

South Georgia

2027



Southern Atlantic Photo Safari

Overview

Set deep in the wild South Atlantic, halfway between South America and Antarctica, lies **South Georgia**, a remote British island so rich in life it's often called the **"Serengeti of the South."** For wildlife photographers, this is hallowed ground and one of the most extraordinary photographic destinations on the planet.

Rising from the frigid Southern Ocean, South Georgia's jagged peaks, vast glaciers, and sweeping bays form a landscape as dramatic as it is alive. Once a hub of the whaling era and forever linked to the legendary explorer **Ernest Shackleton**, the island has transformed into a **pristine sanctuary**, now home to an astonishing abundance of wildlife.

The sheer scale of life here is almost beyond belief. Beaches teem with **hundreds of thousands of king penguins**, their silver and gold plumage shimmering beneath icy skies. Colonies of **macaroni and gentoo penguins** bustle along the shorelines, while the haunting calls of **albatrosses** echo across the cliffs. Massive **southern elephant seals** sprawl across the beaches, and **Antarctic fur seals** fill the bays. A living tapestry of movement, sound, and energy.

For those behind the lens, every moment in South Georgia is a masterclass in wild perfection. A place where light, landscape, and life converge in ways found nowhere else on Earth. From the first zodiac landing to the final sunset, every encounter feels timeless, raw, and profoundly moving.

Simply put, **South Georgia is one of the greatest wildlife photography destinations in the world**, an experience that will leave you humbled, inspired, and forever changed.



What To Expect

The **Tusk Photo South Georgia Photography Expedition** is crafted for photographers seeking the ultimate wildlife adventure, guided by **Tusk Photo's team of world-class wildlife photographers**.

This photographic tour will be led by **Wim van den Heever**, winner of the **2025 Wildlife Photographer of the Year** award from London's Natural History Museum. Together with the highly experienced **Tusk Photo hosts and guides**, Wim will ensure that you are always positioned in the right place, at the right time, and in the best possible light to capture truly exceptional images.

Our **expedition leader, Piet van den Bemd**, an accomplished professional and integral member of the Tusk Photo team, will work closely with Wim and the ship's crew to plan each landing and zodiac excursion around optimal photographic conditions.

Throughout the voyage, our focus is simple, to place you in the perfect setting to witness and photograph the awe-inspiring wildlife encounters that make South Georgia so extraordinary: the golden glow over a vast penguin colony at sunrise, the electric energy of fur seals along the shoreline, or the effortless glide of an albatross on the wind.

Between landings and during ocean crossings, the **Tusk Photo team** will be on hand to share their knowledge and expertise through engaging **talks, tuition sessions, and image reviews**. Guests will also enjoy a series of **insightful presentations** on South Georgia's rich natural history and hidden wonders. All designed to help you refine your photographic craft and make the very most of this once-in-a-lifetime expedition.



Where You Will Stay

Our expedition takes place aboard the **M/V Polar Athena**, a newly rebuilt, modern expedition vessel designed to offer both comfort and capability in the challenging sub-Antarctic environment.

The **Polar Athena** accommodates up to **44 guests**, ensuring an intimate and personalised experience. All cabins are **en-suite**, featuring stylish, contemporary interiors with either windows or portholes offering sweeping ocean views.

The ship boasts spacious observation decks, a comfortable lounge, a library, and a full-service restaurant. Ideal spaces to relax and share stories after an exhilarating day of exploration. With an **ice-strengthened hull** and a fleet of **zodiac landing craft**, the Polar Athena allows us to safely and flexibly explore South Georgia's remote bays, glaciers, and beaches.

Onboard, you'll be surrounded not only by breathtaking scenery but also by a community of like-minded travellers and photographers, guided every step of the way by the expert **Tusk Photo team**.



Room Options

Classic Twin - 8 Rooms / 16 People



Signature Twin - 8 Rooms / 16 People



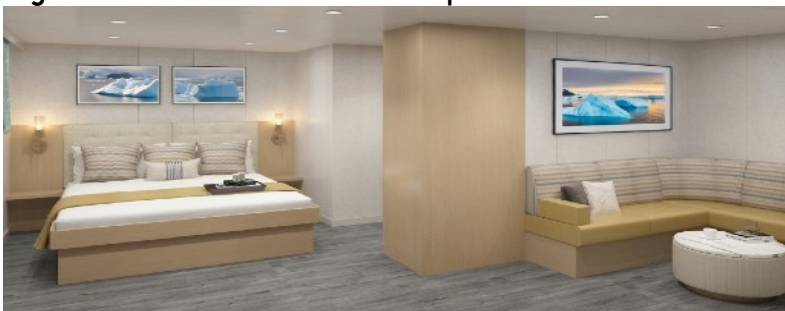
Signature Single - 4 Rooms / 4 People



Classic Suit - 2 Rooms / 4 People



Signature Suit - 2 Rooms / 4 People



Dates | Costs | Prices

Tour Date:

