

## Galápagos Islands, Ecuador

### Location Oosterschelde

The Oosterschelde will be anchored off San Cristobal Island. 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 daily 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](http://www.booking.com) or can be booked directly (search on Google).

### Activities and Tours

Voyage Leg 16 starts at San Christóbal. We are applying for special permit to visit a second Island after we leave, but we strongly advise everyone to arrive in time, arrange some accommodation and have at least 3-4 days to explore the Galápagos Islands and see the amazing sights that the islands have to offer.

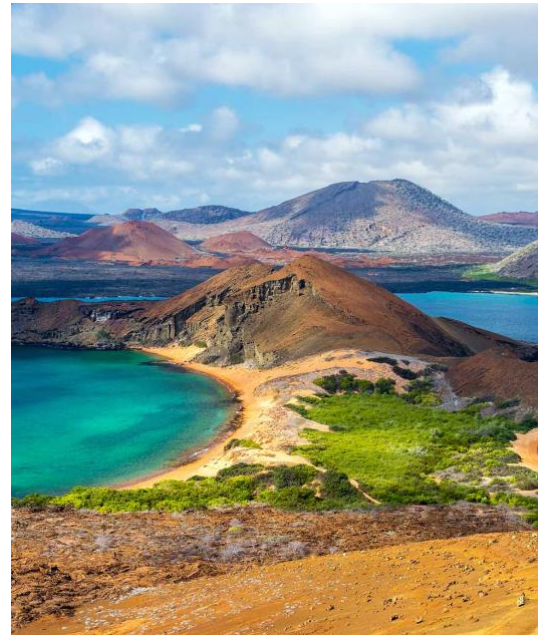
**Wildlife:** The unbelievable landscapes and unique wildlife are the key attractions of the Galápagos Islands, and include giant tortoises, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, Galápagos penguins, penguins, Galápagos sea lions, Galápagos fur seals, boobies, mocking birds, tropic birds, frigatebirds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

### Visas

The Galápagos Islands have strict entry processes, please make sure you apply for the correct visa, if applicable to you.

### Currency

US 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 weigh 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/](http://www.latamairlines.com/)

### 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](http://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](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. Dollars are sometimes accepted, and Credit cards can be used at larger establishments.



## Mangareva, French Polynesia

### Location Oosterschelde

You will most likely embark the 'Oosterschelde' in 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](http://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 & Benoit](#) and [Maison unique aux Gambier](#).

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

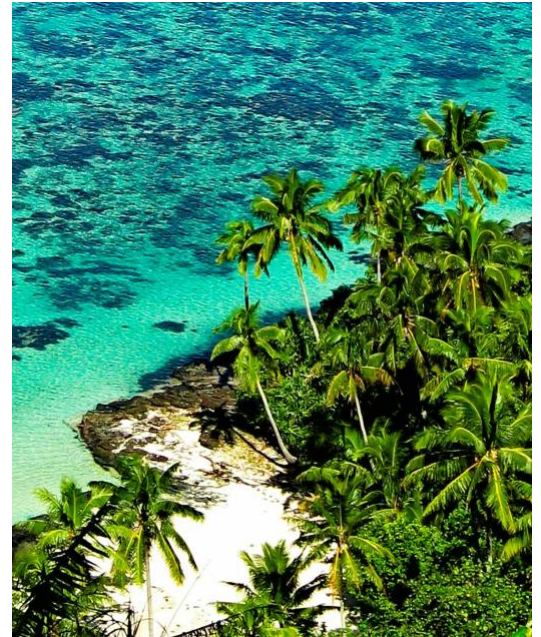
There are 2 small restaurants in Rikitea and you may be able to eat at your accommodation (ask).

### 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

The Oosterschelde will most likely be at anchor near Papeete. 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](http://www.skyscanner.com) and [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com)

[Air Tahiti Nui](http://www.airtahititourisme.com/en-us/) 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](http://www.booking.com), [www.opodo.com](http://www.opodo.com), [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com), [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) and [www.airbnb.com](http://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

You will most likely embark the 'Oosterschelde' in Avarua, on the island Rarotonga, Cook Islands. 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](http://www.airnz.co.nz) ), Air Rarotonga ( [www.airraro.co.ck](http://www.airraro.co.ck) ), Virgin Australia ( [www.virginaustralia.com](http://www.virginaustralia.com) ) and Air Tahiti ( [www.airtahiti.com](http://www.airtahiti.com) ).

