



An Expedition to the remote islands of the South Atlantic

South Georgia – Tristan da Cunha – St. Helena

Our ship m/v Plancius has spent the winter season, "The Austral summer", in Antarctica and turns north in March to sail in the Arctic during the summer season. We are guests aboard her voyage between the hemispheres. Our voyage takes us to three of the Atlantic's most inaccessible island groups and islands: South Georgia, Tristan da Cunha and St. Helena. Tristan da Cunha is the world's most solitary island community and furthest away from any mainland. The expedition is led by Captain Torbjörn Svensson, who has visited all the islands on many occasions. Torbjörn is the son of the Swedish author and artist Roland Svensson, who himself made repeated long stays at Tristan and St. Helena. The memory of Roland lives on and the islanders on Tristan and St. Helena will receive us as their friends.



Tour guide and lecturer: Captain Torbjörn Svensson is the son of Roland Svensson, who in his time wrote among other the classics, *"Lonely Isles"* on the Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland islands and *"Archipelago Life in days gone by"* on the Stockholm world of islands. Through his father, Torbjörn has a strong connection to the islands and he looks forward to introducing us to his friends on Tristan da Cunha. Torbjörn has visited Tristan and St. Helena as commander of cruise expedition vessels and he has made several visits to South Georgia, the Antarctic Peninsula and Ushuaia. Torbjörn's life has largely been about seafaring. In the 1980s, he was Managing

Director for the pioneer expedition vessels m/v Lindblad Polaris and Lindblad Explorer, as well as owner and commander of the domestic steamer s/s Saltsjön for over 25 years. Torbjörn has been a well-respected tour guide on the expeditions he has led throughout the years. During our journey, he is assisted by his wife Pia Söderberg, who has often accompanied Torbjörn on his travels across the seas. Pia has been the Managing Director of a steam-boat company in Stockholm and later participated in the operation of s/s Saltsjön. Today she owns and operates the restaurant and conference facility "Carlshälls Gård" in Stockholm together with her husband.

Preliminary Schedule:

Day 1 – 29th of March: We embark on m/v Plancius and depart east through Beagle Channel.

Days 2 to 5 – 30th of March to the 2nd of April: Off to sea towards South Georgia. From the deck, we keep a lookout out for whales and seabirds and will surely be joined by impressive wandering albatrosses. We sail into the Antarctic Convergence Zone where cold water from the south meets warmer water from the north and here, we begin to spot our first icebergs. During our voyage we study the changes in both marine life and bird life. On board we get to listen to interesting lectures given by our tour guide Torbjörn and the ship's own Expedition Team.

Days 6 to 8 – the 3rd to the 5th April: South Georgia, the majestic alpine landscape of the South Atlantic, where we hike among king penguins, elephant seals and fur seals. Among other places, we visit *Grytviken* a former whaling station which is the location of the South Georgia Museum and Shackleton's tomb. We also visit the King Penguin colonies at either Salisbury Plain, Gold Harbour or St Andrews Bay, where we also see elephant seals and fur seals. Hopefully we can land at Prion Island, nesting place for the wandering albatross (which has the world's largest wingspan) and Cooper Bay with its macaroni penguins.



King Penguin colonies at Salisbury Plain.



With Zodiac inflatable boats, we quickly and easily land ashore. A steady hand is always available to help us in and out of the rubber dinghy. Sometimes it is called a wet landing, but the rubber boots, which are provided for on board, help us keep our feet dry.

South Georgia - The Serengeti of the Antarctic Ocean



The wandering albatross is the largest of all albatrosses and has the world's largest wingspan, measuring more than 10 ft.

South Georgia was first sighted in 1675, but it was only when Captain James Cook re-discovered the islands in 1775 that it became British territory. The archipelago was named after King George III and is still under British administration. *Grytviken* is a whaling station that was in operation until 1966 and was named by the first Swedish Antarctic expedition led by geologist and polar researcher Otto Nordenskjöld. Today there is a whaling museum in the former Manager's residence and the famous Whalers Church of 1913. Legendary Explorer Ernest Shackleton is buried at the beach right next door, now also joined by his Second-in-Command Frank Wild.

