



# FALKLAND ISLANDS - SOUTH GEORGIA – ANTARCTIC PENINSULA



**PLANCIUS**

## Falkland Islands - South Georgia - Antarctic Peninsula



### ITINERARY

#### Day 1

In the afternoon, we embark in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world located in the shadow of the Andes and right at the Beagle Channel shore. We'll sail through this scenic waterway during the afternoon.

#### Day 2

At sea, in the Westerlies the ship is followed by several species of albatrosses, storm petrels, shearwaters and diving petrels.

#### Day 3

A typical itinerary in the Falklands – South Georgia, and Antarctic Peninsula could be as follows. This is a sample only; the final itinerary will be determined by the Expedition Leader on board.

In the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) we plan to spend the whole day on the fascinating western side of the archipelago. A hike along the shore of Carcass Island will give us instead views of Magellanic and Gentoo-Penguins, as well as close encounters with water fowl and Night herons. In addition, on Saunders we will be able to observe Rockhopper Penguins, Black-browed Albatrosses and King Cormorants.

#### **Day 4**

In Stanley, the capital of the Falklands, we can experience Falkland culture, which has some South- American characteristics as well as Victorian charm.

In Stanley and the surrounding area we can see quite an important number of stranded clippers from a century ago.

#### **Days 5 & 6**

At sea, on our way to South Georgia we will cross the Antarctic Convergence. Entering Antarctic waters, the temperature will drop by as much as 10 degrees C in the time span of only a few hours. Near the Convergence we will see a multitude of southern seabirds near the ship; several species of Albatrosses, Shearwaters, Petrels, Prions and Skuas.

#### **Days 7 - 10**

In South Georgia we shall visit the bay of Elsehul, with its very active fur seal breeding beach, and then set course to Right Whale Bay, Salisbury Plain, Gold Harbor and Cooper Bay to give you a good opportunity to see a wide spectrum of landscapes and wildlife, like the introduced Reindeer, Elephant seals, King and Macaroni Penguins. At Fortuna Bay we might try to follow in the footsteps of the great British Explorer Ernest Shackleton and hike over to Stømness Bay. There and at Grytviken we'll see an abandoned whaling village, where King Penguins now walk in the streets and seals have taken over the buildings. At Grytviken we'll also offer a visit to the Whaling History Museum as well as to Shackleton's grave near by. One of the highlights might be our visit to Prion Island, where we will witness the breeding efforts of the huge Wandering Albatross and enjoy watching their displays.

#### **Day 11**

At sea, where the ship is again followed by a multitude of seabirds. At some point we might encounter sea-ice, and it is at the ice-edge where we might have a chance to see some high-Antarctic species like the McCormick Skua, Snow Petrel and the elusive Emperor Penguin.

#### **Day 12**

We are planning on a visit to Orcadas station, an Argentinean base located in the South Orkney Islands. The friendly base personnel will show us their facilities and we can enjoy the wonderful views of the surrounding glaciers.

#### **Day 13**

At sea

#### **Days 14 - 16**

We will sail into the Weddell Sea through the ice-clogged Antarctic Sound. Huge tabular icebergs will announce our arrival to the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. We plan to visit Paulet Island with a million pairs of Adelie Penguins and the remains of the Nordenskiöld expedition. At Brown Bluff we can set foot on the Continent.

At Deception Island, we will try to land at Baily Head home to a colony of ten thousands Chinstrap Penguins. Deception itself is a sub-ducted crater, which opens into the sea, creating a natural harbor for the ship. Here we find hot springs, an abandoned whaling station, thousands of Cape Pigeons and many Dominican Gulls, Brown and South Polar Skuas and Antarctic Terns. Wilson's Storm Petrels and Black-bellied Storm Petrels nest in the ruins of the whaling station in Whalers Bay. Good walkers may hike from Baily

Head over the ridge of the crater into Whalers Bay, while our ship braves its entrance into the crater through the spectacular Neptune's Bellow into the ring of Deception Island. In the afternoon we may land at Half Moon Island, where we can observe Elephant, Weddell and Fur Seals as well as Chinstrap Penguins, Blue-eyed Shags, Wilson's Storm Petrels, Kelp Gulls, Snowy Sheathbills, Antarctic Terns and Antarctic Brown Skuas.

