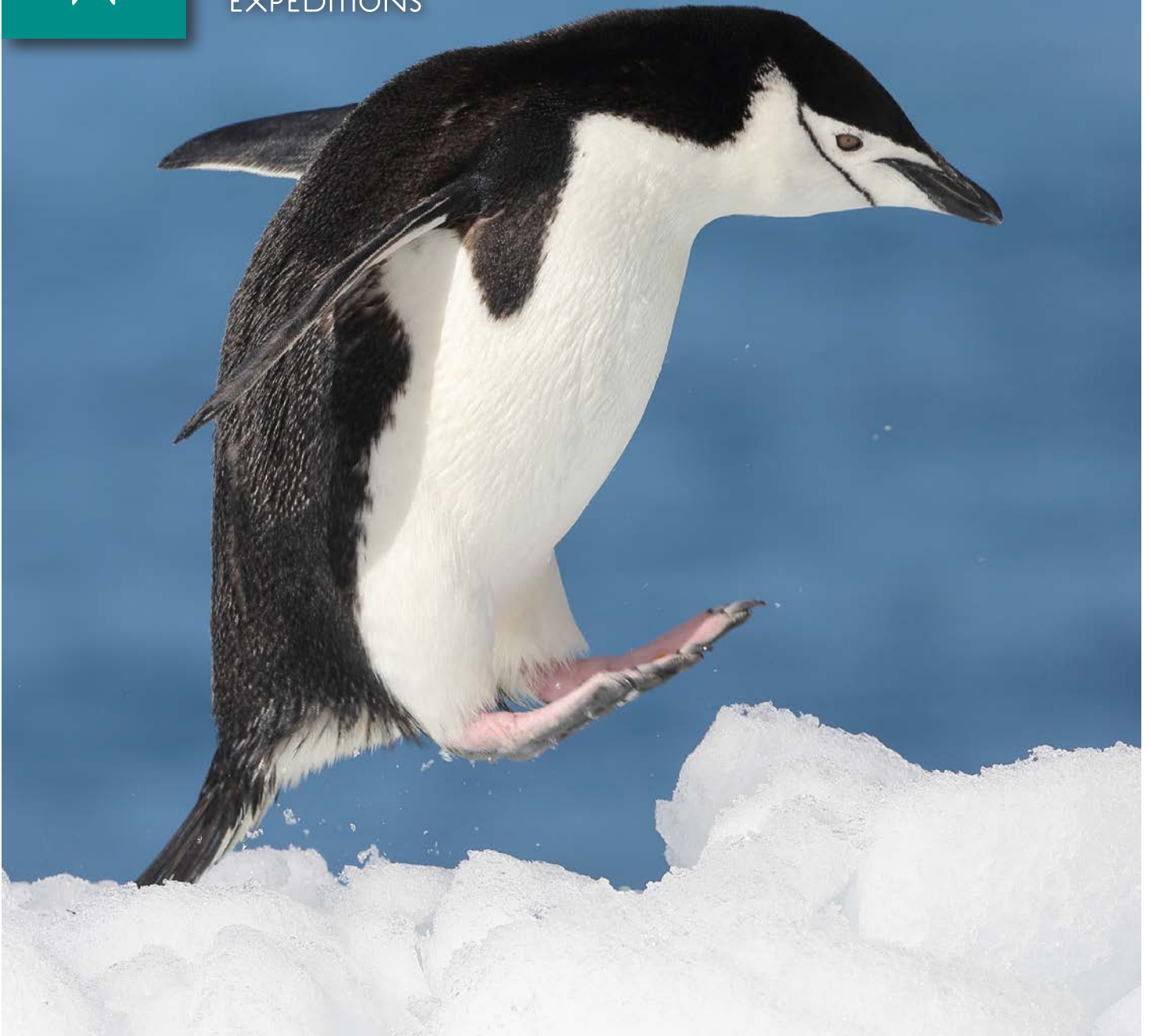




APEX
EXPEDITIONS



Antarctica

with South Georgia and the Falkland Islands

January 8 - 27, 2017



This Image and Cover © Peter Harrison

Expedition Overview

Long before man set foot on Antarctica, it loomed large in our imagination. The ancient Greeks obsessed over a Terra Australis, a vast continent in the far south of the globe to “balance” the northern lands. And it stirs our passions even still, this mythical world of ice, rock, sea, and sky teeming with colossal icebergs and gargantuan whales. Fulfill your explorer’s curiosity and follow the routes made famous by Shackleton and Amundsen on this 20-day journey aboard the luxury expedition vessel Silver Explorer. Visit massive albatross colonies in the Falkland Islands and Shackleton’s grave in South Georgia, see pink-tinged glaciers at Elephant Island. Walk among tens of thousands of penguins and seals, and experience that place of legend, the endless white and blue of the Antarctic Peninsula.



