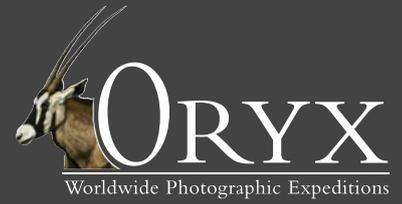




ROCKJUMPER
Worldwide Birding Adventures



ROCKJUMPER CHARTER

Classic Antarctica: The Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctica

5th to 24th November 2020 (19 days)

Aboard the Ocean Diamond

King Penguin Colony by Markus Lilje

TAKE ME TO:

- Tour Overview & Map 2
- Tour in Detail 3
- Ship Schematics & Rooms . 10
- Tour Leaders 12
- Important Notes 14



Wandering Albatross by David Shackelford

TOUR OVERVIEW & MAP

Antarctica is the ultimate destination, with settings as magnificent and scenic as any on earth. The sheer scale of nearly everything is grand, and complementing the astounding vistas are vast colonies of penguins, brash skuas, giant petrels, weird sheathbills, somnolent seals and feeding whales that all add life to the region's stark and amazing beauty.

Our voyage encompasses some of the most fascinating areas in the Southern Ocean; notably the Falkland Islands and South Georgia Island, both renowned as among the richest of all Subantarctic islands. South Georgia features a unique rugged beauty and history, while the Falkland Islands are better known as the battlegrounds for the 1982 Anglo-Argentine War. And we enjoy some time at sea while cruising from one island group to the next, until finally we find ourselves at the very tip of the icy continent itself. These crossings provide thrilling pelagic birding, with huge numbers of albatrosses, petrels, prions, skuas and other seabirds making a daily appearance. Cetaceans are also regular, ranging from the largest whales to the striking Hourglass and Commerson's Dolphins.

Antarctica is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and so we've assembled a staff equal to the task, sure to yield excellent instruction and camaraderie as well. A unique and thrilling journey with great friends to the end of the Earth, we cannot wait to share Antarctica and the Southern Ocean with you.



ACTIVITIES



Bird Watching



Kayaking



Onboard Lectures



Photography



Walking/Hiking



Zodiac Excursions

DAY 1	Arrival in Ushuaia, boarding ship and departure
DAY 2	At sea northeast toward the Falkland Islands
DAY 3	Falkland Islands; West Point and Carcass Islands
DAY 4	Falkland Islands; Port Stanley
DAYS 5 & 6	At sea between the Falkland Islands and South Georgia
DAYS 7 TO 9	South Georgia; planned landings at Salisbury Plain, St Andrew's, Fortuna and Stromness Bays, Gold Harbour, Prion Island and Grytviken
DAYS 10 TO 12	At sea towards Antarctica and possibly Elephant Island
DAYS 13 TO 16	Antarctica and the South Shetland Islands
DAYS 17 & 18	At sea in the Drake Passage
DAY 19	Return to Ushuaia and disembarkation

The above schedule is approximate and depends on sea, ice and weather conditions and other factors.

THE TOUR IN DETAIL

Although Rockjumper has journeyed annually to Antarctica, this will be the second time since 2008, that we are taking a full Antarctic charter. We will have a team of Rockjumper Birding and ORYX Photographic tour leaders aboard the very comfortable, well-appointed, safe and ice-strengthened Ocean Diamond. Our voyage will be early in the season, which besides offering pristine snowscapes, will mean that we will encounter displaying penguins and other breeding birds. An early season departure gives us the chance of finding the holy grail of the Antarctic; the Emperor Penguin. The other advantage of this early season cruise is a lower cost structure; and this being our own charter, we will be able to ensure our landings will give us the best birding and photographic opportunities possible.

We look forward to sharing this adventure of a lifetime with you.

DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN USHUAIA, BOARDING SHIP AND DEPARTURE

This afternoon, we board our ship and begin our journey eastwards toward the Falkland Islands. As we leave the scenic harbour of the world's most southern city, we enter the famous Beagle Channel. Forming the boundary between Argentina and Chile, we will have rugged cliffs and islands on either side of us and our birding will begin in earnest! We will look out for both Flying and the flightless Fuegian Steamer Ducks, Upland Goose, Great Grebe, Rock and Imperial Shags, Dolphin Gull, Chilean Skua and South American Tern. Even the mighty Andean Condor has been seen here on previous Rockjumper cruises. We may well encounter our debut penguins in the form of Magellanic; but once we enter the open ocean, we will begin our lessons in pelagic bird identification. Here we will meet the first of many Black-browed Albatross, Cape and White-chinned Petrels, Southern Giant Petrel and Sooty Shearwater, and we will also keep alert for Magellanic Diving Petrel as we enjoy our first watery sunset.

