

# **Wildlife Refuges : Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica**

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# FAQ

- Where are the locations?
- When is the best time to visit Antarctica?
- What kinds of tours should we join?
- What should we prepare?
- What equipment should we bring along?
- What kind of wildlife can we encounter?
- What stunning scenes may we see?
- What lessons can we learn?

# How To Get To Antarctica

## **1. Ship Cruise from Argentina 4**

- from Ushuaia (90% of visitors)

## **2. Fly-cruise from Chile**

- fly to King George island and change cruise

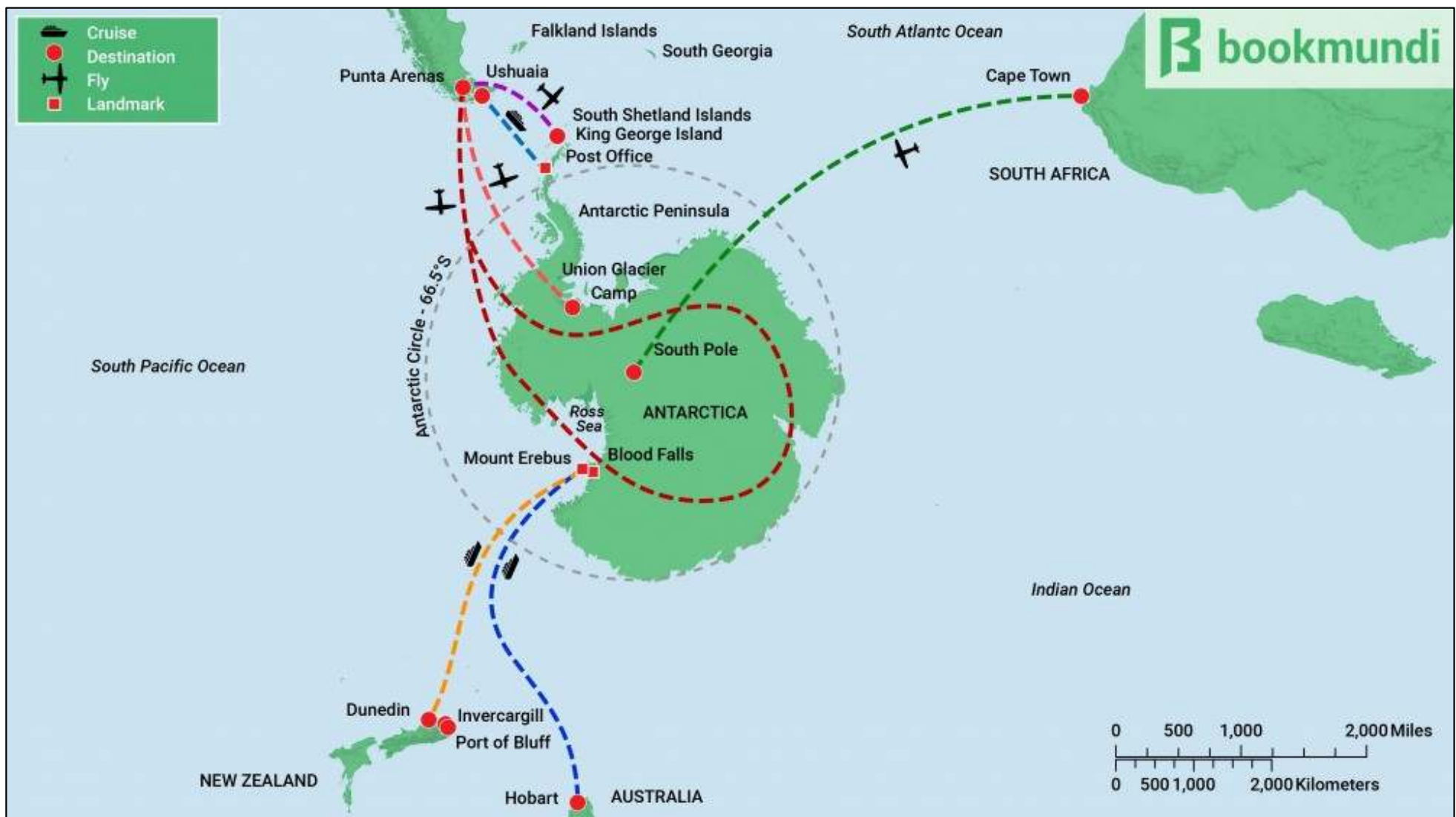
## **3. Ship cruise from Australia or New Zealand**