© Peter Harrison

Photos: King Penguins, Wandering Albatross. Cover: Chinstrap Penguin





© Shirley Metz

Itinerary

Sunday, January 8: Arrive Buenos Aires, Argentina

Arrive in Buenos Aires this morning, and transfer to the *Emperador Hotel* in the stately Recoleta district to rest and freshen up. After lunch, join your Apex expedition leaders to explore the cobbled streets of San Telmo and La Boca, and the political center of this “Paris of South America.” Buenos Aires also has some natural treasures—the *Costañera Sur Ecological Reserve* near downtown is home to over 300 bird species, and a stroll down its paths may reveal such specials as Rufous Hornero (the national bird of Argentina), Greyish Baywing, and the bold Guira Cuckoo. Return to the hotel for a welcome dinner and overnight.

Monday, January 9: Buenos Aires / Ushuaia

This morning, board your private charter flight to Ushuaia, the capital of Argentine Tierra del Fuego. Closer to the South Pole than to northern Argentina, Ushuaia is known as “the end of the world” and has a fitting frontier town feel to match this title. Though founded as a missionary base, then used as a penal colony, it is now a tourist destination, complete with museums and nice restaurants. Embark the *Silver Explorer*, your home away from home for the next 18 nights, and settle into your cabin. Be sure to be on deck to toast your send-off as you set sail down the Beagle Channel and bid farewell to the South American continent.

Tuesday, January 10: At Sea

Attend informal lectures about the upcoming Falkland Islands and their magnificent endemic wildlife. Join naturalists on deck and search for the various seabirds and marine mammals that flourish in these krill-rich waters.

Wednesday, January 11: Steeple Jason, Falkland Islands

Located some 300 miles east of southern Argentina, the exquisite Falkland Islands have more to offer than their history as the battleground of the famed



© Jonathan Rossow

Photos: Iceberg with Adelie Penguins, Buenos Aires, Ushuaia Harbor



British-Argentinian conflict. Teetering at the edge of the Antarctic eco-zone, their 800 miles of coastline are home to 63 species of birds and a plethora of South American Fur Seals, South American Sea Lions, and Peale's and Commerson's Dolphins, among other cetaceans. Over 70 percent of the global Black-browed Albatross population breeds on the Falkland Islands, and tiny uninhabited Steeple Jason has the largest colony. Southern Rockhopper Penguins and King Cormorants also breed here in great numbers, and the three species can often be seen mixed together in a whirl of black and white. Other birdlife includes Magellanic and Gentoo Penguins, and three rare and endangered species for which the Falklands remains their global stronghold: Striated Caracara (or "Johnny Rook"), Blackish Cinclodes and White-browed Finch.

Thursday, January 12: Stanley

Though the Falklands are still disputed territory, culturally they are British through and through. This is immediately evident in Stanley, the Islands' capital and home to most of their 3,000 inhabitants. Stroll Stanley's distinctly British-feeling streets, lined with tin-roofed houses, rose gardens, and traditional pubs and visit the 19th-century Anglican cathedral. At Bluff Cove, wander amid approximately 1,000 pairs of Gentoo Penguins, a growing colony of King Penguins and visiting Magellanic Penguins. Sea lions and dolphins are often seen playing in the surf, and there's a large variety of birds such as Snowy Sheathbills, Southern Giant Petrels, Magellanic Oystercatchers, White-rumped Sandpipers, Two-banded Plovers, and South American Terns.

Friday & Saturday, January 13 & 14: At Sea

Attend lectures by our resident experts to prepare you for three action-packed days of landings on South Georgia. Between lectures, join your expedition team on deck to search for seabirds and cetaceans. As we draw ever-nearer to South Georgia, sightings of both seabirds and whales will increase and should include Atlantic, Soft-plumaged and Grey Petrels, and Great and Sooty Shearwaters. The show stealers are usually the strikingly-patterned Pintado Petrels that by now will be our constant companions. Albatrosses too, will be around our vessel and in our wake: Light-mantled Sooty, Black-browed, Grey-headed, and the largest of them all, the majestic Wandering Albatross, whose wing span is usually over 11 feet. These birds roam the Southern Ocean, a vast, circumpolar water mass, and spend the first seven to ten years of their life at sea without ever returning to land. They are the most itinerant of all lifeforms. Marine mammals to look for on our approach to South Georgia include Fin, Sei, and Southern Right Whales together with Antarctic Fur Seals and Southern Elephant Seals.

