

Antarctica & Sub Antarctic Islands

PS910-09 Feb 28 (Sunday) – Mar 18 (Thursday), 2010 (19 days / 18 nights)

Throughout this expedition witness wildlife and their young in varied stages of their cycle as they prepare for the oncoming winter and a Polar landscape softened by the summer months. It is also a particularly good time for whale encounters. Having experienced the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands, the ship steams to the remote South Orkney Archipelago, before heading to South Georgia, the Falkland Islands and then back to Ushuaia. The tales of history, wildlife activity, spectacular scenery and the awesome Antarctic environment have a deep impact on all who visit.

DAY 1: Sunday, Feb 28 (Argentina) Embark in **Ushuaia**.

DAYS 2 & 3: Monday – Tuesday, Mar 1 & 2 (At Sea) During this **sea passage** relax, attend lectures and watch for wildlife from the bridge, outside decks or from the warmth of the panoramic observation lounge.

DAY 4: Wednesday, Mar 3 (South Shetland Islands) These wild islands are in stark contrast to the rest of this Antarctic region as they are of volcanic origin. Landings are planned at **Deception Island** and **Hannah Point** to see the penguin rookeries, seal haul out sites and many seabirds.

DAYS 5 & 6: Thursday – Friday, Mar 4 & 5 (Antarctica) Throughout the overall program plan on Zodiac cruising and landings with some trekking possible. During these two days explore the northern region of the **Peninsula** and perhaps into the **Weddell Sea**. Cruise amongst the dramatic ice and land at historic and wildlife sites. Penguin species include Gentoo, Adelie and Chinstrap, and there are several whale, seal and bird species to be seen. Landing sites may include **Paulet Island, Brown Bluff, Devil's Island** and possibly **Snow Hill Island**.

DAY 7: Saturday, Mar 6 (At Sea) This day **at sea** provides an opportunity to attend lectures.

DAY 8: Sunday, Mar 7 (At Sea, South Orkney Island) During this day, with weather cooperating and permission granted, plan to visit **Signy Station**, an important British research base. This remote island is also home to Weddell, Fur and Elephant seals.

DAY 9: Monday, Mar 8 (At Sea) Enjoy a day **at sea** with more onboard lectures, presentations and free time.

DAYS 10 – 13: Tuesday – Friday, Mar 9 – 12 (South Georgia) These islands are almost indescribable in their beauty. With a stunning backdrop of snow topped mountains, dancing tussock grass and long beaches, it is a spectacle enhanced by the crowds of thousands of dramatically coloured King penguins and other wildlife including Gentoo and Macaroni penguins, seals, a multitude of seabirds and whales. During this time the plan is to land at **Prion Island, Cooper Bay, Fortuna Bay, Stromness Harbour, Salisbury Plain** and **Grytviken** – where Sir Ernest **Shackleton** is buried.

DAYS 14 & 15: Saturday – Sunday, Mar 13 & 14 (At Sea) Relax **at sea**, attend lectures and watch for marine wildlife as the ship steams in a westerly direction to the Falklands.

DAYS 16 & 17: Monday – Tuesday, Mar 15 & 16 (Falkland Islands) Two days in the Falkland Islands completes the Odyssey. Plan to visit **Stanley, New Island** and **West Point Island** – to gain some insight into these remote yet very historic and still well populated islands and visit Rockhopper and Black-browed albatross colonies.

DAY 18: Wednesday, Mar 17 (At Sea) This final day **at sea** is a time to reflect on the voyage, share photos and gather memories.

DAY 19: Thursday, Mar 18 (Argentina) Disembark in **Ushuaia**.

(Please note that this is our planned itinerary – actual execution is subject to weather, ice and IAATO Ship Scheduler limitations. PSE reserves the right to adjust the itinerary as needed without recourse.)