

Falkland Islands

Wild Fibers Tours, 2020



Overview



Front row seats at Volunteer Point, the largest King Penguin Colony in The Falklands.

We are delighted to be returning to The Falkland Islands in 2020, offering a unique opportunity specifically designed for small group travel.

Located approximately 300 miles off the Argentine coast, only 1,000 tourists visit The Falklands every year via flights from Chile or the UK. The vast majority of visitors travel by cruise ship, stopping-off for a scant few hours. Our one-week experience is still only a brief sampling of this extraordinary land, yet provides a memorable adventure that precious few are able to see.

Our tour includes a mandatory one night stay in Punta Arenas, Chile (a second night is suggested) on the front end to make sure delayed flights don't keep anyone from missing the weekly flight to Mount Pleasant—the only international airport in The Falklands.

As with every Wild Fibers Tour your safety is our top priority. Your happiness is our goal. Your memories are forever.

Linda Cortright
Tour Leader
Editor and Publisher
Wild Fibers Magazine





Rockhoppers and the Woolly Seas

January 24- February 1, 2020

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23,* (RECOMMENDED ARRIVAL)
PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE

You will be met at the airport in Punta Arenas and taken to Dreams Hotel where we promise a spectacular view of the Strait of Magellan from your room. Because travelers will be arriving on different flights throughout the day, there are no scheduled events for Thursday.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24 (MANDATORY ARRIVAL)
PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE

For those who have chosen to arrive on the 24th, the group will meet informally for breakfast at 8:00 am in the hotel dining room. The rest of the day is free to explore the city where Ernest Shackleton ultimately launched a successful rescue for his remaining crew members stranded in Antarctica. Punta Arenas is a small city and easily navigable by foot, offering leisurely strolls along the waterfront, a visit to the Main Square where local vendors are in full-force if a cruise ship is in town. Otherwise,

a visit to the natural history museum, the local fish market, and even the cemetery (surprisingly fascinating) are within easy walking distance of our hotel.

Dinner at Los Ganaderos at 7:30 pm, where meat eaters, seafood lovers, and vegetarians will have an abundant selection of entrees to choose from.

SATURDAY JANUARY 25
STANLEY, THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

After breakfast we depart for the airport and our quick (1.5 hour) flight to The Falklands, checking-in at The Malvina House. Rodney Lee, a fifth generation Falklander and former manager of the Falkland Wool Company will join us for dinner, providing an overview of the island's history and current challenges of raising sheep. (The chef at The Malvina was trained at The Ritz in London. The food is exceptional)



SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

PEBBLE ISLAND

Our flight to Pebble Island will leave “sometime” in the morning. The flight schedule within the islands is determined the day before by FIGAS (Falkland Island Government Air Service), based on how many people need to go where. The flight is a jaw-dropping 40-minute journey. It is quite possible to see whales from your window seat– everyone has one! Riki Evans, owner of Pebble Lodge and a lifelong sheep farmer will be our host, providing three of the most extraordinary days imaginable

After unpacking and a spot of tea, our first day on Pebble will be spent, in part, at the barn. Riki and the local farmer will face-off in a shearing competition. What follows is up to us as we begin our first Pebble Island Sheep-to-Shawl event for those who so desire. For the non-fiber travelers, you will have 19 miles of island to begin exploring. There is a four-mile beach just a few paces from the lodge’s backdoor where any number of penguins and elephant seals might be waiting to greet you. . in the barn exploring the island’s east end, featuring sea lions, imperial shags, glorious black-necked swans and, of course, penguins.



Pebble Island

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

PEBBLE ISLAND

After breakfast, we take off in multiple Land Rovers, bumping our way to the island’s east end featuring sea lions, imperial shags, glorious black-necked swans and, of course, penguins by the thousands

We will return to the lodge by mid-afternoon allowing plenty of time to read, nap, walk some more, or spin. Following dinner we will all get comfy in the living room for movie night, enjoying two BBC documentaries about the Falkland Island War. Surrounded by so much history, these short films help illustrate why it started, and why it remains Margaret Thatcher’s greatest legacy.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

PEBBLE ISLAND

Today we visit the west end, offering a completely different topography than the east, including several mountains, sandy beaches, and cliff-side rockhopper rookeries. Pebble Island was a strategic location for the Argentines during the conflict and we will visit some of the wreckage sites. Lunch will be on the beach, possibly augmented by schools of dolphins to entertain us.

