

## Chapter 1 : Falkland Islands: Getting there and getting around - TripAdvisor

*Combine the best nature and photo journey to Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego with a visit to the Falkland Islands. We'll spend the first half of this journey exploring the surrounding areas of Puerto Natales, including boat trips to the Chilean Fjords and their striking glaciers, plus in-depth visits to Patagonia's premier wildlife destination, Torres del Paine National Park.*

During the journey to the park, you will observe how the strong westerly winds have sculpted the vegetation of the grassy steppes in Patagonia. We will drive for less than an hour until we reach Otway Sound and its Magellanic penguin rookery. Here, we will have plenty of time in order to photograph and study some of the natural history of this endemic and most common penguin species of Patagonia. Your guide will give you a field talk about their breeding and feeding ecology, plus some remarks about other penguin species occurring in the southern region of South America. While visiting the valleys we will be given a geological interpretation of the origins of the dramatic backdrop of Torres del Paine, one of the finest natural spectacles in Patagonia. This evening we can carry out a sunset photo session, either before or after dinner. From Punta Arenas to Puerto Natales - approximately kilometers miles, approximately 3-hour drive. From Puerto Natales to Hotel Rio Serrano south-western side of the park - approximately 90 kilometers 65 miles, approximately 2. Today we will explore the southern and western regions of this huge national park, extending for , acres , hectares. The omnipresent Paine Massif, a magnificent set of rugged peaks, formed out of granite and sedimentary rock, dominates the landscape. The contrasting mosaic of towering mountains, glaciers, wetlands, steppes and forests will delight you. Lake Grey is certainly one of the highlights of the day. Colossal icebergs are stranded on the southern shore of the lake after a long and slow journey from the glacier front. The front is full of crevasses and the solid glacial ice colours vary from whitish to deep indigo. The glacier is flanked towards the east by impressive granite walls which are part of the Paine Massif, and towards the west by the eroded and low summits of the older Andes. The photography is great at this particular spot; we will be treated with a glass of Pisco Sour or Scotch containing hundreds- possibly thousand-year old glacial ice! This evening we will have again an optional photo outing for sunset and the dramatic cloud formations. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Guide. In the right light, the mountain base turns to orange colours and the scene becomes very dramatic with peculiar lenticular clouds moving fast above the peaks. During the southern spring and early summer mid-October through late January , the myriad of flowers that bloom in these magnificent landscapes are an unforgettable sight. After our return to the hotel and enjoying our delicious dinner, we will have another chance to photograph the mountains and clouds, this time at sunset. As we move around, you may observe confiding herds of Guanaco, the southernmost camel relative, the curious-looking Lesser Rhea and the imposing Andean Condor gliding along the road. During the afternoon we will visit Mylodon Cave Nature Reserve. We will have the rare opportunity to explore other minor caves at Benitez Hill; these smaller shelters, fairly easy to explore, were primarily used by pre-Columbian inhabitants, who reached these latitudes several thousand years ago. The trail goes through Southern beech woods, with great chances of seeing new forest birds as well as raptors and soaring Condors. We will also study the flora of the area; one of the most remarkable and dominant plants is the Chilean Firebush *Embothrium coccineum* , a relative to African Protea, whose flowers paint the hillsides in incredible scarlets. Overnight at Hotel Remota, Puerto Natales. We will drive east across the vast wind-swept steppes and along the border with Argentina, which here is literally a straight, seemingly endless line. Pali Aike National Park and its many extinct cinder cones is a place that breaks the uniformity of this vast, big-sky country. Long-gone Indians extensively occupied the area, and it has a very rich archaeology and paleontology. The birdlife of the area is very interesting too, as we may find intriguing species such as Least Seedsnipe, Tawny-throated Dotterel, Chocolate-vented Tyrant and the colourful White-bridled Finch. This is a private nature reserve, which aims to preserve the small numbers of Kings that remain year-round and breed here, attracted by the bounty of the surrounding sea. We will have ample opportunities to observe and photograph the penguins from a reasonable distance maximum approach distance will be given by your guide and must be respected at all times during your visit. Overnight at Hotel

Yendegaia or similar, Porvenir. In , while crossing the seaway that now honors his name, he and his crew spotted a line of bonfires along the coast of a huge landmass. Tierra del Fuego is now a land of endless wind-swept steppes, rolling hills and lush temperate forests; sheep-farming stations, locally known as estancias, are interspersed amidst these picturesque and colorful landscapes dominated by dramatic skies. We will enjoy a leisure morning while exploring around the town of Porvenir to photograph and learn about the particular wildlife and history of this remote corner of Patagonia. We will visit its alkaline pools where there are large aggregations of migratory birds such as sandpiper and plovers, and our main goal here will be Chilean Flamingo. Later we will explore the coast to see some of the many shipwrecks that have made these seas infamous over the years. After lunch we will be heading back to Punta Arenas by ferry. On arrival, you will be met by your local host and transferred to Port Stanley, the only town in the archipelago, with a population of approximately 2, people. You will have part of the afternoon to visit the very interesting local museum and some free time to make your own independent explorations. Volunteer Beach is approximately 2 miles of stunning white sand bordered by high grassy banks leading to large greens. These wonderful areas provide the perfect habitats for three breeding species of penguin: Gentoo, Magellanic and the regal King penguin, of which there are over 1, adults which successfully rear over chicks each year. This is the largest breeding group of Kings within the islands within easy access. King penguin breeding cycle takes longer than one year meaning that any pair rears two chicks in a three year period. The egg is incubated on the feet and should the egg roll off the parent can lose interest and the egg is lost. This is a critical stage in the parenting and visitors need to be vigilant and must not disturb the colony. Over years of habitation, Carcass named after the HMS Carcass, has had three environmentally conscious owners who have avoided the introduction of rats and cats. This care and freedom from predation has made a difference that is immediately evident and needs to be experienced rather than described. Magellanic penguins nest around the settlement and a Gentoo colony is only a short walk away. There is also a large number of Striated Caracara Johnny Rook , most of them residing right outside the windows of the accommodation. Your hosts are outstanding and offer a home away from home in the refurbished house. Overnight at Carcass Lodge, Carcass Island. We will be transferred by land rover to the wildlife sites, crossing moorlands and tussock grasslands with superb views of the coast and surrounding islands. A variety of coastal birds including Magellanic and Blackish Oystercatchers, Crested Ducks, Kelp Goose and delicate Dolphin Gulls will be great subject for our wildlife photography. The lodge offers fantastic home-made cooking and simple and great facilities to relax after our photo and wildlife excursions. If you are interested in photographing Albatross at their colonies we suggest you to consider the optional boat trip to West Point Island weather permitting. The main goal of the trip is to approach a nesting colony of Black-browed Albatrosses, where we will learn the fascinating details of their ecology and breeding cycles. Here we will see three penguin species, huge cormorant colonies and a large Elephant Seal rookery. This place is simply fantastic for nature photography, with birds, marine mammals and plants, great views and comfortable accommodations. Sea Lion Lodge will be our base for two nights. Besides the tussock, there are dazzling white sand beaches, dramatic cliffs and fresh water ponds. The different bird species, which can be seen on the island, include four species of penguin and birds of prey such as Striated Caracara, one of the rarest raptors in the world. Sea Lion, a remarkable wildlife reserve where nature can really be experienced, to later share experiences and memories in the cosiness of your lodge. Darwin, Goose Green and San Carlos are probably best known today for the parts they played during the conflict between the British and Argentines. All locations have memorials to those fallen and Darwin is the site of the Argentine cemetery and San Carlos that of the British cemetery and small museum and Bomb Alley. Darwin was once the largest settlement after Stanley, with almost workers on the farm payroll. The settlement, named after Charles Darwin, who spent some time here during his travels, was established in as a centre first for cattle ranching, and later for sheep farming. Today, the number of residents is much fewer but remains a large working settlement which offers superb full board accommodation in the form of Darwin House. Overnight at Darwin House, Darwin. After breakfast, you will have some time to explore the surroundings of the settlement and watch the common wildlife. We will be transferred to the airport in the afternoon to take our flight to Santiago where our trip will conclude.