DAY 2 AT SEA NORTHEAST TOWARD THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

We'll watch for seabirds and marine mammals from the bridge and the stern, where albatrosses and giant petrels should be following our ship.



Black-browed Albatross by Markus Lilje



Adelle Penguin by Marius Coetzee

Spectacular Wandering Albatrosses should make their first appearances, along with Grey-headed and Black-browed Albatrosses, White-chinned Petrel, Great Shearwater and Slender-billed Prion. Wilson's Storm Petrel is abundant, and we will scour the masses for the rarer Black-bellied and Grey-backed Storm Petrels. While sorting out the Northern Giant Petrels from the Southern species, we will also become familiar with all the commoner petrels in order to notice any rarities that may appear. Dusky and the localised Peale's Dolphin may put in an appearance; and if we are lucky, we might be treated to a sighting of the rare Dwarf Minke Whale, one of the many possible mammal prizes of this adventure. In addition, information-packed, onboard lectures will serve as entertainment during some of the crossings.

DAY 3 FALKLAND ISLANDS; WEST POINT AND CARCASS ISLANDS

This morning, we will wake up in the Falkland Islands! Whilst in these waters, we will hope for Atlantic Yellow-nosed and Sooty Albatrosses and Atlantic Petrel, three species typical of this more temperate ocean. We will spend the entire day on the fascinating western side of the archipelago. Our first stop will likely be West Point Island, with its vast rookeries of Southern (Western) Rockhopper Penguin; while South American Sea Lion, South American Fur Seal and Peale's and noisy Commerson's Dolphins are likely in the surrounding waters (the latter known locally as "Puffing Pigs" due to their loud huffing noises). Blackish Cinclodes should be waiting for us at the dock as we land, and here we usually also find a nesting pair of Blackish Oystercatcher and a pair of Falkland Steamer Ducks. Other birds occurring here include Austral Thrush, Dark-faced Ground Tyrant, Black-chinned Siskin and Long-tailed Meadowlark. We will also carefully scan flocks of geese to find the rare Ruddy-headed Goose. We should come across confiding Striated Caracaras on the lovely hike to a Black-browed Albatross colony, the main objective for this morning. Here we will soak up the beauty of the spectacular wildlife on view; thousands of Black-browed Albatrosses nesting on a magnificent cliff; pairs in display and a continuous stream of individuals landing and taking off, all at touching distance – a truly incredible sight! As if that isn't enough, entertaining Southern Rockhopper Penguins also nest among the albatrosses.



Southern Rockhopper Penguin by Rich Lindie

After lunch back on board, we plan to proceed to the pristine Carcass Island, which supports the highest diversity and abundance of land and waterbirds in the Falklands. Our explorations here will seek out Magellanic and Gentoo Penguins, Rock and Imperial Shags, the lovely Dolphin Gull, the aptly-named Kelp Goose that forages in the beds of giant kelp, Correndera Pipit, the lovely White-bridled Finch, Grass Wren and the endemic Cobb's Wren, amongst other species. The approachability of these birds is remarkable, and superb photographic opportunities can be expected. In the late afternoon, we will steam towards Stanley.

DAY 4 FALKLAND ISLANDS; PORT STANLEY



Ruddy-headed Goose by Dušan Brinkhuizen

The roughly 2,000 people inhabiting the historic town of Stanley represent about 80% of the population of the entire Falkland Islands. Our visit will give perspective on the history of British settlement of the islands, plus the 1982 Anglo-Argentine War in which Argentinean forces invaded but were subsequently defeated and expelled by the British. We will explore various birding sites in the vicinity, and besides looking for species we may already have seen, such as the endemic Falkland Steamer Duck, White-bridled Finch and Black-chinned Siskin, we will try find additions to our list. These may include Two-banded and the attractive Rufous-chested Plover, Brown-hooded Gull and South American Snipe. Time will also be available to explore the museums, shipwrecks, historical trails and shops of Stanley. In the afternoon, we begin our multi-day cruise to dramatic South Georgia.