On our way west, we sail to Cuverville Island, a small precipitous island, nestled between the mountains of the Antarctic Peninsula. It contains a large colony of Gentoo Penguins and breeding pairs of Brown Skuas. Time and conditions allowing we hope to be able to sail further south to Neko Harbor in Andvord Bay and through Paradise Bay with its myriad icebergs and deep cut fjords, while having chances of seeing large Whales. We will have opportunities for zodiac cruising between the icebergs in the inner parts of the fjords.

### **Days 17 - 18**

On our way north we are again followed by a great selection of seabirds while crossing the Drake Passage.

### **Day 19**

We arrive in the morning in Ushuaia and disembark.

## **PLANCIUS**

**M/V "Plancius"** started her life in 1976 as an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy and was named "Hr. Ms. Tydeman". In June 2004, the vessel was taken out of active service and was purchased by Oceanwide Expeditions in December 2006.

Still under construction, but available for Polar expeditions in October 2009, the vessel shall be completely rebuilt as a 112-passenger vessel and shall comply with the latest SOLAS-regulations (Safety Of Life At Sea), is classed by Lloyd's Register in London and will fly the Dutch flag.

The vessel will be comfortable and nicely decorated, but is not a luxurious vessel. Our voyages in the Arctic and Antarctic regions are and will still be primarily defined by an exploratory educational travel programme, spending as much time ashore as possible. This vessel will fully meet our demands to achieve this.

**M/V "Plancius"** can accommodate 112 passengers in 54 passenger cabins with private toilet and shower in 4 triple private cabins, 40 twin private cabins (ca. 15 square meters) and 10 twin superior cabins (ca. 21 square meters).

The vessel is manned by 30 international crew members (inc. 10 stewardesses/cabin cleaners), 6 hotel staff (4 chefs, 1 purser and 1 steward-barman), 6 expedition staff (1 expedition leader and 5 guides-lecturers) and 1 doctor.

### **Ship Specifications**

Length: 89 metres ( 293 feet) Breadth: 14,5 metres ( 47 feet) Draft: 5 metres ( 16 feet)

Ice class: 1D

Displacement: 3175 tonnes

Engines: 3x Diesel-Electric Speed: 10 - 12 knots

Passengers: 112

### **Cabins**

Mv Plancius accomodates 54 passenger cabins, all with private toilet and shower, as follows:

4 Triple cabin with private facilities

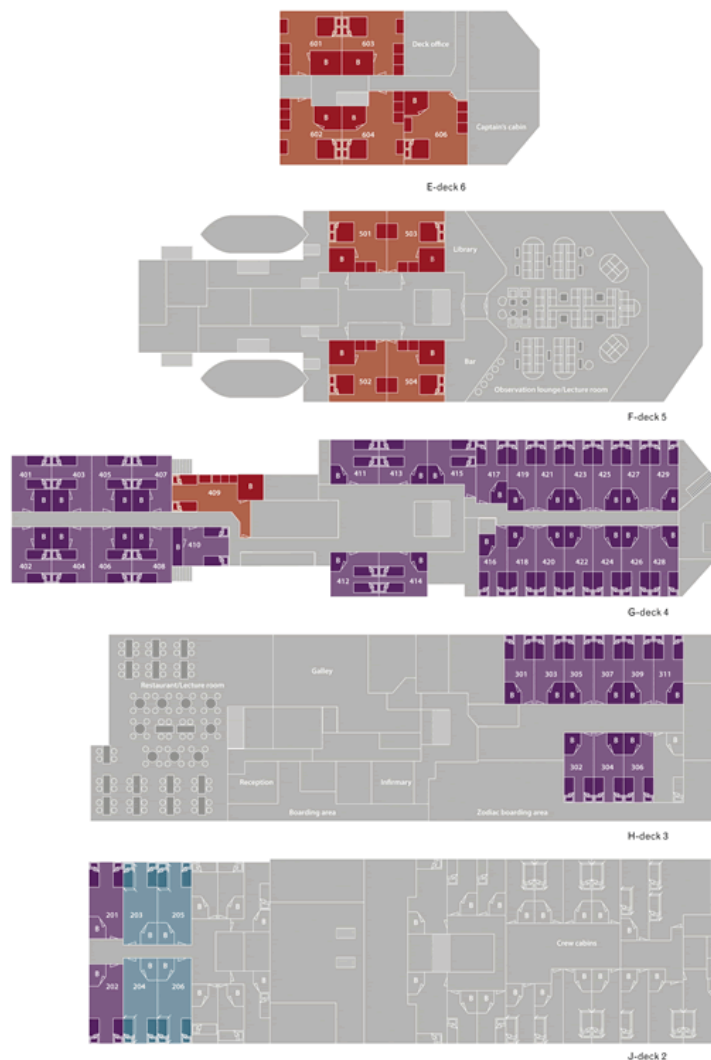
- 40 Twin cabin with private facilities
- 7 Superior cabins with private facilities, double beds
- 3 Superior cabins with private facilities, twin beds