## Chapter 2 : Flying to the Falklands

*On this amazing adventure you will experience South America, Patagonia, the Falkland Islands and Antarctica. See penguins, seals and whales, take hikes on the frozen continent and kayak among icebergs.*

The vibrant capital of Argentina Buenos Aires Enjoy an overnight hotel stay in Buenos Aires, and discover its enchanting combination of European flair and Latin American charm. As we cross what is known as either the Drake Lake or the Drake Shake, depending on conditions , fascinating presentations will be given about the history and wildlife of the Antarctic. You will also be acquainted with our measures to protect this vulnerable environment. Day The white wonder that is Antarctica Antarctica This unending, white wilderness of a continent is full of overwhelming impressions on an impressive scale. Weather, wind and ice conditions will of course have a great influence on our programme and schedule and your experienced expedition team will select possible landing sites that will provide you with the best experiences available. With long hours of daylight that we have in Antarctica this time of the year it is easy to make the most of your days. While in Antarctica, we will attempt to land on sites both on the South Shetland Islands and on the Antarctic Peninsula. Flexibility allows us to take advantage of the unexpected and wildlife will be at the forefront of our mind. We will bring you on shore for close up exploration. We hope to sail through the incomparable Lemaire Channel and take on the challenging hike on Petermann Island to get rewarded with panoramic views. Another fun destination if weather permits is Port Lockroy, an old British base with a museum. Sailing through the Antarctic Sound offers spectacular views of tabular icebergs and glacial landscapes, and Brown Bluff has a distinct rock formation. Our sturdy PolarCirkel boats will enable us to go ashore almost anywhere and explore bays and channels. The expedition team will explain what you see and ensure we do as little as possible to disturb the local wildlife. Enjoy experiencing Antarctica with all your senses. Kayaking in untouched waters with icebergs floating by, guided hikes up snowy pathways to spectacular viewing points, listening to the sounds of glaciers calving or penguins squabbling, spending the night on deck or in a tent on this remote and untouched continent, or perhaps for the most daring, taking the polar plunge swim. Every day will be different, carefully crafted by our expedition team to educate you and create lasting memories. As we reach the southernmost tip of South America, we will land on Cape Horn if the conditions allow it. Going ashore can be very difficult because of the sometimes-extreme weather in this area. This is the southernmost point of Chile and lies almost 56 degrees south, marking the boundary between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the northern end of the Drake Passage. The region is of great significance on account of its location, history, discoveries and trade routes. If we are able to anchor off Cape Horn, you will be able to go ashore to explore this deserted and yet romantic piece of land at the end of the world. This wild and remote area seems almost untouched by humans. The ice has scoured its way between the mountains, creating the isolated islands and hidden bays that form the unique fjord landscape of Chile. Snow-capped mountains and steep valleys make a striking contrast to a lush coastline that is rich in wildlife. You might be lucky enough to spot sea lions, Andean condors and several bird species that can only be found here. Torres del Paine hosts stunning variety, from the vast open steppe to rugged mountain terrain topped by looming peaks. This diversity of environments here has led to the flourish of a wide variety of a fauna and flora. While we are here you might see llamas, pumas, chilla foxes and skunks in addition to more than species of birds like the Andean condor and black-chested buzzard eagle. Enjoy hiking in these amazing surroundings. There are no roads, only wooden walkways, and electricity is only available during a few hours every day. The villagers sell fish, mussels and shellfish products, which are taken to markets by a weekly transport boat. Enjoy a stroll among the laneways, and maybe you will spot one of the many Magellan hummingbirds found here when you join the Expedition team for hiking or kayaking. Day 16 Waters of Patagonia At sea The expedition continues north through the fabled waters of Patagonia. As we sail through iconic Andean seascapes, you have plenty of time to gaze out on the magnificent natural expanse. There might also be trivia contests covering questions about explorer history and Antarctic wildlife. We might also hold auctions to raise money for specific causes. These on board auctions have contributed to the most ambitious habitat restoration project on Earth; South Georgia, protection

of the Albatross and maintenance of research stations in Antarctica. With the help of our guests, we will continue to raise funds and awareness of opportunities and challenges in the areas we visit. Come ashore and enjoy the local Chilote character and curious energy, mixed with a dash of modern development. The church is a visual delight: The varnished-wood interior is stunning, illuminated by rows of stained-glass windows. Other sights include Plazuela del Tren, a small plaza right by the waterfront with an odd collection of old trains. A stroll in the Cementerio Parroquial is fascinating, as some of the tombs are quite grand and ornately decorated. Feria Campesina Yumbel is a bustling fruit and vegetable market. There are also household goods and fish stalls here. In the shop Feria Artesanal Lillo, located just south of the port, you can buy excellent hand-knit woollen goods and handicrafts. Most of the restaurants and cafes in Castro are concentrated along the Calle Blanco, running from the southern end of the plaza down to the waterfront, and this is where you can get a taste of the renowned meat, potato and seafood stew. The park features wide deserted beaches and long stretches of rugged coastline, and is home to dozens of seabird species, penguins and sea lions. Day Sailing north At sea As we make our way along the Pacific coast to Valparaiso, we will have a recap of everything we have experienced on this expedition. Make sure you spend some time on deck looking for wildlife. Maybe you have some time to explore this scenic town before you fly home.

Chapter 3 : Patagonia - Wikipedia

*The Falkland Islands* (/ˈfɛlklənd/; Spanish: *Islas Malvinas*, pronounced [ˈi̞slas mal̞ˈβinas]) is an archipelago in the South Atlantic Ocean on the Patagonian Shelf. The principal islands are about miles ( kilometres) east of South America 's southern Patagonian coast, at a latitude of about 52°S.

