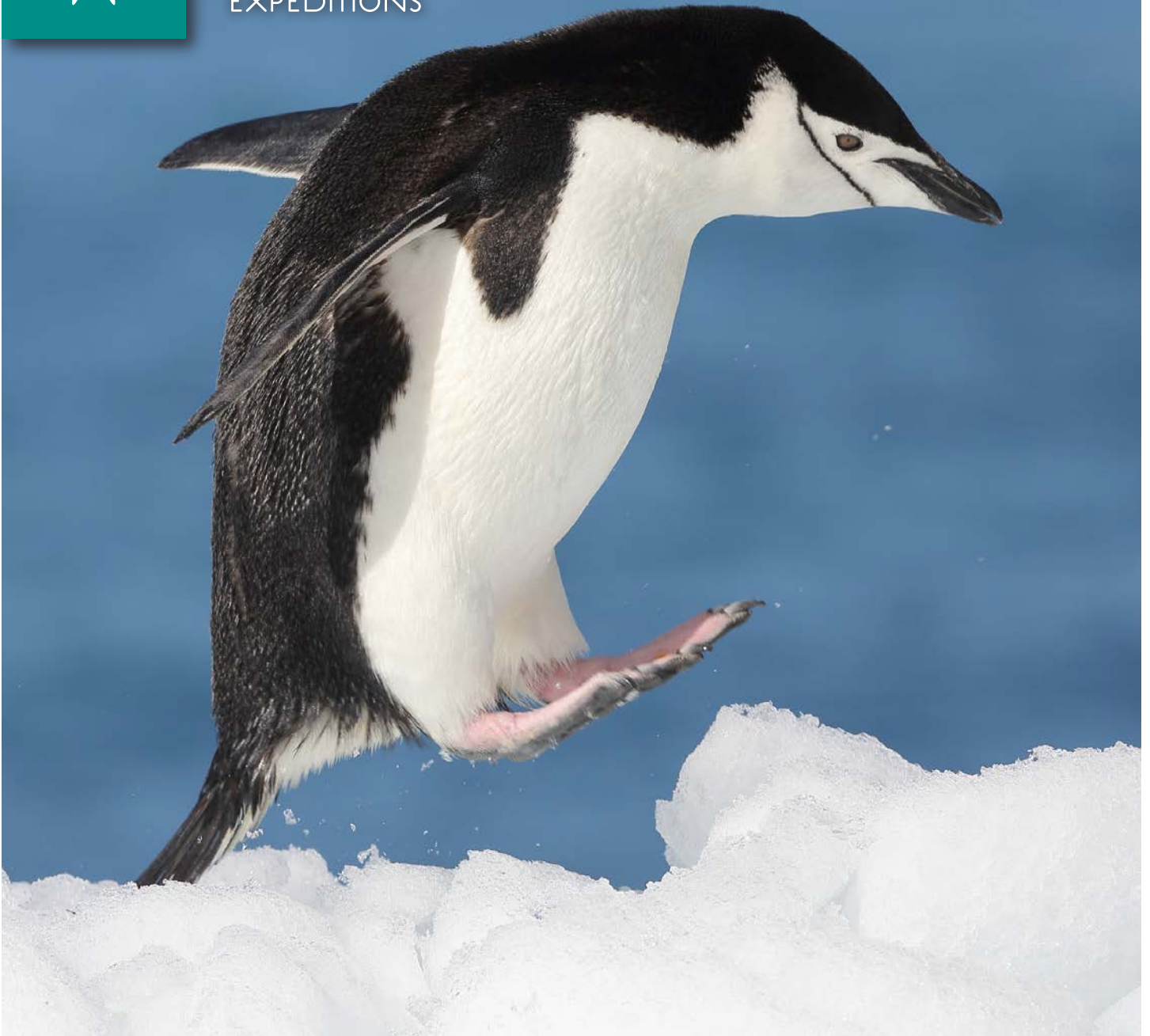




APEX
EXPEDITIONS



Antarctica

with South Georgia and the Falkland Islands

January 8 - 27, 2017



© Peter Harrison; Cover © Jonathan Rossouw

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 Ushuaia, Argentina

Arrive in 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. On arrival you’ll be met and transferred to the *Arakur Hotel* located in the Cerro Alarkén Nature Reserve, which enjoys spectacular panoramic views. The afternoon is at leisure to take a stroll through the reserve, or use the hotel shuttle to explore charming Ushuaia. Gather this evening with your Apex expedition leaders and fellow travelers for a welcome briefing and dinner. Overnight at *Arakur Hotel*.

Monday, January 9: Ushuaia

This morning, transfer to the harbor and board a catamaran for a voyage into the Beagle Channel. Weather permitting, enjoy spectacular views of Mount Olivia and Le Martial Glacier. Visit small island groups in the channel to observe sea lions