



CHEESEMANS' ECOLOGY SAFARIS

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Falkland Islands

Five Island Circuit

November 9 to 26, 2023



Black-browed Albatross
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Visit five different islands, the best of Patagonia and Antarctica combined into one, to see penguins, albatross, seals, and more. Trek through the most diverse wildlife habitats in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas). With two days on Steeple Jason Island – a place very few have the opportunity to stay – you'll have ample time explore on foot and to sit alongside the black-browed albatross colony and watch as they take off, land, court, and preen each other. Take in the abundant seabird colonies, including gentoo, king, and rockhopper penguins. Explore Sea Lion Island, the most species-rich site in the Falklands with time to watch South American sea lions and observe orcas patrolling for unwary southern elephant seals. Witness Magellanic penguins ride the surf in to the beach to waddle to their underground burrows. Bleaker and Volunteer Point on East Falkland Island round out this complete Falklands wildlife experience.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit five diverse islands: Carcass, Sea Lion, Steeple Jason, Bleaker, and East Falkland Islands.
- Two days and three nights on Steeple Jason Island, weather permitting, for up-close views of the earth's largest black-browed albatross colony.
- Discover the largest accessible king penguin colony outside of South Georgia along the turquoise waters of Volunteer Point.

LEADER: Hugh Rose.

DAYS: 18 days, including estimated travel time.

GROUP SIZE: 8.

COST: \$12,775 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except for four internal flights), singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 5.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The accommodations vary among the islands and outside communication is limited. Your lodging on Steeple Jason has three rooms with various group sleeping arrangements and two bathrooms shared with your travel mates and leader. See the *Accommodations* section on page 7.

Date	Description	Accommodations	Meals
Nov 9	Travel to Punta Arenas, Chile.		
Nov 10	Arrive in Punta Arenas from our South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula trip or from home.	Hotel Cabo de Hornos, Punta Arenas, Chile	—
Nov 11	Fly to Stanley, Falkland Islands, and then fly to Carcass Island. Discover Carcass Island's variety of bird species.	Managers House, Carcass Island	B, L, D
Nov 12–15	Sail to Steeple Jason Island to explore the world's largest black-browed albatross colony.	Steeple Jason Island House	B, L, D
Nov 16	Sail back to Carcass Island and continue to discover this island's diversity.	Managers House, Carcass Island	B, L, D
Nov 17–20	Fly to Sea Lion Island. Enjoy the most wildlife diverse island in the Falklands.	Sea Lion Lodge	B, L, D
Nov 21–22	Fly to Bleaker Island and discover rockhopper penguins, imperial cormorants, and waterfowl.	Bleaker Island Lodge	B, L, D
Nov 23–24	Fly to Stanley for city tour and museum visit. Take a full day excursion to Volunteer Point.	The Malvina House Hotel, Stanley	B, L, D
Nov 25	Fly to Punta Arenas, Chile and connect to flights home.		B
Nov 26	Arrive home.		

OPTIONS

- Begin your journey early on our South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula trip from October 19 to November 10, 2023. Spend six days on South Georgia Island and six days in the Antarctic Peninsula to see curious penguins and seals, icebergs, and more. See full itinerary at <https://cheesemans.com/trips/south-georgia-antarctic-peninsula-oct2023>.

LEADER

Hugh Rose

Hugh has over 20 years of professional guiding experience. The vast landscapes and incredible wildlife of Alaska and the Polar Regions are his subject and passion, evident in his inspired leadership and stunning professional photos. Hugh receives unending praise for his amazing knowledge, delightful and accommodating personality, and attention to every trip detail.



DETAILED ITINERARY

Nov 9 ~ Travel to Punta Arenas, Chile

Nov 10 ~ Arrive in Punta Arenas

Arrive in Punta Arenas from our South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula trip (<https://cheesemans.com/trips/south-georgia-antarctic-peninsula-oct2023>) or from home. Transfer to your hotel for a free day to rest or explore this quaint city.

Nov 11 ~ Fly to Falkland Islands, then fly to and explore Carcass Island

Transfer to the airport to take the once-weekly flight from Punta Arenas to Mount Pleasant Airport in Stanley, Falkland Islands (not included in trip cost). Upon arrival, our local operator will greet you and transport you to your flight to Carcass Island.

Carcass Island is different from anywhere else in the Falklands. The active habitat restoration work, by owner Rob McGill, and lack of predation has created a breathtaking and beautiful environment. You will have plenty of time to explore this very special island with your leader or at your own leisure.