Many of those who came later were miners who had suffered in terrible conditions. They did not know how to farm, and the land here was hard, but they were free. There would be floods, failed harvests and disputes over the allocation of land, particularly that close to the Chubut, the sole source of water in a landscape magnificent in its desolation and the vastness of its sky. But the new settlers won through, establishing the towns of Rawson, Gaiman and Trelew. Rhys, a choirmaster, could not be more proud of his heritage. Yet, he has never been to Wales and, despite some effort, cannot speak Welsh. His is a split identity, half-Welsh, half-Argentine. Speak of the Falklands, though, and he is per cent Argentine. In April , as a young conscript of 19, he was called in by his colonel and told he was going to the newly conquered Falkland Islands, due to his good English, his father being an English teacher. Wearing civilian clothes, with one uniform in his bag, he stepped off the plane in Port Stanley and took up residence in an outbuilding at Government House, the home of expelled governor, Rex Hunt. By accident, Milton Rhys was to find himself at the centre of events, witness to the unfolding disaster that was the Argentine occupation. There were no trees, very much like Patagonia. The cold was not new for me. Very English, the houses, colours, people. For a week or so he wore his civilian clothes, walking around Stanley trying to reassure the population. His lack of uniform led some Falklanders to believe he was an intelligence officer, which he denies. His unusual status ended when the military police confiscated his civvies. I had to go around handing them out. The troops were so angry that a plane meant for supplies was being used to bring TV sets. The most intelligent thing done was by the Kelpers â€” they stopped using the roads. The hospital in Puerto Argentino Stanley had very good milking cows but they did not speak Spanish. When one went walking around, the guards challenged this thing moving in the night, and when she failed to answer three times they shot her. Rhys was an admirer, talking with him often. But he was not in charge. He was the political man, not the head of the military operation. When the British arrived, he said: Jump out of your foxholes and fight! As the British marched into the town, the young Welsh-Argentine, a Seventh-day Adventist by upbringing, sought comfort in the Anglican cathedral. I had the same clothes on. I was living in a back shed with two others and none of us had a second pair of anything. There was this young British soldier, even younger than me. He said I was dirty, and when I answered back in English he cocked his weapon. That was the only time I ever saw a British soldier act in an unprofessional way. We had been told she was sunk. We made a submarine trip home! I was seated with hundreds of others in a big room with a big piano, or soldiers. The British told us to organise ourselves into those who needed the toilet, the bath and the doctor. It was proof of why we had lost â€” because we were so stupid and so proud. His parents were at the quayside but he missed them while trying to hide to avoid being returned to his unit. I took my first shower for three months and had some food. When I went back into the bathroom I vomited at the smell of the clothes. Many suffer psychological problems and some have killed themselves. What we have now, the pensions, is what we have gained fighting another war, as veterans. One day I will go and know what Port Talbot is.

**Chapter 4 : Cruise to Antarctica, the Falklands and Patagonia in | Hurtigruten UK**

*If searched for a ebook by Michael Mainwaring From the Falklands to Patagonia in pdf format, in that case you come on to correct website. We present complete option of this ebook in ePub, txt, doc, PDF.*

Human habitation of the region dates back thousands of years, [30] with some early archaeological findings in the area dated to at least the 13th millennium BC , although later dates of around the 10th millennium BC are more securely recognized. The region seems to have been inhabited continuously since 10,000 BC, by various cultures and alternating waves of migration, the details of which are as yet poorly understood. A cave at the foot of a cliff is covered in wall paintings, particularly the negative images of hundreds of hands, believed to date from around 10,000 BC. It is also not clear if domestic dogs were part of early human activity. Bolas are commonly found and were used to catch guanaco and rhea. The indigenous peoples of the region included the Tehuelches , whose numbers and society were reduced to near extinction not long after the first contacts with Europeans. These groups were encountered in the first periods of European contact with different lifestyles, body decoration and language, although it is unclear when this configuration emerged. Towards the end of the 16th century, Mapuche -speaking agriculturalists penetrated the western Andes and from there across into the eastern plains and down to the far south. Through confrontation and technological ability, they came to dominate the other peoples of the region in a short period of time, and are the principal indigenous community today. The expedition reported that after going south of the 40th parallel, they found a "land" or a "point extending into the sea", and further south, a gulf. During this time it encountered the local inhabitants, likely to be Tehuelche people , described by his reporter, Antonio Pigafetta , as giants called Patagons. If the men under his charge had not mutinied, he might have crossed the Andes to reach the Pacific coast. Pedro de Mendoza , on whom the country was next bestowed, founded Buenos Aires , but did not venture south. The settlements which he founded at Nombre de Dios and San Felipe were neglected by the Spanish government, the latter being abandoned before Thomas Cavendish visited it in 1591 and so desolate that he called it Port Famine. However, this etymology is questionable. This supposed race of Patagonian giants or Patagones entered into the common European perception of this little-known and distant area, to be further fuelled by subsequent reports of other expeditions and famous-name travellers like Sir Francis Drake, which seemed to confirm these accounts. Early charts of the New World sometimes added the legend regio gigantum "region of the giants" to the Patagonian area. However, the Patagonian giant frenzy died down substantially only a few years later, when some more sober and analytical accounts were published. Interest soon subsided, although awareness of and belief in the concept persisted in some quarters even up into the 20th century. Thomas Falkner , a Jesuit who resided near forty years in those parts, published his Description of Patagonia Hereford, 1774; Francisco Viedma founded El Carmen, nowadays Carmen de Patagones and Antonio settled the area of San Julian Bay , where he founded the colony of Floridablanca and advanced inland to the Andes Basilio Villarino ascended the Rio Negro Two hydrographic surveys of the coasts were of first-rate importance: Chilean and Argentine colonisation [ edit ] In the early 19th century, the araucanization of the natives of northern Patagonia intensified and a lot of Mapuches migrated to Patagonia to live as nomads raising cattle or pillaging the Argentine countryside. The cattle stolen in the incursions malones would later be taken to Chile through the mountain passes and traded for goods, especially alcoholic beverages. As in the case of Calfucura, many other bands of Mapuches got involved in the internal conflicts of Argentina until Conquest of the Desert. To counter the cattle raids, a trench called Zanja de Alsina was built by Argentina in the pampas in the 1850s. In the mid-19th century, the newly independent nations of Argentina and Chile began an aggressive phase of expansion into the south, increasing confrontation with the Indians of the region. Five years later, the Chilean government moved the main settlement to the current location of Punta Arenas , the oldest permanent settlement in Southern Patagonia. In the 1850s sheep from the Falkland Islands were introduced to the lands around the Straits of Magellan, and throughout the 19th century the sheepfarming grew to be the most important economic sector in southern Patagonia. Conquest of the Desert and Boundary Treaty of 1881 between Chile and Argentina Argentine authorities worried that the strong connections araucanized tribes had with Chile would allegedly give Chile