and seabirds at close range. Return to Ushuaia and transfer to *Las Cotorras* for a traditional BBQ lunch before returning to the harbor to embark the *Silver Explorer*, your home for the next 18 nights. Be sure to be on deck to toast your voyage as you set sail down the Beagle Channel and bid farewell to the South American continent.

Tuesday, January 10: At Sea

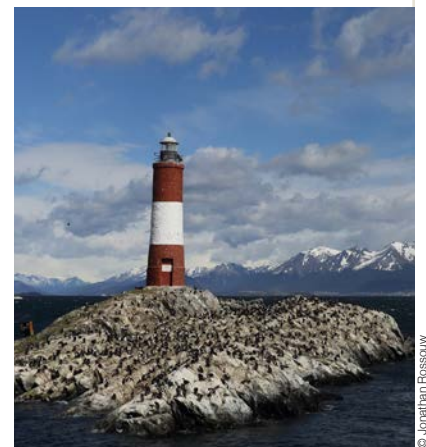
Attend informal lectures about the upcoming Falkland Islands and their magnificent endemic wildlife. Join naturalists on deck and search for the various seabirds and marine mammals that flourish in these krill-rich waters.

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 Rossouw



© Jonathan Rossouw

Photos: Icebergs with Adelie Penguins, Ushuaia Harbor, Lighthouse in the Beagle Channel



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-bridled 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 independent flight to Buenos Aires and on to your international flights home.



