

Falkland Islands

Wildlife at the World's Edge

December 7 to 17, 2028



King Penguins
© Bob Brewer

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Step into one of the most wildlife-rich regions of the Southern Hemisphere on this focused Falkland Islands expedition. Exploring **Bleaker Island, Sea Lion Island, and East Falkland**, you'll experience three distinct ecosystems known for dense seabird colonies, abundant marine mammals, and remarkably intact coastal habitats.

Bleaker Island offers excellent seabird and marine mammal viewing in a walkable setting. It's sweeping bays and productive waters support **Imperial Cormorants, Slender-billed Prions**, and a significant colony of **Black-browed Albatross**, while **Gentoo, Magellanic, and Rockhopper Penguins** nest along beaches and in tussac grass. **Sea Lion Island** offers exceptional access to wildlife within a compact area. **Southern elephant seals** and **Southern sea lions** haul out along white-sand beaches, often at close range. **Gentoo, Rockhopper, and Magellanic Penguins** nest in accessible colonies, creating outstanding opportunities for observation and photography. Offshore, we watch for **orcas** that occasionally patrol the shoreline. Daily walks across open grasslands and along

dramatic coasts provide varied perspectives and consistent wildlife encounters. On **East Falkland**, you'll visit a large **King Penguin** colony and explore rolling landscapes that support upland species and waterfowl. The schedule remains flexible to take advantage of weather, light, and wildlife activity.

Comfortable lodges and hearty local cuisine provide a welcoming base each evening. Guided by experienced naturalists, this expedition emphasizes **meaningful time in the field, small-group camaraderie, and exceptional wildlife viewing and photography** in one of the world's most remote island environments.

WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP?

- **Explore Three Unique Islands:** Discover the contrasting beauty of Bleaker Island, Sea Lion Island, and Volunteer Point, each offering exceptional wildlife density, dramatic coast scenery, and unparalleled photographic opportunities.
- **Observe Four Iconic Penguin Species:** Encounter Gentoo, King, Rockhopper, and Magellanic Penguins, including the largest accessible King Penguin colony outside South Georgia.
- **Spot Marine Mammals & Birds of Prey:** Witness Southern elephant seals, South American sea lions, orcas, and rare raptors, including the Striated Caracara, found in few places on earth.
- **Volunteer Point King Penguin Experience:** Walk among thousands of King Penguins set against the backdrop of white sand and luminous blue waters.

LEADER: Scott Davis

DAYS: 11, including estimated travel time.

GROUP SIZE: 8.

COST: \$8,100 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except for three internal flights), singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 5.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Dec 7	Travel to Punta Arenas, Chile. Travel to Patagonia's southernmost city, the gateway to the Falkland Islands.		
Dec 8	Arrive in Punta Arenas. Explore coastal landscapes and local wildlife before settling in for the night.	Hotel Cabo de Hornos, Punta Arenas, Chile	–
Dec 9–10	Fly to Stanley & Bleaker Island. Hike through Rockhopper Penguin colonies and watch . Bleaker Island complements this experience with sweeping bays and productive waters that support Imperial Cormorants, Slender-billed Prions , and a significant colony of Black-browed Albatross , Imperial Cormorants nesting. Scan beaches and cliffs for sea lions, dolphins, Striated Caracaras, Peregrine Falcons, and abundant waterfowl across pristine coastal habitats.	Bleaker Island Lodge, Bleaker Island	B, L, D
Dec 11–13	Fly to Sea Lion Island. Transfer by internal flight to Sea Lion Island, one of the Falklands' most wildlife-rich destinations. Spend full days exploring Gentoo, Rockhopper, and Magellanic Penguin	Sea Lion Lodge, Sea Lion Island	B, L, D

	colonies. Observe breeding southern elephant seals, Southern sea lions, Giant Petrels, and, with luck, orcas cruising offshore in this compact yet remarkably diverse ecosystem.		
Dec 14–15	Return to Stanley & Visit Volunteer Point. One more internal flight back to Stanley where you'll tour historic sites, watch the Sooty Shearwaters nightly return to Kidney Island, and then visit Falkland's largest King Penguin colony.	The Malvina House Hotel, Stanley	B, L, D
Dec 16	Flights to Punta Arenas & Home. Return to Punta Arenas and connect with your flight home.		B, L
Dec 17	Arrive home		

LEADER

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris carefully selects leaders who are experts in their field to ensure that your experience is the best it can be. One leader will provide a range of expertise for your trip.