- 7 days to reach antarctica

## **4. Flying-in from South Africa or Chile**

## **5. Flying over Antarctica**

- departing from Chile



# Choosing A Cruise

- Ships range from carriers accommodating between 50 and 500 passengers.
- Large cruise ( 200 +)
  - more stable, less susceptible to motion sickness.
  - more spacious, better furnished and offer on-board entertainment.
- Expedition Cruise (70-200)
  - can access more ports
  - more landings

# Budget

<b>POPULAR ROUTES TO ANTARCTICA</b>	<b>Duration (days)</b>	<b>Cost (US\$)</b>
<b>Ship Cruise from Argentina</b>	6 to 24 D	6000-25000
<b>Fly-cruise from Chile</b>	8D	1000-15000
<b>Ship cruise from Australia or New Zealand</b>	26-30D	16000-30000
<b>Flying-in from South Africa or Chile</b>	1-10D	15000-84000
<b>Flying over Antarctica from Chile</b>	1D	6000

# What to Pack

- Thermal underclothes, knee-length and pants as well as a good jacket are essential items to pack.
- Waterproof boots (may be provided by cruise)
- Anti-nausea medication (seasickness is a common problem for ocean travellers) and other personal drugs
- Sunglass
- Sunblock cream
- Water proof bags



# Travel Tips

- Since no country can lay claim to Antarctica, no visas are required. You will however need to apply for a permit to travel to Antarctica. This can usually be arranged through your tour operator.
- Activities, such as snowkelling, kayaking and skiing often cost extra and must also be arranged with your tour operator up-front.

# When is the best time to visit Antarctica?

- The best time to go to Antarctica is during the Antarctic summer from November to March, when you'll see Antarctica's wildlife at its busiest and benefit from up to 24 hours of daylight.
- 5° C (41° F) and 15° C (59° F).

# What Equipment to Pack?

- DSLR Vs Mirrorless
- Action camera (e.g. GoPro)
- Drone (DJI)
- Wide Angle Lens : 16-25, 24-70mm
- Tele Lens : 70-300, 100-600mm
- Tripods

# Tele Zoom Lens

- Tamron SP 150-600mm F5-6.3 Di VC USD (G2)
  - 2010g
  - Filter size :95 mm
  - HK\$8,980
- FE 200-600mm F5.6-6.3 G OSS
  - 2115g
  - Filter size : 95mm
  - HK\$15,490



# Compact :Sony RX10 IV

- ZEISS® Vario-Sonnar T\*  
24-600 (25X)
- 2,010 pixel
- AF 0.03s
- 24fps
- Weight: 1095 g
- Size : 132.5 x 94 x 145mm
- HK\$13990



# Our Tour



# Tour Agenda

D1-2(13-14 Dec2014) : HK-Agentina

D3 (15 Dec) : Ushuaia

D4 (16Dec) : To Flakland

D5-7 (17-19Dec) : Flakland

D8-9 (20-21 Dec) : To South Georgia

D10-14 (22-26 Dec) : South Georgia

D15-17 (27-29 Dec) : To Antarctica

D18-25 (30Dec-6Jan) : Antarctica

D26-27 (7-8Jan) : Back to Ushuaia

D28 (9 Jan) : Ushuaia

D29-D60 Other destinations (S. America + Europe Tours)



# The Expedition Cruise



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# On Board



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# The Cabin





# The Restaurant & Food



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# Lectures



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# The Deck



# Landing Process

- Before Landing : Gear packing & cleanup
- Dressing: Life jacket, boots, waterproof bag, etc
- Queue up for landing
- Getting on small boats (10/each)
- Landing
- Cleanup after landing



