Nov 12–15 ~ Sail to and explore Steeple Jason Island

Weather permitting, sail to Steeple Jason Island. We will do everything in our power to get the group there, but rough seas can delay or cancel this departure. Steeple Jason is the outermost northwest island, now a reserve owned by Wildlife Conservation Society. Albatross are the main attraction, their nests thickly wrapping around the base of the striking island. More black-browed albatross nest here



Gentoo Penguin
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

than anywhere else on Earth, at least a quarter million birds! From a distance, the immense colony on the lower shores looks like freshly fallen snow. As you approach, you'll see thousands of birds circling in the air and rafting on the water like tiny icebergs, and once ashore, maneuver through the tall, wispy tussock grass to arrive at the colony and experience albatross flying very close overhead.



Imperial Cormorants
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Nov 16 ~ Sail back to and continue to explore Carcass Island

Lying to the northwest of the Falklands archipelago, Carcass Island is one of the most picturesque outer islands. In its 100+ years of habitation, this island has had only three owners, all environmentally conscious, and an absence of cats and rats, making the luxuriant, well-established hedges and trees an attractive home to many small birds such as the Cobb's wren, black-chinned siskin, and austral thrush. The sandy beaches, rolling hills, and low cliffs are superb platforms from which to view the multitude of birds that either breed or feed on and around this island, which include gentoo and Magellanic penguins, yellow-billed pintails, Falkland (or flightless) steamer-ducks,

Magellanic oystercatchers, and striated caracaras. You can find a growing colony of southern elephant seals at the far north-west point of the island. Both the north and south of the island provide great hiking opportunities, taking in interesting flora, long, white sand beaches (some good beachcombing), penguin colonies, and sheltered dunes which make great picnic spots.

Nov 17–20 ~ Fly to and explore Sea Lion Island

Sea Lion Island is one of the smallest in the Falklands archipelago (five miles long and just over one mile wide at its widest point) and the most southerly-inhabited island. The sheer abundance of wildlife makes it a must on any Falklands itinerary. Sea Lion Island hosts over 47 bird species, including rockhopper, gentoo, and Magellanic penguins; you will be graced by some of the 2,800 breeding pairs of gentoo penguins courting and laying eggs and scatterings of southern giant-petrels. Other birds you may encounter are South American snipe, rufous-chested dotterel, and the endemic Cobb's and sedge wrens, small birds that have recently been afforded protection from the tall grass that reestablished after the removal of sheep from the island. The biggest attraction is the large number of southern elephant seals that breed here, principally on the white sand beach at the appropriately named Elephant Corner. South American (or southern) sea lions are found at East Loafers, and pods of orcas are also often seen circling close offshore (usually a treat for the early risers) attracted by the prospect of penguins and seals.

Nov 21–22 ~ Fly to and explore Bleaker Island

You'll spend your time on Bleaker hiking along this small, wildlife-rich island, including Long Gulch, which is just one of a number of the dramatic inlets in the rocky cliffs. The top of the cliff is bordered with tussock grass where about 9,000 pairs of imperial (king) cormorants group together alongside a colony of about 750 pairs of rockhopper penguins, a Bleaker Island highlight. Other highlights you may experience are a gentoo penguin highway, Magellanic penguin burrows dotted across the island, and waterfowl at Big Pond.



Rockhopper Penguin
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Nov 23–24 ~ Fly to Stanley for city tour and museum visit and full day excursion to Volunteer Point

Bid the outer islands farewell and return to Stanley (the timing of your charter flight depends on weather and other flight schedules). With 2,000 people, Stanley is the smallest and most remote capital city in the world. The city is built on a north-facing slope to catch sunlight throughout the year and looks across Stanley Harbor, with its wealth of seabirds and trickle of shipping boats. Stanley is associated with the great age of sail, when rounding Cape Horn was the most daunting nautical passage on the planet. Some of those ships still lie in the harbor, abandoned after a Cape Horn battering. You may take a self-guided Maritime History Trail and find guidebooks in local shops. Stanley depicts a new vibrant Falklands and is home to many successful businesses, with deep-sea fishing, tourism, farming, and most recently oil prospecting being the principal earners.

The following morning depart Stanley for a full day excursion. After a roughly 2.5-hr drive by Landrover, you'll arrive at the white sandy beach and turquoise waters of Volunteer Point, a destination with almost a Caribbeanesque feel to it, but the king, gentoo, and Magellanic penguins will bring you back to the Falklands. Discover the largest accessible king penguin colony in the Islands, outside of South Georgia, containing approximately 1,000 adults. You may also find other wildlife such as long-tailed meadowlarks, austral thrush, South American snipe, South American tern, blackish and Magellanic oystercatchers, and upland, kelp, and ruddy-headed geese. Enjoy the spectacular scenery as you traverse the north of East Falkland.



