



Antarctica, Falkland Islands & South Georgia Adventure Cruising

Bucket-List Adventure to the Realm of the Penguins

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary and accommodations may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

We love talking travel!
Contact us at info@mtsobek.com
or call **800-974-0300**



Feel the difference

with **Mountain Travel Sobek**

Unrivalled Expertise

MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Travel Company by Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards.

Unique Trip Design

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

Small Groups

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.





Leading the Way

World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





Why take this trip with us?

REASON 1

Offering polar voyages since the mid-'90s, MT Sobek has built strong relationships with polar outfitters and ships that cruise to the 7th continent—we include in-house expertise to assist you every step of the way.

REASON 2

Visit some of the most remote and rugged islands on earth, inhabited by penguins and fur seals, studded with icebergs and patrolled by fin whales, and echoing of early explorers and ownership battles.

REASON 3

You'll be accompanied by a team of expert international guides, who will share their experience and knowledge on excursions and in briefings and evening lectures.

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

Shore excursions ranging from easy shoreline walks to hikes up to 4 miles and 3 hours. Riding in Zodiac rafts.



LODGING

Your ship will be a former oceanographic research vessel rebuilt as a comfortable passenger ship designed for polar exploration.



CLIMATE

Expect a cold, variable polar maritime climate: 36-50F in the Falklands, around 32-41F in South Georgia, and 28-36F on the Antarctic Peninsula, with wind, snow, rain, and rough seas common throughout.



KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

Insurance

Comprehensive travel insurance that includes medical evacuation is mandatory on this adventure due to the remote location. Itineraries are subject to change during your Polar cruise based on weather, ice conditions, and wildlife activity.



Antarctica, Falkland Islands & South Georgia Adventure Cruising

Bucket-List Adventure to the Realm of the Penguins

Journey to some of the most remote and wildlife-rich regions of the Southern Hemisphere on a true polar adventure, following in the footsteps of early explorers. Reach the Falkland Islands, a windswept archipelago steeped in British history and inhabited by five species of penguins and giant albatross colonies. South Georgia Island is known for its massive king penguin colonies, colossal sea lions, and the pioneering polar adventures of Sir Ernest Shackleton. Beautiful ice formations surround the South Orkney Islands. Heading south, you arrive at the breathtaking Antarctic Peninsula—an icy wonderland where gentoo, chinstrap, and Adelie penguins play among towering icebergs and whales spout offshore. Experience the wonders of these rarely visited islands in the South Sea. Note: Trip length varies between 18 and 20 nights, depending on departure date.

20 Days

Start: Ushuaia, Argentina

End: Ushuaia, Argentina

Departing: January, November, December

Activities:

Lodging: Comfortable Small Ship

Group Size: Up to 108 Guests

ACTIVITY:



Check mtsobek.com for date-specific pricing.

“

“We have traveled throughout the world, but never experienced a level of service and attention to detail as we did with MT Sobek.”

- Dennis G.

The Itinerary

DAY 01

Depart through the Beagle Channel

Your voyage begins where the world drops off. Tierra del Fuego, also known as “The End of the World,” is an archipelago off the southern tip of South America. At its southern end sits Ushuaia, Argentina —considered the southernmost city on the planet. From this small resort town, you will sail into the mountain-fringed Beagle Channel, named for the HMS Beagle, the ship that carried explorer and naturalist Charles Darwin to the Galapagos. Grab a drink from the bar and watch the scenery glide by as you kick off this momentous adventure.

MEALS: Dinner

DAY 02

Birdwatch from the Deck en route to the Falklands

As you cruise from Ushuaia toward the Falkland Islands, the open sea is punctuated by birdlife. You may spot several species of albatross, including the magnificent wandering albatross, gliding effortlessly in the ship’s wake, riding the strong westerly winds. They’re joined by storm petrels, shearwaters, and diving petrels, each adapted to thrive in the turbulent Southern Ocean. This stretch of the voyage is set against a backdrop of rolling waves and endless sky. It sets the tone for the wild beauty that awaits in the Falkland Islands.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

DAY 03

Discover the Wildlife of the Falkland Islands

The Falkland Islands are largely unknown gems offering an abundance of wildlife. Not only do various species of bird live here, but chances are great you’ll see both Peale’s dolphins and Commerson’s dolphins in the surrounding waters. Possible excursions for today include:

Carcass Island

Despite its name, this island is pleasantly rodent-free. It is bounteous with birdlife as well as many endemic species. Anything from breeding Magellanic penguins and gentoos to numerous waders and passerine birds (including Cobb’s wrens and tussock-birds) live here.