Sunday-Tuesday, January 15-17: South Georgia Islands

One look at South Georgia's towering mountains, and you'll understand its nickname of the 'Alps in mid-ocean.' Amid these breathtaking peaks, broken up by rolling grasslands, lies an astounding concentration of wildlife—Antarctic Fur and Southern Elephant Seals, and several albatross including Black-browed, Light-mantled Sooty, Grey-headed and the spectacular Wandering; plus King and Macaroni Penguins. South Georgia was a favorite of early explorers—Captain James Cook first stepped ashore in 1775, but perhaps more famous is Sir Ernest Shackleton's arrival in 1916, following the sinking of his ship, the *Endurance*. Flexibility in exploring South Georgia is key, as we take advantage of the long daylight hours and accommodate Mother Nature's whims.



© Peter Harrison



© Jonathan Rossouw



© Peter Harrison

Photos: **Black-browed Albatross, Steeple Jason; Christ Church Cathedral, Stanley; Orca; King Penguins, South Georgia**



The highlights of South Georgia are seemingly endless but a few unforgettable stops may include the following:

In **Salisbury Plain**, gaze at a blanket of yellow, orange, black and white at the King Penguin breeding ground, where up to 70,000 pairs reside along the beaches and hills.

Visit the abandoned whaling settlement in **Grytviken**, where penguins now walk through the streets, and visit Shackleton's final resting place to toast the great explorer.

Gold Harbour, is a picture-perfect bay with the Bertrab Glacier on one end, a sandy beach covered in King Penguins and Southern Elephant Seals, and tussock-studded hills worth hiking to for views of Light-mantled Sooty Albatross soaring overhead.

Admire spectacular icebergs surrounding **Cooper Bay**, then cruise by Zodiac for a closer look at Chinstrap, Gentoo, and Macaroni Penguins onshore.

Wednesday & Thursday, January 18 & 19: At Sea

As you cruise the frigid Scotia Sea, warm yourself with rousing tales of the unimaginable odds Shackleton's men overcame while stranded over a winter on upcoming Elephant Island. Before turning in at night, be sure to stroll the deck and experience the sheer vastness of the Antarctic night sky and sea.

Friday, January 20: Elephant Island, South Shetland Islands

Located a mere 150 miles from Antarctica, the South Shetlands still manage to support some vegetation, as they are the most southerly members of the Scotia Sea Islands tundra ecoregion. Pink algae-flecked glaciers greet you as you approach Elephant Island but it's the jagged peaks that drop dramatically into the swirling seas that capture your attention. In 1916, when Shackleton's 22-man crew was stranded here, they lived beneath two upturned boats for 105 days until they were rescued. To witness the extreme conditions firsthand makes it almost unfathomable to imagine anyone lasting four days, let alone four months, and yet they did.

Saturday–Tuesday, January 21–24: Antarctic Peninsula

With near constant daylight at this time of year, there is ample opportunity to explore this otherworldly kingdom. The Antarctic Peninsula is the northernmost part of the continent of Antarctica, and is irresistible for its spectacularly carved icebergs and calving glaciers, and for the possibility of up-close encounters with marine mammals, including Weddell, Southern Elephant, Crabeater and Leopard Seals, and Minke, Humpback, Sei and Fin Whales, as well as Orcas. Zodiacs allow for up-close encounters with this wildlife and, weather permitting, landings on shore, where you can walk among penguins, and perhaps visit a research station to see the multinational scientific activities taking place.

In the spirit of expedition cruising, flexibility is key, and our Expedition Leader will determine the best course each day. Taking into account the weather, ice conditions and wildlife activity, we hope to spend time at the following locations:

Brown Bluff, where hundreds of skua and Pintado Petrel nests hang above an ash beach strewn with extraterrestrial-looking boulders. Some 20,000 pairs of Adelle Penguins, and hundreds of Gentoo Penguins, make their home on this beach.



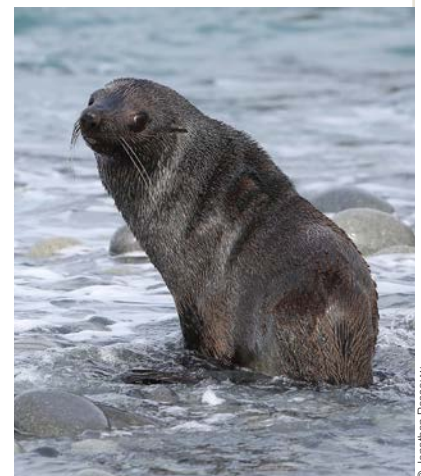
© Gemma Arnold



© Gemma Arnold



© Shirley Metz



© Jonathan Rossouw

Photos: Southern Elephant Seal; Grytviken, South Georgia; Gentoo Penguins; Antarctic Fur Seal



See hauled-out Weddell and Antarctic Fur Seals on a Zodiac tour off **Cuerverville Island**. Once ashore, walk past Gentoo Penguin nesting sites while looking out for Snow and Pintado Petrels.