certain influence over the pampas. In the s, the Conquest of the Desert was a controversial campaign by the Argentine government, executed mainly by General Julio Argentino Roca , to subdue or, some claim, to exterminate the native peoples of the South. In , a mining expeditionary party under the Romanian adventurer Julius Popper landed in southern Patagonia in search of gold, which they found after travelling southwards towards the lands of Tierra del Fuego. This further opened up some of the area to prospectors. European missionaries and settlers arrived through the 19th and 20th centuries, notably the Welsh settlement of the Chubut Valley. During the first years of the 20th century, the border between the two nations in Patagonia was established by the mediation of the British crown. Numerous modifications have been made since then, the last conflict having been resolved in by an arbitral tribunal constituted in Rio de Janeiro , granting Argentina sovereignty over the Southern Patagonia Icefield , Cerro Fitz Roy and Laguna del Desierto.

**Chapter 5 : Patagonia & The Falkland Islands - [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com)**

*As my flight to the Falkland Islands was through South America, I got this opportunity for a trip extensions of a few days in Patagonia, visiting Punta Arenas, Puerto Natales, Torres Del Paine, Perito Moreno glacier, Balmaceda and Serrano glaciers.*

The vibrant capital of Argentina Buenos Aires Enjoy an overnight hotel stay in Buenos Aires, and discover its enchanting combination of European flair and Latin American charm. As we cross what is known as either the Drake Lake or the Drake Shake, depending on conditions , fascinating presentations will be given about the history and wildlife of the Antarctic. You will also be acquainted with our measures to protect this vulnerable environment. Day The white wonder that is Antarctica Antarctica This unending, white wilderness of a continent is full of overwhelming impressions on an impressive scale. Weather, wind and ice conditions will of course have a great influence on our programme and schedule and your experienced expedition team will select possible landing sites that will provide you with the best experiences available. With long hours of daylight that we have in Antarctica this time of the year it is easy to make the most of your days. While in Antarctica, we will attempt to land on sites both on the South Shetland Islands and on the Antarctic Peninsula. Flexibility allows us to take advantage of the unexpected and wildlife will be at the forefront of our mind. We will bring you on shore for close up exploration. We hope to sail through the incomparable Lemaire Channel and take on the challenging hike on Petermann Island to get rewarded with panoramic views. Another fun destination if weather permits is Port Lockroy, an old British base with a museum. Sailing through the Antarctic Sound offers spectacular views of tabular icebergs and glacial landscapes, and Brown Bluff has a distinct rock formation. Our sturdy PolarCirkel boats will enable us to go ashore almost anywhere and explore bays and channels. The expedition team will explain what you see and ensure we do as little as possible to disturb the local wildlife. Enjoy experiencing Antarctica with all your senses. Kayaking in untouched waters with icebergs floating by, guided hikes up snowy pathways to spectacular viewing points, listening to the sounds of glaciers calving or penguins squabbling, spending the night on deck or in a tent on this remote and untouched continent, or perhaps for the most daring, taking the polar plunge swim. Every day will be different, carefully crafted by our expedition team to educate you and create lasting memories. As we reach the southernmost tip of South America, we will land on Cape Horn if the conditions allow it. Going ashore can be very difficult because of the sometimes-extreme weather in this area. This is the southernmost point of Chile and lies almost 56 degrees south, marking the boundary between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the northern end of the Drake Passage. The region is of great significance on account of its location, history, discoveries and trade routes. If we are able to anchor off Cape Horn, you will be able to go ashore to explore this deserted and yet romantic piece of land at the end of the world. This wild and remote area seems almost untouched by humans. The ice has scoured its way between the mountains, creating the isolated islands and hidden bays that form the unique fjord landscape of Chile. Snow-capped mountains and steep valleys make a striking contrast to a lush coastline that is rich in wildlife. You might be lucky enough to spot sea lions, Andean condors and several bird species that can only be found here. Torres del Paine hosts stunning variety, from the vast open steppe to rugged mountain terrain topped by looming peaks. This diversity of environments here has led to the flourish of a wide variety of a fauna and flora. While we are here you might see llamas, pumas, chilla foxes and skunks in addition to more than species of birds like the Andean condor and black-chested buzzard eagle. Enjoy hiking in these amazing surroundings. There are no roads, only wooden walkways, and electricity is only available during a few hours every day. The villagers sell fish, mussels and shellfish products, which are taken to markets by a weekly transport boat. Enjoy a stroll among the laneways, and maybe you will spot one of the many Magellan hummingbirds found here when you join the Expedition team for hiking or kayaking. Day 16 Waters of Patagonia At sea The expedition continues north through the fabled waters of Patagonia. As we sail through iconic Andean seascapes, you have plenty of time to gaze out on the magnificent natural expanse. There might also be trivia contests covering questions about explorer history and Antarctic wildlife. We might also hold auctions to raise money for specific causes. These on board

auctions have contributed to the most ambitious habitat restoration project on Earth; South Georgia, protection of the Albatross and maintenance of research stations in Antarctica. With the help of our guests, we will continue to raise funds and awareness of opportunities and challenges in the areas we visit. Come ashore and enjoy the local Chilote character and curious energy, mixed with a dash of modern development. The church is a visual delight: The varnished-wood interior is stunning, illuminated by rows of stained-glass windows. Other sights include Plazuela del Tren, a small plaza right by the waterfront with an odd collection of old trains. A stroll in the Cementerio Parroquial is fascinating, as some of the tombs are quite grand and ornately decorated. Feria Campesina Yumbel is a bustling fruit and vegetable market. There are also household goods and fish stalls here. In the shop Feria Artesanal Lillo, located just south of the port, you can buy excellent hand-knit woolen goods and handicrafts. Most of the restaurants and cafes in Castro are concentrated along the Calle Blanco, running from the southern end of the plaza down to the waterfront, and this is where you can get a taste of the renowned meat, potato and seafood stew. The park features wide deserted beaches and long stretches of rugged coastline, and is home to dozens of seabird species, penguins and sea lions. Day Sailing north At sea As we make our way along the Pacific coast to Valparaiso, we will have a recap of everything we have experienced on this expedition. Make sure you spend some time on deck looking for wildlife. Maybe you have some time to explore this scenic town before you fly home.