The Rockjumper guide was a big hit with those onboard. The obsessed birders appreciated having a bird expert who would lead the quest to see everything! - LH



DAYS 5 & 6 AT SEA BETWEEN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND SOUTH GEORGIA

For the seabird enthusiast, these are some of the most exciting waters in the world. As we cruise from the Falklands to South Georgia, we cross the Antarctic Convergence, where the warmer, saline water from the north meets the colder and less salty Antarctic water. This is a very rich feeding ground for seabirds and marine mammals, attracting large volumes of wildlife from distant breeding islands and waters. Though the Convergence attracts birds from both north and south, we will notice a shift of species and relative numbers between the waters on either side of the Convergence. Albatrosses and petrels will predominate here. In addition to the species already noted, we are likely to see Royal Albatross (usually both the Northern and Southern species are observed), Light-mantled Albatross (arguably the most attractive of all albatross), Southern Fulmar, both Northern and Southern Giant Petrels, Soft-plumaged, White-headed and Blue Petrels, Antarctic Prion, Grey-backed and Black-bellied Storm Petrels and Common Diving Petrel. We will also look for rarer prizes, such as Kerguelen, Grey and Great-winged Petrels, and albatrosses from the other side of the Subantarctic.



Light-mantled Albatross by Rich Lindie

DAYS 7 TO 9 SOUTH GEORGIA; PLANNED LANDINGS AT SALISBURY PLAIN, ST ANDREW'S, FORTUNA AND STROMNESS BAYS, GOLD HARBOUR, PRION ISLAND AND GRYTVIKEN

As we approach South Georgia, the marine avifauna is dominated increasingly by the species breeding there. Given the enormous numbers of seabirds nesting on South Georgia and its surrounding islets, this is not surprising. Although this island lies south of the Antarctic Convergence, its waters don't freeze in winter, meaning it can support life throughout the year. As a result, vast numbers of birds and pinnipeds live here year round – over 500,000 pairs of King Penguins call this island home, and walking through their packed colonies is without a doubt one of the single greatest wildlife experiences on the planet. In fact, the area around Salisbury Plain is believed to have the highest density of wildlife of anywhere on Earth!



South Georgia Beach Scene by Dušan Brinkhuizen

We have three full days to explore this mountainous, glaciated island. So stark, but home to such mind-bogglingly abundant and exciting wildlife. All landings will be weather permitting, but we will make every effort to explore the Salisbury Plain, where beyond the black sand beach, lies one of the world's largest King Penguin colonies. In addition, we plan a landing at St Andrew's Bay, where an even bigger King Penguin colony exists. Nearby is also the breeding grounds for Light-mantled Albatross, White-chinned Petrel, Snowy Sheathbill, Brown Skua and Antarctic Tern.

The beaches heave with South American Fur Seal, and if we are lucky, we may even see enormous Southern Elephant Seal beachmasters battling for supremacy. These enormous animals, the largest species in the order *Carnivora*, reach weights of up to 4,000 kg (8,800 lb) and lengths of 5.8 m (19 ft). Their large proboscis, which gives them their name, allows them to roar extraordinarily loudly. This, combined with their fierce fighting, result in an incredible spectacle to experience.



All in all, it truly was/is the trip of a lifetime, and it tugs on my heart to want to return - very very well done! - LM





South Georgia King Penguin colony by Adam Riley

We also plan to visit Grytviken, the whaling station where the largest individual animal known to have lived on earth, a huge Blue Whale specimen, was butchered. Here we will visit the South Georgia Museum, remnants of the whaling station and the grave of the famed Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. Of course, birds and pinnipeds are also resident, and photographic opportunities will be breathtaking throughout (Please bear in mind, that throughout Antarctica and the Subantarctic, landings are subject to the weather conditions; alternatives are usually available when winds and surf are unfavourable at a planned site).

Other birds we seek during these three unforgettable days include South Georgia Diving Petrel, the endemic South Georgia Shag, inquisitive Snowy Shearwaters, the Subantarctic race of Brown Skua and Antarctic Tern. The endemic South Georgia Pipit, the world's most southern passerine, was completely restricted to small offshore islands, but great news is that it has now expanded due to the eradication of rats from South Georgia, and is now far more easily located than before. Over 3 million pairs of Macaroni Penguin breed on the island, but are nowhere near as obvious as the Kings, but we will no doubt encounter them. Another target is the "South Georgia" Yellow-billed Pintail, a strange race of this more widespread species which is known to be carnivorous here on South Georgia.

Our final day on spectacular South Georgia features some of the most dazzling scenery yet, especially around the south-east tip of the island; while the stunning Drygalski Fjord is framed by sharp, non-glaciated mountain peaks. For photographers, this day offers some truly spectacular photographic opportunities and seabirding will be at its very best as we depart from South Georgia. In particular we will look out for our first pure-white Snow Petrels, as well as South Georgia Diving Petrels and most of the species already mentioned, but in particular Kerguelen Petrels.