In South Georgia, the only residents are the staff members at the station in King Edward Point in Grytviken, but there are also more researchers living there temporarily. They have come here to study nature in this fascinating part of the world, including from the small research station at Bird Island. The area is often described as the Serengeti of the Southern Arctic Ocean and is a paradise for nature photographers. The archipelago is part of the Antarctic ecosystem, but the water does not freeze which makes the wildlife incredibly rich. There are large colonies of king penguins, sea elephants and seals.

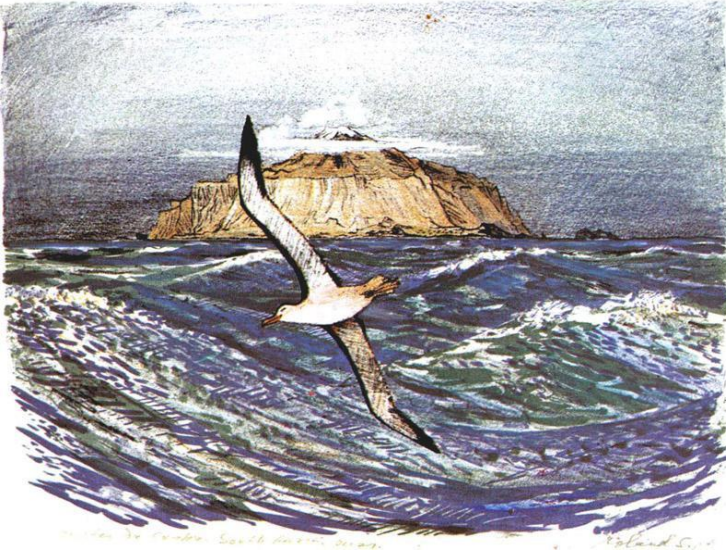


An old whaling boat in Grytviken.



Whalers Church in Grytviken.

Day 9 to 13 - 6th to 10th of April: We now sail out of the Convergence Zone towards Gough Island and Tristan da Cunha where we have the chance of encountering more seabirds and other species in the sky. On board you will be further inspired by lectures, good food and great company.



Day 14 - 11th of April: We explore Gough Island with Southern rockhopper penguins and the sub Antarctic fur seal. If the weather permits, we sail around the island and go with the zodiacs into Quest Bay.

Day 15 to 18 - 12th to 15th of April: Tristan da Cunha. Four days have been set aside for our visit, which increases the chance of coming ashore, but it is completely weather dependent, and the circumstances can change very quickly. If possible, we visit the uninhabited islands of Nightingale and/or Inaccessible where the bird life is outstanding. At Tristan da Cunha, there will be an exclusive program with visits to follow in the footsteps of Roland Svensson and the opportunity to meet some of his close friends. There will be hikes up the mountain for the well trained and walking tours towards The Potato Patches for the rest. We have the chance to visit the newly renovated *Thatched House Museum* which shows an old Tristan home as it looked before the volcano eruptions and evacuation in 1961, as well as *The Fish Factory* and *Prince Philip Hall*. Some of you may want to take the opportunity to play golf on the world's most remote golf course: the 9-hole course at Tristan da Cunha! For those who want some tranquillity, our visit happens to coincide with Easter holidays, why you will have the opportunity to experience some nice moments in one of the island's two churches. In addition, we can count on a lot of socializing with the islanders.



Tristan da Cunha – The World's Most Remote Inhabited Island

Tristan da Cunha is both an island group and a main island. It is the most remote inhabited island in the world and is only reachable by ship. The nearest island is St. Helena, about 2 161 kilometres away. Today, just under 250 people live on Tristan, which all descend from only 9 family trees, due to the restrictions on settlement on the island being very strict. Here you are either a Glass, Green, Hagan, Lavarello, Repetto, Rogers, Swain, Collins or Squibb, other surnames do not exist. The fact that Roland Svensson was invited to live for longer periods of time on the island is unique. A result of the good friendships ties resulting from when the islanders were in exile in England because of the volcanic eruption in 1961.



