

Plymouth, United Kingdom

The Darwin200 Global Voyage begins in Charles Darwin's footsteps, setting sail from the historic town of Plymouth, England, where Darwin stepped aboard HMS *Beagle* on 27th December, 1831.

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. The *Oosterschelde* will probably be berthed in Sutton Harbour. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Plymouth is located in the county of Devon, in the southwest of England.

Commercial flights are available to all major British cities, particularly London, see www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com

Domestic flights service Plymouth City Airport, as well as nearby cities of Bristol and Southampton (see www.britishairways.com, www.loganair.co.uk, www.easyjet.com)

Alternatively, an extensive train network links Plymouth to all major British cities (see www.nationalrail.co.uk and www.thetrainline.com – although book in advance to get cheap tickets). If you turn up and buy the tickets on the day, they are often very expensive.

Temperature and Climate

Temperatures in August are generally up to 26 °C (during daytime) and descend to 14 °C (at night). English summers have mixed sun, cloud and rain.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available in Plymouth and nearby, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com (book in advance as many sell out, and last minute prices can be very expensive).

Activities and Tours

The county of Devon a tourist's paradise, with diverse wildlife, beautiful scenery, extensive trails for walking and cycling, and countless historic sites.

The following websites offer detailed information for sites to visit: www.visitdevon.co.uk/things-to-do, www.devonstopattractions.co.uk, <https://devonwithkids.co.uk/free-things-to-do-in-devon>, www.visitdevon.co.uk/things-to-do

Eden Project: The nearby county of Cornwall is equally rich with fascinating sites for tourists, notably the Eden Project (one of the world's largest artificial rainforests) www.edenproject.com/ and the Lost Garden of Heligan www.heligan.com/

The Isles of Scilly: Known as England's 'sub-tropical secret' and known for their white beaches and azure waters, can be visited from Penzance, although book very early (as accommodation often sells out a year or more in advance!) See www.visitislesofscilly.com

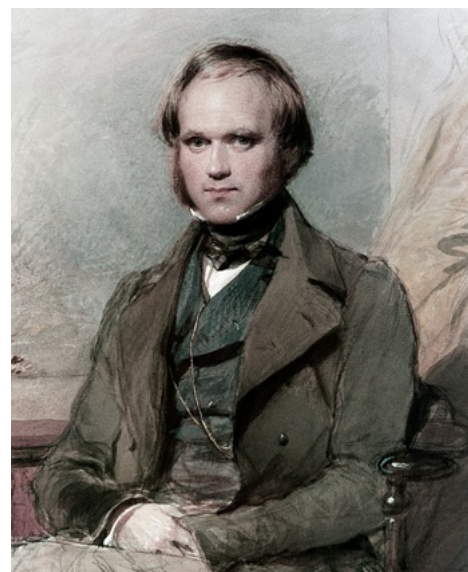
Participants of all voyage legs are invited to a party in Plymouth on the evening of 13/08/2023 to mark the start of the DARWIN200 Global Voyage! Details to be confirmed closer to the time.

Visas

Contact the British Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency is the British Pound. ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Foreign currencies can easily be changed both at the airport, and at money changers and banks.



Tenerife, Canary Islands

Location Oosterschelde

The *Oosterschelde* will be berthed in Marina Santa Cruz in Santa Cruz de Tenerife. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Tenerife is located in the Canary Islands, an archipelago that is part of Spain, although located off the west coast of Africa. Tenerife is the largest of the Canary Islands, and noted for its spectacular beaches, dramatic landscapes, lush forests, exotic fauna and flora, deserts, mountains, resorts and lively nightlife.

Numerous commercial flights connect Tenerife to destinations across Europe. Two airports are located on the island. Search for flights on various online flight provider websites, notably www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com

Temperature and Climate

Tenerife has a sub-tropical climate, with temperatures up to 30 °C (during daytime) and down to 14 °C (at night). Summer days are generally sunny, hot and dry.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available in Tenerife and the Canary Islands, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

Tenerife offers a wide range of cultural activities, adventure sports, hiking, historic sites and more. For ideas, see:

<https://wikitravel.org/en/Tenerife>
www.guidetocanaryislands.com/things-to-do-in-tenerife/
www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attractions-g187479-Activities-Tenerife_Canary_Islands.html
www.skyscanner.net/news/top-9-things-do-tenerife

Among the many popular activities are:

Beaches: Tenerife has over 400 km of coastline packed with a great variety of beaches, 17 of which have been awarded Blue Flag status for safety, cleanliness, amenities and commitment to environmental standards. Playa de las Teresitas in Santa Cruz is a sheltered, man-made beach made with sand imported from the Sahara Desert.

Spectacular National Parks: Teide National Park on Tenerife is one of the most spectacular in all of Spain. Hikes across the volcanic landscape, sunset treks and tours climbing to the summit of Mount Teide can all be arranged (although permits need to be organised in advance (search online). Don't miss the ancient Dragon Tree at Icod de los Vinos

Whale and Dolphin Watching Trips: Many whale and dolphin species frequent the waters around the Canary Islands and numerous operators offer tours to see them, search 'Whale Watching Tours, Tenerife' on Google.

Attraction Parks: Visit Loro Parque Zoo or Siam Park (a water park home to 2 metre artificial waves!) and many slides and attractions. Aqualand Costa Adeje is fun for kids, and Jungle Park (close to Los Cristianos) is home to exotic wildlife.

Historic Cities: Visit the beautiful old towns of La Orotava and San Cristóbal de La Laguna, the latter being a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the world class botanical garden just above Puerto de la Cruz.

Visas

Contact the Spanish Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used in the Canary Islands is the Euro. ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Foreign currencies can easily be changed both at the airport, and at money changers and banks.



Mindelo, São Vicente, Cape Verde

Location Oosterschelde

The *Oosterschelde* will be at anchor in the port of Mindelo on the island São Vicente. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Cape Verde is an island nation (officially the Republic of Cabo Verde) that consist of a horseshoe-shaped cluster of ten islands (nine inhabited) and eight islets, located to the west of continental Africa.

Formerly a Portuguese colony, Cape Verde is now a popular tourist destination known for its many spectacular beaches and dramatic volcanic landscapes.

Portuguese is the country's official language; however Cape Verdean Creole is spoken by the majority of the population. Bring a Portuguese dictionary, as English is not widely spoken in remote and rural areas.

Numerous commercial flights connect Cape Verde to main hub cities in Europe, Africa and the Americas. Search for flights on various online flight provider websites, notably www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com

Direct flights are available from Lisbon with TAP (Air Portugal), see www.flytap.com

Local Airline TACV Cabo Verde (www.flytacv.com/) offer 'island hopper' flights that connect the key islands, see: https://wikitravel.org/en/Cape_Verde

Temperature and Climate

Cape Verde has a dry tropical climate, with temperatures up to 34 °C (during daytime) and down to 14 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny, hot and dry.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available in Mindelo, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com. Many villas and resorts have also been built, see: www.capeverdeprivaterentals.com/

Activities and Tours

Each of the 10 main islands offers different attractions for tourists:

Sal, Boa Vista and Maio have great beaches, watersports and resorts, see <https://wikitravel.org/en/Sal>, [https://wikitravel.org/en/Boa_Vista_\(Cape_Verde\)](https://wikitravel.org/en/Boa_Vista_(Cape_Verde)) and <https://wikitravel.org/en/Maio>

Santiago is home to the majority of the country's population as well as Praia, the capital, see [https://wikitravel.org/en/Santiago_\(Cape_Verde\)](https://wikitravel.org/en/Santiago_(Cape_Verde))

Santo Antao is famed for hiking https://wikitravel.org/en/Santo_Ant%C3%A3o

Sao Vicente is home to Mindelo, the cultural capital of the Cape Verde Islands, see https://wikitravel.org/en/S%C3%A3o_Vicente

Local Food: Cape Verde is famed for its seafood dishes, including Langostada (a delicious lobster dish), cachupa and Tosta mista.

Visas

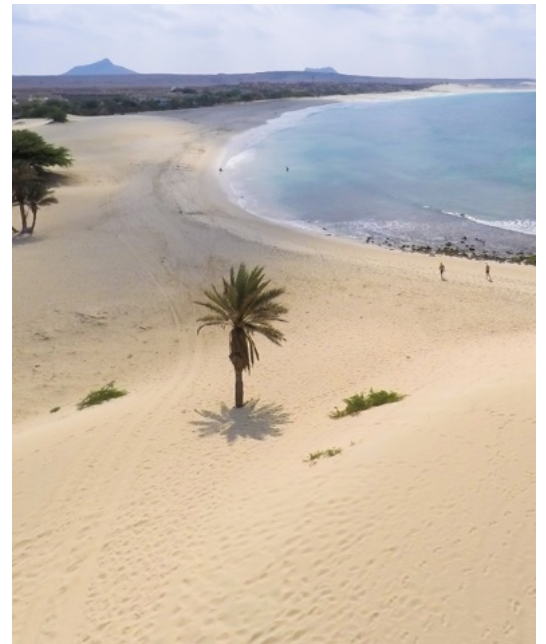
Cape Verde requires most nationalities to purchase a visa. It is recommended to do so in advance. A list of embassies and consulates is available here: https://wikitravel.org/en/Cape_Verde

Currency

The local currency is the Escudo. Euros are often accepted (but expect change in Escudos). Money can be changed at the airport. High end hotels and restaurants will accept credit cards.

Land based tour

Mindelo, on São Vicente, is the largest harbor and the second largest city of Cape Verde. There are restaurants, an indoor market, cafés, and souvenir shops. You can explore the town, or you can enjoy a swim at the beach. In the evening, head to one of the live music cafes where the locals



come to dance. But don't stay up to late, because in the early morning our guide will be waiting for you at the ferry terminal. From there we will take the ferry to Porto Novo on Santo Antão.

Santo Antão is considered the most beautiful island of the archipelago. It is also the greenest and most fertile of the islands. Upon arrival in Porto Novo a taxi will bring us to the edge of the volcano crater which is a real experience looking down you will see the enormous contrast between the dry side and the rainy side of the volcano. From this point we will hike down a narrow winding path towards Paul. People who find this hike too challenging can take the taxi along a beautiful route to the other side of the island, where the hikers will be picked up again. The variety in the landscape and the breath-taking views make this excursion one you will never forget. At the end of the day, we take the ferry back to Mindelo and that is where the tour ends.

Price

We will charge you the exact same price as the tour guide offers this tour. We are now in Cape Verde and the price now is €47,50 per person. It could be that the price is a bit higher in September, but we don't expect any huge changes. Included in the tour is the ferry ticket to and from Santo Antão, the taxi on Santo Antão, a lovely lunch and an experience that you will never forget. The price is excluding accommodation in Mindelo before the excursion. Please note that it is not possible to stay on board before or after your voyage.

Fernando de Noronha, Brazil

Location Oosterschelde

The *Oosterschelde* will be at anchor near Praia do Porto de Santo Antônio Noronha. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Fernando de Noronha is an archipelago in Brazil and a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site. The archipelago comprises 21 islands. Only the largest of them (called Ilha Fernando do Noronha) is inhabited (pop. approx 5,000).

Daily flights serve the islands from mainland Brazil, mostly from Recife and Natal. See Azul Airlines www.voeazul.com.br/ and Gol Airlines www.voegol.com.br/

The official language is Portuguese. Bring a dictionary, as English is often not widely spoken.

Temperature and Climate

Fernando do Noronha has a tropical climate, with temperatures up to 32 °C (during daytime) and down to 15 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and humid.

Hotels and Accommodation

Around 70 inns (known as 'pousadas') are scattered across Ilha Fernando do Noronha. See www.ilhadenoronha.com.br/ (click 'pousadas' at the top).

Activities and Tours

Fernando do Noronha is famed for its beaches, boat tours, diving and snorkelling opportunities (with visibility underwater up to 50 metres) and trekking. Dolphin watching trips are also popular.

Diving: Among the many dive operators are:

Atlantis Divers: info@atlantisdivers.com.br

Noronha Divers: diversnoronha@gmail.com

Extensive information concerning the activities that can be undertaken can be viewed here: https://wikitravel.org/en/Fernando_de_Noronha

Also see the island's tourism website: www.ilhadenoronha.com.br/

Note: A single road circles the main island and connects the main attractions. Hire a car or a buggy for US \$50 - 70 a day or a motorbike for \$35 - 40 a day to get around.

For further information, see:

www.travelguide-en.org/fernando-de-noronha/

www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attractions-g616328-Activities-Fernando_de_Noronha_State_of_Pernambuco.html

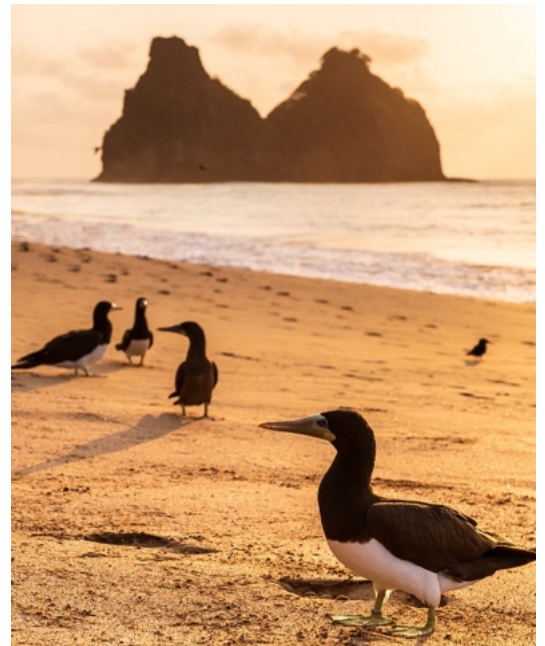
www.brazil-travel-guide.com/Destinations/Fernando-Noronha.htm

Visas

Contact the Brazilian Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the Real. ATMs are widely available. Euros and US\$ can be changed at the airport. Credit cards are accepted at main hotels and restaurants, but not always at smaller establishments.