© Shirley Metz



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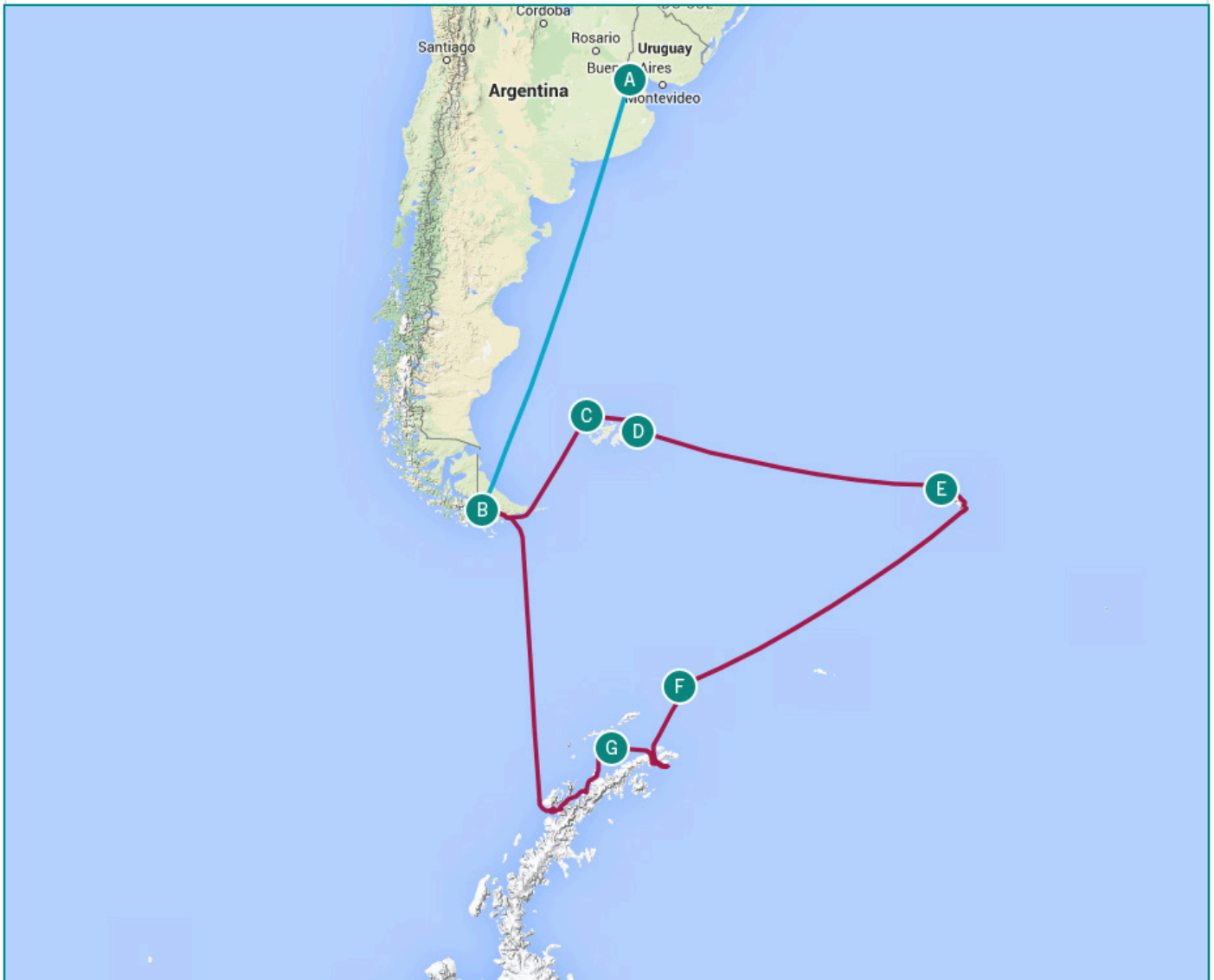
Photos: Chinstrap Penguins, Weddell Seal, Antarctic Peninsula



© 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 Air (not included)



Your Apex Expedition Team

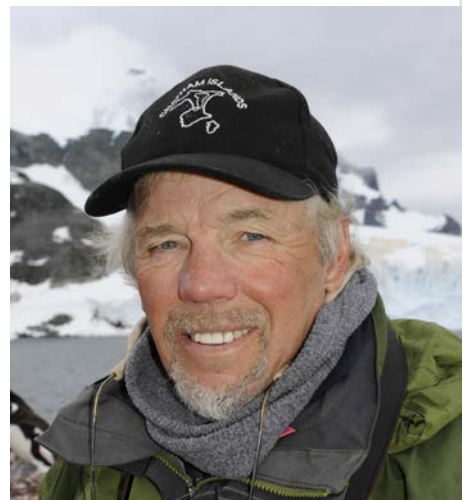
Russ Evans

A Falkland Islander, Russ has strong ties to the southern oceans and today spends most of his time at sea in various roles, but leading expeditions to Antarctica remains his first love. A sixth-generation Falkland Islander, Russ left the family farming enterprise to pursue a career crewing and skipping commercial work boats. An avid outdoorsman with a keen sense of place and a passion for wildlife and photography, Russ jumped at the chance to work as a general naturalist and Zodiac driver on an expedition cruise in 2003. The rest, as they say, is history, and Russ now leads small-ship expedition cruises all around the globe. His experience and knowledge of the bays and coves worth exploring in the Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica is staggering and lends an element of surprise to any expedition. He's been known to delight even our veteran expedition team, who've traveled to the region countless times, with his new ideas and exploratory landings.