**Chapter 6 : Cruises to Antarctica, the Falkland Islands & Patagonia | Hurtigruten**

*Spellbinding, rugged, remote, and ripe for adventure, Patagonia turns the heads of the most intrepid travelersâ€”come with us to the mythical Cape Horn, the UNESCO-designated Torres del Paine National Park and into the dense forest of the Andes.*

What Our Customers Say Thanks to all for making it such a memorable experience. We had the time of our lives on board ship Huge congratulations to you and all the team for the perfect organisation throughout the trip. From the early planning to the last transfer, everything went without a hitch. Now that I am back from my odyssey voyage, I thought I would let you know that after all that planning it really did exceed my expectations â€” we managed landings everywhere even on Tristan da Cunha and had great bird sightings. The guides all knew what they were talking about too and made sure I got some great photos â€” still sorting them all out! Thanks for everything and see you at Birdfair! I came to Wildfoot because a friend had booked with you when you were Antarctica Bound and they were right. Everything went perfectly, even when our flight was cancelled, you made sure we still made it to the ship with time to spare. The ship Sea Explorer was exactly as Simon had described and was very comfortable. South Georgia was the highlight but we were surprised how much wildlife there was to see on the Falklands and we might well book one of your nature trips to the Falklands in the future. I want to thank you for all you did to make my recent Falklands trip run so smoothly and comfortably. Thank you for all your help over the diet too. We had a fantastic trip, the boat, staff, scenery, itinerary, and pretty much everything else was incredible! Thank you so much for arranging the cabin upgrade, we were delighted to have our own room! We had a very special experience organized by you in Feb, especially the wedding in Antarctica and our stay in Patagonia. Many thanks for all you help with our polar trip which exceeded all expectations. We will certainly recommend your company and seriously consider yourselves for future trips. I just want to thank you for all your help with my Ross Sea trip. Overall I think that it was an excellent trip that was well worth the price paid and I would have no hesitation recommending your company to others. We were very pleased with all of the staff, on the ground and on the ship. Everyone was so friendly and knowledgeable. We greatly appreciated their experience and expertise. Their very careful attention to all of the environmental rules and precautions should also be lauded. Thank you for all of your service and attention. We would like to thank you with all our heart for our fabulous trip. I recommend Antarctica and South America to everybody. Doing business with you was also a great experience. You are the best travel agent I ever met. I hope to have the chance to do business with you again in the future. You can take this as a 10 out of 10 satisfaction rating and recommendation for your company. Thanks once again for our trip of a lifetime. I just wanted to say an enormous thank you for your help with my trip. It was the best two weeks of my life! MS Expedition was amazing â€” their itinerary, their crew, their spirit. It was truly exceptional. One of the best things was how they arranged the rooms, I just had the best roommates and that really made a big difference to the trip. We got to see some fast ice and got out to walk on it â€” literally walking on the frozen sea. I am saving for my next trip and I would not dream of going with anyone but you guys again. A dream very much come true. I wanted to drop you a line to say we are back from Antarctica and had a wonderful time with Ponant. Antarctica was breathtaking as you know , and we loved pretty-much everything about Ponant. Having read the nightmares that Silversea have been having with the Silver Cloud, we felt lucky to be onboard Le Lyrial. Of course the only downside of a trip like this is we want to go back - best start saving now! Thanks again for all of your help and support with the booking process. Ponant was exactly as you described it. We have our eye on a couple of other cruises with them so I might be in touch soon. Just a quick note to express my sincere thanks to you and all your staff for making this an epic adventure of immense proportions. Everything went smoothly, pickups, hotels and most of all the expedition itself. Truly a mind blowing experience unlike any I have ever taken. We had the most fantastic time! Everything exceeded our expectations - the ship, the expedition team, the scenery and the most amazing wildlife experiences - 15 humpback whales around the ship one sunset was particularly stunning. Thank you so much to you and your colleagues for your expert advice the cabin choice was just perfect, especially for the

bumpy days! I should also say that the arrangements in Buenos Aires worked really well too. I am not on Facebook myself but will try to put a review on either of the links below. A great big thanks to all at Wildfoot Travel for making my Antarcti Expediton an epic adventure of immense proportions. A truly mind blowing experience unlike any I have ever taken. Looking forward to the next trip with you. Thank you Wildfoot for organising it so well. We had the trip of a lifetime and everything ran very smoothly and stress free so many, many thanks I travelled to the Antarctica Circle with Wildfoot. It was a memorable trip. The MS Expedition was definately the right choice. The ship is very nice, very comfortable, very clean, the crew is fantastic, the meals were very good, the expedition staff very kind and extremely knowledgeable and professional. All activities were very well and timely organized in a safety manner. Besides that, despite haveing had a rough sea on the Drake on way in, we were quite lucky with the weather we got some cloudy days but also snow, bright sunshine and beautiful sunsets, making every landing a wonderful happening. All in all, it was less than perfect.

**Chapter 7 : Patagonia with the Falkland Islands & Cape Horn | Polar Cruises**

*The story of a farming family's emigration from the Falklands to Patagonia in , recreated from family documents. pp with index, illustrated with 99 black and white photographs and maps. Gilt lettering to spine, maps to endpapers.*

The Patagonian people have the impression of having "lived" the war, whilst in the rest of the Argentine it was a distant show to watch on TV and did not prevent football on Sundays. Due to the geographical proximity the war was a palpable experience for Patagonians, who experienced it through blackouts, the daily count of war-planes coming back, the restrictions on access to the coast, changes in radio programming, and finally, after the defeat, the landing of the POWs at Puerto Madryn, Chubut, and to a lesser extent at other Patagonian ports. This article argues that the Patagonian feeling of closeness to the war, stems not only from geography but also from old socio-historical links between Patagonia and the Falkland Islands; which had been partially reinstated in the s but were destroyed by the war. These links go back to the beginning of the integration of Patagonia in Argentina, a century before the war, and developed around sheep colonization of the region from onwards. Although overlooked by official historiography, these links had a key role in the development of the region between the years , and created the feeling of sharing a common geographical and social space. For instance, in the colloquial language of the Patagonians before the war, the Falklands were simply called "the islands" without elaboration. This familiarity of language reflects a closeness that goes far beyond geography and has its counterpart in the islands themselves where Patagonia was known simply as "the coast", or "the mainland", terms that did not differentiate between the Chilean and Argentina sectors. Even if some authors have briefly discussed the links between the islands and the mainland, the subject was neglected for decades and also the rupture caused by the war led to the expunging of these links so as to obliterate their very existence. Falkland Islands families who settled in Patagonia in the late 19th century remain in the region, and many of the farms they founded still exist. Suffice it to just scrape the layer of nationalism and chauvinism that covered Patagonia from the s to find an integrated regional system spreading itself beyond the political boundaries, hardly affected by three different national administrations. The memory of the bonds, sometimes even family ties, was not entirely overshadowed by the policy of deliberate aloofness from to A timid outbreak came after the agreements on communications. Despite the official and regulated character of these agreements, very different from the casual conviviality of old times, the Patagonians could finally rediscover their old neighbors. But the door slammed shut in and radio programs in English of some of the Patagonian coast stations fell silent forever. The aim of this article is to point out the most remarkable characteristics of the links in the pioneering days, when everything was to be done and the war between "The Islands" and "The Coast" was simply inconceivable. The concept of multitemporality is more easily seized if the duration is termed in generations; in such a way, structural facts last several generations, whereas conjunctural facts affect only one or two, and obviously, many events occur within a single generation. Regarding the Falklands we identified three structural factors: The three factors explain geohistorical facts which recur throughout the history of the islands. From the first factor stems the role of naval repair and refueling point and defense, still working currently. Regarding the third factor, the agronomic, it explains the abundance of cattle in the islands since the 18th century and which made them an inexhaustible source of meat always available. Later, from the s onwards, the islands became a centre of dispersion of sheep and shepherds. We see here how a structural factor -good rangelands- determines a chain of conjunctural facts. The three structural factors just mentioned have shaped in different ways the links between the Falklands and the mainland. In short, it could be said that the stronger are the contentions, the weaker are the links between the Falklands and the mainland. It is as if the relationship between the Islands and Patagonia, spontaneous and natural per se, were disrupted by factors other than the nature of things in any case from outside the region. It is clear that throughout the history, the ups and downs of the dispute were inversely reflected in the intensity of the links. Here we are squarely in a periodicity linked to conjuncture, in which more or less complementary territories Magellan, Argentinean Patagonia, Falklands , approach each other or move away following extra-regional policies. We do not intend to linger in the dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom, which has caused so much ink and blood,

