ANTARCTIC. WELL, SOME OF THEM.



Gentoo penguin Easily recognized by the white stripe and bright orange-red bill.



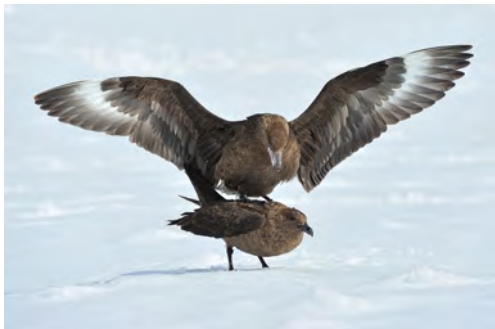
Chinstrap penguin Named after the narrow black band around their heads.



Adélie penguin Distinctive mark is the white ring surrounding the eye.



King penguin They live in huge colonies and can only be found on South Georgia.



Brown skua The heaviest species of skua. Feeds on fish, birds, small mammals, eggs.



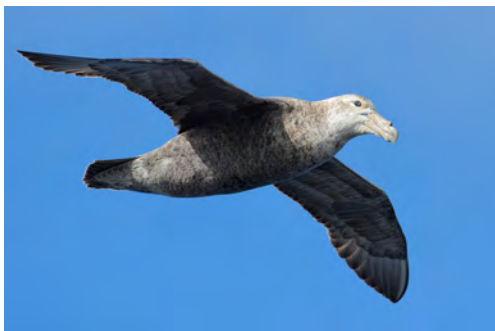
Kelp gull Omnivores that will scavenge as well as seeking suitable small prey.



Sooty albatross Sooty-brown with darker shading on the side of its head. Endangered.



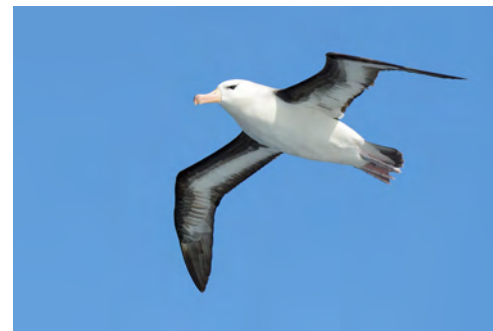
Snowy sheathbill The only land bird (excluding penguins) native to Antarctica.



Southern giant petrel They have strong legs and can move around on land effectively.



Antarctic tern A typical tern that ranges throughout the southern oceans.



Black-browed albatross Named after the dark eyestripe. Near threatened.



Cape petrel A unique looking petrel. They run on the water to take off.

ANTARCTICA

Antarctica is situated in the Antarctic region of the Southern Hemisphere, almost entirely south of the Antarctic Circle, and is surrounded by the Southern Ocean. With 14.0 million km² (5.4 million sq. mi), it is the fifth-largest continent in area after Asia, Africa, North America, and South America. For comparison, Antarctica is nearly twice the size of Australia. About 98% of Antarctica is covered by ice that averages at least 1.9 kilometers (1.2 mi) in thickness, which extends to all but the northernmost parts of the Antarctic Peninsula.

Antarctica, on average, is the coldest, driest, and windiest continent, and has the highest average elevation of all the continents. Antarctica is considered a desert, with annual precipitation of only 200 mm (8 inches) along the coast and far less inland. The lowest recorded temperature in Antarctica was -89°C (-129°F). There are no permanent human residents, but anywhere from 1,000 to 5,000 people reside throughout the year at the research stations scattered across the continent. Only cold-adapted organisms survive, including many types of algae, bacteria, fungi, plants, and certain animals, such as mites, nematodes, penguins, seals and tardigrades. Vegetation where it occurs is tundra.

The Russian expedition of Von Bellingshausen and Lazarev on Vostok and Mirny first sighted a continental ice shelf in 1820. The continent, however, remained largely neglected for the rest of the 19th century because of its hostile environment, lack of resources, and isolation.

A Weddell seal pup is looking at a strange creature wearing a bright red coat



IF ANTARCTICA WERE MUSIC IT WOULD BE MOZART. ART, AND IT WOULD BE MICHELANGELO. LITERATURE, AND IT WOULD BE SHAKESPEARE. AND YET IT IS SOMETHING EVEN GREATER; THE ONLY PLACE ON EARTH THAT IS STILL AS IT SHOULD BE. MAY WE NEVER TAME IT.

//ANDREW DENTON



Skuas are strong, acrobatic fliers. The eggs and young of other birds are an important food source.



The word **iceberg** is a partial loan translation from Dutch **ijsberg**, literally meaning ice mountain. Because of the density of pure ice, typically only one-tenth of the volume of an iceberg is above water.