Left: Dawn Repetto is a relative of one of Roland's closest island friends and runs the island's tourism. Center: Gianfranco Repetto, from Tristan's "sister town" Camoglio, Italy, from where the Tristan Repetto family stems, with Sean Burns who is the Administrator on Tristan, that is, The Queen's representative and highest government official in one of the British Empire's last outposts. Dawn and the Resident Administrator next April are two of the many islanders and expatriates we will meet during our stay at Tristan. Right: The post office on Tristan.

Tristan is known for its wildlife. The archipelago's isolated location has made it an important bird area where many different seabirds' nest. There are plenty of Petrels and Terns, but also several endangered species such as the Rockhopper penguins, the Tristan albatross and Atlantic Yellow-nosed albatross. The Inaccessible Island rail and Gough moorhen are two threatened bird species that cannot fly but are very rarely seen. However, we may be able to see the endemic Tristan Thrush. If weather permits, we will visit the uninhabited islands of Nightingale and Inaccessible, which have an outstanding rich bird life.



Left: Atlantic Yellow-nosed albatross. Middle: The endemic Tristan Thrush. Right: The Rockhopper penguin.

Day 19 to 22 - 16th to 19th April: Once again at sea and now it is getting warmer and there's a mild tailwind. We can look forward to lazy days and nice moments on the sunchair, with the company of a good book or just taking in the journey so far. There may even be some dolphins playing around the bow of the vessel.



As tradition goes, we anchor in the roads off Jamestown in St. Helena.

Day 23 to 27 - 20th to 24th of April: We arrive at St. Helena where we anchor in James Bay off Jamestown itself. Disembarking and settling into our small hotel, centrally located in the small and picturesque town. Five days on the island gives us the opportunity for joint excursions, but also two days off for independent discovery trips. Torbjörn, Pia and our friends at St. Helena are happy to help arrange extra excursions for those who want to see more of the island.

Many interesting excursions await you during our days on St. Helena. We go inland to see *Briars Pavilion*, where Napoleon lived during his first months on the island and we visit the Longwood residence, where he lived out his days. A few miles outside of the capital, we visit *Plantation House*, the official residence of the Governor of St. Helena and where we also get to greet “Jonathan” the giant tortoise, who is alleged to have been here already at Napoleon's time. You will of course also have the opportunity to hike and travel in Roland's footsteps. On one of the days off, Torbjörn takes those who want to climb the 699 steps of Jacob's Ladder to The Signal Station. This is where Roland lived in the outskirts of the district known as *Half Tree Hollow* where you can experience a panoramic view of the valley, the town and the sea.

Day 28 - 25th of April: Flight to Johannesburg.

We reserve the right to make changes to the program due to changes in for example weather and wind. The Captain on board always has the last word and ultimate decision, and in consultation with the expedition leader, they consider the possibilities, but always with safety set in the first place. This may apply to disembarking, sailing route and more.

St. Helena - One of Roland Svensson's Islands

The island was discovered in 1502 by the Portuguese Admiral Joao da Nova and he named it St Helena after the mother of Emperor Constantine. In 1657, the British took possession of the island and today it belongs to the British Overseas Territories. Before the Suez Canal was built, St. Helena was of important strategic importance for seafaring.

On St. Helena, there are approximately 4,300 residents, of which a thousand are resident in the capital, Jamestown. Up until 2017, the island was almost as remotely accessible as Tristan, but now with the newly opened airport there is a flight connection to Johannesburg.

The island's isolated location made it excellent as a deportation site for Napoleon Bonaparte but has also resulted in several endemic animals and plants. Attractions on St. Helena include; *the Briars Pavilion*, where Napoleon lived during his first stay on the island and *Longwood House*, where he ended his days. "Jonathan" the giant tortoise lives steadfast on the lawn in front of the Governor's residence *Plantation House*. Also The Peak's National Park shows the verdancy of the island vegetation before the arrival of man.

Swedish artist and author Roland Svensson lived for some longer periods on St. Helena and he is the artist behind several stamps from St. Helena. In his book "Island and Man" from 1968 he writes about the island and his visits there, - 50 years ago but still to a large extent accurate.



Left: Longwood House, which was Napoleon's residence, meticulously renovated now stands virtually untouched since his days, carefully cared for by the French Consul. Right: Jonathan the giant tortoise - a vivacious oldie who soon turns 200 years old!