Salvador da Bahia, Brazil

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. The ship will be at anchor. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Salvador is the capital of the state of Bahia, Brazil. Numerous commercial flights connect Salvador to destinations across the world. Search for flights on various online flight provider websites, notably www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com

Direct flights are available from Lisbon with TAP (Air Portugal), see www.flytap.com

The airport is 28km from the city centre. Two kinds of taxis are available in the airport, executive taxis (Coometas and Comtas), and the normal taxis (although these have a bad reputation for safety, are known to overcharge and most drivers only speak Portuguese).

Temperature and Climate

Salvador has a tropical climate, with temperatures up to 32 °C (during daytime) and down to 15 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny, hot and humid.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

Salvador has a beautiful Old Town (a World Heritage Site), and a vibrant music and dance scene. It is famed for Carnival celebrations. Tours and walking trips of the Old Town are recommended. For a summary of key highlights, see: <https://wikitravel.org/en/Salvador>

Museums: Salvador is home to many of Brazil's top museums, as well as parks and popular beaches. One of the main central Salvador beaches is Porto de Barra, although some beaches are not suitable for bathing, check local information, e.g. the weekly bathing bulletin: www.inema.ba.gov.br/servicos/monitoramento/qualidade-das-praias/

The city is known for its countless bars and colourful nightclubs.

Note: When exploring the city, exercise caution as Salvador is notorious for street crime. Mugging is considerably more frequent than in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. If you are moving on foot, by bicycle, or by bus, it's best to go out during the day. Avoid bringing anything valuable on day trips (e.g. passport), just what you need to enjoy your day.

Many day trips can be organised from city, including visits to:

Praia do Forte: A beach town with the 'Project Tamar' turtle sanctuary, see [https://wikitravel.org/en/Praia do Forte](https://wikitravel.org/en/Praia_do_Forte) - you will find pools with turtles and different types of sea animals. At certain times of the day, you can also watch the young turtles being released to the sea. Entrance costs R\$ 16.

Island Visits: Among the best islands to explore are Boipeba, Massarandupió and Morro de Sao Paulo, see: <https://wikitravel.org/en/Salvador>

Visas

Contact the Brazilian Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the Real. ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Euros and US\$ are widely exchanged. Other foreign currencies can easily be changed at the airport, and at money changers and banks.



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. The *Oosterschelde* will probably be at Marina da Glória. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

As a major hub city, Rio de Janeiro is serviced by flights from destinations across the world. Search for flights on various online flight provider websites, notably www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com

The main airport is Galeão International Airport (known as 'GIG'), situated around 20 km north of the city centre.

Buses, taxis and Uber offer transportation from the airport to the city. A journey to the city centre costs around R\$ 50.

GIG has wifi internet for booking Ubers.

Temperature and Climate

Rio de Janeiro has a humid, tropical climate, with temperatures up to 30 °C (during daytime) and down to 16 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and humid.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

Rio de Janeiro offers a vast array of sites and attractions for tourists, see: https://wikitravel.org/en/Rio_de_Janeiro

See also: <https://rio-explore.com/Attractions>

Key highlights include:

Beaches: More than a dozen white-sand beaches fringe the city, and Rio de Janeiro is famed for its beach culture. Among the most popular are Copacabana and Ipanema. Take care of your possessions, as the beaches of Rio de Janeiro are notorious for thieves.

Corcovado: A world-famous, 710 m high hill with a landmark statue of Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer) is a must for visitors. View the city from the top of Corcovado for breath-taking views. See detailed information here: https://wikitravel.org/en/Rio_de_Janeiro

Sugarloaf Mountain: Known as Pão de Açúcar in Brazil, is one of several granite mountains that rise out of the water's edge around Rio de Janeiro. A glass-walled cable car runs 1,400 m between the peaks of Sugarloaf and Morro da Urca, offering spectacular 360 degree views! For information, see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sugarloaf_Mountain

Jardim Botânico: Is a magnificent and well maintained botanic garden known for exotic flowers, hummingbirds, butterflies and monkeys. See <https://rio-explore.com/Attractions/jardim-botanico>

Rio de Janeiro is also home to a wide range of museums, theatres, historic sites, and is world famous for its music and dancing scene, see:

www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g303506-Activities-Rio_de_Janeiro_State_of_Rio_de_Janeiro.html

www.timeout.com/rio-de-janeiro/things-to-do/best-things-to-do-in-rio-de-janeiro

Visas

Contact the Brazilian Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the Real. ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Euros and US\$ are widely exchanged. Other foreign currencies can easily be changed at the airport, and at money changers and banks.



Montevideo, Uruguay

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Montevideo is the colourful and interesting capital city of Uruguay, located on the east bank of the Rio de la Plata.

The city's main airport, Carrasco International Airport (known as 'MVD') is located 15 km east of the city centre, and is connected by regular flights to hub cities around the world. Search for flights on various online flight provider websites, notably www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com

Note: all passengers pay a US \$40 fee when departing from MVD. Some airlines build this into the cost of the ticket, but others do not (requiring passengers to go to the airport fee counter and pay this fee prior to departure).

Taxis are available at the airport but charge around 950 Uruguayan Pesos (= approx. US \$45) for a journey into central Montevideo.

Montevideo has a very efficient public transport system, which makes exploring the city easy.

Spanish is the official language of Uruguay. Bring a dictionary, as English is often not widely spoken, especially outside Montevideo, and particularly in remote and rural areas.

Temperature and Climate

Montevideo has a humid subtropical climate. In November, temperatures generally rise to 28 °C (during daytime) and descend to 12 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

An overview of highlights of Montevideo is available here: <https://wikitravel.org/en/Montevideo>

Among the many popular activities are:

City Tour: Undertake a day trip around Montevideo to learn about the history, culture and heritage of the city and Uruguay. Many options are available, among them www.montevideocitytour.com/en

Cuidad Vieja: Montevideo's Old Town. Enter through the portal called Puerta de la Ciudadela at one end of Plaza de Independencia.

Mercado del Puerto: A covered market full of restaurants and some shops selling handicrafts. The main market is open every day during lunch hours. The restaurants around the exterior offer both indoor and outdoor seating, and they remain open for dinner.

The Rambla: This waterside roadway has people biking, fishing, drinking mate, and enjoying the great views. 22 km long, the Rambla goes along Montevideo's waterfront. Lovely at sunset.

MAPI: Museum of indigenous art and Uruguayan archaeology.

MNAV: National Museum of modern Uruguayan art.

Visas

Contact the Uruguayan Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the Uruguayan peso. ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Euros and US\$ are widely exchanged. Other foreign currencies can easily be changed at the airport, and at money changers and banks.



Puerto Madryn, Argentina

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. The ship will be at anchor. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Puerto Madryn, located in the Patagonia region, is a beautiful seaside town located right in the middle of one of the largest whale breeding bays in the world.

Flights to Puerto Madryn are not very common and only domestic. 60 kilometers from Puerto Madryn is Trelew, where there is a larger international airport. Search for flights on various online flight provider websites, notably www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com.

Temperature and Climate

Puerto Madryn has a humid subtropical climate. In December, temperatures generally rise to 28 °C (during daytime) and descend to 12 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and humid.

Hotels and Accommodation

Multiple hotels are available, in all price-ranges. Multiple options are available on www.booking.com and www.agoda.com.

Activities and Tours

The mid-size Patagonian town Puerto Madryn is famous for its up-close-and-personal marine life encounters, including diving with seals.

A list of key activities in Puerto Madryn can be found here: <https://www.patagonia-argentina.com/en/?s=Puerto+Madryn>

Note: Shops, provisions and supplies are limited in Puerto Santa Cruz. Bring all equipment that you need. The town does have a pharmacy, food shops, restaurants etc. But don't count on getting any specialist equipment.

Visas

Contact the Argentinian Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

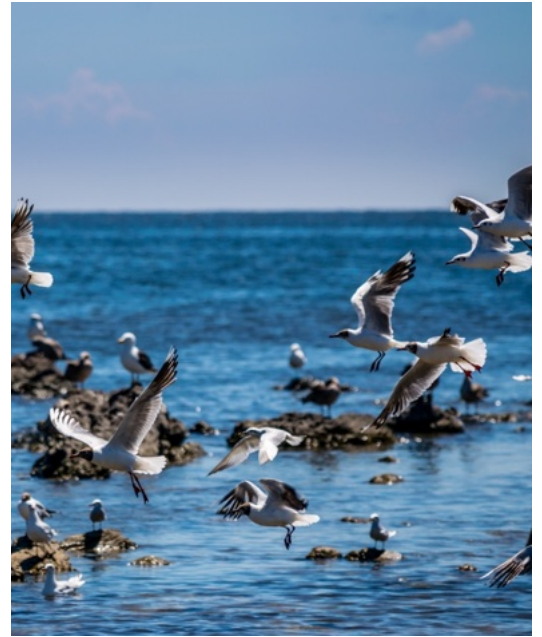
Currency

The local currency used is the Argentine peso. ATMs are widely available in Buenos Aires. Foreign currencies can easily be changed both at the airport, and at money changers and banks. Argentina is a cash-heavy economy, and many restaurants, shops, and cafes do not accept credit cards.

Partner Projects Abroad

Projects Abroad is proud to announce its partnership with Darwin200! Designed specifically for Darwin200 voyagers, we're offering several 7-day land-based activities before or after you sail in The Galápagos, Fiji, and Peru. Founded in 1992, we've welcomed over 130,000 participants to take part in impact-driven Projects around the world. Join us and experience the best these countries have to offer while leaving a positive impact!

Departing the ship in Puerto Madryn, travel to La Esperanza Wildlife Conservancy to support whale and puma conservation efforts! You'll work alongside local scientists to conduct surveys, track pumas, and monitor southern right whale pods traveling through Golfo San Matias. Visit the world's largest Magellanic penguin colony in Punta Tombo and the sea lions of Punta Loma. Take part in cultural activities like Tango classes and folklore lessons and learn about the nomadic Tehuelche peoples that once roamed eastern Patagonia. You can find out more about the Argentina Programme [here](#).



Puerto Santa Cruz, Argentina

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Puerto Santa Cruz is a town in Santa Cruz Province in Patagonia, southern Argentina. Puerto Santa Cruz has around 4,000 inhabitants. See the Government website: www.argentina.gob.ar/cultura/monumentos/puerto-santa-cruz

Flights from Buenos Aires to Rio Gallegos are available from Aerolineas Argentinas, see www.aerolineas.com.ar and buses and taxis are available from Rio Gallegos to Puerto Santa Cruz, see www.rome2rio.com/s/Rio-Gallegos-Airport-RGL/Puerto-Santa-Cruz

Check online in case flight options direct to Puerto Santa Cruz become available.

Allow a buffer day on both sides of your journey in case of delay / flight cancellation.

Long distance buses across Argentina are also available from Buenos Aires to Rio Gallegos, but take 35-45 hours. See www.rome2rio.com/s/Buenos-Aires/R%C3%ADo-Gallegos-River

Temperature and Climate

Puerto Santa Cruz has a cool-temperate climate. In December, temperatures generally rise to around 21 °C (during daytime) and descend to 7 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and dry, but cool at night.

Hotels and Accommodation

Few hotels are available – book well in advance. Multiple options are available on www.booking.com and www.agoda.com

Options include: Che Cauquen, Departamentos El Almo and Cabanas del Rosario (search for these on Google).

Activities and Tours

Puerto Santa Cruz is mostly used as a transit point and gateway for visiting Patagonia.

A listing of key activities can be found here: www.patagonia-argentina.com/en/puerto-santa-cruz/

Tours into the Patagonian steppe are available, although not all of these start Puerto Santa Cruz see: www.welcomeargentina.com/puertosantacruz/index_i.html

Note: Shops, provisions and supplies are limited in Puerto Santa Cruz. Bring all equipment that you need. The town does have a pharmacy, food shops, restaurants etc. But don't count on getting any specialist equipment.

Visas

Contact the Argentinian Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the Argentine peso. ATMs are available in Buenos Aires and Rio Gallegos. There is a bank in Puerto Santa Cruz (Banco Santa Cruz) near Punta Reparo, however, it may be advisable to bring all cash you need to Puerto Santa Cruz, rather than depending upon withdrawing money in the town. Many restaurants, shops, and cafes do not accept credit cards.



Stanley, Falkland Islands

Location Oosterschelde

The ship will be at the quay in Port Stanley. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

The Falkland Islands are a self-governing UK Overseas Territory – see <https://falklands.gov.fk>

Detailed information on visiting the Falkland Islands is available at www.falklandislands.com

The main way of reaching the Falkland Islands is by flight, see www.falklandislands.com/getting-here

LATAM: operates a flight every Saturday from Santiago, Chile (SCL) returning the same day. International Tours & Travel Ltd (see www.falklandislands.travel) is the sales agent for these flights and handles bookings.

RAF Flights: the British Royal Air Force operates twice weekly flights from RAF Brize Norton (a military airport in Oxfordshire, England). Civilian passengers can book seats on these flights via the Falkland Islands Government Office in London, see www.falklands.gov.fk/londonoffice/contact-us

Temperature and Climate

Summer temperatures in the Falkland Islands are mild. In January, temperatures generally rise to around 18 °C (during daytime) and descend to 7 °C (at night). Expect mixed sun, cloud and rain. Bring warmer clothes and waterproofs in case of bad weather.

