



Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctic Peninsula



MV POLAR PIONNER

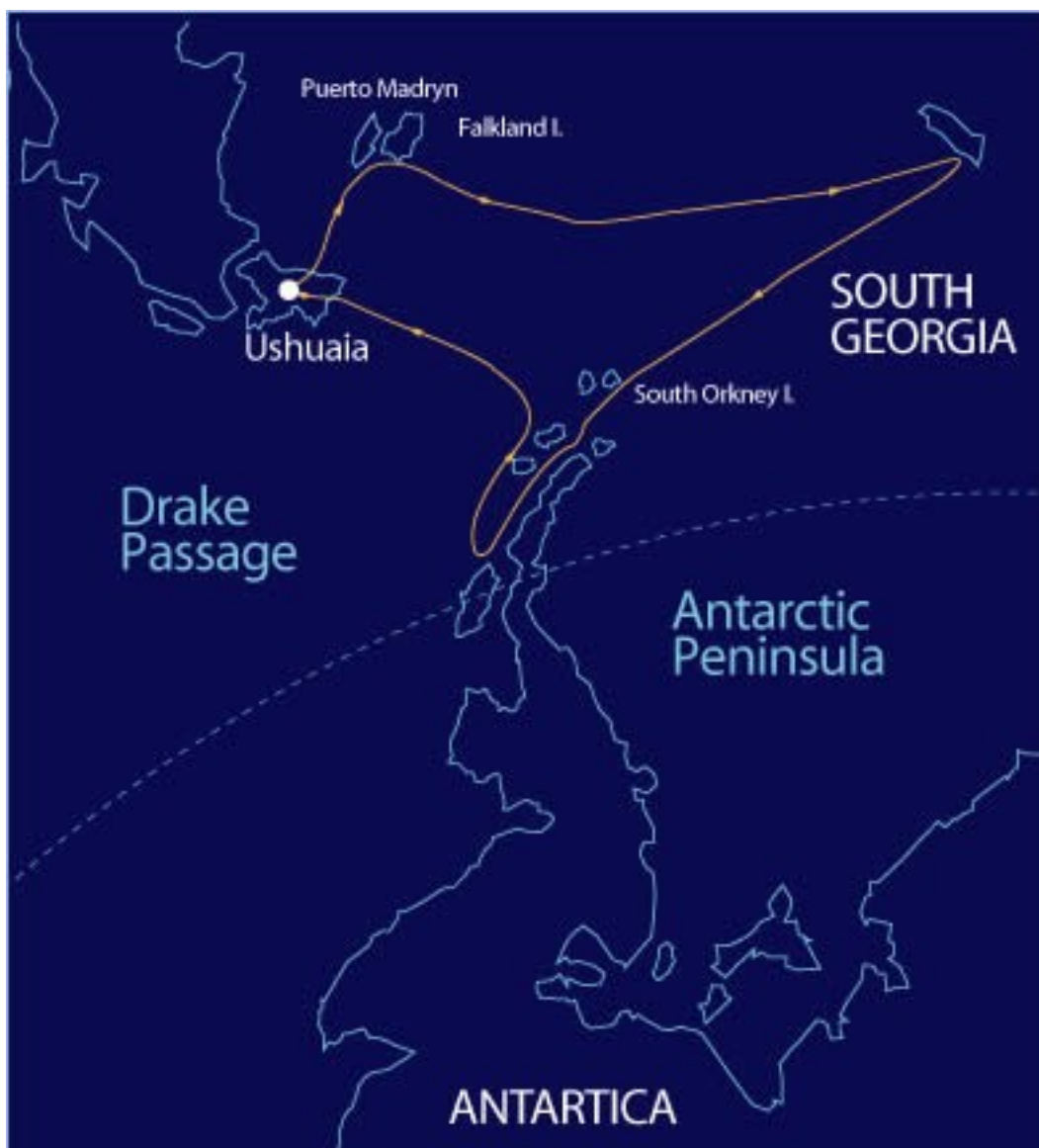
Antarctic Voyage to the Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctic Peninsula

South Georgia offers unparalleled wildlife viewing and appears like a glorious response to a mariners prayer in the wild, iceberg-dotted waters of the South Atlantic.



"The growing anticipation of our expeditioners as we approach South Georgia is palpable. You will come away with an incredible diversity of experiences on this voyage and our expert team of lecturers will heighten your understanding of this unforgettable region."

Amanda Till - Assistant Expedition Leader



Itinerary

Day 1: Board *Polar Pioneer* in the afternoon and cruise down the Beagle Channel.

Day 2: At sea, sailing towards the Falkland Islands. We start our onboard lecture programme.

Day 3: Using our Zodiacs, we visit settlements and wildlife-rich islands on the southern side of the Falklands.

Day 4: A brief stop in Port Stanley, capital of the Falklands, before cruising south-east towards South Georgia.