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

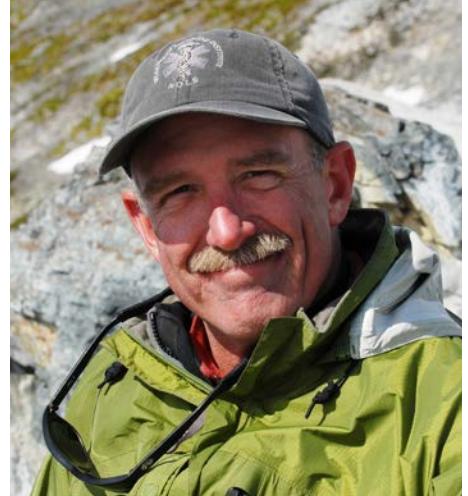
Jonathan Rossouw is one of the world's most experienced expedition leaders, having guided wildlife trips in over 150 countries on all seven continents. He combines a legendary energy and enthusiasm with a broad knowledge of all aspects of natural history, gained from three decades spent in the pursuit 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.





Antarctica with South Georgia and the Falkland Islands onboard the *Silver Explorer* – Vessel Information

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

Suite Categories	Rates Per Person
Adventurer Suite	\$19,220
Explorer Suite	\$20,320
View Suite	\$22,120
Vista Suite	\$23,120
Veranda Suite	\$27,120
Expedition Suite	\$33,620
Medallion Suite	\$38,820
Silver Suite	\$41,420
Grand Suite	\$46,620
Owner’s Suite	\$51,820
Solo – Adventurer	\$37,620
Solo – Explorer	\$39,820
Solo – View	\$43,420
Solo – Vista	\$45,420

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

All Suites Include:

Twin or queen premium mattresses (except suites 512 & 513 which have a fixed queen bed) with a choice of 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

Ushuaia, 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; complimentary room service onboard the vessel; select wines and premium spirits onboard the vessel; local beer and wine with meals in Ushuaia, as noted in the itinerary; services of six 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 Ushuaia and home from Ushuaia; select premium wines and liquors; travel insurance (Trip Cancellation and Interruption, as well as Emergency Medical and Evacuation insurance are highly 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

25% of the trip cost will confirm your place on the expedition. The final balance is due 150 days prior to departure. All prices are quoted in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Per person pricing is based on double occupancy. The Solo Rate is paid by participants who specifically request single accommodations and is subject to availability. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we will try to match you with a roommate of the same gender. However, if a roommate is not available, the published Solo Rate will be charged. Upon confirming your reservation you will be required to pay the published Solo Rate, if we are able to pair you with a roommate, the applicable difference will be refunded at the time that final trip payment is due for all participants. Please note that solo accommodations are limited and cannot always be guaranteed throughout. For our full set of Terms & Conditions, please visit our web site at www.apex-expeditions.com/about/terms-conditions/

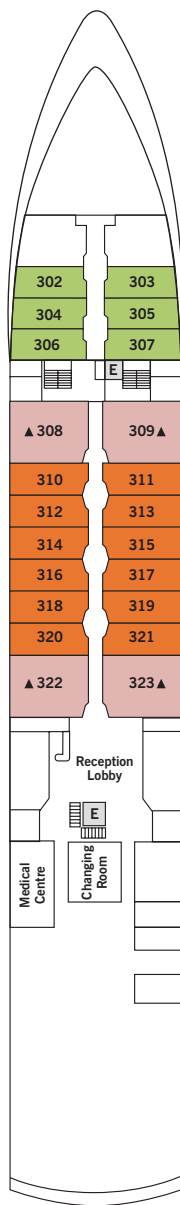
One-of-a-kind adventures to the world's most fascinating places. Join us.