Hotels and Accommodation

Accommodation in Stanley is limited to a handful of hotels, most notably, [Malvina House Hotel](#). Also see: [Lafone Guest House](#), [Waterfront Boutique Hotel](#), and [Shorty's Motel](#). Other options at: www.falklandislands.com/accommodation/hotels-lodges-and-guest-houses.

Many excellent B&Bs (bed and breakfasts) are also available, which offer a unique opportunity to meet local islanders and experience local culture. B&Bs are often less expensive than hotels, really high quality, and are highly recommended. Search online (many options are available). Many are listed here: www.falklandislands.com/explore/stanley

A long established and well-respected option is: <https://thepalemaiden.com/>

Activities and Tours

The Falkland Archipelago is one of the world's best-kept wildlife secrets. The island group is home to five species of penguins, elephant seals, fur seals, sea lions, some of the world's largest albatross populations, massive shag populations and many endemic birds and invertebrates. It is also rich with historic sites, unique culture and spectacular scenery. See www.falklandislands.com/

Island hopping trips to key isles in the archipelago home to spectacular wildlife colonies (make bookings well in advance (e.g. 1 year or so before arrival) as accommodation on outer islands is extremely limited). History tours (led by locals) to the key sites of the Falklands War can be booked. Day trips to penguin colonies around Stanley can also be booked. Falkland Islands Holidays is a fantastic company that can set many trips up: www.falklandislandsholidays.com (it is easier and sometimes cheaper booking through them to set up your visit).

Darwin200 project leader Stewart McPherson made the following online films about the Falkland Islands: <https://youtu.be/DzOIb4D8SQE> and <https://youtu.be/alaCe4LbWyo>

Visas

Contact the Falkland Islands Government (www.falklands.gov.fk/londonoffice/contact-us) to check entry requirements your nationality, and if visas are required for entry.

Currency

The local currency is the Falklands Pound (which is tied to the British pound sterling). British pounds are accepted and widely used on the Falkland Islands. ATMs are available at the Mount Pleasant Airport, and in Stanley, although credit cards are widely accepted.



Punta Arenas, Chile

Location Oosterschelde

The ship will be at the quay in Punta Arenas. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Punta Arenas is the capital city of Chile's southernmost region, Magallanes and Antarctica Chilena. It is home to around 130,000 people, and is the largest, major town in the extreme south of Chilean Patagonia.

Buses run daily to Punta Arenas from Puerto Natales, Chile as well as Rio Gallegos, Argentina, although it is easier to reach Punta Arenas by flights to 'Carlos Ibañez del Campo' international airport on the outskirts of the city, which is serviced by numerous connections to Puerto Montt and Santiago. Flights can be booked via LATAM:

www.latamairlines.com, also see www.skyscanner.net

Temperature and Climate

Punta Arenas has a cool-temperate climate. In January, temperatures generally rise to around 16 °C (during daytime) and descend to 5 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and dry, but cool at night.

Hotels and Accommodation

Numerous hotels, hotels and bed & breakfast options are available in Punta Arenas, many are listed here: https://wikitravel.org/en/Punta_Arenas. See also see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

For such a remote town, Punta Arenas has an impressive range of attractions for visitors, including:

Replica of the Beagle: As a participant of the DARWIN200 Global Voyage, you really should visit the Museo Museo Nao Victoria, which lies on the outskirts to the north of Punta Arenas. The museum has built a life-sized replica of HMS *Beagle*, the ship Charles Darwin sailed on during his voyage around the world! This is the only replica on Earth. It was built on land (and is not seaworthy), but nevertheless, offers a fascinating opportunity to experience what Darwin's voyage was really like! As you explore the replica HMS Beagle, remember that she set sail with 74 men aboard (but was little over half the length of *Oosterschelde*)! We are voyaging on a much more luxurious ship than Darwin! **A visit to the Museo Nao Victoria is strongly recommended!** See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Museo_Nao_Victoria and www.naovictoria.cl/

Austral Brewery: Take a tour of the southernmost brewery in the world and take part in beer tasting sessions! See www.interpatagonia.com/puntaarenas/austral-brewery.html

Braun-Menéndez Museum: Commonly known as Regional Museum of Magallanes, located one block north from Plaza de Armas, it showcases the lifestyle of the founders and Punta Arenas' early years. See www.museodemagallanes.cl/

Seno Otway penguin colony: Located north of Punta Arenas, home to hundreds of Magellanic penguins. Many day trips are offered by travel agencies in Punta Arenas (but these give you very little time at the colony). It is best to rent a car to visit by yourself. Find out from locals at the time of your visit regarding the number of penguins currently viewable. Tickets need to be bought.

Isla Magdalena: An island with an even larger colony of penguins. It can be reached by ferry via the company 'Austral Trans Broom' at the port. Most hotels can make reservations for you.

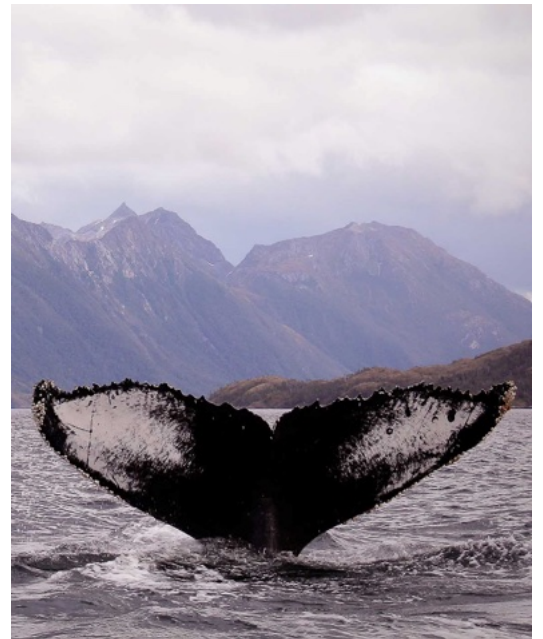
For other activities, see Tripadvisor and Wikitravel.

Visas

Contact the Chilean Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the Chilean Peso. ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Foreign currencies can easily be changed both at the airport, and at money changers and banks.



Concepción, Chile

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Concepción is the second largest city in Chile (home to around 900,000 people across the metro area). It is located roughly midway up the Chilean coast: www.concepcion.cl/

Concepción is serviced by flights from several airlines, notably LATAM: www.latamairlines.com, and SKY Airline www.skyairline.com/chile, also see www.skyscanner.net

Temperature and Climate

Concepción has a mild, oceanic, temperate climate, with most rain falling in winter, and relatively little rain in the summer months. In February, temperatures generally rise to 24 °C (during daytime) and descend to 12 °C (at night). Days are usually sunny.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

Among the many popular activities are:

Galerías: These are shopping arcades located within the centre of the city mainly on Barros Arana and Maipú close to the Plaza de Independencia. Full of inexpensive little clothing stores, beauty salons, hairdressers and more. The quality is mixed, but it is a good place to search for a bargain. Popular with locals and worth exploring.

Old mining operations: 40 km south of Concepción is the old mining town of Lota that offers tours of an old coal mine.

Regional Stadium: It is the main and biggest stadium in the metropolitan area. It hosts Universidad de Concepcion and Deportes Concepcion matches. Talk to locals to see if you can watch an upcoming game!

Museo Hualpén, (Hualpén museum): A beautiful old house that was converted to a museum holding artefacts of Mr. Pedro del Rio Zañartu, a world traveller.

The Huascar: At the naval base in Talcahuano, the *Huascar* is a ship that was captured from the Peruvian Navy in the War of the Pacific. It is a symbol of Chilean national pride and is the oldest floating historical relic in the world.

Note: Guard against notorious pickpockets, do not count cash in public, and avoid wearing expensive jewellery. Additional safety information is available here: <https://wikitravel.org/en/Concepci%C3%B3n>

Visas

Contact the Chilean Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the Chilean Peso. ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Foreign currencies can easily be changed both at the airport, and at money changers and banks.



Valparaíso, Chile

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

With 285,000 inhabitants, Valparaíso is Chile's second largest city (after Santiago, from which Valparaíso is separated by approximately 75 km).

Valparaíso serves as a major seaport and has been the headquarters of the Chilean Navy since 1817. It boasts a historic quarter that was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is a magnet for tourists throughout the year.

Valparaíso does not have its own airport. The closest airport with commercial service is Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport (SCL) near Santiago, which is served by flights from several airlines, notably LATAM: www.latamairlines.com, also see www.skyscanner.net

To get to Valparaíso from Santiago's airport, you will need to catch a bus heading to a bus/metro station on the outskirts of Santiago, known as Pajaritos. These buses can be seen outside of the airport terminal (between door 4 and 5 - big yellow numbers above eye level), and you need around 2,000 Chilean pesos in cash. The bus will drop you off at the North side of this Pajaritos metro station, cross to the South side of the Metro to get to the Bus Platform. From here, buses leave frequently for Valparaíso.

Alternatively, there are transfer service companies, taxis and rental cars available at Santiago airport, see: <https://wikitravel.org/en/Valpara%C3%ADso>

Temperature and Climate

Valparaíso has a mild-temperate climate. In March, temperatures generally rise to 22 °C (during daytime) and descend to 12 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and dry.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

Among the many popular activities are:

Exploring the historic city centre: See: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959>

Traditional food: Try *Chorrillana*, a heaping mound of French fries topped with steak stripes, fried onion, and fried eggs!

Ride an Ascensore (a funicular rail car): Providing transport to locals that live in the cerros hillside communities, they are mostly old and creaky, but generally reliable! It has been said that going to Valparaíso and not going on an ascensore is like going to Venice and not taking a ride on a gondola! They cost around 300 Chilean Pesos per ride (around 50 Euro cents).

Mirador del Cerro Artillería: Panoramic view over the city and coast. It can be reached by the lift at Artillería, which costs 300 Chilean pesos. The view is spectacular. Nearby there is a handful of charming restaurants, and souvenir shops.

Naval and Maritime Museum: Discover the history of the Chilean Navy.

Nightlife: Valparaíso is famed for its vibrant clubs and discos!

Visas

Contact the Chilean Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the Chilean Peso. ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Foreign currencies can easily be changed both at the airport, and at money changers and banks.



Callao, Peru

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Callao is Peru's main seaport and home to the country's main airport, the Jorge Chávez International Airport (known as 'LIM'). It is located around 15 km to the west of the centre of Lima (the Peruvian capital).

Numerous commercial flights connect Callao to destinations across the world. Search for flights on various online flight provider websites, notably www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com (note: most online flight provider websites will not recognise Callao for the purpose of flights, so search for Lima instead).

Temperature and Climate

Callao has a subtropical temperature range. In March, temperatures generally rise to 27 °C (during daytime) and descend to 14 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and dry.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

Among the many popular activities in the Callao-Lima area are:

The Historic Downtown of Lima: which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Callao's Museums: which include the Fortaleza del Real Felipe (built to protect Lima from pirates during the viceroyalty period), the Museo de la Fuerza de Aviación Naval and Museo Naval (which cover the history of the Peruvian Navy), and the Museo de Sitio Naval Submarino Abtao (home to an old submarine that you can go inside!)

Lima's Circuito Mágico del Agua (Magic Water Tour): A fountain and light display in the Parque de la Reserva and Parque Fermín Tangüis in Lima.

The Parque del Amor (Lovers' Park) in Miraflores.

The Costa Verde: Lima's impressive green coast stretches between San Miguel and Chorrillos.

The Historical Sites of Pueblo Libre: Including the Cruz del Viajero, a monumental Christian cross dating from the era of the Conquistadores.

Historical Churches: Lima's Cathedral, Santo Domingo (San Martín de Porres), Santa Rosa (Santa Rosa de Lima), Nazarenas (Señor de los Milagros) and San Francisco.

Lima's Museums: Museo Nacional de Arqueología, Antropología e Historia (archaeology, anthropology and history) and the Museo de Arte (art).

Huaca Pucllana: Pre-Inca temple of the Lima culture (around 500 AD). This archaeological site is located in the Miraflores district and is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the city.

Bike Tours: Tour Lima with English speaking guides by [bicycle](#).

Try Pisco Sour: The national drink of Peru, made from Pisco, a brandy made of grapes!

Partner Projects Abroad

Projects Abroad is proud to announce its partnership with Darwin200! Designed specifically for Darwin200 voyagers, we're offering several 7-day land-based activities before or after you sail in The Galápagos, Fiji, and Peru. Founded in 1992, we've welcomed over 130,000 participants to take part in impact-driven Projects around the world. Join us and experience the best these countries have to offer while leaving a positive impact! Projects Abroad offer a choice between two programmes in Peru – Amazon Conservation and Discovery Tour.



Amazon Conservation

Based in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon, you'll have the opportunity to get your hands dirty and support practical conservation efforts. Located in Taricaya Ecological Reserve, you can help relocate the endangered Yellow-spotted side-necked Amazon River Turtle, conduct wildlife surveys, and participate in animal re-release initiatives—all while living next to the Amazon tributary, the Madre de Dios River. Check out our Amazon Conservation programme [here](#).

Discovery Tour

Spend a week exploring the Sacred Valley of the Incas! With famous sites like Machu Picchu, Rainbow Mountain, and the Inca Trail, you'll be immersed in the culture of the ancient Incan Empire. Learn more about this amazing civilisation by visiting active archaeological sites, all while experiencing breathtaking views. Check out our Discovery Tour [here](#).

Visas

Contact the Peruvian Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the Nuevo Sol, but US dollar notes are also often accepted as money. ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are accepted in larger establishments. Foreign currencies can easily be changed both at the airport, and at money changers and banks.

Puerto Lucía, Ecuador

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Puerto Lucía (home to a marina and yacht club) lies on the Peninsula of Santa Elena, around 140 km to the east of Guayaquil, the second largest city in Ecuador, and the country's main port.