Ice cruise along aptly-named **Paradise Bay**, with stunning views of mountains, glaciers and icebergs. It is also home to Argentina's "Base Almirante Brown" research station.

Walk amongst roaming Snowy Sheathbills and Gentoo Penguins on a visit to **Port Lockroy**, a British base constructed towards the end of World War II that was later used as a research station and is now both a museum and operating post office.

On **Paulet Island**, learn about Otto Nordenskjold, who over-wintered here in 1912, as you gape at the 80 to 90,000 breeding Adelle Penguins blanketing the terrain. On a nearby hill, view a massive colony of Antarctic Shags.

At **Deception Island**, navigate the narrow channel known as Neptune's Bellows, and enter into a volcano whose collapsed cone was flooded by seawater. Once inside, explore the island's whaling history with views of the ruins and old boilers used to make whale oil in the early 1900s.

Wednesday & Thursday, January 25 & 26: Drake Passage

This 600-mile-wide channel separating the Antarctic Peninsula from Cape Horn is notorious among mariners for its high winds and rough seas. On the upside, much of these turbulent conditions are caused by the Antarctic Convergence, a natural boundary where cold polar water flows northward and warmer equatorial water moves southward, pushing massive amounts of nutrients to the surface and attracting a great number of seabirds and whales. Watch for Black-browed and Wandering Albatross, Sooty Shearwaters, and White-chinned Petrels. As the mountains of Tierra del Fuego come into view, be on deck to celebrate the end of your magnificent Antarctic journey.

Friday, January 27: Ushuaia / Buenos Aires

After breakfast, disembark the *Silver Explorer* and transfer to the airport for your charter flight to Buenos Aires, and on to your international flights home.



© Shirley Metz



© Jonathan Rossouw

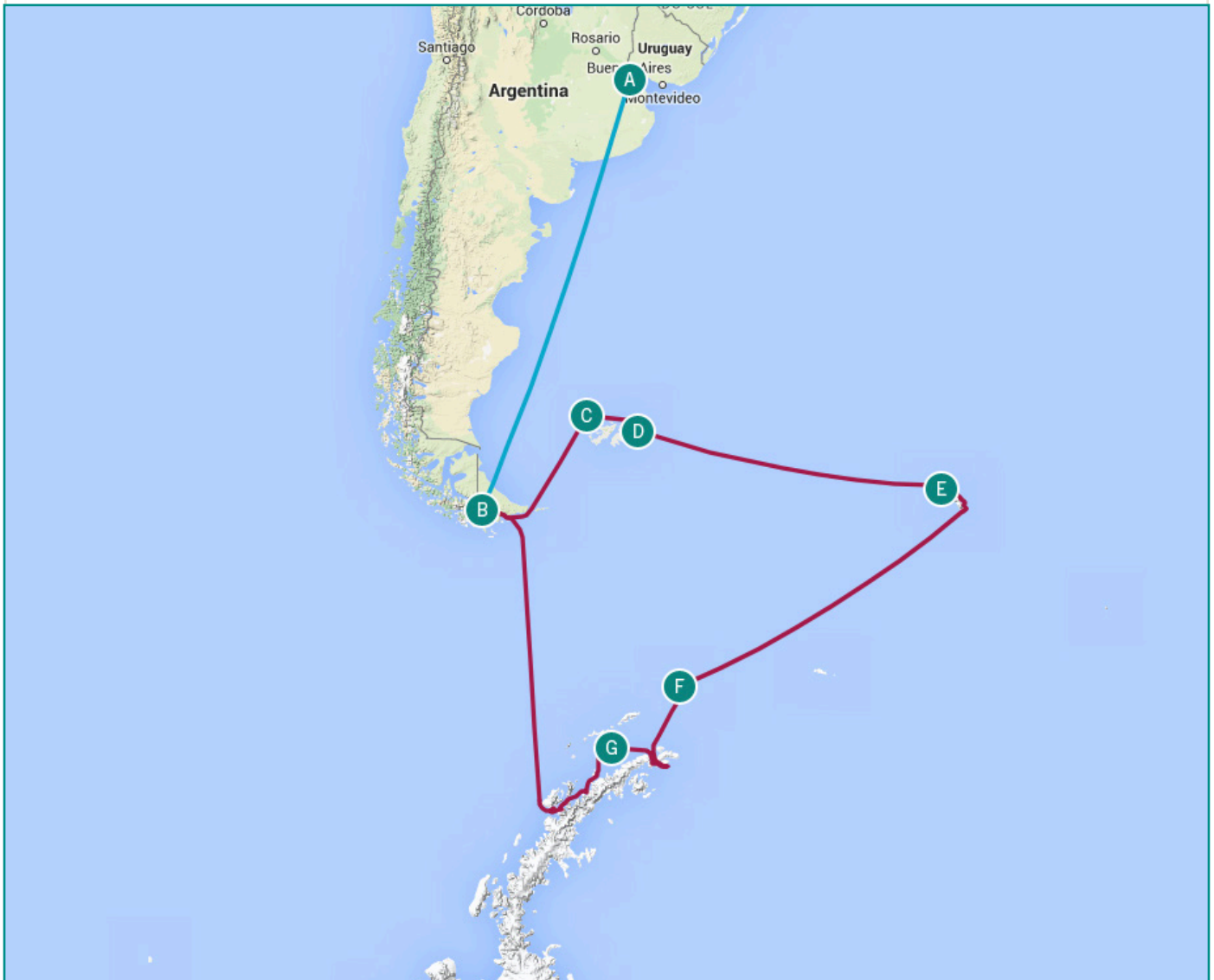
Photos: Chinstrap Penguins, Weddell Seal, Antarctic Peninsula