Chinstrap Penguin © Jonathan Rossouw

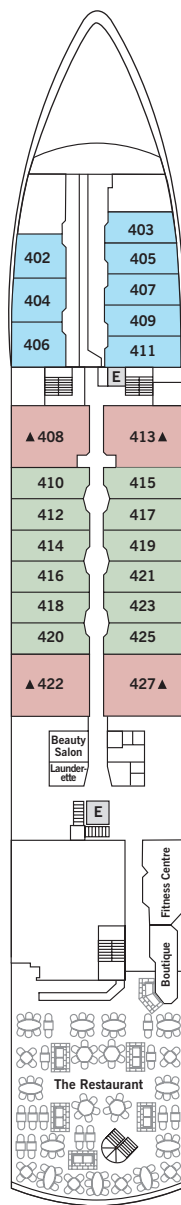


Deck Plan - Silver Explorer



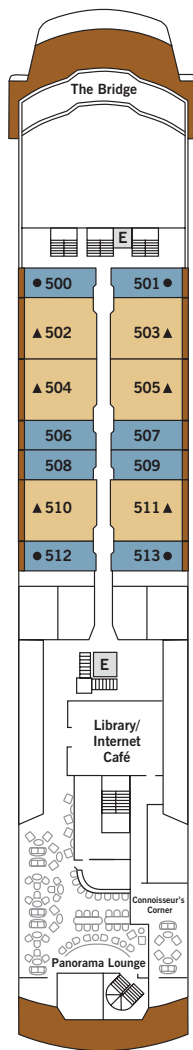
DECK 3
 Reception
 Medical Center
 Changing Room
 Expedition Office

- Adventurer Suite
- View Suite
- Expedition Suite



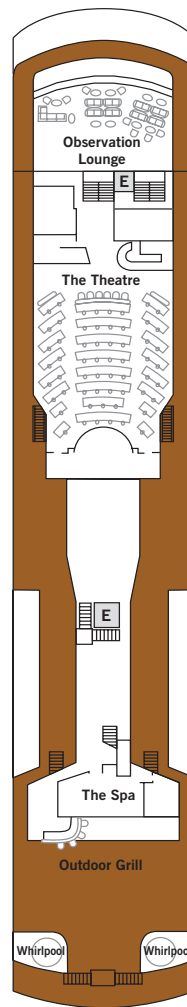
DECK 4
 Salon
 Boutique
 Fitness Center
 Dining Room

- Explorer Suite
- Vista Suite
- Expedition Suite

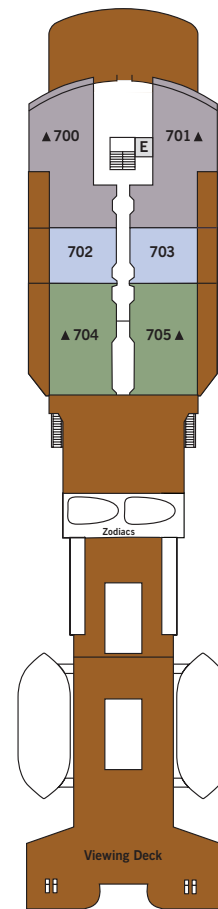


DECK 5
 The Bridge
 Library / Internet Café
 Connoisseur's Corner
 Panorama Lounge

- Veranda Suite
- Silver Suite



DECK 6
 Observation Lounge
 The Theater
 The Spa
 Outdoor Grill



DECK 7
 Viewing Deck

- Medallion Suite
- Grand Suite
- Owner's Suite



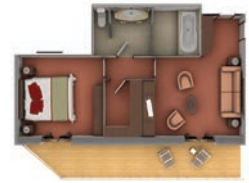
Suite Details - *Silver Explorer*

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.



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: _____

Deposit Information:

My deposit check is enclosed My deposit check will be mailed separately

Charge my deposit to my: VISA MasterCard American Express

Card #: _____

Expires: _____

CCV Code: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

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