Scott Davis

Scott is a professional photographer specializing in wildlife, nature, and travel, and is the co-owner of Cheesemans'. Originally trained as a wildlife and marine biologist, he has conducted research and photo assignments across all seven continents. National Geographic, BBC, Animal Planet, NY Times, and renowned magazines have used his photography. His patience for teaching and love of capturing the essence of his subjects make him one of our most popular tour leaders. He enjoys sharing his enthusiasm for rare and unusual places, such as those found in the Falklands, with his guests.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Dec 7 ~ Travel to Punta Arenas, Chile

Dec 8 ~ Arrive in Punta Arenas

Arrive in Punta Arenas, a historic city on the Strait of Magellan. Enjoy the day at leisure or explore the waterfront, looking for southern waterfowl and shorebirds, and enjoy the colonial architecture before preparing for your Falkland Islands adventure.

Dec 9–10 ~ Fly to the Falkland Islands, then fly to and explore Bleaker Island

Pick up your packed lunch at the hotel before you are transferred 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 Bleaker Island.



Magellanic Penguins
© Scott Davis

Bleaker Island is a narrow, windswept National Nature Reserve located just southeast of East Falkland, renowned for its extraordinary wildlife density and conservation-led ethos. This rodent-free island hosts more than 49 bird species, with thriving colonies of Rockhopper, Gentoo, Magellanic, and occasional King Penguins some within easy walking distance of the lodge. Family-run and deeply committed to sustainable ecotourism, Bleaker Island combines pristine sand beaches, tussac-fringed cliffs, and rocky bays with remarkable sightings of Southern sea lions, dolphins, raptors like Striated Caracaras and Peregrine Falcons, and a rich diversity of waterfowl and songbirds. From vast seabird colonies to tranquil ponds alive with grebes and swans, Bleaker Island offers an intimate, conservation-focused immersion into the wild heart of the Falklands.



Rockhopper Penguin
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Dec 11–13 ~ Fly to and explore Sea Lion Island

Another internal island flight will bring you to Sea Lion Island, 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 breeding 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 southern Giant Petrels scattered about. Tussac plantations cover one-fifth of the island and are alive with Falkland Thrushes and Black-throated Finches. Five birds of prey species, including the internationally endangered Striated Caracara, also call the island home. The large number of Southern elephant seals that breed here on the island's spectacular beaches are a favorite attraction, including at the appropriately named white sandy shoreline of 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 many penguins and seals that breed here.



South American Sea Lion
© Klajdi Cena

Dec 14–15 ~ Fly to Stanley for city tour, trip to Kidney Island, 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 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 sailing, 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 walk 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.

An evening excursion takes you to Kidney Island, a National Nature Reserve and Important Bird Area just minutes from Stanley by boat. Cloaked almost entirely in towering tussac grass, this wild sanctuary is home to Magellanic and Rockhopper Penguins, Cobb’s Wren, and endemic tussac birds. The true spectacle unfolds at dusk, when up to 140,000 pairs of Sooty Shearwaters return from the sea in a dramatic, swirling arrival. Reached by zodiac and a short walk ashore, guests can choose to explore the island’s rugged interior or remain on the beach to witness the shearwaters’ awe-inspiring return, a sensory-rich finale to a day in the Falklands’ untamed nature.



Gentoo Penguins
© Cheesemans’ Ecology Safaris

The following morning, depart Stanley for a full-day excursion. After a roughly 2.5-hr drive by Land Rover, you’ll arrive at the white, sandy beach and turquoise waters of Volunteer Point, a destination with almost a Caribbean 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 Falkland Islands, 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.



King Penguins
© Freya Tienan

Dec 16 ~ Return to Punta Arenas and flights home.
Spend your final morning in Stanley exploring the town before taking a return flight to Punta Arenas. Catch your flight home and begin reminiscing on your incredible experiences and sightings.

Dec 17 ~ Arrive home.

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, double occupancy	\$8,100
Single Supplement	\$900

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

If you are a single traveler, we will try to find a roommate for you, but if we cannot pair you with 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
Final	June 30, 2028	Remaining Balance

Payments are due based on the schedule above. All bookings 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 canceled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferable. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date.