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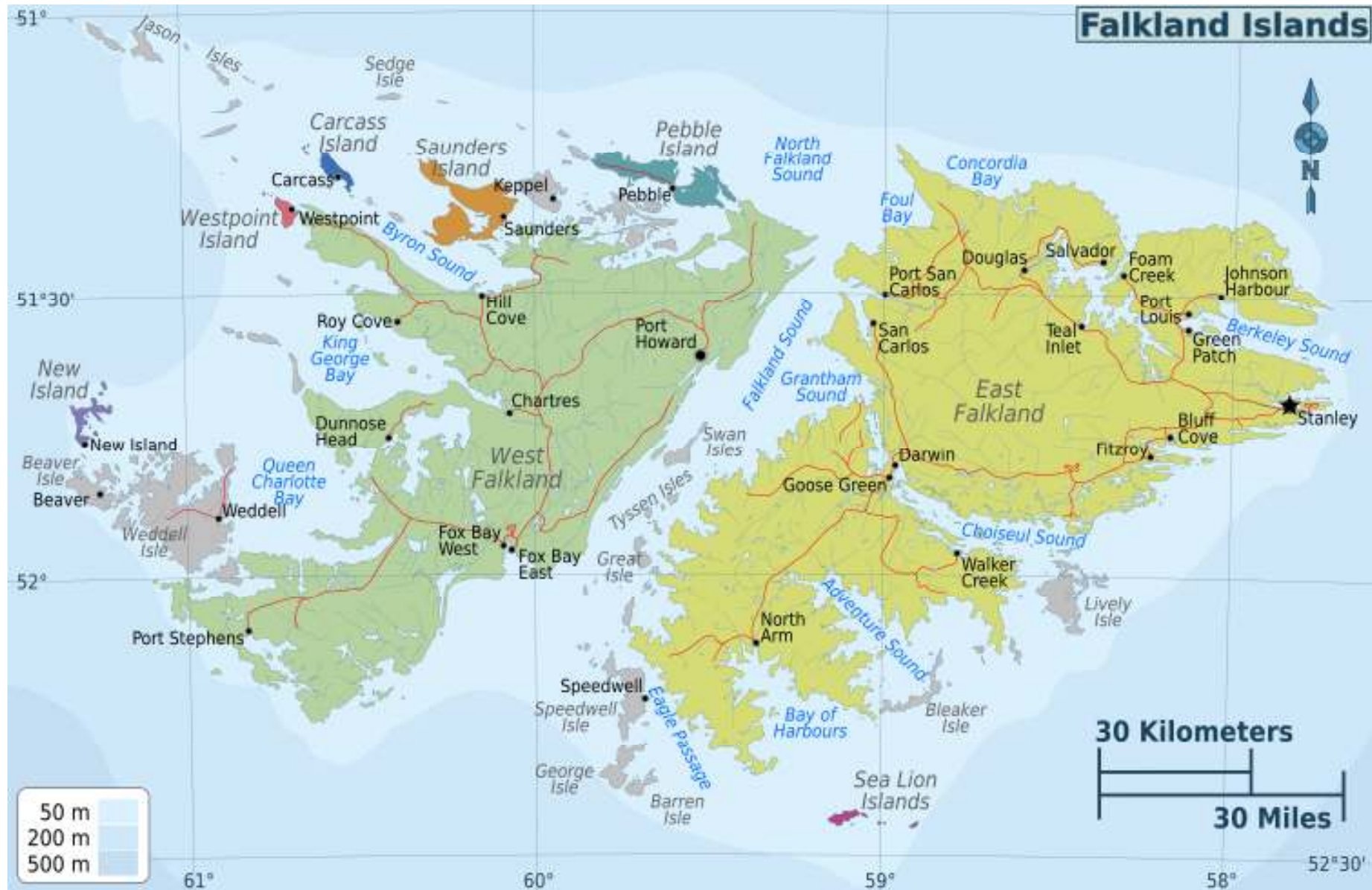




# Some Facts of Falkland

- Location: Between latitude 51 and 53 south and longitude 57 and 62 west in the South Atlantic
- Status: Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom
- Capital: Stanley
- Area: 4700 sq. miles; 12173 sq kilometres Area: 4,700 square miles (12,000 square kilometres), comprises East Falkland, West Falkland and 776 smaller islands.
- Highest Point: Mt. Usborne (705 m)
- Distance from most E point to most W point: 238 kms
- Resident Population: 3,398 (2016 Census)
- Language: English