© Shirley Metz



Expedition Map



A – Buenos Aires

B – Ushuaia

C – Steeple Jason

D – Stanley

E – South Georgia

F – Elephant Island

G – Antarctic Peninsula

 By Ship

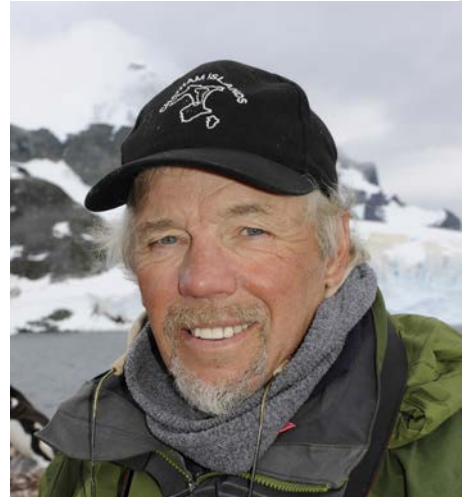
 By Charter Flight



Your Apex Expedition Team

Peter Harrison

Peter Harrison has led expeditions throughout the world, from the Arctic to the Antarctic and everywhere in between. Peter has written and illustrated over a dozen books, of which *Seabirds: An Identification Guide*, is considered the bible of seabird identification. In addition to being a professional birder, entrepreneur, artist, author and screenwriter, Peter has devoted much of his time to conservation efforts. In recognition of his outstanding work in natural history, Peter was honored with the title, Member of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. More recently Peter received the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' prestigious Conservation Gold Medal Award. This honor is bestowed upon one individual each year in recognition of their support and dedication to wild bird protection and global habitat conservation. Exploration and discovery remain a driving force for Peter and it is safe to say that with Peter leading the charge, adventure always abounds.



Jonathan Rossouw

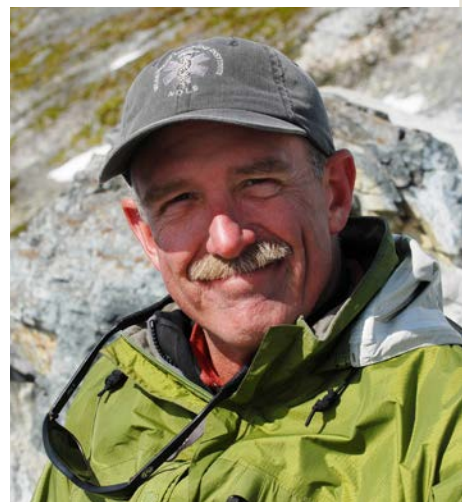
Jonathan Rossouw is one of the world's most experienced expedition leaders, having guided wildlife trips in over 150 countries on all seven continents. He combines a legendary energy and enthusiasm with a broad knowledge of all aspects of natural history, gained from three decades spent in the pursuit of the world's mammals, birds, reptiles and coral reef fishes. Indeed, having seen over 1,000 species of mammals, 8,000 species of birds and 2,000 coral reef fishes, he will likely experience more species of vertebrate animals than anyone in history!

A medical doctor by training, Jonathan was born and raised on South Africa's east coast. He started a birding travel company in South Africa before joining Peter Harrison and Shirley Metz, to assist in expanding their global portfolio of natural history destinations. An accomplished photographer, Jonathan's images have appeared in many books and magazines, and he has co-authored birding site guides to Uganda, Southern Africa and Madagascar.