Upon returning to the lodge, the remainder of the day is free to enjoy the spectacular surroundings.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

STANLEY

We won’t know until the night before what time our flight will take us back to Stanley. Our itinerary is therefore flexible and hopingt for enough time to visit both the Maritime Museum (it is outstanding!) and the floating wool warehouse upon our arrival

** There is a 2-day option to visit Sea Lion Island



Rockhoppers and the Woolly Seas

January 27- February 1, 2020

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

VOLUNTEER POINT

Considered one of the most popular destinations in all of The Falklands, Volunteer Point is a 2.5 hour journey by car, the majority of which is off-roading. If you have a bad back or might otherwise be sensitive to a rollicking-rolling-ride, this is not the stop for you. The reward for your journey is indescribable. Volunteer Point is home to the largest colony of King Penguins. You will be able to sit on the edge of the rookery, watching them feed their young, commute to the beach, and backslap each other like old chums in a bar room. Although some may wonder if they will have had filled their penguin cup to the brim by this point, the mannerisms of King Penguins are unlike any of their fellow pinnipeds.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

BLUFF COVE

Hattie Kilmartin came to The Falklands nearly 20 years ago. She arrived as a camp cook, assuming she would leave after her six-month contract was up. Instead, she married a local sheep farmer (Kevin Kilmartin) and has not only turned her culinary talents into the best tea house in The Falklands, but she now sends their wool to a weaving house in Scotland, transforming it into a glorious tweed modelled after the Falkland landscape.

Weather-permitting, shearing and skirting will be taking place in the barn, followed by lunch and a tour of the Gentoo colony and a small number of Kings, who cohabit quite nicely with the sheep and the meandering Belted Galloways. Only in The Falklands does the barnyard and the surf manage to blend seamlessly.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

CHILE

After breakfast, we will depart for the airport and the journey home. You may choose to overnight in Punta Arenas or Santiago, depending on the time of your onward international flight. The flight from The Falklands will clear customs in Punta Arenas.

Maximum Group Size: 8 adults

Tour cost: \$3955 (US)

Single supplement: tour price plus 30%.

Please see last page for all terms and conditions.

** SEA LION EXCURSION

JANUARY 29, 30

In my opinion, Sea Lion Island offers the most spectacular wildlife setting short of traveling closer to Antarctica via the shores of South Georgia. Limited to just 10 rooms and increasing popularity, this extraordinary hideaway is now accepting reservations through 2023! Offering the largest colony of elephant seals and Sea Lions in The Falklands at an easy 10-minute walk from your doorstep. Sea Lion delivers the best in sea mammal “entertainment” while offering an intimate lodge setting where travelers from across the globe share stories of their adventures.

You will fly from Pebble Island to Sea Lion Island and be met plane-side by Mickey Reeves, owner of Sea Lion Lodge. You will have two days to explore the island, including sunrise walks when elephant seals are most active. Upon your return to Stanley on Friday, you will meet back-up with the group at Bluff Cove.

Cost: \$422



Terms and Conditions

A \$500 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your space.

50% payment (by check) within 30 days of initial deposit. Balance due 30 days thereafter. All monies are non-refundable. Trip insurance is strongly advised. Medical evacuation insurance is mandatory. (Medical travel insurance is required by the Falkland Government. Minimum: \$150,000)

Please note all itineraries are subject to change due to weather or other unforeseen developments.

What's included:

- One night's accommodation in Punta Arenas.
- All of your accommodations in the Falklands.
- All meals, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages.
- All guiding fees and transportation within the Falklands.
- All tips and gratuities within The Falklands

What's not included:

- Additional night in Punta Arenas, (cost \$212)
- Airfare to and from The Falklands,
- Alcoholic beverages

Travel from the Punta Arenas airport to the hotel (inbound).

