

Falklands Wildlife and Wilderness Adventure

Trip Code: PXFL

Version: PXFL Falklands Wildlife and Wilderness Adventure



PIONEER



GUIDED GROUP



LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Award-winning photographer Andrew Pollard joins us as our local wildlife guide.
- Reach remote islands and the best wildlife spots by small plane, 4x4 and catamaran.
- Observe a stunning array of wildlife from king penguins to sea lions and elephant seals, as well as an

unparalleled variety of birdlife.

- Enjoy local hospitality staying in small and remote family run lodges.
- Time to explore at leisure and practice your photography skills.

AT A GLANCE

- 6 days of wildlife spotting
- Join at Stanley

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

- All meals included
- 2 nights Guesthouse
- 3 nights Hotel
- 2 nights Lodge

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

Nestled in the remote reaches of the South Atlantic Ocean lies a destination unlike any other, a land of untamed beauty and unparalleled wildlife encounters. The Falkland Islands, an archipelago known for its rugged isolation and breathtaking landscapes, beckon the pioneering traveller seeking a truly extraordinary escape. Join us on this eight-day adventure to this remote outpost where, from the moment you set foot on these windswept isles, you'll be immersed in a world of pristine wilderness and have the chance to witness some of the planet's most captivating creatures in their natural habitat. The allure of the Falkland Islands lies in its isolation, far from the bustling crowds and well-trodden tourist paths. It is a place where the vastness of nature reigns, where untouched landscapes stretch as far as the eye can see, and where the serenity of solitude envelops every visitor. However, what truly sets the Falkland Islands apart is its extraordinary biodiversity. These remote islands are a sanctuary for an astonishing variety of wildlife, both on land and in the surrounding ocean. From the vibrant colonies of penguins that dot the coastline to the majestic albatrosses that soar overhead, the Falklands are a haven for wildlife enthusiasts and photographers.

We start our adventure in the capital of this British Overseas Territory, Stanley, before taking a small plane to Sea Lion Island, just 17km south of mainland East Falkland, said to be the premier wildlife haven on the Islands. Staying for two nights in the remote Sea Lion Lodge we have plenty of time to get acquainted with the local species in the company of our expert local wildlife guide and photographer. Here we take a 4x4 tour of the island, including being dropped off at the Rockhopper Penguin colony for time to observe these intriguing birds. Soon it is time to use the local plane service again as we make our way by short flight to Carcass Island, lying in the north-west of the archipelago, where we will stay in the enigmatic 'Manager's House' - our base for exploring the island. The island has a large population of Magellanic and Gentoo Penguins, found throughout the island as well as numerous species of songbird and both Southern Sea Lions and Elephant Seals on the northern shores. From Carcass we take to the water on motorised catamaran as we travel to West Point, where we walk on to the island to view the incumbent Albatross and Rockhopper colonies. After these days on the outer islands it is time to fly back to the relative civilisation of Stanley, but before it's time to leave we have one more memorable trip in store as we drive to the sandy beach of Volunteer Point. Only accessible by rugged 4x4 track Volunteer Point is home of a colony of King Penguins, over 40 species of sea birds, as well as fur seals and sea lions and makes for a remarkable way to finish this trip of a lifetime.

Is this holiday for you?

This pioneering adventure explores some of the best wildlife spots in the Falklands and some of its remote outer islands. Accommodation is comfortable but basic, with a homely feel provided by the lodge hosts on each island. Our days are spent in the company of our wildlife and photography guide as we search out the best experiences for viewing the variety of marine, land and birdlife on offer. In each location there are planned activities such as 4 x 4 tours and catamaran excursions, as well as plenty of free time where you can explore the islands at your leisure. Your guide will be on hand, as well as the welcoming lodge hosts, to give you advice on how best to spend this time depending on what you want to see, how much time you want to spend outdoors and how active you want to be exploring the islands.

A flexible approach is needed for this holiday as the Falkland Islands Government Air Service runs as a taxi service through the islands, with schedules confirmed the day before - so you won't know whether you are moving to your next island in the morning or afternoon in some cases. Flights are also dependent on weather conditions, with fog occasionally delaying flights. Your local hosts will keep you informed and make the necessary arrangements to get you to the airstrips in time and there is plenty to see in all the locations we visit. Flights are on a small 8 person plane, sometimes stopping en route to your destination to pick other passengers up from different locations.

No previous photography experience is necessary to enjoy this holiday, but it makes sense to have knowledge of how to use your equipment yourself, as although our guide will be on hand to give some tips and pointers, especially in relation to the local wildlife and locations, no formal photography tuition is provided during this holiday.

With all that in mind, this holiday is for the adventurous-minded traveller, seeking out once-in-a-lifetime wildlife experiences and the chance to spend time in one of the world's special wilderness outposts.

