

Falklands and Easter Island:
Wildlife and Mystery at the World's Edge
October 28 to November 12, 2027



Easter Island Moai Statues & King Penguins

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Limited to just eight guests, travel to two of the most remote and compelling destinations in the Southern Hemisphere, where exceptional wildlife and deep cultural history come together in one thoughtfully designed journey. Led by expert naturalist and photographer Scott Davis, you'll receive guidance to make the most of every wildlife encounter and photographic opportunity.

In the Falkland Islands, unique and special wildlife spectacles unfold all around you. Sea Lion Island offers incredible, up-close viewing of southern elephant seals and sea lions, along with accessible penguin rookeries and the chance of spotting orcas near shore. On Bleaker Island, walk among dense seabird colonies, with opportunities for Black-browed Albatross, Imperial Cormorants, and multiple penguin species—Gentoo, Magellanic, and Rockhopper—nesting in close proximity. On East Falkland, visit one of the largest King Penguin colonies in the Falklands and explore open landscapes that support a variety of upland birds and waterfowl. Daily outings are paced for observation and photography, with flexibility and virtually unlimited time in the field

to take advantage of weather and light. Evenings are spent in comfortable lodges, with hearty meals and time to review images and share insights.

Immediately following your exploration of the Falkland Islands, you will continue to Easter Island (Rapa Nui), one of the archeological wonders of the world and UNESCO World Heritage site. Here you will shift from a wildlife focus to cultural exploration. Visit Ahu Tongariki, home to 15 restored moai, and photograph these iconic statues at sunrise and sunset. Explore Rano Raraku, the quarry where the moai were carved, and Orongo, site of the historic Birdman ceremonies overlooking the Pacific. Additional visits to Ahu Akivi and Ahu Akahanga provide further context into the island’s history and spiritual traditions. With dedicated time for photography and interpretation, this portion of the trip offers a meaningful look at one of the world’s most fascinating and ancient cultures.

This journey balances active exploration, expert guiding, and strong photographic focus in two truly extraordinary locations.

WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP?

- **Two Iconic Destinations, One Journey:** Combine the raw wildlife of the Falklands with the cultural and archaeological depth of Easter Island for a truly distinctive experience.
- **Expert Guidance:** Travel with an experienced naturalist and photographer who helps you spot wildlife, understand behavior, and elevate your photography in the field.
- **Incredible Wildlife Viewing:** Walk among penguin colonies, observe elephant seals up close, and experience one of the Southern Hemisphere’s richest wildlife regions.
- **Easter Island Cultural Depth:** Explore the iconic moai, volcanic landscapes, and sacred sites of Rapa Nui with a local expert, with dedicated time for storytelling and striking sunrise/sunset photography.
- **Photography-focused Itinerary:** Flexible daily plans maximize light and conditions, with dedicated time for sunrise, sunset, and real-time shooting guidance.

LEADER: Scott Davis

DAYS: 16, including estimated travel time.

GROUP SIZE: 8.

COST: \$13,600 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
Oct 28	Travel to Santiago, Chile.		
Oct 29	Arrive in Santiago. Meet up with Scott before settling in for the night.	Holiday Inn, Santiago Airport, Santiago, Chile	–
Oct 30–31	Fly to Stanley & Sea Lion Island. Transfer by internal flight to Sea Lion Island, one of the Falklands’ most wildlife-rich destinations. Explore Gentoo, Rockhopper, and Magellanic Penguin colonies. Observe southern elephant seals, southern sea lions, Giant Petrels, and, with luck,	Sea Lion Lodge, Sea Lion Island	B, L, D

	orcas cruising offshore in this compact yet remarkably diverse ecosystem.		
Nov 1–3	Fly to Bleaker Island. Transfer by internal flight to Bleaker Island, Hike through Rockhopper Penguin colonies. Bleaker Island has sweeping bays and productive waters that support Imperial Cormorants, Slender-billed Prions, and a significant colony of Black-browed Albatross. 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
Nov 4–5	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
Nov 6	Flight to Santiago. Take a flight back to Santiago in preparation for the next island adventure.	Holiday Inn, Santiago Airport, Santiago, Chile	B, L
Nov 7	Flight to Easter Island and Sunset at Tahai. Explore Ahu Tahai and Ahu Akivi. Sunset photography at Tahai.	Hotel Altiplanico, Easter Island	B, L, D
Nov 8–9	Touring Island Sites and Boat Tour. Explore Rano Raraku, Ahu Tongariki, and Ahu Akahanga. Visit Orongo village and Ahu Vinapu. Afternoon boat tour to motus (Islets).		B, L, D
Nov 10	Sunrise Photo Shoot and Flight to Santiago. Sunrise photo shoot at Tongariki before flying back to overnight in Santiago.	Holiday Inn, Santiago Airport, Santiago, Chile	B
Nov 11	Fly from Santiago to Ushuaia or Home. Catch your flight to Ushuaia to join our South Georgia/Antarctic Peninsula trip or to catch your flight home.		B
Nov 12	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. Two leaders 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

Oct 28 ~ Travel to Santiago, Chile

Oct 29 ~ Arrive in Santiago

Arrive in Santiago, Chile.