## Services

The vessel offers a restaurant/lecture room on deck 3 and a spacious observation lounge (with bar and library) on deck 5 with large windows, offering full panorama view.

M/v "Plancius" has large open deck spaces (with full walk-around possibilities on deck 3), giving excellent opportunities to enjoy the scenery and wildlife.

## Deck Plan



## Itinerary

All promoted itineraries are for general guidance only. Programs may vary depending on local ice and weather conditions and ad hoc decisions by the Expedition Leader to take advantage of opportunities to see wildlife. Flexibility is paramount for expedition cruises. Landings are always subject to weather, local site availabilities and environmental regulations (IAATO). *Official sailing plans and landing slots will be scheduled with IAATO approximately 5 months prior to the start of the season. The final sailing plan will be determined by the Expedition Leader on board. The implementation of the sailing plan is subject to the capability of the vessel and the discretion of the Master.* Taking the exorbitant high fuel prices into account, it is agreed that Oceanwide Expeditions has the right to reduce the speed of the engines (including sailing on one engine) wherever possible, unless this affects the character of the intended voyage substantially and jeopardizes the safety of the vessel, its crew, staff and passengers.

### **Rubber Boots and Expedition Jackets**

Onboard Plancius all passengers are entitled to use a pair of sturdy rubber boots for free. Sizes need to be pre-ordered with Oceanwide reservation departments at least 8 weeks prior to departure. A voucher will be sent with final travel documents approximately 4 weeks prior to departure. Laying claims on equipment items without pre-order and voucher can not be accepted when boarding the vessel. Boots will need to be returned to the expedition team at the end of the voyage. Rubber boots are of high quality, keeping your feet dry, warm and comfortable for all landings. Expedition jackets can also be pre-ordered for a special price. Terms and conditions are available on the pre-order form.

### **Shore Excursions and Zodiac Cruising**

Guided shore excursions, walks and wildlife spotting and zodiac cruising are included in the fare and will be offered to all passengers during the voyages. We put our emphasis on active wildlife and nature experience.

### **Basecamp Plancius – Our activity base (C H K M P)**

The ship becomes our base camp on selected dates. "Base camp" is by definition a temporary storing and starting place, from which an activity starts, in this instance a "coast to mountain" expedition. During designated "Basecamp Plancius" voyages the ship will be taken to carefully chosen places in the Antarctic. The vessel will stay for two or three days at specific locations to serve our active passengers as a comfortable hub to allow more time than usual for wide ranging activities: mountaineers (M) and hikers (H) to climb mountain ranges, photographers (P) to explore photo opportunities, campers (C) to enjoy life at shore base camps, kayakers (K) and zodiac passengers to explore near shores where the ship cannot go. Passengers who do not wish to become physically active will enjoy our zodiac excursions and follow the normal shore program and land excursions (easy to moderate walks and hikes with focus on wildlife). We also offer photo workshops. All adventure activities are free of charge.

### **Bilingual voyages (b)**

English is the ship's language. Some German speaking expedition staff will be onboard for bilingual voyages (English – German). Welcome and safety briefings, announcements, daily briefings, and recaps will be provided in English and German. English and German lectures may vary in content. Simultaneous translations of lectures will not occur but a summary in the second language may be given at the end of a lecture. Guidance during activities ashore will depend on the group each passenger

chooses according to their own physical ability. In the Arctic we aim at splitting into three groups: a hiking group on a strenuous walk, a medium-paced group with more time for photography etc., and a leisurely group. A German speaking staff member will not necessarily be available for each group. During Zodiac cruises, each boat's driver/guide will not necessarily be bilingual.