Itinerary

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DAY 1

Arrive to Stanley. Transfer to hotel.

Welcome to the Falkland Islands! Arriving at Mount Pleasant Airport you will be met by a KE representative before being transferred to your accommodation in Stanley. The afternoon is free to explore Stanley at your leisure or recuperate from your journey. We will meet for an evening meal in our accommodation where you can meet the group and your tour leader, Andrew, who will deliver a briefing on the adventure ahead.

Andrew will join us on our travels around the Falkland Islands, using his local knowledge, wildlife expertise and photography skills to put us in the best positions to capture some incredible wildlife experiences along the way.

Meals: **D**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 2

Domestic flight to Sea Lion Island; 4 x 4 tour of the island.

It's time to leave the capital and civilisation behind as we head out to the outer islands on our wilderness adventure. Today we take a short domestic flight on the Falkland Islands Government Air Service (FIGAS) to Sea Lion Island. The air service acts as a taxi service between the islands and exact schedules are confirmed the day before departure - your tour leader will keep you up to date on the check in times for each flight.

Just 17km south of the main East Island, Sea Lion Island is owned by Micky and Sarah Reeves of the Wild Falklands Ltd and one of the premier wildlife havens on the islands. The island is made up of two flat rocky plateaux joined by a broad sandy beach, grass tussocks and no land predators give the ideal habitat for a huge variety of ground nesting birds. The island is also home to elephant seals, southern sea lions, and three species of penguin. During the summer Sea Lion Island is the only location in the Falklands where killer whale pods routinely patrol, hunting penguins and seals on the edge of kelp beds just offshore.

Your lodge hosts on Sea Lion Island (Micky and Sarah) will meet you at the airstrip and transfer your luggage back to the lodge, as the airstrip is located nearby it is just a short walk to the lodge.

Once settled in we embark on a 4x4 tour around the island. We visit Long Pond and will be dropped off at the rockhopper penguin colony for pick up later on. Your hosts will inform you of the relevant timings accordingly.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Lodge

DAY 3

A day to explore Sea Lion Island with your photographer guide.

Today is a free day to explore the island at your leisure, at just 9.5km long and 2.4km at its widest, it is possible to explore much of the island on foot. Your wildlife guide and photographer, Andrew, is on hand to suggest the best spots and times to observe the stunning array of wildlife on offer as well as to give advice on how to capture the best photos in this environment.

The wildlife is within easy walking distance from the lodge, none closer than the colony of gentoo penguins viewable from the lodge's main room, allowing photographers to arrange their time for optimal encounters. After a full day enjoying the South Atlantic solitude and wilderness, return to the lodge to enjoy the hospitality of your hosts and a hearty home-cooked meal.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Lodge

DAY 4

Domestic flight to Carcass Island; Enjoy the hospitality of the Manager's House.

Bid a fond farewell to your island hosts as we make our way to Carcass Island, lying to the north-west of the archipelago it is one of the most picturesque outer-lying islands. Your hosts will drive your luggage to the airstrip as you make the short walk to connect with your departing flight. (Please be aware your flight may call at other airstrips prior to your destination). After the short and scenic flight you will be met by your new hosts on Carcass Island, with whom you will transfer by 4x4 to their accommodation, 'The Manager's House' - your base for the next 2 nights.

This converted farmhouse is famous for its food, with meals prepared using the island's organically produced vegetables, meats and dairy. Guests dine with the family hosts and are treated to delicious home-cooked meals each evening.

The rest of the day is free to explore the island, its walking trails and yet more native wildlife. As well as gentoo penguins, striated caracara and ruddy-headed geese it is also home to one of two endemic birds found in the Falklands, the Cobb's wren.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Guesthouse

DAY 5

Catamaran trip to West Point 'Albatross Island'; Observe albatross and rockhopper penguin colonies.

Today, when sea conditions allow, we join the 'Seaquest' (a motorised catamaran) to travel to West Point, a small island about an hour southwest of Carcass and lying just off the larger West Island. Formerly known as 'Albatross Island' due to the thousands of nestling black-browed albatross, the island is home to spectacular scenery and impressive wildlife - the albatross using the high rocky cliffs as their protected breeding ground. The crossing can be choppy but we are rewarded with possible sightings of dolphins and sea lions in the water. Upon arrival at West Point we walk on a well-marked trail to the top of the cliffs where the albatross colony is located. We also have chance to observe another large colony of rockhopper penguins that call the island home. After time to explore this remote outcrop we return to the Seaquest and head back to Carcass Island and the comfort of the Manager's House.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Guesthouse

DAY 6

Domestic flight to Stanley

Today we leave Carcass Island and fly back to Stanley. Once the flight schedule is known our hosts will drive us back to the airstrip in time for our domestic flight. We will be met at Stanley Airport by a representative and transferred to our hotel in the town.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 7**4 x 4 trip to Volunteer Point to see the King, Gentoo and Magellanic Penguins**

We will be collected from our hotel to drive by 4x4 to embark on an unforgettable day trip to Volunteer Point where the world's largest accessible colony of breeding king penguins await us. This excursion is, without doubt, the swansong visit of any Falklands itinerary.