# Map of Falkland



# Falkland Albatross

- Over 85% of the global population of black-browed albatross (~ **680,000 pairs**).
- Densities : **70 nests per 100 m<sup>2</sup>**
- Breed in September and leaving by the end of April , The single white egg is laid in early October The larger eggs weigh from 200 to 510 g
- Albatross chicks take a long time to fledge (**140-280days**)
- The heavy hooked bill is yellow and pink
- The huge wingspan is **210-250cm (7-8ft)** largest >340cm
- The nest, which is reused every year, is a **solid pillar up to 50cm (20ins)** high of mud and guano with other materials
- The most efficient travelers of all vertebrates on the planet. So efficient in the air that their in-flight heart rate barely rises above resting,
- Live much longer than other birds. Most species survive upwards of 50 years. greater albatrosses (Royal and Wandering) > 60 years.
- **Diet:** Carrion, crustaceans, fish, offal, squid.
- **Weight:** 3 to 5 kg.

source : <https://falklandsconservation.com/black-browed-albatross/>













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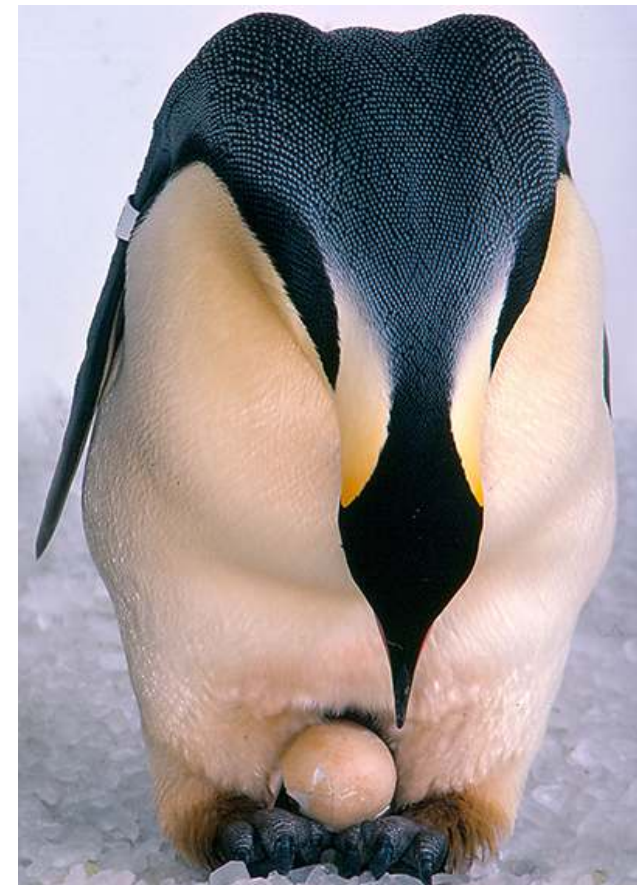


# Some Facts About Penguins

- Annual breeding season - **Spring through summer.**
- Emperor penguins breed annually during the **antarctic winter, June through August**
- Courtship. It generally begins with both **visual and auditory displays**. In many species, males display first to establish a nest site and then to attract a mate
- Most penguin species are **monogamous** (one male breeds with one female during a mating season)
- Mate selection is **up to the female**, and it is the females that compete for the males.
- They may take **three to eight years** to reach sexual maturity.
- **Nesting:** Most penguins return to the same territory every year.
- Nest materials : stones , pebbles molted feather
- Diet: krill (tiny crustaceans), squid and fish.

# Incubation

- Incubation is the time spent warming the egg before it hatches. With the exception of emperor penguins, partners take turns incubating eggs, allowing each mate to leave to feed for several days at a time
- A female emperor penguin transfers a single egg to the top of her mate's feet. The female goes to sea to feed while the male incubates the egg. She returns several weeks later, usually just before the egg is ready to hatch, to relieve her mate so that he may feed. The male fasts throughout the courtship, nesting, and incubation periods. He lives off reserves of body fat which may be 3 to 4 cm (1.2-1.6 in.) thick, and loses up to 45% of his body weight
- It may be as short as one month, as in the erect-crested penguins, or as long as 62 to 66 days for emperor penguins.
- The incubation temperature for penguins is approximately 36°C (96.5°F); it is a bit lower for the larger species. Emperor penguins can maintain an incubation temperature of 31°C (87.8°F) in an environment that is -60°C (-76°F.)
- It takes about 10 weeks until the baby penguins are fully fledged
- **Eggs :** emperor penguin eggs measure 11.1 to 12.7 cm (4.4 to 5 in.) long and weigh 345 to 515 g (12.1 to 18 oz.), and Adélie penguin eggs measure 5.5 to 8.6 cm (2.2 to 3.4 in.) long and weigh 61 to 153.5 g (2.1 to 5.4 oz.).