and we will just say that the Falklands are -since the realization of the old British dream of an outpost in southern South America, allowing the control of the interoceanic passage and the tip of South America, the only spot missing from his southern circumpolar strategic circle. A supplemental advantage also arising from insularity should be stressed, i. Indeed, the absence of aboriginal population greatly favored cattle development in the islands and even its early colonization, explaining that since the 18th century the Falklands have been the oldest permanent European settlement south of Buenos Aires. As predators, only the Falklands wolf the mysterious warrah , was a danger to the sheep, and that is why it was hunted to extinction by By contrast, the warrah was harmless to the cattle of the prior period, that of the gauchos derived from the colony of Luis Vernet and its outcome. In fact, what in the economic history of the Pampas is known as "the leather civilization" was introduced in the Falklands by the Argentinean colony in the late s. Estimates of the cattle herd of the islands after the expulsion of the Argentines in vary between 5, and 40, head<sup>1</sup>; anyway, it is certain that the wild cattle were the first wealth source to the new British colony. Since only the Gauchos could deal with such animals, the British authorities favored installation of these men in the s <sup>2</sup>. The Pitaluga family, which owns one of the traditional stations Salvador has River Platean origin. Traces of the gauchos are still visible on the islands, especially the stone corrals and the rural lexicon, well shown by Spruce<sup>3</sup>. However, cattle and gauchos did not last long in the new colony as it soon would turn to raising sheep, introducing them from the continent flocks or from the metropolis rams. Shepherds were also introduced to take care on these sheep, mainly Scots from the Highlands or the isles. From Bougainville in onwards, each of the successive settlements of the islands had brought sheep for subsistence, but only since began to develop commercial-scale sheep production, akin to what happened in the plains of Buenos Aires. Precisely, the first massive introductions of sheep to the Falklands came from the River Plate and were made by Englishmen of Buenos Aires and Montevideo. At the same time, breeding rams were imported from Britain, yet the cost and difficulty of such transportation necessarily <sup>1</sup> Bernhardson W. National Museums, Liverpool, p. Some of the people and places involved in the cattle industry. As early as the first pedigree introductions came from Buenos Aires, offered by Peter Sheridan of estancia "Los Galpones"<sup>5</sup>. Carmen de Patagones also appears as one of the sources of sheep and horses to the early sheep farmers in the Falklands. According to the shipping records of the islands, out of 23 ships that carried cargo to the islands between and , ten came from Patagones and five of them downloaded sheep<sup>6</sup>. Thus we see that the sheep that were to colonize Patagonia from the south from onwards, shared origins with the ones that were to come from the north. However, more than three decades of isolation of the Falklands flock and the calculated breeding with British rams, significantly altered their characteristics resulting in a mixed breed, well adapted to the environment of south Patagonia where they were to be known as "Malvineras" sheep. The factual approach During the "gaucho" period in the history of the islands, the relations between them and the mainland were limited to links to the River Plate because the Patagonia had not yet been colonized beyond Carmen de Patagones by then. Although sporadic, the connections between the Falklands and that small port on the Negro River were important since both places were for decades the only points of stable occupation south of Buenos Aires. Of course there was informal traffic between both settlements through whalers or sealers who frequented the islands as well as the Patagonian coast, but there was also the very formal and official traffic through the British Admiralty and the hydrographic works commanded by Fitz-Roy , who -incidentally- rented in Carmen de Patagones two secondary boats to explore the northern coast of Patagonia. Stirling was then in charge of the Anglican mission that the Patagonian Missionary Society had in Keppel Island and some years later he would found the mission of Ushuaia and become Anglican Bishop of all South America. After , once the Welsh colony had settled in the Chubut River mouth, some contacts were established between the new settlement and the Falkland Islands, easy- going because of the nationality of the colonists<sup>7</sup>. However the Welsh -eager to escape the Empire- did not seek to establish a fluid contact but rather appealed to their British status when they needed help, either because of isolation or the advance of the Argentine state. Around the same time also began a timid trade between the islands and the nascent Punta Arenas Sandy Point at the beginning which outstripped its initial purpose as a penal colony and whose growth would go hand in hand with the development of steam navigation through the Strait of Magellan. Previously, in the days of sail, the Falklands