Oct 30—31 ~ Fly to the Falkland Islands, then fly to and explore Sea Lion Island

Pick up your packed lunch at the hotel before you are transferred to the airport to take the once-weekly flight from Santiago 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 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.



Black-browed Albatross



Gentoo Penguin
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Nov 1—3 ~ Fly to and explore Bleaker Island

Another internal island flight will bring you to Bleaker Island. This 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.

Nov 4—5 ~ 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 remote capital of the Falkland Islands, where flight schedules remain dependent on weather and local conditions. Home to just over 2,000 residents, Stanley is one of the world's smallest and most isolated capital cities, set along the sheltered shores of Stanley Harbour. Colorful homes climb the north-facing hillside to capture precious southern sunlight, while seabirds wheel overhead and historic shipwrecks rest quietly in the harbor — haunting reminders of the legendary age of sail and the perilous journeys around Cape Horn. Guests may explore the town independently along the Maritime History Trail, browse local shops and museums, or simply enjoy Stanley's unique blend of frontier history and modern Falklands culture, shaped by fishing, sheep farming, tourism, and emerging energy industries.



King Penguins



King Penguins

This evening, venture by boat to Kidney Island, one of the Falkland Islands' most important wildlife reserves and a designated National Nature Reserve and Important Bird Area. Covered in towering tussac grass and accessible only by zodiac landing, the island shelters an extraordinary diversity of birdlife, including Magellanic Penguins, Southern Rockhopper Penguins, Cobb's Wrens, and endemic tussac birds. As dusk settles over the South Atlantic, witness one of the Falklands' great wildlife spectacles: tens of thousands of Sooty Shearwaters returning from the sea in sweeping waves overhead. Guests may choose to walk inland through the rugged landscape or remain near the shoreline to experience this unforgettable natural phenomenon in the golden evening light.

The following morning, depart Stanley for a full-day excursion to Volunteer Point, one of the premier wildlife destinations in the Falkland Islands. Traveling across East Falkland by 4x4 vehicle, you'll arrive at a striking landscape of white-sand beaches and turquoise waters that feels worlds away from the South Atlantic's rugged reputation. Here, amid rolling dunes and coastal grasslands, lies the largest accessible King Penguin colony in the Falklands, home to approximately 1,000 adult King Penguins alongside Gentoo and Magellanic Penguins. The area also supports abundant birdlife, including Long-tailed Meadowlarks, Austral Thrushes, South American Snipe, South American Terns, Magellanic Oystercatchers, and several species of geese. Surrounded

by dramatic coastal scenery and extraordinary wildlife encounters, Volunteer Point offers a spectacular finale to your Falkland Islands adventure.

Nov 6 ~ Return to Santiago and overnight.

Spend your final morning in Stanley exploring the town before taking a return flight to Santiago, Chile. You will relax this evening at the Holiday Inn Santiago Airport, conveniently located for the next day's early flight to Easter Island.

Nov 7 ~ Fly to Easter Island and explore Ahu Tahai and Ahu Akivi

Fly 2,360mi across the Pacific Ocean to Easter Island, known to its Polynesian inhabitants as Rapa Nui. That afternoon, you begin exploring one of the world's most remarkable open-air archeological sites. Although small, taking less than an hour to drive from one end to the other, this island is packed with rich cultural history.



Moai Statues
© Steve Martin

Historic sites cluster across the landscape, each with its own story and a different angle of light to chase. We'll visit the sites below and close the day with a sunset photography session at the moai of **Ahu Tahai**.

Ahu Tahai

Located within walking distance of your lodge, this site contains three **ahu** (from north to south): **Ko Te Riku** (*moai* with restored eyes), **Tahai**, and **Vai Ure**.