Source: <https://seaworld.org/animals/all-about/penguins/reproduction/>

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# Rockhopper Penguin

- The smallest penguin, growing to around 60cm
- Nesting sites : steep rock gullies
- Weight :  $\sim 3\text{kg}$ .
- Spiky yellow feathers extends out over their red eyes
- Over 320,000 pairs
- Breeding season : October-April









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# Gentoo Penguin

- Nesting sites : sandy shores
- Over **121,000 pairs**
- **76-cm-tall**
- The **white bar** that stretches across the top of their heads and their bright orange bills
- swim at up to **36kmph** as they dive for fish.
- The best time to see their chicks is from mid-November to February.























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# South Georgia

- A British Overseas Territory 800 miles (1,300 km) east-southeast of the Falkland Islands
- South Georgia is 165 kilometres (103 mi) long and 35 kilometres (22 mi) wide and is by far the largest island in the territory.
- The climate is classified as polar, and the weather is highly variable and harsh;
- Typical daily maximum temperatures in South Georgia at sea level are around 0 °C (32 °F) in winter (August) and 8 °C (46.4 °F) in summer (January). Winter minimum temperatures are typically about −5 °C (23 °F) and rarely dip below −10 °C (14 °F).
- **Territory** - 3 755 sq. km. total
- **Capital** - Small settlement at Grytviken
- **Population** - Approx. 30 in summer and 16 in winter of non-permanent residents on two continually manned British Antarctic Survey bases.
- **Highest Point** - Mt. Paget 2 934m (9 535ft).

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\\_Georgia\\_\(island\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Georgia_(island))





# King Penguin

- 450,000 pairs in S.G.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest in size
- 70-100cm tall
- Typical weight of 12-14kg
- Distinctive orange patches on either side of the head (paler on the emperor penguins )
- No nest, and instead lay a single egg of around 310g, which they hold on their feet for the entire incubation period of about 55 days
- 70% of king penguins are expected to abruptly disappear in less than eighty year due to ocean warming

























# Macaroni Penguin

- The most numerous of all the world's penguins , world population ~9Millions +
- 1.1 million pairs in S.G.
- ~70cm and an average weight of 5.5kg
- The eyes are red and the legs and feet are pink
- Golden yellow crests which extend from the centre of the forehead and sweep backwards above the eyes
- Colonies on rocky coasts and low cliffs













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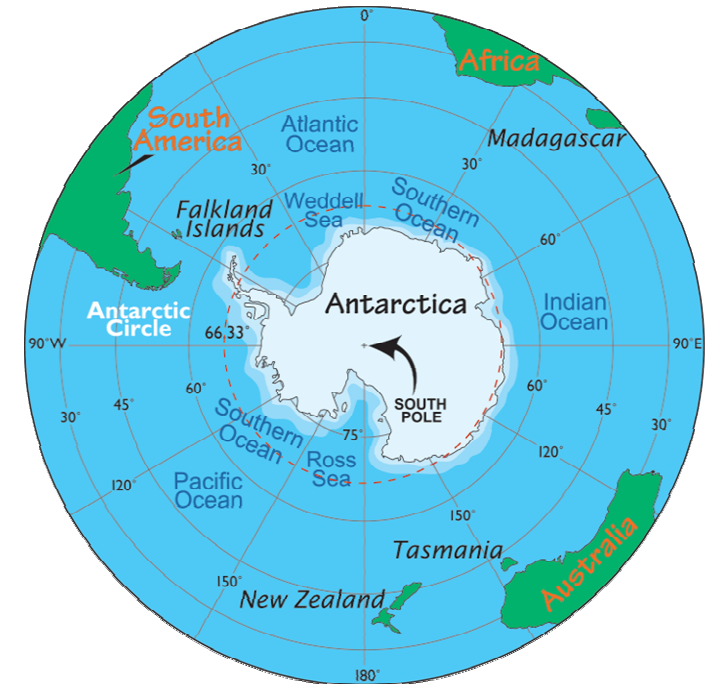