Day 5 – 6: At sea. Lectures alternate with time spent on the bridge and outer decks watching the Southern Ocean and the trailing albatrosses.

Day 7 – 10: South Georgia - four days exploring the network of harbours along the northern side of this wonderful island. We combine the fascination of local history with wildlife havens by visiting the old whaling station at Grytviken. Nearby are enormous penguin rookeries in St Andrew Bay, Royal Bay, Gold Harbour and Salisbury Plain, to name just a few.

Day 11: Cruising the Scotia Sea towards the South Orkney Islands. Hopefully we will see our first icebergs!

Day 12: Among the mountainous South Orkney Islands.

Day 13: We will attempt to land on wild and spectacular Elephant Island, where Shackleton's men wintered below an upturned rowboat.

Day 14 – 16: We cruise from the South Shetland Islands and through spectacular Gerlache Strait, passing the western flank of the Antarctic Peninsula. While cruising amongst the icebergs we may attempt to enter Antarctic Sound and visit some of the magnificent penguin rookeries at the northern end of the Peninsula.

Day 17 - 18

We turn northwards into Drake Passage and once again enter the realm of the giant albatross. As Tierra del Fuego approaches, the air becomes warmer and we may smell the scent of green, grass-covered land.

Day 19: During the morning we travel up the Beagle Channel to dock in Ushuaia, then transfer to our hotel or onto our homeward bound flights.


Special Activities

Kayaking: Kayaking in the far-flung corners of the world is an experience guaranteed to refresh your soul. Led by experienced guides, paddling in small groups allow us easy and intimate access to beautiful coastlines in some of the world's most remote destinations. Viewing wildlife from a kayak has many advantages, with our quiet presence allowing us to get closer to animals while still keeping a comfortable distance from them. If you wish to take this option, please advise us at the time of booking.



South Georgia Traverse: On one of our South Georgia voyages, a small band of adventurous souls will attempt to repeat the epic crossing of Ernest Shackleton and trek for up to three days from King Haakon Bay to Stromness. The crossing distance is 35 to 50 kilometres depending on the route, and involves crossing large, heavily crevassed glaciers and alpine passes. Experience in crevassed alpine terrain is essential.



VOYAGE	DATES	ACTIVITIES
19 Day Voyage	09-Nov-09 27-Nov-09	
19 Day Voyage	07-Jan-10 25-Jan-10	

Polar Pioneer

Polar Pioneer was built in Finland in 1985 as an ice-strengthened research ship, and for many years she plied the treacherous waters of the USSR's northern coast. In 2000 she was refurbished in St Petersburg to provide comfortable accommodation for 56 passengers.

A combined bar/lounge/library area (stocked with a good collection of polar books) was also created by simple internal restructuring.

This class of vessel has a fine reputation for polar expedition cruising, due to its strength, manoeuvrability and small number of cabins. All cabins have outside portholes plus ample storage space. The Russian captain and crew are among the most experienced ice-navigators in the world and their enthusiasm is legendary.

The spacious bridge is always open to us and the decks are ideal for viewing. The chefs are European, and the dining room is attended by Russian stewardesses.

Polar Pioneer is not a luxury vessel as such, but this is our most popular ship for travel to the Polar regions. The accommodation is simple yet comfortable, and the meals are wholesome and uncomplicated. A small fleet of inflatable Zodiacs with outboard motors enable us to travel from ship to shore.

CABINS

Triple: Two lower bunks and one upper bunk, a desk, a small washbasin, ample storage and hanging space and portholes. Showers and toilets are very close by and are shared with other Main Deck cabins.

SIZE: Total Cabin: 423cm x 241cm = 10.2 sqm

Twin Public: Two lower bunks, a desk, small washbasin, ample storage and hanging space, a couch and a porthole. Showers and toilets are very close by and are shared with other Main Deck cabins.

Total Cabin: 400cm x 245cm = 9.8 sq m

Twin Private: Two lower bunks, a desk, windows and private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. #402 and #403 have upper and lower bunks and a couch.

SIZE:

Deck 4:

Bedroom/Bathroom – 411cm x 260cm = 10.7 sqm

Bathroom – 120cm x 256cm = 3 sqm

Deck 5:

Bedroom/Bathroom - 494cm x 243cm = 12 sqm

Bathroom - 110cm x 170cm = 1.9 sqm

Mini Suite: Double bed in a separate room, foldout couch that can be used as a single bed, TV, video player, windows, desk, table area, fridge, and private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin.

SIZE:

Living Room/Bedroom/Bathroom - 453cm x 370cm = 16.8 sqm

Bathroom - 120cm x 160cm = 1.92 sqm

Captain's Suite: Double bed in separate room, plus foldout couch that can be used as a single bed, forward and port windows, lounge and table area, fridge, TV, video player, and private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin.

SIZE:

Living Room/Bedroom - 450cm x 500cm = 22.5 sqm

Bathroom - 120cm x 160cm = 1.92 sqm