Excess baggage fees: Checked luggage within the Falklands cannot exceed 20 kgs. Only one backpack is permitted as carry-on.

Visas: US and Canadian citizens do not require a visa to enter Chile (30-day stay maximum) or The Falkland Islands.

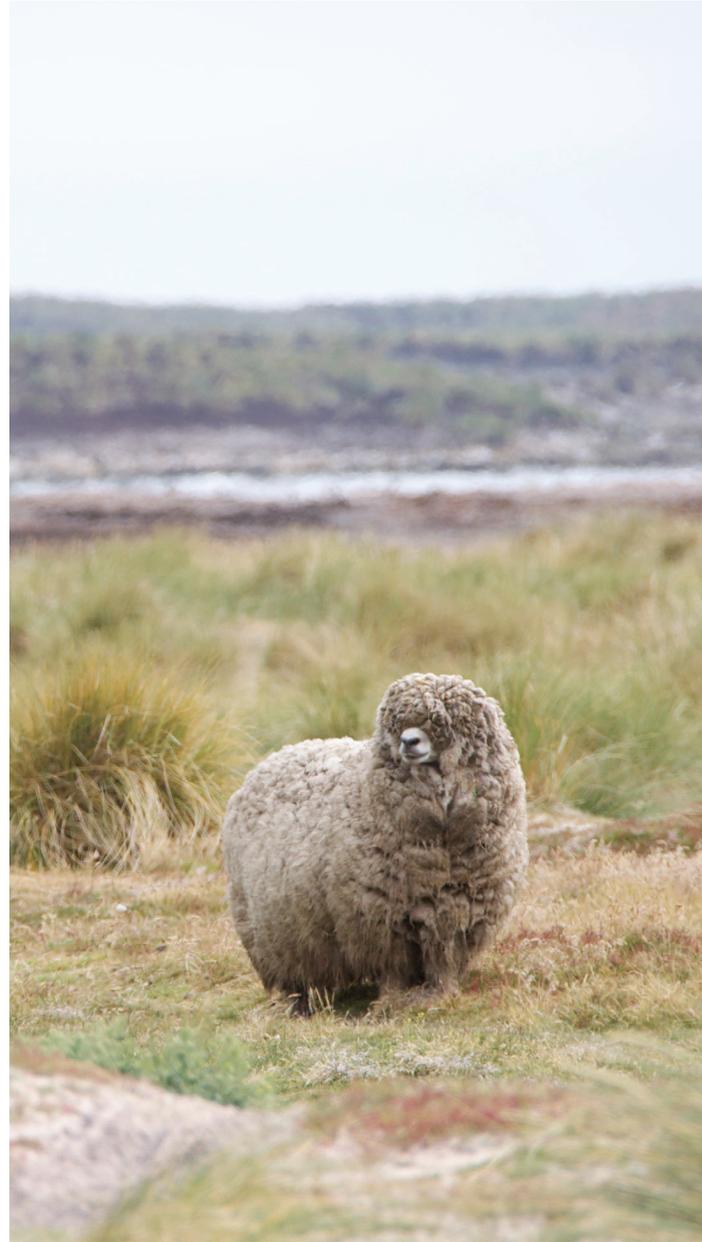
Currency: US Dollar, British Pound, Falkland Pound are accepted. There are no ATMs in The Falklands. The major souvenir shops do accept credit cards.

All travelers should be in good, active health, able to maneuver in and out of a vehicle, and walk along uneven ground.

All participants are traveling "at will."

Special dietary requests must be submitted in writing 60 days prior to departure.

Tour members will be provided with a suggested packing list and reading list.



A very wild woolly on Pebble.

Please contact Linda Cortright for more information and availability: wildfibers@mac.com

Travel Arrangements:

Please contact Diana Gardner (Pacific Time) for flight information and travel insurance. DGardner@PeakTravel.com or 541-685-2612.