# Antarctica

- The fifth-largest continent and nearly twice the size of Australia
- The coldest, driest, and windiest continent
- 80% of the world freshwater reserves are stored there, enough to raise global sea levels by about 60 metres (200 ft) if all of it were to melt.
- The temperature in Antarctica recorded  $-89.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-128.6^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) (or even  $-94.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-135.8^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) as measured from space
- **Area** 14,200,000 km<sup>2</sup>
- **Population** 1,000 to 5,000 (seasonal)
- **Population density** <0.01 per km<sup>2</sup>



Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antarctica>

# Antarctica Peninsula

- It forms an 800-mile (1,300-km) northward extension of Antarctica toward the southern tip of South America.
- The peninsula is ice-covered and mountainous, the highest point being Mount Jackson at 10,446 feet (3,184 metres).
- An estimated 75% of the krill population surrounding Antarctica resides in this area, supporting large breeding populations of penguins, seals, and whales.





# Climate of Antarctica

- The highest temperature ever recorded on Antarctica was 20.75 °C (69.3 °F) at [Comandante Ferraz Antarctic Station](#) on 9 February 2020
- The average annual temperature ranges from about –10 °C on the Antarctic coast to –60 °C at the highest parts of the interior.
- Near the coast the temperature can exceed +10 °C at times in summer and fall to below –40 °C in winter. Over the elevated inland, it can rise to about –30 °C in summer but fall below –80 °C in winter.
- The lowest temperature yet recorded on the Earth's surface was –89.2 °C at Vostok station on 21 July 1983.









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# Adélie Penguin

- **Height:** 70cm - 27.5inches
- **Weight:** 5kg - 11lb
- **Breeding Season:** November – February
- **Distribution:**  
Antarctic continent and sub-Antarctic islands.  
The second most southerly breeding penguin species
- **Estimated population:** 2.5 million breeding pairs











# Chinstrap Penguin

- **Height:** 68cm - 27 inches
- **Weight:** 4.5kg - 10lb
- **Breeding Season:** December - March
- **Distribution:**
  - Sub Antarctic and Antarctic islands, Antarctic Peninsula.
- **Estimated population:**
  - 5 million breeding pairs







# Sea Lions/Seals

- An average lifespan of 20–30 years
- Average Weight :about 300 kg (male); 100kg (female)
- Males may grow to 11 feet
- Females grow to 9 feet
- Nearly five million fur seals now live on South Georgia, which equates to 95% of the global population





