



Southern Ocean

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Best Places to Spot Wildlife

- » North coast of South Georgia (p50)
- » Livingston Island (p65)
- » West Falkland (p48)
- » Deception Island (p65)

Best Historical Sights

- » Grytviken (p56)
- » Falkland Islands Museum (p43)
- » Museo Marítimo & Museo del Presidio (p33)
- » Orcadas Station (p60)

Why Go?

The southern parts of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans form the fifth ocean of the world, the Southern Ocean. Its wild waters surround Antarctica and isolate it geographically, biologically and climatically from the rest of the world. Scattered around these waters are the islands that early explorers and sealers encountered before they actually found Terra Australis Incognita.

Visit the rocky but fecund shores of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia, with abundant wildlife and history. Most cruises from South America call in at the South Shetland Islands or the South Orkney Islands, where people set up their first Antarctic outposts. Travelers from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa approach the continent from the Ross Sea side, with seabird-rich Heard and Macquarie islands.

Sailing these waters and sighting these windswept isles recreates the journeys of early adventurers.

Top Resources

- » **South Georgia & South Sandwich official site** (www.sgisland.gs) Loads of info, including permit requirements.
- » **South Georgia Heritage Trust** (www.sght.org) History/wildlife conservation group.
- » **Falkland Islands** (www.falklandislands.com) Central source on the island group.
- » **A Visitor's Guide to the Falkland Islands** By Debbie Summers with photos, excellent maps and interesting facts by a native Falklander. Published in 2005 by **Falklands Conservation** (www.falklandsconservation.com).
- » **Antarctic Equipment** (www.antarcticequipment.com.ar) Last-minute equipment in Ushuaia.
- » **Ushuaia Tourist Office** www.turismoushuaia.com
- » **Antarctic Tourist Information** (www.tierradelfuego.org.ar/antartida) Argentina's Tierra del Fuego website includes Antarctic information.

USHUAIA

02901 / POP 57,000

Nearly 90% of all Antarctic tourists depart from Ushuaia in Argentina, thanks to the city's fortunate location almost directly

across the 100km-wide Drake Passage from the Antarctic Peninsula.

A busy port and adventure hub, Ushuaia is a sliver of steep streets and jumbled buildings below the snowcapped Martial Range.



SOUTHERN OCEAN USHUAIA

Southern Ocean Highlights

- 1 Brave surging swells to reach Deception Island's giant chinstrap rookery at **Baily Head** (p65)
- 2 View nesting albatrosses on **Prion Island** (p54)
- 3 Ring the bells in Grytviken's evocative old **Whaler's Church** (p56)
- 4 See hundreds of thousands of king penguins at **St Andrews Bay** (p59)

- 5 Cross the **Antarctic Convergence** (p49), the oceanographic boundary separating Antarctica from the rest of the world
- 6 See all five of the Falklands' penguin species at **Sea Lion Island** (p48)
- 7 Share a drink with locals or visit the **Falkland Islands Museum** (p43) in Stanley
- 8 Zodiac cruise off **Elephant Island** (p62),

where members of Shackleton's *Endurance* expedition survived more than four months

- 9 Chat with winterovers at one of eight countries' Antarctic stations on **King George Island** (p62)
- 10 Visit four million penguins, including about 850,000 breeding pairs of royals, at **Macquarie Island** (p69).