Kevin Clement

Not many people can say they have lived inside Alaska's Denali National Park, but Kevin Clement is one. Nowadays, however, he spends most of his time guiding ecotourism and adventure travel trips on all seven continents. Kevin has served as the Denali Foundation instructor for natural history and as a trainer for the Park's staff of naturalists. As a Certification Instructor for the Wilderness Education Association he led month-long outdoor leadership courses under the auspices of the University of Alaska. He has lived in several other national parks and has guided groups in whitewater rafts, on cross-country skis, by sled dog, and on foot, earning certifications in scuba diving, swiftwater rescue, and wilderness medicine, as well as a Coast Guard Master's license. A veteran of over 100 voyages to the Antarctic, most recently Kevin has been coordinating and leading kayaking excursions in South Georgia and on the Antarctic Peninsula. Kevin also continues to draw and paint. His first career was as an illustrator and he never travels without his sketchbook. Or his sense of humor.



Shirley Metz

Shirley Metz's careers and accomplishments have spanned the globe. Shirley became a certified diver at age 16 and while at the University of Hawaii did shark research earning her degrees in Marine Biology and Communications. She met her first husband in Hawaii with whom she founded Hobie Sports. She also developed several active clothing lines and consulted to companies such as The North Face. In 1988 Shirley visited Antarctica and became inspired to work in Antarctic conservation. To raise awareness, she became a member of an international expedition that would attempt to ski 800 miles from the edge of Antarctica to the South Pole. On January 17, 1989, the nine-member expedition arrived at world's end; Shirley made history and her way into the Guinness Book of Records as the first woman to ski overland to the South Pole. A member of the Explorers Club and The Society of Woman Geographers, Shirley continues to raise awareness and support for environmental and cultural projects.



Giovanna Fasanelli

A life-long love affair with the sea propelled Giovanna into the world of marine biology, conservation, underwater photography and natural history documentaries. Whilst completing her marine biology degree at Australia's James Cook University, Giovanna worked at an underwater film company during which time she gained experience tagging Tiger Sharks and Green Turtles in the Coral Sea and assisting with film production. This opportunity spawned a decade-long career in television, presenting the latest developments in aquaculture and fisheries science. Though Giovanna's training is principally in the marine realm her passion for wilderness and animals has driven her to explore habitats around the world from Snow Leopards in the Himalayas to Komodo Dragons in Indonesia and Mountain Gorillas in Uganda. Fast approaching 100 countries visited, Giovanna has extensive experience as a guide and naturalist all over the world. A talented photographer and skilled writer, Giovanna's work is regularly featured in several magazines.





Vessel Information - *Silver Explorer*

The *Silver Explorer* has been designed specifically for navigating waters in some of the world's most remote destinations, including both polar regions. A strengthened hull with a Lloyd's +100A1+LMC Ice Class rating for passenger vessels allows her to safely push through ice floes with ease. There is plenty of deck space for observing the natural wonders and whenever possible the Captain will maneuver the ship to make the most of wildlife sightings.

Suite Categories

Adventurer Suite
Explorer Suite
View Suite
Vista Suite
Veranda Suite
Expedition Suite
Medallion Suite
Silver Suite
Grand Suite
Owner's Suite

Suite Rates

Coming Soon
Coming Soon
Coming Soon
Coming Soon
Coming Soon
Coming Soon
Coming Soon
Coming Soon
Coming Soon
Coming Soon

Vessel Specifications

Length.....	354 feet
Width.....	52 feet
Speed.....	14 knots
Tonnage.....	6,072
Ice-class Rating.....	1A
Guests.....	132
Crew.....	113
Refurbished.....	2008
Passenger Decks.....	5
Registry.....	Bahamas

Solo - Adventurer
Solo - Explorer
Solo - View
Solo - Vista

Coming Soon
Coming Soon
Coming Soon
Coming Soon

All Suites Include:

Twin or queen premium mattresses (except suites 512 & 513 which have a fixed queen bed) with a choice of nine pillow types; fine Pratesi bed linens and down duvets; refrigerator and bar stocked with your preferences; iPod docking station; writing table; personal safe; hair dryer; flat screen television with interactive video, on-demand movies and music, and satellite news programming; plush robes and slippers; daily suite service with nightly turndown.