Ahu Akivi

One of the few *ahu* built inland rather than along the coast, Ahu Akivi's **seven moai** gaze out towards the Pacific, aligning, directly with sun at the spring and autumn equinox. Oral tradition says the *moai* at Ahu Akivi represent the young explorers sent to investigate the island before it was colonized.



Moai Statues
© Steve Martin

Nov 8—9 ~ Cultural sites and boat trip

You'll tour the following cultural sites, and weather permitting, enjoy an afternoon boat trip to the *motus* (islets). The Motus are the dramatic backdrop and focal point of the ancient, sacred *Tangata Manu* (Birdman) cult and competition.

Rano Raraku and Puna Pau

Rano Raraku is the extinct volcano whose slopes served as the master quarry for nearly every moai on the island, while nearby Puna Pau supplied the distinctive red scoria used for the pukao topknots. Half-

finished and half-buried statues stand in every direction, each with its own face and posture — a working sculptor's site frozen mid-task.

Ahu Tongariki

The largest **restored ahu** on Easter Island with **fifteen moai** including the heaviest ever erected on the island.

Ahu Akahanga

This *ahu* (platform) is traditionally considered the burial site of the first king of Easter Island. In most *ahu*, the *moai* lie face down, but here you can find them both face-up and face-down.

Orongo village and petroglyphs

Situated high on a cliff overlooking the *motus* on the southwest end of Easter Island, **Orongo** is a stone village, ceremonial center, and traditional site of the *Tangata Manu*, a dangerous annual competition between the clans of Easter Island. Last held in 1867, the *Tangata Manu* competition began when the islanders expected Sooty Terns to return to nest. Each clan leader chose a member to race and be the first to get and return a Sooty Tern egg. Contestants scrambled down the steep rock face, braved sharks while swimming across to **Motu Nui**, then waited on the islet, often for days or weeks, until a Sooty Tern laid an egg. Once the first egg was found, the contestant would take the egg and race back, all while keeping the egg intact in a reed basket attached to his forehead. The winning clan leader gained prestige and power as the birdman, shaved his head, and lived in ceremonial seclusion for a year while his clan gained sole rights to collect the eggs and birds of Motu Nui for the season. Look along the cliff for petroglyphs revealing the famous birdman motif.

Ahu Vinapu

The ceremonial center of Vinapu includes one of the larger *ahu* on the island, which has extraordinary stonemasonry consisting of large and carefully fitted slabs of basalt, reminiscent of those of the Incas in Peru.

Nov 10 ~ Photograph the moai at sunrise; fly back to Santiago and overnight at Holiday Inn

Get an early start to witness the moai at sunrise, bathed in the soft hues of dawn. Enjoy free time to explore before your flight back to Santiago in the afternoon. Relax that night at the Holiday Inn.



Moai Statues
© Steve Martin

Nov 11 ~ Depart for Ushuaia or home

Catch your flight to Ushuaia to join our [South Georgia/Antarctic Peninsula](#) trip or catch your flight home.

Nov 12 ~ Arrive home

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, double occupancy	\$13,600
Single Supplement	\$1,700

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	May 21, 2027	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 in the Falkland Islands.
- Accommodations for the nights of October 29 through November 10.
- Meals from breakfast on October 30 through breakfast on November 11, except meals listed in the *Not Included* section.
- Meet and greet in Mataverí and one boat trip on Easter Island.
- Trip Planning Materials – information about entry requirements, flights, packing, gratuities, etc.

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 Santiago and Mount Pleasant and Santiago to Easter Island will be added to your trip balance based on rates at the time of booking the flights. The estimated cost is \$1,600.
- Dinner on Nov 6, 10, and 11, lunch on Nov 10 and 11
- Passport and visa fees.
- Any arrival and/or departure taxes.

- We can arrange extra hotel nights in Santiago 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

On the Falkland Islands, 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. On Easter Island, average temperatures can range from 62°F (17°C) at night up to 73°F (23°C) during the day, with an average of eight days of rain in the month.

Fitness Level

This trip involves long days in the field, so come with good energy levels! It also 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, small boat, 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 Santiago, Chile (SCL) by 11:59pm on October 29.
- Depart from Santiago, Chile (SCL) after 8:00am on November 11. **If you are continuing on our [South Georgia/Antarctic Peninsula trip](#)** see the *Flights* section in its itinerary for departure information.

Flights we book

- The once-weekly flights between Santiago, Chile (PUQ) and Mount Pleasant, Falkland Islands (MPN) on October 30 and November 6 and the round-trip flights from Santiago, Chile to Easter Island on November 7 and 10; we'll add the final flight costs 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 November 4.

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.