Volunteer Point was named after the ship Volunteer which called at the islands in 1815 and is a privately owned nature reserve which forms part of Johnson's Harbour Farm. Being able to experience the sheer abundance of wildlife in their natural environment is beyond compare - there are colonies of gentoo and Magellanic penguins here ;along with over 40 bird species including the South American tern, oyster catchers and rock cormorants to name but a few.

Another jewel in the crown is the remarkably stunning 2 mile long white sandy beach with its rolling waves and clear waters resembling somewhere altogether tropical on a sunny day. You may even get the chance to share the sand with the odd basking sea lion! Exceptional photographic opportunities abound wherever you cast your eye.

The first hour of your journey (approximately 2.5 hours each way) is on undulating gravel roads passing through the mountains lying to the north-west of Stanley. The unusual rock formations locally known as stone runs will not escape your attention as they effortlessly flow down the hillsides. En-route your guide will talk you through the highlights and will be more than happy to answer any questions that spring to mind.

Once you reach Johnson's Harbour Farm the adventurous part begins with the remaining 12 miles (approximately one and a half hours) driven overland on an uneven white grass route. Your driver will expertly navigate the terrain, but please be aware that your vehicle will undoubtedly bump and sway whilst encountering small ditches, streams and peat bogs along the way.

Upon arrival at Volunteer Point, your guide will point out where you are free to roam at your leisure. Although we ask that a distance of at least 6m is observed between wildlife and visitors, it is not unusual for penguins to inquisitively approach you which is a truly indescribable encounter.

We return by the same route for our final evening in Stanley.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 8**Depart Stanley**

Today we say goodbye to the Falkland Islands as we depart for our homeward journey. Transfers to Mount Pleasant International Airport are included. A local representative will confirm your pick up time

the day prior to departure.

Meals: **B**

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional photographer/wildlife guide (see leader notes)
- All activities and excursions listed in the itinerary
- All accommodation as described
- All meals as per the meal plan
- All land and air and boat transport required by the itinerary
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure

What's not Included

- Travel Insurance
- Visas (if required)
- Some meals as described in the meal plan
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional
- Tips / Gratuities to guides and crew
- Miscellaneous personal expenditure - drinks and souvenirs etc.
- Single Supplement

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the hotel in Stanley.

Airport transfers from Mount Pleasant Airport are included.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All meals included.

Food & Water

Water is drinkable from the taps on this holiday. Please fill your personal bottles for your day in the morning. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Visitors to the Falkland Islands can savour a unique culinary experience that reflects the region's British heritage and local flavours. In Stanley, the capital, you'll find a variety of dining options ranging from traditional British pub fare to fresh seafood. Fish and chips, hearty pies, and locally sourced lamb dishes are popular choices. Sea Lion Island and Carcass Island offer a more intimate and remote dining experience with lodges providing delicious homemade meals often featuring fresh-caught seafood, locally grown produce, and even some international influences. It's a delightful opportunity to enjoy the flavours of the Falklands while surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your diet with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

For the 2 nights in Stanley we will stay in the comfortable Malvina House Hotel. When on the outer islands for the remainder of the itinerary we stay in the available lodge/hotels and are hosted by the custodians of these remote properties. We share meals with our hosts who also have local tips and advice for how to get the most out of your time on that specific island.

On Sea Lion Island we will stay in the Sea Lion Lodge hosted by Micky and Sarah.

On Carcass Island we stay at the Manager's House.

If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. All the accommodation used on this itinerary is very small, meaning smaller groups than on our regular trips and only a limited number of single rooms are available. These single rooms are available for a supplementary cost.

If you are planning on extending your holiday additional nights in Punta Arenas are available.

Group Leader & Support Staff

This adventure will be led by award-winning photographer and wildlife expert Andrew Pollard. Andrew is a 6th generation Falkland Islander and works as a wildlife photographer and guide on the islands. He will join the group for the duration of our adventure, using his local knowledge to find the best locations at the best times of day to maximise and enrich the wildlife viewing.

Andrew will work with the group to share his photography experience along the way to make sure you come away having captured the best shots and learnt new skills and techniques along the way.