Expedition Details

Antarctica with South Georgia and the Falkland Islands

January 8 – 27, 2017

20 Days Trip Length

Buenos Aires, Argentina Start / End

Included

Included in the price of your Apex expedition are all accommodations as noted in the itinerary; meals, activities and excursions; all gratuities; chartered group flights from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia and Ushuaia to Buenos Aires; complimentary room service onboard the vessel; select wines and premium spirits onboard the vessel; local beer and wine with meals in Buenos Aires as noted in the itinerary; services of five Apex Expeditions leaders, as well as the full onboard lecture team and expedition staff; local guides; airport transfers; permits; entrance fees; and taxes.

Not Included

Not included in the price of your Apex expedition are airfare to Buenos Aires and home from Buenos Aires; select premium wines and liquors; travel insurance (Trip Cancellation and Interruption, as well as Emergency Medical and Evacuation insurance are recommended); airport departure taxes; passport, reciprocity and/or visa fees; excess luggage charges; items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, souvenirs, etc.); onboard spa and salon services; and independent travel arrangements pre- or post-trip.

Payments & Terms

We are currently accepting advance interest on this exciting expedition. There is no obligation at this time, but we do require a completed Pre-Reservation Form to confirm your interest. Once the rates for this trip are published, you will be given the first opportunity to confirm by paying a deposit of 25% of the expedition fare for the cabin category you book. Once the 25% deposit is received and the reservation confirmed at the published rate, our standard terms & conditions will apply. All prices are quoted in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Per person pricing is based on double occupancy. Solo pricing is paid by participants who specifically request single accommodations and is subject to availability. The final balance is due 150 days prior to departure. For our full set of Terms & Conditions, please visit our web site at www.apex-expeditions.com/about/terms-conditions/

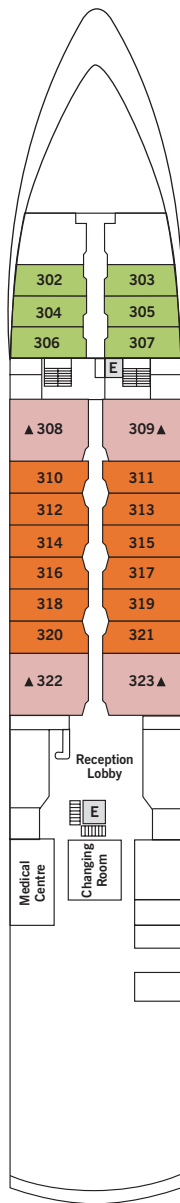
One-of-a-kind adventures to the world's most fascinating places. Join us.



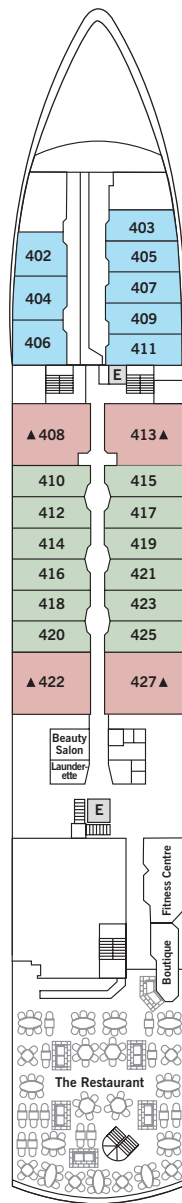
Christrap Penguin © Jonathan Rossouw



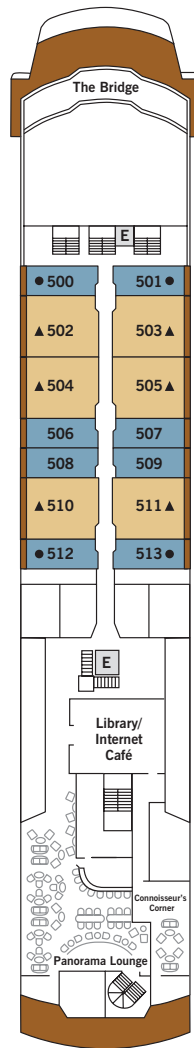
Deck Plan - Silver Explorer



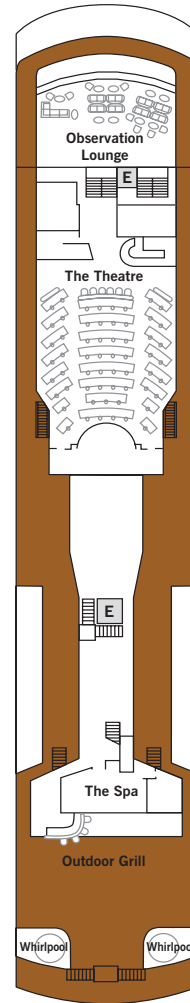
DECK 3
 Reception
 Medical Center
 Changing Room
 Expedition Office