Basil George is a good friend of Torbjörn and guides us on St. Helena. Here he demonstrates how in his youth he quickly got down the 699 steps of Jacob's Ladder!

Facts

Date: 29th of March–25th of April 2020

Pricing:

Triple Porthole (one bunk bed and small window): SEK 103,000/person (abt. GBP 8,440)

Twin Window: SEK 114,000/person (abt. GBP 9,340)

Twin Deluxe with 2 windows, slightly more spacious than Twin Window: SEK 118,500/person (abt. GBP 9,720)

Superior with 2 windows, double bed, sofa, refrigerator, Coffee & tea maker, ample storage space: SEK 124,500/person (abt. GBP 10,210)

The prices are in Swedish Crowns (SEK). Exchange rate 26 March, 2019: SEK 1=GBP 0,08

The Price Includes:

- Carbon offset for the flight
- Share in a booked cabin on board m/v Plancius
- Full board from dinner day 1 until breakfast day 28 (except for two lunches)
- All excursions and hikes according to the programme
- Separate lectures in Swedish and English by the Tour Leader
- Lectures in English by Plancius resident Expedition Team of naturalists and lecturers as well as islanders and guides ashore on Tristan and St Helena
- Doctor on board with basic medical equipment
- Rubber boots for the zodiac landings
- Transfer of the luggage to the vessel in Ushuaia and to the hotel and the airport at St. Helena
- Port fees and various service taxes
- Free access to snacks, water, coffee, tea and chocolate drinks
- Practical information for the trip and literature tips
- Flight from St. Helena to Johannesburg

The price does not include: flights to Ushuaia from the UK and from Johannesburg to the UK, arrangements in Ushuaia and Johannesburg, accommodation in Ushuaia, 2 lunch and any individual excursions on the two free days at St. Helena, tips to the crew on board (abt. GBP 9/day), alcoholic beverages onboard and ashore, laundry and wi-fi onboard

No visa is required according to current regulations.

Booking

Contact Ms. Lotta Borgiel at Gränslösa Resor AB (Journeys Beyond Borders Ltd.) and register for the trip. The registration fee is SEK 20,000 (abt. GBP 1 640) and must be paid within 10 days of confirmation of available space. You will receive an invoice when you register.

Final Payment

Payment of final balance is to be made the 30th of December 2019.

Cancellation

If you need to cancel the trip, call or email Gränslösa Resor. Up until December 30, 2019, the cost is the registration fee of SEK 20,000. After that and until January 20, 2020, the cost is 50% of the travel price. In case of cancellation thereafter, the organizer is entitled to charge for the entirety of trip price. Therefore, we suggest you look carefully at your cancellation insurance.

Weather and wind

It is autumn in the southern hemisphere. In Ushuaia where our journey begins, it is 2-10 degrees Celsius, while at St. Helena where the journey ends it is 20-25 degrees. The prevailing wind is a south-westerly one and we count on steady, waves coming in from the aft, which makes the ship sail smoothly. We do not go through the notorious Drake Passage, but head straight towards South Georgia directly east from Ushuaia. Normally the wind blows about 4-8 m/s, but we are at sea and of course, we may experience stormy weather. We do not count on choppy water but recommend that you take sea sickness medication in the beginning, so that the body can grow accustomed to it.

Degree of Difficulty and Health Declaration

The journey is not very physically demanding, but apart from the doctor on board, we are far away from medical help. Therefore, you will have to fill out a form about your health and we reserve the right to require a medical certificate. Our partners very rarely deny anyone from participating, but the information is important to have if something should happen during the trip. You should be physically capable to climb stairs, disembark and get in and out of the rubber dinghies that take us ashore. A sturdy helping hand is always available. Our excursions by foot do not always have walking trails but can be sparsely terrain and hilly. We are out for several hours and you go on the excursions you feel you can and want to attend. There is always the possibility to stay on the ship.

Our Vessel m/v Plancius:



King penguins with m/v Plancius in the background. St Andrews Bay, South Georgia.