South Georgia Pipit by Rich Lindle

DAYS 10 TO 12 AT SEA TOWARDS ANTARCTICA AND POSSIBLY ELEPHANT ISLAND

Weather and ice will dictate our crossing of the Scotia Sea from South Georgia to Antarctica, leading us perhaps to Elephant Island. As with all of our itinerary planning, our expedition leader and captain will make a decision based on the conditions at the time, also bearing in mind our plan to try access the Weddell Sea.

“

The trip was wonderful, the ship's staff were exceptional, the weather was perfect, and the two sightings of Emperor Penguin were outstanding (thank you for arranging that). And I saw my favorite bird in the world, the elegant Wandering Albatross, several times!

”



Gentoo Penguins by Dale Morris

As we cruise south-west towards Antarctica, we cross increasingly polar waters. More temperate species disappear; while the true Antarctic species become more prominent, but total numbers and diversity will drop. Our informative onboard lectures will continue to provide breaks from the hours of watching seabirds, whales, dolphins and icebergs. At some point, we will encounter sea-ice, and it is at the ice-edge where we increase our chances for high-Antarctic species, such as Snow Petrel, Chinstrap Penguin and the predatory Leopard Seal. We will keep our eyes peeled to pick out the sought-after Antarctic Petrel in and amongst sometimes vast flocks of Cape Petrel.

As we edge ever closer to the frozen continent, large icebergs announce our arrival in Antarctic waters. If conditions allow, we will hope to see the dark cliffs of Elephant Island appear on the horizon. Shackleton and his men were encamped here for many months, having lost HMS Endurance in the thick sea ice, far to the south in the Weddell Sea, in 1915. From the desolate beach at Point Wild, Shackleton and six companions set off on the rescue mission to South Georgia, aboard the tiny lifeboat, James Caird. To this day, the epic ocean crossing is considered one of the greatest in history. If conditions and time allow, we will attempt a landing at Point Wild on Elephant Island.

Brown Skua and Southern Giant, Cape, Snow and Wilson's Storm Petrels should entertain us in this region, and cetaceans might include Sei Whale and Hourglass Dolphin.



A very lucky sighting of Emperor Penguin on the 2016 Rockjumper Antarctica tour by Dušan Brinkhuizen

DAYS 13 TO 16 ANTARCTICA AND THE SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS

On the morning of day 13, we hope to wake up in the Antarctic Sound, a channel between the north-eastern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula and Joinville Island. Here we will encounter awe-inspiring tabular icebergs, large fragments of the vast Weddell Ice Shelf, and the ice shelves along the east side of the Antarctic Peninsula. At this time of year, we stand a small chance to



Snow Petrel by Dušan Brinkhuizen

find the holy grail of Antarctica, the Emperor Penguin. This highly sought-after true denizen on the Antarctic, famed for its ability to nest through the hard polar winter, is typically only seen at breeding colonies. We'll keep our fingers crossed and our eyes open, but many are the wonders of this atmospheric area. One almost feels on another planet altogether.

We may take our first landing at Paulet Island, a tiny island boasting a huge colony of beautiful Adelie Penguins. Whilst we enjoy these delightful creatures, we will also be entertained by more Snowy Sheathbill, Brown Skua and a nearby colony of Antarctic Shag, a very beautiful cormorant. Our first steps on the Antarctic continent itself may be at Brown Bluff, where we will be treated to spectacular scenery, colonies of Gentoo and Adelie Penguins, and possibly even nesting Snow Petrels, for those willing to partake of a hike. Mammals in this region include Leopard Seal and its favourite prey, Weddell and Crabeater Seals, as well as Antarctic Minke Whale and pods of Orca.



Leopard Seal by Dale Morris

Next, we will head north again, and around 60 miles off the coast of the Antarctic mainland, we find the South Shetland Island chain. Possible landing sites could include Half Moon Island or King George Island, and dazzling wildlife sightings await us on our excursions to these islands. Weather conditions permitting, we will sail the ship into the flooded volcanic caldera of Deception Island. With rugged scenery, great sites of geologic interest and an overwhelming display of whaling and scientific exploration history, Deception Island is a perfect museum of natural and exploration history. For those wanting to stretch their legs, a spectacular hike to the crater rim offers a challenge! At one or more of these landings, we can expect to find the delicately-patterned Chinstrap Penguin, which however emits a yowl that is far from a pleasant! We will also add another new bird to our list: South Polar Skua, which occurs in smaller numbers than Brown Skuas.