For detailed flight information, see [www.discovercookislands.com/getting-here/](http://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](http://www.skyscanner.com) and [www.expedia.com](http://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](http://www.booking.com), [www.opodo.com](http://www.opodo.com), [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com), [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) and [www.airbnb.com](http://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/](http://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

The Oosterschelde will be at anchor near Nuku'alofa on the island of Tongatapu, Tonga. 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](http://www.airnz.co.nz) ), Fiji Airways ( [www.fijiairways.com/en-gb](http://www.fijiairways.com/en-gb) ), Fiji Link ( [www.fijiairways.com/en-fj/flights-fiji-link-domestic-flights](http://www.fijiairways.com/en-fj/flights-fiji-link-domestic-flights) ) and Talofa Airways ( [www.talofairways.com/](http://www.talofairways.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/](http://www.tongaholiday.com/where-to-stay/resorts/)

Guest houses: [www.tongaholiday.com/where-to-stay/guest-houses/](http://www.tongaholiday.com/where-to-stay/guest-houses/)

Many hotels can be booked via [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com), [www.opodo.com](http://www.opodo.com), [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com), [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) and [www.airbnb.com](http://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/](http://www.tongaholiday.com/). See also:

[www.neverendingfootsteps.com/tonga-travel-guide/](http://www.neverendingfootsteps.com/tonga-travel-guide/)

Attractions include:

**Beaches:** With over 419 sq km<sup>2</sup> 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/](http://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/](http://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

The Oosterschelde will be near the Royal Suva Yacht Club in Suva, on the island Viti Levu, Fiji. 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.

### 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](http://www.booking.com), [www.opodo.com](http://www.opodo.com), [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com), [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) and [www.airbnb.com](http://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.

### Partner Projects Abroad

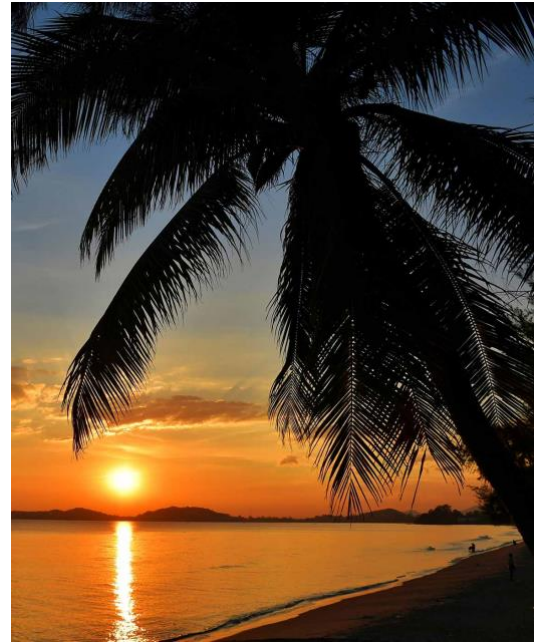
Projects Abroad is proud to announce its partnership with Darwin200! Designed specifically for Darwin200 voyagers, we're offering several 7-day land-based activities before or after you sail in The Galápagos, Fiji, and Peru. Founded in 1992, we've welcomed over 130,000 participants to take part in impact-driven 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



## Auckland, New Zealand

### Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. The ship will most likely be near 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](http://www.skyscanner.com) and [www.expedia.com](http://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](http://www.booking.com), [www.opodo.com](http://www.opodo.com), [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com), [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) and [www.airbnb.com](http://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](http://www.skyscanner.com) and [www.expedia.com](http://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](http://www.booking.com), [www.opodo.com](http://www.opodo.com), [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com), [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) and [www.airbnb.com](http://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](http://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](http://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. 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](http://www.jetstar.com.au) ) Qantas ( [www.qantas.com.au](http://www.qantas.com.au) ) and Virgin Australia ( [www.virginaustralia.com](http://www.virginaustralia.com) ). These flights can be booked on [www.skyscanner.com](http://www.skyscanner.com) and [www.expedia.com](http://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](http://www.booking.com), [www.opodo.com](http://www.opodo.com), [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com), [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) and [www.airbnb.com](http://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 breathtaking 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.

## Lyttleton (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](http://www.skyscanner.com) and [www.expedia.com](http://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](http://www.booking.com), [www.opodo.com](http://www.opodo.com), [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com), [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) and [www.airbnb.com](http://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.

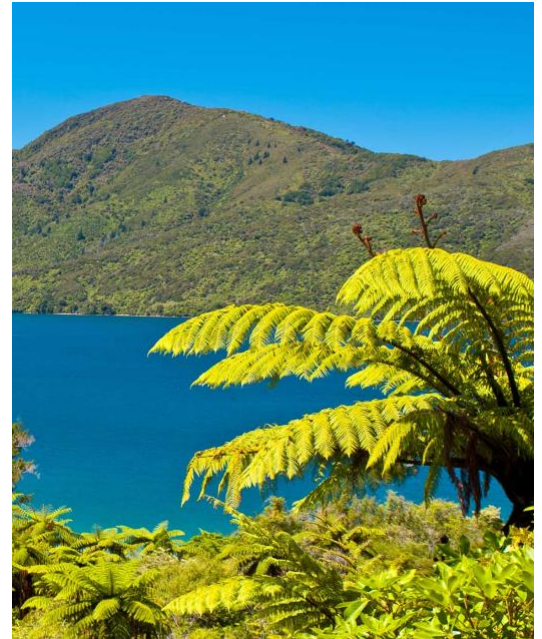
**Punting on the Avon:** Glide down the river in Cambridge University style with a boatsman.