Magellanic Penguins
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Nov 25 ~ Fly to Punta Arenas, Chile to connect with flights home

Enjoy a free morning before you fly back to Punta Arenas, Chile to connect with your flights home.

Nov 26 ~ Arrive home

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, double occupancy	\$12,775
Single Supplement	\$975

Costs are per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except for four internal flights listed as included), singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

If you are a single traveler, we will find a roommate for you, but if we cannot find you a roommate, we may charge you a single supplement. Single rooms cost extra, are subject to availability, and cannot be guaranteed throughout the trip.

Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	\$500
Second	June 1, 2022	\$2,000
Final	June 1, 2023	Remaining Balance

Payments are due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space.

Cancellations

Until the Final Payment due date, deposits are refundable except for a cancellation fee of \$150 per person, which can be applied toward another trip if reserved within six months of the cancelled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferrable. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date.

Included

- All leaders, transport, landing fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- Four internal flights.
- Accommodations for the nights of November 10 through November 24.
- Meals from breakfast on November 11 through breakfast on November 25.
- Transfers from Punta Arenas Airport to Hotel Cabo de Hornos, regardless of arrival day, from Hotel Cabo de Hornos to the Punta Arenas Airport on November 11, and to the Mount Pleasant Airport on November 25.

Not Included

- All airfare (except flights listed as included), airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees. Round-trip airfare is approximately \$950 to \$1,300 between the US and Punta Arenas, depending on origin, plus approximately \$820 for round-trip flights between Punta Arenas and Mount Pleasant.
- We can arrange extra hotel nights in Punta Arenas for an extra cost.
- Gratuities – Tipping is always discretionary. However, we suggest budgeting about \$200 total per participant for the lodge staff, drivers, sailors, and local guides throughout the trip.
- Mandatory emergency medical and evacuation insurance. For more information see www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance.
- Optional trip cancellation insurance. For more information see www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic and other beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Reservation Form.

SIGN UP

Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Reservation Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

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OTHER DETAILS

Climate

Daytime temperatures are generally 40 to 50°F (4 to 10°C) with almost constant wind.

Fitness Level

This trip requires the ability to hike moderate distances, perhaps up to three miles, with small elevation gains. To visit Steeple Jason, you must be able to easily get in and out of a Zodiac and climb over boulders while carrying your gear. You must be able to get into and out of a Landrover. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging.

Accommodations

The accommodations vary among the islands and outside communication is limited. We cannot guarantee private rooms/baths in our lodging on Steeple Jason, as the lodging consists of three rooms with various group sleeping arrangements and two bathrooms shared with your travel mates and leader. Be prepared to help with cooking and cleaning, loading your luggage, etc.

Transportation

You'll travel by bus, Landrover, small boat, and small plane.

Motion Sickness

Motion sickness is usually not an issue, but you have a full-day boat excursion, sail to and from Steeple Jason weather permitting, and fly on small aircraft. The key to avoiding motion sickness is to take action before you experience nausea. Read our suggestions for coping with seasickness at www.cheesemans.com/seasickness and contact us if you have any concerns.

Flights

Unless listed as included, airfare is not included in trip costs. Detailed logistical information and the contact information for our recommended flight-ticketing agent are included in the Trip Materials we will send you. Please let us know if you are arriving earlier or staying later as we are happy to assist you with any extra overnights that you might want to arrange.

Flights you (or a travel agent) book: Arrive in Punta Arenas, Chile (PUQ) by November 10. The flight from Mount Pleasant is scheduled to arrive in Punta Arenas at approximately 6:00pm, so depart Punta Arenas, Chile (PUQ) in the evening of November 25.

Flights we book for you: The round-trip flights between Punta Arenas, Chile and Mount Pleasant, Falkland Islands; we'll add the flight cost to your final trip balance. Four internal flights are included in the trip cost.

Terms and Conditions

Read our current Terms and Conditions at <https://cheesemans.com/terms-and-conditions>.

Conservation

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris is passionate about conserving the precious regions that we travel to and supports many conservation efforts. By visiting these areas, we contribute to sustainable conservation of these valuable wildlife habitats. We urge you to support conservation organizations that protect and restore natural habitats and write letters to tourism and government agencies to promote work in preserving wildlife.

We aim to make all our trips carbon neutral by splitting the cost of carbon offsetting with our participants. For your convenience, the optional donation amount for your half of the carbon offset will be indicated on your invoice. We source high quality offsets through CarbonTree Conservation Fund, a non-profit we helped found, supporting pioneering forest conservation in the Rio Bravo Reserve in Belize, a Nature Conservancy project (www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/latin-america/belize/rio-bravo-conservation-area/).