Spending Money

We estimate that £150 should cover all of your expenditures whilst in the Falkland Islands, including soft drinks, staff tips and airport taxes (£25 cash only). This should be brought in British Sterling (GBP). In Stanley payment can also be made in most outlets by credit or debit card. Usually outside of Stanley only cash is accepted.

Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is at your discretion, although not compulsory, and is an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your holiday. Further smaller tips for local staff, hotel staff and guides on any excursions should be accounted for as well.

Baggage Allowance

For the internal flights within the Falkland Islands on the Falkland Islands Government Air Service your allowance is 20kg per person (no restriction on number of pieces). Hand luggage is restricted to one small handbag/fanny pack. Any excess is charged at £2.00 per kilo for each flight (and must be booked in advance). Cameras and binoculars may be worn around your neck. All bags must be stowed in the rear of the aircraft as the cabin and seating areas are small. Large photographic bags are not permitted as hand luggage for safety reasons. Rest assured that FIGAS staff are extremely experienced at handling fragile equipment with exceptional care.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status and so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. If you are visiting the Falkland Islands, your passport should be valid from the date you arrive and for the proposed duration of your stay. No additional period of validity beyond this is required.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the UK Government website.

UK and USA passport holders do not require a visa for short stays.

Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

VACCINATIONS

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations or other preventive measures. You should be up to date with routine courses and boosters as recommended in the UK e.g. diphtheria-tetanus-polio and measles-mumps-rubella, along with hepatitis A and typhoid. A good online resource is [Travel Health Pro](#).

Currency

The unit of currency in the Falkland Islands is the Falkland Island Pound. British Pounds (GBP) are also accepted.

Preparing for your Holiday

It makes a lot of sense to spend some time before coming on an active holiday getting some additional exercise. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. We suggest that you adopt a weekly exercise regime. Regular hiking in hill country is the best preparation but running, cycling and swimming are also good.

For this holiday we will be spending a lot of time outdoors when wildlife spotting and capturing photos, it makes sense to test out your clothing and equipment so you can be sure of being comfortable in a range of conditions when moving or when still, waiting for that perfect photo! Check the equipment list for more info, but making sure you and your equipment is waterproof, windproof and having a suitable layering system to operate in a range of temperature is vital!

Climate

In February, as the Southern Hemisphere enjoys its summer, the Falklands experience mild temperatures, with average highs hovering around 16-18°C (61-64°F). While this may not sound particularly warm, it's a relatively comfortable climate for exploring the rugged beauty of the islands. February also marks the peak of the Southern Hemisphere summer, bringing longer daylight hours, which is ideal for wildlife enthusiasts seeking to witness the impressive gatherings of penguins, seals, and seabirds that inhabit these remote shores. However, it's important to note that the Falkland Islands are known for their unpredictable weather, so visitors should be prepared for rapid changes and the occasional gusty winds and rain typical of this remote archipelago.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that prior to travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates direct from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- A Visitor's Guide to the Falkland Islands - Falklands Conservation / Falkland Islands Tourism Board
- Birds and Mammals of the Falkland Islands - Robin and Anne Woods
- The Falkland Islands and Their Natural History - Ian Strange
- Mark Sisson - Wild Islands: The Nature of the Falklands

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

YOU SHOULD BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Hiking boots
- Trainers or similar for travelling
- Travel Clothes
- Trekking trousers
- Waterproof jacket and over-trousers
- Thermal baselayer
- Casual shirts and/or T-shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Insulated jacket
- Sunhat
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Daypack 30 litre
- Selection of dry bags
- Headtorch
- Water bottles 1 Litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Lightweight thermal gloves
- Warm and waterproof outer gloves or mittens
- Washbag and toiletries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Antibacterial handwash

- Basic First Aid Kit, including the following: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, THE FOLLOWING
 ■ diarrhoea treatment, painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, insect repellent, and ITEMS ARE
 re-hydration salts (Dioralite). OPTIONAL:
 ■ Pen-knife (note: always pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
 ■ Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
 ■ Camera and photography equipment*

*Please see baggage allowance information for notes on carrying photography equipment on the internal flights of this holiday.

Cotswold Outdoor



Many of the Equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive 12.5% discount voucher from Cotswold Outdoor and other retailers. [-> Find out more](#)

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Stanley. For clients making their own flight arrangements, Mount Pleasant Airport is the most convenient for transfers to the group hotel. Please note flights to the Falkland Islands from Punta Arenas (Chile) are currently only available once a week. Please refer to the 'Joining arrangements & transfers' for further details.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London (Heathrow) to Mount Pleasant Airport, Stanley via Santiago and Punta Arenas in Chile. Some connections may require an overnight in Santiago.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 19/05/2024 and the trip is subject to change