### 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.



## 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](http://www.falklandislands.com)

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



## Cape Town

### Location Oosterschelde

To be confirmed. 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](http://www.skyscanner.com) and [www.expedia.com](http://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](http://www.booking.com), [www.opodo.com](http://www.opodo.com), [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com), [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) and [www.airbnb.com](http://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](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](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](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh). See also the Saint Helena National Trust: [www.trust.org.sh](http://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 18<sup>th</sup> 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://sainthelena.island.info/>

### Travel to/from

Flights to/from Saint Helena are operated by Airlink. For detailed information, see [www.sthelenatourism.com/](http://www.sthelenatourism.com/). Also see: [www.sthelenatourism.com/visit/](http://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/](http://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](mailto:info@darwin200.com) for details). Alternatively, many tour operators offer trips on the island, see [www.sthelenatourism.com](http://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.

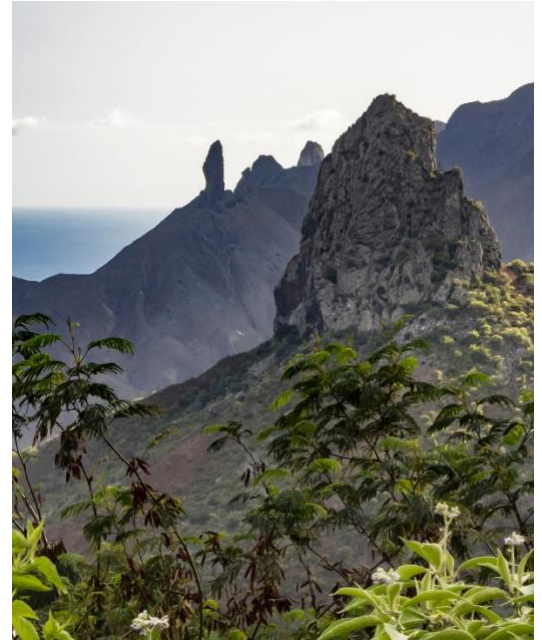
Darwin200 project leader Stewart McPherson made the following online films about Saint Helena: <https://youtu.be/qIsI6paJYZs> and <https://youtu.be/dlXg5zrBIIA> and <https://youtu.be/bl-pAsNHLdY>

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://jams.accommodation@atlantis.co.ac) is the main hotel on Ascension Island that is currently operating. Email [jams.accommodation@atlantis.co.ac](mailto: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](http://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](http://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

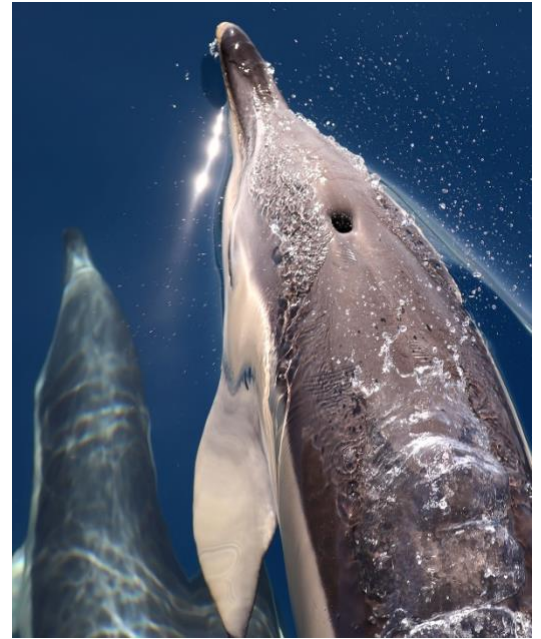
### Location Oosterschelde

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](http://www.flytap.com) ) and the low-cost carrier Ryanair ([www.ryanair.com](http://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](http://www.skyscanner.com) and [www.expedia.com](http://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](http://www.booking.com), [www.opodo.com](http://www.opodo.com), [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com), [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) and [www.airbnb.com](http://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

To be confirmed. 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](http://www.skyscanner.com) and [www.expedia.com](http://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](http://www.britishairways.com), [www.loganair.co.uk](http://www.loganair.co.uk) and [www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com) )

Alternatively, an extensive train network links Falmouth to all major British cities (see [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) and [www.thetrainline.com](http://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](http://www.booking.com), [www.opodo.com](http://www.opodo.com), [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com), [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) and [www.airbnb.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.edenproject.com)

**The Lost Garden of Heligan** is also worth the trip, see [www.heligan.com](http://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](http://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](http://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 13<sup>th</sup> structure remains today, see: [www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/tintagel-castle](http://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.