International flights arriving in Ecuador land at either Quito or Guayaquil. Quito is much further from Puerto Lucía, so select flights to the latter. Many international carriers offer flights to Guayaquil via North and South America hub cities, especially KLM Royal Dutch Airlines (www.klm.co.uk/). Search for flights on various online flight provider websites, notably www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com

In Guayaquil, buses are available from the city to Puerto Lucía, however it is easier and faster for participants of the Darwin200 Voyage to group together and share costs to charter taxis from Guayaquil to Puerto Lucía (or back). Meet your fellow participants of Voyage Legs 14 and 15 and see if anyone would like to share a taxi ride with you.

Temperature and Climate

Puerto Lucía has a tropical, semi-arid climate. In April, temperatures rise to 32 °C (during daytime) and down to 18 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and dry.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available in Puerto Lucía. One of the best options is the hotel at Puerto Lucía Yacht Club: <http://puertolucia.com.ec/en/hotel-en/>

Alternatively, see hotels tagged on Google Earth, including: Hotel Palmeras Playa Milina, Salinas Paradise, Playa Canela Hotel Boutique, Hote Boutique Casa del Mar. Search for these on Google and TripAdvisor.

Also, search for accommodation in Puerto Lucía on www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

There is a small beach near to the Puerto Lucía yacht club and the interesting 'Parque Historico Guayaquil' in Guayaquil, but neither Puerto Lucía nor the industrial city of Guayaquil are really tourist destinations. Guayaquil does have several museums and parks, see: <https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Guayaquil>

If you have extra time to spend in Ecuador, you may find Quito more interesting, especially the city's historic Old Town, the spectacular Fundación Iglesia de la Compañía church and the Museo Templo del Sol Pintor Ortega Maila.

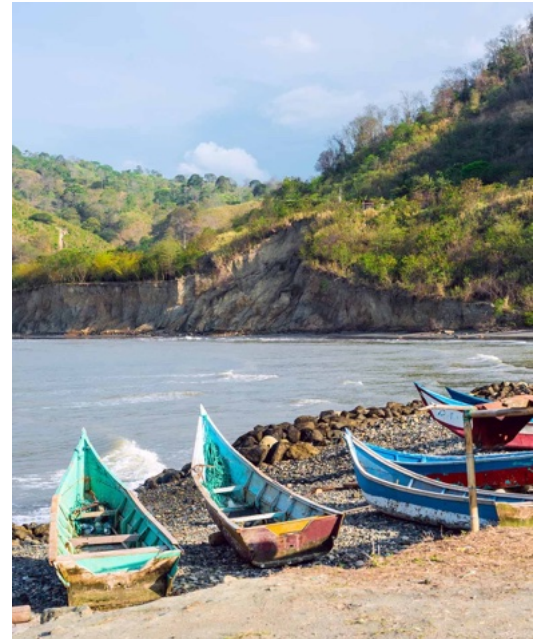
Or head up into the highlands to visit the El Cajas National Park, which is a haven for wildlife.

Visas

Contact the Ecuadorian Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

United States dollars (US \$) are used as currency in Ecuador. There are many ATMs in Guayaquil and Puerto Lucía, and large establishments will accept credit cards. It is recommended to bring cash in US \$ in small bills (do not bring bills over \$20 as these are very difficult to use for small transactions).



Galápagos Islands, Ecuador

Location Oosterschelde

The *Oosterschelde* will be on San Cristobal Island, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno – Wreck Bay. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

The Galápagos Islands are an archipelago of volcanic islands, located around 900 km off the coast of South America. They are part of Republic of Ecuador and are world famous for their spectacular volcanic landscapes and unique wildlife. The island group is made up of 18 main isles, of which, Santa Cruz, Santiago, Isabela, Fernandina and San Cristobal are the largest by land area. The islands are home to around 25,000 inhabitants.

The main way to get to the Galápagos Islands from the mainland is by plane from Guayaquil or Quito airports.

Flights to the Galápagos are relatively easy to arrange and depart from the Ecuadorian cities of Quito and Guayaquil on a daily basis and fly to Isla Baltra Airport, about an hour by taxi and ferry from Puerto Ayora (the main settlement) on the central island of Santa Cruz. There are also daily flights to San Cristóbal.

Flights from Guayaquil are slightly less expensive than those from Quito; however, there is more availability from Quito as there are typically two flights a day from Quito and only one from Guayaquil. Flights are available from [Avianca](#) and [LATAM Airlines](#). Inter-island flights are available from [EMETEBE Airlines](#).

Temperature and Climate

The Galápagos Islands have a tropical climate, with temperatures in April up to 32 °C (during daytime) and down to 15 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and dry, although sporadic showers can occur.

Hotels and Accommodation

Hotels accommodation is available in the towns of Puerto Ayora, Puerto Villamil, and Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. Many of these options are available on www.booking.com or can be booked directly (search on Google).

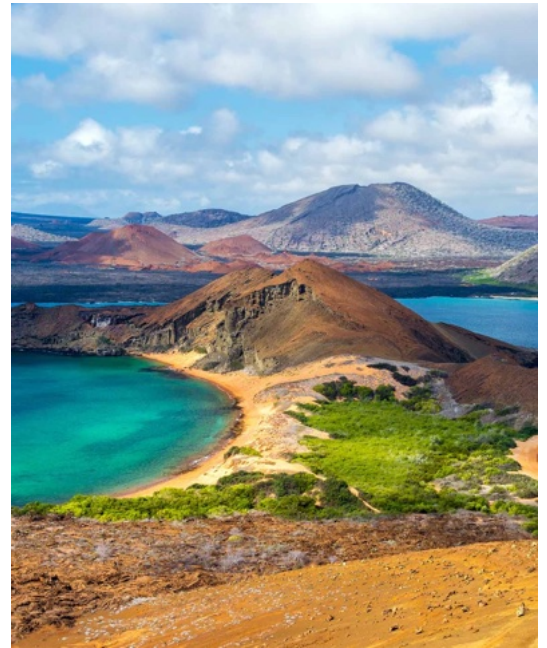
Activities and Tours

We have scheduled several days during Voyage Leg 15 to explore the Galápagos Islands. Most visiting vessels are allowed to visit only one island, but we are applying for special permits to visit more than one island. If this permit is granted, we will visit more than one island and work with local operators to offer land trips to see key wildlife. If we are allowed to visit only one island, we will arrive at the Galápagos Islands, and use a combination of local charter vessels and ground transport to visit key locations around the archipelago. The amount of time we will have at the Galápagos Islands will depend upon the weather we experience on our passage from Puerto Lucia, but providing weather does not delay our transit, we should have 3-4 days to explore the Galápagos Islands and see the amazing sights that the islands have to offer.

Partner Projects Abroad

Projects Abroad is proud to announce its partnership with Darwin200! Designed specifically for Darwin200 voyagers, we're offering several 7-day land-based activities before or after you sail in The Galápagos, Fiji, and Peru. Founded in 1992, we've welcomed over 130,000 participants to take part in impact-driven Projects around the world. Join us and experience the best these countries have to offer while leaving a positive impact!

Follow in Darwin's footsteps and explore one of the world's most unique wildlife hotspots. Based on San Cristóbal island, you'll have privileged access to Galápagos National Park. Work with Giant Tortoises, meet friendly sea lions, and observe the island's diverse birdlife. Work alongside Park rangers to help clear invasive species, plant native flora, and clean the beaches. Take a boat to Santa Cruz island to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and learn more about his voyage nearly 200 years ago! Check out our Galápagos Programme [here](#).



Wildlife: The unbelievable landscapes and unique wildlife are the key attractions of the Galápagos Islands, and include giant tortoises, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, Galápagos penguins, penguins, Galápagos sea lions, Galápagos fur seals, boobies, mocking birds, tropic birds, frigatebirds and countless other species, see: https://wikitravel.org/en/Galápagos_wildlife

Visas

The Galápagos Islands have strict entry processes, which we will be undertaking as a group. We will liaise with you to undertake this process together.

Currency

United States dollars (US \$) are used as currency in Ecuador. There are a handful of ATMs in the Galápagos Islands, but only in Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island, and one in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on San Cristóbal Island at the current time. Credit cards can only be used at larger businesses in the Galápagos (including tourist shops and upmarket restaurants and hotels), but not as a matter of course. Where they are accepted, credit card transactions often attract a surcharge to your bill of up to 10%. It is recommended to bring cash in US \$ in small bills (do not bring bills over \$20 as these are very difficult to use for small transactions).

Easter Island, Chile

Location Oosterschelde

We will try to pick you up at Hanga Roa. Due to variable wind conditions the place of embarkation can change last minute. It could be that the ship will have to lift anchor and move to another anchor spot. We will update you accordingly. Since the island is small, this will easily be accommodated. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Easter Island is one of the most geographically isolated isles on Earth, it lies over 3,500 km from South America and more than 6,500 km from New Zealand yet has been inhabited for centuries by Polynesian people called the Rapa Nui, who constructed nearly 1,000 monumental statues, called moai, which are renowned across the globe. Today, Easter Island is a 'special territory' of Chile, and the community of 7,750 people on the island speak both the Rapa Nui language and Spanish.

It would be easy to assume that due to its remote location, Easter Island is difficult to reach. But in reality, commercial flights service Easter Islands' Mataverí International Airport (also known as Isla de Pascua Airport), called 'IPC'. As a part of Chile, it is a domestic flight from Santiago and passports do not need to be presented on arrival when landing from the Chilean mainland. Flights do arrive from Tahiti, and your passport will be needed for those arrivals. Flights services are offered by LATAM Chile, see www.latamairlines.com/ (flights were suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic, but daily flights are scheduled to re-start during mid-2022).

Temperature and Climate

Easter Island has a humid, sub-tropical climate, with temperatures up to 28 °C (during daytime) and down to 16 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and humid.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotel options are available, especially in Hanga Roa (the main settlement on Easter Island). These can be booked via www.booking.com

Activities and Tours

The biggest tourist attractions on Easter Island are the Moai standing upon ceremonial platforms called Ahu. Ahus are mostly located along the coastline of the island. First-time visitors may be struck by how many archaeological sites there are around the island, where you can be virtually alone depending on the season and time of the day. Each clan typically had an ahu, although not all of them had moais, so as you drive around the south coast of the island every mile will contain sites with ruins.

Two exceptional sites are the volcanic craters of Rano Kau and Rano Raraku. The slightly inland quarry at 'Rano Raraku' is where the majority of moais were created, on a hillside. This 300-foot volcano remnant provided the stones for the great figures and is where a visitor can see various stages of the carving, as well as partially finished figures scattered around. A climb to the left side of the crater, over the top, and into the bowl, is well worth it. The opposite lip of the crater, where some of the moai were carved, is one of the most dramatic sites on the island but, unfortunately, currently off-limits.

Rano Raraku and Orongo require entrance to the national park that can be bought at the airport upon arrival or, alternatively, at the CONAF office. The same entrance is valid in both locations so make sure you keep your ticket safe. The rest of the island can be visited without an entrance. For detailed information, please see https://wikitravel.org/en/Easter_Island

Visas

Contact the Chilean Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the Chilean Peso. There are three ATMs on Easter Island (at the airport (opens two hours before plane arrives and closes when plane leaves) and at the banks Banco Santander and Banco Estado), as well as several currency exchange offices. available. Dollars and credit cards are sometimes accepted, and credit cards are available at Credit cards can be used at larger establishments.



Pitcairn Island,

It is our intention to stop at Pitcairn Island enroute from Easter Island to Mangareva (Voyage Leg 17).

Landing is weather dependent and cannot be guaranteed, but we will make every effort to land at Pitcairn Island, as far as circumstances allow.

The Pitcairn Islands are a group of four isles (Pitcairn, Henderson, Oeno and Ducie) that make up a UK Overseas Territory in the Pacific Ocean. Of these, only Pitcairn is inhabited. The island is famed as being the home of the descendants of the mutineers of HMAV *Bounty*.

Although only around 4.6 km² in size, and home to around 40 islanders, Pitcairn Island is one of the most interesting and diverse isles in Polynesia and is filled with history and sights.

It is one of the most remote inhabited islands on Earth and is resupplied just four times each year with a supply vessel chartered by the UK Government (although private yachts and cruise ships also visit). Despite this, most years, more people fly to space than visit Pitcairn Island, so we are very lucky to visit.



Temperature and Climate

Pitcairn Island has a humid, tropical climate, with temperatures up to 30 °C (during daytime) and down to 16 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and humid.

Note: as we will be arriving on *Oosterschelde*, and departing on *Oosterschelde*, you do not need to organise any travel to/from Pitcairn Island. It is our hope to spend at least one full day ashore on Pitcairn. This beautiful island has so much to offer. A few of the highlights include:

Christian's Cave: Visit the very cave where Fletcher Christian supposedly retreated to before his grizzly death at the hands of his fellow mutineers.

Visit to feed Mrs T: A giant tortoise from the Galápagos Island that roams the island!

Local Craft and Products: Many of the Pitcairn Islanders produce incredible local products, including exquisite wood carvings, the world's purest honey, and islander Meralda Warren if famed for her beautiful and unique Pitcairn Tapa artwork.

Visit to Polynesian Pictograms at Down Rope: A trip down a steep cliffside to a site used by Polynesians to quarry obsidian (volcanic glass). The cliffs nearby have interesting Polynesian pictograms with unusual and intriguing symbols.

Bounty Day Celebrations and Feast: We have to ask the islanders, but it may be possible for them to organise a Bounty Day Celebration (burning of a model of the HMAV *Bounty*) and a traditional Polynesian feast (with breadfruit cooked in traditional Polynesian earth ovens). We will need to pay extra for this, but if the islanders are willing (and if enough of our group would like to do this), it would be a fantastic way to experience Pitcairn Island's unique culture.