Saunders Island

Here you can see the black-browed albatross and its sometimes-clumsy landings, along with breeding imperial shags and rockhopper penguins. King penguins, Magellanic penguins, and gentoos are also found on Saunders Island.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: Zodiac excursion or shore landing



Travel through History in Stanley, East Falkland

The capital of the Falklands and center of its culture, Stanley is a great place to enjoy some Victorian-era charm: colorful houses, well-tended gardens, and English-style pubs abound here. You can also see several century-old clipper ships nearby, silent witnesses to the hardships of 19th century sailors. The local museum is worth a visit and offers free admission, covering the early days of settlement up to the Falklands War. Approximately 2,500 people currently live in Stanley. The Falkland archipelago's sovereignty is in dispute between the UK and Argentina to this day. Currently the islands are under UK rule after a ten-week conflict in 1982.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: Shore landing



Explore the Hidden Gems of the South Falklands

The seldom visited southern islands are a rare treat, and conditions permitting, you'll get a thorough tour of their rugged beauty. This area is a haven for wildlife of many types, especially birdlife. George Island and Barren Island in particular support more than 40 bird species, along with roughly 650 pairs of southern giant petrels. You also have a good chance of spotting elephant seals and southern sea lion colonies on these remote shores.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: Zodiac excursion or shore landing



Cross the Antarctic Convergence

Departing the Falklands, cruise to South Georgia, also a UK territory. During this navigation you will cross the Antarctic Convergence, where the cold dense polar waters sink and flow northward, creating an upwelling of warmer water. The temperature cools considerably within the space of a few hours, and nutritious water rises to the surface of the sea due to colliding water columns. This phenomenon attracts a multitude of seabirds near the ship, including several species of albatross, shearwaters, petrels, prions, and skuas.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Arrive at South Georgia & Trace Shackleton's Steps

Known as the "Serengeti of the Southern Ocean," South Georgia is a wildlife paradise—home to hundreds of thousands of king penguins, elephant seals, and albatross. Add dramatic glaciers, towering peaks, and rich Shackleton history, and it's one of the most awe-inspiring places on Earth.

Please keep in mind that weather conditions in this area can be challenging, largely dictating the program here. The descriptions of the following days may be changed due to local conditions during your visit.

Fortuna Bay

A beautiful outwash plain from Fortuna Glacier is home to a large number of king penguins and seals. Here you may also have the chance to follow the final leg of Shackleton's route to the abandoned whaling village of Stromness. This path cuts across the mountain pass beyond Shackleton's Waterfall, and as the terrain is partly swampy, be prepared to cross a few small streams.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: Zodiac excursion or shore landing



Visit with King Penguins & Antarctic Fur Seals

Your captain will choose the best sites to experience the plentiful wildlife of this incredible island on Zodiac and shore excursions.

Salisbury Plain, St. Andrews Bay, Gold Harbour

These sites not only house the three largest king penguin colonies in South Georgia, they're also three of the world's largest breeding beaches for Antarctic fur seals. Literally millions of these animals breed on South Georgia during December and January, but only during the mid-season do they peak in their breeding cycle. You may also see some young adult elephant seals as well as this season's "weaners" young elephant seals that have been left to fend for themselves. Watch your step and stay calm when walking the beaches during this time.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: Zodiac excursion or shore landing



Pair History & Wildlife on Your Final Day in South Georgia

Make one last excursion on your fourth day in the wilds of South Georgia Island, where there is no such thing as too many penguins.

Grytviken

In this abandoned whaling station, king penguins walk the streets and elephant seals lie around like they own the place—because they basically do. Here you might be able to see the fascinating South Georgia Museum as well as visit Shackleton's grave.

Depending on the conditions, you will start sailing toward the South Orkney Islands in the afternoon.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: Zodiac excursion or shore landing



Enjoy the Sights & Sounds of a Day at Sea

As you cruise from South Georgia to the remote South Orkney Islands, the Southern Ocean grows colder and wilder. Sea ice may begin to appear on the horizon—silent, drifting slabs that mark your steady approach to Antarctica. Along the ice edge, you may spot south polar skuas and graceful snow petrels may join the albatrosses, shearwaters, and storm petrels already trailing the ship. The air turns crisp, the skies vast and pale, and each passing hour brings you deeper into the polar world.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Explore the Southern Orkney Islands

Arriving at this relatively unknown archipelago, also in dispute between Argentina and Britain, your captain will determine the best place for a visit based on local conditions. You might visit Orcadas Base, an Argentine research station on Laurie Island in the South Orkney archipelago. The personnel will happily show you their facility, where you can enjoy expansive views of the surrounding glaciers. If a visit isn't possible, perhaps you will land at Coronation Island's Shingle Cove. This area is home to a large colony of Adelie penguins as well as other polar birdlife.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: Zodiac excursion or shore landing



Voyage to Antarctica

As you leave the South Orkney Islands behind and head toward the Antarctic Peninsula, the scenery becomes truly spectacular. Towering icebergs drift across the horizon, their vast shapes glowing in the polar light. Keep watch for fin whales surfacing through the icy waters—this stretch offers one of your best chances to see these giants up close. Antarctic petrels may also make an appearance, soaring gracefully among the other seabirds that follow the ship. With anticipation building, this final sea leg offers a chance to reflect on what you've experienced so far as you look forward to the next chapter. If conditions allow, make your first excursion to the Antarctic Peninsula on the afternoon of Day 15.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: Zodiac excursion or shore landing (possible)



Enter the Enchanting Weddell Sea & Explore

Antarctica's weather is renowned for its unpredictability, but that's part of the adventure. Flexibility allows you to seize the best opportunities for exploration as they arise, often leading to special experiences not found on the itinerary.