Later, we will zigzag back through the Bransfield Strait heading south-westwards towards Mikkelsen Harbour and Cierva Cove. In this area, we will enjoy zodiac excursions through the pack ice, marvelling at the myriad of shapes and colours of these ancient formations. Although we are unlikely to get many new additions to our list, we will have plenty photo opportunities and time to experience the scenery and wildlife of this amazing region. We again plan to make landings on the Antarctic continent. The scenery here, from the colossal icebergs to the seemingly endless Antarctic ice-sheet with distant high mountains, is truly breathtaking.

Later, we sail past or maybe even land on the Orne Islands with its large colonies of Chinstrap Penguin and a beautiful view across the Gerlache Strait to Cuverville Island – a small precipitous island nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula. Cuverville Island is home to the region's largest Gentoo Penguin colony and most of the region's breeding bird species. Such penguin colonies and their inevitable attendants are frequent highlights. Here, again, we can explore by zodiac, join our photographic guides for close-up penguin photography, hike to the top of a snowy mountain saddle with one of our adventure guides, and possibly visit a science base or an old historic hut if the opportunity presents itself. For the more adventurous, kayaking* up to several miles from the ship is an option for a truly memorable experience.

**Sea kayaking – Please note, if you have some experience with sea kayaking and are interested in doing this activity during the expedition, you will need to book this option prior to departure from home (sea kayaking price is extra and is not included in the tour cost). We cannot book this activity once onboard. There is a separate document for sea kayakers that you will need to review beforehand. It's also important you have some prior paddling experience. If you are unsure, please contact our office for further information.*

Chinstrap Penguin by Dale Morris



It was an incredible trip. Exhilarating, intense, thought-provoking and really fun! - SB



DAYS 17 & 18 AT SEA IN THE DRAKE PASSAGE

Sadly, we will bid farewell to this frozen wonderland and head north through the famous Drake Passage between Antarctica and Tierra del Fuego. With another crossing of the Antarctic Convergence, we will again have many opportunities to enjoy and study the region's rich seabirds and cetaceans. While encountering the pelagic seabirds of the Subantarctic Southern Ocean, especially the now-familiar albatrosses and petrels, we will examine each bird in search of rarer species – perhaps a Westland Petrel, Subantarctic Shearwater, or one of the Shy Albatross complex of species will put in an appearance. We will also keep our eyes peeled for breaching whales and bow-riding dolphins. Lectures continue to provide entertaining diversions and educational information; while on our last night, we will toast the conclusion of our amazing venture with a celebratory dinner.



Happy zodiac explorers by Dale Morris

DAY 19 RETURN TO USHUAIA AND DISEMBARKATION

Today, we cruise into the Beagle Channel and land at Ushuaia in the early morning. This provides another chance to see sea and land birds of Tierra del Fuego, before bidding farewell to the fellow travellers with whom we have shared this remarkable voyage of a lifetime.

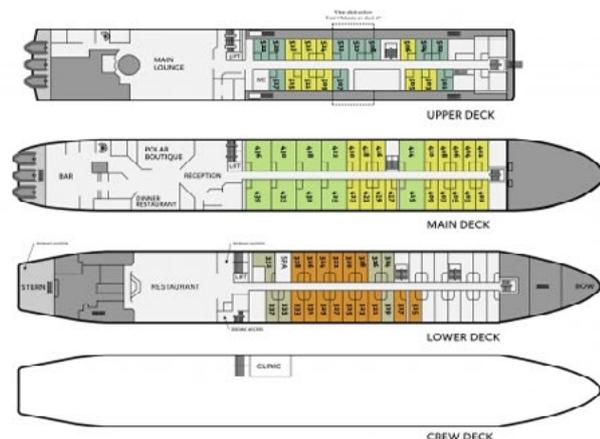
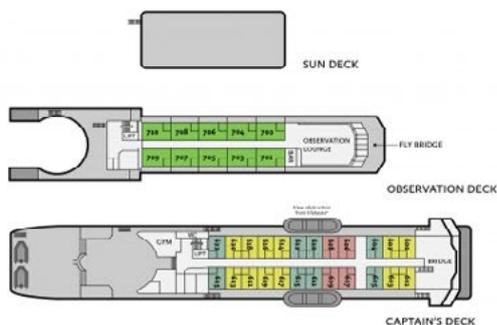


The Ocean Diamond - our home away from home - courtesy of Quark Expeditions

SHIP SCHEMATICS AND ROOMS

OCEAN DIAMOND

- Triple
- Single with Porthole
- Suite
- Twin Window
- Twin Obstructed View
- Single Obstructed View
- Balcony Suite



The Ocean Diamond deploys its Zodiacs from two gangways situated on different decks using super-fast and efficient double cranes. It takes only 15-20 minutes to fully deploy all 19 Zodiacs, meaning we get on the water much faster, for longer.