Museum: Not to be missed, a visit to Pitcairn's fascinating museum, with many original artefacts from HMAV *Bounty*.

Stamps and Post Office: Buy unique Pitcairn Island stamps and send a postcard from one of the most remote inhabited islands on Earth.

Darwin200 project leader Stewart McPherson made the following online films about the Pitcairn Islands: <https://youtu.be/yJZQyhx13AA> and <https://youtu.be/vPZHfRXzjA>

Visas

All visitors must apply to the Island Council (which we will organise and undertake together). The official Government of the Pitcairn Islands website is: www.government.pn

Currency

The community on Pitcairn Island prefer to accept New Zealand dollars (as the supply vessel that services the island travels via New Zealand). But US dollars, Euros and Pounds Sterling can all be changed on the island. Cash can usually be withdrawn via credit cards, but it is best to bring sufficient cash for your visit.

Mangareva, French Polynesia

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. Probably the harbour of Rikitea. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Mangareva is the largest island in the Gambier Islands in French Polynesia. It has a population of around 1,250 people, most of whom live in the main town of Rikitea. French Polynesia is an 'Overseas Collectively' of France.

The airstrip in Rikitea is called Totegegie Airport and is served by flights by Air Tahiti (www.airtahiti.aero/home.php) that fly to/from Papeete, Hao and Tureia. The airport is located on an offshore island but is connected to Rikitea town by taxi boat.

From Papeete (Tahiti), Air Tahiti Flight Number VT951 leaves at 05:40 and arrives at 11:05 and the flight back on the same day is from 11:55 and arrives at Tahiti at 14:50. Air Tahiti flies weekly from Hao (HOI IATA) and Tureia (ZTA IATA).

Mangareva is an interesting place, but two or three days is enough to see the place. There are other islands in French Polynesia that serve as better destinations for relaxing. Very few locals speak English. Bring a French dictionary.

Temperature and Climate

Rikitea has a tropical climate, with temperatures up to 30 °C (during daytime) and down to 18 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny, although sporadic showers can occur.

Hotels and Accommodation

Hotels on Mangareva are limited to a few options: [Kura Inn](#), [Pension Maro'I](#), [Chez Jojo and Chez Bianca & Benoît](#) and [Maison unique aux Gambier](#).

Also search <https://room-2-rikitea.hotelmix.co.uk> , and www.tripadvisor.com

Travel to and from the airport should be organised in advance with the establishment at which you are staying. See: <https://tahititourisme.com/en-us/island/mangareva-gambier-islands/mangareva-gambier-islands-transportation/> and https://wikitravel.org/en/Gambier_Islands

Activities and Tours

Services and activities on Mangareva are limited. See <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rikitea> and https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Gambier_Islands

Enjoy a piece of the planet nearly untouched by the modern world. The lagoon is stunning. Tour a black pearl farm. Spend a day on a motu having a picnic, tour the atolls historic churches, hike around the entire island, or to the top of Mt. Duff.

At Mangareva's main village, Rikitea, visitors will find several ruins. Among these archaeological relics are a convent, a triumphal arch, several watchtowers, a prison and a court. These abandoned remains have been noted for their dark, eerie feel.

[St Michel of Rikitea Church](#) was constructed of fired limestone, this neo-gothic Catholic church was built under the auspices of Father Honoré Laval. The church, which is still in use today, is inlaid with iridescent mother-of-pearl. Across the path from St. Micheal of Rikitea Church is a well-maintained 140 year-old rectory, occupied by a parish priest.

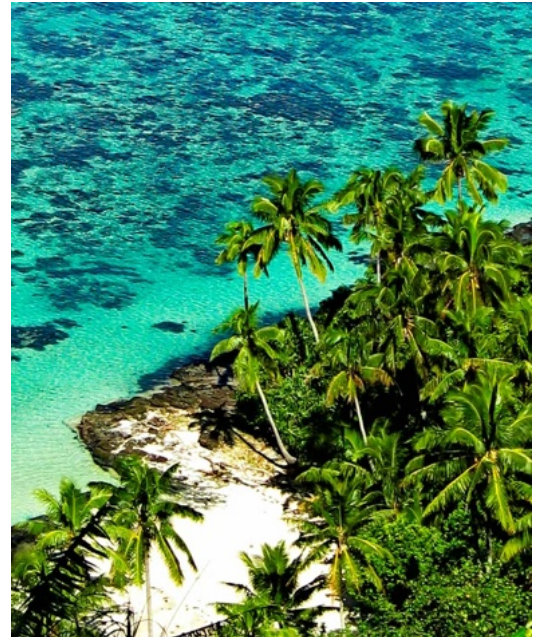
There are 2 small restaurants in Rikitea and you may be able to eat at your accommodation (ask).

Visas

Contact the French Polynesia Embassy or Consulate in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the Pacific Franc (CFP franc). There are no ATM's or banks. Bring enough French Polynesian Francs for your holiday. Locals here deal with cash only. You can exchange USD/Euros for French Polynesian Francs at the post office in Rikitea. Accommodation sometimes accepts credit cards (ask before arriving).



Tahiti, French Polynesia

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. The Oosterschelde will probably be at anchor. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Tahiti is the largest of the 118 islands and atolls that make up French Polynesia. It is home to around 190,000 people, many of whom live in the capital, Papeete. French Polynesia is an 'Overseas Collectively' of France.

Tahiti is serviced by flights from destinations across the world. Search for flights on various online flight provider websites, notably www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com

[Air Tahiti Nui](#) is a major provider of flights to/from Tahiti. In particular, flight connections link Tahiti to Tokyo, Honolulu, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Santiago, Hanga Roa (Easter Island), Rarotonga, Auckland and Noumea, see <https://tahititourisme.com/en-us/>. All international flights to Tahiti land at Faa'a International Airport (IATA: PPT), which is close to the main city of Papeete.



Temperature and Climate

Tahiti has a tropical climate, with temperatures up to 30 °C (during daytime) and down to 18 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and humid, although sporadic showers can occur.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com. Tahiti (and other islands in French Polynesia, e.g. Bora Bora) are home to some of the most [luxurious resorts](#) on Earth.

Activities and Tours

Tahiti is a paradise for tourists. Among the many popular activities are:

'Le Marché': This is the large two-story Papeete's marketplace where you can buy traditional Tahitian goods, including jewellery, fruits, woven hats and bags, and shell necklaces.

The Arahoho Blowhole: On the North side of Tahiti Nui. An area where a blowhole in the shore has formed on the road and whose waves crash inside the rock cliff.

Les Trois Cascades: Three beautiful waterfalls inside the island of Tahiti Nui.

Tomb of King Pomare the Fifth: The tomb of the only king of Tahiti, when it was a monarchy.

Pointe Venus Lighthouse: Black sand beach and clear blue water by a fishing reef. Popular among Tahitians. Just turn seawards at the roundabout with the two supermarkets.

Botanical Garden/Gauguin Museum: At Papeari, on the west coast, the botanical garden made by Harrison Smith lies alongside the Gauguin Museum in the magical setting of the Motu Ovini.

The Olivier-Breud Golf Course: You can admire the wonderful layout of this golf course set in the magnificent Atimoana complex which was a sugar cane farmland run in the 19th century.

Arahurahu Marae: A restored religious site containing various stone block structures dedicated to the old gods and where important ceremonies used to take place.

Museum of Tahiti and the Islands: A rich collection of very old pieces and reconstructed historical scenes. The Black pearl museum as well as the Gauguin museum are also fascinating.

To'ata: A square with small restaurants.

Visas

Contact the French Polynesia Embassy or Consulate in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the Pacific Franc (CFP franc). There are ATM's and money changers in Papeete, and many establishments accept credit and debit cards.

Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Location Oosterschelde

The Oosterschelde will be in Avatiu Harbour. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Rarotonga is the largest and most populous of the Cook Islands (a self-governing country in free association with New Zealand). The island is famed as a beautiful tourist destination and is home to many popular resorts and hotels.

Rarotonga is home to around 13,000 of the total of 17,500 inhabitants of the Cook Islands. The main town of Avarua, on Rarotonga's north coast, is the country's capital and home to the Rarotonga International Airport. Daily flights via Auckland connect to Sydney, Los Angeles, Tahiti and beyond.

The main airlines servicing Rarotonga are Air New Zealand (www.airnz.co.nz), Air Rarotonga (www.airraro.co.ck), Virgin Australia (www.virginaustralia.com) and Air Tahiti (www.airtahiti.com).



For detailed flight information, see www.discovercookislands.com/getting-here/ and <https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Rarotonga>

The above flights can be booked through each company's website or via various online flight provider websites, notably www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com

Temperature and Climate

Rarotonga has a mild-tropical climate. In August, temperatures are generally up to 28 °C (during daytime) and down to 18 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and humid, although sporadic showers can occur.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

Famed for its palm-fringed white beaches and crystal-clear waters, Rarotonga is a dream destination for relaxing in resorts, of which, there are dozens to choose from. A selection (often with package deals) can be viewed here: www.discovercookislands.com/holiday-packages/hotels-resorts/ Also search 'Rarotonga resort' on Google.

For those on Voyage Leg 20, why not have a few days being pampered in a resort, after you leave *Oosterschelde*, or for participants of Voyage Leg 21, arrive a few days earlier to explore Rarotonga before embarking on your sailing adventure.

Other attractions include:

Diverse Coral Reefs filled with glittering tropical fish which are perfect for snorkelling or diving. See listing of operators here: <https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Rarotonga>

Maire Nui Gardens: Home to native flora and fruits from the island. Admission is \$3. There is a cafe in the gardens, selling coffee and light homemade dishes.

Hiking: There are many trails through the tropical forests of the island to several waterfalls (including the beautiful Wigmore's Waterfall) and Raemaru Peak (350 m).

Windsurfing: Muri lagoon is a great place to windsurf, although the winds are never really that strong, great for beginners. You can rent them in the building right beside the sailing club.

Visas

For travel entry requirements, please see: <https://cookislands.travel/entry>

Currency

The New Zealand dollar is used in the Cook Islands (although some old Cook Island dollars remain in circulation). There are many ATM's and money changers across the island, and most large establishments accept credit and debit cards.

Tonga, Kingdom of Tonga

Location Oosterschelde

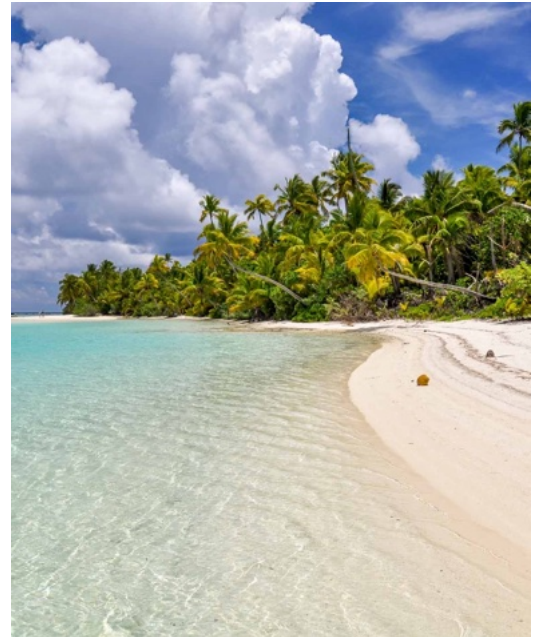
To be confirmed. The Oosterschelde will be at anchor. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

The Kingdom of Tonga is a Polynesian country consisting of 169 islands, of which, 36 are inhabited. Tonga has a population of around 105,000 people, most of whom reside on the main island, Tongatapu.

The Kingdom of Tonga is famed for its centuries-old culture, history and traditions. For 1,000 years, Tongan monarchs have ruled over isle, and today Tonga is known as the 'True South Pacific' for its unspoilt beauty.

The main international airport is Fua'amotu International Airport (known as 'TBU'). The main airlines that service this airport are: Air New Zealand (www.airnz.co.nz), Fiji Airways (www.fijiairways.com/en-gb), Fiji Link (www.fijiairways.com/en-fj/flights-fiji-link-domestic-flights) and Talofa Airways (www.talofaairways.com/).



Temperature and Climate

Tonga has a tropical climate that is influenced by the trade winds. In September, temperatures are generally up to 28 °C (during daytime) and down to 18 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and humid, although sporadic showers can occur.

Hotels and Accommodation

A wide range of accommodation options are available, see:

Resorts: www.tongaholiday.com/where-to-stay/resorts/

Guest houses: www.tongaholiday.com/where-to-stay/guest-houses/

Many hotels can be booked via www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

Tonga is home to dramatic volcanic landscapes, spectacular tropical forests and magnificent sandy beaches. The following websites provided extensive information for tourists:

<http://tourismtonga.gov.to/> and www.tongaholiday.com/. See also:

www.neverendingfootsteps.com/tonga-travel-guide/

Attractions include:

Beaches: With over 419 sq km2 of coastline, the beaches of Tonga offer a tropical paradise. Many have beautiful sandy beaches fringed with palm trees.

Swim with Whales: Tonga is famed for large numbers of migratory humpback whales. Luckily, our visit in September coincides with peak whale season. See

<https://humpbackswims.com/about/best-time/> and www.tongawhaleswim.com/ and

<https://tongapocketguide.com/when-is-the-whale-season-in-tonga/>

Tongan feasts are a must-do. Tour companies and hotels organize feasts, together with traditional dancing, on several nights of the week on Tongatapu and in Vava'u. You should try *Ota* (marinated raw fish) and *Lu* (meat wrapped in taro leaves).

Tapa cloth is made from the bark of various trees and shrubs. It is found throughout Polynesia, but Tonga is the only country where it is still a part of daily life. The bark is stripped from the tree and dried in the sun before being soaked. It is then beaten into strips using wooden mallets. The continuous beats of the tapa mallet are still a common sound in Tongan villages.