The vessel, which is registered in the Netherlands, was converted in 2009 from being an oceanographic research vessel for the Royal Dutch Navy to a passenger vessel to be used for expeditions in the Arctic and Antarctic. She has a certain ice class and accommodates 116 guests, is 292 ft long and with a beam of 48 ft and has a cruising speed of 10.5 knots. Each cabin has a shower and toilet. The dining- and lecture room is spacious, and the Observation Deck has a panoramic view and bar. Very spacious deck areas come in handy when we reach warmer latitudes after Tristan or for wild-life monitoring during the entire expedition. 10 zodiacs make landings effective. She has an international crew of abt. 47, abt. eight of whom consists of the Expedition Team of naturalists, historians and other experts under the direction of a Dutch Expedition Leader. There is also a fully licenced doctor on board.

Roland Svensson

Roland Svensson was a popular artist and writer in his homeland Sweden, who primarily depicted the Stockholm archipelago and life on the islands, but he also travelled to remote islands in the North and South Atlantic. His work is found in the National Museum in Stockholm, the Art Museums of Gothenburg and Malmö and at the renowned Prince Eugens Waldemarsudde in Stockholm. Roland also lived in the UK incl. the Scottish Islands for longer periods of his life. If you want to know more, we recommend that you contact the Society of The Friends of Roland Svensson at www.rolandsvenssonsällskapet.se. (or try “rolandsvenssonsallskapet”).

Lithography to the right depicts “The Landing Place 1963”



On Board the m/v Plancius



Our bright, spacious dining and lecture room. Breakfast and lunch are served as a buffet and usually start at 07.30am and 12.30pm respectively. Dinner, served around 7pm, is always table service. Coffee and tea are always available and the bar area is a nice spot in the evening to hang out and socialize.