CLIMATE

Antarctica is the Earth's coldest continent. The coldest natural temperature ever recorded on Earth was -89.2°C (-128.6°F) at Vostok Station in Antarctica on 21 July 1983. Antarctica is a frozen desert with little precipitation; the South Pole itself receives less than 10 cm (4 in) per year, on average. Temperatures reach a minimum of between -80°C (-112°F) and -90°C (-130°F) in the interior in winter and reach a maximum of between 5°C (41°F) and 15°C (59°F) near the coast in summer. Sunburn is often a health issue as the snow surface reflects almost all of the ultraviolet light falling on it. Given the latitude, long periods of constant darkness or constant sunlight create climates unfamiliar to human beings in much of the rest of the world.

East Antarctica is colder than its western counterpart because of its higher elevation. Weather fronts rarely penetrate far into the continent, leaving the center cold and dry. Despite the lack of precipitation over the central portion of the continent, ice there lasts for extended periods. Heavy snowfalls are common on the coastal portion of the continent, where snowfalls of up to 1.22 meters (48 inch) in 48 hours have been recorded.

At the edge of the continent, strong katabatic winds off the polar plateau often blow at storm force. In the interior, wind speeds are typically moderate. During clear days in summer, more solar radiation reaches the surface at the South Pole than at the equator because of the 24 hours of sunlight each day at the Pole.

A chinstrap penguin is resting on the snow.



WHY GO TO ANTARCTICA WITH SQUIVER?

We don't need to tell you that the wildlife in the antarctic region is unique and abundant. Nor that the landscapes (or rather icescapes) are unbelievably stunning and pristine. And you also know that we are not the only ones offering tours to this amazing continent. So, will we be able to do it differently? We think we will.

Over the past three years we have been on several expeditions to the Antarctic region. We have visited the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica numerous times. This means that we are familiar with the majority of the sites we will be visiting on this tour - we know where to go and where the best photographic opportunities await us. And we know the wildlife and how to get the best shots of them.

Based on our experience we made a list of things we liked, and did not like.

We've seen how the older type expedition vessels and small ships bounce around on the waves of the Drake Passage. That's why we have selected a brand new, good-sized, state of the art ship, with the latest stabilizing technology.

Most of our competitors offer tours on (old) ships with 70 or more (!) serious photographers - our idea of a complete nightmare. We've heard horror stories of photographers fighting over the ideal photo spots, with tripods and long lenses everywhere. That's not the experience we would like you to have. Over the past years we have experienced first hand the joy of traveling amongst 'regular' tourists. They mostly use point & shoots, iPhones and iPads, are not as serious about their photography, and don't spot unique photographic opportunities quickly. Also, they don't tend to be out on the deck a lot, leaving more room for us. And even when there is something to photograph from the ship, we've noticed they often move out of the way when they see the size of our cameras and lenses! We feel the overall experience is much better, being a photographic group amongst 'regular' tourists.

We will be spending considerable time on board our ship, and we prefer to spend it in comfort. A lot of the expedition vessels that our competitors use are old and spartan. An old ship uses old stabilizing technology, if it has any stabilizers at all. Most of these ships are former Russian research vessels that have been converted into cruise ships. They're not all bad, but a modern ship that has been designed with passengers and cruising in mind, is something completely different altogether.

We would like to offer you a high level of comfort during the unavoidable sea days. That means modern, spacious rooms with a kingsize bed (or 2 twin beds) and a private balcony with ocean view, instead of 2 bunk beds without a window. It also means gourmet food, accompanied by good wine, luxury lounges that are a joy to relax in, and a highly qualified expedition team with naturalists and scientists to broaden our horizon.

Our tour will be on a very luxurious 5-star ship, highly stabilized and newly build (2015) specifically for the polar regions. Each morning, the captain and the expedition leader will decide on the day's schedule, taking into account the state of the ice and the weather conditions. Our expedition itinerary is flexible at all times. This adaptability allows us to stay longer at the most emblematic sites, to make a detour to admire whales, or disembark on a beach to encounter a colony of penguins.

ANTARCTICA

A zodiac is cruising amidst giant icebergs. The Antarctic landscapes are breathtaking.



CRUISE THE ANTARCTIC IN 5* COMFORT

We offer you all the opportunities of an expedition ship, but with 5-star comfort, unique in these remote polar regions. Our ship is brand new and will start sailing in April 2015. Although the ship is relatively small, it is built to conquer the harshest ocean conditions and it uses the latest stabilizing technology. Which you will certainly come to appreciate should the weather get rough.

The ships decor is very modern and inspired by the colors of Antarctica. Sailing under French flag, you can expect fine dining and superb French wines to accompany your food.