Visas

For travel entry requirements, please see: www.tongaholiday.com/ and <http://tourismtonga.gov.to/>

Currency

The national currency is the pa'anga, or Tongan dollar, denoted by the symbol 'T\$'. There are many ATM's and money changers, and most large establishments accept credit and debit cards.

Fiji

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. The Oosterschelde will be near the Royal Suva Yacht Club. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

The Republic of Fiji is an island country in Melanesia, in the South Pacific. It lies roughly 2,000 km northeast of New Zealand and consists of an archipelago of 330 (mostly volcanic) islands, of which, 110 are permanently inhabited.

The largest island of Fiji is Viti Levu, which is home to the country's capital, Suva. Fiji has a total population of around 950,000 people, two thirds of which live on Viti Levu, with 78,000 inhabiting Suva.

Nadi International Airport (called 'NAN') is Fiji's main international airport, although Suva-Nausori Airport ('SUV') has some incoming flights.

Many airlines offer services to Nadi, with connections to hub cities across the Pacific region. Among these, Fiji Airways (www.fiji Airways.com/) operates direct flights to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Honolulu, Hong Kong, Singapore and Sydney.

Temperature and Climate

Fiji has a tropical climate. In September, temperatures are generally up to 28 °C (during daytime) and down to 18 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and humid, although sporadic showers can occur.

Hotels and Accommodation

A plethora of resorts and hotels are available on Fiji for all budgets, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

Fiji's main attraction is its paradise-like nature, with perfect palm-lined beaches, blue waters and green inland hills. Short flights enable tourists to 'island hop'. Popular activities include:

Snorkelling and diving at Fijis countless reefs.

Trekking through Tropical Forests to see a colourful array of birds, waterfalls and volcanic peaks. Head deep into Viti Levu to see Fiji's inland wildlife at the beautiful and jungle-covered Kulu Eco Park, or visit the Bouma National Park, on Taveuni.

The Fiji Museum in Suva provides a fascinating account of the island's diverse cultural heritage.

Beaches: Many beautiful beaches are scattered around the islands, but the sandy beaches of the Mamanuca Islands are particularly renowned.

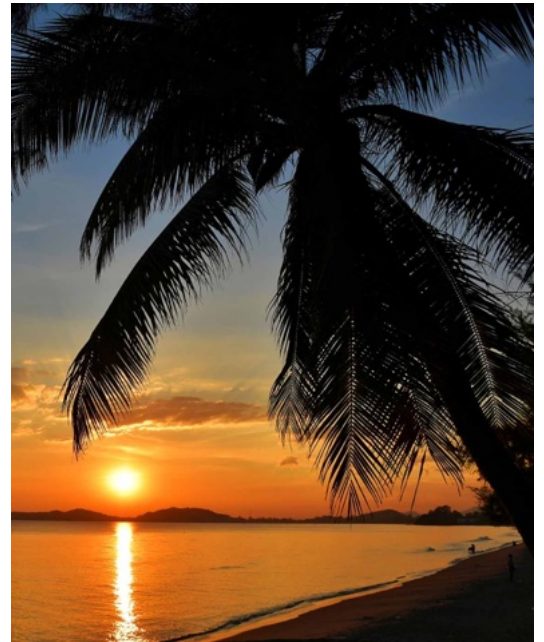
Try Traditional Fijian Foods: Such as *paulsami* (baked taro leaves marinated in lemon juice and coconut milk often with some meat or fish filling and a bit of onion or garlic), *kokoda* (fish or other seafood marinated in lemon and coconut milk), and anything cooked in a *lovo* or pit oven.

Whitewater Rafting: Several operators offer whitewater rafting and sea kayaking trips, for more information, see: <https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Fiji>

Kava Ceremony: Make a trip to one of the many villages to take part in a kava-ceremony or to see one of the many other remaining cultural traditions. Navala village (on Viti Levu) still maintains its traditional bures, making it an excellent pick.

Partner Projects Abroad

Projects Abroad is proud to announce its partnership with Darwin200! Designed specifically for Darwin200 voyagers, we're offering several 7-day land-based activities before or after you sail in The Galápagos, Fiji, and Peru. Founded in 1992, we've welcomed over 130,000 participants to take part in impact-driven Projects around the world. Join us and experience the best these countries have to offer while leaving a positive impact!



The Fiji programme allows voyagers to support conservation efforts in one of the most beautiful parts of the world. Plant mangroves from our tree nursery, explore coral reefs, and raise awareness about conservation best practices. You'll have the opportunity to learn about Fijian culture and meet village communities, with plenty of time to relax on Fiji's most beautiful beaches. Check out our Fiji Programme [here](#).

Visas

Contact the Fijian Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the Fijian dollar, denoted by the symbol 'F\$'. ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Foreign currencies can easily be changed both at the airport, and at money changers and banks

Bay of Islands, New Zealand

Location Oosterschelde

The ship will be at anchor in Opuia. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Charles Darwin landed at the Bay of Islands and spent 9 days exploring this beautiful corner of New Zealand.

Several daily flights connect Kerikeri Airport (also called Bay of Islands Airport, 'KKE') with Auckland, see Air New Zealand (www.airnz.co.nz).

Alternatively, several bus services and sightseeing tours make the journey from Auckland within one day, see https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Bay_of_Islands

Temperature and Climate

The Bay of Islands has a warm-temperate climate. In October, temperatures are generally up to 18 °C (during daytime) and down to 10 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and humid, though often with clouds or rain.



Hotels and Accommodation

A wide range of accommodation is available in the towns of Paihia, Russell, Kerikeri, Opuia and Kawakawa, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

The Bay of Islands region is home to a plethora of popular activities, including:

Historic Buildings: Including the Kerikeri Mission Station, the Stone Store (the oldest stone building in New Zealand), and Kemp House, plus many others.

Waitangi Treaty Grounds: New Zealand's most significant document, the Treaty of Waitangi, was first signed here in 1840 between a few Maori chiefs and the British Crown and became the basis for life in New Zealand as it is known today.

Haruru Falls: Haruru means 'big noise'. The water falls in a horseshoe shape and Maori legend states that a taniwha (water monster) lives in the lagoon below. You can walk to Haruru Falls along the Waitangi walking track. In the 1800s, there were over 100 Maori villages along the Haruru Falls River.

Puketi Forest: Along with Omahuta Forest, forms one of the largest contiguous tracts of native forest in Northland. Home to Te Tangi o te Tui Puketi, the fourth largest living kauri with a height of 50.9 m, Puketi is easily accessible from the Bay of Islands, Whangaroa and Hokianga Harbour.

Kawakawa Museum: In the former Memorial Library, Wynyard St, Kawakawa, this museum offers a glimpse of Kawakawa's coal mining history. The railway line running through the centre of Kawakawa to Opuia is a remnant of the coal mining times.

Kawiti Glow-Worm Caves: At Waiomio, see a galaxy of glow-worm lights and white limestone formations. Highly recommended.

Wharepuke Subtropical Garden: Northland's 'Garden of Regional Significance', 1 km from Kerikeri. It showcases unusual plants from around the world. Guided or self-guided tours are offered over the 2 hectares of established garden.

For many other activities, see: https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Bay_of_Islands

Visas

Contact the New Zealand Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the New Zealand dollar (NZ\$). ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Foreign currencies can easily be changed both at the airport, and at money changers and banks.

Auckland, New Zealand

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. The ship will be at the Maritime Museum. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

As a major hub city, Auckland is serviced by flights from destinations across the world. Search for flights on various online flight provider websites, notably www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com

Temperature and Climate

The Bay of Islands has a warm-temperate climate. In October, temperatures are generally up to 18 °C (during daytime) and down to 10 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and humid, though often with clouds or rain.

Hotels and Accommodation

A wide range of accommodation is available, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

See and do

Auckland's many volcanoes offer great vantage points to take in the city and some of them have been turned into parks. Popular ones include Mt. Eden and One Tree Hill in [Auckland Central](#) and Mt. Victoria in [Devonport](#).

Auckland Art Gallery, cnr Kitchener and Wellesley Streets. The largest collection of national and international art in New Zealand, housed in an award-winning landmark building on the edge of Albert Park in the heart of Auckland. The Gallery regularly hosts touring international exhibitions and offers a calendar of talks, performances, film screenings and children's activities to complement its exhibition programme. Has a shop and café. Free entry to permanent exhibitions for locals (excluding special exhibitions), \$20 for international visitors.

Auckland Domain is Auckland's oldest park and hosts weekend sports events. Includes the historically important [winter gardens](#) with impressive flower bed displays, tropical plants and statues (free). There are scenic views of the Waitemata Harbour and islands of the Hauraki Gulf from in front of the museum.

New Zealand National Maritime Museum, cnr Quay and Hobson St, Viaduct Harbour. Interesting exhibits chronicle New Zealand's maritime history. Free entry for Aucklanders, \$20 for other visitors.

Visit the Waitakere Ranges in West Auckland, replete with impressive waterfalls and rugged but beautiful beaches. Around 45 min (peak hours) drive from central Auckland.

Auckland War Memorial Museum, Parnell. The museum displays collections of significant importance at its prominent position in Auckland Domain. It was constructed in the 1920s as a war memorial to those that fought and died in theatres of war. The cenotaph located on the grounds below the steps leading up to the museum entrance is the focal point for annual ANZAC day remembrance services. The top floor records names in stone as well as sobering tombs and lists of war events and their locations. The museum contains excellent exhibitions of Māori and other Polynesian peoples' arts and crafts and daily Māori cultural performances as well as geography of the Auckland region. There is a planetarium and a cafe. \$25 entry for overseas visitors, donation invited from NZ residents, free for Auckland residents.

Visas

Contact the New Zealand Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the New Zealand dollar (NZ\$). ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Foreign currencies can easily be changed both at the airport, and at money changers and banks.



Sydney, Australia

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. But the ship will probably be berthed at the Sea Museum. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

The largest city in Australia, Sydney is famed for its iconic opera house, famous harbour bridge and beautiful beaches. As a major hub city, Sydney is serviced by flights from destinations across the world. Search for flights on various online flight provider websites, notably www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com

The main airport is Sydney Kingsford Smith ('SYD'), situated around 8 km south of the city centre. Buses, taxis and Uber offer transportation from the airport to the city. Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport has wifi internet for booking Ubers. A journey to the city centre costs around AUS \$50-80.

Temperature and Climate

Sydney has a warm-temperate climate. In November, temperatures are generally up to 26 °C (during daytime) and down to 14 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny and dry.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

Sydney offers a wide range of attractions. Among the many popular sights are:

Sydney Opera House: Watch an opera or a play in the iconic build. To find out what is on, visit: www.sydneyoperahouse.com

City Highlights: Explore downtown Sydney and visit the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney Tower, St Mary's Cathedral, Royal Botanic Gardens and the State Library of New South Wales.

BridgeClimb: Walk across the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge: www.bridgeclimb.com

Visit Darling Harbour: Located to the west of the city centre, Darling Harbour is home to the National Maritime Museum, Sydney Fish Market, Sydney Wildlife World, Sydney Aquarium and the Powerhouse Museum.

Zoo and Luna Park: Cross the Harbour Bridge to reach the Lower North Shore where you can visit Luna Park and world-famous Taronga Zoo!

Manly: Take a ferry across Sydney Harbour to Manly where you can visit the famous beach and walk to Middle Head passes many coastal artillery fortifications built into the cliffs of Sydney Harbour during the late nineteenth century.

Bondi Beach: Head out in the sun to visit the Eastern Suburbs where you can find the world famous Bondi beach, as well as many other beaches and La Perouse.

The Rocks: Explore the historic docks and wharf of The Rocks (an area close to the Harbour Bridge).

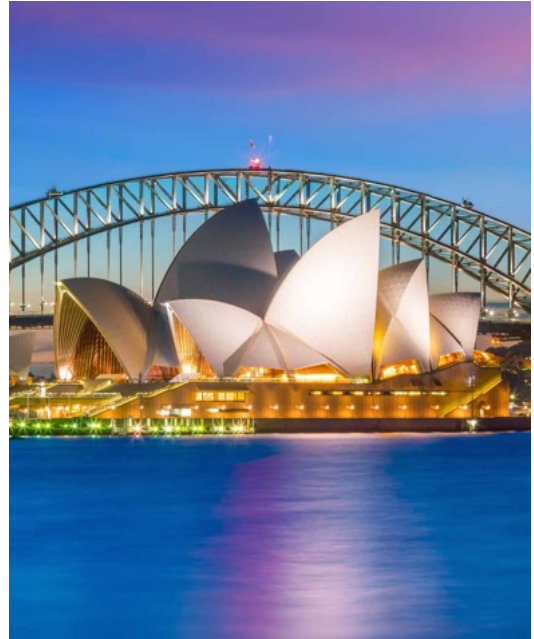
Blue Mountains: Drive inland in a rental car, or catch a train, to the beautiful Blue Mountains (a region dominated by Eucalyptus forests) and visit the famous Three Sisters rock formation.

Visas

Contact the Australian Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the Australian dollar (AUS \$). ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Foreign currencies can easily be changed both at the airport, and at money changers and banks.



Hobart, Australia

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. But the ship will probably be berthed at the IMAS Wharf. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Hobart is the capital city of the Australian state of Tasmania and is Australia's second oldest city, after Sydney. Hobart sits along the Derwent River and was established as a penal colony. Hobart is now a vibrant city with a population of around 250,000 in the Greater Hobart area.

