

“Sherakhan goes south”

2012/13

Antarctica Peninsula



7 days

MY Sherakhan

“A true expedition with a luxury twist”

Our emphasis is on unique wildlife encounters, exploring pristine landscapes, visiting sites of historical interest and finding great sites for landings and other activities like kayaking and, upon request Polar Snorkelling and Polar Diving. However we stress that this is an expedition-cruise in style! Our actual program will vary to take best advantage of local conditions, spontaneous opportunities and wildlife. No two voyages will be the same; there is always an element of the unexpected. The only thing that is constant is the base of the expedition; Motor Yacht Sherakhan. As for the weather as well, which can vary from thick snow or sleety rain to brilliant sunshine. But, as you will see, whatever the weather, your voyage will be full of wonderful surprises.

During our cruise we will share a lecture program about the wildlife, geology, history and geography of South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula. This will take place in the salon of Sherakhan with a mix of lectures and films. We will be given guidelines for approaching wildlife and talk about the implications of the Antarctic Treaty. Antarctica is a photographers' paradise, for the professional as amateur alike. There will be talks about how to protect your equipment from salt water, and tips about taking good pictures.



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Sample itinerary, for your guidance only

Day 1:

Punta Arenas, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina Arrival at Punta Arenas and transfer to the hotel. During the afternoon, some instructions related to the expedition will be given by the expedition leader (regulations to be considered in the Antarctica/embarkation and disembarkation procedures). In the evening a welcome dinner is offered.

Day 2:

Flying to Antarctica On the second day, we start the Antarctic voyage. We fly from Punta Arenas to Frei Base in King George Island (South Shetland Islands archipelago) reaching destination in less than 2 hours. Ashore, we visit the surroundings of the Chilean Frei Base and the Russian Bellingshausen Base. We will gather at the shore of Fildes Bay to board the Motor Yacht Sherakhan our comfortable home for the next days.



Day 3 – Day 6:

Antarctic Peninsula

Exploring the South West Antarctic Peninsula. With our small group we can be flexible and take advantage of the best wildlife opportunities, weather and ice conditions and the most beautiful light for amazing photos. Whilst in the Peninsula area the sites we visit may include: South Shetland Islands, Antarctic Peninsula, Livingston Island,

Port Lockrov, Petermann Island, Lemaire Channel, Paradise Bay, Cuverville Island and Deception Island.

There are many exciting places that we would like to visit. A sample of these follows:

Half Moon Island

A wildlife rich island tucked into a neat bay at the eastern end of Livingston Island. On a clear day the glaciers and mountains of Livingston Island dominate the scene. There is a healthy chinstrap penguin rookery tucked in between basaltic turrets coloured by yellow and orange lichens. Gulls nest on these turrets and there are often fur seals and elephant seals hauled out on the pebble beaches. At one extremity of the island there is a large colony of nesting blue-eyed shags. At the other end lies a small Argentine station that is sometimes occupied by scientists conducting research on the penguin colony and surrounding waterways.

Deception Island

Visiting Deception Island is like making a journey to the moon. We sail through the narrow opening of Neptune's Bellows to enter the flooded volcanic crater. Inside is an unworldly scene, virtually devoid of life. Glaciers flow down from the edge of the crater, littered by black volcanic ash. We can explore the lifeless remains of a derelict whaling station and a vacant British base, or climb to the rim of the crater. Steam rises from the shore indicating that the water is actually warm enough for a swim, for those who dare.



Outside the crater, if conditions allow, we might land at Bailey Head to explore the enormous chinstrap penguin rookery that featured in David Attenborough's *Life in the Freezer* series.

Paradise Harbour

A protected bay surrounded by magnificent peaks and spectacular glaciers, the rocky cliffs of this unforgettable piece of heaven provide perfect nesting sites for blue-eyed shags, terns and gulls. The serenity of Paradise Harbour envelops us once the sound of the dropping anchor fades from our ears. This is a haven for whales and sometimes we meet humpbacks, orcas and minke, as well as crabeater seals, as we explore the bay in our tenders. Imagine being so close to a whale that when he surfaces to blow, the fishy spray of his exhalation momentarily blurs your vision. Words cannot describe this experience.

Lemaire Channel

If the ice conditions, quietly moving through the narrow Lemaire Channel may be one of the highlights of our voyage. Cliffs tower 700 metres directly above the ship. The water can be so still that perfect reflections are mirrored on the surface. Often gigantic icebergs clog the channel, creating navigational challenges for our captain and crew, and they may even obstruct our passage.



Hydrurga Rocks

This group of low lying unprotected granitic rocks protrudes from the sea, swept by southern ocean swells. At first these rocks appear uninteresting, but on closer investigation, calm channels lead to a hidden interior where Weddell seals are hauled out on protected snow beds and noisy chinstraps raise their families on rocky platforms. Hydrurga is Latin for leopard seal, and on occasions we see some skulking in the shallows. There are many places to simply sit and watch the rise and fall of clear green water and listen to the magic sounds and calls of the wildlife. Other places we may visit around the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula are:

Neko Harbour, Andvoord Bay Port Lockroy, an historic British base that is now a museum and post office

Cuverville Island

Danco Island

Trinity Island

Day 7:

King George Island and Punta Arenas We will return by to King George Island, where we will land at Frei Base to be transferred to the airport, and take a return flight to the Chilean city of Punta Arenas. Once in Punta Arenas, services are concluded. Passengers will be taken to the corresponding hotel.