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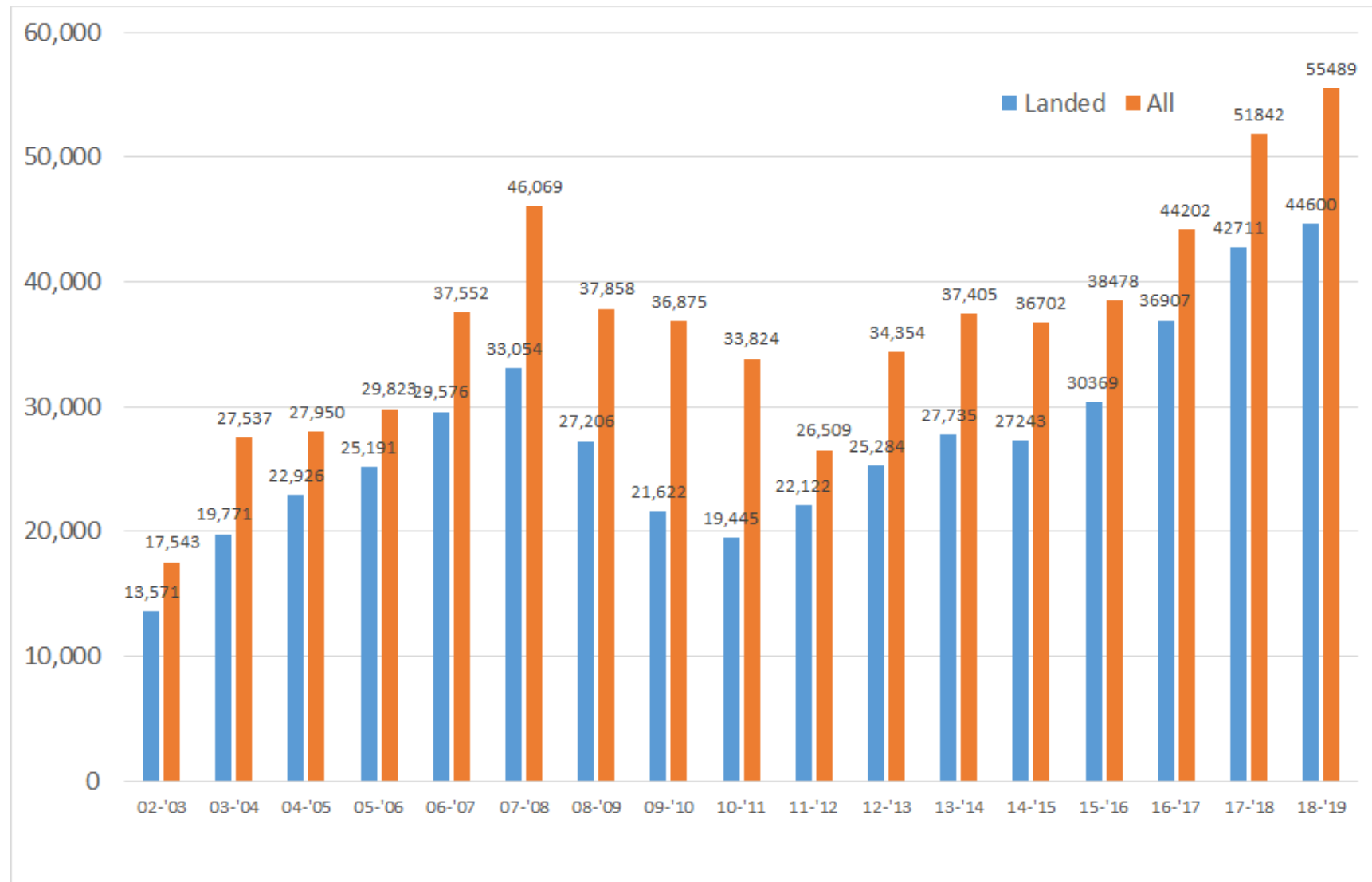
# Should tourists be banned from Antarctica?



# No. of Tourist

- More than 56,000 tourists visited Antarctica during the 2018-2019 season.
- The figure for the current season is expected to rise to more than 78,500, more than double the total from a decade ago.