Situated 15 km northeast of Hobart city, Hobart International Airport ('HBA') is the main airport serving Tasmania. Flights connect to major Australian hub cities (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide) for international flights that connect to destinations around the world, notably: Jetstar (www.jetstar.com.au) Qantas (www.qantas.com.au) and Virgin Australia (www.virginaustralia.com). These flights can be booked on www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com



Temperature and Climate

Hobart has a temperate climate. In December, temperatures are generally up to 21 °C (during daytime) and down to 11 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

Hobart has an impressive range of sights. Some of the highlights include:

Kangaroo Bluff Historic Site: A historic site, originally built for Hobart's defence.

Parliament House of Tasmania: Built as a customs house, the Parliament House of Tasmania opened in 1840, but came to serve solely as the state's Parliament House in 1904. Tours of the Parliament are available to the public which run on non-sitting days.

Mawson's Huts Replica Museum: One of Hobart's newest attractions, this museum is a replica of the base stations constructed for Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic expedition of 1911. It features amenities and conditions experienced by those who first lived inside the huts.

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG): Established in 1843 by the Royal Society of Tasmania, TMAG is an impressive natural history museum, art gallery and herbarium in one. It boasts various exhibits with Tasmanian, Australian and International themes.

Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary: Established in 1981, this wildlife sanctuary aims to care for injured and orphaned wildlife, with all proceeds going to maintaining the park. The park is home to wildlife including kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, koalas, Tasmanian devils, and a more than 100-year-old cockatoo.

Mount Wellington: Situated within Wellington Park, Mt Wellington peaks at 1,270 m with breath-taking views. At the top of the road up the mountain is the Pinnacle Observation Shelter, an indoor viewing area with binoculars. There are also several other lookouts on the way up to the peak. It is often 10-15° cooler at the top of Mt Wellington than it is in Hobart.

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens: Established in 1818, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens showcase 6,500 species, including over 400 Tasmanian species.

Visas

Contact the Australian Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the Australian dollar (AUS \$). ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Foreign currencies can easily be changed both at the airport, and at money changers and banks.

Christchurch, New Zealand

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Christchurch is the largest city in the South Island of New Zealand. It lies on the South Island's east coast, just north of Banks Peninsula on Pegasus Bay. The city has a total population of around 390,000 people. Christchurch is known as the Garden City, a well-deserved name for its beautiful green, leafy streets.

Christchurch International Airport ('CHC') is 12 km northwest of the city centre. Search for flights on various online flight provider websites, notably www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com. There are two regular public bus services from the airport to the city centre. Taxis are also available (cost about \$45-65 to the city centre) and rental cars can be hired at the terminal building.

Temperature and Climate

Christchurch has a temperate climate. In December, temperatures are generally up to 21 °C (during daytime) and down to 10 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

Christchurch is a dynamic city filled with activities, attractions and festivals. A detailed list can be viewed here: <https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Christchurch> however highlights include:

Air Force Museum: This museum has full-size replicas of fighting planes and dramatises the history of New Zealand's Air Force from World War I to Vietnam and beyond.

Botanic Gardens: 30 hectares of exotic and indigenous plants and trees wrapped in a loop of the picturesque Avon River and linking to the 160-hectare Hagley Park.

Christchurch Art Gallery: A spectacular \$47-million facility opened in 2003, the largest in the South Island, with over 5000 items and visiting exhibitions. The gallery reopened in Dec 2015, after 5 years of being a Civil Defence Centre and then repairs.

Earthquake Tourism: Tours of affected sites are available.

International Antarctic Centre: A world-class Antarctic experience with simulated polar weather, Hagglund All-Terrain Vehicle ride, penguins, extensive exhibits about Antarctic science missions, café and gift shop.

Orana Wildlife Park: New Zealand's largest wildlife sanctuary and conservation project featuring endangered animals from around the world. The park's design minimises fences and cages in favour of natural boundaries and habitats.

Christchurch Adventure Park: Very good mountain biking trails for advanced, intermediate and beginner bikers, and also zip-lines. Take the chairlift up then bike down. There are bike and gear rentals, lessons and skills clinics, and a cafe and bar.

Garden City Helicopters: Scenic flights from 20 min to 3 hours.

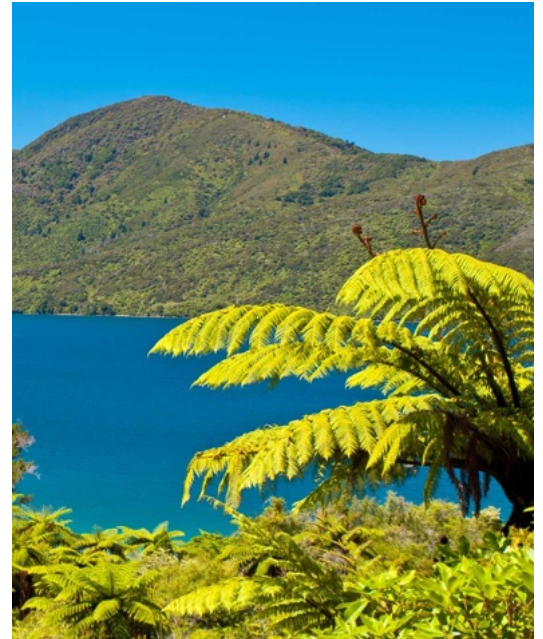
Punting on the Avon: Glide down the river in Cambridge University style with a boatsman.

Visas

Contact the New Zealand Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the New Zealand dollar (NZ\$). ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Foreign currencies can easily be changed both at the airport, and at money changers and banks.



Cape Horn to the Falkland Islands

Voyage Leg 27 involves sailing from Christchurch, New Zealand to Stanley in the Falkland Islands, via the Drake Passage past Cape Horn (the southernmost headland of the Tierra del Fuego Archipelago).

Sailing around Cape Horn is an elite accomplishment for seafarers, but participants of this voyage should take note that the Drake Passage is notorious for rough and unpredictable weather.

Cape Horn sits at a latitude of 56 degrees south and is thus prone to intense westerly winds nicknamed the 'furious fifties'. These winds are intensified at the Horn because of the funnelling effect of the Andes Mountains and the Antarctic Peninsula that force the winds into the relatively narrow Drake Passage.

Although sailing around Cape Horn is an adventure for any mariner's bucket list, participants of Voyage Leg 27 should understand and be aware of the challenges that sailing the Drake Passage involves. We do not expect to make landfall for approximately seven weeks (from departing Christchurch on 2nd January, 2025, to reaching Stanley, in the Falkland Islands, on 19th February, 2025). This will be an intense sailing adventure - not for novice sailors, but those seeking a genuine sailing adventure and aware of the hardships and challenges!

For those that do sail legendary Cape Horn, the sense of accomplishment when reaching Stanley will be great. In past centuries, sailors that accomplished this feat earned the right the title of 'Cape Horner' to boast of their seafaring victory. They were held in such reverence that they were granted the right to wear a gold loop earring and the right to dine with one foot on the dinner table!

Although we do not expect to make landfall during Voyage Leg 27, along the way, we have the chance to spot whales, dolphins, penguins and albatrosses!

Temperature and Climate

As we sail south, temperatures are likely to be a few degrees during the day, and may fall close to freezing (at night). Bring several sets of warm, wind-resistant clothes and waterproofs for this voyage leg.

Falkland Islands

For detailed information concerning your destination (Stanley), see the Falkland Island section above.



South Georgia

The island of South Georgia is part of an uninhabited UK Overseas Territory, see www.gov.gs

Without exaggeration, South Georgia is home to some of the greatest concentrations of wildlife on Earth. Around 35 million pairs of seabirds and marine mammals rear their young on the island each year, making it among the world's most important islands for sub-Antarctic fauna. See the website of the South Georgia Heritage Trust: www.sght.org

It is our intention to spend several days at South Georgia enroute from the Falkland Islands to Cape Town (Voyage Leg 28). But all participants must appreciate, landing is weather dependent and cannot be guaranteed.

Although uninhabited, a small, permanent British garrison is manned at King Edward Point, and during the summer months, personnel operate the South Georgia Museum.

Note: as we will be arriving on *Oosterschelde*, and departing on *Oosterschelde*, you do not need to organise any travel to/from South Georgia.

Temperature and Climate

South Georgia is a Sub-Antarctic Island. Our visit (in late February / early March) takes place in late summer. Daytime temperatures will vary from around 9 °C (during the day) to close to freezing (at night). Bring warm, wind-resistant clothes and waterproofs. See: <https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine,Grytviken,South-Georgia>

Activities and Tours

Most of the key wildlife locations and historic sites are located on the northern coast of South Georgia. Our itinerary will be determined by the weather, but we may visit:

Salisbury Plain and St. Andrew's Bay: Both home to epic concentrations of wildlife, each with around 100,000 breeding pairs of king penguins.

Prion Island: Home to a board walk to see breeding wandering albatrosses and fur seals.

Grytviken Whaling Station: A fascinating whaling station which you can explore.

Shackleton's Grave: Many tourists visit the grave of explorer Ernest Shackleton, which is located close to Grytviken whaling station. It is tradition to drink a tot of rum at his graveside to pay homage to the great man!

Stromness Whaling Station: A vast whaling station complex, and the location where Ernest Shackleton returned to at the end of his epic journey of survival. Not able to explore but can view from a distance.

South Georgia Museum: Home to fascinating exhibits concerning the natural history and whaling heritage of South Georgia. Strongly recommend visiting. Located close to Grytviken whaling station. See <https://sgmuseum.gs/>

Ocean Harbour: Home to the remains of a whaling settlement, including an abandoned train, and a shipwreck (the Bayard) offshore. Large numbers of fur seals.

Darwin200 project leader Stewart McPherson made the following online films about South Georgia: <https://youtu.be/oHZUibDpWuk> and <https://youtu.be/alaCe4LbWyo> and <https://youtu.be/1cURHd3yDLw> and <https://youtu.be/seFnLzHiscY> and <https://youtu.be/du2pFrAJK78> and <https://youtu.be/7B4pnHr7HYw> and <https://youtu.be/cMOxSC3RKhU> and [VTzISY2xrpU](https://youtu.be/VTzISY2xrpU)

Visas

Visitors require permits from the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (based in the Falkland Islands). We will apply as a group.

Currency

The only place to spend money on South Georgia is the museum shop. Bring cash in major currencies.



Tristan da Cunha

Tristan da Cunha is an archipelago of four islands (the main island, which is called Tristan da Cunha, as well as nearby Inaccessible and Nightingale Islands, and Gough Island, located to the south).

Tristan da Cunha (known to many as 'Tristan') is a UK Overseas Territory and often cited to be the most remote inhabited island on Earth. It lies 2,800 km from South Africa, and around 3,200 km from Brazil. Home to around 280 islanders, it is visited by only a few ships each year.

It is our intention to land at Tristan da Cunha enroute from the Falkland Islands to Cape Town (Voyage Leg 28). Landing at Tristan da Cunha requires calm weather and cannot be guaranteed. Sometimes, the weather remains rough for weeks on end, preventing any landing attempts for extended periods, but if weather allows, every effort will be made to visit this fascinating island.

Note: as we will be arriving on *Oosterschelde*, and departing on *Oosterschelde*, you do not need to organise any travel to/from Tristan da Cunha.



Temperature and Climate

Tristan da Cunha has a mild, temperate climate. During the time of our visit, temperatures may vary from up to 22 °C (during the day) to 14 °C (during the night). Bring warm, wind-resistant clothes and waterproofs.

Activities and Tours

Tristan da Cunha is a fascinating island to visit. Activities include:

Exploring Edinburgh of the Seven Seas: Explore the most remote inhabited settlement on Earth and discover the fascinating way of life on this isolated island.

Tristan Lobster: Try unique local lobster dishes (Tristan lobster is the island's main export and is extremely plentiful in the waters around the island)!

Museum: Visit Tristan da Cunha's fascinating museum.

Stamps and Post Office: Buy unique Tristan da Cunha stamps and send a postcard from the world's most remote inhabited island.

Visit the Albatross Bar: Visit the only pub on Tristan da Cunha!

Walk to the Patches: Walk down Tristan da Cunha's only road to the Patches, where the islanders grow their potatoes and crops. It is a beautiful part of the island, and often terns and other seabirds are spotted on the drystone walls of volcanic rocks

Climb onto the Lava Flow: Trek up the lava flow from the 1961 eruption, which forms a large ridge near to Edinburgh of the Seven Seas. The view of the summit is beautiful, and gives a good overview of the settlement.

See the official Tristan da Cunha tourism website for more information:
<https://tristandc.com/index.php>

Darwin200 project leader Stewart McPherson made the following online films about the Tristan da Cunha: <https://youtu.be/Fspkfxcrfwc> and <https://youtu.be/n4EIF8awm90>

Visas

All visitors must apply to the Island Council (which we will organise and undertake together). The official Government of Tristan da Cunha is: <https://tristandc.com/government.php>

Currency

The community on Tristan da Cunha use the Saint Helena Pound and the British Pound Sterling, although it may be possible to exchange other currencies in the post office (but this will take time and the post office may not be open when we visit). Bring cash to purchase souvenirs.

Cape Town

Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. The Oosterschelde will probably be berthed at Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Cape Town is the second most populous city in South Africa. Cape Town is on South Africa's southwestern coast close to the Cape of Good Hope, and is the southernmost city on the African continent. It is the gateway to the globally renowned Cape Winelands which includes the towns of Franschhoek, Stellenbosch and Paarl.

As a major hub city, Cape Town is serviced by flights from destinations across the world. Search for flights on various online flight provider websites, notably www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com. The main airport is Cape Town International Airport ('CPT'), situated around 20 km from the city centre. Buses and taxis offer transportation from the airport to the city.

Temperature and Climate

Cape Town has a sub-tropical climate. In April, the temperatures are generally up to 24 °C (during daytime) and down to 12 °C (at night). Summer and autumn days are generally sunny and warm.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com

Activities and Tours

Among Cape Town's many popular activities are:

Cable Car to the top of Table Mountain: Journey to the top of iconic Table Mountain for spectacular views across Cape Town.

Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden: See the beautiful and highly diverse flowers and plants of the Cape in one of the most stunning botanical gardens in the world.

Two Oceans Aquarium: You can come and watch the sharks be fed every Sunday at 15:00. There is an extensive series of events calendar for each month. Scuba diving with the sharks is also offered. A walk around the aquarium takes about an hour.

Cape Town Science Centre: A world of discovery under one roof! Expect a wide variety of interactive displays and exciting activities.

South African National Gallery: Located in the Gardens area of Cape Town off Government Ave (about a 20-minute walk from downtown). Contains extensive displays of South African art.

Food and Wine: South Africa has become renowned for its excellent food and world famous vineyard. For a list of recommendations, see https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Cape_Town

Winelands: Tour the beautiful Constantia Valley wine estates Groot Constantia, Buitenverwagting, Klein Constantia and Constantia Uitsig before checking out the Cape Winelands around Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschhoek.

Note: Cape Town is notorious for crime. When walking (especially if alone) guard against notorious pickpockets, thieves and scammers. Do not count cash in public, and do not leave your possessions unattended. For safety advice, see: https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Cape_Town

Visas

Contact the South African Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency used is the South Africa Rand (known as ZAR). ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Foreign currencies can easily be changed both at the airport, and at money changers and banks.



Saint Helena

Location Oosterschelde

The ship will be at anchor near Jamestown. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Saint Helena is a UK Overseas Territory located in the South Atlantic. It is home to around 4,400 people, known affectionally as 'Saints'. The island's Government website is: www.sainthelena.gov.sh. See also the Saint Helena National Trust: www.trust.org.sh

As one of the world's most remote inhabited islands, Saint Helena has a unique and proud culture that has emerged over several centuries. Since the 18th Century, Saint Helena has served as an important victualing station for ships, as well as being famed as the place of Napoleon Bonaparte's exile and eventual death. See <https://sainthelenaisland.info/>

Travel to/from

Flights to/from Saint Helena are operated by Airlink. For detailed information, see www.sthelenatourism.com/. Also see: www.sthelenatourism.com/visit/. Book your flights months in advance, as places are limited and there is no other practical way to reach the island.

Temperature and Climate

Saint Helena has a sub-tropical climate, with temperatures up to 30 °C (during daytime) and down to 14 °C (at night). Summer days are generally sunny and warm.

Hotels and Accommodation

Several hotels, guest houses, bed & breakfast and self-catering accommodation options are available on Saint Helena. These are best booked through the official tourism website: www.sthelenatourism.com/where-to-stay/

Activities and Tours

You will probably need to spend several days on Saint Helena because of the schedule of incoming and out-going flights. Fortunately, Saint Helena has so attractions and activities, you could spend months on the island and still not see everything. The Darwin200 team is organising a land-based tour (email info@darwin200.com for details). Alternatively, many tour operators offer trips on the island, see www.sthelenatourism.com

Among the many popular activities are:

Longwood House and Napoleon's Tomb: Visit Longwood, where the French Emperor spent the last six years of his life, and the tomb where he was initially buried.

Jonathan the tortoise: Visit the Governor's House and meet Jonathan, an Seychelles giant tortoise, believed to be over 190 years old – see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_\(tortoise\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_(tortoise))

Museum: Visit the island's fascinating museum which has exhibits covering Saint Helena's natural history and centuries of settlement.

Hiking: Saint Helena is a hiker's dream. It is rich with spectacular landscapes and hiking trails.

Darwin200 project leader Stewart McPherson made the following online films about Saint Helena: <https://youtu.be/qIsI6paJYZs> and <https://youtu.be/dlXg5zrBIIA> and <https://youtu.be/bl-pAsNHLdY>

Visas

All visitors to Saint Helena have to clear passport control. Contact the Saint Helena Government to check entry requirements for your nationality and if you require a visa: www.sainthelena.gov.sh

Currency

The community on Saint Helena use the Saint Helena Pound and the British Pound Sterling. The Saint Helena Pound is held in parity with the British Pound Sterling. There is a bank on Saint Helena. Withdrawals of cash using credit and debit cards can be made, and major currencies can be exchanged. Many establishments (although not all) accept credit and debit cards.



Ascension Island

Location Oosterschelde

The ship will be at anchor at Georgetown. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Ascension Island is a UK Overseas Territory located in the South Atlantic. It is operated as a military base for the UK and USA air forces. All inhabitants live on the island as part of work contracts, and leave after a few years, as such, there is no permanent, resident population, although around 800 people live and work on the island at any one time.

Twice weekly flights used to fly from RAF Brize Norton, in England to Ascension Island (this service was called 'Airbridge'), however, the Wideawake Airport runway on Ascension Island was damaged in 2017 and is currently being repaired. The Airbridge service was temporarily suspended. At the moment (early 2022), flights are infrequent, arriving at Ascension Island every month, see www.ascension.gov.ac



The Airbridge service is scheduled to re-start in 2022, so regular (weekly) flights may be available by the time of our visit in 2025. Monitor the Ascension Island Government website for more information (and book the flights through their travel department): www.ascension.gov.ac

Temperature and Climate

Ascension Island has a dry tropical climate, with temperatures up to 34 °C (during daytime) and down to 14 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny, hot and dry.

Hotels and Accommodation

[JAMS Accommodation](mailto:jams.accommodation@atlantis.co.ac) is the main hotel on Ascension Island that is currently operating. Email jams.accommodation@atlantis.co.ac. JAMS is located in Two Boats village (a few kilometres from Georgetown, the capital of Ascension), however you can rent a car (recommended as there are few other options for getting around).

For years, the Obsidian Hotel operated in Georgetown and provided great accommodation and a wonderful restaurant, but this closed with the suspension of the Airbridge flights. The Obsidian Hotel may well be open by the time of our visit, look out for updates on <http://obsidian.co.ac/>. There are small shops in the RAF and USAF bases, including small fast food take away stores. A small supermarket operates on Georgetown and Two Boats Village.

Activities and Tours

Ascension Island is one of the most interesting islands on Earth. It is a barren landscape of volcanic ash and cinder cones, but home to astounding wildlife. The island is home an amazing team of conservationists, see www.ascension.gov.ac/conservation/about-conservation

Turtles: One of the largest concentrations of nesting green turtles (about 15,000 turtles visit each year). Thousands of turtle hatchlings should be emerging when we visit!

Land Crabs: Ascension Island is home to thousands of land crabs!

Artificial Rainforest: An incredible experiment was undertaken by Charles Darwin and Joseph Hooker which involved planting the world's only artificial rainforest on Green Mountain!

Seabird Colonies: Vast colonies of many species of seabirds can easily be seen.

Darwin200 project leader Stewart McPherson made the following online films about Ascension Island: <https://youtu.be/XpLeHUCuY8c> and <https://youtu.be/F0xMAIFgPg4> and <https://youtu.be/8BUDEUwx0hE>

Visas

Contact the [Ascension Island Government](#) to check entry requirements for your nationality. Accommodation and onward tickets must be organised prior to arrival.

Currency

The Saint Helena Pound and the British Pound Sterling are used on Ascension Island. The Saint Helena Pound is held in parity with the British Pound Sterling. Many establishments (although not all) accept credit and debit cards.

Azores, Portugal

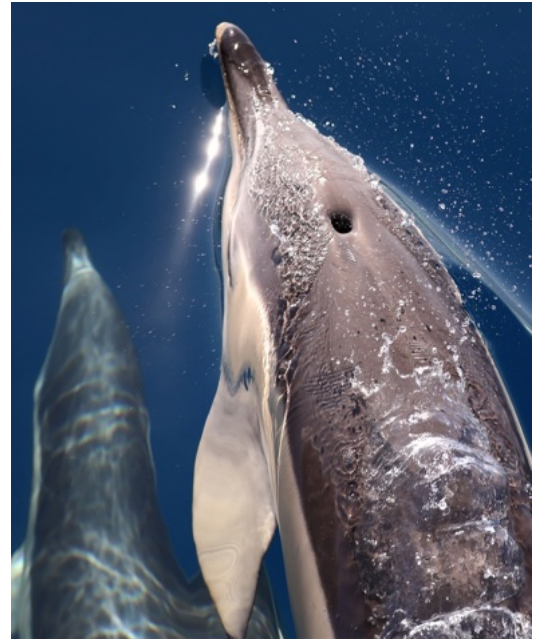
Location Oosterschelde

The Oosterschelde will be berthed in Marina da Horta in Horta on the island Faial. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

The Azores comprises an archipelago of nine main volcanic islands that form an autonomous region of Portugal. The island group is located in the North Atlantic Ocean, about 1,400 km west of Lisbon and about 1,500 km northwest of Morocco. Around 240,000 people live across the islands of the Azores. Portuguese is the official language; however English is widely spoken.

The Azores has become a popular tourist destination, with numerous flights arriving each day from many European hub cities. Flights to Horta are available from Lisbon with TAP (Air Portugal, see www.flytap.com) and the low-cost carrier Ryanair (www.ryanair.com) also serves the islands (although be careful of their ungenerous policies and many add on charges). Search for deals on www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com



Temperature and Climate

The Azores have a subtropical, oceanic climate, with temperatures in June generally up to 24 °C (during daytime) and down to 15 °C (at night). Days are generally sunny, although weather can change rapidly.

Hotels and Accommodation

Tip from a fellow sailor check: <https://www.naturalist.pt>. Many hotels are available, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com.

Activities and Tours

The emerald islands of the Azore Archipelago are filled with extinct volcanic peaks and craters now covered with lush forest and diverse wildlife! Among the many attractions are the following:

Spectacular Scenery: The dramatic craters and peaks of the Azores is unforgettable. Each island has unique hiking trails and different scenery.

Donkey Rides: Follow century old tracks across the island on the back of a donkey to soak up the traditional life of the Azores.

Natural Heated Swimming pool: The Ponta da Ferraria is a coastal pool set among dark volcanic rocks that heat up during the day, warming the sea water!

Waterfalls: The Azores are home to dozens of beautiful waterfalls, among the most memorable are: Salto do Cabrito, Povoação and Ribeira Grande.

Whale Watching Tours: Many options are available. Tip from a fellow sailor, small groups and science and tourism check: <https://www.naturalist.pt>. More than twenty species of whales and dolphins are known from the waters of the archipelago!

Parque Terra Nostra: Is home to a beautiful garden of tropical trees and flowers that teems with wildlife. It dates to 1775!

Volcano Climbing: Some of the best options are at Pico Island.

Off-Road mountain bike circuits: Many operators offer options on each of the main islands.

Arruda Pineapple Plantation: Visit a pineapple farm and see pineapples at different stages of growth!

Visas

Contact the Portuguese Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and establish if you require a visa.

Currency

The Euro (€) is the currency of the Azores. Smaller restaurants and shops often do not accept MasterCard or Visa cards, however ATMs are widely available.

Falmouth, United Kingdom

Location Oosterschelde

The Oosterschelde will be berthed in Marina da Horta in Horta on the island Faial. Check the exact location of the ship upon arrival [here](#).

Travel to/from

Join the final leg of Charles Darwin's journey, and sail to Falmouth, England. Step ashore on the very docks where Darwin's voyage on HMS *Beagle* ended

Participants of all voyage legs are invited to a party on the evening of 20/07/2025 to mark the successful conclusion of the DARWIN200 Global Voyage!

Falmouth is in the county of Cornwall, in the southwest of England. Commercial flights are available to all major British cities, particularly London, see www.skyscanner.com and www.expedia.com. Domestic flights service the nearest main airports are Cornwall Airport Newquay and Plymouth City Airport, as well as nearby cities of Bristol and Southampton (see www.britishairways.com, www.loganair.co.uk and www.easyjet.com)



Alternatively, an extensive train network links Falmouth to all major British cities (see www.nationalrail.co.uk and www.thetrainline.com – although book in advance to get cheap tickets). If you turn up and buy the tickets on the day, they are often very expensive.

Temperature and Climate

Temperatures in July are generally up to 26 °C (during daytime) and descend to 14 °C (at night). English summers have mixed sun, cloud and rain.

Hotels and Accommodation

Many hotels are available in Falmouth and nearby, see www.booking.com, www.opodo.com, www.expedia.com, www.hotels.com and www.airbnb.com (book in advance as many sell out, and last minute prices can be very expensive).

Activities and Tours

The county of Cornwall a tourist's paradise, with diverse wildlife, beautiful scenery, extensive trails for walking and cycling, and countless historic sites. The following websites offer detailed information for sites to visit: www.visitcornwall.com/things-to-do

The Eden Project (one of the world's largest artificial rainforests) is really worth visiting, see www.edenproject.com

The Lost Garden of Heligan is also worth the trip, see www.heligan.com

Beaches: The nearby town of Penzance and Newquay are famed as tourist destinations. Newquay has one of the best surfing beaches in the UK and Europe, see www.visitnewquay.org/things-to-do/attractions/beaches

Isles of Scilly: Travel from Penzance to the Isles of Scilly, known as England's 'sub-tropical secret' and known for their white beaches and azure waters, can be visited from Penzance, although book very early (as accommodation often sells out a year or more in advance!) See www.visitislesofscilly.com

Tintagel Castle: Further north, along the coast of Devon lies Tintagel Castle, the supposed site of Camelot and the legend of King Arthur and Merlin, although relatively little of the 13th structure remains today, see: www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/tintagel-castle

Visas

Contact the British Embassy in your country to check entry requirements for your nationality and if you require a visa.

Currency

The local currency is the British Pound. ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted. Foreign currencies can easily be changed both at the airport, and at money changers and banks.