Included

- Carbon offsets for the duration of this trip.
- All leaders, transport, landing fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- Three internal flights.
- Accommodations for the nights of December 8 through December 15.
- Meals from breakfast on December 9 through lunch on December 16.
- Transfers from the Punta Arenas Airport to Hotel Cabo de Hornos, regardless of arrival day, from Hotel Cabo de Hornos to the Punta Arenas Airport on December 9, and to the Mount Pleasant Airport on December 16.

Not Included

- Carbon offsets for your flights to/from this trip.
- All airfare (except flights listed as included), airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees. The round-trip flights between Punta Arenas and Mount Pleasant will be added to your trip balance based on rates at the time of booking the flights. The estimated cost is \$450.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Any arrival and/or departure taxes.
- We can arrange extra hotel nights in Punta Arenas for an extra cost.
- Gratuities.
- Mandatory [emergency evacuation insurance](#).
- Optional [trip cancellation 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 Traveler Form.

SIGN UP

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

[Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris](#)

Email: info@cheesemans.com

WhatsApp: (408) 741-5330

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OTHER DETAILS

Climate

Daytime temperatures are generally 50 to 58°F (10 to 14°C) with almost constant wind. All four seasons can be experienced in one day with on and off rain. Prepare with a degree of flexibility in mind, and ensure you have proper outdoor clothing.

Fitness Level

This trip requires the ability to hike moderate distances, perhaps up to three miles, with small elevation gains on slightly rolling or hilly, grass or dirt terrain, and some beach walking on sand. You must be able to get into and out of a Land Rover. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging.

Transportation

You'll travel by bus, Land Rover, and small plane.

Motion Sickness

Don't let a fear of motion sickness keep you away! Motion sickness is usually not an issue, but you do fly on small aircraft. Even those who have experienced motion sickness reported that the incredible wildlife and overall experience were well worth the temporary discomfort. If you are susceptible to motion sickness on small planes or are concerned that you might be, please come prepared! The key to avoiding motion sickness is to act before you experience nausea. Do your own research and consult your doctor before taking any medications. Find more information on our [Coping with Seasickness](#) webpage (this information is applicable to any form of motion sickness) and contact us if you have any questions.

Flights

Detailed logistical information is included in the Trip Planning Materials we will send you.

Please wait to book your flights until you receive confirmation from your Coordinator that the minimum number of participants has been met to operate the trip. If you choose to book flights before receiving this confirmation, we strongly recommend purchasing flight cancellation insurance to protect your investment.

Flights you book

- Arrive in Punta Arenas, Chile (PUQ) by 11:59pm on December 8.
- Depart from Punta Arenas, Chile (PUQ) after 9:00pm on December 16.

Flights we book

- The once-weekly flights between Punta Arenas, Chile (PUQ) and Mount Pleasant, Falkland Islands (MPN) on December 9 and 16; we'll add the final cost to your trip balance. **Important:** if you make your own arrangements, you must contact us before the final payment date so we can cancel your seat on the flight. If you alert us later, you will be responsible for flight cancellation fees.
- Three internal flights are included in the trip cost. **Important:** the flights within the Falkland Islands have a very strict luggage weight allowance of 20kg (44lbs) total. This means you will need to pack light for the Falkland Islands, but you may leave larger bags with our transfer agent upon arrival in the Falklands for transfer to the Malvina House Hotel on December 14.

Terms and Conditions

Read our current [Terms and Conditions](#).

Conservation

Our company ethos has always regarded conservation as inseparable from responsible tourism. We struggle with the dilemma that traveling worldwide expends climate-changing carbon. However, we wholeheartedly believe that traveling with us will cultivate your passion for conserving our beautiful world while stimulating each destination's local economy. We encourage you to explore the various ways in which Cheesemans' operates within this context:

- **Cheesemans' Trips are Carbon Neutral.**
- **Offsetting your Travel to/from our Trip:** We ask you to pledge to offset the carbon emissions for your travel to and from our trips. You can purchase offsets with most airlines (Delta includes them automatically), use our handy [carbon calculator](#) and donate to Sustainable Travel International, or contribute to your favorite offsetting organization.

Together, we can continue exploring and cherishing this planet while working toward its long-term protection. Thank you for being part of this important journey with us.