were an unavoidable stopover for sailboats rounding the Cape Horn and one of the earliest factors of prosperity to Port Stanley was the supply and repairing of ships Popper, Therefore Magellanic timber was highly prized in the Falklands, which are devoid of trees. Bishops from the Islands visiting the Mainland. Falkland Islands Journal 8 3: The interoceanic navigation increased exponentially from the California gold rush in This year boats anchored in the small port of Stanley, established only four years before. The traffic began to decline in due to the opening of the Pacific Railway, in the United States<sup>8</sup>. Besides, when steamers replaced sailboats, about , Punta Arenas absorbed most of the interoceanic traffic at the expense of Port Stanley. Since the steamers of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company made regular calls at Punta Arenas whilst calls at Stanley were only established in At the same time close links were established between the islands and Patagonia as a result of the sheep farming colonization of the region around Sheep from the Falklands were first introduced in the Magellan area as early as in an experimental way, but the experience took shape in the next decade and the first contracts for the transfer of land to settlers from the Falklands dating from Yet in there was already interest in the islands to occupy land on the continent, as evidenced by the request made to the Argentinean Government by the Falkland Islands Company FIC to acquire approximately , hectares in Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia, further north<sup>9</sup>. A story within a story Until the s, Carmen de Patagones in the north, the Welsh colony in the middle, and Punta Arenas in southern Patagonia, were the only "civilized" points in the region. The colonization became widespread after the military campaign against the native populations ordered by the government. Viewed on a larger scale, the conquest of Patagonia can be considered as one of the last chapters of the millennial struggle between nomads and sedentary. The predictable outcome was the defeat of the nomadic, the indigenous people, and the victory of the sedentary, the settlers. Once the Indians were subdued, the Pampa and Patagonia were wide opened to colonization. The role of sheep in the process of occupation of Patagonia has been central and this is where the sheep owners from the Falklands occupy a key position. The sheep colonization of Patagonia, performed by -among others- the British, is not an isolated phenomenon but is inserted in the national context of expansion of political boundaries, as well as in the international expansion of the agricultural frontier in temperate climates. Thus, one might wonder whether the military conquest was a cause or a consequence, that is, if the expansion of sheep farming in the Pampas from mid- 19th century pushed "the border" towards the Patagonian plains, or whether on the contrary, the conquest put in government hands vast areas that in the absence of anything better, were quickly filled with sheep. The sheep came to Patagonia from two fronts, north and south, i. They were ousted from the Pampas by the boom of cattle and cereals, and they left the Falklands by a simple matter of overstocking, since the islands had reached sheep saturation at Once the military campaign allowed overland communication between Buenos Aires and the Rio Negro, sheep expanded southward unimpeded. The expansion was 8 Mainwaring M. From the Falklands to Patagonia. Falkland Islands Journal, 9 5: Most of these long-winded droves were led by Britons who were starting settle in southern Patagonia. Among the most memorable we may consider the 5, sheep herd driven by Messrs. Patagonia under the British influence Although the Welsh colony of Chubut was conceived to escape English oppression, it could not escape the growing influence of the British Empire in Argentina and ended up being the gateway for British capital in northern Patagonia through a modest railway. The formation of a group of British companies since that would become the powerful Argentine Southern Land Company ASLCo has been well studied and often was the "bete noire" of historians. This concentration of British capital in northwestern Patagonia to which could be added the , hectares of the Welsh colony of the Andes established in , makes a contrast to a more diffuse and more ubiquitous British presence in southern Patagonia. Indeed, it was in Santa Cruz and Magellan where the British settled more strongly, or rather more deeply, since they were more numerous and better distributed, perhaps in part because of the proximity of the Falklands which favored contacts. Not for having been systematically overlooked by nationalist historiography, the role of the Falkland Islands in the colonization of southern Patagonia has not been huge. Although the British occupied the islands in , the ovine colonization of the islands began ten years later with animals brought initially from Montevideo, and it was not until that the sheep started to thrive Their explosive development stemmed on the agronomic assets already mentioned: The socio-economic history of the islands is very interesting but is beyond the scope of this article, so we will only

retain those aspects directly related to Patagonia, especially the flow of settlers, sheep and capital into that region. As said, the phenomenon began around but really became noticeable after , when the Falklands reached sheep saturation. *Ovejas para la Patagonia. Todo es Historia* The story of The Falkland Islands Company, This stream of settlement involved both the Chilean and the Argentinean sectors; several authors dealt with the subject; Martinic 12 deals chiefly with repercussions in Chile<sup>13</sup>, while Mainwaring<sup>14</sup> and Foulkes<sup>15</sup> focus on the Falkland Islanders in Santa Cruz, and Pereira-Lahitte<sup>16</sup> describes institutional aspects. Meanwhile, perhaps because of the strategic position of the estancia he managed, John Blake<sup>17</sup> gives a transfrontier vision. If the huge British investments in sheep farming in southern Patagonia in the turn of the 19th century were added to those in transport and trade, and if considering the fast economic growth during the following two decades, it would certainly be perceived how the region was anglicized by then.

**Chapter 8 : Tour to Falkland Islands with extension to Patagonia - trip review and photos**

*Having spent more than 30 years living and traveling in southernmost South America, Wayne Bernhardson is the author of Moon Handbooks to Argentina, Buenos Aires, Chile and Patagonia, and the National Geographic Traveler guide to Argentina.*

Penguins are the reason these islands are so popular. Even though most people associate penguins with ice and snow, only three of the seventeen species have adapted to the Happy Feet stereotype. While the Falklands are definitely not warm, they are ice free, and they are one of the major breeding grounds for four penguin species--king, gentoo, rockhopper and Magellanic. The king penguin colony you will be visiting is one of the largest in the world with more than 1, breeding pairs. During our busy week, we will experience three different islands and see an uncountable number of each penguin species, often from point blank range. In addition to the penguins, a wide variety of birds, southern elephant seals, sea lions, dolphins and often orcas will test your photographic abilities. Then move on to the vaguely defined geographic region of Patagonia. It encompasses the southern tip of South America, including Chile and Argentina. King Penguin colony is one of the largest colonies in the world. Lodges are in close proximity of your photographic locations. Visit an Estancia, for traditional Chilean lunch, and photograph this typical sheep-farming station. *Jacque Boehm Steedle Photo Location: Patagonia Flights from the U.* If you would like to arrive early and spend sometime touring Santiago, prior to December 23, hotel options can be provided. *Sea Lion Island Photo By: Cathy Gordon Illg Photo Location: This island, the most southerly inhabited island of the Falklands group, is five miles long and just over a mile wide at its widest point, just the right size for exploring. In addition, there are dazzling white sand beaches, cliffs, fresh water ponds and heath land, all with their own populations and all within walking distance. There are many different species of birds to be seen with 47 breeding birds which include five species of penguins and five birds of prey including the Striated Caracara, one of the rarest birds of prey in the world. Pods of killer whales circle the Island in pursuit of the elephant seals and sea lions which breed here. Leopard seals and larger whales are also seen from time to time. Award-winning, world renowned photographers have adorned books and magazines with their prizewinning shots of the wild life on Sea Lion Island, but even with the most basic equipment you will take away shots to treasure.* *Bleaker Island Photo By: Falkland Islands Fly to day to Bleaker Island. The Island itself is roughly 12 miles long, 1 mile at its widest and fairly flat making it an ideal location for clients looking for easy walks along the long sandy beaches. The island is home to a large colony of Rockhopper penguins, over pairs, along with colonies of Magellanic and breeding pairs of Gentoo penguin. Long sweeping bays, tussac areas and ponds provide superb habitat for many other bird species, including both White tufted and Silver grebe and Black necked swans. Due to limited lodging on Bleaker island, rooms must be shared by two people.* *East Falkland Island Photo By: Falkland Islands Fly from Bleaker to Mt. Transfer to your accommodations, remainder of day free to explore the small colorful capital. Perhaps visit the excellent museum, walk the sea wall passing memorials and a visit to Christchurch Cathedral and Whalebone arch are some of the favorite sights. The next day enjoy a day trip to Volunteer Point to see some King penguins, also Gentoo and Magellanic penguins nest here. The journey will take one and a half hours in a 4 x 4 vehicle on an un-surfaced road and one hour overland.* *Pleasant - Punta Arenas Photo By: Falkland Islands A bus will pick you up midday for your return journey to Mount Pleasant, taking a group flight to Punta Arenas. A packed lunch can be bought from the lodge on request for this day* €” although you will have meals on Lan Chile and sandwiches can be bought in the airport lounge. Your guide will meet you at the Punta Arenas airport. From the air you will appreciate how long and narrow this country is. Traveling south, and looking to the east, enjoy great views of the Andes; several of its volcanoes are quite active. At some point, you will see how the topography drastically changes and the country transforms into a mosaic of fjords, islands, and glaciers. This is Patagonia, the scenario for your photography outings during the following week. *Puerto Natales Photo By: Patagonai Visit Estancia Cerro Negro, a typical working sheep-farming station, where you will enjoy a shearing and sheep dog show and a delicious Patagonian-style barbecue. At the picturesque coastal town of Puerto Natales, we will enjoy gorgeous vistas of*