We have reserved a mix of Deluxe Staterooms on deck 3 and Prestige Staterooms on deck 4. The rooms are spacious (200 sq. ft/18m²) and each room has a private balcony. We have been able to select rooms for our group in the mid section of the ship, to minimize the amount of movement caused by the waves. This will make your nights much more pleasant! All rooms have individually controlled air con and either a king-size bed or twin beds. Other amenities include:

- Shower
- Minibar
- Flat screen satellite TV
- iPod players
- Video on demand
- Safe
- Hairdryer
- Bath robes
- Satellite direct line telephone
- 110/220 volts outlet
- French bath products
- 24hr Room service
- Wifi internet access



This is not the copacobana-bingo-casino cruise you get in the Caribbean: you will return with a lot more knowledge than when you boarded! On sea days lectures will be given by the naturalists and scientists of the expedition team. It allows you to learn more about the mammals, birds and sea life that you will encounter on this trip. They will also brief you about the locations we will be visiting, and what you can expect when we go on a boat cruise or do a landing on shore. And we will also use the lecture rooms with our group, outside the official lecture hours, to do workshops, presentations and image reviews.



SMALL PRINT

- Women who are more than 6 months pregnant at the time of disembarkation are not permitted to travel.
- The vessel is non-smoking with the exception of designated areas on outside decks.
- Animals are not permitted aboard.
- Any specific health issue, if known, must be reported in writing to the medical department through the mandatory medical questionnaire, to be filled and returned by each participant to an Antarctica program, at the latest 60 days prior departure.
- Due to exceptional nature of these programs, site names are given as an indication only. Final route will be confirmed daily by the captain and the expedition leader depending on ice conditions, weather forecasts with priority being given to passenger safety.
- Euros, US Dollars and credit cards (VISA, Mastercard and AMEX) are accepted on board. Note that there are no ATM's on board the ship, so you can not change money. All onboard purchases may be charged to your room.



The Antarctic tern is a typical tern that ranges throughout the southern oceans. When a potential predator (or a human!) gets too close to their nest, they will try to scare the intruder away by dive-bombing them.



Giant icebergs rise from the ocean like sky scrapers of snow and ice.

BIODIVERSITY

Few terrestrial vertebrates live in Antarctica. The flightless midge *Belgica antarctica*, up to 6 millimeters (0.2 in) in size, is the largest purely terrestrial animal in Antarctica. The snow petrel is one of only three birds that breed exclusively in Antarctica.

Varieties of marine animals exist and rely on the phytoplankton. Antarctic sea life includes penguins, blue whales, orcas, colossal squids and fur seals. The emperor penguin is the only penguin that breeds during the winter in Antarctica, while the Adélie penguin breeds farther south than any other penguin. The rockhopper penguin has distinctive feathers around the eyes, giving the appearance of elaborate eyelashes. King penguins, chinstrap penguins, and gentoo penguins also breed in the Antarctic.

The Antarctic fur seal was very heavily hunted in the 18th and 19th centuries for its pelt by sealers from the United States and the United Kingdom. The Weddell seal, a "true seal", is named after Sir James Weddell, commander of British sealing expeditions in the Weddell Sea. Antarctic krill, which congregates in large schools, is the keystone species of the ecosystem of the Southern Ocean, and is an important food organism for whales, seals, leopard seals, fur seals, squid, icefish, penguins, albatrosses and many other birds.

More than 235 marine organisms live in both polar regions, having bridged the gap of 12,000 km (7,456 mi).

March of the penguins. Gentoo penguins in this case.



INCLUDED IN THE TOUR

- 14 Nights on board (embarkation in Montevideo)
- Luggage transfer from pier to the ship and vice versa
- All meals on board the ship
- Tea, filter coffee, water, soft drinks and a selection of house wines during meals
- Drinks in the bar(s), lounge and restaurant(s) of the ship (pouring wines, house champagne, alcohol except premium brands, soft drinks, water)
- Captain's welcome cocktail and gala dinner
- Afternoon tea
- Room service (24h)
- Zodiac cruises and shore landings with a member of the expedition team

- Lectures and educational programs
- Image reviews
- Photographic briefings
- Processing tips & tricks
- Park entry fees into protected areas
- Waterproof boots men's USA sizes 8-14 and women's USA sizes 3-9 (free of charge, except for the guarantee deposit)
- Polar parka for you to keep
- 29 November 2015 flight from Ushuaia to Buenos Aires (domestic airport)

NOT INCLUDED

- Port taxes (EUR 700 per person)
- Air tax (EUR 20 per person)

- Tips (suggested: EUR 12 per person per day)
- Optional spa package to be booked prior to your departure (please ask for more info if you are interested)
- Optional shore excursions
- Beverages other than drinks at the bar, lounge or restaurant
- Laundry service, hair salon and á la carte spa treatments
- Cancellation/luggage/repatriation/medical insurance
- Visa, disembarkation taxes, environmental taxes and/or national park fees if applicable
- Camera sherpa

MORE INFORMATION

Please email us (info@squiver.com) or visit www.squiver.com

SURE, THE LION IS KING OF THE JUNGLE. BUT AIRDROP HIM INTO ANTARCTICA, AND HE'S JUST ANY PENGUIN'S BITCH.

//DENNIS MILLER



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