# Tourist numbers in Antarctica since 2002

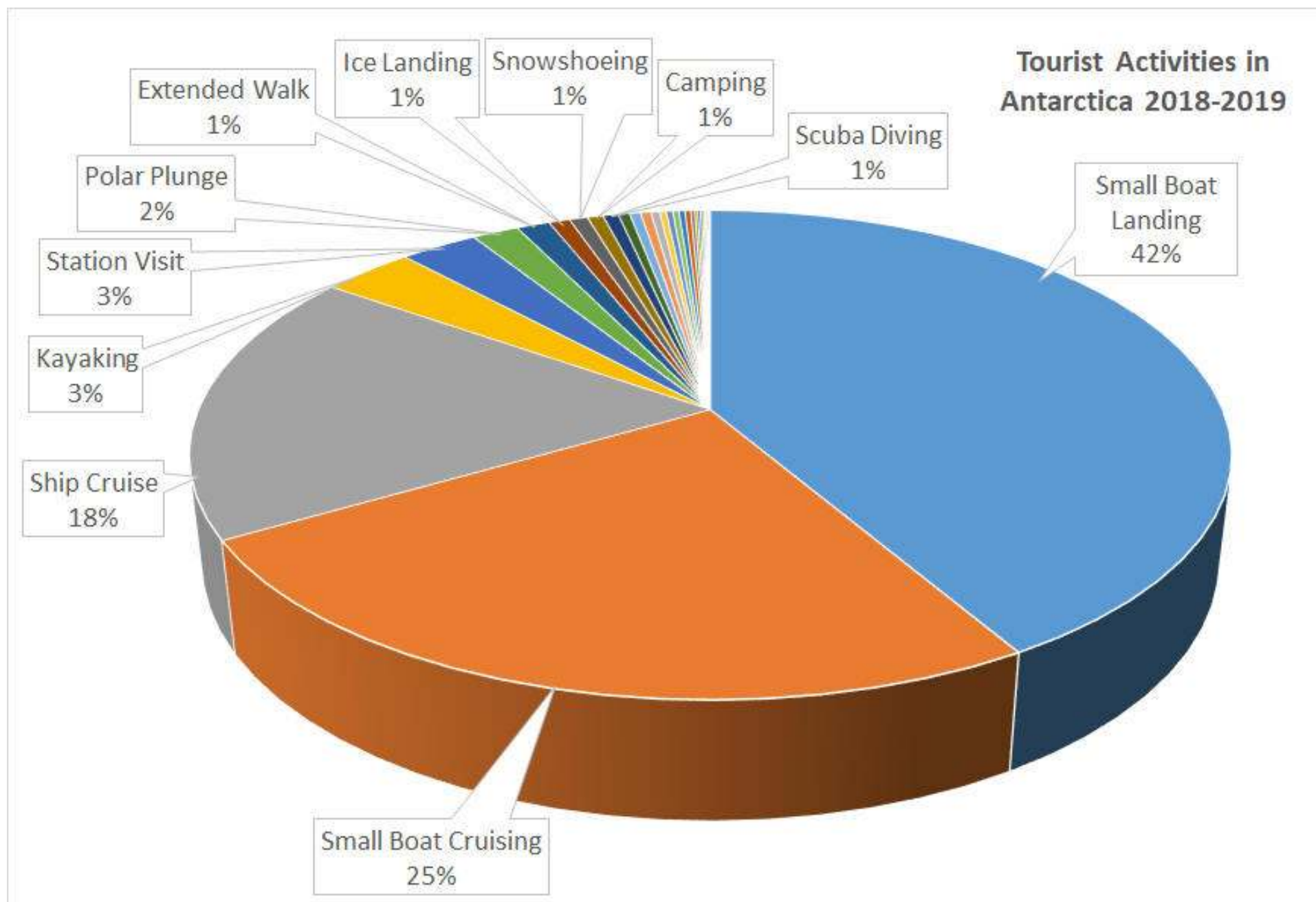


Source : [https://www.coolantarctica.com/Antarctica%20fact%20file/science/threats\\_tourism.php](https://www.coolantarctica.com/Antarctica%20fact%20file/science/threats_tourism.php)

# Where they come from?

Antarctica Tourist Numbers 2018 - 2019 Seaborne, Airborne, Landed and Cruise		
Country of Origin	Numbers	Percentage
United States	18,942	34.1
China	8,149	14.7
Australia	5,077	11.5
Germany	3,491	6.3
United Kingdom	4,221	7.6
France	2,121	3.8
Canada	2,627	4.7
Switzerland	1,051	1.8
Others	8,518	15.4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36,907</b>	<b>100.0</b>



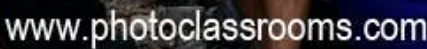




**Antarctica's tourism industry is designed to prevent damage, but can it be prevented?**







# Impacts

- **Invasive species** - accidentally bringing in insects or seeds on boots, clothes, in food, cargo etc.
- **Diseases** – germs, bacteria and viruses brought by tourists
- **Impact on breeding birds** - being made anxious by an influx of people that may cause them to abandon their nest or vacate an area all together if regularly disturbed. There are many records of birds that previously nested around Antarctic bases no longer doing so.
- **Erosion or disturbance of fragile environments** - many feet walking over the same piece of ground and routes will leave paths and other scars.
- **Pollution, Oil spills from ships and boats** - there may be a spill due to hitting ice and rupturing a holding tank, or if the vessel sinks, all the polluting fluids will eventually escape.

Think carefully before you decide to go?  
Is it a Must to go?



# Q & A