TRIPLE

\$12,995

Approximately 200 sq. ft. (19 sq. m) in size, this cabin has a two twin beds and an upper bed, and two portholes. Located on the Lower Deck, these cabins have a private bathroom with shower. A refrigerator, TV, and DVD player are included in each cabin. **Please note that porthole covers may be closed during sea days or during inclement weather as a safety precaution.**



TWIN OBSTRUCTED

\$18,495

Approximately 200 sq. ft. (19 sq. m) in size, these cabins have one double bed or two twin beds, and a picture window (the view is obstructed). Located on the Captain's Deck, these cabins have a private bathroom with shower. A refrigerator, TV, and DVD player are included in each cabin.

TWIN WINDOW

\$19,495

Between 183 and 200 sq. ft. (17 and 19 sq. m) in size, these cabins have one double bed or two twin beds, and a picture window. Located on the Upper, Main and Captain's Decks, these cabins have a private bathroom with shower. A refrigerator, TV, and DVD player are included in each cabin.





SUITE

\$20,995

Approximately 400 sq. ft. (37 sq. m) in size, these suites have one double bed or two twin beds, and two picture windows. Located on the Main Deck, these suites have two private bathrooms, and a separate sitting area with a sofa, chair, and small table. Two refrigerators, TVs, and DVD players are included in each cabin.

BALCONY SUITE

\$21,995

Approximately 325 sq. ft. (30 sq. m) in size, including the balcony, this suite has one double bed or two twin beds, and a full-size window with a sliding glass door that leads to a private deck with chairs. Located on the Observation Deck, this suite has a private bathroom with shower. A refrigerator, TV, and DVD player are included in each cabin.



SINGLE WITH PORTHOLE

\$22,495

Approximately 200 sq. ft. (19 sq. m) in size, these cabins have one double bed and two portholes. Located on the Lower Deck, these cabins have a private bathroom with shower. A refrigerator, TV, and DVD player are included in each cabin. ***Please note that porthole covers may be closed during sea days or during inclement weather as a safety precaution.***

SINGLE OBSTRUCTED VIEW

\$22,495

Approximately 200 sq. ft. (19 sq. m) in size, these cabins have one double bed, and a picture window (the view is obstructed by the lifeboats). Located on the Captain's Deck these cabins have a private bathroom with shower. A refrigerator, TV, and DVD player are included in each cabin.



Please note the following Payment Schedule:

- 25%** - Deposit to secure your place aboard the vessel
- 25%** - Due by the 30th of September, 2019
- 50%** - Due by the 19th of July, 2020

** Once payments are made, they are non-refundable. We highly suggest you take out comprehensive travel insurance to cover you in the event that you need to cancel.*

AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR LEAD GUIDE



George Armistead is chief network officer at Rockjumper and focused on partnerships, promotion and managing the Rockjumper Bird Conservation Fund. A birder since the age of 9 years old, he has a long history of connecting people with nature through ecotourism and expedition travel. A professional wildlife guide with 20 years of experience, George has led trips to all seven continents. From 2012 to August of 2016, he developed, managed and marketed events for the American Birding Association, served on the ABA's Recording Standards and Ethics Committee, and was an instructor at ABA young birder camps.

Why do you think this is such a good time to go to Antarctica?

Early season trips have several advantages. Ask any Antarctic veteran and they'll tell you straight off, this season is your best chance for Emperor Penguin. Even still, you need some luck, but your chances are probably best around November. The ice is much more pristine around this time of the year too. As it is still in the early stages of the season, breeding colonies still tend to be less messy, so the new ice remains relatively unspoiled by the life here. Also, as a tubenose fiend, this is not only a good time for certain scarce species – like the beefy Atlantic Petrel or the unique Kerguelen Petrel – but is also a time when these speed demons are in fine feather. A quest bird for so many, the Antarctic Petrel is quite reliable in the early season, and also usually hasn't begun molting, so they look quite trim compared to later on. Add to this that now is the time when seabirds like Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses perform their synchronized courtship flights, and many other species are engaged in display as they pair up, and it is pretty dramatic. It's a great time to photograph seabirds. While the scenery is always otherworldly. Personally, my experience is that I see more seals in the early season too. There is nothing quite like looking into the menacing eyes of a Leopard Seal, as it smirks with its reptilian grin.