### **Camping (C)**

On some Antarctic voyages we offer an exciting 'open air' camping option, which gives an intensive experience of the Antarctic wilderness. Special gear and field equipment will be provided: tents, wind and waterproof bivouac bags (lightweight alternative to a tent system). This shelter will protect you from the elements during the night in the open air of Antarctica. Mattresses and polar sleeping bags provide comfort during the night. The maximum number of participants for this camping option is 30 participants per night. One expedition guide will conduct the activity ashore. Camping is always subject to weather, local site and environmental regulations. 1 night has to be booked prior to the trip; any extra nights (if those are possible) must be arranged onboard. Additional nights will be charged by the Hotel Manager. For more details please refer to the activity manual.

### **Diving (D)**

Divers must be advanced and experienced in dry suit and cold water diving. We hope for 1-2 different dives per day parallel to all other activities. Diving depends on local ice and weather conditions. Dive masters and dive guides are responsible for safety during operation. Basic equipment is onboard (scuba tanks, compressors, weights and diving essentials. Divers bring their personal gear. For more details please refer to the activity manual.

### **Hiking (H)**

During hiking voyages we exceed our normal shore excursion walking program. In general we plan to offer 3 possibilities to become active ashore. There will be easy, moderate and more demanding walks available in the vicinity of the landing sites. There will be walks available to suit everyone's capability. In the Antarctic we are planning on two hikes per day, each 2 - 3 hours long during morning and / or afternoon landings. We recommend bringing a proper pair of hiking boots and gaiters. Snowshoes will be provided (for hikers only) on board. Those will fit all boot sizes and can be used in combination with Oceanwide's rubber boots. Hiking is free of charge; more details can be found in the activity manual and the day by day programs.

### **Kayaking (K)**

In general we plan to at least offer 4 kayaking days. Basic kayaking experience is required and physical fitness is essential. Parallel to all other activities we are planning on offering kayaking excursions during morning and / or afternoon landings. The final decision on those excursions will be met by the Expedition Leader. Oceanwide will provide kayaks and neoprene wet suits. Kayakers will bring their own personal gear. Kayaking is subject to weather and prevailing ice conditions. For more details please refer to the activity manual.

### **Snowshoeing/hiking (S)**

Especially on early departures at the beginning of the season there are still snow covered hills and mountains further inland. During voyages to the Antarctic we are planning on offering hiking excursions with snowshoes. Snowshoe walking is easy and does not require any technical skills. With the use of snowshoes it is easier and safer to

walk on snow surfaces. Snowshoes will be provided to everyone on board. Those will fit all boot sizes and can be used in combination with Oceanwide's rubber boots. Snowshoe hiking is free of charge, more details can be found in the activity manual and the day by day programs.

### **Ski Trekking (T) – Shackleton Traverse**

A group of up to 12 ski trekkers will pull their own sledge (20-30 kg) with personal and shared equipment (food, stoves, fuel) in mountainous terrain. The sledge can be carried as a backpack on stretches without snow. Ski trekking involves elements of ski mountaineering, glacier travel and winter camping. In general participants must be physically conditioned and experienced in order to participate in this strenuous exercise in alpine environments facing sometimes extreme weather. In addition, ski trekkers must be familiar with skiing and crevasse rescue techniques which can be learned in Alpine Introductory Courses.

The group will access sometimes difficult, glaciated, heavily crevassed and potentially hazardous alpine terrain. There is no real climbing on this trip, but the extreme weather conditions and very strong winds can make this crossing a very challenging undertaking. There is a possibility that due to stormy weather the expedition must remain in tents for several days at a time.

Fully approved UIAGM mountain and ski guides are responsible for safety and will lead the group during this multiple day expedition. A medically qualified person will be appointed. The minimum client to guide ratio is 1 guide to 4 clients. Basic equipment is available onboard (sledges, snowshoes, field camp and alpine mountaineering essentials). Ski trekkers only bring their own ski equipment (Randonées or Telemark skis, skiing boots) and personal expedition clothing. In order to be considered for this ski trekking expedition all participants are required to fill in a Personal Information / Medical form. Furthermore participants need to submit a report summarizing their personal ski mountaineering/trekking history preferably in an expedition setting. Applications will be reviewed. For more details (equipment list) please refer to the activity manual or special itinerary.