

Atlantic Odyssey: Ushuaia to Ascension

March 24 – April 21, 2015

Ushuaia – King George Island in South Shetlands – South Sandwich – Bouvet Island – Gough – Tristan da Cunha – St. Helena - Ascension

OTL28

MAR 24 - APR 21, 2015

28 nights / 29 days

Day 1 (March 24). In the afternoon we embark in Ushuaia and sail through the Beagle Channel.

Day 2-3 (March 25-26). In the Drake Passage we witness a multitude of albatrosses, petrels and fulmars.

Day 4 (March 27). In the South Shetland Islands we land on King George Islands, where we visit the Chilean, Russian, Chinese and Korean stations. In this area chances are good for encounters with Gentoo Penguins, Weddell Seals, Leopard Seals and Orcas.



Day 5-7 (March 28-30). At sea we will probably sail along the sea ice drifting north out of the Weddell Sea.

We witness a multitude of albatrosses, petrels and fulmars.

Day 8 (March 31).

In the rarely visited and uninhabited South Sandwich Islands (British), we land on Southern Thule Island, a volcano with a caldera, where we can land near the derelict Argentinian base. Other islands are Cook Island and Bellingshausen Island, named after the discoverers who reached them. These volcanic islands, with an ice cap on the top, are windswept and often shrouded in mist and fog, but do offer subtle pleasures. There is a variety of flora (mosses, lichens and flowering grasses) and fauna, such as Gentoo Penguins, Chinstrap penguins and Southern Giant Petrels. Elephant Seals and Fur Seals also haul out at the beaches.

Around the islands we see large blue ice-bergs which have drifted there from the Weddell Sea. In blue ice-grotto's Gentoo Penguins congregate.



Days 9-11 (April 1-3). At sea in the westerlies we have a pleasant tailwind. Near the Antarctic Convergence, we observe many species and great numbers of Antarctic and sub-Antarctic seabirds.

Days 12-13 (April 4-5), BOUVET ISLAND. Due to the unpredictability of landings at Bouvet, we are allocating 48 hours to be able to have multiple opportunities to land at Bouvet Island

(Norwegian territory), another volcano in Antarctic waters topped by an ice-cap, with a rich fauna of seabirds and seals near the coasts. At the southwest side of the island we should have the best opportunities to land at Larsöya and Kapp Norvegia, which have some protection from the swell from the west. A third possibility is at Nyröysa, but this area is more exposed and partly out of bounds; as it is a nature reserve. We will allocate these two days for landings at Bouvet Island.



Days 14-17 (April 6-9). At sea in the westerlies we have side winds winds. On both sides of the Antarctic Convergence, we observe many species and great numbers of Antarctic and sub-Antarctic seabirds. We also get now in more temperate waters with their own brand of species as we approach South African waters, where we meet wintering seabirds from the North like long-tailed Skua's, Sabine Gulls and Arctic Terns

Day 18 (April 10). Today we plan to approach the unique Gough Island for zodiac cruising around the island, as always weather permitting. In previous years we managed to circumnavigate all but four miles of the 33 mile circumference of the island in the ship, saw spectacular scenery and an unprecedented abundance of wildlife. We felt very privileged to be among the few visitors who have been able to experience Gough and in particular, to see it at such close quarters and in such favorable conditions. We hope to be lucky to repeat this unique experience with you.



Days 19-20 (April 11-12). In the Tristan da Cunha archipelago we plan to call on the settlement at the west side of the main island. We will also try to make landings at Nightingale Island or Inaccessible Island with millions of seabirds ranging from Yellow-nosed Albatrosses to Brown Noddies. Please note that we will try and approach for landings, however due to the weather conditions this is not always possible. Since we began our voyages to Tristan da Cunha (1998) we failed during 30% of the voyages to make landings in the Tristan da Cunha archipelago, due to adverse weather.



Day 21-24 (April 13-16). At sea - We now enter sub-tropical waters with their own species of seabirds and dolphins.

Day 25-26 (April 17-18). St. Helena has a good anchorage and landing site. On this island, we will have ample opportunities to enjoy local culture, pleasant climate, and endemic plants and birds. We will visit the place where Napoleon lived in exile. There will be opportunities to explore the Island on your own.

Day 27-28 (April 19-20). At sea

Day 29 (April 21). Ascension Island is a dry volcanic island with a moist and richly vegetated top. The Sooty Tern (wide-awake) colony sometimes consists of more than 1 million breeding pairs. We will try to climb the moist summit of Ascension Island. We may witness egg-laying sea turtles coming ashore in the evening. Some of our passengers may disembark and fly with the scheduled RAF (Royal Air Force) flight to Brize Norton in Oxfordshire, UK. Others may proceed with the voyage to the Cape Verdes. In night April 21/22 the vessel will depart from Ascension Island.



Gross retail prices p.p. sharing in USD:

March 24 – April 21, 2015 (28 nights), Ushuaia – Ascension	M/V Ortelius
Suite :	17,200 USD per berth
Superior:	15,250 USD
Twin Window Cabin:	13,250 USD
Twin Porthole Cabin:	12,500 USD
Triple Porthole Cabin:	11,670 USD
Quadruple Porthole Cabin:	10,490 USD

Single supplement (solo usage of any type of the cabin) - each price x 1.7