What are some of the things you are most looking forward to on this tour?

South Georgia most of all. There's no place like it. And the scene-scapes around the peninsula.... WOW! It's the only place I've ever been where I feel like I'm on another planet.

Everyone knows about the penguins. They are nature's best comedians, and yet you have to admire them. They are funny and cute, but tough too, and smart. It's impossible not to take a million photos. I like the Adelies and Chinstraps best of all.

But honestly, the thing I like best is the time at sea. The landings are a thrill, but it's the sea that holds all the mystery and intrigue. Which seabirds will we see? Can anyone spot a Grey, White-headed or Westland Petrel, a Yellow-nosed Albatross, a Manx Shearwater, or another rare seabird? Which whales will make an appearance? Will anyone spot a Berardius? (I'll buy them a beer if so). You have to be on deck, and at the ready. And your time there is always rewarded. Unexpected birds find the boat. Usually a Sheathbill shows up at some point and waddles around the boat, and sometimes songbirds show up too. Virtually constantly, Cape Petrels and Black-browed Albatrosses circle the boat. So common, and so elegant.

Why travel with Rockjumper in 2020?

Well, this year is different, in that we have the entire boat. Every. Last. Berth. Unlike so many Antarctic trips, where there can be competing agendas, this year we are running the show, and we all have the same goals. That may be the most exciting thing of all to me. We have an uncommon level of control, with a number of our best guides in control, which can help when it comes to searching for that big penguin, or when there is a really unusual whale sighting. We know what we want to see, and we'll have a unique level of maneuverability in trying to see it. That is rare on these trips.

OTHER TOUR LEADERS



Penny Robartes is a professional fine art wildlife photographer whose images are easily recognised by her iconoclastic work that is recalibrating the way the world sees wildlife. She has emerged as one of Africa's great nature photographers and is moving her Tour Leading expertise and portfolio to incorporate destinations abroad. Her stunning creations breathe life into natural encounters with the deftness of an artist's brushstrokes and the enthralling narrative of the best storytellers.



Adam Walley was born and raised on the Canadian prairies. A birder and naturalist from a very young age, he has seen over 8,000 bird species and has been involved in research and recovery plans on critically endangered species such as Black Robin and Spoon-billed Sandpiper. He has also spent over 1,000 days at sea, and has visited Antarctica over 50 times. Adam loves to travel and learn, and delights in sharing his knowledge of all aspects of natural history with others.



Jeff Gordon is the President of the American Birding Association. Jeff's special areas of interest include how to build a bigger, more inclusive tent of birders, and how we can come together to have the greatest possible positive impact on the future of birding and the birds that have meant so much to us all. Prior to coming aboard at the ABA, Jeff spent several decades leading birding tours, working as an interpretive naturalist, and learning about the birding industry as a freelance writer, speaker and video editor.



Liz Gordon has been a birder for 25 years. After growing up in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas and not knowing about the birds in her backyard for 13 years, she discovered Green Jays and chachalacas. There was no stopping her after that. She helped found the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival, and was a mentor for the ABA/Leica Tropicbirds in Texas and Cape May. She first volunteered and eventually became Adjutant at the ABA office. A passion for birds and protecting their habitats drives her every day.



Clayton Burne hails from Durban, South Africa. His previous experience includes working as a museum technician, five years of safari guiding and several years of ophthalmology. Craving an adventure, Clayton packed his bags and completed a year-long birding expedition around South America, accumulating an in-depth knowledge of the region's birds and wildlife. His time is now spent mostly behind a desk in the guise of Operations Manager, but he does still get into the field to lead the odd tour.



Holly Faithfull has a passion for nature and wildlife that began at a young age growing up in rural England. Her curiosity about the world took her travelling at the age of 17, and she has not looked back since, with her interest in wildlife taking her to more than 100 countries. Since 2000, she has been involved in ecotourism full-time, scouting and operating wildlife-watching trips all over the world, as well as guiding tours to more than 50 countries on six continents.



Alvaro Jaramillo is an internationally-known ornithologist and tour leader. An expert on the birds of Chile, California and North America, he has published numerous books, papers and articles on a great variety of avian subjects, but what he enjoys most is time in the field with others that share his enthusiasm for birds and nature. Rockjumper is proud to partner with Alvaro's Adventures, and guests will have the opportunity to bird with Alvaro on deck and also to hear him speak as a lecturer onboard the boat.