the Chilean fjords with stunning Black-necked Swans feeding along the shoreline. Patagonia We will have two full days to explore Torres del Paine National Park and we will have early starts in order to be at locations to photograph the Paine Massif at dawn. Today and tomorrow we will concentrate in exploring the eastern region of this huge Biosphere Reserve, which comprises a total of nearly , acres. As we move around the park, you shall observe confiding herds of Guanaco, most southerly camelid, the curious-looking Lesser Rhea and impressive Andean Condors soaring along the road. We will visit the eastern side of the park to enjoy the views of one of the impressive waterfalls of Paine river and if it is clear, of the fabulous granite columns of the Paine massif from Laguna Amarga and Azul. After our return to the hotel, enjoy dinner, and have an opportunity to photograph the mountains and clouds at sunset. Patagonia Rise early this morning for sunrise photography, further exploration of the Eastern section. The flora is a very interesting subject for observation and photography. The park holds nearly species of plants; the southern spring and early summer mid-October through late January are great to see the myriad of flowers that bloom in these magnificent landscapes. End the day by driving to the Western Sector to explore further afield. Colossal icebergs are stranded on the southern shore of the lake after a long and slow transit from the glacier front. The front is full of crevasses and the solid glacial ice colors vary from whitish to deep indigo. The glacier is flanked towards the east by impressive granite walls which are part of the Paine Massif, and towards the west by the eroded and low summits of the older Andes. The photography is great at this particular spot. Claudio Vidal Photo Location: Patagonia Depart early this morning for Punta Arenas, flying to Santiago, and connect with your flight home flight time from Punta Arenas to be announced.

**Chapter 9 : The Welsh Argentine who fought the British - Telegraph**

*Patagonia in summer is a photographer's dream. Tour Cost Includes: All flights from Santiago, Chile to/ & within Falkland Islands, and return to Santiago (current estimate \$).*

This trip review focuses on a travel to the Falkland Islands, one of the most exciting and easily accessible destination for nature lovers and birdwatchers, the ideal place to observe several species of penguins, like the rockhopper, magellanic, gentoo and king, in addition to cormorants, rare caracara, albatross, sea lions and elephant seals, the list is actually very long! But a birding trip and the other wildlife is not the only reason to visit the Falklands, because the islands offer also spectacular landscapes dominated by either immense white sand beaches and dramatic cliffs falling straight into the stormy ocean. The best time to visit the Falkland Islands corresponds to the austral spring and summer, when each month offers opportunities to see different animals engaged in various activities or stages of development. Between September and October, the penguins return from the ocean after having spent the winter at warmer latitudes and they are busy in both construction of the nest and mating so, you could see long processions of penguins carrying in its beak the materials needed to build their home, and you might observe during courtship. November sees instead hatching of the eggs of most penguin species, while the first chicks begin to emerge from the nest around the beginning of December. The time of New Year holidays is the period in which the penguins parents take turns between fishing and caring for the chick, with an activity that can become very frenetic. In February most chicks replace the juvenile plumage with the final one, shortly followed by the adults molting too. Between March and April, when winter arrives, almost all the penguins leave their colonies, scattering into the sea and migrating somewhere. The only exception to this pattern is the king penguin, which is present throughout the year due to its reproductive cycle of 14 months which sees the constant presence in the same colony of adults , chicks and eggs in all periods of the year. If you want to go to the Falklands to see southern elephant seals, the best time is around September when the dominant males take possession of their harem after fierce battles in October you might observe the puppies and their mothers on the beach. The best time to observe the sea lions goes instead from the end of December to April. The journey takes about 18 hours and includes a stop at Ascension Island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean where, if you wish, you may arrange a brief tour extension. If you decide to get to the Falklands from Punta Arenas, you might take this opportunity to visit Patagonia where, however, you should stop for at least three or four days. All these attractions are available through day tours from Puerto Natales in southern Chile, not too far from Punta Arenas. Having a few spare days available in Punta Arenas also allows to prevent missing the only weekly flight to the Falkland Islands, in the event of international flights delays. The Falkland Islands are connected to each other via an air taxi service that includes both scheduled and on-demand flights. They can take care of booking domestic flights, accommodations and transfers if desired, they can also organize food supplies during the tour of the the most isolated places and on request they may also issue tickets for intercontinental flights, including the RAF flights from and to the UK. If you are instead looking for more information about penguins and environmental protection in the Falklands, please visit the Falklands Conservation. The city of Puerto Natales in southern Chile is conveniently located near most attractions in Patagonia, making possible to visit them through just day tours. The Perito Moreno glacier is a natural wonder known all over the world and is a very active glacier offering spectacular calving. This day trip departs and returns to Puerto Natales, offering beautiful views into the pristine nature of southern Chile and Patagonia. Bleaker island offers accommodation in a charming cottage inside a farm, from where there are several trails to penguin colonies and other beautiful places. The gentoo penguins have arrived from not long time in October and are busy in nest building and courtship. The colony is just twenty minutes easy walk from the cottage on Bleaker island and in addition to excellent birding, it offers also beautiful landscapes. Sea Lion island is just a few minutes flight from Mount Pleasant and is the southernmost island in the Falklands archipelago. If you are looking for an excellent birding trip and for beautiful landscapes, Sea Lion Island is the place to go. During the month of October, most of them are busy in nest building, courtship and mating. This is the most easily accessible colony of the world, as the

others are all located on remote sub-antarctic islands requiring a cruise ship with fixed schedules usually not allowing to enjoy the penguins with peace of mind.