25 September 2027 to 9 October 2027 / 14 Nights / 15 Days

Cost:

This tour costs depend on the room choices:

- Classic Twin Room - US\$18,495pp - 16 places
- Signature Twin Room - US\$19,495pp - 16 Places
- Signature Single Room - US\$22,995pp - 4 Places
- Classic Suit - US\$22,995pp - 4 Places
- Signature Suit - US\$24,995pp 2 Places

Please note that any bank charges incurred during the payment process are not covered by Tusk Photo. We kindly request the full amount indicated on the invoice.

Credit Card payments can be processed with an additional 3% bank fee levied.

Payment Schedule:

We require a 30% deposit of the full price upon making your reservation to secure your spot.

The next 30% payment is due 12 months prior to our departure - 25 Sep 2026

The last payment of 40% is payable 6 month before departure - 25 Mar 2027

Cancellation Policy:

We understand that plans can change, and in the event of a cancellation, the following fees will apply unless Tusk Photo is able to fill your safari space:

- Cancellation more than 365 days prior to departure: 30% of the full price
- Cancellation 180 - 365 days prior to departure: 60% of the full price
- Cancellation less than 180 days prior to departure: 100% of the full price

**** VERY IMPORTANT - No Cancellation Fees if we can fill your spot ****

Please note: Your travel plans are made entirely at your own risk, and Tusk Photo cannot be held responsible for any flight cancellations, disruptions, or delays that may occur. We highly recommend purchasing additional travel insurance for any eventualities.



Itinerary

Day 1

- Arrive Mount Pleasant Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands, and transfer to the Polar Athena.
- Dinner will be included this evening.

DAY 2-4

- We cross the ocean to South Georgia Island.

DAY 4 to 13

- Exploration of South Georgia.

DAY 13-15

- We cross the ocean back to the Falkland Islands.

DAY 15

- Back at Stanley and transfer to Mount Pleasant for our flight home.
- End of tour.

What's Included and Excluded

INCLUDED:

- Services of Tusk Photo hosts + Expedition staff.
- Accommodation on board the MV Polar Athena.
- All meals.
- All activities.
- Transfers to and from Mount Pleasant airport to Port Stanley.
- Selected beers, wines and soft drinks are included at dinner.

EXCLUDED:

- Accommodation other than on the MV Athena and the arrival day in Stanley.
- Visas.
- Drinks on the MV Athena (except drinks during dinner).
- Gratuities.
- Purchases of a personal nature.



Photographic Equipment

It is not advisable to take photographs of border posts, airports, military, police posts or any other related government structures. Doing so can lead to an unpleasant situation and even arrest.

It is advisable to bring the following camera equipment:

- At least 2x Camera bodies (a backup will mean peace of mind)
- Spare memory cards and batteries
- Long telephoto lens 300/400/500/600/800
- Medium telephoto lens 70-200 or equivalent
- Wide angle lens(es) for landscapes and wide-angle wildlife
- Tripod with Gimbal head & Ball head is optional if you would like to photograph birds and wildlife and your equipment is too heavy to hand hold
- Flash with off-shoe cord and battery pack is optional
- Notebook or additional storage devices.
- Please remember that it is very likely that you could possibly photograph thousands of images over the safari period. We therefore strongly advise you to have sufficient storage and battery arrangements in place. If you are unsure of anything, please contact us for more details