Ricardo Matus is a naturalist born and raised in Punta Arenas, Chile, on the shores of the Straits of Magellan. Ricardo participates in research and conservation projects locally in the southern extreme of Patagonia. Most recently, his work has focused on the breeding biology and conservation of the Ruddy-headed Goose, as well as the wintering ecology and banding of Red Knots at Bahia Lomas, Tierra del Fuego. He has been guiding in Patagonia for over 25 years.

IMPORTANT NOTES

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- One-night pre-expeditions hotel accommodation in Ushuaia with breakfast. (Note: The number of guests per room is the same as cabin occupancy on the ship. Due to limited availability, travelers who reserve a suite on board are accommodated in standard rooms at the hotel. Triple rooms may not be available).
- Group transfer from hotel to ship on embarkation day
- Group departure transfer upon disembarkation in Ushuaia from ship to local airport or to luggage storage facility
- Shipboard accommodation in your selected cabin category with daily housekeeping
- All Zodiac transfers and cruising as per the daily program
- All shore landings as per the daily program
- All meals, snacks, soft drinks and juices on board throughout your voyage (Please inform us of any dietary requirements as far in advance as possible. Unfortunately, the ship's galleys cannot prepare kosher meals).
- Beer and wine during dinner; and coffee, tea and cocoa available around the clock
- Port fees, miscellaneous service taxes and all landing permits
- Expedition gear package [A pair of waterproof expedition boots on loan for landings and Zodiac cruising excursions; An official Quark Expeditions® parka to keep]
- An online photographic journal documenting the expedition
- Educational presentations
- Dedicated Rockjumper professional bird tour leaders
- Dedicated ORYX professional photographic tour leaders
- Experienced expedition leader and naturalist guides supplied by Quark Expeditions
- Hair dryer and bathrobes in every cabin
- Access to the services of an English-speaking shipboard doctor
- All luggage handling aboard the ship
- Access to a well-stocked library including many polar reference books
- Emergency Evacuation Assurance for all passengers to a maximum benefit of \$500,000 per person

WHAT IS EXCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- Any flights (both international and domestic)
- Excess-baggage fees on international flights
- Visa and passport expenses
- Government arrival and departure taxes not mentioned
- Arrival and departure transfers, except where explicitly stated
- Meals unless otherwise specified
- Sea kayaking program (additional \$995 per person and it must be reserved at the time of booking your voyage and you need to have prior paddling experience), and other adventure options not listed in Included Activities
- Personal expenses on board including alcoholic beverages, bar charges, massages or laundry expenses
- Telecommunication charges including internet, email and satellite phone
- Insurance - baggage, cancellation or medical and related expenses (travel insurance is mandatory on all voyages)
- Voluntary gratuity for crew, staff and tour leaders at the end of the cruise
- Mandatory waterproof pants for zodiac landing and cruising excursions, as well as any other gear not mentioned
- Additional overnight accommodation

PLEASE ALSO NOTE:

- a) Costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour-related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result. You will be notified by email if fuel surcharges or other price adjustments need to be implemented however this is considered highly unlikely.
- b) We may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper and ORYX leaders at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.
- c) ***Lastly, the above schedule is approximate and depends on sea, ice and weather conditions and other factors.***

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DETAILS:

This tour does not include any airfares. The tour will depart from Ushuaia on day 1 in the mid to late afternoon, and conclude by mid-morning (sea conditions can affect this time) on day 19 in Ushuaia.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

PLEASE NOTE: As many international flights route via Buenos Aires, it is important to know that there are two airports in the city;

- 1) Ministro Pistarini International Airport (IATA: EZE) and;
- 2) Buenos Aires – Aeroparque, also known as Jorge Newberry (IATA: AEP) which handles domestic flights.

Both the international and domestic airports cater for internal flights within Argentina. These airports are completely separate, and the drive between them usually takes between 1 and 1½ hours. It is, therefore, essential that you confirm with your travel agent the airport code in order to be sure which airport your flights arrive at and depart from.

FLIGHTS:

Ministro Pistarini International Airport, Buenos Aires (IATA: EZE) is the main port of entry for international flights into Argentina and is well serviced by all of the world's major airlines. From Buenos Aires, there are regular flights to Malvinas Argentinas Ushuaia International Airport (IATA: USH). We have the capacity to advise you on the best route according to your preferences, but your local travel agent will best be able to book these flights for you. We can, however, book the domestic flights on your behalf. IMPORTANT: please DO NOT book your international flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.

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