

South Georgia

2027



**A Luxury Small Ship Photographic Expedition
Aboard the MV Aureum**

"Just 36 guests. Extraordinary wildlife. Unparalleled photographic access."

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 makes this expedition truly special is the platform from which we explore it. Operating aboard the MV Aureum, with just 36 guests on board, we are able to enjoy a level of flexibility, comfort and photographic access that few vessels in the Southern Ocean can match. Smaller groups ashore, more space aboard Zodiacs and a highly personalised experience combine to create the ultimate South Georgia photographic adventure.



What To Expect

This is not simply a voyage to South Georgia. It is a purpose-built photographic expedition designed around the needs of wildlife photographers.

By limiting our expedition to just 36 guests aboard the MV Aureum, we are able to provide a level of personal attention, photographic flexibility and wildlife access that larger vessels simply cannot offer.

Every landing, Zodiac excursion and daily schedule is planned with photography as the primary objective.

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

For our 2027 South Georgia expedition we are delighted to operate aboard the MV Aureum, one of the newest and most exclusive expedition yachts operating in polar waters.

Purpose-built for discerning expedition travellers, Aureum combines the capabilities of a true polar vessel with the comfort and refinement of a luxury boutique yacht.

Accommodating a maximum of just 36 guests, Aureum offers one of the most intimate expedition experiences available in South Georgia.

The vessel features spacious public areas, a panoramic observation lounge, elegant dining facilities, an outdoor Scandinavian hot tub, sauna, gymnasium and beautifully appointed cabins throughout.

Advanced active stabilisers and hybrid diesel-electric propulsion provide exceptional comfort during ocean crossings, while her expedition infrastructure allows rapid and efficient Zodiac operations.

Aboard Aureum, guests enjoy the perfect balance of adventure, comfort and exclusivity.



Room Options

SIGNATURE SUITE

Bridge Deck - 20m² / 4 Cabins

- Floor-to-ceiling windows
- Lounge area
- Double or twin configuration
- Ensuite bathroom
- Premium location aboard the vessel

Price US\$30,995pp

SIGNATURE TWIN CABIN

Upper Deck - 16m² / 8 Cabins

- Panoramic windows
- Twin or double configuration
- Ensuite bathroom
- Spacious layout

Price US\$22,995pp

SIGNATURE SINGLE CABIN

Upper Deck - 16m² / 6 Cabins

- Private occupancy
- Panoramic window
- Ensuite bathroom

Price US\$26,995pp

PREMIER TWIN CABIN

Main Deck - 12m² / 2 Cabins

- Twin beds
- Ensuite bathroom
- Porthole window
- Excellent value accommodation

Price US\$19,995pp

PREMIER SINGLE CABIN

Main Deck - 12m² / 2 Cabins

- Single occupancy
- Ensuite bathroom
- Private and comfortable
- Porthole window

Price

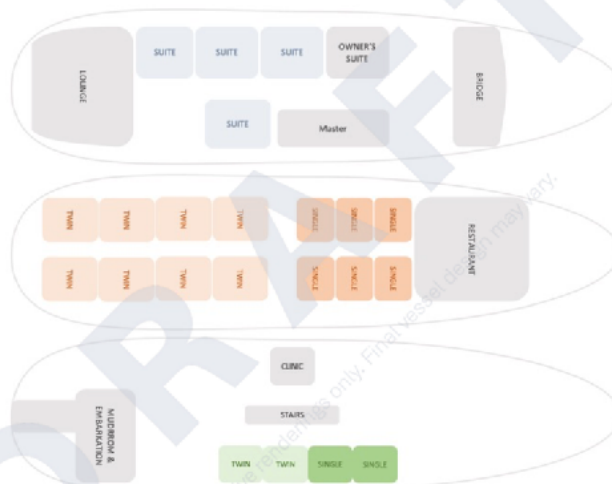
US\$24,995pp



Bridge Deck

Upper Deck

Main Deck



Why MV Aureum?

ONLY 36 GUESTS

- One of the smallest guest complements operating in South Georgia.
- More room in Zodiacs
- Quicker landings and photographic opportunities
- More space when photographing wildlife
- Better access to hosts, guides and expedition staff
- More personalised tuition and training in field
- A quite and more exclusive experience
- Polar Code
- Ice Class 1C
- Active wing stabilisers
- Diesel-electric propulsion
- + additional battery pack
- Restaurant (Upper Deck) with large windows
- 180 Bar/lounge (Bridge Deck) with large windows
- Wellness area (gym/sauna)
- Outdoor hot tub
- Interior stern embarkation platform (Main Deck)
- The vessel features an inner stern embarkation platform and mudroom access, both located on the Main Deck (TBC).
- 4+1 Zodiacs MKV
- 360 Outer Deck
- Open Bow
- Open Top Deck

POLAR EXPERTISE

Owned by the same experienced Antarctic operators who have spent over 20 years operating in the Southern Ocean.

Itinerary

DAY 1

- Arrive Mount Pleasant Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands, and transfer to the MV Aureum.
- 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.