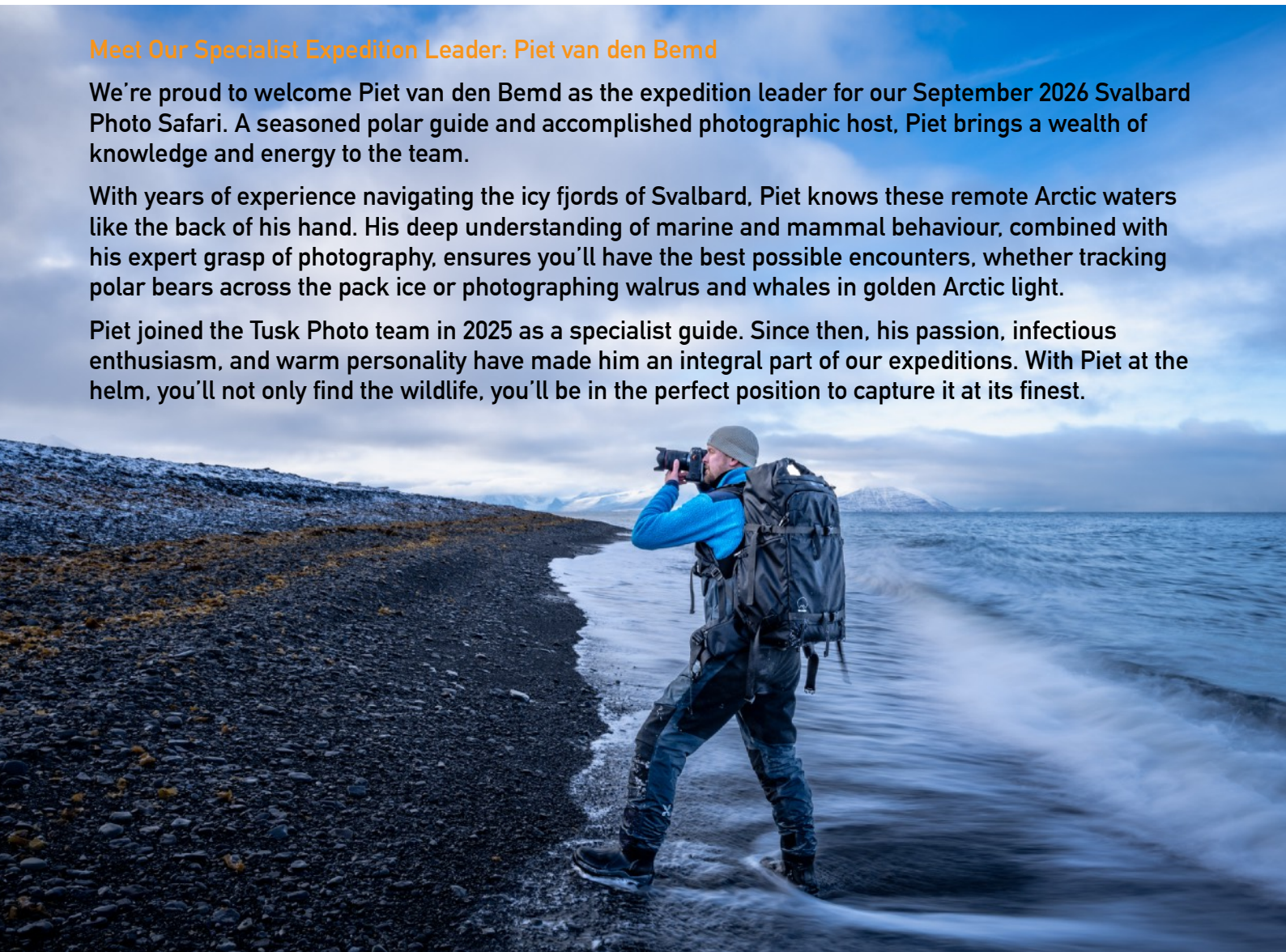
Our Expedition Leader

Meet Our Specialist Expedition Leader: Piet van den Bemd

We're proud to welcome Piet van den Bemd as the expedition leader for our September 2026 Svalbard Photo Safari. A seasoned polar guide and accomplished photographic host, Piet brings a wealth of knowledge and energy to the team.

With years of experience navigating the icy fjords of Svalbard, Piet knows these remote Arctic waters like the back of his hand. His deep understanding of marine and mammal behaviour, combined with his expert grasp of photography, ensures you'll have the best possible encounters, whether tracking polar bears across the pack ice or photographing walrus and whales in golden Arctic light.

Piet joined the Tusk Photo team in 2025 as a specialist guide. Since then, his passion, infectious enthusiasm, and warm personality have made him an integral part of our expeditions. With Piet at the helm, you'll not only find the wildlife, you'll be in the perfect position to capture it at its finest.



Additional Tour Info

INSURANCE

- **Travel Insurance:**

While it is highly unlikely, there is a possibility of scheduled flights in and out of your destination being delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. To provide peace of mind and cover any potential flight disruptions or missed connections, we strongly recommend purchasing additional travel insurance.

- **Medical Insurance:**

For your safety and well-being, we highly recommend having medical insurance that covers unforeseen medical emergencies and evacuation. Please let us know in your booking form whether you have taken out any medical insurance for this safari.

PASSPORTS AND CUSTOMS

- Passports are required by all foreign visitors and must be valid for 6 months after the intended length of stay. Please ensure that there are two blank pages per country to be visited.
- Visas are required by most countries please make sure you check with your local embassies regarding visa requirements. Alternatively have a look at www.visaHQ.com for country specific visa requirements as well.
- It is advisable to declare any cameras, lenses, laptops and other valuable items when leaving your country. We normally recommend keeping a detailed list of all items including serial numbers and descriptions. This makes the customs process that much quicker.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We understand the importance of accommodating diverse dietary needs, and our team is dedicated to ensuring that we can cater to most dietary requirements. Please provide us with any specific dietary needs in your booking form.