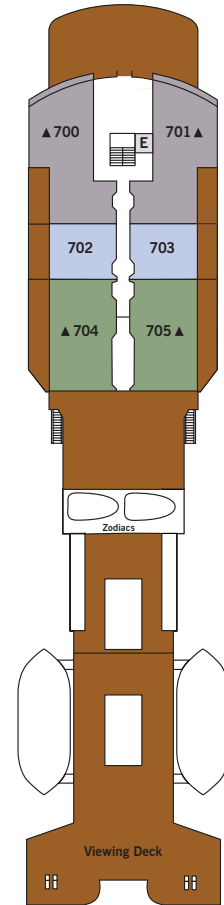
DECK 4
 Salon
 Boutique
 Fitness Center
 Dining Room



DECK 5
 The Bridge
 Library / Internet Café
 Connoisseur's Corner
 Panorama Lounge



DECK 6
 Observation Lounge
 The Theater
 The Spa
 Outdoor Grill



DECK 7
 Viewing Deck

- Adventurer Suite
- View Suite
- Expedition Suite

- Explorer Suite
- Vista Suite
- Expedition Suite

- Veranda Suite
- Silver Suite

- Medallion Suite
- Grand Suite
- Owner's Suite



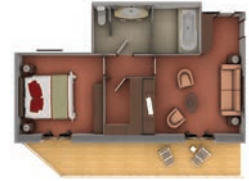
Suite Details - *Silver Explorer*

Owner's Suite



728 sq. ft., including private balcony (158 sq. ft.) • Teak-style balcony with patio furniture and floor-to-ceiling glass doors
 • Living room with sitting area • Marble bathroom, with full-sized bath and separate shower • Walk-in wardrobe • Vanity table
 • Second flat-screen television • Illy espresso maker • Four hours of Internet service per suite • Two hours of worldwide phone use from your suite

Suite Layout



Grand Suite



618 sq. ft., including private balcony (86 sq. ft.) • Teak-style balcony with patio furniture and floor-to-ceiling glass doors
 • Living room with sitting area • Marble bathroom, with full-sized bath and separate shower • Walk-in wardrobe • Vanity table
 • Second flat-screen television • Illy espresso maker • Four hours of Internet service per suite • Two hours of worldwide phone use from your suite



Silver Suite



422 sq. ft., including two French Balconies (30 sq. ft.)
 • Two French balconies with floor-to-ceiling glass doors
 • Living room • Marble bathroom, with full-sized bath and separate shower • Walk-in wardrobe • Vanity table • Wifi available (fees apply)



Medallion Suite



400 sq. ft., including private balcony (86 sq. ft.) • Teak-style balcony with patio furniture and floor-to-ceiling glass doors
 • Sitting area • Marble bathroom, with full-sized bath and separate shower • Wifi available (fees apply)



Expedition Suite



388-397 sq. ft. • Two view windows on Deck 3 (31.5 in. x 31.5 in.) or two large picture windows on Deck 4 (47 in. x 43 in.) • Living room
 • Marble bathroom, with full-sized bath and separate shower
 • Walk-in wardrobe • Vanity table • Wifi available (fees apply)



Veranda Suite



- 206-216 sq. ft, including French Balcony (16 sq. ft.)
- French balcony with floor-to-ceiling glass doors
- Sitting area
- Marble bathroom with tub/shower combination
- Wifi available (fees apply)

Suite Layout



Vista Suite



- 192 sq. ft.
- Large picture window providing panoramic ocean views (47 in. x 43 in.)
- Sitting area
- Marble bathroom with tub/shower combination
- Wifi available (fees apply)



View Suite



- 192 sq. ft.
- View window (31.5 in. x 31.5 in.)
- Sitting area
- Marble bathroom with tub/shower combination
- Wifi Available (fees apply)



Explorer Suite



- 175-190 sq. ft.
- View window (31.5 in. x 31.5 in.)
- Sitting area
- Marble bathroom with tub/shower combination
- Wifi available (fees apply)



Adventurer Suite



- 157-167 sq. ft.
- Two portholes (15.75 in. diameter)
- Sitting area
- Marble bathroom with tub/shower combination
- Wifi available (fees apply)



Explorer Suite Pictured Above

Suite diagrams and deck plans are for illustration purposes only.



Pre-Reservation Form

Antarctica with South Georgia and the Falkland Islands

January 8 – 27, 2017

Person 1: (Primary Contact)

Passport Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Details:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Double Solo Cabin Category Preference _____

Person 2: (If applicable and at same address, otherwise please submit a second Reservation Form.)

Passport Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email Address: _____

**Please return this completed form to Apex Expeditions.
E-mail: info@apex-expeditions.com or Mail: 3275 36th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126**