OCEAN CROSSINGS

During sea days guests can enjoy:

- Photography workshops
- Image reviews
- Wildlife lectures
- South Georgia presentations
- Expedition planning sessions
- Access to the lounge, sauna and hot tub

Dates | Costs | Prices

Tour Date:

2 to 16 October 2027 / 14 Nights / 15 Days

Cost:

This tour costs depend on the room choices:

- **Premier Twin – US\$19,995** (2 cabins)
Main Deck | Approx. 12m² | Porthole
- **Signature Twin – US\$22,995** (8 cabins)
Upper Deck | Approx. 16m² | Large window
- **Premier Single – US\$24,995** (2 cabins)
Main Deck | Approx. 12m² | Porthole
- **Signature Single – US\$26,995** (6 cabins)
Upper Deck | Approx. 16m² | Large window
- **Signature Suite – US\$30,995** (4 cabins)
Bridge Deck | Approx. 20m² | Floor-to-ceiling window

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 ****



What's Included and Excluded

INCLUDED:

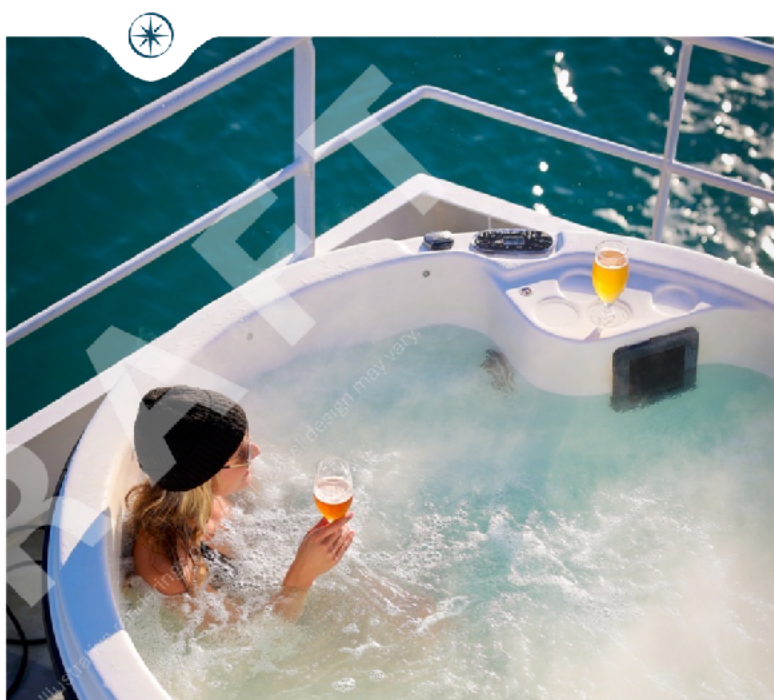
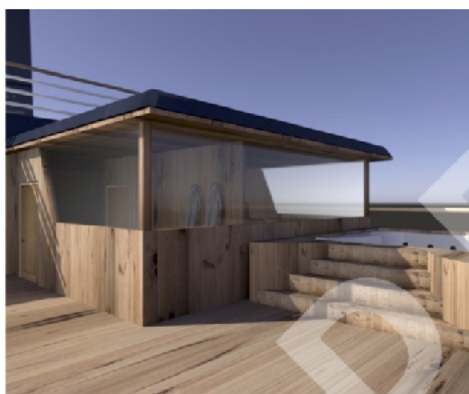
- Services of Tusk Photo hosts + Expedition staff.
- Accommodation on board the MV Aureum.
- All meals.
- All activities.
- Transfers to and from Mount Pleasant airport to Port Stanley.
- Selected beers, wines and soft drinks are included at dinner.

EXCLUDED:

- Accommodation other than on the MV Aureum and the arrival day in Stanley.
- Visas.
- Drinks on the MV Aureum (except drinks during dinner).
- Gratuities.
- Purchases of a personal nature.
- Travel costs to and from the Falkland Islands

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.



Our Expedition Leader

Meet our specialist expedition leader: Piet van den Bemd

Joining our Polar Expedition is Piet van den Bemd, an experienced expedition guide with an impressive career spanning some of the world's most remote polar regions.

Having spent many years working aboard expedition vessels in both the Arctic and Antarctic, Piet has developed an exceptional understanding of polar environments, wildlife, weather systems, and the unique challenges of high-latitude exploration.

His passion for the polar world, combined with his wealth of field experience and engaging personality, makes him an outstanding guide and host.

Piet joined the Tusk Photo team in 2025 as a specialist guide and photographic host, where his knowledge, enthusiasm, and ability to connect with guests have made him an invaluable member of our expedition team.



Our Photo Tour Leader

Meet our specialist photographic leader: Wim van den Heever

Wim van den Heever, Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2025, is an internationally acclaimed wildlife photographer and founder of Tusk Photo. With decades of experience photographing wildlife across the globe, Wim is known for his powerful imagery and deep passion for the natural world.

As the photographic tour leader on our orca and Northern lights expedition, he will guide guests in capturing extraordinary moments in search of Whales and other sea mammals in the Arctic Polar region. Combining expert photographic instruction with an adventurous spirit, Wim helps photographers of all levels improve their skills while experiencing one of the planet's most breathtaking and wildlife-rich environments.



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 Aureum.**

HEALTH AND COMFORT

- 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.
- For seasickness and other potential medical problem the ship is equipped with a hospital and a doctor on board.
- The ship is equipped with active stabilisers.

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 High-Speed WiFi that is provided on the MV Aureum.

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 Fleeces; 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



Photographic Equipment

South Georgia presents some of the finest wildlife photography opportunities on Earth. From vast king penguin colonies and wandering albatrosses to dramatic landscapes and intimate seal encounters, photographers should arrive prepared for a wide range of subjects and conditions.

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

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!