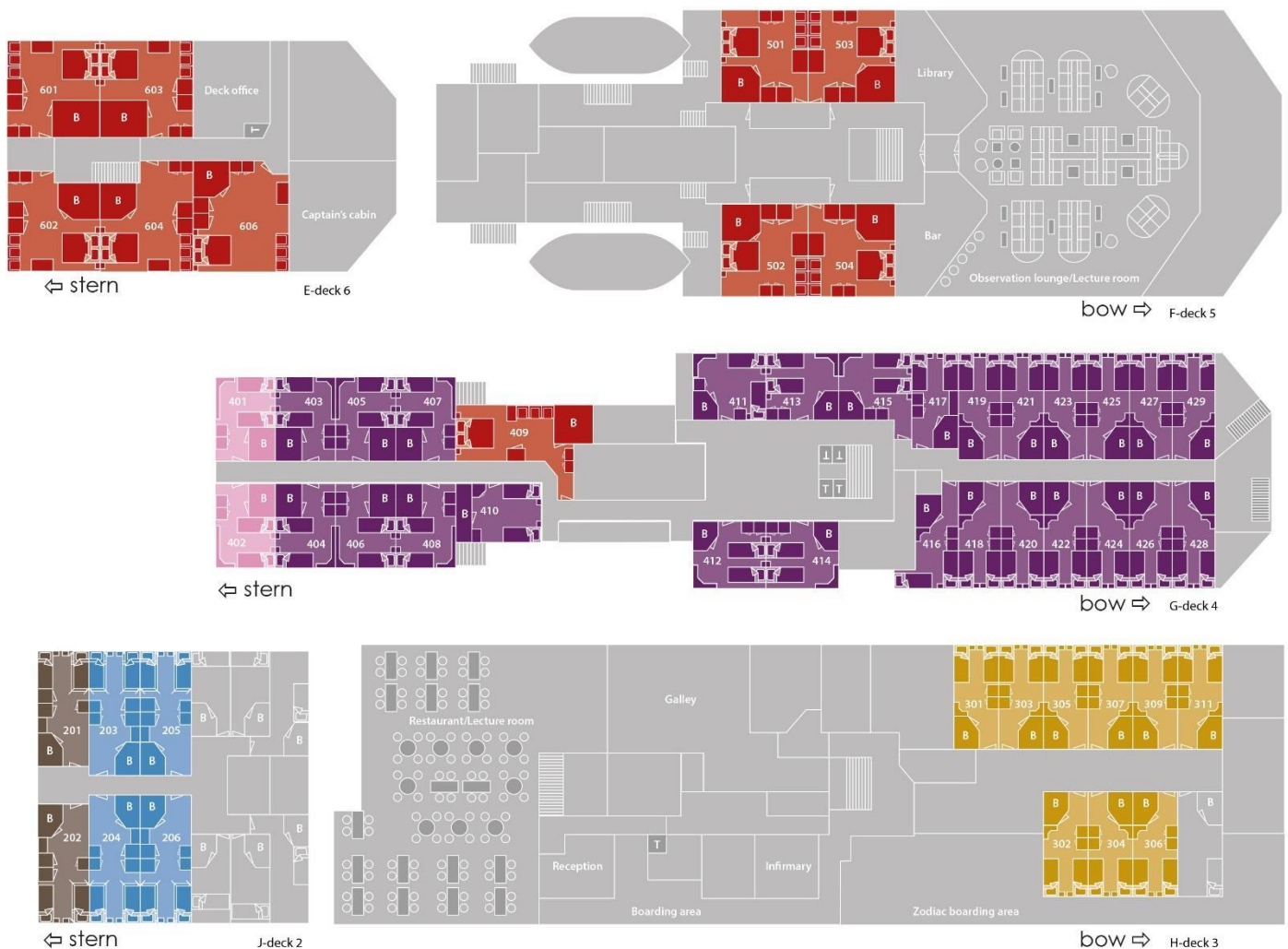


Two-bed cabin with a window. All cabins have a private bathroom with shower and toilet. Soap, shampoo and hair dryer are provided. Above to the right and below: The Observation Lounge is spacious with panoramic windows forward that provides fine views of the sea and the sky to spot whale and seabirds.



Picture on the right: Captain on the Bridge. He and the Plancius runs an "Open Bridge Policy" which means that you are welcome to stop by and visit during all normal circumstances!

Sketch of cabins on board



m/v Plancius deckplan		
Superior	lower berth	
Twin Deluxe	upper and lower berth	
Twin Window	double bed	T Toilet
Twin Porthole		B Bathroom
Triple Porthole		
Quadruple Porthole		

Flights to Ushuaia and Home from Johannesburg

These flights are not yet available for booking, which is why we will revert with accurate flight times and prices at the end of May/June. The information below is therefore preliminary.

You can also choose to book your own flight to Ushuaia and home from Johannesburg. If you chose to do so, make sure to book a flight with a good time margin, so you (and your luggage!) do not miss the ship. Remember that a delayed bag cannot catch up with the ship enroute to South Georgia! Similarly, you need to consider that the flight from St. Helena is sometimes heavily delayed (in rare cases for days). *Please contact us before booking your own airline ticket to ensure that no changes have been made!*

Preliminary flight times with British Airways

25 th March	London–Buenos Aires	22.10–09.05 (landing the 26 th March)
26 th March	Buenos Aires–Ushuaia	
25 th April	St. Helena–Johannesburg	14.30–21.15 (included in the price)
27 th April	Johannesburg–London	19.20–05.30 (landing the 28 th April)

Accommodation and excursions

In Ushuaia, we will stay at the *Canal Beagle Hotel* or a similarly centrally located hotel. Torbjörn knows the city well and will do a city tour the first day where you can visit the *Museo Antártico Ushuaia*. We can also help if there is someone who would like to do their own excursion.

In Johannesburg, we stay at the *Safari Club Hotel* near the airport or equivalent. We have a full day at our disposal, and you will get suggestions for excursions which you can do, such as a city tour in central Johannesburg, a safari, a visit to Soweto or to the *Sterkfontein caves*.

**Budgeted price for flights to Ushuaia and from Johannesburg to Europe , accommodation and transfers:
Abt. GBP 1,600-2,000.**

Our route at sea



Gränslösa Resor AB / Journeys Beyond Borders Ltd.

Marsjö Hvilan, 643 94 Vingåker, Sweden,

Tel: +46 151 209 00, Mobile +46 70 686 88 55, Email: lotta@gransloresor.se

In exclusive cooperation with Scandinavian Geographical Society, Sweden, www.sgsresa.se