If the ice conditions permit, today you'll sail into the Weddell Sea. Here colossal tabular icebergs herald your arrival to the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. Paulet Island, with its large population of Adelie penguins, is a possible stop. You might also visit Brown Bluff, located in the icy Antarctic Sound, where you just might get the chance to set foot on the Antarctic Continent itself!

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Marvel at the Antarctic Peninsula

If conditions aren't favorable to enter the Weddell Sea from the east, the ship will set course for Elephant Island and head into the Bransfield Strait, between the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula. Here you can attempt to access the stunning Antarctic Sound from the northwest.

As you navigate into the Bransfield and Gerlache Straits, the Antarctic Peninsula begins to reveal its full majesty. Towering glaciers, snow-draped peaks, and scattered icebergs create a breathtaking panorama in every direction. The Bransfield Strait, separating the South Shetland Islands from the mainland, often teems with wildlife—keep an eye out for humpback whales, orcas, and crabeater seals. Entering the narrower, more sheltered Gerlache Strait feels like gliding into a dreamscape of mirror-like waters and sculpted ice. This iconic passage is one of the most scenic routes in Antarctica, offering unforgettable views and ideal conditions for wildlife encounters and Zodiac excursions.

Conditions on the Drake Passage determine the exact time of departure.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: Zodiac excursion or shore landing



Cross the Drake Passage

As you cross the Drake Passage, named after English explorer Sir Francis Drake, on your return to Ushuaia, your sense of wonder remains undimmed. The ocean stretches endlessly, but you're not alone —albatrosses, petrels, and shearwaters reappear, dancing on the wind as they did on your journey south. This time, they feel more familiar, friends you've made along the way. It's a time for reflection, for sharing stories, and for savoring the final moments of an extraordinary adventure. The Drake may be wild, but its beauty lingers, just like the memories you've collected on this adventure of a lifetime.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Disembark in Ushuaia

Today you disembark in Ushuaia, taking home priceless memories that will accompany you wherever your next adventure lies.

MEALS: Breakfast



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

m/v Ortelius

The *Ortelius* has the highest ice-class rating and a broad, heavy design. It offers a collection of comfortable and spacious 190 square-foot cabins, all with en-suite bathrooms. Extensive open-deck space maximizes wildlife viewing. The ship offers a wide range of adventure activities, including hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, and scuba diving. It also offers a helicopter pad used on select Weddell & Ross Seas voyages.

m/v Plancius

Plancius was built in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and sailed for the Dutch Navy until June 2004. The vessel was completely rebuilt as a comfortable passenger vessel in 2009. The *Plancius* accommodates 108 passengers. The vessel offers a restaurant/lecture room and spacious observation lounge with large windows, offering a full panoramic view. Its large open deck spaces (with full walk-around possibilities on deck 4), provide excellent opportunities to enjoy the scenery and wildlife.

m/v Hondius

m/v *Hondius* is the first-registered Polar Class 6 vessel in the world, meeting the latest and highest Lloyd's Register standards for ice-strengthened cruise ships. The vessel offers high-quality accommodation for 170 passengers with one deck consisting of a large observation lounge and separate lecture room. Though elegantly designed in stylish decor, this vessel holds true to Oceanwide's distinctive cozy and informal atmosphere. The vessel employs a tough fleet of rigid-hull inflatable Zodiac boats that enable efficient access to shore and near-shore activities. Kayaks are also available.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: January, November, December

Book early for a greater choice of available dates.
Once you book, your price is GUARANTEED!

October 22-November 11, 2025

November 27-December 16, 2025

December 21, 2025-January 8, 2026

January 19-February 6, 2026

January 28-February 16, 2026

What's Included

PRICE INCLUDES

- Pricing based on twin cabin occupancy
- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodation as noted in the itinerary
- All meals throughout the voyage aboard the ship including snacks, coffee, and tea.
- Program of lectures by noted naturalists and leadership by experienced expedition staff
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted in the Trip Planner)
- Luggage transfer from pick-up point to the vessel on the day of embarkation, in Ushuaia.
- Pre-scheduled group transfer from the vessel to the airport in Ushuaia (directly after disembarkation)

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Pre- and post-trip land arrangements
- Passport and visa expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes
- Alcoholic beverages
- Gratuities for stewards and other service personnel aboard (guidelines will be provided)
- Travel Protection Program
- Excess baggage charges and all items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar, beverage charges, and telecommunication charges



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