MONEY AND CURRENCY

- The currency accepted in the Falklands is the British Pound (GBP)
- Credit card payments can be processed by most retail outlets, hotels and Inn's as well as for your drinks on the MV Polar Athena.

HEALTH

- The subantarctic regions have little to no health hazards apart from illnesses like influenza and other related conditions associated with extreme cold environments.
- Alternatively, should you require additional advice, we suggest you contact your local travel clinic.

LANGUAGES

- The official language is English in the Falklands and Spanish in Chile.

GRATUITIES

Please note that the following gratuity amounts are provided as a minimum guideline, and you are welcome to increase them if you wish:

- Boat Staff: US\$ 200 per guest
- Expedition leaders: US\$ 200 per guest

CONNECTIVITY & EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

There is Starlink WiFi that is provided on the MV Polar Athena.

Tusk Photo PTA Office
Tel: +27 12 761 3737

Climate & Clothing

CLIMATE

Early October is spring in South Georgia and temperatures averaging between 1°C (33.8°F) and 6°C (42.8°F). Average daily sunshine hours is around 12hrs of daylight per day.

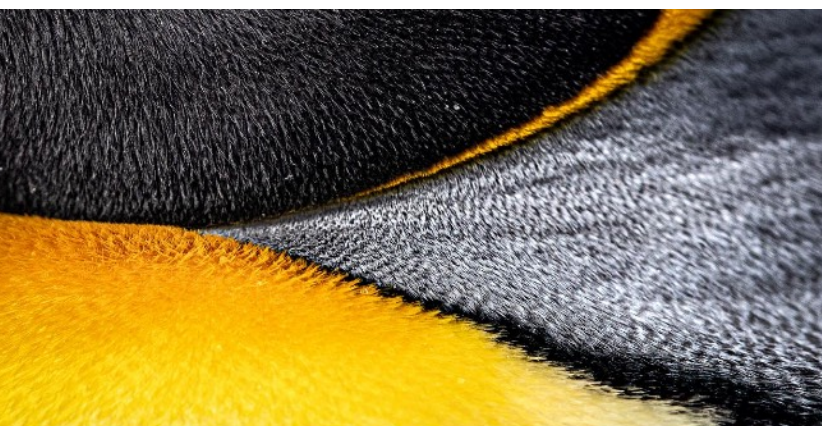
Precipitation in the form of rain and or snow can be expected during this period however it is the lowest in the South Georgian calendar year.



CLOTHING AND WHAT TO PACK

We will experience arctic conditions on this tour, so please be prepared for the cold!

- Windproof garments are highly recommended!
- Good thermal underwear, long johns and long sleeved thermal under-shirts.
- Warm insulated trousers, similar to those used for skiing – no loud colours please!
- Waterproof (preferably Gore-Tex or similar) over-trousers.
- A down or hollow fibre jacket or waterproof (preferably Gore-Tex or similar) jacket layered with a thick warm fleece under it.
- Thermal / Pac boots with a sole good for walking on snow and ice, and thick warm socks. We recommend looking at MuckBoots or similar 'Wellies' that will keep your feet dry and warm. A rating of -40C is advisable.
- A pair of thermal 'camp booties' is advisable for use on the boat.
- Warm hat / beanies (bring a spares)
- Thin pair of thermal gloves.
- A second, larger pair of insulated over-gloves. Also consider bringing a spare pair in case your gloves get wet.
- Polar Fleece; a few thin fleeces to aid layering.
- A fleece neck gaiter is very useful for protecting your face.
- Hand and foot warmers.
- Sun glasses, Lip balm and sun block.
- If you are concerned about or prone to sea sickness, see your doctor or ask a qualified pharmacist for advice on what sea-sickness medication you should use, and bring some for our mornings on the boat out to the sea ice



Flights and transport

- The usual flight to Stanley is from Santiago, Chile to Punta Arenas and then on to Stanley (Mount Pleasant) on the Falkland Islands,
- These flights are weekly on a Saturday.
- At the time of writing this document there are talks of additional flights to Stanley offered from Argentina and with the RAF via London - these flights will need to be confirmed at the time of your booking.

Indemnity

Tusk Photo and its staff prioritise your safety and wellbeing during your safari; however, please be aware that we cannot accept liability for any incidents, including but not limited to accidents, loss, or property damage. By completing the Safari Booking form, you acknowledge the inherent risks associated with travel and agree to indemnify Tusk Photo against any claims or liabilities that may arise.

While this document provides comprehensive information, it is not exhaustive. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office. Please note that the information contained herein is correct at the time of compilation to the best of our knowledge.

We Are Excited To Host You on Your Dream Photographic Safari!

